



## THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

April 9-12, 1917: The Battle of Vimy Ridge. In stark contrast to the ad hoc charge at Kitchener's Wood two years before, Vimy was an offensive that involved meticulous reconnaissance and planning prior to the attack. The aim was not only to be successful, but also to reduce Canadian casualties.

175 German artillery pieces prior to the engagement. Accurate and precise counterbattery fire from the Canadians' own artillery eliminated 85% of these and greatly eased the Canadians' progress.

*... continued on page 2*



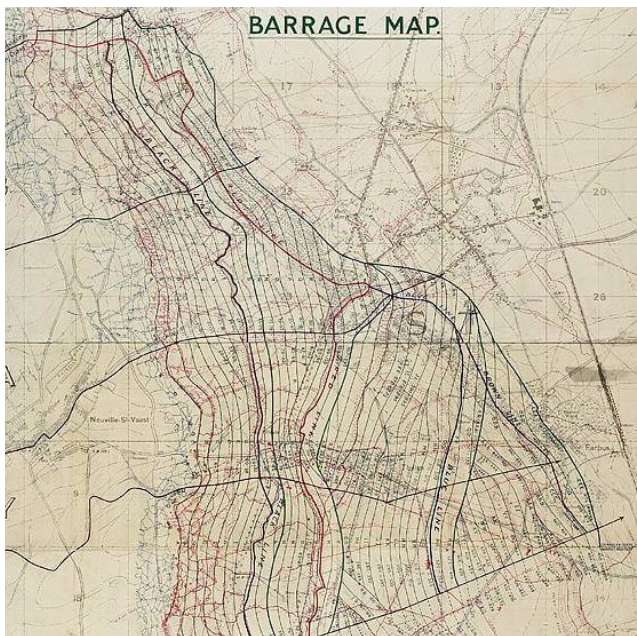
Canadians occupying a German gun emplacement destroyed by the rolling Canadian artillery fire at Vimy (Credit: Library and Archives Canada, Mikan #3194784).

Through a combination of new triangulation methods, observations of muzzle flashes, and pinpointing the origination of sounds, the Canadians were able to locate some

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The barrage map for the Vimy operation, showing when and where the artillery lines would be (Credit: Library and Archives Canada).

This phenomenal feat was enabled by the willingness of Colonel Andrew McNaughton (put in charge of the counterbattery effort by General Byng) to entertain and test the new methods; they had been proposed by Canadian officer Captain Harold Hemming and a trio of civilians, Lucien Bull, Lawrence Bragg, and C.G. Darwin, the eponymous grandson of Charles Darwin.

However, while this and subsequent barrages managed to neutralize a great deal of German threats, they would inevitably miss some. As a result, Currie's recent emphasis on trusting the independent initiative and capabilities of individual platoons proved vital - provided with maps and aerial photos, Canadian soldiers were told to advance as far as possible using all movement formations as necessary; they were essentially told not to limit themselves to previous methods of moving across the battlefield in rigid lines and waves. Thus, despite the losses of many, points along the Canadian lines were still able to continue onward in the face of stiff German resistance. The result? By April 12, the Canadian Corps held the ridge. One Paris newspaper called it "Canada's Easter gift to France."

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*For more articles like this, please visit our [online military history library](#).*

## DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR DONATION CAN DO?

\$50 = 

\$50 (or ONE membership) allows three students to attend Valour Canada's in-museum program.

\$500 = 

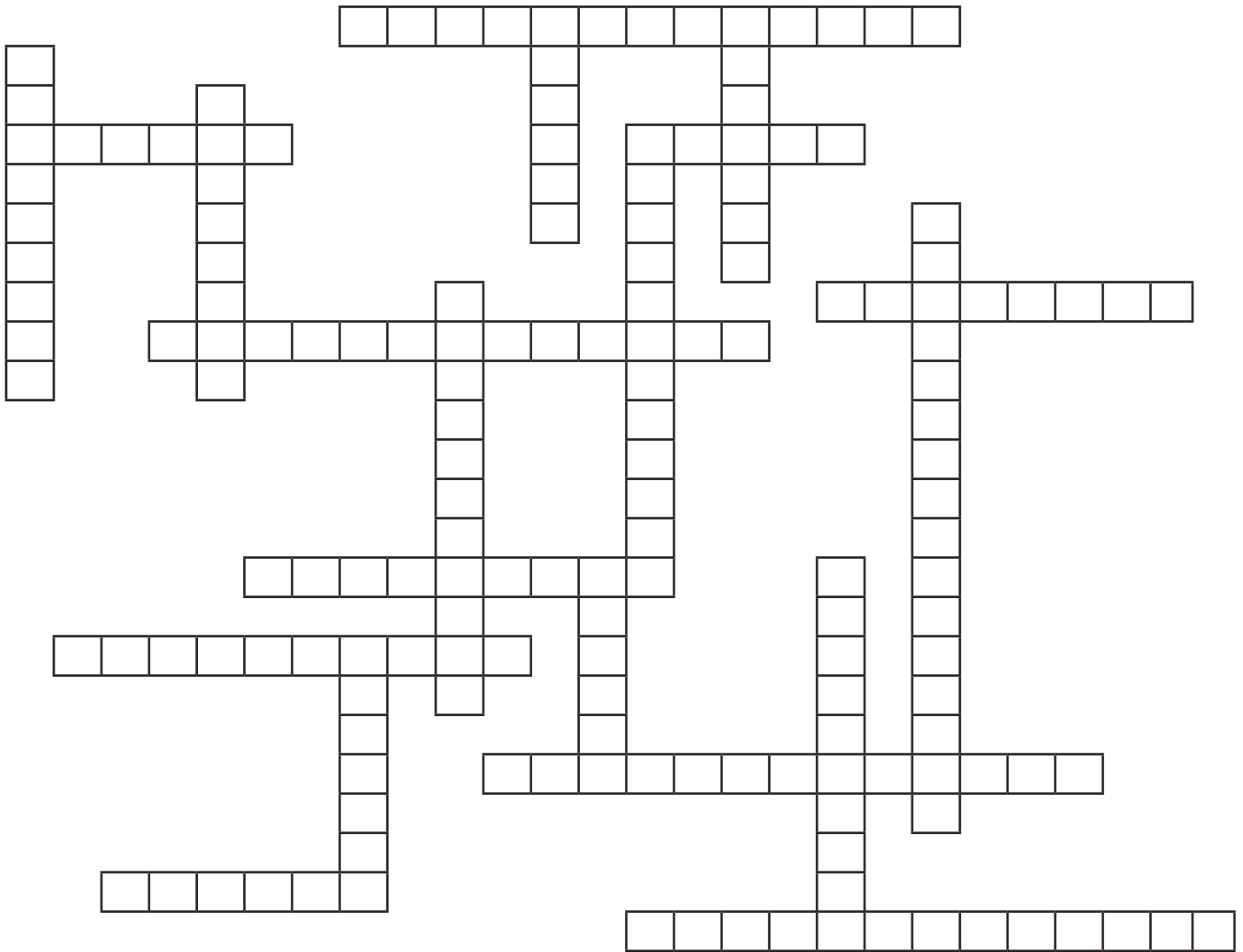
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\$2000 (or FORTY memberships) allows the development of one new lesson plan and activity module for our in-museum program.

\$5000 = 

\$5000 (or ONE HUNDRED memberships) allows the development of one new virtual reality module.



## CAN YOU FIND WHERE THESE WORDS FIT?

- 1) Tunnel
- 2) Memorial
- 3) Battle of Arras
- 4) World War One
- 5) Julian Byng
- 6) Vimy Ridge
- 7) German
- 8) British
- 9) French
- 10) Arthur Currie
- 11) Canadian Corps
- 12) April
- 13) Artillery
- 14) Andrew McNaughton
- 15) Harold Hemming
- 16) Lucien Bull
- 17) Lawrence Bragg
- 18) CG Darwin
- 19) Barrage
- 20) Easter

# WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE



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## VALOUR CANADA - EVENTS

- **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:** Our annual membership drive runs from **February 6, 2021 to June 6, 2021**. Please consider becoming a member and helping us reach our goal of 100 new members. To participate, please visit [our membership drive page here](#).
- **BEER TASTING EVENT:** Save the date - we will be having our first virtual beer tasting event on **Thursday 20 May 2021**. This event includes exploring locally brewed craft beer with an experienced brewmaster, and a couple rounds of Canadian military history themed trivia! Stay tuned for more details coming later this month.

## VALOUR CANADA - UPDATES

- **2021 SPEAKER SERIES - THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE:** Our first virtual speaker series hosted on 08 April 2021 was a huge success! Thank you to all that attended. An email copy of the recording will be circulated to all attendees and shared on our [YouTube](#) page.

## MARCH ANSWER KEY

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## QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS?

We would love to hear from you! Please send any comments, questions or suggestions by emailing: [contact@valourcanada.ca](mailto:contact@valourcanada.ca).

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