



A KADDISH FOR SELIM

A film by Jane Wells

Edited by Francesco Portinari

Associate Producer Paloma Perez

Running time 15' 16"

Logline

On the eve of World War One, a young British Jew has to change his name in order to join the army to fight and die for King and Empire.

Short synopsis

London 1912: A young Jew in has to change his name in order to join the British army. When war breaks out in 1914, he is sent to Egypt and then Gallipoli to fight for King and Empire.

Assembled from recently discovered family photographs and a handful of letters, this short film tells the story of a child of immigrants who died for their adopted country. A story that is still familiar today: for what clearer sign of assimilation and loyalty is there than to volunteer to fight for one's country? The challenges Jews faced in Britain a century ago were a friction point in the

First World War, yet many did serve loyally and *A Kaddish for Selim* tells the story of one of the two thousand three hundred who died.

Cast:

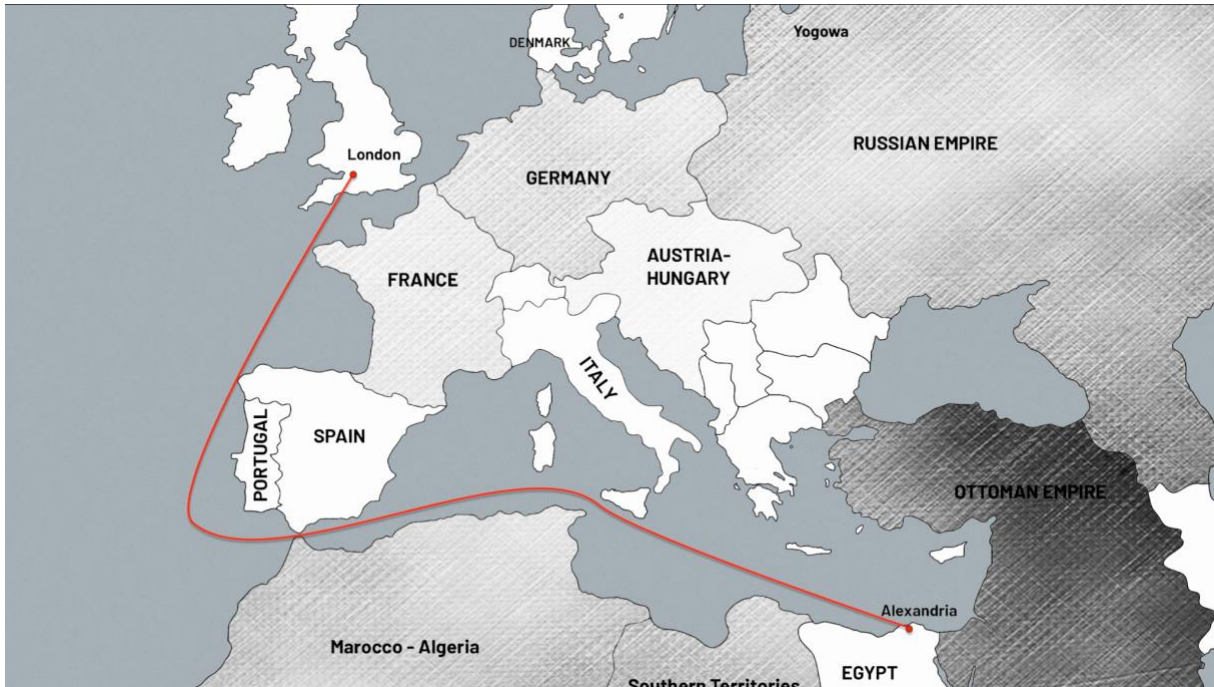
Trevor Laird	Percy Jupp
Ned Wolfgang Kelly	Selim Bernstein
Paul Zuckerman	King George V
David Bernstein	Rev. Bevan

Director's Statement

When I unearthed a family photo album that was over 100 years old, I decided to tell the story of my Uncle who was killed in World War One: *A Kaddish for Selim*. It's not just a personal story, it's the story of any family who emigrate and then lose a child fighting for their adopted home.

Photographs





He was brought from the fire trenches to the Advance Dressing Station in the reserve where I met him and spent some time in prayer on his behalf. He never regained consciousness and died about 6 pm yesterday. He was buried close by (the exact location I am keeping careful record of) at 10.30 pm the same day. I had intended - on finding his Jewish Prayer Book in his belongings - to read the burial service therein prescribed, but as it happened to be late at night and no lights allowed; I could only perform the service ex. tempore. This I did in reverent regard to the dead soldier's faith, and I trust used no form, prayer or expression likely to be out of keeping with his religious beliefs. I pronounced the committal words "May he come to his place in peace" and ventured to write them in Hebrew



*Selim's resting place at Kurija Dere
Turkey*

