



RÉGION  
Nord-Pas de Calais

NORTHERN  
FRANCE

# The Remembrance Trails 14 - 18



## 4 Trails

Discover the sites  
and events  
of the Great War.



NORD  
PAS DE CALAIS



*Paix Frieden Peace*





# Editorials

The First World War Remembrance Trails in Northern France are the fruit of a vast programme initiated by the Regional Council to honour the sacrifice made by previous generations who fought to ensure that peace, freedom and a sense of fraternity would one day reign over Europe.

Far from being backward-looking and nostalgic, this initiative is proof of our concern for the world of today and provides us with much to reflect upon as we build the world of tomorrow.

**Mr Daniel PERCHERON**  
Senator for Pas-de-Calais  
Chairman of Nord-Pas-de-Calais  
Regional Council

Two world wars have conferred upon the region of Nord-Pas-de-Calais a wealth of heritage in the form of military cemeteries, war memorials and archaeological remains. This heritage is the silent and poignant reminder of the events which shaped these conflicts.

The purpose of the First World War Remembrance Trails in Northern France is to provide the public with an insight into some of the major events of world history and to pay tribute to the men and women from around the globe who made the ultimate sacrifice.

**Mrs Régine SPLINGARD**  
Regional councillor  
Chairwoman of Nord-Pas-de-Calais  
Regional Tourist Board

*Paix, Frieden, Peace*

# Contents

The First World War Remembrance Trails take in the sites and memorials which encapsulate the momentous events that took place in Northern France at the beginning of the last century. Behind the peaceful beauty of every site lies the gripping story of a soldier, a regiment, a battle or a place.

This brochure provides historical and practical information about thirty-six major sites which can be found on four easy-to-follow trails. Follow the Remembrance Trails and discover how the conflicts of the 20th century marked the region of Nord-Pas-de-Calais.



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# The Western Front



By late 1914 both sides had lost all hope of a rapid victory. The French and British Armies found themselves pitted against their German counterparts along a line which stretched nearly 800 kilometres across France from the Belgian coast to the Swiss border. A long war of position and attrition had begun.

The Western Front ran like a scar across the countryside of Northern France between the historical provinces of Flanders and Picardy. After a number of minor operations in the Artois Hills, the French Army handed over to British troops in 1915. The following years saw an increase in military activity with major offensives at Arras in April 1917 and Cambrai six months later.

Today, the numerous military cemeteries which punctuate the region are testament to the fierceness of these battles, the provenance of the men who fought them, and the miserable conditions soldiers of both sides endured in the trenches.



P. Morès

## Ypres – In Flanders Fields Museum 1

### The Ypres Salient

In October 1914 the Western Front stabilized several kilometres from Ypres, creating a salient in the German line. Five battles of the Great War, involving troops from all over the world, centred on the rich Flemish city of Ypres. Today the city's famous Cloth Hall, destroyed during the war and since rebuilt, is home to the "In Flanders Fields" Museum which tells the story of the First World War through the eyes of a soldier and a civilian of the period.

Lakenhalle (Cloth Hall)  
Grote Markt 34  
8900 IEPER (YPRES)  
BELGIUM  
Tel. +32 (0)57 239220  
www.inlandersfields.be

## Fleurbaix Le Trou Aid Post Cemetery 2

### One of the most beautiful Commonwealth cemeteries

Encircled by a moat and crowned with weeping willows, Le Trou Aid Post Cemetery is one of the most beautiful Commonwealth cemeteries in the region and the last resting place of 356 soldiers who fell on the "Forgotten Front". Although outside the most important strategic areas, the front between Armentières and La Bassée nevertheless saw numerous minor operations which were very costly in terms of human life: Le Maisnil in 1914, Aubers and Loos in 1915, and Fromelles in 1916.

Rue de Pétilion  
62840 FLEURBAIX



A.S. Flament

## Fromelles Australian Memorial Park 3

### "Don't forget me Cobber"

The statue in Memorial Park shows Sergeant Fraser carrying a wounded comrade out of no man's land in the aftermath of the Battle of Fromelles, an operation launched to divert attention away from the major Allied offensive on the Somme. The nineteenth of July 1916 shall ever be remembered in Australia as the day their soldiers first fought in action on European soil during the First World War and one of the country's most tragic episodes which resulted in 5,533 Australian casualties.

Rue Delval  
59249 FROMELLES



E. Roose



A.S. Flament

## Richebourg Neuve-Chapelle Indian Memorial 4

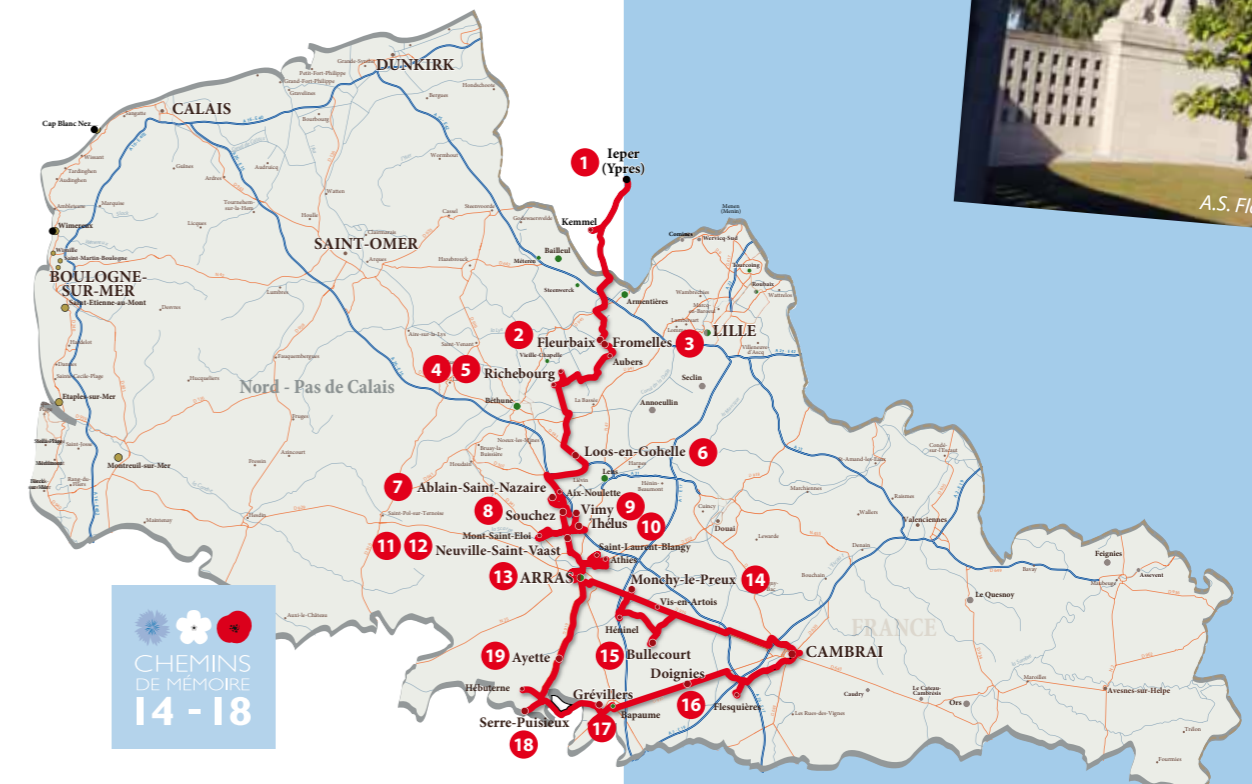
### In honour of the Indian soldiers of the Great War

In October 1914 the British Army in Flanders was reinforced with troops arriving from India who would take part in a number of battles in the region, including the Battle of Neuve-Chapelle (1915) where 4,047 men of the Indian Corps were lost. With its 15-metre high column flanked by two tigers and topped with the Star of India, the Neuve-Chapelle Memorial is the only place of remembrance on the Western Front to commemorate the sacrifice made by Indian soldiers during the Great War.

Crossroads between  
Route d'Estaires and  
Rue du Bois (RD 171)  
62136 RICHEBOURG



A.S. Flament



CHEMINS DE MÉMOIRE  
14-18



## Richebourg – Portuguese National Cemetery 5

**The sole place of remembrance for the Portuguese soldiers of the Great War**

Intent on showing its support for the Allies, the young Portuguese Republic organized an expeditionary force in 1916. Portuguese soldiers were placed under British command and assigned to the front between Laventie and Festubert in French Flanders. On 9 April 1918 the Portuguese suffered numerous casualties during the German offensive on Lys Plain. Richebourg is the only Portuguese war cemetery on the front and the final resting place for the 1,831 Portuguese soldiers who died in 1918.

Route d'Estaires (RD 947)  
62136 RICHEBOURG



A.S. Flament

## Loos-en-Gohelle Dud Corner Cemetery and Loos Memorial 6

**"If any question why we died, tell them, because our fathers lied!"**

Loos Memorial, which encircles Dud Corner Cemetery, immortalizes the names of the 20,000 soldiers of the British Army who have no known grave. Most of these soldiers were killed at the Battle of Loos in late 1915. Among them was the only son of the famous writer Rudyard Kipling. The author of *The Jungle Book* never got over the loss, as can be clearly felt in his *Epitaphs of the War* wherein he wrote the lines, "If any question why we died, Tell them, because our fathers lied".

Route de Béthune (RD 943)  
62750 LOOS-EN-GOHELLE



P. Frutier



S. Dhote

## French National War Cemetery at Notre-Dame de Lorette 7

**The largest french military cemetery**

In May 1915, French troops attempted to wrest control of the Artois Hills from the German Army. They failed at Vimy Ridge but succeeded in retaking

Lorette Spur, at a cost of 102,000 men. Today, the National First World War Cemetery is the final resting place for some 40,000 French troops, including 22,000 unknown soldiers. Lorette Spur is the largest of the French war cemeteries and a poignant reminder of the huge losses sustained by every sector of society during the Great War.

Chemin du Mont de Lorette  
62153 ABLAIN-SAINT-NAZAIRE



P. Frutier

## Souchez Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery 8

**"There's some corner of a foreign field that is for ever England" (Rupert Brooke, in *The Soldier*)**

Before the war there was a house in Souchez named Cabaret Rouge. The house was destroyed with the rest of the village however its name lives on in the war cemetery which was created in 1917 by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to concentrate the graves of the 103 burial grounds in the region. Situated between two war cemeteries, one French and the other German, Cabaret-Rouge Cemetery today contains 7,655 Commonwealth burials of the Great War, more than half of them unidentified.

Rue Carnot  
62153 SOUCHEZ

## Vimy Ridge National Historic Site of Canada 9

**"Modern Canada was born in the trenches of Vimy"**

Canada's monument to her 11,285 soldiers reported lost on French soil during the Great War stands at the heart of a 107-hectare park overlooking the Pas-de-Calais coal basin. Built at the place where, on 10 April 1917, Canadian troops fighting as part of the British Army captured Vimy Ridge, the memorial's white pylons and sculpted figures mark a defining event in the history of Canada.

Chemin des Canadiens  
62580 VIMY  
Tel. +33 (0)322 767086



S. Dhote

## Thélus Lichfield Crater and Zivy Crater 10

**A mine crater for a grave**

United for the first time in a single army corps, the 4 Canadian Divisions of the Allied Army launched an attack on the heavily-defended Vimy Ridge on 9 April 1917. The officer in charge of burials used a mine crater at the foot of the ridge to inter the one hundred soldiers who were killed in the fighting. Today the burial grounds of Lichfield Crater and Zivy Crater are beautifully gardened although they still retain their circular shape, a unique feature among the Commonwealth War Cemeteries.

Lichfield Crater  
Hameau du Vert-Tilleul  
62580 THÉLUS

Zivy Crater  
Road to Neuville-Saint-Vaast  
62580 THÉLUS



P. Frutier

Lichfield Crater



S. Dhote

Memorial to Polish volunteers

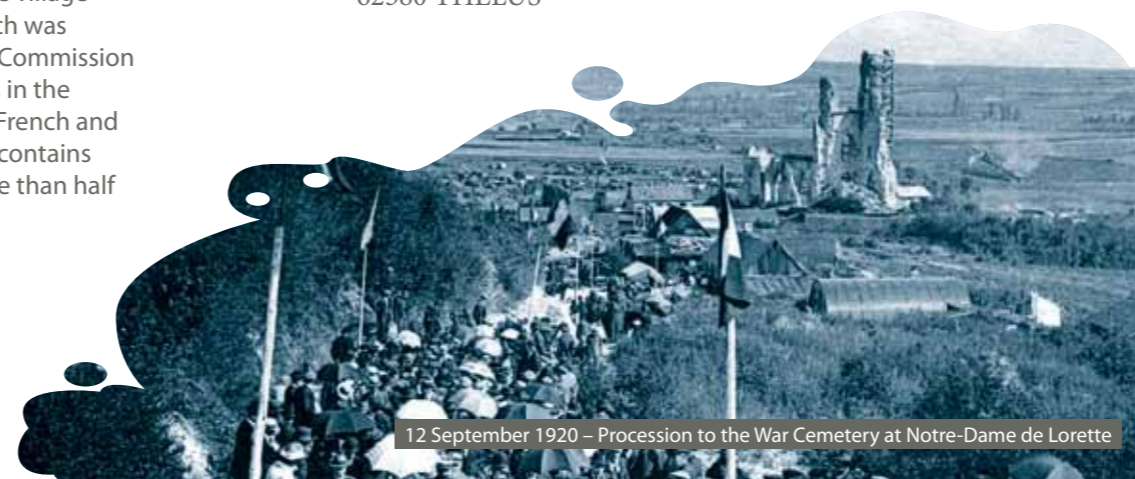
## Neuville-Saint-Vaast Memorial to Polish Volunteers

## Czechoslovak Cemetery and Memorial 11

**"For our freedom and yours"**

Intent on fighting German and Austro-Hungarian rule in their native countries, Czechoslovak and Polish immigrants living in and around Paris at the outbreak of the war were quick to enrol in the French Army and take part in the Second Battle of Artois in May 1915. Standing opposite the memorial to the soldiers of the Nazdar Company which marks the entrance to the Czechoslovak Cemetery, the Polish Memorial bears the motto "Za wolność naszą i waszą" which means "For our freedom and yours".

Road to Souchez (RD 937)  
62580 NEUVILLE-SAINT-VAAST



12 September 1920 – Procession to the War Cemetery at Notre-Dame de Lorette



## Neuville-Saint-Vaast – German War Cemetery at La Maison Blanche 12

“Reconciliation above the graves”

Neuville-Saint-Vaast – German War Cemetery is the largest of its kind in France. Established by the French at the end of the war, the cemetery is the final resting place of 44,833 German soldiers who died in Artois. The German War Graves Commission (Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge – VDK) redesigned the cemetery in the 1970s. A cross at the entrance to the site bears the words, “Peace to men of goodwill”, an aspiration shared by the VDK in their motto, “Reconciliation above the graves”.

Road to Arras (RD 937)  
62580 NEUVILLE-SAINT-VAAST



S. Dhote

## Monchy-le-Preux Newfoundland Memorial 14

**The Caribou of the Newfoundland Regiment**

Close to Monchy-le-Preux Church a bronze caribou stands proudly on the ruins of a German fortified post. On 11 April 1917, during the Battle of Arras, the village of Monchy-le-Preux was held briefly by Allied soldiers until a German counter-attack on 14 April drove them all out except for the brave men of the Newfoundland Regiment who held fast until relief came four hours later. Today the bronze Caribou of Monchy-le-Preux commemorates the courage and bravery of those Newfoundlanders.

Rue de Chaussy  
62118 MONCHY-LE-  
PREUX



S. Dhote



S. Dhote

## Doignies-Louveral Military Cemetery and Cambrai Memorial 16

**A new weapon: the tank**

On the 20 November 1917 the British Army launched an attack on German Lines at Cambrai. This operation was the first of its kind to rely on tanks to support the infantry and in all 476 Mark IVs were used. Initially things went well and the British broke through the Hindenburg Line; however the German counter-attack, which came a few days later, pushed them back. Next to the Louveral Military Cemetery stands a memorial to the 7,000 men of the Commonwealth killed in the Battle of Cambrai.

RD 930  
62147 DOIGNIES



S. Dhote

## Grévillers Military Cemetery and New Zealand Memorial 17

**War and the great flu pandemic of 1918**

The Grévillers Memorial was erected in honour of the 450 soldiers from New Zealand who were killed in action in 1918 but have no known grave. The monument stands in a cemetery which is the last resting place of 2,106 men, many of whom were declared “DOD” (Died of Disease) and probably succumbed to “Spanish Flu”. Between early 1918 and mid 1919 a particularly virulent form of flu spread far and wide as civilians and troops moved around the world, and it probably killed at least 25 million people.

D29  
62450 GRÉVILLERS

## Serre Road – French and Commonwealth War Cemeteries 18

**The battlefield cemeteries**

Although a mere 5 kilometres long, the road which runs from Serre-Puisieux in the department of Pas-de-Calais to Mailly-Maillet in Somme is bordered by no fewer than twelve war cemeteries. The area saw intense fighting in the Great War when the French, in June 1915, and later the British, in July 1916, took on the German Army in the Battle of the Somme. Today this historic landscape is home to the peaceful gardens of the Commonwealth and French War Cemeteries of the Serre Road.

Road from Serre-Puisieux to Mailly-Maillet (RD 919)  
62116 PUISIEUX

## Ayette Indian and Chinese Cemetery 19

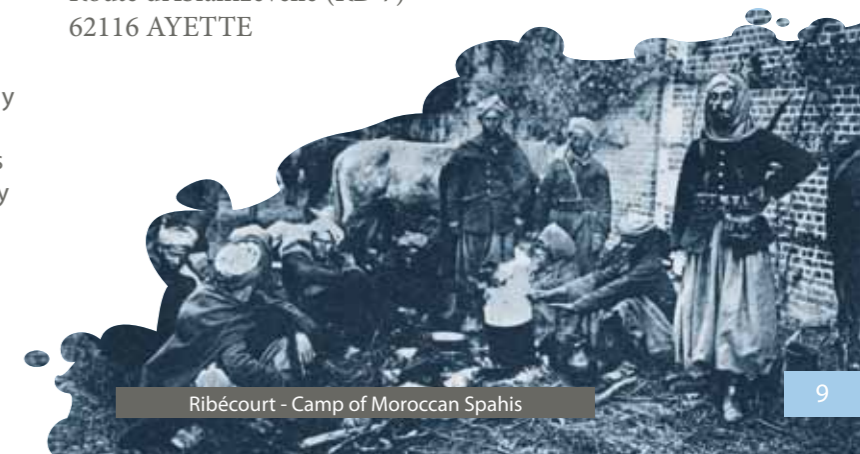
**The Asian Labourers of the Great War in Europe**



S. Dhote

The Ayette Indian and Chinese Cemetery is the final resting place of some eighty Asian labourers who died on the Western Front in Artois and Somme. To make up for a lack of available labour in Europe, the British Army recruited volunteer workers from India and China, but some also came from Egypt and South-Africa. These men carried out manual tasks in the supply bases along the French coast and at the Western Front. In the aftermath of the war many stayed behind to work on rebuilding France.

Route d'Ablainzevelle (RD 7)  
62116 AYETTE



Ribécourt - Camp of Moroccan Spahis

## Bullecourt Australian Memorial Park 15

**The Diggers of Bullecourt**

On 11 April 1917 the British 5<sup>th</sup> Army stormed the village of Bullecourt, an important link in the German defence known as the Hindenburg Line. A second offensive was launched on May 3<sup>rd</sup> but neither of these two operations achieved their objective and the five Australian divisions which took part in the fighting suffered heavy losses, close to 10,000 dead. The Australian Memorial Park in Bullecourt honours those courageous Diggers who lost their lives in these two events of the Battle of Arras.

Digger Memorial  
Rue de Douai (D956)  
62128 BULLECOURT



P. Morès

## Arras – Wellington Quarry 13

**When British soldiers rose from the earth**

On 9 April 1917 the British Army launched a huge surprise attack on the German lines before Arras to divert attention away from the main French offensive which was to take place on Chemin des Dames Road in Aisne. That morning saw 24,000 soldiers flood out from the network of old chalk-quarry tunnels to attack the German defences. Today the tunnels of Wellington Quarry are open to the public and invite the visitor to discover the gripping story of the Battle of Arras.

Rue Delétoille  
62000 ARRAS  
Tel. +33 (0)321 512695  
www.carriere-wellington.com



S. Dhote



# The war of movement and the first German occupation

## 2

On 4 August 1914 the German Army put the Schlieffen Plan into action and launched its troops across Belgium with the ultimate objective of taking Paris. Despite the resistance of the Belgian Army and British and French expeditionary forces, the Germans continued their advance towards the French border which they soon crossed near the town of Maubeuge. After the stalemate of the First Battle of the Marne and the Race to the Sea, the Western Front stabilized and the belligerents dug in. The war of movement had turned into a war of position.

The German Army occupied the territory it had conquered. Local resistance to the new military masters soon developed but was mercilessly suppressed.

The summer of 1918 saw a return to the war of movement. The Allied Armies, placed under the sole command of French Marshal Ferdinand Foch, launched a huge offensive which would break the German lines of defence and lead to the liberation of the occupied territories.



E. Roose

## Monument to the executed of Lille 1

### The Lille Resistance during World War I

The World War I monument in Lille shows the four leaders of the city's Resistance lined up against a wall just moments before their execution by the German Army in the dungeons of the citadel. Along with Léon Trulin, who can be seen lying at their feet, Eugène Jacquet, Georges Maertens, Ernest Deceuninck and Sylvère Verhulst set up a network for communicating information to the Allies about the German occupiers of Lille. They were eventually betrayed and executed on 22 September 1915.

Square Daubenton  
59000 LILLE

## Seclin Fort 2

### The fort which never saw action

Designed by General Séré de Rivières to defend the Belgian border, Seclin Fort is one of nineteen fortifications which were built around the city of Lille after the defeat of 1871. Seclin never saw action because Lille was declared an "open city" on 1 August 1914 and subsequently occupied by the Germans in October later that year. Patiently restored by the Boniface Family since 1996, Seclin Fort is today home to the Artillery Museum.

Chemin du Petit Fort  
59113 SECLIN  
Tel. +33 (0)320 971418  
www.fortseclin.com



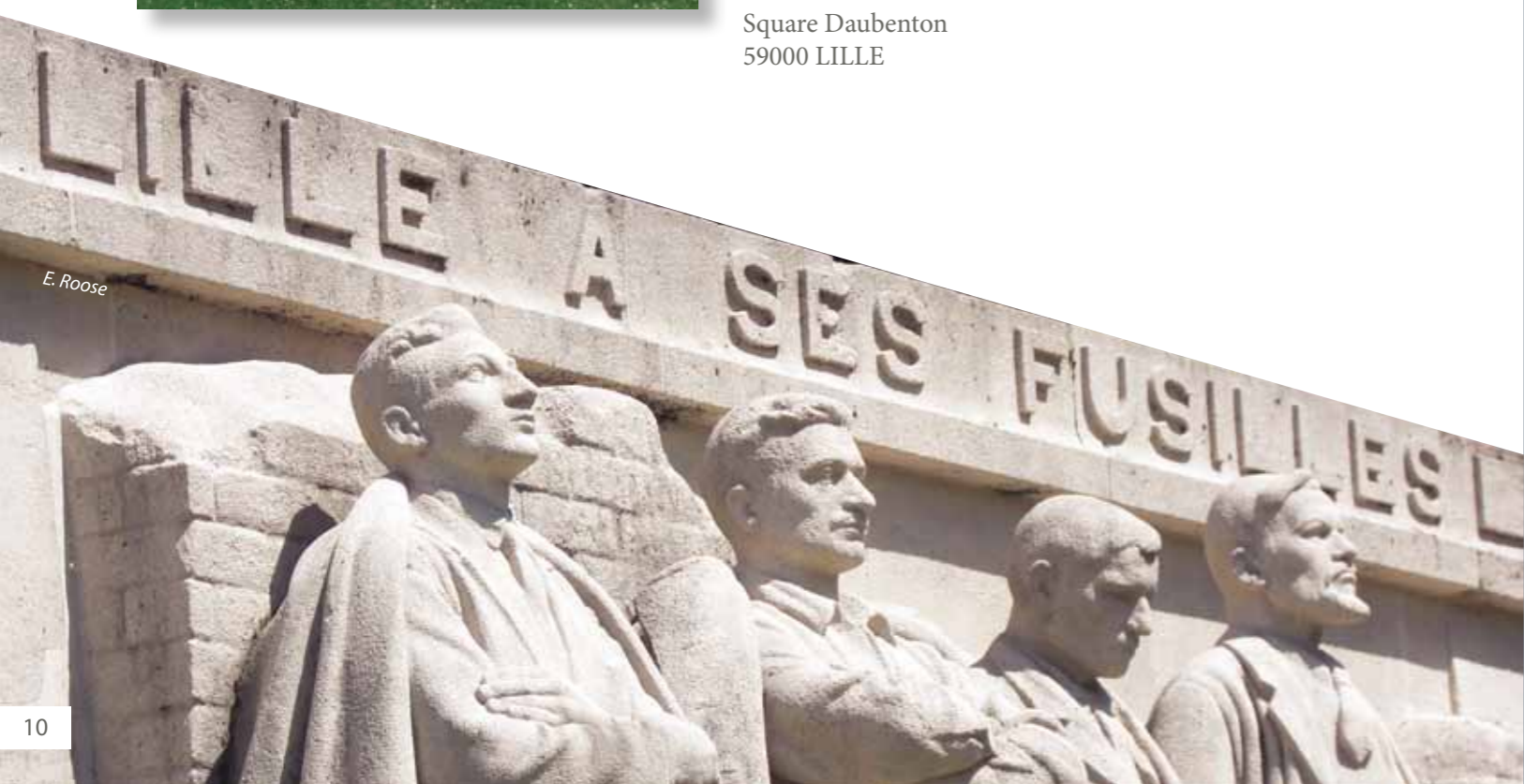
P. Morès



Parade of German troops in Lille main square



CHEMINS DE MÉMOIRE 14-18



E. Roose



## Annoeullin Communal Cemetery German Extension 3

### Here lies Albert Ball, ace of the Royal Flying Corps

Of all the graves in Annoeullin Cemetery one in particular stands out: that of flying ace Albert Ball. Transferred to the Royal Flying Corps in 1916, Ball was the leading Allied ace with 44 victories when, on 7 May 1917, his plane crashed after a battle with the squadron of Lothar Von Richthofen (brother of the *Red Baron*). The Germans claimed a victory while the British cited mechanical failure. Recovered by the people of Annoeullin, the body of Albert Ball was laid to rest with military honours.

Rue du Vent de Bise  
59112 ANNOEULLIN



## Ors Communal Cemetery 4

### The final resting place of the great war poet Wilfred Owen

"What passing bells for these who die as cattle? Only the monstrous anger of the guns", wrote Wilfred Owen in the opening of *Anthem for Doomed Youth*. Like many of the poets of World War I, Owen described the lives of the soldiers in the trenches and denounced the horror of the fighting. He was killed in action on 4 November 1918, as his company tried to cross La Sambre Canal near the village of Ors, and laid to rest in the military section of the local cemetery.

Communal Cemetery  
Rue de la Gare  
59360 ORS



## Le Quesnoy New Zealand Memorial 5

### The Kiwis of Le Quesnoy

On 4 November 1918 the town of Le Quesnoy was liberated by New Zealand troops who scaled the Vauban fortifications using simple wooden ladders. Fastened to the rampart wall, the New Zealand Memorial not only depicts the events of that memorable operation it also shows the Kiwi national emblem: a silver fern. Ninety years on from the Armistice of the First World War, the liberation of Le Quesnoy remains one of the most significant events in the history of the New Zealand Army.

Ramparts (access on Rue Jeanne d'Arc and Avenue des Néo-Zélandais)  
59530 LE QUESNOY

## Feignies – Leveau Fort 6

### The longest siege of the First World War



In the summer of 1914 the German Army marched through Belgium and entered France where they came up against the fortified outworks of Maubeuge. Designed by General Séré de Rivières, they had been built to defend the French border after the defeat of 1871. On 25 August 1914 the Germans surrounded the town in what was to become the longest siege of the war: it lasted a fortnight. Today the museum of Leveau Fort tells the story of Maubeuge during the two world wars.

Rue de Mairieux  
59750 FEIGNIES  
Tel. +33 (0)327 623707  
<http://fortdeleveau.site.voila.fr>



Scottish soldiers in a rear camp



# The Allies' logistics base on the Channel coast

# 3

In 1916 the General Headquarters of the British Army took up residence in the village of Montreuil-sur-Mer which subsequently became the nerve centre of an immense logistics chain stretching along the Channel Coast.

Boulogne-sur-Mer and other Channel ports saw a steady flow of supplies and fresh troops entering France from all over the world. After training, the new recruits were sent to the various sectors of the Western Front under British control, such as Flanders, Artois and Somme. Vast hospital complexes were also set up on the coast to care for the wounded returning from the Front.

## Cap Blanc Nez

### The Dover Patrol Memorial 1

#### The guardians of the Strait of Dover

During the Great War the German Army prosecuted underwater operations against the military and merchant navies of the Allies in an attempt to close the shipping routes between England and France and so deprive the British forces on the Continent of supplies and reinforcements. The Dover Patrol Memorial on the French headland of Cap Blanc-Nez honours "the glorious cooperation of the French and British Navies" whose heroic efforts kept the Strait of Dover open to Allied shipping.

Cap Blanc-Nez  
Sente du Blanc-Nez  
62179 ESCALES



A.S Flament

## Wimereux Communal Cemetery 2

### In Flanders fields the poppies blow...

In Wimereux Cemetery, among the graves of the 3,000 soldiers and nurses who died in the British Army field hospitals, lies the final resting place of Lt-Col John McCrae. A Canadian doctor, McCrae was the author of the famous poem *In Flanders Fields* which he dedicated to those who fell in the Great War. The subsequent popularity of his poem contributed greatly to the poppy being chosen as a symbol of remembrance: "In Flanders fields the poppies blow, Between the crosses, row on row".

Communal Cemetery  
Rue Jean Moulin  
62930 WIMEREUX



A.S Flament



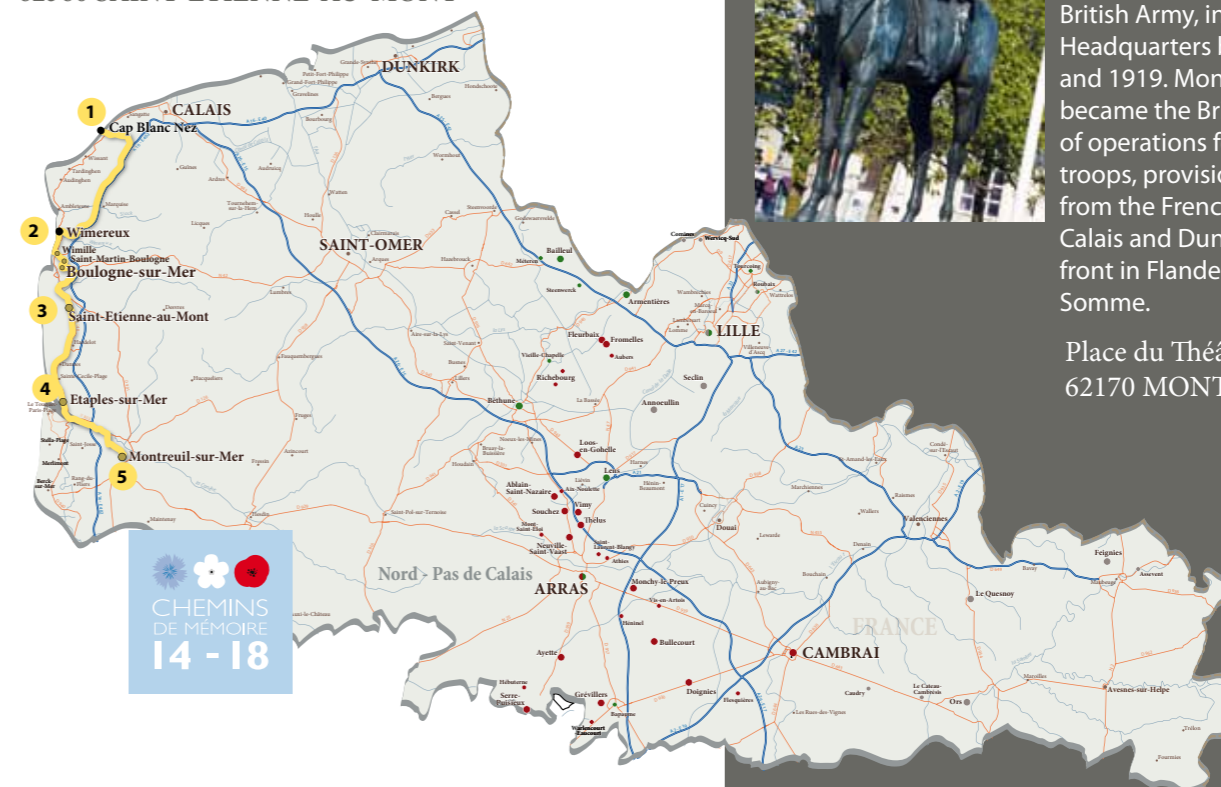
A.S Flament

## St. Étienne-au-Mont Communal Cemetery 3

### The Chinese Labour Corps of the Great War

In the cemetery of St Étienne-au-Mont stands a pagoda-shaped gate which marks the entrance to the final resting place of 160 Chinese and 10 South-African civilians. Organized into Labour Corps, these non-military workers carried out manual tasks for the British Army in the ports and depots which supplied the soldiers at the Front. In 1919 about eighty thousand Chinese were still at work in France clearing up the battlefields and burying the soldiers who had died in the Great War.

Communal Cemetery  
Rue Edmond Madaré  
62360 SAINT-ÉTIENNE-AU-MONT



## Étaples Military Cemetery 4

Formerly a vast British Army field hospital, the site is now the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery in France.

The final resting place of almost 11,500 soldiers, Étaples Military Cemetery is all that remains of a vast hospital complex which was set up to treat the wounded and evacuated troops of the British Army during the Great War. The town of Étaples was also home to the largest training camp outside Great Britain for recruits coming from all parts of the Commonwealth. Millions of men passed through the forty barracks of Étaples on their way to the Western Front.

RD 940  
62630 ÉTAPLES



A.S Flament

## Montreuil-sur-Mer – The Equestrian Statue of Field Marshal Haig 5

### The GHQ of the British Army



A.S Flament

The equestrian statue of Field Marshal Haig is one of the few reminders of the British presence in Montreuil during the Great War. It was here that Douglas Haig, Commander-in-chief of the British Army, installed his General Headquarters between 1916 and 1919. Montreuil suddenly became the British Army's centre of operations for the supply of troops, provisions and equipment from the French ports of Boulogne, Calais and Dunkirk to the nearby front in Flanders, Artois and Somme.

Place du Théâtre  
62170 MONTREUIL-SUR-MER



# Post-war reconstruction

# 4

**Zone Rouge** (lit. Red Zone) was the name given to the area in France which had been ravaged by four years of fighting. The ground had been laid bare and the towns and infrastructure had all but been destroyed.

The reconstruction of the villages, towns and cities was driven by the wishes of the elected representatives and the imagination of the architects who were commissioned to draw the plans. The rich architectural heritage of Arras was faithfully rebuilt to its pre-war glory whereas towns such as Bailleul adopted a traditional regional style which they combined with innovative town planning. Other towns such as Cambrai and Lens chose to rebuild in the modern Art Deco style.

Modernity was also reflected in the choice of materials used during the period of reconstruction, reinforced concrete was immensely popular, however traditional materials such as brick and stone were far from ignored.

## The Town of Bailleul 1

### The ideal Flemish town

Spared from much of the fighting in the early days of the war, the town of Bailleul was eventually destroyed in the German spring offensive of 1918. During reconstruction the local authorities commissioned "regionalist" architects, such as Louis-Marie Cordonnier, to give a traditional Flemish appearance to what would be in fact a modern and carefully-planned urban area. Today, as a result of their work, post-war Bailleul is undoubtedly one of Flanders' most beautiful towns.

Grand'Place  
59270 BAILLEUL



P. Morès

## Armentières – Town Hall and Bell Tower 2

### Mademoiselle from Armentières and Flemish Renaissance

Used extensively by the Commonwealth for stationing troops prior to the various Battles of Ypres, the Flanders town of Armentières was also the setting for the song *Mademoiselle from Armentières*. Reduced to rubble in the fighting, the town centre was redesigned after the Great War by the architect Louis-Marie Cordonnier. His regionalist ideas can be seen in many features of the town, notably the design of the bell tower which adheres faithfully to the style of the Flemish Renaissance.

Place du Général de Gaulle  
59280 ARMENTIÈRES



P. Morès



S. Dhote

## Lens – Railway Station 4

### The station in the shape of a locomotive

It took more than two years after the end of the war to clear away the rubble before the reconstruction of the ruined town of Lens could begin. In 1926 architect Urbain Cassan drew up plans to build a new station in the shape of a steam locomotive, with a clock tower for its funnel and exaggerated arches for its wheels. Inside the station Cassan added a mosaic on the themes of railways and coal-mining to reflect the building's purpose and the history of the town.

Place du Général de Gaulle  
62300 LENS

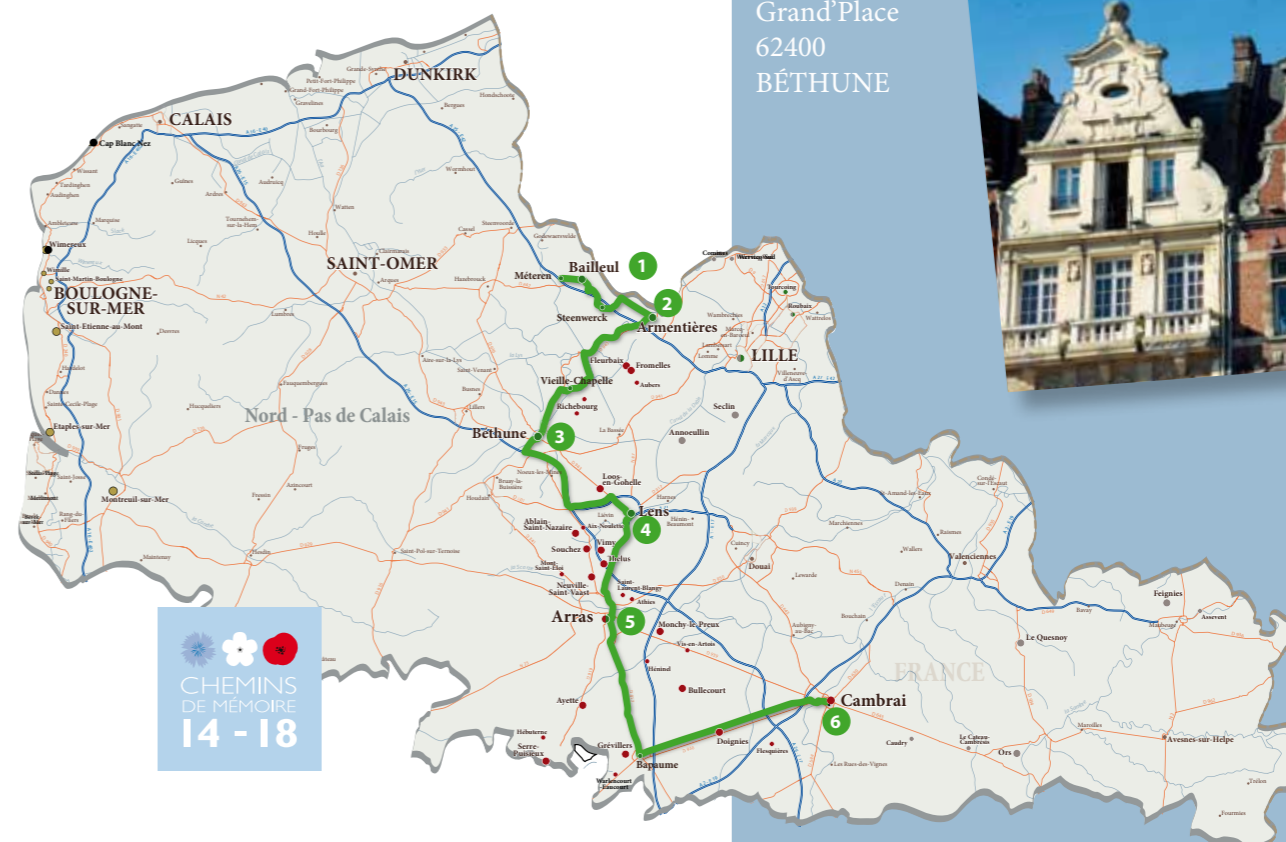
## Béthune – Town Hall, Bell Tower and Main Square 3

### A new setting for the bell tower

During the Battle of the Lys, in the spring of 1918, the German Army attempted to take the town of Béthune and, following their failure, showered the town centre with incendiary shells. The 14th century bell tower in the main square was one of the town's few architectural features to have survived. In the aftermath of the battle the houses which bordered the square were rebuilt in a mixture of styles. The town hall, designed by Jacques Alleman, is the central piece of this architectural ensemble.

Grand'Place  
62400 BÉTHUNE

P. Morès





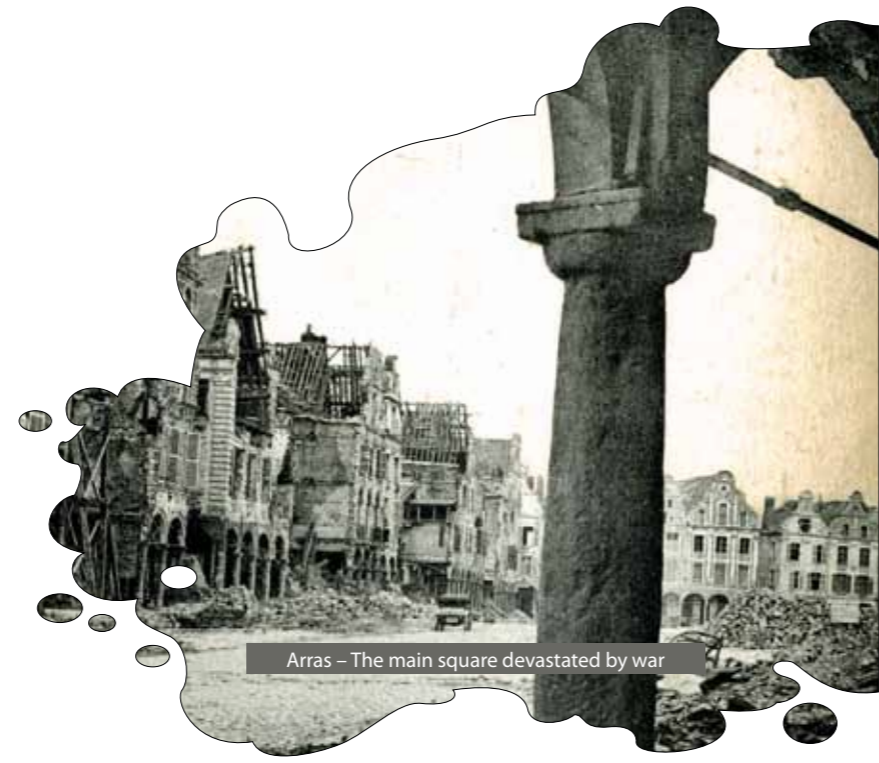


## Arras – Town Hall, Bell Tower and Squares 5

### The faithful reconstruction of a martyred town

By the end of the Great War, after suffering almost constant shelling from 1914 to 1917, Arras was in ruins and a "martyred city". It was decided that its prominent features, such as the bell tower, the town hall and the facades of the houses bordering the main square, should be rebuilt as faithfully as possible to the originals. Using a mixture of reinforced concrete and stone facing, architect Pierre Paquet managed to restore much of the rich architectural heritage of Arras.

Grand'Place and Place des Héros  
62000 ARRAS



Arras – The main square devastated by war



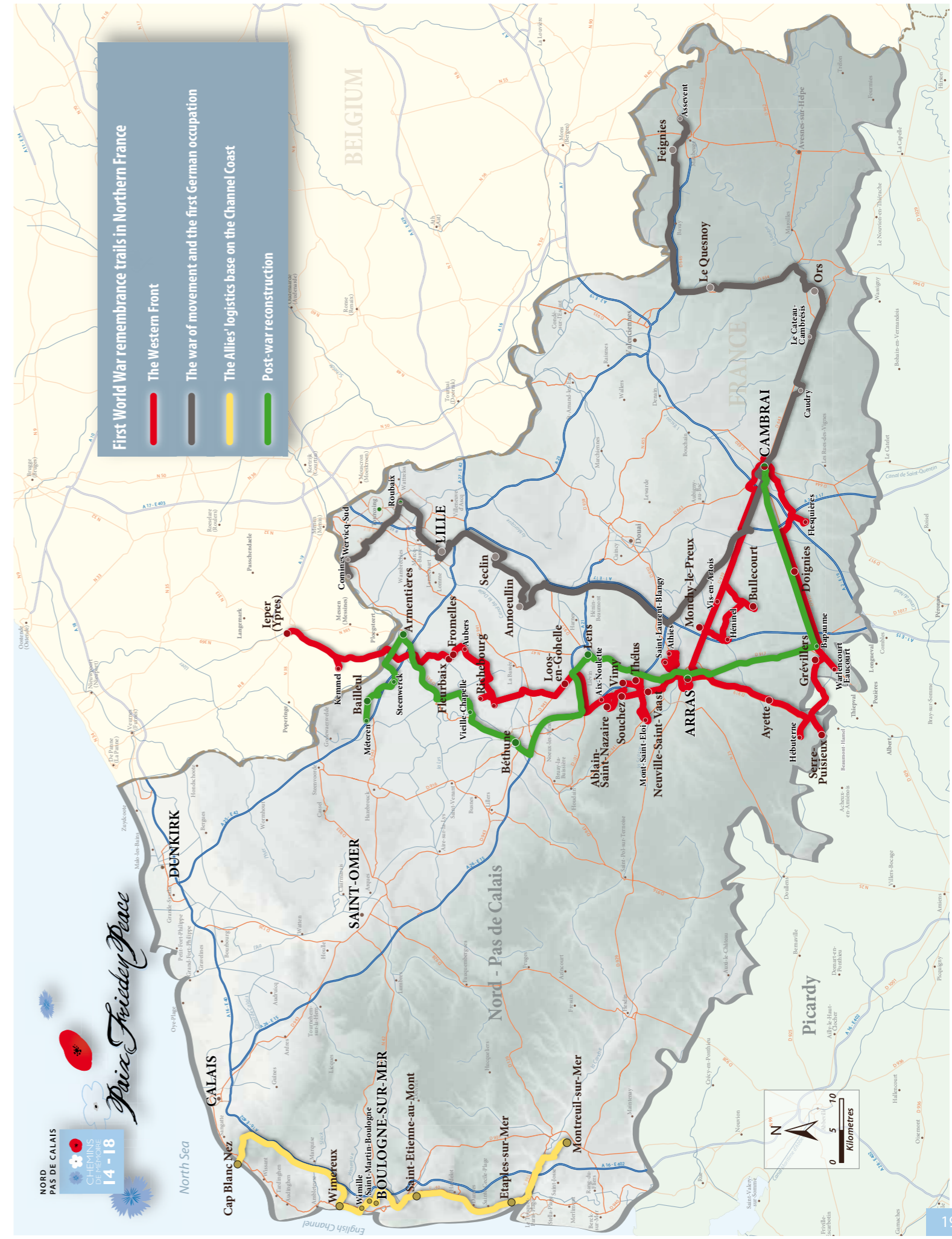
S. Dhote

## Cambrai – The Town Centre 6

### A new town centre raised from the embers

When the Germans retreated from Cambrai in October 1918 all they left their Canadian successors was a ghost town with a burned-out centre. The architect Pierre Leprince-Ringuet was given the job of rebuilding the town and he gave Cambrai new squares and streets, concentrated the administrative buildings and shops into specific areas, and designed a brand new town hall. Today the architecture in Cambrai's centre is a mixture of traditional regional styles and the more modern concept of Art Deco.

Grand'Place  
59400 CAMBRAI





NORD  
PAS DE CALAIS



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 [www.remembrancetrails-northernfrance.com](http://www.remembrancetrails-northernfrance.com)

Write to us:

Comité Régional de Tourisme Nord-Pas de Calais

6, place Mendès France  
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