

Fall in love with 'Dear Sweetheart'

Toronto, ON (October 18, 2008) – When soldiers go to war, their link to home and family becomes the centre of their world.

Dear Sweetheart, The Globe and Mail's new multi-media series, takes readers inside that world through the letters home of a Canadian soldier who fought in World War II.

The love story of David Hazzard and Audrey MacPherson began simply and quietly with a walk home from church one evening. They married on July 10, 1934 and were inseparable until the war broke out and David joined the Queen's Own Rifles. Between 1940 and 1944, he wrote hundreds of letters home. Below is a typical example:

Thursday, Aug. 15, 1940 –

Dear Sweetheart,

I have a weekend pass coming this weekend. Just what I am going to do is still a bit of a problem and I will really be lost without you. I suppose that I have taken you entirely too much for granted in the past few years. Now I realize exactly how much you mean to me and the gap that is left when I cannot be with you. I can appreciate more clearly your position and see why you objected to my joining the army. All I can say is that I love you more than ever, and the day that I get home again will be one of the happiest in my life. Always yours, Dave P.S. I love you more than ever

"David Hazzard's letters evoke a time in Canada's history that is fading in our collective memory," says Erin Anderssen, The Globe and Mail reporter who compiled the letters. "They are honest, touching and passionate -- the story of a marriage and family existing under the most difficult of circumstances. And they didn't have telephone calls and email to hold them together. All they had were these letters."

'Dear Sweetheart' launches this Saturday, October 18, in Globe Focus and on globeandmail.com, and continues, with more letters being published daily in Globe Life and on the web until December 20.

"In hard times, people are looking for respite," said Cathrin Bradbury, The Globe's Managing Editor, Features. "We hope these uplifting letters about the power of love will remind them what matters most."

Visit www.globeandmail.com/dearsweetheart to view the letters, see photos and watch videos that capture the era. Additional letters will be available online for viewing. Readers are encouraged to use the site to share their war letter stories and photos.

The Globe and Mail, Canada's national newspaper, is a division of CTVglobemedia, a dynamic multimedia company, which also owns CTV Inc., Canada's number-one private broadcaster.

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