

## BMS meeting notes 5.5.22.

### Main meeting notes for 5.5.22 Recent Acquisitions and Members' Own meeting:

President firstly gave a warm welcome to all attendees and our ZOOMers!

Two uncommon Africa General Service Medal [AGS] RAF long service groups were shown.

The first group of four medals comprised the Africa General Service [AGS] with clasp 'Kenya', GSM [General Service Medal] 1918-62 clasp 'Brunei', GSM 1962-2007 [commonly called the 'Campaign Service Medal 'CSM'] clasp 'South Arabia' and RAF Long Service Good Conduct [LSGC] to Corporal J.S. Holt. The recipient was a boy entrant joining the RAF in 1950.



**Pictured above:** Corporal J.S Holt RAF group of 4 medals

The second group of eight medals to J.M. Morvell RAF was the 1939-45 Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal [DM], War Medal 1939-45, AGS clasp 'Kenya', GSM 1918-62 clasp 'Cyprus', GSM 1962-2007 clasp 'Borneo' and RAF LSGC who achieved a final rank of Master Signaller in the RAF. Tours of duty in Kenya were of four months duration excepting the only resident unit there this being the East Africa Communications Squadron. Morvell also served in WWII.

**Photo below:** Morvell group of eight medals [full details above].



An India General Service Medal [IGSM] with clasp 'Perak' to P.F. Ezeckiel featured next. He was an Orderly on HMS Modeste. His record of service showed his great breadth of character sometimes fair but at other times, good or indifferent!



**Photos above left to right:** IGSM Obverse clasp 'Perak', IGSM reverse and IGSM naming to 'P.F. Ezeckiel'.

He had a younger brother Samuel who was similarly described! In complete contrast, a third brother in the Indian Army rose to the rank of Colonel who had served in WWI!!

Next was a British War Medal [BWM] and Mercantile Marine War Medal pair named to 'G. E. Fenwick Australia 758'. Merchant Navy medals to Australians are rare – they always state 'Australia' and the service number. Several deaths from drowning and other misfortune were noted in other members of the Fenwick family.



**Photo left:** Fenwick BMW and MMWM.



**Photos above:** Naming on the Fenwick pair showing 'Australia' and service number '578'.

Next up was a WWI trio to 283 G. A. Porter a skipper in the Royal Naval Reserve [RNR] who was granted a 'certificate of competence' 7.3.1913. However, his career was short as on 14 Nov 1914, he was discharged 'services no longer required because of incompetence'. He returned to work as a civilian naval seaman only to fall ill and die 26th June, 1915. The cause of death was given as chronic suppurative otitis media, cerebral abscess and meningitis. He is not remembered on Commonwealth War Graves Commission [CWWG] as he had

already been discharged from the Navy. Had his incompetence been caused by an unrecognised medical problem?



Photo above: WWI trio to 283 G.A. Porter [full details above].

Next up was a four medal group of DM, War Medal 1939-45, Efficiency Medal Territorial and Naval Auxiliary Service medal [QE] awarded to Ivor Ansell Tibble. In WWII. As Tibble had only served 'at home' he was not entitled to the 1939-45 Star.



Pictured above: Group of four medals to Ivor Tibble. [Full details above].

Next up was a group to Frederick Leslie Brown consisting of DM, WM 1939-45 Territorial Efficiency Medal and Army Emergency Reserve Medal.



**Above:** Frederick Brown group of four medals. Full details above.

Also shown a 1937 Coronation Medal plus 3 clasp special constabulary medal LS 3 clasps 'Great War', '1929' and '1940' plus a gap in the medal bar for an unknown medal . This turned out to be the MBE awarded in 1946 for services to civil defence. The recipient was Andrew J Crittenton the Mayor of Southwold in 1937. His portrait [as Mayor] was available from the internet.



The next group was entered into the President's Cup at this meeting. It was the Percy Pearson group DCM [October, 1918], MM [April, 1918], WWI pair, Territorial Force War Medal, DM, Efficiency Medal and the Cadet Forces medal. In the group was the WM 1939-45 WM in it but it transpired he was not entitled.



**Photograph above:** Percy Pearson DCM., MM group. Full details above. [Apologies for picture quality].

Various photos and paperwork were available after contact with the recipient's family.

Pearson had received two wound stripes - one for a gunshot wound. The residual facial scar was remembered by the grandson. The second wound stripe is still being researched and also noted was Pearson's hospital admission in April, 1918 with 'VD-G' ['Venereal Disease Gonorrhoea'] as well.

The next trio of medals could be described as a 'recent acquisitions returner group'! It consisted of an Egypt Medal 1882 with two clasps 'Abu Klea' and 'The Nile 1884-5', Naval LSGC with impressed naming and Khedive Star [1884-86]. The recipient W. Marsh was in the Nile Flotilla as part of the Naval Brigade. He fought and was wounded at Abu Klea being later involved in the relief of Khartoum [*Secretary's note – I have sent a recent email with links to a two-part podcast about General Gordon in 'The Rest is History' series*]. In WWI, he fought on a mine sweeping trawler involved in a DSC action in 1917 in which 34 Russian sailors were rescued from a torpedoed ship in the Baltic sea!



**Photo above:** Trio of medals to W Marsh Naval Brigade Nile Flotilla. [full details in text above].

Next up was a WWI Distinguished Conduct Medal [DCM] to a French recipient Maréchal-des-Logis Alphonse Focheday, 19e Escadron du Train with his four other medals and paperwork including identity card and the letter detailing his award. Fockeday sent a condolence telegram to Queen Mary on the death of King George V in 1935 which had been acknowledged by the Queen's private secretary.

DCMs were issued unnamed to foreign recipients but this group is somewhat unusual being a complete group with his other awards. The DCM was awarded in acknowledgement of services as a translator.



**Above image:** Group of five medals to Alphonse Fockeday comprising DCM, Croix-de-Guerre [CdG] with silver star and bronze palm, Croix du Combatant, War Medal 1914-18 and Victory Medal 1914-18.

There followed the award to policeman Sergeant William Henderson from Northumberland. They were a [boxed] Police LSGC, DM [boxed] and St John's Medal in bronze with clasp and named.

The 1939 census shows him being a police sergeant. Almost certainly, Henderson would be entitled to the 1953 Coronation Medal. He was born 1900 and quite possibly he has WW1 medals [as yet unconfirmed].



**Photograph above:** Police LSGC to Sgt W. Henderson.

Three miniature medals in gold in a 'Spink' presentation box featured next. They were awarded to and named to nurse Miss E.A.M. Wilson of Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service ['QAIMNS'] and comprised Royal Red Cross medal [RRC], Queen's South Africa [QSA] and Coronation Medal 1911.



**Photo above left:** Miniature medals to Miss E.A.M.Wilson. [details above]

**Photo above right:** Reverse of 1914-15 Star showing naming of .Lt E Emmett S.A Aviatn C' [details below].

Next up was a group of 6 to a South African airman consisting of Military Cross [MC], Distinguished Flying Cross [DFC] WWI trio and Coronation Medal 1911. The recipient Lt E. Emmett was one of the founding pilots of the South African Aviation Corporation [SAAC] recruited in 1913 which later would become the South African Air Force. Of the initial ten recruits in 1913, Six were to become lieutenants and complete their training in England. On the outbreak of WWI, four of these were posted to the Western Front and the other two [including the recipient] were to be posted to Africa in anticipation of hostilities in German South West Africa. The 1914-15 Star named to the SAAC.



**Photo above:** MC, DFC group of six medals to Lt E. Emmett [full details above].

Further career moves which were discussed in detail included a return to England for training then being reformed into the 21<sup>st</sup> South African Squadron, a subsequent posting to East Africa sphere [being awarded the MC there], a return to England for more training followed by a posting to Egypt being gazetted for the DFC there.

Emmett reached the rank of group captain finally retiring in 1946. He is also entitled to WWII medals.



Next up was a British Expeditionary Force Vegetable Show medal from Le Havre August, 1917! [Picture above].

There followed a British War Medal 1914-18 [BWM] and Victory Medal [VM] pair the sale information for which suggested a woman recipient but was, in fact, after research confirmed to recipient Orderly Stanley B. Eckersley a member of the Friend's Ambulance Unit [the FAU – a Quaker Unit at the beginning of WWI]. His MIC card had limited information but FAU card had much information and a photo. Born 1893, he was a conscientious objector. There was confirmation of his attachment 1917-19 to SSA19 [a motorised ambulance unit in the French Army] *and that he'd been awarded the Croix – de – Guerre [CdG] 20.1.1919.*



**Above left and right:** BMW, Victory Medal [VM] and CdG with Silver Star to Stanley Eckersley SSA19. Photo of Eckersley. Next shown was a group of four to S.M. Orvis of the BRC. They were a trio and CdG with silver star. He served in SSA17



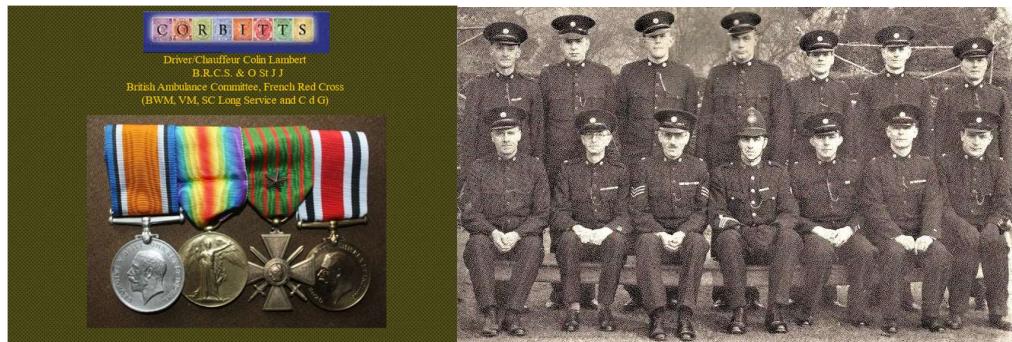
**Photo above:** Trio and CdG to S.M. Orvis SSA17.

Navy - Oct 1919  
Oct 1919

Surname	Orvis	(Mr., Mrs. or Miss)	
Christian Names	Stanley Meadows.		
Permanent Address:	31, Derwent Grove East Dulwich S.E. 22		
Certificate No.	3092.	Age when engaged	24
Date of Engagement	4-5-15.	Rank	R.D. Driver Pay £1-15-0
Date of Termination	21-2-19.	Rank	Pay £2-10-0
Previous engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where			
P.S.A.Y.			
Dept. for References Motor			
Honours awarded	Broche de Guerre (Silver Star) 1915 Ribbon		
Character	MOTOR		

**Photo above:** British Red Cross Service information for S.M. Orvis.

Driver /Chauffeur Colin Lambert's pair plus CdG plus Special Constabulary LS medal were shown next. He served in British Red Cross [BRC] 1916 to April 1918 transferring then to the French Red Cross where he would have been awarded the CdG. He later became a policeman in the Stroud division.



**Photo above left:** Group of four medals to Colin Lambert [full details above].

**Photo above right:** Sergeant Colin Lambert in group photo. [Seated front row third from left].

Finally, Sydney N. Spiers were shown a WWI pair with CdG plus details. His school journal and role of honour provided initial information that he'd served with the 36<sup>th</sup> French Infantry Division. The French website 'Mémoire des Hommes' is excellent for research of French regiments [their war diaries] and expanded his record in 36<sup>th</sup> French Infantry division [SSA18 service confirmed] with considerable detail about location of ambulance convoys and first aid stations with maps.



**Photo above:** Medals and items of Sydney N. Spiers [full details above].

At the midpoint of the meeting, Bill Walton had been presented with the Mike Minton research trophy for his WWI research into names commemorated on War Memorials in the Tamworth area [‘Tamworth Role of Honour’] and Martin Harrison presented with the President’s Cup in this year’s competition. Martin Harrison has prepared a summary of the President’s Cup entries – detail below.



**Photo above:** President Paul Handford awards Bill Walton with the Mike Minton Research Trophy.



**Photo above:** President Paul Handford presents the President’s Cup to this year’s winner Martin Harrison.

#### **Birmingham Medal Society President’s Cup 2022**

Following a pause of two years due to the Coronavirus, the prestigious Presidents Cup competition was held once again at the meeting of the Birmingham Medal Society on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

The President's Cup was presented to the Birmingham Medal Society by its Patron and active member, Doctor A Llwynn Lloyd OBE KStJ in 1985. It is presented annually to the member, who in the opinion of the panel of three judges puts on the best display of medals and related information and research.

The Trophy was upgraded in 2013 following the death of another long serving member Tony Sabel, allowing more names to be added on a larger base.

2022 saw a total of five entries, all as usual, of a high quality and reflecting the passion of members towards their collections and willing to display them and put the time in to do so.

The panel of judges headed by Hugh Vaugh of Worcester Medal Services, Chris Newton and Bill Walton agreed on the following results:

**JOINT THIRD**



**BORN OF THE DESERT**

*Dave Seeney*

The story of SAS member Sergeant Charles Dalziel



**TRANS-JORDAN FRONTIER FORCE 1926-48**

*John Scott*

A display to recognise awards following a security review ordered by the High Commissioner of Palestine and Trans-Jordan to try and separate the military and security functions.

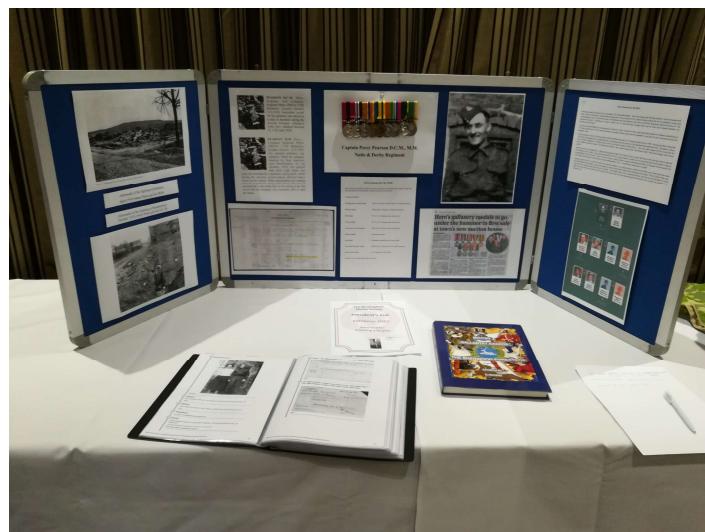


### THE MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE (INSTITUTED 1845)

*Ken Weston*

An overview of the Meritorious Service Medal introduced on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1845 to recognise long and meritorious service to specially selected Warrant Officers and NCOs of Sergeant rank and above.

### SECOND PLACE



**Captain Percy Pearson D.C.M., M.M.  
Notts & Derby Regiment**

### CAPTAIN PERCY PEARSON DCM MM NOTTS AND DERBY REGIMENT

*Roger Bragger*

A double gallantry and long service group to Captain Pearson with much research acquired by Roger allowing a detailed biography to be pieced together.

**WINNER**



### **THE MUNICIPAL YEAR OF 1977**

*Martin Harrison*

A display of Mayors who were in office during the municipal year of 1977. Those from a City, Borough or District being awarded the Silver Jubilee Medal 1977. The display also included Mayors of Town Councils ineligible for the award.



**The President's Cup**

The meeting closed at 21.13hrs. The President thanked all contributors for an excellent evening!

Typed 22-31.5.22

Chris Davies

BMS Secretary

May I thank all members for permitting me to use photographs, powerpoint slides and Martin Harrison for doing the President's Cup Summary.

My apologies also for any errors and typos in the notes.