



Left to right: Lorena Lyle, Dr Lyle, Stella Ruza, secretary to Dr Lyle

## William Montgomery LYLE

(1913~2006)

by T.D. Williams

Dr Lyle was born 4 October 1913 in Summerside, PEI, and died on 17 March 2006 in Kitchener, Ontario. He studied at the College of Optometry of Ontario in Toronto, graduating in 1938. Dr Lyle practised Optometry in Manitoba from 1938 to 1942. In 1941, Dr Lyle joined the Royal Winnipeg Rifles as a second-lieutenant. After military training in Canada and England, Dr Lyle landed in France with reinforcements in late June of 1944 (*D-day was on 6 June 1944*). He was at that time second in command of an anti-tank platoon, and continued with this unit until the end of hostilities in Europe in May 1945. Dr Lyle saw action in Caen and Calais, France, in Belgium, and participated in the liberation of Holland. He was discharged with the rank of Captain.

In 1946, Dr Lyle resumed his optometric practice in Manitoba. He received his Doctor of Optometry degree in 1958. From 1955 to 1957, Dr Lyle served as President of the Canadian Association of Optometrists.

Dr Lyle undertook postgraduate studies at the University of Manitoba from 1958 to 1960, after which he began work on his MSc degree at Indiana University. He completed the MSc in 1963, and went on to his doctoral work, receiving his PhD in 1965. Dr Lyle was the first Canadian to receive the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Physiological Optics (*Visual Science*). He served as a lecturer at Indiana University from 1962 to 1965, at which time he returned to the College of Optometry of Ontario.

Dr Lyle joined the University of Waterloo when the Optometry program was integrated into the Faculty of Science there in 1967. Dr Lyle was instrumental in developing the School's pharmacology curriculum, and

also served as an expert adviser to provincial bodies regulating the use of pharmaceuticals by Optometrists. He continued on the faculty as a professor and as Director of Clinics (the latter from 1974-1977) until his retirement in 1982. Since that time, he has continued to contribute to the academic life of the School of Optometry in various part-time and adjunct positions.

From 1979 to 1995, Dr Lyle served as Editor of the journal of the American Academy of Optometry, the first non-US citizen to do so. He was the longest-serving editor of the Academy journal.

Throughout his career, Dr Lyle participated in continuing education programs for Optometrists and other health care practitioners. He lectured throughout Canada and the US, as well as in the United Kingdom.

Dr Lyle's research interests were broad, ranging from work on the inheritance of corneal astigmatism sponsored by the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare (*his first publication on this topic appeared in 1951*) to his last project on the genetic bases of eye disease. The latter project generated a large document which was published on the University of Waterloo School of Optometry webpage.

Through his long career, Dr. Lyle received numerous awards and honors: In 1979, Dr. Lyle received the Canadian Association of Optometrists President's award; In 1989, the University of Waterloo awarded Dr. Lyle the title *Distinguished Professor Emeritus*; Also in 1989, Dr. Lyle received the award of *Life Fellowship* in the American Academy of Optometry; In 1999, Dr. Lyle received the H. James Cobean Award from the Ontario Association of Optometrists; In 2000, Dr. Lyle was the recipient of the John H. Carter Memorial Pharmacology Award and Prize, sponsored by Merck & Co.

Dr. Lyle was a member of the following organizations: Canadian and Ontario Association of Optometrists; The Genetics Society of Canada; Association of Schools of Optometry of Canada; Sigma Xi; American Optometric Association; American Academy of Optometry; American Society of Human Genetics; American Association for the Advancement of Science

Dr. Lyle is survived by his wife of almost 50 years, Lorena; his children, Lesley, Joan, and Barb; his grandchildren, Bruce and Amy, Lesley-Ann and Derek, Laura, Lauren and Kaitlyn and his great-grandchildren, Kiera and Rogan. Dr. Lyle was predeceased by his first wife, Helen; brother, Ralph and his wife Thelma. 