

Jews and war effort

Sir, Much has been written and screened in recent weeks about the centenary of the first day of the battle of the Somme, the worst day in British military history. In the aftermath of the Brexit vote and a noticeable rise in antisemitic and other racist incidents, there has never been a more timely moment for the British Jewish community to remind our fellow countrymen that "we were there too". More than 40,000 British Jewish soldiers served their country in 1914-18, including at the Somme, and many thousands more actively participated in war work and auxiliary services. A new project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, aims to find, capture and preserve stories of Jewish individuals who served and contributed to the British First World War effort. We hope it will provide a valuable educational tool in the fight against antisemitism in this country.

ALAN FELL

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