

The World Remembers is a remembrance, education and reconciliation project produced by Canadian actor and director R H Thomson, that will individually display the names of the WW1 dead from ten participating nations over the WW1 Centenary years.

The names will appear in more than seventy schools, universities, libraries and other community organizations in Canada, the United Kingdom and other nations. The opening ceremony for this unique international commemoration was October 20th at Toronto City Hall. The first names appeared at 20.30 in all locations and online at www.theworldremembers.org.

Speaking at the ceremony, Major General Richard Rohmer OC, CMM, DFC, O Ont, KStJ, CD and a WWI combat veteran said:

“Naming them here at City Hall and in schools and universities reminds us that each of the millions who lost their lives were individual human beings. For 99 years they have been honourably remembered as a collective – as ‘them’ – but on the 100th year it is time to remember them individually, even if that takes weeks and months to do. As an ancient combat airman, I think it is appropriate that all of the WWI dead be recognized in this way. A century has passed and our world is a different place, so we can name all those killed in the 1914-1918 war with respect and without offence.”

In 2014, The World Remembers names-display is running for twenty-two days and will show the 292,207 names of those killed in 1914 from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada, Turkey, Belgium, Ireland, Australia, the Czech Republic, Australia and the British Indian Army. In the names-display, each nation’s names appear at the centre of their national display and the international names will appear in the surround. All names cross fade with the next set of names every twenty-five seconds.

Each name is timed to appear at an exact minute so that families can find the moment that any name will appear by using the SEARCH function at www.theworldremembers.org. Participating schools are presenting the display on a 12-hour advance, allowing the names to appear in school hours.

The names- display created by The World Remembers and Ecentricarts of Toronto is eloquent and moving. Every fifteen minutes all names fade and are replaced for twenty-five seconds by a WW1 photograph that represent all nations involved in WW1. The names then return for another fifteen minutes. The display pauses at sunrise each day only to resume at 20.30 that evening. The 2014 display will complete at sunrise November 11th 2014.

The number of names of those killed in 1914 appearing in the 2014 display, are as follows:

AUSTRALIA - 74

CANADA - 205

BRITISH INDIAN ARMY - 7,380

UNITED KINGDOM - 33,799

BELGIUM - 18,669

CZECH REPUBLIC - 34,633

GERMANY - 94,302

TURKEY - 3,270

FRANCE - 99,875



The website will also show the names-display for each nation as it simultaneously appears in that nation.

The project will run in the weeks leading up to November 11th in each of the Centenary years, showing each name in the 100th year after their death. The last of the millions of names will appear at sunrise November 11th 2018.

The World Remembers is a non profit organization with Hilary Weston as Honorary Chair and an Advisory Board that includes Major General Richard Rohmer, the Rt Honourable Paul Martin - former Prime Minister of Canada, the Rt Honourable Adrienne Clarkson – former Governor General of Canada, Major General Lewis MacKenzie (Ret'd), James Wright and historians Sir Hew Strachan, Margaret MacMillan and Jonathan Vance.

The project has taken three years to create and has relationships with all participating nations. It is funded by generous individuals in Canada and the UK, by Canadian and UK Foundations and by governments of participating nations. Wellington College is our producing partner in the UK.

For more information or to create a names-display in your school, university or other organization please contact:
www.theworldremembers.org

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