

## Epic of Vimy ~ A Canadian Pilgrimage

Unveiling of Canada's National War Memorial ~ Vimy Ridge, France, 26<sup>th</sup>. July 1936. 6000 Canadian Veterans & families would sail in five ships, to participate in a solemn Pilgrimage to France, to pay homage to those who made the *Supreme Sacrifice* & unveil the War Memorial at Vimy Ridge

*" To visit a cemetery of a loved one is a remembrance and an honour of a previous life ~  
a religious event ~ a life lived and an impact of that life on the living "*

It is in this regard that W.E.Marley, a combatant with 1<sup>st</sup> Div. Canadian Expeditionary Force (C.E.F) during the Great War, WWI of 1914 -1918 would desire, with other comrades, to commemorate and never forget those who paid the supreme sacrifice, that the living may secure a better life

In commemoration of this Pilgrimage covers were mailed to family, friends, philatelists from ships & ports, cities visited, as well as unveiling of Vimy Monument 26<sup>th</sup>. July 1936 with First Day Cover.

Page 2 ~ Vimy Monument ~ preparation and design of souvenir Commemorative covers (photo right)

Page.3, 4 ~ Plan of Movement ~ movement of Pilgrims aboard ships

Page 5 ~ The Pilgrim W.E.Marley and Wife ~ passport, RPPC of Pilgrim at Valcartier Camp, PQ 1914

Page 6 ~ The Voyage ~ POB S.S. Montrose, covers to T.Eaton Co. Montreal, PQ  
C.H. Moore Aboukir (Abu Qir) Egypt.

Page 7 ~ Arrival in Antwerp, Belgium ~ POB S.S. Montrose ~ battlefield tours Ypres (Iper)

Page 8 ~ Unveiling of Monument ~ personal Vimy photo and FDC mailed from site

Page 9 ~ Unveiling of Monument ~ site post office, telephone, telegraph ~ FDC to S. Africa ~ insert

Page 10 ~ France Issues Stamps ~ preproduction engravings, signed ~ Deluxe die proofs & stamps

Page 11 ~ Arrival in London ~ 27<sup>th</sup>. - 30<sup>th</sup>. July, hotel registration, Imperial Hotel

Page 12 ~ French Invitation ~ 2<sup>nd</sup>. - 5<sup>th</sup>. Aug. ~ table card 2<sup>nd</sup>. Aug 1936 , Hotel des Invalides

Page 13 ~ A French Presentation ~ bronze medal presented

Page 14 ~ Sightseeing ~ Paris, Notre Dame and Rouen

Page 15 ~ Return to Visit Britain ~ visit family in Hove, Eastbourne & Hastings, Brighton, Herne

Page 16 ~ Return to Canada ~ Liverpool to Montreal PQ ~ paquebot cover and ship postcard

## Vimy Monument ~ Pas de Calais, France

Designer / Sculptor ~ W.S. Allward (1889-1955)

Built ~ 1925 -1936

The Monument honours 65,000 Canadians who died in WWI recorded in base, stone engraving of 11,285 names who died and were never found

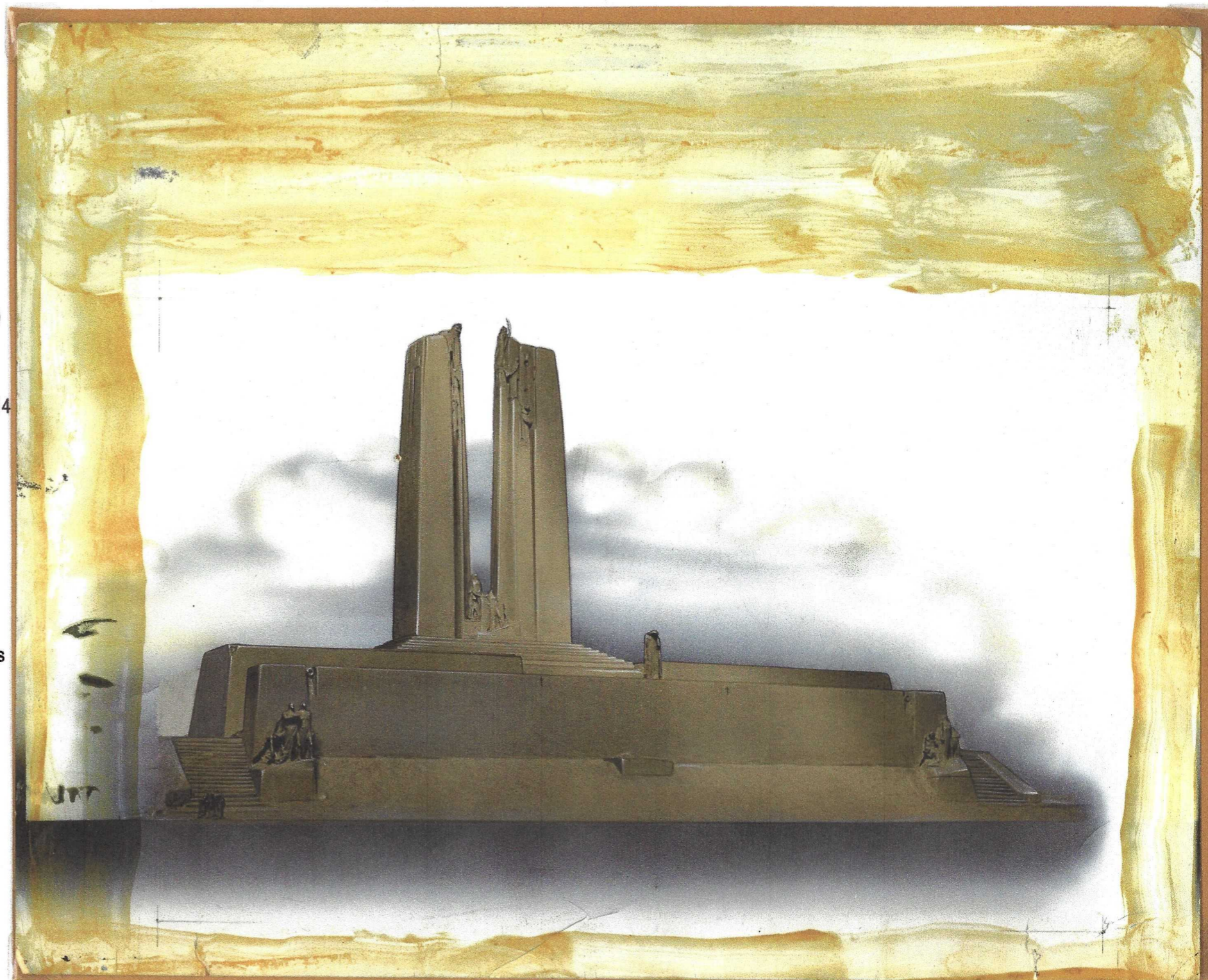



Photo of maquette (plaster or clay) by designer & sculptor W.S. Allward Pringle & Booth, Toronto circa 1925  
the photo was used in the production of the commemorative cover

Note ~ items indicated with  are of importance due to difficulty of acquisition, historical significance & scarcity