



**CWGC**  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

7 September 2018

Bristol, UK

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **New photography exhibition at Bristol Cathedral captures the extraordinary poignance of Bristol and Bath's war graves and memorials**

From 5 September through to 18 November 2018, *At the Going Down of the Sun*, an exhibition at Bristol Cathedral will be the culmination of a four-year photographic project by Marko Dutka. This exhibition will remember people who lost their lives in conflicts over the last 104 years. It will specifically commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, focussing on sites in the Bristol and Bath region.

Inspired by the Laurence Binyon poem "For the Fallen", the exhibition features images of Commonwealth, civilian and enemy war graves, war memorials and associated bomb and air crash sites photographed between the hours of dusk and dawn. By taking this nocturnal approach the photographs show not just the graves but also the subtle indicators of contemporary human existence such as light pollution and car, plane and satellite trails. These acted as a metaphor for our continuing relationship with the people in the graves so that we can ask questions about why and how we remember those taken from us by conflict.

The range of graves photographed is extensive capturing examples of a wide range of ages, races and faiths. Of considerable importance was the opportunity to capture female war graves that told the stories of women as acting participants, civilians and widows.

Nine of the images will be accompanied by QR codes. These will provide links to oral histories spoken by people who knew those buried. These voices will speak about the humanity of these individuals' lives.

Marko says "I hope as well that the images show the considerable commitment by the CWGC that is required to maintain these graves and keep the memories of these people fresh in our minds. I am delighted that the exhibition will be displayed in the Cathedral. Unlike a whitewall exhibition space, the Cathedral provides a contemplative space, it also has a particular context for it is itself a graveyard and site of memorialisation. The opportunity to raise memorials to the 'ordinary' people of Bristol within architecture that is dedicated to the 'great and good' will be a fitting tribute to their extraordinary sacrifice."

Marko goes on to say "I have developed partnerships and received considerable support from the following organisations:

Bristol Cathedral, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Royal British Legion, Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust, Bristol City Council, Clifton Diocese, Bristol Hebrew Congregation, Weston-Super-Mare Town Council, The Flash Centre, Bath and North East Somerset Council and a number of church parishes. I am very grateful for their support."

The installation will be the hub of several public engagements, artist guided tours, a book, workshops and integration with the Royal British Legion during the Remembrance fortnight starting with The Bristol Poppy Appeal Launch at the Cathedral on Friday 26 October, will be some of the planned ways that the accessibility and legacy of the exhibition can be continued and extended. On 14 September a crowd-fund appeal will be launched to generate funding for a 50-image book.



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As well as the images there will be text about the individuals involved and a foreword by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

**For more information, images and spokespeople please contact:**

**Marko Dutka on [mail@imagesbymarko.com](mailto:mail@imagesbymarko.com) or on 0044 7734357963**

**A selection of images are included below, and high resolution versions are available if required.**

**Ends.**

**Notes for editors:**

### **1. Marko Dutka**

Marko has been a professional photographer for 19 years.

He has developed his own Fine Art practice and had shows at Whitewall in Milton Keynes, the University of Creative Arts and his work has appeared in various group shows including at the RWA. It has been selected a number of times for the Royal Photographic Societies International Print Competition.

Read: [www.markodutkaphotography.com](http://www.markodutkaphotography.com)

Like: <https://www.facebook.com/At-the-going-down-of-the-sun-photography-1650870215149813/>

### **2. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) commemorates the 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died during the two world wars. It also holds and updates an extensive and accessible records archive.

The Commission operates in more than 23,000 locations in more than 150 countries.

**Get to know the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Read: <http://www.cwgc.org/>

Follow: <https://twitter.com/CWGC>

Like: <https://www.facebook.com/commonwealthwargravescommission>

Watch: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuyv7WCJv\\_NYL04eKG3oyVA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuyv7WCJv_NYL04eKG3oyVA)

### **3. Bristol Cathedral**

Bristol Cathedral stands in the middle of Bristol's vibrant city centre.



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One of England's great medieval churches, the Augustinian abbey was founded here in the 12th century. For almost 900 years, the building has continued to be a place of sanctuary, prayer and music.

Today the Cathedral boasts some of the most important medieval architecture in the UK - look out for the extraordinary Norman stone carving in the Chapter House, the medieval stained glass preserved in the cloister, the brightly coloured Eastern Lady Chapel and the lofty arches and vaults which distinguish Bristol Cathedral as being of a medieval hall church design. With a rich programme of services and events, as well as shop, café and peaceful garden, Bristol Cathedral is a wonderful place to visit.