

ST. VALERY-EN-CAUXHERE STOOD THE 51st

With pipes and drums the 51st come back to honour their dead. From Aberdeen, Dundee, Elgin, Inverness, Perth and Stirling come delegates and mourners (the Secretary of State among them) for the unveiling. Granite, the stone of their men's endurance, they chose and faced it towards the homeland. "Friends are good in the day of battle," it says in the Gaelic. In the battle the French second cavalry were their friends.

Ten years ago the 51st fought their way to St. Valery, and there they made their stand. The boats came to fetch them but fog fell. And when the fog lifted the enemy was on the cliffs, the way was closed. Only a few got out; but the 51st lived on, reborn, to march from Alansin to victory.