



# Sabretache

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF  
THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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January 2014

## Memorial Bar (Birks Bar)



The Memorial Bar is presented by Her Majesty's Canadian Government to commemorate the sacrifice of military personnel who lay down their lives for their country.

### ELIGIBILITY & CRITERIA

To be eligible, a CF member must have served in the Regular Force, Primary Reserve, Cadet Instructor Cadre or Canadian Rangers after 6 October 2001.

The Memorial Bar is issued to commemorate the death of a member of the Canadian Forces as a result of an injury or disease related to military service and which has occurred on or after 7 October 2001.

One Bar is issued for every eligible death and is presented to the primary beneficiary of the estate of the deceased (usually the person who will inherit the deceased's medals).

When the death is clearly attributable to service such as in the case of direct hostile action, accidents while on training, etc., the Bar will be issued immediately. When the death is not clearly and undeniably attributable to service such as in the case of natural deaths while at work (heart attack, stroke, etc), fatal illnesses, suicides, etc., the Bar will not be issued until the Department of Veterans Affairs has made an official determination regarding the cause of death. In these cases, a delay of several months is to be expected.

Because the Bar was reintroduced in January of 2009, the Bars for deaths which occurred between the start of eligibility and 2009 will be presented to the eligible recipients at the earliest opportunity, either on the occasion of other presentations such as for the Sacrifice Medal or additional Memorial Crosses where applicable, or on a separate occasion. The wishes of the beneficiary will be respected to the greatest possible extent. For current deaths, the Bar will be presented, whenever possible, to the beneficiary before the funeral when the Memorial Scroll, Memorial Crosses and any service medals the deceased may be entitled to will be presented.

### DESCRIPTION

A Sterling Silver bar, 14.5 mm in height, 67 mm in length and 1 mm in thickness, with a raised border decorated with knots and four holes in the corners to allow for attachment. The centre of the bar is engraved on three lines, in the first official language of the member, with:

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### CMHS Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday,  
January 21st.  
2014**

**7:00 pm**

At the  
Petty Officers' Mess  
HCMS Tecumseh

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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE  
CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The  
CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
is a non-profit registered society  
which fosters the study of the  
military and the police, and the heritage of  
Canada, the British Empire, and the world  
as well as the preservation of military  
artifacts and records.

The CMHS meets once every calendar month  
at:

Petty Officers' Mess  
HMCS Tecumseh  
1820 - 24th Street SW  
Calgary AB T2T 0G6

All are welcome to attend

## Notice of Next Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday, January 21st, 2014**

**19:00 (7:00 pm)**

At the Petty Officers' Mess, HMCS Tecumseh.

Members are reminded that an offering of foodstuffs for the Legion Food Bank is considered your unofficial entrance fee to our regular scheduled meetings.

The unofficial agenda of this meeting will be:

- Introduction of guests, Minutes of last meeting
- Correspondence, Membership report
- Treasurer's report, Old business / New business
- Break, Show & Tell

The President, David S would like to invite everyone to remain after the meeting for an informal time of fellowship.

## Memorial Bar (Birks Bar)

- The abbreviated substantive rank at time of death, initials, name and postnominals (where appropriate) of the fallen;
- The inscription 'DIED IN HIS (or HER) COUNTRY'S SERVICE'; and
- The date of death.

The reverse of the bar is plain except for the small marks 'BIRKS' and 'STERLING' in opposite corners.

The Bar is presented in a deep purple cardboard folder 10.2 mm by 12.4 mm, decorated with the Royal Arms of Canada in silver. Purple stands for suffering and mystery and traditionally was the stained-glassmaker's color for black, expressing negation, mourning, and death. This folder is placed in a cream envelope which has the Royal Arms of Canada impressed in purple on its flap.

The Bar is intended to be included in a shadow box which could contain the medals and other mementoes of the fallen, to be affixed to a picture frame or used in any other way the family may judge appropriate.

**HISTORICAL NOTES...** During the Second World War, the Canadian Government, in addition to granting the Memorial Cross, decided to create and issue this commemorative Bar. The Bars were manufactured by Birks, a reputable Canadian Jeweler, and were issued from 1941 to the next-of-kin of those who died during that conflict.

In 2008, it was discovered that Veterans Affairs Canada had a stock of original, blank, Second World War bars in stock. These were transferred to the Department of National Defence. With the current situation in Afghanistan and following recent changes to the Memorial Cross, the creation of the Sacrifice Medal, and concurrently with the restoration of the Memorial Scroll, it was thought appropriate to take this opportunity to restore the tradition of the Memorial Bar as well to complete our Memorial package so it now forms a more comprehensive expression of the nation's appreciation and sympathy for the families of our fallen.

The current Bars, reintroduced in January 2009 (retroactive to 7 October 2001), are in fact original Second World War bars, which are cleaned, engraved and lacquered by the Royal Canadian Mint. The holder and envelope are almost exact replicas of the ones used during the War with the necessary change of the Royal Arms of Canada.

The Directorate of Honours and Recognition of the Department of National Defence is responsible for the administration of the Memorial Bar.



The Memorial Bar

## Minutes of the last meeting

### Minutes of the meeting held December 17th, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm. With 22 members and 1 guest . Mr. Tom O'Sullivan introduced by Darryl K.

**Minutes** of last meeting. No complaints from the gallery. Move to accept by Mike C and seconded by Bob McP. All members in favour.

**Treasurers Report.** Report given by Member Brian H. Wearing Sask. Roughriders uniform. Report includes expenses paid and closing balance. Report is moved and accepted by all members present.

**Membership Report.** Report given by Member Brian H. still wearing uniform. 36 members accounted for and some renewals.

**Correspondence.** Letter received from **Member Bob B.** Letter request looking for special badges. Letter also contains donation to the Society of \$100 Dollars. The CMHS wishes to thank this member for his donation. Badge requested may be in possession of Member Darryl K. He will contact him.

**Entertainment.** Member Marjorie N. serenades members with a Christmas Carol. Newsletter. Member Bob McP brings up discussion of newsletter article on CWAC. Member Barry E. wonders if women were considered officers in the Boer War and WW1. . Much discussion follows.

#### **Old Business.**

President David S. Alludes to the revisions of our Society's Constitution. More discussion . Member Dave L. discusses changes and idea's. Example Presidential term and policies

Barry E thinks some items such as code of ethics. Should be removed as we never declare them. .Mike C says that provincial rules state that certain items must be in the constitution . Motions made to declare a 3 year time limit on term of President and retracts later . Pres. David S. suggests changes and states that code of ethics should be left in. Also awaits final draft and will discuss next meeting. More discussion follows. Members will wait for final draft.

President David S. reminds everyone about the big soiree at the Legion on Jan. 10th at 6 PM.

Maurice Harvey award recipient is discussed and voted on.

#### **New Business.**

Marjorie N. Mentions Bomber Command Nanton has memorial plaques for Air force veterans and wanted to know if anything like that exists for Navy personnel; Discussion.

Brian H mentions that Member Doug S. has informed him that the MCCofC show will be held in Edmonton Sept 12 to 14th.

#### **Break and draw held**

#### **Show and Tell**

Marty— Story on survivor of Dieppe.

Tom— Medals of relative and Egyptian Star etc. in good condition

Foloyd—Medals from Canada and also from Civil War.

Bruce— Fusiliers badge and Cdn. Forces General Officers badges 1974 and later.

Barry—Calvary gauntlets 1911 British made with C broad arrow.

Don S.- Plaque of Napoleon. That he looks at every morning.

Dave L-Discussion of Chaplains uniforms and their history. British army chaplains pics etc from th 1870's and badges Pre 1914 and cassocks from his collection.

Mike C-Medals and story of South African Natal rebellion in 1906

Stuart E.—Life magazine article on Kennedy assassination. Book on Canada at war done in comic form.

Darryl K.—Badge from his fathers estate and Calgary Highlanders

Al D. —Family scrapbook. Photos from 1800's to the 1900's of Relatives

Brian H. CWAC armbands and letters and diary

David G. WW1 pictures and Medals.

David S. CWAC badges and Books.

**President wishes all a Merry Christmas.**

**Motion to adjourn by Mike C and Floyd S.**



## Memorial Ribbon

The Memorial Ribbon is presented by Her Majesty's Canadian Government as a memento of personal loss and sacrifice in respect of military personnel who lay down their lives for their country.

**ELIGIBILITY & CRITERIA** The Memorial Ribbon is issued to commemorate the death of a CF member. The deceased CF member must have served in the Regular Force, Primary Reserve, Cadet Organizations Administration and Training Service (COATS) or Canadian Rangers on or after 1 October 1947. The death must be directly attributed to military service or must have been the result of a duty-related injury or illness which was sustained on or after 1 October 1947;

Up to five (5) Memorial Ribbons will be issued to close loved-ones who were not in receipt of a Memorial Cross.

Starting in November 2012, the Ribbons will be part of the Memorial Package and will be presented, whenever possible, to the designated recipients before the funeral when the Memorial Crosses, Memorial Scroll, Memorial Bar and any service medals the deceased may be entitled to will be presented.

For deaths which occur on or after 6 November 2012, and when the death is clearly attributable to service, the Ribbons will be issued immediately. When the death is not clearly and undeniably attributable to service, the Ribbons will not be issued until the Department of Veterans Affairs has made an official determination regarding the cause of death. In these cases, a delay can be expected. For deaths which occurred between 1 October 1947 and 5 November 2012, application forms must be sent to the Directorate of Honours and Recognition (DH&R). Ribbons will not be issued until DH&R has validated the information.

The Directorate of Honours and Recognition of the Department of National Defence is responsible for the administration of the Memorial Ribbon on behalf of the Government of Canada. To request Ribbons, applicants will be required to identify the deceased CF member and list the names of the designated recipients as well as their relationship to the deceased. Note: "applicant" means the executor of the estate or, when this person has passed away, the next authorized family member in the following order of preference: **1. spouse or common-law partner; 2. eldest surviving child; 3. father and mother; or 4. eldest surviving sibling.** However, others may apply and applications will be given due consideration.

**DESCRIPTION;** A length of purple ribbon, held in place by a silver-coloured circular pin, 15 mm in diameter, 1 mm in thickness at the edge, having a raised edge surrounding a recessed stippled field bearing a representation of the Memorial Cross.

**WEARING;** Any designated recipient may wear the Memorial Ribbon at any time they deem appropriate. It is worn over the left breast, pinned above any medals the recipient may have been awarded. It should be noted that the medals of a deceased person shall, under no circumstances, be worn by a next of kin or any other person.

The Memorial Ribbon is not worn on the CF uniform.

**HISTORICAL NOTES** The Directorate of Honours and Recognition of the Department of National Defence is responsible for the administration of the Memorial Ribbon on behalf of the Government of Canada.

Introduced during Remembrance Week 2012, the Memorial Ribbon was created as a means to provide a small token of remembrance to some of the closest loved-ones of our fallen, especially children, who are not recipients of the Memorial Cross. The Memorial Ribbon completes the Memorial Package for current deaths which now includes the Memorial Cross (to a maximum of three), the Memorial Scroll, the Memorial Bar as well as the Sacrifice Medal, which is posthumously awarded to the fallen, and inscription in the 7th Book of Remembrance.

The ribbon used for the Memorial Ribbon, is inspired from the purple ribbon worn with the original Memorial Cross from 1919 to 1945. Purple stands for suffering and mystery. Traditionally, it was the stained-glassmaker's color for black, expressing negation, mourning, and death.

The Memorial Ribbon is held in a loop by a pin. The pin is struck by the Royal Canadian Mint in cupro-nickel and lacquered to prevent tarnishing.