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ARMED FORCES DAY • AJEX MISSION TO ISRAEL 2016

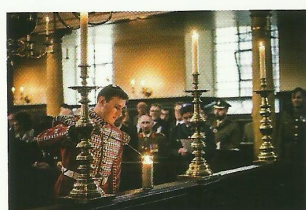


Military outside Bevis Marks

REMEMBERING THE SOMME

On 30th June, 2016, 250 representatives from across the community, joined the We Were There Too team and the Heritage Lottery Fund at Bevis Marks Synagogue for the launch of the new We Were There Too interactive website. A full demonstration of the site by Project Director, Alan Fell, was followed by a moving commemoration of the tens of thousands of British Jewish men and women who served their country in the Great War.

With the AJEX and JLGB Standards flying, Rabbis, military personnel and guest speakers read powerful poetry from the trenches and described the events that led to the worst day in British Military history, 1st July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Among the 20,000 British troops who fell that day were 34 Jewish soldiers. Their names were read out, perhaps for the first time in a hundred



years, and their sacrifice was remembered and honoured.

Armed Forces and AJEX chaplain, Padre Reuben Livingstone led part of the service with readings by AJEX Vice President Ron Shelley and National Chairman, Brian Bloom. The names of the fallen were read by Army Cadet L/Cpl Ruby-Rose Mansoor and Daniel Gold of the JLGB, while Drummer Cameron Shayle of the Honourable Artillery Company lit the memorial candle and later sounded Reveille. Drummer Shayle concluded the evening with an impromptu yet haunting and highly appropriate sounding of Retreat in the synagogue courtyard. ☺



Daniel Gold, JLGB, Cdt Lance Corporal Ruby-Rose Mansoor