

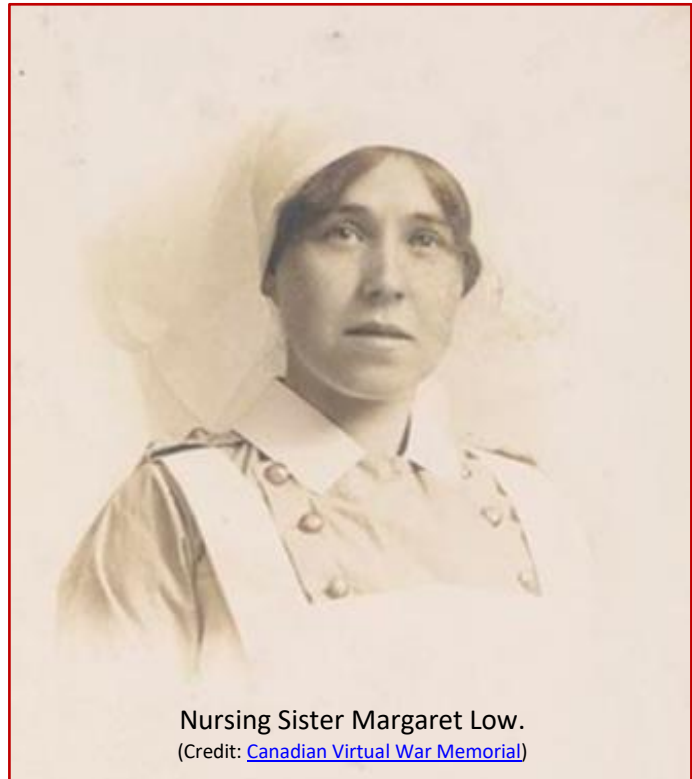
Canadian Women of Valour Challenge:

## Margaret Lowe, Nursing Sister

Nursing Sisters were an integral part of the First World War. Caregivers and healers, they helped with surgeries and comforted the wounded, both before and after procedures. They also cleaned and dressed wounds, ranging from minor to severe, and made patients comfortable while they healed. More importantly, nurses made sure dying soldiers weren't alone in their final moments.

However, their service came at a cost. Sixty-one Nursing Sisters died between 1915 and 1922. Deaths were the result of diseases, such as **Tuberculosis** and **Meningitis**, or air raids and bombings. Fourteen of Canada's nurses were killed when the Canadian hospital ship [Llandovery Castle](#) was sunk by a German U-boat in 1918.

Margaret Lowe was born in Morayshire, Scotland, on January 26th, 1888. Born to a Canadian father, she moved to Binscarth, Manitoba, when she was young. Lowe received her nurse's training at the Winnipeg General Hospital and graduated in 1916. After her graduation she enlisted as a with the Canadian Army in the early spring of 1917 and became a Nursing Sister.



Nursing Sister Margaret Low.  
 (Credit: [Canadian Virtual War Memorial](#))



Funeral procession for Nursing Sister Margaret Lowe.

(Credit: LAC M# 3394957)

The new nurse received her first orders and was sent overseas. First Lowe was stationed at the Orpington General Hospital in Kent, England. She was later moved to what would be her final hospital, the 1st Canadian General Hospital in Étaples, France.

On May 19th, 1918, a German air raid hit the hospital. Sadly, she was wounded, suffering a skull fracture and severe chest wounds. Nine days later the once vibrant young woman would **succumb** to her injuries while at the 24th British General Hospital.

Sixty-six patients and staff died during the attack, this included two other nursing sisters, [Katherine MacDonald](#) and [Gladys Wake](#).



Nursing Sisters laying flowers upon the grave of fallen Sister Margaret Lowe following her funeral. (Credit: LAC M# 3194233)

All three women were buried in the Étaples Military Cemetery in Pas de Calais, France.

To explore Margaret Lowe's online memorial, visit the [Canadian Virtual War Memorial](#). To read about Margaret's life, visit [Lives of the First World War](#).

#### Key Vocabulary:

Tuberculosis: an infectious disease that affects the lungs

Meningitis: a serious infection (bacterial or viral) that causes high fever, headache, and stiff muscles

Succumb: to give way or yield to something stronger