

John Earl GEDDES

Earl Geddes was born on a farm near North Gower in 1920, the fourth generation of his family to live on that farm.

At 21, Earl joined the Royal Canadian Engineers, 5th Field Company, taking basic training first in Cornwall and then at Camp Borden. In April, 1942, he transferred to the 65th Tank Transport "as they were going overseas right away". His unit landed in Glasgow in early May of 1942. From there, he was posted at Bram Shott Common in England. Over the next two years, Earl was involved with transporting tanks all over England, right up to Inverness in Scotland and into Wales. He also took part in the preparations leading up to the ill-fated Dieppe Raid since the involved Canadian forces were supported by their own tank corps. Earl remembers the horrible feeling of seeing the battered Canadian soldiers returning from the Dieppe Raid the following day.

On July 8th, 1944 Earl was with the 65th Contingent landing near Courseulles sur-Mer in Normandy. They remained near the coast for two or three weeks and then headed for Bayeux and the Falaise Gap with tanks loaded.

Over the coming weeks and months, their path of movement took them across the Seine at Rouen and then up into Belgium, by and through the cities that recall battles of both WW I and WW II. Winter was spent in Holland near Nijmegen. In spring they crossed the Rhine at Arnheim.



THEN



NOW

Over the course of service on the continent, Earl delivered tanks all over Belgium, Holland, France and parts of Germany.

Earl returned to Canada on the "Mauretania" and was discharged in January of 1946. After travelling across western Canada, he came back to settle on the homestead near North Gower. In 1948 he married Ruby Cochrane. In the late 50's, the Geddes' sold their farm and moved into City View but 10 years later they moved back into the countryside. After farming, Earl worked for Carleton County and then for the Liquor Control Board, until retirement. He continued showing standard-bred horses and then racing them at Rideau-Carleton and Connaught raceways until 1993.

Earl and Ruby lived in Richmond on a small hobby farm. Ruby passed away in August 1991 and Earl moved to Carleton Lodge around 2009.

Earl passed on January 4, 2013 at age 92. He was pre-deceased by his beloved Ruby and is survived by several nieces.