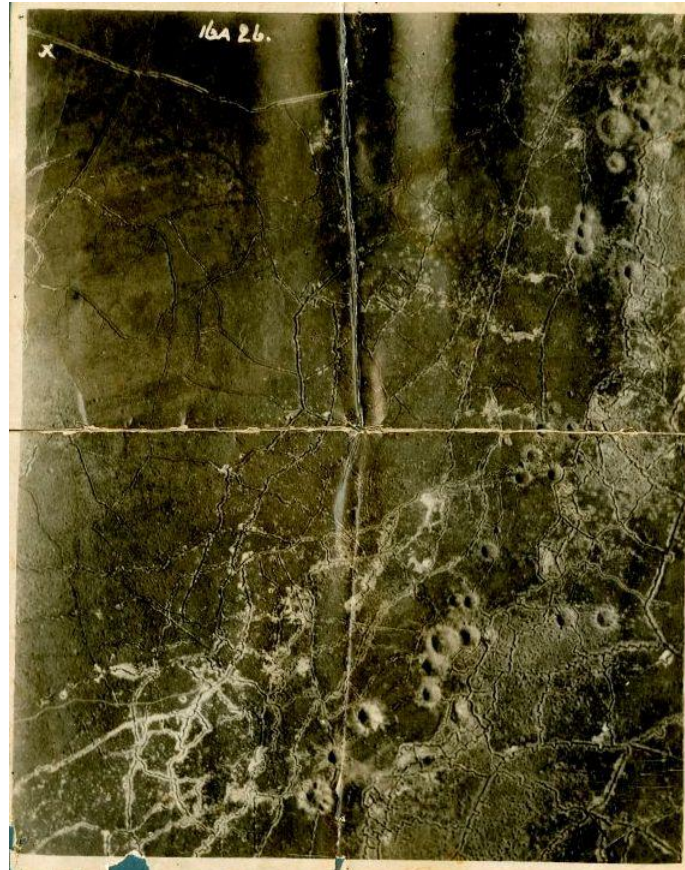


The Battle of Vimy Ridge Resources: Photographs



Blasted View of Vimy Ridge

This aerial photograph illustrates the major trench lines around an unknown sector on Vimy Ridge. The large craters, some ten to 15 metres deep, were made from mine explosions set off by Canadian engineers prior to and during the assault of 9 April 1917. Mines could create great confusion and blow huge gaps in an enemy's defences, but they were also significant obstacles for advancing troops.

George Metcalf Archival Collection

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The Battle of Vimy Ridge Resources: Photographs



Tank at Vimy

British tank crossing German trench at Vimy Ridge. All eight of the tanks available to the Canadians at Vimy broke down or were knocked out by enemy fire. The slow-moving tanks were nevertheless useful in crushing barbed wire, terrifying the enemy, and supporting the infantry.

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The Battle of Vimy Ridge
Resources: Photographs



Beyond Vimy, the Douai Plain

This photograph, taken after the capture of Vimy Ridge, looks east over the Douai Plain. The vantage point occupied by the soldiers in the foreground demonstrates the strategic importance of Vimy Ridge – its height.

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The Battle of Vimy Ridge
Resources: Photographs



Canadians Advance

Canadians of the 29th Infantry Battalion advance across No Man's Land through the German barbed wire during the battle of Vimy Ridge, April 1917. Most soldiers are armed with their Lee Enfield rifles, but the soldier in the middle carries a Lewis machine-gun on his shoulder.

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The Battle of Vimy Ridge
Resources: Photographs



Vimy Fortifications

A German machine-gun emplacement of reinforced concrete on the crest of Vimy Ridge, and the Canadians who seized it.

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The Battle of Vimy Ridge
Resources: Photographs



Removing Casualties

Canadian medical officers (with the Red Cross emblems on the soldiers at right and to the left rear of the photo) use German prisoners to help transport Canadian wounded from Vimy Ridge, April 1917. They use a two-tiered carrier, pulled along a light railway line leading from the front.

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The Battle of Vimy Ridge Resources: Photographs



Prisoners of War

The Canadians captured more than 4,000 Germans during the Battle of Vimy Ridge. In this photograph, the soldiers in the soft caps are German officers, and perhaps senior enough to warrant the attention of the official Canadian photographer.

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The Battle of Vimy Ridge
Resources: Photographs



Artillery Support

In this striking nighttime photograph taken behind Canadian lines at Vimy Ridge, a British naval gun fires in support of the Canadian attack. Approximately 1,000 Allied guns and mortars pounded the ridge prior to the assault, a period called by the German defenders the “week of suffering.”

George Metcalf Archival Collection

CWM 19920085-215

The Battle of Vimy Ridge
Resources: Photographs



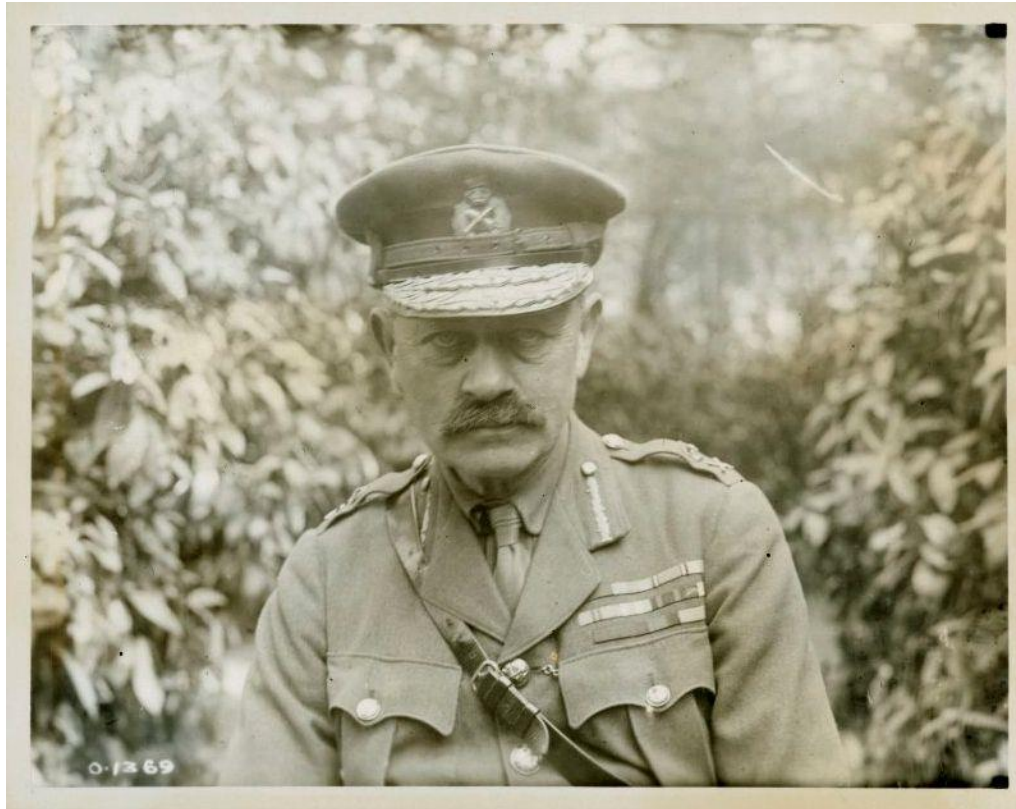
Byng Inspecting Captured Gun

Lieutenant-General Sir Julian Byng and an unknown French officer inspect German guns captured at Vimy Ridge. During the four-day battle from 9 to 12 April 1917, the Canadians captured 54 guns, 104 trench mortars, and 124 machine-guns.

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The Battle of Vimy Ridge Resources: Photographs



Byng of Vimy

Lieutenant-General Sir Julian Byng commanded the Canadian Corps on the Western Front from May 1916 to June 1917. He forged the Canadians into an elite fighting formation, leading them through the battles of Mount Sorrel, the Somme, and Vimy Ridge. His Canadian troops called themselves the “Byng Boys,” a testament to their commander’s popularity. This photograph, from April 1917, reveals a tired and haggard Byng who, like so many, was aged by the war.

George Metcalf Archival Collection

CWM 19920085-262

The Battle of Vimy Ridge
Resources: Photographs



Canadian Cemetery at Vimy

Aerial view of the Canadian cemetery near Vimy Ridge. The Battle of Vimy Ridge, a significant victory in April 1917, resulted in the deaths of 3,598 Canadians.

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**The Battle of Vimy Ridge
Resources: Photographs**



Vimy Dedication

Flags are hoisted in preparation for the dedication of the Memorial at Vimy Ridge. The 26 July 1936 unveiling was attended by 100,000, including 6,000 Canadian veterans. The two pillars represent France and Canada. The lone sculpture represents Canada mourning her fallen sons.

George Metcalf Archival Collection

CWM 19810859-009

The Battle of Vimy Ridge
Resources: Photographs



Vimy Pilgrims

A massive crowd gathers to watch the unveiling of the Vimy Ridge Memorial on 26 July 1936. The two soaring pylons represent Canada and France. Twenty other sculpted figures adorn the structure.

George Metcalf Archival Collection

CWM 19910181-036

The Battle of Vimy Ridge
Resources: Photographs



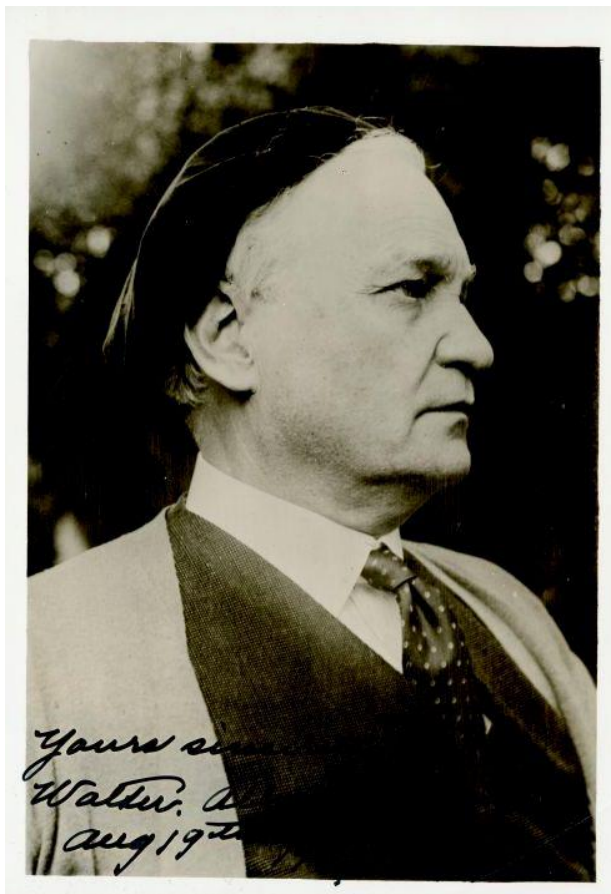
A Canadian Grave

A Canadian soldier tends to the informal grave of a comrade killed in action near Vimy Ridge, April 1917.

George Metcalf Archival Collection

CWM 19920085-400

The Battle of Vimy Ridge
Resources: Photographs



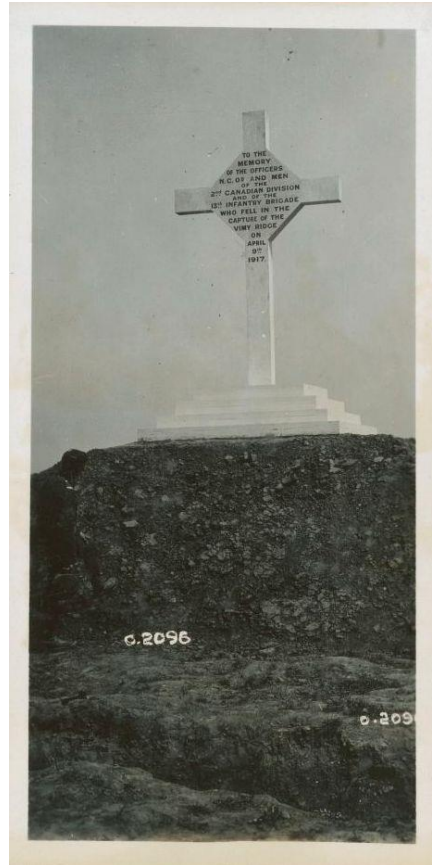
Walter Allward

An autographed portrait of Walter Allward, sculptor and designer of the Vimy Ridge Memorial. Allward's design was chosen from among 160 entries in a national competition held in 1921.

George Metcalf Archival Collection

CWM 19900066-001

The Battle of Vimy Ridge Resources: Photographs



Early Memorial

An early memorial at Vimy Ridge in October 1917 honours the 2nd Canadian Division and the 13th British Infantry Brigade that fought together during the battle. Memorials were often erected by units and formations after major battles.

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CWM 19930013-362