

# CULTURAL MOMENT

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## Letter from J.J.W. Brown to his Aunt Maud (Brown) Ryan

*Residing near Conn*

*June 27, 1917*

November 11<sup>th</sup>, Remembrance Day, is a day designated for Canadians to take time to commemorate and honour those that have given their lives serving Canadians and helping people of other Nations.

A proud part of Wellington North's Culture is being home to the Village of Arthur, a community the designation of being "Canada's Most Patriotic Village" for their extraordinary efforts in World War I and World War II by giving Sons and Money to Aid War.

This letter, sent home from a soldier during World War I, gives us a first-hand account of the circumstances and sacrifices encountered by those that fought for our freedom.

Passed on to Arthur resident, Gail Donald, by her Grandmother, Maud Ryan, with whom the letter is addressed, from nephew, J.J.W. Brown, the letter tells the story of Brown's experiences in the trenches of France, being wounded and then transferred to hospital in Manchester, England. Brown mentions the kindness shown to him while in the hospital by the nurses and people. After recovering for six months, he then went on to Epsom and from Epsom to Hastings, where he was meant to get built up by physical training. From there he was transferred to Seaford, from where the letter was written. Here, Brown was located in a large Canadian camp where soldiers were sent directly back to France. After an encounter with his old Captain, he was then sent to Shorncliffe for an instructors' course but was delayed after spraining his ankle. Brown received corporal standing for his efforts. He concludes the letter appreciating the food he received and longing for knowledge of when the war would end and he could return home.

*Lest we Forget*