



AUSTRALIAN
REMEMBRANCE
TRAIL

along the Western Front



An Australian Journey across the
First World War Battlefields of France and Belgium

Australian Remembrance Trail along the Western Front

The First World War battlefields on the Western Front in France and Belgium were witness to an Australian story of great triumph and tragedy, of unimaginable losses to a young nation and an extraordinary part in the course of history.

Between March 1916 and November 1918 more than 295,000 Australians served in the Australian Imperial Force in France and Belgium. Of these, some 46,000 lost their lives and some 131,000 were wounded.

The Australian Remembrance Trail along the Western Front honours their service and sacrifice, building upon the efforts of local Belgian and French communities over many years to commemorate and remember Australian service. It links sites of significant Australian battles, encompassing museums, memorials, cemeteries and other related points of interest.

Take the journey

Explore the Australian Remembrance Trail online with access to audio guides, interactive maps, photographs, historical information and accounts of the experiences of the soldiers of the Australian Imperial Force. To learn more about the Trail and find suggested travel itineraries visit

www.sjmc.gov.au

About the Trail

The Australian Remembrance Trail along the Western Front is an Australian Government initiative to establish, in cooperation with French and Belgian authorities, a commemorative trail highlighting significant sites along the Western Front that allow visitors to interpret the Australian experience of war.

The Australian Remembrance Trail links the most significant sites along the 200km trail from Ieper (Ypres) on the Channel coast in Belgium to Bellenglise in northern France. It includes battlefields, cemeteries, memorials and museums – all sharing their own experiences of the First World War.

Visiting these sites, where 75 percent of Australia's First World War fallen now rest, is an emotional and rewarding experience.

AWM E00746 German prisoners, escorted by Australians, carrying wounded from the battlefield



Ieper (Ypres) Belgium

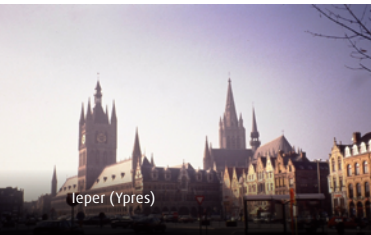
Visit the **In Flanders Fields Museum** featuring Ieper (Ypres) at war and the great battles fought nearby between 1914 and 1918. Follow the stories of individuals, including Australians, caught up in these terrible experiences.

A short walk away is the **Menin Gate Memorial**, site of the nightly Last Post Ceremony and a moving point at which to start or finish a visit to the Western Front.

Ploegsteert Belgium

The **Plugstreet 14-18 Experience** tells the story of the 1917 Battle of Messines. Soldiers of the Third Australian Division played a key part in this significant victory.

Nearby is **Toronto Avenue Cemetery**, the only all-Australian cemetery in Belgium. The dates of death on the headstones here tell something of the Australians in action at Messines.



Zonnebeke/Passchendaele Belgium

Visit the **Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917** with its interpretation of the 1917 'Flanders Campaign', which aimed to drive the Germans from western Belgium. A section of the museum highlights the costly Australian participation in what became known simply as 'Passchendaele'. An Australian section of the **Passchendaele Memorial Garden** in the museum's grounds is an ideal place to reflect on what happened here.

Nearby is **Tyne Cot Cemetery**, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in the world. More Australians are buried here than in any other war cemetery in Europe.

Also nearby in Polygon Wood are the **Fifth Australian Division Memorial** and the **Buttes New British Cemetery**, which features a New Zealand Memorial to the missing.



Toronto Avenue Cemetery



Plugstreet 14-18 Experience

Fromelles France

The story of Australia's disastrous first battle on the Western Front is told at the **Battle of Fromelles Museum**. Within 24 hours at Fromelles on 19-20 July 1916, more than 5,500 men of the Fifth Australian Division became casualties, of whom some 1,900 died.

Adjacent to the museum is the **Pheasant Wood Military Cemetery**, the first new cemetery established by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 50 years. 250 soldiers (including 225 Australians) were reinterred here after their remains were recovered from a nearby mass grave in 2009.

The nearby **VC Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial** lists the names of 1,179 Australians 'missing' at the Battle of Fromelles. Buried here are the remains of 410 of these men.

Visit the adjacent **Australian Memorial Park** and see the bronze sculpture '**Cobbers**', depicting the bravery and compassion of Sergeant Simon Fraser.



Cobbers



Battle of Fromelles Museum



Bullecourt France

The **Jean and Denise Letaille Museum Bullecourt 1917** contains a wealth of objects associated with the two major Australian actions fought here in April and May 1917. More than 10,000 Australians were killed or wounded in these battles and more than 1,100 were taken prisoner, the largest number of Australians captured during a single engagement in the First World War.

Close by, the **'Digger'** statue at the **Australian Memorial Park** gazes out over the fields of Bullecourt, a tribute to the Australians who fought here. A service is held at this memorial every Anzac Day.

Thiepval France

View one of the most unusual cemeteries on the Western Front, the **Anglo-French Cemetery**. In two facing plots lie 300 French and 300 British Empire soldiers, symbolising the Anglo-French alliance of the First World War. Ten Australian soldiers, only four identified, are buried here amongst the British Empire graves.

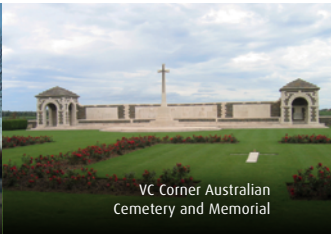
The **Thiepval Memorial**, towering over the Anglo-French Cemetery, lists the names of more than 72,000 British soldiers 'missing in action' in the Somme region.



The Bullecourt Digger



Anglo-French Cemetery,
Thiepval Memorial



VC Corner Australian
Cemetery and Memorial



Pozières France

The **First Australian Division Memorial** commemorates all the major battles of the Division on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918. It is sited where, between 23 and 26 July 1916, the Division fought its first significant action in France, suffering more than 5,200 casualties.

Just beyond Pozières, **The Windmill Site** 'marks a ridge more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth'. Within view of this site, between 23 July and 5 September 1916, Australia suffered 23,000 casualties, more than 6,700 of whom died.



First Australian Division Memorial



Australian Corps Memorial

Vignacourt France

Visit Vignacourt, where men of the Australian Imperial Force posed for portraits at the Thuillier's Farmhouse during times of rest behind the lines. The **Vignacourt 14-18 Interpretive Centre** explores their story and sheds light on life behind the lines during the First World War. Nearby, 424 Australians are buried in the Vignacourt British Cemetery.

Le Hamel France

Visit the **Australian Corps Memorial**, where one of the Australian Imperial Force's swiftest victories was achieved on 4 July 1918, and which became a template for military operations that followed. To the north, beyond the River Somme near Sailly-le-Sec is the **Third Australian Division Memorial**.



Franco-Australian Museum



Villers-Bretonneux France

Visit the **Franco-Australian Museum** at the Victoria School. Here, the collection of the Franco-Australian Association testifies to the abiding personal links between the town and Australia, begun during the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux on 24–25 April 1918 when the Australians drove the Germans from the town.

In November 1993, the remains of Australia's Unknown Soldier were removed from the **Adelaide Cemetery** at Villers-Bretonneux, and reinterred at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

Outside Villers-Bretonneux, on the **Australian National Memorial**, are inscribed the battle honours awarded to the Australian Imperial Force for service on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918. Beneath these inscriptions are the names of more than 10,700 Australians who died in France and have 'no known grave'.



Australian National Memorial



The Sir John Monash Centre

Adjacent to the Australian National Memorial, the Australian Government-funded **Sir John Monash Centre** tells the story of Australia's experience of the Western Front in France and Belgium during the First World War. The Centre is named after General Sir John Monash, who led the Australian Corps with outstanding success on the Western Front in 1918.

At the heart of the Centre, an immersive experience unique to visitor centres on the Western Front, delivers an emotional education experience in English, French and German. The Centre uses leading-edge technology and multimedia, supported by objects of significance to Australians. Visitors leave the Sir John Monash Centre with an enhanced understanding of Australia's role on the Western Front, and the impact and loss suffered by a young nation. To learn more visit www.sjmc.gov.au

Dernancourt France

Visit Dernancourt, where in 1918 Australian troops played a key role in stopping a major German advance. Explore the area with a marked walking trail highlighting sites of significance.

Péronne France

Visit the **Second Australian Division Memorial** at Mont St-Quentin, site of the Division's greatest victory. The capture of Mont St-Quentin unhinged the German defences on the Somme. Visit the Australian gallery at **l'Historial de la Grande Guerre** in Péronne, and follow interpretive trails around the village and Mont St-Quentin.

Bellenglise France

The **Fourth Australian Division Memorial**, on the heights above Bellenglise, marks the farthest point of advance of the Division's infantry in their final battle of the war. Less than two months later, the war would be over.



Fourth Australian Division Memorial

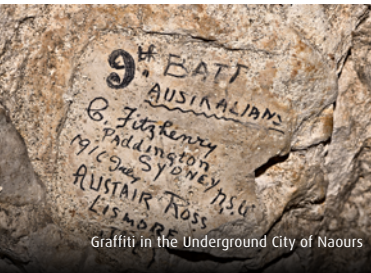


Historial de la Grande Guerre

Naours, France

Visit the **Underground City of Naours** to walk in the footsteps of Australian soldiers and view the graffiti they left behind on the limestone walls. The underground galleries are a tourist attraction dating from the Middle Ages which soldiers could visit while on recreational leave. To date, 3200 pieces of First World War graffiti have been uncovered.

The **Silent Soldiers of Naours Interpretive Centre** tells the stories of the men who inscribed their names in the tunnels and how soldiers experienced the war behind the lines.



Grffiti in the Underground City of Naours



The Silent Soldiers of Naours Interpretive Centre



The CWGC Visitor Centre



Headstone engraving at the CWGC Visitor Centre

Beaurains, France

The **CWGC Visitor Centre** takes you behind the scenes to learn more about the remarkable work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It highlights the expertise of its highly skilled craftsmen and women and provides information on how the dead of the World Wars are recovered and reburied, and how memorials and cemeteries worldwide are cared for and maintained.



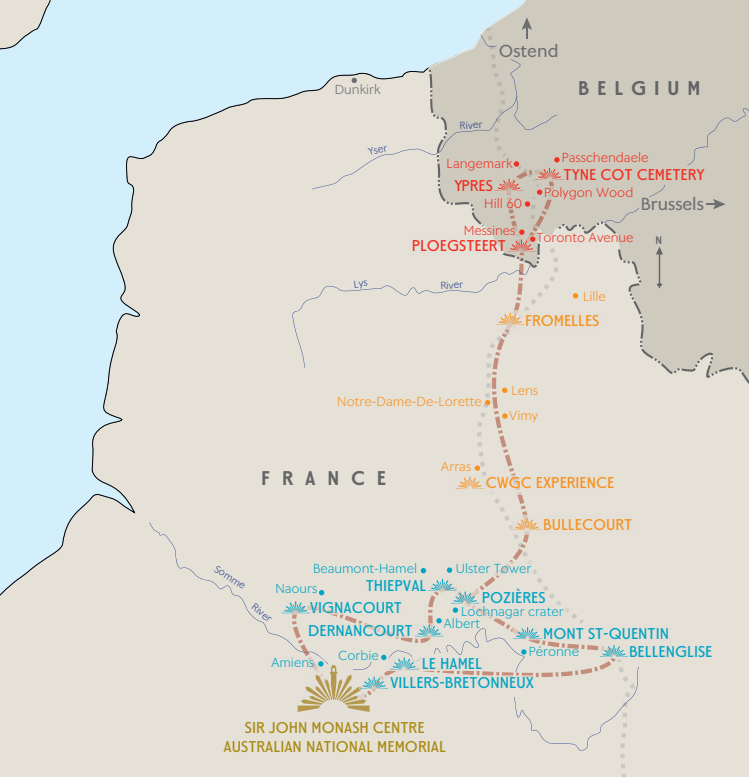
Second Australian Division Memorial



The Sir John Monash Centre at the Australian National Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux

Location	Site
Ieper (Ypres) Belgium	In Flanders Fields Museum, Menin Gate Memorial
Ploegsteert Belgium	Toronto Avenue Cemetery, Plugstreet 14-18 Experience
Zonnebeke Belgium	Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 and Gardens, Tyne Cot Cemetery, 5th Australian Division Memorial
Fromelles France	VC Corner Memorial & Cemetery, Pheasant Wood Cemetery, Cobbers Australian Memorial Park, The Battle of Fromelles Museum
Bullecourt France	Jean and Denise Letaille Museum, Digger Memorial Park
Thiepval France	Thiepval Memorial, the Anglo-French Cemetery
Pozières France	1st Australian Division Memorial, Mouquet Farm, the Windmill Site, Walking Trails
Vignacourt France	Vignacourt 14-18 Interpretive Centre

Location	Site
Le Hamel France	Australian Corps Memorial, 3rd Australian Division Memorial
Villers-Bretonneux France	Franco-Australian Museum, Adelaide Cemetery, Australian National Memorial, Sir John Monash Centre
Dernancourt France	Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Walking Trails
Péronne and Mont St Quentin France	2nd Australian Division Memorial, l'Historial de la Grande Guerre
Bellenglise France	4th Australian Division Memorial
Naours France	The Underground City of Naours
Beaurains France	The CWGC Visitor Centre



Australian Remembrance Trail ————
The Western Front
 (early 1917)



Paris
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www.sjmc.gov.au

www.visitflanders.com

www.somme-battlefields.com/anzac-france



Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Office of Australian War Graves