'The small print'…

Even a privately organised trip like this one has to comply with 'rules and regulations', health & safety, etc., as well as having 'terms and conditions', booking forms and the like; the organiser wishes to thank everyone for their understanding.

General
The trip is arranged / organised in good faith by Steve Williams as a "Private Excursion" for leisure / recreational purposes, using Rossendale Travel Ltd and Greatdays Travel Group as the supplier of, or agents for the advertised services (e.g. coach travel, ferry, hotels, etc.). They acknowledge that the providers of facilities / services (including themselves) and sites to be visited have a duty of care to ensure that they meet the necessary health and safety standards, and should / will have carried out any necessary risk assessment(s), as appropriate. However, neither Steve Williams nor his suppliers or agent(s) can be held responsible or liable for any situation beyond or outside his or their control, howsoever caused.

Passengers acknowledge that the trip is at their own risk, having assessed all financial, health, security and related risks, and duly indemnify the organiser from any loss, claim or action that may arise from taking part in the trip / activity.

Prices are based on costings quoted to the organiser by Rossendale Travel Ltd. in March 2009. The trip price may be subject to a surcharge or increase if, for example, there is a substantial increase in fuel and / or other suppliers costs, an increase in VAT and / or other taxes levied, or any Government or similar action which is beyond and / or outside their and the organiser's control, now or before the trip is paid for in full by the 1st April 2010. All timings are for guide purposes and the organiser reserves the right to change the advertised itinerary (without compensation) should circumstances dictate.

Meals and refreshment breaks (except breakfast at the hotel) are not included in the price. Entry to all CWGC cemeteries, memorials and visitor centres on the WW1 battlefields is free, whilst museums and other 'attractions' are not. However entry to the Wellington Tunnels at Arras and the Zonnebeke Chateau on the Ypres Salient is included in the trip price.

The coach driver and / or the trip organiser reserve the right to refuse travel, at any time, to a passenger who is under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other substances, or whose behaviour is deemed by them to be inappropriate. In such circumstances, no refund will be given and any subsequent costs incurred by the said passenger will be his / her responsibility.

Payment
The contract / trip and payment is protected by Greatdays Holiday Services Trust Account and all cheques should be made payable to "Greatdays Trust Account No. 2" where the money will be held in trust until the contract (trip / tour) has been fully performed. A deposit of £50 must accompany a completed booking form and places on the trip will be confirmed in writing once a cheque has cleared. Payment of the balance must be paid, via the organiser, no later than 8 (eight) weeks before travel, or cancel, otherwise you could be liable for cancellation charges up to 100% of the value of the final invoice / cost.

Financial protection
All monies paid / the total cost of this trip will be held in trust until the trip is completed / finished. In the case of insolvency during any stage of the trip, Greatdays Holiday Services undertakes to repatriate all passengers to their point of origination by providing a ferry crossing and a replacement coach if necessary.

This trip / "private excursion" is operated in conjunction with Greatdays Holiday Services Ltd., Travel House, 2 Stamford Park Road, Altrincham WA15 9EN. Both Rossendale Travel Ltd. and the organiser confirm that all passenger monies paid to Greatdays Holidays Services Ltd. are deposited in a trust account which has been established by their solicitors and which is operated by Barclays Bank plc. This trust account conforms to / with the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holiday and Package Tour Regulations 1992. This is the protection required by law for all passengers money. Once passengers have paid a deposit and balance of the trip, the money is deposited in the trust account where it is held until completion of the advertised trip for which he / she / they have booked.

Booking cancellation / transfer
The trip is based on a minimum number of places to make the trip viable (30 passengers at 31st March 2009). The organiser reserves the right in any circumstances to cancel your booking (without compensation) up to 9 weeks before travel, giving a full refund of all monies paid.

If a passenger cancels his or her booking(s), this incurs administration costs for the organiser and supplier(s) and therefore deposits will be retained to cover any costs incurred. In addition, the following cancellation charges will apply if passengers cancel after paying for the trip – 55 to 28 days 30%, 14 to 27 days 45%, 7 to 13 days 60% and 6 days or less prior to departure 100%. If a customer cannot travel for any reason, he / she may transfer the booking to another person at no cost, providing that a minimum of 2 weeks notice is given.

Travel requirements (Passport, Visa, Health & Insurance)
U.K. passport holders need only a passport for visiting EC countries. Responsibility for visa and other entry / travel requirements by non-EU passport holders is down to the passenger.

All passengers must have personal / individual travel insurance in force for the duration of the trip (such travel insurance shall cover every eventuality, including repatriation back to the U.K.). In addition, passengers must have (and carry with them) a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which is an agreement with EC countries enabling passengers to obtain emergency medical treatment as or when available.

Steve Williams, 42 Smithy Close, Brindle, Chorley, Lancs. PR6 8NW
☎ 01254 854298 e-✉ : info@stevewilliamstalks.co.uk

Brochure and itinerary produced in good faith from information supplied and available on 4.7.2009 © Steve Williams 2009

WW1 BATTLEFIELDS

An 8 day coach trip to the WW1 battlefields in Belgium & northern France

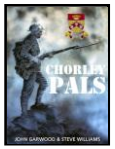
visiting...

The Somme (including the Accrington & Chorley Pals trenches at Serre and the Thiepval Memorial), **Vimy Ridge, Arras**, the **Loos** Memorial and **Ypres Salient** (including the Menin Gate and Passchendaele) + ***"Trenches & Tunnels"*** sites & museums (admission included).

26th May to 2nd June 2010

Organised by **Steve Williams**, WW1 Historian & Author and Secretary of the Chorley Pals Memorial

CHORLEY PALS MEMORIAL



Travel arrangements by **GREATDAYS** & ROSSENDALE TRAVEL

TRENCHES & TUNNELS

Background to the trip... Mention the First World War and the battlefields that are still deeply implanted in the folk-memory of the British people are the Somme in northern France and the Ypres Salient in Belgium. Back in 1916 the **Somme** was the first battle to involve the bulk of Britain's first-ever mass citizen army, being uniquely composed of volunteers from all levels of society. The character was symbolised by its **'Pals'** battalions, like those from East Lancashire, and the Accrington and Chorley area in particular - made up of friends, neighbours and workmates who invariably joined up together, in response to Kitchener's appeal.

G. R.

ACCRINGTON AND DISTRICT

KITCHENER "PALS" BATTALION.

SMALL ACCRINGTON & DISTRICT BE READY!

ACCRINGTON HEADQUARTERS—TOWN HALL.
RECRUITING OFFICE ... WILLOW STREET.
CLAYTON-LE-MOORS ...MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.
GREAT HARWOOD ... COUNCIL OFFICES.
RISHTON ... CONSERVATIVE CLUB.
CHURCH ... COUNCIL OFFICES.
OSWALDTWISTLE ... TOWN HALL.
CHORLEY ... DRILL HALL.
BLACKBURN ... PRESTON NEW ROAD.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

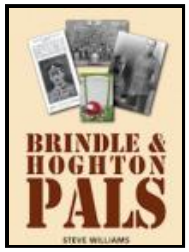
The Battle of the Somme lasted 142 days but the first day, on the **1st July 1916**, was to become the bloodiest twenty-four hours in the history of the British Army. Similarly, the small Belgium village of **Passchendaele** became synonymous with the sacrifice of thousands of troops during the Third Battle of Ypres, which lasted from the spring until the autumn of 1917.

Whilst the trip will focus on these two major battlefields, there will be visits to **Loos** (scene of great sacrifice in late 1915), as well as to **Arras** and **Vimy Ridge** (scene of major battles in 1917).

The main sites, memorials and, in some cases, trenches on the battlefields will be visited or viewed. However, not many people realise what went on **underground** in places such as the Wellington Caves at Arras where thousands of men lived out of site and range of the German guns, and similarly in the bunker under Zonnebeke Chateau near Ypres – both will be experienced during the trip.

It is hoped that the ***'Trenches & Tunnels'*** theme of trip, will add a new perspective for everyone – be they seeing the battlefields for the first time or making a return visit.

ⓘ The organiser... The tour organiser and guide is 57 year old **Steve Williams**, who is retired and lives in the village of Brindle, near Chorley. In February 2007, he co-founded the Chorley Pals Memorial. Now a registered charity, a year-long appeal raised the necessary £110,000 for a statue in the town to 229 men who formed Y Company of the 11th [Service] Battalion East Lancashire Regiment – the famous "Accrington Pals" - they were decimated at Serre, on the Somme, on the 1st July 1916.



A WW1 enthusiast for many years, in 2008 he published his first **book** entitled 'Brindle and Hoghton Pals', chronicling the men from two Lancashire villages who fought in the Great War; his second book about the 'Chorley Pals' was published in July 2009. Steve also writes **articles** on the First World War for local newspapers and is doing a series for 'Lancashire Life' later in the year; he also gives **talks** to groups, societies and at Libraries across Lancashire.

A regular visitor to the battlefields on The Western Front, this is the **sixth coach trip** he has organised in as many years. In 2004 he organised and led a party of 39 people on a six day coach trip to the WW1 battlefields on The Western Front. In July 2006 he organised and led a similar trip to be at Serre on the Somme at 7.30 a.m. on the morning of the 1st July, exactly 90 years on from when the 'Accrington Pals' went over the top. The trip was featured on BBC Television, being screened over two nights on the North West Tonight news programme. In November 2007 he led a four day trip to be at the Menin Gate in Ypres on Remembrance Sunday, whilst in the summer of 2008 he guided 43 people around the Somme battlefield. **More trips are planned** in association with Rossendale Travel.

✝ Acts of Remembrance... Passengers who have relatives who died whilst fighting on the Somme may wish to lay a wreath at the **Thiepval Memorial**. The appropriate place to pay respects to men from the Accrington Pals, the 11th [Service] Battalion [Accrington] East Lancashire Regiment, is at their memorial in the trenches at Serre; the Chorley Pals plaque is close-by. The Memorial at **Loos** is visited on day 5, whilst wreaths may be laid at **The Menin Gate Memorial** for men who died on the Salient. Members of the party will lay a wreath at the Menin Gate during the **Last Post ceremony** at 8.00 p.m. on the evening of day 6. For **visits to specific cemeteries**, please discuss this with the organiser (although he cannot guarantee to accommodate each and every request).

ITINERARY

Day 1 (Wednesday, 26th May) - Travel from Lancashire to **Hull for over-night ferry to Zeebrugge.**

Day 2 (Thursday, 27th) – Disembark at c9.00 a.m. heading for the town of Arras in northern France. First stop **Delville Wood** on the Somme battlefield followed by a visit to the Lochnager Crater. After a lunch stop at Pozieres, we head back to Arras for a tour underground in the **Wellington Tunnels**, followed by a visit to the Arras Memorial. Check-in at the hotel.

Day 3 (Friday, 28th) – Full day on the **Somme battlefield**, with lunch stop in the town of Albert. Starting at the Sunken Lane and Hawthorn Crater, we then have a guided tour of the trenches at Beaumont-Hamel; a visit to the Ulster Tower completes the morning. Afternoon at trenches / cemeteries near Fricourt and Montauban, before a visit to the Pals trenches at **Serre**; we finish the day and our time on the Somme with a visit to the Thiepval Memorial.

ARRAS

Day 4 (Saturday, 29th) – **At leisure in Arras**. There is a busy market on the square and around the Town Hall; opportunity to visit more tunnels under the centre of the town or stroll around the Cathedral or to Victor Hugo's house.

Day 5 (Sunday, 30th) – Leave Arras heading north, taking in the tunnels and impressive memorial at **Vimy Ridge**, then on to the **Loos Memorial**. Refreshment stop taken at Ploegsteert at the southern edge of the Ypres Salient, before visits to sites along the **Messines Ridge**. Check-in at our hotel in Ypres and take a late lunch in the town; the rest of the afternoon at leisure.

Day 6 (Monday, 31st) – Full day around the **Ypres Salient**, visiting the grave of Capt. Noel Chavasse – a double VC winner, Essex Farm (where Col. McCrae wrote his poem *"In Flanders fields"*), the restored "Yorkshire Trench" near-by and then the impressive Canadian Memorial at St. Juliaan. We visit the German Cemetery at Langamarck before heading for a lunch stop at Hooge, site of a massive mine crater. The afternoon will see visits to Railway Wood and **Hill 60** – both sites of battles, mines and underground activity. We then head for the Aristocrat's Cemetery in Zillebeke churchyard, ending the day at a number of local cemeteries. At 8.00 p.m. we will lay a wreath at the Menin Gate as part of the **Last Post ceremony**.

Day 7 (Tuesday, 1st June) – Check out of the hotel. Visit **Zonnebeke Chateau** for a tour around the underground facilities, before heading to Polygon Wood and a lunch stop. Then to **Tyne Cot Cemetery** - the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in Europe, before finishing the tour in the village of **Passchendaele**. We then head for Zeebrugge for the over-night ferry to Hull.

Day 8 (Wednesday, 2nd) – Disembark and **travel back to Lancashire**.

Travel will be in a fully air-conditioned **Executive coach** from Rossendale Travel, driven by its owner, Alan Weaver. The coach has a wash-room, video and tea / coffee making facilities and is fitted with seat-belts (passengers are advised to wear them at all time; it is compulsory in France).

Staring around lunchtime, pick-ups will be in Chorley and along the M65 in East Lancashire, before heading to Hull for the overnight ferry to Zeebrugge. We will stay **three nights** in the 3★ Holiday Inn Express hotel in Arras and then **two nights** in the 3★ Novotel hotel in Ypres, again on a B&B basis. Both hotels are centrally located - close to bars, restaurants, cafes, shops, museums and churches.

The trip will be **fully escorted throughout** with an experienced guide and coach driver. There will be a tour booklet for each passenger, as well as a commentary and a daily briefing (including health & safety information). **The cost** (which includes coach travel, a cabin on the ferry both ways, hotel rooms & breakfast and tours of the tunnels at Arras and Zonnebeke) is just...

£499 per person in a **double / twin room;**
£639 in a **single room**

WW1 BATTLEFIELDS 2010

Booking Form

I / we wish to go on the above coach trip in May 2010 and book the following at a cost of £499 per person in a double / twin room (£639 in a single room)…

…… **seat(s)** and ……. **room(s)** […… double …… twin *…… single]
(* N.B.: Single Rooms limited; please check for availability ☎ 01254 854298)

All rooms 🚭 Non-Smoking unless you tick here ☐

Passenger name(s): ……

…… Age(s): ……

Name & address *(for correspondence)*: ……

……

……

…… Post Code ……

Telephone:…… **M**obile: ……

E-mail: ……

***I** / we enclose payment of **£50** per person as deposit for the trip, and agree to pay the balance in full within 8 weeks of the date of departure.*

I / we will take out suitable and sufficient travel insurance to cover any eventuality on or relating to the trip, and duly confirm such insurance cover / policy to the organiser in writing with my / our final payment in April 2010.

I / we undertake this trip at my / our own risk, having read and accepted the terms and conditions appertaining to this booking / trip.

Signed *(one signature per party / booking form)*:

……

Amount enclosed: £……

*** IMPORTANT: Cheques should be made payable to *"Greatdays Trust Account No. 2"***

Completed Booking Form and remittance(s) should be forwarded to…
Steve Williams, 42 Smithy Close, Brindle, Chorley, Lancs. PR6 8NW

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