



The Raven & The Rock

The Glens' Association Newsletter—January 2021

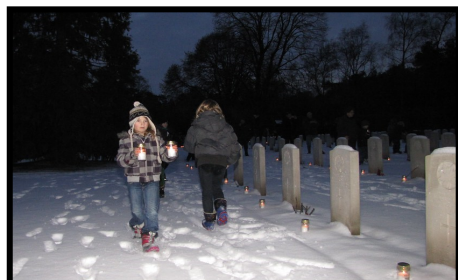
A CHRISTMAS EVENT

Many of you have been members of regimental tours. Visits to war cemeteries are integral to the tours, and they are always moving. Some of you have spent a few moments at graves of relatives. Our memorial services at each cemetery have been special.

For the first timers, there seems to be a lot of similarity in the cemeteries. But on repeat visits, you become aware that each has special features.

The last cemetery normally visited is the Holten Canadian War Cemetery. It is located near a forested park area. As you walk from the gate to the graves, you pass through beautiful gardens of heather. You are always joined by park visitors.

Something special was created for Christmas Eve 1991 at Holten. Mrs. Leena van Dam provided memorial candles that children placed on the graves. This was a tradition in her native Finland. Christmas Eve candle lighting has continued since then.



For many visitors from the area, the flickering lights of the candles provide an ambiance of silence and peace. Oh, to be able to share it with them.

This annual ceremony has now been copied at the two other Canadian war cemeteries in The Netherlands – Bergen Op Zoom and Groesbeek. Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005, The Netherlands, has spearheaded a drive to have all graves of those lost during the Second World War in their country lit with a memorial candle on Christmas Eve. (Our young Glens on the 2018 Nijmegen March and members of the 2018 Glens Tour were each hosted by Branch 005 on their visits to The Netherlands)

This year in Canada, a video describing how the people of The Netherlands remember on Christmas Eve was circulated. Search for "What a moving tribute to Canadian soldiers from our friends in The Netherlands".

Best wishes for a healthy 2021.

Up The Glens!

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