

Canada's Dream Shall Be of Them: Canadian Epitaphs of the Great War

Eric McGeer

Steve Douglas, Photographer

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War memorials—it doesn't get any gloomier, but also awe-inspiring as the male mind seeks to comprehend the horror of battle, from a but-for-the-grace-of-God vantage point. World War One took the lives of 66,000 Canadians and maimed another 170,000, in the service of fighting for the Commonwealth. Along the former Western Front, some 40,000 Canadian tombstones cluster in British cemeteries. Of that number, approximately 3,000 contain personal inscriptions written by family members in a program created by the Imperial War Graves Commission. This heartbreakingly beautiful project presents 1,000 or so examples of those personalized epitaphs, along with compelling history and insight into Canada's conflicted memory of the Great War.

DEATH IS NOT A BARRIER TO LOVE, DADDY. KAYE

Private Peter William Lapointe MN, 2nd Battalion, August 17th 1918 (age 34)

EQUALLY READY AT THE CALL OF COUNTRY AND AT THE CALL OF GOD.

Private James Campbell Currie, 102nd Battalion, April 9th 1917 (age 27)

MATT SUTHERLAND (July/August 2017)

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