FRONTMAP

WARS WITHOUT AN END



This map of the old front region — to fight and die in Heuvelland. For – 'Wars Without End' – gives — each country, we will highlight a summary of all the heritage the story of one soldier, who sites in our landscape that are will stand as a representative 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 War them? Where was the front line and the Cold War. and how did it change during the war? In particular, the First World

associated with the First World $\,\,\,\,$ for all his fellow-countrymen. Ir War, the Second World War and addition, we will also look at the

Sites and relics of interest

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

Bayernwald (Bavaria Wood) Wijtschate is 40 metres above level - high enough to observation for the army the it, making the position one as the crow flies. After fierce fighting the position was captured and held



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

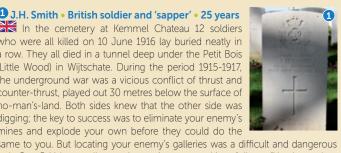
of Heuvelland were of great milit and strategic significance. Mo



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

Soldiers from the four corners of the earth

J.H. Smith • British soldier and 'sapper' • 25 years In the cemetery at Kemmel Chateau 12 soldiers who were all killed on 10 June 1916 lay buried neatly in a row. They all died in a tunnel deep under the Petit Bois (Little Wood) in Wijtschate. During the period 1915-191 the underground war was a vicious conflict of thrust counter-thrust played out 30 metres below the surface o-man's-land. Both sides knew that the other side wa gging; the key to success was to eliminate your enem



ask. One British tunneller - or 'sapper' - expressed it as follows: "You knew they vere there somewhere, but you could only guess what they were up to. It wasn't bad when you could hear them working. But when everything went silent, that was when it got really scary..." Silence often meant that the enemy was about to explode a countermine, and this is what the Germans did 15 metres below the etit Bois on the morning of 10 June 1916. Their aim was to collapse the tunnel hey knew that the British were digging - and this time they scored a direct hit. A ries of detonations brought down the roof of the British gallery over a length of 0 metres. 13 sappers, including James Henry Smith from Romford in Essex, were trapped in a length of tunnel that was 27 metres underground, 1.2 metres high and ust 90 centimetres wide. It took six and a half days of non-stop digging to reach the trapped men, but by the time the rescue party arrived 12 of them ding James Smith - were already dead. William Bedson, a mine worker form erham, was he only one to survive. His 12 less fortunate comrades were buried next day in Kemmel Chateau cemetery.

2 Major William Redmond • Irish soldier and member of the British Parliament • 56 years

In 1914, Ireland was still a part of Great Britain. This led to huge political tension in the island. There was a fierce and often violent dispute between the radical nationalists who demanded total independence from London, and the equally radical unionists in the north of the country, who wanted to maintain the links with the rest of the United Kingdom at all costs. William Redmond (° Ballytrent, 19



his lonely grave.

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

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

4 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 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 François 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

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.

To de Orning or Driving Street

6 Chang Chi Hsuen • Chinese no. 1301 • labourer • age unknown In Croonaert Chapel Cemetery, set slightly apart from

Servais Dauchy • Belgian field policeman • 50 years

Early October 1914: the Germans are closing in on the

Westhoek. Uhlans, 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

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.

the other burials, stands the grave of a labourer of the Chine Labour Corps. He died somewhere near Bayernwald on January 1919. The cause of his death is unknown. Perha he died while clearing unexploded (and still potentially let munitions from the battlefield. Or perhaps he died from illness or disease: the so-called Spanish flu claimed ma 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

to find new energy and courage. He was universally praised by his men for his were transported to the newly constructed military cemeteries throughout the positive approach and his calmness in all circumstances, which had a motivating front zone. By 1919, this gruesome task was completed and the Chinese left the effect on the morale of his troops. Even during the fiercest bombardments, he was Westhoek, probably to the great relief of most of the local population. But some prepared to risk death or injury in order to stay with his men." like Chang - were destined to stay behind for all time.

Archibald Ferguson Cameron • Canadian soldier • 38 years Archibald Ferguson Cameron was born on 7 September 1877. He was a native of Montreal in

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

field policeman, talking to one of his friends, Desiré Lagache. One of the Uhlans elite units: Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. has already been wounded, and he is bitter and angry. Although Servais is dressed 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 In his pocket, they find a gun, which it was usual for him to carry. The unlucky pair contribution towards his country's effort to rush to the aid of the British motherland are immediately arrested and dragged to the nearby village of Westouter, where in its hour of need. The PPCLI was one of the first Canadian units to reach Europe, they are chained to the iron railings around the churchyard. The mood is grim where it served with other British units on the Western Front. In January 1915, and everyone knows that there is a good chance that the men will be executed. the regiment was part of a British brigade that relieved the French in the sector Yesterday, the Germans lost one of their comrades during a shooting incident in that included Bayernwald. The trenches were little more than muddy ditches, Wervik and killed one of the local citizens in reprisal. Today, it looks like they are protected by a few sandbags hastily erected as a parapet, and it was clear that the still out for revenge. Jules Vandromme, the burgomaster, who lives opposite 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.

Dan Kelly • Australian soldier • 32 years Dan was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, in 1886.

parents, Daniel and Margaret Kelly, emigrated to Austr with their nine children shortly after his birth, making t new home on a farm at Donald in Victoria State. At the ag 21, Dan was earning a living as a sheepshearer, althou also turned his hand to maize picking and fence build the meantime, his father had turned the family business a stud farm, where he successfully bred Clydesdale hors

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,

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

9 Josef von Steiner • German lieutenant • 22 years Josef Steiner (* Langenreichen, 24 November 189 Dranouter, 15 April 1918) was a Bavarian officer who serv with the rank of lieutenant during the First World W

the son of Josef Steiner and Josefa Reiner. His fa a barrel-maker, farmer and also the local mayor. J studied to be a teacher, but on 1 October 1913 he as a volunteer in the 3rd Prins Karel van Beiere Regiment in Augsburg, near Munich. Throughout the w he served with the Bavarian Army as a local commander on both the Easte

and Western Fronts (Lorraine, Somme, Gorlice-Tarnow, Przemysl, Brest-Litovsk, Emilin, Verdun, Aisne, Champagne, Chemin des Dames). He received severa decorations in the Military Order of Max-Jozef for his great gallantry in the field. Or one occasion, on 25 June 1916 at Emilin (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 Augsburg.

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 in 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 seaside The three children were all destined for good careers and after

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, no 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.

H American monument • GPS 50.797615,2.849134 This monument on the road from

leper to Kemmel at Vierstra was erected by the America Battle Monuments Commissi (ABMC) in 1929. It was designed b George Howe from Philadelphia Pennsylvania, and is mad from white Rocheret stone The inscription on the front

the memorial is flanked by t 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 transferred to a different part of the front. The division returned to the sector during the German Spring Offensive in 1918 and was engaged in heavy fighting. The obelisk was inaugurated on 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 well-known 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.

The American bridge in concrete bunker blocks GPS 50.807935,2.833866 Where the Vierstraat road crosses the Kemmelbeek (Kemmel stream) near Dikkebus lake, there is a concrete bridge dating back to the war years. It was probably built by American troops in 1918. Closer inspection shows that the retaining walls are built from British pre-cast concrete slabs for bunkers. In one of the coping stones on the left-hand wall there is an inscription that

reads: '245- GT - A.T. - RE - 7 Aug. 1918'. These initials probably refer to the

245th Army Troop (A.T.) Company Royal Engineers (R.E.). This unit wa specialized in 'bridging' and was par of the XIXth Corps. The date refers the date of the bridge's completion The bridge was in the secto occupied by the 27th Ameri Division and played an impo

During the 1950s the world was

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.

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 Noir' in French, 152 metres high) and one later than the original Maginot Lin which was constructed along early part of the 1930s. How 1936 Belgium suspended its milita agreement with France, which h enter Belgian territory in the event a German attack. This meant that t French urgently needed to extend

their line of bunkers between Sedan and the North Sea. Viewed in retrosped 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, Wiitschate and Mount Kemmel were among the places he visited.

now peaceful countryside where the great Min Battle of June 1917 once raged. There are various sites of interest along the way: Bayernwald, th Dietrich shaft, the Pool of Peace, etc. In betwee these sites there are also a number of other info panels, such as the panorama boards in the Vierstra and the Klaverhullestraat, or the panels that tell th stories of the digging machine and the collap underground tunnel in Petit Bois (Little Wood) significance of Skip Point, and the foundation of Huize Godtschalck (Loker hospice). The walk starts

O Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery

hese are respectively the largest and 🏽 🧱

building that once stood near this spot. It was burnt to the ground by a fire that broke out on Christmas D 1917, so that only the outer walls Spring Offensive of 1918 even these ruined walls were totally destroyed. The cemetery was started in Decemb

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

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

the grip of the Cold War. In Wester Europe, the fear of a Russi invasion reached new height Various military installations wer built - also in Belgium - to mee this new threat. One of these was constructed in the greatest secre in the flanks of Mount Kemmel 1953. This underground bunker h

more than 50 separate rooms, four of which have now been transformed into

Maginot bunker, Second World War - GPS 50,776151,2,738299

of them is open to the public. This bunker was built in 1938, which was much



from the visitors' meeting point in the village of Wijtschate.

GPS 50.786879,2.828979 and Kemmel Churchyard

the smallest British military cemeteries in Heuvelland, Kemmel Chateau takes its name from the large castle-like left standing. During the Germ



buried in what is now the municipal cemetery.

During the First World War the hil Kemmel and its outlying Lettenbe for the British Army between 1914 and 1917. This high ground, which

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

C Dietrich, a German countermine shaft GPS 50.787747.2.870197

war arrived here in November 1914. After fierce fighting, the From 1916 onwards, the Allies began tunnelling under the German positions strategically important position 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

horizontal tunnels, whose purpose

was to locate, intercept and destro

the British mining galleries. The brick-

lined Dietrich shaft is one of them. In

was not an easy task. The strategic

former British lines is thought to be 180 metres long.

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

D Pool of Peace or Spanbroekmolen crater GPS 50.776005,2.860903

some places, the Germans also tried 🚦

to mine the British trenches, but this

For three centuries the wind

peacefully turned the vane

of the windmill on the hill

Spanbroekmolen, until tl

stop them. They dug no fewer than the every Allied movement between the

iust over the French border, was carried

out under the direct observation of prying

o break this impasse, the Allies placed a

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

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 monumental column on top of Mount Kemmel is

one of the most important French war memorials in

the Westhoek. It commemorates the many Frenchmen

who fell near here during the Battle of Mount Kemmel

in April 1918. The memorial, known locally as 'Den

Engel' (The Angel), is 17 metres high and made from

white cement. On a plinth at the foot of the column

stands a statue of Niké, the Greek goddess of victory,

both sides were buried under tons of debris and earth. Some of the British

deep mine 27 metres under the Germa

positions on the hill. It was scheduled to

be blown along with 23 other mines on 7

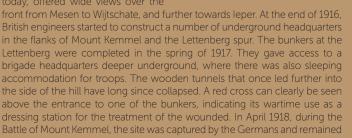
E The Angel and the French mass grave

German eyes.

by the Germans, who named it 'Bayernwald' after the troops from Bayaria 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 German answer to the underground tunnelling of their British adversaries. 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 you some idea of what the men who served here must have experienced.

B Lettenberg GPS 50.782379, 2.816789

today, offered wide views over the



an aid post in Dranouter. His troops took his body further back behind the lines to

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 crisis would persuade the British to grant home rule when the war was over. In an mpassioned speech from the balcony of the Imperial Hotel in Dublin, he spoke the now legendary words: "Old as I am, and grey as are my hairs, I will say: Don't go, but come with me." 'Willie' Redmond was commissioned as a captain and was later promoted to major in the 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment. At the same time, he remained active in the British Parliament during his visits back to England. In his last speech, he exhorted his fellow Irishmen of all persuasions to follow the good example of co-operation set by the (largely Catholic) 16th Irish Division and the (largely Protestant) 36th Ulster Division at the front. During the opening day of the Mine Battle on 7 June 1917. Redmond was wounded by a shell splinter. Private John Meeke, a stretcher-bearer in the unionist Ulster Division, rushed to his aid and dressed his wounds. He then tried to carry the 56-year-old parliamentarian on his shoulders back to the safety of the front line, but was wounded himself before he had gone very far. For his bravery, Meeke was awarded the Military Medal, but his

efforts were all in vain. William Redmond died of his wounds a short time later at

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 children life he had been a journalist. His friends knew him a ble 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 guide 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

Castle

War graves Other Tower Craters 1917 Church ጸ National border marke

Wood

in the British cemetery, much against wishes of

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 by the village priest, Father Debevere. And so Major Redmond continues to lie in his lonely grave. Redmond continues to tie in his tonety grave.
Redmond was an Irish nationalist, sitting as an MP in the British Parliament at Westminster. Hi aim was to secure Irish independence from th

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

onument. In each hand she holds a

wreath, while her mournful gaze looks of

over the battlefield and the French cemet

below. The sides of the obelisk list the French

units that fought here. The memorial w

inaugurated on 18 September 1932 in th

presence of the French generals Lacapelle

and Pétain. In 1970, a bolt of lightnin

destroyed the replica of a French helme

that once crowned the structure. The French

mass grave - also known as an ossuary - lie

at the foot of the western slopes of Mour

Kemmel, with a fine view towards the other

Flemish hills - Zwarteberg, Rodeberg an

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

United Kingdom by democratic means. Hi grave is a symbol of his struggle to achieve this goal. The site is not accessible for wheelchair users. Scherpenberg; a view which immediately makes clear the strategic value of 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 by the 16th Irish Division in the capture of the village on the opening day of the grea Mine Battle, 7 June 1917. At the tin

no mention was made of the equally important role played by the 36t Ulster Division in the same battle Bo divisions had fought side by side

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 Wijtschate 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 division: - 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



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

- the First Battle of Ieper, 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 n

- 67 bunkers, sometimes in groups, 42 of them of German origin • 11 craters
- 1 trench system Bayernwald • 3 pre-WW I objects (including the clock face from the church at Kemmel)
- 1 concrete bridge 4 underground installations
- 3 'impressions' of trenches in the landscape
- 1 well, where horses were watered • 36 cemeteries
- 30 monuments, including: - 4 demarcation stones
- 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 even 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. had failed.

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

unning between Wijtschate and Mesen. At the end these galleries 24 chambers were packed with high explosive.

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 Germans knew what was happening and dug no fewer than 32

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 ench 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 he collapse of the Russian Army (Peace of Brest-Litovsk, March 1918) The German High Command realized that they needed to use the troops eleased 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 two hills was the scene of continuous fierce fighting, with key positions regularly changing hands. But 🛮 🔣

so urgently needed. Gradually, they ran out of both men and supplies, and by July the offensive had ground to a halt Their last desperate gamble



The first American attack on Belgian soil - August 1918

Prvt. Lerey A. Doyle

Born Nov. 22, 1898.

Died Sept. 2, 1918.

He dave his life, he gave

Where lies this loyal

In frost and dew they

Of honor he has won

The soldiers who manned the front line in Heuvelland (from Moun 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. The next day, 1 September, the

27th Division also the wooded slopes of the Wiitschate 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

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 dowr more than five times the circumference of the earth; • 1.5 billion shells were fired on the Western Front, 5% of them
- 9 million horses were rewarded for their faithfulness to their human masters with death; Belgium lost 18% of its pre-1914 national

containing chemical weapons

- wealth, expressed in machines, buildings, bridges, agricultural land and money; • After the war, one million tons of surplus
- munitions were dumped in the sea, spread 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 quietly committed suicide.

A remarkable relic: Post-war reconstruction the remembrance oak in Loker

nis tree was planted in the middle

of a field, at the spot where local



armer 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 ain had been forecast for the next day. A shell buried in the earth became trapped in the spokes of his harrow and the constant ribration caused it to explode. The ractor was blown high into the air and came down to earth with a crash, burying itself deep in the newly 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.

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

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, DOVC - 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.¹ These figures show just how deadly the shells and grenades of the Great War really were - and still are



From: 'The land of lethal scrap. Victims of explosion in the front region from 1918 to the present day', John Desreumaux

War never brings peace! The blitzkrieg steamrollers over



May 1940, the Germans nvaded our country again. The well-coordinated German attacks with tanks and planes the dreaded Stuka's - punched hole in the Allied front near ne French city of Sedan. What id proved so elusive during the st World War, suddenly and xpectedly became possible: a decisive breakthrough. The German Army poured through the breach

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 ighting 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. 103 residents from Heuvelland were deported to Germany, where they

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

The Wiitschate-Mesen Mine Battle

- 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

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

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'

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

The overall result was one of soberness and restraint. Heuvelland has

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 war-

framework for the resurrected villages.

what had existed before 1914.

Even so, the architects dre

much of their inspiration for

architecture of the past, suc

as the neo-Gothic and th

neo-Flemish Renaissand

styles. The private home

and farmhouses displaye

traditionally associated wit

torn past of our region

the rural nature of the region.

the characteristics mo

the pilot buildings from t

Once the war was over, the

people gradually returned

the villages from which

ey had been forced to

by the fighting. All

ey found was ruin and

struction. Often. not

single house was left

inding. As a result, they

ere initially required

o live in wooden huts.

production Vrede' Brings Peace) wa first staged in a bar in Kemmel from 1 15 November 197 This idea for a 'peace play' first originated in 1977.



Heuvelland' wanted to preserve their treasure trove of wartime stories 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 opportunities for new avenues of approach: the stories of the wartime refuges, the difficult coexistence of soldiers and civilians conflicts, in a way that makes them behind the lines, the execution of 'deserters'. It was in the wake of this meaningful and real. Insight into the play and the change of mentality it engendered that a social climate past always makes us better able to was eventually created in which the In Flanders Fields Museum could understand the complexities of the blossom and flourish.

End of trench warfare

Start of the liberation

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 as the industrialization of war, the growth of international institutions, the crucial role of basic human rights, the increasing importance of science and technology in both war

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 sixth year of secondary school and socio-cultural groups. Both the book and the arrangement explore the relationship between the three present.

Summary of war dead

OONAERT CHAPEL CEMETERY

RRY HOUSE CEMETERY No. 2

ANOUTRE MILITARY CEMETERY

MEL No.1 FRENCH CEMETER

LYTTE MILITARY CEMETERY

LAITERIE MILITARY CEMETERY

DENHOEK CHALET MILITARY

CRE HOSPICE CEMETERY

CRE No.10 CEMETERY

KER CHURCHYARD

NE TREE CEMETER'

PLE LEAF CEMETERY

LUWKERKE CHURCHYARD

DUNT KEMMEL OSSUARY

MER FARM CEMETERY

NBROEKMOLEN BRITISH

THOF FARM CEMETERY

TOUTER CHURCHYARI

VERGEM CHURCHYARD

TOUTRE BRITISH CEMETERY

LVERGHEM-LINDENHOEK ROAI

SCHAETE MILITARY CEMETERY

STTAVERNE WOOD CEMETERY

ACKHORSE FARM SHRINE CEMETE

ND FARM CEMETERY (Wulverger

DEZONNE FARM CEMETERY

HOUSE CEMETERY

MMEL CHATEAU

ITARY CEMETERY

IN-VIFRSTRAAT

SH CEMETERY

MEL CHURCHYARD

JDAHAR FARM CEMETER

ANOUTRE CHURCHYARD

in Heuvelland

BIN HILL CEMETERY

De korte 1914-1991

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

and peace, etc. The book 'The short

Reading, walking and cycling around the Great War



local tourist office.

Here is a summary:

(Koen Baert).

more detail.



A number of tourist/educational product

and/or publications have been developed

to highlight the events of the Great War in

Heuvelland. These are all available from the

• The Battle of Mount Kemmel | Stories for

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;

• The first American offensive | Cycle route

Forgotten highways: the Americans i

century conflicts | Book: 'The 20th century

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

• The website www.zerohour.be examines the events of the war in

Walking route - Craters and Mines.

Flanders during the First World War;





• Jose Depover, Koen Baert ,the IFFM Knowledge Centre, Francis Devlamynck and André Demeersseman for their information and

comments on the content:

8950 Heuvelland.

Text and composition: Stefaan Decrock

If you have any comments about either the content or the practical aspects of this map, please let us know by telephoning 057/450.472 or e-mailing to cultuur@heuvelland. be

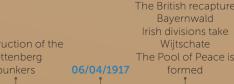


Time-line WW1 □ Id WWII in Heuvelland







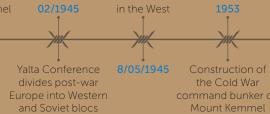




The Germans retake Mount Kemmel falls on 25 April. Kemmel, Dranouter,

pass into German hands

Nieuwkerke and Wulvergem



the Cold War



Belgium followed the French example and, after some hesitation, als 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 wh vere killed in action overseas. 406 Americans lost their lives and a furthe .,707 were wounded during the American offensive in Heuvelland at th end of August 1918. Of the fatal casualties, 130 are buried in the In Flander Fields American Cemetery in Waregem, three (who died of wounds) are buried in the British military cemetery at Lijssenthoek (Poperinge) and the emaining 273 were repatriated for burial in the United States.

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 o

5.294 French soldiers who never went home, only 57 of whom could

First World War cemeteries:

oases of quiet and contemplation

of 16,653 soldiers from at least nine different countries, including five

Chinese labourers. As each nation had its own procedures for dealin

with its war dead, not every soldier who died in Heuvelland is buried

who were all buried as a matter of

so many British military cemeter

scattered across the countrysic

1920s and again in the 195

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 -3 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



War, but there are also 167 Second World War soldiers buried here, wh

died during the German advance and the Allied retreat to Dunkirk in Ma .940. Both these wars were closely related and out of them develope the united Europe we know today, with its common institutions, such a the European Union. Or as the American historian Professor Jav Winte has put it: 'It is not the euro that is the symbol of a united Europe: it is the emeteries of the First and Second World Wars.

Culture and Leisure Department of the municipality of Heuvelland

The map of the First World War front region was produced by the

With special thanks to: • the Flemish Inventory of Structural Heritage Items, for the use of relevant information about Heuvelland;

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