

25/03/08

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### First World War Platoon Experience for Schools

From May 2008 the Memorial Museum Passchendaele will offer school groups a brand new, unique experience on the Western Front called the Platoon Experience. School groups can re-enact the footsteps of an Australian platoon in 1917 en route to Tyne Cot. Using a true narration, a seasoned guide leads students from 14 years old through the battlefields. After a visit to the Memorial Museum and an introduction in the events and circumstances in which soldiers had to survive at the front, the group goes on a march fully uniformed armed with the equipment of an Australian platoon soldier of the time.

Every member of the platoon assumes the identity of an Australian who fought in the battle. A typical WWI Tommy Tucker-meal is provided for lunch comprising of soup, Passchendaele pie and Tommy cake with coffee and tea. At the end of the historical walk, the student discovers the poignant destiny of his soldier at Tyne Cot Cemetery.

### Museum Weekend

In addition to the Platoon experience, the Museum will hold its annual MUSEUM WEEKEND from 26-27 April 2008. More than 150 World War One re-enactors from eight different countries will set up a camp in the grounds of the Zonnebeke Chateau. The extensive entrenchment with Allied and German positions is kitted out with first aid posts, field kitchens, artillery and cavalry from 1918. Also being organized during the weekend is a battlefield tour, and concert.

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### Note to Editors:

**The Memorial Museum Passchendaele**  
[www.passchendaele.be](http://www.passchendaele.be)

The Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 commemorates the terrible events of 1917 via images, movies, a large collection of historical artifacts and several lifelike dioramas'. It houses an underground dug out tunnel with communication, dressing post, headquarters, workplaces and dormitories offering an insight into how British troops had to live underground to escape the carnage on the surface. The museum is set up in the historical castle of Zonnebeke, on the road to Tyne Cot Cemetery.

**Other exhibitions:**

From 25 April to 15 November

'Brave Little Belgium' opens.

This exhibition explores the contribution of the Belgian army during the final advance to victory. The Belgian army was not that big as the British army but all efforts were made to collaborate and to assist the Allied forces to defeat the German enemies.