

ITINERARY – WESTERN FRONT – VILLERS BRETONNEUX 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY -AHA Group

19APRIL Arrive Brussels and private transfer to Ypres (flights & Transfers as per separate E Ticket) –

Willis, Harslett, Whitelaw & Klemm arrive from Lille late afternoon

Ypres - 3 nights Ypres in 19 out 22 April – Various accommodation reserved all near to each other

19 April Welcome Dinner – Venue and cost to be confirmed ****

Alan, Felicity and David arrive morning of 20 April

20 and 21 APRIL 9.15 AM YPRES AND SURROUNDS – 2 days touring Flanders region

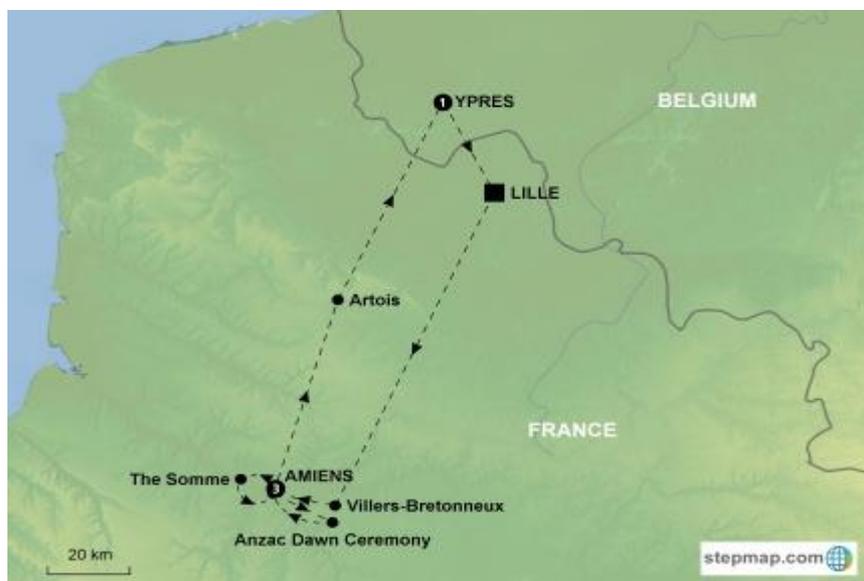
Day to Day Itinerary details will vary – Program is a Guide only

Visit Messines Ridge and Polygon Wood, Tyne Cot, a Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing. Then we walk in the shadows of soldiers around the Hooze Crater Trenches and Museum.

Lunch confirmed Hooze Crater Café – 10 Euro per person pay direct

As our first day closes, we visit Menin Gate in Ypres to reflect at the moving Last Post Ceremony.

Saturday Evening 21 April COBBER'S NIGHT – FLEURBAIX



22 APRIL YPRES – FROMELLES – BULLECOURT - AMIENS – (180KMS) – 5 nights Amiens in 22 out 27 April –

Travel via Fromelles, focusing on the disastrous attack of 19th July 1916, including a visit to Pheasant Wood Cemetery and the new exhibition nearby. Continue to Bullecourt, with a stop in the village at the Digger Memorial. Followed by a visit to the Wellington Quarries, fashioned from existing medieval quarries by New Zealand Engineers in 1916/17 as part of the preparations for the Battle of Arras.

6.00PM – Sir John Monash Centre Visit

After visit proceed to Amiens to check into our accommodation for the next 5 nights.

23 APRIL AMIENS – VILLERS-BRETONNEUX – AMIENS

Villers-Bretonneux is central to Australian commemoration and memory, being the location of the National War Memorial. We'll spend most of the morning in the town, including a visit to the Victoria School and Museum. This afternoon focuses primarily on the final year of the war, 1918, with success at Le Hamel.

The Battle of Hamel on 4 July 1918, it is usually claimed, took 93 minutes. According to one source in their official 'War Diary' the 44th Australian Infantry Battalion required only 85 minutes to take all their objectives. Starting at 3.10 am, then moving around Le Hamel village, the Western Australians advanced uphill, and by 4.35 had driven the Germans from a series of trenches and dugouts on top of the hill. There today stands the Australian Corps Memorial, with sweeping views across the valley of the Somme, a fitting place at which to remember the victories of the Australian Corps in France in 1918. *****7.30PM SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT AT AMIENS CITY HALL WITH MAYOR**

24 APRIL – AMIENS – Free Day – opportunity to visit local Family graves and District Conference Rotary Club VB –

Barbara and John leave tour morning of 24 April **

Please advise attendance 50 Euro PP or Couple 90 Euro

3.30pm John Monash Concert 15 Euro (or included in Conference fee)

*****Please try and get some rest as we will be sleep deprived for Ceremony 25 April ****

25 APRIL Amiens - ANZAC DAWN CEREMONY at the Australian War Memorial in Villers-Bretonneux

24 April - 11:15 pm - We will take our own Bus to Glisy Park -

please remember to bring your Ceremony Passes which have been sent individually

11:30 pm - Glisy Park and Ride opens

12:00 am - Australian National Memorial site opens

12:00 am - Pre-service presentations and information commence

2:00 am - Official program commences

3:00 am - Last scheduled Amiens train station shuttle

5:30 am - Official commemoration commences

The service will be an unforgettable and emotive experience, which we share with the locals and fellow Australians and New Zealanders who have journeyed here to pay tribute to those brave ANZAC soldiers who fought for the town. In the Afternoon visit Sir John Monash Centre 3.30PM

Breakfast Victoria School 10 - 15 Euro - pay direct

Lunch - 15 Euro - pay direct

**Numbers required for above please if you have not already confirmed **

26 APRIL AMIENS – THE SOMME – AMIENS

The Somme still captivates the soul and it is here that the ANZAC's first saw major action in the middle of 1916.

Engrained upon their very being were the names of Pozières and Mouquet Farm, for Australians, and Longueval and Flers for the Kiwis. We'll also remember the colossal loss experienced by Great Britain with a visit to the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme.

27 APRIL Amiens – NORMANDY BEACHES – Bayeux (280KMS)

Franco, Morwenna, Felicity, David, Alan, Susan and Lars depart from Amiens – Rest of group to Normandy

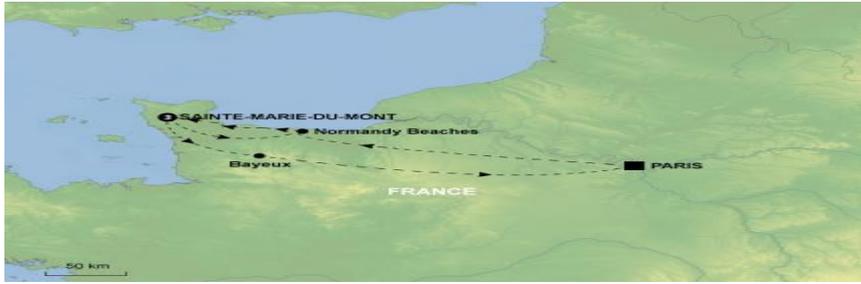
Leaving Amiens, we head towards Normandy, visit Compagne where the Armistice was signed and stop at the Merville Battery. Overlooking Sword Beach, we get a sense of the scale of German defences and the resourcefulness required by the British to overcome them. A visit to the first liberated village of Ranville and the iconic Pegasus Bridge with the attached Airborne Forces Memorial Museum

28 APRIL Bayeux – NORMANDY BEACHES – Bayeux

Our first visit today is to the Juno Beach Centre, where the story of Canada's contribution during the war is told in a series of interactive displays. We will walk some of the beach area and also visit Bernières-sur Mer, to see the first house liberated by Canadian troops on 6th June 1944. Further visits during the day will include Bény-sur-Mer War Cemetery, the Abbaye d'Ardenne, the remains of the Mulberry Harbour and the well-preserved German Gun Battery at Longues-sur-Mer.

We focus on the role of the United States in the liberation of North West Europe. At Sainte-Mère-Église, Trooper John Steele, who was caught on the church steeple as he parachuted into the town, is still remembered. The Utah Beach Museum gives a full explanation of America's role, with plenty of large exhibits. After lunch, a visit to the challenging terrain of the Pointe du Hoc where US Rangers scaled the cliffs and time at Omaha Beach and the American Normandy

Cemeteries show the heavy price paid during the campaign in Normandy.



Nearly 1000 years ago, an invasion came towards Britain from Normandy, a defining moment in British history. The story of the Norman Conquest has been told in a tapestry, a remarkable record by the people of the time, which we will visit. We'll also see the Bayeux Memorial Museum, before we head to Amiens, via Trun and the Falaise Pocket, where the Allied Armies destroyed the German forces in August 1944, opening the way to the liberation of the French capital.

***Colleen and Roger leave tour 28 April



29 APRIL Transfer to Paris – stops enroute –

Late afternoon arrive Paris – Mac, Nic, Bill & Michael overnight Airport hotel Paris, Charles De Galle
Paul & Marilyn to Helsinki
Remainder of Group to Les Plumes Hotel, Paris

1 or 2 May - Various departures from Paris for remainder of Group

What to bring:-

Warm clothes as temperatures could be cool, - Layering is best

Comfortable walking shoes

Torch

Rug for Ceremony

Water bottle

Amiens acm has mini kitchen facility – you may like to do your own breakfasts, eg cereal etc

Mini cooler bag if you wish to byo picnic lunch some days as cafes etc will be busy – There is a very good Supermarket in Amiens

****No Documentation required for this tour except transfer voucher Brussels and ACM voucher for Ypres. And Ceremony Pass for 25 April – These will be emailed individually from DVA.**

*****I will carry Remainder of documentation *****

Contact Judy 0417673445 – Judith.watters@bigpond.com

I look forward to seeing you all in Ypres evening of 19 April and Felicity, Alan and David morning of 20 April

****MUSEUM/ATTRACTIONS ENTRIES EXTRA CHARGE – PAY DIRECT *****

