

# Wilfred Owen

Forty kilometres from Flesquières, on November 4, 1918, one of the great names of British poetry fell. A signed trail invites you to pay tribute to him.



## "IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF WILFRED OWEN" WALKING TRAIL

From the Forest House in which he wrote his last letter to his mother to the cemetery in which he is now buried, this trail traces the final days of one of Britain's greatest First World War poets, Wilfred Owen.



 **6,5 km** 2hrs approx.  
Start: Wilfred Owen Forest House



Walking trail  
In the footsteps  
of Wilfred Owen  6,5 km

## Audioguide "In the footsteps of Wilfred Owen"

To accompany you on your walk, use the audioguide. Download it for free on [www.amazing-cambrai.com](http://www.amazing-cambrai.com)



**November 4, 2018**

Centenary of the death of Wilfred Owen

UNITED KINGDOM

BELGIUM



### Cambrai Tank 1917

Rue du Calvaire – 59267 Flesquières  
Phone: +33 (0)3 27 78 36 15

### Opening Times

Open from March 15 to November 30  
From mid-June to mid-September, open daily from 1:30pm to 5:30pm  
From March 15 to June 15 and from September 15 to November 30, open from 1:30pm to 5:30pm on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

### Prices

Full	€6
Concession	€4
Groups	€4
Family package	€20

### Information and guided tours

Phone: +33 (0)3 27 78 36 15  
Cambrai Tourism Office  
[www.amazing-cambrai.com](http://www.amazing-cambrai.com)  
E-mail: [contact@tourisme-cambresis.fr](mailto:contact@tourisme-cambresis.fr)



watch the video



NORD PAS DE CALAIS

# Cambrai Tank 1917



# Welcome to the site of the Battle of Cambrai

FLESQUIÈRES HILL BRITISH CEMETERY



On November 20, 1917, at 6:20am, 476 British Mark IV tanks launched an assault on the Hindenburg Line. This is the start of the Battle of Cambrai, an offensive designed to breach this 'impregnable' German fortified defence line.

At dawn, the silence is broken by the sound of engines and the clatter of tank tracks moving across the chalky soil. In thick fog, the advance of these new machines of war was initially masked by the drone of patrolling planes and the tumultuous roar of the massed artillery.

Planned for months, in the greatest secrecy, the offensive heralds the birth of tank warfare; tactics that will influence Hitler's Blitzkrieg and dominate the next century of warfare.

Deborah, a 'female' tank, was one of the 476. Discovered in 1998, when she was unearthed from the battlefield, where she lay 2.5 metres underground, Deborah now stands in testimony to the cruelty and harshness of the fighting. This broken Iron Monster is the unforgettable centrepiece of the Cambrai Tank 1917.



*Paix Frieder Peace*

# Explore Cambrai Tank 1917

The Cambrai Tank 1917 centre can be found in Flesquières, just a few metres from the battlefield where the Mark IV tank 'Deborah' was hit by a German shell in November 1917.

Four of Deborah's crew members, killed in the engagement, rest at the Flesquières Hill British Cemetery, alongside the centre. Upon entering the 'Staff HQ' room, you are immediately thrown into the Battle of Cambrai: vintage photographs and animated maps explain the different phases of the offensive.

This introduction gives visitors the background to understand November 1917. Continuing your journey, six metres deep, you will discover Deborah, see her 'in the flesh' as a virtual tour lets you explore her as she was over 100 years ago.

Displayed on bare concrete, so reminiscent of the walls of a blockhouse on the Hindenburg Line, objects belonging to the combatants evoke the participants, tankers, gunners, airmen, engineers and nurses, the men and women involved in the fighting in 1917.

At the end of your visit, in the auditorium, a 20-minute film takes you on a journey to the heart of history in the region of Cambrai.

DEBORAH CENTREPIECE OF THE MUSEUM



PORTRAITS OF THE TANK'S CREW

Outside, just a few steps away, pay your own respects to George Foot, William Galway, Joseph Cheverton and Frederick William Tipping, the four members of Deborah's crew who fell on November 20, 1917.

Like their families, and that of the tank's commander, Frank Gustave Heap, remember the soldiers who fell on the battlefields of Cambrai. And perhaps, for you too, a great Franco-British friendship will be born in memory of these famous events.

DEBORAH IS MOVED AS HER CREW MEMBERS REST IN PEACE



## Nearby Visits

### WALKS AROUND FLESQUIÈRES

'The Route of the Tanks'. This 6.9 km circuit takes you from the church to various points of interest related to the November 1917 battle: The Orival Wood Cemetery, where poet Ewart Alan Mackintosh rests; the Flesquières Hill British Cemetery; and the Cambrai Tank 1917, adjacent to the Monument of Nations, with views of the battlefields.

[www.rando-nord.fr](http://www.rando-nord.fr). Search 'Flesquières' and download the itinerary.

This walk can also be followed by geocaching: [www.geocaching-cambresis.fr](http://www.geocaching-cambresis.fr)

### CAMBRAI MEMORIAL, LOUVERVAL - DOIGNIES



The Cambrai Memorial commemorates more than 7,000 servicemen from Britain and South Africa who died in the Battle of Cambrai and whose graves are not known.

The names of the fallen are inscribed inside the Memorial. Located next to Louverval Military Cemetery, in Doignies, where the remains of 124 British soldiers rest, the Cambrai Memorial pays tribute to these 7,048 combatants from the United Kingdom and beyond.

On the Route Nationale at the exit for the village of Boursies in the direction of Bapaume (Hameau de Louverval). 59400 Doignies

### CAMBRAI GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY



From 1914 to 1918, Cambrai was a key strategic headquarters, hospital and logistics location for the German Army. The wounded who succumbed there, and many soldiers killed at the front were, from 1917, buried in a new necropolis, on the Route de Solesmes.

From the outset, the cemetery was designed to accommodate the dead from the hospitals and the Western Front; friends and foes alike.

Route de Solesmes, 59400 Cambrai

## Continue your visit



### THE WILFRED OWEN FOREST HOUSE (ORS)

In Ors, in the Bois-l'Évêque woods, the immaculate whiteness of the Wilfred Owen Forest House stands out from its surroundings. This contemporary structure is dedicated to the poet Wilfred Owen, who died on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 1918 on the banks of the nearby Sambre Canal. His "Anthem for Doomed Youth", "Futility" and "Strange Meeting" are among the many poems in which Owen recounted the fate of the soldier in a war that was marked by the horrors of fighting and mass killings, a subject which is still a sharp reality for today's citizens.

Bois l'Évêque RD 959 - 59360 Ors - phone: +33 (0)3 27 84 10 94 [lecateau@tourisme-cambresis.fr](mailto:lecateau@tourisme-cambresis.fr) / [www.amazing-cambrai.com](http://www.amazing-cambrai.com)



### THE BATTLE OF FROMELLES MUSEUM

In 2009, archaeologists uncovered the remains of 250 British and Australian soldiers reported missing after the Battle of Fromelles on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of July 1916. The discovery reawakened the memory of this important episode in the history of the Australian nation. By evoking the story of the Battle of Fromelles, the

Museum enables its present-day visitors to trace the story of some of these soldiers who, 92 years after their disappearance, have now passed from the shadows of history into the light of day.

Rue de la Basse Ville - 59249 Fromelles - Phone: +33 (0)3 59 61 15 14 [www.musee-bataille-fromelles.fr](http://www.musee-bataille-fromelles.fr)



### THE LEVEAU FORT (FEIGNIES)

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 1914, the German Army that had been sent to conquer Paris laid siege to the fortress town of Maubeuge. The forts and other positions that made up the town were subjected to an intensive bombardment that overcame the French defences. The town was officially surrendered on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. Visitors to the Leveau Fort can learn about the organisation of the French defences in 1914, the events of the siege of Maubeuge and the history of the Avesnois region, occupied for the duration of the Great War.

Route de Mairieux - 59750 Feignies - Phone: +33 (0)3 27 62 37 07 - [www.fortdeleveau.voila.net](http://www.fortdeleveau.voila.net)



### THE SECLIN FORT

Part of the ring of fortifications surrounding Lille designed by the engineer A. Séré de Rivières following France's defeat in the war of 1870-71, the Seclin Fort was taken by German forces in October 1914. Situated close to the front line, it was used as barracks, infirmary and storage facility throughout the war. Now owned by the Boniface family which is patiently restoring it, it houses a museum featuring developments in artillery during the period of the Great War.

Chemin du Fort - 59113 Seclin - Phone: +33 (0)3 20 97 14 18 - [www.fortseclin.com](http://www.fortseclin.com)