



March 30, 1918



A spread of trees  
among rolling hills and farmers' fields  
in a river valley  
near a French village  
awakens  
to the sounds of overhead artillery  
the thundering tempo of galloping horses  
and  
the shouts of Canadian cavalymen  
Lord Strathcona's Horse "C" Squadron  
with  
sharpened swords drawn  
charges toward the spread of trees  
Moreuil Wood  
where the enemy  
hidden among the leaves  
waits  
for the right moment  
to open fire  
with rifles and machine guns

The commanding officer falls  
a sergeant, a young man from Winnipeg  
spurs his terrified steed forward  
hooves digging into the dirt  
muscles stretched to the limit  
the men of "C" Squadron follow  
carrying the charge  
doing what they have been trained to do  
bullets eat  
at the sergeant's legs and his horse's belly  
screams of horses and men meld  
in the stampede  
toward the incessant barrage of firepower

Moreuil Wood, March 30, 2018  
a spread of trees among rolling hills and farmers' fields  
in a river valley near a French village  
where the soil continues to bubble up bullets, belt buckles and bones  
the son of the young man from Winnipeg  
is standing with others  
to witness  
the galloping horses of Lord Strathcona's Mounted Troop  
swords sharpened and drawn  
hooves digging into the dirt, muscles stretched to the limit  
this time, a cavalry charge without machine guns or demands of sacrifice  
a re-enactment, out of respect for the courage of Canadians 100 years ago

Lamont Mackay

Father survived the cavalry charge at Moreuil Wood in 1918