

**CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF MOREUIL WOOD**  
**LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE (ROYAL CANADIANS)**  
**30 MARCH 2018**



Sir Alfred Munnings: *The Charge of Flowerdew's Squadron*  
Canadian War Museum

**Background:** The Battle of Moreuil Wood was part of the wider Allied effort to stem the German Offensive (Operation Michael) of Spring 1918 in the area of Amiens, France. Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), as part of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade, encountered and defeated a large German force of four times their number at Moreuil Wood on 30 March 1918, in what was to be the last great cavalry charge in Canadian Army history, and among the last of such actions in British and Commonwealth warfare. Losses to men and horses were extremely high with 53 of 75 Strathcona's of the charging Squadron, killed or wounded; but the mission was accomplished. The Squadron Leader, Lieutenant Gordon Flowerdew, was awarded (posthumously) the **Victoria Cross** for his leadership on the day.

**Intent:** Since the end of the First World War, March 30<sup>th</sup> has been recognized and celebrated as the 'Regimental Day' by successive generations of Strathcona's, both serving and retired. It is therefore the intention of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Society, encompassing the serving members of the Regiment and the retired veterans membership of the Regimental Association, that the centennial of this Battle will be commemorated in a significant way. Firstly, it is intended that an 'Official Ceremony' will take place at the battle site in France on or about the end of March 2018, involving a delegation of serving soldiers and officers, with representation from the Regimental

Veterans Association. Secondly, a specific programme of events will be developed to take place throughout Canada, and in various communities around Alberta throughout 2018, in order to celebrate the Regiment's storied past within the history and heritage of the Province. This centennial commemoration is not recognized as part of DND's official commemoration of the First World War and will therefore be reliant on sponsorship and support from members and friends of the Regimental Society.

**About the Regiment:** Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) was raised and funded by Donald Smith, Lord Strathcona (of CPR fame) in 1900 for service in the South African (Boer) War. Original members were drawn from cowboys and former NWMP within the region that would soon become the Province of Alberta. The 'Strathcona's' have been part of Canada's regular Army ever since, as a cavalry and later tank regiment, serving in all major wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and most recently in Afghanistan. The Regiment was headquartered in Calgary until 1996, when it moved to its current station at Steele Barracks, Edmonton.

**Ride With Us:** To learn more about the Charge at Moreuil Wood and support the Commemoration of this inspiring and courageous feat of Canadian Arms, contact [www.strathconas.ca/MoreuilWood2018](http://www.strathconas.ca/MoreuilWood2018) for further information.

Colonel G.G. Hug CD (Retired)  
Colonel of the Regiment  
Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)