

SIRMOOR BATTLEFIELD TOUR OF THE WESTERN FRONT
22-28 SEPTEMBER 2018

To mark the centenary of the end of WWI the Sirmoor Club is going on a battlefield tour of the Western Front with particular emphasis on Neuve Chapelle, a Regimental Battle Honour, but also the surrounding battles that involved Gurkhas.

ITINERARY

The outline itinerary is below. A detailed programme will be produced once the Tour Party is confirmed and bookings made.

Day One (22 Sep 18)

Travel to Ypres/Ieper (Own steam or Eurostar – see below)
Lecture ‘The causes of the First World War’
Hotel in Ypres.

Day Two (23 Sep 18)

Tour of the Ypres salient including First and Second Battles of Ypres 1914 and 1915 (1 and 4 GR). Lunch in Ypres

Attend last post ceremony at the Menin Gate. Hotel in Ypres.

Day Three (24 Sep 18)

The Battle of Messines Ridge and the Third Battle of Ypres (1917). Lunch in Ypres. Hotel in Ypres.

Day Four (25 Sep 18)

The First Battle of Neuve Chapelle 1914 (2, 8 & 9 GR)
Pack Lunch
The Second Battle of Neuve Chapelle 1915 (2, 3, 8, 9 GR)
Hotel in Albert/Arras/Amiens (TBC)

Day Five (26 Sep 18)

The Battles of the Somme 1, 1916
Lunch in Auchenvilliers
Hotel as for Day Four.

Day Six (27 Sep 18)

The Battle of the Somme 2, 1916 (Indian Cavalry)
Lunch in Auchenvilliers
Hotel as for Days Four and Five.

Day Seven (28 Sep 18)

Return to UK via Vimy Ridge (Canadian attack 1917). Lille to Euston by Eurostar.

TRANSPORT

The Tour Party will travel by Eurostar from Euston to Lille and return. A coach will transfer from Lille to the hotel in Ypres and remain with the Tour Party throughout the tour. Those who wish to travel independently to Ypres and thence with the Tour Party coach will be able to do so, but they must **declare this in advance** when returning the Booking Form.

ACCOMMODATION

It is proposed that the Tour Party accommodation will be Bed & Breakfast in moderately priced, good and comfortable hotels – not too cheap & cheerful but not too expensive. Dinner will not be included in the cost so people may choose to eat in the hotel or elsewhere. Lunch will be taken locally during the tour, except a pack lunch will be provided for day four at Neuve Chapelle.

TOUR ADMINISTRATION

The Tour Guide will be Major Gordon Corrigan MBE. The Tour Organiser (i.e., the company arranging the tour - responsible for booking hotels, transport and general administration) is appropriately called Battle Honours Ltd.

COST

The cost will be £1,350.00 per person. This includes travel by Eurostar, 6 nights hotel B&B accommodation, the coach and driver, the Tour Guide, as well as one Pack Lunch for the trip to Neuve Chapelle. For those wishing to make their own way to Ypres, the cost will be £1,250. There will be a £200 single supplement.

A deposit of £100 per person will be required with the Booking Form – see below.

BOOKING

All those wishing to go on this battlefield tour are asked to complete the Booking Form attached and send it, **with a £100 deposit per person**, direct to:

Battle Honours Ltd
Suite L
Astonbury Farm Business Park
Aston
HERTFORDSHIRE
SG2 7EG

The closing date for bookings is 28 February 2018. As this is the centenary year of the end of WWI hotels need to be booked early.