

The Great War 1914-1918

British Campaign Medal Sets

Pip, Squeak and Wilfred

Three of the British campaign medals:
The 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the
Victory Medal.



Pip, Squeak and Wilfred are the affectionate names given to the three WW1 campaign medals — The 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal respectively. These medals were primarily awarded to the Old Contemptibles (B.E.F.) and by convention all three medals are worn together and in the same order from left to right when viewed from the front. The set of three medals or at least the British War Medal and the Victory Medal are the most likely medals to be found among family heirlooms.



When the WW1 medals were issued in the 1920's it coincided with a popular comic strip published by the Daily Mirror newspaper. It was written by Bertram J. Lamb (Uncle Dick), and drawn by the cartoonist Austin Bowen Payne (A.B. Payne). Pip was the dog, Squeak the penguin and Wilfred the young rabbit. It is believed that A. B. Payne's batman during the war had been nicknamed "Pip-squeak" and this is where the idea for the names of the dog and penguin came from. For some reason the three names of the characters became associated with the three campaign medals being issued at that time to many thousands of returning servicemen, and they stuck.

The medals on display are of
Sjt. C.N. Jenkins (earlier L-Cpl)
2-Lond.R.



The Silver War Badge was issued on 12th September 1916.

The badge was originally issued to officers and men who were discharged or retired from the military forces as a result of sickness or injury caused by their war service. After April 1918 the eligibility was amended to include civilians serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps, female nurses, staff and aid workers.

Around the rim of the badge was inscribed "For King and Empire; Services Rendered". It became known for this reason also as the "Services Rendered Badge". Each badge was also engraved with a unique number on the reverse, although this number is not related to the recipient's Service Number.

The recipient would also receive a certificate with the badge. The badge was made of Sterling silver and was intended to be worn on the right breast of a recipient's civilian clothing. It could not be worn on a military uniform.

There were about 1,150,000 Silver War Badges issued in total for First World War service.

For two rarer medals, see the item re. Edgar Jones



Colour Sergeant's Full Dress Tunic, 3rd Volunteer Battalion DLI, 1902-1908. This red jacket has white facings (collar and cuffs) and the shoulder titles are in white embroidery on red - '3', 'VB', bugle, 'DURHAM'. On the tunic's right sleeve, as well as the Colour Sergeant's rank badge, are 3 'efficiency' stars for 15 years' service. The 3rd Volunteer Battalion DLI recruited in Sunderland. It became the 7th (Territorial) Battalion DLI in 1908.

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