



Sabretache

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April 2018

Air Crew Europe Star

Context: The Air Crew Europe Star was awarded for two months of operational flying from the UK over Europe.

Eligibility and Criteria: This medal was issued between 03 September 1939 and 05 June 1944. It was not awarded after D-Day. The Air Crew Star may not be awarded until the 1939-1945 Star has been qualified for by 2 months service in an air operational unit. The total requirement to earn both stars is four months.

Description: The six-pointed star is yellow copper zinc alloy. The obverse has a central design of the Royal and Imperial cypher, surmounted by a crown. The cypher is surrounded by a circle containing the words 'The Air Crew Europe Star'. Stars issued to Australian personnel have recipient names engraved on the plain reverse.

The ribbon is light blue with black edges with narrow yellow stripes between the blue and black, representing continuous service by day and night.

Bars; If later entitled to a second or third star, its bar would be worn. "ATLANTIC or FRANCE AND GERMANY" Regulations only allow one bar to be worn with the Star.



DUE TO THE SMALLER NUMBER OF THESE MEDALS BEING AWARDED REPRODUCTIONS OR "FAKES" HAVE BEEN VERY PREVALANT IN THE COLLECTING COMMUNITY.

Mr. Alan Thomas from the company "Medals of England" even has a "Fake Medals Forum" on his web site. www.medalsofengland.com This is what he shows.

COMPARISON PHOTOS OF GENUINE & FAKE AIRCREW EUROPE STARS

'FOUR EASY STEPS TO TELL RIGHT from WRONG'

(*So now there is no excuse for Internet sellers to claim they don't know right from wrong !)



#1 GENUINE

The differences between Genuine and Fake Aircrew

Europe Stars are easy to spot and will cause no confusion when attempting to tell the 'right' from the 'wrong'. To begin with, when inspecting a 'Mint' and genuine star, (Picture 1) it will still exhibit lots of its original bright mint luster in the same way as does a new 'copper' coin which has not been long from the mint. This fades over time to produce an attractive 'subdued' red-brown patina. The basic surfaces on a genuine star are hard, smooth and glossy, particularly in the field areas around the Royal Cypher. The Fakes (Picture 2) are generally a mid-sand-brown in colour and don't exhibit any of that nice original mint colour. Even genuine stars which have been cleaned and thus lost their original surface sheen, and have toned down with age, unless heavily polished (which is rare with originals) will still look 'sharp' and have a 'crisp' appearance to the strike.

#2 FAKE



Notice of Next Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on
Tuesday, April 17th, 2018
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, **Allan Ross** would like to invite everyone to remain after the meeting for an informal time of fellowship.

PHOTO DIAGNOSTICS As can be seen from the pictures below there are at least **four easy visual checks** that can be instantly made to determine if the Aircrew Europe Star you are viewing is genuine or a fake. **All** these four checks are in the lower central area of the medal and will actually save you getting eye strain by trying to count the microscopic pearls in the crown which is yet another method of telling real from wrong!

(Check No.1) This is the easiest immediate check and it can be made even without an eye glass. **ALWAYS CHECK THIS PLACE FIRST.** On a genuine star (**picture left**) the right hand lower foot point of the 'W' in **CREW** accurately meets the vertical centre-line of the lower star point. On the Fake, there is a clear **GAP** between the centre-line and the W right foot point. The entire W on the fake being shifted well to the left of centre.

(Check No.2) This is also an easy check. On an original star the foot of the 'l' of the **VI** in the Royal Cypher almost exactly meets the vertical upstroke of the 'E' of **EUROPE**. on a fake, the right foot of the 'l' sits **halfway across** the horizontal top bar of the 'E'

(Check No.3) This and the next check are to do with the size and shape of a couple of easy to see letters. On a genuine star the width of the curve in the 'U' of **EUROPE** is neat and tight. On a fake the 'U' is so wide you could drive a truck through it !

(Check No.4) This also has to do with letter shape. On a Genuine star the letter 'R' in **CREW** exhibits a small, tight and accurate 'D' shape to its upper aperture. On a Fake, this top space in the R is long, flat and a lot wider than on the genuine medal.

Summary; Basically the way to tell the right from the wrong is a matter of looking at the general appearance and 'accuracy' of the medal in hand. The lettering, its shape and positional features in relation to other fixed points in the design are the best way to spot a fake. The lettering on fakes is generally always flatter and less accurate than on a genuine medal. It's always a good idea to carry a fake in your wallet to refer to (and a genuine star if you can). Otherwise, please feel free to print out any of the above pictures and keep them handy. Also, as of May 2013, if it's being asked at much less than £250-£275 it's probably a fake.

So there you have itNo more confusion and hopefully no more losses of your hard earned cash on the auction sites. .

And if you see a medal which is clearly a fake being sold on line or a medal which has a misleading "make your own mind up" or "not sure" type of description, then let us know on the **RED "REPORT A FAKE ITEM"** link at the top right and we will list it on these pages in an attempt to stop any more collectors being robbed.



Minutes of last meeting / Calgary Military Historical Society

Meeting held on March 20, 2018 at the Petty Officer's Mess, HMCS Tecumseh

1. Meeting called to order- By President Allan R. at 7:00 PM. 21 members in attendance including New Member Gerry Peddle.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting. [Discussed no correction.](#) Member David G. moves that the Previous Meeting Minutes be accepted. Seconded by Susan E. Approved.

3. Newsletter. No issues or concerns.

4. Treasures Report.

Report by Floyd S. Lists of monies collected from book auctions, donations etc. Listing of expenditures. Floyd reports, with last month expenses, a slight increase over January balance. Member Barry E. moves that the Treasures report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Brian H. Approved.

5. Membership Report.

Report by Floyd S. Total 47 members (2 Life, 2 Hon, 43 Regular). Member Brian H. moves that the Membership report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Rob D. Approved.

6. Correspondence: - None

7. Announcements:

- MCC of C - Southern Alberta Chapter hosting a AACCA Easter Show Member Meet & Mingle - Friday Mar. 30, 2018. Buffet service 16:00 - 17:00. All members and guests welcome.

8. Old Business. - [AACCA Easter Show - CMHS has booked a promotional table. Discussed table display items and attendees.](#)

9. New Business: - Website is down, has been for weeks, no one seemed to notice! Dave S. problem solving for re-launch, may need items (links etc.) from members if missing.

BREAK

10. Ticket book auction & Book Raffle: - Conducted by David G.

- Book raffle donation by Martin U. "Women at War in World War II" by Brenda Ralph-Lewis

11. Show and Tell:

Darryl K. - Selection of pre-1910 plates & badges; Italian Army RAO II knife with sheath.

Brian H. - Copy of "Service Badges Explained" from Carnduff Gazette, April 25, 1918, page 2; Vimy 1936 pilgrimage, participant medal, arm bands and tie.

Alan McD. - Battle of Britain Air Show program; IWM London program.

Al D. - Article and discusses RCAF burial at sea and land.

Bob M. - Discusses British Commonwealth Crowns, QVC = St. Edward, pre-1901; KC = Tudor Crown 1901-1952 and QC = St. Edward as well, post-1952.

Dave L. - Discusses repos & fakes, examples of a Chaplains Stole original VS recent repo.

Alan Mac. - Legion Magazine "Crown Surplus" article; Discusses Dublin car bombings May 17, 1974 with article & images.

Frank C. - WW1 Royal Navy pickup AACCA Thorncliff Feb Show

Dave S. - Question - French Towns awarded Croix de Guerre? Answer, 2952 towns received the Croix de guerre 1914-1918, these all awarded with palm.

David G. - 1st Hussars Officers cap badge; City of Moncton "Thank You" for your service notice Dec. 1918; Buckingham Palace WWII "Send Off" notice; "Ship That Brought Me Home" post card from Pte C Sawyer, Stauffer AB Jan. 17, 1919.

Gerry P. - Can Army Men's Buffalo Cap 1954 dated, selection of items for sale to members

Alan R. - Selection of LSH insignia WW1-WWII- EII period.

12. Adjournment:

President Allan R calls for motion to adjourn. Member David G. moves to adjourn. Seconded by Susan E. Approved. **Meeting Adjourned. 20:30**

From: **Alan Thomas** <dragonbrit@aol.com>

To: **David Gale** <david@sunnyspotservice.ca>

Subject: Re: Fake Air Crew Europe Stars

Good morning David. Great to hear from you.

Yes....Please feel free to give my business a mention and to link your newsletter (presumably an online publication.) article on fake Aircrew Europe Stars.

The more publicity the better.

You might also like to mention to your members that despite many direct verbal contacts with the eBay complaints team about listings of fake Aircrew Europe Stars they still won't do anything...they won't take the listings down or bar the sellers, and thus eBay are now regularly and knowingly complicit in fraud.

Only last week an eBay seller (who ignored my instructions to describe his medal as a fake) defrauded and unwary buyer out of \$ 365.00 Cdn.

If your members wish to buy a genuine Aircrew Europe Star they only have to contact me.

Kindest regards from England, Cheers

Alan Thomas

DIRECTOR,

Medals of England.

Editors Note. There are a number of other sites that show comparisons between real and spurious medals. Interestingly one of the sites even shows how people are engraving names of deceased crew members on the medals.

Hello!

I ran across the Calgary Military Historical Society website while doing some research in support of our authors, and wanted to get in touch about a couple recent books you and your membership may be interested in, specifically:

[Frontier of Patriotism: Alberta and the First World War](#) edited by Adriana A. Davis and Jeff Keshen. This book reflects the experiences of Albertans during the First World War, both on the battlefield and the home front. Containing over 40 essays, this book draws heavily on archival resources to show how the war and its aftermath shaped the lives of Albertans.

[China's Arctic Ambitions and What They Mean for Canada](#) by P. Whitney Lakenbauer, Adam Lajeunesse, James Manicom and Frédéric Lasserre may also be of interest. Although it is not military history, it is one of the first in-depth studies of China's increasing interest in the Arctic, drawing on extensive research in Chinese government documentation, business and media reports, and current academic literature to examine what effect increasing Chinese Arctic interest will have for Canada and Canadians.

We also publish the series [Beyond Boundaries: Canadian Defence and Strategic Studies](#), along with a number of books about military history, Canadian and otherwise. A full list of publications is available [on our website](#).

Would you be interested in a copy of *Frontier of Patriotism* for your society library? We would be happy to send one along to you. If you have any questions, or if I can provide any further information, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best Regards,
Alison Cobra
Marketing Specialist

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