

TAG-A-LONG TOURS

2018 Tour- Draft

Tag-a-Long Tours is the name given to the tours Herb & Ruth Farrant have organized to the Western Front over the past fifteen years. The name grew out of the ability for those who might have attempted the trip individually to tag along as time and commitments allowed. Essentially the tour allows a group of like-minded individuals to visit the Western Front in the footsteps of the First NZEF circa 1916-18. This visit in April is centered around the annual weekend celebrations at Le Quesnoy which commemorates the liberation of that town on 4th November 1918. These tours are arranged to coincide with the events specific to New Zealanders such as specific ANZAC Commemorations and the weekend at Le Quesnoy. By travelling as a group, transport and accommodation costs are shared and access to specific areas with commentaries available made easier to avoid the hassles of travelling as individuals.

Ideally the travel group size is between 14 to 21 (maximum) people. Age is not a barrier and while the bulk of us are in the senior citizen category we do like to minimize walking too far. Where practical we use members of the group as drivers of the 9-seater type wagons, seating 7, albeit that some people wish to drive their own rental cars. Accommodation, where-ever possible including at Le Quesnoy is via B&Bs (Gîte in France) or if staying at Waterloo, via the Accor Hotel chain (Ibis). For budget purposes the following costs are indicated: *Note - A charge for H Farrant's services of NZ\$200.00 per person will be charged in respect to administration services.*

Costs are as follows:

1. Vehicle Expenses - Based on 7 people per vehicle covering approximately 1500 plus kms, including GPS, Insurance excess, additional drivers, tolls and fuel etc - averages 150 Euro per person per week (7 days). Total charge likely to be around NZ\$320.00-350.00 per person at current exchange rates.
2. Accommodation
 - Bed and Breakfast – Hotels average 110 Euro per night (twin or double rooms). No Hotel booking for this tour.
 - Accommodation in the Gîtes on the Somme and in Flanders and Le Quesnoy and elsewhere averages 60-70 Euro per room (twin share), or 40-50 Euro per single person These costs to be paid in cash. *Note: 1 Euro equals approximately NZ\$1.65 but check exchange rate.*
3. Evening meals, drinks etc are at individual's expense except for Saturday & Sunday lunch at Le Quesnoy where we are guests. Lunches ditto but often picnic format?

Attached itinerary with the emphasis on paying our respects to the nearly 12,500 New Zealanders buried in France and Belgium, by visiting battlefields, memorials and graves where the First NZEF saw service on the Western Front. For tour members wishing to visit a specific grave/site these are arranged to coincide with the general route of travel during the tour.

TAG-A-LONG TOURS

DRAFT ITINERARY FOR APRIL 2018

Assemble in Paris - Charles De Gaulle Airport (CDG), Terminal 2C, by 9.00am Tuesday 17 April 2018. H&R Farrant will be there on 16 April. *Note: Contact details (mobile phone) for H Farrant in France will be available nearer the time. Phone number is 0064 274 909 529.*

Day 1 - Paris to Auchonvillers - 180 kms - Tuesday 17 April

- Depart by 10.00am from CDG via A1/ E19 auto route to Brussels
- Dependant on the weather and timing we try to fit in a visit to the Forest of Compiègne where the Armistice was signed on 11/11/1918.
- Onto the Somme Battlefield from Bapaume- visit Warlencourt Cemetery see VC grave of Donald Brown, visit Pozieres, Lochnagar crater then on to
- Thiepval - British Monument to the Missing etc
- B & B Accommodation (3 nights) at Auchonvillers
- 7.30pm - Evening meal at the Poppy at La Boisselle.

Day 2 - The Somme – 90 kms – Wednesday 18 April

- 9 am start-Visit the New Zealand Memorial at Longueval and Caterpillar Valley Cemetery. The NZ Divisions Role in 1916 explained.
- Visit the Somme 1916 Museum in Albert with lunch to follow, thence
- To Amiens passing the site of operation Jericho in 1944, visit the Cathedral, return via Australian Memorial to the Missing at Villers – Bretonneux, view the Red Barons last flight crash site beyond Corbie
- 7.30pm - Evening smorgasbord meal – Albert

Day 3 The Somme – 100 kms - Thursday 19 April

- 9am start from Auchonvillers to then view the line where the New Zealanders plugged the Gap in 1918, see La Signy Farm, thence through Arras onto Notre Dame de Lorette and the new WWI Commemorative wall before returning to Arras via Vimy ridge.
- 1.30 pm guided tour of the Wellington Tunnels in Arras.
- 2.30pm Visit Commonwealth War Graves Commission at Beaurains.
- Visit the Citadel where the Gestapo shot 216 French Patriots in WWII and Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery-RFC/RAF Monument to the Missing
- Return to Auchonvillers via Doullens visiting the grave of Dick Travis at Couin enroute
- 7.30pm – Evening meal with Avril Williams

Day 4 - Auchonvillers to Le Quesnoy -120kms Friday 20 April

- 9.00am start along the NZ Division's March to Victory via Grevillers, around Bapaume, view NZ Tunnellers Military bridge site over Canal du Nord at Havrincourt, Cambrai for lunch then to Caudry to visit the Lace Museum onto Le Cateau and to Le Quesnoy before 5pm.
- Settle into B&B Gite Accommodation at Beaudignes
- Evening meal with locals at 7.30pm, venue to be confirmed.

- Day 5 - Le Quesnoy- Beaudignies – 30kms - Saturday 21 April**
- 9.30am Battlefield Tour from Colonel Blyth Square – How the New Zealanders came to Le Quesnoy - Programme to be provided.
 - 12.00 pm Smorgasbord Lunch courtesy LMQNZ Association in Beaudignies Community Hall.
 - 2.30pm Battlefield Tour Concludes at the Memorial in the Ramparts
 - 3.00pm Visit to a site chosen by our Hosts.
 - 7.30pm - Evening Reception by La Maison Querçitaine Nouvelle Zélande (LMQNZ) with meal, venue to be confirmed with much conviviality. A donation of €10 per person is suggested – a box will be available for this purpose on the night.
- Day 6 - Le Quesnoy – 30kms - Sunday 22 April**
- 6am – Dawn Service with NZDF at Le Quesnoy Extension Cemetery with breakfast to follow at personal expense
 - 10am – visit Town Hall, view bell ringing in Carillion (48 Bells)
 - 11am in Town Square - Formal Commemoration Ceremony starts with wreath laying, march to the NZ Monument returning to the Town Hall, numerous speeches before lunch etc. Full Regalia & Medals to be worn.
 - Formal Lunch provided by the Town of Le Quesnoy for all
 - 3pm – Time to view the town, Napoleonic Re-enactment group absent?
 - View the NZMMT property in Achille Carlier and explore the town.
 - 6.30pm – Settle into B&B, have an early evening meal and retire.
- Day 7 - Le Quesnoy to Ieper – 150kms - Monday 23 April**
- Depart 9.00am, divert via Anthony Wildings grave to Cité Bon Jean Cemetery, Armentieres the largest NZ cemetery on the Western Front, thence via Messines to view NZ Monument etc enroute to Ieper.
 - Assemble for the Last Post Ceremony at 7.45 p.m. at the Menin Gate;
 - Dinner in Grotemarkt around 8.30pm.
- Day 8 - Ieper (Ypres) – 60kms – Tuesday 24 April**
- 9.00 am start to Tyne Cot Cemetery, guided visit to New Zealand Battlefields at Gravenstafel, Passchendaele, Polygon Wood and Polderhoek Chateau.
 - 1pm to Zonnebeke & Passchendaele 1917 Museum for lunch & tour
 - Return to Ieper -, Free time to visit Flanders Field Museum etc
 - 5 pm visit to the Cloth Hall to meet with representatives of the Burgermeester, thence at 7.45pm to Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. Participation by Tagalong Group under the guise of the NZMHS.
 - Evening meal in Grotemarkt before or after above ceremony.
- Day 9 - IEPER (Ypres) - 70 kms - Wednesday 25 April – ANZAC Day**
- 4.30 am Start for 6am Dawn Parade, Buttes New British Cemetery, Polygon Wood, bussed to & fro via Zillebeke, thence breakfast with locals.(5 Euro per head paid by HF)
 - 10.30am, Proceed to Ieper for combined 11am ANZAC Service at the Menin Gate.
 - Depart 1.40 a.m. for Messines (now Mesen), NZ specific Service at the

NZ Monument.

- Afternoon visit to Poperinge, Talbot House & Nine Elms Cemetery to see Dave Gallaher's grave.
- Return to Ieper for early evening meal in Grotemarkt around 7 pm.
- Retire early!

Day 10 - Ieper to Auchonvillers via Waterloo – 240kms - Thursday 27 April

- 8.30am start - Depart for Waterloo via Weregem to visit only American Cemetery in Flanders.
- 11.00 am – Visit Wellington Museum in Waterloo, obtain lunch and thence back to battlefield site at Mont St Jean, Tour Battlefield.
- Return to Auchonvillers and settle into B&B (1 night)
- 7.00pm - Evening meal at the Auberge at Authuille-Awards Night

Day 11- Auchonvillers to Paris - 210 kms – Friday 28 April

- 9am Start - view AW Museum thence via Meault, Marmetz, to Factory Corner, Ginchy ,Major Dickens Field grave, then Raymonde Asquiths grave at Guillemont thence German Cemetery at Rancourt enroute to visit the French Great War Museum at Perrone
- **Return to Charle De Gaulle Airport before 6pm**

Note: i) Herb Farrant has been visiting the Western Front for the past 21 years and the a-foregoing itinerary simply outlines the basic tour highlights. Every year, because distances are not great, we attempt to visit sites and cemeteries of personal interest to those coming on tour as previously noted where the travel time is not unduly disrupted.

ii) This tour marks the end of the annual Tagalong Tours to the Western front.

Contact Details for those wishing to come on tour are via;

Herbert H Farrant Contacts, outside NZ dial 0064,

- Phone (Home) 09 528 9297 evenings
- Mobile 0274 909 529
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