

Birmingham Medal Society Meeting Thursday 1st June 2017

Present: 14 members, apologies received from Mick Atkinson, Reg Cook, Ken Weston, Paul Handford, Su Handford, Chris Newton, Chris Burns, John Barker.

The President opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He announced that Margaret Fisher, honorary member and sister of the late Mike Minton had passed. Away. The President took the opportunity to remind members to make some provision in their wills for the correct disposal of their medal collection and the BMS would be willing and able to undertake this task for a small donation.

He also advised members of Antelope Day being held at St John's House & Gardens in Warwick on 8th July 2017. Volunteers were requested to assist with various aspects of the day and to help man a BMS stand.

John Scott also announced that Hereford Museum were holding an open day on 9th September and again volunteers needed to assist with a BMS stand.

He then introduced this evenings topic - **David McNicol Campbell Pilot & Surveyor.**

Martin Harrison gave a presentation on a group pf medals he had acquired in 2011 and the research surrounding them. Click on the separate link to see more detail.

Following Martin's talks the following members showed items relating to Arnhem

John Scott 1. Flying Officer P.R. Watson RAFVR. Group : The 1939-1945 Star; The Air Crew Europe Star with France and Germany clasp; The Burma Star; The Defence Medal; War Medal 1939-1945; Netherlands : Flying Cross (named "P.R. Watson RAFVR") Completed with miniature medals and box for the Netherlands Flying Cross. Recommendation for the Netherlands Flying Cross: *Flg.Off. Watson was a Typhoon pilot serving with No. 174 Squadron flying sorties in close support to airborne divisions during the invasion of Holland. On one occasion, despite intense anti-aircraft fire and enemy fighter opposition, he succeeded in destroying 2 enemy field guns which were harassing our troops.*

Awarded the Netherlands Flying Cross in the London Gazette of 1 January 1946, 1 of 16 Flying Crosses awarded for Arnhem.

2. Flight Sergeant S.H. Webster RAFVR. Group : The 1939-1945 Star; The France and Germany Star; The Defence Medal; War Medal 1939-1945; USA : Air Medal (named "Flight Sergeant S. H. Webster RAFVR") Recommendation for the USA Air Medal: *Flt.Sgt. Webster was a captain of a Dakota aircraft of 48 Squadron taking part in the Airborne Operations at Arnhem. He participated in the first and second glider lifts on the 17th and 18th September, and on one re-supply mission. On this occasion his aircraft was hit during the dropping of the panniers, but the remainder of the load was released successfully. After leaving the dropping zone the aircraft was again hit severely and caught fire, the crew being compelled to abandon it by parachute. Flt.Sgt. Webster landed in the Rhine near the north bank, but swam across to the other side where he knew he was more likely to find himself among friends, and shortly afterwards he returned with all but one of his crew to this country. This NCO throughout the operations showed gallantry and devotion to duty.*

Awarded the USA Air Medal in the London Gazette of 15 May 1945, 1 of 16 Air Medals awarded for Arnhem. Enlisted at RAF Cardington during the summer of 1941. Commissioned as a Pilot Officer RAFVR on 22 November 1944 and released as a Flying Officer.

Dave Seeney showed a group to the royal Warwicks 1939-45 Africa, Italy, France & Germany Stars, Defence & War Medals, General Service Medals 'Malaya' and UN Korean. Dave stated this was an 'odd man' group as only 30 Malaya GSMs awarded to the RWR. Reginald Watmore was born in Cocklegh, Kidderminster in 1922. He joined the RWR transferring to the Parachute Regiment. He was present at Arnhem and was captured and taken PoW Released on 12 May 45 and returned to the 1st bn Warwicks. He die in Bristol in 1975.