

Treasures our Memorial Library

On the main floor of our library, nestled against the front windows, is a hallowed spot which might well be regarded as the 'soul' of the library. This is the treasured "Book of Remembrance", and the simple shrine which houses it.

From the earliest planning for our library, the building and its organization were conceived as a memorial to the men and women from the City and the District of West Vancouver who gave their lives in our country's service during the second World War. As such, the project quickly gained wide approval and support in the community. An enthusiastic "Library Committee" was set up and, long before the plans for the organization had gelled, the Committee began to gather information for an Honour Roll, to be enshrined in a "Book of Remembrance". This was to be displayed, in due course, in the library building.

Still in these very early stages, such a book was planned and started by a highly gifted artist, Miss Marion Morham Grigsby, a resident of Taylor Way. Fortunately, she had taken special training in the arcane arts of calligraphy and classical illumination of important documents.

Lovingly, she set to work on a long task, donating her time and her extraordinary skills. Heading each page, Miss Grigsby and painted the coat of arms of each military air or naval unit which had lost one or more of its West Vancouver members during the great conflict. Below this, in masterful calligraphy, she listed the names of the honoured men, in alphabetical order. The result is a book of stunning beauty, and a fitting memorial to our lost men.

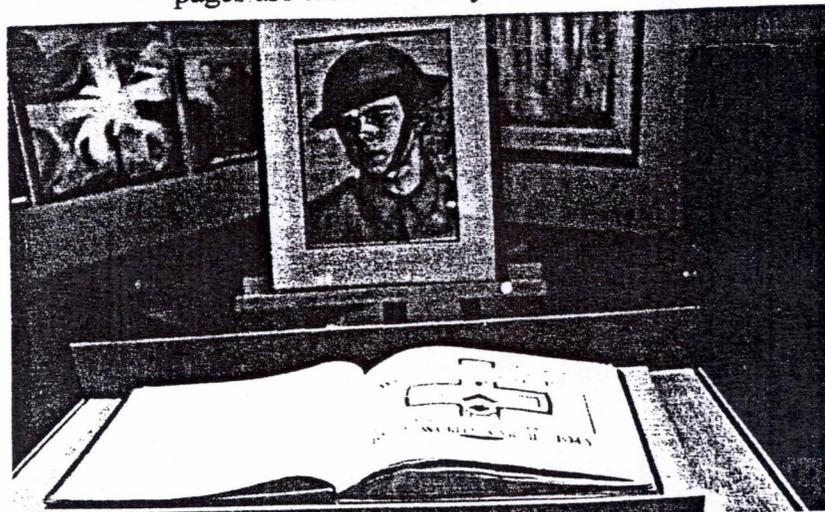
Today, this wonderful book lies, proudly displayed, in a glass-fronted lectern, opened to display one page at a time. The pages are turned weekly.

The lectern is flanked by two flags, on pole stands. These - a Canadian flag and a Union Jack - were donated in 1958 by the Duncan Lawson Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire.

Also displayed alongside the Book of Remembrance is an arresting portrait by Unity Bainbridge, dated 1942. She has entitled it:

"The Unknown Soldier"

*"To the end, to the end,
they remain."*



Portrait "The Unknown Soldier" by
Unity Bainbridge.

Illuminated Book of Remembrance
by Marion Morham Grigsby

Photograph by Keith Carswell,
November 11, 1989.