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citing sources from the Internet. It follows the Modern Language Association (MLA) documentation style. For more information on the MLA citation styles, visit this web site:
<http://www.english.uiuc.edu/cws/wworkshop/mlamenu.htm>.

Format:

Author(s). *Name of Page* (in italics or underlined). Name of Organization (or the term "Home page" if it is a personal home page). Date of Posting. Date you accessed the material. <electronic address, i.e., URL of the site>

Examples:

World Wide Web pages

Ivarone, Mike. Armory: *Gas Warfare*. Home page. Updated 12 Nov. 1999. 31 Nov. 1999.
 <<http://www.worldwar1.com/arm006.htm>>

On-line Encyclopedia

No author listed. "Chemical Warfare." *Britannica Online*. Dec. 1998. 14 Jan. 1999.
 <<http://www.eb.com/180>>

CD-ROMs

Coffman, Edward M. "World War I." *World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia*. CD-ROM 1998.

Try It!

- Put your new skill to work by doing research on one of the following topics related to World War I. Follow each step outlined above. After your search, cite the Internet sources you found and considered reliable. Include notes on any sites you found that you did not consider reliable and note why.

a) trench warfare	d) aircraft
b) tanks	e) role of women
c) submarines	

**Netsurfer**

Visit an excellent site for research on World War I at www.worldwar1.com.

Battles on the Western Front

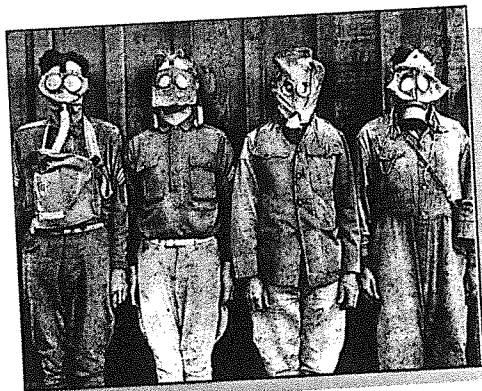
The first division of 20 000 Canadian troops took up places alongside their allies on the front lines in mid-April 1915. In the horror of the months and years that followed, they were joined by another 600 000 fellow Canadians. Some of Canada's most prominent moments in the war are associated with battles along the **Western Front**. Canada's contribution will

never be forgotten at Ypres, Festubert, the St. Eloi craters, Mount Sorrel, the Somme, Courcellette, Vimy Ridge, the Scarpe, Passchendaele, Amiens, Arras, the Canal du Nord, and Cambrai. The following are only a few of the major battles in which Canadians were involved.

Gas Attack at Ypres

Canada's first major battle in the war was fought near the ancient city of Ypres in Belgium in 1915. Canadian troops were sent to help hold 3.5 km of the front line in the face of heavy German attack. It was a harsh beginning. The troops were surprised by a deadly new weapon—poison gas! It was the first poison gas attack in history. As the yellow-green clouds of gas filled the trenches, the Canadians were the only troops able to hold their position and mount a successful counterattack. They stalled the German advance and won high praise for their courage, but the cost was high. Over 6000 men died.

After Ypres, more effective gas masks were developed. Though banned by international treaty, both chlorine and mustard gas were used during World War I.

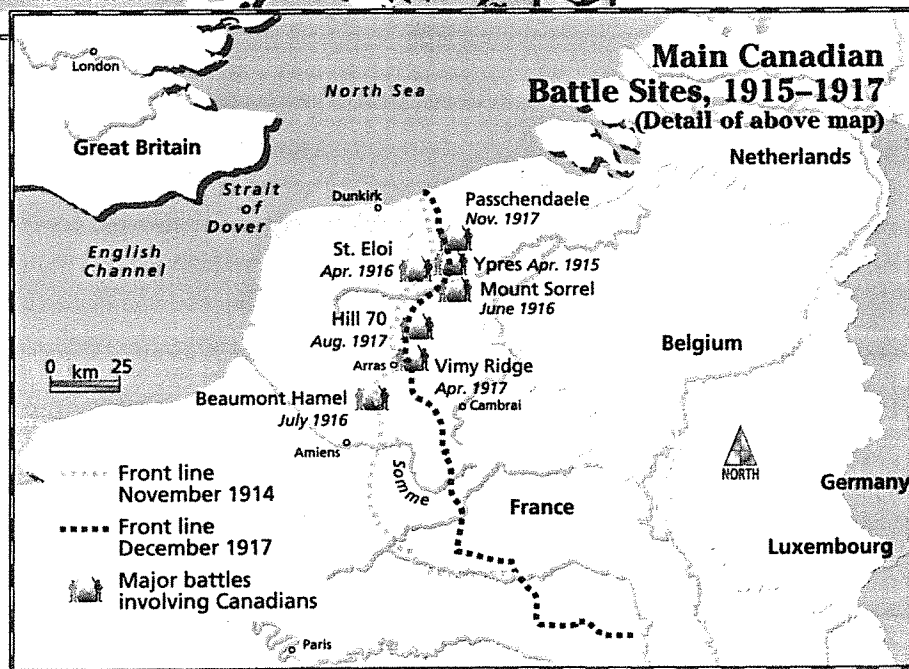




One in five was listed as killed in action, gassed, missing, or wounded.

One soldier recalled, "I have never been in a battle—and I have been in many—where the men were suffering in such numbers that their crying and groaning could be heard all over the battlefield." The deadly chlorine gas burned the eyes and throat, and destroyed the lungs. Soldiers who breathed the gas choked, gagged, gasped, coughed, and died. A Canadian medical officer recognized the gas as chlorine and came up with an antidote—the men soaked their handkerchiefs in urine and held them over their faces. It was their only defence.

Later in the war, even more deadly poison gases were used by both sides. Worst of all was mustard gas. This burned the skin and the respiratory tract, and caused blindness.



Battle of the Somme

The first day of the Battle of the Somme in France—1 July 1916—was the most disastrous the British army had ever faced. The Canadian corps fought as part of the British forces under the command of British General Haig. By nightfall, British and Canadian casualties totalled 57 470, the highest ever in warfare for one day's fighting.

*Where is the front line in 1914?
Where is it in 1917?
What does this tell you about the amount of territory gained during the war?*

Troops from Newfoundland and Labrador played a major part in the Battle of the Somme. These troops faced a particularly strong part of the German line at Beaumont Hamel. British bombardment was supposed to have taken out the German machine gun posts and cleared no-man's land of barbed wire. This was tragically untrue. The soldiers were mowed down by machine gun fire as they struggled to get across no-man's land. When it was over, 90 per cent of the regiment was dead or wounded. It was the greatest single disaster in the 500-plus year

history of Newfoundland and Labrador. July 1 is still marked as a solemn memorial day in that province.

In spite of the heavy losses, hardly any ground had been captured. General Haig, however, insisted that the attack go on. For 141 days, the Battle of the Somme dragged on. Canadians fought so heroically that they were marked out as storm troops. During the rest of the war, they were often called in to spearhead an attack. British Prime Minister Lloyd George later wrote in his war memoirs: "Whenever the Germans found the Canadian corps coming into their line, they prepared for the worst."

When the Battle of the Somme finally ended five months after it began, both armies were exhausted. Casualties for both sides had reached 1.25 million, of whom 24 000 were Canadians. The British had advanced no more than 11 km.

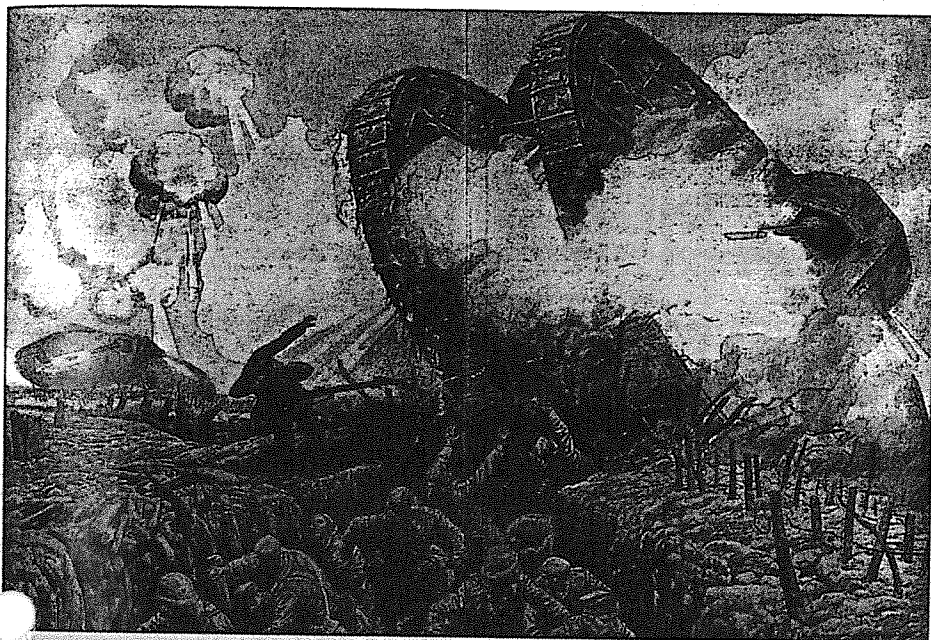
At home, people were horrified by this massacre. Many blamed General Haig for insisting the battle go on despite the heavy casualties. Others blamed the politicians who started the war. The real enemy seemed to be neither the Germans nor the Austrians, but the war itself.

Vimy Ridge

In February 1917, Canadian General Arthur Currie was given orders to capture Vimy Ridge. The German position on the ridge seemed invincible. But Currie had learned from the experience of earlier battles. He was convinced that poor preparation and

As the battle of the Somme began at exactly 7:30 a.m., a British officer led his troops "over the top." One soldier was hit as soon as his head appeared over the trench. The others stumbled through no-man's land toward the German trenches through a hail of machine gun fire. At the end a British sergeant recorded, "Our dead were heaped on top of each other . . . in places three and four deep."





Tanks were used for the first time in warfare during the Battle of the Somme.

1. Describe the features of the tank shown in this painting.
2. How does this painting show the effectiveness of the tank for trench warfare?
3. Why do you think military leaders at first did not believe in the value of the tank? What disadvantages do you think tanks would have on the Western Front?

scouting had caused high casualties and heavy losses in the past. Currie was not prepared to send his men blindly across no-man's land to be slaughtered as they stumbled toward enemy machine gunners and barbed wire. He had spoken up against unsound plans from British headquarters in the past. Instead, he had submitted alternative plans, which were often adopted.

Currie became a respected strategist in the war and was the first Canadian to be promoted to the rank of general. He fought to keep Canadian soldiers together in a true Canadian Division. Now at Vimy, all Canadian Divisions would fight together.

Currie made sure that preparations for the battle were extremely thorough. Troops built a full-scale model of the battle area and carefully practised their manoeuvres again and again. Planes flew reconnaissance (scouting) missions and clearly plotted out the positions of the German guns. Light railway lines were built to move artillery, and a maze of underground tunnels was dug to move troops and supplies safely and secretly. When the time for the battle arrived, every soldier knew his job.

The plan was to have the troops closely follow a massive barrage of artillery fire on the German position. Usually, troops waited for days for artillery fire



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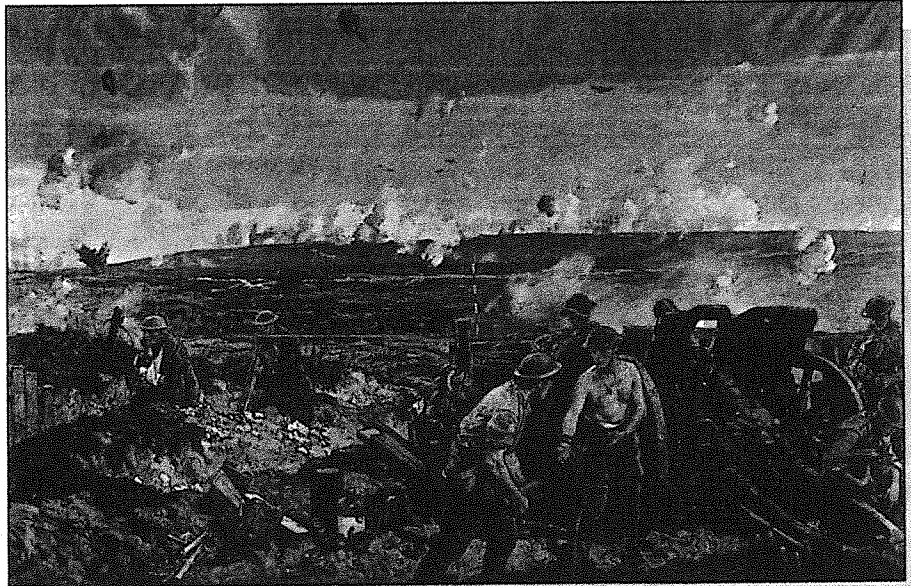
For more information on Canada's participation in the war, visit the Canadian War Museum at www.civilization.ca/cwm

Canadian General Currie became a respected strategist in the war. Before the battle of Vimy, he said, "Thorough preparation must lead to success. Neglect nothing."



to blow out enemy guns before they dared advance. By following the barrage immediately, Canadian infantrymen gained the element of surprise. They pushed forward and successfully took the ridge. The Canadians had won the only significant victory for the Allies in 1917. It was a turning point in the war for the Allies and for Canada as a nation. Largely as a result of this victory, Canada won a seat as a separate nation at the peace talks after the war.

In Richard Jack's painting of the Vimy battle, Canadian soldiers fire heavy artillery guns at the German position. It was Canada's most celebrated victory.



Passchendaele

After Vimy, General Currie was knighted and promoted to command the entire Canadian corps. In October 1917, he was called in by British General Haig to formulate a plan for the capture of **Passchendaele**. This Belgian area of land had once been beneath the North Sea. When the shelling destroyed drainage ditches, the land became waterlogged. Soldiers sometimes wept with the sheer frustration of trying to advance through the mud. Narrow duckboards were placed as pathways over the mire. Nevertheless, thousands of soldiers and horses who slipped into the mud were sucked in and drowned. Locomotives sank to their boilers and tanks quickly bogged down.

The troops took the ridge, but it was a bitter victory. A British official, seeing the battlefield for the first time, cried out, "Good God! Did we really send soldiers to fight in that?" Almost 16 000 Canadians lost their lives at Passchendaele. The offensive gained 7 km of mud that the Germans soon won back again.