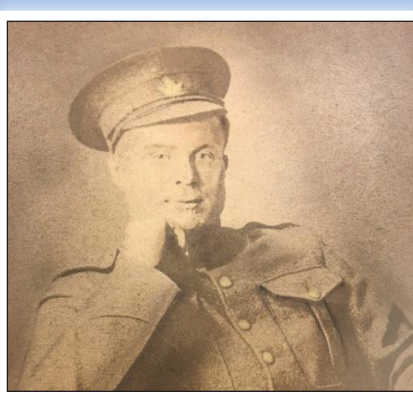


In honor of Grandpa
Elwood Smith
133rd Norfolk Battalion
Wounded & Gassed
at Vimy



Survived The Battle of
Vimy Ridge
April 9 - 12, 1917

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Norfolk County will be joining the rest of Canada to observe the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge

One hundred years ago on April 9, 1917, the battle that forged Canada's identity on the world stage was fought at Vimy Ridge and Norfolk men were in the thick of the action.

The entire country was galvanized by the feat of arms of 100,000 Canadians which proved to be a pivotal point of the First World War. The attack began at 0530 on Easter Monday, April 9. By 2:30 in the afternoon, they had taken Vimy Ridge.

But it came at a frightful price. In total, **3,598** Canadians were killed on the slopes of Vimy Ridge and many thousands more were wounded. Among that heartbreaking toll were 25 men from Norfolk County and another 300 wounded.

This small rural area contributed 1,500 men and women to fight during World War One. In the early stages of the war, which began in 1914, most enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. Other Norfolk men enlisted in Brantford, London and Woodstock or joined battalions from British Columbia to New Brunswick and as far away as the Northwest Territories where they had gone to work.

By far, most enlisted in the 133rd Norfolk Battalion which arrived in England in 1916 where they were assigned as reinforcements to other units decimated by early fighting in France. About 250 went to the 14th Battalion, Royal Montreal Regiment, 240 went to the 4th Battalion, Central Ontario Regiment and 200

went to the 123rd Battalion, Pioneer Battalion.

Drawing on local sources and research materials, Delhi native Grant Smith has compiled photos and basic biographies of all the Norfolk men killed during WW 1 and WW 2, including those at Vimy Ridge, in a series of publications entitled Norfolk Remembers.

Centrepiece of the national observance of the Vimy Ridge anniversary will be at the iconic Canadian Memorial atop Vimy Ridge in France which honours all the 60,000 Canadians killed during World War One. The Norfolk Remembers Committee encourages all to take a moment to remember our local boys who gave all during this iconic battle.

"The taking of Vimy Ridge was an achievement, which Canada should be really proud of. The whole affair went off as a well-rehearsed play. I cannot describe it to you, as one has to go over the ground to appreciate the importance and magnitude of the advance. The shell-torn ground, destroyed roads and railroads, ruined buildings, limbless, and trunkless trees are monuments to the desperate and dogged fighting of the boys of the Maple Leaf. But, there are other monuments, the little wooden crosses, which denote the great price, which was paid for the victory. Many of those crosses I am sorry to say bear the names and numbers of Norfolk boys, and how often have I gazed upon one or the other of them and thought how it might have been mine." Source: Norfolk Letters Home Norfolk at Vimy April 19, 1917 pg.35.

The 25 Norfolk Men Killed at Vimy



Pte. Cornelius William Bogardus
Houghton
Died on April 12, 1917 age 38
Buried in the Aix-Noulette
Communal Cemetery, France



Pte. Harry Booth
Wycombe, North Walsingham
Died on April 9, 1917 age 27
Buried in the Nine Elms Military
Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

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- Czeslaw Milosz, The Ilsa Valley

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Norfolk County Public Library is honoured to be a partner with the Norfolk Remembers Project.

The funds raised from the sale of the Norfolk Remembers books are being used to provide permanent acts of remembrance around the County.

Projects in the works include: a signature quilt with names of the soldiers who were killed in WW1 and an art quilt about war images; a map of Norfolk war memorials and cemeteries where veterans are buried; publishing of books about the letters written home from Battle of Hill 70 and Passchendaele.