

OLD TONBRIDGIAN SOCIETY



TONBRIDGE  
SCHOOL

# WESTERN FRONT TOUR

## 9 - 11 APRIL 2024



# Itinerary

## Tuesday 9 April

- 0700 Leave Tonbridge from Tonbridge Sports Centre car park by Starline Coach.  
You are welcome to park in that car park for the duration of the trip, please park on the far-right hand side as you enter the car park.  
Continental packed breakfast and packed lunch with wine provided by the School.
- 0830 Comfort break at terminal
- 0950 Le Shuttle crossing
- 1130 Arrive in France (French time). Drive to the Somme area
- 1330 Visits to Newfoundland Park, Thiepval Memorial, La Boisselle crater, Devonshire CWGC, and Albert (for refreshment).
- 1730 Drive to Ypres for overnight two stays at Hotels Ariane and Novotel (please see attached for hotel allocation)
- 2030 Dinner for all at Hotel Ariane

## Wednesday 10 April

- 0830 Breakfast at hotels, followed by walking tour of Ypres
- 0930 St. George's Church
- 1015 In Flanders Fields Museum
- 1130 Coffee in Ypres
- 1200 Menin Gate
- 1300 Lunch in Koklikoo Café, Zonnebeke
- 1400 Tyne Cot
- 1600 Langemarck German cemetery
- 2000 Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate
- 2030 Dinner for all at Hotel Ariane

## Thursday 11 April

- 0830 Breakfast at hotels, then check out Itinerary to be decided on time available and weather, but intended to include some of Grave of Noel Chavasse VC and Bar, Talbot House Poperinghe, Ploegsteert Wood and Memorial, Elzenwalle Brasserie CWGC, Westoutre CWGC, Spanbroekmolen Pool of Peace
- 1330 Lunch Bar Bernard, Watou
- 1515 Depart for Calais
- 1630 Comfort break at terminal
- 1850 Shuttle
- 1930 Return Tonbridge

**Ariane Hotel**  
Slachthuisstraat 58  
8900 Ieper  
België  
+32 57 218 218  
welcome@ariane.be

**Novotel Ieper Centrum**  
**Flanders Fields**  
Sint Jacobsstraat 15  
8900 IEPEL  
BELGIUM  
+32 57 42 96 00  
H3172@accor.com

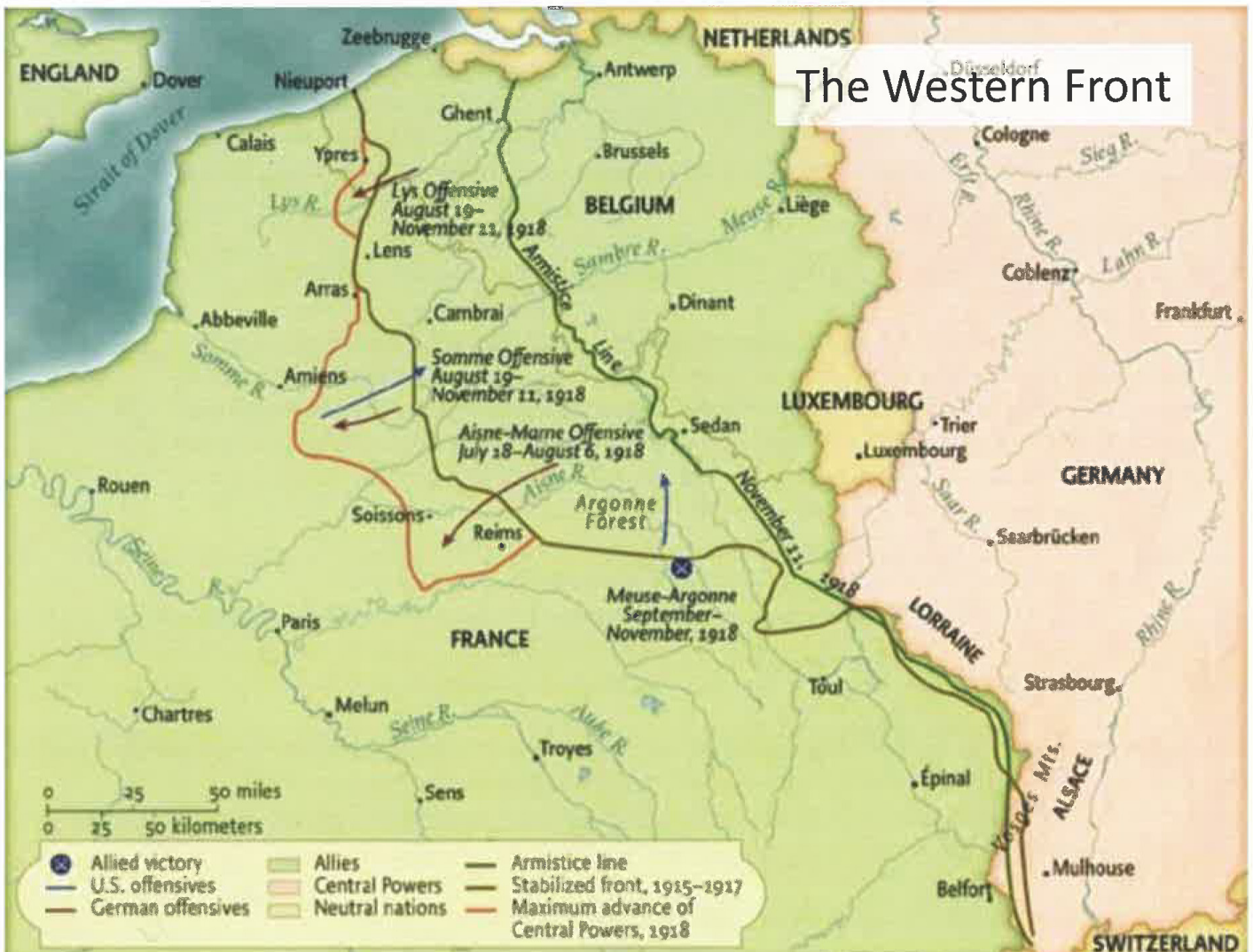


## TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

2215 Old Tonbridgians served on the Western Front and 415 died.

This Old Tonbridgian Tour of the Western Front is being undertaken to commemorate them.

The tour is being led by the President of the OT Society,  
Sir Anthony Seldon and by David Walsh, former Second Master.



## The Touring Party

<b>Name</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Wife/Partner/Guest</b>
<b>Tour Leaders:</b>		
Anthony Seldon	OT President and (HS 67-72)	
David Walsh	OT Vice President	
Jonathan Causer	MH 69-73	
Gerald Corbett	JH 65-70	Virginia Corbett
John Crisp	PH 57-62	Rachel Crisp
Chris de Glanville	FH 63-68	Rod Fraser
Mark Dowsey	PS 76-81	
Andrew Ferry	PS 74-78	
Brian Gibson	FH 63-68	Alison Gibson
Giles Craven	FH 64-68	Beth Craven
Patrick Grice	Sc 71-75	
Andy Grieve	Sc 68-73	Odile Grieve
Peter Grimsditch	MH 64-69	
Peter Hamilton	Sc 64-69	
Chris Hill	FH 69-73	
John Holden	SH 74-79	
Anthony Lipscomb	PH 61-65	Pennie Lipscomb
Robert Lisvane	SH 63-68	Jane Lisvane
Alex Masters	JH 85-86/ WH 87-90	
Mark Nieman	PS 72-76	
Mark Oxley	PH 76-81	
Alasdair Paterson	PS 66-70	
Simon Peck	PH 73-78	
Nick Pointon	WH 84-89	Sarah Pointon
James Priory	Headmaster	
Paul Quincey	WH 74-79	
Charles Rosenmeyer	SH 62-67	Fiona Rosenmeyer
Richard Sankey	PS 83-87	
Nigel Snape	PS 72-76	Angela Snape
Clem Somerset	HS 69-74	
Jonathan Strong	PS 63-67	
Jim Sumerfield	JH 70-73	Penny Sumerfield
Andrew Warrener	SH 70-75	
James Winpenny	FH 01-06	
Nicholas Winpenny	FH 98-03	



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### THE MENIN GATE. YPRES.

LILYWHITE LTD.  
TRIANGLE

UNVEILED AND DEDICATED BY FIELD-MARSHAL LORD PLUMER GCB. GCMG GCVO. GBE.  
JULY 24TH 1927





Sloman and Ironside

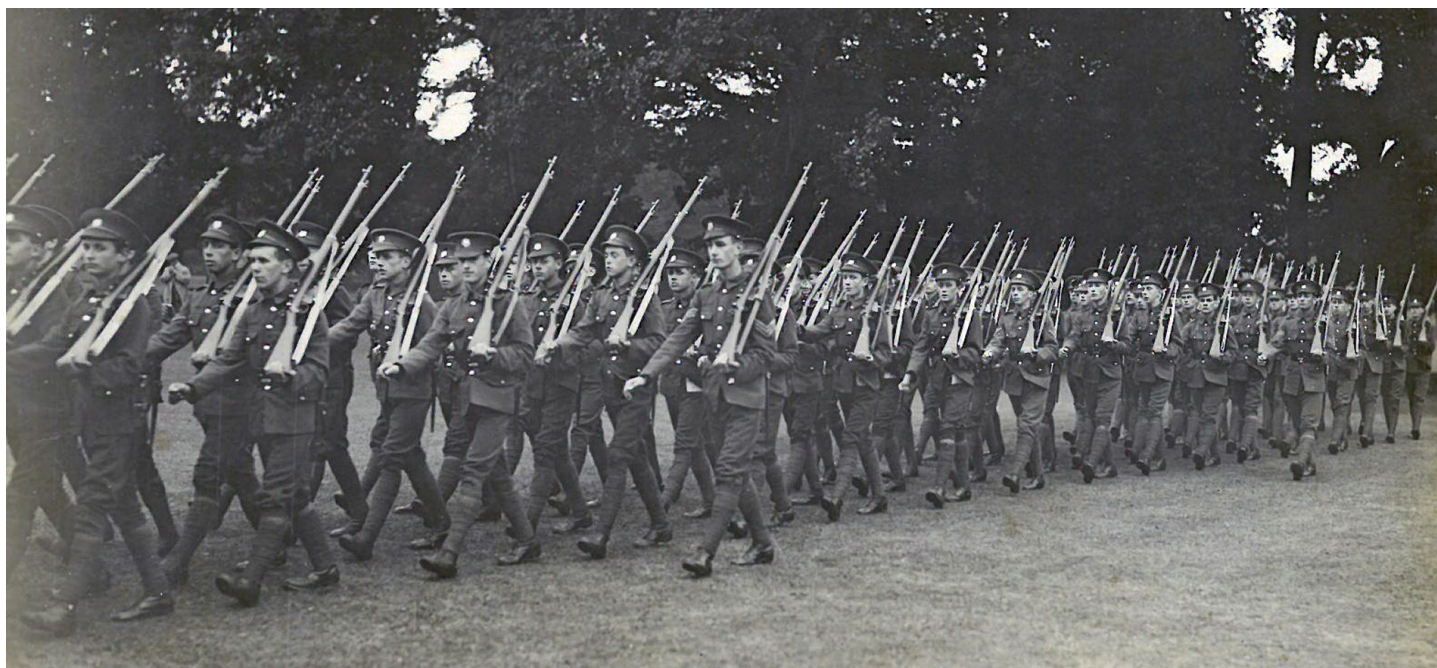


Anthony Hudson holding wreath



Harold Sloman war medals including Military Cross

# OT TRENCHES TRIP 2024 PROGRAMME NOTES



## THE WESTERN FRONT

### General Historical Background

The First World War began in early August 1914. The main protagonists on the one side were the so-called Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary and later Turkey); on the other side were France, Russia, Great Britain, joined in 1915 by Italy and in 1917 by the USA. Although it is now called the 'First World War', contemporaries knew it as 'The Great War', and most of the fighting took place in Europe. Here there were two main areas of fighting – the Eastern Front, where Germany and Austria-Hungary fought Russia, largely in Poland and Galicia, until Russia collapsed into revolution in 1917; and the Western Front.

### The Western Front

The first phase of fighting on the Western Front was fluid. The German Army came close to winning in August 1914, advancing close to Paris and nearly splitting the allied armies, as they were to do in 1940. They were stopped by a French counter-attack on the River Marne in September 1914 and forced to retreat. Both sides then tried to outflank each other, which resulted in a gradual extension of the areas of fighting, north and south. In this phase the British Army (BEF) fought a very costly but successful defensive action in October and November 1914, known as the first battle of Ypres, which prevented a German breakthrough to the important Channel coast around Calais and Boulogne. By now winter was setting in, when attacking became increasingly difficult, and both sides dug in where they stood. This was the beginning of the trench warfare which effectively lasted until mobile warfare returned in March 1918. Between early 1915 and March 1918 the line of the Western Front moved very little, running from the Flanders coast through Belgium into northern France and eventually to the Swiss border.

### Trench Warfare

This is the main characteristic of the war – two sides confronting each other from well prepared positions, occasionally sallying forth on costly and fruitless offensives. It is like medieval siege warfare, except that, instead of building castle walls upwards, fortifications were scooped downwards out of the earth. The strength of trench positions differed enormously, dependent on the

nature of the ground and how active a sector you were in. The best were deep underground shelters, safe from any bombardment, the worst a line of connected shell craters often full of water. Most of the time little happened, the worst problem being simply to survive the conditions. In some places the trenches could be miles apart, in others less than a hundred yards, separated by an area known as 'No Man's Land'. The trench lines went back several miles from the front line into reserve and support trenches, connected by communication trenches, so adding to the sense of an impenetrable fortress. Periodically there would be local attacks and major offensives.

Both sides knew that the war could not be won by just sitting still and there was political pressure on the generals to achieve victory. This was particularly true on the British and French side, where public opinion exerted more pressure on democratic governments. The problem was that these offensives were very costly in human life and achieved little gain of ground. The reason for this is that military technology at the time gave almost all the advantages to the defence. Artillery and machine-guns made No Man's Land a killing ground, barbed wire held up the infantry, generals had no means of communication with their troops in battle and defenders could plug any gaps much faster than attackers could bring fresh troops and guns over ravaged ground.



Not until tanks and aircraft became more useful in 1918 did the nature of warfare begin to change. First World War generals can be criticised for squandering human life on a massive scale, but they were under political pressure to get results and their options were limited by available technology.

### **The British Army in 1914**

Alone among European countries, GB did not have conscription in 1914. The Navy was regarded as more important to our security, and the Army was therefore much smaller than that of any other major European country. Furthermore, a large part of it was concerned with defending the Empire, the biggest contingents being in India and Egypt. When war started the BEF could send only 100,000 men to France, compared with well over a million French and Germans. This 'Regular' Army was to be supplemented by the Territorials and the Special Reserve (part-time soldiers) and then by the million or so Kitchener Volunteers who flocked to join up on the outbreak of war. The problem was that these volunteers or 'New Army' were completely untrained and there was virtually nobody to train them or sufficient uniforms or weapons. Not until late in 1915 did these troops start going to France and the 1916 Somme Offensive was to be their first major battle.

The biggest part of the Army was the infantry, but there were other important supporting arms such as the artillery, engineers, medical services and the fledgling Royal Flying Corps. The regimental organisation of the infantry was local; each county had its own regiment. In our area it was the Royal West Kent Regiment, which in 1914 had three battalions and by 1918 over twenty. There were also more elite units like the Guards and famous Scottish and Irish regiments like the Black Watch. To these must be added the important contributions from the Empire – Australians, Canadians, South Africans, New Zealanders and the Indian Army. A unique feature of the Somme army was the so-called 'Pals Battalions' – groups of friends or work colleagues who had joined up together.

Thus the 11th Bn East Lancs Regt was always known as the 'Accrington Pals' and the 16th Bn Middlesex was the 'Public Schools Battalion'. This was to have tragic consequences in the Somme battle.

### **The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)**

Even before the end of the war, it had been decided that those who fell on the battlefield would be buried there and not returned home. Winston Churchill described the cemeteries as 'a supreme memorial to the efforts and glory of the British Army' and they are hauntingly beautiful places. The work of what was then the Imperial War Graves Commission began in 1917 and the CWGC is still financed by those countries who have war dead there. The French and Belgians handed over land on which cemeteries are built as a free gift. The CWGC has its own excellent website where details of any fatal casualty in either World War can be found.

There are different types of cemetery. The smallest 'battlefield cemeteries', like the Devonshire Cemetery, have men buried where they died with most of them identified. Some graves can be found in French communal cemeteries, and other bigger cemeteries are found where there were Casualty Clearing Stations or hospitals, such as at Etaples on the coast. The largest are known as 'concentration cemeteries' such as Tyne Cot, which have thousands of graves of soldiers brought in from smaller cemeteries or found later on the battlefield. There is often a high proportion of unidentified graves in the concentration cemeteries. Identification was usually made by a tag around the neck or by papers on the body; obviously this became difficult the longer a body remained on the battlefield.

Those killed on the Somme and with no known grave are commemorated by name on the massive Thiepval Memorial, where there are 73,000 names. At Ypres it is the Menin Gate and the Tyne Cot Memorial. All the cemeteries or 'silent cities' are beautifully kept with uniform rows of graves, a Cross of Sacrifice and Stone of Remembrance.



Architects like Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker combined with garden designers like Gertrude Jekyll, and with Rudyard Kipling, to create these evocative places. The headstones, made mostly from Portland limestone, are themselves a wonderful source of history. There are many other memorials, some of them regimental but also individual ones. The symbols of mourning in this country are the Cenotaph in Whitehall, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Westminster Abbey, and the countless local memorials.

### Ypres

Ypres and the Somme are the areas of the Western Front most treasured by the British, and, of these, Ypres could lay claim to being the more important over a longer period. Ypres (or Ieper) in the Middle Ages was one of the wealthiest towns in Flanders (to rival Ghent or Bruges), its wealth based on a flourishing cloth trade. The original Cloth Hall was finished in 1306. Its commercial importance waned but not its strategic importance and it had strong fortifications built by Vauban in the late 17th century. It was fought over many times in wars between France and her European rivals. The ground is low-lying and criss-crossed by watercourses, so that the land floods easily. That and the heavy clay soil means that there is less visible evidence of the effects of war than at the Somme. Ypres itself lies at the base of what should be thought of as a series of shallow saucers, as the ground rises gradually to the east. This area around Ypres to the east and south is where the main fighting took place and is known as the 'Ypres Salient'. Virtually every building you see in Ypres, including the Cloth Hall and the Cathedral, had to be rebuilt after the war, mainly with money from German reparations.

The BEF first came to Ypres in October 1914 during the so-called 'race to the sea' when both armies were trying to outflank each other. The defence of Ypres was the key to command of the vital Channel coast. If Ypres had been lost, it is doubtful if we could have held Calais or Boulogne, both vital to the supply of the BEF. The old Regular Army of about 100,000 men (the 'Old Contemptibles') stood and fought in the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914 and held it against overwhelmingly stronger German forces. In the process Ypres itself, with its lovely medieval buildings including the Cloth Hall, was largely destroyed, as was the original BEF, which suffered close to 90% casualties. In the spring 1915 the Germans resumed their offensive, using poison gas for the first time, and again came close to taking the town. By this time the civilian population had been evacuated and the town and area were under British military control. On 31 July 1917 the British launched a major offensive, known as the Third Battle of Ypres. The object was to free more of the Channel coast from German control, especially the ports of Zeebrugge and Ostend, from which German submarines were operating. This strategic objective became questioned as the offensive bogged down in the Flanders mud and became a long, attritional slog-munch consuming vast numbers of men. The last phase of the battle was the Battle of Passchendaele, a village representing the furthest point of advance when the battle ended in November. Casualties on each side exceeded 260,000 killed, wounded and missing. This was not the end as in 1918 the German Spring Offensive again came very close to capturing the town, and then from July to October the so-called Fourth Battle of Ypres saw another major British offensive to drive the Germans east.

### Ypres after the War

After the war Ypres was completely rebuilt – the Cloth

Hall only being finally finished in 1962. The Grote Markt in which it stands closely resembles that which it held in the 18th century, as most of the houses are externally copies of those destroyed. Vauban's original ramparts, encircling the east and south of the town, largely survived the war. The town is full of memorials to the British Army, especially St George's Memorial Church, which was built in 1928-9 specifically for the British settlement in Ypres and for pilgrims to the Salient. By far the most important memorial is the Menin Gate, designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield, and inaugurated in 1927. The Gate stands at the entrance to the town through which the soldiers trudged out to the Salient along the Menin Road. It bears the names of 54,896 men who died between 1914 and 1917 and have no known grave. Ever since 1927, at 8.00 pm each evening, buglers from the Ypres Fire Brigade play the Last Post.



### Arras

Although less famous than Ypres or the Somme, Arras holds an important place in the British history of the war, linking the battlefields to the south and north. It too has a strategic importance in history and a great Citadel, designed by Vauban. From 1914 to 1916 Arras was a French military sector and Arras suffered a great deal of damage. Just outside it lies the biggest French military cemetery, apart from Verdun, at Notre Dame de Lorette near Souchez. As French casualties mounted at Verdun so the British took over more sectors of the front, and Arras thus became British in 1916. In April 1917 the British Spring Offensive was launched around Arras, with the most notable achievement being the Canadian capture of Vimy Ridge with its command of the surrounding countryside. The offensive gradually petered out as the Germans retreated a few miles east to their prepared fortifications of the Hindenburg Line, but there was further heavy fighting around Arras in 1918.

### The Somme

Amiens and Albert had been captured by the Germans in 1914, but they fell back after the Marne, establishing the trench line across the Somme country which changed little before 1916. In 1914 and 1915 it was a French sector, but the British gradually took it over in the second half of 1915. The River Somme marked the southern boundary of the British sector of the front and it was reckoned at this time to be a quiet area with little danger. Meanwhile the Germans had consolidated their own lines into a formidably strong trench system, occupying most of the high ground. The area of the Somme is rolling chalky downland dotted with small woods and copses, totally unlike the awful marshy ground of Flanders to the north. It will remind some of you of Wiltshire or Hampshire. The base-town of the British sector was Albert, from where a Roman road ran northwards through Pozières and Bapaume, which became the central axis of the British Somme offensive.

The road crossed the front lines at La Boisselle, and to either side the German defensive line ran across the ridges through strongly fortified villages like Beaumont Hamel and Mametz. At an Allied Conference in December 1915, it was decided that the major initiative on the Western Front in 1916 would be a joint Anglo-French attack on either side of the River Somme. This was partly to relieve pressure on the Russians, partly to take advantage of the new British troops now available, but mainly to force back the German line in the hope that a decisive war-winning breakthrough might become possible. Unfortunately, the French part in the battle had to be severely reduced because the Germans attacked them at Verdun in February, threatening the very existence of the French Army. The Somme was therefore to be largely a British battle.

### **The Plan and the Preparation**

The British plan was to attack along a fourteen mile front north of the river Somme. The first wave of the attack would involve fourteen British divisions – about 250,000 men in all – and they were supposed to break through the German defences. The key to success was supposed to be a seven-day artillery bombardment, of a scale never seen before in warfare, to pulverise the German positions and destroy their barbed wire. The infantry would then go ‘over the top’ to occupy the enemy positions. These positions were however exceedingly strong and had been well prepared for nearly two years; they occupied the higher ground and relied also on heavily fortified villages, stretching from Gommecourt in the north to Montauban in the south. The bombardment began on June 24th and continued to zero hour on 1 July. In too many places it failed in its primary task of breaking the enemy wire, through which the British assault waves were to advance. Divisional commanders appear to have known this, but it was too late to change the plans for an offensive on such a scale. By dawn on 1 July the assault troops were ready in the British front line to go over the top; on their backs they carried about 70lbs of equipment, including ammunition, entrenching tools and personal kit. It was a Sunday and about to be a boiling hot summer’s day.

### **1 July 1916**

At 0730 hrs the officers’ whistles blew and the attacking troops clambered up ladders into No Mans Land. It was to become the worst day of British military history, for by nightfall 60,000 of those troops had become casualties and 20,000 were dead, mostly killed in the first few minutes of the attack by German machine-guns. Only opposite Montauban in the south was any ground gained. Elsewhere it was a story of bloody failure. At Beaumont Hamel the 16th Middlesex (Public Schools) suffered 520 casualties, including all but one officer. At Serre, Thiepval, Mametz and La Boisselle the picture was the same, and at Fricourt the 10th West Yorks had 710 casualties, sixty per cent of them fatal. The War Diary of the Newfoundland Regiment recorded: ‘The distance to our objective varied from 650 to 900 yards. The enemy’s fire was effective from the outset but the heaviest casualties occurred on passing through the gaps in our own front wire where the men were mown down in heaps...in spite of losses the survivors steadily advanced until close to the enemy wire by which time very few remained. A few men are believed to have actually succeeded in throwing bombs into the enemy’s trench.’

### **The Rest of the Somme Battle**

You might be forgiven for thinking that 1 July was so costly in human life that the attack would be called off. That did not happen and the Somme did not end until 13 November. What now followed was an attritional battle, in which the

wearing down of the enemy became the main priority – and of course the diversion of his resources from Verdun and the Eastern Front. The main weight of the attack on 1 July had been to the north of the Albert-Bapaume road; now the emphasis was to switch to the south, exploiting the limited success around Montauban and Mametz. The character of the battle became one of British attacks and German counter-attacks, as the enemy desperately fought for every yard. On 14 July and again on 15 September there were major attacks on the German second and third defensive lines, and casualties during this period were very heavy. New names of horror began to appear in the papers, such as Delville Wood, Guillemont, High Wood and Flers, where tanks were used in battle for the first time. Gradually the Germans were pushed back but at a high cost. When Haig finally called off the battle, the Germans had been pushed back about six miles. British casualties numbered 420,000 and the Germans probably more.

### **Somme: Success or Failure?**

The Somme did play an important part in the ultimate Allied victory. The Great War was the first war of the masses and the first proper industrial war. It was never likely to end quickly. Think of it as a heavyweight boxing contest between two roughly equal opponents; sometimes you can win by a quick knockout, as the Germans nearly did in 1914 and were to do in 1940, but usually there has to be a period of wearing down your opponent until you have weakened him to a point where you can win. I am not trying to justify the tactics or the scale of loss, but simply to show that mass war must involve mass casualties. British military losses in WW2 were less than half those of WW1, but we never fought on the same scale; interestingly, when we did, as in Normandy in 1944, casualties, especially among junior officers, exceeded those on the Somme. The German General Ludendorff was in no doubt that the Somme played a decisive part in the German defeat because it wore them down, blunted their future capacity to attack and killed off many of their best soldiers. They did not have the reserves left to fill the gaps. So the Somme was a terrible experience and the commanders can be rightly criticised for being heedless of the cost, but the victories of 1918 were built on the sacrifice of the Somme. Those who fought on the Somme would always be scarred by it. As one survivor wrote in 1976: There can never be another war like the Great War, nor the comradeship and endurance we knew then. I think perhaps men are not made like that now.’

### **PLACES TO VISIT**

#### **SOMME**

The Somme battlefield is very different to Ypres as there has been very little development since 1918, except for a few major roads, and it is easier therefore to imagine the area as it was. The Somme saw the heaviest fighting in 1916 but became a battlefield again in the German offensive of 1918 and the Allied counter-attack. The road from Albert to Bapaume acts as a central axis to the battlefield. To the north of the road lies the Thiepval Memorial and the areas of the highest casualties on 1 July, and the front line here barely changed until the battle ended in November 1916. To the south of the road there was heavy fighting, and some success, on 1 July, but this area saw all the subsequent offensives against the second and third German lines, with names like Delville Wood, Guillemont and Flers emerging as important battlefields.

Sheffield Park is at the northern end of the British front line on 1 July. Only the diversionary attack against Gommecourt is further north.



The park itself is on the site of Mark Copse and you will see here many memorials to the northern 'Pals Battalions', especially the Accrington Pals (11th East Lancs), the Leeds Pals (15th West Yorks) and the Sheffield Pals (12th Yorks and Lancs). All of them attacked the village of Serre across the field from this small copse, where the old front-line trench can still be seen. In the small battlefield cemeteries which surround it virtually all the graves date from 1 July and most are from northern regiments. The Accrington Pals had casualties of 585 out of 800, the Leeds Pals 525 and the Sheffield Pals 515. As you look towards Serre you can see the open field of fire the Germans had, enfilading the Pals from right and left. One epitaph to them read: 'They were two years in the making, ten minutes in the destroying'.

Newfoundland Park is one of the most evocative and much visited places on the Western Front as the battlefield remains much as it was in 1916. The tiny Canadian province of Newfoundland raised a single battalion to help the mother country. On 1 July this battalion was in reserve trenches but was called upon to attack when the leading wave of 1st Essex was stopped by German fire. The Newfoundlanders began to suffer heavy casualties even before they crossed the British front line trench; some managed to get into the German trenches but 26 officers and 658 other ranks became casualties. There is now an impressive visitor centre and it is difficult not to be both proud and saddened by what the Newfoundlanders achieved and endured.

### **Ulster Tower, Connaught and Mill Road CWGC**

This again is sacred ground – for the Irish province of Ulster. Before the war broke out Ireland was close to civil war when the British Liberal government tried to impose Home Rule on the whole of Ireland. The Ulster Protestants, fearing Catholic domination and the break from the British Crown, were prepared to take up arms to prevent Home Rule, forming the Ulster Volunteer Force, and they were politically supported by the British Conservative party. When war came, Home Rule was shelved and the UVF, to demonstrate its loyalty to Britain, volunteered en masse to join the British Army as the 36th (Ulster) Division. On 1 July this division attacked the ground known as the Schwaben Redoubt to the north of Thiepval Wood, enjoying some initial success but ultimate failure.

The old front line is on the edge of the wood just behind Connaught cemetery. To the left is Ulster Tower, a replica of a tower standing at Clondeboye near Belfast, where the division trained; inside are memorials and plaques. After the war the 'blood sacrifice' of young Ulstermen was justified by the decision of successive British governments to allow Ulster to opt out of Irish home rule and that, of course, is still the situation. It is interesting to note that many southern Catholics also joined the British Army, serving in regiments like the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

### **Thiepval Memorial**

This hugely impressive memorial to the missing of the Somme was designed by Lutyens and opened in 1932. It stands on high ground and can be seen across the battlefield. Thiepval was one of the largest villages on the Somme in 1914 with a large chateau on the outskirts but there is little left. Below the memorial is a cemetery with equal numbers of British and French graves. On the Thiepval Memorial are the names of 73,000 men who fell on the Somme and have no known grave, a third more than the Ypres equivalent, the Menin Gate. 21 OTs are commemorated here, double the number on the Menin Gate. Apart from Kenneth Hutchings, mentioned in the OT section, others you might look for are: 2nd Lt Bernard Pigg (FH 1902-7 and Head of School in 1906/7), 10th Worcestershire Rgt, who was killed at La Boisselle on 3 July; and 2nd Lt Arthur Blackden (DB 1911-15), Royal Field Artillery, killed on 28 September near Flers. He was just 18 and had only arrived on the Somme two weeks before. He was the eldest of six sons and two of his brothers were to be killed in the RAF in the Second World War. Thiepval now has a very good visitor centre and shop.

### **Lochnagar Crater**

This huge crater near the village of La Boisselle, the biggest on the Western Front, was formed when a British mine, with 60,000 pounds of ammonal, was blown under the German front line just before zero hour on 1 July, and then occupied by British troops. The crater and lip remain unchanged except for a few small bushes. In the 1970s an Englishman, Richard Dunning, bought the crater, when he heard that it was going to be filled in, preserving it as a trust and memorial to the many Germans and a few British who lie buried beneath it.

### **Devonshire CWGC**

This is another battlefield cemetery started after 1 July and contains about 150 graves, virtually all of them from the 8th and 9th Battalions Devonshire Rgt. They are buried in their front-line trench from which they set out to attack Mametz village across the valley, where they were caught by machine-gun fire. 2nd Lt Harold Rayner (Sc 1904-9) became Head of School in 1908-9, played in the 1st XV, was Captain of Boats and won the top Upper VI prize in 1909. He won a scholarship to Corpus, Oxford and took a 1st in Classics and was president of the Corpus Boat Club.





*Tonbridge OTC marching to the station, Summer 1914*

He went to France in July 1915 with the 9th Devons, surviving hard fighting at Loos. On 1 July he led his company in the first wave of the attack, reaching the third German line before being killed, aged 26. 2nd Lt Robert Davidson (Sc 1899-1902) was a rubber planter in Malaya after leaving school before returning to join the 8th Devons in France in March 1916.

He too was killed in the early stages of the attack, aged 31. On a board outside the cemetery are the words: 'The Devonshires held this trench; the Devonshires hold it still.'

#### **Guillemont Road**

This ground was bitterly fought over between July and September 1916. A main German line ran in a south-easterly direction from Longueval to Guillemont. Attempts were made to take Guillemont in July and August, but not until 3 September did the village fall. The cemetery here contains the body of Raymond Asquith, son of the Prime Minister, who was killed near Ginchy on 15 September while serving in the 3rd Grenadier Guards. He died in an Advanced Dressing Station which stood alongside the cemetery. Off the road towards Guillemont, on a small track which runs along the old German line, is one of the few private memorials on the Western Front, to a 19 year old officer in the Rifle Brigade, George Marsden-Smedley, who had been at Harrow until August 1915. He had only been at the front for about two weeks when he was killed near Guillemont on 18 August. His body was never found (he is named on the Thiepval Memorial) and his family travelled to the area in 1920, bought this plot from a local farmer and erected the memorial with the words: 'lovely and pleasant in life, in death serene and unafraid, most blessed in remembrance'. When the memorial fell into disrepair later generations of the family paid to restore it

#### **Delville Wood Memorial and CWGC**

Delville Wood is the main memorial on the Western Front to South African forces, designed by Sir Herbert Baker and later transformed into a memorial for South Africans in other wars. The South African Brigade cleared Delville Wood of Germans on 14 July and then held it against repeated counter-attacks over the next six days. The fighting was ferocious and at the end of it only three officers and 140 men emerged unscathed from the whole brigade of over three thousand. The cemetery opposite is a large concentration one of over 5000 graves, most brought in after the war from smaller burial places in the fields around.

#### **YPRES**

##### **St. George's Church**

This church was established in the 1920s both as a memorial church but also one which could be used by the large British community in Ypres, most of them working in some capacity for the Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC). It was dedicated in 1929 and is still used today. Old Etonians contributed the funding of the British School, which was established alongside the Church, to commemorate the 342 Etonians who died in the Ypres Salient; the building is now used as a church hall and club house for the Royal British Legion. Every item in the church is a memorial to a school, regiment or other organisation, to which Tonbridge added theirs in 2009, commemorating 62 OTs who were killed in the Ypres Salient.

##### **'In Flanders Fields' Museum**

This is the main museum on this part of the Western Front and is situated in the medieval Cloth Hall, which was rebuilt in the 1920s. It has closed for major refurbishment and is due to re-open in June 2012.

### St. Martin's Cathedral

The original 13th century cathedral was completely destroyed by shelling in the war and then rebuilt. There is little in it specifically relating to the British Army, except a Memorial Plaque on the wall of the north transept and a magnificent Rose Window which is the British Army's memorial to King Albert of Belgium.

### Menin Gate

Although Ypres is full of memorials to the British Army, the Menin Gate is the most important. It was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and officially opened in 1927. It names 54,896 men who died between 1914 and August 1917 and have no known grave. Their names are listed by regiment and rank. The Gate stands at the western edge of Ypres, within the Ramparts along which you can walk. These ramparts are the original fortification of Ypres, built by Vauban for Louis XIV in the late seventeenth century. The poignancy of this place is that the troops marching out to the furthest extent of the Salient would have taken this road out of the town. Ten OTs are commemorated on the Menin Gate. Every evening since 1928 at 8.00 there is a ceremony at the Gate in which buglers, usually from the local fire brigade, blow the Last Post and visiting groups can lay wreaths.

### Zillebeke CWGC

This small cemetery has been likened to an English country churchyard. The majority of the graves date from the 1st Battle of Ypres in October 1914. It has some time been called the 'Aristocrats' cemetery because of the prevalence of officers' graves from titled British families.

### Hill 60

Hill 60 is a piece of ground on the Messines Ridge across which there was much heavy fighting. The hill is artificial, formed of spoil heaps from the railway cutting, and its importance is its height and the views it gave over Ypres and the Salient. In April 1915 the British blew five mines here and took the hill, but were driven off weeks later. It became a site of much mining and counter-mining in 1916 and 1917 before the British re-took it in July 1917. The Germans then recaptured it in March 1918 and held it until September. The site has been left undisturbed and contains many bodies of both sides.



### Sanctuary Wood, Hooge and the Bellewaerde Ridge

This area was the scene of particularly fierce fighting in 1915, occupying as it does a key strategic point across the Menin Road. Of particular note was the German 'liquid fire' attack on 30 July 1915, the first use of flame-throwers



to support an infantry attack, which overwhelmed the 8th and 9th Rifle Brigade battalions. Sidney Woodroffe won a posthumous VC, aged only 19 – six months before he had been Marlborough's Senior Prefect. Other casualties of this attack were a former Marlborough teacher, Keith Rae, and Gilbert Talbot, Wykehamist son of the Bishop of Winchester.

### Tyne Cot

This is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world. Originally 'Tyne Cot' was a German bunker in their defensive line below the Passchendaele ridge, the highest point of the Salient. On 4 Oct 1917 Australians captured the bunker and used it as an advanced dressing station, about 300 dead being buried around it. After the war it became a concentration cemetery for the area and there are now 11,500 graves, the majority unknown. Along the back wall is a Memorial to the Missing, containing the names of 35,000 soldiers, killed after 16 Aug 1917 and with no known grave. The design of the cemetery is by Sir Herbert Baker (OT) and there eight OTs commemorated on the memorial wall.

### Talbot House, Poperinghe

Talbot House, known as 'Toc H', was founded in 1915 by two army chaplains, Neville Talbot and 'Tubby' Clayton. Their idea was to create a haven for men passing to and from the front, including library, cinema, notice boards and a chapel. It was named after Gilbert Talbot, Neville's brother, who was killed at Hooge on 30 July 1915 and is buried in Sanctuary Wood. Here officers and men mingled freely – 'abandon rank all ye who enter'. It has now become a museum.

### Westoutre CWGC

Westoutre British cemetery lies south-west of Ypres and contains 175 graves. One of them is that of that of the only Tonbridge VC of the Great War, Major Eric Dougall (DB 1899) of the Royal Field Artillery. He won the award for conspicuous gallantry during the German offensive in April 1918 and was killed four days later.

### Ploegsteert Wood and Memorial

This memorial commemorates more than 11,000 soldiers who died in this sector and have no known grave. Most did not die in major battles but in the day-to-day attrition characterising this part of the front. Ploegsteert Wood was a contested sector continuously from late 1914 until 1918. Just across the road from the memorial is the grave of Ronnie Poulton-Palmer, one of England's most famous rugby internationals and captain of England against Scotland in March 1914, the last pre-war international. The Scottish captain, F H Turner was also killed in 1915 not far from here.

# OLD TONBRIDGIANS IN THE 1914-1918 WAR

## Henry Stokoe and 'Tonbridge School and the Great War'

Henry Stokoe bought Park House in 1890, joining the staff at the same time. In those days separate fees were payable for tuition (to the School) and boarding (to the housemaster), and housemasters owned their houses. PH had been opened in 1867, the first house outside the school grounds. It is rumoured that Stokoe sent a telegram to the Headmaster, Joseph Wood, saying 'I have purchased Park House and will be joining your staff next term'. He was to remain housemaster until 1931 when he retired from the staff.

From the start of the war, when numbers in the School were about 430, Stokoe set himself to keep track of all Tonbridge boys serving. Every night he pored over newspapers to seek news not just of casualties but promotions and awards; he recorded these meticulously in notebooks and produced regular 'war lists' which were published in The Tonbridgian. By the end of 1914 sixteen had been killed, a relatively small number reflecting the fact that Tonbridge did not send many into the professional forces. Much worse was to follow as the battles of 1915 unfolded, including the death of his elder son (see below). By the time the war ended 415 had been killed, over 40 of them boys in PH when he was housemaster. It is hard to imagine the sense of grief in a school as every week new names would be read out in Chapel. Nine died on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Somme.

After the war Stokoe became the Common Room representative on the War Memorial Fund, established in 1917 to commemorate the dead. The Fund financed scholarships for sons of those who had died, a memorial in Chapel, known as 'The Gate of Remembrance', and a book 'Tonbridge School and the Great War'. The compilation and editing were done by Stokoe, a labour of love for him in memory of his son and all those others he had known. It is a prodigious work of record-keeping and research with biographies and photos of all the dead, but also the full service records of all 2225 who served. In his introduction Stokoe wrote: 'It is hoped that in its future generations of Tonbridgians will find inspiration to serve their country'. Little did he know how soon that would be. Stokoe died in February 1942 in East Horsley, and is buried, with his wife, in Tonbridge Cemetery off the Shipbourne Road.

## Menin Gate

**Lieutenant Henry Poland (HS 1906-10)** served in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and was killed in action on Hill 60 on 18 April 1915, aged 22. Brought up in Sunny Bank, The Drive, Sevenoaks, he is remembered as a good runner and very interested in natural history, keeping his own aviary. He left school in 1910 to continue his education abroad and then joined his father in business. He had been serving before the war in the Inns of Court OTC and was therefore quickly commissioned in August 1914, reaching the front in December. He was one of the officers who led the charge to take Hill 60 on 17 April 1915, and then survived three counter-attacks that night, but was killed the following day repelling another German counter-attack. His body was never found and probably lies beneath Hill 60.

## Tyne Cot Memorial

**The Reverend Guy Bryan-Brown (DB and Sc 1899-1904)** served on the Canterbury Battalion, New Zealand Forces and was killed in action while helping the wounded near Ypres on 4 October 1917, aged 32.

He came from St. Andrews prep school in Southborough and had a very successful school career. Head of School House, he was in the Cricket XI, won a classics scholarship to Downing, Cambridge and was a hockey blue. Ordained in 1908 he became Chaplain of Glenalmond and then in 1913 went to New Zealand as Chaplain of Christ's College. He volunteered for the army as a Chaplain to the Forces and sailed for England in early 1917, reaching the front with his New Zealand troops in May. In the latter stages of 3rd Ypres he was instantly killed by a shell while attending to the wounded outside a regimental aid post and buried near where he fell.



*Captain Bertram Stokoe (PH 1908-13)*

## Elzenwalle Brasserie CWGC

**Captain Bertram Stokoe (PH 1908-13)** served in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was accidentally killed near St. Eloi on 12 October 1915, aged 21. His mother, who died in 1912, came from the well-known Hubbard family of Tonbridge, and his father was housemaster of PH. Head of PH, he went to Oriel, Oxford, in 1913 and gained a golf blue, playing off plus one. He left Oxford to apply for a commission when war broke out and reached the front in May 1915. He endured some heavy fighting round Hoogle in September, writing home: 'Don't worry about me. I shall pull through somehow'. On 12 October he was in the front line trenches when he was killed by a British rifle grenade hitting and exploding on the British trench parapet.

## Westoutre CWGC

**Major Eric Dougall VC MC (DB 1899-1905)** served in the Royal Field Artillery and was killed in action on Mount Kemmel on 14 April 1918, aged 32. Coming from Grove House prep school in Tunbridge Wells, he was a school prae, a Judd Leaving Exhibitioner and a scholar of Pembroke, Cambridge, where he read Natural science and won an athletics blue. He worked as an engineer in Liverpool and then Bombay, coming home in late 1915 to enlist. He saw his first action on the Somme in July 1916, saw action all through 1917 and won the MC at Messines in June 1917. In the German offensive beginning on 21 March 1918 his battery was in continual action and he won the VC on 10 April at Messines. The citation referred to 'most conspicuous bravery and skilful leadership when in command of his battery'. Four days later he was killed by a shell on Mount Kemmel.



Major Eric Dougall VC MC (DB 1899-1905)

**Thiepval Memorial**

**Lieutenant Kenneth Hutchings (MH 1897-1902)** served in the King's Liverpool Regiment and was killed in action at Ginchy on the Somme on 3 September 1916, aged 33. Hutchings lived in Southborough and is one of the best cricketers Tonbridge has produced. A regular in the Kent XI from 1903 until 1911 as an amateur, making twenty-two centuries in first class cricket, he made 126 for England against Australia at Melbourne in 1907. He was also renowned as a superb fielder. When war broke out, he was in business in Liverpool and joined the local regiment, going out to France in April 1915. In the heavy fighting round Guillemont and Ginchy he was killed by machine-gun fire, while leading an attack, and his body was never recovered.

**One who survived**

It is all too easy to focus on those who died in the war and forget that the majority who served did survive, though in many cases at considerable cost to their future physical and mental well-being. One survivor will suffice for the rest, giving a good insight into what 'war service' meant. Charles Pillman (Sc 1904-8) won 18 caps for England rugby 1910-14. Volunteering for military service, he was commissioned into the Royal Dragoon Guards on 5 August 1914. Reaching the front in September 1915, he took part in the Battles of Loos, the Somme, Arras, Cambrai (where he won the MC), the German offensive of 1918 and the final Allied advance, all without a scratch. Returning to civilian life as a flour importer in London, he had three sons at Tonbridge, one of whom, Charles, captained the successful 1st XV in 1939. Both Charles and his second son Robert joined the 4th RDG in their turn. Preparing for the D-Day invasion Robert was playing golf with his brother on the Dorset coast in April 1944 when he trod on a forgotten British landmine and was killed. Charles landed on Gold Beach on D-Day in his Sherman tank but later that day was killed inland by a shell fired by a British cruiser. Charles senior might therefore have survived 1914-18 intact but he was not to be spared again.



Lieutenant Kenneth Hutchings (MH 1897-1902)

**Lord's Ground.**

**CLIFTON v. TONBRIDGE.**  
 MONDAY & TUESDAY, JULY 27, 28, 1914. (Two-day Match.)

TONBRIDGE.						CLIFTON.					
First Innings.						First Innings.					
1 R. Sherwell	b Morgan	0	b Whitehead	2		1 G. W. E. Whitehead (Capt.)	hit wicket, b Man	78			
2 N. Boucher	b Gardiner	0	1 b w, b Whitehead	32		2 A. F. Bickmore	c Newcomb, b Lovelace	25			
3 C. K. Tester	c and b Morgan	0	c Whitehead, b Hodgk'son	25		3 D. C. James	b Lovelace	15			
4 R. D. Lovelace	b Morgan	6	b Morgan	17		4 G. F. Briggs	b Clarke	8	not out	3	
5 S. T. S. Clarke	b Whitehead	11	b Morgan	7		5 S. B. Morgan	b Man	40			
6 G. P. Hedges	b Morgan	0	1 b w, b Whitehead	20		6 E. H. McKay	b Newcomb	8	not out	13	
7 F. C. Man	c Whitehead, b Morgan	10	b Hodgkinson	42		7 T. C. M. Taterer	b Man	2	b Bingham	10	
8 G. V. Thompson	1 b w, b Whitehead	6	run out	18		8 G. C. Hodgkinson	b Man	0			
9 H. V. Wilson	not out	1	c Whitehead, b Gardiner	6		9 B. H. Bevan-Petman	b Man	27			
10 F. Newcomb	b Morgan	0	not out	20		10 W. R. Gardiner	b Man	29			
11 E. S. Bingham	c Taterer, b Whitehead	4	b Morgan	27		11 R. B. C. Kennedy	not out	4			
	B 8, 1-b 7, w 1, n-b 1	17	B 22, 1-b 3, w , n-b 1	26			B 26, 1-b 3, w 1, n-b 3	30	B 1-b , w 1, n-b 1	2	
	Total	55	Total	242			Total	266	Total	33	

**FALL OF THE WICKETS.**

TONBRIDGE.						CLIFTON.					
1-0	2-1	3-1	4-23	5-27	6-27	7-46	8-50	9-50	10-55		
1-8	2-26	3-59	4-63	5-95	6-130	7-171	8-197	9-231	10-242		

**ANALYSIS OF BOWLING.**

Name.	1st Innings.						2nd Innings.					
	O.	M.	R.	W.	Wd.	N-b.	O.	M.	R.	W.	Wd.	N-b.
Morgan	13	9	18	6	...	...	21.4	3	85	3	...	...
Gardiner	5	2	11	1	1	1	10	4	27	1	...	...
Whitehead	7.5	3	9	3	...	...	25	4	70	3	...	1
Hodgkinson	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	11	94	2	...	...

**FALL OF THE WICKETS.**

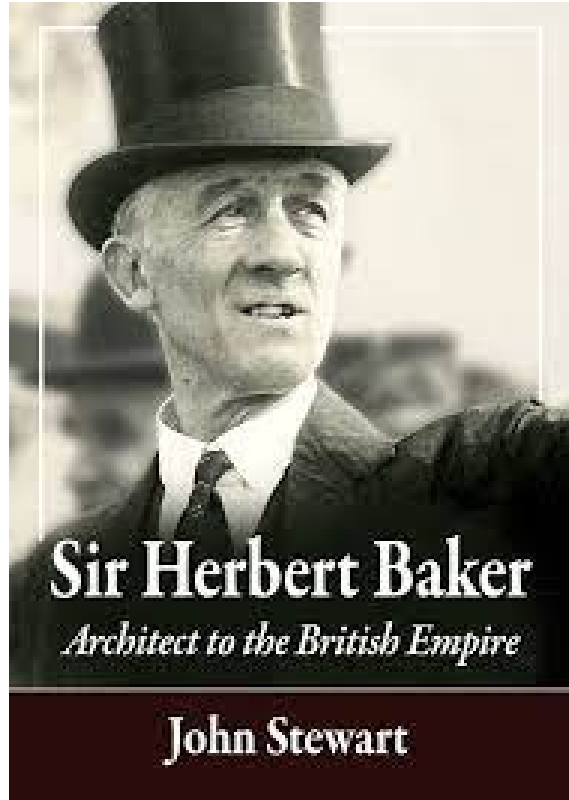
TONBRIDGE.						CLIFTON.					
1-18	2-118	3-133	4-190	5-199	6-201	7-201	8-201	9-261	10-266		
1-18	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-10		

**ANALYSIS OF BOWLING.**

Name.	1st Innings.						2nd Innings.					
	O.	M.	R.	W.	Wd.	N-b.	O.	M.	R.	W.	Wd.	N-b.
Bingham	18	4	48	0	...	...	5	1	18	1	1	...
Man	26.2	10	51	6	...	...	3	1	8	0	...	...
Clarke	14	1	52	1	...	...	3.1	0	7	0	...	1
Newcomb	11	5	25	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lovelace	12	1	60	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Umpires—Moss and Wainwright. Scorers—G. G. Hearne and Mignon.  
 Play commences at 11 each day.  
 \*\* The figures on the Scoring Board show the Batman in

## SIR HERBERT BAKER AND THE GREAT WAR



Herbert Baker was born at Owletts, Cobham in Kent, the son of a gentleman farmer. He came to Tonbridge in 1875 as a boarder in Judde House, leaving in 1881. He gave up classics in his final year and spent the time on maths and mechanics, after deciding to be an architect. His final headmaster's report stated that he could have done better but for his absorption in games. He was a formidable games player, with four years in the 1st XI cricket and two years in the 1st XV, captaining both.

He began training in architecture in London and then went out to South Africa. A chance meeting with Cecil Rhodes led to a commission for Rhodes' Cape Town residence at Grootte Schuur and this brought Baker an avalanche of work in South Africa. He developed a style which fused the Arts and Crafts of his English training with Cape Dutch colonial architecture and the baroque style of Wren and Hawksmoor. His buildings included the Rhodes Memorial on the side of Table Mountain and the Union Buildings in Pretoria finished in 1909 to house the new post Boer War government.

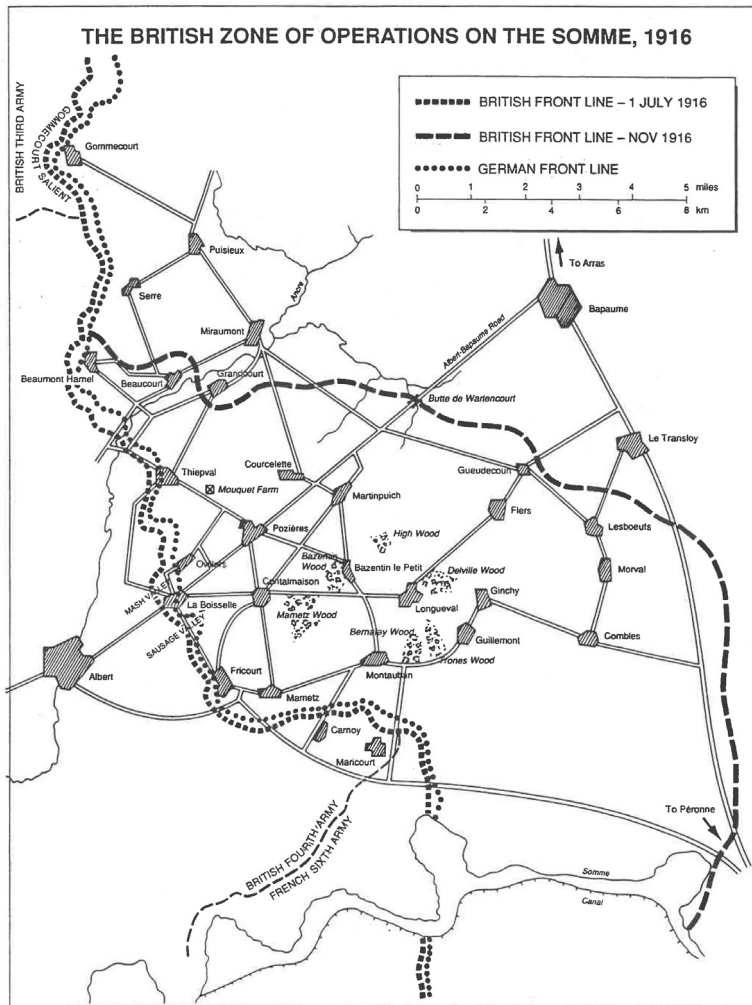
In 1912 he left South Africa and began a long collaboration with his friend Sir Edwin Lutyens. Their first commission was the design, lasting from 1913 to 1931, of government buildings in New Delhi, including the Parliament and the Viceroy's House. The intention was to produce buildings on the grandest possible scale to reassert the claims of British imperial supremacy at a time when demands for home rule were gathering pace. Baker's main contributions, the Secretariat buildings and the Legislative building with its central colonnade and domed hall symbolizing a united India, are a fine part of the imperial centre of the city. Back home in England in the 1920s he was active in transposing this grand imperial style on to the design of India House and South Africa House in London, and Rhodes House in Oxford.

In 1917 he was asked by Sir Fabian Ware, head of the newly created Imperial War Graves Commission, to work with Lutyens on memorials and cemeteries of the Great War. Baker supervised the construction of over one hundred cemeteries and memorials in France and Belgium, including personal responsibility for Tyne Cot cemetery near Ypres, the South African Memorial at Delville Wood, and the Indian Memorial at Neuve Chapelle. He especially welcomed his involvement in this last one, which enshrined the names of those Indian soldiers who fell in France with no known grave. It consists of a circular green space, surrounded by a high stone wall with an Asoka column at its centre, guarded by sculptured tigers. He also designed several school memorials, including War Cloister at Winchester, which he regarded as his masterpiece.

His last great commission was the new building for the Bank of England. This has met with a mixed reception, partly because of the loss of Sir John Soane's earlier Bank building. He also designed a memorial garden for Lord Harris at Lord's cricket ground, reflecting his continuing interest in the game here and in Kent. He retired to Owletts, his family home in Kent, which he gave to the National Trust in 1937. He was knighted in 1926 and died in 1946. Baker is perhaps the most significant artistic figure in the history of the School, and it is a pity that none of his work can be found at Tonbridge.

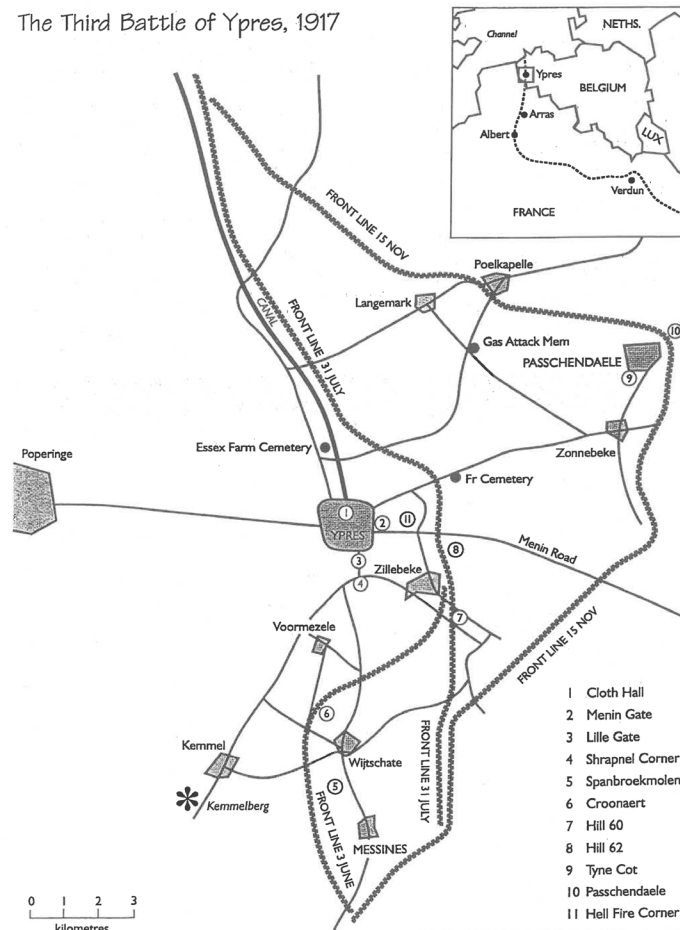


*South African Memorial at Delville Wood*



## The Ypres Salient

The Third Battle of Ypres, 1917



# SOME SOLDIERS SONGS AND CHORUSES

## TIPPERARY

It's a long way to Tipperary, it's a long way to go;  
It's a long way to Tipperary, to the sweetest girl I know.  
Farewell Piccadilly, Farewell Leicester square,  
It's a long way to Tipperary, but my heart's right there

## GOODBYEE

Brother Bertie went away to do his bit the other day,  
With a smile on his lips and his lieutenant's pips on his  
shoulder bright and gay.  
As the train pulled out he said: 'remember me to all the  
birds'  
Then he wagged his paw and went away to war, shouting  
out these pathetic words  
(Chorus) Goodbye, goodbye, wipe the tear baby dear from  
your eye  
Though it's hard to part, I know, I'll be tickled to death to go.  
Don't cryee, don't sighee, there's a silver lining in the skyee,  
Bonsoir old thing, cheerio, chin chin, napoo, toodle-oo,  
goodbye

## MADEMOISELLE FROM ARMENTIERES

Mademoiselle from Armentieres, parlez-vous,  
Mademoiselle from Armentieres, same to you  
Who was the girl who lost her sheep, through singing this  
chorus in her sleep,  
Mademoiselle from Armentieres  
Who was it tied his kilts with string, to stop em from doing  
the highland fling  
Mademoiselle from Armentieres

## WE ARE FRED KARNO'S ARMY (Tune – the Church's one foundation)

We are Fred Karno's Army, the ragtime infantry. We cannot  
fight, we cannot shoot,  
What bleeding use are we?  
And when we get to Berlin, the Kaiser he will say  
Hoch, hoch, mein Gott, what a bloody rotten lot are the  
ragtime infantry

## JOE SOAP'S ARMY (Onward Christian Soldiers)

Forward Joe Soap's army, marching without fear  
With our old commander safely in the rear  
He boasts and skites from morn till night  
And think's he's very brave  
But the men who really did the job are dead and in their  
grave

## GASSED

Gassed last night and gassed the night before  
Going to get gassed tonight if we never get gassed  
anymore.  
When we're gassed, we're sick as we can be  
Cos phosgene and mustard gas is much too much for me.  
They're warning us, they're warning us, one respirator for  
the four of us.  
Thank your lucky stars that three of us can run, so one of  
us can use it all alone

Bombed last night and bombed the night before  
Going to get bombed tonight if we never get bombed  
anymore.

When we're bombed, we're scared as we can be.  
God strafe the bombing planes from over Germany.  
They're over us, they're over us, one shell hole for just the  
four of us.  
Thank your lucky stars there are no more of us,  
Cos one of us could fill it all alone,

## THE OLD BATTALION

If you want to find the old battalion,  
I know where they are, I know where they are, I know where  
they are  
If you want to find the old battalion,  
I know where they are, they're hanging on the old barbed  
wire.  
I've seen them, I've seen them, hanging on the old barbed  
wire.  
I've seen them, I've seen them, hanging on the old barbed  
wire

## THE BELLS OF HELL

The bells of hell go ting-a-ling-a-ling for you but not for me.  
For me the angels sing-a-ling-a-ling for you but not for me.  
Oh! Death where is thy sting-a-ling-a-ling, oh grave thy  
victory  
The bells of hell go ting-a-ling-a-ling for you but not for me

## NO MORE SOLDIERING FOR ME (What a friend I have in Jesus)

When this rotten war is over, no more soldiering for me.  
When I get my civvy clothes on, oh how happy I shall be.  
No more church parades on Sunday, no more putting in for  
leave.  
I shall kiss the sergeant-major, how I'll miss him, how he'll  
grieve

## KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING

They were summoned from the hillside, they were called in  
from the glen  
And the country found them ready at the stirring call for  
men.  
Let no tears add to their hardship, as the soldiers pass  
along  
And although your heart is breaking, make it sing this  
cheery song  
(Chorus) Keep the home fires burning, while your hearts are  
yearning  
Though your lads are far away, they dream of home.  
There's a silver lining, through the dark cloud shining  
Turn the dark cloud inside out till the boys come home

## KEEP RIGHT ON TO THE END OF THE ROAD

(Harry Lauder song in memory of his son, killed on the  
Somme)  
Every road through life is a long, long road, filled with joy  
and sorrows too.  
As you journey on, how your heart will yearn for the things  
most dear to you.  
With wealth and love tis so, but onward we must go

(Chorus) Keep right on to the end of the road, keep right on  
to the end  
Though the way be long, let your heart be strong, keep right  
on round the bend.  
Though you're tired and weary, still journey on, till you come  
to your happy abode.  
Where all you love, you'll be dreaming of, will be there at the  
end of the road

With a big stout heart to a long steep hill, we may get there  
with a smile  
With a good kind thought and an end in view, we may cut  
short many a mile,  
So let courage every day be your guiding star always

