



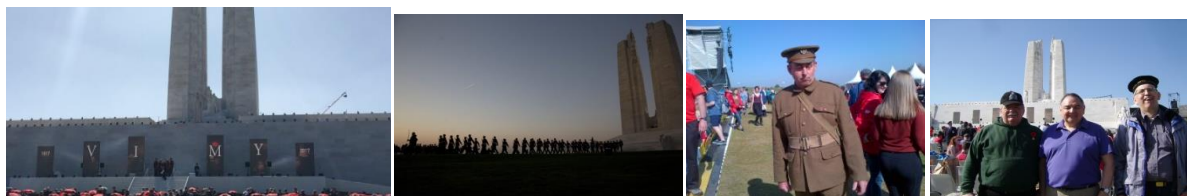
VINTAGE SIGNALS TEAM
VIMY 100
Bulletin April 2017

“This is simply amazing! Your place is always full!” “Your stand is packed all day!” The ‘Education First’ organizers at the Artois Expo in Arras, France were visiting our Signals Workshop. The students were standing or sitting around tables, or stringing wire between benches. The area was noisy with the clicking of morse taps as coded messages were sent using the keys the students had made.

The Vintage Signals Team were in Arras as part of the ‘EF Education’ Interactive Education Centre in the Artois Expo building in Arras, France. The team of Kirk Campbell, Mike Triska and Ken Lloyd were challenging students to be Code breakers and to build their own Morse code key. Flags and Signals in the Trenches were also part of the interactive experience the students shared as they connected wire and learned about Caesar shift encoding. Preparation for this event had taken more than a year and in the two days of the event over 9,000 students and teachers came through the Signals Workshop. The students came from all across Canada, wanting to learn Morse code to show a grandparent, or returning to share another coded message with a friend. EF staff asked “Did you think you would be this successful?” Four more helpers were needed to assist with the popularity of the workshops. The Team had the opportunity to be present at the ceremonies in Vimy and made many new friends and contacts. In particular, French re-enactors dressed as WW1 Essex Regiment British ‘Tommies’ to honour their part at Vimy and as film extras in the local film industry. Below are pictures of the memorial, Canadian soldiers departing the ceremony, a “French Tommy” and our team at Vimy.



A teacher helps Students send messages on the keys they have just made at the Signals Workshop in EF’s interactive educational centre during the Vimy 100 commemoration in Arras



The Vimy100 newsletter celebrates and remembers the events and activities in which the Vintage Signals Team joined with its friends and supporters to celebrate the birth of our identity as a Canadian Nation. Our preparation began over a year ago at the Menin Gate on 6th March 2016. We were there with Marco Frank from ‘Visit Flanders’ who had included us with other educators and Tour representatives. Our Vintage Signals Team members were visibly moved by the experience and determined to be a part of the 2017 Vimy celebrations. Our research separated the history from the created fable and focused on the Signals story. Such unknown personalities like Capt Fuller and his secure phone; General Currie and the use of fake Wireless messages to deceive the enemy at Amiens; the Canadian Wireless school set up in June 1918, where candidates, on entry were required to have a knowledge of morse code and ciphers. Private Bebeau a member of the Canadian Independent Force who rode a motorcycle with his radio ten times through enemy lines transmitting the position of machine gun nests. Ferdinand Tuohy who sat on the town ramparts of Ypres listening and eventually breaking the coded signals of enemy artillery spotter planes. It was the story of signals codes and interception from the Somme to Vimy that became our focus for the workshops developed for EF Education in Arras.



Kirk Campbell, Rick Little, Ken Lloyd, Mike Leatham, Andy Barber, Mike Triska, Ron Kirk at the Menin Gate,

VE100Vimy

“CANADIANS VICTORIOUS AT VIMY ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO – WE SALUTE AND REMEMBER THEM.” This was the signal received on 9th April 2017 from the Signal Lamp on HMCS HAIDA



to Rick Little and George Stal at La Salle Park in Burlington. The Signal had just been passed by Dean Cassar and Dave Hayward in HMCS HAIDA’s Radio One

operating on High Frequency Radio. The Signal was flashed by Andy Barber and Mike Leatham using a 5 inch trench lamp from HAIDA’s Signal Bridge across the Lake to La Salle Park in Burlington. The Vintage Signal Detachment had set up two Mance 5 inch heliographs, one with a rare Naval dispersing lens and a trench electric lamp. Andy Barber said that the Naval dispersing lens was particularly successful with a bright and clear signal across the Bay. A gathering of local residents watched as the Heliographs responded back to



Haida with equipment that in some cases was older than our 100 year commemoration.

Dean Cassar who runs the Ontario Science Centre radio station coordinated the radio links that made the signal possible. The Friends of HMCS HAIDA and Parks Canada opened the ship and had Radio One up and running. Dean started the search for the Vimy stations on the 8th April at the Ontario Science Museum. Contacts were made in Belgium, Ireland and Austria as well as a VIMY station in Prince Edward Island. 31 Signal Regiment's call sign was reached as well as stations in Kentucky and in Canada.



The Vimy message signal was passed from HMCS HAIDA to the SDS runner (Special Dispatch Service), a critical part of sending any WW1 signal. The SDS service was provided by 31 Signal Regiment who in a modern Line truck carried the Vimy message to the Headquarters of 31 Signal Regiment where it was received by LCol Chris Marvin and RSM Traci-Anne Fisher. The Regiment had only just received its HF equipment back from its Northern deployment, yet were still able to get up on air and join in the commemoration. The photo below shows the Team who passed the Commemorative Vimy Signal.

On April 9th two of our partners in the VE100Vimy radio shot were the Canadian War Plane Heritage and York Region Radio Club. York Region was contacted through Greg Stasyna, LCol (Ret'd) of 32 Signals Regiment in Toronto. Robert Galmbos of York Region successfully connected with Vimy at TMVIMY100. The message is worth sharing



"I just made contact with TM100VIMY , Gabor VE7JH Time: 1550 GMT/1150 EST, Finish Time: 1616 GMT/ 1616. Conditions were very poor. Static noise very high...I managed to pass my traffic to him. He himself had traffic for which I had problems receiving. Larry Horlick VO1FOG in Coley's Point NL could copy him better (my relay) tnx he really helped me a lot.. He had traffic for us "Canadians Victorious at VIMY 100 years ago...We salute and remember them"

At the Radio station at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, John Kassay made contact with the Commemorative TMVimy100 Station on the 9th April via a relay from a Newfoundland Vimy100 Station. The message "Canadians Victorious at Vimy 100 Years Ago – We Salute and Remember them" The station confirmed that the commemorative message had been transmitted and received from France to Canada.

In historic Fort York, Toronto, 32 Signal Regiment's Dave Spessot set up a High Frequency station and antenna as part of the Vimy Centennial celebration for 32 Signal Regiment. In the search for the Vimy station David contacted stations in Italy over 7,000 km away in Europe. This is the longest shot made by the Regiment since 709 Communication Regiment sent a signal to the Essex Yeomanry in the United Kingdom in 1992. Well done Dave!

Sutton Vimy Remembrance

The newly formed Vintage Signals Team Cold War section joined the Royal Canadian Legion Vimy Ridge Centennial Parade on 9th April in Sutton, Ontario. Several hundred people attended the parade and the Memorial Line Truck and MRT represented our new section in the parade. Ed Lukosius, one of the old Line Crew from 709 Toronto left his hospital bed to be in the parade and gave a cheery wave as the co-driver of the Line Truck.



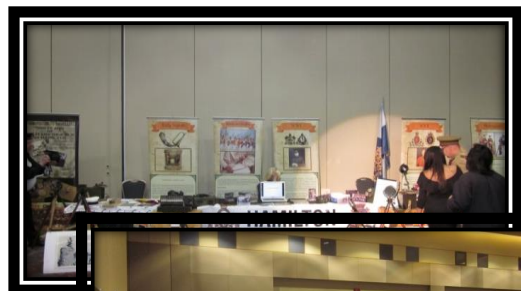
Vimy Veteran Remembered

In a quiet intimate ceremony a Vimy Signaler was remembered. Private 759021, David Russel Fleming who fought at Vimy, Hill 70 and Paschendaele was a Signaler from Hamilton. The Remembrance was lead by Richard his son, who is now 72 years old. Richard said that after the war, David used his military credits to attend medical school and practiced in Northern Ontario for over 40 years.

David was brought up and raised in Stayner. For further information please contact Richard Fleming at [647-674-7181](tel:647-674-7181). Full Signals honours were given at the Graveside.

Vimy Gala Ball

10,000 square feet of display area with 100 musicians, exhibitors and 1,000 guests attended the Vimy Gala Ball in the London Convention Centre in London, Ontario. The Vintage Signals Team provided a WW1 Signals experience for the guests with Heliographs, working switchboards and Naval signaling lights. The Guest speaker for the Dinner was the Chief of Defence Staff, General Jonathan Vance, and the money raised was for the Poppy Fund.



Dundurn Castle Exhibition and Display

On the weekend 5-7th May, the Vintage Signals Team makes its long awaited step into providing a static exhibit for a museum in addition to its usual interactive signals experience. The Military Museum in Dundurn Castle, Hamilton has a special Vimy and WW1 exhibit focusing on the role of Hamilton people. Previously the Team has been asked to provide displays at events and exhibitions for the Museums, but this is the first time we have also been asked for our artifacts and the story of our Signalers. We are fortunate to have Adam Foreman and Jessica Buck who have backgrounds in Museum studies and artifact preservation and display. Therefore, they have been liaising with the Hamilton Military Museum for the artifacts we do not usually display such as the 1904 Heliographs, the brass signal lamp or the WW1 Fuller phones. We are looking forward to a new partnership.



Vimy 100 Research

The journey to Vimy revealed the amazing role of the signalers from Hamilton and Toronto in the Canada's Signal history. In particular, Elroy Forde, who set up a signaling section in the 77th Wentworth Regiment in the Hamilton Armoury. In 1909 he transferred to the Canadian Signal Corps and became the 2nd Division Signal Officer. In 1914 he went to the war and by 1917 became the Corp's first Chief Signal Officer as a Lieutenant-Colonel. Following the war he reorganized the Signals as its new Director and in 1937 established his HQ at Vimy Barracks in Kingston. Elroy Forde guided the building of the Corps to its war time strength and established a permanent Training centre at Kingston. Lt Col Forde was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in 1916; made a Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur in 1919; Mentioned in dispatches in April 1916; April 1917 and March 1919.



Francis Malloch in 1914 joined the Mississauga Horse then transferred to the 2nd Divisional Signals in Lansdowne Park, Ottawa. By the end of the war he commanded the 4th Canadian Divisional Signal Company, had been awarded the Military Cross and mentioned twice in Dispatches.

After the War he returned to the Reserves and became Commanding Officer of 2 Signal Battalion from 1920 to 1925. During WWII he commanded the Canadian Signal Training Centre at Vimy Barracks, Kingston and was awarded the Order of the British Empire for his role in training over 1,000 officers and 22,000 signalers. He is notably known for the Malloch Trophy which was an annual competition in general Signals proficiency first presented in 1928 and competed for by signals units in its many manifestations until 1990. In 1953 the Malloch trophy disappeared and a replica was donated by 2 Divisional Signals in Toronto. The trophy is now with the Signals Museum and Colonel Malloch rests in the Hamilton Cemetery. The photograph is believed to be 4th Canadian Divisional Dispatch Riders with Francis Malloch standing in the centre. In this photo may be seen the Dispatch Rider badge on the sleeve.



Lieutenant Herbert Douglas Fearman, a Lieutenant with the Signalers of the 19th Battalion at Vimy Ridge, where he became the acting Adjutant and Acting Major. In July 1917 he was presented by King George with the Distinguished Service Order at Buckingham Palace, He served in France until August 1918. The following photograph the 19th Battalion Signalers in Toronto with Lieutenant Herbert Douglas Fearman seated in the middle. After WW1 the 19th Battalion was disbanded and Herbert Fearman became the Lieutenant Colonel of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada in Hamilton and was again the Commanding Officer during WWII. He later became Honorary Colonel for many years. His son also became a Commanding Officer and a Brigadier General.



Vimy 100 Rehearsal

Almost a year prior to Vimy 100, on 2nd April 2016, the Vintage Signals Team were able to give the Vimy Experience a 'shake out' and test how our message resonated with persons who knew their military history, and their Signals history in particular. This was the 32 Brigade Garrison Officers Ball in Toronto.

32 Signal Regiment's Garrison Ball team lead by HCol Jim Leech partnered with the Vimy Foundation as a fundraiser for the Vimy Project. This opportunity provided an invaluable insight into how the VIMY project worked and how we might fit into it. When the Honorary visited the Vintage Signals Team in Arras, he recognized the backdrop from the theme used for the Garrison Ball. For the Arras display we were able to borrow a 100 year old Morse telegraph desk, clock and period telephone.

At the Garrison Ball we tested the popularity of our Signals Postcards and again in Arras all the postcards were taken by our visitors.

The Vintage Signals Team supporters

No successful project is achieved alone. The Vintage Signals Team Vimy100 project was made possible by the assistance and help of many supporters and organisations. Our supporters in 31 and 32 Signal Regiment's continually provide encouragement and practical help to keep us going. The Order of St George, Niagara Chapter and 'Access Abilities' Oakville for valuable funding. The staff of EF Education, Toronto for making the Arras experience happen and to "Visit Flanders" for creating this opportunity.

How to contact the Vintage Signals Team

We provide interactive experiences for schools, museums and groups. We provide Historical stories of Canadian Signals told by uniformed members demonstrating Signals equipment from the First and Second World Wars. For those with a deeper interest we can share tales from the secret world of codes from the Boer War to Enigma. We are an Incorporated Charity.

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