



Ugbrooke House

The Lost Lives Exhibition. August 19<sup>th</sup> – Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Conceived and created by artist **Rob Heard** in collaboration with **SSAFA** Devon, 'Lost Lives' is a unique exhibition to commemorate the Fallen on each day of the First World War and to show the true cost of the conflict. Rob is well known for his 19,240 and Trench exhibitions commemorating the Battle of the Somme and will be laying out 72,396 shrouds, commemorating those from the battle with no known grave, at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London from 8-18<sup>th</sup> November 2018 for the Centenary of the Armistice.

The Lost Lives exhibition is a simple but challenging installation that generates powerful emotions and gives a graphic sense of the large numbers killed. One shrouded figure, hand stitched by Rob, is laid out to represent each of the 1,561 days of the First World War and records on a small plaque the number lost on each day. The daily record of lost lives highlights the scale of the conflict that saw 983,779 killed from the British Empire. The worst day of the War was on 1 July 1916 when 19,240 were killed at the Battle of the Somme.

The losses for each year are:

1914	36,780
1915	150,881
1916	235,457
1917	292,860
1918	263,227

The casualties by nation are:

Australia	62,149
Canada	64,996
India	73,905
New Zealand	18,166
Newfoundland	1,570
South Africa	9,726
UK	744,000

*"Casualty statistics for World War I vary to a great extent. Military casualties reported in official sources list deaths due to all causes, including killed or died of wounds, accidents, and disease".* The exhibition has great educational value as laying out 1561 plaques and figures for each day of the war and highlighting the campaigns shows the scale of the war and enables people to connect with individual dates, particular battles or be mesmerized by the enormity of the daily and monthly losses over 52 months of war. It also facilitates discussion about military history, ethics and the impact of the war. Displayed in Exeter from 30 Jun -8 July 2018, the exhibition drew over 15,000 people and generated some powerful comments from the public:

*"A fitting tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice*

*A very poignant and thought provoking exhibit*

*Very emotional but very educational for young and old*

*A very humbling and powerful exhibition*

*A fantastic way to display the sheer volume of the many thousands lost"*