



Sabretache

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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November 2019

In Remembrance

A family of men whom fought so fierce, both World Wars through this family did pierce.

Three sons and a husband (whom served in both), to protect their country, swore their solemn oath.

The daughter as well bore her share, travelling through occupied waters where few would dare.

Around the Cape to join her man, so by his side she could stand.

The story more familiar I am is of my Grandfather Jim, who died before I could sit and talk with him.

A 20 year old gunner in a bomber that day, November 4th of '44, into enemy territory they did foray.

Their Halifax Bomber from the night sky was shot down, the 425 Squadron, crashed in Bochum, a small German town.

Six of seven crewed lived, Sergeant Clowes did not. Smith, Jamieson, Knorr and Ford, Limichler and Gale survived the onslaught.

Grandpa Gale was slight of build and height, and this perhaps saved him on that horrific night.

For in his gunner turret he had on his chute and gear, which fortuitously saved him as he fell from the planes rear.

Hurling through the dark, towards the enemy below, he was captured by the Germans, his fate he did not know.

Captured and held at Stalag Luft 7. He was one of 1,600 now in hell, so far from Heaven.

Then in the bitter cold of winter, January 1945 they were forced to march with only their will to survive.

If one man fell, five would be shot, so these brave men marched, destination unknown to the entire lot.

Calling barns and cowsheds home, marching in -33 degrees. Over 240 kilometers, fighting malnutrition and disease.



Luman James (Jim) Gale

On the road Grandpa Gale, a turnip he did spy, and tried to grab it as he slowly marched by.

A guard fired a shot, the bullet entered Grandpas right lung, and into a German hospital went this soldier, brave and young.

Where he stayed until May of '45 when the war was finally over and thankfully he did survive.

And home this soldier went to start his life once more, but never forgetting the friends that died on distant shore.

Let us always remember not only names but faces too. For because of them we have freedom, both me and you.

Duane Benjamine, Luman James, Frederick, Roy and Renéé Gale. Because of their bravery and honor, we have freedom of such scale.

A grandfather, a great-grand father, an uncle, a son, all young men, who did things we've gratefully never done.

The mothers and fathers of the fallen, whose broken hearts forever will ache. Let us not forget the sacrifice these brave men and women did make.

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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.

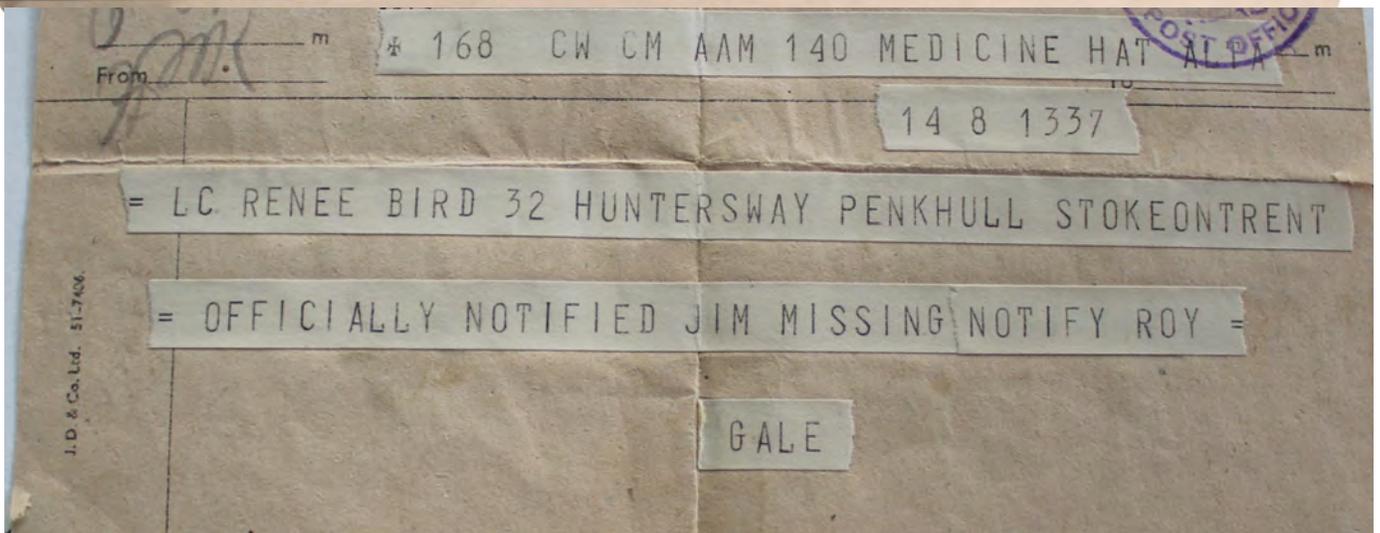
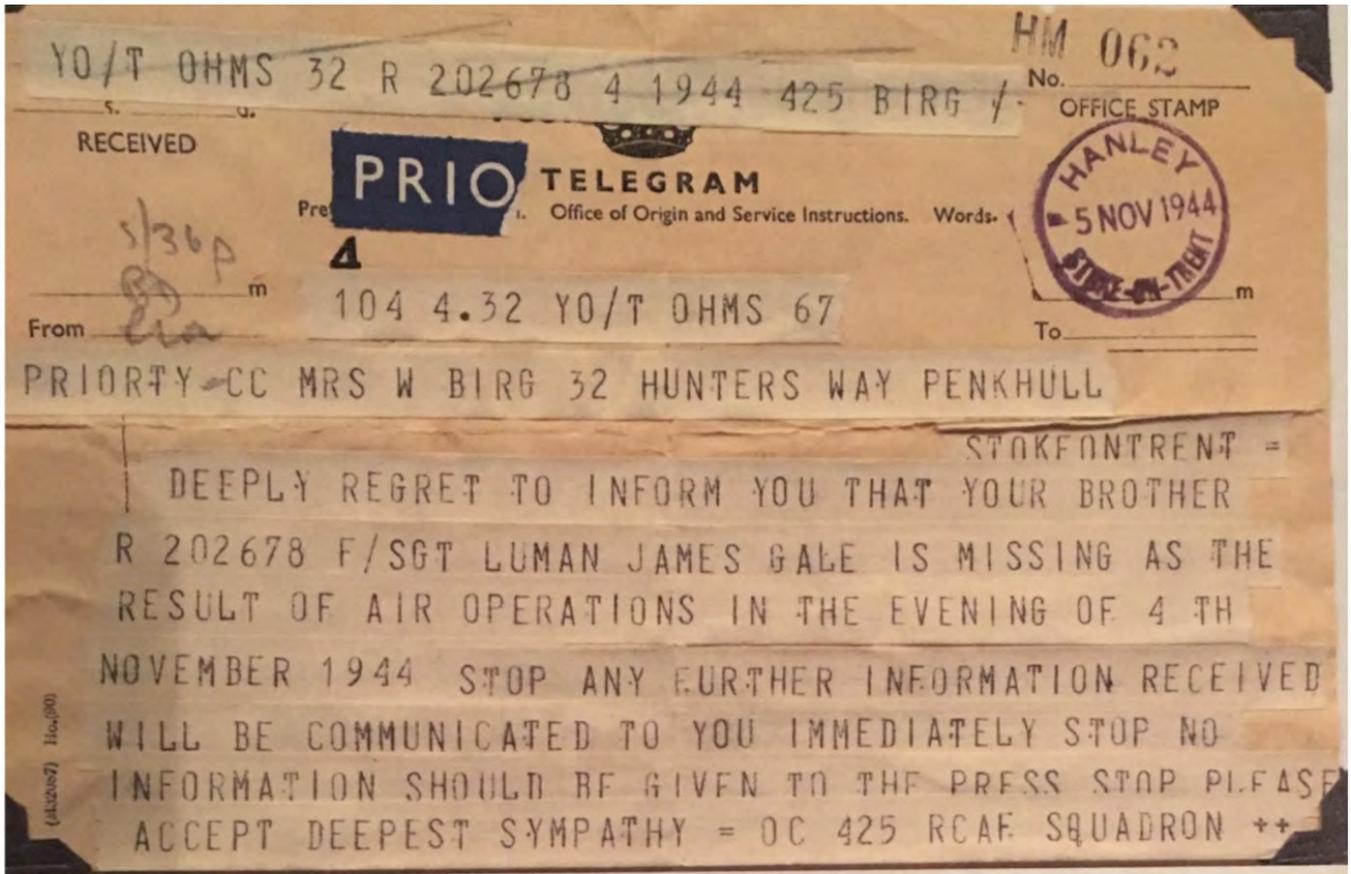
The CMHS meets once every calendar month
at: Petty Officers' Mess
HMCS Tecumseh
1820 - 24th Street SW
Calgary AB T2T 0G6

Notice of Next Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on
Tuesday November 19th, 2019
19:00 (7:00 pm)

At the Petty Officers' Mess, HMCS Tecumseh.
Members are reminded that a Donation to 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, **Dave Love** would like to invite everyone to remain after the meet-
ing for an informal time of fellowship.



Minutes of last meeting / Calgary Military Historical Society

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on October 15, 2019 ,Petty Officers Mess: HMCS Tecumseh

Meeting called to order by President Alan R. at 7:01 pm.
15 members present and 0 guests.

Minutes of last meeting. Acceptance moved by Mike C. Second by Martin U. Approved.
Treasurers Report provided by Floyd S. Moved acceptance by Barry E. Second by Mike C. Accepted.
Membership report by Floyd S. - Currently 39 regular members. 3 Life members 2 Honorary. Renewals are now due for 2020. Approval moved by Barry E Seconded by Mike C. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

AACCA fall show in September appeared to have lower attendance but reasonable sales.
Regards to last months question re CEF rejected applicants being traceable – Yes, by a “D” class pin saying person applied but was rejected.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion: \$50 gift certificate to 264 Legion be given to annual winner of the Maurice Harvey trophy. Moved by Indra R. Seconded by Martin U. Voted, all in favor. Passed
The other three previously considered motions were determined no longer relevant as they were covered by the club constitution.
Vote on Maurice Harvey Award for person best serving the club for the past year was conducted. Votes counted by Susan E. and winner determined to be Alan R. and ballots destroyed.
Election:
Position – Secretary- called for nominees but none were received. Susan E volunteered to continue on as interim Secretary till end of 2019. Someone will need to step up to take the position.
Position – President – One nominee, Dave L. No further nominations from the floor.
Dave L. is appointed new president by acclamation.
Position – Treasurer – Floyd S. agreed to stand for another year. No further nominations for the floor. Floyd S. is again appointed treasurer by acclamation.
Position – Vice President – Mike C. agreed to stand for another term. No further nominations from the floor. Mike C. is appointed by acclamation.
Alan R. – agreed to be head of monthly raffles.
Other New Business:- Gary M. received notice of 2020 medal yearbook is available by subscription and he has form for purchase at 29.95 UK pounds.

New president now presiding –

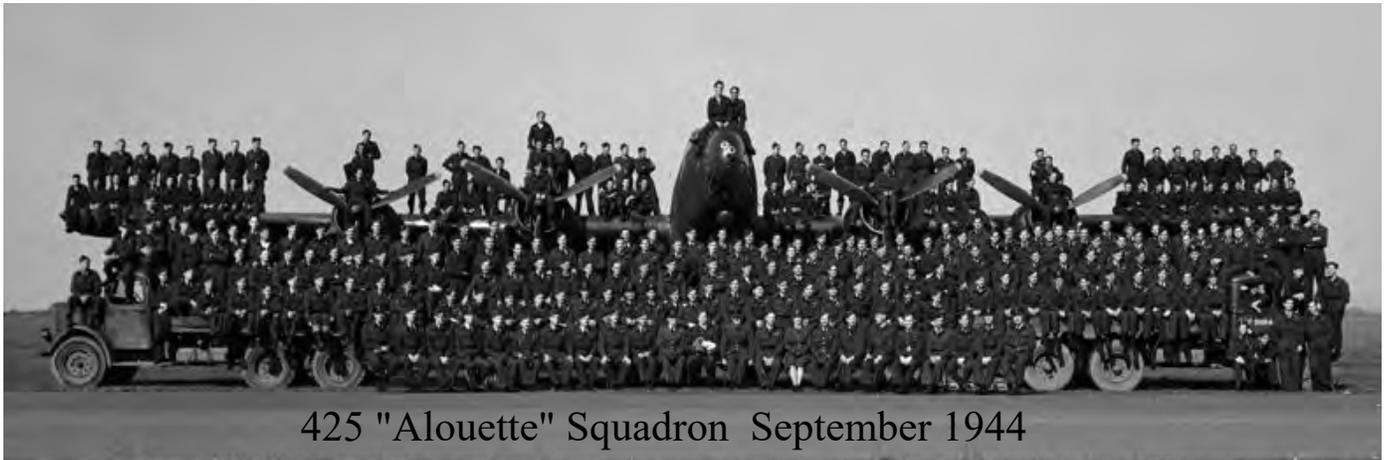
Susan E. appointed as director/archivist
David G. appointed as director/editor and Dave L. appointed historian

Break . No raffle this month.

SHOW & TELL:

Gary M. – Had a trip to Europe this year to over 26. Showed a medal bought in Athens from WW2 and a book “Empire of the Deep” on the royal Navy.
Stu E. – Has liking for Edward VIII but no coin were ever minted. Showed a newly produced coin of the monarch.
Mike C. – Group to W. Cuthbert HMS Baracuda enlisted in 1894 to 1945.
Rob W. – Photo of WW1 soldier he is trying to identify. Also cap and collars to Trois Rivieres regiment.
Frank – Book from 1893 called “Boots & Saddles” by E. Custer in good condition.
Barry E. – Our past member Merv J. passed away October 9, 2019.
Martin U. – Attended insignia club show which showed the value in membership in the premiere clubs. Also showed a Life magazine with stunning artwork.
Floyd S. – 1957 Knights Cross with Oakleaves in it’s case
Dave L. - Field surgical kits from 1914 now all cleaned up. CEF surgical kit for ear, nose and throat dated 1917 and WW1 doctors kit with packets of bandages, salve etc. and vials of stuff dated 1914.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm



Jim Gale was born in Lintlaw, Saskatchewan and grew up in Medicine Hat, Alberta. He served as a band member of South Alberta Regiment with the rank of "Boy". Jim enlisted in the RCAF in 1943 and commenced training in Edmonton, Alberta, Rivers Manitoba, Quebec City, Three Rivers, and Lachine, Quebec. He embarked from Halifax and landed in England April 4th of 1944. After further training courses he was assigned to the 425 Squadron at Airbase Tholthorpe, in Yorkshire.

On the night of November 4th, 1944 he was the tail gunner on Halifax MZ831 on a mission to Bochum, Germany. It was his 7th mission. The plane was hit by Flak which knocked out the starboard inner engine. In an instant the wing was aflame, the aircraft uncontrollable and then it blew up. He baled out by falling from the tail turret. Taken prisoner he was placed in POW Camp Stalag Luft 7 in Bankau, Germany. As the Russian army approached the men were forced to march in bitter weather from Jan. 19th to February 8th. They finally arrived at Stalag 111-A starving and in bad shape as they were eating raw oats at times. On February 28th he was shot in the chest by a guard with a 38 calibre pistol. He was sent to a civilian hospital where he remained till May 26th when he was liberated. He returned to Medicine Hat, married and had 3 children and worked for many years at the Suffield Experimental Station. Jim passed away in 1979



Duane Gale-5th Western Cavalry
Wounded 2nd Battle of Ypres



Roy Gale -1939 Calgary Highlanders,
1942-RCA Italy



Fred Gale—Loyal Edmonton Regiment
Wounded in Battle of Ortona