8 April 2013

Lethbridge- The Battle of Vimy Ridge commenced of 9 April 1917, Easter day of that year. It was the first battle that was carried out by all Canadian units under Canadian command. Led by Arthur Currie, who later became Canada’s first full General, innovative planning and tactics gave our troops the victory. There were 10,500 casualties to Canadians in the four days of fighting, 1300 died at Vimy.

Canada's preparation and carrying out of the plan was important. Previous endeavors in 1916 to take the ridge had failed with great loss to British and Commonwealth troops. In 1917 the German defence line broke under Canada’s assault with large casualties inflicted upon that nation’s troops.

Modern Canadian identity credits the contribution of Canadians in the War of 1914-1918 as a pivotal point in our sovereignty. Vimy Ridge is identified as the turning point that allowed Canada to have independence from British status. The nation was recognized in its own right and given a voice in international affairs. This freedom to be unique is a part of who Canadians are today nationally and in the world. Vimy Ridge will forever hold an important place in the history of Canada and in the hearts and minds of Canadians.

Annually VIMY RIDGE DAY is marked on the 9th of April. The Bank of Canada new twenty dollar bill recognizes the Battle as a significant achievement in Canadian History. Locally in Southern Alberta, Vimy Peak is located in Waterton Park and the 20th Independent Battery Armoury was renamed Vimy Ridge Armoury in 2001. This year it will celebrated with the 4th annual mess dinner taking place this weekend at the Vimy Ridge Armoury with proceeds going towards funds for the future Military Museum to be located in the Armoury.

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