

# THREE FRAMLINGHAM VICTORIA CROSSES 1917-19

Inspection by James Ruddock–Broyd (G46-52) on 16 September 2019

*Preface: The visit was partly carried out to allay fears by OFs that the terms of the Agreement with the IWM might not strictly be being adhered to particularly regarding the Framlingham connection*

I have set out these notes for the benefit of future visitors.

## PROCEDURAL NOTES

Proceed to the end of the Museum main hall and take lift to Fourth floor; Walk upstairs to Fifth floor and enter the Ashcroft Gallery.

Crossways in front of you are 7-8 rows of medal displays in varied sizes with section titles of – Aggression, Leadership, Sacrifice, Skill, Initiative, Boldness and Awareness. The last two sections were not easily visible.

First go to wooden bench in the middle of the right wall and take out from the first slot in the bench a stiff binder which is a register of all holders in the IWM in alphabetical order and the four columns set out are headed – Section of display, Year, Country and Regiment

Our three were allocated to –

<b>Hewitt 1917</b>	-	<b>Initiative</b>
<b>Flowerdew 1918</b>	-	<b>Initiative</b>
<b>Agar 1919</b>	-	<b>Leadership</b>

There is a computer screen for each section so you go to the one prescribed and scroll down until you get the name required; press on that and a list of ‘contents’ comes up; “The Medals” sub-title always appears as the last; press on that and you have a picture of them. The line for Flowerdew is differently described as “A Framlingham Medal” as they do not hold his campaign medals.

In the cases of Hewitt and Flowerdew there is a statement that the medals are lent or loaned by the College and Society respectively.

Beside a set of medals is a brief description in large clear type; it concludes with reference to the two other Framlingham holders.

Initiative is the sixth row and last at the right end is one of the largest displays for Flowerdew with portrait and VC, picture of ‘The Charge’ and caption, citation and riding crop; also picture of Memorial Plaque saying it is in hands of the family. Especially pleasing to see is that in the middle of the same Initiative row is a small ‘plate’ with Hewitt’s portrait and VC and citation; both these displays are in addition to the computerised entries.