

JOHN McCRAE

November 30, 1872 - January 28, 1918

Lt.-Col. John Alexander McCrae (November 30, 1872 - January 28, 1918) was a Canadian poet, physician, author, artist and soldier during the First World War and a surgeon during the Second Battle of Ypres. He is best known for writing the famous war memorial poem *In Flanders Fields*.

1849 McCrae's grandparents, Thomas and Jean, immigrated to Canada from Scotland.

1872 McCrae was born in Guelph, Ont. He was one of three sons.

1886 Joined the Highland Cadet Corps, which was affiliated with his school, Guelph Collegiate.

1887 Became a bugler in the local militia regiment commanded by his father. He later joined this same regiment as a gunner.

1888 McCrae earned a scholarship to the University of Toronto.

1892-93 Took a year off from school due to problems with asthma. While at university, McCrae maintained his military ties with the No. 2 Battery in Guelph and was promoted several times, finally making the rank of lieutenant. At the same time, he was also involved with a Toronto militia, the Queen's Own Rifles, in which he rose to the rank of captain and commanded the company. McCrae had a number of poems and short stories published while in university.

1894 Graduated at the top of his class in medicine at the University of Toronto.

1899 Was awarded a fellowship in pathology to McGill University in Montreal. But he put off accepting the fellowship to go to South Africa during the Boer War.

1901 John took up his fellowship, which he completed in 1905.

1905 Set up his own practice as a pathologist.

1914 Enlisted as soon as Canada entered the First World War; was appointed brigade-surgeon to the First Brigade of the Canadian Forces Artillery with the rank of major and second-in-command.

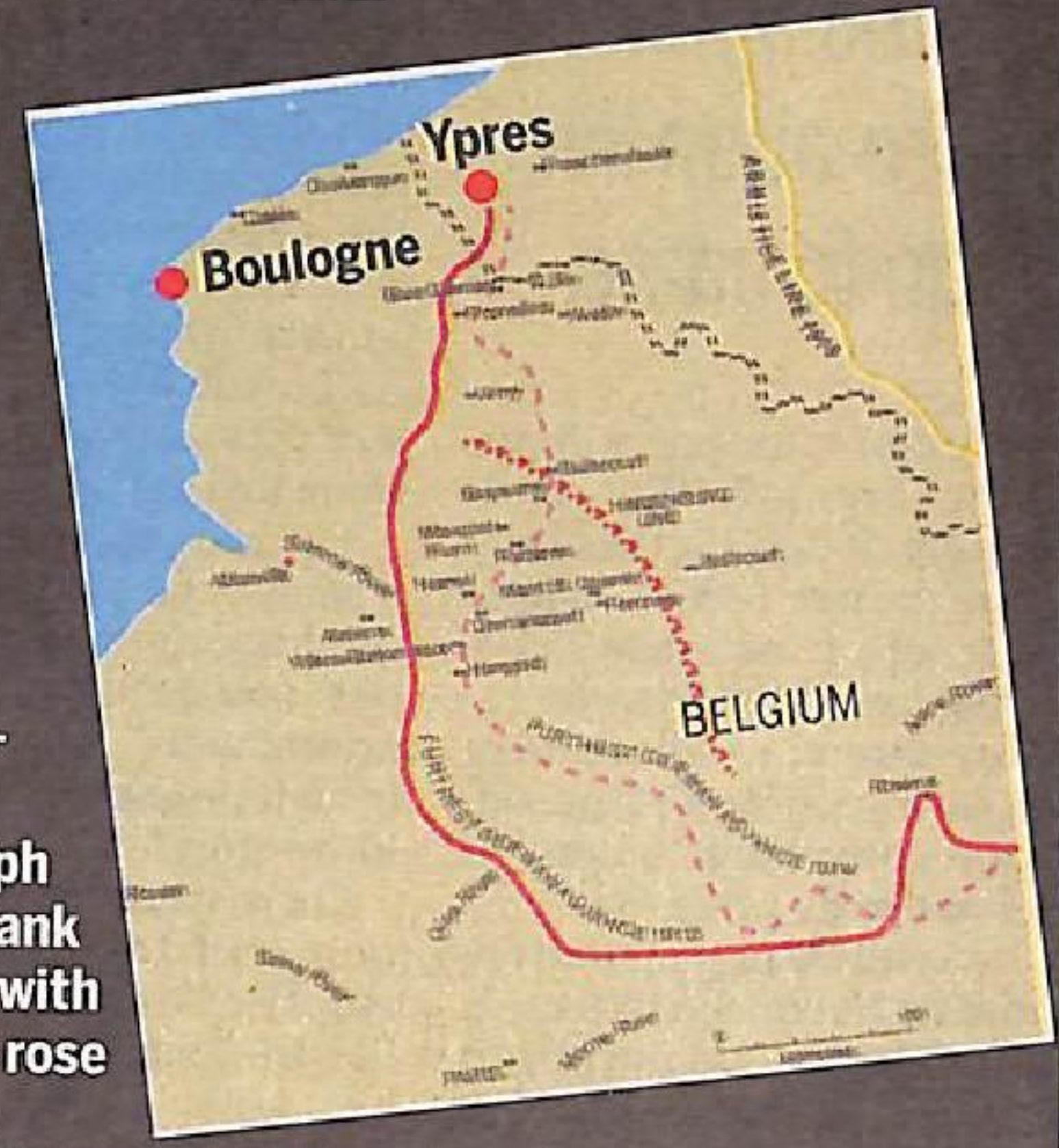
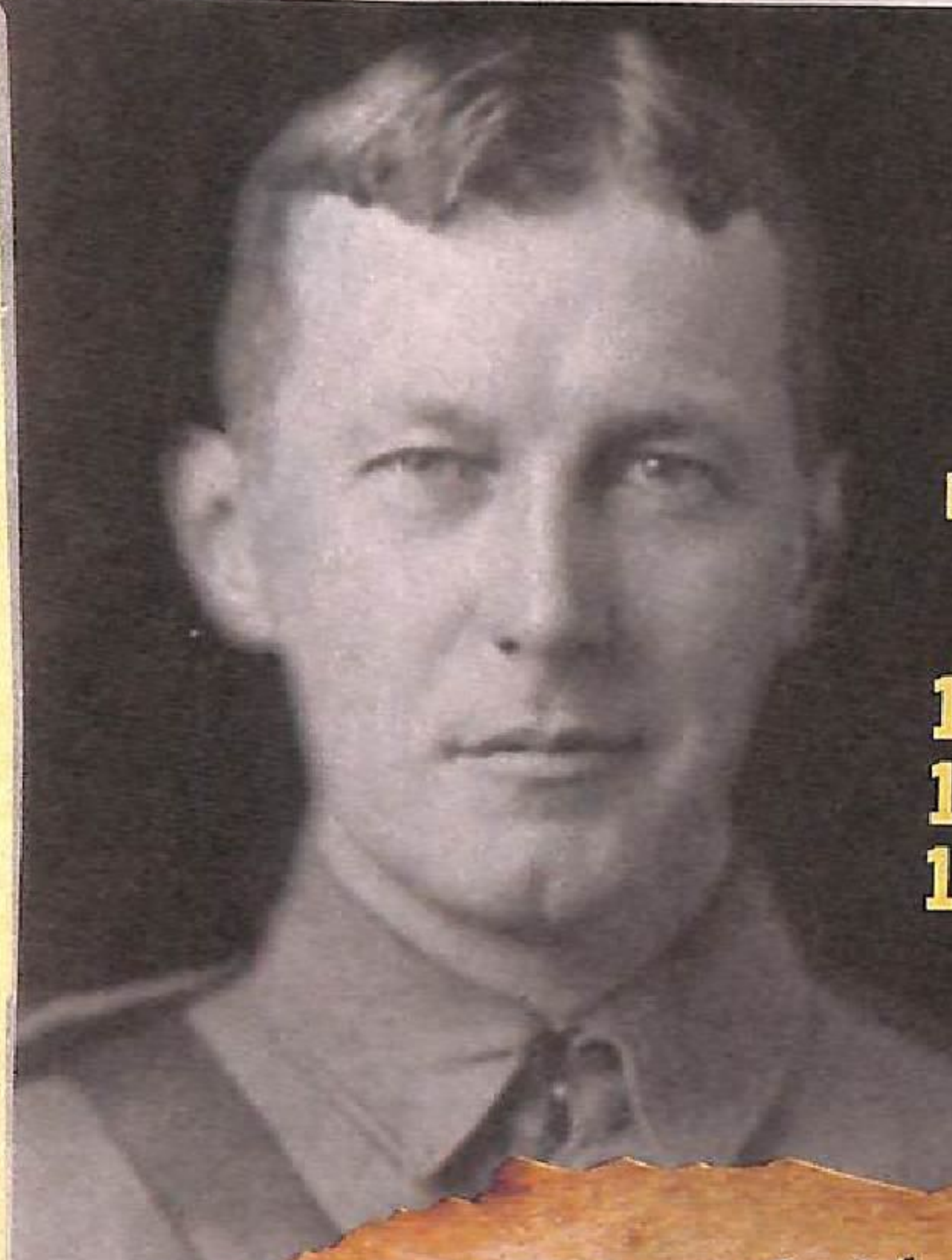
1915 (May 13); wrote the poem *In Flanders Fields* during the second Battle of Ypres; the poem was first published in *Punch* that same year. That summer he transferred to Number 3 Canadian General Hospital in Dannes-Cammiers, France, as Chief of Medical Services.

1916 The hospital was moved to Boulogne.

1918 Contracted pneumonia, which was complicated by meningitis.

McCrae died on Jan. 28, 1918.

SUSAN BATSFORD, GRAPHICS EDITOR, TWITTER@SBATS1; QMI AGENCY



In Flanders Fields
By John McCrae

*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.*



Colborne Art Gallery hosts bright and beautiful exhibit

NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS NOV 13/14

Festive art exhibit
on until Dec. 21;
meet the artists at
opening reception
on Nov. 15

urday, Nov. 15 from 2 to 4 p.m., offers a chance to meet some of the artists, sample homemade treats, sip holiday punch, and purchase art.

The gallery is located at 51 King St., Colborne and is open Thursdays to Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

For more information, visit www.thecolborneartgallery.ca for more information.

COLBORNE -- A festive art tradition returns to Colborne this month.

From Nov. 15 to Dec. 21, members of Colborne Art Gallery will be hosting their annual exhibit and sale of unique art, All Things Bright and Beautiful.

The art gallery will be decked out for the season.

The opening reception, on Sat-

COLBORNE -- Colborne Art Gallery members set up for their annual show All Things Bright and Beautiful, an exhibit and sale running from Nov. 15 to Dec. 21.

Submitted photo

