

CSMMI *Journal*

SUMMER 2022



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CANADIAN FORCES WOUND STRIPE PIN

By Kyle Scott

As a young man I was always told, “if you see a problem, don’t complain, offer solutions to the problem.”

Several years back, I had an appointment to meet with a veteran at my local Legion where I was serving as the Branch Service Officer. During our conversation about benefits, he mentioned he had served overseas on a peacekeeping mission in the 1980s. I had asked him if he knew he was entitled to the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal. He had not heard of it, so I tracked down the paperwork and applied for his medal. It arrived in short order and we arranged an official presentation to him in front of a few hundred people on Remembrance Day. It was a very special day for him, and admittedly me, as well.

That day kick started a mission and ignited a fire inside me that has continued to burn brightly to this day. My goal, is to assist as many families and veterans as I can in acquiring service medals that they may be entitled to or need replaced.

Along the way, I have heard some incredible stories of service and patriotism, and stories of heart break and despair. What I wasn’t prepared for were the number of veterans I’d meet who were wounded both physically and mentally during their service. The physical injuries really caught me off guard. Why? Because many of the folks I spoke to did not receive any formal recognition for those injuries. Many had a small disability pension from Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC), but no formal recognition from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). Previously, in the First and Second World Wars, a Wound Stripe, either gold braid or brass, had been awarded for wounds or injuries sustained. The current cloth Wound Stripe was reintroduced into the honours and awards system in 1990.

Occasionally, I would meet folks who did have the CAF Wound Stripe, in its cloth form, sewn on a tired old dress uniform hanging in a closet, long past the glory days of them having the physical form that once fit into it. Most of the time they did not have the accompanying certificate, or any note of it in their file.

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Often, they told sad stories of quietly being given it in the hallway or passed to them in an envelope discretely. Other times being lectured on how they didn't deserve it, while still healing in their casts and bandages. At first, I struggled to believe that it could have been that bad. As time ticked on and more cases came forward, it became obvious that it was a reoccurring theme.

During this time, I found out that they were still issuing the wound stripe. In fact, retroactively, if one could produce the proof of injury with location, date, and supporting documentation. This was the bit of fuel I needed to get after this.

The first veteran that came forward was a medically retired Combat Engineer who was badly wounded by the detonation of an anti-personnel mine in Croatia in 1992. With compound fractures, shrapnel, and other injuries, his tour was over. He made his way through Germany, back to Canada, and eventually a medical release. He was pensioned for his injuries. However, no wound stripe.

I completed the application and mailed it into the Canadian Forces Transition Group. In only a few weeks, the certificate and wound stripe were mailed out to the veteran. It was a truly happy occasion for this veteran despite the circumstances surrounding it. It was official recognition that his injuries were sustained while serving, a tangible sign of service he could display.

As the cases kept coming forward, more stories of tragedy and courage, came. There was an ever-present issue that kept coming to the forefront of my mind. We have achieved recognition for these folks, but not really. They receive a certificate, and a cloth wound stripe that was meant to be displayed on the left forearm of your dress uniform. What were they to wear, if they so chose, when they retired? The cloth wound stripe wasn't ever considered for this.

In the summer of 2020, I decided that there was seemingly a simple solution to this problem, but I didn't know who to contact. Fortunately, I was given the contact info of retired General Walter Natynczyk who was the head of VAC at the time.

My request was simple, to create an official pin that can be worn with medals on occasions where medals were warranted. With the request a simple design was submitted based off of the First World War-era Wound Stripe and using the current day Sacrifice Medal ribbon colours as a background.

To my surprise, the request made it to where it needed to go in short order. Right back to the very people to whom I had been sending the Wound Stripe applications to begin with. Chief Warrant Officer Remy Lapointe and his successor Chief Warrant Officer Rondeau loved the idea and we worked on the design until it made everyone happy. At that time, samples were gathered from

Continued on Page 2513

NO. 1 & NO. 2 CANADIAN ARMY UNIVERSITY COURSES

Bill Alexander #721 ©2012 (Revised 2022)

During the Second World War many innovative programs were initiated to induct and train personnel for service in the Canadian armed forces. Among these was a unique program created by the army in partnership with the universities of Canada. Perceiving a shortage of officer candidates and technical specialists, the army instituted a program to enroll high school graduates with high academic standing and provide them with the first year of a university engineering degree and at the same time, initiating their military training. From this group the army would select potential officer candidates, while the others would continue with training in many technical trades. The program ran for two years, respectively designated No. 1 Canadian Army University Course (CAUC) and No. 2 Canadian Army University Course.

The CAUC program was initiated in the 1942-1943 school year and extended into 1943-1944. The syllabus included basic military training during the summer months and then in the fall the student-soldiers moved to a university campus for academic instruction, the syllabus being basically a first-year engineering course. With an enrolment of 160 men, No. 1 Canadian Army University Course (No. 1 CAUC) was the trial course held only at the University of Toronto during the academic year 1942-1943. Reviewed at the end of the school year, it was deemed a success. With the positive evaluation of the initial course, No. 2 Canadian Army University Course (No. 2 CAUC) was expanded and organized at universities across Canada for the next school year, 1943-1944. Serials were held at the University of British Columbia, University of Alberta, Western University, University of Toronto, Acadia University, McGill University, McMaster University, Queen's University, University of New Brunswick, and the University of Saskatchewan. At least two more universities participated, but the exact ones have to be confirmed. Over 1,200 student soldiers were enrolled in No. 2 CAUC courses across Canada. At the end of the second session, No. 2 course was again considered a success, but a surplus of personnel had developed. Having met the army's needs, the program was suspended.

Most graduates of the program were sent to officer training for specific corps, including the RCA, RCE, RCCS, and RCEME. They also served in infantry and armoured units overseas. Those not selected as officer candidates continued in

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technical trades training for various corps. Several officer graduates volunteered for the Canloan officer scheme and served overseas under that program.

The student-soldiers enrolled in the Canadian Army University Courses wore battle dress and the drab field service cap. A chrome or rhodium plated general list cap badge of the First World War pattern was worn on the cap. Collar badges were not provided, consistent with NDHQ policy that they were not to be worn on battle dress.

Distinctive shoulder titles were worn by the CAUC contingents, but authorizations have not been located. The shoulder titles bore the number of the course, either “No 1” or “No 2”, over “CANADIAN ARMY COURSE”. No. 1 Canadian Army Course is only found in one pattern. Issued to the limited enrolment of the program’s first year, the title was sprayed in off-white lettering on medium blue felt. No. 2 Canadian Army Course titles are found in several patterns and colours, including flocked and embroidered examples. The standard No. 2 pattern is found in yellow/gold embroidery on dark green melton. Other No. 2 embroidered examples were made using a chain link stitch, white on medium green, standard embroidered red (scarlet) lettering on yellow melton, with a black embroidered border, oyster (silver) embroidery on maroon, and yellow embroidered lettering on medium blue base. The base materials are either felt or melton. Some No. 2 titles were sprayed or printed on felt material and are found in off-white (officially called “oyster”) on medium blue, maroon or scarlet. The variety of types of titles for the No. 2 Course likely reflects specific university serials held at different institutions. Fostering identity and morale would be enhanced by a unique title for each location. In addition to the numbered course titles, a title exists without a course number, reading CANADIAN ARMY COURSE, in white lettering sprayed on red felt or white embroidery on melton. Its purpose has not been established, but it has been suggested that this pattern was worn by the army instructional cadre.

-
- ¹ Stacey C.P. *Six Years of War*, Queen’s Printer, Ottawa, 1955. P139.
 - ² Miller C., “A U of T graduate and war veteran examines the legacy of the generation that grew up fast”, University of Toronto, http://my.alumni.utoronto.ca/s/731/index_clean.aspx?sid=731&gid=9&pgid=821, (June 18, 2012.), University of British Columbia, Senate Committee Minutes August 1943., University of Western Ontario, “125th Anniversary, Our History”, (mhtml.doc, March 19,2007.), Bryson C, “From Work Boots to Army Boots” U of A Engineer Magazine, Winter 2003.
 - ³ Thompson R., *Cap Badges of the Canadian Officer Training Corps*, Vol. 2, Nova Scotia, Canada. 1972. Pg 56.
 - ⁴ Spraying (also called flocking) was a process where the naming or inscription was sprayed or painted using a stencil or screen on the base material. Spraying was done on a stable base fabric, usually felt.

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A VALUABLE FIND THAT JUST 'WALKED' IN THE FRONT DOOR

Ken Cox #1738

As collectors we're always looking for that important find that will enhance our collection of militaria. Sometimes we find desirable items at different collectable shows, flea markets or antique shops, while other times items just 'walk' in the front door.

For many years, I had known about my neighbour's father's naval service during World War 2. His father, Ray Mecoy, had been a stoker onboard HMCS Fort William, a Bangor-class minesweeper, and had recounted to me many times how his ship had swept the channel prior to the D-Day landings in Normandy. Ray had even given me the cap tally which he had worn around his naval cap.

Ten Canadian Bangor-class minesweepers served with the Royal Canadian Navy's 31st Minesweeping Flotilla, and six more served under three different British Flotillas mostly on convoy duty, but later charged with relearning their trade in preparation for the Normandy landings. At 7:00 p.m. on June 5th, 1944, the Canadian minesweepers entered the enemy minefields and proceeded to cut mine cables. They were ordered not to explode the mines, but to just let them float away. There was very real fear that if they destroyed the mines by exploding them the enemy would realize that something special was happening.

Being a stoker, Ray's job was attending the boilers on the Fort William, so he never actually saw the sweeping of the ten-kilometer-wide channels that the task force was assigned. Upon completion of his watch, as his ship was returning to England, he came up on deck for a bit of fresh air and was overwhelmed by the magnitude of the invasion fleet. Massive troop ships dwarfed the Fort William as they headed east through the channels just swept, while his ship headed west, back to harbour in England.

Ray passed away a few years ago but it was not his medals or photograph album that 'walked' through the front door that day. His son had come by to offer me a box that he had discovered while he was preparing to move. It had belonged to his grandfather. Along with the box were a group of photographs showing

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SS JOHN W. BROWN - HISTORY OF A LIBERTY SHIP

Part 2

By Fred Tripp, #L464

The SS John W. Brown is one of only two operational Liberty ships that still exist. During World War II, it had a busy career involving 13 war-related voyages between October 6, 1942 and November 19, 1946. Part 1 of this article was published in the Spring 2022 issue of The Journal. Part 2 is a continuation of the article beginning with the 5th voyage.

5TH VOYAGE - October 19, 1944 - December 29, 1944

Cargo	Details of Voyage
October 19, 1944 -embarked 30 United States Army Air Force fighter pilots -758th Tank Battalion -general cargo	October 22, 1944 -Joined convoy at Hampton Roads. Bad weather all the way to the Mediterranean. -November 17, 1944 - Disembarked fighter pilots at Naples, Italy. - Sailed for Livorno, Italy. *** Livorno was referred to as "Leghorn" by the Allied military.
November 23, 1944 at Leghorn -loaded mail	November 23, 1944 -Disembarked 758th Tank Battalion. -Discharged the general cargo. -Steamed to Naples in convoy.
December 7 - ? , 1944 at Naples -loaded general cargo	- Left Naples bound for Oran. - Sailed alone since Axis forces were no longer considered a threat to Mediterranean shipping.
December 11, 1944 at Oran	Unloaded cargo at Oran.

Cargo	Details of Voyage
December 11 - 13, 1944 at Oran -loaded no cargo	December 13, 1944 -Sailed in convoy for the United States. -Encountered high winds and huge waves in the Atlantic. -Arrived safely at New York on December 29, 1944.

6TH VOYAGE - January 9, 1945 - March 24, 1945

Cargo	Details of Voyage
January 9, 1945 -U.S. Army general cargo -embarked 54 U.S. Army personnel	-January 9, 1945 -sailed from New York. -January 12, 1945 -Arrived at Charleston, South Carolina. Loaded more cargo. -January 17 - 19 sailed for Hampton Roads then to Newport News. -January 23, 1945 -Left in convoy for Naples, Italy.
	February 7, 1945 -Left convoy in Mediterranean and sailed for Naples. February 9, 1945 - Port boiler malfunctioned but reduced speed and continued to Naples. February 11, 1945 -Arrived at Naples. Disembarked passengers. -Repaired boiler. -Sailed for Leghorn.
	February 19, 1945 -Arrived at Leghorn. -Unloaded cargo.

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Cargo	Details of Voyage
	February 27, 1945 - March 5, 1945 -Sailed from Leghorn with stops at Piambino, Naples and Oran.
	March 8, 1945 -Left Oran in convoy bound for the United States. -Boiler began to malfunction and she dropped out of convoy. -Proceeded on her own in the Atlantic Ocean as a straggler. -Boiler was repaired and she caught up with the convoy. To do so, she did not take the standard convoy zigzag pattern of sailing in the Atlantic that was used to evade submarines.
	March 24, 1945 -Arrived safely at New York, with the convoy.

Having arrived back in the United States, the John W. Brown was placed in the Atlantic Basin Iron Works at Brooklyn. There, from April 7 to April 11, her boiler was properly repaired and a gyrocompass was installed.

7TH VOYAGE - April 23, 1945 - June 11, 1945

World War 2 in Europe ended on VE Day while the John W. Brown was on her seventh voyage. She completed her scheduled delivery of cargo and moved to a peace-time, post-war mode of operation.

Cargo	Details of Voyage
April 23, 1945 -U.S. Army general cargo below decks -trucks lashed to main deck	April 23, 1945 -left in convoy. -Crossed North Atlantic in bad weather. -Arrived at The Downs on the south-east coast of England on May 8, 1945. (VE DAY)

Cargo	Details of Voyage
April 23, 1945 continued	April 23, 1945 Continued -Proceeded to Antwerp, Belgium and unloaded cargo.
At Le Havre -embarked 351 U.S. Army personnel (Some were liberated prisoners-of-war)	-May 19, 1945, left Antwerp and arrived at Le Havre, France, on May 22, 1945.
	May 24, 1945 -Departed Le Havre. -Paused at the Solent for two days. -Departed the Solent sailing in convoy for the United States. -Arrived at New York on June 11, 1945. -Disembarked passengers and some of U.S. Naval Armed Guard. -June 20, 1945, sailed for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where the remaining Armed Guard (except for four men) left the Brown.

The war in Europe was done, but the nations there still required massive efforts to help feed their hungry people and to rebuild their shattered economies. This, in its way, was an important part of the victory. The John W. Brown made six more voyages as part of the effort to rebuild liberty in Europe.

8TH VOYAGE - July 3, 1945 - August 11, 1945

Cargo	Details of Voyage
July 3, 1945 -took on general cargo -embarked 419 U. S. Army personnel	-Discharged her cargo at Antwerp. -Sailed for the United States on, July 28, 1945. -Arrived in New York on August 11, 1945 and disembarked her passengers.

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V-J Day ended the War on August 15, 1945 or, because of time differences, on August 14, 1945 in North America.

The John W. Brown underwent alterations in dry dock at Yonkers, New York. When completed, she had the capacity to carry 562 passengers. At that time, all of her armaments were dismantled and removed and the last of her four assigned Navy Armed Guard were disembarked.

9TH VOYAGE - September 15, 1945 - 14 November, 1945

Cargo	Details of Voyage
September 17 -24, 1945 -grain	September 15, 1945 -Departed from New York arriving in Baltimore on September, 16, 1945, where she loaded cargo. -September 25 Left Baltimore and sailed for Marseilles, France. Arrived on October 15, 1945. -Unloaded cargo.
-embarked 645 U.S. Army personnel. This was more than she was officially authorized to carry.	Returned to New York on November 14, 1945. -Disembarked troops.

Before making her next voyage, John W. Brown went to a shipyard in Brooklyn, where she had radar installed.

10TH VOYAGE - November 20, 1945 - January 26, 1946

Cargo	Details of Voyage
-wheat	November 20, 1945 -Sailed up the Hudson River to Albany, New York. -December 1, 1945 - Sailed for Naples, Italy, arriving there on December 20, 1945. -Unloaded cargo of wheat. -Left Naples on January 3, 1946, and arrived at Marseilles, France, on January 6, 1946.

Cargo	Details of Voyage
January 6, 1945 -embarked 564 personnel of the U.S. 100th Infantry Division	January 7, 1946 -Sailed for New York arriving there on January 26, 1946. -Disembarked passengers.

11TH VOYAGE - February 16, 1946 - April 6, 1946.

Cargo	Details of Voyage
-coal	February 16, 1946 -Sailed New York to Baltimore where she loaded cargo. February 20, 1946 -Sailed for Copenhagen, Denmark. -Arrived March 11, 1946 -Unloaded cargo of coal.
-embarked 10 civilian airline pilots	March 21, 1946 -Departed Copenhagen. -Arrived at Baltimore on April 6, 1946.

12TH VOYAGE - June 18, 1946 - July 23, 1946

Cargo	Details of Voyage
-general cargo	June 18, 1946 -Departed Baltimore. -Arrived in Hamburg, Germany on 4/5 July, 1946. -Unloaded cargo. -Departed Hamburg on July 9, 1946. -Arrived back in New York on July 23, 1946.

The John W. Brown was nearing the end of its usefulness as a Liberty ship. It had served well in that capacity during and after the war, but it was at the end of the five years that it had been designed to operate. The war was over. Its last voyage was at hand.

Continued on Page 2507

13TH VOYAGE - August 9, 1946 - November 19, 1946

Cargo	Details of Voyage
-grain	August 9, 1946 -Departed New York. -Arrived at Galveston and then Houston, Texas. -Took on cargo.
	-Left Houston and sailed to the United Kingdom. -October 22, 1946. -Unloaded the cargo at Kingston-upon-Hull. -Departed for London, England
	October 29, 1946. - Arrived at London. -Left London on November 1, 1946, sailing for New York.
-took on board a “small cargo”	-November 15, 1946. -Arrived in New York and unloaded her cargo.

On November 19, 1946, the SS John W. Brown ended her career as a personnel/cargo-carrying Liberty ship.

THE BROWN'S NEXT CAREERS

Retired as a Liberty ship, the Brown was taken to New York where the Maritime Commission signed an agreement, with the City of New York. She was to be loaned to the city to be used as a vocational high school for the training of high school boys who were interested in careers in seafaring. She became the SS John W. Brown High School. The training program was in effect from December 1946, until it was closed in 1982.

In August, 1988, the Brown was towed to Baltimore, Maryland. In September, ceremonies held there dedicated her as a memorial museum. Restoration efforts were to take three more years. On August 24, 1991, she completed sea trials

and in September (at 49 years of age) she made her first cruise in her new guise. The SS John W. Brown was now a floating museum. “Living History Cruises” are scheduled and lessons given in her history, the role of Liberty ships during the war and the role played by the U.S. Merchant Marine. Her guns have been reinstalled and air attacks can be simulated and “beaten off” in re-enactments.

Fred Tripp



Flags flying, guns pointed skyward, the Brown steams for Lock 2 on her way to Lake Erie in 2000.

Please see page 2509 for Medals, Ribbons and Bars Awarded.

End of Part 2. Part 3 to be continued in the next issue of the *Journal*.






REFERENCES

SS John W. Brown (Wikipedia) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_John_W._Brown

The BROWN --- S.S. JOHN W. BROWN <https://www.sjohnwbrown.org/ship-history>

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Medals, Ribbons and Bars Awarded
to the SS John W. Brown for
World War Two Service

<p>US MERCHANT MARINE COMBAT BAR Awarded for damage by an enemy or by an "instrument of war". Bar only</p>	 The US Merchant Marine Combat Bar consists of three horizontal stripes: a top blue stripe, a middle red stripe, and a bottom blue stripe.
<p>US MERCHANT MARINE ATLANTIC WAR ZONE BAR Awarded for service in any part of the Atlantic Ocean war zone between December 7, 1941 and November 8, 1945. Bar only</p>	 The US Merchant Marine Atlantic War Zone Bar features a red background with a white central band containing a red anchor.
<p>MERCHANT MARINE PACIFIC WAR ZONE MEDAL A decoration recognizing service of a War Shipping Administration vessel in the Pacific War Zone between December 7, 1941, and March 2, 1946.</p>	 The Merchant Marine Pacific War Zone Medal is a ribbon with a central red band, flanked by blue and yellow bands.
<p>MERCHANT MARINE MEDITERRANEAN-MIDDLE -EAST WAR ZONE MEDAL A decoration recognizing service of a War Shipping Administration vessel between December 7, 1941, and November 8, 1946.</p>	 The Merchant Marine Mediterranean-Middle-East War Zone Medal is a ribbon with a central green band, flanked by yellow and red bands.
<p>MERCHANT MARINE WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL A decoration awarded to all American-flagged merchant ships that served for at least 30 days between December 7, 1941, and September 3, 1945.</p>	 The Merchant Marine World War II Victory Medal is a ribbon with a central blue band, flanked by yellow and red bands.



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*CAUC white embroidery on red melton.
The white on red titles are attributed to instructors.*



CAUC white flocked on red felt



No. 1 CAUC oyster flocked on blue felt



No. 2 CAUC oyster flocked on blue felt



No. 2 CAUC yellow on blue melton



No. 2 CAUC silver on maroon felt



*No. 2 CAUC embroidered oyster
on maroon melton*



No. 2 CAUC oyster flocked on red felt



No. 2 CAUC red on yellow melton



No. 2 CAUC red on yellow with blue border



No. 2 CAUC yellow on grey melton



*No. 2 CAUC embroidered with
white chain link stitch on green melton*



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several manufacturers. A sample was chosen and went to production.

From start to finish the entire process took approximately six months. Then, qualified veterans across the country started receiving their pins in the mail beginning in April 2021. Anyone who was already in the Department of National Defence (DND) database with current contact info was automatically mailed one, and anyone in receipt of a cloth wound stripe and certificate only needed to reach out and show proof of award, and one would be mailed to them.

The Department of National Defence does not have complete lists of all who were awarded a stripe, so it will take time to reach the majority of veterans. Also, as mentioned previously, many veterans have no official proof, and if that is the case, they just simply apply for it as if it's the first time and that will be corrected.

The Wound Stripe Pin comes with a simple card explaining how the stripe is to be worn, which is centered below medals on the pocket of a blazer or suitable attire.



Front view of the Wound Stripe Pin

Applications can be made to CWO Martin Rondeau at the Canadian Forces Transition Group. martin.rondeau@forces.gc.ca



Back view of the Wound Stripe Pin

I am extremely proud to see this small pin created and thankful for the support of the CF Transition Group, CWO Rondeau, and CWO Lapointe (Ret.)

(Editor's note: The Wound Stripe Pin eligibility applies to those who were awarded a wound stripe for service prior to October 2001. Questions regarding eligibility should be directed to CWO Rondeau).



Blazer showing placement of the Wound Stripe Pin on left side centered below medals



Wearing guide for the CAF Wound Stripe Pin.

A. Charles Mecoy with the signal corps attached to the 123rd Battalion Royal Grenadiers. There was also a studio post card photograph of Charles taken later in World War One showing him sporting the rank of sergeant. The photos were all really interesting, but it was the box which contained the really valuable collection.



Charles Mecoy's medals, insignia and pocket watch.

Upon demobilization, Charles must have removed all the buttons from his tunic, taken the badges along with collars he wore, the wound stripe he earned, the watch he carried with other war related items and placed them in the box. Later he placed his Victory Medal and British War Medal in a special case and added these to his other war mementoes. He even thought to include the Queen's Own Rifles cadet badge he had worn before enlisting.

When something like this is offered by a family member it always behoves the recipient to explain the value of the items being freely given and, of course, offer to research the war record of the ancestor. This especially, since Charles Mecoy had earned a wound stripe and had two badges in the box; one for the 123rd Battalion, Royal Grenadiers and the other for the 19th Battalion.

Charles' attestation papers showed he was born in Maidstone, Kent, England, and enlisted on November 29, 1915 in Toronto. He gave his birthdate as

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Sept. 30th, 1897. His Casualty/Service record indicates he sailed for England on Aug. 8th, 1916 and was later transferred to the 19th Battalion. In 1917, the authorities learned he was a minor, supposedly born Sept. 30th, 1898, and shipped him off to 1st Army School until he reached the appropriate age. Upon return to duty in May 1918, Charles was

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Sgt. A. Charles Mecoy.



Some of Charles Mecoy's collection mounted for display.

IN MEMORIAM

FRANK GRANT #1889

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Frank Grant on January 18, 2022, in his 85th year. Frank (Francis) Frederick Grant, December 15, 1936 - January 18, 2022, passed away at Georgetown Hospital in Halton Hills, Ontario.

I started attending annual shows and sales of the MCC of C and the CSMMI in the early seventies and I can't recall, ever, not seeing Frank in attendance, providing an impressive military display, and/or at the working end of a bourse table.

Over the years, as I became more acquainted with Frank, I learned that he had earned a PhD in History (twice), consulted with a multitude of military museums, authors and collectors from around the world, and created and maintained his own "accredited" museum of military history and artifacts.

Frank supported the CSMMI for many years by attending our monthly and annual shows on a regular basis and providing many good ideas of how we might improve our society.

If a collector or museum were having a difficulty in finding, repairing or identifying an article of military significance, they could put Frank on the "case" and consider the "problem solved". He will be sorely missed in the hobby by collectors and institutions alike.



Frank Grant at the CSMMI Annual Show in 2019



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October 16 • November 20

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Show and Table Enquiries: Bryan at 289-837-4067



1950s Soviet Navy Captain 3rd rank (senior officer) working uniform: cap, jacket with rank shoulder boards and sleeve insignia, WWII order and campaign ribbons, and dress dagger waist belt.

SOME ASPECTS OF CARING FOR CLOTH: AN OVERVIEW

*by Gregory Loughton #1625
Photos by Erin Baxter*

From the oldest 18th Century European military rank and specialty insignia through uniforms and headwear, to the most recent military flags, the collector of cloth militaria faces some serious challenges: the inherent fragility of cloth, the environmental/organic hazards, choices for display and storage, and, the financial costs.

FRAGILITY OF CLOTH:

From the thinnest silk souvenir handkerchief to the thickest felt and bullion wire shoulder board, cloth is fragile as compared with “hard” military objects such as edged weapons and firearms. Cloth fades and embrittles with exposure to direct sunlight, weakens and rots when exposed to high humidity or direct exposure to water (a flood situation), can “take on” almost permanent wrinkles, folds, or tears (through poor storage and handling) that can weaken the fabric and impair proper display. Bullion wire and metallic lace oxidize with exposure to air contaminants. Cloth is very vulnerable to insect pests which literally eat away the very objects we spend time and money to collect. However, if cloth receives proper care, handling, storage, treatment, display, it can outlast its human creators, owners, and collectors many times over.

ENVIRONMENTAL/ORGANIC HAZARDS:

Cloth insignia, headwear, uniforms, and flags can degrade within years from exposure to heat, humidity, and ultraviolet light. That same cloth insignia, headwear, uniform, or flag can almost disappear within weeks when subject to insect pest infestations.

Cloth kept in temperatures over 65 degrees F and humidity over 55 percent relative humidity (typically in places like attics and basements) will deteriorate. Heat will make cloth brittle and humidity will stain and weaken cloth. Use of humidifiers and silica gel to alter/absorb humidity is a temporary measure only.

Cloth displayed in direct sunlight will fade and weaken from exposure to ultraviolet light. Cloth headwear and uniforms on display in direct sun, and framed fabrics and cloth in direct or indirect sunlight will fade. All dyes will eventually fade, but fabrics with red dye will fade and weaken first. Windows can be protected with ultraviolet film sheets applied direct to the window surface. Display picture frames should be fitted with UV inhibiting glass.

REGULAR GLASS is reflective and filters out 47 percent of UV light.

NON-GLARE GLASS cuts down reflection and filters out 47 percent of UV light.

ANTI-REFLECTIVE GLASS is not reflective, filters out 78 percent of UV light.

CONSERVATION CLEAR GLASS gives a clear image, is reflective, filters out 97 percent of UV light.

MUSEUM GLASS gives a clear image with no reflection (looks as if there is no glass at all), filters out 97 percent of UV light.

Cloth is extremely vulnerable to insect pests. Most fabrics in need of defence against various moths and beetles are animal-based (wool, horsehair, etc.). Moths can destroy fabrics within weeks or months. When we see “the little flutterers” about our rooms, we know there is trouble, but it is the moth larvae, a life form stage of those moths which burrow through our fabrics and cloth, leaving gray or white “furry tunnels” of digested cloth.

The most common commercial moth traps (Aeraxon® or Catchmaster®) will trap “the little flutterers” and so reduce moth numbers. More advanced insect traps and chemical inhibitors are available from museum supply companies. One Canadian company is CARR McLEAN Archival Supplies.

CHOICES OF DISPLAY AND STORAGE:

Most CSMMI members rely on “Riker boxes” to store and display their cloth, some have hundreds of labeled and stored boxes. Cloth items lay flat in the box according to their sizes. Larger cloth items (small insignia in series, and many flags) can be archivally framed. Headwear and uniform items can take standard sized styrofoam heads and torso forms. Older uniforms need smaller, hand-made Ethafoam™ heads and torso forms (closed-cell polyethylene foam). The most delicate uniforms will have to be flat-stored in acid-free boxes. Large flags up to a certain size can be framed, but will need support by being sewn onto the archival frame. Even larger flags will need rolled storage, again, in archival boxes. The most fortunate (and financially secure) collector will have a room (even a house) filled with headwear and torso forms for his/her collection.

FINANCIAL COSTS:

From the smallest “Riker box” to the most expensive museum-quality torso form or archival picture frame, the costs of caring for your cloth are always to be considered. “Riker boxes” go up to a certain size, after which you will need “ready-made frames” (available at IKEA or craft stores), or purpose-built

Continued on Page 2522

custom frames available from your local picture frame store.

Headwear and torso forms can range in expense, from tens of dollars to thousands of dollars each (think styrofoam to museum-company level purpose-built).

Picture frames should incorporate archival quality components: wood or metal frames with acid-free mats and backing, walls and spacers to keep cloth away from the glass, UV inhibiting glass (remember that UV GLASS is 3-4 times more expensive than REGULAR GLASS, and MUSEUM GLASS is 5 times more expensive than REGULAR GLASS). To reduce weight of framed large-sized cloth items in frames, plexiglass can replace glass. An archival quality custom picture frame (depending on size of cloth item) can cost from 100 to 10,000 dollars.

These are some considerations for care of your cloth with examples from Gregory's collection, all frames REGULAR GLASS.



1980s Soviet Navy non-commissioned personnel trade/specialty badges displayed in in a custom frame with a mat around objects.

President's Message

Bryan Patterson, President, #953

I will start this President's Message off with a bit of nostalgia.

It was March 21, 1965, that the CSMMI had its first meeting with the 18 founding members in attendance. One of those members, Bud Migory #L16, will be reading the President's Message in this copy of the *Journal*. **Congratulations Bud, on 57 years of faithful service!**



The spring *Journal* had gone to press before we learned of the passing of Frank Grant in January. A tribute to Frank is included in this issue.

Most of you are aware that we re-started our monthly shows in February this year. The first one was a bit of a challenge with many of the COVID protocols still in effect. It got better as the month went along, and now the annual show and sale is coming up in less than 30 days. It promises to be a giant success. All the bourse and display tables are spoken for, but we have set up a waiting list in case of cancellations. You can put your name on that list by calling me at 289-837-0467.

A special shout out to all of our members who have agreed to receive their copies of the *Journal* via pdf. The cost of producing the *Journal* has decreased by almost 60% because of your generosity. Thank you so much!

I am still gathering information on the Long Service Medal for the Society. A lot of the local suppliers are pulling out of the business of medal production, so we have had to go overseas for a supplier. Tim Burt has taken charge of this project for us.

Gentlemen and Ladies – I will never be able to give enough praise to my CSMMI posse – Ken Keegan, Terry Wallace, Lawrence Stasiuk, Bill Alexander, Andy Traverse, Mike McLean, Tim Burt. They have been my rocks for the 12 years of my leading the charge.

BUT NOW we need someone to step up at the 2022 AGM to take on my position.

Continued on Page 2524

When I took the leadership in 2010 the position was called “President”, but over the past 12 years that position has evolved into that of “a coordinator” (that was my plan). The posse shares the tasks – each taking on a specific duty – Ken, membership; Terry, advertising; Lawrence, ramrodding the *Journal* schedule; Lawrence and Bill, proofreading the articles for the *Journal*; Mike, organizing the annual and monthly shows; Andy, responsible for our financial health; and Tim Burt, special projects.

As president, I see that the projects are proceeding as planned, and assist where I am asked, hence “the coordinator”.

After 12 years, I am getting stale. I’m losing my juice. We need new and fresh ideas to take us on our continuing journey. The next person has a redefined role as leader – believe me, it’s not an onerous task.

So here is the plan. I am going to resign as president at the next AGM and the posse can select a new leader among themselves or someone new can step up to take the reigns. I will take the executive position of Past President, thereby becoming a new member of the posse.

Thanks to everyone for your support and guidance during my tenure.

Bryan

Call for Nominations

The CSMMI is run by volunteers on the Executive, who are chosen by the membership to hold office. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are elected at the Annual General Meeting for a one-year term.

Those members in good standing who are interested in serving are invited to submit their names to the Nominating Committee by 5:00 pm Wednesday June 15, 2022.

If you are nominating a member, please ensure that the nominee is aware and willing to stand for election. Nominations are to be emailed to bryanpatterson@rogers.com or mailed to:

The CSMMI P.O. Box 63075, University Plaza, Dundas, Ontario, Canada, L9H 6Y3, attention Nominating Committee.



Soviet Navy jack flag centre insignia, red star with white hammer/sickle displayed with mat on top of object in a custom frame.

This flag is a reproduction which flew from the bow of the FOXTROT class submarine b-427, a “museum ship” at Long Beach, California. The submarine attracted visitors from 1997-2015, closing due to ballast tank flooding, rust, and successive invasions of American raccoons. The ship was cut up for scrap in 2021.



1980s Soviet Navy ensign (rear view) flown from stern mast of a small launch or boat displayed with mat around object in a custom frame.

promoted to corporal and on Aug. 8th was hospitalized with a gunshot wound to the left buttock; this after being treated once for inflammation of the knee and later for a case of scabies. It's easy to speculate that he could have received the gunshot wound while laying wire and stuck his buttock up too high in the air: thus, tempting a German sniper to take a shot!

Another interesting discovery was that his pay records show that he had allocated \$20.00 per month from his service pay to his widow mother: first to an address in Toronto; later to an address in Kent England, and finally to an address in Toronto again. This would lead a researcher to wonder if his mother might have gone back to England and notified the authorities that Charles was her only son and had joined underage. Charles' discharge papers, interestingly, do record that he had served three years and was nineteen years old upon discharge.

An interesting collection and two very interesting stories of service to our country by a grandfather and father of a neighbour. As collectors, we should constantly be aware that there is always a story attached to those military items we collect. That uniform, those medals, that worn service cap or that tarnished hat badge all tell us that someone stepped up when called upon and perhaps faced some significant challenges.



123rd Battalion, Royal Canadian Grenadiers signal section Niagara Camp, June 22nd, 1916. Alfred Charles Mecoy is standing in the back row at the far right.

SOCIETY AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The Canadian Society of Military Medals and Insignia (CSMMI) was founded on March 21, 1965 for the purpose of advancing the study of military orders, decorations, medals, insignia, accoutrements, documents and all related militaria.

The Society seeks to encourage popular interest and to gather and publish information in all matters related thereto, along educational and historical lines. It also seeks to foster the preservation of such honours, awards, insignia and items of military interest for future generations.

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Vendors Wanted

The CSMMI invites vendors to our monthly meetings & sales. In 2022, the CSMMI will run 7 shows.

February 20 · March 20 · April 17 · May 15
September 18 · October 16 · November 20

Tables are available for rent by members at \$25.00 per table per show and non-members at \$35.00 per table per show. Vendors shall align with the core aims and mission of the Society.

Members are entitled to a free table once a year. Here's an excellent opportunity to change up your collection. If you want to set up a display, there is no charge for a table.



CSMMI
CANADIAN SOCIETY OF
MILITARY MEDALS & INSIGNIA

For show and table enquiries
contact Bryan at 289-837-4067
or email: info@csmmi.com



CSMMI *Journal*

ARTICLES WANTED

You DON'T need to be an author, you just share your knowledge, or history; tell a story about a great find or a significant person.

email bryanpatterson@rogers.com

CHARLIE WESTLAKE - A Soldier's Story

By Fred Tripp #L464

Charlie Westlake was a World War II veteran who had served with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI). He never spoke about anything related to his time in the army. One day, he suddenly told me a short story. I don't know what caused him to start talking. He just told me a story.

It was in early May and Charlie was scouting along the edge of a waterway. Suddenly, a really big German appeared right in his path. Before Charlie could do anything, the German just picked him up and easily threw him into the water. Charlie surfaced and began trying to get out. The German stood on the bank and watched him. Then, to Charlie's amazement, the German said in perfect English, "Stay there Canada. The war's almost over and it would be a shame to kill you now."

Charlie then added, with a sort of semi-smile on his face, "I stayed there. The German just turned and walked away." I never heard Charlie speak of anything war-related again.

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Advertising in any or all of the publications may be obtained at the following rates:

COLOUR COVER ADS

Back	Full page	4 ½" x 7 ½"	\$90.00
Inside Front	Full page	4 ½" x 7 ½"	\$85.00
Inside Back	Full page	4 ½" x 7 ½"	\$85.00

INSIDE ADS

			Colour	Black
	Full page	4 ½" x 7 ½"	\$80.00	\$60.00
	2/3 page	4 ½" x 4 ¾"	\$60.00	\$45.00
	1/2 page	4 ½" x 3 ½"	\$50.00	\$35.00
	1/3 page	4 ½" x 2 3/8"	\$45.00	\$30.00

INSERT PAGES

Inserts should be of light weight paper and must be provided ready-folded for insertion in the Journal mailings. The base rate is \$ 60.00 per mailing but this may be subject to an increase should additional pages result in an increase in the costs of mailing the Journal.

CLASSIFIED ADS (Rates are per insert per issue)

Up to 20 Words	\$4.00
21 - 40 words	\$8.00
41 - 60 words	\$12.00

Payment must accompany the advertisement. The placing of classified ads is restricted to CSMMI members. Please use form provided in the Journal.

Advertising space will be provided, as a service, to members who are searching for items to buy, sell or trade. Name, address, telephone number, etc. are NOT included in the word count.

Photographs for classified ads will be printed at a cost of \$10.00 each (black and white). A SASE should be included if the return of the pictures is desired.

HOW TO ADVERTISE

Anyone interested in advertising in these publications should contact Terry Wallace, C.S.M.M.I Advertising:

Email: braveheart-militaria@rogers.com

Phone: (519) 290-0589

Mail: CSMMI, c/o Terry Wallace, 15 – 19 Anderson Street,
Woodstock, ON CANADA N4S 9A3

Classified Ads

BUY, SELL, TRADE

Please note (#) tells the number of times this ad still has to run.

WANTED TO BUY: Canadian Korea Medals with service numbers prefix "L" and suffix "H". Medals to RCN and RCNVR. Contact Dave Mildon by email at 521900skeena@gmail.com or by phone at 905-716-7677. (3)

WANTED TO BUY: Collector willing to pay top dollar for North American gold or silver coins and banknotes. Contact: Dave 905-320-9222. Email: eris7446@gmail.com (1)

FOR SALE Jeffrey Hoare Auction catalogues, with prices realized. For what we collect, this is an important reference, giving real values. Multiple copies available. Please inquire, Tim Wellstead twellstead74@gmail.com The Book Barn Thebookbarnon86.com (2)

WANTED TO BUY - BOY SCOUT COLLECTIBLES: Crests, Uniforms, Awards, Publications. Wolf Cubs, Rovers, Sea Scouts, Venturers, Jamborees. I can help value and identify. Questions? CONTACT: Ron Antonio 443 Winfield Terrace, Mississauga, ON L5R 1P3 Toll Free 1-888-301-1903, 905-890-8453 Email: cbreak@rogers.com (8)

WANTED TO BUY - POSTERS: Propaganda, Military, Travel, Tourism, Movie, Theatre, Music, Art, Advertising. Paper, Cardboard. Canadian, Foreign. Can help value and identify. Questions? CONTACT: Ron Antonio 443 Winfield Terrace, Mississauga, ON L5R 1P3 Toll Free 1-888-301-1903, 905-890-8453 Email: cbreak@rogers.com (8)

WANTED TO BUY: WW1 Military Medal group to Arthur Leslie Samson #414497 CEF. 40th, & 24th Battalions Contact J. MacNaughton. 902-542-3989 email: jmacnaughton@ns.sympatico.ca (2)

WANTED TO SELL: Die Cast aircraft. Late '40's to date. All brands. New Riker frames. Classic 12x16x3/4. Half classic 8 x 12 x 3/4. Smaller Rikers all sizes. Used wood frames in great condition. Walnut frames 12 x 18 brand new. RCAF cloth, RCA brass. Contact Kevin: wd901h@gmail.com. Call: 289-684-6778 Please leave message. (2)

WANTED TO BUY: Helmet collector looking to purchase Canadian or German helmets from both wars. Single items or whole collections considered. Phone 613 438-5672 and leave a message, or e-mail franko255@outlook.com (3)

WANTED TO BUY: Medals for 62nd Regiment, Wiltshire Regiment, and Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry. Contact: Barry, email: barryboots@yahoo.ca (2)

WANTED TO BUY: Brooker's Badges of the Canadian Army from 1920 to unification. Volumes 4, 5, 6. Soft cover, good condition, no notes or marks inside. Please contact: mneves64@hotmail.com (1)

Advertisers...

Do you have a (0) at the end of your ad?
It's time to renew!

See page 2532 for a handy order form to renew your ad

Classified Ad Form

The following form may be used for classified advertising in future Journals. If there is not enough space, complete your ad on a separate piece of paper and attach it to the form.

NAME _____ NUMBER _____

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Example... 40 word ad, in four issues = \$8.00 x 4 = \$32.00

(Please circle the appropriate heading)

WANTED TO: BUY SELL TRADE

TEXT for AD: _____

Amount of remittance \$ _____

Please mail, with remittance to:

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Application for Membership



CANADIAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY MEDALS AND INSIGNIA

(Founded 1965)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP *(Please show any changes with an asterisk*)*

Name	Membership Number	New Member
------	-------------------	------------

Address		
Street	City	
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Collecting Interests

Do you authorize the C.S.M.M.I. to publish the above information? If "Yes" is not checked, then we cannot publish the information.	Yes	No
---	-----	----

(Signature)

(Date)

MEMBERSHIP FEES

<p>\$35.00 (Canadian funds) for Canadian Memberships \$35.00 (U.S. funds for American and Overseas Memberships) Please enclose \$35.00 for 1 year _____ or \$70.00 for 2 years _____ Please return this completed form, with a cheque or money order made payable to C.S.M.M.I., to Ken Keegan (Membership Secretary) P.O. Box 63075, University Plaza RPO, Dundas, Ontario, Canada L9H 6Y3 eTransfer payment - email: bcatp8@hotmail.com</p>

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES

<p>International contact with military collectors & historians. Military-related Journals & newsletters published by the CSMMI Preferred vendor registration to the Society's Annual International Show Preferred status to rent bourse tables at all shows Reduced admission to monthly shows.</p>

<p>The CSMMI Journal is distributed in pdf format via email. Print journals are available on request. Please check if you would like to receive a print Journal. I prefer a print Journal. ____</p>
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Note: Membership valid from January 1 – December 31. Annual fees due by January 31st.
 New membership starting after July 1st shall be extended to December 31 of the following year.

(CSMMI form Nov 2021)



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A Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, K.C.S.I., Knight Commander Set, c.1910



United Kingdom.

An Illustrious Order of St.Patrick, by Rundell Bridge & Rundell, c.1810



Germany, Imperial.

The Pour-le-Mérite with Oak Leaves, to Hugo Gottlieb von Kathen, Commander of the 74th Infantry



United Kingdom.

A Most Noble Order of the Garter, by Richard Davies, c.1805



Hesse-Kassel.

An Order of the Iron Helmet (Kurhessischer Orden vom Eisernen Helm) Type I, c.1814



United Kingdom.

A Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Grand Cross Star in Gold with Diamonds, Emeralds, and Rubies, c.1835



United Kingdom.

A Most Ancient & Noble Order of the Thistle, Collar Badge in Gold

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