

The Passchendaele Experience

Battlefield Tour 2017

Return Form



To commemorate the three battles of World War 1 in the Passchendaele area the Medway Branch is proposing to organise a 5 Day WW1 Tour looking at the three battles that took place around the Ypres area known as Passchendaele. The proposed dates are from Friday 11th August until Tuesday 15th August 2017.

The itinerary is as follows:

Fri Day 1 - Depart from Sgts Mess, Brompton Barracks at about 11am; travel to Folkestone then train to Calais then onto Belgium for a four night stay at the Novatel in Ypres with Breakfast included.

Sat Day 2 - Often known as the First Battle of Ypres Nov 1914, this is a series of named battles that also form part of the outflanking encounter. It becomes a desperate epic fight east of the city of Ypres which finally results in stalemate and entrenched warfare. May 1915 was known as the *Second Battle of Ypres*, this began with surprise German attack using poison gas against French North African forces holding defences near Ypres. Both sides rushed reserves in and the battle developed into the second epic in that area. British Second Army withdraws to a shorter line near Ypres.

Sun Day 3 - Day spent in Ypres, perhaps visiting Flanders Field Museum, golfing at local course 10 mins away, shopping, eating and socialising.
Evening - Last Post ceremony.

Mon Day 4 - July 1917 the British finally got what they had wanted since 1914: the opportunity to attack at Ypres and breakout of the confines of the salient of trenches around it. Often known as the *Third Battle of Ypres* or *Passchendaele*, the offensive began with encouraging gains but terrible summer weather soon bogged it down. By August the offensive was clearly failing in its objectives and had descended into attritional fighting. New techniques by both sides led to agonisingly slow forward movement for the British, at enormous cost in casualties. Bad weather in October led to the battlefield becoming an impossible quagmire

Tue Day 5 - Return Journey arriving at Sgts Mess Brompton Barracks at about 14:00hrs

Parking will be arranged for those wishing to leave their private cars at the barracks for the weekend. The price based on a minimum of 50 passengers traveling is £320 per person sharing a twin/double room breakfast included. The single room supplement is payable per person per night. Lunch and evening meals are to be paid for by individuals attending.

We hope to secure Iain McHenry again who will lead us through the experiences that our comrades of 100 years ago suffered.

Seats will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Anyone wishing to attend should complete and return the attached proforma to Mark Finn markfinn007@hotmail.co.uk or Graham Doughty at g.doughty109@btinternet.com ASAP. The details within the proforma are required for the coach and tour operator.

A deposit of £200 per person will be required with returns:

Non Service / Serving personnel welcome.

According to CWGC the Royal Engineers lost 21,713 heroes in the period 1914/1918 WW1

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae, May 1915

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

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

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

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Branch Member		
Full Name		
Address		
Post Code		
Rank		
Service Number		
Service or Regiment / Unit *		
Examples: Army, Royal Navy, RE		
Period of Service	From 19	to 19
Approximate date of discharge		
Medals or decorations		

Spouse		
Full Name		
Address (if different)		
Postcode		

Car Details		
Make		
Model		
Registration Number		
Colour		