

Journal of the Orders & Medals Research Society



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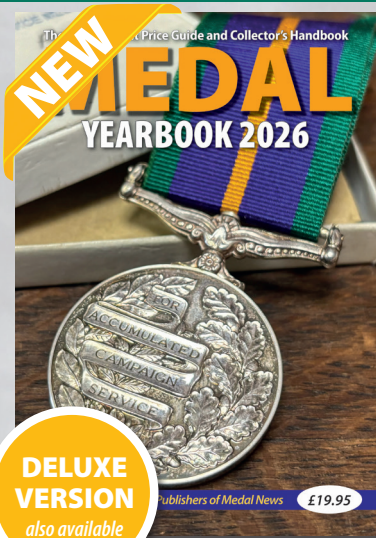
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The Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal 1951

by Richard Mackay

This article covers in detail the proposals, design, institution and evolution of the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. It starts with a brief review of earlier medallic recognition given to the various Police forces before charting the development of the current award through to the present day.

The Quest for a Medal

National medallic recognition was given to all constables (and some civilian staff) serving with the Metropolitan Police and City of London Police during the 1887 and 1897 jubilees and the coronations of 1902 and 1911. This was “*in acknowledgment of extraordinary exertions of the [London] police.*”^{1,2} However, when the new king visited Scotland in 1903 the related commemorative medal was awarded only to selected constables who were directly associated with the events. Similarly, both the Scottish Police and the County and Borough Police versions of the 1911 Coronation Medal were issued on a limited basis to selected officers, in respect of their contribution to the celebrations or as a reward for long service. However, it was a universal issue to officers who policed the capital. Indeed, Metropolitan Police officers who were outside the capital on sick leave, and even those who had previously committed indiscretions, were eligible for the medal.³

Not unnaturally, this caused unhappiness amongst the officers who missed out, which was voiced by their elected representatives. On 1 May 1911, some six weeks before the coronation of King George V, Sir James Yoxall, the Liberal Party MP for Nottinghamshire West, asked Winston Churchill, then Secretary of State for the Home Department:

...if he will consider the desirability of submitting to His Majesty the King a proposal that the loyal devotion of the constabulary forces throughout the United Kingdom, and the exceptional duties cheerfully performed by them, should be recognised on the occasion of His Majesty's Coronation by presenting a special medal to all police officers who have served under the reigns of Queen Victoria, King Edward VII., and His Majesty King George? ⁴

Churchill replied:

I regret that I cannot make such a recommendation. The medals for the Metropolitan and City police will be given on account of the heavy extra duties to be performed at the Coronation by these forces.

Only Chief Officers of county and borough constabularies with over ten years' service in that role were selected to receive the 1911 Coronation Medal, alongside certain other officers. This caused a stir, with Captain Craig, the Ulster Unionist Party MP for East Down, reminding the Home Secretary that many chief officers with less than ten years' service at that rank had been kept very busy with the celebrations. Sir Reginald McKenna, the Liberal Party Home Secretary, replied:

I am well aware of the great amount of work and responsibility which fell upon the chief officers of each police force at the time of the Coronation. It is a fact, however, that the police have been more generously recognized as regards medals than any other branch of the public service, and I regret I cannot recommend any extension of the distribution of these medals beyond what has been already approved.⁵

In late 1912 the Conservative MP for the Isle of Wight, Sir Douglas Hall, relayed to the House of Commons the woes of one of his constituents, a certain Sergeant Wilson of Ryde, who had not been chosen to receive one of the County and Borough Police Coronation Medals allotted to his force, despite being the oldest serving officer on the Island with over thirty years of exemplary service. Hall decried this as a “gross miscarriage of ordinary justice” and suggested that an additional medal be granted to the constabulary for this officer. Sir Reginald McKenna, replied that no additional awards could be made.⁶ Many decades later, when, as Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill addressed the House of Commons on 22 March 1944 about medallic recognition for services during the then war, he remarked that a medal glitters but also casts a shadow:

All that is possible is to give the greatest satisfaction to the greatest number and to hurt the feelings of the fewest. ⁷

Given that in the case of the police constabularies outside of the capital there was more hurt feeling than satisfaction, it is no surprise that many forces had already established their own awards for meritorious and long service.⁸ One of these was the Liverpool City Police Good Service Medal, which developed from the force's 1897 jubilee medal that had been issued to all officers who had over twenty years' unblemished service. Established in 1900, this long service award was initially issued in bronze to constables and sergeants and in silver to inspectors and above. In 1918 it was decided that officers of all ranks would receive both medals: in bronze for twenty years' service and in silver for the quarter-century. However, these were essentially local authority awards, badges to be worn only whilst in uniform, not medals sanctioned by the sovereign.⁹

That is not to say there was no other medallic recognition. Officers were entitled to a plethora of national and institutional civil lifesaving and gallantry awards and from 1909 also to the King's Police Medal, created "*for the reward of courage and devotion to duty on the part of persons serving in constabulary forces and fire brigades throughout His Majesty's dominions.*"¹⁰ In August 1919 the Special Constabulary Faithful Service Medal was introduced, initially as official recognition for those who had served as part-time warranted police officers during the recent war.

In order to qualify for it a special constable must have served for not less than three years during the War and performed not less than 150 police duties. On 25th September I issued a circular to all chief constables calling their attention to the warrant and asking them to submit the names of those qualified for the medal.¹¹

By February 1922 some 55,000 awards had been made.¹² Police officers were also eligible for the 1935 Jubilee and 1937 Coronation medals, but, again, the numbers issued to each force was small and qualification was usually based on long service, seniority, or direct participation in the celebrations, so many otherwise deserving officers missed out. These medals are often found privately engraved with the name and rank of the recipient and the force with which they served, which suggests the esteem in which they were held.

There had been discussion about introducing a medal for regular police officers in 1919, when the Special Constabulary Faithful Service Medal was approved. However, it seems the Home Office felt it was impractical to issue a national police long service medal when each force had its own way of recording (and presumably sanctioning) minor disciplinary infractions, which would have led to inconsistencies and therefore unfairness when it came to validating qualifying service. Doubtless the police strikes of 1918-19 put paid to any further discussion of the matter.¹³

Notwithstanding this, policing within some parts of the British Empire was deemed worthy of a medal. In 1923 the South Africa Police issued a bilingual silver good service medal, which was awarded without a clasp for eighteen years' good service and with a clasp bearing 'MERIT-VERDIENST' if awarded for a specific act of gallantry or other distinguished service. In 1934 the Colonial Police Long Service Medal was instituted for British and native officers in the various colonial police forces, such as the British South Africa Police and the Hong Kong Police Force. It appears the issue of a similar award for officers serving within the United Kingdom was again raised at the time, but the Home Office felt a medal just for long service and good conduct was not necessary.¹⁴

The Formulation of the Medal, 1948-51

Correspondence between *The Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals* and The Royal Mint about a national police medal began during 1948. Great Britain was in the midst of post-war austerity measures that were so severe it even precluded the relatively minimal expense of naming the campaign stars and medals awarded to Second World War veterans. The tentative introduction of another medal was to be viewed in a similarly prudent manner. It is of note that one of the first decisions taken, before it was even certain that a medal would be authorised, was that it would not be made from silver. Cupronickel was then already in widespread use in the manufacture of the 1939-45 War and Defence medals and had been shown to be just as easy to work with as silver. Moreover, the bulk silver used in the production of silver medals had previously come from melting down old silver coins, but in 1947 the Royal Mint had stopped issuing silver

coins and thus cheap silver was becoming thin on the ground and, if used for the new medal, it would have to be bought on the open market.

The medal under consideration was named "The Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal" in the same vein as its long-established military equivalents. That it would bear the legend 'For Exemplary Police Service' had already been decided upon and this was the one constant until the medal was finally authorised some years later. Otherwise, the design of the new medal was far from certain. Several ideas were suggested. The obverse would carry of the effigy of King George VI, but whether it was to be the crowned effigy seen on the 1939-45 War Medal or the uncrowned profile as on the Defence Medal remained to be seen and this would, understandably, be selected entirely on the King's personal preference. Regarding the reverse there were five initial proposals. The first featured a Bow Street Runner. The second featured a figure representing Justice. The third showed a uniform officer "*arresting a criminal who is firing at him with a pistol*". The fourth option illustrated a uniformed officer "*giving first aid to an injured person, with an overturned car in the background*." The last showed a uniformed officer "*conducting some children across the road*." It was clear that a more definitive design was needed before a Royal Warrant could be drawn up. Eligibility and qualifying service also had to be clarified.

The patchwork nature of regional and departmental constabularies muddled the waters in this regard when the discussion began in early 1949. Those officers serving in the departmental constabularies that formed the precursor to the current Ministry of Defence Police - namely the War Department Constabulary, the Admiralty Constabulary, the Royal Marine Police and the Air Force Department Constabulary - and also the Ministry of Civil Aviation Police Constabulary, as departmental civil servants, were already entitled to the Imperial Service Medal (ISM) after 25 years' service. *The Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals* sought advice from the Home Office and these departments. The Home Office initially rejected the idea of

including these officers within the scope of the proposed medal, stating that

regular police are in day-to-day contact with the general public and the arguments for making a long service award to them do not apply with nearly the same force to these bodies [i.e. the departmental constabularies] which have only a limited and specialist function.

Sir James Barnes of the Air Ministry disagreed, stating that issuing the new medal would help as his ministry "*attach[ed] considerable importance to stressing [to his constables] their police status in preference to their position as civil servants*." The Imperial Service Medal was, after all, a medal created to reward junior grade civil servants. The War Department's Sir Thomas Cash agreed, stating that recruits to the War Department Constabulary were mostly significantly older than their civilian peers as most had prior military service. Moreover, this peculiarity meant that very few men served the requisite 25 years' service for the Imperial Service Medal before they reached retirement age. Indeed, the maturity of the average recruit to these organisations led the Royal Marine Police to request that their officers become eligible for the new medal after just sixteen years' service instead of the proposed 22 years' service. The War Department and the Ministry of Civil Aviation agreed that their respective constabularies would relinquish eligibility for the ISM in return for being included in the new award criteria.¹⁵ The Honours Committee took stock of these voices and decided to include all the departmental constabularies. No clasp for additional service would be authorised, as was the case with the extant Special Constabulary Long Service Medal.¹⁶ Moreover, it was even mooted that, far from reducing the length of service required for eligibility to sixteen years, the length of service required could be as long as 25 years.^{17,18}

The draft proposal of 1949 suggested that a medal 'with a design' emblematic of good and faithful service should be awarded following 25 years' full-time police service "*free from any default*". The medal was to be engraved or stamped with the recipient's name. The order of precedence placed the new medal after the Indian Meritorious Service Medal, but before the African Police Medal for Meritorious Service.¹⁹ Whilst there were still many practicalities to

overcome, on 15 January 1949 the creation of a national police long service medal had at least been confirmed. Now it had to be made into a reality.

On 6 January 1949 a letter came through the post to 88 Bedford Street South, Liverpool, addressed to the renowned sculptor and medallist Edward Carter-Preston. It was a commission to design the new police medal. Now in his middle sixties, Carter-Preston had already designed a number of medals for the government. He first came to national prominence as the sculptor behind the design of the Memorial Plaque issued to the next-of-kin of those who had died during the First World War. Most recently, Carter-Preston had designed the evocative reverse of the 1939-45 War Medal. On the back of these successful designs and many others, he was a safe pair of hands; the correspondence between Carter-Preston and the authorities show he was given quite a lot of latitude to do what he thought worked. He must have been keen, as by return of post he agreed to the task and even included a quick ink sketch that bears some resemblance to the finished article, showing Justice crowning a kneeling, uniformed police officer, with a brief note underneath: “*Is this the type of thing you had in mind?*”

Carter-Preston was less keen on the £60 offered to undertake the work and, in his further correspondence with Sir John Craig at The Royal Mint, they subsequently agreed to settle on £80. Ever mindful of government coffers, Craig reminds Carter-Preston that he could not expect the scale of payment he had previously received for designing the recent War Medal as that “*was of course a wholly exceptional thing.*” Having accepted the revised fee, on 14 January 1949 Edward Carter-Preston was formally invited to design the medal. Within days, he was requesting reference information about police uniforms and even made mention of including distinctive iconography for different constabularies, such as the London coat of arms for London forces. On the behalf of the Royal Mint, however, Craig stated that the inclusion of a uniformed officer would be problematic due to the varying dress worn by the different constabularies. By February it had been decided to dispense with the uniformed policeman altogether.

Of the five original proposals for the reverse, only two made it to the design stage.

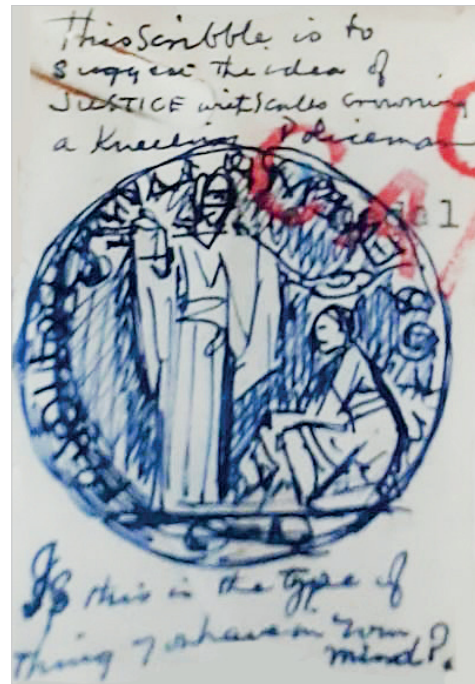


Figure 1: Edward Carter-Preston's preliminary sketch sent by return of post 6 January 1948 (TNA)

Unsurprisingly, the Bow Street Runner, the road traffic accident and the depiction of an officer helping children cross the road were not selected. The two remaining concepts were sketched by Carter-Preston: first, one with the figure of Justice; the second, the policeman apprehending an armed criminal. On 4 July 1949 it was officially confirmed that the latter design was (understandably) deemed “*unsuitable*” to appear on the medal. Thus it was to be the figure of Justice. It also officially confirmed that there was to be no uniformed officer on the design. This was also when the idea of incorporating a truncheon in the design first appeared. Sir John Craig's replacement, a Mr Wardley CMG MC, wrote to Carter-Preston offering him the loan of a police baton if he did not possess one. It seems Carter-Preston did not have one of his own, for the next day a baton of the type issued to “*foot constables in the Metropolitan Police*” was posted to him, with Wardley's covering letter asking that Carter-Preston's staff would “*kindly let me have this back as soon as the artist has finished with it.*”

On 14 July 1949, Carter-Preston's revised design was passed to Sir Robert Knox, the Committee's secretary. By 3 August the Committee had had time to digest it and asked for further modifications to be made. There is no illustration to hand

of the submission at this stage, so a modicum of imagination will be required. The Committee asked for the baton to be moved to its eventual position in the lower exergue of the reverse in place of the dolphin that was there (!). It also called for the removal of the lion and the crown, citing that the royal effigy on the obverse would be sufficient. Lastly, they wanted the figure of Justice to be moved to a more central position in the design and have its right hand slightly lowered. There followed a brief flurry of correspondence with Carter-Preston, the Committee and The Royal Mint, centred on the length of the leather strap attached to the baton, before all seems to have been to the Committee's satisfaction. On 14 December 1949 the design was finally approved and the sculptor was asked to prepare a model.

In January 1950 the Royal Mint wrote to Carter-Preston and he confirmed that he was happy with his £80 fee for the work. The Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood wrote to the Mint that same month, requesting that at their earliest convenience they submit three sealed-pattern examples of the new police medal in miniature, of "*approximately half size*". The Mint replied that it was happy to oblige and, moreover, would do similarly for the Cadet Forces Medal and Royal Observer Corps Medal, both of which had just been approved. The following month the Committee was sent examples of the bar-suspension and ring-suspension to inspect.

On the 7 February they made their decision, requesting that a bar suspension be employed, "*of the kind that does not obscure the design of the medal*".

On 23 February 1950, King George VI formally approved the reverse of the medal and elected that his crowned effigy should adorn the obverse. On 17 March the Royal Mint confirmed that the legend surrounding the royal profile would read *GEORGIUS VI DEI GRA: BRITT: OMN: FID: DEF:* and ordered that the dies were to be prepared for the manufacturing of the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. In December 1950 it was estimated that 12,000 immediate awards would need minting in the first year of issue, followed thereafter at an annual rate estimated to be 3,200 awards.²⁰

The Royal Warrant instituting The Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was presented to Parliament on the afternoon of Thursday 14 June 1951 by Prime Minister Clement Attlee. Qualifying service was maintained at the originally proposed 22 years' full-time pensionable service. The recipient's character and conduct had to be judged as very good and have their name put forward by their chief police officer. Officers who qualified on or after 14 June 1951 immediately became eligible for the medal, even if they retired before the first tranche was distributed. The warrant also confirmed that the awarding of the "*Imperial Service Medal or any unofficial or local long service or good conduct*" would be discontinued and that those already

in receipt of such awards should not wear them alongside the new medal. There was also provision made for the medal to be cancelled, annulled, and restored as deemed appropriate.

On 20 August 1951 the first order for 10,000 medals was submitted by the Home Office, requesting that they be despatched from the Mint in weekly batches at the earliest possible date. The Mint replied to the request but stated that "*the exceptionally heavy demands which are already being made on the Medal Department will not permit an assurance*" that the first

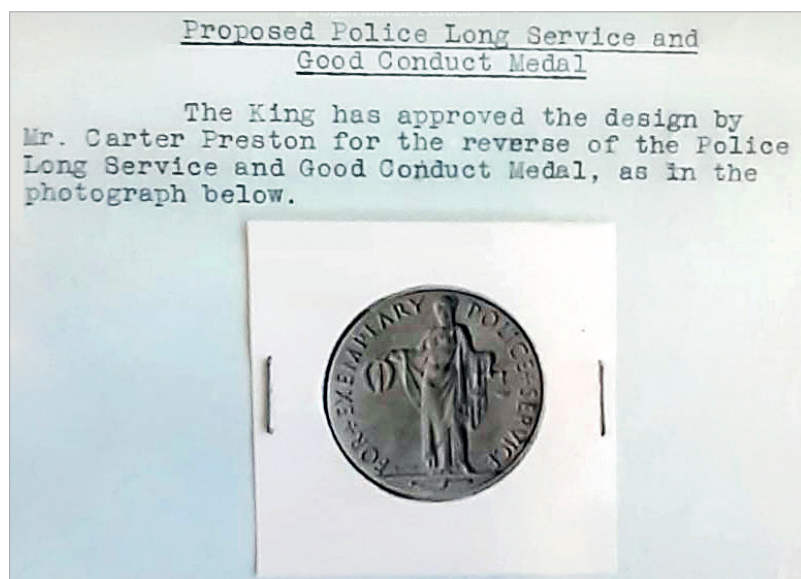


Figure 2: Final design of the reverse, accepted on 23 February 1950 (TNA)

deliveries would arrive promptly. On 15 January 1952 the Home Office was chasing-up the delivery and asking that the order be changed to 20,000 medals, such was the number of new requests that had been granted. Behind the scenes in the Mint, the issue causing the delay was not the stamping of the medals but the production of the suspension bars in cupro-nickel. The department involved was used to working in silver and there were also concerns that the cupro-nickel and silver suspension bars would become mixed up. It was therefore decided that the new cupro-nickel police medal would have to be made separately from other silver medals and a large room in the Seaman's Registry Building was requested for this purpose. There was also a suggestion that a private manufacturer (Messrs Pinches) might make the suspension bar if necessary in order to accelerate its production.

On 30 July 1952, it was anticipated that 5,000 of the 17,000 medals bearing the effigy of the late King George would be delivered to the Home Office by that September, "to give them a good start for engraving of names and distribution". This letter states that the Home Office would take care of the naming of these awards: "He [their representative] confirms too that they expect nothing from us but the mounted medals." The remaining 12,000 were anticipated for delivery by November.²¹ By this date, another 3,000 officers had since qualified for the medal under the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but these medals were given no timeframe for delivery. Production delays notwithstanding, contemporary newspaper reports indicate that constabularies were ceremonially issuing ribbons for the new award from late 1951.

The first medals were issued from December 1952 onwards. With the medals running late and a coronation fast approaching, the Royal Mint began to be inundated with correspondence from the Home Office, the body responsible for collating and ordering these new medals from The Mint.²² On 23 December 1952 the Mint was asked if they could hurriedly provide an additional 2,000 George VI medals, as the original request for 17,000 medals was found to be insufficient to cater for all those officers who had qualified before February 6 1952. Furthermore, they were "required for issue before the Coronation". The Mint responded that it hoped it could achieve this, but that priority was being given to the manufacture of the actual Coronation



Figure 3: The George VI obverse, as issued to all officers who had qualified for the medal prior to the death of the King. This type was rushed out in time to be worn at the Coronation of 1953.

Medal and also the Queen's Korea Medal, and "a combined total upwards of 200,000 are [also] required by the Coronation." The Chief Constable of Huntingdon asked if the 23 medals owed to his officers could be delivered in time to be awarded by the lord lieutenant when their new headquarters was unveiled on 7 May 1953. By the time of the Coronation on 2 June 1952, in spite of insatiable demand and a belated extension to the original Home Office order, only 575 King George VI medals remained outstanding.²³

On 1 May 1956 a second Royal Warrant extended the award of the medal to officers serving in the states and territories of Australia, Papua and New Guinea and Nauru. These federated states and territories were each responsible for the procurement of medals for their respective police forces, with distinct specifications when it came to naming and accoutrements. That year, the Royal Mint quoted their new clientele 9s 6d per medal "without ribbon and unengraved". They could add a length or ribbon and brooch mount it for additional 1s 6d and engraving started from a shilling or two shillings per medal, depending on the "length of the inscription required."

On 18 October 1956 the government of New South Wales asked for a quote for a batch of 1000 medals, to be followed thereafter by an order of 200 medals per annum. However, they also wanted a presentation case to be supplied in



Figure 4: The reverse has remained unchanged. This is a 21st century example of the medal.

which to present the medal, unlike the standard white cardboard box in which the medal was usually dispatched, alongside a length ribbon but unmounted. This created a flurry of administrative uncertainty within the Royal Mint because;

this medal falls into a class for which it has not been customary to supply a case"; and, moreover, "had it been envisaged that a case would have been desired it is probable that a particular type and design of case would have been approved at the time that the medal itself was authorised... Sir Robert Knox [the secretary to the Honours Committee] might question the desirability.

Wherever would it all end!? A solution was soon found, with appropriate presentation boxes being sourced from Messrs Wimotts Ltd of Evesham, Worcestershire, provided at a unit price of three shillings. SJ Rose & Sons of London quoted they could name these medals for the same price as for naming the Imperial Service Medals, namely 20 shillings per hundred medals.²⁴ Australian medals were engraved, not stamped. The initial order was placed for 1,138 medals in early 1957, with a unit cost of 14s 9d.

The other states followed suit. On 3rd April 1957 the government of Queensland acknowledged receipt of 378 medals and 63 yards

of medal ribbon, requesting that the Mint complete the certified invoice in quintuplicate in order to receive payment. The Mint was quick in responding, stating that requests to complete multiple forms were routinely declined and stated that, "*whilst the Mint would not wish to embarrass your Government*", it wanted payment as soon as possible based on the invoice it had dispatched with the medals. More parsimoniously, perhaps, Queensland and Victoria requested unnamed medals (to be named domestically) to be supplied just with ribbons.²⁵ On 4 September 1957 the High Commission of Australia requested 31 named medals, each with six inches of ribbon, to be sent to Australia House in London for distribution to its officers employed within the Administration of Papua and New Guinea.²⁶ When Papua New Guinea achieved independence in 1977 this duty was passed on to the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

Changes in Design since 1951

All those who qualified for the medal before the death of King George VI on 6 February 1952 received the medal bearing his image, although some had to wait over a year to receive it. The last medals bearing the late king's image were not dispatched from the Royal Mint until late June 1953. All those who qualified subsequent to the date of his death received the medal with the Queen's obverse.

The first version had the legend ELIZABETH II D: G: BR: OMN: REGINA (Elizabeth II by the



Figure 5: The first Queen Elizabeth II obverse issued until the late 1950s alongside its white card box of issue. The medal was received unmounted, with a length of ribbon and contained inside a greaseproof pouch.

Grace of God, Queen of all the British/British territories). By February 1954 some 5,000 awards had been forwarded by the Royal Mint in two batches. Whether these were issued straight away is moot, for at that time the Mint forwarded batches of unnamed medals to the Home Office for naming by contractors as required. It is thought that the legend was amended in c.1955 to ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA REGINA F.D. (Elizabeth II by the Grace of God Queen, Defender of the Faith). Notwithstanding that, however, based on a range of examples where the qualifying date is known, it is evident that a change to the legend on medals that were issued did not occur until around c.1958.

Naming was originally in sans serif capitals as on other medals of the period. Details included Rank, First Name in full, Middle Initial (usually only the first in the case of multiple middle names), Surname. A full stop punctuated the end of the abbreviated rank and after any middle initial.²⁷

Approved abbreviations for all ranks, uniformed or otherwise:²⁸

Ch. Const.	Ch. Inspr.
Dep. Ch. Const.	Inspr.
Ch. Supt.	Sergt.
Supt.	Const.

It specifically acknowledges that the detective prefix is not to be included, just the rank. The Metropolitan and City police were additionally allowed to use the following:

Commr. = Commissioner
Dep. Commr. - Deputy Commissioner
Dep. Asst. Commr. = Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Cmdr. = Commander
Stn. Sergt. = Station Sergeant



Figure 6: The second type Queen Elizabeth II obverse issued from the late 1950s onwards. This is a rhodium-plated example issued c.1984, alongside the blue plastic box of issue and the recipient's certificate of service.

Another Metropolitan Police anomaly is the inclusion on earlier awards of the detective prefix on medals awarded to Detective Sergeant (First Class) and Detective Sergeant (Second Class), impressed with *D.S. 1st. Cl.* and *D.S. 2nd. Cl.* respectively. The former rank is the CID equivalent to the uniformed rank of Station Sergeant.²⁹ Furthermore, evidenced by awards from the later 1960s and 1970s, this had transmogrified into *PS (2nd Cl. CID)* and *PS (CID)*. Australian awards also had their own distinctive rank structure used, such as Sergeant 1st Class, etc. Some states also included the officer's personal number alongside their name and rank.

Unless polished, cupro-nickel medals take on a dull appearance after decades of exposure to the environment. Towards the tail-end of the 1970s it was decided that a thin layer of rhodium should be applied to the medals to keep them permanently shiny and protected from the elements. This became problematic because when, as was hitherto customary, third party contractors named the completed medals after their despatch from the Royal Mint, it caused the rhodium plating to flake off in an unsightly fashion.

The process of rhodium plating necessitated that the Royal Mint now named the medals in-house, before they were plated. This also chimes with a new cost-saving procedure to issue the medals outlined on 14 October 1980.



Figure 7: Naming: Top Row, George VI examples of Station Sergeant and Detective Sergeant 1st Class, both ranks abolished 1973. Bottom Row, Detective Sergeant 2nd Class (Metropolitan Police CID), Police Sergeant 2nd Class CID and lastly the Charles III laser-engraved medal named Detective Constable.

Rather than completed medals being sent to the Home Office and then to the relevant constabularies, they would be sent directly from the Royal Mint to the chief constables concerned. Following this policy, there would be no scope for them to be named elsewhere but at the Mint. By February 1978 the Royal Mint had sent 816 rhodium plated medals to the Metropolitan Police and had 700 in stock. They no longer possessed any stock of unplated medals. Based on annual numbers issued, this would indicate that first awards of rhodium plated medals to officers took place 1977/78.

There seems to have been some concern about the quality of the new rhodium-plating process. In October 1978 the Metropolitan Police sent back a significant number of medals that were deemed unsuitable (which subsequently appear to have got lost in the post on their way back to the Mint). It was not until January 1979 that the Home Office could state that the police and fire brigades were now happy with an improved plating process and were willing to take delivery of medals produced using this new method. Mint records show a list of thirteen officers from the Metropolitan Police whose medals were sent back to be corrected in December 1978 and were shown as being rhodium plated at the Royal Mint in April 1979.³⁰

Thus, a well-produced rhodium plated medal would indicate an issue dating from 1979 onwards. A poor quality example is likely from c.1977-78. Very early issue rhodium medals can exhibit flaking rhodium around where they were named after having been plated. Some examples have been seen with naming in very small 'squarish' capital letters. Furthermore, correspondence from 1981 suggests a solution had been found.

*"Medal room now nickel plate before rhodium plate which allows stamping to be carried after r/plate."*³¹ It was around this time that punctuation was removed from the naming process, as had happened similarly with awards to the armed forces.

By 1984, based on examples seen, the naming style appears to have been large, impressed capital letters with no punctuation. Another change to naming seems to have occurred at some juncture in 1997-98. Based on a particular case of double-issue of a medal made to the same officer due to a naming error on the original, the corrected naming on the later medal is distinctly larger than that of the 1997 issue. One medal known to have been awarded in 2001 appears laser etched as has a distinct "ghosted" appearance. It seems that Welsh constabulary recipients have been able to choose to have their rank engraved in the Welsh language since c.2007 onwards, examples of which will be laser engraved. It has also become more common for 'Det' for detective to appear on medals over recent years, but there is little consistency observable in this regard, which suggests there is now more flexibility with regard to the naming convention and that the engraver simply follows whatever it is instructed to engrave. Medals with swivelling and fixed suspenders have been encountered.

The Royal Mint lost the contract to produce these medals between 1995-2007, when they were manufactured by the Birmingham Mint. It has been said that the Birmingham issues can be identified in having a less defined appearance, but in any case, the maker is clearly identifiable if the medal is in its box of issue.

Until the mid-1970s British awards were distributed in a simple white flat card box with a sticker adorned with officer's details and constabulary, alongside what is presumably an identifying

number for the medal or batch. Included with the medal was a simple length of ribbon, sometimes with a second shorter length of ribbon for fashioning a ribbon bar, with the medal itself inside a protective greaseproof paper packet. Australian Royal Mint-made issues had from the outset been presented in unadorned bespoke cases made by Messrs Willmotts Ltd of Evesham, Worcestershire, which were priced at 3 shillings apiece. This had caused quite a kerfuffle at the Royal Mint as it was not seen as customary to present a medal such as this in anything other than a simple card despatch box. A communication about cases for all new awards to be issued with a bespoke case appeared in early 1973, with the writer suggesting that the cost of providing these cases will be so small it need not be referred to The Treasury or even passed on to higher authority.³² A letter dated 13 May 1975 relates to the ordering process, with the Royal Mint quoting a price of 32 pence per case, which was accepted by the Home Office. However, the Royal Mint had failed to take into account the rampant inflation of the 1970s and by the time the order was confirmed the unit price of the cases from Wilmott's were 35-38 pence. The Royal Mint swallowed the loss, which would total £228, out of goodwill, but they notified the Home Office of their error. By March 1976 some 4,992 cases had been ordered for the police and fire services combined, with 3690 cases being for the police. One can assume that from around this date all new awards were presented in the standard presentation case. Another Home Office letter dated 17 June 1976 places a bulk order for cases, requested in order to “*meet a demand from existing holders of the Police and Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medals who had received their medals in white cardboard boxes.*” This would seem to explain why, sometimes, older style medals are sometimes found in hard plastic cases.

On 27 May 2011, in response to a Freedom Of Information Act request, the Government published the cost to the Home Office of awarding the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal as £130,000 per annum. In January 2010, eligibility to receive the medal was reduced to twenty years' service to



Figure 8: The King Charles III obverse variant, issued to officers who qualified since his accession to the throne.

bring it into line with the other emergency services, leading to a one-off increase to £285,000 for the fiscal year 2010-11 due to the officers with 20-22 years' service at that date being included.

Bars for 30 and 40 years' total service were authorised from 1 March 2022 for eligible serving officers. The most recent change has been the adoption of King Charles III's Tudor Crown effigy, with the legend CHARLES III DEI GRATIA REX FID DEF, awarded to officers who have qualified for the medal since 1 October 2023.

Acknowledgements

This article was inspired by a discussion on the British Medal Forum. This was a classic example of collectors willingly pooling their knowledge and ideas. Lacking comprehensive official documentation, we had to 'fill in the gaps' using medals in our respective collections. I think we did it accurately, but will always stand to be corrected.

Most especially, however, I must sincerely thank David Collett, David Picton-King and Julian Hocken for freely providing me with their enthusiastic assistance, ideas, additional information and constructive comments whilst this article was in production.

Notes

¹ *Hansard*, 15 July 1887

² The cost of awarding the 1887 Jubilee Medal to approximately 14,000 Metropolitan Police officers was reckoned to be £83 per thousand medals. *Hansard* 15 July 1887

³ My thanks go to David Collett for providing this interesting tidbit that highlights quite how well rewarded the London forces were relative to their County & Borough brethren.

⁴ *Hansard*, 1 May 1911

⁵ *Hansard*, 6 November 1911

⁶ *Hansard*, 26 November 1912

⁷ *Hansard*, 22 March 1944

⁸ An excellent book on this topic is David Picton-King's *A Guide: Medals & Awards to British Police by Local Authorities of the United Kingdom*, OMRS (2020). ISBN 978-0-9957505-3-1

⁹ The French had created a national police long service medal as far back as 1903, the *Médaille d'honneur de la Police Municipale et Rurale*, an attractive silver medal that is often named.

¹⁰ *Hansard*, 8 July 1909. TP Brewster's book, *For Faithful Service: A History of the Special Constabulary Long Service Medal*, (OMRS/Helion) focuses on this medal. ISBN : 978-0995750-58-6

¹¹ *Hansard*, 29 October 1919

¹² *Hansard*, February 1922

¹³ <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/all-notices/content/100710>

¹⁴ *Ibid*

¹⁵ The Committee acknowledged that a similar award for firemen would become 'impossible to resist' once the police medal was sanctioned. It suggested prompt action before the revival of local authority medals to fire brigades happened. This was prescient, as the Fire Brigade Long Service Medal was instituted on 1 June 1954.

¹⁶ It was not until 11 March 2022 that this was rectified, with the creation of bars for 30 and 40 years' service.

¹⁷ HD4148

¹⁸ When the Atomic Energy Authority Constabulary was

established in 1955 its officers were included in eligibility for the medal. Letter dated 17.6.55, addressed to Sir Lionel Thompson at The Royal Mint.

¹⁹ This award had been instigated as early as 14 July 1915 and was awarded to native police officers in Britain's African Colonies. It was superseded by the Colonial Police Long Service Medal.

²⁰ At the eleventh hour a shortage of nickel prompted a review of the initial decision that cupro-nickel be used to make the medals. On 12 April 1951, it was finally decided that they would press ahead with the original decision because bulk silver was now priced at £11,000 per ton. The ratio of copper to nickel was set at 3:1 8503/1949

²¹ A handwritten tally suggests the last 900 medals of this original order were completed on 28 November 1952.

²² MINT 20/2096. A letter dated 7 February 1975 (MINT 33/QK/Z) indicates that the Home Office eventually devolved this responsibility to the various UK nations and agencies.

²³ The last George VI effigy medals from this second batch was completed on 26 June 1953.

²⁴ David Picton-King kindly informed me that some Australian examples appear to have been partially named with initials and surname before leaving the UK, with the appropriate rank added in Australia in a very similar font.

²⁵ MINT 20/2096

²⁶ In 1976 this medal was superseded by the wholly Australian 'The National Medal', awarded for fifteen years' service.

²⁷ Early awards to the Air Force Constabulary have been seen that show rank, initials and surname instead of full first name, but not in sufficient numbers to suggest this was a rule.

²⁸ MINT/34/67/Z

²⁹ Similar distinctions at inspector level in both CID and uniformed branches had been discontinued in 1949, hence not appearing on the medal.

³⁰ MINT 34/27/Z

³¹ MINT-34-CBN-Z, 16 February 1981

³² MINT 33/QS/Z

A 1917 Example of the Granton Medal for Zeal: Awarded to Sir Edward Parrott, LLD, MP

by S.G. Smith

In his most informative article on the Granton Medal for Zeal, author Chris Balm put forward a well-argued case for the existence of two batches of this medal – from 1915 and 1918.¹ He will no doubt be most interested to learn, therefore, of another example which strongly indicates that a further batch of these medals was produced in 1917.

The obverse of this 1917 example features the usual words 'FOR ZEAL' surrounded by a laurel wreath. In common with the 1915 medal, it does not have the word 'COPYRIGHT' below the wreath. As well as containing the recipient's details, its reverse is engraved with the date '26. II.17' and is hallmarked Birmingham 1917 (date letter 'S').

James Edward Parrott was born in Lincolnshire in 1863. Known as Edward, he became a schoolmaster while also studying for an MA degree at Trinity College, Dublin. He went on to author school textbooks, as a result of which he was appointed educational editor at the well-known Edinburgh printing firm of Thomas Nelson & Sons. In 1900 he achieved the advanced degree of LLD from Trinity College and, having become prominent in the civic and political affairs of his adopted city, he was knighted on 7 July 1910

for services to the Liberal Party.² He was Liberal MP for Edinburgh South 1917-18. For his work during the war in support of Belgian and Serbian refugees, Sir Edward Parrott was awarded the Gold Palms of the Belgian Order of the Crown and the Serbian Order of St Sava 4th Class.³ He died at his home in Edinburgh on 5 April 1921.



Dress miniatures as worn by Sir Edward Parrott (brooch-mounted by Spink & Son)
(author's photo)



Reverse of Sir Edward Parrott's 1917 Granton Medal for Zeal
(author's photo)

His extant group of items includes his two, full-size foreign awards (and miniatures); a small medal for the 'SCOTTISH NATIONAL EXHIBITION EDINBURGH 1908' with his engraved details on reverse; and two silver medals possibly given as honorary awards: 'LEITH WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE JAN 1919' & 'LEITH SPECIAL CONSTABULARY MEDAL FOR LONG AND CONTINUOUS SERVICE 1914-1918'. All of these are contained in their original cases of issue.

In addition, there are two identical brooch-mounted badges, one with bronzed finish, the other in hallmarked silver by Kirkwood & Son, Edinburgh. These carry the details 'GRANTON SAILORS CLUB 1917' & 'MINE SWEEPERS'. It is most probable that his role in helping to set up and in supporting this club was the main reason behind the award of his Granton Medal for Zeal that same year. His wife, Lady Parrott, is known to have given active support to all of the above causes.

Notes

¹ OMRS Journal September 2022 Vol 61 No 3 (336) pp 215-21

² *The London Gazette* 16 August 1910 p 5945

³ Biographical details mostly taken from his Times obituary

The Mark of Excellence: Fleet Surgeon Richard Eustace, MD, and the Sir Gilbert Blane Gold Medal

by David Crowe, North Carolina, USA

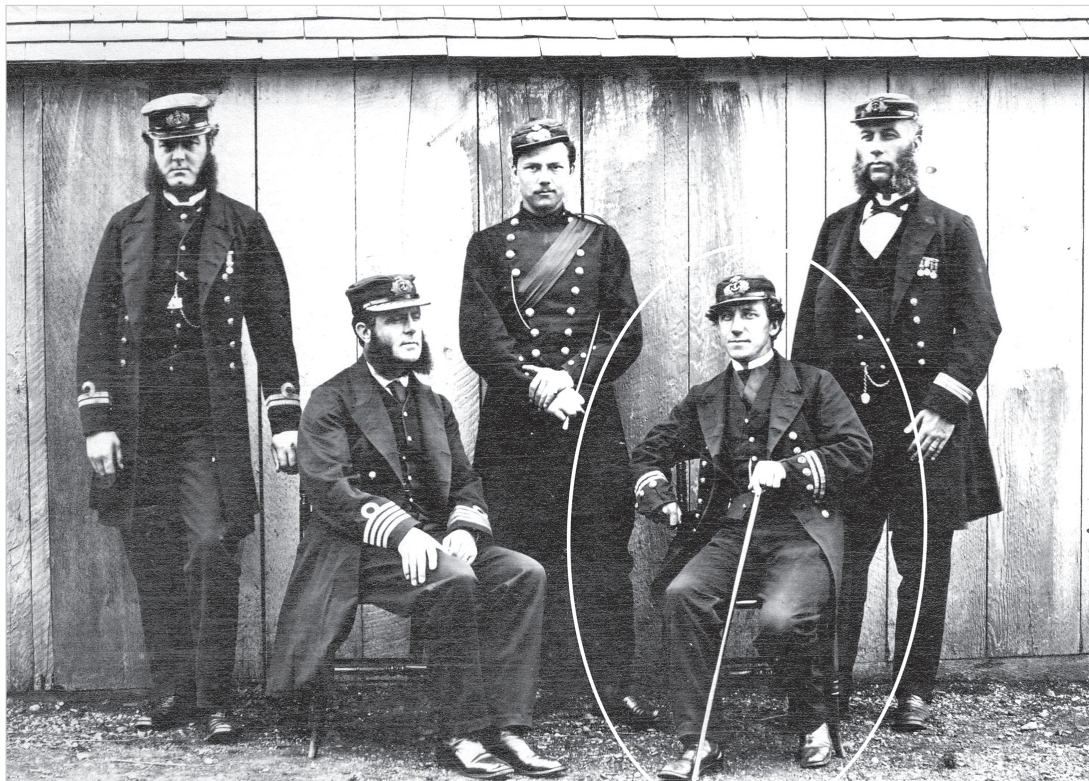
The Sir Gilbert Blane Gold Medal (hereafter ‘the Blane Medal’), established in 1830, represented the pinnacle of professional distinction for medical officers of the Royal Navy. Awarded biennially, it recognised two naval surgeons whose medical journals were judged by a panel comprising the Presidents of the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Physicians, together with the Director General of the Medical Department of the Navy. As Lloyd and Coulter observed, it was ‘the highest honour to be bestowed upon any doctor in the Royal Navy’. (See ‘*The Sir Gilbert Blane Gold Medal for naval surgeons*’, OMRS December 2023).

In 1875, one of these coveted medals was awarded to Fleet Surgeon Richard Eustace, in recognition of his eminent service during the Ashantee Campaign of 1873–74. The following account examines Eustace’s distinguished

career, his critical contributions in the Ashantee War, and the significance of his receipt of the Blane Medal.

A Career of Dedication

Richard Eustace was born in Dublin on 24 September 1832, the son of Stephen and Catherine Eustace. He embarked upon a career of twenty-five years in the Royal Navy, distinguished by professional skill and steadfast commitment to duty. Educated at Trinity College, Dublin, he obtained his Licentiate in Midwifery from Coombe Hospital in 1852 and was admitted a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1853. To qualify for naval service, he successfully passed the examination of the Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons, receiving his diploma on 28



Group of Satellite’s Officers (L-R) Lieut. Hammer, Capt. Edye, Lieut. Wright, R.M., Surgeon Eustace, Mr. Brown, Paymaster. Probably taken while at Vancouver Island in 1869.

(City of Vancouver Archives [A-6-73])



The Blane medal awarded to Fleet Surgeon Richard Eustace, 1875
(author's collection)

October 1853, and entered the Royal Navy in February 1854.

Eustace's naval service began amid the Crimean War (1853–56), during a period of rapid mobilisation. Commissioned as acting assistant surgeon aboard HMS *Monarch*, his first year at sea proved a stern initiation. The ship's Baltic deployment in 1854 was marked by an 'abominably'-manned crew and a high incidence of sickness among its men. Despite these difficulties, Eustace's diligence was evident; when *Monarch* was paid off in June 1858, after service in both the Baltic and the Pacific, Captain Patey commended him as 'very zealous, diligent, and attentive to his duties', and strongly recommended him for advancement. His shipmates, in turn, presented him with a handsome gold watch in appreciation of his 'ever ready and watchful attention to them in all cases of sickness'.

Subsequent postings followed at Haslar Naval Hospital and the Royal Marine Infirmary, Portsmouth. On 10 June 1862, after eight years' service, Eustace was promoted to surgeon and transferred to HMS *Cormorant*. Serving as the sole medical officer during her commission on the East Indies and China Station, he witnessed the Shimonoseki Expedition in Japan in 1864. His medical journal from this period contains meticulous records, including two cases of smallpox contracted in Japan. Eustace noted the disease's greater prevalence in colder months and the difficulties of employing vaccination under such conditions. *Cormorant* was paid off in January 1866.

After brief service at the Royal Marine Artillery Infirmary, Portsmouth, and Haulbowline Hospital, Cork, Eustace was appointed to HMS *Satellite* in August 1868 for service in the Pacific. He attended to his dying captain, Joseph Edye, who succumbed to a 'complication of diseases', and was present during the Boshin War (1868–69). His medical journal for 1869 was submitted in early 1873 for consideration for the Blane Medal. Although not selected on this occasion, the submission nonetheless reflected the high professional esteem in which his work was held. That year's recipients were Dugald McEwan, recognised for his 1870 journal from *Inconstant*, and Richard C.P. Lawrenson, for his 1869 journal from *Barracouta*.

Eustace concluded his service in *Satellite* in December 1870, with Captain William H. Edye (brother of the late captain) certifying his 'attention and kindness to the sick'. Thereafter, Eustace served aboard HMS *Fisgard* and HMS *Simoom* before his appointment to HMS *Himalaya* in 1872.

The Ashantee War (1873-74)

Eustace's most notable challenge – and the service that ultimately earned him the Blane Medal – came during the Ashantee War, while serving aboard *Himalaya*. This troopship played a vital role in transporting forces to the Gold Coast and caring for the sick and wounded.

The Ashantee War, a British military campaign in present-day Ghana, was marked less



The Blane medal naming
(author's collection)

by the hazards of battle than by the ravages of disease, which claimed far more lives than combat. In this environment, the Royal Navy proved indispensable – not only for the transport of troops and supplies, but also for the care and evacuation of the sick and wounded. *Himalaya* was deployed to the Gold Coast during three periods between July 1873 and February 1874.

During the first period (6 July-4 August 1873), *Himalaya* arrived carrying the 2nd West India Regiment. Men of the Royal Marines had already landed in the Gold Coast but, once ashore, their health deteriorated rapidly. By late July, only 44 of the original 104 marines remained fit for duty, the remainder being debilitated by dysentery and remittent fever. The decision was taken to evacuate them to England aboard *Himalaya*, with Surgeon Alfred G. Delmege – who had been serving ashore – joining Eustace to provide medical care during the passage. The voyage proved grim: ten marines died enroute, and 58 required hospital admission on arrival. *The Illustrated London News* observed that the returning troops were ‘greatly shaken by fever and dysentery’. The Admiralty, acknowledging Eustace’s part in the operation, formally recorded their ‘satisfaction of his attention and kindness to the sick under his charge’.

The second deployment (9 December 1873-28 January 1874) saw *Himalaya* return to the Gold Coast with the 2nd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade and other units. By this time, medical arrangements for the advance on Coomassie had been established, with a heavy reliance on naval resources for the treatment and evacuation

of casualties. *Himalaya* was fitted out to accommodate 100 patients, operating in concert with HMS *Victor Emmanuel* and HMS *Tamar* as make-shift hospital ships – a clear indication of her central role in the campaign’s medical support.

The third and final period (18-23 February 1874) involved the repatriation of troops to England, an arrival that drew significant public interest. Captain Grant, *Himalaya*’s commanding officer, certified Eustace’s ‘zeal, attention, and kindness’, adding that ‘nothing could exceed [his] great attention and kindness to the sick’. His work did not go unnoticed at higher levels: Sir Alexander Armstrong, Director General of the Medical Department of the Navy, formally recommended Eustace and several colleagues for promotion, citing their service ‘under trying circumstances both afloat and on shore’. On 31 March 1874, Eustace was promoted to staff surgeon. His distinction was further marked when he was presented to Her Majesty Queen Victoria at a levée honouring recently-promoted officers.

The Blane Medal

In November 1875, Richard Eustace was awarded the Blane Medal for the medical journal he maintained aboard *Himalaya* in 1873. His outstanding journal provided a detailed account of the ‘intermittent and remittent fevers, as well as the malarious form of dysentery, which afflicted and decimated the first contingent of marines landed on the Gold Coast during the summer of 1873’. The journal’s meticulous clinical observations and analysis of a critical health crisis during the Ashantee War, were evidently deemed exceptional by the adjudicating committee.

The official notification was conveyed to Eustace in a letter from Sir Alexander Armstrong:

ADMIRALTY, S.W., November 26, 1875

Sir, I have much pleasure in informing you that, in accordance with the bequest of the late Sir Gilbert Blane, Bart., you have been awarded the gold medal founded by him, for the distinguished professional zeal and ability of which you have given such satisfactory evidence in your Journal of H.M.S. *Himalaya* from 1873. I have further to express a confident hope that in your future career in her Majesty’s Service you will continue to afford me the same gratifying proof of the exercise of those high professional attainments which have gained you this well-merited distinction.

I am, &c., A. Armstrong, Director General

In 1876, his professional stature was enhanced still further when Queen's University, Belfast, conferred upon him the degree of doctor of medicine (*honoris causa*) in recognition of 'eminent attainments in any branch of knowledge or in the public service', with particular reference to his contributions during the Ashantee Campaign. It was during the deliberations of the General Medical Council concerning the registration of Eustace's recent honorary degree that the prestige of the Blane Medal was dramatically underscored. When certain members questioned whether there was sufficient evidence of his medical knowledge, the Irish physician and Council member Sir Dominic Corrigan responded with some heat:

He had won the Blane Medal under the circumstances which they had heard read; and then, forsooth, it was said that there was no evidence of his having any medical knowledge!

Corrigan went on to highlight the calibre of the awarding committee – the President of the Royal College of Physicians, the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Director General of the Royal Navy – observing that 'on that medal it was inscribed that it was the reward of superior surgical and medical knowledge' (the medal is not literally inscribed as stated but one might assume Corrigan was referring to its symbolism). When further concerns were raised about public misrepresentation, Professor Rawdon Macnamara, ex-President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, retorted:

Was not the man's whole life a guarantee? Was not his possession of the Blane Medal a guarantee? Was not the thesis upon which he obtained that distinction a guarantee?

This exchange makes plain that the Blane Medal was regarded as the ultimate validation



Baltic and Ashantee Medals awarded to Fleet Surgeon Richard Eustace
(courtesy Noonans)

of a naval surgeon's professional expertise and integrity. That his work was twice placed before the highest adjudicating body speaks volumes about his consistent dedication, clinical skill, and standing within the naval medical service.

Conclusion of a Distinguished Career

Following his professional recognition with the Blane Medal, Eustace was appointed in April 1875 to HMS *Achilles*, where he served as fleet surgeon – a rank newly introduced under the 1875 revision of naval medical titles, replacing that of staff surgeon (1st class). Subsequent postings included service aboard HMS *Resistance* and HMS *Duke of Wellington*.

His distinguished career, however, concluded on a note of controversy. In August 1878, after being directed to the wreck site of HMS *Eurydice* – which had tragically

foundered in March of that year with the loss of all but two of her crew – Eustace submitted a critical letter regarding his assigned duties. The tone of the letter, coupled with his decision to bypass the established chain of command, prompted a formal reprimand from the Admiralty and his placement on half pay, the Board noting that his conduct stood ‘in marked and painful contrast with that of all who have been in any way engaged in the laborious and trying operations connected with the *Eurydice*’. His subsequent nomination for reappointment to the *Achilles* in early 1879 was declined on the grounds of this recent ‘misconduct’.

Fleet Surgeon Richard Eustace retired from active service on 30 November 1879, closing a quarter-century naval career that – despite its final censure – was distinguished by commendations, professional accolades, and enduring recognition, most notably the award of the prestigious Blane Medal. He died at his home in Bournemouth on 10 September 1908, aged 75.

Eustace’s receipt of the Blane Medal remains a lasting testament to his medical expertise and steadfast dedication to safeguarding the health and welfare of Royal Navy personnel during an era of both British expansion and significant medical challenge.

Medals Reunited

Part of this story must include the reunion of his medals, which had been separated since at least 1975. I acquired the Baltic and Ashantee pair from Noonan’s sale on 12 October 2022, lot 72; the Ashantee Medal had previously been sold as a single by Seaby’s Coin and Medal Co in 1975, and in the intervening years had been paired with an unnamed Baltic. In 2024, I was delighted to see Eustace’s Blane Medal appear for sale at Cheffins (6 June 2024, lot 58), a regional auction house,

and I was fortunate enough to add it to the collection. I feel honoured to have been able to reunite these tangible rewards and, in doing so, help preserve the story of a man who played a significant role in safeguarding the health and well-being of those he served alongside – a story well worth remembering.

His full entitlement

Baltic Medal 1854-55 (unnamed)
 Ashantee Medal 1873-74, no clasp (R. Eustace. Staff Surgn. 2nd Cl. R.N. H.M.S. Himalaya. 73-74.)
 Gilbert Blane Medal, 1875 (Staff Surgeon Richd Eustace, H.M.S. “Himalaya” 1873)

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The Naval General Service Medal 1793 - 1840 The small number of officially renamed medals, with engraving by Hunt & Roskell

by Arthur Satterley and Peter S. Lomdahl

In a previous article on the Naval General Service Medal (NGS) we began to explore the engraved naming on the edge of certain Naval General Service Medals. We concluded that since engraving is completely different on many examined medals, most of these are simply renamed. Indeed, the rims of these medals are usually thinned and curved from top to bottom which is a sure sign they have been erased “unprofessionally” and renamed. We also concluded that Hunt & Roskell did not engrave any medals described as “late issue, not on roll”. All “late issue, not on roll” medals were officially impressed right up to, and including, the final Admiralty order for medals, List 27.

But there remains an uncomfortable truth in the NGS series; some of them look as if they have been engraved by Hunt & Roskell. Detailed work on the engraving by Hunt & Roskell on the Crimea medal (Martin, Pickering and Satterley 2017) helped to identify these curious NGS medals. They appear to be rare and – so far – almost all officer’s medals.

What we don’t appear to see is a similar problem among Military General Service Medals. Struck and distributed at the same time as the NGS by the same organisations, sometimes the absence of things can prove very instructive.

In this article we identify and describe a small number of these rare medals and offer an explanation for why they exist. Great care should be used when deciding that engraving is by Hunt & Roskell; most engraved medals sighted by the authors must be described as renamed unofficially and their value is minimal. The majority are just like any other renamed medal and should be avoided by collectors.

Why Some Medals Were “Officially Renamed”

Early in the NGS project, the Royal Mint made it clear what they could and could not do. The men working at the Mint’s presses were fully employed manufacturing coins during their normal working hours. As a result, all medals work was done

on overtime (refer Mint 1/41; letter accompanying annual expenses statement dated 4th January 1850 and summarising the work done from 1848 to end 1849). The Mint did not have the spare staff or tools to get involved in the fiddly work of clasp and suspension manufacture as well as medal assembly. This is why silversmiths Hunt & Roskell, already sub-contracted to the Admiralty for medals work, were selected to make all the small parts for the Naval and Military General Service medals and assemble everything. The Mint had a naming machine which had recently been adapted by the Foreman Artificer to improve its function and a set of new steel type had been ordered from Selkirk’s of Birmingham. So, the Mint was fully equipped for striking and lettering the edge of these medals, but due to staff constraints and high volumes of coining work, they were unable to undertake anything more.

The Mint’s own statements on Hunt & Roskell’s work preparing the small parts and manufacturing over a hundred thousand clasps gives us further insight into why they couldn’t handle any of this work:

“The manufacture of the clasps was a peculiar work, which could not be undertaken by the Engravers and workmen of the Mint. An agreement was consequently entered into with Messrs. Hunt & Roskell, and the work has been done satisfactorily to the Chief Engraver. The transcribing of the names and descriptions from the Lists transmitted for the use of the Compositors and other purposes, and the necessity of observing great accuracy both in regards the medals and the clasps, has been a work of great labour and overtime to the Clerk employed in the service”. (Mint 1/41; letter accompanying annual expenses statement dated 4th January 1850)

The Clerk was awarded a one-off special bonus of £200 in addition to his normal salary for this extra workload. It is clear that the Mint struck the medals as orders were received (via Lists 1 to 27 sent from the Admiralty to the Master of the Mint) and named them using their lettering machine. If a medal required an alteration

to the naming, something far more likely to be requested by officers, the existing impressed lettering would need to be erased and the rim re-engraved. It seems likely that the medal could not simply be put back into the Mint's naming machine because:

1. The entire clasp, suspension and claw assembly would need to be taken off and refitted (difficult to do without damaging the medal as the claw had been soldered on, and this type of work was not the Mint's job), and;
2. The reduced rim diameter would not sit snugly in the naming machine and any attempt to apply new letters might fail.

Therefore, Hunt & Roskell had to deal with any requests for naming alterations, which had to be done without deconstructing the claw and swivel suspension.

Hunt & Roskell's Role in the Manufacture and Issue of the NGS Medal

At their "manufactory", Hunt & Roskell made all the small components for the NGS and MGS medals; claws, pins, ribbon rods, suspensions and all clasps (although the Royal Mint museum store holds a number of dies for manufacturing clasps, careful comparison with issued clasps on medals has shown that all of these dies are test dies and are not the ones used to manufacture the actual clasps). Original clasp dies were supplied by the Mint to Hunt & Roskell but it seems that these were not returned to the Mint after use or were destroyed. Hunt & Roskell then assembled the medals, creating rivets on top of the suspension post and at each end of the ribbon rod.

Recall that clasps for the Naval Medal were authorised in several stages; in 1847, in 1848 and finally the EGYPT clasp in 1850, meaning that medals sometimes had to be returned to have extra clasps fitted. For example, a medal with a TRAFALGAR clasp might need to be returned to have a Boat Service clasp fitted. This work, too, was done by Hunt & Roskell; it was not within the Mint's remit to deal with returns.

What Hunt & Roskell did not have access to was unnamed medals straight from the Mint; all medals were struck to order at the Mint from Lists supplied by the Admiralty and these were lettered according to the details provided on the lists. There is no evidence that the Mint struck spares, likely because the Admiralty would not

authorise this or pay for the silver used. Finished (unmounted) medals were returned from the Mint direct to the Admiralty, not to Hunt & Roskell. The Admiralty almost certainly performed checks on each medal disc before sending them on to H&R with instructions on what clasps should be fitted.

By studying engraved medals, something interesting has become fairly clear about what was happening at Hunt & Roskell.

Officially Renamed Naval General Service Medals

Almost all of the medals positively identified are officers' medals and all but two that we have seen have been completely erased and renamed.

Example 1: This is one of the medals partially corrected by engraving the new rank – Lieut – in place of Midshipman, and is illustrated by Douglas-Morris in his book *Naval Medals* vol.1 on page 145 (Figure 1). The medal has two clasps, TRAFALGAR and SKYLARK 11 NOVR 1811.



Fig. 1: Lieutenant William Walford's Medal showing correction of rank from Midshipman (note full stop at far right)

Walford's rank of Lieut. is engraved in a style very typical of Hunt & Roskell's work. Claim references on the medal roll tell us that Walford originally claimed for Trafalgar and was assigned claim reference X/1 as Midshipman of the *Bellerophon*. That medal was ordered and was ready for posting to him some time in the Spring of 1850. The actual medal has the D1 obverse die which is typical of X/ claim references and tells us that this is his original issue. After submitting his original claim for Trafalgar, he became aware that he was also entitled to the clasp SKYLARK 11 NOVR 1811 as Lieutenant and he submitted a second claim for that. He was given a claim reference, Z/964 which is a later claim than X/1. By the time of this Z/ claim, the D1 die was no longer being used, so we know this 2-clasp medal is not a later replacement. His original medal had the second clasp fitted. Walford must have requested his rank be altered to reflect that held on board HMS *Skylark* in 1811. The ADM 171/2 roll has the note; "Additional claim, delivered 23.8.50". On this occasion, Hunt &

Roskell erased Midshipman and engraved Lieut. in its place, but left the full-stop where his earlier impressed lettering finished.

Example 2: Partial erasure does not seem to have been standard practice at Hunt & Roskell. Lieutenant James Neville's medal, illustrated in Figure 2, bears two clasps; EGYPT and 29 AUG BOAT SERVICE 1800 and has been completely erased and re-engraved. His original claim reference, Q/867, was for the BOAT SERVICE clasp and would have been sent to him some time in the Summer of 1849. This pre-dates the authorisation of the EGYPT clasp for which no claim references survive. O'Byrne's biography for Neville notes that he was Master's Mate for 29 Aug Boat Service 1800 and Lieutenant for the Egypt landings (March, 1801). This officer's original medal would have been officially impressed with the rank of Master's Mate. When the medal was returned to have the EGYPT clasp fitted an alteration to the naming must also have been requested to include his rank of Lieutenant which was correct for his service in Egypt. Instead of correcting only the rank, Hunt & Roskell chose to completely erase and hand engrave the details in a single style, rather than having – perhaps – the less satisfactory mix of impressed lettering and engraved lettering. Because Hunt & Roskell were already engraving the Naval Wide suspension Long Service medal by hand and the Admiralty found this to be acceptable, there was no reason to suppose that erasing an NGS and hand engraving would be a problem, so they did it.



Fig. 2: Lieutenant James Neville's Engraved Medal

There are no notes on the surviving ADM 171 rolls about an additional claim or "duplicate prepared" but there could have been such a note on the Egypt roll which does not survive.

Example 3: Next is an important NGS medal named James Scott, Lieut. (Figure 3). It is all engraved in a style typical of Hunt & Roskell and there is a note on the ADM 171 medal roll "Duplicate prepared vide 44/7". The exact meaning of this note on the roll should be carefully noted, it is not what it seems! His NGS bears the clasps BLANCHE 19 JULY 1806 (as

Midshipman) and AP & MAY BOAT SERVICE 1813 (as Lieutenant). However, this officer claimed at least twice; his first claim was given reference 44/7 and was for his services in cooperation with the Army during the landings on Guadaloupe. For this he was issued with a Military General Service Medal with single clasp GUADALOUPE, officially impressed, James Scott, Master's Mate.



Fig. 3: Lieutenant James Scott's Engraved Naval General Service Medal

When the clasps for frigate actions and Boat Service etc were authorised, he realised he should apply for a Naval General Service Medal with two clasps, BLANCHE and BOAT SERVICE, and clearly this was prepared with the rank of Midshipman on the edge, his correct rank on board Blanche in 1806. By 1813 he was Lieutenant of course. Figure 3 shows two full stops remaining from the original impressed lettering, one between James and Scott, the other at the end of Lieut. This is consistent with original impressed lettering of James Scott. Midshipman. (with Midshipman occupying the space where Scott, Lieut. is now, as shown on Figure 3) and would need correcting to Lieutenant, his rank for the Boat Service action. Either when returned to have the BOAT SERVICE clasp fitted or for correcting the error, Hunt & Roskell erased the entire naming and hand engraved the requested details in its place. The two full-stops remain from the original impressed lettering because they were indented far deeper than the rest of the letters. The note on the medal roll, "duplicate prepared vide 44/7" is there because he had indeed received a "duplicate" – not a duplicate but a second medal. First he received the Military General Service medal and second the Naval General Service Medal (i.e. not two Naval medals and they weren't duplicates in the strict sense).

Our next example illustrates a different reason for the return of a medal for a naming correction. In the National Maritime Museum collection is an NGS with three clasps EGYPT, 28 NOVR BOAT SERVICE 1808 and GUADALOUPE. It is engraved to Daniel Lawrence, Lieut. and was struck using die "A" one of the earliest dies used.

Again, the engraving is very typical of Hunt & Roskell (no pictures of the naming are available for this medal, unfortunately). This man's claim reference is 48/5 for all three clasps which is, in fact, the reference for his first claim made during 1848 – a single clasp medal for Guadaloupe. The 48/5 claim reference is consistent with the early die A used. His BOAT SERVICE and EGYPT clasps were fitted later, possibly in 1850, so we know this is his original medal which was sent back to Hunt & Roskell for the additional clasps. But why the erasure and engraved naming? He was, after all, Lieutenant at Guadaloupe, his final clasp. There should be no need to return the officially impressed medal to correct the rank. In this case, the name on the medal rolls is clearly David. But there is no David Lawrence in O'Byrnes biographical dictionary – only a Daniel Lawrence who has the service matching the medal. Therefore, this is an example of a medal being returned to have the forename altered and Hunt & Roskell chose to erase the entire naming and engrave it all again. Once again, there is no note on the ADM 171 roll about any additional claim and no note "duplicate prepared".

Not every example we have found comes with any plausible explanation for renaming. Adam Simpson's medal, illustrated in Figure 4, has been erased and shows the characteristic style of engraving seen on some Crimea medals issued to the crew of HMS *Albion*. *Albion's* Crimea medals were hand engraved by Hunt & Roskell in late 1855. Note the extreme similarity of the S and G on the NGS and Crimea medals (arrowed on Figure 4). The straight diagonal of the S has only been seen on medals engraved by this man. The medal was struck using obverse die A1 which is consistent with this man's claim reference M/108 (N.B. Colin Message mis-transcribed this man's claim reference as U/108). It is clear that this medal is the man's original issue which would have been officially impressed.

It is not clear why Simpson returned his medal for a naming correction, perhaps simply a misspelling of one of his names. There is, however, a further possibility - his medal may have been impressed with the rank of Surgeon rather than Assistant Surgeon, since Surgeon is written on the original roll documents right under his name. If such a mistake were made, perhaps the Admiralty received the medal from the Mint, spotted the error and requested Hunt & Roskell

make the correction while they were assembling the medal? Adam Simpson, Asst Surgeon, has the clasp for PHOEBE 28 MARCH 1814, a rare clasp but we are happy that it is genuinely engraved by one of Hunt & Roskell's in-house engravers.



Fig. 4: Surgeon Adam Simpson's renamed and engraved medal compared to the Crimea Medal to William Glass of HMS *Albion*

Next is a rare medal to a naval rating, David Buchanan, who received two Naval medals (Figure 5). The engraved medal has three clasps, 28 AUG BOAT SERVICE 1809, 28 JUNE BOAT SERVICE 1810 and LISSA. This 3-clasp medal resulted from claim reference U/616 and was struck at the Mint using die E (entirely consistent with the man's claim reference and therefore this is his original issue, it is not a randomly selected medal which has been fraudulently constructed). The medal has reduced diameter over the area of naming, confirming that it has been erased prior to engraving which is considered to be executed by Hunt & Roskell (Figure 6). This medal was claimed prior to his claim for the EGYPT clasp which he received as a second medal; this second medal for Egypt is officially impressed and was struck using die F which came into use after die E. Everything is consistent with both these medals being Buchanan's original issues.

The claimant's list for LISSA (ADM 171/1) has the note "*Duplicate prepared and sent 4/2/51*" – this date is after the E die stopped being used therefore it clearly refers to issue of the Egypt single clasp medal. It does not indicate that a second 3-clasp medal is out there somewhere, and it is not an "engraved late issue" since it is officially impressed and was struck using die E during the main period of medal manufacture.

Once again, it is unclear why Buchanan needed to return his medal for what we assume was a naming correction. But it seems he was an intelligent and literate man, as he had been recommended for the position of Boatswain. Perhaps some error was made on the original Admiralty order and getting his name correct was something that really mattered to him?

This pair of medals is a rare example for which we have sufficient evidence, in addition to the style of engraving, in favour of the 3-clasp medal being returned for a naming correction. The note on the roll, “duplicate prepared and sent, 4/2/51” represents the issue of the Egypt single clasp medal rather than the preparation of a second 3-clasp medal.

Our final example is another naval rating, George Rhymes, who received a medal with the clasp NILE for his services on board HMS *Alexander* in 1798. His claim reference was Y/986 and the obverse die used to strike the medal is the D5 variety; claim reference and die are consistent suggesting that this is his original issue. When his claim was verified on ship’s books, he was found with surname spelled Rimer and this is likely to be what was impressed on the medal when originally issued. The best explanation for this medal, therefore, is that George Rhymes returned it to have his name corrected. Interestingly, the ADM 171 roll has the note; “Duplicate worked up” against his claim. Yet again, this is evidence of no duplicate medal being prepared but instead an existing medal was renamed when returned for correction.

The Absence of MGS Medals Officially Engraved by Hunt & Roskell

As noted in the introduction, the absence of things can sometimes help to explain a problem. When the absence is a feature restricted to one half of the same project, the answer has to lie in the different processes followed by Horse Guards and the Admiralty. The absence – or more precisely the great rarity - of officially renamed and hand engraved MGS medals by Hunt & Roskell requires explanation.

The major difference in process was the Army authorised all but one of its clasps (EGYPT) in



Fig. 5: David Buchanan’s pair of Naval War Medals, recently reunited



Fig. 6: The engraving on the edge of David Buchanan’s 3-clasp medal

one go, at the outset. This created a far higher success rate first time around. On the Army side there was no need for officers to return medals for an upgrade to rank when applying for additional clasps. The complexity of the work on the Admiralty side was far greater than on the Army side where there was rarely a requirement to pair up fresh claims with earlier ones and the paperwork was so much more straightforward.

The underlying cause of the problem with the NGS was the authorisation of clasps in several stages and the serious complexities that resulted.

Conclusions

Officially erased and renamed Naval General Service medals do exist. The reason they exist is because the Mint was unable to make corrections to naming if found incorrect or when returned to have the rank altered. It was Hunt & Roskell who dealt with the fitting of additional clasps and making corrections to naming if and when the original issue medal was returned. If the original issue was not returned, sometimes a second medal was issued (always officially impressed).



Fig. 7: The engraving on the edge of George Rhymes' medal

Normally H&R completely erased all impressed lettering and hand engraved the correct details. Probably this was considered neater and more attractive than performing partial erasure leaving part impressed lettering and part engraved lettering.

All such officially altered medals should appear on the medal rolls and have claim references. Engraved NGSs that do not appear on the official rolls should be regarded simply as renamed medals. None of these should be considered “late issues” and it is certainly not the case that Hunt & Roskell hand engraved any late issue NGSs. They did not have access to unnamed medals coming direct from the Mint.

Ideally, there should be some reason why the change to naming became necessary. We have provided typical examples in the main text of this article. Officially erased and engraved medals are, so far, almost all officer's medals. They were the ones who required alterations to rank (ratings' medals did not have the rank on edge) and officers were more literate, more conscious of their status and far more likely to return a medal for a naming correction or adjustment to rank.

As a final note of caution, we reiterate that any notes on the rolls such as “duplicate prepared” are not to be taken as evidence of an engraved medal being issued by Hunt & Roskell. Such notes can mean that a second medal with different clasps was issued (either an MGS or a second NGS), or it can mean that a medal was

returned to Hunt & Roskell for a naming correction (being a record of an additional charge for this work). Several of the medals described above are engraved but have no note about a duplicate being prepared, so “duplicate prepared” tells us nothing about engraved naming! The note does not mean that a second medal was prepared as a late issue and engraved by Hunt & Roskell. This is a total mis-interpretation.

Any medals appearing on the market with engraved naming and statements about “duplicate prepared” should, therefore, be approached with extreme caution or avoided. Collectors should ideally seek professional help – incorporating the die types used to strike the medal and the man's claim reference – in order to decide if the medal was returned for a naming correction. Familiarity with Hunt & Roskell's styles of hand engraving in all its nuances is essential in order to come to a conclusion (most engraved medals are not Hunt & Roskell's work).

Reference

Tony Martin, William Pickering and Arthur Satterley (2017). *“By Order of Her Majesty. The Crimea Medal: Institution, Manufacture, Naming and Distribution”*. OMRS, 2017, pp.350.

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The Small Army Gold Medal to Brevet Major Joseph Bradby

by Glenn Fisher

In January 1899 James Fuller Eberle purchased for his collection a Small Army Gold Medal attributed to Brevet Major Joseph Bradby of the 28th Regiment. The vendor was Spink and Son and a cheque for the sum of £65 was paid to Charles Carter, the commission agent for Spinks in Bristol. The invoice/receipt, on headed notepaper, was dated 28 January 1899 and an embossed receipt stamp confirmed the transaction and payment.

The piece was described as a 'Field Officer's Gold Medal – Vittoria, Captain Joseph Bradby (28th Regiment)'. The recipient, Joseph Bradby enjoyed and, at times, endured, an astonishing military history in the Iberian Peninsula.

Early life

Born in 1771, Joseph Bradby was commissioned as Ensign into the 62nd Regiment in November 1799. Three years later on 20 May 1802 he purchased his Captaincy in the same Regiment. In a letter written on 20 April 1802 from Cork, Bradby paid £988 for the rank, 'being the price committed and fixed by His Majesty's Regulations' and being the difference between a Lieutenantcy and Captaincy'. The sum was a significant amount and the origin of his wealth is at present unknown. What is known is that he was a nephew of Admiral Joseph Bradby and the family owned land in Hampshire.

The consequences of the Peace of Amiens in March 1802 led to the reduction of the size of the British Army. This included the disbandment of the 2nd Battalion 62nd Regiment with indecent haste, and Bradby going on the half-pay list. However just over a year later, in a letter dated 28 July 1803 and written from his home in Fawley near Southampton, Bradby confirmed receipt of a letter from Colonel Clinton at the War Office, informing him of his appointment to the 28th Regiment.

Corunna

With the resumption of war against the French in 1803 and their invasion of the Iberian



The obverse and reverse of the Small Army Gold Medal awarded to Brevet Major Joseph Bradby

(courtesy of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery (Bristol Cultures))

Peninsula in 1808, British forces, under Sir John Moore, were in action against numerically superior French armies. Moore was forced to retreat, over difficult terrain, towards Corunna in appalling weather. The Light Company of the 28th Regiment was the rearmost company of the rearguard.

Ensign Robert Blakeney of the 28th Regiment wrote:

...that they [the Light Company] must have suffered at least as many casualties as any company of the army; and finally they marched, the last company of the whole army, through the village of El-Burgo under a heavy cannonade and a sharp musketry. Yet it fell in a strong, if not the strongest company present, and as efficient, willing and ready for a fight as any which the army could produce...the Captain of the Company [Bradby] was left behind, sick, at Lisbon...

Corunna, on 16 January 1809, was the battle in which the French were defeated, General Sir John Moore killed and the British Army soon

able to be evacuated home. Bradby had fever and was left in Lisbon with others. A combination of extreme exertion, poor diet, lice, inadequate clothing and dreadful weather created ideal conditions for sickness and fever.

There were significant numbers of recovering sick officers, rank and file as well as stragglers left behind when the army evacuated after Corunna. There were some 2,781 'in hospital' and a further 945 who, for a variety of reasons, did not warrant that category. These numbers however were never fixed, with deaths and stragglers continuously varying the figures. They were organized into 'Battalions of Detachments'. The returns for the 1st Battalion show it was composed of the fragments of many regiments.

From the 28th Foot, Captain Bradby and 156 NCO's and privates were part of this temporary formation. The pay lists show that Bradby was the only Captain with the fragments of the 28th Regiment. Next to Bradby's name in one of the pay lists for the 1st Battalion, is the remark at the end of 1808, that he was 'Sick in quarters' and in the new year 1809: 'Left in Portugal at Commander in Chief's Leave.'

The 2nd Battalion of Detachments was also established from a further 10 regiments. The existence of provisional battalions was a triumph for Wellington against War Office practice. When battalions had been reduced to low numbers from loss in action or sickness they were sent home to recruit and raise their numbers with fresh men. Wellington preferred not to send home seasoned troops but to combine them together thus retaining their experience and prowess. They were far more useful than newly arrived, green replacements. Charles Cadell of the 28th observed that Captain Bradby and other officers of the regiment showed conspicuous gallantry at 'the memorable passage of the Douro on 12th May 1809.'

Talavera

Wellington's confidence in their worth was further demonstrated later on 28 July 1809. Both battalions were involved in the Battle of Talavera where the 1st Battalion of Detachments, in Stewart's Brigade, repulsed Ruffin's attack on the Cerro de Medellin. Bradby was slightly wounded in this action. Cadell refers to the gallantry of the members of the 28th and

that Captain Bradby and Lieutenant Gilbert were wounded.

The following month the two battalions of detachments were absorbed back into their parent regiments, with the 2/28th receiving nine sergeants, a drummer and 113 rank and file. Bradby is listed with the 1st Battalion, 28th Regiment at Gibraltar from the end of December 1809 to the end of 1810. He was recorded as 'On Duty' from 7 January to 9 March 1810. During this period he must have obtained leave of absence to return to England. He made his will on 21 January 1810 at Stratford House, the home of his cousin Anthony Scriven Bradby.

Barrosa

On returning to the peninsula, Bradby was soon back in action. At Barrosa on 5 March 1811 the 'Flank Companies' of the 1/28th, that is to say the Grenadiers and Light Infantry, together with the same from the 2/82nd and 1/9th composed a Battalion under Lieutenant-Colonel 'Mad John' Browne of the 28th Regiment. Poor command and leadership by their Spanish allies led them to be alone at the foot of the *Cerro del Puerco*, exposed and facing the French infantry and artillery of Ruffin's Division. The small battalion of 470 men was decimated and scattered in a storm of musketry and grapeshot, but they did not retreat. All the officers save Browne, were hit, some slightly others severely. When support did eventually arrive, they reformed and drove the French from off the hill, capturing a howitzer in the process.

Blakeney wrote:

The flank officers of the [1st Battalion] 28th Regiment who fell in the battle were Captain Mullins, Lieutenant Wilkinson and Lieutenant Light (Grenadiers); Captain Bradley [sic] and Lieutenants Bennet, Blakeney and Moore.

There is an ambiguity in this description. The use of the word 'fell' usually indicates mortality. Also the 'Bradley' mentioned was in fact Bradby. Bennet and Light were mortally wounded, the rest survived. The nature and severity of Bradby's wound is at present unknown.

Bradby was not invalided home and was later back on active duty with the Light Company of the 28th Foot. In this he was not alone. Sir George Bell in his memoirs wrote of this

phenomenon, where officers and men received a progression of wounds without having to be invalided home.

With the creation of The Military General Service Medal (MGS) in 1847, survivors of the Peninsular War who were still alive and entitled to the initially modest pension, were examined locally and the results sent to Chelsea. The records of these examinations show that many of the men had received wounds of varying severity and yet continued to 'soldier on'.

Vittoria

At Vittoria (for consistency I will use the spelling found on the bar of the MGS) on 21 June 1813 the French army was defeated and driven out of Spain. Here the 1/28th Foot along with the 2/34th, 1/39th and 1 Company 5/60th, were part of O'Callaghan's Brigade. With two other British brigades and some Portuguese forces, they composed the 2nd Division under Sir Rowland Hill. The brigade attacked and took the village of *Sabijana de Alva* on the French left. During the battle the village became the centre for the treatment of the British wounded and towards the end of the encounter wounded officers were conveyed to billets and men to temporary hospitals in Vittoria.

In the Pyrenees mountains, there is a pass through the village of *Urdax* that leads to Maya. It was in this mountainous topography that the French launched a substantial assault on the British lines.

Major-General Sir W. F. P. Napier wrote:

At nine o'clock Major Thorne a staff-officer, having patrolled round the great hill [Aretesque] in front of the pass [Maya] discovered enough to make him order up the light companies in support of the picquet; and they had just formed on the neck, with their left at the rock of Aretesque, when D'Armengnac's division, coming up from Espelette, mounted the great hill in front.

Sir Charles Oman wrote:

There was only a picquet of 80 men to cover it [the east end of the position, under the hill of Aretesque]. The only support immediately available for the outpost was the four light companies of the brigade.



Maya, with rock of Aretesque visible
(courtesy of Ian Fletcher)

The action at the Maya Pass in the Pyrenees saw Captain Bradby mortally wounded. Charles Oman continued:

The French attacked at a pace that surprised their enemies; the light companies – they were commanded by Bradbey of the 28th – were desperately engaged within ten minutes of the firing of the first shot...and held their own for threequarters of an hour, repulsing several attacks of the voltigeurs and the 16th Léger with great loss, and suffering heavily themselves.

Cadell wrote:

...we retired and took possession of the different passes of the Puerte de Maya. The different posts for the picquets having been fixed upon, and signals of alarm arranged, General Walker's Brigade were bivouacked near the main road over the pass; our brigade moved down near the village of Maya, leaving a captain's picquet on the high rock commanding a pass to the right; and having the light companies, under the command of Major Bradbey, as an immediate support, in case of attack.

Sherer gives further details

...we daily mounted a picquet of eighty men. About one mile in rear of picquet post lay the [four] light companies of the brigade, as a post of communication and a support.

Cadell continued:

Everything remained quiet until the afternoon of the 24th [July], when the French army moved off in strong columns to its left. About eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the 25th, two guns from the centre announced to us that the enemy was advancing to the rock picquet. The brigade [Pringles] instantly fell in and moved up the heights as fast as possible.

We soon heard the musketry and saw a murderous conflict going on at the rock. Major Bradbey, on the first alarm, moved rapidly up with the light companies to support the brave picquet of the 34th – those gallant fellows defending every inch of the post, till they came to the highest pinnacle of the rock, which they retained for some time against fearful numbers. They were almost all killed, wounded or taken prisoners. Major Bradbey died afterwards of his wounds, at Vittoria...

The ‘high rock’ referred to in Cadell’s narrative was the ‘Rock of Aretesque’. As large numbers of French infantry scrambled up the slope to it, reinforcements of the 28th and 34th regiments did the same from the opposite slope, both sides arriving piecemeal at the summit. French numbers told and the British picquet and reinforcements were all but wiped out. The survivors and the rest of the 34th were forced to abandon the rock. It should be added that the slopes behind the Aretesque, over which the French advanced, were of a more gentle nature than those covered by the British infantry who rushed to oppose them.

Fellow Officer Ensign William Thornton Keep of the 28th, writing home to his brother Sam, from Maya on 17 September 1813, referred to Bradby having relations at Southampton and being acquainted with Lord Cavan, adding:

Bradbey’s (sic) predictions in his letter I gave you an extract from when there, have been too truly and unfortunately verified in his own person. He commanded the Light Companies on the 25th July, in front of us, but I could only describe what I saw myself on that occasion in the position we were placed in.

The extract of the letter referred to, was also mentioned in a letter to his mother dated 10 September 1812 from Berry Head:

I saw a letter from Captain Bradby (who is with our 1st Battalion) dated August 12th wherein he says ‘There is no stirring news here. We have 20,000 men drawn up in front of Soult’s army of 12 thousand, and why we don’t attack them wiser heads only can tell. We advance and retreat alternately’ He [Bradby] deploras the battle of Salamanca and says Bony’s prognostic will be verified that every British family will be in mourning ere the contest ends. He also says that they have a field officer at Headquarters so sick that he cannot be removed to the rear, and that Colonel Abercromby has written for Colonel Ross to be sent out and also for 100 or 150 privates from the 2nd Battalion and that they have not received a farthing in pay for the last six months.

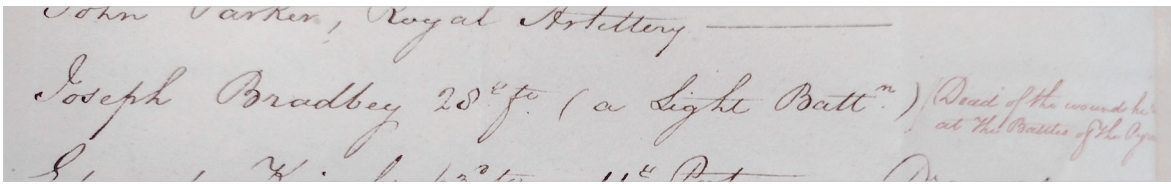
Surgeon Walter Henry was organizing the evacuation of personnel at Maya and wrote: ‘The wounded now began to arrive fast...the slighter cases being sent away on foot and the more serious ones on mules’. This suggests that the mortally wounded Bradby was conveyed back to Vittoria on a mule while British forces fought a dogged retreat against overwhelming numbers of D’Erlon’s men. Others were put into bullock carts – very slow, with solid wooden wheels and no suspension and consequently very uncomfortable and painful for the wounded. The distance from Maya to Pamplona is about thirty miles and another sixty or so from there to Vittoria. Given the distances and the circumstances the journey must have been an ordeal over several days.

After the fighting retreat from Maya, Ensign William Keep of the 28th Foot was detailed to accompany the wounded back to Vittoria. Writing to his father from there on 10 August 1813 he mentioned the journey and a halt at a place he called ‘*Bario Plana*’ (Berrioplano, just a mile to the north of Pamplona and just over 50 miles to the east of Vittoria). The houses of the village were thrown open to receive the wounded. He wrote:

The first I had to assist in alighting wounded from his horse was our Brigade Major, with many other poor fellows, who were obliged to undergo immediate amputation...Eight officers of ours were killed or wounded at the fatal pass of Maya, and Major Bradby as well as Colonel Paterson, wounded at Vittoria, I am sorry to think are not expected to recover.

On reaching Vittoria Bradby would have been quartered in a private dwelling or an hotel. The degree of comfort and the attention of medical staff would have been uncertain. Who attended him, and where, is at present unknown. When he died it is likely that he would have been buried in the grounds of one of the convents being used as a hospital by the British Army. Enquiries have been opened with the possible relevant Spanish authorities.

When Brevet Major Joseph Bradby died in Vittoria on 24 August 1813, there was a certain bureaucracy attendant on his passing. His name and rank were recorded in a ledger together with the date and place of his death, cause of death, his marital status and ‘the amount of the produce of effects etc.’ This last refers to the sums raised



The annotation found in The National Archives, WO103/32

by the auction of his horse, uniforms, weapons and the contents of his officer's portmanteau. Personal items were usually sent back to the family. Bradby's effects amounted to £214 4s 10d and this amount was remitted to the Regimental Agent on 15th August 1814.

The Small Army Gold Medal

The Small Army Gold Medal illustrated shows Britannia seated on a globe and holding a laurel wreath in her right hand and a palm branch in her left. A lion is positioned to her right and the Union shield to her left.

The issue of Peninsular Gold Crosses and Medals was short lived – from 1810 to 1814. The General Order of 28 March 1814 declared that:

...in commemoration of the brilliant victory obtained over the enemy by the army under the orders of the Marquess of Wellington, in the battle of Vittoria on 21 June 1813, the undermentioned Officers present...shall enjoy the privilege of bearing badges of distinction, in conformity with the regulations published on 7th October last.

There followed a list that was headed by Wellington in name and the ranks of the Officers so entitled: Ten Lieutenant Generals, 31 Major Generals, five Brigadier Generals, 28 Colonels, 97 Lieutenant-Colonels, 27 Majors and 11 Captains. In the 1814 list there is a note in red ink next to Bradby's name, 28th Regt., and in brackets 'Light Battn.', stating that he died of wounds received in the Pyrenees.

Recognizing that not all would be alive to receive their 'badges' the order closed with:

...those badges which would have been conferred upon the Officers who fell in, or have died since the battle of Vittoria shall, as a token of respect to their memories, be transmitted to their respective families.

Bradby predeceased his mother who was living at Fawley, near Southampton. His will was proved in London on 1 March 1814 by his

executors William Trattle of Fawley and his cousin Anthony Scriven Bradby. Among his grants and bequests was the sum of £100 'for a marble slab to be placed in the parish church of Fawley with my name and age and the regiment I am in [and] should I fall, the name of the place...' This wish was duly carried out and the memorial is still inside All Saints church at Fawley.

Almost a decade after his death the War Office granted Bradby's mother a pension of £50 per annum. The surviving documents reveal details of Joseph Bradby's parentage but also some of the inaccuracies of Army record keeping. Submitted for the King's approbation by the Secretary at War

...that in consideration of the services of the late Brevet Major Joseph Bradby a Captain in the 28th Regiment of Foot who died of wounds received at St Sebastian on the 13th July [corrected to 25th July] 1813 a Royal Bounty of £50 a year...



The memorial to Joseph Bradby in Fawley, anticipated and paid for through his own will

(courtesy of Revd Alison Bennett, All Saints Church, Fawley)

case of medals dedicated to the 28th and 61st Regiment in the wars of the 19th Century. It can be seen in the top right of the Napoleonic Wars section in the black and white photograph of Eberle's collection.

Bradby's Small Gold Medal came to be in the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery collection by way of a bequest by Alderman James Fuller Eberle in 1939. The location of the 'original case' has yet to be discovered. Hopefully it may still be in Bristol Museum and may come to light as work on the collection continues.

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‘Don’t Lose Your Medals’ - Frederick Dolton’s Medal and Ribbon Clasps

by Paul A. Rosenzweig OAM, South Australia

An advertisement in the St John Ambulance monthly magazine *First Aid* in 1913 warns readers to avoid losing their medals – and offers a practical solution to this problem (see Image 1). This experience was apparently suffered by the designer of the solution, prompting him to develop a remedy. The medal and ribbon clasps he designed were effective and reasonably priced, according to the advertisements placed by Mr F.C. Dolton, who attested to his credibility by stating he was a former Police Constable with ‘N’ Division of the Metropolitan Police, living at 53 Carisbrooke Road in Walthamstow, Essex. These few key facts have served to identify Mr Dolton and reveal a little of his life.

Medals

What medals might St John Ambulance Brigade members have been wearing in 1913, and why would an editorial in the magazine *First Aid* about a reliable medal clasp be of interest to readers of a publication devoted to the advancement of first aid?

The Golden Jubilee Medal 1887, issued to mark the 50th anniversary of Queen Victoria’s accession to the throne in 1837, was the first official medal received by Brigade members that was worn from a ribbon on the left breast in the now-familiar manner, as directed in *The London Gazette*:

This Medal is, by The Queen’s commands, to be worn with Full Dress or Uniform, and on other occasions when Decorations and Medals are worn, after the Decorations of Orders, and before War Medals.¹

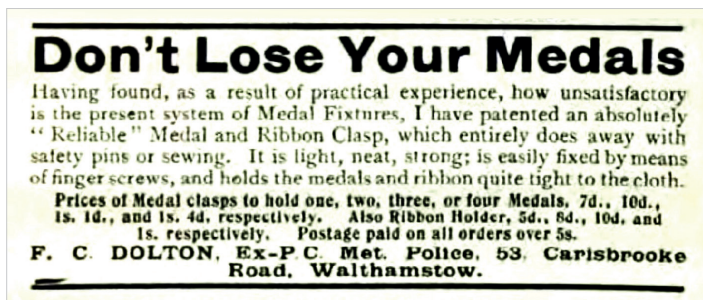


Image 1: Frederick Dolton’s advertisement, ‘Don’t Lose Your Medals’ (*First Aid*, February 1913, p. 160)

The newly formed Invalid Transport Corps supplied three detachments for duty in London on Jubilee Day 21 June 1887, a mix of paid men and volunteers totalling 50 men.² This was effectively the first public duty of members of the St John Ambulance Brigade, which was officially created in England three days later. In a 1919 edition of the magazine *First Aid*, Honorary Surgeon N. Corbet Fletcher published a list of ‘Notable Ambulance Dates’.³ His intention was that these dates and historical facts, until then ‘jotted down at odd moments in a notebook’, would allow remembrance of the pioneers who created and established ambulance work. He also had another purpose – to avoid the ‘ignorance and neglect of history’. Against the date 21 June 1887, he recorded that the Jubilee of Queen Victoria was the ‘first official public duty of members of SJAB, 50 men on duty’.⁴

These members of the Invalid Transport Corps received this Golden Jubilee Medal, as also did the co-founders of the St John Ambulance Association – the humanitarian John Furley, who invented the Furley stretcher and the Ashford Litter, and military veteran and surgeon Samuel Osborn.⁵ Furley was in overall command of the Corps on the day, and Osborn had medical and clinical responsibility. At the same time, a bespoke Police Golden Jubilee Medal in bronze was created, and this was awarded only to members of the Metropolitan Police and City of London Police on duty on Jubilee Day.

Three days later, the ‘St John Ambulance Brigade’ was formally established in England with the creation of the 1st St John’s Gate Division. It is recorded in ‘The Annals of the Ambulance Department’ that the first official recognition of the Brigade came on 28 July 1887 when those persons who had been on duty for the jubilee were notified that they had been awarded jubilee medals by Queen Victoria, ‘in recognition of the services of the Brigade at the Jubilee celebrations.’⁶

A decade later, a similar medal was issued for the Diamond Jubilee, while a holder of the 1887 medal received an ornate '1897' clasp. Only two St John Ambulance members are known to have received the 1897 clasp to their 1887 Jubilee Medal: John Furley and Samuel Osborn.

Once again, a bespoke Police Jubilee Medal was sanctioned for award to members of the Metropolitan Police and City of London Police; anyone who had received the earlier medal who again qualified received a plain rectangular clasp '1897' fixed to the suspender bar. This time though, eligibility for the medal was widened to include firemen and members of ambulance units. This medal was identical to the earlier Police Jubilee Medal except the reverse bore the year '1897' and there were five variations of the title: 'Metropolitan Police', 'City of London Police', 'London County Council Metropolitan Fire Brigade', 'Police Ambulance' and 'St John Ambulance Brigade'.

In his 'Notable Ambulance Dates' for 1897, Fletcher recorded that on 22 June the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria was celebrated, with 800 men from St John Ambulance on duty.⁷ A newspaper feature titled 'Doctoring on Diamond Jubilee Day' noted that St John had 800 in the field, 'to attend to the wounded in the fray'.⁸ Accounts of the duty were published in the July 1897 edition of *First Aid*, recording an attendance by 842 members, which included 103 nursing sisters and 36 honorary surgeons, and 771 officers and ambulancemen with 14 litters and 7 ambulance wagons.⁹

The Brigade surgeons, nurses and ambulancemen are reported as having treated some 1,000 cases in over 24 hours, including 59 casualties at the evening illuminations.¹⁰ Fletcher recorded that in July members were awarded medals by Queen Victoria 'In recognition of the work done by the Brigade on many public occasions.'¹¹ There were 910 medals (and no clasps) awarded to members of the St John Ambulance Brigade and the St John Ambulance Association.¹²

For the Coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in 1902, planned for 26 June but postponed to 9 August while the King recuperated from surgery, a general-issue Coronation Medal was struck. There was again a bespoke Police Coronation Medal for award in silver and bronze to members of five different police, fire and ambulance services – including 912 bronze

medals awarded to members of the St John Ambulance Brigade.

Similarly in 1911, there was a general-issue Coronation Medal struck to mark the joint coronation of King George V and Queen Mary, while a silver Police Coronation Medal was issued to policemen, firemen, members of ambulance units and Royal Parks staff on duty in London on 22 June 1911. There were ten variations of the title on the reverse, with some 2,755 medals awarded to members of the St John Ambulance Brigade.

By 1913, several members had received the Order of St John, which had been created by Queen Victoria by Royal Charter dated 14 May 1888 (from that time until 1926, the order was correctly known as 'The Grand Priory of the Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem in England'). Several wore the Service Medal of the Order which had been awarded since 1899 for long service. Some had seen active service during the Anglo-Boer War in South Africa (1899-1902), receiving awards including the silver Queen's South Africa Medal and bronze St John Ambulance Brigade Medal for South Africa which was sanctioned for wear in uniform on 26 January 1904.

With these four successive Royal events overlapping with the creation of the Order of St John and the Service Medal of the Order, an occasional grizzle was heard from the public about police, fire and ambulance personnel wearing medals without having seen overseas service. Comments about 'medal worship' and 'indiscriminate wearing of medals' were published in newspapers. One correspondent complained of ambulance members having medals, 'absolutely showered' on them.

The editor of *First Aid* pointed out that all medals mentioned by these correspondents are listed in the King's regulations. He further responded as follows:

It must be borne in mind that the members of the Brigade perform their services gratuitously, and it is only reasonable that some recognition should be bestowed upon them for their services.¹³

So, within a short period of time following the formation of the St John Ambulance Brigade, many of its members had become eligible for at least one and in some cases three Royal commemorative medals, plus awards within the

Order of St John – and they apparently used simple pin-back brooches or even safety pins to attach them to their tunic.

Frederick Charles Dolton (1863-1932)

From the brief details given in the advertisements in *First Aid*, a search of the records of the Metropolitan Police Office (MEPO) held by the National Archives revealed that the inventor in question was Frederick Charles Dolton, who had served as a Police Constable with the Metropolitan Police for 26 years and 11 days, from his enrolment in 1884 until his voluntary retirement with a pension in 1910.

Frederick Dolton was born in Kensington, Middlesex on 28 October 1863,¹⁴ the son of Richard Partridge Dolton (1814-1894), a cabinet and pianoforte maker originally from Plymouth, and his second wife Elizabeth. Richard, a widower, had married widow Elizabeth Holmes (born Shepherd, 1824-1868) and they were living in Elizabeth Cottages in Blyth Lane in Hammersmith when Frederick was born.

At Kentish Town Police Station on 30 June 1884, Frederick Dolton, aged 20, joined the Metropolitan Police and was allocated Warrant

Number '69531'. He was first assigned to 'Y' Division (Highgate), with collar number '241Y'. At All Hallows in Tottenham, Middlesex on 22 July 1885, Frederick married Miss Georgina Rooke (aged 24), the daughter of a gamekeeper from Sussex. On 28 July 1886, PC Dolton transferred to 'N' Division (Islington).

Frederick and Georgina's first children were born in Tottenham: Frederick (1886) and Georgina Emily (1888). Two more soon followed: Ellen Sarah Elizabeth (1891) and Edgar (1891). By 1901, Frederick and Georgina were residing at 12 Forster Road in Tottenham with their four children, Frederick (a 15 year old shopboy), Georgina (13), Ellen (11) and Edgar (10).

PC Dolton resigned voluntarily from the Metropolitan Police on 11 July 1910, aged 46. His pension certificate and the records of the 1911 Census show Frederick and Georgina residing with their three youngest children at 53 Carisbrooke Road in Walthamstow, Essex – as per the advertisements in *First Aid*.

It seems Dolton had an active career: his pension certificate reveals that during the course of his police service he suffered an injury to the head, a sprained ankle, a sprained left foot, and on two occasions was injured in the thigh.

Notably, PC Dolton was on duty in London with 'N' Division on Jubilee Day 21 June 1887, wearing collar number '441N', and again at the time of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations on 21 June and the Great Procession on 22 June 1897. Accordingly, he first received the Queen Victoria Police Jubilee Medal 1887, and then a decade later received the '1897' Clasp. He was again on the strength of the force on 9 August 1902, receiving the King Edward VII Police Coronation Medal.¹⁵

Of note, on 13 June 1911 Dolton was recalled to duty to support the Coronation celebrations of King George V and Queen Mary, and was given a new Warrant Number – 'O2619'. He was on duty in London for the coronation on 22 June 1911, and received the King George V Police Coronation Medal.

During this time, PC Dolton must have found that the simple mechanisms for attaching his medals to his tunic were not entirely satisfactory, with one or more of

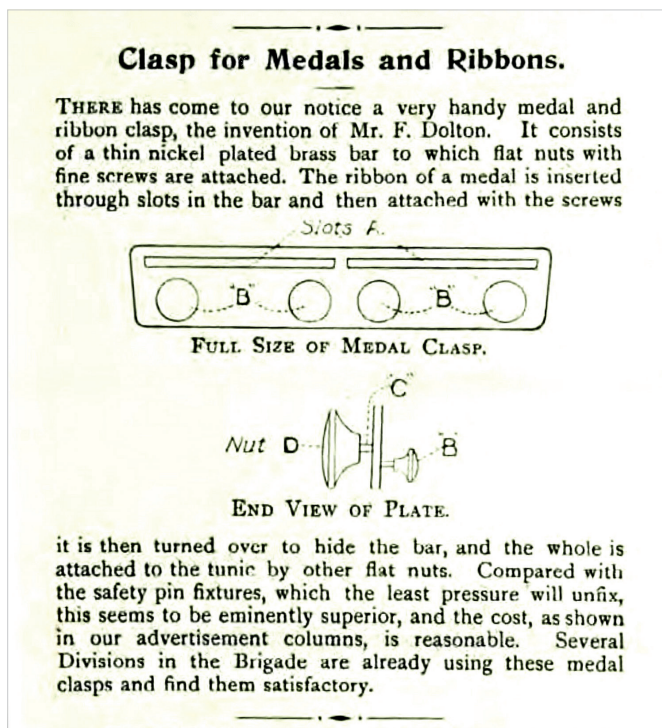


Image 2: This editorial notice in the St John Ambulance magazine *First Aid* described Dolton's medal and ribbon clasp (*First Aid*, February 1913, p 145)

his medals coming loose and falling. Dolton's remedy was to develop his own form of medal and ribbon clasp which could not be dislodged.

Medal clasp

Frederick Dolton designed a special clasp to ensure a medal was securely fixed to the tunic and could not fall off whilst on duty. His advertisements related his tale (see Image 1):

Having found, as a result of practical experience, how unsatisfactory is the present system of Medal Fixtures, I have patented an absolutely "Reliable" Medal and Ribbon Clasp, which entirely does away with safety pins or sewing.¹⁶

His idea was to use a mount with finger screws to hold the medal or ribbon tightly to the cloth of the tunic or jacket. As well as placing advertisements in *First Aid*, an editorial review was published in the *St John* magazine in 1913:

There has come to our notice a very handy medal and ribbon clasp, the invention of Mr F. Dolton. It consists of a thin nickel plated brass bar to which flat nuts with fine screws are attached.

The editorial gives an illustration of the body of the medal clasp with its small screw posts and knurled nuts to secure the ribbon (see Image 2). The medal ribbon is then turned over the clasp to hide the small nuts, and larger pins are used to attach the clasp to the tunic using larger knurled nuts. The *St John* editorial observed:

Compared with the safety pin fixtures, which the least pressure will unfix, this seems to be eminently superior.¹⁷

On one example shown (Image 3), the reverse of the body bears the impressed details: 'DOLTON'S PATENT'.

Another example of a medal clasp (Image 4) bears the details: 'DOLTON'S' and 'PR. PATENT' with the provisional patent number '5754'. The screw posts and knurled

Don't Lose Your Medals

Having found, as a result of practical experience, how unsatisfactory is the present system of Medal Fixtures, I have patented an absolutely "Reliable" Medal and Ribbon Clasp, which entirely does away with safety pins or sewing. It is light, neat, strong; is easily fixed by means of finger screws, and holds the medals and ribbon quite tight to the cloth.

Prices of Medal clasps to hold one, two, three, or four Medals, 7d., 10d., 1s. 1d., and 1s. 4d. respectively. Also Ribbon Holder, 5d., 8d., 10d., and 1s. respectively.

Postage 1d. extra, except on orders over 5s.

F. C. DOLTON, Ex-P.C. Met. Police, 53, Carlsbrooke Road, Walthamstow.

Image 3: Frederick Dolton's advertisement, 'Don't Lose Your Medals' - 'DOLTON'S PATENT'.

(*First Aid*, July 1913, p 20)

nuts on the back were intended to ensure the clasp was securely fixed to the tunic and could not fall off whilst on duty.

At the same time, Dolton designed a ribbon bar for uniformed members to wear on the tunic. The body again has two screw posts and knurled nuts on the back. The example shown (Image 5) bears the ribbon of the King George V Police Coronation Medal (1911), in cardinal red with three narrow stripes of garter blue.

Frederick Dolton died in Essex on 27 May 1932, aged 68. He was buried on 1 June in Queen's Road Cemetery, Waltham Forest in Walthamstow, Greater London.¹⁸

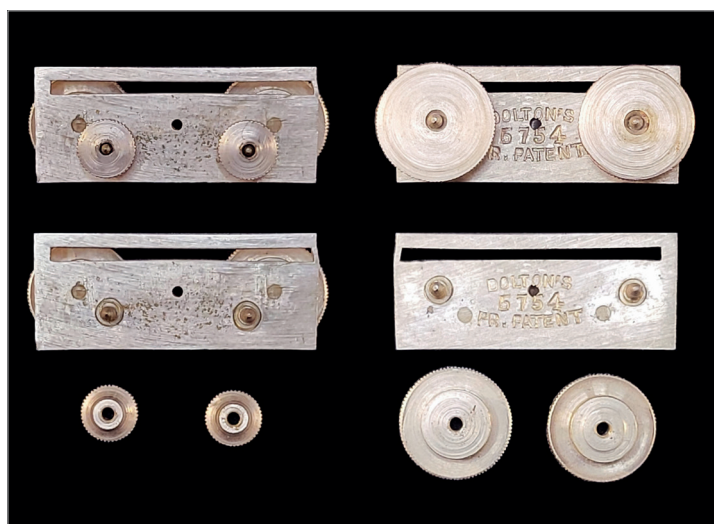


Image 4: The 'Provisional Patent' (5754) medal clasp designed by Frederick Dolton to carry a single medal.

(unknown source)



Image 5: A ribbon clasp designed by Frederick Dolton to carry a single ribbon, with screw posts and knurled nuts on the back (with the ribbon of the King George V Police Coronation Medal, 1911).
(unknown source)

Later advertisements

The editorial in the St John Ambulance Brigade magazine *First Aid* in 1913 had remarked: ‘Several Divisions in the Brigade are already using these medal clasps and find them satisfactory’.

Advertisements for ‘Dolton’s Reliable Clasp’ continued to appear in *First Aid* several years after Frederick Dolton’s death. Some 24 years after the publication of the original editorial, advertisements advised (see Image 6): ‘Miss Dolton is carrying on this business, and asks her father’s many friends to continue their support’.¹⁹

These advertisements continued into the 1940s, still bearing the address of 53 Carisbrooke Road in Walthamstow. Frederick’s elder daughter Georgina Emily had married Leonard Pickett in 1912,²⁰ so the advertisements are referring to Frederick’s unmarried younger daughter Ellen Sarah Elizabeth Dolton (1891-1975).²¹

Thanks to some key details being provided in the advertisements and St John Ambulance editorial, and comprehensive Metropolitan Police Office records made available by the National Archives, Frederick Dolton’s police service record and contribution to ‘reliable medal fixtures’ can be recognised.

Notes

¹ *The London Gazette* of 3 January 1888, Supplement No 25773 dated 5 January 1888, p 129. The first Royal commemorative in the form of a wearable medal was the Queen Victoria Empress of India Medal (1877), worn around the neck

² Tozer (1975) p 56

³ *First Aid* began in 1895 as a monthly magazine for members of St John Ambulance, the British Red Cross Society and St Andrew’s Association. A sample of the magazine can be viewed here: https://issuu.com/museumoftheorderofstjohn/docs/first_aid_1912-1914

⁴ *First Aid and the St John Ambulance Gazette*, Volume XXV, No 296 (February 1919), pp 125-126

⁵ Library and Museum of the Order of St John; Sir John Furley CH CB (1836-1919); Samuel Osborn FRCS (1848-1936)

⁶ Quoted by Tozer (1975) p 56

⁷ Dale (1919b) p 140; see also *London Gazette* No 26867, Supplement dated 25 June 1897, p 3568

⁸ *The Daily Telegraph* (Sydney) 28 July 1897, p 10

⁹ Museum of the Order of St John, Isobel MacAuslan 2020

¹⁰ *First Aid*, July 1897: see MacAuslan (2020); *South Australian Register* (Adelaide) 28 July 1897, p 6; *Evening Journal* (Adelaide) 28 July 1897, p 3

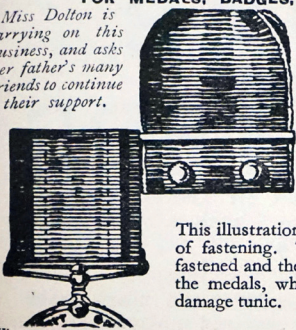
¹¹ Dale (1919b) p 140

DOLTON'S Reliable CLASP
FOR MEDALS, BADGES, AND RIBBONS.

Officially recommended.

No Sewing.

Miss Dolton is carrying on this business, and asks her father's many friends to continue their support.



MEDAL CLASPS:—
To hold 1 Medal 1/3; 2, 1/6; 3, 1/9 4, 2/-; 5, 2/6 each.

RIBBON BARS:—
To hold 1 Ribbon, 9d.; 2, 1/-; 3, 1/3; 4, 1/6; 5, 1/9 each. POSTAGE EXTRA.

This illustration shows medals and method of fastening. The nuts cannot come unfastened and there is no possibility of losing the medals, which hang neatly and cannot damage tunic. Invented by F. C. DOLTON. Ex-P.C., N.Div., Met. Police.

When ordering state size of ribbon 53, Carisbrooke Rd. WALTHAMSTOW, E

Image 6: Miss Dolton’s advertisement, ‘Dolton’s Reliable Clasp’
(*First Aid*, January 1937, p 191)

¹² Tozer (1975) pp 54-56. The Museum of the Order of St John has identified that the 910 members of the Brigade on duty comprised 36 Honorary Surgeons, 103 Nursing Sisters and 771 officers and men

¹³ *First Aid, The Independent Journal for the Ambulance and Fire Services*, Volume XIX, no 217 (July 1912), p 8

¹⁴ According to Metropolitan Police Pension Certificate no 19164, 11 July 1910

¹⁵ Kemp (2009) p 159; collar numbers drawn from Police Orders, courtesy of Jim Kemp

¹⁶ *First Aid, The Independent Journal for the Ambulance and Fire Services*, Volume XIX, no 229 (July 1913), p 160

¹⁷ *First Aid, The Independent Journal for the Ambulance and Fire Services*, Volume XIX, no 224 (February 1913); p 145

¹⁸ Grave number IID 1112; interment number 43634

¹⁹ *First Aid, The Independent Journal for the Ambulance and Nursing Services*, Volume XLIII, no 511 (January 1937), p 191

²⁰ Georgina Emily Dolton married Leonard Pickett at St Michael and All Angels, Walthamstow, Essex on 5 October 1912, and by 1939 were residing at 'The Black Horse' in West Street, Reigate Heath, Surrey

²¹ Ellen Dolton was living at 37 West Street in Reigate, Surrey when she died on 28 January 1975

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For those members who pay for their membership via bank direct debit with a mid-year renewal date, the move to our new Direct Debit provider, GoCardless, is on target.

All relevant direct debit mandates have been set up by GoCardless with your bank to process OMRS annual membership subscriptions due from 1 July 2026 onwards.

Members will see a new DD Payee titled "Go Cardless" in their bank account payee list. It will also have an alpha/numeric reference pre-fixed with OMRS, such as "OMRS-xxxxxxxxxxx".

You do not need to take any action, and no money will be taken until your membership renewal date.

Do not delete or cancel the Go Cardless mandate as this will mean that your annual subscription will NOT be collected and your OMRS membership will be cancelled.

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The Achievements of 'Jack' Howcroft 1874- 1962

by Garry Farmer

My collecting interest has a narrow focus when it comes to medals. In fact, I specialise in just a couple of types of the long service medals to the police. The medal in question here is a George V robed bust Special Constabulary (SC) Long Service Medal in bronze from the period just after the First World War. The medal was instituted in 1919 and issued thereafter.

This medal is named to John T. Howcroft and had come from an old collection in Yorkshire when it appeared for auction online a few years ago. This was a 'must-have' medal for me, and it was secured for what I consider a very small sum. It does appear to have a well-worn look which can be seen in the attached image. I do think it is rather a misnomer though to be called a 'long service' medal when one considers the length of time spent at the relevant duty of not just this man but

others serving alongside him. I shall attempt to explain my reasoning here.

To qualify for the medal, one had to serve a total of nine years with at least 50 duties per year to be eligible. Subsequent long service bars were issued after ten years' further service. War service though counted treble towards the period served.

When the call went out for men to join the Special Constabulary in Bolton, John was one of the very first to enlist on 2 October 1914 as SC 314 of No.5 Company. However, it would be over a year before he would be called out on his first four-hour shift on 5 December 1915 and again on Christmas Day 1915. His total duties now standing at two four-hour shifts since enlisting and it was already the end of 1915. He did however do better in 1916 with a total of 24 duties for the year and this increased to 37 for 1917. In his last year of service 1918, he managed a total of 21 duties for the year which brought his total of completed duties to 84 for the whole 1914-18 period - somewhat short of the time required for the SC LSM.

When the Special Constabulary was disbanded at the end of the war, only 13 men of the Bolton force qualified for the medal with the 'THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918' clasp, having fully completed the requisite periods of service. (Ref: previous article on this SC award: *The Great War Centenary Commemorative Edition II, OMRS Journal Vol. 53 No: 4*). This situation caused many complaints to the Watch Committee and the Chief Constable, Frederick Walter Mullineux, who claimed responsibility for not calling out the Specials more often as they would have liked. The number of medals issued was noticeably lower when compared to the numbers awarded to surrounding towns. He eventually came up with a solution for those concerned. He stated that the medal could be earned for all those that had served during the period of First World War, if they allowed their names



The Special Constabulary Long Service Medal
to John T. Howcroft

to remain on the Special Constabulary call-out list (only to be called on in extreme emergency) that anyone so inclined could be issued the medal on completion of nine years accredited SC service. So, a wait in line and time for a period of over five years then followed with some men unwilling to continue and taking their discharge. However, as a direct result, in 1924 a further 214 medals (without a bar) were issued to Specials including John T Howcroft.

These men are identified within the Nominal Roll as the letter 'M' in red ink appears alongside their name in the register. Some have very minimal duties listed and some far less than Howcroft. I have identified 16 of this number who served in the SC again during the Second World War.

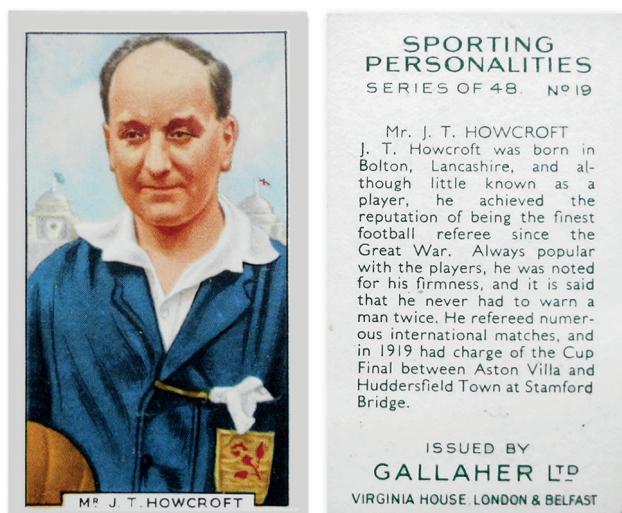
A 1917 group photograph exists of No.5 Company where, I do believe Howcroft is portrayed standing ninth from the left on the first row, wearing one of the few serge uniforms issued for 'Point Duty'. The main reason a trained Special would undertake point duty at a major road junction was to allow the constable so engaged to work a beat. During this period, the Specials wore civilian clothing with an armband on the left arm and a white metal armorial town badge on their hats as can be seen in the photo.

So why was this medal such a 'must-have' for me? The answer lies in what this man did away from his police duties. He was better

known as 'Jack' Howcroft and had been born in Bolton in 1874. He was a 'Leather Manufacturer' by trade and owned a boot and shoe shop combined with a sport's outfitters in the town centre. His father had died while Jack was young, so he was brought up by his mother and grandmother. He married Sarah Ryder in 1896 and they would have two children. Most importantly, Jack was a respected Football Association (FA) referee and was President of the English Referees Association. His trademark was to wear a small black cap while officiating and he would become well known for this in a career in football which lasted three decades. He officiated many matches in League One of the English Football League and at least 27 International matches both in the UK and in Europe. At the summer Olympic Games of 1908, held at The White City Stadium in London, Jack was the referee at the semi-final match played between Great Britain (4) and the Netherlands (0). Great Britain would go on to win the Olympic Gold Medal. For his Olympic service he gained an Olympic Participants Medal in silver which was for a time displayed for all to see in the front window of his shop premises in Bolton.

With the onset of the First World War, football matches ceased during hostilities and Jack signed on for the Bolton Special Constabulary as mentioned. His entry page within the SC Nominal Roll includes his address which is





The Gallaher cigarette card for J.T. Howcroft front and reverse

pertinent for positive identification in that the same address appears for him within several newspaper reports describing his footballing career and Olympic achievements.

After hostilities ceased and football again resumed Jack continued his football interests. In 1920 he officiated in the first FA Cup Final held after the war at the ground of Chelsea Football Club at Stamford Bridge between Aston Villa (1) and Huddersfield Town (0). This was the first ever cup final to go into extra time to find a winner. He also officiated at the Irish Cup Final in 1925 and in one game in

Ireland years before between Glentoran and Belfast City. He was greeted with a salute of umpteen revolvers fired into the air. In 1936 his likeness as a football referee appeared as No.19 of a series of 48 cigarette cards issued by the tobacco company of Gallaher Ltd in their 'Sporting Personality' series of collector cards.

In later life, he and his wife retired to Southport with his son John taking over the business. He passed away aged 88 years on 27 December 1962. His wife would follow three years later. They are both buried within his wife's family grave in Heaton Cemetery in Bolton.

The SC Nominal Roll for the First World War contains many full pages of duty by individuals who wanted to assist the war effort in perhaps the only way that they could, and it is indeed unfortunate they did not initially qualify for a medal. The Specials contributed an important role when it was required in the town, at a time when a large percentage of the regular police force were recalled to the colours or enlisted. I think that the Chief Constable, Frederick Mullineux, did the right thing in his eventual solution. In turn this has allowed a spotlight to again be shone on the football referee & Special Constable J.T. Howcroft whose Special Constabulary LSM has pride of place in my medal collection.

Sources

Bolton Evening News

Bolton Journal & Guardian

Bolton Museum & Libraries Collection: Special Constabulary Nominal Roll, Ref: ABJ/14

Greater Manchester Police Museum Archive

<https://abohemiansportinglife.com/>



Family headstone in Heaton Cemetery, Bolton

First World War British Army Infantry Gallantry Awards: An Approach to Providing Context

by Aidan Martin

If we were still fortunate enough to be able to speak with Great War recipients of gallantry awards about their experiences, I doubt admitting their recognised bravery would be the first thing they would describe. Gallantry awards represent the judgement of peers on a job well done, likely under the most trying and awful circumstances of a man's service. Firstly, our research should be able to identify this context and our write-ups should be able to convey this in a way that personifies the medals we collect. Secondly, our research must respect the fact that the voices of their recipients can no longer be heard. These bits of silver in our cabinets often memorialise a frequently arduous brief military service in a much longer and fulfilling civilian life. One could not occur without the other, and it is often the civilian aspect that adds context to the military.

This understanding developed from my desire to try to comprehend what the recipients of the medals that form my collection went through. I will now walk you through how I approach researching First World War gallantry awards to British regiments with a contextual focus in mind. The first of the four major steps involved in this process is to:

1) Get the medal

The adage of 'buy the best you can afford' comes to mind. With a wide range of prices across this area of collecting, not all medals were created equal. Broadly speaking, by spending more money a collector can secure a medal with more research potential, which can include: a better documented unit or action; a multi-gallantry group offering wider opportunities for the man's exploits to have been documented; officers (including warrant officers) and men with long service (regular or Territorial). As expense is a collector's main enemy, relying on experience will allow the collector to identify hidden gems at lower prices.

Once you have built your library, been around the block a few times and honed your skills, this

is not a challenge (except for the bun fight to grasp it for your collection and the wait for the medal to turn up). A regimental collector would know in advance if a certain battalion's history was well written up or if a particular locality had well-digitised newspapers. Once obtained, you must:

2) Confirm the medal

This can be done in a variety of ways; however, you can't go wrong by going to source and finding *The London Gazette* entry, including that for the citation if not a new year or birthday honours award. The annotated *London Gazette*, available online from the National Archives, adds dates and locations for citations of British awards and often physical addresses to where foreign awards were sent. References for these are as follows:

Distinguished Service Order (DSO) / Military Cross (MC) – WO/389 (also includes MC card index which can give presentation details)

Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) – WO/391

Foreign to British – WO/388

(Military Medals (MMs) and Meritorious Service Medals (MSMs) are not included in the annotated *London Gazette* series.)

DCM, MM, MSM and Mentioned in Despatches (MiD) cards (WO/372/23 and WO/372/24) will confirm ranks, dates of gazette and sub-unit. Importantly, MM cards include schedule numbers which can be used to co-locate an MM in a block of consecutive numbers for a certain action and unit if one citation is known.

It must be remembered that different service numbers across medal groups, e.g. pre-1917 and post-1917 Territorials, can hamper searches. Further challenges include:

Bars listed on MM cards may not specify a battalion, which could be different from the battalion in which the MM was awarded.

Not all MiDs have a card.

If searching on Ancestry or Findmypast, transcription errors can be common. Using a wild

card search with an asterisk (*) to broaden a search can help get around this, e.g. “Fred*” would pick up Frederick, Freddie and Freddy.

3) Confirm the citation

For anything other than an MM, MSM, MiD or honours award, this can usually be done via the *London Gazette* as in step two. If you’re researching one of the more challenging gallantry awards don’t forget to start at the beginning, with ephemera. Copies of citations can come with purchases or may be available on request if medals were purchased from the family. Failing this, a healthy dose of luck, skill and experience is required! Here is a rough sequence of the common avenues to exhaust:

Starting with the avenues most likely to yield a result, searching unit war diaries at the level of battalion or field company, before moving to brigade and divisional levels is helpful. Searching in the six months prior to the gazette date (especially if an honours award) means you are less likely to miss a key detail. *The Great War Medal Collector’s Companion*, volume 1 (2011) by Howard Williamson contains a helpful list of time periods to which the *London Gazettes* relate. He wrote an updated version of his MM list, entitled ‘*Researching Military Medals Awarded during the Great War*’ in the OMRS Journal September 2015. If citations are not included verbatim in a diary there is frequently a note of men involved in smaller significant actions such as trench raids. Combining these details with an after-action intelligence report can yield positive results.

At divisional level, don’t forget to glance at the Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General (AA & QMG) diary. This was the branch responsible for processing awards, which sometimes listed them in its diary. Using the above I have located: honours citations; citations for awards that were not approved; and detailed citations, as opposed to the edited versions that appeared in the *London Gazette*. A partial example would be the AA & QMG diary for the 23rd Division on 5 September 1916 which notes the award of four MM ribbons by the GOC (WO 95/2170/1).

Regimental archives and most importantly regimental gazettes are fantastic mines of information for citations, especially in obituaries. Taking a broader view, battalion histories, as well as published and unpublished accounts, may also contain clues. This is perhaps the most

time-consuming part of a search and can be aided by building a personal database and index over time.

More information can be found in larger archives such as: the National Archives, Imperial War Museum and the Liddle Archive, all of which are repositories for published and unpublished material donated by servicemen and their families. Sources found in these can be very detailed, mentioning gallantry actions directly or quoting citations. Many smaller archives are less extensive and frequently less well catalogued, but the knowledge and confidence of where to look will be built up over time. I have located citations in the following places: newspapers, trade gazettes, school archives, university archives, local studies groups or websites, parish magazines and memorials. Again, adding references found here to a personal database can aid finding citations over time.

Thinking laterally, by taking the time to get a list of all awards for an action, can allow collectors to place a man’s brave deeds amid those of his comrades’, helping to provide a citation if none is known. To create such a list, you can either strike lucky in a war diary, or painstakingly piece things together using the *London Gazette*, annotated or otherwise, and MM schedule numbers. DSO, MC and DCM citations can all give clues when finding a citation, one such example being an MC citation that mentions a second lieutenant, sergeant and two other ranks holding a position against all odds. Add in a DCM citation to a sergeant that fits the details of this same action or a confirmed MM citation with a schedule number consecutive to your man, and a citation for your man’s medal has more or less been written for you. This oblique approach is useful when all the above avenues have been exhausted, but you don’t want to give up on a MM! Remember, too, that an award higher than typically expected for a soldier’s rank is more significant, such as a DSO to a second lieutenant or a DCM to a private (a concept discussed in further detail in *Battlefield Bravery* by Geoff Scott and Arthur Satterley).

4) Confirm the context and add perspective

Collectors frequently do not complete this step once a citation has been found. Managing to do this can make a seemingly ordinary medal

become *extraordinary* through forging a connection between the medal and those who read its citation. Confirming context and adding perspective will ensure your medals and collection are not dull and your write-ups capture the reader's imagination!

The initial research into a medal should be carried out as widely as possible, meaning that genealogical research cannot be ignored. 'The man behind the medal' approach, often presented as a timeline fleshed out with a little padding, can be enhanced by asking why this information is relevant? Questions worth considering are: is your man's story typical or atypical of his local area, and if so, why? Was he commissioned from the ranks and did this enable him to remain within a higher social class once the war was over? Was he commissioned, but then went back to what he knew as a pitman? Were his children named after a favourite general or a brother or friend killed in action (both of which I have seen)? How can your man be humanised? The level of detail to which this step is taken is optional, but the deeper and further you go into the non-military part of a man's life, the greater the chance there is of an engaging story that stands above all the rest.

The next step is to determine the significance of an action or battle and your man's place in it. This can be achieved through more general historical works, such as the *Official History of the Great War*. The actual, physical site of a man's bravery can be pinpointed through map references found in war diaries and the use of databases such as those available from the National Library of Scotland or the Western Front Association's 'Trench Mapper'. These will then provide a link to modern satellite overlay maps. As a result, the terrain over which an action took place can be understood and exact locations can be more easily visited. Just how far did that supply sergeant have to lug those rations up an undulating muddy trench system under indirect fire?

On rare occasions, the picture painted by accounts and maps can be supplemented with physical photographs or film. The Imperial War Museum, National Archives and McMaster University have an extensive archive of contemporary aerial and ground-based photographs for the First World War.

Although it is challenging to find a named photograph of an individual, you can get lucky.

Employing luck even further, the above steps can lead to finding accounts of a gallantry action written by those on the receiving end, the enemy. Principally for the First World War this was the German Army. Using lots of Google searches and war diary intelligence reports (noting details of captured prisoners), an opposing regiment can be ascertained. This is usually written in the form of '8.IR' or similar. The name of the regiment can be confirmed using *Histories of two hundred and fifty-one divisions of the German army which participated in the war (1914-1918)* compiled by the American Expeditionary Force in 1919 which is easily available online. '8.IR' becomes '*Leib Grenadier Regiment König Friedrich Wilhelm III (1.Brandenburgisches) Nr.8*'. The full name of a regiment is needed to find out the title of that regiment's history, if published. It should be borne in mind that a German regiment was about the size of a British brigade and was subdivided usually into three battalions, as well as machine-gun sections etc. The published history of a German regiment will cover all of these and is analogous with a British brigade history.

Once the name of one of these published works is known, a digitised version can often be found via the *Württembergische Landesbibliothek* in Stuttgart where a large selection of digitised First World War German regimental histories can be searched online (<https://digital.wlb-stuttgart.de/start>). A good PDF viewer can be used to copy and paste the text into an online translator and a rough gist of events can be obtained. If this doesn't work the text can be transcribed, but be mindful that the Fraktur typeface used can be a challenge to read. It must also be noted that some histories were funded directly by the Nazi party in the 1930s as a form of propaganda and may not be as reliable as earlier, more contemporary works from the 1920s. If a regimental history cannot be found online the Imperial War Museum has a large collection of them that can be read in person.

After completing all the steps above I have been able to add the following translations to my write-ups:

a) A machine gunner's MM for Fontaine trench, 26 June 1917, using a reference from the German infantry he was firing upon which reads:

Kred - kred – kred fired the very accurate machine guns. Damn our cursed flank position! We were shot at by the English machine guns in the bright sunshine as we made our way forwards. The fire went from shell hole to shell hole; we had to smear our treacherously shiny steel helmets with earth. (*Das (Rheinisch-Westfälische) Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 459* edited by Friedrich von Pirscher).

b) A subaltern defending a bridge at Mons, 23 August 1914, using a reference from the first German infantry unit that he and his regiment encountered in the First World War:

Again it was Lieutenant Wieser who, with parts of his platoon, penetrated into the village, which he had reached unopposed. Suddenly he came under heavy fire — and fell! His patrol reported that the houses adjacent to the canal bridge had been prepared for a determined defence. (*Leib Grenadier Regiment König Friedrich Wilhelm III (1 Brandenburgisches) Nr. 8 im Weltkrieg* p 53, compiled by Hans Schöning).

Wieder war es Leutnant Wieser, der mit Teilen seines Zuges in das Dorf, welches er unbehelligt erreicht hatte, zuerst eindrang. Plötzlich erhielt er heftiges Feuer — und fiel! Seine Patrouille meldete, daß die Häuser unmittelbar an der Kanalbrücke zu nachhaltiger Verteidigung eingerichtet seien.

In finding out the exact details of the actions carried out by the men whose medals are in my collection, I have come to see and appreciate them as flesh-and-blood human beings. As a result, their medals have become even more meaningful for me. I have found it is worth the considerable effort it takes to obtain enemy accounts, not least as it helps to better sequence British accounts by cross comparison. But phew, what a lot of work.

If a methodical approach to research is not taken a collector has no hope of discovering what they don't know, especially in regard to the myriad of sources now available. It is only by working at the peripheries of knowledge and sources that their utility in research can

be expanded, and fantastic and illuminating discoveries made. I have developed the above four-part sequence over the last decade, which benefits from the increased digitisation of historical sources. As more sources come online every day, by revisiting previously researched medals and using a periodically-updated systematic and structured research approach, such as the one I have outlined, I have applied this concept to my own collection and its research. By searching for and gathering this wide variety of information, collectors provide the context that helps us to put our recipients' actions in perspective. It is this element that will create a wider interest in our hobby and in the medals we collect, as well as providing us with greater satisfaction when we carry out our research. Indeed, the medals and groups that I have researched in this way, frequently purchased with the barest of details, have come to life when the many, exhausting avenues listed above have been explored and filled out. Medals that seem ordinary have been elevated far above that level once titbits of information have been combined here and there to present a comprehensive and compelling picture of the human experience the medals represent. In closing, I offer two recommendations:

If writing up 'the man behind the medal', could you consider adding a paragraph explaining how you provided the sort of broader perspective detailed above? Could you mention what innovative elements of research you utilised; what lateral thinking unlocked the story and what new sources you used? Could you also suggest how other collectors could achieve a similar positive outcome to yourself?

Can you pen a guide similar to the above that focusses on your own niche interest and aids collectors to access new areas of research, or be more confident in branching out into medal-collecting areas unknown?

An Initial Analysis of the WW2 Army Medal Cards

by Nick Tucker

The release of the WW2 Army Medal Cards (1,711,537 cards) has opened up a new avenue of medal-collecting research, and put WW2 medals in a different light. Admittedly, the release of the cards is not complete, with it being stated that some units' cards are largely missing. Frustrating, but how accurate is that? From my own analysis, a summary of which follows, I can see no pattern.

Collecting medals to my own family name I decided to download all those cards named to Tucker. There are cards to 900 different people (one had three cards; 12 had two cards; and three showed only the side of the card showing the person's application details), but 18 cards had no medals listed, bringing the number of those issued down to 882. The vast majority were issued between the years 1948-1951. However, there were a number of issues in the 1950's without the claimant's details being redacted: 1953 (4); 1954 (2); 1955 (4); 1956 (1); and 1957 (1). The latest dates of issue where the claimant's details were not redacted were: 1979 (1); 1987 (2); 1988 (1); and 1994 (1)

Of the 882 cards where medals were issued, 199 (22.56%) had the address details of the claimant (serviceman or next of kin) redacted (blanked out). This has clearly been done to protect the details of the claimant who might still be living. The earliest redacted card was dated 1948, and the date range for these cards by decade were: 1940s (24); 1950s (29); 1960s (27); 1970s (20); 1980s (58); 1990s (36); and

2000s (1). The latest dates found on claims were 1998 (5); 1999 (5); and 2008 (1).

I wondered whether it was possible to determine the percentage of cards released by gauging the issues against known quantities, being those who are listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) as having died during WW2, and those who were listed as prisoners of war. However, this provided conflicting figures: of the 97 Army fatal casualties recorded by the CWGC only 43 (44%) have a WW2 medal card; of the 67 recorded Army prisoners of war, 46 (68.7%) have a medal card. This difference could be explained by some casualties having no close next-of-kin, and/or the widows of those who had been married having moved on and re-married. Those who had been prisoners of war had mostly survived and therefore were able to submit their own claims. Explanation for the remaining shortfall in numbers could be either that the cards have not been released or that no claims were made.

Regarding those medals in my own collection, of the four who lost their lives only one has a card, with the claimant's details (next-of-kin) having been redacted. Of the four who had the Army Long Service & Good Conduct Medal, three have a medal card, although one has no medal entitlement shown, but the Medal Office indicated that they were issued. The one man without a card was a regular soldier who was still serving. Of the six

MEDALS **On His Majesty's Service**

(i) **OFFICERS** (except H.G.)
Add to partly printed address
If released or otherwise liable to
recall to Colours—
The War Office,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

If not liable to recall to
Colours:—
DROITWICH,
Worcestershire.

(ii) **OTHER RANKS** (and
ALL RANKS, H.G.)
Add to partly printed
address:—
The War Office,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

ARMY
(including A.T.S. and H.G.)

51-4074—MeC—

OFFICIAL PAID

The Under-Secretary of State for War,

APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF CAMPAIGN STARS AND MEDALS, Ex-Army Personnel (C.S. 20)

WRITE IN INK IN BLOCK CAPITALS

I desire Campaign Stars and Medals, as shown below, awarded to me (or to the late) **106485**

Number **4611129** Christian or First names **Keith Nelson** Surname of Officer, soldier or auxiliary **TUCKER**

Class of Release or Discharge and Date	Age and Service Group No.	Rank	Last Regiment or Corps according to cap badge worn (R.A. to state Branch; Home Guard to insert H.G. with County and Battalion number)

to be addressed to me as follows:—(State Rank, Title, Mr., Mrs. or Miss)

(Name) **Mrs K.N. Tucker,**

(Full Postal Address, with Post Town and County — or Postal District and Number — if appropriate) **79 Promenade Southport Lanes**

NOTE—YOUR STARS or MEDALS may not be issued for SEVERAL MONTHS

If you should change your permanent address before receiving them, send a postcard at once to War Office marked "Medals: New Address" and showing (i) the new address and (ii) No., name and last Regiment or Corps.

Signature of Applicant _____
If claiming as legatee or next-of-kin, state relationship to deceased _____

This Box for War Office Use Only

Strike out items which were NOT awarded

STARS

1939-45	PACIFIC	BURMA
ATLANTIC	ITALY	FRANCE & GERMANY
AIR-CREW		
EUROPE		
AFRICA		

MEDALS

DEFENCE WAR

Obverse and Reverse of Army medal cards to Keith Nelson Tucker

WW2 Medals Combinations - Numbers and percentages out of 882 issues

Total No.	Group	%Out of 882 issued medals
137	39-45, F&G, DM, WM	15.5
119	DM, WM	13.5
69	39-45, Bu, DM, WM	7.8
56	39-45, F&G, WM	6.3
48	39-45, Af (1st Army), It, DM, WM	5.4
45	WM	5.1
38	39-45, DM, WM	4.3
32	39-45, It, DM, WM	3.6
28	39-45, Af (8th Army). It, DM, WM	3.2
27	39-45, Af, It, DM, WM	3.1
26	39-45, WM	3.1
23	39-45, Af, DM, WM	2.6
16	39-45, Af, WM	1.8
	39-45, Af (1st Army), It, WM	1.8
	39-45, Af, It, F&G, DM, WM	1.8
15	39-45. Af (8th Army), DM, WM	1.7
13	F&G, DM, WM	1.5
10	39-45, Af (8th Army), It, WM	1.1
	39-45, Af (8th Army), It, F&G, WM	
	39-45, Af (8th Army), It, F&G, DM, WM	
	39-45, Bu, WM	
9	39-45, It, F&G, DM, WM	
8	39-45, It, WM	
7	39-45, Pac, WM	
6	39-45, Af, It, WM	
5	39-45, Af, F&G, DM, WM	
	39-45, Af (1st Army). It, F&G, DM, WM	
	39-45, Af, Bu, DM, WM	
	F&G, WM	
	DM	
4	39-45, Af (8th Army), WM	
	39-45, Af (1st Army), DM, WM	
	39-45, Af (1st Army), F&G, DM, WM	
	39-45, Af (8th Army), F&G, DM, WM	
	39-45, Af, It, F&G, WM	
3	39-45, Af (1st Army), WM	
	39-45, Af (1st Army), It, F&G, WM	
	39-45, Pac, DM, WM	
	39-45, It, F&G, WM	

Total No.	Group	%Out of 882 issued medals
	Af, WM	
	Bu, WM	
2	39-45, Bu, F&G, DM, WM	
	Af, DM, WM	
	It, DM, WM	
1	39-45, Af (8th Army), F&G, WM	
	39-45, Af (N.Africa), It, DM, WM (had served with the RAF)	
	39-45, Bu, F&G, WM	
	Af, It, DM, WM	
	Bu, DM, WM	
Maritime Artillery		
1	39-45, Atl, Af (N Africa), WM	
	39-45, Atl (F&G), Af, WM	
	39-45, Atl (F&G), Pac, WM	
	39-45, Atl, Pac (Bu), It, WM	
	39-45, Atl, Pac, DM, WM	
	39-45, Atl (F&G), It, WM	
	39-45, Atl, WM	

Percentage who served in which theatre:

North West Europe Campaign:	291	33.0%
African Theatre (incl. Malta, Greece, Crete):	276	31.3%
Italian Campaign (incl. Balkans, Dodecanese, Greece):	141	16.0%
UK (incl. service Gibraltar, West Africa, India):	119	13.5%
Burma Campaign:	92	10.4%
British Expeditionary Force (incl. Norway/Dieppe):	64	7.26%
UK only (less than 3 years)	50	5.57%
Far East (Malaya, Singapore, East Indies):	13	1.47%

Numbers and percentages listed by the CWGC:

No. who are commemorated:	97		In my collection:	4
No. with a medal card	43	44%		1
No. without a medal card:	54	56%		3

Numbers and percentages taken Prisoner of War:

No.	67		In my collection:	1
No. with a medal card	46	68.7%		1
German	34			1
Japanese	12			
No. without a medal card:	21	31.3%		
German	18			
Japanese	3			

Award Winners/Long Service Awards:

Award	Total	With Card	Without Card
Military Cross	5	4	1
Military Medal	4	3	1
British Empire Medal	5	4	1
Mention in Despatches	44	34	10
Army LSGC (GV)	6	5	1
Army LSGC (GVI)	17	7	10
Efficiency Medal (Territorial) (GV)	2	1	1
Efficiency Medal (Territorial) (GVI)	110	78	32
Efficiency Medal (Territorial) (EII)		9	
Efficiency Medal (Militia) (GVI)	7	4	3
In my collection (all categories)	21	13	8

Meurig Jones 1965-2026, OMRS Member # 3884

Born in Swaziland on 13th November 1965 where his father Huw was part of the Colonial Office, Meurig attended Sussex University for his History BA in African and Asian Studies and went on to achieve his MA at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at London University. With this background, he took a deeper interest in South African history and medal collecting joining the OMRS in November 1987. He worked closely with his father Huw M. Jones co-authoring "A Gazetteer of the Second Anglo Boer War" now highly regarded and a familiar text in its field and was a prolific contributor and member of the Victorian Military Society, South African Military History Society and our own OMRS, penning many expert articles for their respective journals. He was also a co-ordinator for the Anglo Boer War Memorial Project, creator of Casus-Belli.co.uk and regular contributor to the ABW and BMF Forums.



For many years Meurig was a member of the IT sub-committee of the OMRS and was very involved when web-hosting for the website had to change a couple of years ago. He was able to sort out many of the problem areas working alongside the designated IT contractor and was also involved with Tamplin Archive checking newly scanned documents on a test website to make sure the search facility worked before they were uploaded to the main website and, again, was able to easily sort out any problems encountered.

Being an expert data specialist, his ability to analyse and compile medal and casualty rolls was a particular speciality and combining with his academic background he had been recently working toward his PhD on Anglo-Boer war prisoners-of-war. He will also be remembered for his superb Convention presentations and was a prize-winner for his specialisms.

Professionally, Meurig latterly worked for American Express as an IT specialist and team leader, a role he excelled at and he was also a much valued committee member of the Sussex OMRS for many years; his natural affability and humour won him many friends and much respect in the collecting community. He was a reliable attendee at our Sussex Branch and regularly contributed themed talks – yes, mostly on QSA's – and always had interesting medals for our members own. He was awarded the Society's Meritorious Service Medal for services to research in 2021.

Meurig had been diagnosed with cancer just over three years ago and after successful treatment had a long period of remission. He dealt with his illness in a stoic, calm and quiet manner. Sadly his condition returned earlier this year and he passed away in Worthing Hospital on 27th February 2026. The Society's sympathies and condolences go to his wife Nicki and his three children Llewellyn, Lucy and Alice.

Roy Mills

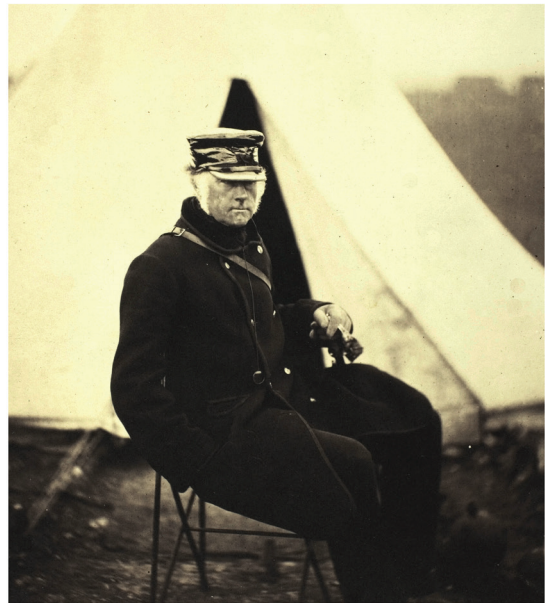
The Medals of the Guards Museum Part 1: General Sir William John Codrington GCB, Coldstream Guards (1804-1884)

by Giles Penman

The guards museum is dedicated to preserving the history of the five regiments of Foot Guards, the Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Irish and Welsh Guards. These regiments have a long and proud history of service to the sovereign as ceremonial and combat soldiers over nearly 400 years. As a Research Volunteer at the Guards Museum, my primary role is to research the military careers and lives of the officers and men whose medals reside in the Museum's collection. The single medals and groups from these Guards Regiments span the history of the British Army and its military campaigns. Consequently, they provide fascinating insights into British military history and the careers and lives of its service personnel. In this article, I discuss the medals, career and life of General William John Codrington, Coldstream Guards, a commander during the Crimean War.

William Codrington was born on 26 November 1804 to Captain (later Admiral Sir) Edward Codrington, future Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Fleet, and victor of the Battle of Navarino in 1827, and his wife Jane. William may have been expected to join the Royal Navy like his father. Indeed, both his brothers became naval officers. One brother Edward (1803-1819) served as a midshipman on the frigate *Cambrian* and drowned off the island of Hydra when sailing there on the ship's cutter.¹ Another brother was Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry John Codrington (1808-1877), a senior naval officer who was Admiral Superintendent of Malta Dockyard and Commander-in-Chief at Plymouth.²

William Codrington chose a career in the army. As it was common to purchase commissions at the time, he purchased ensigncy in 88th Foot on 22 February 1821 and another ensigncy in 43rd Foot in late 1822.³ Codrington entered the Coldstream Guards on 24 April 1823 by purchasing an ensigncy in the Guards and lieutenantcy in the Army on 24 April 1823.⁴ Codrington had two ranks because until 1871 all officers in the Foot Guards had the honour of holding two ranks, one higher in the Army than in the Guards due to the higher cost of purchasing ranks in the Foot



Lt. Gen. Sir William John Codrington
in the Crimea, 1855

(Public Domain; from the Art Institute of Chicago)

Guards. The dual rank system had originally created by King James II and reinstated by King William III and King George IV to ensure the loyalty of Guards officers and the Guards' history of bravery in battle.⁵ Codrington advanced to lieutenant (Guards) and captain (Army) on 20 July 1826.⁶ While in this rank, on 7 May 1836 he married Mary, second daughter of Levi Ames of Hyde, Hertfordshire, who became Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Victoria. Soon after his marriage, Codrington advanced to captain and lieutenant colonel on 8 July 1836.

Codrington served with the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards in Canada 1838-42 in response to an uprising by French Canadians. While Codrington and 2nd Battalion were in Canada, the battalion gained a curious regimental pet. A soldier of battalion on sentry duty saved a goose who befriended him and kept sentry duty alongside him and other soldiers. The men named the goose Jacob, and later he saved the garrison from French-Canadian raiders by raising the alarm. The officers of the battalion heard about the goose's bravery and rewarded

him by putting him on the strength of the battalion and awarding him an officer's gorget and good conduct ring. He returned to England with the battalion in 1842. Jacob continued to stand sentry duty in London with the battalion until his death in a road accident in 1846. The remains of Jacob the Goose are on display in the Guards Museum.⁷

Codrington remained in the Coldstream Guards and advanced to brevet colonel on 9 November 1846. He served with the Coldstream Guards in the Crimean War. Codrington embarked with the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards at Southampton for Malta on 22 February 1854 as part of the British Expeditionary Force under Lord Raglan. After a brief stay on Malta 1st Battalion reached Scutari on 29 April 1854. As an acting regimental major, Codrington subsequently landed with the Coldstream Guards at Varna on 13 June. Seven days later, Codrington promoted major-general and left the Coldstream Guards but remained in Bulgaria. When Brigadier-General Richard Airey succeeded Lord de Ros as Raglan's Quartermaster-General, on 1 September Codrington took over the 1st Brigade of the Light Division, comprising the 7th, 23rd, and 33rd Regiments of Foot.⁸

The combined British, French, and Turkish force landed on the Crimean Peninsula on 14 September. While he was short-sighted and wore glasses, six days later Codrington led his Brigade into battle at the Alma, where the Russians occupied high ground on the far bank astride the post road to Sevastopol. On the left of the allied line, the light division faced the dominant Kurgan Hill with two prominent redoubts, supported by infantry and field artillery. Having forded the river under heavy fire, on Codrington's order, 'Fix bayonets! Get up the bank and attack', the Brigade advanced uphill to capture the Great Redoubt and two of its fourteen guns left by the defeated enemy.⁹ A Russian counter-attack was then wrongly identified as French by an unknown staff officer and, overwhelmed, Codrington's three battalions fell back towards the river to reform and advance once more, as the Brigade of Guards from the 1st Division passed through them to retake the redoubt. The *Times's* correspondent William Howard Russell wrote:

The brunt of the action was borne by a brigade of the Light Division... they advanced against the strongest point of the enemy's works and over the most difficult ground.¹⁰

War correspondent Russell described the advance of the Light Division at Alma in enthralling detail,

The dense battalions, undeployed, were smitten, and as the Light Division advanced they rapidly fell back to the left, for the renewed fire of their batteries, leaving, however, many dead and wounded men. After a momentary delay, these gallant regiments, led by Sir George Brown and Brigadier Codrington, advanced up the slope which was swept by the guns of the battery; grape, round, and shell tore through their ranks, and the infantry on the flanks, advancing at an angle, poured in a steady fire from point-blank distance.

Russell singles out Codrington for his bravery in commanding the Brigade,

Codrington in the most gallant manner rode in advance of his brigade, and rode his horse right over and into the work, as if to show his men there was nothing to fear; for by this time the enemy, intimidated by the rapid, though tumultuous advance of the brigade, were falling away from the flanks of the battery, and were perceptibly wavering in their centre. The infantry behind the breastwork were retreating up the hill.¹¹

Raglan commended Codrington's initiative and courage at the Alma and noted, too, his 'admirable behaviour' during the battle of Inkerman on 5 November.¹² During this battle, Codrington visited outlying pickets in the pre-dawn mist and realised that an enemy attack was developing and spurred back to warn Divisional Headquarters. He remained with his brigade on Victoria Ridge throughout the ensuing action, engaging Russian troops in and across the critical Careenage Ravine.¹³ When Lieutenant-General Sir George Brown was wounded, as senior brigade commander Codrington took over the Light Division and retained its command until Brown returned to duty on 22 February 1855.¹⁴

News of Codrington's actions soon reached authorities in London, including through Russell's descriptive reports. Codrington received a vote of thanks from both Houses of Parliament in December 1854 and, on 19 January 1855, an award of £100 per annum 'for distinguished



The medals and awards of General Sir William John Codrington, Coldstream Guards displayed in the Guards Museum

service', backdated to 15 September 1854.¹⁵ Codrington attended the St David's Day dinner of the 23rd (Royal Welch Fusiliers) on 1 March 1855, during which Lieutenant-Colonel David Lysons toasted his health:

There was a grey horse ... at the Battle of Alma ... [which] carried an officer [Codrington] who, by his example and cheery voice, encouraged the men of the regiment in the moment of extreme danger.¹⁶

On 5 July 1855 Codrington was made a Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (KCB), being presented with the award in the field by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.¹⁷ On 30 July he became local Lieutenant-General (Lt. Gen.).¹⁸

Lt. Gen. Codrington continued to serve in the Crimea. Preceded by a three-day bombardment, on 8 September the British launched a major assault against Sevastopol, with the French attacking the Malakhov on the far right and the British the Redan to their immediate left, which meant crossing almost 300 yards of open ground. The plan, drawn up by Codrington and Major-General Frederick Markham commanding the 2nd Division, envisaged the first columns being quickly supported, but crossfire from undamaged enemy batteries prevented this, and the attack failed.¹⁹ However, as the French decisively took the Malakhov, that night the Russians evacuated the southern part of Sevastopol in

front of the allied lines. After Lord Raglan's death in June 1855, General Sir James Simpson assumed command of the army, but resigned four months later.²⁰ Codrington took his place as Commander-in-Chief on 11 November, still only a substantive major-general but promoted local General on 29 October 1855.²¹ Captain Temple Godman of the 5th Dragoon Guards wrote:

Most people speak well of him, I have heard he is very active' and that he had been 'not to blame ... for the unfortunate affair at the Redan.'²²

Shortly after taking command, Codrington ruled that all war correspondents thought likely to aid the enemy by publishing sensitive military information should leave the Crimea.²³ This is thought to be the first recorded deployment of military censorship.²⁴ An armistice at the end of February effectively ended the fighting, and on 24 March Codrington invited Russian officers to a celebratory race meeting near the Chernaya River.²⁵ He left the Peninsula on 12 July 1856, having received another parliamentary vote of thanks and been promoted lieutenant-general on 6 June 1856.²⁶ Before he sailed, he also received the thanks of the Tartars of the Baidar valley for the protection given to them by the British troops.²⁷ Despite serving throughout the war and being frequently in action, Codrington had neither been wounded nor suffered serious illness.

For his service in the Crimean campaign, Codrington received the Crimea Medal with clasps 'ALMA,' 'INKERMAN' and 'SEVASTOPOL' and a knighthood from Great Britain. He also received awards from Britain's Allies, in each case 'as a mark of His Majesty's approbation of their distinguished services before the Enemy during the late War.' The Empire of France awarded Codrington with the *Médaille Militaire* and appointed him a Commander (Third class) of the *Légion d'Honneur*, the King of Sardinia awarded Codrington with the Knight Grand Cross of the Military Order of Savoy, and the Ottoman Empire awarded Codrington the Turkish Crimea War Medal and made him a member of the Order (First class) of the Mejdidiye.²⁸ The Breast Stars, neck badges and sashes of these Orders Codrington's service medals are displayed in a wall-mounted display case in the Guards Museum.

On his return to England, Codrington became Colonel of the 54th foot on 11 August 1856 and Liberal MP for Greenwich in 1857. He supported Palmerston's foreign policy, moderate reform, and civil and religious liberty, but opposed the secret ballot. He was Governor and Commander-in-Chief at Gibraltar from May 1859.²⁹ During his tenure, Codrington received further military appointments and promotions and awards. He became Colonel of the 23rd Foot on 27 December 1860, one of the regiments he had commanded as commander of the Light Division. He was promoted to general on 27 July 1863 and made Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (GCB) on 28 March 1865.³⁰ Codrington's GCB Breast Star, Neck Badge and Sash are displayed in the cabinet beside his other medals. Codrington relinquished his position as Governor in November 1865.

Codrington was appointed Colonel of the Coldstream Guards on 16 March 1875.³¹ He reputedly twice refused the rank of Field Marshal because, according to him, he had only fought in one campaign.³²

Codrington unsuccessfully contested parliamentary elections at Westminster in 1874 and Lewes in 1880, and for many years he was an active member of the Metropolitan Board of Works.

As a former Governor of Gibraltar, he was twice drawn into controversy over its future. Writing to *The Times* on 3 February 1869, he

deplored a proposal to exchange Gibraltar for Spanish-held Ceuta. To surrender it in this way would imperil other isolated parts of the empire such as Malta, Singapore, and Hong Kong, as well as the Channel Islands. Resurrection of the idea in 1882 caused re-publication of the letter, with a covering note from Codrington, as the article 'Gibraltar and Ceuta' in an anonymously edited collection of papers, Egypt, Tunis etc, 1881–1883.

Codrington died at Danmore Cottage, Heckfield, near Winchfield, in Hampshire, during the afternoon of 6 August 1884. Of his children, only Alfred Edward, then a brevet major in the Coldstream Guards, and Mary, widow of Major-General William Earle, survived him. Codrington was buried with full military honours at Woking on 9 August.

General Sir William John Codrington GCB had a long and illustrious military career in the Coldstream Guards and in high command during the Crimean War. As a volunteer at the Guards Museum, I encourage readers to visit the Museum and explore Britain's military history through its fascinating collection of medals and military artefacts.

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Notes

¹ O'Byrne (1849) pp.207-8

² O'Byrne (1849) pp.208-9

³ *London Gazette* 23 November 1822 p.1916

⁴ *London Gazette* 3 May 1823 p.706

⁵ Springman (2009) p.28

⁶ *London Gazette* 1 August 1826 p.1893

⁷ Perreira & Zubova (2022)

⁸ Springman (2009) p. 28

⁹ Ross-of-Bladensburg & Wilkinson (1896) p.171

¹⁰ Russell (1877) p.109

¹¹ Russell (1877) p.112-3

¹² Cary & McCance (1923) pp.84-5

¹³ Ross-of-Bladensburg & Wilkinson (1896) p.214

¹⁴ Springman (2009) p.28

¹⁵ House of Lords Deb 15 Dec 1854, vol 136, col 324-5

¹⁶ Cary & McCance (1923) p.90

¹⁷ *London Gazette* 10 July 1855 p.2654

¹⁸ *London Gazette* 31 July 1855 p. 2913

¹⁹ Springman (2009) pp.223-4

²⁰ Springman (2009) p.245

²¹ *London Gazette* 29 October 1855 p.4185

²² Godman & Warner (1977) p.189

²³ Gillum (2023)

²⁴ Knightley (1976) p.16

²⁵ Sweetman (2004)

²⁶ *London Gazette* 6 June 1856 p.2013

²⁷ Sweetman (2004)

²⁸ Knight Grand Cross of the Military Order of Savoy *Edinburgh Gazette* 15 August 1856; the Order (First class) of the Mejidiye *London Gazette* 2 March 1858

²⁹ MP Greenwich: *London Gazette* 13 February 1857 p.499; Governor of Gibraltar: *London Gazette* 6 May 1859 p.1866

³⁰ Colonel 23rd Regiment: *London Gazette* 15 January 1861 p.161; promotion to General: *London Gazette* 11 August 1863 p.3997; GCB: *London Gazette* 28 March 1865 p.1730

³¹ *London Gazette* 2 April 1875 p.1942

³² Springman (2009) 29

Updates to the Tamplin Archive

Members may be interested to know that a new data release has been made of the Tamplin Archive in the Research Library on omrs.org, relating to Africa. An additional 9 countries have been added, as have the regulations for the Royal West African Frontier Force, and there is also new material for each of the 11 countries already available. Members will be able to search for recipients of the MSM and long service awards to the Prison, Fire Service, Cadet Forces and Special Constabulary, browse national gazettes and discover those issued with Coronation Medals.

Work is ongoing to test the next tranche of data and members will be notified of its release via the Journal.

The face of a raised date QSA recipient: A.W. O'Brien, Lord Strathcona's Horse

by Robert Clay

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words, well, I found two pictures! What follows is a follow-up to my article in the Journal, March 2024, about Arthur William O'Briens raised dates QSA medal to Lord Strathcona's Horse. We often read that research never stops and this is a case in point.

Arthur had worked as a clerk for the Bank of Montreal (BMO) whose president was the founder of the regiment, Lord Strathcona. A few taps on the keyboard brought me to the BMO's heritage website which went on to reveal that they had digitised their archives.

As a result, I was able to locate two photographs of A.W. O'Brien with what looked like some years in-between, but were they the same person? I contacted the associate archivist of the BMO Corporate Archives who confirmed that they were of the same man and a copy of his Ledger Book entry was also available which she could forward to me with permission.

It will be of interest to Canadian collectors that the BMO has digitised photographs and Ledgers of its employees between the 1880s and the 1920s available to view on their heritage website.

The Ledger entry for Mr. O'Brien confirmed my previous research; he had left Bedford Grammar school at the end of the Spring



A. W. O'BRIEN.

BORN, 10th Aug., 1874.

ENTERED SERVICE, 1st July, 1891.

Earlier photograph of A.W. O'Brien
(Courtesy of the BMO Corporate Archives)

Term of 1891 joining the Bank at Calgary on 1 July of the same year when the first photograph was probably taken.

His uncle Arthur Douglas Braithwaite was the manager of that bank. He had established the bank in Calgary in 1866 when he acquired the lot of land that the bank was to be built upon and oversaw the construction of the same by 1880. As an aside, in 1919 Mary Hendrie Braithwaite, his daughter & Arthur O'Brien's widowed cousin, married Tom Thornley McGillycuddy Stoker, the grandson of the author, 'Bram' (Abraham) Stoker. It just goes to show what can turn up with research!

Arthur would have been 17 years of age the following month and a security of \$2,000 had been pledged for his position at the bank. The Ledger goes on to show he worked for the next eight years on the western side of Canada in Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria before moving to the



**The naming on Arthur O'Brien's
Queen's South Africa Medal**



Later photograph of A.W. O'Brien
(Courtesy of the BMO Corporate Archives)

rural Greenwood branch in the October of 1899, at the start of the Second Boer War.

It cannot have been a coincidence that he left the Metropolitan area of Victoria for the rural Greenwood branch, the catchment area of the regiment. He must have known he would

be selected. A bank clerk was not the typical recruit for the regiment, 'frontiers men' being the preferred choice.

Arthur received an extended leave of absence from the bank to fight in the South African War with Lord Strathcona's Horse from February 1900 until March 1901, after which he rejoined the bank in Montreal. There are entries in the Ledger regarding his return to the bank this time in Montreal on the eastern side of Canada, probably when the second photograph was taken and where he remained until May 1902.

From 17 January 1903 he was listed on 'Sick Leave' and at some point, he had moved back west to Edmonton where according to the Death Certificate he spent the last three months of his life in Edmonton Hospital where he died on the 28 July 1903 of pleurisy. His Death Certificate gave the cause of death as Phthisis, pulmonary tuberculosis or a similar wasting disease.

Arthur was buried in All Saints Cemetery, Edmonton the following day, 29 July 1903 attended by 20 members of the regiment. His grave is now remembered each year with a poppy, as part of Canada's *No Stone Left Alone* programme.

I would like to thank the Archivist of the BMO for her help in putting this article together.

AN UNPRECEDENTED LOOK AT PORTUGAL'S ANCIENT INSIGNIA

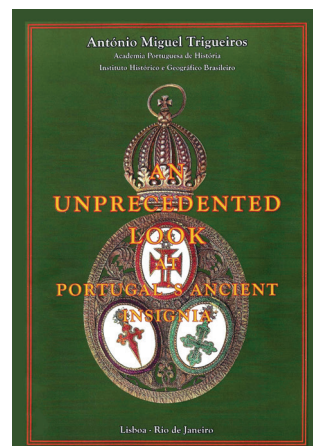
By António Miguel Trigueiros

This book has been brought to the attention of the OMRS.

Published in Portuguese, English and French it sheds light on the oldest known Portuguese insignia of the Military Orders of Christ, Avis, Santiago da Espada as well as the Order of Malta, the Royal Order of the Tower and Sword and the Royal Order of the Ladies of Saint Elizabeth and the author examines the customs and traditions of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries.

For further information go to www.estudosdenumismatica.org.

The author is offering OMRS members a 20% discount on the published price.



The 'AFGHANISTAN N.W.F. 1919' clasp to the IGSM 1908-35 as awarded to the Machine Gun Corps: Part 4 More 'Momagus'

by M.D. Cassell

This is the fourth and final part of a series of articles looking at the issue of the India General Service Medal 1908-35 (IGSM) with the clasp 'AFGHANISTAN N.W.F. 1919' to men of the Machine Gun Corps.

Perhaps the most unusual vehicles to serve during the Third Afghan War were the 5/6 horsepower Clyno motorcycle sidecar outfits of the Motors branch of the Machine Gun Corps. Originally comprising 25 Batteries, Motor Machine Gun (MMG) units, or 'Momagus' as they were known, had proved of limited use on the Western Front (though this would change in 1918) and, in 1916, six batteries were disbanded and their personnel used to form the core of the Heavy Branch of the MGC. In the sands of Mesopotamia and the Middle East they proved to be useless. One commanding officer (Captain E.L.E. Paine of 17 MMG Battery) was so depressed by the poor performance of his motorcycles in Egypt that he took his own life.

Nonetheless, Colonel J.W.D.S. Montagu, 2nd Baron Montagu of Beaulieu (later KCIE, CSI), in his late 1917 report on armoured motor units in India, recommended to the Government of India that the one MMG battery then in India, the 22nd (it had been sent out in 1916 directly to India) could be useful in frontier operations and that MMG Batteries should be added to each of the Armoured Motor Brigades. The War Office agreed, and 3rd, 14th, 15th and 19th Batteries then languishing in France were dispatched to India in January 1918.

The service of the five MMG Batteries during their two year stint in India was mixed. The sidecar outfits of 14th Battery were used on internal security duties in Bombay (Mumbai),

Jubbulpore (Jabalpor) and elsewhere though virtually nothing is known about the activities of this unit and it is unlikely their machine guns were ever fired in action. Nonetheless, service in India could be hazardous and four men of the battery died in India, two by drowning. All are commemorated on the Kirkee Memorial. The rolls do not show the award of the IGSM to any man of 14th Battery.

For the men of 22nd Battery, who had been in India since 1916, the Third Afghan War provided considerable excitement, including the rescue of a downed pilot in the Kurram Valley, and escorting the Viceroy on his visit to the frontier. Extensive details of the activities of 22nd Battery, including a roll of personnel, can be found in *Action at Badama Post* by Paul Macro whose grandfather served in 22nd Battery and was mentioned in dispatches (MID, *London Gazette* 3 August 1920). A Dundee man, 1239 Gunner Alexander Carmicheal, was awarded the Military Medal (LG 15 January 1920, also MID LG 3 August 1920) though the reason behind the award has remained elusive.



The medals of Gunner G.S. Richards of 3rd MMG Battery

Very little information regarding the activities of 3rd MMG Battery during the Third Afghan War appears to be available, even in the records of higher formations, though it would seem the battery spent its time at Kohat. Even the diary of 2524 Gunner G. S. Richards of 3rd Battery, whose medals (see illustration) and diary have survived, is sparse on details. Typical entries read: '31st May left Ambala for Afghanistan. Arrived Kohat – terrible show. Cholera bad. No rations.' and '23rd June returned Ambala – thank goodness. Lloyd died at Lahore on way back.'

757 Gunner Albert Alfred Lloyd died of heat-stroke at Lahore on 23 June 1919. His family did not receive the IGSM to which he was entitled but did receive his 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory Medals. Two officers (Lieutenants Keith Alfred Knight and Harold Corson) and 33 men of 3rd MMG Battery did receive the IGSM with clasp 'AFGHANISTAN N.W.F. 1919'.

The officers and men of 15th MMG Battery were stationed at Peshawar where they and their motorcycles were attached to the armoured cars of 1st (HQ) Armoured Motor Brigade. Most of their time in India, including the period of the Third Afghan War, was spent patrolling the eastern section of the Khyber Pass, occasionally coming into action. Two officers (Captain C.O.D. Anderson and Lieutenant Arthur Parr) and 76 men of 15th MMG Battery are listed on the rolls as receiving the IGSM with clasp.

Twenty-seven men of the Machine Gun Corps lost their lives in India between the start of the Third Afghan War and the end of 1919. Of these, only three were killed in action, the remainder dying of malaria, other diseases, and accidents. Two men, Privates Bailey and Hammond, were killed in action with 15th Squadron at Dakka (see author's previous article), while the other man, 2093 Corporal John Tydwal Roberts, was serving with 15th MMG Battery when he was killed by a sniper near the eastern entrance to the Khyber Pass on 2 June 1919. Though details are sparse, it would appear that a section of 15th Battery was accompanying a patrol of armoured cars of 3rd Armoured Motor Battery sent out from Peshawar.

Corporal Roberts' British War Medal (2093 CPL. J.T. ROBERTS M.M.G.S.-R.A.) and Bronze Memorial Plaque (JOHN TYDWAL ROBERTS) are illustrated. His family also received the 1914-15 Star, Victory Medal and an IGSM with clasp 'AFGHANISTAN N.W.F. 1919'. Corporal Roberts is commemorated on the Delhi Memorial though the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register erroneously lists him as a Private in 15th Squadron, MGC.

With a motorcycle in Baluchistan

In May 1919, 19th Motor Machine Gun Battery was stationed at Quetta, Baluchistan, and had been in India for some fifteen months when the Afghan War broke out. Formed at Grantham in November 1915, 19th Battery had gone to France on 6 February 1916 and saw some action in the Somme battles of 1916 and during the Third Battle of Ypres but was sent out to India in early 1918 and posted to Quetta, mainly patrolling the Bolan and Khojak Passes (see illustration). Other than accompanying the 1918 Marri expedition the battery's time in India had been relatively uneventful, though one man of 19th Battery, 1233 Gunner W.S. Collins, received the Meritorious Service Medal for valuable services in India



The British War Medal and Memorial Plaque given to the family of Corporal J.T. Roberts of 15th MMG Battery. His family also received the IGSM which is known to exist still.

(LG 3 September 1920, with the award dated 3 June 1919).

In early May, 1919, the battery was joined by two officers with actual combat experience: Lieutenants A.M. Ketley and G.T. Turner. Ketley had seen extensive service with 8th Light Armoured Motor Battery in Mesopotamia and was on his way back to the United Kingdom when he was assigned to 19th Battery. Turner had served in Mesopotamia with 16th Squadron, MGC (Cavalry), and had been mentioned in despatches (LG 5 June 1919). Like Ketley he was on his way back to the UK before being posted to the battery.

The western fringes of the arid Great Indian Desert somewhat isolate Baluchistan from the rest of the Indian sub-continent and in 1919 the main communication between the two areas was the railway that ran from the Indus River, through the Bolan Pass to Quetta, and then on through the Khojak Pass to New Chaman on the Afghan border (see map).

The only really practicable invasion route for Afghan forces (though there is no indication they intended to invade in 1919) was the traditional one across the plain that extends



Sketch map of northern Baluchistan and the southern Zhob Valley adapted from the *Official Account*. Many names have changed since the partition of India and Pakistan.

between Kandahar and New Chaman. Yet, any Afghan offensive would then have had to negotiate the rugged mountain range between New Chaman and Quetta, which the *Official Account* described as 'a fine defensive position against an attack from the west'. Should the Khojak Pass have been forced, the Afghans would have then been faced with the main British positions east of the mountains, and



The Clyno motorcycle sidecars and personnel of 19th MMG Battery in the Bolan Pass in November 1918

these could be easily reinforced by the railway. However, the various Baluch tribes in the area were potentially a greater problem.

On 16 June 1919, orders were issued to 19th Battery to proceed from Quetta to Kila Abdulla where they would patrol the road between the villages of Shelabagh and Sayid Hamid. On 23 June, the battery was ordered to extend its patrols as raiding was anticipated and did, in fact, occur in the area: on 6 July a cavalry patrol was ambushed near Shelabagh and a nearby railway station was burnt on 13 July. The battery, however, appears not to have been in action during late June and July though this was to change towards the end of July when it was ordered to Hindubagh.

Hindubagh (now in Pakistan and, not surprisingly, known as Moslembagh) is a small town about sixty miles north-east of Quetta. In 1919, it was of some importance as it was where the road to Fort Sandeman (in the dangerous Zhob region) began and a narrow-gauge railway connecting with the broad gauge railway to Quetta ended. Consequently, a company of infantry was permanently posted there. In late June, Baluchistan Force received intelligence that a tribal *lashkar* was moving on Kila Saifulla, Pishin, and Hindubagh. Reinforcements of Indian infantry were dispatched to Hindubagh with orders to wire and sandbag the stations along the narrow

gauge railway. In early July, Hindubagh was reinforced again by Indian cavalry and more infantry when a report of tribesmen moving on the town was received. Despite this increase in strength, by the second week of July, tribesmen had occupied two villages just a few miles north and west of Hindubagh.

On 22 July, a party of the Jind Infantry and some Indian cavalry was suddenly attacked by about 300 tribesmen. The Jind Infantry panicked and only got back to Hindubagh through the efforts of the cavalry. Three officers and twelve men were killed. By the evening, tribesmen had burnt the railway station at Hindubagh and absconded with some camels and ponies. Uncertain about the situation in the area, Baluchistan Force issued orders for a company of Indian infantry and two sections of 19th Battery to be sent up from Pishin. Because of heavy thunderstorms and flooding in the area, and damage to several bridges, the sections did not arrive until 26 July.

On 28 July, the local commander, Lieutenant Colonel H.G. McRae, now decided to move up to Hindubagh and secure the area. He brought with him four Austin armoured cars of No.11 Armoured Motor Battery under Lieutenant Lewis Herbert Stanforth which had been up near the Afghan border as part of a concentration of troops being prepared in case hostilities resumed. About seven miles out

of Hindubagh on the Pishin-Hindubagh Road, a group of tribesmen attacked the armoured cars believing them to be transport lorries. The machine guns opened fire on the tribesmen and quickly dispersed them causing over thirty casualties. For this action, 163533 Battery Staff Sergeant T.E. Vickers was awarded the Military Medal (LG 26 May 1920) and was mentioned in General Monro's despatch, along with 163366 Sergeant H. Reid, 163575 Gunner F.J. Hill, and Lt Stanforth (LG 3 August 1920). Only the MIC card of Gunner Hill indicates the issue of an oakleaf emblem, and Lt Stanforth did not claim



The IGSM issued to Acting Corporal S. Gilbert, and a photograph of the Pishin-Hindubagh road. The caption to the original photograph reads 'Hindubagh Road. Austin cars ambushed here. August (sic)1919'

his IGSM. Thirty-one NCOs and gunners of No. 11 AMB received the IGSM with clasp 'AFGHANISTAN N.W.F. 1919' (see illustration of the medal given to 163563 Acting Corporal Sidney Gilbert of N0.11 AMB).

On arriving at Hindubagh, Lt Col McRae found that two squadrons of Indian cavalry were attacking Karezgi fort and the sections of 19th Battery were in action to the north of Hindubagh. McRae thought these actions were ill-conceived and immediately called them off. On 29 July, troops moved unopposed into Karezgi fort which was occupied by a small garrison. This was the end of the threat to Hindubagh and though bodies of tribesmen were observed moving through the area during August and September there was no further action. The armoured cars of No.11 AMB patrolled the Hindubagh-Fort Sandeman road for the rest of the summer but were not to fire their guns in anger again. The sections of 19th Battery returned to Quetta where the unit was disbanded on 1 February 1920.

Though a very minor operation, it is noteworthy that none of the original unit officers (Lieutenants F.G. Squire and W.L. Allnatt, and Acting Captain W. B Ehrlebach) appear to have left Quetta and hence did not qualify for the IGSM. It was the newcomers, Lts Ketley and Turner, who took the battery into action and qualified for the medal and clasp. Only 19 NCOs and men of 19th Battery (roughly a quarter of its actual strength at the time) are listed on the rolls as receiving the medal and clasp.

Lt Ketley's Royal Mint, fixed suspender issue IGSM (LIEUT. A.M. KETLEY M.G.CPS.) and Lt Turner's group, comprising the 1914-15 Star (1749 PTE. G.T. TURNER R.E. KENT YEO.), British War Medal and Victory Medal with oakleaves (LIEUT. G.T. TURNER), IGSM with clasp 'AFGHANISTAN NWF 1919' (LIEUT. G.T. TURNER M.G.C.), are illustrated.



Lt A.M. Ketley with feline friend, taken while serving with 8th Light Armoured Motor Battery, and his IGSM

Austyn Maxwell Ketley was born in Epsom in 1894 and joined the Royal Naval Air Service as a Petty Officer Mechanic in January 1915, his profession being electrician. He was commissioned into the Motor Machine Gun Service on 19 October 1915. Posted to 8th Light Armoured Battery in France, he accompanied that battery to Mesopotamia in 1917. Austyn Ketley died in 1983.

Geoffrey Thomas Turner was born in Folkestone in 1895 and attested for the Royal East Kent Yeomanry on 31 August 1914. After serving at Gallipoli, where he was wounded, he was commissioned into the MGC (Cavalry) on 28 March 1917 and sent to Mesopotamia being posted to 16th Squadron. Lt Turner left Mesopotamia on 20 March 1919 for the United Kingdom via India but on 17 May he was posted to 19th Motor Machine Gun Battery and served with it until 22 August 1919 when he went to Deolali for demobilization. Turner left India on 17 September 1919 and relinquished his commission on 15 October 1919. He died in 1976.

It is hoped this brief article gives an indication that an IGSM awarded to soldiers who served in MGC (Motors) in the Third Afghan War (18 officers and 310 men are listed on the medal rolls) reflects not only the first widespread use of armoured motorized units in



Contemporary hand-coloured portrait of Lt G.T. Turner, with his medal group

India but also the difficulties of maintaining such units far distant from the source of their vehicles and the interminable problems caused by a climate generally hostile to anything not driven by animals or steam. Though the five batteries of 'Momagus' were all gone from India by mid-1920 and the Clyno outfits sold off locally, armoured cars continued to be used on the North West Frontier up until Indian independence in 1947.

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William Robert Bough: a post-script

by John Sly

In the OMRS Journal volume 53 [2014] No 2 pp 293-8 I wrote about William Robert Bough, whose medal group I had been able to re-unite with the help of a fellow OMRS member. The details of the way in which the group was re-united were related in the original article, but in essence the following summarises the situation. I bought William Bough's India Medal 1895-1902 clasps 'PUNJAB FRONTIER 1897-98', 'TIRAH 1897-98' and his Africa General Service Medal 1899-1902 clasp 'SOMALILAND 1902-04' at a Spink auction in July 2012. During my research I discovered that Bough had also been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (GV) and a 1914-15 Star trio. I got in touch with my contacts who I knew collected Yorkshire Regiment medals and almost incredibly one of them had Bough's DCM and trio. As a huge favour to me he agreed to sell the medals to me so that I could put the group back together.

The original article ended with Bough's discharge from the Army after the Great War, as at that time I could not find anything further about him. He never married, and it seemed impossible to discover how his life ended. Since then I have been trying to bring his career to a conclusion. My efforts were in vain until very recently when, by chance, while researching a different soldier, I came across Bough's entry in the 1939 Register.

Bough was born in Rhosnesni, Wrexham, in December 1873, and as a young man lived in Denbighshire and the West Midlands, particularly Worcester. He attested in 1895, served in the Tirah campaign in 1897 and in Somaliland in 1903, and was discharged to the Reserve in 1904. He did not appear in the 1911 census; although this is relatively unimportant in terms of his career, finding him would have helped to pin him down more closely than the address he gave on discharge, which was simply 'GPO Worcester'. There is no doubt that he received his campaign medals before his discharge from the Reserve in 1907, and very probably even before he left the Colours.

His career during the Great War was detailed in the original article. Like many veterans of his generation he volunteered for service early in the

war; he was forty-one on enlistment, and forty-four when he was awarded his DCM. I could find nothing more about him after his discharge in October 1919, when he gave his sister's address in Birmingham as a contact point. Bough himself would almost certainly have received his DCM and Trio personally, at least, there is nothing on his Medal Index Card to indicate any problem or difficulty in transmitting them to him. Assuming that he was still in possession of his pre-war campaign medals, his group should have been complete at this point.

I wrote in the original article: '*...I have no idea how his medals became separated, assuming that they were not split by a collector or dealer who did not believe that the group belonged together.*' However, on reflection, this might well have been the reason, as the service numbers differed, and because his AGS was named, ambiguously, to 'R. BOUGH'. Before the research data that we rely on today became available - relatively recently - anyone who came across the complete group could be forgiven for not recognising that these medals all belonged to the same person.

I had been looking for Bough in the 1939 Register assuming that he lived in the area where he was born or worked before the Great War, i.e. the Wrexham and Worcester areas, or in the West Midlands generally, particularly Birmingham. I was therefore very surprised to discover, while researching another soldier, that William Robert Bough turned up in Surrey, at 3 Water Lane, Kingston-upon-Thames. There is no doubt that this is the right man as his birth date in the 1939 Register corresponds exactly with his birth certificate. He was described as a 'builder's labourer', and he was living with (or under the same roof as) George J Rogerson, described in the Register as an 'Old Age Pensioner', who was eight years older than Bough. It is, of course, possible that they had been acquainted for many years, but there is no evidence for this assumption or for any other relationship they might have shared. Perhaps more probably they had been thrown together because of circumstances, and Bough was simply renting a room from the older man (or vice versa).

Having traced Bough in Surrey I looked for a death in that area and a very probable entry turned up: William Robert Bough died on 26 December 1946 of valvular disease of the heart in Brookwood Hospital, Knaphill, Woking. He was described as a seventy-two year old man of no occupation of 3 Water Lane, Kingston-on-Thames. The informant was the medical officer of Brookwood Hospital.

One of the phenomena that I find endlessly fascinating is how veterans like Bough regarded themselves when their military career came to an end, and how they fitted into civil society again. This decorated and experienced soldier, who had served in India, Africa, Gallipoli, France and Belgium, was virtually anonymous when he died. He had seen more of the world than the vast majority of his fellow citizens, although that would have changed for many of them during the Second World War. There was no family to mourn him, no-one to benefit from his estate (no record of probate), no-one to write the obituary to give him the credit that he deserved. He had put his life on the line for his country on many occasions (probably almost every day in Gallipoli and on the Western Front), and there was no-one to put the details of his career on record.

As there was no estate to go to probate, which might have given an indication of where the

medals went, their fate is impossible to determine. What I found interesting was that the six medals turned up in two discrete, and militarily acceptable, packages. The Great War medals could be researched and confirmed independently as they all bore the same service number, and the same could be said for the two campaign medals. Surely this was not a pure accident. Either they were separated before Bough's death, possibly by him selling or pawning them, or they were separated afterwards, which takes us back to the possibility that the group was split by a dealer or a collector, probably (?) in good faith for the reasons already discussed.

British governments have never taken enough care of their veterans at any period of modern history. If Bough had no occupation when he died, how did he support himself? Did he have an old age pension? Did he have a pension from his Army service? Had he saved enough money to keep himself when he stopped earning? Questions like these are almost impossible to resolve now, as any paper trail that might once have existed is hardly likely to have survived. How many more veterans of the Victorian army or of the Great War found themselves in the same position as William Robert Bough in their old age?

Obituary of Stanley William Frederick MARTIN, CVO, OBE; one of our long-standing and distinguished members:

Stanley Martin was born on 9 December 1934 and died on 6 April 2026. He joined the OMRS early 1971 (Membership No. 1007) and received his 50-year Badge during 2007.

He contributed to the OMRS Journal on a range of topics relating to Orders, Decorations and Medals, and titles. Of special interest to him was the Order of Merit, the Order of the Companions of Honour, the Royal Victorian Chain, and survivors of the Indian Imperial Orders. He was a co-author of *Royal Service* vol 1 (1996), contributing a chapter on the Royal Victorian Chain, on which he was the acknowledged authority.

He spent years researching the members of the Order of Merit which culminated in his highly acclaimed history *The Order of Merit: One Hundred Years of Matchless Honour*, J R Tauris & Co., London 2007, 647pp.

Stanley was appointed LVO in 1981, promoted to CVO in 1992 and was appointed an OBE in the New Year Honours 2021 (announced on 31 December 2020) "For services to British diplomacy".

Phillip O'Shea, CNZM, CVO
New Zealand Herald of Arms Extraordinary

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7933 Martin Shoebottom is looking to recover the following family medals -1697 corporal V T Hebditch 2nd Btn Yorks/Lancs Egypt 1882 clasp Tel el Kebir, 80382 sapper F. Hebditch Durham Light Infantry WW1 medals + silver war badge B260944.

Please email martin.shoebottom@btinternet.com

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8731 Huw Davies is looking to purchase Egypt 1882-6 medals to Royal Highlanders & all Egypt Medals with Clasp for Kirbekan. Special interest in 5 Clasp Medals

Please email safiradaviesh@gmail.com

8731 Huw Davies is looking to locate & purchase the following to complete groups. LSGC 1315 Arthur Carter 19th Hussars. South Africa Medal clasp 1878-9. 80th Foot. Pte Benjamin Hughes

Please email safiradaviesh@gmail.com

8673 Lochlan Kirkwood is looking to purchase a Latvian order of the three stars miniature dress medal, single or part of a group, in any condition.

Please email Lochlan.kirkwood@outlook.com

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Steven Trigger

The OMRS committee would like to welcome the following new members

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8747	David Fahey, New South Wales, Australia

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TOKAR 1891: The Men and Their Medals

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Paperback: 234mm x 156mm, 194 pages. Images: 41 b/w photos, 37 colour photographs, 5 drawings, 1 map. Cost if ordered via the OMRS website is £23.96 inc P&P to UK.

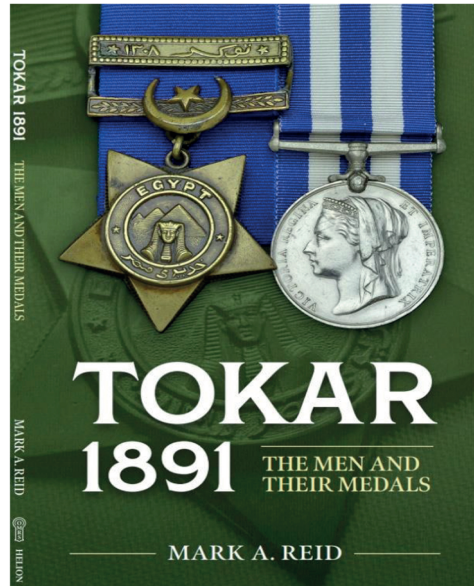
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The Battle of Tokar marked the first occasion that Egypt, with British assistance, defeated the forces of the Mahdi and recaptured parts of the Sudan previously lost. It was also the start of the reconquest of the Sudan that, under Kitchener of Khartoum, culminated at Omdurman in 1898. This book provides a clear overview of the battle as well as placing it in its historical context but, as the title states, there is a focus on the men involved.

There are biographies of the nearly 200 British participants as well as of some Egyptian officers and Sudanese leaders. In addition, there are chapters on the medals awarded, particularly the story behind the Khedive's Star and its rare 'TOKAR' clasp. Medal collectors will also find information on medal naming, distribution, etc that cannot be found published elsewhere. Appendices on the Order of Battle, Honours & Awards, a Casualty Roll, Medal Rolls, etc combine to provide a concise account of the action and particularly the men who fought on both sides.



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