The World War One Working Party and CHOBA Commemoration Tour 2015
12-15 May 2015 – 3 Nights / 4 Days

A special tour in honour of the
Old Blue’s who fought and died in the First World War

**KEY to places visited**

Red flag: Ypres Salient
Blue flag: Somme
Purple flag: Special significance
Green flag: Special significance

Purple & Green flags visited possibly on different days.

The Old Blue’s (OB or CHOB)

Edward Felix Baxter
Edmund Blunden
William James Collyer
Wilfred Elstob
Ernest Wilfred Tice
Bertram Hall Vidler

Spirit of Remembrance Ltd. Mallards, Wetham Green, Upchurch, Kent ME9 7EY, UK
operations@SpiritofRemembrance.com Tel: +44 (0) 1634 233785 www.SpiritofRemembrance.com
Registered in England & Wales No. 7790518.
Registered Office: 60-64 Canterbury Street, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5UJ, United Kingdom
**SUGGESTED ITINERARY***

**DAY 1: Tue. 12th May 2015**

08.00 Depart Christ’s Hospital School, Horsham
10.00 Eurotunnel Folkstone check in
11.00 Channel Crossing with Eurotunnel
12.30 Arrive Calais (approximately)
   Stop on route for lunch
14.00 Tour of Ypres Salient to include: (dependent upon time)
   - **Essex Farm** – the story of the Poppy, work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and treatment of casualties
   - **Hill 60** – Mining and tunneling operations. Attempts to break the stalemate of trench warfare.
   - **Brandhoek New Military Cemetery** – grave of 2Lt **Ernest Wilfred Tice (OB), 11th Royal Sussex – CHOB** and one of the ‘Feast of Five’. He was wounded in the attack at St Julien in which Collyer was lost then brought back to a Casualty Clearing Station here where he died.
   - Site of 11th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment attack near St Julien 31st July 1917 where 2 Lt **William James Collyer (CHOB)** died. He is one of those at the ‘Feast of Five’ with Edmund Blunden. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate as his body was not recovered from the attack on St Julien.

Check into hotel in Ypres or Kortrijk then time to explore
   - Chocolate shopping
   - St George’s Church
   - Cathedral
   - ‘**In Flanders Fields ’ Museum**’ – at own expense

Return to Ypres
19.00 **Menin Gate Last Post Ceremony** (takes place at 20.00)
   Dinner in local restaurant

**Accommodation** Recommend Ypres or Kortrijk rather than the longer journey to Arras

**Meals included** L, D
DAY 2: Wed. 13th May 2015

Breakfast provided in hotel then check out of hotel to continue tour of the Ypres Salient and the Somme

- **Passchendaele Memorial Museum** (admission included)
- **Tyne Cot War Cemetery and Memorial**
- **Newfoundland Memorial Park** – 1st July 1916 attack Valley of River Ancre – Attack by 11th Royal Sussex on 3 September 1916 – in which Edmund Blunden (OB), one of the Feast of Five, wins his MC north of Hamel in capturing the German lines at Station Trench
- **Ulster Tower** – 1st July attack. Coffee break
- **Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme** and visitor centre
- **Pozières Memorial to the Missing** – Lt Col Wilfrith Elstob VC.

Lunch en route (own cost)

Drive to Arras for hotel check in followed by dinner (included) then evening at leisure.

**Accommodation** Hotel D’Angleterre
**Meals included** B, D

DAY 3: Thu. 14th May 2015

Breakfast in the hotel

Continue your tour of the Somme towards Sainte-Quentin.

When Wilfrith Elstob (OB) was 29 years old, and a temporary lieutenant-colonel commanding the 16th Battalion, The Manchester Regiment, he was awarded the VC for his actions on 21 March 1918 at the Manchester Redoubt, near Saint-Quentin, France on the first day of the Spring Offensive - "The Manchester Regiment will defend Manchester Hill to the last." He was killed in action that same day and has no known grave.

Drive to Fillievres War Cemetery
Visit to grave of Lt Edward Felix Baxter (OB). He competed in the 1910 Isle of Man TT Races and crashed. He was awarded his Victoria Cross for ‘most conspicuous bravery. Prior to a raid on the hostile line he was engaged during two nights in cutting wire close to the enemy’s trenches. The enemy could be heard on the other side of the parapet. Second Lieutenant Baxter, while assisting in the wire cutting, held a bomb in
his hand with the pin withdrawn ready to throw. On one occasion the bomb slipped and fell to the ground, but he instantly picked it up, unscrewed the base plug, and took out the detonator, which he smothered in the ground, thereby preventing the alarm being given, and undoubtedly saving many casualties. Later, he led the left storming party with the greatest gallantry, and was the first man into the trench, shooting the sentry with his revolver. He then assisted to bomb dugouts, and finally climbed out of the trench and assisted the last man over the parapet. After this he was not seen again, though search parties went out at once to look for him. There seems no doubt that he lost his life in his great devotion to duty.

Drive to **Montreuil**, the General Headquarters (GHQ) of the British Army in March 1916

Lunch (own cost)

Return to Arras via **Aix Noulette Communal Cemetery Extension**

– Grave of CHOBA – **2Lt Bertram Hall Vidler (OB)** This Canadian was the brother of one of those at the ‘Feast of Five’ and was killed in action 12 April 1917 near Bethune. On 12/13th April the battalion took part in the attack on German positions at Bois-en-Hache during the Battle of Arras. They went ‘over the top’ in a blizzard and took immediate casualties from machine gun fire, but took their objectives, the German 1st and 2nd lines. These positions were held on the 13th and on discovering the enemy had withdrawn an outpost line was established on the River Souchez. His brother survived the war but died, unemployed in Lewisham, in 1924.

Private Gala dinner to commemorate the Feast of Five.

*“In the Spring of 1917 five Old Blue’s found themselves in the same battalion the 11th Royal Sussex, and decided to relieve the horrors of the trenches by having a get-together in St Omer” More on the Feast of Five by David Miller.*

**Accommodation**
*Hotel D’Angleterre*

**Meals included**
*B, D (Gala)*

**DAY 4: Fri. 15th May 2015**

Following breakfast in the hotel check out

Drive back to Calais via **St Omer**. The location of the get together is now an Ibis Hotel, however it is interesting to wander around this historic town which they would have known.

Lunch (own cost)

13.30 Return to Calais for Eurotunnel crossing to Folkestone  
15.00 Arrive Calais  
16.00 Eurotunnel Crossing  
15.30 Arrive Folkestone  
18.00 Tour ends at Christ’s Hospital School

**Accommodation**
*None*

**Meals included**
*B*  
(*Confirmed details subject to finalisation between your guide and those travelling*)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tour Ref. No.</th>
<th>CHOBA-10974</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date / duration</td>
<td>12-15 May 2015  3 Nights / 4 Days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost: Options &amp; extras</th>
<th>Passengers</th>
<th>Cost pp sharing double/twin</th>
<th>Single Room Supplement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tour package (per person based on twin share or double)</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>£585</td>
<td>£132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Executive 29 seater vehicle)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>£598</td>
<td>£132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>£667</td>
<td>£132</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tour package (per person based on twin share or double)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>£735</td>
<td>£132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Luxury 16 seater vehicle)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>£786</td>
<td>£132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prices subject to currency fluctuation & confirmation at time of booking

Hotel D’Angleterre, Arras

Luxury 16 seater (exterior & interior)

29 seater fleet
Includes:
- Transport in Executive Coach (29 seater – 20-29 passengers) ( incl. DVD, AC, toilet) or Luxury 16 seater throughout
- Channel Crossing by Eurotunnel (exact time TBC)
- 3 nights’ accommodation in Arras at Hotel D’Angleterre or 1 night in Ieper (Ypres) or Kortrijk and 2 nights in Arras (decision based on locations visited on the first day)
- Breakfast daily
- 2 dinners & 1 gala dinner
- Experienced historian battlefield tour guide
- Tour documentation with background information
- Entrance to Passchendaele Museum

Costs do not include:
- Admission fees in museums and monuments unless shown in the itinerary and listed in inclusions above
- Meals and beverages unless shown in the itinerary and listed in inclusions above
- Tips, porterage and all personal extras
- Insurance – you must have travel insurance and an EHIC Card (EU citizens) for minimum medical cover in the EU

Bookings:
- To confirm your booking please complete the booking form (separate attachment) or online

Payment:
1. Bank transfer: (Please send us an email to confirm your payment & detail your reference number on all communications)
   - Bank: Natwest
   - Account Name: SPIRIT OF REMEMBRANCE LTD
   - Sort Code: 50-41-01
   - Account Number 46003703
   - Branch identifier code (SWIFT) is NWBKGB2L
   - Branch identifier code (BIC) is NWBKGB2156G
   - The international bank account number (IBAN) is GB13NWBK50410146003703
   - Branch address is: Piccadilly & New Bond St Branch, 63 Piccadilly, London W1J 0AJ, UK

2. Debit or credit card: Click here to pay by debit or credit card

Terms & Conditions:
- Deposit of £100 per person to confirm booking
- Final Payment 70 days prior to departure.
- Please see website for full SoR Terms & Conditions. Supplier Terms & Conditions may apply
  - [http://www.spiritofremembrance.com/page/terms-conditions](http://www.spiritofremembrance.com/page/terms-conditions)
- Please ensure that you have Travel Insurance.

For further information please contact:
- Peter Bloomfield, (OB) on pb@bta-pr.demon.co.uk for more information
- Zoe Ambrose, Spirit of Remembrance +44 (0) 1634 233 785 or operations@spiritofremembrance.com

Spirit of Remembrance Ltd. Mallards, Wetham Green, Upchurch, Kent ME9 7EY, UK
operations@SpiritofRemembrance.com Tel: +44 (0) 1634 233785 www.SpiritofRemembrance.com
Registered in England & Wales No. 7790518.
Registered Office: 60-64 Canterbury Street, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5UJ, United Kingdom