

... from previous



British clasp knife and Canadian signaller, WW2.

Many knives are marked with the year of manufacture, but this was not at all required. Many also have the broad arrow mark /|\ showing acceptance by the British army, or the Canadian broad arrow with a C around the arrow. However, the demands for knives were so great that the military accepted and used hundreds of thousands that did not have the “official” marks.

Old photos show that Canadian soldiers serving in WW2 had different models of clasp knives. They were issued from stocks available and a soldier issued a knife in 1944 might have the newest style of can opener and bottle opener while in another unit another older model would

be issued. Some soldiers even had the larger World War One or naval “pussers” style. But every soldier had one.

Today the army issues a more modern stainless steel knife, but the old style British clasp knives are still available from on line auctions and antique dealers. Prices can be over \$100.00 .Brand new versions in stainless steel are also being made in Sheffield England and can be had for around \$50.00 on Amazon and EBay.

The VIMM is always looking for more information, especially photos. If you can help please contact us.

FRAMING SERVICE

Let us help you care for your history and your heritage. The Vancouver Island Military Museum can mount orders, decorations, and medals with the respect and dignity they deserve.



Our experience ensures that you receive the highest possible quality and accuracy for your medal set. Your medals can be court or swing-mounted on brooch or push pins using the finest regulation ribbon.

Contact the museum to discuss how best to care and preserve your history!

We have many samples you can choose from.

VANCOUVER ISLAND MILITARY MUSEUM DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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VIMM Newsletter

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Vancouver Island Military Museum

WE REMEMBER— THE FIRST WORLD WAR

VIMM records provide information about men killed in the First World War who are listed on the Nanaimo Cenotaph.

The first killed was Horace Reginald Hickling, a piano salesman who had joined the 7th Battalion (The British Columbia Regiment) on September 5, 1914. He died on May 4 1915, as a prisoner of the Germans. The Second Battle of Ypres was from 22 April to 25 May 1915, and saw the 1st Canadian Division withstand the world's first major poison gas attack.

Who were the last to die in the war? To die so close to the end seems especially tragic. William Campbell, a Nanaimo miner, died on October 31 1918, serving with the 47th Battalion (Western Ontario Regiment). Eight others listed on the Cenotaph died after the war ended, from wounds received before November 11, or illness. There was a major flu



Douglas Bate of Nanaimo, enlisted RCNVR on April 18 1918, lost at sea October 30 1918. (CFB Esquimalt Museum E-46568)

epidemic sweeping the world at the time, killing tens of millions.

Most of those listed on the Cenotaph died on the Western Front, but on October 30 1918 there was a tragedy closer to home that took the lives of five local sailors, including three listed on the Cenotaph. HMCS Galiano was lost at sea with all hands in a storm. The ship had been on a re-supply mission to the Queen Charlotte Islands (Haida Gwaii) when radio operator Michael Neary sent a

distress call asking for help. Ironically the message was received on Triangle Island by his brother, radio operator W. C. Neary. Ten crew members who had the flu had been left behind, the rest of the crew was lost and only one body was recovered. One female passenger and 39 crew were lost at sea.

Lost so close to the end of the war were: Peter Aitken, age 29, Miner, 3 Kennedy St., Nanaimo. Able Seaman.

George Douglas Bate, age 24, Confectioner, Nanaimo address not known. Ship's Cook.

John Young, age 21, 341 Milton St., Nanaimo. Stoker First Class.

Also lost were but not listed on the Nanaimo Cenotaph were Frank Greenshields and Mathew Dobbyn of South Wellington.



HMCS Galiano



Able Seaman Peter Aitken lived on Kennedy Street in Nanaimo.



NEW DISPLAY HONOURING RAYMOND GOOD

Raymond S. Good joined the RCN in 1963 and served on HMCS Saskatchewan in Esquimalt. The ship served her entire career with the Pacific Fleet and when decommissioned in 1994, Raymond and many of his former shipmates attended the ceremony. The ship was then deliberately sunk in 1997 as an artificial reef off Snake Island, near Nanaimo.

Raymond good was a member of the Snuneymuxw First Nation of the Coast Salish People. After leaving the Navy he took a position with the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs and was later appointed as a Special Aide the Minister of Indian Affairs in Ottawa. Raymond Good died in 1995 and as his first love was the sea, his family felt it was fate that he should go down with his ship.

Raymond Good's ashes were sealed behind a plaque on the main deck of the Saskatchewan before she was sunk in 1997. At the memorial ceremony Rose Scow, Raymond's mother said, "Death is not an ending, but rather the beginning of the spirit's timeless voyage through life ever after. Raymond has come home and can now go on that last journey." Raymond's daughter Monique said, "I'm glad where Pops is now. I think it's probably where he always wanted to be."

HMCS SASKATCHEWAN

Raymond S. Good
ABORIGINAL NAVY VETERAN

HMCS Saskatchewan after decommissioning, 1994

Raymond Good enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy in 1963 and as an Able Seaman joined the newly commissioned Destroyer Escort, HMCS Saskatchewan at the Pacific Fleet Headquarters in Esquimalt, B.C. The ship served her entire career with the Pacific Fleet and after 31 years' service was decommissioned. Raymond and many of his former shipmates attended the decommissioning ceremony on March 28, 1994, after which the Saskatchewan became the property of the B.C. Artificial Reef Society. The ship was deliberately sunk on June 14, 1997 to become an artificial reef off Snake Island near the entrance to Departure Bay, Nanaimo.

Raymond Good was a member of the Snuneymuxw First Nations and after his service in the Navy took a position with the Union Of B.C. Indian Chiefs and later was appointed as a Special Aide to the Federal Minister of Indian Affairs in Ottawa. Raymond Good died February 25, 1995 and two years after his death his ashes were laid to rest aboard HMCS Saskatchewan.

Raymond Good

Raymond & Shipmates, 1963

The sinking, 1997

Raymond's daughter, Monique stands beside commemorative plaque

As Raymond's first love was the sea his family felt it was fate that he should go down with his ship and his ashes are now sealed behind a plaque on the ship's main deck. At a memorial ceremony held on board and officiated by Coast Salish Elder, Ellen White, Raymond's mother, Rose Scow smiled and said, "Death is not an ending, but rather the beginning of the spirit's timeless voyage through life ever after. Raymond has come home and can now go on that last journey." His daughter, Monique said, "I'm glad where Pops is now; I think it's probably where he always wanted to be."

Part of the display honouring Raymond Good in the VIMM.



The Family of Raymond Good at the VIMM for the unveiling of the Raymond Good display.



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the past few months we've made a couple of additions that have enhanced two current exhibits. First, in the Aboriginal display, is the story of Able Seaman, Raymond Good, whose ashes were sealed aboard the decommissioned HMCS Saskatchewan prior to the sinking of the vessel as an artificial Reef in 1997. Secondly, in the Korean War exhibit, is the addition of a Chinese Army bugle recovered after the battle of Kapyong by PPCLI Korean Veteran, Sergeant Joel Beaman.

Work continues on a major new exhibit to the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers and Canadian Rangers. We recently had a donation of a uniform and insignia for both of these units and, if all goes according to plan, these should see the display completed prior to Remembrance Week. Also, we have redesigned and enhanced the Trench Art Display.

Finally, the Veterans' Wall of Honour, Phase II, nears completion and we continue to receive very favourable reviews and comments from both visitors and the local press on this major Museum fund-raising project.

Brian McFadden, Vice President



Brian McFadden was presented with a Veteran's Affairs Commendation by the Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Honourable Erin O'Toole, at a ceremony in Richmond B.C. for his work at the Vancouver Island Military Museum on behalf of Canada's veterans. This is the second VIMM executive to receive a Veterans Affairs Commendation – President Roger Bird has also been recognized for his services.



VIMM volunteers Norman Davis (Korean War, 1RCHA) and Ken McNicoll (Lincolnshire Regiment and RCMP)



MEMORIAL WALL PROGRESS

HONOUR A VETERAN: family member, or friend on the Vancouver Island Military Museum

Veterans' Wall of Honour

Two hundred and sixty-four granite plaques honouring Canadian and Allied Veterans, Merchant Navy, and RCMP who have served their country for any period of time up to and including the present day.

Phase 1 is now completed and Phase 2 is rapidly filling up.

Honour our service men and women and help keep their memory alive.

\$195.00



**VANCOUVER ISLAND
MILITARY
MUSEUM**

Contact the Vancouver Island Military Museum, 100 Cameron Rd., Nanaimo
Phone: **250.753.3814** for details or visit our website at: www.vimms.ca

Lest we forget!!

THERE IS STILL TIME TO BUY A MEMORIAL PLAQUE.

The first half of the memorial plaques have now been permanently mounted at the Museum. The remainder will be mounted in the spring when the weather is again suitable. There is still time to buy a plaque – 53 were still available when this newsletter went to the printer.

Plaques have the name of the person honoured, their branch of service, and dates of service. Purchasers have the option of just naming a service in general (Army, RCN, RCAF, RCMP etc.) or a specific unit (Queen's Own Rifles, HMCS Nanaimo etc.)

Memorial Plaques are 6x9 inches, and cost \$195.00. Contact the VIMM office to make your order.





CHANGING OF THE GUARD



Changing the Guard. Pat Murphy (left) takes over as VIMM Armourer from Pat Paterson.

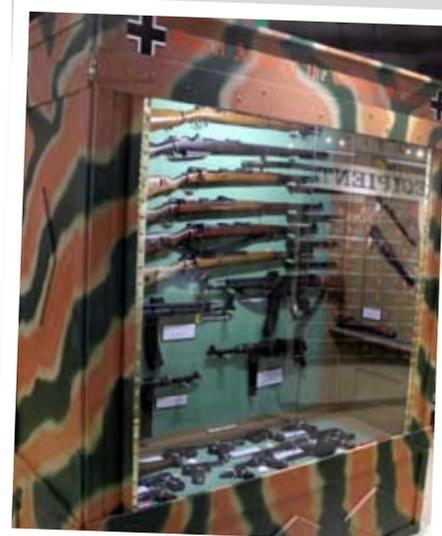
After 15 years of looking after and amassing the museum's incredible firearms collection, Pat Paterson has retired from the position of The Museums Armourer and turned the responsibility over to Pat Murphy. Pat Paterson will remain as a firearms consultant for the museum and although he is retiring from the firearms roll he will work the Thursday morning shift at the front counter. Pat Murphy is a former military firearms collector and a former RCMP Auxiliary firearms instructor.

As you can imagine, the Armourer has a very important job, cataloguing the collection, ensuring the Museum meets all legal requirements for the safe storage and display of the firearms, and providing expert knowledge about their history and function. Pat Paterson successfully supervised the moving of the collection from our old site and was the liaison between the VIMM and the RCMP and the Fire Arms Officer.

Thank you Pat.

NEW GUN CABINETS

Pat Paterson and Pat Murphy worked over the summer to prepare two new display cabinets – the first for Canadian weapons, the second for German weapons. Built in-house, the new cabinets offer a secure display space with better lighting. The Canadian weapons cabinet includes the infamous Ross Rifle.





NEW ACQUISITION – BUGLE FROM THE BATTLE OF KAPYONG, KOREA 1951

On April 23rd, the Chinese attacked Canadian troops from 2nd Battalion D Company, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) defending the summit on Hill 677. The Chinese launched their attack just before midnight, blowing bugles, yelling, and banging bamboo sticks. This was a common tactic used by the Chinese in an attempt to cause panic and alarm among defending troops.

of the *Patricias* stopped the attack. Had the Canadians failed to hold Hill 677 the way lay open for the Chinese to advance directly south to Seoul.

After the battle for Hill 677 Sergeant Joel Beaman (PPCLI) stumbled upon this Chinese Army bugle inside the Canadians' defensive position. For their gallant

defence on Hill 677 and for stopping the Chinese advance, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry were honoured with a US Presidential Citation.

Joel Beaman at VIMM to present his Chinese bugle.



Chinese Bugle now on display in the Korean War section of VIMM.

The advancing Chinese came close to overrunning the Canadian position and in a daring move to halt the attack the Canadian Commander called in artillery on his own position. The added shelling and determined defence





WHAT THEY CARRIED—THE CLASP KNIFE

AN OCCASIONAL SERIES

By Angus Scully

On display in the Navy section of the Museum is a “pussers” knife, issued to sailors in the RCN until the 1970s. The naval version of the classic British clasp knife remained unchanged from before the First World War. Our example was made in Pictou Nova Scotia by Metal Stampings Ltd. XX, sometime between 1946 and 1952. The blade shape is known as “sheep’s foot” and is 1095 high carbon steel that holds a sharp edge. There is a marlin spike, used in working with rope, and the smaller spear point blade is a can opener.

The British clasp knife was designed around the time of the Boer War. The simple and rugged construction makes them very attractive. The naval and army versions were similar at first – the sheep’s foot blade, the marlin spike and a can opener. Soldiers handling wet natural fibre ropes on tents, sleeping bags and other pieces of equipment found the marlin spike to be very useful. Early Canadian versions of the knife are stamped “M and D Canada” (Militia and Defence—the forerunner of DND) with a date.

The army clasp knives were then reduced in size and a slot headed screw driver tip was added. Many versions, mostly those made in Sheffield England, had black plastic grip scales. In

ARTICLE	QUANTITY
Combs, hair	.04
Discs, identity, sets, with cord	.02
Dressing, field	.24
Fork, NS Table	.07
Hoddall	.19
Housewife, complete	.17
Knife, clasp	.86
Knife, table	.15
Lanyard, knife	.02
Razor, safety, with blade	.06
Patches, distinguishing, pra	.03
Shorts, gymnasium	.43
Spoon, NS dessert	.07
Vest, cotton, gym	.36
Initials of Soldier	
Initials of QM or Rep	

What They Carried: Clasp knife listed in soldier’s Pay Book, QOR, 1944

the late 1930s the spear tip can opener was replaced with a two pronged opener blade and around 1945 a bottle opener started to appear on the can opener blade.

The clasp knife was standard issue for all Commonwealth and Empire forces. Canadian and Australian forces began ordering from local firms, and Canadian clasp knives marked “Taylor Bros. Hamilton Ont” can be found today. English knives often bear the names of famous Sheffield cutlers – Richards, Mills, Ibberson, and Butcher are just a few. The demands of the forces for hundreds of thousands of knives drew in dozens of manufacturers on three continents. Even the W. R. Case Cutlery Company of the USA made knives for the Canadian market.

Continued on back page



Clasp knives (l to r) : Canadian knife “M and D Canada 1915”, British knife 1944 by “Richards, Sheffield,” Canadian knife 1944 by “Taylor Bros Hamilton Ont.”, VIMM “pussers” knife, RCN, 1946 – 52, by “MS Ltd XX.”