

Heritage Tours
RED DEER REVEALED



of Red Deer

SELF GUIDED TOUR 4

WAR MEMORIALS TOUR

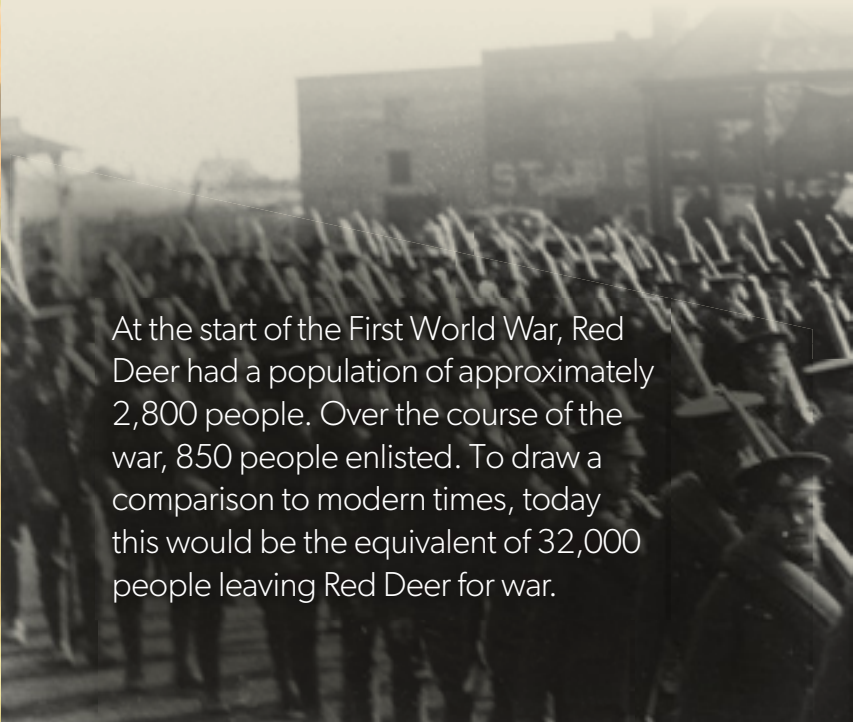


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*This is not war here.
The word 'war' is a word that
comes from civilization but
there is no civilization here.
It is hell turned inside out.*

Frank Douance, writing from France in the First World War



At the start of the First World War, Red Deer had a population of approximately 2,800 people. Over the course of the war, 850 people enlisted. To draw a comparison to modern times, today this would be the equivalent of 32,000 people leaving Red Deer for war.

INTRODUCTION

This War Memorials Tour honours the efforts of those who fought and served in the wars and conflicts that have had such a deep impact on our community. It also acknowledges the people who remained behind, sustaining the day to day activities of life while supporting family, friends and countrymen fighting in distant lands. Our community's desire to remember, to honour and to never forget these men and women is evident in the significance placed on Red Deer's war memorials and honour rolls.

This tour includes 13 locations in Red Deer that you can visit. Ten of these sites have war memorials or honour rolls. There are also three sites, the Red Deer Armoury, the Canadian Pacific Railway Station and the Alberta Ladies College, that do not have specific war memorials, but which have played a significant role in Red Deer's association with war.

Many tour sites have honour rolls and plaques with the names of those who served and died in battle. Throughout Red Deer's history, these honour rolls have taken many different forms, such as newspaper lists, parchments and plaques. They have been placed in schools, churches and public buildings. During times of war, honour rolls were an important way for people to stay connected with their loved ones.

Beginning with the Boer War through the First World War, Second World War, Korean War and numerous peacekeeping missions, Red Deerians have a proud tradition of serving. As you visit these memorials and sites, you will have the opportunity to connect with and remember the people who have shaped our history.



LOCAL IMPACTS OF WAR

People from Red Deer and district have always been ready to answer the call to duty to protect Canada and their homelands from the threat of war and tyranny.

This sense of duty was first demonstrated in October 1899 when the British Empire declared war on the two independent Boer republics, the Orange Free State and South African (Transvaal) Republic. Nine people from Red Deer and district went overseas to fight for the Empire in the 1899 – 1902 Second South Africa (Boer) War.

Succeeding generations of Red Deerians also demonstrated their patriotism by enlisting in the First World War (1914 – 1918), Second World War (1939 – 1945) and the Korean War (1950 – 1953). In the last half century, people from Red Deer and district have served as peacekeepers and peacemakers in such places as Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan.

When the First World War broke out, 850 of the approximately 2,800 people living in Red Deer and district enlisted. This caused a shortage of workers and led to the closure of some industries such as the Great Northern Lumber Company in North Red Deer. It also meant that women with young children

Soldiers of the 12th Canadian Mounted Rifles training at the Red Deer Exhibition Grounds, ca. 1915.
Red Deer & District Archives, P3314.

There weren't enough people to enlist or to keep things running smoothly at home. The shortage of manpower caused problems in all areas, including the farms, where women and young children were left to produce the food to feed the region.

were often alone on their homesteads, trying to keep things running as best they could. Red Deer did not recover quickly from this war.

When the Second World War began in 1939, Red Deer's population was about 2,500 people. Citizens enlisted and families experienced the horrifying losses of war but, economically, this war had a very different impact on Red Deer. The development of the A-20 Army Training Camp in Red Deer and the Royal Air Force Base in Penhold meant that over 3,000 people came to Central Alberta for training. When the war ended in 1945 soldiers returned home to rebuild their lives and the economic boom continued.

Throughout the First and Second World Wars, proud but apprehensive families saw their loved ones off at the CPR Station, never knowing if they would see them again. They waited anxiously for letters letting them know their loved ones were safe. In both wars, residents contributed to the war effort by purchasing war and victory bonds. They also donated goods such as food, medical supplies, and warm clothing that were sent to soldiers on active duty and in prisoner of war camps.



Top: Richard Robinson, the son of Colonel C. W. Robinson, the commanding officer of the 187th Battalion, spring 1916. Richard was the 187th Battalion mascot. Red Deer & District Archives, P4386.



Left: Colin Ramsey Broughton, ca. 1914-1915. Red Deer & District Archives, K6065.

A SOLDIER'S LIFE

Colin Ramsey Broughton felt a connection with England. Like many people in Red Deer, he came from somewhere else – in his case, Grimsby, England. With the outbreak of war, Colin joined the 35th Central Alberta Light Horse and went overseas. He left his parents and his job in the family's iron works to fight in Europe. His cheerful, newsy letters from the front were regularly reprinted in the local papers. On the following pages, you'll find portions of these letters: you'll get to know Colin and what his life was like as a soldier in the First World War.



Top: Members of Lord Strathcona's Horse Regiment convalescing at Maritzburg. A. T. Stephenson, who later became Red Deer City Commissioner, is 2nd from the right in the back row, 1900. Red Deer & District Archives, P148.

Inset: Trooper William B. McKay's South Africa Medal. Red Deer Museum + Art Gallery, 1988.27.22.



BOER WAR

Before the era of trench warfare became the norm in the First World War, Central Albertans fought in another war. This one had a more Western feel, with open fields and cavalry charges. It was the 1899 – 1902 South Africa War, or Boer War.

In October 1899 following more than 60 years of conflict between the British and the Boers in South Africa, the Boers declared war on Britain. The Boers, descendants of Dutch settlers, governed two independent republics, the Orange Free State and the South African (Transvaal) Republic.

Canada agreed to cover the cost of recruiting and transporting a small, all-volunteer force to South Africa.

Nine people from Red Deer and district joined the 7,368 Canadians who went to South Africa to

fight for the British Empire during the Boer War. 12 Canadian women accompanied the troops as nurses. This was the first time that Canadian soldiers had volunteered to fight for the Empire. Some volunteers from Central Alberta joined the Lord Strathcona Horse Regiment, while others enlisted with the Second Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles. The open field style of mounted combat was a good fit for the Albertan and Canadian soldiers who were prized for their fighting spirit, horsemanship and shooting skills.

During the war, 89 Canadians were killed in action, 135 died from various tropical diseases and 252 were wounded. Three of the nine men from Central Alberta died during the war. The Boer War ended successfully from the British perspective, as the Boers were defeated, but the cost was high for both sides.

RED DEER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The Red Deer Memorial Hospital which opened in 1904 was built as a memorial to those who died in the Boer War. It was the first public hospital built between Calgary and Edmonton. The hospital was paid for through fundraising, including a \$1,000 personal cheque from Lord Strathcona, and \$2,000 from the Victorian Order of Nurses. A marble plaque at the hospital entrance commemorated the patriotism of Charles Cruikshank, Archie McNichol and Angus Jenkins, three members of the Lord Strathcona Horse Regiment who died in South Africa in 1900.

When this hospital was demolished, the marble plaque was moved to the new hospital. The plaque has since been donated to the Red Deer Museum + Art Gallery.



Red Deer Memorial Hospital, ca. 1910. Red Deer & District Archives, P113.

Private Angus Jenkins, ca. 1900. Red Deer & District Archives, P3603.



OFFICIALLY INTERRED, AT LAST

Private Angus Jenkins rode into his first battle on July 1, 1900 and was mortally wounded a few hours later. When he died, Jenkins was buried in the garden of a farmhouse near the battlefield. His grave was then moved to the family plot on the farm. Most people believed he was re-interred in a British military cemetery nearby, but this was not so. He remained in the farm family's plot all along. On May 12, 2014 the Red Deer Advocate reported that his final resting place will officially be acknowledged on May 24, 2014 when a new granite headstone will be unveiled to commemorate Jenkins' grave.



FIRST WORLD WAR

The First World War took an overwhelming toll on the people of Red Deer. On the evening of August 4th, 1914 when news of the war declaration reached Red Deer, the Red Deer band led a procession through the streets to the newly-constructed Armoury. Patriotic speeches followed, reinforcing the enthusiastic fervor for war. Since some people had recently come to Canada, the war in Europe wasn't just about defending their new nation; it was a chance to fight for their homeland.

Patriotism was at an all-time high during the war, and Red Deerians donated their time, money and belongings to help the fight. The Patriotic Fund Committee, local Red Cross and many other service clubs were established and the community raised funds for everything from machine guns to bandages and care packages that were shipped to Europe.

Not all eligible men and women were able to, or wanted to serve in the war though, and with the start of Conscription in 1917, local tribunals were established to decide requests by those wanting to be exempt from service. It was not the climate for dissent. A few residents from Red Deer and district who were vocal about their allegiance to Germany and the

Austrian-Hungarian Empire or voiced their opinion against Britain and her allies were charged and tried for sedition.

For four years, soldiers from Red Deer and Canada fought alongside the Allied Forces in horrific conditions created by trench warfare. The loss of life was enormous especially during major offensives and battles such as Ypres, the Somme, Passchendaele and Vimy Ridge. More than 1,000,000 men were killed during the Battle of the Somme. In Red Deer, people waited for news, piecing together information to determine what was happening and where their loved ones were while trying comprehend the sheer magnitude of a war that, when over, would kill or wound over 37 million people.

On November 11, 1918, Armistice Day, the end of the war was declared in all parts of Europe. In Red Deer, crowds gathered at City Square and veterans already home were received with cheers.

620,000 Canadians served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War. 67,000 Canadians died in the conflict and 250,000 were wounded. 850 men and women from Red Deer served in the war: 118 of them died.



Eneas Makokis, a former pupil of the Red Deer Indian Industrial School who was killed in action in France in September 1918. Red Deer & District Archives, P3315.



Cooks helpers, C Squadron, 12th Canadian Mounted Rifles, in Red Deer, 1915. [Three of these men were killed and 3 others were wounded during the First World War.] Red Deer & District Archives, P124.

We had a very long spell in the trenches this time and about the worst trip since we came out. It rained nearly all the time, and we were not able to take off our boots and socks to get them dried as we were only 50 yards from the gunmen, so you will see that we had to be on the job 24 hours per day. ... A gunman got a bead on me once and shot my rifle right out of my hand. ... I lost one of the best pals I ever had during the bombardment. He was not a Red Deer boy but one of the reinforcements, and we had been chums together ever since he came out to France.

Partial transcript of an April 20, 1916 letter Colin Broughton sent to his parents from France. Red Deer & District Archives, MG 54 Ted Meeres fonds, Box X, File P.



SECOND WORLD WAR

Victory Loan Bond parade in Red Deer, ca. 1939 – 1945.
Red Deer & District Archives, N309.

Only 21 years after the end of the First World War, global conflict erupted again after Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. Two days later, on September 3, 1939 Great Britain declared war on Germany. Following Canada's declaration of war against Germany on September 10, 1939 a second generation of Central Albertans went off to war.

Unlike the First World War, military personnel were adequately trained before going overseas. In 1939, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom developed a British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. Nearly half of pilots, navigators, air gunners, wireless operators and flight engineers who served with each of the four countries Air Forces in the war were trained in Canada under this plan. In Central Alberta, this translated into a population boom, when the Royal Air Force opened the No. 36 Flying Training School in Penhold. 1,400 military personnel were trained at Penhold, and another 800

in Bowden. At the same time, Canadian soldiers were being trained at the A-20 Army Camp in Red Deer.

Citizens mobilized to help with the war effort, with financial support being a top priority. Through several Victory Loan drives and parades, Red Deerians raised huge amounts to help finance the war. People also adhered to rationing guidelines, and items like meat, fuel and liquor were used and consumed in moderation.

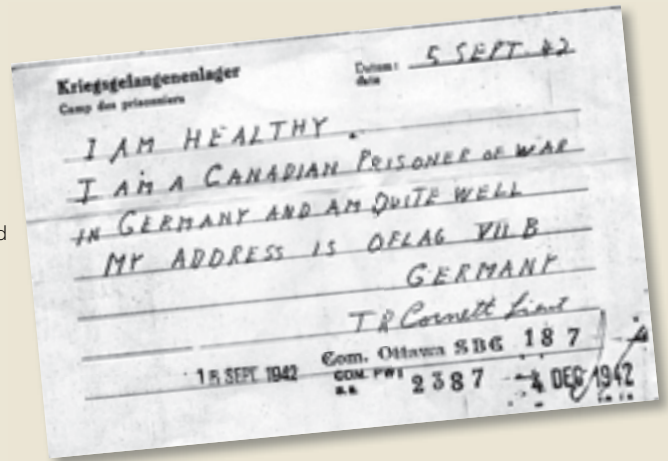
Finally, after six long years filled with immeasurable heartache and loss, the Second World War ended. On May 6, 1945, Germany unconditionally surrendered. Three months later – on August 14 – Japan also surrendered. The battles around the world ceased, but the scars from horrors like concentration camps and atomic bombs would never heal.

Veterans and prisoners of war returned home. The transition to peace was accompanied by an economic boom, and the start of a modern Red Deer.



Lieutenant T. R. Cornett, 1942.
Red Deer & District Archives, P300.

Back of a postcard (right)
Lieutenant T. R. Cornett
wrote on September 5,
1942 advising that he was
a German prisoner-of-war.
The International Red Cross
forwarded this to his unit, and
also to his family in Red Deer.
Red Deer & District Archives,
K44_2.



Lieutenant T. R. "Tom" Cornett, of the 14th Army Tank Battalion (Calgary Regiment), was one of over two dozen Central Albertans who became German prisoners of war after being captured at Dieppe in 1942. He spent 32 months as a prisoner of war in the Oflag VII B camp in Germany. At the camp, as Cornett was an officer, he was shackled in chains for many months to prevent him from trying to escape.

Canadian Women's Army Corps trainees in an Army Week parade, July 1, 1942.
Red Deer & District Archives, N311.



Canadian soldiers including George Debnay in Korea, ca. 1953. Red Deer & District Archives, E2736.

Andrew Moffat in Korea, ca. 1950-53. Image courtesy Andrew C. Moffat.



KOREAN WAR

Rising tensions between South and North Korea escalated into open warfare on June 25, 1950 when North Korean forces invaded South Korea. During the war, the North Korean Forces were supported by the Soviet Union and China. On June 27, 1950 the United Nations Security Council voted to send United Nations (UN) troops in to support South Korea.

Canada was one of 16 UN member countries that sent personnel to South Korea to serve under the UN. 26,791 Canadian military personnel served in the Korean War, during both the combat phase and as peacekeepers afterward. The last Canadian soldiers left Korea in 1957.

At the Battle of Kapyong in April of 1951, the 2nd Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry were instrumental in stopping the Chinese advance and the entire UN forces from being overrun.

The July 27, 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement was signed by the United Nations High Command, North Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteer Army. The armistice agreement established a Korean Demilitarized Zone. The two Koreas technically remain at war today

In "Korea Memories: A Canadian Gunner's Experience in the 'Forgotten War'", Andrew C. Moffat writes:



516 young Canadian men died in Korea during the 1950-53 war: one of them was a very dear friend who, even after all these years, remains clearly in my thoughts. We enjoyed our youth together, but were deprived of also enjoying our old age together.

The truth is that even during the War few Canadians knew that we were a part of that War and, it seems, even fewer cared!

After the two world wars, Korea remains Canada's third-bloodiest overseas conflict, taking the lives of 516 Canadians and wounding more than 1,200. Korea was the last "conventional war" in that opposing forces wore different uniforms and there was a recognizable "no-man's land" dividing them.

130 Central Albertans served in the Korean War. In 1988, 55 years after the end of the war, the bronze plaque on Red Deer's Cenotaph was updated to honour the soldiers from Central Alberta who died during the Korean war.

PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MISSIONS

In the first half of the 20th century, many millions of people around the World died either directly or indirectly as a result of warfare and conflicts. In the mid-1950s, Canada and other countries began looking at ways to prevent wars. Lester B. Pearson suggested that the United Nations establish an Emergency Force that could respond to global conflicts.

In 1957 Pearson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his diplomatic achievements, and innovative thinking in resolving the Suez Canal Crisis through the establishment of a United Nations Emergency Force.

Since then member states of the UN have provided military personnel to assist in maintaining peace and security throughout the World. Canada has sent over 125,000 Canadian Forces members on UN peacekeeping and peacemaking missions around the world, to places such as Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq. Members of Canadian police forces have also served on UN missions. Today, reservists from the 78th Field Battery and the 749 Communications Squadron in Red Deer prepare and train, ready to volunteer with the regular forces overseas and on peacekeeping and peacemaking missions.

Peacekeepers and peacemakers are highly trained forces, but it's still dangerous, draining work. Approximately 125 Canadian peacekeepers have died on UN missions, and many more have suffered physical and mental injuries.



Above: U.N. peacekeepers helmet. Soldiers on U.N. missions wear the uniform of their own country and the U.N.'s blue beret or helmet and badge to show they are working together. Red Deer Museum + Art Gallery, 1997.96.1.

Inset: The 27th Brigade patch worn by Andrew C. Moffat in Korea. After the Korean War, this patch was used by Canadian Armed Forces members on United Nations duties in the Congo and Cyprus. Courtesy A. Moffat.

Dear Dad and Mother,

By the time this reaches you, our last action up here will be stale news. However, I am pleased to say that I have come out of it so far without a scratch and am feeling fine. ... We took a number of prisoners and they were quite pleased to be captured. One of our men was escorting a prisoner to the rear, and he got buried by a shell. The gunmen immediately dug him out and handed him his rifle again ... I will let you know as soon as I get to England.

Partial transcript of a June 17, 1916 letter Colin Broughton sent to his parents from France. Red Deer & District Archives, MG 54 Ted Meeres fonds, Box X, File P.



Troops from the 89th Battalion preparing for departure from the CPR Station, 1916.
Red Deer & District Archives, P2150.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

Built in 1910 to replace the original station, the Canadian Pacific Railway Station contributed to the growth of the fledgling town of Red Deer. Newcomers stepping off the platform were about to embark on a new life in the small town.

Four years later, families stepped onto the platform, with pride in their hearts but also fear of the unknown, to bid farewell to their loved ones heading off to the First World War.

Patriotism was high when the first regiment marched down the main street towards the station on August 21, 1914. Some men and boys marched in old uniforms, others in overalls and carrying parcels, while the band played and the crowd cheered. For many of these young men, this was the first time they had left their homes and families.

The following September, another contingent of local men headed off to war. 1,000 people gathered to see them off but the mood was much more sombre. Throughout the war, men and women from Red Deer and district departed from the CPR Station on the start of their journey overseas, and, if they returned, they were forever changed by the shocking experiences of war.



This aerial view captures the grandeur of Red Deer's new station and garden that greeted new arrivals.
Red Deer & District Archives. P3752

CENOTAPH AND VETERANS' PARK

It began as a huge block of Tyndall limestone. Slowly – tap by tap, piece by piece – it was carefully transformed into the Unknown Soldier, the iconic statue standing atop the Cenotaph. Since 1922, the Cenotaph has stood as a memorial and tribute to those who “made the supreme sacrifice” in the wars.

CREATING AN ICON

Following the end of the First World War on November 11, 1918, veterans began returning home to Red Deer and people tried to recreate their normal lives. But life wasn't normal: it couldn't be. 850 young men and women from Red Deer and district left to serve in the distant war. 118 of these were killed during the war. Many of the veterans that did return home had mental and physical scars that would last a lifetime.

There was a strong community desire to do something significant to honour the men and women from Red Deer and district who served and died in the war. On May 20, 1920 the Memorial and Community Building Committee met to discuss the need for a memorial monument. Each Red Deer Society, Lodge and Board was invited to send a representative to sit on the Soldiers War Memorial Committee. The committee selected the centre of Ross Street as the site for a memorial. Major Frank Norbury, a sculptor in Edmonton, was chosen to sculpt the Unknown Soldier. Local architect, C.A. Julian Sharman designed the base for the Cenotaph. In the early 1920s, in the midst of

high unemployment and difficult economic times, over \$5,000 in donations were raised to cover the entire cost of the project.

The Cenotaph was unveiled on September 15, 1922, in a ceremony led by Lord Byng, the Governor General of Canada. (Lord Byng was a former British soldier who had commanded the Canadian Forces at Vimy Ridge). Parchment rolls with the names of those killed in the First World War were placed in the copper box in the pedestal. Another roll lists the names of all those from Red Deer and district who served in the First World War. After the Second World War the bronze plaque on the Cenotaph was updated to include those who died during the Second World War and a parchment listing their names was placed in the pedestal. In 1988, the plaque was updated again to include those who died in the Korean War.

The Cenotaph is a designated Municipal and a Provincial Historic Resource.

VETERANS' PARK

In 2011, the area surrounding the Cenotaph was enhanced to create Veterans' Park. This park provides a place for people to relax, while learning about the Red Deerians and Central Albertans that have served in wars and peace-keeping missions.



Top left: Ret. Major Frank Norbury sculpting the Unknown Soldier for the Cenotaph, 1922. Provincial Archives of Alberta, A7809.



Top right: Cenotaph dedication and unveiling ceremony, September 1922. Red Deer & District Archives, P6123.

Bottom left: The Cenotaph, ca. 1922 - 1923. Red Deer & District Archives, P2700.

Bottom right: Interpretive signage in Veterans' Park, 2014.



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE AND ALLIED AIR FORCES MEMORIAL

Nestled near the hedges on the north side of City Hall Park, is a memorial to those who died while serving with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and the Allied Air Forces. The memorial was erected in 1967, Canada's Centennial year, by the members of the 703 Central Alberta Wing of the RCAF Association. The monument was designed as a symbolic aerofoil with the twin blades of a propeller set into it. It was designed by Kerry Bissell, a local architect and member of the Wing. Newspapers of the time indicated the propeller was "cast like the sword of Arthur."

On March 11, 1968, the Red Deer Advocate reported on the unveiling ceremony for the RCAF monument. "Showing some grey at the temples, but nevertheless snappy in cadence, veterans of the 703 Squadron – about 30 of them – stood in advance order on Ross Street as the impressive ceremony was observed."

At the March 10, 1968 unveiling ceremony, Mayor R. E. Barratt said "We are much aware of the great contribution Canadian airmen made in the struggle to restore freedom in Europe and to keep Canada safe from the ravages of war".



In November 1940 the first Royal Air Force
(RAF) personnel arrived at Penhold. Their
arrival transformed the social fabric and the
infrastructure of Penhold and of Red Deer.

Royal Canadian Air Force personnel at Penhold Station, November 16th 1940.
Red Deer & District Archives, P3412.





RED DEER ARMOURY

The Red Deer Armoury was built in 1914 to house the headquarters for the 35th Central Alberta Horse Regiment. When news of the First World War reached Red Deer, members of the Horse Regiment were willing and ready to serve, and they began nightly training sessions. However, the war they were heading to was ferocious – unlike anything the world had ever seen – and 10 members of the regiment were killed during the war.

By 1916, warfare was changing and mounted regiments were no longer required. As the Armoury was no longer needed for the Horse Regiment, it was transformed into the headquarters of the 187th Battalion. Young and old recruits arrived at the building, ready to enlist and travel to the far-off war.

After the First World War ended on November 11, 1918 the Armoury continued to be used as a recruitment office and training centre for the Department of Militia and Defence. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Armoury was the largest public space in Red Deer, making it an ideal location for non-military events such as dances and public meetings.

The Red Deer Armoury is a designated Municipal Historic Resource.

THE ARMOURY EVOLVES

In 1961, when The City of Red Deer was in negotiations to purchase the building, its interior was severely damaged by fire. The deal proceeded, however, and The City renovated the space, converting it into Fire Hall No. 1. The bronze ghost statue “Sound the Alarm,” located on the northeast corner of the building, commemorates Red Deer’s early fire fighters.

The building was a fire hall for 30 years. In 1991, it was taken over by the Red Deer Public Library. Since 1994, the space has been home to the Children’s and Teen collections in the library.

The sculpture Sound the Alarm by Robert K. Spait, stands guard outside the Armoury building, 2014

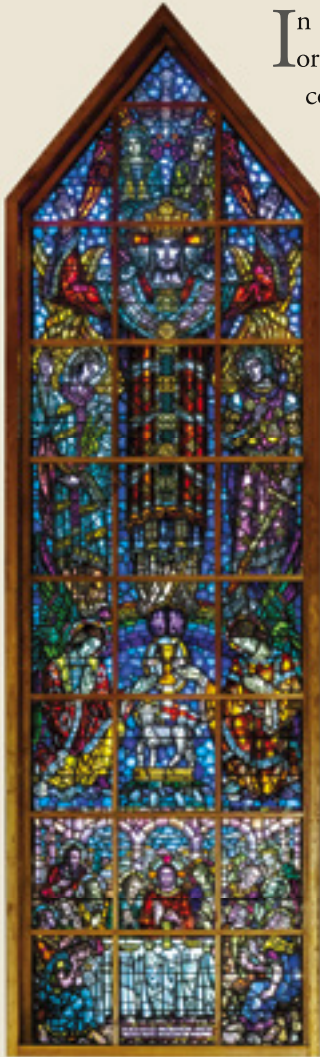


When the Armoury was built a rifle range was constructed in the basement. During renovations to convert the former Armoury into the children's section of the Library, a bullet slug was discovered embedded in one wall.



Red Deer Armoury, ca. 1914.
Red Deer & District Archives, P4155.

GAETZ MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH



Stained glass window in Gaetz Memorial United Church, 2014.

In 1887, lay minister Isaac Gaetz organized the first Methodist congregation in Red Deer, and in 1910, the Leonard Gaetz Memorial Church was built on this site. In 1955, the original church was destroyed in a fire and was replaced by the current building. The cast iron bell from the 1925 church was sold following the fire: in 1990 the original bell was relocated and rehung in the church.

A church honour roll lists the names of 74 parishioners who served in the First World War.

In 1955, when the Gaetz Memorial United Church was being rebuilt, a large stained glass memorial window was commissioned for the wall behind the chancel. The window was designed and constructed in Wales. It consists of 2,500 pieces of glass held together by nearly 302 kilograms of lead. The window was built in 27 sections, and carefully shipped to Red Deer, where it was unpacked and installed.

The Memorial Window is inscribed “In Memory of all who died in the cause of Freedom, Truth and Justice, in two World Wars.” The Memorial Window dedication service took place on March 31, 1957.



A plaque honouring Major Harold L. Gaetz who was killed in action at Courcellette, France in 1916.



Major Harold L. Gaetz and his family, ca. 1914-1915. Red Deer & District Archives, P2442

Major H.L. Gaetz was killed in action on September 26, 1916. The news of his death was keenly felt in Red Deer ...where his kindly, helpful disposition and service had won him high esteem. His work in the recruiting and training of overseas forces proved him to have been a popular and efficient officer. The military service was always very dear to him.

Red Deer & District Archives, MG 54 Ted Meeres fonds, Box X, File P.



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 35

This Howitzer gun and plaque were installed in October 2001, to commemorate the Korea Veterans Unit #67.

The Royal Canadian Legion in Red Deer has a number of memorials to those who served and died during various wars and conflicts. Inside the building is a very large memorial consisting of three panels that commemorates those who served during the Second World War. It lists the names of the 1,214 men and women from Red Deer and district who served in the Second World War. 26 of these men were captured and held as German prisoners-of-war during the war, and more than 50 died. Also inside the building is a memorial to 113 local soldiers and sailors who served Canada in the Korean War: three of these individuals were killed during the war.

In the grounds of the Legion there are three additional memorials. In September 1996 a plaque was erected in memory of the members of The Canadian Army who were killed during the First and Second World Wars, Korean War and Kuwait. A howitzer gun and plaque were installed in October 2001 to commemorate the Korea War Veterans. A large anchor and bronze plaque commemorates the men and women who served in the Royal Canadian Navy and the Merchant Navy during the First and Second World Wars, Korean War and Persian Gulf.

Preparing the many honour rolls and commemorative plaques in Red Deer was often a challenge, and occasionally there were discrepancies in the numbers reported. For instance, the Memorial Centre plaque to the Second World War indicates that 53 people died while on active duty. A plaque at the Royal Canadian Legion lists the names of 55 military personnel that were killed on active duty during the war.



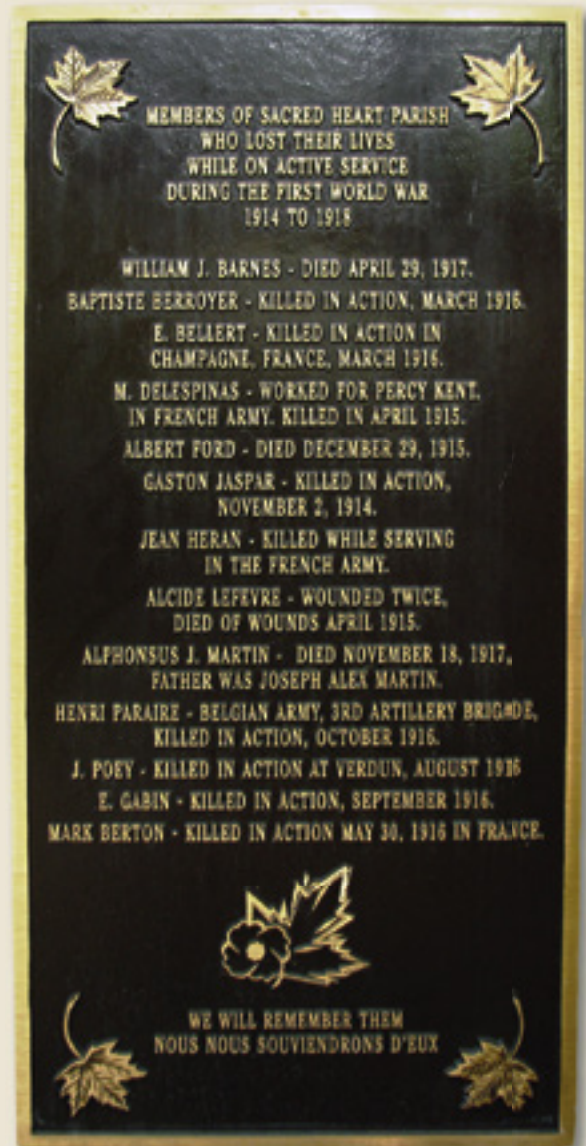
This anchor and plaque commemorate the men and women who served in the Royal Canadian Navy Merchant Marine. They also commemorate those who served in the First and Second World Wars, Korean War, Persian Gulf, and who participated in NATO and United Nations missions.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

The Sacred Heart Church memorial is prominently located in the gardens of the church. A large wooden cross stands in the center of a large altar-shaped brick structure. A bronze plaque at the site honours the thirteen parishioners who lost their lives in active service in the First World War. In addition to the names of the thirteen parishioners, the bronze plaque lists the date each of these individuals died. A white marble cross-shaped honour roll on the memorial is dedicated to, and lists the names of, the seven parishioners who died in the Second World War. The memorial includes one more bronze plaque that was erected in 2005: this is dedicated to the youth of the parish.

MODEST BEGINNINGS

Red Deer's first Roman Catholic mass took place in 1904 at J. A. Martin's Blue Ribbon Store. Half a dozen people sat amongst the sacks of flour and assortments of hardware as Father Henri Voisin led the Christmas mass. A tiny church was built downtown a year later and, in 1906 it was blessed and dedicated to the Sacred Heart. In 1909 the church moved to the North Hill where a convent and mission were added. In 1925, a new church was built at this location. In 1990, the church sanctuary was badly damaged by fire. The sanctuary was renovated to become the hall and a new sanctuary was built on the east side of it. In 1992 the new church was blessed and dedicated to the Sacred Heart by Archbishop MacNeil.



ST. LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

In 1914, Rev. C. W. G. Moore, the Rector of St. Luke's joined the Royal Marines Special Service Force overseas. He was replaced by a new Rector, Rev. W. H. Fanning-Harris. In January 1916, Rev. Fanning-Harris left for duty as a chaplain in war-torn Europe. Less than seven months later, on September 16, 1916 during the violent Battle of the Somme in France, Fanning-Harris was seriously wounded when shrapnel severed his spine while he was conducting a burial service for a soldier. He lingered, suffering, in a London hospital before passing away on May 4, 1917. In 1920 the stained glass window on the east end of the church was dedicated to Reverend Fanning-Harris. The window was paid for by contributions from Church parishioners and overseas Chaplains .

The altar in St. Luke's Anglican Church, ca. 1910 - 1920.
Red Deer & District Archives, P2648.



Throughout the church, there are other tributes to those who served and died in the two World Wars. On the west wall, an honour roll lists the names of the 134 parishioners who served in the First World War: crosses mark the names of the 22 men who were killed. A second honour roll on the south wall commemorates the 92 parishioners who served in the Second World War: crosses mark the names of the six men who never returned. There are also a number of small memorials in the church that are dedicated to one individual.

St. Luke's Anglican Church is designated as both a Municipal and Provincial Historic Resource.

St. Luke's Anglican Church is Red Deer's oldest church. It was built in stages between 1899 and 1906. Today the Church looks very much the same as it did over 100 years ago.

Stained glass windows inside the Church, 2014.



I received your most welcome letter of January 16 today and was pleased to hear that you were all well and that you received the book I sent you. I am rather surprised to hear that you don't get to know anything about our Battalion. . . . I wonder if Will would take a snapshot of that Roll of Honour and send me one to show the other Red Deer boys. It would please them to know they were still remembered and thought so much of...

Partial transcript of a February 19, 1916 letter Colin Broughton sent to his parents from France. Red Deer & District Archives, MG 54 Ted Meeres fonds, Box X, File P.

An honour roll on the south wall salutes the 66 parishioners who served in the Second World War and the six men who never returned.



Left: St. Luke's Anglican Church, ca. 1910. Red Deer & District Archives, P4275.

Above: An Honour Roll inside the Church that commemorates the 66 Parish members who served in the Second World War, 2014.



A-20 ARMY CAMP

In Canada, there was a well-developed plan to train recruits for the Second World War. In 1940, a Non-Permanent Active Militia Training Centre was built in Red Deer. Between August and October 1940 when the camp opened, thirty buildings were constructed on a 20-acre site. The camp was designed to train 1,000 new recruits every four weeks.

In 1941 the camp was expanded, and became an advanced training camp for the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. The facility's name was

changed to the A-20 Army Camp. The new camp housed 100 officers and 550 instructors. Every two months a new group of 500 soldiers was sent to the camp for training. Soldiers received basic training at other camps, and came to Red Deer to learn skills for map reading, using weapons, defending against gas attacks, and equipment management, supply and repair. Three companies of soldiers from the Canadian Women's Army Corps also trained at the facility, learning clerical, transport and provisioning skills.

A-20 Army Camp, ca. 1940 - 1945. Red Deer & District Archives, N1





WAR NO MORE

The A-20 Army Camp closed at the end of the Second World War. While many of the buildings were demolished others were used for different purposes. One part of the camp became the Canadian Vocational Training Centre No. 8. In another area, homes were built for war veterans. In 1951 one of the drill halls was renovated and renamed the Memorial Centre. Another building was repurposed into the Red Deer Armouries. In 1994 the Armouries building was renamed the Colonel Eric Cormack Armouries in honour of Eric Cormack, a distinguished Second World War hero and community volunteer. Three buildings were subsequently converted into schools: River Glen School, Red Deer Composite High School and Sacred Heart School.

It took just over two months to construct 30 buildings on the 20 hectare site. By October of 1940, it was complete. The first 1,000 men arrived for four weeks of training at the Non-Permanent Active Militia Training Centre.

Artillery gun outside the Cormack Armouries which occupy part of the former A-20 Army Camp site, 2014.



MEMORIAL CENTRE

After the Second World War ended, community members were eager to create a memorial to those who fought and died in the war. The idea of a community centre – perhaps one with a swimming pool, gymnasium, auditorium and library – seemed like a fitting tribute, as well as an appropriate community gathering place. The first meeting to discuss the creation of this centre was held in March of 1946, a mere 11 months after the war ended.

In the end, the swimming pool was built in downtown Red Deer and the library was placed at another site. The Red Deer School Division and the Memorial Committee agreed to convert the east drill hall of the former A-20 Army Camp into a gymnasium and auditorium. The plan was positive on both fronts, as it created a space for cultural and athletic activities for the nearby Composite High School, and it also provided a location for public events. After much planning, the construction began in the fall of 1950, and the Memorial Centre was opened to the public a year later.

A large marble plaque inside the Memorial Centre commemorates the men and women from Red Deer and district who served in the Second World War. The plaque lists the names of the 53 people from Red Deer and district who died during the war.



LINDSAY THURBER COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL

They will not be forgotten. Each day the staff and students at Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School (LTCHS) remember the sacrifices made by soldiers when they walk past honour rolls and tributes. Two bronze plaques commemorate former students of Red Deer schools who died during the First and Second World War. The First World War plaque lists the names of the 13 men who died in that war. The Second World War plaque contains the names of the 37 men who died during that war. A more recent memorial, The Commemorative Wall, was started by LTCHS students in 1994.

Every two years LTCHS students travel to Mulhouse, France on a student exchange. Before the trip the students research a Red Deer soldier who died in the First World War. During the trip the students visit the Commonwealth Graves Cemetery where the soldier was buried and hold a ceremony of remembrance at the grave site. They also leave a small plaque at the gravesite. When the students return from France they create a commemorative plaque that is then hung on the LTCHS Memorial Wall. The plaques contain a photograph of the soldier in his First World war uniform, and one of the school students at his grave site.

Lindsay Thurber enlisted for the First World War in 1915 and, after being wounded at Vimy Ridge in France and at Passchendaele in Belgium, he was sent home to recover.



Memorial to William Harold Muldrew.



Memorial to Colin Ramsay Broughton.

This plaque commemorates former students who lost their lives in the First World War.



NAMED FOR A DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

At the end of the Second World War, when the former A-20 Camp was being decommissioned, Red Deer School Superintendent, Lindsay Thurber had a plan. He was the driving force behind the creation of a residential high school for rural students. The barracks, one of the drill halls, a vehicle repair shop and some offices found new life as this school, which opened in 1947. Five years later, the composite high school was named in his honour.



This plaque commemorates former students who lost their lives in the Second World War.

ALBERTA LADIES COLLEGE

The Alberta Ladies' College, with its commanding view of the river valley, first opened in 1913. It was designed by local architect, C.A. Julian Sharman, and was operated by the Presbyterian Church to provide rural, female students with a Christian grade-school education. However, the facility was plagued by high costs and low enrolment. When the First World War broke out, donations to the college collapsed.

In 1916, the Province of Alberta purchased the building for \$125,000, intending to create a care centre for disabled children. When wounded



Alberta Ladies College, ca. 1912 – 1916. Red Deer & District Archives, P289.

soldiers began returning home from the battlefields in Europe, the Province turned the building into a sanatorium for soldiers' recovering from shell shock and from physical wounds. The sanatorium operated from 1917 to 1923, when the remaining 47 veterans were moved to an Edmonton hospital. The building then became the Provincial Training School for Mental Defectives.

I am in England. We arrived here a few days ago after being in a hospital in France for three weeks. I had three pieces of shrapnel taken out of my head, it is all healed up now. My chest will soon be alright, too. I was up for a few minutes yesterday, but the doctor says it will be months before I can go back to France. I had a few ribs broken and there is a piece of shrapnel in my right lung, but it will have to stay there ...

Partial transcript of a letter C. Bjorkeland sent to his mother. Red Deer & District Archives, MG 54 Ted Meeres fonds, Box X, File P.



Convalescing veteran's on the balcony of the sanatorium, ca. 1917 – 1923. Red Deer & District Archives, P287.

In 1977, the Training School amalgamated with the nearby Deerhome Institution, becoming the Michener Centre. Lightning struck the building in 2003, causing a devastating fire. Red Deer residents signed a petition to save the building and presented it to the Alberta Legislature; two years later the province announced its intention to restore the facility.



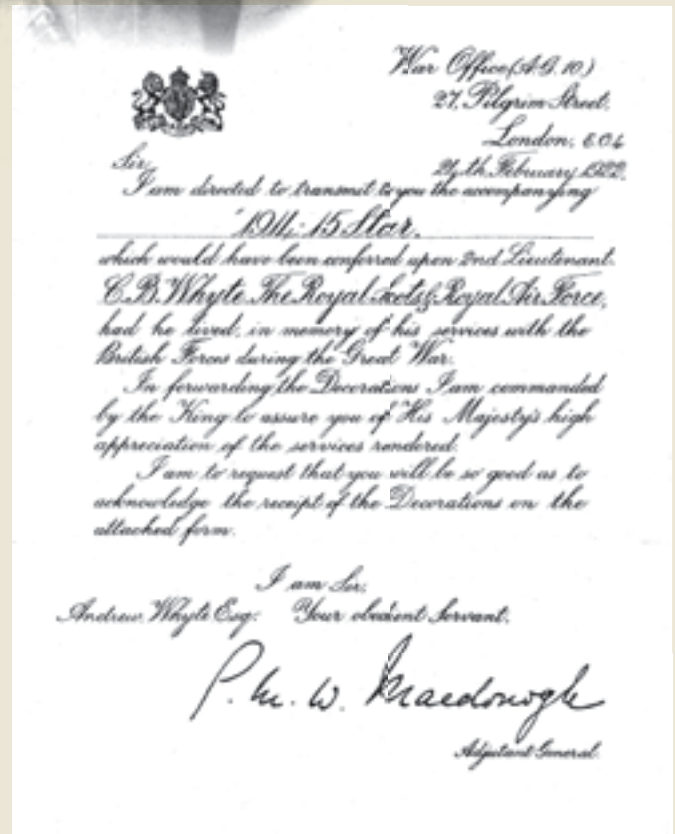
RED DEER CEMETERY

On a peaceful hill overlooking the valley below, the Red Deer Cemetery provides a tranquil location for those who have died. The cemetery was once farmland belonging to John Jost Gaetz. In 1893, Gaetz donated the land to the Methodist Church, for the development of a park-like cemetery on the outskirts of town. The City of Red Deer took over the cemetery in 1907 and continue to operate it. Five fields of honour are located throughout the cemetery: each of these contains the graves of veterans who served in the First or Second World War, Korean War or on a peacekeeping mission.

A letter to Cecil B. Whyte's family advising that he was being posthumously awarded King George V's 1914-1915 Star.
Red Deer & District Archives, K6066.



Lieutenant Cecil B. Whyte who was killed in action 21 days after retraining as a pilot with the Royal Scots Royal Air Force in 1918. Cecil's two brothers Wilfred and Reginald also fought in the war and Wilfred was also killed in action. Red Deer & District Archives, P5589.





PENHOLD FIELD OF HONOUR MEMORIAL

From 1941 to 1944, 35 pilots and instructors with the Royal Air Force were killed in Central Alberta. They were not killed in battles raging over war-torn countries in Europe or Asia; they died in Penhold and Bowden, while training for those dangerous assignments.

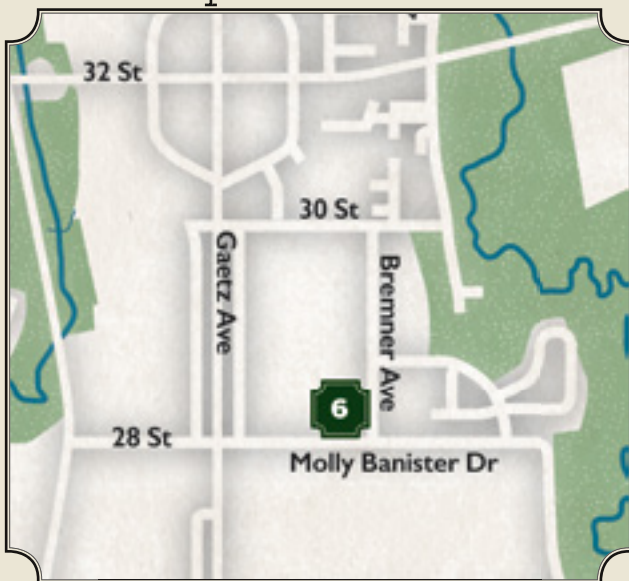
In 1941, the British Royal Air Force established the No. 36 Service Flying Training School in Penhold, just south of Red Deer. At its peak, up to 1,400 people trained in Penhold, with another 800 in training at Bowden. During day and night training flights, a variety of accidents occurred, claiming the lives of 35 airmen – students and instructors



from Canada, Britain, Australia and New Zealand. The names of all 35 individuals are listed on the grey granite monument in the Penhold Field of Honour. However, only 22 of these men are buried in Red Deer Cemetery, and the remaining 13 are interred in Innisfail. The Penhold Field of Honour is maintained with funding from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



10 MINUTE DRIVE



LEGEND

0km

1km



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 CPR Station | 4 Red Deer Armoury |
| 2 Cenotaph And Veterans' Park | 5 Gaetz Memorial United Church |
| 3 RCAF Monument | |
| 6 Red Deer Legion | 10 Memorial Centre |
| 7 Sacred Heart Catholic Church | 11 Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School |
| 8 St. Luke's Anglican Church | 12 Alberta Ladies College |
| 9 A-20 Camp (Cormack Amoury) | 13 Red Deer Cemetery |

The Downtown portion of the War Memorials Tour is an ideal walking tour along historic Ross Street in Red Deer. The Outer Downtown and Michener Hill portions are best completed either by driving or cycling, as these tour sites are located farther apart.

DOWNTOWN CORE



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Canadian Pacific Railway Station
5000 51 Avenue <i>Page 12</i></p> | <p>4 Red Deer Armoury
4905 – 49 Street <i>Page 18</i></p> |
| <p>2 Cenotaph and Veterans’ Park
4900 - 50th Street <i>Page 14</i></p> | <p>5 Gaetz Memorial United Church*
4758 50 Street <i>Page 20</i></p> |
| <p>3 Royal Canadian Air Force and Allied Air Forces Memorial
4914 48 Ave- <i>Page 16</i></p> | |

OTHER LOCATIONS



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>6 Red Deer Legion*
2810 Bremner Avenue <i>Page 22</i></p> | <p>11 Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School*
4204 – 58th Street <i>Page 30</i></p> |
| <p>7 Sacred Heart Church
5508 48A Avenue <i>Page 23</i></p> | <p>12 Alberta Ladies College
5225 39th Avenue <i>Page 32</i></p> |
| <p>8 St. Luke’s Anglican Church*
4929 54 Street <i>Page 24</i></p> | <p>13 Red Deer Cemetery
55 Street, north of Michener Centre <i>Page 34</i></p> |
| <p>9 A-20 Camp
4402 55 Street <i>Page 26</i></p> | |
| <p>10 Memorial Centre*
4214 – 58 Street <i>Page 28</i></p> | |

**Please note: the highlighted sites may not be open to the public at all times. War memorials may be partially viewed from outdoors; please contact the locations for hours of operation.*

July 25 , 1916

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Broughton,

It is with the deepest sympathy and regret that I have to tell you that your son, Colin, was killed last night. He was hit by a stray bullet and killed instantaneously, suffering no pain at all. . . Possibly it will ease things a little for you when you think that as soon as danger threatened our country, your son, Colin, did not waver or hesitate for a moment but stepped forward at once to defend all that he held dear. His death is a big loss to us, too. He was always bright and cheerful. The hardships inseparable from a campaign he bore uncomplainingly. He faced danger coolly and unflinchingly and was an example to all ranks. His place will be hard to fill. . . If there is anything at all that I can do for you, please write and let me know. I will do my best. The Colonel and Colin's comrades join me in extending to you and Mrs. Broughton our deepest sympathy in your loss.

Yours,

Major R. F. Page

Heritage Walking Tours:

THE GHOST COLLECTION **1**

SATURDAY IN THE CITY **2**

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF RED DEER **3**

Additional tours are continually being developed. For further details, visit www.reddeer.ca/heritage.



Above, left: Partial transcript of a letter from C. Bjorkeland. Red Deer & District Archives, MG 54 Ted Meeres fonds, Box X, File P.

On the cover: The sculptor created a bronze miniature of the soldier to show its detailing before beginning the full-sized sculpture. Red Deer Museum + Art Gallery, 1979.94.1