

# The Great War 1914-1918

## Canadian Battlefield Tour

FRANCE & BELGIUM

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April 6-14, 2025 (9 DAYS)

[www.LiberationTours.ca](http://www.LiberationTours.ca)



VIMY OAKS  
LES CHÊNES DE VIMY



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# The Great War 1914-1918 Battlefield Tour

the Battlefields of World War One  
inspired by Lt. Leslie Miller

April 6-14, 2025

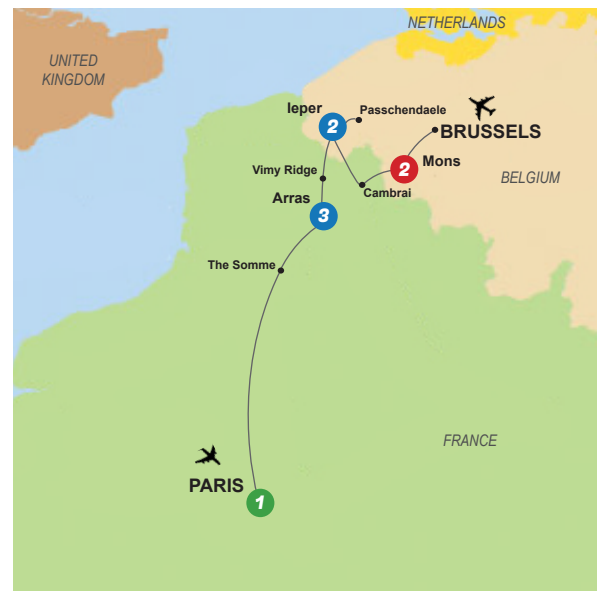


**November 11, 1918 at 11:00 in the morning.** The eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month. So came to an end “the war to end all wars.” The guns finally fell silent, bringing to a close four long years of unspeakable conflict. The Canadians will suffer gas attacks, infested trenches, misery. Yet through it all the Canadian Expeditionary Force will prove to be the fighting force, which will win them the nickname ‘shock troops’ as they earn important victories at Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens and more. And Canada will earn its place as a signatory to the Treaty of Versailles. It is the ‘Birth of a Nation.’

You will visit all fourteen of Canada’s Great War monuments in France and Belgium. This includes the “Trail of the Caribou,” featuring the five monuments in western Europe dedicated to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. You will be part of a typically all-Canadian group, mostly couples, and almost always an even 50/50 mix of ladies and gentlemen, from all walks of life.

Come with us on a life-changing journey through France and Belgium, featuring Vimy Ridge on April 9th.

Step into History.



VIMY OAKS  
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VIMY  OAKS

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LES CHÊNES DE VIMY

## Our Inspiration:

Lt. Leslie Miller

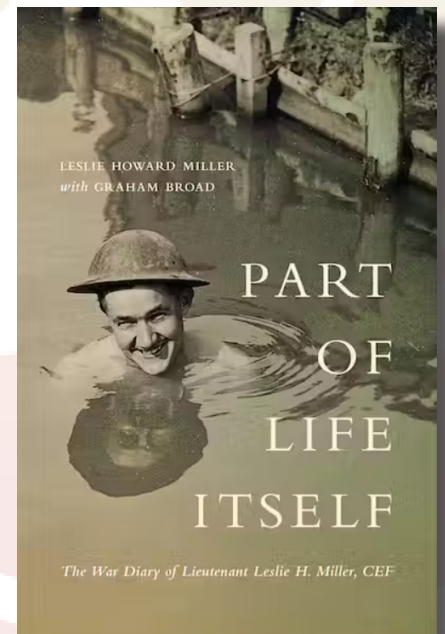
5th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force

This tour is inspired by Leslie Miller, a Canadian Soldier who served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in France and Belgium during the First World War. Using locations mentioned in his diary, we can follow his journey across the Atlantic to England, and onward to the Western Front of Belgium and France from 1915-1918. Through his eyes, we can step into history and share the experience of all the soldiers who fought in the The Great War.

Each traveler will receive in advance a personal copy of *"Part of Life Itself: The War Diary of Lieutenant Leslie Howard Miller, CEF"*.

We will touch down at all of Canada's original WWI monuments in France and Belgium, including Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele, and also the 'Trail of the Caribou' which marks the sacrifices of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

Your trip includes attendance at The Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium, and an exclusive visit to the headstone factory of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in northern France. And much more.





## ITINERARY

### Saturday April 5

For many of our travelers it is departure day, for the overnight transatlantic flight to Europe. Some travelers may choose to leave sooner, to extend the start of the trip with additional nights for sightseeing. Perhaps you would like to go to London first, to visit places mentioned by Lt. Miller while he was on leave there. Additionally, you might wish to add on some nights in Paris to explore more. Let us know, and we can quote you on pre-tour accommodations and connections from the UK to France if needed. Guests who have other travels already in progress, or guests from other points of origin including the United Kingdom, the United States and elsewhere, will meet the start of the tour on Day 1 in Paris.

### Day 1 - Sunday April 6

In the mid-afternoon all clients can check into the group hotel. In the meantime, luggage is stored in the hotel baggage lock-up. Today you are free to explore Paris, one of the great capital cities of Europe. In the evening we gather in the heart of the city for our Welcome Dinner, to set the stage for our special journey together. Overnight Paris. [D]

### Day 2 - Monday April 7

Our first day on the battlefields is steeped in history as we wind our way into the French countryside to consider the Battle of the Somme, one of the largest, bloodiest and most destructive battles of World War One. Visits include Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial Park, the Thiepval Memorial and Lochnagar Crater. Overnight Arras. [B,L]

### Day 3 - Tuesday April 8

We continue our exploration of the Somme battlefields today. The tiny village of Courcellette is forever linked with the advent of the tank, and we'll visit two monuments to this event followed by time at nearby Regina Trench Cemetery. We'll also stop at the Ulster Tower Memorial, and the Newfoundland Memorial at Gueudecourt. In the afternoon we visit the War Graves Commission's factory in Beaurains, where the headstones are engraved with reverence and care. Overnight Arras. [B,L]

### Day 4 - Wednesday April 9

We spend the morning at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, standing proud on the highest point of Vimy Ridge on the 108th anniversary of the battle. The day includes points of interest near Souchez, and a pause for lunch to toast the boys of Vimy. In the afternoon we visit the Hill 70 Memorial in Loos-en-Gohelle, which marks Canada's 'forgotten victory' of 1917. Overnight Arras. [B,L]

### Day 5 - Thursday April 10

As we journey north across the border into Belgium we make stops at the Ploegsteert Memorial and the Christmas Truce Memorial in Messines. The tour carries onward to the lovely town of Poperinge and a visit to Talbot House, where soldiers found brief respite behind the lines. We arrive in historic Ieper (Ypres) for two nights. Overnight Ieper. [B]

### Day 6 - Friday April 11

Our day is spent in the Ypres Salient, with visits to The Brooding Soldier at St. Julien, Essex Farm, Hill 62, the Passchendaele Memorial at Crest Farm, Langemark German Cemetery, and Tyne Cot - the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in the world. In the evening guests will have a second opportunity to observe the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, a daily act of remembrance stretching all the way back to 1928. Select guests will lay a wreath on behalf of the tour group. Overnight Ieper. [B]

### Day 7 - Saturday April 12

We continue our exploration of Great War memorials, returning to the French countryside to explore "Canada's 100 Days." We'll visit the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at Masnières and Monchy-le-Preux, and the CEF at Bourlon Wood and Dury. The tour also makes a special visit to the Cambrai 1917 Museum to see an incredibly rare WWI tank. Overnight Mons. [B,L]

### Day 8 - Sunday April 13

Our pilgrimage winds down with a visit to the monument to Canadian George Lawrence Price, the last soldier of the British Empire to die in The Great War. We also visit his final resting place at St. Symphorien Cemetery. It's then time for a Farewell Dinner in historic Mons, to share one last meal with new friends. Overnight Mons. [B,D]

### Day 9 - Monday April 14

This morning is departure day for those returning home - buffet or box breakfast is included, depending on departure time from the hotel. Some travelers may choose to remain in Europe longer to extend their trip - let us know if we can quote you on post-tour accommodations. An optional transfer to Paris is included. [B]

*Itinerary is subject to minor change prior to departure. Minor variances are also possible during the actual tour based on the need to adapt to circumstances we may encounter during our travels.*



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Reg No. 50025639



additional details and pricing at  
[www.LiberationTours.ca](http://www.LiberationTours.ca)



## THE TOUR.

### Vimy Ridge

For the first time, all four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force will fight together, and their success of April 1917 resonates still to this day. See what many consider the most beautiful of all the war monuments, including a must-see guided tour of the tunnels. We also visit the nearby monument to the 'forgotten victory' at Hill 70.



### Passchendaele

It's been called the ugliest fight of both World Wars. It's October 1917 and the Canadians will suffer gas attacks, infested trenches, misery. And yet they will once again prevail. What was then a barren, muddy landscape is now a quiet, lovely countryside. You'll see where they fought, and where John McCrae wrote his famous poem.



### Beaumont-Hamel

Beaumont-Hamel is forever etched into the memory of Newfoundlanders. They are the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, and it was here, in July 1916, that a thousand soldiers climbed up out of the trenches and into the gunfire and were almost completely wiped out. Their battleground is renowned as one of the best preserved WWI sites in all of France.



## THE TRIP.

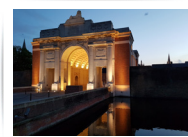
### Paris

Enjoy some time unwinding as you absorb Paris in the spring! There's so much to see, including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Louvre, the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées, Les Jardins du Luxembourg, the list goes on!



### Ieper (Ypres)

Ypres was completely destroyed during WWI, but the citizens of Ypres rebuilt their proud town brick by brick. Enjoy a little shopping and a lot of great food, or perhaps a walk along the old city ramparts and cobblestone streets. The daily Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate is a very special highlight.



### Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The war cemeteries of Europe, from both the First and Second World Wars, are places of peace and respect. They are immaculately maintained by CWGC staff around the world, with a majority of those cemeteries in northern France and Belgium.



Your guide will be  
Liberation Tours' chief  
historian **Phil Craig**,  
professional actor and  
Co-Founder of the  
Georgina Military Museum.



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### INCLUDED

- An expert Canadian Historian, and an expert Canadian Tour Director, who will both accompany you on your full tour
- Eight nights accommodation in twin or double rooms with private facilities
- Travel by luxury air-conditioned coach with reclining seats, on-board facilities and free mobile Wi-Fi
- Buffet breakfast (cold and/or hot) at the hotel each morning, plus select meals as outlined in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); group lunches and dinners typically include a glass of wine/beer!
- All entrances as per your itinerary
- All hotel service charges and local taxes
- Gratuities to coach driver and local guides (note: these gratuities are extra on most other tours and can add up to \$200 CAD or more, be sure to compare!)
- Tour package which includes select daily detailed historical battle maps, period photographs and more; a complete digital copy of all this is also given to you at the conclusion of the tour!
- A paperback copy of "Part of Life Itself: The War Diary of Lieutenant Leslie Howard Miller, CEF", mailed to you prior to the tour

### EXCLUDED

- Airfare - we can provide a quote for flights from any gateway in Canada, to match your own individual preferences based on dates, routes, class of seating, etc; there will be one coach transfer at the start of the tour: from Charles de Gaulle Airport to the hotel in Paris on April 6, 2025 in coordination with the arrival of Air Canada AC872; there will be two transfers at the end of the tour, from the hotel in Mons to: (a) Brussels Airport on April 14, 2025 in coordination with the departure of Air Canada AC833, and (b) to downtown Paris; travelers not utilizing these would be responsible for their own transfers
- Pre-tour and/or post-tour accommodations - ask for a quote and extend your stay!
- Travel Insurance Protection - ask us for a no-obligation quote from Manulife!
- Meals other than stated on the itinerary
- Passport & related fees
- Any optional excursion not specifically stated
- Items of a personal nature

### NOTATIONS

- Hotels have been pre-booked but are subject to change
- This tour requires a minimum of 20 passengers to operate
- Non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person due upon booking
- Balance of payment due on or before the booking deadline: January 30, 2025
- Liberation Tours will donate on your behalf to Forest Recovery Canada, to make your trip carbon-neutral
- Read Liberation Tours' Terms & Conditions prior to booking

[ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE @](#)

[www.LiberationTours.ca](http://www.LiberationTours.ca)

ground transportation by:

**TRAFALGAR**

**\$4990**

*Land Only, per person, based on double occupancy (two people sharing a room)*

**\$1150**

*Single Supplement, the additional cost if traveling on your own (one person in the room)*

**\$500**

*deposit per person upon booking (all prices in Canadian dollars)*



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Contact your favourite Travel Agent or:

Liberation Tours  
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