



CANADIAN FALLEN HEROES

'Lest We Forget...'

John McCrae



In Flanders Fields

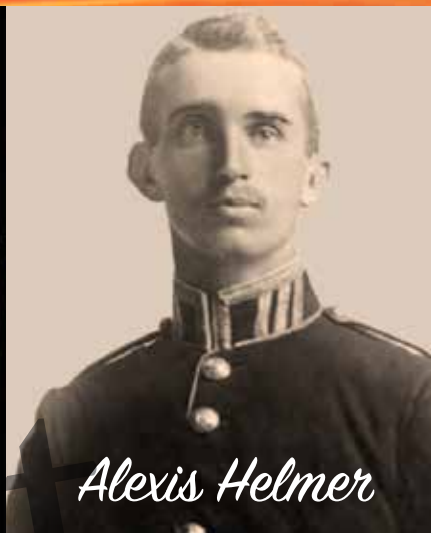
*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*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*

*Punch
Dec 8, 1915*

John McCrae



Alexis Helmer



Clare Gass

John McCrae was born November 30, 1872, the second son of Lieutenant-Colonel David McCrae and Janet Simpson Eckford.

A native of Guelph, Ontario, McCrae was a gifted student attending the Guelph Vocational Institute and later the University of Toronto where he studied medicine.

He also inherited his father's passion for soldiering and having served in South Africa during the Second Boer War, he was appointed as Medical Officer and Major of the Canadian Field Artillery 1st Brigade at the onset of the First World War.

He would treat the wounded during the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915. The Battle would claim the life of his friend, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, which most agree served as inspiration for his poem "In Flanders Fields". John McCrae died of pneumonia on January 28, 1918 (45 years old) at the British General Hospital in Wimereux, France. He was buried with full military honours the following day in the Wimereux Cemetery.

"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."

Nurse Clare Gass' diary contains the previously unknown poem "In Flanders Fields", written by John McCrae. The entry is dated October 30th, nearly six weeks before its first publication in *Punch* magazine on December 8, 1915.



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Leonard Cohen reads the Poem



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