



# The Story of the Poppy

## The poppy:-

- is a symbol of 'REMEMBRANCE' and HOPE
- is worn by millions of people each year in November
- is the colour red because of the natural colour of field poppies





During the First World War (1914–1918) fighting took place in Western Europe. The countryside was fought over and bombed again and again. The fields turned to mud where little or nothing could grow.



Bright red Flanders poppies however, did grow and grew in their thousands, growing even in the middle of battles and destruction. In early May 1915, Lt Col John McCrae was inspired by the sight of poppies to write a now famous poem called 'In Flanders Fields'.

# 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.



The poem inspired an American lady, Moina Michael, to make and sell red silk poppies.

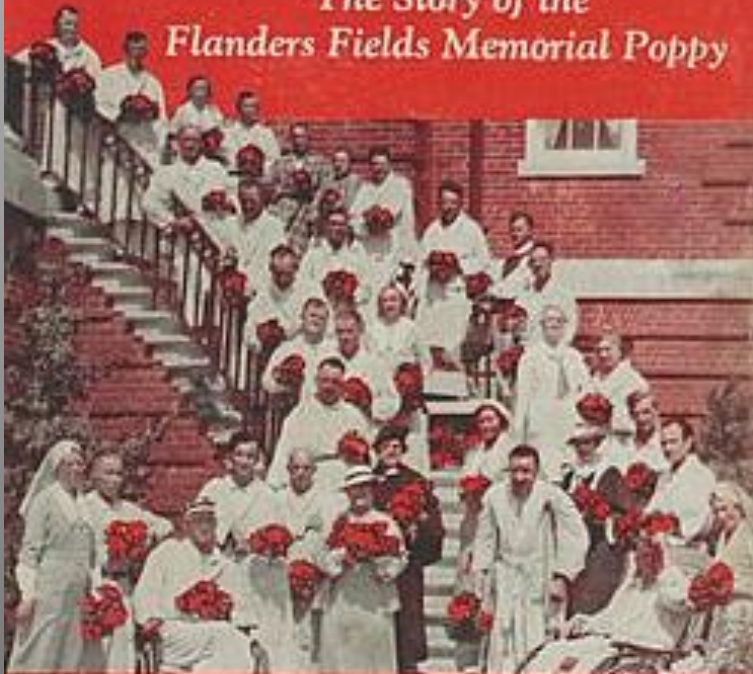
The poppies were brought to England by a French lady, Anna Guérin.



In 1921 The (Royal) British Legion formed and ordered 9 million of these poppies and sold them on 11 November that year.

# THE MIRACLE FLOWER

*The Story of the  
Flanders Fields Memorial Poppy*



by  
MOINA MICHAEL

The poppies were very popular and sold out almost immediately. That first ever 'Poppy Appeal' raised over £106,000 which was a very large amount of money at the time.

The money was used to help WW1 veterans with employment and housing.





In 1922, the following year, Major George Howson set up a poppy factory to employ disabled ex-Servicemen. Today, the British Legion makes and sells millions of poppies each year.

Wearing a poppy is a personal choice.

People have their own thoughts and personal memories.

People know that by wearing a poppy, it helps support those currently serving in our Armed Forces, veterans, and their families and dependants.





The 'Everyman Remembered' is a sculpture in London, designed to help people remember the people who died during the First World War.



Each year, on 11<sup>th</sup> November, we remember those who have fought and died in wars on 'Remembrance Day'.

# Poppy Poppy

Poppy poppy, what do you say?  
Wear me on Remembrance Day.

Poppy poppy, what do you tell?  
Many soldiers in battle, fell.

Poppy poppy, what should we  
know?

That peace on earth should  
grow, grow, grow.

