

LITERATURE IN WARFARE 2-DAY TOUR - SUGGESTED PROGRAMME

Day 1

Depart School
Collect Guides
Outbound crossing:

Arrive Ypres

Essex Farm Advanced Dressing Station

Ethos of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; young soldiers – Pte V J Strudwick; the treatment of casualties, medical advances; John McCrae 'In Flanders' Fields'; Vera Brittain – her experiences as a VAD; Siegfried Sassoon 'Suicide in the Trenches'.

Langemarck German Cemetery

German cemetery ethos: the role of the Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge (VDK); contrasts – German and British perspectives; the German defensive system; Sassoon's 'Reconciliation' – written on Armistice Day - and 'Strange Meeting'.

Vancouver Corner

The use of Gas in war; Wilfred Owen's 'Dulce et Decorum Est' compared with prose description of gas victims.

Tyne Cot Cemetery

1917 – 3rd Ypres (Passchendaele); 1918 – the end of the war; headstone poetry and messages; Wilfred Owen 'Anthem for Doomed Youth'; Remembrance – option of wreath-laying.

Hill 62 Sanctuary Wood

The development of Trench warfare; use of ground, trench construction, daily routine, technology, problems with trench fighting; summing up: Soldier poets, Isaac Rosenberg

Evening meal in Ypres.

Last Post Ceremony

- Depart for accommodation
- Briefing for day 2 as required



Day 2

Serre – Sheffield Park

Orientation – the background to the Battle of the Somme; The Pals Battalions - who were the men waiting in these trenches in July 1916? Wilfred Owen – 'The Chances'. Night before the Attack from 'Birdsong'.

Queens Cemetery

Battlefield Cemeteries – when and how this cemetery would have been constructed; Poetry of patriotism and Expectation - Rupert Brooke. Jesse Pope – the 19th century tradition. Pals Poet – Will Streets.

Serre Road Number 2

Cemetery Brief – Leave a few minutes for students to explore their own reactions.
Wilfred Owen – his life and work – focus on 'The Sentry'.

Newfoundland Memorial Park and Trenches

Trench systems - walk through talk of a battle; the purpose of raids and how they were used.
Siegfried Sassoon – poetry of satire and anger – e.g. 'The General'.

Ulster Tower

Orientation – the Irish perspective.

Thiepval

The Battle of the Somme to its conclusion. The memorial to the missing and how it is arranged.
Elizabeth's visit to Thiepval from 'Birdsong'. 'Aftermath' – Sassoon.

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