



Australian  
Remembrance  
Trail  
along the  
Western Front

# A Traveller's Guide

# CONTENTS

<b>AUSTRALIANS ON THE WESTERN FRONT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>	<b>31</b>
Plan your visit	2	<a href="#">Ypres</a>	<a href="#">32</a>
In the footsteps of the family	6	Polygon Wood	36
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>	<b>7</b>	Tyne Cot	37
Amiens	8	Messines	38
Thiepval Memorial	9	The 'mad photographers'	39
Pozières	10	Ploegsteert	40
Albert	12	The silent cities	42
Naours	13	<b>INFORMATION</b>	<b>43</b>
Vignacourt	14	In the South	43
Péronne, Mont St Quentin	16	In the Centre	46
Bellenglise	17	In the North	47
Corbie	18	<b>ITINERARIES</b>	<b>49</b>
Treating the wounded	19	A walk in the Somme	49
Le Hamel	20	A bike ride through Flanders Fields	50
Villers-Bretonneux	22	Pozières and the 1916 front line	51
Sir John Monash Centre	23	The Australian Remembrance Ride	52
<b>CENTRAL REGION</b>	<b>26</b>		
Arras	27		
Fromelles	29		
Bullecourt	30		



*Australian soldiers in trenches in front of the village of Le Hamel after the battle on 4 July 1918*

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# AUSTRALIANS ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Most Australians have heard of Gallipoli in 1915, but few know much about the Western Front. In every sense, this was a bigger story. Australians fought here for two and half years at dreadful cost - 80 per cent of Australian casualties for the whole war happened on the Western Front, in France and Belgium, between mid 1916 and late 1918.

Visiting the battlefields and memorials here is an emotional but rewarding experience, whether you have a family connection to the First World War or not. The sites along the Australian Remembrance Trail offer us all a way to remember and honour our forebears. Lest we forget.

## THE AUSTRALIAN REMEMBRANCE TRAIL

The Australian Remembrance Trail links the most significant sites for Australians along 200km of the Western Front: battlefields, cemeteries, memorials, museums and the traces that Australian soldiers left of themselves across this landscape. Recently the Australian, French and Belgian governments have worked together on a number of these sites to upgrade facilities and improve the visitor experience.

From north to south, the Trail runs from Ypres in Belgium near the site of the Battle of Passchendaele, through Fromelles and Bullecourt in northern France, to Pozières, the battlefields of the Somme and Villers-Bretonneux.

Each site represents a story of immense suffering and toil: 46,000 Australians died on the Western Front between March 1916 and the end of the war in November 1918; another 134,000 were wounded or captured. Many of the bodies of the dead were never recovered but their names are not forgotten; they are recorded on the memorials to the missing.

No place on earth is more steeped in Australian courage or blood.

## PLAN YOUR JOURNEY

This booklet will help you plan your journey. It is not a military history of the battles along the Western Front – although we've included enough of the story to get you started. This is a practical guide to your trip: when and where to go, what to see and do, where to stay and eat, and some suggested itineraries based on different interests and the time you have to spend here.

There is much to see and do beyond the battlefields in this part of France and Belgium – from the beautiful Bay of the Somme to ancient towns like Amiens and Arras to lively village markets selling regional delicacies and wines. There are also some superb walking tracks and some of the best bike riding trails in Europe.

## A GREAT TIME TO VISIT

On Anzac Day 1918 – three years to the day after the Gallipoli landings – Australian and British



*Australian recruitment poster 1918*  
AWM ARTV00039

troops recaptured the small village of Villers-Bretonneux in northern France. The intense fighting halted progress of the German spring offensive and marked the beginning of the end of the Great War. The people of Villers-Bretonneux never forgot those who liberated their town.

To mark the centenary of the end of the war, the Sir John Monash Centre, a new interpretative centre located behind the Australian National Memorial, commemorates this sacrifice for new generations of Australians.

There's never been a better time to visit the Western Front.

*Along the Somme River*  
Amiens



# PLAN YOUR VISIT

If you are thinking about a trip to the Australian remembrance sites, you're likely to have lots of questions. What do I most want to see? How much time do I have? Where do I start? What's the best way to get around? Do I need a guide or a tour? This booklet will help you to work through those questions and design an itinerary to suit your interests and time.

## HOW MUCH CAN I DO

### ***If you have one day:***

join an organised tour from Paris, Amiens, Ypres or Arras - with hotel or station pick-up and drop off, lunch and guide included.

### ***If you have three days:***

this is a comfortable amount of time to explore one region in depth. Or, if you are driving yourself, you could cover the major sites along the Western Front, spending one day around Amiens, one day around Arras and one day around Ypres.

### ***If you have four or five days:***

think about splitting your time between the northern and southern regions. There's plenty of Great War history to absorb but there's also room to take some time away from the story of war. Enjoy a day at the sea around the Bay of the Somme, shopping in Lille or walking around the medieval centre of Bruges.

### ***If you have a week:***

take it slowly. Put your boots on and take a hike – a week is plenty

of time to walk around all the major sites in Flanders and get down to Arras or to walk through the Somme Valley around the battlefields and along the river. Or rent a bike – you can test your cycling skills on some of Belgium's famous cobbled roads or ride all the way along the Western Front from Ypres to Villers-Bretonneux.

There are lots of well marked hiking and biking trails around the Western Front and a good selection of places to stay.

## EXPERIENCE THE REGION

While you are visiting the Western Front, leave some room to enjoy the region. You don't have to spend every minute walking the battlefields, visiting museums or squeezing in every 'must see' site. Relax over dinner in a riverside restaurant or with a picnic on a hill; try some of the local food and wine; visit a gallery; rent a bike for a leisurely ride; or spend an hour at one of the lively local markets.

## 5 MILITARY SITES ON THE WESTERN FRONT

**MUST SEE**

1. The village of Villers-Bretonneux, home to the Australian National Memorial, the Franco-Australian Museum and the new Sir John Monash Centre (p22)
2. The Menin Gate at Ypres. At 8pm every night, the firemen buglers of the Last Post Association pay tribute to the dead in a moving ceremony. Make sure you get there early to ensure a spot. (p33)
3. The Windmill Memorial at Pozzières, site of Australia's worst losses on the Somme and close to the Thiepval Memorial (p10-11)
4. The Australian Memorial Park and VC Corner Cemetery at Fromelles, with the new Pheasant Wood Military Cemetery and Battle of Fromelles Museum nearby (p29)
5. The new Vignacourt 14-18 Museum, devoted to the recently discovered photographic work of the Thuillier family (opening in early 2018) (p14)

*Bay of the Somme at dusk*



## ITINERARIES

Once you have decided how much time you have and what most interests you, there are lots of choices for places to stay, sites to see and things to do. You can focus on one region or cover several areas, follow one of our suggested itineraries or design your own.

Many people spend two or three days in Amiens and the same in Ypres, but if you don't want to change hotels you could simply stay in Arras, half way between the two (central region). It's within about 80km of all the major sites in either direction. Arras is a beautiful, historic town with good transport to Paris and Lille, many fine restaurants and a fantastic Saturday market. You can take day trips to the Belgian battlefields or the Somme Valley. The Australian battle sites at Fromelles and Bullecourt are much closer to Arras and the amazing Wellington Tunnels - a major site for New Zealanders - are near the centre of town.

### SOUTHERN REGION

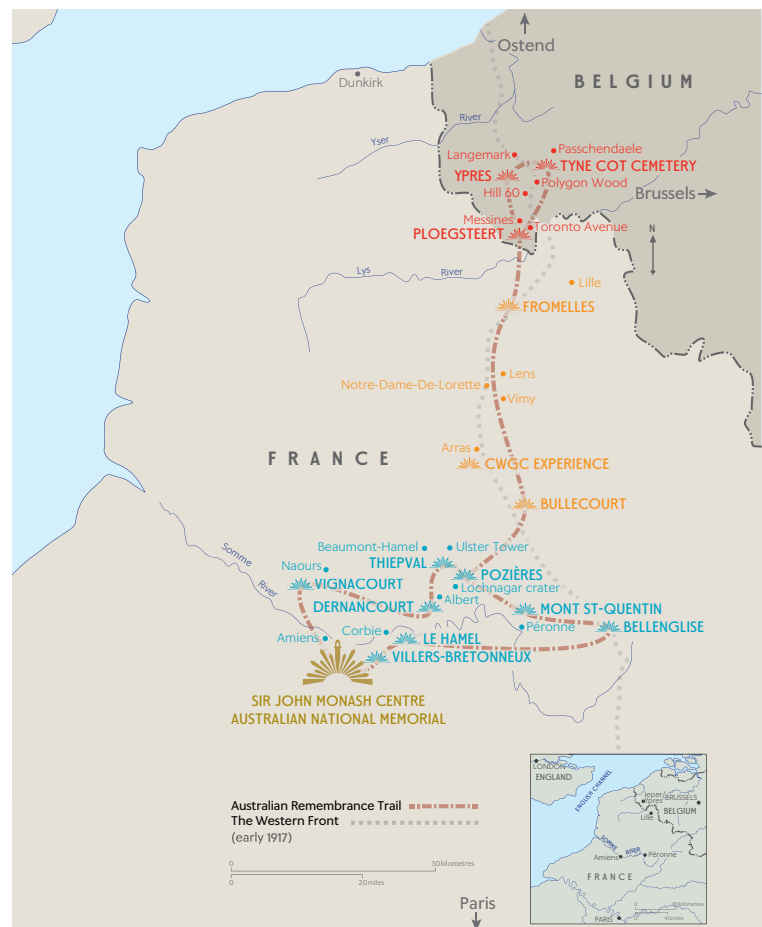
**IF YOU'RE INTERESTED MAINLY IN THE BATTLES OF 1916**, base yourself at Amiens or nearby, around an hour from Paris by train. You're about 40km from the Somme battlefields and the important Australian sites at Pozières, Le Hamel and Villers-Bretonneux, site of the Australian National Memorial, the Franco-Australian Museum and the new Sir John Monash Centre. Péronne, Mont Saint-Quentin and Bellenglise are a little further east; the medieval caves at Naours and the new photo museum at Vignacourt a little further north. Amiens is also the gateway to the Bay of the Somme, one of the most beautiful marine environments in France.

### IN JUST ONE (PACKED) DAY

Take a guided tour from Paris, or arrange a guide to pick you up in Amiens. Visit the magnificent

Amiens Cathedral, Villers-Bretonneux and the Sir John Monash Centre, and the memorial at Le Hamel (p20). Drive on to Pozières (p10), with a stop for coffee or lunch in the pretty town of Albert (p12). Visit the memorial and museum at Thiepval (p9) but don't miss the new museum dedicated to the Thuillier family photographs at Vignacourt (p14).

*Chroma light show on  
Amiens Cathedral*





### IN TWO DAYS

If you're staying the night, book dinner in one of the many canal side restaurants in Quartier St-Leu in Amiens. Next day visit the caves at Naours (p13) and the fabulous Historial Museum at Péronne (p16), finishing with the Australian 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Memorial at Mont Saint-Quentin (p16). Or take a bike ride along the Somme canal from Péronne (p16) and stop for a riverside lunch at Feuillères, Suzanne or Corbie.

### IN THREE DAYS

Take in the Somme 1916 Trench Museum at Albert (p12), and the battle sites at Bullecourt (p30) and Fromelles (p29); both have new or upgraded museums. At Fromelles, visit the new cemetery for Australian and British soldiers recently reburied from a mass grave.

### IN FIVE DAYS

Head north into Belgium, for the Australian sites near Ypres (see below)

## NORTHERN REGION

### IF YOU'RE INTERESTED MAINLY IN THE BATTLEFIELDS OF 1917,

base yourself at Ypres in Belgium. You're within 20km of most of the major sites – Passchendaele, Zonnebeke, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Messines, Ploegsteert, and the cemetery at Tyne Cot. Ypres is a fascinating medieval city with some of the region's best food, beer and chocolate and the area is a cyclist's heaven.

### IN JUST ONE (PACKED) DAY

Book a guided tour from Ypres (p32). Visit the magnificent Cloth Hall (p32) home of the In Flanders Fields Museum (p35), one of the best on the Western Front. Head east to the Australian 5<sup>th</sup> Division Monument and Buttes New British cemetery at Polygon Wood (p36), with a visit to the fascinating Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 at Zonnebeke (p36). The Tyne Cot Cemetery (p37) nearby is a must-see. Return to Ypres in time



*Boating around the hortillonnages  
Amiens*

for the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate (p33) at 8pm every night.

### IN TWO DAYS

Go south from Ypres to Messines (p38), stopping at the Pool of Peace, the New Zealand Soldier Statue and the Island of Ireland Peace Park – all on Messines Ridge. Continue to the Plugstreet 14-18 Experience (p40), a small museum near the Toronto

*The Cloth Hall  
Ypres*



Avenue cemetery (p31) – the only all-Australian cemetery in Belgium.

### IN THREE DAYS

Visit Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery near Poperinge for an insight into the workings of a field hospital. At Poperinge, Talbot House is a living museum – largely unchanged since soldiers rested behind the lines here 100 years ago.

## 5 GREAT EXPERIENCES ON THE WESTERN FRONT

DON'T MISS

1. Amiens Cathedral, a magnificent Gothic cathedral in a beautiful city
2. The Bay of the Somme - sun, sea, bird life and nautical history - at the mouth of the famous river
3. The Cloth Hall Ypres a medieval masterpiece destroyed in the First World War and painstakingly reconstructed over 40 years
4. The caves at Naours: a system of medieval tunnels, dug into chalky soil, bearing thousands of signatures of Great War soldiers
5. The Louvre-Lens: 205 major art works from the Louvre Paris, housed in a stunning new building close to Lens and Lille

guide to suit you. Most tourism offices keep a list of qualified guides, including those who speak English and some who specialise in working with Australian visitors. (see p43-48 for contact details).

### DOING IT YOURSELF

If you'd rather plan your own itinerary and go at your own pace, hiring a car is the best option. The major car rental agencies have offices in most – but not all – of the larger towns in the region. You can also pick up a car at the airport if you fly into Paris, Lille, Brussels or Charleroi or at one of the TGV stations – Lille or Haute-Picardie.

### CHECKING OPENING HOURS

Before you finalise your plan, don't forget to check websites for opening hours and special events. While most cemeteries and memorials are open every day during daylight hours, other sites – like museums, galleries, tourist attractions – will have different opening hours in winter and summer, may close on one or two days each week or change operating hours for special days or events. Make sure that you check for public holidays too – there are 11 official holidays in France and 10 official holidays in Belgium and usually some local extras as well.

### IN FIVE DAYS

Do any or all of the above on a bicycle, on Belgium's extensive network of cycle paths. Or continue south into France, via Fromelles and Bullecourt, to the Australian sites around the Somme (see above).

### CENTRAL REGION

If you want to see the whole Australian Remembrance Trail without changing hotels, base yourself in the centre in Arras, near the Bullecourt and Fromelles sites (p29). Venture out on trips north or south, driving yourself or with a guide.

### HIRING A GUIDE

If you have a list of specific things you want to see or do or you are tracing the footsteps of a relative, think about hiring a private guide to design a tour that covers only the places you want to see. It's a more expensive option than a regular group tour but it can be worth it. A good guide can make a big difference to helping you to understand what happened in a particular place or what happened to your relative.

Check the local tourism information services and websites to find a

*Saturday market  
Arras*



## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FAMILY

For many Australians, visiting the Western Front is about tracing the experience of a family member who fought in France or Belgium during the First World War. As more than 295,000 Australians served on the Western Front, today thousands of Australians have a relative who fought there.

Finding out more about where they fought adds something very special to any trip to the battlefields – and the earlier you start to research that family history, the better.

Some people may not even know someone from their family served. Start by asking your oldest relatives what they know or if anyone has letters, diaries or medals from the Great War that could provide some clues.

Once you have a name, there are lots of free on-line resources available – and not just for Australian soldiers. The UK and New Zealand also have websites that can help.

### RESEARCHING A REAL SOLDIER

Frank Watts Davis came from Wilcannia, in western New South Wales. Now we have a name, we can search for his records on the Australian War Memorial (AWM) website, using the search function on the home page ([www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)). That will give us his service number, usually three or four digits. If the person you are looking for was an officer, he probably won't have a service number – so having the full name will help.

In this case, we learn that Davis's service number was 1524, that he enlisted on 3 December 1914, his unit was the 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion, he attained the rank of second lieutenant, that he served in Gallipoli and France and was killed in action on 2 February 1917.

We also learn that there is a letter, asking whoever finds him in the event of his death to send the ring around his neck *'with my dying love (to) Miss M Murray'* in Port

Lincoln, South Australia. When we search again using just the surname and service number, we can see what records the AWM holds, most of which is digitised. Frank has a studio photo, identified by a number that you can use to order a copy.

If a soldier was listed as missing, there could be a Red Cross record attached, which could tell you what they found out later about his death. If there are letters or diaries, you should find a record on the AWM website; not all have been digitised, so you may have to visit the AWM in Canberra to read them.

The State Library of NSW holds over 700 diaries of soldiers from the Great War: [www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections).

Other state libraries may have records for soldiers from that State.

The National Archives of Australia (NAA) website ([www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)) holds other records on this soldier and we can use the service number to find them. On the NAA website, click 'Explore the collection' then 'RecordSearch'. Then in 'NameSearch' enter just the surname and service number. This takes us to a digital copy of his service records – an Attestation form (on enlistment), a record of the battalion(s) he served in and the name of the ship that took him to Europe. There may be details of wounds or sickness, family addresses, discipline records, and post-war correspondence with next of kin.

In Frank Watts Davis's case, this record tells us something of where he served and that he was buried at the Bernafay Wood British Cemetery in France.



*Lt Frank Watts Davis*  
AWM PAFU2013.185.01

You can also search the AWM website for the Battalion Diary of his unit. This lets you work out where he might have been during the battalion's major engagements. You can access these in person at the AWM research library.

To find a grave, search the name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) website ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)) for a record of the cemetery and position of the grave. If there is no known grave, you'll find where his name is commemorated among the missing.

If your relative was from the UK or New Zealand, you can search sites like [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) and [www.archives.govt.nz/world-war-one](http://www.archives.govt.nz/world-war-one)

Lastly, commercial websites can help you find records in Australia and in other countries including [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) (you get two weeks free to start your search), [www.forces-war-records.co.uk](http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk) and [www.greatwar.co.uk/research/family-history](http://www.greatwar.co.uk/research/family-history).



# THE SOMME

After eight months at Gallipoli, the first Australian troops arrived in France in March 1916 to find a very different war. The Western Front, stretching for 600km from the Belgian coast to the Swiss border, was in stalemate. Five all-volunteer Australian divisions joined 50 exhausted British divisions whose numbers had been decimated over 18 months of relentless fighting.

The German offensive at Verdun had inflicted terrible losses on the French. To relieve the pressure, the British commander General Haig agreed to launch a major offensive further west along the Somme River. It began at dawn on 1 July 1916, with the explosion of a massive mine beneath German positions just north of the river. By the end of the day, the British had suffered 60,000 casualties – the worst day in British

military history. The Australians went into their first major action north of here on 19 July at Fromelles where the Australian 5<sup>th</sup> Division suffered 5,000 casualties in one night. Five days later, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Divisions went in at Pozzières and over seven weeks lost 23,000 men – killed, wounded or captured. For the next two and a half years, Australian troops would rarely be out of the front line.



*Australian 2<sup>nd</sup> Division troops halted on a sunken road  
Somme Valley, October 1916 AWM EZ0122*

## 5 MILITARY SITES IN THE SOMME

1. The Australian National Memorial and the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, site of the new Sir John Monash Centre
2. The Historial de la Grande Guerre museum at Péronne, one of the finest on the Somme
3. The Lochnagar crater at La Boisselle, left by the explosion that marked the beginning of the Battle of the Somme
4. The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme near Pozzières. A new museum includes an amazing 60m long backlit mural of the first day of the Battle of the Somme
5. The South African Memorial at Delville Wood near Longueval. On 15 July 1916, the South African Brigade went into battle with 121 officers and 3032 troops; they came out a week later with just 29 officers and 751 other ranks

**MUST SEE**

## 5 GREAT EXPERIENCES IN THE SOMME

**DON'T MISS**

1. Ride a bike along the Somme canal – a 160km trail from the Somme to the sea
2. Watch Chroma, the free high tech light show projected on to the front of Amiens cathedral; only in December and in summer – mid June to mid September
3. Go birdwatching at Marquenterre bird sanctuary, in the Bay of the Somme
4. Explore the beautiful town of Corbie; its rich history dates back to the foundation of a powerful abbey in 657
5. Visit the astonishing air museum at Albert, home to hundreds of vintage aeroplanes and cars

## THE AUSTRALIAN REMEMBRANCE TRAIL SITES ON THE SOMME

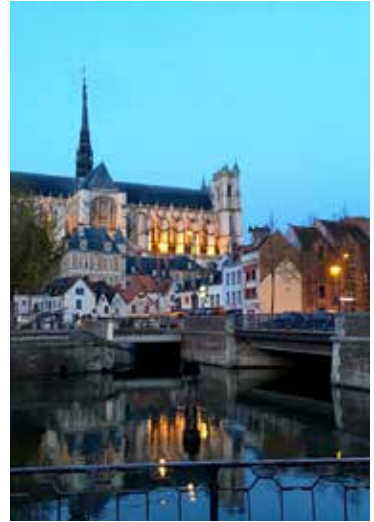
The Australian Remembrance Trail marks the most significant sites for Australians in the Valley of the Somme, both battle sites like Pozzières and Villers-Bretonneux and towns behind the lines where Australian soldiers rested like Vignacourt and Naours. Outside the Trail, there are many other fascinating places and sights to visit that explore or explain the experience of the Great War.

# Amiens

Amiens is an elegant, captivating city and the gateway to the Somme battlefields. Julius Caesar spent a winter here in 54 BC, camped beside the Somme River. Jules Verne moved here in 1871 and wrote most of his famous books in a house that's now a museum. Thousands of Australian soldiers came through here on their way to the Somme. Some left their mark: the UNESCO listed belfry tower was known locally as the Prison des Australiens because so many were briefly locked up here for drunkenness or disorderly behaviour.

The Notre-Dame Cathedral has dominated the city for almost 800 years. It is not just the largest Gothic building in France, roughly twice the size of Notre-Dame in Paris, it is also one of the most exquisite churches anywhere in the world. Begun in 1220, it survived both the French Revolution and two world wars – remarkable given that Amiens is a major railway hub and one of

the objectives the Germans most wanted to capture. During the First World War, large banks of sandbags protected the building but a small number of German shells hit it in May 1918. It is said that the bishop of Amiens sent a message to the Papal Nuncio in Munich, who persuaded the German Chancellor to spare the Cathedral. That nuncio was Eugenio Pacelli, who became Pope Pius XII.



*Waterside restaurants  
St-Leu, Amiens*

The river meanders through the city in several channels and at night, beside the water, the bars and restaurants in Quartier St-Leu come alive with hundreds of students and visitors. In the Middle Ages, the marshes east of the city were used to mine peat and grow vegetables; today's market gardeners still sell their vegetables at Place Parmentier on Saturdays. On one Saturday in June they dress in traditional costume to sell produce from boats along the quay. The hortillonnages – the network of small islands – is now a nature reserve you can explore by foot, boat or kayak.

Amiens is a city of great cultural and culinary pride, famous for macarons and chocolate, as well as for raising the current president of France, Emmanuel Macron. It is also a festival town hosting an international film festival in November, a famous Christmas market in December, a well-respected festival devoted to 'BD' in June (BD - Bande Dessinée the French name for the art of the graphic novel) and in April and October, the Grande Réderie d'Amiens - 51 streets closed for an antiques fair that attracts 80,000 people. Remember this if you're trying to get a room around that time.



*Amiens Cathedral  
protected by sandbags*

## TRANSPORT

Amiens is a little over one hour from Paris by train (from the Gare du Nord) and the trains are frequent. If you fly into Charles de Gaulle airport (CDG), a fast train can take you through to the TGV station at Haute-Picardie but you are still 30 minutes east of Amiens. You can pick up a rental car at the TGV station or

take the SNCF bus that goes direct to Amiens. Haute-Picardie station is a good option if you are staying in Péronne, 10km to the east. Ask your hotel to arrange a taxi.

Amiens has a number of places to rent cars and bicycles and a good range of accommodation.

# Thiepval Memorial

**The British Memorial to the Missing is the largest Commonwealth War Memorial in the world. Perhaps it had to be, to accommodate the 72,243 names of the British and British Empire soldiers classed as missing after the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Missing here means they have no known grave, or the body could not be identified on burial. Their average age was 25.**

Australians did not enter the Battle of the Somme until 23 July 1916 at Pozières, but 10 Australians, six of them unknown, are buried in

the cemetery at the foot of the monument. Many more died nearby, trying to take Pozières and Mouquet Farm. The cemetery is unusual



for having 300 British and Empire soldiers and 300 French soldiers buried side-by-side, symbolising the two countries' alliance in the First World War.

The memorial, 45m high, can be seen from all over the battlefield. It was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, who also designed the Australian National Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux.

*Thiepval Memorial  
Interior*

## HISTORIAL THIEPVAL

The Historial de la Grande Guerre museum at Péronne has established a new museum at Thiepval, focussing on the Battle of the Somme. This is a must see for the stunning 60m long illuminated panorama by American illustrator and artist Joe Sacco. It gives a continuous view of the first day of the battle. There is nothing like it in any other war museum on the Western Front. The museum also holds a life-sized replica of one of Georges Guynemer's aeroplanes. At the time of his death in 1917, aged 22, he was a national hero in France, credited with shooting down 54 enemy planes. Open every day, closed mid December to mid January.

*Panorama  
by illustrator Joe Sacco*



## A BOY SOLDIER'S STORY

Robert Warner was living in Kiama, New South Wales when he enlisted in January 1916. He had been born in London, but came to Australia with his family when he was seven. His experience of war was brutally short: four days after joining the 4<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Battalion, he was hit in both legs and an arm while moving up to trenches near Mouquet Farm, close to Thiepval. In 1917, a Corporal Banfield, who served with him, wrote the following note to the Red Cross from an army hospital in Randwick, Sydney. 'I knew Warner well. He was only a young lad but a very great cobbler of mine. I should

*like to see his people. We were wounded on a Monday near Moquet (sic) Farm; we were just going up to a sap. They were going over the top that night. He was hit by a bomb. Both his legs had to be amputated. He died in hospital near Albert. He was very well liked.'* Robert Warner is buried in the Puchevillers British Cemetery, Puchevillers, France. He was aged 15 years and eight months.



AWM P05301.244



# Pozières

**Pozières is one of the most significant sites for Australians on the Western Front. More Australians died here than on any other battlefield in France. For many, it was their first experience of war. This is one of the highest spots in the Somme Valley and the British had lost thousands of men since 1 July 1916 trying to take it. If the newly arrived Australian divisions could take Pozières and Mouquet Farm, General Haig hoped to take Thiepval from the rear.**

By the time the Australians arrived, the little farming village had been obliterated by shelling. There were few buildings left but the Germans had built solid defences - deep trenches, bunkers and blockhouses. You can see the Gibraltar blockhouse at the

southern end of the village, beside the First Australian Division Memorial. The Germans had also fortified the remains of an ancient windmill at the northern end of the village. This is now the site of the other Australian Memorial, built over the ruined Windmill

blockhouse. The view from here gives a clear idea of the strategic importance of Pozières.

At 12:30am on 23 July 1916, the Australian 1<sup>st</sup> Division attacked Pozières taking the village but not the Windmill. Three weeks of relentless counter-attacks and shelling followed; the battle was won but at an unprecedented cost. The Australian 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Divisions suffered 23,000 casualties, including 6,700 dead, many of whom were never found. *'The horror was indescribable'*, wrote Lieutenant John 'Alec' Raws of the Australian 2<sup>nd</sup> Division.

**“** *We are lousy, stinking, ragged, unshaven, sleepless. Even when we're back a bit we can't sleep from our own guns. I have one puttee, a dead man's helmet, another dead man's gas protector, a dead man's bayonet. My tunic is rotten with other men's blood and partly splattered with a comrade's brains.... Courage does not count here. It is all nerve. Once that goes, one becomes a gibbering maniac.'*

*From a letter by Lt J A Raws, who was killed later in the same battle.*



*Australian gunners in action near Pozières, July 1916 AWM EZ0141*

## A DAY OUT

You can easily visit Pozières, the Thiepval Memorial and its new museum, the Lochnagar crater and the pretty town of Albert in one day.

**From Amiens, take the D929 towards Albert**, a straight Roman road, except where it veers around the Château de Querrieu, where General Monash awarded medals to the 4th Infantry Division for its actions during the battle of Le Hamel. You will soon see a right turn to Dernancourt, just before Albert.

**Go past Albert to La Boisselle and the Lochnagar Crater**, then on to Pozières. After that, leave at least an hour for the Thiepval Memorial 3km to the west, and another for the preserved trenches at Beaumont-Hamel.

**Return to Albert for lunch** then dive into the eccentric underground Somme 1916 Museum just off the main square. If you're visiting on Saturday or the second Wednesday of the month, go to

Albert first for the weekly market, then on to Pozières and Thiepval. Check with the Albert Tourist Office about a guided tour of the Somme panoramas - three hours every Friday. Or take a 40-minute boat trip on the river from the village of Éclusier-Vaux, 18km to the southeast of Albert. If you love classic aeroplanes and automobiles, visit the extraordinary personal museum of Monsieur Betrancourt on the outskirts of Albert (only open on Saturdays).

## WHAT TO SEE



**THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DIVISION MEMORIAL** (268 Route d'Albert, 80300 Pozières); commemorates the 1<sup>st</sup> Division's role in France and Belgium from Pozières in 1916 to the Hindenburg Line in 1918. Coming from the south, turn left just after you enter the village. The Gibraltar Blockhouse stands next to the memorial. There is interpretive signage and a wooden observation deck and two walking trails link sites of importance to Australians.

**THE AUSTRALIAN MEMORIAL (THE WINDMILL):** built over another German blockhouse, this haunting site represents the hardest-won point of the battle for Pozières and the place where most Australians died. Drive through the village to the northern end. To the west, you see the Thiepval Memorial and opposite the Windmill, the Tank Memorial. This is where tank warfare began when 36 British tanks set off from here on 15 September 1916.

## A SOLDIER'S STORY

By 1916, Albert Jacka had already won the Victoria Cross for his bravery at Gallipoli, the first Australian to do so in the Great War. A farmer's son from Wedderburn, Victoria, he was now 23. On the night of 6 August 1916, at Pozières Ridge, he and his men were caught behind advancing German troops. Jacka emerged concussed from a German dugout after a bomb was thrown in. He led his remaining eight men in a charge on some German soldiers who were escorting Australian prisoners back to their lines. Other Australians, isolated in shell holes, jumped up to join in. Some Germans surrendered, others fought on and died. Jacka was hit three times and every one of the eight men with him was wounded. Their actions turned the tide, recapturing the ridge and taking 42 prisoners. The Australian official historian Charles Bean called it *'the most dramatic and effective act of individual audacity in the history of the AIF'*. Jacka was awarded the Military Cross. He was awarded a bar to the Military Cross at Bullecourt in 1917. He survived the war and became mayor of St Kilda. He died in 1932, aged 39.

AWM A03408



## NEARBY



### ULSTER TOWER:

a memorial to the Ulster battalions, in the form of a mock Gothic tower. On 1 July 1916, the 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster Division suffered 5,000 casualties here, more than half of them killed, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.



### THE LOCHNAGAR CRATER:

the explosion of a huge mine signalled the Allied start to the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916; 54,000lbs (24,500kg) of explosives went up at 7.28am, leaving the largest mine crater of the First World War.



### NEWFOUNDLAND PARK AT

**BEAUMONT-HAMEL:** more than 800 men of the Newfoundland Regiment went into action here on the first day of the Battle of the Somme; by the next morning, 68 were left standing. You can see remains of the original trenches.

# Albert

With its 250 Art Deco houses, Albert is now one of the prettiest towns in the Valley of the Somme but to British and Australian soldiers, it was the home of the Leaning Virgin - a statue of Mary and baby Jesus on top of the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Brebières in the middle of town.

Visible from miles around, the statue was hit by a shell in January 1915; it slumped sideways but did not fall. The British said whoever knocked the statue down would lose the war; the Germans believed the opposite. Australians called her 'Fanny', after Olympic swimmer and diver Fanny Durack. In March 1918, the Germans briefly occupied the town and British artillery targeted the tower to stop it being used for observation. The Virgin

finally fell in April 1918 and was never recovered. After the war, the Basilica was reconstructed as an exact replica, with a new statue of the Virgin recreating the original.

Albert is another great base from which to explore the Somme. Thiepval, Pozières, the Lochnagar crater, the Ulster Tower and the Newfoundland Park are all close. This is the Pays du Coquelicot (Poppy Country) and there are 38 walking tracks and lots of



*The leaning virgin  
Basilica of Albert 1916 AWM C05062*

non battlefield attractions based around three rivers – the Somme, the Ancre and the Authie. Rent a bike, a kayak, a houseboat for the beautiful rivers, canals and ponds near here; go horse riding or take a vintage train ride at Hameau de Froissy.

## NEARBY



### DERNANCOURT:

Australian troops were rushed here in March 1918 to stop the German advance towards Amiens. South Australia adopted Dernancourt after the war and raised money to rebuild the town. Le Pavillon Adélaïde is next to the school and across the main square, you'll find rue d'Australie. The Australian Government has contributed to a new walking trail here, with signage explaining the 1918 actions along the railway embankment.



### SOMME TRENCH MUSEUM:

(Musée Somme 1916): inside a series of 13<sup>th</sup> century tunnels built to protect the people of Albert from marauding armies, the 250m of tunnels are filled with a cornucopia of artefacts. Dioramas show the war underground – in bunkers, mines, dugouts, and trenches. You can even buy a tiny box of shrapnel pellets in the gift shop! Rue Anicet Godin, Albert, right beside the Basilica. Open every day 23 January to mid December.



### L'ÉPOPÉE DE L'INDUSTRIE ET L'AÉRONAUTIQUE:

Monsieur Betrancourt opens his personal museum of aeronautical and mechanical treasures only on Saturdays, but it is worth the wait.

A fascinating collection of intact aeroplanes, vintage trucks and cars. If you're lucky he may even show you the holy grail - a piece of the Red Baron's Fokker! 17 rue Industrie, 80300 Albert Open only on Saturdays.



# Naours, the hidden city

In July 1916, the first Australian soldiers to arrive in France came to Naours as tourists, and left their mark with graffiti on the walls of the ancient subterranean city. These tunnels, extending over 3km, were built over centuries to protect the local people during frequent invasions and wars. At one time, the 300 rooms could accommodate 3,000 people and their livestock. They had an extensive ventilation system, an underground church, and carefully concealed entrances. During the First World War, thousands of Allied soldiers came to see the tunnels and left their names in pencil on the walls. Archaeologists have recently photographed and catalogued every one of the 3,000 signatures preserved here and produced a book about the graffiti – the most extensive collection of First World War signatures in France. Of the 1,821 names already identified, 731 are Australian, 339 British and 55 American. More than 600 are still to be identified.



Some of the men who scribbled their names would become famous: Captain Ivor Margetts, a legendary soldier who died soon after at the Battle of Pozières; Lieutenant Leslie Blake, MC, who had survived the rigours of Douglas Mawson's Antarctic expedition of 1911-1914, only to die of wounds in October 1918; Alistair Ross of Lismore, one of four brothers who served in the war; or HJ Leach, who wrote the words '*merely a private*' under his name. Some of the Australian signatures date from just before the battles of Fromelles and Pozières in July 1916 and many of these young men would die within a few weeks of their visit. Their names at Naours became a kind of self-made memorial.

A book, *The Silent Soldiers of Naours*, by the team that worked on the cataloguing project - Gilles Prilau, Matthieu Beuvin, Michael Fiechtner and Donna Fiechtner - is now available in English.

The caves are best visited with a guide, because some of the names are hard to find. Call or email to book a guided tour (+33(0)3 22 93 71 78; [contact@citesouterrainedenaours.fr](mailto:contact@citesouterrainedenaours.fr)).

*The tunnels at Naours*

## A SOLDIER'S STORY: HERBERT JOHN LEACH

Leach was 25 when he visited the caves at Naours in July 1916.

He was from South Australia, the second son of Eli and Mrs DM Leach of Hyde Park, South Australia. For six years before the war, Herbert John had worked as a carpenter at the Lion Timber Mills. He gave his religion as Church of England (Anglican). He was a slight man, weighing only 65kg on enlistment in January 1915. By the time he arrived at Marseille in France in April 1916, he had served four months at Gallipoli, from August to December 1915.

At Naours, he left behind his mark: '*HJ Leach. Merely a private. 13/7/16 SA Australia*'. Six weeks later, on 23 August, he was killed at Pozières, a few kilometres to the east. In daylight on 21 August, the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion attacked towards Farbeck Graven, near Mouquet Farm. Of the 620 men, 120 were hit by shelling before the fight began. Every officer in the battalion was wounded or killed in the attack. Leach is buried at Bulls Road Cemetery, Flers beneath an inscription that says '*Duty Nobly Done*'.



*Naours tunnels graffiti*

# Vignacourt

From the middle of 1916 until early 1917, the small town of Vignacourt became a refuge for Australian soldiers. Just north of Amiens, it was out of reach of German artillery, but close enough to the battlefields for efficient troop movement as the railway ran through to Amiens, Paris and the Channel ports. Most Australian divisions rotated through a couple of camps nearby. Exhausted men from Pozières and Mouquet Farm could get a warm bath, a hot meal, a clean uniform and even a comfortable bed, if they were billeted in a French house. They could also get a constant supply of vin blanc (perhaps the origin of the word plonk) or vin rouge at one of the many wartime cafés. At the Thuillier house on the edge of the village, many of these men had their photos taken – on their own or with a mate – to keep as a souvenir or to send home.

The Australians returned in spring 1918 when the Germans came very close to capturing Amiens. In November, Australian soldiers celebrated the end of the war here, dancing in the main square with the townsfolk. A few stayed on after the war to marry. Vignacourt hosts a series of events around Anzac Day each year to honour the town's relationship with Australia.

## THE DISCOVERY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

Antoinette and Louis Thuillier ran a farm and sold farm machinery in Vignacourt. Louis was fascinated by technology and machines, including bicycles, motorcycles and cameras. Before the war, he taught himself and his wife how to take and print photographs. He enlisted in 1914 but was wounded and demobbed by 1915. He and Antoinette began making photos of the many soldiers passing through the village – French, British, Indian, Nepali and Australian. They kept more than 4,000 negatives, but when the war ended, they apparently stopped taking commercial photographs and packed the glass plates away. In 2011, researchers from Channel 7's Sunday Night program heard a rumour that the negatives still existed. After negotiation with the Thuillier family, reporter Ross Coulthart and

historian Peter Burness were taken to the old Thuillier house. In the attic, they found what they had hoped for – 4,000 glass negatives, stored in three old chests.

Kerry Stokes, owner of Channel 7, bought the entire collection, donated the plates showing Australians to the Australian War Memorial, and returned a full digital copy to the town of Vignacourt. The plates have now been preserved and copied at the Australian War Memorial, which mounted a travelling exhibition in 2012. Ross Coulthart's book, *The Lost Diggers of Vignacourt*, has become a best-seller. Many of the soldiers have now been identified through the photos they sent home a hundred years ago.

A new interpretive centre, Vignacourt 14-18, showcases the work of Louis and Antoinette Thuillier in the renovated outbuildings of the family farmhouse.

*Group portrait of soldiers of 2<sup>nd</sup> Division*  
AWM P10550.140





## BERT MOUAT AND THE XMAS DINNER



Herbert Alexander Mouat served in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, after enlisting in late August 1915. He had a wife and four children in Poowong, Victoria. He had many bouts of sickness and just as many citations for being absent without leave, disobedient, missing roll calls, and even for talking after lights out. The 6<sup>th</sup> was billeted at Vignacourt in November, 1916, when he had this photo taken at the Thuillier farm. He sent the picture home as a postcard and it became a part of the Australian War Memorial collection. On the back is written:

*'4671 Pte Herbert Alexander Mouat, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, holding the Xmas Dinner. Taken in France.'*

AWM H06113

The duck and the dog may have been Thuillier farm animals. Bert went missing again in February 1917, after being hospitalised in England. He was fined again in mid July for being absent without leave. He returned to his battalion in September 1917, having missed the battles of Menin Road and Polygon Wood, but he was hit soon afterwards at Broodseinde Ridge in Belgium. The bullet severed his spinal cord and he became paraplegic. After 11 months in hospital in England, he caught an infection and died on 28 September 1918. He was 29 years old.

Bert Mouat is one of the soldiers detailed in Ross Coulthart's book, *The Lost Diggers*.

## REGIONAL SPECIALITIES



**While you are travelling around the Somme region, don't miss the opportunity to try some of the local delicacies.**

You'll certainly find a selection of traditional dishes on the menu at many cafes and restaurants but make sure you drop in at one of the weekly markets too. You'll find plenty of cheeses, charcuterie, cakes and pastries to tempt you – just try what the locals buy.



**Pâté de canard d'Amiens:** created in 1643, duck pate in pastry ('en croute'), with pork, apples, cognac, truffles, mushrooms, egg and shallots



**La ficelle picarde:** ham and cooked mushrooms rolled in a crepe and baked in a creamy cheese sauce



**Macarons:** Amiens is famous for its macarons and chocolate



**Le gateau battu:** an ancient specialty, literally beaten cake, which is served at weddings and festivals, excellent with jam



**La rabote:** a Picardy dessert, peeled and cored apple filled with sugar and baked in puff or short crust pastry



**Flamiche aux poireaux:** sealed and baked pie of leeks, crème fraiche and butter, sometimes with nutmeg and cheese. Typical of the Santerre area, west of Péronne



## Péronne and Mont Saint-Quentin

In the autumn of 1918, Australian forces took part in a series of decisive victories along the Somme River, moving east from Amiens. The Australian divisions fought alongside each other under the command of the Australian general, Sir John Monash who was knighted in August 1918 and whose confidence and audacity in these months would earn him much praise. Péronne and Mont Saint-Quentin were heavily defended but they fell in a determined Australian attack over four days, from 29 August to 2 September. The cost was heavy – 3,000 Australian casualties – but individual acts of gallantry were many. Eight Australians won the Victoria Cross, more than on any other Australian field of battle of the First World War.

*'You have altered the whole course of the war,'* the British General Sir Henry Rawlinson is said to have told Monash.

Péronne has been sacked many times since the Vikings. The Germans held it from late 1914, so the town was virtually razed by Allied shelling. At its centre, a large mediaeval fortress houses one of the finest war museums on the Western Front. L'Historial de la Grande Guerre displays 70,000 objects from all sides, in clever and

thoughtful displays. The collection includes many important artworks – particularly those by the German artist Otto Dix, who fought in the war. Two new galleries opened in 2015, one depicting the Australian role in the nearby battles.

Péronne sits at the junction of the Somme and the Cologne rivers, and appears surrounded by water, making it one of the loveliest towns in this region. It is a good base if you would like to stay somewhere smaller than Amiens or Arras. The

*Men of 54<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
after the capture of Péronne* AWM E03183



*Australian 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Memorial  
Mont Saint-Quentin*

river offers lots of scope for non military tourism and the bicycle paths to the west run 160km to the sea. The Somme River divides here into many idyllic ponds, which can be explored on foot, car or boat. The city has some fine hotels and restaurants and a fast train links the nearby station at Haute-Picardie with Charles de Gaulle Airport near Paris.

Mont Saint-Quentin is about 1.5km north of Péronne. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Memorial, on the site of one of their greatest victories, is on avenue des Australiens, near the top of the hill. The statue of a digger in slouch hat, head cast downward in reflection, is the second on this site. The first, an Australian soldier symbolically bayonetting a German eagle, was removed by German forces in the Second World War.

New signage and a walking path help to explain the Australian actions here. The signs begin outside the church on rue de l'Abbaye, a good place to park. If you go first to the Historial Museum or the tourist office opposite the château, pick up a brochure about the new walking tour, *'the Battle of Mont Saint-Quentin'*.

# Bellenglise

**Bellenglise, a hamlet of 400 people, is the most easterly point on the French section of the Australian Remembrance Trail. The Australian 4<sup>th</sup> Division has its memorial here, just north of the town, because it is the last battle they fought, seven weeks before the Armistice.**

At the time, exhaustion had set in on both sides, after months of fighting for every small town along the Somme River. The Germans had retreated to the massively fortified Hindenburg Line, demoralised by a string of losses. General Haig was told that German officers were reporting that their soldiers were now reluctant to face

Australian troops. The Australian soldiers were just as sick of war, having fought continuously since March, but they could see an end in sight. General Monash planned the attack with his usual precision and flair. With only eight tanks available, he ordered engineers to build 10 dummy tanks out of wood and canvas. Each could be moved

by a team of six soldiers inside, and were placed where the Germans could see them, to inspire fear.

The final action began on 18 September. Advancing on the Hindenburg Line, the Australians lost over 1,200 men. Of the five Australian divisional memorials on the Western Front, Bellenglise is the least visited, partly because it is the most isolated, but the Memorial is surrounded by beautiful, tranquil farming country. It's a short drive from Péronne, 22km west.

*Australian 45<sup>th</sup> Battalion troops attack towards the Hindenburg Line  
1918 AWM E03383*



## HAVE A DRINK IN PICARDY – THE SOLDIERS DID

Australian soldiers developed a taste for rough vin blanc and vin rouge during the war, but modern visitors have more choice. Picardy, (now part of the Hauts-de-France region) is strong on apples and barley – so those ingredients lead inevitably to cider and beer.

The barley produces two varieties of beer – a light lager known as Rebelle, and the stronger Milliacus beer. Boutique organic ciders are very popular. In western Picardy, cider is then distilled to produce an eau de vie that is aged in oak

for at least two years. A number of medieval concoctions are still made – usually from a base of white wine, combined with sugar, honey, apple, and lemon. These traditions go back to the Romans: try some Hypocras (spicy red wine with cinnamon and honey) or Saugette (white wine, honey and sage).

While there isn't much wine grown in Picardy, there are a few communes in the Aisne department that have the right to grow and produce properly accredited champagne.





# Corbie

**Corbie is an ancient town with a fascinating history, a friendly atmosphere and good rail connections to Paris and Amiens. Like Albert, it has a range of accommodation and restaurants and a lovely small town feel.**

The Germans shelled Corbie and came close to taking it in the Spring Offensive of 1918. Before that, it was a rest town for Australian troops – up to 20,000 at a time. A large hospital treated many Australian and British soldiers, including the British writer JRR Tolkien, who came in late 1916 with trench fever. The illness probably saved his life.

The locals say the twin towers of the abbey church were part of his inspiration for The Lord of the Rings. In 1918, the Australian general Pompey Elliott caught a British officer with a cart full of looted champagne near here. Elliott promised that the next officer caught looting would be hanged in the Corbie market square.



*Market, Place de la République  
Corbie*



*Ruined abbey church of St Pierre  
Corbie, 1918 AWM H15599*

Very little remains of the 7<sup>th</sup> century Benedictine Abbey, but it was once one of the most important in France. The tourist office has walking tours that take you inside the Abbey church of St-Pierre, with its extraordinary collection of relics. Cycle route number 32 passes through here on its way from Amiens to Arras, via Albert and Dernancourt. With a few detours, you could also include Villers-Bretonneux, Le Hamel, Pozières and Vaux-sur-Somme (see below). Download a brochure from the Somme Tourisme website.

## NEARBY

**VAUX-SUR-SOMME:** Manfred von Richthofen, also known as the Red Baron, crashed here on 21 April 1918. The Canadian pilot Roy Brown was initially credited with shooting him down but recent research suggests he was killed by Australian ground fire. His plane was stripped for souvenirs within minutes. A piece of the wing resides at the Aeronautical Museum in Albert.

**SAILLY-LE-SEC:** the Australian 3<sup>rd</sup> Division fought here in March 1918 as part of a desperate campaign to

stop the German Spring offensive. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Memorial is on the D1, where the smaller road comes up from Sailly-le-Sec. You can see the Australian Corps Memorial at Le Hamel, across the river.

**SCENIC DRIVE:** in late 1918, Australian troops fought across all of this landscape. Cross the Somme via the D1, on the road to Bray. Just outside town, park at Point de Vue Ste-Colette for a great view over the man-made ponds below, dating to the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Continue on to the Red Baron crash site (in a

field of peas), then the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Memorial, at one of the highest points. Return via Sailly-Laurette, where in 1916 British engineers rebuilt the lock so barges could take the wounded back to hospitals in Corbie and Amiens. Wilfred Owen was one of those wounded. His poem 'Hospital Barge' recalls this journey. There's a small memorial to him next to the main lock. The D71 will take you on to Le Hamel and the Australian Corps Memorial. Continue to Villers-Bretonneux or back to Corbie via Fouillois.



# Treating the wounded

**Australian forces suffered five times as many casualties on the Western Front as they did in any other place. The figures are staggering and while exact numbers are in dispute, most now agree that Australia lost over 46,000 dead and more than 130,000 wounded here – more than half of the total AIF enlistment of 295,000. Those figures would be higher if they included the thousands of men who died soon after returning to Australia – some by their own hand, others from wounds incurred on active service or from illnesses made worse by that service.**

By 1916, both treatments and organisation had improved from the previous year at Gallipoli, when many soldiers died from disease rather than wounds. On the Western Front, whether a soldier survived a wound depended partly on when he was wounded during a battle, whether stretcher bearers could reach him and how close he was to an aid post.

A soldier wounded at Pozières in France in July 1916, if he could still walk, might be told to get himself to a nearby dressing station. Those who could not walk had to be picked up from the battlefield and carried back by stretcher-bearers.

These men did this day after day under fire and many were killed.

The Dressing Station worked as a triage centre, patching up minor wounds to send soldiers back to the Front and organising the more seriously injured to be sent by ambulance, train or even barge to a Casualty Clearing Station, a mobile hospital that could perform most kinds of surgery, including amputation. That was common, partly because gangrene set in rapidly from wounds contaminated by soil.

If a soldier was wounded in France or Belgium, he might hope he had a 'Blighty wound' – an injury serious

enough to send him to 'Blighty' as the soldiers called England – because this could mean a spell away from the battlefields. The wounded soldier would be put on a hospital ship although sadly many of these were sunk by German submarines before they reached England. Those who would never be able to rejoin their units would be sent home to Australia, where new military hospitals were hurriedly set up to receive them.

Many of the military cemeteries on the Western Front grew up next to field hospitals, as at Vignacourt. Those cemeteries have a higher proportion of known graves, because the soldier's identity was usually known when he arrived for treatment. In 1918, the two British casualty clearing stations at Vignacourt received many Australian wounded from the Battle of Amiens. That's why more than 400 of the 584 First World War graves at Vignacourt are Australian. Many Australian soldiers had happy memories of rest periods at Vignacourt – but not all.

*Casualty clearing station in Larch Wood tunnels  
Belgium, August 1917 AWM EO0672*



# Le Hamel

Australians may wonder why there is a second Australian monument so close to Villers-Bretonneux. It's because General John Monash made history here.

In mid 1918, General Monash had just been given command of the entire Australian Corps, the first Australian to have that honour, after a string of British commanders. The small village, known then simply as Hamel, had been in German hands for three months. General Rawlinson, Monash's superior, wanted it back. Monash did not like the odds until he saw what the new Mark V British tanks were capable of. He saw a way to coordinate artillery, infantry, aircraft and tanks so that each arm supported the others. The battle orders were so detailed that the positions of new shell holes were marked in advance, so the infantry could use them as cover.

Eight hundred Americans joined the Australian attack on 4 July 1918 – American Independence Day. Monash predicted the battle would take 90 minutes. There is some argument among historians about whether it took 85 or 93 minutes, but it was an astounding success. Even so, there were 1,200 Australian casualties, 176 American and 2,000



*The Australian Corps Memorial*

German. Monash famously wrote later that *'a perfected modern battle plan is like nothing so much as a score for an orchestral composition, where the various arms and units are the instruments, and the tasks they perform their respective musical phrases'*.

**AUSTRALIAN CORPS MEMORIAL:** the monument is on the top of

the hill on the site of the German command post. The Germans had deep dugouts across 550m of trench here; you can see the remains of the trenches just to the right of the monument. There are some interesting photographs along the path from the car park, showing the destruction wrought on the village by Allied shelling. There is a moving message inscribed on the monument from a speech that the French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau gave while visiting Australian troops soon after the battle.

*Part of the message from French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau*



*'When the Australian Army came to France, the French people expected a great deal of you ... We knew that you would fight a real fight, but we did not know that from the beginning you would astonish the whole continent ... I shall go back tomorrow and say to my countrymen: 'I have seen the Australians. I have looked into their faces. I know that these men ... will fight alongside us again until the cause for which we are all fighting is safe for us and our children.'*

## A GENERAL'S STORY - SIR JOHN MONASH

Monash was the first Australian to command the combined Australian forces in the First World War in France. He was hated by some, adored by others, and his reputation is still debated by historians. Was he the greatest general on the Allied side in the Great War, or merely the greatest that Australia produced? Was his career path slowed by entrenched anti-semitism in the British Army or simply by his own fierce ambition?

John Monash grew up in a Jewish family in Melbourne. His father was from Prussia, (near Poznan, now in Poland) but John grew up speaking English and German. He was an exceptional student until his first year at university, which he failed, he was only 15. He excelled at chess, mathematics and music, all of which contributed to his development as a soldier. He studied arts and engineering at the University of Melbourne, then took a law degree.

By 1914 he was an expert in concrete construction, especially

roads and bridges, and had almost 30 years' experience as a volunteer in the Victorian Militia, with a special interest in artillery. He had just turned 49, was comfortably wealthy and commander of an infantry brigade. He was also smart, ambitious and brashly confident – which sometimes made him unpopular with his contemporaries.

He commanded the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade at Gallipoli and took over as commander of the newly formed 3<sup>rd</sup> Division in France in 1916. His success in the Third Battle of Ypres, particularly in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division's victory at Broodseinde, put him in good standing with the British High Command. In November 1917, when the five Australian divisions were combined as the new I Anzac Corps, Monash was one of two Australians most likely to be given its command. The other was General Cyril Brudenell White, the favourite of Australian war



**John Monash 1919**  
by James Quinn (1860-1951)

oil on canvas  
Collection:

National Portrait Gallery, Canberra  
Gift of John Colin Monash Bennett 2007  
Donated through the Australian  
Government's Cultural Gifts Program

*General Monash escorts Australian Prime Minister William Hughes to the Australian Front Somme, September 1918* AWM E03851



correspondent Charles Bean. Bean did not like Monash. Monash regarded Bean's campaign to stop his appointment as straight anti-semitism. In a letter to his wife, Monash called it a 'pogrom'.

Australian Prime Minister Billy Hughes confirmed Monash and Bean later changed his assessment of Monash's abilities. He had little choice when Monash became the most successful general on the British side in the last six months of the war, developing new tactics that emphasised coordination between artillery, infantry, tanks and aircraft. Having been knighted in the field, Sir John Monash returned to Australia a national hero. He continued his distinguished career in public administration in Victoria and died in 1931.



# Villers-Bretonneux

**Of all the places where Australians fought on the Western Front, Villers-Bretonneux is perhaps the best known to Australians today.**

This is partly because Villers-Bretonneux was a turning point in 1918, both for the Australian troops and the (mostly) British generals commanding them. The German Spring offensive in March had taken back nearly all the territory north of the Somme that the Allies had gained since July 1916. Villers-Bretonneux stood between the Germans and the vital British rail and road hub at Amiens, just 15km west. If the Germans could take Villers-Bretonneux, they could shell

Amiens – and they did take it for a few hours on 24 April 1918.

The Australian and British counter-attack then retook the town in one night of brutal hand to hand combat. This stopped the German advance and from here, Australian battalions played a big part in the final campaigns of the war, in victory after victory - at Le Hamel, Péronne and Mont Saint-Quentin. In a sense, the end of the war began here, in Villers-Bretonneux.



*Villers-Bretonneux military cemetery*

The 5,000 inhabitants of the village vowed not to forget les Australiens. This contributed to the decision to establish the main Australian Memorial on Hill 104, just north of the village. For Victorians, Villers-Bretonneux has a special status, because so many of the Australian soldiers who died here were from Victoria. Many Australians, including school groups, come here every year to pay their respects. A dawn service has been held here on Anzac Day since 2008 and commemorative events continue over several days. There is even an annual Australian Rules Football match, played on ground that Australian soldiers once fought over. The new Sir John Monash Centre further cements these memories for both countries.



*Ecole Victoria  
Villers-Bretonneux*

## WHAT TO SEE

Start at the **ÉCOLE VICTORIA** (9 rue du Victoria), where the famous message 'Do Not Forget Australia', written in English, adorns the playground shelter. The message is repeated in French in each of the classrooms. The school was rebuilt between 1923 and 1927 with funds donated by school children from the State of Victoria. The school at nearby Dernancourt was also rebuilt with funds from South Australia. A number of buildings and streets around Villers-Bretonneux demonstrate the affiliation with Australia. Look out for

the two kangaroos on the town hall's version of the Australian Coat of Arms.

**THE FRANCO-AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**, upstairs on the first floor of the school, has been recently reopened after a full renovation, funded in part by the Australian Government. It houses a large number of interesting artefacts - letters, maps, paintings, posters, uniforms and especially photographs, most of them donated by Australian soldiers and their families.. The renovation has allowed around 300 previously

unseen items to be put on view. A new glass chapel at one end of the museum looks down into the school courtyard with its famous message. Open every day. Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve.

Villers-Bretonneux has limited facilities for tourists but there are a few places to stay and several spots for a drink or something to eat. The Sir John Monash Centre has a small café and just at the bottom of the hill, the Auberge de Fouilloy has several dining rooms and a sunny courtyard garden.



*The Australian National Memorial  
Villers-Bretonneux*

## THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Opened in July 1938, this was one of the last national memorials to be established on the Western Front; it's also one of the most serene and beautiful, high on a hill and surrounded by a patchwork of fields of wheat. The approach is through a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery where 779 Australians are buried among the 2,041 graves.

On the walls of the memorial are the names of more than 10,700 Australians killed in France and Belgium who have no known grave. If the weather is good, climb the tower and you can see Amiens in the distance. The Sir John Monash Centre below the memorial is designed to be invisible as you approach through the cemetery.

## NEARBY

**ADELAIDE CEMETERY:** in November 1993, the body of an unknown Australian soldier was taken from here to be reburied in the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. A new gravestone in the cemetery commemorates that soldier's new role as The Unknown Soldier. The Adelaide Cemetery is on the western outskirts of the village on the D1029. Tucked in off the road, it is easy to miss but well worth a visit. There are 519 Australians buried here, many of whom died at Villers-Bretonneux on 25 April 1918.

**CORBIE:** a very pretty town which grew up around a grand Abbey established in the 7<sup>th</sup> century.



*Headstone of the Unknown Soldier  
Adelaide Cemetery*

**THE SOMME CANAL:** this historic 18<sup>th</sup> century canal links Péronne in the east with Saint-Valery-sur-Somme in the west, passing through 25 locks on a journey of 155km, to the Bay of the Somme. Most of it now has a bike path running alongside. The upper stretches between here and Péronne are some of the prettiest to ride.

**THE LITTLE TRAIN OF THE HIGH SOMME:** the tracks were built in 1916 for the Battle of the Somme. A 1940s steam train takes passengers in wooden carriages along a 14km loop from Froissy via Dompierre. The train runs only from April to September. The tracks start at La Neuville-les-Brays, off the D329.

# THE SIR JOHN MONASH CENTRE



*View of the grassed roof of the Sir John Monash Centre  
Villers-Bretonneux*

**When you walk up the gentle slope of the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, the new Sir John Monash Centre is invisible behind the Australian National Memorial. Nothing disturbs the peace of the cemetery or the solemnity of the Memorial. But this was once a blood soaked battlefield.**

*'There is no spot on the whole of the tortured soil of France which is more associated with Australian history and the triumph of Australian soldiers than Villers-Bretonneux'* wrote General Sir John Monash.

That's why this ground, so important to Australia's history and identity, was chosen as the site for the Sir John Monash Centre, a place where visitors can immerse themselves in an experience unlike any other on the former battlefields of northern France and Belgium. The Centre takes an innovative approach to telling the moving and harrowing story of Australians on the Western Front, much of it in the words of those who served here during the First World War.

The experience is designed to be much more than educational – it is

provocative, emotional, imaginative, using state of the art multi media technologies to weave together new and archival footage, animation, maps, music and soundscapes to guide you through the Centre.

Start at the Orientation Building next to the car park, walk to the Stone of Remembrance at the western end of the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery and on to the Cross of Sacrifice. Across the forecourt, the walls of the Australian National Memorial are inscribed with the names of more than 10,700 Australian soldiers missing in France during the Great War. Some are buried here, their gravestones marked "Known unto God"; some

*Entrance to Sir John Monash Centre  
Villers-Bretonneux*







*The Sir John Monash Centre viewed from the western courtyard  
Villers-Bretonneux*

went into battle and were never seen again, their bodies never found.

It is only when you climb the tower of the Memorial that the Centre reveals itself, dug into the hill below. The roof is sown with local grasses so that it blends into the surrounding landscape of fields and farms.

The Memorial was designed by architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and built in the 1930s but tough economic times meant that some

elements were left undone. Now, new paving work has connected the tower and the pavilions at either end of the forecourt. The hedge of trees around the Memorial has been replanted and the yew trees reinstated.

From either pavilion, a ramp leads down to the Sir John Monash Centre, a little like descending into a trench on the Western Front. The sides are lined with bricks, some imprinted

*Rising sun mosaic  
Villers-Bretonneux*



*Interior, Sir John Monash Centre  
Villers-Bretonneux*

with the daily slang of Australian soldiers – words like cobber and smoko and two up - and trench signs like rue de Kanga and Wallaby Lane.

The Centre's inner walls are lined with Australian timbers and open on to the centrepiece of the building – a 360° theatre designed to immerse visitors in the stories of Australian soldiers at the epic battles of Villers-Bretonneux and Le Hamel.

You leave the Centre towards the east and head into a beautiful courtyard. From the top of the terrace, you can see Le Hamel, site of Sir John Monash's signature victory, just a few kilometres away.

You can move at your own pace through the Centre but allow at least one and a half hours. The visit is entirely self guided. Download the free Centre App and use your own mobile device and ear phones. There's free WiFi on site so that you can stream content without having to chew up your mobile data. There's also a gift shop and a café.

Open every day over Christmas and in February (more details on the website).

# THE CENTRAL REGION

By 1917, the British and French generals on the Western Front thought they had learned the lessons of the Somme. Artillery barrages had to be more concentrated; the terrible casualty figures of 1916 could not be repeated. The casualties had political consequences: the British prime minister resigned in December 1916, followed by the French prime minister in March 1917. The Allied generals still believed they could break the stalemate with a Spring Offensive. Meanwhile the Germans had built the Hindenburg Line, a system of defences so strong it was supposed to make any breakthrough impossible. They meant to stay put – at least until they could defeat the Russians on the Eastern Front.



View of Arras from the belfry

Arras was in the middle of these grand plans – again. In 1914, the French and German armies battered each other and the city in the First Battle of Arras. For the next four years, Arras was never more than 10km from the Front; more than 80% of the city was destroyed. The city's misfortune, like that of Amiens, has been its strategic importance over many centuries.

In April 1917, the British launched the Second Battle of Arras, to coincide with a French offensive further south. The Canadians would attack north of Arras towards Vimy, British and New Zealand troops in the middle, and Australian and British troops to the south towards Bullecourt. The battle was successful in pushing back German lines, but stalemate returned by May. The Canadians covered themselves in glory on Vimy Ridge; the New Zealand tunnellers were superb in converting the old chalk mines of the city into an underground highway; and at Bullecourt, the Australians had a victory that left a bitter taste. Some lessons had been learned, just not enough.

Arras is still strategically important for visitors, midway between the Belgian battlefields around Ypres, 70km north, and the Somme battlefields, 80km south. The

## 5 MILITARY SITES IN THE REGION

**MUST SEE**

1. Fromelles, site of the first major Australian action on the Western Front (p29)
2. Bullecourt, site of two costly Australian battles in 1917 (p30)
3. Wellington Tunnels, where the New Zealand tunnellers created an underground barracks before the Second Battle of Arras in May 1917 (p27)
4. Ring of Remembrance and Notre-Dame-de-Lorette (p28)
5. Vimy Ridge Canadian Memorial (p28)

Australian Remembrance Trail sites at Fromelles and Bullecourt are close by, and this is a good place to experience the wider context of the war, and the contribution of other countries. French casualties

north of Arras had already been appalling before the Canadians took Vimy Ridge. The French cemetery at Notre-Dame-de-Lorette, beside the new Ring of Remembrance, is a sobering place.

## 5 NON MILITARY EXPERIENCES

**DON'T MISS**

1. The Saturday market at Arras, fantastic
2. The Boves tunnels, and the view from the belfry at Arras
3. The Louvre-Lens, a magnificent new art gallery, near Lille
4. The St-Vaast Abbey and Cathedral, a large 18<sup>th</sup> century religious complex built in and around the remains of a 7<sup>th</sup> century Benedictine Abbey
5. The Citadel, a World Heritage-listed fort built by Vauban, now a lively communal space

# Arras

**Arras is one of the jewels of northern France, a cultured city of 120,000 people, with 2,000 years of history, a rich tradition of architecture, fine dining, painting and commerce.**

It is also like two cities – one above ground, the other below. The Town Hall sits on top of a series of caves dating from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, known as Les Boves. The restaurants around the two great squares have ancient cellars, where you can try regional specialties, such as cœur d'Arras (a smelly soft cheese) or a chocolate rat. During the Great War, New Zealand tunnellers linked up the old chalk mines east of the city so that thousands of soldiers could live 20m underground. The Wellington Tunnels are a must visit.

The two main squares, the Grand'Place and Place des Héros, are architecturally unique. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, King Philip II forbade building here except in stone and brick. This was partly to ensure against fire but the result was a uniform façade of 155 houses in Flemish Baroque style. The narrow-fronted houses were occupied by traders in the Middle Ages,

when the city was famous for its tapestries, wool and lace. The houses were damaged and rebuilt after the Great War. They are spectacularly lit at night, when the bars and restaurants throng with bons vivants.

Arras offers a great range of activities when you need a break from war. The city has a beautiful Museum of Fine Arts, and the new Louvre-Lens is 20 minutes to the north. The Scarpe River provides 10km of walking tracks in the centre of Arras and the tourist office has maps for more serious hiking outside town. The city boasts a golf resort, a water sports centre, some beautiful gardens and a fabulous Saturday market that has been running for 1,000 years.

If you want to visit all of the sites on the Australian Remembrance Trail but don't want to change hotels, Arras is the place to stay. There is a variety of accommodation and food and a



*View from the Town Hall tower  
Arras*

choice of guides who specialise in the Australian battlefields.

Paris is 50 minutes by fast train, or two hours by road. The Eurostar runs through Lille, 50 minutes to the north, connecting to Brussels and London. The channel ports of Calais and Boulogne are an hour to the north-west.

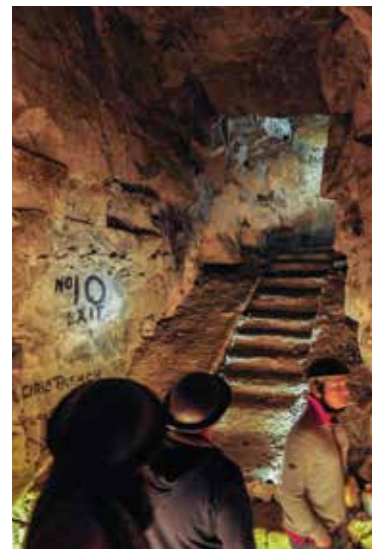
## ▶ DON'T MISS

**THE SATURDAY MARKET:** one of the oldest in France, a rich bazaar of food, wine, beer, cheese, clothing, local produce and crafts.



**LES BOVES:** a series of tunnels beneath the town hall, which have been used for protection and storage for 1,000 years. Take a guided tour, then climb the belfry.

**WELLINGTON TUNNELS:** The chalk mines of Arras go back centuries. In late 1916, with the Western Front in stalemate, New Zealand tunnellers connected various chambers, creating a network that could house up to 24,000 soldiers for several days at a time. Here's your chance to wear a tin hat – they're compulsory on the tour. The tour takes an hour - bring a sweater. Rue Deletoille, a short walk from the city centre. Open every day. Closed on Christmas Day and from 1 to 27 January.





## Arras continued

### NEARBY

#### VIMY RIDGE

On 9 April 1917, the four Canadian divisions on the Western Front fought together for the first time in a battle that has become to Canadians what Gallipoli is to Australians. The difference is that Vimy Ridge was a victory but at terrible cost. Canada lost over 10,000 men killed or wounded on the 7km ridge. The Canadian Monument is on the highest point and commemorates both the battle and the 11,285 Canadian soldiers who were killed in all Great War battles in France and who have no known grave. Vimy Ridge Memorial is on the D55, 10km north of Arras.

#### THE RING OF REMEMBRANCE

This compelling new memorial, opened in 2014, gathers together the names of 579,606 soldiers from 40 nationalities, who died in the Great War in this northern area of France. The names are inscribed alphabetically without rank or country on 500 sheets of bronzed stainless steel 3m high, mounted inside a 345m ring of concrete. The site is next to Notre-Dame-de-Lorette, the largest French war cemetery in the world and resting place of more than 42,000 French soldiers. Just north of Ablain-St-Nazaire.

*Moonrise over the Canadian Memorial  
Vimy Ridge*



*The Ring of Remembrance  
Notre-Dame-de-Lorette*

#### THE CWGC EXPERIENCE

The CWGC Experience shines a light on the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. At this new visitor attraction in Beaurains, you will be able to take a look behind-the-scenes at the work that is needed to commemorate the Commonwealth casualties from the First and Second World Wars. Open from Monday to Friday, closed during December and January and for public holidays.

#### LOUVRE-LENS

The Louvre Museum has opened a spectacular new gallery in a

contemporary building on the site of a former mine head. This new gallery, 20 minutes north of Arras, displays 205 works in chronological order, from the birth of writing more than 3,000 years ago, to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. 99 rue Paul-Bert, 62300 Lens. Open daily except Tuesday, closed 25 December, 1 January, 1 May.

#### LILLE

If you yearn for some city life, take a break in Lille, one of France's largest cities. Lille has a fascinating history. Since the Middle Ages, it has been an important industrial and economic centre, its wealth coveted by its neighbours. That's why, at different times, Lille has been part of Flanders, Burgundy, the Spanish Netherlands, France, the Netherlands again and finally France. Since the opening of the Eurostar station (a useful gateway for visitors to the Great War sites), Lille has shed some of its industrial past and emerged as a hub for new technology, education and tourism.

# Fromelles

On the night of 19-20 July 1916, newly arrived Australian and British divisions attacked a German strong point known as the Sugarloaf across open ground near the village of Fromelles. It was the first major attack by Australian troops on the Western Front and it remains the most catastrophic, with 5,500 casualties in one night (and a further 1,500 British casualties). The attack was conceived as a feint, to stop the Germans moving more troops south to the Somme, and historians are still debating whether it achieved that. All agree the attack gained no significant ground.

*Australian 2<sup>nd</sup> Division troops in the trenches near Fromelles*  
AWM EZ0007



Australian bodies lay on the battlefield for two years without burial. The Australian military historian Charles Bean visited in November 1918 and wrote in his diary that the former no man's land was '*simply full of our dead*'. Most of them were buried in a post-war Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery known as VC Corner, but none of the remains could be identified, so no headstones were laid.

Just after the battle, the Germans buried 250 Australian and British bodies in a mass grave at nearby Pheasant Wood. In 2009, after a long campaign by retired Australian schoolteacher Lambis Englezos, those graves were found and exhumed. After taking DNA samples, the bodies were reinterred with full honours in a new Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery – the first in 50 years. That new cemetery stands beside Musée de la Bataille de Fromelles, a new museum, opened in 2014 and funded in part by the Australian Government.

## WHAT TO SEE

**MUSÉE DE LA BATAILLE DE FROMELLES:** this tells the story of the battle of Fromelles and the recent work to identify some of the men who died here. Rue de la Basse Ville. Open most days except Tuesdays, closed in February.

**FROMELLES (PHEASANT WOOD) MILITARY CEMETERY:** next to the new museum, this opened in 2010 to accommodate the 250 Australian and British men exhumed from a German mass grave nearby. By late 2017, DNA testing had identified 150 of these men each now named on a headstone. One hundred are yet to be identified but testing continues.

**VC CORNER MILITARY CEMETERY:** this is the original Fromelles military cemetery and the only



CWGC cemetery in France that contains only Australians – 410 of them. Because none of the bodies could be identified, they have no gravestones. Instead, their names are inscribed on the walls, in a list of 1,178 Australians missing after the battle. 2km northwest of the town on the D22C.

**THE AUSTRALIAN MEMORIAL PARK:** right next to VC Corner, this small memorial, opened in 1998, is built on top of a German blockhouse. It supports Peter Corlett's famous statue '*Cobbers*', depicting an Australian soldier carrying his mate in from the battlefield. Corlett modelled the standing soldier on Victorian farmer Simon Fraser, who went out the day after the massacre at Fromelles to help bring in wounded.



# Bullecourt

**Although Bullecourt is less well-known than some places where Australian soldiers fought, those who survived the two battles for Bullecourt in April and May 1917 never forgot their shattering experience. This is where Australian soldiers learned to hate tanks, which failed miserably to protect them or even make it on time to the battlefield. It's also where many of the Diggers lost whatever faith they still had in their British commanders.**

Bullecourt was a disaster, from start to finish. The attacks were planned in haste, without artillery support, but carried out with extraordinary valour. The appalling casualties decimated the Australian divisions and are said to have influenced the vote at home against conscription. Australia suffered 3,300 casualties in the first battle, which lasted one day. The second lasted a fortnight and was one of the most brutal of the war. *'We killed till we grew sick of the sight of blood and dead men,'* wrote William Willis of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Australian casualties at the Second Battle of Bullecourt amounted to 7,400. The Australians took most of their objectives so Bullecourt counts as a victory, but for little strategic value, and at hideous cost.

Bullecourt is 18km southeast of Arras. It was obliterated by shelling in 1917, then rebuilt. The small farming

community here maintains close ties with Australia and Anzac Day is well attended each year. A large banner in town proclaims *'Anzacs – we will remember them'*. It is opposite a small pub known as Le Canberra. The Australian Government has recently contributed to an upgrade to the small but superb museum, built around the collection of the late mayor Jean Letaille and his wife Denise.

*The Bullecourt Digger statue at the Australian Memorial*



## ITINERARY

**LE MUSÉE JEAN & DENISE LETAILLE – BULLECOURT 1917** is down a side street off the main road into Bullecourt, at 1 bis rue d'Arras. Open Tuesday to Sunday. Closed from mid December to mid February.

### THE BULLECOURT DIGGER:

the Melbourne sculptor Peter Corlett's statue of an Australian soldier stands sentinel over the Australian Memorial on the rue des Australiens, on the outskirts of Bullecourt. He modelled the face on his own father who had fought at Bullecourt. Corlett would later sculpt the *'Cobbers'* statue at Fromelles. The site is between two German trenches from 1917.

**QUÉANT ROAD CEMETERY** in nearby Buissy contains 2,337 military graves,

of which 995 are Australian. Of these, only 299 are known by name. In 1995, the remains of Sergeant Jack White, killed at Bullecourt on

3 May 1917, were reburied here. His body was not found until 1994. His daughter Myrle, who was a baby when he died, attended the funeral.



## TWO FRIENDS

Good friends before the war, Pte Francis Harrup Northey and Pte Arthur William Woodward enlisted together in December 1915, joining the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. On 3 May 1917, aged 25, Northey was killed in action during the Second Battle of Bullecourt. Woodward was wounded in the same action and died just three weeks later, aged 28.

*Pte Northey and Pte Woodward in Egypt May 1916 AWM P07641.002*



## THE NORTHERN REGION

**The northern region of the Australian Remembrance Trail is centred on Ypres, a beautiful medieval town that, in the First World War, had the great misfortune to be directly in the path of the opposing armies. While it was never occupied by German forces, it was always in the firing line because it was always on the front line – constantly shelled and almost obliterated. The lands around Ypres were hotly contested for four years and some of the most brutal and costly battles of the Great War were fought in the villages and fields close to the city**

Invasion and conquest were not new to the region - for hundreds of years, other nations had coveted its wealth and strategic position. The British laid siege to the city in 1383, the French conquered Ypres in 1678 before giving it to the Spanish; the Hapsburgs took over in 1713 and made it part of the Austrian Netherlands until the French returned in 1794. The Dutch ruled the region after 1815 until Belgium seceded from the Netherlands in 1830. No wonder the city ramparts were never taken down.

The British soldiers called it Wipers when they took it back from the invading German army in 1914. That established the famous Ypres

salient, pushing the front line out on three sides in a bulge around the eastern end of the city; and that enabled German artillery to pound the city from all three sides.

From then on, Ypres was the gateway to the Flanders battlefields. Between 1914 and 1918 hundreds of thousands of Allied soldiers passed through the city and along the Menin Road to fight on the front line.

When the first Australian troops arrived in 1916, the city was already in ruins. While many Australian soldiers spent the second half of 1916 fighting in the Somme, by January 1917 some had returned to Ypres to help hold the line north of

the city. More came for the Battle of Messines in June, the precursor to the Battle of Passchendaele, a name now synonymous with bloodshed and suffering, shelling, mud and madness. Australian soldiers endured some of the worst fighting of the war in the battles for Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Poelcapelle and Passchendaele. All five Australian divisions fought here in the worst year of the war for Australia – more than 76,000 casualties, nearly double the toll of 1916. October 1917 remains the worst month in Australia's history for military casualties.

The Australian Remembrance Trail marks several of the most significant sites for Australians in Belgium – from the Menin Gate, through which nearly every soldier marched on his way to battle, to Tyne Cot Cemetery, the 5<sup>th</sup> Division Memorial at Polygon Wood and the beautiful, Australians-only small cemetery at Toronto Avenue.

*Australian troops passing the ruins of Ypres on the way to the front line  
25 October 1917 AWM E04612*



### 5 MILITARY EXPERIENCES AROUND YPRES

**MUST SEE**

1. The Menin Gate – Memorial to the Missing and site of the Last Post Ceremony, every night at 8pm (p33)
2. The new Australian gallery at the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 at Zonnebeke (p36)
3. In Flanders Fields Museum, in the rebuilt Cloth Hall (p35)
4. Tyne Cot Cemetery – the world's largest CWGC Cemetery (p37)
5. Toronto Avenue Cemetery – the only all-Australian cemetery in Belgium (p41)

# Ypres

No city on the Western Front suffered more damage than Ypres during the First World War. No city is more sacred to British memory as Winston Churchill observed in 1919 when he suggested that the city should be acquired and preserved as a ruin. The Belgians disagreed and rebuilt their city brick by brick. Since then, visitors have come in their thousands to pay homage at the battlefields and cemeteries, to hear the buglers play the Last Post at the Menin Gate, to stroll the streets and enjoy some fine Belgian hospitality.

In the Middle Ages, Ypres was a rich textile trading town. Cloth woven from British wool was traded throughout Europe, even as far as Russia. In 1200 AD, the population of the city was 40,000 – 5,000 more than it is today and that wealth built the Cloth Hall, one of the largest and most famous commercial buildings of medieval Europe. Traders stored

their cloth on the second floor where hundreds of cats protected the textiles from mice and rats and where the fabulous In Flanders Museum is now installed. Traders sold cloth on the ground floor and shipped it on the river Ypreslee which runs beneath the hall. The 70m high belfry was a treasure house, a lookout and a place of refuge in time of war.

*In Flanders Fields museum  
Cloth Hall, Ypres*



*Reading the names of the missing  
Menin Gate, Ypres*

The modern city reflects the incredible resilience of the population. It took more than 40 years after the First World War to finish rebuilding the Cloth Hall. Nowhere else in the world is there a living tribute to the dead like the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. It has been performed every night since 1928, except during German occupation in the Second World War.

Ypres is a great walking town with charming cobbled streets that look like they have never heard a shot fired. All the bars and restaurants are within a few minutes of each other in the centre. Walking the ramparts at dusk gives you a sense of the city's rich history. Australian General John Monash had his headquarters in the ramparts near the Menin Gate in 1917 and wounded men sheltered in the galleries.

You can rent a boat and row on the lake, once part of a moat around the town. The major landmarks include the rebuilt St Martin's Cathedral and City Hall, both beside the Cloth Hall. The City Hall, dating from 1619, was restored in 1862 then flattened in November 1914. A new museum of Ypres will open in 2018.

## 5 GREAT EXPERIENCES AROUND YPRES

1. Join a group to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate (you'll need to apply for this well before you start your trip)
2. Climb the belfry at the Cloth Hall for spectacular views
3. Starting at the new City Museum, take the Ypres Heritage Walk for an overview of the town's medieval history
4. Rent a bike and choose one of the many cycle trails into the countryside around Ypres
5. Visit the Old Cheese Factory at Passchendaele for an introduction to cheese making and some fine tastings

DON'T MISS



*The Last Post Ceremony  
Menin Gate*

## THE MENIN GATE

The Ypres Memorial commemorates more than 54,500 British and Commonwealth soldiers who died before 16 August 1917 and have no known grave. It's one of four Memorials to the Missing in Flanders – the names of soldiers missing later in the war are recorded across the other three, most of them at Tyne Cot (p37). Menin Gate has become one of the most famous war memorials in the world, partly because of the Last Post Ceremony performed here every night at 8pm. Usually three buglers perform the Last Post, followed by a laying of wreaths and a minute's silence. Buglers play Reveille to end the ceremony. Most nights the ceremony attracts at least a thousand visitors – get there early to secure a good position.

The buglers are members of the Last Post Association, a group of Ypres citizens who started the ceremony in 1928, after hearing buglers of the Somerset Light Infantry band perform at the opening of the memorial the year before. The current president of the association is the great-grandson of one of the founders. There are normally between six and eight buglers, all volunteer firemen. They take turns to perform and, except for the four-year German occupation during the Second World War, they have not missed a night since the Association began. In all that time, there have been only 16 or 17 buglers. One of their members performed the ceremony for 60 years.



*One of the Menin Gate Lions  
AWM P05777001*

## THE LIONS OF MENIN GATE

When British soldiers arrived in 1914, the Meenseport was a gap in the 17<sup>th</sup> century French ramparts; the original gate had been torn down in 1862. Two lions carved from bluestone stood sentinel on plinths, either side of the gap and soldiers going up to the Front passed between them. Some locals are said to have tied straw in the mouths of the lions in 1914, vowing that the Germans would not enter the city until the lions had eaten the hay.

In fact, a German cavalry unit passed into the city on 7 October 1914 – but only for a day. The British retook the city in the First Battle of Ypres in October and November. The lions survived that and the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915 but had disappeared by the Third Battle of Ypres in 1917. No one knew where they went. Much damaged, they reappeared in 1919 and were donated to the Australian War Memorial in 1936. The Memorial was inaugurated in 1939 but the Lions remained in storage. Restored by sculptor Lucas Zywuszczo in 1987-88, they have guarded the entrance to the Memorial since then. In 2017, the lions returned to Ypres on loan, to stand guard at Menin Gate again from Anzac Day (25 April) to Armistice Day (11 November). In September 2017, the Australian Government announced that Australia would give replicas of the Lions to the city of Ypres in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sacrifice of Australians during the Great War.



# Taste of Belgium

## WHAT'S BELGIAN FOR BEER?

Beer is to Belgium what wine is to France. It's not just that Belgians love it and make some of the best brews on earth, it's part of their identity. UNESCO even recognised that formally in 2016, placing Belgian beer culture on the list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity, alongside such things as the tango and Chinese calligraphy. Belgium makes at least 1,600 different beers. Their history is entwined with the Catholic Church, going back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when monasteries were granted the right to brew and sell beer. Beer was considered cleaner and healthier than drinking water, so it was drunk in vast quantities. The

alcohol level was much lower than it is now; some modern Belgian beers are seriously strong. The variety is staggering and covered by complex rules. Trappist beers can only be made in Trappist monasteries with direct involvement of monks. Abbey beers can be made by other orders but Certified Abbey beers must be brewed under licence from an existing or abandoned abbey. There are hundreds of brands and styles to explore, and lots of bars and cafés that specialise in serving only Belgian beer.

Visit the city brewery in Yeper. Brouwerij De Kazematten brews two different beers, Wipers Times 14 and Grottenbier. Reservation is advised.



## CHOCOLATE

Belgian chocolate is legendary. The industry goes back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the Spanish rulers brought the ingredients back from Mesoamerica. Chocolate became popular with the wealthy in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it became a major industry. The Belgians invented the praline and perfected an exotic array of handmade truffles, chocolate animals, birds, figurines and Easter eggs. There are now

over 2,000 chocolatiers in the country, producing a massive 172,000 tonnes of chocolate each year, much of it for export.

There are dozens of speciality chocolate shops in and around Ypres and lots of restaurants where chocolate desserts are a temptation. Put the diet on hold and try everything – a hike or a bike ride around the battlefields will help to burn off a few calories!

## LOCAL DELICACIES

**MOULES** – Belgians eat mussels by the tonne, mostly imported from Dutch farms in the North Sea. Moules frites (mussels and chips) seems to be the national dish, washed down with an excellent Belgian beer, of which there are many. Best time to eat mussels – any month ending in 'er' (ie September to December). Don't eat the ones that didn't open during cooking.

**EELS** – either cooked fresh or preserved in a terrine.

**TAPJESVLEES** – veal or pork stuffed with bacon and braised in a pot of vegetables.

**KATTENKLAUW** – This Danish pastry shaped like a cat's claw is stuffed with cream, apple and raisins.

**MACAROONS** – Crunchy on the outside, gooey on the inside. There's only an 'o' in it but the Belgian macaroon is quite different from the Amiens macaron.



# Ypres

## IN FLANDERS FIELDS MUSEUM

This state-of-the-art museum, on the first floor of the Cloth Hall, is one of two great museums in Flanders – the other being at Zonnebeke. The museum offers a thoughtful, immersive experience with high quality displays – documents, maps, photographs, and moving images – and a comprehensive collection of artefacts. It places the visitor within the period in a stunning wide-screen film with actors recreating the words of soldiers, doctors, nurses, artists and poets experiencing the war in Belgium. Visitors receive a poppy bracelet containing a microchip that activates their chosen language and introduces them to four personal stories as they move through the museum.

The permanent exhibition tells the story of Belgium during the First World War and the remembrance



ever since. There are new exhibitions each year and there's a new research centre, home to the Names List Project – an attempt to compile a list of all those who died in the Westhoek region as a result of the First World War. For a small extra charge, visitors can gain access to

the belfry – from the top, there's a magnificent view of the town and the surrounding landscape.

Open every day April to November. Closed Mondays in low season and 25 December, 1 January and for two weeks in January.

## JOHN MCCRAE, A CANADIAN DOCTOR'S LEGACY

The museum was refurbished in 1998 and renamed after the famous poem "In Flanders Fields" by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian poet, physician, author, artist and soldier during the First World War. He was a field surgeon during the Second Battle of Ypres where one of his close friends, Lt. Alexis Helmer was killed. It is widely believed that Helmer's burial inspired the poem.

It was written on 3 May, 1915 – the day after Helmer's funeral – as McCrae sat on the back of a medical field ambulance near an advance dressing post at Essex Farm, just north of Ypres. Poppies

grew everywhere around in the devastated ground of Flanders' battlefields and cemeteries.

McCrae died of pneumonia in late January 1918 and was buried with full military honours in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission section of Wimereux Cemetery near Bologne.

Since 1921, the poppy has become a symbol of remembrance for military personnel who have died in war. Initially adopted by the American Legion, the poppy is now mostly worn in the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and Australia in the lead up to 11 November, Armistice Day.

### '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.*

*We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*



# Polygon Wood

The war was very different in Belgium in 1917. Both sides brought up more artillery than they had used in the Somme a year earlier. The bombardments destroyed centuries old drainage channels in the low-lying fields, creating bogs that just got worse as men fought across them. August rains turned the area east of Ypres into a treacherous quagmire in which men and horses could drown if they fell off the network of duckboards and timber log roads.



*Polygon Wood Cemetery*

Australian and British troops had fought their way to Zonnebeke by late September, when they were ordered to take Polygon Wood, as part of the Third Battle of Ypres. There was no wood left – just a field of craters and the stumps of trees. The attack was a success but with significant losses. British casualties totalled more than 15,000, more than a third of which were Australian. The Australian 4<sup>th</sup> Division suffered 1,700 casualties; the 5<sup>th</sup> Division, more than 4,000.

That is why the 5<sup>th</sup> Division Memorial is here at the eastern end of Polygon Wood, on top of a former German stronghold known as The Butte. The Memorial was designed by Lieutenant General Sir Talbot Hobbs, who commanded the division at Polygon Wood. He died while en route to France in 1938 for the opening of the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

The nearby Polygon Wood War Cemetery was a frontline burial ground. That is why the gravestones are irregularly placed. A path leads into Polygon Wood, now regrown, past the 5<sup>th</sup> Division obelisk to the Buttes New British Cemetery, where 2,000 graves were brought in after the war. Almost 1,700 of these are unidentified, including a few Australians. One known grave belongs to Australian Leslie Clegg McMurdo, who was 17 years and 5 months old when he died at Polygon Wood.

*Photo display  
Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917*



*Australian Pioneers construct a plank road at Chateau Wood near Polygon Wood, September 1917 AWM E00800*

## MEMORIAL MUSEUM PASSCHENDAELE 1917

The war here was partly underground. This wonderful museum offers a chance to experience that terrible battle, both above and below ground. The collection is extensive and the displays are innovative - you can experience the smells of the poisonous gases in one display and walk through a full-size recreation of a bunker, extensive recreated

trenches and dugouts. There's a new gallery dedicated to the Australian experience and seven new remembrance gardens, each built by a different country. The museum's research department can help you find out about a relative who fought here. Open every day, closed between 16 December and 1 February. At Berten Pilstraat, just off the main road through Zonnebeke.





# Tyne Cot

Tyne Cot is both a former battlefield and a cemetery. In 1915, the Northumberland Fusiliers had named a barn that stood here Tyne Cottage. Five German pillboxes surrounded it, occupying the high ground. On 4 October 1917, as part of the Battle of Broodseinde, one New Zealand and three Australian divisions attacked side by side towards this point, together with eight other British divisions. The Australian troops were brimming with confidence, after victories at Menin Road and Polygon Wood. This was the first time that four Anzac divisions had fought together, in a line.



Towards the end of the battle, Tasmanian troops of the 40<sup>th</sup> Battalion attacked the five German pillboxes. They faced murderous fire from German machine guns on top of the pillboxes. The last pillbox to be taken is beneath the Great Cross at the centre of the Tyne Cot cemetery. The Australian historian Charles Bean called this victory '*an overwhelming blow*' that drove the Germans '*from one of the most important positions on the Western Front*'. Australian units suffered nearly 6,500 casualties in this battle – another costly victory.

After the war, this became the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery in the world, with more than 11,900 Commonwealth graves. There are 1,369 Australian soldiers buried here, 791 of them unknown. This makes Tyne Cot the largest Australian cemetery of the First World War. The walls of the Memorial contain the names of 35,000 men with no known grave. Tyne Cot also incorporates a New Zealand Memorial with 1,200 names of men who died in the battles of October 1917.

The visitor centre on the eastern side of the Memorial is open daily, 1 February to 30 November.

*Tyne Cot Cemetery at dawn*



## A SOLDIER'S STORY: LEWIS MCGEE

Sergeant Lewis McGee, a 29-year-old member of the 40<sup>th</sup> Battalion, won a posthumous Victoria Cross for his valour at Broodseinde. In the 40<sup>th</sup> Battalion history, Captain Frank Green wrote about the event: '*Sergeant McGee rushed straight at the pillbox in the face of what seemed like certain death but he got across that 50 yards of open ground and shot the*

AWM A02623

*crew with his revolver*'. McGee was from Campbell Town in Tasmania, where he had been a railway engine driver. He enlisted in March 1916 and took part in the battle of Messines. He was killed at Passchendaele eight days after the action that won him the Victoria Cross. He was one of 11 children and left behind a wife and daughter.

# Messines

**By June 1917, the front line around Ypres had hardly changed in two years. Ypres was in British hands but German forces held the high ground south of the city along Messines Ridge, their defences running from Ploegsteert Wood to Mt Sorrel. The German commanders ordered "that the salient be held at all costs"; for the Allies, Messines Ridge was the key to the planned advance on Passchendaele Ridge further north (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres).**

Drawing on their recent experiences around Arras, the Allies looked to sophisticated artillery plans, better coordination with planes and tanks and tunnelling to break through. It would be the first battle for the AIF in Belgium and the first time since Gallipoli that Australian and New Zealand troops

fought side by side. After three years of mining by British, Canadian and Australian companies through clay, sand and silt, the ridge was a honeycomb of tunnels, galleries and caverns.

At Hill 60, just after 3am on 7 June 1917, Captain Oliver Woodward of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian

*Shells bursting over message runners at Messines  
July 1917 AWM E00599*



Tunnelling Company detonated two huge underground mines, the northernmost of a string of 19 mines detonated in series over about 20 seconds. This was the beginning of the Battle of Messines. The event ranks as the largest and loudest non-nuclear explosion of all time, and devastated the German lines along Messines Ridge. Around 10,000 German troops were killed when the mines were detonated and German commanders later described it as one of the worst German tragedies of the war.

The site is now one of the most visited in the Ypres salient, and one of the most untouched. Many miners of both sides were killed underground in the work to prepare these mines, and remain buried here. The site is considered a mass grave and is tended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. There is a memorial to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Tunnelling Company near the entrance. Hill 60 was man-made from spoil dug out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for the railway cutting that runs beside it. The Caterpillar crater, on the other side of the railway, is even larger. The Australian film - Beneath Hill 60 - dramatises the extreme tension of this period of the war.

Hill 60 is on Zwarteleenstraat, south of the village of Zillebeke, about 7kms south of Ypres.

## LANGEMARK GERMAN WAR CEMETERY

In October 1914, during the First Battle of Ypres, youthful German units were decimated here in a futile frontal attack on British and French lines. As many as 3,000 German high school students died in what the Nazis would later glorify as the Kindermord, or Massacre of the Innocents. The site became a small German graveyard in 1915, but it was greatly enlarged after the war with the consolidation of more German war dead – partly because

the Belgian government of the time was reluctant to grant land for other enemy cemeteries. Langemark now contains 44,000 burials, making it one of the largest cemeteries on the Western Front. Almost 25,000 Germans are buried in the mass grave near the entrance.

The cemetery is on Klerkenstraat, on the northern outskirts of the village of Langemark-Poelkapelle, about 10kms north of Ypres.



# The 'mad photographers'

**The First World War was not the first to be photographed but it was the first where photography played a crucial role, both as a weapon – in aerial reconnaissance and propaganda – and as a powerful record of Australian history. The Australian War Memorial holds almost 305,000 photographs from the Great War, still in high demand from researchers, media, historians and families.**



*Capt Wilkins, Staff Sgt Joyce recording an Australian troop advance on the Hindenberg line, October 1918 AWM E03915*

British soldiers were forbidden to carry cameras on the Western Front. This was a shock for many Australian soldiers, who had used their own Kodak Pocket cameras fairly openly at Gallipoli. They were told to throw their cameras away when they reached France; if a soldier was captured with a camera, the images might prove useful to the enemy.

The Australian war correspondent and official historian, Charles Bean, took more than 700 photographs on Gallipoli, but he too was forbidden to use his camera once he arrived in France. The War Office loaned him British press photographers instead, but he repeatedly clashed with them over their tendency to fake pictures.

Bean argued strongly that Australia needed its own photographers – and in 1917, he got them.

Frank Hurley and Hubert Wilkins were both tough and resourceful men. Both had recently returned from polar expeditions – Hurley in Antarctica, Wilkins in the Arctic. Both were excellent photographic technicians and they had become firm friends, despite wildly different temperaments. Wilkins was quiet, unassuming and modest; no one ever attributed those traits to Hurley. Their images are among the most outstanding of the war, from any country.

They arrived in late August 1917, and soon earned respect among the troops for their willingness to work in the front lines. The

soldiers called them the mad photographers because of the risks they took. Hurley's job was to take action and propaganda pictures for immediate use in newspapers back home. Wilkins worked more closely with Bean to document every place where Australian forces fought. He was the photographer of record, serving history.

In practice, both men took superb images on the Western Front. After clashing with Bean over his desire to make composites – combining separate negatives in the darkroom – Hurley left France to work with the Australian forces in Palestine. Wilkins stayed on through much of 1918. He was wounded several times and decorated for bravery. The images made by both men are now an important part of the extensive collection of photographs held by the Australian War Memorial. Both men survived the war, to continue their adventures as explorer-photographers.

*Capt Frank Hurley beside an unexploded German shell near Pozières, September 1917 AWM E01059*





# Ploegsteert

The soldiers called it Plug Street. By late 1916, the farming village of Ploegsteert had already suffered for two years, sandwiched between Ypres to the north and Armentières to the south. In late 1916, the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Tunnelling Company got to work at Hill 63, north of Ploegsteert, digging what became known as the Catacombs of Hyde Park Corner – a tunnel system large enough to accommodate 1,200 men in 19 streets lined with bunks. A life-size carved kangaroo stood over the entrance (now on private land).

In June 1917, the German trenches ran east of the Ploegsteert Wood, up onto the Messines Ridge. General Monash's 3<sup>rd</sup> Division arrived fresh from training in England,

determined to prove themselves. They were hit by a German gas barrage while crossing the wood, even before arriving at their start positions for the Battle of Messines.



*Australian Engineers at the entrance to the Catacombs, the tunnels at Hill 63, Messines, January 1918 AWM E04486*

## THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE

By December 1914, after months of fighting, the war was in stalemate and troops on both sides had begun digging trenches – often so close that German and British soldiers could shout to each other across no man's land.

As Christmas approached, Pope Benedict XV called for an official truce, for "the guns to fall silent upon the night the angels sang" but this was refused.

Then on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 1914, around 100,000 German and British soldiers unofficially stopped fighting along the Western Front. Both sides sang carols, the Germans put candles on the trees, soldiers went into no man's land to exchange gifts of

tobacco, newspapers and alcohol, some swapped souvenirs, some played football, while others held joint burial services. So, as some units were still fighting, others shook hands and shared cigarettes with their enemies.

Captain Robert Miles wrote: *'We are having the most extraordinary Christmas Day imaginable ... the thing started last night ... the Germans started shouting Merry Christmas Englishmen to us. Of course our fellows shouted back and presently large numbers of both sides had left their trenches, unarmed, and met in debatable, shot riddled no man's land between the lines ... not a shot was fired all night.'*

## PLUGSTREET 14 – 18 EXPERIENCE

This is a small but engaging museum, documenting the war in this area. Part of it is below ground, inspired by the Catacombs. The museum reflects both military and civilian experience, covering the way soldiers and civilians interacted – their entertainments, diversions and tragedies. Part of the famous

Christmas Truce of 1914 occurred nearby at St-Yvon. The Australian Government contributed to the development of the museum.

The museum is at rue de Messines 156. Open all year closed 25 December to 20 January. A Last Post ceremony takes place on the first Friday of each month, at 7pm.

## 📍 A DAY OUT

If you're staying in Ypres, take a day to visit the area around Messines and Ploegsteert, taking in the New Zealand Memorial at Messines, the Peace Pool (site of the largest mine blown up on 7 June 1917) and the Island of Ireland Peace Park, which commemorates all Irish-born soldiers who fought in the war. All of these places are easily accessible by bicycle from Ypres, along marked bicycle trails. Continue to Plug Street 14 – 18 Experience, and pick up a walking trail map for the Ploegsteert Wood, which includes the Toronto Avenue Cemetery and one site of the Christmas Truce.

*The Pool of Peace*



## TORONTO AVENUE CEMETERY

This is one of the most tranquil and beautiful war cemeteries in Belgium, although rarely visited. It's also one of the smallest, with 78 burials. This and VC Corner Cemetery at Fromelles are the only exclusively Australian cemeteries on the Western Front. All but two of the men buried here are known by name; the gravestones arranged in conjoined lines signify a communal burial. Most of these men were from General Monash's 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, newly arrived in France from training in England. Most died between 7 and 10 June 1917. There are five teenagers named among them.

The cemetery is about 2km south of Messines, before you get to Ploegsteert. Drive south from Messines on the N365, turn left at Chemin du Mont de la Hutte, and park at the Prowse Point Military Cemetery, where there is a memorial to the Christmas Truce of 1914, sponsored by the European



football Association (UEFA) because the British and German soldiers played football during the truce. Walk down the hill past the Mud

Corner Cemetery then follow the signs on the left into the wood – about another 250 metres. You are not allowed to park on this road.



Grave marker of Pte Cecil Sharp Wise



## A YOUNG SOLDIER'S STORY: CECIL SHARP WISE

Cecil Sharp Wise is the youngest soldier buried in the cemetery. A labourer from Tamworth, he was 17 when he enlisted in Armidale New South Wales in April 1916. He was short and stout, according to one of his comrades, weighing in at 68kg. He arrived at the Front in Belgium at the beginning of February 1917 as a reinforcement for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, and was soon serving in a machine gun company. He made it through the bombardment on the way up to Messines only to be killed three days later, when a piece of a high explosive shell hit him in the head.

Private A H Darcy wrote afterwards that he was right beside Private Wise when he was hit – “such a nice

*young boy*”. Private Convery, writing from a military hospital in Randwick in December of that year, said: “*I knew him well. He was a good lad, only a boy. He was killed at Messines at Grey Farm a few days after the big stunt... A shell killed him at once about 10pm. I was wounded at the same time.*” One hundred years later, a relative, Christine Anderson, found his photo in a Tamworth newspaper – the only known photo – and had it placed at the grave by a Belgian man who volunteered to help. While Commonwealth graves in Belgium are cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, many are also adopted and tended by local individuals and families.

# The silent cities

At war's end in 1918, the Western Front had many more cemeteries than it does now. Men were buried where they died on the battlefield, or in small temporary cemeteries just behind the lines. Others were left unburied in the field, sometimes for years, as at Fromelles. Those who died of wounds would be buried near where they were treated. That's why some of the hospital cemeteries like Lijssenthoek near Ypres, are huge. Each side would bury the enemy's dead, after removing identity tags to send back as proof of death.

The task of counting, identifying and reburying the dead after the war took years. Many of the big cemeteries are consolidations of smaller cemeteries, as at Villers-Bretonneux. The smaller the cemetery, the more likely it is original. Australian families were initially sent photographs of grave sites, if known. Many parents came to visit those graves; others came looking for clues and answers, or to see the place where a son went missing.

Each country had different policies. The British decided that bodies were not to be repatriated and that all graves should look the same. It was, said Winston Churchill, a fellowship of the dead that avoided all boundaries of race, creed or wealth. The newly formed Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) tried to standardise the design of the cemeteries, and yet each one tells a different story that can be read.

VC Corner near Fromelles contains 410 Australian graves but no headstones. None of the bodies could be identified, so their names are inscribed on the walls instead. Gravestones placed hard up against each other in a line, as at Toronto Avenue, means that the men were buried side-by-side at the same time, not in individual graves. Gravestones arranged in a circle as at Hedge Row Trench Cemetery in Belgium tell us that the cemetery was destroyed by shellfire, making it impossible to pinpoint individual graves. Graves arranged in no discernible order, as at Polygon Wood, indicate a front-line cemetery where men were buried quickly. Occasionally a grave stands apart – sometimes a lone German soldier, buried during fighting.

The original cemetery design emulates an English walled garden. This was an attempt to give comfort to the many families who



*Cross of Sacrifice  
VC Corner, Fromelles*

came looking for their sons' graves. All but the smallest cemeteries have a register, giving some history and the names and location of the graves. The cemeteries near hospitals have the highest proportion of identified graves because a wounded soldier's name was usually recorded.

Most cemeteries have a Cross of Sacrifice, in recognition of the Christian faith of the majority of the dead. Larger ones also have a Stone of Remembrance, which looks more like an altar, representing those of other faiths or no faith. The famous words: '*A Soldier of the Great War Known unto God*' are by Rudyard Kipling, the Commission's first literary adviser. Kipling lost his only son in the war. He also described the cemeteries as '*the silent cities*'.

The Commission employs 400 full-time gardeners on the Western Front alone. Any gravestone that is damaged or illegible is replaced; CWGC headquarters for Western Europe near Arras produces up to 22,000 new gravestones per year, which they ship to cemeteries around the world. Every year along the Western Front, the remains of soldiers are found in fields and excavations. CWGC staff will usually attend on the same day to collect and protect the remains. Some are identified, some remain unknown. All are reburied with full honours.



*Thistle Dump Military Cemetery  
the Somme*



# INFORMATION

This section provides travellers with information about tourism offices, places to stay or to eat, local markets, tours and guides. It doesn't provide a definitive list of services, just some suggestions that travellers could find helpful.

Here we've listed just a small selection of hotels, cafés, bars and restaurants, chosen for variety, quality and value – but there are hundreds in the area. Most of the tourist office websites offer recommendations too. Check the latest reviews before you go and check websites for hours of operation – some restaurants have fairly strict hours for lunch and dinner in France.

Opening hours for any of the museums or battlefield sites also vary so check before you go, some open all day, some close for lunch, some close in winter or operate restricted hours, some close for one day a week and on local festival days as well as national public holidays.

If you are travelling in high season, think about booking tours or guides well in advance. You can find details

of group tours and private guides on the main tourism information sites for each region.

Most major car rental companies operate in Amiens, Arras and Ypres, often located close to the main stations. Their websites will help you to find the most convenient for you.

There are many tourism information offices across the regions; we've provided details for each regional centre's tourist office – their websites should provide details about offices in smaller towns.

Like the Guide, the information is organised by region – South, Centre, North.

## IN THE SOUTH

### TOURISM INFORMATION OFFICES

#### Amiens – Somme Tourisme

54 rue Saint-Fuscien, 80000 Amiens  
+33 (0) 322 712271  
accueil@somme-tourisme.com  
www.visit-somme.com

#### Amiens – Office de Tourisme d'Amiens Métropole (city tourism information)

23 Place Notre-Dame, 80000 Amiens  
+33 (0) 322 716050  
www.amiens-tourisme.com/accueil

Wednesday of the month

**Corbie** – Friday morning, Place de la République

**Fouillooy** (nr Villers-Bretonneux) – Sunday morning Place de l'Eglise

**Le Crotroy** – Friday morning, Place Jeanne d'Arc all year round, Tuesday morning, rue de la République in July/August

**Saint-Valery-sur-Somme** – Sunday morning, Place des Pilotes; Wednesday morning, Place du Jeu de Battoi

**Péronne** – Saturday morning, centre of town

**Villers-Bretonneux** – Wednesday morning, Place Charles de Gaulle

#### Le Prieuré

17-6 rue Porion, 80000 Amiens  
+33 (0) 322 711671  
www.hotel-prieure-amiens.com

#### Mercure

21-23 rue Flatters, 80000 Amiens  
+33 (0) 322 806060  
h7076@accor.com  
www.mercure.com/gb/hotel-7076-mercure-amiens-cathedrale-hotel/

#### La chambre d'Amiens

1 Avenue de l'Hippodrome, 80000 Amiens +33 (0) 322 225050  
contact@lachambredamiens.com  
www.lachambredamiens.com

### MARKETS

**Amiens** – Wednesday and Saturday, Place du Beffroi; Tuesday morning and Friday afternoon, Place de Gorlitz; second Wednesday of the month, Place de Bourgogne; Saturday morning, Place Parmentier and Ave de Picardie

**Amiens** – La Grande Réderie d'Amiens, twice a year in April and October (check website for dates) held across 51 streets in the centre of Amiens [www.grade-rederie-amiens.com](http://www.grade-rederie-amiens.com)

**Albert** – Saturday morning and first

### PLACES TO STAY

#### AMIENS

##### Hôtel Marotte

3 rue Marotte, 80000 Amiens  
+33 (0) 360 125000  
contact@hotel-marotte.com  
www.hotel-marotte.com

### OUTSIDE AMIENS

#### ALBERT

##### Hôtel de La Paix

43 rue Victor Hugo, 80300 Albert  
+33 (0) 322 754417  
www.hoteldelapaixalbert.com

##### Chez Louise,

4 rue Pierre Curie, 80300 Albert  
+33 (0) 658 986419  
chezlouisechambresdhotes@gmail.com  
www.chezlouise-chambresdhotes.com

# INFORMATION

## BALZIEUX (near Albert)

### Chambres d'hôtes au Château des Marronniers

17 rue du Château, 80300 Balzieux  
+33 (0) 322 405533  
castrique.olivier80@gmail.com  
www.chambres-hotes-chateau-marronniers-baizieux-somme.com

## BAPAUME

### Hôtel de la Paix

11 Avenue Abel Guidet, 52450 Bapaume  
+33 (0) 321 222828  
contact@hoteldelapaix-bapaume.fr  
www.hotel-de-la-paix-bapaume.com

## BAIE DE SOMME – ST-VALERY-SUR-SOMME

### Hôtel-Restaurant les Pilotes

62 rue de la Ferté, 80230 Saint-Valery-sur-Somme  
+33 (0) 322 608039  
www.lespilotes.fr

## BAIE DE SOMME – LE CROTOY

### Les Tourelles

2-4 rue Pierre Guerlain, 80550, le Crottoy  
+33 (0) 322 271633  
info@lestourelles.com  
www.lestourelles.com

## CORBIE

### Le Macassar

8 Place de la République, 80800 Corbie  
+33 (0) 322 484004  
bookings@lemacassar.com  
www.lemacassar.com

## PÉRONNE

### Le St Claude

42 Place du Commandant Louis Daudre, 80200 Péronne  
+33 (0) 322 794949  
www.hotelsaintclaudio.com

### Noir Lion

16 rue Noir Lion, 80200 Péronne  
+33 (0) 687 221833  
sophie.legros@yahoo.fr  
www.noirlionperonne80.fr

## POZIÈRES

### Butterworth Farm

Route de Bazentin-Chemin George Butterworth, 80300 Pozières  
+33 (0) 322 740447  
bernard.delattre80@wanadoo.fr  
www.butterworth-cottage.com

## VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

### Le Relais de l'Aube

18 rue d'Herville, 80800 Villers-Bretonneux  
+33 (0) 322 539175  
contact@relaisdelaubes.com  
chambredhotesomme.com

## PLACES TO EAT

## AMIENS

### Brasserie Jules,

18 Boulevard d'Alsace Lorraine, 80000 Amiens  
+33 (0) 337 11840  
www.brasserie-jules.fr

### Le Quai

13-15 Quai Belu, 8000 Amiens  
+33 (0) 322 721080

### Big Ben

12 rue Cormont, 80000 Amiens  
+33 (0) 322 529849  
www.restaurant-bigben.fr

### La Coupole

Place Longueville, 80000 Amiens  
+33 (0) 322 455010  
restaurant-lacoupole@orange.fr

## CAFÉ/BAR

## AMIENS

### Le Rétroviseur

16 rue des Bondés, 80000 Amiens  
+33 (0) 322 919270  
www.leretroviseur.fr

### Atelier d'Alex

12 rue des Orfèvres, 80000 Amiens  
+33 (0) 698 876764

## OUTSIDE AMIENS

## ALBERT

### Hôtel-Restaurant de la Basilique

3-5 rue Gambetta, 80300 Albert  
+33 (0) 322 750471  
contact@hoteldelabasilique.fr  
www.hoteldelabasilique-somme.fr

### Hygge Café

29 Place d'Armes, 80300 Albert  
+33 (0) 322 754712  
hyggecafe@orange.fr

## BAIE DE SOMME – ST-VALERY-SUR-SOMME

### Hôtel-Restaurant les Pilotes

62 rue de la Ferté, 80230 St-Valery-sur-Somme  
+33 (0) 322 608039  
www.lespilotes.fr

## CORBIE

### La Table d'Agathe

6 rue Marcellin Truquin, 80800 Corbie  
+33 (0) 322 969627  
latabledagathe@free.fr  
www.latabledagathe.wixsite.com/latabledagathe

### Hôtel Restaurant La Caroline

6 Place Roger Salengro, 80800 Corbie  
+33 (0) 322 480151

## LE CROTOY

### Hôtel-Restaurant les Aviateurs

18 rue Victor Petit, 80550 Le Crottoy  
+33 (0) 322 279074  
hotelrestaurantlesaviateurs80@gmail.com  
www.aviateurs-baiedesomme.com

## FOUILLOY

### Auberge de Fouilloy

(near the Australian Memorial and the Sir John Monash Centre)  
79 rue Aristide Briand, 80800 Fouilloy  
+33 (0) 322 695230

**PÉRONNE****Bistrot d'Antoine**

8 Place André Audinot, 80200 Péronne  
+33 (0) 322 858446  
contact@bistrot-antoine.fr  
www.bistrot-antoine.fr

**POZIÈRES (nearby, at Authuille)****L'Auberge Val d'Ancre**

6 rue du Moulin, 80300 Authuille  
+33 (0) 322 751518  
contact@auberge-ancre.fr  
www.auberge-ancre.fr

**Le Victoria**

1 rue d'Amiens, 80380 Villers-Bretonneux  
+33 (0) 322 481507

**BICYCLE HIRE**

Like most French cities, there are bicycles for hire around the town. Ask at the tourist office how this works. They

will also have information about hiring a bicycle for longer rides along the Somme Canal or to the Baie de Somme.

**AMIENS****Vélo Station,**

26 rue Sire Fermin Leroux, 80000 Amiens  
+33 (0) 322 483514  
80amiens@velostation.com  
www.velostation.com/-amiens-

**Vélo Service**

47 Place Alphonse Fiquet, 80000 Amiens  
+33 (0) 980 824400  
contact@buscyclette.fr  
www.buscyclette.fr

**BAIE DE SOMME****Vélo en Baie de Somme**

Gare de Noyelles-sur-Mer, 19 route de Crotoy, 80860 Noyelles-sur-Mer  
+33 (0) 322 290751  
www.velo-baie-somme.com

**TOUR GUIDES**

There are plenty of English speaking guides and guided tours in English, based out of Amiens and some of the other towns in the region. Pick up a copy of The Somme Guide from one of the tourism offices – it includes an extensive list of English-speaking guides including some that specialise in sites of interest for Australians. Or go to the website – [www.visit-somme.com](http://www.visit-somme.com). Under the menu tab – Explore – and the listing – The Great War – there's a link to Somme Battlefields' Partners – a network of 215 partners including tour operators and guides that have been certified by the SBP ([www.somme-battlefields-partner.com](http://www.somme-battlefields-partner.com)). If you prefer to guide yourself, download one of the mobile apps – Somme 14-18 or Victoria Cross.

**IN THE CENTRE****TOURISM INFORMATION OFFICES****ARRAS****Office de Tourisme d'Arras**

Hôtel de Ville – Place des Héros, 62000 Arras  
+33 (0) 321 512695  
contact@explorearas.com  
www.explorearas.com

**LILLE****Office de Tourisme et des Congrès de Lille**

Palais Rihour, Place Rihour, 59000 Lille  
+33 (0) 891 562004  
www.lilletourism.com

**MARKETS****ARRAS****Place des Héros**

every Wednesday and Saturday morning

**LILLE****Wazemmes Market**

La Place du Concert (Vieux-Lille) indoor market daily, outdoor market Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday mornings

**La Braderie de Lille**

(biggest flea market in Europe with 10,000 sellers) 3 days 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in September on Boulevard Louis XIV, Boulevard de la Liberté, rue de la Porte de Roubaix  
[www.braderie-de-lille.fr](http://www.braderie-de-lille.fr)

**PLACES TO STAY****ARRAS****L'Hôtel Particulier**

8 rue du Péage, 62000 Arras  
+33 (0) 966 817927  
hotelparticulierarras@gmail.com  
www.hotelparticulierarras.com

**Hôtel les Trois Luppars**

49 Grande Place, 62000 Arras  
+33 (0) 321 600203  
contact.3luppars@wanadoo.fr  
www.hotel-les3luppars.com

**Les Clés des Places**

7 rue du Puits Saint-Josse, 62000 Arras  
+33 (0) 614 172313  
lescledesplaces@orange.fr  
www.lescledesplaces.fr

**La Corne d'Or**

1 Place Guy Mollet, 62000 Arras  
+33 (0) 321 588594  
contact@lamaisondhotes.com  
www.lamaisondhotes.com/  
bienvenue-a-la-corne-dor/





# INFORMATION

## OUTSIDE ARRAS, NEAR FROMELLES

### Holiday Inn

Impasse de la Bertha, 59320 Englos,  
Lille West  
+33 (0) 32 105858  
reservations@hilille.com

### L'Escapade Violainoise

28 rue Louis Bauchet, 62138  
Violaines  
+33 (0) 605 432817  
escapade.violainoise@gmail.com  
l-escapade-violainoise.webnode.fr

### Le Couvent des Minimes

Chemin des Jeux de Mai, 04300  
Mane (near Lille)  
+33 (0) 492 747777  
reservations@couventdesminimes-  
hotelspa.com  
www.couventdesminimes-hotelspa.  
com

### L'Hermitage Gantois

224 rue de Paris, 59000 Lille  
+33 (0) 320 853030  
reservation@gantoislille.com  
www.hotelhermitagegantois.com

## PLACES TO EAT

### ARRAS

#### La Bulle d'O

1 Boulevard de Strasbourg, 62000  
Arras  
+33 (0) 321 161947  
contact@labulledo.com  
www.labulledo.com

#### L'oeuf ou la poule

13 rue des Balances, 62000 Arras  
+33 (0) 321 246981  
contact@loeufoulapoule.fr  
www.loeufoulapoule.fr

### Mezzaluna (vegetarian)

10 rue Gambetta, 62000 Arras  
+33 (0) 321 228963  
mezzaluna.arras@gmail.com  
www.mezzalunaarras.com

### Le Petit Rat Porteur

11 rue de la Taillerie, 62000 Arras  
+33 (0) 321 512970

## OUTSIDE ARRAS

### FROMELLES

#### Le Bistrot Dit-Vin

24 rue Neuve, 59249 Fromelles  
+33 (0) 320 506077

### Near FROMELLES

#### Le Maisnil Mon Temps

50 rue du Haut Quesnoy, 59134 Le  
Maisnil  
+33 (0) 320 308517  
contact@restaurant-  
lemaisnilmontemps.fr  
www.restaurant-lemaisnilmontemps.fr

### HERLIES

#### L'Auberge Fleurie

29 route d'Aubers, 59134 Herlies  
+33 (0) 320 293838  
www.la-ferme-fleurie.fr

### FOURNES-EN-WEPPES

#### L'Auberge des Vieilles Poutres

1270 rue Faidherbe, 59134 Fournes-  
en-Weppes  
+33 (0) 320 502313  
les-vielles-poutres@wanadoo.fr

## BICYCLE HIRE

Check out this website for  
services in the Arras region: [www.  
freewheelingfrance.com/bike-hire-](http://www.freewheelingfrance.com/bike-hire-)

[in-france/bike-hire-in-nord-pas-  
de-calais.html](http://in-france/bike-hire-in-nord-pas-de-calais.html) for much of what  
you need to know about hiring a  
bike and cycling in this area. We  
have listed a couple of places in  
Arras and Lille.

### Arras à vélo

Place du Théâtre, 62000 Arras  
+33 (0) 629 716191  
rv2k69@gmail.com  
www.arrasavelo.com

### MCF Lille

4 rue du Professeur Langevin,  
59000 Lille (online bookings only)  
+33 (0) 982 263044  
contact@ecolemcfllille.com  
www.ecolemcfllille.com

### Locauto

114 rue du Molinel, 59160 Lille  
+33 (0) 320 575899  
www.locauto.fr

## CAR HIRE

All the major car rental agencies  
operate in Arras and the offices are  
mostly near Arras station.

If you are coming into Lille on the  
Eurostar, you can collect your car  
at the Eurostar station so that you  
don't have to head into the centre  
of town.

## TOUR GUIDES

While the majority of visitors to  
the Western Front tend to base  
themselves in the Somme region or  
in Ypres, Arras is a good alternative –  
only 80km or so from the northern  
and southern Great War sites.  
The main tourism office in Arras has  
information about local English-  
speaking guides, including some  
who specialise in the Australian  
First World War sites. There are also  
a number of organised tours and  
private guides listed on the web  
for example [www.tourhq.com/  
france/arras-tours-guide](http://www.tourhq.com/france/arras-tours-guide) or [www.  
battlefield-guides.com](http://www.battlefield-guides.com).



## IN THE NORTH, AROUND YPRES

### TOURISM INFORMATION OFFICES

#### Ypres Tourist Office

(in the Cloth Hall)  
Grote Markt 34, BE-8900 Ypres  
+32 (0) 57 239220  
toerisme@Ypres.be  
www.visit-ypres.com

### MARKETS

Ypres - every Saturday in the Grote Markt (main square)

### PLACES TO STAY

#### YPRES

##### Ariane Hotel

Slachthuisstraat 58, BE-8900 Ypres  
+32 (0) 57 218 218  
info@hotelariane.be  
www.ariane.be

##### Albion Hôtel

Sint-Jacobsstraat 28, BE-8900 Ypres  
+32 (0) 57 200 220  
info@albionhotel.be  
www.albionhobe

##### Hotel Kasteelhof 't Hooghe

Meenseweg 481, BE-8902 Ypres-Zillebeke  
+32 (0) 57 468 787  
info@thooghe.com  
www.hotelkasteelhofthooghe.be

##### Ambrosia

D'Hondtstraat 54, BE-8900 Ypres  
+32 (0) 57 366 366  
info@ambrosiahotel.be  
www.iambrosiahotel.be

#### OUTSIDE YPRES

##### Zonnebeke

##### B&B De Klapproo

Ypressteenweg 17A, B-8650 Merkem (West-Vlaanderen)  
+32 (0) 51 545 151  
info@deklapproosmerkem.be  
www.deklapproosmerkem.be

##### B&B Afrodite

Wolvestraat 11, BE-8980 Zonnebeke  
+32 (0) 496 507054  
info@bbafrodite.com  
www.bbafrodite.com

#### POPERINGE

##### Talbot House

Gasthuisstraat 43, BE-8970 Poperinge  
+32 (0) 57 333228  
info@talbothouse.be  
www.talbothouse.be

#### PLOEGSTEERT

##### La Ferme du Rozenberg

Nachtegaalstraat 14, BE-7782 Ploegsteert  
+32 (0) 57 364149  
rozenberghoeve@hotmail.com  
www.rozenberghoeve.be

### PLACES TO EAT

#### YPRES

##### À l'Envers

Patersstraat 2, BE-8900 Ypres  
+32 (0) 489 026 081  
info@alenvers.be  
www.alenvers.be

##### In 't Klein Stadhuis

Grote Markt 32, BE-8900 Ypres  
+32 (0) 57 215542  
info@inhetkleinstadhuus.be  
www.inhetkleinstadhuus.be

##### De Fonderie

Polenlaan 3, BE-8900 Ypres  
+32 (0) 57 364580  
info@defonderie.be  
www.defonderie.be

##### Het Moment

Boterstraat 42, BE-8900 Ypres  
+32 (0) 57 364 304  
florence.roegiers@hotmail.com  
www.hetmomentYpres.be

### BAR/CAFÉ

#### De Hopperie

Diksmuidestraat 33, BE-8900 Ypres  
+32 (0) 57 377003  
beer@hopperie.be

#### Les Halles

Grote Markt 35, BE-8900 Ypres  
+32 (0) 57 365563  
info@marktcafe-leshalles.be  
www.marktcafe-leshalles.be

#### OUTSIDE YPRES

##### De Volksbond,

Ypresstraat 26, BE-8980 Zonnebeke  
+32 (0) 51 779838  
info@volksbond.be  
www.volksbond.be

##### De Koklikoo

Ypresstraat 7, BE-8980 Zonnebeke  
+32 (0) 51 727413  
www.koklikoo.com

##### Talbot House

Gasthuisstraat 43, BE-8970 Poperinge  
+32 (0) 57 333228  
info@talbothouse.be  
www.talbothouse.be

##### L'Auberge de Ploegsteert

rue de Messines 159, BE-7782 Ploegsteert  
+32 (0) 56 588441  
restaurant@auberge-ploegsteert.be

##### Au Fond de l'eau

rue de Messines 50, BE-7782 Ploegsteert  
+32 (0) 56 587759

### CAR HIRE

Most of the major car hire companies operate in the major cities, airports, ferry terminals and railways stations in Belgium. Travellers to Flanders often pick up a rental car in Antwerp, Brussels or Charleroi before driving on to Ypres. Ypres has a number of local car hire agencies - search on the web or contact Ypres Tourism.

# INFORMATION

## BICYCLE HIRE

As cycling is a Belgian passion, there are plenty of places in Ypres that rent bikes to tourists, both for city cycling and for country and cobbled roads. Some also offer guides or GPS for self-guided tours. A few are listed below but check with the Ypres tourism for a full list and check out websites to see what's on offer.

### Biking Box Cycle Tours

Meensestraat 12, BE-8900 Ypres  
+32 (0) 477 592382  
info@bikingbox.be  
www.bikingbox.be

### Chez Marie

Neermarkt 6, BE-8900 Ypres  
+32 (0) 57 200206  
info@chezmarie-Ypres.be  
www.chezmarie-Ypres.weebly.com

### Ambrosia

D'Hondtstraat 54, BE-8900 Ypres  
+32 (0) 57 366 366  
info@ambrosiahotel.be  
www.ambrosiahotel.be

## TOUR GUIDES

There are many English-speaking guides and guided tours in English, based in Ypres. The Tourism Information Office in Ypres has

a good list and can help you to choose something to suit your needs - an organised tour or a private guide who can design a tour specific to your interests.

If you want to book in advance, go to the website - [www.toerismeieper.be/en](http://www.toerismeieper.be/en). Go to the menu tab - Ypres and the Great War - and the listings under - Explore WW1; there's useful information about battlefield tours and guides and advice about cycling through the Great War sites in Flanders.

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

When you are planning your trip to France and/or Belgium and the Western Front, there are some useful websites to consult; they will help you to work out where you want to go and what you want to see and do. You might also like to do a bit of background reading so that you know a bit more about the Australian experience on the Western Front before you arrive.

The lists below suggest some websites, books and a few Apps you can download before you start your trip.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

### Department of Veterans' Affairs websites:

- Anzac Portal  
[www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au/](http://www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au/)

The Sir John Monash Centre  
[www.sjmc.gov.au](http://www.sjmc.gov.au)

The Australian War Memorial  
[www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
[www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

National Archives of Australia  
[www.naa.gov.au/](http://www.naa.gov.au/)

### France Tourism

[www.francetourism.com/](http://www.francetourism.com/)

### Belgium Tourism

[www.belgium-tourism.be/](http://www.belgium-tourism.be/)

## USEFUL APPS

### CWGC app

<https://www.cwgc.org/who-we-are/our-apps/>

### The Great War UK site has links to 13 different apps

[www.greatwar.co.uk/trip-info/battlefield-app.htm](http://www.greatwar.co.uk/trip-info/battlefield-app.htm)

## BACKGROUND READING

Les Carlyon - **The Great War**

Peter Pedersen - **Anzacs on the Western Front**

Mat McLachlan - **Walking with the Anzacs - A Guide to Australian Battlefields on the Western Front**

Geoffrey Serle - **John Monash A Biography**

Peter FitzSimons - **Victory at Villers-Bretonneux**

Peter Barton - **The Lost Legions of Fromelles**

Ross Coulthart - **The Lost Diggers**

Paul Ham - **Passchendaele Requiem for Doomed Youth**



# A walk in the Somme

The Somme and Ancre rivers are surrounded by gently rolling farmlands, small towns and villages, hills and woods; it's great walking country. For much of the First World War, towns like Albert, Dernancourt and Villers-Bretonneux were behind the lines; soldiers took a break from battle here, some Australians even helped communities with the autumn harvest. But during 1917 and 1918, this peaceful landscape saw some of the fiercest fighting and Australian troops were in the thick of it.

This walk takes you from Albert south to Dernancourt, past the villages and ponds alongside the river Ancre to Mericourt l'Abbé, then south across the famous river Somme to le Hamel. From there, it's a short walk along the hill to the Australian National Memorial and the Sir John Monash Centre. If you're still feeling energetic, you can continue on to Villers-Bretonneux, the French town that has one of the closest and most enduring relationships with Australia. The walk is fairly easy, approx. 22 kms and depending how long you spend at each site, might take around 5 hours.

A walking trail links important sites around Pozières and Dernancourt.

Don't forget to check the tourist office in Amiens or Albert for maps to local walking and cycling tracks.

## ITINERARY

Start your walk from the pretty main square in **1 Albert** (maybe fortify yourself with a coffee and croissant at one of Albert's cafes before you start out). Follow the signs to the D52/D64 the road to Dernancourt, just 4kms south.

At **2 Dernancourt**, Australian troops stopped the German advance in March 1918 but at great cost. There's a new walking track with markers that tell this story. After the war, Dernancourt was 'adopted' and helped by the people of South Australia. Don't miss the Communal Cemetery



and Extension and look out for rue d'Australie and the Pavillon Adelaide.

Head south west alongside the Ancre to Mericourt l'Abbé and at the Café de la Place turn left along the rue de Vaux, that will take you all the way to **3 Vaux sur Somme** where you cross the famous river.

On the other side, head south west along the D71 to **4 le Hamel**, site of the Australian Corps Memorial that commemorates a short but bloody battle in July 2018. In less than 100 minutes the allies over-ran German defences and cleared the enemy from the hill. From the top of the hill, you can see right across the Somme



Valley to the Australian National Memorial.

From le Hamel turn left at the sign to La Poste and Villers-Bretonneux, follow this road over the ridge to a T-junction. Then right onto D122, after 1.5kms turn left until you reach the D23. Turn right to the **5 Australian National Memorial**. The names on the memorial walls commemorate some 11,000 Australian soldiers of the Great War who have no known grave.

Take one of two paths from the Memorial to discover the new **6 Sir John Monash Centre** burrowed into the slope of the hill. The beautiful Australian designed building includes several innovative App driven exhibitions, good visitor facilities and a lovely café.

From here you can walk on to **7 Villers-Bretonneux** to see the famous Victoria school and the Franco-Australian Museum and get a Taxi back to Albert.

# A bike ride through Flanders Fields

**Belgium is one of the best countries in the world to go for a ride. Cycling is a national passion, the region has some great bike paths, and motorists are very conscious and respectful of cyclists.**

In Flanders, you can tour many of the important sites on the Australian Remembrance Trail by bike. Use Ypres as your base as there are plenty of places to hire a bike, several operators offer customised cycling tours and the Tourist Office in the Cloth Hall has maps of bike paths and suggested cycling routes. Ask for Vredes Fietsroute maps – they use country lanes, minor roads and dedicated cycling paths to guide you through the battlefields.

This itinerary takes you on an easy circuit east out of Ypres to the Passchendaele battlefields and Tyne Cot cemetery, south to Polygon Wood and then back to Ypres past the Hooghe Crater. The route is plotted along roads that aren't very busy but it's worth checking at the Tourist Office for any dedicated bike paths that follow parts of this itinerary. The ride is approx. 27 km long, across easy terrain. You can ride it in an hour or two or spend a leisurely day cycling around the points of interest.

## ITINERARY

Head north east out of Ypres through the **1 Menin Gate**. In the Great War, hundreds of thousands of soldiers marched past this spot to the Flanders battlefields.

Follow the signs to the N332 and head north east towards Potijze to visit the **2 Chateau Wood Cemetery**.

From Potijze, the N332 takes you directly to **3 Zonnebeke**. Visit the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 and its open air trenches, located in the grounds of the Zonnebeke Chateau on Ieperstraat.

Take the cycle path from Zonnebeke to **4 Tyne Cot**, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in the world and just a few kms north of the town. Many of those buried here died in autumn 1917, in the infamous Battle of Passchendaele.

From Tyne Cot, head south to the N303 towards Molenaareist and on to **5 Polygon Wood**. More than

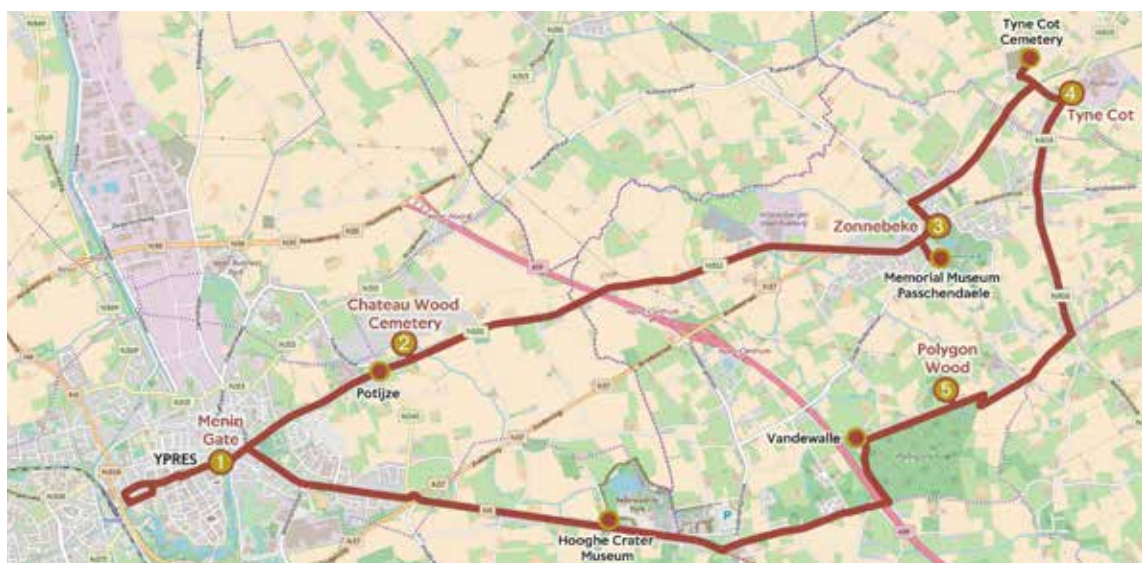


*Menin Gate  
Ypres*

5,700 Australian soldiers died in the battle at Polygon Wood in September 1917.

Follow the same road through to Vanderwalle where you have to take a major road (A19) for a hundred metres or so but quite quickly you can turn west on to the N8 towards Front Line Hooghe. In the grounds of the Chateau Hooghe, you can see trench lines, enter a bunker and see the Hooghe Crater – the site of terrible fighting for more than three years.

Around 4km past the museum, the N8 rejoins the N332 and you are back at the Menin Gate.



# Pozières and the 1916 front line

**On 1 July 1916, the Allied Forces launched the summer offensive, a coordinated attack along 40 km of the Western Front in the Somme Valley. The battle began just after 7am with a series of massive mine explosions, the largest created the Lochnagar Crater at La Boisselle. Three weeks later, Australian troops went into battle for the first time on the Western Front to take the strategic high point at Pozières, then on to the heavily fortified Mouquet Farm. In the attempt to get to Thiepval Ridge from behind, these actions proved to be among the most important and most costly for Australian Forces in France.**

This walk takes you through those key battle sites of July 1916. You start at La Boisselle, head north from the Lochnagar Crater to Pozières, westwards to Mouquet Farm and the Thiepval Memorial and return alongside the river Ancre, through Authuille to La Boisselle. The total walk is around 16 km, about 4 to 5 hours. If you are feeling energetic, you could add in a visit to the Ulster Tower and the Newfoundland Memorial just a few kilometres beyond Thiepval.

Follow the Australians in the Somme 16 & 18 trail around Pozières.

And don't forget to check the tourist office in Amiens or Albert for maps to local walking and cycling tracks.

## ITINERARY

Start from the village of **1 La Boisselle** and follow the signs to the **2 Lochnagar Crater**, less than a kilometre to the south east.

Retrace your steps to the D929, the old Roman road from Albert to Bapaume. Head north west, about 4 kms until you reach the outskirts of **3 Pozières** and the Pozières Memorial and British Cemetery. The Memorial commemorates more than 14,000 British and South African troops who died between March and September 1918 and have no known grave. The cemetery mostly contains Australian graves.

At this western end of the village you'll also see an obelisk, the Australian 1<sup>st</sup> Division Memorial also commemorating soldiers lost between July and September 1916. Almost 70% of them were wounded or killed in just four days – 23-26 July 1916.

Walk about 1 km through the village and beyond in the direction of Bapaume to the **4 Windmill**. The Windmill site is on "a ridge more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth" according to Official War

Historian Charles Bean. In less than seven weeks in 1916, the Australian Imperial Force suffered 23,000 casualties near this spot.

Retrace your steps into Pozières and turn west along the D73 towards Thiepval (just over 3kms), passing through the valley where Australians fought at **5 Mouquet Farm**.

You can see the **6 Thiepval Memorial** ahead of you. You'll want to spend at least an hour visiting the Memorial and the new museum. Don't miss the new mural by Joe Sacco; and maybe take a break in the museum café. You can go on from here to the Ulster Tower and the Newfoundland Memorial. Or turn south east and walk either on the D151 or along the canal that runs beside the river Ancre.

Stop at the village of **7 Authuille**. If you're feeling hungry, there are some good restaurants here. Then continue south until you meet up with the D20. Turn right and you're back at La Boisselle.





# The Australian Remembrance Ride

**Trace the steps of Australian soldiers along 200 km of the Western Front – from Ypres to Amiens – and to many of the important sites along the Australian Remembrance Trail.**

You can also visit beautiful memorials dedicated to soldiers from other nations who fought here between 1914 and 1918 – British, Irish, German, New Zealander, Indian, Canadian and French. Recommended overnight stops at Ypres, Arras, Albert and Amiens ensure you can enjoy some good food, wine and beer, lively markets, historic squares, cafés and bars.

The ride is planned for a 5 day trip, avoiding the big cities and major roads. Around Ypres and in the Somme Valley you'll find new bike paths and cycleways. Check at the tourist office for updated maps.

A regular cyclist will find the ride relatively easy. You can split any stage by stopping at one of many small hotels and B&Bs along the way.

Before you leave, check out the Anzac Portal ([anzacportal.dva.gov.au](http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au)) for more historical information about the route and download a copy of this Traveller's Guide to the Australian Remembrance Trail.

A detailed itinerary can be found at: [anzacportal.dva.gov.au](http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au)

## ITINERARY

The day before you start your ride, spend the afternoon in Ypres: Cloth Hall, In Flanders Museum, an early dinner in order to get a good spot at the Menin Gate for the 8pm Last Post Ceremony. Overnight Ypres.

**Day 1: Flanders Fields** (25kms with lots of bike paths). Menin Gate – Chateau Wood – Zonnebeke – Tyne Cot – Polygon Wood – Hooghe Crater – Ypres. Overnight Ypres.

**Day 2: Ypres to Fromelles** (40kms). Early start. Lille Gate – Pool of Peace – Messines – Toronto Avenue – Ploegsteert – Armentieres –

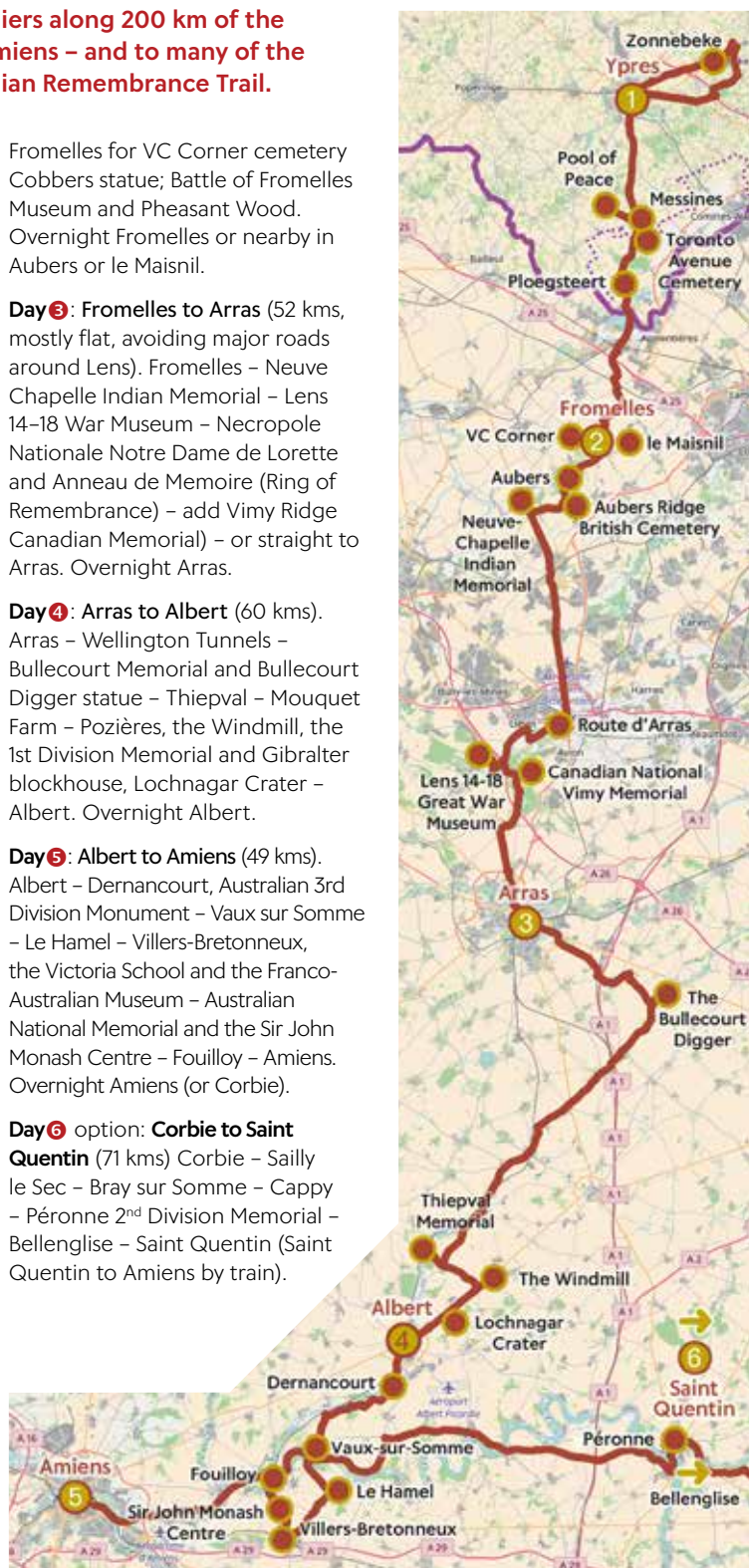
Fromelles for VC Corner cemetery Cobbers statue; Battle of Fromelles Museum and Pheasant Wood. Overnight Fromelles or nearby in Aubers or le Maisnil.

**Day 3: Fromelles to Arras** (52 kms, mostly flat, avoiding major roads around Lens). Fromelles – Neuve Chapelle Indian Memorial – Lens 14–18 War Museum – Necropole Nationale Notre Dame de Lorette and Anneau de Memoire (Ring of Remembrance) – add Vimy Ridge Canadian Memorial) – or straight to Arras. Overnight Arras.

**Day 4: Arras to Albert** (60 kms). Arras – Wellington Tunnels – Bullecourt Memorial and Bullecourt Digger statue – Thiepval – Mouquet Farm – Pozières, the Windmill, the 1st Division Memorial and Gibraltar blockhouse, Lochnagar Crater – Albert. Overnight Albert.

**Day 5: Albert to Amiens** (49 kms). Albert – Dernancourt, Australian 3rd Division Monument – Vaux sur Somme – Le Hamel – Villers-Bretonneux, the Victoria School and the Franco-Australian Museum – Australian National Memorial and the Sir John Monash Centre – Fouilloy – Amiens. Overnight Amiens (or Corbie).

**Day 6 option: Corbie to Saint Quentin** (71 kms) Corbie – Sailly le Sec – Bray sur Somme – Cappy – Péronne 2nd Division Memorial – Bellenglise – Saint Quentin (Saint Quentin to Amiens by train).



# CREDITS

*Cover: Amiens Cathedral* Tyler Farrelley

*Inside Cover: AWM E028441* Australian soldiers in trenches in front of the village of Le Hamel after the battle on 4 July 2018

1 *Australian recruiting poster AWM poster ARTV 00039* A soldier sounds his bugle for assistance on the front line while civilians listen in the background. Designed by Norman Lindsay (1879-1969), painter, draughtsman, illustrator, cartoonist, printmaker, writer and sculptor.

1 *Cycling along the Somme* Somme Tourism

2 *Baie de Somme at dusk* Somme Tourism

3 *Chroma light show on Amiens Cathedral* Somme Tourism

4 *Boating around the hortillonages* Somme Tourism

4 *The Cloth Hall, Ieper* Visit Flanders

5 *Saturday market, Arras* Nelson Lai

6 *Lt Frank Watts Davis AWM PAFU2013/185.01* Studio photograph of Lt Frank Watts Davis, 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion, killed in action on 2 February 1917

7 *Somme 1916 AWM E20122* Members of the 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade halted in a congested part of a sunken road during their march to Fricourt in a rear area of the Somme battlefield

8 *Restaurants at St Leu Dale Starr*

8 *Sandbags protecting Amiens cathedral* Amiens Métropole

9 *Inside the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing* Paul Byrnes

9 *Detail from the Joe Sacco mural* Paul Byrnes

9 *Robert Warner AWM P05301.244* Studio portrait of 4927 Private Robert Warner, 13<sup>th</sup> (later 4<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Battalion) Battalion, of Kiama, NSW. He died on 16 September 1916 at the 44<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station, France, of wounds received in action, on 15 August 1916, aged 18.

10 *Artillery at Pozieres AWM E20141* Gunners of an Australian battery use an 18 pounder British field gun to rain 'barrage fire' on the enemy trenches. Note the pile of empty shell cases on the right.

11 *First Division Memorial* Somme Tourism

11 *Albert Jacka AWM A03408* Studio portrait of Lance Corporal (L Cpl) (later Captain) Albert Jacka (later VC MC and bar) of the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion. L Cpl Jacka was awarded the Victoria Cross for 'conspicuous bravery on the night of 19 and 20 May, 1915 at Courtney's Post, Gallipoli Peninsula.'. He was the first Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross in the First World War.

11 *Ulster Memorial* Somme Tourism

11 *Newfoundland* Paul Byrnes

11 *Lochnagar Crater* Paul Byrnes

12 *The Leaning Virgin, Albert AWM C03260* The Basilica of Notre Dame de Brebieres at Albert photographed towards the end of 1916, after heavy artillery shelling.

12 *Rue d'Australie* Paul Byrnes

12 *Musee Somme* Somme Tourism

12 *M Betancourt* Paul Byrnes

13 *Tunnels at Naours Jérôme Halatre*

13 *Naours graffiti Jérôme Halatre*

14 *Vignacourt AWM P10330.006* Group portrait of eight unidentified members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division holding a sign that reads 'We want our Mumie' [sic]. Several of the soldiers wear identity bracelets in the shape of Australia. From the Thuillier collection of glass plate negatives. Taken by Louis and Antoinette Thuillier in Vignacourt, France during the period 1916 to 1918.

15 *Bert Mouat AWM H06113* Portrait of 4671 Private (Pte) Herbert Alexander Mouat, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was wounded in action, receiving a gunshot wound to the spine, on 28 October 1917 and transferred to hospital in England where he later died, on 28 September 1918. An inscription on the back of the postcard reads: "4671 Pte Herbert Alexander Mouat, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, holding the 'Xmas Dinner'. Taken in France."

15 *Regional specialities* Somme Tourism

16 *2<sup>nd</sup> Division Memorial* Paul Byrnes

16 *Australian soldiers after the battle of Peronne AWM E03183* A machine gun position established by the 54<sup>th</sup> Battalion during the morning of the attack through Peronne. The photograph was taken the following day, after the capture of the town, when positions close to it had been taken.

17 *Bellenglise AWM E03260* Troops of D Company, 45<sup>th</sup> Battalion, at their newly captured objective between Bellenglise and Le Verger, overlooking Ascension Gully, in front of the Hindenburg Outpost Line. They are seen sniping the retreating enemy, who at the time were scampering up the opposite hill slope, in an effort to escape the gun and rifle fire. Identified, first from the right is Private J. O'Hehir.

17 *Wines in a shop in Boulogne Ville Haute France* Mark Bassett / Alamy Stock Photo

18 *Market, Corbie* Somme Tourism

18 *Abbey Church of St Pierre AWM H15599* Corbie, France. 1918. A ruined church photographed late in the year. (Donor Brigadier General H.E. Elliott)

19 *Casualty clearing station AWM E00672* Unidentified wounded soldiers being treated at an advanced field dressing station, 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division. Many of the wounded of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division passed through this station after the advance on 31 July 1917.

20 *le Hamel - Australian Corps Memorial* Somme Tourism

20 *Le Hamel - quotation on the wall* Somme Tourism

21 *Portrait of Sir John Monash* National Portrait Gallery

21 *Monash escorts Australian PM William Hughes AWM E03851* The Prime Minister of Australia, the Right Honourable W. M. Hughes, with Lieutenant General Sir John Monash, Brigadier General (Brig Gen) E. Tivey, and party, during a visit to the Australian front. Identified, left to right, in the foreground: Brig Gen Tivey (foreground); the Right Honourable W. Hughes; Sir John Monash and Mr Marlowe, Editor, Daily Mail.

22 *Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery* Lisa Michele Burns

22 *Ecole Victoria* Nelson Lai

23 *Australian National Memorial* Somme Tourism

23 *Headstone from Adelaide Cemetery VB* Paul Byrnes

24 *View of the grassed roof of the Sir John Monash Centre* Lisa Michele Burns

24 *Entrance to Sir John Monash Centre* Lisa Michele Burns

25 *The Sir John Monash Centre viewed from the western courtyard* Tyler Farrelley

25 *Interior, Sir John Monash Centre* Lisa Michele Burns

25 *Rising sun mosaic* Lisa Michele Burns

26 *View from the belfry, Arras* Explore Arras

27 *View from Town Hall Tower, Arras* Nelson Lai

27 *Arras Saturday Market* Nelson Lai

27 *Wellington Tunnels* Paul Byrnes

28 *The Ring of Remembrance* Paul Byrnes

28 *Canadian National Memorial at Vimy Ridge* Paul Byrnes

29 *Fromelles AWM E20007* Members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division, and possibly the 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion, in the trenches in the Bois Grenier sector. The soldier in the foreground is looking through a periscope; the man to his left is holding a Lewis gun. The 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion entered the Bois Grenier sector on 3 June 1916, and Charles Bean's diary records this image as being staged by Brooks.

29 *New museum and cemetery at Fromelles* Paul Byrnes (caption within text)

29 *Cobbers statue* Paul Byrnes (caption within text)

30 *The Bullecourt Digger* Paul Byrnes

30 *Two Friends AWM P07641.002* Studio portrait of 4178

Private (Pte) Francis Harrup Northey (left) and 4231 Pte Arthur William Woodward, both of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. While serving in France, Pte Northey was killed in action during the Second Battle of Bullecourt on 3 May 1917, aged 25. During the same battle Pte Woodward was wounded in the upper leg on 5 May 1917, and died at the 5<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Rouen 18 days later, aged 28.

31 *Australian troops passing the ruins of Ypres AWM - E04612* Ypres Sector, Belgium. 25 October 1917. Australians on the way to take up a front line position in the Ypres Sector. The ruins of Ypres, including the Cloth Hall, can be seen in the background. (photographer Frank Hurley)

32 *Reading the names on the walls, Menin Gate* Visit Flanders

32 *Ieper, Cloth Hall* Visit Flanders

33 *The Last Post Ceremony, Menin Gate* Visit Flanders

33 *Lions of Menin Gate AWM P05777.01* An unidentified man stands beside one of the two carved lions at the Menin Gate entrance. 1920

34 *Belgian beer* Visit Flanders

34 *Belgian chocolate* Nelson Lai

34 *Moules and other shellfish* Visit Flanders

35 *In Flanders Fields museum* Visit Flanders

35 *Poppo tributes* Visit Flanders

36 *Polygon Wood Cemetery* Lisa Michele Burns

33 *Polygon Wood AWM E00800* Members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Pioneer Battalion making a wagon track from planks of wood at Chateau Wood, in the Ypres Sector, to allow the passage of traffic deeper into the freshly captured ground, and to facilitate a further advance.

36 *Museum Passchendaele* Visit Flanders

37 *Tyne Cot Military Cemetery* Visit Flanders

37 *Sgt Lewis McGee AWM A02623* Portrait of Sgt Lewis McGee VC 40<sup>th</sup> Battalion Australian Infantry, killed in action on 23 November 1917

38 *Shells bursting over message runners, Messines AWM E00599* Two message runners proceeding toward Hill 63, in Belgium, during the battle of Messines on 7 July 1917. Whilst this photo was being taken three shells burst one on top of the hill on the left; one on the extreme right of the picture, near Ploegsteert Wood; and one uncomfortably close to the camera.

38 *Langemark German War cemetery* Visit Flanders

39 *Wilkins and Joyce on a tank AWM E03915* Australian Official Photographer, Captain George Hubert Wilkins, MC, (right) with Staff Sergeant William Joyce (left), standing with tripod and camera on a British Mark V tank, as the pair record the advance of Australian troops through the Hindenburg Line. 4 October 1918

39 *Frank Hurley with unexploded shell AWM E01059* Informal portrait of Captain James Francis (Frank) Hurley, Australian Official Photographer, standing beside a big German shell which had failed to explode when it fell on the Pozieres Road in France, during the fighting some time earlier. 29 September 1917

40 *Entry to Hill 63 AWM E04486* An outdoors informal group portrait of unidentified members of 7<sup>th</sup> Field Company of Australian Engineers standing outside the entrance to the Catacombs in Hill 63. The Catacombs were a system of tunnels of considerable length, fitted to accommodate over 1,000 men. A wooden silhouette of a kangaroo is attached to the tunnel entrance which is signposted 'Plumer Road'. 22 January 1918

41 *Pool of Peace* Paul Byrnes

41 *Toronto Avenue Cemetery* Lisa Michele Burns

41 *Grave stone of Cecil Sharp Wise* Paul Byrnes

42 *Cross of Sacrifice, VC Corner Fromelles* Paul Byrnes

42 *Thistle Dump Military Cemetery, Somme* Paul Byrnes

45 *Market Rooftops, Arras* Lisa Michele Burns

46 *Horses on Beach, Somme* Tourism

