



# Sabretache

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THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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January 2020

## Waterton Lakes National Park

Canada's participation in the First World War shaped the country and Canadian identity.

After the war ended in 1918, its impact was felt on the development of Canadian institutions, landforms, communities, and individuals. For example, in Waterton, the memory of the war was inscribed on landforms in place names such as Vimy Ridge and the celebration of peace was given symbolic form in the establishment of the world's first international peace park in 1932.

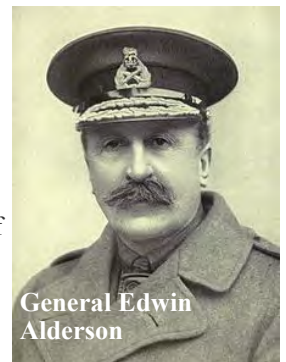


During the war years, the Geographic Board (the federal body which was responsible for assigning names in Canada) actively sought out war names. Military officials were asked for information about Canadian generals and ordinary soldiers who had been awarded the Victoria Cross.

Many names were applied during the war years. At the time, there were two major surveying and map-making exercises underway in Waterton Lakes National Park. In 1913 and 1914, Waterton was included in a survey of the Crowsnest and Rocky Mountains Forest Reserves, carried out by the Department of the Interior. Morrison Parsons Bridgland and his crew surveyed Waterton in 1914. Nearby, surveying and mapping of the British Columbia-Alberta boundary in the Waterton area was also carried out in 1914 and 1915 by A.O. Wheeler and R.W. Cautley. The resulting maps created a need for place names. As the war went on, several Waterton maps showed war-related names. In fact, the idea of using war-related names was first raised by M.P. Bridgland in 1915 when he was looking for names for peaks in Waterton. As a result, the first war-related name in the Canadian Rockies is Waterton's Mount Alderson. Names were used to memorialize people and to celebrate successes in the war effort.

**Alderson, Mount, Lake and Creek** Named to honour British Lieutenant General Edwin H.A. Alderson, the first commander of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces during the First World War. Alderson led the 1st Canadian Division into its first battles in France in 1915. He is often quoted for telling the Canadians as they moved to the front line that, "My old regiment, the Royal West Kent, has been here since the beginning of the war and it has never lost a trench. The Army says, 'the West Kents never budge.' I now belong to you and you belong to me: and before long the Army will say, 'The Canadians never budge.'" The name was suggested by M.P. Bridgland in June 1915 when he submitted names for features on maps of the Crowsnest and Waterton Lakes Park, Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve.

**Festubert Mountain** Named after a village east of La Bassée (France) where Canadian troops fought. Festubert was one of the first major battles on the western front in which Canadian soldiers saw action. The battle was led by Lieutenant General Alderson, as part of the British First Army's attack on Germans during May 15 to 25, 1915. The Canadians engaged in many frontal attacks but were mowed down by German machine guns. Although the Canadians achieved some of their objectives, the few gains cost the Canadians over 2,400 casualties. Located along the continental divide, the name first appeared on maps produced by the British Columbia-Alberta Boundary Survey in 1917.



General Edwin  
Alderson

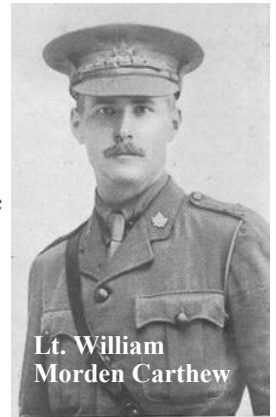
## Notice of Next Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on  
**Tuesday January 21st, 2020**  
**19:00 (7:00 pm)**

At the Petty Officers' Mess, HMCS Tecumseh.  
Members are reminded that an 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 report  
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.

**Carthew, Creek, Lakes and Mount** Named for boundary surveyor, Lt. William Morden Carthew, who surveyed in the Waterton area and later died in the First World War. Carthew was born in the United Kingdom, came to Canada in 1905 at age eighteen, and later trained as a surveyor. Carthew was Alberta Boundary Commissioner, R.W. Cautley's assistant; surveying Akamina Pass for the Alberta-British Columbia Boundary Commission in 1914. After the season's work was over, he enlisted and went overseas. He was killed by shell fire at Ypres on the morning of 3 June 1916 "while leading his men in a charge". In 1916, Cautley wrote to Wheeler asking if he would join him in recommending a peak near Akamina Pass be named for the recently killed surveyor. Carthew had climbed "this particular mountain in order to set Signal for Mr. Cautley." He was one of five Alberta surveyors lost in the Great War.



Lt. William Morden Carthew



**Avion Ridge.** The Geographic Board, in 1928, stated it was a word 'applied to any war plane.' However, in 1931, this assertion was corrected by the Belgian Consul who stated that avion simply meant plane. Others have said that the ridge was named because "its shape resembles that of an aircraft." This relationship to airplanes is plausible; both airplanes and their use in warfare were new at the time of the First World War.

According to Waterton's Canon Middleton, Avion was named "after Avion in France which was taken by the Canadians in 1917." Canadians fought in the area between the village of Avion (north of Vimy) and the City of Lens, France, in May and June 1917. Among the tactics employed were trench raids in which the Canadians advanced, destroyed German trenches, and then re-

treated.

**Vimy Ridge and Peak** The ridge and peak, formerly Sheep Mountain, were named in 1917 after Vimy Ridge was captured by Canadian soldiers. The Battle of Vimy Ridge was the first battle in which all four Canadian divisions fought together to successfully take and hold an objective which had eluded others since 1914. The successful Canadian attack was the result of meticulous planning, preparations and use of tactical innovations; as well as the courageous and determined actions of the 40,000 Canadian men at the ridge.



VIMY RIDGE, WATERTON-GLACIER INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK, ALBERTA, FROM THE AKAMINA HIGHWAY Waterton Series No. 10

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## **Minutes of last meeting / Calgary Military Historical Society**

Minutes of General Meeting held on December 17, 2019  
Petty Officers Mess: HMCS Tecumseh

Meeting called to order by Vice President Mike C. at 7:10 pm.  
16 members present and 0 guests.

Minutes of last meeting. No minutes for November as meeting has been cancelled..  
Treasurers Report provided by Floyd S. Moved acceptance by Barry E. Second by Brian H. Accepted.  
Membership report by Floyd S. - Currently 32 regular members. 3 Life members 2 Honorary. Renewals are now due for 2020. Approval moved by Brian H. Seconded by Brad M. Approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

-Discussion – Club Xmas party location – Glenmore Inn picked for Jan. 24, 2020  
Motion to pay for Al D. and guest by Bob McP. Seconded by Marty U. Passed.

Correspondence – MCC Journal and letter from Al McD. From his new home in Ottawa.

- Mike C. told members of a new on line auction service.

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### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Still looking for a new club secretary. No one has volunteered. Susan will finish this month.

Resolution amendment from club president letter in newsletter read aloud by Mike C.  
Motion by Dave S. to adopt the resolution as written and read to attendees at meeting.  
Seconded by Barry E. passed with all in favor.

Thorncliffe AACCA Arms Show is on January 11, 2020

Break . No raffle this month.

### **SHOW & TELL:**

Martin U. - Bannerman Co. – 1850's salvaging & military surplus story. Re print of 920's catalogue.  
Gary M. – ancestor in navy – medal and a sealing ring from approx 1800. Sultan's gold medal of Turkey dated 1917 and WW1 doctors kit with packets of bandages, salve etc. and vials of stuff dated 1914.  
Bob Mc.- Board of peacekeeping ribbon bars all issued by UN.  
John E. – deactivated Mills bombs.  
Brad M. – went to Germany Gun Show found an Indiana Jones style hat. Discussed pictures of a sword.  
Jack D. – Article – German view of the Dieppe raid.  
Mike C. – Ribbons & Medals books by H. Toprell Dorling, original edition; tiny size and more modern version many times larger. Various Medal Yearbooks.

Adjournment at 8:17 pm

## Vimy Ridge and Peak *(continued from page 2)*

While the attack is considered a great Canadian victory, the battle was won with tremendous cost with 10,602 Canadian casualties. From the moment the victory was announced, it represented a coming of age of Canada's evolution from British colony to independent nation.

Vimy has remained important to Canadians, both as a symbol and as a place. In 1922, France granted Canada perpetual use of a 117-hectare section of land at Vimy Ridge for a battlefield park and memorial. Dedicated in 1936, the memorial, designed by Canadian sculptor Walter Seymour Allward, memorializes Canadians killed in the war whose bodies were never identified. Their 11,285 names are carved in the monument. The memorial and surrounding park were designated a National Historic Site in 1997.

In 2003, April 9th was declared a National Day of Remembrance marking the anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Vimy Brook was not accepted locally and its previous name "Hell Roaring" Creek was reinstated.

**Dardanelles** Lower Waterton Lake which is located to the north of Middle Waterton Lake, it is separated by a channel known as the **Dardanelles**. Named after the narrows leading from the Mediterranean Sea into the Black Sea in Turkey; it was a battle site during the First World War.

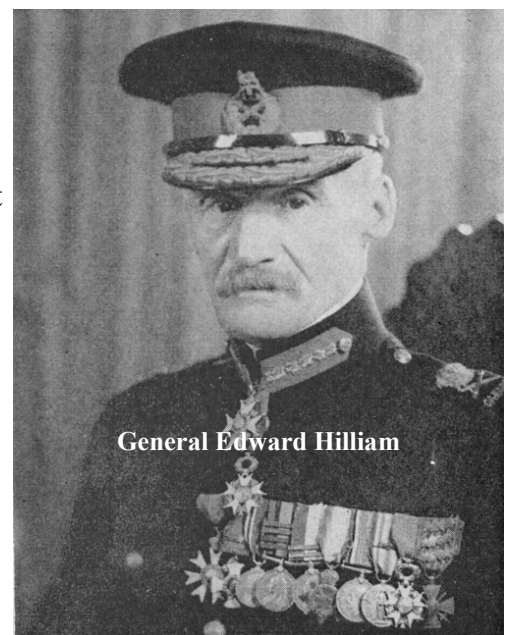


**Bosphorus (the Narrows)** The Bosphorus is a narrow waterway connecting the Upper and Middle Waterton Lakes. Named after a strait which joins the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara, separating Europe from Asia Minor. It was a battle site in Turkey during the First World War.

**"Bear's Hump" aka the "Pimple"** The mountain previously known as "Bear Mountain" was changed to Mount Crandell in 1914 for Edward Henry Crandell, a pioneer Calgary businessman and city councillor who had an interest in the first producing oil well in western Canada, Discovery No. 1 in the Cameron Valley. However, the bear reference survived as the "Bears Hump", the name for a prominent rounded buttress of the mountain above the Townsite. For some time, the Bear's Hump was known locally as the "Pimple". This was derived from the name given to the north end of Vimy Ridge during the First



World War. When this point on Vimy Ridge was taken by the Canadians on April 12 1917, General Edward Hilliam signalled "I am king of the Pimple." This marked the end of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.



General Edward Hilliam