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19 February 2018

SUFFOLK ROYAL BRITISH LEGION ARMISTICE 100

On Thursday 8 November 2018 the Suffolk Royal British Legion are organising a unique and memorable event that will see local primary school children laying poppies on the 1,332 Great War graves in the 248 cemeteries across the county. Annex A lists the cemeteries.

In the lead up to the event it is hoped that volunteers will be found to take on the role of local event organisers at each of the cemeteries. In its simplest form this just involves organising a simple gathering at 11:00hrs on the day. However, for those who may wish to further develop the event an organiser's aide memoire is attached at Annex B.

It is also hoped that schools will carry out some basic research to learn more about the individuals that they will be commemorating. Annex C provides a guide for researching a war grave.

Regular articles will be posted in the media to keep the community aware of the event and to update them on progress with the research.

The event is being planned and coordinated by the HQ Suffolk RBL, with local Branches providing support at local level. Anyone interested in taking part in this event can register their interest and request more information by emailing suffolkremembers@gmail.com

Yours sincerely

Mark Brennan
War Graves Project 2018 Organiser
Suffolk Royal British Legion

LIST OF SUFFOLK CEMETERIES WITH GREAT WAR GRAVES

(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
SER	RBL BRANCH	CEMETERY / GRAVEYARD	WW1 BURIALS
1	Aldeburgh	ALDRINGHAM (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	2
2	Aldeburgh	ALDEBURGH (SS. PETER AND PAUL) CHURCHYARD	20
3	Bacton	GISLINGHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
4	Bacton	OLD NEWTON (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
5	Bacton	MENDLESHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	2
6	Bacton	WYVERSTONE (ST. GEORGE) CHURCHYARD	1
7	Bacton	BACTON (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	4
8	Barrow	BARROW CEMETERY	1
9	Barrow	KENTFORD (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
10	Barrow	GAZELEY (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	2
11	Barrow	HIGHAM GREEN (ST. STEPHEN) CHURCHYARD	2
12	Beccles	MUTFORD (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	1
13	Beccles	BARNBY (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD	2
14	Beccles	BARSHAM (HOLY TRINITY) CHURCHYARD	2
15	Beccles	NORTH COVE (ST. BOTOLPH) CHURCHYARD	2
16	Beccles	RUSHMERE (ST. MICHAEL) CHURCHYARD	2
17	Beccles	WORLINGHAM (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	4
18	Beccles	BECCELES CEMETERY	19
19	Bramford	BAYLHAM (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
20	Bramford	LITTLE BLAKENHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
21	Bramford	GREAT BLAKENHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	2
22	Bramford	SPROUGHTON (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	2
23	Bramford	BRAMFORD (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	4
24	Bramford	BURSTALL (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	3
25	Brandon	ELVEDEN (OR ELDEN) (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	1
26	Brandon	BRANDON CEMETERY, SUFFOLK	2
27	Brantham	BENTLEY (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD, SUFFOLK	1
28	Brantham	COPDOCK (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
29	Brantham	BRANTHAM (ST. MICHAEL) CHURCHYARD	3
30	Bungay	ILKETSHALL ST. ANDREW CHURCHYARD	1
31	Bungay	ILKETSHALL ST. LAWRENCE CHURCHYARD	1
32	Bungay	METTINGHAM (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	1
33	Bungay	SHIPMEADOW (ST. BARTHOLOMEW) CHURCHYARD	1
34	Bungay	FLIXTON (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	2
35	Bungay	BUNGAY CEMETERY	13
36	Bures	ASSINGTON (ST. EDMUND) CHURCHYARD	1
37	Bures	BOXFORD (St Mary)	1
38	Bures	GROTON (ST. BARTHOLOMEW) CHURCHYARD	1
39	Bures	EDWARDSTONE (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	2
40	Bury St Edmunds	AMPTON (SS. PETER AND PAUL) CHURCHYARD	1
41	Bury St Edmunds	GREAT LIVERMERE (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
42	Bury St Edmunds	GREAT BARTON (HOLY INNOCENTS) CHURCHYARD	2
43	Bury St Edmunds	FLEMPTON (ST. CATHERINE) CHURCHYARD	3
44	Bury St Edmunds	INGHAM (ST. BARTHOLOMEW) CHURCHYARD	9
45	Bury St Edmunds	BURY ST. EDMUNDS CEMETERY *	51
46	Debenham	LITTLE STONHAM (OR STONHAM PARVA) (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
47	Debenham	STONHAM ASPALL (SS. MARY AND LAMBERT) CHURCHYARD	1
48	Debenham	BRAISEWORTH (ST. MARY) OLD CHURCHYARD	1
49	Debenham	DEBENHAM CEMETERY	1
50	Debenham	FRAMSDEN (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
51	Debenham	HELMINGHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
52	Debenham	MONK SOHAM (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
53	Debenham	BRANDESTON CEMETERY	2
54	Debenham	EARL SOHAM CEMETERY	2
55	Debenham	WETHERINGSETT (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD EXTENSION	2
56	Drinkstone	ROUGHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD, SUFFOLK	1
57	Drinkstone	HESSSETT (ST. ETHELBERT) CHURCHYARD	2
58	East Bergholt	CAPEL ST. MARY CHURCHYARD	1
59	East Bergholt	HOLTON ST. MARY (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
60	East Bergholt	STRATFORD ST. MARY (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
61	East Bergholt	EAST BERGHOLT CEMETERY	10
62	Exning	EXNING CEMETERY	14

(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
63	Felixstowe	FALKENHAM (ST. ETHELBERT) CHURCHYARD	1
64	Felixstowe	KIRTON (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	2
65	Felixstowe	TRIMLEY ST. MARY (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	2
66	Felixstowe	TRIMLEY (ST. MARTIN) CHURCHYARD	3
67	Felixstowe	WALTON (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD, SUFFOLK	5
68	Felixstowe	FELIXSTOWE (SS. PETER AND PAUL) CHURCHYARD	13
69	Felixstowe	FELIXSTOWE (WALTON) CEMETERY	26
70	Felixstowe	FELIXSTOWE NEW CEMETERY *	64
71	Felsham & Gedding	BRADFIELD ST. CLARE CHURCHYARD	1
72	Felsham & Gedding	BUXHALL (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
73	Felsham & Gedding	COCKFIELD (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
74	Felsham & Gedding	FELSHAM (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
75	Felsham & Gedding	RATTLEDEN BAPTIST CHAPELYARD	1
76	Framlingham	EASTON CEMETERY	1
77	Framlingham	KETTLEBURGH (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	1
78	Framlingham	PARHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
79	Framlingham	SAXTEAD (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	1
80	Framlingham	HACHESTON (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	2
81	Framlingham	FRAMLINGHAM CEMETERY	4
82	Fressingfield	MENDHAM (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	1
83	Fressingfield	WITHERSDALE (ST. MARY MAGDALENE) CHURCHYARD	1
84	Fressingfield	FRESSINGFIELD (SS. PETER AND PAUL) CHURCHYARD	3
85	Fressingfield	WINGFIELD (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	1
86	Hadleigh	ALDHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
87	Hadleigh	LAYHAM (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	1
88	Hadleigh	KERSEY (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	2
89	Hadleigh	HADLEIGH CEMETERY	10
90	Halesworth	CHEDISTON (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
91	Halesworth	SOUTH ELMHAM ST. JAMES (ST. JAMES) CHURCHYARD	1
92	Halesworth	SPEXHALL (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
93	Halesworth	HALESWORTH NEW CEMETERY	3
94	Haughley	NORTON BAPTIST CHAPELYARD	1
95	Haughley	TOSTOCK (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	1
96	Haughley	ELMSWELL CEMETERY	2
97	Haughley	WETHERDEN (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	2
98	Haughley	HAUGHLEY (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	3
99	Haverhill, Thurlow	COWLINGE (ST. MARGARET) CHURCHYARD	2
100	Haverhill, Thurlow	HAVERHILL CEMETERY	14
101	Holbrook	FRESTON (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
102	Holbrook	WOOLVERSTONE (ST. MICHAEL) CHURCHYARD	1
103	Holbrook	HOLBROOK (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	2
104	Holbrook	STUTTON (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	2
105	Hopton	REDGRAVE (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
106	Hopton	THELNETHAM (ST. NICHOLAS) CHURCHYARD	1
107	Hopton	HOPTON BURIAL GROUND	2
108	Hopton	PALGRAVE (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	2
109	Hopton	WORTHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	2
110	Horringer	LITTLE SAXHAM (ST. NICHOLAS) CHURCHYARD	1
111	Horringer	CHEVINGTON (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	2
112	Horringer	HORRINGER (OR HORNINGSEATH) (ST. LEONARD) CHURCHYARD	2
113	Ipswich	IPSWICH OLD CEMETERY *	261
114	Ixworth	LANGHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD, SUFFOLK	1
115	Ixworth	TROSTON (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
116	Ixworth	PAKENHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	3
117	Ixworth	EUSTON (ST. GENEVIEVE) CHURCHYARD	8
118	Kedington	CLARE CEMETERY	3
119	Kedington	LITTLE WRATTING (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
120	Kedington	STRADISHALL (ST. MARGARET) CHURCHYARD	1
121	Kedington	BARNARDISTON (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	1
122	Kesgrave	LITTLE BEALINGS (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	1
123	Kesgrave	NACTON (ST. MARTIN) CHURCHYARD	2
124	Kesgrave	RUSHMERE ST. ANDREW CHURCHYARD	2
125	Lakenheath	ERISWELL (ST. LAURENCE) CHURCHYARD	1

(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
126	Lakenheath	ICKLINGHAM (ST. JAMES) CHURCHYARD	2
127	Lakenheath	LAKENHEATH CEMETERY	2
128	Lavenham	BRENT ELEIGH (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
129	Lavenham	HITCHAM (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	1
130	Lavenham	PRESTON (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
131	Lavenham	BILDESTON (ST. MARY MAGDALENE) CHURCHYARD	2
132	Lavenham	MONKS ELEIGH (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	2
133	Lavenham	LAVENHAM CEMETERY	4
134	Leiston	EAST BRIDGE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPELYARD	1
135	Leiston	MIDDLETON (HOLY TRINITY) CHURCHYARD	1
136	Leiston	THEBERTON (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD EXTENSION	2
137	Leiston	WESTLETON (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	3
138	Leiston	LEISTON (ST. MARGARET) CHURCHYARD	6
139	Long Melford	HARTEST CEMETERY	1
140	Long Melford	CAVENDISH CEMETERY	2
141	Long Melford	GLEMSFORD (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	3
142	Long Melford	LONG MELFORD (HOLY TRINITY) CHURCHYARD	8
143	Lowestoft	CARLTON COLVILLE (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
144	Lowestoft	HERRINGFLEET (ST. MARGARET) CHURCHYARD	1
145	Lowestoft	PAKEFIELD (ST. MARGARET) CHURCHYARD	1
146	Lowestoft	SOMERLEYTON (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
147	Lowestoft	LOUND (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD	2
148	Lowestoft	LOWESTOFT (ST. MARGARET) CHURCHYARD	2
149	Lowestoft	CARLTON COLVILLE ADDITIONAL CHURCHYARD	4
150	Lowestoft	OULTON (ST. MICHAEL) CHURCHYARD	5
151	Lowestoft	LOWESTOFT (KIRKLEY) CEMETERY	31
152	Lowestoft	LOWESTOFT (Normanston Drive) CEMETERY *	98
153	Mildenhall	BARTON MILLS (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
154	Mildenhall	BECK ROW (ST. JOHN) CHURCHYARD *	1
155	Mildenhall	BECK ROW METHODIST CHURCHYARD	1
156	Mildenhall	MILDENHALL CEMETERY	1
157	Mildenhall	TUDDENHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
158	Mildenhall	WEST ROW (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
159	Mildenhall	WEST ROW BAPTIST CHAPELYARD	3
160	Nayland	STOKE-BY-NAYLAND (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
161	Nayland	NAYLAND CEMETERY	3
162	Needham Market	EARL STONHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
163	Needham Market	GREAT BRICETT (SS. MARY AND LAWRENCE) CHURCHYARD	1
164	Needham Market	LITTLE FINBOROUGH (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
165	Needham Market	RINGSHALL (ST. CATHERINE) CHURCHYARD	1
166	Needham Market	WATTISHAM BAPTIST CHAPELYARD	1
167	Needham Market	BARKING (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	2
168	Needham Market	CREETING ST. MARY CHURCHYARD	5
169	Newmarket	NEWMARKET CEMETERY *	17
170	Saxmundham	GREAT GLEMHAM (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	1
171	Saxmundham	KELSALE (SS. MARY AND PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
172	Saxmundham	RENDHAM (ST. MICHAEL) CHURCHYARD	1
173	Saxmundham	SAXMUNDHAM (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD	1
174	Saxmundham	SAXMUNDHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH	2
175	Shotley, Ewerton	CHELMONDISTON (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	1
176	Shotley, Ewerton	SHOTLEY (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	214
177	Snape, Farnham	BLAXHALL (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
178	Snape, Farnham	BUTLEY (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD EXTENSION	1
179	Snape, Farnham	IKEN (ST. BOTOLPH) CHURCHYARD	1
180	Snape, Farnham	SNAPE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD	1
181	Snape, Farnham	SUDBOURNE (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	2
182	Snape, Farnham	ORFORD (ST. BARTHOLOMEW) CHURCHYARD	6
183	Southwold & Reydon	DUNWICH (ST. JAMES) CHURCHYARD AND EXTENSION	1
184	Southwold & Reydon	WANGFORD (SS. PETER AND PAUL) CHURCHYARD	2
185	Southwold & Reydon	REYDON (ST. MARGARET) CHURCHYARD	2
186	Southwold & Reydon	UGGESHALL (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	2
187	Southwold & Reydon	WALBERSWICK (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	4
188	Southwold & Reydon	SOUTHWOLD (ST. EDMUND) CHURCHYARD	14

(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
189	Stanton	BARDWELL (SS. PETER AND PAUL) CHURCHYARD	1
190	Stanton	BARDWELL BAPTIST BURIAL GROUND	1
191	Stanton	RICKINGHALL SUPERIOR (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
192	Stanton	WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS CEMETERY	2
193	Stanton	WATTISFIELD CEMETERY	5
194	Stowmarket	CREETING ST. PETER (OR WEST CREETING) CHURCHYARD	1
195	Stowmarket	STOWUPLAND CEMETERY	1
196	Stowmarket	STOWMARKET CEMETERY	9
197	Stradbroke	LAXFIELD BAPTIST BURIAL GROUND	1
198	Stradbroke	LAXFIELD CEMETERY	2
199	Stradbroke	DENHAM (ST. JOHN) CHURCHYARD	1
200	Stradbroke	HORHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
201	Stradbroke	HORHAM BAPTIST CHAPELYARD	1
202	Stradbroke	HOXNE (SS. PETER AND PAUL) CHURCHYARD	1
203	Stradbroke	WILBY (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD, SUFFOLK	2
204	Stradbroke	EYE CEMETERY, SUFFOLK	5
205	Sudbury	GREAT CORNARD (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	1
206	Sudbury	NEWTON (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	1
207	Sudbury	LITTLE CORNARD (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	4
208	Sudbury	GREAT WALDINGFIELD (ST. LAWRENCE) CHURCHYARD	6
209	Sudbury	SUDBURY CEMETERY	15
210	Wenhaston	BRAMFIELD (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD, SUFFOLK	1
211	Wenhaston	HOLTON ST. PETER CHURCHYARD	2
212	Wenhaston	WALPOLE (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	2
213	Wenhaston	WENHASTON (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	2
214	Wickham Market	BREDFIELD (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	1
215	Wickham Market	DALLINGHOO (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
216	Wickham Market	PETTISTREE (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
217	Wickham Market	RENDLESHAM (ST. GREGORY THE GREAT) CHURCHYARD	1
218	Wickham Market	UFFORD (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD EXTENSION	1
219	Wickham Market	MELTON CEMETERY	2
220	Wickham Market	WICKHAM MARKET CEMETERY	2
221	Witnesham	CLOPTON (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
222	Witnesham	HENLEY (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
223	Witnesham	OTLEY (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	1
224	Witnesham	OTLEY BAPTIST CHAPELYARD	1
225	Witnesham	CLAYDON (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	2
226	Witnesham	GOSBECK (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	2
227	Witnesham	WESTERFIELD (ST. MARY MAGDALENE) CHURCHYARD	2
228	Witnesham	CODDENHAM CEMETERY	3
229	Woodbridge	ALDERTON (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	1
230	Woodbridge	BOYTON (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	1
231	Woodbridge	HASKETON (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	1
232	Woodbridge	RAMSHOLT (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	1
233	Woodbridge	SUTTON (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD, SUFFOLK	1
234	Woodbridge	HOLLESLEY (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	2
235	Woodbridge	BAWDSEY (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD	5
236	Woodbridge	WOODBIDGE CEMETERY	14
237	Wrentham	BENACRE (ST. MICHAEL) CHURCHYARD	1
238	Wrentham	FROSTENDEN (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	1
239	Wrentham	SOTTERLEY CEMETERY	1
240	Wrentham	SOUTH COVE (ST. LAWRENCE) CHURCHYARD	1
241	Wrentham	COVEHITHE (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD	2
242	Wrentham	WRENTHAM OLD CEMETERY	2
243	Wrentham	KESSEINGLAND (ST. EDMUND) CHURCHYARD	3
244	Yoxford	BADINGHAM (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD	1
245	Yoxford	BRUISYARD (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD	1
246	Yoxford	DARSHAM (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	1
247	Yoxford	PEASENHALL CEMETERY	1
248	Yoxford	YOXFORD CEMETERY	1
			1332

EVENT ORGANISER'S AIDE MEMOIRE

INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction - The Suffolk RBL will commemorate the centenary of the 1918 Armistice in a unique way by laying poppies on all of the Great War burials located in the county. There are 1,332 burials at 248 sites that span the length and breadth of the county and each will be visited by local volunteers and school children who will lay poppies before observing a collective act of remembrance. The event which will take place on Thursday 8 November 2018 with the minutes silence falling at 11:00hrs.
2. Event Organisers - While the concept originates from County HQ, the event will rely on the 248 volunteer event organisers who will organise and execute the event at a local level. In its most simple form, this is just arranging a gathering at the cemetery at 11:00hrs on the day. However, for those who wish to further develop the event this aide memoire provides more advice and guidance.

PREPARATION

3. To ensure maximum success it is suggested that organisers start preparing as soon as they receive this aide memoire. The following steps should be taken:
 - a. Identify local casualties - Put the name of your local cemetery into the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<https://www.cwgc.org>) website search engine. The result will give you the total number of casualties and you can then download a list by clicking the '**find these records**' and '**Download results**'. The list will give you a lot of information about each individual.
 - b. Identify the burial site - Visit your local cemetery and find the war grave(s). The majority of the burials will have a CWGC headstone and so should be easy to find. If not, local cemetery records should be referred to.
 - c. Research casualties story - (see Annex C).
 - d. Establish contact with local council - To seek any required permissions and to get the event published in the local diary. Invite a senior member of the local council to attend the event.
 - e. Establish contact with local primary school/s - This could be done through the local council. Invite the school/s to participate in the event (the size of school group will depend on the space available at the cemetery). Once the school/s are aware of the event they might want to help researching the casualties story.
 - f. Order Wreath and Poppies - One wreath and enough poppy crosses for each grave (other poppies are available for non christian burials). Poppies crosses will be provided by the RBL County HQ, wreaths should be ordered through your local RBL Branch / Poppy Appeal Organiser.

EVENT FORMAT

4. There is no precise format and individual event organisers can arrange their own event to suit the size and layout of their location. The only common feature will be the Act of Remembrance which will take place exactly at 11:00hrs. The following suggested format will suit most locations, but the larger sites with many burials will require more detail and planning.

a. **MEET THE GROUP** - The group will be made up of local primary school children, with their teachers. So the introductory brief is aimed at 8 -10 year olds and should be kept simple with the over riding aim of explaining why at this time of year we pause to remember. A typical introductory brief would include:

(1) Ask - **When was the Great War?** - Clarify it was 1914-1918. It came to an end on 11 November 1918 when the armistice was signed. So a long time ago, well beyond living memory and yet at this time every year we still pause to remember.

(2) Ask - **Why was it called the Great War?** - It was called great because of the sheer scale of it. While it was fought mainly in Europe and the Middle East, it involved countries from all over the world and millions of people were affected by it.

(3) Consequences of the Great War - 800,000 British & Commonwealth war dead (Fact - this is the same number as the current population of Suffolk). A massive number and so emphasis the size & scale.

(4) Millions more suffer the effects - physical & mental wounds of returning soldiers, families broken, families lived on with the effects. The Great War changed the social and political landscape of our country forever.

(5) In the immediate aftermath the RBL was established to provide welfare support.

(6) RBL also took on the role of Custodian of Remembrance. Ask - **Why is it important to remember?** Clarify it is to; remember the sacrifice of those who went before us and so that we can learn from the mistakes of the past.

(7) CWGC was established to create lasting cemeteries and memorials for the fallen. While most of those who fell were buried on the battlefields in France and Belgium, some soldiers came home wounded or ill and subsequently died while at home. These men were given a military burial at home and we have a number of those burials here in this cemetery.

b. **VISIT THE BURIAL/S** - Take the group to the grave/s and give them a talk about the individual/s. You can start by explaining the layout of a typical commonwealth war grave headstone. Then tell the story of the individual and aim to make a connection between the individual/s and the locality. At the end of the talk invite a child to place a poppy cross by the headstone and pause for a few seconds before moving on.

c. **ACT OF REMEMBRANCE** - Gather the group at the grave or where there is more than one grave at an appropriate area to conduct the Act of Remembrance. This can include a prayer or a poem, the Last Post, etc. But as a minimum the following should be included:

- (1) Summarise the visit and explain that we are now going to have a period of reflection to pause and think about the sacrifice that was made and specifically about the individual/s from our own town / village. Explain the format for the act of remembrance and specifically the exhortation and the response.
- (2) At 11:00hrs start the Act of Remembrance by inviting an individual to lay the wreath (This could be the Mayor, or a child).
- (3) Exhortation & response.
- (4) 1 minutes silence.
- (5) On completion of the silence thank everyone for attending and in particular for observing the minutes silence so well. Tell them that they now know why at this time every year we wear poppies and we pause to remember. Also tell them to tell their parents and brothers and sisters about the stories that they have heard today and about remembrance and why we do it.

d. **DISPERSAL** - Group departs the cemetery.

MEDIA

5. 2018 sees a number of commemorative events taking place across the county which will all attract a lot of media attention. It is expected that this particular event will be of great interest and will feature heavily on local TV, radio and newsprint. County HQ working with the Lord Lieutenant's Armistice Centenary Committee will produce a media plan, but local Branches and Event Organisers should take every opportunity to promote the event where possible. In order to maximise any media opportunities, Branches and Event Organisers are requested to inform the county secretary, Sandra Bromley of any contact with the media.

SAFEGUARDING

6. A key element of this project is the involvement of the school children. All school children taking part are to be accompanied and directly supervised by their school teachers throughout.

FURTHER ADVICE

7. Branches or Event Organisers requiring assistance should contact Sandra Bromley at County HQ (SBromley@britishlegion.org.uk) as soon as possible. Further advice on the event or research can be sought from Mark Brennan, the event organiser at (suffolkremembers@gmail.com)

RESEARCH ADVICE

INTRODUCTION

1. On Thursday 8 November 2018 the Suffolk RBL will commemorate the centenary of the 1918 Armistice in a unique way by laying poppies on all of the Great War burials located in the county. There are 1,332 burials at 248 sites that span the length and breadth of the county and each will be visited by local volunteers and school children who will lay poppies before observing a collective act of remembrance. This document will provide some advice on how to research a casualty in your cemetery.

EVIDENCE FOLDER / STORY BOARD

2. By gathering some basic information about the casualty you can build a picture of the individual and bring his/her story to life. Finding information that will link the individual to your location will have the greatest impact. Gather all evidence found into a folder or attach it to a story board. The use of maps, photographs (then and now) and artefacts will help.

SOURCES

3. There are a number of sources of information that will help event organisers to build a picture of the casualty. These include local archives, family records, old newspaper reports, local Rolls of Honour. It is worth spending a day or two to find out if anybody else in your area has already completed any research. There are also a number of online research sites, some that are free and others that require a fee. The following four sites offer the best information:

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

4. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists all the casualties who died during both world wars. Access to the information is via the commission's website (<https://www.cwgc.org>). Simply put the name of your local cemetery or the casualties name into the website search engine. The service is free of charge and provides the following documents / information:

- a. Commemorative Certificate - service details, NoK and home address
- b. Grave registration documents - where death occurred
- c. Headstone documents - location and details on headstone

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES HEADSTONES

5. A typical Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone follows a standard format which can give the researcher quite a bit of information.

6. The headstone is made from Portland stone which was originally quarried in Dorset. As Portland stone is now a scarce resource, an alternative source has been found. A key principle of the CWGC is that every casualty will be remembered forever by having their

name engraved on a headstone or on a memorial wall for those whose bodies were never identified.



Regimental crest or cap badge of the casualties unit.

Number, Rank, Name and Regiment.

Religious symbol, most commonly a cross since most casualties were of the christian faith, although you can find some with other religious symbols or even none.

The words below the cross were optional and included at the families request. Not all stones have these words, These words are often very personal and poignant.

7. Another principle is that every casualty regardless of rank, race or creed will be buried with the same respect, giving them all equality in death. Every headstone has the same shape and size and the details engraved follow a similar format with the following key features;

ANCESTRY

8. [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) requires a subscription but does provide some useful information. The following documents are available:

- a. 1901 & 1911 Census - family info, age and home address
- b. Medal Index Card - medals issued and date of entry into theatre
- c. Medal Rolls
- d. Service records - not always available
- e. Soldiers Effects - gives war gratuity paid to NoK, helps work out length of service

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

9. A search of the National Archives online records can be done online. If a document is found it can be purchased and downloaded. The cost of each download is £3.50. This archive is useful to find some service records (mainly Officers) and Battalion War Diaries.

THE LONG, LONG TRAIL

10. The Long, Long Trail is a fantastic source of information about all aspects of the Great War. This is a free of charge resource and provides a page on '**How to Research a Soldier**'.