

VIMY RIDGE

100 Years Ago - April 9 to 12, 1917

This month marks the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. We would like to dedicate this article to the men of the community who served, or were wounded or killed at the Battle of Vimy Ridge; and, those who are named on the Vimy Memorial.

Alexander Bardy

Regimental No. 636416

Served with the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles and was with his unit on the attack at Vimy Ridge.

Alexander Bardy was the informally adopted son of Peter & Lydia (Doxtator) Bardy. According to the 1901 census, Alexander was born on the 8th of July, 1869, and he appears with Peter & Lydia Bardy on the 1881 census as “Alexander Mitchel”, aged 10 years. On his attestation paper, he stated his date of birth was the 8th of July, 1879.

Alexander volunteered to serve on the 21st of January, 1916, in Deseronto, Ontario, for the 155th Overseas Battalion.

Before the war, he was a farmer and he had some military experience with the 16th Regiment.

Alexander left Canada on the 18th of October, 1916, and arrived in England on the 28th of October, 1918. He was sent overseas with the 155th but was transferred to the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles (CMR). Alexander arrived in France on the 29th of November, 1916. He was sent to the Field on the 6th of December, 1916.

In April, 1917, he served as a courier. That May, he contracted influenza (due to infection and exposure) and was sent back to England. He recovered slowly. He returned to the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles in October, 1917 and was then transferred to the 8th Reserve Battalion. Then he went back to the CMR.

In March, 1918, he was transferred to the 3rd Canadian Division. In June of that year he was suffering from rheumatism, pleurisy, and myalgia. His medical report states that he “had Influenza in May 1917 and since then he states he has felt weak and not himself”. It was reported that he suffered “Attacks of pain in back, legs, shoulder, arms & neck. Attacks come on in wet weather and last 3 or 4 days. Never free from pain somewhere. Can walk about 2 miles when his legs would begin to pain him and knees become sore and weak. Feet occasionally swell on removal of boots at night. Pain keeps him awake at nights. Appetite fair.” The doctors also diagnosed “moderate thickening of arteries.” He was found to be “medically unfit for service in France”.

He had served in France for 18 months with the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles (C.S.) C.E.F. Alexander “was with unit in attack at Vimy Ridge”.

Alexander was discharged on the 16th of November, 1918. His character and conduct were described as "Very good."

Before the war, Alexander Bardy married Margaret Brant on the 24th of November, 1892 [*Tyendinaga Parish Church Record*]. They had several children: Louie Sherman, Harty Percy, Lottie May, Richard, Herbert Garfield, Francis Gibson, Alexander Jr., Calvin, Delbert Gurnett and Dorothy Dorleen.

Alexander Bardy died on the 4th April, 1950, and was buried on the 7th of April [*Tyendinaga Parish Church Record*]. There is a headstone at Christ Church Cemetery.

His death was not due to his military service. [*LAC Veterans' Death Cards First World War RG150 Accession 1992-3/166 Mikan No. 46114 p.1206*]

Most of the information here is from his military personnel file [*LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 427 - 21*] This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

Frank Bardy

Regimental No. 426204

Served with the 27th Battalion (Winnipeg). Killed in action at Vimy Ridge on the 10th of April, 1917. Named in Vimy War Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

According to both his attestation paper and the 1901 census, Frank was born on the 23rd of March, 1896. His mother was Lydia Hill who later married Thomas Deans. On the 1901 census "Francis" is listed with Peter Bardy Senior and his wife Lydia (nee Doxtator). It is likely that Frank was raised by this couple and took their last name.

Frank volunteered on the 30th of December, 1914, in Estevan, Saskatchewan, for the 46th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). Before the war, he was a labourer.

In July, 1915, he suffered a sprained ankle, likely during training at Camp Sewell. In September, 1915, he arrived in England & he was transferred to the 32nd Reserve Battalion, CEF. The following November he was transferred to the 27th (Winnipeg) Battalion and he was "In the field".

In October of 1916, in France, he was recorded as sick but returned to his unit the same day.

In January, 1917, he was granted 10 days leave. On the 10th of April, 1917, he was killed in France.

According to the LAC Circumstance of Death Registers, Frank Bardy was "Killed in Action" "During an attack on the enemy's position, this soldier was killed by a shell fire" 10th April 1917. The location of his unit at the time of casualty was Vimy Ridge. [*LAC Circumstances of Death Register, World War One, Microform 31829_B016715 pp. 1041-2*]

Frank died on the second day of the offensive to take Vimy Ridge. His name is listed at the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

He was eligible for the 1914-15 Star, which was a campaign medal, the Victory Medal, and the British War Medal.

In Pierre Burton's book on Vimy, he states that that 27th Battalion, which Frank was assigned to, was the reserve battalion for the reserve brigade called "the Iron 6th" [p.198]. That brigade was part of the 2nd Canadian Division in the Battle for Vimy Ridge in April, 1917[p.311]. (See *Vimy*, by Pierre Burton, McClelland and Stewart, 1986)

Most of the information here is from his military personnel file [*LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 427 - 22*] This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.



Frank Bardy's name on the Vimy Memorial.
(See photo at left courtesy of Karen Lewis, March, 2017.)

Cornelius "Con" Barnhart

Regimental No. 7711

Served with the 2nd Battalion. Wounded at Vimy Ridge on the 9th of April, 1917.

Con was the son of Charles & Susan (Maracle) Barnhart. According to the 1901 census, he was born on the 15th of September, 1887, but he gave his date of birth as the 18th of September, 1888, on his attestation paper.

Con volunteered on the 22nd of September, 1914, at Valcartier, Quebec. It is reported that Con first signed up in August, 1914 in Picton, but was redirected to Valcartier, Quebec, signing with the 2nd Battalion in September, 1914. He was a carpenter before the war.

In April, 1915, he was stationed at Rouen, France. In June, 1915, he suffered slight gunshot wounds to his finger and right hand. He returned to the trenches in August and the wound was found to be accidentally self-inflicted.

In January of 1916, he suffered gastroenteritis. In February and March of 1916, he suffered bronchitis. In April of that year he suffered a shrapnel wound to the 3rd finger of right hand. The finger was amputated at the "metacarpo phalangeal joint" in hospital in France. In July, 1916, he suffered a gunshot wound to his right hand.

In January of 1917, he was charged with the following: "When on active service, conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline in that he used improper language to his superior officer...". He was convicted and sentenced to 90 days.

At Vimy Ridge, on the 9th of April, 1917, he was wounded and then hospitalized on the 14th of April, 1917, in France. He suffered a Shrapnel/Shell wound to right foot. This took some time to heal.

In November, 1918, he was submitted to the No. 12 Canadian General Hospital. He entered the hospital with a diagnosis of influenza & bronchitis. He was suffering from headache, severe pain in legs, a fever, and was unable to keep food down. He had a fever for 4 days then a nearly normal temperature for 9 days. His temperature gave a sudden rise to 105 degrees. A lumbar puncture revealed "turbid fluid under pressure". He suffered convulsive seizures after the lumbar puncture.

Con was unconscious for his final 24 hours. He died at 7:30 pm on the 13th of December, 1918, in the No. 12 Canadian General Hospital in Bramshott, England. One report in his file stated he died of cerebrospinal meningitis.

Penicillin would have saved his life, but it had not been discovered yet.

Con was buried in Bramshott (St Mary) Churchyard, Hampshire, England.

Documents in his military file indicate he was eligible for the 1914-15 Star, which was a campaign medal, the Victory Medal, and the British War Medal.

Most of the information here is from his military personnel file [*LAC RG150, Accession 1992-3/166 Box 454-53*]. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

Richard Brant

Regimental No. 636550

Served with the 2nd Battalion. Killed in action on the 3rd of May, 1917. Named in Vimy War Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Richard was the son of Peter Joe & Debby (Claus) Brant. According to his baptismal record, he was born on the 19th of February, 1877. He stated his date of birth was the 26th of February, 1876 on his attestation paper.

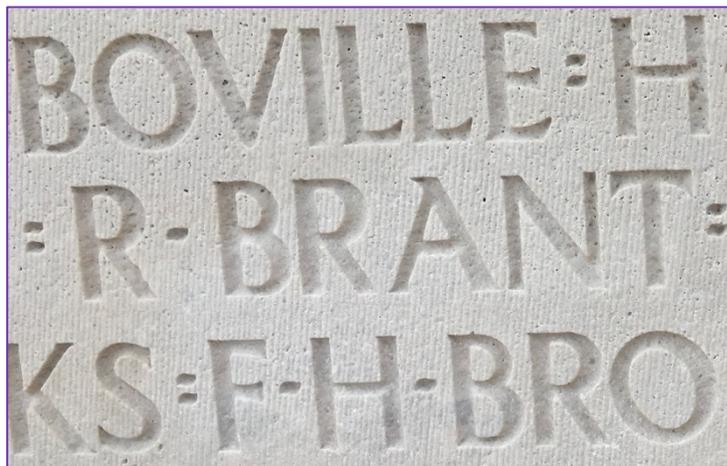
Richard volunteered on the 2nd of February, 1916, in Deseronto, Ontario for the 155th Overseas Battalion. He was a farmer before the war and he had some prior military experience with the 16th Regiment.

Richard left Canada on the 18th of October, 1916, and arrived in England on the 28th of October, 1916.

He was transferred to the 2nd Battalion (Eastern Ontario Regiment), Canadian Infantry, in December of 1916. He arrived in France on the 6th of December, 1916, and was sent to the Field on the 9th of December, 1916.

In January, 1917, Richard was found to be drunk "when on Active Service" and he was sentenced to 14 days Field Punishment "No.1".

Richard was “Killed in Action” on the 3rd of May 1917. [LAC Circumstances of Death Register, World War One, Microform 31829_B016722 p. 290] His name is listed at the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. (See picture at right courtesy of Karen Lewis, March, 2017.)



He was eligible for the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Before the war, Richard Brant married Elizabeth Hill on the 5th of August, 1897 [AO Marriage Registration]. They had no children. They later separated. Richard Brant later married Christine Hill on the 23rd of August, 1906. They had one daughter Annie Sarah.

Most of the information here is from his military personnel file [LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1020 - 17]. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

Cecil Earnest Crawford

Regimental No. 636586

Served with the 21st Battalion. Wounded at Vimy Ridge on the 12th of April, 1917.

Cecil was the son of John & Elizabeth (Sager) Crawford. According to the 1901 census, he was born on the 28th of August, 1891. He was born on the 20th of July, 1891, according to his attestation paper.

Cecil volunteered on the 7th of February, 1916, in Bancroft, Ontario for the 155th Overseas Battalion. He left Canada on the 18th of October, 1916, and arrived in England on the 28th. Some records say he was a labourer before the war, others say he was a miner. He had no previous military experience.

In December, 1916, he was transferred to the 21st Battalion and was sent to the Field.

On the 12th of April, 1917, at Vimy Ridge, he suffered multiple gunshot wounds to the hips, right knee, and his left arm and shoulder. He was sent back to England and attended a convalescing hospital from July to October, 1917.

Cecil's wounds were described as: "Two wounds on rt thigh others rt bullock requiring dressing. Can't flex at knee completely. There are three scars on back of rt. knee causing slight stiff knee In October he was transferred to the Eastern Ontario Regimental Depot and then to the Canadian Convalescent Depot."

In October, 1917, it was reported that the wounds had healed except one on the left thigh. His knee was still stiff and there was weakness in the whole right leg. It was not able to take his body weight. He was walking with a limp and was not able to march. Cecil left England for Canada on the 6th of November, 1917. He was discharged as "being medically unfit for further service" on the 20th of February, 1918. His conduct and character were reported to be "Good".

On the 24th of April, 1918, Cecil suffered sharp pains in his right hip and a temperature. On the 4th of May, 1918, he was admitted to Queen's Military Hospital due to an abscess in his right hip. That September, a medical report stated that Cecil was "unable to bend over or do much walking, unable to left heavy weights". He had limited movement in the right knee. It was also reported that he suffered from a "Pocket of pus formed in legs and was open curretted (scraped)." This wound was drained, syringed, and the dressing changed twice a day. He was discharged from the hospital on the 11th of September, 1918.

Before the war, Cecil Earnest Crawford married Hattie Mathilda Hennessy on the 23rd of December, 1914 [*AO Marriage Registration*]. They had several children including; Eleanor, Dora, Lorraine, Vena and Leone. According to "The Hennessys of the Bay of Quinte" by Peter Hennessy, Cecil carried shrapnel pieces in his hip all his life.

In the 1930s Cecil moved to Deseronto where he was a constable. He divorced in the 1940s and then married Mabel Little, who died in 1967. Cecil died in 1975 and was buried at Egan Creek Cemetery at Deltor, Hastings County. [*This information is courtesy of Irene Tiffe*]

Most of the information here is from his military personnel file [*LAC RG150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 2118 - 48*]. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

George Mark Maracle (who served as George Mark Hill)

Regimental No. 649015

Served with 1st Battalion. Killed in action in "trenches in vicinity of Bois De La Ville", part of the Battle of Vimy Ridge on the 12th of April 1917. Named on the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

George Mark was the son of Albert & Annie (Hill) Maracle. According to the 1901 census, he was born on the 10th of February, 1891. He stated his date of birth was the 10th of July, 1895 on his attestation paper.

He volunteered on the 12th of February, 1916, Coldwater, Ontario for the 157th Overseas Battalion.

George Mark left Canada on the 17th of October, 1916, and arrived in England on the 28th of October, 1916. He was transferred to the 1st Battalion (Western Ontario Regiment) in November, 1916. He left for France on the 29th of November, 1916, and joined his unit in the Field on the 2nd of December, 1916.

George Mark died on the 12th of April, 1917, as part of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. He was reported "Killed in Action" in France in the "Trenches in vicinity of Bois de la Ville". [*LAC Circumstances of Death Register, World War One, Microform 31829_B034748 p. 512*]

Most of the information here is from his military personnel file [*LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 4350 - 49*] This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

Philip Maracle

Regimental No. 219361

Served with the 44th Battalion. On the 10th of May, 1917, wounded in the field, “trenches west of La Coulotte”, & reported missing, later presumed dead. Named at the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Philip was the son of Wm Ed. & Julia (Williams) Maracle. According to the 1901 census, he was born on the 2nd of August, 1893. On his attestation paper, his birthdate is stated to be the 3rd of August, 1893.

He volunteered on the 6th of September, 1915, in Belleville, Ontario, for the 80th Overseas Battalion. From his military personnel file we learn that before the war he was a carpenter and he had the military experience from one camp of the 49th Regiment.

Philip left Canada on the 16th of May, 1916, and arrived in England on the 29th of May, 1916. He was transferred to the 74th Battalion in June, 1916. And later was transferred to the 51st Battalion.

After moving around within Battalions in Canada, Philip proceeded overseas with the 44th Battalion at the end of December, 1916. He arrived in France and was sent into the Field.

In January, 1917, he suffered from influenza and was sent to the Base Depot. In February, 1917, he rejoined his unit in the Field. He was punished for being absent without leave from 2:00pm to 9:25pm on the 4th of February, 1917. He was also punished for being improperly dressed. In March, 1917, he worked within the 44th Battalion as a carpenter. Sometime in early May he returned to front line duty with the 44th Battalion.

On the 10th of May he was wounded in the Field. He was then reported as “Wounded and Missing” after action. In March, 1918, he was presumed to have died on or since the 10th of May, 1917.

The LAC “Circumstances of Death Registers” account the following; “Previously reported Wounded and Missing, now for official purposes presumed to have died” “Location: TRENCHES WEST OF LA COULOTTE” [LAC Circumstances of Death Register, World War One, Microform 31829_B016753 pp.122-3]

His name is listed at the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Before the war, Philip Maracle married Bertha Brant on the 16th of November, 1910 [*AO Marriage Registration*]. They had three children but only one, Leo Sydney, lived to adulthood.

Philip was eligible for the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

Most of the information here is from his military personnel file [*LAC RG150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 5910 - 18*]. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

Wheeler Maracle

Regimental No. 220513

Served with the 50th Battalion. On the 3rd of February, 1917, reported missing, believed killed in “attack north of Souchez”. Named at the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Wheeler was the son of Daniel & Ann (Brant) Maracle. According to the 1901 census, he was born on the 1st of April, 1896. According to his attestation paper he was born on the 1st of April, 1897.

He volunteered on the 8th March 1916 in Napanee, Ontario, for the 80th Overseas Battalion. He was a farmer before the war and had no prior military experience.

Wheeler left Canada on the 16th of May, 1916, and arrived in England on the 29th of May, 1916.

He was admitted to the hospital in June, 1916, with tonsillitis. Both tonsils were infected which led to a high fever. He was transferred to the 50th Battalion (Provisional Battalion) in September, 1916. He was sent to join his unit in the Field in December, 1916. On the 23rd of December, 1916, he was attached to the 176th Tunnelling Company for a week.

On the 6th of January, 1917, he was sent on a Grenade Course. He returned to his unit on the 13th of January, 1917. He was reported “Missing believed killed” on the 3rd of February, 1917. On the 4th of October, 1917, he was presumed to have died on or since the 3rd of February, 1917, “for official purposes”.

“Previously reported Missing, believed Killed, now for official purposes presumed to have died” “Location: ATTACK NORTH OF SOUCHEZ” [LAC Circumstances of Death Register, World War One, Microform 31829_B016753 p. 124]

Wheeler’s name is listed at the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

He was eligible for the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

Most of the information here is from his military personnel file [LAC RG150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 5910 - 24]. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

William Pinn

Regimental No. 637077

Served with the 2nd Battalion. Killed in Action on the 3rd of May 1917 during “attack at Fresnoy”. Named at the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

William was the son of John & Christine (Hill) Pinn. He was born on the 11th of August, 1895, according to his baptismal record. According to his attestation paper, he was born on the 12th of August, 1896.

He volunteered on the 19th of April, 1916, in Belleville, Ontario, for the 155th Overseas Battalion. From his military personnel file we learn that before the war he was a farmer. He had one year’s experience with the 49th Regiment.

William suffered a bout of pneumonia in April, 1916, but made a full recovery. In September, 1916, he was disciplined for being absent without leave and “wearing civilian clothes”.

He left Canada on the 18th of October, 1916, and arrived in England on the 28th of October, 1916. He was transferred to the 2nd Battalion (Eastern Ontario Regiment) and arrived in France in December, 1916. He was sent to the Field on the 9th of December, 1916.

William was killed in action on the 3rd of May, 1917. In the LAC “Circumstances of Death Registers” it reported the following; “Killed in Action” “Location: ATTACK AT FRESNOY.” [LAC Circumstances of Death Register, World War One, Microform 31829_B016710 p.570]

His name is listed at the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Most of the information here is from his military personnel file [LAC RG150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 8038 - 14]. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

Harold Smart

Regimental No. 412306

Served with the 25th Battalion. Killed in Action on the 29th of September, 1916, possibly as part of the Battle of the Somme. Named at the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

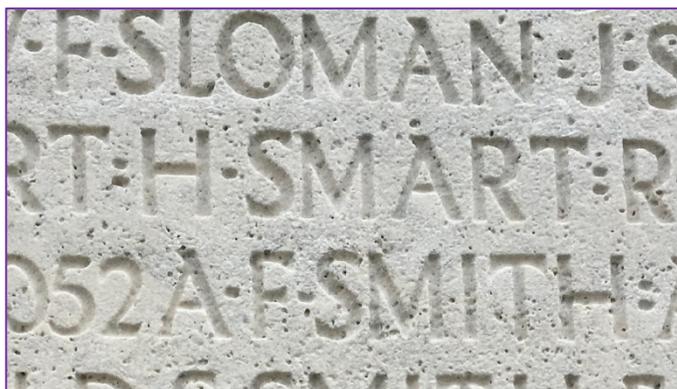
Harold was the son of Henry & Julia (Moses) Smart. He was born on the 26th of April, 1893. Both his baptismal record and his attestation paper agree.

He volunteered on the 25th of February, 1915, in Belleville, Ontario, for the 39th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. From his military personnel file we learn that before the war he was a labourer. He had 6 years of military experience as a volunteer with the 49th Regiment.

Harold arrived in England on the 3rd of March, 1915. He was transferred to the 25th Battalion (the Nova Scotia Rifles) in October, 1915. He proceeded to France on the 2nd of November, 1915.

He was killed in action in the Field on the 29th of September, 1916. Harold was “Eligible for 14/15 Star”; “P & S Memorial”

His name is listed at the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. (See picture to the right, courtesy of Karen Lewis, March, 2017.)



Most of the information here is from his military personnel file [LAC RG150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 8994 - 28]. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

Vimy Memorial, Pas De Calais, France. Photo courtesy of Karen Lewis, March, 2017.

