



BELGIUM  
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**PRESENTS**

THE  
"YSER FRONTLINE" & "YPRES SALIENT"  
TOUR

**NIEUWPOORT**

3, 4 & 5 May 2014



On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, the MG Car Club Belgium aims to organize an International Commemoration Weekend.

This weekend of remembrance calls at the "Westhoek", the Belgian war scenery par excellence. This is the place where during World War I a fierce battle was fought along the Yser and the hills surrounding Ypres.

Particularly the flooding of the low-lying Yser plain, registered from the lock complex (see picture on first page) in Nieuwpoort, made sure any further movement of the occupier in the Belgian sector of the front was paralyzed for 4 more years.

For this reason one can safely state that Nieuwpoort was strategically determining for the course of WWI.

That is why we have decided to start the commemoration weekend in Nieuwpoort.

### **Saturday 3rd May 2014: Nieuwpoort**

9.00- 12.00: Registration of participants

12.00-18.00: Memorial route Nieuwpoort

- Albert I monument (see picture)
- Guided tour lock complex
- Explanation on the inundation
- Ancient railway embankment acting as water buffer during the flooding
- Museum Old Vicarage of Ramskapelle
- Observation post Old Railway station

21.00: Speeches & beverages

22.30: Dancing fountains with laser show and music



Nieuwpoort, situated on the estuary of the Yser, is a historical town! It was totally destroyed both during WWI & WWII, but has been rebuild stone by stone to its original condition. Nieuwpoort, called the Monte Carlo of the Belgian Coast, is a city in expansion where the yachting marina, the harbour channel and the fish market figure as main public attractions.

Nieuwpoort, located along the E40 (Calais-Brussel), has a fluent access from Calais (France: 80km), Dunkerque (France: 35km), Ostend (Belgium: 25km) and Zeebrugge (Belgium: 50km).

## Sunday 4th May 2014: starting point Nieuwpoort

We start off at 08.30 for the tour along the Yser Frontline and the Ypres Salient.

On this 89km long ride lots of historical memorial sites and museums can be visited:

### Nieuwpoort-St.-Joris:

- Military Road Cemetery

### Diksmuide:

- Trench of Death
- Yser Tower (see picture)

### Steenstraete:

- Explanation on the gas attacks
- Memorial Monument

### Boezinge:

- Site John McCrae
- Essex Farm Cemetery
- Yorkshire Trench & Dug-Out

### Pilkem Ridge- the most symbolic battle field of WWI

### Langemark:

- German War Cemetery

### St.-Juliaan Ieper:

- Canadian Forces Memorial

### Poelkapelle:

- Gynemer Monument
- British Cemetery

### Zonnebeke:

- Tyne Cot Cemetery (see picture)
- Road to Passchendaele
- Memorial Museum Passchendaele
- Polygon Wood



Zillebeke:

- Hill 62 & Sanctuary Wood
- Hill 60

Ieper:

- French Military Cemetery  
St.- Charles de Potyze
- Museum "In Flanders Field"



We end the day in grateful remembrance in Ypres where we can attend the deeply moving ceremony of the "Last Post" at 20.00 pm under the vast arch of the Menin Gate.

Before giving details of the 3rd day, we would like to advise the participants of the following:

- The commemoration weekend is organized as a 2+1 day event;
- Participants have the choice between:
  - The 2- day formula as described above
  - The 3-day formula, with following program for the third day.

In case you choose the 2-day formula, we have provided a police escort to Nieuwpoort after the ceremony of the Last Post. This way you can book your hotel accommodation in Nieuwpoort or in the vicinity.

Please note that in case you opt for the 3-day event, it is advised to book your own hotel for Sunday night in Ypres (\*).

(\*) more information regarding hotel accommodation follows later on.





**Monday 5th May 2014.**

On this third day there is a choice between two possible routes :

- The crater and mine route in the region of Poperinge (41km)
- The "German hinterland route" from Moorslede to Nieuwpoort (66km).

**CHOICE 1: Crater and Mine route**

- Wijtschate
  - Battle of the mines
  - Pool of Peace (see picture)
  - Bayernwald
- Mesen:
  - Irish Peace Park
  - New Zealand Monument
  - Messines Ridge Monument
  - Monument Samuel Frickleton
- Kemmel
  - Visitor's center "De Bergen"
  - Kemmel shelter
- Poperinge
  - Talbot House (see picture)
  - Death row and execution pole



**CHOICE 2: German Hinterlandroute**

- Moorslede: War monument
- Hooglede:
  - German Military cemetery
- Houthulst
  - Battle for the forest
- Vladslo
  - German cemetery
- Koekelare
  - Käthe Kollwitz tower (see picture)
  - Lange Max
- Keiem
- Nieuwpoort



So far the summary of the International Commemoration weekend of WWI in the Westhoek on 3rd-4th & 5th of May 2014.

Due to the various options (2 or 3 days participation, two alternatives of routes on the 3rd day) it is not possible to make hotel bookings by way of the organization .

That is why we communicate the program in this early stage, to give you the opportunity to make your hotel reservations at your own convenience.

An overview of hotels and other accommodations in and surrounding Nieuwpoort will follow.

This list will contain a variety of possibilities, from high class hotels to camping sites, as well as the opportunity to sleep in an army barrack!! For Ypres and proximity a second list will be provided.

Anyway, nothing should restrain you, regardless of this lists, from registering early bird.

Because it is to be taken into account that the number of registrations will be limited to 300 cars due to the fact that this is an international (Europe, Canada & Australia) event.

The International Commemoration Weekend (MG-YFYS.2014) is an initiative from the MG Car Club Belgium, with the support of the City of Nieuwpoort and the Provincial Government of West Flanders.

In the fee is included: tour plate, frame work with poem John McCrae & a poppy, sandwich lunch on Saturday noon, lunch on Sunday & sandwich on Sunday evening, reserved places for de Last Post, reductions on entrance fees, multilingual brochures concerning WWI in de Westhoek, and last but not least: the Road Book.

Reservations via website [www.mgcarclub.be](http://www.mgcarclub.be) under header YFYS.2014 will be possible from 01/10/2013 on.

We look forward to welcome you the 1st weekend of May 2014!

MGreets,

On behalf of the MG Car Club Belgium



Dhr. Ketels José  
Organizer

Dhr. Daniël Vanbelleghem  
Co-organizer

Management MG Car Club Belgium  
[www.mgcarclub.be](http://www.mgcarclub.be)

QR-Code Website MG-YFYS.2014  
(from February 1st 2013 on)



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