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EDUCATIONAL PACKAGE

Andrew's Dream Museum

IN FLANDERS FIELDS MUSEUM

Content

This educational package is intended for teachers of the 4th, 5th or 6th grade in primary education. Its main objective is to help with the preparation of school trips to the In Flanders Fields Museum. The theme of the package is the book “Andrew’s Dream Museum”, specially made for this target group.

Content 2

The book 3

Our offer 4

A visit to the In Flanders Fields Museum 5

Museum walk, guidance 6

Poppy bracelet 7

Stop 1 **FLIGHT** 7

Stop 2 **UNIFORMS** 8

Stop 3 **CHRISTMAS** 8

Stop 4 **WEAPONS** 9

Stop 5 **MEDICAL SERVICE** 9

Stop 6 **AT THE FRONT** 10

Stop 7 **COMMEMORATING** 11

Should you have any questions or comments then please contact:

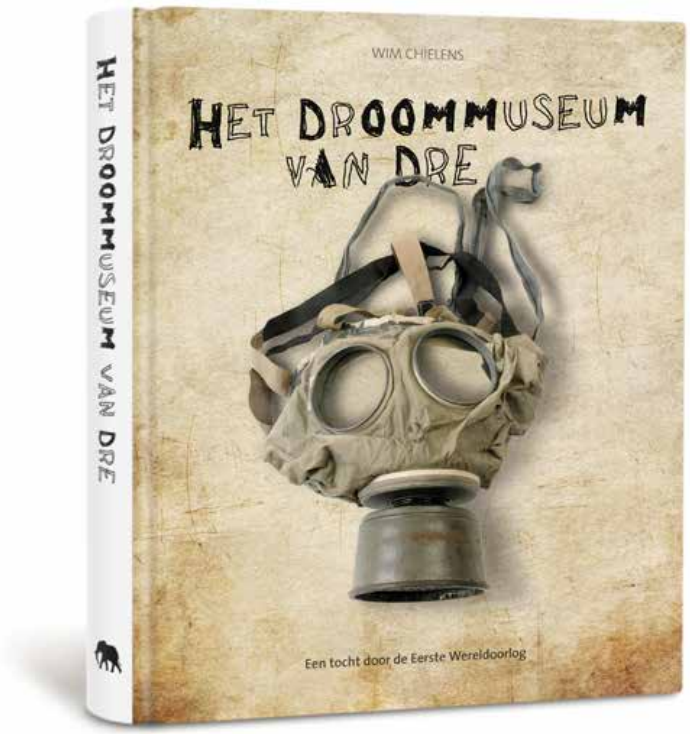
Research centre In Flanders Fields Museum
att. of Ann-Sophie Coene, Wouter Sinaeve and Sien Demasure
Sint-Maartensplein 3
8900 Ypres (B)
phone: ++32 57 239 450
fax: ++32 57 239 459
kenniscentrum@ieper.be

The book

Andrew lives in Ypres and his father works at the **In Flanders Fields Museum** (IFF). After visiting the museum, Andrew became fascinated with the **history** of the First World War, so much so, that he decided to start his own, personal museum dedicated to the conflict. The collections in Andrew's **dream museum** consist of objects that, at first glance, may not seem to have any connection with the war, but they are all related in some way to the things he first discovered at the IFF.

Andrew's Dream Museum explores a wide range of topics related to the war and explains them in a manner that is easy to understand. Dozens of **objects** from the IFF are explored in this book, as are **testimonials** from people who have experienced conflicts at first hand – both soldiers and civilians, alike. The Westhoek landscape, often cited as the ultimate witness to the Great War, is also depicted through Andrew's eyes, as he recounts experiences of **bicycling** through the area.

War is unfortunately not limited to a specific time or place and attention is also devoted to people who have lived with the consequences of conflict and violence in today's world, just as people had to do in Ypres so many years ago, at the end of the First World War.



This book was written for children all over the world, by authors who grew up in the former frontline area around Ypres. It is intended to help prepare young people for their first visit to the In Flanders Fields Museum in an exciting and engaging manner, and to allow them to remember what they witnessed during their visit.

Our offer

On the basis of the book the workshop “Andrew’s Dream Museum’ has been created. Within this concept two formulas exist. You can attend a workshop of one hour followed by an individual museum visit.
Or you can book the “Andrew’s Dream Museum” VIP package in which an educational employee guides the class through the museum before or after the workshop. This is done via a headset system (individual device with earphones for each student).

More information about our offer and formulas: **www.inflandersfields.be**



A visit to the IFFM

Visiting a museum with an entire class is no small undertaking. Nevertheless, if the visit is well prepared, it should not be a problem at all. In this guideline we will provide you with some tips to carefully plan your visit to the In Flanders Fields Museum (IFFM). We will also tell you what is allowed and what is definitely prohibited. In this way everyone – your class but also the other visitors – can enjoy their trip to the museum.

If you make a reservation for a visit to the IFFM the only thing you have to do upon arrival is submit your reservation confirmation to the reception desk of the museum. By booking in advance you as a teacher also get the opportunity to prepare your visit for free. This might be handy if you are planning on guiding your class through the museum yourself. In that case you can think about which aspects you want to deal with in more detail. The book Andrew's Dream Museum is a tool that can definitely help you here.

If you would like guidance in the museum, there are two possibilities. You can sign up for a 'Andrew's Dream Museum' - VIP package (this option takes 2 hours). In addition to a workshop in our educational space, you will also receive guidance from an educational staff member in the museum. He or she will take the pupils through the museum with a 'headset system' (individual device with earphones for each pupil). A second possibility is to sign up for a 1 hour guidance of an educational staff member also by means of a 'headset system'. More information about both options can be found on our website in the 'offer' section of the educational service. Book in time, because we can only serve a limited number of classes according to this principle. Schools that take a tour of the museum without the "silent guide" are explicitly requested to respect the peace and quiet in the museum. The staff members will see to it that this is the case. Please divide your class into small groups and make sure that there are enough supervisors present. In this way you can provide the children with the necessary information without disturbing the other visitors. In any case you will experience a calm atmosphere in the museum.

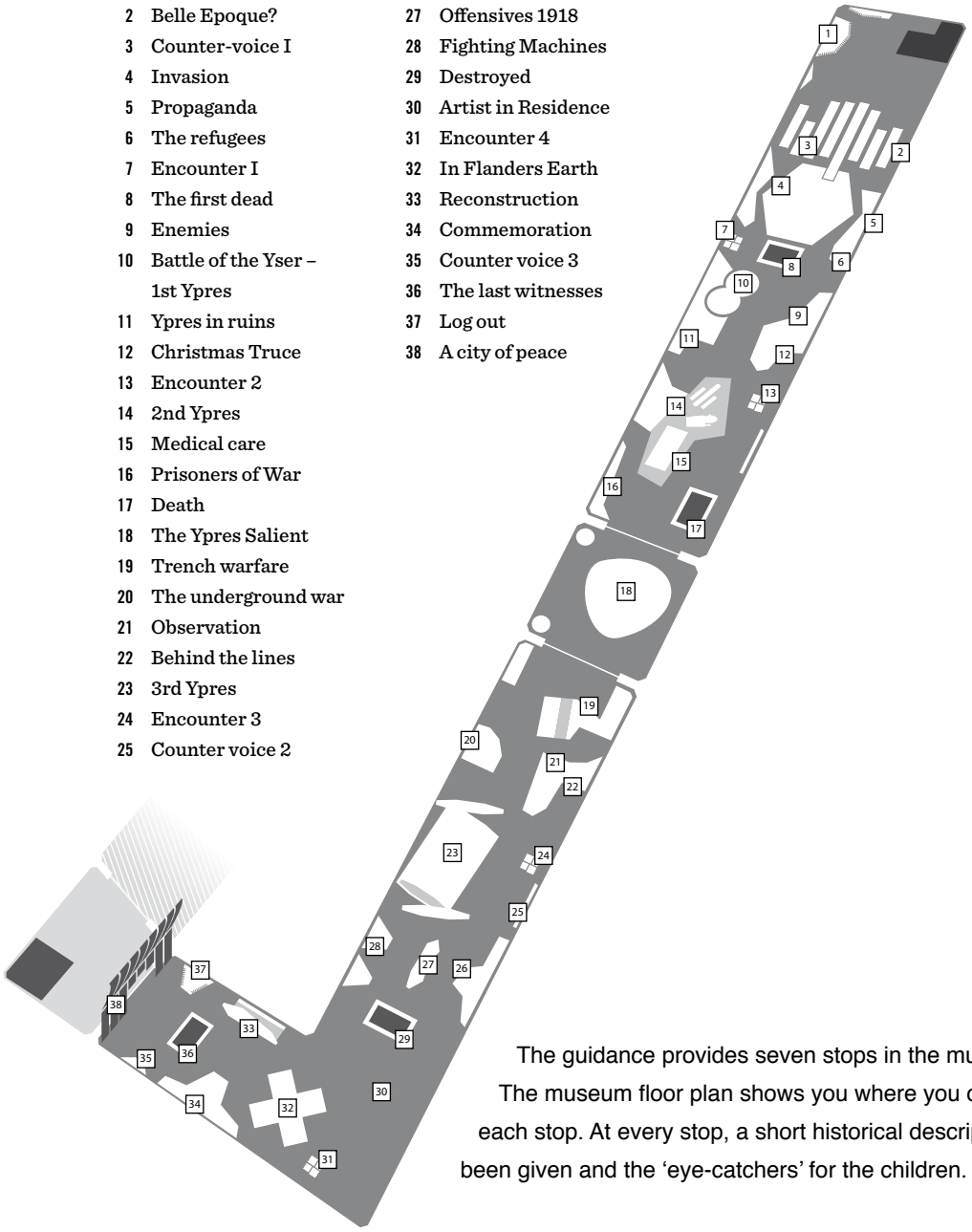
In the museum four reference posts can be found. These grey constructions reach the ridge of the Cloth Hall's roof and act as partitions to the visitors. Inside these posts, visitors are confronted with the consequences of the war, and they are invited to ponder these facts in an intimate setting. We would like to stress that these images are not really suited for primary school children.

Museum walk
Andrew's Dream Museum

IN FLANDERS FIELDS MUSEUM

You can visit the museum with your class, just like Andrew. These instructions can be a guidance. Whoever follows the museum walk below, is on the go for about an hour. You will not have seen the whole museum. But nothing should stop you from paying attention to other items.

1 Log in
2 Belle Epoque?
3 Counter-voice I
4 Invasion
5 Propaganda
6 The refugees
7 Encounter I
8 The first dead
9 Enemies
10 Battle of the Yser – 1st Ypres
11 Ypres in ruins
12 Christmas Truce
13 Encounter 2
14 2nd Ypres
15 Medical care
16 Prisoners of War
17 Death
18 The Ypres Salient
19 Trench warfare
20 The underground war
21 Observation
22 Behind the lines
23 3rd Ypres
24 Encounter 3
25 Counter voice 2
26 The world at war
27 Offensives 1918
28 Fighting Machines
29 Destroyed
30 Artist in Residence
31 Encounter 4
32 In Flanders Earth
33 Reconstruction
34 Commemoration
35 Counter voice 3
36 The last witnesses
37 Log out
38 A city of peace



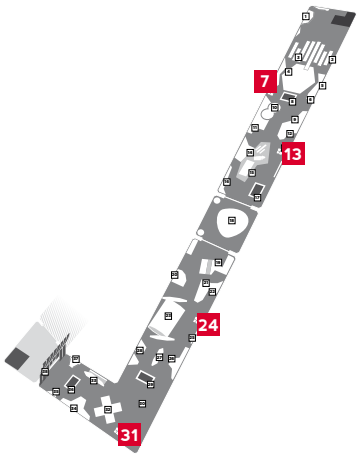
The guidance provides seven stops in the museum. The museum floor plan shows you where you can find each stop. At every stop, a short historical description has been given and the 'eye-catchers' for the children.

Poppy bracelet

This bracelet allows pupils to access the In Flanders Fields Museum and the chosen language is programmed into the bracelet, allowing you to interact with several displays. The poppy bracelet also gives you four encounters with eye witnesses during the war. The four meetings are chronological; three war stories (1914, 1915-1916 and 1917-1918) and one post-war story. These can be found on the following locations (museum floor plan numbers 7/13/24/31).

We did not add these encounters in the museum walk below. If you do want to make use of them, please mention this in your reservation. In that case we will program four encounters adapted for children.

Note: the log-in process (number 1) at the entrance of the museum is only meant for individual visitors.



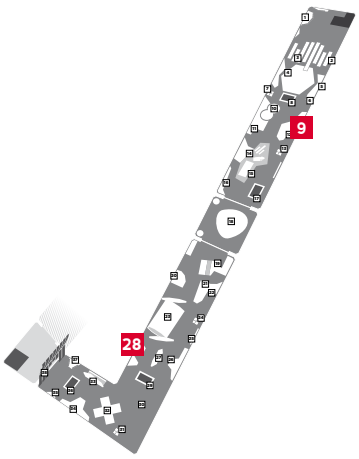




Stop 1 FLIGHT

Whenever war and violence around the world is shown on television, what is the first image you see? It's not soldiers or weapons. The first thing you see is people in flight. On foot, with carts, with pets, cattle, crammed into buses... A miserable procession.
During the First World War things were no different. On 4 August 1914, the German army invaded Belgium. Immediately, thousands of people began fleeing the violence, fearing they would not survive. It must have been terrifying to see such a group of refugees passing by your door. It's not the soldiers, or the weapons but rather the fear in the eyes of the refugees that suddenly brings the war so close.
The people fled not only to the west of Belgium but also to France, Great Britain and the Netherlands. Within two months the Germans had captured most of Belgium, but by October 1914, the German advance had come to a halt and thousands of refugees were stranded in the Westhoek (the north-west corner of Belgium). Here, they made temporary houses out of planks, rags, straw and whatever else they could find. But not everybody could stay and so the procession moved on again, towards France.

> *Listen to the story of Richard Wybouw. In the thematic displays you will find more items that concretize the refugee story.*

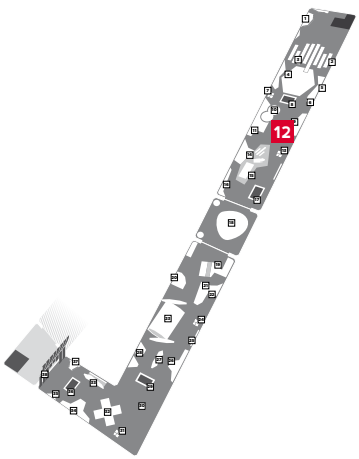


Stop 2 UNIFORMS

When we think of soldiers today, we envisage them in pale-coloured uniforms and helmets, but when the war began, things weren't like that. The French soldiers looked like they were going dancing – red trousers, blue jacket and blue-red cap and the Belgians, British and Germans didn't have helmets, as we know them today. The army commanders were still unaware of the power of the modern weaponry they wielded, as well as that of the enemy! After six months of war and many thousands of deaths, all the armies switched to clothing that was better suited to trench warfare, adopting khaki or grey uniforms and, from 1916, soldiers were given proper helmets.

Have a close look at the uniforms of 1914 (French, British, German, Belgian), number 9, and compare them with the displays of the 'Fighting machines" (Canadian Scot, German storm trooper, Frenchman, American), number 28.

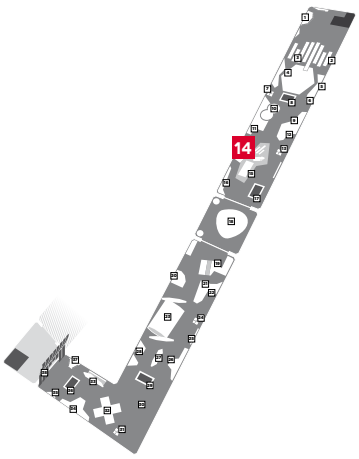




Stop 3 CHRISTMAS

Christmas 1914 was the first Christmas that the soldiers spent at the front. The war was only half a year old and most of them had now realised that it was far from over. They were tired, cold, hungry and fed up. Even on Christmas Day they had to occupy the cold, wet and muddy trenches. The senior officers appeared to be miles from the front, in luxurious castles or manor houses, nice and warm in front of a nice Christmas dinner. The officers often remained in the camps, or at least in secure bunkers, on the second line. Only the ordinary soldiers were in the trenches. It was in these circumstances that the so-called 'Christmas truces' occurred. At dozens of locations along the front, German soldiers met with their British, French and Belgian counterparts. Sometimes they stayed in their trenches, calling out Christmas wishes and tossing gifts to each other. But in many other places, soldiers came out of the trenches and faced each other in No-Man's-Land. When the senior officers heard of these unofficial truces, they were furious and afraid that the soldiers would not want to fight again.

Greg Nottle (UK), Karel Lauwers (B), Maurice Laurentin (FR) and Kurt Zemisch (D) have taken part in the 'Chrismas truce'. Listen to their stories.



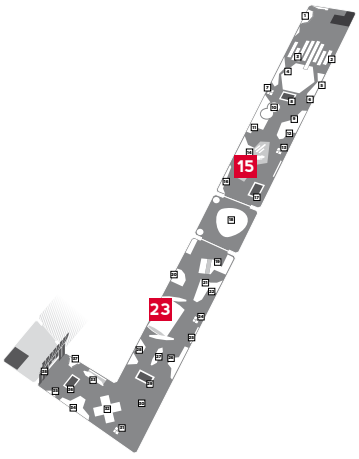
Stop 4 WEAPONS

During the First World War, battles were waged in a very old-fashioned manner, with soldiers attacking each other with bayonets. But it was also a war in which many new weapons and machines of war were utilised. The aim was always to make existing weapons even better, that is, to make them deadlier, more efficient at killing. At the same time, devices were invented to protect soldiers against these weapons and, as a result, these weapons had to get 'even better'... An important weapon was the machine-gun. It could fire hundreds of rounds per minute, without having to be reloaded. But of all the new weapons that the war gave birth to, gas was by far the most terrible. Initially, the gas was not put into shells and fired by guns, rather, in the first gas attack, in April 1915, the Germans opened six thousand bottles of gas while standing in their trenches and the wind gradually blew the cloud towards the enemy's trenches. Before gas masks arrived, soldiers were advised in the event of a gas attack to pee into their handkerchiefs and place them over their face, but later, better gas masks were produced. In 1917, the Germans first used mustard gas, near Ypres and even today it is known all over the world as 'yperite'.

The industrial warfare was murderous for all participants. The enormous fire power of the artillery and the deadly rains of bullets of machine guns made victims on a very large scale. Symbol of that is the metal scrap that is still being coughed up in this region.

Various models of gasmasks are being presented on a screen. You can think of the possible disadvantages of a gasmask.



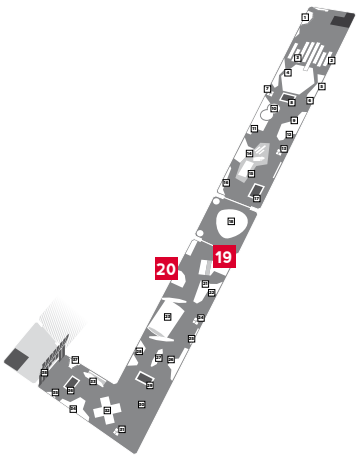


Stop 5 MEDICAL SERVICE

During the First World War, more than eight million people were killed and more than twice that number were wounded. To tend to the wounded on the battlefield, each army had a group surgeons, doctors, nurses (the only women in the soldiers' camp), and finally ambulance drivers and stretcher-bearers, who often had to retrieve wounded men from No-Man's-Land, a job that was very dangerous. Very close to the trenches were bandaging stations, where the wounded were given first aid to keep them alive. Soldiers who were too badly injured to be transported were immediately taken care of or operated on, often in a makeshift manner. Those who did not survive their wounds were buried on the spot. Further back from the front, perhaps six miles or so away, were the large field hospitals. There, surgeons and other specialist medical staff toiled daily to save the lives of the huge number of wounded that flowed into their operating theatres.
However, it was not just the wounded that ended up in the Hospital. The terrible living conditions made the soldiers seriously ill. Then there were the soldiers who lost their minds because of the violence. These men became sick with fear and could no longer endure being at the front. The English came to call this illness 'shell shock' but at the beginning of the war, the doctors simply called it 'pretending'!

In 1917, this horse ambulance (number 15) brought wounded from the Menin road in Ypres to a dressing station in Dikkebus. In the thematic display you will find a number of objects that will explain the medical story.

"There are many people to tell you of the noble side, the heroic side, the exalted side of war. I must tell you of what I have seen, the other side, the backwash." *These are the words of the American nurse Ellen La Motte. Together with the British nurse and ambulance driver Enid Bagnold and the American doctor Harvey Cushing, in the audio-visual space, they bring the story of what war is all about: "the loss of people". (number 23).*

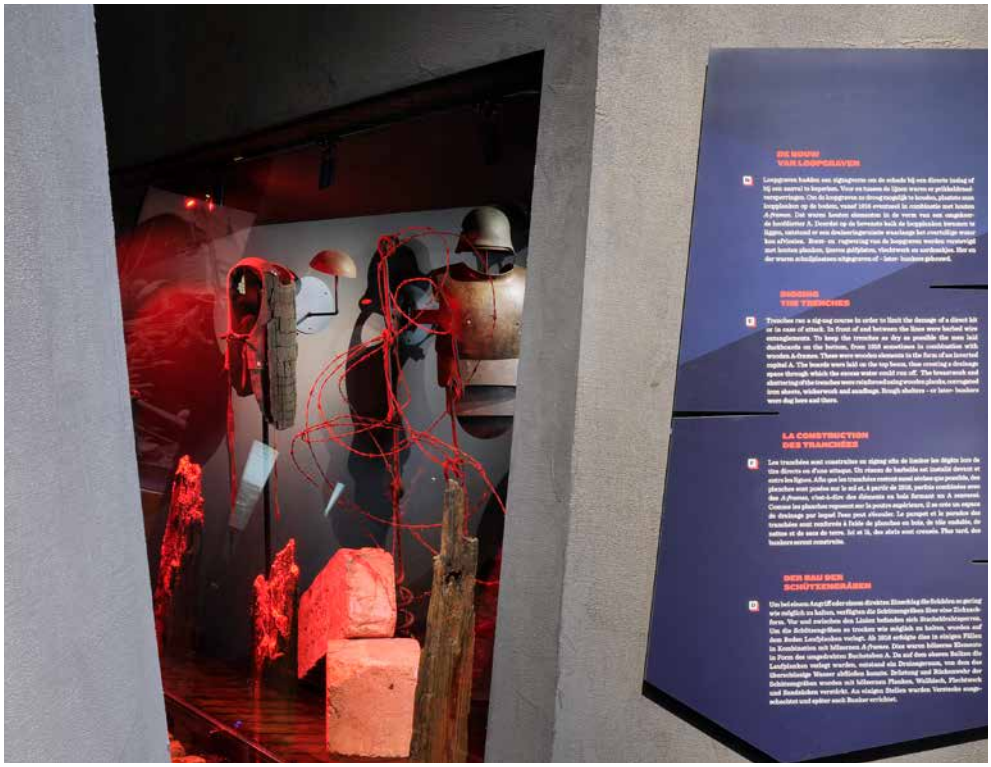


Stop 6 AT THE FRONT

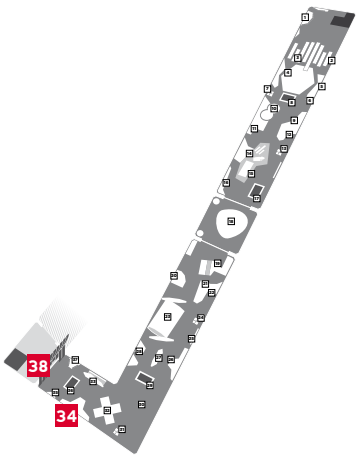
During the first weeks of the war, the Germans rampaged across Belgium like a whirlwind. But then the war literally fell silent. The Belgians flooded the Yser polders and the Germans could advance no further to the north. As a result, they withdrew, spending the winter to the south on the line of low hills that surrounds the town of Ypres, beginning a war of attrition, in which neither side could make any significant territorial gains. However, both sides did not simply face each other out in the open; rather they dug a system of trenches in which they could hide from the enemy bullets and shells. The image of the Belgian front is one of endless muddy fields. Accordingly, in order to move at the front at all, the armies laid down wooden walkways (sometimes three or four on top of each other) resulting in miles of wooden pathways that criss-crossed the muddy landscape. Falling off these land bridges could cost men their lives!
But in No-Man's-Land, the area between the opposing sides' trenches, it was even worse. There, men not only had to contend with mud, but also with the numerous shell and mortar holes, as well as the rolls of barbed wire in which so many became hopelessly entangled.

(number 19) Next to countless weapons that have been used at the front, you also see how soldiers tried to protect themselves. But also the way trenches were being constructed and how daily life looked like is discussed.

(number 20) The war was not only fought over-ground. On the video screen you see images of the first descent of 'the diggers', a group of amateur archaeologists, in an underground dugout in the heart of Ypres' industrial zone. Several objects of the excavation help narrate the story of the underground war.







Stop 7 COMMEMORATING

+ wind up at 'the list of conflicts' – 'Ypres city of peace'

"If you ever pass through Flanders' Westhoek, it's the war you'll find here." So sings Willem Vermandere in his West Flemish dialect. He's right. The war has left its traces in the landscape. There are dozens of bunkers, cemeteries and monuments, as well as old trenches and ponds created by bomb craters. Passing through the Westhoek (the far west corner of Flanders) you cannot help but notice the war. Just ask Andrew, who often rode his bike passed the still vivid memories of the war. It's been over a hundred years, but since then there have been many wars, all over the world, causing more death and suffering. Yet it is the First World War that the people in the Westhoek, and also in Britain, France, Canada and Australia, commemorate. Why? Because everything that happened then, continues to happen today. People still flee from war and innocent children are still killed by stray bullets and bombs. There are chemical weapons that, like the gas of those days, still kill people in their sleep, and many still earn vast amounts of money by producing and selling weapons of all kinds. It is good that the graves are still there, that the monuments are still standing and that the stories are still told. People still sing, write, stage plays and produce films about the war and, who knows, perhaps one day there will be enough children who understand that war can never bring peace.

Andrew goes to school in Ypres, the 'city of peace' that awards its Peace Prize every three years. People and organizations who try bring peace closer to the place where they live, the city of Ypres holds them dear. At the end of the museum the Peace Prize winners look at you with a clear call: Now it's up to you!



