

MBQ and Vimy Ridge

Vimy Ridge and the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte

In our research so far on MBQ veterans of World War 1, we have identified fifteen community men clearly connected with Vimy Ridge, both the Battle and the place of such significance in the Great War:

Alexander Bardy

Frank Bardy

Cornelius "Con" Barnhart

Isaac Barnhart

Hugh Brant,

Richard Brant

William Brant (who served as

William Sero)

Cecil Earnest Crawford

George Mark Maracle (who served as
George Mark Hill)

Philip Maracle

Wheeler Maracle

Norman Albert Miller

William Pinn

Harold Smart

Joseph Laheed Smart

Of all those who fought at the Battle of Vimy Ridge, some were wounded there and some died there. Others are named at the Vimy Memorial as they were killed in action and their remains were not found. Still others were wounded, not at the Battle itself, but in the Vimy area before or after the Battle.

In the coming months we will commemorate this battle of consequence and acknowledge those from our community that contributed so much to a critical advance in World War 1.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge

The ridge itself is located northeast of Arras, France, on the western edge of the Douai Plains. It was of key military importance because of unobstructed views in all directions.

Others of the Allied forces had tried to take this ridge from fortified German forces, but in April, 1917, it was the Canadian Corps made up of 4 divisions, 100,000 men strong in 49 Battalions, executing a well-planned assault under a 'creeping barrage' of artillery fire, that captured the ridge.

The battle took place from the 9th to the 12th of April, 1917. It was the first time that the four divisions of the Canadian Corps, a group of soldiers drawn from the Canadian Expeditionary Force, participated in a battle together.

According to Heather Moran in her 2007 work, “The Canadian Army Medical Corps at Vimy Ridge”, in a book titled *Vimy Ridge: A Canadian Reassessment*ⁱ, when the battle was over on the night of the 12th of April, 1917, 3,598 had been killed and 7,004 wounded.

The Vimy Memorial



The Vimy Memorial stands at the highest point on the ridge. On top and at the centre of the front wall of the memorial is the figure of a young woman. She is called “*Canada Bereft*” or “*Mother Canada*”. The inscription says:

This sorrowing figure of a woman represents Canada—a young nation mourning her dead.

The memorial also lists 11,285 names of soldiers from Canada killed in France whose final resting places were unknown in 1936.

To the valour of their Countrymen in the Great War and in memory of their sixty thousand dead this monument is raised by the people of Canada



Do you know of anyone who was at the Battle of Vimy Ridge or has a connection to Vimy? We would love to hear from you! Please contact Amy Cowie at MBQ Research, 613.396.3424 ext. 115 or amyc@mbq-tmt.org.

Look for more Vimy Ridge info as the centennial approaches in April!

ⁱ Bechthold, Mike; Hayes, Geoffrey; Iarocci, Andrew (eds). “The Canadian Army Medical Corps at Vimy Ridge” *Vimy Ridge: A Canadian Reassessment*. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press. 2007