

YPRES TRIP 2014

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The day started early, with both buses leaving just after five, it was a quick journey to the Eurotunnel as night turned into day. After a brief stop before boarding, our drivers safely got us aboard the train leaving us with 35 minutes to spare until we could drive out onto French soil.

Stop 1-Tyne Cot British Cemetery

Our first visit of the day involved spending around 40 minutes at Tyne Cot Cemetery. It is the largest Commonwealth cemetery of any war in the world with around 11,908 graves, many unknown. Some of us were looking for particular names, others to show their respect. Next, we moved on to another cemetery, one very different from the pristine, idyllic Tyne Cot.

Stop 2-Langemark German Cemetery

It is the only German military cemetery outside Germany; although much smaller and far less pretty than Tyne Cot, it honours over 23,092 more bodies than Tyne Cot. We spent around 15-20 minutes here, and then it was time for a visit to Ypres, a short drive away.

Stop 3-Ypres town

The Belgian town of Ypres has a somewhat happy atmosphere (slightly different from our previous stops) yet is still packed full of history. This visit included the In Flanders Field Museum and of course the CHOCOLATES at the Leonidas Chocolate Shop, where we received a brilliant deal from the owners, a deal that no one could resist. After everyone had enjoyed a wander around the shops and the town square, we met at the fountain to visit the In Flanders Field Museum. The museum itself gave all of us a deeper insight in the Ypres conflict, outlining the heavy losses on both sides and the huge impact it had on the war.

Stop 4-Hooge Crater Museum

It was just a short visit here, but a lot was crammed in. Firstly, each of the eight groups entered the museum at 2 minute intervals. The museum itself contained a vast array of WW1 military uniforms, weapons and historical displays. It was also in here that we could spend our Euros on various souvenirs including bullets and grenades found in the area.

Boarding the ferry at Calais brought such a brilliant trip to an end. It wasn't just the students who were exhausted either. We all had a hot meal and either rested or wandered around the ferry; most did the latter. I spent the majority of the time above deck watching the north coast of France slowly disappear. Although, I did not forget to look and in the souvenir shop! Just over two hours later we were back at school; sleep on everyone's mind!

Stop 5-Hill 62/Sanctuary Wood Museum

We finished the trip with a more practical activity, a walk through a genuine British trench. Being careful not to be caught by the barbed wire, we slowly walked through a mud-filled trench and tunnels (which were pitch black). Not only did we marvel over the realisation that soldiers lived in such cramped conditions, but also at the sight of Mrs Pugsley attempting to jump over a puddle with a 'soggy' result. After, changing into clean footwear, we boarded the coach and re-joined bus 2 at Calais.

IN
REMEMBRANCE

ALWAYS

THEIR NAME LIVETH
FOR EVERMORE