



THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



The Royal British Legion's

GREAT PILGRIMAGE 90

Information for the
Guidance of Remembrance Pilgrims

5-9 August 2018

The Royal British Legion's

**GREAT
PILGRIMAGE**

90

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ADDRESS FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

It is my honour and privilege to welcome every Remembrance Pilgrim to the Great Pilgrimage 90 – the largest membership event The Royal British Legion has undertaken in modern history

The momentous and bloody four years of the First World War shaped the world in which we live and were central to the creation of our modern national identity. The Royal British Legion, as the champion of Remembrance, will be leading the nation in expressing our gratitude to the generation who served, sacrificed and changed our world. Our Thank You movement, happening right now, is one way we are doing this. Further details can be found at the end of this booklet.



Air Marshal David Walker CB CBE
AFC MA, National President of The
Royal British Legion

Back in 1928, The British Legion (as it was formerly known) organised, in conjunction with the British Empire Service League, the original 'Battlefields Pilgrimage' for over 11,000 veterans and War Widows. Every one of you on this modern Pilgrimage will have the opportunity to retrace the steps of your forebears and connect to their journey. Over the next few days, you will travel to the former battlefields of France and Belgium, representing over 1,100 branches and communities from across not just the United Kingdom but also the wider world. Much like the pilgrims of 1928, I hope you will form new bonds and rekindle old ones through a shared experience of Remembrance and reflection.

It was the Legion's duty to provide the original pilgrims with an opportunity to bid a final farewell to their loved ones and old comrades. That continues to be our duty now. Your experience, with air-conditioned coaches, well prepared paths, boardwalks on the battlefields and a hotel bed every night, should be a more comfortable one than that of your predecessors 90 years ago. So, spare a thought for your antecedents on the

1928 Pilgrimage, some of whom spent their nights on the floors of French homestays and their days hiking the hot, beaten ground between the battlefields carrying their lunches and luggage

On this Pilgrimage, you will see the battlefields around Ypres and Somme but not as they were a hundred years ago. Even a full decade after the end of hostilities, the original Pilgrimage encountered a region that was still in recovery. Today, Ypres is no longer a maze of rubble and dust. The surrounding countryside thrives and the small villages and towns are prosperous and beautiful. Contained in this booklet are images and accounts from the First World War and 1928 that will allow you to compare the world you see now to the world then.

The original date for the ceremony, 8 August 1928, was chosen by the then Legion National President, Field Marshal Douglas Haig, as it marked "the date when the British Armies turned the scales and began that mighty and glorious rolling up of the German Armies". The Great Pilgrimage 90 will also culminate on 8 August 1928 with a parade and ceremony at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres.

When you reach the Menin Gate, you will take part in the One Hundred Days ceremony to mark the centenary of the launch of the 'Hundred Days Offensive' that led to the end of the First World War. Each pilgrim will have had the opportunity to carry their Standard or lay their wreath, and reflect on the many who served our nation.

The stage has now been set through the hard work over many months by individuals and teams, both from across the Legion and from external organisations. All that now remains to achieve success is for the Legion's membership to share in the Great Pilgrimage 90 project together in the spirit of comradeship and Remembrance, as we collectively retrace the footsteps of those from our own communities that went before us 100 years ago.

Air Marshal David Walker CB CBE AFC MA
National President

WHAT WE ARE REMEMBERING



© Imperial War Museum (Q 1787)

THE IMPACT OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The First World War, like no other war before it, remains indelibly printed on the national psyche, art, poetry, literature and the scarred landscapes of the nations involved. It was a war that changed the social, military, economic and political landscapes of Europe, the Middle East, Africa and beyond, unleashing the full destructive power of modern industrialised warfare. Many who joined the great armies of 1914 had expected to 'be home by Christmas' but by the end of the war, the 'war to end all wars', over 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians died. As the British Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey prophetically lamented in 1914, "The lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our life-time".

This new total war also created vast social change with women becoming an integral part

of many workforces across Europe for the first time, while medicine, farming, industrial production, the role of trade unions and governments were all changed by the immense challenges presented by the war. About 8.8 million military personnel were mobilised by Britain and its Empire, of which nearly 1.2 million lost their lives. Many more were wounded physically and mentally, with another 1.2 million in post-war Britain alone living on disability pensions for injuries including loss of limbs, blindness, paralysis and debilitating Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The lasting memory of the First World War is of its immensity. It was a war that forever changed the world and continues to have a huge impact upon the world today.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF YPRES

"A more sacred place for the British than Ypres does not exist in the world" - Winston Churchill, Secretary of State for War, 1919

The Belgian city of Ypres stood in the path of Germany's so-called 'Race to the Sea' - a German offensive in October 1914, after the failure of the Schlieffen Plan to take Paris, which led their forces through Flanders towards the Channel Ports. Indeed, at this time Ypres was referred to as 'The Outpost of the Channel Ports'. The first Battle of Ypres, in 1914, witnessed British Regular Army and Territorial soldiers stem the German advance, but at great cost. Both sides dug in and the Western Front was formed. The Second Battle of Ypres saw the first use of poison gas and the birth of chemical warfare. Two years of stalemate followed on what became known as the Ypres Salient, a bulge in the defensive line that was difficult and costly to defend. The infamous Third Battle of Ypres, commonly known as the Battle of Passchendaele, was fought here in 1917, pushing the Germans off the dominant high ground. In April 1918, the Germans attacked during the Battle of the Lys, pushing the Allies back until the Fourth Battle of Ypres, which paved the way to Victory in Flanders as part of the Hundred Days Offensive. By the end of the war, 250,000 British and Empire soldiers had died at Ypres - one in four of those who fell in the war, securing its reputation as Britain's anvil of sacrifice and placing it at the heart of all subsequent battlefield pilgrimages.

HUNDRED DAYS OFFENSIVE 8 AUGUST – 11 NOVEMBER 1918

1918 finally saw dramatic movements all along the Western Front. Between March and July, the Germans launched five successive offensives, determined that they would break the British Army in the north and outflank the French before US reinforcements arrived. The speed of the German advance badly damaged British morale and it was difficult to co-ordinate a counter-attack with all available reserves devoted to defence. However, eventually exhausted, the German advance began to slow and the first US Divisions arrived in France in April, bolstering the Allies. By May, the total US troops in France had risen to 650,000. After the failed German Spring Offensive, the Western Front once again settled into the bloody stalemate that had so characterised the previous four years. However, under the leadership of the newly appointed Allied Supreme Commander General Foch, and at the urging of British Commander Field Marshal Douglas Haig, plans were drawn up for a series of major counter attacks that would draw on the many lessons learned since 1914 and employ new techniques and technologies including tanks, aerial photography and close coordination of artillery and infantry. On the first day of the operation, 8 August 1918, the Allies advanced seven miles with further major advances in the next few months. By the autumn, offensive operations had successfully pushed the Central powers out of France and broken the back of the German War Machine, leading directly to the Armistice on the 11 November 1918. Although commonly referred to as the 'Hundred Days Offensive', it lasted for 95 days.

THE BRITISH LEGION'S
BATTLEFIELDS PILGRIMAGE 1928



Front cover of the original British Legion
Battlefields Pilgrimage 1928 Book
© Private Collection

In 1928, on the direction of Field Marshal Earl Haig, The British Legion, in cooperation with the British Empire Service League, organised for 11,000 war veterans and widows to undertake the Battlefields Pilgrimage to some of the Western Front's battlefields. They then paraded to the Menin Gate on 8 August to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the launch of the 'Hundred Days Offensive'.

The following pages provide you with a selection of stories and images from the original Pilgrimage. These are taken from a variety of sources including The British Legion's publication *The Story of an Epic Pilgrimage*, newspaper coverage from the time and personal memorabilia that documented the experiences of the pilgrims.

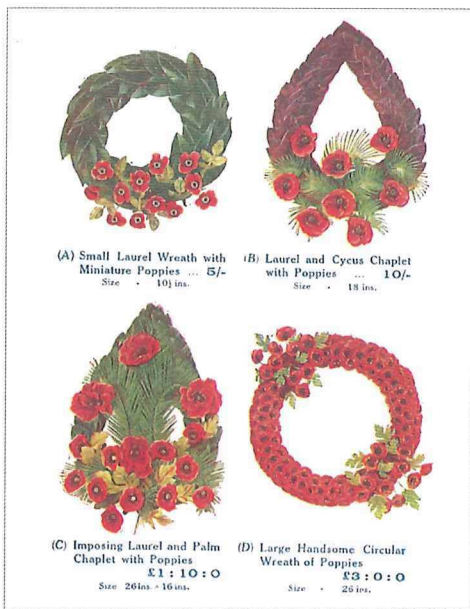


Image of the original
1928 wreaths
© Private Collection

THE DAILY MIRROR, Tuesday, August 7, 1928.

THE "DAILY MIRROR" IS THE BIG PICTURE PAPER

**FIND
FRASS
AND WIN
£100**

Daily Mirror

THE DAILY PICTURE PAPER WITH THE LARGEST NET SALE

No. 7,716

Registered at the G.P.O.
as a Newspaper

TUESDAY, AUG. 7, 1928

One Penny

**32
PAGES
DAILY**

BACK ON VIMY RIDGE—THE GREAT TRANSFORMATION



Ex-soldiers of Britain, who have joined the great pilgrimage to the battlefield, in trenches on Vimy Ridge, now reconstructed in this neat manner.



Vimy in wartime, when the constantly-shelled trenches were a place of terror.

Pictures brought to London by *Daily Mirror* aeroplane of British Legion pilgrims at Vimy Ridge yesterday. In this shell-cratered sector, held so long by Canadian troops, 8,000 pilgrims saw and marvelled at the great transformation from the fearful scene of



A lunch-party in a big shell-hole, now overgrown with grass and flowers.

devastation which many of them knew so well on various parts of the Western Front. In the rebuilt towns and cultivated lands of this area comparatively few signs remain of the countless tragedies there enacted in the terrible years of the war.

Daily Mirror covers the Pilgrimage on its front
cover © Private Collection



Major J B Brunel Cohen MP laying a wreath of
poppies on the Belgium tomb of the Unknown
Soldier in Brussels, August 1928

© TopFoto

PROGRAM

of the reception of the British Legion at Cambrai

The 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th August 1928

Sunday, 5th.

At 11. — Arrival at the station Cambrai-Ville, introductions.

At 11.15. — Deposit a wreath of flowers at the war memorial.

At 11.45. — Reception of the British Legion at the town hall by Mr DESJARDINS, Lord-Mayor, Mr MALLEZ, President of the wounded and discharged officers and soldiers, the Senator, the Député, the Colonel of the 1st Inf. Rgt and other authorities.

*(Protestant service at 12 at the Temple Protestant, rue du Marché aux-Poissons).
(For the pilgrims of the Roman Catholic religion, at 12, mass will be celebrated at the two chief churches: the Cathedral and St-Géry).*

At 14.30. — For the pilgrims who are not going on the special tour of the cemeteries, a visit of the city.

Five different tours have been organised: the first company's pilgrims will start from the ancient town hall (on the Grand'Place) at 14.30. The 2nd company's at 14.35; the 3rd at 14.40; the 4th at 14.45; the 5th at 14.50.

At 20.30. — Concert in the public garden by the military band of the 1st Inf. Rgt. (Chairs will be reserved for the pilgrims).

Monday, 6th.

At 9.15. — Depart at the station of Cambrai-Ville (Beaucourt).

*At 18.15. — Return.
(Evening free).*

Tuesday, 7th.

At 10.08. — Depart at the station of Cambrai-Ville (Vimy ridge).

At 18.20. — Return.

At 21. — Concert in the public garden by the Musique Municipale de Cambrai. (Chairs will be reserved for the pilgrims).

Wednesday, 8th.

At 7. — Leave Cambrai-Ville for Ypres.

Billets of the British Legion

Ladies: Collège Fénelon (near the town hall). — Gentlemen: Collège Municipal (near the public garden).

For the special visit to the cemeteries on Sunday afternoon, depart at 3 p. m. by cars at the station.

H. MALLEZ & C^{ie} — CAMBRAI

Program of the
reception of the British
Legion at Cambrai
© Private Collection

Hotel Coupons

BRITISH LEGION PILGRIMAGE,
AUGUST, 1928

PARTY

B

4

NAME OF TOWN

Americo

To Mr. or Madam

Mr. O. L. L. L.

"Fair View," Fair View Rd., Banbury.

1 Arrangements have been made for you to be accommodated in
Hotel called *de Kieker* Address *rue Jean Jaurès*

2. The services you will receive will be —

Supper, Bed, Breakfast

NIGHT

Bed, Breakfast

Lunch or Meat Tea

DAY

3. Payment for this will be made by BRITISH LEGION
HEADQUARTERS, LILLE.

4 Pilgrims must pay on the spot for the following supplements —
Meals partaken in bedroom, baths, drinks Meals must be taken
as and when served No change in time or menu can be
entertained. No allowance can be made for meals provided for
and not partaken.

5. The address of the Party Headquarters is *basement*
where difficulties will be reported. Please do not make complaints
to anybody but your Chief Accommodation Officer, who is doing
all he can to help you

Date

28/7/28

Signed

for Harold Leare
(Chief Accommodation Officer)

A British Legion Pilgrimage Hotel Coupon,

August 1928 © Private Collection

EAST ANGLIAN SECTION PAPY 'S', BRUCH'S FROM THE BRITISH
LEGION'S PUBLICATION 'THE STORY OF AN EPIC PILGRIMAGE'

'When the British Cemeteries came into sight, and were saluted as we passed, men stared hard and gulped, and furtively wiped away tears which could not be checked From crossroads familiar to the eye or some remembered contour of the ground, veterans were able to point out where the trenches ran "Poor old Jim got his packet down there" and "We got an awful strafing at that point", someone would remark

Near Ypres, the land looked prosperous, sunshine flooding the fields of ripened wheat and barley, the green young trees trembling in the breeze We remembered it as part of that dreaded Salient, which when entered at night, appeared to be surrounded by a ring of fire Flashes of light, bursting of shells, the hiss of stray bullets, the glare of the burning Cloth Hall, "Oh, memories" '



The arch of welcome
at Vimy Ridge. A
scene during the
reception of British
Legion pilgrims by the
French civic authorities
August 1928
© TopFoto

'BEAUCOURT' - 4 AND 7 AUGUST, 1928 BY MAJOR W. TOWNLER
(ROYAL ARTILLERY) FROM THE BRITISH LEGION'S PUBLICATION 'THE
STORY OF AN EPIC PILGRIMAGE'

'Showing the same spirit of discipline which carried the Ulster Division over No Man's Land to the Schwaben Redoubt, the steady stream of Pilgrims filed off the platform and so out over the countryside, which some had trod before in other days, and where so many of their comrades and loved ones sleep their last sleep for England's sake. Reminiscence stirred in many a breast "I remember coming up here in '16. " and "Yes, poor old Nobbie, he stopped one on the 1st July up there at Thiepval just as we got to the wire" A stalwart on crutches gazed thoughtfully towards Beaumont Hamel and said "I wonder if my blinkin' leg is still up there?"'



A visit to the labyrinth
of dug-outs preserved
by the Canadians at
Virny Ridge. British
Legion pilgrims
emerging from the
Grange subway
August 1928
© TopFoto

'AT ROUBAIX', AN EXTRACT FROM THE WOMEN'S SECTION OF
THE PILGRIMAGE, BY DOROTHY NIVEN GERDS, FROM THE BRITISH
LEGION'S PUBLICATION 'THE STORY OF AN EPIC PILGRIMAGE'

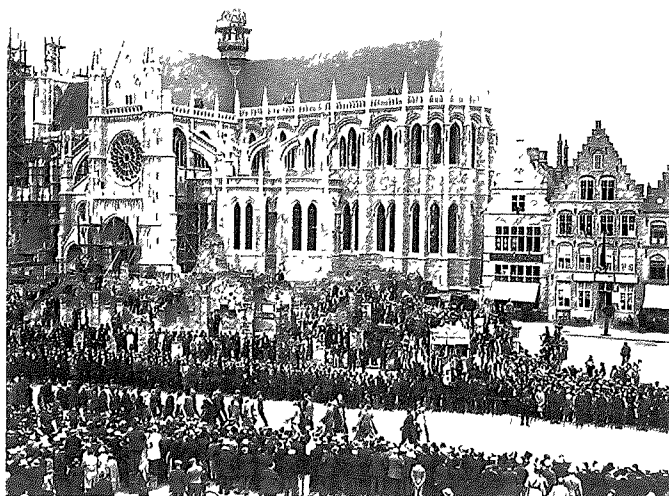
'The women came to Ypres to mourn their dead. Perhaps the most touching feature of the Pilgrimage was the sympathetic provision made for visits to the War Graves. One, who came all the way from South Africa, whose son lay in an un-named grave in Delville Wood, was shown the exact spot where he lay buried by a friend who had been there at the time.

The old trenches and dug outs have been preserved, and barbed wire, shells, rifles and abandoned equipment and weapons lie everywhere, as the turmoil of war left them. All the panorama of the battlefields is to be seen, down to the spot where the Colonel had his morning glass of beer. Two of the most impressive War memorials in France catch the eye: one, a magnificent Caribou, facing defiant towards the old German lines, the other, an indomitable figure of a Highlander, the memorial of the 51st Highland Division.'



Les pèlerins de la Légion Britannique suivant les sinuosités de la tranchée souvenir de Vimy

Original pilgrims
meander through
the trenches at Vimy
Ridge
© Private Collection



The parade march
past Ypres Cathedral
and the ruins of the
Cloth Hall 8 August
1928

© Gettyimages

'THE WONDERFUL CLIMAX AT YPRES', WRITTEN BY A PILGRIM
FROM THE BRITISH LEGION'S PUBLICATION 'THE STORY OF AN EPIC
PILGRIMAGE'

'So, from the nethermost end of the Empire, we marched again through Ypres. What a city of memories for those who served in this sector. The many ghostly moonlight marches to the trenches to take up duty near Hell Fire Corner were remembered with uncomfortable frequency; the good old rampart with its underground passages, which had sheltered us from shell fire many a time and oft during our sojourn in the rabbit-like warrens in its walls, and the Menin Gate through which it was suicide to pass in daylight in the old days. Surely, the Archbishop of York was right when he said, "Lest we forget".

We had rather a long interval before it was our turn to move off, but eventually the long-awaited moment arrived and we swung along, through the Menin Gate, through the streets of Ypres, and having paid our tribute to His Royal Highness at the saluting base, we returned to our party assembly for lunch. Those of us who attended the service will never forget. And then once more we came together to entrain for the last time on this Pilgrimage, homeward bound.'

THE DAILY MIRROR, Thursday, August 9, 1928.

WHAT MENIN GATE MEANS TO ME: By R. H. MOTTRAM

£27,000
IN
PRIZES

Daily Mirror

THE DAILY PICTURE PAPER WITH THE LARGEST NET SALE

No. 7,718

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THURSDAY, AUG. 9, 1928

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32
PAGES
DAILY

BRITISH WOMEN HONOUR HEROES OF YPRES



A picture brought to London by Daily Mirror aeroplane of British women marching in procession through the square of rebuilt Ypres yesterday, towards the ruins of the Cloth Hall, where the Prince of Wales took the salute of the British Legion pilgrims numbering 11,000. At an impressive service of remembrance, held before the Menin

Gate Memorial, the Archbishop of York gave a moving address. The two minutes' silence observed at the service in memory of the fallen stirred the deepest emotion among the pilgrims, and many women, and even men, with poignant memories of the tragedies of the war, were in tears. See also pages 16 and 17.—(Daily Mirror.)

The parade and the ruins of Ypres covered by
the Daily Mirror © Private Collection

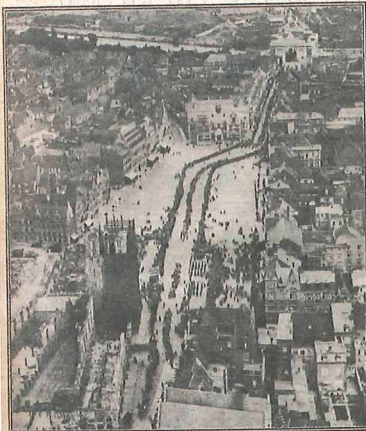
PARADE IMMORIAL YPRES EXIPACT TAKEN FROM 'BACK TO THE
BATTLEFIELDS' BY E I PINNINGTON

'For here indeed the bitter cup of remembrance was soon to overflow. Here indeed Grief was to take up the harp and smite on every chord. At Cambrai, at Beaumont-Hamel, at Vimy, at all the other places visited, there was always something to assuage the poignancy of sorrow stirred by those memorials and those resting places of our dead But here at Ypres there was nothing, nothing at all 'Tis true, the city is no longer the battered Wipers of our Service days, but a modern, up-to-date town, snug and flourishing But to the heart of the Pilgrim, attuned to sadness, the Cloth Hall itself seemed to be the embodiment of the Ypres as it was in the days of Hell Fire Corner and the shambles of the Menin Road '



The Prince of Wales
marches to the
ceremony at the
Menin Gate, 8 August
1928
© TopFoto

THE MARCH OF THE ELEVEN THOUSAND PAST THE PRINCE OF WALES AND PRINCE CHARLES OF BELGIUM IN THE SQUARE AT YPRES



A striking aerial view of the procession from the Belgian front past the waiting host in the square of Ypres, (L.). The hosts of the service.



The main square of the Belgian front for the ceremonial service.



King Edward VII.



Prince of Wales.



The Prince of Wales and Prince Charles of Belgium and distinguished French officers at an exciting hour during the march-past of the pilgrims.



Soldiers of the French army marching in the square of Ypres, Belgium.



The distribution of food to the soldiers in the square of Ypres, Belgium.



Band playing a march in the square of Ypres, Belgium.



Women pilgrims carrying crosses to the front in the square of Ypres, Belgium.



The Prince and Prince Charles (mounted) inspecting a Belgian guard of honour in the square of Ypres, Belgium.

The Parade and Ceremony covered by the Daily Mirror © Private Collection

INFORMATION FOR
THE GUIDANCE OF
REMEMBRANCE PILGRIMS

WHY GREAT PILGRIMAGE 90?

In early 2016, a group of British and Belgian stakeholders, headed by the Last Post Association, invited the Legion, as the champions of Remembrance, to mark the 100th anniversary of our 8 August 1928 ceremony at the Menin Gate. The concept of a Membership-focussed Remembrance event, with the ceremony as a focal point, received positive feedback so the broader idea to undertake a modern-day equivalent of the 1928 Battlefields Pilgrimage was developed. You are now embarking on that Pilgrimage as a representative of the Legion and your community.

The preface that appeared in the 1928 equivalent of this booklet was written by Lieutenant Colonel John Buchan MP. It stated, "I am not going to tell the pilgrims of The British Legion what they will see, for they will have the best of guides. But I would like to remind them of the purpose of such a pilgrimage. It is to meet the eternal human longing for visible aids to the imagination and the memory." John Buchan's insight into why we embark upon such a pilgrimage remains true today.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT ON THE PILGRIMAGE

On 6 and 7 August you will visit some of the same battlefields as the original 1928 pilgrims, under the direction of professional battlefield guides. The guides will provide you with in-depth information on your itinerary and with stories from those battlefields.

A general outline of your tour includes.

Ypres Salient – Tyne Cot / Passchendaele Memorial Museum / Passchendaele Village / In Flanders Fields Museum / Menin Gate Memorial / St George's Memorial Church / Hill 60 / Messines

The Somme – Vimy Ridge / Central Arras / Arras Memorial / Thiepval Memorial / Ulster Tower / Delville Wood or Mametz Wood

Some of you may have been to these locations before and some of you may never have set foot on a First World War battlefield. We hope you all take something away from the experience. It's a chance to reflect and recognise the sacrifices made by those who fought.

The Pilgrimage culminates on 8 August in Ypres when over 2,000 Legion and community representatives will march to the Commonwealth War Grave Commission's Menin Gate Memorial for the One Hundred Days ceremony that marks the centenary of the launch of the 'Hundred Days Offensive'. The arrangements that are necessary to assemble every pilgrim in one place on one day are complex. To ensure the day is a success, you are asked to study the details in this booklet and follow the instructions provided on the day.

Joining you on the parade will be invited representatives from a number of associations that have connections to the First World War, and seated under the Menin Gate will be over 200 invited guests that represent communities from across the Commonwealth and beyond.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude and thanks to the city of Ypres, the College of Burgomaster and Aldermen, Ypres Tourism, the Last Post Association, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Royal British Legion Ypres Branch and all others who have put a number of their buildings, sites, facilities and personnel at our disposal and been extremely supportive of our event from the outset.

8 AUGUST INFORMATION AND TIMINGS

(ALL TIMINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)



9.30am Coaches start to arrive in Ypres with all parade participants being dropped off in the designated preparation area. You should arrive ready to go on parade. A marquee will be onsite with refreshments, toilets and seating available. Final personal preparation and briefings will take place (please do not leave the preparation area at any time before the parade).



11am Parade form-up. you will be called forward by the Parade Marshals



12pm Parade steps-off, marches across the Market Square past the VIP Dias and on to the Menin Gate where it forms for the ceremony



1pm One Hundred Days Ceremony at the Menin Gate



1.45pm Parade returns to the form-up area and falls-out

MARKET SQUARE ENTERTAINMENT (ON THE STAGE AND BANDSTAND)



2.15pm The London Welsh Male Voice Choir



2.50pm Sam Jefferson (singer-songwriter)



3.15pm Gala Concert featuring The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines
Scotland and The Central Band of The Royal British Legion



3.35pm The Central Band of The Royal British Legion



4.15pm Grand Finale featuring The Central Band of the Royal British Legion,
The London Welsh Male Voice Choir and Sam Jefferson



4.30pm Event ends and pilgrims return to coaches



5pm Coaches depart back to hotels for dinner

MARKET SQUARE EXHIBITIONS

The following exhibition stands will be in the Market Square The Royal British Legion's Poppy Shop, Membership Department, 2018 Thank You Movement, Operations, Public Affairs and Public Policy and Remembrance Travel External exhibitors include the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Last Post Association, Newton Newton Flags, Flagmakers and a general information tent The Royal British Legion Ypres Branch Poppy Shop will be open to visitors throughout the day.

You are encouraged to use the local shops, restaurants, cafes and bars of Ypres and enjoy the town's warm hospitality.

PARADE AND CEREMONY FORMAT

All details are subject to change. You will be informed of any changes in advance of the form-up.

ONLY accredited representatives are authorised to parade

The total return distance is approximately 1600m (1 mile) You should arrive in Ypres dressed and ready to go on parade so, please, prepare beforehand at your hotel Final minor preparations can be made in the designated preparation area before the parade forms-up There will be a marquee, toilets and refreshments in the preparation area

You should adhere to the Great Pilgrimage 90 dress code previously issued

If you decide you do not feel able to participate in the parade on the day, or require additional assistance, please inform a Parade Marshal as we will have staff and Cadets available to assist If you are unable to parade, you will be escorted to the Menin Gate separately to the parade where you will re-join your contingent for the ceremony.

Parade Commander:	National Chairman, Mr Terry Whittles
National Parade Marshal	Mr John Grimes
Band	Her Majesty's Royal Marines Band Scotland

Form-up: You will be directed when and where to form-up by the Parade Marshals. Standard Bearers and Wreath Bearers will march in two separate contingents Both contingents will form in ranks of four. Due to the large size of the parade, the two main contingents will be split into smaller divisions, separated by a few paces, to make it easier to control the parade. A Parade Marshal will be allocated to each division and give the orders to their division The parade drill manoeuvres have been kept as straightforward as possible

PARADE ORDER OF MARCH

Front



The Band of Her Majesty's Royal
Marines Scotland (RM Band)



The Royal British Legion Union Flag Bearer (UFB)



National Standard Bearer (NSB)



NSB Scotland



NSB Women's
Section



NSB Youth



NSB RCEL



National Chairman (NC)



Membership Council (MC)
(In Ranks of 4)



Massed Standard Bearers (SB) (In Ranks of 4)
Branch Standards followed by Association Standards



Massed Wreath Bearers (WB) (In Ranks of 4)
Branch Wreaths followed by Association Wreaths

Rear

THE PARADE TO THE MENIN GATE

Please act on the commands of the Parade Commander and Parade Marshals at all times
Please ensure that you remain closed up so that the parade remains together throughout

- At Ease after form-up complete
- Stand at Attention/Standards to the Order Standards perpendicular to right side, pole base on ground, Wreath Bearers to hold wreaths in left hand facing outwards
- Standards to the Slope
- Quick March—step-off The RM band will lead the parade
- Right Wheel
- Left Wheel into Market Square, march diagonally across the Square Standards to the Carry
- The RM Band will peel away to the left and form-up by the side of the VIP Dias to play the entire parade through the Market Square
- The main parade continues across the Market Square (UFB leading)
- Eyes Left at VIP Dias situated outside Cloth Hall on Market Square
- Eyes Front and continue across the Market Square
- On sight of the front of the parade approaching the Menin Gate, The Central Band of The Royal British Legion, who are seated under the Menin Gate, will pick up the step of the parade and play them through the Menin Gate
- On entering the Menin Gate, the UFB, RBL NSB and NC ONLY peel left and take up position around the Belgian Flag (already in position under the Menin Gate)
- All other NSBs, MC and massed SBs continue through the Menin Gate and march up the road until instructed to complete a 180° wheel to return down the other side of the road, halt at the Menin Gate East arch and form-up ready for the ceremony
- The WBs, on arrival at the West entrance to the Menin Gate, will Wheel in twos either

Left or Right down the side roads and halt WBs will leave a clear path into the Menin Gate for the dignitaries from the VIP Dias to walk through. Once dignitaries are through, WBs will re-form around the Menin Gate West arch ready for the ceremony

- NSBs step forward for the start of the Ceremony Massed SBs remain in place
- All Standards at The Order/Stand at Ease

THE ONE HUNDRED DAYS CEREMONY

The ceremony starts at 1pm and will last approximately 45 minutes You will be standing throughout (there will be some seats provided for those that need to sit)

- In order to recreate the atmosphere of 1928, parade participants will be encouraged to close in and squeeze up at the two entrances to the Menin Gate for the ceremony
- Due to the large numbers in attendance we will provide screens and audio to ensure everyone can follow the ceremony
- A separate Order of Service will be provided that has full details of the ceremony
- The parade will be called up to attention at the appropriate moments during the ceremony including for the National Anthems and Acts of Homage
- Standard Bearers ONLY NSBs will conduct Dips during National Anthems and Acts of Homage All other massed SBs will be called to attention and the Carry only
- Wreath Bearers at the appropriate time during the ceremony, a military team will direct WBs to come forward in large groups to lay their wreaths The military will orchestrate the laying of over 1,100 wreaths in under twenty minutes so that every WB is able to lay their wreath at the Menin Gate As such, WBs are requested to follow the instructions given and move as efficiently as possible whilst still ensuring that the wreath laying is respectful and poignant

THE PARADE FROM THE MENIN GATE

Once the ceremony is complete, the parade will return to the form-up area via the same route

- WBs will part left and right either side of the Menin Gate to make a clear path for the SBs to march through
- The UFB, all NSBs and the NC will form-up under the Menin Gate (Belgian Flag stays static) in front of the MC and massed SBs, facing the Market Square
- The MC and massed SBs will form-up in fours behind the NC and NSBs
- The RM Band will form-up down the Menin Road behind the WBs
- Stand at Attention/Standards to the Order
- Standards to the Slope or Carry (TBC)
- The UFB, all NSBs, NC, MC and massed SBs step-off and march through the parted WBs
- The RM Band step-off once the SBs reach them down the Menin Road
- Once all SBs have passed through, WBs will form-up in fours facing the Market Square and step-off
- The RM Band peel off right and form-up in the Market Square to play the parade through the Market Square
- The rest of the parade will continue across the Market Square
- Right Wheel out of Market Square
- There will be an Eyes Left called as you pass the Belgian War Memorial
- March back to the form-up area and fall-out

TAKE OUT

On conclusion of the parade you should return to the preparation area to return your Standards to your respective coaches or place them in the marquee if your coach is not parked nearby. You will receive your packed lunch from your Leger Guide. You are then free to enjoy the afternoon in Ypres but should be on your coach by 5pm for departure back to hotels.

WREATH INSTALLATION

All wreaths will remain at the Menin Gate after the ceremony for public viewing and for the evening Last Post Association's service. They will be built into a wreath installation on the Southern Rampart of the Menin Gate that will stay in place until the end of August, after which they will be removed and disposed of responsibly and respectfully. We are not able to return wreaths to individual branches when the installation is removed. We will retain the Remembrance message cards for future use.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

In the event of unsuitable weather, the event and parade may be adjusted or cancelled. Adjustments could include changing the dress code to suit the weather conditions or walking to the Menin Gate. Any changes will be briefed to parade participants in advance of the form-up. All decisions will be made in consultation with the National Chairman, the National Parade Marshal, the local authorities, Health and Safety Advisors and the Event Team.

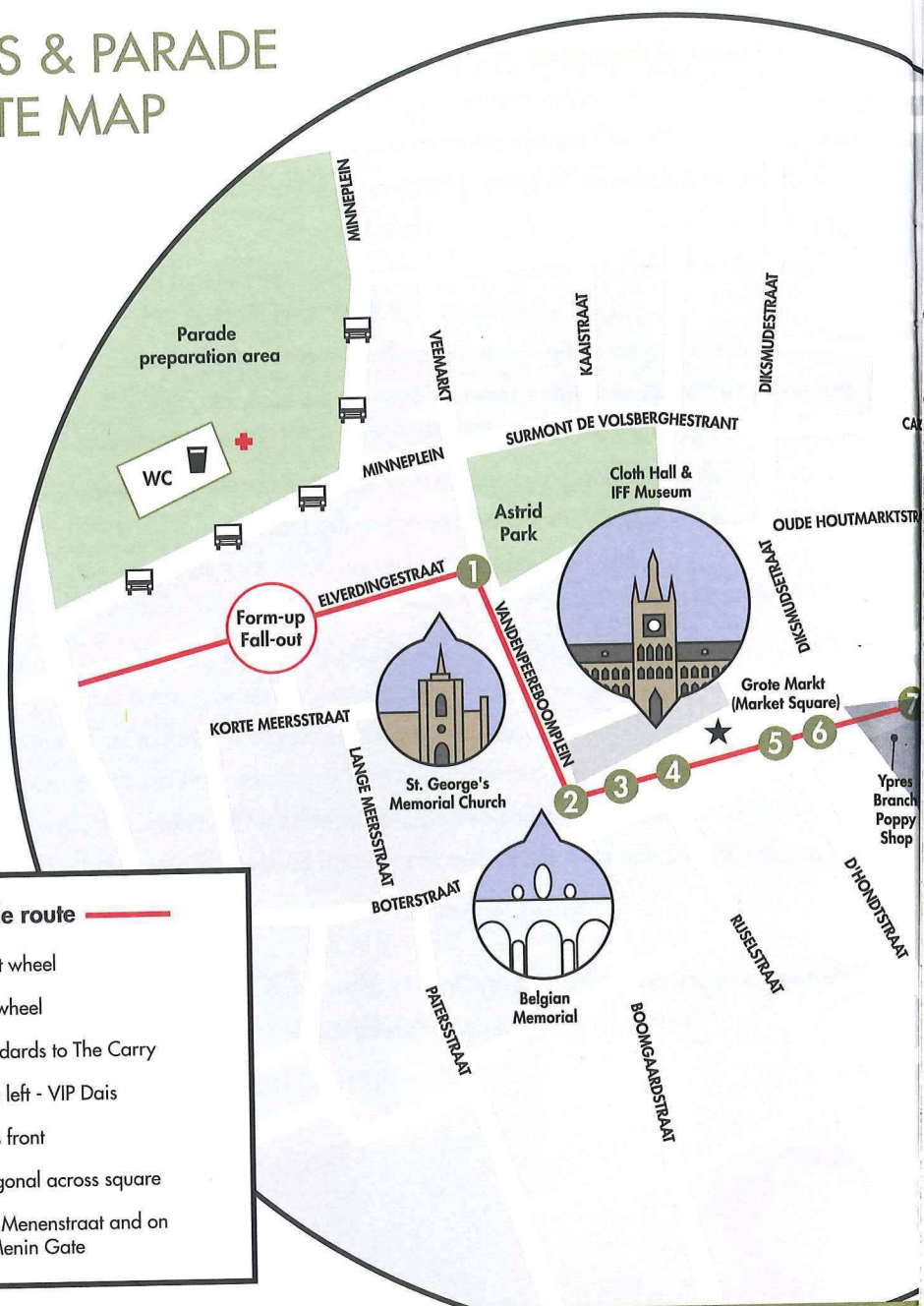
DEPARTURE

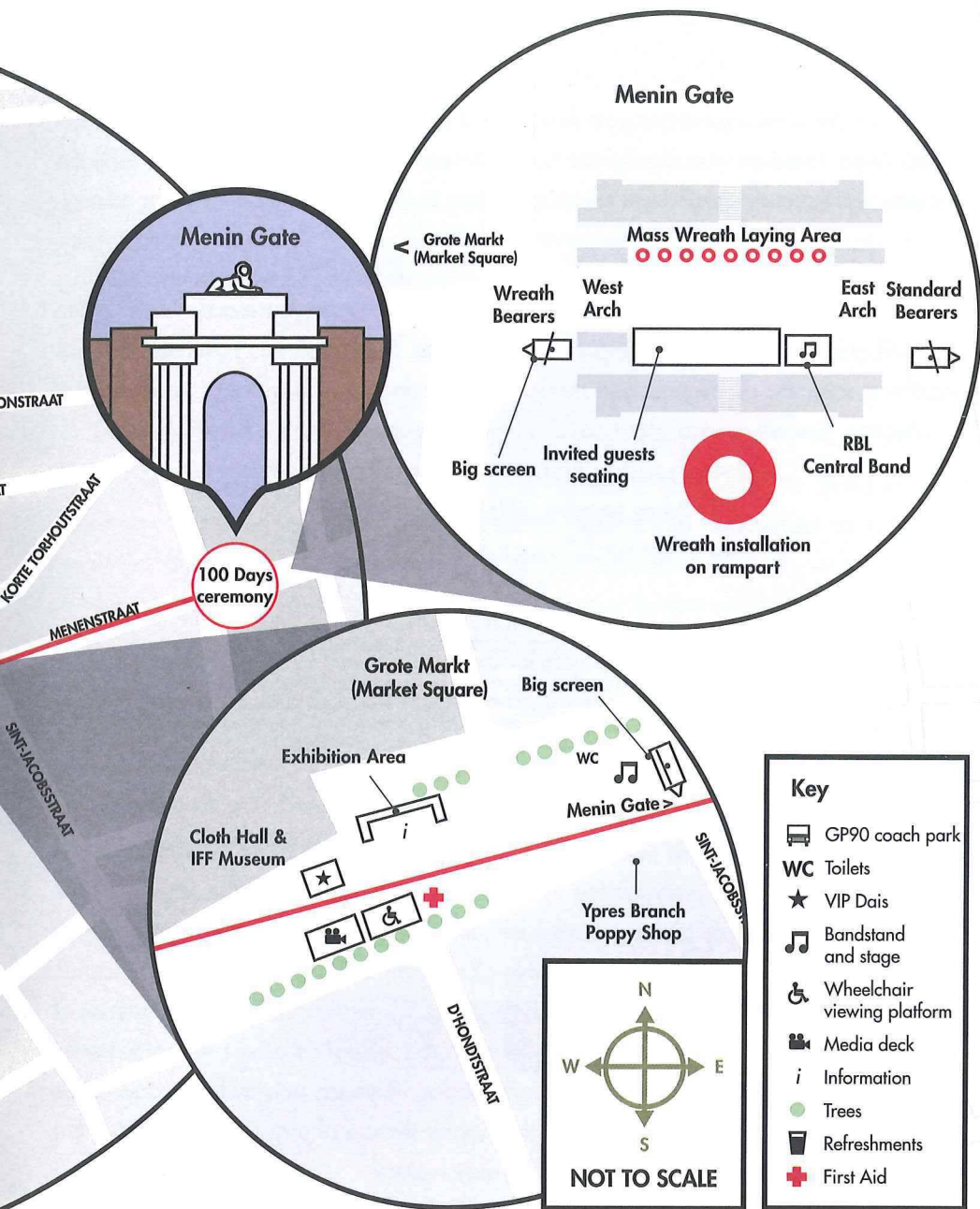
You need to back on your coach by 5pm to allow for a smooth departure for all back to your hotels for dinner.

YPRES & PARADE ROUTE MAP

Parade route ———

1. Right wheel
2. Left wheel
3. Standards to The Carry
4. Eyes left - VIP Dais
5. Eyes front
6. Diagonal across square
7. Into Menenstraat and on to Menin Gate





USEFUL INFORMATION

INCIDENTS

For any incidents during the tour, your first point of contact will be your tour guide or coach driver. Leger Holidays also have a 24-hour UK helpline; they will provide you with the number before departure and you should pass it on to your nominated emergency contact.

TRAVEL AND INJURY COVER

If for any reason you require medical attention, you should immediately inform your tour guide who will assist and inform the relevant Legion contacts. The Legion has travel and medical insurance cover for all pilgrims and should you be admitted to hospital or need medical attention, you will need to inform the insurance company quoting the following details:

Chubb Businessclass Bespoke Injury and Travel Insurance

Policy Number UKBBBO16696117

24hr Emergency Contact: +44 (0)20 7173 7796

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS

During the tour, local in-country medical facilities will be used for your primary medical coverage. On 8 August in Ypres, we will have Belgian Red Cross teams available in the city to provide immediate medical coverage.

PUBLIC FILMING NOTICE

The Royal British Legion are filming and photographing this event for promotional and broadcast purposes. By participating in the event and entering into the areas that the event is taking place, you give permission for your likeness to be recorded through video and photography. All participants consent to all and any use in any media by the Legion of any photographs and/or films in which they feature, and the parents or guardians of any participants under 18 years give consent in respect of their child(ren). All participants, and the parents or guardians of participants under 18 years, acknowledge and agree that no payment will be made to any participant for the use of any photographs or films in which they may feature.

GREAT PILGRIMAGE 90 LEGACY

The event will be covered by official photographers, film crews, social and digital channels and media. We encourage you to take as many photographs and videos as possible and you have been supplied with a pen and notepad to write down your experiences. An official Great Pilgrimage 90 short film will be produced after the event and distributed to participating branches as a legacy memento. You could also do your own presentation to your local community or branch on your return.

THE 'YPRES' SCROLL – REMEMBERING THE ROLE OF YOUR BRANCH STANDARD

An official 'Ypres 2018' scroll, which can be affixed to your branch's Standard after the event, has been approved by the Legion's Membership department as a way to commemorate your branch's attendance. To be eligible to affix the scroll your branch must have had representatives on the official Great Pilgrimage 90 tour and parade. All branches that meet this criteria will be sent a letter of confirmation from the Legion's Membership department (Legion Scotland branches will need authority from their own HQ) shortly after the event. The purchase of the scroll is at the discretion of the branch. The official scroll will be available from a number of approved suppliers including AA Flags, Flagmakers and Newton Newton Flags (prices and options are available directly from suppliers). The authorisation letter must be provided to the supplier before they can supply the scroll.



THANK YOU MOVEMENT

In this exceptional centenary year, we're leading a national movement to say Thank You to all who served, sacrificed and changed our world during the First World War. We want to look beyond the traditional commemoration of British servicemen to consider the whole generation, with the movement based around the themes of

Arts – Arts and culture were impacted by the experiences of a generation of poets, artists and composers. We still enjoy the works of Wilfred Owen, Gustav Holst, J. R. R. Tolkien and many more.

Commonwealth – The Commonwealth answered the call with volunteers from far and wide including pre-partition India, the Caribbean and Africa, all of whom make up a vibrant part of our culture.

Women – Women played a huge role in the First World War and this helped to change their role in Britain. Supporting the war effort meant that many more women worked in jobs outside the home.

Children – More than 340,000 children lost a parent and countless more lost brothers and uncles in the First World War. Despite this trauma, children played a vital role in the war effort.

Pioneers – Pioneers in the First World War were driven to innovate. If you've ever used a teabag or worn a wristwatch, you can thank the necessity during the war for making them commonplace.

Armed Forces – Soldiers returning home found a shortage of housing and a struggling economy. Despite this, they brought the same resolve to peace that they had shown in war, helping to rebuild Britain.

There is some fantastic activity lined up with major national partners involved, from the English National Ballet putting on a special performance to Highclere Castle recreating its wartime hospital. We're engaging children around the nation through a creative competition, and countless communities are planning their own related activity, from skydives and mountain climbs to The First World War-themed events, showing typically strong British support for Remembrance and the Armed Forces.

We'd love you to use your connection with the British public to help bring Thank You to life, amplify our message and show modern generations just how relevant the war still is to their lives today. Even if we don't know it, we all have the First World War connections and we all have something to be thankful for.

Also in 2018, we want to ensure that all Commonwealth Service men and women who fell during the First World War are remembered. You can leave on our website your own unique commemoration to one of the fallen: a family member, someone from your local area or any of the many still left to be remembered. They all served and made the ultimate sacrifice, and this year we want to make sure we have joined together to say Thank You. Visit www.everyoneremembered.org/ to remember them.

The Thank You movement will really gain momentum in the 'last 100 days' of the Centenary, from 8 August to 11 November. We hope you will join us in saying Thank You to all who served, sacrificed and changed our world. To find out how we'll be working with different groups to inspire them to take part, or to discover what you can do, visit the Thank You website: rbl.org.uk/ThankYou.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

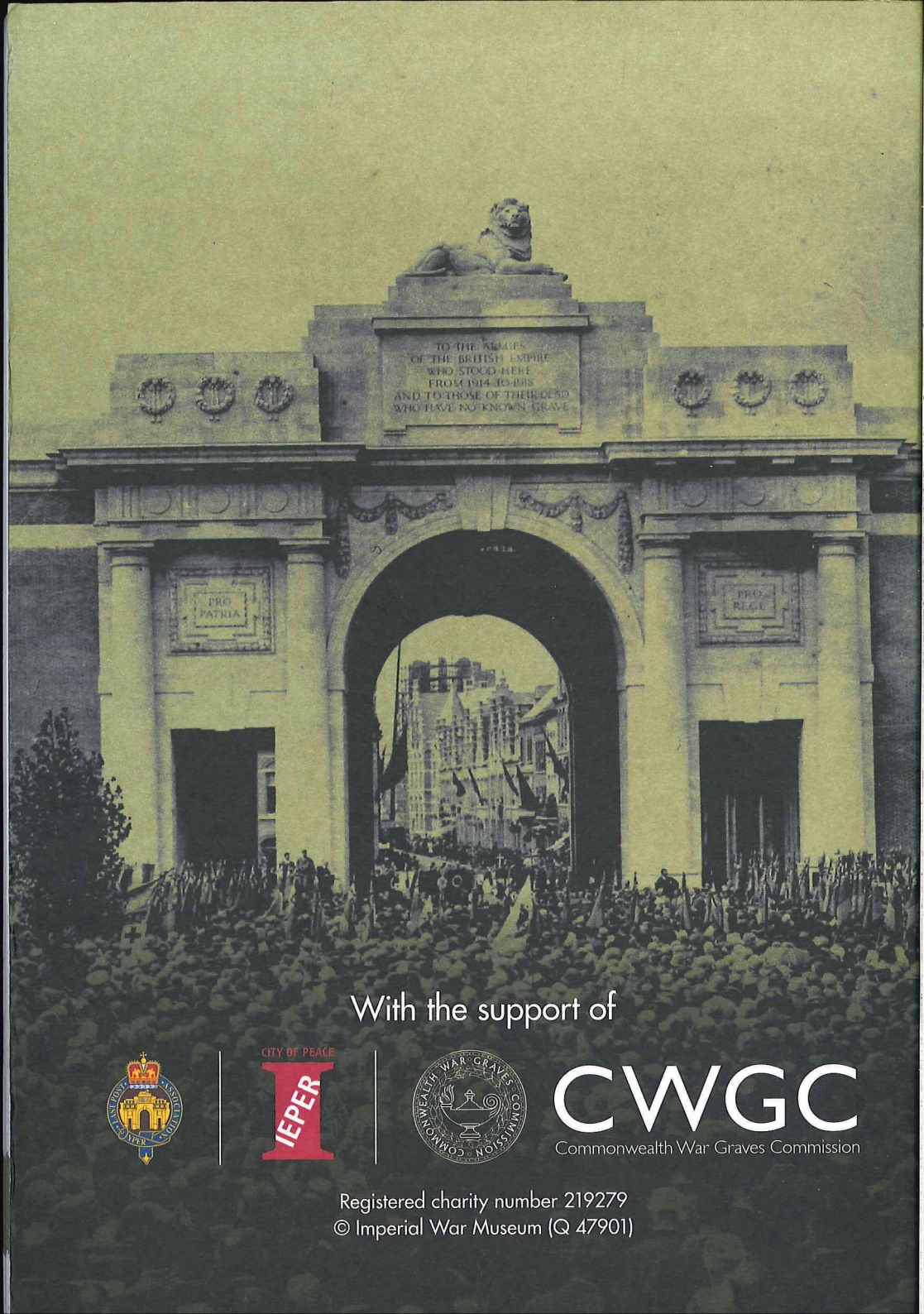
The Royal British Legion is at the heart of a national network that supports the Armed Forces community through thick and thin – ensuring their unique contribution is never forgotten. We are the country's largest Armed Forces charity, with 235,000 members, 110,000 volunteers and a network of partners and charities who help us give support wherever and whenever it is needed. We've been here since 1921 and we'll be here as long as that community needs us.

Although we are most visible during the annual Poppy Appeal, where millions of poppies are worn as symbols of Remembrance and hope, and many millions of pounds are raised, our support for the Armed Forces community continues for 365 days a year.

We provide access to training courses and Armed Forces-friendly employers to help people adjust to life after Service. We help the Armed Forces community cope with debt, access benefits, appeal for injury compensation and set up a home. We fund breaks, recovery programmes and dedicated care homes. This support for our Service men and women, veterans and their families is lifelong. Eligibility begins after seven days in service. All of this work depends on the efforts of our members and volunteers, both the time they put in providing services and the funds they help raise. We value every single contribution.

The Legion is also a campaigning organisation. We provide a voice so politicians and government officials listen to the Armed Forces community's needs.

Our other role is Remembrance. The red poppy is our symbol of Remembrance and peace for a hopeful future. It recognises the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces community. From the First World War to the present day, we honour the memory of those who have died on active service to the Crown. We ensure Remembrance is understood and available to all, and continues to be passed on to each succeeding generation.



TO THE ARMIES
OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE
WHO STOOD HERE
FROM 1914 TO 1918
AND TO THOSE OF THEIR DEAD
WHO HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVE

PRO
PATRIA

PRO
PATRIA

With the support of



CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Registered charity number 219279

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