



B. G. S. OLD BRADFORDIANS ASSOCIATION INC. O.B. LONDON CLUB VISIT TO THE WESTERN FRONT 9TH-14TH SEPTEMBER 2018

Your guide will be Nick Hooper, former Head of History at B.G.S. and researcher/author for the B.G.S Remembrance project.

This visit will be structured around some of the places where Old Bradfordians saw significant action during the First World War in addition to some of the major monuments and places of interest on the British part of the Western Front.

INCLUDES:

- Luxury coach travel with London pick up point [Ashford]
- Return ferry crossing Dover-Calais
- En-suite bedrooms with TV and tea/coffee making facilities
- 3 nights bed and breakfast in centre of Arras (Holiday Inn), 2 nights in centre of Ypres (Novotel)
- Entrances and expert guide

A valid passport, travel insurance and European Health Card are required.

Price per person sharing a twin/double room £532

Price per person single room £746

Minimum of 20 passengers

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ITINERARY

The meals provided will be breakfast at the hotels. There is a wide selection of restaurants in the centres of Arras and Ypres. Lunch stops will be arranged – where there are options, decisions will need to be booked in advance.

Day One	Sunday 9th September 2018 Outward travel
06.00	Depart Burley-in-Wharfedale
	Pick ups in Shipley and Bradford
t.b.c.	Pick up Ashford International Station
13.00-14.00	P & O Ferry Dover –Calais – clocks advance 1 hour
17.00-18.00	Arrive Holiday Inn, Arras
	Evening meal at choice of restaurants in Arras Grande Place/Place des Heros

Timings during the day will be flexible

Day Two	Monday 10th September Visit to the Somme Battlefield
	Breakfast at Hotel
09.00	Depart Arras for Serre
09.45	Bradford Pals Memorial (unveiled November 2016 with contribution from B.G.S. and O.B.A.) – placing of wreath Nearby cemeteries include the graves of several O.B.s e.g. Serre Road No.1(site of the attack by the 1st and 2nd Bradford and the Leeds Pals at 7.30 am on 1st July 1916), Serre Road No.2, Railway Hollow, Euston Road and Sucrerie
11.00	Newfoundland Parc Memorial, Beaumont Hamel – an opportunity to walk across the battlefield of 1916, where on 1st July the Newfoundland Battalion attacked. (Toilets, Visitors' Interpretation Centre)
12.30	Lunch at 'Ocean Villas', Auchonvillers (http://www.avrilwilliams.eu/) (booked in advance – to be paid for)
14.00	Ulster Tower , Connaught Cemetery and Mill Road Cemetery – the site of attacks by 49 th West Riding Territorial Division, including B.G.S. O.B.s, on 1 st July and 3 rd September 1916
15.00	Thiepval Memorial to the Missing (a short walk from the Interpretation Centre and Museum where there are toilets). 21 OBs are commemorated on this monument
En route	Lonsdale Cemetery, grave of Arthur Kenneth Bloomer O.B. (this is an easy walk from the Memorial) Blighty Valley Cemetery, Authuille, graves of Frank Matthewman and Samuel Balme Naylor O.B.s
16.30	Lochnagar Crater , La Boisselle: a big hole in the ground, mine crater exploded on 1 st July 1916
Evening	Meal in Arras

We will endeavour to visit graves of family members and it may be possible to include other places of interest and graves of O.B.s if you give me advance notice

Day Three	Tuesday 11th September Around Arras
	Breakfast at hotel
09.00	Depart for visit to Commonwealth War Graves Commission workshops, Beaurains – it is little known that the founder of the I.W.G.C. taught at B.G.S. at the start of his career
p.m.	Cimetiere Nationale Notre-Dame de Lorette There are 40,000 French dead here, a memorial chapel and Pharos. There is a small museum, a stretch of preserved battlefield (1915), toilets and a café for lunch . A recent addition is the Anneau Memoriale on whose panels are engraved the names of all French, German and British dead known to be buried in the Pas-de-Calais department.
	Vimy Memorial – Interpretation Centre – trenches/craters – underground visit to the subways - 2 OBs on Memorial.
	Cimetiere militaire Allemand Neuville-St-Vaast. There are 44,000 Germans buried here. There are around 10,000 crosses – an arresting sight.
	Arras Memorial – There are 9 OBs on the memorial and 9 scattered singly in cemeteries around Arras.
Evening	Evening meal in Arras

Day Four	Wednesday 12th September North to Ypres (Ieper)
	Breakfast at hotel – load coach
09.00	Depart Arras
	Memorial to the Indian Missing, La Bombe, Neuve Chapelle The 49th West Riding Division held the line here in its early weeks in France, Spring 1915 and came into contact with the Indian Division remembered here. Nearby is the Portuguese Military Cemetery.
	Vieille Chapelle New Military Cemetery burial place of Bradford Pals Arthur Wild and Herbert Crimmins, ‘shot at dawn’ 5th September 1916
	Lunch in Poperinge
14.00	‘Toch’, Talbot House , Poperinge. ‘Everyman’s Club’ founded by Tubby Clayton; Chapel; museum; Concert Party video
	Lijssenthoek Cemetery . One of the main cemeteries for the group of Casualty Clearing Stations which clustered around Remy Siding, 10,000 graves, including those of 2 OBs, the Yorkshire nurse Nelly Spindler, British, Empire, French, German, American and Chinese Labour Corps casualties, and my great-grandfather’s brother
	Brandhoek Cemetery , grave of Noel Chavasse, V.C and Bar, the only double V.C. of the First World War, a relative of former B.G.S. Head Boy Tom Foster-Carter.
17.30	Check-in to Novotel, Ypres/Ieper centre
	Evening meal in Ypres
19.30 20.00	Assemble for Menin Gate Last Post service at 8pm, you are advised to be in place no later than 7.30. We will arrange for a wreath to be laid tonight or tomorrow night

Day Five	Thursday 13th September Passchendaele and Ypres
	Breakfast at hotel
09.00	Depart for Essex Farm , 49 th West Riding Division Memorial, 2 OBs, site of ‘Flanders’ Fields’ McRae’s dressing station
10.30	Tyne Cot Cemetery , 9 OBs on memorial, 11,000 graves in the largest British military cemetery. A good place to consider 3rd Battle of Ypres 1917, in particular 49 th Division attack on 9 th October. Drive via Passendael , to
12.30	Hooge Crater Café/Museum for luncheon (O.B. Aubrey Clarke is in the cemetery)
14.00	Hill 62 Sanctuary Wood Trench Museum . The last of the trench museums which preserve part of the landscape, an amazing collection of WW1 ‘stuff’, recently extended. Toilets, café
15.30	Time to wander around Ypres (Cloth Hall, In Flanders’ Fields Museum, Cathedral, St. George’s Chapel)
	Evening meal in Ypres
20.00	Menin Gate Last Post ceremony

Day Six	Friday 14th September Back to Dear Old Blighty
	Breakfast in hotel, load coach
t.b.c.	Calais-Dover ferry – clocks go back 1 hour
t.b.c.	Drop off at Ashford
	Arrive Bradford



In order for our planning to proceed we need to be sure that there is sufficient interest. If you would like to take a place on the tour and wish us to reserve a place for you in the party, I would be grateful if you would email Nhooper1956@googlemail.com before Christmas. You will need to make a deposit payment to Dalesman for £50 for each booking – I will provide details.

