

CANADA'S FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLES

HILL 70 100 YEARS LATER

Four months after Vimy Ridge, the battle at nearby Hill 70 was the first large engagement of the war by the Canadian Corps solely under Canadian leadership, led by Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie.

On 15 August 1917, the Canadian Corps attacked Hill 70 at 4:25 A.M. with great success. German counter attacks began soon thereafter, but by 16 August 1917, the 2nd Division had completed its objective and Hill 70 was considered fully taken. To this point, the strategy of “bite and hold” had taken place flawlessly, now came the third component of “chew.” Massed German counter attacks, including gas attacks, continued for the coming days, making holding the hill deadly work for the Canadians, but even more so for the Germans. Total German casualties for the six-day battle were 20,000.

Canadian casualties were not insignificant at 5,600. Six Victoria Crosses were awarded for action at this momentous battle.

100 years later, the Vimy Foundation is actively working to ensure that Hill 70, now largely forgotten, and other major battles of the First World War involving Canadians are recalled and our losses commemorated.

We will remember them.



0-1768

PA-001596 A BADLY WOUNDED CANADIAN DRINKING HOT COFFEE AT SOUP KITCHEN 100 YARDS FROM THE BOCHE LINES DURING THE PUSH ON HILL 70. AUGUST 1917.

Help the Vimy Foundation continue its work to preserve the legacy of Canada's role in the First World War.

PLEASE DONATE NOW

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