

THE

BATTLE OF LOOS

CENTENARY

1915 – 2015

SITES
TO VISIT
AND
EVENTS

HISTORY

The Battle of Loos-en-Gohelle (25 September – 19 October 1915)

After the great French offensive of May 1915 on the Artois front which allowed the French to retake Notre-Dame-de-Lorette hill, General Joffre planned a new offensive for the autumn of 1915, with the aim of attacking in Champagne and Artois simultaneously.

The "Battle of Loos" was fought by the forces of the British Empire in the mining basin, in support of the French army who were in Souchez and on the Vimy Ridge. The front line was around 15km long and stretched from La Bassée in Lens via the communes of Auchy-les-Mines, Haisnes, Vermelles, Hulluch and Loos-en-Gohelle.

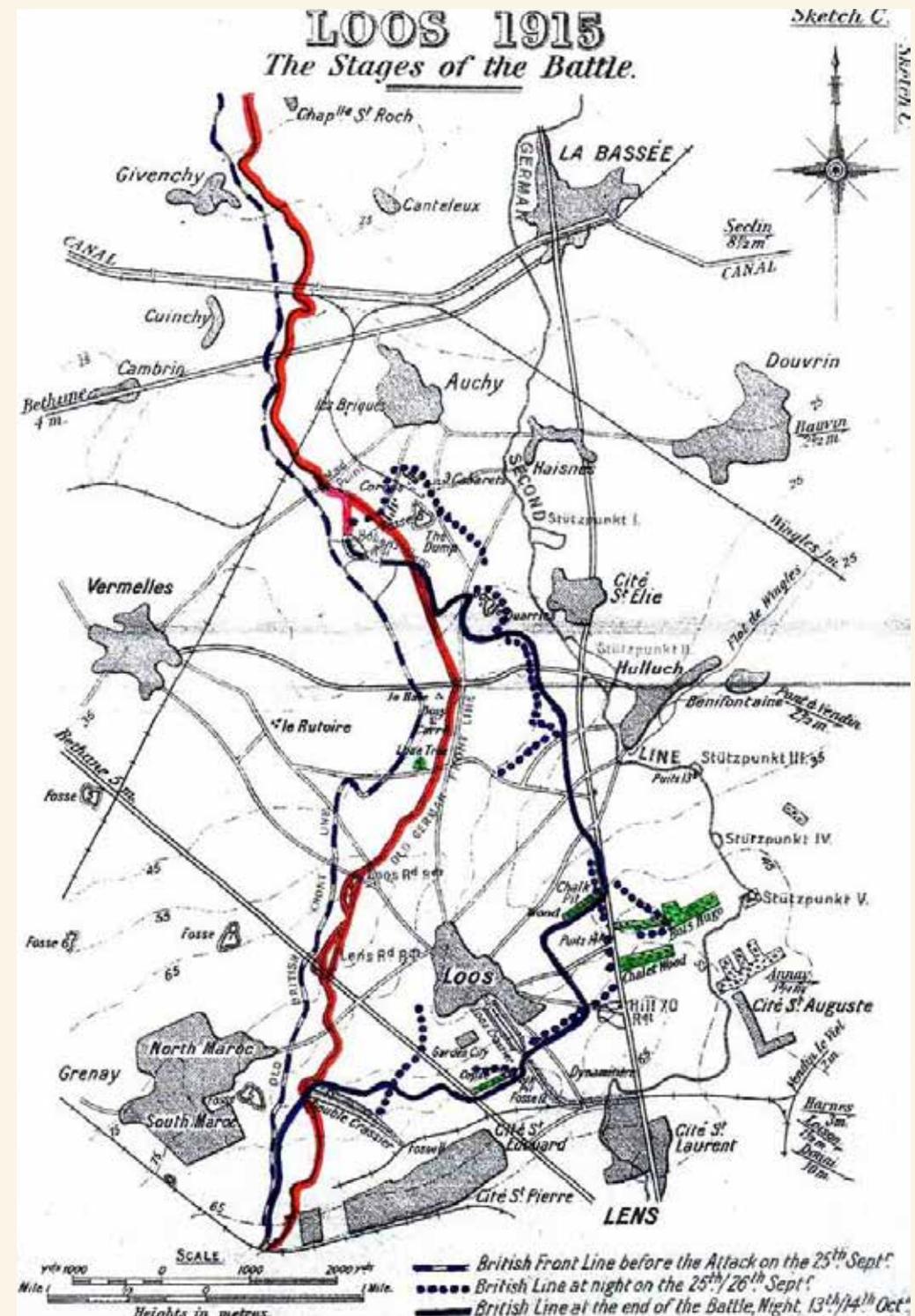
The flat terrain of the Gohelle plain did not favour the British army in view of the German positions such as "Hohenzollern Redoubt" in Auchy, pit and slag heap no. 15 in Loos-en-Gohelle and "Hill 70" which closed access to Lens in the south-east of Loos.

Douglas Haig, Commander of the 1st British Army, mobilised 6 divisions. However, the troops were exhausted by the fighting of the previous months, two of the divisions were made up of young, inexperienced volunteers and ammunition was lacking.

After four days of bombing on the German lines, the attack was launched on the morning of 25 September. The allies used poison gas for the first time, discharging the contents of more than 5,000 cylinders which ultimately proved to have minimal effect because of adverse winds. The confrontations continued for several days. Apart from retaking the village of Loos-en-Gohelle on 25 September, the results were feeble; the attack on the "Hohenzollern Redoubt" on 13 October was a failure.

Even today, the "Battle of Loos" is still marked by a heavy human toll and the violence of the fighting. Out of more than 8,500 British soldiers killed on the first day of the battle, only 2,000 have a known grave.

For more information, log on to www.cheminsdememoire-nordpasdecalais.fr.



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IN 1915

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THE SITES AND CHARACTERS OF THE BATTLE OF LOOS

THE COMMUNES OCCUPIED BY THE GERMANS

LOOS-EN-GOHELLE

The commune was occupied by the Germans from the start of the war. Throughout the sector they established a formidable network of trenches with several fortified points: this was particularly the case with pit 15/15bis which, with its head frames and its flat slag heap made a choice observation post. Subject to the harshness of German authority (requisitions of all kinds, reprisals, ransom demands, etc.), the population was also confronted with extensive allied bombing. The commune of Loos-en-Gohelle was retaken by the British (*15th Scottish Division and 47th London Division*) on the first day of the Battle of Loos, on 25 September 1915, mainly thanks to the intervention of Emilienne Moreau*. This success represents the main gain of the battle, hence it being called the "Battle of Loos", but the losses were considerable: nearly 35,000 injured and more than 15,000 dead. One of the other objectives of the battle, namely "Hill 70" which closed access to Lens, would only be retaken in August 1917 by the Canadians. At the end of the war, the commune of Loos-en-Gohelle was completely destroyed.

* see page 7



THE LOOS-EN-GOHELLE MEMORIAL AND DUD CORNER CEMETERY 16

1,812 soldiers lie in this cemetery, given its name because of the large number of unexploded shells (duds) found nearby. Surrounding the cemetery, the memorial pays tribute to the 20,586 soldiers who fell at the Battle of Loos in September 1915. It was inaugurated in August 1930 in the presence of the English writer Rudyard Kipling, whose son John* was killed during that battle. The name of John Kipling was engraved on the memorial until the discovery of his remains in 1991.

Route de Béthune in Loos-en-Gohelle –
www.cwgc.org
 Longitude : 2.772847 – Latitude : 50.379060
 * See page 13

LOOS-EN-GOHELLE COMMUNAL CEMETERY 17

Loos-en-Gohelle Communal Cemetery has 2 graves from the First World War.

Chemin de l'Eglise in Loos-en-Gohelle
 Longitude : 2.785905 – Latitude : 50.456285

SAINT PATRICK'S CEMETERY 18

This cemetery which was built during the Battle of Loos by French and British troops is characterised by the fairly random layout of the stones. This is explained by its proximity to the front and the difficult conditions in which the bodies were buried. But most of the tombs date from 1916 when the 16th Irish Division was defending the sector. Closed in 1918, after the war it received graves from the battlefields between Loos and Hulluch. It contains 583 graves including 41 which are not identified and 23 which were destroyed by a shell and have been replaced by specific stones. This cemetery also holds 54 graves of French soldiers.

Rue Alexandre Maniez in Loos-en-Gohelle
 Longitude: 2.788698 – Latitude: 50.456889



EMILIENNE MOREAU' HOUSE 19

A young *Loossoise*, Emilienne Moreau, became famous for many acts of bravery during the occupation of the village of Loos-en-Gohelle during the First World War. A notable act of heroism was during the British assault to take Pit 15. The metal bridge connecting the pit head frames of Pit 15 and Pit 15a was nicknamed "Tower Bridge" by the English who saw in it a striking resemblance to the famous bridge over the Thames. Eluding the vigilance of the Germans, Emilienne Moreau succeeded in alerting Scottish soldiers of the Black Watch Regiment to the danger of an ambush by German machine guns mounted on this bridge. She was awarded a number of distinctions: the Croix de Guerre, the British Military Medal, the Medal of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem and the Cross of Knight of the Legion of Honour.

House situated on the corner of rue Condé and Maniez in Loos-en-Gohelle.
 Longitude : 2.792139 – Latitude : 50.457154



THE MUSÉE ALEXANDRE VILLEDIEU IN LOOS-EN-GOHELLE 20

Established in Loos-en-Gohelle, the Musée Alexandre Villedieu houses a collection of First World War artefacts, most of them found within the municipality itself.

Run by the "Loos Sur les traces de la Grande Guerre" association, this museum evokes the day-to-day life of soldiers in the trenches and of civilians in the occupied zone. Also evoked are the battles that marked the town in 1915 and 1917, in which many Commonwealth soldiers were involved.

Foyer Omer Caron – 1st floor
 Place de la République in Loos-en-Gohelle
 Longitude : 2.792450 – Latitude : 50.457290
 Info : 06 09 46 48 65
<http://loos1915.pagesperso-orange.fr>
 Rate : 3 €

For the Battle of Loos Centenary,
 open on Fridays from 9.30am to 12am
 and 2pm to 5pm,
 Saturdays from 3pm to 5pm and
 Sundays from 9.30am to 12am
 and 2pm to 5pm.
 Otherwise open by appointment only.

**PIT AT 15/15 BIS
RUE RENÉ CASSIN
AND SLAG HEAP 15 IN
LOOS-EN-GOHELLE 21 AND 22**

Pit 15/15 bis was operated by Société des Mines de Lens. Located in the commune of Loos-en-Gohelle, the two shafts of this pit were each topped by a headframe attached to one another by a metal bridge. To the south stretched a flat slag heap around 22m high. The Germans made the whole thing a strategic position in their line of defence, which the British soldiers nicknamed "Tower Bridge" in reference to its singular form which reminded them of the famous bridge in London. The pit was put back into service after the conflict, but "Tower Bridge" was never rebuilt.

Rue René Cassin in Loos-en-Gohelle
Longitude: 2.796186 – Latitude: 50.456586



LOOS BRITISH CEMETERY 23

This cemetery, originally known as the *Loos Provisional Cemetery*, is located in the immediate vicinity of slag heap 15. It was built in July 1917 by the Canadian Corps who had installed a field ambulance nearby. More than 2,750 graves from small cemeteries in the surrounding communes (Vermelles, Liévin, Loos-en-Gohelle, Courcelles-Lens) were moved here after the war. For the most part they were soldiers who fell during the Battle of Loos. Two thirds of the bodies were never identified. Specific stones were erected for 2 British soldiers and 4 Canadian soldiers who are supposed to be buried in the wall of the site. Other stones replace the graves of 44 Canadians and 12 British soldiers who were destroyed by a shell. In March 2014, 20 British soldiers discovered at Vendin-le-Vieil were buried in this cemetery.

Rue Roger Salengro in Loos-en-Gohelle
Longitude: 2.797390 – Latitude: 50.451537



**SLAG HEAPS 11/19
IN LOOS-EN-GOHELLE
(DOUBLE SLAG HEAP) 26**

The Battle of Loos sector includes several slag heaps which represented strategic positions both for the Germans and the British. Apart from pit 15/15 bis in Loos-en-Gohelle, the Germans also controlled the "double slag heap" which offered a remarkable view over the battlefield. This flat slag heap, which has mainly disappeared today, was composed of waste extracted from pits 11 and 16 and formed a sort of junction. Back then it was located around the foot of the existing twin slag heaps 11/19 which were not there during the First World War. There was terrible fighting between the Germans and the British at this location.

Rue de Bourgogne in Loos-en-Gohelle
Longitude: 2.778537 – Latitude: 50.445652

AUCHY-LES-MINES

HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT 7

A fortified point on German lines dominating no man's land and a key element in the Battle of Loos, the British attacked it from the first day with the aim of protecting the flat-topped slag heap known as The Dump. Attacked on 25 September 1915 by the 9th Division, it was almost annihilated. The 12th (Eastern Division) was heavily involved in early October. The poet Charles Hamilton Sorley was killed there with the 7th Suffolks. On 13 October 1915, the 46th (North Midland) Division attacked the new position to retake the Redoubt and Fosse 8. The Redoubt remained definitively in German hands. During the battle, Captain Fergus Bowes-Lyon, brother of Elizabeth, the future Queen Mother, was killed by a shell on 27 September 1915 at the age of 26. Only the outlines of the mine craters are still visible today.

THE MONUMENT TO THE 46TH DIVISION NORTH MIDLAND 6

The Monument to the 46th Division North Midland is a Portland stone column, cut at a 46° angle, on which the names and insignia of various British battalions have been engraved. The monument honours the 3,763 soldiers of the 46th North Midland Division who fell on 13 October 1915 while attempting to take a part of the Hohenzollern Redoubt that had been held by the Germans during the Battle of Loos. It was unveiled on 13 October 2006 on the 91st anniversary of the attack by the 46th Division.

Rue de Douai in Auchy-les-Mines
Longitude : 2.778704 – Latitude : 50.500271



THE LONE TREE 10

The Lone Tree was indicated on maps of the front of the Battle of Loos. It was located in no man's land, between the German and British front lines. Like a cursor, visible for hundreds of meters in this flat landscape, it served as a marker for the British as they advanced across the battlefield. On 25 September 1915, the 2nd King's Royal Rifle Corps, the 1st Loyal North Lands and the 10th Gloucestershire Regiment fought together near this tree, followed by the 2nd Royal Sussex Regiment and the London Scottish. Despite being damaged by German machine gun fire, the tree survived and bloomed again. It was cut down after the battle and pieces were taken by British soldiers as souvenirs.

A cherry tree was replanted on this spot on 25 September 1995 on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the first day of the Battle of Loos and a memorial was placed at its foot. It bears an inscription in English, French and German to symbolise new European unity: "Lone tree replanted in memory of all those who lost their lives at the Battle of Loos".

D 39 (direction of Hulluch-Vermelles), after the Saint Mary's A.D.S. Cemetery take the track to the left, then the track across the field to the left in Vermelles

Longitude : 2.765973 – Latitude : 50.488147

THE RUTOIRE FARM 9

The Rutoire Farm is a complex of farms located behind the British front line near the village of Vermelles. It was used as advanced headquarters and an advanced dressing station by the Royal Army Medical Corps during the Battle of Loos in 1915. In 1916, an observation bunker was built behind the farm.

Vermelles, D. 39 (direction of Hulluch-Vermelles), after the Saint Mary's Advanced Dressing Station Cemetery, take the small track on the left until you reach a farm complex. The house has a sign (Le Rutoire) on the wall. The site is private property.
Longitude : 2.765973 – Latitude : 50.488147

HAISNES

Haisnes remained under German occupation during the war. However, a part of the municipality was taken by British troops during the Battle of Loos.

On 25 September 1915, the largest offensive carried out by the British Army began with the aim of attacking enemy lines north of Lens. A total of 60,000 men were assigned to the fighting. This confrontation saw the use of several new techniques of warfare, such as the toxic gases used by the British. The battle was a dismal failure with more than 20,000 deaths among the British.



SAINT MARY'S A.D.S CEMETERY 11

Saint Mary's A.D.S. Cemetery, named after an advanced first aid station known as the Saint Mary's Advanced Dressing Station, was built on the site of the Battle of Loos-en-Gohelle. It was constructed after the Armistice to bring together the graves of soldiers who fell on the battlefield in September and October 1915. It contains the graves of 1,790 British and 19 Canadian soldiers, only 218 of whom have been identified. The tomb of John Kipling can be found in

this cemetery. Behind the Saint Mary's A.D.S. Cemetery, are the Ninth Avenue Cemetery and the Bois-Carre Military Cemetery, which also hold graves dating from the Battle of Loos.

D 39 (direction Hulluch-Vermelles)
in Haisnes
Longitude : 2.78906 - Latitude : 50.48573

JOHN KIPLING

Although he could have been declared unfit to fight because he was short-sighted, John Kipling, son of Rudyard Kipling (Nobel Prize for Literature in 1907 and author of the famous *Jungle Book*), enlisted so as not to disappoint his father, who was strongly believed in fighting for one's country. Thanks to him, he joined the Irish Guards Regiment as a lieutenant. He was killed during his first campaign on 27 September 1915 at the age of 18 during the Battle of Loos, and was listed as missing. At the end of the war, his name was recorded on the Loos Memorial. In 1992, research carried out by the CWGC concluded with certainty that John Kipling had been laid to rest in the Saint Mary's A.D.S. Cemetery.



✚ Grave of John Kipling: Row 7 D, 2nd stela from the left.

The tragedy of losing his son caused Rudyard Kipling to dedicate himself to the CWGC. He was also responsible for the phrase "Their name liveth for evermore", engraved on Stones of Remembrance in Commonwealth cemeteries, and the quote "A soldier of the Great War, Known unto God", inscribed on every tomb of the unknown soldier.

HULLUCH

The commune of Hulluch was occupied by the Germans from the start of the war. Located between the Hohenzollern Redoubt and the village of Loos, slightly below the British trenches, it was one of the many objectives of the Battle of Loos. On the first day of the battle, after painful confrontations, the British troops managed to take the first German trench with the hope of liberating the whole village of Hulluch. But the few metres won were finally lost due to lack of reinforcements. Like the neighbouring villages, Hulluch was completely destroyed at the end of the war.

COMMUNES OCCUPIED BY THE BRITISH TROOPS

CUINCHY

For almost the entire duration of the war, Cuinchy was located just behind the front line and was a chosen target for the Germans, who were aiming to cross the canal. 90% of the town was destroyed.

THE WOBURN ABBEY CEMETERY 2

The Woburn Abbey Cemetery was opened by the Royal Berkshire Regiment in June 1915 and closed in January 1916. The designation Woburn Abbey comes from a nearby house of that name that was used as a battalion headquarters and hospital. Several graves were added in April 1918. After the Armistice, graves from surrounding battlefields were grouped together in this cemetery. It contains the graves of 547 British and 12 Canadian soldiers.

Rue Julien Clément in Cuinchy
Longitude : 2.7506 – Latitude: 50.51686

GUARDS CEMETERY, WINDY CORNER 1

The Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner was designed by Charles Holden. Opened by the 2nd Division in January 1915, it was principally used by the 4th Guards Brigade. Closed in late May 1916, it was reopened after the Armistice to group together graves from the battlefields of Neuve-Chapelle, Aubers and Festubert. It contains the graves of 3,402 British, 32 Canadian and 9 Indian soldiers.

Rue Marcelin Berthelot à Cuinchy
Longitude : 2.74165 – Latitude : 50.5288

GRENAY

Grenay is located in the immediate vicinity of the front. The French and then the British developed an important network of trenches there particularly in the sector of pits 5 and 11 owned by the Compagnie des Mines de Béthune and the housing estates associated with it (estate 5, so-called "Moroccan" estate, estate 11, Belgian estate, Garden estate). These sites became systematic targets of the German artillery. A large number of the inhabitants were forced to evacuate the town due to the violence of the bombing. At the end of the war everything had to be rebuilt.



THE MAROC BRITISH CEMETERY IN GRENAY 25

Begun by French troops in August 1915, this cemetery was later used as a front-line cemetery receiving bodies from campaign ambulances after the battles that led to the taking of Loos on 25 September 1915.

It contains graves from the surrounding battlefields and cemeteries, resited to this cemetery after the Armistice.

Rue Casimir Beugnet in Grenay
Longitude : 2.747380 – Latitude : 50.447290

MAZINGARBE

During the First World War, the commune of Mazingarbe, which is located at the rear of the British trenches, was a military base. The soldiers used mainly Compagnie des Mines de Béthune pits 3 and 7 as observation posts. A field hospital and various emergency stations were also set up in the village. During the Battle of Loos, the numerous wounded were taken there by the mining cavalrymen of the sector. Depending on their injuries, the soldiers were treated on site or directed to Noeux-les-Mines. At the end of the war the village was destroyed to a large extent.

MAZINGARBE COMMUNAL CEMETERY AND EXTENSION 12

Located next to the communal cemetery, this military cemetery was used from June 1915 to February 1916 mainly to bury the numerous soldiers who died in the emergency stations nearby.

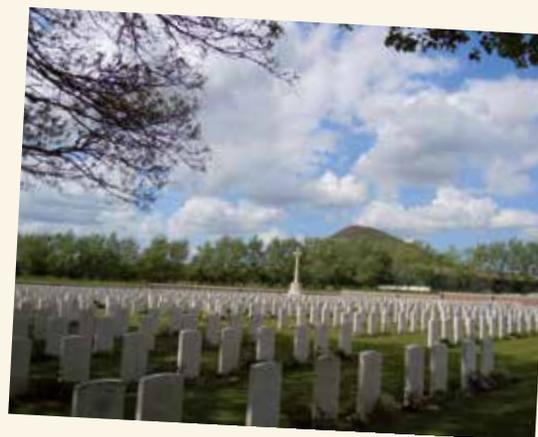
It holds 108 graves of British soldiers and 24 graves of French soldiers. An extension was created in April 1916 and used until October 1918. It has 248 British stones and 2 graves of German soldiers.

Rue de Carency in Mazingarbe
Longitude : 2.713526 – Latitude : 50.468161

DUPUICH FARM CULTURAL SPACE 13

This old farm served as a military base during the conflict. Soldiers took advantage of lulls in proceedings to engrave inscriptions on the limestone walls, leaving traces of where they had passed through. Some of this graffiti, which is still visible, was specifically highlighted when the place was renovated and transformed into a cultural space in April 2015.

3 rue Lefebvre in Mazingarbe
Longitude: 2.718464 – Latitude: 50.471876



PHILOSOPHE BRITISH CEMETERY 14

This cemetery, which holds 1,996 graves (including 277 unknown soldiers), is located near the former Compagnie des Mines de Béthune pit 3. Building began in August 1915 to bury the soldiers brought back from the front line and cared for in the emergency stations nearby. Most of the graves however date from April and November 1916 and September 1917. When the *Dud Corner* memorial was built in Loos-en-Gohelle, the graves of 41 men from the 9th Black Watch who were killed at the Battle of Loos were moved to this cemetery.

Access via a dirt path from
rue Alexandre Dumas in Mazingarbe
Longitude : 2.741668 – Latitude : 50.470939

FOSSE 7 MILITARY CEMETERY 15

Erected in the vicinity of the former Compagnie des Mines de Béthune pit 7, this cemetery is adjacent to the gardens of the nearby miners' housing estate. It was built by French troops in May 1915 and then used by the British from June 1915 to April 1917. Field ambulances were installed in the houses in front of the cemetery during the Battle of Loos. This cemetery is also known as "*Quality street*" in reference to the name of the trench which leads there. It has more than a hundred graves from the First World War of which a dozen or so are not identified. 17 graves destroyed by a shell were subsequently replaced by specific stones.

Rue Montaigne in Mazingarbe
Longitude: 2.75657 – Latitude: 50.46534

BULLY-LES-MINES

The commune of Bully-les-Mines was at the rear of the front during the conflict. It was used as a military base, first by the French troops and then by the British troops. A field hospital was set up there in October 1914. Bully also became a "stronghold" where several artillery batteries were installed. Long range artillery was moved using the Compagnie des Mines de Béthune rail network which was the best way to reach the German lines. The commune therefore suffered terrible bombings by the Germans. Many civilians were killed, including miners from the Compagnie des Mines de Béthune who were working in the few pits which remained open despite the fighting to support the war effort.

BULLY-GRENAY COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION 24

Bully-Grenay refers to the name given to the station serving both of these communes. The Bully-les-Mines communal cemetery was extended twice. The French part was built by French troops and then taken over by British forces from June 1915 to June 1916. It holds 240 graves of French soldiers and 91 graves of British soldiers. A second exclusively British extension was built from April 1916 until October, and reused from April 1917 to March 1918. Most of the graves date from this period. After the war, 168 graves from small cemeteries from the battlefields to the east of Grenay were moved there.



Today it holds 803 British graves from the First World War. Among them, 141 are not identified and 2 stones commemorate soldiers buried in Sallaumines but whose graves were never found. This cemetery also contains the grave of a soldier from the Second World War.

Rue de l'Egalité in Bully-les-Mines
Longitude : 2.717203 – Latitude : 50.446963

VERMELLES

The Village of Vermelles was under German occupation from October to 7 December 1914 when it was taken by French troops. For almost two months, the French 10th Army fought from Noyelles and Mazingarbe to win back the village; they managed to take the château and its grounds on 1 December using sapping and mining operations. On 7 December, the Germans retreated to Auchy-les-Mines. Subsequently, Vermelles Château was used as a dispensary in 1915 during the Battle of Loos.

ABBOT JULES DUCOURANT

Abbot Ducourant, curate of the parish of Vermelles, was executed for spying on 14 October 1914 on the orders of Colonel Von Saint Ange. He had been caught sending light signals from the church bell tower to French troops. His name is inscribed on the monument to the fallen next to the church.

VERMELLES BRITISH CEMETERY 8

The Vermelles British Cemetery was built by Sir Herbert Baker and is composed by 1936 graves. It was began in august 1915 during the Battle of Loos, when the castle was used as an advanced aid station.

Rue Florent Evrard in Vermelles
Longitude : 2.729008 – Latitude : 50.475711

QUARRY CEMETERY 5

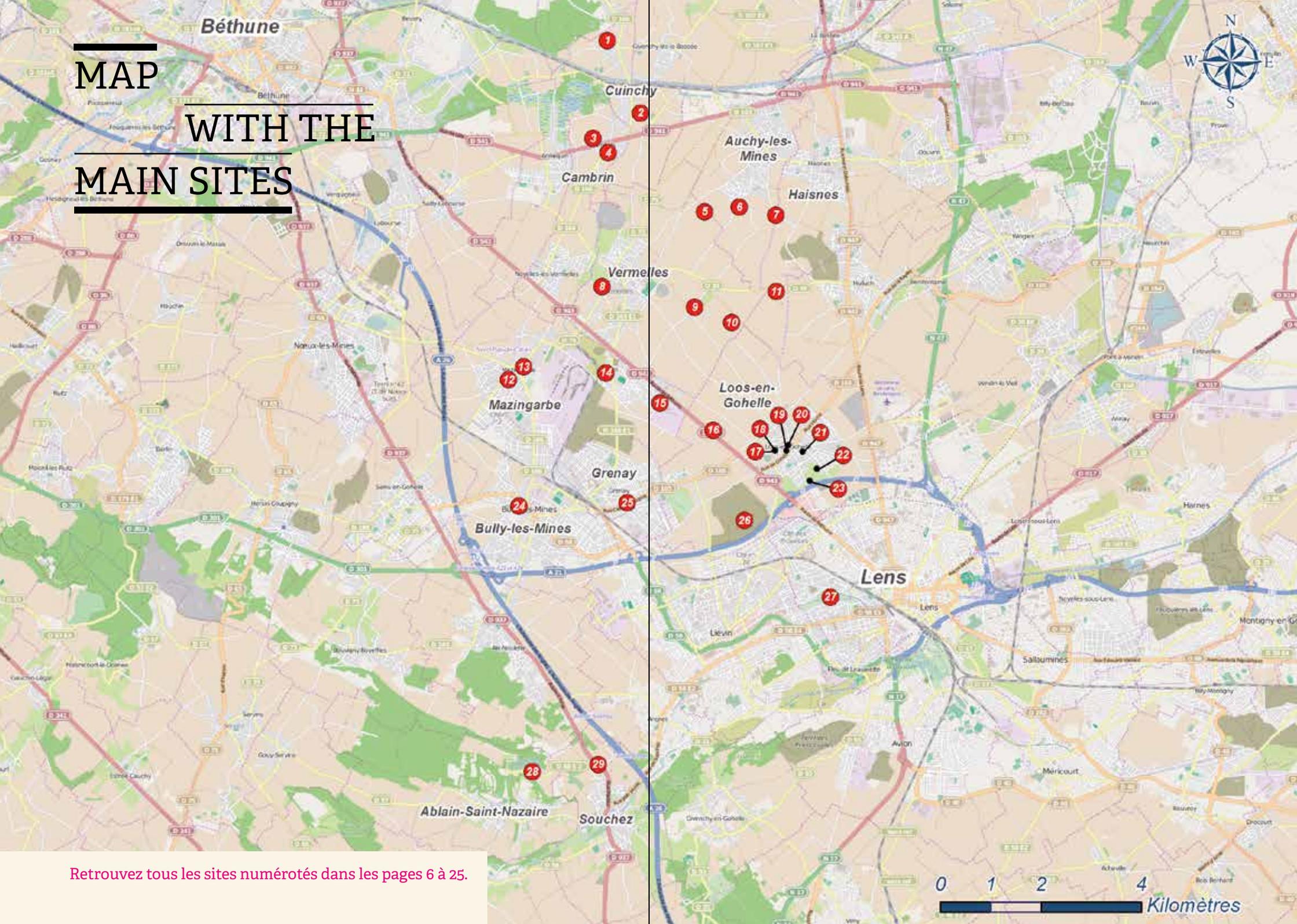
The Quarry Cemetery was used from July 1915 to June 1916 for the burial of soldiers who had fallen during assaults on Fosse 8 and the Hohenzollern Redoubt. It owes its name to its construction in a former quarry shown on maps of the front. It was severely damaged by bombing; as a consequence, a large number of stelae bear the inscription "Buried near this spot". It contains the graves of 139 British and 1 German soldier.

Rue de Vermelles in Vermelles
Longitude : 2.771863 – Latitude : 50.503442



MAP

WITH THE
MAIN SITES



Retrouvez tous les sites numérotés dans les pages 6 à 25.



CAMBRIN

The village of Cambrin was once home to the headquarters of a brigade of British forces. It was relatively spared throughout the war, given that it was around 800 metres from the front line.

CAMBRIN CHURCHYARD EXTENSION **4**

The Cambrin Churchyard Extension, designed by Charles Holden, was used to bury soldiers who fell on the front line before February 1917. Three graves were added in 1918. It is notable for its large number of graves grouped by battalion: 79 graves of the 2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; 15 graves of the 1st Cameronians (Row C), 35 graves of 2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers; and 115 graves of the 1st Middlesex (Row H), all dating from 25 September 1915, first day of the Battle of Loos. It contains the graves of 1,210 British, 98 French, 3 German, 1 Belgian and 1 Indian soldier.

Rue de Noyelles,
behind the church in Cambrin
Longitude : 2.739039 – Latitude : 50.508077

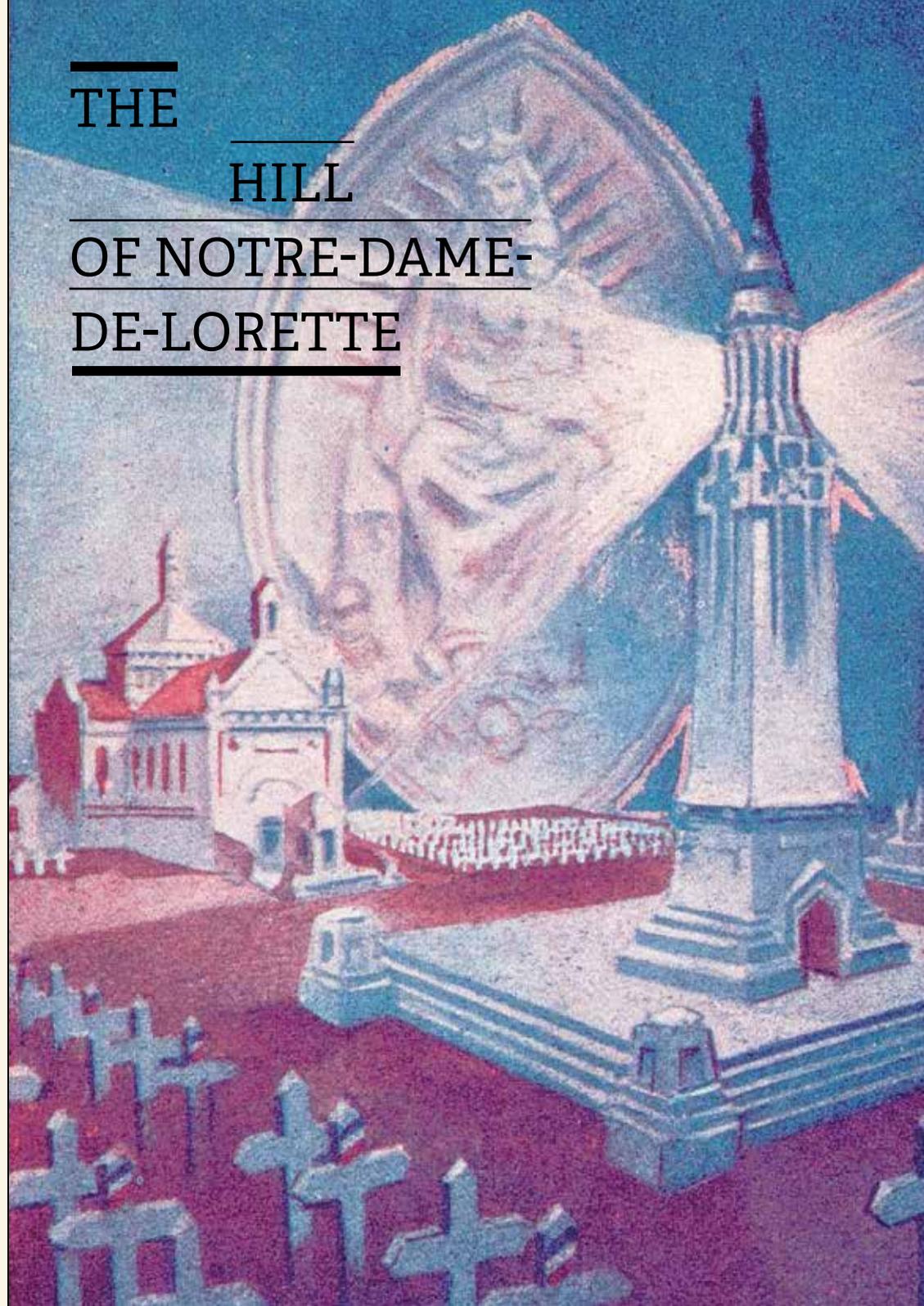


CAMBRIN MILITARY CEMETERY **3**

The Cambrin Military Cemetery, also known as the Cambrin Château Cemetery, designed by Charles Holden, was opened in February 1915 and used as a cemetery for the front until December 1918. It contains numerous graves of soldiers who died during the Battle of Loos. The graves of 57 officers and soldiers from the 1st King's Liverpool Regiment, who fell on the first day of the battle, 25 September 1915, can be found in Row D. It contains the graves of 819 British, 1 South African and 2 German soldiers.

N.41 in Cambrin
behind the *Café Le Beaulieu*
Longitude : 2.73702 – Latitude : 50.51227

THE HILL OF NOTRE-DAME- DE-LORETTE





THE NATIONAL NECROPOLIS AT NOTRE-DAME-DE-LORETTE 28

This site, which contained the largest number of individual military graves in France, was one of the main theatres of battle in the Artois during the First World War.

A strategic promontory occupied by the Germans very early in the conflict, the hill of Notre-Dame-de-Lorette was marked by terrible combats until it was retaken by the French in May 1915. The losses inflicted earned it the nickname "the hill of 100,000 dead".

At the end of the conflict, the decision was taken to build a cemetery here, as the resting place of the soldiers killed on the fronts of Flanders and Artois. Inaugurated in 1925, it contains 20,000 individual graves and the remains of over 22,000 unknown soldiers placed in 8 ossuaries. A basilica (replacing a small chapel destroyed in 1914) and a 52-metre high tower, representing a "lantern of

the dead", were built at the centre of the cemetery. Of Romano-Byzantine inspiration, these constructions were the work of the architect Louis-Marie Cordonnier. The site offers an impressive panoramic view over the Mining Basin and the Artois hills. Since 1928, the Association des Gardes d'Honneur de Notre-Dame-de-Lorette, which today has over 4,000 members, welcomes the public to the site and assists families in finding the grave of a fallen relative.

Opening times: Necropolis freely accessible
8.30am to 4.15pm from October to March;
9.00am to 5.30pm from April to May;
9.00am to 6.30pm from June to August;
9.00am to 5.30pm in September
The Association des Gardes d'Honneur
is in attendance on site from Palm Sunday
to 11 November (+33 (0)3 21 29 30 62).
Route Départementale 58 E3,
Ablain-Saint-Nazaire. Open access
Longitude : 2.722260 – Latitude : 50.399648



THE INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL OF NOTRE-DAME-DE-LORETTE 28

At the top of the plateau of Notre-Dame-de-Lorette in the municipality of Ablain-Saint-Nazaire, overlooking the French National Necropolis, the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Regional Council built an international monument which, for the first time, will transcend remembrance of the tragedy based on nationhood. It will be one of the biggest memorials in the world, as it will bring together 580,000 names presented in alphabetical order without distinction by nationality, thereby uniting friend and foe of yesteryear.

The winner of the architecture competition, Philippe Prost, has designed a magnificent ellipse-shaped monument, both respectful and powerful. It inaugurated on 11 November 2014.

Route Départementale 58 E3
in Ablain-Saint-Nazaire.
Longitude : 2.722260 – Latitude : 50.399648



LENS'14-18 – WAR AND PEACE HISTORY CENTER 29

Standing at the foot of the hill of Notre-Dame-de-Lorette, this new museum presents the Great War on the soil of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais. Almost 400 photographs are on display in large format. Dynamic maps illustrate the various offensives and twenty or so archive films immerse the visitor in the First World War.

102 rue Pasteur in Souchez.
Info : +33(0)3 21 74 83 15
Longitude : 2.738739 – Latitude : 50.401618

Admission free. Audioguide : €3
1 June to 30 September : open from Tuesday
to Sunday from 10.00am to 6.00pm.
Closing to 5.00pm from 1 October to 31 May.
Closed from 4 to 31 January.

EVENTS

TO MARK THE BATTLE OF LOOS CENTENARY



On 12 and 13
September:
**RECONSTRUCTION
OF A VILLAGE IN 1915**

"Le carnet vert"
(the green diary) in
Vendin-le-Vieil presents
a reconstruction in period
costumes with La Cie du
Scénographe set designers.
Actors and musicians will
help you re-live the daily
life of a village near the
front line. Discover the
Cabaret Rouge, its bars, its
atmosphere, a cinema from
the era and even the Reich
Bank or the Armed Forces
theatre. A parade will take
place in the streets on
Sunday morning.

Free
Opening times :
10am to 6pm.
Place : Place de la Mairie
in Vendin-le-Vieil

Info. : Le carnet Vert –
+33 (0)3 21 67 77 81 –
lecarnetvert@gmail.com

MAJOR EVENTS



19 and 20 September:
LENS AIR SHOW

12 September
at 8.45pm:
**"LE CARNET
SUBLIME" (THE
SUBLIME DIARY)
SOUND AND LIGHT
SHOW**

A tribute to the front line
and its combatants. A show
that will send shivers down
your spine.

Free
Place : Place de la Mairie
in Vendin-le-Vieil
Info. : Le carnet Vert –
+33 (0)3 21 67 77 81 –
lecarnetvert@gmail.com

Based on the theme of
the Battle of Loos, the
Franco-British air show
offers the public more than
6 hours of aerial displays.
It alternatively shows
demonstrations of recent
and collectors' civil and
military aircraft, aerobatics
and patrol flights. The
aerodrome also hosts
entertainment and various
exhibitions and a large
static exhibition of aircraft
is open to the public from
the early morning.

Free
Place : Lens-Benifontaine
Aerodrome.
Parking in the Parc des
Cytises car park

Info. : +33(0)6 09 50 31 52
organisation@meeting-air-
lens.com –
www.meeting-air-lens.com

EXPOSITIONS



From 21 September to 2 October:
RETROSPECTIVE OF THE YEAR 1915

The Mazingarbe historical committee presents an exhibition tracing the history of the front during 1915. On display in the Dupuich Farm Cultural Space, which sheltered British soldiers quartered there just before the Battle of Loos. You can also discover the numerous graffiti testifying to their presence.

Free
Opening times :
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 1.30pm to 6.30pm and Wednesday/Saturday from 10am to 12am and 1.30pm to 6.30pm.

Place : Dupuich Farm Cultural Space – 3 rue Lefebvre in Mazingarbe
Info. : +33(0)3 21 69 20 90



From 23 September to 9 October:
ARTOIS AT THE HEART OF THE GREAT WAR IN 1915

The exhibition shows the local situation before the battles of Artois, the various military events and commemorates these battles through remembrance sites and the testimony of artist fighters. Military artefacts from the era will bring a sensitive and practical dimension to the exhibition.

Free
Opening times :
Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 6pm and Wednesday from 10am to 12am and 3pm to 6pm.

Place : Le Colisée – rue de Paris in Lens
Info. : +33(0)3 21 69 09 12



26 and 27 September:
THE BATTLE OF LOOS

To commemorate the Centenary, discover this famous battle that has marked our region. Reconstruction sketches will submerge you in the world of that era: the British artillery, the German and Scottish armies, the place of women in the Great War and a reconstructed trench - suitable for young and old alike.

In partnership with Christophe Desenepart and Guy Rifflard, private collectors.

Free
Opening times :
Saturday from 10am to 7pm and Sunday from 10am to 6pm
Place : Centre d'animations jeunesse, rue Brassens in Haisnes
Info. : +33(0)3 21 25 43 43



From 26 September to 1 October:
THE WORK OF THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

This exhibition traces the different work of the Commission in France and all over the world. The history of its creation and those involved on the ground (gardeners, carpenters/cabinetmakers, iron workers, stone engravers etc.). It will be opened on 26 September in the Foyer Omer Caron for the official commemorations and then installed that afternoon in the Loos-en-Gohelle médiathèque.

Free
Opening times :
Tuesday to Friday from 9.30am to 12am and 2pm to 6pm and Saturday from 9.30am to 12am and 2pm to 5.30pm
Place : Médiathèque – Allée de la fosse 15 in Loos-en-Gohelle
Info. : +33(0)3 21 43 23 51



9 and 10 October:
THE BATTLE OF HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT

A vast complex of trenches and underground shelters, come and discover the "Hohenzollern Redoubt" through geographical and strategic maps, military papers, letters from soldiers and photos of the village from the German and English side.

In partnership with French and foreign delegations and the Front Schwein association.

Free
Opening times :
from 9am to 6pm
Place : Salle Freddy Paixao Complexe sportif Paul Barrois – rue de Douai in Auchy-les-Mines
Rens : +33(0)3 21 63 02 02

COMMEMORATIONS



25 September
at 4.30pm:
**SAINT MARY'S
CEMETERY
IN HAISNES**

Official commemoration of the beginning of the Battle of Loos in the cemetery where John Kipling lies today, the son of the famous writer Rudyard Kipling (author of *Jungle Book*). Students from the schools in Haisnes will sing songs from the era and read excerpts from war diaries.

D 39 (in the direction of Hulluch-Vermelles) in Haisnes.
Longitude : 2.78906
Latitude : 50.48573

See page 12.

Info. : +33(0)3 21 25 43 43



26 September:
**OFFICIAL
COMMEMORATION
CEREMONY IN
LOOS-EN-GOHELLE**

10am : Assemble at Loos British Cemetery, rue Roger Salengro (see page 8)

10.30am : ceremony begins with the London *Irish Rifles*

11.30am : parade through rues Roger Salengro, Mirabeau, Thiers and Condé to Square de la Paix with a plaque unveiling ceremony by the regiment at 12am

12.45am : parade restarts from rue Condé to Place de la République with a plaque unveiling ceremony on Emilienne Moreau's former home

1.30pm : reception at Foyer Omer Caron with official speeches

Info. : +33(0)3 21 69 88 77

10 October:
**SOLEMN TRIBUTE
TO AUCHY-LES-
MINES**

2pm : parade departs from place Jean Jaurès

The procession will pass by the Monument to the Dead, place Jean Jaurès and then head to the Memorial to the 9th *Scottish Division* and the 46th (*North Midland*) *Division*. The ceremony will end at the Paul Barrois Sports Complex with a speech followed by hymns sung in French and English by the children. The ceremony will close with a toast.

Info. : +33(0)3 21 63 02 02

CONFERENCE

18 September
at 6.30pm:
**THE BATTLE
OF LOOS**

Conference led by Simon Godly and Gilles Payen from the "Loos, Sur les Traces de la Grande Guerre" association. This battle took place on a front 12 km long. The conference will focus on preparations for the battle, as well as the strategy adopted, but also on the use of poison gas by the British, the soldiers' kit, the number of victims, etc. Putting the spotlight on a few personalities will (re)acquaint you with a few great names, such as Alexandre Villedieu and Emilienne Moreau. The conference will conclude with the consequences of this battle.

Free

Place : Ceremonial Hall in the Town Hall – Place de la République in Loos-en-Gohelle
Info. : +33(0)3 21 67 66 66
ou +33(0)6 60 40 06 22



GUIDED TOURS



Le 27 septembre
à 14h30 :
REGARDS SUR LA
LITTÉRATURE DE
GUERRE

Robert Graves, Sassoon ...
autant de poètes qui ont
laissé, par leur plume, des
témoignages poignants sur
la Grande Guerre, qui ré-
sonnent encore aujourd'hui.
C'est une découverte poé-
tique des champs de bataille
que nous vous offrons grâce
au talent de comédiens qui
vous feront partager ces
textes émouvants. En par-
tenariat avec la Compagnie
Les Artisans, de Bruay-La-
Buisnière.
Sites visités : les Monuments
aux morts et cimetière
militaire de Cambrin, le
cimetière Saint Mary ADS à
Haisnes, le Tower Bridge et
le Loos British Cemetery à
Loos-en-Gohelle.

Tarifs : TP 9 €, TR 3 €,
6-12 ans 1€ et free
pour les moins de 6 ans

Circuit en autocar de 3h
RDV : place de la mairie
à Cambrin

Réservations : 03 21 52 50 00
ou 03 21 67 66 66

11 October at 2.30pm:
THE BATTLE
OF LOOS



On 25 September 1915,
the largest offensive
carried out by the British
Army started with the
aim of attacking the
enemy lines north of Lens:
this was the start of the
Battle of Loos. We will
discover the history of
this battle, but also the
sites which recall this
episode of the Great War:
Graffiti from the Dupuich
farm in Mazingarbe, the
*Vermelles British Military
Cemetery, Saint Mary's
ADS Cemetery* where John
Kipling is buried, place de
la République in Loos-en-
Gohelle where there is the
commemorative plaque
to Emilienne Moreau, the
Loos British Cemetery and
Dud Corner memorial and
cemetery.

Prices : Full price €9,
reduced price €3, children
6-12 years €1 and free for
children under 6 years

3 hour coach tour

Meeting Point : place Roger
Salengro in Mazingarbe

Bookings : +33(0)3 21 52 50 00
or +33(0)3 21 67 66 66

27 September
at 10.30am:
REMEMBRANCE
WALK

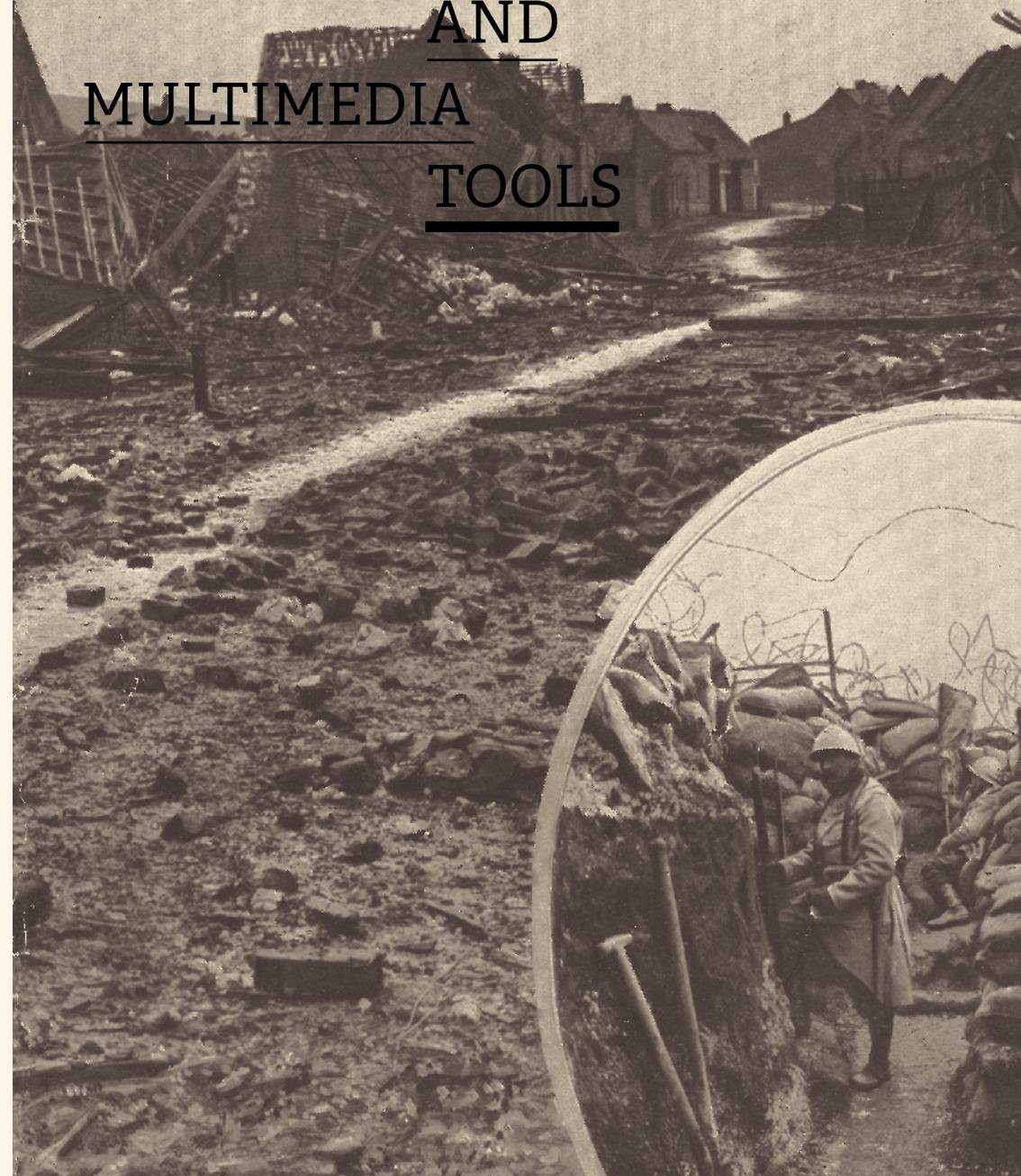
The town of Mazingarbe
and the "Loos, sur les Traces
de la Grande Guerre"
association invite you on a
walk to honour the memory
of the thousands of soldiers
who were quartered in
Mazingarbe from mid
September and who gave
their lives in the Battle of
Loos. Part of the route is on
foot and part is by coach.
Option to visit Dupuich
farm and its graffiti at
9.30am.

Free

Meeting Point : Dupuich
Farm Cultural Space -
3 rue Lefebvre
in Mazingarbe

Booking recommended:
+33(0)3 21 69 20 90

THE REMEMBRANCE TRAILS AND MULTIMEDIA TOOLS



MARKED TRAILS



By bike or car "MAJOR REMEMBRANCE SITES IN ARTOIS" TRAIL

Offered as part of the Nord-Pas de Calais Region Remembrance Trails, this cycle trail of approximately 30 km (3 hours) offers an insight into the sector of the Artois Front and the signs of conflict still visible today in the landscape (cemeteries, memorials etc.).

A short illustrated historical guide, which can be consulted on mobile terminals or downloaded on-line, details the various stages of the trail and recounts, in particular, the battles of the hill of Notre-Dame de Lorette and Vimy Ridge, in 1915 and 1917 respectively.

By bike or car "14-18, A GLOBAL CONFLICT" TOUR

This cycling route which takes 3.5 hours (or 41km) allows you to discover many remembrance sites near Béthune testifying to the great diversity of the nations who fought in the sector between 1914 and 1918. Even today they still show us to what extent this "Great War" was a world war.



Walking route "BÉTHUNE AT THE TIME OF THE ENGLISH"

About fifteen kilometres from the front, throughout the First World War Béthune was an "English town", where streams of servicemen on leave stayed

and numerous regiments were quartered. In hospitals installed in requisitioned colleges they endeavoured to treat the injured brought back from the front. Regularly exposed to bombing, in 1918 Béthune was the victim of an operation to methodically destroy its town centre, when the German offensive started on the Lys on 9 April failed; only the belfry built in the 14th century withstood the "storms of steel". The city benefited from eclectic reconstruction during the 1920s; its Grand-Place, with its front-gabled houses is now a beautiful urban landscape. (Route lasting 2.5 hours, or 4.1km).

These brochures are free and available at the Béthune-Bruay and Lens-Liévin Tourist Offices.

www.remembrancetrails-northernfrance.com



MULTIMEDIA TOOLS



Stories from 14-18 – LENS MINING BASIN

Augustin Berger, a reporter, has been asked to write a book about the four years of war. Throughout whatever evidence still available, we discover Dud Corner cemetery, Vimy Ridge Memorial, Notre-Dame-de-Lorette cemetery or the Lens war Memorial.



Stories from 14-18 – THE GREAT WAR AROUND BÉTHUNE: BETWEEN THE FRONT AND THE REAR OF THE FRONT.

Augustin Berger, conducts an investigation on the western front and takes us to Béthune, a town at the rear of the front, and then to the old Bruay-La-Buissière airfield, to the headquarters of the 1st British Army in Rebreuve-Ranchicourt castle, to the St. Mary's ADS Cemetery in Haisnes where John Kipling lies, the monument to the Tunnellers in Givenchy-lez-la-Bassée and the Portuguese cemetery and the Indian memorial of Richebourg.

Mobile Apps can be downloaded free of charge from the Appstore or on Android.

INFORMATION

BETHUNE-BRUAY REGIONAL TOURIST OFFICE

3 rue Aristide Briand

BP 551

62 411 BETHUNE CEDEX

+33(0)3 21 52 50 00

accueil@tourisme-bethune-bruay.fr

www.tourisme-bethune-bruay.fr

LENS-LIEVIN REGIONAL TOURIST AND HERITAGE OFFICE

58 rue de la gare

62 300 LENS

+33(0)3 21 67 66 66

info@tourisme-lenslievin.fr

www.tourisme-lenslievin.fr

With thanks to:

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