



BRITISH LEGION

SOUTH WESTERN AND
WEST MIDLAND AREAS

Battlefields Pilgrimage 1937

Please take this Booklet with you, as you will want it for frequent reference throughout the Pilgrimage, also it will save you the unnecessary trouble, for the most part, of having to ask for information.

22 TYNDALL'S PARK ROAD,
BRISTOL, 8.

July 1937.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have pleasure in enclosing herewith tickets, etc., relating to this year's Battlefield Pilgrimage for which you have registered. Every endeavour has been made to embody in this booklet all particulars, and you are requested to make yourself familiar with it, as by so doing, it will enable you to derive the fullest benefit from the Pilgrimage.

Whilst it is the sincere wish of the Officials of the Party that you will have an enjoyable and impressive tour, I need hardly emphasise that the visits to the Cemeteries and Battlefields will be, in every sense, a Pilgrimage, with the sole intention of paying tribute to those Comrades who fell in the heat of Battle.

To those taking part in the Extension I would give one word of advice, always remember that the domestic politics of any Country is the concern only of the inhabitants of that Country.

Should there be any details not quite clear to you, please write me at the above address without delay.

Please sign and return at once the enclosed acknowledgement post card.

Yours faithfully,

F. H. J. BALLINGER,

1. PARTICULARS ABOUT YOUR OWN ACCOMMODATION.

Your Registered No. in the Party is... 36

Name..... Miss B. M. Roberts

Address..... 396 Poole Rd

..... Frankham

At Ypres you will be accommodated at..... Hotel La Gare 3

At Ypres meals will be served at..... La Gare

As requested you have been booked for the ~~ARRAS~~ trip on the
Monday. ALBERT

2. PARTY OFFICIALS.

Party Leader	...	...	MR. PERCY BARTON.
Party Hon. Organiser	...	...	MR. F. H. J. BALLINGER.
In charge of Men & Billeting	...	...	MR. J. SHOOBRIDGE.
Officer	...	...	MRS. E. RASHLEIGH.
In charge of Ladies...	...	...	MR. A. E. BUZZA.
Special Visits Officer	...	...	MR. M. H. NAISH.
In charge of Transport	...	...

3. HEADQUARTERS OF PARTY.

The Party will be accommodated at **YPRES**, and the headquarters will be at "**Skindles Hotel**," which faces the railway station approach.

4. SPECIAL VISITS.

Those who have notified their desire to make a "Special Visit" are requested to report to Mr. Buzza on Sunday morning, 1st August, who will give instructions. It must be clearly understood that the extra cost of these Special Visits when they are off the route covered by the main Party must be borne by the Pilgrims concerned. A special cheap rate for motor-cars

has been quoted and the total cost of the journey will be divided between the persons in each car. For the visits made from Ypres, payment will be made to Mr. Buzza.

5. WREATHS.

A large stock of Poppy Wreaths is available at Haig House, Ypres.

6. BILLETS.

To those accommodated in Billeets it is suggested that they take with them a travelling mirror and also soap.

7. LOST TICKETS.

Don't lose your ticket, but if you do, please report it to Mr. Ballinger or Mr. Shoobridge at once. He will obtain a fresh ticket for you, on your undertaking to pay for it should the lost one be used by any one else.

Try not to lose anything, as such losses are very troublesome to you as well as to the Officials responsible for your comfort.

8. CUSTOMS.

On disembarkation in Belgium, each Member of the Party must pass through the Customs House. Each person should carry his own baggage and have it unlocked for inspection.

The Customs regulations have tightened very considerably in recent years. Cigarettes, Tobacco, Matches, Spirits and Automatic Lighters are dutiable. Usually small packets, open and in use, are passed free.

When crossing the border from Belgium into France or Germany, you are particularly requested not to carry too many cigarettes or cigars (usually packets of twenty are admitted), or too much tobacco (usually two ounces allowed). Endless delay has been caused in the past through persons endeavouring to take with them more than would be required for the day's use.

On the return journey, the Customs examination at English ports is strict, especially in regard to Tobacco, Scent, Spirits, New silk articles, Watches, Lace, Drugs, etc.

9. MONEY.

The present rate of exchange is about 145 Belgian francs for one English pound.

It should be remembered that the Party will be in France for only one day, therefore very little French currency will be required.

10. FOOTWEAR.

The roads are mainly paved or cobbled, except in the larger towns. Thick soles are essential to avoid sore feet.

11. WATER.

The French and Belgians as a whole drink either wine or mineral water.

Pilgrims are emphatically recommended on medical grounds not to drink unboiled water.

12. POLICE.

The Continental police regard the preservation of order as their primary duty. It is not their function to assist all and sundry, as in England. They should be treated with the greatest politeness and obeyed immediately.

13. BAGGAGE.

Do not take more Baggage than you can carry comfortably and do not forget to take a rainproof coat.

14. PASSPORTS.

These are not required for the Pilgrimage, but **Pilgrims must fill in the identity coupon** at the back of the book of tickets, in ink, before leaving home, otherwise considerable delay will be caused at the Port of Embarkation.

This does not apply to those taking part in the Extension.

15. BADGES.

Please wear the Badge enclosed, throughout the Pilgrimage. If entitled wear Legion Badge. **Make sure you have your tickets, etc.**

16. TRANSPORT.

Every endeavour has been made to ensure the Party visiting as many as possible places of interest in the time available. It is therefore requested that you will endeavour to keep to the time allocated for stoppages so that the whole Party shall not be kept waiting.

NOTICE.

The British Legion gives notice that all tickets and coupons are issued upon the express condition, that it shall not be liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned, either by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or persons engaged

in conveying the Pilgrim, or carrying out the arrangements of the Pilgrimage or otherwise in connection therewith, or any billet, hotel Proprietor or other persons. Such conveying, etc., is subject to the laws of the country where the conveyance, etc., is provided. Any baggage is at "Owner's Risk," throughout the Pilgrimage unless insured. Small articles, coats, wraps, umbrellas, and other small hand baggage are entirely under the care of the Pilgrim who is cautioned against risk attached to these being left in conveyances. Further, the British Legion accepts no responsibility for losses, or additional expenses due to delays or changes in trains, steamers, or other services, sickness, weather, strikes, war, quarantine or other cause. All such losses or expenses will, if they occur, have to be borne by the Pilgrim.



YPRES

Headquarters of the Pilgrimage.

What memories Ypres, familiarly known to thousands as "Wipers," bring back to those who lived through the horror and destruction of those dark days of 1914-1918.

To those who served in the Salient it seems almost incredible that the mutilated and battered Ypres is once again a beautiful city. When the Great War ended there remained but an unrecognisable fragment of the once famous Belfry, whilst all that remained of the Cathedral was a shattered tower and ruined walls. The city was so battered with shells and bombs that many specialists expressed the opinion that it would be impossible to ever rebuild it, but there were those fully determined not only to rebuild the city on its ancient site, but to also retain its place in history. More than 4,000 men were engaged on the work of clearing the ruins and classifying the recovered materials, and the restoration work progressed so rapidly and efficiently that a beautiful city has arisen from the ruins. The new buildings have as nearly as possible retained the pattern of the old buildings they replace.

Chief of the rebuilt ancient buildings are The Halles, comprising the Drapers' Guildhall, the Belfry, the Nieuwerck (new work), the Alderman's Council Chamber, the Town Hall, and the Hall of the Council of Twenty-Seven. The Cathedral Church of St. Martin, once considered to contain the most imposing example of ecclesiastical architecture in Belgium, is rapidly nearing completion.

Ypres was once a prosperous town; in 1267 the population numbered 200,000, at the present time it is approximately 18,000.

From October 13th, 1914, until the end of the War, Ypres was occupied by British troops, and it was never more than seven miles from the front line trenches, and sometimes less than three.

The heroism of the inhabitants is apt to be overshadowed by the military activities in and around the city, but from the day the Burgomaster and three prominent citizens were taken by the Germans as hostages for the payment of 70,000 francs, to the day when civilians were ordered to evacuate the heap of debris that had once been their home, they maintained a fine spirit and strove continuously to thwart the designs of the enemy. When the effect of the first gas clouds was felt in the city, the inhabitants lined the streets and handed milk and other drinks to the retreating soldiers.

Foiled in their attempt to capture the town in their first rush for it, the Germans wrecked it, and for three days and nights in the spring of 1915 it was a blazing furnace. The first shell fell on

Ypres on October 7th, 1914, the last one on October 14th, 1918; between these dates hardly an hour passed in which neither shell nor bomb fell into the city.

Ypres must be to the British race an everlasting memorial of British valour and comradeship such as this world has never seen. Within the Ypres Salient 250,000 British soldiers sleep, and their heroism stands enshrined in that wonderful Memorial, the Menin Gate. This Memorial to 56,000 of the British Army whose fate is unknown, brings to the heart of the Pilgrim, perhaps attuned to sadness, the fervent prayer, "Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord."

Every night at sunset throughout the year Belgian buglers stand under the Menin Gate and sound the "Last Post" as a tribute to those who gave Their All on that part of the battle front. To those who listen, comes the memory of Hell Fire Corner and the shambles of the Menin Road, and brings with it the determination to do everything in their power to prevent another such catastrophe.

A Remembrance Service will be held on the ramparts of the Menin Gate on Sunday evening, and every member of the Party is asked to attend.

There is a flourishing Branch of the British Legion in Ypres, the majority of the Members being engaged in the various War Cemeteries. The Branch has a Club at No. 21 Rue Surmont de Volsberghe, Ypres, and will welcome a visit from members of the Party.

Haig House, in the Rue Courte de Thourant (just off the Grande Place) is the rendezvous of all Pilgrims to Ypres. Founded by the British Legion as a Rest House, it has proved a home from home to many hundreds. Everyone is made welcome, and an excellent cup of tea can be obtained. The House comprises a Lounge, Reading-Room, Writing-Room, Luncheon and Tea-Rooms. Poppy wreaths of every description can be obtained. Every member of the Party is requested to visit Haig House during their stay in Ypres.

It is impossible in the brief space available to give details of the fighting around Ypres. Four battles fought between the Germans and Allies were named after the town.

Between the 19th September and 18th October 1914 the original Ypres Salient was formed. The British 7th Division and 3rd Cavalry Division, which had landed at Zeebrugge and Ostende arrived at Ypres on the 14th October. The German IV Cavalry Corps which had entered Ypres, Bailleul and Hazebrouck early in October was forced back to the Canal by our Cavalry Corps. The British Corps entered Ypres on the 20th October.

The first battle of Ypres, October—November, 1914, was a great German offensive with the Channel ports as its objective. The attack failed. The second battle began with a serious attack by the Germans in April 1915. It was during this attack that the Germans used, for the first time, poisonous gas. Again the Germans

failed to achieve their objective. The third battle lasted from July until November, 1917, and consisted of a series of fierce attacks by the British against the German positions around the Ypres Salient, these included the Battles of Pilckem Ridge, Langemarck, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseende, Poelcapelle and Passchendaele. Although many objectives were gained, owing to the atrocious weather the battle could not be termed a complete success. The fourth and last battle opened on 9th April, 1918, and was one of the main contributing factors that led to the final collapse of the German lines. On the 28th September the British, French and Belgian forces under the King of the Belgians attacked, and by the 17th October the Belgians were in Ostende. Then the Ypres Salient existed only as a battlefield and an everlasting memory.

REGIMENTAL MEMORIALS IN YPRES SALIENT.

Canadian	...	...	...	...	Passchendaele.
"	...	...	...	...	St. Julien.
"	...	...	...	...	Sanctuary Wood.
New Zealand	...	...	...	...	Gravenstafel.
1st Australian Tunnelling Corps	...	...	...	...	Battle Wood.
5th " Division	...	...	...	...	Polygon Wood.
Gloucestershire Regts.	...	...	...	...	Hooge.
King's Royal Rifle Corps	...	...	...	...	"
Queen Victoria Rifles	...	...	...	...	Battle Wood.
Household Cavalry	...	...	...	...	Zandvoorde.
1st Battn. South Wales Borderers	...	...	...	...	Menin Road.
London Scottish	...	...	...	...	Messines.
19th Infantry Brigade	...	...	...	...	Menin Road.
7th Division	...	...	...	...	Zonnebeke.
14th "	...	...	...	...	Zillebeke.
16th "	...	...	...	...	Wyttschaete.
19th "	...	...	...	...	"
20th "	...	...	...	...	Langemarck.
38th "	...	...	...	...	"
49th "	...	...	...	...	Boesinghe.
50th "	...	...	...	...	St. Jean.

REGIMENTAL MEMORIALS NEAR ALBERT.

New Zealand	...	...	...	...	Nr. Longueval.
South Africa	...	...	...	...	Delville Wood.
Ulster	...	...	...	...	Thiepval.
Tank Corps	...	...	...	...	Gommecourt.
Royal Naval Division (63rd)	...	...	...	...	Beaumont Hamel.
Irish Division	...	...	...	...	Guinchy.
1st Australian Division	...	...	...	...	Gommecourt.
King's Royal Rifle Corps	...	...	...	...	"
12th Division	...	...	...	...	Guillemont.
20th Light Division	...	...	...	...	"
51st Highland Division	...	...	...	...	Beaumont Hamel.
29th Division	...	...	...	...	" "
41st "	...	...	...	...	Flers.
47th "	...	...	...	...	Longueval.
19th "	...	...	...	...	Nr. La Boisselle.
34th "	...	...	...	...	" "
82nd Field Company R.E.	...	...	...	...	Bazentin.
102nd and 103rd Infantry Brigade (Tyneside)	...	...	...	...	Ovillers.
53rd Infantry Brigade	...	...	...	...	Guillemont.
1st Black Watch	...	...	...	...	Longueval.
8th Battn. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders	...	...	...	...	Beaumont Hamel.
12th Battn. Yorks and Lincs.	...	...	...	...	Puissieux.

A hand-drawn map of the Ypres region in Belgium, showing the main road from Ypres to Arras and Bapaume. The map includes numerous village names and is oriented with Ypres at the top center. The main road runs vertically through the center, with branches to the west and east. The word 'Ypres' is written in a stylized font at the top center. The map is labeled with various locations including Poperinghe, Brandhoek, Vlamerhinghe, St Jean, St Julien, Chocoma, Icaran, Cross, Tine Cot, Broodseinde, Zonnebeke, Becklaere, Poezelhoek, Caness Copse, Ghelvelt, Inv, Staling, Castle, Woode, Louaye, Wood, Sand, House, Von Kluck, Farm, White, Wood, Hill, Go, Zillebeke, Semtury, Wood, Trar, Farm, Chate, Wood, Ploegsteert, Armentieres, Fromelles, Neuve Chapelle, Laventie, Festubert, Cambrin, La Bassee, Mulluch, Loos, Lens, Anion, Mericourt, Vimy, Willerval, Thelus, Oppy, Rochincourt, St Nicholas, Arras, Bernerville, Picheux, Boiry, Mercatel, Beaurains, Boisieux, Boyelles, Gervillers, Courcelles, Gomiecourt, Achiet Le Grand, Bapaume, Beaucourt, Brandcourt, Beaumont, Ploiers, Pflers, Le Transloy, Les Boeufs, Delville Wood, Cinchy, Guillemont, Montauban, Thiepval, Ovillers, Longueval, Hame, Newfoundland Park, Serre, Puisieux, Bucquoy, Ayette, Boiry, Picheux, Bernerville, Drainville, Ecurie, La Targette, Souchez, Bully Les Mines, Verelles, Noeux Les Mines, Bethune, Gorgue, Estaires, Bailleul, Kemmel, Reningbaat, La Clytte, Dickebusch, Poperinghe.

THE SOMME TRIP.

MONDAY, 2nd AUGUST, 1937.

Leaving Ypres, we soon pass **Shrapnel Corner**, so-called by the Tommies because being the junction of four roads just behind the British lines, the Germans kept up a persistent bombardment of the spot, this increased in ferocity at night in the hope of catching ration and supply parties on their way to the trenches. On the left of the road will be seen **Bedford House Cemetery**. On the way to the village of **St. Eloi**, several of the old German pill-boxes will be seen. Some 180 of these pill-boxes have, with the concurrence of the Belgian Government, been preserved in the Ypres Salient. They are mostly made of cement and were used by the Germans as shelters whilst some were specially made for machine-guns and observation purposes. Although the capture of these pill-boxes was the scene of heroic deeds and comradeship, those who saw them in war, can only wish to forget them—strongholds for one moment, death-traps the next. We soon pass through the outskirts of the village of **Wytchaete**, which was totally destroyed during the War; but the sixteenth-century clock bearing a Flemish inscription was saved, and has now been replaced. Just before entering **Messines** the London Scottish Memorial will be seen on the left-hand side of the road. The New Zealand Memorial is in the village itself. Messines is famous in war history for the tremendous sacrifice made by our Indian comrades in 1914. Passing **Hyde Park Corner** we arrive at **Ploegstreert**, familiarly known to the Tommy as Plugstreet, where a stop will be made to visit the Cemetery, and the Memorial to the Missing, who fell in the battles of Armentieres and Loos. On this Memorial will be found the names of 11,447 men whose bodies were never discovered. Leaving Ploegstreert village, we soon arrive at **Le Bizet** the frontier village. After the usual Customs formalities, we arrive at **Armentieres**, the scene of some of the hardest fighting on the Western Front, but perhaps more famous as the home of a certain young lady immortalized in a soldier's song. From 1914 to April 1918 the town was a mile behind the front line trenches, and was the focus point for the Allies' activities in this district. In April 1918 the town, which was practically a mass of ruins, was taken by the Germans. It was re-occupied by the Allies in October 1918. The town has now been rebuilt and has a population of about 18,000 inhabitants.

After Armentieres we pass through the village of **Fleurbaix** on to **Neuve Chapelle**, where a brief stay will be made to enable the Party to visit the Indian Memorial to the Missing. The Memorial was unveiled in 1927 by the late Earl of Birkenhead, when he was Secretary of State for India, and contingents of Sikhs, Dogras and Garhwalis, were brought from India for the ceremony. The spot on which the Memorial stands was known during the War as "Port

Arthur." Neuve Chapelle was chosen as the place for this Memorial because it was there that the Indian Corps fought its first great action as a single unit. On the lower part of the column is inscribed in English, Arabic, Hindi and Gurmukhi, the text: "God is One, His is the Victory." The names of 4,843 Indians who fell in France are inscribed on the Memorial. The battle of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915, was the first in which British troops took the offensive, it was of short duration, but the casualties amounted to over 12,000.

La Bassee is the next town of importance we pass through. For nearly four years it was one of the strongest positions in the German northern sector of France during which it was reduced to ruins. It is now a thriving coal-mining centre with a population of 34,000. Passing the **Hohenzollern Redoubt**, an intricate network of trenches prepared for defensive purposes, **Loos**, the scene of furious fighting, is away to the right, we arrive at **Lens**, now an important railway junction and coal-mining centre, with a population of over 30,000 inhabitants. During the War, there was much fighting around the town, which remained in the hands of the Germans until August 1918. Passing through the villages of **Avion** and **Petit Vimy**, we climb to **Vimy Ridge**, where a stop will be made. The Ridge holds a unique position in the history of the Great War, as it was the only big position on the British Front that was captured and held throughout the War. For this reason the neighbourhood will always be hallowed ground to those Canadians and British troops who won it and held it to the end. The Ridge was of strategic importance as it dominated the Arras sector. The first great attack was carried out by the French 10th Army on May 9th, 1915. The crest of the Ridge was reached, but the rapidity of success was so unexpected that reserves were not available for the support that was necessary. However, the villages of Neuville St. Vaast, Souchez and Ablain St. Nazaire, all of which can be seen from the Ridge, were won and held. The French also won and held the ridge of Notre Dame de Lorrette, where now stands a French National Memorial in the form of a lighthouse, in memory of those who fell in the attack. The British took over the sector in the summer of 1916, and immediately began elaborate preparations for the final capture of the Ridge. After a furious bombardment, the attack was launched during a heavy snowstorm (which to a large extent hampered the attack), at 5.30 a.m. on April 9th, 1917. The capture of the Ridge itself was entrusted to the Canadian Corps who were strongly supported by British Divisions. The attack was entirely successful and by nightfall Vimy Ridge was in our hands. There are many places of interest on the Ridge that will well repay a visit. The **Canadian Memorial** will be visited. The trench system on the Ridge has been preserved and forms part of the Canadian Memorial.

Leaving Vimy we pass through the villages of **Thelus** and **Ecurie**, both the scene of strenuous fighting, on the way to **Arras**.

This is one of the oldest cities in France, being famous in the fourth century. Robespierre of French Revolution fame, was a native of the city. Before the War, it was rich in architectural masterpieces, but being only a few miles from the front line it suffered badly from an incessant bombardment. The sixteenth-century Town Hall with its beautiful Belfry and also the Cathedral were laid in ruins, but in 1932 a new Town Hall was opened. The City was joined to the front line by a system of communication trenches and underground galleries. Arras was the centre of the British battle line and was the concentration point for most of the battles in that Area. Throughout the War, the town being an important strategic centre, intense fighting took place in the district. In the Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Arras Station, is a Memorial to the Missing who fell in the Battles of Arras, Vimy Ridge, etc., and all the "Missing" of the R.F.C. and R.A.F. who fell on the Western Front; 35,928 names are recorded on this Memorial. After leaving Arras, we pass through country abounding in interest to those who served in the Great War; it would be impossible in this small booklet to give even brief details of the wonderful deeds of heroism that took place daily on this battle front at places like **Beurains**, **Boyelles**, **Ervillers**, etc., etc. Passing through **Bapaume** we are reminded of the titanic struggle that took place for this strategic point. It was held by the Germans from November 1914 to March 17th, 1917. The Germans recaptured the town in their big offensive on March 25th, 1918, and held it until August 29th, 1918, when it was retaken by the British troops. The town was completely destroyed during the War, after which it was adopted by Sheffield and completely rebuilt. Leaving Bapaume we enter the Somme Battlefield, passing **Le Transloy** and **Flers**, the latter giving its name to the Ridge, which dominated the battlefields leading away to Albert. It was at the battle of Flers on September 15th, 1916, that tanks were first used. Leaving Morval on our left, we arrive at **Delville Wood**, this has now been purchased by the South African Government as a Memorial to those gallant South Africans who fell there on July 15th, 1916, the day the Wood was captured from the Germans. A stop will be made to enable Pilgrims to visit the beautiful South African Memorial erected, and also the Cemetery. On through Caterpillar Valley, leaving Bazentin on our left, we cross the Albert-Bapaume main road at **Pozieres**, used in 1914-15 by the Germans as an observation post. It was taken by the British in July 1916, lost early in 1918 and finally retaken in August 1918. In Pozieres Cemetery a Memorial has been erected to 14,690 "Missing" of the Fifth Army who fell in the Battles of the Somme. Our next stop is at **Thiepval**, the scene of some of the most severe fighting of the Great War, every part of the surrounding ground was saturated with the blood of those gallant men who fell, whilst the village was blown to atoms. Towards the end of the War, a notice board was placed by the side

of the road with the words "This was Thiepval." The tall granite tower on the top of the hill (the site of the Schwaben Redoubt) is the Memorial to the 36th (Ulster) Division. Here also stands one of the National Memorials to the memory of those British soldiers who were killed on the Somme Battle Front, and whose bodies have not been found. The names of 73,412 of these comrades are recorded on the Memorial.

Passing Aveluy Wood, we arrive at **Albert**, where a stop of 30 minutes will be made. It is now a town of 7,000 inhabitants. It was held by the French against the German Advance on the Somme in September 1914. It passed into British hands in 1915, who held it until April 1918, when the Germans entered the town. It was recaptured in August 1918. The church of Notre Dame de Brebieres was famous during the War for its hanging gilded figure of the Madonna and Child which fell into a position 15 degrees below the horizontal during the early part of the War and remained thus until it fell in March 1918. There was a superstition, chiefly amongst the French, that when the figure fell the War would end. The town was, after the War, adopted and rebuilt by the city of Birmingham. We now commence the homeward journey to Ypres, passing many Cemeteries on the way. We arrive at **Newfoundland Park** on the ridge overlooking Beaumont Hamel, Beaucourt, Miraumont, "Y" Ravine and many other places that bring back vivid memories to those who served in that part of the line. The Park now grown over with grass and trees, has been preserved in its original state by the Newfoundland Government as a permanent Memorial to those gallant men of Newfoundland who now sleep their last sleep for the love of the Mother Country. In the Park in which the original trenches and dug-outs have been preserved, will be seen barbed wire, shells, rifles and abandoned equipment as left at the Armistice. Two of the most impressive War Memorials in France are within the park, one a magnificent Caribou, the other an indomitable figure of a Highlander, the Memorial of the 51st (Highland) Division. On through **Puisieux, Bucquoy, Ayette**, where there is an Indian and Chinese cemetery, **Boiry, Bucquoy Road**, to **Arras**, where a brief stop will be made if time permits. The return journey from Arras will be by a different route to the outward journey. Joining the Bethune road, we pass **La Targette, Notre Dame de Lorette, Souchez**, the scene of fierce fighting, May-July 1916, and so into the mining country. Through **Aix Noulette, Nouex Les Mines** to **Bethune**. Being at the junction of two canals, Bethune was an important position to the Allies and was the principal railway headquarters for the Allies north of the river Lys. For a large part of the War it was free from bombardment, but in 1918 it suffered very badly. The Germans made tremendous struggles to capture the town but were stopped at **Locon**, a village three miles to the north. Passing through **Lestrem** and **La Gorgue** we reach

Estaires, a town held by the Allies and used as a billeting centre from October 1914 to 1918. During the German onslaught in April 1918 it was the scene of spirited fighting as it was one of the key positions to the Channel Ports. Next, we pass through **Le Seau** to **Neuve Eglise**, taken by the Germans early in the war but retaken by the Allies the same year and held until April 1918. It was finally retaken September 1st, 1918. It was at Neuve Eglise the 2nd Worcestershires covered themselves with glory. Surrounded in the Church and Marie they fought a desperate action and finally extricated themselves. On through **Kemmel** we again reach **Ypres** after spending a day in country which saw fighting such as the world had never seen before, heroism outshining all heroism ever written of, comradeship which endures for all time, but above all, sacrifice by those whose one thought was service to King and Country. Such scenes fresh in one's memory, brings to us the determination "We will remember them."

Dinner will be served in hotels and billets on arrival.



YPRES SALIENT TRIP.

"A" Party—Sunday, August 1st.

"B" Party—Wednesday, August 4th.

Leaving by the **Well Cross Roads** we soon pass the village of **St. Jean**, where the Americans fought so stubbornly. Through **Wieltje** pass **Cheddar Villas** to **St. Julien**, where in 1914 a skeleton force of seven divisions stood their ground against the terrific onslaughts of the pick of the German army. Passing the **Vancouver Cross Roads** we stop for a moment to see the Canadian Memorial commemorating the first German gas attack. Pass **Winnepeg** and **Kansas Cross Roads**, through the hamlet of **Gravenstafel** we are on the **Passchendaele Ridge** which extends from **Gheluvelt** on the south to **Houthulst Forest** on the north. The Ridge gave its name to one of the bitterest battles fought on the Western Front. The ground between Ypres and the Ridge was waterlogged and it was impossible to dig trenches or obtain shelter. The villages and hamlets were blown to smithereens and in such conditions it is to be wondered how the Allies held the ground. To those who served on this front nothing but horror can remain in their minds. Arriving at **Tyne Cot Cemetery**, a stop will be made to enable Members of the Party to visit the Memorial and also admire the wonderful care and attention with which the graves of our Comrades are cared for. During the War, a German pill-box stood where the cemetery now is. Within the cemetery lies 8,901 of the United Kingdom, 1,353 Australians, 966 Canadians, 519 New Zealanders, 90 South Africans, 14 Newfoundlanders, 6 Royal Guernsey Light Infantry, 2 British West Indians, 1 Frenchman, 4 Germans. There are also 101 special Memorials. On the Memorial to the Missing, is recorded the names of 34,888 of the British Empire who fell in the Ypres Salient from August 1917 to the end of the War, of whom no trace has been found. Leaving **Tyne Cot** with the mind bewildered at the sacrifices made, and an underlying determination to support even more strenuously than in the past, the British Legion's set purpose to leave no stone unturned that will assist to ensure the peace of our Empire, we pass through the village of **Broodseinde**, which stands on a slight ridge and was thought by the Germans to be practically impregnable, **Reutel**, **Becelaere**, made famous in the third battle of Ypres, 1917, to **Gheluvelt**, where in 1914 the **Worcestershires**, with their ranks practically annihilated, made one of the finest counter-attacks of the Great War. It was taken by the British in October 1917, lost to the Germans early in 1918 and finally captured in September 1918. Pass **Inverness Copse**, **Stirling Castle**, **Clapham Junction**, **Zouave Wood**, **Hooze**, totally destroyed during the War, **Maple Copse** to **Sanctuary Wood**, where a brief stop will be made to enable the Party to inspect the preserved trenches and also the Canadian Memorial on **Hill 62**.

Rejoining the charabanc we pass the **Birr Cross Roads, Hell Fire Corner, Zillebeke** with its lake, **Hill 60**, immortalized to the memory of the 13th and 15th Brigades, **Transport Farm** and through the Lille Gate to Ypres, where lunch will be served in billets and hotels immediately on arrival.

Joining the charabanc again after lunch, we leave Ypres, going via **Bedford House**, which with **Spoil Bank** preserves with the presence of its cemeteries the memory of those days in 1914-18 when men lived in mud and filth to ensure that "Might should not conquer Right," through **St. Eloi** and **Wytschaete** (see guide to Monday's tour), pass the **Messines Mine Craters**, the scene of one of the finest British victories of the War, on to **Kemmel**, a village used by our troops during most of the War period as a rest billet. Half a mile south of the village is Mont Kemmel, whose slopes were battered by bombardment during the German offensive of 1918 when the Germans fought hard for its possession. It was here that the pick of the German army was shattered. Leaving Kemmel we pass through **La Clytte** and **Reninghelst**, both places well known to those who served in the Salient and landmarks during the battle of Lys and arrive at **Poperinghe**, where a halt will be made to enable those who so desire to visit places of interest. The town was held by the Germans at the beginning of the War, but was captured by the Allies on October 15th, 1914. The town was familiarly known to the troops as "**Pop**" and escaped heavy bombardment during the War. It was for a short period the headquarters of Sir Douglas Haig and was visited by H.M. The King, and the Prince of Wales and many other noted men. The town is perhaps most famous as being the birthplace of "**Toc H.**" and arrangements will be made for the Party to be shown over the building in which this wonderful social organisation was founded. After Poperinghe we pass through **Brandhoek** and **Vlamertinghe**, which remained in British hands throughout the War. Around Vlamertinghe are numerous British War Cemeteries. Passing by **Goldfish Chateau** we soon arrive back in Ypres after having spent a day on ground every inch of which is treasured in the memories of those who served in the Salient as being for ever England. This guide has purposely been kept brief as one part of this battle front cannot be chosen from another to describe the heroic deeds, the sacrifice and the comradeship which took place every minute of those hellish days of the War, but if the lesson of our Pilgrimage is remembered by each one of us, it is certain that "We shall remember them though they sleep in Flanders' Fields."

Dinner will be served in hotels and billets on arrival in Ypres.

ITINERARY.

SATURDAY, JULY 31st, 1937.

The Party will meet at **Victoria Station, London, S.W.1** (at Station entrance to Pillar Hall Restaurant) at 1 p.m. sharp. The train will leave for Dover about 1.20 p.m. The Party are particularly requested to follow the directions given by Party Officials as compartments will be reserved on the train.

Members of the Party will make their own way to London. For those arriving at a Terminus other than Victoria, there are convenient Bus and Underground Railway Services.

The Railway Companies issue cheap return holiday tickets to London at a single fare and one-third. Those residing more than 200 miles from London can obtain a voucher from Mr. Ballinger (22 Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol 8) to enable them to obtain return tickets at a single fare. If you have not received this voucher, it should be applied for immediately.

Please ensure that the identity certificate on the back page of your book of tickets is completed. (This does not apply to those taking part in the Extension Tour.)

Members taking part in the Extension Tour must, on leaving the train at Dover, report to Mr. Naish, who will conduct them through the Passport Office.

The steamship will leave Dover, arriving at Ostende at 8 p.m.

On disembarkation, please keep with the Party to pass through the Customs, etc.

Charsabanc will be at Ostende Marine Station to meet the boat and the Party will proceed immediately to Ypres, where we should arrive about 9.30 p.m.

On arrival at Ypres, the Party will be directed to their Billets and Hotels, where dinner will be served.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1st, 1937.

All meals will be served in Hotels and Billets at :—

Breakfast	...	...	8.30 a.m.
Lunch	...	...	1 p.m.
Dinner	...	...	6.30 p.m.

A Service will be held at the English Church, Ypres, to which Members of the Party are invited.

"A" Party Only.

Charsabanc will leave the Railway Square, Ypres, at 9.30 a.m. for a tour of the Ypres Salient (see page 9). The trip will be continued after lunch, charsabanc leaving at 2.15 p.m. sharp.

Tea will be served at "Haig House," Ypres (just off the Grande

Place), from 3.45 p.m. onwards to all Members of "B" Party, on production of the enclosed ticket. The whole Party will meet outside "Haig House," at 8.15 p.m., where they will be joined by Members of the Ypres Branch and will then proceed to the Menin Gate, where a short Remembrance Service will be conducted by the Rev. Milner, of Ypres.

**SERVICE AT THE MENIN GATE, YPRES—SUNDAY,
AUGUST 1st, 1937. Conducted by Rev. MILNER, M.A.**

Commendatory.

Rest Eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Hymn.

O Valiant Hearts, who to your glory came,
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame,
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the Land you loved.

Proudly you gathered, rank on rank to war,
As you had heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had you gave,
To save Mankind—yourselves you scorned to save.

Splendid you passed, the great surrender made,
Into the light that never more shall fade,
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,
Who wait the last clear trumpet-call of God.

Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,
While in the frailty of our human clay,
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self-same way. Amen.

Prayers.

Remember, O Lord, all those, the brave and the true, who have died the death of honour and are departed in the hope of Resurrection to Eternal Life, especially the Officers and Men of our Sea, Land and Air Forces, to whom it was given to lay down their lives for the cause of Freedom and Justice. In that place of Light, whence sorrow and mournings are far banished, give them rest, O Lord, the Lover of men. Grant this, for Thine only Son, Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

O Heavenly Father, look, we beseech Thee, with compassion upon those who still suffer bodily and mental pain; who still mourn for fallen friends and relatives. Comfort them in their pain, and in their loneliness. Help us to show them true love and sympathy and give them Hope and Trust in Thy Fatherly Care, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

We yield Thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that Thou hast put it into the hearts of those Thy servants to join together in the fellowship of the British Legion and to desire to carry out its aims and purposes ; let Thy Fatherly Hand be ever over them, let Thy Holy Spirit ever be with them, and so guide their counsels that they may set forth Thy Glory, and help forward all the great works to which they have given themselves, so that by their witness and their labours the spirit of love and comradeship among those who fought in the Great War may be advanced throughout our land, and loyalty and devotion to King and Country may be established on a sure foundation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall be said by all.

Our Father, which art in Heaven, Hallowed by Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come ; Thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread ; and forgive us our trespasses. As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory. For ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn.

On the Resurrection morning
Soul and body meet again ;
No more sorrow, no more weeping,
No more pain.

Here awhile they must be parted,
And the flesh its Sabbath keep,
Waiting in a holy stillness
Wrapt in sleep.

But the soul in contemplation
Utters earnest prayer and strong,
Bursting at the Resurrection
Into song.

Oh ! the beauty, Oh ! the gladness
Of that Resurrection day,
Which shall not through endless ages
Pass away !

To that brightest of all meetings
Bring us, Jesus Christ, at last ;
By Thy Cross, through death and judgment
Holding fast. Amen.

O Lord, who through Thy Son Jesus Christ, did'st make the Supreme Sacrifice on Calvary, accept we beseech Thee, our supplications and prayers for our Comrades who made the Sacrifice that we

may be spared the horrors and trials of another war, that we, being ever mindful of Calvary and our Comrades, with Thy help and blessing, will devote our lives to perpetual Service for Thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work done. Then, Lord, in Thy mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Poppy Wreath will be deposited by Mr. Percy Barton on behalf of the Party.

Last Post

(played by Belgian buglers on the silver bugles presented by the British Legion).

The Benediction.

MONDAY, AUGUST 2nd, 1937.

Breakfast 7 a.m.

Packet luncheons will be issued to the Party from their respective hotels and billets. Please ensure that you have yours before joining the charsabanc.

At 7.45 a.m. sharp both "A" and "B" Parties will depart by charabanc from the Railway Square (opposite Skindles). The charsabanc will be marked "SOMME" and "ARRAS." Your ticket for this trip is enclosed herewith.

Those making special visits this day to Cemeteries, etc., not on the main route are requested to join the last charabanc, which will be reserved for the purpose.

Members of the Party are specially requested to assist the Organiser by keeping to the time schedule that will be announced throughout the journey. In past years the whole Party have been kept waiting for a few, and unless everyone co-operates, some of the proposed stopping places must be omitted.

Dinner will be served in hotels and billets on arrival.

In the evening at 9 p.m. a Social and Dance will be held at the Majestic Drill Hall, Rue de Lille, Ypres, to which the Ypres Branch, British Legion, have been invited. It is hoped that all Members of the Party will attend.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3rd, 1937.

"A" Party.

The following meals will be served in Billets and Hotels, Ypres:—

Breakfast	...	...	...	8.30 a.m.
Lunch	...	...	...	12.30 p.m.

Charsabanc will be at the Railway Square (by Skindles Hotel) at 2 p.m. to convey the Party to Ostende.

"B" Party.

The day has been left at the disposal of Members of the Party.

Meals will be served in Billets and Hotels :—

Breakfast	...	...	8.30 a.m.
Lunch	...	...	12.30 p.m.
Dinner	...	...	7 p.m.

By arrangement with Mr. C. J. Parminter of the Ypres Auto Service the following charabanc excursions have been arranged :—

OSTENDE. Depart Railway Square (Skindles), at 10 a.m.

Price 7/6 per person.

OSTENDE — ZEEBRUGGE — BRUGES. Depart Railway Square (Skindles) 9.15 a.m. Price 10/- per person.

BRUSSELS and GHENT. Depart Railway Square (Skindles) at 9.15 a.m. Price 10/- per person.

The fare will be collected on the morning of the excursion.

It should be understood that these excursions will only be run if there is a minimum of 25 persons booked.

The excursion parties will return to hotels and billets for dinner. Those wishing to take packet luncheons should notify Mr. Ballinger on the Sunday prior so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4th, 1937.

Breakfast will be served in Hotels and Billets at 8.30 a.m.

Charsabanc will leave, under the direction of Mr. Shoobridge, for a tour of the Ypres Salient at 9.30 a.m. sharp, from the Railway Square (opposite Skindles).

Lunch will be served in Billets and Hotels.

The charabanc will leave the Railway Square at 2.15 p.m. sharp to continue the tour of the Salient.

Dinner will be served in Billets and Hotels in Ypres at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5th, 1937.

Breakfast will be served in Hotels and Billets at 7.30 a.m.

Packet luncheons will be issued to Members of the Party returning to England.

At 8.30 a.m. sharp, charsabanc will depart from the Railway Square, Ypres, for Ostende.

On arrival at Ostende, the Party will proceed to the boat for England.

11 a.m.	Boat depart from Ostende.
2.20 p.m.	Boat arrive Dover.
2.45 p.m.	Train depart Dover.
4.20 p.m.	Train arrive Victoria, London.

Special compartments will be reserved on the train from Dover to London.

Members of the Party are advised to ascertain before leaving England, the time of their train from London to their home town, on the return journey. The Underground Railway connects Victoria and all principal London stations.

EXTENSION PARTY

(" A " Party.)

IF YOU ARE IN POSSESSION OF A PASSPORT PLEASE ENSURE THAT IT IS NOT OUT OF DATE AND THAT IT IS VALID FOR GERMANY. THOSE NOT POSSESSING AN INDIVIDUAL PASSPORT WILL BE INCLUDED ON A COLLECTIVE PASSPORT FOR WHICH THEY SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPHS TO MR. BALLINGER.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3rd, 1937.

Before leaving Ypres ensure that you have not left any personal property in your hotel or billet.

On arrival at Ostende all baggage will be deposited at the Maritime Station. Members will then be free until 4.30 p.m. when they will report to Mr. Ballinger at the Maritime Station.

The train will leave Ostende at 5 p.m., arriving at Cologne at 10.30 p.m.

Dinner will be served on the train between Ostende and the German Frontier (Herbestal).

On arrival at Cologne the Party will be directed to their hotel. Two hotels are being used, i.e. The Minerva and The Kolnerhof. You will be informed during the train journey which hotel you will be at.

Correspondence should be addressed c/o British Legion Party, Hotel Minerva, Cologne, Germany.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4th, 1937.

Breakfast 8.30 a.m.

Lunch 1 p.m.

During the morning the Party will be taken for a motor tour of Cologne including a visit to the British Military Cemetery, where a wreath will be placed.