



Sabretache

THE OFFICIAL
JOURNAL OF
THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.cmhs.ca

August 2018



Triangle Letters from the Russian Front.

Many millions of Russian soldiers, sailors and airmen were fighting for the survival of their country during World War 2. For those waiting at home to hear from them, the most important person was the postman bringing that special item from the front..

These are the *письма-треугольники*, the “triangular letters”, the standard form of soldiers’ correspondence during the Great Patriotic War.

During the war, the mails were brought for free from the front to the soldier's home. It could not have worked any other way, due to the fact that postage stamps would have been the last item the halting logistic support would have delivered to the front. And of course there was shortages of postcards and envelopes.

It didn't take long for the soldiers to figure out a system that would overcome the problems. That being the format that was a letter and its own envelope in one. The folding process is very similar to how children had been making folding hats for many years.

Folding had one more advantage: that the content of the letter was easy to check. It was of course forbidden that any letter be sealed in any way. The censors working at the front did not primarily search for letters reviling the system – according to the analysis of the surviving front letters, almost none of them includes any political reference or Stalin’s name –, but should the censor decide that they included any indication from which military movements and plans could be deduced then these were erased with black ink, but the mail was still transmitted

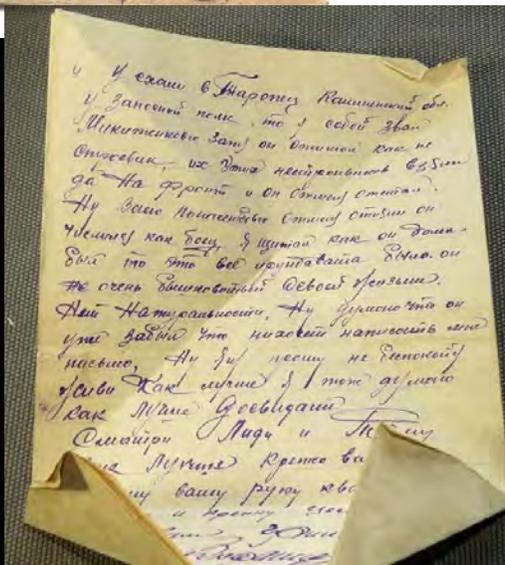
The front of the envelope would have the families address, the soldier’s name and number of field post.

CMHS

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday,
August
21st.2018
7:00 pm**

At the
Petty Officers’
Mess
HCMS Tecumseh



Inside folded letter



Rear of envelope shows the Censor’s stamp “Checked by Censor” and the date of July 15th, 1944

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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.

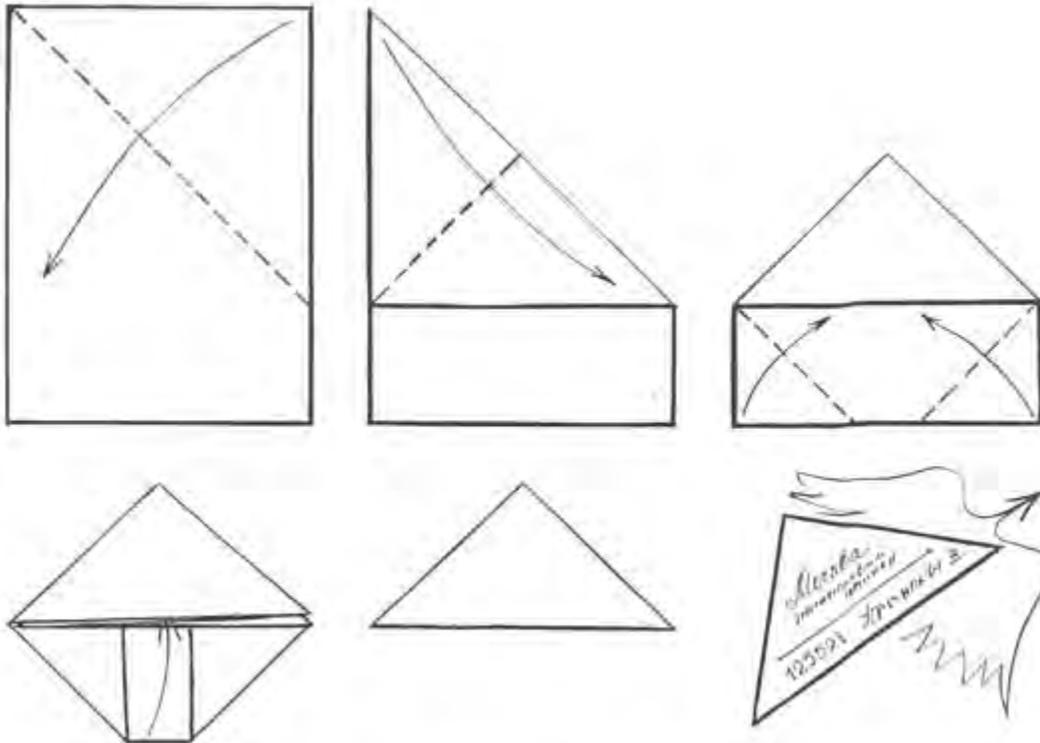
The CMHS meets once every calendar month
at: Petty Officers' Mess
HMCS Tecumseh
1820 - 24th Street SW
Calgary AB T2T 0G6

Notice of Next Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on
Tuesday, August 21st., 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.



The folding process



Families mailing letters back to their family member used the same technique but had to add postage.



Minutes of last meeting / Calgary Military Historical Society

Meeting held on July 17, 2018 at the Petty Officer's Mess, HMCS Tecumseh

- 1. Meeting called to order** By President Allan R. at 7:00 PM. 14 members in attendance.
- 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.** [Discussed no correction.](#) Member Bob M. moves that the Previous Meeting Minutes be accepted. Seconded by Dave L.

3. Newsletter.

- Received, no comments 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 decrease over April balance. Member Dave S. moves that the Treasures report be accepted as reported.

Seconded by Dave L. Approved.

5. Membership Report.

Report by Floyd S. Total 48 members (1 Life, 2 Hon, 45 Regular). Member Bob M. moves that the Membership report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Cathy E. Approved.

6. Correspondence: - None

7. Announcements:

- Floyd S. discusses a product called "Damp Trap". The device, a disposable dehumidifier is a safe, easy and effective way to remove excess moisture from everywhere. Applications to militaria storage and displays.

8. Old Business.

- [Facebook link still under assessment, consultation with Kevin Roberts.](#)

- Martin U. gives Calgary Militaria Shows June 16 event summary.

9. New Business:

- [Motion by Dave L. to elect member Mike Clare an Honourary life member. Vote by show of hands.](#) Approved. Mike may already be an Honourary Life Member. President Alan R to clarify his status.

- Motion by Dave L. to elect member Brian Hanning an Honourary life member. Vote by show of hands. Approved.

- Motion by Dave S. to elect member Dave Love an Honourary life member. Vote by show of hands. Approved.

- MCC of C 2018 Annual AGM and Convention. Edmonton, August 17 & 18, 2018.

- Military Museums, member Indra R. is involved in a project to photograph the graves of Alberta Regiment members interred in Alberta.

BREAK

10. Book Raffle & Auction:

- Several books raffled off.

- Bob M. - 3 Books - "WWII" by Ronald Heifermen; "Rommel" by Ward Rutherford and Battalion of Heroes: The Calgary Highlanders in WWII" by Dr. David Bercuson.

- Cathy E. - 1 Book - "International Militaria Guide" by Irene Moore and Gary Sterne.

11. Show and Tell:

Bob M. - Selection of medals including: several Korean War Medals including a Chinese medal; Turkish Crimea War medal to a French Soldier; Royal Navy Baltic Medal 1854-55 and a group of 4 UK National Fire Brigade Ass. medals

David G. - Silk postcard, embroidered ladies handkerchief; Shadow box 66 Battalion insignia based on a photo of an unknown soldier.

Alan R. - German WWII Gold Cross and 2 General Assault badges to support troops

Floyd S. - German WWII veteran reissue, 1957 Gold Cross and 1957 General Assault badge oddly configured.

12. Adjournment:

President Allan R calls for motion to adjourn. Member Cathy E. moves to adjourn. Seconded by Indra R. Approved.

Meeting Adjourned. 20:00



57th Canada's

LARGEST & FINEST

Antique & Modern

ARMS SHOW CALGARY, ALBERTA

March 29th, 30th & 31st, 2019

BMO Centre, Stampede Grounds, 1410 Olympic Way SE, Calgary, AB

**ATTENTION: ALL COLLECTORS, EXHIBITORS
AND FOLLOWERS OF THE A.A.C.C.A.
ANNUAL EASTER ARMS SHOW AT
THE CALGARY STAMPEDE B.M.O. CENTRE.**

A.A.C.C.A. is a registered non-profit Association that hosts Canada's largest and finest antique & modern arms as well as military collectors show. We have been forced out of our usual date of every Easter Weekend by the Truck and Auto Dealers show for the 2019 show only. They book three times as many days than we do.

A.A.C.C.A. had planned to host our 2019 show in the Big Four Building which is also on the Stampede Grounds. Many of our faithful exhibitors told us that they were not happy with our choice, no drive in, two levels also reduced amount of tables per exhibitor as well as a smaller show 700 tables as compared to 1,000. All wished to stay in the B.M.O. Centre, regardless of the date.

A.A.C.C.A.'s annual show is not just a buy, sell, trade type of show, it is a large social gathering of like minded people. We have booked March, 29th, 30th, & 31st of 2019 as this was one of the only dates available. Nothing in April or May. We are conscious of other show dates. For 2020 and beyond we will be back to our normal Easter Weekend dates.

A general outline of this show's financial structure: Hall rent \$85,475. tables & chairs \$18,867. Plus, and there is more, like insurance, advertising, security, printing, awards. The bills go on and on. Overall cost is in the range of \$149,000. 2019 costs will be greater due to more costly advertising of date change. The Stampede people as well as the Truck and Auto dealers have given us over \$5,000. Each to help with our increased operating costs. Cost per table on the floor is approximately \$145.00, we subsidize your cost by the door entry fee.

Surplus monies if any, are donated to other organizations that support our right to possess and collect arms -example: C.S.S.A. \$5,000 annually also several community support groups — like "Wounded warriors Canada" & "Military Families Support Groups " etc. We have and still do donate to Firearms owners that by defending their home and family are persecuted by our draconian personal defence laws.

The burden of afore stated plus the enjoyment of 12,000 or more people rests on the shoulders of A.A.C.C.A.'s ten Directors. If our shows fail and it has happened, \$2,000 one year and \$5,000 another, the buck and risk stops with us the ten directors. Bills must be paid. A.A.C.C.A. owes a special thanks to the many faithful exhibitors as well as the public that have supported us over the past many years.

A.A.C.C.A. strongly wishes to thank our many volunteers, some of who have been with us for several years and some are second generation volunteers with us. We can not name them all but there is Angela a second generation who organizes the front door. Teri looks after the back door, Barry the judges and awards, Jim our ambassador of shows. Nicole our past show manager and now Josie, both of whom have done an outstanding job. Thank you all, past and present.

Note from the Editor.

I spotted this notice in a newspaper and thought that I would reprint it. There was a number of different stories going around about next years "Easter Gun Show" and this article lays out the problems and the solutions that have been decided upon. So this is the official notice to when and where it will happen.

I also wanted to reprint it so that you will read it and understand all that goes into the show, how its financed, and operated. I have always been interested in the logistics of shows and this gives an interesting perspective.

Perhaps Martin will someday be in this scenario. Hopefully.

Announcement



Sept. 15th./2018

**Alberta Arms & Cartridge
Collectors Association.**

**Calgary gun show – Thorn-
cliffe Community Centre 5600
Centre St. N. Sat. 10:00 to 4:00
pm**

Hello

I am volunteering my time to try and find the WW2 medals awarded to Sergeant JE MacDonald, resident of Toronto from the early 1950s to the time of his death in the 1990s.

Eddie Mac earned a raft of medals in WW2 including the Palestine General Service Medal and DCM for gallantry in action (North Africa, 1942). Both should have his name inscribed on the medal.

Sadly, these medals were all stolen in the early 2000s in the Toronto area. Considering the value of a DCM, I can't help wonder if someone knows something about the whereabouts of JE MacDonald's medals. Any help or assistance would be greatly appreciated. My aim is to return the medals to Ed's daughter in Scotland. .

Sincerely, Ian McLeod, imac@ns.sympatico.ca

List of medals to Medals awarded to James Edward MacDonald —Palestine General Service Medal 1936-1939, Distinguished Conduct Medal (23.01.1942), 1939-45 Star, Africa Star (13.07.1944), Italy Star, War Medal 1939-1945, France & Germany Star, Defence Medal, Canadian Forces Decoration (1970),

The man himself closest to the camera. North Africa 1943



Korean War veterans honoured on 60th anniversary of Armistice

By I.W. Schaar
Local Press Writer

The Korean "Conflict" is often referred to as The Forgotten War by historians and politicians.

But ask Korean War veteran Herb Johnson if he's forgotten the quagmire which claimed 516 Canadian lives between 1950 and 1953.

He hasn't.

And neither have the Korean people living in Southern Alberta and in the Lethbridge area, who marked the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice on July 27 with a celebration of Korean culture and a special awards ceremony honouring the veterans who put their lives on the line for South Korea.

"We had a wonderful weekend, and I really thank the Korean community in Southern Alberta," said Johnson. "This turned out fantastic."

It also marked the first official Korean War Veterans Day, the first day of remembrance officially named by the Government of Canada. 2013 has been named the Year of the Korean War Veteran, perhaps in an effort to finally give some recognition to the sacrifices of Canadians all those years ago.

Johnson, who lives in Staveley, joined the Canadian Army at the age of 17, taking basic training in Ontario before being stationed in Quebec.

In 1950, Canada entered the Korean War and Johnson was part of a group that trained the first soldiers headed for Korea. Eventually he went to Korea himself.

After being involved in heavy fighting in 1951 and 1952 against communist forces, Johnson returned home. The fighting continued into the summer of 1953 when the Armistice was signed.

And then it went on a little longer.

In the lead-up to the signing of the treaty and in the days following, Johnson said the Communists and North

Koreans were jockeying for position.

"They wanted more land," he said. "So when the peace line was drawn permanently they would end up with more land."

That "jockeying" for position resulted in 44 more Canadian deaths. **Proving their 'medal'**

Anyone who served between 1950 to 1953 was awarded the Korea Medal for service in Korea. They were also awarded a United Nations Korea Medal. In 1991, The Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Korea was issued. At the ceremony in Lethbridge on July 27, Johnson was awarded the Ambassador of Peace Medal, issued by the government of South Korea.

Over the years, Johnson said the South Korean government has made efforts to show their appreciation to those countries that were involved in the Korean War.

"They've been very good about doing it for 60 years," said Johnson.

The recognition has been slow in coming from other countries, however - including Canada.

"All the countries accept the medal, but Canadians were never allowed to wear (the Korean War Medal) on the left side with other medals. The Canadian government thought, 'Well, you've got enough medals.'"

"Well, we got nothing at the time."

Ten years ago the U.S. military authorized their troops to wear their Korean War medals in with their other service medals.

"I believe it's because there were still troops in Korea who were receiving a medal for serving in peacetime but it wasn't the same medal."

This created an awkward situation where soldiers serving in Korea had their peacetime medals recognized but not their wartime medals.

"Other countries did the same thing but Canada never did."

The result is that Johnson's Korean War medals must be worn on the right side of his uniform, instead of the left side along with his other medals.

Honouring the past

Across the country, Canadian Legions and Korean groups have been holding special events to mark the 60th anniversary of the Korean Armistice, though Johnson said nothing has been announced by the Clareholm branch.

"Not all Legions did it," Johnson said. "And we've done nothing here."

"The Lethbridge celebration was put on by the people of Korea," said Johnson. "It wasn't the Legion, and it wasn't the Korean Veterans. It was the Korean community in Southern Alberta. They decided to have a party and invite all the Korean war veterans in the area to come out to have some fun."

The result was a ceremony in which Johnson was thanked for his service by South Korea, the United States, and Canada. He received three certificates, his Ambassador of Peace medal, and a pin from the Canadian government.

The Forgotten War

More than 26,000 Canadians served in the Korean War, and 516 were killed; 44 were killed following Armistice on July 27, 1953.

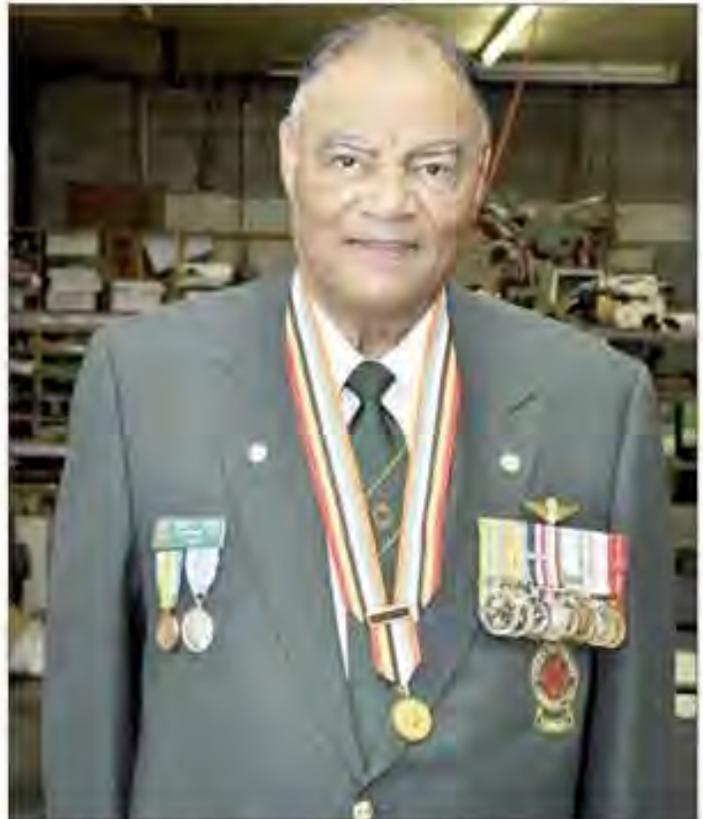
"That shows you how bad the war was," said Johnson.

He bristles at the idea the Korean "Conflict" was not a true war but some sort of police action.

"[Korea] had airplanes shooting down airplanes, and tanks blowing up tanks, and men were killing each other," he said. "It was a war."

It was this lack of recognition which made the event in Lethbridge extra special to Johnson.

"It felt really good because a lot of us thought we were never going to get recognized," he said. "A lot of us, including myself, had kind of writ-



HONOURING THE PAST - Herb Johnson served in the Korean War and was recently honoured by three nations for his service, as part of the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. Above is Johnson wearing his Ambassador of Peace medal for his service, while below is a photo of Johnson taken during his service in the Canadian Army. From left at bottom are the certificates of recognition for service Johnson received from Canada, the United States; and South Korea. Photos by I.W. Schaar and self submitted.

ten it off. Like, we were there, nobody cares, why should I get upset or worried about it?"

"But then when you're invited and you thought about it, you realize, this is great stuff," he added.

Johnson said it isn't so much the lack of recognition for Canadian veterans which can be frustrating, as the lack of resources for those who risk their lives for their country once they come back home.

"Canada's never been much for honouring our veterans," Johnson said. "They put on a big show when the prime minister talks about it but then you see Legion branches selling stuff to send money to the veterans of Afghanistan because they've got nothing, and that's horrible. We just accept it."

