

THE TORONTO MILITARY SHOW EAST

NOVEMBER 28TH 2014

CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY ON DISPLAY

COVERAGE BY DOUGLAS PHILLIPS

Held at the General Sikorski Hall in North Oshawa, this was the last Military Collectors Show for 2014. It attracted a core of dedicated collectors who arrived early for the 8 a.m. opening. The show was an interesting mix of long time dealers and some collectors who were selling part of their collection.

A fitting venue for a military show, the hall is a memorial to General Wladyslaw Sikorski (1881-1943), 1st Prime Minister of the Polish Government in Exile during World War II. He was killed in a plane crash in 1943 while visiting Polish Troops in the Middle East.

The November 28th show was packed with 120 tables that displayed a wide selection of military items, from cap badges, medals, swords, uniforms, to photographed images and much more. Walking alongside the tables we were given a glimpse into Canadian and European military history, from the first modern campaign medals issued for the Battle of Waterloo (200th anniversary in 2015), to conflicts that have shaped our country during the 19th and 20th century. It was surprising to see a wide selection of WW1 medals, from the 1918 Victory Medal to the rare 1914 Military Cross. Each WW1 medal is inscribed with the owner's name, rank, regiment and serial number that can be used to trace a person's military service. As this year marks the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1, I have included some items of interest from this era.

The show was well attended and dealers took the time to talk to attendees and share their considerable knowledge. Like most areas of collecting, the shift to buy on the internet is part of modern-day collecting, but if you want to start a military collection or just want to learn more information about your father's and grandfather's military medals, this show is a good starting point.

There are five shows planned for 2015. For more information visit www.torontomilitaryshow.com or see the ad on page 17. Sincere thanks to Angela Koszuta for the wonderful job she does organizing these shows, and for the hospitality and great food.

The next show at General Sikorski Hall is January 31, 2015. Be sure to mark it on your calendar.

View of the 2014 year-end Toronto Military Show East held at the General Sikorski Hall in Oshawa



Above: Beautifully illustrated German Memorial Scroll 1916. Shown by Gary Switzer - Legion and Military Medal Mounting geswitzer@rogers.com

Below: Vimy Cap with soil from Vimy Ridge Memorial France. To mark the 98th anniversary of the battle in April 2015. **Article to follow in next issue



Above: 1900 Ceremonial Saxony King's Guard Helmet, shown by Frank F. Grant, The Canadian Military Studies Museum 905-877-6522



Above: Captain John Harvey, Canadian Engineers WW1 service medals with Military Cross, City of Orillia War Service medal, Queen's University medallion. Village of Mons France medal. Presented Military Cross at Buckingham Place April 14th 1917. Offered by Tanya Ursual, Military antiquarian: www.medalsofwar.com



Above: 1917 WW I pilot's photo, Montrose, Scotland. Canadian Pilot's training logbook September 1918. Name on log book: R.W. Coulstring. Offered by Dean Owen - Military Artifact Collector northman@rogers.com



Above: 1901 Boer War Bushmanland Borderers Sword, 1882 short blade pattern, offered by Will Mathieson, Sword Collector willsswords@gmail.com



Above: WW1 Medals King George V 1919 Memorial (Silver) Cross, 1914/15 Star, Great War and Victory Medals, displayed at Fraser Medals, www.frasermedals.com

Right: Silver Cross Medal Award, Cpl. Henry Sykes Canadian Field Artillery. Died June 5th 1917, buried at Lapugnoy Military Cemetery, France

THE SILVER CROSS:

On November 11 each year a Silver Cross mother, on behalf of all Silver Cross recipients, lays a wreath at the National War Memorial in Ottawa to commemorate the men and women who died while on active military service. During the First World War Canadian patriot and author William Alexander Fraser wanted a tribute paid to mothers and he wrote in an article to the Toronto Star which was published on September 26, 1916 "... that Canada might pay a beautiful and deserved tribute to the mothers of slain Canadian soldiers by having struck a medal named the Silver Cross"... "The mothers are the heroines of the bitter home trenches. They suffer in silence with no reward but the sense that they have answered the call with their heart's blood - their sons". Originally called the Memorial Cross, but now known by all as the Silver Cross, this was issued to wives, mothers of soldiers who had lost their lives during the First World War, and on December 1, 1919 the first Silver Cross was issued. The medals are made of sterling silver, originally worn around the neck on a purple ribbon, but during World War II they were worn as a brooch. Since 2007 the Silver Cross is now issued to three members of the family who have suffered a loss - a father or a husband is eligible. A Silver Cross is displayed on the Canadian Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and there is also a large replica that hangs above the door of the Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower of the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings. The seven Books of Remembrance are displayed in the Memorial Chamber, and each day a page is turned to display the names of the fallen.



Left: 1910 Canadian Militia Uniform of S. Pethick, Newtonville, Ontario Helmet and shoulders badges 46th East Durham Militia. Offered by Dean Owen - Military Artifact Collector northman@rogers.com

Right: Canada General Service Medal with Fenian Raid 1866 Bar Pte. Tobias Switzer Toronto Field Battery Displayed by Gary Switzer: Legion and Military Medal Mounting & Displays geswitzer@rogers.com

