



Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Society Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2011

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Society, PO Box 10500 Station Forces Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

By Major-General H.C. Ross

The Regiment has always been fortunate; however, over the last short while, we have been blessed with some especially good news.

The recent announcement of honours and awards, such as **MWO Stacey's Star of Valour**, are appropriately recognizing heroic actions. Promotions within the Alberta government (**Jim Ellis** to senior Deputy Minister; **Tim Grant** to DM Transport, and **Tom Bradley** to COS Minister of Infrastructure) reflect the quality of Strathcona professionalism. The Mountain Man competition (run 40 km with a 35 lb ruck sack, portage a 90 lb canoe for 3.2 km, and paddle it for 10 km) saw the Regiment's seventy-soldier team (highest number of participants in the Brigade) earn a 3rd place finish after 1 CER and 3PPCLI. Most importantly, Recce Squadron's **MCpl Charette** finished first overall.

The Society also has some great news. Old Regimental friends have continued their generous support of the Society's efforts to take care of our immediate and extended families and 'best in class' efforts to connect with Canadians through community outreach with the Mounted Troop, Historical Vehicle Troop, Museum,

and the re-energized Pipes and Drums. **Ron Southern** and the Southern Family, Spruce Meadows, and ATCO have been our longest standing contributors. They have been joined over the years by **Alan**



Graham, Helen Koziacky, Alfred Balm, and Bison Transport, amongst many others. More recently, **Royal Bank of Canada** and **Cenovus** have joined the stable with very generous contributions,

for which we owe a debt of gratitude to **Ross Prokopy** and **Steve Moffat** for the introductions.

To our corral of big-hearted supporters, we can now add **Fred Green** and **Canadian Pacific Railroad** with which we have recently forged a partnership based on our common 'grandfather', **Lord Strathcona**. Canadian Pacific, in many ways, is like the Regiment: a decentralized, lean (and mean) organization which is dependent on heavy equipment and which promotes teamwork in a highly digitalized environment that is subject to the challenges of harsh climate and rugged terrain. The details of the partnership are outlined at www.strathconas.ca. CP's intent is to support serving soldiers and their

Continued On Page 3

Contents

- 1 Message from the Colonel of the Regiment
- 2 Commanding Officer
- 3 Regimental Sergeant-Major
- 5 Christmas 1944 in Italy and Toscanini
- 6 Memorials, Cairns and Plaques
- 6 Lost Trails
- 7 Glengarry News Article - April 2011
- 8 Royal Departure 2011
- 9 Canadian Pacific Partnership
- 10 Your Photos
- 11 Your Dispatches
- 12 Last Trumpet Call

Commanding Officer

By Lieutenant-Colonel T.J. Cadieu

Nearly two-thirds of the way through my tenure as Commanding Officer, I figured it about time to do a bit of a stock-taking on the status of the Regiment. Now that my successor has been announced, I suddenly find myself with more time to reflect and write as young captains and majors looking to return to the Regiment have decided to focus their energies and emails on the next boss.

As I reflect on the past 18-months, I can not help but return to what I have always known about the Strathcona's: our great unit is not, nor has it ever been, about one person. In fact, it is assuring to me and should be to you as well that our ship largely steers itself. Without exception, Strathcona soldiers get on with the nation's business at home or abroad with great professionalism and competence, and they are backed by truly remarkable families.

While I remain convinced that our unit is a tremendous sum of all of its components (to include serving soldiers and leaders; family members; Old Guard; and Friends of the Regiment), I do believe the Army has chosen wisely in choosing the next Commanding Officer. Unless my stay of execution is granted, or Paul Peyton has an 'unfortunate mishap' after meeting me in a dark back-alley, he will assume command of the Regiment sometime in June 2012 (details to follow on ENews once known). Paul is a tremendously competent and experienced officer. He has a great sense of humour and, most importantly, he genuinely cares for the soldiers entrusted to his command. Moreover, he is driven by the needs of our families. Paul, congratulations! We look forward



to seeing you, Tiffany, and your two great sons in June (but not a second sooner).

Paul will find a remarkable team when he returns to the 'mothership' later in the year. Today, nearly 10 years after we committed our first soldiers to combat operations in Afghanistan, Strathcona's remain in that troubled part of the world. Our soldiers are not only renowned for their operational success in Afghanistan, they have been the face of the Army this past year in helping Manitobans cope with the 'Flood of the Century,' and they have also represented our Regiment with unparalleled excellence at various training events and brigade competitions. Most recently, every troop in the Regiment achieved live-fire proficiency at Exercise STEELE SABRE, a Strathcona (MCpl Felix Charette) won the arduous Brigade Mountain Man Challenge, and our Cambrian Patrol Team was awarded a silver medal in what is widely held as the most challenging dismounted patrolling competition in the world.

For the most part, the challenges to be confronted by Paul Peyton and all Strathcona's in the coming two years will be good ones to have: in

addition to being tasked once again to force generate successive tank squadrons for potential operational deployments abroad, the Regiment is about to integrate three variants of the state-of-the-art Leopard 2 main battle tank into its arsenal. While much is being made currently of the potential impacts of the constrained fiscal environment on the Canadian Forces, I do not foresee a reduced demand for the fine men and women of our Regiment in the years to come. If our Army is not immediately committed to operations elsewhere in the world following the completion of the Afghan mission, rest assured we have the best and most imaginative leaders and soldiers on the floor to fill what little 'white space' is given to them with world-class training.

Perseverance,



*Thank you to **Lorna Blair** for sending in the *Glengarry News* article on page 7 which was published on April 6th, 2011 - Ed*

Continued from Page 1
Colonel of the Regiment

families and to provide 'bridges' to civilian life once Strathconas decide to retire.

Your Regiment continues to set the example in operations, family support, and connecting with Canadians; great reasons to be proud to be a Strathcona. Once a Strathcona, always a Strathcona!

Perseverance,



Regimental Sergeant-Major

By Chief Warrant Officer W.J. Crabb



The Regiment is still manoeuvring at full speed. Since the last Newsletter, the Regiment has carried out tasks in support of Primary

Reserve training, supported nearly 50 community relations events, and has been in the field several times to conduct realistic, live fire training.

About 250 personnel deployed to Calgary in early July to take part in the Stampede, Spruce Meadows, and the departure guard for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. All of our soldiers managed to take some well-deserved summer leave between taskings and the Regiment also took advantage of the summer months to conduct adventure training. The Regiment deployed to Wainwright in September for Exercise STEELE SABRE during which we endured no more than 45

minutes of rain, making it the best weather for an exercise any of us can remember! While in Wainwright, we completed a PCF and continuation training gun camp that culminated in squadron level live-fire advances to contact. It was great to get back to the basics after many years of training for an Afghanistan-specific environment. Squadrons had the freedom to conduct their own training which included both offensive and defensive operations. Several nights were spent in hides and harbours where our younger members were taught about cam nets and sleeping on the back deck. Recce Sqn had a busy time carrying out mounted and dismounted tasks including river crossings and detailed mud observation post construction. Recce Squadron also provided the tank squadrons with impromptu force-on-force training by patrolling against their harbours and hides nightly. The Regiment returned home in time to enjoy Thanksgiving weekend. B Squadron returned to Wainwright to serve as the tank squadron for 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group and an RCD Battle Group.

Further afield, we currently have members in Germany commissioning some of the new Leopard 2 fleet and the Cambrian patrol team participants enjoying a rest in England after an amazing silver medal finish. The nearly 60 soldiers still in Afghanistan will commence their return to Canada in the coming months, with most of the Mission Transition Task Force members home in time for Christmas. All Strathcona soldiers tasked for the training advisory mission are finally in theatre and MWO Riley tells me "They are living the dream."

The Regiment is looking forward to receiving our first Leopard 2

main battle tanks early in the New Year. It's a great time to be in the Armoured Corps, especially if you are a Strathcona!

Alberta Association President

By Howie Owen

The following is a brief summary of what the Association has been busy doing since the last *Newsletter* this past spring.

The first thing that comes to mind is the Royal Visit to the city, during the Calgary Stampede of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (**Prince William and Kate Middleton**). Some of our members were able to get a glimpse at the royal couple while others, including yours truly and my wife **Joyce** along with about 12 Association members, were able to get a close up view at Rotary Challenger Park where the Regiment supplied a 100 man Guard of Honour. The seating and transport to the Park was arranged by **LCol (Ret'd) Bill Schultz** who is the President of RAUSI (Royal Alberta United Services Institute). On behalf of all the members who attended, thanks very much Bill.

At the same event was the Portrait of Honour National Tour display, a very sombre reminder of all those heroes who made the supreme sacrifice. The display includes hand painted upper body portraits of those soldiers along with a news reporter and a civilian diplomat who were lost in Afghanistan. This large oil painting mural was painted by **Mr. Dave Sopha**. The mural is mounted on a large flat deck which is pulled by a tractor trailer. The display is travelling across Canada and is sponsored by volunteers from

Kinsmen (Kin Canada) who rely on donations to cover their expenses. More is available at their website www.portraitsofhonour.ca.

On September 6th, the Association Black Hatter Luncheon was held at 285 Legion with approximately 50 members in attendance. The Regiment cooperated as usual and sent down their Leadership Team which included the CO, RSM, 2IC, and all the squadron OC's and SSM's. Other members of the Regiment who are ERE at 41 Bde and the Museum along with about 25 members of the Old Guard were there also to share stories....some were even true! A great time was had by all.

On September 20th, again through RAUSI, four members attended a static display which again included the Portrait of Honour vehicle. A fundraising dinner for 350 to 400 guests was held in Gasoline Alley Building in Heritage Park. The guest speaker was **Gen (Ret'd) Rick Hillier**, former Chief of Defense Staff. His speech was outstanding - very interesting and humorous.. By the way, his favourite NHL team is not the Maple Leafs which he used to make comparisons, good and not so good, during his time as CDS.

His final subject was the very reason for the gala fundraiser for the Military Family Resource Center (MFRC). He spoke on why the Resource Center is so very important for our serving members and their families. Most importantly, it cares about and offers morale and financial help and guidance to those families who find it very difficult to cope without the presence of a father or mother who

is away for extended periods on duty in Afghanistan, while assisting during natural disasters, attending career courses and absent on training exercises. Support is also given to serving members who suffer from the effects of tour(s) in Afghanistan. The last portion of his speech was his personal tribute to the 157 faces on the Portrait of Honour Mural. He went through the names in small groups and spoke of how difficult it was for him personally to attend the funeral ceremony of each one who died during his tour as CDS. It was very obvious to all who listened that night that he is a very, very caring man who at times spoke with a quiver in his voice.

To conclude this update, the 2012 Membership renewal is doing very well and the cheques are coming in surprisingly quickly this year. A reminder was also sent out to some of the Old Guard who did not renew in 2011. This program was adopted to try to increase our membership. I must say it seems to be worth your Committee's efforts. While we are on the subject of membership, keep in mind that the Annual General Meeting is coming up on January 10th, 2012. All the Executive positions are up for grabs. Anyone, no matter where you reside, is encouraged to submit their name for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer by email or regular



*Strathcona Association Annual Family Golf Tournament
The Regimental Team.*

Spring 2012 Edition Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the Spring 2011 Strathcona Newsletter is **6 April 2012**.

Submissions should be forwarded to newsletter@strathconas.ca

or mailed to:
**Lord Strathcona's Horse
(Royal Canadians)
Regimental Society
Newsletter
PO Box 10500 Station
Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5
Attention: Kathy Batty**

mail not later than December 28th, 2011 or, be at the AGM when the voting will take place.

By the time the fall/winter edition comes to each of you, old man winter will have arrived. We hope it will not be the long and cold winter the "experts" are predicting.

Thank you all for your support of the Regimental Association and on behalf of your Executive Committee, have a great winter and may you be half way to heaven before the devil knows you're gone.



Christmas 1944 in Italy and Toscanini

By Ian Barnes

The other day I came across an article written many years ago by **Dick Cunniffe** entitled 'Christmas at Godo, 1944'. It told the story of how the Regiment had spent Christmas during the action in WW II in Italy and in particular the men of 'A' Echelon. As we sit down to the traditional turkey and all its trimmings with family and friends, we should reflect on how the regiment spent that day so many years ago, and not forget the members of the Regiment who are now serving in Afghanistan as part of the training mission or in other places across the world.

Dick writes that following the breaching of the Gothic Line the 80,000 Canadians in Italy thought their war would be over and they would be home for Christmas. However, the weather and a stubborn German army put a damper on that dream. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, the Strathcona's had experienced a heavy period of action at the Lamone River and Naviglio Canal that resulted in twenty-two casualties (six killed and 16 wounded).

On Christmas Day in 1944, all but 'B' Squadron would get a short respite from the action. At first light on Christmas Day, 'B' Squadron relieved both 'A' and 'C' Squadrons along the Senio River and dyke system, allowing them to move into reasonable accommodation. 'A' Squadron moved back across the Lamone River to its favourite billets near Ammonite, 'C' Squadron settled in farms along the Via Aguta, near RHQ, 'A1' echelon was in the crowded village of Villanova with the LAD in Mezzano, and 'A' echelon moved into the grounds of

an Italian Count's villa, where SSM Cunniffe had set up a large sign bearing Christmas greetings.

Due to the efforts of the quartermaster, **Capt. George Tomlinson**, and his staff, the Regiment enjoyed turkey, pork, mince pies, and trimmings. According to Dick, Capt Tomlinson and his staff had conducted a tactical exercise to 'study the effects of modern war on abandoned domestic fowl' two days earlier. To top it off, a few Christmas parcels had arrived from Canada in the last mail.

On Christmas Eve at the 'A' echelon site, a string of lights, was set up by the Signals troop. Each light was covered with bits of the Christmas wrapping that had come with the parcels from home. The lights were draped over a 'Charlie Brown' type tree in the Count's courtyard and soon the singing of Christmas carols began. On Christmas Day, the weather was clear, and brisk, with a light coating of snow on the ground. The 'A' echelon kitchen was set up in the Count's courtyard and the crew was quickly put to work cooking the Christmas meal. In addition to the field kitchen, the echelon had a four wheeled Italian army mobile oven that had been commandeered a few months earlier. In the usual Christmas tradition, the officers and sergeants served the soldiers. There were no table cloths or serviettes. In fact, there were no tables or chairs, but nobody seemed to mind. In the tradition of the Christmas spirit, the Count and his wife and family were also treated to plates of Christmas food, as were many of the Italian civilians in proximity to the other Regimental locales. Suddenly the enemy, feeling left out of the festivities, started a bombardment

that forced everyone into the Count's villa. After everyone was safely inside, the Count disappeared for a moment and returned with a large cello that helped make the singing of Christmas carols a great success. Oh yes, what about Toscanini? Well, he wasn't there in person but he was in spirit. It seems that before the war the Count had been the cellist for the famous Arturo Toscanini on many of his European concert tours.

Post script. I wished I had had a copy of Dick's article when I gave the eulogy at his funeral in 1996. I was standing outside the funeral home with a number of other Strathcona's when **Dick Roberts** came up to me and asked me at the last minute (15 minutes in fact) to say a few words. Dick said he was going to give the main eulogy and I was to add a few words, or so I thought. I had met **Dick Cunniffe** on a number of occasions over the years and was aware of his contribution to the Regiment especially in regards to the museum and following his retirement to the Association. I had also edited Dick's manuscript with help from **Mike Snell** and **Sean Henry** that became the first of the history book series, 'The Story of A Regiment'. So I thought I was in pretty good shape, as I was not the main speaker. Well as we all know the old saying about the plans of men and mice. I had quickly jotted a few words on the In Memoriam, 'Order of Service' when **Dick Roberts** moved to the front of the chapel and called upon me to give the eulogy. Following a few seconds of sheer panic, I composed myself and headed to the front of the church, hoping that my tribute would be of the caliber that Dick, the legend who many called 'Mr. Strathcona', richly deserved.

Memorials, Cairns and Plaques

During a recent meeting of the Society P&P Committee, the question was raised as to whether or not the Regiment held a comprehensive list of all the memorials, cairns, plaques, etc that we have placed or have been placed by others with connections to the Regiment. The information on some of the items exists in our archives, but not in a single, comprehensive list. I am confident, however, that a comprehensive list does exist in the memories of our membership and to that end, I am seeking your assistance in augmenting our list of known locations.

If you were on a sovereignty operation to the arctic and left a cairn or were on parade in Holland when the plaque was dedicated in Hardewick, we would appreciate your input, be it an anecdote, a picture or simply a date and reason for the event, all would be appreciated. Some of the items we know about are listed below, as examples. Thanks in advance, R2IC.

Memorial stone to **Tpr Jenkins** – Standerton SA, Plaque and Cairn - Lydenburg Museum, The Strathcona and South African Soldiers' Memorial – Montreal, Strathcona Memorial Statue, - Cgy Central Memorial Park, **Flowerdew** Memorial Cross (his original grave marker) – Framlingham College UK, Plaque to **Cruikshank, McNichol** and **Jenkins** – Red Deer Hospital, Statue and plaque to **Knisley** – Cayuga, ON, Melfa River Plaque – Melfa River Italy, Liberation Memorial plaque – Hardewick, Holland, Cement cairn to **Lt Van Straubensee, Tpr McDavid**, and **Tpr Wiley**, UNEF – Worthington Park Borden, Memorial to **WO May, Cpl Holiday** and **Capt Poisson** - CFB Gagetown, **Tpr Hayakaze** and **Cpl Hornburg** Memorial stones from FOB MA'SUM GHAR, Afghanistan – Regtl Museum

Strathcona Humour

In Germany, in the late-60's, the CO directed that Centurion tanks would not be driven under any circumstances unless the gun was in the external lock or it was fully stabilized. It was believed that doing otherwise, would create unnecessary wear on the gun system and build in an inherent inaccuracy. The policy was adhered to very strictly. Extra orderly officers for errant troop leaders were the norm.

On deploying for a divisional exercise with BAOR shortly after the edict was issued, B Sqn was moved to a hide near its assigned battle positions to conduct battle procedure and await the start of the exercise the next day. Unexpectedly however, the Battle Captain, ordered the Squadron to deploy immediately to one of the positions as the arrival of the enemy forces was reported to be imminent. Being fully aware of the CO's directive about moving the tanks, I raced to SHQ to remind the BC we could not move for about ten minutes as the guns were "cold" and had to be put in the external locks. From his turret position, the BC looked down at me standing beside his tank and directed the troop move immediately, notwithstanding the CO's directive. I, again, raised the policy issue. In no uncertain terms, expletives deleted, he directed me to comply. At the same time, in his frustration with an all but insubordinate subaltern, he threw his hand mike at me. The mike cord, being hooked to his breastplate, reached the end of its tether, tightened up, and sprung back to smack the BC in the mouth. It is to be noted my troop made record time to the battle position. It should also be noted I did not bring it to the BC's attention that the enemy never did arrive.

Lost Trails

Spring 2011 Newsletters which have been returned

Bourne JDA - Stittsville, ON	Bogle DC - Surrey, BC
Simpson PH - Petawawa, ON	Wood E - Calgary, AB
Anley PG - St. Albert, AB	Peters JB - Canmore, AB
Corbin JC - Calgary, AB	Thompson DW - Calgary, AB
Erickson GW - Burnaby, BC	Miller KJ - Innisfail, AB
Ulmer P - Calgary, AB	Childs V - Ladysmith, BC
Black JD - Calgary, AB	McGregor EF - Winnipeg, MB
McCreary MJ - Calgary, AB	Main WG - Burlington, ON
Reynolds AA - Sylvan Lake, AB	Luomala AE - Angus ON

Williamstown soldier played pivotal role in 1918's Battle of Moreuil Wood

By SCOTT CARMICHAEL
News Staff

Ninety-three years ago last week, what many historians refer to as the last great cavalry battle in history began in northern France, and a native Glengarrian played a leading role in the fighting.

The two-day long (March 30/31, 1918) Battle of Moreuil Wood is perhaps best known for the gallant charge led by Lt. Gordon Flowerdew (for which he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross), as well as being the scene of the last great German offensive of World War I, but there's an often overlooked fact about this Canadian Cavalry Brigade (CCB) defeat of the Kaiser's forces at the most crucial juncture of the war – the leader of one of the regiments that made up that fighting force was a local lad.

Lt.-Col. D.J. Macdonald of Williamstown was the 28-year-old commanding officer of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) – which along with the Fort Garry Horse and the Royal Dragoons made up the Canadian Cavalry Brigade – in the early spring of 1918; a point in the war when German General Erich Ludendorff was throwing everything he had at the British, Canadian and French forces around the strategically important town of Amiens, France – including intense artillery barrages; waves of attacks by experienced crack storm troopers, day and night; and poison gas – in an attempt to exploit several holes in the Allied lines, divide the three armies, and ultimately win the war.

After a week of intense fighting in late March, during which the French forces retreated and the British fought bravely but in a severely disorganized manner that seriously hampered their effectiveness, Gen. J.E.B. Seely, the commander of the CCB, realizing the urgency of the situation, acted on his own initiative and on the morning of March 30 – Easter Sunday – gave the order to charge the German defenses.

The Strathconas, under the command of Lt.-Col. Macdonald, led the attack, galloping front and centre into the German artillery and machine gun fire in and around Moreuil Wood.



PRIDE OF GLENGARRY: Lt.-Col. D.J. Macdonald, a Williamstown native seen here in this reproduction of a photo taken from the front page of the March 15, 1918 edition of *The News*, was the commanding officer of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadian) regiment during the Battle of Moreuil Wood (March 30/31, 1918) – regarded as the last great cavalry battle in history.

FILE PHOTO

Outnumbered three to one, and fighting in dense copse-covered terrain as artillery shells rained down and their ranks were strafed by machine gun fire, many of the Strathconas were forced to dismount and engage the enemy in hand-to-hand combat using rifles and fixed bayonets, pistols and sabres.

Around noon, as the fighting intensified, Lt.-Col. Macdonald was wounded in the ankle, and despite his protestation, was evacuated to safety, leaving another lieutenant-colonel in charge.

The following day, the CCB intensified their assault, attacking the German positions in three waves.

Despite several enemy counterattacks, the Canadians gained possession of Moreuil Wood by nightfall – but at a tremendous cost.

The roughly 3,000-man CCB sustained heavy losses – 488 casualties; including 157 Strathconas killed or wounded, or 70 per cent of the regiment's total force 48 hours earlier.

Approximately 800 of the brigade's horses were also lost in the fighting.

German forces did manage to regain control of parts of the Moreuil Wood and surrounding areas over the following two days, but by April 5, Ludendorff's forces, unable to break through the existing Canadian lines or split the Allied armies, ceased their advance, thus halting the German's last offensive push of the war, and quashing their hope of victory.

As for Lt.-Col. Macdonald, he convalesced in England after being wounded on the first day of the battle, eventually returning to the Strathconas in early August.

He commanded the regiment through the remainder of the war and for several years afterward – during which the unit completed the transition from a horse-based to a fully mechanized (tank) cavalry unit – an evolution that had begun in the ranks of all military forces midway through the war with the advent and increasing use of what the Germans had initially referred to as "The Devil's Chariots," a more-than-suitable replacement for the horse soldier whose obsolescence in modern warfare had been painfully evident on the bloody battlefields of Europe.

In the decades following the First World War, Lt.-Col. Macdonald held several high-ranking army postings in Calgary, Regina, Ottawa, Toronto, Victoria, B.C. and London, Ont. – including Inspector-General of Central Canada during the latter stages of World War II – before retiring from the army with the rank of major-general in November 1945.

He died on Dec. 3, 1951 in London, Ont. at the age of 60 – 31 years to the day after the death of his first wife, Marguerite Macdonald, the daughter of Col. A.G.F. Macdonald (founder of *The News*), who succumbed to complications incurred during the birth of the couple's daughter, Catherine Eugenie, in November 1920.

While today little attention is given to Lt.-Col. Macdonald's role in one of the most pivotal battles of the Great War – Royce MacGillivray's *Dictionary of*

Glengarry Biography, for instance, while giving a thorough account of the Williamstown native's life, makes no mention of his participation in the Battle of Moreuil Wood – the oft-decorated officer was a source of great pride for local residents during WW I.

The News followed his early military career closely, particularly his rapid rise through the ranks of the military.

"Promotion, where merited, comes quickly on the field on battle, and among those who have prominently come to the front, is Col. Macdonald...now of Netherhill, Sask.," trumpeted a brief piece on the front page of the March 15, 1918 edition.

The article goes on to recount that "this young Glengarrian, in the early stages of the war, went overseas as a lieutenant," and how his work in the field "soon attracted the eye of his commanding officer and promotion followed step by step, till today he is in command of the battalion in which he so faithfully served."

The *Dictionary of Glengarry Biography* notes that Lt.-Col. Macdonald, who attended high school in both Williamstown and Alexandria before graduating from the Royal Military College in Kingston in 1909 and moving to Saskatchewan to manage his father's landholdings and farming operations there before the start of the war – was appointed commanding officer of the Strathconas only three months – on Nov. 30, 1917 – prior to the Battle of Moreuil Wood. However by then his exemplary military record was already well-established.

He was wounded twice and received the Distinguished Service Order as well as the Military Cross for his actions in battle by October 1915, just over a year after landing in Europe as a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

And his gallantry wasn't recognized only in local circles either.

In fact, *The News* stated in its Oct. 1, 1915 issue that when the young officer received the Military Cross, King George V personally pinned it on his chest during a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Royal Departure 2011



Strathcona Humour

Here's a funny one that took place during the 4 CMBG skill at arms competition at Sennelager, Germany in 1996. Capt W was having a bad day at the pistol competition having only hit the target twice. BGen T was a crusty old armoured veteran, and when he heard of the Captain's bad luck wanted to address the poor unfortunate individual. Where's G (the Captain's first name) he barked. His aide replied, "He's out in the woods shooting himself, Sir". To this the General replied, "Well I hope he took a full magazine!"



In the mid-sixties, when Currie Barracks was home, a S/Sgt who was never stuck for words, was promoted to WO2. For some reason, these promotions were always announced at a Friday Happy Hour. After a few tippings of the glasses of congratulations, I, being a rookie sergeant asked the question "Now that you are promoted, what should we call you?"

The WO2 replied immediately with, "why don't you call me by my nickname—Sir?"

Canadian Pacific Partnership



**CANADIAN
PACIFIC
RAILWAY**



Your Photos



2 D Crew courtesy of Stan Cote



David & Joan Rogers



Mess Party courtesy of Stan Cote



Jim & Carolyn Fox and Patti Ross



*Sgt Gerald Blair
Rome 1944*



John & Debbie McEachern and Patti Ross



PM Visit courtesy of Stan Cote



News of truce courtesy of Stan Cote



*Colonel John Gardam meeting
Prince William. Photo courtesy
of Macleans Commemorative
Edition*



*Mr. Erin Blair and Family
Rome 2008*



*Padre Alan Schooley with his
new car at the Armour School
where he was attending the Phase
4 officer graduation in August.*

Your Dispatches

I was amazed to read about myself in the Winter/Spring edition of the Regimental Newsletter. Please thank them for their kind words. I would love to correspond with them if they are interested. Living alone after the death of my partner is not easy and being 85 years old on 15 Sept 11 doesn't help. I am not allowed to drive.

I fly the Canadian flag every day in remembrance of my wonderful husband, Philip Childs, whom I met when I joined the army as a nursing sister and was posted to Wainwright. We hit it off right away, and from then on we were a pair whenever we had time off together. We had 56 years of very happy married life and have 4 children.

Many thanks for putting my letter in your dispatch. I do appreciate it.

Eileen Childs Elgin ON

PS Say hello to Pat Carew for me!

Eileen, we'll have some of our Strathcona crowd in Ontario get in touch with you and we'll email your note to Pat Carew as well.
- Ed

Enclosed is a cheque as a small donation in memory of Ernie Romans who passed away on February 28th, 2011 at the age of 77.

Ernie and I attended the last 3 reunions and thoroughly enjoyed them. It was wonderful seeing old friends and meeting new friends. I would, if at all possible, like to continue receiving the Regimental Society Newsletter.

Ina Langley Lethbridge AB

Ina, our condolences on your loss and thank you for your memorial donation. We will make sure you stay on our Newsletter list.
- Ed

I am assisting Maj (ret'd) Danny McLeod in writing his memoirs. Danny served with great distinction with the South Albertas in WWII and post-war joined the Strathconas. I am desperately looking for information, stories or experiences with Danny from three periods of his service in Calgary. First, while he was with the Calgary Tanks in Calgary in the late forties, (I believe he still was required to play hockey for the LDSH during that period), secondly, while he was with the Regiment in the 1956 to 59 period, in Calgary (I have some material in this time frame), and thirdly, while he commanded Recce squadron in Germany in 1959.

I would like to thank those Strathcona's that have already contacted me with their recollections of service with Danny but, if you have a story, please don't think I already have it, all stories are welcome.

Thanks,

Ted Nurse

tednurse41@gmail.com
613 634 4347

We hope this brings you more material about one of the better known Strathcona "living legends". The book will make a great read.
Ed.

Hello, I was in Germany from 1965 to 1969 with the Regiment. I was wondering if you could tell me where Ron Marriott is located and how to contact him. I would really appreciate help with this matter. Thank you for your help....

Ron Gower Calgary AB

Ron, we'll pass this on to the Association Executive to try to get you Ron Marriott's contact information. - Ed

I'd like to share a couple of pictures and the story that goes with them in the event you might find it useful for your publication.

My father, Gerald M. Blair, was with the Strathcona's in WWII (Sgt. Blair – C-30894) The picture of him was taken just inside the coliseum in Rome in 1944. He was quite proud of this picture and eventually used it one year for his business calendar. My wife, daughters and I lived in the Czech Republic for six months (2008/2009) and travelled extensively. Over Christmas we spent some time in Italy. I brought along this photo of my dad in the event I might have a chance to find the same spot. A tourist guide at the coliseum found the spot within 5 minutes and helped us clear the way of some speakers and wires so that we might get the exact shot we were after. Personally it was quite an emotional moment – one of my highlights of my time in Rome.

See Pictures under Your Photos

Mr. Erin Blair Maxville ON

Thanks for the photos, Erin. Now, we have to ask. Did your dad put those holes in the wall of the Coliseum? Pretty impressive for a tank gun! - Ed

*A great hello to **Norman Wurtz** and to **Kathy Batty** for the picture of A Squadron before we left for Korea. It will fit in with my other photos.*

Thanks

Len Hill Medicine Hat AB

PS A great newsletter

Len, we'll pass your thanks on to Kathy and Norm. Thanks for the compliment - Ed

Last Trumpet Call



CARROLL, Peter R Age 75, 15 July 2011, Chilliwack, BC

EFFORD, Reginald Age 79, 20 July 2011, Stony Plain, AB

EMPEY, Bill GW 2007, Winnipeg, MB

FAZAN, Eric G Kelowna, BC

LASALIN, Joe 12 July 2011, Medicine Hat, AB

NEWTON, Ron E Age 91, 24 August, 2011, Peterborough, ON

ROMANS, Ernie A Age 77, 28 February, 2011, Lethbridge, AB

STEVENSON, Ron M Age 84, 31 August 2011, Maple Ridge, BC

WARE, Tim Age 51, 13 June 2011, Calgary, AB

In Loving Memory of Wives

DAHLGREN, Shirley (Lester), 27 April 2011, Surrey BC

Our apologizes for lack of details in some cases