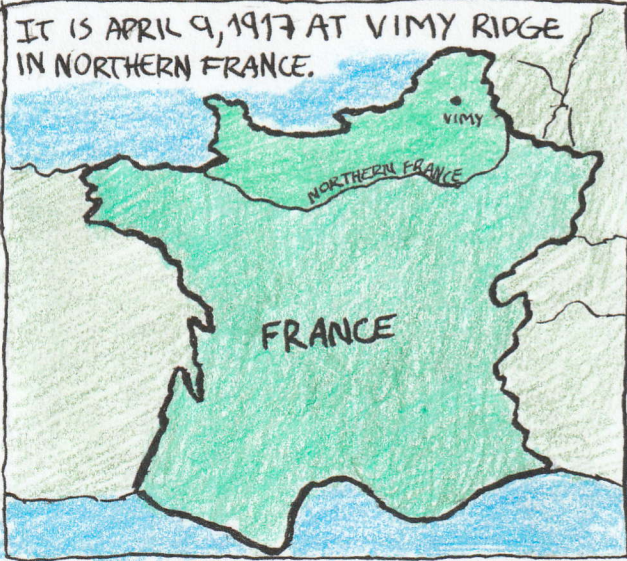


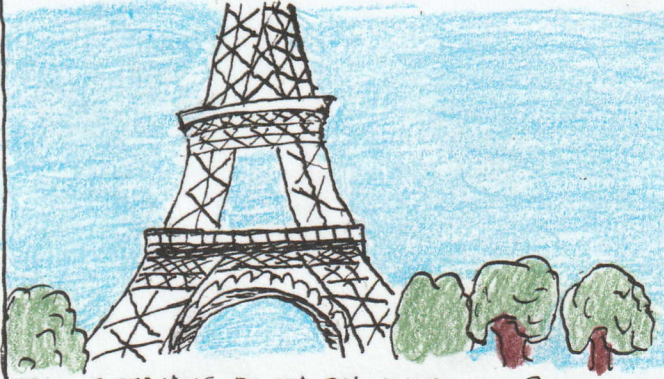
THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY GABRIELA

IT IS APRIL 9, 1917 AT VIMY RIDGE IN NORTHERN FRANCE.



WORLD WAR ONE, THEN KNOWN AS THE GREAT WAR, HAS BEEN RAGING IN EUROPE SINCE 1914.



THE GERMANS PLAN ON INVADING PARIS, BUT FIRST THEY WILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.

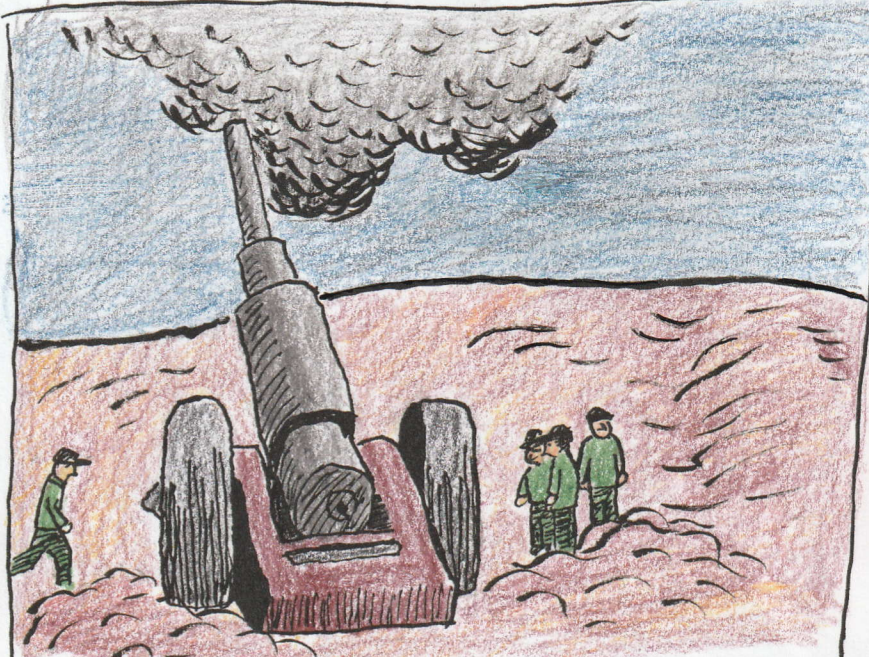
ONE OF THEIR BEST FRONTS IS VIMY RIDGE. BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH SOLDIERS HAVE UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO CAPTURE IT FOR THREE YEARS. THERE HAVE BEEN HEAVY CASUALTIES. APPROXIMATELY 150,000 SOLDIERS ARE EITHER WOUNDED OR DEAD. BUT TODAY IT'S CANADA'S TURN TO CAPTURE THE RIDGE.



THE MEN HAVE UNDERGONE INTENSIVE TRAINING. THEY STUDY THE NEWEST MAPS AND EVEN PRETEND THE BATTLE ON A MODEL BATTLEFIELD

REMEMBER! IF YOU RUN TO FAST OR TO SLOW, WE RISK LOSING THE BATTLE.

YES, SIR!



NOW IT'S THE TIME FOR THE BATTLE TO BEGIN. FIRST, THE ARTILLERY FIRE FORCES THE GERMANS INTO THEIR DUGOUTS, BUT IT ALSO LEAVES PLENTY OF CRATERS ON THE GROUND

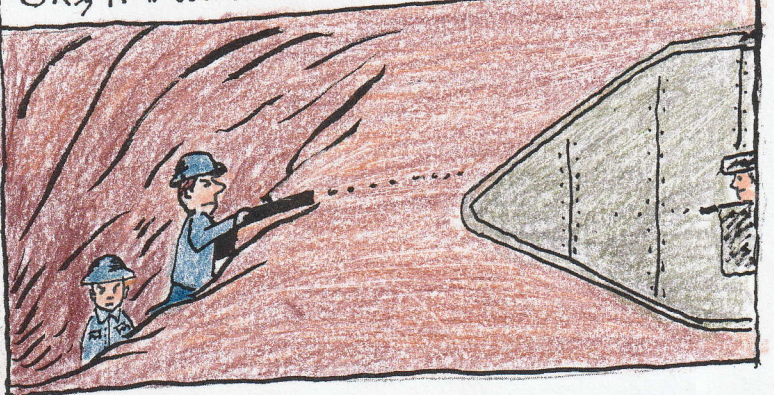
AT 5:30 A.M. IT IS THE SOLDIER'S TURN TO ATTACK. ALONG WITH SOME TANKS, FOUR CANADIAN BATTALIONS ADVANCE INTO NO MAN'S LAND.



ON THE OTHER SIDE, GERMAN AND PRUSSIAN SOLDIERS SHOOT CANADIANS WITH MACHINE GUN FIRE.



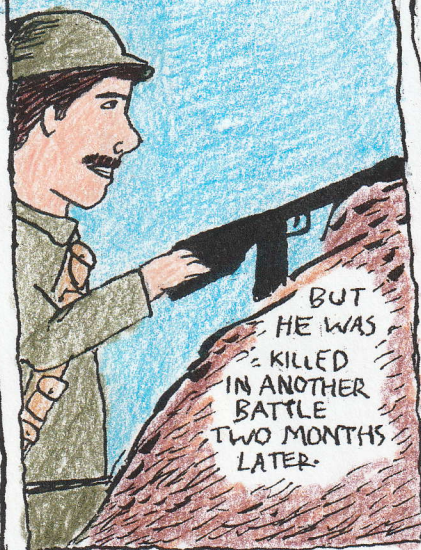
MANY CANADIAN SOLDIERS ARE KILLED BECAUSE OF THE MACHINE GUNS. AFTER POISONOUS GAS, IT IS WHAT THEY FEAR MOST.



PRIVATE JOHN GEORGE PATTISON ALSO CAPTURED A MACHINE GUN.



BUT SOME COURAGEOUS SOLDIERS CAPTURED MACHINE GUNS. ONE OF THEM IS PRIVATE WILLIAM MILNE, HE CAPTURED TWO MACHINE GUNS BEFORE BEING KILLED. THAT SAME DAY, LANCE-SERGEANT ELLIS SIFTON JUMPED INTO A GERMAN TRENCH, CAPTURING A MACHINE GUN. WHEN HE WAS DISCOVERED BY ENEMY SOLDIERS, HE MANAGED TO WOUND SOME SOLDIERS, BUT THE OTHERS KILLED HIM.



BUT HE WAS KILLED IN ANOTHER BATTLE TWO MONTHS LATER.

THESE MEN ARE AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS, THE GREATEST MILITARY MEDAL



BUT NOT ONLY THREE MEN EARN THE VICTORIA CROSS IN THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE.



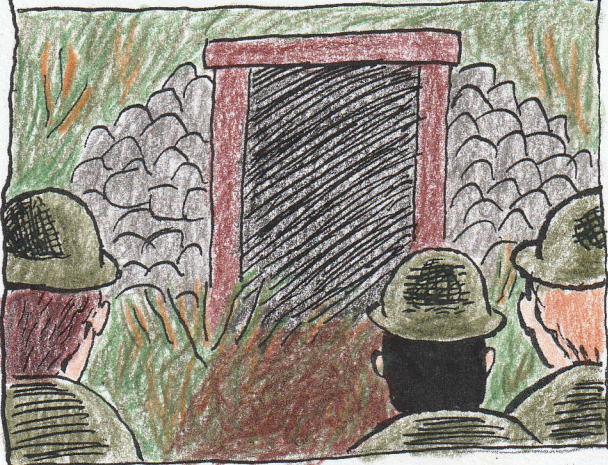
ANOTHER MAN, CAPTAIN THAIN MACDOWELL, EARNS THE CROSS. THIS IS HIS STORY.

HAVING ALREADY WON THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL IN THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME, CAPTAIN MACDOWELL IS AN EXPERIENCED SOLDIER.

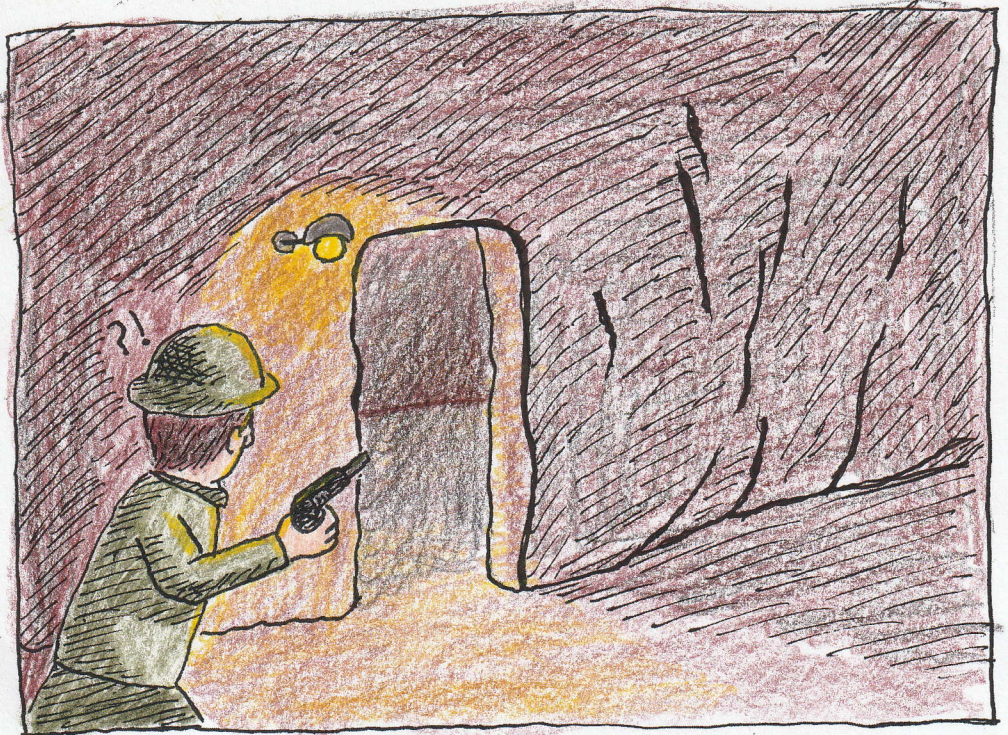


BUT WITH THE CAOS OF THE BATTLE AND THE SMOKE OF BOMBS HE GETS LOST WITH TWO OTHER MEN

THEN, THEY SUDDENLY FIND AN ENEMY DUGOUT.



CAPTAIN MACDOWELL COMES UP WITH A PLAN





SO THE GERMAN SOLDIERS SURRENDER. STILL, TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T REBEL, CAPTAIN MACDOWELL GETS THEM OUT OF THE DUGOUT IN SMALL GROUPS.



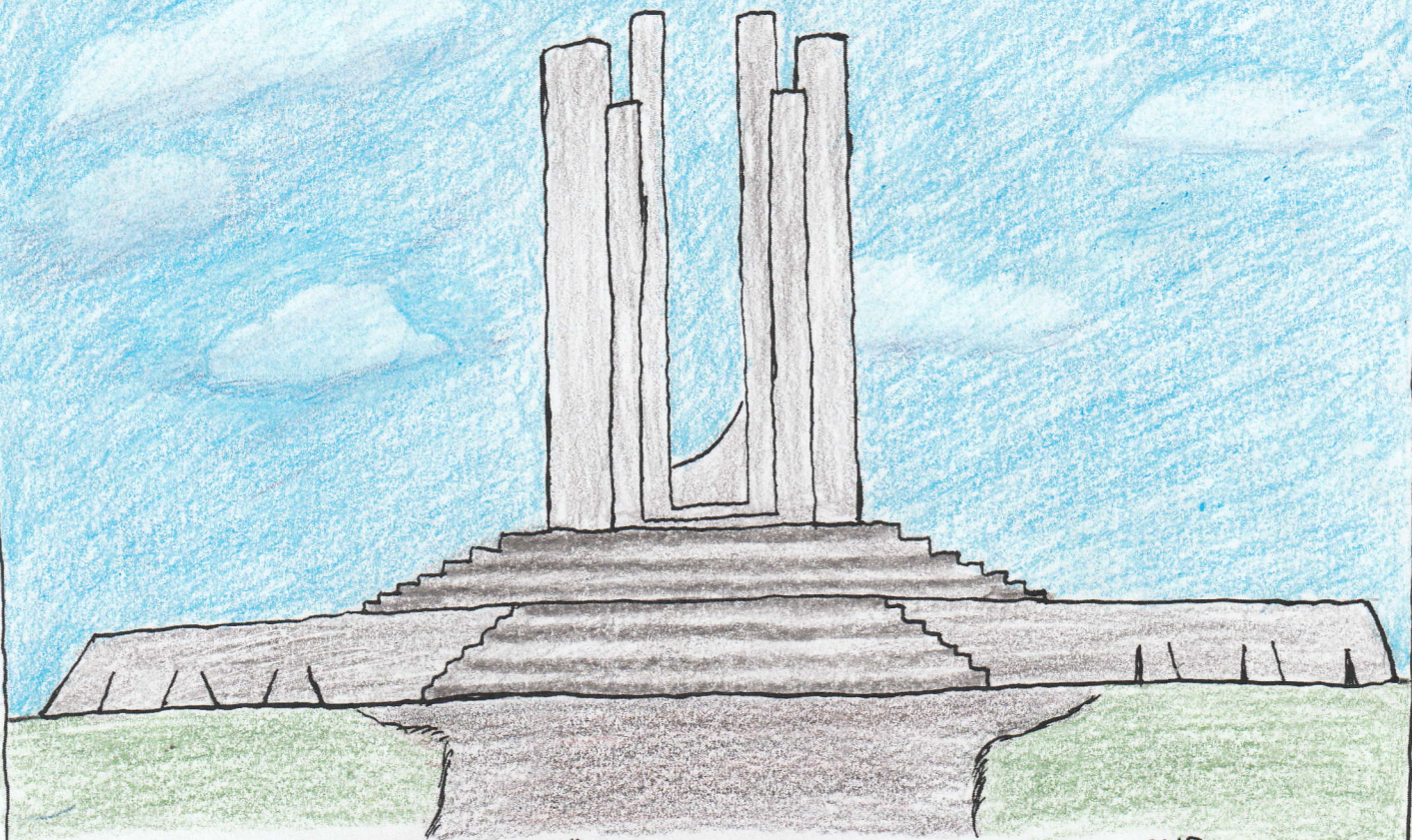
CAPTAIN MACDOWELL SUCCESSFULLY CAPTURED THE SEVENTY-SEVEN ENEMY SOLDIERS. HE IS THE ONLY MAN WHO WON A VICTORIA CROSS AT VIMY RIDGE AND SURVIVED THE WAR. SADLY, AFTER THE WAR HE SUFFERED FROM POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) AND NEVER FULLY RECOVERED.



FINALLY, ON APRIL 12, 1917, CANADA CAPTURED VIMY RIDGE. ALTHOUGH 3,598 CANADIAN SOLDIERS DIED AT VIMY RIDGE, THAT BATTLE NOT ONLY MADE CANADA KNOWN TO THE WORLD BUT ALSO MADE CANADIANS VERY PROUD OF THEIR COUNTRY.



ONE YEAR LATER, ON THE 11th OF NOVEMBER 1918, WORLD WAR ONE WAS OVER. THE ALLIES, INCLUDING CANADA, HAD WON.



IN 1922, FRANCE GAVE CANADA THE VIMY RIDGE MEMORIAL AND ITS SURROUNDING LAND. IT BEARS THE NAMES OF 11,285 CANADIAN SOLDIERS WHO NEVER RETURNED HOME.