

Minutes of BMS Meeting 2.5.2019

1. Welcome to all by Roger Bragger. Roger read out an article from the Black Country Bugle re our recently departed long standing member Jeff Taylor. Roger introduced Jeff's son Ivor Taylor who had brought some of Jeff's medals with him. Ivor was advised to get the medals independently valued before parting with them.
2. Apologies received from D.Rees, J.Barker , C.Davies and P.Murray.
3. Stats – Meal 8, Drink 7 and ONS 1.
4. No new Members
5. Library Requests /Research Questions. No library requests Chris Newton had donated 'The Royal Artillery –War Commemoration Book' to the BMS Library. Philip Wilson has this currently on loan and will hand to John Scott for the BMS Library at the June Meeting.
6. Peel Society Dinner, 16 July 2019. Anybody wishing to attend should speak to Roger Bragger direct. Cressida Dick is the Guest Speaker for the Dinner.
7. Mini-Convention, Knowle Sunday 21.7.2019. Those who had yet to confirm their attendance (including short talk/exhibit) were asked to do so by completing the required proforma with payment of £16 per head. Proformas to be handed to John Scott ideally on 2 May or failing that at the June meeting.
8. Tonight's Subject – Members Own and Short Talks. This provided an eclectic mix of medals and fascinating stories demonstrating the wide spread of collecting interests. There were contributions from eight speakers some of whom expressed a wish not to be mentioned their medals specifically in these minutes hence all eight speakers contributions are anonymised.
9. Weekend of Medals, Banbury 2-3 November 2019 – Details would be circulated shortly with booking form for those wishing to attend.
10. Next BMS Meeting – 6.6.2019 – '75th Anniversary of D-Day' to include first twelve days.
11. The President – Roger Bragger thanked all present for a splendid evening.

Members Own Items discussed and Short talks.

Notts and Derby Cricket Medal (boxed) named to Captain R.O.Nevitt who had captained the Regimental Cricket team, having had prior service with the Coldstream Guards as a Private before being commissioned into Sherwood Foresters. Entitled to a 14-15 trio, wounded twice served on Western Front.

Royal Observer Corps Medal [ROCM] awarded in 1956 to Chief Observer M.J.Bowls, served with 12 Group, Bristol together with ROC Wartime Service Certificate [dated January 1946] and Royal Observer Corps Enamel Badge. She was a Women Observer – some 277 women Chief Observers received the ROCM out of the 14314 medals issued. [See picture below – ROCM – Obverse].



Italy Star, *Defence*, War Medal and GSM clasp Palestine 45-48 to a Captain in the Dental (no doubt he pulled them with panache) modern claimed in 2006.

Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal and Royal Victorian Medal with bestowal documentation and photos awarded to Olive Laura Rattle – Children's Nurse to the rich, famous and not so famous including Princess Alexandria. [Pictured below – Jubilee Medal – Obverse].



Father and Son group Sherriff Family found in a Junk Shop many years ago, the father was KIA when the son was 20 months old. The son served with Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry and was killed when the Hawser Glider crash landed. [Pictured below – Sheriff Father and Son medals and other items].



Military Medal Group to Private Walter Long, BSA Police, Southern Rhodesia (Murray's Column) in East Africa. Long was a Machine Gunner aged 50 and served for two years marching considerable distances in very trying conditions. With Supporting documentation – Long died in 1957.

Power Point presentation – William Charles Watson, Friends Ambulance. Served Nov 16 to Aug 17 received single BWM; he was Irish and had been at Haxby Road Military Hospital, York. Query why not a pair of Medals? Neither medal roll as yet found nor MIC for this man. Yet Arnold William Burt received a pair for Service overseas Nov 18 – February 1919.

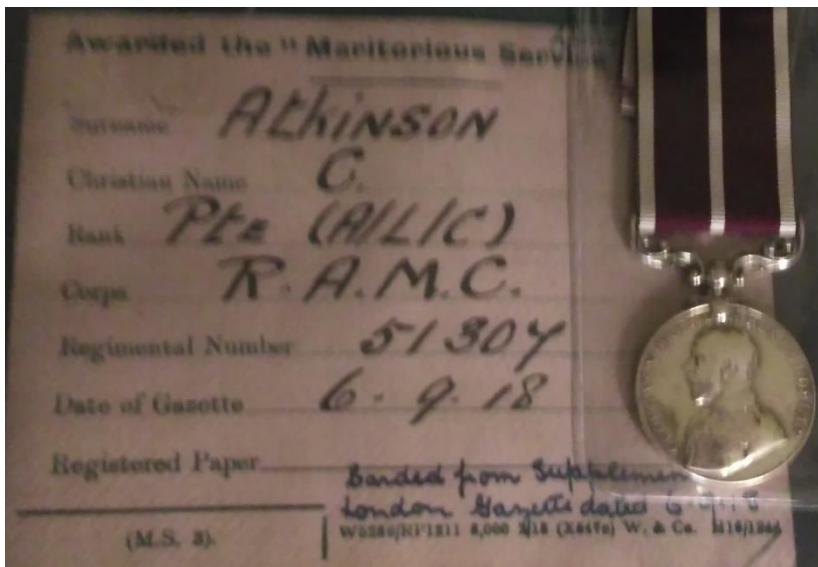
The Sinking of the Hospital Ship Rohilla – see the book Into the Maelstrom – The Wreck of HMHS Rohilla by Colin Brittain. 90 killed when ship sank yet only one merchant seaman is listed as dead on the Tower Hill Memorial, begging the question how many Merchant Seaman's names have been omitted from the Memorial. Likewise research undertaken would indicate that not all the merchant seamen killed that on the Rohilla that day received the Mercantile Marine Medal – possibly because there were no forwarding address for next of kin.

Single BWM and Plaque Thomas Ray Hartwell RE. Killed on the Cameronia 15 April 1917.
[Pictured below]



Irish Medals in a box with no supporting details – War of Independence Medal with compliments of the President of Ireland including UDF badge (badge number erased).

An MSM with pair to Pte C. Atkinson, RAMC - only 28 MSM's awarded for service on hospital ships. [Pictured below – Meritorious Service Medal [Obverse] to Private Atkinson RAMC].



Pat Knight suggested that ten minutes of each BMS Meeting be set aside from now on, to pick up any items omitted from the subject of the previous meeting.

My thanks to Philip Wilson for writing these minutes and Roger Bragger for taking the photographs.

Minutes and images compiled 17.5.19

Chris Davies BMS Secretary