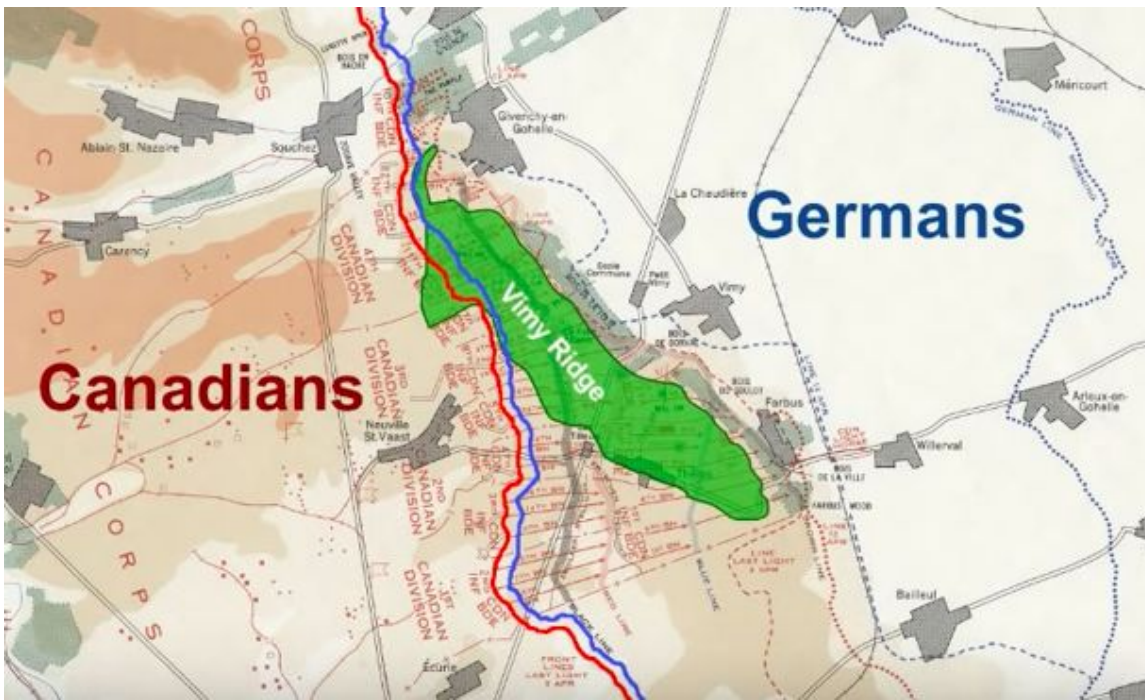




# The Battle of Vimy Ridge

Zarija, Ben, Emma, Lachlan



Vimy Ridge is located in northern France, about 175 kilometres north of Paris. It is a long, high hill that dominates the landscape. Germany captured Vimy Ridge early in the war and transformed it into a strong defensive position.



# Location



Z



# Significant Events

- Battle of Vimy Ridge is considered by many historians to be one of the most profound ones and a defining moment in Canadian history.
- It was the battle in which caused the tension to start WWI. In addition, Vimy Ridge was the start of multiple victories against the Germans until the end of the war.
- The British and Canadian army moved steadily toward the Germans.
- First attack was 20,000 soldiers, each carried 32 kg. of equipment
- There were many Canadian losses due to strategic placing of German machine-guns.
- Overcoming this, three of the four divisions captured their part of the Ridge by midday, right on schedule.
- In the final stage, the 2nd Canadian Division was assisted by the British. Then the entire Ridge was captured.
- The meticulous planning and rehearsing of the Canadian troops pays off and their reputation as the most effective fighting machine of the Western Front, Canada itself, is sealed.

# Battle Events- Detailed Timeline

- October 1916: Canadians start to arrive on the Vimy sector from the Somme battlefields.
- December 1916: All four Canadian divisions are together at the same time, with a total of 100,000 men. For the rest of 1916 to early 1917, the Canadians settle into the front line. Here, they start the plan their attack.
- March 1, 1917: The 4th division launches largest raid against Germans between Pimple and Hill 145. This has devastating effects towards both sides.
- April 9, 1917: The battle of all four divisions begins.
  - 1st and 2nd division attack Thelus, Germany's main trench. The front lines fall quickly with minimal damage to the Canadians. By the end of the day, Division 1 and 2 objectives were achieved.
  - 3rd division attack 1.2km opposite of Thelus, in a La Folle Wood. Objective is to reach eastern slope of Vimy ridge.
- April 10, 1917: 4th division attacks remaining German positions on the ridge east of Hill 145 and quickly captures them. Vimy Ridge is now in Canadian hands.
- April 12, 1917: 4th division attacks the Pimple and was captured quickly. This concluded the battle in which resulted in a Canadian allied victory.

# Reasons for Success

E

- The reason for Canada's success was the preparation before the attack. Canada troops formed allies, aerial scouting, night raids, and using maps to plan each and every attack. By using maps, it allowed about 83% of the German machine gun lineups to be illuminated.
- British Lieutenant-General Sir Julian Byng created a full scale replica of the area where troops rehearsed attack patterns.
- Before attacking, **sappers** (military engineers) dug trenches which allowed attack from in front, behind and below the ridge. They stayed in these dug outs because the battle was mainly from these trenches.
- When the Ridge had been captured, the Canadian and British troops took over the German machine-gun lines and then took time to learn how to use them. In which they used these new weapons for other attacks.
- The meticulous planning and rehearsing of the Canadian troops pays off and their reputation as the most effective fighting machine of the Western Front.

# B Significance of the Battle

- The capture of Vimy Ridge by the Canadians was essential to the advances then made by the British Third Army. It was also exceptionally important to checking the German attacks in the area in 1918.
- Vimy Ridge was the beginning of one success after another for the Canadian Corps. They were crowned for their achievement in the 1918 "Advance to Victory". This won Canada a separate signature on the Versailles Peace Treaty ending the war.
- At Vimy the Canadian Corps captured more ground, more prisoners, and more guns than any previous British offensive in two and a half years of war.
- Vimy demonstrated that the Canadians were one of the most outstanding formations on the Western Front.
- The Canadian success marked a profound turning point for the Allies as 1.5 years later the "Great War" was over.



B

# Highlight of Canada's contribution

- Their victory was the first major step from Canada being just another British colony to becoming an equal member of the British Commonwealth
- Winning this battle was extremely significant in terms of Canada's confidence. Brigadier General Alexander Ross quoted: "... I thought then... that in those few minutes I witnessed the birth of a nation."
- This showed that Canada had established themselves as self-sufficient country and not only being a part of the British Empire

B

# Cost

- The Battle of Vimy Ridge would prove a great success, but it would come at great cost.
- The 100,000 Canadians who fought there suffered approximately 11,000 casualties, nearly 3,600 of them fatal.
- By the end of the First World War, Canada, a country of less than eight million citizens, would have more than 650,000 servicemen. The conflict took a huge toll with more than 66,000 Canadians losing their lives and 170,000 being wounded.
- There are also 11,285 Canadian soldiers “missing presumed dead” as a result of this battle.



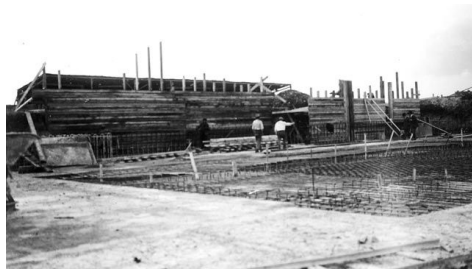
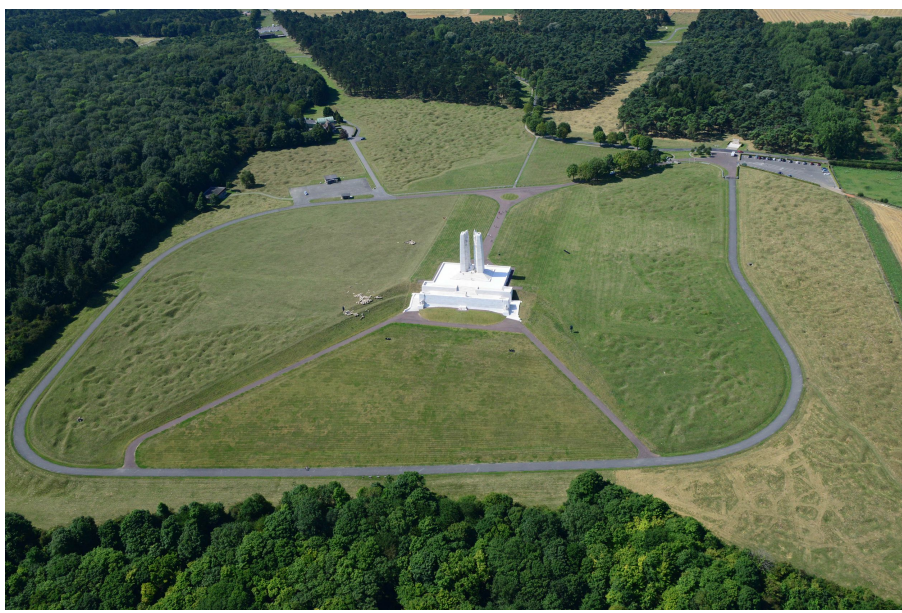
# Alec W Jack

Vimy ridge is one of the greatest Canadian military achievements of all time. Many people do not understand the dedication and sacrifice that the soldiers gave up for our freedom today. My great great grandfather Alec W Jack fought at Vimy ridge in 1915 all the way to the capture of the ridge. He was a reserve officer at the commencement of the battle but by the end of the battle of Vimy Ridge he was upgraded to captain. On a scouting mission one of Alec's men was shot and Alec bravely dragged him across no man's land back to the safety of their trench. He was awarded the military cross for his actions which is the third highest military medal in the commonwealth empire. He would have received the Victoria cross but there would have to have been three officers that observed his bravery but he was the only one left.



# Vimy Ridge Monument

- Located in northern France, and can be visited at any time.
- It's on 117 hectares of land and is the largest Canadian memorial sites.
- The Canadian National Vimy Memorial not only marks the site of Canada's most significant First World War engagement, it also stands as a tribute to all Canadians who served during the First World War, particularly those killed in France whose final resting place was unknown.
- The names of the 11,285 Canadian who lost their lives in France and who had no known grave are recorded on the monument base.
- The Memorial stands on Hill 145, the scene of some of the fiercest fighting during the Battle of Vimy Ridge .
- This year is the 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge. You can register to attend the ceremony in Ottawa on February 28, 2017.



Z

# Interactive Element

Kahoot:

<https://create.kahoot.it/#user/821334b9-5f45-47d4-81b7-e079b37385bd/kahoots/created>

Informative Youtube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vv8cL4HYid4>

# Sources

- <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/first-world-war/factsheets/vimy>
- <http://www.canadashistory.ca/History-Awards/Student-Award/Winning-Essays/Ashley-Nielsen-British-Columbia>
- <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/vimy-ridge/>
- <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/firstworldwar/france/vimy/battle>
- <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/overseas/first-world-war/france/vimy/battle>
- <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/overseas/first-world-war/france/vimy>

