



Sabretache

THE OFFICIAL
JOURNAL OF
THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.cmhsc.ca

July 2017

Columbia in Korea, June 1951

Columbia was the only Latin American country to serve during the Korean Conflict. It was the first time in 127 years that Colombian forces engaged in foreign military operations.

Colombian Army The 1st Battalion was the first Colombian army unit to serve during the Korean Conflict. It arrived in Korea during June 1951. It was initially assigned to the US 24th Infantry Division and subsequently to the US 7th Infantry Division. Each successive Colombian battalion also served as part of the US 7th Infantry Division. The 1st Battalion was replaced during July 1952 by the 2nd Battalion. The 3rd Battalion arrived in November 1952 and was replaced by the 4th Battalion during June 1953. Each battalion had an approximate peak strength of 1,070 men.

Although it fought valiantly, the 3rd Battalion was severely mauled during the fifth battle (March 23-26, 1953) on Old Baldy (Hill 268 in west central Korea) during March 1953 when it was overrun by a numerically superior Chinese 117th Division. The Battle of Old Baldy actually refers to a series of engagements, which were spaced over a ten month period. Colombian forces fought extremely well. The Battalion suffered 95 killed-in-action, 30 missing-in-action and 97 wounded. There were many examples of individual heroism among the Colombian forces. It was estimated that the Chinese forces suffered 750 losses.

Korea was Colombia's only foreign war (excluding peacekeeping missions). A total of 4,314 Colombian soldiers served in Korea. In total, Colombia lost 146 killed, 448 wounded, 69 missing in action during the course of the war. During the campaign, Colombian servicemen were awarded: (1) two US Legion of Merit medals; (2) 18 Silver Stars; (3) 25 Bronze Stars with V (valor) device and (4) nine Bronze Stars

Colombian Navy The Colombian Navy utilized three previous US ships during the Korean Conflict. Approximately 1,000 sailors saw service during the conflict



This memorial was presented to Columbia by South Korea in 2008. The memorial features a miniature model of the **Geobukseon**, an ironclad turtle-shaped warship that fended off Japanese invaders during the late 16th century, which is permanently exhibited in Colombia. The monument commemorates Colombia's participation in the Korean War and is displayed in the port city of Cartagena.

ARC Capitan Tono
formerly USCGC
Bisbee PF-46



The next CMHS
meeting will be
held on
Tuesday,
July 18th
2017
7:00 pm
At the
Petty Officers'
Mess
HCMS Tecumseh

Korean Campaign Medal The obverse of the extremely rare circular bronze medal features the Seal of the Colombian Republic and the curved inscriptions, REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA above and FUERZAS MILITARES below. The reverse features the Taeguk (the Korean symbol for the ultimate reality from which all things and values originate) with the curved inscription, CAMPANA DE COREA below



Columbian Army Uniform patches

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, July 18th, 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, **Alan Ross** would like to invite everyone to remain after the meeting for an informal time of fellowship.

Medal for Distinguished Service in International War

This medal, consisting of two distinct planchets, was created in 1952 by decree number 812, and awarded in two categories to military personnel for acts of bravery or meritorious acts during war or international conflict overseas.



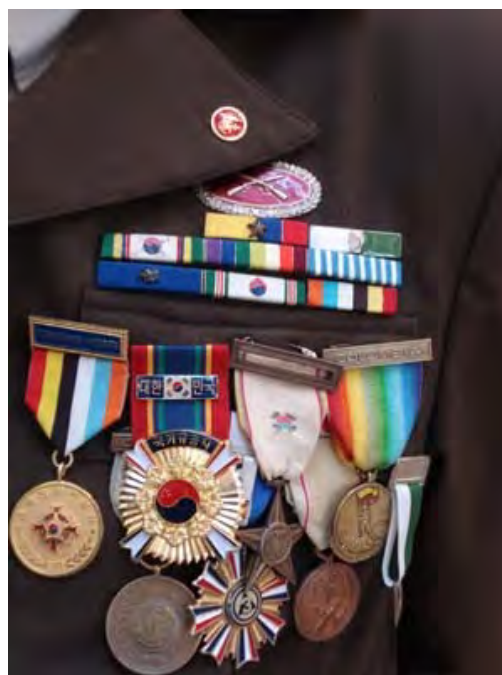
Cruz de Hierro The first, the Cruz de Hierro (Iron Cross), is in the form of a darkened iron Padua cross with inset and beaded rim, which resembles the German Iron Cross. It can be awarded with a laurel device (palm) for distinguished valor; or without for merit or devotion to duty in action.

Estrella de Bronce The second, the Estrella de Bronce (Bronze Star), is a faceted bronze five-pointed star, which resembles the US Bronze Star.

The obverse of each medal is embossed with the Colombian coat of arms in the center (within a circular laurel wreath for the Bronze Star). The reverse bears an appropriate campaign symbol and the name of the operation or conflict (e.g. Korean Taeguk and CAMPANA DE COREA) with the addition of ACCION DISTINGUIDA DE VALOR for the Iron Cross. The medals are suspended by a ring from an identical distinctive ribbon. To date, the medal (in both formats) has only been authorized for the Korean Conflict. Additional awards are indicated by a bronze oak leaf mounted to the ribbon.



Combat Wound Badge. The 45mm x 15mm gilt framed badge is in the shape of an elongated oval with red enamel background. A 3/16" bronze star is added for each wound.



Combat Infantry Badge for International Conflict

Very similar to the wound badge but it is slightly less elongated and the wreath is open at the top. The center depicts antique crossed muskets from the period of Colombia's struggle for independence from Spain circa 1819



Columbian Korean War Veteran with official and non official medals

Minutes of the last meeting of The Calgary Military Historical Society

Meeting held on June 20, 2017 at the Petty Officer's Mess, HMCS Tecumseh

1. Meeting called to order By President Allan R. at 7:00 PM. 25 members in attendance. 1 guest : Susan Ravy-Dunne

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

No omissions or corrections. Member Mike C. moves that the Previous Meeting Minutes be accepted. Seconded by Bob M. Approved.

3. Newsletter. No issues or concerns.

4. Treasures Report.

Report by Floyd S. Lists of monies collected from book auctions, donations etc. Listing of expenditures. Floyd reports with last month expenses a slight decrease. Member David L. moves that the Treasures report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Bob M. Approved.

5. Membership Report. Report by Floyd S. Total 44 members (2 Life, 1 Hon, 41 Regular). Member David L. moves that the Membership report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Member Mike C. Approved.

6. Correspondence: - Corporate Registry Return arrived, Floyd will complete and submit.
- MCC of C Journals to Susan E. for archiving

7. Announcements:

- Wyn Van Der Schee has moved, new address will be updated.
- Calgary Military Show event, tentative date Sep. 30, 2017 at Hillhurst Sunnyside.
- Mike C. discusses Legion Magazine's current "Boer War" issue, good article with errors.
- Clive Law's passing discussed.

8. Old Business. None.

9. New Business: None

BREAK

10. Ticket book auction: - Conducted by David G. - Martin U. auctioned book "Weapons & Warfare Series - Machine Guns" by James H. Willbanks netting \$10.00 for the Club.

11. Show and Tell:

Alan R. - 2 books, South African Field Force Casualty List 1899-1902, Southern Albert CEF Nominal Roll Vol. II.

David S - Womens lapel pins including - Canadian Beavers WVRC, BC WSC, Hamilton Active Service Canteen and CWS Force

Barry E. - Canadian pattern 37 cavalry canteen and holder dated 1940.

David G. - Book "Standard Directory of Proof Marks", framed badges 187 Battalion CEF

Mike C. - Framed selection of Boer War medals - of interest rare medal to Boer, Sgt. Maj.

Christiann Snyman, South African Transvaal Artillery

#490

Bob M. - 2 model planes, 1/48 WW1 US biplane, WW II US Grumman Albatross

David L. - Discusses England/Scotland trip, Princess Mary Box research and listings

Alan M. - Discusses Irish issued WWII medals including Merchant Marine medal.

Susan R. - Selection of artifacts from digs conducted by "De Digger" in Belgium

Darryl K. - Canadian WWII helmet complete with netting, bren gun pouches

Herb J. - Discusses his training/role in relation to the 1st Surface-to-Surface Missile Battery, RCA

Garrot L. - Silver ID bracelet to Maj. H.W. Bowie

John E. - 303 Hurricane and Spitfire sighting mirror, 2 medal Canadian military marked frames

12. Adjournment:

President Allan R. calls for motion to adjourn. Member Susan E. moves to adjourn. Seconded by Kevin R. Approved. **Meeting Adjourned. 20:20**



Memorial to Colombian Veterans, Incheon, Korea.

This Monument was established to commemorate the everlasting friendship with Colombia which supported the ROK forces in the Korean War by dispatching infantry Battalions and Navy Frigates, as well as to respect Colombian soldiers who were killed during the war .

THE STRETCHER-BEARER

By Robert W. Service

My stretcher is one scarlet stain,
And as I tries to scrape it clean,
I tell you wot — I'm sick with pain
For all I've 'eard, for all I've seen;
Around me is the 'ellish night,
And as the war's red rim I trace,
I wonder if in 'Eaven's height,
Our God don't turn away 'Is Face.

I don't care 'oose the Crime may be;
I 'olds no brief for kin or clan;
I 'ymns no 'ate: I only see
As man destroys his brother man;
I waves no flag: I only know,
As 'ere beside the dead I wait,
A million 'earts is weighed with woe,
A million 'omes is desolate.

In drippin' darkness, far and near,
All night I've sought them woeful ones.

Dawn shudders up and still I 'ear
The crimson chorus of the guns.
Look! like a ball of blood the sun
'Angs o'er the scene of wrath and wrong.
"Quick! Stretcher-bearers on the run!"
O Prince of Peace! 'Ow long, 'ow long?



1950's newspaper clipping found in a old book

MAJOR TOM FORMAN

"THE MAN WHO STOPPED THE WAR"

From a story in Western Deviations — the magazine of DVA's Vancouver District office.

The story of Major Tom Forman's one-man bid for peace during World War II was recalled after his funeral earlier this year. The exploit is recounted in the official history of his regiment: the Westminster Regiment.

Near the Melfa River in Italy in May, 1944, Canadians and Germans faced each other across a narrow strip of no-man's-land between dug-in emplacements. A Canadian suddenly appeared between lines — lost and trying to get back to the Canadian lines.

A German crawled out from a fox-hole and demanded his surrender. An argument then followed as to who was the captor and who the captured. It was at this point that Major Forman intervened in an endeavour to sort things out.

The Major's intervention resulted in a white flag being displayed and a truce called. Major Forman was blindfolded, then taken to a German officer. The latter called upon the Canadians to surrender and avoid further bloodshed. Not to be brow-beaten, Major Forman magnanimously offered to accept the unconditional surrender of all the German forces in Northern Italy!

The two officers sat for an hour and discussed the matter over coffee and cigarettes, while hostilities in that sector were halted.

No agreement was reached, however, and Major Forman returned to his regiment.

He was later reprimanded by the Commander of the 5th Canadian Armoured Division and the battle resumed. Its end is a matter of military history.

Major Forman, until his death, was an administrative officer in Vancouver's DVA District Office.

Some 2,000,000 spectators have seen the colorful changing the guard ceremony performed on Parliament Hill in Ottawa by Canada's Regiment of Canadian Guards in the past seven summers.