



# 26/XII Museum Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 3    Brandon's Military Museum    April 2013

## SPECIAL EDITION

26 FIELD REGIMENT RCA/XII MANITOBA DRAGOONS MUSEUM • BRANDON MB

The Museum remembers a loyal soldier, a great citizen and very good friend.

**A.R. (Ross) Neale, CD  
Curator Emeritus passed  
away on 21st April 2013.**

*CWO (retired) A.R. (Ross) Neale, CD, former Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of 26 Field regiment RCA passed away peacefully on Sunday morning the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2013 at the Assiniboine Centre. Ross was born in Neepawa, Manitoba on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1925. Mr. Neale was the co-founder and first Curator of the 26<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RCA/XII Manitoba Dragoons Museum. As Curator Emeritus Ross continued to work hard to make the Museum a better organization, reflecting the history of Brandon, Manitoba and Canada.*

### In This Issue:

#### 1. Curator Emeritus;



*Figure 1. Ross Neale received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in November 2012*



*Figure 2. Ross during  
Seniors for Seniors Remembrance  
Week luncheon November 2011*



*Figure 3. Ross attending  
The Units Cairn Dedication  
November 2009*

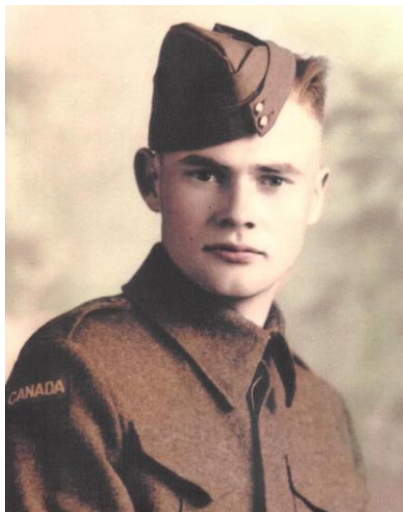


*Figure 4. Bill Pierson and Ross  
Museum Booth Royal Manitoba  
Winter Fair March 2010*

**Over the years Mr. Neale demonstrated excellence and achievement, and has made a mark on our city, country and its citizens. Mr. Neale, a decorated Veteran, has served Manitoba for over seventy years, serving with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles at The Normandy D-Day landings, where he was wounded. He was Regimental Sergeant Major of 26<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RCA. When he retired he went on to establish the 26<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RCA/XII Dragoons Museum, plus he worked with a myriad of community service organizations during his lifetime. Mr. Neale's dedication to Manitoba's History has positively influenced many generations of Manitoba's youth by developing their citizenship and leadership skills. His direct involvement with these young people has allowed them to achieve success on their chosen paths and has instilled in them a keen interest in the history of this province. Through his hard work and perseverance, Mr. Neale created the Museum in 1978 to preserve the history of two distinct Army Reserve Regiments that are only found within this province. He served as Curator of the Museum for thirty-three years and continued to be an active volunteer until he fell ill and was admitted to the BRHC. Mr. Neale has dedicated his life to preserving the past while making a better future for our province. He has been a major contributor to the Museum both financially and as a volunteer. Having retired from the Canadian Army Reserve as a Chief Warrant Officer, Mr. Neale served as the RSM of 26 Field Regiment RCA and the XII Manitoba Dragoons Regiment. As RSM he has positively influenced hundreds of Manitoba's young adults. He served as a member of the 26 Field Regiment RCA Senate providing sage advice and support to the command structure of Brandon's Army Reserve Artillery Unit. Since his retirement as Curator, Mr. Neale has been a stalwart volunteer at the Museum and has attended all functions. He was a fount of historical knowledge of the Army Units of Manitoba and their service to this province and country from the beginning until today, providing the rest of the volunteers an excellent informational source and will be missed. Mr. Neale was a dedicated speaker giving highly valued and extremely knowledgeable presentations to the citizens of Manitoba, Canada, and our friends from all over the world. He belonged to the Telephone Pioneers Assoc; bringing to that organization his dedication to quality. Mr. Neale gave over 100 donations of blood to the Red Cross and volunteered with St John's Ambulance, bringing his dedication of service to another portion of the population. All his life he supported youth and their organizations. Mr. Neale has worked with the Sea Cadets, Army Cadets, and Air Cadets of Brandon and Virden. He was a coach and leader of the girl's rifle team in Strathclair. As well, Mr. Neale was a Scout Leader whose influence of self discipline, created core values of good leadership and citizenship skills with four generations of this**

**[www.26fdregmuseum.com](http://www.26fdregmuseum.com) or [www.12mbdragoons.com](http://www.12mbdragoons.com)**

**Province's Youth. Mr. Neale was instrumental in several Boy Scouts from Morden becoming Queen Scouts. He mentored these young men with the challenges of this program to ensure they earned this honour. He helped to construct the Strathclair Arena. His devotion to the leadership of youth has not diminished with age. In 2011 he was instrumental in creating a new history award for the, RCSCC 60 Swiftsure Brandon, XII MB Dragoons 2528 RCACC, Virden, 71 Bty 2520 RCACC Brandon, and RCACS 82 Brandon. The awards are presented to the Cadet with the greatest knowledge of the history the of South-West Manitoba military units, thereby preserving the past while making a positive influence of citizenship and leadership in youth for the future.**



*Figure 5. Private recruit Ross Neale*



*Figure 6 .WO2, A Squadron Sergeant Major (SSM) XII MB Dragoons*



*Figure 7. CWO, Neale RSM 26<sup>th</sup> Fd Regt at his retirement dinner*



*Figure 8. Lorna Ball and Ross share a joke at the Annual Museum Christmas Lunch for the regiment December 2011*



*Figure 9. Ross Neale receives a Portraits of Honour Flag from Colonel (retired) Dick McDonald President of Green Acres Lodge Trust January 2012*



*Figure 10. Ross always busy having just given a talk to Cadets about the Museum and its Mission returns to the Office October 2012*

**Ross was always eager to do his duty he enlisted in the fall of 1939 and lasting for about a week in training. He was marched into the Major's office and told how well he was doing in training and the wonderful comments from his instructors. THEN the other boot fell and was caught for lying about his age in joining the Army and given his discharge.**

***This was just days before Christmas. He went down to the Bus Depot and there was no bus for quite a while and he proceeded to walk all the way home to Minnedosa. Crossing the First Street Bridge as the noon bell rang he was home for supper. When Ross turned 17 he joined the Army and was posted to the Royal Winnipeg Rifle. He was wounded eleven days after D-Day landing in Normandy and served throughout WWII, after the War he served in the XII MB Dragoons and the 26<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RCA until he retired. Ross was awarded the 1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, 1939-45 War Medal, Defence Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, Canadian Centennial Medal, Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and Canadian Forces Decoration with four Clasps. On 20 April 2013 the family of Mr. Neale was presented the French Province of Lower Normandy's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Landings Medallion in recognition of his service in the landings and liberation of Lower Normandy. Due to his illness Mr. Neale was unable to attend. The citation read:***

***Monsieur Ross Neale, Veteran my Friend. The Basse-Normandie Region is very pleased to award this commemorative chest badge in tribute to your action in 1944. Dear Veterans of Allied Forces thank you for taking part in the landing that changed the course of history restoring Democracy, Liberty and Peace.***



*Figure 10. Hon Drew Caldwell MLA Brandon E. presents the Normandy Chest Medallion to Faye Carkener, Ann Pickford and Joan Winstone.*



*Figure 11. The Normandy Chest Medallion*



*Figure 12. Ross's Daughter's Faye, Ann and Joan receive the Medallion from Drew Caldwell, Major Mel Neville DCO, 38 ATG represents the Regiment*

***The positive influence this dedicated extraordinary veteran had on his fellow citizens was recognized at the highest level. In both war and peace, Mr. Neale was an amazing gentleman who has dedicated his life to the betterment of his country.***

***And at the going down of the sun we will remember him.***

