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UCCLA wants answers about Konowal's missing Victoria Cross

by Christopher Guly Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

OTTAWA - The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association has gone to battle with the Canadian War Museum over a prestigious wartime medal awarded to a Ukrainian Canadian soldier. The UCCLA has chastised the Ottawa-based museum for losing the Victoria Cross presented to World War I veteran Filip Konowal by King George V in 1917. Mr. Konowal, the only Ukrainian Canadian to receive the distinction, died in 1959 at the age of 72.

Five plaques across Canada celebrate Mr. Konowal's achievement with the 47th Canadian Infantry Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and the Ukrainian Canadian community has asked that he be included in a series of stamps commemorating Canadian Victoria Cross winners.

Indeed, the VC has been MIA for about a quarter of a century shortly after the Canadian War Museum purchased it for \$3,750 (Canadian) from a collector, according to the museum's director and chief executive officer, Jack Granatstein. Though the missing original was replaced with a replica, three years ago the UCCLA asked the museum to locate the real medal. Now the association wants some answers.

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