

What we leave behind: war memory in Canada and the Commonwealth

By Dr. Robert Engen

This November we in Canada commemorate – or perhaps celebrate, as that word may finally be appropriate – the centenary of the armistice that halted the First World War. Canada is not the only country that has rooted at least part of its foundational myths in the First World War. Many of those countries that fought came to identify the war as a formative national experience. I had the opportunity to visit several other nations of the British Commonwealth while carrying out research, and observed that there are profound differences in the war memories of four Commonwealth countries whose war experiences had many similarities: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

A year ago Canada commemorated the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge. We remember Vimy in terms of sacrifice and loss, certainly, and as an emblem for the grief of a nation. But we also remember it, crucially, as a victory. The motif of loss is accompanied by triumph and accomplishment. In our national narrative, Vimy becomes a moment when Canada emerged onto the world stage – partly by sacrifice for the British cause, but more because it proved the Canadian Corps could produce that most elusive commodity in the trench stalemate: victory. Our remembrance of that war, cen-

tred upon Vimy, is tinged with victory and self-assertion.

Australian and New Zealand war memory is very different. Their massive stone edifices of remembrance – the Australian War Memorial, the Victoria and New South Wales Memorial, the NZ National War Memorial – are all kept close to home, in contrast with Canada's Vimy monument in France. But the Australians and New Zealanders also remember very different things as well. Central to both countries' war memories is the word "Anzac." Named after the combined Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) formation from the war, the term embodies qualities of loss, courage, and endurance of dreadful odds. While these are all qualities of character, none of them imply victory. In the Anzac tradition victory is not part of the narrative, because this is a war memory born out of defeat. Remembrance Day is commemorated in the Antipodes, but the real focus of commemoration is Anzac Day, on the 25th of April each year, which marks the commencement of the Gallipoli campaign, which is to Australia and New Zealand what Vimy is to Canada. Gallipoli was a fiasco, a disaster. Poorly planned and badly executed, the campaign accomplished little more than putting the troops through eight months

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Poppies in the Sunset on Lake Geneva
wikimedia.org

of hell. Gallipoli has become mythologized as emblematic of the war efforts of Australia and New Zealand: Gallipoli is loss, torment, sacrifice, defeat, and betrayal by their British masters. U.S. Army scholar Charles Miller has pointed out that this is a recurring theme, and that Gallipoli, "implanted a national myth of Australian lives being sacrificed for the benefit of others in conflicts not directly relevant to the Australian national interest."

But historical memory can be fragile as well. The Union of South Africa was the youngest and least stable of the British dominions in 1914, having only forcibly merged the English-speaking Cape and Natal colonies with the Dutch Afrikaner republics a decade earlier. As a British dominion, South Africa sent troops to the First World War, and a South African infantry brigade fought on the Somme at Delville Wood, where 80% of the South African soldiers were killed or wounded. This site became the

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*Ce Bulletin est aussi disponible
en Francais*

President's Remarks

Dear readers—welcome to the autumn 2018 edition of the Torch. As I have mentioned before we have introduced a themed approach to the publication. This edition has as its theme “Remembrance and the Centennial Marking the End of the First World War”; considerable effort has been invested in making this a particularly interesting piece and I am confident that you will enjoy it.

In the spring edition, I reported on the initiative to examine our governance, our strategic framework and our business approach to ensure that we are structured and focussed for successful support of the CWM. During the summer and into the autumn we have persevered and have developed a new committee structure to be implemented in April 2019. There will be 5 committees of the Friends Board; Museum Support; Ways and Means; Communications and Marketing; Governance; and Management. We are now developing terms of reference for these committees for Board consideration.

Regarding support to the Museum, a contribution agreement between the Friends and the Museum has been developed and approved by both parties. It embraces the major initiatives which the Friends have agreed to support; the Mons armoured car project; the CWM historical conference; and the World War II Supply Line project as well as Awesome Sundays and Veterans' parking and sets out expectations for both parties. An initial financial contribution has now been made against this agreement. Additionally we are renewing the Memorandum of Understanding between the Friends and the Museum; while remaining a work in progress at the time of writing, finalization is expected presently.

By the time you read this note, our gala program for Saturday, 03 November 2018 “The Eleventh Hour” hopefully will have been a resounding success. Early reports by the Cantata Singers of Ottawa found Andrew Ager's composition awesome and moving. Recognizing the considerable lead time required for developing, translating and publishing this edition, I pen this note well in advance of the event; nevertheless I am confident in the “Eleventh Hour” planning effort and feel comfortable in speculating about this successful outcome. Wherever it may land, the massive effort of the project team, the Friends volunteers, the Museum staff and the Cantata singers of Ottawa warrants our resounding appreciation and commendation.

And speaking of appreciation, I would like to acknowledge the growing body of support for the Friends in Canada and beyond. While the core is based in the National Capital Region, there are many loyal constituents elsewhere who make a valuable contribution. For example, may I recognize Mr William Davidson of Potsdam New York USA. A Canadian living abroad, he has nevertheless made no less than 7 book shipments to our military history book room and all at his own expense!

In closing may I welcome Jim Whitham as Acting Director General in the absence of Caroline Dromaguet on maternity leave. We know Jim and we all look forward to working with him.

Yours aye

Robert Hamilton



Post Cards from Mons

It is thanks to Carol Reid, a collections specialist in the George Metcalf Archival Collection, that we are publishing this magnificent set of Mons post cards. While chatting about The Torch and upcoming themes over lunch on a pleasant June day at the CWM, Carol mentioned to me that this set of cards would be most appropriate for The Torch and I could not agree more!

In a letter to his father Captain Gerald Cosbie (Canadian Army Medical Corps) and Medical Officer with the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division records on several postcards the events of 11 November 1918, his entry into Mons and the wonderful reception by the people of that city. He also writes how in the afternoon there was a big march past in front of General Currie and that it was a glorious day and very orderly. For in spite of everyone except those on duty having a holiday and the wine and beer being gratis, the men behaved themselves perfectly. He also commented how it was hard to realize that it was all over, and when one wakes up it seemed strange to think that never again will he listen to the ominous whine of a shell or on going to bed, not to be waked with the crash of the odd bomb. These are his words from 100 years ago;

Card 1

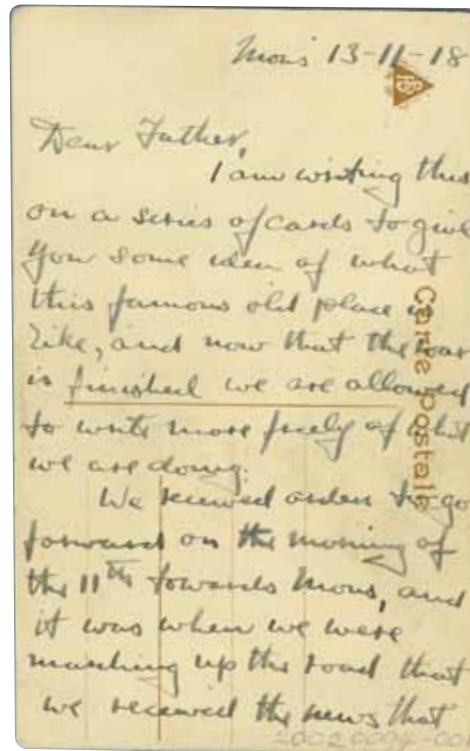
Mons 13-11-18

Dear Father,

I am writing this on a series of cards to give you some idea of what this famous old place is like, and now that the war is finished we are allowed to write more freely of what we are doing.

We received orders to go forward on the morning of the 11th towards Mons, and it is when we were marching up the road that we received the news that

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Postcard series from 20020094-001 George Metcalf Archival Collection



The Hôtel de Ville is still a major tourist attraction and was a busy place when photographed in the spring of 2018. W.E. Storey Collection



The Mons panorama is still much the same with the Belfroy du MÔns (on the left) and the Collégiale Saint-Waudru (right) still dominating the skyline. Google



Both L'Hôpital Civil and Le Station (under construction) have been redeveloped making modern comparisons impossible.



Card 2

the Armistice would start at 11.00 o'clock. So the Colonel and I rode on ahead with the groom to this place, it having been taken at 2.00 a.m. by our division.

We certainly received a wonderful reception, something that I should never forget, for as soon as we reached the outskirts the people were crowding about us, so that we could not even trot, throwing flowers on us, and in front of our horses on the road and crying 'Vive les Canadiennes'

Card 3

'Long live our deliverers'. It certainly was thrilling, but made one feel like a frightful hypocrite. All the houses were decked with Belgian and French flags and bunting, and people at every window. When we reached the square in front of the Town Hall, it was all packed with people, cheering, and singing and dancing. Everyone's wildest imagination could not have pictured a more stirring or glorious demonstration for the Day

Card 4

of Victory and Peace. I had hoped to be either in London or Paris on this day, but that could never compare with being in Mons, the place where Britain started and ended the war, and to think that our division had the honour of taking this place.

The bells in the Cathedral started to play the 'Marseillaise' and then the Belgian anthem first before 11.00, and then representative companies from the brigade which took this town, marched into the

Card 5

square with bands playing and colours flying. The Montreal Highlanders made a tremendous [impression on the] people, as they marched past the General, with the pipes screeching out the 'Cock o' the north'. Everyone seemed to go wild with excitement.



Cuthbert Robinson marched past with the detachment from the P.P.C.L.I. After the infantry came the guns and cavalry, the latter the 5th Royal Irish Lancers were here at this first battle.

Card 6

In the afternoon there was another March Past in front of Gen. Currie, who presented the Corps pennant to the City fathers. Every time the bands played either the Marseillaise or the Belgian Anthem, all people would sing at the top of their voices. It was a glorious day, and very orderly in spite of everyone except those on duty having a holiday and wine and beer being gratis the men behaved themselves perfectly.

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Le Square Saint-Germain et le Beffroi still retains its European charm. Google



Opposite Le Square Saint-Germain is L'Église Sainte-Waudru. Google

Card 7

As you can see from these cards this is a fine town, which although old is very clean and sanitary and has many modern buildings, needless to say we are living in the lap of luxury.

Now we are preparing for our triumphant march to the Rhine, that of course will be the glorious finale and after the winter we should be turning our faces towards home. As yet as you may imagine it is hard to realize that

Card 8

it is all over, and when one wakes up it seems strange to think that never again will we listen to the ominous whine of a shell or on going to bed, not to be waked whirring-crash of the odd bomb.

By the way the war Bonds that I bought will be sent to 22 Wellington St. W. - \$1550. in all, making up over \$2000.00. You should receive these soon, about New Years.

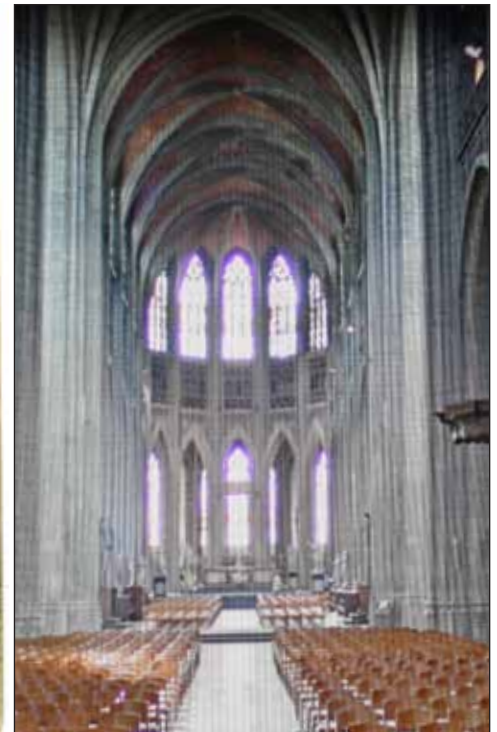
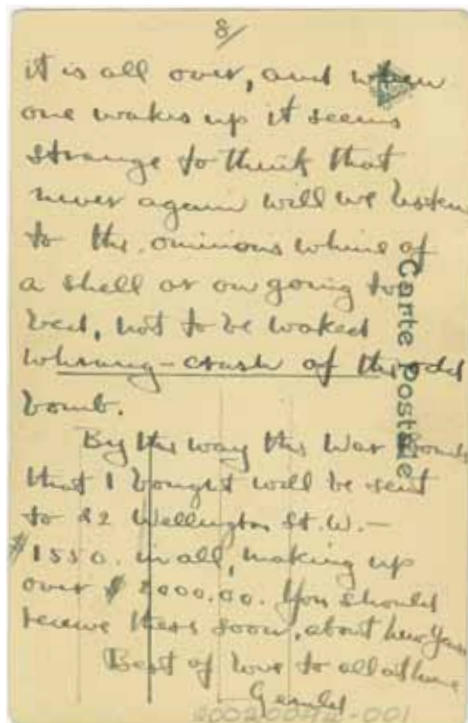
Best of love to all at home,
Gerald

Notes;

Waring Gerald Cosbie was born 29 January, 1894, in Toronto and died in Vancouver April 1987. As a young Physician he served prior to the First World War with the 10th Field Ambulance and C.O.T.C.(Canadian Officer



La Caserne du 2me Chasseurs à Cheval is unrecognizable and has been completely transformed into a judicial and theatre district with modern office buildings. Google



Newer seating marks the only noticeable change for the parishioners worshipping in Sainte-Waudru. Google

Training Corps), University of Ottawa, enlisting at Niagara in June 1915 as a 21 year-old Captain with the 58th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (9th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division). It was as the battalion Medical Officer that he sustained shell fragment wounds to the head, leg and side outside of Ypres on 31st May 1916 and after being evacuated spent nearly a month in the I.O.D.E. (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire) Red Cross Hospital for Officers at No. 1 Hyde Park Place, London. From London he was sent to Canada on two months rehabilitation leave and in August he returned to France where he served as a Medical Officer with 2nd Canadian Reserve Park. In November he was posted to 8th Canadian Field Ambulance and in January 1917 he was trans-

ferred to the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles (8th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division). Captain Cosbie was awarded the Military Cross in July and entered Mons with his division on 11 November 1918. He was discharged in April 1919 and after the war became a prominent surgeon in Toronto, teaching at the University of Toronto for almost 40 years. He continued to serve in the militia until 1946 as medical officer for the Royal Regiment of Canada achieving the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

The Montreal Highlanders were the 42nd Battalion (Royal Highlanders of Canada) who along with the P.P.C.L.I. (Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry) formed part of the 7th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion. This brigade was also comprised of the Royal Canadian Regiment and the 49th Battalion (Edmonton).

The 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers

can trace their lineage back to 1689 when the regiment was raised as James Wynne's Regiment of Dragoons. Eventually named the 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers in 1861, the regiment was with the British Expeditionary Force, sailing from Dublin to France as part of the 3rd Cavalry Brigade in the 2nd Cavalry Division in August 1914 for service on the Western Front where it saw action during the Battle of Mons in August 1914.

The 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers also has the grim honour of being the regiment of the last British soldier to die in the First World War. This was Private George Edwin Ellison from Leeds, who was killed by a sniper as the regiment advanced into Mons a short time before the armistice came into effect. Private Ellison is buried in St Symphorien Military Cemetery, the same cemetery which contains the graves of the first British sol-

dier (John Henry Parr, 4th Battalion (Duke of Cambridge's) Middlesex Regiment) and the last Canadian (George Lawrence Price (28th (Northwest) Battalion, 6th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Infantry Division) killed in the First World War.

The headstones for Ellison, Parr and Price found in St Symphorian Military Cemetery which is located south-east of Mons.

W.E. Storey Photographs



Memorial Plaque

Ed Storey

The Memorial Plaque was issued after the First World War to the next-of-kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war.

The plaques (which could be described as large plaquettes) about 4.75 inches (120 mm) in diameter, were cast in bronze, and came to be known as the “Dead Man’s Penny”, because of the similarity in appearance to the much smaller penny coin which itself had a diameter of only 1.215 inches (30.9 mm). 1,355,000 plaques were issued, which used a total of 450 tons of bronze, and continued to be issued into the 1930s to commemorate people who died as a consequence of the war.

It was decided that the design of the plaque, was to be chosen from submissions made in a public competition. Over 800 designs were submitted and the competition was

won by the sculptor and medallist Edward Carter Preston (1894-1965), founder of the Sandon Studies Society, Liberty Buildings, School Lane in Liverpool using the pseudonym “Pyramus”. He received two first place prizes of £250 for both his winning and an alternative design.

Carter Preston’s winning design includes an image of Britannia holding a trident and standing with a lion. The designer’s initials, E.C.R.P., appear above the front paw. In her outstretched left hand Britannia holds an olive wreath above the rectangular tablet bearing the deceased’s name cast in raised letters. Below the name tablet, to the right of the lion, is an oak spray with acorns. The name does not include the rank since there was to be no distinction between sacrifices made by different individuals. Two dolphins swim around Britannia, symbolizing Britain’s sea power, and at the bottom a second lion is tearing

apart the German eagle. The reverse is blank, making it a plaquette rather than a table medal. Around the picture the legend reads (in capitals) “He died for freedom and honour”, or for the six hundred plaques issued to commemorate women, “She died for freedom and honour”.

They were initially made at the Memorial Plaque Factory, 54/56 Church Road, Acton, W3, London from 1919. Early Acton-made plaques did not have a number stamped on them but later ones have a number stamped behind the lion’s back leg.

In December 1920 manufacture was shifted to the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. Plaques manufactured here can be identified by a circle containing the initials “WA” on the back (the “A” being formed by a bar between the two upward strokes of the “W”) and by a number stamped between the tail and leg (in place of the number stamped behind the lion’s back leg).



Memorial Plaque struck to commemorate the death of John Alexander Rasmussen. This Royal Arsenal, Woolwich (the WA enclosed in a circle can just be seen above the bottom row of scratches) manufactured plaque is missing the E.C.R.P. initials above the front paw but does have a number between the tail and rear leg. W.E. Storey Collection

The design was altered slightly during manufacture at Woolwich by Carter Preston since there was insufficient space in the original design between the lion's back paw and the H in "HE" to allow an "S" to be inserted to read "SHE" for the female plaques. The modification was to make the H slightly narrower to allow the S to be inserted. After around 1500 female plaques had been manufactured the moulds were modified to produce the male version by removing the S.

In October 1917 it was announced in *The Times* newspaper that the committee had decided also to issue a commemorative scroll to the next of kin in addition to the bronze plaque. The scroll would be printed on high quality paper, size 11 x 7 inches (27cm x 17cm). By January 1918 the wording on the scroll was being discussed and the accepted wording agreed by the committee was:

"He whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten." The text was to be printed in calligraphic script beneath the Royal Crest followed by the name of the commemorated serviceman giving his rank, name and regiment this time individually written in calligraphic script.

The production of the memorial scrolls was begun from January 1919, being printed from a wood block by artists at the London County Council Central School of Arts and Crafts.

The circular shape and coin-like appearance soon contributed to the nickname of this memorial plaque becoming widely known as the "Dead Man's Penny", the "Death

Penny", "Death Plaque" or "Widow's Penny". The plaque was sent out to relatives in an "On His Majesty's Service" white envelope with a printed "Official Paid" stamp. Inside this outer envelope there was another white envelope with the Royal Crest embossed on the reverse enclosing a letter with a copy of King George V's signature. The letter was written as follows:

Buckingham Palace

*I join my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War.
George R.I.*

Inside the outer envelope a cardboard envelope protected the bronze plaque.

Separately the scroll was sent to relatives inside a cardboard tube 7 1/4 inches (18.5cm) long. Due to the vast numbers of the plaques and scrolls being produced and sent out in some cases the scroll and plaque were received by the families some significant time apart.

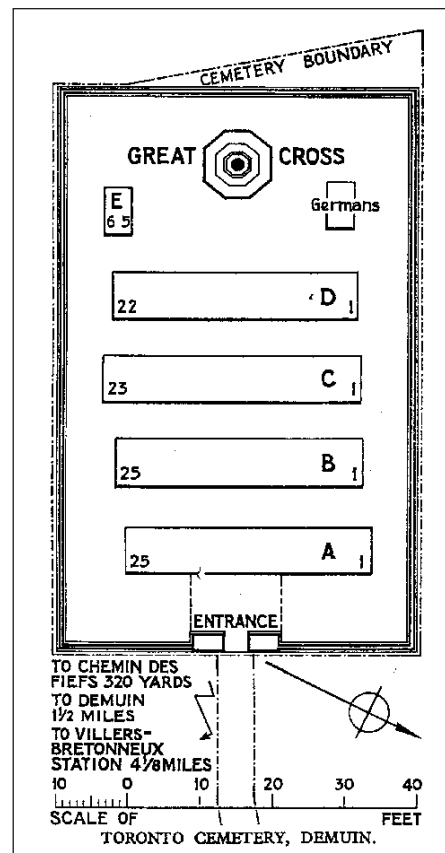
In some cases family historians cannot trace the location of the memorial plaque in their family and sadly it may likely be that the original plaque and scroll were received but over time have been lost or destroyed. It is not possible to request a replacement.

In accordance with the practice of the time, next of kin of the 306 British and Commonwealth military personnel who were executed following a Court Martial did not receive a memorial plaque.

1024432 John Alexander Rasmussen, 3rd Battalion (Central Ontario Regiment)(1st Canadian Infantry Brigade, 1st Canadian Infantry Division) from Wroxeter (60 km north of Stratford) is listed as only being 17 when he was killed on 8 August, 1918. He now lies buried in grave B. 16. Toronto Cemetery in the Department of the Somme in the valley of the Luce to the east of Domart is 2 km north of Demuin village, in the fields.

From his personal file we can read that John, a 5'9" tall Presbyterian, enlisted in the 234th Overseas "Peel" Battalion in Toronto on 8 November 1916 stating on his attestation paper

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**Toronto Cemetery Site Plan
Commonwealth War Graves
Commission and above, an Aerial
View of Toronto Cemetery Google**

that he was a single labourer born in New York City in October 1898; the son of Loren and Margaret Rasmussen. The 234th Battalion had begun recruiting in the spring of 1916 in Peel County and was based in Toronto.

After four months of basic training Private Rasmussen sailed with his battalion from Halifax on 18 April 1917 aboard the S.S. Scandinavian arriving in Liverpool at the end of the month. The S.S. Scandinavian was built in 1898 by Harland and Wolff in Belfast and in 1917 was being used to transport troops from Canada to Britain under the Liner Requisition Scheme. Following many years service performing multiple transatlantic crossings she was finally withdrawn from service in 1922 and in 1923 was broken up for scrap in Hamburg.

The day after landing at Liverpool, 30 April, 1917, the 234th Battalion was absorbed into the 12th Reserve Battalion which was providing reinforcements for the Canadian Corps in the field. More training ensued and seven months later on 21 December John was transferred to the 3rd Battalion, a fighting battalion serving in France and Flanders. The following day he was in France and in what must have been an eventful and exciting week for Private Rasmussen, he passed through to two Canadian reinforcement camps before joining his new battalion on 29 December.

John's medical record shows that he had measles while training in Toronto and just after landing in France, three bouts of influenza in February which the first time landed him in No. 2 Field Ambulance and the following two times in No. 23 Casualty Clearing Station.

His pay records show that from June 1918 onward Rasmussen assigned his \$25.00 a month Separation Allowance and his \$20.00 monthly Assigned Pay to his mother. This was customary as the money was sent home to family who could make better use of it rather

than in the pocket of an impressionable young soldier.

In accordance with Private Rasmussen's M.F.W. 82 Form of Will from March 1917 which named his Mother as his benefactor any medals and decorations, in this case the War and Victory Medals, his Memorial Plaque with accompanying Scroll and the Memorial Cross (small Can-

adian silver cross patonce awarded to a mother or widow) were all mailed to her. Some three years after John Alexander Rasmussen was killed in France, his Memorial Plaque was dispatched to Box 90, Wroxeter, Ontario on 31 October, 1921.



Headstone in the Wroxeter Cemetery and his name on the Wroxeter War Memorial.

John's military will which bequeathed everything to his Mother. Library and Archives Canada

Card from John's file which detailed where his medals and memorial items were to be sent. Library and Archives Canada


Letters to the Editor

Feedback is essential for any publication and I look forward to any comments, good or bad, about The Torch as this is an indicator if I am providing you with interesting content. I have heard from Friends Board members Louise Siew (in person) and Walt Conrad (on the telephone) on how much they enjoyed the August edition reading it from cover to cover. Another member of the Friends, Heather Macquarrie, e-mailed to say how much she enjoyed The Torch so I feel that I am on the right track with content.

I have also heard from Richard Johnston from Orillia, Ontario, he e-mailed saying:

Dear Ed, The recent edition of the Torch (August 2018) was really outstanding. I read every word plus enjoyed the photos. The "One Hundred Days" is a period of military history that many Canadians including myself are not well informed. Keep up the Great Work.

Following the publication of the May edition Dad sent me a couple of images of a plaque which marks the Canadian landing site at Pachino beach. These photographs were taken during his 2012 battlefield tour of Sicily and Italy.



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This 11 November 2018 is the century anniversary of the commemoration of the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front, the First World War. Colonel McCrae's celebrated poem, is presented in *English* and *Latin*.

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, and 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

In campus Flandriarum

In campus Flandriarum crescunt papavera,
Inter cruces in ordinem, quae sepulcra nosti designant.
Et in caelo alaudae adhuc aciter canentes volant,
Vix auditae in media armorum.
Mortui sumus. Ante brevibus diebus, in vita fuimus,
Aurora affecti sumus, crepuscula ardentia vidimus,
Amavimus et amati sumus.
Nunc in campus Flandriarum iacemus.
Proelium cum hostibus accipite.
De manibus invalidis facem vobis mittemus,
Ut eam tamquam vestri tollatis.
Si nobis morientibus fidem fallitis,
Quamquam in campus Flandriarum crescunt papavera,
Non requiescemus.

Captain Michael Lambert

Pauca verba de poema translato—A few words about the translated poem

It is asserted Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae's stirring words, as embodied in his mid-First World War poem, "*In Flanders Fields*," is the standard by which poems of *Remembrance* are measured.

Within a total of five sentences over three short stanzas, McCrae's words march forth as steady as the soldiers' foot-fall of left-right, left-right.

The year 2018 is the century of the cessation of hostilities. This year, by the congruence of month, day, and hour; this Sabbath *is* Remembrance Sunday.

The mud, over which McCrae's soldiers fought and died, is the same earth soldiers of Rome's Legions first marched in the year 57, Before Common Era.

To commemorate the hundredth year since 1918, and the link between the first foreign troops, Rome's Legions and latter day soldiers, the Canadian Expeditionary Force, *in Gallia Belgica*, in the Belgium country; McCrae's words have been translated into Latin.

We commence with the poem's title, *In campus Flandriarum*. Customarily, Latin place names are in the singular; and with every rule there is an exception. *Flandriarum*, Flanders is in the plural. *Campus*, meaning a flat or level plain on which a battle may be fought, was central to Rome's rule. The title commences with the preposition *In*. This little word, for two millennia, remains unchanged in spelling and nuance. The preposition's sense is accusa-



Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae

tory: In (the matter of) campus Flandriarum.

The poem's first stanza sets the scene. The scene is bleak. Only the alaudae, larks are present. On the ground, in ordinem, in serried rows are the papavera, poppies and cruces, crosses that mark not places but sepulcra, graves. The larks in caelo, in the sky, aciter canentes volant, fiercely singing fly are not Vix, hardly heard for the armorum, arms – the weapons – below.

Mortui sumus, We are the Dead, starkly opens the second stanza. In quick succession and measured beat, ante brevibus diebus, before short days ago, Aurora affecti sumus, Aurora, the goddess and herald of the morning and the new day, affected us and crepuscula ardentia vidimus, twilight glowing saw. The Dead express the poem's central point, Amavimus et amati sumus, We loved and were loved. The stanza's last sentence declares, Nunc in campus Flandriarum, Now in Flanders fields, iacemus, we lie.

The opening line of the third stanza is an imperative command, Proelium cum hostibus accipite, Take the battle to the enemies. De manibus invalidis, from infirmed hands the facem, the torch is passed. Si nobis morientibus, If our dying fidem falletis, you will deceive faith. The Dead now pose their proposition.

Quamquam in campus Flandriarum crescent papavera, Although poppies grow in Flanders fields, Non requiescemus, We will not re-rest. The ending verb is quiesco, I rest (in peace). Quiesco serves several mas-

ters. It refers to the second stanza's final verb, iacemus, we lie. If you have deceived the Dead by breaking fides, the Dead, will not re-rest, to achieve the poem's denouement, Non requiescemus.

Ultima verba—Final words

Sit tibi terra levis, “May the earth rest lightly on you,” was a popular Roman inscription on the tomb of a fallen Legionnaire. Our sentiment is, “Rest in Peace.”

Nota bene—Note well

- I. Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae's poem, *In Flanders Fields* is quoted in full from the anthology: Busby, Brian, editor. *In Flanders Fields and other Poems of the First World War*. Arcturus Publishing Limited, London. 2005. Canadian edition published by: Indigo Books, Toronto. 2005.
- II. Michael Eugene Lambert has asserted his moral right to be identified as the author of the work, *In campus Flandriarum*. 2018.
- III. Denis Brault, M.A., M. Ed., Professor of Latin and Ancient Greek, *La Fondation Humanitas pour les humanités Gréco-Latines au Québec*, Montreal, Canada. Professor Brault is thanked for his assistance, patience, and affirming Latin is a living language.

The Diary Entries of two Canadian Artillerymen, November 11th, 1918

Captain George A. Downey from Orillia, enlisted at the age of 21 in Guelph, Ontario on February 1st, 1916. He went into action in France on August 3rd, 1916. He served with the 35th (Howitzer) Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, was awarded a Military Cross for gallantry and Mentioned in Despatches. Downey's 35th (Howitzer) Battery in May/June 1916 was part of the 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery (CDA), 8th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery (CFA). In June 1917 it became part of the 3rd CDA 10th Brigade CFA.

His diary entry for November 11th, 1918 reads: *Got word 6.30 guns to be in action forward by 8 A.M. men left without breakfast (moi aussi) got to pos'n 7.10 (pretty quick) Maj & Wyllie went ahead, Gib followed with guns and Chas, Wilkie and I with amm'n wagons after we had loaded. message from Maj Durkee just as we were leaving to take W.L. and everything forward as Hun was beating it and our terms would be accepted by 11 O'C. I got permission from Maj. To take the wagons back and get mens kits forage etc. on them – men had breakfast, got all packed up, left 9.30 guns about 2½ K from Mons (09 a 6.8) – parked wagons at pos'n arrived 10.30. Word came in re celebration in Grande Place MONS 3.30. Got all our good*

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Roman Re-enactors

clothes on took 18 M.C.Os Gen. Currie spoke and we all marched past – civilians cheering etc. Doug and I spent a few hours around the town, CAFES crowded to doors. Noble and I had dinner at 31st “Artie” Doug, “Nippy” R.B. Geo. Loot and Knight. Got home 11.30 P.M. 3rd Div entered MONS 3 A.M. to-day.

(3rd took CAMBRAI and 4th VALENCIENNES). Nothing official that war is over but it looks very much like it. Very little excitement, seems to be taken as matter of course. Drizzling rain this P.M. We have fine billets CUESMES. PIERART family very fine people – can’t do enough for us, HELENE

and ALICE, former wonderful singer. Alice full of life. Gustav her fiancé also here.

Corporal Robert Colborne Miller 90085 from Montreal attested at Valcartier at the age of 20 on July 15th, 1915. He served with the 27th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery as a Signaller. He was wounded twice and was Mentioned in Despatches. Miller’s 27th Battery in May/June 1916 was part of the 2nd CDA 7th Brigade CFA, in March 1917 it became part of the 2nd CDA 4th Brigade CFA and finally in June 1917 it then became part of 4th CDA, 4th Brigade CFA.

His diary entry for November 11th, 1918 reads: *On parade the mor-*

ning our Colonel came and told us that an armistice had been declared and that our fighting was over. We were too dumb to even cheer, but it was a wonderful feeling to know that we were going home, at last. We were told we would not be going back for some time, as we would most likely have to do garrison work, but the main thing was the war being over. Tonight we are just commencing to realize it.

Information supplied by Allan Bacon from his upcoming book ‘The Corporal and the Captain: The First World War Diaries of Captain George Aloysius Downey M.C., R.C.A. and Corporal Robert Colborne Miller R.C.A.’



Captain Downey - right of photograph



Corporal Miller

Poppies

Inspired by John McCrae's iconic poem, the Poppy was adapted by many Commonwealth countries as the symbol of remembrance and in particular loss of life during military service. Poppies have long been used as a symbol of sleep, peace, and death; sleep because the opium extracted from them is a sedative and death because of the common blood-red color of the red poppy in par-

ticular. In Greek and Roman myths, poppies were used as offerings to the dead. Poppies have been used as emblems on tombstones symbolize eternal sleep. A second interpretation of poppies in classical mythology is that the bright scarlet color signifies a promise of resurrection after death.

The poppy of wartime remembrance is *Papaver rhoeas*, the red-flowered corn poppy. This poppy is a common weed in Europe and is found in many locations, including Flanders, which is the setting of the poem "In Flanders

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AR2010-0344-20 Poppies mounted on a Canadian helmet following a Remembrance day service held in Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2010. DND Photograph



Signed banners and flags were sent to acknowledge support for the Canadians serving in South-West Asia. Found hanging in every Canadian camp, they were a morale-booster. W.E. Storey Photograph



The Camp Mirage Memorial along with a selection of the original 2010 Poppies now permanently resides in the National Air Force Museum in Trenton, Ontario. W.E. Storey Photograph



IS2010-4044-39 Following the final service, Camp Mirage military personnel lay their Poppies and show their respects to fallen colleagues. DND Photograph



Schoolchildren learn about the significance of the Poppy during the week prior to Remembrance Day and are encouraged to make cards to send to the military. Their youthful sentiments are heartfelt and demonstrate that the meaning and importance of 11 November has been passed onto the next generation.

Fields". In Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, artificial poppies (plastic in Canada, paper in the UK, Australia, South Africa, Malta and New Zealand) are worn to commemorate those who died while on military service. In Canada, Australia and the UK, poppies are often worn from the beginning of November through to the 11th, or Remembrance Sunday if that falls on a later date. In New Zealand and Australia, soldiers are also commemorated with Poppies on ANZAC day (April 25) and in Newfoundland and Labrador to commemorate the losses incurred by The Newfoundland Regiment at Beaumont-Hamel (July 1). Wearing of poppies has been a custom since 1924 in the United States especially on Memorial Day in May.

The American Legion Family called upon Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day as National Poppy Day. This inaugural day was Friday, May 26, 2017. National Poppy Day broadens a tradition that dates back to the American Legion Auxiliary's first National Convention in the early 1920s when the red poppy was adopted as The American Legion Family's memorial flower.

Canada issued special 25-cent coins with a red poppy on the reverse in 2004, 2008 and 2010. The 2004 Canadian "poppy" quarter was the world's first colored circulation coin.

Donations

July 1, 2018 through September 10, 2018

Mr. Joseph Gambin Ms. Mea Renahan

In Memoriam Donations

Mr. William Abbott, in memory of
Russel Morey

Mr. Larry Capstick, in memory of
Capt Claude McKenny, RCR retired

Dr. Jack Granatstein, in memory of
Evelyn Waddell, RCAF, WW2

Mr. Malcom Mate, in memory of
Sgt. Julius Mate,
Seaforth Highlanders of Canada

Ms. Lori Parent, in memory of
Mr. Robert Parent

New Friends

M. Gilles Clairoux Mr. Al Kowalenko

Deceased Friends

Mr. Frank C. Finnie S/L W. Gordon Johnston
Mrs. Joan A. Voller

1917 FWD Model B Restoration

By Dan Guthier

With the restoration of the Second World War vintage Fordson canteen van finished, I was asked by Jim Whitham at the end of 2013 to start planning the resurrection of the 1917 Four Wheel Drive Company (FWD) Model B, 3 ton First World War truck. This was a bitter sweet request because I was going to assist fellow volunteer, Ken Goodbody in the restoration but sadly he passed away earlier that year. I took on the project where Ken left off by gathering all the information I could find on the internet over the Christmas break. In the New Year I started to take inventory of the parts that had been assembled by the former owner and to my pleasant surprise the truck was about 90% complete. There were a number of things that needed to be fixed, replaced or fabricated. I was able to do a mock up of the truck even before Mike Miller the restoration shop manager was able to provide a manual on the vehicle. As I was doing that, fellow volunteer Neil Johnstone tediously began sandblasting the smaller parts even down to nuts and bolts.

Later that year my son Ben Guthier joined the restoration shop as a volunteer and he proved to be a great help in piecing the truck back together. He would be joined later by Al Peterson, Rob Taylor, Larry Price and John Dewell. Each of these individuals would assist me over the next 5 years to bring the FWD back to life. It garnered national exposure in July 2014 when CTV's Canada AM broadcast a story on the vehicle to help commemorate the beginning of the Great War. At that time, it was just a bare chassis with the left front wheel and axle off as at the time the front differential was being fixed.

Early in 2015 with the axle and wheel back on the truck, the frame and body panels were sent out for media blasting and sealed with primer. While that was happening, attention turned to the engine and drivetrain. Originally the motor was to be sent out to an individual who was experienced at rebuilding vintage engines. Again, sadly, this person fell ill and could not do it. With the help of Larry Price and the coaching of Mr. Miller and volun-

teer Louis Mercier we rebuilt it in the CWM shop. The transmission and transfer case, which are one piece, needed to be flushed but proved to be in great condition. The only issue was that the two cover plates were missing and needed to be fabricated as they had originally been purchased with the truck but were misplaced prior to starting the project.

With the chassis returned, contract worker Derek Brousseau started to reassemble and paint it as the volunteer team worked on other components such as the steering column, suspension and steering wheel. Mike Miller fabricated and John Dewell skillfully finished the distinctive wooden steering wheel, along with the leather seat, the kerosene driving lights and the brass FWD badge. Derek would also be contracted to make the wooden bed and box with which Canadian issue trucks were supplied with.

The engine was set in place in September 2016 and the cab mounted over it. As the project was nearing completion the team had

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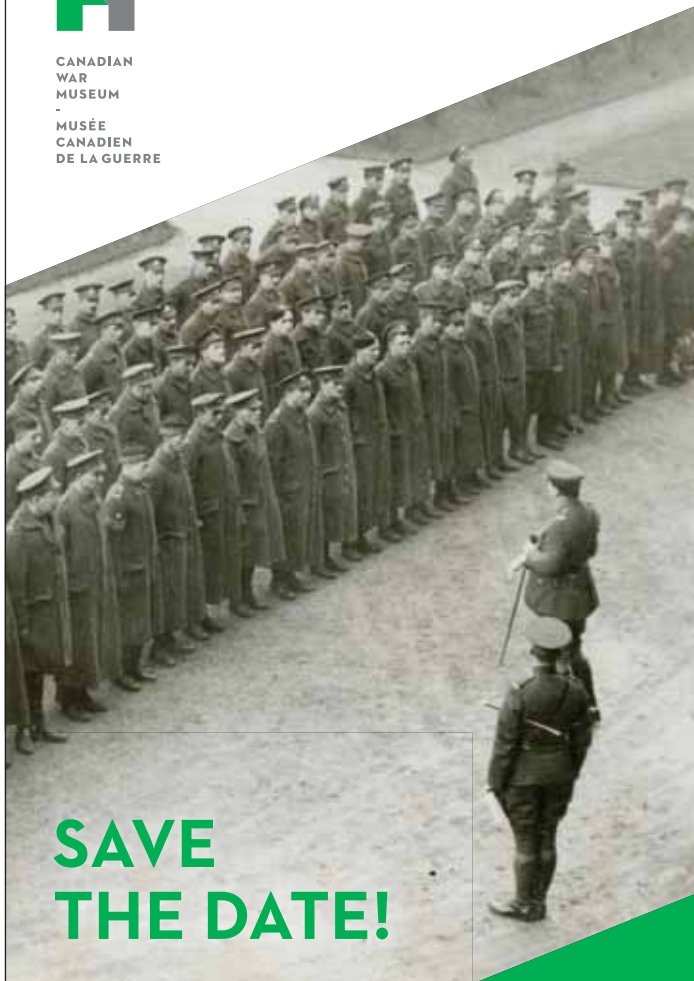
Dan and Ben Guthier on Canada AM early in the restoration process.



The FWD was unveiled to the public in September 2018.



CANADIAN
WAR
MUSEUM
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MUSÉE
CANADIEN
DE LA GUERRE



SAVE
THE DATE!

CONFERENCE

CANADA 1919: A COUNTRY SHAPED BY WAR

Thursday, January 17 to Saturday, January 19, 2019

The Canadian War Museum will be hosting a bilingual academic conference in January 2019. Planned in conjunction with the exhibition **Victory 1918 - The Last 100 Days** and in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, it will feature international and Canadian historians, including Margaret MacMillan, Michael Neiberg, Catriona Pennell, J. L. Granatstein, David Bercuson and Tim Cook. The speakers will explore a wide range of topics, including the return of Indigenous veterans, the war's impact on French Canada, nurses' contributions during the war, and the many legacies of the First World War.

Visit warmuseum.ca/canada1919 for more information.

Canada

to overcome setbacks and waited for various parts and things to be fixed. The "new" front planetary differential gear was slightly different from the original one so the two front axles had to be sent out to a machine shop to be modified. When we were dry fitting the wet clutch assembly the back plate was damaged so it had to be sent out to be repaired by a very skilled welder who during the repair process would not warp the plate. All of these issues, plus a few others, took the team through 2017 and into 2018 when we finally were able to start reassembling the vehicle. We were even able to crank the engine over and it chugged to life for a moment even with the wrong size carburetor. Volunteer Doug Knight located the front lights which gave the FWD its personality and he also assisted in the research of the truck's background.

The newly restored FWD was first shown to the public as a static display vehicle at the War Machines outdoor demonstration on the Labor Day weekend at the museum. It is a great piece to add to collection to which I was glad to be a part of the restoration with a great team of dedicated volunteers supported by Mike Miller. I would like to thank Al Peterson for assisting me through the project with his patience and helpful hands. As well, Rob Taylor kept the tools and the smaller assemblies in order. Thanks as well to Louis and Gabe for their input and wisdom. Finally, Brian Earl, my father-in-law who helped out in various ways but mostly for his encouragement as I took on the project.

Editor's Comments

How fast time flies, here it is the 'dog days' of summer and I am in the midst of assembling the November edition of The Torch with the neighbor's lawn mower roaring and the sun beaming through the window. The theme of this edition is remembrance and specifically the centennial marking the end of the First World War. For me November 11 has always meant two things, Remembrance Day and my Father's birthday.

Remembrance Day has always been a solemn day for the military consisting of a parade to honour and remember those who had given their lives in the service of Canada followed by a gathering in the mess and in the past three decades I have seen this day regain its public acceptance. I have participated on many parades in Canada as well as on my deployments to The Former Yugoslavia and Kuwait and I well remember the 1980s when public attendance to the parade held at the National War Memorial was a fraction of what it is today. There were six Canadians killed (mostly road accidents) during my 12-month UN tour in The Former Yugoslavia and at that time during the early 1990s they returned home with little media coverage, no ramp ceremonies or a cortège along a 'Highway of Heroes'. Sadly it took a war in

Afghanistan and 159 fatal casualties to reignite public interest in remembrance and I think this was in part sparked by media coverage of the emotional ramp ceremonies held both in-theatre and at CFB Trenton. The cost being incurred in Afghanistan certainly struck home for me in July 2009 when on my second day in Camp Mirage I attended a ramp ceremony and this was followed a few days later by another in Kandahar.

This year is especially poignant as we look back 100 years but we should remember that Canadians were still on combat missions long after November 1918. The Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force (CSEF) was authorized in August 1918 and consisted of two infantry battalions (259th and 260th), B Squadron, Royal Northwest Mounted Police along with the required supporting arms. The Canadians were sent from Canada to Vladivostok, Russia, during the Russian Revolution as part of an international force (commanded by Japan) to bolster the Allied presence, oppose the Bolshevik revolution and attempt to keep Russia in the fighting against Germany. Even though most Canadians remained in Vladivostok, undertaking routine policing duties in the volatile port city, by the time the Canadians sailed home in June 1919 there were 14 men buried in the Churkin Naval Cemetery which has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission site.

In September 1918 the 16th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade comprised of the 67th and 68th Batteries was sent to Archangel, North Russia from England as part of a larger Allied North Russian Expeditionary Force (NREF) (lead by the British) to intervene on the side of the White Russians during the Russian Civil War. The Canadians ended up stationed in the woods near

Shenkursk, the second largest town in the region and 400 km from Archangel. Unlike the CSEF, the NREF saw combat against the Bolsheviks with Canadian Gunners thick in the action so by the time they left in June 1919; three artillerymen lay buried in the Archangel Military Cemetery.

11 November is also my Father's birthday and last year we paraded for the first time together at the National War Memorial in Ottawa for his 80th. Dad was the youngest of four siblings; his oldest brother was in the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps and served in Northwest Europe with the 4th Canadian Armoured Division. He remained in northern Germany as part of the Occupation Force returning home in 1946. His other brother was in the Royal Canadian Engineers and deployed to Korea as part of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade in 1951 returning home a year later. Sadly both have now passed away. Dad joined the Royal Canadian Engineers in 1954 and by 1956 was a teenager serving in northern Germany with the 27th Infantry Brigade. Dad's 28-year career included parachute training in the late

1960s, a return three-year NATO tour back to southern Germany in the early 1970s followed shortly thereafter with a six-month UN Cyprus tour in the mid-1970s. CWO E.R. Storey, MMM, CD was the first Canadian Military Engineer Branch Chief Warrant Officer and retired in 1982.

Producing *The Torch* is truly a team effort and I would like to give credit to Ruth Kirkpatrick who takes all of the assorted files I send her and magically turns everything into a visually pleasing and readable document. MJ Tremblay is also key to the process as she looks after the translation and recently saved a delivery timeline by providing a quick turn-around for translated articles. Thank you to both ladies for having my back.

We have some exciting content in this edition with Dr. Robert Engen returning and providing us with our lead story "What we leave behind: war memory in Canada and the Commonwealth". Allan Bacon is also back, this time with 11 November 1918 diary entries from two Canadian gunners. Michael Lambert has generously allowed us to publish his Latin translation with descriptive notes for "In Flanders Fields" and I think you will agree with me that his meticulous work adds an interesting perspective to the well-known poem. Dan Guther, a volunteer with the CWM, has provided us with a report on the 1917 FWD Model B restoration and I look forward to publishing future articles from the museum. I am always looking for *Torch* content so if you think you have something to contribute please do not hesitate to contact me as the February 2019 edition will focus on the Cold War.

On this centennial marking the end of the First World War please take a minute to reflect on the fallen as well as those who served and continue to serve this country in uniform. Lest We Forget.



Howard, Earl and Ralph Storey photographed in their respective uniforms following Earl's return from Korea.

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postwar focus of national commemoration. Identical S.A. war memorials were erected in Delville Wood, Cape Town, and Pretoria. The sacrifices of Delville Wood made a useful rallying point for national unity for the party of Jan Smuts which wanted to reconcile English and Afrikaners. But in 1948 an Afrikaner nationalist movement won control of the SA government, and for forty years the legacy of the First World War was sidelined, in favour of commemorating the Afrikaner historical experience. In 1952, the nationalist government installed a Voortrekker Cross – a symbol of Afrikaner nationalism – at the Delville Wood site in France, to supersede the original intention of the monument. The memory of Delville Wood was mobilized again at the height of apartheid, in 1986, when the isolated and embattled nationalist government built a grand commemorative museum at Delville Wood to try to rekindle the spirit of unity amongst the country's white populations at a time of crisis and turmoil. And in the post-apartheid era, Delville Wood is being rebranded to focus on "all South Africans," particularly black and coloured South Africans. In a country now struggling to reconcile its racial tensions, South

Africa is unlikely to ever again look to Delville Wood as a symbol of national identity. It does not represent where or what South Africa is any longer.

The former British dominions have little awareness of one another.

As the Great War centenary commemorations draw to a close, it is worth contemplating what it is we are remembering, and how it intersects and diverges from the memories of our cousin-nations.



The imposing Vimy Memorial as photographed by the Canadian Army following its liberation from the German Army in September 1944. There was a fear that the memorial may have been destroyed by the Germans after they overran the site in 1940. Hitler visited the site on 2 June, 1940 and apparently it was his favorite, thus sparing the monument, as it was a memorial to peace and not a celebration of victory over the Germans. ZK-1076-2 Library and Archives Canada

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