



THE
Battle of the Somme

EVENT GUIDE



1916 – 2016



The Battle of the Somme took place between 1 July and 18 November 1916 and was the largest battle of World War One on the Western Front; more than one million men were wounded or killed, making it one of the bloodiest battles in human history. 1 July 1916 saw 60,000 casualties alone. Around 128,000 British soldiers died in the battles which lasted 143 days, an average of 893 per day.

The Worcestershire Regiment contributed 8 battalions: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 1/7th, 1/8th and 10th, plus the 14th Battalion who fought as the Pioneer Battalion attached to the Royal Navy 63rd Division. The Regiment lost over 1000 men and a further 362 Worcestershire men were killed fighting in a range of other regiments and units.

The Regiment was involved in the full range of what are now infamous attacks – La Boisselle, Contalmaison, Longueval, Delville Wood, Pozieres, High Wood, Flers, Gueudecourt, Morval, Thiepval, Schwaben Redoubt, Ancre, Beaumont Hamel. In common with other regiments, the Worcestershire soldiers displayed great courage. In the course of the 1916 Somme campaign, soldiers in the Regiment were awarded 20 Military Crosses; 20 Distinguished Conduct Medals; 2 Military Medals; 7 Distinguished Service Orders; and 2 Victoria Crosses – to Lieutenant E P Bennett on 5 November and Private T G Turrall on 3 July.



EVENTS 2016

1 EXHIBITION

28 June – 3 July
Worcestershire's Somme
 Nave Aisles, Worcester Cathedral, College Yard, Worcester, WR1 2LA
FREE

An exhibition of personal memorabilia from local people about the Somme.

2 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

30 June 5.30pm
Somme 100 Vigil and Service
 St Michael and All Angels' Church, Broadway, Worcestershire
FREE

3 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

1 July 7.30am
Whistle for the Somme: An Act of remembrance
 The County War Memorial, Worcester Cathedral, College Yard, Worcester, WR1 2LA
FREE

At 7.30am on 1st July 1916 whistles blew along the front line as a signal to troops to go over the top. Remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the battle of the Somme by attending this short service ending with the blast of a whistle.

4 FAMILY DAY

1 July 10.30am – 3.30pm
Malvern and the Somme
 Malvern Library, Graham Road, Malvern, WR14 2HU
FREE

Drop in and let us help you find information in our local collection and online about your Malvern relatives who fought in the Battle of the Somme and in other World War One battles.



5 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

1 July 11am
Service of Remembrance
 Broadway War Memorial, High Street, Broadway, Worcestershire
FREE

6 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

1 July 2pm
Battle of the Somme – Cathedral Service
 Worcester Cathedral, College Yard, Worcester, WR1 2LA
FREE

A service to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, all welcome.

7 TOUR

1 July 3pm
WWI: Cathedral connections guided tour
 Worcester Cathedral, College Yard, Worcester, WR1 2LA
 Tickets: £5.00 per adult (accompanied children free). Pay at Worcester Cathedral shop in the cloister before the tour

Telling the poignant stories of the WWI soldiers commemorated in the cloister windows and in the Cathedral.

8 EXHIBITION

1 – 9 July
Bromsgrove and the Somme
 Bromsgrove Library, Parkside, Market Street, Bromsgrove, B61 8DA
 Mon: 9am–7pm, Tue–Fri: 9am–5:30pm, Sat: 9am–4pm
FREE

Part of the Worcestershire Libraries project remembering the men of Worcestershire who gave their lives through the Battle of the Somme. Part of the Bromsgrove Festival 2016.



9 EXHIBITION

1 – 31 July
Droitwich and the Somme
 Droitwich Library Gallery, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa, WR9 8DQ
 Mon/Wed/Fri: 9.30am–5.30pm
 Tue: 9.30am–7.00pm
 Sat: 9.30am–4.30pm
FREE

Part of the Worcestershire Libraries project remembering the men of Worcestershire who gave their lives through the Battle of the Somme.

10 EXHIBITION

1 – 31 July
Battle of the Somme
 Warndon Library, The Fairford Centre, Carnforth Drive, Worcester, WR4 9HG
 Mon–Fri: 9.30am–5pm
 Sat: 9.30am–4pm
FREE

Part of the Worcestershire Libraries project remembering the men of Worcestershire who gave their lives through the Battle of the Somme.

11 EXHIBITION

1 July – 1 November
Worcestershire Regiment at the Battle of the Somme
 Worcestershire Soldier Gallery, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum Worcester, WR1 1DT
 Mon–Sat: 10.30am–4.30pm
 Sun and Bank Holidays closed
FREE

Worcestershire Regiment at the Battle of the Somme.

12 EXHIBITION

1 July – 18 November
Worcester and the Somme
 The Hive, Sawmill Walk, The Butts, Worcester, WR1 3PB
 8.30am–10pm daily
FREE

Exhibition focusing on local casualties. From August the exhibition will include information from libraries across the County. Part of the Worcestershire Libraries project remembering the men of Worcestershire who gave their lives through the Battle of the Somme.

13 FILM SCREENING

2 July 10.30am
The Battle of the Somme Film
 Droitwich Library, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa, WR9 8DQ
FREE

Film screening to launch Droitwich's Sacrifice on the Somme exhibition.

14 FAMILY ACTIVITIES

2 July morning
Flo of the Somme - Chatterbooks
 Warndon Library, Carnforth Dr, Worcester WR4 9HG
FREE

'Flo of the Somme' Chatterbooks session and history trail for ages 7-12.

15 FAMILY ACTIVITIES

2 July 2pm
Flo of the Somme – Chatterbooks
 Droitwich Library, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa, WR9 8DQ
FREE

'Flo of the Somme' Chatterbooks session, focus on war poetry on animals in World War One.

16 FILM SCREENING & TALKS

3 – 16 July

Battle of the Somme film

The Hive, Sawmill Walk,
The Butts, Worcester, WR1 3PB

3 July 7pm, 6 July 11am,
9 July 12pm, 13 July 3pm

14 July 7pm – includes a
talk by Somme expert
Michael Stedman

16 July 12pm includes talk
FREE

UNESCO listed film The Battle of the Somme, shot and screened in 1916, it was the first feature length documentary reaching approx 20 million people in the year of its release.

17 FILM SCREENING

8 July 7.30pm

Battle of the Somme film

Community Cinema in St.
George's Hall Load St, Bewdley
DY12 2EQ

FREE

Screening of UNESCO listed film The Battle of the Somme, shot and screened in 1916.



18 FAMILY ACTIVITIES

9 July 11am & 3pm
11 July 4.30pm

Flo of the Somme – Rat-a-tat and Chatterbooks

The Hive, Sawmill Walk,
The Butts, Worcester, WR1 3PB
FREE

For young people aged 7–12 years.

19 FILM SCREENING & MUSIC

17 July 6pm

Ciné Concert Laura Rossi: The Battle of the Somme

Number 8, High Street,
Pershore, WR10 1BG

Tickets: £14, 16 & under £7
from box office 01386 555488
www.number8.org

Chandos Symphony Orchestra performance of Laura Rossi's new score to accompany the film The Battle of the Somme.

20 TALK

5 October

La Boisselle and Beaumont Hamel – battles on the Somme Talk

St Richards Hospice
Foundation, Wildwood Drive,
Worcester WR5 2QT

Tickets: £5 entry

Talk by Peter Gwilliam on the attacks at La Boisselle and Beaumont Hamel, 1916.

About Worcestershire World War One Hundred

Cultural and heritage organisations from across the county are commemorating the 100th anniversary of World War One with an outstanding four-year programme of events and activities under the banner Worcestershire World War One Hundred. Led by the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, the programme, which received one of the largest Heritage Lottery Fund Grants outside of London, commemorates the role Worcestershire played in World War One and tells the stories of Worcestershire people, their involvement with and personal legacy from the War.

Partners

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service
Museums Worcestershire
Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings
University of Worcester
George Marshall Medical Museum
Tudor House Museum, Worcester
Museum of Royal Worcester Porcelain
Elgar Birthplace Museum
Worcester Cathedral
Museum of the Mercian Regiment
Worcestershire Yeomanry Museum
Worcester City Council
Worcestershire Libraries and Learning Service

WORCESTERSHIRE WORLD WAR ONE HUNDRED

www1worcestershire.co.uk/

www1worcestershire.co.uk/enquiry/

Worcestershire Archives, The Hive, Sawmill Walk,
The Butts, Worcester. WR1 3PD
Tel: 01905 766352

