



The Raven & The Rock

The Glens' Association Newsletter—October 2021

CARING FOR OTHERS

Many members of our Association are caregivers of family and friends especially during this pandemic. Here is a story about caring and friendship.

George Cunningham, a member of our 1st Battalion, was wounded three times in Operation Veritable as the First Canadian Army fought its way to the Rhine River. His section was running across a field when a German machine gun opened up. The first bullet hit George in his right eye, exiting behind his right ear, with two more rounds ripping into his shoulder and hip. When he fell, his section leader Corporal Harold (Dinty) Moore dragged George to safety and yelled for a medic. When the medic disclosed he had dropped his medical bag once the shooting had started, Dinty ran into the field and retrieved it, giving George crucial first aid before he was evacuated to a field hospital.

Dinty Moore himself was later wounded in Zutphen by a sniper, and his intended military career came to an abrupt end. Subsequently awarded the Military Medal for leadership and gallantry from Normandy to The Netherlands, Dinty's approach to leadership had been simple: put your men's welfare ahead of your own. He was, in that respect, a caregiver.

George Cunningham always credited Dinty Moore with saving his life. The two comrades met by chance at Sunnybrook Hospital in the 1950s, where they both had temporary jobs. George's son Doug heard very little as a child about his father's war experiences. But after George died unexpectedly in 1982, and Doug's mother revealed that "Dinty Moore" had won the Military Medal, Doug began searching for the elusive Mr. Moore. He attended a 1st Battalion reunion in 1997 seeking clues as to Dinty's identity, but to no avail. However, when the May 2001 issue of "The Glengarrian" ran a story on Corporal Moore, Doug knew he had found his missing hero.

From 2001 until late March 2021, Dinty and Doug became the best of friends in a surrogate father and son relationship. They spoke on the telephone at least twice a day and, whenever possible, visited each other. In January 2021, Dinty stayed at Doug's house over New Years. Shortly thereafter, Doug ensured that Dinty got his COVID-19 shot and, when Dinty's health failed in late March 2021, he was at his bedside when he passed away. Doug's hero -- Corporal Harold (Dinty) Moore -- died on March 29, 2021 at the age of 97.

Caregiving and concern can extend beyond one's family members. In these trying times, we need more of the friendship and loyalty that Doug and Dinty had for each other. As for Doug, he considers it an honour to have been part of Dinty's life for 20 years, and hopes that he was equal to the task at caring for the man who had, without hesitation, saved his father's life in February 1945.



Dinty & Douglas in July 2020 on a road trip to Dinty's childhood home of Pembroke, Ontario.

Thanks to Douglas for this story.

Up The Glens!

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