



Lest We Forget



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, 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.*

- John McCrae



Reply to Flanders Fields

*Oh! sleep in peace where poppies grow;
The torch your falling hands let go
Was caught by us, again held high,
A beacon light in Flanders sky
That dims the stars to those below.
You are our dead, you held the foe,
And ere the poppies cease to blow,
We'll prove our faith in you who lie
In Flanders Fields.*

*Oh! rest in peace, we quickly go
To you who bravely died, and know
In other fields was heard the cry,
For freedom's cause, of you who lie,
So still asleep where poppies grow,
In Flanders Fields.*



World War I: 1914 - 1918

1. 628,736 Canadians served.
2. 66,573 died and 138,166 were wounded.
3. 2,818 were taken prisoner of war.
4. 175 merchant seamen died by enemy action.

World War II: 1939 - 1945

1. 1,031,902 Canadian men and 49,963 Canadian women served.
2. 44,927 died and 43,145 were wounded.
3. 8,271 were taken prisoner of war.
4. 1,146 merchant seamen died by enemy action.

Korea: 1950 - 1953

1. 26,791 Canadians served.
2. 516 died and 1,558 were wounded.
3. 33 were taken prisoner of war.

The Gulf War: 1990 - 1991

1. 3,837 Canadian men and 237 Canadian women served.
2. There were no Canadian casualties or prisoners of war during the Gulf War.

The War on Terrorism: Afghanistan
2001 - Present

These figures are inconclusive and only effective to the date 31 Oct 2007.

1. Over 7,000 Canadians have served.
2. 72 have been killed/died (27 in 2007) and an estimated 368 wounded or injured.





*As in rumbling sound, to and fro,
The lightning flashes, sky aglow,
The mighty hosts appear, and high
Above the din of battle cry,
Scarce heard amidst the guns below,
Are fearless hearts who fight the foe,
And guard the place where poppies grow.
Oh! sleep in peace, all you who lie
In Flanders Fields.*

*And still the poppies gently blow,
Between the crosses, row on row.
The larks, still bravely soaring high,
Are singing now their lullaby
To you who sleep where poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.*

- John Mitchell

Every November 11th, Canadians across the country pause in a silent moment of remembrance for the men and women who served our country during wartime. We honour those who fought for Canada - in the First World War (1914-1918), the Second World War (1939-1945) and the Korean War (1950-1953). More than 1,500,000 Canadians served overseas - more than 100,000 die, 45,000 in WWII alone. They gave their lives and their future so that we may live in peace.

Let Us
Remember
Them





PLEASE WEAR A POPPY



*"Please wear a poppy," the lady said
And held one forth, but I shook my head.
Then I stopped and watched as she offered them there,
And her face was old and lined with care;
But beneath the scars the years had made
There remained a smile that refused to fade.*



*A boy came whistling down the street,
Bouncing along on care-free feet.
His smile was full of joy and fun,
"Lady," said he, "may I have one?"
When she's pinned in on he turned to say,
"Why do we wear a poppy today?"*

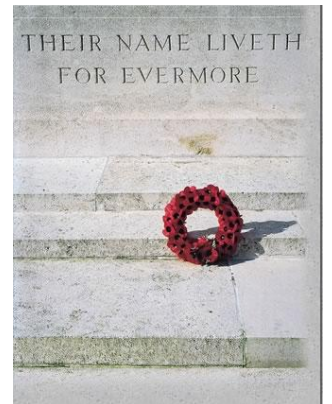
*The lady smiled in her wistful way
And answered, "This is Remembrance Day,
And the poppy there is the symbol for
The gallant men who died in war.
And because they did, you and I are free -
That's why we wear a poppy, you see.*

*"I had a boy about your size,
With golden hair and big blue eyes.
He loved to play and jump and shout,
Free as a bird he would race about.
As the years went by he learned and grew
and became a man - as you will, too.*

*"He was fine and strong, with a boyish smile,
But he'd seemed with us such a little while
When war broke out and he went away.
I still remember his face that day
When he smiled at me and said, Goodbye,
I'll be back soon, Mom, so please don't cry.*

*"But the war went on and he had to stay,
And all I could do was wait and pray.
His letters told of the awful fight,
(I can see it still in my dreams at night),
With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire,
And the mines and bullets, the bombs and fire.*

*"Till at last, at last, the war was won-
And that's why we wear a poppy son."
The small boy turned as if to go,*



*Then said, "Thanks, lady, I'm glad to know.
That sure did sound like an awful fight,
But your son - did he come back all right?"*

*A tear rolled down each faded cheek;
She shook her head, but didn't speak.
I slunk away in a sort of shame,
And if you were me you'd have done the same;
For our thanks, in giving, if oft delayed,
Thought our freedom was bought - and thousands paid!*

*And so when we see a poppy worn,
Let us reflect on the burden borne,
By those who gave their very all
When asked to answer their country's call
That we at home in peace might live.
Then wear a poppy! Remember - and give!*

by Don Crawford



Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping



**Canadians who gave their lives in the cause of peace
while serving with United Nations Peacekeeping Missions**

1. A/BGen H.H. Angle, DSO, ED, RCAC, UNMOGIP, 17 Jul 1950
2. Spr R.H. Vézina, RCE, UNEF I, 09 Mar 1957
3. Lt C.C. Van Straubensee, RCAC, UNEF I, 10 May 1957
4. Cpl K.E. Pennell, RC Sigs, UNEF I, 15 Sep 1957
5. Pte B.O. Adams, RCASC, UNEF I, 20 Sep 1957
6. Sgt I.L. Stark, RCE, UNEF I, 27 Sep 1957
7. Tpr R.E. McDavid, RCAC, UNEF I, 29 Nov 1957
8. Pte I.A. Sawyer, RCASC, UNEF I, 22 Apr 1958
9. Sig N.E. Mason, RC Sigs, UNEF I, 15 Mar 1958
10. LCol G.A. Flint, CD, PPCLI, UNTSO, 26 May 1958
11. Cpl J.T. Roberts, RCASC, UNEF I, 10 Jun 1958
12. Cpl G.S. Porter, C Pro C, UNEF I, 23 Apr 1959

13. Maj H. Morewood, CD, RCOC, UNEF I, 26 Jul 1959
14. Tpr R.H. Allan, RCAC, UNEF I, 28 Nov 1959
15. Pte A.T. Hurst, RCASC, UNEF I, 04 Feb 1960
16. Cpl G.A. Gauthier, RCASC, UNEF I, 20 Feb 1960
17. Tpr R.J. Wiley, RCAC, UNEF I, 07 Sep 1961
18. Sgt R.H. Moore, CD, RC Sigs, ONUC, 06 Oct 1961
19. Cpl J.M. Albert, RCEME, UNEF I, 19 Nov 1961
20. Cfn D.S. Roster, RCEME, UNEF I, 19 Nov 1961
21. Cpl E. Olivier, RC Sigs, UNEF I, 09 Dec 1961
22. S/Sgt J.P. Marquis, CD, RCOC, ONUC, 06 Feb 1962
23. Spr G.G. Thompson, RCE, UNEF I, 18 May 1962
24. Cpl E.G. Groom, RCOC, UNEF I, 02 Oct 1963
25. W/C E.D. Harper, DFC, CD, RCAF, UNEF I, 02 Nov 1963
26. Sgt J.K. Hermann, RCAF, UNEF I, 26 Dec 1963
27. Pte L.R. Morin, CPC, UNEF I, 29 May 1964
28. Tpr J.H. Campbell, RCAC, UNFICYP, 31 Jul 1964
29. Tpr A.A. Bons, RCAC, UNEF I, 27 Nov 1964
30. Cpl P.R. Wallace, RCAC, UNEF I, 27 Nov 1964
31. Lt K.E. Edmonds, CD, C Int C, UNFICYP, 25 Dec 1964
32. Rfn P.J. Hoare, 1 QOR of C, UNFICYP, 14 Aug 1965
33. Sgt J.S. Byrne, CD, RCASC, ICSC, 18 Oct 1965
34. Cpl V.J. Perkin, RHC, ICSC, 18 Oct 1965
35. Gdn J.J.P. Chartier, 2 Cdn Gds, UNFICYP, 14 Mar 1966
36. Pte D.A.J. Lamothe, RCASC, UNEF I, 16 Mar 1966
37. F/O R.V. Edwards, RCAF, UNEF I, 28 Apr 1966
38. F/O J.M.L.P. Picard, RCAF, UNEF I, 30 Apr 1966
39. Pte J.P.E. Bernard, 2 RHC, UNFICYP, 09 Jul 1966
40. Spr J. Lorienz, RCE, UNEF I, 12 Jul 1966
41. Sig P.M. Crouse, RC Sigs, UNEF I, 19 Aug 1966
42. Tpr L.W. Nass, RCAC, UNFICYP, 27 Sep 1966
43. Pte E.J. Fickling, RCASC, UNEF I, 17 Oct 1966
44. Cpl O.J. Redmond, 1 RCR, UNFICYP, 10 Mar 1967
45. Cpl K.A. Salmon, C Pro C, UNFICYP, 24 Sep 1967
46. Pte J.A. Lerue, 2 RHC, UNFICYP, 09 Feb 1970
47. Pte T.J. Hall, CD, 1 RCR, UNFICYP, 31 Jul 1970
48. Cpl P.C. Isenor, RCASC, UNFICYP, 25 Oct 1970
49. MCpl J.R.M.J. Lessard, 2PPCLI, UNFICYP, 01 Dec 1972
50. LS W.M. Memnook, HMCS Terra Nova, ICCS, 15 Mar 1973
51. Capt C.E. Laviolette, CD, 12 RBC, ICCS, 07 Apr 1973
52. Cpl A. Roach, CD, 2 RCR, UNFICYP, 17 Feb 1974
53. Pte J.L.G. Perron, CAR, UNFICYP, 06 Aug 1974
54. Capt G.G. Foster, 116 ATU, UNEF II, 9 Aug 1974
55. Cpl M.H.T. Kennington, CD, Cdn Contingent Admin Unit, UNEF II, 09 Aug 1974
56. A/MWO C.B. Korejwo, CD, 1 RCR, UNEF II, 09 Aug 1974
57. MWO G. Landry, CD, 3 R22eR, UNEF II, 09 Aug 1974
58. Capt K.B. Mirau, 116 ATU, UNEF II, 09 Aug 1974
59. Cpl M.W. Simpson, 116 ATU, UNEF II, 09 Aug 1974
60. MCpl R.C. Spencer, CD, 116 ATU, UNEF II, 09 Aug 1974
61. Cpl B.K. Stringer, 116 ATU, UNEF II, 09 Aug 1974
62. Capt R.B. Wicks, CD, 116 ATU, UNEF II, 09 Aug 1974
63. Pte J.J.C. Berger, CAR, UNFICYP, 10 Sep 1974
64. Cpl J.P.C. Blais, 73 Cdn Sigs Sqn, UNEF II, 24 Dec 1974
65. Cpl N. Edwards, 73 Cdn Service Bn, UNEF II, 24 Dec 1974
66. Cpl R.W. Miller, 73 Cdn Service Bn, UNEF II, 24 Dec 1974
67. Capt I.E. Patten, 1 RCR, UNFICYP, 01 Apr 1975
68. Pte S.J. Kohlman, 1 RCR, UNFICYP, 11 Apr 1975

69. Pte T.E. Abbott, 73 Cdn Sigs Sqn, UNEF II, 14 Jun 1975
70. Capt K.C. Crawford, 3 PPCLI, UNFICYP, 20 Dec 1975
71. Pte D.R. Krieger, 2 PPCLI, UNFICYP, 17 Aug 1976
72. Sgt(R) J.R.A. Dupont, 8 Med Coy - Att to 12 RBC, UNFICYP, 24 Apr 1977
73. Sgt L.W. Daily, Cdn Contingent CE Section, UNEF II, 10 Nov 1977
74. Sgt J.F.B. Demers, 73 Cdn Service Bn, UNEF II, 05 Dec 1977
75. Cpl D.C. Ross, Cdn Logistics Coy, UNDOF, 03 Mar 1978
76. Pte C.A. Dodge, 73 Cdn Sigs Sqn, UNEF II, 02 Jul 1979
77. MCpl J.D.G. McInnis, 1 PPCLI, UNFICYP, 30 Mar 1980
78. Pte P.K. Porter, Cdn Sigs Tp, UNDOF, 06 Nov 1980
79. Pte J.E.R. Archambault, 2 R22eR, UNFICYP, 30 Nov 1981
80. Pte A.J. Prins, 2 PPCLI, UNFICYP, 26 Sep 1982
81. Pte M.D. Wilson, 2 PPCLI, UNFICYP, 22 Jan 1983
82. Cpl J.P.R. Hudon, Cdn Logistics Coy, UNDOF, 26 Dec 1985
83. MCpl M. MacRae, CAR HQ & Sigs Sqn, UNFICYP, 06 Dec 1986
84. Pte T.J. Trottier, 3 PPCLI, UNFICYP, 25 Apr 1988
85. Pte W.C. Symons, 2 RCR, UNTAC, 12 Jul 1992
86. Sgt C.M. Ralph, 1 CER, UNPROFOR, 17 Aug 1992
87. MCpl J.W. Ternapolski, 2 RCR, UNPROFOR, 25 Mar 1993
88. Sgt D.L. Kloss, 2 RCHA, UNFICYP, 08 Apr 1993
89. Cpl M.D. Abel, CAR, UNITAF, 03 May 1993
90. Cpl G.J. Larose, Cdn Logistics Coy, UNDOF, 08 May 1993
91. Cpl D. Gunther, 2 R22ER, UNPROFOR, 18 Jun 1993
92. Cpl J.M.H. Béchard, 2 PPCLI, UNPROFOR, 06 Aug 1993
93. Sgt J.D.A. Gareau, CD, Cdn Contingent Support Unit, UNPROFOR, 17 Aug 1993
94. Capt J.P. Decoste, CD, 2 PPCLI, UNPROFOR, 18 Sep 1993
95. MCpl S.L.P. Langevin, 12 RBC, UNPROFOR, 28 Nov 1993
96. Cpl(R) D. Galvin, Sherbrooke Hussars (att to 12 RBC), UNPROFOR, 28 Nov 1993
97. Pte K.D. Cooper, 3 PPCLI, UNPROFOR, 06 Jun 1994
98. MCpl M.R. Isfeld, 1 CER, UNPROFOR, 21 Jun 1994
99. Cpl S.F. Smith, CAR, UNAMIR, 25 Dec 1994
100. Cpl J.F.Y. Rousseau, 12 RBC, UNPROFOR, 25 Sep 1995
101. Spr C. Holopina, 2 CER, IFOR, 04 Jul 1996
102. Pte J.L.M.B. Doucet, 3 R22eR, UNMIH, 12 Jul 1997
103. Cpl R.D. Vialette, 1 RCHA, SFOR, 21 Jul 1997
104. MCpl T.S. McCrea, 1 RCR, SFOR, 25 Mar 1998
105. Cpl J. Ogilvie, RCD, SFOR, 30 Aug 1998
106. Spr G. Desmarais, 2 CER, SFOR, 25 Sep 1998
107. Sgt H. J. Squires, 1 PPCLI, KFOR, 25 Aug 1999
108. Sgt V. Joubert, 1 R22eR, SFOR, 13 Dec 1999
109. Cpl R. T. Pollard, 2 PPCLI (att fm 426 Sqn), SFOR, 28 Sep 2000
110. WO J.M. Peace, 403 (Hel) OT Sqn, UNPROFOR, 6 Oct 2000
(Died of illness arising from service in mission 1994-1995.)
111. Bdr G.K. Bailey, CD, 1 RCHA, SFOR, 27 Oct 2000
112. Sgt M. Léger, 3 PPCLI, Afghanistan, 17 Apr 2002
113. Cpl A. Dyer, 3 PPCLI, Afghanistan, 17 Apr 2002
114. Pte R. Green, 3 PPCLI, Afghanistan, 17 Apr 2002
115. Pte N. Smith, 3 PPCLI, Afghanistan, 17 Apr 2002
116. Cpl J.D. Vermeulen, 2 PPCLI, SFOR, 06 July 2003
117. Sgt R.A. Short, 3 RCR, ISAF, 02 Oct 2003
118. Cpl R.C. Beerenfenger, 3 RCR, ISAF, 02 Oct 2003
119. PO2 J.S. Morissette, SFOR, 13 December 2003
120. Cpl J.B. Murphy, 3 RCR, ISAF, 26 Jan 2004
121. Pte A.D. Johnson, 1 RCR (att to RCD Battle Group), SFOR, 29 Jan 2004
122. Pte B.S. Woodfield, 2 RCR, ISAF, 24 Nov 2005
123. Cpl P.J. Davis, 2 PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 2 Mar 2006

124. MCpl T.J. Wilson, 2 PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 4 Mar 2006
125. Pte R.H. Costall, 1 PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 29 Mar 2006
126. Lt W.M. Turner, 1 PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 22 Apr 2006
127. Bdr M.S.J. Mansell, 5th (BC) Fd Regt (att to 1PPCLI), ISAF Afghanistan, 22 Apr 2006
128. Cpl M.D.J. Dinning, 2 CMB HQ & SIG SQN (att to 1PPCLI), Afghanistan, 22 Apr 2006
129. Cpl R.J. Payne, 1 PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 22 Apr 2006
130. Capt N.K.S. Goddard, 1 RCHA (att to 1PPCLI), ISAF Afghanistan, 17 May 2006
131. Cpl A.N. Boneca, Lake Superior Scottish Regt (att to 1PPCLI), Afghanistan, 9 Jul 2006
132. Cpl F. Gomez, CD, 1PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 22 Jul 2006
133. Cpl J.P. Warren, Royal Highland Regt of Canada (Black Watch) (att to 1PPCLI), ISAF Afghanistan, 22 Jul 2006
134. Maj P. Hess-von Kruedener, CD, PPCLI, UNMO, UNTSO/Lebanon, 25 Jul 2006
135. Cpl C.J. Reid, 1PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 3 Aug 2006
136. Sgt V. Ingram, 1PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 3 Aug 2006
137. Cpl B.J. Keller, 1PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 3 Aug 2006
138. Pte K. Dallaire, 1PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 3 Aug 2006
139. MCpl R. Arndt, Loyal Edmonton Regiment, ISAF Afghanistan, 5 Aug 2006
140. MCpl J.S. Walsh, 2PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 9 Aug 2006
141. Cpl A.J. Eykelenboom, 1st Field Ambulance, ISAF Afghanistan, 11 Aug 2006
142. Cpl D. Braun, 2PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 22 Aug 2006
143. Pte W.J. James Cushley, 1RCR, ISAF Afghanistan, 3 Sep 2006
144. WO R.F. Nolan, 1RCR, ISAF Afghanistan, 3 Sep 2006
145. WO F.R. Mellish, 1RCR, ISAF Afghanistan, 3 Sep 2006
146. Sgt S. Stachnik, 2CER, ISAF Afghanistan, 3 Sep 2006
147. Pte M.A. Graham, 1RCR, ISAF Afghanistan, 4 Sep 2006
148. Cpl K. Morley, 2PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 18 Sep 2006
149. Cpl S. Keating, 2PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 18 Sep 2006
150. Cpl G. Arnold, 2nd Field Ambulance, ISAF Afghanistan, 18 Sep 2006
151. Pte D. Byers, 2PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 18 Sep 2006
152. Pte J. Klukie, LSSR (att to 1RCR), ISAF Afghanistan, 29 Sep 2006
153. Sgt C.P. Gillam, CD, RCD, ISAF Afghanistan, 3 Oct 2006.
154. Cpl R.T.J. Mitchell, RCD, ISAF Afghanistan, 3 Oct 2006.
155. Tpr M.A. Wilson, RCD, ISAF Afghanistan, 7 Oct 2006.
156. Sgt D.S. Tedford, 1 RCR, ISAF Afghanistan, 14 Oct 2006.
157. Pte B.N. Williamson, 1 RCR, ISAF Afghanistan, 14 Oct 2006.
158. CWO R. Girouard, CD, 1 RCR, ISAF Afghanistan, 27 Nov 2006.
159. Cpl A. Storm, CD, 1 RCR, ISAF Afghanistan, 27 Nov 2006.
160. Cpl K.R. Megeney, 1 NS Highrs (att BSF Kandahar) ISAF Afghanistan, 6 Mar 2007
161. Sgt D. Lucas, 2 RCR, ISAF Afghanistan, 8 Apr 2007
162. Cpl C.P. Stannix, Princess Louise Fusiliers (att 2 RCR) ISAF Afghanistan, 8 Apr 2007
163. Cpl A.E. Williams, 2 RCR, ISAF Afghanistan, 8 Apr 2007
164. Pte D.R. Greenslade, 2 RCR, ISAF Afghanistan, 8 Apr 2007
165. Pte K.V. Kennedy, 2 RCR, ISAF Afghanistan, 8 Apr 2007
166. Cpl B.D. Poland, 2 RCR, ISAF Afghanistan, 8 Apr 2007
167. MCpl A. Stewart, RCD, ISAF Afghanistan, 11 Apr 2007
168. Tpr P.J. Pentland, RCD, ISAF Afghanistan, 11 Apr 2007
169. MCpl A. Klumpenhower, SOFCOM, ISAF Afghanistan, 18 Apr 2007
170. Cpl B. Chevalier, 3 Wing, MFO Egypt, 6 May 2007
171. Cpl M. McCully, 2 CMBG HQ & Sig Sqn, ISAF Afghanistan, 25 May 2007
172. MCpl D.J. Priede, 3 Area Support Group, ISAF Afghanistan, 31 May 2007
173. Tpr D. Caswell, RCD, ISAF Afghanistan, 11 Jun 2007
174. Cpl S.F. Bouzane, 3 PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 20 Jun 2007
175. Pte J.V. Wiebe, 3 PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 20 Jun 2007
176. Sgt C. Karigiannis, 3 PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 20 Jun 2007
177. Capt M.J. Dawe, 3 PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 4 Jul 2007
178. MCpl C. Bason, R Westmr R (att 3 PPCLI Battle Gp), ISAF Afghanistan, 4 Jul 2007



- 179. Cpl C. Bartsch, 3 PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 4 Jul 2007
- 180. Pte L. Watkins, 3 PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 4 Jul 2007
- 181. Cpl J. Anderson, 3 PPCLI, ISAF Afghanistan, 4 Jul 2007
- 182. Capt J. Francis, 1 RCHA (att 3 PPCLI Battle Group), ISAF Afghanistan, 4 Jul 2007
- 183. Pte S. Longtin, 2Royal 22e Régiment, ISAF Afghanistan, 19 Aug 2007
- 184. MWO M. Mercier, 2 Royal 22e Régiment, ISAF Afghanistan, 22 Aug 2007
- 185. MCpl C. Duchesne, 5 Field Ambulance, 5 ASG, ISAF Afghanistan, 22 Aug 2007
- 186. Maj R.M. Ruckpaul, Armoured Corps, RCD's, ISAF Afghanistan, 29 Aug 2007
- 187. Cpl N. Hornburg, The King's Own Calgary Regiment, ISAF Afghanistan, 24 Sep 2007



**"They shall not grow 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"**

We are pleased to reproduce the poem "To a Fallen Peacekeeper" by Mr. Bob Kerr of Kanata, Ontario. We are grateful for his permission to publish the work. Mr. Kerr is a veteran of the Royal Canadian Navy.



To a Fallen Peacekeeper

**Had I seen him fall...
I could have caught him
Eased his pain and
Bound his wounds-
He'd not have passed alone
So far from home.**

**Had I heard the shot
Had I seen the shooter
Had I seen him exposed
Had I been able to yell-
Had I ... had I ...
So far from home**

**My mind knows all the reasons
but my heart hears only the tears,
that he had to be there and fall
in somebody else's bloody business,
in the insanity of their freedom
So far from home.**



Who Is He

He is profane and irreverent,
living as he does in a world full of
capriciousness, frustration and disillusionment.
He is perhaps the best-educated of his kind in history,
but will rarely accord respect on the basis of mere degrees or titles.

He speaks his own dialect, often incomprehensible to the layman.
He can be cold, cruel, even brutal and is frequently insensitive.
Killing is his profession and he strives very hard to become even more skilled at it.

His model is the grey, muddy,
hard-eyed slayer who took the untakeable at Vimy Ridge,
endured the unendurable in the Scheldt and held the unholdable at Kapyong.

He is a superlative practical diplomat;
his efforts have brought peace to countless countries around the world.
He is capable of astonishing acts of kindness, warmth and generosity.
He will give you his last sip of water on a parched day and his last food to a hungry child;
he will give his very life for the society he loves.
Danger and horror are his familiars and his sense of humour is accordingly sardonic.
What the unknowing take as callousness is his defence against the unimaginable;
he whistles through a career filled with graveyards.

His ethos is one of self-sacrifice and duty.
He is sinfully proud of himself, of his unit and of his country
and he is unique in that his commitment to his society is Total.
No other trade or profession dreams of demanding such of its members
and none could successfully try.

He loves his family dearly,
sees them all too rarely and as often as not loses them to the demands of his profession.
Loneliness is the price he accepts for the privilege of serving.
He accounts discomfort as routine and the search for personal gain as beneath him;
he has neither understanding of nor patience
for those motivated by self-interest, politics or money.

His loyalty can be absolute, but it must be purchased.
Paradoxically, the only coin accepted for that payment is also loyalty.
He devours life with big bites, knowing that each bite might be his last
and his manners suffer thereby. He would rather die regretting the things
he did than the ones he dared not try. He earns a good wage by most
standards and, given the demands on him, is woefully underpaid.

He can be arrogant, thoughtless and conceited, but will spend himself,
sacrifice everything for total strangers in places he cannot even pronounce.

He considers political correctness a podium for self-righteous fools,
but will die fighting for the rights of anyone he respects or pities.

He is a philosopher and a drudge,
an assassin and a philanthropist, a servant and a leader, a disputer and a mediator,
a Nobel Laureate peacekeeper and the Queen's Hitman, a brawler and a healer,
best friend and worst enemy. He is a rock, a goat, a fool, a sage, a drunk, a
provider, a cynic and a romantic dreamer. Above it all, he is a hero for our time.

You, pale stranger, sleep well at night only because he exists for you,
the citizen who has never met him, has perhaps never thought of him
and may even despise him.

He is both your child and your guardian. His devotion to you is unwavering.

He is a Canadian Soldier.

