



Sabretache

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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March 2014



The German sailor who refused to obey Nazi orders to blow up Bordeaux

A wartime German sailor who refused to obey a command to blow up the French port of Bordeaux for his Nazi masters has died at the age of 91 - in his adopted homeland of France.

Heinz Stahlschmidt was that rare thing in the Third Reich; a man who followed his conscience instead of his orders when the tide of war began to fall back on the regime he served.

By his actions he not only saved thousands of lives, but a vital component of the post-war economic recovery of France.

Bordeaux was the country's most important harbour city, vital to its prosperity and the lynchpin of the wine trade with Britain, then as now the biggest international importer of the region's celebrated wines.

But while he was recognized as a hero by France - and awarded the country's highest civilian decoration of the Legion d'Honneur - he was regarded as a traitor in a post-war Germany.

He was struck from the list of naval personnel regarded as eligible for a pension and his name erased from honour rolls of the German navy, despite the fact that he had survived three sinkings of warships in the service of the Reich. France was never so ambivalent: his courage in defying his Nazi masters earned him undying gratitude and he was referred to today in newspapers as the 'Bordeaux Choltitz' - Choltitz being the commander of Paris in the war who refused Hitler's orders to destroy the entire capital rather than let it fall to the Allies.

Stahlschmidt died in his adopted homeland of France as Henri Salmide, his new name for a new life, after a long illness. He returned only once to Germany, to his birthplace at Dortmund, in 2001, preferring to spend his days among people who appreciated his valour and humanity.

The son of a plumber, who volunteered for the German navy in 1939 upon the outbreak of war, Stahlschmidt was posted to shore duties after three times being rescued from a watery grave as his vessels were sunk beneath him.



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CMHS Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday,
March 18th,
2014**

7:00 pm

At the
Petty Officers' Mess
HCMS Tecumseh

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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

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SABRETACHE

Is published monthly by the

Calgary Military Historical Society
P.O. Box 205, Station M
Calgary, AB Canada T2P 2H6
mail@cmhs.ca
http://www.cmhs.ca

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Notice of Next Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

Tuesday, March 18th, 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 and Tell, Adjourn

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



Do you know these guys?

With the outbreak of the Second World War, a large number of recruits rushed to join the Calgary Highlanders. The supply system could not keep pace with the increased demand for military clothing, especially Highland uniforms. The two gentlemen in the photograph, full of Highland pride, decided they could not wait for the

rest of their uniforms to arrive. They are seen here proudly displaying their new order of dress, Donald Duck feet and hair sporrans, adding a new meaning to the term of being Regimental.

Minutes of the last meeting

CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting held on February 18th, 2014

Petty Officers Mess: HMCS Tecumseh

Meeting called to order by Pres. David S. at **7:13 PM**

21 members attending and 1 guest.

Minutes in Newsletter. Usual squabbling, Moved by Mike C and Seconded by Susan E. Approved

Treasures Report. Given by Pres. David S. as our treasurer is AWOL. Statement of monies and pending bills.

Membership Report. Given by Pres. David S. Total of 43 members, still down a few from last year.

Correspondence. MCCofC Journal and web site emails on helmets.

Old Business

New Business

Alan Mc.— Calgary Regional History Fair, Saturday, May 3rd at Mewata Armoury

- Needs judges for competitions and displays

Kevin R.— Collectors Club of Calgary having a show and sale at Thorncliff this Saturday 9:30—4:00

Break.

Show and Tell

Stuart E— Story and experiences

John E. Story on WW1 Helmet German with trench shield on front. Only 50,000 made for machine gunners. Armour plating. Discussion follows. Japanese helmet find.

Gary.— Storey on Boer war. Relative who died there and his research. Photos and medals.

Darrel K.-Battleford Badge and Cdn. Badge. Civil Defence certificate.

James B.- 1943 Catalogue on plastic items. Discussion

Dave L.—Princes Mary Pipes given out with tins. Some marked.

Bob McP.—WW1 Belgium helmet. Original paint and liner

Mike C.—Garage sale finds. Korean War banner. Red Cross pennant, Medals, QSA to Cdn. Captain Banion.

Lord Strathcona's Horse.

Alan.—WW1 African regiments. Badges and Medals. Rhodesian Regiment. Discussion

Kevin R. -Cdn. WW1 Air Force.

Barry E.—Bayonet Fighting story. Cdn. Army Gymnastic badge.

Al. D.—Books from old Navy guy. Sgt. York USA, signed.

David G.—Medals and badges fro CFA 23 Bty. Soldier and “Tin Town Riot photo’s

Meeting Adjourned - Motion by Mike C and seconded by Marty.



Hermann Goering's cigars specially made for Hitler's deputy sell at auction for £1,300



Cigars made for Hitler's deputy, Hermann Goering, which were found at his home, have sold for £1,300. The cigars, described as being in "untouched condition", were removed from Goering's cellars at the end of the Second World War.

The boxes bear the words "Sonderanfertigung Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering", which means "Specially made for Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering". Goering's initials, his personal coat of arms and the supplier's name, Gildemann Ltd, Cigar Manufacturers, Berlin-Hamburg, are also printed on the boxes.

The cigars were expected to fetch between £800 and £1,200 but sold for slightly more to a UK bidder at an auction at Golding Young & Mawer in Lincoln. They were sold on behalf of a private vendor, who inherited the cigars from a relative.

Speaking before the sale, auctioneer John Leatt said: "These cigars were specially made for the Fuhrer's deputy and, by the vendor's family repute, were removed from the cellars of his home in Brandenburg, near Berlin, after the end of the war."

After the Second World War, Goering was tried at the Nuremberg Trials and found guilty of war crimes. He was sentenced to death by hanging, but took his own life by ingesting a cyanide capsule while waiting to be executed.

