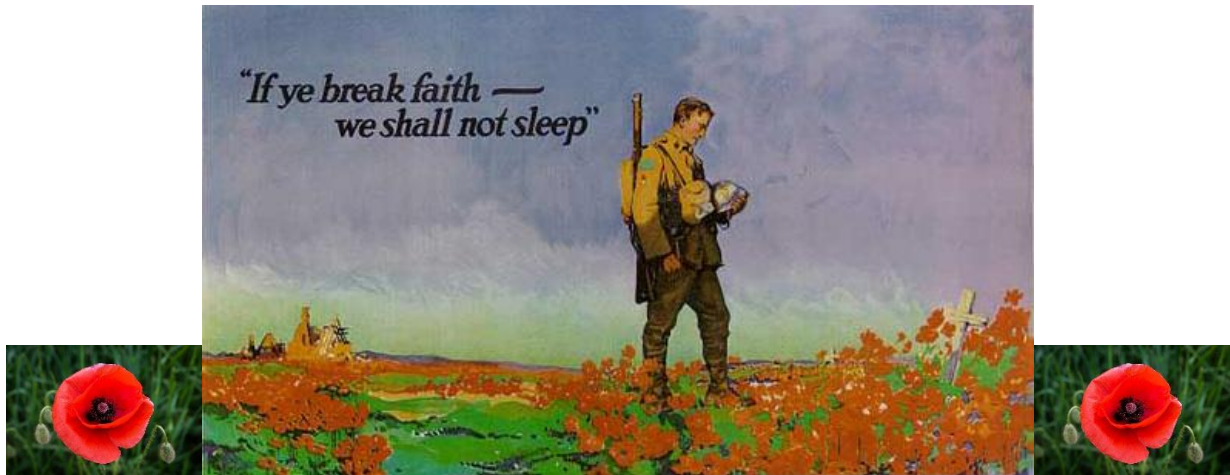
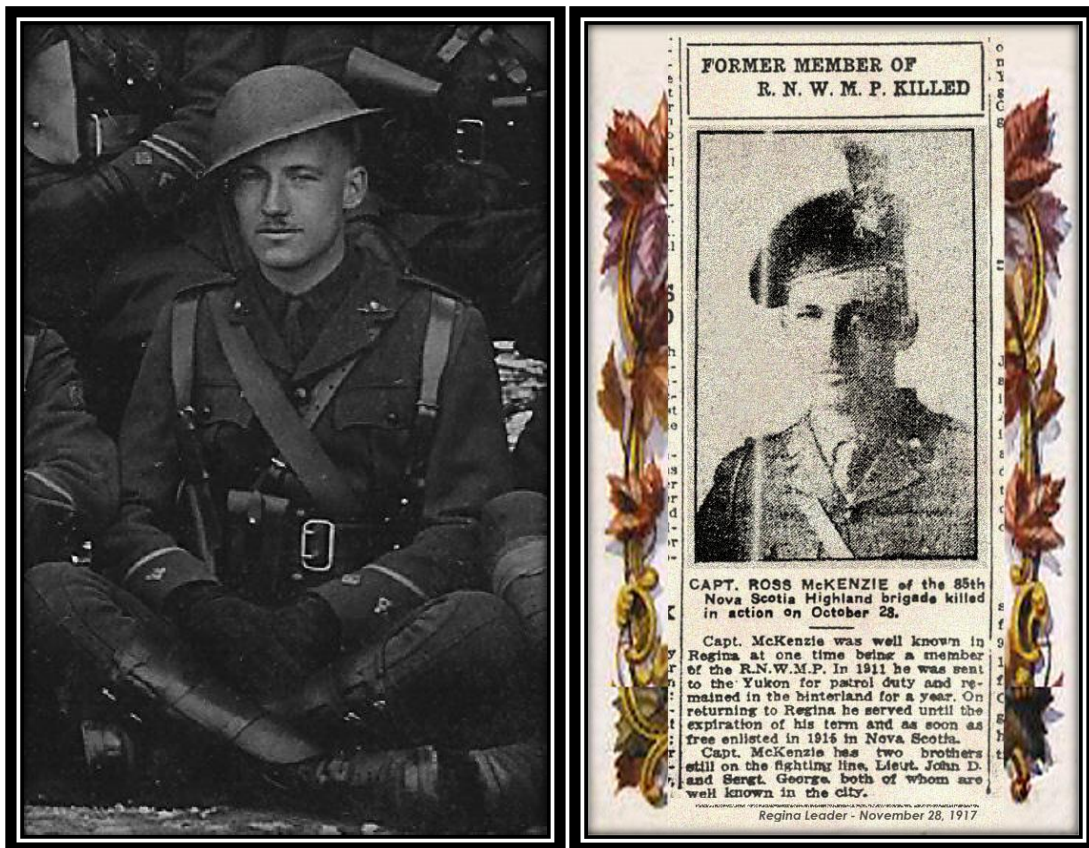


As we fast approach the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month we start to think of those who have served and died protecting our country. This is a story about one of them, one out of so many stories.



This was the headline in the Regina Leader - 1916:

### Gallant Regina Officer May Get V.C. As Post humous Decoration



Ross MacAulay MacKenzie, Reg # 4746, was born at Baddeck, Nova Scotia, December 29, 1890. His short time in the RNWMP commenced August 25, 1908. He served in the Yukon and he left

as a Cpl., March 06, 1912. He joined the Canadian Infantry (Nova Scotia Regiment) 85th Battalion, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1916, at Aldershot, Nova Scotia. He died October, 28, 1917 at the Passchendale ridge battle, just a few days over his one-year anniversary of joining up at Baddeck, NS.

## Gallant Regina Officer May Get V.C. As Post humous Decoration

Captain Ross Mackenzie, formerly of Regina, and for a number of years in the R.N.W.M.P. force, who was killed at the Passchendale ridge battle, has been recommended for the V.C., the highest honor obtainable by a British soldier. The news reached his relatives in the city yesterday.

Captain Ross Mackenzie is a nephew of Mrs. T. J. Bennett, Angus street,



**CAPT. ROSS MACKENZIE.**

and was well-known in Regina. While with the R.N.W.M.P. he saw service in the Yukon. His mother lives at Baddeck, Cape Breton. One brother,

Lieut. John Mackenzie, is a member of the Cape Breton Highland Brigade. The other brother, Lieut. George, also of the brigade, has been invalided home.

Of the death of Captain Mackenzie, the following eyewitness story appears in the Halifax Chronicle of recent date:

"In the heroism and death of Captain Ross Mackenzie, a native son of Victoria county, Cape Breton, I.C. Cuchullain's heroism and death made real. Mackenzie, on the field was the Gaelic hero, belated or re-incarnated. At the head of his company he was on the way to relieve the awful situation. Meeting a western Canadian battalion coming out because their work was done, and besides they were totally officerless, Mackenzie, realizing the critical situation, and need of men, arranged the western boys—and they proved gallant lads—and persuaded them to turn around with his company and to enter the fight again. The machine-gun fire of the company fell on him and his men like hail in a violent storm. At last he was riddled through stomach and body with machine-gun bullets—yes, literally riddled—but would he give up? No, not Mackenzie. The spirit of Cuchullain was in him. He would carry on, watching all that was happening, cheering the men, directing, commanding, and doing all that was possible to make sure that the line was held.

"Thus carrying on for hours Mackenzie kept his eyes, which gradually misting with the glaze of death, upon the star of victory. At length nature was overcome, Mackenzie was forced to desist active command and to lie down. Still as he lay there he struggled to keep alive but at last the heart collapsed and so passed to Avalon a Nova Scotia Gael, Mackenzie the incomparable, the unconquerable."

He did not get the V.C.

For ease of reading, I have transcribed the article as it was written.

*Captain Ross Mackenzie formerly of Regina and for a number of years in the RNWMP force, who was killed at the Passchenaale ridge battle, has been recommended for the V.C., the highest honor (the Canadian spelling should be “honour”) obtainable by a British soldier. The news reached his relatives in the city yesterday.*

*Captain Ross Mackenzie is a nephew of Mrs. T.J. Bennett, Angus street, and was well known in Regina. While with the RNWMP he saw service in the Yukon. His mother lives at Baddeck, Cape Breton. One brother Lieut. John Mackenzie is a member of the Cape Breton Highland Brigade. The other brother. Lieut. George, also of the brigade, has been invalided home.*

*Of the death of Capt. Mackenzie, the following eyewitness story appears in the Halifax Chronicle of recent date:*

*“In the heroism and death of Captain Ross Mackenzie, a native son of Victoria County, Cape Breton, I.C. Chuchuliain’s heroism and death made real (I must admit knew nothing of Chuchuliain...he was...an Irish warrior hero and demigod in the Ulster Cycle of Irish mythology, as well as in Scottish and Manx folklore. He is believed to be an incarnation of the Irish god Lugh, who is also his father. His mother is the mortal Deichtine, sister of king Conchobar mac Nessa.) Mackenzie, on the field was the Gaelic hero, belated or re-incarnated. At the head of his company he was on his way to relieve the awful situation. Meeting a Western Canadian battalion coming out as their work was done and besides they were totally officerless. Mackenzie realizing the critical situation, and need of men harranged the western boys – and they proved gallant lads -and persuaded them to turn around with his company and to enter the fight again. The machine-gun fire of the company fell on him and his men like hail in a violent storm. At last he was riddled through stomach and body with machine-gun bullets-yes literally riddle-but would he give up? No, not Mackenzie. The spirit of of Cuchuliain was in him. He would carry on, watching all that was happening, cheering the men, directing, commanding and doing all that was possible to make sure that the line was held.*

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His surname is spelled with several variations of MacKenzie, no “a”, capital “K”, small “k”. The Regina Leader in two articles spelled it differently in each article. His documents upon joining the army show his name as “MacKenzie”.

**His name is engraved on the Menin Gate (Ypres) Memorial – Belgium**



**Ric Hall 24394-O.1330**

**November 01, 2023**