# INTHE CLASSROOM



## STORIES FROM VIMY

There are as many stories from the Battle of Vimy Ridge as there are soldiers who participated in it. Given that 100,000 Canadians participated in the battle, that's a lot of stories to be told.

Four Canadian soldiers won the Victoria Cross at Vimy Ridge, and their stories have lived on. The "VC", as it is sometimes called, is the British Empire's highest award for bravery, and William Milne, Ellis Sifton, John Pattison, and Thain MacDowell were all awarded this distinction for their bravery at Vimy. What are their stories?

### MAKING A SOLDIER CARD

Conduct some research about one of Vimy's Victoria Cross winners and design a trading card to present the information about the soldier and what he did to win the VC. You can structure the card around the "5 Ws" (Who, What, Where, When, Why) and include a photograph to give it more appeal.

As an extra, try to find an interesting anecdote to include on your card as part of a "Did You Know" section. This could be a little bit of information about your soldier or something else about Vimy that readers would be interested to know.

If you want to make a card about a soldier other than a VC winner, feel free to do so. Arthur Currie, the commander of the 1st Canadian Division at Vimy, or Andrew McNaughton are two other possibilities among many.



"Lieut.-Col. C.M. Edwards, D.S.O., and Maj. T.W. MacDowell, V.C., D.S.O., 38th Battalion." Oct. 1917. Canada. Dept. of National Defence/Library and Archives Canada. Accession number PA-002053.



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### SOURCES:

- There is some good information about Vimy's VC winners at the Vimy Foundation website <a href="http://www.vimyfoundation.ca/learn/victoria-cross/">http://www.vimyfoundation.ca/learn/victoria-cross/</a>. You can find more by typing in "Canada VC winners" into your search engine.
- The service record of each of the Vimy VC winners is also available at the Library and Archives
  Canada website if you choose to go into even greater depth when researching for your card. Links
  to this site and other useful research sites are found here
  <a href="http://www.vimyfoundation.ca/learn/research/">http://www.vimyfoundation.ca/learn/research/</a>
- To find photos, try using the <u>archives search at Library and Archives Canada</u>, searching for "Photographs".

