

The Battle of the Somme Commemorative Programme 2016 Clár Comórtha Chath an Somme 2016

This programme aims to honour all those who took part in the conflict and to acknowledge the devastation caused to their families, friends and communities.

The proposed programme will comprise a range of events under four programme strands, as outlined below:

1. Ceremonial
2. Historical and Educational Reflection
3. Cultural
4. Community Participation

Further events will be added to this programme over the coming months, details of which will be available on:

www.decadeofcentenaries.ie.

Extract from the Statement by the Expert Advisory Group

The commemoration will be measured and reflective, and will be informed by a full acknowledgement of the complexity of historical events and their legacy, of the multiple readings of history, and of the multiple identities and traditions which are part of the Irish historical experience.

Is é aidiún an chláir seo urraim a thabhairt do gach duine a ghlac páirt sa choibhlesacht agus aitheantas a thabhairt don scrios uafásach a rinneadh ar a dtreaghlach, ar a gcairdé agus ar a bpobal dá bharr.

Beidh raon ócáidí i gceist leis an gclár a bhearaítear. Tagann siad faoi cheithre shnáithe clár mar atá leagtha amach thíos:

1. Searmanais
2. Machnamh ar an Stair agus ar an Oideachas
3. Léiriú Cultúrtha
4. Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail

Cuirfear tuilleadh imeachtaí leis an gclár seo sna míonna le teacht agus beidh sonraí ina leith ar fáil ar:

www.decadeofcentenaries.ie.

Sliocht ón Ráiteas ón Sainghrúpa Comhairleach

Meáite agus machnamhach a bheidh an comóradh agus déanfar eolas dó le haitheantas iomlán ar chastacht na n-imeachtaí stairiúla agus a leagáide, ar na léamha éagsúla ar an stair agus ar na féiniúlachtaí agus na traidisiúin éagsúla atá ina gcuid d'eispéireas staire na hÉireann.



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Foreword Brollach

Since its inception in 2012, the Decade of Centenaries programme has sought to be measured and reflective and to commemorate significant events that shaped the history of the island of Ireland over the past hundred years – not only those that marked Ireland's path to independence but also those which enhance our understanding of the wider international landscape during this period.

Next year sees the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. This campaign, from 1st July to its winding down in November, saw over 1 million casualties from both sides, including 3,500 dead from the island of Ireland. From the 5,500 casualties of the 36th Ulster Division, the almost 2,000 soldiers killed on 1st July were men drawn almost entirely from the unionist community in the province of Ulster. In September, the 16th Irish Division, drawn mainly from the other three provinces, had 4,330 casualties, of whom 1,200 were killed. Added to these numbers were the Irish soldiers who fought in other divisions. The total number of Irish casualties cannot be calculated with certainty but they affected every part of the island. Official commemoration preparations for events in France to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme are being co-ordinated jointly by relevant French and British authorities in consultation with Ireland and the Commonwealth Countries.

The campaign will also be commemorated throughout the island of Ireland and next year will see a range of events to mark this important event in our history.

The Government has engaged with the All-Party Oireachtas Group on Commemorations and the Expert Advisory Group on Commemoration in the development of the Government's commemorative programme and it is hoped that it will be a fitting tribute to those that lost their lives during this time.

The Government of Ireland.

Troops of the Royal Irish Rifles resting in a communication trench during the opening hours of the Battle of the Somme, 1 July 1916, Imperial War Museum
Trúpaí Raidhfil Ríoga na hÉireann ag ligean a scéithe i dtrínse cumarsáide le linn na chéad chúpla uair an chloig de Chath an Somme, 1 Iúil 1916", Músaem Cogaidh na hImpireachta

Ó tionscnafódh é sa bhliain 2012, d'fhéach clár Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneachán le bheith meáite agus machnamhach agus le comóradh a dhéanamh ar na himeachtaí móra a mhúnlaigh stair oileán na hÉireann le céad bliain anuas. Ní hé amháin go mbaineann sé leis na himeachtaí sin a shonraigh bealach na hÉireann chun neamhspleáchais, féachann sé freisin le comóradh a dhéanamh ar na himeachtaí sin a mhéadaíonn an tuiscint atá againn ar an tírdhreach idirnáisiúnta leathán le linn na tréimhse sin.

Comóradh céad bliain Chath an Somme a bheidh sa bhliain seo chugainn. Gortaíodh breis agus 1 mhilliún duine san fheachtas sin, a thosaigh an 1 Iúil agus a bhí ag teacht chun críche i mí na Samhna. Ba ar an dá thaobh a throid na taismigh sin, lenár áiríodh 3,500 duine as oileán na hÉireann a cailleadh. De na 5,500 duine i 36ú Rannóg Uladh a gortaíodh, ba as an bpobal aontachtach i gCúige Uladh do gheall leis an 2,000 saighdiúir a maraíodh an 1 Iúil. I mí Mheán Fómhair, gortaíodh 4,330 duine sa 16ú Rannóg Éireannach, a bhí comhdhéanta go príomha de dhaoine as na trí chúige eile. Maraíodh 1,200 duine de na daoine sin. Ní áirítear leis na líonta sin na saighdiúirí Éireannacha a throid sna rannóga eile. Ní féidir líon iomlán na dtaismeach Éireannach a ríomh go cruinn ach chuir siad isteach ar gach cearn den tír.

I gcomhairle le hÉirinn agus le Tíortha an Chomhlathais, tá comhordú á dhéanamh i gcomhpháirt ag údarais ábhartha sa Fhrainc agus sa Bhreatain ar ullmhúcháin chomórtha oifigiúil le haghaidh ócáidí sa Fhrainc chun Comóradh 100 Bliain Chath an Somme a chomóradh.

Déanfar an feachtas a chomóradh ar fud oileán na hÉireann freisin agus beidh raon ócáidí ar siúl an bhliain seo chugainn chun an t-imeacht tábhachtach sin i stair ár dtíre a chomóradh.

D'oibrigh an Rialtas leis an nGrúpa Uile-Pháirtí Oireachtais um Chuimhneachán agus leis an Sainghrúpa Comhairleach ar Chuimhneachán le haghaidh clár comórtha an Rialtais a fhorbairt agus táthar dóchasach go mbeidh sé ina ómós cuí do na daoine sin a cailleadh sa tréimhse sin.

Rialtas na hÉireann.