



## **How do we remember World War One?**

### **Introduction - Fresh perspectives on the war - Narrated by Michael Portillo**

We've just started the centenary commemoration of the events of World War One.

It may be 100 years on from the war, but emotions can still run high – as we've seen from the front-page debate about the causes of the war, and its rights and wrongs.

The centenary commemoration is an important moment. With the passing of the last surviving participants of the war, living history has become history.

It's an opportunity for us to ask difficult questions and perhaps to challenge our perceptions of the war.

There's so much about the war that's familiar to us, through the yearly act of remembrance. The war poetry. The black and white images of trenches, mud and death.

But there are other stories with which we're likely to be less familiar.

The story of a world war that spread as far as China, modern-day Iraq, and South Africa; the Western Front as the largest multicultural gathering that the world had ever seen; the story of scientific discovery and innovation, from plastic surgery, to the aircraft carrier, and even the humble staff canteen.

There's a huge number of new perspectives on this war that we thought we knew so well.

(Photograph of Dulce Et Decorum Est courtesy of The Great War Archive, University of Oxford)