

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

WESTERN ARCHIVES



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS

AFC 137

Inventory prepared by Alison Mitchell-Reid, based on student finding aid project(s) undertaken in partial fulfilment of archives course requirements – February 2010

WESTERN ARCHIVES
AFC 137
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FONDS DESCRIPTION	4
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS	
Series 1: Minutes of meetings.....	6
Sub-series 1.1: Minutes of executive committee meetings	7
Sub-series 1.2: Minutes of zone meetings.....	8
Series 2: Ontario provincial command documents	9
Series 3: Dominion command documents	10
Series 4: Membership documents	11
Series 5: Dues correspondence	12
Series 6: Annual financial reports and other documents	13
Series 7: Dinner meeting programmes and other documents	14
Series 8: Community involvement documents	15
Series 9: Special events souvenirs	16
Series 10: History project documents	17
Series 11: Photographs.....	18

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
FONDS DESCRIPTION**

Dates

1933-1995

Extent

30 cm of textual records

54 photographs

Administrative History

During and after the First World War, a number of disparate veterans' organizations emerged in Canada acting as voices for returning troops and their families. Attempts at unity to strengthen the voice of veterans resulted in the founding of the Dominion Veterans Alliance in 1925. One of the groups who joined the Dominion Veterans Alliance was the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League, formed in Winnipeg in November, 1925.

Initially, the Legion had three roles: to care of the war disabled, the dependent and the needy; to keep alive public memory of the sacrifices of Canadians in the cause of world peace; and to promote unity of the nation and development of a greater national consciousness. This mandate grew in time to include many community service projects.

The administrative structure of the Royal Canadian Legion is hierarchical and is divided into Commands, districts, zones and branches. At the national level is the Dominion Command, subdivided into the Provincial Commands. The Ontario Command is divided into nine administrative districts, each in turn divided into zones. The most important and most visible element of the Legion structure is the branch. Each branch belongs to a zone, a district and a command.

The London Great War Veterans Association joined the Canadian Legion and became Branch Number 2. The London branch of the Legion experienced inner turmoil as differences of opinion grew between ex-officer members and other ranks; in 1928, Branch Number 2 was dismantled. Several local veterans were still interested in Legion membership; after several meetings, the name Vimy was chosen for a new branch. Vimy Branch #145 was chartered in March, 1929 by the Dominion Command of the Canadian Legion. The branch holds its meeting twice a year in the form of a dinner on dates which coincide as closely as possible with the anniversaries of the Armistice and the Battle of Vimy Ridge. It has no fixed headquarters.

Originally, the branch had between 30 and 40 members; since the Second World War, its membership has remained at about 160. A number of London's prominent veterans such as Ibbotson Leonard, D. B. Weldon, and Tom Lawson have been members of the branch.

In the 1930s, Vimy Orchestra was formed. It performed at the twice-yearly meetings as well as some other occasions.

The branch takes part in the annual poppy campaign and the Remembrance Day parade. In 1956, Vimy Branch and London's Roosevelt Branch founded the Canadian Legion Memorial Boys Club - London, renamed the Legion Memorial Boys and Girls Club in 1971 and the Boys and Girls Club of London in 2000. The branch donates money to the club annually, helping to make the Boys and Girls Club of London a thriving local community centre.

Scope and Content

This fonds contains records created and collected by the Royal Canadian Legion, Vimy Branch #145 of London, Ontario. Minutes of meetings, correspondence, financial documents, souvenirs, and photographs are included.

Arrangement

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

- Series 1: Minutes of meetings
- Series 2: Ontario provincial command documents
- Series 3: Dominion command documents
- Series 4: Membership documents
- Series 5: Dues correspondence
- Series 6: Annual financial reports and other documents
- Series 7: Dinner meeting programmes and other documents
- Series 8: Community involvement documents
- Series 9: Special events souvenirs
- Series 10: History project documents
- Series 11: Photographs

Finding Aids

File lists are available.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Bill Corfield, director of Vimy branch's Executive Committee, in July 1991.

Related Material

Vimy branch's 1983 history book, "Friends and comrades: a history of the branch and its pursuits," is available in Western Archives' reading room (call number U57.C3R68 1983).

Conditions Governing Access

No restrictions on access.

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 1 Minutes of meetings

Dates

1936, 1947-1985

Extent

5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains minutes of meetings in which Vimy branch was involved. Meetings of the Vimy branch executive, as well as minutes of regional zones under which Vimy was represented, are included.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in the following sub-series:

Sub-series 1.1: Minutes of executive committee meetings

Sub-series 1.2: Minutes of zone meetings

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Sub-series 1.1 Minutes of executive committee meetings

Dates

1947-1985

Extent

5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains minutes of the regular meetings of the executive of Vimy Branch #145 of the Royal Canadian Legion. Membership, financial matters, and event planning issues are discussed.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Meetings	1947-1959	B562-1
Meetings	1960-1965	B562-2
Meetings	1966-1969	B562-3
Meetings	1970-1972	B562-4
Meetings	1973-1974	B562-5
Meetings	1975-1976	B562-6
Meetings	1977-1978	B562-7
Meetings	1980, 1982-1985	B562-8
Meetings, duplicates	1969, 1973-1984	B562-9

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Sub-series 1.2 Meetings of Zone meetings

Dates

1936, 1956, 1977

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains minutes of Zone 3 and Zone A-6 meetings, distributed to members of the local legion branch. Vimy branch fell under the jurisdiction of Zone 3 in 1936, and is a part of the current Zone A-6 today.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Zone meetings	1936, 1956, 1977	B562-10

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 2 Ontario Provincial Command documents

Dates

1969-1977

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains documents received by Vimy branch from the Legion's Ontario Provincial Command. Reports and correspondence are included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Provincial command	1969-1977	B562-11

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 3 Dominion Command documents

Dates

1971-1976, 1986

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains documents received by Vimy branch from the Legion's national Dominion Command. Reports, booklets, and correspondence are included.

File/Item List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Dominion command	1971-1976, 1986	B562-12

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 4 Membership documents

Dates

1968-1988

Extent

9 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains membership documents for the Royal Canadian Legion, Vimy Branch #145. Membership lists, correspondence, and membership applications and forms are included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Awards, life members	1968-1986	B562-19
Membership lists	1969-1979	B562-13
Applications for membership, A-M	1969-1979	B562-16
Applications for membership, O-Y	1969-1979	B562-17
Membership criteria	1969-1979	B562-18
Dominion command information forms	1973	B562-15
Membership lists	1983-1988	B562-14

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 5 Dues correspondence

Dates

1969-1980

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains reminders and other correspondence regarding dues to be paid to Vimy branch. Appeals for special projects funding are also included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Annual dues	1969-1980	B562-20

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 6 Annual financial reports and other documents

Dates

1969-1972, 1975-1988

Extent

2 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains annual financial reports issued by the Royal Canadian Legion, Vimy Branch #145. Receipts, expenses, and records of donations made are included. Invoices and interim statements are also included.

File/Item List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Miscellaneous financial documents	1969-1972	B562-23
Annual statements	1975-1979	B562-21
Annual statements	1980-1988	B562-22

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 7 **Dinner meeting programmes and other documents**

Dates

1936-1995

Extent

6 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains documents relating to Vimy branch's dinner meetings. Programmes and organizing documents are included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Dinner meetings miscellaneous documents	1936-1969	B562-24
Programmes, duplicates	1966-1985	B562-26
Dinner meetings miscellaneous documents	1970-1991	B562-25
Arrangements, contracts, permits	1976-1985	B562-27
Entertainment, orchestra, music	1976-1985	B562-28
Dinner programmes	1991-1995	B562-38

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 8 Community involvement documents

Dates

1953-1986

Extent

3 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains record relating to Vimy branch's involvement in community charitable activities. Documents recording donations made to Vimy branch through the annual poppy fund, and donations made to by Vimy branch to other charitable organizations, are included. Records relating to the Canadian Legion Memorial Boys' Club, now the Boys and Girls Club of London are also included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Donations	1953-1986	B562-29
Canadian legion memorial boys' club	1960-1984	B562-31
London poppy fund	1971-1977	B562-30

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 9 Special events souvenirs

Dates

1933-1977

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains souvenirs retained by the Vimy branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Souvenirs from commemorative dinners, benefit concerts, and the ceremony to mark the unveiling of London's cenotaph in Victoria Park are included.

File/Item List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Special events	1933-1977	B562-32

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 10 History project documents

Dates

1960-1985, predominant 1979-1985

Extent

3 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains documents relating to Vimy branch's 1983 history book, "Friends and comrades: a history of the branch and its pursuits". Collected articles, planning documents, and correspondence are included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Articles – general	1960-1983	B562-34
Articles – Vimy orchestra	1979-1980	B562-35
Planning documents	1982-1983	B562-33
Distribution of book	1984-1985	B562-36

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH #145 FONDS
AFC 137
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 11 Photographs

Dates

1985, 1988, 1990

Extent

54 photographs : col. ; 25 x 20 cm or smaller

Scope and Content

This series contains photographs taken at meetings of the Vimy branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Many of these photographs include captions on the reverse.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Photographs	1985, 1988, 1990	B562-37