

# PLATOON EXPERIENCE

A day full of 'reliving history'...



1917



MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
PASSCHENDAELE



## INTRODUCTION

**The Platoon Experience**, a unique WW1 empathy project that goes back to 4 October 1917

**A day full of 'reliving history'...**

Your group follows the footsteps of an Australian platoon from 1917 and walks the bloody trail to Tyne Cot Cemetery.

Experienced supervisors guide students during the day by means of a historical correct story. This Platoon Experience is made for youngsters older than 14 years.

After visiting the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 and an introduction to the happenings and circumstances in which they tried to survive at the front, we hit the road.

Along the old railway Ypres-Roeselare we follow a platoon from the 3rd Australian Division during the great attack of October 4, 1917.

All students are fully dressed and equipped as an Australian soldier, so including uniform, equipment and rifle. Obviously we follow the military story of October 4, 1917, but much more important is the personal involvement. Each student is an Australian soldier who actually witnessed the war and walks over the same path where its predecessor was nearly 100 years ago.



During the walk to Tyne Cot Cemetery, the students get to know more of the characters and at the end of the day they will find out what happened to their soldiers. A sobering confrontation!

In order to remain completely in style, your lunch consists of a hot Tommy Tucker-meal, military food anno 1917 ...

With this project, the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 introduces 'Living History' for schools.

We handle several subjects. Besides history, we pay a lot of attention to the landscape, literature, technology and morality. The project itself was realized in close cooperation with the educational services of the Belgian and Australian Veterans Institutes and the Municipality of Zonnebeke, who have converted the former groundkeeper to an educational room.

Note: the 'Platoon Experience' is no 'playing-soldier game', but an empathy project for students to understand the tragedy of war in general and the Battle of Passchendaele in particular. For groups who do not behave in the spirit of remembrance to those who gave their lives in 1917, the supervisors have the right to finish the Platoon Experience at any time.



## THIS DAY ACTIVITY CONSISTS OF:

- A guided visit to the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917
- An authentic WO I-lunch
- Historical equipment and uniforms
- A guided walk on the "Road to Passchendaele" with 'hands-on' activities
- More than fifty different identities with true stories
- A visit to the Tyne Cot Cemetery and the graves of some of the identities
- A silent moment of reflection and repentance

## PRACTICAL:

- For people aged 14 and older
- Day program from 9am to 5pm or 10am to 6pm
- Minimum 20 participants / maximum 50 participants
- All-in price: €45 per person
- Teachers: €6 per person for the Tommy Tucker meal
- Warranty: €300
- Reservations: minimum 2 months in advance by sending an e-mail to [reservaties@zonnebeke.be](mailto:reservaties@zonnebeke.be)
- In case of absence: €6,00 per person

## IMPORTANT:

- This activity is no 'playing-soldier game' or an adventure trip
- We advise each group to prepare for the experience and provide a processing afterwards.
- To ensure the quality of the project it is required to keep promise to the agreed appointments
- The supervisors have the right to finish the Platoon experience at any time

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