

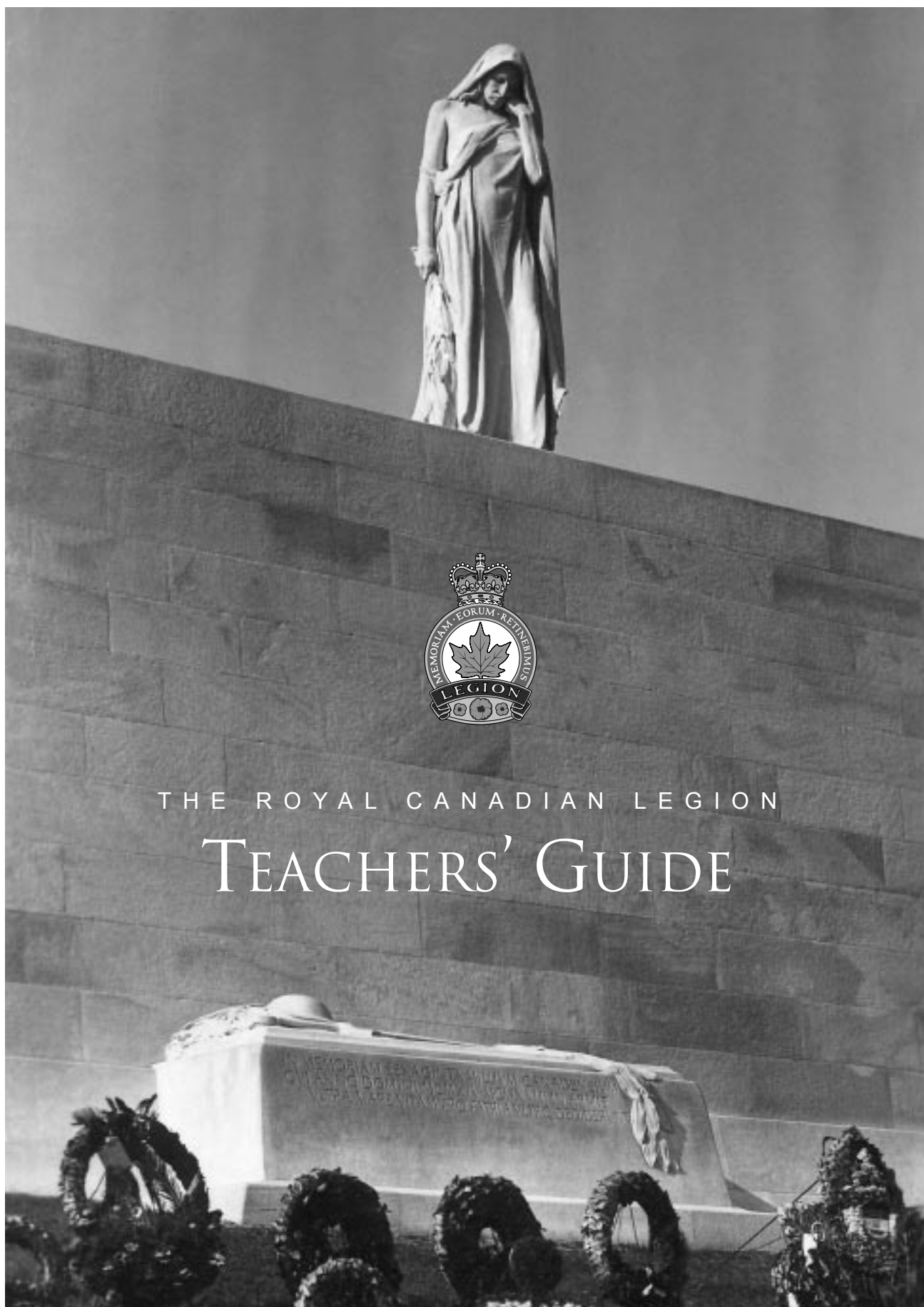
THE ROYAL  
CANADIAN  
LEGION



# TEACHERS' GUIDE



Take  
time  
to  
remember



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

# TEACHERS' GUIDE

# INTRODUCTION

**T**his Guide to Remembrance has been created by The Royal Canadian Legion to assist primary and secondary school teachers to foster the Tradition of Remembrance amongst Canada's youth.

*It is not the intention that Remembrance be a daily practice, but there is a need to ensure that today's youth have a fundamental understanding of what their great-grandparents, grandparents and in some cases their fathers and mothers were called upon to do to defend the freedom and democracy that we enjoy today. Also, it has often been said that those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.*

*The guide addresses the following subjects: brief notes on Canadian military history and The Royal Canadian Legion; important Canadian symbols; Remembrance themes in stories, songs and poems; information about the annual Poppy campaign and how the money donated is used; information concerning our National Literary and Poster contests; and last, but not least, suggested school Remembrance activities.*

*It is believed that most children, by the time they begin formal schooling, will have had some exposure to Remembrance Day through television, radio, movies, reading and through family observation of the day. The Canadian education system has a responsibility to enrich these early experiences so that each student may develop a real understanding and appreciation for Remembrance Day. Children new to Canada must also have an understanding of the sacrifices that many Canadians made to preserve and protect the way of life that they now embrace. In short, we must ensure that Remembrance Day is afforded the respect and dignity it rightly deserves and maintains its place among the great traditions of our country.*

*In addition to the information available in the guide, your local branch of The Royal Canadian Legion can be of much assistance. There are members at the branch who would be more than willing to share their time and experiences. The telephone number for the branch nearest you can be found in the white pages of the telephone book under the listing – Royal Canadian Legion.*

*The Legion also has a **Web Site** (the address is – <http://www.legion.ca>) which contains Remembrance material, amplifies Legion activities, and is linked to other sites that contain both Remembrance and general information.*

*It is our hope that you find the information both useful and meaningful. As you prepare for the Remembrance period please do not forget the assistance that is available at your local Legion branch.*

# INDEX

INTRODUCTION .....	1
A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN MILITARY .....	2
The Armed Forces Before 1914 .....	2
The Armed Forces in World War I and World War II .....	5
The Merchant Navy .....	6
The Korean War .....	6
The Gulf War .....	6
Peacekeeping .....	6
At Home .....	7
Statistics .....	8
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION .....	9
SYMBOLS .....	13
Memorial Chamber & Books Of Remembrance .....	13
The National War Memorial .....	14
Vimy Ridge .....	15
THE POPPY CAMPAIGN .....	17
The Poppy... The Flower of Remembrance .....	17
Poppy Funds .....	17
All Your Answers On The Poppy Campaign .....	19
STORIES, SONGS AND POEMS .....	20
In Flanders Fields .....	20
High Flight .....	21
For The Fallen .....	22
The Children's Song .....	23
O God, Our Help In Ages Past .....	25
O Valiant Hearts .....	25
An Honoured Son .....	26
Prayer Before Battle .....	27
Take Time To Remember .....	29
Mark's First Poppy .....	31
ACTIVITIES .....	32
School Remembrance Services .....	32
Remembrance Day Message (ages 6-11) .....	32
A Suggested Service of Remembrance .....	33
Remembrance Day Message (ages 12-17) .....	35
Essay or Debate Topics .....	37
Project Ideas .....	37
The Contests .....	39
NATIONAL LITERARY CONTESTS .....	40
NATIONAL POSTER CONTESTS .....	41
PHOTO CREDITS .....	42
CONNECTING WITH THE LEGION .....	43

# A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN MILITARY



**C**anada, according to the United Nations, is one of the best, if not the best country in the world to live in. Our citizens are blessed with freedom, opportunity and a standard of living that is unrivalled in today's world, and without parallel in history. Canadians are correct to express pride in their ancestors for building such a great nation and in themselves for preserving it. However, this did not occur by chance; it is a result of tireless effort in the past that is carried on by those of today. World events during the 20th century have caused Canadians to come together as one and take up arms with our allies to defeat those that would seek to subjugate others. But, as is our nature, we are citizen sailors, soldiers and airmen who answer the call and return to civilian life as soon as the battle is won. This trait is borne out in our military history as can be seen in the thumbnail sketch that follows.

## THE ARMED FORCES BEFORE 1914

Canada's military has roots that reach back in time to before the formation of Canada as a country. The colonization of North America by Europeans was heavily dependent on military presence. By 1665 virtually every region in the New World could muster some form of militia (a military force raised from the civilian population) for local protection. In 1759 many militia battalions were involved in the struggle between European powers for supremacy in the colonies that would one day become Canada.

The brunt of fighting on the American frontier in the War of 1812 was borne by the permanent force (British and colonial volunteer units) but the militia was employed on active service in 1837 in the so-called "Canadian Rebellions" and again in 1866, 1867 (the Fenian Raids) and 1870 (the Riel Rebellion). Due to the need for troops

during the Fenian Raids Canada's military forces were reactivated and reorganized under the First Dominion Militia Bill in 1868, and in 1876 funds were set aside by the federal government to begin work on The Royal Military College of Canada.

Some 5,000 members of the militia, permanent force and Northwest Mounted Police saw service during the Northwest Rebellion of 1885, and during that same year Canada contributed military contingents to Lord Wolseley's Nile Expedition.

Canada provided 7,369 men for service in the South African War (Boer War) of 1899-1902. A total of 224 were killed.

The Royal Canadian Navy and Canada's Department of the Navy were formed 4 May, 1910 and the cruisers NIOBE and RAINBOW were purchased – one stationed on either coast.



1901



1665



1862

CANADIAN MILITARY  
**UNIFORMS**  
 BEFORE 1914



1895



1885



1867





World War II – Dieppe Raid



World War II – Artillery



World War I – Artillery



## THE ARMED FORCES IN WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II

In 1914 Canada's population was seven and half million people. The militia numbered some 57,000. Within three weeks of the outbreak of World War I, 45,000 citizens had volunteered for military service. On 3-4 October, 1914, the first 30,000 Canadian troops set sail aboard 33 ships from Gaspé Bay for England. The "Great War" lasted until the end of 1918. During this conflict the country began to emerge as a significant player on the world stage. Most historians agree that as a result of the victory at Vimy Ridge, 9 April, 1917, where Canadian led troops fought as Canadians and not as Imperial troops, Canada came of age.

As time would tell, it was not the "War to end all wars" and the need to maintain a military force began to grow in importance. Canada's army and navy were obliged to keep pace with the new technologies of warfare and the Royal Canadian Air Force was formed 1 April, 1924.

World War II, saw some 237,000 men and women serve in Northwest Europe, and 97,500 in Italy. At the time the Japanese commenced hostilities there



World War I – Canadian troops on Vimy Ridge

were 1,975 Canadian servicemen stationed in Hong Kong and 557 were killed or died in prisoner of war camps. At a place called Dieppe on the Normandy coast of France, Canadians from all across this land shared the suffering of a terrible defeat. The contributions of the Canadian Navy, keeping the North Atlantic sea lanes open to Britain, and of the Air Force, participating in the air war in Europe and other areas, demonstrated that Canadians can be staunch allies and aggressive foes.



World War II – D-Day



World War II – France



World War II – Destruction



NATO Duties – Germany



## THE MERCHANT NAVY

At the outbreak of World War II, there were only 37 Canadian vessels registered for foreign voyages. Nearly half of them were lost to enemy attacks. Approximately 1,400 Canadian seamen served on those original ships. A 1941 Federal Government Order in Council called for the establishment of Merchant Seaman Manning Pools. It created training schools and facilities, and encouraged assistance for the welfare of seamen in Canadian ports.

Merchant Seaman Manning Pools were put into operation in Halifax (September 1941), Montreal (January 1942), Vancouver (May 1942), and Saint John (July 1942). They admitted medically fit and trained seamen for foreign service. It offered them a basic rate of pay for their rank, with full board and lodging, providing they agreed to accept assignment to Canadian ships with foreign destinations. This provided for the maintenance of a reserve of qualified personnel and offered its seamen continuous pay and a home between ship engagements. Eventually, Canada had the largest merchant fleet in the history of the Dominion with approximately 180 ocean-going cargo vessels and some 14,000 skilled seamen.

The contribution of the Merchant Navy cannot be overemphasized. It was their job to transport the cargo required to defeat the axis powers. The voyages were made in the North Atlantic Ocean, renowned for its fierce storms, against a most determined enemy fleet of submarines. The loss of life was horrific, but the materials needed got through.



World War II – Battle of the Atlantic

## THE KOREAN WAR

Canada provided military forces to support United Nations operations in Korea from 1950-1953. Some 20,000 army personnel served and three Royal Canadian Navy destroyers operated in Korean waters. The Royal Canadian Air Force's 426 Squadron provided air transport support.

## THE GULF WAR

In August 1990, following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Canada joined with a host of other nations to provide military units to enforce UN sanctions against Iraq. This involvement extended to participation in the Gulf War from January to April 1991.



## PEACEKEEPING

The concept of Peacekeeping was developed during the Suez crisis of 1956 and a former Prime Minister, Lester B. Pearson, is acknowledged as the person who urged its acceptance at the United Nations. His contribution received world wide notice and acknowledgement when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize by the King of Sweden for his efforts. The concept, although simple in design, can be difficult to implement. The goal is to interject military forces under the command of the United Nations between two enemies who first must agree to the presence of these troops. The countries providing the forces must agree to place them under the command of the United Nations.

The Canadian Forces have participated in virtually every United Nations peacekeeping operation since the Suez Crisis of 1956. Some of the major commitments include Cyprus, Egypt, the Congo, India-Pakistan, the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Somalia. Canadian troops have also served on various truce observation and monitoring teams such as in Viet Nam in the 1970's.

## AT HOME

The horror that Canadians faced at home was of a different kind, the kind that made people watch their front gate hoping that the telegraph boy did not appear with a message reporting that a husband, wife, son or daughter, had been killed. During the Second World War, more than 40,000 such telegrams arrived in Canadian homes. During the First World War, there were over 60,000.

Concerns and worries about loved ones weren't the only hardships faced by the people who stayed at home when Canada went to war. Most people today probably have not heard of rationing, but it was very well-known during the war. Canada was a minor country when the Second World War started, and most of our factories were busy producing the arms, ammunition and ships for our armed forces. The requirement to produce war material meant that there were not sufficient factories to prepare food, cars and other consumer goods.

As these goods were scarce, the government decided the only way to ensure that people received their fair share was to ration them. Canadians were given coupons that allowed them to buy a certain amount of butter, gasoline and food each week. Without the coupons, prices would have risen drastically. Rationing meant that many of the things which had been taken for granted, such as Sunday drives or large meals, were no longer possible. There were also more serious inconveniences like problems getting to work or to a doctor.

When World War II finally ended in 1945, there were huge celebrations in Toronto, Winnipeg and other cities. Why were people so happy? Because peace meant no more long casualty lists and no more sad telegrams, and because they knew that their lives could once more return to normal, and that the sacrifices of the war years were behind them. They could once again live in peace.

In Canadian schoolrooms today there are students whose parents, or even they themselves, remember other wars. Some remember the terrible ordeal of escaping to freedom. To them the poppy can be a symbol of that freedom. It is important for all of us to remember that unity of Canadians in wartime enables all of us to enjoy freedom.



## STATISTICS

The real impact that this century of conflict has had on Canada and her citizens can be seen in the statistics that are shown below. Although numbers are dry and can be difficult to absorb, try to remember when you look at them that each number represents a person.

### CANADA:

	World War I	World War II	Korean War	Gulf War
Participants	628,736	1,081,865	26,791	4,074
Died	66,573	44,927	516	0
Wounded	138,166	53,145	1,558	0
Prisoners of war	2,818	8,271	33	0

### NEWFOUNDLAND:

	World War I	World War II
Participants	16,922	19,460
Died	1,593	704
Wounded	Unknown	Unknown
Prisoners of War	180	Unknown

### VICTORIA CROSS:

A total of ninety-three Canadians have been awarded the Victoria Cross.

### WORLD WAR II INTAKE:

Approximate numbers who enrolled in the armed forces are as follows:

P.E.I.	9,309
N. S.	59,355
N. B.	45,137
Que.	176,441
Ont.	398,808
Man.	76,444
Sask. (Incl. NWT)	80,605
Alta.	77,703
B.C. (Incl. Yukon)	90,976
Out of Canada/Unknown	17,124
TOTAL (Male)	1,031,902
TOTAL (Female)	49,963
GRAND TOTAL	1,081,865

### MERCHANT NAVY:

175 Canadian Seamen died by enemy action in World War I  
1,146 Canadian Seamen died by enemy action in World War II  
1,059 Seamen's names are on the Halifax Monument  
(Place of burial unknown)

*Note: These figures are as accurate as the various sources from which they are drawn permit.  
There may be variations with information contained in other references.*

# THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION



Canadian Legion War Services

**P**rior to the First World War the armed services in Canada were represented mainly by regimental associations or other less formal groups. The one national organization, the Army Navy Veterans of Canada, had a limited membership. Meetings were seldom held outside major urban centres.



Between 1917 and 1925 a total of 15 disparate national groups were formed. These groups lacked a united voice and their various efforts produced no national results. Some attempts were made to coordinate their activities, but each group's objectives seemed slightly different than the others'. Very little of substance was accomplished in spite of the members' best efforts.

Through the dedication of Field Marshall Earl Haig, Commander in Chief of the British Army, Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Turner, VC, Lieutenant-General Sir Percy Lake, Sir Arthur Currie and others, great strides were made in coordinating the organizational efforts of veterans groups such as the Great War Veterans Association, the Tuberculosis Veterans Association, the Disabled Veterans Association, the Naval Veterans Association and many others. In June 1925, due largely to the influence of Haig, the Dominion Veterans Alliance came into being. In November of that year The Royal Canadian Legion was born at its inaugural convention in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 1926 it became self-supporting and has remained free of outside financing ever since.

From its beginning the Legion has focused its efforts on the fight to secure adequate pensions and other well-earned benefits for veterans and their dependants. Much was achieved in those early days, but the depression of the 1930's caused setbacks in all areas of Canadian society. The Legion found itself involved full-time in local, regional and national schemes to relieve the suffering of veterans – suffering made worse by the harsh economic conditions of the time.

One significant development which occurred during this period was the coming into law of the War Veterans Allowance Act of 1930. This legislation, often referred to as a milestone, provided assistance to veterans who were considered to have been "prematurely aged" by their wartime experiences but who, in most instances, were not eligible for war disability pensions.





Canadian Troops in Italy going to the "movies"

As could be expected, World War II brought about a revitalization of the Legion. New demands were made of it and there was a large influx of new members. The Legion's efforts during the war were prodigious. Canadian Legion War Services provided amenities such as canteens, entertainment and reading material for service members at home and overseas. The Canadian

Legion Educational Service provided correspondence courses to help prepare service members for their return to civilian life.

After World War II the Legion played an important role in assisting ex-service members to obtain disability and other pensions. This work intensified at the end of the Korean War.



FIRST DOMINION CONVENTION CANADIAN LEGION OF THE B.E.S.L.  
WINNIPEG, JANUARY 3-4-5-6-1937

Today the Legion maintains a nationwide network of professional service officers to help veterans, ex-service members and their families obtain benefits to which they are entitled. The Legion also acts as an advocacy agent for pensioners by dealing directly with the federal government to insure that veteran pensioners and their dependants are treated fairly.

The membership of the Legion is approximately 500,000 people, who belong to about 1640 branches in Canada, the United States and Germany. The Legion is a non-profit, dues-supported, fraternal organization. Our Letters Patent are contained in a statute, "An Act to Incorporate The Royal Canadian Legion," passed by the Parliament of Canada. Each branch has the authority to act in an autonomous manner providing their actions are in accordance with the General and Provincial By-laws. Policy initiatives, such as amendments to the General By-Laws, are vested in the Dominion Convention which is held every two years. The conventions draw between 2,000 and 2,500 members, spouses and guests who represent the entire membership across the country and outside of Canada.

Legion branches are involved in a variety of activities in their respective communities across Canada. In addition to advocacy services provided to veterans and ex-service members, the Legion has another primary purpose that it holds sacred. That purpose is the perpetuation of the tradition of Remembrance. Each year Legion members conduct the Poppy Campaign and organize national, regional and local Remembrance Day ceremonies honouring those who faced death on the battlefield to protect freedom and national integrity.

While these two programs are the major substance of Legion activity, they are not the only relationship that Legion members have with their communities. There are many charities and community groups that benefit from contributions of money and volunteer time provided by the Legion. This support can take the form of housing, medical service, transportation or funding for senior citizens; it could be support to cadet corps, Scouts Canada, sports organizations, educational support or scholarships. Regardless of the form that the support takes, the Legion works tirelessly to raise funds through contributions to the Poppy Campaign and to insure that these funds are all distributed to anyone in need throughout Canada.

Should you wish to know more about the Legion you are invited to visit our Internet Site – [www.legion.ca](http://www.legion.ca).



Legion Ladies' Auxiliary – Food Services in England





## SYMBOLS



**T**he determination of the members of The Royal Canadian Legion to perpetuate the tradition of Remembrance in honour of their fallen comrades is reflected in the number of cenotaphs that have been built across the country. They are to be found prominently positioned in nearly every city, town and village in Canada. Each November 11th they become the focus of the community's attention for memorial services that commemorate the citizens who answered the call to take up arms so that others can live in peace and freedom. The other 364 days a year, these monuments stand silently – a reminder of those who gave up their lives.



### MEMORIAL CHAMBER AND BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE

The First World War had barely ended when Canadians began looking for ways to honour their war dead. Two of the most touching commemorative efforts are also among the least conspicuous. The Memorial Chamber and Books of Remembrance are in the Centre Block, in the Peace Tower of the Parliament Buildings, where they honour 116,031 Canadians who died while serving in military campaigns outside Canada.

The chamber, designed as the repository for the books, was opened by the Prince of Wales on August 3, 1927. Occupying the second level of the Peace Tower, it attracts more than five hundred thousand visitors annually. For many, the visit is a solemn pilgrimage to witness the name of a loved one in one of the six books. For others, visits have a historical significance: the walls of the chamber are pages that tell the story of Canada's effort in the First World War.

The Books of Remembrance, one each for the First World War, Second World War, Merchant Navy, Korean War, Boer War and Nile expedition, and the Province of Newfoundland, rest on six altars. The main one in the centre, is made of stone quarried in Flanders. The others are wooden. Each day at eleven a.m. guards at the Parliament building turn the books' pages according to perpetual calendars for each book. The calendars allow visitors from outside Ottawa to plan a trip to the Memorial Chamber to see a specific page.

Canada has more ornate rooms than the Memorial Chamber and larger books than the Books of Remembrance, but nothing from St. John's to Victoria symbolizes more than this small room on Parliament Hill.



## THE NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL

Canada's national war memorial was conceived and built in a garden in Kent, England. It was the product of seven brothers from Yorkshire who came from a farming family and had no formal art or sculpture training. It was the result of ten years of labour on their part.

In 1925, Vernon Marsh won the Canadian government competition for a design for a national war memorial. His design was one of seven finalists out of one hundred and twenty-two entries in the international competition. After submitting a model, he was authorized to proceed with his work.

Vernon Marsh died in 1930, but the remaining six brothers and a sister, Elsie, carried on. In 1932 the memorial was finished. It was shown in Hyde Park and received wide acclaim. There were slight alterations made before the Canadian government took delivery of the memorial in June of 1937. For the trip to Canada, the massive structure of the memorial was cut into parts to fit into 35 wooden cases.

The memorial takes the form of a tall granite arch, on top of which stand huge bronze figures of Victory and Liberty. Marching through the arch are twenty-two figures representing all branches of the service of World War I. Upon the faces of these figures the eager expression of hope replaces the lines of strife and death. They leave behind an unlimbered cannon and all it stands for.

The memorial was unveiled by His Majesty King

George VI in May, 1939, before a crowd of 100,000 people. Every year since (except 1998 because of repair work), the National Remembrance ceremony has been held at the memorial. Prior to 1939, Remembrance services were held on the lawn in front of the Parliament Buildings at a temporary cenotaph.

## THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

In May 2000 a significant memorial to Canada's war dead was added to the site of the National War Memorial. Under the leadership of The Royal Canadian Legion a coalition of groups including Veterans Affairs Canada, the Department of National Defence, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Public Works & Government Services Canada developed a plan to repatriate the remains of an unknown soldier from Vimy Ridge. The result was the creation of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in a place of honour at the foot of the National War Memorial. The attention of the nation was focussed for several days as the Unknown Soldier was brought to Ottawa by an honour guard, laid in state in the Hall of Honour in Parliament and carried to his final resting place in a solemn ceremony attended by representatives from government, the military and RCMP, and from all sectors of Canadian society. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier stands as a lasting memorial to all Canadians who fell or may fall in war - past, present, and future.

## VIMY RIDGE

There are many cenotaphs in cities, towns and villages across the country that have been built to honour more than 116,000 Canadians who have died in war. On Remembrance Day, November eleventh, war veterans and other Canadians gather at them to remember the sailors, soldiers and airmen who did not live to come home.

It is surprising, though, that one of Canada's finest cenotaphs is thousands of kilometres from her shores. It stands at a place called Vimy Ridge and it honours one of the finest military achievements in Canadian history.

On April 9, 1917 – Easter Sunday – 100,000 Canadian soldiers, supported by 863 cannons, stormed and captured Vimy Ridge. It was one of the great victories of World War I.

The ridge was strongly defended by the Germans, who believed no army could take it. Just two years earlier the French Army had tried, and suffered more than 130,000 casualties.

Although the cost to our country was high – 3,600 dead and more than 7,000 wounded – many historians say this victory marked Canada's beginning as a nation. It was the first battle in which all units of the Canadian Army fought together, and their success was overwhelming. The country rejoiced, and felt new pride.

After the war the Canadian government decided the battle should always be remembered, and determined to build a monument at Vimy. The French government donated 250 acres at the top of the ridge, and the land became part of Canada forever, even though it is 6,000 kilometres away.

A Toronto sculptor named Walter Allward was chosen to design a monument, and work on it began in 1925. It wasn't completed until 1936, but it was

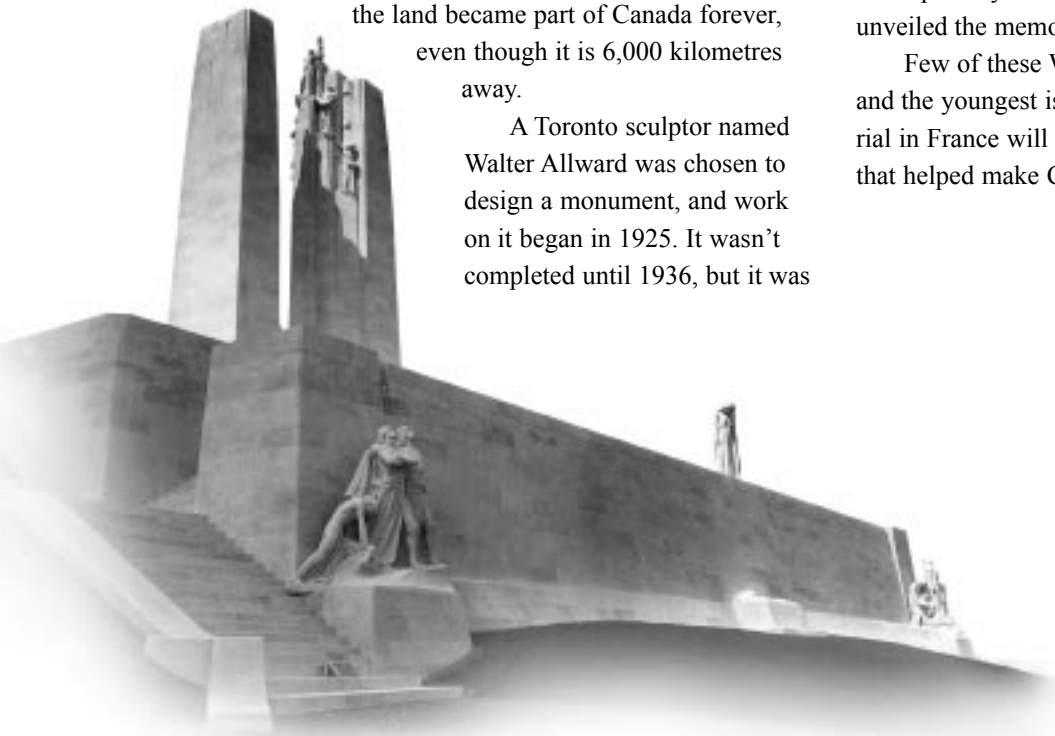


1936 – Veterans Set Sail on Pilgrimage to Vimy

worth the wait. Reaching forty metres into the French sky, the Vimy Memorial is made from 6,000 tons of stone imported from Yugoslavia. Resting on it are twenty figures that represent Canada's soldiers and the beliefs they died for. The memorial also recalls those Canadians who died in battle, but whose graves are unknown. Of the 66,000 Canadians who died during World War I, 18,000 were never properly buried; 11,285 of their names are chiselled into the Vimy Memorial. The remainder are inscribed on various other monuments.

When the memorial was finally completed, more than 6,000 Canadian veterans travelled to France for its unveiling on July 26, 1936. Airlines weren't flying regularly across the ocean then, so The Royal Canadian Legion rented ocean liners to take them. The voyage from Canada to France took eight days. They all stood proudly at Vimy Ridge when King Edward VIII unveiled the memorial to their fallen friends.

Few of these World War I veterans are still alive, and the youngest is now in his late nineties. This memorial in France will help us remember them, and the victory that helped make Canada a nation.







# THE POPPY CAMPAIGN



## THE POPPY...THE FLOWER OF REMEMBRANCE

**E**ach November, millions of poppies blossom in Canada. Since 1921 they have blossomed on the jackets, dresses and hats of nearly half the Canadian population. The poppy is the symbol that individuals use to show that they remember those who were killed in the wars and in peace keeping operations that Canada has been involved in.

The association of the poppy with those who had been killed in war had existed for at least 110 years prior to being adopted in Canada. There are records of a correspondent who, during the Napoleonic Wars, wrote of how quickly poppies grew over the graves of soldiers in the area of Flanders, France.

The person, who was responsible more than any other, for the adoption of the poppy in Canada was Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae of Guelph, Ontario, a Canadian Medical Officer during the First World War. He came away from Ypres with thirteen lines scrawled on a scrap of paper which started: "In Flanders fields the poppies blow..." These lines are enshrined in the innermost thoughts and hearts of all soldiers who hear them. John McCrae was their voice.

In the United States, a woman named Moina Michael was working in a New York City YMCA canteen when she started wearing a poppy in memory of the thousands who died on the battlefield. The American Legion was inspired to adopt the poppy as the symbol of Remembrance. During a 1920 visit to the United States a French woman, Madame E. Guerin, learned of the custom. On her return to France she decided to use handmade poppies to raise money for the destitute children in war-torn areas of the country.

In Canada, the poppy was officially adopted by the Great War Veterans' Association in 1921, following the example of Mme. Guerin. There is little doubt that the impact of John McCrae's poem influenced this decision.

Thanks to the millions of Canadians who wear poppies each November, the little red plant has never died, nor have Canadians failed to remember the extreme sacrifices that 116,031 of their countrymen made on behalf of future generations.

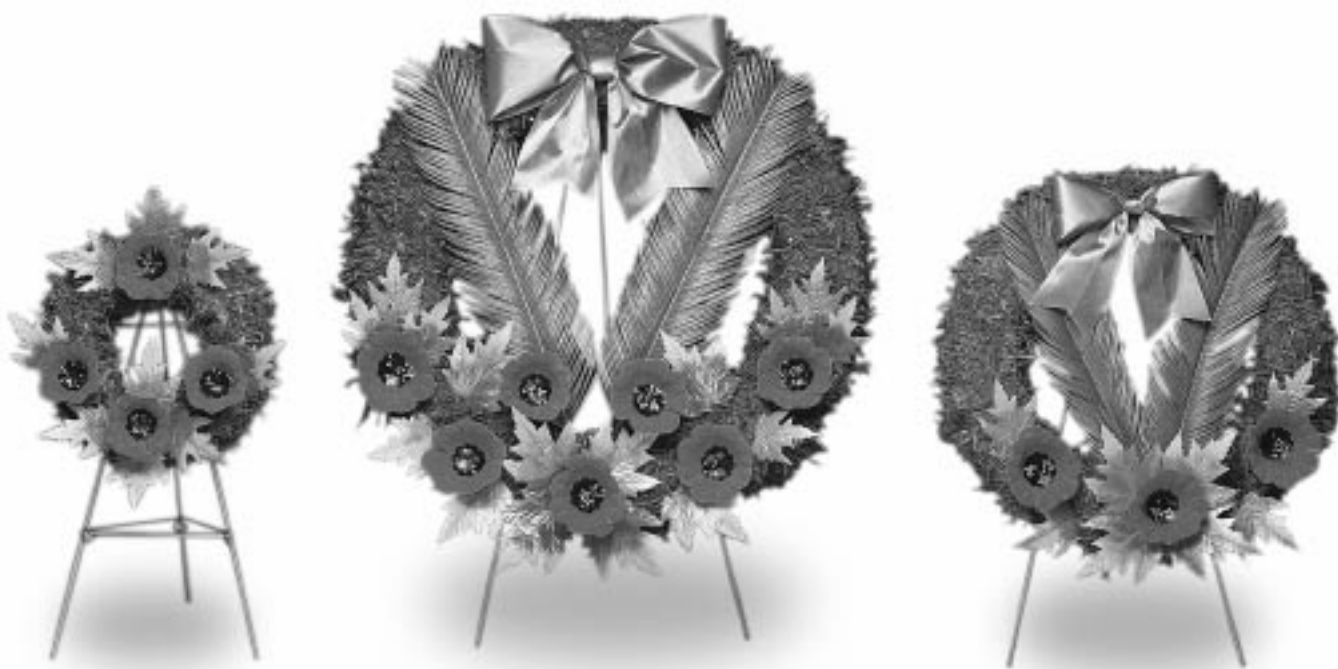
## POPPY FUNDS

The distribution of poppies and the sale of wreaths during the two weeks leading up to Remembrance Day raises the funds necessary for the Legion to operate Service Bureaux which act as advocates for veterans, ex-service people and their dependants seeking compensation from the Government for service incurred disabilities. Every year in excess of one million dollars of the money collected as a result of the annual Poppy Campaign is also used for direct assistance for ex-service people and their dependants in financial distress. Examples of the uses Poppy Funds are: payments for food, accommodation, utilities, clothing, educational assistance, furniture, medical, dental and optical services, and hospital comforts. The funds are a blessing for the many thousands helped.



The beneficiaries of aid from the Legion's Poppy Fund are not limited to veterans and ex-service members. Over the years, many millions of dollars have been given to worthy charities or spent providing the aged and disabled with medical assistance and equipment, meals-on-wheels, transportation, shelter and clothing. Funds are also provided for disaster relief. The Legion helps non-members and members alike, wherever need arises.

Since the workers who carry out the Poppy Campaign are volunteers from Legion membership, campaign expenses are limited largely to the cost of supplies, such as the manufacturing of the poppies and wreaths. The money collected is held in trust and cannot be spent on anything other than purposes specifically authorized in the General By-laws of The Royal Canadian Legion. Costs associated with branch, provincial, and Dominion Command operations are covered by dues paid by the membership.



## ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE POPPY CAMPAIGN

1. **What does the poppy represent?** The poppy represents the symbol of Remembrance.
2. **Why should I wear a poppy?** When you wear a poppy or display a wreath, you honour the war dead and help ex-service personnel and their dependants.
3. **How do I help needy ex-service personnel and their dependants?** Contribute to the Poppy Campaign. The basic purpose of poppy funds is to provide immediate assistance to ex-service members in need. This may include food, shelter or medical attention for them or their families.
4. **Are there any other uses for poppy funds?** Yes. Poppy funds can be used for low-rental housing and care facilities for the elderly or disabled, community medical appliances and medical research, day care centres, meals-on-wheels, transportation and related services for veterans and their dependants. Donations may be given for relief of disasters declared by the federal or provincial governments. Scholarships and bursaries are also provided for needy dependants of ex-service members.
5. **Aren't ex-servicemen and women eligible for government pensions?** Yes. Many ex-servicemen and women do get pensions, but many others, although handicapped, do not. However, no pension can provide for eventualities such as fire, a long illness on the part of the breadwinner or other medical expenses.
6. **Do you have to be a Legion member to get help from the poppy fund?** No. Any ex-service member or dependant is eligible to apply for financial aid from the poppy fund. The poppy funds also support the Legion service bureaux, and a large number of service bureau cases involve people who are not Legion members.
7. **What are Service Bureaux?** Throughout the Legion, at Branches in virtually every community in Canada, in ten provincial commands, and in Ottawa, there are service officers who assist ex-service members or dependants with disability pensions or veterans legislation. The national and provincial offices not only provide advice but act on behalf of the individual. Every year thousands of representations are placed before the federal government on behalf of "clients". There is no charge for this service which is available to any ex-service member or dependant who can qualify for such assistance.
8. **Does all the money raised through the distribution of poppies and wreaths go into poppy funds?** After expenses, such as the cost of poppies, wreaths and other supplies are deducted, all remaining monies are placed in trust to be used on those purposes authorized in the General By-laws of The Royal Canadian Legion.
9. **How are poppy funds held?** The Legion's constitution stresses that poppy funds must be held in trust. They are subscribed to by the public. They are held in a bank account separate from that of the branch or command and cannot be used for any purpose other than those stipulated.
10. **Are campaign expenses high?** Campaign expenses are unusually low because most of the work is voluntary.
11. **How much should I give?** You should give according to the dictates of your conscience. You might remember that the cost of all the things the poppy fund provides is always on the increase; therefore, it takes more money from year to year to provide the same service.

# STORIES, SONGS AND POEMS

## IN FLANDERS FIELDS

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

**Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae**



John McCrae was a member of the Canadian Medical Corps. He was an artillery veteran of the Boer War in South Africa and was described as a person with the eye of a gunner, the hand of a surgeon, and the soul of a poet when he went into the line at Ypres on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 1915.

Lieutenant-Colonel McCrae came away from Ypres with 13 lines scrawled on a scrap of paper. The lines were a poem which started: "In Flanders fields the poppies blow..."

The poem speaks of Flanders fields, but the subject is universal – soldiers fear that in death they will be forgotten, that their death will have been in vain. Remembrance, as symbolized by the poppy, is the eternal answer which alleviates that fear.

Sadly, Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae died of pneumonia at Wimereux near Boulogne, France on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 1918 when he was 45 years old.

## HIGH FLIGHT

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds – done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air.*

*Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, nor even eagle flew –  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space  
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.*

**Pilot Officer John G. Magee, Jr.**



JOHN GILLESPIE MAGEE, JR. WAS BORN IN SHANGHAI, CHINA, 9 JUNE 1922. AS HE REACHED HIGH SCHOOL AGE, HE ENTERED RUGBY IN ENGLAND AND SPENT THREE YEARS THERE. JOHN MAGEE JR. TRAVELLED TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1939 TO ENTER YALE. WORLD WAR II BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER, 1939, AND IN OCTOBER, 1940, AT AGE EIGHTEEN, HE WENT TO CANADA AND ENROLLED IN THE RCAF FOR FLIGHT TRAINING, WAS COMMISSIONED A PILOT OFFICER, AND WENT BACK TO ENGLAND. IN THE COURSE OF HIS TRAINING IN THE SPITFIRE, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO MAKE A HIGH ALTITUDE FLIGHT "INTO THE STRATOSPHERE". ON LANDING, HE WENT TO HIS QUARTERS AND THERE WROTE HIS NOW FAMOUS SONNET ON THE BACK OF A LETTER TO HIS MOTHER.

THESE WORDS ARE ENGRAVED ON  
COUNTLESS WAR MEMORIALS AND  
GRAVESTONES AND ARE SPOKEN AT  
ALMOST EVERY MEETING OF EX-SERVICE  
PERSONNEL THROUGHOUT THE  
WORLD. THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION  
HAS ADOPTED THESE WORDS AS THE OF-  
FICIAL ACT OF REMEMBRANCE; THEY ARE  
SPOKEN AT ALL OFFICIAL MEETINGS AND  
ARE PROMINENT AT REMEMBRANCE  
DAY SERVICES. THEY WERE WRITTEN  
BY LAURENCE BINYON (1869-1943), THE  
SON OF A CLERGYMAN, EDUCATED AT ST.  
PAUL'S SCHOOL AND TRINITY COLLEGE,  
OXFORD. HIS WRITINGS – POETRY,  
PROSE, PLAYS, ART, HISTORY, AND CRI-  
TIQUES – WERE PUBLISHED THROUGH-  
OUT HIS LIFE AND POSTHUMOUSLY. HE  
WAS A RED CROSS ORDERLY DURING  
WORLD WAR I AND A CHEVALIER OF THE  
FRENCH LEGION OF HONOUR.



## FOR THE FALLEN

*With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
England mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.*

*Solemn the drums thrill: Death August and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.*

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,  
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

*They mingle not with laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.*

*But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night;  
As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.*

**Laurence Binyon**



## THE CHILDREN'S SONG

*Land of our Birth, we pledge to thee  
Our love and toil in the years to be;  
When we are grown and take our place,  
As men and women with our race.*

*Father in Heaven, who lovest all,  
O help Thy children when they call;  
That they may build from age to age,  
An undefiled heritage.*

*Teach us to bear the yoke in youth,  
With steadfastness and careful truth;  
That, in our time, Thy Grace may give  
The Truth whereby the Nations live.*

*Teach us the Strength that cannot seek,  
By deed or thought, to hurt the weak;  
That, under Thee, we may possess  
Man's strength to succour man's distress.*

*Teach us Delight in Simple things,  
And Mirth that has no bitter springs;  
Forgiveness free of evil done,  
And love to all men 'neath the sun!*

*Land of our Birth, our faith, our pride,  
For whose dear sake our father died;  
O Motherland, we pledge to thee,  
Head, heart, and hand through the years to be!*





## O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

*O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast  
And our eternal home.*

*Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defence is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her fame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.*

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.*

*O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,  
And our eternal home.*

## O VALIANT HEARTS

*O Valiant hearts, who to your glory came  
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;  
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,  
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.*

*Proudly you gathered, rank on rank to war,  
As who had heard God's message from afar;  
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave  
To save mankind – yourself you scorned to save.*

*Splendid you passed, the great surrender made;  
Into the light that nevermore shall fade;  
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,  
Who wait the last clear trumpet-call of God.*

*Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,  
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,  
While in the frailty of our human clay,  
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self-same way.*

*Still stands His Cross from that dread hour to this,  
Like some bright star above the dark abyss;  
Still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes  
Look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.*

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

## AN HONOURED SON

*He came, this young Canadian,  
From out the Golden West,  
Full of courage and of faith,  
Of ardor, hope, and zest.  
A willing volunteer, he came –  
And offered us his life –  
His youth, his strength, his heart and soul  
To fling into the strife.*

*The final sacrifice he made,  
He lies in foreign earth –  
Far from home, an exile  
From the country of his birth.  
And yet, amongst his kin he sleeps  
In friendly company –  
No stranger, but an Honoured Son  
Of one great family.*

**Anonymous**



ORTONA, ITALY, WAS THE "CHRISTMAS BATTLE" OF 1943. WEARY CANADIAN SOLDIERS PAUSED FOR PRAYER IN THE CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA, NEAR THE FRONT LINE. CHRISTMAS DINNER WAS SERVED IN THE CHURCH AND IN A BRIGADE HEAD-QUARTERS MESS. THE BATTLE RAGED AND MEN DIED THAT CHRISTMAS DAY. A CANADIAN OFFICER, MAJOR ALEX CAMPBELL OF THE HASTINGS AND PRINCE EDWARD REGIMENT, WROTE A SHORT POEM JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE. HE CALLED THE POEM "PRAYER BEFORE BATTLE" AND IT EXPRESSES HOW HE FELT THAT FATEFUL DAY. HE WAS KILLED ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH OF DECEMBER 1943.



## PRAYER BEFORE BATTLE

*When 'neath the rumble of the guns  
I lead my men against the Huns  
It's then I feel so all alone and weak and scared  
And oft I wonder how I dared  
Accept the task of leading men.*

*I wonder, worry, fret, and then – I pray:  
O God, who promised oft  
To humble men to lend an ear,  
Now in my troubled state of mind  
Draw near, O God, draw near – draw near*

*Make me more willing to obey,  
Help me to merit my command,  
And, if this be my fatal day  
Reach out, O God, Thy helping hand  
And lead me down that deep dark vale.*

*Those men of mine must never know  
How much afraid I really am,  
Help me to lead them in the fight  
So they will say – "He was a man."*

**Alex Campbell**





# TAKE TIME TO REMEMBER

by Dorothy Bell

**The following is an excerpt from a speech by Ms Dorothy Bell, a member of The Royal Canadian Legion, upon returning from a Legion sponsored Pilgrimage of Remembrance.**

Amidst the bombing of World War II, while thousands of young men were dying on the battlefields of Europe,

I was born. As a child growing up during the war and in post war England, my memories are of bomb shelters, food rationing and powdered egg! Although there was very little money, we did enjoy going to the “pictures”. We watched cartoons, newsreels and war films, which we really enjoyed because there was usually a romantic hero. The real war was of little consequence to us because what we saw, was after all, just the “movies”.

This past July, I coordinated The Royal Canadian Legion Pilgrimage of Remembrance where we visited the Commonwealth War Cemeteries in Europe. It was then that I realized the true consequence of war.

I stood on the stony beaches of Dieppe. Looking up at the massive limestone cliffs from the beach below, it was clear why, on August 19th 1942 hundreds of Canadians had been slaughtered in the ill fated “Dieppe Raid”. As our troops landed on the beaches, the Germans were waiting to pick them off like flies. They didn’t have a chance. We went from one site to another, one cemetery to another where we conducted services and placed a wreath at the cross of Remembrance. You might think that after the fourth or fifth ceremony we would be bored with it all, but, quite the opposite happened. With each service the emotions became stronger and stronger. Many of our group had particular graves to visit, but I found myself drawn to those that had no names at all. It was on these that I placed a Canadian Flag. Not only did we lose the men buried beneath them, but we have lost the sons and daughters they would have borne, and their grandchildren and great grandchildren. The price of war is high indeed.

In Caen we were invited to participate in the fifty-second anniversary of the liberation of Caen. The ceremony was held

in the town square. French military personnel were lined up on one side of the square and our group, in our Royal Canadian Legion uniforms were lined up opposite them. We were standing at attention, eyeball to eyeball. The colour party included both the French and Canadian flag which brought out the national pride in all of us. After the ceremony we were invited to attend a reception in the town hall where we met the Mayor of Caen and many of the local dignitaries.

We stopped at a monument in Buron, a little village outside Caen. We were about to re-board the coach, when a woman ran out of a house waving. She asked us to wait as she went inside and came out with a white garden table. She set it up on the sidewalk and placed a Canadian flag in the centre. A man brought out some bottles of wine, and more people appeared. They belonged to an organization called “The Friends of Canada”. They had heard we were coming and wanted to share a toast with us. We were very touched by this gesture of friendship.





Every where we went, people made us feel like heroes.

Beaumont Hamel Memorial Park honours the members of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment who died on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1916. Our Newfoundland & Labrador representative laid a wreath at the base of the bronze caribou that dominates the Great War battlefield, with trenches remaining undisturbed to this day.

Although not without casualties, the battle of Vimy Ridge was a victorious one for the Canadians. The twenty-two miles of tunnels, which honeycomb the area now known as the Vimy Ridge Memorial Park, was one of the most remarkable engineering feats of World War I. There are four levels, the first two up to seventy-five feet below ground and the remaining two below that. As we entered the tunnels we tried to imagine what it must have been like so many years ago, but it was difficult for us to realize the appalling conditions our Veterans had to suffer.

In comparison to the dreadful tunnels, the magnificent Vimy Ridge monument is a wondrous site. It's the work of Toronto sculptor, Walter S. Allward. It was started in 1925 and took eleven years to complete. It contains the names of 11,285 Canadians who gave their lives in France, and who have no known graves.

We travelled through Flanders and stopped at the site where Lt. Col. John McCrae wrote his famous poem "In Flanders Fields". We came across many poppies along the way, but it was this field that really captured our attention. We later visited John McCrae's grave site in Wimeraux, France.

I was given the privilege, along with our coach driver, David, of laying the wreath at the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery in Germany, where 7,600 Commonwealth soldiers and airmen are buried. This was a sobering moment for me, and although my "drill" was not up to David's military standards, I felt I did my father proud.

I met a Dutch family at one of the Cemeteries in the Netherlands. They told me that whenever they can they take the children to the War Cemeteries to remember those who gave their lives for *their* freedom. They said it is important that the children learn the history of war, and it is important that they never forget the sacrifices made on their behalf.

"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old,

Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them."

The peace and freedom we enjoy today did not come cheaply. So, whatever you're doing on November the eleventh, stop and "Take Time To Remember".

# MARK'S FIRST POPPY

By Carole Crawford

It was a cold windy afternoon in November. Mark was on the bus coming home from school. The School bus passed the grocery store and the bank as it did every day. But today Mark saw something different. The older children on the bus were talking and pointing. Mark listened to them but was puzzled.

When Mark got off the bus, he ran into his house. He quickly took off his coat, hat and boots. His Grandpa was visiting, so he hurried over to him, grabbed his hand and pulled him into the living room. "Grandpa, I saw a man dressed in a uniform giving away red flowers," Mark began. "The man was wearing a red flower just like the one you have on your shirt. The older kids on the bus were talking about the man and the war. They called it Novenbrance Day. What were they talking about?"

"Well Mark," his Grandpa began as he sat down in the big olive green chair. "First of all it's called Remembrance Day. I will be happy to tell you what it is all about."

Mark sat on the foot stool in front of his Grandpa and was ready to listen carefully. "The man that you saw in the uniform was once a brave soldier," Grandpa began. "Many soldiers have fought in different wars throughout history. You see, wars are not just stories of the past, they are going on right now in other countries. Wars are fought for many different reasons: to protect our freedom, sometimes to change things, but most of all to keep peace throughout the world."



"I see Grandpa, but what are the red flowers for?" Mark asked, pointing to the one his Grandpa was wearing.

"The red flowers that the soldier was giving away are called Poppies. In return for the Poppy, people give him money. The money is used to help soldiers and their families."

"Why do they give Poppies and not some other flower?" interrupted Mark.

"They chose the Poppy because the worst fighting in history took place in an area called Flanders, in a country called Belgium. In the spring, while the war was still going on, Poppies bloomed in the fields that were destroyed by the war. The soldiers were amazed that something so beautiful as the Poppy could grow in such an ugly wasteland." Grandpa then reached for the Poppy on his shirt and unpinned it. He held it carefully in his hand and stared at it for a second and then continued. "That is why the Poppy became a symbol of Remembrance of the war."

"Our soldiers have fought very hard for peace and they left us with the job of keeping it." Grandpa said as he pointed to Mark and then himself. "We must learn to live peacefully everyday, not just with our neighbours but with the entire world. I have a little poem that I like to tell people about Remembrance Day. Would you like to hear it Mark?" asked Grandpa while he pinned his Poppy on the left side of Mark's shirt.

"Yes" answered Mark with a smile.

"We wear a Poppy in November

To show that we're proud

And that we remember."

Mark looked at his Grandpa then turned and ran to his room. Grandpa was puzzled. Mark returned with his hands full of pennies and said, "Grandpa, can I go get you a Poppy now?"

Grandpa looked at him proudly. "You certainly can Mark. You certainly can!"

# ACTIVITIES

## SCHOOL REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

*The Poppy Campaign is carried out during the two weeks leading up to Remembrance Day. Activities can be included in study areas such as history, social studies, current events, literature, music, art and creative writing during this period to enhance awareness of the tradition of Remembrance and to encourage participation in a Remembrance Day ceremony. This Teacher's Guide and the Legion National Essay, Poetry and Poster Contests are excellent vehicles for this purpose.*

The nature of a Remembrance Day program will vary from class to class and from school to school. Some teachers may prefer a short service in their classroom while others might choose to hold a more formal ceremony in the auditorium. When the service is planned, teachers and pupils are encouraged to prepare their own material and make use of some of the suggestions in this guide. Some schools may wish to invite a local speaker or use a suitable video tape or film (the Legion has a limited quantity). There can be many variations, but the active participation of students is to be encouraged. Members of The Royal Canadian Legion are eager to help in any way possible. Simply contact your local Legion branch for any material or assistance you may require.

In summary, it will be the responsibility of tomorrow's adults to ensure that our society continues to remember those who fell, were maimed or those who were left to live alone. One of the most effective ways to ensure that their memory is kept alive is through participating in Remembrance Day Services organized as part of the school curriculum.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY MESSAGE

## STUDENTS AGES 6-11

The eleventh of November is called Remembrance Day.

On Remembrance Day most people wear a poppy. This flower is worn to remind us of the many people killed on the battlefields of World War I and World War II.

There are fields in Belgium called Flanders where Poppies grow. Flanders was a place where much fighting took place during the war of 1914-1918, known as the Great War. It received this name because it was the first time in history that almost every country in the world was at war. Although it is called the Great War, it was not a great place to be. This war lasted four years and every spring the soldiers, who lived and fought in trenches, noticed the red flowers blooming all over the battlegrounds and on the graves of their friends who had been killed.

When the war was finally over and the people who were in the military service came home they thought of all their friends who were buried in the fields of Flanders. And each time they thought of the graves, they remembered the poppies which grow around the graves. They did not want Canadians to forget that their friends had

A S U G G E S T E D  
S E R V I C E O F R E M E M B R A N C E

**O Canada**

**The Story of Remembrance**

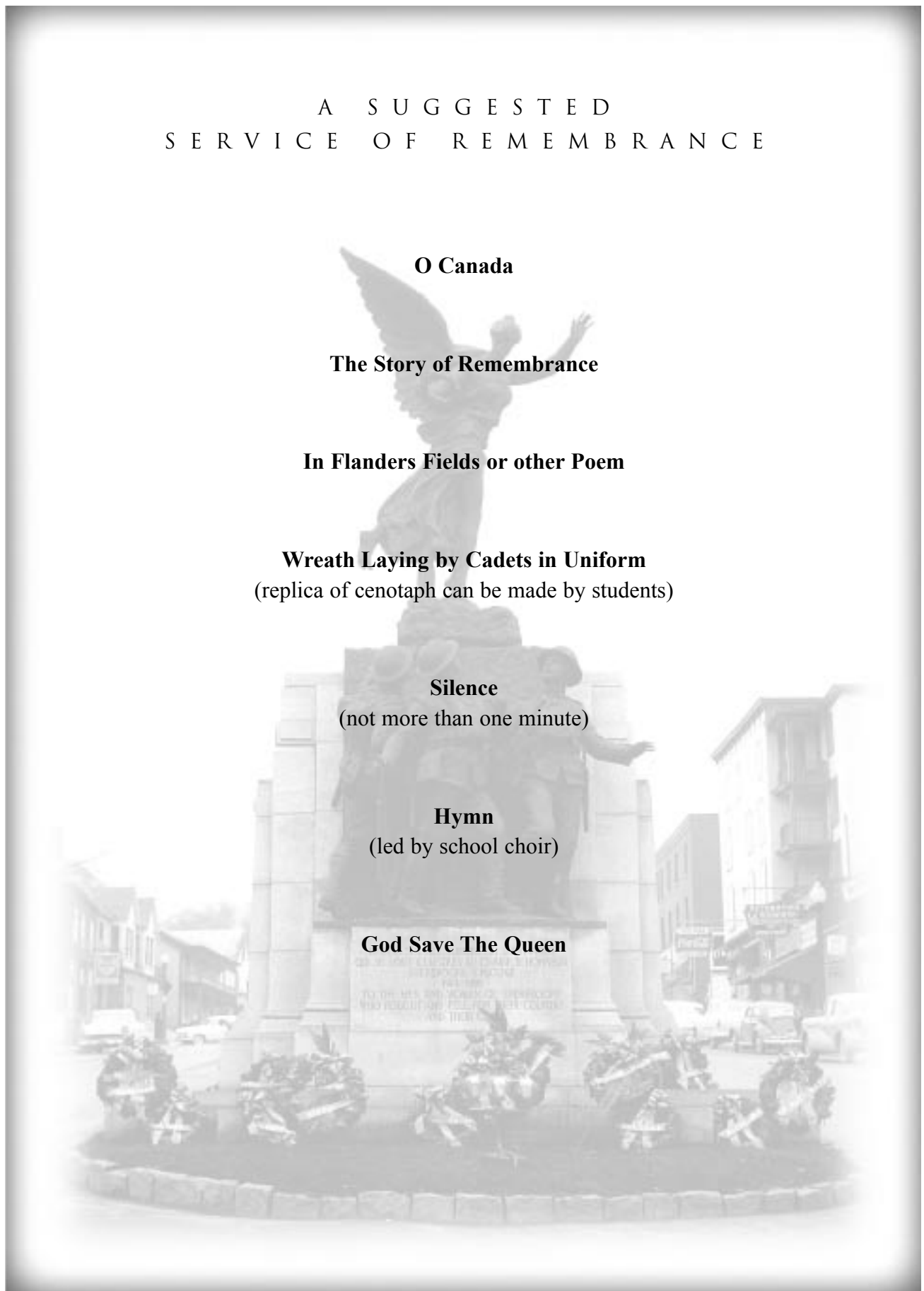
**In Flanders Fields or other Poem**

**Wreath Laying by Cadets in Uniform**  
(replica of cenotaph can be made by students)

**Silence**  
(not more than one minute)

**Hymn**  
(led by school choir)

**God Save The Queen**





World War II – Dutch Children Honour Canadian Soldiers After Liberation

died serving Canada and it was decided that a ceremony would be held once a year to honour their memory. The poppy became a symbol that everyone could wear to show that they remember too.

Why do we remember on the eleventh of November those who were killed? That is an easy question to answer. The war stopped on the eleventh of November in 1918. Those that were in the war decided that it would be right to remember their friends on the day the fighting stopped. The people who had not been in the war, but worked in

the factories, on the farms, the offices, the schools and the hospitals agreed and Remembrance Day has been held on the eleventh of November ever since. Many Canadians were also killed in the Second World War, the Korean War and on peacekeeping missions for the United Nations. We also remember them on the eleventh of November. The poppy has become a badge of honour, and when you wear a poppy you remember all those brave Canadians who were killed.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY MESSAGE STUDENTS AGES 12-17

The eleventh day of the eleventh month – this is Remembrance Day in Canada. We gather at cenotaphs and memorials in over 2,000 cities, towns and villages throughout the country. We stand with our heads bowed and we wear a poppy. We take part in a simple, but very moving ceremony to honour the many Canadians who were killed in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations throughout the world. During the two minutes of silence we think of these brave people who were in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Merchant Navy.

Canadians remember those who paid the supreme sacrifice in many ways. But what should the Remembrance Day ceremony mean to you – today? Perhaps the most important thing to remember is that many of those who were killed were not much older than you when they went to war. Some left their high school and university classes to fly warplanes while still in their teens. Others stormed the beaches of Sicily, Italy and France or fought the Battle of the Atlantic in tiny Corvettes. For many, these things occurred before their twenty-first birthday; some didn't get to live that long. Their plans for the future were as bright as yours today. They left the excitement and hoopla of graduation, roaring bonfires at the beach, the magic of football on crisp autumn afternoons, the swift silent swoop of skis on powdered snow, the cheers at a rush up ice in a hockey game, the satisfied feeling of trying your best on the track, or simply hanging out at the mall. These are but a few of the things they gave up, often never to be done again.

The outbreak of war turned their world topsy-turvy. Two generations were thrust into massive conflicts and their way of life was threatened. Thousands volunteered to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces and quickly became sailors, soldiers and airmen. They knew that enlisting would probably put their lives at real risk some time, some place, but they went ahead. The reasons each



person had for volunteering to serve were many and varied, but in almost every case the reasons included concern for the future and the security of their way of life. Motivated by patriotism and duty, they made a great sacrifice. We should think about what it would be like if it were necessary to do this today. You are young, yet nearly every day you are exposed to conflict – the Gulf War, the strife in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Chechnya, and many other places. Remembrance Day is the time we honour those who paid the supreme sacrifice, but it also provides each of us with the opportunity to reflect on how we would feel if our whole pattern of life was threatened. Would we have the courage to do what our grandfathers and grandmothers did?

Wear your poppy and attend the Remembrance Day service in your community. During the two minutes of silence, try to relate to those people who left their homes, friends and loved ones to fight for Canada during those dark periods of world history.

Above all else, we must remember those who went to war and did not return. They paid the supreme sacrifice to ensure that this great country of ours remains free and democratic.





## ESSAY OR DEBATE TOPICS

1. Why is it important to maintain world peace? Is it necessary to have armed forces to keep peace in the world?
2. Should Canada be involved in conflicts in other parts of the world? Should everyone in the world have the same rights and freedoms?
3. What is the value of honouring Canadian veterans who fought in World War I and World War II? When these veterans have died why should they continue to be honoured?
4. Is it important to study and remember wars and all the horrors and sacrifice that goes with them? Why?
5. What thoughts do the Veterans have as they march past the cenotaphs on Remembrance Day? What are their emotions or feelings as they remember their friends who died on the battlefield?
6. Who is the Silver Cross Mother? Why does she attend the Ceremony at the National War Memorial on Remembrance Day?
7. Is war different today than it was 50 years ago? Should those who serve on peacekeeping missions be considered the same as veterans of war?
8. Are courage and heroism the same today as in times past? What are some modern examples of courage and heroism?
9. What would it be like to have a close friend or relative go away to fight in a war?
10. What does the Poppy symbolize?
11. Why do the young Dutch people feel grateful towards the Canadians? Do you think freedom means more to a Dutch student than to a Canadian?

## PROJECT IDEAS

1. Make posters announcing Remembrance Day Ceremonies (at school if one is being held, or for the public ceremony being held in the community) and put them up in the school or neighbourhood.
2. Adopt a Canadian military unit on a peacekeeping mission and write them a letter of support.
3. Invite a member of the local Legion Branch to come and speak to the class or school. This could be in conjunction with a school Remembrance Day Ceremony.
4. Plan a field trip for the class as a group to go out to the local cenotaph and take part in the Remembrance service. Make a wreath to place at the cenotaph to honour the veterans who have passed away.
5. Contact the local Legion branch and volunteer to make lunches for the members out working on the Poppy Campaign. Find out what other assistance they might need and help them.
6. Organize a Remembrance Day Ceremony and arrange to have the class conduct their ceremony at a local Veterans' Home or Veterans' Hospital.
7. As a project for geography class, create a map locating the significant sites for Remembrance Day, such as Vimy Ridge, the Beaches of Normandy, Dieppe, Ypres and Flanders. Make another map showing all the places in the world that Canadian forces have served as peacekeepers.
8. As a history project, choose a Canadian military unit (one with local significance if possible) and make a report on its involvement in the World Wars and/or peacekeeping missions.

## MAKE POPPIES

Materials needed: two 12cm (5 in) squares of red paper, small piece of green paper, twist tie, glue, scissors.

### DIRECTIONS

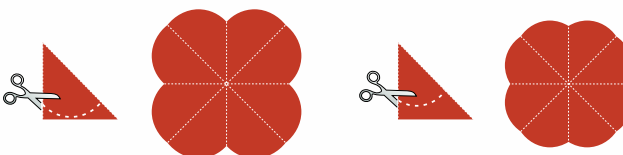
1. Fold squares of red paper into quarters, then diagonally into eighths, as shown in the diagram.



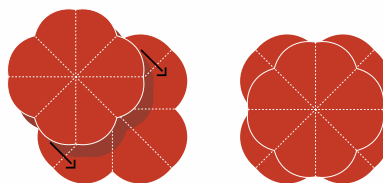
2. Trace the two patterns on the two folded squares as shown, one on each square.



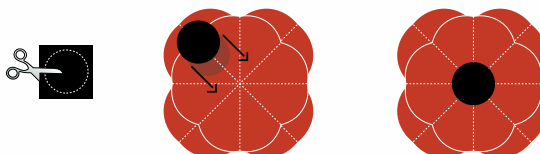
3. Cut the folded squares on the pattern lines and unfold the shapes. They will have a slight bowl shape.



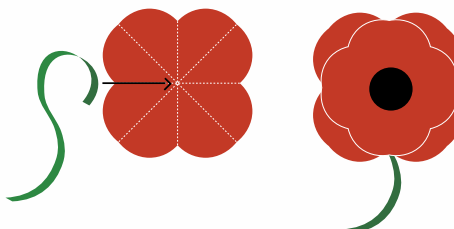
4. Glue the smaller shape inside the larger one.



5. Cut a small (2cm or 3/4 in) circle of black paper and glue it in the center of the flower.



6. Glue the twist tie on the back of the flower so that it can be tied onto a shirt button or other object.



Without the twist tie glued on, the poppies can be used to decorate a bulletin board by using a push pin or tack in the center. A wreath can be made by bending a coat hanger into a circle and covering with crumpled green paper, and attaching poppies with twist ties. Cut a strip of paper long enough to go from one side to the other of the wreath and attach, with an inscription lettered on it like "We Remember," or "Lest We Forget."

## THE CONTESTS

For many, many years, The Royal Canadian Legion has sponsored annual Poster, Essay and Literary Contests that are open to all Canadian school children. The youths that participate in the contests assist the Legion in one of our primary goals – fostering the tradition of Remembrance amongst Canadians.

The contests are divided into four categories:

Primary (Poster Contest only) – grades 1,2 and 3;

Junior – grades 4, 5 and 6;

Intermediate – grades 7, 8 and 9; and

Senior – grades 10, 11, 12.

Initial judging takes place at the community level by volunteers at local Legion branches and the winning entries progress to judging at the Provincial level. The winning entries at this level are forwarded to Ottawa where they are judged and the National winners declared. The names and work of all the National winners are published.

The Poster Contest has two divisions – Colour and Black and White. The winning entries for the four categories (school grades) are displayed at the Canadian War Museum from 1 July – 1 May of the following year. The second place winners and any receiving an Honourable Mention are displayed in the foyer of the House of Commons during the annual Remembrance period in November.

The senior winning entries in the Essay and Poetry contests are also displayed at the Canadian War Museum during the same period.

The Legion also sponsors a trip to Ottawa for the Senior Winners in the four contests (two poster, essay and poetry) to attend the National Remembrance Day Service where they place a wreath on behalf of the youth of Canada. They also have an opportunity to meet and visit with the Governor General.

Students may enter as many contests as they wish.

Should you wish further information on the contests please contact the Royal Canadian Legion Branch nearest your residence.



# LITERARY CONTESTS

## ESSAYS AND POEMS

**Win a trip for two to Ottawa to represent Canada's youth at the National Remembrance Ceremony on November 11th.**

The essays or poems will be based on the theme of:  
**REMEMBRANCE.**

Contestants are challenged to exercise their creativity and write an essay and/or poem on **Remembrance**.

The contests are held to select the most suitable essays and poems submitted by students in the Canadian school system from across the country.

The essays and poems will be judged at the Branch through to the Provincial levels. The entries of Provincial winners in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories will be submitted to Ottawa for judging at the National level.



## NATIONAL PRIZES

CATEGORY 1 SENIOR GRADES 10, 11, 12		
Candidates will submit a composition in prose of not more than 800 words or a poem of not more than 32 lines.		
	<b>Essay</b>	<b>Poem</b>
1st Prize*	275.00	275.00
2nd Prize	200.00	200.00

CATEGORY 2 INTERMEDIATE GRADES 7, 8, 9		
Candidates will submit a composition in prose of not more than 500 words or a poem of not more than 32 lines.		
	<b>Essay</b>	<b>Poem</b>
1st Prize	200.00	200.00
2nd Prize	125.00	125.00

CATEGORY 3 JUNIOR GRADES 4, 5, 6		
Candidates will submit a composition in prose of not more than 350 words or a poem of not more than 32 lines.		
	<b>Essay</b>	<b>Poem</b>
1st Prize	125.00	125.00
2nd Prize	100.00	100.00

*\*The first prize winners in Category 1 will be invited to Ottawa, accompanied by a parent, relative or guardian, at the expense of The Royal Canadian Legion. They will represent Canada's youth at the National Remembrance Day ceremony.*

## REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTEST

1. Entries may be submitted in either English or French.
2. Entries will be marked on the basis of originality of thought, expression, presentation, grammar, spelling and Canadian content.
3. Each candidate is to state clearly, on a **separate front page**, his or her name, address, age, grade, name and address of school and local Legion branch.
4. Candidates will use only one side of the page.
5. Entries must not exceed the word or line limit.
6. All entries are to be submitted to the local Legion branch.
7. Students who have been **out of the educational system for more than two consecutive years are ineligible to compete in the Literary Contests at any level.**
8. Contestants may enter both the Essay Contest and the Poetry Contest, but may submit only one entry for each category.

A plaque will be awarded to the winner in each category, as well as to the winner's school.

Prizes will be awarded on the recommendation of the judges, whose decision will be final.

Are you interested? Please contact your local Legion branch for details.

On notification of having been selected as a winner at the Dominion Command level, the artist or writer agrees to the full and exclusive non-profit use of the art or literary work by The Royal Canadian Legion for the period of one year, after which all rights for usage revert to the artist or writer.

# POSTER CONTESTS

## COLOUR OR BLACK AND WHITE



**Win a trip for two to Ottawa to represent Canada's youth at the National Remembrance Ceremony on November 11th.**

The posters will be based on the theme of:

### REMEMBRANCE.

Contestants are challenged to exercise their creativity and submit a poster on this theme in either colour or black and white.

This is a contest to select the most suitable posters submitted by students in the Canadian school system, from across the country.

The posters will be judged at the Branch through to the Provincial levels. The entries of Provincial winners in the Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories will be submitted to Ottawa for judging at the National level.

### NATIONAL PRIZES

CATEGORY 1 SENIOR GRADES 10, 11, 12		
	Colour	Black and White
1st Prize*	275.00	275.00
2nd Prize	200.00	200.00

CATEGORY 2 INTERMEDIATE GRADES 7, 8, 9		
	Colour	Black and White
1st Prize	200.00	200.00
2nd Prize	125.00	125.00

CATEGORY 3 JUNIOR GRADES 4, 5, 6		
	Colour	Black and White
1st Prize	125.00	125.00
2nd Prize	100.00	100.00

CATEGORY 4 PRIMARY GRADES 1, 2, 3		
	Colour	Black and White
1st Prize*	100.00	100.00
2nd Prize	75.00	75.00

*\*The first prize winners in Category 1 will be invited to Ottawa, accompanied by a parent, relative or guardian, at the expense of The Royal Canadian Legion. They will represent Canada's youth at the National Remembrance Day Ceremony.*

### REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTEST

- Entries will be no larger than 56cm x 71cm
- Please choose which contest you would like to enter and use only the following:  
**Colour poster:** Full colour  
**Black and White:** Pencil, Charcoal and/or India Ink
- Entries will be judged on originality, expression of designated subject, drawing and illustration.  
**COMPUTER GENERATED ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- The poster shall reflect **REMEMBRANCE** with a Canadian theme. If symbols are used, Canadian symbols shall be preminent. Such national symbols are Canadian and provincial flags, coats of arms, and representative flowers, birds or animals, as well as all forms of Canadian historical and current military dress.
- Candidates will sign their posters in the lower right-hand corner and attach a piece of paper showing their name, address, age, grade, name and address of the school and the local Legion branch.
- All entries are to be submitted to the local Legion branch.
- Winning posters, at the national level, will be framed and placed on display at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa for a period of time. Second and third place national level winners will be displayed at Parliament Hill during the week of Remembrance. All artwork will be returned to the artists through Provincial Commands.
- Students who have been **out of the educational system for more than two consecutive years are ineligible to compete in the Poster Contest at any level.**
- Contestants may enter both the Colour Contest and the Black and White Contest, but may submit only one entry for each category.

A plaque will be awarded to the winner in each category, as well as to the winner's school.

Prizes will be awarded on the recommendation of the judges, whose decision will be final.

Are you interested? Please contact your local Legion branch for details.

On notification of having been selected as a winner at the Dominion Command level, the artist or writer agrees to the full and exclusive non-profit use of the art or literary work by The Royal Canadian Legion for the period of one year, after which all rights for usage revert to the artist or writer.



# PHOTO CREDITS

## Page

Front Cover	Richard Desmarais		National Archives of Canada
Title Page	Legion Magazine Archives		Imperial War Museum
	3 Clockwise from top:	6	Department of National Defence
	1. Officer – le regiment de carignan-salieres	7	Legion Magazine Archives
	Cat. # 75033	8	National Archives of Canada PA 116124
	2. The Chebucto Greys	9	National Archives of Canada PA 108300
	Cat. # 75018	10	Canadian Forces Photo Unit
	3. The Royal Regiment of Canada (Private 1867)	11	Legion Magazine Archives
	Cat. # 89174		Canadian Army Overseas UN-146-3
	4. The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada		Royal Canadian Legion Archives
	Cat. # 75007	12-13	Canadian Army Overseas 61044
	5. 3rd Montreal Field Battery		Legion Magazine Archives
	Cat. # 75023	14-15	L.M. Harrison
	6. Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)	16	Gerry Lemay
	Cat. # 76022	20	National Film Board
	All paintings by Robert J. Marrion	21-28	Legion Magazine Archives
	– Copyright Canadian War Museum	34	National Archives of Canada PA 108300
4-5	Legion Magazine Archives	35	Canadian Forces Photo Unit
	National Archives of Canada PA 1083	36	Legion Magazine Archives
	Canadian Forces Photo ZK 2022-6	Back Cover	Canadian Forces Photo WO Vic Johnson
	Department of National Defence		

# CONNECTING WITH THE LEGION

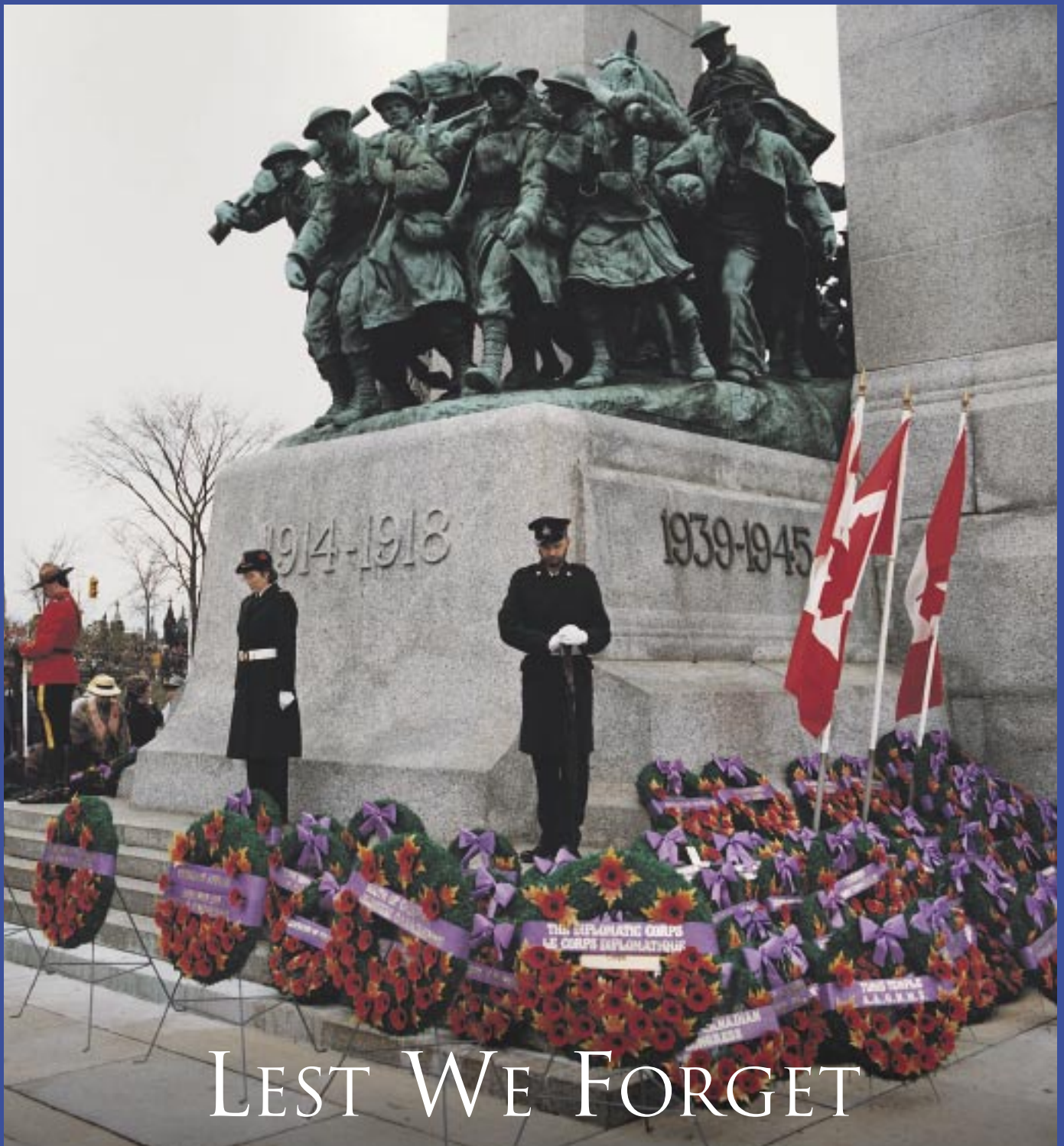
*The Legion is committed to community service. That commitment includes doing whatever is necessary to perpetuate the tradition of Remembrance in schools and among the youth of Canada. Should your organization, school or committee need information or assistance in carrying out a Remembrance Day event or any other occasion that you think the Legion may be of help, your local branch of The Royal Canadian Legion has volunteers who are ready to assist. The Provincial and Dominion Commands provide regional and national support that can be accessed through some 1,600 branches across the country. These branches are usually well-known in the community and can be found in the telephone directory. Give them a call.*

The Royal Canadian Legion website can be found at: **[www.legion.ca](http://www.legion.ca)**

The National Headquarters (Dominion Command) is located in Ottawa and can be reached at the following address and telephone number:

**The Royal Canadian Legion  
Dominion Command  
86 Aird Place  
Ottawa ON K2L 0A1  
(613) 591-3335  
FAX: (613) 591-9335**

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THE ROYAL  
CANADIAN LEGION

OUR MISSION IS  
TO SERVE VETERANS  
EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL  
THEIR DEPENDANTS  
THE COMMUNITY  
AND CANADA