Vimy 2017: From Both Sides of the Ridge
April 20–22, 2017
MacEwan Ballroom, University of Calgary
As Her Majesty the Queen’s representative in Alberta, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the Vimy 2017: From Both Sides of the Ridge Conference at the University of Calgary.

One of my great passions is history education. My goal is always to bring history to life because I think the best way to understand the past is to put ourselves in the shoes of those who lived it. This conference is a perfect opportunity to do so while commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Alberta is so fortunate to benefit from such remarkable resources in research and history that the University of Calgary provides at the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies.

I’ve stood at the Vimy memorial in France. I’ve read the names of the fallen and felt the grief that families endured in losing a loved one. I also felt pride in seeing all that our soldiers achieved there. Within three days they captured Vimy Ridge and their bravery and innovation forever changed how the world viewed Canada.

I offer my admiration and appreciation to everyone at the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies and the Federal Republic of Germany’s Centre for Military History and Social Sciences, for all your contributions to fostering a greater awareness and understanding for our history. I trust that the information and inspiration offered here as you examine both sides of the ridge will go a long way toward recognizing and supporting our men and women in uniform and revitalizing our Canadian pride.

Her Honour, the Honourable Lois E. Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta
On behalf of the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies (CMSS) and the Federal Republic of Germany’s Centre for Military History and Social Sciences (Zentrum für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr (ZMSBw)) it is our great pleasure to welcome you to Vimy 2017: From Both Sides of the Ridge. We look forward to an exciting few days with you here at the University of Calgary. The Battle of Vimy Ridge, Canada’s most celebrated battlefield victory fought a century ago, has evolved from a significant, but costly, military victory in April 1917 to one of the core events of Canadian national identity. But what did this battle actually mean for Canada? Why honour Vimy when Canadians fought and won battles that were much more significant to the outcome of the war on the western front?

It is fitting that 100 years after the battle, this conference will give academics, researchers, students and the general public new insight into this seminal battle from both sides of the ridge with the help of our German and American colleagues. With your help, this conference will shed new light on Vimy Ridge. We have gathered together preeminent World War One historians in this unique forum. We urge each one of you to use this platform to exchange ideas, examine new perspectives, to build new relationships and to broaden your knowledge of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and the wider context of the ‘war to end all wars.’

Vimy 2017 Organizing Committee
Thursday, April 20

Atrium
Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning,
University of Calgary

6:00–8:00 p.m.

RECEPTION

Dr. Elizabeth Cannon
President,
University of Calgary

Dr. David Bercuson
Director,
Centre for Military,
Security and Strategic Studies (CMSS),
University of Calgary

Dr. Michael Epkenhans
Senior Scientist,
Zentrum für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften
der Bundeswehr (ZMSBw),
Ministry of Defense,
Germany

Friday, April 21

MacEwan Ballroom
3rd floor
MacEwan Hall

8:00–8:45 a.m.

REGISTRATION AND
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:45–9:00 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Dr. Florentine Strzelczyk
Vice Dean,
Faculty of Arts,
University of Calgary

The Honourable Kent Hehr
Minister of Veterans Affairs

9:00–10:00 a.m.

SESSION 1
THE POLITICAL CONTEXT:
GERMANY AND CANADA

CHAIR
Dr. Holger Herwig
Professor Emeritus,
Department of History,
University of Calgary
and Senior Research Fellow, CMSS
**Vimy Aside:**
**A Very Hard Year for Canada:**
Class, Ethnicity and the Politics of National Disunity in 1917

Dr. Patrick Brennan
University of Calgary

Dr. Patrick Brennan taught in the history department at the University of Calgary for 27 years, and is now an emeritus professor. He was and remains a fellow of the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies. Dr. Brennan specialized in the impact of World War I on Canada, both the military and home fronts, and has published widely on various aspects of the Canadian Expeditionary Force's experience.

**Overall Germany Political Situation in 1917**

Dr. Michael Epkenhans
ZMSBw

Dr. Michael Epkenhans is the senior scientist of the Center for Military History and Social Sciences of the Bundeswehr in Potsdam. He represents the ZMSBw in the science landscape. In addition, he is responsible for the scientific orientation of the Center's research. He has written extensively on Germany in World War I and his current research interests include recent German history, as well as German military and naval history.

**10:00–10:15 a.m.**

**COFFEE BREAK**

**10:15–11:45 a.m.**

**SESSION 2**
**THE MILITARY CONTEXT: GERMANY AND CANADA**

**CHAIR**
**Dr. Jean-Sébastien Rioux**
Associate Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary and Senior Research Fellow, CMSS

**The German Strategy in 1917**

Dr. Gerhard Gross
ZMSBw

Dr. Gerhard Gross is head of the “Military History to 1945” section at the Zentrum für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr (Centre for Military History and Social Sciences at the Bundeswehr). He has engaged in far-reaching research into German military strategy during the world wars and has written extensively on: Myth and Reality: History of operational thinking in the German army from von Moltke the Elder to Heusinger; Prussia: The rise and fall of a great power; The war at sea 1914–1918, The War in the North Sea, Volume 7: From the summer of 1917 until the war ended in 1918; The Forgotten Front — the east 1914/15.

**The Canadian Corps in the Great War: A Learning Organization in Action**

Lieutenant-Colonel David Fearon
MSM, CD, Canadian Forces

Lt.Col. David Fearon MSM, CD, has extensive experience both as an officer in the Canadian Forces and as an academic in the field of military history. He joined the
Canadian Armed Forces in 1995 and transferred to the regular force in 2001. An infantry officer with the Royal Canadian Regiment, he deployed on operational deployments to Bosnia and twice to Afghanistan. Lieutenant-Colonel Fearon served as Deputy Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment, Officer Commanding The Duke of Edinburgh's Company, and Officer Commanding Foxtrot Company. He is a 2015 graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff College where he received the Father Donald Smyth Award for Military History and a 2016 graduate of the United States Army's School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Lieutenant-Colonel Fearon is currently Chief of Staff 31 Canadian Brigade Group.

War's Hidden Casualties: Shell Shock at Vimy Ridge

Dr. Mark Humphries
Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies

Dr. Mark Humphries has extensive research and writing on the First World War. He is an Associate Professor, the Dunkley Chair in War and the Canadian Experience and the Director of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies. He received his Honours BA and MA in history at Wilfrid Laurier University and his PhD in history from the University of Western Ontario in 2009. As a researcher, he is primarily focused on the First World War and its aftermath, exploring the medical and social effects of war on people’s lives and the development of the state. He has extensively written on the 1918 influenza pandemic, shell shock, self-inflicted wounds, and domestic discontent as well as the operational history of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, including the life of Arthur Currie, tactics, and the experience of soldiers in the trenches.

11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

LUNCH AND SPEAKER

Introduced by Dr. David Bercuson
University of Calgary

The Ramifications of Vimy Ridge for Germany

Dr. Hans-Hubertus Mack
ZMSBw

Dr. Hans-Hubertus Mack, Commander of the Zentrum für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr (Centre for Military History and Social Sciences at the Bundeswehr), is highly recognized for his numerous books and other publications on the Integration of German Forces into the European Defence Community, military education in present day Europe, tradition and development of German Forces after reunification, and the history of military education in Germany.

1:00–2:45 p.m.

SESSION 3
AIR POWER AND INFANTRY

CHAIR
Dr. Ian Brodie
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary and Associate Director, CMSS
Vimy and the Battle of Arras: The Evolution of the Air Campaign

Dr. Mike Bechthold
Wilfrid Laurier University

Dr. Mike Bechthold holds a PhD in History from the University of New South Wales, Canberra, Australia and an MA & Honours BA from Wilfrid Laurier University. For 22 years, Dr. Bechthold was the Communications Director of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies and the Managing Editor of Canadian Military History, an academic quarterly journal. He is the author or editor of eight books and numerous articles. His areas of specialization include military air power, the Canadian army in Normandy and Northwest Europe, and the Canadian Corps in the Great War. Dr. Bechthold currently teaches history part time at Wilfrid Laurier University and works full time at WLU Press as production coordinator and acquisitions editor in military history.

A Not Insignificant Contribution: Air Power and Vimy Ridge

Major Bill March
Canadian Armed Forces

Major Bill March, originally from Cornwall, Ontario, joined the Canadian Air Force in 1977 under the Regular Officer Training Program (ROTP). In 1993, he completed his masters’ degree at the University of Victoria and was selected to recreate the position of Air Force Historian at 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters for which he earned a Chief of the Air Staff Commendation. In 2008 he became the Academic Liaison Officer and the Senior Editor of the Royal Canadian Air Force Journal. In 2011, he was deployed as the lead for a Lessons Learned Team to Kandahar, Afghanistan, to examine the role of Canada’s Deployed Air Wing (Task Force Silver Dart), and earned a Wing Commander’s Commendation. Currently an Air Reservist, he serves as the Royal Canadian Airforce within the Directorate of History and Heritage, Department of National Defence.

15 minutes

Deployment to Employment: The Introduction of New Infantry Weapons in the Canadian Corps

Dr. William Stewart
Independent Researcher

Dr. William Stewart is an independent researcher focused on the tactical, operational, and administrative aspects of Canada’s participation in the First World War. After a thirty-year career in senior management in the high-tech industry, Dr. William Stewart graduated from the University of Birmingham, UK, with a PhD in 2012. Stewart examines the combat and administrative aspects of the CEF in the Great War. His book, The Embattled General, published in November 2015 was based on exhaustive research from over 1,200 volumes of material, including many previously untouched sources and has been called a balance and just re-evaluation of Turner, identifying his merits as well as his flaws.

A Portrait of the Soldier as a Young Man: Ernst Jünger at Fresnoy

Dr. Markus Pöhlmann
ZMSBw

Dr. Markus Pöhlmann, of the Zentrum für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr (ZMSBw), is best known for his works on German war planning 1911–1914, German views on the War of the Future, German war crimes 1914, military intelligence 1914–1918, and the writing of official military history in Germany 1914–1956. This fall his massive second dissertation (Habilitationsschrift) dealing with “The Panzer and the Mechanization of War 1890 to 1945” will appear in print.
2:45–3:00 p.m.

**COFFEE BREAK**

3:00–4:45 p.m.

**SESSION 4**

**OPERATIONAL LEARNING**

**CHAIR**

Dr. Rob Huebert  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Political Science,  
University of Calgary  
and Senior Research Fellow, CMSS

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**The German Army in the Elastic Defence**

**Dr. Christian Stachelbeck**  
ZMSBw

Dr. Christian Stachelbeck, a veteran of the German Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan 2001–04, is a researcher in the Zentrum für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr (ZMSBw). He is best known for his definitive history of 11th Bavarian Infantry Division 1914–1918, his history of the German army and navy in World War I, and his sweeping history of Imperial Wars since 1500.

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**Training for Disaster:**  
**The British 62nd Division and the First and Second Battles of Bullecourt**

**Dr. Geoff Jackson**  
Ambrose University College

Dr. Geoff Jackson earned his PhD from the University of Calgary. His PhD focused on the British 62nd Division and the Canadian 4th Division in the First World War. He is a senior Lecturer at Ambrose University and works as a consultant for the Partnership and Policy Branch at NATO.

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**HEALTH BREAK**

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**“The Sacrifice of Horses:” The B.E.F. Animal Health Crisis, Spring 1917**

**Dr. Andrew McEwen**  
Independent Researcher

Dr. Andrew McEwen is an independent researcher based in Calgary. He completed his Bachelor of Arts (Honours) at Queen’s University, his Master’s at the University of Waterloo, and his PhD at the University of Calgary. His doctoral dissertation, entitled ““Maintaining the Mobility of the Corps’ Horses, Mules, and the Canadian Army Veterinary Corps in the Great War,” examined the history of Canadian military veterinary and remount services from 1874 to 1919. He has worked for the University of Calgary and Parks Canada, and presented his research at major conferences in Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. His publications include articles in The Canadian Army Journal, Canadian Military History, Western Humanities Review, and a chapter in The Historical Animal (Syracuse University Press, 2015).
Firepower, Mobility and Protection: Vimy Ridge

David Thuell
Independent Researcher

David Thuell is a new scholar in military history and has always had a strong interest in Canadian Military history, dating back to grade school. However, while his career path took him in other direction he maintained an interest in Canadian military and developed a keen interest in the First World War. After a few years of general study, he decided to go to Norwich University to get his Master’s Degree in Military History. He is current taking a break from his studies, as he only has his thesis left to complete, and he is looking forward to completing his degree sometime in 2016.

6:30–9:30 p.m.

DINNER AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

American Entry into WWI

Dr. Michael Neiberg
US Army War College

Saturday, April 22

MacEwan Ballroom
3rd floor
MacEwan Hall

8:00–8:45 a.m.
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00–10:30 a.m.
SESSION 5
THE MEANING OF VIMY FOR CANADA

CHAIR
Dr. Holger Herwig
Professor Emeritus,
Department of History,
University of Calgary
and Senior Research Fellow, CMSS

National Myths and Pivotal Battles:
The Case of Vimy Ridge

Dr. Rob Rutherdale
Algoma University

Dr. Rob Rutherdale has subject matter expertise in the political and social history of World War I. He has taught modern Canadian history at Trent University, Memorial University of Newfoundland, the University of the Fraser Valley, the University of Northern British Columbia, and the University of British Columbia, before joining the Department of History at Algoma University, where he has taught since 2003. His articles on local responses in Canada wartime demands during the First World War have appeared in the Canadian Historical Review and Histoire Sociale/Social History. He has also served as a consultant on early wartime mobilization for Images of a Forgotten War/Images d’une Guerre Oubliée, an online project launched in by the National Film Board of Canada/Office National du Film du Canada.

Marring the Memory:
The 1967 Vimy Ridge Commemorations Imbroglio and Canada-France Relations

Dr. Serge Durflinger
University of Ottawa

Dr. Serge Durflinger is a professor of history at the University of Ottawa. He specializes in Canadian military, naval, and diplomatic history as well as the history of veterans, commemoration, and the impact of war on ordinary Canadians. From 1998 to 2003 he served as an historian at the Canadian War Museum. He is the author of the books Lest We Forget, a history of the Last Post Fund of Canada; Fighting From Home: The Second World War in Verdun, Quebec, and Veterans with a Vision; Canada’s War Blinded in Peace and War. He is the co-editor (with Jeffrey Keshen) of War and Society in Post-Confederation Canada. His latest book, co-edited with Douglas Delaney, is Capturing Hill 70: Canada’s Forgotten Victory of the First World War.

Beyond The Taking of Vimy Ridge:
The War Photographs of William Ivor Castle

Carla Stokes
O’Keefe Ranch

Carla-Jean Stokes has a masters of history from Wilfrid Laurier University, as well as a masters of photographic preservation and collections management, from Ryerson University. Carla-Jean won the 2015 Photographic Historical Society of Canada thesis prize for her paper, “British Official First World War Photographs, 1916–1918 Arranging and Contextualizing a Collection of Prints at the Art Gallery of Ontario.” She has
also written blogs and articles for the Laurier Centre for Strategic and Disarmament Studies, and Esprit de Corps magazine. Her special collector’s edition, “War Photos,” was published by Legion Magazine in May 2016. She works as Curator and Collections Manager of the Historic O’Keefe Ranch, in Vernon, BC.

10:30–10:45 a.m.

COFFEE BREAK

10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

SESSION 6

THE LARGER PICTURE

CHAIR
Dr. Patrick Brennan
Professor Emeritus,
Department of History,
University of Calgary
and Senior Research Fellow, CMSS

Did Vimy Matter?

Dr. Jack Granatstein
Independent Researcher

Dr. Jack Granatstein was born in Toronto on 21 May 1939. He attended Le Collège militaire royal de St-Jean, the Royal Military College, Kingston, the University of Toronto, and Duke University, served in the Canadian Army, then joined the History Department at York University, Toronto where he is Distinguished Research Professor of History Emeritus. Granatstein was a member of the Royal Military College of Canada Board of Governors, and from 1998 to 2000, he was the Director and CEO of the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. Granatstein has been an Officer of the Order of Canada since 1982. His book, The Generals (1993), won the J.W. Dafoe Prize and the UBC Medal for Canadian Biography. Canada’s National History Society named him the winner of the Pierre Berton Award for popular history (2004), and the Canadian Authors Association gave him its Lela Common Award for Canadian History in 2006. In 2008, the Conference of Defence Associations awarded him its 75th Anniversary Book Prize as “the author deemed to have made the most significant positive contribution to the general public’s understanding of Canadian foreign policy, national security and defence during the past quarter century.” He holds a number of honorary degrees. Granatstein writes a column in each issue of Legion Magazine. He writes on Canadian national history—the military, defence and foreign policy, Canadian-American relations, the public service, and politics, and he comments regularly on historical questions, defence, and public affairs in the media and speaks frequently here and abroad. He is the author of numerous scholarly and popular books and articles.

Vimy and the Birth of the Nation: The Origins of the Phrase and How Its Meaning Has Changed over Time

Dr. Tim Cook
Canadian War Museum

Dr. Tim Cook is a noted Canadian military historian at the Canadian War Museum, an adjunct research professor at Carleton University, and a former director of Canada’s History Society. He is one of the most prominent and successful Canadian military historians with many years of experience in the field. He has authored eight books, most of which have been long-listed, shortlisted or awarded for several prizes. His most recent books, a two-volume history of Canadians in the Second World War, The Necessary War (2014) and Fight to the Finish (2015), are national bestsellers and finalists for a number of awards.
Through Transnational Lenses: Allied Offensives in WWI

Dr. Michael Neiberg
US Army War College

12:15–1:30 p.m.

LUNCH AND SPEAKER

INTRODUCED BY
Dr. Mark Konnert
Department Head,
Department of History,
University of Calgary

Myth and Memory:
Vimy 2017 at the Canadian War Museum

Krista Cooke
Canadian War Museum

Krista Cooke is a young Canadian historian and, in her role as assistant historian at the Canadian War Museum, she supports the development of special exhibitions. She has a BA from Mount Allison University and an MA in History from the University of Western Ontario. Ms. Cooke also holds a Certificate in Museum Practice from the Association for Manitoba Museums and is a co-founder of the Canadian Association for Women’s Public History.

Dr. Tim Cook launches his new book,
Vimy: Battle and Legend
(Toronto: Penguin, 2017)

1:30–3:00 p.m.

SESSION 7
ROUND TABLE ON VIMY RIDGE

MODERATOR
Dr. David Bercuson
University of Calgary

Moderated session with: Drs. Jack Granatstein, Michael Epkenhans, and Tim Cook

3:00 P.M.

WRAP UP

Dr. David Bercuson
University of Calgary
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