

Remembering What Was Lost

What about the poppies?



One of the unifying symbols of Remembrance Day is the poppy that is worn to honor lost soldiers. The bold, red color of the flower has become an enduring symbol of those who died so that others may be free.

The poppy became a symbol for a specific reason. Some of the most concentrated and bloody fighting of World War I took place in Flanders, a region in western Belgium. As a result of the fighting, most signs of natural life had been obliterated from the region, leaving behind mud and not much else. The only living thing to survive was the poppy flower, which bloomed with the coming of the warm weather the year after fighting in the region had ceased. Poppies grow in disturbed soil and can lie dormant in the ground without germinating.

Without the war, they may have never come to the surface.

John McCrae, a doctor serving with the Canadian Armed Forces, was moved by the vision of poppies flowering in Flanders and wrote a poem titled "In Flanders Fields." After the poem was published, it received international acclaim, and the poppy became a popular symbol of those lost in battle.

Men traditionally wear the poppy on the left side of the chest, where a military medal would be placed. Women wear it on the right side because that is where a widow would wear her husband's med-

Remembrance Day is celebrated every year, providing people humbled by the sacrifices of soldiers an opportunity to remember those soldiers' efforts to secure freedom.









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At the going down of the sun And in the morning We will remember them We will remember them

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For the Fallen

'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them."