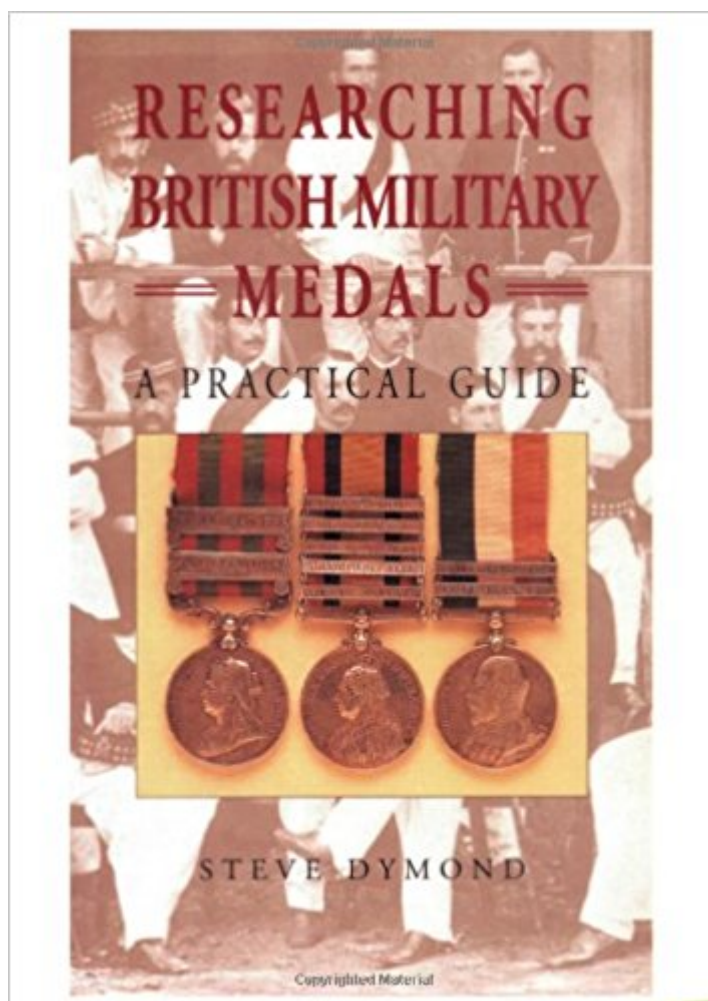


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Researching British Military Medals: A Practical Guide



Synopsis

Medals are attractive and interesting to collect in their own right, but can also offer a remarkable amount of information about the military career, eventual fate, and even the physical appearance of the men who won them on the battlefields of the last 200 years. Here, Steve Dymond leads you every step of the way towards discovering more about the recipient of the medal, using a number of readily accessible archive sources. The advice here will help anyone researching family trees, as well as medal collectors. Above all, the author demonstrates the thrill of learning more about the past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Steve Dymond is a member of the Orders and Medals Research Society. He served with the Royal Corps of Signals and the Intelligence Corps, and subsequently the Metropolitan Police.

This book is a useful guide about tracing members of the British Armed Services and gives a great deal of valuable advice. The writing is clear and the chapters well organized. Examples are well explained and illustrated. This is a must for anyone attempting to navigate the world of British military records.

Print is so small for me. But book seems okay other wise. Delivered as estimated

Books on medal collecting tend to focus on the medals themselves - the criteria for their award, numbers issued, and the physical characteristics of the medal itself. This book is entirely different. Its focus is on the records behind the medals. It was a tradition in the British military to inscribe medals awarded to soldiers with their name, regiment, and often service numbers. This means that these baubles of cloth and metal are not mere keepsakes, but actual links to an individual's past. Medal collectors, military historians, and genealogists will all find this a very practical guide explaining how to flesh out the story behind the medal by consultation with the available records. Most of the records discussed are held at the Public Record Office but the author also discusses sources including those found with the medal (cases, telegrams, etc.) newspapers, and other libraries, museums and archives. The volume is profusely illustrated in black and white with period photos, close-ups of medals, and examples of the records involved. It is a very good step-by-step guide for learning the history of a serviceman based on their medals.

I agree with everything Mr. Howells above says in his review. However, to add to what he said above, I found this book not only a "how to" guide, but also a very enjoyable, relaxing read. In short, this is a friendly book. It is well organized and takes the reader step by step through the research avenues used (and available) for the authors' "example" medals. The results were surprising and interesting, especially for the medals' uses in genealogical research. The beauty of British medal collecting is that the vast majority of awards are named to individuals. This book illustrates well that these medals represent not only historic events, but full, rich and sometimes tragic lives as well.

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