SOMME
2016
CALENDAR
OF COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS
A hundred years ago, men from all continents came to the north of France to fight in an immense battle during which hundreds of thousands of human lives and a significant amount of material resources were wiped out.

This terrible battle has been remembered in history and the memories of the warring countries as the Battle of the Somme. For 141 days, several million combatants and workers from Germany, Australia, Canada, France, India, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and several countries of the old colonial empires met in France, where they would experience the horror and suffering of war.

We have a duty to gather together today in memory of the experience shared by those men and women, both soldiers and civilians. A century later, the whole world will meet in the Somme to commemorate one of the largest battles of the Great War and pay tribute to the memory of the lives and destinies that it destroyed. In a Europe now at peace, where the need for unity and solidarity remains, allies and enemies of the past join together to reassess the lessons learned from this past and remember how closely the history of Europe is linked to that of the rest of the world.

For the first time, all the actors involved in the commemoration are joining together in their work and sharing their resources to create an exceptional international calendar of commemorative events over 141 days.

Alongside the ceremonies, visitors can enjoy a vast cultural, scientific and educational programme when they come to the Hauts-de-France region to visit the Somme battlefields and take part in a large variety of commemorative events.

The “Somme 2016” commemorative programme lists all the events organised for the 141 days of the Battle of the Somme by the commemoration representatives, regional and local authorities, French departments and agencies and foreign associations and partners.
# Table of Contents

**Editorial** .................................................. **03**
**1916: The Battle of the Somme** .......... **07**

**April**

**Fields of Battle - Terres de Paix 14-18 - Somme 2016** .......... **08**
**Events in April** .............................................. **10**
**Amiens Flies the Australian Flag for Anzac** ................. **15**
**Joint Interview** ............................................ **16**
**23 April**
**New Zealand Commemorates Anzac** ................. **19**
**25 April**
**Anzac Day** ................................................ **20**
**2016: Honouring Australia** ....................... **22**
**Interview with H.E. Mr. Stephen Brady** ............... **22**

**May**

**Events in May** ............................................. **24**
**21 May**
**Monuments to the Dead of the Great War 1914-1918** ............ **26**

**June**

**Events in June** ............................................. **28**
**4 & 5 June**
**The 21st Amiens Comic Book Festival** .................. **30**
**14-18 Now** .................................................. **32**
**Historial De la Grande Guerre, Péronne** .......... **34**

**The Somme Departmental Council** ................. **40**
**Amiens, Gateway to the Centenary in the Somme** ............ **44**
**22, 23 & 24 June**
**The Battles of 1916** ................................ **46**
**The University of Picardy** ............................... **48**
**28 June**
**Black Dog, the Dreams of Paul Nash** ................. **50**
**29 June**
**Abbey Theatre** ............................................. **52**
**30 June**
**The Vigil** .................................................. **54**

**July**

**1 July**
**Official Franco-British Ceremony of the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme** .......... **56**
**The Royal British Legion** ................................ **60**
**The Commonwealth War Graves Commission** .......... **61**
**Interview with Sir Julian King** ....................... **62**
**600 Children for a Centenary** ......................... **64**
**Interview with Mrs. Valérie Cabuil** ................. **65**
**Ceremony at the Mine Crater in La Boisselle** .......... **66**
**Ceremony at Contalmaison** ............................. **67**
**French Ceremony in Rancourt** ......................... **68**

**Ceremony**
**At the Ulster Tower** ................................ **70**
**Centenary of the Battles of the Somme and Beaumont-Hamel** .......... **72**
**Interview with H.E. Lawrence Cannon** .................. **73**
**Ceremony of Remembrance** ............................ **74**
**Interview with H.E. Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut** .......... **75**
**3 Days for Peace**
**At the Pays du Coquelicot** ............................ **76**
**Events in July** ............................................. **78**

**August**

**Events in August** ....................................... **90**

**September**

**Events in September** ................................ **90**
**3 September**
**Irish Commemoration** ................................ **92**
**Interview with H.E. Geraldine Byrne Nason** ............ **93**
**15 September**
**Centenary of New Zealand Engagement** .......... **94**
**Interview with H.E. Dr. James Kember** ............... **95**

**October**

**Events in October** .................................... **96**

**November**

**Events in November** ................................. **98**
**11-16 November**
**Commemorating the End of the Battle of the Somme** .......... **100**
**Photos Credits** ........................................ **102**
1916: THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

Following the failure of the major French offensives in 1915, the Battle of the Somme was planned as a huge Franco-British offensive for the summer of 1916, intended to break through the German front and ensure victory with the help of Russian and Italian offensives. Everything pointed to a western balance of power that would work in the allies' favour: a British army of volunteers, but of continental size and incorporating troops from all across the Empire (South Africa, Australia, Canada, Newfoundland, New Zealand); the industrial movement that had given the two allied armies significant power in heavy artillery; designed to reduce infantryman deaths; on the whole, a formidable feat of logistics.

The only problem was that the Germans had a diametrically opposed battle plan that would thwart the Allies. The Germans wanted to destroy the French Army at Verdun by wearing them down—both mentally and physically. This resulted in the allied offensives being pushed back to 1 July, leaving the lion's share of the battle to the British.

Despite a widespread bombing campaign that lasted a week, the Germans—who were well-protected—came out of their shelters to massacre the waves of British soldiers, resulting in 58,000 losses (almost 20,000 fatalities) on 1 July alone—the worst toll in British military history. The French, who were more experienced, fared somewhat better, although they did not break through enemy lines.

The battle went on for four and a half months. Tanks were used for the first time, teaching the British a hard lesson in industrialized warfare. It brought no "breakthrough", but became a battle of attrition. There were approximately a million losses in total fatalities, casualties, missing around 400,000 Germans, 500,000 British and 200,000 French. However, it reduced the pressure on the French at Verdun and showed that from then on, both of the West's allied powers had a huge army and fearsome armament equipment. For Germany, this battle—"the greatest of the war"—was the opposite of Verdun. They were defending the Rhine at the outposts of the Somme.

John Hore, Professor of Modern History at Trinity College Dublin.
FIELDS OF BATTLE
TERRES DE PAIX 14-18
SOMME 2016

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL ST MAUR SHEIL

ASSEVILLERS MOTORWAY REST AREA
(A SSEVILLERS OUEST AUTOROUTE A1)

The exhibition featuring the work of contemporary photographer Michael St Maur Sheil makes a connection between the pacified memories of the different nations and the former battlefields that once separated them in the Somme. Irish artist Michael St Maur Sheil, one of the most active contemporary photographers on the Western Front, has compiled an extremely powerful photographic collection. The systematic and exhaustive exploration of the battlefields in Picardy glorifies the Somme as the land of the poppy. The power of Michael St Maur Sheil’s photographs also resides in its capacity to evoke the life force of those men, who came from over thirty nations and for whom national unity and identity was forged in the heart of the French countryside. This was the case for the Australians, New Zealanders and South Africans.

Taken from the sky, often during cold weather when the vegetation is sparse, Michael Sheil’s panoramas reveal the particular nature of modern warfare, where the artillery deployed on an industrial scale leaves its trace on the scarred battlefield, where human flesh and trenches remain, preserved in sites of remembrance that have become sanctuaries. Other traces reveal the intensity and the violence of times, one of the most traumatising experiences in warfare. Still others are intertwined with the personal connections that a number of soldiers — future writers, such as JRR Tolkien — made in the lands of the Somme, and which provided food for their literary imagination. The aerial photos reveal the importance of the commemoration across the Channel, which ties the Tommy’s grave to the land that cost him his life and the lives of most of his squad.

By exhibiting the work of Michael St Maur Sheil, a prize-winning photographer who devoted over ten years of his life to documenting the battlefields, Sanef group and the Mission du Centenaire First World War Centenary Mission give meaning to the quest of the old Grand Reporter: enabling his contemporaries to discover the places where History was written.

SANEF GROUP

Sanef group, a major player in the transport industry, operates over 2,000 km of motorways and is part of global leader Abertis. Our mission is to play a role in the urban planning and dynamics of the regions traversed by its motorways, provide quality customer service, and fulfil its responsibility to the public in accordance with its contractual commitments to the French state.

The Great War took place on the lands that are today serviced by sanef motorways: Alsace, Lorraine, Champagne-Ardenne, Picardy, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, all of which were profoundly marked by the conflict, and which today are serviced by a motorway network that enables physical and economic exchange in the greater north-eastern France.

It was therefore natural for Sanef to take part in the Mission du Centenaire project and actively contribute to our duty to commemorate. It was just as natural to share the memory of the Battle of the Somme and the traces it has left on the landscape through this exhibition.

Sanef motorways: bringing you on a journey through the sites of the Great War

Tune in to Sanef 102.7 FM for the “Territoires de Memoria” history programmes on the Great War.

Map of sanef motorways © sanef
Educational project
TRAVELLING SOLDIERS
FROM JANUARY 2016 TO NOVEMBER 2016
IN SEVENTEEN COUNTRIES
By exploring a historic and memorial site (Narbonne), pupils are introduced to the techniques of historical and archaeological research, to develop their scientific capacity.

Commemorative event
UN TIRAILLEUR EN ENFER (A TIRAILLEUR IN HELL)
BY YVES PINGUILLY
FROM JANUARY 2016 TO MARCH 2016
VARIOUS LIBRARIES ACROSS FRANCE
Reading and writing workshops organised with Yves Pinguilly, author of Un tirailleur en enfer, which provided the material for a stage production by “Compagnie Car A Patte”.

Theatre
LA FLEUR AU FUSIL,
EN SOMME (A FLOWER IN THE RIFLE, IN THE SOMME)
FROM JANUARY 2016 TO NOVEMBER 2016
An adaptation of Alain Guiraud’s play, in which one actor plays all the young men who went off to war with a “flower in their rifle”, in the hot summer of 1914. The show will tour the Somme on the following dates:
- Friday 13 May 2016: Conty, Reception room, 8.30 p.m. (open to the public)
- Thursday 19 May 2016: Amiens, college Arthur Rimbaud, 2 p.m. (school performance)
- Friday 20 May 2016: Amiens, college Arthur Rimbaud, 2 p.m. (school performance)
- Saturday 21 May 2016: Paimpont, Reception room, 8.30 p.m. (open to the public)
- Monday 23 May 2016: Longueau, college Jules Cavaignac, 2 p.m. (school performance)
- Tuesday 24 May 2016: Longueau, college Jules Cavaignac, 10 a.m. (school performance)
- Thursday 26 May 2016: Conty, Media library, 2 p.m. (school performance)
- Friday 27 May 2016: Conty, Media library, 2 p.m. (school performance)

Exhibition
THE FATE OF SOLDIERS
FROM JANUARY 2016 TO NOVEMBER 2016
This museum gives visitors an idea of the hardship faced by soldiers, especially in the trenches, using a copy of a conscription pamphlet.

Commendorative event
FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF SERGEANT MAJOR DERNIER, DIED 6 JUNE 1916
FROM 1 JANUARY TO 1 NOVEMBER 2016
The school life of pupils and teachers in 1916 is pieced together from an old photograph.

Trail
GREAT WAR REMEMBRANCE TRAIL IN THE SOMME
FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 2016
CENTRE OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME
A permanent waymarked path takes visitors around the sites of the Battle of the Somme.

Exhibition
IN PARALLEL / TIM YIP
FROM 1 FEBRUARY TO 23 MAY 2016
MUSÉE DE LA CULTURE AMIENS
Tim Yip is a Chinese artist whose talent ranges from cinema and theatre scenery and costumes to photography, design, architecture and sculpture. An installation pays tribute to the Chinese soldiers who fought in the Somme during the First World War and at Noyelles-sur-Mer where their cemetery is located.

Exhibition
THE WRITERS OF THE GREAT WAR
FROM MARCH TO 5 MAY 2016
CENTRE D’ÉTUDE ET D’INTERPRÉTATION DES ARCHITECTURES ET DES ÉCRITURES DE LA GUERRE, AMIENS
The Great War will never be reduced to a simple account in the history of Europe. The hostilities and violence of this conflict produced works of great depth and innovative style, creating a common view through the accounts of the main adversaries.

Publication
SOMME 1916 – 2016
PAPERBACK

Exhibition
THE YEAR 16
FROM JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 2016
MUSÉE DE LA CULTURE AMIENS
The project aims to highlight events in the year 1916 (Battles of Verdun and the Somme) and focuses on the fate of civilian populations in the occupied territories.

Guided tours
PERSPECTIVES OF THE GREAT WAR
FROM APRIL 1 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2016
AMIENS METROPOLITAN ART AND CULTURAL DISTRICT
“All together now! Amiens Métropole and its Culture District” organizes free guided tours every second Wednesday of the month, given by qualified tour guides. For the year 2015–2016, the focus will be on well-known figures and corporations (the role of elected representatives, local businesses, camouflaging workshops, etc.).
Commemorative event

ALISTAR ENCOUNTERS
FROM 13 TO 15 APRIL
VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

To celebrate Anzac Day, a number of events bringing together people from France and Australia will be organized (sporting and cultural events and memorial ceremonies) in Villers-Bretonneux.

Show

SONGS AND POEMS FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR
FROM 13 TO 15 APRIL
ALBERT

A special musical production that pays tribute to the standard bearers from different countries.
AMIENS FLIES THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG FOR ANZAC

Amiens is the capital of the Somme region, but is also the rear base for the battlefields. In honour of Anzac Day, the city will be paying tribute to Australia with an event schedule dedicated to the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps Day.

Show
1916: FROM THE CATHEDRAL TOWER
22 April 2016, 8:15 PM – NOTRE-DAME CATHEDRAL, AMIENS

“1916...From the Cathedral Tower” is a recital of poetry readings and musical pieces, presented by artists from various countries, including the Australian choir “Voix de Bihoreau” and 150 musicians and singers from the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional d’Amiens Métropole (regional conservatory of Amiens Métropole).

Permanent urban exhibition
URBAN TRAIL “AMIENS DURING THE GREAT WAR”
22 April 2016 – 15 October 2016

Perret Tower will be decked out in the Australian colours for the occasion. It will also be the day that the Urban Trail, “Amiens during the Great War” and the “Meeting Point” dedicated to the Centenary will be inaugurated.

Concert and reception
ELYANE LAUSSADE RECITAL
26 April 2016, 4:30 PM
CEMENONAL ROOM OF THE HOTEL DE VILLE, AMIENS

Pianist Elyane Lau Cassade, a Franco-Australian artist, will give a concert in the ceremonial room of Amiens City Hall, followed by an official reception that visitors and locals are invited to attend.

Social event
MEET THE LOCALS!
26 April 2016 – FROM 7:30 PM
PLACE D’ARMES, AMIENS

Australian and New Zealand visitors are warmly invited to come and meet the residents of the Amiens area, try some local specialties and take part in the events organized for the occasion, in a friendly setting.
JOINT INTERVIEW

Why are the Anzac Day commemorations so important to the city of Amiens and the surrounding areas?

Brigitte Fouré: When we visit memorial sites, we get a more detailed idea of the reality of the Great War. Anzac Day is important because, in these troubled times, we must remember how our Commonwealth brothers fought to win our freedom and preserve the spirit of our laws. We must be careful to protect those freedoms and laws from the open temptation of certain populist sentiment. The hundreds of people that come from the southern hemisphere every year to attend the Dawn Service in the early hours of the morning in Villers-Bretonneux, united with their compatriots that are watching on television, is a model of unity for all French and European citizens.

Alain Gést: I am deeply attached to the Anzac Day ceremony, and it has always been important for me to take part at the Villers-Bretonneux site as deputy. Every year I am filled with emotion by the gravity and solemnity brought by the event, which is extremely important for New Zealand and Australia. As President of Amiens Métropole, I wanted our town to play a full role in this very special day, in welcoming the thousands of visitors from Commonwealth residents. This year there will be even more events to welcome the thousands of people that visit. Anzac Day weekend will provide an opportunity to inaugurate the urban trail that celebrates the soldiers in the Great War that came from Commonwealth countries, with images projected on building facades. There will also be a new meeting point in the city designed to guide tourists and residents, making Amiens the starting point of the memorial circuits.

Can Amiens and Amiens Métropole be the gateway city and towns to the Somme in 2019?

Brigitte Fouré: The shared history of the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, three Commonwealth nations thrown into the war that was not being fought in their home countries, is the foundation of a unique and lasting relationship with Amiens and its surrounding towns. On 3 March this year, French President François Hollande and the British Prime Minister David Cameron held a Franco-British summit in our city. This prelude to closest to the Verdun and Somme battlefields, thereby opened the Centenary year ahead of the festivities that their respective localities would be celebrating. It is an acknowledgement and significant gesture by the French state.

Alain Gést: Amiens Métropole will be the gateway to memorial tourism in the department and well beyond its borders. The Battle of the Somme centenary programme aims to attract all the tourists that are coming to celebrate the centenary celebrations in the region and help them discover the surrounding areas. There will be a variety of concerts, plays, shows, activities and parades on the events calendar. The programme will be expanded each year to include more varied events up to 2019, but our primary objective is to establish lasting memorial tourism so that residents and tourists can take advantage of it, making Amiens a gateway for the long term.

Can you explain what is unique about the project entitled “Amiens, another perspective of the Great War”, and how it complements the activities that already exist on this theme?

Brigitte Fouré: Amiens and its tens of thousands of yearly tourists is a wonderful focal point for such a project. Just as the railway posters from the 1920s encouraged visitors to come to the cathedral near the battlefields, the rear behind the lines can be an additional element to the epicentre of the Battle of the Somme, by offering cultural or sociocultural highlights with another approach. From the sites where the battle of the Somme was fought to the Chinese cemetery in Noèlles, in the west of the department and close to the Basilica of Amiens, Amiens contributes to the abundance of memorial sites and events that is so unique to these lands.

Alain Gést: The project “Amiens, another perspective of the Great War”, explains in the title what we wanted to see materialise for the centenary. We want to bring the inhabitants of the department together, going beyond commemorating the conflict and establishing a common project that brings us together and carries us forward. As the capital of camouflage during the war, we decided to focus on the most innovative local skills related to illusion, optics, images and visual concealment, to take a look back at and honour the history of those women and men who dedicated their talent to defending our country.
NEW ZEALAND
COMMENORATES
ANZAC

The New Zealand ceremony commemorating Anzac Day takes place on Saturday 23 April, 2016 at 3 p.m. at the Caterpillar Valley cemetery near Longueval. For this year of commemorations, the ceremony will be presided over by New Zealand's Ambassador to France, H.E. Mr. James Kemmeter and the Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Mr. Murray McCully, in the presence of a Maori ceremonial and cultural group in the New Zealand Armed Forces. Free shuttles will be provided from 2 p.m. from Longueval to transport attendees.

CATERPILLAR VALLEY CEMETERY (LONGUEVAL)

The Battle of the Somme was the first major campaign for New Zealand's soldiers. During this battle, their division lost almost 7,600 men.

In France, their memorial is today located on the site of the former battlefield which, once conquered in 1916, enabled the New Zealand Division to take the town of Parn on 15 September that same year. This monument was inaugurated in 1922 by the Speaker of the New Zealand Legislative Council, Francis Bell, and it tells the battles that the New Zealand soldiers took part in.

The cemetery nearby is the resting place for 5,569 Commonwealth soldiers, over half of which could not be identified. Several New Zealand headstones can be identified by the fern engraving. Within the burial ground, another memorial also stands in tribute to the 1,205 New Zealand soldiers whose bodies were never found.

For the centenary of the Great War, a ceremony will be organised on 23 April 2016 at 3 p.m. at the Caterpillar Valley cemetery to commemorate the New Zealand commitment to the First World War.
ANZAC DAY

Anzac Day is commemorated on 25 April every year, in France and around the world. The day commemorates the bloody campaign in Gallipoli in 1915, between the Australians and New Zealanders of the Anzac and the Ottoman Army, during the First World War, when Australian and New Zealand troops were also deployed to France and Belgium. In 2016, Anzac Day will have particular importance in France, as Australia is the country of honour for 2016.

25 April is a major commemoration day in Australia, as it marks the anniversary of the first large-scale military operation conducted by the Australian and New Zealand forces in the First World War at Gallipoli in Turkey. On this day, Australians remember their fellow countrymen who served and died in its wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. The Anzac Day commemorations around the country take place at dawn, when the troops landed at Gallipoli. Since 2006, the Australian Government has organized an annual Anzac Day Dawn Service at the National Australian Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux in the Somme and a memorial service at the Digger memorial in the Australian Memorial Park at Bullecourt in the Pas-de-Calais region.

THE MEMORIAL AT VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

The National Australian Memorial is located behind the military cemetery, and pays tribute to the Australian sacrifices made in France and Flanders. The following words are inscribed: To the Glory of God and in memory of the Australian Imperial Force in France and Flanders 1915-1918 and of eleven thousand who fell in France and have no known grave.

The memorial was designed by architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and was inaugurated by King George VI on 22 July 1938. The monument consists of a tall central tower flanked with walls on which the names of those who fell are engraved along with the battles fought by the First Australian Imperial Force.

DAWN SERVICE

Travel arrangements to the Anzac Day ceremonies are available from the train station in Amiens. Shuttles to the Villers-Bretonneux site and the Dawn Service will be provided by Somme Tourisme in cooperation with Amiens Metropole.

AUSTRALIAN MEMORIAL PARK, BULLECOURT

The Australian Memorial Park, just outside Bullecourt, features a bronze statue of an Australian "Digger". The statue looks towards the battlefields of Bullecourt, where 7,000 Australian soldiers died or were injured in April and May of 1917 while attempting to penetrate a section of the Hindenburg line and hold it. It is another poignant memory of the sacrifice Australia made in France.
2016: HONOURING AUSTRALIA

Why is 2016 an important year for Australian commemorations in France? The year 2016 marks the centenary of the Battles of Fromelles (19 July 1916) and Pozieres (23 July 1916), the first battles that the Australian Imperial Force took part in on French soil. Many French people are unaware of the role the Australian soldiers, or “Diggers”, played on the western Front during the First World War. Australia contributed the greatest number of soldiers of all the British dominions. 331,000 volunteers for a total population of 5 million inhabitants. We also experienced great losses: 60 per cent of our men were killed or injured. It is very important for us to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the French people.

What impact did these French battles have on the Australian people? The combat in northern France deeply affected Australian identity. In 1916, Australia was still a young nation: our constitution came into effect in 1901. Thousands of young Australians signed up voluntarily, and for the first time in our history, they fought under the orders of an Australian general.

What is left of this Australian heritage in the Somme? The memory of the Australian engagement is still deeply rooted in the Somme. We have a close friendship with the residents of the region. Every year, during the Anzac Day commemorations (commemorating the Battle of Gallipoli), Australians love to share their Anzac biscuits, which are similar to those eaten by the soldiers at Gallipoli. The best Anzac biscuits I ever tasted were made by the mayor’s wife in the village of Le Hamel, in the Somme.

Interview with H.E. Mr Stephen Brady AO CVO, Australian Ambassador to France

A FRanco-auSTRAliAN SCHOOL PROJECT COMPETITION

The Sadler Stokes prize was established in 1989 by the Australian government to pay tribute to the extraordinary courage of Lieutenant Clifford Sadler and Sergeant Charlie Stokes during the decisive Battle of Villers-Bretonneux on 25 April 1918. It is awarded by the Australian Embassy in France to school projects related to the participation of Australia in the First World War or to the Australian commemoration activities in France. Every year on this date, three schools (one primary, one middle and one high school) receive the prize of 1,500 euros for their projects. The projects can be in any taught subject and conducted using any learning materials.

Courrier Picard

THE COURIER PICARD: TRIBUTE TO AUSTRALIA

The Courrier Picard, the region’s leading daily newspaper, will place a specific focus on the coverage of Anzac Day, at the Villers-Bretonneux memorial on 25 April 2016. The paper will include a supplement on Monday 25 April.
Tourism

CENTENARY OF THE LEAGUE FOR THE "PETIT TRAIN DE LA HAUTE SOMME"

FROM 3 TO 8 MAY 2016 - APPREVA ASSOCIATION

To celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the train line from Froissy to Bompierre, the APPREVA association will display one of the world's only collections of narrow-gauge working locomotives that were used during WW1 and the Battle of the Somme.

Educational project

THE OLYMPIADS OF THE GREAT WAR

1 MAY 2016 - MIDDLE SCHOOLS AROUND THE SOMME REGION

A trivia competition on the First World War aimed at middle school pupils (age 14-15) will be held in the Somme department.

Show

20,000 LEAGUES IN THE AIR 2016

7-8 MAY 2016 - AMIENS GLISY

An exhibition of aircraft and air communication systems. Reconstructions and vintage aircraft will be on display.

Show

BUILDING AND FLYING OBSERVATION BALLOONS

8-9 MAY 2016 - AMIENS GLISY

Exact replicas of the Caquot or Type M and a Parsenal-Scipied balloon will be built for the occasion.
MONUMENTS TO THE DEAD OF THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

The French Centre of National Monuments (CMN), the Association du Centenaire, the Institut de Recherches Historiques des Septentrion (IRHS), University of Lille 3 and the Rencontres Photographie d'Arles, with the support of Raymond Depardon, came up with the idea of an exhibition at the Panthéon dedicated to the first photographic collection of monuments to the dead in France, in order to show the extent of the loss through memorials. François Hebel was chosen as the exhibition curator. The exhibition, entitled “Monuments to the Dead: 38,000 communities, 36,000 scars”, will be held at the Panthéon from 21 May to 11 September 2016.

The monuments to the dead reveal a seemingly never-ending list of names engraved in stones: those of the 1,350,000 French soldiers that died on the battlefields or in the trenches. What is to be taken from this list, except to see the extent of the disaster and the tragedy of war? It brings us to a halt, and we stop to read the names and seek a trace of the physical existence behind those identities.
Exhibition

BROKEN LANDSCAPES

FROM JUNE 1 TO NOVEMBER 2016
MUSEE DE LA GUERRE - MIRAM

A/A (Assocation d’Art Actuel) is an art gallery in the greater Nord-Pas-de-Calais/Picardy region, and is hosting a collective exhibition on the theme of landscape. The work on show uses different media and addresses concepts of brokenness and conflict in landscape.

Exhibition

PERSONNE N’A LE DROIT DE TRAIRE SANS ARME SUR UN CHAMP DE BATAILLE (NO LOITERING ON THE BATTLEFIELD WITHOUT A WEAPON)

J'AI EU MON BONNE TEMPS A FORÊT

A play written by Mathe/Virnion and directed by Charles Litton, which focuses on the female perception of the Great War.

Exhibition

TOLKIEN AND THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

FROM JUNE 1 TO JULY 2016
MUSEE DE LA GUERRE - MIRAM

In resonance with the exhibition, Writers and the Great War, organized by the “Histoiral de la Grande Guerre”, the Somme departmental library decided to take a look at the genesis of Tolkien’s work, forged during the combat of the Battle of the Somme and then during his conversion, after he contracted trench fever. Epic battles, desolate landscape but also the bonds that bind a people together are some of the themes that recur in his writing.

Conference

RELIGION AT WAR

JUNE 15-16-17 2016
MUSEUM OF THE CAVES - AMIENS

Espace de la Confrérie - AMIENS

Series of lectures organized by the Amiens municipal archives. Xavier Boniface will be joining the conference to tell stories from the archives of the Great War.

Commemorative event

UN PETIT VELO PICARD DANS LA TÊTE (A LITTLE PICARD BIKE IN MIND)

FROM 15 JUNE TO 17 JUNE 2016
LOIRE-ATLANTIQUE - LONDRES - THIERRY

The project participants cycle from London to Thierry. On the way, they meet and discuss with pupils, teachers and the people living in the towns they cycle through.

Workshop

1916 IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD

FROM 15 TO 17 JUNE 2016
CAMBRIDGE - ENGLAND

FOLLOWED BY SITE VISITS AMIENS

This project aims to shine a light on what motivated the essentially British offensive of 1 July 1916, while allowing room for the German perspective.

Show

COMMENORATING THE SITE NAMED “LOT GRANATHOF” OR “GLORY HOLE”

FROM 7 TO 8 JULY 2016
VIENNE - LUXEMBOURG - LUCERNE

Reconstruction of an old station and mess. On 1 July, a vigil will take place on the site, which will be lit up for the occasion, with stories told and songs sung by volunteers.

Exhibition

CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

FROM 23 JUNE TO 7 JULY 2016
MUSEUM OF THE CAVES - AMIENS

A memorial stone honouring Bradford’s soldiers will be installed and inaugurated. There will also be an exhibition and film screening.

Exhibition

THE YEAR 16

FROM 6 JUNE TO 21 NOVEMBER 2016
ALFRED-DANICOURT MUNICIPAL MUSEUM - PERONNE

As Guardian of the Memory of Peronne since 1877, the Alfred-Danicourt municipal museum continues its work in the conservation and promotion of local heritage and the collections that endured throughout the centuries. For the Centenary of the Great War, and in particular the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme, the Alfred-Danicourt municipal museum is organizing a series of commemorative events including conferences and exhibitions on the theme “The Year 16”.

- Peronne under occupation is presented through a set of extremely rare German photographs, from a private collection.
- Daniel Thesby, historian and president of the greater Peronne region archaeological society, will give a conference on the year 2016 on 26 June 2016.

Exposition

EXPOSITION ALFRED-DANICOURT

JUIN 2016 - JUIN 2017

Exposition pasée © Musée Alfred-Danicourt

A military hospital will be set up on the town square and various associations will host different events exhibitions, films and discussions, children’s activities, walks, themed meals, etc.

Commemorative cycle

THE CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME AT MAILLY-MALLET

JUNE 7, 17, 27 - 11 JUNE 2016

A military hospital will be set up on the town square and various associations will host different events exhibitions, films and discussions, children’s activities, walks, themed meals, etc.
THE 21ST AMIENS COMIC BOOK FESTIVAL

For the 21st year running, the Amiens association “On a Marché sur la Bulle” gives visitors the opportunity to explore the comic book world with passion, originality and the highest of standards during the Amiens Comic Book Festival. During the event, 96 comic book authors will give talks and workshops on a number of themed exhibits. For the occasion, as part of the partnership between “On a Marché sur la Bulle” and the Mission du Centenaire, multimedia artist, illustrator, comic book author, photographer, filmmaker, mixed media artist, composer and musician Dave McKean will present the worldwide premiere of Black Dog: The Dreams of Paul Nash, in association with 14-18 NOW and the Lake District International Comics Festival in Kendal on 4 June and 20 June at the Maison de la Culture in Amiens.

“TRACES OF THE GREAT WAR”: THE GENESIS OF A PROJECT FOR 2018

With the success of their previous projects, beginning in 2009 with the Historial of the Great War, assisted by the Mission du Centenaire when they created four travelling exhibitions, an accompanying element for Joe Sacco’s fresco, Dave McKean’s show, published comics entitled Cicatrices de Guerre (the scars of war) and Les Chroniques de Notre Mère la Guerre (Chronicles of War, Our Mother), and with the support of the international network they have maintained for over twenty years, the Amiens Comic Book Festival want to go even further in 2018. Their aim is to call on pairs of authors from all countries – France, Germany, Britain and English-speaking countries – to tell us, in 18 short stories, what this conflict might mean today for them and also for us and as that murderous century went on, the impact it had on landscapes, bodies, minds and the sciences. They will put words and pictures to the legacy and the traces left by the Great War. This collection of short stories will be published in a paperback book and circulated in France and the United Kingdom. There will be a deliberate emphasis on cross-border cooperation in all of the stories, with for example an English writer working with a French illustrator, or an American writer working with a German illustrator. Several mediation resources, one of the association’s specialties, will be created in both languages and will be disseminated in the different countries.

This project is supported by the United Kingdom and the Lake District International Comics Festival in Kendal. On a Marché sur la Bulle is working with its English partners (whose festival takes place in mid-October) to produce an event on either side of the Channel around the same time – ideally when the book comes out in the last quarter of 2018.
14-18 NOW is a five-year programme of extraordinary artistic experiences designed to spread awareness about the First World War. The programme is taking place across the United Kingdom between 2014 and 2018, and designed to coincide with the centenary of the conflict, offering a wide variety of events ranging from art, theatre and cinema to choreography, digital media, music and poetry, with the aim of appealing to people of all backgrounds and interests.

A number of the works in our 2016 programme were specially commissioned to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. Among them is Memorial Ground, a major choral work by Pulitzer-prizewinning composer David Lang and co-commissioned with the East Neuk Festival. In Parenthesis, Iain Bell’s lyrical adaptation of an epic poem by David Jones for the Welsh National Opera; and pundur, a cinematic and musical project addressing the legacy of the Somme from the perspective of the city of Sunderland in the north-east of England. Other commissioned works take a look at the First World War from very specific viewpoints. Radio Reley, a nationwide programme based on public participation, co-commissioned with the Golden Thread Gallery in Northern Ireland, was partly inspired by the use of radiophonic technology during the Battle of the Somme.

The First World War inspired great and powerful works of art, many of which were created by men that fought on the fronts. Several works commissioned for the 14-18 NOW programme for this year pay tribute, implicitly or directly, to artists that were alive during the war. The graphic novel by Dave McKean, Black Dog - The Dreams of Paul Nash, explores the thoughts, experiences and motivations of this famous British artist that served on the Western Front. This work was co-commissioned with the Lakes International Comic Art Festival and the association “On a Marche sur la Bulle” (organiser of the Amiens Comic Book Festival). Furthermore, in order to honour the great poets of the war, we have invited six eminent authors to create Fierce Light, a compilation of poems that deal with contemporary issues in the light of the events that took place a century ago. Fierce Light will also incorporate Still, a series of poems written by Simon Armitage about six aerial photographs of the Somme and other battlefields of the Great War. These works, which will be presented at the Norfolk and Norwich Festival, were jointly commissioned with the Writers’ Centre Norwich.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our generous financial contributors: the National Lottery, through the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council England, and the Department for Culture, Media & Sport. My gratitude also goes to Backstage Trust, the Clore Duffield Foundation and the DAF Trust for their assistance during the installation of Poppies: Wave and Weeping Window, the Imperial War Museums for their advice and assistance, all our joint commissioner partners and all those who support us.

The current season of 14-18 NOW will continue until the end of the year. We will present other projects next year, before the installation of the third and final major 14-18 NOW season in 2018. You can find out about all our activities on the site www.1418now.org.uk.

Jenifer Waldman, Director of 14-18 NOW
HISTORIAL DE LA GRANDE GUERRE, PERONNE

THE MUSEUM COLLECTION AT PERONNE: A HISTORY

The Historial is a history museum where the visions of Germany, French, and British collide: it has an exceptional collection of 70,000 objects, works of art and original documents. Among them are the 50 prints from Otto Dix’s “Der Krieg” (“The War”) series; accounts of the suffering and horrors of this war.

In addition to the official war years, the Historial de la Grande Guerre inspires reflection on the origins and consequences of the first global conflict. The repercussions of the First World War—a matrix of the 20th century—can still be seen today, on the geopolitical and socioeconomic levels. The Historial de la Grande Guerre causes visitors to think about the nature of violence, its mechanisms, and its multifaceted nature. Presenting the war in all its aspects enables a reflection process to commence on peace, in view of the hardship experienced and the modern world.

The Historial de la Grande Guerre invites every visitor to think about the notion of conflict, and reflect on the world of the past, present, and future. The museum concept aims to explain, first of all, so that the knowledge allows emotion to be expressed. The museum shows the profound influence of war on contemporary resonance— it is total, industrial, and global.

WRITERS AT WAR 1914-1918: “NOUS SOMMES DES MACHINES A QUILLER” (WE ARE MACHINES TO BE FORGOTTEN)

FROM 28 JUNE TO 16 NOVEMBER 2016 - HISTORIAL

This exhibition—which takes a rectilinear literary stance—transporters the visitor in a unique and original setting to the heart of the First World War. Using the voice of the writers that experienced it, from near or far, from the frontlines to the “rear”, from the eye of the conflict to its aftermath, or even when the experience of war continued to be a topic for literature. The exhibition evokes the journey and the works of great literary figures of the French avant-garde, such as Blaise Cendrars, Ernst Jünger, Guillaume Apollinaire, Wilfred Owen, Ivor Gurney, August Stramm, Pierre Mac Orlan, and Jacques Vaché, to name but a few.

The exhibition provides a chronological, thematic and polyphonic interpretation of the bloodiest conflict in history, in an immersive atmosphere that seeks to bring the visitor into the minds of these men to better understand their creative process as they lived through the tragedies of war.

GUIDED TOUR

DISCOVERY TRAILS: “THE SOMME UNDER RECONSTRUCTION” AND “WRITERS AT WAR”

1 NOVEMBER, 9:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.
HISTORIAL, PERONNE

6:30 a.m.: “Reconstruction”. Accompanied by a historian, visitors discover a newly formed trail that takes in the site and points of interest of the post-war rebuilding of the Somme. Return around 1/1.30 p.m.

2 p.m.: “Writers at War”. Accompanied by a guide from the Historial, discover this new trail and explore the scenery and sites described and viewed in the works of the authors featuring in the museum’s temporary exhibition. Return around 5/5.30 p.m.

A bus takes visitors from the Historial to Persone. Tickets cost 15 euros for an adult and 12 euros for children under 12. Restricted numbers. Registration and payment by 1 November 2016 at the latest.

GUIDED TOUR OF THE SITE MUSEUM AT THEIPVAL

1 NOVEMBER, 11 A.M. & 2 P.M.
MUSEE DU SITE, BRUE DE L’INCUL - THEIPVAL

Tour given by Emilie Simon, head of displays at the Historial de la Grande Guerre.

Visit the permanent exhibition rooms of the site museum at Theipval, accompanied by detailed commentary by the head of museography.

The tour lasts around an hour, after which visitors are free to enjoy the exhibition. Guided tour at no extra cost, simply purchase an entrance ticket to the museum.
Historical de la Grande Guerre International Research Centre

On the occasion of the 1916 centenary and all throughout 2016, the International Research Centre at the Historical de la Grande Guerre is organising a series of conferences on the Battle of the Somme, with the support of the Somme Departmental Council and the Mission du Chemin. These conferences are free to register and accessible to all. They last around an hour and a half, and audience participation is encouraged.

Conference
DER KRIEG BY OTTO DIX
AUFRIECHTHALD SIE VON 1914-1916
Conference organised by the Maison de Pérone and the Historical de la Grande Guerre and conducted by Marie-Pascale Prévois-Bautot (Chief curator at the Historical)

Conference
LANGUAGES OF THE FRANCO-BRITISH BATTLE OF THE SOMME
28 MARCH 2016 – 9 PM – HISTORICAL
Franziska Heimburger (Paris-Sorbonne)
Between July and November 1916, the Battle of the Somme involved 15 British divisions from across the Empire, and 46 French divisions, today almost forgotten. What do we know about the communication between soldiers and officers in the Allied forces? What was the impact on the success of operations and how did the participants experience it? This lecture gives an insight into the role of language in war by studying communication on the battlefield.

Conference
DIARY OF PIERRE MALICET: MAGISTRATE IN PÉRONE DURING THE GREAT WAR
2 APRIL 2016 – 1 PM – PERONE COURT HOUSE
PIERRE-SAINT-GEREON, FRANCE
Annie Deperchin (Université de Lille II)
Pierre Malicet was a young magistrate from Pacy, newly appointed to Péronne when the war broke out. Having been discharged for poor health, he was not drafted in August 1914. When the Germans took the town during the German invasion, he decided to stay. He kept a daily journal until the end of the conflict, occasionally taking pictures. He describes life in Péronne during the occupation, the evacuations, his return to France via Switzerland and the obstacles preventing him from leaving his duties as magistrate. Determined to remain impartial, Pierre Malicet gives a critical account of the occupant as well as the French, whether they were the occupier, refugees, soldiers or civilians. Visitors must bring a form at ID.

Conference
THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES IN THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME
1 MAY 2016 – 9 PM – HISTORICAL
Major Michael Bouvet (Head of History and Geography Department at the Saint-Gyr Military Academy, Cézallier)
The Battle of the Somme is often reduced to a deadly British offensive that deeply marked the history of the Commonwealth. Many are unaware of the French forces’ participation in this gigantic battle, which was methodical and lethal. This is the aspect of the battle that Major Michael Bouvet will talk about during this conference.

Conference
DISSECTING THE BATTLES OF THE GREAT WAR
SUMMER UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME
From 16 June to 2 July 2016
With the support of the Franco-German youth agency and the Franco-German university.
The year 2016, with the centenary of two symbolic battles of the First World War – Verdun and the Somme – led us to choose the theme of battle and the battlefield in the historiography of the first global conflict. We plan to bring together an international group of researchers working on the military, cultural, social and geographical history of the war. Throughout the week, participants will have opportunities to discuss these themes among themselves and also with a large number of renowned international academics. Visits and field trips are an integral part of the programme and contribute to a greater experience.

Film concert
FILM PROJECTION OF ARCHIVES AND FICTION ON THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME AND THE YEAR 1916
20 JUNE 2016 – 8 PM – CINEMA PRAEDEL – PIERRE-SAINT-GEREON, FRANCE
This very special event will be presented by Laurent Veray (Université Paris III) at the Historical de la Grande Guerre. With the support of the town of Péronne. Registration required.

Conference
THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME AS A META-BATTLE
30 JUNE 2016 – 8 PM – HISTORICAL
Jay Winter (Yale University) suggests that a new term be added to the vocabulary used in studying the Great War. According to Winter, the twin battles (Somme and Verdun) formed a meta-battle, i.e. an ensemble of engagements that transformed the meaning of the word battle. This form would help avoid two impossibly large conflicts that came from firstly reducing the Battle of the Somme to a simple step on the way to the victory of 1918, and secondly interpreting the Battle of the Somme in terms of the 19th century, which prevents us from seeing the revolutionary aspect of the battle and its result: the breakthrough offensive was abandoned.
Round table “Aux Rendez-vous de l’Histoire de Blois”

LEAVING FOR WAR, LEAVING DURING WAR, LEAVING AFTER THE WAR: 1914-1923

11 NOVEMBER 2016 - HISTORICAL

2 P.M.: Ceremony for Gerda Henkel Scholarships
Awarded by the International Research Centre at the Historial de la Grande Guerre.

Every year, with the support of the Gerda Henkel Foundation and the Somme department, the International Research Centre awards scholarships to French and foreign students in all disciplines preparing a doctoral thesis on the causes, events, and consequences of the Great War. During the ceremony, the students give a brief presentation of their research topic. To conclude this convivial event, a drinks reception will be held, providing the opportunity for audience members to meet the young researchers.

7 P.M.: The German Occupation in the Somme
Gerd Krummaich (University of Dusseldorf)
The German forces set up camp in the Somme from the end of 1914, and in preparation for a major offensive by the Allied forces in the region. The period of trench warfare and the withdrawal of German troops to the Siegfried line and at the border were accompanied by devastation produced by methodical and systematic “strategic” destruction. This conference aims to focus on what really happened in the Somme between 1914 and 1918.

8 P.M.: Presentation of individual stories of the occupation
Philippe Nivot (University of Picardy Jules Verne)
Following the talk on the Germans in the Somme, this lecture focuses on the lives of Saharan civilians in occupied areas, in particular in the context of the battle of the Somme. The presentation will be based on personal accounts, in particular those of journalist Henri Douchel (Fasol) and Henriette Thiesse, from Hamburg.

References:
Military Medical Workers and the Environment: From the Great War to the 1920s
December 2016 - 3:30 P.M. - Archives Départementales de la Somme - 61 Rue Saint-Fuscien - Amiens

Anna RASMUSSEN (University of Strasbourg)

In the war of the 20th century, massive floods many times on the battlefield in 1916, which left a lasting impression on the public, public health - the health of the troops and the civilian population - was a major concern for opposing armies. However, rather than the greatly feared diseases, it was new sanitary problems that emerged in the trench war on the Western Front, which made hygiene a critical issue in relation to the battle environment.

Programme is subject to change. Please check upon registering and arrival.

Free entry, limited seating available.

Registration and information:
c.fontaine@historial.org and 03 22 83 54 13
http://bit.ly/1H4M6Y
THE SOMME DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL

THE GREAT DESIGNER OF THE CENTENARY COMMEMORATION ON THE TERRITORY OF THE BATTLE

Since 1916 and the Battle of the Somme, the Somme departmental territory has been the custodian of the remembrance of the hundreds of thousands of soldiers from all nations who went there to fight for freedom, at the risk of their lives. It is home to international remembrance shared among the inhabitants and descendants of the countries who were involved in the conflict.

As a tribute to this significant and living legacy, the Somme Departmental Council has taken on its role of the great designer, in partnership with numerous local and international actors, to remind us of the extent of the massacre of the Battle of the Somme and to keep its remembrance alive.

It also wishes to welcome all the tourists who will travel to the Somme to take part in commemorations and help send out a message of hope together.

The Department offers all the visitors, whether local or from elsewhere, a rich memorial programme. Websites, a bilingual special edition magazine, an educational booklet and a documentary DVD for children in the French 3rd year, interactive poems on peace, the creation of the 2016 Somme rose, concerts and exhibitions will be opportunities to galvanise the region and to call on everyone to rise to the challenge of peace.

INITIATIVES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

BOOKLET "THE SOMME IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR"

The Somme in the First World War – a booklet produced in partnership with the French Ministry for Education, the University of Picardy Jules-Vernes and the Historical and Research Centre – will be distributed at the beginning of every school year until 2020 to children in year 10. Designed as additional material to be used alongside the history curriculum, it enables pupils to gain more insight into the conflict which took place in the Somme and to understand how significant they were in forging the identity of the region and its inhabitants.

A digital version is available in French and English, and will be available at a later date in German, on the following websites:
www.somme.fr and www.somme41-18.com

THE OLYMPIADS OF THE GREAT WAR

This knowledge competition focuses on First World War history, particularly on the Battle of the Somme. Open to all children in year 10, the contest will be divided into two categories: a general section and a SEGPA-Ulis section (General and Vocational Adapted Learning Section).

The competition will serve as preparation for their final year examinations as the topic of the questions covers parts of the history & geography curriculum and are also taken from the educational booklet. The Somme in the First World War. A number of private and public partners are also supporting this initiative.

TOLKIEN'S HEIRS

Such is the title of the writer's residence and programme of action conducted by the Bibliothèque départementale de la Somme (Somme Departmental Library), particularly in the second half of 2016. Tolkien's works and various versions will help teenagers learn how influential and inspirational the conflict was for writing. In the same way a literary talent would translate his war experience into his writing and find inspiration. The residence will result in a travelling exhibition and a game, enabling the artwork and entertainment dedicated to Tolkien’s world to be circulated. Two training days will be held for publishing and editing professionals.
THE "SOMME 2016 ROSE"

The "Association Picarde des Parcs et Jardins" (a regional association to promote public parks and gardens) created the "Rose Somme 2016" (the 2016 Somme rose), to portray the national flowers of Remembrance. Its purple colour, with both dark and bright shades, is a reflection of twilight fading away to give life to a new morning. This queen of flowers is a tribute to all those who fought in the Battle of the Somme, regardless of their ethnicity, nationality or religion. It will be inaugurated by the Somme Departmental Council on 25 June in the village Flancourt, where there are 3 cemeteries, British, French and German respectively. Resilient and in bloom throughout the warm season, the 2016 Somme Rose will spread its subtle peppery fragrance throughout all the gardens of the world that open their doors to it as a symbol of peace.

DOCUMENTARY FILM "SOMME 2016", BY JEAN-FRANÇOIS DELASSUS

This 52-minute-long documentary film highlights the various stages of the Battle of the Somme using archive and contemporary images. "We start with records, memories from the past. What remains in people’s minds, in the collective memory? What is left from the Battle, on the field now covered with burial grounds, from the smallest to the most immense, such as the one in Tripilly? Aimed at a general audience, it will be aired on France 3 and at 10-year pupils will be given a DVD.

THE RICH CONTENT OF THE DEPARTMENTAL ARCHIVES OF THE SOMME

The Somme Department has lived through all the hardships of war—battles, requisitioning, occupation, bombings, refugees, supply shortages... It first had to rebuild itself, after a period of living under precarious conditions in temporary shacks, then it needed to provide support to the war victims, and finally it stated commemorating the Battle. Traces of all of the above, except for military operations, hospitals and war graves, can be found in the Departmental Archives. Among the material are military records, archives of the reconstruction services of the liberated regions and other ad hoc services.

Among the private archives of the period is the extensive collection of the Amiens councilor and collector, Hermann-Émile Duchaussoy. The 2012 Departmental Operation, "Dons de mémoire" (Remembrance Donations), which was then continued within the framework of the national "Grande collecte" (Great Collection) also made it possible to collect family archives (notebooks, letters, photos, drawings...), to see what it was like to live through the war. To simplify your search, the resources guide to the Departmental Archives, drafted for the centenary of the Battle of the Somme is available at archives.somme.fr. This website also provides access to numerous digitised documents. Conferences are held to raise further discussions on the First World War.

LEGION'S MEMORY AND THE CHOIRS OF PEACE

The Department is supporting two important events commemorating the beginning and the end of the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. The first, co-organised by Musique en Unité and the "Haute-Picardie Communauté de communes" (Community of communes), pays tribute to the important participation of the French Army in the Battle of the Somme. Two concerts will be held: one at Delloye-en-Santerre on 4 July by the French Foreign Legion (Légion étrangère) in commemoration of the occupation of the village, and the other at the Saint-Amiens concert hall. Performances will be given by the Legion, the Barcelona Baroque Orchestra, Anthony and Sandra Lercy-Moulinier and some hundred choir members from the region.

The second important event, organised by the "Fédération musicienne de la Somme" (Musical Federation of the Somme), will promote the unity of the peoples and sharing in a mutual memory, among nations and generations. On 12 November, 300 German, British, Belgian and French choir members, accompanied by the symphony orchestra of the "Conservatoire à rayonnement régional d’Amiens", will perform a music piece composed for the event by a group of European composers.

1916-2016: POEMS FOR PEACE

The main purpose of this digital, interactive project is to promote peace. It encourages everyone in the world to write a Haiku (a short, Japanese poem consisting of three verses), either in French or in English, on the theme “peace” and to send it to the Departmental Council. The poem collection will be published on a special and unique page dedicated to this project on the following website: somme14-18.com. Its official launch will be on 1 July 2016 at 7.28 a.m., the exact time of the beginning of the Battle of the Somme.
Amiens Métropole is implementing a worldwide project, Amiens, un autre regard sur la Grande Guerre (Amiens, a different perspective of the Great War) in commemoration of the centenary of the Great War.

The programme is tailored not only for residents, but also for its many expected visitors, who will travel from all around the globe between 2016 and 2018, to commemorate, visit and discover places filled with history and emotion.

The project promotes the rich culture, heritage and tourism that Amiens and its surrounding areas have to offer, by reflecting on life in the free, international and living territory – the last big town before the Somme front – instead of focusing on the battles, their atrocities and the extreme hardships on the front.

During the conflict, Amiens was the largest town behind the front line: numerous accounts mostly describe a dynamic and often bustling town and its surrounding villages, providing rest and assistance to the troops.

Amiens, un autre regard sur la Grande Guerre is a tribute to the civilians and soldiers whose paths crossed, spreading throughout the world the story of the conflict in this area. Amiens Métropole, which was so close yet far from the fighting, is, once again, a hundred years later, the gateway to Somme.

www.amiens.fr
Some fifty internationally renowned experts on the Great War will spend three days in Paris discussing the battles that took place in 1916. Each day will start and end with a keynote lecture, delivered by experts on the First World War. There will be three working sessions per day, during which a rapporteur will provide a summary of the participants’ presentations and will then hold a discussion with them and the audience. This, through dynamic discussions, will provide all the participants with a broad, nuanced and varied perspective on all the issues discussed. Each day will start off and end with a keynote lecture, held by the great experts on the First World War.

The purpose of the three-day conference is to ponder the notion of “battle” in the international and intermedial setting. There will be three main topics: “planning a battle”, “experiencing a battle” and “fearing the battle”.

Why was 1916 a turning point for the battle front?
It was in 1916 that artillery, in particular, came to dominate the battlefield and that the battles truly became “battles of material” (Materialechse), a very pertinent phrase used by Ludendorff upon being confronted with the Battle of the Somme at the end of the summer of 1916.

Did the Battles of the Somme and Verdun change the course of the war?
Both were deadly battles, but without a strategic outcome. So, if we look at it from a strategic perspective, I wouldn’t say that they changed the course of the war. However, 1916 was certainly a turning point: a shift in the way war was seen among the bellicose societies – this is due to the massive losses incurred without any outcome; as such, for example, the great crisis of the French army in 1917 had already begun at the end of 1916. Strategically, the Battle of the Somme was more significant in the long term: following the Battle of the Somme, the German High Command was convinced that the weather was working against it and therefore decided to wage an unrestricted submarine war, resulting in the entry of the United States into the war.

Why does the conference “The Battles of 1916” address other fronts?
For two reasons: because the various fronts are directly linked to each other and because one of the frontiers of research on the History of the Great War is to shift the focus to “other fronts”, particularly the Austro-Iranian and Austro-German-Russian fronts.

Enrolment is essential for all three days of the conference.
To enrol, send an e-mail to elisa.marcobeli@centenaire.org, indicating, if possible, on which day(s) you would like to attend.
For more information on the conference programme, go to centenaire.org
The University of Picardy Jules Verne in collaboration with the "Guerre en Somme 2016" (War in Somme 2016) have designed a cultural and scientific programme for the general public. Two art exhibitions will be held with the UFR des Arts (Arts training and research unit). Para-site (Para-site) from 18 January to 18 March 2016 and Les Gueules cassées (The Broken Face) from 22 February to 22 April 2016. Two other exhibitions, free, will be held in the spring of 2016. The first exhibition entitled "Manser pendant la Grande Guerre (Eating during the Great War), from 18 April to 13 May, will be organised by the History Department and will include an evening concert performed by the university orchestra on 28 April. And the other art exhibition, "Parasite cassés (The Fractured Landscape), from 1 June to 6 November, will exhibit artwork on the fractured landscape and the conflict on the land. Last, but not least, in October 2016, conferences on war for the general public will be held on the national days of the "Association des professeurs d'histoire et de géographie" (the French Association of History and Geography Professors).
BLACK DOG, THE DREAMS OF PAUL NASH
A WORLD PERFORMANCE BY DAVE MCKEAN

Dave McKeon is a unique multimedia artist, illustrator, graphic novel artist, photographer, filmmaker, sculptor, composer and musician. His hundreds of album covers and children’s books; his graphic novel Cages, his Batman: Arkham Asylum series and his four long feature films, including MirrorMask and the recent film Luna make him phenomenal, renowned for his collages and abrupt cuts, exceptional work ability and spontaneous creativity.

He has just completed a graphic novel entitled, Black Dog - The Dreams of Paul Nash, which will be published by ‘Dark Horse’ in the English-speaking world and by ‘1-Comics’ in France. The album recreates history and, more specifically, the dreams and nightmares of the renowned painter, Paul Nash, who lived through the war and depicted the Great War in paintings rarely containing people, using a type of surrealistic and abstract style.

As he has done several times recently (particularly in the show ‘9 Lives’), Dave McKeon wanted to make this work a type of performance. He has therefore composed his own piece, which is over an hour long and has written a booklet with lyrics and stories, which he will perform in public on the piano and singing. He will be accompanied by Matthew Sweeney, who will be on the oboe and singing. McKeon has also created a unique and powerful audio-visual work using images from graphic novels, photos and other elements that go into a collage, which will be projected on a screen behind the musicians.

This project, commissioned in the UK by 14-18 NOW and the Lakes International Comic Art Festival in Kendal, and in France by the ‘Musée du centenaire de la Première Guerre mondiale’ and the ‘Patrimoine de la Bande Dessinée’ in Amiens, will be performed in public for the first time in Kendal (100 km north of Manchester) on 28 May 2016, followed by performances on mainland Europe in Amiens on 4 and 6 June at the Maison de la Culture and again on 28 June within the framework of the French-British ceremony, which is taking place on 1 July in Thiepval.
ABBEY THEATRE

Other countries will be represented in cultural events on the battle field in 2016. Ireland will put on an original open air play at an Irish memorial site.

In fact, the Abbey Theatre is organising a tour of an original play which is due to premier the evening before the international ceremony at the Ulster Tower, in the open air in the presence of prominent guests.

Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme
by Frank McGuinness

The Abbey Theatre, Ireland’s national theatre, in a co-production with Headlong (UK), Citizens Theatre (Glasgow) and Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse Theatre (UK) is proud to feature in the Mission du centenaire de la Première Guerre mondiale. Those I belonged to, those I have not forgotten, the implacable ones, they kept their nerve, and they died.

On 1 July 1916, the 30th Ulster Division took part in one of the bloodiest battles in human history, The Battle of the Somme.

One hundred years on, the Abbey Theatre presents a production of Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme. In the extraordinary circumstances of World War One, eight ordinary men are changed, changed utterly...

This iconic war play by renowned Irish playwright Frank McGuinness is a powerful portrayal of mortality, love and loss.

Cast includes: Ryan Donaldson, Donal Gallery, Jonny Holden, Andy Kellogher, Paul Kennedy, Marcia Lamb, Chris McCurry, Jara McGowan
Director: Jeremy Herrin
Composer: Stephen Warbeck
Set Design: Ciaran Bagnall
Costume Design: Niamh Lunny
Lighting Design: Paul Keegan
Sound Design: Emma Laxton
Casting Director: Kelly Phelan
Assistant Director: Bryony Shanahan

March 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
In the Backstage Theatre
0171 638 0891

Original poster of the play “Observe the sons of Ulster marching towards the Somme”. © DR
THE VIGIL

A military vigil will take place overnight on the 30 June at the Thiepval monument, starting at 10 p.m. This will include the lighting of the memorial for the first time. Military representatives of all nations involved in the conflict have been invited to participate. Members of the Royal Family, senior politicians and a small number of descendants have also been invited to attend.

The military representatives will form a Guard of Honour on the monument, and the guard will change regularly throughout, with troops from each nation participating in the ceremony taking their turn during the course of the vigil.

Vigils will also be held at Westminster Abbey, Edinburgh castle, the national War Memorial in Cardiff and Helen’s Tower in Northern Ireland. Local Communities around the UK are also encouraged to organise their own vigils.
Each year, a commemorative event is held at the CWGC Thiepval Memorial, organised by The Royal British Legion and the British Embassy, Paris. This year, a much larger ceremony will be organised by the British and French Governments, to commemorate the centenary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme, as well as the scale of the battle, the impact it had on the population of both England and France, and the million casualties suffered during the battle. The Memorial was erected in 1932 by the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission, to commemorate the 72,050 British and South African servicemen who fell on the Somme between July 1915 and March 1916 with no known grave.

France Bleu radio will broadcast special programmes on the events of 1 July 2016.

The Franco-British ceremony of 1 July 2016 will be aired live on France 2.

INFORMATION ON THE PREFECTURE OF THE SOMME

Please note that visitors may only attend one ceremony, which must be booked in advance. By enrolling online, you will be issued with a ticket or an invitation. The organisers will send information to the attendees on which train to take in order to reach the shuttles and how to access the park-and-ride facilities. A secure restricted area will be set up from 30 June 2016, as of 8 p.m., to 1 July, 8 p.m. Access will only be authorised to residents and employees working for companies within the area, who will be provided with entry passes by the Prefecture.

www.somme14-16.com
**THE OFFICIAL FRANCO-BRITISH CEREMONY**

This significant event, organised by the governments of France and the United Kingdom, will convey the story of the Battle of the Somme through cultural and military content to honour and commemorate the one million casualties of the battle.

It will be a traditional commemorative service, with music, historical readings, and poetry as well as participation from Heads of State and senior politicians, and school children from both nations.

On arrival, visitors will have the opportunity to see the newly opened Thiepval Visitors’ Centre and visit an exhibition centre specially created for the event.

---

**THE NEW SITE MUSEUM IN THIEPVAL**

Near the Memorial, in the extension of the current Information Centre, this new museum is about the history of the Battle of the Somme and the remembrance of the missing soldiers. It contains collection pieces, archaeological objects, multimedia tools and large-scale installations. The highlights of the museum are the 60-metres high fresco designed by Joa Sacco and the scale model of George Guynemer’s airplane.

---

**THE DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT (DCMS)**

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is keen to help make Britain the world’s most creative and exciting place to live, visit and do business. We protect and promote our cultural and artistic heritage and as part of this, we lead the UK Government’s Centenary programme, supported by 10 Downing Street, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Department for Education, the Department for Communities and Local Government and other stakeholders. We also work in partnership with our key delivery partners the Imperial War Museums, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Royal British Legion, Arts Council England, English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Commendations to mark the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme are part of the wider four-year national centenary programme (2014-2018) of events, cultural activity and education led by the British Government to commemorate the First World War and to honour and remember the lives of those who served in, and were affected by, the war.

The programme includes:

- an important set of national commemorative events;
- an educational programme suitable for involvement in the commemorating activities and create an enduring legacy;
- local projects ensuring that remembrance lives on throughout the UK;
- awareness raising among the younger generations through the recent renovation of the Imperial War Museum;
- mutual commitment with our International partners.

---

**Department for Culture, Media & Sport**

Every day, from 2 July to 18 November 2016, the Last Post will be sounded as part of a daily commemorative service arranged by The Royal British Legion at the Thiepval Memorial site.

Several events commemorating the centenary will also be held in the UK on 30 June and 1 July, including a vigil at Westminster Abbey and a mass at the Manchester cathedral.
Since 1921, The Royal British Legion has been carrying out activities to help and support members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, and their families. These activities are perfectly summarised in the Royal British Legion’s motto: “Live on – to the memory of the fallen and the future of the living.”

As the National Custodian of Remembrance, the Legion safeguards the Military Covenant between the nation and its Armed Forces. It is best known for the annual Poppy Appeal and its emblem, the red poppy.

It provides financial and legal support, access to social support for serving into civilian life, providing career information and professional advice. It aims to ensure that everyone understands the importance of remembrance so that the sacrifice of the Forces are never forgotten.

The Battle of the Somme’s losses were felt particularly keenly at the local level. The battle saw the first widespread use of ‘Pals battalions’ which had been raised in towns, workplaces, and sports clubs. The young men who joined up together trained together, and fought together, sadly often also fell together, leaving entire communities bereft.

While The Royal British Legion will play a significant role in the high-profile commemorations, as the national custodian of Remembrance it has created a free Remember the Battle of the Somme 1916-2016 toolkit to ensure local communities are given an opportunity to tell their own communications. It is available for download and mail order from www.royalbritishlegion.org.uk/somme100

The Legion has also developed Remember the Somme with Stan Snow and The Royal British Legion, a free app for tablet and mobile that will be available to download from 5 May at iTunes and Google Play. These resources can also be used by those able to travel to Thiepval Memorial, where the Legion is hosting daily Acts of Remembrance from 2 July to 18 November.

www.royalbritishlegion.org.uk/somme100

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) was established by the Royal Charter in 1917 to ensure that men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died during the two world wars would be honoured and remembered.

Today, almost a century later, the Commission will pay tribute to 17,000 men and women who gave their lives, by caring for their graves and memorials at more than 23,000 locations in 154 countries.

Conservation and maintenance of our cemeteries and memorials is an ongoing task for our 1,000 staff worldwide. The majority are gardeners and stonemasons who have expertise in horticulture, stone masonry, engraving, carpentry, and ironmongery – just to name a few of the disciplines necessary to keep the cemeteries and memorials pristine.

The graves, memorials, sculptures and horticultural features are kept in good order by a regular cycle of maintenance, but major projects, like the recent restoration of the CWGC Thiepval Memorial – the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme – are also necessary from time to time. Everyday we do around 100 cemeteries and memorials are a lasting tribute to the war dead and places where loved ones come to remember their heroes.

Hundreds of thousands of people make the pilgrimage to our cemeteries each year. Interestingly, many are younger – keen to learn more about the events of a 100 years ago and the people who took part. To aid their understanding, and to encourage them to tell more of our ideas (not just a famous few), the CWGC provides a range of information – from our website to WaterInformation Panels in the cemeteries; from a new Somme Companion printed guide with commemoration trails, to the latest smartphone App.

In this year, when we mark the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme – one of the ‘four worst battles of the First World War – we are encouraging everyone to visit the Somme as each cemetery, grave and memorial has a powerful story to tell.

Today, the Battle of the Somme is often remembered for the opening day – 1 July 1916 – when more than 57,000 British Army soldiers were killed or wounded. But the battle continued throughout the summer, the rain and mud of the autumn, until the freezing cold of November. Men from every corner of Great Britain and her Empire served, fought and died on the Somme.

The cemeteries and memorials built and cared for by the CWGC portray the human cost of the fighting that took place across the battlefields throughout the war. They range from small cemeteries with a few dozen graves, hidden away down rough tracks in farmers’ fields, to overbearing ‘silent rituals’, where thousands of men were led to rest. The imposing monument at Thiepval is the largest Commonwealth war memorial in the world, bearing the names of 72,000 soldiers who have no grave.

To mark the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916, a national commemorative event will be held at the CWGC Thiepval Memorial in northern France. This will be led by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, on behalf of the UK Government, and the Mission du Centenaire de la Premiere Guerre mondiale, on behalf of the French Government, in partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and The Royal British Legion.

The CWGC is encouraging organisations and associations to hold commemorative events at cemeteries and memorials across the Somme battlefield, throughout the 141 days of the centenary. For more information on this, visit the CWGC website and our dedicated Somme pages at www.cwgc.org. You will also find details of the brand new CWGC Thiepval App, due to be launched in June this year.

The Thiepval App will be launched by the CWGC in June 2016. This will enable the user to find where individuals names are engraved on the Thiepval Memorial.

Poppies Close Up © Richard Lee-Har and Historic Royal Palaces

LA DIRECTION DE LA MEMOIRE, DU PATRIMOINE ET DES ARCHIVES DU MINISTERE DE LA DEFENSE
La Direction de la Memoire, du Patrimoine et des Archives du Ministere de la Defense (The Directorate of Remembrance, Heritage and Archives of the Ministry of Defence) is entrusted with protecting memorial sites. It develops and oversees activities which aim to preserve, maintain and restore perpetual tombs of servicemen and others who “died for France” in military cemeteries in France and overseas and in special plots of military cemeteries. It also ensures the restoration of the most important memorial sites and deals with cases related to tomb plaques and memorial monuments. This memorial heritage consists of 265 national burial grounds, 2,000 military grave plots in military cemeteries, and around 2,200 French cemeteries located in 78 countries outside France. The Ministry of Defense is charged with preserving them and, in accordance with international agreements, it also ensures the perpetual maintenance of French military tombs overseas. www.defense.gouv.fr
The First World War was a crucial period in British and French history. In 2015, the British Prime Minister, David Cameron, said that Great Britain wished to commemorate the conflict in such a way that it pays tribute to the sacrifices made by so many, inspires the younger generations so that the lessons learned from the war are passed on to them, and raises awareness among the public on how this conflict transformed society.

For many British people, the Battle of the Somme is to this day the most striking and painful part of the First World War. The Franco-British offensive which started this battle was to claim decisive victory on the Western Front, which had been paralysed in the trenches for eighteen months. However, the German defences, which had been meticulously reinforced for months, proved to be unbeatable. Total victory was impossible. And that is when the Somme transformed into a bitter battle which wore out both sides. Nevertheless, the British commanders learnt hard, but important lessons. The Somme taught them how to lead a modern war, which then started the process which led to their final victory in 1918.

The commemoration of the Battle of the Somme will be held halfway through the programme on the commemoration of the First World War. The Battle of the Somme was, together with the declaration of war, the magnet for the entire campaign, the Battle of Jutland, Passchendaele and Amiens, one of the key events selected for national commemoration. Many ceremonies are taking place in the United Kingdom on 30 June and 1 July to mark the centenary, including a vigil at Westminster Abbey and a mass at the Manchester Cathedral.

On 1 July the French and British Governments are organizing a large-scale event at the Franco-British Memorial, Thiepval. I am delighted to see the two governments, as well as a number of nationalities, working together to organize this ceremony. Given the importance and impact of this battle, both in our countries, the commemoration of the Somme will be an important public event, where most of the 11,000 guests will be French or British.

The commemoration ceremony will tell the story of the Battle of the Somme through musical performances, readings, and hymns, with the participation of both the British and French Armed Forces and six hundred school pupils from the two countries. I am very pleased that several eminent members of the Royal Family and important political figures from both nations have announced their presence at the ceremony. We have invited heads of state and government from all the participating nations.

Organising such a large-scale event entails a certain number of logistical challenges, and I would like to express my gratitude to the Prefecture of the Somme for their tremendous help in ensuring that everything is ready in time, and to the local residents for hosting this event in such a positive way.

The number of people who applied to take part in the ceremony is unprecedented. Unfortunately, we cannot invite everyone who would have liked to be there. For those who do not manage to get a ticket for 1 July, there will be a brief commemorative ceremony every day at midnight at the Thiepval Memorial to commemorate each of the 141 days of the battle. I hope that many French and British nationals will take this opportunity to participate in the commemoration.

Lastly, the commemorative ceremonies of the Somme are part of a four-year programme (2014-2018), through which the British Government wishes to commemorate the First World War. This programme has an educational component, in that the younger generations will be at the heart of the commemorative activities. At these initiatives, as well as the projects involving the entire British population, will ensure the endurance of remembrance in the United Kingdom.
600 CHILDREN FOR A CENTENARY
EDUCATION PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY
THE BRITISH COUNCIL AND FRENCH PARTNERS
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FRANCO-BRITISH
CEREMONY AT THIÉPVAL

For the Franco-British ceremony in Thiepval, France and the United Kingdom have decided to invite 300 French and 300 British children for each of the 600 individual graves at the Thiepval necropolis.

The regional education authority of Amiens and the British Council are involved in organising this event within the framework of a much bigger education programme supporting bilateral partnerships between schools in France and the UK.

As part of this year’s ceremony, the regional education authority of Amiens and the British Council have initiated a special education legacy project to set up sustainable partnerships between the schools in France and the United Kingdom selected to participate in the commemoration.

Three main principles underpin the education project “600 school children commemorate”:

- in order to create a lasting legacy, the 600 school children will take active part in the ceremony and will carry out an agreed symbolic gesture of remembrance;
- as well as taking part in the 1 July ceremony at Thiepval, the schools selected by Amiens local authority in France and by the British Council in the UK, will carry out collaborative cross-curriculum projects related to the shared history of the battle of Somme;
- the history of this initial collaboration, schools will forge long-term and sustainable school partnerships.

Key features of the education project

Amiens local authority and the British Council have worked together to identify 12 French and UK schools, totalling 24 schools in all. The schools will work in tandem on an agreed Somme theme. Even if some of the commemorative actions that independent schools choose to carry out may differ, all partnership schools are required to agree to the following:

- carry out preparations for the 1 July ceremony at Thiepval in accordance with instructions from the “Mission du Centenaire” and the COMS;
- produce a joint artwork on the theme “The battle of the Somme 1916-2016: 100 years on” in collaboration with their partner school;
- ensure that lead teachers take part in preparatory seminars related to the 1 July ceremony and manage the delivery of the art work.

The local education authority of Amiens has been involved in the Centenary commemorations cycle since the academic year 2012-2013. It has been supporting a number of projects in schools at primary and secondary levels. 2016 gives us the opportunity to work on collective memory through various disciplines connected with the Battle of the Somme anniversary. 300 pupils along with their teachers, in primary and secondary schools from all over the Académie, have been working closely with 300 British students to prepare this event. They will meet over three days in Amiens. Besides experiencing the exceptional commemorative event of 1 July, this is a solid partnership between French and British pupils, committed to building a better future.

INTERVIEW WITH M. VALÉRIE CABUILL, RECTOR OF AMIENS REGIONAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY

The British Council commemorates the centenary of the first World War

The British Council is the UK’s international organisation for educational and cultural relations. Its mission is to create international opportunities and build trust worldwide between the people of the United Kingdom and other countries. The British Council in France contributes to developing dynamic and sustainable projects between French and British schools. Working closely with the French Ministry of Education, the British Council offers a large range of educational projects across France, including in overseas territories.

The British Council has been involved in commemorating the Great War since 2014 through several art and educational projects. In 2014, it proposed a pedagogical discussion on the 1914 Christmas Truce in collaboration with British football clubs. In 2016, the British Council is involved in the outreach teaching programme for 600 French and British student children for commemorations of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 2016 in Thiepval. It is providing teaching material for the general school population, through a publication entitled, Our Shared Past: Remembering the First World War and the School online website.
CEREMONY AT THE MINE CRATER IN LA BOISELLE

Located in the Ovillers-la Boiselle commune, this Great Mine is a crater with a 91-metre diameter. It was created using 30 tonnes of explosives, set off shortly before the Franco-British offensive attack to weaken the enemy's defence. This year, at 7:28 a.m., around two thousand people are expected to attend the British ceremony at the Mine Crater in Boiselle, including two German regional ministers of the Länder. Eighty musicians from the Somme Battlefield Pipe Band will be performing at the ceremony.

CEREMONY AT CONTALMAISON

The village, Contalmaison, was the scene of violent fighting during the Battle of the Somme. A monument currently stands at the municipal cemetery to pay tribute to the 12th Battalion of the Manchester regiment that lost 539 of its men in the attack on 7 July 1916. On 1 July 2016 in the morning, a Scottish ceremony will take place in Calm and at the war memorial in front of the Contalmaison church as part of the centenary of the Remembrance Ceremony. The ceremony will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., in the presence of the Scottish Veterans Minister, the Mayor of Edinburgh and the Mayor of Fockeck (UK). Scottish soldiers and reservists, musicians and a choir will also attend the ceremony.
THE FRENCH FORCES IN THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

Following a German offensive launched on Verdun on 21 February 1916, the number of French units in the Allied offensive on the Somme formed in December 1915, was substantially reduced. What was initially a Franco-British offensive on the Somme became mainly British. The French therefore played a secondary role in the Battle of the Somme.

On the first day of the offensive, which began on 1 July 1916, the 22 Divisions of the Sixth Army under the command of General Fayolle reached their fixed objectives. From 1 to 3 July, eleven villages were reconquered, including Curzy. The first German positions fell, but at the expense of large losses. 44 French divisions fought on the Somme, including the Tenth Army until November, many of whom also fought in Verdun. Between August and September, when several offensives took place, the French Army with the help of the British, regained control of the Maurepas, Rancourt and Corbie villages. On 15 October, the most extreme Allied advance was made by the French units when they conquered the Sally-Bailiselle village, with no fighting breaking out in the South or North of the Somme. The French command led the Battle of the Somme on 16 December 1916. France suffered a loss of 200,000 men, 60,000 of whom were “missing”.

Raising awareness of and remembering the battle

The Battle of the Somme did not have as much significance among the French nation as the Battle of Verdun at the time of the battle, nor does it have it today. There is still very little literature on it and its French historiography, in comparison to the large number of existing specific literature on Verdun. Selective memory unquestionably chose the defensive Franco-British Battle on the Somme, rather than France’s international involvement on the Somme. To this day, the French memorial for the Somme are barely getting any national recognition. Only the Rancourt chapel and its burial ground are significantly commemorated by the French. However, this Battle of the Somme, given its tragic number of material and human losses suffered, deserves to be described as part of national memory, a hundred years on, as much as it is in the Commonwealth.
CEREMONY AT THE ULSTER TOWER

On 1 July 2016, a ceremony will be held at 2:30 p.m. as a tribute to the fallen soldiers in battle.

On 1 July 1916, the 36th Ulster Division launched an attack near Thiepval and made a rapid advance. Trapped between British artillery and German shelling, its rapid ascent was brutally stopped. Almost 5,000 men were killed. As a tribute to the servicemen from Ulster who fought in the First World War, a tower was erected in 1921 following public proposals: the Ulster Tower. It is of Gothic and Flamboyant style and is an exact replica of Helen’s Tower in Belfast that served as a military training camp for Irish soldiers. A memorial plaque has also been erected in the park in commemoration of the 9 soldiers who were awarded the Victoria Cross and of the 36th Division.
CENTENARY OF THE BATTLES OF THE SOMME AND BEAUMONT-HAMEL

On 1 July 2016 at 4 p.m., the Canadian Government is holding an official ceremony of the centenary of the Battles of the Somme and Beaumont-Hamel as a tribute to the soldiers of the 11th Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment, killed in 1916. The ceremony will be held at the Newfoundland Memorial in Beaumont-Hamel, on the actual battlefield where the regiment lost 60% of its soldiers on the morning of 1 July. The bronze caribou is a symbol of their strength and noble courage. The Memorial is visited by 230,000 visitors annually, 5,000 people are expected to attend the ceremony, including official delegations from Newfoundland, Great Britain, Canada and France.

NEWFOUNDLAND MEMORIAL AT BEAUMONT-HAMEL

In the department of the Somme, the Newfoundland Memorial pays tribute to the soldiers of this former British colony, who died in the First World War. The first day of the Battle of the Somme ended tragically for this volunteer army. The troops were wiped out and their tombs are mostly anonymous. Today, the Memorial site has a breathtaking view of the perfectly preserved battlefields. Visitors have the opportunity to discover the trench sites of both the enemies and the Allies. At the top of the caribou mound, three sealed bronze plaques also pay tribute to the Newfoundland soldiers. Located on the territory of the Beaumont-Hamel commune, this memorial site was established as a "National Historic Site of Canada" on 10 April 1997. It currently attracts many French and Belgian tourists and has always been an important place of pilgrimage to Canadians.

What was Canada’s involvement in the First World War and in the Battles of the Somme?

Canada was involved from the very beginning of the war under British command and, remarkably, some Canadian soldiers even spent almost four years in France. The Canadian and Newfoundland soldiers took part in many Battles in the Somme, including the Battle at Beaumont-Hamel on 1 July 1916 and at Courtebert on 15 September 1916. They suffered huge losses. Overall, out of the 8 million soldiers in 1914, 850,000 Canadian and Newfoundland nationals were involved, that is 9.2% of the population, 66,000 of them lost their lives.

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment stood out when it took part in the Battle in Beaumont-Hamel in the early hours of 1 July 1916. They fought with such courage in such terrible conditions that they were named "The Tip of the Spear". This also earned them the right to be the only unit of the British Armed Forces to have "Royal" in its name.

To what extent is this involvement part of historical remembrance?

The First World War is of much greater importance to Canadians than anyone else could imagine. The war had a huge impact on what was to become of the country and its full independence. Victorious, but heavily burdened, Canada acquired a new status in the world.

Our legacy has been left on the bloody battlefields everywhere in Somme, on hundreds of graffiti inscriptions left by the Canadian soldiers and at the 40,000 Canadian graves in the region.

I would add that society at the time, transformed forever by the horrific circumstances of the war, witnessed important and lasting changes. I am referring to the women who fully claimed their place in Canadian society having successfully occupied posts, during the war, which were traditionally reserved for men. Another remarkable fact dating back to this period is that the Newfoundland Memorial in Beaumont-Hamel was erected at the initiative of women who got together to raise funds to have it made. The proud caribou standing in Beaumont-Hamel is a symbol of the noble of the pure nobility and courage of all the Newfoundlanders, and it is very dear to us all.

What does Canada do to keep the remembrance alive today, 100 years later?

In Canada, Remembrance is very much present in everyone and various commemorations are organised both in Canada and in Europe.

Today, just months away from the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation, which will take place in 2017, the 100th anniversary of the Battles of the Somme and Beaumont-Hamel do not only play a key role in keeping Remembrance alive, but also in passing on the legacy to future generations, who need to know their history.

I would like to thank the Mission du Centenaire for providing the young and not so young French public with such an inspiring programme on the First World War, in which we are honoured to be able to take part until 2018.

We will remember them.
CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE

CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE will be held on 1 July at the German Military Cemetery at Fricourt, the resting place of 17,027 German soldiers, among whom 10,000 lost their lives in the Battle of the Somme. It will be organized by the "Volksgenossen Deutscher Kriegsgräberfürsorge", established after the First World War to maintain German soldiers’ graves. To take part in the ceremony, you just need to sign up on the organisation's website by 10 April.

FRICOURT CEMETERY

Due to the large number of fortifications in the Fricourt commune, it was a key point in the German defence system in 1916. It was however taken over by the British on 2 July 1916.

Today, this military graveyard is the resting place of 17,000 soldiers. Among them, 10,000 soldiers lost their lives in the Battle of the Somme and just over 8,000 were killed in the 1918 offensive. Manfred von Richthofen, known as the “Red Baron”, was also buried there in 1918 before being permanently transferred to the Westminster cemetery.

Given the number of soldiers buried in Fricourt, today this graveyard is the second biggest German cemetery in the Somme after Vimy Ridge.

THE GERMAN SOLDIER IN THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

From 24 June 1916, expecting an Allied offensive, the German 2nd Army under the command of General Fritz von Below entrenched themselves to reinforced shelter and concrete bunkers. The great battle was announced by the 5-day-long heavy bombardment by the Allies using 50,000 cannons. The German troops, who were well sheltered, managed to withstand this onslaught. When the British soldiers left the trenches and started to cross the literally cleared out ground of the no man’s land on 1 July 1916, the German troops, who were unsheltered, opened fire, having come out of their shelter. This was the greatest loss incurred by the British Armed Forces, where in one day they lost almost 60,000 men, 20,000 of whom are “missing”. In the “southern” sector of the Somme, against the French, the Germans held out well – they had fewer of the different kinds of reinforced shelters than they had against the British offensive.

The Germans suffered heavy losses, in Thiepval area, the crater which exploded on 1 July at 7 a.m., marking the beginning of the offensive, cost the Germans over 800 lives. In the months that followed, fighting was intense in every field and wood, exemplified by the battle of Delville Wood, which became known to the British as Devil’s Wood. The German troops managed to hold out pretty well, despite all their losses, which today amount to over 460,000 dead, wounded and “missing” Germans. In fact, the Allies only gained control of not more than eight kilometres of land. The German commanders and soldiers would remain proud until the 1920s of their service, for having “held out” in this war which they felt was a war of “advanced defence”.

Gerd KRÜMEICH, Professor emeritus of contemporary history at the Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf

INTERVIEW WITH H.E. NIKOLAUS MEYER-LANDRUT, GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE

What does the commemoration of the centenary of the Battle of the Somme mean to Germany?

The horrific Battles of Verdun and the Somme were the consequences of diplomatic failure in 1914 which led to political action being taken over by the logic of war. A hundred years on, France and Germany have strong friendship ties, and this has been demonstrated even in difficult moments. This friendship is a guarantor of peace on our continent. However, it is our responsibility to ensure that the remembrance of the darkest hours in our shared history is passed down to the younger generations.

How will Germany take part in the commemoration of the centenary of the Battle of the Somme?

At the international ceremony of the commemoration of the Battle of the Somme in Thiepval on 1 July 2016, Germany will be represented by a high-ranking figure. A tribute organised by the German War Graves Commission in partnership with the Fricourt commune will also take place at a local German war cemetery.

What is planned in 2016 in France and Germany?

The commemorations of the centenary reawaken this chapter in our history in the conscience of all German nationals. Keeping this memory alive, which can no longer rely on the accounts of witnesses of the time to pass on its story, is of course a priority in political initiatives, but more than anything relies on the joint tremendous commitment by our civil societies in France, Germany and other countries involved in the war to pass it down.
Throughout 2016, in association with the Somme 1916 museum, the 67 communes of the “Pays du Coquelicot” (the Land of the Poppy) will work together to offer its residents and visitors a large number of events all over the region: exhibitions, concerts, poppy releases, shows and remembrance marches will accompany a rich cultural and memorial programme.

Light of Hope
From 22 June to 3 July
Basilica of Notre-Dame de Brie Brie

The Basilica of Notre-Dame de Brie Brie in Albert will be lit up for 10 days. Four projectors at the top of the basilica, 60 metres from the ground, will, like a lighthouse, symbolically light up the surrounding battlefields within a 20-km range.

Words of Peace and Tolerance
Friday 1 July - Basilica of Notre-Dame de Brie Brie

Remembrance Concert
Following a large patriotic walk held at 7 p.m. in partnership with 100 Pipers, the Remembrance Concert will be held at the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Brie Brie. Barbara Hendricks, accompanied by the Orchestre de Picardie, will pay tribute to the soldiers of the Great War in the concert entitled Words of Peace and Tolerance, which will be broadcast on a giant screen.

At midnight all the LED lights distributed to the attendees will be lit up and will shine in the dark for a moment as a symbol of solidarity with all the soldiers who fought in the Great War and as a tribute to all war victims.

Albert Public Gardens
11-14 July 2016

On 1 and 2 July, the Albert Public Gardens will be a theatre portraying life in 1916 and various performances will be organised for the attendees.

Young Voices Choir of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
Saturday 2 July - Basilica of Notre-Dame de Brie Brie

At 9 p.m. a performance will be given by the Young Voices Choir of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra at the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Brie Brie.

Looking Towards the Future
For three days, the “Pays du Coquelicot” will open its doors to the world through commemorations of an exceptional intensity.

In memory of the thousands of young people who came from all over the world to fight on our land, we have made “Peace” the main theme of all our events and have called on young people to take part in the commemorations. Our efforts of nourishing the memory of the past should make us all look towards the future and towards Peace – a future and Peace which, 100 years on, still need building.

Stephane Darnel, Deputy Mayor of Albert, President of Pays du Coquelicot
Show

**TRAU MA GUERRE**

10 JULY 2016 - AMIENS

This toe performance is on the themes of explosion, destruction and reconstruction, based on texts by Edouard Bond from the works "Rouge, noir et ignorant" and "La tuile des nains".

Commemorative cycle

**CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME - "SYMBOLS"**

1 JULY AND 11-11 NOVEMBER 2016 - AMIENS, ARRAS, MONT-SOMME

The reconstruction of a network of trenches and the building of a replica of the first operational tank, the British "Mark 1." are being organised. There will also be a photo exhibition accompanying these projects.

Entertainment

**BROADCASTING AND PERFORMANCES**

11 JULY - AMIENS

Banners, floral decorations and entertainment in the town centre and the broadcasting on a screen of the Remembrance Day of the Battle of the Somme. Through the "Coquillards et Bleuets" project, children from schools in Amiens and its residents will lay down in an allocated place all the flowers which they will have grown for the creation of a joint and temporary, participatory artwork.

Concert

**LEGION'S MEMORY**

5 JULY 2016 - 8:30 PM - ARRAS

Concert

The shared destiny of well-known figures involved in the Foreign Legion, such as Alan Seeger, were the inspiration for a musical and poetic tribute.

"Rafales fatales, la symphonie de percussions labourait tout sur son passage dans un Santiago sans paysan. Seule, la Grande Paucheuse faissait moisson..." There will be around 500 musicians performing, united by the Music of the Foreign Legion.

Show

**LES "FLEURS DE GUERRE" (THE FLOWERS OF WAR)**

15 TO 26 JULY 2016 - PARIS, THE WAR-RAVAGED VILLAGES OF THE SOMME, MONTAUBAN, DIEPPE, CAYOULLES, TURCOING

The show Fleurs De Guerre (The Flowers of War) explores the artistic creations of the battle field, in particular music and art, by demonstrating how artistic work helped overcome war trauma.

Ten concerts will be given in ten municipalities of the Somme and the North between 14 and 24 July in order to pay tribute to these martyred cities. At the same time, three concerts will be given in Canberra, Sydney, and Melbourne in Australia.

Show

**SOUND AND LIGHT OF POZIERES**

15 TO 17 AND 22 TO 26 JULY 2016 - ARRAS

As part of the commemorations of the Battle of the Somme, the Digger - Cote 180 Association is organising a sound and light show projecting scenes through some 20 paintings of the most important moments of the battle revolving around a story of a young Australian officer receiving a batch of letters from the hands of a fatally wounded German soldier for his family.
On 2 July 2016 at 2 p.m., Canadian delegations will commemorate Canada’s involvement in the Somme and the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. Despite the thousands of losses incurred by the Canadian troops, the Battle of 15 September 1916 was one of the rare victories for the Allies in the Somme. This formal ceremony will be held at the Canadian Memorial at Courcelette in the presence of several official delegations open to the public. Overall, the Battles of the Somme cost Canada 24,000 casualties, but they enabled the Allies to put a great deal of pressure on the German forces and made the British and Canadian forces much better prepared for the battles of 1917 and 1918.

CITÉ BONJEAN CEMETERY

On 3 July at 11 a.m., New Zealand will hold a commemorative ceremony at the Cité Bonjean Cemetery in Armentières. Cité Bonjean is an important cemetery to New Zealand as it is the resting place of the first New Zealanders who lost their lives on the Western Front in the First World War. Following the campaigns in Palestine and Gallipoli, the New Zealand Expeditionary Force sailed to Marseille and then took a train to the north of France where it was assigned to the Armentières region. From the very first day of its arrival in May 1916, the New Zealand Division encountered difficulties. Following intensive training and new adapted equipment, it was able to get used to a radical change in temperature, geography, equipment, tactics and clothing enabling them to adapt from war in the desert to battles in the trenches on the Western Front. Not having the experience of modern warfare of the scale and intensity typical of the Western Front, the New Zealand Force’s task of holding and controlling over 13 kilometres of the front, resulted in major losses. When the division was relieved of its duties mid-August, 2,500 soldiers had been wounded and around 400 lost their lives. However, the hard-earned lessons at the front proved useful for the division when it was summoned to fight in the Somme offensive in September 1916.

The war memorial at the Cité Bonjean Cemetery is in memory of the New Zealand soldiers who died in battle between 1916 and 1917 in the area of Armentières, who have no known grave, and of 452 New Zealanders who fought in subsequent battles and those who were hospitalised locally and later died of their injuries.
SOUTH AFRICAN COMMEMORATION IN DELVILLE WOOD

The South African government wished to pay a tribute to its troops who distinguished themselves at the Battle of the Somme. A ceremony will be held on 10 July 2016 in Longueval, at the Delville Wood South African National Memorial.

Ambassador, next July your country will commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Delville Wood to remember the unsung role of the South African Native Labour Corps. What does this commemoration mean to you and the South African people?

South Africa was drawn into First World War as a British colony. This happened four years after the unfair establishment by the British and the Afrikaners of the South African Union, which institutionalised exclusion of the vast majority of the population, namely the indigenous inhabitants. Our intervention in First World War came shortly after the second Boer war in which Afrikaners fought the British and indigenous supported one side or the other. When the British Crown issued an urgent call for assistance, white soldiers from the South African army along with indigenous people responded and enlisted.

At Delville Wood, the 1st South African infantry division participated in one of the bloodiest battles of the Great War. In the morning of 16 July 1916, 30,153 men from the brigade were ordered to penetrate and seize the woods “at all costs”. This gave them a prominent and strategic position inside the German second line. The brigade was subjected to a relentless barrage of artillery fire and unimagined violence. On 16 July 1916 and after six days and five nights, only 142 men made it out of the woods. In short, the Battle of Delville Wood was a massacre.

Interview with H.E. R.S. Molekane, South African Ambassador to France

The centenary will be celebrated on Sunday 10 July 2016 at the South African National Memorial, 5 route de Ginchy, 80360 Longueval, Tel.: 03.22.85.50.17, info@delvillewood.com. People who would like to attend the ceremony are advised to register by email at the embassy’s address: info@afriqueau.net or that of the South African National Memorial: www.delvillewood.com.

Delville Wood has become a South African remembrance site where we pay tribute, not only to the brigade’s members but also to every single South African soldier who paid the ultimate sacrifice on the various battlefields of both world wars. I must emphasise that this is the very first time black South African soldiers’ engagement in First World War has been recognised. Up until now, their recognition in fighting units was denied because the colour of their skin and they were unfairly treated during the conflict. One of the major causes of bitterness was due to the then South African government’s refusal to honour them when the British had offered to award them medals. On the other hand, their white compatriots received war honours. The British government did not however take action to oppose the decision made by the South African authorities not to decorate black soldiers. Our democratic government has undertaken the responsibility to restore their dignity by transforming the memorial in a way that it more objectively and more authentically chronicles the military history of South Africa in both world wars.

The centenary of the Battle of Delville Wood, with the participation of the South African Native Labour Corps, contingent of South African indigenous workers (SANLC), is a key event in our calendar. We hope for the presence of a high level South African government representation as well as a large contingent of the South African Army.

The hallmark of this year’s ceremony will be the opening on the site of the memorial of a garden and a wall bearing the names of all South African soldiers who took part in the Great War.
CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF FROMELLES (NORTH)

Due to the loss of so many Australian lives, the Battle of Fromelles on 19 July 1916 will be remembered by as “the bloodiest in Australian history”.

HISTORY

Australia’s participation in the Battle of the Somme started on 19 July 1916 when the 6th Australian division intervened at the Battle of Fromelles. This attack in Nord-Pas-de-Calais was intended primarily as a feint to draw German troops away from the Somme offensive. During this 24-hour long battle of Fromelles, the 6th Australian Division suffered 5,533 casualties, deceased and wounded. This was the bloodiest day in Australian military history.

LOCATION

Fromelles is a place that resonates with Australians who remember the losses and the sacrifice the soldiers paid in France. The key Australian Memorial of Fromelles is the VC Corner cemetery, created after the armistice. This is the only military cemetery entirely dedicated to Australians in France. It houses the remains of 410 unknown Australian soldiers inside two mass graves. There is also a memorial bearing the names of around 1,300 soldiers who gave their lives in Fromelles without known graves.

In 2010, a new cemetery near “Bois du Faisan” was built in Fromelles to bury 250 Australian and British soldiers, whose remains were found in 2009 in mass graves located in the neighbouring woods, where they were buried by the Germans following the Battle of Fromelles. Every year since 2010, an annual remembrance ceremony is conducted on 19 July in the cemetery by the Australian Army and the city of Fromelles.
REMEmBRANCE TOURISM
A MAJOR STAKE FOR THE SOMME

In 1916, the Somme became a worldwide battlefield, a common ground for around 20 different nationalities where 3 million soldiers fought on a 45-km long front. Today, their descendants come from all around the world in pilgrimage to visit the Somme. Remembrance tourism now plays a significant role in both the economics and image of the Picardie region.

A DYNAMIC PLAYER IN PROMOTING TOURISM IN THE REGION

To better assist visitors celebrating the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme, a wider range of useful tools to discover various remembrance sites in the area are on offer in 2016.

Somme 2016 - Sites de la Première Guerre mondiale (Somme 2016 - WWI remembrance sites), a bilingual collector's edition published by Somme Tourisme has been made available for free, both in French and English, since the beginning of the year.

Beside editing a guide to show the scope of remembrance sites you can find in the region, the local Tourism Development and Booking Agency has also republished a bilingual edition of The Michelin Guide of all battlefields in the Somme as well as an IGN map specifically designed for the Battle of the Somme 1916.

With the support of the Mission du Centenaire, internet websites dedicated to First World War in the Somme, such as www.somme14-18.com and www.somme-battlefields.com, have been updated. In addition to pinpointing historic sites to discover and displaying the usual calendar pages, the French website and its English version also offer a special section dedicated to 2016 events and accommodation reservations on line. Last but not least, Somme Tourisme continues its endeavours in on line promotion by communicating with its French and English-speaking communities on Facebook with its Somme 14-18 and Great War Centenary in the Somme sites. For that matter, we invite you to share information and content using the hashtag #RemembranceIsEveryday!

DESTINATION CONTRACT
“GREAT WAR CENTENARY”

The Destination Contract entitled “Great War Centenary” is an initiative implemented in partnership with About France and all institutional players in the remembrance tourism sector.

Signed at the end of 2013, it structures and promotes the remembrance offer on all WWI sites. Whether private or public, all players on the French Western front line contribute expertise to increase visibility for international tourism and improve regional services.

Signatories are committed to simultaneously undertake three strands of action: optimise reception conditions, introduce an observatory to constantly follow demand trends and economic benefits and promote the region worldwide.

The offer of the Destination Contract partners forms part of a European dynamic, more visible to remote markets because they participate in large-scale promotional actions. The “Great War Centenary” Destination Contract, in which Somme Tourisme and the Mission du Centenaire are involved, was in the spotlight last November at the World Travel Market event in London, the biggest global travel industry event. From 14 to 27 March 2018, the London tube featured billboard posters displaying “Western Front 14-18”.

NORD-PAS-DE-CALAIS BESIDE THE SOMME

Nord-Pas-de-Calais supports the Somme region in welcoming visitors from all the Commonwealth nations who will attend the commemorations of the Battle of the Somme Centenary on 1 July 2016. 220 Institutions and companies belonging to the network “Northern France Battlefields Partners” have been preparing and learning about the commemorations thanks to the support of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region.

On 10 July 2016, the Australian government will commemorate the Centenary of the Battle of Fromelles. 2017 will be marked by another significant ceremony held by the Canadian government on 9 April to celebrate the centenary of the attack launched by the Canadian troops on Cœl de Vriry within the Battle of Arras. Preparations for these two events will be conducted by Nord-Pas-de-Calais Tourisme, in charge of promoting them to tour operators and journalists.
AUSTRALIAN COMMENORATION
OF THE CENTENARY
OF THE BATTLE OF POZIÈRES

In over 6 weeks of fighting in Pozières, Australia suffered 23,000 losses (including casualties and fatalities). Pozières received “the highest number of soldiers but experiences the most significant Australian sacrifice in the world.”

HISTORY
From 23 July 1916, Australian troops took part in the Battle of the Somme. After the village of Pozières was taken, Australian soldiers kept fighting for 6 weeks, suffering great losses. During this battle, the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Australian divisions suffered 23,000 losses (among which 6,000 fatalities). Charles Bean, Australia’s official historian, described the Australian sacrifice at the Battle of Pozières as “the most significant on land in Australian history.”

LOCATION
The Memorial dedicated to the 1st division was built in 1920 to commemorate all the great battles fought by the division on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918. Its location in Pozières is no coincidence. Between 23 and 26 July, this was the place captured by the division following their first significant military offensive in France. This action cost the division over 5,200 lives.

CEREMONY
The Australian government will hold a ceremony on 23 July 2016 at the Memorial of the 1st division in Pozières to honour the Australian sacrifice at the Battle of the Somme. The ceremony will start at 4 p.m. and will last for an hour. It will only be possible to have access to the event with an entry pass, requested prior to the event. People who would like to attend the ceremony at the Memorial for the Missing in Theisval will only be granted access to a second ceremonial site but will not be authorized on the site of the Memorial of the 1st division.
AUGUST

Show
LE SOUFFLE DE LA TERRE 2016 (THE EARTH EXHALES 2016)
MAY 11 AUGUST 14, 1914- JUNE 26, 1916
This sound and light show depicts the daily life on the front during the Battle of the Somme.

SEPTEMBER

Exhibition
HORSES IN THE GREAT WAR
FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO DECEMBER 2016
MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES OF ABBEVILLE
This project aims to highlight private archives on the use of horses during WWI.

Show
DU BOUT DE LEURS PLUMES
(THE POINT OF A QUILL)
7 & 13 SEPTEMBER 2016 - MUSEE II
A sound and light show which will also feature readings of letters written by the “Polis” (French infantrymen during WWI), slide shows of historical pictures and projections of adapted scenes from that time.

Show
MOTS TRANCHÉS (LIFE IN THE TRENCHES)
From May 2016 to January 2017
This sound and light show traces the daily life on the front during the Battle of the Somme.

Show
LE CENTENAIRE DE LA BATAILLE DE LA SOMME
SUR LA MONTAGNE DE FRISÉ
(Celebrating the battle of the Somme on Montagne de Frise)
Staged plays and readings, photo exhibitions, recreation of a military camp, a concert by the pipe band. Re-size site.

Exhibition
OF MUD AND TEARS...
14-18 THROUGH THE EYES OF A POLI
17 & 24 SEPTEMBER 2016
In this traveling photo exhibition, visitors will be immersed in the Great War.

Conference by Cécile Coulin
FOOLING THE ENEMY: THE INVENTION OF MODERN CAMOUFLAGE, 1914 AND 1918
20 SEPTEMBER 2016 - 9:30 PM - CANAILLES AUDITORIUM - ESPACE DEWAILLY
Conference cycle held by the city Archives of Amiens.
"The archives tell..."
IRISH COMMEMORATION

The Celtic cross of Guallembont was erected in memory of the 16th Irish division of the British army, who were thrown into battle in September 1916. Composed of men from all over Ireland, the division suffered a total of 4,330 casualties, among which 1,200 died at the Battles of Guallembont and Ginchy. Ireland will hold an official ceremony on 3 September 2016 at 4 p.m. in Guallembont to pay tribute to its soldiers from the 16th Irish division who died at the Battle of the Somme.

Ireland is extremely grateful to Guallembont for perpetuating the memory of the 16th Division’s sacrifice in France and for the warm welcome extended to the numerous Irish visitors who come to visit the area to remember the tragedy of the Somme. In September 2016, we will thank the inhabitants of Guallembont for doing such thorough work when it comes to the Irish commemoration.

The 16th Irish division was transferred from the area of Lous in August 1916. Composed of seven battalions from Leinster, Munster, and Connacht counties, five battalions from Ulster county, and the 17th Royal Hampshire Regiment. The 47th Brigade was tasked with seizing German trenches in the village of Guallembont, where attacks had been resisted since July. On 3 September, the 6th Connaught Rangers, 7th Leinster and 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers took over this position in an exceptionally brave attack. Lt. John Holland of the 7th Leinster was awarded the Victoria Cross.

On 9 September in Ginchy, the 48th Brigade, composed of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, 7th Royal Irish Rifles and the 8th and 9th Royal Dublin Fusiliers, managed to hold of another highly fortified German position. This attack, being the only successful one, resulted in 4,330 losses, including 50 per cent of the Brigade’s officers. Later that month, the 1st and 2nd Irish Guards also suffered heavy losses in that same area.

How Important is commemorating the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme for Ireland?

 Commemorating the Battle of the Somme is of paramount importance for Ireland. We have the opportunity to honour the sacrifice paid by countless young men in the prime of their lives during a devastating conflict, and remember the impact it had not only on their families and Irish communities, but also in France, the UK, Germany and other nations.

 Commemorating is not just about looking to the past; it also serves as a reliable guide for the future. By remembering the terrible losses we suffered during World War I, we wish to raise awareness so that such events never happen again—and for that matter, the example of Battle of the Somme shows how human mankind can be.

 Holding commemorations contributes to healing wounds. The more unconfessable such a terrible conflict will seem to young people, the more unimaginable it should appear to them that this could happen again in the beautiful countryside of Antrim, especially after enduring peace for several generations now. Peace was only achieved because nations came together to remember the Battle of the Somme and so many other terrible battles. In remembrance, we have found reconciliation.

 Wishing to heal our past wounds and implement new structures to avoid future conflicts was in fact a main impetus for a united Europe. All remembrance ceremonies about the Battle of the Somme contribute to this large-scale endeavour.

 Besides, I would like to emphasise the Somme Association’s hard work in maintaining the Ulster Tower from its headquarters in Belfast. The ceremony of 1 July at the Ulster Tower is of great importance for Ireland, because many of our fellow countrymen have lost loved ones, who were part of the 36th division of Ulster.

What does the official Irish ceremony that will be held in Guallembont mean to you?

 Ireland is very grateful to Guallembont village for all its endeavours in perpetuating the memory of the 16th Division, which suffered the death of 1,200 young men in September 1916. We wish to express our thanks to the mayor and all the inhabitants of Guallembont for their help and warm welcome they have extended to Irish visitors over the past century.

 During his landmark visit to the UK in 2013, President Higgins quoted the French philosopher Paul Reverol who wrote ‘To be forgotten is to die twice’. Guallembont village and its beautiful cross has ensured the sacrifice of the 16th Division will never be forgotten. I am looking forward to going to Guallembont next July and then again in September and contributing to the bond between our island and this charming village in the Somme alive in the future.

Have France and Ireland planned any other events this year?

 2016 also marks the Centenary of Easter Rising, Ireland’s first step towards independence. This event has made us feel grateful for the sacrifice of those who have died for the freedom of Ireland and to ensure that what fuelled this insurrection—a call for a fair and just society—remains at the very heart of our domestic and international policy. The Irish people and government will keep that idea in mind while we solemnly commemorate this Centenary.

 These remembrance events are part of a ‘decade of Centenaries’ that the Irish people and government will celebrate in the coming years. I am also proud to note that the French government has decided to erect a First World War Memorial this year in Glasnevin, our national cemetery. This memorial will be shaped like the Celtic cross of Guallembont to honour the memory of many French and Irish citizens who died for the freedom we now enjoy.
CENTENARY OF NEW ZEALAND ENGAGEMENT

On 15 September 2016, New Zealand will commemorate the centenary of its first major military campaign led by soldiers from the New Zealand Division on the Western Front near Longueval in the Somme. Three ceremonies, attended by high level French and the New Zealand deputy prime minister, Mr Bill English, will mark this event with the participation of the New Zealand Armed Forces Maori ceremonial and cultural group.

The Ceremony at dawn will depart on foot from Longueval town hall at 7 a.m. ending at 7:00 a.m. at the New Zealand National Memorial. The Memorial was erected in the position where the New Zealand Division had set their ultimate position during the first Battle of the Somme, a position won by the division and from where it successfully launched an attack on Flers on 15 September 1916.

The New Zealand National Commemorative Ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery where 214 New Zealand graves are found. Within the cemetery is a memorial dedicated to 1,205 men from the New Zealand Division who fell during the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and whose remains were never found. The wall consists of 11 panels on which are engraved the names of those missing. Free shuttles available from Longueval from 10 a.m. onwards. No car park on site. Free admission, no tickets required.

Returning to the New Zealand National Memorial at night, a ceremony performed by the Maori ceremonial and cultural group of the New Zealand Armed Forces will end the day at sunset at 7:15 p.m.

During the First World War, most New Zealand soldiers were killed or injured in the Somme; it is also the place where New Zealand suffered the most casualties in all its military history. Some 15,000 New Zealanders took part in the Battle of the Somme in the autumn of 1916. This was the first major military campaign of the New Zealand Division, which belonged to the XIV Corps of the British Fourth Army, on the Western Front.

On 12 September 1916, the artillery joined the action followed by the infantry three days later, on 15 September. Positioned between High Wood and Delville Wood near Longueval since midnight, the onslaught began at 6:20 a.m. Soon enough, the New Zealand Army reached their goal and helped to take the village of Flers.

After spending twenty-three days in the area, the New Zealand Division lost 2,111 lives and suffered 9,845 casualties. On 15 September 2016, we will proudly pay tribute to the memory of all these men who fought valiantly. Together at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, near to where many have fallen, we will honour those who were never reunited with their families and friends and those who went back home, forever changed. We will recall with warm feelings the strong ties that bound our soldiers on the battlefield and remain very much alive today.

Every New Zealand citizen is well aware of our wartime engagement in France. It would be difficult to find a family who has not lost a loved one or not known someone who bore the mental and physical scars of the traumatic experience of war. In New Zealand, every city, village or town has built a war memorial. The names of various French towns where battles took place are engraved in stone and will forever remain in our memories.

In order to keep the memory of the past alive, we have created a significant Heritage project — Apotauae, pathways through memory. Apotauae means “walking in our ancestors’ footsteps”.

All along heritage trails, visitors can find their way – virtually or on the field – among historical sites and scenarios where New Zealand left its imprint. Nga Tapuawae serve as a guide for visitors in their way through New Zealand history during the First World War and gives life to the soldiers’ wartime experience. We are thrilled to strengthen our ties to the past and make common memories for our future by showcasing New Zealand skills in digital innovation.

A hundred years later, this commemorative event gives us the opportunity to think about how war has shaped New Zealand’s identity as an independent nation and emphasized our long-term commitment to global security. While New Zealand is closely working with France this year as a member at the UN Security Council to address various domestic and international challenges, we can see that our commitment to peace and security has not decreased and that the memory of those who have fallen lives on in our hearts and in our actions.
Commemorative cycle

LITERARY EVENT IN PICARDIE
FROM 10 TO 11 OCTOBER 2016, LIBRARIES, BOOKSTORES AND BOOK FAIR IN THE PICARDY REGION

Every year, a literary event is held on contemporary expressions of the Great War.

Colloquium of the “Association des professeurs d’Histoire et de Géographie” (Association of Professors of History and Geography)
NATIONAL DAYS OF HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY
FROM 10 TO 22 OCTOBER 2016, AMIENS CULTURAL LIFE

The National Days will focus on the First World War Centenary commemorations, as well as dealing with wider and more original subjects like comic books, art history, archives, law and medicine.

Publication
NÉCROPOL MONDIALE DE LA 1ERE GUERRE MONDIALE
(NATIONAL GRAVEYARD OF THE 1st WORLD WAR IN THE SOMME REGION)
FROM 10 TO 22 OCTOBER 2016

A booklet featuring the specificity, meaning and the role of burial grounds in the Somme will be issued.
November

Commemorative cycle
THE YEAR 2016
1 NOVEMBER 2016 - 11 NOVEMBER 2016

Bernard Pina, a historian and chair of the “Association des membres de l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques de la Somme” (Association of the members of the Order of Academic Palmes in the Somme), will hold a conference on the year 1916.

Theatre, video, performances
VIVE L’ARMÉE
(LONG LIVE THE ARMY)
SUPERAMAS
FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2016 - MAISON DE LA CULTURE - AMIENS

With Vive l’Armée (Long live the Army), the Superamas group offers performances mixing theatre, dance and video in order to reflect on conflicts and the Army, while concentrating on the Great War. The show has been partly based on a residency project led by two senior school students from Amiens, Mélada Michelle and Robert de Luzarches.

Concert
BENJAMIN ELLIN
& THE PICARDIE ORCHESTRA
11 NOVEMBER 2016 - 6:30 PM
MAISON DE LA CULTURE - AMIENS

The Picardie Orchestra has commissioned Benjamin Ellin, a British musician and composer, to create an original musical work for children’s choir, soloists and orchestra. This performance will be celebrating peace, in reference to the First World War Centenary.

Exhibition
EXHIBITION ON TEACHERS FALLEN DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR
FROM 12 TO 14 NOVEMBER 2016 - RECEPTION ROOM - AMIENS

A free show recreating the journey of various soldiers from their first day on the front to their death.

Performance
THE CHOIRS FOR PEACE
13-14 NOVEMBER 2016 - SOMME

Concerts on the musical creation of a seven-movement suite for orchestra and choirs performed by choirs from five countries. Lyrics will be based on literary extracts.

Conference by Viviane Fayard
OCEANIANS IN THE GREAT WAR
14 NOVEMBER 2016 - 4:30 PM
MAISON DE LA CULTURE - AMIENS

Conference cycle organised by Amiens municipal archives. “The archives tell...”

Exhibition
ON BEHALF OF ALL MY COMRADES
ROLAND DORGELÈS EXHIBITION
15 NOVEMBER 2016 To 15 FEBRUARY 2017 - MUSÉE DE LA Résistance - AMIENS

Amiens Métropole libraries present a major exhibition devoted to Roland Dorgelès, a writer from Amiens, thanks to preserved and completed archives.

Film concert
THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME
20 NOVEMBER 2016 - AMIENS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Battle of the Somme is a British film directed by Geoffrey H. Malins and John B. McDowell in 1916, when the battle began. Laura Rossi, a film composer, is greatly experienced in film and television. Now composing the film soundtrack of The Battle of the Somme, she will then go on tour performing 100 film concerts in 2016 and commemorations on the Battle of the Somme.

Scientific event
HEROIC AND UNHEROIC APPEARANCES OF THE GREAT WAR
FROM 24 TO 26 NOVEMBER 2016 - LOUIS DU ROY - AMIENS HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

A colloquium targeted at researchers, students and the general public to reflect on how history can be transmitted through the heroic and unheroic art of the First World War.

Performance
PERSONNE N’ÂLE DROIT DE TRAINEUR SANS ARME
SUR UN CHAMP DE BATAILLE
NO LOITERING ON THE BATTLEFIELD WITHOUT A WEAPON
25 NOVEMBER 2016 - GRAND PALAIS

A play written by Mathé Vivien and directed by Charles Lee focusing on the female perception of the Great War.
COMMEMORATING THE END OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

Between 11 and 18 November 2016, all countries taking part in the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme will bring to a close the 141-day-long cycle of commemorations with a number of cultural, scientific and historical events.

CEREMONY COMMEMORATING THE END OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

On 18 November 2016, the Royal British Legion will hold an outdoor ceremony at the memorial of Thiepval by invitation only. This Drum ceremony aims to commemorate the last date of the Battle, traditionally said to have ended on 18 November 1916.