



VOLUME THREE LEGEND OF RIDGE

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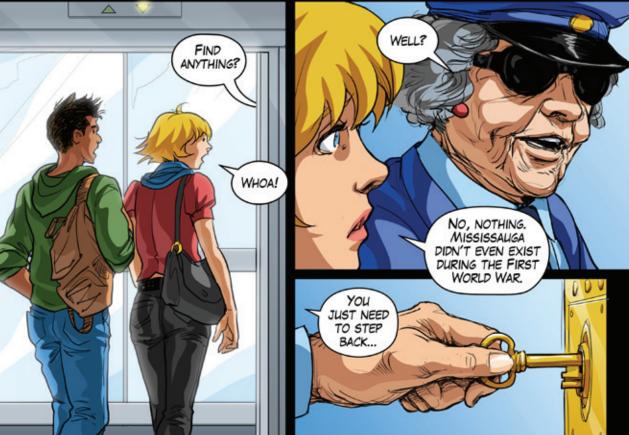
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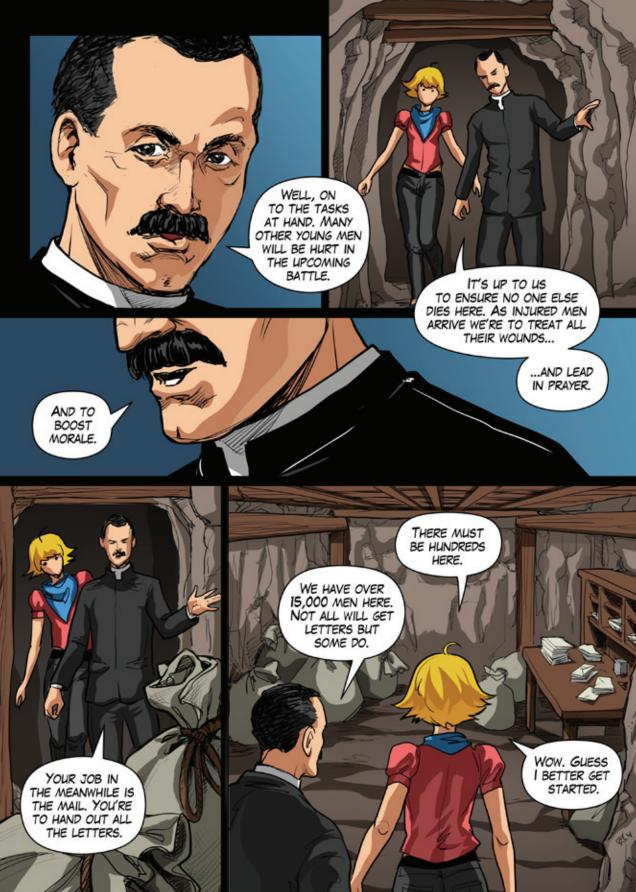






























THE BATTLE OF W BY VIKAS AND TACHEL

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was a pivotal military engagement fought during the First World War as part of the Battle of Arras in France. Canadian troops were ordered to capture Vimy Ridge in April of 1917. The Ridge was a strategic and heavily fortified ridge that held a commanding view. Previous attempts on the Ridge had failed, resulting in over 100,000 casualties.





To capture the Ridge, Canadians carefully planned and rehearsed their attack. To bring soldiers safely forward for the assault, engineers dug deep tunnels and soldiers remained underground for weeks before the attack. Many carved symbols into the chalk underground.

In the week leading up to the battle, artillery pounded the German positions on the Ridge. Attacking together for the first time, the four Canadian divisions, consisting of more than 15,000 soldiers, stormed the Ridge, and Hill 145, at 5:30 am on April 9th, 1917. Three days of costly battle secured the victory. Many consider the Canadian victory at Vimy a defining moment for Canada, when our country emerged from under the shadow of Great Britain. Canadian troops also earned a reputation as formidable and effective because of this stunning success. But it came at a heavy cost: 3,598 Canadians were killed and another 7,000 wounded.





Amongst those at Vimy were more than 50 soldiers from historic Mississauga, including seven who lost their lives: Private Dennis Ainger of Erindale, Sergeant Thomas Cartwright of Erindale, Private Joseph Clarke of Streetsville, Private William Kidd of Clarkson, Private Eli Rossiter of Clarkson, Private Jack Young of Clarkson, and Private James Fawcett of Streetsville. 11 others from historic Mississauga were wounded. Of these, four soldiers received medals for their conduct.







Captain Reverend George Petrie Duncan of Port Credit was present during Vimy. His three sons had also enlisted. His eldest son, Captain George Gordon Duncan, was killed in action in 1915. Another son, Captain Alan Barrie Duncan, was on sick leave at home in 1917, but returned to the front later in the year and was killed in action in 1918. The third was Lieutenant Wallace Duncan. who was severely wounded at Vimy.

Another set of brothers, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Thomson and Lieutenant Douglas Thomson, of Port Credit, served with distinction at Vimy, and were both later killed in action.

- Private Dennis Ainger
 Sergeant Thomas Cartwright
 Capt. Rev. George P. Duncan
 Capt. George G. Duncan
 Capt. George G. Duncan
 Capt. Alan B. Duncan
 L. Lo Od. Alexander Thomson &
 Lt. Douglas Thomson
 Capt. Franklin W. Ott





Others from historic Mississauga who served at Vimv included Lieutenant Colonel Agar Adamson of the Prince Patricia's Light Infantry, and Captain Franklin Walter Ott, both of Port Credit, Captain Ott was killed in action later in the war.

We will remember them.



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