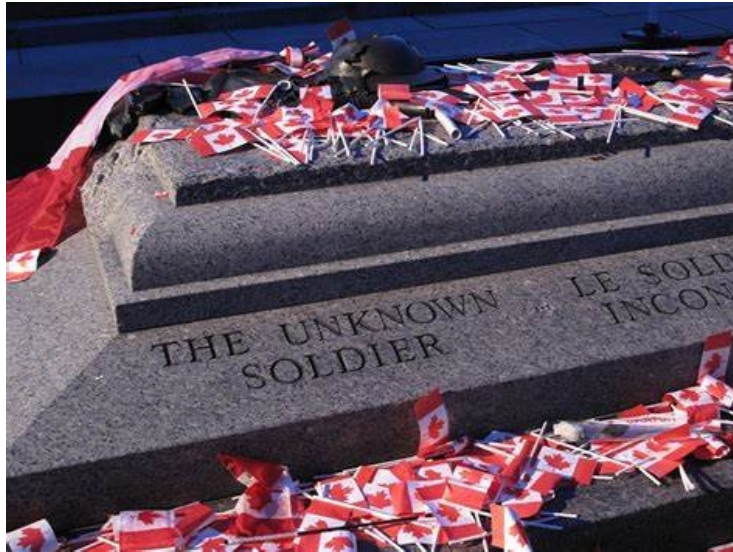


The Cost of Freedom



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Ottawa

Over 110,000 Canadian men and women have lost their lives in wars. The headstones over those whose bodies were identified include an engraved Canadian maple leaf, the rank and name of the sailor, soldier, or airman, his or her age, and a short inscription from the family. The names Canada's 27,000 Canadian war dead who have no known graves are engraved on memorials throughout the world in places. Rudyard Kipling, the 1907 winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, selected to include on all British and Commonwealth headstones over the graves of those whose bodies were recovered but could not be identified the phrase: "*A Soldier Known Unto God*".

In May 1999 the remains of a soldier killed in the First World War and identified only by the remnants of the uniform he was buried in were recovered from a battlefield cemetery near Vimy Ridge, France. His headstone read only: "*A Canadian Soldier Known Unto God*". His remains were buried at the National War Memorial in Ottawa and honour Canada's war dead who have no known graves, including 22 men from the Gananoque area.

In 2005 over 150,000 Netherland citizens gathered in the city of Apeldoorn to mark the 55th anniversary of the liberation of their country after five years of brutal German occupation. Their liberation was led by the Canadian army and came at the cost of 7,600 Canadians who rest in military cemeteries throughout the Netherland. A large banner in Apeldoorn greeted the thousands of Canadian veterans who had participated in the liberation. It read "*Dying for freedom is not the worst thing that can happen ... being forgotten is.*"

War memorials in Canada such as the ones in Gananoque and Lansdowne ensure we do not forget the cost of freedom.