

The Black Watch Castle & Museum | PRESS RELEASE | 2016

First World War replica trench at The Black Watch Castle and Museum



The Black Watch Castle and Museum has installed a First World War replica First World War within the Castle grounds.

Following on from Poppies: Weeping Window by artist Paul Cummins and Designer, Tom Piper, the trench is yet another poignant focus to the Castle and Museum's continuing programme to commemorate the centenary year of the First World War.

The structure of the trench was constructed over 5 days, on site using timber frames and wire gambion with the exterior wrapped in hessian. The structure stands approximately 3 meters above the ground and includes an observation post, dug out, shelter and firing step.

The replica trench has been created to give an atmospheric, thought-provoking insight of what everyday life may have been like for soldiers living and fighting in the trenches. Visitors can learn about the structure, design and evolution of the trench systems, stand at the observation post, shelter in the dugout, and investigate the firing step. The experience will give visitors an understanding of what the soldiers

would have worn and how they may have spent their night days and nights during the trench rotations.

Shonagh Lowerson-Head, Learning and Audience Officer at the Castle and Museum tells us, "In truth we will never know for certain what life was like for a soldier in the trenches, and indeed the experience would have been different for each soldier. Conditions would have varied depending on where the men were stationed and the campaigns they were involved with at the time. However, our replica trench creates an amazing opportunity for visitors to investigate the structure and, with the knowledge of the Castle team, create an informed imagery of the daily routine and challenges faced by the soldiers 100 years ago.

The replica trench system was designed by independent military historian, author and broadcaster Andy Robertshaw, who has appeared on Channel 4's Time Team and was a military advisor on the film War Horse. A similar structure can be viewed at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke on Trent.

The Castle and Museum's replica trench is thought to be the only one of its kind in Scotland.

Notes to Editor:

About The Black Watch Castle and Museum

The Black Watch Museum is housed in Balhousie Castle, which is located on the edge of the North Inch in Perth. The origins of the Castle are said to date back to the 12th century. Our Five Star museum shares the story of the iconic Black Watch Regiment from 1725. The museum has a gift shop that offers a wide range of products from regimental memorabilia to quality gifts. In our multi award winning café we offer a delicious selection of hot and cold food. We serve breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea and source our produce from local suppliers. Our aim at the Home of The Black Watch is to deliver World Class Service to everyone all of the time.

For further information contact Leonor Blackhall, Marketing and Commercial Executive leonor@theblackwatch.co.uk | 01738 638152 Ex 212