



# Sabretache

THE OFFICIAL  
JOURNAL OF  
THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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October 2018

## CANADA OBSERVES CORONATION WITH NATIONAL CEREMONY 2018 marks the 65th year of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

More than 6000 officers and men of Canada's Armed Forces participated in Coronation Day ceremonies in Ottawa.

Trooping of the color by the Governor General's Foot Guards, religious observances in two parts of the city, Coronation music by massed bands consisting of 449 musicians, an impressive national ceremony on Parliament Hill, the relayed broadcast of Her Majesty the Queen's address to the world, a fly past by more than 100 aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force, a mammoth march past of all servicemen on parade with the salute taken by the Governor General, a special 42 gun artillery salute and a band concert on Parliament Hill were the highlights of the Armed Forces participation in the Capital city's day of ceremonies and celebration.

All available Armed Forces personnel in the Ottawa area paraded for the national ceremony in the afternoon.

A 300 man Royal Canadian Navy contingent from Halifax took part as well as 125 Officers and ratings from the Capital.

From the Ottawa area the Royal Canadian Air Force provided 1750 all ranks while another 250 came from the air station at Trenton. Military Bands were provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, The Royal Canadian Regiment, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, the Governor General Foot Guards, the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force. Pipe bands were from the Black Watch, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Cameron Highlanders and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

While this was happening a large contingent was in England.

**See Part 2 for events in England.**



Members of the three services massed on Parliament Hill during the Coronation Day ceremony

### CMHS Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday,  
October 16th.  
2018**

**7:00 pm**

At the  
Petty Officers'  
Mess  
HCMS Tecumseh

The Calgary Military Historical Society will conduct its 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM), Tuesday, October 16, 2018. During the AGM, Special Resolutions submitted, will be tabled and the Election of Society Officers for 2019, will be conducted. As a result, all normal business will be suspended.

If you would like an issue/item by Special Resolution tabled, submit your Special Resolution by email to the Secretary, Cc. to the President.

If you, a member of good standing, would like to self-nominate or nominate another member of good standing for Society President, Treasurer, or Secretary submit your nomination to the Secretary, Cc. to the President. Before submission, please check with your nominee that they indeed would stand for office.

## Minutes of last meeting / Calgary Military Historical Society

**Meeting held on September 18, 2018 at the Petty Officer's Mess, HMCS Tecumseh**

**1. Meeting called to order** By President Allan R. at 7:00 PM. 20 members in attendance.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

Discussed no correction. Member Mike C. moves that the Previous Meeting Minutes be accepted. Seconded by Barry E.

**3. Newsletter.**

- Received, no comments or concerns.

**4. Treasures Report.**

Report by David G for Floyd S. Lists of monies collected from book auctions, donations etc.

Listing of expenditures. David reports, with last month expenses, a slight increase over April balance. Member

Barry E. moves that the Treasures report be accepted as reported.

Seconded by Indra R. Approved.

**5. Membership Report.**

Report by David G. for Floyd S. Total 48 members (4 Life, 2 Hon, 45 Regular). Member Mike moves that the Membership report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Susan E. approved.

**6. Correspondence:**

- None

**7. Announcements:**

- Military Museums Events:

- "Last 100 Days Symposium" - Saturday Sep. 29, 2018 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm - \$50.00 registration includes lunch.

- "Tour of Duty - Canadians in Vietnam" - Sep. 27, 2018 through Jan. 13, 2019.

- "Sikhs who served in the Military from a Canadian Perspective" - Oct. 19, 20 and 21,

- Calgary Military Shows 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Show booked for Saturday June 22, 2019 at

Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Centre

**8. Old Business.**

- AACCA Sept. 2018 Show discussed, Show carried a profit with overall attendance up slightly with 761 paid attendees, 40 more than at the 2017 September show down.

**9. New Business:**

- The election of the Societies Executive for 2019 will be conducted during the Oct. 16, 2018 meeting. Secretary to submit: a Notice of AGM; a Call for Nominations and a Call for Motions to be Tabled.

**BREAK**

**10. Book Raffle & Auction:** - David G. handles book raffle.

- Auction Items.- Brad Mummery donated the following to be auctioned, Winston Churchill's, The Second World War, a five-vol. set.

- Bob McPherson donated the following to be auctioned, a wooden plaque, in acknowledgement to the Government of Canada National War Finance Committee in WW2, plaque made from Mosquito Aircraft plywood.

**11. Show and Tell:**

Floyd S.: Russian WW2 triangle letter mailed from home to prisoner, pre-unification Can. Infantry cap badge with chocolate finish unknown variety.

Allan R.: Selection of German insignia including a Prussian Weimar era 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry cap badge.

David G.: Photo, NCOs of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Southern Alberta Regiment at Camp Sarcee Calgary dated 1933.

Mike C.: Selection of WW2 documents found in a purchased book; framed Boer war medal group with China War Medal for relief of Peking, to H.G. Scorey an ordinary seaman (ORD) on the HMS Terrible.

Dave L.: Selection of badges, Canadian Auxiliary Service organizations, mostly WW2.

James B.: Discusses Military Museums "Tour of Duty" Canadians in Vietnam Fall Display including showings of the US Vietnam Veterans Memorial travelling mini wall and the Canadian Vietnam Veterans Association's Windsor Memorial travelling wall.

Brad M.: German flea market pickup, 1865 Prussian infantry sword.

John E.: Discusses South America cruising pickups, WW2 German Luftwaffe life preserver and WW1 German machine gunner's helmet front plate.

**12. Adjournment:**

President Allan R. calls for motion to adjourn. Member Barry E. moves to adjourn. Seconded by member Neil P.



## HER MAJESTY'S CORONATION MESSAGE

When I spoke to you last, at Christmas, I asked you all, whatever your religion, to pray for me on the day of my Coronation—to pray that God would give me wisdom and strength to carry out the promises that I should then be making.

Throughout this memorable day I have been uplifted and sustained by the knowledge that your thoughts and prayers were with me. I have been aware all the time that my peoples, spread far and wide throughout every continent and ocean in the world, were united to support me in the task to which I have now been dedicated with such solemnity.

Many thousands of you came to London from all parts of the Commonwealth and Empire to join in the ceremony, but I have been conscious, too, of the millions of others who have shared in it by means of wireless or television in their homes. All of you, near and far, have been united in one purpose. It is hard for me to find words in which to tell you of the strength which this knowledge has given me.

The ceremonies you have seen to-day are ancient and some of their origins are veiled in the mists of the

past. But their spirit and their meaning shine through the ages, never, perhaps, more brightly than now.

I have in sincerity pledged myself to your service, as so many of you are pledged to mine. Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust.

In this resolve I have my husband to support me. He shares all my ideals and all my affection for you. Then, although my experience is so short and my task so new, I have in my parents and grandparents an example which I can follow with certainty and with confidence.

There is also this. I have behind me, not only the splendid traditions and the annals of more than a thousand years, but the living strength and majesty of the Commonwealth and Empire, of societies old and new, of lands and races different in history and origins but all, by God's will, united in spirit and in aim.

Therefore, I am sure that this, my Coronation, is not the symbol of a power and a splendour that are gone but a declaration of our hopes for the future and for the years I may, by God's grace and mercy, be given to reign and serve you as your Queen.

# THE QUEEN THANKS CANADIAN ARMY FOR LOYAL GREETINGS

On Coronation Day a message of loyal greetings from the officers and men of the Canadian Army was sent to Her Majesty the Queen by Lieut.-General G. G. Simonds, CB, CBE, DSO, CD, Chief of the General Staff. A reply was received from Her Majesty on the 5th of June.

Text of the message and the reply follow:

*Her Majesty the Queen,  
Buckingham Palace.*

Most Gracious Sovereign: The officers and men of the Canadian Army present their humble duty to Your Majesty and beg to renew the expression of their loyalty and devotion on the occasion of Your Majesty's Coronation, and to be permitted to wish Your Majesty all health and happiness.

(Signed) *G. G. Simonds, Lieut.-General,  
Chief of the General Staff.*

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

5th June, 1953

*My dear General Simonds,*

The Queen has commanded me to thank you and the officers and men of the Canadian Army most sincerely for their kind and loyal message sent on the occasion of Her Majesty's Coronation, which Her Majesty greatly appreciates.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) *Martin Charteris,  
Assistant Private Secretary.*

*Lieutenant-General*

*G. G. Simonds, CB, CBE, DSO,  
Chief of the General Staff*

## THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT IN THE CORONATION PROCESSION

COMPILED FROM A DISPATCH WRITTEN BY CAPTAIN G. C. MURRAY,  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, CANADIAN ARMY

Servicemen and women from the four corners of the earth paraded through London on Coronation Day to pay homage to their new queen, Elizabeth the Second. They came from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan and Ceylon; from Mauritius, Hongkong, New Guinea and the Seychelles to play a part in the pageant which for 800 years has marked the crowning of British monarchs.

The procession moved in its splendour through a blaze of colour which set this ancient city alight. Along Oxford Street, Piccadilly, Regent Street, the Haymarket, in Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square, along the broad avenues to the West End and into the tiny winding streets of old London, flags and bunting blossomed forth. Some of the decorations were elaborate and expensive—heraldic dressings with the Tudor Rose, lions couchant and rampant, the fleur-de-lis. Others were simple—a mass of tiny Union Jacks fluttering from the windows of grey tenements in East London. But they all symbolized the same spirit of love for the

young queen and loyalty to the crown.

Canada played an important part in this Coronation. Canadian servicemen and women numbered nearly 800—464 Active and 287 Reserve, to be exact. They included 77 Active and 52 Reserve from the Royal Canadian Navy, and 204 from the Active Force and 205 from the Reserve Force of the Canadian Army. The Royal Canadian Air Force had 183 members from the Active Force—92 from Canada and 91 from England and France—and 30 from the Reserve Force. There were 30 members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

In the Prime Minister's procession, Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent occupied the senior place of honour nearest the queen's state coach, followed by the coach bearing Sir Winston Churchill. As Aide-de-Camp General to Her Majesty, the distinguished Canadian soldier, General H. D. G. Crerar, rode beside General Sir Gerald Templer in Her Majesty's procession.

In advance of the royal coach rode four horsemen of the Royal Canadian



Members of the Contingent aboard ship enroute to the Coronation.

Horse Artillery, led by Lieut.-Col. E. G. Brooks of Montreal and Winnipeg. They were the Canadian section of the queen's Commonwealth escort.

Canada's Coronation Contingent formed the largest group from the Commonwealth, and the largest part of the Contingent was from the Army. Sailors, soldiers and airmen from the Canadian services marched in splendid array in the state procession from Westminster Abbey. Street liners from the Canadian Army and the RCAF lined the route from the Canadian Pacific Railway offices in Trafalgar Square to Norway House in Cockspur Street and from Norway House to the south-west corner of the junction of the Haymarket and Pall Mall. Sailors

of the RCN were posted with the Royal Navy and other Commonwealth navies to line the route from the Mall to Charing Cross, Bridge Street to Parliament Square and Parliament Square to the Canadian Pacific Railway offices.

For two weeks before the great day, officers and men of the Contingent, based at Pirbright Camp in Surrey, near the wartime Canadian camp at Aldershot, drilled for endless hours on the square under the stern eye of "Drill Masters" from the Guards regiments. Men of the Navy, Army and Air Force trained side by side; Reservists vied with Regulars and each Commonwealth Contingent tried to outdo the others in precision

and smartness. Three days before the Coronation, the Canadian Contingent moved into London—the Active Force section to Earls Court and the Reserves to Kensington Gardens, under canvas.

First Canadian representatives on the march on Coronation morning were four members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who escorted Prime Minister St. Laurent to Westminster Abbey in the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' carriage procession. The procession was the sixth of nine and immediately pre-

ceded those of the Princes and Princesses of the Blood Royal, the Queen Mother and the Royal Progress of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Since early morning, route liners had held back swarming crowds in the dull drizzle.

As Queen Elizabeth entered the ancient Abbey for her crowning, the great colourful scene outside quietened. Intermittent pelting rains soaked hundreds of thousands of spectators, drenched the coatless troops and washed the brilliant decorations.



Piper George Pate of Toronto, the Irish Regiment of Toronto, pipes CWAC Sgt. Thelma Earnshaw, Toronto, aboard ship. She is bound for the Coronation.

## THE CORONATION PROCESSION



Two army nursing sisters and an officer of the Canadian Women's Army Corps study a poster depicting famous sights which they will see in London during the Coronation. *Left to right:* Lieut. (N-S) Rose Marie Hamelin, Quebec; Capt. Marial Mosher, Halifax; Lieut. (N-S) Beth Andreas, Calgary, Alta., and Richmond, Sask.

Early in the afternoon the marching contingent from the three services and the RCMP gathered on Birdcage Walk near Buckingham Palace to escort the queen back from Westminster.

In the Abbey, 8,000 were hushed as the sacred ceremony of Coronation began.

At the moment of crowning, a Royal Salute of 62 guns boomed from the Tower of London and another 41 sounded from St. James's Park. The grey walls of the Tower, built by William the Conqueror, had watched the crowning of British monarchs for eight centuries.

The Canadian Contingent was formed up with the others from the

Commonwealth to escort the queen in her triumphal procession through her capital.

In advance of the Canadian marching contingent, Lieut. M. Waymouth of Windsor, Ont., carried the Canadian ensign, flanked by the guards, WO 2 J. C. Coutts of Calgary and Flt.-Sgt. G. Hayter of Ottawa.

Clad in their scarlet tunics and carrying rifles at the rest, 30 Royal Canadian Mounted Police, led by Assistant Commissioner D. L. McGibbon of Saskatoon, followed the Colour Guard up Whitehall.

Marching in the reverse order of seniority, with the senior service closest to the royal coach, came men of the Royal Canadian Air Force in

## CANADIAN ARMY JOURNAL



Shown here are three senior officers of the Canadian Army contingent at the Coronation. *Left to right,* they are Lt.-Col. J. R. Stone, DSO, MC, of Salmon Arm, B.C., Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry; Lt.-Col. Cecil Merritt, VC, of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, Vancouver, a Reserve Force unit; and Lt.-Col. Paul Triquet, VC, of Quebec City, Commanding Officer of the Regiment de Levis, a Reserve Force unit. Lt.-Col. Stone commanded the Loyal Edmonton Regiment during the Second World War and the PPCLI during the early days of the campaign in Korea. Lt.-Col. Merritt, who won the Empire's highest decoration for valour at Dieppe while commanding the South Saskatchewan Regiment, led the Reserve Army contingent at the Coronation. Lt.-Col. Triquet won his VC at Casa Berardi, Italy, while commanding a company of the Royal 22e Regiment. Both he and Lt.-Col. Stone led a large draft of troops to the Coronation.

light blue uniforms with wedgescaps and white chin straps, white webbing and gloves, and carrying rifles with fixed bayonets. Leading the officers, men and women of the RCAF was Wing Commander J. F. Watts of Hamilton, Ont.

Shortly after the Queen had

returned to Buckingham Palace, Sabre jet fighters of the Royal Canadian Air Force joined with twin-engined Meteors of the RAF in a Coronation fly-past in greeting to the Queen. Forming up over Biggin Hill Station, RAF, the fighters, 12 squadrons strong, including two RCAF squad-



A close-up of four Canadian street liners as they line up along Cockspur Street, Trafalgar Square. Left to right: Pte. Ross Sellers, Brampton; Cpl. A. Gibson, Hamilton; Cpl. H. Motton, MM, Toronto; Sgt. Gordon McDonald, Galt.

rons based at North Luffenham, flashed through the rain and a gale of wind under low-lying dark clouds at more than 345 miles per hour to salute the Queen.

From the time she left the Abbey, the bells of London chimed out in loyal greeting to Queen Elizabeth. A company of Guards blocked the Mall to restrain the crowds but with the Queen's first appearance with the Duke of Edinburgh, her children—Prince Charles and Princess Anne—a crowd topping 150,000 would not be put off and troop,

police and guard barriers were eased aside as the cheering crowd swept in a wave to the railings of the Palace. Another triple line of Guards stood along the railings but the crowd could now see the Queen and the Royal Family and were satisfied for the moment. The Queen Victoria Monument stood like an island in a sea of faces in front of the Palace. By the time the jet fighters flew over, one could hardly hear their thundering engines for the cheering of the crowd.



Above: A composite detachment from the Canadian Coronation Contingent (Active Force) is posted for guard duty at Buckingham Palace. They are being escorted by two corporals of the Grenadier Guards, whom they relieved. Below: Major R. D. Medland, Toronto, Captain of the Queen's Guard, leads the detachment past Buckingham Palace. Major Medland is a member of The Royal Canadian Regiment.



## THE CORONATION PROCESSION

Throughout the evening until Her Majesty made her sixth appearance at midnight, the loyal subjects cheered and waved, sang the National Anthem and gave their blessings to the young Queen. Even at midnight, nearly 15,000 still stood outside the palace.

On the day following the Coronation, members of the Commonwealth Coronation Contingent received their Coronation Medals in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty the Queen presented some of the medals, accompanied by her Aide-de-Camp General, General H. D. G. Crerar.

On June 5, Canadian soldiers once again stood on guard at Buckingham Palace—this time on their first guard for a Queen. Both the Australian and Pakistan Contingents provided a guard at Buckingham Palace before the Coronation but the Canadian veterans, forming the composite guard from The Royal Canadian Regiment, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and Le Royal 22e Régiment were the first Commonwealth troops to Change the Guard for the newly-crowned Elizabeth. It was the first time Canadians were on guard at Buckingham and St. James's Palace since the end of the Second World War.

It was a proud moment when the smart infantrymen of Canada's three

premier infantry regiments marched out of Wellington Barracks on to Birdcage Walk toward Buckingham Palace in the massed guard for Buckingham and St. James's Palace. They were watched by Londoners used to only the best in guards for their monarch. Captain of the Queen's Guard was Major R. D. Medland, an RCR officer of Toronto. The 54 Canadian "Guardsmen" took over from the crack Grenadier Guards and were on duty for 24 hours.

Big day for Canada's Coronation Naval squadron was June 15. By far the largest naval representation ever to be sent to a Commonwealth country, the Canadian squadron consisted of six ships—HMCS Magnificent (Aircraft Carrier); the cruisers HMCS Quebec and HMCS Ontario; the destroyer HMCS Sioux and frigates HMCS Swansea and HMCS La Hulloise. Commanding the vessels as Flag Officer Canadian Coronation Squadron was Rear Admiral Roger E. S. Bidwell. Joining the Canadian ships in their salute at Spithead on June 15 were two squadrons of RCN aircraft based on the Magnificent. The Sea Fury fighter squadron and the Avenger anti-submarine squadron formed the 30th Carrier Air Group commanded by Lieutenant-Commander J. W. Roberts.



National Defence Photograph

Another view of the Contingent taken from Canada House.



# Calgary Military Historical Society

Cranston RPO Box 28001  
Calgary, Ab  
T3M-1K4

## Membership and Membership Renewal Invoice

Attention all members, your **2016-2017** Membership is now due. Please mail you renewal in the envelope provided.

Your membership payment is used to pay for the monthly newsletters and various functions of the Society. This will be another important year in our society, so don't miss out.

**One Year Membership \$ 25.00**

**Under 18 years \$ 15.00**

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