

# Individual Report for Donald John MacDonald

**Individual Summary: Donald John MacDonald<sup>1</sup>**

Sex: Male

Father: Donald Robert McDonald

Mother: Catherine McDonell



## Individual Facts:

Birth: 25 Jul 1889 in Williamstown, Glengarry, Ontario, Canada

Death: 03 Dec 1951 in London, Ontario<sup>2</sup>

Achievement: honorary Aide-deCamp to Lord Willingdon, then Gov.Gen. of Canada

Also Known As: Brig. Donald J. Macdonald

Awards: 25 Aug 1915 ; Awarded the Military Cross L. G. # 29275 "for conspicuous gallantry and ability near Fessbert on May 24, 1915. Although wounded in three places he continued to lead his men in .. the attack on the enemy's position, & succeeded in entering their redoubt.<sup>3, 4</sup>

Awards: 22 Jun 1918 ; Awarded the Bar to the distinguished Service Order L. G. No. 30761<sup>5</sup>

Awards: 08 Jun 1944 ; Brigadier-General MacDonald was awarded Commander, Order of the British Empire<sup>6, 7</sup>

Awards: 15 Oct 1918 ; Awarded the Second Bar to the Distiguated Service Order L.G. No. 30951<sup>8</sup>

Awards: Jun 1944 ; In the King's Birthday List

Awards: 24 Feb 1945 ; Major-General Donald John was awarded the "Insignia of a Commander of the order of Orange Nassau ... by her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands as an expression of gratitude.<sup>9</sup>

Awards: Feb 1945 ; was honoured by Queen Wilhelmina for service to the Netherlands troops who were trained in Western Ontario<sup>2</sup>

Awards: 01 Jan 1916 ; Mentioned in Despatches L. G. No. 29422<sup>1</sup>

Awards: 28 Dec 1917 ; Mentioned in Despatches L. G. No. 30448<sup>10</sup>

Awards: 31 Dec 1918 ; Mentioned in Despatches L. G. No. 31089<sup>11</sup>

Awards: 01 Jan 1918 ; Awarded the Distinguished Service Order L. G. No. 30450<sup>1</sup>

Awards: 01 Oct 1915 ; Lieut. Donald J. MacDonald, Strathcona Horse, was received by the King at Buckingham Palace and decorated with the Military Cross.<sup>12</sup>

Burial: Abt. 03 Dec 1951 in Military cemetery in London, Ontario<sup>2</sup>

Cause Of Death: Heart Attack

Designations: CBE., DSO, MC

Education: 25 Dec 1908 ; Among college students home for the Christmas holidays are Donald and Fraser Macdonald .. from Loyola college of Montréal; Cadet Donald J. MacDonald, of the Royal Military College, Kingston.<sup>13</sup>

Education: 11 May 1906 ; Master D. J. Macdonald, son of D. R. MacDonald, Esq., left for Ottawa on Monday where he purposes writing the examination for entry in the Royal Military College.<sup>14</sup>

Education: Bet. 1906–1909 ; Attended school in Williamstown then attended Royal Military College<sup>2</sup>

Education: Aft. 1920 ; Later completed staff courses which qualified him for the post of district commanding officer, and he served in that capacity at four different military districts, Calgary, Regina, Victoria & London, Ontario

Education: 25 Jun 1909 ; Among the many Glengarry students who have been successful at outside colleges are Gentleman Cadet D. J. Macdonald, son of D. R. Macdonald, MPP, who has graduated from the Royal Military College, Kingston<sup>15</sup>

Education: Attended highschool in Williamstown & Alexandria<sup>16</sup>

Education: 01 Mar 1907 ; Gentleman Cadet Donald J. MacDonald, son of D. R. MacDonald, contractor, was in town this week.<sup>17</sup>

Education: 1909 ; Graduated from the Royal Military College in Kingston, at the age of 20, in 1909.

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**Individual Facts:**

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- Medical Condition: Suffered a heart attack in 1948, then after moving to London, Ont had a 2nd heart attack and died 1951.<sup>19</sup>
- Military: Sep 1914 ; served with the first Canadian expeditionary force to go to Europe in WW1<sup>2</sup>
- Military: While a general staff officer at Regina, he was honorary saide-de-camp to Viscount Willington, the then Governor General of Canada<sup>19</sup>
- Military: 01 Mar 1907 ; Gentleman Cadet Donald J. MacDonald, son of D. R. Macdonald, contractor, was in town this week.<sup>20</sup>
- Military: 10 Jan 1916 ; Promoted temp. Captain<sup>21</sup>
- Military: he later completed staff courses which qualified him for the post of district commanding officer, & he served in that capacity at four different military districts, Calgary, Regina, Victoria, & London, ON.<sup>22</sup>
- Military: D.O.C. of Military District II (London, Ontario); ended his career as Inspector General of Central Canada, stationed at Toronto<sup>2</sup>
- Military: 03 Oct 1914 ; Embarked for England with Unit.<sup>21</sup>
- Military: Bet. 1914–1918 ; was twice wounded and four times decorated for bravery on the battlefield<sup>2</sup>
- Military: 25 Sep 1914 ; Friends and admirers gathered at the station Monday evening to bid Godspeed to Lt. Donald J. MacDonald, son of D. R. MacDonald, ex-MPP, who left to join the Strathcona Horse at Valcartier.<sup>23</sup>
- Military: Assigned to Ottawa administering Work Camps in B. C.
- Military: He had risen from junior officer to command in the field of Lord Strathcona's Horse by the age of twenty-eight, making him the youngest officer commanding at that time in the Canadian army.<sup>22</sup>
- Military: 28 May 1915 ; D. R. MacDonald of Williamstown, has been notified that his son, Lieut. D. J. MacDonald, has been wounded.<sup>24</sup>
- Military: 27 May 1915 ; Wounded May 24, 1915, Invalided to England<sup>21</sup>
- Military: 25 Jun 1915 ; The return of first of Alexandria's heroes from the fighting front was the occasion for an enthusiastic reception, Monday morning, when Lt. Donald J. Macdonald of the Strathcona Horse, reached his home here, on leave after being wounded in action.<sup>25</sup>
- Military: 04 May 1915 ; Proceeded to France with Unit<sup>21</sup>
- Military: 20 Aug 1915 ; Lieut. Donald J. MacDonald of the Strathcona Horse, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and ability near Festubert, on the 24th of May.<sup>26</sup>
- Military: 13 Aug 1915 ; Lieut. Donald J. Macdonald of the Strathcona Horse, son of D. R. Macdonald, Alexandria, was given a send-off Wednesday when he left for the scene of the war. Lieut. MacDonald has completely recovered from the many wounds received on the British front.<sup>27</sup>
- Military: 04 Jan 1918 ; Mjr Donald J. MacDonald, MC, of the Strathcona Horse, a son of D R MacDonald, ex-MLA, is included in the list of honours recently awarded for conspicuous bravery on the field. In the recent fighting near Cambrai the cavalry had the chance to go into action<sup>28</sup>
- Military: 13 Oct 1915 ; Proceeded to France and rejoined Unit<sup>21</sup>
- Military: 02 Dec 1917 ; Promoted Temp. Lt. Col<sup>21</sup>
- Military: 11 Jun 1919 ; Struck off strength by reason of general demobilization.<sup>29</sup>
- Military: 1917 ; attained the rank of Lt. Col commanding the Lord Strathcona (Cavalry) Regiment in the field battle at Cambrai<sup>2</sup>
- Military: 15 Mar 1918 ; Promotion, where merited, comes quickly on the field of battle. Col. Donald J. MacDonald, eldest son of D. R. MacDonald, now of Netherhill, Sask., but formerly of Alexandria, is today in command of the battalion in which he went overseas as a Lieutenant.<sup>30</sup>
- Military: 30 Mar 1918 ; Wounded

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- Military: 05 Apr 1918 ; A cable received this week conveyed the information that Lt.-Col. D. J. MacDonald, was in hospital, having been wounded in the ankle.<sup>31</sup>
- Military: 09 Sep 1921 ; Canadian Militia appointments include that of Major-General Sir A. C. Macdonell, KC, CMG, DSO to be Honorary Colonel of the Stormont & Glengarry Refinement. Lt. Duncan John MacDonald is transferred fr the Corps Reserve to the active list & posted to D Co.<sup>32</sup>
- Military: 03 Apr 1918 ; Wounded, April 1, 1918, invalided to England<sup>33</sup>
- Military: 20 Dec 1918 ; Lieut-Col. Donald John MacDonald, MC, DSO and two bars, Officer Commanding the Strathcona Horse, has arrived in Montréal on leave and is expected to visit Alexandria before the end of the week.<sup>34</sup>
- Military: 25 Aug 1916 ; The list of appointments contains the name of D. J. Macdonald of Strathcona Horse, to the rank of temporary Major.<sup>35</sup>
- Military: 23 Jan 1920 ; Lt. Col. D. J. MacDonald, DSO, MC, arrived in town from Calgary , Alta. Monday and is the guest of his parents, Mr. & Mrs. D. R. MacDonald, Catherine St.<sup>36</sup>
- Military: 12 Aug 1918 ; Proceeded to France and rejoined Unit<sup>21</sup>
- Military: Aft. 1919 ; after the war he remained in the Permanent Force Army, responsibilities included: commandant of the Lord Strathcona Horse (Calgary); duties at Army Headquarters (Ottawa); District Officer Commanding (D.O.C.); Military District 11 (Victoria); during WWII..<sup>2</sup>
- Military: Sep 1944 ; Appointed inspector-general for Central Canada with Headquarters in Toronto, a post he filled until his retirement due to failing health the following year<sup>19</sup>
- Military: 14 Jun 1935 ; Lt. Col. Donald J. MacDonald, DSO, MC, son of the late D. R. MacDonald, ex MLA, Glengarry, has been appointed District Officer Commanding MD No. 11 at Victoria, B. C. Col. MacDonald has been promoted to the rank of Colonel (temporary Brigadier).<sup>37</sup>
- Military: Bet. 1937–1938 ; District Officer of Commanding Military District 11. Lived in Work Point Barracks, Esquimault for 3 years.<sup>38</sup>
- Military: 22 Sep 1914 ; Enlisted in Lord Strathcona's Horse (R.C.), Royal Canadian Regiment. Appointed Lieutenant.<sup>39</sup>
- Military: Abt. 1913 ; At the outbreak of WWI, 1st commissioned in Canadian Mounted Rifles at Winnipeg and later transferred to Calgary based Strathcona Horse<sup>40</sup>
- Military: 19 Sep 1914 ; His sister recorded that he left for the war this date. His daughter Frances understood that he was on the first troop ship to leave for Europe.<sup>41</sup>
- Military: 07 Dec 1951 ; Major-General Donald John MacDonald, a distinguished son of Glengarry died Monday at London, Ont<sup>42</sup>
- Military: 10 Sep 1939 ; War is declared.
- Military: 1938 ; Summer 1938 appointed District Officer commanding Military District 1, London, Ont.
- Military: 21 Oct 1921 ; After a three week visit with relatives here, Lt.-Col. D. J. MacDonald returned to his military duties at Calgary.<sup>43</sup>
- Military: 02 Feb 1934 ; Glengarry relatives have learned that Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. MacDonald, MC, DSO, of MD 13, Calgary, is coming to Ottawa to assume important duties there. (at National Defence Headquarters-ems)<sup>44</sup>
- Nickname: Donald D. R.<sup>45</sup>
- Obituary: Major-General Donald J. MacDonald, a distinguished son of Glengarry died Monday at London, Ont.<sup>46</sup>
- Occupation: Little is known of what he did in these years, it is said he worked on the railroads, in various parts of the Country.<sup>41</sup>

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**Individual Facts:**

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Occupation: J. A. McDonald, son of P. D. McDonald, 11-5th Lancaster and J. A. McDonald, 4th Lancaster, left Monday to work with D. R. McDonald, contractor, on the Parry Sound Railway.<sup>47</sup>

Occupation: Assigned to Ottawa administering Work Camps in B.C.

Occupation: Travelled West to take charge of his father's ranch in Netherhill, Saskatchewan<sup>18</sup>

Person ID: 745

Relationship: Lt-Col. Donald J. MacDonald arrived in town from Netherhill, Mr. & Mrs. D. R. MacDonald and members of the family are in the best of health.<sup>48</sup>

Relationship: D. R. MacDonald, contractor, and his daughters, Annie, Irene and Katie, left Saturday on an extended visit to his sons. Major D. J. MacDonald & Rod MacDonald, now at Netherhill, Sask.<sup>49</sup>

Relationship: Oldest of nine children. Mother died when he was nine, shortly after sister Kate was born.

Residence: 01 Mar 1912 Messrs. Donald J. & Roddie McDonald, sons of D. R. McDonald, ex-MPP, left yesterday for Netherhill Sask. where they have extensive farming interests.<sup>50</sup>

Residence: 1909 ; Went to look after his fathers property at Netherhill, Saskatchewan

Source: Article "Major General Donald John MacDonald CBE, DSO, MC publ Clan Donald Glengarry-Stormont, Newsletter, Autumn 2000 & Winter 2001"<sup>51</sup>

Title: Brig. Gen.

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**Shared Facts: Marguerite Macdonald**

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Marriage: 26 Jan 1920 in Alexandria, Glengarry, Ontario, Canada<sup>53</sup>

Relationship ID: 30667

Children: Catherine Eugenie Macdonald

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**Shared Facts: Evelyn Eleanor Carson Woods**

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Marriage: 27 Aug 1924 in Sacred Heart Church, Calgary, Alberta<sup>54</sup>

Relationship ID: 30687

Children: Catherine Eugenie Macdonald  
Frances Mary Macdonald  
Elizabeth Joan Macdonald

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**Notes:**

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Person Notes: Among them was a professional soldier, Major-General Donald J. MacDonald, who had distinguished himself highly during the First World War, and "attained as high a rank as any Glengarry man before him." Born in Williamstown in 1889, he served as Inspector-General for Central Canada during World War II. He died in 1951.  
From the Book: A History of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Counties 45-78

Auld Lang Syne  
Glengarry News  
80 Years Ago

Friday, Jan. 4, 1918

Major Donald J. MacDonald, MC, of the Strathcona Horse, a son of D. R. MacDonald, ex-MLA is included in the list of honors recently awarded for conspicuous bravery on the field. In the recent fighting near Cambrai the cavalry had the chance to go into action mounted and early in the battle the Colonel was killed. D. J. MacDonald, who held the rank of Major was left in

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**Notes:**

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command and he is now acting Lieut-Colonel.

This gallant young soldier had risen through the ranks to command of the Lord Strathcona Horse in the field, and in doing had been twice wounded and much decorated. He had been awarded the Distinguished Service Order on three occasions, as well as the Military Cross. On three occasions he had been Mentioned in Despatches.

From the Book: Some of the Sandfields

In World War I he had risen from junior ranks to officer commanding the Lord Strathcona Horse. At age 28 he was the youngest Commanding Officer of a unit in the Allied Armies. Following the war he joined the permanent army establishment and served as District Officer commanding in several Military Districts across Canada. He had also served as Inspector General for Central Canada. In addition to being named Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1919, he had been named a Commander of the Order of the Orange Nassau in 1945 by Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands.

From the Book: A Genealogical Sketch of the Sandfield Macdonald Family

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**Sources:**

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- 1 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir.
- 2 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, 43.
- 3 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, Appendix 1. accompanied by 2 men.
- 4 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. Aug. 23, 1995. Friday, August 20, 1915 - Lieut. Donald J. Macdonald of the Strathcona Horse, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and ability near Festubert, on the 24th of May. The citation states that although wounded in three places he continued to lead his men with great dash in advance to attack the enemy position.
- 5 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, Appendix, pg 2. "for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty, in the attack launched by a cavalry brigade, he led the reserve squadron of a regiment to the attack. Though suffering acute pain from a wound in the ankle, he continued to direct operations, and led his men forward until the position was finally secured. But for his outstanding courage and skill, the position could not have been held."
- 6 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, Appendix, pg. 4. "This officer has served the Canadian Army continuously since he graduated from the Royal Military College in 1908. He served with distinction throughout the last war, was twice wounded and awarded the D.S.O. with 2 Bars and the Military Cross. He was appointed to the permanent active militia in 1919, and since that time he held many important staff appointments. Throughout his long military career - his officers service has always been of the highest order."
- 7 King's birthday list of June 1944.
- 8 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, Appendix, page 3. "for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This officer commanded the advance guard regiment of his brigade in the attack. He led his Regiment with the greatest determination and with absolutely no regard for his own safety. It was largely due to his splendid leadership that the operation which resulted in the capture of several miles of enemy territory and large numbers of prisoners and material was entirely successful."
- 9 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, Appendix 1, pg. 4. "as an expression of gratitude for co-operating in matters pertaining to the raising and maintenance of Netherland's forces in Canada during the period 1940-43 ... this award will be promulgated in the issue of Canada Gazette dated 24 February, 1945."
- 10 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, Appendix 1.
- 11 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, Appendix, Page 3.
- 12 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ Oct. 1985.
- 13 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. Dec. 21, 1998.
- 14 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne.

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**Sources:**

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- 15 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. June 30, 1999, page 23.
- 16 Glengarry Historical Society, Apple Hill, Ont., Glengarry Life (Issue 32, 1993), no. 35, HHS, 1996 Archibald C. MacDonell (from the notebooks of Florence McDonell).
- 17 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. Mar 12, 1997.
- 18 Glengarry Historical Society, Apple Hill, Ont., Glengarry Life (Issue 32, 1993), no. 35, HHS, 1996 pg 23.
- 19 Glengarry Historical Society, Apple Hill, Ont., Glengarry Life (Issue 32, 1993), no. 35, GHS, 1996 pg 24.
- 20 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. March 18, 1998.
- 21 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, Appendix, pg. 10.
- 22 Glengarry Historical Society, Apple Hill, Ont., Glengarry Life (Issue 32, 1993), no. 35, GHS, 1996 by Royce MacGillivray.
- 23 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. Sep. 25, 1994.
- 24 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. May 1985.
- 25 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, Led by pipers and drums, a large procession formed for the trip from station to his home. publ. June 28, 1995.
- 26 The Glengarry News, "Auld Lang Syne," The citation states that although wounded in three places he continued to lead his men with great dash in advance to attack the enemy's position.
- 27 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. Aug. 16, 1995, Aug. 16, 2000.
- 28 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ Jan 1, 2003. mounted and early in the battle the colonel was killed. D J MacDonald, who held the rank of Major, was left in command and he is now acting Lt-Col.
- 29 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, Appendix, p. 3.
- 30 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. March 11, 1998. Winner of the DSO and MC, he is now CO of the justly famous Strathcona Horse.
- 31 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. April 8, 1998.
- 32 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. Sep. 12, 2001.
- 33 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, Appendix, pg 10.
- 34 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, Eighty Years Ago, publ. Dec. 15, 1998.
- 35 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. Sept. 4, 1996.
- 36 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. Jan. 26, 2000.
- 37 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. June 21, 1995.
- 38 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, Passenger Pigeons, General Ironsides visit of note in narrative.
- 39 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, 3, Appendix, pg. 10.
- 40 Glengarry Historical Society, Apple Hill, Ont., Glengarry Life (Issue 32, 1993), no. 35, GHS, pg 23.
- 41 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, 2.
- 42 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ Dec 12, 2001.
- 43 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. Oct 17, 2001.
- 44 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. Feb. 4, 2004.
- 45 Eugene Macdonald, Some of the Sandfields.
- 46 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ 1991.
- 47 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. Apr. 24, 1994.
- 48 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, Eighty Years Ago, publ. Feb. 3, 1999.
- 49 Claude Hubert, Ancestors of Claude Hubert (Family Tree Maker home Page), publ Apr. 1994.
- 50 The Glengarry News, Auld Lang Syne, publ. Mar 6, 2002.
- 51 from notes of his mother - Mrs. Florence McDonell.
- 52 Duncan (Darby) Macdonald, The Genealogy of Clan Donald - Supplement 3, 121.
- 53 Duncan Darby Macdonald, Cameron - 3rd Edition, 18. St. Finnan's.
- 54 Donald J. Macdonald, a Memoir, Appendix 43.

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