



## IN FLANDERS FIELDS

John McCrae was born in 1872 in Guelph, Ontario. He would grow-up in Guelph attending the local collegiate and serving as a cadet in his Father's artillery regiment. He would join the artillery at the age of 18 as a Gunner and was quickly promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. At the same time, he won numerous academic awards and was studying medicine at the University of Toronto. He also dabbled in poetry and art; both lifetime hobbies.

With the outbreak of the Boer War in South Africa, Lieutenant McCrae went overseas with a battery of his Guelph artillery regiment. McCrae would see considerable action in South Africa and be considered the unit's most popular officer.

McCrae returned to Canada in 1901 and for the next decade he focused on his medical career. The man was a leader in teaching, innovating, and doctoring. Once the First World War started, he was one of the first doctors to enlist. In the spring of 1915 during the Second Battle of Ypres, Major John McCrae would be treating the wounded at a Dressing Station just a few miles from where the battle raged.

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John McCrae and In Flanders Fields postage stamp  
(Credit: CanadianPostageStamps.ca)

## IN FLANDERS FIELDS, CONTINUED...



Following news that a close friend of his from the artillery had been killed-in-action and during a break from his medical duties, McCrae saw the poppies intermixed with the crosses of recently buried soldiers and wrote *In Flanders Fields*.

McCrae would be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and serve throughout most of the First World War. In 1918, the final year of the war, after a brief illness, he died at the Number 14 British General Hospital for Officers. He was buried with full military honours in Wimereux Cemetery, France.



John McCrae (Credit: Dictionary of Canadian Biography).

For more articles like this - please visit our [online military history library](#).



### **In Flanders Fields**

by Lieutenant Colonel  
John McCrae, MD

*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.*

## ORGANIZATION UPDATE



As we enter the Fall season, the team at Valour Canada would like to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support and share some program updates.

**Programming.** While our in-museum programming has been postponed due to the COVID-19 restrictions - we continue to make strides in the field of virtual educational resources. We remain focused on providing new, high-quality, and engaging educational tools that are accessible to students and teachers across Canada - whether they are working from home or in the classroom.

**Events.** The Valour Canada AGLC casino is scheduled for December 2nd / 3rd at Elbow River Casino. If you are able to volunteer, please contact us at [contact@valourcanada.ca](mailto:contact@valourcanada.ca). All other events have been postponed.

**Staffing.** We have recently hired **Richard Ferris**, a Program Developer in the Toronto/Hamilton area.

Richard is an Entrepreneur who comes to us with 12 years of experience running his own Property Inspection company, where he has assisted buyers, sellers, agents and company owners in both Residential and Corporate transactions. Richard is not only the owner and an inspector with his company, but is

also worked for the Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB) as a specialist and guest instructor for their continuing education programs and annual conferences.

Before starting up his inspection company in 2008 Richard spent 18 years as a Corporate Trainer with Bell Canada and Direct Energy. He specialized in teaching soft skills and IT training for employees of both companies. Richard found his passion for teaching when he enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1989. Since the start of his military career as a Military Police Officer, he later transferred to the Cadet Instructor Cadre as a Commissioned Officer, where he continues to facilitate youth engagement through instructional technique and leadership. Within the Canadian Cadet Movement Richard is an expedition instructor, qualified as; a rappel instructor, canoeing instructor, range safety instructor and a gold coach biathlon instructor.

Richard resides in Toronto, Ontario with his wife Danielle, and his two young children; Fynn and Addison, aged eight and four respectively. In his free time, Richard teaches Corporate First Aid and CPR for Link to Life.

**Please join us in welcoming Richard to the Valour Canada Team!**

# WORD SCRAMBLE



## 1) SIENMA \_\_\_\_\_

Clue: Opening battle of the Hundred Days Offensive in 1918.

## 2) EANC \_\_\_\_\_

Clue: French city liberated by Allies after the initial D-Day landings. This city also suffered significant bomb damage during the Second World War.

## 3) ELSCEAPNHDAE \_\_\_\_\_

Clue: This city was the location of the Third Battle of Ypres between July and November 1917.

## 4) AIESFLA \_\_\_\_\_

Clue: This famous "gap" had to be closed by the Allies in August 1944.

## 5) PEIDEP \_\_\_\_\_

Clue: A Canadian raid took place at this French coastal town.

## 6) ATNORO \_\_\_\_\_

Clue: This battle took place during "Bloody December" in Italy in 1943.

## 7) YNGOPAK \_\_\_\_\_

Clue: Located on Hill 677, this location saw fierce fighting between UN forces and Chinese volunteers during the Korean War.

## 8) SRLFE-TELETUCROE \_\_\_\_\_

Clue: This battle was fought in September 1916 and was part of the larger battle of the Somme.

## 9) YDANRNOM \_\_\_\_\_

Clue: Canadians were tasked with landing at Juno beach in this French coastal region on 6 June 1944.

## 10) TMEON NISCAOS \_\_\_\_\_

Clue: This hill was heavily defended by the Germans in Italy. The abbey that was destroyed here in 1944 had to be rebuilt.

## 11) PSEYR \_\_\_\_\_

Clue: The Menin Gate is located in this Belgian town. Every evening the last post is sounded.

## 12) TERUBFSTE \_\_\_\_\_

Clue: The 3rd and 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigades were told to capture a trench system near this village.

## 13) HECLWARNE \_\_\_\_\_

Clue: Canadians assisted in liberating this Dutch island, which helped open up the Scheldt estuary to Allied shipping.

## 14) YIVM GEDRI \_\_\_\_\_

Clue: This battle took place on 9 April 1917. This was the first time the four divisions of Canadian Corp fought together.

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