

**THE
ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS
MEDAL**

Richard Sirley

COLOUR PLATES

THE ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS MEDAL



Obverse First type 'Britt Omn'



Obverse Second type 'Dei Gratia'



Reverse



Clasp

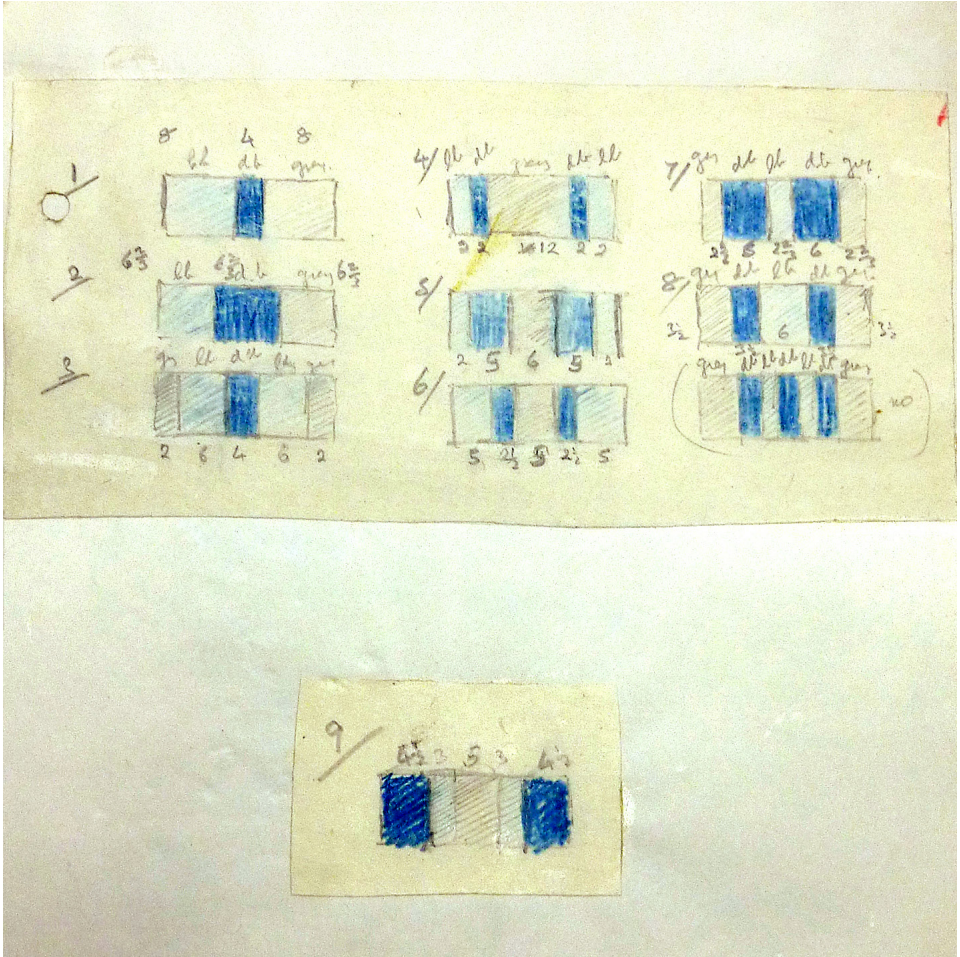


Naming Styles

Top - Usual machine engraved style

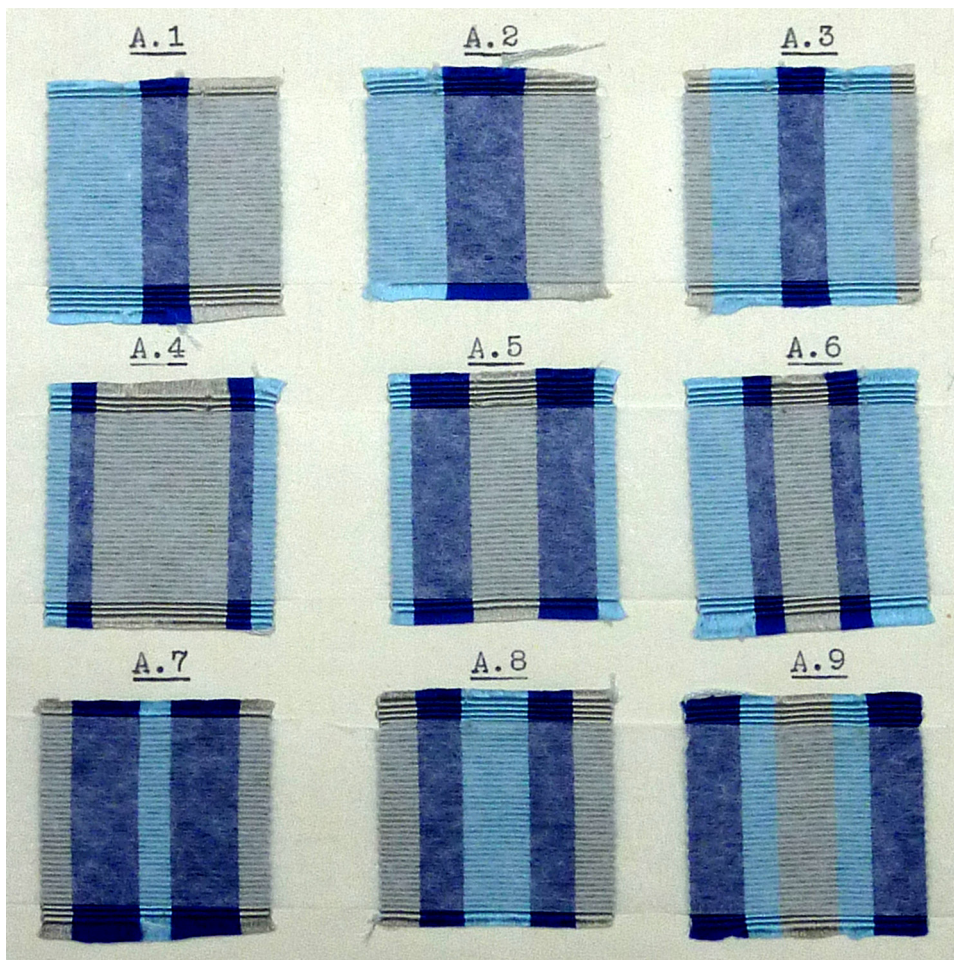
Bottom - Impressed style including the use of 'ROC'

THE ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS MEDAL RIBBON



Proposed Ribbons
Original crayon sketches for the ribbons

**THE ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS MEDAL
RIBBON**



Proposed Ribbons
Manufactured samples
(The ribbons were fixed to the page by tape hence the mottled appearance)

MINIATURE GROUP TO JOSEPH LAZARUS CARTER



The miniature group to Joseph Lazarus Carter clearly showing the GVI miniature. Carter's full size medal, which was issued in 1953, is of the Elizabeth II first type 'Britt Omn'.

HOME GUARD BADGE OF MERIT, DENMARK



ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS INSIGNIA



**Original Lapel Badge with
'Observer Corps' title**



**Later Lapel Badge with King's or
Queen's crown and
'Royal Observer Corps' title**



Officers' Cap Badge



**Beret Badge with King's or
Queen's crown**

ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS INSIGNIA



Breast Badge 1940-42



Breast Badge 1942-52



**Seaborne Shoulder Title
(worn by those involved in D-Day) Printed**



**Shoulder Title (integral number 1952-53)
Issued with separate numerals 1953-76
With dark blue background 1977-91**

ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS INSIGNIA



Leading Observer



Chief Observer



Proficiency Badge awarded for passing the annual Master Test at Master level which required at least a 90% score

Blue = One pass

Red = Five passes

(Each additional fifth pass represented by the addition of a red star)

Gold = Twenty Five passes

FREDERICK CHARLES GENT

Fred Gent served during the First World War with the Northamptonshire Yeomanry as a Squadron Sergeant Major. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in January 1919 and the Italian War Cross in May of the same year having been twice Mentioned in Despatches (11 December 1917 and 30 May 1918).

Gent joined the ROC in March 1937 serving with 12 Group Bristol at Wellingborough Post. He was recommended for the British Empire Medal in 1945 but this did not result in an award being made. He was awarded the ROC Medal in 1951



JACK BURRINGTON SNELL

Jack Snell was born in July 1903. He joined the Observer Corps in 1928 serving with Colchester Group at Woolverstone Post in Suffolk.

On 16 June 1944 Woolverstone Post claimed to be the first ROC Post in Southern Area to see a V1 Flying Bomb in daylight.

Snell was the victim of an unfortunate incident on 15 July 1940 when he was placing ground flares – to assist lost or damaged aircraft. He had duly lit the flares, when he was spotted by some naval ratings who thought he was a German parachutist laying out a bombing path. In the encounter that followed Snell was shot in the thigh and hand. As soon as the naval personnel realised their mistake Snell was taken to hospital at the nearby HMS *Ganges*. He was soon back on duty.

Snell was awarded the British Empire Medal in the *London Gazette* of 9 January 1946 – ‘For maintaining an extremely high standard of efficiency and excellent qualities of leadership.’

The Royal Observer Corps Medal was awarded to Snell in 1950 and the first clasp in 1962.



LEONARD WHITE

Len White was born in December 1900 and joined the ROC on 1 March 1938 without any previous military service. White served as a Seaborne Observer from 10 May 1944 to 9 July 1944 with the service number P/JS2344. He was awarded the ROC Medal on 27 September 1952, a first clasp on 27 September 1964 and a second clasp on 6 September 1976. He retired from the ROC on 30 September 1977 aged 76. White received the Commandant Royal Observer Corps Certificate of Commendation in July 1970 and an Air Officer Commander in Chief's Commendation a year later.

Leonard White served with 5 Group Coventry, which was re-designated 8 Group Coventry in 1953 at 5/H1 Post Wymeswold until the major re-organisation of 1968 when that post was closed. He transferred to Rearsby Post where he served until his retirement.

White's service as a Seaborne Observer was aboard the American ship USS *Edward N. House*.



WILLIAM ROBINSON

William Robinson served with the Lanarkshire Yeomanry entering the Balkan theatre of operations in October 1915. Serving as dismounted troops in Gallipoli attached to 52nd Lowland Division. January 1917 formed, with Ayrshire Yeomanry, 12th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers, attached to 229th Brigade.

Distinguished Conduct Medal awarded in the *London Gazette* of 10 January 1920:-

On the 31st October, 1918 near Audenarde, for most conspicuous gallantry and good work. Early in the attack, his platoon officer having become a casualty, he assumed command, and led a Lewis-gun section round the flank and opened such a heavy fire that the enemy gunners were either killed or surrendered. Later, with a few men, he assaulted a machine gun post, capturing five machine guns and taking over twenty prisoners.

Robinson joined the ROC in 1940 serving with Carlisle Group receiving his long service medal in 1954, his Defence Medal was for service in the ROC during the war and the Coronation Medal was also issued to him whilst with the Corps.



SHEILA M. LUXTON

Sheila Luxton joined the ROC in 1948 serving on 21 Group E3 Post Sidmouth. On changing group boundaries the post became 10 Group W4 going underground in 1962. In October 1968 it became 9 Group, G3 Post and combining with Exmouth it became 9 Group 52 Post.

Sheila Luxton attended two Royal Reviews, in 1966 and 1991. She was awarded her ROC Medal in 1960, the first clasp in 1972 and the second clasp in 1984 and was still serving at the general stand down of the corps in 1991.



WILLIAM RUSBY

Observer Lieutenant	Stand down caretaker 10 Group York 1945-47
Observer Commander	Operations Staff Officer 1949-1953
Observer Captain	Deputy Commandant ROC 1953-1969
Observer Captain	Group Commandant 2 Group Horsham 1969-1974

William Rusby was a whole time Officer who had to serve 24 years for his ROC Medal. He was Deputy Commandant of the Royal Observer Corps for 16 years and at the Royal Review in 1966 he was the Review Commander. Rusby was awarded the OBE in the New Year Honours of 1957 and the ROC Medal in 1959. He died in 1982.





Observer Captain William Rusby, OBE

YVONNE BRENDA COOPER

Yvonne Cooper joined Winchester Group, Royal Observer Corps in November 1943 serving initially in 'A' Crew at the Group Centre. She immediately re-joined the Corps when it was re-activated in 1947 and continued to serve in the Centre Crews until her retirement in 1973.

Chief Observer Yvonne Cooper received her ROC Medal in 1957 and a first clasp in 1969 whilst serving with 14 Group Winchester. She was additionally awarded the 1953 Coronation Medal.

In civil life Yvonne worked for Winchester City Council's Legal Department, Yvonne died in 2009.



WILLIAM THOMAS LEIGHTON

William Leighton joined the Royal Air Force shortly after the conclusion of the First World War being awarded his long service medal in March 1938 and a further clasp in June 1957 which is confirmed in Air Ministry Orders (N406 19 June 1957).

Leighton joined the Royal Observer Corps in March 1958 within a few months of leaving the RAF. He served with 6 Group Norwich serving originally at 6/P2 Harleston and then at 6/P3 Diss following the closure of Harleston. He received his ROC Medal in 1970 and retired from the Corps in 1979 on age grounds due to the imposition that year of the regulation that Observers were required to retire on reaching 65 (Leighton was well past 70 at this time).



HAROLD SHUKER

Harold Shuker was born in March 1893. Joined the West Riding Regiment as 2nd Lieutenant, July 1915. Transferred to the Machine Gun Corps February 1916. Promoted Lieutenant 9 October 1917 and now with the 3/6th Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army. Promoted Captain March 1920 attached 1/1 Punjab Regiment. Major March 1934, Assistant Commandant Small Arms School (Pachmarchi). Lieutenant Colonel September 1939, Commandant 2/1st Punjab Regiment.

Acting Brigadier October 1942 – Commandant Officers Training School, Mhow. Colonel March 1946. October 1946 Provost Marshall, Corps of Military Police. OBE *London Gazette* 1 January 1948

Returned to the United Kingdom from India in 1947 and joined the ROC shortly after. Served with 2 Group Horsham as Chief Observer and received the ROC Medal in 1961.

