

Images of Egypt and Palestine

16/12/2014



Awarded through HLF's Our Heritage programme, the project will focus on collecting and making accessible images of Egypt and Palestine as they would have been seen by people during the First World War.

To mark the Centenary of the First World War, a series of roadshows in England and Wales along with the development of an interactive website will enable a team of volunteers to acquire and interpret copies of photographs taken in Egypt and Palestine by service personnel or bought by them as postcards. The volunteers will receive training and develop skills in digital media and heritage presentation leading to a fuller interpretation of the First World War as a truly global conflict.

Exhibitions, school workshops and a conference will provide opportunities for direct public participation in their heritage. The website will be a perpetual online learning resource offering new views of archaeological sites, military installations and cities as they appeared during the war.

Paul Nicholson, Egyptologist and Professor of Archaeology at Cardiff University, said: “The histories of Britain and Egypt have long been intertwined. However, the place of Egypt during the First World War is often overlooked because of the focus on the Western Front. Egypt was a transit point for troops en route for the Dardanelles, an intelligence base for campaigns against the Ottoman Empire, and in particular the base from which the Palestine Campaign was launched. Up until now access to images relating to this theatre of conflict have been limited and information on how the region was seen by those who visited it, and who lived there, has often seemed inaccessible.”

With help from specialists, the information gathered will be digitally recorded and an online interactive archive will be created where everyone can access and contribute information. The archive will allow the public to discuss, contribute, share and research information about Egypt and Palestine in the First World War.

Jennifer Stewart, Head of HLF, Wales said “In this First World War Centenary year, HLF is supporting many projects that are helping us all to explore and share the heritage of the First World War, so that we have a better understanding of the impact it had in shaping the UK and beyond. I am delighted that we are able to support Cardiff University to provide opportunities for people to broaden their understanding of the conflict and how it has shaped our modern world.”

Leading the project from Cardiff University are Dr Steve Mills and Professor Paul Nicholson both of the School of History, Archaeology and Religion. Dr Mills said: “Beyond the Western Front there was another First World War, a war of movement, of cavalry operations and one which was fought in the heat of the deserts and in dusty towns in the Middle East. We are pleased that HLF has chosen to support this project which will make this other First World War more widely known, especially to the descendants of those who served in Egypt and Palestine.”

Note to editors

Cardiff University is recognised in independent government assessments as one of Britain’s leading teaching and research universities and is a member of the Russell Group of the UK’s most research intensive universities. Among its academic staff are two Nobel Laureates, including the winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize for Medicine, University Chancellor Professor Sir Martin Evans. Founded by Royal Charter in 1883, today the University combines impressive modern facilities and a dynamic approach to teaching and research. The University’s breadth of expertise encompasses: the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; the College of Biomedical and Life Sciences; and the College of Physical Sciences and Engineering, along with a longstanding commitment to lifelong learning. Cardiff’s four flagship Research Institutes are offering radical new approaches to cancer stem cells, catalysis, neurosciences and mental health and sustainable places. Visit the [University website](#) for more information.

Further information

Dr Steve Mills, Cardiff University School of History, Archaeology & Religion, on tel: 02920 875655 or email: millssf1@cardiff.ac.uk



£1.2m Heritage Lottery grant brings Cardiff's Ebneser Chapel back to life