

## **SOLDIER KING: War Career of Edward VIII Recalled in Vimy Ridge Program**

Ten days after a would-be assassin had leveled a gun at him in London, King Edward VIII was scheduled to return to the Western Front, where, as a gangling, boyish staff captain, he narrowly missed death from a shell that wrecked his car and-killed his chauffeur.

Few in Britain knew, at the time, of his repeated pleas to be allowed to forget his rank, lead the men over the top and, if fate so willed it, die for King and Country. Only his mother shuddered when, in Victoria Station, an eye-witness described the bombing of a village, the German plane overhead, the Prince, steel helmet hard down, racing down a road and diving into the cellar of the ruined post-office to escape the bombs.

On Sunday, July 26, 1936, Edward VIII, flanked by President Albert Lebrun of France, is expected to tear aside a veil, revealing the principal inscription of a war memorial at Vimy Ridge.

With more than 6,000 Canadian War veterans, he is to stand on Canadian soil—240 acres of blood-soaked earth, presented to the Canadian Government by France.

**Historic Battle**—Nineteen years ago, on the frosty morning of April 9, 1917, 75,000 Canadians lay huddled in shell-torn dug-outs, crouched in mud-filled trenches and craters, nervously awaiting zero hour. The thundering roar of a thousand cannons, blasting a path through the lines of Bavarian Crown Prince Rupprecht's army, suddenly ceased. Hearts beat faster. At the stroke of 5:30, the command, "Let's go," sped from mouth to mouth. Four divisions rose to their feet.

Fifteen minutes later, Tarbus Wood had been cleared of the enemy. It was a man-to-man fight. Tanks were useless—they remained stuck fast in the deep mud. Slowly the Germans were driven back. A commanding hillock, the "Pimple," was taken. Hardly had the Canadians passed it, when German soldiers crept out of hidden tunnels, honeycombing the hillock, and attacked the Canadians from the rear. The whole Seventy-eighth Regiment was wiped out. New troops were thrown in. And when the sun slowly set that day, casting its last rays over the bodies of thousands of Canadians, the British flag, torn and tattered, fluttered over Vimy Ridge.

Nineteen years have changed that battlefield. Where screaming projectiles once caused the earth to quake, rolling green fields, dotted with newly planted trees, will greet the eyes of the 250,000 who will participate in next week's pilgrimage to Northern France. And at the juncture where the Third and Fourth Divisions of the Canadian Army set out on their attack that drove the Germans from their stronghold, a mighty monument has been erected,

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With the carving of the last names, the Vimy Ridge Memorial is completed

commemorating the death of 11,258 Canadians whose graves are not known but whose names the monument now bears.

The greatest peace-time army ever to set forth boarded five ocean-liners in Canada last week. As the ships passed the British Coast, two destroyers sped out to escort the convoy to its destination. The Governments of France, Great Britain, Belgium and Canada have joined in organizing the pilgrimage, carried out under the auspices of the Canadian Legion.

**King's Tribute**—For the first time as Edward VIII, the British Monarch leaves the boundaries of his Empire, to journey to the battle-field. Prime Minister Mackenzie King of Canada was to join him in unveiling the sandstone sepulcher, carved out of the depths of an abandoned Roman quarry in Yugoslavia.

Walter S. Allward, Canadian sculptor, worked fourteen years on the completion of the monument, which cost \$1,500,000. Two pylons, 138 feet high, tower above the memorial, which will be softly flood-lit at night.

Past years have witnessed curious incidents at Vimy Ridge. The gardener of the monument grounds tells of a British World War private who returned to the battle-field recently. "I've come over to meet my sergeant," he whispered, staring with demented eyes at the "Pimple." He was found dead a few hours later. Once a German officer was observed roaming aimlessly through the trenches. He found the spot where he had stood during the battle; there he committed suicide.

While the pilgrimage mainly serves sentimental reasons, officials of the Canadian Legion will take advantage of the occasion to renew old acquaintances and pay their respects to State and local officials. They will go to Brussels to see King Leopold, to Paris to call on President Lebrun, to Mons to chat with the Burgomaster.

The entire ceremony of unveiling will be broadcast in America and Europe, in both French and English.