



THE WE WERE THERE TOO TEAM WISH ALL OUR SUPPORTERS VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTORS A HAPPY CHANUKAH

This week, as we celebrate the miracle of the Festival of Lights, the liberation of the Maccabees from Greek rule and the rededication of the Temple, we remember another liberation. On 11th December 1917, General Allenby walked into Jerusalem, and ended Ottoman control of the city.

The British formally formed the EEF (Egyptian Expeditionary Force) under General Sir Archibald Murray in 1916, and the campaign to remove Ottoman control from the Middle East began. In June 1917, the Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, appointed General Edmund Allenby to command the EEF following two failed Battles for Gaza. He demanded that Allenby capture Jerusalem by Christmas.

Allenby launched the Third Battle of Gaza on 1st November 1917. After an impressive victory at Beersheba, his forces moved on to Jerusalem. An attack on 7th December proved successful against a demoralised and weary Ottoman army. The Ottoman forces in the city surrendered and the Mayor of Jerusalem, Hussein Salim al-Husseini offered the keys of the city to the British Forces.

On 11 December 1917, many of the residents of the city, from across the religious spectrum, went out on the streets to cheer as Allenby walked into the Old City. His arrival on foot was intended to show respect for the city and not be viewed as another forced entry by Crusaders. It contrasts greatly with the German Kaiser's

visit 20 years earlier when he had insisted on riding into the city on a white horse.

Back in London, Lloyd George described the taking of Jerusalem as 'A Christmas present for the British People'.

Amongst those serving in the EEF were British Jews. Their number would increase in 1918 with the arrival of the Royal Fusiliers – 'The Judeans'

For further information and to view rare footage of the event [click here](#). **Please note that there is a short gap between the century old film clips, so please be patient.**



Postcard sent from Pte Harry Lazarus to his sister Ray. © Jewish Museum London/Jewish Military Museum

1,265 IMAGES FROM THE JEWISH MILITARY MUSEUM/AJEX COLLECTIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON OUR WEBSITE.

An extensive collection of photographs, letters, documents, objects and books from the Jewish Military Museum/AJEX Collections, kindly provided by the Jewish Museum London, can be seen on the *We Were There Too* website for the first time.

These remarkable images, curated into 7 separate categories, illustrate the experiences of individual British Jewish men and women who served in the First World War. Click on the links below to browse through these fascinating and often poignant images.

- [Government documents](#)

- [Jewish Legion](#)
- [Personal possessions](#)
- [Printed editions](#)
- [Religious documents](#)
- [Royal Flying Corps](#)
- [Zion Mule Corps](#)

On the back of the decorative, embroidered postcard featured, Private Harry Lazarus sends a 'kiss from France' to his sister, Ray. Private Lazarus served in the 9th Royal Scots Regiment during the First World War and was killed in action.



A Jews' Free School Magazine cover

MORE HISTORY WINDOWS COME ON LINE AS THE *WE WERE THERE TOO* WEBSITE CONTINUES TO GROW

Since our last newsletter in September, a number of informative new History Windows have been added to the website, providing more insight into the lives and experiences of members of the Jewish community both in the Armed Services and on the Home Front. Even more will be coming online in the coming weeks.

Click on the links below to learn more about our heritage and about some of the people whose stories illustrate that history.

- [Jews' Free School First World War magazines](#)
- [Belgian Refugees in the UK](#)
- [How Jewish Trade Unionists persuaded the Labour Government to embrace Zionism](#)
- [Jews Interned during the First World War](#)
- [The Jewish Legion, the Royal Fusiliers and the 'Judeans'](#)
- [The Royal Flying Corps, the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Air Force](#)

Our thanks to volunteers Lola and Dr Ronnie Frazer for their research and

comprehensive articles on the Jews' Free School Magazines and Jewish Trade Unionists.

LONDON JEWS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR *WE WERE THERE TOO* TRIP TO THE SOMME AND ARRAS AREAS OF THE WESTERN FRONT 18TH-21ST MARCH 2018

Places on our 4-day visit to the Battlefields of the Somme and Arras areas of the Western Front in March 2018 are filling up fast.

The trip will include visits to Pozieres, Thiepval, Lochnagar, Delville and Mametz Woods, the Arras Cemetery and Memorial, Vimy Ridge and the Ring of Remembrance at Notre-Dame-de-lorette.

With Paula Kitching, Project Historian, leading the group, we will visit the sites, museums, cemeteries and memorials which inspired some of the key poems of the period and reflect on the thousands of Jewish names that are carved on gravestones across the region; an eternal reminder that *We Were There Too*.

The cost will be £570 per person, which includes all coach travel to and from London, accommodation in the Holiday Inn, Arras, and all entries to Museums and sites.

Please register your interest now and/or request a booking form by emailing contactus@jewsffw.london

SAVE THE DATE

SALUTE OUR JEWISH BRITISH HEROES

1918-2018

**ARMISTICE CENTENARY REMEMBRANCE COMMEMORATION
THE CENOTAPH, WHITEHALL - 18TH NOVEMBER 2018**

Photo: 4th Volunteer Battalion Royal Fusiliers, Cycle Corps, led by Lt BMC Tyler. Courtesy of the Tyler Family

Salute our Jewish British heroes

SAVE THE DATE ARMISTICE CENTENARY REMEMBRANCE COMMEMORATION

In November 2018, special events will be taking place in every city, town and village

across the UK as the country falls silent to mark the centenary of the Armistice, the end of the First World War.

Over 50,000 British Jews from across the Empire joined British troops on land, sea and in the air, enduring gruelling campaigns across Europe and the Middle East, and the horrors of trench warfare.

It has never been more important to remind both the next generation and wider society of our community's proud history of service to the country that gave us a home.

Please save the date and join AJEX, JLGB and *We Were There Too* at the Cenotaph on 18th November 2018 as we salute the Jewish British heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we are so privileged to enjoy today.

Alan Fell

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