



Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command
The Royal Canadian Legion

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All Branch Mail Out #23 - 2017

Date: June 8, 2017

To: NS/NU Command Branches
NS/NU Zone Commanders
NS/NU Executive Council
NS/NU Past Presidents
NS/NU Command Staff

From: Valerie Mitchell-Veinotte
Executive Director
NS/NU Command, RCL

Subject: The Search for Vimy's Lost Soldiers

Message: Comrades: Please find attached a letter from Eastern Marine Branch 161 sent to Members of Parliament.

Your Comrades at Branch 161 request that all Branches within NS/NU Command petition Members of Parliament by issuing letters in support of the ongoing search for 44 Canadian Soldiers who died at Vimy Ridge who are believed to lay in a mine crater under potato fields on the Vimy battlefield.



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EASTERN MARINE BRANCH NO. 161

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May 15, 2017

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Sir,

Recently, one of our two eldest members, Comrade John (Jock) McStay, a decorated World War II soldier who was a member of the force that freed the Netherlands, brought to the memberships' attention a situation that needs the attention and support of ALL Canadians. On April 9th, 2017 a documentary entitled "Searching for Vimy's Lost Soldiers" highlighted the fact that there are 44 Canadian soldiers, who died during the battle, who still lay in a mine crater under potato fields on the Vimy battlefield and that a single regional French bureaucrat had refused to allow Canadian military historian Norm Christie to continue his search for these men.

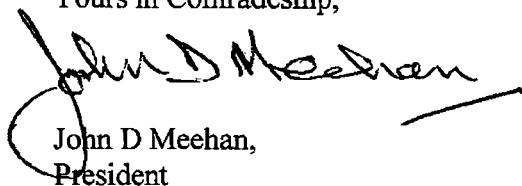
Mr. Christie has personally raised tens of thousands of dollars from ordinary Canadians to conduct a search for the specific unmarked mine crater (CA40) where these men lay. Mr. Christie had the permission of the farmers who owned the land, and also the support and cooperation of the Municipal Government of Thélus and many other organizations in France. He had recently pinpointed a precise section of these fields where the remains of these men most probably lay.

Despite much support locally in France, and at home in Canada, the action of a single regional French bureaucrat has put a stop order on any continued excavation – the motivation of this bureaucrat is unclear.

As a Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in your ridings, I am asking you today to raise the issue in the Houses of Parliament and to ask the Prime Minister and the Minister of Global Affairs to ask that the Canadian Government make a formal request of the Government of France to intervene in this matter and to secure Mr. Christie permission to continue his search.

These 44 Canadian soldiers of World War I deserve a proper burial after 100 years – would it not be wonderful to achieve this in the Centennial Year of the Battle for VIMY Ridge?

Yours in Comradeship,



John D Meehan,
President

Action:

Darrell Samson, MP

Sean Fraser, MP

Information:

NS/NU Command, Royal Canadian legion

Comrade John (Jock) Mc Stay