



The Raven & The Rock

The Glens' Association Newsletter—May 2020

REMEMBERING THE LAST DAYS

Regrettably, the people of the Netherlands have had to cancel their planned celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of their country during the Second World War. But they will be remembering. Let us take a few minutes to focus on the final days.

Mark Zuehlke's "**On To Victory**, The Canadian Liberation of the Netherlands, March 23 – May 5, 1945" covers from the crossing of the Rhine through to the war's end. Our Glens were there for all of it.

Mark writes in the book's Preface: "The last short weeks where each day's fighting brought the finish closer, and every death seemed cruel because so little of the war remained, proved to contain a story of far more complexity than I had anticipated. Yes, there were many minor actions. But, there were also fierce battles and prolonged intensity."

The 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade with our 1st Battalion was selected to participate in OPERATION DUCK that involved a daylight river assault across the Ems River leading to the capture of Leer, Germany on April 28, 1945. Then following in OPERATION DRAKE, our Glens headed North towards the City of Emden. After the general cease-fire on May 5th, they entered Emden the next day. From April 28 to May 4, 24 were killed and 47 wounded. Of the 24 killed, the majority drowned during the river crossing. They were all buried in the Holten Canadian War Cemetery except for one. Private Earl Harcourt Joslin's body was not found until years later. His name is one of the three Glens on the Groesbeek Memorial. In May 1967, his remains were buried in Jonkerbos Cemetery, Nijmegen.

Leadership was recognized. Distinguished Service Medals were awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Neil Gemmell and Major John Stothart, the Distinguished Conduct Medal to Sergeant Frederick Howarth, the Military Cross to Captain Donald Stewart, the Military Medal to Private Gerald Campbell, Private Peter Maclean, and Private Chesley Matthews, and the British Empire Medal to Company Quartermaster Sergeant Charles Dunk.

A focus on those days began after a request through the website from Edzard Wagenaar, a freelance reporter from Emden, who is creating a series of ten articles focusing on the time of the Glens' occupation of Emden. Ed has been in regular contact with our Veteran Glen Joe Sullivan. We hope to see these articles published in Postmedia papers. Our Gregory Pollard recommended John Sliz's "**River Assault**, Operation Duck: the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division's Attack on Leer 28th April 1945" that gave a great deal of detail on those final days.



Holten Canadian War Cemetery. In Mark's closing paragraph, he wrote: "As I walk down one long row of headstones after another, pausing before each one to note the name, age, unit of service, hometown, and often touching sentiment offered by family, the story of a country at war is revealed". For those of us who have visited Holten, we have gone through this beautiful cemetery, strolling along the rows looking for the graves of Glens, and then having our memorial service under the leadership of Friends of Holten Cemetery. With us are our Dutch Friends of The Glens and always others. As we do at our Reunions, we remembered our Fallen Glens.

Photo: Wouter van Dijken, April 21, 2020, Holten Canadian War Cemetery Facebook Site

Up The Glens!

Glens' Association Website—<http://glensassociation.ca>