

On tour with

# Lisa, Louis and Maurice

Primary school children can visit the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 with Lisa, her nephew Louis and their little friend Maurice the rat. They follow Lisa and Louis who are visiting their grandfather in Zonnebeke chateau, a collector of all kinds of WWI material. Maurice, who also lives in the chateau, takes the children through the museum using a map. On their way, children perform all kinds of tasks.

This educational package is developed specifically for primary school teachers. The target group is primary education, ages 9-12. In addition to substantive information about the package, this bundle contains an overview of four years of war in the Ypres salient and tips to combine a visit to our museum with other nearby sites.

## Content of this information bundle:

- Practical information – p. 1
- Four years of war in Zonnebeke – p. 3
- Museum trail – p. 4
- In the area – p. 8

## Practical information:

The Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 focuses on the visitor's experience with a recreated deep dugout and trenches. Historical objects, uniforms, video fragments... give children and adults insight on how life on and behind the battlefields was experienced.

Many of the interactive elements in the museum arouse fascination for with the Great War to our youngest visitors. Putting on a helmet, smelling mustard gas or signalling Morse code? They can do all of this in our museum!

As a **non-guided school** group, you can make **free use** of our educational package "On tour with Lisa, Louis and Maurice" when visiting. Each pupil receives a map and a pencil at their start. They follow a trail (the museum is structured as a continuous course) and carry out fun but educational tasks along their way. Using this bundle allows you to prepare your visit. Besides this bundle, there is also an **educational package** with fill-in sheets that you can use in the classroom before and after your visit.

- ➔ Group reservations (from 15 persons) are possible via our web shop [groepsreservatieszonnebeke.recreatex.be](http://groepsreservatieszonnebeke.recreatex.be). In case you are a new customer, you can 'log in as a new user'. In case you already are a client, you can request your account via [booking@passchendaele.be](mailto:booking@passchendaele.be).
- ➔ You can request a visit with an educational package in our web shop.
- ➔ On the day of your visit we ask you to divide your pupils into **groups of 5 children** and to **send one group into the museum every minute**. This avoids too many pupils performing the same task at the same time. Children spend about an hour and a half on their visit.
- ➔ We ask you to provide a **clipboard** for each pupil.
- ➔ We ask you to **accompany the group**.
- ➔ Feel free to download the **work bundle** from our website that you can use in your class before and after your visit.

Our museum team is also always available to work out an excursion specifically to your and the pupils needs. We are happy to share our experience in making battlefield tours with you.



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## Four years of war in Zonnebeke:

*Aspects that we focus on in our museum exhibit and during the educational package are highlighted in **bold**.*

A few months after the German invasion of Belgium, the German army reached the heights of Ypres. During the First Battle of Ypres, British and French troops were able to stop the German advance in Zonnebeke. During the battle it became clear that the 19th century way of warfare had to be adapted. New techniques and **weapons** were introduced. As armies dug in, **uniforms and headgear** also evolved, with camouflage becoming very important.

**Trench warfare** began and what followed was a four-year battle with hundreds of thousands of **dead and injured**, resulting in a destroyed landscape.

In the spring of 1915, the Second Battle of Ypres started with the very first **gas attack**. The German attack with chlorine gas between Steenstrate and Poelkapelle was an unexpected success, but due to a shortage of supplies and reserve troops, the attack stalled again after a few kilometres.

From the end of 1915 it was relatively quiet in Flanders. Some minor attacks briefly broke through the trenches. But the major battles mainly took place in France. Therefore, the German army decided to limit itself to a **defensive war**. They built numerous reinforced lines with **trenches**, barbed wire and bunkers. Although it was relatively quiet in Belgium, the **daily life of the front line soldier** did not stand still.

The most destructive battle in the region was the Third Battle of Ypres, also known as the **Battle of Passchendaele**. The attack was launched on July 31, 1917. The British army aimed to break through the German defence in three weeks and then liberate the Belgian coast. However, after a little more than a hundred days of exhaustive fighting the opponent, the mud and barbed wire, the battle halted in the ruins of what once was the village of Passchendaele. Due to the enormous destruction, both sides had to build numerous underground shelters or **deep dugouts**.

In late March 1918, in an ultimate attempt to win the war, the German army launched its Spring Offensive, with an adapted tactic. Major gains were made, but the German offensive again stalled in front of Ypres. Liberation by Belgian, British, American and French troops finally started on 28 September. It were the **Belgians** who **liberated** the ruins of Zonnebeke and Passchendaele. A third of all Belgian casualties during WWI occurred during this final offensive. The armistice finally followed on 11 November 1918.

## Museum trail:

What may your pupils expect? What tasks do they carry out during their visit? The following pages provide an overview of the topics and hands-on in our museum.

→ To orient yourself you can use the map with tasks and a plan at the end of this document.

The museum visit starts on the first floor of the Zonnebeke chateau, with an overview of four years of war in the area around Ypres. In the second room, children can grasp a German leather **Pickelhaube (spiked helmet)**. At the beginning of the war this headgear was clearly different from its later steel version. In the same room you can also see the uniforms that were worn in 1914. Some are colourful and **little camouflaged**, like the French uniform with red trousers. Children can also try to lift a backpack which weighs the same amount of a standard soldiers packing those days (30 kg).



The next room shows "new weapons" that were used to break through the front. Especially the use of gas is shown here. Pupils can put on a **gas mask** and (safely) smell **four types of gas**, including chlorine gas and mustard gas (Yperite).

In the following room there are several items showing that during the war soldiers did not have to fight every day. There are original bottles of soft drinks, water, beer, wine and spirits and archaeological finds of tinned food. Many soldiers learned about canned food because of the war. Like **corned beef**, a very common type of food that children can smell in this room.



The pupils then go through a corridor to a room where a 1917 British and German uniform stand opposite to each other. Adapted to modern warfare, these uniforms look completely different from those in 1914 at the start of the museum. The British uniform has rubber waders. Germany was unable to import this material and mainly used leather. In a box on the wall, children can feel the **difference between rubber and leather**.

Beyond a diorama that shows the German Spring Offensive follows a room about the role of women during WWI. In the display case is a booklet "Our Hospital ABC" about nurses. Here, pupils can complete **Task A** by entering the correct letters on the back of their plan. The word to be formed is "medaille", the French and Dutch word for 'medal'.



The next room, beyond a decor that represents a Belgian military fairery, is about the Belgian army during the final offensive. On one side there is a low display case with the full package of a Belgian soldier in 1918 with some **buttons**. The first is a Belgian, with a Belgian lion, just like the helmet you can put on here as well. In addition, there is also a British, American, French and German button that children can touch.



The next two rooms are about underground warfare. It shows objects that were recovered from underground shelters. Like **pumps**, because the groundwater meant that the dugouts had to be pumped out constantly, sometimes electrically, but often manually. The pupils can test such an old pump themselves.



From this point a staircase leads down to a recreated **deep dugout**. In the underground British corridor system with sleeping quarters, a medical post, primitive toilets and a kitchen, children encounter a **riddle with push buttons** to guess objects on a historical photograph.

Beyond the deep dugout there is a large hall about the Battle of Passchendaele. This underground hall highlights several aspects of the battle: the massive shelling that preceded it, the countries that fought in it and the types of weapons and equipment that were used.



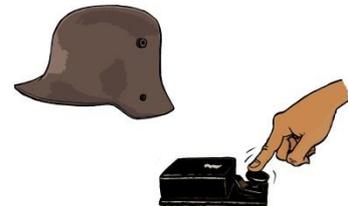
In the first part, behind a large German gun and past high display cases with colourful shells, there is a **shrapnel shell** that the pupils can lift. This grenade with a time mechanism detonated just above the opponent. On the ceiling, between the colourful shells and the gun, a work of art shows how such a projectile exploded.

A little further on, to the left of the central corridor, children can lift a British **Lee Enfield rifle**. This weapon was used by the British during the battle. The coloured rooms along the middle corridor cover Great Britain and Ireland (which then formed one country), Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Germany. With **Task B**, pupils can mark these countries on a world map. They can recognize the shape and location by looking at the maps of countries shown on information panels.



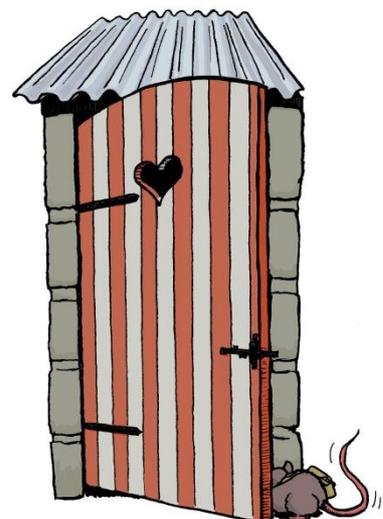
It were the Canadians who took the ruins of Passchendaele in late 1917. The room about Canada also mentions the many indigenous forces that were involved. Indigenous Canadian Francis Pegahmagabow was a very good sniper, scout, messenger and battlefield troop guide. For all of these tasks, a soldier had to keep himself well under control. Next to his photo there is a **wire loop game** in the shape of a Canadian maple leaf that tests whether children can also control their nerves.

At the end of the hall, children can put on a German chest armour and a typical **German steel helmet**. The chest armour was used from 1916, but due to their heavy weight was only used for men on guard. Children can also try **Morse code** here.



The trail then continues outside. The pupils go through a network of **trenches**. The first part is German with extensive use of wood and wickerwork. Unlike in the British which used corrugated iron and jute bags, Germany did not have enough raw materials and access to colonies to import iron and jute. Along the way, a **periscope** is attached to the parapet of a trench. Children can see Maurice through the periscope if they look carefully.

In a spacious German shelter, pupils can use writing boards to carry out **Task C**. They write a postcard from the trenches in the name of a soldier who fought or died in the area. Afterwards, they can deposit the postcard, which can be easily torn out, in a mailbox. Or you can ask the pupils to keep them for a discussion in class.



At the end of the trenches you walk straight towards an original emergency house from 1922. After the war, the returning population was forced to live in such

barracks until reconstruction could start. Inside there is information about the American military and humanitarian contribution during WWI, reconstruction and a truthful post-war setting. However, space is limited and not suitable for a large group. At the rear of the house there is a shed built with recovered bunker blocks. In the toilet, children can link **rolls with photos of recycled war material** to an original and contemporary object.



Past the shed the trail goes down, back into the underground hall. The first room reflects on the many **fallen soldiers** of WWI. There is a large service wagon that was used after the war to bring war dead to the many cemeteries. And there are several types of gravestones, including the typical white British gravestone of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Here one can think about the heavy suffering of war.

The final part of the museum consists out of a long corridor where temporary exhibitions are held and also shows the artwork 'Falls the Shadow' by New Zealand artist Helen Pollock. Before reaching the museum shop, a photo can be taken in 'grandfather's salon', a **photo decor**. You are free to take a picture here of your pupils.



## In the area:

You can easily combine a visit to the museum with other sites in the area. The following locations and attractions are within walking distance or less than 10 minutes driving from our car park:

The museum is located in the **chateau grounds of Zonnebeke**, which is freely accessible. In the park there are eight Passchendaele Memorial Gardens, poppy-shaped gardens that serve as a memorial garden for countries that fought in this area (Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, France, Great Britain, Germany and Belgium).

The **Zonnebeke church tower** is located near the museum and is accessible free of charge. Group reservations (from 15 persons) are possible at 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm or 3:30 pm via [booking@zonnebeke.be](mailto:booking@zonnebeke.be). In the tower with multiple floors, the exhibition 'Scarred Landscape' shows the evolution of the landscape in the Ypres area. On top, at a height of 40 meters, you can enjoy a panoramic view of Ypres, Passendale and the former battlefields of WWI.

**CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery** is approximately a 5-minute drive from our museum. The site can also be reached on foot via The Road to Passchendaele, a traffic-free walk of approx. 3 km that passes a nearby **crypt with Belgian fallen soldiers**. With 11,956 graves, this is the largest Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in the world, a silent witness to the Battle of Passchendaele. A visitor centre (Vijfwegestraat, near the parking lot) provides more information about the cemetery itself and offers a panoramic view on the battlefields of 1917.

**Polygon Wood** is about three minutes driving from the museum and, like Tyne Cot, can be reached via a traffic-free trail. The spacious car park is within walking distance of CWGC Polygon Wood Cemetery and Buttes New British Cemetery.

A visit to our museum can be combined with the **Bellewaerde Park** or **Bellewaerde Aquapark**, a ten-minute drive from our carpark. Affordable combined tickets are available for groups of 15 people or more (MMP1917 + Bellewaerde). Prices and practical information can be found on our website.



Whenever you have fulfilled an assignment you receive a medal!  
 Colour these with your pencil. At home, you can even colour the ribbons.

1914-15 Star (Pop)



British War Medal ("Squawk")



Victory Medal (Wilfrad)



The nicknames of these British medals are from a popular comic strip from after the First World War. Pip was a dog, Squawk a penguin and Wilfrad a rabbit.



Can you guess the word hidden in the book?



Sixth word: 3rd letter

Sixth word: 4th letter

Tenth word: 3rd letter

Ninth word: 1st letter

Eleventh word: 3rd letter

Eleventh word: 4th letter

Eleventh word: 5th letter

Least word: 3rd letter



These countries were fighting at the Battle of Passchendaele. Connect each country with the correct location on the map.

- Australia
- Canada
- Germany
- Great Britain & Ireland
- New Zealand



Use this plan to find your way in the museum.

Some funny assignments are waiting for you on the track!

## On tour with Lisa, Louis and Maurice



Walter Stalzer, German soldier, won a cycling championship in the area in 1914.



Edwin Leatheron, British football-champion who died during The Battle of Passchendaele.



Francis Pughmahon, a Canadian of indigenous descent who fought here.



Georges Guynemer, French aviator who died during The Battle of Passchendaele.



Dave Gallaher, New Zealand rugby player who died during The Battle of Passchendaele.



William Saabrook, Australian soldier who died with his brothers on the same day during The Battle of Passchendaele.



If you were a soldier, what would you write home?  
 Choose somebody, imagine you're that person and write something in his name.





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 Open daily: 9h00 - 18h00  
 Last entry: 16h30 | Closed: 16/12 - 31/01

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Lift the German spiked helmet. Can you sense how light it felt back in 1914?



Take a sniff of the gas. No panic, it's harmless!



Do you like the smell of corned beef? Soldiers used to eat it a lot during the war! Did you know it can still be bought today?



The British soldier of 1917 wore rubber, the German one only wore leather and wool. Can you feel the difference?



Complete the riddle on the backside!



Look for the Belgian button.



**Start**



A British Lee Enfield rifle was rather heavy. Do pick it up!



Look on the flip side for the countries that were fighting along in the Battle of Passchendaele.



Lift the shell! Are you stronger than Maurice?



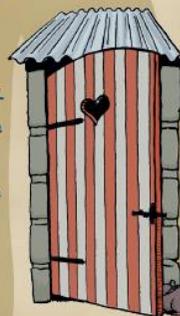
Underground shelters must be drained. Have a try!



A soldier must be highly focused. Test your degree of concentration with this hand-eye coordination game.



Take a look through the periscope! Can you see Maurice?



Put the right colours next to each other. Can you spot any similarities?

Look for the right object. Do you recognize stuff you also have at home?



Are you joining us for a picture in grandpa's living room?



Spell your name in Morse alphabet. For a line you push long, a point is short.

Write down a message on the flip side of your postcard from the trenches.

Let's have a moment of reflection on the many fallen during the First World War.



At the end of your visit, put this postcard in grandpa's mailbox!

In the future I would like to receive more information about Maurice and the educational projects of the museum.

e-mail: .....

FIELD SERVICE  
 POST CARD

