

## Paddy Shea's Stump

There's a runway in our deer-hunting grounds, we call Paddy Shea's Stump. It may be a misnomer; he was alternately called Pat O'Shea.

Patrick O'Shea and his sister Katie were adopted by James Edward Ryan - Red Jim they called him- and Mary Ellen Madigan, (Jack Madigan's sister) and, so was a step-brother to Tommy Ryan -(the grandfather of Kevin, Greg, Tom, Neil...)

In March of 1916 Paddy enlisted in the 130 Battalion in Renfrew and during that summer trained at camp Val Cartier. Then at the end of October he left Montreal for England on his way to France. Early the following September, (1917) the Ryan's received a telegram stating that Paddy had been missing since August 15<sup>th</sup>. Later, it was learned that Paddy offered the



Canadian War Museum Painting

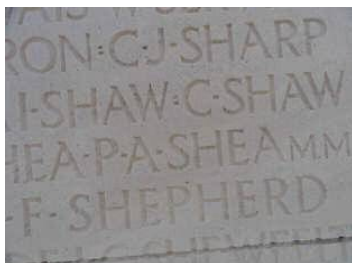
ultimate sacrifice; he was killed in the battle at Vimy Ridge. (Vimy Ridge Battle was in Northern France during April 1917, in the First World War. Four Canadian Divisions fought together and they gained more ground, guns and prisoners than any previous British Offenses had done). Melville Inwood, who was a Game Warden in our area during the 1950's, was in the army along with Paddy and was also serving at Vimy Ridge. He went out with Paddy that day and was able to report how Paddy died. It was great consolation to

the Ryan's that a local lad was that close to the event and able to provide a first-hand account. It helped to bring closure for them. Melville and Tommy were always good friends.

Paddy Shea's Stump is a runway we still watch today and is located at the Slash, just past Leveque's runway on the trail leading from the Axe Handles to the Dinninger Place at the River. It is believed Paddy shot at least a couple of deer at this runway.

Tommy's son, Gerald, was born in May, 1938 and hunters recall when he was 14 he shot his first deer at the runway. He had an old single-shot shotgun and was able to get two shots off at the deer. Tommy came out and was so proud of him. He hugged him and praised to the high heavens.

The older hunters recall that every November 11<sup>th</sup> Tommy would come up from the river and join the gang in a Remembrance Day memorial. It's not much wonder this was usually an emotional event for Tommy. He loved his step-brother, Paddy Shea.



In September, 2013, while visiting relatives in France, Jack & Fran stopped at the Vimy Ridge Memorial and were able to find Paddy's name engraved there with the thousands of others who gave their lives.

*(Thanks to Joan Marie Potvin for this info from Tommy's Diary)*