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THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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February 2017

LOW DOG “Xunka Kuciyedan: Oglala Sioux Chief

In 1876 he joined Sitting Bull's war party on the Little Big-horn. He and his men would fight against Reno and Custer. Low Dogs account on the battle is one history's best known.

We were in camp near Little Big Horn river. We had lost some horses, and an Indian went back on the trail to look for them. We did not know that the white warriors were coming after us. Some scouts or men in advance of the warriors saw the Indian looking for the horses and ran after him and tried to kill him to keep him from bringing us word, but he ran faster than they and came into camp and told us that the white warriors were coming. I was asleep in my lodge at the time. The sun was about noon (pointing with his finger). I heard the alarm, but I did not believe it. I thought it was a false alarm. I did not think it possible that any white men would attack us, so strong as we were. We had in camp the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, and seven different tribes of the Teton Sioux a countless number. Although I did not believe it was a true alarm, I lost no time getting ready. When I got my gun and came out of my lodge the attack had begun at the end of the camp where Sitting Bull and the Uncpapas were. The Indians held their ground to give the women and children time to get out of the way. By this time the herders were driving in the horses and as I was nearly at the further end of the camp, I ordered my men to catch their horses and get out of the way, and my men were hurrying to go and help those that were fighting.

When the fighters saw that the women and children were safe they fell back. By this time my people went to help them, and



the less able warriors and the women caught horses and got them ready, and we drove the first attacking party back, and that party retreated to a high hill. Then I told my people not to venture too far in pursuit for fear of falling into an ambush.

By this time all the warriors in our camp were mounted and ready for fight, and then we were attacked on the other side by another party. They came on us like a thunderbolt. I never before nor since saw men so brave and fearless as those white warriors. We retreated until our men got all together, and then we charged upon them. I called to my men, "This is a good day to die: follow me." We massed our men, and that no man should fall back, every man whipped another man's horse and we rushed right upon them. As we rushed upon them the white warriors dismounted to fire, but they did very poor shooting. They held their horses reins on one arm while they were shooting, but their horses were so frightened that they pulled the men all around, and a great many of their shots went up in the air and did us no harm. The white warriors stood their ground bravely, and none of them made any attempt to get away. After all but two of them were killed, I captured two of their horses. Then the wise men and chiefs of our nation gave out to our people not to mutilate the dead white chief, for he was a brave warrior and died a brave man, and his remains should be respected.

Then I turned around and went to help fight the other white warriors, who had retreated to a high hill on the east side of the river. . . . I don't know whether any white men of Custer's force were taken prisoners. When I got back to our camp they were all dead.

CMHS Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday,
March
21st.,
2017**

7:00 pm

At the
Petty Officers' Mess
HCMS Tecumseh

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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, March 21st, 2017
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 report Treasurer's report, Old business / New business Break, Show & Tell
The President, **Allan Ross** would like to invite everyone to remain after the meeting for an informal time of fellowship.

Everything was in confusion all the time of the fight. I did not see Gen. Custer. I do not know who killed him. We did not know till the fight was over that he was the white chief. We had no idea that the white warriors were coming until the runner came in and told us. I do not say that Reno was a coward. He fought well, but our men were fighting to save their women and children, and drive them back. If Reno and his warriors had fought as Custer and his warriors fought, the battle might have been against us. No white man or Indian ever fought as bravely as Custer and his men. The next day we fought Reno and his forces again, and killed many of them. Then the chief said these men had been punished enough, and that we ought to be merciful, and let them go.

Then we heard that another force was coming up the river to fight us . . . and we started to fight them, but the chief and wise men counseled that we had fought enough and that we should not fight unless attacked, and we went back and took our women and children and went away.

This ended *Low Dog's narration*, given in the hearing of half a dozen officers, some of the Seventeenth Infantry and some of the Seventh Cavalry—Custer's regiment. It was in the evening; the sun had set and the twilight was deepening. Officers were there who were at the Big Horn with Benteen, senior captain of the Seventh, who usually exercised command as a field officer, and who, with his battalion, joined Reno on the first day of the fight, after his retreat, and was in the second day's fight. It was a strange and intensely interesting scene. When Low Dog began his narrative only Capt. Howe, the interpreter, and myself were present, but as he progressed the officers gathered round, listening to every word, and all were impressed that the Indian chief was giving a true account, according to his knowledge. Someone asked how many Indians were killed in the fight, Low Dog answered, "Thirty—eight, who died then, and a great many—I can't tell the number—who were wounded and died afterwards. I never saw a fight in which so many in proportion to the killed were wounded, and so many horses were wounded." Another asked who were the dead Indians that were found in two tepees five in one and six in the other—all richly dressed, and with their ponies, slain about the tepees. He said eight were chiefs killed in the battle. One was his own brother, born of the same mother and the same father, and he did not know who the other two were.

The question was asked, "What part did Sitting Bull take in the fight?" Low Dog is not friendly to Sitting Bull. He answered with a sneer: "If someone would lend him a heart he would fight." Then Low Dog said he would like to go home, and with the interpreter he went back to the Indian camp. He is a tall, straight Indian, thirty-four years old, not a bad face, regular features and small hands and feet.

He said that when he had his weapons and was on the war-path he considered no man his superior; but when he surrendered he laid that feeling all aside, and now if any man should try to chastise him in his humble condition and helplessness all he could do would be to tell him that he was no man and a coward; which, while he was on the warpath he would allow no man to say and live.



1884 crayon ledger drawing by Lakota artist Red Dog honoring the valor of Low Dog . Ledger art is a term for Plains Indian narrative drawing or painting on paper . The term comes from the accounting ledger books that were a common source of paper .

Minutes of last meeting / Calgary Military Historical Society

Meeting held on February 21, 2017 at the Petty Officer's Mess, HMCS Tecumseh

- 1. Meeting called to order** by President Allan R. at 7:10 PM. 21 members in attendance and 1 Guest, Dave Southerland attending by invitation from Darrell K.
- 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.** No omissions or corrections. Member Barry E. moves that the Previous Meeting Minutes be accepted. Seconded by Indra R. Approved.
- 3. Newsletter.** Corrections, spelling in newsletter article addressed.
- 4. Treasures Report.** Report by David G. Lists of monies collected from book auctions, donations etc. Listing of expenditures. Member Bob M. moves that the Treasures report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Barry E. Approved.
- 5. Membership Report.** Report by David G. Total 42 members (2 Life, 1 Hon., 39 regular). Eight (8) members have not paid their 2017 dues. Member Darrell K. moves that the Membership report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Member Don S. Approved.
- 6. Correspondence:** None
- 7. Announcements:**
Military Museums of Calgary - Lecture Series begins with 1st Lecture "H-Hour: Normandy 1944" on Thursday February 23, 2017 with a reception 6:30 pm and lecture at 7:00 pm.
- 8. Old Business.** Martin U. gives March 4, 2017 Calgary Militaria Show update.
- 9. New Business:-** Motion tabled by Member David G. for the CMHS to book one (1) table at the Calgary Militaria Show at a cost of \$20.00 to display and advertise the society. Seconded by Barry E.
Motion Passed.
- 2017 Christmas Party tabled to consider location and early booking.
- 10. Ticket book auction conducted**
- 11. Break**
- 12. Show and Tell:**
Herb J. - Reads list of seldom know Southern Alberta historical facts. Wooden cigar box with inlaid Black watch cap badge made by Cdn Army Black Watch soldier "Horne" wounded and captured at Dieppe,
Gary M. - Purchased a replica VC from England. - John Thyen's CGSM Fenian Raids book. Two 13 Battalion badges (collars?).
Stewart N - Two N Vietnamese, American War period medals. 1914/1915 Italian Unification medal.
Bob M. - RCAF gold wire blazer crest. Finland 1940 Order of the Cross of Liberty WW2 issued to wounded officers.
James B. - Discusses Family day at the Military Museums of Calgary and Leopard Tank now on Display.
Alan D. - 1945 Calgary West Canada High School program. Two WW2 Memorial "Silver" crosses, 1 issued to his grandmother and one to his mother.
John E. - Discusses a large collection of RCMP item he will be receiving from within his family.
David G. - Phot of Ssgt WW1. Rocky Mountain Ranger insignia.
David S. - Discusses scarce cap badges. Cape Breton Highlander badge from Mazeas's collection. Cape Breton Highlanders badge altered to increase the value.
Darrell K. - Metal crate packing plate. Toy US Army train set engine. Belgian (UK) para helmet altered for dispatch riders. 1953 "BMB" white para helmet for winter or instructor.
Dave S. - Guest - discusses Father in RCAF WW2 with 664 "Air Observation Post" Squadron.
Photo album, winds and ribbon bars.
Garrett L. - WW1 Princess Mary Christmas box. Boer War chocolate tin.
Martin U. - Complete Cap badge collection, 1855 to present, lineage of the 21 Battalion of Volunteer Militia thru to current Essex & Kent Scottish and Windsor regiments.
Alan R. - 3 pre-WW2 Police badges

Adjournment: President Allan R. calls for motion to adjourn. Member Barry E. moves to adjourn. Seconded by John E. Approved.

Meeting Adjourned. 20:30



Glen Douglas was a veteran of three wars. World War II , Korean War and the Vietnam War.

He was born on the Okanogan Reserve in Canada, a Lakes-Okanogan Indian and part of the Colville Tribe. An article in the Spokesman Review newspaper relates how he was taken from his home at age 12 and sent to a boarding school in Cranbrook, British Columbia. “We were beaten for speaking our language. They were beating the devil out of me,” Douglas was reported saying during an interview in 2004. He was later to receive monetary reimbursement from the Canadian government for that period of his life.

Douglas moved to the U.S. when he was 14 where he worked on his uncle’s ranch near Oroville, Washington and joined the U.S. Army when he was just 17, the start of a long and distinguished career that saw him take part in three wars: World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam.

“He was in the Army with the 101st Airborne most of the time,” A friend, Eric Loer said. He reported to Fort Lewis, Washington in May of 1944 and joined the 101st in Belgium in 1945. During a 2004 interview Douglas said he was injured by a grenade in 1953 during the Korean War. During his first tour in Vietnam he was an intelligence analyst with a Special Forces team.

“Glen was a mentor and a role model. He was well versed. He could speak very eloquently. He was a leader, not only from the military but from his own people,” Davis commented. “He flew all over Canada and the U.S. talking about Native American culture. He would dress in full regalia and was a very impressive figure, a man who had many military honors and a highly decorated veteran.”

Glen Douglas passed away in 2011 after a long illness.

A note from member Martin Urghart.

Hi All- I would like to thank everyone who registered, attended and volunteered in support of the Calgary Militaria Shows event held March 4, 2017 at the Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Center. Your support was greatly appreciated.

The event was quite successful with 69 tables booked and with paid attendance of at least 297 individuals. Feedback from participants during and at the close of the event was overwhelmingly positive.

I am seeking the following: reviews, comments and critiques of the event and your best event photos including your vendor tables, displays and public at the event. Comments and critiques will be used to make changes and adjustments in planning of future events. Reviews and photos will be archived allowing for the selection of items to be used in future event brochures, banners and correspondence. Permission to use an item will be obtained with credit and acknowledgment provided for any item utilized. Thanks. Marty



The consensus amongst the people there was “great show “ Marty

