

south african memorial, delville wood

overview

This is the only memorial dedicated to the participation of the South African Forces on the 1914-1918 Western Front. 229,000 officers and men served with the South African Forces in the Great War and 10,000 died.

location in delville wood

The memorial is located at the end of a central avenue leading into Delville Wood from the main entrance. This is where the battalions of the South African Brigade came under withering German artillery fire in their attempt to capture and then defend the wood in mid July 1916. Both the wood and the South African battalions were almost completely destroyed.

apartheid south africa and the national museum

This museum was opened in 1986 by the President of racist South Africa. The important role of 21,000 black troops who served as labourers was predictably overlooked by the apartheid regime.

The new South African Government has since worked hard to transform the site into a place of remembrance that illustrates and respects all aspects of the nation's military history.

How successfully, in your view, has the museum now removed all racist depictions of black south Africans?

