Vimy 100 – the Birth of a Nation

Although July 1, 1867 and April 9, 1917 are separated by 50 years in time, in many ways they are inextricably linked to our identity as a nation. Confederation declared our political independence and Vimy declared our place in the world.

The 2017 Wounded Warriors Canada Battlefield Bike Ride (BBR17) will begin in London, England where the ride team will gather. From there it is off to Canterbury and then the beautiful cliffs of Dover for the short ferry ride to Calais – allowing us to step back in time and imagine our forefathers initial embarkation on French soil during the First World War.

Calais and Dunkirk mark the first part of the journey in France where the tour will pass through sites steeped in Canadian military history and sacrifice. Together we will explore lands soaked in the blood, sweat, tears and sacrifice of the 619,638 Canadians and 11,988 men of the Dominion of Newfoundland who served during the First World War.

We will remember and honour the nearly 61,000 Canadians and 1,305 men of Newfoundland who gave their lives. Close to 172,000 were wounded during the course of the conflict and countless thousands more bore the invisible wounds from the conflict. Our journey of remembrance towards Vimy will take us through the storied battlefields of Flanders, The Somme and The Ypres Salient.

BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE FACT
Four Canadians were awarded Victoria Crosses (VC) for bravery. Of these, three were earned on the opening day of the battle.
Key Stops Along The Route

Along the way we will pause, reflect and commemorate at sites including but not limited to:

- The Cloth Hall at Ypres;
- Essex Farm Cemetery, the site where Lt Col John McRae penned his iconic poem “In Flanders Fields”;
- The monument for the 10th Canadian Battalion and the 16th Canadian Scottish Battalion;
- The St. Julien Canadian Memorial, “the Brooding Soldier”;
- The 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders of Canada) monument;
- Passchendaele New British Cemetery;
- The Passchendaele Canadian Memorial;
- The 85th Canadian Infantry Bataillon – Nova Scotia Highlanders Monument;
- Tyne Cot Cemetery;
- The Plaque for D.21 Battery, Canadian Field Artillery;
- Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917;
- Princess Patricia's Light Infantry Memorial;
- Hill 62 (Sanctuary Wood)

Culminating at Vimy Ridge to mark the centennial of the iconic battle.

BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE FACT
The Canadian National Vimy Memorial stands on Hill 145, overlooking the Canadian battlefield of 1917, at one of the points of the fiercest fighting.
At Vimy, the Canadian Corps had captured more ground, more prisoners and more guns than any previous British Expeditionary Force offensive.
Quick Information

Dates
June 9-17 2017

Route
Canterbury, UK to Vimy Ridge, France

Open To
Open to any individual or teams wanting to participate

Cost
$4,000 (Minimum Fundraising Goal)

Registration Opens
July 27 2016

Register at
www.bbr17.ca

BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE FACT
The assault on Vimy Ridge, the northern part of the wider battle of Arras, began at 5:30 am on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917.
BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE FACT

The Canadian achievement in capturing Vimy Ridge owed its success to a range of technical and tactical innovations, very powerful artillery preparation, sound and meticulous planning and thorough preparation.

FAQ

Is WWC booking my flight?
No: you are responsible for arranging your own transportation to Heathrow Airport for arrival on Friday June, 9th and departure back to Canada on or after June 17th.

Do I have to book my own accommodations?
Your accommodations on Friday, June 9th through to June 17th will be booked for you by Magic Places (Tour Provider). The hotel information will be sent to you at a later date and following registration.

When do we start the ride?
The tour begins on Saturday, June 10th.

Will there be a training ride beforehand?
Yes! Magic Places will provide a fully cycling briefing and training ride for the team on Saturday, June 10th in Canterbury.

What services are provided as part of my ride package?
We have a great support team that supports our journey. Some of the services that are included on this tour are:

- Coach transport to and from start and finish.
- Superior hotel accommodations from June 9th to the 17th, based on double occupancy
- Breakfasts each morning
- Lunch each riding day
- Mechanical support for both rental and owned bikes
- Vehicle support for riders needing to miss a stage for physical or mechanical issues.
- Post ride nutrition
- Complimentary Tour Jersey and cycling shorts
- One WWC sponsored team dinner
FAQ (cont.)

What is a normal day like?
In short: FUN!!

Wake up around 6:30, Breakfast at 7. Pre-ride brief at 8, on the road by 9am. Ride till about noon, including a stop of interest en route, and stop for lunch for about an hour. Back on your bike for another 2-3 hours (including stops) and arrive at the destination hotel in the afternoon. Grab some of the provided post-ride nutrition and check into your room. Shower, relax, and get ready for dinner. Dinner on your own schedule (except for the gala dinner on the last day), in bed with a full tummy, and ready to start it all again the next morning.

What happens at the end of the tour?
On June 17th, after arriving to our hotel in Arras following the day at Vimy Ridge, we will check in and you will collect your bike box (for those that bring their own bikes) or return your rental bike. Bikes will be packed into your bike boxes for transport the next day.

How do I get home?
Coach transport to Charles De Gaulle airport in Paris, France on June 17th will be provided by Magic Places. Flight bookings are your own responsibility. If you do not plan on flying out of Paris on June 17th, please communicate this to Magic Places so they can ensure your bike and luggage accompanies you.

I want to travel Europe pre/post BBR17, do you have any recommendations?
If you’re planning on travelling in Europe before June 9th, or after June 17th, we recommend you speak with Corporate Traveller — the Official Travel Partner of BBR17. For flight/hotel/rental car bookings, please contact:

Carla Miller
carla.miller@corporatetraveller.ca

Don’t forget insurance!
Proof of medical insurance is mandatory and we strongly recommend you also purchase trip cancellation insurance. While most travel companies offer insurance packages, if you wish to use the insurance partner of Wounded Warriors Canada please contact:

Gary Strange
gstrange1168@gmail.com

Battle of Vimy Ridge Fact
Inscribed on the ramparts of the Memorial are the names of 11,285 Canadian soldiers who were posted “missing, presumed dead” in France.
Registration & Contact

Registration opens Wednesday July 27th at 12 noon.

Limited Spots!
Register early as the ride is limited to 150 riders.

Registration Deadline
Last day to register for this amazing opportunity is May 9, 2017. Remember you will need time to fundraise the $4000 minimum goal.

2017 WWC Battlefield Bike Ride Operations Manager
Todd McGowan
1-888-706-4808 ext: 3  todd@woundedwarriors.ca

Todd McGowan is your Operations Manager for BBR16. He is a retired Army Chief Warrant Officer with 27 years of Canadian Forces Service. He completed tours in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait/Iraq, Croatia, Bosnia, Germany, Afghanistan, Turkey and sailed with HMCS Ottawa and was skydiver with the SkyHawks parachute team. Todd is also an avid cyclist with extensive experience of European bike touring. He is also a Wounded Warrior himself and a graduate of our sponsored Veterans Transition Program for PTSD veterans.

BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE FACT
After Vimy, the Canadian Corps went from one success to another, to be crowned by their achievements in the 1918 “advance to victory”. This record won for Canada a separate signature on the Versailles Peace Treaty ending the War.