

## Chapter 25

06 December 2020

### 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. Michell 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. Michell)

**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 sledge 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. Michell) awarded to Canadians, with 3 second bars. Five silver medals are associated with Canada.

## EXAMPLES

### ANTARCTIC 1907-09



#### **MICHELL, Dr. William Arthur Rupert**

Dr. Michell was the surgeon on the *Nimrod* on Shackleton's furthest south expedition.

NOTE: Previous editions had him listed at MiTchell.

### ANTARCTIC 1910-13



#### **WRIGHT, Mr (later Sir) Charles KCB, OBE, MC**

Charles Wright served on Scott's last expedition. He was awarded the OBE and MC with the Royal Engineers in 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	RCMP
HUNT, Acting Corporal Patrick George	RCMP
PETERS, Acting Corporal George William	RCMP

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

#### **ARCTIC 1940-1942**

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



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

#### **ARCTIC 1944**

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

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

#### **ANTARCTIC 1944-45**

TAYLOR, Major Andrew	OC, CD, RCE
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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 Victor Lindsey Arbuthnot

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.



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

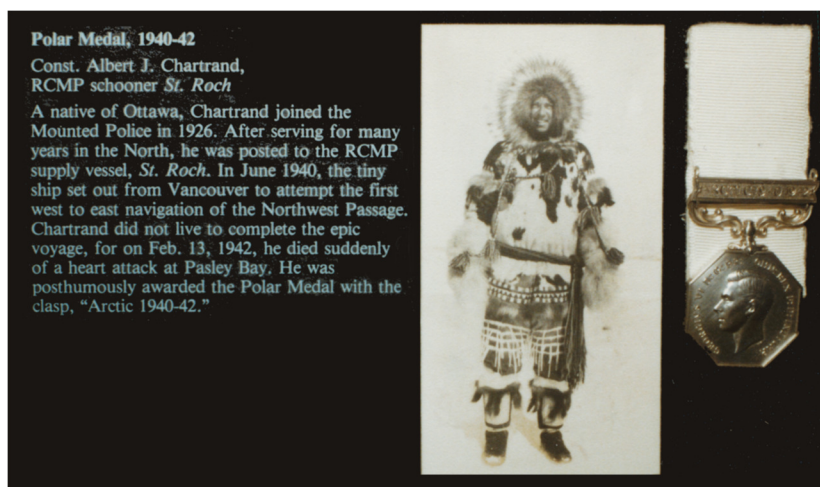
# POLAR MEDAL IN SILVER TO CANADIANS

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

# POLAR MEDAL IN SILVER TO CANADIANS

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

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<sup>2</sup> 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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<sup>3</sup> Dr. Kenneth Hedges, Polar Medal for the Arctic – Colonel Dick Butson, GC, OMM, CStJ, CD, Polar Medal for the Antarctic