

**Minutes ZOOM meeting 24.10.2020**

Ten members were present.

**Items discussed as follows:**

A double long service group was shown issued to Corporal J. Sayko with Golden Jubilee Medal, Efficiency Reserve Long Service and Volunteer Reserve Long Service medals.



**Above:** medals to Corporal J Sayko.

The next group was a trio of medals comprising Gulf War, Golden Jubilee and Territorial Efficiency medal with bar [RAOC on Gulf medal and RA on Territorial medal]. Whilst contemplating the purchase, our member was in touch with the recipient Sergeant James Kerr through 'Facebook' to check the medals were a bona fide sale and, after purchase, to request permission to use the recipient's Facebook photos.



**Above left and right:** Kerr medals 'before and after treatment'.

**Above:** Sergeant James Kerr.

Next was a trio of 1914 Star, Victory medal and Special Constabulary Medal but missing its British War Medal to James Whittaker Army Service Corps.



**Above left and right:** medals to James Whitaker 'before and after'. [Not his BWM].

The next item related to a member's entirely new collecting theme namely of French Napoleonic medals and memorabilia [Two items in the theme were referenced in **ZOOM minutes 29.8.2020**] The latest acquisition was still awaited but comprised a 'Officer Grade' Legion d'Honneur [made by Napoleon's jeweller no less] to a Commander in the 4th Regiment of Cuirassiers. Empress Josephine was introduced to the said Cuirassier and she made reference in the Paris Journal to the soldier's documented 52 wounds – this information was to reach Napoleon some days later in newsprint. Napoleon sought verification of the wounds information and, consequently, the recipient had an upgrade to his Legion d'Honneur! [Apologies no photo yet..]

A group of 4 to 4105284 Private G. W. Davies from Leominster featured next – a 1939-45 War Medal, Defence Medal, Territorial Efficiency Medal [George VI] and Imperial Service Medal [Queen Elizabeth II] [London Gazette January, 1981] all in their original boxes of issue. He transferred from the RASC to the Herefordshire Regiment in 1942, hence the Herefordshire service number. [Apologies no photo].

Next was a 1914 Star issued to 24583 Private Sidney Christopher Long of the Royal Engineers – KIA or DOW 16.11.1914. There was some discussion as to when pension cards were written after WWI – Geneological research confirmed his father was William Thomas Long who'd died in approximately 1922 – However, the research trail had gone cold in that the pension card indicated the next beneficiary as 'E.S. Long' [the soldier's mother] and, as yet, she hasn't been identified. [Apologies, no photo].

A no bar Queen's South Africa to a non-participant was shown. The recipient was Mr W. C. Scott who was a war artist working for the 'Illustrated London News'.

The six attributable miniatures to Major-General Reginald William Sartorius VC CMG were next up. He'd won the VC in the Ashanti Campaign – There were only 4 VC's for the Ashanti 1873 campaign and two of these were to Officers. Sartorius's full-sized medals had been presented to the National Army Museum in the 1960's. Of note, Sartorius's brother [ Major-General Euston Sartorius] won the VC in the Afghanistan 1878-80 campaign.



**Above:** Miniatures attributable to [and as worn by] Major-General R. W. Sartorius [with apologies for picture quality].

Another member was able to confirm that Sartorius was related to Robert Peel.

Various KSLI items were shown, in particular, the MC WWI pair to Captain Charles Curtis who later was head of the forgeries department of the Bank of England – It is possible that Curtis had been involved in ‘Operation Bernhardt’ which investigated Nazi fake English banknotes which originated in Germany in WWII. Also discussed was a MM to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion and two RAF groups with service in Afghanistan from 1908 onwards. [\[see photograph of display below\]](#).



There was plenty of discussion around all the material presented and even the suggestion that the BMS should consider a trip to Paris to visit the ‘Musée National de la Légion d’Honneur’ once the current [Covid...] crisis is over! You have been warned!!

Chris Davies BMS Secretary – with my usual apologies for any factual errors and omissions]. Typed 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.