

Birmingham Medal Society Meeting Thursday 4th May 2017

Present: 14 members, apologies received from Dave Seeney, Mick Atkinson, Reg Cook, Andrew Bostock.

The President opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Roger Bragger asked a question about miniature medals and how they were awarded, he was advised they are usually purchased by the recipient privately.

Paul Handford advised the West Midlands Police Military history society will be holding a seminar at Tally Ho! on 17 Jun 17 consisting of four talks commemorating different aspects of World War I. Cost is £25.00 to include meal and drinks

President advised the programme for 2017-18 was now finalised and there would be committee meeting on 1 Jun 17 prior to the next BMS Meeting to discuss other matters.

He then introduced this evenings topic - **World War I Members Own.**

Martin Harrison Showed a WWI BWM awarded to Charles Stephen Huxstep. He explained this had been given to him in 1997 by a former work colleague following an article the company had run on Martin's medal interest. The medal had eventually been researched and was missing the Victory Medal and a 1914-15 Star. Basic biographical detail was pulled together from Ancestry, and in December 2016 Charles' Grandson had made contact via Martin's web site explaining that Charles had left his first wife and re-married, having another son Alan Charles Huxstep who had died in Egypt in 1953. Further enquiries by Martin revealed he had been killed in action during the Canal Zone incident and was buried in Moascar Cemetery in Egypt. Alan's General Service Medal had then been claimed and a hitherto forgotten young man who had died for his country was now remembered for posterity. Once again The Power of the Internet! Martin is currently making enquiries to see if his Elizabeth Cross can also be claimed.

John Scott Showed a 1914-15 MSM trio to the Cameronians awarded to Sidney Harlan. John explained that the group had previously been sold in 1984 for £45.00 but that since then a Defence Medal and Silver War Badge had been removed from the group. Sidney had enlisted in November 1914 and sent to France. He was wounded at Loos and transferred home. As he had been a county court Clerk before the war he was retained in the Army as a Sgt Orderly Clerk.

Paul Murray Showed a number of items including a WWI ink well in the shape of a French Adrian Helmet and two Roads of Remembrance Committee, bronze plaques, circa 1930, for attaching to newly planted trees, one commemorating Captain Ceil Brunner R.F.A., the other commemorating 2nd Lieut. A.T. (Peter) Nickel, 1/Northumberland Fusiliers and Ralph D'Albini Morrell 1/4th King's Own Regt. The Roads of Remembrance Committee of The Roads Beautifying Association was founded in 1929, in succession to the Roads of Remembrance Association founded 10 years earlier, trees planted by this organisation generally had a plaque commemorating one or more war dead.

Mark Platt Displayed a DCM BWM to Sgt A Barton RAMC – a broken group. DCM appeared in the London Gazette 11 Mar 16 and he was wounded. Mark had found Sgt Barton's papers on line and he had served in France from 19 Feb 15 in the field ambulance. Transferred to the RE as he had been a mining engineer before the war and promoted to Sgt. Mark also discovered newspaper cuttings from Find My Past giving details of his life story. He had also discovered a book giving an account of the first day of gas attacks at Loos and had been injured whilst securing the gas pipes with his own hands. He subsequently worked in the mines and was killed in an accident on 27 Nov 17

when a pipe in one of the mines broke loose and hit him on the head killing him instantly. Mark also showed some single WWI medals awarded to soldiers killed in action. Mark was trying to own a medal belonging to a soldier killed on each day of the war.

Paul Handford showed a group that he had previously displayed, a BWM VM and special Constabulary Medal to Harold Brown who had been a Special Chief Constable. He also showed a group that he had only acquired in April from fellow member Paul Murray. It was a British War Medal, Victory Medal and Croix De Guerre awarded to Edward Kempton. With it were certificates and paperwork and photographs, possibly one of General Petain awarding the CdG to the recipient, as well as the CdG citation. He explained that originally the medals and badges had been in separate lots to the very important paperwork, but when the auctioneer had realised these were passed on.

Philip Wilson showed a small silver ID disc found in a trunk in the attic when his grandfather died. The disc belonged to his grandfather and Philip gave a detailed overview of the service histories of his Grandfather and Grandmother who had both served in World War I.