

Madeleine Francis Jaffray Morrison



John Alliston - 2020

Canadian War Nurse

1889 - 1972



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THE GREAT WAR

No one alive today can truly appreciate the horrors of the war of 1914-1918. It should have been "The war to end all wars" - but it was not! The horrors of this unnecessary 4 year conflict were beyond belief and compounded by political and military incompetence. Much has been written about it and we all will benefit from knowing at least a little of its history.

While this book is dedicated to our Great Aunt (Madeleine) it is also intended to highlight some of her experiences as a war nurse and is intended to provide our family with some knowledge of her husband Byron Morrison and her brother Harland Jaffray, both of whom were impacted by this war and the Ypres campaigns in the Passchendaele area of Belgium.

In 2015 I started research into great-aunt Madeleine's war experience when another of her great nephews, John Christie, suggested that there was a lot that her family did not know about this part of her life. Since then I have learned more about her, Byron Morrison her husband, and Harland Jaffray, her brother as it relates to this war.

Additionally others who have become more interested in the war after 100 years became aware of Madeleine's war experience. Specifically Alberta artist, Marlena Wyman, has created a painting called "Bluebird" after Madeleine and a recent book "Nurses of Passchendaele" by Christine Hallett covers their story and makes many references to Madeleine.

This second family book is intended to cover this additional information.

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

"Punch"
Dec 8 1915

John M. Cree

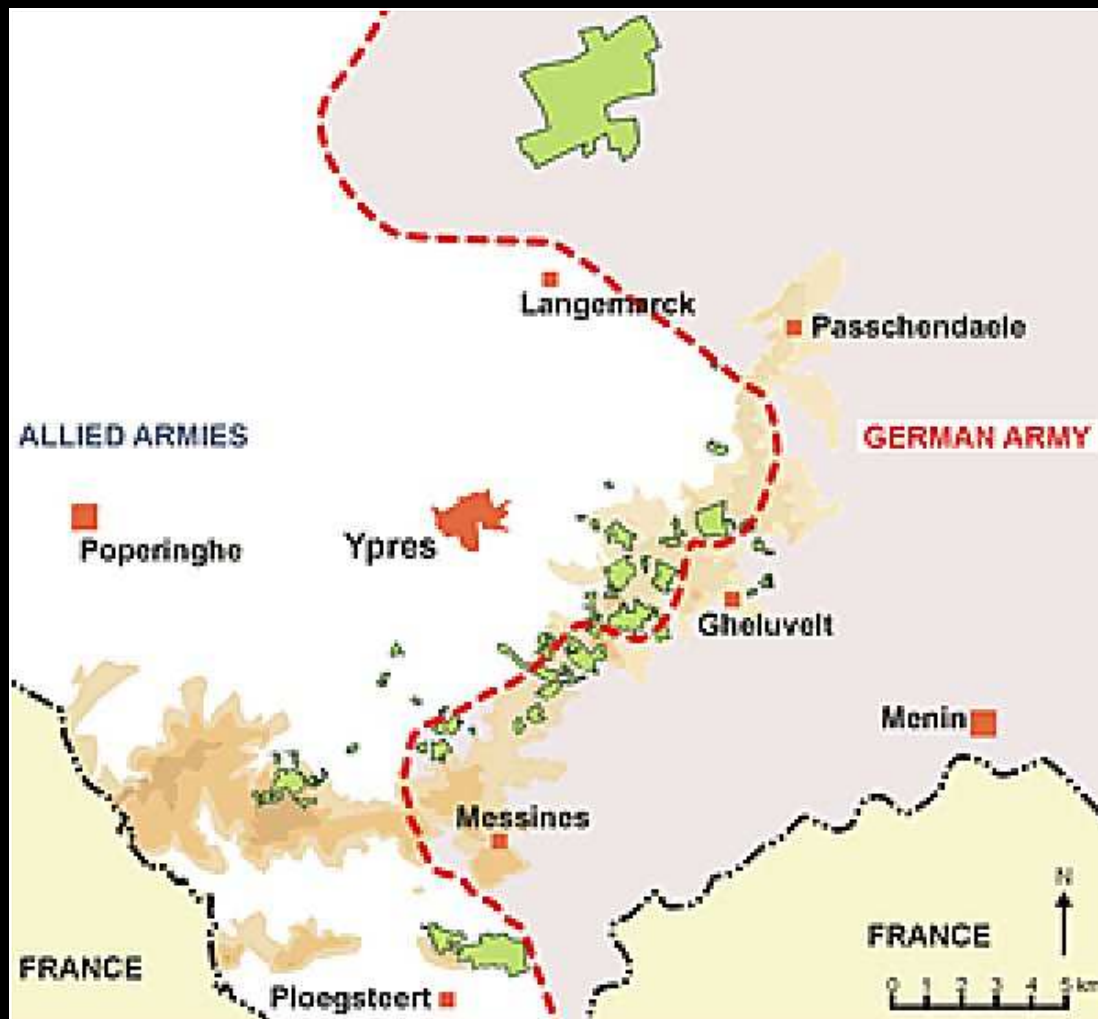
YPRES

Before and during the Great War





Ypres today



THE WAR

During the conflict, **Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria** and the Ottoman Empire (the Central Powers) fought against Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Japan and the United States (the Allied Powers). Thanks to new military technologies and the horrors of trench warfare, World War I saw unprecedented levels of carnage and destruction.

Germany was joined by **Turkey and Bulgaria**. The Allies were joined by **Italy, Japan, Greece, Portugal, and Romania**. Later on, in 1917, America entered the war on the side of the Allies. Spain, Switzerland, Albania, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden all remained neutral in the First World War.

Canada sent 620,000 soldiers into this war. 67,000 were killed and 173,000 were wounded.

We are interested in the engagements at Ypres.

The Battle of Ypres was a series of engagements during the First World War, near the Belgian city of Ypres, between the German and the Allied armies (Belgian, French, British Expeditionary Force and Canadian Expeditionary Force). There were hundreds of thousands of casualties during the five engagements.

First Battle of Ypres (19 October – 22 November 1914). During the Race to the Sea. More than 250,000 casualties.

Second Battle of Ypres (22 April – 15 May 1915). First mass use of poison gas by the German army; included first victories of a former colonial nation (Canada) over a European power (Germany) on European soil. Around 100,000 casualties.

Battle of Passchendaele (31 July – 10 November 1917) also known as the Third Battle of Ypres. 400,000 to 800,000 casualties.

Battle of the Lys (1918) (9–29 April 1918) also known as the Battle of Estaires or the Fourth Battle of Ypres. Around 200,000 casualties.

Fifth Battle of Ypres (28 September – 2 October 1918) an informal name given to a series of battles in northern France and southern Belgium, also known as Advance of Flanders and Battle of the Peaks of Flanders. Around 10,000 Allied casualties; German casualties unknown.[]

MADELEINE FRANCES JAFFRAY

February 25, 2015

Canada's Only Female Nurse Amputee of WWI

Madeleine Frances Jaffray was born in August 1889 in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of James P. Jaffray, an immigration agent for the Canadian government. She was raised in Galt, Ontario and studied nursing at the Clifton Springs Sanatorium Clinic in New York.

Jaffray was one of ten nurses sent overseas in 1915 by the Canadian National Nursing Association in answer to an appeal made by the French Flag Nursing Corps. After spending ten months in a military hospital near Bordeaux, she was transferred to a mobile ambulance unit in Adinkerke, Belgium, five miles from the frontlines. Jaffray described how the unit was frequently bombed. "On the fourth of June, I was coming out of a covered passage in one of the wards when a bomb fell right in front of me," said Jaffray. A piece of shell severely wounded her foot, blowing off the heel, dissecting two bones and fracturing another. Despite the fact that bombs were dropping all around them, the other nurses ran to Jaffray's aid, one losing consciousness from the fumes produced by the bombs.

A week after her experience, Jaffray was awarded the Croix de Guerre with star, the first Canadian woman to receive this honour. She was pleased to receive it, but felt all the nurses in the unit were equally deserving. However, none of the other women had sacrificed as much as Jaffray—after four weeks in hospital, surgeons made the decision that her foot had to be amputated, making her Canada's only female war amputee.

After the war, Jaffray worked at the Dominion Orthopedic Hospital, Christie Street in Toronto, Ontario. In 1926, she met watchmaker Byron Morrison in Edmonton, Alberta. They were married on September 23, 1927 in Hamilton, Ontario at the convention of the Amputations Association of The Great War. Jaffray was the only female member of the Amputations Association in Canada. They moved to Edmonton, and Madeleine worked for the Victorian Order of Nurses and was involved with the War Amputees of Canada. She was also a member of the Edmonton Star, the Overseas Nurses Association and the Imperial Order, Daughters of the Empire. Jaffray died on July 23, 1972.

Nursing Sister Madeleine S. Jaffray received nine medals and decorations during WWI including:

- the French Croix de Guerre,
- the French Distinguished Service Medal,
- the American Service Medal,
- the French Nursing Medallion,
- the American National Medallion,
- the French wound stripes,
- the General Service Medal, and
- the Victory Medal.

She was also recommended for the French Legion of Honor and the Medallion Militaire. She lost (a portion of) her left foot under German shell fire at Dunkirk (Adinkirke).



MISS MADELINE JAFFERY, a Red Cross Nurse from the western front addressing a great crowd in behalf of the Red Cross drive for 25,000 nurses.
© International Film Svc.





Hopital Complémentaire 25.
Salence. Gironde, France



THE MENIN GATE WAR COMMEMORATION

The sheer number of casualties suffered at Ypres made the city a centre for post-war remembrance. The area had significance for British, Commonwealth, German and Belgian commemoration. Ypres was rebuilt to resemble its pre-war state. The narrative of remembrance contrasted the medieval city with the modern, industrial battles that had raged around it. The centrepiece of British and Commonwealth commemoration is the which lists the names of 54,896 soldiers who have no known grave. The Menin Gate is the site of the unique Last Post Ceremony, a daily event where a small group of buglers sound "The Last Post" and lead the attendees in honouring a minute's silence for the fallen. On the German side, famous 1931 sculpture, *The Grieving Parents*, was inspired by the loss of her youngest son at First Ypres.

Every evening at 8pm precisely, the "Last Post" has been sounded since 1928 under the imposing arches of the Menin Gate. This memorial shaped like a Roman triumphal arch displays the names of 54.896 soldiers of the then British empire who went missing in action.

This memorial lists the names from the beginning of the war until 15th August 1917. The soldiers who went missing after 16th August 1917 until the end of the war, are mentioned on panels at Tyne Cot Cemetery in Passchendaele. There are 34.984 of them.

The Menin Gate was built in the location of the old mediaeval gate.

During the First World War the British troops marched through this 'gate' to defend the "Ypres Salient". This salient was a pocket in the straight front line approximately 25 by 15 km. After the First World War grateful citizens set up the Last Post Association. The former enemies fell in almost as great numbers and are also involved in this solemn ceremony.

In June 2008 Betty and I were able to attend the daily Last Post ceremony after a cycling trip from Amsterdam to Paris. It is amazing that the Last Post Society has performed here daily for over 90 years. Apparently the ceremony was moved to England during WW2.

THE LAST POST CEREMONY



99th ANNUAL
WARRIORS' DAY
PARADE
 ESTABLISHED 1921

Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of VE Day & VJ Day

Saturday, August 22, 2020 • 10:30 am
 Canadian National Exhibition Toronto, Ontario, Canada
www.thewarriorsdayparade.ca

97th ANNUAL **WARRIORS' DAY** PARADE
 ESTABLISHED 1921

Celebrating the **100th** Anniversary of the end of World War I

70th Anniversary of the first ever UN Peacekeeping Mission (UNTSO) United Nations Truce Supervision Organization

Saturday August 18, 2018
 Canadian National Exhibition • Toronto, Ontario, Canada • 10:30 am
www.thewarriorsdayparade.ca

98th ANNUAL **WARRIORS' DAY** PARADE
 ESTABLISHED 1921

COMMEMORATING THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Beginning of the Italian Campaign

Saturday, August 17, 2019

Canadian National Exhibition
 Toronto, Ontario, Canada • 10:30 am
www.thewarriorsdayparade.ca

The Warriors' Day Parade
 Toronto, Ontario, Canada

established 1921, and still marching!

96th ANNUAL **WARRIORS' DAY** PARADE
 ESTABLISHED 1921

Remembering Vimy Ridge 100th Anniversary and the 75th Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid

VIMY
 1917 - 2017

Saturday August 19, 2017
 Canadian National Exhibition • Toronto, Ontario, Canada • 10:30 am
www.thewarriorsdayparade.ca

Due to COVID-19 the 2020 Warriors' Day Parade has been cancelled. The 2021 parade will be held on August 21, 2021 when we will celebrate our

100th Anniversary.

2021 - The 100th Anniversary of The Warriors' Day Parade

Help Us Celebrate

Warriors' Day Parade Petition

After 100 years of proud history on the CNE grounds honouring our veterans, you can join us in the celebration in 2021 by signing a petition today that will encourage Canada Post and The Royal Canadian Mint to issue a commemorative stamp and coin, respectively. If you agree that our heritage should be featured in this way, please add your voice by signing! And please forward this to as many individuals as possible.

**100th Warriors' Day Parade
Saturday, August 21, 2021 10:30am
The Canadian National Exhibition
Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

**In 2021 we celebrate the
100th Anniversary of
The Warriors' Day Parade**

MADELEINE WAS A GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE FIRST PARADE IN 1921

August 27, 1921 - The First Warriors' Day Parade

Parade Orders of The Day

12:30 Assemble at Trinity Park, Queen Street West.
1.15 March off
Route - Queen and Dufferin Streets to the Exhibition grounds.

Order of March

Mounted Police

Nursing Sister Madeleine F. Jaffray and Private Richardson, V.C.

Chief Marshal, W.F. Challenger and colors
Walking amputation cases
Major amputation cases in autos
Blind from Pearson Hall, Euclid Hall and special disability cases from hospitals with nursing sisters in charge.
Assistant matrons and nursing sisters in uniform.
Veterans of 1866.
Massed silk banners and flags of veteran organizations.
Veterans of the Great War in companies of 200.
Mounted Police rear guard.
2.00 p.m. - Arrival at grounds and review by Lord Byng.
2.30 p.m. - Opening ceremonies
3 p.m. - Consecration of Toronto District and York County G.W.V.A. colors by Rev. Canon F.G. Scott, C.M.O., D.
S.O., Canadian Corps Chaplain
8 p.m. Grandstand performance

Fireworks to follow

Private George Richardson, V.C. won the Victoria Cross on April 27, 1859 while fighting with the Border Regiment of the British Army in northern India. An Irishman by birth, Richardson came to Canada in the early 1860s. In 1921, at the age of 90, he was the oldest living VC recipient in the British Empire.

Nursing Sister Madeleine S. Jaffray received nine medals and decorations during WWI including the French Croix de Guerre, the French Distinguished Service Medal, the American Service Medal, the French Nursing Medallion, the American National Medallion, the French wound stripes, the General Service Medal, and the Victory Medal. She was also recommended for the French Legion of Honor and the Medallion Militaire. She lost (a portion of) her left foot under German shell fire at Dunkirk (Adinkirke).

Both were honoured guests of the Canadian National Exhibition on the first Warriors' Day in 1921 and sat side by side in a carriage at the head of the parade.

The Massey Harris Company provided free lunches for more than 500 veterans in their cafeteria before the parade began. Thousands of the veterans appeared in the khaki uniforms which they had retained from their service years but the majority appeared in mufti. Medals and ribbons by the thousands were proudly worn. The ladies of the Great War Veterans Association (G.W.V.A.) sold poppy tags for ten cents and a larger flower for twenty-five cents. The funds were used to help the widows and orphans of soldiers. Everyone made a purchase and the appearance of the veterans wearing poppies was described as "stunning."

The gathering throng of veterans at Trinity Park quickly became a huge social occasion with the reunion of friends who had not seen each other for years. Thoughts of friends killed and injured on the battlefield entered conversations over and over.

Thousands of spectators gathered along Queen Street and Dufferin Street to witness this incredible spectacle a parade route much different from our modern day parades. The parade would enter the CNE grounds through the Dufferin Gates. Canada's new Governor General, Lord Byng of Vimy was invited that year to officially open the CNE. Lord Byng took the salute as the 15,000 marchers proudly passed by the saluting dais just south of the Dufferin Gates. Lord Byng was well known and loved by the troops, having led the Canadian Army to victory at Vimy in 1917, an event that would change Canada forever.

At the conclusion of the parade, everyone gathered around the main band stand in front of the Horticultural Building where Lord Byng addressed the huge number of spectators and veterans by speaking through a "Magnavox" amplifier.



BYRON MORRISON Reg No. 905130

Born: November 22, 1895

Died: December 19, 1979 Age 84

Married Madeleine Francis Jaffray in Hamilton on September 27, 1927

Byron enlisted in Edmonton as a Canadian soldier on July 3, 1916 and was sent to fight in World War 1 in Belgium and served with the Loyal 49th Edmonton Regiment.

Byron lost most of both legs on October 30, 1917 at the Battle of Passchendaele

Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) - October 1917

Early in October, the Canadians were sent to relieve the battered ANZAC (Australian, New Zealand and Canadian) forces and take part in the push to capture Passchendaele. Canadian commander Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie inspected the battlefield and was shocked at the conditions. He tried to avoid having his men fight there but was overruled. As at Vimy, the four divisions of the Canadian Corps would see action. However, the mud, flat terrain, and relative lack of preparation time and artillery support would make Passchendaele a far different battlefield than the one the Canadians encountered at Vimy Ridge (April 1917).

Currie took the time to carefully prepare as much as possible and on October 26, the Canadian offensive began. Success was made possible due to acts of great individual heroism to get past spots of heavy enemy resistance. Advancing through the mud and enemy fire was slow and there were heavy losses. Despite the adversity, the Canadians reached the outskirts of Passchendaele by the end of a second attack on October 30 during a driving rainstorm.

The second stage on 30 October was intended to complete the capture of the positions the Canadian Corps had attacked on 26 October and gain a base for the final assault on Passchendaele. The objective line was approximately 600 yards (550 m) east of the objective line of the previous stage. The advance was meant to capture the strongly held Crest Farm at the southern end of the advance and in the northern sector, the hamlet of Meetcheele and the Goudberg area near the Corps's northern boundary. The northern flank of the Canadian Corps advance was to link up outside Goudberg at Vapour Farm with the British Fifth Army, which would be advancing with the 58th Division and 190th Brigade, 63rd (Royal Naval) Division along both sides of the swamped Lekkerboterbeek creek.

The southern advance was to link up with the I Anzac Corps along the Ypres–Roulers railway line south of Vienna Cottage. The southern flank of the main assault would once again be the responsibility of the 4th Canadian Division, which planned to attack with the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade. The northern flank remained the responsibility of the 3rd Canadian Division, which would advance with the 7th and 8th Canadian Infantry Brigades.

The night before the attack, a battalion assault by the Canadians captured a particularly troublesome German pillbox on the northern bank of Ravebeek creek, which had held up the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade during the first stage. The action advanced the southern edge of the 3rd Canadian Division 500 yards (460 m) in parity with the line of the 4th Canadian Division to the south. The main attack began at 5:50 am on 30 October and was preceded by a rolling barrage with a preliminary artillery bombardment directed largely at pillboxes. The southern flank quickly captured Crest Farm and had begun sending patrols beyond its objective line and into Passchendaele, which they found the Germans evacuating. By 8:30 am, the 4th Canadian Division commander, Major-General David Watson, reported that all objectives between the Ypres–Roulers railway and the Ravebeek creek had been taken. Northwest of Crest Farm, the ground was so badly flooded that consolidation had to be carried out short of the objective line.

On the northern flank, the 3rd Canadian Division was again met with exceptional German resistance. The 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade managed to capture Source Farm and later Vapour Farm at the corps boundary, just short of the objective line. However, the brigade had difficulty getting through the swampy ground in the Woodland Plantation, resulting in a division in the line. The 58th Division and 63rd (Royal Naval) Division infantry were caught by German artillery fire at their jumping-off line and made only slight progress in deep mud against German machine-gun fire and were unable to reach



their rendezvous objectives, leaving the Canadian troops at Source Farm and Vapour Farm in precarious and largely unsupported positions. Two companies later advanced through the Canadian sector to capture Source Trench but were only able to reinforce the Canadian outpost at Source Farm and form a defensive flank to Vapour Farm. In the centre of the assault was the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade. Advancing between Ravebeek creek and the roadway to Meetcheele, one section of the brigade captured its intermediate objective, a pillbox known as Duck Lodge, by 7:00 a.m. To the west of the roadway and Meetcheele, the advance captured Furst Farm, albeit with heavy casualties. Later in the afternoon, the brigade succeeded in overcoming a number of pillboxes and captured the crossroads at Meetcheele. However, the Germans continued to hold a strong position at Graf House along the bank of the Ravebeek creek, producing a salient in the Canadian line directly between the two Canadian divisions.

The advance appeared to have reached its limit by late afternoon and reports of a large number of Germans concentrating north of Mosselmarkt indicated a possible counterattack. As a result, the 3rd Canadian Division (although not having achieved all its objectives) was ordered to consolidate its positions and patrol, rather than occupy, the Woodland Plantation swamp between the 7th and 8th Canadian Infantry Brigades. There was some question as to whether the positions at Source Farm and Vapour Farm could be maintained without the support of the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division. Currie and Plumer ultimately decided that every effort should be made to hold the line in the hope of not having to retake the positions before the assault on Passchendaele. The night ultimately passed without any major counterattacks taking place, permitting the Canadians to consolidate their positions.

When the second stage ended on 30 October, the Canadian Corps had suffered 2,321 casualties, consisting of 884 killed, 1,429 wounded and eight taken prisoner. Further north the 63rd Division had 3,126 casualties from 26–31 October.



From an interview with Byron Morrison by Jim Davies of the Edmonton Journal on January 11, 1975

On a cold day in October 1917, Byron (Barney) Morrison lay severely wounded in a shell hole near Passchendaele, France (Belgium) , not knowing whether he would live to see the next sunrise.

For 18 hours he lay in the hole, dead comrades on all sides of him, in a sea of mud that was the Battle of Passchendaele. Even when he was discovered by fellow regimental members and hauled back from the lines on a stretcher, one leg blown off and the other smashed beyond repair, Mr. Morrison wasn't sure he'd survive.

But Barney did make it, and today (Jan.11, 1975) together with some 250 fellow regimental members, he's celebrating the 60th anniversary of the 49th Battalion, Loyal Edmonton Regiment Association.

Recalling the day that has left him with two artificial legs, he says, "It was a sea of mud as far as you could see. Cecil Kinross (who won the Victoria Cross for bravery) took a pillbox single handed. Then he stood on top of it and waved us on."

"That was when the shell hit... it landed right at our feet. There were six of us on the machine gun crew... I'm the only one left now. Two or three of the men were killed right away. The rest of us were pretty badly smashed up. It happened at 8 a.m. and I wasn't found until 2 a.m. the next morning. I was conscious all the time after the initial shock."

Even being carried out on the stretcher was perilous, say Mr. Morrison. "There was muck right up to the men's waists. I know there was a tremendous number of deaths caused by men falling into shell holes filled with water."



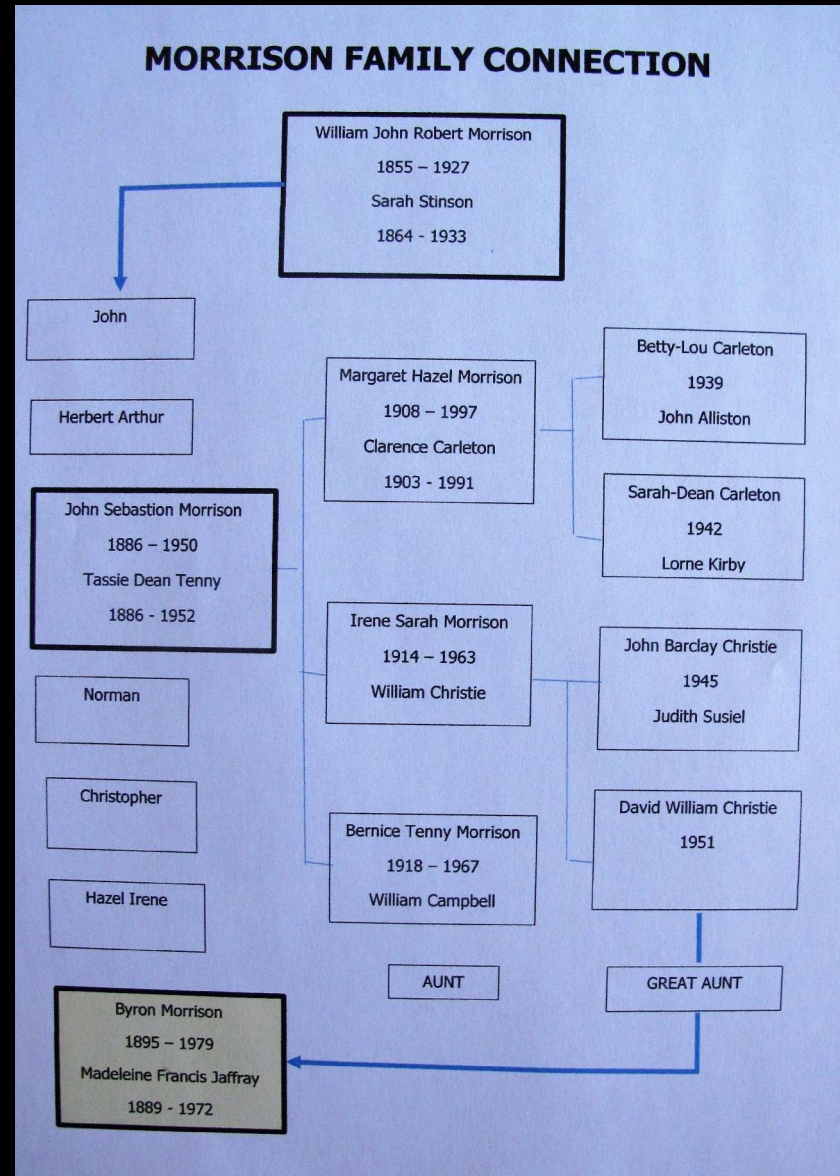
VC Cecil Kinross, 49th (Edmonton) Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. On 30 October 1917, at the Battle of Passchendaele

Daily rates of pay and (field allowances for days on the battlefield) for members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1914:

- \$5 – Colonel (\$1.50)
- \$5 – Lt.-Colonel (\$1.25)
- \$4 – Major (\$1)
- \$3 – Captain (\$.75), Paymaster, Quartermaster
- \$2 – Lieutenant (\$.60)
- \$1.35 – Sergeant (\$.15)
- \$1.10 – Corporal (\$.10)
- \$1.05 – Bombardier, Second Corporal (\$.10)
- \$1 – Private, Gunner, Sapper, Driver, Batman (\$.10)*

*Byron earned \$1.00 that day on October 30, 1917

The family tree on the right shows the connection between the Morrisons and Allistons, Kirbys and Christies



Harland Winston Churchill Little Jaffray (Madeleine's Brother)

Born: August 26, 1899 in Chicago, Ill (lived in Galt, ON)

Died: 1972 in Burlington, ON

Married: **Lorna Edith Addison** on June 26, 1926

Siblings:

Barbara Jane Jaffray (1929 – 2011)

Caroline Roberta Jaffray (1933 – 2009) – See family tree

Janice Jaffray

Katherine Jaffray

Margaret Jaffray

Stuart Jaffray

Married: Greta Martha Chapman Henderson – June 26, 1965

Regimental No 542216 Enlisted September 6, 1916

Harland joined the Canadian army a few days after turning 17 on Sept 6, 1916. He enlisted in the Toronto Fifth Divisional Cycle Corps (motorcycle?). Rank Private: Regimental No. 542216.

He was sent overseas (England) in January 1917.

Harland was held in England until he had reached his 18th birthday plus 6 months and eventually sent to France in February 1918. During his time in England he was likely at Shorncliffe (a military training facility dating back to the late 1700 and the time of Napoleon). Incidentally here today in 2015 there is a move to demolish this aging, derelict facility and turn it into condos and shopping.

During his training period in England Harland graduated as a cyclist (motorcyclist), with terms at bombing, signally, machine gun work, bayoneting and musketry. He was found to be most proficient with a rifle. In competition beating all competitors at rapid firing, making a remarkable score of 205 out of 255, excelling the next highest of the selected squadron by 25 points.



"In the contest for marksmanship at the East Standling camp, Pte Harland W. Jaffray took the honors, leading his class of 30 by 25 points in the total at all ranges. It was all rapid firing. At 300 yards, his 10 shots in the minute netted him 9 bulls and 1 inner, or 29 out of 30. At all the ranges, with the light bad, he totalled 205 out of 255 and secured his "marksman" and a furlough in London."

On his arrival in France it was expected that he would be given the role of scout and sniper because of his skill with the rifle. Instead his superiors placed him in a Tank operating a Lewis Gun.

In a letter to his father dated April 26, 1918, he describes briefly the sensations produced while on one of the latest of big terrors. Going up the line it took the Tank 2 days to travel 12 miles.

"It sure is not smooth riding in one, it is more like a trip in the racers in Willow Grove Park (Philadelphia) that will describe how the machine runs. And further, it certainly is wonderful how the Tank goes over the trenches and shell holes.

When it is running you can hardly hear yourself talking inside, and by the clock of the engine you think you are going 60 miles per hour, but when you look out it is crawling like a turtle."

He was wounded in October, 1918 and was admitted to the 26th General Hospital at Etaples, France on October 2.

"... evidently Harland was either out scouting or sniping, as, after being shot through the thigh, he crawled back to the Canadian lines – a distance of over 1 mile, 20 yards at a time. He cannot say how he escaped through the hail of shells and machine gun bullets.

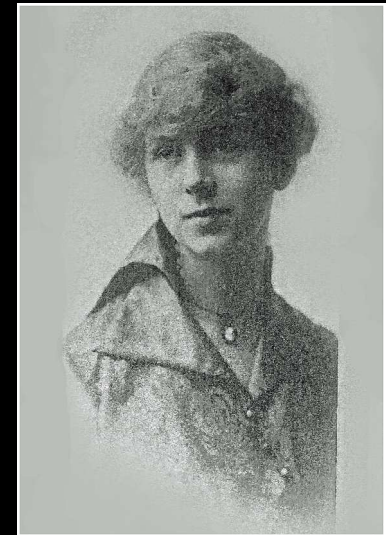
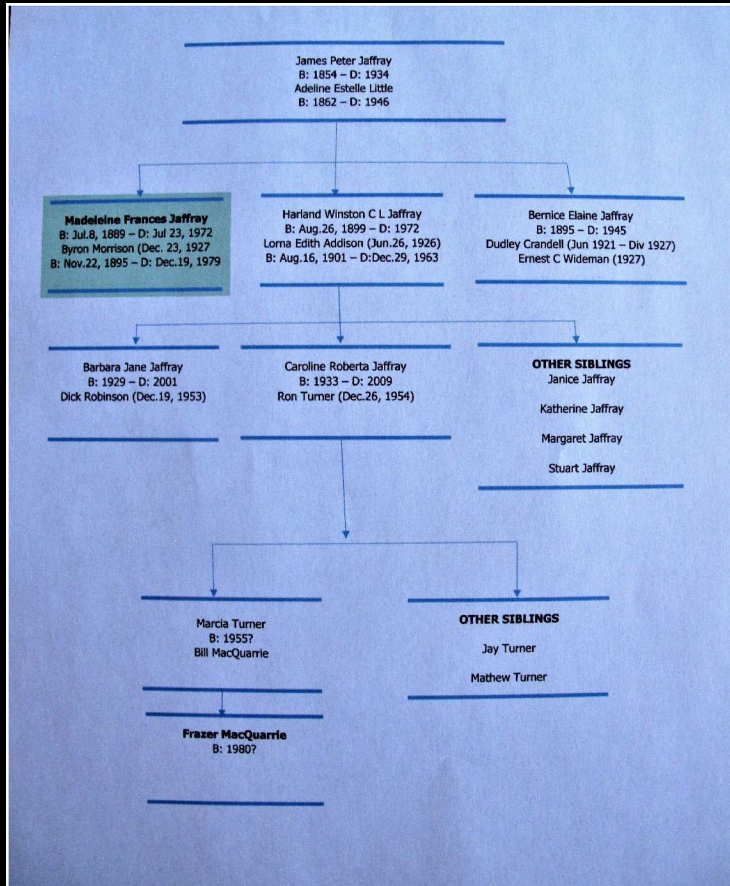
After supposed recovery from his wound he was allowed up, however a day or two later severe pain in his thigh sent him back to hospital. An X-ray showed that the bullet had hit the main artery, necessitating another operation."

Harland was removed from the front and transferred to County of Middlesex Hospital, St. Albans, Herts in England and was cared for by the Canadian Red Cross.

He returned to Canada in February 1919.



Lewis Gun



JAFFRAY FAMILY

Early Photos of Madeleine

THE GREAT WAR AMPUTEE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

As the First World War ended, Canadian amputee veterans returned home and banded together to assist each other in adapting to their new reality as amputees. United by the common bond of amputation, they created The War Amps and, along with those from the Second World War, were instrumental in pushing for advancements in prosthetic technology, confronting the stigma of disability, advocating for fair pensions for veterans and providing much-needed support to each other. The War Amps long history – stretching more than 100 years – is a testament to the tireless efforts of the members who built the Association, and its many unique programs, from the ground up.

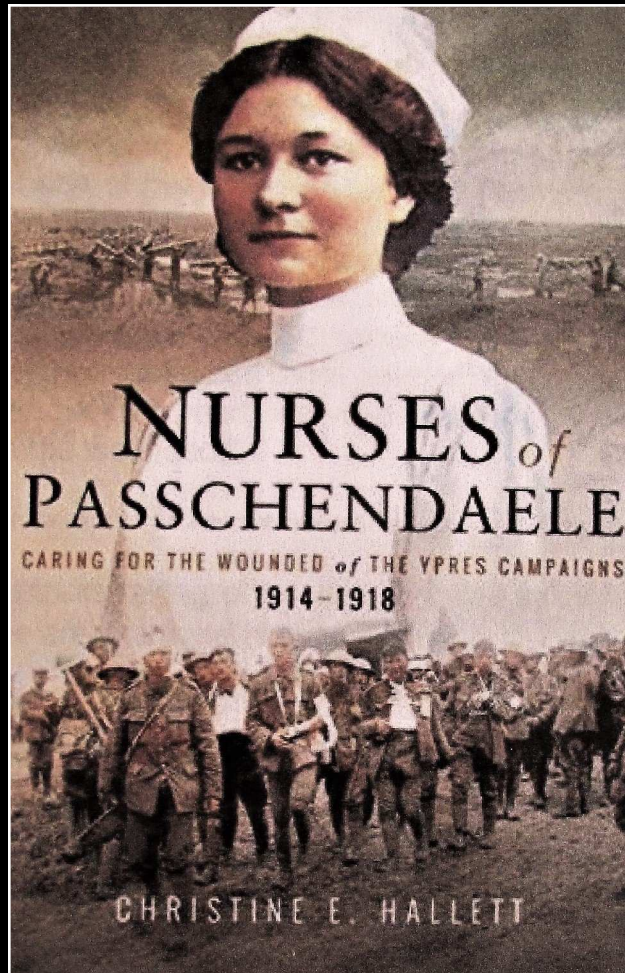
Our collection of biographies is an evolving document and only a preview of the many dedicated members who contributed to The War Amps over the years.

First World War



Madeleine, a Lieutenant in the Canadian Army serving with the French Flag Nurses, was the first female member of The Amputation Association of the Great War now called The War Amps . Her husband Byron Morrison was also a later member being a double amputee. The two met at a war amps convention and were married in Hamilton in 1927

Missing from the photos are: Arnold Palmer and Arnold Sutcliffe



CHRISTINE E HALLETT

After 100 years interest in World War 1 has greatly increased. The book by Christine Hallett is one written about the nurses of Passchendaele and covers the nursing aspect of the war in Belgium very well.

"The Ypres Salient saw some of the bitterest fighting of the First World War. The once-fertile fields of Flanders were turned into a quagmire through which men fought for four years. In casualty clearing stations, on ambulance trains and barges, and at base hospitals near the French and Belgian coasts, nurses of many nations cared for these traumatized and damaged men. Drawing on letters, diaries and personal accounts from archives all over the world, The Nurses of Passchendaele tells their stories - faithfully recounting their experiences behind the Ypres Salient in one of the most intense and prolonged casualty evacuation processes in the history of modern warfare. Nurses themselves came under shellfire and were vulnerable to aerial bombardment, and some were killed or injured while on active service. Alongside an analysis of the intricacies of their practice, the book traces the personal stories of some of these extraordinary women, revealing the courage, resilience and compassion with which they did their work."

Madeleine was one of those nurses

BOOK REFERENCES TO MADELEINE

Madeleine Jaffray was later to write of how awe-inspiring it could be to be so close to the front lines: At night we could see the commencement of attacks; the star shells and lights, then the awful noise of heavy artillery and the flash of the big guns lighting the skies. It is dreadful. How those men, after days, weeks and months in the trenches, stand it as they lie there on their sick beds is more than I can tell. How wonderful they are and how much we owe these men who have gone through this for us. They are fighting our fight. We cannot do enough for them, and nothing is too good for them. Many a time when on night duty we nurses watched those awesome sights beyond us. They seemed only a few fields away. Sick at heart we would turn on our heels finally and make preparations to receive the wounded."

...the lines; and gas attacks taking place several miles away could mean that drifting toxic fumes affected the areas around field hospitals.

Later, after her evacuation from Belgium, ***Madeleine*** was to speak to a journalist of her feelings one night when gas reached Mobile Surgical No. 1.

She had been on duty that evening, and had helped her patients into their protective masks. Later the same night, as she was getting into bed, the alarm sounded for a second time, and she ran back to her ward, pulling on her own mask as she went:

'When I opened the door I found them all sitting up in bed, panting and struggling to adjust their masks to meet this second attack; and as I stood there looking at them, I felt like a lioness with her cubs. I wanted to fight and kill those

who dared to do this fiendish thing!'

Hilda Loxton wrote in her diary that 'Most of the [patients] were very nervous when the planes were bombing around us, almost all were very badly wounded; they were so helpless and there was no protection except the thin wooden roofs. We had no sandbags or dugouts at that time; many remarked they felt safer in the trenches.' On 28 May, as she was sitting at the window of the nurses' barrack, cutting dressings for the next day's work, a shell landed a few feet from a barrack window. It failed to detonate, and was, instead, driven several feet into the earth. She commented in her diary that, had it exploded, 'things would have gone pretty hard for me'. 18 Just over a week later things did 'go hard'. On 4 June, a clear, moonlit night, German planes flew over at 10 p.m. en route to Furnes and Adinkerke. Annie Hanning, walking between wards, noticed that they were so low that the black crosses on the undersides of their wings could clearly be seen. Just over two hours later one returned, made several passes above the hospital, and then dropped ten bombs. Six of these fell harmlessly in a nearby field, three just a few yards from the nurses' barrack and one in the central compound of the hospital. Twelve sisters in the barrack woke suddenly to hear shell fragments and debris falling on their roof 'like hail stones'. Shrapnel balls and fragments of shell casing flew in all directions. Some, travelling with great velocity, punched right through the thin wooden walls of 'Lister' and 'Edith Cavell' wards, shredding pillows and scattering feathers, smashing bed screens and destroying glass vases. It seemed miraculous that only one occupant of the ward—an orderly sitting at the desk—sustained an injury; his leg was fractured. Just outside the

ward in the hospital compound **Madeleine Jaffray**, who was on night duty, had no protection.

Hilda Loxton later recounted how, 'A large piece of red hot shrapnel flew along the "trottoir" and struck her foot, completely blowing away the heel and under-part of foot—her screams very soon brought everyone out, the whole atmosphere being smoky and smelling of gun powder'. shredding pillows and scattering feathers, smashing bed screens and destroying glass vases.

Madeleine and the injured infirmière were both taken directly to the operating theatre, where their wounds were cleaned to prevent infection, packed with antiseptic dressings and securely bandaged. The remainder of the hospital staff went to the wards to reassure the patients. Hilda was later to recount, with some amusement, the story of her attempt to comfort one particularly stoical man:"

"The ward which got it worst had 22 gas patients in it who were not very bad. When I went into the ward I patted the first man I came to on the back, and said, "N'avez pas peur" (Were you afraid?), he looked up and smiled and said, "Je n' ai pas peur, mademoiselle" (No, I was not afraid) . He happened to be the biggest man in the ward and was almost well again. They were more used to this sort of thing than we were, and not ill enough to have lost their nerve. The girls thought this a great joke on me and laughed over it many times.

Although they used humour as a means of coping with the

awfulness of their situation, the nurses of Mobile Surgical No. 1 were now seriously frightened. Sister Coppice 'completely collapsed from the shock of the bombing', and was taken to a base hospital. The next night, the Germans launched a gas attack at Nieuwpoort. Staff at Mobile Surgical No. 1 saw the red warning flares go up in the distance, and their médecin chef received a message by phone to say that the gas was being carried towards the hospital. Hilda described how fumes entered the nurses' sleeping barrack through a knot hole, making her and Annie Hanning vomit. All the nurses put on their gas masks, but soon found these so uncomfortable that they resorted to wrapping 'turkish bath towels' around their faces instead. Within three hours, large numbers of gassed patients were being brought into the hospital. Being poisoned by gas was one of the nurses' greatest fears. Hilda commented: 'our hospital had 2 high flag poles in front, on one flew the French flag, on the other a Red Cross one. How eagerly every night we watched these to see if the wind was in our direction for gas.'

On 6 June Agnes Warner was able to find time to sit down and write a letter to **Madeleine Jaffray's** parents. The emotions evoked by the responsibility of running a large field hospital so close to the front lines resonate through her writing:

I am so grieved to have to send you such bad news today, but hope your daughter's cable reassured you a little ... She has been so brave and patient we are all proud of her and the doctors are full of admiration for her courage. All of the generals of the division came to see her today and she is to get the Croix de Guerre ... Everything possible is being

done for her, and she herself feels that she could not have better care. One of the orderlies was also wounded and one of the patients. We all feel so dreadfully about it and I have sent in a protest to the Red Cross of Geneva. But it is war in one of its worst forms and we are in the war zone.

The early summer of 1917 was a tense time. Sir Douglas Haig had been planning an assault in the Ypres Sector for over six months, and the time seemed to be drawing near for him to carry out his plans. Everyone knew this, including the German high command, which was bringing additional units to this part of the Western Front. Alongside their focus on the mobilization of troops, both sides were beginning to sense that the side with the greatest airpower might win the war. Gotha raids on areas behind the lines were becoming a regular occurrence and nurses were coming to realize that CCSs and field hospitals in the 'zone of the armies' really were part of the 'front lines' of the war. Chapter Six Moving 'Up the Line' On 6 April the United States Congress declared war on Imperial Germany.

The U.S. base hospitals that had been so carefully planned the previous year were now scrambled into action. George Crile mobilized Base Hospital No. 4 (the Lakeside Unit from Cleveland, Ohio) at the end of April. Soon afterwards, on Sunday 2 May, Richard Harte asked Margaret Dunlop to have fifty nurses ready to embark for France with Base Hospital No. 10 (the Pennsylvania Hospital Unit) the following Friday. She struggled to contact women who had signed up for the U.S. Army Nurse Corps Reserve the year before: many were working in senior positions in hospitals far from their home city. Reinforcements had to be found—but by Wednesday 16 May, the newly formed Nursing Corps

of Base Hospital No. 10 was ready to leave for France.”

***Nurses of Passchendaele:
Caring for the Wounded of the Ypres
Campaigns 1914–1918
by Christine E. Hallett***



Bluebird: Madeleine Jaffray
by Alberta Artist Marlena Wyman

Nursing Sisters, paintings, Provincial Archives of Alberta,

This is one of her paintings that is included in the group exhibit Real Women, curated by Shane Golby for the Art Gallery of Alberta/Alberta Foundation for the Arts TREX exhibit that is travelling through Alberta from August 2019 to August 2020.

"This painting is the second to be inspired by the archival record of another Edmonton woman's experience of the First World War. 2018 is the 100th anniversary of the end of that tragic war, which has compelled me to research some of those stories. I was looking through Madeleine Jaffray's scrapbook at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, and her story touched me.

I titled the painting "Bluebird", the nickname for the Nursing Sisters in the war who wore blue uniforms and white veils."

Marlena Wyman



Madeleine and Byron at their home at 12106 Jasper Ave
in Edmonton, Alberta



