



France and Belgium
10-13th May 2018

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Introduction

Dear MPCT Staff, Learners, Parents and MLT Trustees...

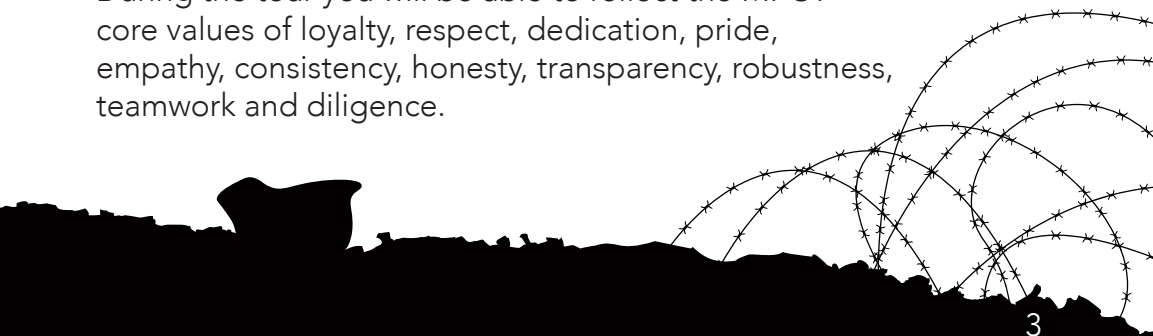
Welcome to the MLT sponsored battlefield tour of the Western Front.

This handbook will help you prepare for the tour and support you to make the most of this truly excellent opportunity. The tour will be conducted by CGT Battlefields, a professional battlefield tour company and is supported by MPCT managers and instructors.

Please read this handbook carefully and comply with all instructions.

From the 10th to the 13th of May 2018, you will be visiting sites around the Somme, Arras and Ypres. You will experience the impact of these horrendous battles and hear stories of immense courage and sacrifice.

During the tour you will be able to reflect the MPCT core values of loyalty, respect, dedication, pride, empathy, consistency, honesty, transparency, robustness, teamwork and diligence.



The Western Front

In terms of proximity, the battlefields of Flanders and France are inextricably linked. Forming a large swath of the trench system which marked the 'Western Front', these two areas of fighting absorbed many of the troops the British army sent to France and Belgium.

Indeed, many regiments and larger units such as Brigades and Corps could be moved between the two areas of operations as and when required.

Back home in Britain civilians identified with names of places mentioned in newspapers as many had family members serving there. Into these stretches of trenches men from Canada, Newfoundland, Australia and New Zealand also served. This was the British Empire standing shoulder to shoulder, with many Indian regiments also serving along this stretch of the front line.



The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

Both sides deployed new methods of fighting to the battlefield around Ypres and the Somme, including poison gas, flame-throwers and tanks. Whilst the casualty list from the Western Front filled pages in the national newspapers, the news of the losses from the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916 was heart-breaking for many families.

On that day the great offensive resulted in nearly 58,000 casualties for the British Army alone, of which over 19,000 were killed. The battles around Ypres and the Somme would claim the lives of hundreds of thousands of men from all sides. As the war drew to an end on 11th November 1918 some of the last shots of the war were fired as the time approached 11am and the Armistice.



Joining Instructions

Introduction

Your tour pack contains a lot of information you require it should be read carefully before you depart, you should also carry a copy of these instructions with you throughout your tour.

Everything has been done to ensure that your tour runs as smoothly as possible. If there is any aspect of the tour that you are dissatisfied with, can we please request that you bring them to our attention immediately, so we can do everything in our power to resolve it - we aim to resolve all matters during the tour.

Emergency Contact Numbers

Tour operator 24 Hour emergency telephone numbers:

07710547688 and 07542788905



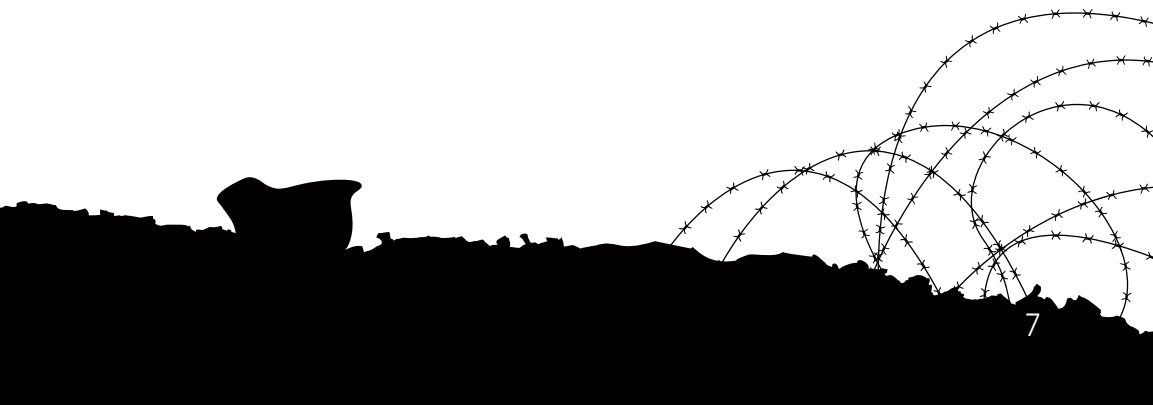
Nominated Staff

The following staff will be taking part in the battlefield tour and have the nominated appointments:

Name	Appointment	Remarks
Mike Ronan	IC	Coach 1
Allan Peet	Logistics Manager	Coach 1
Mike Toyne	IC Coach 1	Coach 1
Ian Sanger	IC Coach 2	Coach 2
Claire West	Female Chaperone Welfare Officer	Coach 1
Roshan Poudel	Group Leader	Coach 1
Louise Sanger	Volunteer	Coach 2
Manny Manfred	MLT	Coach 1
Dave Morris	MLT	Coach 1

Coaches

Drivers are responsible for the safety of all passengers on board the coach and safety instructions given by our drivers should be adhered to.



The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

Please note that your driver may not be familiar with all the sites that you are visiting, the guide should liaise with the driver and provide directions as necessary. It is noted that the coach may encounter difficult terrain, if at any point the coach driver feels it is unsafe to proceed (both in terms of safety of the passengers/and or damage to the coach) he/she is well within their rights to stop at any point.

Coaches cannot gain access to some touring areas, therefore the driver will take you as far as he/she can and the sites will need to be reached on foot.

Coach Pick Ups

All Staff and Learners are to be at the collection points at least 30 minutes prior to the departure of the coach to ensure that coach departs on time.

Safety on board

Is of the utmost importance throughout your coach journey. On all journeys please ensure that:

- On UK coaches, seatbelts provided must be worn by all members of the party at all times.

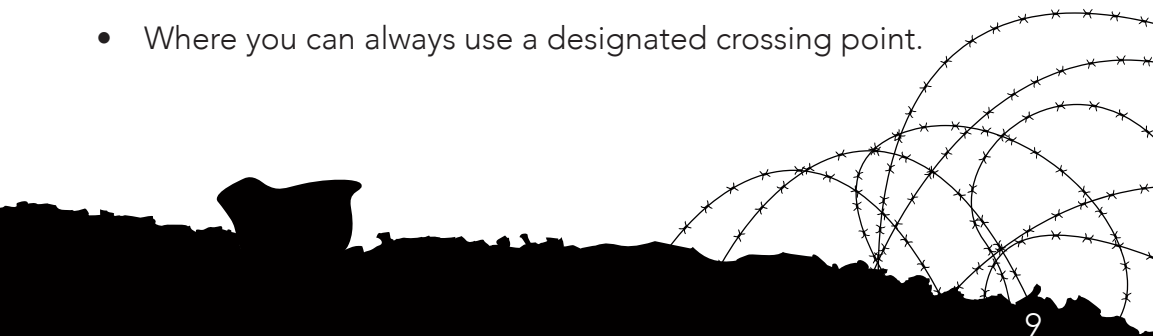


- Where available on overseas coaches seatbelts must be worn by all members at all times.
- The group should familiarise themselves with the locations of the coach's emergency exits.
- That selected adults within the group, with the assistance of the coach driver, are able to operate these exits.
- An adult is to be seated next to the emergency exit(s) on the coach.
- A head count is completed every time the group re-join the coach.
- Embarkation and disembarkation of the coach is supervised at all times due to possible traffic around the set down/pick up point.

Road Safety

The rule of roads abroad is not always the same as here in the UK:

- Be watchful at all times. Be aware of the direction of the traffic, taking time to look both ways before crossing.
- Where you can always use a designated crossing point.



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- Be aware of buses, cyclists and trams that share the road.
- In some countries traffic may not be required to stop at pedestrian crossings.

Passports

All members of the tour require a valid passport and EHIC card. You will hand these over to your centre staff prior to, or on departure for the tour.

Please also take into account any countries that you may be travelling through. We cannot accept any responsibility for delays or cancellations caused by the correct documentation not being held by your group.

Personal Security

As you will be in MPCT uniform during the tour, it is essential that your behaviour is of the highest standards.

You are to be vigilant at all times and report any incident or suspicious activity to your staff or guides immediately.

Ensure you keep your bags at hand, as unattended bags could cause a security incident.



Contact numbers

24hr emergency contact number (CGT Staff)	+44 (0)7710547688 +44 (0)7542788905
Poppies Hostel, Albert	+33 (0) 322 750342
The Salient Hostel, Ypres	+32 (0) 457 209850
Hospital Centre d'Albert	+33 (0) 322 744100
Jan Yperman Hospital, Ypres	+32 (0) 573 53535
Wellington Quarry Museum	+33 (0) 321512695
Hooge Crater Museum	+32 (0) 57468712
Mr Mike Ronan (Senior MPCT Staff Member)	+44 (0) 7572073995
Mr Allan Peet (Logistics Manager)	+44 (0) 7779618382
Staff Mike Toye (Coach 1 IC)	+44 (0) 7766767021
Staff Ian Sanger (Coach 2 IC)	+44 (0) 7861462594
Staff Claire West (Female Chaperone/Welfare Officer)	+44 (0) 7887566624

Clothing and Equipment

In order to be safe, comfortable and up hold the MPCT core values, the following clothing and equipment is to be taken on the battle field tour. Individuals are responsible for the safety and security of any equipment, money or valuables taken on this trip. All clothing should be packed in a single holdall or suitcase. You may bring a small daysack on the bus for personal items. You require the following equipment:

Item	Qty	Check	Remarks
Passport and EHIC card	1		Hand in to staff at your centre or when boarding the coach.
Spending money			No more than £100
Padlock	1		2 keys
MPCT Uniform (Boots, trousers, polo, sweatshirt)	2		1 pair of boots only
Tracksuit	1		
MPCT PT Kit (Trainers, shorts, T-Shirt)	2		
Underwear and socks	6		
Coat/jacket	1		Waterproof jacket issued by MPCT



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Boot cleaning kit	1		
Towels (hand and bath)	1		
Wash kit	1		Including toothbrush and toothpaste. Sanitary products for Females.
Smart Civilian clothing	2		
Not book, pencil and pen	1		
Nightwear	1		
Sandals/flip flops			
Book/Kindle/Ipod	1		As required
Coat hangers	1		As required

Food and Drink

As most Learners are under 18, there will be no alcohol consumed during the battlefield tour. Any Learner who has or appears to have consumed alcohol will be subject to disciplinary action and may be removed from the programme on return to the UK. As all staff are on duty for the duration of the tour, therefore, no alcohol is to be consumed at any time.

The following meals will be provided during the tour:

Day 1 - Evening meal

Day 2 - Breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal

Day 3 - Breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal

Day 4 - Breakfast and packed lunch

Drugs

The usual zero tolerance approach will be taken if Learners take or appear to take illegal drugs. Any substance abuse will result in dismissal from the programme and referral to the police on return to the UK.

Accommodation

You will be accommodated in hostels for 3 nights during your tour. Night 1 and 2 will be in Albert, France and night 3 in Ypres, Belgium.

You will receive a full brief on arrival at your hostel. All bedding is provided; however, you will need to make your own beds. Towels are not provided.

Staff have been allocated an accommodation plan for each night of the tour. Accommodation plan is fixed and cannot be changed due to fire risk assessments. Do not change rooms once allocated.



Health and Safety Points

All staff are to hold a copy of the staff administrative instruction, which contains signed risk assessments for all activities.

There is a full medical and incident management plan for the trip and all MPCT staff are first aid trained. This plan is contained within the staff administrative instruction.

Do not take risks at all. Listen to and act on any instructions given to you by staff, guides or hostel staff.

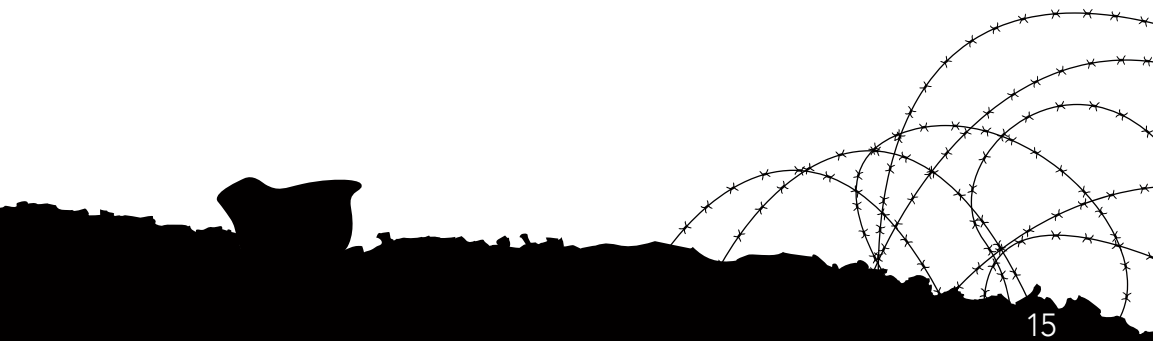
Report any incidents or accidents immediately.

Please take care of personal belongings and money. A nominal roll will be taken before the bus leaves each location, use this check to ensure you have all your belongings before the bus moves.

Ensure you lock your rooms whenever you leave and use the safety deposit box whenever possible.

Window restrictors are not a legal requirement in France and Belgium, therefore all staff and learners are to be aware of this risk.

Finally, doors and windows may not be made of safety glass. Care should be taken when entering or exiting buildings.



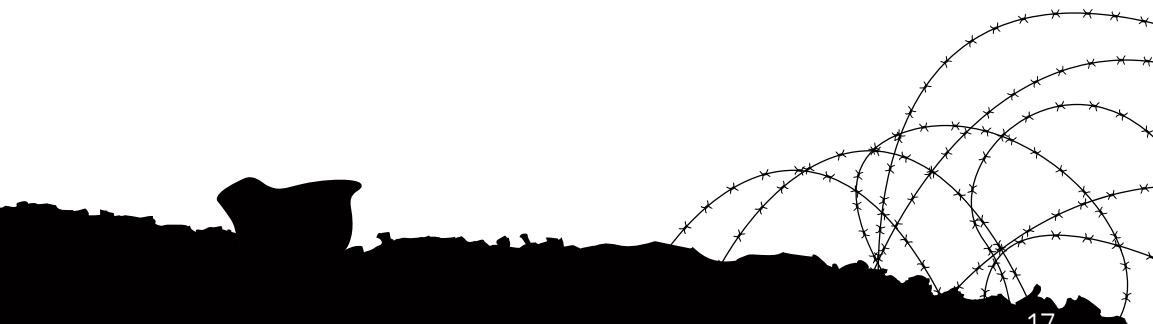
The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

Day 1 - 10th May 2018				
Ser	Time	Location	Activity	Remarks
			Coach 1	
1	0535hrs	Bridgend	Coaches report for loading	Bridgend, adjacent to Sam Odeon
2	0545hrs	Bridgend	Depart	
3	0630hrs	Newport	Depart from MPCT Newport. Collect Cardiff, Newport and Bristol Learners	Raglan Barracks, Newport, NP20 5XE
4	0815hrs	Leigh Delamare Services (Eastbound)	Collect Learners from: Gloucester Collect Brian Shaw	
5	1045hrs	Aldershot	Depart from MPCT Collect Aldershot, IOW, Portsmouth and Aldershot Learners.	Browning Barracks, Aldershot, GU11 2BY
6	1340hrs	Folkstone	Check in to Eurotunnel	
7	1440hrs (Local)	Folkstone	Eurotunnel departs Sports Ambassadors Page	
8	1625hrs (Local)	Calais	Arrive at Calais	Travel to the Somme. Watch IWM's "Battle of the Somme" and the BBC's "The Somme".
9	1825hrs	Albert	Arrive and check in to Pop- pies Hostel	
10	1900hrs	Albert	Dinner	



The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

Day 1 - 10th May 2018				
Ser	Time	Location	Activity	Remarks
			Coach 2	
1	0545hrs	Wrexham	Coaches report for loading Collect Bangor, Wrexham and Liverpool Learners.	MPCT Wrexham, Wrexham, LL13 7YP
2	0600hrs	Wrexham	Depart	
3	0815hrs	Frankley Services (Southbound)	Collect Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Dudley Learners.	
4	1155hrs	Clackett Lane Services (Eastbound)	Collect Eastbourne and Croydon Learners.	
5	1340hrs	Folkstone	Check in to Eurotunnel	
6	1440hrs (Local)	Folkstone	Eurotunnel departs	
7	1625hrs (Local)	Calais	Arrive at Calais Collect Jon Wort	Travel to the Somme. Watch IWM's "Battle of the Somme" and the BBC's "The Somme".
8	1825hrs	Albert	Arrive and check in to Pop- pies Hostel	
9	1900hrs	Albert	Dinner	
10	2030hrs	Albert	Brief for Day 2	



The Great War - 1914-1918

World War One (WW1) seems like a very long time ago, especially when there have been plenty of wars since then; but WW1 changed modern warfare. Millions of men fought in the battles from all across the world. For the first time the role of British women changed in war. In the UK, young women worked in factories and on farms, others travelled to the battlefields to be nurses and ambulance drivers.

2018 will see the 100th anniversary of the end of the WW1 and it is important that we remember these men and the families they left behind.



The assassination of Archduke Frans Ferdinand (heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne) and his wife Sophie in Sarajevo on the 28th June 1914, by the “Black Hand”, a Serbian nationalist society, set in train a mindless series of events that culminated in the world’s first global war. One thing led to another so quickly, that within 2 months of the assassination, the first world war was underway.

Britain found itself obligated to defend Belgium and also had a treaty agreement to come to the defence of France. Britain declared war on Germany on 4th August 1914 and like France, was also by extension at war with Austria-Hungary.



General Sir Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig

The British Expeditionary Force was under the control of British General Sir Douglas Haig.

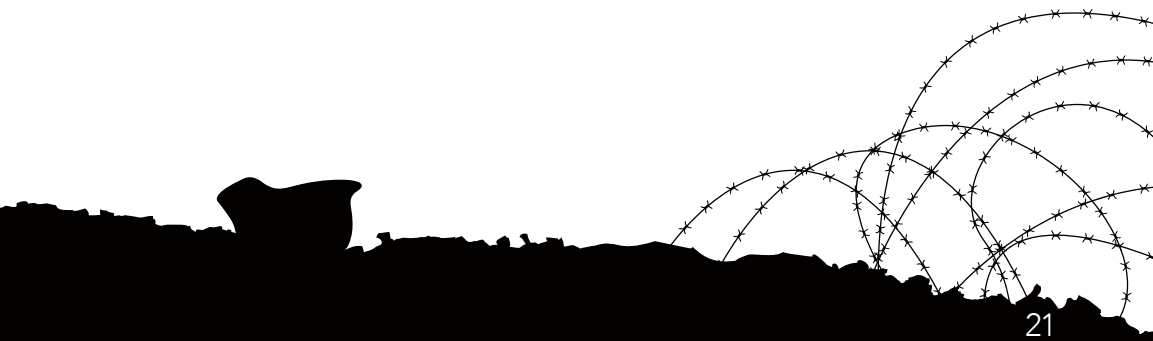
History has criticised the performance of the Generals involved in the first world war and certainly General Haig has taken his share of that criticism.

He was under enormous pressure however to change the stalemate and his strategy to do so was a planned breakthrough on the Ypres front, accompanied by an attack by the Royal Navy on the U Boat bases in the German occupied Belgian ports of Oostend and Zeebrugge.



Battle of the Somme Key information

Description	British	French	German
Commanders -in-Chief	General Sir Douglas Haig	Marshal Joseph Joffre General Ferdinand Foch	General Erich von Falkenhayn
Principal Force Commanders	General Sir Henry Rawlinson, Fourth Army General Sir Edmund Allenby, Third Army General Sir Hubert Gough, Reserve Army	General Emile Fayolle, Sixth Army General Alfred Micheler, Tenth Army	General der Infanterie Fritz von Below, Second Army Generalleutnant Hermann von Stein, XIV Reserve Corps
Principle Forces Engaged	Third Army Fourth Army Reserve Army	Sixth Army Tenth Army	Second Army
Casualties	419,654	202,567	583,000



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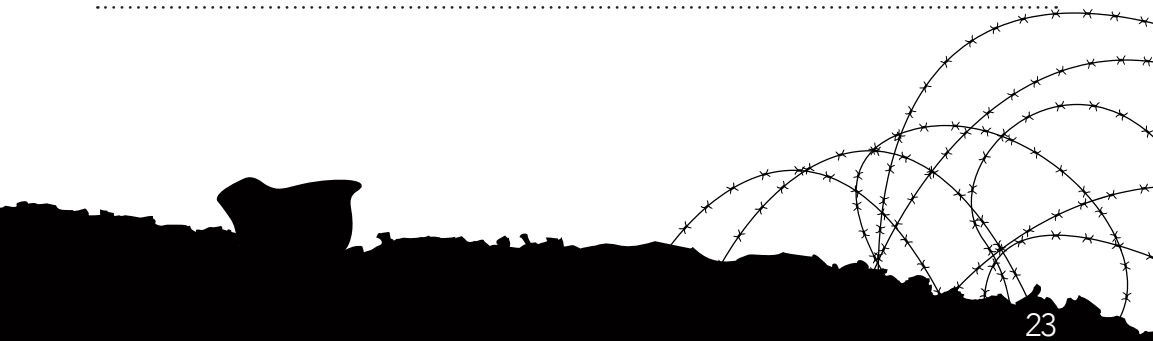
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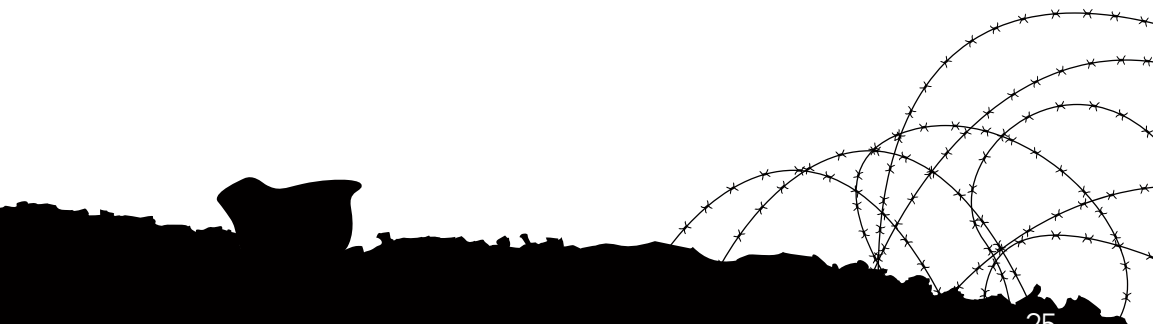
The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

Day 2 - 11th May 2018					
Ser	Time	Location	Activity		Remarks
			Coach 1	Coach 2	
11	0730hrs	Albert	Breakfast		
12	0800hrs	Albert	Depart hostel for the day		
13	0830hrs	Mametz/ Serre	Mametz Wood	Sheffield Memorial Park	First day of the Somme: Pals Battalions. New Model Army. Casualties. Qualities of an Armed Forces Professional.
14	1000hrs	Mametz/ Beaumont- Hamel	Devonshire Trench	Newfoundland Park	First day of the Somme: Newfoundland Regiment. The 'Tree of Death'. Y Ravine. Hunters Cemetery. Pte Ginger Byrne.
15	1200hrs	Fricourt/ Thiepval	German Cemetery	Ulster Tower	First day of the Somme: 36th Ulster Division. Pte McFadzean VC. Schwabben Redoubt.
16	1330hrs	La Boisselle/ Thiepval	Lochnager Crater	Remembrance and Reflection	Memorial to the missing: Notable names. Wreath laying.
17	1430hrs	Thiepval/ La Boisselle	Remembrance and Reflection	Lochnager Crater	Underground operations and reasons for this type of warfare.



The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

Day 2 - 11th May 2018 (continued)					
Ser	Time	Location	Activity		Remarks
			Coach 1	Coach 2	
18	1530hrs	Thiepval/ Fricourt	Ulster Tower	German Cemetery	The effect of the war and the importance of respect for others.
19	1630hrs	Beaumont- Hamel/ Mametz	Newfoundland Park	Devonshire Trench	The Devons on the first day of the Somme. Noel Hodgson the poet.
20	1730hrs	Serre/ Mametz	Sheffield Memorial Park	Mametz Wood	38th Welsh Division. Section battle drills. Command and control.
21	1830hrs	Albert	Arrive at Poppies Hostel		
22	1930hrs	Albert	Dinner		
23	2030hrs	Albert	Brief on Day 3		



The Battle of the Somme

The battle lasted for nearly 5 months and was one of the most bitterly contested and costly battles of World War 1 (WW1). The offensive began on 1 July 1916 with Sir Douglas Haig as the British Commander in Chief.

Although relatively little progress was made, some gains were achieved and the British forces took a strip of territory 6 miles (10km) deep by 20 miles (32km) long.

There were over a million casualties throughout the battle, with the first day representing the largest losses suffered by the British Army in any single day. By the end of the first day nearly 60,000 casualties were sustained, of whom just over 19,000 were killed.



It was the first major battle of Britain's new volunteer army. The Battle of the Somme, the largest offensive the British Army had yet launched, was the first to be fought by a largely citizen army made up of civilian volunteers rather than professional soldiers. This meant that many of the attacking British infantry did not have battlefield experience. The New Army often referred to as Kitchener's Mob was formed in the United Kingdom from 1914 onwards and included men who had joined Pals battalions.



Although very costly in relation to the number of casualties, the British Army gained valuable experience during the battle. The army evolved from inexperience to battle-hardened, which was also true of British commanders. The army began to use new tactics which proved to be equally costly for the German Army.

The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

20 million people saw film footage from the battle. An official documentary film, *The Battle of the Somme*, was the first feature-length film to record soldiers in action.

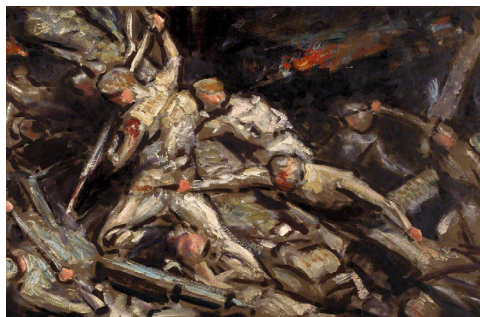
It was filmed by the official cinematographers Geoffrey Malins and John McDowell, who filmed the build-up and early days of the battle. When the film was shown in cinemas from 21 August 1916, an estimated 20 million people saw it in the first months of its release. Scan the QR code below to watch the film.



Mametz Wood

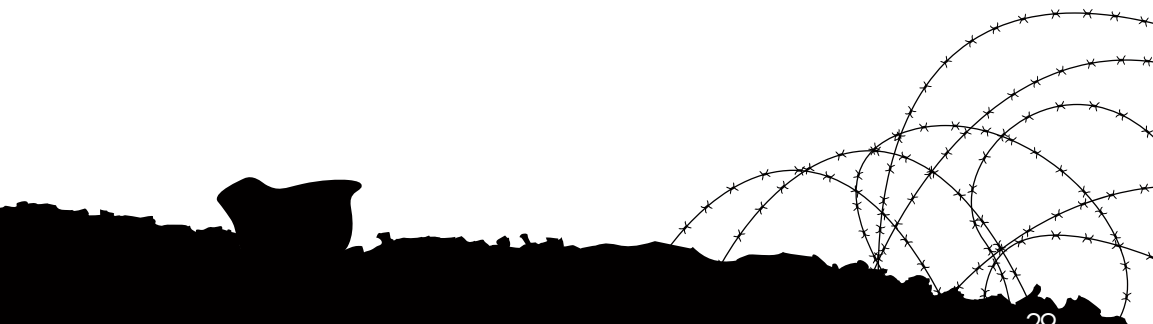
Even though the first day of the Somme was a disaster, advances were made in the south, and the villages of Mametz, Montauban and, on 2nd of July, Fricourt was taken.

It then became possible for the generals to plan an attack on the second line of German defences, but first they had to take Mametz Wood; Mametz Wood was large, overgrown and defended by experienced German troops.



The 38th (Welsh) Division paved the way for control of the woodland, nearly a mile wide and more than a mile deep. Its capture was of key importance in the Battle of the Somme.

The 38th Division had been raised in late 1914 as part of Kitchener's New Army and some 20,000 Welsh volunteers sailed for France late in 1915, and went into the trenches in January 1916. Formations like it were being raised all over the country, but Wales more than played its part in fielding the huge new army.



The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

During a bloody five-day battle 3,993 Welsh soldiers were killed, missing or injured, putting their division out of action for almost a year.

Soldiers fighting on the front line consisted of “Pals” battalions such as the 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment, the 11th (2nd Gwents) Battalion of the South Wales Borderers and the 14th (Swansea).



In spite of the size of population in Wales, The Royal Welch Fusiliers raised the fourth highest number of battalions, a total of 45, of all regiments on the army list during the war.

The first attack, on 7th July 1916, failed to reach the wood. Welsh soldiers, who were expected to make a frontal assault in daylight on German positions, were machine-gunned as they moved across open fields.

The attack of 7th July had been hindered by heavy rain which turned the ground into sticky mud. Now the weather was hot, reaching 82 degrees Fahrenheit and there was not enough fresh water to go around.

Another assault on the wood was planned for 10th July. This time the attack was launched at dawn and was preceded by a heavy artillery barrage of German positions.

Wood fighting was brutal, much of it involving hand-to-hand combat, and German resistance was fierce. The plan of attack had envisaged the wood being taken by 08:15 on 10th July, in fact, it took until 12th July for the enemy to withdraw completely.



The Welsh troops had not been trained for this kind of warfare. Once in the wood, visibility was restricted and it was difficult to keep one's bearings. The war record of

the 38th (Welsh) Division was controversial at the time. Rumours circulated of Welsh troops bolting and panicked; their bravery never really acknowledged.

The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

The memorial, erected in 1987 by Welsh sculptor David Petersen, is a Welsh red dragon on top of a 3 metre stone plinth. It was commissioned by the South Wales Branch of the Western Front Association following a public funding-raising appeal. It can be reached from the village of Mametz.

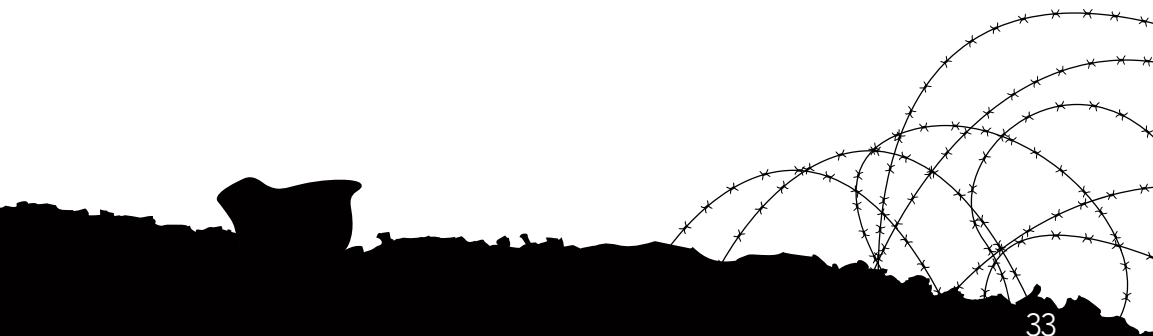


Newfoundland Park

Newfoundland was a British Dominion at the time of the Great War, and like other Commonwealth countries raised an army of volunteers for the war effort. After serving in Turkey during the Gallipoli Campaign, the Newfoundland Regiment was deployed at Beaumont-Hamel.

Upon a battlefield that had already seen extreme losses and death, the Newfoundlanders were called upon to join in the fight, but found themselves immediately caught under German machine gun fire. Only 68 of the 801 men who had gone into battle answered the roll call the next day. The Newfoundland Regiment had suffered one of the highest casualty rates of the 1st July 1916.

After the First World War, the Newfoundland Government acquired the land where this action had taken place to erect a memorial to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. Designed by the landscape-architect Rudolph H. K. Cochius, it covers 30 hectares of battlefield and was inaugurated in 1925 by Field-Marshal Earl Douglas Haig. With its remarkably well-preserved trenches, this memorial park enables visitors to better visualise a First World War battlefield.



The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

The Newfoundland Memorial depicts a bronze caribou, designed by Basil Gotto, which stands atop a rocky mound and overlooks the former battlefield.



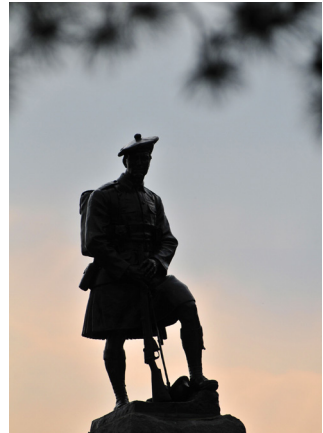
Three bronze plaques at the base of the memorial commemorate 820 men from the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve and the Mercantile Marine who gave their lives during the Great War and whose bodies have never been found or identified.

Y Ravine

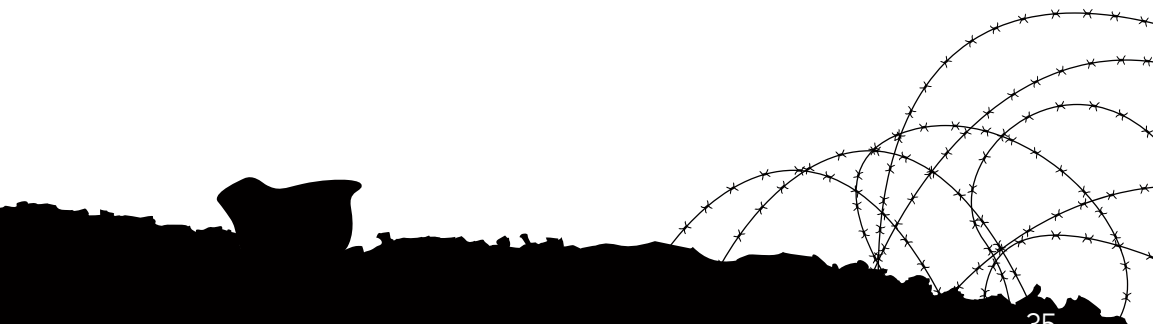
The cemetery was made by the British V Corps in the spring of 1917, when these battlefields were cleared. It was called originally "Y" Ravine Cemetery No. 1. The No. 2 cemetery was concentrated after the Armistice into Ancre British Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel.

There are now over 400 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over a third are unidentified. The cemetery covers an area of 1,166 square metres and is enclosed by a rubble wall.

Another memorial, at the entrance to the memorial park, is dedicated to the 29th Division, to which the Newfoundland Regiment was attached, and a third memorial can be found on the other side of the park in remembrance of the 51st Highland Division, who captured these German positions on 13th November 1916.



One single tree survived the devastation in the area: this is the skeleton of the "Danger Tree", named as it was situated at a particularly exposed area. The tree stands as a natural monument to the fallen of the Newfoundland Regiment and is considered just as important a memorial as the Caribou and park itself.



Ulster Tower and Mill Road Cemetery

The 36th (Ulster) Division was deployed to France in September 1915 where it spent the winter on the Somme front. By mid-March 1916, the Division was sent to hold front line positions astride the River Ancre, between Beaumont Hamel and Thiepval. Following a week long artillery bombardment, the 36th (Ulster) Division went into battle at 7.30am on the 1st July 1916.

Leaving their trenches early, and before the bombardment had moved on, the battalions caught the Germans in their bunkers and advanced well into enemy lines. The attacks on Thiepval and Beaumont-Hamel failed, however, and the Germans were able to turn their full force onto the Ulster men. The Division, having suffered well over 5000 casualties, was withdrawn from battle the next day.

A memorial now stands upon the ground where men from Ulster fought and died. The Ulster Tower is a replica of Helen's Tower from the Dufferin and Ava Estate at Clondeboye, where the Ulster Division trained before arriving in France. Financed by public subscriptions and built in 1921, this mock Gothic style tower is a memorial to the soldiers of the Ulster Battalions (Royal Irish Fusiliers, Inniskilling Fusiliers, Royal Irish Rifles) who fought here on the 1st July 1916.



In the memorial grounds, a plaque remembers the Division's nine Victoria Cross winners. One of the men is Private Robert Quigg, from Bushmills, who searched No Man's Land looking for his officer Sir Harry Macnaghten. Another recipient of the VC was Private McFadzean of the 14th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rifles who threw himself on top of hand grenades thrown into the trench, killing himself, but injuring only one other.

Mill Road Cemetery was created by the British once the Germans had withdrawn to the Hindenburg Line in the spring of 1917. When the Armistice was signed, the cemetery contained 260 burials. To these were added bodies found upon the battlefield and from small temporary cemeteries.

Completed in the 1920s, the cemetery now contains the graves of just over 1300 soldiers of the First World War, of which 68% are unidentified.



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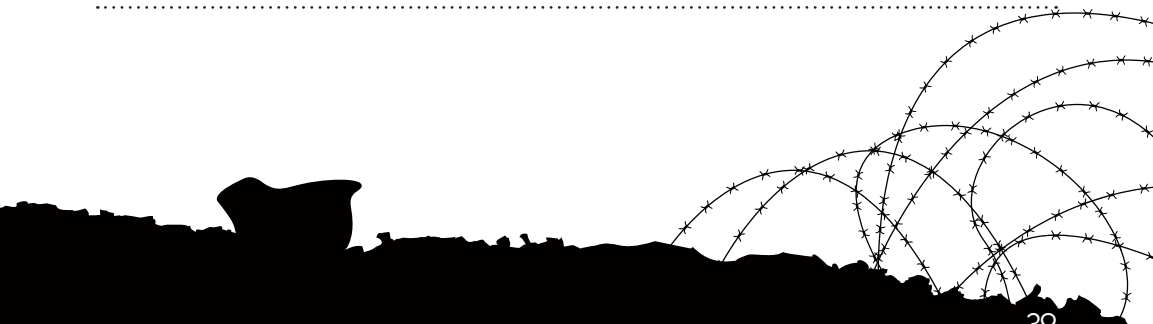
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Battle of the Somme Quiz

Now you have spent the day on the Battle of the Somme, using your notes, have a go at answering these questions.

Q1. What is the total area of territory taken during the battle?

Q2. When were tanks used for the first time?

Q3. What is the name of the battalion that was made up of friends, relatives and workmates from the same communities?

Q4. Where did the Allied leaders meet on the 6-8th December 1915 to plan their strategy for 1916?



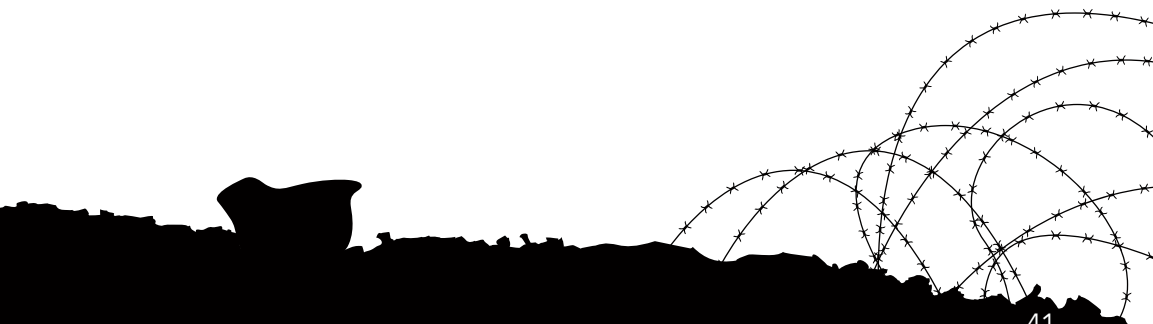
Q5. Who inaugurated Newfoundland Park Memorial?

Q6. How many memorials did you visit during your visit to the Newfoundland Park?

Q8. The Ulster Tower is a replica of which building?

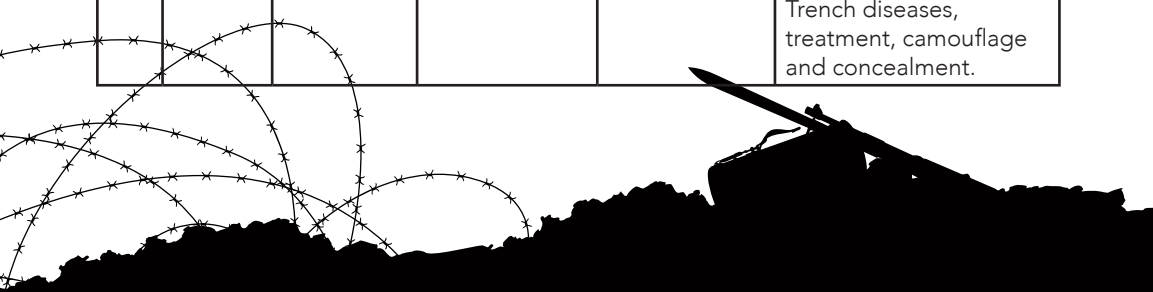
Q9. How was the tower financed?

Q10. When was Private McFadzean VC awarded?



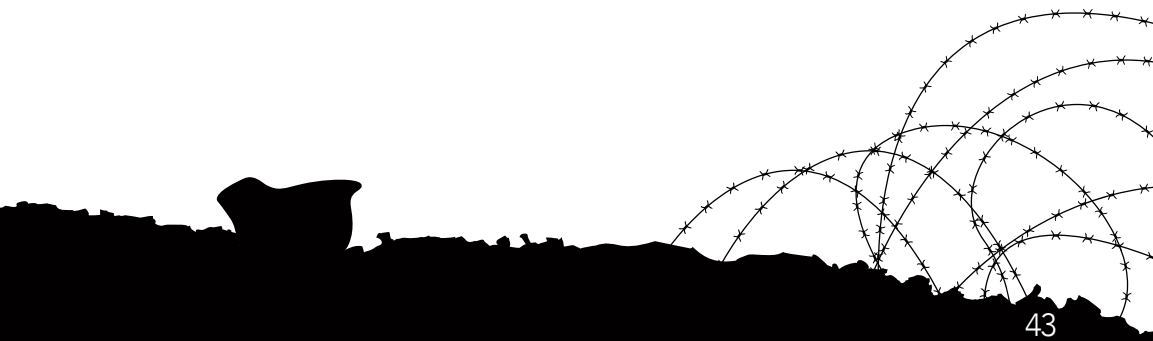
The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

Ser	Time	Location	Activity		Remarks
Day 3 - 12th May 2018					
			Coach 1	Coach 2	
24	0730hrs	Albert	Breakfast		
25	0800hrs	Albert	Depart hostel for Arras		
26	0900hrs	Arras	Arras Memorial		Memorable graves: RFC memorial - (Maj Mannocks VC). Arras Memorial - (Lt Walter Tull). Muslim plot. Russian soldier.
27	1000hrs	Arras	Wellington Quarry		Battle of Arras. NZ tunnellers. Tour of tunnels.
28	1200hrs	Arras	Vimy Ridge		Battle of Vimy Ridge. Canadian Forces Memorial on the Western Front.
29	1300hrs	Arras	Depart for Ypres		
30	1400hrs	Ypres	Frontline walk to Railway Wood	Hooge Crater Museum	Soldiers spirit through training and service values, giving them strength to live and fight in harsh conditions: Conditions in WW1 and current operations, admin in the field, sentries and stand to. Trench diseases, treatment, camouflage and concealment.



The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

Ser	Time	Location	Activity		Remarks
Day 3 - 12th May 2018 (continued)					
			Coach 1	Coach 2	
31	1530hrs	Ypres	Hooze Crater Museum	Frontline walk to Railway Wood	Study of the trench lines of 1915/16: Judging distance. Target indication. Use of snipers. Evolution of mine warfare.
32	1630hrs	Ypres	Menin Gate		Memorial to the missing and the last post association.
33	1800hrs	Ypres	Dinner		
34	1930hrs	Ypres	Menin Gate Last Post ceremony		A time to reflect and be proud: Respect of others. Remembrance. The missing. Wreath Laying.
35	2030hrs	Ypres	Free time		
36	2130hrs	Ypres	Return to Salient Hostel		
37	2200hrs	Ypres	Brief on Day 4		Sort Admin for return



Arras

The Battle of Arras was a major British offensive lasting from 9th April to 16th May 1917. The ground and date chosen for the battle was dictated by a desire to cooperate with the French.

An attack in the Arras region was not the choice of the British Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Haig, who wanted the main effort of his armies to be directed north, around the Ypres salient. He hoped to clear the Belgian coastline, increasingly important to the Germans' submarine offensive, and capture the strategically important railhead of Roulers, whose loss to the Germans would seriously hamper their war effort on this sector of the Western Front. However, Haig's plan was overruled by Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, who also made attempts to have Haig put under the direct command of Nivelle.

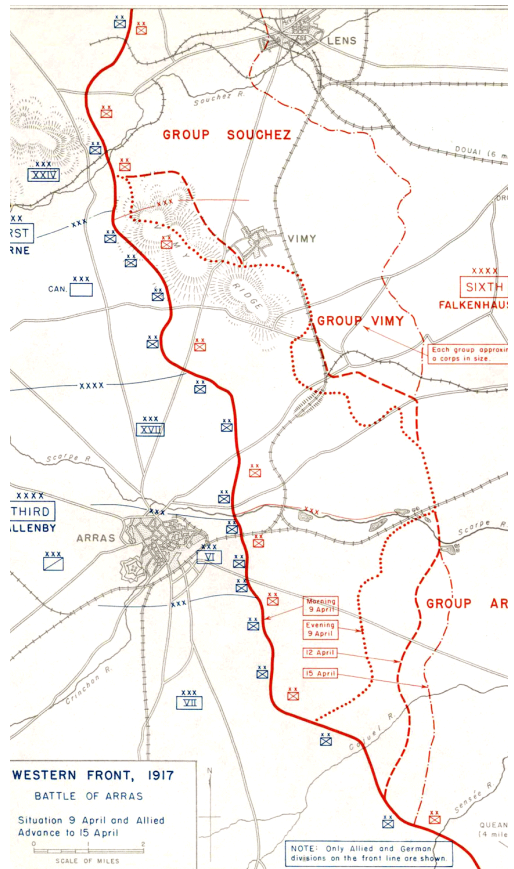


The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

Much of the battlefield of Arras is relatively flat. However, to the north of the city rises Vimy ridge, held by the Germans and dominating the local countryside. The capture of this ridge formed one of the major British objectives of the battle: so long as it was held by the Germans, the British lines of communication were under constant observation.

By attacking Vimy Ridge, the Canadian and British forces of General Horne's First Army, were able to eject the German defenders. The attacks south of the ridge made by General Allenby's Third Army, were preceded by a considerable artillery barrage comprising both high explosives and gas.

Third Army's attack was so successful initially that advances were made up to a depth of three and a half miles, the farthest advance achieved in the west since the advent of trench warfare in 1914.



Ypres

The task of breaking through the Ypres front was entrusted to General Hubert Gough and the major problem was how to break through the defensive positions, which the Germans had taken up on the West Flanders Ridge - a line of low hills between 40 to 60 meters in height. A key to the breakthrough plan was taking the village of Passchendaele, sitting atop the Bellevue Ridge. This proved to be the most difficult part of the plan.

Throughout history, many wars have been fought on Flanders Fields. Germany's invasion of Belgium on 4th August 1914, brought the First World War to Belgium and with it an unimaginable scale of carnage.



Just as the Battle of the Somme was a series of battles over 5 months, the Battle for Passchendaele was a series of battles fought between July and November 1917: La Basseville, Pilkem Ridge, Langemark, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde and Poelcapelle all leading up to the disastrous first Battle of Passchendaele on 12th October 1917.

The importance of the Battle of Passchendaele is that in a strategic sense it contributed to the reasons which brought World War 1 to an end. Because the Germans were kept busy in the north for so long, they were unable to attack the defenceless French to the south. They were also unable to support the Belgian ports of Oostende and Zeebrugge where German U boats were based. Perhaps most importantly, they lost so much equipment that the German industry could not replace and so the war of attrition ended because the Germans were deprived of the resources which they needed to win the war.



Ypres - Key facts and figures

Officially known as the Third Battle of Ypres, Passchendaele became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but also for the mud.

Ypres was the principal town within a salient (or bulge) in the British lines and the site of two previous battles: First Ypres (October-November 1914) and Second Ypres (April-May 1915).

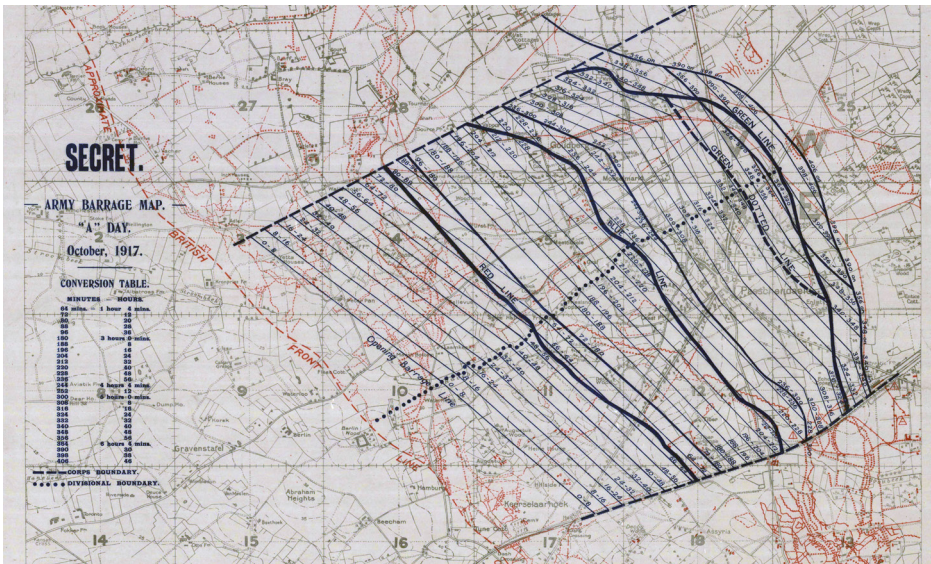
Haig had long wanted a British offensive in Flanders and, following a warning that the German blockade would soon cripple the British war effort, wanted to reach the Belgian coast to destroy the German submarine bases there. On top of this, the possibility of a Russian withdrawal from the war threatened German redeployment from the Eastern front to increase their reserve strength dramatically.

The British were further encouraged by the success of the attack on Messines Ridge on 7th June 1917, where 19 huge mines were exploded simultaneously. The capture of the ridge inflated Haig's confidence and preparations began.



The flatness of the plain made stealth impossible: as with the Somme, the Germans knew an attack was imminent and the initial bombardment served as final warning. It lasted two weeks, with 4.5 million shells fired from 3,000 guns, but again failed to destroy the heavily fortified German positions.

The infantry attack began on 31st July. Constant shelling had churned the clay soil and smashed the drainage systems.



Within a few days, the heaviest rain for 30 years had turned the soil into a quagmire, producing thick mud that clogged up rifles and immobilised tanks. It eventually became so deep that men and horses drowned in it.



The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

On 16th August the attack was resumed, to little effect. Stalemate reigned for another month until an improvement in the weather prompted another attack on 20th September.

The Battle of Menin Road Ridge, along with the Battle of Polygon Wood on 26th September and the Battle of Broodseinde on 4th October, established British possession of the ridge east of Ypres.

The eventual capture of what little remained of Passchendaele village by British and Canadian forces on 6th November finally gave Haig an excuse to call off the offensive and claim success.



It had taken over 3 months to cover barely 5 miles beyond the starting point of Haig's offensive. There were 325,000 Allied and 260,000 German casualties to do little more than make the bump of the Ypres salient somewhat larger.

For the sake of a few kilometres, the British had lost 310,000 men.

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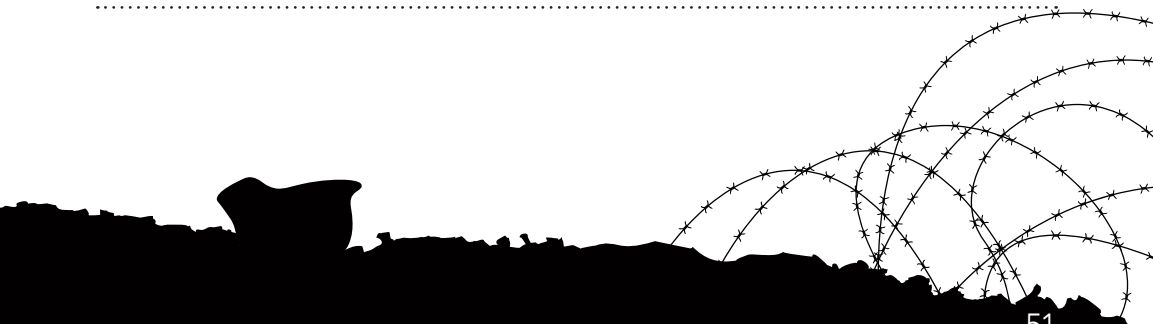
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The Menin Gate

Between October 1914 and September 1918 hundreds of thousands of servicemen of the British Empire marched through the town of Ypres's Menin Gate on their way to the battlefields. The memorial now stands as a reminder of those who died who have no known grave and is perhaps one of the most well-known war memorials in the world.

Building of the memorial began in 1923 and on 24 July 1927, it was unveiled by Field Marshal Lord Plumer. Veterans, relatives of those commemorated and local people attended. Dignitaries included King Albert I of Belgium and Marshal Ferdinand Foch, Commander of French forces during the war.

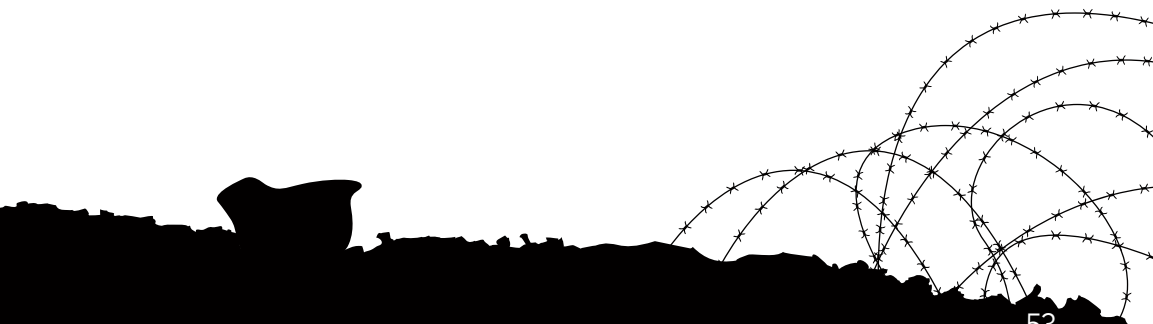
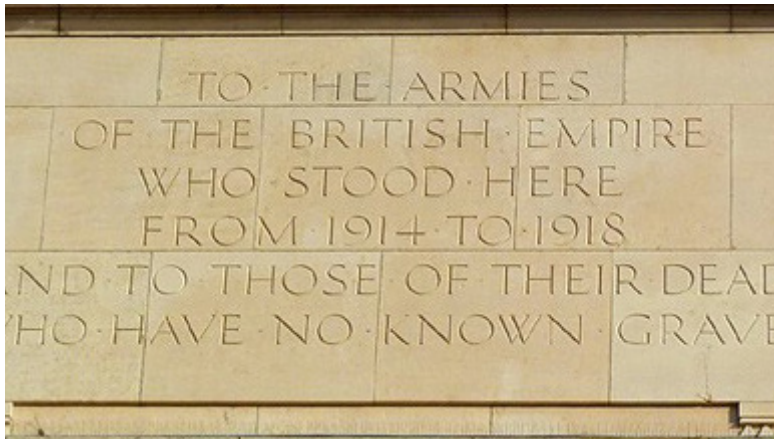


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It commemorates casualties from the forces of Australia, Canada, India, South Africa and United Kingdom who died in the Salient. In the case of United Kingdom casualties, only those prior 16 August 1917 (with some exceptions).

United Kingdom and New Zealand servicemen who died after that date are named on the memorial at Tyne Cot, a site which marks the furthest point reached by Commonwealth forces in Belgium until nearly the end of the war.

New Zealand casualties that died prior to 16 August 1917 are commemorated on memorials at Buttes New British Cemetery and Messines Ridge British Cemetery.



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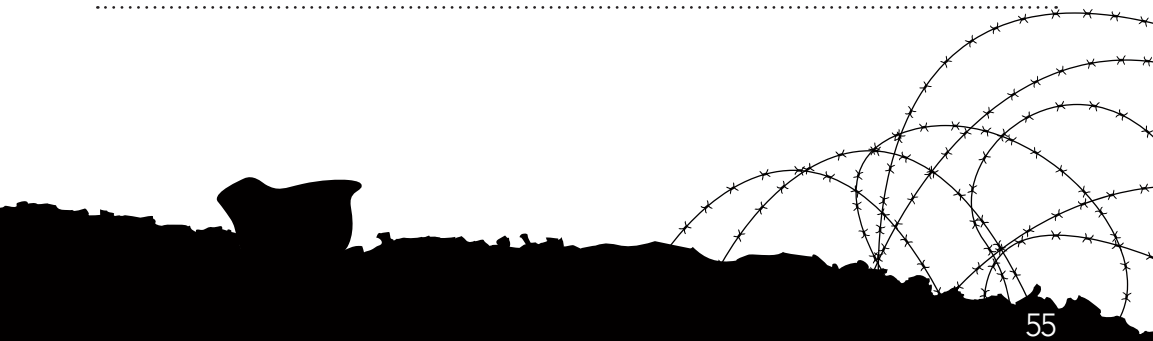
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Battle of Ypres Quiz

Now you have spent the day around Ypres, using your notes, have a go at answering these questions.

Q1. Which decoration did Walter Tull receive?

Q2. For how many years has the Menin Gate Last Post ceremony been conducted?

Q3. Where did the Last Post Ceremony move to during the Second World War?

Q4. For how long did the Battle of Passchendaele last?



Q5. What does salient mean?

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Q6. Which nationalities fought for the Allies at Ypres?

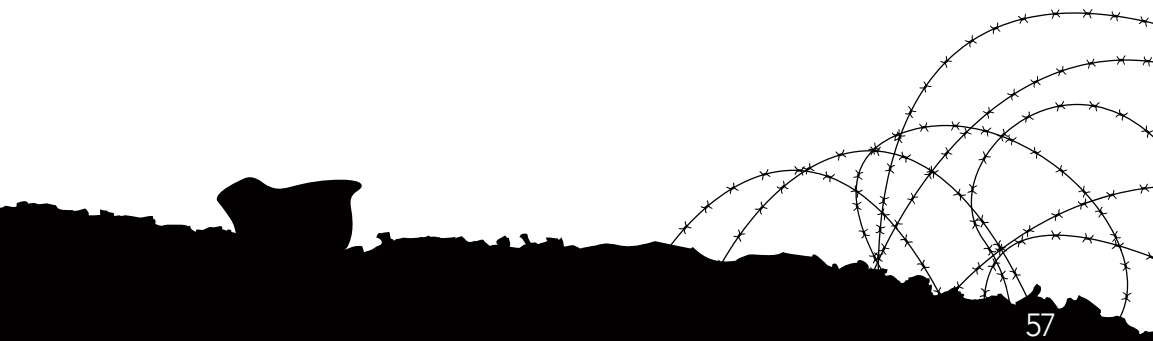
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Q7. How many Allied forces died at Ypres?

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Q8. How many German forces died at Ypres?

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The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

Ser	Time	Location	Activity		Remarks
Day 4 - 13th May 2018					
			Coach 1	Coach 2	
37	0730hrs	Ypres	Breakfast		
38	0800hrs	Ypres	Depart for Battlefields		
39	0830hrs	Ypres	Vancouver Corner	Hill 60	Battle of Messines and mining: Lt Wooley VC Tunnelling operations Attempts to break the stalemate. Importance of ground. Professionals - Royal Engineers. WW2 actions.
40	1000hrs	Ypres	Langemark German Cemetery	Vancouver Corner	2nd Battle of Ypres and the use of gas.
41	1030hrs	Ypres	Hill 60	Langemark German Cemetery	The role of the VDK Contrasts in style Single Wreath to be laid.
42	1100hrs	Ypres	Tyne Cot		Reflection and lay wreath.



Tyne Cot

Tyne Cot or Tyne Cottage was a barn named by the Northumberland Fusiliers which stood near the level crossing on the road from Passchendaele to Broodseinde. Around it were a number of blockhouses or 'pillboxes'. The barn, which had become the centre of five or six German blockhouses, or pillboxes, was captured by the 3rd Australian Division on 4 October 1917 in the advance on Passchendaele.

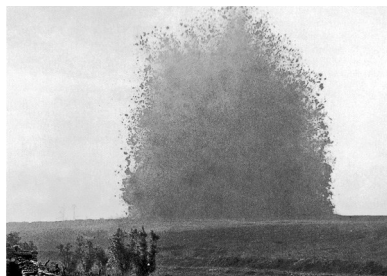


The Tyne Cot Memorial is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient.

Hill 60 and Mine Warfare

Hill 60 has an extremely turbulent history throughout the war. Heavily shelled and mined by both sides, the ground forming Hill 60 - literally 60 metres above sea-level - today remains the final resting place for countless soldiers buried somewhere beneath its grassy foundations.

Even with such a slight incline - the man-made result of spoil from a nearby railway cutting in the nineteenth century (no longer present) - the hill proved an invaluable vantage point from which to view the wider battlefield and so was much sought and fought after by the allied and German forces.



The Germans captured Hill 60 from the French forces in December 1914.



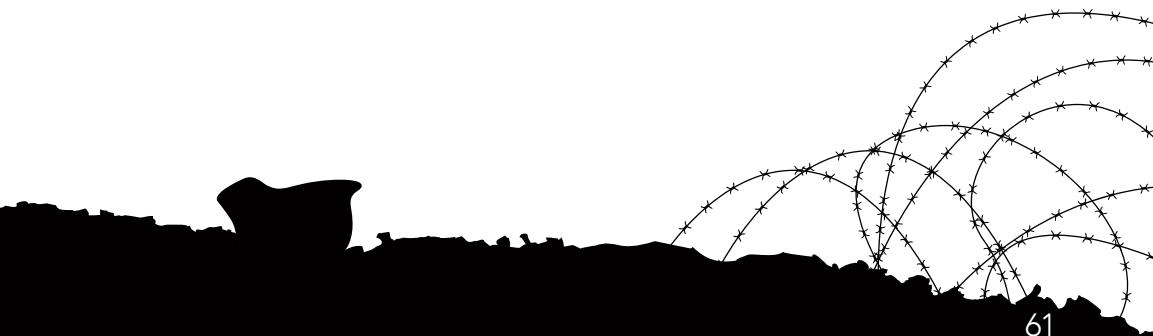
When the British relieved the French in the region following the race to the sea it was determined that it must be retaken at all costs. A great deal of the fighting around Hill 60 was underground and it is believed that the first British mine of the war was detonated underneath Hill 60; and Hill 60 was primed with two mines along with 17 others to signal the start of the Messines battle on 7 June 1917.

Mine Warfare

We're familiar with the story of trench warfare on the battlefields of France, but few people know of the special breed of men who fought perhaps the most terrifying war along the Western Front.

Their job was not to charge over the top of the trenches into No Man's Land, but to sink explosive-packed tunnels deep beneath it. The allied tunnelling companies operated in such secrecy that little was known of their exploits for years after the war. Working in total silence up to 100ft underground they set out to detonate mines beneath the enemy's trenches.

At each step of the way they had to search out and destroy German tunnellers busy digging the other way. Remarkably this deadly war of nerves was waged by civilians with little or no military training. They were led by an eccentric Tory MP and millionaire, Hellfire Jack.



The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018



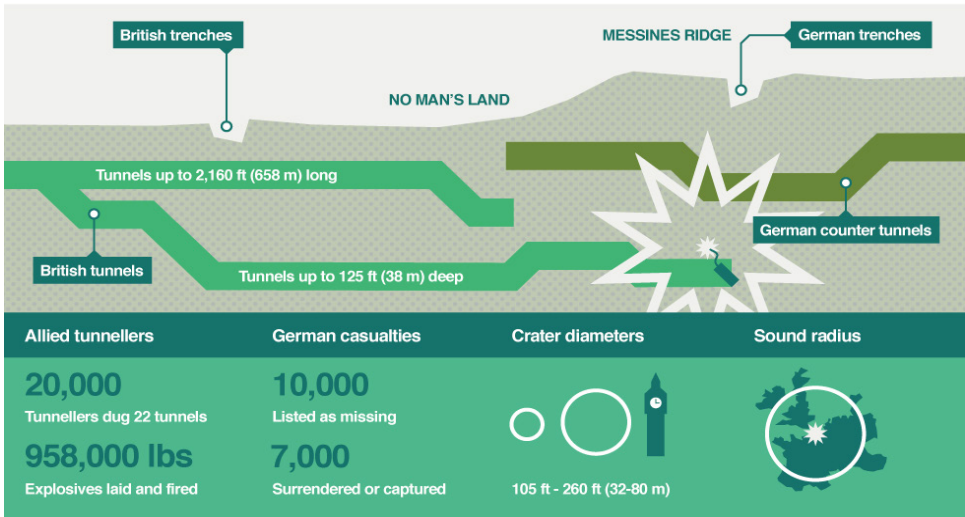
John Norton-Griffiths, MP for Wednesbury, was an engineer with a revolutionary plan to take his workforce to war. He knew the clay-kickers he had employed to extend Manchester's sewers in 1913 could tunnel faster and quieter than the Germans.

Norton-Griffiths was charged with forming the Royal Engineer tunnelling companies.

He recruited miners who had worked underground since childhood, tough and resourceful characters of all ages and political backgrounds who often had been rejected by the army on grounds of health or age.

Within hours of leaving 'Civvy Street', Hellfire Jack, as he came to be known, had them digging beneath France and Flanders, immersed in a dark struggle to the death.



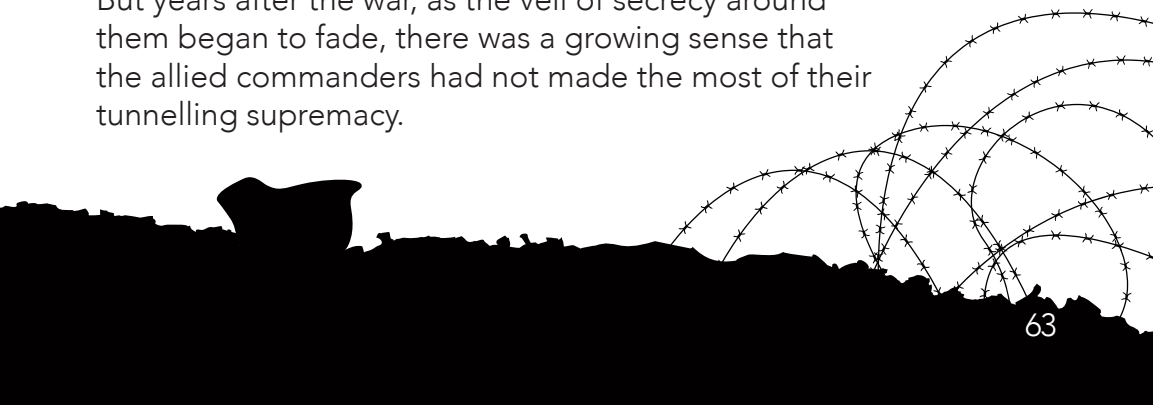


But after 1917 the way battles were fought began to change. The war began to move faster than Hellfire Jack's tunnellers were able to dig and opportunities to carry out mining attacks faded away.

As the front lines receded across the map the tunnelling companies were switched to other general engineering duties, from digging dugouts to building roads and bridges.

In the final months of the war many of the tunnelling companies saw action at ground level as infantrymen.

But years after the war, as the veil of secrecy around them began to fade, there was a growing sense that the allied commanders had not made the most of their tunnelling supremacy.



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) honours the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the First and Second World Wars, and ensures they will never be forgotten.

The Commission's principles are:

- Each of the dead should be commemorated by name on the headstone or memorial.
- Headstones and memorials should be permanent.
- Headstones should be uniform.
- There should be no distinction made on account of military rank, race or creed.



The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

Headstone made of
Portland stone

Plot identifier

Regimental
badge

Regimental
number

Regiment
or Corps

Date of
death

Rank

Initials and
Surname

Age at
death

Symbol of
faith



Victoria Cross winners also have a large engraved VC in place of the symbol of faith. In some cases, personal inscriptions are added to the bottom or top of the headstone.

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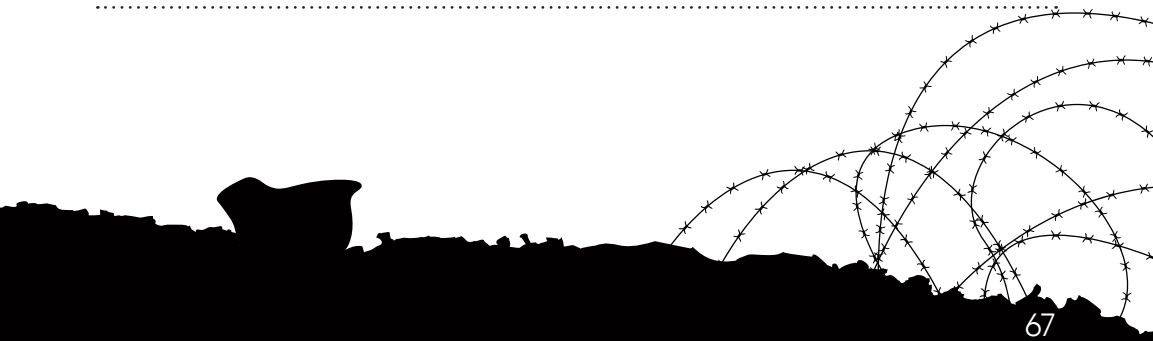
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Tyne Cot, Mine Warfare and War Graves Quiz

Now you have spent the day Tyne Cot and Hill 60, using your notes, have a go at answering these questions.

Q1. List 4 peices of information found on a CWGC headstone?

Q2. How many names are on the memorial wall at Tyne Cot?

Q3. Soldiers from which regiment named Tyne Cot?

Q4. What was 'Hellfire Jack's' real name?



Q5. How many mines were used during the Battle of Messines?

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Q6. How far could the explosion be heard from Messines Ridge?

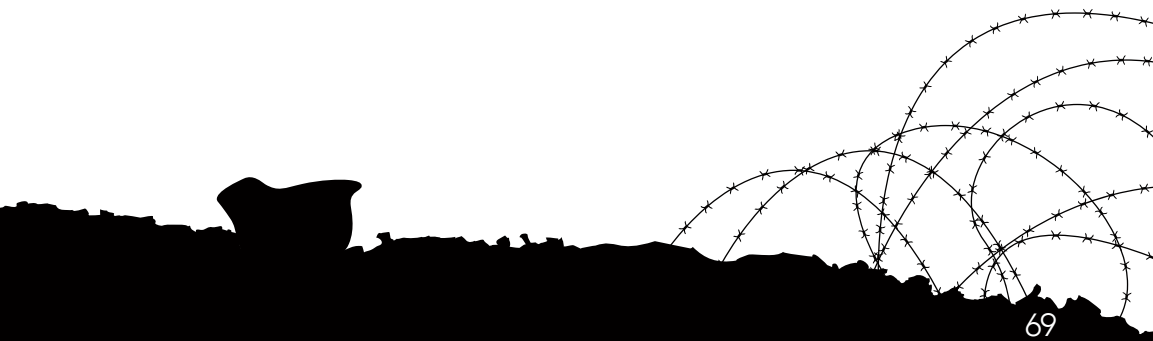
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Q7. How many tunnelling companies were there?

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Q8. Why did tunnel warfare become obsolete?

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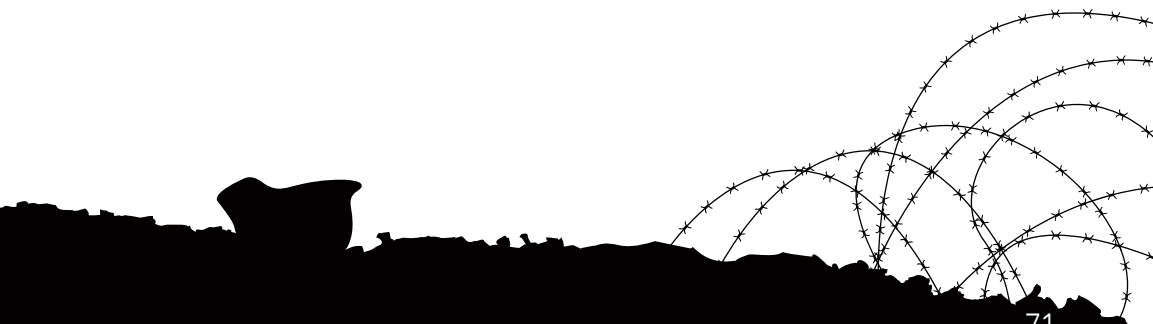
The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

Ser	Time	Location	Activity	Remarks
Day 4 - 13th May 2018 (Continued)				
			Coach 1	
43	1200hrs	Ypres	Depart for Calais	
44	1330hrs	Calais	Check in for Eurotunnel	
45	1436hrs (Local)	Calais	Depart on Eurotunnel for Folkstone	
46	1411hrs (Local)	Folkstone	Arrive at Folkstone	
47	1710hrs	MPC Aldershot	Drop off Aldershot Learners	Ensure that social media is used to confirm DOP timings.
48	1900hrs	Leigh Delamare Services (Westbound)	Drop off Gloucester Learners	Ensure that social media is used to confirm DOP timings.
49	2030hrs	MPC Newport	Drop off Newport, Cardiff and Bristol Learners	
50	2100hrs	Bridgend	Drop off Bridgend Learners	Bridgend, adjacent to Sarn Odeon
49	2115hrs	Bridgend	Coach IC confirm all learners have been collected by parents/guardians	Centre staff to confirm each learner under their charge have been collected and are accounted for.
50	2130hrs	All locations	Trip IC informs DRM that all learners safe.	



The Western Front Battlefield Tour 2018

Ser	Time	Location	Activity	Remarks
Day 4 - 13th May 2018 (Continued)				
			Coach 2	
43	1200hrs	Ypres	Depart for Calais	
44	1330hrs	Calais	Check in for Eurotunnel	
45	1436hrs (Local)	Calais	Depart on Eurotunnel for Folkstone	
46	1411hrs (Local)	Folkstone	Arrive at Folkstone	
47	1530hrs	Clackett Lane Services (Westbound)	Drop off Croydon and Eastbourne Learners	
48	2000hrs	Frankley Services (Northbound)	Drop off Birmingham, Dudley and Wolverhampton Learners	Ensure that social media is used to confirm DOP timings.
49	2130hrs	MPC Wrexham	Drop off Bangor, Wrexham and Liverpool Learners	
49	2145hrs	Wrexham	Trip IC confirm all learners have been collected by parents/guardians	Centre staff to confirm each learner under their charge have been collected and are accounted for.
50	2200hrs	All locations	Trip IC informs DRM that all learners safe.	



Reflection notes

In the coming weeks, you will be preparing a presentation on what you have learned during this battlefield tour and the impact it has had on you. Use these pages to make notes for your presentation.

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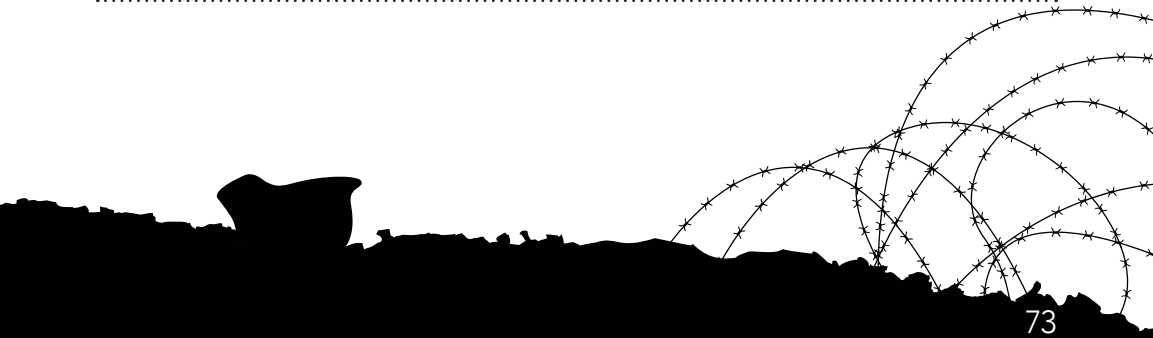
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Reflection notes

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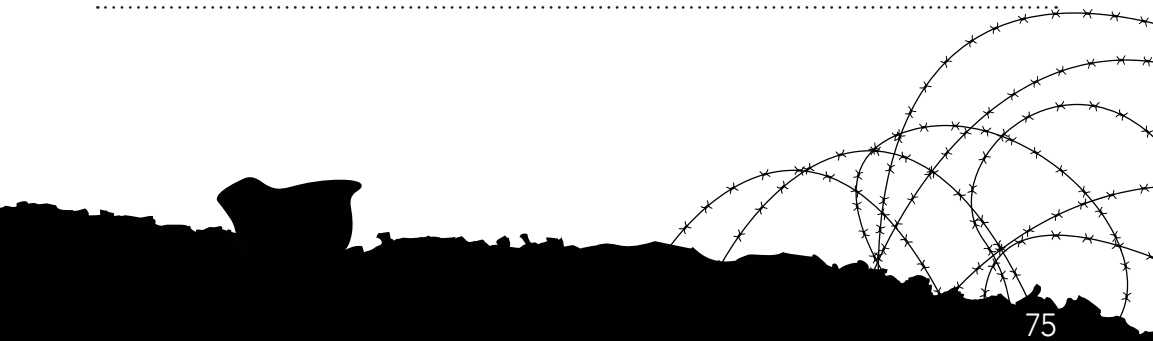
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