



Kansas City's National WWI Museum and Memorial

Description

default watermark



Iâ€™m embarrassed to say I couldnâ€™t remember a thing about World War I until my friend and I decided to visit [Kansas Cityâ€™s National WWI Museum](#). My friend read that itâ€™s one of the top rated museums in Kansas City and we had no clue it even existed. We decided to [get out of our box](#) and take a little day trip to visit the museum.

As we walked up the long pathway to the Liberty Memorial and WWI Museum I looked over at my friend and with some hesitation asked who fought in WWI. Thankfully she was as clueless as I was. Obviously neither one of us paid attention in history class. I was always good at memorizing what I needed to know for a test and then just as quickly as the information was memorized, it was forgotten. There are some teachers who have a passion for history and others who just go through motions much like their students.

default watermark

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

BY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN M^CCRAE, MD (1872-1918)
CANADIAN ARMY

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.



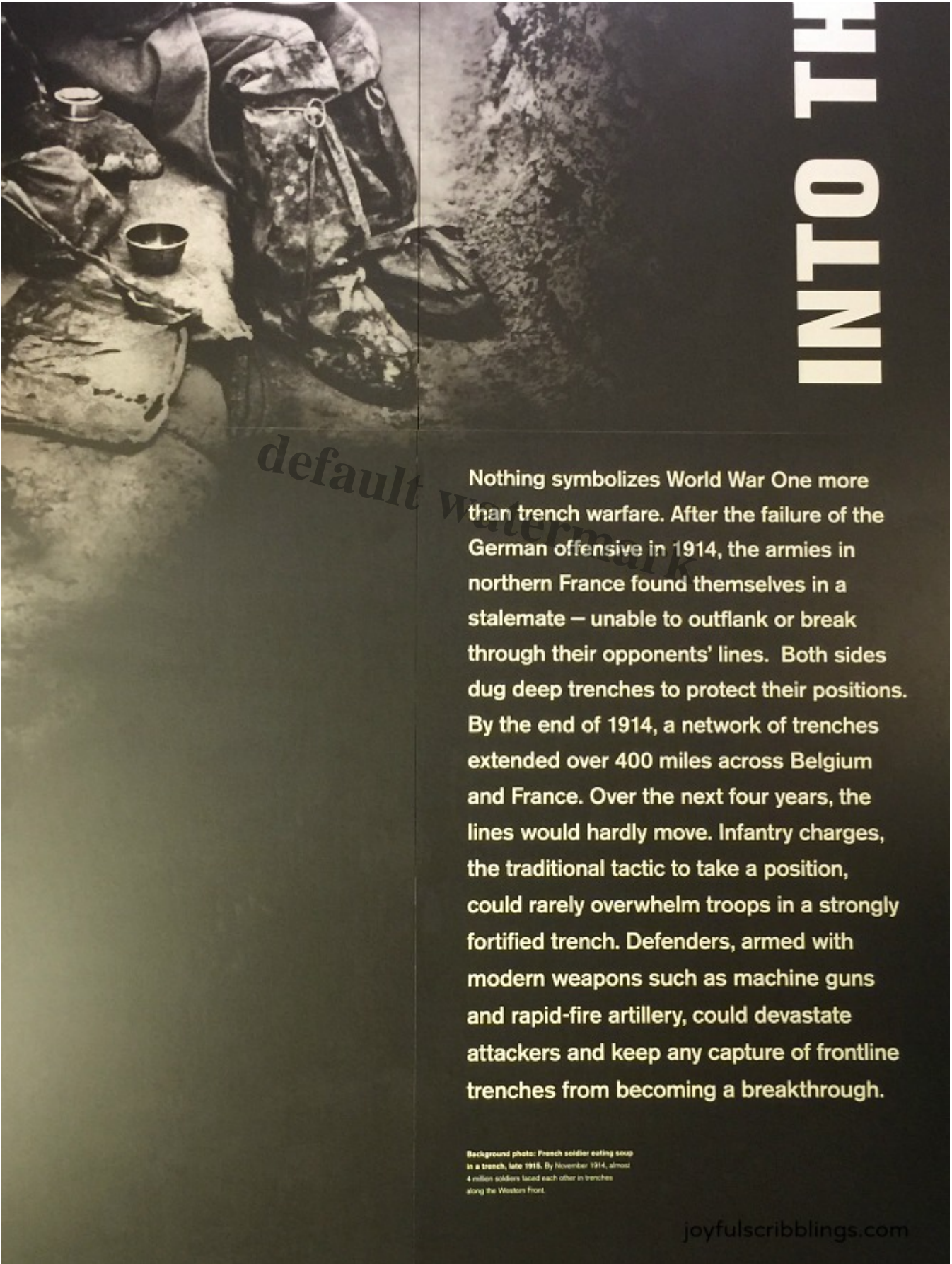
When you enter inside the WWI Museum there is a glass bridge and underneath there are 9,000 poppies on display. Each of the poppies represents a 1,000 combatant deaths totaling 9 million dead. The most famous poem to emerge from WWI was John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields". After the war handmade poppies were sold to raise money for disabled veterans and they became the flower of remembrance for WWI.



My friend and I decided to take a guided tour which I highly recommend. There are many older gentleman who volunteer at the museum who are a wealth of knowledge and passionate about sharing information on WWI. I find I get so much more out of a museum when I take a tour from someone who

is passionate about the subject. It beats aimlessly walking around and reading little signs or even listening to a headset for that matter.

default watermark



INTO THE TRENCHES

default watermark

Nothing symbolizes World War One more than trench warfare. After the failure of the German offensive in 1914, the armies in northern France found themselves in a stalemate – unable to outflank or break through their opponents' lines. Both sides dug deep trenches to protect their positions. By the end of 1914, a network of trenches extended over 400 miles across Belgium and France. Over the next four years, the lines would hardly move. Infantry charges, the traditional tactic to take a position, could rarely overwhelm troops in a strongly fortified trench. Defenders, armed with modern weapons such as machine guns and rapid-fire artillery, could devastate attackers and keep any capture of frontline trenches from becoming a breakthrough.

Background photo: French soldier eating soup in a trench, late 1915. By November 1914, almost 4 million soldiers faced each other in trenches along the Western Front.

joyfulscribblings.com

The National WWI Museum has several different areas to explore. There is a 15 minute film that shows what led America to enter the war and galleries show the chronology of the war. There is a remake of an actual trench and thousands of objects from the war.

default watermark



Explore galleries which show the American war effort on the home front.



This mural is part of the Panthéon de la Guerre and is located in one of the exhibit halls on the Liberty Memorial Deck. You can read more about it [here](#).



Two gigantic stone Sphinxes adorn the Liberty Memorial. “Memory” faces the East with wings shielding its face from the horrors of the European battlefields. “Future” faces the West with wings shrouding its face to symbolize the future which is yet unseen.



The 217 foot Tower was built in 1926. You can take an elevator up to a deck which overlooks Kansas City and has some beautiful views. I have lived in the Kansas City area since 1983 and this was the first time Iâ€™d ever been up in the tower. Several people I know have lived here even longer and have never been in the tower yet weâ€™ve traveled to Washington, DC to see National Museums and Monuments.



My friend and I had a great day at the WWI Museum and left feeling a little wiser and grateful. Itâ€™s sad that thousands of people are still dying due to conflicts over land, religious differences and the struggle for power. I came home and shared with my husband all about the Lusitania, the introduction of chemical warfare, and why WWI was called the trench war. He already knew all about them. Evidently he paid attention in social studies class.

Did you visit any exhibits or museums as part of my [Get Out of Your Box Challenge](#) this month? Or maybe you tried something else that was new to you. Please leave a comment.

If you haven't already, you can download my free eBook on [31 Challenges to Encourage Curiosity](#) and get my blog updates [HERE](#).

Date Created

2016/01/19

Author

queenie

default watermark