



Camp Hughes provided soldiers trench training

World War One combatants learned warfare techniques

By Helen Falding
Regional Reporter

BRANDON — The cattle grazing peacefully beside a series of gullies near Carberry are unaware that First World War soldiers used to lob live grenades from training trenches there before heading off to war.

"The people who trained at (Camp) Hughes were the ones who captured Vimy Ridge," said Bruce Tascona, president of the Military History Society of Manitoba.

The public was allowed to tour the remaining trenches yesterday on Hughes Heritage Day — an event the society hosts every two years. The Camp Hughes cemetery is open to the public year round.

Manitobans are proud of their contribution to training Second World War fighter pilots through the Commonwealth Air Training Plan, but few know that in 1916, almost 28,000 troops from Manitoba and northwestern Ontario trained at Camp Hughes. The men lived from April to November in clusters of white bell tents around a central camp that boasted six movie theatres, a heated swimming pool and a hospital.

A thousand men at a time spent at least 24 hours straight in the sandbag-reinforced trench system, learning how to keep watch, then going over the top across no-man's-land to attack "enemy" trenches. Veterans from the

battlefields of France and Flanders returned to teach the latest techniques. The soldiers also practised shooting on the camp's rifle range.

The Military History Society has been collecting artifacts since 1988 from the provincial heritage site.

"In a field, you'll find personal items like shaving sticks, combs, shoe polish tins," said Tascona, whose goal is to turn the area into a walking interpretive park before the camp's centennial in 2015.

Camp Hughes is unique in Canada, and possibly North America, because its First World War trench system is untouched by later military activity. "It's just like a stopwatch," Tascona said.

About 10 kilometres of trenches, some more eroded than others, can be found on the 20 square kilometres of government land now leased to farmers.

Originally established as Camp Sewell in 1910, the training camp was renamed in 1915 in honour of Canada's Minister of Defence, Maj.-Gen. Sam Hughes.

Training was suspended in 1917 and 1918 when volunteers dried up as the list of casualties rose and Manitobans realized their sons would not be home by Christmas, Tascona said.

The cemetery was used to bury recent immigrants whose families did not claim their bodies. The civilians and soldiers died from alcohol poisoning, meningitis and training accidents, according to Tascona.

Summer militia training continued at the camp until 1933, when the train-



First World War veterans returned to Camp Hughes to teach soldiers trench warfare. These trenches (top left and right) were used for practice. Main Street was a busy place for after-hours R&R (left). Below, bell tents served as home for soldiers at camp.



ing facility was dismantled, with some of the buildings moved to the new Camp Shilo nearby. By that time, wars were no longer fought from muddy trenches.

Visitors can reach the site from Provincial Road 351, west of Carberry. Follow signs for the Camp Hughes cemetery.

More information on Camp Hughes is available on the Internet at <http://www.GateWest.net/~gcros/hughes.html>

After Cremation

Many families are left wondering what to do. Please call for your complimentary brochure on the alternatives.

Glen Eden Memorial Gardens Cemetery & Funeral Home

4477 Main Street West St. Paul 982-8300

519838
8467 70 564007
5471495
4345 / 84341938
4308 \$198

Too many numbers? Too little time? QuickBooks accounting software makes business make sense. www.intuit.com/canada

QuickBooks

BORROWING CAN BE THIS COMFORTABLE.

3% CashBack Mortgage.

3% CashBack. That's what we give you when you give us your mortgage business.*

Clear. And to the point. That's the message behind our 3% CashBack Mortgage.

Get a residential mortgage with a competitive interest rate from Canada Trust. Then we'll give you an amount equal to 3% of your mortgage principal in cash, up front*. On a \$150,000 mortgage that's \$4,500 to use however you wish. And there's no upper limit. Simple? Absolutely. Helpful? We think so.

At Canada Trust we keep the mortgage process friendly, professional and informative. You will receive thoughtful advice, warm personal service, and a careful discussion of your options. We'll also walk you through the mortgage process step-by-step. The result? You will be in complete control of your finances. And you will enjoy the peace-of-mind that comes with knowing you have been dealt with respectfully and honestly.

In an age of increasingly impersonal banking, it's reassuring to know that borrowing can be this comfortable.

Mortgage amount	3% CashBack
\$150,000	\$4,500
\$250,000	\$7,500
\$350,000	\$10,500
\$450,000	\$13,500
\$550,000	\$16,500

And remember there's no upper limit.

The 3% CashBack Mortgage. Talk to us about one today.

CALL 1-888-361-5626
VISIT A CANADA TRUST BRANCH OR CHECK OUT www.canadatrust.com

Canada Trust

*Some conditions apply. Ask for details. Offer can be changed or withdrawn at any time, without notice. Funds will be deposited into your Canada Trust account at the time of mortgage advance.