



Sabretache

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New Alberta Immigrant Soldier Exhibit

The Military Museums (Calgary)

Dates of Exhibit: June – September 11, 2022

By James Baldwin

If you are in the Calgary area in the next few months, you should check out the new exhibit “A Uniform Coat of Many Colours: Military Immigrants In Alberta” (June 11 to September 11, 2022). This exhibit celebrates 40 soldiers from the militaries of six continents through biographies, artifacts, and art media. These soldiers eventually immigrated to Alberta after serving their particular country. It is not often you encounter this kind of diversity of countries, time eras, and soldiers in one room. To achieve this variety of artifacts, the museum had assistance from private collectors, including members of the Calgary Military Historical Society and MCCC to loan artifacts for a number of their displays.



Examples of The Diversity of Stories And Artifacts

The layout of the exhibit includes soldier biography panels that are hung from the ceiling. Near these posters are display cases that contain related artifacts. On the outside walls are more soldier biographies but instead of artifacts, there were related art media (paintings, photos, vehicle doors, etc.) that connected to that soldier. Both veterans and artists had created this art media. To illustrate the range of diversity in this exhibit, here are a few examples of the soldiers profiled.



The Military Museums article (Page 1 to 4) was contributed by Member James Baldwin. Thank You

WW1 & WW2 interesting Posters Page 5 & 6



Alfred Weiss Display Case: Alfred served with the Afrika Korps in WWII. He later became a POW in Alberta and returned to live here after the war. CMHS members Alan Ross, Indra Teekasingh, and James Baldwin contributed artifacts to his display case



Hien Khan was a South Vietnamese Air Force helicopter pilot who was shot down twice in combat. He flew his helicopter out to an American carrier (with 18 passengers) to escape capture in 1975. CMHS member Martin Qurquhart loaned his own Vietnam War flight helmet, “chicken plate” armour, and other items for Hien’s display case.



Sergi Eremenko was a Ukrainian who served in the Soviet Army in WWII. He became a German POW and was interned in the Netherlands. After the war, he came to Alberta and made important contributions to music and the arts.



Fredy Rivas served in transport in the Colombian Army. This experience influenced him to create his art on military vehicle doors. He came to Alberta in 2011 and works as an artist and art teacher. The door art on the left side is titled "War Witch".

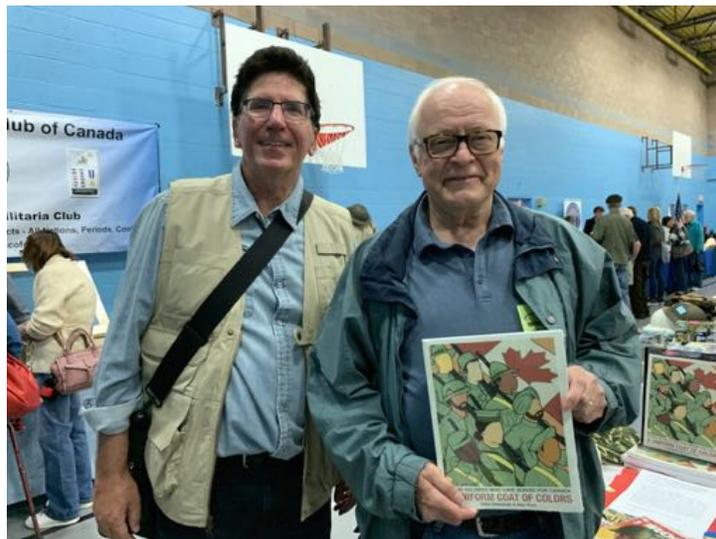


Kichimatsu Sugimoto and Nunosuke Okawa both saw service for Japan during the time of the Russo-Japanese War. Both came to Alberta after the war and enlisted in the CEF in WWI. Kichimatsu was killed but his family now has four generations of service in the Canadian Armed Forces.

In closing, when museums and collectors work together, the result is an enhanced public interest in learning about history. Rory Cory, the Senior Curator at TMM, has stated that the diversity of soldier artifacts needed in “A Uniform Coat of Many Colours” could not be met by TMM’s artifact collections. For a number of the soldiers, he relied on private collectors to enhance their stories. A huge “Thank you” to all members who support museums in the past, present, and future. (Note: James Baldwin wrote a similar version of this article for the MCCC Journal.)

WHO IS THIS “LONE STRANGER” By James Baldwin

Our distinguished Sabertache editor, David Gale, made a surprise visit to the June 25th Calgary Militaria Show at Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community Center. David now resides in eastern Canada but still produces our newsletter. It was great seeing him in person and again “thank you David” for all of your work for CMHS. . David (right) is holding a recently published book he had just purchased from CMHS member Alan Ross (left). Alan and his wife Indra Teekasingh recently published the book “Ethnic Soldiers Who Have Served For Canada: A Uniform Coat of Colors”. To purchase a copy or obtain further information, please email tarouba1@telusplanet.net. In a future newsletter, Alan and Indra will provide further details on the book.





Canadian World War II propaganda poster titled Lick Them Over There! “Come On Canada! The image shows a Canadian infantryman in uniform, holding a rifle and standing on a globe with one foot placed in Canada and the other in the United Kingdom. The UK is marked with a Union Jack flag and an anti-aircraft gun which fires into the sky. The soldier points to black swastika hovering above Great Britain in front of a cloudy night sky. Text is in stylised red font on the image, and in blue font beneath the image. Issued for the Department of National Defence by the Director of Public Information, Ottawa. Printed in Canada. Good condition, paper losses, staining, tears. Country of issue: Canada, designer: Unknown, size 46x30.5, year of printing: 1940s

Who Smells Of Fish? (c. 1916)

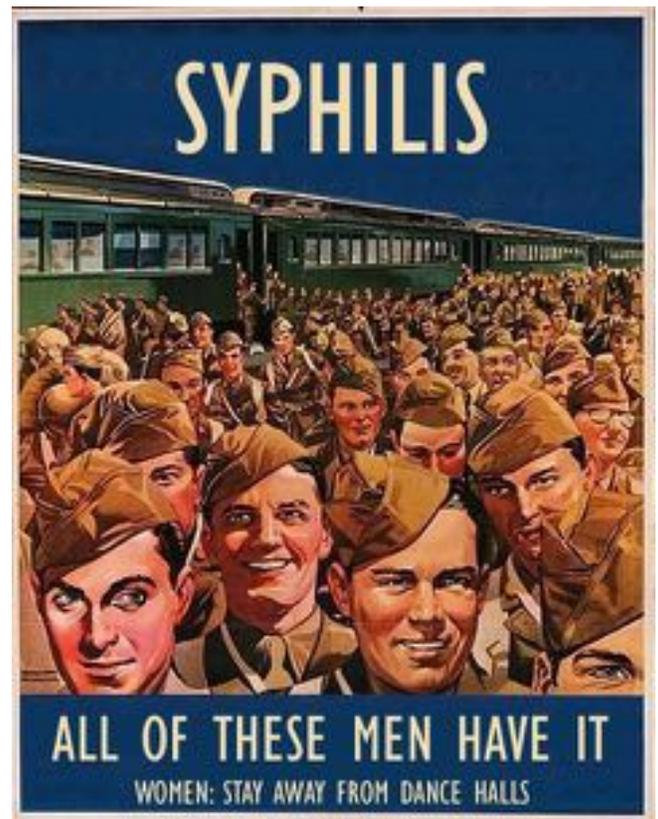
World War I, rationing meant that some foods such as fish were only able to be eaten on Friday. Many citizens ignored this order though and ate their fish on a Thursday. This campaign was created to scare those who cheated by implying that if you ate fish early you would smell.





For A Happy, Healthy Job...(c. 1940).

While the Battle of Britain was raging in the South-East of England, these posters were everywhere. Women were encouraged to organise themselves and head out into the countryside to search for German airmen that had been shot down and gone into hiding



Syphilis (c. 1944).

A poster used mainly in the Dorset area during the build-up to D-Day. It was used to highlight the dangers of fraternising with the allies.

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