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JOURNEY TO THE SOMME & YPRES **9th – 11th April 2009**

During our journey we will remember especially the following Servicemen:

Private Arthur James Boon, 10th Bn. Lincolnshire Regiment

Private Fred Tasker, 10th Bn. Lincolnshire Regiment

Airman James Boon, 4 Squadron, RFC

Walter James Bryant, 42nd Bn AIF

Robert John Bryant, 41st Bn AIF

Day One Thursday

We depart on the ferry to Calais at 0825 hours and should arrive in the Somme area about 1330 hours.

Our visits will include;

Lochnagar Crater. It was near the Crater on the 1st July 1916 that the ***10th Lincolnshire Regt (Grimsby Chums)*** attacked. Peter Boon and Fred Tasker were both lost during this attack.

Ovillers Military Cemetery, where we pay our respects to Fred Tasker.

We shall also learn of the origins and current responsibilities of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Thiepval Memorial to the Missing where we will remember Arthur Boon who is listed amongst the missing. At the visitor Centre we will view an outline of the Battle of the Somme.

Pozières, where 3 Australian Divisions suffered heavily during the capture of this prominent ridge during July, August and September, 1916.

Our hotel for the tonight is the Hotel Univers in Arras.

Day Two Friday

Our first visit is to the ***Villers Bretonneux Australian Memorial.*** It was in this town that the Australians stemmed the German advance on Anzac Day, 1918.

We next explore the area near *Sailly-Le-Sec* where *Robert Bryant* was wounded on 12th April, 1918 whilst serving with the 41st Bn, AIF.

We also investigate the action which resulted in *Walter Bryant* being awarded the Military Medal.

En route to Ypres, we visit *Ervillers Military Cemetery* where we pay our respects to *James Boon*.

Our hotel for the night is the Ariane Hotel.

At 1930 hours we stroll to the *Menin Gate Memorial* for the *Last Post Ceremony*. Dinner will be taken afterwards at the Ariane Hotel.

Day Three Saturday

We explore the area of the battle of *Messines* which was the pre-cursor to the Third Battle of Ypres. Robert Bryant was serving with the 11th Machine Gun Company in the “Plugstreet” Wood area for the first few months of 1917, and this is the likely area where he earned the award of the Military Medal.

We next travel to the area of *Passchendaele* and visit the spot where 2 guns of the 11th MGC were positioned during the assault on Broodseinde Ridge.

We conclude our programme at *Tyne Cot*, the largest CWCG cemetery in the world, where nearly 12,000 men are buried and nearly 35,000 men are commemorated.

We return to Ypres for lunch and hopefully there will be time for you to explore the restored square and shop for the excellent chocolates before we make our way back to Calais.

We leave Ypres at 1500 hours to drive to Calais.

We should arrive in Dover around 1730 hours.

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

Our Companions:

Julie Connell
Peter Boon
Walter Coulton
Noelene Coulton
Grant Paterson
Kaye Paterson
Lindsay Bishop.

Your Guide is David Bartlett.