



MERCHANT NAVY COMMEMORATIVE THEME PROJECT (MNCTP)



NEWS RELEASE

REMEMBERING AND HONOURING
OUR FALLEN ON REMEMBRANCE DAY
AND
2021 MARKS THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
REMEMBRANCE POPPY IN CANADA

NOVEMBER 11, 2021

OTTAWA, Today –
Mr. Stéphane Ouellette,
President and Chief
Executive Officer, Merchant
Navy Commemorative
Theme Project (MNCTP),
joined the Government of
Canada, Veterans/Veterans'
organizations, Canadian
Armed Forces, first
responders, members of the
diplomatic corps, media, the
general public, and more in
honouring and remembering
our veterans and fallen
heroes, and those that
continue to serve in times of
peace and war.



During the Second World War, a total of 25,343 merchant ships, with 164,783,921 tons of cargo on board, sailed from North America to Britain. The Royal Canadian Navy gave to the struggle over 2,000 dead and 24 warships. More than 900 RCAF and Canadian Army personnel were also lost. Over 2,199 Canadian Merchant Navy Seaman were killed in both World Wars. Moreover, more than 250,000 American Merchant Marine sailed the treacherous oceans of the globe. Over 6,835 American Merchant Marine were killed and over 11,000 wounded. In addition, 604 Merchant Mariners were taken prisoners of war, resulting in 61 casualties within POW camps.

"Madame Anna Guérin, later christened "The Poppy Lady from France", inspired by John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields", had an idea: to adopt the distribution of the Poppy on Armistice Day as a way to raise money for Veterans' needs and to remember those who had given their lives during the First World War. In July of 1921, the Great War Veterans Association (which in 1925 would unify with other Veteran groups to form the Canadian Legion) adopted the Poppy as the flower of Remembrance. Since then, the Legion and its members have upheld this tradition of Remembrance." [\(2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the Remembrance Poppy in Canada | Royal Canadian Legion\)](#)

Associated Links

- [Canada to celebrate 100th anniversary of Remembrance Day poppy | Canadian Broadcasting Corporation \(CBC\) | November 6, 2021](#)
- [Canada Post Releases Stamp to Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Poppy as Symbol of Remembrance | To Do Canada | November 4, 2021](#)
- [100th anniversary of the Remembrance Poppy in Canada | CTV NEWS | November 2, 2021](#)

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