

This map of the old front region — to fight and die in Hei - 'Wars Without End' - gives each country, we will highligh a summary of all the heritage the story of one soldier, who sites in our landscape that are will stand as a representative associated with the First World for all his fellow-countrymen. In the Cold War. Where are these post-war reconstruction of the sites located? Which ones can be region, as well as exploring the visited? What is the story behind links with the Second World Wa them? Where was the front line and the Cold War. and how did it change during the war? In particular, the First World War was a truly international war, which brought soldiers from no fewer than nine different nations

14-18

Sites and relics of interest

coordinates, is given below.

Bavernwald (Bavaria Wood) Wijtschate is 40 metres above se it, making the position or strategic importance. I



There is a small entrance fee and the site is accessible for wheelchair users.

of Heuvelland were of great and strategic significance Kemmel and its outlying L spur were vital observation and 1917. This high ground, which



today, offered wide views over the front from Mesen to Wijtschate, and further towards leper. At the end of 1916, British engineers started to construct a number of underground headquarters in the flanks of Mount Kemmel and the Lettenberg spur. The bunkers at the Lettenberg were completed in the spring of 1917. They gave access to a brigade headquarters deeper underground, where there was also sleeping accommodation for troops. The wooden tunnels that once led further into the side of the hill have long since collapsed. A red cross can clearly be seen above the entrance to one of the bunkers, indicating its wartime use as a dressing station for the treatment of the wounded. In April 1918, during the Battle of Mount Kemmel, the site was captured by the Germans and remained in their hands until the start of the American offensive in August. Entrance to

O Dietrich, a German countermine shaft • GPS 50.787747,2.870197 From 1916 onwards, the Allies began tunnelling under the German positions on the Wijtschate-Mesen ridge, so that they could blow them up with mines. The Germans were well aware of this and took countermeasures to

PLAN_80x42cm_HeuvellandWO1fontkaart_ENG_297505.indd 1

Soldiers from the four corners of the earth

digging; the key to success was to eliminate your enen

Kemmel Chateau cemetery.

North Sea

mines and explode your own before they could do the

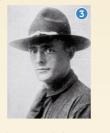
In 1914, Ireland was still a part of Great Britain. This to huge political tension in the island. There was a fierce **1** J.H. Smith • British soldier and 'sapper' • 25 years and often violent dispute between the radical nationalist In the cemetery at Kemmel Chateau 12 soldiers who demanded total independence from London, and the who were all killed on 10 June 1916 lay buried neatly in equally radical unionists in the north of the country, wh wanted to maintain the links with the rest of the United Kingdom at all costs. William Redmond (* Ballytrent, 15 a row. They all died in a tunnel deep under the Petit Bo (Little Wood) in Wijtschate. During the period 1915-19 the underground war was a vicious conflict of thrust a counter-thrust, played out 30 metres below the surface no-man's-land. Both sides knew that the other side wa

April 1861) was a nationalist at heart but of a more moderate kind, who believed that self-government - or 'home rule' as it was known - could and should be achieved by peaceful constitutional means. For this reason, when war broke out he encouraged Irishmen to join the 16th Irish Division, which was then part of the British Army, believing that such a display of loyalty to the crown in time of same to you. But locating your enemy's galleries was a difficult and dangerous crisis would persuade the British to grant home rule when the war was over. In an task. One British tunneller - or 'sapper' - expressed it as follows: "You knew they impassioned speech from the balcony of the Imperial Hotel in Dublin, he spoke were there somewhere, but you could only guess what they were up to. It wasn't the now legendary words: "Old as I am, and grey as are my hairs, I will say: Don't so bad when you could hear them working. But when everything went silent, that go, but come with me." 'Willie' Redmond was commissioned as a captain and was was when it got really scary..." Silence often meant that the enemy was about to later promoted to major in the 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment. At the same explode a countermine, and this is what the Germans did 15 metres below the time, he remained active in the British Parliament during his visits back to England. Petit Bois on the morning of 10 June 1916. Their aim was to collapse the tunnel In his last speech, he exhorted his fellow Irishmen of all persuasions to follow the they knew that the British were digging - and this time they scored a direct hit. A good example of co-operation set by the (largely Catholic) 16th Irish Division and series of detonations brought down the roof of the British gallery over a length of the (largely Protestant) 36th Ulster Division at the front. During the opening day of 90 metres. 13 sappers, including James Henry Smith from Romford in Essex, were the Mine Battle on 7 June 1917, Redmond was wounded by a shell splinter. Private trapped in a length of tunnel that was 27 metres underground, 1.2 metres high and John Meeke, a stretcher-bearer in the unionist Ulster Division, rushed to his aid and iust 90 centimetres wide. It took six and a half days of non-stop digging to reach the dressed his wounds. He then tried to carry the 56-year-old parliamentarian on his rapped men, but by the time the rescue party arrived 12 of them - including James shoulders back to the safety of the front line, but was wounded himself before he Smith - were already dead. William Bedson, a mine worker from Rotherham, was had gone very far. For his bravery, Meeke was awarded the Military Medal, but his the only one to survive. His 12 less fortunate comrades were buried next day in efforts were all in vain. William Redmond died of his wounds a short time later at an aid post in Dranouter. His troops took his body further back behind the lines to

2 Major William Redmond • Irish soldier and member there the man who was once known as 'the Peter Pan of British politics' still lies in American battle casualty to die on Flemish soil. of the British Parliament • 56 years his lonely grave.

3 Corporal William Leonard • American soldier • 28 years

Corporal William (Billy) Leonard (* 11 December 1889) was the son of John and Winifred Leonard from Flushing, New York. During the war, he served with the 27th (New York) Division. In civilian life he had been a journalist. His friends knew him an sociable young man, who liked a laugh and a joke. This was reflected in his newspaper articles, where his unique approach to interesting stories was always laced with humour. It was this same interested curiosity that ultimately led to his death. Although he had no need to go



up to the front line, he volunteered for the task, saying that he just wanted to see what it was like "up at the sharp end". 14 July 1918 - the French national holiday - was a cold and wet day in Flanders. That night a British quide led a party including Billy up to the Scherpenberg hill, beyond which lay no-man's-land and Mount Kemmel. The area was full of Germans and danger was ever present. Even so, Billy persuaded a number of British soldiers to take him out on patrol to repair some barbed wire entanglements between the lines. The work party left the safety of their trench around midnight and stumbled forward into the dark. They had only just set out when the British opened up with a fierce artillery bombardment of the German positions. Unsurprisingly, the Germans retaliated in kind. The work party rushed back towards the trench but a shell exploded in their midst. A British soldier was killed instantaneously and Billy was hit in the stomach by a large piece of shrapnel. The other British troops picked up his limp and bleeding body and dragged him back to their own lines, but when they arrived they found that he was already dead. He was buried with the British soldier on the southern slopes of the Scherpenberg hill, but his remains were later transferred

the village of Loker, where he was buried in the garden of the local convent. And to Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery (plot B - row 02 - grave 14). He was the first

François DESVEAUX • French soldier • 23 years

François Desveaux was a second lieutenant in the 106th 'Chasseurs à Pied' (Light Infantry) Regiment. He was born in Autun, in the department of Saôneet-Loire, on 2 December 1895. Before the war, he was educated at the celebrated Villa Saint-Jean public school in Switzerland, where the famous writer-aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry also studied between 1915 27 at springht doil technol he will but the Docklage it Docklage Coloate 12 1 b. M. of attention for Fillings. and 1917. "Farewell, said the fox. I leave you with my secret, and it is a very simple secret: you can only see good with your heart. The things that are essential are invisible to the naked eye." (From 'Le Petit Prince' (The Little Prince) by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry). François

Desveaux died on 20 May 1918 at the foot of the Scherpenberg hill, near the hamlet known as Bruloze. The French were attempting to recapture a narrowgauge railway that they had recently lost to Germans, but François was caught in the crossfire of the German machine guns as he advanced. In 1919, his father published a series of extracts from his son's war letters. These letters paint a picture of a dedicated officer, who was concerned for the health and welfare of his men. "4 May 1918, 1900 hours. I eat and read through our orders. They are not very clear. We are to move out to the left from Loker, opposite Kemmel. There is no longer talk of any attack... I try to organize my troops so that they can defend themselves, if attacked by the enemy. One of my men is lying flat on the ground in the bottom of the trench. I touch his arm and ask him to stand up, but he does not answer; he is dead..." In another letter, a friend of Francois described his reaction to situations of this kind: "The death of one of his men always made a deep impression on François Desveaux. He liked them, just as they liked him. Each time, he somehow managed

to find new energy and courage. He was universally praised by his men for his positive approach and his calmness in all circumstances, which had a motivating effect on the morale of his troops. Even during the fiercest bombardments, he was prepared to risk death or injury in order to stay with his men."

Servais Dauchy • Belgian field policeman • 50 years Early October 1914: the Germans are closing in on the Westhoek I Ihlans members of the elite German cavalry are already making probing reconnaissance raids into the region, to locate the positions of their British and French opponents. On 5 October, a large squadron of 600 Uhlans passes through Waasten and Nieuwkerke, riding on to Dranouter and Loker, where they spread out into smaller groups. At the foot of the Rodeberg hill two of the cavalrymen stumble by

chance across Servais Dauchy (° 27 January 1865), the local field policeman, talking to one of his friends, Desiré Lagache. One of the Uhlans has already been wounded, and he is bitter and angry. Although Servais is dressed in civilian clothes, the brass buttons on his waistcoat betray that he is the holder of an official position. For this reason, the Germans seize hold of him and search him. In his pocket, they find a gun, which it was usual for him to carry. The unlucky pair are immediately arrested and dragged to the nearby village of Westouter, where they are chained to the iron railings around the churchyard. The mood is grim and everyone knows that there is a good chance that the men will be executed. Yesterday, the Germans lost one of their comrades during a shooting incident in Wervik and killed one of the local citizens in reprisal. Today, it looks like they are still out for revenge. Jules Vandromme, the burgomaster, who lives opposite the church, sees what is happening and runs outside. He begs the Germans to be allowed to take Servais' place. Later one of the villagers will write: 'He said that they should take him, who had nobody else in the world, but not Servais, who had a wife and four young children.' But the Germans are deaf to his pleas. The policeman is shot dead with four bullets. Fortunately, his friend is released unharmed... Servais is now remembered on the war memorial in Westouter and also on the national memorial in the Zonien Forest in Brussels to the field and forestry policemen who died during the Great War.

Chang Chi Hsuen • Chinese no. 1301 • labourer • age unknown

In Croonaert Chapel Cemetery, set slightly apart from the other burials, stands the grave of a labourer of the Chine Labour Corps. He died somewhere near Bayernwald on 2 January 1919. The cause of his death is unknown. Perhaps he died while clearing unexploded (and still potentially letha munitions from the battlefield. Or perhaps he died from illness or disease: the so-called Spanish flu claimed many victims in 1919. It has been written: 'None of the Chinese h a name. All they had was a copper armband with a number on it.' No. 1301 was taken into the service of the British Army

to work behind the lines, because there was a shortage of manpower: every spare soldier was needed at the front. So no. 1301 was not a soldier; he was a worker. And he did have a name: Chang. Together with thousands of his fellow countrymen he was given a contract for three years. For many of the desperately poor peasants in northern China this seemed like a golden opportunity to earn a fixed income and also to receive food, clothing, accommodation, fuel and free medical treatment. For many, this sounded like a dream come true, but few of them realized what it would mean in reality. From August 1916 onwards, Chinese labourers were used for various non-combatant tasks: transporting ammunition to the front, maintaining roads and railways, building barracks, loading and unloading trains, working in factories, etc. After the war, 96,000 of these Chinese labourers stayed on to help clear the old battlefield. This meant not only shells, weapons and all the other detritus of war, but also tens of thousands of dead bodies, which

Canada and was still unmarried when he enlisted at the age of 37 on 5 October 1914 for overseas service with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. His recruitment papers say that he had brown eyes and brown hair. As a veteran of the South African 'Boer' War, he already had a degree of military experience. Perhaps for this reason, he soon found himself in one of Canada's most elite units: Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

like Chang - were destined to stay behind for all time.

Archibald Ferguson Cameron was born on

17 September 1877. He was a native of Montreal in

The founder of this battalion, who was also a veteran of the Boer War, provided 100,000 dollars - a huge sum in those days - for the equipping of the troops, regarding this as a personal tribution towards his country's effort to rush to the aid of the British motherland in its hour of need. The PPCLI was one of the first Canadian units to reach Europe, where it served with other British units on the Western Front. In January 1915, the regiment was part of a British brigade that relieved the French in the sector that included Bayernwald. The trenches were little more than muddy ditches, protected by a few sandbags hastily erected as a parapet, and it was clear that the French had made little or no effort to improve matters. There was no such thing as a continuous front line and many of the troops were forced to stand knee-deep in slime. The harshness of these conditions meant that the troops needed to be relieved on a regular basis. The Patricia's brigade moved continuously between the front line, reserve positions at Elzenwalle and their rest camp at Westouter. During a tour of duty in the front line, not far from Bayernwald, Private Cameron was killed on 19 February 1915, probably by shellfire. His body was carried back behind the lines and buried in the convent garden at Huize Godtschalck in Loker. After the war, his remains were transferred to the adjacent Locre Hospice Cemetery, where he now lies in plot II, row B, grave 7.

were transported to the newly constructed military cemeteries throughout the

front zone. By 1919, this gruesome task was completed and the Chinese left the

Westhoek, probably to the great relief of most of the local population. But some -

Archibald Ferguson Cameron • Canadian soldier • 38 years

P. 9GLI

3 Dan Kelly • Australian soldier • 32 years Dan was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, in 1886. parents, Daniel and Margaret Kelly, emigrated t with their nine children shortly after his birth, m new home on a farm at Donald in Victoria State. A 21, Dan was earning a living as a sheepshearer, a also turned his hand to maize picking and fence the meantime, his father had turned the family b a stud farm, where he successfully bred Clydesda

a sturdy breed of Scottish origin. Dan and his brother Peter loved horses and both became excellent riders. Perhaps it was inevitable that when war came they would both enlist in the Australian cavalry, which they did together on 19 July 1915. Via Egypt and Marseille, they finally arrived on 1 April 1916 in Strazeele, a village close to the Franco-Belgian border. They took part in various battles, including the Mine Offensive, when Dan was wounded in the shoulder and arm. After he recovered, Dan was sent with Peter to form part of a machine gun team. On 18 April 1918 - seven days before the German attack on Mount Kemmel - they were manning a machine gun post on top of the hill when fate struck and a chance shell plunged into their midst. Dan was seriously wounded and was carried by four of his comrades on a stretcher to the aid post near the hamlet of Bruloze. It was there that he died. During the night he was buried by his 'mates' in the garden of Fairy Farm. His brother, Peter, survived the Battle of Mount Kemmel and the war, in spite of being badly wounded, and was later awarded a medal for gallantry. Sadly,

9 Josef von Steiner • German lieutenant • 22 years Josef Steiner (° Langenreichen, 24 November 189 Dranouter, 15 April 1918) was a Bavarian officer who serv

as a volunteer in the 3rd Prins Karel van Beieren Infar

with the rank of lieutenant during the First World War. He the son of Josef Steiner and Josefa Reiner. His father v a barrel-maker, farmer and also the local mayor. Josef studied to be a teacher, but on 1 October 1913 he enlis

Dan's grave was lost in subsequent fighting and he is now commemorated on

the Australian memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, 150 kilometres away in northern



he served with the Bavarian Army as a local commander on both the Eastern and Western Fronts (Lorraine, Somme, Gorlice-Tarnow, Przemysl, Brest-Litovsk Emilin, Verdun, Aisne, Champagne, Chemin des Dames). He received several decorations in the Military Order of Max-Jozef for his great gallantry in the field. On one occasion on 25 June 1916 at Fmilin (Poland), he launched several successive attacks on his own initiative against the Russian positions and, having captured them, beat off repeated counter attacks. For this he was awarded the Knight's Cross a decoration that elevated him to the ranks of the German nobility. This meant that henceforth he was able to refer to himself as 'Ritter' von Steiner (the equivalent of a knighthood). In January 1918, he commanded the 8th Company of his regiment during severe trench fighting in the sector between the Meuse and Moselle rivers. Later, his company moved north to take part in the Battle of Mount Kemmel. On 15 April, after a preliminary bombardment lasting several hours, Steiner and his men moved forward to the attack with three other battalions. Steiner captured the objectives allocated to his unit, but the main attack on the Zwartemolen (Black Windmill Hill) was held up. Steiner was able to reorganize the three storm battalions and led them forward again to capture the position. It was during this fighting that this brave officer was killed, just 4 kilometres from the main prize: Mount Kemmel. Even so, his determination and resourcefulness had resulted in significant strategic gains, for which he was posthumously awarded the Knight Commander's Cross. one of only 11 officers in the Bavarian Army to receive this honour during the war. His body was taken back to Germany and he was buried in the civil cemetery at

Frank Wiltshire • New Zealand soldier • 29 years

Frank Wiltshire was born on 17 March 1894 in Staines in what was then still Victorian England. He grew up Witney and Ashford, together with his younger brother and sister. As with most families at that time, his upbringing was strict, although there was still a place for music and other recreations. Each year the family spent three weeks at the coast, where they enjoyed all the fun of the British seasid The three children were all destined for good careers and



his education Frank left at an early age for New Zealand, where he went to work for the national bank in Auckland. In his spare time, he gave lessons to Maori children and he dreamed of one day owning his own farm. He was even on the point of getting engaged, when the First World War broke out and changed all his plans. On 11 January 1916, he enlisted in the New Zealand Engineers and via Suez and Alexandria arrived in Southampton, England, on 8 August that same year. A month later, he sailed for France, where he served as a sapper (engineer) in the Divisional Signal Company of the New Zealand Division. This division was engaged in the Battle of Messines between 7 and 14 June 1917 and it was during this period on 10 June, that Frank was killed. He is now buried in La Plus Douve Farm Cemetery, not far from the village of Wulvergem. When the telegram bringing news of his death reached his parents, his father had a heart attack from which he never recovered, dying before Frank's medals and personal effects ever reached home.

was put right by the erection of two stone monuments a little further along the road to Kemmel. These 'Irish plinths' stand on each side of the road and bear the respective national symbols of the Republic of Ireland (the shamrock) and of Ulster (the red hand). The plinths symbolize the fact that Irish soldiers who held violently different political ideas at home - nationalists versus unionists were able to join hands and fight together against a common enemy during the war years.

Hamerican monument • GPS 50.797615,2.849134

This monument on the road from leper to Kemmel at Vier was erected by the Ame Battle Monuments Comm (ABMC) in 1929. It was designed George Howe from Philade Pennsylvania, and is made white Rocheret stone. inscription on the front of the

memorial is flanked by two American swords: at the base, there is an American helmet, resting on a wreath of laurel. The back of the memorial bears the insignia of the 27th and 30th Divisions. The emblem of the 27th (New York) Division is a monogrammed 'N.Y.', made up from the seven most important stars in the constellation of Orion. In Greek mythology, Orion was a hunter, and the stars represent his sword and belt. The monument commemorates the first attack made by American troops in Belgium at the end of August 1918. It was inaugurated on the same day - 8 August 1937 - as the American military cemetery in Waregem. This cemetery contains the graves of many of the Americans who died in the fighting at Vierstraat

Obelisk for the 32nd French Division • GPS 50.798601,2.834443

The monument to the 32nd Division was erected at the initiative of the 3rd Battalion of the 143rd Infantry Regiment, which served with the division during the war. It was designed by the leper architect, August Taurel. The monument honours the soldiers of the division who first fought here between October 1914 and January 1915, before being transf to a different part of the front. The di returned to the sector during the Ge Spring Offensive in 1918 and was engaged in heavy fighting. The obelisk was inaugura 8 September 1919. The 'grapes' emblem refers to the region around Perpignan in southern

France, where the 32nd Division was raised. The monument was partially dismantled during the Second World War by the Germans, who needed its metal for their war industries. At the instigation of Dr Alfred Canepeel, a wellknown expert on the First World War from leper, the 'Friends of the 32nd Division' was set up for the specific purpose of restoring the memorial, which was re-inaugurated on 15 July 1963. Further restoration work was completed by the local council in 2014.

British tank bridge made from bunker blocks • GPS 50.807935, 2.833866

At the point where the Vierstraat road crosses the Kemmlebeek stream. close to Dikkebus lake, you can find an extremely rare wartime relic. As far as is known, there are no other surviving tank bridges of this kind dating from the First World War. It is known as the Barden Bridge. It was reinforced with the addition of parapets on 11 October 1918 as part of the preparations for the approaching Liberation Offensive. On the coping stone of the left hand wall, when travelling in the direction of Dikkebus, there is an insc 245- GT - AT- RF - 7° A The initials refer to the 24 Troops (A.T.), Guernse Royal Engineers (R.E.). specialised in bridging wor part of the British XIX Corps. The da

refers to the day on which the bridge's road surface was first completed. The bridge was in the sector of the 27th US Division and played an important role n bringing troops and material to the front during the fighting in August 1918 and during the later Liberation Offensive.

The four demarcation stones • GPS van één paal: 50.783703,2.791603 At the initiative of the French artist and

war hero. Paul Moreau-Vauthier. number of demarcation stones we erected along the old Western Fro in the 1920s. The stones marked th furthest point of the German advan in 1918 and ran in an unbroken li

from the North Sea coast to Swiss border, Originally, 22 of thes stone were erected in the Westhoek, 19 of which still survive. The cost of their erection was paid for by the provincial authorities and the Ypres League, a British veterans association. All the stones contain the same elements: a laurelcrowned helmet, a gasmask, a water bottle and the text: 'Here the savage invader was brought to a halt'. Not surprisingly, this text was not to the liking of the Germans troops who reoccupied the region in 1940 during the Second World War. As a result, they had the inscriptions obliterated, but allowed the stones to remain. In so doing, they added a new dimension to the stones, unifying the mentality of the former 'losers' and 'winners' of the First World War in a single historical monument.

Command bunker, Mount Kemmel - Cold War - • GPS 50.77612.2.816856

During the 1950s the world wa the grip of the Cold War. In We Europe, the fear of a R invasion reached new Various military installation built - also in Belgium - t this new threat. One of the constructed in the greates in the flanks of Mount Ken 1953. This underground bunk

more than 50 separate rooms, four of which have now been transformed into a museum. The other rooms still contain authentic equipment from the time, such as old telephones, desks, cupboards, telex machines, etc. It is almost as if time has stood still. Lifelike wax dummies, information panels and numerous touchscreens with background information help to complete the museum display. In one of the rooms there is also a time line (several metres long), which charts the progress of the Cold War in photos, events and quotes. There is a small fee for admittance and the bunker is not accessible for wheelchair users.

Maginot bunker, Second World War • GPS 50.776151,2.738299

The most important relics of the Second World War in the southern part of the Westhoek are just across the border in northern France, where there is a series of bunkers belonging to the Maginot Line. Seven of these bunkers are

on the Zwarteberg hill ('Mont in French, 152 metres high) ar of them is open to the public bunker was built in 1938, which much later than the original Ma Line, which was constructe the Franco-German borde the early part of the 1930s. How in 1936 Belgium suspended its mil agreement with France, which had

previously allowed French troops to enter Belgian territory in the event of a German attack. This meant that the French urgently needed to extend their line of bunkers between Sedan and the North Sea. Viewed in retrospect, the bunkers achieved little. The rapid German 'blitzkrieg' (meaning 'lighting war') outflanked and surrounded the Allied armies at Calais and Dunkirk, so that the Maginot Line scarcely saw any fighting. A few days after the capitulation of Belgium on 28 May 1940. Adolf Hitler made his first visit to our region. where he had been a soldier during the First World War. Wijtschate and Mount Kemmel were among the places he visited.

WWI info-panels on the Crater and Mine Route starting point GPS 50.785924,2.881881

This themed walking route meanders through the now peaceful countryside where the great Mine Battle of June 1917 once raged. There are various sites of interest along the way: Bayernwald, the Dietrich shaft, the Pool of Peace, etc. In between these sites there are also a number of other infoas the panorama boards in the Vierstraat and the Klaverhullestraat, or the panels that tell the stories the digging machine and the collapsed undergro tunnel in Petit Bois (Little Wood), the significance of

Skip Point, and the foundation of Huize Godtschalck (Loker hospice). The walk starts from the visitors' meeting point in the village of Wijtschate.

● Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery • GPS 50.786879,2.828979 and Kemmel Churchyard

These are respectively the largest and the smallest British military of

in Heuvelland, Kemmel Cha its name from the large It was burnt to the ground by that broke out on Christma so that only the outer walls standing. During the German Offensive of 1918 even these ru

walls were totally destroyed. The cemetery was started in December 1914 and changed hands on a number of occasions during the war. As a result, it was

also subjected to repeated bombardments. The cemetery constructed after the Armistice now contains the graves of 1,135 British and Commonwealth soldiers from the First World War. In May 1940, 21 graves of soldiers killed during the Second World War were added. The First World War casualties include 12 tunnellers who died following an explosion in the British mine gallery in Petit Bois (Wijtschate) on 10 June 1916. Two deserters who were executed by the British Army also have their last resting place here. The small plot of graves next to the church suffered the same fate as its larger neighbour, being completely destroyed during the fighting in 1918. The graves were later recovered and 24 soldiers from Great Britain and one from India lie buried in what is now the municipal cemetery.

Unfortunately, the majority of the traces left behind by the Great War in our region cannot be visited. For example, of the 67 remaining bunkers, only nine are open to the public: four at the Bayernwald site, four at the Lettenberg and one in Wijtschate Woods. Similarly, only one of the craters - the Pool of Peace at Spanbroekmolen - is accessible for visitors. Happily, many of the monuments, memorials and cemeteries are on public land and are open to all. A summary of the most important public sites, complete with their GPS

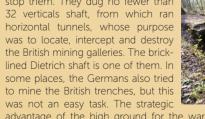
A Bayernwald • GPS 50.800577,2.875273

the position was captured and held by the Germans, who named it 'Bavernwald' after the troops from Bavaria who had fought here. Between the end of 1914 and June 1917, the low ridge was transformed into an almost impregnable fortress. Nowadays, the site is unique, not least because it allows the Mine Battle of 1917 to be viewed from a German perspective. The trench system that you can see today was the site is an accurate reconstruction of the wartime situation, with 320 metres of trenches, four bunkers and two mine shafts. Walking through this system gives vou some idea of what the men who served here must have experienced.

B Lettenberg • GPS 50.782379,2.816789 During the First World War the hill for the British Army between 19'



the site is free, but it is not accessible for wheelchair users.



was not an easy task. The strategi advantage of the high ground for the war above the surface became a strategic disadvantage in the war below the surface. It meant that the Germans had to dig much deeper to reach the British positions, and this always created more problems. In addition, it meant that they had to dig through a layer of saturated sand, which forced them to use pre-cast concrete sections to build their underground tunnels, a difficult and time-consuming task. Sometimes, they used steel rings or formwork with loose cast concrete as an alternative. 'Dietrich' is made from pre-cast elements and is estimated to be 25 metres deep. The horizontal tunnel that leads away from its bottom towards the former British lines is thought to be 180 metres long.

Pool of Peace or Spanbroekmolen crater • GPS 50.776005,2.860903 For three centuries the wind peacefully turned the var

of the windmill on the hill Spanbroekmolen, until war arrived here in November 1914. After fierce fighting, th strategically important posit eventually fell into

mill and the key town of Belle (Bailleu just over the French border, was carried out under the direct observation of prying German eves.

o break this impasse, the Allies placed a deep mine 27 metres under the Germa positions on the hill. It was scheduled to

be blown along with 23 other mines on 7

June 1917, at the opening of the so-called Mine Battle. Unfortunately, there was a fault with the detonating mechanism, so that the mine exploded a handful of seconds late. This meant that the attacking troops of the Ulster Division were already out in no-man's-land, suffering heavy casualties from the German machine guns, when the mine finally went up. An instant later the men of both sides were buried under tons of debris and earth. Some of the British casualties of this disaster are now buried just a few hundred metres away, at Lone Tree and Spanbroekmolen cemeteries. The rows of white headstone are a poignant and bitter footnote to the 'success story' of 7 June 1917.

The Angel and the French mass grave •

GPS 50.778875,2.808155 The monumental column on top of Mount Kemmel is one of the most important French war memorials in the Westhoek. It commemorates the many Frenchme who fell near here during the Battle of Mount Kemme in April 1918. The memorial, known locally as 'De Engel' (The Angel), is 17 metres high and made fro white cement. On a plinth at the foot of the colur stands a statue of Niké, the Greek goddess of victo

monument. In each hand she holds a la wreath, while her mournful gaze look over the battlefield and the French below. The sides of the obelisk list the F units that fought here. The memorial inaugurated on 18 September 1932 in presence of the French generals Lacape and Pétain. In 1970, a bolt of ligh destroyed the replica of a French h that once crowned the structure. The Fr mass grave - also known as an ossuary at the foot of the western slopes of Mo Kemmel with a fine view towards the ot

Flemish hills - Zwarteberg, Rodeberg ar Scherpenberg; a view which immediately makes clear the strategic value of this location. The mass grave - in fact, four separate mass graves - was made after the Armistice in November 1918 and now contains the mortal remains of 5.294 French soldiers, only 57 of whom could be identified (some only partially). Their names are recorded on the white stone obelisk, topped with a Gallic cockerel, which rises from the centre of the cemetery. Both sites are accessible for wheelchair users.

Grave of William Redmond • GPS 50.779578,2.781014

The lonely grave of Major William Redmond is one of the most remarkable spots in Heuvelland. It stands in splendid isolation just metres from the neighbouring British military cemetery, set amidst the fields opposite Huize Godtschalck (once a hospice, now an orphanage) in Loker. The Celtic cross marks the last resting place of the Irishman, William Redmond (see the character sketches below). It was the express desire of his widow that he should not be buried in the British cemetery, much against wishes of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission After the death of Mrs Redmond in 1967 and with the permission of the surviving members of the family, the Commission again tried to have the grave moved, but this met with fierce resistance from local people in Loker, led b village priest, Father Debevere. And so Majo Redmond continues to lie in his lonely grave Redmond was an Irish nationalist, sitting as an MP in the British Parliament at Westminster. Hi aim was to secure Irish independence from t United Kingdom by democratic means. grave is a symbol of his struggle to achieve thi goal. The site is not accessible for wheelchair users.

Castle

Church

Wood

A National border marker

Shelters/bunker

War graves

Craters 1917

Other

G The Irish cross and the Irish plinths • GPS 50.784549,2.876664 The granite cross was carved in Ireland and now stands next to the Commonwealth war cemetery in Wijtschate. A similar cross was also erected on the Somme (France) at Guillemont. The cross in Wijtschate was inaugurated

on Saturday, 21 August 1926, in the presence of numerous Irish dignitaries. It commemorates the part played 16th Irish Division in the capture village on the opening day of the gre Mine Battle, 7 June 1917. At the tim no mention was made of the e important role played by th Ulster Division in the same ba divisions had fought side by day. In 2007, this historical 'c

Heuvelland during the Great War

4 August 1914: Germany invades our country and marches on France. The German plan is to bring the French Army to its knees in less than six weeks by an outflanking march through Belgium. But the plan fails - and so the Germans switch their attention to the North Sea and the Channel ports, which are vital for the supply of men and materials from Great Britain. In October 1914, the ridge of high ground between Wijtschate and Mesen blocks the German race to the sea. This natural barrier is the last obstacle between them and coast. The Allies realize all too well that a German breakthrough here could alter the course of the entire war. For this reason, British and French troops defend the ridge at all costs - and with success. In the middle of November 1914, the war of movement comes to an end and both sides dig in: the Germans on the high ground, the Allies in the valleys below them.

For the next two years, the British and French carry out a series of futile and bloody attacks on the strong German positions, bleeding their armies white. Finally realizing the hopelessness of these near suicidal attacks across no-man's-land, the Allies decide to adopt a different approach: they go underground instead. On 7 June 1917, the British force a breakthrough by exploding 24 deep mines under the German trenches. The front line moves forward at last, passing the village of Wiitschate and heading in the direction of the River Lys. But in the spring of 1918 it is the Germans turn to attack, and they regain much of the lost ground. They not only recapture the Wijtschate-Mesen ridge, but on 25 April they also seize Mount Kemmel. The town of Poperinge and the elusive breakthrough to the Channel ports once again seems within reach, but it is not to be. French reinforcements are thrown into the battle and bring this final German advance to a halt. In August, two American divisions - the 27th and the 30th - launch a new offensive under Allied command. Unable to resist any longer, the German Army gradually starts to withdraw from our region. The end is now in sight and the Armistice follows just months later, on 11 November 1918.



Four major battles were fought in part or in whole on the territory now covered by the municipality of Heuvelland:

- the First Battle of leper, sector Wijtschate-Mesen (12/10/1914 - 02/11/1914).
- the Battle of Messines Ridge,
- also known as the Mine Battle (07/06/1917-14/06/1917).
- the Battle of Mount Kemmel and the Scherpenberg Hill (17/04/1918-29/04/1918)
- and the Final Offensive
- (28/09/1918-02/10/1918)

Traces in the landscape

Four years of brutal war left many scars on the landscape of our region. Some of these are still visible, although many are now covered with a soft, green mantle of vegetation. This is often the case, for example, with many of the surviving bunkers from the war years. Other wartime features are now buried underground, such as the tunnels and dug-outs that formed such a key part of the subterranean war. The summary below lists 157 officially registered war-related relics in Heuvelland. This list has been compiled largely on the basis of the VIOE WO I database. 124 of the relics are a direct consequence of military action of one kind or another during the war years, 61 of them have protected monument status.

- 67 bunkers, sometimes in groups, 42 of them of German origin
- 1 trench system Bayernwald
- 3 pre-WW I objects (including the clock face from the church at Kemmel
- 4 underground installations
- 3 'impressions' of trenches in the landscape • 1 well, where horses were watered
- 36 cemeteries
- 30 monuments, including - 4 demarcation stones

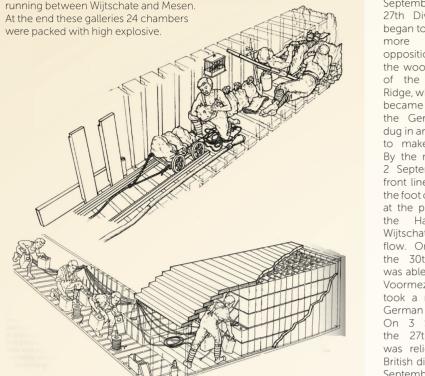
• 1 concrete bridge

- 3 memorial crosses - 3 memorial walls
- 9 memorial plaques, stones or signs 7 memorial columns
- 1 stained-glass window

- 2 statues The non-registered items scattered across the countryside are ever more numerous. Local farmers still make use of the stone blocks recovered from old wartime bunkers to pave their farmyards or to harden the access paths to their fields. And here and there you can still see the old corkscrew pickets - sometimes known as 'pigs' tails' - that were once used to erect barbed-wire entanglements in no-man's-land.

The Mine Battle - June 1917

Spring 1917: the stalemate on the Western Front seemed unbreakable. In spite of numerous costly efforts by the Allies to breach the German defences, the trench lines remained intact. Built to withstand the destructive power of modern artillery, these trenches offered the defenders relatively good protection, so that they could always cut down the attackers with their machine guns before they had time to cross the deadly killing ground of no-man's-land. As the war progressed, so the defences became even stronger. In some places redoubts were built and everywhere concrete bunkers and gun emplacements began to appear. The chances of forcing a breakthrough 'overland' gradually decreased with each passing month. For this reason, the British decided to take the war 'underground'. Where the enemy positions were situated on higher ground, as was the case in Wijtschate, they decided to dig tunnels under the trenches, plant mines and simply blow them up. This was a military tactic of long standing, but it was in Heuvelland that the tactic was applied systematically and on such a huge scale for the first time. The British tunnellers dug galleries at 11 separate locations along the ridge



The Germans knew what was happening and dug no fewer than 32 countermine shafts in a desperate attempt to locate and destroy the British mines. But it was all to no avail. At 3.10 a.m. on the morning of 7 June 1917, 19 of the mines were detonated, creating a massive explosion that could even be heard as far away as London. The German positions were literally blown sky-high, following which nine divisions and three reserve divisions of Australian, New Zealand, Irish and British troops moved forward to attack. By midday on 7 June, the village of Wijtschate had been liberated by the 16th Irish and the 36th Ulster Divisions.

The Battle of Mount Kemmel -April 1918

April 1918: the First World War had been raging for four long years in

our region. The German advance in November 1914 was brought to a standstill on the ridge of low hills running across the western part of West Flanders, the last defensive position of any importance between the invaders and the coast. If the Germans had broken through at this point, allowing them to capture the Channel ports at Calais and Dunkirk that were so crucial to the supply of men and materials to the British Army, the war might have taken a different course. But the Allied line held, albeit at huge cost, and so the stalemate of trench warfare began. During the next three years the situation at the front changed very little and the trench lines on the Wijtschate-Mesen ridge remained more or less static. All this changed with the entry of America into the war (April 1917) and the collapse of the Russian Army (Peace of Brest-Litovsk, March 1918). Fhe German High Command realized that they needed to use the troops released from the Eastern Front to win the war on the Western Front before the huge manpower resources of the United States could be deployed. Using these fresh divisions, the Germans launched a series of massive offensives, one of which was targeted on the Heuvelland region. This offensive reached its highpoint with the Battle of Mount Kemmel on 25 April 1918. The hill was lost, but the French Army was able to bring the German advance to a halt at the foot of the Scherpenberg, the next hill in the range. Throughout the summer, the no-man's-land between these

regularly changing hands. But the Germans were unable to force the breakthrough the so urgently needed. Gradually they ran out of both mer and supplies, and by Ju offensive had ground to a ha Their last desperate ga had failed.



The first American attack on Belgian soil - August 1918

The soldiers who manned the front line in Heuvelland (from Mount Kemmel to Elzenwalle Castle and Zillebeke Lake) from July 1918 onwards were Americans from New York (27th Division) and from Tennessee and the Carolinas (30th Division).

During the night of 30-31 August 1918, the 27th Division sent out strong scouting patrols towards the German trenches. They encountered no resistance. On the next morning, 31 August, it was possible to advance the front line almost unopposed to a new position astride the leper-Kemmel road. Without warning and in great secrecy, the Germans had evacuated Mount Kemmel, which they had fought so hard to gain just months earlier. On the same morning, the 30th Division was also able to advance in the direction of Voormezele, but in contrast to the New Yorkers they soon met with heavy fire from the German rearguards.

Born Nov. 22, 1898.

Died Sept. 2, 1918.

And knew the voice di-

He dave his life, he dave

The next day, September, the 27th Division also began to encounter more stubborn opposition along the wooded slopes of the Wijtschate Prvt. Lerey A. Doyle Ridge, where it soon became clear that the Germans had dug in and intended to make a stand. By the morning of 2 September their front line ran along the foot of the ridge, at the point where the Haring and Wijtschate streams flow. On the left, the 30th Division was able to capture Voormezele and took a number of German prisoners. On 3 September, the 27th Division

In frost and dew they weave a crown Of honor he has won was relieved by a British division, followed by the relief of the 30th Division on 4 and 5 September. Both American divisions were then transferred to France, where they continued fighting until the Armistice. During their actions in our region 406 American soldiers were killed and 1,707 wounded.



A war without end ...

The First World War was a total war in which nations threw everything they had into the struggle, in a desperate attempt to achieve final victory. Manpower, coal and steel production, wood production, animals, capital, foodstuffs; everything was subordinated and sacrificed on the altar of battlefield success. The winner was destined to be the side that could hold out the longest during this 'Materialschlag' or war of resource exhaustion. The following stupefying figures make clear the monstrous scale of this struggle:

- 70 million soldiers from 55 different countries fought on the various
- By 1918, 80% of the world's population was at war with each other: • 18-20 million fathers and mothers lost a son;
- 20 million soldiers suffered either physical or psychological damage; • 590,000 Belgian refugees spent the war in exile abroad; • In 1917 the Allies paid 325 million dollars a month to the United
- States for the purchase of war materials: • In 1918 alone, 198,000 kilometres of wood were chopped down, more than five times the circumference of the earth;
- 1.5 billion shells were fired on the Western Front, 5% of them containing chemical weapons; • 9 million horses were rewarded for their faithfulness to their human
- Belgium lost 18% of its pre-1914 national
- bridges, agricultural land and money; After the war, one million tons of surplus munitions were dumped in the sea, spread

quietly committed suicide.

over 80 separate locations: In the aftermath of the war, during the period 1918-1919, an estimated 20 million people died of Spanish flu; • After returning home, 1,400,000 soldiers



A remarkable relic: the remembrance oak in Loker



f a field, at the spot where local ner Jacques Covemaecker was killed by the explosion of an old vartime shell at a quarter to nine on the evening of 23 May 1983. Jacques was ploughing his land and decided to carry on as long as the light would allow, since heavy rain had been forecast for the next day. A shell buried in the earth ecame trapped in the spokes his harrow and the constant ibration caused it to explode. The ractor was blown high into the air and came down to earth with crash, burying itself deep in the

his tree was planted in the middle

ewly turned soil. Jacques was killed instantaneously. The next spring his widow planted an oak on the exact spot where her unfortunate husband had met his end.

long after they have finished. It is generally accepted that a third of all the shells fired during the Great War failed to explode. Some 5% of these shells contained gas or other lethal chemicals. Each year, DOVO a specialized unit of the bomb disposal service of the Belgian Army collects on average 250 tons of unexploded projectiles from local people (mainly from farms or building works). They still receive about 3,500 calls per annum, even though the war has been finished for 100 years! During the period 1918 to 2011 a total of 599 shells exploded in the southern part of the Westhoek region, sometimes as a result of being badly handled, sometimes as a result of sheer bad luck. These explosions killed 358 civilians and seriously wounded another 535. 73 of the explosions occurred in Heuvelland. These figures show just how deadly the shells and grenades of the Great War really were - and still are.

This sad incident reminds us of the dangers inherent in all wars, even



¹ From: 'The land of lethal scrap. Victims of explosion in the front region from

The blitzkrieg steamrollers over Heuvelland



n May 1940, the Germans vaded our country again. ne well-coordinated German attacks with tanks and planes ne dreaded Stuka's - punched hole in the Allied front near e French city of Sedan. What I proved so elusive during the t World War, suddenly and expectedly became possible: a

and soon reached the Channel coast. By the beginning of June, they were besieging the last remnants of the British and French armies in the port at Dunkirk, 60 kilometres north of Kemmel. The entire front had collapsed in a matter of weeks. The British had hoped to bring the German advance to a halt in the same area as in 1914: along the ridges and canals of the Heuvelland region. But this time their plan failed. The British troops were quickly forced to withdraw towards the coast. To make this possible, a number of engagements were conducted amongst the hills to cover the line of retreat. 167 British soldiers died during this fighting and are buried in Heuvelland. In their haste to escape, the British left behind large numbers of tanks, lorries and other equipment, Local people attempted to salvage what they could knowing that a new period of German occupation lay ahead of them. 84 residents from Heuvelland

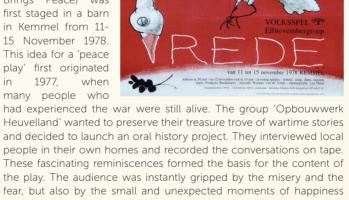
were deported to Germany, where the were forced to work in German factorie or on German farms. Fortunately, th majority returned to their homes safe and sound once the war had ended. A a votive offering of thanks, the people of Westouter installed a new mosaic above the door of their church.



Kemmel, Dranouter, Nieuwkerke and Wulvergem pass into German hands

War never brings peace!

The amateur dramatics production Brengt een Vrede' Brings Peace) wa first staged in a barn in Kemmel from 1 15 November 197 This idea for a 'peace 1977,



and decided to launch an oral history project. They interviewed local people in their own homes and recorded the conversations on tape. These fascinating reminiscences formed the basis for the content of the play. The audience was instantly gripped by the misery and the fear, but also by the small and unexpected moments of happiness experienced by men and women who they realized were just like themselves. They saw themselves reflected in their neighbours, who had lived through the horror of 1914-1918. This personal identification with the war's victims led the people of the Westhoek to start looking at the conflict in a new light. It was no longer viewed simply from the perspective of the generals and the military strategists, but also through the eyes of ordinary people and the soldiers at the front. This opened up opportunities for new avenues of approach: the stories of the wartime refuges, the difficult coexistence of soldiers and civilians behind the lines, the execution of 'deserters'. It was in the wake of this play and the change of mentality it engendered that a social climate was eventually created in which the In Flanders Fields Museum could blossom and flourish.

Post-war reconstruction - a unique challenge

After four years of war, six of Heuvelland's eight villages had been wiped off the map. The other two -De Klijte and Westouter - had been



Once the war was over, the people gradually returned the villages from which nev had been forced to e by the fighting. All ney found was ruin and struction. Often. not single house was left anding. As a result, they ere initially required to live in wooden huts,

CROONAFRT CHAPFI CEMETERY

DRANOLITRE MILITARY CEMETERY

GODEZONNE FARM CEMETERY

KEMMEL No.1 FRENCH CEMETER

I A CLYTTE MILITARY CEMETERY

LA LAITERIE MILITARY CEMETERY

LOCRE HOSPICE CEMETER'

LOCRE No.10 CEMETERY

LOKER CHLIRCHYARD

ONE TREE CEMETERY

MAPLE LEAF CEMETERY

MOUNT KEMMEL OSSUAR

R.E. FARM CEMETERY

SUFFOLK CEMETERY

AND EXTENSION

MILITARY CEMETERY

% by nationality

EMETERY

SOMER FARM CEMETERY

SPANBROEKMOLEN BRITISH

WESTHOF FARM CEMETERY

WESTOUTER CHURCHYARD

WULVERGEM CHURCHYARD

WESTOUTRE BRITISH CEMETERY

WULVERGHEM-LINDENHOEK ROAD

WYTSCHAFTE MILITARY CEMETERY

NIFUWKERKE CHURCHYARD

OOSTTAVERNE WOOD CEMETERY

PACKHORSE FARM SHRINE CEMETE

POND FARM CEMETERY (Wulverger

ORREKEN FARM CEMETERY No. 1

KANDAHAR FARM CEMETER

KEMMEL CHATEAU

MILITARY CEMETERY

KI FIN-VIFRSTRAAT

BRITISH CEMETERY

KEMMEL CHURCHYARD

DERRY HOUSE CEMETERY No. 2

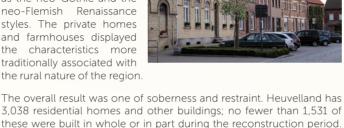
DRANOUTRE CHURCHYARD

homes was started. Usually, the most important public buildings were constructed first: schools, churches, post offices, town halls, etc. As 'pilot' buildings in the reconstruction process, considerable attention was devoted to their architectural design, resulting in a number of visually striking edifices. Together with the recreation of the pre-war street plan, these architectural 'jewels' formed the 'monumental' framework for the resurrected villages.

known as barracks. From 1919 onwards, the rebuilding of their former

Once the layout of the streets had been set, the individual homes gradually were added. This reconstruction period lasted from 1919 to 1926, although in some places work continued until the 1930s. In less than 10 years, all the ruined villages had been rebuilt. It was a remarkable achievement. These new villages were not exact copies of their pre-war predecessors, but were built in a uniform style with uniform materials. The aim was to provide an 'improved' version of what had existed before 1914.

Even so, the architects drew much of their inspiration for the pilot buildings from the architecture of the past, suc as the neo-Gothic and the neo-Flemish Renaissance styles. The private home and farmhouses displaye the characteristics mo traditionally associated wi the rural nature of the region



3,038 residential homes and other buildings; no fewer than 1,531 of these were built in whole or in part during the reconstruction period. This means that the streetscape in the various villages is still relatively homogenous and visually harmonious. Many of the facades show a high degree of uniformity and rhythmic coherence. Typical examples are in the Kasteeldreef in Kemmel (GPS 50.783206, 2.828529) or in the Sulferbergstraat in the heart of Westouter (GPS 50.797293, 2.747038). This creates a unity in simplicity that is unique in the Westhoek and in Flanders. Moreover, it is a unity that represents a clear link with the wartorn past of our region.

Arrangement and book: 'The short 20th century'

The municipality of Heuvelland is the only municipality in our country with publically accessible sites from the three major conflicts of the 20th century: the First World War, the Second World and the Cold War. These three conflicts were all related to each other. The Second World War had its origins in its predecessor, and in particular in the punitive Treaty of Versailles that brought the war to an end. The seeds of the Cold War were also sown at the end of the Second World War, when the division of defeated Germany between the Allies and the Russians was the precursor to the economic and political divide that would separate Europe for the next half century. In other words, there are common themes running through the wars of the 20th century. Common themes that have helped to change the face of the continent, such

science and technology in both war and peace, etc. The book 'The short 20th century , 1914-1991: the traces of three wars in Heuvelland' maps the progress of these developments. A related arrangement has also been created for classes in the fifth and socio-cultural groups. Both the book and the arrangement explore the relationship between the three conflicts, in a way that makes them meaningful and real. Insight into the past always makes us better able to understand the complexities of the present.

and/or publications have been developed to highlight the events of the Great War in Heuvelland. These are all available from th local tourist office. as the industrialization of war, the growth of international institutions, the crucial role of basic human rights, the increasing importance of

> De korte twintigste eeuw

Reading, walking and cycling around the Great War



Here is a summary:

in Heuvelland'.



• The Battle of Mount Kemmel | Stories fo

along the way - book: 'Kemmelberg 1918

• The Mine Battle |Stories for along the

way - Zero Hour; Cycling route - the Mine

Battle of 1917; Documentary - Zero Hour,

Forgotten highways: the Americans in

• The Cold War and its link to other 20th

century conflicts | Book: 'The 20th century

in brief, 1914-1991: the traces of three wars

Walking route - Craters and Mines.

Flanders during the First World War;



comments on the content:

about his life story.

Cartography, design and lay-out: Lowyck Printing House - Oostende

If you have any comments about either the content or the practical aspects of this map, please let us know by



Time-line WWI and WWII The Wiitschate-Mesen Mine Battle End of trench warfare in Heuvelland The British recapture Start of the liberation End of the war of Bayernwald offensive in Belgium movement - Start of The Germans withdraw Irish divisions take Bayernwald is captured for Rebuilding of the first 20/10 Wiitschate 31/07 - October Revolution trench warfare higher up the Construction of the the last time by the British Treaty of Versailles stone houses in Inauguration of Germany surrenders The Pool of Peace is 10/11 in Russia 9 - 29/04 US bridge over the The Race - 10/11 Wijtschate falls into Second Battle Wijtschate-Mesen Lettenberg All the villages are signed with Kemmel (including the Inauguration of the American Fnd of WWII German hands 16/11/1914 Kemmel stream 31/08/1918 liberated 11/11/1918 **28/05/1940** Mount Kemmel 28/06/1914 6-9/09/1914 to the Sea 1914 of leper 04/1916 bunkers 06/04/1917 1917 Lenin seizes power 1918 8/09/1919 former vicarage) 5/08/1923 the Irish cross 18/09/1932 02/1945 in the West formed German troops **04-05/1915** The United States 7-14/06/1917 Battle of Voorjaar 25/10/1917 Fourth Battle of leper 7/08/1918 First attack 28/09/1918 Building of the 10/05/1940 The Germans Armistice murders Franz the Marne: capture Bayernwald start to dig 11 shafts 1916 start to dig The Germans retake in Flanders by with Germany of the French 32nd the first demarcation of 'The Angel' WWII Maginot bunker divides post-war the Cold War of leper declares war of leper capitulates Ferdinand Paris does not fall Battle of the IJzer from the French Army and tunnels 32 counter-shafts on Germany Bayernwald American troops Division Memorial stone in the leper Salient on the Zwarteberg Hill Furone into Western command bunker on in Sarajevo Flooding of the IJzer plain and 14 counter-tunnels Mount Kemmel falls between Mount Kemmel and Soviet blocs Mount Kemmel on 25 April. and Elzenwalle

First World War cemeteries: Summary of war dead in Heuvelland CABIN HILL CEMETERY

75 0

459 0

443 0

805

1082

246

215 0

96 10

1119 117

179

104

1010

oases of guiet and contemplation

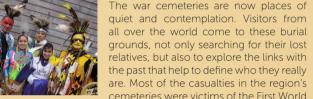
There are 36 military cemeteries in our region, containing the graves of 16,653 soldiers from at least nine different countries, including five Chinese labourers. As each nation had its own procedures for dealing. with its war dead, not every soldier who died in Heuvelland is buried here. This is not the case, however, with the Commonwealth war dead, who were all buried as a matter of

policy near to the place where they fell. This explains why there are still so many British military cemeteries Initially, the same was also true the German war dead, but in th 1920s and again in the 1950s t

Westhoek were systematical concentrated into four large sites at Menen, Langemark, Vladslo and Hooglede. The families of the French victims of the war had the option to have their loved ones repatriated to a military or civil cemetery in France, or else to be buried in situ in the country of their death. The French mass grave at the foot of Mount Kemmel now contains the remains of 5,294 French soldiers who never went home, only 57 of whom could

Belgium followed the French example and, after some hesitation, also allowed repatriation of those who died at the front to their home town. This option was also given to the families of the American soldiers who were killed in action overseas. 406 Americans lost their lives and a further 1,707 were wounded during the American offensive in Heuvelland at the end of August 1918. Of the fatal casualties, 130 are buried in the In Flanders Fields American Cemetery in Waregem, three (who died of wounds) are buried in the British military cemetery at Lijssenthoek (Poperinge) and the remaining 273 were repatriated for burial in the United States.

During the Mine Battle alone, 15,913 soldiers were killed, 23,953 were wounded and a further 10,595 were posted as 'missing, believed killed' The Battle of Mount Kemmel in 1918 was equally bloody, with the French. losing no fewer than 10,500 officers and men during the period 16 -30 April. The total number of fatal casualties in our region during the war years is impossible to calculate, but runs into many tens of thousands.



l over the world come to these burial ounds, not only searching for their lost elatives, but also to explore the links with e past that help to define who they reall

War, but there are also 167 Second World War soldiers buried here, who died during the German advance and the Allied retreat to Dunkirk in May 1940. Both these wars were closely related and out of them developed the united Europe we know today, with its common institutions, such as the European Union. Or as the American historian Professor Jav Winter has put it: 'It is not the euro that is the symbol of a united Europe: it is the cemeteries of the First and Second World Wars.'

The map of the First World War front region was produced by the Tourist Department of the municipality of Heuvelland.

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