

10 THINGS ABOUT POPPIES

Today, the poppy is seen as a symbol of collective reminiscence to honour those who have died in battle

The ancient Greeks associated poppies with Hypnos, the god of sleep, as well as Morpheus, the god of dreams (morphine actually gets its name from him).

The Royal Canadian Legion distributed 18 million poppies last year – one for every two Canadians.

Poppies are in full bloom late spring to early summer

One species of poppy, *Papaver somniferum* (or opium poppy), is the source of edible poppy seeds as well as the drugs morphine, codeine and heroin

Remembrance Day poppies are *Papaver rhoeas*, or red-flowered corn poppies.

There are at least **100** species of poppies

Some poppies have flower diameters as large as 15 cm (6 in.)

The poppy was widespread in Europe after soils in France and Belgium became rich in lime from rubble during the First World War. The flowers also flourished around the gravesites of the war dead.

Some poppies can grow over 1.2 m (4 ft.) tall



CAN YOU FIND IT? Somewhere on this page we've hidden 12 Where are they?

■ BRAVERY: Young lieutenant bluffed the enemy

Charles Rutherford, VC was a hero of The Great War

The following article appeared on the Northumberland Today website in 2009.

It has been more than 90 years since Charles Rutherford, the namesake of the Colborne Legion, received his Victoria Cross for bravery in action during World War II.

Charles Rutherford began service as a sergeant. He was awarded his Cross for his role while a 26-year-old lieutenant in command of an assaulting party Aug. 26, 1918 near Monchy-le-Preux in northern France. He later earned the MC at Arvillers Aug. 8, 1918 and the MM at Passchendaele in 1917.

While in command of an assault party, Lt. Rutherford found himself a considerable distance ahead of his men, and at the same

moment observed a fully armed strong enemy party outside a pill box ahead of him. He beckoned to the Germans with his revolver to come to him. In return, they waved to him to come to them. This he boldly did, and informed them they were prisoners. This fact was disputed by an enemy officer who invited Lt. Rutherford to enter the pill box. He declined.

Lt. Rutherford's bluff persuaded the enemy that they were surrounded, and the whole party of 45, including two officers and three machine guns, surrendered.

Subsequently, he induced the enemy officer to stop the fire of an enemy machine-gun close by, and Lt. Rutherford took advantage of the opportunity to hasten the advance of his men to his support. Lt. Rutherford then observed

that the right assaulting party was held up by heavy machine-gun fire from another pill box.

Indicating an objective to the remainder of his party, he attacked the pill box with a Lewis gun section and captured a further 35 prisoners with machine guns, thus enabling the party to continue their advance.

Charles Rutherford was the last surviving Canadian holder of the Victoria Cross from WWI. He was also awarded the Military Medal and Military Cross for other actions during the First War. He died at Ottawa on June 11, 1989 at age 97 and is buried in Union Cemetery in Colborne.

The pistol he used in the attack is now on display at the Royal Canadian Military Institute Museum in Toronto.

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