

# Poppy marks centenary of WWI armistice

A century since the end of WWI, the poppy lives on as a potent symbol of remembrance in many countries around the world to honour all servicemen and women killed in conflict since the “Great War”



■ **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 11th hour of 11th day of 11th 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 ***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

■ **Nov 18, 2018:** Commemorations take place around the world to mark 100th anniversary of armistice that ended World War I

