

## WW1 TOUR WITH BATTLEFIELD WALKS 4-DAY TOUR - SUGGESTED PROGRAMME

### Day 1

Depart School

Collect Guides

Outbound crossing:

Arrive France and drive to Ypres

#### **Gheluvelde**

The outbreak of War; Why did the Schlieffen Plan fail?; from war of manoeuvre to the onset of stalemate; 31<sup>st</sup> October 1914 - 2nd Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment.

#### **Polygon Wood**

11 November 1914: The attack of the Prussian Guard & defence of the wood by the Black Watch.

#### **The Bluff**

A walk to the British front lines along the Ypres Comines canal. Breaking the deadlock - early developments in the underground war.

- Depart for accommodation
- Dinner in accommodation
- Briefing for day 2 as required

### Day 2

After breakfast depart accommodation for the Somme

Arrive Somme

#### **Serre Road – 15km Battlefield Walk to include:**

##### **Sunken Lane / Redan Ridge**

Kitchener's Army & the Pals Battalions; Recruitment; The Plan for 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916; 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Lancashire Fusiliers; 'Going over the top'.

##### **Hawthorn Ridge Crater**

The development of Mine warfare on the Western Front; Great War; Hawthorn Ridge mine 'The Battle of the Somme'.



### **Old Beaumont Road**

The chain of evacuation; following 1st Lancashire Fusiliers to the Regimental Aid Post (RAP) - what treatment was available. The role of Medical Officers and Stretcher Bearers; Infection, trauma and blood loss.

### **Auchonvillers British Military Cemetery**

Site of a former Advanced Dressing Station (ADS); how are casualties transported from ADS to CCS; the role of Nursing Staff including FANY; the role of surgeons and the development of new medical techniques; treating gas casualties; abdominal wounds etc; What happened to those who did not make it?; the role and ethos of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Collect packed lunches from Ocean Villas Tea Rooms

### **Newfoundland Park**

The Newfoundland Regiment on 1<sup>st</sup> July; Preserved trench system & an opportunity to walk across the battlefield.

### **Mametz Wood**

38th Division Memorial: The attack on Mametz Wood 7-14 July 1916. Soldier poets; Siegfried Sassoon and Robert Graves.

### **Flat Iron Copse**

Build up to 14 July attack; Dwyer VC; Brothers in Arms: Harwidge, Philby and Tregaskis.

### **Bazentin Ridge**

What lessons were learned from 1<sup>st</sup> July? Background to the assault of 14<sup>th</sup> July; did it all go to plan?

### **London Cemetery & Extension**

Cavalry on the Western Front; advance of the 2nd Indian Cavalry Division; High Wood and the Switch Line.

### **Delville Wood**

South African National War Memorial; the SAI in the Great War; The Horseshoe of Woods.

### **Becourt Military Cemetery**

Pilgrimage to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, Lincolnshire Regiment, Roland George Ingle King's School Old Boy. Time to reflect and to lay a wreath.

- Depart for accommodation
- Dinner in accommodation
- Briefing for day 3 as required

## **Day 3**

Depart accommodation after breakfast with packed lunches

### **Messines Ridge**

The Ypres Salient in 1917 - orientation; Lessons learned from 1916; German defences on the high ground; the role of imperial troops; Plan for the Messines offensive June 1917.



### **Spanboekmolen Crater**

Mine warfare on the Messines Ridge; Zero Hour 7<sup>th</sup> June 1917. Going over the top.

### **Bayernwald – German trench system**

The development of Trench warfare; use of ground, trench construction, daily routine, technology, problems with trench fighting.

### **Essex Farm CWGC and Advanced Dressing Station**

The treatment of casualties, medical advances; John McCrae 'In Flanders' Fields'. Young soldiers – Pte V J Strudwick.

### **Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 – booking confirmed**

Museum with a British bunker system; an opportunity for the group to handle equipment and weaponry and for a member of the group to dress in Great War uniform; Recreation of a trench system: the development of Trench warfare; use of ground, trench construction, daily routine, technology, problems with trench fighting.

### **Option:**

#### **'The Road to Passchendaele'**

Battlefield walk from Zonnebeke to Tyne Cot following the route of Australian 3<sup>rd</sup> Division using photographs, letters and diary entries of men who were part of the attack in October 1917.

### **Tyne Cot CWGC**

3<sup>rd</sup> Ypres the final phases: the Battle of Passchendaele October 1917 to the end of the war, Remembrance – option of wreath-laying.

### **Langemarck German Military Cemetery;**

German cemetery ethos: the role of the Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge (VDK), Slaughter of the Innocents, the significance of Hitler's 1940 visit; links to the causes of WW2.

Dinner in Ypres

### **Last Post Ceremony**

- Depart for Calais
- Inbound crossing
- Arrive UK local time
- Arrive at school approx.