

## **They Trooped the Colours**

Men of the No. 2 Construction Battalion--  
Canadian, Yankee, West Indian--  
Sailed and marched to trenches on two fronts:  
Battle they had to twice, not once.  
Fought they to join in the Great War--  
Defeat the foe and win sweet Honour;  
And they sought to wrought Equality--  
The human right to civil Dignity--  
To down those who Supremacy craved,  
Believing Africans best off enslaved  
Or oppressed. But these soldiers *de couleur*  
Proved no human being is inferior,  
And established there's never true Peace  
Unless each Society knows true Justice.  
These men--Canadian, Yankee, West Indian,  
African--were all of Liberty's dominion.

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*Parliamentary Poet Laureate*

*Poem written for 2016 Remembrance Day Ceremonies in Ottawa*