



The Raven & The Rock

The Glens' Association Newsletter—April 2022

IS VIMY RIDGE AN EXAMPLE FOR US?

This month the 105th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge was marked in France and Canada. Coverage of the anniversary was found in many forms – TV, social media, editorial pages, and newsletters. How did Canadian soldiers from coast to coast including those who had served in our 154th Battalion achieve what the French Army could not despite suffering over 100,000 casualties? There is not a simple answer that can be part of a newsletter.

In November 2009, 57 travellers flew to Europe to be part of the rededication of the battle flag presented to the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders for their role in the liberation of Knokke, Belgium on the 1st of November 1944. The travellers were based in Ghent, Belgium where our 1st Battalion went after the Battle of the Scheldt to start rebuilding for what was to come in 1945. Of the 57, three were veterans of the 1st Battalion, the oldest being 89. The youngest in the group were Young Glens, maybe 19 years old. The group represented all parts of the Regimental Family. Our Regimental Band was well represented. Associated communities were represented by mayors and councillors.

After arriving in Ghent and finding the Glengarrian Pub close to their hotel, the group prepared for its first road trip – a trip to Vimy Ridge and other significant World War One memorials including the grave of our Claude Nunney, VC, DCM, MM. This day trip set the pace for early departures and late returns for the rest of the trip.



This year the Ottawa Citizen had an Op Ed commemorating the Battle of Vimy Ridge titled "Why Vimy Ridge is still so important". A significant paragraph follows:

"One hundred and five years ago on from the Battle of Vimy Ridge, let us take a moment to remind ourselves of the great feats we are capable of as Canadians, and that our biggest challenges – including those which inevitably lay ahead of us – can only be overcome when we see we are in this together and start looking out for one another".

The 2009 trip may be a small example of overcoming challenges. The Army would not financially support the trip. There was a restriction placed on dress for the Unit. The cost of the trip for the younger members was major and the Regimental Foundation came to the rescue through a fundraising campaign. During the trip, the Young Glens were always ready to help the Old Glens including paying for their last dinner in Ghent. The Regimental Family working together made this trip a memorable one.

The pandemic has been a great challenge to the future of our Regimental Family. Borrowing from the Op Ed above, can we act together to overcome the challenges of the past few years to rebuild our Regimental Family?

Up The Glens!

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