

I Saw Today

I came to France and Belgium to see for myself
From books of the Somme read from my shelf
The tales of horror and pain you endured
That destroyed a land once oh so pure
I saw the fields you walked oh so vast
Looking at them now, who'd guess their past?
I saw golden yellow and luscious green
The same as you would likely have seen
Before the bombs and artillery too
Changed the landscape for always from that which you knew
I saw the hills as we travelled around
And in no time got the lay of the land
I saw Hill 60 and passed 62
The German bunkers and craters too
The Caterpillars of A and B
24,300 and 32,000 k - g
I saw the holes from their mighty Bang
WOW what a blast - the miners did their thang
I saw places you attacked again and again
For King and Country, you did not complain
You just kept on going with courage and might
Taking to the enemy - a ferocious fight
I saw where you and your Comrades fell
Oh the horrors of War this land could tell
Now in Cemeteries at your journey's end
Row on Row - just Boys and Men
I saw you there with your Colleagues you lay
Where you are Remembered in a very special way
It still seems a pointless loss of young life
But your gift to us, was your sacrifice
I saw Ulster Tower and Vimi Ridge
Thiepval Memorial and The Ancre Bridge
I saw beautiful Fleurs and Delville Wood
Messines, Hill 60 you did what you could
I saw you on Menin Gate and at Tyne Cot
Pleased be assured that we have not Forgot
I saw this day a respect like no other
Legionnaires Marched United for you Fallen Brothers
Over 2,200 of us we took part
And personally I Thank You from the bottom of my heart

Steve Lewis (County Chairman)
The Royal British Legion Cornwall