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JOURNEY TO IEPER, THE SOMME & THE ARGONNE **The 90th Year Commemorations of Sgt. York and the 'Lost Battalion'**

Tuesday 30th September – Monday 6th October 2008

Day One – Tuesday 30th September

Guests will be collected from Paris Charles de Gaulle airport at 10am.

Travel by luxury coach to Ieper (Ypres) Belgium.

En route we will explore the area around *Bellinglise* where the *American 27th & 30th Divisions* fought in September 1918 alongside the Australians.

We will arrive at Ieper and check into our hotel (The 4 star Ariane www.ariane.be) during the afternoon. Dinner will be served at the hotel.

Day Two – Wednesday 1st October

After breakfast we will explore the area of the *Battle of Messines* of June 1917.

This will be followed by a guided tour of *Hill 60* by a local historian.

This area was constantly fought over throughout the 4 years of the war and exchanged hands several times.

Lunch will be taken at the Hill 60 restaurant.

We will then drive over the Passchendaele battlefields of 1917 and visit the largest British Military cemetery in the world at *Tynecot*.

Our final visit of the day will be to the world acclaimed '*Flanders Fields*' museum in Ieper.

We will have dinner this evening at our hotel at 6pm in order for us to attend the *Last Post Ceremony* at the *Menin Gate Memorial* at 8pm.

Day Three – Thursday 2nd October

We leave early this morning after breakfast and drive south to the *Vimy Ridge*. It was here where Canadian troops suffered heavy losses in April 1917 whilst taking the Ridge, the first Allied success of the war.

We will explore one of the many tunnels that lie under the Ridge and see for ourselves how the soldiers survived.

Driving further south we will take lunch on the Somme battlefields at the little village of *Auchonvillers*, after which we will explore the trenches in *Newfoundland Park*.

These surviving trenches are probably the best example of trench systems that survive on the Western Front. We will learn of the demise of the Newfoundland soldiers who left these trenches on the morning of 1st July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

Continuing through the Somme battlefields our next call will be to the *Thiepval Memorial* and Visitor Centre. This is an Anglo-French Memorial to the nearly 73,000 British soldiers who fought in the Somme battles and who have no known grave.

A number of large underground mines were detonated on the 1st July 1916.

We will visit one of them at *Lochnagar* near the village of *La Boiselle*.

Our hotel for this evening is the 3 star *Hotel Saint Claude* in *Peronne*. Dinner will be served at the hotel.

Day Four – Friday 3rd October

After breakfast we will drive south to the area of the *Meuse Argonne* and the U.S. Cemetery at *Romagne* where we will pay our respects at the graves of those members of York's patrol who were killed in action on 8th October 1918. A visit will be made to the impressive American Memorial on the heights of *Montfaucon*.

We drive to our hotel, the 3 star *Tulipier at Vienne le Chateau*, arriving late afternoon.

We will be staying here for three nights. (www.letulipier.com)

Tonight we will be hosting our welcome dinner with our French guests. These will include the Mayors of Châtel-Chéhéry and Fléville and archaeologists and historians who were deeply involved in the Sergeant York Project.

Day Five – Saturday 4th October

This will be the day of ceremonies and commemorations. At this stage (January 2008) we know there will be ceremonies at both *Châtel-Chéhéry* (Sergeant York) and *Fléville*. (U.S. First Division 1918.) The exact timings are not yet known. It is also hoped that there will be a commemoration at the site where the '*Lost Battalion*' were involved during October 1918. Precise information will be given as and when the final details are received.

Dinner will be served at the Hotel Tulipier.

Day Six – Sunday 5th October

Today there will be a guided tour by members of the *Sergeant York Project Team* of the York battle site. **You are advised to wear waterproofs and strong boots.** This walk is not for the faint hearted as there are some very steep hills to traverse. For those not wishing to explore the site you may take a stroll through the beautiful countryside.

Following a picnic lunch there will also be a guided tour of the area where the '*Lost Battalion*' were involved.

Again waterproofs and sturdy footwear will be required.

Dinner will be served at the hotel.

Day Seven – Monday 6th October

This morning after an early breakfast we bid farewell to the Tulipier hotel, driving to Paris Charles de Gaulle airport. We will arrive at the airport at 10:30am. **Guests should ensure that they book return flights to the U.S. accordingly.**

The price includes all coach travel, the services of a dedicated guide throughout, hotel accommodation, museum fees, all meals, (wine with evening meal). It does *not* include any drinks before and after dinner, travel insurance or flight travel

- The cost per person is £945.00 per person.
- Single Room supplement is £120 per person.
- Previous BBJ travelers are entitled to a 10% discount (excluding single supplements).
- A £75 deposit per person will secure your reservation and the balance becomes due six weeks prior to departure. Will you please complete the booking form which can be found at www.battlefields.co.uk/booking.php and scan to us by email or send by post.

We accept three methods of payment:

- 1) Sterling cheque, obtainable from your bank, made payable to 'BB Journeys Trust Account.'
 - 2) Wire transfer. If this method is preferred we will forward details of our bank account.
 - 3) By Card payment. We employ the PayPal secure site for payments and you do not have to join or become a member of PayPal to use this facility. If you wish to use this process we will forward you the link to facilitate payment
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- Guests should ensure that they book their flights into Paris Charles de Gaulle, arriving before 10:00 on 30th September 2008 and departing Charles de Gaulle after 12:00 Monday 6th October 2008.
 - Guests will be advised as to where at Charles de Gaulle they will be collected by coach.

Bartletts Battlefield Journeys reserve the right to omit or change any aspect of the itinerary as maybe necessary.