



Sabretache

THE OFFICIAL
JOURNAL OF
THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

w w w . c m h s . c a

September 2018

SERVING THE SERVICES Auxiliary Services in WW2

In late 1939 the Canadian government announced that four national service organisations, the Knights of Columbus, the Canadian Legion, the Salvation Army, and the Young Men's Christian Association would be given the responsibility for providing comforts and "auxiliary services" for the Canadian Army Overseas. These were the same four organisations that had performed so ably and valiantly in the Great War. Canadians overseas prior to this relied on the NAAFI, "British Navy, Army and Air Force Institute" for canteen services. The Canadian Red Cross was not included in order to maintain the independent and international character. It would remain a voluntary organisation which operated at arm's length from the Canadian government.

Each service organisation was to provide volunteers, called Supervisors, who would retain their civilian status although they were paid as captains and granted the privileges of officers in the units to which they were attached. Originally, the groups were responsible for their own clothing as long as they followed CMHQ (Canadian Military Headquarters) rules. Routine orders stated that the dress consist of: **Kaki Jacket with open collar: without shoulder straps: leather button: cloth belt of same material as jacket, with buckle: khaki trousers of same material as jacket: khaki shirt: collar and tie: brown ankle boots of brown shoes. And khaki service cap. Badges were to be submitted for approval by CMHQ.**

The clothing was the responsibility of the charity and it was obvious that the Army did not want these people mistaken for soldiers. This did not last long. In July of 1940 an Order-In-Council came into being and the Army was forced to relent and provide appropriate clothing for these charities. This included Battle Dress, Blouse & Trousers. Boots, Ankle. Cap, F.S.. Great Coat, drab. Respirator, Anti-gas. and Field dressings. In addition to clothing it addressed diverse items as petrol, lodgings and rations for the supervisors.

It also stated that, **A cloth distinguishing patch will be worn on each sleeve of the khaki jacket placed before the shoulder seam. The patch will be 2 1/2 ins. X 3 ins. And will have embroidered thereon the authorized insignia of the organisation concerned. Designs will be submitted through the Senior Auxiliary Services Officer for approval of CMHQ. A black armband 3 1/2 ins. Wide**



will be worn on the LEFT arm of the jacket, waterproof coat or greatcoat. The letters "CDN AUX SER" in RED, 3/4 in. high will be centrally embroidered thereon.

Although the Auxiliary Services did wear a distinguishing patch, in the form of their organizations' logo, the armbands did vary from the approved. Patterns.

Continued Page 2

CMHS Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday,
September
18th, 2018
7:00 pm**

At the
Petty Officers' Mess
HCMS Tecumseh



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
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, September 18th., 2018
19:00 (7:00 pm)

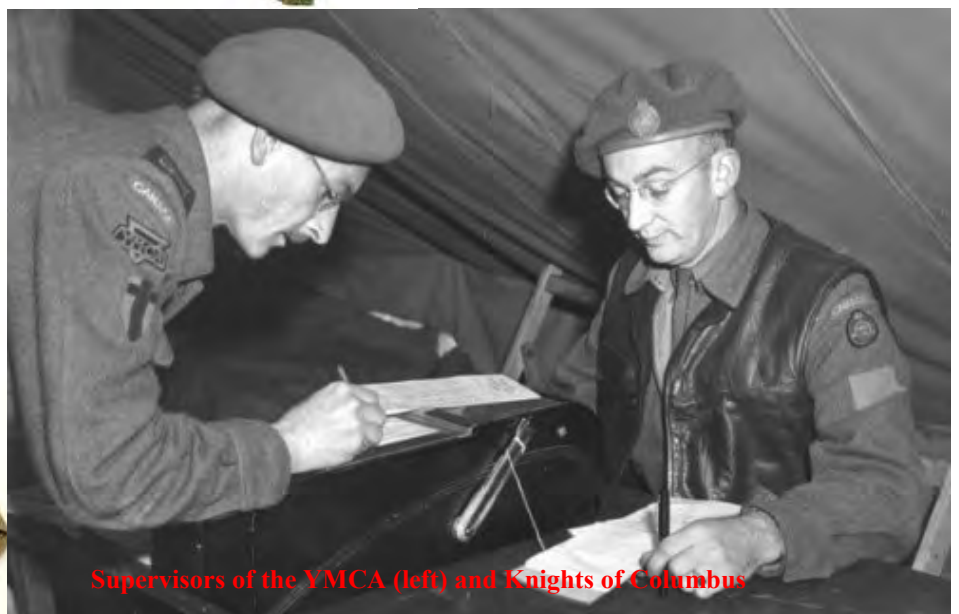
At the Petty Officers' Mess, HMCS Tecumseh.
Members are reminded that an offering of foodstuffs for the Legion Food Bank is
considered your unofficial entrance fee to our regular scheduled meetings.

The unofficial agenda of this meeting will be:
Introduction of guests, Minutes of last meeting Correspondence, Membership re-
port Treasurer's report, Old business / New business Break, Show & Tell
The President, **Allan Ross** would like to invite everyone to remain after the meet-
ing for an informal time of fellowship.

Originally the four groups competed amongst each other in provid-
ing basically identical services to the soldiers and airman of Canada (the
RCN., although welcomed in the Canadian hostels, usually relied on British
auxiliary services when in port). This led to complaints of uneven service,
duplication of effort and rivalry.. After a report prepared by Col. The Hon.
R.J. Manion, the Auxiliary Services agreed to a division of responsibilities.
This agreement left sports and recreation as the responsibility of the YMCA:
concerts and entertainment came under the Canadian Legion: canteens and
cinemas would be run by the Salvation Army; and hospitality and social
functions were organized by the Knights of Columbus.



Up until this time, the funding for the four groups' works overseas
was obtained through public fund-raising. This set off alarm bells when the government discovered that their projected requirement
for the following year was 17 million dollars, and that the raising of this much money would seriously impact of the WAR BOND
drives. The government then elected to finance the Auxiliary Services through the public purse.



Supervisors of the YMCA (left) and Knights of Columbus

Minutes of last meeting / Calgary Military Historical Society

Meeting held on August 21, 2018 at the Petty Officer's Mess, HMCS Tecumseh

1. Meeting called to order By President Allan R. at 7:00 PM. 17 members and 1 guest in attendance.

Guest: Lt. Col. Ray Boehli (Retired), 37 years of Canadian Army service, start as a Trooper with Kings Own Calgary Regiment, 41 Brigade Commander at retirement.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Discussed no correction. Member Bob M. moves that the Previous Meeting Minutes be accepted. Seconded by Mike C.

3. Newsletter. - Received, no comments or concerns.

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

5. Membership Report.

Report by David G. for Floyd S. Total 48 members (4 Life, 2 Hon, 45 Regular). Member Mike C. moves that the Membership report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Susan 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.

- Martin U. gives a summary of the MCC of C's 2018 Convention held in Edmonton Aug. 17 & 18, 2018.

9. New Business:

- AACCA Fall Show - Sept. 15, 2018 at Thorncliff Community Centre

- Some confusion over the AACCA 2019 Easter Show. Show will remain at Stampede BMO Centre with dates Listed as Friday Mar. 29th, Saturday Mar. 30th & Sunday Mar. 31st. Setup day Friday and public event Saturday and Sunday.

- Martin U. to contact Hank Holms to verify and will email membership with reply.

BREAK

10. Book Raffle & Auction: - David G. handles book raffle.

11. Show and Tell:

Darryl K. - Japanese type 90 helmet

James B. - Discusses Kauai trip and Kauai Japanese in WW2; Discusses Military Museums "Tour of Duty" Canadians in Vietnam Fall Display including Canadian Vietnam Veterans Ass. Touring "Portable Wall".

Mike C. - Medal group, King & Queens pair and IOF medal, to John Smith, Royal Scots; Post Cards by artist Harry Payne; discusses purchase of 7 original paintings (3 oil, 4 watercolor) by Harry Payne and his sale of the 3 oils at an OMSA Convention in the UK.

Bob M. - Belgian 1951 Korean Service Medal, bronze tomahawk pipe; and a minniball from Gettysburg.

Alan M. - Selection of cigarette cards Boer War; book "SAS Rogue Heroes" Ben MacIntyre and Dog tags from a US soldier given to his grandchild.

Ray Boehli . - Discusses Military Museums WW1 "Last 100 Days" events.

David G. - Selection of WW1 postcards from returning soldier and to Alberta addresses.

Alan R. - Discusses Military Museum future event, the display of a Malton Ontario collection "Canadian Sikhs in WW2".

Martin U. - Discusses Casualty Dogs in WW1 including Brendon Rosenow's (Gary's son) WW1 post card collection items for sale.

12. Adjournment: President Allan R calls for motion to adjourn. Member Barry E. moves to adjourn. Seconded by John E. **Meeting Adjourned. 20:11**

The auxiliary services provided invaluable sports, recreation, social and educational programs which contributed to the welfare of the members of the forces and helped preserve morale. Since correspondence to and from family and friends was important in maintaining morale, the auxiliary services provided envelopes to forces personnel in Canada and overseas. This post shows various envelopes produced by the volunteer organizations of the auxiliary services.



THE LAST 100 DAYS



CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMISTICE

28 SEP-11 NOV 2018

**4520 CROWCHILD TR.
CALGARY, AB**

- **WEAPONS HANDLING 28 SEP 2018**
- **LAST 100 DAYS SYMPOSIUM 29 SEP 2018**
- **THE CALGARY HIGHLANDERS 11 OCT 2018**
- **THE KINGS OWN CALGARY REGIMENT 16 OCT 2018**
- **DR GEOFF JACKSON + PANEL 25 OCT 2018**
 - **A TASTE OF WWI 02 NOV 2018**
- **HISTORICAL WALKING TOURS 01 OCT & 03 NOV 2018**
- **NATIONAL ABORIGINAL VETERANS DAY 08 NOV 2018**
 - **REMEMBRANCE DAY 11 NOV 2018**

**REGISTER FOR YOUR TICKETS ON EVENTBRITE OR
AT LECTURES@THEMILITARYMUSEUMS.CA**

WWW.THEMILITARYMUSEUMS.CA

The Last 100 Days: Weapons Handling

27 September, 2018, 7:00pm \$50

Join us for this one-of-a-kind experience at The Military Museums as we guide you through the various weapons and battle tactics used during The Great War. Experience warfare re-enactments in the trenches between the Canadian and German Forces and handle the different weapons for yourself. Rick Ostashower brings an extensive knowledge of weaponry which he has gathered over many decades.

Rick joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1974. He has been deployed to numerous locations, including Cyprus, West Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Rick was placed in the Top Five nationally for handgun and Top 10 nationally for long-range sniper rifle from 1987-1989. Rick was a part of the Brigade Small Arms Team and was awarded First Place in both Canadian Forces Small Arms Competitions and International Competitions. Rick joined the Calgary Police Service in 1989 and has taken numerous courses to make him an expert in this field.

Doors open at 6:00pm Event starts at 7:00pm

Armistice Symposium

29 September, 2018, 9 am-4 pm \$50

The symposium will feature speakers and presentations on a wide array of topics pertaining to the Last 100 Days Campaign and the Armistice. Key speakers among many include:

Dr. Geoff Jackson: *"The Last 100 Days"*

WO (Ret'd) Glen Miller: *"Indigenous Canadians in WWI"*

LCol (Ret'd) Shane Schreiber:

"Shock Army of the British Empire: The Canadian Corps in The Last 100 Days"

Dave Love: *"The Evolution of Artillery"*

Coming Home: Surviving the Titanic

25 September, 2018, 6 pm Free

Norman Leach, Historian, Storyteller, Author

The history books tell us that the Titanic sank in April 1912 without any Canadians on board. In fact over 300 embarked, and the ship's sinking affected each one profoundly. Norman Leach, the consummate storyteller, brings to life the stories of some of those Canadians—and Calgarians among them—who survived the sinking, but whose lives would never be the same.

Canadians in the Vietnam War

The Founders' Gallery 27 September, 2018 - 6 January, 2019

This personality based exhibit will illuminate a range of soldiers' perspectives on the Vietnam War. Artifacts and oral histories from Canadians who were there will be presented. The central narrative will cover the estimated 40,000 Canadian citizens who enlisted in the U.S. military and fought overseas in the war. Other stories will be presented, including U.S. and South Vietnamese veterans who later moved to Canada.

Importantly, Canada's official connection with the War will also be presented – the story of the International Commission of Control and Supervision. This little-known peacekeeping mission was responsible for overseeing the American withdrawal, and enabling the repatriation of hundreds of American POWs. The Canadian Veterans associated with the Vietnam War have received very little recognition in Canada, and we hope to help correct this oversight.

In association with the exhibit, we are negotiating the display of The Moving Wall – a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.