

CANADA'S FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLES

FRESNOY 100 YEARS LATER

On May 3, 1917, the 1st and 6th Canadian brigades launched an attack on Fresnoy-en-Gohelle, the retreating point for the German forces from the village of Arleux-en-Gohelle, and an important position on the Oppy-Méricourt Line.

The 1st and 6th Canadian brigades set out at 3:45 am under the cover of darkness going over the top, taking the heavily fortified village of Fresnoy within several hours. Counter attacks began almost immediately and Fresnoy was shelled for the next seven days, absorbing some 100,000 German artillery and gas shells. The British arrived on May 9 to relieve the Canadians, but disaster struck, and Fresnoy was lost. Canadian losses for the battle were 1,259 casualties, 1,080 of which were from the 1st Brigade, Canadian Corps.

100 years later, the Vimy Foundation is actively working to ensure that Fresnoy, now largely forgotten, and other major battles of the First World War involving Canadians are recalled and our losses commemorated.

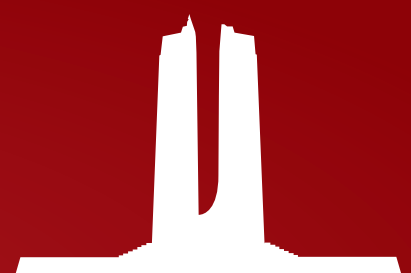
We will remember them.



DIRECTING FIRE OF A GERMAN CAPTURED GUN NOW IN THE CANADIAN LINES. MAY, 1917.
Photo courtesy of Canada. Dept. of National Defence/Library and Archives Canada

Help the Vimy Foundation continue its work to preserve the legacy of Canada's role in the First World War. Find out more about the Vimy Foundation's ongoing education and awareness-building programs. **Please donate now to support our work.**

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