An Australian Journey across the First World War Battlefields of France and Belgium
The First World War battlefields on the Western Front of France and Belgium are witness to an Australian story of great triumph and tragedy, of unimaginable losses to a young nation and an extraordinary part in the course of history.

Between March 1916 and November 1918 more than 295,000 Australians served in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in France and Belgium. Some 46,000 lost their lives and some 131,000 were wounded.

The Australian Remembrance Trail along the Western Front will honour their service and sacrifice.

The trail builds upon the efforts of local communities over many years to commemorate Australian service. It links the sites of significant Australian battles, and encompasses, museums, memorials, cemeteries, and related points of interest.

Take the journey
Explore the Australian Remembrance Trail online, with access to audio guides, interactive maps, images and historical information. You will step back in time, reliving the experiences of the soldiers of the Australian Imperial Force. Keep informed of updates to the Australian Remembrance Trail via the website.

www.ww1westernfront.gov.au
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The Western Front
General situation early April 1917
About the Trail

The Australian Remembrance Trail along the Western Front is an Australian Government initiative to establish, in cooperation with French and Belgian authorities, a commemorative trail highlighting significant sites along the Western Front that allow visitors to interpret the Australian experience of war.

New elements continue to be developed and will open during the centenary of the First World War.

The Australian Government is developing a major interpretive centre to be located to the rear of the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux. Known as the Sir John Monash Centre, it will open in April 2018, educating a new audience about Australia’s role on the Western Front and providing a lasting legacy from the Centenary of Anzac.

For further information visit the DVA website.
Ieper (Ypres) Belgium

Visit the In Flanders Fields Museum featuring Ieper (Ypres) at war and the great battles fought nearby between 1914 and 1918. Follow the stories of individuals, including Australians, caught up in these terrible experiences.

A short walk away is the Menin Gate Memorial, site of the nightly Last Post Ceremony and a moving point at which to start or finish a visit to the Western Front.

For further information visit the Australian Remembrance Trail website.

Zonnebeke/Passchendaele Belgium

Visit the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 with its interpretations of the 1917 ‘Flanders Campaign’ aimed at driving the Germans from western Belgium. A new display highlights the costly Australian participation in what became known simply as ‘Passchendaele’.

Nearby is Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in the world. There are more Australians buried here than in any other war cemetery in Europe.

For further information visit the Australian Remembrance Trail website.
Ploegsteert  Belgium

The **Plugstreet 14–18 Experience** tells the story of the 1917 Battle of Messines. Soldiers of the Third Australian Division played a key part in this significant victory.

Nearby is **Toronto Avenue Cemetery**, the only all-Australian cemetery in Belgium. The dates of death on the headstones tell something of the Australians in action at Messines.

For further information visit the [Australian Remembrance Trail](#) website.

Fromelles  France

The story of Australia’s disastrous first battle on the Western Front is told at the **Battle of Fromelles Museum**. Within 24 hours at Fromelles, on 19–20 July 1916, more than 5500 men of the Fifth Australian Division became casualties. Of these some 1900 died.

The nearby **VC Corner Memorial** lists the names of more than 1180 Australians ‘missing’ at the Battle of Fromelles. In the adjacent Australian Cemetery are the collective remains of 410 of these men.

Visit the bronze sculpture, ‘Cobbers’ at the **Australian Memorial Park**, depicting the bravery and compassion of Sergeant Simon Fraser.

For further information visit the [Australian Remembrance Trail](#) website.
**Bullecourt France**

The **Jean and Denise Letaille Museum Bullecourt 1917** contains a wealth of objects associated with the two major Australian actions fought there in April and May 1917. More than 10,000 Australians were killed or wounded in these battles and more than 1100 were taken prisoner, the largest number of Australians captured during a single engagement in the First World War.

Close by, the ‘Digger’ statue at the **Australian Memorial Park** gazes out over the fields of Bullecourt, a tribute to the Australians who fought there. A service is held at this memorial every Anzac Day.

For further information visit the **Australian Remembrance Trail** website.

**Thiepval France**

View one of the most unusual cemeteries on the Western Front, the **Anglo-French Cemetery**. In two facing plots lie 300 French and 300 British Empire soldiers, symbolising the Anglo-French alliance of the First World War. Ten Australian soldiers, four of them identified, are buried amongst the British Empire graves.

The **Thiepval Memorial**, towering over the Anglo-French Cemetery, lists the names of more than 72,000 British soldiers, ‘missing in action’ in the Somme region.

For further information visit the **Australian Remembrance Trail** website.
Pozières France

The First Australian Division Memorial commemorates all the major battles of the division on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918. It is sited where, between 23 and 26 July 1916, the division fought its first significant action in France, suffering more than 5200 casualties.

Just beyond Pozières, The Windmill Site ‘marks a ridge more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth’. Within view of this site, between 23 July and 5 September 1916, Australia suffered 23,000 casualties, more than 6700 of whom died.

New walking trails supported by mobile Apps link sites of interest in and around Pozières.

For further information visit the Australian Remembrance Trail website.
Villers-Bretonneux, France

Visit the Franco-Australian Museum at the Victoria School. Here the collection of the Franco-Australian Association testifies to the abiding personal links between the town and Australia, begun during the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux on 24–25 April 1918 when the Australians drove the Germans from the town.

Outside Villers-Bretonneux, on the Australian National Memorial, are inscribed the battle honours awarded to the Australian Imperial Force on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918. Beneath these inscriptions are the names of more than 10,700 Australians who died in France and have ‘no known grave’.

In November 1993, the remains of Australia’s Unknown Soldier were removed from Adelaide Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux, and reinterred at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

For further information visit the Australian Remembrance Trail website.
Le Hamel France
Visit the Australian Corps Memorial, where one of the Australian Imperial Force’s swiftest victories was achieved on 4 July 1918.

For further information visit the Australian Remembrance Trail website.

Peronne France
Visit the Second Australian Division Memorial at Mont St Quentin, site of the division’s greatest victory. The capture of Mont St Quentin unhinged the German defences on the Somme.

For further information visit the Australian Remembrance Trail website.

Bellenglise France
The Fourth Australian Division Memorial, on the heights above Bellenglise, marks the site of the division’s last action of the war. A month later, the war was over.

For further information visit the Australian Remembrance Trail website.