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**JOURNEY TO THE WESTERN FRONT**  
**Including ANZAC DAY Commemorations – Dawn Service**  
**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2009**

*We remember especially the following servicemen during our Journey;*  
*Sergeant David Gow, MM, 18<sup>th</sup> Bde, D Battery, Royal Field Artillery*  
*Driver Ernest Grabham, 4<sup>th</sup> Bde Artillery, AIF*  
*Clarence Alfred Clift, 50<sup>th</sup> Bn AIF*  
*Walter John Clift, 50<sup>th</sup> Bn AIF*  
*Harold Roy Clift, 50<sup>th</sup> Bn AIF*

**Wednesday 22nd April**

We leave Dover on our morning ferry to Calais. Breakfast will be taken on-board. Please remember to adjust your watches. French time is 1 hour ahead.

Whilst driving to Ypres we will discuss the formation of the various Armies in 1914 and the spark that lit the fuse.

We book into our hotel, the Ariane, for the first of our 2 nights stay.

Lunch will be taken in the Square at Ypres and we shall explore the restored town.

We pay our respects at the *Menin Gate Memorial* to the Missing where nearly 55,000 are listed.

At *Essex Farm*, where John McCrae penned the words to his poem “*In Flanders Fields*”, we will discuss the current role and responsibilities of the *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*.

Our final visit is to *Hooge Museum*. It was in this area that Sgt Gow saw action in June, 1916, whilst attached to the Canadian Corps.

Dinner will be taken at the Ariane Hotel.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

This morning we visit the area of *Neuve Chapelle* where Sgt Gow saw service in 1915 whilst attached to the Indian Corps.

We then visit *Fromelles* and view the site of the proposed cemetery where the men exhumed from the German burial pit will be re-buried in July, 2010.

We pass through *Armentieres* where Ernest Grabham served from April to June, 1916.

Following lunch in Ypres our visits include the following;

**Langemarck German cemetery**, where we see the German concept of burial and remembrance.

The largest British Military cemetery in the world at **Tyne Cot**. Time permitting we will walk the railway line from Zonnebeke to Tyne Cot, the route of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division.

**Passchendaele museum**, which houses some wonderful artefacts from WW1, many of them from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele).

We will meet at the foyer of the hotel at 7:15pm to walk to the Menin Gate for the **Last Post Ceremony**. Dinner will follow at the hotel at 8:30pm.

### **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

We check out of our hotel this morning and travel to **Vimy Ridge** where Sgt Gow served during the capture of this Ridge in April, 1917.

We view **Lochnagar Crater**, the result of a huge mine which was detonated at 07:28 on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916.

Lunch will be taken at La Boisselle.

We then visit the museum at the **Victoria School** in Villers Bretonneux which was re-built after the war on donations from the children of Victoria State, Australia. We shall finally pay our respects at the Australian Memorial.

We check in at the Hotel L'Univers in Arras, our base for the next two nights.

### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

This morning requires an early start. We depart our hotel at 3:30am in order to make the **Dawn Service** at Villers-Bretonneux for 5:15am. Please ensure that you carry water-proofs and warm clothing. Last year it was freezing cold!

We will then drive to **Auchonvillers** for a most welcome cooked breakfast.

We visit the impressive **Thiepval Memorial** where the names of 73,000 soldiers are inscribed who have no known grave and the **Thiepval Visitor Centre**

At **Pozieres** we will examine the action involving the 50<sup>th</sup> Bn AIF.

Returning to Arras you may wish to walk around and admire the city centre before we take dinner.

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

After checking out of our hotel we explore the 1918 actions involving Sgt Gow in the area of Bapaume.

We will visit the **Digger Memorial** at Bullecourt and we will discuss the battle itself.

After lunch we deliver Doug, Lynette, Ross and Lyn to Arras rail station.

Ralph and I then make our way to the port of Calais to catch our ferry. We should arrive in Dover approximately 5:30pm

*Guests*  
*Ross Fowler*  
*Lyn Fowler*  
*Doug Gow*  
*Lynette Gow*  
*Ralph Huddy*

*Your Guide: David Bartlett*

*When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today'*  
*Kohima, 1944*