

# BLUE BERET



## Old WW I Royal Medal found in Nicosia shop

By LCpl Daniel Holbrough

In early December 2017 I was browsing in a junk shop in northern Nicosia, inside I noticed a cardboard box full of various bits and pieces, on looking inside I saw some old tattered medals, well-worn books and hiding at the bottom, a small dull dark leather case. On lifting the case out of the box and wiping it down, as it was coated in a fine film of dust, the case was marked with O.B.E. MILY. On looking inside I was surprised to see the original medal intact with ribbon still in the box. I knew exactly what I had found; it was the WW I Royal Medal which was presented to the British officers for exemplary service. I continued to ask the old woman minding the shop, how much she wanted for it. She wasn't quite sure and I offered her 50 Euros which she happily accepted. Back at Ledra Palace Hotel, I got on to the internet to do some research and also contacted a friend

in London that has some knowledge of British medals. After he surveyed the photographs, he believed it was genuine. I posted the medal to him in the UK and he had it looked at by an expert who confirmed its authenticity. The medal was placed into an auction in January 2018. I was informed that it was the subject of some interest and had many bidders. Following its sale and after all the various fees were applied, the medal sold for just over 450GBP. It was always my intention have the profits returned to the island, since the medal was found here and with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards having already adopted the Home for Cooperation's IMAGINE project as its 'local' charity of choice, I felt it was only proper that the money should be used in a bi-communal project. Therefore on behalf of Support Company, I am delighted to present the IMAGINE project with 512.35EUR.

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