Meeting notes from BMS Members' Own/Recent Acquisitions meeting held on 4.7.2024.

First up, a Rhodesian General Service Medal [GSM] triple issue to a Sergeant Ward. Noted were slight differences to the obverse to each of the GSM's referred to as through the years, new dies were commissioned of Cecil Rhodes' face [See progression from left to right in photo below]. The group is currently unresearched as to the explanation of his triple issue but it probably reflects change of regiment or posting. Double issues of this GSM are not uncommon.

Photo above: The three Rhodesian GSMs issued to Sgt Ward.

Officer awards were issued to the rank but no service number. Next up were the seven medals to 39004 Major D.L. Burman of the Pretoria Regiment 6th Armoured Division which featured an Efficiency Decoration [ED] and the Africa Service Medal ['ASM'] in silver. These awards were made in the Royal Mint in Pretoria which later became the 'South African Mint'. Such medals are reasonably priced and, more importantly, all are named and researchable. The first six had impressed naming with the ED being officially engraved. It was noted that the finish of the South African issue WWII stars had a type of gold plating.

Photos above: Left: Group of seven to Major D.L. Burman obverses. Left to right 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal, 1939-45 War Medal, ASM and ED.

Photo above right: reverses of the Burman group.

The theatres of war served in covered Abyssinia, Somaliland and North Africa before troops would have moved on to Italy. Native and Malay Service Corps would generally serve in fewer theatres of war and, as such, might not be so highly sought after.

Next up were the medals to CSM C.H. Thorne of the Rhodesia Regiment 2nd Battalion consisting of WWI pair with Efficiency Medal 'Southern Rhodesia' [Geo V] and bar. The latter is quite rare [Only 17 issued as indicated in the 'Medal Year Book' but other resources say fewer]. Both the EM and bar were presented on the occasion of the King's Birthday Parade on 4th June,1934 **[see photo, newspaper cutting and miniatures below].** He had no WWI star entitlement.

Next discussed was a Rhodesian Gallantry group to Jock McElvie Support Commando, Rhodesian Light Infantry of the Rhodesian Cross in silver and the Rhodesian GSM. He had seen earlier service in the Royal Marines **[Apologies no medals this time! no photo**].

There followed the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society large silver medal [first type, third class] to William McDonnell who was a Seacombe Ferry Stageman. Seacombe terminal was one of the main ferry terminals on the River Mersey. These awards could only be received by a person from Merseyside who had saved or attempted to save the life of someone from Merseyside. The award could be issued worldwide within these criteria to sailors on Liverpool registered vessels. McDonnell's first award was issued in 1859 and his second in 1874. The clasp is inscribed 'For saving life 5th March 1874'. Men could be offered money in place of the award. Also noted was that lifeboat crews were all volunteers and that their bravery was without question. These medals are best researched using the Newspaper Archives.

<u>Photo above</u>: Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society medal to William McDonnell. The original medal is the disc. A local jeweller has added the suspension. With the size of the award, it is generally thought of as not intended to be worn.

Next up was a General Service Medal 1962-2007 [GSM] QEII with clasp 'Kuwait' to Lance Bombardier M.K.M. Aidley of the Royal Artillery [RA]. **[See photo below]**

Other clasps issued include 'Dhofar', 'Lebanon', 'Air Operations Iraq', 'North Iraq', 'South Turkey' and 'Gulf'. A silver pin ['retaining rod'] holds any the single clasps but in the case of multiple clasps, rivets were used.

A WWI Trio with Aug-Nov 1914 clasp featured next awarded to 67610 Driver A.M. Daniels of 'L' Battery Royal Horse Artillery [RHA] who was in the early WWI VC action at Néry on 1st September, 1914. One of these guns is displayed at the Imperial War Museum.

Photo above: WWI trio with Aug-Nov 1914 clasp to Driver A.M.Daniels, RHA.

A pair consisting of India General Service ['IGS'] 1908-35 with two clasps 'North West Frontier 1930-31' and 'North West Frontier 1935' with a Long Service and Good Conduct [LSGC] featured next. Individually such medals are common but as pairs are rare. They are thought to total about 35. Other clasps and rarity were discussed and as well as the three different obverses for this IGS - namely the Edward VII Kaiser-I-Hind, the George V Kaiser-I-Hind and George V 'Ind Imp' types.

Photo above: IGS 2 clasp and LSGC pair [obverses] *Apologies as I do not have the recipient's details.*

Next up was a modern trio of unresearched medals two of which were long service. They were the Order of St John [Serving Brother], the Coastguard Auxiliary Service LS medal [20yrs service and this medal previously known as the 'Rocket Apparatus' LS medal] and the St John Long Service medal with three clasps representing thirty years of service. The latter medal is made in China and rhodium plated - as such it *cannot be engraved without causing damage to the plating*. The recipient Sidney Robert Black was gazetted in the London Gazette of 20th June, 1986. The rocket life saving apparatus refers to the method of rescue using a 'breeches buoy' which initially needed lines fired from land based rockets to ships in distress.

Photo left: Modern trio of medals – see text above.

Next were shown pictures of internees in Holland from 1914 images which are available on line. They are identifiable by their attached *pay numbers*. No 1381 was AB Wright RNVR Hawke Battalion RND.

Photo above: AB Wright [see text above].

Photo above: Medal group to 2/2506 Wright AB RNVR Hawke Battalion RND [obverses] Left to right: 1914 Star with Aug-Nov 1914 clasp, Brtish war Medal 1914-1918, Victory Medal, Defence Medal, 1939-45 War Medal and Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve Medal.

Photo above: Reverses of the Wright group

Also interned was 'Acting Commander SW Beadle' whose medal group was shown. Both were in the Hawke battalion which had moved into Holland to avoid capture only to be captured, interned and spend the rest of the war there as POWs. However, some Officer POWs had 'Parole' with unusual freedoms which even included home leave!

Photo left: Naming on reverse of 1914 Star 'Acting Commander S.W. Beadle RN HAWKE BTTN RND'.

Beadle had joined the Navy in 1908, spent two months in Canada in 1912 after requesting two months leave. In 1914, he'd become C/O of the Hawke battalion with 2 or 3 weeks after service before capture in Holland.

Next shown was a WWI trio to W. Barrie of the Army Service Corps who had enlisted in 1918. He had meteoric promotion as, by May 1918, had become Acting Staff Sergeant, then W/O Class I followed by the rank of Lieutenant in the Army of Occupation. [pic]

There followed a Distinguished Conduct Medal [DCM] plus trio [entitled to Silver 'Wound' Badge SWB] to L. Cl R. Howarth 9th Battalion, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. His DCM citation was read out which started with the sentence 'For conspicuous gallantry and good work with the machine gun on several occasions when his officer was wounded, he took charge and carried out his programme successfully…'. He had two brothers who were both KIA in WWI.

Photo above: DCM and WWI trio to Howarth [see text above].

A death plaque to the New Zealand Expeditionary Force [NZEF] was shown next – It had been manufactured in 'Acton' as most issued to the NZEF had been. The recipient was Ernest George Patchett who had died 1.10.1918. His certificates of service was shown [these were issued even if KIA]. These were not available in similar circumstances for the British Army.

Photos above left: Plaque to Ernest George Patchett. **Photo above right**: His certificate of service.

The next group also featured a DCM but with two further award clasps along with his trio which had been awarded to Thomas Edward of the Royal Scots Fusiliers. His DCM is unique to the Regiment and is one of only eleven issued with two clasps. It would be an understatement to say this is rare! His three citations were read out which, in summary, covered multiple reports of 'gallantry, gallantry under fire and conspicuous gallantry with leadership of his platoon' in February 1917, October 1918 and December 1919 respectively. He had enlisted in Nottingham 1899 transferring to Lance Sergeant in the Reserve in 1911 and returned to the Army in 1915.

Photo above: Left to right - DCM with 2 clasps and WWI trio to Thomas Edward [details in text above].

Next displayed was a reunite of two medals to Lagos Hausa Force 377 Amadu Kanu linking his Africa General Service Medal [AGSM] with his East and West Africa medal [clasp N. Nigeria 1903]. The Regiment named on this medal is 'Lagos Battalion, West Africa Frontier Field Force'. Some four years had elapsed between the purchases! Also noted was his entitlement to the Ashantee 1900 medal with clasp 'Kumassie'.

Photo above left: Reunite of two medals to 377 Amadu Kanu [see text above].

Photo above right: AGSM to Bambigoye with restored correct clasp entitlement [see text below].

Quite commonly medals from this era have missing clasps. With the AGSM in question awarded to Bambigoye, the medal rolls indicated his correct additional entitlement to 'S. Nigeria 1905-06' and the rarer 'West Africa 1908' so original clasps were added to this medal to reflect this. The 'West Africa 1908' clasp [215 clasps awarded] was also unusual in that there one battle where the regiment had fought *alongside* Germans some sixty of whom received the British award.

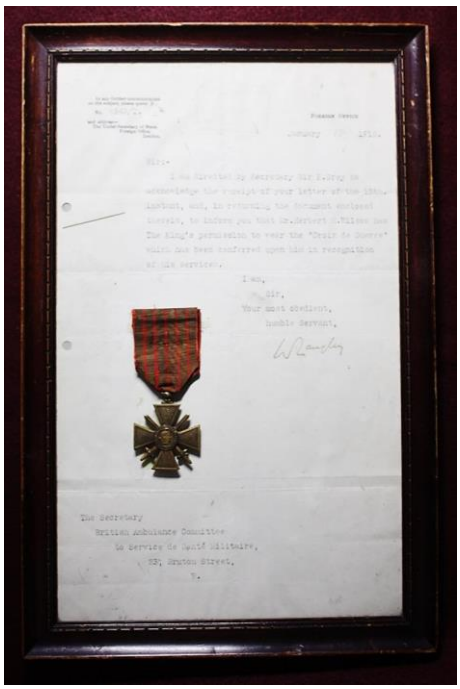
The BMS talk in February, 2024 concerned the 'Defenders of the Alambagh'. The next pair shown was awarded to Surgeon John Irving of the Royal Artillery who, prior to this, had served in the 88th Regiment. The medals awarded were the Indian Mutiny medal [named to Staff Surgeon] with clasps 'Lucknow' and 'Defence of Lucknow' and the IGS [named to Surgeon General] with single clasp 'Burma 1885-87'. By the time of issue of the IGS, Irving held the title 'physician to the Queen'. He had been involved in the defence of Lucknow with Outram and Havelock. During his two months

defending the Alambagh, he was MiD. When Campbell had returned to Cawnpore, Outram had continued to defend the Alambagh for a further four months before he then attacked and retook Lucknow.

Photo above: Indian Mutiny and IGS to Surgeon John Irving [details in text above].

Some stories from the diary of Francis Cornwallis Maude VC with whom Irving served were quoted.

The final medals shown were those to Section Sanitaire Anglaise SSA 1 Driver Herbert Henry Wilson [Trio and Croix de Guerre - CdG] Also shown was the King's permissory note allowing him to wear his CdG and a photo of him in 1915 – By 1915, his unit SSA 1 had travelled to the Vosges. He had contributed significantly to the funding of ambulances [**see CdG and newspaper cutting below**].



WELSH FLEET OF CARS.

MOTOR-AMBULANCES FOR THE FRONT.

It was reported at a meeting of the motor ambulance committee held at the City-hall, Cardiff, on Wednesday, the Lord Mayor (Alderman Dr. James Robinson) presiding, that a generous response had already been made to the appeal for the provision of a fleet of motor-ambulance cars for the use of the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance at the front.

It was stated that the committee were now in a position to supply seven cars, but three more would have to be secured in order to make up the fleet. As these vehicles are absolutely necessary in order to convey our wounded soldiers to the hospitals, the committee are making another pressing appeal to the public for help. The need is urgent, and gifts may either take the form of donations to the fund, of which the Lord Mayor is treasurer, or of second-hand motor-cars for conversion into ambulance cars.

The cost of four 15 to 20-h.p. cars is being defrayed by the following, who are giving £400 each for the purpose:—Sir William James Thomas, Miss Tinker (Llandaff), Mr. H. M. Thompson, and Mr. R. F. Wakley (Cardiff). Mr. H. H. Wilson, Miss Radcliffe (Usk), and Mr. Layton Fisk have each presented a car for conversion. The hon. secretary is Mr. R. F. Wakley, of Gloucester-chambers, Mount Stuart-square, Cardiff.

Photo above: Dvr H.H.Wilson CdG of SSA1 by his ambulance in the Vosges 1915.

Mr President thanked all contributors for what had been an excellent evening of variety and interest. Especial thanks to Steve Mills for 2024 for organising the photography and society powerpoint display for this evening's talks. This had worked successfully.

The meeting was closed at 21.24hrs.

Typed 25.7- 30.7.2024

Chris Davies

BMS Secretary

With my usual apologies for any errors and typos.