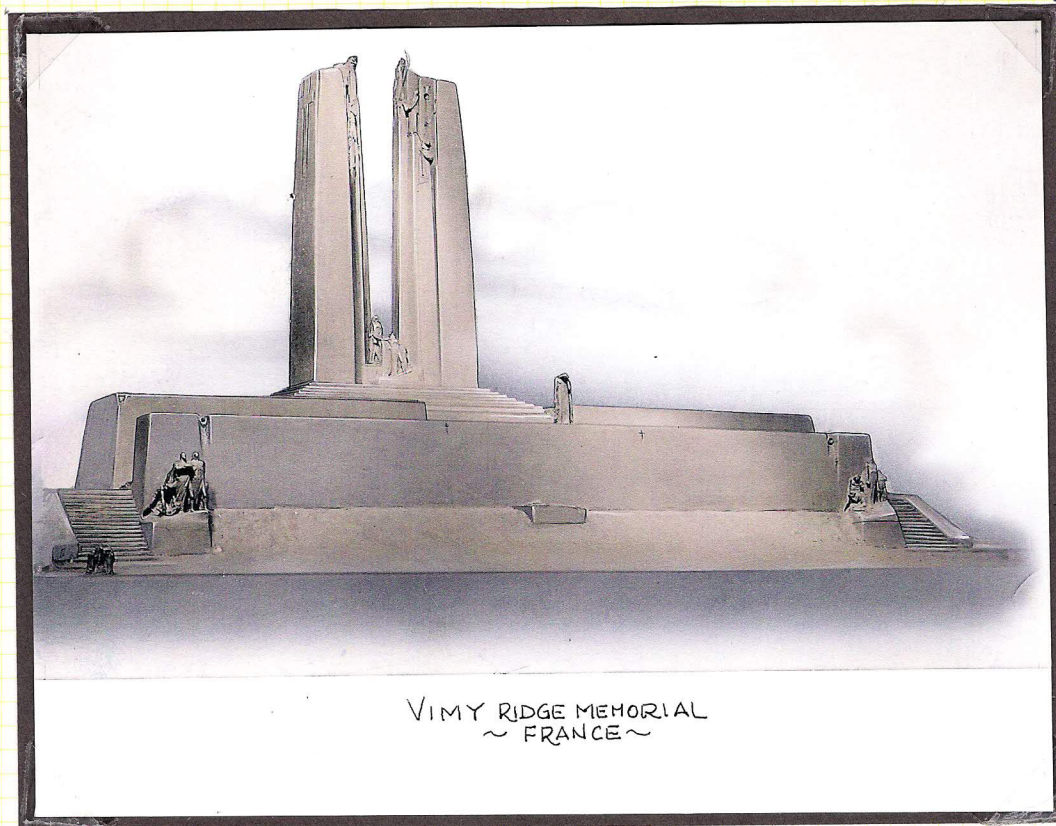


## Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

Unveiling of Canada's National War Memorial ~ Vimy Ridge, France, July 26 1936

*6000 Canadians Veterans will participate in a solemn Pilgrimage to France*

*to pay homage to those who made the Supreme Sacrifice*



Photograph of maquette ( plaster) Pringle & Booth, Toronto ~ used in production of commemorative cover

***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



## Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

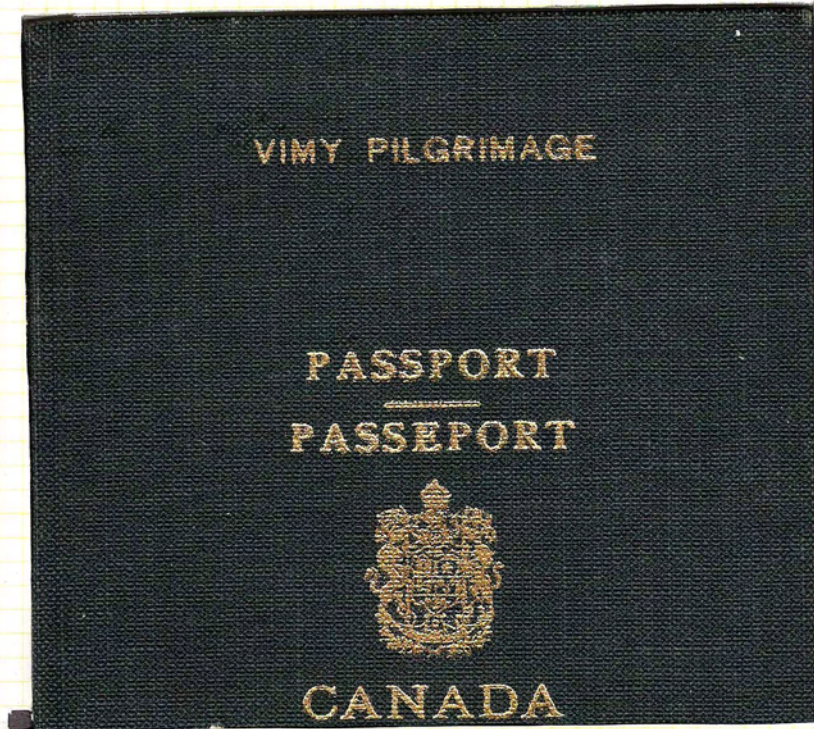
The Pilgrimage begins ~ the undertaking of this trip by the Canadian Legion, Government of Canada, Great Britain

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

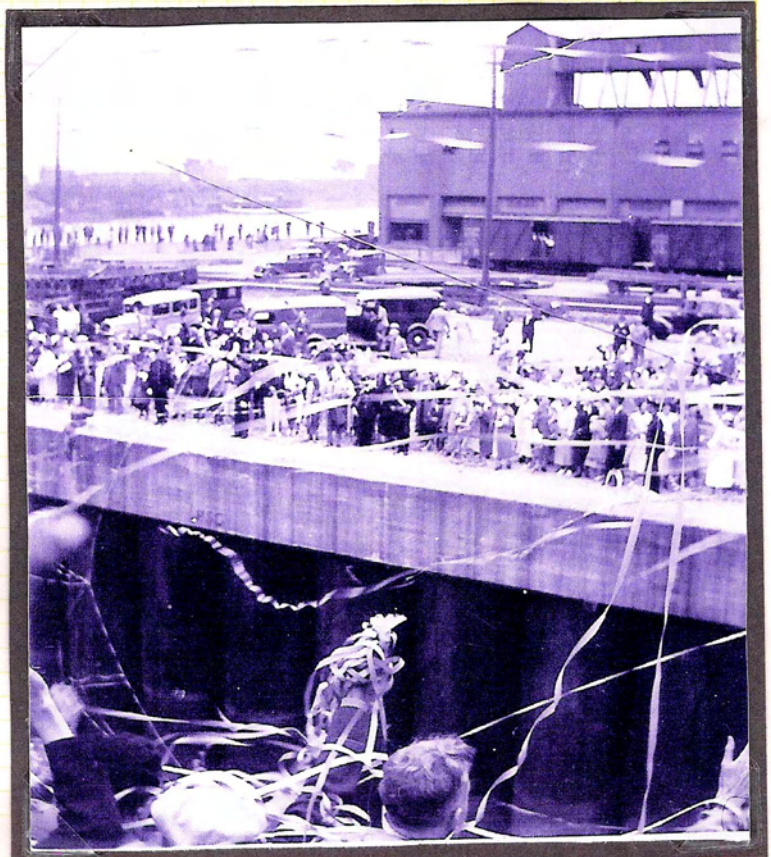
S.S. Antonia; Ascana; & Aurania ~ Cunard White Star



Passport of Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Marley

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

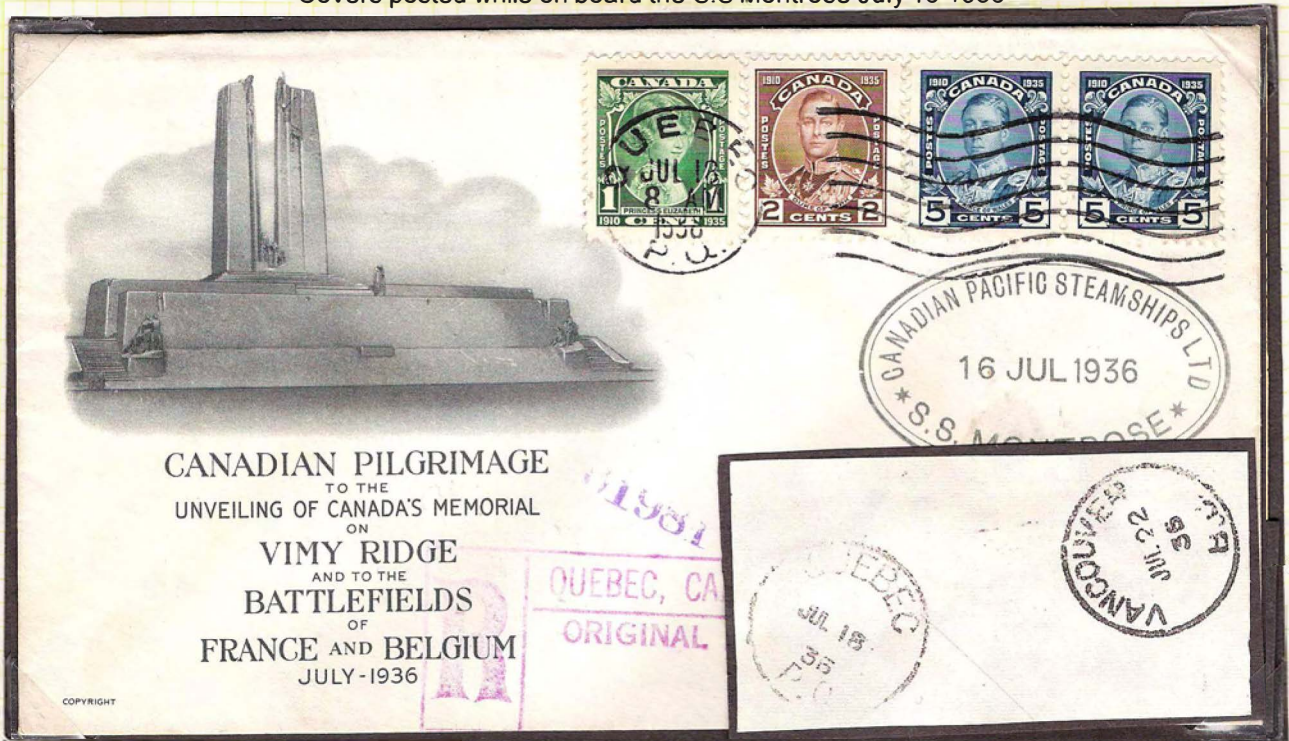
The send off ~ Port of Montreal, PQ  
~ from the deck of S.S. Montrose,  
11.00am July 16 1936





# Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

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



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

See insert ~ reverse circle cancel Toronto, Reg. Div. Terminal A July 19 1936 ~ transferred to Station E Toronto July 20 1936. Registered Mail ~ 13¢ with Royal Yacht Britannia, King George V Silver Jubilee

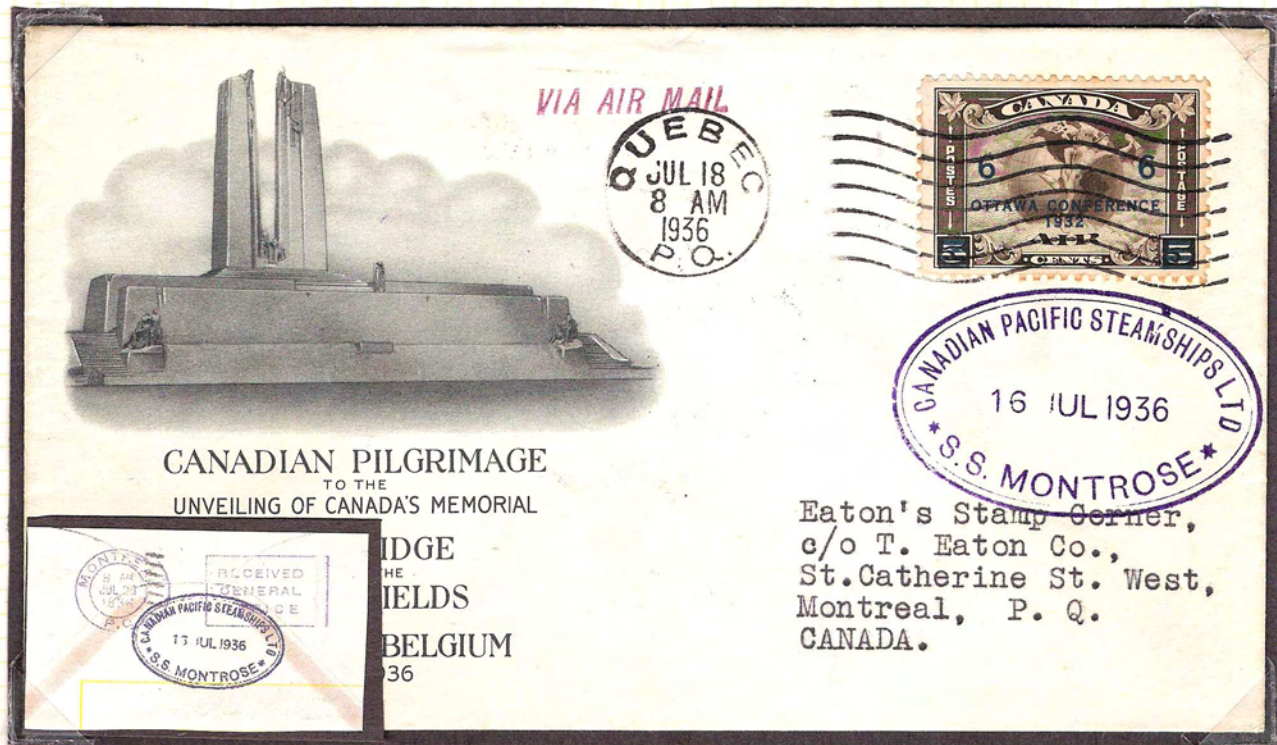


## Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

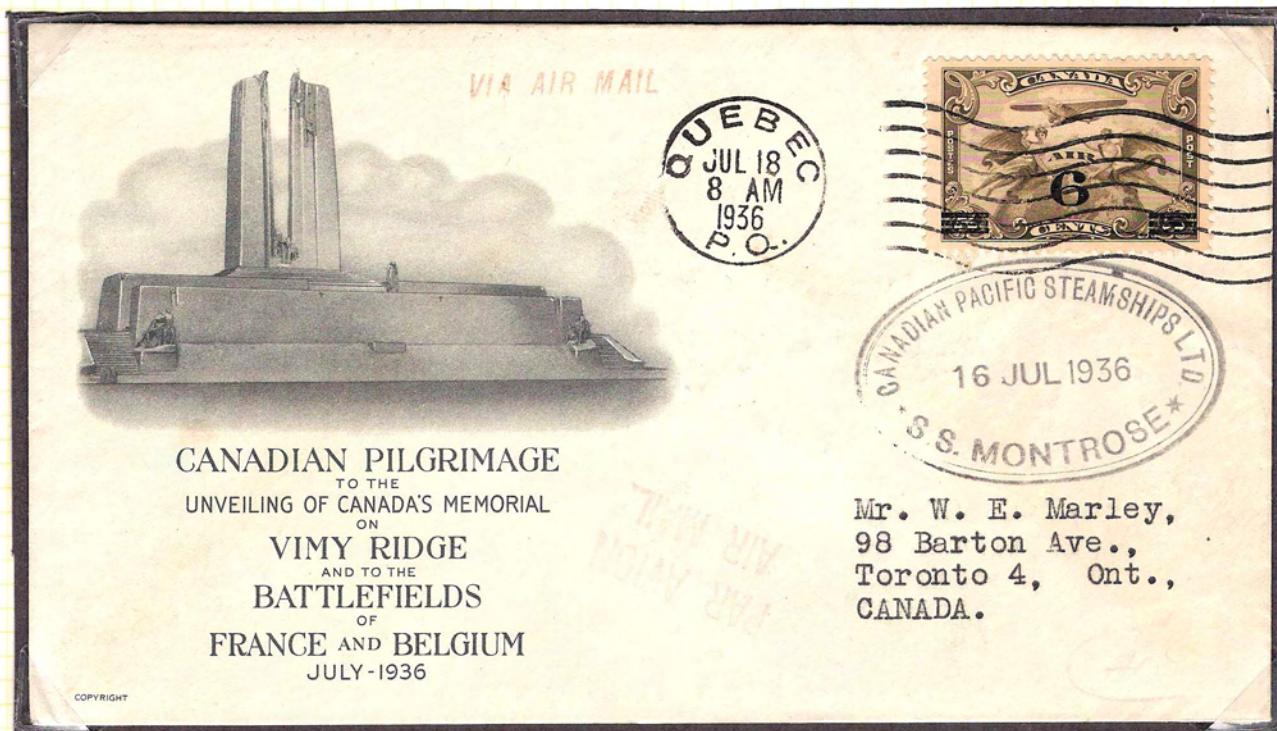
During the Voyage from Montreal, July 16<sup>th</sup> 1936, with stop in Quebec City, to Antwerp Belgium various covers were sent to relatives, personal friends, Philatelists and others

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¢



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



POB S.S. Montrose July 16<sup>th</sup> 1936 use of 6¢ overprint on 5¢ Air Mail, cancel Quebec City



# Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

POB ~ S.S. Montrose, July 16<sup>th</sup> 1936  
Rates Domestic ~ Registration 10¢



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



Registered Letter ~ #1781 ~ use of 1¢ Princess Elizabeth / 2¢ Duke of York / 5¢ (2) Prince of Wales  
King George V Silver Jubilee Issue

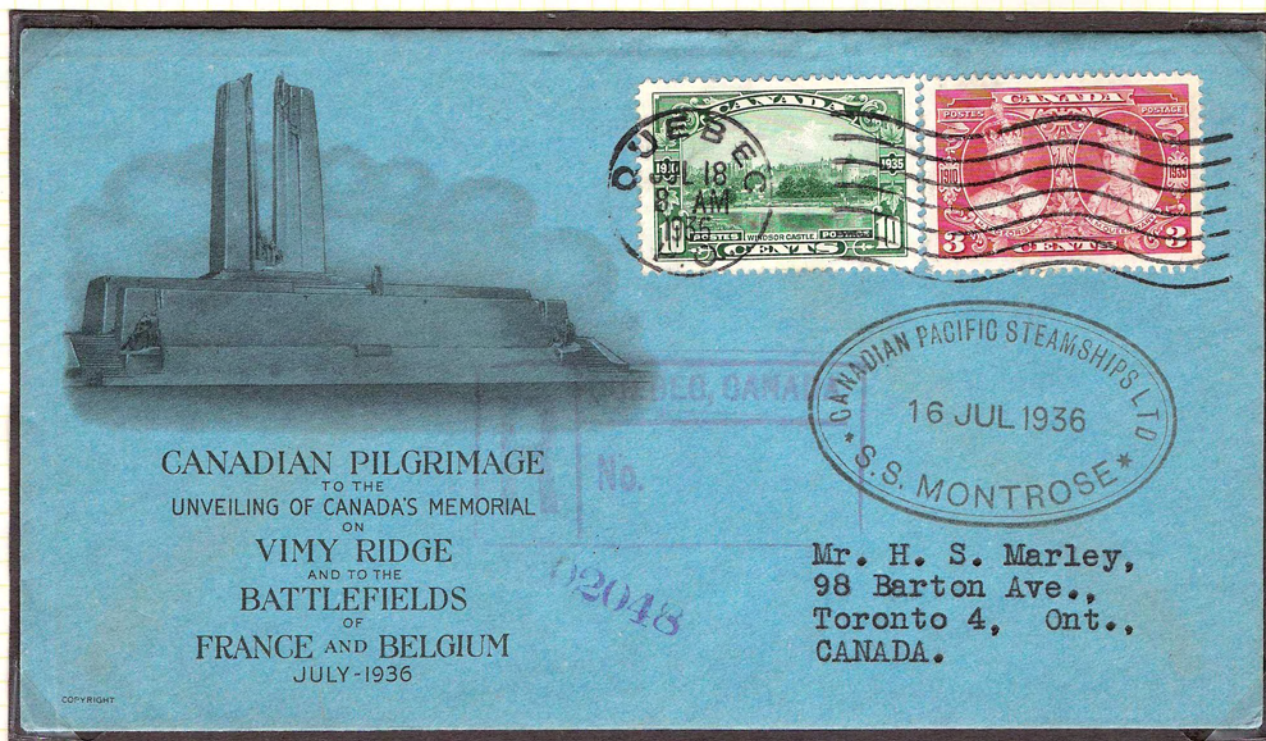


# Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

POB ~ S.S. Montrose, July 16<sup>th</sup> 1936  
Rates ~ Domestic 3¢ per oz. ~ Registration 13¢



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



Registered Letter ~ #2048 ~ use of 10¢ Windsor Castle; 3 ¢ King George V and Queen Mary  
King George V Silver Jubilee Issue

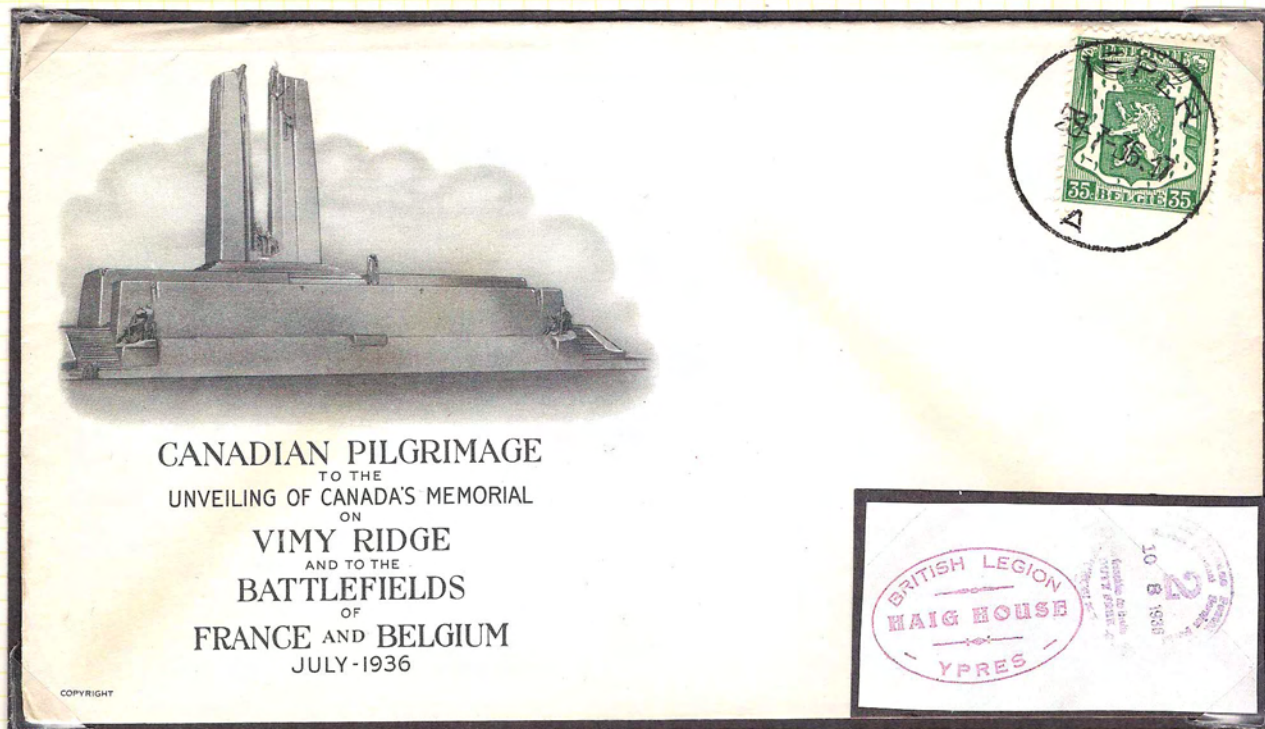


## Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

July 25<sup>th</sup> 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



Paquebot cover S.S. Montrose, circular cancels July 25<sup>th</sup> 1936, Antwerp, reverse cancel, S.S. Montrose oval hand stamp July 28, 1936: Brussels, Belgium July 29; Montreal August 5<sup>th</sup> & Fort Erie, Ontario August, 1936



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

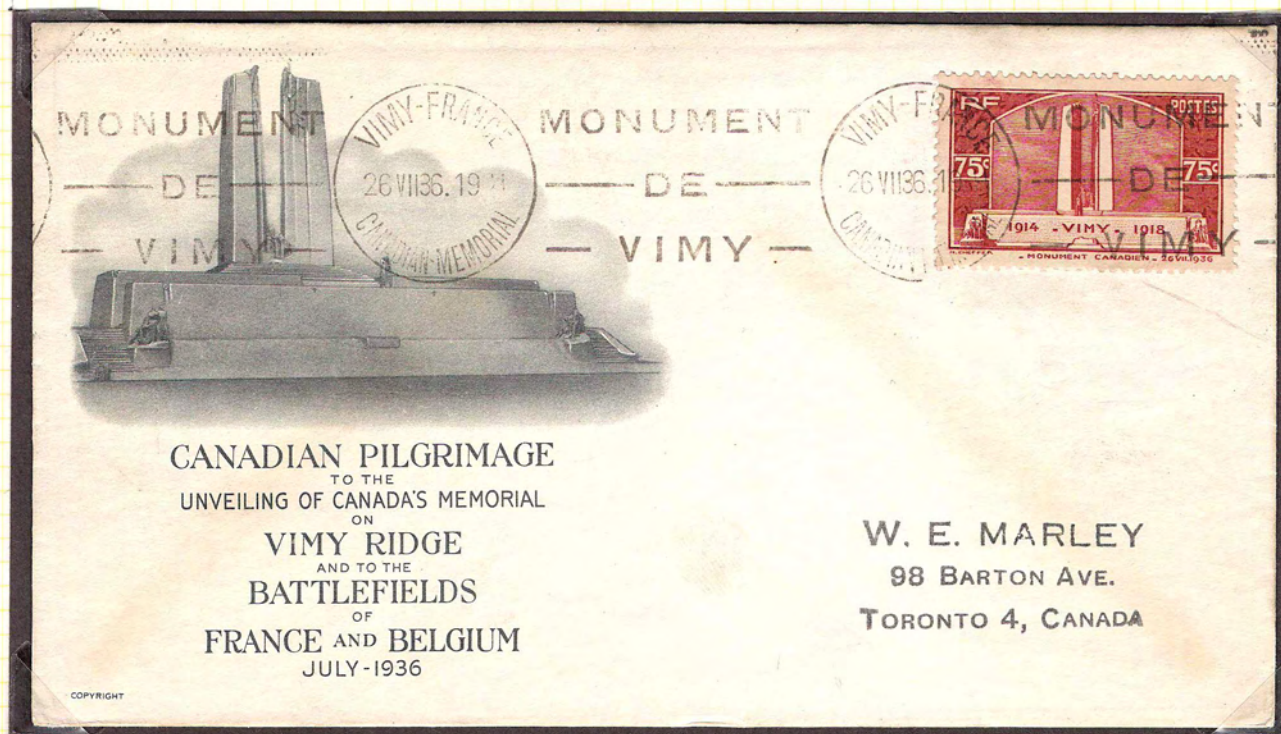


## Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

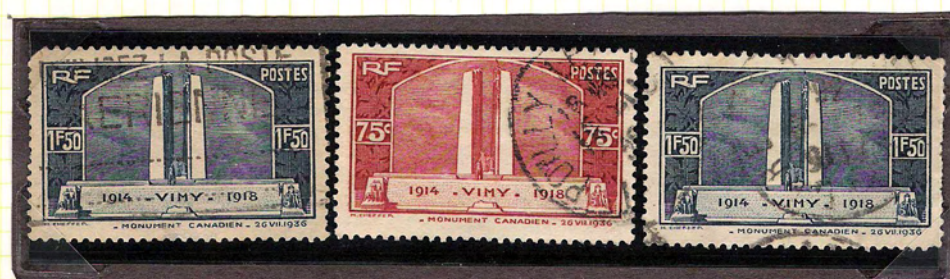
W. E. Marley emigrated from Great Britain prior to WWI & enlisted in Toronto at the Declaration of War with Royal Canadian Engineers, 5<sup>th</sup> Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade C.E.F 1<sup>st</sup> Division

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 26<sup>th</sup> 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

Issued July 25<sup>th</sup> 1936 ~ *first used in Commemoration of Unveiling of Canadian Memorial July 26<sup>th</sup> 1936*  
Removed from service Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1936

Designed by, artist & engraver, Henri Lucien Cheffer b:1888 d:1957



## Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

Unveiling of Canada's National War Memorial ~ Vimy Ridge, France July 26<sup>th</sup> 1936  
Post & Telegraph offices on site

### 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 26<sup>TH</sup>, 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.

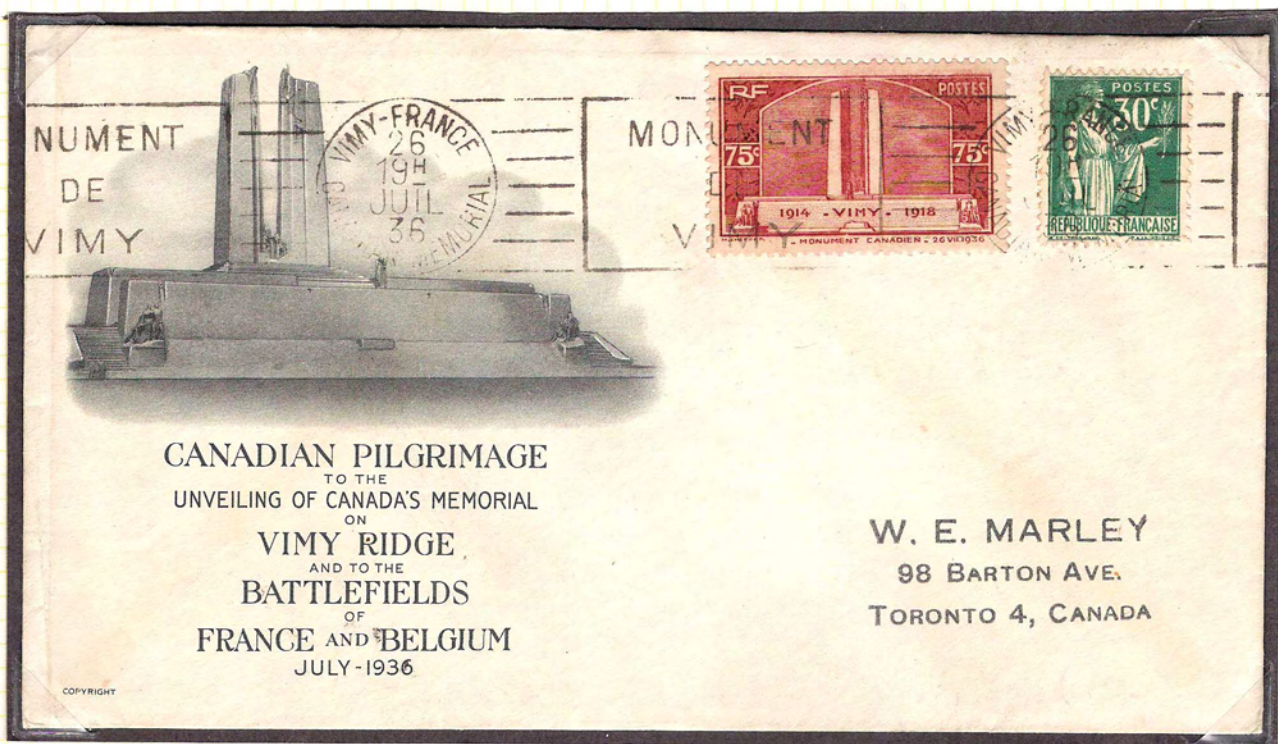
### SYMBOLISM OF VIMY MEMORIAL

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 11,285 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



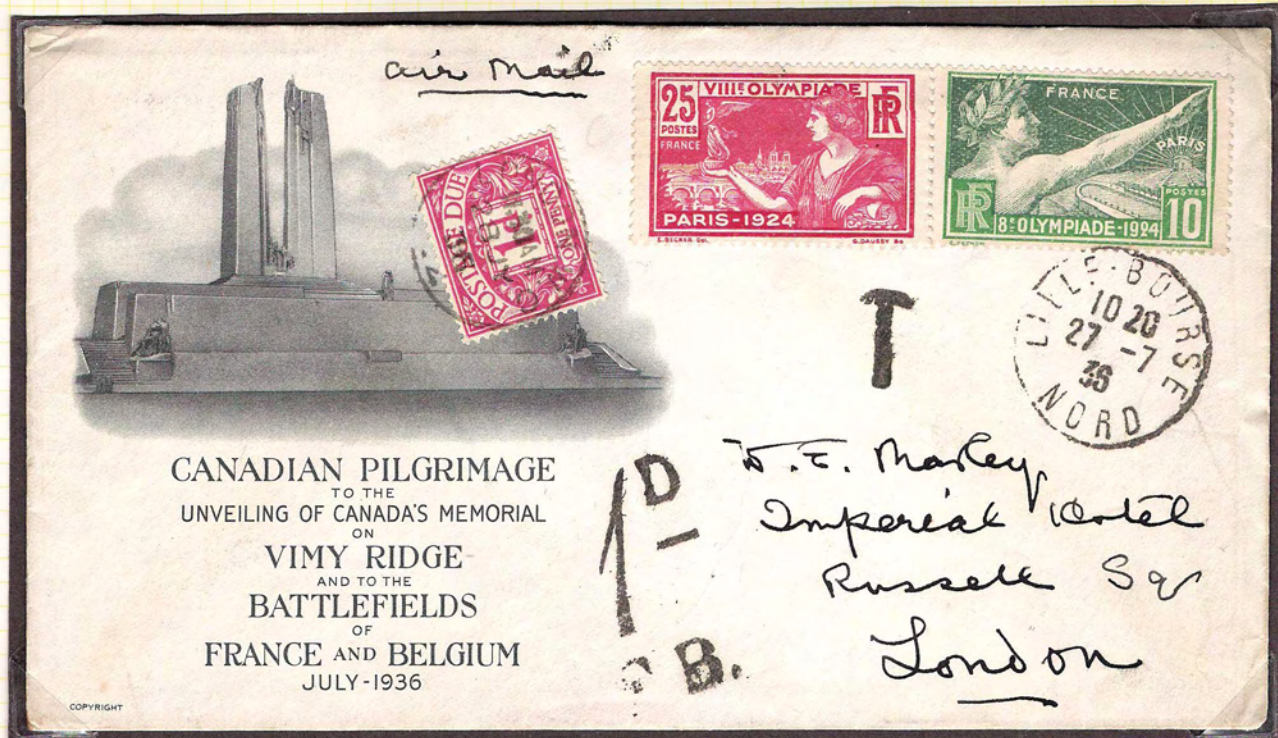
FDC (square cancel) Krag, "Monument de Vimy" with 5 radial lines from circle,  
mailed day of unveiling ~ July 26<sup>th</sup> 1936

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 27<sup>th</sup> 1936 ~ 10.20am : Air Mail  
Note ~ post mark over 1p postage due, July 28<sup>th</sup> 1936

CANADIAN LEGION	
<p align="center"><b>NOTICE.</b></p> <p>GUESTS are respectfully informed that the Proprietors cannot be responsible for boots, umbrellas, coats, hats, etc., left in Corridors, Halls, or Public Rooms; such articles should be given in charge of the Porters.</p> <p>Cheques not taken in payment of Accounts.</p> <p>Visitors arriving without luggage are requested to pay a deposit and settle their Accounts daily.</p> <p>Guests not entirely satisfied with their Room, or the Service, will greatly oblige by at once mentioning same to the Management.</p> <p align="center">Telephone—Terminus 3655. Telegrams— "Rusimp, Westcent, London."</p>	
<p align="center"><b>THE</b> <b>Imperial Hotel</b> <b>RUSSELL SQUARE</b> <b>LONDON :: W.C.</b></p>	
<p><b>MR. &amp; MRS. W. E. MARLEY</b></p> <p>Room ..... 279 ..... Charge ..... for ..... 2 .....</p> <p>Date 28th July, 1936.</p> <p>This Charge includes Bath, Heating, Table d'Hote Breakfast, Attendance, Lights, Boot-Cleaning and use of Public Rooms. No deduction is made if Breakfast is not taken.</p> <p align="center">PLEASE BOLT YOUR DOOR AT NIGHT.</p>	

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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)





## Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

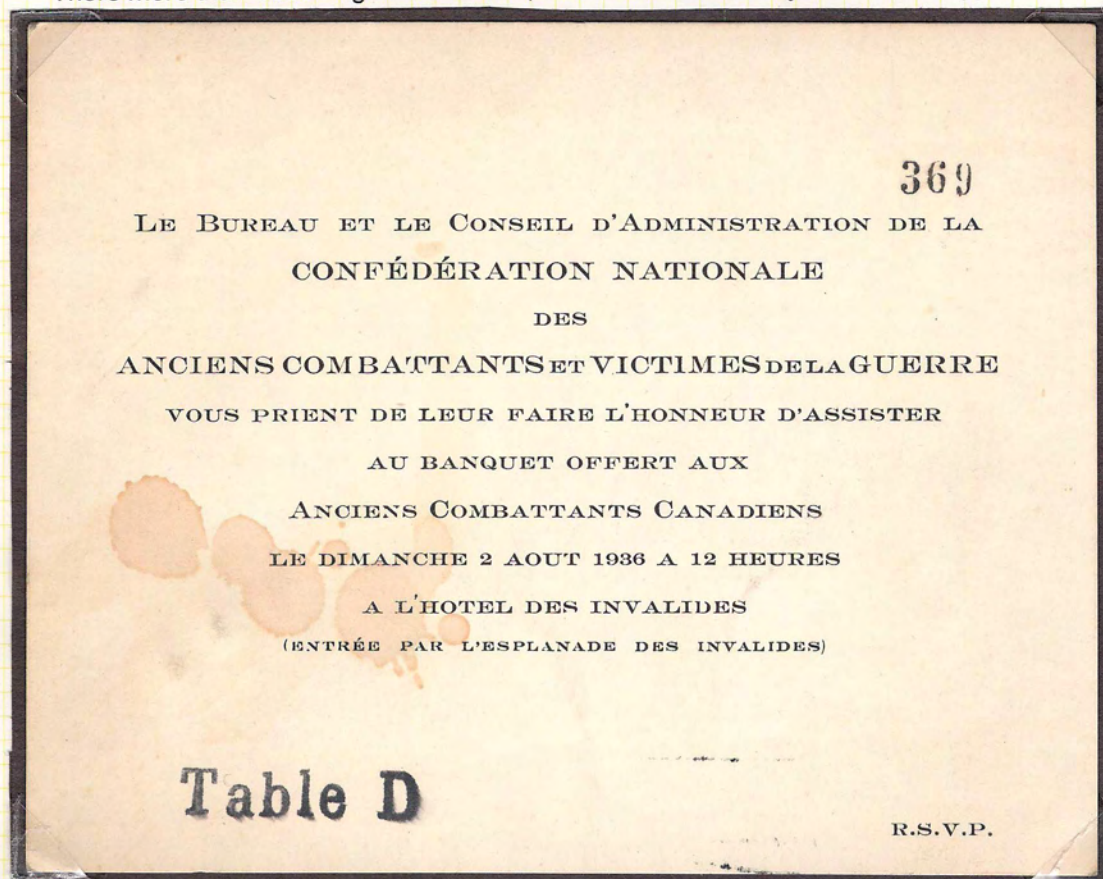
Government of France Invitation Tour

August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1936

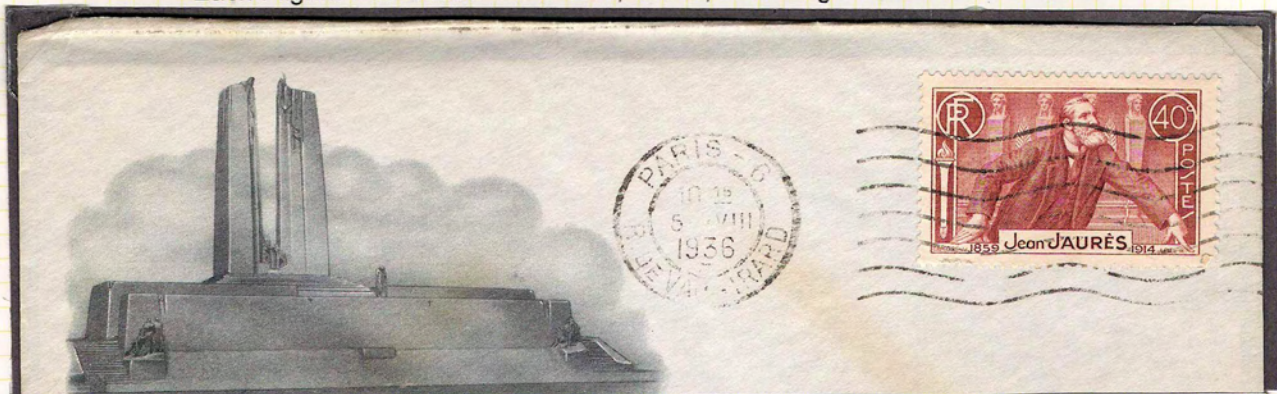
Bus tour of the day included Chateau St. Germain, Malmaison, Palace of Versailles ~ with lunch enroute

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. 5<sup>th</sup> 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

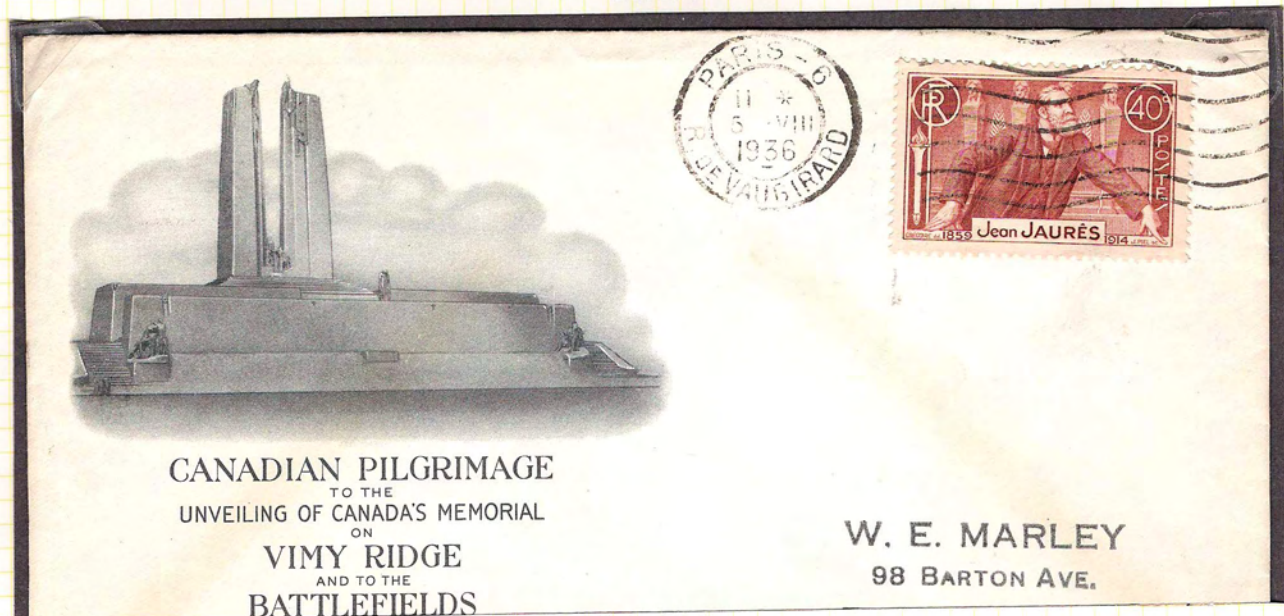
Government of France Invitation Tour

August 3 - 5 1936

Various site are visited in Paris ~ Place de la Concorde, Notre-Dame, as well a trip to Rouen



Post mark at French Department ~ Rouen Seine Inferieure, presently Seine Maritime Rouen  
75 c Memorial of Vimy issue, July 26<sup>th</sup> 1936, stationary from hotel in Paris ~ now the Trianon Rive Gauche



post marked ~ Paris-6 R de Vaugirard, August 5<sup>th</sup> 1936 ~ Ile-de-Fance  
40 centimes~ Jean Leon Jaures, socialist / politician ~ issued July 30<sup>th</sup> 1936

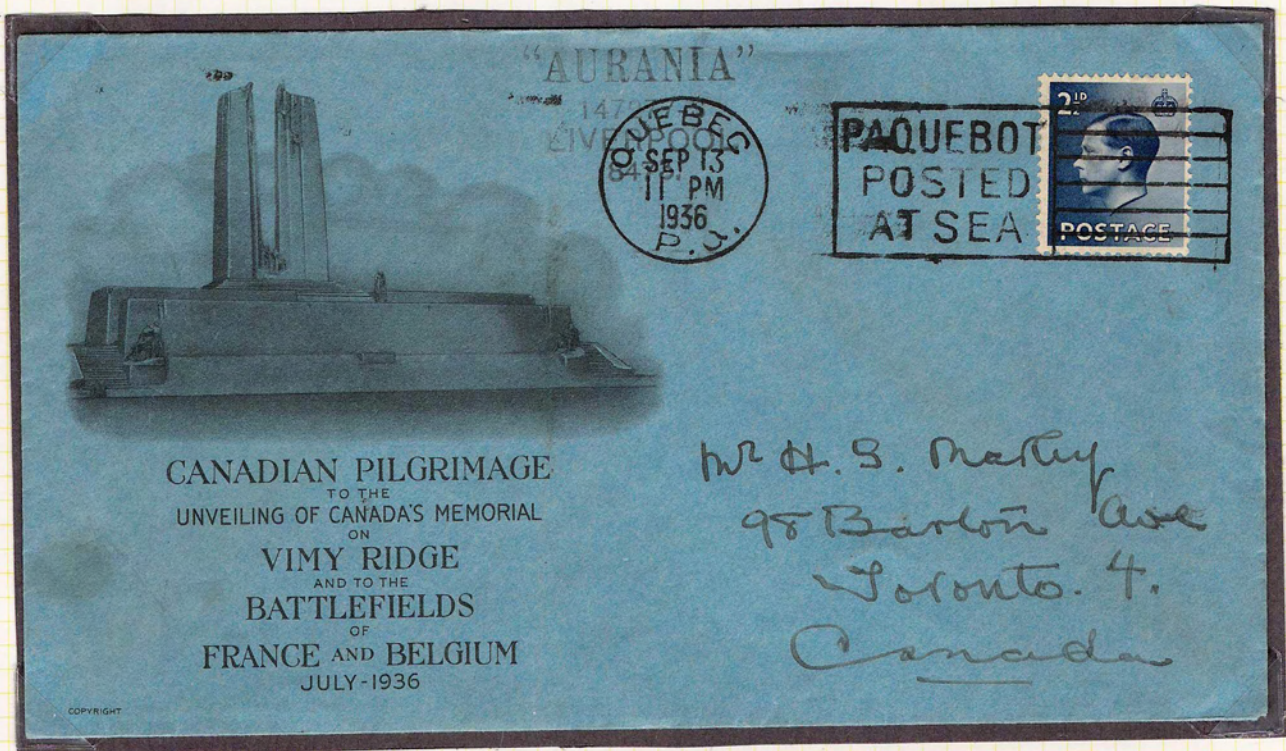


Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

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



Post card from Aurania ~ Cunard White Star Line

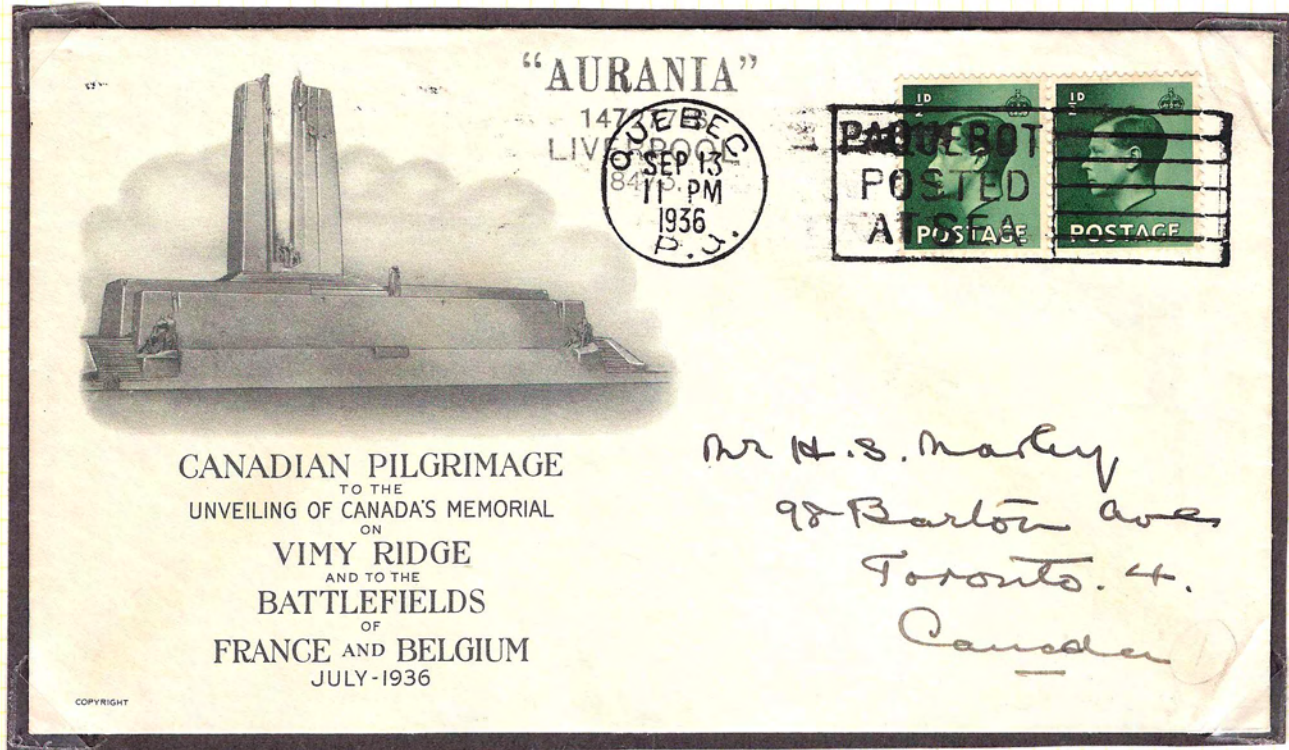


Post marked ~ Paquebot  
~ 2 pence, Edward VIII ~ issued September 1936 ~ abdicated, December 1936, never crowned King

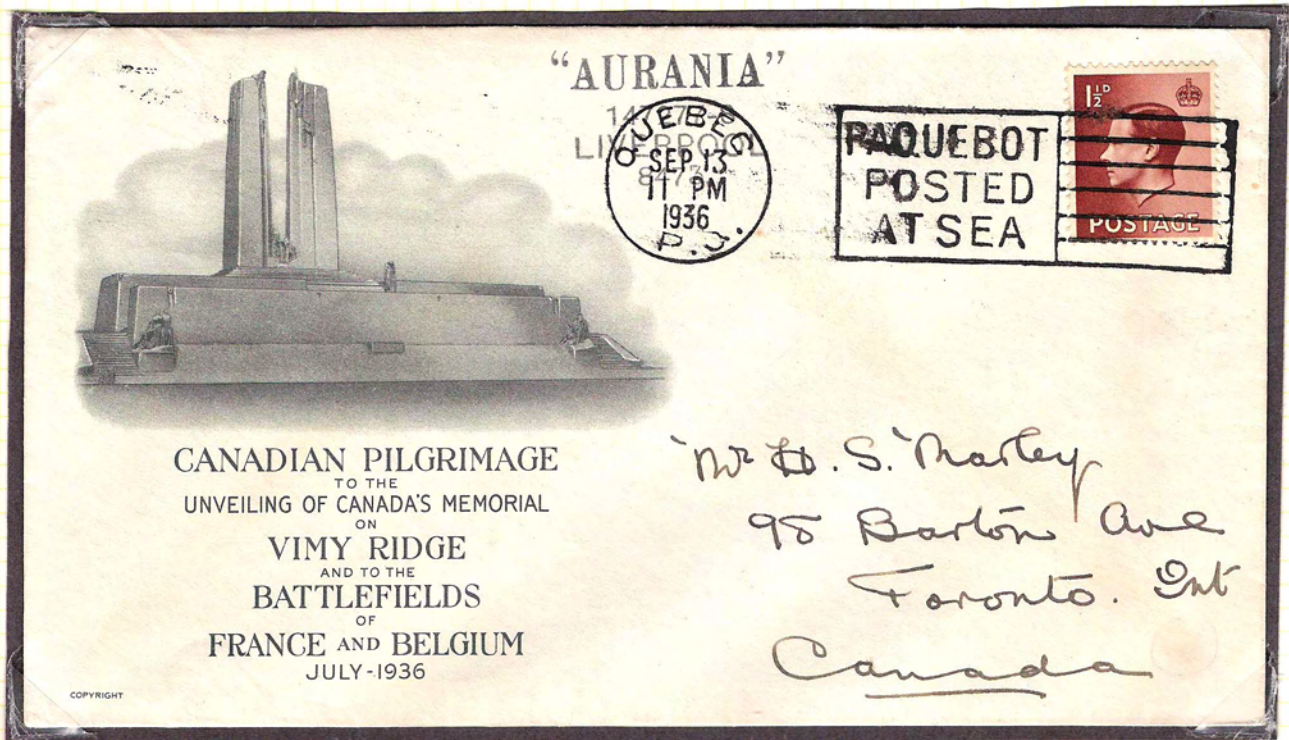


# Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

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  
1/2 pence (2) Edward VIII issued September 1936 ~ abdicated, December 1936 never crowned King

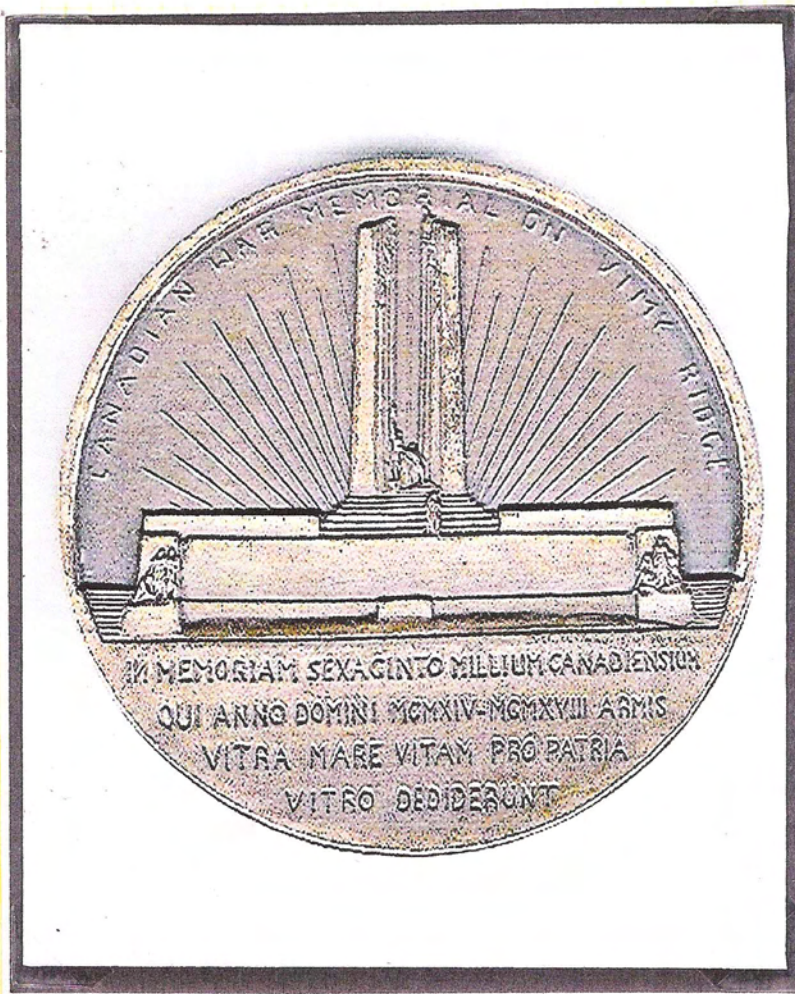


Post marked ~ Paquebot  
~ 1 1/2 pence, Edward VIII ~ issued September 1936 ~ abdicated, December 1936, never crowned King



## Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

Bronze medal presented in Paris  
50mm dia. x 5mm (photo ~ reverse)



Bronze medal (obverse)



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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Canadian Legion Pilgrimage Badge



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 brooch holds blue & yellow ribbon. Above Canadian Legion is cluster of Maple Leaves & beaver ~ incused