

Chapter 1 : Bataille de l'Artois (mai-juin) – Wikipédia

Notre Dame de Lorette (French pronunciation: [nɔ̃ˈtʁɛˈ(ɛ̃)ˈdam dɛ̃ˈlɛ̃ ɛ̃ˈtʁɛˈ(ɛ̃)ˈtʁɛˈ]), also known as Ablain St.-Nazaire French Military Cemetery, is the world's largest French military cemetery. It is the name of a ridge, basilica, and French national cemetery northwest of Arras at the village of Ablain-Saint-Nazaire.

Achtergrond[bewerken] De heuvel van Notre-Dame-de-Lorette is een heuvelrug die in west-oostrichting van het bos van Bouvigny loopt tot ten noorden van Souchez. Net als de heuvelrug van Vimy , verder oostwaarts in het verlengde, steekt de heuvelrug uit boven de vlakte van Lens in het noordoosten. De noordelijke hellingen zijn relatief zacht, terwijl de heuvel in het zuiden een relatief ruwe flank heeft, met een vijftal steile uitlopers. Zo staat op de 18de-eeuwse Cassinikaart de kapel aangeduid als N. Na de Franse Revolutie werd de kapel in vernield. In werd de kapel herbouwd en in zelfs vergroot tot kerk. De plaats was lokaal een bedevaartsoord geworden [1]. In de Eerste Wereldoorlog was de strategische hoogte bij de Race naar de Zee in het begin van de oorlog in Duitse handen gevallen. Het Franse 10de Leger bleef echter proberen het plateau weer in te nemen. Er werd zwaar gestreden om de vijf zuidelijke uitlopers in te nemen. In de winter van konden de Fransen onder leiding van generaal Maistre de eerste uitloper bezetten. Op 9 mei begon de Tweede Slag om Artois , waarbij de Fransen probeerden de Duitsers terug te drijven uit de streek. Men probeerde onder meer de heuvelrug van Vimy, iets verder oostwaarts, te heroveren en ook de hoogte van Notre-Dame-de-Lorette wilde men terugnemen. Hiervoor moesten de laatste twee uitlopers worden veroverd en vervolgens de top van de heuvel, waar zich de kapel bevond. Men kreeg er echter te maken met een sterk uitgebouwde Duitse defensie, bestaande uit meerdere linies loopgraven , ijzerdraad en Friese ruiters, geflankeerd door mitrailleurs en fortjes. Van 9 tot 12 mei slaagden de Fransen er in de kapel te bereiken, na een strijd met zware verliezen. Men had echter nog steeds niet het hele heuvelmassief heroverd en de Duitsers behielden nog steeds verschillende posities. Het duurde tot 22 mei eer het massief door de Fransen was ingenomen [2]. Geschiedenis[bewerken] Op de heuvel was in al een kleine begraafplaats ingericht. Een basiliek en een lantaarntoren werden hier opgetrokken in de jaren 20, naar ontwerp van de Rijksel architect Louis Marie Cordonnier. De kerk werd ingewijd op 26 mei door de bisschop van Atrecht Mgr. Op dat moment werd ook een standbeeld van generaal Maistre ingehuldigd. Het beeld bevond zich aanvankelijk op de begraafplaats, maar werd in meter verder geplaatst, ten zuiden van de begraafplaats, waar tijdens de oorlog zijn commandopost zich een tijd zou hebben bevonden. In zette men in de crypte de as bij van gedeporteerden die waren verdwenen in de nazikampen. Architectuur en site[bewerken] De begraafplaats beslaat een groot, ongeveer rechthoekig terrein, doorsneden door twee kruisende lanen. In het midden bevindt zich een vlakte met daarop de kerk en de lantaarntoren. De basiliek is opgetrokken in neobyzantijnse stijl. De binnenmuren werden door familieleden en nabestaanden bekleed met herdenkingsplaten ter ere van gesneuvelde soldaten. De lantaarntoren is 52 meter hoog en heeft een vierkant grondplan, 12 meter breed aan de basis. De toren herbergt een crypte. Ten zuiden van de begraafplaats staat het standbeeld voor generaal Maistre en bevindt zich een panoramatafel die uitkijkt over Ablain-Saint-Nazaire en het gebied ten zuiden van de heuvel. Vlakbij werd op 11 november , ter gelegenheid van de ste verjaardag van het uitbreken van de Eerste Wereldoorlog, een herdenkingsmonument ingewijd: Hier zijn ongeveer Het museum toont een collectie met voorwerpen uit de oorlog en heeft ook een stuk bewaard slagveld met militaire installaties.

Chapter 2 : Arras France Tourism Guide Â» Notre Dame de Lorette

A description of Ablain St-Nazaire French Military Cemetery "Notre Dame de Lorette" on the Artois WW1 battlefields in France The GreatWar Ablain St.-Nazaire French Military Cemetery, also known as "Notre Dame de Lorette", is the largest French military cemetery in the world.

Background[edit] Following the various declarations of war which were to lead to the First World War , the German Army opened the war on her western front by first invading Luxembourg and Belgium and then gaining military control of important industrial regions in France. The German Army forced the Allied armies to retreat until the Battle of the Marne was fought, when the tide turned and the German Army was forced to retreat northwards. They did so to the river Aisne , dug in on the high ground there, and fought the First Battle of the Aisne. This encounter was inconclusive and what historians call the race to the sea followed, during which neither side was able to achieve a breakthrough as they edged to the north and at the conclusion both sides were to dig in along a meandering line of fortified trenches , stretching from the North Sea to the Swiss frontier with France. This line, the Western Front, remained essentially unchanged for most of the war. A war of movement was over and a type of warfare that no side had planned for was to take its place: Between and , there were several major offensives along this front. The attacks employed massive artillery bombardments and massed infantry advances. However a combination of entrenchments, machine gun nests, barbed wire , and artillery repeatedly inflicted severe casualties on the attackers and counterattacking defenders and as a result, no significant advances were made. Among the most costly of these offensives were the Battle of Verdun with a combined , dead, the Battle of the Somme with more than a million casualties, and the Battle of Passchendaele or "Third Ypres", which saw roughly , casualties. Both sides tried to break the deadlock by introducing new military technology , including poison gas , aircraft and tanks but it was improved tactics that eventually restored some degree of mobility to the conflict. Using the recently introduced infiltration tactics , the German armies advanced nearly 60 miles 97 kilometres to the west, which marked the deepest advance by either side since and they very nearly succeeded in forcing a breakthrough. The Germans could not in the end break the Allied line and now the numerical advantage given the Allies by the volume of soldiers arriving from the United States of America fuelled an inexorable advance by the Allied armies during the second half of The German Army commanders finally realised that defeat was inevitable, and the government was forced to sue for conditions of an armistice. This took place on 11 November and the terms of peace were agreed upon with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in The two armies then continued to move northwards until the Yser and the North Sea coast were reached. The cemetery and memorial were designed by Sir Herbert Baker. Streets are named after New Zealand places, there is the New Zealand memorial, and a primary school bears the name of a New Zealand soldier. Le Quesnoy was occupied by the German Army for most of the First World War but on 4 November , it was attacked by men of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade , who scaled the high walls of the outer ramparts and seized the German Commander and his garrison of over 1, men. On the face of the walls is a memorial commemorating their success and the ninety New Zealand lives that were lost in the process. On 21 August, the British Army launched the first of a number of attacks on the Western Front in the sectors under its control: Amiens, Albert, Arras and Bapaume. The 18th century Vauban fortifications protecting the town encouraged the Germans garrisoned there to hold out against the Allied advance; however the precision of the New Zealand artillery disrupted the organization of the German defence. In the general confusion Kiwi soldiers managed to set up a ladder on the south side of the town and enter through a sluice gate. Led by Lieutenant Leslie Averill , the New Zealanders completely surprised the Germans who, after much fighting in the streets, surrendered the town on the evening of 4 November. The Armistice was signed a week later. The relief depicts New Zealanders scaling the Le Quesnoy walls. Life in the trenches was still very primitive and, with the onset of winter and the rain causing many trenches to be waterlogged, extremely demanding. On 24 December , some German soldiers erected Christmas trees, complete with candles and paper lanterns, on the parapets of various first line trenches. Christmas hymns were soon being sung on both sides and soldiers even called out to each other across the front. Similar but much larger events took place on

Christmas Day. In some places the warring sides buried their dead at the same time, and some even exchanged little presents, and home addresses, while in other sectors the fighting continued to rage, mostly due to sniper activity. The small village of Frelinghien is situated on the Franco-Belgian frontier just to the north east of Armentieres and a memorial to the Christmas Truce is situated in Frelinghien Park opposite their football ground. There were a number of unofficial truces held along the line that day though the commands of both sides issued orders against fraternisation. The German army held this ridge, so much of the fighting in the sector involved attempts to dislodge them from it. No extended periods of fighting devastated this ridge; but by shielding the important French town of Lille and German communications and supply hubs, it was always a potential setting for a major British offensive. The ridge itself, barely rising 50 feet above the plain was hardly an outstanding topographical feature in peacetime; in war, however, it totally dominated the terrain to the north and west. It was to be the scene of several British struggles in and the site of a tragic failure the following year. The park and the nearby VC Corner Cemetery lies some 3 kilometres 1. The work entitled Cobbers sculpted by the Melbourne sculptor Peter Corlett is located here. Corlett based his sculpture on Sergeant Simon Fraser of the 57th Battalion, a year-old farmer from Victoria who had rescued many men from the battlefield. Corlett depicts him carrying a man of the 60th Battalion. Fraser was "mentioned in despatches" on a later occasion when he was a Lieutenant with the 58th Battalion. He was killed at Bullecourt on 12 May. He has no known grave and his name appears on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial. In a letter written on 31 July Fraser wrote "It was no light work getting in with a heavy weight on your back especially if he had a broken leg or arm You had to lie down and get him on your back; then rise and duck for your life with a chance of getting a bullet in you before you were safe. We found a fine haul of wounded and brought them in; but it was not where I heard this fellow calling, so I had another shot for it, and came across a splendid specimen of humanity trying to wriggle into a trench with a big wound in his thigh I went in and got four volunteers with stretchers and we got both men in safely". The Battle of Fromelles or Fleurbaix was a bloody affair and in a twenty-seven-hour period the Australian 5th Division suffered 5, casualties, with 1, killed, of whom 1, could not be identified. A further approximately men were taken prisoner. To illustrate the extent of the losses the 60th Battalion Victoria Regiment started the battle with men and, when the fighting was over, had just 1 officer and men left. It is also estimated that the British Army had 1, men killed or wounded and that the German Army lost 1, soldiers killed or wounded in the Battle of Fromelles. The attack at Fromelles was planned as a diversionary attack to the north of the battle raging on the Somme. Fromelles had already seen action in when British efforts to take Aubers Ridge had been repulsed with heavy losses. The Fromelles attack in saw the baptism of the Australian Imperial Force to fighting on the Western Front as the units then down on the Somme had yet to be committed to action. As was to be the case at the Somme, the provisional artillery bombardment at Fromelles did not cut the German barbed wire as hoped would be the case, and the German machine guns, with a clear view of the attackers, were able to wreak havoc once the infantry launched their attack. The graves contain the remains of more than Australian soldiers who were killed in the Battle of Fromelles but who could not be identified. In the narrow sector west of the Laies River and east of the sugar-loaf Salient, the skulls and bones and torn uniforms were lying about everywhere. It was designed by Sir Herbert Baker. The location of the memorial was specially chosen as it was at Neuve Chapelle in March that the Indian Corps fought its first major action as a single unit. The memorial takes the form of a sanctuary enclosed within a circular wall after the manner of the enclosing railings of early Indian shrines. Two tigers are carved on either side of the column guarding the temple of the dead. The tigers are the work of the sculptor Charles Wheeler. The memorial was unveiled by the Earl of Birkenhead on 7 October Lord Birkenhead, then Secretary of State for India, had served as a staff officer with the Indian Corps during the war. An inscription on the wall reads "To the honour of the army of India which fought in France and Belgium, , and in perpetual remembrance of those of their dead whose names are here recorded and those who have no known grave. Their involvement on the Western Front was limited in the main to the years and and after this, in recognition of the difficulties for Indians to live and operate in the grim climatic conditions of Northern Europe, they were moved to the Egyptian Theatre of War and other warmer places. India, in the context of the war, was pre-partition India; the Indian Sub-Continent in would have embraced present day India, Pakistan, Kashmir,

Nepal and Bangladesh. Only days after the British government had declared war on Germany on 4 August, two infantry divisions and a cavalry brigade of the Indian Army were ordered to mobilise and prepare for overseas service. Units began arriving in France in September, and by late October they were involved in heavy fighting on the Messines Ridge in Belgium. It was at Messines on 31 October that Khudadad Khan performed the act of gallantry for which he was later awarded the Victoria Cross, becoming the first Indian born soldier to be so honoured. The Indian Corps, which was composed of the 3rd Lahore and 7th Meerut divisions, went on to fight in some of the bloodiest battles of the first year of the war, and at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle which ran from 10 to 13 March Indian soldiers made up half of the attacking force and, despite suffering very heavy casualties, succeeded in capturing important sections of the German line. The officers and men of the Corps further distinguished themselves at St. The Indian Cavalry Corps remained on the Western Front until the spring of and Indian labour companies, which had begun arriving in France in, performed vital and often dangerous logistical work behind the lines until after the Armistice. India sent over, men to the Western Front " 90, serving in the infantry and cavalry and as many as 50, non-combatant labourers. They hailed from the length and breadth of British India: The officer corps was composed mostly of men of European descent. Of the combatants, over 8, were killed and as many as 50, more were wounded. Almost 5, of the dead have no known grave and are commemorated both on the Menin Gate at Ypres and here at Neuve Chapelle. In, a Special Bronze Panel was added to this memorial with the names of servicemen who died during the war, whose graves at Zehrendorf Indian Cemetery, Germany, had become unmaintainable. Although this plaque still exists, the graves were reinstated in This site also contains the Neuve-Chapelle Cremation Memorial. In, the remains of 8 Indian soldiers including 2 unidentified were exhumed from Sarrebourg French Military Cemetery Extension and cremated. This file also covers the memorials to the Indian Army which it was proposed be erected in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Gallipoli and East Africa. One interesting point to arise from the National Archive file is a letter from Army Headquarters in Simla dated 26 June This includes the following " I may mention that we propose to erect war memorials in villages which have given most men to the Army. These will be selected by Local Governments, on the advice of their local Recruiting Boards, based on the statistics in their possession. In the Punjab, about villages will be so honoured. In other Provinces the number will be less, but in the United Provinces and the N. Frontier Province it will be fairly big" Aubers Ridge and Festubert[edit] It was on 24 March, several days after the failed offensive at Neuve-Chapelle, that General Joffre made an official request for the British Army to take part in a huge offensive he was planning in Artois at the beginning of May. The aim of the offensive was to break through the German line north of Arras. The main thrust of the attack was to be made by the 10th French Army on Vimy Ridge and two supporting attacks on the flanks would, it was hoped, secure the heights of Lorette Spur to the north-west and other high ground to the east of Arras. If everything went according to plan the French hoped that they would be able to advance into the coal basin itself and take Douai. Neither battle achieved the results hoped for and huge casualties were sustained- it reportedly took three days to transfer the wounded of 9 May to the field ambulances on the second line. In one single day of fighting the British Army had lost 11, men dead, wounded and lost in action which was, in relative terms, one of the highest casualty rates of the Great War, in particular for officers. Memorial to the 15th Battalion Canadian Infantry[edit] Memorial to the 15th Battalion Canadian Infantry There is a commemorative plaque located just a kilometre to the east of Festubert which marks the efforts in this area of the 15th Battalion Canadian Infantry during the Battle of Festubert which opened on 15 May On 18 May the Canadian 3rd Brigade, was called up from Reserve and moved into the line east of Festubert, joining a series of assaults around a German strong point called the Orchard. When the battle was called off on 25 May, the line established by the advances of the 15th and 16th Battalions remained the front line until

Chapter 3 : Notre Dame de Lorette - Wikipedia

ABLAIN-SAINT-NAZAIRE - NAÏ%cropole nationale de notre-dame de lorette In May , French troops attempted to wrest control of the Artois Hills from the German Army. They failed at Vimy Ridge but succeeded in retaking Lorette Spur, at a cost of , men.

Some of the thousands of individual graves in the cemetery. A total of 40, casualties are buried here. Almost all of the remains are casualties of the First World War. Burials also include 6 French graves from the Second World War, an unknown soldier of the French-Indochina conflict of and an unknown soldier of the French-North African conflict of There are burials of the remains of 64 Russians, 1 Belgian and 1 Romanian. Ossuaries View from the Lantern Tower, looking north-east across cemetery and the No. The total number of First World War military burials includes the remains of 19, First World War casualties who are laid to rest in seven ossuaries in the cemetery grounds. These seven ossuaries contain the remains of French servicemen brought into the cemetery from the Artois battlefields including single burials, burials in civilian cemeteries and small military burial sites within a radius of some 30 miles of Ablain St. The ossuaries are named after military commanders. Ossuaries Number 1 - 5 are located at the western end of the cemetery. Muslim Graves Muslim headstones face east. There is a plot at the western end of the cemetery for muslim soldiers, and each grave has a headstone instead of a cross. Each headstone is positioned so that it faces east. North Africans from the 1st Moroccan Division fought in this area during the battles of for the ridges of Notre Dame de Lorette and Vimy. General Barbot View of the south side of the chapel. General Ernest Barbot is buried in the cemetery. He was commander of the French 77th Mountain Division and he was killed on the Artois battlefield at Souchez on 10th May The division had fought in the first battles of the war in the Alsace mountains and had been moved to Artois by early The grave marker was originally one created by his soldiers as a cross made out of shell casings. The ridge of high ground rises to feet metres and as a dominant feature in the landscape, the views from the summit were crucial to occupy. The fighting for possession of the ridge cost many thousands of casualties on both sides. The association of this hill in northern France with the Virgin Mary and the name of Loreto Lorette originates from the 18th century. Nazaire, a painter called Florent Guilbert, had a medical problem with one of his legs. He went on a pilgrimage to the holy site of the House of Loreto in central Italy in View from the hill at Notre Dame de Lorette looking south. Farm buildings at Ablain St. Nazaire village are seen in the foreground, Cabaret Rouge British Military Cemetery is the white building in the middle distance and the city of Arras is on the horizon, some 6 miles away. It was said to be the original house of the Virgin Mary in which she had grown up and had been visited by the angel to tell her she would give birth to Jesus. He returned from Italy to his home in France at Ablain St. Nazaire with a statue of the Virgin Mary. A Private Chapel on the Ridge On the ridge overlooking his village he built a small private chapel or shrine as a place of prayer to house the statue and give thanks for his cure. The original chapel was destroyed in It was built again in the year Over the years the site on top of the hill overlooking Ablain St. Nazaire became established as a place of pilgrimage between and other chapels were located there too. Abbot Victrice Pingrenon looked after the site at about this time. This was destroyed during the battles to secure the hill between the French and German Armies in early The first stone for the building of the new chapel after the war was laid by Monseigneur Julien on 19th June The chapel was consecrated in a service on 5th September by Monseigneur Dutoit. The building retained the name of a chapel even though it is quite a grand structure in the Romano-Byzantine style. The structure is made of a cement frame with Givet stone facing. The altar of the chapel is located outside the building at the entrance to the east door. Nazaire French Military Cemetery. After dark a beacon of light shines across the landscape, revolving five times each minute. The architect Louis Cordonnier designed the Lantern Tower. The inauguration ceremony was held on 2nd August The tower is feet 52 metres high with steps. Until recently the tower was open to the public to climb to the stop, but the viewing area at the top has been closed for reasons of security. The base of the tower is a square with each side being 35 feet long. The ray of light from the beacon covers a distance of about 45 miles 70 kilometres. Ossuary and Chapel of Rest At the base of the tower there is an ossuary-crypt containing the

remains of 6, soldiers and a Chapel of Rest. There are 32 coffins located in the Chapel of Rest in four groups of 8 coffins. Three coffins contain the remains of an unknown soldier from the Second World War laid to rest here in July , a soldier from the North African war laid to rest here in October and the remains of a soldier from the Indochine war laid to rest here in June A reliquary a container for relics was placed in the tower in April , which contains soil and ashes from the concentration camps of World War II. They are representatives of the families of the dead who are known to the buried in the cemetery. Each Sunday in that period also, at Information For information regarding the cemetery contact:

Chapter 4 : The Battles of Notre Dame de Lorette, Artois -Major and Mrs Holt's Guide Book

Almost 40, men who were killed in the First World War are honoured in the cemetery at Notre Dame de Lorette (Cimetière militaire Notre-Dame-de-Lorette or the Nécropole nationale de Notre-Dame-de-Lorette). This French military cemetery covers 13 hectares (1, a).

Indeed, the hill rises metres above sea-level and overlooks the Artois region. Intense fighting took place on the hill between the French Army and the German Army from October to October. It was the focal point of three major battles: French attack towards Vimy Ridge. Over , soldiers were killed. A national cemetery comprising 20, individual graves was erected on 13 hectares. Click on the pictures to enlarge them. On the northern side of the hill, the slope is gentle but on the southern side, there are five separate slopes interlaced with narrow and very steep valleys. The name of Lorette hill comes from the oratory raised in by the painter Florent Guilbert who had been cured of a leg illness during a pilgrimage to Loreto in Italy. He brought back from Italy a statue of the Virgin Mary and raised a small oratory in his field, located on the hill, in order to shelter it. From , Lorette hill became a place of pilgrimage. Destroyed in and rebuilt in , the oratory progressively transformed from to into a small chapel before getting destroyed in . A stele indicates its location. A basilica and a light-house with its ossuary were constructed according to the plans of the Lille architect Louis-Marie Cordonnier, in order to commemorate the bloody fighting of . The light-house is the main ossuary, 6, bodies and contains the remains of Unknown Soldiers from the two World Wars, from Indo-China and Northern Africa. The light-house is 52 metres high on a 12 metre square base. At night, a 3, candle power lamp revolves every 12 seconds and can be seen up to 70 kilometres away. Lorette hill has seven other ossuaries, located at the corners of the cemetery, in which lie the bodies of more than 17, Unknown Soldiers. The basilica is 46 metres long, 14 metres wide and 30 metres high. Outside, on the battlefield, the visitors can see the trenches on the original sites with canons, machine guns, obus and barbed wire. The explanatory boards are in French, English and German. The museum and battlefield visit takes place everyday from 9. The entrance has a small fee. Out of season visits need appointment. Click on this link to watch a video of Notre-Dame de Lorette:

Chapter 5 : Les Sites de la Grande Guerre en Artois

Colline Notre Dame de Lorette. The National Military Cemetery Notre Dame de Lorette is located in the commune of Ablains-St-Nazaire. It was officially open in and classified Historical Monument on December 27,

Chapter 6 : Ablain St-Nazaire French Military Cemetery «Notre Dame de Lorette», France

Ce même jour, le 21e Corps, après une lutte sanglante et acharnée, enleva le fortin de Notre Dame de Lorette, au nord-est de la Chapelle, organisation puissante comprenant des fossés, des grilles, des abris-cavernes de 10 mètres de profondeur et qui paralysait notre avance après nos premiers succès du 9 mai.

Chapter 7 : Randonnée Aix-Noulette Pas-de-Calais (62) Notre Dame de Lorette

- - Artois - Notre-Dame de Lorette - Vimy La seconde bataille d'Artois (9 mai - juin) Les préparatifs de l'offensive française sur la crête de Vimy et l'opération de Notre-Dame-de-Lorette commencent le 3 mai, avec le déclenchement du bombardement méthodique des lignes allemandes, le 3 mai.

Chapter 8 : L'offensive en Artois en mai

La nécropole nationale de Notre-Dame-de-Lorette est un cimetière militaire et mémorial français situé sur la colline éponyme, à mètres d'altitude, sur le territoire de la commune d'Ablain-Saint-Nazaire près de Lens, dans le département du Pas-de-Calais.

Chapter 9 : List of World War I memorials and cemeteries in Artois - Wikipedia

Notre-Dame-de-Lorette: Cimetière et mémorial français qui commémorent les violents combats de Cette colline dominant l'Artois, (m.) À quinze kilomètres d'Arras, fut un des champs de bataille les plus disputés entre octobre et septembre