



**2014-18**  
Flanders Fields

2016 > 2018 Brochure



# Flanders Fields. A place to remember.

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VISIT  
**FLANDERS**

# Flanders Fields.

## A place to remember.



**China in Poperinge** © Eskine Williams

**1917, from mine explosions to floating mud sea** © Westtoer

**War in Short Pants** © Anrothek

**The Power of Avant-Garde** © Anrothek

**WWI, the battle of the North Sea** © Royal Museums Greenwich

**Menin Road**

**Her side of the war**

**Coming World Remember Me**

**CWxRM**  
COMING WORLD REMEMBER ME

Map labels: North Sea, Calais, Flanders Fields, Poperinge, Ypres, Menen, Mesen, Zonnebeke, BRUGES, GHENT, MECHELEN, BRUSSELS, LEUVEN, HASSELT, ANTWERP, FRANCE, LILLE, WALLONIE, NEDERLAND, DEUTSCHLAND.

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Note: This document will be regularly updated with new information as it becomes available. The latest version is always available to download from: [www.visitflanders.com](http://www.visitflanders.com) and has been compiled with information provided to Visit Flanders by partners throughout Belgium and around the world. All information is correct to the best of our knowledge, at the time of going to print (October 2015). However, no liability can be accepted for any loss resulting from use of information contained in this document. Please check opening dates and times before travelling.

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## FLANDERS COMMEMORATES THE GREAT WAR

Today, the landscape of Flanders Fields still reflects the dramatic scenes that took place during the First World War, when peaceful homes and fields were savagely transformed into battlefields.

Now, approximately one hundred years later, Flanders invites visitors to remember the victims of the conflict - and what better place to do so than Flanders Fields.

Many museums, events and exhibitions shed light on the various facets of the Great War: the military operations, trench warfare, political alliances, propaganda, etc. In addition, various art exhibitions offer a truly individual, artistic view of the horrors of WWI.

Wherever you go in the Westhoek, whether by car, bike or on foot, you come across the remnants and scars of the Great War. The region is dotted with hundreds of monuments and graveyards, sometimes counting no more than a few graves. Themed walking, biking and driving tours guide you through this landscape bursting with reminders of the Great War. There are even several ways for visitors to contribute to the commemoration.

This "2016-2018 Brochure" guides you through the commemorative highlights in Flanders in 2016, 2017 and 2018 and provides an overview of many of the region's key memorial sites.



# COMMEMORATION YEAR 2016

## Im Westen nichts Neues (All Quiet on the Western Front)

In 1916, the prospect of a speedy end of the war seemed further away than ever. In Germany, it was decided to shift the focus west to Verdun (France). The city was surprised with a massive bombardment. The French and German losses were enormous but Verdun ultimately remained in French hands. On 1 July 1916 a British offensive broke loose in the Somme that eventually lasted four months. The result were hundreds of thousands killed or wounded soldiers on both sides of the front.

Although no major offensive took place, the fighting was still ongoing in Flanders Fields. In this period, about 100.000 soldiers fell in the Westhoek, about 127 per day.

"Im Westen nichts Neues" (All Quiet on the Western Front) refers to the book about the horrors and absurdity of war written by Erich Maria Remarque, a German WWI veteran. The book, which has already been turned into a movie twice, describes the insanity that a group of young German soldiers face in the trenches during WWI.

## Käthe Kollwitz

Käthe Kollwitz was one of Germany's leading expressionist artists. She and her husband had a strong commitment to social justice: he practised as a doctor for the poor, while most of Käthe's drawings bore witness to social injustice. When the war began, she supported her son Peter's decision to enlist as a volunteer. On 22 October, Peter was killed in Esen near Diksmuide, not long after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Kollwitz sculpted a group of statues, The Grieving Parents, which now stands beside her son Peter's grave in the German military cemetery in Vladslö. (see p. 34)

9 APR 2016 > 31 DEC 2016

**KÄTHE KOLLWITZ**  
EXHIBITION  
Käthe Kollwitz Museum - Koekelare

During the war years 1914-1918, Käthe Kollwitz began to sculpt. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1914, her son Peter Kollwitz, who was a musketeer in the German army, died in an attack on Diksmuide. In April 1915, a grieving Käthe started working on tentative plans for a memorial for her son's grave, which resulted in the sculpture group "The Mourning Parents" at the German Military Cemetery of Vladslö.

The renovated Käthe Kollwitz Museum highlights the German expressionist artist and her work. While the temporary exhibition, displaying 30 of her etchings, mainly homes in on Käthe Kollwitz as a person and a female artist, it also extensively covers her life after the war and the impact of the Great War on her work.

**i Address & Contact**  
Käthe Kollwitz Museum see p. 34

**Website**  
www.koekelare.be

**Opening hours**  
Tuesday - Friday 9.30 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
and 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
15 May - 15 November also open  
on Saturdays, Sundays and bank  
holidays: 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed on Mondays and  
Wednesday mornings

**Entrance**  
Entrance included in the museum  
ticket.

3 SEPT 2016 > 2 OCT 2016

**KÄTHE KOLLWITZ 1.9 & KÄTHE KOLLWITZ 2.0**  
EXHIBITION  
Gothic Hall in the City Hall and Galerie Montanus.5 - Diksmuide

The "Käthe Kollwitz 1.9" exhibition at Diksmuide's town hall boasts a selection of exclusive artworks by Käthe Kollwitz, which reflect her thirst for social justice. These unique creations - which were shipped from the famous Käthe-Kollwitz-Museum in Cologne especially for the occasion - offer insight into the life of this artist before, during and after the First World War. In addition, contemporary art by other women will also be showcased at the nearby Galerie Montanus.5 in the form of a double exhibition titled "Käthe Kollwitz 2.0". The artists step into Käthe Kollwitz's shoes and create art as if she were alive today...

**i Address**  
Stadhuis Diksmuide  
Grote Markt 6  
8600 Diksmuide  
**Contact**  
+ 32 (0)51 79 32 50  
vrije.tijd@stad.diksmuide.be

**i Address**  
Galerie Montanus.5  
Montanusstraat 5  
8600 Diksmuide  
**Contact**  
+ 32 (0)51 50 48 24  
montanus.5@skynet.be

**Website**  
www.diksmuide.be  
**Opening hours**  
Every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Nocturnes on request

**Entrance**  
Free

**Website**  
www.montanusvijf.be  
**Opening hours**  
Every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Nocturnes on request

**Entrance**  
Free

## Her side of the war. Remarkable women at the centre of WWI

The Great War was not an exclusively male affair. Women, too, played their part, although not on the battlefield. Their work was focused on local communities and family life, and it was these women who, during the war, handled childcare and business matters, took initiatives in order to maintain health care and education and established a network of solidarity across ethnic and cultural boundaries.

In a series of exhibitions, theatre walks and other events in the northern part of Flanders Fields, we honour several iconic women: the scientist Marie Curie, Queen Elizabeth of Belgium and the artist Käthe Kollwitz. By means of personal stories and experiences we offer the women of WWI a platform and link them to a range of females involved in present-day conflicts.

For more information about the exhibitions, theatre walks and other events, visit [www.hersideofthewar.be](http://www.hersideofthewar.be) (as of 2016).



9, 10 &amp; 11 SEPT 2016

**TEN VREDE FESTIVAL**MUSIC  
Diksmuide

This festival takes a stand against all forms of violence and war, past and present, anywhere in the world. This year's festival will focus on women: female artists, writers, peace activists and journalists.

**i Address & Contact**

Museum at the Yser see p. 33

**Website**

www.tenvrede.be

**Entrance**

Adults 1 day ticket:  
€ 10 (in advance)/€ 15  
Adults weekend ticket (3 days):  
€ 25

**MARIE CURIE**

EXHIBITION

Visitor Centre Vrij Vaderland (Free Fatherland) Veurne

9 APR 2016 &gt; 31 DEC 2016

At the outbreak of the First World War, Marie Curie decided to bring medical radiology to the front line, which was still in its infancy at that time. Curie managed to set up mobile radiology units, called "petites Curies", and also installed permanent radiology units in hospitals. As such, she not only saved the lives of both countless wounded soldiers and civilians. Her first visit to Belgium was to the Belgian Field Hospital in Veurne. During Curie's visits to the field hospitals, she was often assisted by her 17-year-old daughter, Irène, who was a nurse. After the war, Marie Curie continued her research into radium, which earned her the Nobel Prize. Her daughter Irène followed in her footsteps, as she, too, went on to win the Nobel Prize in 1935. The exhibition will tell the story of Marie Curie with objects and images.

**i Address**

Vrij Vaderland see p. 37

**Website**

www.vrijvaderland.be

**Entrance**

Entrance included in the ticket of the Visitor Centre.

**Opening hours**

1 April - 11 November:  
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday, Sunday & school holidays:  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
12 November - 31 March:  
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday, Sunday & school holidays:  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed 25 December & 1 January

9 APR 2016 &gt; 31 DEC 2016

**ELSIE & MAIRI  
MADAME TACK & MIETJE  
BOEUF**

EXHIBITION

Museum at the Yser - Diksmuide

The Museum at the Yser tells the story of four strong women who found themselves at the Yser Front during the Great War: Madame Tack, Mietje Boeuf, Elsie Knocker and Mairi Chisholm.

Madame Tack was 78 years old when, in 1914, the war broke out. From her residence in Brussels, she fled to her villa in Nieuwkapelle (Diksmuide). Even when soldiers were literally positioned in Madame Tack's front garden, she refused to leave her home. Her villa became a refuge for many soldiers. With her donkey, Madame Tack used to run errands for herself and the soldiers in De Panne. She kept a Golden Book of all the people who came by.

Mieke Deboeuf, aka "La Joconde", did much the same thing in Oudekapelle (Diksmuide). Many rankless soldiers found refuge with her.

Elsie Knocker and Mairi Chisholm, the so-called angels of Pervijze, drove their motor bikes from England to the Yser Front to set up an aid post near the front line. The compassionate twosome lived in basements in Pervijze close to the firing line, and managed to save many lives.

**i Address & Contact**

Museum at the Yser see p. 33

**Website**

www.aandeyzer.be

**Opening hours**

1 April - 30 September 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (last admission 5.30 p.m.)  
1 October - 31 March 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (last admission 4.30 p.m.)  
Weekends and school holidays:  
open from 10 a.m.  
Closed 24, 25, 26 & 31 December;  
1 & 2 January

**Entrance**

Entrance included in the museum ticket.

9 APR 2016 &gt; 31 DEC 2016

**QUEEN ELIZABETH  
EXHIBITION**Cultuurhuis De Scharbiellie  
De Panne

This new exhibition outlines the Queen's artistic contacts during the war, ranging from her encounters with painters (such as Bastien, Claus and Van Sassenbrouck), to musicians (such as Ysaye and Saint-Saëns) and writers (including Verhaeren, Rolland and Gide). The exhibition even touches on her close association with the "Section artistique de l'Armée belge en campagne" and the "Orchestre Symphonique de l'Armée". As the Queen extensively photographed her numerous contacts, a selection of those photographs is also featured.

**i Address**Cultuurhuis De Scharbiellie  
Kasteelstraat 34  
8660 De Panne**Contact**+ 32 (0)58 42 97 53  
cultuur@depanne.be**Website**

www.depanne.be

**Opening hours**

Daily 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Closed on Mondays and bank holidays

**Entrance**

Free

29 - 30 SEPT 2016  
1 - 2 OCT 2016**FIGHTING LADIES**

THEATRE WALKS

De Blankaart - Diksmuide

Based on first-hand accounts and experiences, "Fighting Ladies" offers nine women who were active in the northern part of the Westhoek during the First World War a living platform. The women share their stories on four different stages: Marie and Irène Curie (Veurne), the two Angels of Pervijze Elsie and Mairi, Mietje Boeuf and Madame Tack (active as soldier mothers along the Yser), Queen Elisabeth (active in De Panne) and Käthe Kollwitz. The Lady of the Blankaart Castle and her nieces feature as usherettes. The charming Blankaart Castle grounds provide the backdrop for the theatre walks, which are translated digitally and simultaneously into French, German and English.

**i Entrance**

Adults: € 14  
< 18: € 7  
Group (min. 10 participants): € 11

**Tickets**

via [www.cckruispunt.be](http://www.cckruispunt.be) or  
[toerisme@stad.diksmuide.be](mailto:toerisme@stad.diksmuide.be)  
(as of April 2016)

## Commemoration of the first British execution in Poperinge

The execution story is one of the most harrowing of Poperinge's WWI history. It was not just a city behind the lines, but the headquarters of army command. The peaceful atmosphere was misleading since it was a city exposed to daily bombardment and one that dealt with the process of military life, including the court-martial and tragic execution of soldiers.

### John Wall (1895-1917)

John Wall, second sergeant of his platoon at the time, left with his men from their hiding place in Railway Wood and went towards the front line trenches of Bellewaerde Ridge in August 1917. When enemy bombardment started they took shelter in a bunker. The next day, when the soldiers arrived at the front line, they noticed that John Wall was missing. It turned out that he had stayed at the hiding place and only went back to the reserve dugouts the next day.

A few days later, his court-martial took place in the field. In his defence speech, Sergeant Wall argued that his men had left without his knowledge, because of enemy fire and he had to return to his hiding place when he was out looking for his troop.

John Wall, reduced to the ranks, was sentenced to death for desertion and shot by a firing squad. He was 22 years old.



**INTRO OK** 3 SEPT 2016 > 13 NOV 2016

**SHOT AT DAWN**  
EXHIBITION, ART INSTALLATION & MOBILE APPLICATION  
Gasthuiskapel, Poperinge

Life behind the front line, where the peace and quiet is deceptive. While there is certainly time for pleasure, there is also time for court martials. In Poperinge several executions took place. Soldiers spent their last night in the prison cells of the town hall. Today, the execution spot in the town hall's courtyard has taken on a symbolic significance. The 2016 exhibition places facts and figures into a broader perspective. Anno Dijkstra, a contemporary Dutch artist, will also be presenting a new statue, encouraging visitors to reflect on the notion of (fallen) heroes. A mobile app takes you to places with a specific story to tell both in and around Poperinge, as well as to Ypres, Loker and Heuvelland. Writers from then and now place the executions in a poetical context.

**i Address**  
Gasthuiskapel  
Gasthuisstraat 1A  
8970 Poperinge

**Contact**  
+32 (0)57 34 66 76  
toerisme@poperinge.be

**Website**  
www.poperinge14-18.be

**Opening hours**  
Daily from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Closed on Mondays

**Entrance**  
€ 3

## Artists inspired by war

The memory of the Great War is inscribed on paper and recorded on photographic negatives, however artists also fought on the front line, bringing a unique perspective to the conflict. Their collected sketches and paintings embody the great changes in Western art and culture brought about by the war: the beginnings of modernism as a new way of representing reality. The war artists from this period were often commissioned by the army or by newspapers wanting to capture the war for the greater public. As a result, in the period between 1914 and 1918, it was common to encounter works of pure propaganda, but also the increasingly powerful voice of a movement that would shatter the rose-tinted image of war. Today too, numerous artists continue to find inspiration in the war and use their art to interpret the past horrors in various ways.

**INTRO OK** 29 SEPT 2016 > 22 JAN 2017

**THE POWER OF THE AVANT-GARDE**  
ART EXHIBITION  
BOZAR - Centre for Fine Arts

Avant-garde is a concept that stems from both warfare and art. Avant-garde flourished in a society in full transition, whereas artists tend to anticipate social revolutions. In visual arts, the heyday of the avant-garde is situated between 1895 and 1920, with the First World War as an international fault line. But how relevant is this pioneering art today? A group of 15 leading artists enter into dialogue with colleagues from the historical avant-garde, ranging from Ensor and Munch to the new movements just after the war. Today's artists often feel a strong affinity with specific avant-garde works of art. Their preferred choice and the subsequent interaction with their own creations forces us to look at these key works of modern art in a different light. The power of the avant-garde seems to have plenty more to offer. Featuring works by David Claerbout, Robert Delaunay, Marcel Duchamp, Marlene Dumas, William Forsythe, Franz Marc, Gerhard Richter, Oskar Schlemmer, Luc Tuymans and Gino Severini, to name but a few. A co-production with the National Museum in Warsaw. Curator: Ulrich Bischoff.



Umberto Boccioni, The Forces of a Street, 1911. Kunstmuseum Basel

**i Address**  
Centre for Fine Arts - rue Ravensteinstraat 23, 1000 Brussels

**Website**  
www.bozar.be

**Entrance**  
€ 12  
€ 10 (trade)

**INTRO OK** 1 JUN 2016 > 30 SEPT 2016

**MENIN ROAD**  
OPEN-AIR EXHIBITION  
Ypres - Zonnebeke - Wervik - Menin

Menin Road, which connects Ypres and Menin, played a strategic part in WWI. The road directly intersected the front line and was used intensively by all warring parties involved.

The Germans called it the "Ypernstrasse" because to them it represented the most suitable way to Ypres. The British, on the other hand, saw it as the way to Menin. As it turned out, however, the British would never reach Menin and the Germans would never reach Ypres!

The concept of the open-air exhibition is based on the idea of digging up the soil with the artists addressing the individual, the soldier an-sich. 30 national and international artists are invited to explore the landscape and architectural relics of the First World War along the Menin-Ypres road. The war relics are either enhanced or concealed via monumental sculptures, land art, painting and literature, but also honoured by way of minimal, poetic interventions. Exhibition curator is Johan Tahon.

The legendary Menin Road and the four participating municipalities feature numerous tourist sites that shed light on the story of WWI. In addition, many tourist routes intersect the area surrounding the open air exhibition.

**i Address**  
Road N8 from Menin to Ypres

**Contact**  
petra.delvaux@ieper.be  
+32 (0)56 95 24 25

**Website**  
www.meninroad.be



## Children during wartime

Alfons is eight years old when the war breaks out. He lives in Aalst between Ghent and Brussels, where the foreign regime/occupation is far less suffocating than elsewhere in Belgium. Alfons' father works as an innkeeper and is acquainted with each and every one of the locals.

One day in August 1914, panic arises in the streets around the inn. Crowds of men come charging down the street, heading for the centre. "The Germans are rounding up all the men!" they cry. Patrons at the inn quickly empty their glasses and make a run for it. Once things settle down, Aalst anxiously awaits the arrival of the German uhlans, although they do not turn up until September.

Soon, life starts to buckle under the occupation. By Christmas there is a general shortage in supplies, especially in terms of food and coal. At school, civil servants hand out bowls of soup. Children each receive their own cup, which they keep tied around their necks and also prove excellent weapons during playground fights. War games soon become a favourite among the children. The boys carry wooden swords, bowler hats speared by a carrot serve as spiked helmets and artillery is constructed of stovepipes, soapboxes and fruit crates. Wheelbarrows are used to transport the wounded, who are looked after by nurses in headscarves made from curtain shreds, marked with a red cross. The children thoroughly enjoy themselves, the German soldiers looking on in amusement until they spot the little Belgian flags and hear the children's mocking nursery rhymes... Nevertheless, general protest continues to rise. Even when German orders become increasingly strict, the children continue playing their war games.

INTRO  
OK

14 OCT 2016 &gt; 2 APR 2017

### WAR IN SHORT PANTS EXHIBITION Sint-Pietersabdij Ghent

War in Short Pants takes a look at the history of WWI from a child's perspective, with children taking centre stage. Among others, the exhibition portrays the stories of children who stayed in Belgium during the war, but whose lives irreversibly changed due to the occupation. In contrast to the volatile image of the war memories, the visitor also learns about families that were either separated or reunited, as well as those having to deal with an absent father and a radically altered social family fabric. The economic misery that the occupied country fell victim to and the resulting social tensions is another aspect of the exhibition, as is the growing freedom of youngsters and the unprecedented way in which public space expanded and new pastimes for the youth became a fact. Also featured are the stories of children who fled abroad at the outbreak of the war and went to stay in the Netherlands, France or England until the war ended. Although Belgium is the exhibition's geographical centre, we also see children in Great-Britain, France, the Netherlands, Germany and Italy, due to the simple fact that between 1914 and 1918, "poor little Belgium" soon started to play an important role in international relations.

The exhibits are mainly relics from the children's everyday lives: drawings, toys, songs, glossy magazines, and possibly also letters and diaries. Objects from the "adult" world, such as pictures, posters, post cards, films... are also featured.

#### **i** Address

Historische Huizen Ghent  
Sint-Pietersabdij  
Sint-Pietersplein 9  
9000 Ghent

#### **Contact**

+32 (0)9 243 97 30  
sintpietersabdij@gent.be

#### **Website**

www.sintpietersabdijgent.be

## Other events in 2016

INTRO  
OK

10 APR 2016 &gt; 15 NOV 2016

### "BUILDING THE FRONT"

THREE EXHIBITIONS AND MUSEUM WEEKEND  
Memorial Museum of Passchendaele - Zonnebeke

**i** More information about Memorial Museum of Passchendaele p. 29  
All temporary exhibitions are free of charge.

10 APR 2016 &gt; 7 AUG 2016

### "FRONT 14-18" - WWI IN 3D

EXHIBITION  
Castle park Zonnebeke

This travelling exhibition of the LWL Museum Westfalen and the LWL Industrial Museum Henrichshütte Hattingen converts German war photographs into 3D images.

Men with gas masks in the trenches, a wounded man in hospital, soldiers in a town ravaged by war, a fallen soldier on the battlefield, a proud pilot in his plane - the "Front 14/18" exhibition images present WWI from the perspective of two German frontline soldiers. The 3D-effect, brought to life with special glasses, brings visitors closer to the war.



Starts 23 APR 2016

**BUILDING THE FRONT**  
PERMANENT OUTDOOR EXHIBITION  
Various locations in Zonnebeke

After visiting the indoor exhibition you can stroll over to the battlefield, where a unique experience awaits: here you can walk or cycle past a number of silent witnesses who disappeared for many years. Exhibition panels featuring useful history and tourist information are set up at the bunkers, whereas a handy visitor's guide is also provided.

23 APR 2016 &gt; 15 NOV 2016

### BUILDING THE FRONT

EXHIBITION  
Villa Zonnedaal - Castle park Zonnebeke

After the Second Battle of Ypres (1915), the front line has started edging closer to Ypres, whereas Zonnebeke and Passchendaele are located in the German hinterland. Since the Germans are gaining ground and things are relatively quiet, they have the opportunity to bury their dead and develop a true defence network, for which the German army calls on unarmed military personnel. In addition, Belgian citizens, or "Zivilarbeiter", are also drafted as labourers.



23 - 24 APR 2016

**MUSEUM WEEKEND 2016**  
Castle park Zonnebeke

The annual museum weekend in Zonnebeke's castle domain focuses on German history in 2016. A complete programme has been developed, which includes guided tours, a new bicycle tour and a themed Living History event, which delves into the history of the German dugouts constructed in the area in 1916. You also have the chance to take a look behind the scenes of the Passchendaele Memorial Museum 1917 during this museum weekend.

1 JUL 2016 &gt; 31 MAY 2017

**THE ART OF REMEMBRANCE**EXHIBITION  
Westfront Nieuwpoort

The art of remembrance is to be taken literally in Nieuwpoort. Art takes a prominent place in present-day Nieuwpoort as it did in 1916, albeit underground. A section of Belgian soldier-painters were assigned a dug-out in the ruins of the town, where they were to record the destruction on canvas. Thirteen painters captured the war in art, thus adding a touch of vitality and colour to a war-struck Nieuwpoort. Their work helps us to understand the tragedy.

A few famous names are: Bastien, Hygens, Lynen, Wagemans. They painted life and death at the front and brought an unexpected vitality and flair from and to Nieuwpoort.

**i** More information about the Westfront on p. 35.

INTRO  
OK

30 AUG 2014 &gt; 31 DEC 2019

**ALBERT I AND THE GREAT WAR**EXHIBITION  
Rumbeke Castle

In the heart of the beautiful provincial Sterrebos domain, one of the oldest Renaissance castles of the country can be found, thus providing the perfect location for the "Albert I and the Great War" exhibition.

This audiovisual exhibition features rare pictures, videos and audio material highlighting the Belgian story during WWI, taking you on a journey through the fascinating life and reign of the famous Belgian king Albert I, illustrating that a ruler could be more than merely a national symbol. Throughout his life, Albert remained stubbornly faithful to his subjects and proved that he was also a master diplomat.

At the end of February 2016, an additional segment will open, focusing on diplomacy during WWI, as a (world) war is not only decided on the battlefield. Matters such as diplomacy and economy played a big part in the evolutions of the decade. The occupied Brave Little Belgium stood its ground among the superpowers and even went on to claim an important role. Visitor groups can choose from a number of attractive all-in formulas. A guided visit can, for example, be followed by a brunch, dessert plate or a nocturne with a drink in the castle.

**i Address**Rumbeke Castle  
8800 Roeselare**Website**

www.albert14-18.be

**Opening hours**

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Closed on Mondays and public holidays

**Entrance**

Adults: € 6

Discount price: € 4

**KING ALBERT I  
AND THE  
GREAT WAR**  
FIGHTING FOR PEACE  
WWW.ALBERT14-18.BE



RUMBEKE  
CASTLE  
FROM  
30.08  
2014

19 MAR 2016 &gt; 26 JUN 2016

**CANADA IN FLANDERS**EXHIBITION  
In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres

Exhibition on the Canadian presence in the Ypres Salient with a focus on 2016, including the Battle of Mount Sorrel (Hill 62).

**i** Exhibition included in entrance ticket of the In Flanders Fields Museum. More information about the museum on p. 25.

25 APR 2016 (6 a.m.)

**ANZAC DAY  
DAWN SERVICE**

Buttes New British Cemetery

When the "Australian and New Zealand Army Corps" lands on the Turkish peninsula of Gallipoli on April 25<sup>th</sup> 1915, it marks the beginning of the First World War for these troops. Each year, ANZAC Day commemorates the Australian and New Zealand soldiers that fought in WWI.

ANZAC Day celebrations in Zonnebeke begin early in the morning with the traditional Dawn Service at Buttes New British Cemetery in Polygon Wood (Polygoonbos). Many Australian and New Zealand soldiers were laid to rest here. The ceremony is followed by breakfast in OC Zonnerad.

**i** Reservations for breakfast (€ 5) can be made via [www.inschrijvingen.zonnebeke.be](http://www.inschrijvingen.zonnebeke.be).



1 SEPT 2016 &gt; 6 SEPT 2016

**INTERNATIONAL BLACKSMITHING EVENT**

Ypres

Over 200 blacksmiths from around the world are expected in Ypres for this big blacksmithing event. The main objective is to create the "The Poppy Cenotaph", which is a steel plate measuring 7 metres high and 2 metres wide, into which a large Flanders Fields poppy has been cut, symbolising both the soldiers that lost their lives and those that survived, as well as their families and communities. 2.000 metal poppies will be attached to this "pillar", which is surrounded by a low fence in the typical winding shape of the trenches. The artwork will be created in many different forges, but the finishing touches will take place on-site during the event on the Market Square in Ypres. The cenotaph will then be given a permanent place in Langemark next to the German cemetery.

The event will feature 15 forging workshops in total, 3 of which are reserved for the public, for children and for shoeing horses. Two workshops will be dedicated to work on the poppies, while 10 others will focus on the panels to be placed around the central cenotaph. Numerous demonstrations and interactive sessions have also been planned, which will undoubtedly attract a large number of visitors.

Key guests at this forging event are the British Artist Blacksmiths Association (BABA) and the Ambachtelijke Smedersgilde België (ASB). A similar international forging event previously took place in Ironbridge, England, where a Pillar of Friendship was forged.

**i Website**[www.ypres2016.com](http://www.ypres2016.com).

25 SEPT 2016

**CARABINIERS - GRENADIERS  
CEREMONY**

Passchendaele Centre

Annual celebration in Passchendaele of the liberation offensive, in which the Belgian Grenadiers and Carabiniers played a significant role.

**i Website**[www.passchendaele.be](http://www.passchendaele.be)

10 NOV 2016 (6 p.m.)

**PASSCHENDAELE  
CEREMONY**

Crest Farm Memorial Passchendaele town / church

The battle ended on November 10<sup>th</sup> 1917, after the conquest of the little of Passchendaele that still remained. This event is celebrated every year with a ceremony at the Crest Farm Memorial and a torchlight procession to the Passchendaele church. There is an outdoor reception followed by a themed concert in the Passchendaele church.

**i Website**[www.passchendaele.be](http://www.passchendaele.be)

3 SEPT 2016 &gt; 8 JAN 2017

**WRITTEN WAR**EXHIBITION  
In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres

In what ways does the written word tell the story of the war? The exhibition deals creatively with literature in form and content, with personal documents (letters, diaries), journalism and reporting. Furthermore, it also pays attention to important niches in the story, such as study circles, trench newspapers, pamphlets, reports, official or alternative historiography, and the relationship between the intangible heritage of a written text and the tangible heritage of the contemporary landscape.

**i** Exhibition included in entrance ticket of the In Flanders Fields Museum. More information about the museum on p. 25.

11 NOV 2016

**ARMISTICE REMEMBRANCE**

Menin Gate, Ypres

The Armistice is commemorated each year in Ypres with an extensive programme of events. Highlights include the Special Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate at 11 a.m. and the "The Great War Remembered" concert in St Martin's Cathedral at 4.30 p.m.

**i Website**[www.toerisme-ieper.be](http://www.toerisme-ieper.be)

# GONE WEST: COMINGWORLDREMEMBERME (2014-2018)

INTRO  
OK

2014-2018

**COMINGWORLDREMEMBERME**  
Nieuwpoort & Ypres



From 2014 to 2018, by moulding 600,000 sculptures out of clay, thousands of people from across Flanders and the rest of the world will take part in the making of the installation ComingWorldRememberMe. Each and every sculpture represents one of the 600,000 victims who lost their lives due to WWI in Belgium. After being baked in the oven, all the sculptures will be identified by a dog tag, the universal system of identification for soldiers. On this dog tag will be the name of one of the victims mentioned on the "The Name List" composed by the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres. Each dog tag will also bear the name of the maker of that specific sculpture. In this way, different generations and nationalities will be united in the commemoration.

In the spring of 2018, the installation will be installed on one of the most hard-won places of WWI: the no man's land of the frontline around Ypres. Each clay sculpture will get its place between two large sculptures made by artist Koen Vanmechelen. The impressive land art installation ComingWorldRememberMe will remind us of the uselessness of war: yesterday, today and tomorrow. Thanks to the commitment of all participants, the past, the present and the future will become connected and ComingWorldRememberMe will eventually turn into a cross-border and cross-generational symbol of peace.

Attend one of the workshops in Nieuwpoort or Ypres to make a sculpture.

**i Address**

Kazemat 5                      Site Bommenvrij, Schoolstraat 48  
8900 Ieper                      8620 Nieuwpoort

**Contact**

+32 (0)58/62.39.29  
cwrn@vzwkunst.be

**Website**

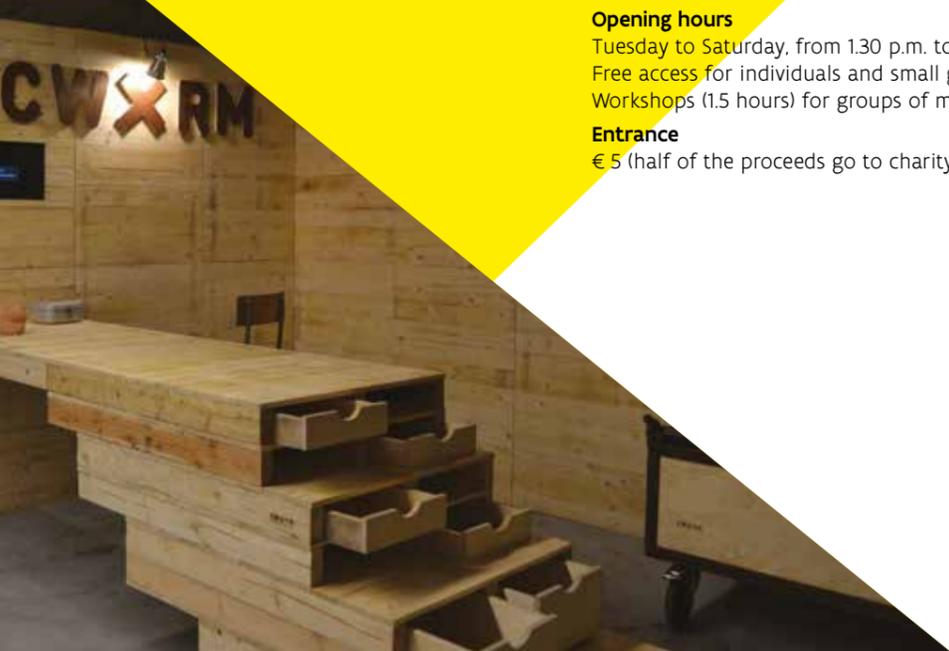
www.cwrn.be/en  
www.facebook.com/comingworldrememberme

**Opening hours**

Tuesday to Saturday, from 1.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Free access for individuals and small groups (< 10 participants).  
Workshops (1.5 hours) for groups of more than 10 participants on request.

**Entrance**

€ 5 (half of the proceeds go to charity)



# 2017 PASSCHENDAELE REMEMBERED

## Third Battle of Ypres

On June 7<sup>th</sup> 1917, during the Mine Battle of Messines, a total of 19 mines were detonated under the German lines, creating deafening explosions that could be heard as far away as London. The Second Battle by Mesen (7-14 June 1917) went down in history as the heaviest military explosion until the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, and permanently changed the landscape in the region around Heuvelland and Mesen. Nineteen craters bear silent witness to an epic battlefield.

The Battle of Passchendaele that ensued was devastating for the allied forces. Over the course of four months, 400,000 soldiers of the Commonwealth were either killed, wounded or went missing, all the while gaining no more than five miles of ground. The Germans had built almost impregnable concrete bunkers, which they defended with unrelenting machine guns.

1917 also saw the first German use of mustard gas or *ieperiet*, marking an "upgrade" from chlorine and phosgene gases. Mustard gas not only attacked the respiratory system, but also caused hideously painful skin blisters.

## SEABROOK BROTHERS

The three Australian brothers joined the Australian Imperial Force together in 1916. Theo (age 25) and George (age 24) were both privates, whereas their younger brother William (age 20) was soon promoted to Second Lieutenant thanks to previous military experience. The boys left Sydney in August that year as part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion.

In June 1917, the brothers had finally reached Belgium, where the troops were busy preparing for the great offensive at Ypres. The Australian infantry's first mission presented itself as the Battle of Menin Road, which began on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1917 and was eventually won by the allies. For the Seabrook brothers, however, it turned out to be their first, last and only battle.

Shortly after midnight on the day the battle commenced, William Seabrook sustained severe injuries when a phosphorous grenade landed near Hellfire Corner, where he was leading his column to its starting position. William was carried off to a clearing station, but he succumbed to his injuries the following day. Meanwhile, George and Theo had reached their starting positions, and at 5.40 a.m. the attack was launched. As they waited for the order to advance on the enemy, a shell exploded, killing them both on their first day at the front.

While word of William's death reached the boys' parents a couple of weeks later, their mother and father never received clear information on what had happened to their two other sons. Although several sources claimed Theo too had died, reports on George's whereabouts contradicted each other and up until her own death in 1929, their mother Fanny cherished the hope that he might still have been alive.

William Seabrook is buried at the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery (see p. 31), just west of Ypres, whereas George and Theo, both declared Missing in Action, are commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial (see p. 26) in Ypres itself.



INTRO  
OK

JUN 2017 > DEC 2017

**1917, FROM MINE EXPLOSIONS TO FLOATING MUD SEA**  
EXHIBITIONS AND TRAVEL ROUTES  
Various locations in Flanders Fields



Exhibitions and info stands on major WWI sites in the southern Westhoek introduce visitors to the story and relics of the infamous Battles of Messines and Passchendaele (1917).

In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres: Temporary exhibition providing a general introduction to war year 1917 (The Battle of Messines and Third Battle of Ypres). Three information posts on the Ypres Salient take us through the specific history of these locations.

Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917, Zonnebeke: Temporary exhibition on Passchendaele, tactics in the mud. (working title)

Visitor Centre Heuvelland: Temporary exhibitions "Irish blood on Flemish soil" and "Archaeology of a battle". (working titles)

Tourist Information Point Mesen: Temporary exhibition on the impact of WWI on New Zealand.

Visitor Centre Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Poperinge: Temporary exhibition on the preparations that went into the Third Battle of Ypres and its implications for the nearby hospital sites.

Visitor Centre Langemark: Temporary exhibition on the history of Langemark-Poelkapelle during the Third Battle of Ypres.

Information Point Houthulst: Temporary exhibition on the history of Houthulst during the Third Battle of Ypres.

Thematic discovery trails to follow on foot, by bike or by car interlink all these different WWI sites.

**i Website**  
[www.flandersfields.be/1917](http://www.flandersfields.be/1917)

INTRO  
OK

9 JUN 2017

**CRATER FRONT**  
SOUNDSCAPE AND LIGHT  
INSTALLATION

A century after the Mine Battle during the Crater Front, GonenWest (event organiser) would like to commemorate the historic craters that were blown into the soil with a live soundscape and light installation. It is a completely unique experience in Heuvelland, where the craters star as scars in the landscape. The Crater Front is linked to a musical event, organised by the Municipality of Heuvelland, Mesen and Komen-Waasten, in line with the international commemoration of the Mine Battle. On the evening of June 9 and 10, concerts will be organised for the general public near the Wijtschate sports centre.

**i Website**  
[www.gonewest.be](http://www.gonewest.be)

12 OCT 2017

**WOOD OF PEACE**  
TREE PLANTING DAY  
Polygon Wood

In 2017, a tree will be planted for every fallen soldier with a known grave at the two British cemeteries of Polygon Wood. In addition, a monument for all the missing soldiers will be built in a central area in the new park. Family members of fallen soldiers may also plant a tree in the park. The Wood of Peace will keep the memory of the soldiers who lost their lives during WWI alive for many generations to come.

**i Website**  
[www.passchendaele2017.org](http://www.passchendaele2017.org)



INTRO  
OK

1 JUL 2017 > 10 NOV 2017

**TAG FOR REMEMBRANCE  
PROJECT**  
Visitors Centre Tyne Cot Cemetery

You can engrave a personal message of peace on an identity tag at the Visitors Centre of Tyne Cot Cemetery or on [www.passchendaele2017.org](http://www.passchendaele2017.org). All these tags will be collected and displayed as The Tree of Remembrance, a permanent artwork that will be given a home in the Passchendaele Memorial Park in Zonnebeke. The tree will be unveiled during a special ceremony on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2017, one hundred years after the end of the Battle of Passchendaele.

**i Website**  
[www.passchendaele2017.org](http://www.passchendaele2017.org)

INTRO  
OK

19-20 AUG 2017

**BRITISH THEMED WEEKEND**  
"WILL YE COME TO  
FLANDERS"  
Zonnebeke

The British weekend "Will ye come to Flanders" focuses on the counties of the United Kingdom and their role during the Battle of Passchendaele. Numerous themed activities will take place.

**i Website**  
[www.passchendaele2017.org](http://www.passchendaele2017.org)

INTRO  
OK

14 OCT 2017

**SILENT CITY MEETS LIVING  
CITY**  
Tyne Cot Cemetery



With 12,000 gravestones, Passchendaele's Tyne Cot Cemetery is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world. The village of Passendale is part of Zonnebeke, a municipality which, incidentally, counts 12,000 inhabitants. In 2017, one hundred years after the Battle of Passchendaele, the people of Zonnebeke invite you to this symbolic location to commemorate WWI's countless casualties. On October 14<sup>th</sup> 2017, 12,000 volunteers will all contribute to a unique and powerful moment of silence and reflection.

**i** Volunteers can register on the following website as of 2016:  
[www.passchendaele2017.org](http://www.passchendaele2017.org).

1 JUL 2017 > 31 MAY 2018

**THE BATTLE  
OF THE DUNES**  
Westfront Nieuwpoort

The Battle of the Dunes is a forgotten battle. Very few people know that Nieuwpoort was part of the plans for the Passchendaele offensive in the summer of 1917. This was pre-empted by the very first German mustard gas attack. Nieuwpoort's vital sluices were saved by Scottish regiments at a great loss of life.

**i Website**  
[www.westfrontnieuwpoort.be](http://www.westfrontnieuwpoort.be)

INTRO  
OK

15 OCT 2017

**WAR PASSION**  
LITERATURE  
Zonnebeke

International literary event on the 100-year anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele.

**i Website**  
[www.passchendaele2017.org](http://www.passchendaele2017.org)

12 NOV 2017

**ALEX DECOTEAU RUN**  
Zonnebeke/Passchendaele

Take part in a race that runs along the pathways through the historic battlefield, as a tribute to all those that fell in the Battle of Passchendaele. Graveside service will be provided by Canadian Indian Alex Wuttunee Decoteau, who participated in the 5,000 metre race during the 1912 Olympics.

**i Website**  
[www.passchendaele2017.org](http://www.passchendaele2017.org)



**Other events in 2017**

INTRO  
OK

1 JUN 2017 > 30 SEPT 2017

**RACING DURING  
THE GREAT WAR**  
EXHIBITION  
Tour of Flanders Visitors' Centre

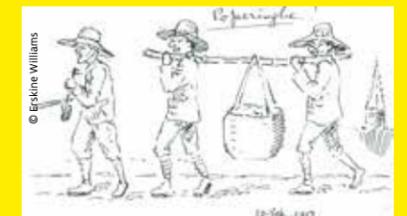
This innovative exhibition will lead you through the history of cycling before, during and after the First World War. Vivid anecdotes and moving stories are used to paint an overall picture of the impact the violence of war had on this new sport. Some of the questions raised include: "How did the international cycling heroes survive the horrendous war?", "What role did the bicycle play in the workings of the military system and warfare?" and "How did the world of bicycle racing recover after the complete destruction of the track and road infrastructure?". Personal stories, interactive activities and multimedia apps are combined to vividly revive this neglected yet promising period in the history of cycling.

**i Website**  
[www.crvv.be](http://www.crvv.be)

INTRO  
OK

1 JUL 2017 > 3 SEPT 2017

**CHINA IN POPERINGE**  
EXHIBITION  
Poperinge



China in Poperinge tells the story of the Chinese presence in Poperinge from 1917 onwards, recounting how the presence of the Chinese led to prejudice, and revealing how people interacted with a foreign culture. In 2017, the world has become globalized - but has our perception changed? Contemporary artists try to find an answer to this question. A special app takes you to several places that feature a Chinese tale, you can go and watch an authentic Chinese shadow play and a festival brings dragons back to town!

**i Website**  
[www.poperinge14-18.be](http://www.poperinge14-18.be)

# Memorial ceremonies 2017

**i** More information about the memorial ceremonies:  
[www.passchendaele2017.org](http://www.passchendaele2017.org)

## ANZAC DAY - DAWN SERVICE

25 APR 2017 (6 a.m.)

Buttes New British Cemetery - Zonnebeke



For the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, WWI begins on April 25<sup>th</sup> 1915, when the troops land on the Turkish peninsula of Gallipoli. ANZAC Day pays tribute to all the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought during WWI. ANZAC Day celebrations commence in Zonnebeke bright and early at 6 a.m. with the traditional Dawn Service at Buttes New British Cemetery in Polygon Wood. Many soldiers from Australia and New Zealand were laid to rest here. The ceremony is followed by a breakfast in OC Zonnerad; reservations for breakfast (€ 5) can be made via [www.inschrijvingen.zonnebeke.be](http://www.inschrijvingen.zonnebeke.be). In 2017 the ceremony will conclude with the planting of the first trees in the Wood of Peace, which will be located next to the Polygon Wood.

## 3<sup>RD</sup> BATTLE OF YPRES/ BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE REMEMBRANCE PROGRAMME

12 JUL 2017

Zonnebeke & Ieper

Official memorial service to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele at Tyne Cot Cemetery and the Menin Gate. A cultural programme will take place on the chateau grounds of Zonnebeke and the market square of Ypres.

**i** More info at the In Flanders Fields museum p. 25 and the Memorial Museum of Passchendaele p. 29

19 AUG 2017

## MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Scottish monument on the Frezenberg (Zonnebeke)

Official memorial service at the Scottish monument on the Frezenberg in Zonnebeke. The Scottish monument was unveiled ten years ago in 2007. Heavy fighting between the Scottish and German troops took place at this site in 1917.

20 SEPT 2017

## AUSTRALIAN MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Zonnebeke

Official memorial ceremony for the Australian casualties with numerous themed activities.

24 SEPT 2017

## CARABINIERS - GRENADIERS CEREMONY

Passchendaele Centre (Zonnebeke)

The 24<sup>th</sup> of September will mark 99 years since the large-scale attack by the allied forces that ended WWI. The Belgian Carabiniers-Grenadiers invaded and gained control of the ruins of the village of Passchendaele.

12 OCT 2017

## NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL SERVICE

Zonnebeke

Official memorial service for the fallen soldiers of New Zealand with themed activities.



10 NOV 2017

## PASSCHENDAELE CEREMONY CANADIAN MEMORIAL CELEBRATION

Crest Farm Memorial /  
Passchendaele Church (Zonnebeke)

Memorial event to celebrate the end of the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917 with a ceremony at the Crest Farm Memorial and a torchlight procession to the Passchendaele church. There is an outdoor reception followed by a themed concert in the Passchendaele Church.

# 2018 PEACE AT LAST

## The offensives of 1918 and the armistice

During the spring of 1918, the German forces were strengthened by the arrival of fresh divisions from the Eastern Front, where the 1917 October Revolution had led to Russia's withdrawal from the war. During the Battle of Merkem on April 17<sup>th</sup> 1918, the Belgian Army fought and withstood a relentless attack by the Germans, which resulted in the Germans being forced back to their original positions by nightfall. During the Battle of Mount Kemmel, however, the French came under particular pressure and on April 25<sup>th</sup> this strategically important hill was lost to the Germans, almost resulting in the loss of Ypres.

By the end of September, German reserves had been exhausted and the Americans had started to arrive in huge numbers on the Western Front. Meanwhile, the German home front began to disintegrate, and from September 28<sup>th</sup> until the armistice on November 11<sup>th</sup>, an assembly of allied forces pushed the Germans back to the Scheldt River.

On September 28<sup>th</sup> 1918, the Belgian Army attacked the fortress in Houthulst Forest (Battle of Houthulst Forest). Almost all Belgian units were involved in the attack, which received support from the British Second Army and a number of French divisions, and by the end of the first day the Belgians had succeeded in capturing the German lines along a front 11 miles wide and 4 miles deep.

At the beginning of November, the armistice was signed in a railway carriage near the French town of Compiègne. The First World War finally came to an end at eleven o'clock on the morning of November 11<sup>th</sup> 1918.





21 APR 2018 > 15 DEC 2018

### THE FINAL OFFENSIVE: THE YANKS ARE COMING

Memorial Museum Passchendaele  
Zonnebeke

This temporary exhibition sheds a light on the presence of the four American divisions that fought in Flanders during the final offensive. The military aspect unfolds as we examine the education, origin, equipment and uniforms of these troops. Also featured is a general story about "Legergroep Vlaanderen" (the Flanders Battalion), which recounts how the Belgian troops liberated Zonnebeke.

The exhibition starts with an opening weekend on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, which focuses on the final attack and the participation of American troops. The programme features numerous themed activities, such as battlefield tours and the annual Living History event.

**i Website**  
[www.passchendaele.be](http://www.passchendaele.be)

**Entrance**  
Free of charge  
**Opening hours**  
Open daily from 10.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.



23 APR 2018 > 30 AUG 2018

### WWI, THE BATTLE FOR THE NORTH SEA EXHIBITION Bruges

The German Marinekorps Flandern had established a well-oiled war machine in the coastal area between the front line and the Dutch border. Given the region's exceptional strategic importance as a base of operations for naval and aerial battles in the North Sea, the German occupying forces installed a vast network of ports, artillery batteries, bunkers and airfields in this area. Operating from the ports of Ostend and Zeebrugge, they sank no fewer than 2,550 allied ships. Eventually, this intense submarine warfare partly triggered the American decision to join WWI.

As the former headquarters of the Marinekorps Flandern, the Provincial Court in Bruges provides the ideal backdrop for the exhibition "WWI, the Battle for the North Sea". Using historical artefacts and never-before-seen illustrations, this exhibition aims to shed light on the little-known story of the war at sea and the essential role of Bruges as the nerve centre of the entire operation.

**i Address**  
Provincial Court (Provinciaal Hof)  
Markt 3 - 8000 Bruges  
**Contact**  
[jan@vliz.be](mailto:jan@vliz.be)

25 APR 2018 (6 a.m.)

### ANZAC DAY - DAWN SERVICE Buttes New British Cemetery Zonnebeke

For the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, WWI begins on April 25<sup>th</sup> 1915, when the troops land on the Turkish peninsula of Gallipoli. Each year, ANZAC Day pays tribute to the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought during WWI. Memorial celebrations begin in Zonnebeke bright and early at 6 a.m. with the traditional Dawn Service at Buttes New British Cemetery in Polygon Wood. Many Australian and New Zealand soldiers were laid to rest here. The service is followed by breakfast in OC Zonnerad; breakfast reservations (€ 5) can be made via [www.inschrijvingen.zonnebeke.be](http://www.inschrijvingen.zonnebeke.be).

**i Website**  
[www.passchendaele.be](http://www.passchendaele.be)

APR 2018 > NOV 2018

### THE OFFENSIVES OF 2018: THE GERMAN SPRING OFFENSIVE AND FINAL OFFENSIVE

HISTORICAL EXHIBITION  
In Flanders Fields Museum - Ypres

**i** More information about In Flanders Fields Museum view p. 25.



30 JUN 2018 > 2 SEPT 2018

### HEALING EXHIBITION, ART, MOBILE APPLICATION AND EXPERIENCE ROUTE Poperinge

Poperinge concludes the WWI commemorations with a message of hope and consolation. During the summer of 2018, healing features as a central theme. Exhibition Not in Khaki tells the story of the wide range of women, ranging from nurses to prostitutes, that provided the world with comfort, while contemporary artist Chantal Pollier enhances the exhibition with a selection of artful statements. In collaboration with art festival Watou a comfort route has also been developed, taking you to consoling pavilions decorated with healing art and poetry.



**i Address**  
Gasthuiskapel  
Gasthuisstraat 1A  
Poperinge  
**Contact**  
+ 32 (0)57 34 66 76  
[toerisme@poperinge.be](mailto:toerisme@poperinge.be)  
**Website**  
[www.poperinge14-18.be](http://www.poperinge14-18.be)  
**Opening hours**  
Daily from 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
(closed on Mondays)

30 JUN 2018

### WATERFRONT Zeebrugge - Ostend

Because of their strategic location by the North Sea, opposite free England and between France and the Netherlands, many coastal communities were targeted during the First World War. In 1918 in particular, the coast was hit hard. On April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1918, a simultaneous British attack took place on the ports of Ostend and Zeebrugge, followed by a second attack 3 weeks later on the port of Ostend with HMS Vindictive. All three attacks were intended to block the shipping channels, so that German U-boats would not be able to set off, however all three failed. The attack on the port of Zeebrugge is commemorated every year on Saint George's Day.

On June 30<sup>th</sup> 2018, GoneWest will be organising the Waterfront. A human wall will be established from the shipping channel in Zeebrugge to the shipping channel in Ostend, which covers a distance of 26.9 km, in the hope of averting the war gods once and for all. The human chain will run through five municipalities: Zeebrugge, Blankenberge, De Haan, Bredene and Ostend. The Waterfront will focus on the future, hope, reconciliation, forgiveness and a new start for humanity.

**i Website**  
[www.gonewest.be](http://www.gonewest.be)

1 JUL 2018 > 31 MAY 2019

### ARCHITECTURE AND WAR. REBUILDING THE CITY AND ITS OUTSKIRTS. Westfront Nieuwpoort

Architecture and war, or creation and destruction, both seem like direct opposites. However... they are also both inherently linked. Whatever could not be renovated after the war, had to be rebuilt - or could something new perhaps be created instead? Arras, Ypres, Diksmuide and Nieuwpoort achieved historic status as Northern front cities, although all were almost completely destroyed. The same goes for the surrounding outskirts, plains, farms and villages, not to mention the damage caused by the saltwater inundations. A hundred years later, the consequences are barely visible, thanks to both local citizens and architects. Still visible, on the contrary, are some authentic examples of war architecture. The bunkers near Ramskapelle and the protected monuments of the Duvetorre and Bommenvrij, for example, are a few of the very last remainders.

**i Website**  
[www.westfrontnieuwpoort.be](http://www.westfrontnieuwpoort.be)



JUL 2018 > AUG 2018

### SUMMER OF '18 CONCERTS

During the summer of 2018, the GoneWest concerts will complement the local summer events in Flanders' westernmost part. Nieuwpoort, Veurne, Diksmuide, Poperinge and Dranouter will all be treated to a unique GoneWest concert, the common theme being the idea of unexpected combinations (of artists, genres, ages...), with multiculturalism and diversity setting the tone. These concerts will include new creations centred on youth, hope and future. The journey will end with a grand apotheosis on the Market Square of Ypres on Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**i Website**  
[www.gonewest.be](http://www.gonewest.be)

28 SEPT 2018

### MEMORIAL SERVICE CARABINIERS - GRENADIERS Zonnebeke/Passchendaele

The 28<sup>th</sup> of September will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day the assembled allied forces launched the attack that would end World War I, which allowed the Belgian Carabiniers-Grenadiers to reconquer the ruins of the village of Passchendaele. A celebration of the Eucharist will be followed by several other ceremonies, as well as a reception.

10 NOV 2018

### PASSCHENDEAE CEREMONY - CANADIAN MEMORIAL CEREMONY Crest Farm Memorial / Passchendaele Church

Memorial event to commemorate the end of the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917 with a ceremony at the Crest Farm Memorial and a torchlight procession to the Passchendaele church. An outdoor reception will be followed by a themed concert in the Passchendaele church.

**i Website**  
[www.passchendaele.be](http://www.passchendaele.be)

11 NOV 2018

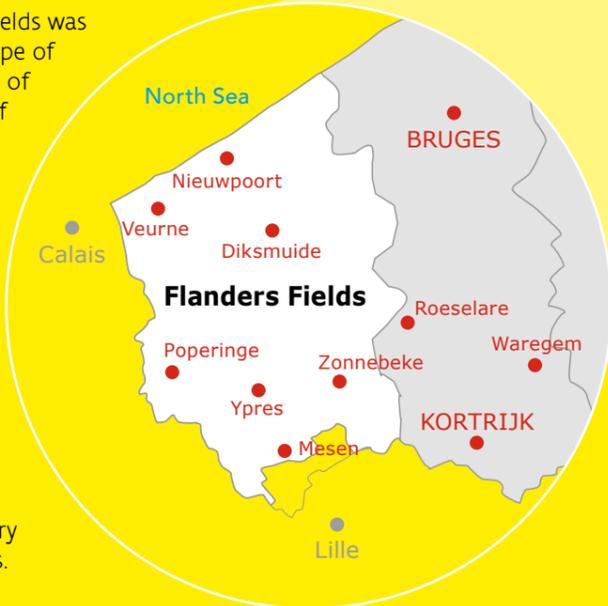
### ARMISTICE REMEMBRANCE Menin Gate, Ypres

The Armistice is commemorated each year in Ypres with an extensive programme of events. Highlights include the Special Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate at 11 a.m. and the "The Great War Remembered" concert in St Martin's Cathedral at 4.30 p.m.

**i Website**  
[www.toerisme-ieper.be](http://www.toerisme-ieper.be)

# WORLD WAR I SITES

For four long years Flanders Fields was the scene of WWI. The landscape of the region still tells the story of the war. It contains hundreds of monuments and cemeteries which have great historical significance for the people of many nations. There are numerous museums which explain in an interactive way all the aspects of the conflict: the battles, daily life, etc. WWI was the first truly global conflict. Victims from more than 50 countries are buried in Belgium. Certain spots in Flanders have forever been engraved in the collective memory of other countries and regions.



On the following pages are some of the different places to visit in the key towns and those places that are of specific interest for certain nations and regions are marked with their flag.

## List of flags

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Commonwealth flag |  German flag      |
|  British flag      |  Belgian flag     |
|  Scottish flag     |  American flag    |
|  Welsh flag        |  Canadian flag    |
|  Irish flag        |  Australian flag  |
|  French flag       |  New Zealand flag |
|  Indian flag       |  |



## Ypres & surroundings

Throughout the war, Ypres and the Ypres Salient, the area around Ypres, was the scene of the heaviest battles. As a result Ypres was reduced to rubble and at the beginning of May 1915 all remaining inhabitants were evacuated turning Ypres into a ghost town. These fierce battles have left their marks on the landscape around the city. From 1919 the first inhabitants returned to their destroyed city and gradually the reconstruction began. At first the returnees and new inhabitants lived in wooden shelter homes. From 1921 onwards, the actual reconstruction started including the faithful restoration of Ypres' most important historic monument: the Cloth Hall.

 [www.toerisme-ieper.be](http://www.toerisme-ieper.be)

### IN FLANDERS FIELDS MUSEUM



The newly renovated In Flanders Fields Museum takes prime place as a must-see attraction in Ypres. A new permanent exhibition focuses on personal stories of ordinary people and establishes a link to the landscape of WWI in West Flanders. The museum has doubled in size and now hosts a WWI knowledge centre. More than 2,000 original objects and documents are on display and visitors can follow four personal stories through interactive kiosks.

New scenography highlights the most recent museum applications, including touch screens, interactive poppy bracelets, video projections and soundscapes. Everything contributes to a rich experience and submerses visitors in life on the front.

In addition, visitors can now climb the bell tower for a wonderful view of what was once a completely devastated region.



#### Address

Cloth Hall  
Grote Markt 34  
8900 Ypres

#### Contact

+32 (0)57 239 220  
flandersfields@ieper.be

#### Website

[www.inlandersfields.be](http://www.inlandersfields.be)

#### Opening hours

1 April - 15 November:  
Mon - Sun: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
16 November - 31 March:  
Tue - Sun: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
25 December & 1 January:  
Closed

#### Entrance

Adults: € 9  
Youth (ages 19-25): € 5  
Children (ages 7-18): € 4  
Children under 7: free  
Groups (min. 15): € 7  
Schools (min. 15): € 4  
Suppl. to visit the bell tower: € 2  
Groups must book at least 14 days in advance.

### ST. GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH

  This Anglican Church was built to commemorate the dead, a meeting place for visiting relatives and to keep alive the memory of the sacrifices made in Ypres and the Ypres Salient. It was first mooted in August 1919 and was the result of an initiative led by the Ypres League whose president was the Canadian, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Beckles Willson, who was also instrumental in the creation of the Imperial War Museum. The Ypres League contacted Sir Reginald Blomfield to draw plans for a memorial church.

It was decided to build a school as well which would be paid for by donations made by Old Etonians and would serve as a memorial to the approximately three hundred and forty pupils who had given their lives in the Ypres Salient. The school was known as Eton Memorial School and for many years provided education for children of the British employees of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The community fled during the Second World War and only a few returned afterwards leading to the closure of the school. Amongst the visitors was King Leopold III, King of the Belgians, who had attended Eton College during WWI and Fabian Ware, founder of the IWGC.

The church increasingly attracts visitors from all over the world, from Australia to America.

Sir Reginald insisted on clear glass windows with small decorations instead of stained glass ones. The glass windows commemorate both individuals and regiments, for example, the Guards Regiments, twin brothers Captain Francis Octavius Grenfell and Riversdale Nonus Grenfell, South Irish Horse from Dublin, Monmouthshire Regiment, Captain George Thomas-O'Donnell from County Mayo in Ireland and was given by his parents Edwin and Millicent Thomas-O'Donnell. He was mentioned twice in dispatches and was awarded the Military Cross. Almost every item in the church serves as a permanent memorial to a soldier who gave his life in France and Flanders.

 **Website**  
www.stgeorgesmemorialchurchypres.com

### MENIN GATE



 Menin Gate is the most famous Commonwealth War Memorial in Flanders and perhaps the world. Tens of thousands of soldiers passed through here on the way to the front, many of them never to return. Opened in 1927, the memorial bears the names of 54,896 soldiers who were reported missing in the Ypres Salient between the outbreak of war and 15 August 1917. Due to a lack of space, after this date names were listed at Tyne Cot. The exception to this was made for Australian and Canadian soldiers who were missing in action until the end of the war. There are no New Zealand names as their missing are commemorated in cemeteries near to where they died.

The Menin Gate was designed in classical style by Sir Reginald Blomfield. Every night at eight o'clock sharp the resounding bugle call of the volunteers from the Ypres Last Post Association, who are members of the Ypres Voluntary Fire Brigade, pay their respects to the fallen under the Menin Gate.



 **Website**  
www.lastpost.be

### INDIAN FORCES MEMORIAL

  This memorial behind the Menin Gate is dedicated to the 130,000 soldiers of the Indian Forces who served in Flanders during the Great War. 9,000 members of the Indian Expeditionary Force died as casualties in France and Flanders, not only due to the nature of their injuries in battle but also due to the severe winter weather conditions they were exposed to.

### MEMORIAL AND GRAVE OF FRANCIS LEDWIGE

Artillery Wood Cemetery

  Although a fierce opponent of British rule over Ireland, Francis Ledwige joined up after his girlfriend had left him. He wrote many of his famous poems during this last phase of his life. He was killed during the Battle of Langemark in the summer of 1917. Ledwige rests at Artillery Wood Cemetery and has his own memorial close by.

### ESSEX FARM/SITE JOHN MCCRAE



  A total of 1,185 soldiers are buried at Essex Farm, including one of the youngest casualties of the war: Valentine Joe Strudwick was just 15 years old when he was killed. Next to the cemetery, you can still see the concrete bunkers in which a dressing station was housed. It was in one of these primitive "dug-outs" that the Canadian military doctor John McCrae wrote his world-famous poem "In Flanders Fields" at the beginning of May 1915.

### RAMPARTS CEMETERY

 English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh soldiers along with Canadian, New Zealand and Australian soldiers are buried here. Also in this beautiful cemetery are ten Maoris, a working party of the New Zealand Maori (Pioneer) Battalion who were shelled near Ypres on 31 December 1917.

### GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY LANGEMARK

 Behind its monumental entrance building lie some 44,300 German soldiers, half of whom are buried in a mass grave. Over 3,000 cadets and student volunteers are among the dead, which is why the cemetery is also called the Studentenfriedhof.



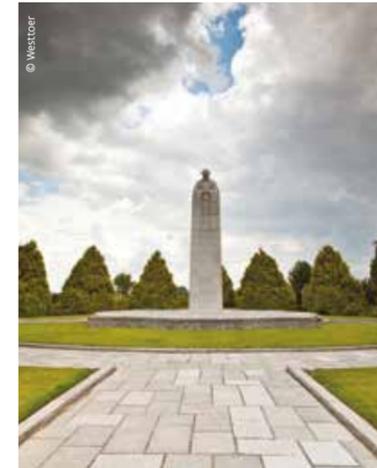
### NEW IRISH FARM CEMETERY



 The New Irish Farm Cemetery opened at the outbreak of the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). It was named after a nearby farm. During the final German advance from April to May 1918, new graves were added. At the time of the Armistice, it contained 73 graves but was then greatly enlarged with more than 4,500 new graves.

### THE BROODING SOLDIER, SINT-JULIAAN

  The Brooding Soldier, a 33 foot high granite monument representing a grieving Canadian soldier, in memory of the 2,000 soldiers who died in 1915 as a result of a gas attack in the Second Battle of Ypres.



### SAINT CHARLES DE POTYZE



 The largest French military cemetery in Belgium contains 4,200 graves, including 69 Islamic tombs. A Breton Pieta by the Sculptor J. Fréour is located at the front of the site, mourning over the lost dead.



### WELSH NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK

  The red dragon, built on a dolmen (in Welsh "cromlech"), stands in the middle of an area that was conquered by Welsh troops on 31 July 1917. It looks in the direction of Passchendaele, the village that would only be taken three months later at the expense of half a million victims. The surrounding park is dedicated to all Welsh people involved in the Great War, both soldiers and civilians.



### HOOGE CRATER PRIVATE MUSEUM ZILLEBEKE

The Hooge Crater Museum owes its name to a pair of historical events that took place during the Great War. Until the start of WWI, the 't Hooghe castle stood on top of the 't Hooghe hill in Zillebeke. During the war, the castle that served as the British HQ, was totally destroyed. In 1915, the British blew up a number of tunnels, which created a large crater to the north of the castle. During the 1920s, a chapel was built nearby in memory of those killed in WWI. Following renovation works, it was sold to a private individual who amassed a valuable collection of weapons, uniforms and equipment from the four different armies that took part in WWI. Among the most striking items on display are the life-sized tableaux that show what daily life during the war was like. Today, in the former local schoolhouse, there is a themed café where you can admire a collection of decorated shell casings (trench art).

#### **i** Address

Hooge Crater Museum  
Meenseweg 467, Zillebeke 8902

#### **Contact**

32 (0)57 46 84 46

#### **Website**

www.hoogecrater.com

#### **Opening hours**

Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sunday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

#### **Entrance**

Students and children: € 2  
Adults: € 5  
Adult groups (>20 participants): € 3



**HILL 60**  
Zillebeke

Hill 60's crater landscape is an authentic testament from the Great War. The artificial hill from 1850 lies about 60 meters above sea-level, hence the name. During the war, this site saw some heavy fighting and changed sides frequently. Both parties took part in the underground war which led to the blowing of numerous mines from 1915 onwards. The explosion from the Berlin Tunnel on 7 June 1917 gave the landscape its current shape. Countless soldiers worked in the cold and the dark of the mine tunnels. Some of them have never left. In this sense, Hill 60 is their cemetery.

There is a commemorative column in honour of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Tunnelling Company and the bunker built by Australian troops above the existing German shelter.



### BEDFORD HOUSE CEMETERY



This cemetery, just outside Ypres, is one of the largest British cemeteries in the Westhoek. Amongst others, it holds 20 Indian graves. Bedford House Cemetery stands in what was once the park of Rosendael Castle, which the British troops renamed "Bedford House" during WWI. The castle served as a headquarter and as a medical aid post. Several small cemeteries were started in the castle grounds. The magnificent garden architecture makes Bedford House Cemetery a unique WWI site.



There are many other cemeteries and memorials in The Ypres Salient. After the war, the British government decided not to repatriate the British dead, but to have them buried on Belgian soil. The impressive cemeteries of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) are characterised by long rows of white memorial stones embedded in the landscape. In the shadow of the Cross of Sacrifice and the Stone of Remembrance, which hold a permanent place on the sites of the CWGC, you will find the individual graves of soldiers from the four corners of the former British Empire - British, New Zealanders, Australians, Canadians, South Africans - and also troops from India and the Caribbean.

**i** **More information** about other cemeteries on [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

### THE MEMORIAL MUSEUM OF PASSCHENDAELE 1917



Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 (MMP1917) keeps the memory alive of the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917, the cruelest battle of WWI in which almost half a million soldiers died, went missing or were seriously injured. Housed in a striking chateau, the museum in Zonnebeke focuses on the military history of the war, including uniforms, weaponry, engineered constructions and battlefield archaeology.

The museum consists of five parts.

The first part is dedicated to a single year of the Great War and gives an historical overview of the major events at the Front in the region. Experience how the British lived underground in 1917 through a unique Dugout Experience with communication and first aid stations, headquarters and sleeping-places.

## Zonnebeke

The name Zonnebeke probably doesn't sound very familiar, but almost everyone has heard of its neighbouring village: Passchendaele. It was here that, in 1917, the British army fought for several months in a desperate bid to break the German line. They advanced just 5 miles at a cost of almost 400,000 killed, wounded and missing soldiers. Little wonder that the village was known to the troops as "Passion Dale" - the Valley of Suffering.

**i** [www.passchendaele.be](http://www.passchendaele.be)

Another part takes the visitor into the brand new extension of the museum dedicated to the Battle of Passchendaele. This part of the museum explores the international dimension of the war, focusing on the involvement of the various nations during the battle. A scale model creates the link to the war landscape.

Besides the Dugout Experience - which includes five new rooms - there is a new Trench Experience, a reconstructed network of German and British trenches along which original shelters have been rebuilt. It offers a unique experience on how life evolved in the trenches throughout the war years.

The memorial gallery is dedicated to the commemoration and remembrance of the many hundreds of thousands of victims who fought and, first and foremost, suffered here.

Finally, there is the famous art work of the New Zealand artist Hellen Pollock "Falls the Shadow", baked with clay from Passchendaele and The Coromandel in New Zealand. This artwork is a haven in the museum where visitors can reflect on the suffering of the millions of people who were, directly or indirectly, victims of the Great War.

#### **i** Address

Memorial Museum  
Passchendaele 1917  
Berten Pilstraat 5/A  
8980 Zonnebeke

#### **Contact**

+32 (0)51 77 04 41  
toerisme@zonnebeke.be

#### **Website**

[www.passchendaele.be](http://www.passchendaele.be)

#### **Opening hours**

Daily  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
(Last entry 4.30 p.m.)  
Closed 16 December - 31 January

#### **Entrance**

Adults: € 8.50  
Children under 7: free  
Students: € 5  
Groups (min. 15 persons): € 6.50  
- students € 4  
Groups must book in advance

#### **Tour guides**

2 hours: € 60/guide  
(max. 25 participants)

### PASSCHENDAELE MEMORIAL PARK

In the new "Passchendaele Memorial Park" heritage, nature and recreation go hand in hand. It will feature the "Passchendaele Memorial Gardens", consisting of seven gardens in the form of a poppy intended to serve as a reminder for all the nations who fought during WWI. They will be completed in the coming years of commemoration.

In April 2016, the German Poppy Garden will officially open for the public. The chateau grounds will be transformed into a pioneer park where you can experience experimental archaeology.

In April 2018, the American and Belgian Poppy Gardens will officially open.



### BUTTES NEW BRITISH CEMETERY

 British cemetery with memorial to the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division. "Memorial to the Missing" at the Buttes New British Cemetery for missing New Zealand soldiers. Site of the annual ANZAC Day ceremony.

This cemetery contains commonwealth soldiers killed in the battlefield around Polygon Wood. It contains the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Memorial and the New Zealand Memorial. Site of the annual ANZAC Day ceremony.



### TYNE COT CEMETERY

 This is the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission military cemetery in continental Europe, with almost 12,000 tombstones. The back wall of the graveyard is inscribed with the names of 34,957 missing soldiers who fell in the Battle for Passchendaele. The graveyard can be reached from the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 along a 3 km (2 mile) walking and cycling path.



### CREST FARM CANADIAN MEMORIAL

 This marks the place where the Canadian corp saw fierce fighting during the second Battle of Passchendaele and won possession of the high ground at Crest Farm.

### SCOTTISH MEMORIAL FREZENBERG

 This memorial is the only one on the former Western Front dedicated to all Scots and all those of Scottish descent who fought in France and Flanders during WWI. It is now the main site of remembrance activities for all Scots.

This memorial also remembers those men of the South African Brigade who, throughout the war, fought with the Scots as part of the 9<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division.

### BLACK WATCH MEMORIAL

 This statue of a Black Watch soldier, unveiled in May 2014, at the southwest edge of the Polygon Wood, is situated at almost exactly the same place that made history as the "Black Watch Corner" on 10/11 November 1914 when a German advance was halted. It constitutes a permanent tribute to the steadfastness of the legendary Black Watch Regiment and honours nearly 9,000 officers and soldiers killed and more than 20,000 injured during WWI.



### 85<sup>TH</sup> CANADIAN MEMORIAL

 This monument was the first one to be erected in the region. It honours the memory of the 85<sup>th</sup> Canadian infantry (Nova Scotia) Battalion which suffered heavy losses during the Third Battle of Ypres at the end of October 1917.

### NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL AT 'S GRAVENTAFEL

 This memorial commemorates the New Zealand Division's participation in the Battle of Broodseinde on 4 October 1917. This attack by ANZAC forces successfully pushed forward the allied trench line in the early part of the Passchendaele offensive but was followed by the inadequately prepared attack of 12 October 1917. The memorial was unveiled on 2 August 1924 by the New Zealand High Commissioner in London, Sir James Allen, who had been Minister of Defence in New Zealand during the war.

## Poperinge

During WWI Poperinge, or "Pop", was the town situated directly behind the front lines. It was a place of temporary camps and hospitals where soldiers came to rest or to be medically taken care of. The troops had, amongst others, shops, restaurants, hotels, pubs, cinemas and theatres at their disposal. But the peaceful atmosphere was misleading as the city was exposed to daily bombardment.

 [www.toerismepoperinge.be](http://www.toerismepoperinge.be)



### LIJSSENTHOEK MILITARY CEMETERY AND VISITOR CENTRE

 From 1915 to 1920 the hamlet of Lijssenthoek (Boescheepseweg) was the site of the largest evacuation hospital along the Ypres Salient and is now the second largest commonwealth cemetery in Belgium.

Today, Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery bears witness to more than four years of warfare, with the graves of 10,784 soldiers mainly British but also some French and German soldiers too. It also holds the grave of the only woman to be buried in a CWGC cemetery, a nurse, Nellie Spindler. The Visitor Centre, situated next to the cemetery, offers information on this unique site, including details about daily life in the hospital and the creation of the cemetery.

 **Address**  
Lijssenthoek Cemetery  
Visitor Centre  
Boescheepseweg 35A  
8970 Poperinge

**Contact**  
+32 (0)57 34 66 76  
toerisme@poperinge.be

**Website**  
[www.lijsenthoek.be](http://www.lijsenthoek.be)

**Opening hours**  
Open all year  
Daily: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Entrance**  
Free access

**Tour guides**  
Book a guide at the Tourist Office.  
Fully accessible to disabled visitors.

**EXECUTION SITE/  
DEATH CELLS**

© IJzermuseum archives

 During the Great War the courtyard of Poperinge Town Hall was used as an execution site. Several British soldiers faced the firing squad here. Today, this is a symbolic site for reflection and remembrance. Visitors to the death cells are confronted with a video image of a soldier waiting to be shot at dawn and can read graffiti left by prisoners. In 2016 the British executions in Poperinge will be commemorated. See p. 10.

**i Address**

Tourism Poperinge  
Grote Markt 1  
8970 Poperinge

**Contact**

+32 (0)57 34 66 76  
toerisme@poperinge.be

**Website**

www.toerismepoperinge.be

**Opening hours**

Daily  
6 a.m. - 20 p.m.

**Entrance**

Free access

**Tour guides**

Book a guide at the tourist office

**TALBOT HOUSE: EVERY MAN'S CLUB**

The most well-known soldiers' club of the Great War has been renovated. The garden and various rooms in the house have been restored, including the chapel, kitchen and hall.

A brand new tablet application has also been developed: Tubby's Story Tablets are digital guides that invite the visitor to follow them through the museum, garden and house. The application helps each guest to navigate the grounds, pausing along the way to tell stories about Talbot House.

Besides a museum, Talbot House is still the Every Man's Club it has always been. Visitors can enjoy a cup of tea in the canteen or book a room and spend the night



© Poperinge, Talbot House

**i Address**

Talbot House  
Gasthuisstraat 43  
8970 Poperinge

**Contact**

Tel +32 (0)57 33 32 28  
info@talbothouse.be

**Website**

www.talbothouse.be

**Opening hours**

Tuesday-Sunday  
10 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.  
Closed on Monday

**Entrance**

Adults: € 8  
Children: € 5  
Groups: € 6  
(advance bookings only)  
Schools: € 5  
Trade: € 6

**Tour guides**

There are no guided tours, but for groups a general introduction to Talbot House can be provided on request (advance notice required).

## Diksmuide & surroundings

Diksmuide was reduced to rubble during WWI. It was the scene of the famous Battle of the Yser in 1914, where with huge losses French and Belgian troops finally stopped the German advance. The old town centre was rebuilt completely after the armistice.

**i** [www.flandersfields.be](http://www.flandersfields.be)

**MUSEUM AT THE YSER (YSER TOWER)**

The recently renovated Museum at the Yser focuses on the Belgian-German military confrontation during WWI as well as on the Flemish Emancipation. It emphasises the message of peace with the slogan "What remains of our lives? What remains of the country?"

What remains of our lives? How did the soldiers try to live a normal life at the front? What did people take with them when they had to flee suddenly? How did the front line soldiers try to deal with the traumatic experiences of the war once they were at home? In this exhibition the message of peace is presented in an implicit way.

What remains of the country? This question refers to the scars in the landscape caused by the war and creates connections with the further surroundings of the Yser valley.

It also refers to the Belgian patriotism at the beginning of the war as well as the Flemish nationalism and the Flemish Movement during and after WWI.

From the panorama hall on the roof terrace, 273 feet above the "Flanders Fields", you have a unique view over the entire area from Nieuwpoort by the coast to Ypres and Ploegsteert. All WWI sites are clearly signposted.

**i Address**

Ijzerdijk 49  
8600 Diksmuide

**Contact**

+32 (0)51 50 02 86  
info@aandeijszer.be

**Website**

www.aandeijszer.be

**Opening hours**

1 April - 30 September  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (last entry 5.30 p.m.)  
1 October - 31 March  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (last entry 4.30 p.m.)  
Weekends and public holidays  
open from 10 a.m.  
Closed: 24, 25, 26 & 31 December;  
1 & 2 January; three weeks after the  
Christmas holiday

**Entrance**

INDIVIDUALS  
Adults: € 8  
Ages 65 or over: € 6  
Ages 18-25: € 5  
Ages 7-17: € 2.50  
GROUPS (min. 20)  
Adults: € 6  
Ages 65 or over: € 6  
Ages 18-25: € 4  
Ages 7-17: € 2.50

**Guides**

€ 25/hour

**DEATH TRENCH**

 The Trench of Death in Diksmuide is the only Belgian trench that remains from the First World War. In 2014, the adjoining interpretation centre was entirely refurbished. Fifteen interactive applications, life-size pictures, a collection of film footage and over one hundred original objects now allow visitors to discover the story of the infamous Trench of Death. The subject of life and death in the trenches is examined in detail, illustrated with moving personal stories of the deceased. A gigantic aerial picture from 1916 also provides a comparison between the landscape past and present. Last year the German bunker in the immediate vicinity of the Belgian trench was equally included in the tour, allowing for both sides of the story to be told. What was once a soldier's living hell, has now become a truly compelling tourist hotspot.



**i Address**  
Ijzerdijk 65  
8600 Diksmuide

**Contact**  
+32 (0)51 50 53 44

**Opening hours**  
Daily between 1 April - 15 November  
16 November - 31 March: Tuesday  
and Thursday 9.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Closed 25 December 2015 -  
4 January 2016

**Entrance**  
€ 4  
Children under 7: free  
Group (min. 15 participants): € 2

**VLADSLO GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY**

 Known as Vladslo, in Praetbos forest, this German cemetery is the final resting place of some 25,638 German soldiers. On display at the cemetery is a moving sculpture, The Grieving Parents. Created by Käthe Kollwitz, a major German expressionist artist, out of personal grief and love for her 18-year old son Peter, who was killed in the war.

**KÄTHE KOLLWITZ MUSEUM**

Koekelare



The Grieving Parents by Käthe Kollwitz is a world-famous work of art that symbolises the terrible suffering that war inflicted on the German military cemetery at Vladslo. More of her work can be seen in the nearby Käthe Kollwitz Tower in Koekelare, which houses seventy of her graphic works. Her art is characterised by a deep compassion for all victims of poverty, exploitation and oppression. Her pacifism and abhorrence of war can be clearly felt throughout her works. The tourist information centre located in the same building sells postcards featuring her work. A museum guide is also available.

**i Address**  
Käthe Kollwitz Tower  
Sint-Maartensplein 15,  
Koekelare 8680

**Contact**  
+ 32 (0)51 61 04 94

**Website**  
www.koekelare.be

**BELGIAN MILITARY CEMETERY**

Houthulst

 The most well-known Belgian war cemetery, with 1,855 graves arranged in the form of a sixpointed star. The victims fell mainly during the liberation offensive of 1918. It is located in the heart of Houthulst forest and also holds 81 Italian soldiers.

**LANGE MAX MUSEUM**

Koekelare

 The Lange Max Museum is situated on the German side of the Western Front, with a farmyard at the heart of this cultural location. A long lane takes you from the farmyard to the remains of the artillery platform of former German cannon "Lange Max". Visit the brand-new museum to learn all about the largest cannon of its time, which was designed to bombard Dunkirk. The museum focuses on the German occupation of Koekelare with a unique exhibition on the organisation behind the front line and the production of army goods. It also features the little Bakehouse, which still shows signs of German presence, and has now been converted into a multimedia room.

**i Address**  
Clevenstraat 2, 8680 Koekelare

**Website**  
www.langemaxmuseum.be



## Nieuwpoort

"Town by the water", the current motto of Nieuwpoort was even more true during the Great War. It was water that halted the German invaders in Flanders. A miracle made possible by the know-how of two locals and a handful of Belgian officers and soldiers. And yes, British officers had entertained a similar idea shortly before. The Belgians opened the sluices of Nieuwpoort and managed a controlled flooding of the Yser estuary. This genius plan ensured the safety of the French Channel Ports and, as a direct consequence the BEF was not cut off from its supplies and its homeland. Brains rather than blood had gained a decisive victory, with water as an ally. The incident was even described as a new kind of Waterloo by some.

**i** [www.westfrontnieuwpoort.be](http://www.westfrontnieuwpoort.be)

**VISITOR CENTRE WESTFRONT NIEUWPOORT**

Westfront Nieuwpoort tells the full story of the flooding of the plains, bringing the German invasion to a halt at the outskirts of the city. It is the story of the power of the sea and the smart handling of the water locks. The perfect place to tell the story of the flooding is the King Albert I<sup>st</sup> monument on the edge of the lock complex "The Ganzepoot". A modern and interactive visitor centre was built underneath the monument. A highlight of the visit is definitely the projection of the 377 feet long and 49 feet high animated Yser-Panorama painting. Last but not least, do not forget to visit the top of the monument itself and enjoy the panoramic view over the coast and the hinterland.



**i Address**  
Kustweg 2  
8620 Nieuwpoort

**Contact**  
+32 (0)58 23 07 33  
info@westfrontnieuwpoort.be

**Website**  
www.westfrontnieuwpoort.be

**Opening hours**  
Daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed: Every Monday  
(except on bank holidays),  
25 December & 1 January

**Entrance**  
Adults: € 7  
Ages 0-6: free  
Ages 7-25: € 5

Groups (min. 20)  
Adults: € 5,50  
Ages 0-6: free  
Ages 7-25: € 3,50

**Tour guides**  
€ 60

## Mesen (Messines) & surroundings

The Battle of Messines from 7 - 9 June 1917 was a preparatory step to the larger 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres Offensive in 1917, known as Passchendaele. Its goal was to seize the Messines Ridge, securing the flank of the Ypres.

Mesen has a special place in the history of Irish people. It was here, on 7 June 1917, that two Irish divisions - the 16<sup>th</sup> Division from Catholic Eire and the 36<sup>th</sup> Division from Protestant Ulster - fought side by side. Also, the New Zealand Division took part in the Messines Offensive with 8,000 soldiers.

 [www.flandersfields.be](http://www.flandersfields.be)

### ISLAND OF IRELAND PEACE PARK

 The Peace Park with its traditional Irish round tower pays tribute to all Irish soldiers who fell during the war, regardless of their background. The nine talking stones tell their tale through poetry, prayer and diaries, while the Peace Pledge calls on Protestants and Catholics to forgive each other. Inside, the Irish Memorial Records can be found. The park was officially opened on 11 November 1998 by Queen Elizabeth II and the Irish president.



### GRAVE OF WILLIAM REDMOND

 Considering his age, Major William Redmond MP wasn't even supposed to be on the battlefield during the Battle of Messines. After he got shot twice, he was carried off the battlefield by John Meeke, a Protestant soldier. He reached the Casualty Clearing Station at the Catholic Hospice at Loere, where he died. The nuns buried him in the grounds of the hospice and then he was moved to the Commonwealth cemetery, but at the request of his family he was moved again to outside the cemetery walls.



### MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTRE MESSINES

 This new museum and visitor centre have a fine collection of artefacts. The story of the Battle of Messines is told through multimedia displays. A focus is given to the town and the New Zealanders.

### POOL OF PEACE

 One of the 19 craters blown on 7 June 1917, prior to the Battle of Messines. It is situated in the sector of the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division. When the mine exploded several minutes too late, the blast also killed several Ulster soldiers. Today, this peaceful reminder is one of many scars in the landscape.



### BAYERNWALD

Wijtschate



 The once impregnable German trenches on the hill played an important role in the Battle of the Mines. The French named the area Bayernwald.

### AMERICAN MONUMENT

Kemmel

 A heavy rectangular block on a wide rectangular platform honours the 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> American divisions. The monument was built in 1929 by the American Battle Monuments Commission and was created after a design made by George Howe from Philadelphia.

### KEMMEL HILL

French Ossuary Kemmel

 The ossuary contains 5,294 bodies of fallen soldiers, of which only 57 have been identified. Most of these French soldiers were killed on the hill during the second battle for Kemmel Hill. A column stands at the centre of the cemetery and is topped with the traditional French mascot, a cockerel.

## Other interesting sites in Flanders Fields

### FREE FATHERLAND

Veurne



 The experience centre in the historic town of Veurne focuses on the last remaining section of Belgium that was not occupied by the Germans, the so-called Belgian Sector. From here, King Albert I succeeded in resisting the German occupying forces. Veurne and the surrounding region were populated by people from all over the country, from other continents as well as by refugees, doctors and nurses. In the experience centre visitors can experience the events behind the front line, the daily life in this last unoccupied sector of Belgium. They can also witness a real melting pot of people, a multicultural community before the concept even existed. "Vrij Vaderland" uses an interesting scenography to tell this story, combining modern media with traditional exhibition techniques.

### Address

Stad- en Landshuis  
Grote Markt 29  
8630 Veurne

### Contact

+32 (0)58 33 55 31  
info@vrijvaderland.be

### Website

[www.vrijvaderland.be](http://www.vrijvaderland.be)

### Opening hours

1 April - 11 November:  
Mon - Fri: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sa - So & public holidays:  
10:00 - 17:00  
12 November - 31 March:  
Mo - Fri: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sat - Sun & public holidays:  
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
25 December & 1 January: closed

### Entrance

Adults: € 4  
65+: € 3  
Children (7-18): € 2  
Groups (min. 15 persons): € 3  
Schools: € 2

### FLANDERS FIELD AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL

Waregem

 The only American WWI cemetery in Belgium. The Americans entered the war in 1917. The majority of the 370 fallen soldiers lost their lives during the final offensive in 1918. This 6.2 acre site consists of graceful trees and shrubbery with paths leading to circular retreats. A white stone chapel is set in the centre of the headstones in the cemetery.



## Other interesting sites in Flanders & Brussels

### THE TOWER OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY Leuven

The university library tower is one of the most important landmarks in Leuven city centre. An evocative and innovative representation of the destruction and reconstruction of the town of Leuven that took place as a result of WWI (and to a lesser degree WWII) is exhibited in the closed part of the tower. A highlight of the visit is the outside balcony where visitors can enjoy a unique view of the city of Leuven.



**i Address**  
Mgr. Ladeuzeplein 21  
3000 Leuven

**Opening hours**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday to Sunday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Tuesday, Thursday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., in the morning exclusively to groups.  
Closed on public holidays.

**Entrance**  
Standard: € 7  
Trade: € 4 (Reservations via [trade.visitleuven@leuven.be](mailto:trade.visitleuven@leuven.be))

### GARDENING DURING WARTIME Sint-Katelijne-Waver

The Vegetable Museum 't Grom in Sint-Katelijne-Waver brings history to life with a war garden. The museum tells the stories of ordinary people and their daily struggle for survival. It gives an account of hunger and scarcity, but also of the resilience and creativity of locals during wartime. Many of the vegetables cultivated and eaten at that time are no longer well-known, and are called "forgotten vegetables" nowadays.

**i Address**  
Vegetable Museum 't Grom  
Midzelen 25a  
2860 Sint-Katelijne-Waver

**Contact**  
+32 (0)15 31 50 55  
[info@tgrom.be](mailto:info@tgrom.be)

**Website**  
[www.tgrom.be](http://www.tgrom.be)



**Opening hours**  
Monday & Wednesday-Friday:  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sunday (March-December):  
1 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Closed: Tuesday, Saturday, Public holidays  
Winter Break till 1 February 2015 for groups and till 1 March 2015 for individual visitors.

**Entrance**  
Standard: € 6  
Reductions for children, seniors, students, visitors with disabilities, groups.  
Reservation required for groups.

AUG 2014 > 2018

### MINI-EUROPE Brussels

The park contains miniatures of Europe's most famous places. A remembrance trail has been devised, taking visitors to all Belgian and European monuments and buildings associated with WWI. This walk starts out in an area where the remembrance of WWI is symbolically reflected through 4 war cemeteries and various sculptures.



**i Address**  
Mini-Europe, Bruparck  
1020 Brussels

**Contact**  
+32 (0)2 478 05 50  
[info@minieurope.eu](mailto:info@minieurope.eu)

**Website**  
[www.minieurope.eu](http://www.minieurope.eu)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## COMMEMORATION 2016

Brussels	BOZAR <b>THE POWER OF THE AVANT-GARDE</b> ART EXHIBITION	p.11	29 SEPT 2016 > 22 JAN 2017
De Panne	Cultuurhuis De Scharbiellie <b>QUEEN ELIZABETH</b> EXHIBITION	p.9	9 APR 2016 > 31 DEC 2016
Diksmuide	Gothic Hall in the City Hall and Galerie Montanus.5 <b>KÄTHE KOLLWITZ 1.9 &amp; KÄTHE KOLLWITZ 2.0</b> EXHIBITION	p.7	3 SEPT 2016 > 2 OCT 2016
	<b>TEN VREDE FESTIVAL</b> MUSIC	p.8	9, 10 & 11 SEPT 2016
	Museum at the Yser <b>ELSIE &amp; MAIRI - MADAME TACK &amp; MIETJE BŒUF</b> EXHIBITION	p.9	9 APR 2016 > 31 DEC 2016
	De Blankaart <b>FIGHTING LADIES</b> THEATRE WALKS	p.9	29 - 30 SEPT 2016 1 - 2 OCT 2016
Ghent	Sint-Pietersabdij <b>WAR IN SHORT PANTS</b> EXHIBITION	p.12	14 OCT 2016 > 2 APR 2017
Koekelare	Käthe Kollwitz Museum <b>KÄTHE KOLLWITZ</b> EXHIBITION	p.7	9 APR 2016 > 31 DEC 2016
Nieuwpoort	Westfront <b>THE ART OF REMEMBRANCE</b> EXHIBITION	p.14	1 JUL 2016 > 31 MAY 2017
Poperinge	Gasthuiskapel <b>SHOT AT DAWN</b> EXHIBITION, ART INSTALLATION & MOBILE APPLICATION	p.10	3 SEPT 2016 > 13 NOV 2016
Road Menin - Ypres	<b>MENIN ROAD</b> OPEN-AIR EXHIBITION	p.11	1 JUN 2016 > 30 SEPT 2016
Roeselare	Rumbeke Castle <b>ALBERT I AND THE GREAT WAR</b> EXHIBITION	p.14	30 AUG 2014 > 31 DEC 2019
Veurne	Visitor Centre Vrij Vaderland <b>MARIE CURIE</b> EXHIBITION	p.8	9 APR 2016 > 31 DEC 2016
Ypres	In Flanders Fields Museum <b>CANADA IN FLANDERS</b> EXHIBITION	p.14	19 MAR 2016 > 26 JUN 2016
	<b>INTERNATIONAL BLACKSMITHING EVENT</b>	p.15	1 SEPT 2016 > 6 SEPT 2016
	In Flanders Fields Museum <b>WRITTEN WAR</b> EXHIBITION	p.15	3 SEPT 2016 > 8 JAN 2017
	Menin Gate <b>ARMISTICE REMEMBRANCE</b>	p.15	11 NOV 2016
Zonnebeke	Castle park <b>"FRONT 14-18" - WWI IN 3D</b> EXHIBITION	p.13	10 APR 2016 > 7 AUG 2016
	Villa Zonnedael - Castle park <b>BUILDING THE FRONT</b> EXHIBITION	p.13	23 APR 2016 > 15 NOV 2016
	<b>BUILDING THE FRONT</b> PERMANENT OUTDOOR EXHIBITION	p.13	Starts 23 APR 2016
	Castle park <b>MUSEUM WEEKEND 2016</b>	p.13	23 - 24 APR 2016
	Buttes New British Cemetery <b>ANZAC DAY - DAWN SERVICE</b>	p.14	25 APR 2016 (6 a.m.)
	Passchendaele Centre <b>CARABINIERS - GRENADIERS CEREMONY</b>	p.15	25 SEPT 2016
	Crest Farm Memorial Passchendaele town / church <b>PASSCHENDAELE CEREMONY</b>	p.15	10 NOV 2016 (6 p.m.)

## COMMEMORATION 2017

Nieuwpoort	Westfront <b>THE BATTLE OF THE DUNES</b>	p.19	1 JUL 2017 > 31 MAY 2018
Poperinge	<b>CHINA IN POPERINGE</b> EXHIBITION	p.19	1 JUL 2017 > 3 SEPT 2017
Various locations in Flanders Fields	<b>1917, FROM MINE EXPLOSIONS TO FLOATING MUD SEA</b> EXHIBITIONS AND TRAVEL ROUTES	p.18	JUN 2017 > DEC 2017
	<b>RACING DURING THE GREAT WAR</b> EXHIBITION	p.19	1 JUN 2017 > 30 SEPT 2017
	<b>AUSTRALIAN MEMORIAL CEREMONY</b>	p.20	20 SEPT 2017
Wijtschate	<b>CRATER FRONT</b> SOUNDSCAPE AND LIGHT INSTALLATION	p.18	9 JUN 2017
Zonnebeke	Buttes New British Cemetery <b>ANZAC DAY - DAWN SERVICE</b>	p.20	25 APR 2017 (6 a.m.)
	Visitors Centre Tyne Cot Cemetery <b>TAG FOR REMEMBRANCE PROJECT</b>	p.18	1 JUL 2017 > 10 NOV 2017
	Scottish monument on the Frezenberg <b>MEMORIAL CEREMONY</b>	p.20	19 AUG 2017
	<b>BRITISH THEMED WEEKEND "WILL YE COME TO FLANDERS"</b>	p.18	19-20 AUG 2017
	Passchendaele Centre <b>CARABINIERS - GRENADIERS CEREMONY</b>	p.20	24 SEPT 2017
	Polygon Wood <b>WOOD OF PEACE</b> TREE PLANTING DAY	p.18	12 OCT 2017
	<b>NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL SERVICE</b>	p.20	12 OCT 2017
	Tyne Cot Cemetery <b>SILENT CITY MEETS LIVING CITY</b>	p.19	14 OCT 2017
	<b>WAR PASSION</b> LITERATURE	p.19	15 OCT 2017
	Crest Farm Memorial /Passchendaele Church <b>PASSCHENDAELE CEREMONY CANADIAN MEMORIAL CELEBRATION</b>	p.20	10 NOV 2017
<b>ALEX DECOTEAU RUN</b>	p.19	12 NOV 2017	
Zonnebeke/ Ypres	<b>3<sup>RD</sup> BATTLE OF YPRES/BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE REMEMBRANCE PROGRAMME</b>	p.20	12 JUL 2017

# DISCOVER THE BATTLEFIELDS

## COMMEMORATION 2018

Bruges	▶ <b>WWI, THE BATTLE FOR THE NORTH SEA EXHIBITION</b>	p.22	23 APR 2018 > 30 AUG 2018
Nieuwpoort/ Veurne/ Diksmuide/ Poperinge/ Dranouter/ Ypres	▶ <b>SUMMER OF '18 CONCERTS</b>	p.22	JUL 2018 > AUG 2018
Nieuwpoort	▶ Westfront <b>ARCHITECTURE AND WAR. REBUILDING THE CITY AND ITS OUTSKIRTS.</b>	p.23	1 JUL 2018 > 31 MAY 2019
Poperinge	▶ <b>HEALING</b> EXHIBITION, ART, MOBILE APPLICATION AND EXPERIENCE ROUTE	p.22	30 JUN 2018 > 2 SEPT 2018
Ypres	▶ In Flanders Fields Museum <b>THE OFFENSIVES OF 2018: THE GERMAN SPRING OFFENSIVE AND FINAL OFFENSIVE</b> HISTORICAL EXHIBITION	p.22	APR 2018 > NOV 2018
	▶ Menin Gate <b>ARMISTICE REMEMBRANCE</b>	p.23	11 NOV 2018
Zeebrugge/ Ostend	▶ <b>WATERFRONT</b>	p.23	30 JUN 2018
Zonnebeke	▶ Memorial Museum Passchendaele <b>THE FINAL OFFENSIVE: THE YANKS ARE COMING</b>	p.22	21 APR 2018 > 15 DEC 2018
	▶ <b>MEMORIAL SERVICE CARABINIERS - GRENADIERS</b>	p.23	28 SEPT 2018
	▶ Crest Farm Memorial /Passchendaele Church <b>PASSCHENDAELE CEREMONY CANADIAN MEMORIAL CELEBRATION</b>	p.23	10 NOV 2018

### The battlefields, accessible to all

The commemoration of the Great War Centenary is expected to attract tens of thousands of international visitors of all ages, some of whom will require assistance in terms of access.

To this end, VISITFLANDERS has developed the "The Great War Centenary: accessible to everyone" project, which strives to ensure access for all visitors and provides information on all aspects of an accessible stay: information and welcome, accommodation, restaurants, cafes, sites, transportation, parking, assistance and care, etc.

Alterations are often required to ensure easy access for people with reduced mobility. Most of the information in our brochure "Great War Centenary - accessible for all" is therefore primarily intended for those with mobility issues. However, we also report on additional facilities for people with visual, hearing, learning or other disabilities. For visually impaired visitors, we have developed an additional brochure ("Great War Centenary - tips for visually impaired visitors") in which we provide an overview of the museums, events and other places of interest that offer extra facilities for people with a visual impairment.

Our accessibility information is always based on objective and independent on-site inspections, which means that not all locations claiming to provide easy access have been included in our brochure. Please note that accessibility also depends on the visitor in question, as each disability or limitation differs. We therefore recommend contacting locations beforehand in case of specific accessibility concerns.

The following symbol is used to indicate wheelchair-accessible options in this trade brochure: 

Whereas certain locations provide easy access, others may require a little more effort or third-party assistance. For more detailed information on wheelchair-accessible locations, please consult our "Great War Centenary - Accessible for all" brochure.

The museums and/or sites that offer additional facilities for visually impaired visitors are indicated via the following symbol: . For more detailed information regarding these facilities, please consult our "Great War Centenary - Tips for visually impaired visitors" brochure.

All events featuring the  label have taken at least basic measures to accommodate all visitors. For more specific details on all disability-related facilities, please contact pieter.remmerie@intro-events.be

Also useful in terms of wheelchair-accessible locations is the AccesSEable app, which can be downloaded via Google Play, the App Store or the Windows Phone Store.

[www.visitflanders.com/en](http://www.visitflanders.com/en) > Accessibility  
[accessible@visitflanders.com](mailto:accessible@visitflanders.com)

#### VISITFLANDERS

Grasmarkt 61 - 1000 Brussels, Belgium  
+32 (0)2 504 03 40, +32 (0)2 504 04 05

**Brochure:** [www.visitflanders.com/en/accessibility/brochures/order-brochures.jsp](http://www.visitflanders.com/en/accessibility/brochures/order-brochures.jsp)

### Brochure

#### "Explore WWI outside the classroom in Flanders Fields"

This brand-new guide, produced by Visit Flanders in collaboration with the Province of West Flanders, aims to assist tour operators and teachers with the organisation of field trips to WWI sites for English-language primary and secondary school pupils.

The guide provides dozens of suggestions on how to enhance the experience for students. You will find the most famous WWI memorials on Flanders' Western Front listed on these pages, as well as many other locations in and around Flanders Fields that tell the story of occupied Belgium. It goes without saying that, in addition to the more famous sites, there are many smaller places worthy of a visit.

This guide also contains tips on visiting a memorial, teaching resources in preparation for a trip, interesting websites, accommodation suggestions, alternative transport options, advice on how to organise a longer trip, and information on the cultural programme GoneWest, including the unique sculpture project "ComingWorldRememberMe".

**Brochure:** [www.visitflanders.com/en/trade/brochures/](http://www.visitflanders.com/en/trade/brochures/)



# DISCOVER THE BATTLEFIELDS

## Interesting websites

### [www.flandersfields.be](http://www.flandersfields.be)

This website provides all the information needed to discover the Flanders Fields region. It also provides useful information about places to stay in the Westhoek.

### [www.flandersfields1418.com](http://www.flandersfields1418.com)

The official website of Visit Flanders in the United Kingdom. It lists all the places of interest and events related to the Great War that are taking place in Flanders and Brussels.

## Travelling to the Westhoek

It is possible to travel by train to Ypres from every city in Flanders. This will generally require a change of train in Kortrijk.

Many cities throughout Flanders also offer full day organised coach tours of Flanders Fields, incorporating the main sites and the Last Post ceremony.

More information about travelling by train:

[www.belgianrail.be/en](http://www.belgianrail.be/en)

More information about organised coach tours:

[www.flandersfields1418.com](http://www.flandersfields1418.com)

## Visiting the Westhoek (Flanders Fields)

Some of the cemeteries, visitor centres and other sites in the Westhoek are difficult to reach by public transport. For this reason, if visitors do not have their own transport, we recommend booking an organised tour or renting a bicycle or car.

### CYCLING IN THE WESTHOEK

As in the rest of Flanders, you will find a network of numbered junctions in the Westhoek region. You can use these to create your own route.

Visit [www.toerismewesthoek.be](http://www.toerismewesthoek.be)

There are also a number of themed cycling routes that will take you past WWI heritage sites. These routes can be viewed at [www.flandersfields.be](http://www.flandersfields.be)

You can find a list of cycle hire companies that operate in the Westhoek region at

[www.toerismewesthoek.be/fietsverhuur](http://www.toerismewesthoek.be/fietsverhuur)

### VISITING THE WESTHOEK BY CAR

There are many car routes that allow visitors to discover the war landscape and its different landmarks. More information can be found on [www.flandersfields.be](http://www.flandersfields.be)

Cars can be rented from the major car rental companies which have branches in Brussels, Bruges, Ostend and elsewhere in the region, as well as from local companies. Europcar has a rental point in Ypres.

More information can be found on:

[www.flandersfields1418.com](http://www.flandersfields1418.com)

### VISITING THE WESTHOEK BY COACH

#### Organised bus tours

Organised day excursions by coach to WWI sites are available in the Westhoek and in certain cities in Flanders, including Bruges, Ghent and Ostend.

The programmes organised are featured here:

[www.flandersfields1418.com](http://www.flandersfields1418.com)

## Coach parking

There is coach parking available at the following locations close to important landmarks:

- ✔ **Ypres:** train station. More info about parking in Ypres: [http://www.toerismeieper.be/images/filelib/folderbusregeling2014low\\_1579.pdf](http://www.toerismeieper.be/images/filelib/folderbusregeling2014low_1579.pdf)
- ✔ **Poperinge:** Peperstraat/Oudstrijdersplein, Sportzone Reningelstseweg - Ouderdomseweg, Zuidlaan (next to the ring road), Westlaan (next to the ring road), Lijssenthoek military cemetery
- ✔ **Zonnebeke:** Museum Passchendaele, Tyne Cot Cemetery
- ✔ **Diksmuide:** Yser Tower, train station, 4AD music club
- ✔ **Nieuwpoort:** adjacent to the King Albert I monument

### FLANDERS FIELDS FROM THE AIR AND ON THE WATER

Skyview Balloons organise balloon flights over the Great War Frontline: <http://skyviewballoons.be>

Helipromotions organise helicopter flights:

[www.battlefields.be](http://www.battlefields.be)

Alfa Flight also organises flights: [www.alfafight.be](http://www.alfafight.be)

Seastar organizes boat trips from Nieuwpoort to

Diksmuide: [www.seastars.be](http://www.seastars.be)



## Gastronomy in Flanders Fields

Like all areas of Flanders, the Westhoek offers a large choice of restaurants in every price range. Websites of each town/city provide information about local restaurants.

[www.toerisme-ieper.be](http://www.toerisme-ieper.be)

[www.toerismepoperinge.be](http://www.toerismepoperinge.be)

[www.toerisme.diksmuide.be](http://www.toerisme.diksmuide.be)

[www.nieuwpoort.be](http://www.nieuwpoort.be)

Information about restaurants elsewhere in Flanders is available from [www.visitflanders.co.uk](http://www.visitflanders.co.uk)

# TRADE & PRESS INFORMATION

## **DMCs/Incoming Operators**

### **Admire**

Brigitte Boone  
www.admire.be  
brigitte.boone@admire.be  
+32 2 361 65 59

### **All About Belgium**

Kathleen Vermeiren  
www.aab-allaboutbelgium.be  
kathleen.vermeiren@aab-allaboutbelgium.be  
+32 53 80 98 18

### **Belgian Biking**

Gert Verschueren  
www.belgianbiking.be  
belgianbiking@zuidershuis.be  
+32 (0)9 233 45 33

### **De Boeck Incoming & Events**

Chantal Quirijnen  
www.deboeck-incoming.com  
info@deboeck-incoming.com  
+32 2 274 23 80

### **Event Masters**

Peter Van Avermaet  
www.eventmasters.be  
peter@eventmasters.be  
+32 3 860 60 80

### **Focus Flanders**

Michel Deswaene  
www.focusflanders.be  
michel.d@squattra.be  
+ 32 9 269 90 62

## **Images**

There is a comprehensive range of images suitable for promoting the Great War Centenary in Flanders available to download from the Visit Flanders Flickr page.  
www.flickr.com/visitflanders

## **2014-18 Flanders Fields / The Great War Centenary poppy logo**

The 2014-18 Flanders Fields and 2014-18 The Great War Centenary poppy logos are available for use by international trade and press. Get in touch with your local Visit Flanders contact for terms of use and to obtain an application form.

## **Visit Flanders international press and trade contacts**

**AUSTRIA, SLOVAKIA & SWITZERLAND**  
TRADE Alexandra Raad Frostl  
a.raab-frostl@flandern.at  
PRESS Susanne Gosh  
s.gosch@flandern.at

**CHINA**  
TRADE & PRESS Zhang Lihui  
zhang.lihui@visitflanders.com.cn

**FRANCE**  
TRADE Anthony Forest  
aforest@visitflanders.fr  
PRESS Pascale Kotlarski Schuddings  
pkotlarski@visitflanders.fr

**GERMANY**  
TRADE Britta Weidemann  
trade@flandern.com  
PRESS Christopher Philipp  
christopher.philipp@flandern.com

**INDIA**  
TRADE & PRESS Dheera Majumder  
dheera@mileage.in

**ITALY**  
TRADE Mayra Caroppo  
mayra.caroppo@visitflanders.com  
PRESS Irene Ghezzi  
irene.ghezzi@visitflanders.com

### **JAPAN**

TRADE & PRESS Director Miako Sudo  
tvityo-sudo@visitflanders.jp

### **RUSSIA**

TRADE & PRESS Pedro Waeghe  
pedro.waeghe@toerismevlaanderen.be

### **SCANDINAVIA**

TRADE & PRESS Lynn Dauwe  
lynn.dauwe@toerismevlaanderen.be

### **SPAIN**

TRADE Judith Sala  
trade@flandes.net  
PRESS Angeles Alonso-Misol  
prensa@flandes.net

### **THE NETHERLANDS**

TRADE Joke Nivelte & Ingrid Bokma  
trade@toerismevlaanderen.nl  
PRESS Edith Andriess & Natalie Sierveld  
pers@toerismevlaanderen.nl

### **UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND**

TRADE Lisa Thomas  
lisa@visitflanders.co.uk  
PRESS Anita Rampall  
anita@visitflanders.co.uk  
GREAT WAR Karen Roebuck  
Karen.roebuck@visitflanders.co.uk

### **USA & CANADA**

TRADE Marco Frank  
marco@visitflanders.us  
PRESS Marcos Stupenengo  
marcos@visitflanders.us

### **AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND**

TRADE Sonia Holt  
sonia.holt@walshegroup.com  
PRESS Anna Mansfield  
anna@pepr.com.au



# 2014-18

Flanders Fields



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