

The Battle of Lens and hill 70: the Graphic Novel



MY NAME IS RENÉ.
I DO NOT WANT TO
BE HERE.

IT HAS BEEN 3 YEARS SINCE
WORLD WAR 1 STARTED WITH
THE ASSASSINATION OF
ARCHDUKE FRANZ FERDINAND.

THE CANADIAN CORPS HAS
BEEN INSTRUCTED WITH
CAPTURING THE FRENCH
TOWN OF LENS.

BUT FIRST IT HAS BEEN
DECIDED TO CAPTURE THE
STRATEGIC STANDPOINT
KNOWN AS "HILL 70".

I'M QUEBECOIS, AND LIKE
MOST QUEBECOIS, I OPPOSE
CONSCRIPTION.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR US, HILL 70 IS
GUARDED FIERCELY BY THE GERMANS
WHO OCCUPY LENS.



PERSONALLY, I DON'T SEE WHY. LENS IS
A MOSTLY DESTROYED TOWN ANYWAYS.
THE ONLY REASON WE'RE TRYING TO
TAKE IT IS TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM
NEARBY PASSCHENDAELE, WHICH HAS
SEEN MUCH MORE ACTION THAN LENS.

ANYWAYS, THE FIRST
ADVANCE ON HILL 70
BEGINS TOMORROW...

THE VERY NEXT DAY...



--TODAY WE REST.



THE CANADIAN ATTACK FOR HILL 70 BEGINS. MEANWHILE...



WORK, DAMN IT!

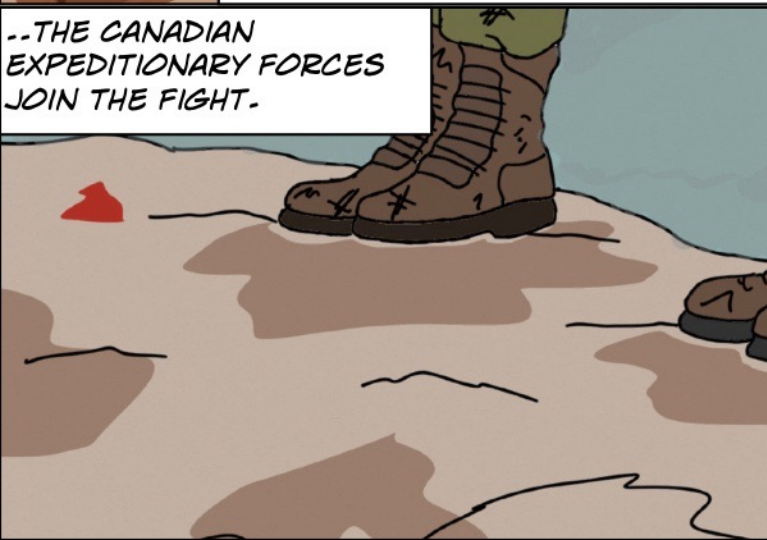
BOOM

HENRY ISLEY, A CANADIAN WITH THE ROYAL ENGINEERS, OPERATES COMMUNICATIONS UNDER HEAVY FIRE.



IS THIS THE END?

BUT FORTUNATELY FOR HIM...



--THE CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES JOIN THE FIGHT.



I HOPE WE'RE NOT TOO LATE!

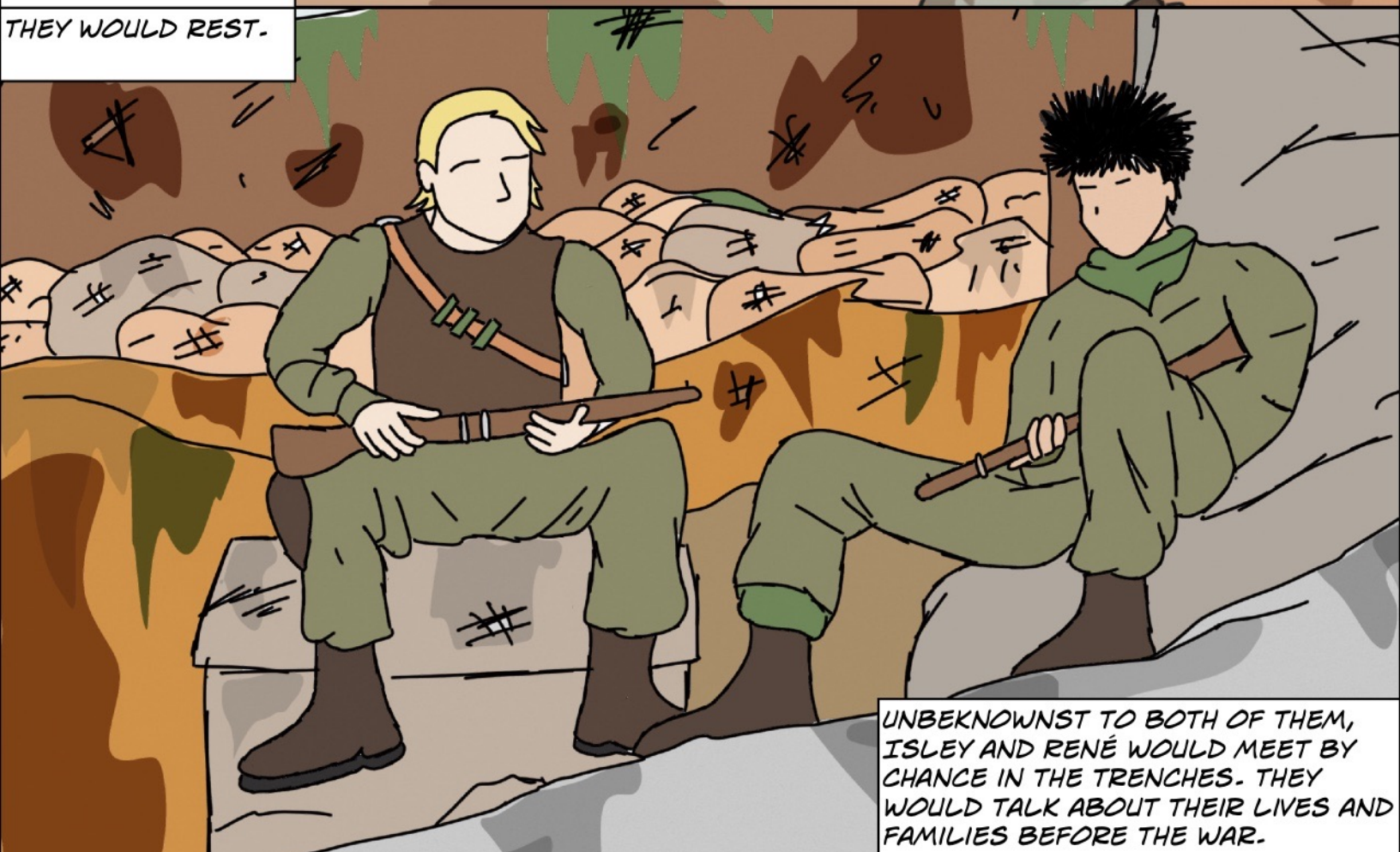
ON THIS DAY, THE
CANADIAN FORCES
TOOK HILL 70.

ISLEY WAS SAVED.
UNFORTUNATELY,
THE CANADIAN
CORPS LOST
AROUND 9,000
SOLDIERS DURING
THE ADVANCE TO
HILL 70.



THE NEXT STEP
WOULD BE THE
ATTACK ON LENS.
BUT FOR NOW..

THEY WOULD REST.



UNBEKNOWNST TO BOTH OF THEM,
ISLEY AND RENÉ WOULD MEET BY
CHANCE IN THE TRENCHES. THEY
WOULD TALK ABOUT THEIR LIVES AND
FAMILIES BEFORE THE WAR.

EARLY NEXT MORNING, THE FIRST SOLDIERS ADVANCE LENS. RENÉ IS AMONG THEM.



AT THE SAME TIME, IN A SLIGHTLY SAFER LOCATION, ISLEY LOADS "LIVENS PROJECTORS", SIMPLE LONG RANGE WEAPONS CAPABLE OF FIRING EXPLOSIVES OR GAS.



ELSEWHERE...

BOOOOM

THAT WAS A PRETTY BIG EXPLOSION.. I GUESS THE BARRAGE HAS BEGUN...



RENÉ HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PUSH FURTHER INTO GERMAN-HELD TERRITORY.



IF SUCCESSFUL, RENÉ'S TEAM WILL PLANT EXPLOSIVES IN A CERTAIN GERMAN POSITION AND WAIT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.



ACHTUNG, ACHTUNG! DEN KOPF EINZIEHEN!
(WATCH OUT! DUCK YOUR HEAD!)



TWO GERMANS..



ONE GERMAN..

EH?



ELSEWHERE..



INCOMING TRANSMISSION.

THIS IS RENÉ..
THE EXPLOSIVES
HAVE BEEN
PLANTED..

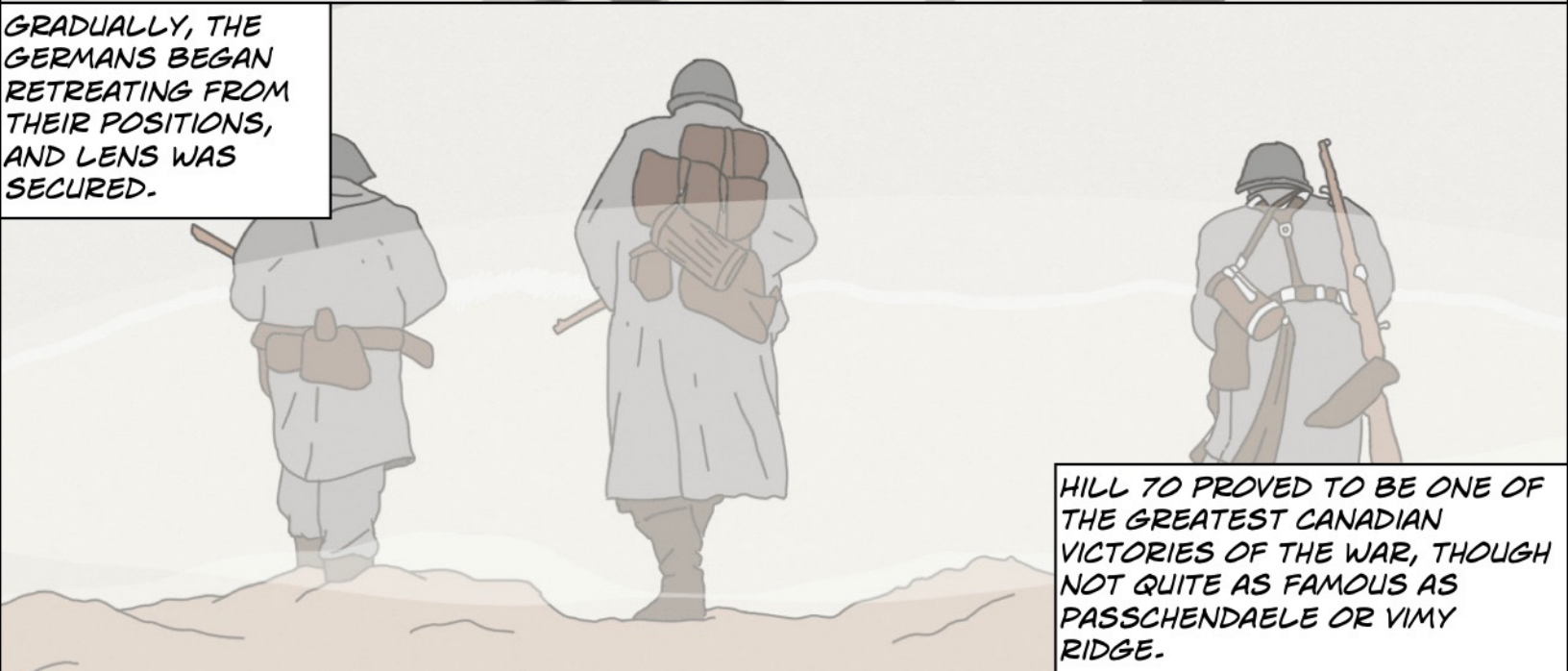
TELL
LIEUTENANT-GENERAL
CURRIE TO SEND TROOPS
INTO LENS!

RENÉ AND HIS TEAM SUCCESSFULLY PLANTED THE EXPLOSIVES. THE OBJECTIVE HAD BEEN COMPLETED, AND LIEUTENANT-GENERAL ARTHUR CURRIE ORDERED THE COMPLETE ADVANCE OF LENS.

ULTIMATELY, SOME 15,000 SOLDIERS WERE INVOLVED IN THE STORMING OF BOTH HILL 70 AND LENS, BUT MORE THAN HALF THAT NUMBER WOULDN'T SURVIVE.



GRADUALLY, THE GERMANS BEGAN RETREATING FROM THEIR POSITIONS, AND LENS WAS SECURED.



HILL 70 PROVED TO BE ONE OF THE GREATEST CANADIAN VICTORIES OF THE WAR, THOUGH NOT QUITE AS FAMOUS AS PASSCHENDAELE OR VIMY RIDGE.

What has come to be known as the "Great War" ended 3 years after The battle of Lens and Hill 70.

World War I ended in 1918. Casualties were high on both sides, with an estimated 20 million lives in total being lost. The world was left in great disarray afterwards, with many nations going bankrupt and experiencing severe expressions. The effects of WWI rattled the world. The importance of participation from countries like Canada was ultimately detrimental in the outcome.

Soldiers like René and Isley show some of what it was like to fight on the front lines of the war, and how dangerous it was.