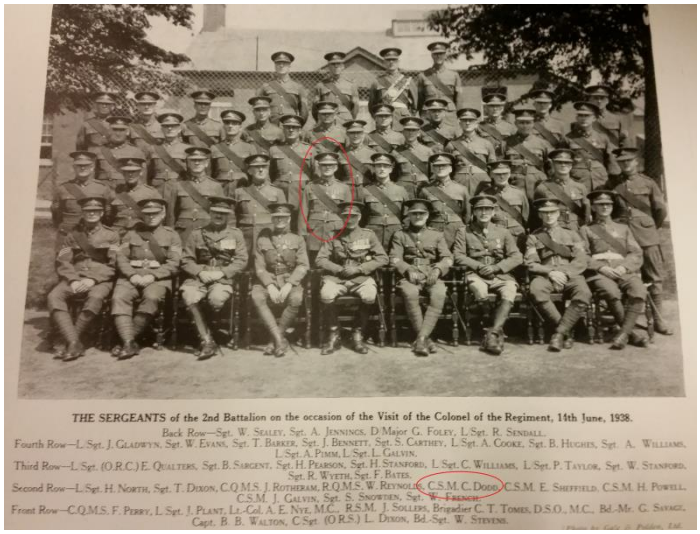
Minutes of the Birmingham Medal Society meeting 05 July,2018

1. Welcome Mr President welcomed all including guests Pete Fisher, Martin Keyes and David Walters.
2. Apologies received – A Bostock, C Burns, M Harrison, P Murray, R Painter, J Taylor and P Wilson.
3. Numbers – Meal 10, drink 6 and ONS 1.[ONS = overnight stay].
4. New members – None.
5. Library requests – None.
6. Functions and visits – Saturday 8th September, 2018 – reminder re: Suvla Barracks open day in Hereford. Also, weekend of medals in Banbury 3-5.11.18.
7. Research questions – None.
8. Committee points – Further discussion re possible miniconvention date 8.9.18 as per previous minutes. Of 15 members present tonight, only 7 available by show of hands. This date is one week before the OMRS meeting. Agreed that this date is sadly non-viable and committee to convene at 4.30pm 2.8.18 [our next meeting date] to decide venue /date/dealers available etc.
9. Committee point - President Roger Bragger requested the society offer honorary membership to longstanding member Roy Painter. Roy hasn't been able to attend for some years. Secretary seconded the proposal and all members in favour. Secretary to inform Roy and will also send some copies of recent meetings minutes.
10. Tonight's meeting – Recent acquisitions and small talks.
11. President's closing remarks – Mr President thanked all for attending.
12. Next meeting – 02.08.18 – 'Letters from South Africa 1879-1881 Pte Watts 3/6th Foot' by Paul Murray.

Recent acquisitions and short talks.

Members brought in several interesting items – many purchases were characterised by a degree of opportunism and serendipity. Some medals discussed were actually still in transit to the member or had been delivered that day!

First up was a Geo VI LSGC to CSM C.Dodd Warwicks Regt. It transpired that CSM Dodd was kia in the 'forgotten massacre' of Wormhout, Flanders May 1940. CSM Dodd, wearing his LSGC, featured in the regimental photographic record in a group photo to commemorate the Colonel of the regiment's visit in 1938.


THE SERGEANTS of the 2nd Battalion on the occasion of the Visit of the Colonel of the Regiment, 14th June, 1938.

Information relating to CSM Dodd [circled in photograph above wearing his medal] LSGC awaited by member!]

The next item was a single 'Waterloo' medal to Joseph Adlam of the 1st Royal Dragoons. His medal's condition reflected his years of service post Waterloo as it had to be worn every day as part of uniform. He'd served in Portugal, Spain and France 1809-1814, then was injured at Waterloo by shell splinter to leg and musket ball to body requiring 61 days of hospitalisation. Subsequently, he was involved in suppressing the 'Littleport' riots of May 1816. Through the muster rolls, Joseph Adlam's postings could be tracked over the next 6 years which included a posting to Edinburgh to maintain order after the 'Great fire of Edinburgh' of November,1824 . The muster rolls were effectively pay and accounting documents which logged troop movements and allowed soldiers to draw funds for the expenses of the march. Much information was obtained from the 'British Newspaper Archives'.

Left: Waterloo Medal to Joseph Adlam.

The next item was a BWM to 14309 Pte W Smith – this was an e-bay purchase [for a very reasonable price…] and part of a bigger lot of miscellaneous non-miltary medallions. The ancestry website established that Smith had a very unusual first name of 'Woodfine' which really caught the member's interest. Further paperwork evidenced the recipient was found guilty of 'Cowardice' and had received a death sentence subsequently commuted and then remitted – this was stated in the roll of medal entitlement 1919. He was entitled to a VM but the 14-15 star entitlement was unclear.

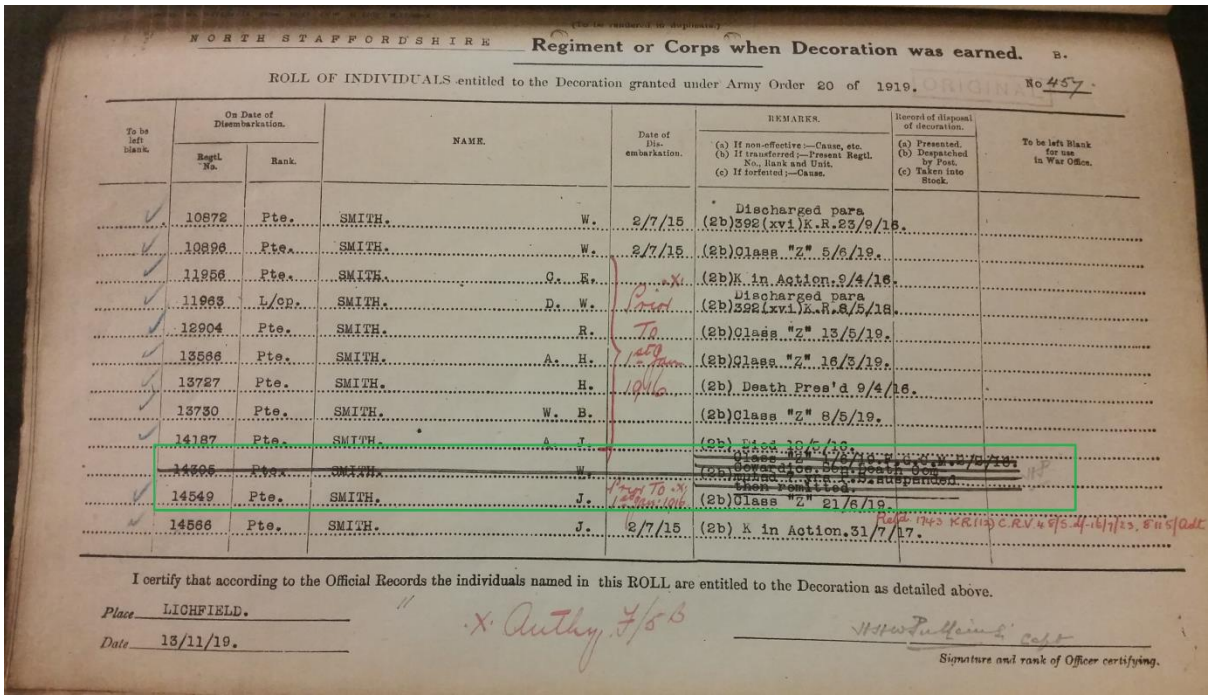
Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
SMITH	N Staff R	Pte.	143[illegible]5
Woodfine			

Medal.	Roll.	Page.
Victory	F/10 B22	2450
British	— do	—
Star		

Theatre of War first served in

Date of entry therein

K. 1380



NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Regiment or Corps when Decoration was earned. B.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Decoration granted under Army Order 20 of 1919. No 457.

To be left blank.	On Date of Disembarkation. Regtl. No.	Rank.	NAME.	Date of Disembarkation.	REMARKS. (a) If non-effective:—Cause, etc. (b) If transferred:—Present Regtl. No., Rank and Unit. (c) If forfeited:—Cause.	Record of disposal of decoration. (a) Presented. (b) Despatched by Post. (c) Taken into Stock.	To be left Blank for use in War Office.
✓	10872	Pte.	SMITH. W.	2/7/15	Discharged para (2b)392(xvi)K.R.23/9/16.		
✓	10896	Pte.	SMITH. W.	2/7/15	(2b)Class "Z" 5/6/19.		
✓	11256	Pte.	SMITH. O. R.	[illegible]	(2b)K in Action.9/4/16.		
✓	11965	L/cp.	SMITH. D. W.	[illegible]	Discharged para (2b)392(xvi)K.R.8/5/18.		
✓	12904	Pte.	SMITH. R.	To [illegible]	(2b)Class "Z" 13/5/19.		
✓	13566	Pte.	SMITH. A. H.	[illegible]	(2b)Class "Z" 16/3/19.		
✓	13727	Pte.	SMITH. H.	[illegible]	(2b) Death Pres'd 9/4/16.		
✓	13730	Pte.	SMITH. W. B.		(2b)Class "Z" 8/5/19.		
✓	14187	Pte.	SMITH. A. J.		(2b) Died 30/7/19.		
~~✓~~	~~14305~~	~~Pte.~~	~~SMITH.~~ W.		~~Class "Z" 5/6/19. R.W.F. 7/7/19.~~ ~~(2b)Sentenced Death 6th Sept. Death Sent. Remitted. Suspended. then remitted.~~		
✓	14549	Pte.	SMITH. J.	[illegible]	(2b)Class "Z" 21/6/19.		
✓	14566	Pte.	SMITH. J.	2/7/15	(2b) K in Action.31/7/17.		

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Decoration as detailed above.

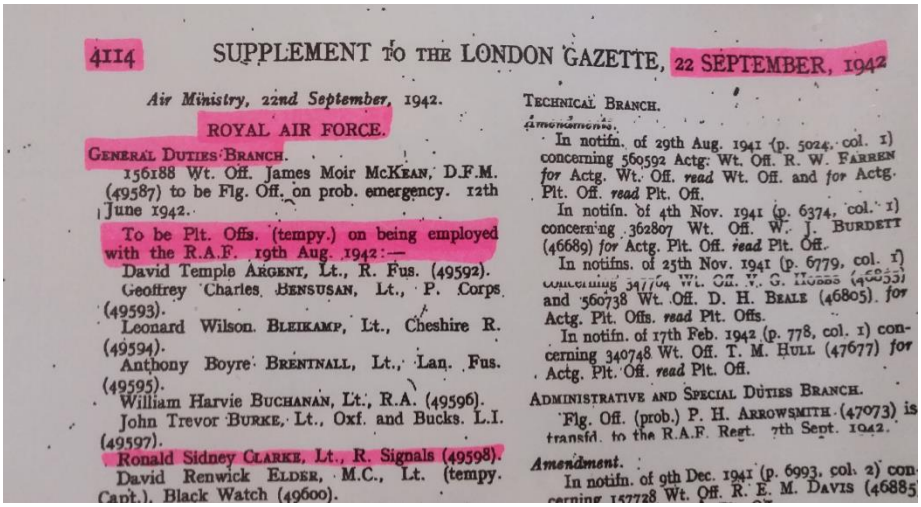
Place LICHFIELD.

Date 13/11/19.

Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

Information re Pte Woodfine Smith including details of sentencing [highlighted in green]

Next up was a territorial efficiency medal to to 49598 RS Clark[e] RAF – not spelt with the 'e' till later in his career. He'd joined the Royal Signals in 1935, then in WWII in 1941, was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Signals. The London Gazette' 22.9.42 stated he'd 'completed the qualifying period in the RAF' to be awarded the Territorial Efficency medal. This scenario was quite rare with about 40 or so similar awards being made. His subsequent career was in the RAF.



4114 SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 22 SEPTEMBER, 1942

Air Ministry, 22nd September, 1942.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

156188 Wt. Off. James Moir McKEAN, D.F.M. (49587) to be Flg. Off., on prob. emergency. 12th June 1942.

To be Plt. Offs. (tempy.) on being employed with the R.A.F. 19th Aug. 1942:—

David Temple ARGENT, Lt., R. Fus. (49592).
Geoffrey Charles BENSUSAN, Lt., P. Corps (49593).
Leonard Wilson BLEIKAMP, Lt., Cheshire R. (49594).
Anthony Boyre BRENTNALL, Lt., Lan. Fus. (49595).
William Harvie BUCHANAN, Lt., R.A. (49596).
John Trevor BURKE, Lt., Oxf. and Bucks. L.I. (49597).
Ronald Sidney CLARKE, Lt., R. Signals (49598).
David Renwick ELDER, M.C., Lt. (tempy. Capt.), Black Watch (49600).

TECHNICAL BRANCH.

Amendments.

In notifn. of 29th Aug. 1941 (p. 5024, col. 1) concerning 560592 Actg. Wt. Off. R. W. FARREN *for* Actg. Wt. Off. *read* Wt. Off. and *for* Actg. Plt. Off. *read* Plt. Off.

In notifn. of 4th Nov. 1941 (p. 6374, col. 1) concerning 362807 Wt. Off. W. J. BURDETT (46689) *for* Actg. Plt. Off. *read* Plt. Off.

In notifns. of 25th Nov. 1941 (p. 6779, col. 1) concerning 347764 Wt. Off. V. G. HUBBS (46533) and 560738 Wt. Off. D. H. BEALE (46805) *for* Actg. Plt. Offs. *read* Plt. Offs.

In notifn. of 17th Feb. 1942 (p. 778, col. 1) concerning 340748 Wt. Off. T. M. HULL (47677) *for* Actg. Plt. Off. *read* Plt. Off.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SPECIAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Flg. Off. (prob.) P. H. ARROWSMITH (47073) is transfd. to the R.A.F. Regt. 7th Sept. 1942.

Amendment.

In notifn. of 9th Dec. 1941 (p. 6993, col. 2) concerning 157728 Wt. Off. R. E. M. DAVIS (46885

Territorial Efficiency medal and London Gazette entry to RS Clarke.

Medals to the Cameron Highlanders were shown. The first was a Korea medal to Pte K Able of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. There followed a CBE/KPM [Geo V] pair to Cecil Mitchell-Innes. Born in Edinburgh in 1866, Mitchell-Innes was commissioned in the mid 1880's moving to the Cameron Highlanders later in his career. He served as Chief Constable Lincolnshire 1903-1931 receiving the CBE in 1920 for services to the Police.

Left: Korea medal to Pte K Able. Right: CBE and KPM to C Mitchell-Innes.

Two WWI trios to civilian ambulance volunteers provided great interest.

In response to Surgeon General Alfred Keogh's [who was the BRC commissioner and DG Army Medical Services in the early phase of the Great War] report on the need for motorised ambulances, Kitchener had provided a 'letter of permission' allowing ambulance duties to identify the dead and wounded. John Reeve Brooke [first cousin of Rupert Brooke] was involved in the 'Graves registration commission' [Oct 1915] and became OIC of 'Unit A' - one of the very early ambulance units – 'Unit B' was attached to the French army around Albert. Brookes' subsequent career [with mentions in the LG] is with the Ministry of food where he manages the food shortages of 1917. After the Great War, he receives a knighthood for services to the electricity commission.

Left: Trio to John Reeve Brooke.

Right: Trio to Frederick Giles Moore.

Assistant secretary in 'Unit B' was Frederick G Moore whose medals were shown.

As a follow-up to a previous presentation, it was confirmed that Howard Kendal Mowle was to be commemorated on the Soissons memorial soon – He will be the only civilian named on it.

Finally, a single IGS bar Burma 1885-87 was shown followed by an interesting BWM/VM pair to 2508 Lt Sidney Philips-Caine – this soldier joins the 6th Gloucesters in May 1915, moves to the Suffolks in 1917 and thereafter the Indian Army. His interwar and WWII career was varied including a Commission with Indian Army, being listed bankrupt and involvement in a fatal motorcycle accident in 1941. After WWII, he was awarded a civil CBE [for services to the supplies department in Bengal – not in the sale].

Left: IGS bar'Burma 1887-89. Right: BWM and VM to Lt Philips-Caine.

This latter pair had been preceded in the auction by an erased 1914-15 star – it was postulated it could have been the one owned by Lt Philips-Caine who may not have wanted a medal on his chest stating a non commissioned rank.

Meeting declared closed at 8 57pm.

Minutes typed 17.7.18

C M Davies BMS secretary