

# **The Sandwich Headlines**

SANDWICH MUSEUM



Remembering World War 1 (1914 – 1918)

SUPPORTED BY HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

## **CANADIANS TAKE VIMY RIDGE GERMANS IN RETREAT APRIL 1917**

This battle was part of the opening phase of the British approach to the Battle of Arras and as a diversionary attack for the French Nivelle Offensive.

The objective of the Canadians was to take control of the German held high ground at the northern end of the Arras campaign, and to ensure the southern flank could advance without being met with German fire.

Supported by a creeping barrage the Canadians captured most of the ridge on the first day of the attack. The town of Thelus fell during the second day and also the crest of the ridge, having overcome a fierce resistance of the Germans.

Finally the fortified knoll located outside the village of Givenchy-en-Gohelle was captured and the Germans were forced to retreat to the Oppy-Mericourt line.

It is reported that this success was due to a mixture of meticulous planning, a powerful artillery support, and the excellent training of the Canadians. The Germans appeared to not have properly applied the German defensive doctrine which had been successful in past conflicts.