



WW1 Veteran Harry Patch was “the last fighting Tommy” to survive the trenches. He fought at Passchendaele in 1917. He died in 2009, aged 111. He remembered all those who lost their lives, German and allied troops. He said “Irrespective of the uniforms we wore we were all victims.”



Here dead we lie
because we did not choose
to live and shame the land
from which we sprung.
Life, to be sure,
is nothing much to lose,
but young men think it is,
and we were young.

A. E. Houseman



Five mammoth battles took place in the area around the town of Ypres, known as the Salient. By the end of the war, the town was flattened. Its countryside was a morass of mud, craters and tree stumps. Only this one corner of Belgium remained unconquered.

First Battle November 1914: tremendous loss on the British side.

Second Battle Spring 1915: chlorine gas released by the Germans into the trenches. Ypres was one of the first places where chemical warfare was used.

Third Battle Summer Autumn 1917: an offensive by the allied troops for Passchendaele Ridge - half a million casualties on all sides.

Fourth Battle Spring 1918: The Battle of the Lys German attempt to crush the Ypres Salient.

Fifth Battle September 1918: reinforcements support the break out of the Ypres Salient.

November 1918: signing of the Armistice.

The city was gradually rebuilt with reparation payments from Germany. The spectacular medieval Cloth Hall and St Martin's Cathedral, were completed in the 1960s.

Today, in addition to the cemeteries and museums, visitors to this charming city will find nice restaurants, tearooms, chocolatiers and beer shops.



EAST GRINSTEAD CHORAL SOCIETY

Trip to Ypres 1 - 3 June 2018



Designed by the English architect Sir Reginald Blomfield, The Menin Gate has been standing in Ypres (Flemish name Ieper) since 1928. The Last Post Association stages a ceremony there every evening at 20:00. Traffic stops while members of the local Fire Brigade sound the Last Post under its arches. The memorial bears the names of more than 50,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who fell in the Ypres Salient and who have no known grave. The daily tribute is conducted in their honour. It is our privilege to take part in this centenary year, following our visit in 2014.

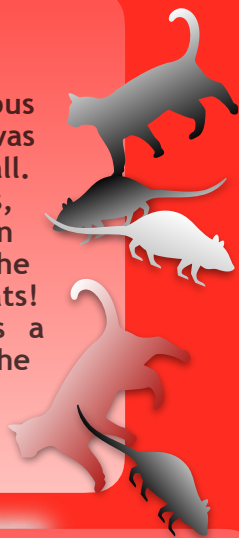


“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them”.

Laurence Binyon

In the Middle Ages

Ypres was a prosperous wool city. The wool was stored in the Cloth Hall. This attracted rodents, so cats were brought in to solve the problem. The result - too many cats! Legend has it that as a means of pest control, the unfortunate creatures were thrown from the hall tower.

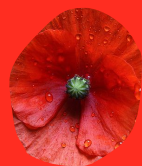


The magnificent Cloth Hall, which houses the Flanders Field Museum



St Martin's Cathedral where EGCS will sing Mass

St George's Church, built in memory of the British who died in Flanders



Cost Per Person £215

Single Room Supplement £ 85

Included in the price

Pre-tour bonus rehearsal Tuesday 29 May

Return travel by coach/Eurotunnel

Optional visit by coach to cemeteries

Singing at the Last Post Ceremony

Singing Mass in St Martin's Cathedral

Mass: Schubert Mass in G

Other Music: EGCS repertoire and "Choral Classics"

Musical Direction: Richard Jenkinson

Accompaniment: Christopher Harris

2 Nights' Ensuite Accommodation with Buffet Breakfast

Saturday Evening Group Dinner

Novotel, Ypres, short walking distance from the Cloth Hall, Menin Gate, Cathedral and St George's Church. Lift to all rooms with: TV, free wifi, kettle, fridge, hair dryer.



ITINERARY

Coach/Eurotunnel Crossing

Timings, apart from EG departure, the Last Post Ceremony and Mass, are approximate

DEPART EG	FRIDAY	08:00
JUBILEE CENTRE	01 JUNE	
ARRIVE YPRES	FRIDAY	16:00
REHEARSAL AT NOVOTEL	FRIDAY	17:30
LAST POST CEREMONY (OPTIONAL)		20:00
VISIT TO WAR CEMETERIES (OPTIONAL)	SATURDAY	10:00 -12:00
	02 JUNE	
REHEARSAL	SATURDAY	15:00
ST MARTIN'S CATHEDRAL		
BRIEF WARM-UP FOR LAST POST CEREMONY NOVOTEL	SATURDAY	19:00
LAST POST CEREMONY	SATURDAY	20:00 -20:30
GROUP DINNER NOVOTEL	SATURDAY	21:00
REHEARSAL	SUNDAY	09:30
CATHEDRAL	03 JUNE	
MASS		10:30
DEPART YPRES	SUNDAY	16:00
ARRIVE EG	SUNDAY	22:00