



26/XII Museum Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 2 Brandon's Military Museum March 2013

26 FIELD REGIMENT RCA/XII MANITOBA DRAGOONS MUSEUM • BRANDON MB

Vimy Night Saturday 6th April 2013 at Brandon Armoury

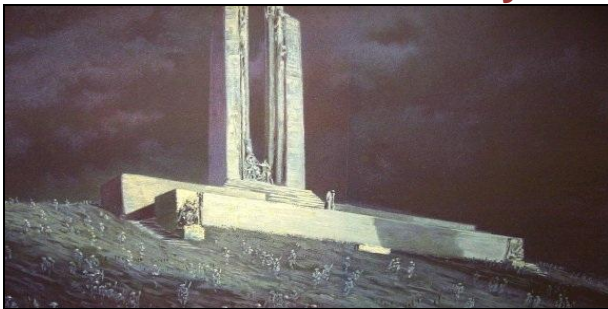


Fig. 1 The Vimy Memorial Canadian War Museum; by William Longstrech



Fig. 2 Lt Gen Byng Canadian Corps Commander at Vimy

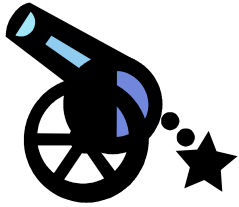
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Friends of the Museum who wish to make a donation or a bequest of Artefacts or financial assistance to the Museum are always welcome. Please contact the Museum Treasurer, Lorna Ball at rgbball@mymts.net or call 204-728-7665.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was a military engagement fought primarily as part of the Battle of Arras, in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region of France, during the First World War. The main combatants were the Canadian Corps, of four divisions, against three divisions of the German Sixth Army. The battle, which took place from 9 to 12 April 1917, was part of the opening phase of the British-led Battle of Arras, a diversionary attack for the French Nivelle Offensive. The objective of the Canadian Corps was to take control of the German-held high ground along an escarpment at the northernmost end of the Arras Offensive. This would ensure that the southern flank could advance without suffering German enfilade fire. Supported by a creeping barrage, the Canadian Corps captured most of the ridge during the first day of the attack. The town of Thélus fell during the second day of the attack, as did the crest of the ridge once the Canadian Corps overcame a salient of considerable German resistance. The final objective, a fortified knoll located outside the town of Givenchy-en-Gohelle, fell to the Canadian Corps on 12 April. The German forces then retreated to the Oppy-Méricourt line. Historians attribute the success of the Canadian Corps in capturing the ridge to a mixture of technical and tactical innovation, meticulous planning, powerful artillery support and extensive training, as well as the failure of the German Sixth Army to properly apply the new German defensive doctrine. The battle was the first occasion when all four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force participated in a battle together and thus became a Canadian nationalistic symbol of achievement and sacrifice. A 250 acres portion of the former battleground serves as a preserved memorial park and site of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial. Of the 100,000 Canadians who fought at the Battle of Vimy Ridge 10,602 Canadians were wounded 3,598 Canadians died. Four Victoria Crosses were awarded to soldiers for Heroism.

Vimy Night Fundraiser



On behalf of the Commanding Officer 26th Field Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery LCol Dave Dalal you are invited to support the Thirty-Third Annual 26th Field Regiment and XII Manitoba Dragoons Museum Vimy Night celebration and fundraiser on Saturday the 6th April 2013 in the Brandon Armoury. The Doors open at 6:00 pm supper will be served at 6:30 pm. The evening will consist of a Chinese Food Buffet, catered by Double Happiness Restaurant, entertainment provided by the 26 Field Regiment Pipes and Drums Band, and a live auction. The Chinese Food Buffet tickets cost \$15.00 per person. Admission to the Auction is free and the entrance to The Armoury is via the 11th Street door. There will also be a cash bar for beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic). Please RSVP to Lorna Ball at rqball@mymts.net or phone 204-728-7665 by the 26th of March 2012. We look forward to seeing you there! Any further questions please contact Lorna Ball. Thank you for your time and support.

Diamond Jubilee Medal

Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal

A new commemorative medal was created to mark the 2012 celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal is a tangible way for Canada to honour Her Majesty for her service to this country. At the same time, it serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians. During the year of celebrations, 60,000 deserving Canadians will be recognized. The Chancellery of Honours, as part of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, administers the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal program.

Queens' Diamond Jubilee Medals Presentation

On the 14th of December 2012, well deserved Queens' Diamond Jubilee Medals were presented to Betty Jean Coleman former Honorary Colonel 26 Field Regiment RCA, Chair of 26 Field Regiment RCA Senate and Captain Kelvon Smith, CD CO of XII MB Dragoons Cadet Corps by the Honorable Merv Tweed Member of Parliament for Brandon Souris, at his constituency office in Brandon.



Fig 3 Hon Merv Tweed and
Mrs. Betty Jean Coleman



Fig 4 Hon Merv Tweed and
Captain Kelvon Smith, CD

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Many thanks to the former 26 Field RQMS

In February Sgt Yves Lacerte relinquished his position as Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant (RQMS). Sgt Lacerte was a great supporter of the 26XII Museum, whether it was inventory musters, work orders or help with anything Yves was there to help the Museum as much as he could. His smiling face and can-do attitude will be missed by all the Volunteers.



***Fig 5 Curator Edd. Mc Arthur presents
Sgt Lacerte with a token of appreciation***



***Fig 6 Sgt Lacerte and
Sandy Armstrong share a moment***



***Fig 7 Sgt Lacerte
shows off Yves the penguin***

Identify the Artefact



**Answer to last Identify the Artefact
Is RCN Midshipman Badge worn on
the lapel of the tunic.**



**Identify the Artefact:
For answer see next issue of
The 26XII Newsletter**

Bennett Collection update

The Bennett Collection of, rank insignia, cap, badges, unit crests and pictures is now on display. The Museum has dedicated two display cases to extensive and an exceptional collection.

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Gift from a thankful Nation.

Mr. John H. Hamilton knows to his friend as Jack. A veteran of the Normandy D-Day Landing. He was serving with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles during the Second World War and was wounded only a few feet from the water's edge during the D-Day landings in Normandy. Jack was awarded the 60th Anniversary Chest Medallion by the French Province of Lower Normandy. Mr. Hamilton is an avid friend and supporter of the Museum. The volunteers send him congratulation on his award.



Fig 8 Normandy Medallion and Certificate framed by Lasting Image



Fig 9 Normandy Chest Medallion



Fig 10 Mr. Hamilton wearing the Normandy Chest Medallion

Name that Ribbon

In this section different ribbons will be shown. The names of the ribbon and its associated medal will be published in the next issue of the newsletter. Note these ribbons will be world-wide.



Ribbon 1



Ribbon 2



Ribbon 3



Ribbon 4



Ribbon 5

Answers

**Officer of the
Order of Canada**

**Nation Service Medal
Royal British Legion**

**Alberta Centennial
Medal**

**The Most Venerable Order
of the Hospital of St John
of Jerusalem**

**United States
Vietnam Service
Medal**

Name that Ribbon



Ribbon 1



Ribbon 2



Ribbon 3



Ribbon 4



Ribbon 5

Answers in the next issue of the 26XII Museum Newsletter

Saint Barbara Icon finds a new Home

Barbara was born, raised and died in the ancient city of Nicomedia, Asia Minor now part of Turkey. According to her history Barbara, the daughter of a rich pagan named Dioscorus, was carefully guarded by her father who kept her shut up in a tower in order to preserve her from the outside world. Having secretly become a Christian, she rejected an offer of marriage that she received through him. Before going on a journey, he commanded that a private bath-house be erected for her use near her dwelling, and during his absence, Barbara had three windows put in it, as a symbol of the Holy Trinity, instead of the two originally intended. When her father returned, she acknowledged herself to be a Christian; upon this he drew his sword to kill her, but her prayers created an opening in the tower wall and she was miraculously transported to a mountain gorge, where two shepherds watched their flocks. Dioscorus, in pursuit of his daughter, was rebuffed by the first shepherd, but the second betrayed her and was turned to stone and his flock changed to locusts. Dragged before the prefect of the province, Martinianus, who had her cruelly tortured, Barbara held true to her faith. During the night, the dark prison was bathed in light and new miracles occurred. Every morning her wounds were healed. Torches that were to be used to burn her went out as soon as they came near her. Finally she was condemned to death by beheading. Her father himself carried out the death-sentence. However, as punishment for this, he was struck by lightning on the way home and his body was consumed by flame. Barbara was buried by a Christian, Valentinus, and her tomb became the site of miracles.



Fig 11 St Barbara Russian Orthodox
Icon printed in Odessa Russia in 1890



Fig 12 Barbara Icon framed by
Lasting Image Brandon

Saint Barbara, Feast Day December 4, known in the Eastern Orthodox Church as the Great Martyr Barbara, was a saint and a martyr from the earliest days of the Christian Church. As early as the third century she was placed Nicomedia. Because there is no reference to her neither in the authentic early Christian writings, nor in the original Martyrologium Hieronymianum Pope Paul VI removed her from the liturgical calendar of the Roman rite in 1969. Saint Barbara is often portrayed with miniature chains and a tower. Barbara continues to be a popular saint in modern times, perhaps best known as the patron saint of artillerymen, military engineers, miners and others who work with explosives because of her old legend's association with mathematics and lightning.

Our thanks to the Tanscona Historical Museum for transferring this Icon of St. Barbara to our care.

www.26fdregmuseum.com or www.12mbdragons.com

Serving King, Queen and Country Exhibit

The Brandon General Museum and Archives and the 26th Field Regiment RCA/XII Manitoba Dragoon Museum present *The Serving King, Queen and Country Exhibit*. Everyone is invited to view this one of a kind display at the BGMA until the 6th of April 2013 at The BGMA 19-9th Street, Brandon Manitoba



Fig 13



Fig 14



Fig 15

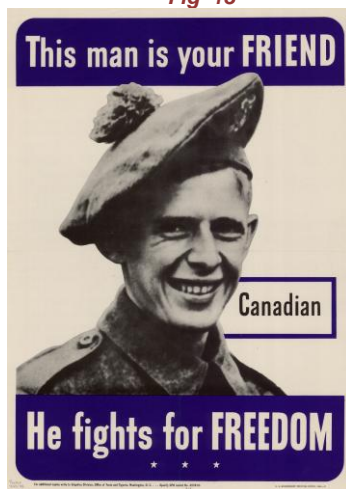


Fig 16



Fig 17



Fig 18



Fig 19



Fig 20



Fig 21



Figs 22

Figures 13 through 22 Canadian World War One and World War Two Patriotic Posters

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Fig 23 King, Queen and Country Exhibit



Fig 24 BGMA Curator Mark Veneziano

From Col Whitehead's truck to former Mayor Magnacca's mess kit. The King, Queen and Country Exhibit by the 26th Field Regiment RCA/XII Manitoba Dragoons Museum at the Brandon General Museum and Archive opening was well attended by public and members of Brandon's Army unit 26th Field Regiment RCA. BGMA Curator Mark Veneziano opened the exhibit and the public was welcomed by 26XII Museum Curator Edd. Mc Arthur. Her Worship Mayor Shari Decter Hirst was on hand to tour the Exhibit.



**Fig 25 L to R HLCol Felstead, Mark Veneziaio
Veneziaio Curator BGMA, Mayor Shari Decter
Hirst and Edd. Mc Arthur Curator 26XII Museum**



**Fig 26 Soldiers from Brandon's Army Reserve unit
26th Field Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery
listen to the opening remarks**

Serving King, Queen and Country Exhibit

Mr. Frank Day a Veteran of the British Army Devonshire Regiment who served in the WWII Burmese Theatre. He fought in the Battle of Imphal North-East India from March until July 1944. Victory for the Allies in this battle kept the Japanese armies from invading India. After the war Frank immigrated to Canada and served in the Royal Canadian Air Force until he retired from active service 1970.



**Fig 27 Mr. Frank Day donates a Burmese Dah used
by Indigenous Tribes to Curator Edd. Mc Arthur**



**Fig 28 Frank Day's 1942 British Army issued
Clasp Knife from his time in Burma**



Catch a bus, Drive a car, Ride your bike or walk.

The Museum is open every Tuesday from 9:00 to 11:30 am and 1:00 to 4:00 pm. For tours at other times call:

Edd. at 204 726-3498 or
Gord at 204 727-7691.

Thanks to our Donors for their donations

November 2012 to March 2013

Monetary Donors

26th Field Regimental Senate;
Colonel (retired) C.R. Haldane-Wilsone.

Donations of Artefacts

26th Fd Regt RCA Pipes and Drums Band;
Transcona Historical Museum;
Mrs. Jean Brown;
Mrs. Betty Coleman;
Mr. Frank Day;
Ms. Dolores Green;
Ms. Phyllis Grindle;
Major (retired) Bruce Hawkins;
Mr. Thomas Hoy;
Ms. Aina Kaulins;
Mr. Arthur Lyons;
Captain (retired) E.L. Mc Arthur;
Mr. Don Roy;
Mr. and Mrs. A. Whitehead.

Donations of Services

Mr. Bill Hillman web services and design;
Lasting Image framing services

The Museum is located on the South West corner of 11th Street and Victoria Avenue. For Information on the Museum and tours.

President, Colonel (retired) Don Berry, CD;

Vice President, Hon LCol Rick Felstead, OSTJ, CD

Curator Emeritus, CWO (retired) Ross Neale, CD

Curator, Captain (retired) E.L. Mc Arthur, CD

Be sure to check us out on the web at:

www.26fdregmuseum.com or www.12mbdragoons.com

Webmaster Bill Hillman

Or e-mail the following: Curator/26XII Museum Newsletter

Editor Edd. McArthur 26fdregCurator@wcgwave.ca or

Edward.McArthur@forces.gc.ca

Secretary/Head Researcher Gord Sim

26FdRegMuseum@wcgwave.ca

Treasurer Lorna Ball rgball@mymts.net

Librarian Sandy Armstrong 26fdlibrary@wcgwave.ca

Or telephone the following:

Office and Library 204 717-4579/204 728-2559 ext 38

Curator/Newsletter Editor 204 726-3498

Secretary/Chief Researcher 204 727-7691

This Newsletter is published by SDI under the authority of the Commanding Officer of 38 CBG ATG and by The Board of 26 Field Regiment RCA /XII MB Dragoons Museum Board. Please forward any inquiries to 26fdregCurator@wcgwave.ca.

My thanks to all the Museum Volunteers for their valuable assistance in putting the Newsletter together, Editor.

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