

Chapter 25

07 September 2017

BRITISH POLAR MEDAL

Polar Medal (British)

TERMS

The medal is conferred on those taking an active part in an expedition which makes notable advances in the exploration of the Polar Regions, and who undergo the hazards and rigours of these regions. The medal was awarded to members of the RCMP Ship **St. Roche**, who patrolled extensively in the western Arctic (1940-1942) and completed a west to east passage of the arctic in 1942.

It was also awarded to the crew of the St. Roche who completed the east to west passage in 1944.

BARS

A silver bar with the region and year(s) engraved or embossed is awarded with each medal. Additional bars to the medal can be awarded. The following bars have been awarded to Canadians:

ANTARCTIC 1907-09

ANTARCTIC 1910-13

ARCTIC 1940-42 (engraved bar)

ARCTIC 1944 (embossed bar)

ANTARCTIC 1944-45

ANTARCTIC 1950-52

ANTARCTIC 1985-86



DESCRIPTION

An octagonal (8-sided), silver medal, 33.5-mm across. The medal to Dr. Mitchell was a bronze medal.

OBVERSE

King Edward VII is depicted in admiral's uniform, and the legend: EDWARDVS VII REX IMPERATOR. (bronze medal to Dr. Mitchell)

King George V is shown in admiral's uniform and the legend: GEORGIVS V BRITT: OMN: REX ET IND: IMP:

King George VI appears bareheaded, facing left, and the legend: GEORGIVS VI D:G:BR: OMN: REX F:D: IND: IMP.

Queen Elizabeth II is shown uncrowned, facing right, and the legend: ELIZABETH II DEI:GRA:BRITT:OMN:REGINA:F:D:+

REVERSE



A sledging party of six on skis in the foreground, with a heavily-laden sledge with sail behind. Scott's **HMS Discovery** appears in middle distance in winter quarters and the volcanic Mount Erebus is in the far distance.

MOUNTING

An ornate scroll suspender is attached by single-toe claw.

NAMING

The rank and name of the recipient are engraved in capitals on the rim.

RIBBON

The all white ribbon is 32-mm wide. A silver rosette is worn in undress when a second bar is awarded.

DATES

The silver and bronze medals were announced on 14 September 1904; the bronze medal was cancelled on 16 October 1933.

ISSUED

There have been 19 silver medals and 1 bronze medal (Dr. Mitchell) awarded to Canadians, with 3 second bars. Five silver medals are associated with Canada.

EXAMPLES

ANTARCTIC 1907-09

MITCHELL, Dr. W.A. Rupert
Dr. Mitchell was the surgeon on the *Nimrod* on Shackleton's furthest south expedition

ANTARCTIC 1910-13

WRIGHT, Mr (late Sir) Charles KCB, OBE, MC
Charles Wright served on Scott's last expedition. He was awarded the OBE and MC with the Royal Engineer sin WWI, CB in 1937, and KCB in 1946 as Director of Scientific Research in the British Admiralty in WWII.



ARCTIC 1940-42 and ARCTIC 1944

LARSEN, Staff Sergeant Henry Asbjorn
HUNT, Acting Corporal Patrick George
PETERS, Acting Corporal George William
Crew members of the *St. Roche* that made the west to east and east to west passage.

RCMP
RCMP
RCMP

ARCTIC 1940-1942

CHARTRAND, Constable Albert J. (Posthumous)
FARRAR, Constable Frederick Sleigh
FOSTER, Corporal Myles Frederick ('Jack')
HADLEY, Constable Dean Eugene C. (photo at right)
PARRY, Constable William John

RCMP
RCMP
RCMP
RCMP
RCMP



Crew members of the *St. Roche* that made the west to east passage.

ARCTIC 1944

DIPOCK, Constable James Milne
JOHNSEN, Special Constable Rudolf T.
ANDREASEN, Special Constable Ole
CASHIN, Special Constable William Michael
McKENZIE, Special Constable John Stanley
MATTHEWS, Special Constable Frank
DICKENS, Special Constable George Bryden
RUSSELL, Special Constable Lloyd George

RCMP
RCMP
RCMP
RCMP
RCMP
RCMP
RCMP

Crew members of the *St. Roche* that made the east to west passage.

ANTARCTIC 1944-45

TAYLOR, Major Andrew OC, CD, RCE
Captain (later Major) Taylor, RCE, commanded a base in the Antarctic as part of the Falkland Island and British Antarctic Survey (1944-1946), while on loan to the British Colonial Office during WWII. He was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1986.

ANTARCTIC 1950-52

ROOTS, Dr. Ernest Frederick
Dr. Roots, of Salmon Arm, B.C. who served with the Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition and was made an Officer of the Order of Canada (OC).



ANTARCTIC 1985-86

WOOD, Mr. Gareth
Mr. Wood, a Canadian, and two other from Britain, Robert Swan and Roger Mear, trekked to the South Pole in the winter of 1985/86.

POLAR MEDALS ASSOCIATED with CANADA

ANTARCTIC 1898-1900

EVANS, Hugh Blackwell

Mr. Evans moved to Alberta in 1894 and returned to England to join the Southern Cross Expedition and lived the rest of his life in Canada. His medal was not awarded to him until 1974!

ANTARCTIC 1910-13

CAMPBELL, Commander V.L.A.

DSO & Bar, RN



Commander Campbell served on Scott's last Expedition (on *Terra Nova*) and lived in Newfoundland from 1922 until his death in 1956.

ANTARCTIC 1947

BUTSON, Captain A.R.C.

GC, OMM, CSTJ, CD

Dr. Butson, who won the Albert Medal with the Falklands Islands Dependency Survey, moved to Canada after the event and served in the Canadian Forces (RCAMC) for many years reaching the rank of Colonel.

ANTARCTIC 1957-60 and ARCTIC 1968-1969

KOERNER, Roy M. "Fritz" KOERNER

Dr. Koerner moved to Ottawa and worked for the Canadian Government after his medal and bar and provided support to the British Trans-Arctic Expedition of 1968-69.

ARCTIC 1968-1969

HEDGES, Dr. Kenneth

OSTJ, CD

Dr. Hedges, a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps and Special Services Force, who, along with Wally Herbert and Allan Gill completed the British Trans-Arctic trek in 1968-69, moved to Canada to practice medicine after the trek.



¹ Superintendent Henry Larson, Polar Medal and 2 bars, RCMP – medals at the Maritime Museum in Vancouver, B.C.

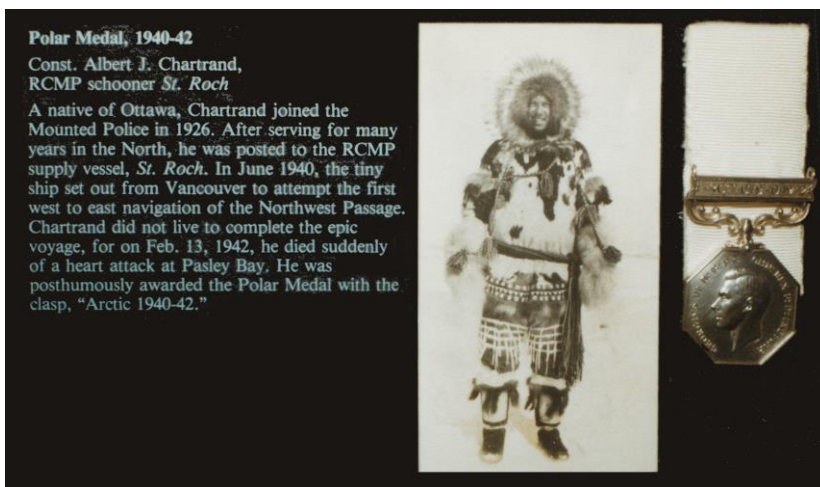
POLAR MEDAL IN SILVER TO CANADIANS

<u>LG+/CG</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DECORATIONS</u>	<u>/</u>
<u>ANTARCTIC 1907-09 (BRONZE MEDAL)</u>					
23/02/09+	MITCHELL, W.A. Rupert	Dr	Nimrod's Surgeon	Nimrod (Barquentine)	---
<u>ANTARCTIC 1910-13</u>					
25/07/13+	WRIGHT, Charles Seymour	Mr / Captain RE / later Sir		Scott's Last	KCB OBE MC
<u>ARCTIC 1940-1942</u>					
09/01/43	CHARTRAND, Albert J.	Constable (Posthumous)		RCMP	---
09/01/43	FARRAR, Frederick Sleigh	Constable		RCMP	---
09/01/43	FOSTER, Myles Frederick 'Jack'	Corporal		RCMP	---
09/01/43	HADLEY, Dean Eugene C.	Constable		RCMP	---
09/01/43	HUNT, Patrick George	Constable		RCMP	No. 12740
09/01/43	LARSEN, Henry Asbjorn	Sergeant		RCMP	No. 10407
09/01/43	PARRY, William John	Constable		RCMP	---
09/01/43	PETERS, George William	Constable		RCMP	No. 12740
<u>ARCTIC 1944</u>					
01/07/46	ANDREASEN, Ole	Special Constable		RCMP	Spl 8472
01/07/46	CASHIN, William Michael	Special Constable		RCMP	Spl 8673
01/07/46	DICKENS, George Bryden	Special Constable		RCMP	Spl 8763
01/07/46	DIPLOCK, James Milne	Sub-Constable		RCMP	No. 14583
01/07/46	JOHNSEN, Rudolf	Special Constable		RCMP	Spl 7515
01/07/46	McKENZIE, John Stanley	Special Constable		RCMP	Spl 8719
01/07/46	MATTHEWS, Frank	Special Constable		RCMP	Spl 8720
01/07/46	RUSSILL, Lloyd George	Special Constable		RCMP	Spl 8758
<u>ANTARCTIC 1944-45</u>					
17/07/53+	TAYLOR, Andrew	Captain		Royal Canadian Engineers	OC CD
<u>ANTARCTIC 1950-52</u>					
24/01/56+	ROOTS, Ernest Frederick	Dr		Senior Geologist	OC

POLAR MEDAL IN SILVER TO CANADIANS

LG+/CG	NAME	TITLE	UNIT	DECORATIONS	/
<u>ANTARCTIC 1959-1964</u>					
13/01/68+	DOWNHAM, Noel Yorston	Mr	Base Leader	---	
<u>ARCTIC 1944 (2nd Bar to POLAR MEDAL in SILVER)</u>					
01/07/46	HUNT, Patrick George	Acting Corporal	Reg. No. 12740	RCMP	
01/07/46	LARSEN, Henry Asbjorn	Staff Sergeant	Reg. No. 10407	RCMP	
01/07/46	PETERS, George William	Acting Corporal	Reg. No. 12704	RCMP	
<u>ARCTIC 1968-1969</u>					
05/04/70+	KOERNER, Roy Martindale	Mr.	Trans-Arctic	Civilian	
<u>ANTARCTIC 1986-86</u>					
25/01/88+	WOOD, Gareth	Mr	Trek to South Pole	Civilian	

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² Polar Medal to Constable Albert J. Chartrand, RCMP – awarded Posthumously (it was on display at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary)

POLAR MEDALS ASSOCIATED WITH CANADA

ANTARCTIC 1898-1900
(Elizabeth II)

AWARDED TO Hugh Blackwell EVANS

Born in England in 1874
Moved to Alberta in 1894 as a pioneer
Returned to England to join Southern Cross Expedition 1898-1900
Lived in Canada for the rest of his life
1974 - Awarded a Polar Medal for the above expedition (74 years after)
Died in 1975

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ANTARCTIC 1910-1913

**AWARDED to Commander Victor Lindsay Arbuthnot CAMPBELL, DSO*, OBE RN
later Captain RN**

(George V Medal)

Born in England 20 August 1875; son of a naval officer
Went to the Antarctic as first Mate of the Terra Nova 1910-1913
Captain R.F. Scott's last expedition which included Sir Charles Wright
Served in R.N. in WW1 - DSO LG 03/06/15; BAR LG 22/06/17; OBE
Croix de Guerre (France) LG 11/11/1919; MID LG 28/08/18 in command of HMS Warwick
MID 19/07/18 Dover Patrol April 1918
Moved to Newfoundland 1922 and lived there until his death 21/11/56
Awarded the Polar Medal in Silver in 1955!!

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ANTARCTIC 1947
(Elizabeth II)

AWARDED TO Major A.R.C. BUTSON, GC, OMM, CStJ, CD

While serving with the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey. Major Butson won the Albert Medal (later converted to the George Cross) while serving on this survey.
He moved to Canada shortly after leaving the Antarctic (London Gazette 17 July 1953).
Lieutenant-Colonel in the Canadian Militia with the Hamilton Medical Company.
Honorary Colonel of the Hamilton Medical Company.
He wore the all blue George Cross ribbon, the all black Order of St. John ribbon and the all white Polar Medal ribbon.

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POLAR MEDALS ASSOCIATED WITH CANADA

ANTARCTIC 1957-1960
ARCTIC 1968-1969
(Elizabeth II)

AWARDED to Roy Martindale "Fritz" KOERNER
AWARDED to Roy Martindale "Fritz" KOERNER

Born in England 1933
PhD London School of Economics
Served on the Falkland Islands Dependency Survey, stationed at Hope Bay, Trinity Peninsula and awarded Polar Medal in 1960
Moved to OTTAWA and worked for the Federal Government
Assistant Professor of Glaciology at Ohio State University
Assisted Wally Herbert, Allan Gill and Ken Hedges as support staff with
S/L Freddie Church, RAF - BRITISH TRANS-ARCTIC EXPEDITION 1968-1969
Awarded bar to his Polar Medal - First to walk across the top of the earth;
all four named men of the year.

ARCTIC 1968-1969
(Elizabeth II)

AWARDED to Dr. Kenneth HEDGES

Served in Special Services Unit British Army
Joined British Trans-arctic Expedition
Served in Canadian Militia
Former Deputy Surgeon, St. John Ambulance of Canada
In 2011, Ken Hedges was appointed Honorary Colonel of
The Canadian Forces Health Services Training Centre

MEDALS:

Commander - Order of St. John
General Service Medal with 3 bars and MID for Northern Ireland
Polar Medal bar ARCTIC 1968-1969
Service Medal of the St. John Ambulance

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³ Dr. Kenneth Hedges, Polar Medal for the Arctic – Colonel Dick Butson, GC, OMM, CStJ, CD, Polar Medal for the Antarctic