

AUGUST 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 will take place at 12:00 (11:00 UK time). It is anticipated that there will be 8,000 public attendees.

Given the anticipated high level of interest in attending, this will be a **ticketed event**, with a ballot for tickets. **The ballot will launch on 28 September 2015 and will run until 18 November 2015.**

Key information:

- Applicants can enter the ballot from 28 September through the website: www.somme2016.org
- The ballot is open to residents of the **UK or Ireland**
- Tickets are free, and will be distributed in pairs to successful applicants
- You can register for notifications about the ballot now (please note that this does not enter you into the ballot): <http://somme2016.org/en/tickets-somme-centenary>
- Full terms and conditions for the ballot will be made available through the website when the ballot is launched
- Those organisations which traditionally attend and contribute to the commemorative service held at the memorial each year will be represented on 1 July 2016
- The regiments and nations involved in the Battle, or their modern equivalents, will be represented at the event
- Arrangements for disabled access will be available
- While we would prefer to receive applications online, if this is not possible you can 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. Forms will not be sent to you until September, and you must complete and return the form before 18 November 2015.
- The French Government are leading on the distribution of their allocation of the tickets



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. There will be a wide programme of events taking place in the UK to mark the centenary. Events will also take place in France to mark the 141 days of the Battle of the Somme and there will be an event every day at the Thiepval Memorial during this period. More details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/first-world-war-centenary>

<http://centenaire.org>