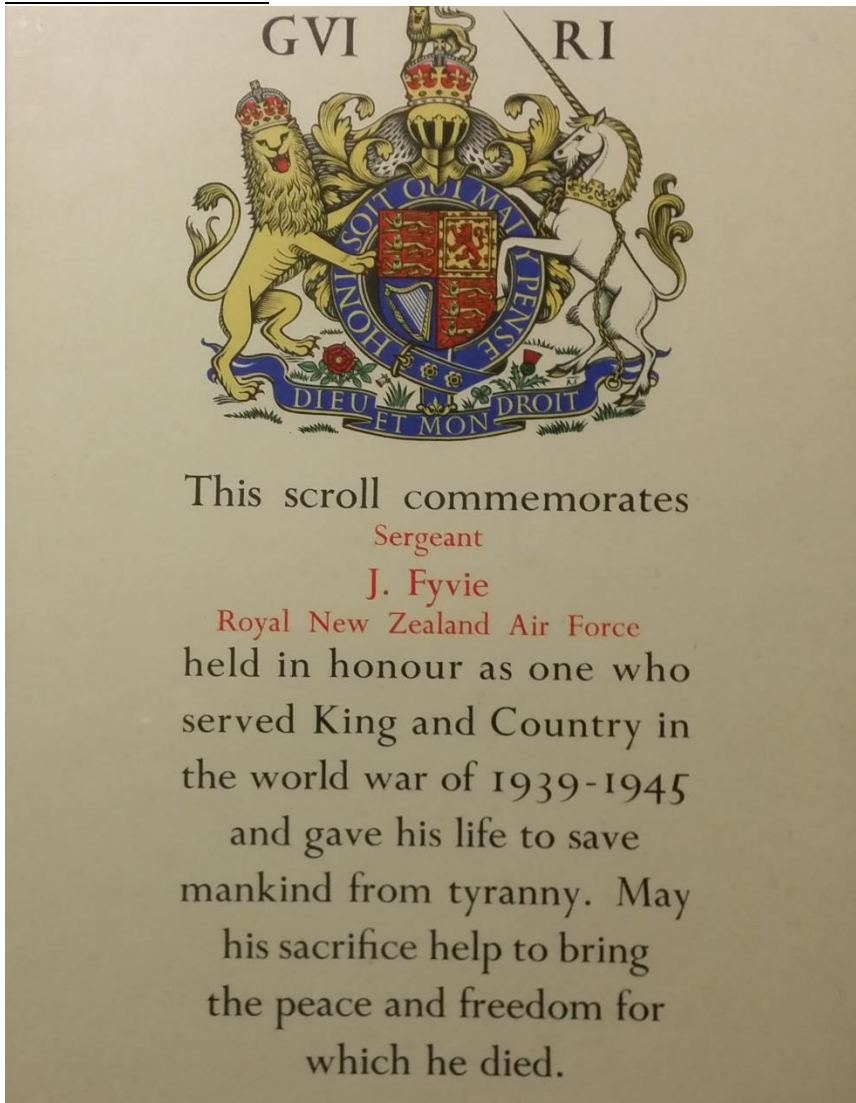


Minutes of Birmingham Medal Society meeting of 7th June 2018

1. Welcome - Mr President's welcome to all and guests Hugh Vaugh and Phil McDermott.
2. Apologies received as follows: John Barker, Chris Burns, Paul and Su Handford, Martin Harrison, Chris Newton, Roy Painter and Philip Wilson.
3. Numbers Meal 8, Drink 6, no overnight stay.
4. New members No new members.
5. Library requests John Scott circulated the latest hard copy society booklist - soon to be available on the website in the member's only section.
6. Functions and visits research question posed by Dave Seeney – Was anyone aware requests for return of Gallantry awards to foreign soldiers when the recipient had subsequently died some years later? In the instance given, the requested return of a DSO to free French forces member. No further information but it was commented that SOE personnel would have used different names as well.
7. Committee points - Miniconvention 17.6.18 viability – this date not possible with only small numbers able to attend. With regret, members decided to postpone the miniconvention to a later date. Secretary to inform members [already actioned] and possible replacement date Saturday 8.9.18 [at Suvla Barracks Open Day in Hereford] raised by Dave Seeney and Danny Rees. To be discussed at the 5th July meeting. FYI - Chris Mellor-Hill, Dahlia and Terry Harrison, Paul Murray and Chris Davies not available for 8.9.18 thus far.
8. Tonight's meeting – My favourite research project - Ken Weston
9. Next meeting 5th July 2018 'Recent acquisitions and small talks'

My favourite research project – Ken Weston

President Roger Bragger welcomed Ken Weston to give tonight's talk.



Top left: New Zealand memorial cross

Top centre: New Zealand war service medal

Tonight's extensive investigations into the Fyvie/Doel families of New Zealand started with the Ebay purchase of a medal group and memorabilia to Sgt Pilot Joseph Fyvie of Auckland, New Zealand – the medals were the New Zealand memorial cross [named], the New Zealand War service medal and War Medal 1939-45 [all these posted in New Zealand style envelopes not the usual boxes as seen in the UK] – Included in the memorabilia were the memorial scroll, his photo and the telegram to the next-of-kin. He had been killed in a flying accident 19.9.41 near Chippenham England..

Fyvie had left New Zealand as a fully qualified pilot having trained in a 'Vickers Vildebeest' biplane torpedo bomber – On arrival in England, further training was given in a more modern trainer monoplane a 'Miles Master' - This is the plane that crashed killing both he and his trainer F/O Scragg. The official report stated that the accident had happened 'due to collision with the ground after a spin'.. Ken commented that records requested from the RAF often contained minimal detail when compared with similar requests to the army. Fyvie would have had some flying experience prior to arrival in England. However, Ken had established that F/O Scragg had had a previous accident when he hit some trees - this mishap had been attributed to 'bad airmanship'.

Ken's enquiries found that Fyvie's trainer F/O Martin Scragg had a brother [Albert Francis Scragg] who'd died in the service of coastal command.

At a later stage, Ken had obtained [at auction] Fyvie's flying log, personal diary [documenting the long journey from New Zealand to England by boat and rail] and a picture of his grave in Chippenham – Thereafter, following an advert Ken had placed in a local post office near RAF Hullavington, Ken contacted and met with local man Bill Isaacs who remembered this particular crash [of the many there had been and, specifically, as it had involved a New Zealander] and showed Ken and Mrs Weston the precise accident site.

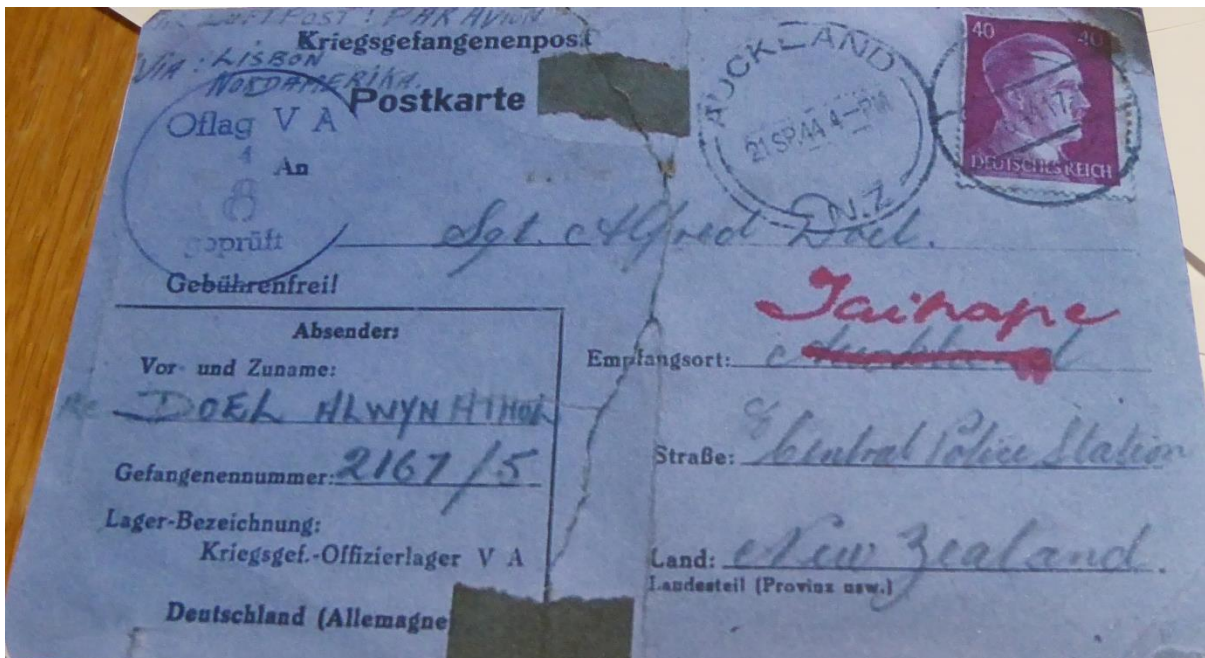


Left: New Zealand Police medal to Alfred William Doel Snr

Right : Assorted WWII medals and Air Crew Europe to Alfred William Doel Jnr

Further purchases included Fyvie's father-in-law's New Zealand Police medal [to 'Alfred William Doel'] and the medals to Fyvie's brother -in-law [Alfred William Doel Jnr] - He had been a Lancaster pilot who was killed in a crash returning from his fortieth mission in 1941 – The RT operator had survived the crash - He'd had to bale out twice as, after his first attempt to bail out, he found himself back in the plane [!] as Doel Jnr took serious evasive action to escape a searchlight beam – this information was obtained from the air crew transcripts contained in the book 'Night after night – New Zealanders in Bomber Command' by Max Lambert.

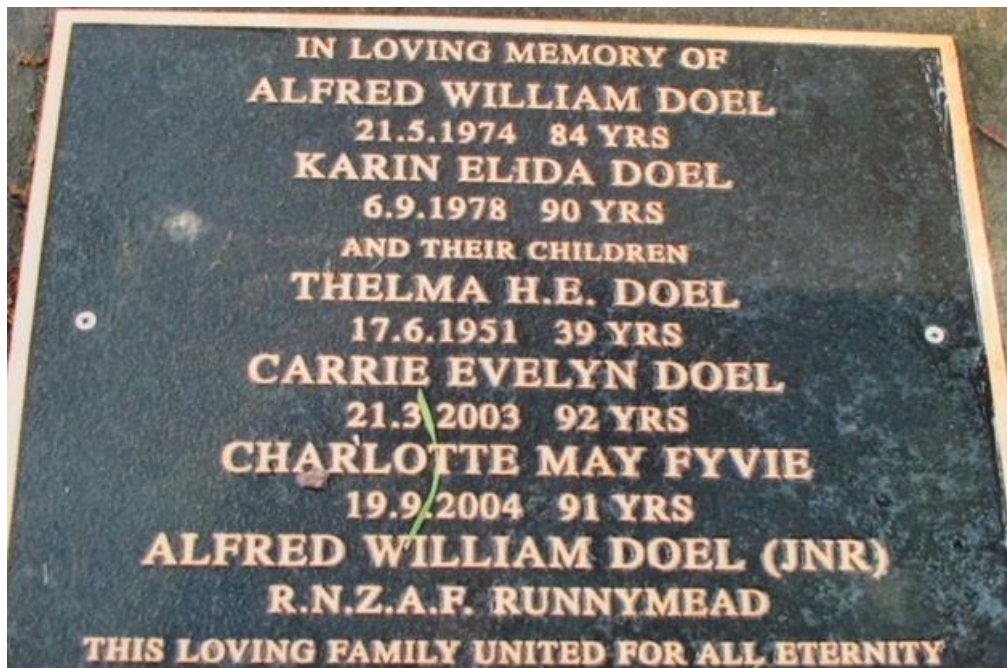
Doel Snr's nephew Alwyn Doel [who was serving in North Africa, been captured in North Africa and was a POW in Germany] had written a postcard to his uncle on hearing of the death of his cousin Alfred William Jnr.



Postcard [franked Oflag V A] written by Alwyn Doel.

A small enamelled blue badge in the memorabilia marked 'Ut serviamus' ['To serve'] turned out to be non-military and from a local diocesan school where another family member had worked.

Ken's final photo was of the family memorial tablet taken on a visit to New Zealand.



Other research material discussed by other members



A single Edw VII LSGC to 1257 Sgt F Humphreys of the APC [Army Pay Corps] had been purchased with little research but in this soldier's on-line information discovered later, he has 4 missing medals including an MSM [!] for Russia , BWM, VM and a three bar IGS having joined the Army in 1891 and not returned from India till 1903 – He was also entitled to the silver medal of St Stanislaus and the order of St Anne 3rd class for Archangel – It wasn't clear whether as an O/R, he'd be eligible for both these awards whereas Officers could accept both. Clearly, Sgt F Humphreys was exceptionally skilled in the APC!

Another Geo V MSM and Edw VII Rocket Apparatus long service group to John Liddell took six years to establish they were the same man.

Another medal group to Henderson RFC from Tynemouth, a member of the 1916-17 Hejaz expedition was linked with Flight Lieutenant WG Stafford [of the same expedition and Lawrence of Arabia fame] as Henderson had found and kept Stafford's last message penned on a page from an exercise book. Henderson's relatives had been contacted by the BMS member and offered a box of archive material with photos.

Meeting declared closed at 8.50pm.

Chris Davies . Secretary. Typed 13.6.18