



Sybil (Beatteay) Mitchell

"We're in the Army Now"



H.F. 2015.2-001 : medals; metal; fibre, bronze, silver

Marks and Labels

Medal 1 Defence Medal - on front of medal in center is "GRI VI" and around the rim is "The 1939-1945 Star". Medal 2 The France and Germany Star - on front of medal in center is "GRI VI" and around the rim is "The France and Germany Star". Medal 3 Canadian Volunteer Service Medal - on front of medal around the rim is "1939 Canada 1945 Voluntary Service Voluntaire".

Description

Three Canadian Second World War military medals attached by ribbons at top to a metal bar with clasp. Medal 1: The 1939-1945 Star. Star shaped, gold coloured medal. The ribbon consists of three equal stripes: dark blue, red, and light blue (representing the navy, army and air force). Medal 2: The France and Germany Star. Star shaped, gold coloured medal. The ribbon consists of equal stripes of blue, white, red, white, and blue. The colours represent the Union flag and those of France and the Netherlands but not of Belgium. Medal 3 Canadian Volunteer Service Medal 1939-1945 with silver bar. A circular, silver medal (.925 fine silver), 1.42 inches in diameter. Seven marching figures are depicted, representing men and women of the army, air force, navy and nursing service; and around the rim, the inscription 1939 CANADA 1945 VOLUNTARY SERVICE VOLONTAIRE. The reverse shows the coat of arms of Canada. The ribbon is 1.25 inches wide with a royal blue centre (0.5 inches) flanked by two equal stripes of scarlet and dark green, the dark green being on the edges. The medal is linked to a straight suspender by a small ring passing through a small fixed ring at the top of the medal. Also a separate medal bar consisting of a thin band of material representing the three ribbons for the three different medals. Material mounted on metal clasp.

Narrative

If ever there was a young person who was pre-destined for greatness, it was Sybil Beatteay. Her grandfather was Elijah Ross of the Paris Crew, a 1972 Hall of Fame inductee; her coach was Hilton Belyea, a 1971 inductee, and her contemporaries were, inductees all, Harry Smyth, Willie Logan, Johnny Quigg and Oakie O'Connor. Her career covered a 13 year period from 1920 to 1933. In that span of time, she won countless age-class titles, 9 provincial and maritime senior championships, a second place finish in the North Americans, and in 1929, the Canadian Senior Ladies Championship. When she married in 1936, she gave up speedskating and moved to the United States. Her husband died and she returned to Canada at the onset of the Second World War whereupon she enlisted in the Canadian Womens Army Corps (CWAC). Sybill Beatteay Mitchell was one of an estimated 1000 Canadian women to serve overseas in England, France, Belgium and Germany. When she returned to Canada after the war she worked for Canada Customs until retirement.