

World War I Medals of William James Norman of Pilton

After the war, three medals were awarded to most servicemen – the **1914 Star** or **1914-15 Star**, the **British War Medal** and the **Victory Medal**.

The **British War Medal**, 1914-1920, (below right) was issued to all members of the armed services who left his/her native shore. The medal has King George V on the obverse and Saint George on the reverse. The bronze



Victory Medal (centre) was awarded to all those who fought.

The lacquered bronze **1914 Star** (far left), or Mons Star, was awarded to all officers, warrant and non-commissioned officers and all men of the British

and Indian Forces, including civilian medical practitioners, nursing sisters, nurses and others employed with military hospitals. **The 1914-15 Star** was awarded to those who served before 1916 but did not qualify for the 1914 Star. The soldier's regiment, name and/or number are inscribed around the rim or on the reverse.

The combination of all three medals was commonplace and earned the nicknames '*Pip, Squeak and Wilfred*' after Daily Mirror cartoon characters.



The pair of the **Victory Medal** and **British War Medal** is seen more often because of the numbers who began service overseas after January 1916, and was often called '*Mutt and Jeff*' after other cartoon characters.

The silver **British War Medal** was often sold by soldiers or their families when times were hard. The medals above and the death plaque (also known as the dead man's penny, left) are those awarded to William James Norman of Pilton.