

India and the Great War Project: Activities Update

June 30, 2016: To represent the Indian participation in the Battle of the Somme centenary commemoration, Squadron Leader Rana TS Chhina (Retd), Secretary Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research (CAFHR) read an extract from a poem by Rabindranath Tagore during the midnight vigil organised by the British High Commission at the Delhi War Cemetery.

July 14, 2016: USI- CAFHR in partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and the Flags of Honour Foundation launched the 'India Remembers' project to encourage communities from a broad spectrum of society to Remember, Honour and Commemorate the Indian servicemen and women. The launch was covered by the BBC. On the same day, a book titled 'Bravest of the Brave: The Extraordinary Story of the Indian VCs of World War I' written by Major General Ian Cardozo, AVSM, SM (Retd) was released by Lieutenant General Ajai Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd).

15th August, 2016 - As part of the 'India Remembers' project, three community groups in Pune undertook commemorative activities. The Corinthians Resort and Club unveiled a memorial plaque in memory of the Indian servicemen and women who fell in various military conflicts since 1914 till date and a wreath of marigold flowers was placed as a mark of respect. The memorial plaque will be installed in a remembrance garden that is being created by the Club within their premises. Moreover, residents from two housing colonies came together to honour serving and retired defence personnel of their societies in an event where children presented the servicemen with marigold flowers. The management committee of one of the housing colonies also allocated a space for the development of a Remembrance Garden. At all the events, the Last Post was played and two minutes of silence was observed in memory of 'India's War Dead'.

22 August, 2016 - As part of 'India Remembers', children of Saint Stephens Primary School, Lungchok, Sikkim, under the supervision of their teachers planted marigolds in their school premises in the memory of the fallen Gorkha soldiers.

7-9 September, 2016: Squadron Leader Chhina visited Dhaka along with a Gallery Design Consultant for discussions with the Indian High Commission and the Bangladesh authorities regarding the proposed Indian Gallery of the Bangladesh Liberation War Museum.

25 September, 2016 - As part of the 'India and the Great War' Centenary Commemoration project and the India Remembers project, the foundation stone of Ressaider Badlu Singh's (14th Jat Lancers) Memorial marked was laid at his village Dhakl, District Jhajjar by Mr Om Prakash Dhankar, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Haryana

26 September, 2016 - Smile Foundation, an India Remembers community, organised a commemorative event at the CWGC Delhi War Cemetery as part of the project. The event was organised to mark the three significant events that fell at the end of this month - 23 September: Marking the end of the 1965 Indo-Pak War, 23 September - marked the capture of Haifa by Jodhpur and Mysore Lancers, 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade during WW1 in 1918 and 26 September: The first Indian troops landed on European soil during WW1. The event was also organised to give an opportunity to the children associated with Smile Foundation to interact with war veterans from Bhondsi Village as well as descendants of WW1 soldiers from Delhi.



The panel for the launch of 'India Remembers Project'- right to left- Virginia Crompton, Colin Kerr, Lt Gen PK Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd), Director, USI, Lt Gen Ajai Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd), Lt Gen Aditya Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd), President, Cavalry Officers Association, Sqn Ldr Rana TS Chhina (Retd)