



# In Flanders Fields

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD  
(1872-1918)

Canadian Army

**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.



**All  
who  
humble  
themselves  
will be  
exalted.**

Matthew 23:12

***2005 was designated as the  
National Year of the Veteran.  
Since that time, we have taken  
this opportunity to recall the variety of  
ways people have served or are serving.***

*To commemorate the service and offering of folk who  
we may not really know a great deal about,  
those having served as well as those still serving were  
invited to provide a few words about their time of  
service. This list is by no means complete  
but is meant to provide an opportunity for us to learn,  
to hopefully more fully understand,  
and to commit to the ongoing work of peace  
and freeing people from oppression,  
as well as to give thanks.*

**Captain David Whittet**

*I had already chosen a career in the British Merchant*

Service, so that when war was declared I was serving as junior officer on a ship in the port of Churchill, loading a cargo of wheat for the United Kingdom.

The next three years were spent mostly on the North Atlantic carrying war supplies from the United States to Britain, usually sailing in convoys of 30 to 100 ships. In the early days many ships were lost to U-boats, but conditions improved as more escorts became available, particularly with the advent of the great little Canadian Corvette.

On April 16th, 1942 I was serving as second officer of the 'Empire Dryden'. We had sailed the previous day from New York carrying a cargo of ammunitions, aircraft parts and rations, bound to the port of Alexandria, Egypt. At 9 pm. we were torpedoed and the ship sank in a very few minutes. All 51 crew members were able to get off the ship and we divided into two lifeboats. Some three weeks later, those of us in my boat were picked up by an American passenger ship. The other boat with 25 men was never found. All ships at that time were under strict instructions not to stop for any reason, as all kinds of decoys were being used to attract targets. That captain chose to disregard those orders and rescued us.

"The Wondrous Works of the Lord"!!! Ps. 107

The following years were spent mostly on ships supplying the armed forces during the North African landings and following up through Sicily and Italy. The highlight of that period happened in Bari, a small port in southeast Italy. On Dec. 2, 1943 aircraft bombed the harbour and sank 15 allied ships, most of which were loaded with ammunitions. The explosions and devastation were horrific. Five ships only were left floating and the "Empire Sunbeam" in which I was serving as Chief Officer, was one of them.

### **S. Ray Julian**

Enlisted in the Royal Canadian Signals in 1950. Overseas tours – Vientiane, Laos, Phnom Cambodia, Hanoi,

## **Words to help us on the Pathway to Peace...**

Someone who is filled with ideas, concepts, opinions and convictions cannot be a good host. There is no inner space to listen, no openness to discover the gift of the other. It is not difficult to see how those who "know it all" can kill a conversation and prevent an interchange of ideas.

— Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Reaching Out*

A good host not only has to be poor in mind but also poor in heart. When our heart is filled with prejudices, worries, jealousies, there is little room for a stranger.

— Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Reaching Out*

We must forget ourselves in order to let the other person approach us. We must be able to open up to him to let his distinctive personality unfold — even though it frightens and repels us. We often keep the other person down, and only see what we want to see; then we never really encounter the mysterious secret of his being, only ourselves.

— Johannes Metz, *Poverty of Spirit*

Most people have the best of intentions, but they are not secure enough to express love by listening in depth when the others express some idea or intention that they believe is wrong. It takes real security within oneself to be open to the totality of another human being. In this listening we give neither approval nor disapproval. We acknowledge the other's ground of being and the other's system of values just as they are.

— Morton T. Kelsey, *The Other Side of Silence*

of cease-fire and elections. After successful elections and confirmation of withdrawal of Vietnamese troops, readied for deployment to Rwanda. Deployment to Rwanda cancelled by Canadian government. 1995 trained for deployment to Croatia to serve as UNMO in Krajinas (Serb population). Before deployment to Zagreb, Croat Army invaded region and conducted ethnic cleansing – mission cancelled. Trained for deployment to Israel on border with Egypt, mission cancelled. 1999 posted to Ottawa to work in National Defense Command Center monitoring national and international missions. Worked as watch officer during Kosovo War (bombings and covert insertions), during several natural disasters (flooding in Manitoba & Quebec, forest fires in British Columbia) and during withdrawal of UN forces from Sierra Leone. Last watches during 9/11 and post-9/11 emergency preparedness.



North Vietnam, Saigon South Vietnam with the International Supervisory and Control Commission (Geneva Convention). Kolsas, Norway – Allied Forces Northern Europe (North Atlantic Treaty Organization – NATO) Postings in Canada were at various locations including Alert, Ellesmere Island. Retired from the military in 1980. Joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1980 as a civilian and served at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium and in 1985 was transferred to a position with Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia and was located with a lodger unit at the Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Virginia. Retired from NATO in 1996

### **William (Bill) MacIver**

Bill joined the Regular Army in 1951 and was commissioned as second lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Infantry Corps later that year. During his career he served in the Royal Canadian Regiment and the Regiment of Canadian Guards. He served as an infantry commander and staff officer in various locations in Canada and also in Korea and Germany. He is a graduate of the Canadian Army Staff College and is the recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal and the Canadian Forces Decoration. He left the military in 1966 with the rank of Major, to pursue a career in the Public Service. He continues to serve as an executive director with the Canadian Guards Association. His involvement includes matters relating to membership, assisting individuals with disability pension applications and the Regimental Museum located at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa. In the summer of 2008, he was selected, as part of a government sponsored delegation, to go to Korea to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice.

**Pat (Madeleine) McEwing**

W303827 CPL MCEWING. M.T.

*I enlisted in the RCAF in 1942 and served as a corporal (Clerk Admin) in charge of all the establishments for the Service Flying Schools here in Canada. My postings included Toronto, Ottawa, Uplands, Rockcliffe and #9 Bombing & Gunnery School in Mont Joli, Quebec. I was honourably discharged in 1946.*

**Allen B. Fraser**

*I served in the Canadian Army from 1942 – 1946, having arrived in the United Kingdom in the spring of 1944 and serving in action with the Stormont District Glen-garry Highlanders in Belgium, Germany, and Holland until the end of the war.*

**Bette Jones**

*From 1941 – 1946, I served as Corporal with the Royal Signal Corps as a switch board supervisor in the southern part of England, mostly in the London area.*

**Lieutenant Commander Jamie MacKay**

*Jamie joined the Canadian Forces in 1976 entering the Royal Military College in Kingston Ontario. Upon graduation in 1980 he completed further training in Victoria BC and Borden, Ontario and joined the Fleet in Halifax, NS.*

*Highlights of his career include: working in the Saint John, NB shipyard during the Navy Frigate construction program, being a member of the initial crew of the new HMCS Regina, sailing through the Panama Canal, visiting many countries in South East Asia and the Pacific rim, serving as the Support Co-ordinator at the Canadian Task force in devastated Dili, East Timor after the violence of August 1999, and working with Aussies and Kiwis, running a naval support unit from the des-*

*ert during the second Gulf War, and again working with Aussies and Kiwis, training Canadian Forces Logistics Officers, (tri service) in Borden, meeting people from diverse backgrounds from around the world. Jamie has served in every major ship class in service in the Canadian Navy as the Ship's Supply officer and has held a number of senior appointments and joint positions ashore. Jamie holds the rank of Lieutenant Commander and expects to retire from uniformed service in the next year or so.*

**Stuart Preston**

*I joined the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve from school on my 18th birthday in April of 1944. Basic training was received at HMCS Carleton at Dows Lake in Ottawa, advanced training at Cornwallis Nova Scotia, then to HMCS Lisgar at the dockyard in Halifax. In Feb. 1946 I was honourably discharged from Montreal HMCS Donacona. In 1947, I joined the army in Kingston, Ontario. Postings included: Petawawa; Wainwright, Alberta; Kingston; Vancouver; Germany; Borden; and Shilo, Manitoba, retiring from the Army in 1972.*

**Colin McKeown**

*Twenty-one years service in the Canadian Navy. Trained as communicator, weapons officer of a frigate and navigator. Served on three NATO deployments of four-six months each during the Cold War. Sailed throughout the world with United States and British navies such as Europe, Mediterranean, Caribbean, and Central America. Deployed on HMCS Protector during the Gulf War in 1990-1991 and acted as deck officer and boarding party officer. Served on seven fishery patrols off the Grand Banks, boarding and inspecting trawlers from countries such as Spain, Ukraine, Japan, Portugal and Thailand.*

*Trained as unarmed United Nations Military Observer 1992 and deployed to Cambodia in 1993 for monitoring*