



Scouts

Operation Last Post Briefing Evening

Music: Hymn To The Fallen, The Band of the Coldstream Guards



*50 Amazing
Colorized Photos of
World War 1*

- World War One & Brookwood Last Post (15m) – Paul
- Activities (5m) – Susan
- Logistics (10m)
 - Transportation – Mark
 - Accommodation - Ed
 - Food - Kath
- Living History – John Pain (5m)
- Q&A (~15m)



Visit to the Western Front

Background...

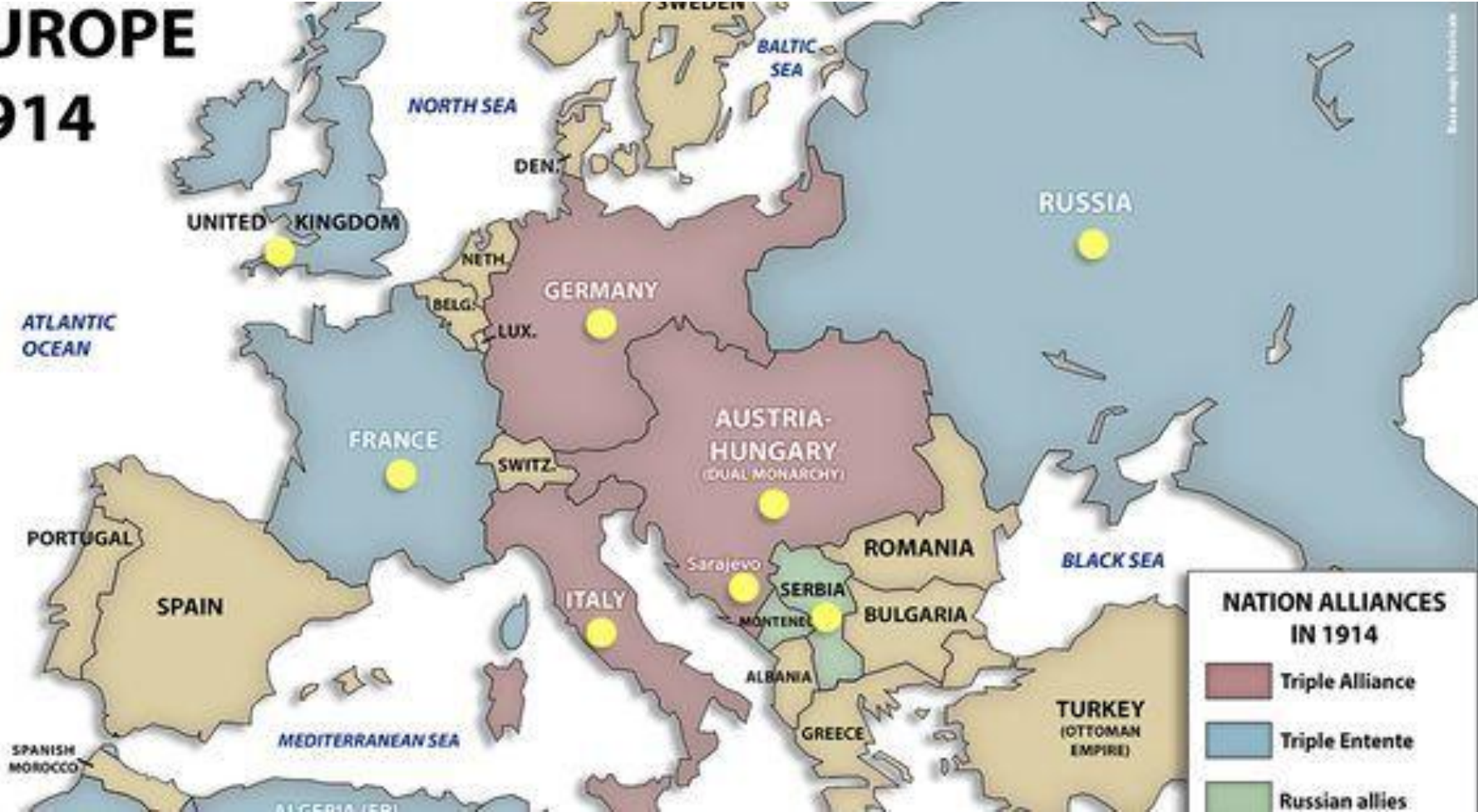
- In 1839, Britain entered in to a treaty with Belgium to guarantee Independence
- In 1882, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy formed a Triple Alliance to counter French/Russian interests
- In 1904, France and Britain, and subsequently in 1907 Russia formed a Triple Entente
- Europe was effectively divided into two camps, obliged to help each other if there were to be a conflict...
- In 1914, George V of Britain, Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany and Tsar Nicholas II of Russia were all related through Queen Victoria.



So what started it all?

- In June 1914, Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne was assassinated in Sarajevo by a Serbian national, Gavrilo Princip
- Austria were concerned about outside interference and asked Germany for support in the event of war. They knew Russia would side with Serbia.
- Germany agreed and encouraged Austria to issue an ultimatum to Serbia
- Serbia accepted every condition except one. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia
- Russia mobilised their army in support of Serbia.
- Germany declared a pre-emptive War on Russia and France Russia simultaneously, enacting the Schlieffen plan drawn up in 1897

EUROPE 1914



What transpired?

- Germany believed France was weak and assumed victory would be swift
- They also assumed Russia would be strong but take longer to mobilise their army
- France did not mobilise an army at all
- Russia mobilised its army in 10 days in July 1914
- The Schlieffen plan required access through Belgium. Germany asked Belgium for permission to travel through their country in August 1914. Belgium refused
- Germany declared War on Belgium.
- Britain were bound by the Treaty of 1839 and declared war on Germany in August 1914

And so to Ypres...

Ypres grew up around the cloth trade. Today, the Cloth Hall, where merchants would trade in medieval times looks like this – not so different to how it looked in 1913



In 1915, it looked very different...

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So how did Ypres find itself on the front line?

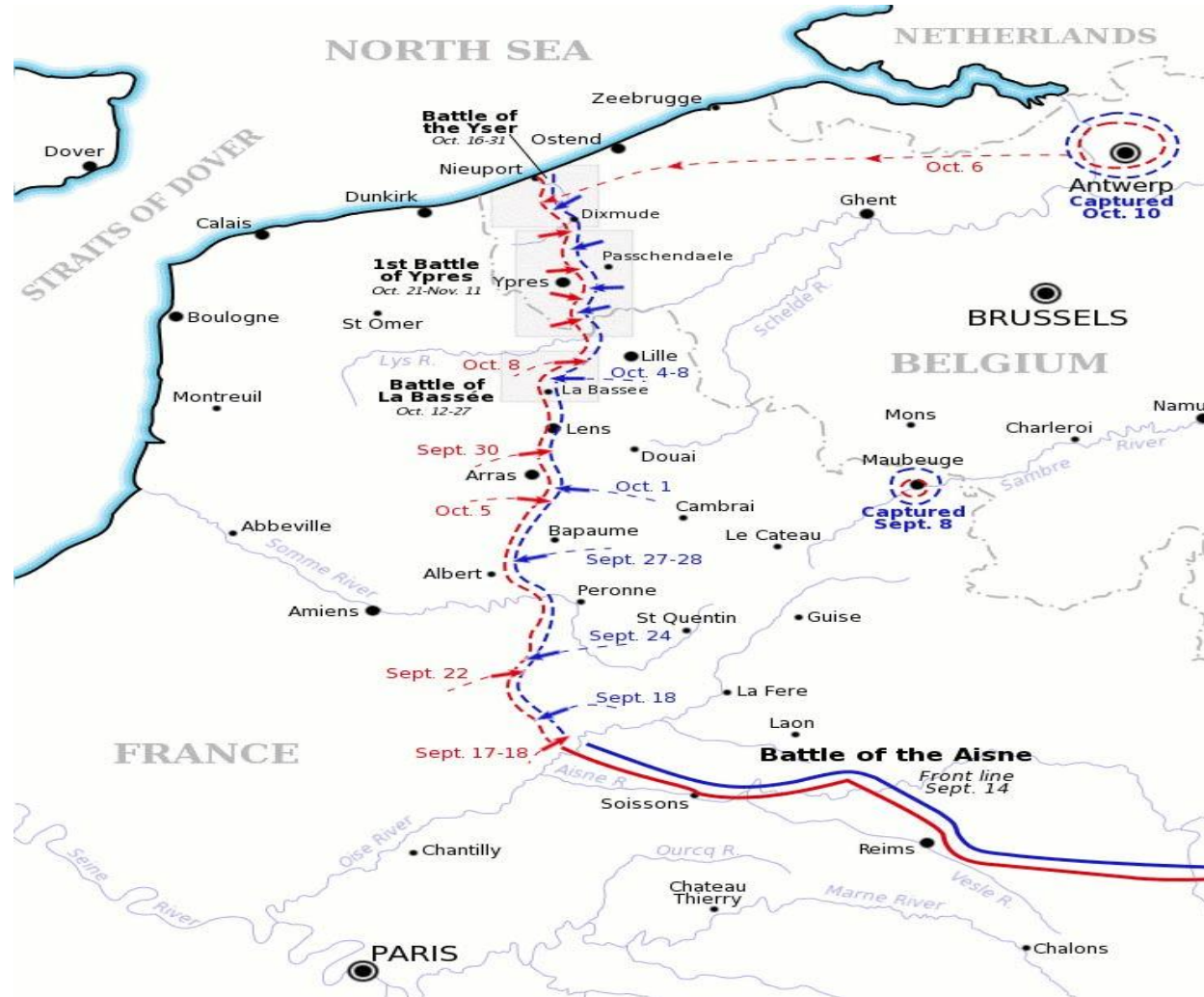


- The German advance through Belgium and eastern France was curtailed by a decisive Allied victory in the Battle of the Marne in September 1914
- And so began a “Race to the Sea” as opposing armies repeatedly outflanked each other on their way north, hastily constructing trench fortifications as they went



The prize- the coast

That race ended in October at Ypres, the city whose fortifications guarded both French and Belgian ports on the English Channel - and access to the North Sea beyond



And so to the Battles of Ypres

- The German army captured the port of Antwerp in October 1914
- Belgian and British Expeditionary Force troops withdraw to Ypres to reinforce Belgian and French defences
- German prepare to launch a first phase offensive aimed at breaking the Allied lines
- On October 19th 1914, near Ypres, Allied and German forces began the first of what would be a number of battles to control the city

Topography



- [First Battle of Ypres](#) (19 October – 22 November 1914). Race to the Sea. **More than 125,000 Allied, and 130,00 German casualties**
- [Second Battle of Ypres](#) (22 April – 15 May 1915). First mass use of chlorine gas by Germany. Tactic saw the static line pushed back over 2 miles almost overnight. **Around 100,000 casualties**
- Third Battle of Ypres (31 July – 10 November 1917). [Battle of Passchendaele](#). Passchendaele lay on last ridge east of Ypres, 8.0 km from railway junction at Roulers, a vital supply system for the German 4th Army. **400,000 to 800,000 casualties**
- Fourth Battle of Ypres (9–29 April 1918). [Battle of Estaires or the Lys \(1918\)](#). **Around 200,000 casualties**
- [Fifth Battle of Ypres](#) (28 September – 2 October 1918). **Around 10,000 Allied casualties; German casualties unknown**

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Casualties on the Western front 1914-18

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IEPER TO MESEN10 KM
IEPER TO PASSEDALE11 KM
IEPER TO ARMENTIERS18 KM
IEPER TO FROMELLES28 KM

1 CLOTH HALL — REBUILT BETWEEN 1920 & 1962

2 MENIN GATE (MENENPOORT) — OPEN 1927, RECORDS 56,000 SOLDIERS WHO HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVE AND DIED NEAR HERE BETWEEN 1914 & 15 AUG. 1917.

3 TYNE COT CEMETERY (BEGRAAFPLAATS TYNE COT), LARGEST BRITISH CEMETERY IN THE WORLD WITH NEARLY 12,000 GRAVES, RECORDS 34,888 WHO DIED BETWEEN 16 AUG. 1917 & 11 NOV. 1918 AND HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVE.

4 AUSTRALIAN 5TH DIVISION MEMORIAL, BUTTES NEW BRITISH CEMETERY, POLYGON WOOD (BEGRAAFPLAATS 'POLYGON WOOD').

CASUALTIES WESTERN FRONT 1914-1918

COUNTRY	POPULATION	KILLED	WOUNDED
FRANCE	40,000,000	1,250,000	4,000,000
BRIT. EMPIRE	392,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000
BELGIUM	8,000,000	13,800	44,700
GERMANY	68,000,000	1,500,000	3,500,000
AUSTRIA	52,000,000		

LEST WE FORGET

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The Passchendaele battlefields



They Shall Not Grow Old - Trailer

Brookwood Last Post

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Brookwood Last Post

- The Last Post ceremony takes place under the Menin Gate every evening at 20:00h
- Tradition started July 1928
- Ceremony was held in Brookwood, Surrey when Ypres fell into German hands May 1940
- Until polish forces liberated Ypres 6th September 1944
- Brookwood Last Post Association continue the 15:00h ceremony every 1st Sunday of each month

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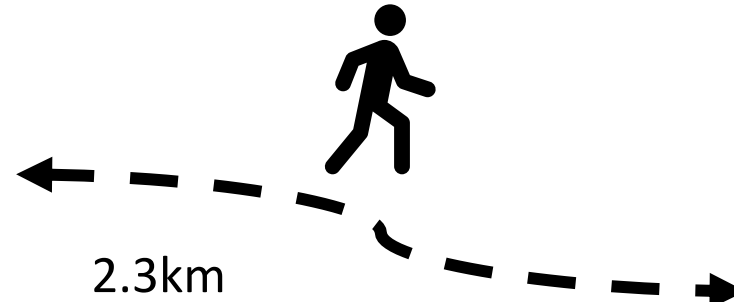


Activities

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Activities – Day 1 (Sunday)



Passchendaele
Museum



Tyne Cot
Cemetery

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Activities - Day 2 (Monday)



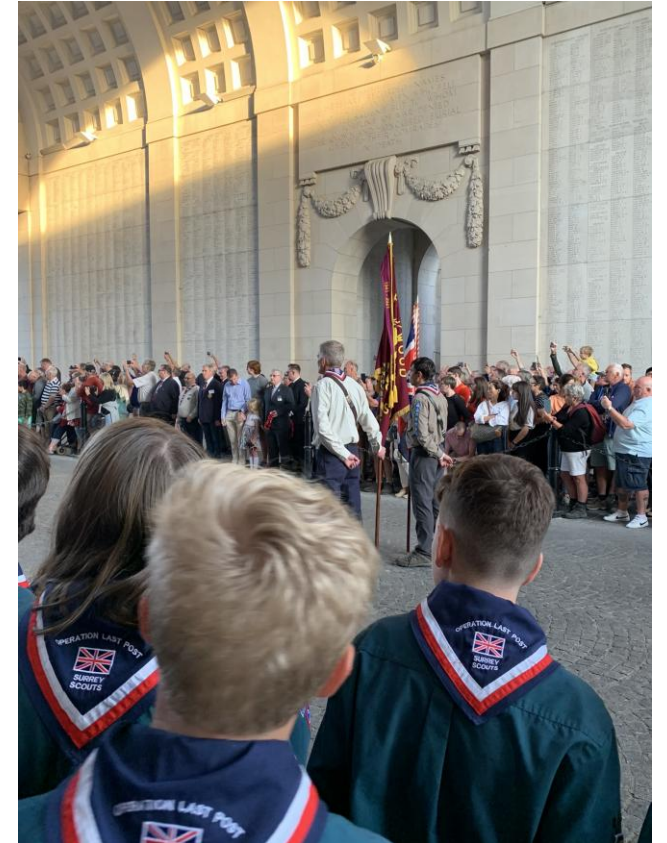
Bruges



Hill 60



Essex Farm Cemetery



Menin Gate
The Last Post

A photograph of a stone archway entrance to a cemetery. The archway is constructed from light-colored stone blocks and has a semi-circular top. Above the arch, there is a plaque with inscriptions. The path leads through the archway into a grassy area where rows of white headstones are visible. The sky is blue with some clouds, and there are trees and bushes in the background.

A group of Scouts in uniform are gathered outdoors, holding several flags. In the foreground, a Scout flag with a purple fleur-de-lis and the text "JERSEY SCOUTS" is prominent. Other flags include the Union Jack and a green flag with a white fleur-de-lis. The Scouts are wearing blue and white uniforms with red berets. The background shows a stone wall and trees under a cloudy sky.



Logistics

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Transport

- Departure/return: Cobham Services
- Arrive from 05:30 and register with your Unit Leader
- Be ready to board the coach at 06:00
- Attach a wristband to yourself, hand luggage and main luggage
- Coaches depart at **06:30** for our 08:55 ferry check-in
- You will need to show you have possession of your passport and Visa (if required)
- Make sure all your belongings are named
- Medicine labelled with name and doses in a sealed bag

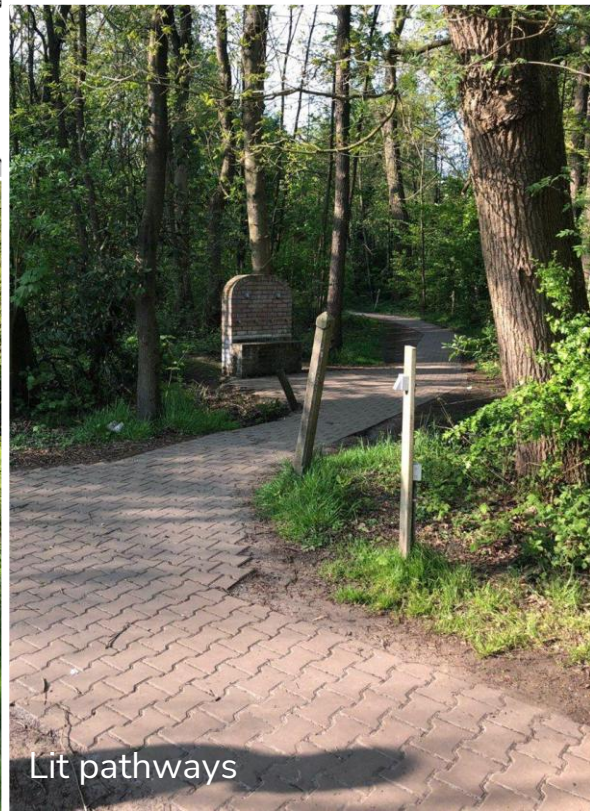


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Accommodation

- About [Hopper Merkenveld](#)
 - Camping in three fields
 - Toilets (mixed)
 - Showers (separate)
 - Charging points
- Kit needed
 - Hike tents to share
 - Roll mat, sleeping bag - 2 season
 - Torch, pillow, nightwear, wash kit, bug spray, towel, bag for dirty clothes
 - 50-70l holdall - coach space
 - Trolleys at the camp site to move kit (not scouts) from coach to camp and back again.



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Food

- Catering and meals will happen in the Fourage
- Dietary **needs** will be catered for, but not every preference!
- No one will go hungry...
- Kit - no need for plates/cutlery or tea towels, but you will need a water bottle
- Bring a mug if you like to have grande hot drinks
- Groups will get a meal slot to eat or make packed meal
- Once plates have been scraped and rinsed, they will go in a dishwasher
- Outdoor seating available



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Food

- An incredibly well-equipped kitchen, designed for mass central catering
- Might not be typical “camp food”!
- **Sunday** – Packed lunch and hot dinner
- **Monday** - Breakfast, packed lunch and hot tea/dinner in Ypres
- **Tuesday** - Breakfast, 'finger food' lunch and snacks for the journey home



Living History







Any Questions?



OLP 25 Unit Leaders

WhatsApp group



OLP 25 Service Team

WhatsApp group



Operation Last Post

<https://www.surrey-scouts.org.uk/events/operation-last-post>



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Thank you

OLP 25 Unit Leaders

WhatsApp group



Music: Hymn To The Fallen, The Band of the Coldstream Guards

OLP 25 Service Team

WhatsApp group

