

NOUS NOUS SOUVENONS

VIMY

REMEMBERED

1917-2017



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OPERATION ORDER

General Preparation for Attack

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was the most thoroughly planned offensive the Allied Forces had ever conducted. A full-scale replica of the battle area was built behind Canadian lines. Here troops would rehearse what they were to do on the day of the battle. Maps were given out to even the smallest unit and they were well informed of their routes and objectives. An extensive underground network of tunnels was also constructed in the months leading up to the assault on the ridge. The tunnels reduced casualties amongst the advancing infantry and returning wounded, and enabled supplies to be brought up under less hazardous conditions. Munitions were stockpiled in preparation for a heavy bombardment prior to the start of the

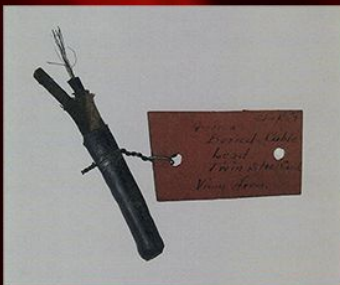


Example of a model trench system from 1918. This form of preparation was begun in early 1917 to allow officers and soldiers to better understand the terrain, enemy trenches and strong points. LAC M#3397952



The Coburg subway tunnel was an underground system of tunnels that had been used as a jumping off point for the Canadian assault on Vimy Ridge. LAC M#3366229

SIGNALLING VICTORY



Piece of buried cable recovered from the Vimy Area (c/o Canada War Museum)

Communications Preparations

Preparing the communications for the assault was of vital importance. The most important communications preparation was the Buried Cable System. Over 1400 kilometres of cable had been buried at a depth of 2.1 meters (7 feet) to protect it against enemy shelling by zero hour. Another method for laying cable was a process called Laddering. This technique consisted of laying parallel cables about sixty yards apart connected by lateral lines. If one side of the line was broken, the lateral lines could carry the signal across to the other side. The drawback for this method was requiring more than double the amount of cable and frequent maintenance. It was, however, far quicker than burying the lines and was used in the aftermath of the battle as the infantry moved forward beyond the buried system.

Wanting to leave nothing to chance, a number of other communication methods were put in place, should the telephone/fullerphone cable system fail. These included, Power Buzzers and Amplifiers, Visual (lamps, flags, flappers etc), Runners, Pigeons and Wireless.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

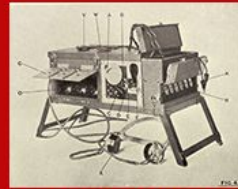
TELEPHONE



British D Mk 111 Portable Telephone

Telephones were the most convenient way of communicating between HQ, the front lines and the artillery. The transmission of speech, in contrast to Morse Code, made the training required to use this technology very minimal. However, because of a process called induction, the Germans were often able to overhear these telephone conversations. Induction is a process by which a signal travelling along a wire leaks out into the surrounding earth. The signal could travel almost 550 meters. This led to the Germans being well informed of Allied operations in the early part of the war. Strict security was established at the front line to ensure that operational details were not overheard by the enemy. The Buried Cable System proved very effective in maintaining communication between the advancing infantry and HQ.

POWER BUZZERS AND AMPLIFIERS



Power Buzzer-Amplifiers C. Mark III

Power buzzers used with amplifiers were an early form of wireless technology that could send messages through the earth. They could be set to either receive an incoming transmission or transmit its own message. This technology was useful in that it did not require the use of cable, however, the presence of metal barbed wire and materials used in trench construction in "no-man's land" interfered with the signal. The device itself was relatively light (about six kilograms), however the batteries needed to power the device weighed twelve kilograms. The signals could also easily be picked up by the enemy through the process of induction. At Vimy Ridge, power buzzers and amplifiers were readied along with many other forms of communication but on the whole, they did not prove useful during the battle; the interference was too great.

FULLERPHONE



WWI Fullerphone

The Fullerphone was a direct current Morse telegraph used for trench communications. The important feature of the Fullerphone was that its transmissions were practically immune from being overheard, which made the system at the time very suitable for use at the front. The only way it could be heard was to have a direct connection to the line through which the signal was travelling. It was also highly sensitive and required far less current than a standard trench telephone. In addition, the telephone and Fullerphone could use the same lines without mutual interference. The drawback however was the Morse training required by the operator to use this device. Despite this challenge, it was one of the most successful communications technologies used at Vimy Ridge.

WIRELESS



WWI Sterling Set, a morse code spark transmitter, used in aircraft mainly for artillery spotting

Wireless technology was still in its infancy during the First World War, with the range being limited and the additional technology (aerials and batteries) being cumbersome to work with. Wireless also had the problem of being easily intercepted by the enemy. Where wireless was used to great effect was in aerial reconnaissance. A plane would have used a transmitter (but no receiver – they were too heavy) to send word of the enemy gun locations and other vital intelligence in real time. This was vital in the lead up to the assault on Vimy Ridge. Through trench raids and aerial reconnaissance, 80% of the German artillery was located and this allowed for targeted strikes in the week leading up to the battle.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

VISUAL

There were a number of different types of visual communication used during the First World War. These included signal lamps, heliographs, flags, whistles, discs and signal shutters. Messages were sent in Morse Code, one man operating the signalling device and one man using a telescope (where distances were great) to read the sent messages. Lamps were used at night and heliographs (which reflected sunlight using movable mirrors), flags, discs and flappers were used during the day. This was dangerous work, especially at night when lamps were used. The signaller had to leave the relative safety of the trench and could easily become a target for enemy fire. Visual signalling was prepared for the assault on Vimy Ridge, however, due to the reliability of the buried cable system, it was only used minimally.



Various forms of visual signalling

DESPATCH RUNNERS

Despatch is one of the most ancient forms of communication. Despatch runners and riders were indispensable throughout the war and considered the backbone of the communication system. On battlefields dominated by automatic weapons and trench warfare, as well as the first widespread use of air attacks, runners faced one of the most dangerous jobs; runners had to leave the safety of a trench, bunker or other shelter, and carry messages to other positions. For the same reasons, officers could not be sure that their message had been delivered until a runner returned to their unit. Despite this uncertainty, runners were still cited in many post-battle reports as vital to the communication system as a whole.

PIGEONS

Carrier pigeons have been used to transport messages from one place to another for centuries. Pigeons have homing instincts and will always fly back to wherever their nests are. Soldiers transported the pigeons in mobile pigeon lofts mounted on trucks from place to place. Messages would be inserted into small tubes tied to the birds' legs. On release, the pigeons then flew home, delivering the messages back to command. With the rise of telecommunications technology, the usefulness of pigeons as messengers was frequently questioned. Many believed that their care outweighed their usefulness. At Vimy Ridge, pigeons were prepared as a backup method but were not required.



Transporting pigeons from their nesting sites near HQ to the front.



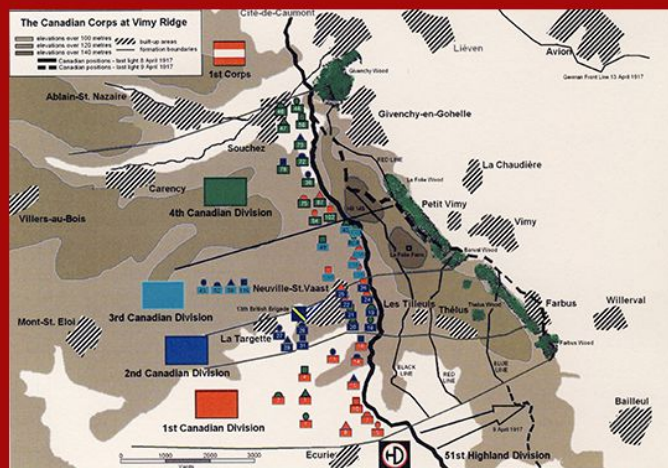
Despatch Rider working his way through the snow.

ROAD TO VIMY

Vimy Ridge is an escarpment located northeast of the French town of Arras in the north-eastern part of the country. In the early months of the First World War, the ridge fell into German hands during the "Race to the Sea".

There were two major offensives in May and September 1915 by French forces that both failed to capture and hold the strategic high ground. The French suffered heavy casualties of approximately 150,000.

In February 1916, the British relieved French forces at Vimy Ridge. Soon after, they discovered an extensive tunnel network built by the Germans that was used for strategic attack on the Allied trench position. In response, the British began building their own network of tunnels. The German forces retaliated in May 1916 with a major offensive that pushed back the British position. In October of 1916, the Canadian relieved the British and began preparations for a spring offensive.



Map of the Battle of Vimy, note the elevation levels and locations of the 4 Divisions of the Canadian Corps.

ZERO HOUR

The Battle of Vimy Ridge began on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917 at 5:30 am. For the first time during the war, all four Canadian divisions fought together under the command of the Canadian Corps. They were supported by the British 5th Infantry Division and supplementary artillery, engineer and labour units.

The first wave of over 20,000 troops went over the top to begin the assault. They advanced behind a creeping barrage of artillery fire that provided cover from German guns during the attack. In spite of suffering heavy casualties, most of the ridge was captured by noon. Hill 145, one of the main high points, was taken on the morning of April 10. Two days later, the Canadians took "the Pimple," the other significant height on the ridge.

The Germans were unable to regain this strategic high ground throughout the rest of the war. The Canadian Corps, together with the British Corps to the south, had captured more ground, prisoners and guns than any previous British offensive of the war.

E.L.M. BURNS, C.C., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., C.D.



ELM Burns' RMC portrait, 1914



ELM Burns in France late summer 1917

Eedson Louis Millard (Tommy) Burns, born in Westmount, Quebec, on June 17th, 1897. His father was a militia staff officer, a member of the Corps of Guides and served with the 17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars. At the beginning of the First World War, 17-year old Tommy Burns entered the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario. He stayed only a short while, long enough to be awarded a Special War Certificate in June 1915. When he turned 18, he enlisted with the Royal Canadian Engineers and was sent to England the following year as a second lieutenant. He was on the front in August 1916.

Lt. Burns was an 11th Brigade signals officer in the 4th Canadian Division when the Canadians were moved to Vimy Ridge. His main responsibility in the lead up to the battle was to supervise the digging of the communication trenches for the buried cable system. On April 9th, Lt. Burns took command of the forward signals party, following behind the infantry. It was vital for the success of the Brigade plan that communications on top of Hill 145 be established as quickly as possible. However, the assault on Hill 145 did not go as planned, with the infantry falling behind the creeping barrage and getting pinned down and divided. Burns was forced to stop his party's advance due to this splitting of the infantry. He attempted to get word back to HQ of the troubles being faced at the front but was dismissed by his superiors. Eventually, his party abandoned their position and delivered in person, a report of what was happening on the hill. Hill 145 was eventually taken the following day, April 10th with the entire ridge falling into Canadian hands by April 13th.

Burns was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry at the Somme in October of 1916. Read his full citation below;

"For conspicuous gallantry in action. In addition to organizing and running the signal lines, he personally laid and repaired armoured cables under very heavy fire. He displayed great courage and coolness throughout"

In the interwar period, Burns pursued a career with the Engineering Corps. He quickly rose through the ranks achieving the rank of lieutenant-colonel by the outbreak of The Second World War. Throughout the war he served in high command eventually achieving the rank of Lieutenant-General.

After leaving the military in 1947, Lt-Gen Burns became a civil servant working for the Department of Veteran Affairs from 1950-1954 and working with the United Nations from 1954-1956. In 1956 he took command of United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), remaining in charge until 1959. The following year, he was appointed counselor for disarmament issues in the Canadian government, with the diplomatic rank of ambassador. ELM Burns died on September 13, 1985 at the age of 88.

JOSEPH ERNEST FLANIGAN, D.C.M., M.M.



Joseph Ernest Flanigan was born in Maitland, Ontario to Robert Flanigan and Maria Mary Anne Flanigan. On January 14, 1915 five months after the outbreak of the First World War, Flanigan, 20, signed up and joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Ottawa. One year to the day he volunteered to fight in the Great War he arrived in France and was assigned to the 3rd Canadian Signals Company, Royal Canadian Engineers. He spent much of the first few weeks in France training to be a signaller. Flanigan fought at the Battle of the Somme from July 1st to the end of 1916 before moving to Vimy Ridge in preparation for the spring offensive. It was for Flanigan's brave and gallant action during the early part of the Vimy assault that he was awarded the Military Medal.

His military citation reads:

"For conspicuous gallantry and action under shell fire - this Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) was in charge of the Brigade Communication lines during the VIMY engagement. On the night of 9 April, 1917, he commanded a group of linesmen laying and maintaining communication lines throughout this period, working incessantly, night and day. He was buried in the tunnel at Battalion Headquarters for four hours and managed to escape during heavy bombardment. He carried on in control of his men until permanent communications was permanently established to Brigade Headquarters on Hill 145."

Flanigan distinguished himself again at the Battle of Passchendaele later that year, again being awarded for his bravery in the face of the enemy. He was mentioned in an official War Diary written by Major Allan Leavitt;

"The work of No 113014 L/Cpl Flanigan of No. 4 Section during the attack on the 26th said is worthy of special mention and he has been recommended for the Military Medal. Enemy shelling heavy."

It was for his unselfish efforts and extraordinary brave actions during the operations prior to the Cambrai engagement in October, 1918, that Flanigan, just 23 years old, would receive the second highest decoration for bravery the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He ,

"worked incessantly, night and day, laying new lines and repairing breaks and by his exceptional personal bravery, cheerfulness and able control of his men, maintained the most important part of the Brigade's intercommunications throughout this critical period." - Lt. Irwin, Assistant Officer Commanding 9th CN Infantry Brigade Signal Section

Flanigan survived the war and remained in the army until 1933. He achieved the rank of Major during this post-war service eventually retiring to run an antique shop with his wife, Agnes. They settled in Brockville and had three children, two daughters and a son. Flanigan suffered after effects of his service in the war, specifically claustrophobia from being buried in the tunnel at Vimy ridge. On April 11, 1976 Flanigan passed away at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in Brockville.



L-R: Distinguished Conduct Medal, the second highest award for gallantry (after the Victoria Cross), for all army ranks below commissioned officers, Military Medal, awarded to Warrant Officers, non-commissioned officers and men for individual or associated acts of bravery on the recommendation of a Commander-in-Chief in the field, British War Medal, awarded to all ranks of the overseas forces who served in the theatre of war between 1914-1918, Victory Medals; awarded to all ranks of the overseas forces and civilians who served in the theatre of war between 1914-1918.

GEORGE JOHNSON OLIVER, D.C.M., M.M.**

George Johnson Oliver was born on February 23rd, 1892 in Berwickshire Scotland. Oliver enlisted at the outbreak of hostilities in 1914 and took part in all the major Canadian battles throughout the war. He experienced the gas attacks at Ypres and the fighting at Festubert in 1915 as an infantryman and later that year he was transferred to 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade headquarters as a signaller.



Portrait of George Johnson Oliver after his promotion to Sergeant.

During the attack on Vimy Ridge, Signaller Oliver was singled out for particular distinction. He worked for 48 hours straight to keep the lines operational under heavy shell fire. George Oliver was subsequently awarded the Military Medal for bravery during this action.

His citation reads,

"During the capture of Vimy Ridge on April 9th 1917. Near Thelus, he repeatedly repaired telephone wires under heavy enemy barrage. He worked continuously for 48 hours repairing wires, showing a total disregard for danger. His courage initiative were mainly responsible for the success of communications during the operation was responsible for the maintenance of telephonic communications and enabled much valuable information to be transmitted to the rear."

On 15 August 1917, the Canadians made the attack at Hill 70. Throughout the attack, signallers again followed the infantry closely ensuring that excellent telephone communications was maintained for the advance. Acting Corporal Oliver was awarded a second Military Medal for bravery during this action.

The year 1917 closed with the costly Canadian attacks at Passchendaele. Acting Corporal Oliver was awarded his third Military Medal during the capture of Hill 62 by the 7th and 8th Canadian Infantry Battalions.

In 1918, the Canadian Corps helped to defeat the German spring offensive, and then lead the Allied attacks that ultimately broke the stalemate on the Western Front. These attacks began on 8 August 1918 at Amiens and continued until the Armistice on 11 November. Corporal Oliver was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal that autumn.

His DCM citation reads:

"For marked gallantry and devotion to duty during the attack east of the Canal du Nord from 27th to 30th September, 1918. He was the NCO i/c of the party of signallers. Shortly after starting forward he found that the infantry had passed over a machine-gun nest which was sweeping the western bank of the canal. Immediately he telephoned his brigade, and artillery fire was directed on the nest and all but one machine gun was put out of action. He then got in rear of the machine gun and rushed it single-handed, shot four of the crew with his revolver, and took the fifth prisoner. He did splendid work."

After the war George Oliver and his wife returned home to Brandon, where he got a job working for the Manitoba Telephone System (MTS) in 1919. Oliver was very active in civilian life; he was a Scout Master in the 20's and 30's, and was honoured with the Medal of Serving Brothers of Order of St. John. Oliver served with the Veteran Guard of Canada during the Second World War. He retired after 37 years with the MTS in 1956 and died in 1968.

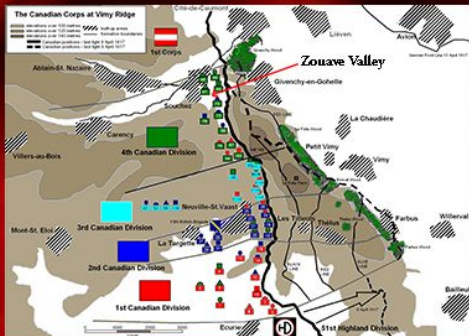


George Johnson Oliver (second from the right) with his Signals Section.

DECORATIONS FOR VALOUR

The Zouave Valley

Located southwest of the Pimple and east of Souchez, the Zouave Valley was one of the most dangerous areas where crews had to bury cable leading up to the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Eight signallers were awarded the Military Medal for their bravery under heavy shell fire in this valley.



L/CPL ANGUS ARSENAULT, M.M.

Lance Corporal Angus Arsenault was born on May 8, 1893 in Abrams Village, Prince Edward Island. He was a miner by trade but left to enlist in CEF on November 24th 1914. On April 23rd 1917, L/Cpl Arsenault was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and devotion to duty under heavy enemy fire. Read his official citation below.

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty under heavy enemy shell fire.

(A) at 4 p.m. April 17th while in charge of a party at La Chaudière in search of German buried cable, under heavy enemy shell fire this N.C.O. rallied his party and continued his duties as the result of his courage and resourcefulness.

(B) at 8 p.m. April 2nd this N.C.O. was laying cable into Bluebell Tunnel across Zouave Valley. In spite of very heavy shelling he unhesitatingly carried on and the good results obtained were greatly due to his personal example and courage.

(C) at 11 p.m. March 6th 1917. Whilst laying into and through Tottinham Tunnel under shell fire by which four men killed and approximately 10 wounded this N.C.O. continued his duties courageously and worked continuously for 48 hours until his duty was satisfactorily completed.

(D) This N.C.O. did good work at YPRES and on SOMME and during January, February, March & April he displayed great courage whilst burying cable in and around ZOUAVE VALLEY and SOUCHEZ CORNER very frequently under shell and machine gun fire."

CPL. FREDERICK ALLEN ASHFORD, M.M.

Corporal Frederick Allen Ashford was born on May 14th 1892 in Toronto, Ontario. He worked as an office clerk before enlisting on October 21st, 1915. Cpl. Ashford was awarded the Military Medal on April 23rd for his work laying cable under heavy shell fire in the Zouave Valley, west of the "Pimple". This was an incredible hazardous area to lay cable. Read his full citation below.

"As N.C.O. in charge of laying of Buried Armoured Cable, almost every night from January 1st 1917 to April 8th 1917, very often under shell fire, and especially during the last week, working across ZOUAVE VALLEY under heavy shell fire, by his ability and conduct under trying conditions, showed an excellent example to his men and was in a large way responsible for the success of the buried system."

L./CPL WILFRED LESLIE BAKER, M.M.

Lance Corporal Wilfred Leslie Baker was born on July 6, 1896 in Owen Sound, Ontario. Prior to the war, he worked as a pattern maker and on July 9th, 1915 he enlisted in the CEF. L/Cpl Baker was awarded the Military Medal on April 17th 1917 for his dedication to his work laying cable in the Zouave Valley under heavy enemy shelling. Read his full citation below.

"In ZOUAVE VALLEY in front of SOUCHEZ. From March 27th to April 1st For his continuous good work on the maintenance of lines cross this heavily shelled area. His coolness and steadiness inspired his men to efforts which ensured communications across ZOUAVE VALLEY. His work was entirely voluntary as he was in the area on other duty, but took change of this work and carried it to a successful conclusion."

SPR. ALFRED WESLEY GRAHAM, M.M.

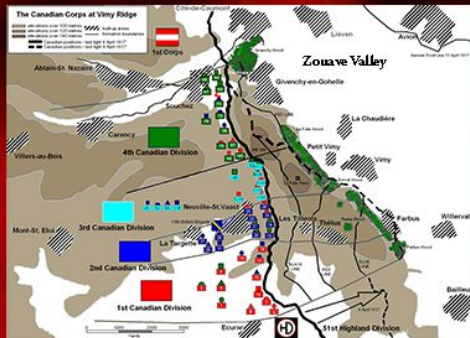
Sapper Alfred Wesley Graham was born on June 24th 1895 in Clark, Ontario. He worked as a book-keeper before enlisting on August 23rd 1915. Spr. Graham was awarded the Military Medal on April 23rd, 1917 for testing and jointing buried cable in the Zouave Valley under heavy shell fire in the lead up to the assault on Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"In ZOUAVE VALLEY from March 15th to April, 8th, 1917, on the work of testing and jointing buried cables every day and working alone, this Sapper showed the greatest courage and devotion to duty. He was working under shell fire, sometimes very heavy, every day during this period and the work was never interrupted. On one occasion he continued his work although all working parties in the Valley had to leave their work to the shelling."

DECORATIONS FOR VALOUR

The Zouave Valley

Located southwest of the Pimple and east of Souchez, the Zouave Valley was one of the most dangerous areas where crews had to bury cable leading up to the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Eight signallers were awarded the Military Medal for their bravery under heavy shell fire in this valley.



CPL. FREDERICK CLARENCE MERRILL, M.M.

Corporal Frederick Clarence Merrill was born on January 14th, 1884 in Cobourg, Ontario. He was an electrician when he enlisted on September 23rd, 1914. Cpl. Merrill was awarded the Military Medal on April 23rd, 1917 for his tireless efforts to lay cable in the Zouave Valley prior to the assault on Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"As NCO in charge of installation of terminal racks in all test boxes in the divisional buried system. Between the date of January 1st and April 8th 1917, but especially during the last week in Zouave Valley under almost constant shell fire, he carried on his work without a mistake. Just before Vimy Ridge was taken he worked for 48 hours without sleep. His ability and conduct was largely responsible for the success of the buried cable system in the taking of Vimy Ridge."

SPR. ROY OGILVIE STEWART, M.M.

Sapper Roy Ogilvie Stewart was born on May 21st 1895 in Foxborough, Ontario. He worked as an electrician before enlisting on August 7th, 1915. Spr. Stewart was awarded the Military Medal for his work testing and jointing cable in Zouave Valley under heavy fire prior to the Battle for Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"In Zouave Valley, from March 15th to April 8th 1917, on the work of testing and jointing armored cables for about ten hours each day and working alone. This sapper showed the greatest courage and devotion to duty. He was subjected to shell fire sometimes very heavy, every day during this period and his work was never interrupted. On one occasion he continued working although all working parties in the valley were stopped owing to shelling."

SPR. ARTHUR SYKES, M.M.

Sapper Arthur Sykes was born on June 3rd 1894 in Sheffield, England. He worked as a clerk and waiter and served in the 2nd Field Company Canadian Engineers before enlisting on June 3rd 1915. On April 19th, 1917, Spr. Sykes was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry, devotion to duty and the rescue of a mortally wounded comrade (Spr. McKnight) prior to the assault on Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. And in the rescue of a mortally wounded comrade and also for general good service at various fronts. At 3pm march 27th 1917 this man led specially detailed party of men through Souchez under very heavy shell and machine gun fire, to the test box on the buried cable called "s-c." where they proceeded with the jointing of the cables there which were in immediate demand during this operations the roads r.e. dump and railway in and around Souchez were being heavily shelled and one of the party sapper mcknight was mortally wounded. Sykes gave cool encouragement and rendered invaluable aid in removing mcknight from an extremely dangerous and difficult position after which he carried on with his work until the place became untenable."

Sapper Sykes has had favourable mention for his work at Zillebeke with a brigade of 3rd Can.Div. during the month of June 1916 and also during Somme operations. On the vimy front he engaged for 3 months continuously on cable burying under most arduous conditions. While he was shown the same commendable zeal reliability and fearlessness."

SPR. FREDERICK HUGH WILKINSON, M.M.^{**}, E.D.

Sapper Frederick Hugh Wilkinson was born on November 18th, 1886 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. He was a student and served 2nd Field Company Canadian Engineers before enlisting on February 1st, 1916. Spr. Wilkinson was awarded the Military Medal on April 17th, 1917 for his tireless work laying cable in the Zouave Valley under heavy shell fire. Read his full citation below.

"From march 27th to april 1st for conspicuous good work night and day through this period on the maintenance of lines. He went out voluntarily on several occasions to repair lines under heavy fire. His absolute dis-regard of danger and coolness under very trying conditions were a large factor in the maintenance of communications across this area."

DECORATIONS FOR VALOUR

THE MILITARY MEDAL

The medal was awarded to Warrant Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and non-commissioned members for individual or associated acts of bravery on the recommendation of a Commander-in-Chief in the field.



CPL. FRANK WESLEY COULTER, M.M.

Corporal Frank Wesley Coulter was born on June 19th, 1888 in Wallace, Nova Scotia. Prior to the war he was an operator before enlisting on September 27th 1914. Cpl. Coulter was awarded the Military Medal on May 26th, 1917 for laying and maintaining cable lines during the assault on Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"At VIMY RIDGE, during the operations of April 9th 1917, Cpl COULTER laid and maintained telephone lines to Battalions under heavy shell and rifle fire and set an example to his linemen by his energy and courage. For the month previous to the attack he was continually in the forward area arranging communications for the Brigade."

SPR. CHESTER JOSEPH DALEY, M.M.

Sapper Chester Joseph Daley was born on April 16th 1894 in St. John, New Brunswick. Prior to the war, he was a hardware clerk before enlisting on September 23rd 1914. Spr. Daley was awarded the Military Medal on April 29th 1917 for devotion to duty in laying and maintaining telephone lines on April 9th during the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"Sapper DALEY assisted in laying and maintaining telephone lines with the advance of the 1st Canadian Inf. Bde. On the 9th of April, 1917, at VIMY RIDGE, it is largely owing to his devotion to duty in maintaining that portion of the line allotted to him that the Brigade was in touch with their Battalions throughout the whole operation up to the final objective at FARBUS WOOD."

SGT. SYDNEY ALEXANDER DOW, M.M.

Sergeant Sydney Alexander Dow was born on September 1st 1894 in Ferozepur, Punjab, India, later moving to Cornwall, Ontario. He worked as a postal clerk before enlisting on September 23rd 1914 in Valcartier, Quebec. Sgt. Dow was awarded the Military Medal on May 26th 1917 for remaining on duty for 36 straight hours maintaining signal traffic during the first days of the assault on Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"At VIMY RIDGE, on April 9th and 10th 1917, Sgt. DOW remained voluntarily on duty as Signal Superintendent for 36 consecutive hours, and by his ability in handling the Signal traffic contributed largely to the success of the communications of the Brigade."

SGT. BERNARD FAUGHNAN, M.M.

Sergeant Bernard Faughnan was born on May 31st, 1888 in Manggahan, Ireland, later moving to Montreal, Quebec. He worked as an assistant foreman before enlisting on July 1st, 1916. Sgt. Faughnan was awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the Battle of Vimy Ridge. He worked tirelessly, under heavy shelling, repairing lines to maintain communications. Read his full citation below.

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the Operations on VIMY RIDGE between 9th and 13th April, 1917. This N.C.O. was the Senior N.C.O. of the Brigade Signal Selection. He performed remarkably fine work, continually going out under the heaviest shell fire assisting and superintending repairing of lines and laying of new ones."

During the preparations for the operations, especially on the 7th and 8th April, this N.O.C. was untiring in his efforts to establish complete communication throughout the Brigade, working continuously under heavy shell fire and never resting until all arrangements were complete.

He performed excellent work on the 13th April, during the operations which resulted in the capture of GIVENCHY and bois de L'HIRONDELLE, establishing a forward telephone station in GIVENCHY which made it possible for early information to be obtained of the advance of our troops. In the past this N.C.O. has done very fine work and has set a high example to the men under him. It is considered that he is fully deserving of an immediate reward. He has received no previous reward."

DECORATIONS FOR VALOUR

THE MILITARY MEDAL

The medal was awarded to Warrant Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and non-commissioned members for individual or associated acts of bravery on the recommendation of a Commander-in-Chief in the field.



SGT. ROBERT BLACK GIBSON, M.M.

Sergeant Robert Black Gibson was born on September 26th, 1893 in Stevenston, Scotland later moving to Grimsby, Ontario. He worked as a bank clerk in Sherbrooke, Quebec before he enlisted on July 12th 1915. Sgt. Gibson was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and devotion to duty during the Battle of Vimy Ridge. He maintained communication with three Battalions and ensured the highest efficiency in his section. Read his full citation below.

"For gallantry and devotion to duty during the attack on VIMY RIDGE 9th April, 1917, He maintained touch with the three Battalions in the assault both before the advance and after they had gained their objective. This N.C.O. had been Signalling Sgt. Attached to 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade since its formation 27th December, 1915. And has done excellent work both on the SOMME and at the Battle of YPRES June 2nd, 1916. He handles his Section well and at all times has been most energetic and painstaking in getting the highest efficiency out of the personnel of the section"

CPL. HARRY KEE, M.M.

Corporal Harry Kee was born on August 29th 1886 in Streetsville, Ontario. He worked as an electric worker before enlisting on April 2nd, 1915. Cpl. Kee was awarded an additional bar to the Military Medal on April 26th, 1917 for gallantry and devotion to duty during the assault on Vimy Ridge. He organized a wiring party to establish forward communications after another forward team were made casualties by shell fire. Read his full citation below.

"For gallantry and devotion to duty during the advance on VIMY RIDGE April 9th 1917. When the Brigade Wiring party was running a line forward to the Forward Battalion Headquarters, the party was hit by a shell, and all became casualties. This N.C.O. organised a further wiring party on his own initiative, and was successful in getting communication established at forward Report Centre He then organised a stretcher party to evacuate the wounded. This N.C.O. has done conscientious and good work at all times. He received the M.M. for gallantry during the attack on YPRES on June 2nd, 1916."

CPL. FREDERICK LAWSON, M.M.

Corporal Frederick Lawson was born on January 11, 1889 in Dartford, Kent, England. He served as a lineman in the 3 Brigade Royal Horse Artillery before enlisting in the CEF on September 18th, 1914 at Valcartier, Quebec. Cpl. Lawson was awarded a bar to the Military Medal on April 25th, 1917 for gallantry during the capture of Vimy Ridge. He assisted in the capture of a German signals station and maintained communication under heavy enemy barrage. Read his full citation below.

"For conspicuous gallantry during the capture of VIMY RIDGE.

On April 9th 1917 near THELUS, he laid telephone wires forward with the attacking infantry and after having assisted in the capture of a German Signal Station he led his wires in, and by using the German telephone and exchange, established communication with Bde. H. Q.

He successfully maintained communication during the engagement although the wires were continually being cut by the hostile barrage. His courage and determination set a splendid example."

SGT. JOSEPH SHIRLEY LOWTHER, M.M.

Sergeant Joseph Shirley Lowther was born on October 6th, 1889 in Oxford, Nova Scotia. He worked as a blacksmith before enlisting on January 21st, 1915. Sgt. Lowther was awarded the Military Medal for his marked courage and devotion to duty under heavy shell fire. Read his full citation below.

"East of NEUVILLE-ST-VAAST, April 9th 1917. For marked courage and devotion to duty in action. This N.C.O. worked with untiring zeal and energy in the preparation of signal communication for the attack. During the operation he carried these lines forward and worked fearlessly under hostile shell fire in maintaining same. His work resulted in most excellent communication throughout the entire operation between the Battalion and Brigade Headquarters."

DECORATION FOR VALOUR

THE MILITARY MEDAL

The medal was awarded to Warrant Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and non-commissioned members for individual or associated acts of bravery on the recommendation of a Commander-in-Chief in the field.



CPL. HENRY EDEY MAGEE, M.M.

Corporal Henry Edey Magee was born on January 17th 1897 in Wright County, Quebec. He was a student serving with 2nd Field Company Canadian Engineers before he enlisted on December 23rd 1915. Cp. Magee was awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous courage and great coolness under heavy shell fire during the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"For conspicuous courage and great coolness under very heavy shell fire:

- A. At 9 a.m. 9th April 1917. This N.C.O. was in charge of a party burring cable between the mouths of LITCHFIELD and VOLKER tunnels and came under very heavy enemy shell fire, but this N.C.O. by his great courage and coolness in directing the work enabled it to be carried out very rapidly during this trying period.

-B. During the 2 days following he displayed the same coolness and courage while cables were being extended to CRAMER HOUSE and his example greatly encouraged the men under him."

CPL. VERNON H. MCLEOD, M.M., M.I.D.

Corporal Vernon H. McLeod was born on October 10th, 1893 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. He was a student when he enlisted on September 23rd, 1914. Cpl. McLeod was awarded the Military Medal for aiding in the maintenance of the lines during the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"Cpl McLeod rendered most valuable assistance in the maintenance of communication during the operations at Vimy Ridge on the 9th April, 1917 and succeeding days. It was largely due to his untiring efforts that communications were so successfully kept up."

SIG. LESLIE ALLEN RATCLIFFE, M.M.*

Signalman Leslie Allen Ratcliffe was born on November 21st, 1896 in Vancouver, British Columbia. He worked as a book binder before he enlisted on July 7th, 1915. Sig. Ratcliffe was awarded the Military Medal on April 25th, 1917 for gallantry while laying telephone wire during the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"For conspicuous gallantry. On April 9th 1917 near the bus, he went forward with the assaulting infantry laying telephone wires. After communications was established he continually repaired them under shelling and machine gun fire. Again on April 13th 1917 near the bus he repaired wires to a forward station which necessitated working in full view of the enemy and coming under fire."

SGT. ALEXANDER SCOTT, M.M.

Sergeant Alexander Scott was born on December 15, 1886 in North Shields, England. He worked as a clerk before enlisting on January 21st 1915 in Ottawa, Ontario. Sgt. Scott was awarded the Military Medal on April 13th, 1917 for his devotion to duty in maintaining visual communications during the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the operations 9/10th of April 1917 during the early part of the operations and whilst lines were being run to battn Hdqr. He was in charge of the visual communication station to 28th battalion, and during heavy hostile fire was successful in getting through most important messages. During the whole operations he set a splendid example to his section and as a result of his untiring efforts communications for satisfactorily maintained between the brigade and advanced bq of battalions. He displayed great aptitude and directed his section with much coolness under most trying conditions."

PTE. ROY PERCY MCINTOSH, M.M.

Private Roy Percy McIntosh was born on July 5th 1889 in Bruce County, Ontario. He worked as a farmer before enlisting on December 22nd, 1914. Pte. McIntosh was awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty while laying line during and after the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty, during the engagement on VIMY RIDGE for five consecutive days from 16th April to 20th April he laid and maintained important Artillery lines, in full view of the enemy, over very exposed ground under constant and heavy shell-fire."

DECORATION FOR VALOUR

THE MILITARY MEDAL

The medal was awarded to Warrant Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and non-commissioned members for individual or associated acts of bravery on the recommendation of a Commander-in-Chief in the field.



2/CPL. PHILIP SHAW, M.M.**

2nd Corporal Philip Shaw was born on May 1st 1895 in Huddersfield, York, England. He worked as a surveyor and was member of the Signaller 102nd R.M.R before enlisting on November 9th, 1914. On June 26th, 1917, 2/Cpl. Shaw was awarded the Military Medal for remaining on duty for 36 hours during the offensive on Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"At Vimy Ridge, on April 9th 1917, 1/cpl.shaw remained on duty as operator for 36 consecutive hours and when relieved voluntarily repaired a line under heavy shelling. He set an excellent example to the remainder of the section by his perseverance and bravery."

SIG. JOHN MELVILLE SMITH, M.M.

Sig. John Melville Smith was born on February 24th 1896 in Minnedosa, Manitoba. He worked as a bank clerk before enlisting on September 23rd, 1914. On April 25th, 1917, Sig. Smith was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry under heavy shell fire while repairing telephone wires. Read his full citation below.

"For conspicuous gallantry. On April 9th 1917, near Thelus, he went forward with the attack and established communication with bde h. g. by telephone. He continually passed through very heavy shelling in repairing wires. Again on April 13th 1917 he showed great courage in laying wires over open country under heavy rifle fire. His courage and determination throughout the action set a splendid example."

SGT. ERNEST TOPPING, M.M.

Sergeant Ernest Topping was born on May 27th, 1893 in Glasgow, Scotland. He worked as a draughtsman and served for a short time in the 2nd Field Company Canadian Engineers before enlisting on October 21st, 1915. Sgt. Topping was awarded the Military Medal for devotion to duty in constructing the buried cable system under heavy shell fire prior to and during the assault on Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"From April 1st to April 13th 1917 his continuous good work and the construction of the buried cable system in this heavily shelled area being slightly wounded on April 4th, but completing his task before reporting to dressing station"

For his gallant conduct on April 13th in establishing wire communications immediately after the assault and going forwarding with our advancing troops who were following the retiring enemy."

SIG. JOHN EDWARD WARD, M.M.* , M.I.D.

Signalman John Edward Ward was born August 24th, 1892 in Sherbrooke, Quebec. He worked as a hardware salesman and served 7 years in 53rd Regiment before enlisting on September 25th, 1914. Sig. Ward was awarded the Military Medal on April 25th 1917 for exceptional gallantry and devotion to duty during the battle of Vimy Ridge. Read his full citation below.

"For exceptional gallantry and devotion to duty."

During operations connected with the capturing of vimy ridge on April 9th he showed marked ability in the face of great danger in maintaining lines between division and the attacking brigades.

His bravery and resourcefulness on this and other occasions during two years service in france have set a splendid example to his fellow linesmen."

MEASURING THE COST

The Battle of Vimy Ridge would prove a great success, but it would come at great cost. Of the 100,000 Canadians who fought there, they suffered 10,602 casualties; 3,598 dead and 7,004 wounded. The German army sustained an unknown number of casualties and approximately 4,000 were captured as prisoners of war. Between January and May of 1917, eight signallers serving with the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) lost their lives while carrying out their duties during the preparatory months leading up to the battle and during the assault itself.

SGT. PAUL ANGUS MACGILLIVRAY (1895-1917)

Sergeant Paul Angus MacGillivray was born on July 14, 1895 in Moncton, New Brunswick. He was an electrician by trade but left that behind to join the war effort on June 11th 1915. When the Canadians moved to relieve the British at Vimy Ridge, Sgt. MacGillivray was attached to the 4th Division Signals Company. He was working on laying and repairing line in preparation for the upcoming battle in April when on February 4th 1917, he was killed in action by shellfire. He was 21 years old.

CPL. GEORGE ALFRED KEEN (1896-1917)

Corporal George Alfred Keen was born on November 16th 1896 in Fredericton, New Brunswick to Alfred and Esther Keen. At the time of his recruitment on December 28th 1915, he was a soldier student and belonged to the Composite Battalion 71st Regiment of Active Militia. When the Canadians moved to relieve the British at Vimy Ridge, Cpl. Keen was attached to the 4th Division Signals Company. On February 5th 1917, he was classified as "dangerously wounded" after being hit by a shell the day before and died later that day. He was 20 years old.

SGT. JOHN CUNNINGHAM (1892-1917)

Sergeant John Cunningham was born on October 31st, 1892 in Hamilton, Scotland to David and Euphemia Cunningham. Prior to enlisting, he served for three years the 6th Battalion Scottish Rifles. Sgt. Cunningham enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force at Valcartier, Quebec on the 23rd of September 1914. When the Canadians moved to Vimy Ridge, he was attached to the 1st Divisional Signals Company. On March 16th, 1917, he reported from base and was killed by a sniper. He was 24 years old.

SPR. ROBERT MCKNIGHT (1889-1917)

Sapper Robert McKnight was born on July 6th 1889 in London, Ontario but relocated out west some time later. At the time of his recruitment on November 8th, 1915, he was working as a teamster (a person who drives a team of animals). Spr. McKnight enlisted in Lethbridge, Alberta. In the winter 1917, he was attached to the H.Q. Signal Company. On March 27th Spr. McKnight was shot in the spine and died from his wounds on April 7th, just days before the assault on Vimy Ridge. He was 27 years old.

MEASURING THE COST



SPR. JOHN JARDINE (1881-1917)

Sapper John Jardine was born on November 15th 1881 in Renfrew, Ontario to Stewart and Mary Jane Jardine. He was married to Elizabeth Thompson but, sadly, she died prior to the war. Spr. Jardine was a farmer at the time of his enlistment in Calgary on June 19th, 1915. In the lead up to the assault on Vimy Ridge, he was attached to the 4th Division Signals Company. Spr. Jardine fought in the battle of Vimy Ridge and on April 10, 1917, he was killed in action. He was 35 years old.

SPR. HERBERT MANN (1888-1917)

Sapper Herbert Mann was born on October 23rd, 1888 in York, England. He moved to Canada and settled in Toronto where he worked as a teamster and brass finisher, married and had two children. Prior to the start of the war, however, Spr. Mann's wife died and when he left for Europe, he entrusted the care of his children to his mother-in-law, Annie Burrows. He enlisted in Toronto on the 27th of December 1915. In April of 1917, he was attached to the 1st Divisional Signals Company. Spr. Mann fought at the battle of Vimy Ridge and was injured by a gunshot wound to the head. On April 16th, 1917, he succumbed to his injuries, thereby leaving his children orphaned. He was 35 years old.

SPR. HAROLD ALEXANDER LOGAN (1889-1917)

Sapper Harold Alexander Logan was born on October 9th, 1889 in North Sydney, Nova Scotia. He worked as a telegrapher before enlisting on February 25th 1915 in Ottawa, Ontario. In early 1917, Spr. Logan was attached to the 2nd Division Signals Company where he fought in the Battle of Vimy Ridge. He survived the four day assault but was shot in the left arm on April 16th, 1917. Spr. Logan was admitted to the General Hospital Le Treport where it was determined that he would be invalided to Britain on the HMS Donegal. He never arrived. On the 24th of April, it was determined that Spr. Logan drowned en route. His date of death was recorded as April 17th, 1917. He was 27 years old.

SPR. HERBERT R. STEWART (1882-1917)

Sapper Herbert R. Stewart was born on July 11th, 1882 in Beaverton, Ontario. Prior to the war, he worked as an electrician and was married. Spr. Stewart enlisted on February 8th, 1915 in Ottawa, Ontario. He worked as a linesman in the 2nd Divisional Signals Company and fought at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. On May 6th, 1917, Spr. Stewart reported from base and was killed in action. He was 34 years old.