

The Battle of the Somme

Resources: Primary Source Materials

In proud and ever-loving memory of the following officers, non-commissioned officers and men, 38th Canadian Infantry Battalion (Ottawa Regiment) killed in the attack on Desire Trench and Grand Court on the Somme, France, November, 18th, 1916.

Captain	A.A.Sears.	Pte.	Greenwood, L.
Lieut.	R.E.Greene	Pte.	Guilmet, W.
Lieut.	W.G.Lumsden	Pte.	Hayes, J.P.
Lieut.	R.H.Parker	Pte.	Hearns, D.
Lieut.	E.T.Leslie	Pte.	Hobbs, G.A.
Sgt.	Flynn, A.H.T.	Pte.	Jeffrey, R.C.
Sgt.	Maloney, J.C.	Pte.	Kelly, A.T.
Sgt.	Newport, A.	Pte.	Kennedy, E.
Sgt.	Pinhey, C.H.	Pte.	Kneller, T.C.
Sgt.	Taylor, H.C.	Pte.	LaBelle, J.
Sgt.	Wilson, G.	Pte.	Lachance, N.J.
Sgt.	Tierney, A.E.	Pte.	Laverty, A.
Cpl.	Atkinson, A.W.	Pte.	Lawrence, E.C.
Cpl.	Donaldson, J.	Pte.	Lazarus, M.
Cpl.	Lambie, J.R.	Pte.	Lee, J.
Cpl.	Smith, E.S.H.	Pte.	Lee, W.C.
Cpl.	Stewart, F.A.	Pte.	Levesare, J.B.
Cpl.	Young, R.W.	Pte.	Lynch, J.P.
L/Cpl.	Colman, C.E.	Pte.	Mills, F.H.
L/Cpl.	Crooks, H.D.	Pte.	Mitchell, W.
L/Cpl.	Lewis, C.W.	Pte.	Morreau, T.
L/Cpl.	O'Neill, T.J.	Pte.	Murphy, J.H.
L/Cpl.	Reynolds, G.H.C.	Pte.	Myers, B.
Pte.	Airey, F.C.	Pte.	MacMillan, D.A.
Pte.	Anderson, C.	Pte.	McDonald, D.
Pte.	Augus, J.	Pte.	McKay, H.
Pte.	Arnold, N.	Pte.	McKenzie, J.A.
Pte.	Ashley, G.H.	Pte.	McLennan, A.E.
Pte.	Ball, T.	Pte.	McRae, J.
Pte.	Ball, H.F.	Pte.	O'Neill, C.J.
Pte.	Barber, F.	Pte.	Osborne, G.F.
Pte.	Barchier, J.	Pte.	Pescod, C.
Pte.	Beedell, H.	Pte.	Porteous, G.M.
Pte.	Bertram, J.	Pte.	Paynter, H.G.
Pte.	Bertrand, J.	Pte.	Paynter, A.G.
Pte.	Bleay, F.	Pte.	Quinn, R.
Pte.	Boyes, P.J.	Pte.	Roberts, F.W.
Pte.	Bristow, P.	Pte.	Roll, J.G.
Pte.	Brockenshire, J.C.	Pte.	Rothwell, J.F.
Pte.	Brown, D.	Pte.	Scott, F.
Pte.	Brown, H.	Pte.	Scott, W.
Pte.	Bromley, J.	Pte.	Scott, W.H.
Pte.	Chambers, T.	Pte.	Sherman, H.
Pte.	Constable, H.	Pte.	Sikorski, F.
Pte.	Cooper, J.	Pte.	Skahan, E.J.
Pte.	Cobey, C.H.	Pte.	Smith, H.
Pte.	Craig, D.	Pte.	Smith, A.
Pte.	Craig, W.E.	Pte.	Stokes, G.J.
Pte.	Dolphán, C.	Pte.	Spratt, W.J.
Pte.	Doughty, J.H.	Pte.	Travers, H.F.
Pte.	Dumas, J.L.	Pte.	Truscott, A.
Pte.	Dwyer, J.J.	Pte.	Wardhough, E.
Pte.	East, D.J.	Pte.	Watkin, H.T.
Pte.	Filmore, H.H.	Pte.	Whitt, A.
Pte.	Fletcher, O.O.		
Pte.	Fraser, F.G.		
Pte.	Fraser, T.		
Pte.	Frederick, M.		
Pte.	Gagnon, F.J.		
Pte.	Gagon, L.		
Pte.	Gaolvitch, A.		
Pte.	Garret, C.M.		
Pte.	Glossop, E.		

118

Killed In Action

List of the 118 soldiers killed in action with the 38th Battalion, a unit raised in Ottawa, during the attack on Desire Trench and Grandcourt on the Somme, 18 November 1916.

George Metcalf Archival Collection CWM 19710067-009

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Opening of the Somme Bombardment

The start of the Somme bombardment as seen from a roadside gun battery, 24 June 1916. The bombardment lasted a week and was intended to obliterate German defences and defenders. The artist, William Topham, depicts high explosive shells and white shrapnel bursts over the enemy lines, and provides a detailed description of his location. At this stage in the bombardment, the terrain, consisting mostly of farmers' fields, remains relatively unscathed.

Opening of the Somme Bombardment

Painted by William Thurston Topham

Beaverbrook Collection of War Art

CWM 19710261-0728

The Battle of the Somme
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The Battle of the Somme

On the horizon of this print, clouds of smoke and earth are sent into the air during the opening barrage of the Battle of the Somme in 1916. The aircraft whirling above the battlefield are likely tracking the fall of artillery shells amidst the bombardment.

The Battle of the Somme

Print by Sir David Muirhead Bone
Beaverbrook Collection of War Art

CWM 19660100-004

The Battle of the Somme

Resources: Primary Source Materials



British Tank in Action

The British used tanks for the first time during the Battle of the Somme on 15 September 1916. Although they did not prove to be war-winning weapons, as some of their advocates had promised, tanks supported the infantry by clearing barbed wire and overcoming fixed defences. The tank and accompanying infantry, who are not presented to scale, have crashed through a German artillery position. Tanks in 1916 rarely penetrated this deeply into German lines, although this was more common in the final year of the war.

British Tank in Action

Painted by Daniel Sherrin

Beaverbrook Collection of War Art

CWM 19880154-001

The Battle of the Somme
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Canadian Artillery in Action

A Canadian 6-inch howitzer supports British troops in the attack on Thiepval on 16 July 1916 during the Somme offensive. The artist captures the exhaustion of the gunners, who appear to have been firing for hours. Prolonged exposure to the noise and shock artillery fire would rupture ear drums and ruin hearing. Most gunners suffered at least partial deafness as a result of their war service.

Canadian Artillery in Action

Painted by Captain Kenneth Keith Forbes

Beaverbrook Collection of War Art

CWM 19710261-0142

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The Battle of Courcellette

Like the observer in the tree in the right foreground, painter Louis Weirter witnessed this Somme battle as a soldier. His painting depicts the chaos and complexity of fighting on the Western Front, and the use of combined arms tactics. The capture of the ruined town of Courcellette, France on 15 September 1916 was a significant Canadian victory. It was also the first time tanks (left foreground) were used in battle.

Battle of Courcellette

Painted by Louis Alexander Weirter
Beaverbrook Collection of War Art

CWM 19710261-0788

The Battle of the Somme
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The Capture of the Sugar Refinery at Courcellette by the Canadians on September 15, 1916

Canadian soldiers take cover behind a boiler as they storm the German stronghold at the sugar factory at Courcellette on 15 September 1916. Notice the close-quarters fighting, including the use of rifles, bayonets and hand grenades.

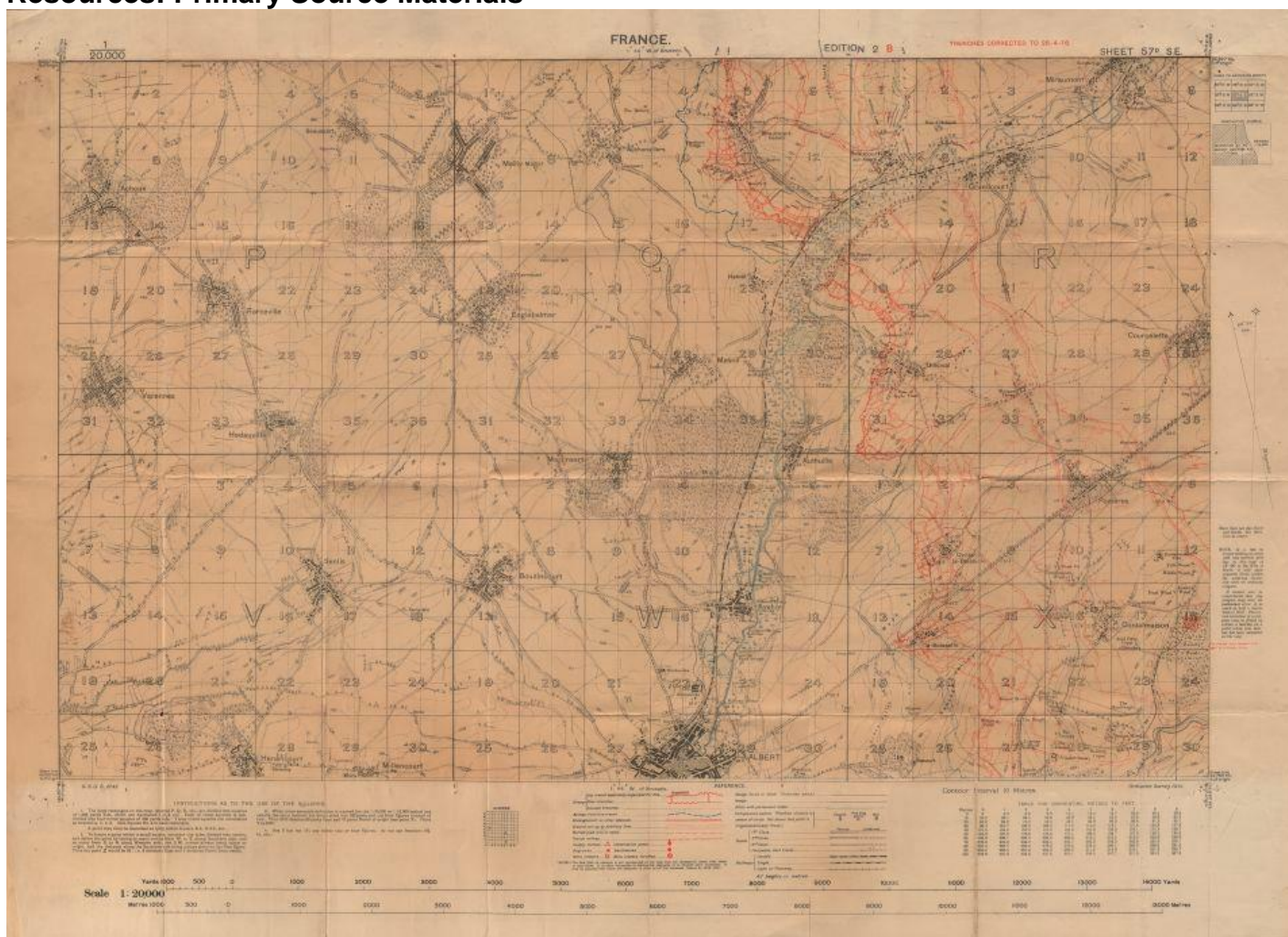
The Capture of the Sugar Refinery at Courcellette by the Canadians on September 15, 1916

Painted by Fortunino Matania

Beaverbrook Collection of War Art

CWM 19870268-001

The Battle of the Somme Resources: Primary Source Materials



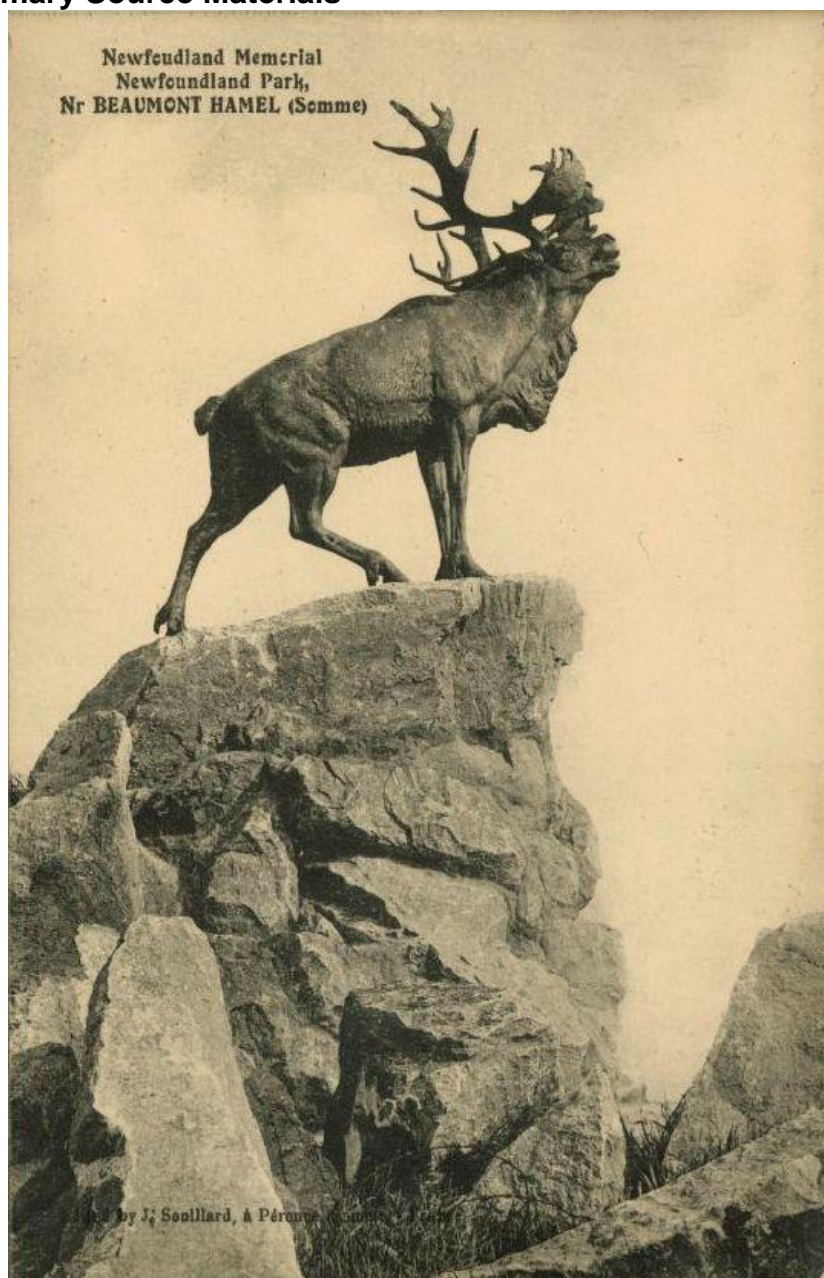
Map of Beaumont-Hamel

The Newfoundland Regiment attacked on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916 at Beaumont Hamel. The Regiment suffered 710 killed, wounded, and missing out of 801.

George Metcalf Archival Collection

CWM 19730198-002

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Caribou at Beaumont Hamel

The bronze stag caribou is the emblem of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. It stands on a mound, surrounded by rock and shrubs native to Newfoundland, defiantly facing in the direction of what was once the German lines. English artist Basil Gotto sculpted the caribou for the opening of the memorial in 1925. There are three other caribou memorials to Newfoundland's fallen in France, and one in Belgium. A replica of the Beaumont Hamel caribou stands in Bowring Park, St. John's.

George Metcalf Archival Collection CWM 19820340-010