

# vimy ridge canadian memorial

## overview

In recognition of Canada's war efforts (see later notes about Vimy Ridge Trenches), France granted Canada perpetual use of a portion of land on Vimy Ridge under the understanding that the Canadians use the land to establish a battlefield park and memorial.

The memorial took monument designer Walter Seymour Allward (pictured) eleven years to build.



King Edward VIII unveiled the memorial on 26 July 1936, in the presence of 50,000 Canadian and French veterans and their families.

To reach the memorial you climb the ridge that was taken at such a heavy cost in 1917, and can then look beyond it into the fertile plains which the Germans were so desperate to defend.

## independent tasks

Around the base of the memorial are inscribed the names of 11,285 missing Canadian Soldiers. Some of these are listed in the format “[real name] serving as [adopted name]”.

**Q. Find an example of such a name and photograph it.**

**Q. Why do you think some of these soldiers served under an assumed identity rather than their real names?**

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**Discussion Point: If someone only had the time to visit EITHER Vimy Ridge OR the Menin Gate, which would you recommend they choose, and why?**

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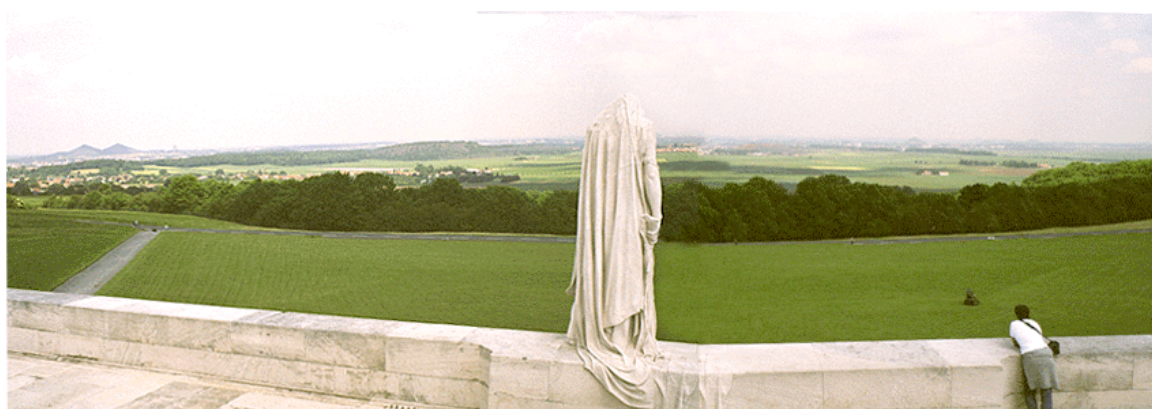
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**Q. Identify three key features of the memorial, and provide your interpretation of what you think they represent. The first two are chosen for you.**

	What do they represent?
<b>The figures of people</b>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<b>The two separate “pylons”</b>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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**Complete the appropriate column of the “memorials to the missing” table.**

# vimy ridge trenches

## overview

Vimy Ridge is the most important battlefield for the Canadians. The distance between the German and Canadian trench systems is amazingly just 5-10 meters in places!

The ridge which lies ahead of the trenches as you enter was held by the Germans between 1914-1917 and was a crucial part of their defences, barring the way to the mines and factories in the plain below which had been of great use to the German war machine.

Canadian tunnellers dug tunnels under the Ridge (which we will explore in a guided tour) and then used these as exit points for their troops to launch a surprise attack on the German positions after bombarding them with over a million shells over the course of a week (the largest artillery bombardment in history up to that point). Between 9th-12th April 1917, under cover of a creeping barrage, the Canadians managed to seize the ridge from the Germans, who had occupied it for three years. There were 11,000 Canadian casualties (3,500 dead) - 200,000 people had lost their lives during the war in battles over the ridge.



**Q. What was the most interesting thing you learned from the guided tour? Explain your answer.**

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**Q. What are the most notable ways in which these trenches differ from those at Beaumont Hamel?**

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