

100 years after WWI, poppy lives on as symbol

A century since the Great War, the poppy lives on as a potent symbol of remembrance in Britain, Canada and other countries around the world to honour those servicemen and women killed in conflict since 1914



■ **1915:** Opening lines of war poem *In Flanders Fields* – written by Canadian army doctor **John McCrae** – refer to poppies flowering over graves of fallen soldiers on churned-up battlefields of Western Europe

■ **1918:** Moved by McCrae's poem, U.S. teacher **Moina Michael** begins campaign to sell handmade poppies as way of raising funds for wounded ex-servicemen

■ **1919:** *Armistice Day* first observed throughout Britain and Commonwealth, with two-minute silence to mark moment when war ended in 1918 – at eleventh hour of eleventh day of eleventh month

■ **1920:** *American Legion* becomes first organisation to recognise poppy as symbol of remembrance



■ **1921:** Inspired by Moina Michael, Frenchwoman **Anna Guerin** brings poppy selling to Britain, where *Royal British Legion* begins “Poppy Appeal” tradition

■ **1922:** British Army major **George Howson** opens first poppy-making factory staffed by disabled soldiers. Factory still makes millions of poppies today

■ **1945:** After end of World War II, Armistice Day becomes known as *Remembrance Day* to include all those killed in both world wars and other conflicts

■ **Today:** Remembrance Sunday – second Sunday in November – **Queen Elizabeth II** leads annual tribute at London's Cenotaph

