



SEPTEMBER 2015

A UK national commemorative event to mark the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme will take place at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Thiepval Memorial, France, on 1 July 2016.

The event will be led by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, on behalf of the UK Government, and the French Mission du Centenaire de la Première Guerre mondiale, on behalf of the French Government, in partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and The Royal British Legion.

The memorial is situated in Northern France, and the event will take place at 12:00 (11:00 UK time). It is anticipated that there will be 10,000 attendees, with significant public attendance.

Given the high level of interest in attending, this will be a **ticketed event**, with a public ballot for tickets. **The ballot launched on 28 September 2015 and runs until 18 November 2015**, after which time no applications will be accepted.

Key Information:

- Applicants can enter the ballot through this website:
www.somme2016.org
- The ballot is open to residents of the **UK or Ireland**
- The French Government are leading on the distribution of their allocation of the tickets
- Tickets are free and will be distributed in pairs to successful applicants
- Full terms and conditions of the ballot, as well as key dates and other information, are available on the website
- Those organisations which traditionally attend and contribute to the commemorative service held at the memorial each year will be represented on 1 July 2016.
- Participant nations will be represented on 1 July 2016
- Arrangements for disabled access will be available
- While we would prefer to receive applications online, if this is not possible you can also submit a postal entry. To request a postal entry form please write to Somme 2016, HPower Group, Stable House, St Albans Close, Windsor, Berks, SL4 1UT. You must complete and return the form before 18 November 2015.



Other Ways to Participate

Plans are being formulated to broadcast the event live to large screens in a number of towns across the Somme region to enable as many people as possible to see the event, including those who are not successful in the ballot. There will be a commemorative event held every day in the region for the 141 day duration of the Battle of the Somme as well as a wide programme of events taking place in the UK to mark the centenary. Further details about how to get involved with these commemorative events will be released soon. More details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/first-world-war-centenary>

<http://centenaire.org>