



Some thoughts and songs for a year of Centenaries

A perspective from a "British born Irish Ukrainian"

As we mark the Centenary of the end of the "Great War" worldwide, and pay respect to those who made the Ultimate Sacrifice, Ukrainians remember that for them that struggle went on for another three years - the Ukrainian War of Independence (1917 – 1921).

1918 also marks the Centenary of the proclamation of the Ukrainian Peoples Republic which broke free from Russia's hegemony, but lasted for only three years, and ultimately ended in Ukraine being incorporated into "The Prison of Nations", the new Russian Empire, known as the USSR, until 1991.

Ironically, since the Centenary of the *outbreak* of World War 1 four years ago, Russia wages a cruel war against Ukraine now as it did then.

As we remember the heroism of those who made the Ultimate Sacrifice in the World Wars, let us hope and pray that this year the guns fall silent in Russian occupied Donbas in Eastern Ukraine as they did 100 years ago on the "Fields of Flanders", and that Russian occupied Crimea is freed once again.

Some Ukrainian songs for Remembrance Day Centenary 1918 – 2018

Remembrance Centenary Sunday Ukrainian songs
Youtube playlist

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3oexvz16Flx1hFINjdtmWJz4yU2wdLZO>

Remembrance Centenary Sunday Ukrainian songs
Spotify playlist

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2AP6Hrk22waKBsVB93E73h>

Or visit www.ukrainians.org.uk and click on the poppy.

For those who did grow old, for whom "age did weary them".

(Ref. Laurence Binyon's 'For the Fallen' poem where "age shall not weary them")

Listen to the old man
Telling you his story,
The gladness the sadness
The loss and the glory,
He saw many seasons
He heard all the reasons,
So listen to him
And swallow your pride,
For difference in years
Is no great divide.

Listen to the old man
Recounting the years,
The friends made and lost
But he sheds not his tears.
He was ready to fall
All for one, one for all
So listen to him
And swallow your pride,
For difference in years
Is no great divide.

Listen to the old man
At peace in his heart.
While we all disagree
He is soon to depart
From our midst in this life,
Full of trouble and strife.
So listen,
Because it's too late when he dies
For then he'll have passed
Through the Greatest Divide.

Stepan Pasicznyk. 1990