6000 Canadians Vetrans will participate in a solemn Pilgrimage to France to pay homage to those who made the Supreme Sacrifice

To visit the grave of a loved one is to honour & remember that previous life ~ a religious event ~ a life lived and the impact that life had on the living

. It is in this regard that the Great War WW I of 1914 –1918 would create a desire to commemorate and never forget those who paid the supreme sacrifice, that the living may secure a better life

Page 2 ~ The voyage begins; passport; boarding ships in Montreal; send off
Page 3, 4, 5, 6 ~ posted covers on board ship Montreal & Quebec City
Page 7 ~ arrival in Antwerp, Belgium
Page 8 & 9 ~ cover design and enclosed description , unveiling of monument July 26 1936
Page 10 &11 ~ arrival in London, July 27—30, hotel registration, covers from visited cities
Page 12 ~ Paris, host of French government, table card Hotel des Invalides
Page 13 & 14 ~ return voyage Liverpool to Montreal covers/postcard paquebot covers
Page 15 ~ medals received by French government & badge worn by Pilgrims
The Pilgrimage begins ~ the undertaking of this trip by the Canadian Legion, Government of Canada, Great Britain

France & Belgium was considered the greatest movement of people in a peacetime mission

More than 8000 Canadians would attend the Pilgrimage ~ 6000 would leave Montreal July 16, 1936 in 5 ships

S.S. Montrose & S.S. Montcalm ~ Canadian Pacific Steamships
S.S. Antonia; Ascana; & Aurania ~ Cunard White Star

Canada issued Passports, for the first time, at no cost, valid till Aug. 1937 ~ Canadians were British Subjects, until 1947 all Passports were issued by Britain

The send off ~ Port of Montreal, PQ
~ from the deck of S.S. Montrose,
11.00am July 16 1936
Epic of Vimy - A Canadian Pilgrimage

Covers posted while on board the S.S Montrose July 16 1936

Canadian Pilgrimage to the Unveiling of Canada's Memorial on Vimy Ridge and to the Battlefields of France and Belgium July 1936

Cover sent registered mail Vancouver, BC - post marked at Quebec City July 18 1936
See inset - reverse circle cancel at Vancouver, BC, July 22 1936
Registered Mail - 13¢ values of 1¢, 2¢, & 5¢ (2) King George V Silver Jubilee

Cover sent registered mail to Toronto - post mark Quebec City July 18 1936
During the Voyage from Montreal, July 16th 1936, with stop in Quebec City, to Antwerp Belgium various covers were sent to relatives, personal friends, Philatelists and others.

Varying denominations & varieties of Canadian postage were used for particular postal rates.

Postal rates: Domestic, US & UK ~ 3¢ per oz. Air Mail ~ 6¢ Registration ~ 10¢

**CANADIAN PILGRIMAGE**

TO THE
UNVEILING OF CANADA'S MEMORIAL
ON
VIMY RIDGE
AND TO THE
BATTLEFIELDS
OF
FRANCE AND BELGIUM
JULY-1936

Eaton's Stamp Corner,
c/o T. Eaton Co.,
St. Catherine St. West,
Montreal, P. Q.
Canada.

Posted on board S.S. Montrose, July 16th 1936 use of 6¢ overprint on 5¢ Air Mail, cancelled Quebec City July 18th 1936 ~ reverse cancel Montreal July 20th 1936; received general office T.Eaton Co. Montreal PQ

Mr. W. E. Marley,
98 Barton Ave.,
Toronto 4, Ont.,
Canada.

POB S.S. Montrose July 16th 1936 use of 6¢ overprint on 5¢ Air Mail, cancel Quebec City
Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

POB ~ S.S. Montrose, July 16th 1936
Rates Domestic ~ Registration 10¢

CANADIAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE
UNVEILING OF CANADA'S MEMORIAL ON
VIMY RIDGE AND TO THE BATTLEFIELDS OF
FRANCE AND BELGIUM
JULY - 1936

Mr. W. E. Marley,
98 Barton Ave.,
Toronto 4, Ont.,
CANADA.

Registered Letter #2032 ~ use of 10¢ Windsor Castle / 3¢ King George V & Queen Mary
King George V Silver Jubilee Issue

CANADIAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE
UNVEILING OF CANADA'S MEMORIAL ON
VIMY RIDGE AND TO THE BATTLEFIELDS OF
FRANCE AND BELGIUM
JULY - 1936

Mr. H. S. Marley,
98 Barton Ave.,
Toronto 4, Ont.,
CANADA.

Registered Letter ~ #1781 ~ use of 1¢ Princess Elizabeth / 2¢ Duke of York / 5¢ (2) Prince of Wales
King George V Silver Jubilee Issue
POB ~ S.S. Montrose, July 16th 1936
Rates ~ Domestic 3¢ per oz. ~ Registration 13¢

CANADIAN PILGRIMAGE
TO THE
UNVEILING OF CANADA'S MEMORIAL
ON
VINY RIDGE
AND TO THE
BATTLEFIELDS
OF
FRANCE AND BELGIUM
JULY-1936

Mr. L. W. Sharpe,
Stamp & Curio Shop,
Royal Connaught Hotel,
Hamilton, Ontario,
Canada.

Post on board (oval) S.S. Montrose ~ use of 3¢ domestic rate ~ King George V & Queen Mary
King George V Silver Jubilee Issue, Canada

CANADIAN PILGRIMAGE
TO THE
UNVEILING OF CANADA'S MEMORIAL
ON
VINY RIDGE
AND TO THE
BATTLEFIELDS
OF
FRANCE AND BELGIUM
JULY-1936

Mr. H. S. Marley,
98 Barton Ave.
Toronto 4, Ont.,
Canada.

Registered Letter ~ #2048 ~ use of 10¢ Windsor Castle; 3¢ King George V and Queen Mary
King George V Silver Jubilee Issue
July 25th, 1936 - Arrival of S.S. Montrose at Antwerp, Belgium - Pilgrims disembark early morning for Lille and Tours of Battlefields in Ieper (Ypres) and stay at Arras, Albert & Cambrai overnight.


Cover posted from Haig House, British Legion, Ypres, Belgium - circle cancel on reverse National Revenue ~ Postal Service "Duty Free" ~ 35 centimes ~ "Coat of Arms" Belgium
W. E. Marley emigrated from Great Britain prior to WWI & enlisted in Toronto at the Declaration of War with Royal Canadian Engineers, 5th Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade C.E.F 1st Division.

Mr. Marley was an Interior Decorator with Ontario Government at Queen’s Park as well as an accomplished Artist & Philatelist. Mr. Marley understood the importance of this voyage as well the desire to preserve this historical event through Philately.

Mr. Marley designed & printed covers, with a card inside describing both the Pilgrimage as well as the Symbolism of Vimy Memorial – covers were posted on board ship as well as various cities visited.

FDC (round cancel) Krag, “Monument de Vimy” – mailed on day of unveiling – July 26th 1936. 75c “Memorial at Vimy” issued at unveiling.

75c henna brown, 36 x 21.45mm, perf. 13, value: internal postage
1.50f dull blue, 36 x 21.45mm, perf 13, value: external postage
both definitives by Intaglio ~ rotary press, 50 / sheet.


CANADA'S NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL

Canada's National War Memorial Measures 200 feet square and is 125 feet in height. It occupies the central position on Vimy Ridge in France.

This magnificent structure was designed by Mr. Walter S. Allward, Canadian Architect and Sculptor, in 1921, under whose supervision the erection has been completed.

His Majesty King Edward VIII will unveil the Memorial at the ceremony, which will take place on July 25th, 1936, in the presence of 6,000 Canadians who will participate in a solemn pilgrimage to Europe to pay homage to those who made the supreme sacrifice.

SYMBOLISM OF VIMY MEMORIAL

At the base of the strong, impregnable walls of defence are the Defenders, one group showing the breaking of the sword, the other the sympathy of the Canadians for the helpless. Above these are the mouths of the guns covered with olive and laurels. On the wall stands an heroic figure of Canada brooding over the graves of her valiant dead.

Below is suggested a grave with a helmet, laurels, etc. Behind her stand pylons symbolizing the two forces Canadian and French, while between at the base of these is the spirit of sacrifice who, giving all, throws the torch to his comrade. Looking up they see the figures of Peace, Justice, Truth and Knowledge, etc., for which they fought, chanting the hymn of Peace. Around the figures are the shields of Britain, Canada and France. On the outside of the pylons is the cross.

On the walls are inscribed the names of 11,286 missing Canadians, that is, those known to be dead but having no known graves.

Mailed during Pilgrimage
With compliments of

Card enclosed in each cover with description of War Memorial & Symbolism of Vimy Memorial

CANADIAN PILGRIMAGE

To the Unveiling of Canada's Memorial on Vimy Ridge and to the Battlefields of France and Belgium July 1936

W. E. Marley
98 Barton Ave.
Toronto 4, Canada

FDC (square cancel) Krag, "Monument de Vimy" with 5 radial lines from circle, mailed day of unveiling ~ July 25th 1936

75c "Memorial at Vimy", issued at the unveiling, 30c "Peace with Olive Branch" ~ while over paid by 30c this was appropriate considering the event
Epic of Vimy – A Canadian Pilgrimage

Train leaves Lille, France for Antwerp, Belgium re-embark on S.S. Montrose & over night crossing of the English Channel to Tilbury, Great Britain, motor coach to Imperial Hotel, London

Posted at Lille Bourse-Nord, France, July 27th, 1936 ~ 10:20am : Air Mail
Note ~ post mark over 1p postage due, July 28th, 1936

while in London Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Marley were at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, room check #279, arriving, July 28, 1936
Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

The return passage for all Pilgrims was open ~ Mr. & Mrs. Marley, at conclusion of French portion of Pilgrimage, August 5th 1936, visited with family in Brighton, Hove, Hastings & Eastbourne ~ returning to Canada on the Cunard White Star, Aurania from Liverpool, England, September of 1936

covers shown here were from that visit ~ using stamps of 1924 (types issued 1912-13 issue)

CANADIAN PILGRIMAGE
TO THE
UNVEILING OF CANADA'S MEMORIAL
ON
VIMY RIDGE
AND TO THE
BATTLEFIELDS
OF
FRANCE AND BELGIUM
JULY-1936

W. E. MARLEY
98 BARTON AVE.
TORONTO 4, CANADA
Government of France Invitation Tour
August 2nd 1936
Bus tour of the day included Chateau St. Germain, Malmaison, Palace of Versailles ~ with lunch enroute
Dinner at L'Hotel des Invalides, was to be in courtyard (l'esplanade des Invalides) with inclement weather it was presented inside building itself as well as tables along the wall beneath spacious awnings
There more than 5000 Pilgrims attended, to hear an address by Marshal Philippe Pertain

Each Pilgrim was issued with a card, above, indicating an area & table number

Cover cancelled Paris – 6, R. des Vaugirard Aug. 5th 1936
40c Jean Jaurès ~ 36 x 21.45mm, Intaglio printing,
Design ~ Gregoire Engraved ~ Jules Piel Value ~ post cards, printed matter & bills
Jean Jaurès ~ a French Socialist leader, evolved into Social Democrat, an antimilitarist assassinated at outbreak of war, 1914
Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

Government of France Invitation Tour
August 3 – 5 1936
Various sites are visited in Paris ~ Place de la Concorde, Notre-Dame, as well a trip to Rouen.

TRIANON PALACE HOTEL
1 Rue A S, RUE DE VAUGIRARD
PARIS-8

Postmark at French Department ~ Rouen Seine Inferieure, presently Seine Maritime Rouen.
75c Memorial of Vimy issue, July 26th 1936, stationary from hotel in Paris ~ now the Trianon Rive Gauche.

CANADIAN PILGRIMAGE
TO THE
UNVEILING OF CANADA'S MEMORIAL
ON
VIMY RIDGE
AND TO THE
BATTLEFIELDS

W. E. MARLEY
98 BARTON AVE.

post marked ~ Paris-6 R de Vaugirard, August 6th 1936 ~ Ile-de-Fance.
40 centimes ~ Jean Leon Jaures, socialist / politician ~ issued July 30th 1936.
Return voyage from Liverpool ~ Aurania built in 1924, sailing from Southampton, England ~ during WWII converted to troop ship H.M.S. Artifex

Post card from Aurania ~ Cunard White Star Line

CANADIAN PILGRIMAGE
TO THE
UNVEILING OF CANADA'S MEMORIAL ON
VIMY RIDGE
AND TO THE
BATTLEFIELDS OF
FRANCE, AND BELGIUM
JULY 1936

Post marked ~ Paquebot
~ 2 pence, Edward VIII ~ issued September 1936 ~ abdicated, December 1936, never crowned King
Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

Return voyage from Liverpool ~ Aurania built in 1924, sailing from Southampton, England ~ during WWII converted to troop ship H.M.S. Artifex

Post marked ~ Paquebot ~ mail removed from ship & franked at Quebec City

½ pence (2) Edward VIII issued September 1936 ~ abdicated, December 1936 never crowned King

Post marked ~ Paquebot

~ 1½ pence, Edward VIII ~ issued September 1936 ~ abdicated, December 1936, never crowned King
The above bronze medal was presented to W.E Marley at luncheon tendered by the Confederation Nationale des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de la Grande Guerre at the Hotel des Invalides in Paris August 2nd 1936

Pilgrims, the guests of French Government, were met and addressed by Marshal Philippe Petain who spoke on behalf of all French War Veterans

The reverse shown above, shows the front view of the Memorial ~ the obverse depicts the symbolic figure of Canada brooding over the graves of her valiant sons Standing on a base on which is inscribed the letters VIMY On each side of the figure are inscribed, in panels CANADA and FRANCE ~ to the left of figure is the date 26-VII-1936

From The Numismatist, April, 1941 by W.E Marley

The badge above was issued to all Pilgrims it is of white metal, with Memorial superimposed on a cross, bottom half is wreath of poppies. The bar broach holds blue & yellow ribbon. Above Canadian Legion is cluster of Maple Leaves & beaver ~ incised