



## What's New in Gallery 2: The Battle of Vimy Ridge Section

To mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, the Canadian War Museum has redesigned the section of Gallery 2 dedicated to **the Battle of Vimy Ridge**. New artifacts, personal stories and historical images explore the intense preparation that created the conditions for the assault; the key role of planning, aerial observation, and training; through to the hard-fought victory, its cost and its consequences.

It is the first extensive upgrade of this popular presentation since the Museum opened at its current location in May 2005. Key zones include:

### Introduction

The first panels of the section set the scene with an overview of Canada's primary First World War fighting formation, the Canadian Corps. The strategic importance of Vimy Ridge and its topography — as well as the Allied attempts to capture it — are explored using rare photographs of the ridge and a three-dimensional relief map, done to scale, that would have been used for planning at the time.



George Metcalf Archival Collection  
Canadian War Museum 20060144-013

### Artillery

Artillery supported the Canadian infantry assault on Vimy Ridge. Through refined artillery tactics such as the creeping barrage and counter-battery fire, Canadian and British gunners were able to suppress enemy fire. This zone includes actual artillery pieces captured by Canadians at the ridge, a presentation of the creeping barrage in an audiovisual map, and objects that explore sophisticated tactics and technology used during the Battle of Vimy Ridge and afterwards.

[warmuseum.ca/vimy100](http://warmuseum.ca/vimy100) #Vimy100

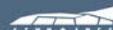
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## The Ground War

At the heart of the exhibition, an evocative audiovisual account of the Battle of Vimy Ridge brings visitors into the battle through archival film, photographs, eyewitness accounts and animation.

New objects have been added to highlight the experiences of the many Canadians who served at Vimy, including stories of those who were killed. In addition to medals, uniforms and photographs, there are personal artifacts including a flag, a grave marker, a rosary, a pistol and an aviator's good-luck charm. One of the most powerful stories is that of Private William Milne, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for actions during the battle, but who was killed in combat. His body was never recovered; his name is inscribed on the Vimy Memorial.



Canadian Red Ensign  
Canadian War Museum 20040039-001

## Why Vimy Matters

The Canadian capture of Vimy Ridge has since become a powerful symbol of success and sacrifice. The section concludes with a brief look at Vimy's place in the larger context of the war and how the construction of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial on the ridge contributed to the evolution of the battle as a celebrated Canadian symbol, representing unity of purpose, tragic loss and national pride.

## The War in the Air

In addition to updating the section on the Battle of Vimy Ridge, the section on the war in the air was also renewed. This section includes a propeller from the Nieuport flown by Canadian ace Billy Bishop, the fuselage of William Barker's Sopwith Snipe, A. Roy Brown's logbooks and medals, A. A. McLeod's Victoria Cross, and other powerful artifacts that speak to service and sacrifice.

A new aerial observation activity (adapted from the recent War Museum exhibition **Deadly Skies**) invites visitors to scan the landscape from an observation balloon for trains, artillery, troop movements and more. Also adapted from **Deadly Skies** is an animated aerial battle map that explores the strategic use of aircraft during the First World War.

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