



## In Flanders Fields

By John McCrea 1915

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.

### *Inspiration for "In Flanders Fields"*

*Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, During the early days of the Second Battle of Ypres a young Canadian artillery officer, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, 1st Brigade Canadian Field Artillery, was killed on 2nd May, 1915 in the gun positions near Ypres. He was serving in the same Canadian artillery unit as a his friend, the Canadian military doctor Major John McCrae.*

*As the brigade doctor, John McCrae was asked to conduct the burial service for Alexis because the chaplain had been called away somewhere else on duty that evening. It is believed that later that evening, after the burial, John began the draft for his now famous poem "In Flanders Fields".*

