



1914 — CENTENNIAL — 1918

THE WORLD REMEMBERS

YEAR IN REVIEW

A REMEMBRANCE FOR THE MILLIONS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES

The millions of names of the WWI dead are being displayed around the world in schools, libraries, universities, museums, city halls, churches and other organizations. In 2017 the names of those killed in 1917 will appear and each name will be programmed to appear at an exact minute, circling the world through participating nations.

The dead of the 1914-1918 war have been remembered collectively but forgotten personally. The World Remembers asks you to reflect on the humanity of each and everyone who gave their lives.

The World Remembers is a remarkable project. It respects and honours the loss of life of all people, no matter who they fought for or where they were born.

The World Remembers reflects the values of our country: that all people are equal, all people are welcome and all people are respected. Every person matters, every human being is worth being remembered.

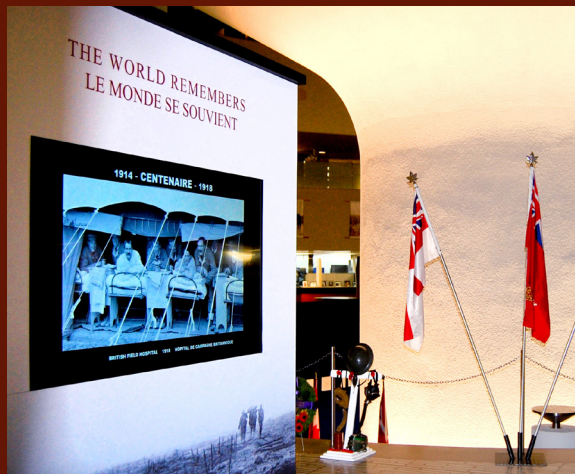
On behalf of the City of Toronto, I would like to thank the supporters of the project, as well as the team that produces it each year. You are honouring the millions who gave their lives one hundred years ago in 'The Great War' and ensuring that we never forget.

Mayor John Tory, Toronto City Hall 2015

2016 REVIEW

On November 11, 2016, The World Remembers completed the third year of its five-year project of commemoration, education, and reconciliation. The 597,889 names of those killed in 1916 appeared in more than 65 locations in Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, Switzerland, Belgium and Germany.

The displays were eloquent and moving, each name standing silently for twenty-five seconds. Each was programmed to appear at an exact minute, on an exact day, allowing families to find the precise moment that a relative's name would appear. Every fifteen minutes all names faded from the display, to be replaced by WWI photos from participating nations, before the names-display resumed again for another fifteen minutes.



TORONTO CITY HALL

PARTICIPATING NATIONS

Canada	Australia
Belgium	Germany
United Kingdom	Czech Republic
Italy	Slovenia
France	New Zealand
Turkey	British Indian Army



TRINITY COLLEGE TORONTO

“Nations go to war, but it’s the individuals who fight the war, and the losses of war transcend national boundaries. And that is why *The World Remembers* is so important – it stands as a powerful reminder of the losses caused by WWI.

To appreciate what those names truly represent we must imagine what lies behind each and every one. It is important not to view them simply as names of random strangers long deceased, but instead to appreciate that they were someone’s father, someone’s son, someone’s brother, someone’s husband, someone’s friend. And with that, to understand behind each name the depth of grief associated with it, and the lost future it represents.



CANADIAN SOLDIERS



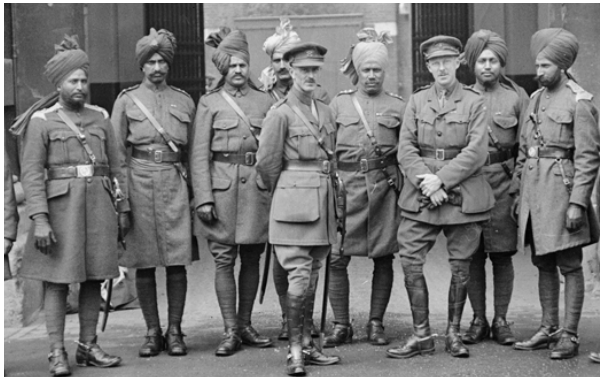
TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

As a historian I find the best means to understand what those names signify is to understand what is represented by one single name and the loss behind it. It’s essential to appreciate that each name represents a complex human story, and then to take that story and multiply it by hundreds of thousands. It’s at that point, when we appreciate what was the richness of one life lost, that the magnitude of loss created by the war truly becomes apparent. And it’s at that point that we can truly begin to understand what lies behind the names of *The World Remembers*.”

— Dr. Stephen Davies, *Vancouver Island University 2015*

“It’s a brilliant example of activism for remembrance. For years it was, ‘They’re the enemy, we’re the good guys. Now it’s not about keeping score as much as it is about forgiveness.’”

— Ron Labrie – Ponoka Composite High School, Alberta



BRITISH INDIAN ARMY OFFICERS

“Students of the Bildungspartner – Gymnasium in Engen were in Verdun between Oct 21 and 23 to complete the project *The World Remembers*. We owe great thanks to the Foreign Office which covered the costs of this excursion, to Robert Thomson who proposed the idea of such a research project, and to all the people who participated in the project.”

— Sebastian Steineback VdK, Kassel Germany, 2015

“R.H. Thomson is busy with a sideline project that’s as ambitious as it is an affirmation of our shared humanity. It’s *The World Remembers*, launched in 2014, that aims to display, on the Internet and in schools, museums and other public buildings displaying the names, all of the military who died in the First World War. It’s all part of Thomson’s desire to acknowledge the lives of all those whose lives were wrenched by a war launched by treaties and politicians, that produced over 20 million casualties — very few of whom were politicians.”

— Stephen Hunt, Calgary Herald 2015

“I’m Canadian now and have lived here most of my life. We were German immigrants in the early 1950’s and from the very beginning we were viewed with suspicion and dislike. The feeling I had as a child, as with my parents, was of wanting to excuse myself for my country - I wasn’t even born when it all happened!

This year’s dinner had the usual format, speeches would be made and there would be the recognition of lives lost in the war, and I had the same feelings - yet again! Not quite one of the group. Better not to say where I was born.

But this time things changed. For the first time, *The World Remembers* project recognized that all sides lose in war. Canadian, British, French, German - we all lost people we loved - people who aren’t aunts and uncles to our children, who don’t see our children grow up, whose graves we cannot even visit. That evening, I felt as one with the people around me. We all lose in war. We all need to work to end it.”

— Hilde Zimmer – Toronto, Canada 2015



SHELL FACTORY IN BOLOGNA, ITALY



AUSTRALIANS IN ITALY

“Here is a fresh new approach to commemoration. *The World Remembers* displays the names of the dead from all countries by projecting them in public over the course of the Great War anniversaries. The ambitious project is the brainchild of eminent Canadian actor, director and playwright R.H. Thomson.

Thomson had five great uncles killed in the First World War. He based his play, *The Lost Boys*, on their letters home. *The World Remembers/Le Monde se Souvient* will be projecting as many names as it can find between now and Nov. 11, 1918. It’s a massive task, especially because the list of the dead will grow longer in 2016 and 2017. He thinks there is more than one way of remembering the tragedy. “The challenge of Remembrance Day is to honour the dead in ways that communicate the immensity of the loss,” Thomson explains. “And surely we must have multiple narratives about the problems of war and the challenges of peace.

This transnational approach to commemoration reflects the nature of the 1914 to 1918 conflict. We do, after all, regard it as the First World War. So it’s fitting to remember in a way that transcends flags and borders. And emphasizes peace.”

— Kingston Whig-Standard – Jamie Swift – 2015

PLEASE JOIN US IN 2017

The 2017 names-display will begin in late September. More than 700,000 names of those killed in 1917 will be individually displayed from Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, Turkey and other nations. We invite universities, museums, schools, churches, libraries, community centres or any interested organization to join us by presenting the names-display on a laptop, wide screen TV or by means of a projector.

We continue our discussions with Slovakia, Serbia and the United States in the hope that they will also join the project. In the United States, the National World War I Museum Memorial is presenting our names-display and we are hopeful that both American and Chinese names will be included in 2017.

The World Remembers is a charitable organization and is made possible by the generous contributions of private individuals, foundations and participating nations.

We wish to thank all our contributors and to recognize the schools, universities, libraries, museums, community centres and other organizations that have joined us in creating this unique project.



SOUTHRIDGE SCHOOL, BRITISH COLUMBIA

“The World Remembers offers a powerful reminder that the Great War was, first and foremost, a human tragedy. To see all those names is to appreciate that behind every one of them is a life and a story, one perhaps not so very different from another. We must never lose sight of the fact that history is not the story of nations or ideologies, but of people, and *The World Remembers* helps us with that.”

— *Jonathan Vance, Historian*



TRINITY COLLEGE TORONTO

“Naming them here at City Hall and in schools and universities reminds us that each of the millions who lost their lives were individual human beings. For ninety-nine years they have been honourably remembered as a collective – as ‘them’ – but on the 100th year it is time to remember them individually, even if that takes weeks and months to do. As an ancient combat airman, I think it is appropriate that all of the WWI dead be recognized in this way. A century has passed and our world is a different place, so we can name all those killed in the 1914-1918 war with respect and without offence.”

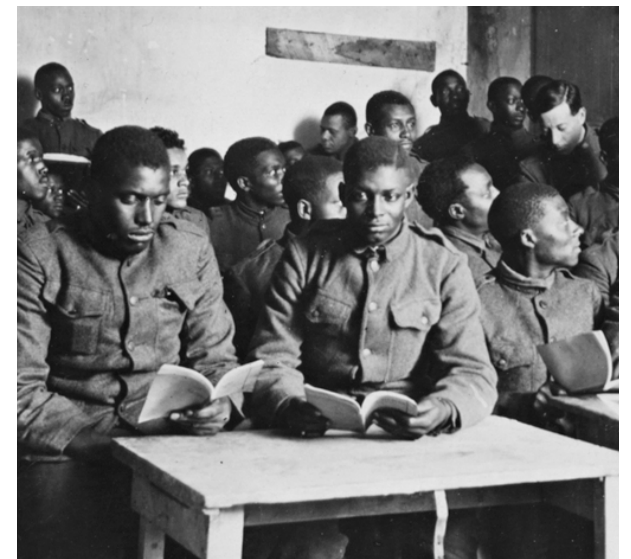
— *Major General Richard Rohmer OC, CMM, DFC, KStJ, CD and a WWII combat veteran 2014*



BRITISH SOLDIERS

“A colossal undertaking ... to represent the colossal losses suffered 100 years ago. More than half a million names are on display at City Hall and the Public Library... each one represents a person who was killed 100 years ago... fighting in the World War One. It’s part of a project called “*The World Remembers*” and what’s happening here in Toronto is just one small piece of a much bigger effort to remember every single soldier who was killed, no matter what their nationality. It’s the brainchild of RH Thomson.”

— *Matt Galloway CBC Metro Morning, 2015*



AMERICAN RECRUITS

The WWI Centenary years offer the perfect opportunity to create such a global project. The 1914-1918 war cast a shadow that extended for generations. This unique opportunity can only be grasped if we work together to create an international remembrance, education, and reconciliation event that respects all WWI histories.

MEMORY IS PART OF WHAT MAKES US HUMAN.

1914 — CENTENNIAL — 1918

THE WORLD REMEMBERS

A REMEMBRANCE FOR THE MILLIONS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRESENTING THE NAMES OF THOSE KILLED IN 1917

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Canada