

1914-18 THE BATTLES OF YPRES The First World War

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YPRES This ancient city has throughout history been a target for invading armies, never more so than during the First World War when it was reduced to rubble by German artillery. In 1915 there were so many civilian casualties that those remaining were compulsorily evacuated. After the war Ypres was entirely rebuilt and received the British Military Cross and the French Croix de Guerre.

THE BATTLES 1914-17 The Germans advancing through Belgium in 1914 were halted at Ypres in Flanders and pushed back to the low ridge surrounding the city to the east and south-east, the territory within the constantly shifting Allied defence lines becoming known as THE SALIENT. Here the British and their Allies resisted repeated attempts by the Germans to break through to the Channel ports. There were three main battles. **FIRST YPRES:** 19 October-22 November 1914. The German advance from the ridge was repulsed although they nearly broke through at Gheluvelt on the Menin Road. Both sides suffered heavy losses. **SECOND YPRES:** 22 April-25 May 1915. In their renewed attack the Germans used poison gas for the first time and almost achieved a breakthrough, but Canadian and British reinforcements saved the situation. Again there were heavy losses. The front line of the Salient was now reduced, making the city more vulnerable to artillery fire. **THIRD YPRES:** 31 July-10 November 1917. The major British offensive aimed at dislodging the Germans from high ground succeeded brilliantly in the Messines area but a bloody assault on Passchendaele Ridge left both sides exhausted. Nearly a million lives were lost in the Ypres battles.

1915 In April 1915, at the start of Second Ypres, Canadian and French soldiers were victims of the first poison gas attack.

FINAL LINE OF SALIENT extent of Allied gains at end of THIRD YPRES November 1917

44,000 soldiers are buried in this sombre cemetery. Many were students killed in the opening assault of First Ypres.

THIRD YPRES ended in November 1917 with the capture of Passchendaele Ridge and ruined village, after Haig's decision to press on with the offensive in appalling conditions resulted in one of the bloodiest battles in history. Of those who died 12,000 are buried and 35,000 commemorated as missing in Tyne Cot, the largest British war cemetery in the world.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, now on rows That mark our place, and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, Sweep long and solemn the guns below.

In 1915 Lt Col John Mackenzie and his men of the 1st Canadian Trench Battalion were serving in the Banks' Messines.

THE SALIENT The crater, now a pond, was formed by a mine sprung by the British in 1915.

Thousands who fought in defence of the Salient passed along the Menin Road which came to symbolize the horrors of the Ypres battles.

HILL 60, scene of fearful underground warfare before final capture by British troops commanded by the King of the Belgians in September 1918.

In 1916 the Flanders front was relatively quiet but in June the Canadians fought a fierce, ultimately successful, battle in the Sanctuary Wood area for possession of Hill 62.

The two adversaries of the Second World War, Winston Churchill and Adolf Hitler, served in this area during the Great War.

Gaind by the Germans in November 1914, strategically important Messines Ridge was retaken as a prelude to Third Ypres after the explosion of huge mines, the shock of which was felt in London.

The Memorial bears the names of 11,447 British soldiers missing from many desperate battles fought in the woods throughout the war.

Notre Dame Battlefields Trips

22nd – 25th Sept 2023 = Y11s

29th – 2nd Oct 2023 = Y13

Parents information Evening

Please...

- make sure you have signed in at the front (see Mrs Shields)
- students to sit with their parent (s)
- return any forms to Mrs Shields
- have mobile phones off/on silent
- collect hotel details from front

1914-18 1916 BATTLE OF THE SOMME The First World War

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BRITISH FRONT LINE July

The assault by British and Newfoundland troops on 1 July was unsuccessful. It took 4 months to capture the village.

GERMAN FRONT LINE 1 July

Communities in the north of England mourned the heavy losses in the Pals Battalions on 1 July.

BEAUMONT HAMEL The Ulster Div breached German lines on 1 July, the only Allied success in the Thiepval Sector.

After detonation of huge mines Tyneside Scottish troops advanced with heavy casualties.

THIEPVAL Commemorating the 1916 Anglo-French offensive, the memorial equates the names of 73,367 British and 167,000 French who died with no known grave.

LA BOISELLE ALBERT An important supply and control centre for the 1916 offensive by the end of the battle the town was a pile of rubble.

POZIERES The ridge, a first-aid station, was not liberated until 1918, after ten days of bitter fighting to capture the village.

FLERS Tanks made their first appearance on 15 September in a British attack on the German line, with limited success.

PERONNE The major German stronghold was captured after hard fighting by South African and British troops.

THE FIRST DAY On 1 JULY Haig ordered his troops 'over the top' at 7.30 am, expecting the way forward to be relatively clear. The reality was tragically different: moving forward in waves they were cut down by German machine-guns emerging from deep trenches and dugouts. A diversionary attack by the Third British Army at Gommecourt failed in its objective. By the day's end 19,240 soldiers had been killed, many in 'Pals Battalions' recruited locally. These were the British army's worst ever losses in one day.

Part of the railway and locomotives which served the battlefield are preserved.

INTO BATTLE The thundering line of battle stands, And in the air Death moans and sings

The Museum of the Great War presents the historical, sociological and human aspects of the First World War.



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FRONT LINE OF SALIENT 7 June 1917

IN FLANDERS FIELDS
In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

FINAL LINE of SALIENT - extent of Allied gains at end of THIRD YPRES November 1917

44,000 soldiers are buried in this sombre cemetery. Many were students killed in the opening assault of First Ypres

LANGEMARCK
In April 1915, at the start of Second Ypres, Canadian and French soldiers were victims of the first poison gas attack

POELCAPPELE
The crater, now a pond, was formed by a mine sprung by the British in 1915

PASSCHENDEALE
Third Ypres ended in November 1917 with the capture of Passchendaele Ridge and ruined village, after Haig's decision to press on with the offensive in appalling conditions resulted in one of the bloodiest battles in history. Of those who died 12,000 are buried and 35,000 commemorated as missing in Tyne Cot, the largest British war cemetery in the world

TYNE COT
The crater, now a pond, was formed by a mine sprung by the British in 1915

ZONNEBEKE
Thousands who fought in defence of the Salient passed along the Menin Road which came to symbolize the horrors of the Ypres battles

HILL 62
In 1916 the Flanders front was relatively quiet but in June the Canadians fought a fierce, ultimately successful, battle in the Sanctuary Wood area for possession of Hill 62

HILL 60
Bill 60, scene of fearful underground warfare before final capture by British troops commanded by the King of the Belgians in September 1918

MESSINES RIDGE
Gained by the Germans in November 1914 strategically important Messines Ridge was retaken as a prelude to Third Ypres after the explosion of huge mines, the shock of which was felt in London

MESSINES
The two adversaries of the Second World War, Winston Churchill and Adolf Hitler, served in this area during the Great War

MEININ ROAD
The Memorial bears the names of 11,447 British soldiers missing from many desperate battles fought in the woods throughout the war

MEININ GATE
The archway bears the names of 34,896 of 100,000 British Empire soldiers who died in the terrible battles in and around Ypres and have no known grave

HELLFIRE CORNER
The assault by British and Newfoundland troops on 1 July was unsuccessful. It took 4 months to capture the village

BEAUMONT HAMEL
The Ulster Div. breached German lines on 1 July, the only Allied success in the Allied Sector

THIEPVAL
Commemorating the 1916 Anglo-French offensive, the memorial records the names of 73,367 British and Commonwealth soldiers who died with no known grave

POZIERES
The ridge, a first-day objective, was not taken until 4 August - by British and Australian troops

LA BOISELLE ALBERT
An important supply and control centre for the 1916 offensive by the end of the battle the town was a pile of rubble

LA BOISELLE
The major German stronghold was captured after hard fighting by South African and British troops

DELVILLE WOOD
Mamelets was taken on 1 July. It took ten days of bitter fighting to capture the wood

FLERS
Tanks made their first appearance on 15 September in a British attack on the German line, with limited success

PERONNE
The museum of the Great War presents the historical, sociological and human aspects of the First World War

FROISSY
Part of the railway and locomotives which served the battlefield are preserved

FRANCOIS
The front lines of the British 4th and French 6th armies merge just north of the River Somme

FRANCOIS
The thundering line of battle stands, And in the air Death moans and sings



1916 BATTLE OF THE SOMME The First World War

1916 BATTLE OF THE SOMME

The battle took place between 1 July and 17 November over a fourteen-mile length of the Western Front in the Somme region of Picardy. Planned as a French-led offensive against strongly entrenched German Imperial forces commanded by General Falkenhayn, the desperate French defence of Verdun to the south left the British Empire forces under General Haig to assume the main burden, although the French 6th Army gave strong support in the south. Preceded by an intensive artillery barrage, the main thrust by the British Fourth Army failed to achieve surprise. There were a few breakthroughs but the limited territorial gains from continuing frontal assaults were achieved at the cost of many lives. There were strategic successes and lessons were learned. Tanks were used for the first time by the British. The Germans suffered comparable losses which fatally weakened their army, although the battle proved the effectiveness of the defence-in-depth strategy. When winter ended the battle, both sides were left exhausted in a sea of mud and shell holes.

THE FIRST DAY

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Important Information for Parents

Paper copies available from the front

Peace Village Messines

Nieuwkerkestraat 9a

B-8957 Mesen

T +32 57 226 040

F +32 57 226 045

info@peacevillage.be

Staffing

Mr S. Scriven (Y13 Trip Leader)

sscriven@notredame-high.co.uk

- Miss Coates
- Mr Hare

Mrs E. Shields (Y11 Trip leader)

eshields@notredame-high.co.uk

- Mrs Cleary
- Mr Stepney
- Mr Roden

What to bring

- Passport – handed in to Mr Roden/ Mr Hare
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)
- Money (30-40 Euros?) (Bank card optional – tell provider)
- Sterling – Motorway Services/Ferry
- Packed lunch for Friday (No Peanuts)
- Wellies – plastic bag stored under coach
- **One** suitcase!!!
- Waterproof Coat
- Sun cream
- Mosquito repellent (cream/spray)
- A sharpie/felt tip pen
- * Bank card – optional (tell the bank)
- Phone data abroad – check with provider

If you need to order a card it should arrive in time but a screenshot of the order confirmation on student phone would be helpful if it doesn't

↓
GHIC

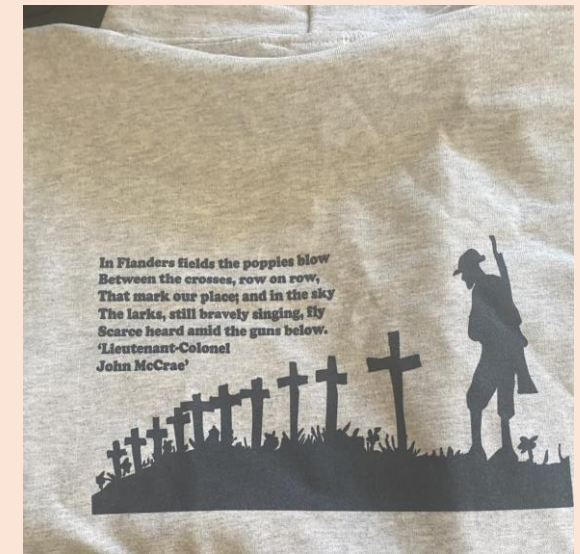


EHIC

↑
If your child has an EHIC that is still valid dates then this can be taken

Friday Departure Checklist/Arrival Issues

- Coach leaves at midnight – please be here by 11.30pm (Thursday) to allow for registering and loading. Ferry is pre-booked – can't be late
- Space for coach at front of school
- Staff will load the coach
- Seat is a fixed position - monitored
- Dover-Calais Ferry Crossing
- No takeaway food or hot drinks
- Hoodies



Code of Conduct

- We don't anticipate any issues!
- Respectful to all
- Safety – Services, Ferries, Town Visits, Site Visits
- Dress Code
- Zero tolerance – alcohol, vaping, drugs, knives
- Issues will be followed up – Could be consequences on the visit itself or upon return to the UK

Personal Information

- Please make sure this has been returned
- Dietary requirements
- Medication
- Medical Issues
- Anything you feel we should know about in order to safeguard your young person whilst abroad with them

Peace Village Messines

Nieuwkerkestraat 9a

B-8957 Mesen

T +32 57 226 040

F +32 57 226 045

info@peacevillage.be

- Breakfast
(Continental)
- Evening Meal
- Packed Lunch
Provided
- Games room for
evening
- 10 minute drive from
Ypres Centre
- Messines the home
of a major battle in
WW1

Accommodation



Room Prizes

We have an excellent reputation at the Peace Village that we are keen to maintain

Before departure each morning there will be a room check from two staff members and tidiness scores will be given

We have high standards!

Prizes

- **1st Prize - 40 Euros**
- **2nd Prize - 30 Euros**
- **3rd Prize - 20 Euros**

However we are also very bribeable!

(You are staying in the capital city of chocolate!)



VS.



**Mr Scriven &
Mr Stepney**



**Mr Roden/Mr
Hare/Mrs Cleary**



**Miss Coates
Mrs Shields**



Itinerary – Friday (Vimy/Flanders)

- Vimy Ridge – Canadian Trenches and Memorial
- Lissenthoek Military Cemetery and Museum (**Nellie Spindler**)
- Poperinghe Town Centre (Shot at Dawn Memorial and Museum)
- Poperinghe New Military Cemetery (Time permitting!)
- Peace Village (Accommodation)



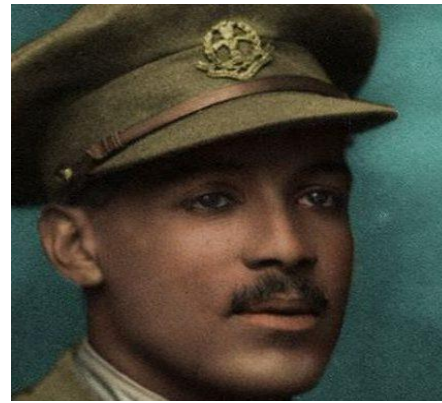
Itinerary – Saturday (The Three Battles of Ypres)

- Sanctuary Wood (trenches, tunnels, museum)
- Klein Vierstraat (**Adam Doig**)
- Ypres Centre (Lunch/Remote Supervision)
- Essex Farm (Clearing Station, **John McCrae, Valentine Strudwick**)
- Langemark (German Cemetery)
- Tyne Cot (British Cemetery)
- Evening Meal
- Menin Gate (Last Post Ceremony)
- Peace Village



Itinerary – Sunday (The Somme)

- Coach to France (90 mins)
- Arras (**Walter Tull**)
- Delville Wood – (The ‘last tree’, South African Memorial and Museum)
- Thiepval (Monument and Museum)
- Beaumont-Hamel (Newfoundland Memorial, Trenches and Museum)
- Serre (The Sheffield Memorial Park and Trenches)
- Coach back to Peace Village
- Evening Meal



Itinerary – Sunday (The Somme)

- On the Sunday we will fit in at some point a reflection/service of remembrance
- We will pick a cemetery we have not been to before.
- We will give each student a wooden cross of remembrance and ask them to choose a headstone to place it on
- It is possible your son/daughter will be the first visitor from the UK to pause and pay respects towards this soldier and we ask students to represent that man's family in that moment
- Students can use their pen to write their name on the cross if they wish to
- We encourage students on their return to the UK to use CWGC to research their soldier

The Lady Haig Cross of Remembrance



Itinerary – Monday

- Return to Sheffield. Calais-Dover Ferry
- Will get students to ring at last services to confirm arrival time
- Approx 17.00-18.00
- Please leave space in front of main gates for our coach to pull into

