WORKSHEET

Visit to the Menin Gate

IN FLANDERS FIELDS MUSEUM

During the First World War, British soldiers who perished received their own grave. Their surviving relatives could visit the grave of their dearly departed loved one after the war. But the bodies of many men were never recovered or identified. The families of these missing persons could not visit a grave or leave flowers... therefore the names of these men are commemorated on the Menin Gate.

1. How many names are inscribed on this monument? Look up the answer on the info board at the left of the Menin Gate.

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2. Next to some of the names the man's service number had been added. Give one example and why was this information added?

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3. Every evening at 20h all traffic under the Menin Gate is called to a halt to allow a ceremony to take place. What is this introspective ritual called and what happens, exactly?

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4 Often, floral wreaths are laid together with a message. Walk along the steps of the Menin Gate. Which message appeals most to you and why?

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5 The Menin Gate has its proponents - and its opponents. Some people do not like the monument because it is supposed to honour a British victory, making it more like a triumphal arch than a memorial. Others think it is a beautiful and appropriate memorial in which the fallen soldiers occupy pride of place.

What do you think of the Menin Gate? Do you think it is an appropriate memorial or not?

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