



# Sabretache

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF  
THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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August 2014

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## CMHS Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday,  
August 19th  
2014**

**7:00 pm**

At the  
Petty Officers' Mess  
HCMS Tecumseh



The Great Western Railroad Memorial at London's Paddington Station



The **Great Western Railway War Memorial** is a monument in London, England, to the employees of the Great Western Railway, who died during World War One. It is situated halfway along platform 1 at London Paddington Station. The stonework was designed by the architect Thomas Tait and the bronze figure by the sculptor Charles Sergeant Jagger. The memorial unveiled on Armistice Day in 1922 by Viscount Churchill.

Its dominant feature is a large bronze statue of a British First World War soldier dressed in battle gear, wearing a helmet, woollen scarf, and a greatcoat draped over his shoulders. The soldier is looking down, reading a letter from home. Like his weary face, the soldier's clothes are depicted with scrupulous realism, and his uniform makes it clear that he's meant to be on active service at the front. Only the scarf hanging round his neck is non-standard issue. It is hand knitted, so was it sent to him or given to him before he left for France.

He is shown intently reading a letter, but there are no clues as to whether it is one that he has just received, or whether it is something that he carries with him in the trenches and has read many times. There is no indication of who the letter is from, nor as to its contents. Some people think that he is smiling as he reads it; others disagree.

Created by Charles Sergeant Jagger (1885-1934) who was responsible for some very fine war memorials, including the Royal Artillery War Memorial at Hyde Park Corner. He was a member of the Artists' Rifles, was wounded twice and awarded the Military Cross, which, he said, he valued more highly than his awards for art

**A very unique war memorial has been established, where people from all over the world have sent in letters that represent the letter shown on the statue. Known as "LETTER TO AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER" See page 2**

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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

## Notice of Next Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday, August 19th, 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.

### A Collaborative War Memorial 28 June – 4 August 2014

LETTER TO AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER is a new kind of war memorial; one made only of words, and by thousands of people. The Charles Jagger war memorial on Platform One of Paddington Station features a bronze soldier - large as life, dressed in full trench uniform and reading a letter from home. In the 37 days leading up to the anniversary of the declaration of war, members of the public are invited to write him that letter, telling him what they feel and think as the anniversary approaches - and then to send it to a specially created website. As they arrive, all of the letters will be published online to be read by everyone. Thereafter the letters will be added to the British Library web archive, where they will be kept in perpetuity for generations to come. LETTER TO AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER website goes live on the morning of June 28th, you can visit it now to find out more, and to see some of those fifty letters: [1418NOW.org.uk/letter](http://1418NOW.org.uk/letter)

Member Kevin R, who is also a Past President of the Calgary Military Historical Society has now opened his website. "[www.thecanadiansoldier.com](http://www.thecanadiansoldier.com)." Kevin is well known in the antique scene in Calgary and a frequent show attendee.

As he has many thousands of items to display yet, you can still contact him if you looking for a special item. He probably has it.



**THE CANADIAN SOLDIER**  
[www.thecanadiansoldier.com](http://www.thecanadiansoldier.com)

A Collectors site specializing in the sale of original  
Military Collectibles and Artifacts from Canada,  
Great Britain, and Germany from 1796 to 1945.

Kevin Roberts  
1-403-554-1653

Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
tenthbattalion@yahoo.com



Editors note; This is how each item is shown on the website. A welcome addition to other sites with poor photo's etc. When you move you cursor over each picture it automatically enlarges it for better study.

### *Pattern 1903 Ammunition Pouch*

Canadian Pattern 1903 leather ammunition pouch, dated 1917. Wrap around leather closure with loop back. Shows war use.

WW1C-004

\$ 89.00

## Minutes of the last meeting

### Minutes of the meeting held July 15th,2014

Meeting called to order by Pres. David S. at 7:11 PM No guests were present. 24 members attending.

**Minutes** of previous meeting questioned by the usual suspects. Declared no errors or omissions and moved to accept by Bob McP. and seconded by Fliyd S.. Unanimous consent

**Newsletter.** Discussion of main story and . Members like stories about fighting women. Hmm.

**Membership report.** Brian H reports membership is at 46 which is down 2 from last year.

**Treasures report.** Treasurer Brian H. lists donations and funds received and also funds paid out. Treasurer moves that report be accepted. Seconded by Mike C . The most esteemed Treasure also mentions That the Government has accepted the yearly report given to them last month.

### Old Business.

President raises question from last meeting about charity donations and discussion follows.

President David S discusses costs to award plaques at Heritage Show. Price too high for photo metal engraving and will go back to original idea.

Mike C to get samples. .

### New Business

President David S. reminds members of upcoming election and looks for nominees.

Kevin R. = Discusses Face book Groups and questions should we have one. Discussion. Follows. Problems are discussed and matter left up in the air.

Mike C.—Has heard from Calgary Opera about show “Silent Night” No special deals and members are on their own. Naval & Military press has new CD’s out with tons of information on WW1 and Boer War soldiers.

Gary.-Brings attention to newsletter from MCCoC and story sent in by member Dave L.

Reminds every one that **the MCCoC convention is definitely Sept. 12 and 13th at the Ramada in Edmonton**

**Break. Draw** for old books by ticket master Neil.

### Show and Tell

David S.—WW2 posters and poster book that is on sale at Chapters.

Barry E. 15th Light Horse and Alberta Light Horse WW1

Marjorie.— Update on gathering information of father in law and his brother in WW1 Questions hospital procedures and flu. epidemic. Dave L gives medical history of WW1 hospitals.

Al D.—Flea market finds on trip through BC. Story of young soldier who joined at 13.

Kevin R. discusses his new web site.

Dave.—discusses document on Camp X and has roll of CD ribbon

Bob McP. –Rare pair of socks that has ribbon collection sewn into them. Refuses offers to buy. Ribbon Bar that he made up for Nancy Wake

Mike C. QSA medals from auction sale in LA. Very rare Bengal Lancers Gives history

John E. questions news article and remembers French Canadian women who did same.

Gary.—Military museum in downtown Kelowna. Worth looking into. Medal fro Northwest rebellion 1885

Darrel. - Garage sale finds, Books , medals 18lb. Casing, 1938 kit and respirator. Mounted WW1 badges.

**Meeting Adjourned** Moved by Floyd S. and seconded by Barry E.



**Editor's Note; We all got this via email, but after I read it, I printed it out and reread the hard copy. I picked up more of the message the second time. So re reread this and come to the meeting.**

**Subject: CMHS meetings and show-and-tell policies**

Dear members:

Following last night's meeting, I need to reiterate our meeting policy regarding show-and-tell. I would remind all members that the "4 minute rule" for show-and-tell was adopted by consensus because many members felt some presenters continually went on far too long, that consequently meetings were too long, and that the general enjoyment of the membership suffered as a result.

I can assure everyone that since presentations have been timed, no one has 'gone on longer than that', except by presidential dictate. Marjorie gets and will always get, all the time in the world, but she's the only one.

**Mr. Egg Timer DOES NOT LIE!**

Therefore, please be advised that I will be sticking to the "4 minute rule" for presentations at the monthly meeting for the remainder of my term. I will give a presenting member a 30-seconds wrap-up warning, but at the 4 minute mark the member will be asked - and expected - to immediately, and civilly, end his/her presentation.

Since some members feel that questions during their presentations should allow them to 'go longer', I will allow a brief discussion period after each presentation concludes, should other club members have questions or comments. I would ask that members hold their questions or comments until that time out of courtesy to the presenter, and for the practicalities of Mr. Egg Timer, and that follow-up discussion be brief, polite on point. Lengthy discussion or differences of opinions are, in my view, best left until after the formal meeting has adjourned. There's lots of time later over a beer to haggle points or nitpick, should members wish.

**4 minutes is actually a heck of a long time - for the audience !**

However, it is not enough time to cover multiple items or topics in depth, so if reading history, documentation, anecdotes and extracts are important in you presentation, I strongly suggest focussing on a single item, rather than trying to cram several into a single presentation.

I prefer 'under-kill' to overkill, personally, especially if presentation in question isn't necessarily my cup of tea. Please keep that in mind when planning your presentation - remember, I'm the guy who gets to see all the sighing, rolling eyeballs and deer-in-headlights looks directed to the chair during everyone's presentations, not just the ones you don't like. There is an appropriate Persian proverb: "To every man, his own farts smell like roses." So, leave 'em wanting more, as they say, or at least give your fellow members hope there is an end somewhere in sight.

With respect to other meeting processes, I would like to clarify that 'new business' in the formal meeting should be new business pertinent to the club operations /per se/. Book launches - other than those of club members - et cetera, are not new business insofar as the club agenda is concerned. I will add an 'announcements' section after the membership report and before old business, starting next meeting, if members wish to make the club aware of new publications or stolen medals, for instance. Please be brief: 50 words or less should do it, unless you wish to make your announcement your show-and-tell presentation instead.

I'd remind everyone that we have an under-utilized website and as far as I am concerned, this sort of information and a lot of in-depth show-and-tell research, is more suited to club dissemination by that means.

To conclude, I am trying to make the meetings fun for everyone, and not just being some arbitrary hard-ass. If any of you think I haven't managed that, please let me know!

As for the show-and-tell/new business policies above, however, if any of you wish to dispute or change that, feel free - come September. At the August meeting, you still have only 4 minutes.

Thank you.--David Soltess