

A century on

[FIONA BRUCE]

It's an art installation created to mark the hundredth anniversary of the start of the First World War, a moat of ceramic poppies, each one representing a fallen British and Commonwealth serviceman. Today The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh went to see it at the Tower of London to pay their own tribute. Our royal correspondent, Nicholas Witchell, reports.

[REPORTER]

Her parents' generation fought in the First World War, her own childhood will have been sharply marked by its consequences, so this was a thoughtful walk through the poppy fields for the Queen and her husband.

At one point she paused and a wreath was placed on her behalf. The installation of the poppies is nearly complete now. From the air they enclose the tower on three sides, a collar of scarlet, a reminder of the cost of war, for each ceramic poppy a life.

By the end of the year though, all of the poppies will have gone. They are being sold. More than 700,000 have already been bought by people whose imagination has been caught by a simple yet sobering tribute to a lost generation.