

CANADA'S FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLES

COURCELETTE 100 YEARS LATER

On 15 September 1916, the Canadian Corps entered the Battle of the Somme at Courcelette. A fortified village, Courcelette provided a vantage point over the German defense system in the area, which if captured, could be exploited by the British.

The 2nd Division captured the village of Courcelette in two attacks; one at 6:20 AM on 15 September, and the other at 6:00 PM the same day. Taking the village was not easy, and the two attacking battalions, the French Canadian 22nd Battalion (the "Van Doos") and the 25th Battalion (Nova Scotia Rifles), were trapped in Courcelette with little food and water for three days of constant attacks. This victory on the Somme cost more than 7,200 Canadian dead, wounded, and missing.

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

We will remember them.



BRINGING IN A WOUNDED CANADIAN FROM THE BATTLE OF COURCELETTE. SEPT. 1916.
Photo courtesy of 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 and please donate now to support this work.



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