



# Sabretache

THE OFFICIAL  
JOURNAL OF  
THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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April 2015

## Words of Praise For Canadian Soldiers

The following is the text of the speech made to the Canadian troops under his command after twelve strenuous days and nights of fighting, from April 23rd to May 4th, 1915.

I tell you truly, that my heart is so full that I hardly know how to speak to you. It is full of two feelings—the first being sorrow for the loss of those comrades of ours who have gone; and the second, pride in what the 1st Canadian Division has done.

As regards our comrades who have lost their lives—let us speak of them with our caps off —my faith in the Almighty is such that I am perfectly sure that when men die, as they have died, doing their duty and fighting for their country, for the Empire, and to save the situation for others—in fact, have died for their friends—no matter what their past lives have been, no matter what they have done that they ought not to have done (as all of us do), I am perfectly sure that the Almighty takes them and looks after them at once. Lads, we cannot leave them better than like that.

Now I feel that we may, without any false pride, think a little of what the Division has done during the past few days. I would first of all tell you that I have never been so proud of anything in my life as I am of my armlet with "Canada" on it. I thank you, and congratulate you from the bottom of my heart, for the part each one of you has taken in giving me this feeling of pride.

I think it is possible that all of you do not quite realise that, if we had retired on the evening of April 22nd—when our Allies fell back before the gas and left our left flank quite open—the whole of the 27th and 28th Divisions would probably have been cut off. Certainly they would not have got away a gun or a vehicle of any sort, and probably not more than half the Infantry would have escaped.

This is what our Commander-in-Chief meant when he telegraphed, as he did, that "the Canadians saved the situation." My lads, if ever men had a right to be proud in this world, you have. I know my military history pretty well, and I cannot think of an instance, especially when the cleverness and determination of the enemy is taken into account, in which troops were placed in such a difficult position; nor can I think of an instance in which so much depended on the standing fast of one Division. You will remember that the last time I



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### CMHS Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday,  
April 21st.  
2015**

**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

## Notice of Next Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday, April 21, 2015**

**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, **Kevin Roberts** would like to invite everyone to remain after the meeting for an informal time of fellowship.

spoke to you, just before you went into the trenches at Saily, now over two months ago, I told you about my old Regiment—the Royal West Kents—having gained a reputation for never budging from their trenches, no matter how they were attacked. I said then I was quite sure that, in a short time, the Army out here would be saying the same of you. I little thought—none of us thought—how soon those words would come true. But now, to-day, not only the Army out here, but all Canada, all England, and all the Empire are saying that you, too, stand fast.

There is one more word I would say to you before I stop. You have made a reputation second to none in this war; but, remember, no man can live on his reputation. He must keep on adding to it. And I feel just as sure that you will do so as I did two months ago when I told you that I knew you would make a reputation when the opportunity came.

I am now going to shake hands with your officers, and as I do so, I want you to feel that I am shaking hands with each one of you, as I would actually do if time permitted  
Lieut.-General E.A.H. Alderson



### Ottawa April 26th, 1915, King George's message to the Duke of Connaught is as follows:

Congratulate you most warmly on the splendid and gallant way in which the Canadian Division fought during the last few days north of Ypres. Sir John French says their conduct was magnificent throughout. The Dominion will be justly proud.—George

**(British War Office.)** The following communique was issued by the War Office:- April 24, The fight for the ground into which the Germans penetrated between Steenstraate and Langemarck sit continues. The loss of this part of the line laid bare the left of the Canadian Division, which was forced to fall back in order to keep in touch with the right of the neighbouring troops.

In the rear of the latter had been four Canadian 4.7 guns, which thus passed into the hands of the enemy. But some hours later the Canadians made a most brilliant and successful advance, recapturing these guns and taking a considerable number of prisoners, including a Colonel.

The Canadians had many casualties, but their gallantry and determination undoubtedly saved the situation. Their conduct has been magnificent throughout.

### The Duke of Connaught.

### Ottawa, April 26.

The Minister of Militia to-day received from the Duke of Connaught a letter, in which his Royal Highness says ;—Canada has every reason to be proud of the gallantry of her sons, who have nobly done their part in this great struggle for the liberties and honour of our Empire against the tyranny and injustice of Germany .

As an English officer, I am proud of our Canadian comrades, and feel that they have brought honour to the British Army as well as to themselves, and that their heroic work will thrill the Dominion for the Atlantic to the Pacific.

I deeply lament the long list of casualties, and send our profound sympathy to every home which is plunged into sadness and sorrow by the tidings that reach us from hour to hour.

Assuring you again of my heartfelt sympathy for the relations of all those Canadian, officer, non commissioned officer, and men, who have so nobly fallen on the field of battle.—I am, &c. (signed) Arthur.



## Minutes of the last meeting

### Minutes of the meeting held March 17th, 2014

Meeting called to order by Pres. Kevin R. at 7:04 PM One guest present.

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

**Newsletter.** Discussion of main story .

**Membership report.** Brian H missing. Susan E gives membership report. 42 members which is down. ar.

**Treasures report.** Treasurer Brian H. is AWOL Susan E. gives report which lists donations and funds received and also funds paid out. Susan moves that the membership accepts treasurers report and is seconded by Mike C. Accepted by all members.

### Old Business. No old business New Business

Gun show coming on the following weekend. Discussion follows. Over 1000 tables rented and approximately 300 are military.

Alan M. Mentions that there were military vehicles at car show the previous week.

Al introduces his guest. Johannes Blomerus. Collect some antique firearms and has history of his family from South Africa. Pictures and objects from Boer War.

Mike C. New web site [www.the-salesroom.com](http://www.the-salesroom.com) Notifies you of current auctions (live) in Europe. Click off boxes that your interested in and they will notify you. Warning ADDICTIVE

### Break.

**Draw** for old books by ticket master Neil. Many happy winners

### Show and Tell

David G. —brochures on recent trip to Hawaii. Arizona memorial and battleship.

Kevin R. WW1 rimmed helmet Canadian Engineers.

Floyd S. Framed US Manhattan Project award certificate.

Martin—Patriot Sons of America shoulder badge.

Barry E.—Canadian Army Medical Corp badge pre-WW1,

Johannes B. —Book with his Great Grandfather, family and history. Carved objects his Great Grandfather did when he was a prisoner on St. Helene.

Allan Mck.—Frame of artifacts, medals and pictures of his Grandfather.

Bob McP.—Chinese medal for War Lord pre WW2

Mike C.—Two bar Fenian Raid Medal to Frances Whyte. Welcome home medal from Scarborough Welcome home medal City of Toronto. Wedge caps UK units.

Bruce G. Army manuals to give away. Sextons book on shoulder titles.

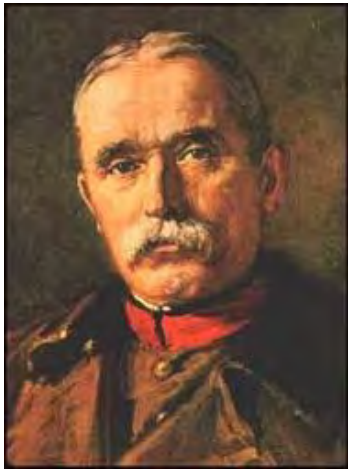
Gary—Stores on Dominican Republic vacation , History of island and naval history.

Darrel - General badges circa WW1 till 1950

Stuart E. - mentions he was in Calgary Highlanders pre WW2 He was 14 years old.

**Meeting Adjourned** Moved by Floyd S. and seconded by Mike C.





PRAISE FROM SIR J. FRENCH AND LORD KITCHENER.  
OTTAWA, APRIL 26.

General Hughes, Minister of Militia, has received a copy of a message which Sir John French has sent to General Alderson (Commanding the Canadian Force). It runs:—

I wish to express to you and to the Canadian troops my admiration for the gallant stand and fight they have made. They performed a most brilliant and valuable service last night and again this morning.

I have reported their splendid behaviour to the Secretary of State, and have a reply from him saying how highly their gallantry and determination in a difficult position are appreciated in England.



SIR ROBERT BORDEN

Sir Robert Borden issued a statement referring to the action of the Canadian troops as follows:—

The magnificent pluck, gallantry and resource-fulness of the Canadian troops at the front saved a difficult situation, as the highest authority has publicly declared, They proved themselves the equal of the best troops in the world, and in doing so have brought distinction and renown to this Dominion. My colleagues and I deeply lament the long list of casualties, and send profound sympathy to every home which is plunged in sadness and sorrow as the tidings reach us from hour to hour.



SIR GEORGE PERLEY

(High Commissioner for Canada)

Lieut.-General E.A. H. Alderson.

26th April

Congratulation to you and your brave troops! We always knew that our Canadians would give a good account of themselves whenever put to the test. They have now saved the situation and, while regretting the heavy losses, we are all extremely proud of the conspicuous gallantry. All London is ringing with their praises.—*Perley*



GENERAL HUGHES (minister of Canadian Militia.)

General Alderson, Canadians

26th April

Please convey to all your splendid Division the deep appreciation of their comrades in Canada and of all Canadians of their gallant fight and their splendid behaviour. We rejoice in their gallantry, but while mourning the loss of many brave comrades, our one great desire is to avenge the loss. The hearts of all Canadians are with them.—  
Sam Hughes