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The Cadre is the official newspaper of the UPEI Student Union. 2,000 copies of *The Cadre* are printed 10 times per semester. There are meetings open to anyone Mondays at 4:30 in room 213 in the new Student Union Centre.

The deadline for submissions is Friday at 4:00 PM. The opinions expressed within *The Cadre* do not necessarily represent the views of UPEI or the UPEI Student Union Inc.

Letters to the editor: mjstewart@upei.ca

Editorial 8: Easter Monday, April 9th, 1917

In February 1917, Allied commanders began planning a massive spring offensive.

After much debate and deliberation, it was decided that as part of the Allied push into German occupied land, the Canadian Corps would be responsible for taking Vimy Ridge – A piece of high-ground on the Western Front which represented serious military importance.

On the morning of the attack, after months of preparation, Canadian soldiers moved into the forward positions.

Crouching in the trenches and waiting below in specially constructed tunnels, young men from coast to coast prepared for a battle which would put Canada on the map.

At 5:30 a.m. the troops were given the order to go over the top.

Reaching the first of the German lines-of-defence, the Canadians bombed the dugouts and silenced the sentries.

Displaying a mixture of extreme courage, determination, and tenacity, the advancing troops cut through strong point after strong point, while facing unimaginable resistance, and surged towards the summit of the embankment.

The fighting was intense, but by mid-morning, members of the 25th Nova Scotia Rifles had reached their objectives at the crest of the ridge.

Fittingly, as the first of the

Canadian soldiers began to dig in along Vimy, a light snow began to fall.

The battle ended on April 12th, as soldiers from Western Canada captured the final, heavily-defended German position.

The Canadian Capture of Vimy Ridge proved to be the only significant victory for the Allies in 1917. Ten percent of the Canadian Corps became casualties, with over three thousand, five hundred soldiers being killed in action.

A white stone monument now stands above the old shell craters and pieces of trench which scar the land surrounding Vimy.

The underground tunnels still exist where thousands of Canadian men crouched on that Easter Monday while waiting for the word, "go".

Many of the young Canadians took the time to carve messages into the soft-chalk walls from which the tunnels were carved. Some wrote messages to their loved ones back home, others simply signed their names, and others – carved maple leaves.

A Canadian veteran of Vimy Ridge, visiting the monument in 1987, summed up the soldier's view of our country's proudest day: "We had to do what we did. Some died. Some didn't. That's it."

Matt Stewart,
Editor-in-Chief

