

## **DAVID HOLMAN**

### **Title**

Using British Medals to help fill out your family tree

### **Summary**

The talk will start by explaining the history of medals in the UK with emphasis on campaign and gallantry medals.

It will also look at the specific medals awarded and how you can find out more about the recipients from the indexes held in the archives. It will also explain where you can find citations for gallantry medals.

### **Abstract**

Almost all family historians will have ancestors or relatives who have served in the Armed Forces. This talk will look at medals and how we can use them to help find out more about our ancestors. The talk will briefly explain the history of medals and then go on to look at the following main types of award:

- Gallantry Awards
- Campaign Medals
- Mention in Despatches
- Miscellaneous awards & citations

The locations of registers and indexes to awards will be explained.

There will be an outline of the major gallantry awards that have been issued including those up to the present day.

Images of many of the medals will be shown as well as some statistics on the numbers of awards made.

The examination of campaign medals will be confined to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the First World War. This reflects the easy availability of records relating to these records.

Records held at the National Archives in London include indexes to First World War Medals; these are the Medal Index Cards and are available to be searched on-line. Medals for the Second World War are not yet available on-line with the exception of the medals awarded to Merchant Seamen and the presentation will look at how these can be searched at the National Archives website.

Finally there will be a brief explanation of other types of medals including those for long service, coronations and jubilees.

### **Audience**

All levels