



The Vimy Ridge Monument is the centrepiece of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial site in France and is one of Canada's most significant works of art.

Vimy Ridge Monument an impressive tribute to First World War vets

Canada's most impressive tribute overseas to those Canadians who fought and gave their lives in the First World War is the majestic and inspiring Vimy Monument.

The monument is situated on Vimy Ridge, a height of land in northern France, 14 kilometres northeast of Arras. It is the centrepiece of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial site.

The Vimy Monument is one of Canada's most significant works of art. Through its powerful composition and extraordinary artistic quality, it speaks to the nature of war and sacrifice, to mourning and melancholy and ultimately, to hope in the future.

As such, it remains an enduring symbol of Canada's coming of age in the First World War.

Vimy Ridge Monument fast facts

- In 1922, France granted 117 hectares (290 acres) of the original battle site to Canada in perpetuity for the purpose of erecting a monument and establishing a permanent national memorial park.

- The design of Toronto sculptor Walter Allward was chosen out of 160 entries in a Canadian national competition. It took eleven years of work (1925-1936) and approximately \$1.5 million to construct.

- The Vimy Monument rises from Hill 145, the highest point on Vimy Ridge, which formed part of the long static line known as the Western Front. For more than 70 years the monument has been a strong visual feature in the broad landscape.

- The monument's two soaring pylons

represent Canada and France, the two countries joined together by the spirit of sacrifice.

- Twenty allegorical figures adorn the monument. They depict sacrifice and grief, symbolize the ideals for which Canadians had given their lives, and evoke universal values of justice, peace and truth.

- Inscribed around the walls of the monument are the names of 11, 285 Canadian soldiers whose bodies were never identified after the war and thus have no known grave.

- The monument was unveiled on July 26, 1936. Sixty years later, the Canadian National Vimy Memorial was designated a National Historic Site of Canada.

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