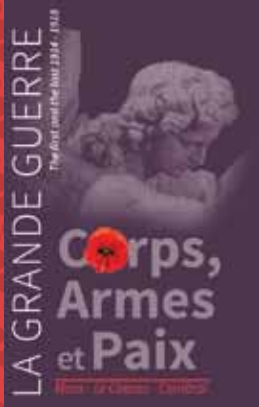


EN

8 > 12  
ages



# Wilfred & OWEN & the Great War

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

History & geography



.....  
Your name and your surname

.....  
Your age

.....  
Your school

.....  
Your class



**WILFRED OWEN FORESTER'S HOUSE - ORS**

Educational booklet produced by  
the Community of Municipalities of Caudrésis-Catésis.  
To be used as a complement to the tour of the Wilfred Owen  
Forester's House in Ors.



EUROPEAN UNION  
Project funded by  
the European Fund for  
Regional Development



France • Wallonie • Vlaanderen



Communauté de Communes du  
Caudrésis - Catésis



# POPPY

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### Director of publication:

Guy BRICOUT, Chairman of the Community of Municipalities of Caudrésis-Catésis

### Editing director:

Jean-Paul CAILLIEZ, Vice-chairman for the tourist development and valorisation of the Community of Municipalities of Caudrésis-Catésis

### Coordination and texts:

Brice DEJONGHE, Tourism department of the Community of Municipalities of Caudrésis-Catésis  
Armelle DEHON & Émilie SERPILLON, Cultural department of the Community of Municipalities of Caudrésis-Catésis  
Angélique LABIOUSE, Stéphanie DEMARBAIX & Anne-Laure DELEZENNE, trip advisors at the Pays de Matisse Tourist Office

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Community of Municipalities of Caudrésis-Catésis

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Sophie Dupont

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Expansion Partners SA

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Veerle PATTYN

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Hello,

My name is Popps and I am a red flower that grows in fields.  
Welcome to the Wilfred Owen Forester's House.

The year 2014 was the beginning of a very special period! 100 years ago, the European countries were so rich and powerful that some had formed alliances preventing them from attacking each other.

However, one event led to war and 2 major alliances faced off against each other:

- on one side, the **“Triple Alliance”** consisting of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy;
- on the other side, the **“Triple Entente”** consisting of France, the United Kingdom and Russia.

The war, which some believed would be resolved quickly and easily, lasted for 4 long years. This is why it was nicknamed **“The Great War”**.

I have many stories to tell about this strange war and I would like to tell you the story of this particular place, a simple forester's house which served as a shelter for Wilfred Owen, a young British poet and soldier.

Do you know why I know so much about the Great War? It is because I am a poppy, the symbol of remembrance of the Great War and of the British soldiers who fought alongside the French against the Germans.

But beware, my memory sometimes plays tricks on me ... or should I say that I love riddles! I am counting on you to solve them all.

Each riddle that you solve will give you letters and numbers which you should write down in my petals with a number. **When you have solved all the riddles, you just have to place them in the sentence on page 23 to find out what you have won!**

Are you ready for an adventure? Let's go!

PS: I almost forgot! To get you started, here is your first letter.

# The Great War (1914 - 1918)

## «The war to end all wars»\*

\* The nickname given to this war after the armistice, because no country ever wanted to see another such terrible war.

### HOW DID THE WAR START?

On 28 June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated by a Serbian citizen. Tensions between the 2 alliances were already high and this tragic event provoked a war. In response, Austria invaded Serbia with support from Germany who wanted to take the opportunity to get rid of its old enemies: France and Russia. Frenchman Jean Jaurès tried to call for peace but he was assassinated on 31 July 1914.

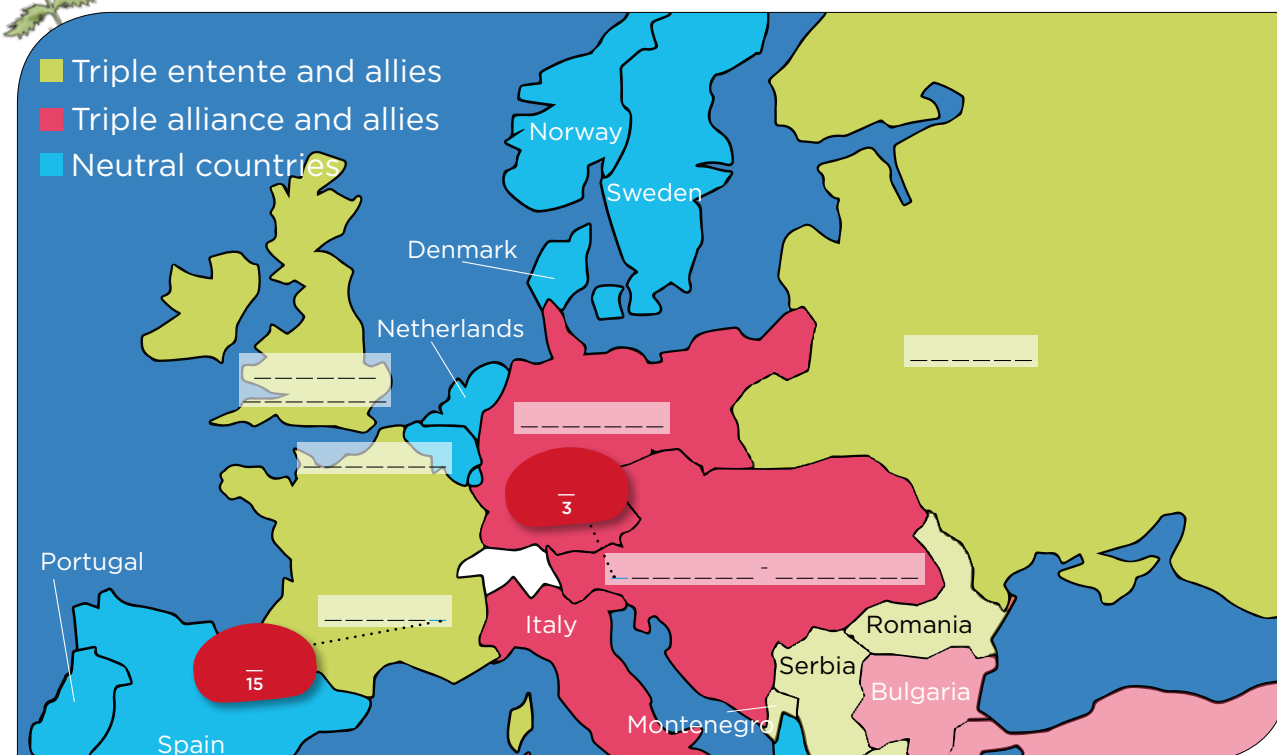
On 3 August 1914, Germany officially declared war on France, involving the respective alliances in the conflict as a result.

Can you place the countries involved in the conflict on this map?



#### COUNTRIES TO PLACE

France • Belgium • United Kingdom • Germany • Austria-Hungary • Russia



# A long conflict

When the war began, everyone believed that it would be a short war. The German army soon invaded Belgium and the north of France while it was expected to strike in the East. It easily marched to Paris, but France won the battle of the Marne in September, pushing back the Germans. The 2 armies faced off in trenches dug for shelter. This period is called: the war of position. In the end, the conflict raged on... and it would last for 4 years.

### DID YOU KNOW?



#### The war of position (or “trench warfare”)

The soldiers sought shelter from small arms (pistols, rifles, etc.) and artillery (guns firing shells) in the trenches. They were malnourished, they had to wade through mud and they suffered from the cold. None of them dared to leave the trenches for fear of being killed. It was the opposite of mobile warfare, in which armies continuously advance and retreat.

### RIDDLE

The soldiers in the trenches were nonetheless very brave. In reference to a play written by Molière, which mentions “Three-haired braves”, they were given a nickname.

**But what was that nickname? Solve this riddle to find out!**

The first two letters of the British flower of remembrance:

The second and third letters of the name of the second most famous British poet:

If the United Kingdom is the “U.K.”, then the United States are the:

The full word is the nickname given to the brave soldiers of the Great War:

T	H	E			





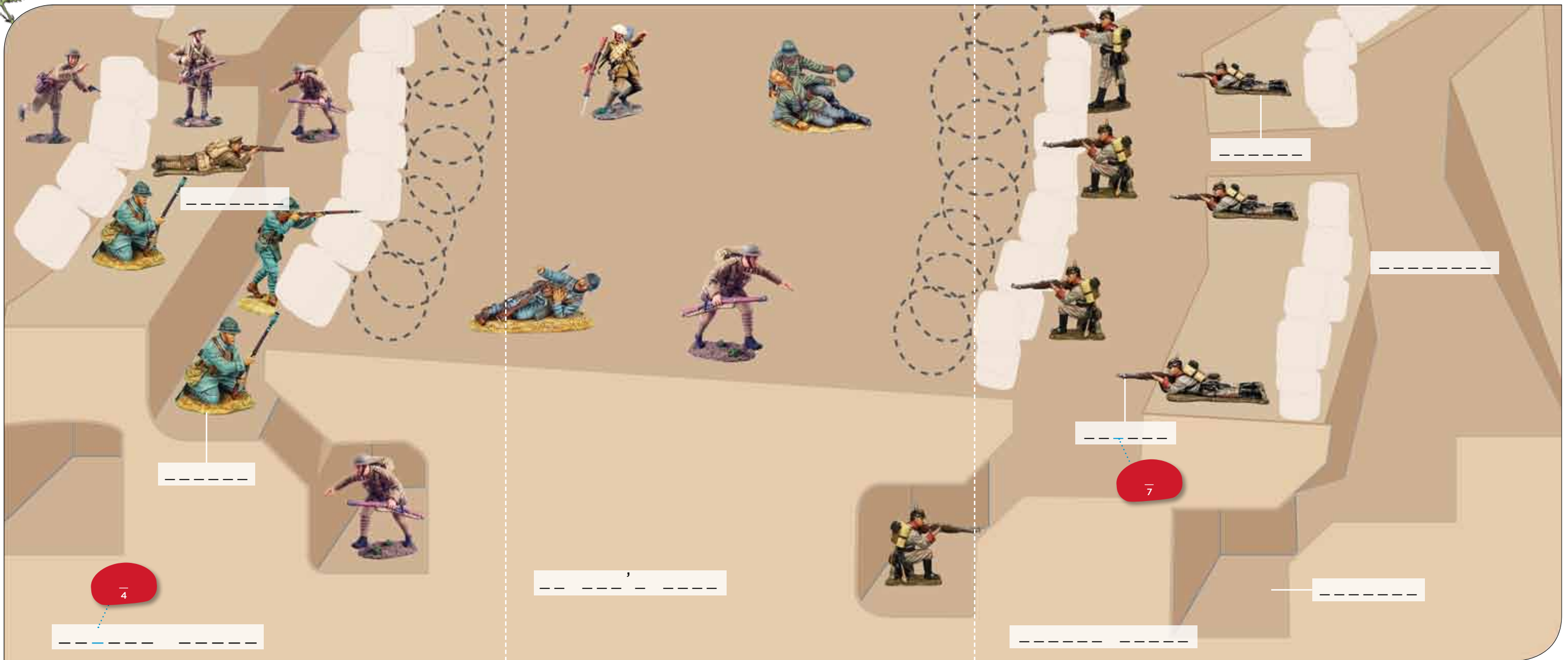
# The Trenches

## DID YOU KNOW?

### “NO MAN’S LAND”

“No Man’s Land” is an English expression used to define the area located between the two trenches. Any human presence in this area is regarded as an act of aggression: intruders will be killed by the opposing army.

**This is what a trench looks like. Place the following words to complete the drawing:**  
French • German • British • Allied Front • German Front • Rifles • No Man’s Land • Trenches • Shelter







The United Kingdom enters the conflict  
«The first and the last...»\*

In August of 1914, Germany invaded Belgium in order to take on the unprepared French army which was expecting an invasion from the East. However, Belgium was a neutral\* country under the protection of France and the United Kingdom. The latter entered the war against Germany to honour its agreement.

70,000 British soldiers were mobilized, crossed the Channel and headed for the city of Mons in Belgium. These soldiers made up what was known as the B.E.F. - the British Expeditionary Force\*.

## GLOSSARY

### NEUTRAL

who does not wish to engage in conflict

### BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

nickname given to the United Kingdom's military troops



# The Battle of Mons

For 3 days, the B.E.F. - the British Expeditionary Force - attempted to contain the German advance on the city of Mons, but it seemed like a lost cause. However, with courage and composure, they managed to delay the enemy's attack, enabling a retreat to Le Cateau, in France, to be organized.

The Germans lost 5,000 men at the Battle of Mons, and the British lost around 1,700 men.

## DID YOU KNOW?



### The legend of Mons

According to legend, around midnight on 23 August 1914, “ — — — — — — — — — — ” descended from the skies, in the form of archers, to stop the Germans and protect the British.

## CODED MESSAGE

By deciphering these words written in Morse code, a radio code invented by Samuel Morse and used during the Great War, you will discover who “helped” the British troops to slow down the German troops.

The • symbol represents a short sound

The — symbol represents a long sound

—	••••	•			
•—	—•	—••	•	•—••	•••
—••	••—•				
—•	—••	—•	•••		

A ••	J •—•	S ••
B •••	K ••	T —
C •••	L •••	U ••
D ••	M —	V •••
E •	N ••	W •—
F •••	O —•	X •••
G —•	P •••	Y •••
H •••	Q —••	Z —••
I ••	R ••	



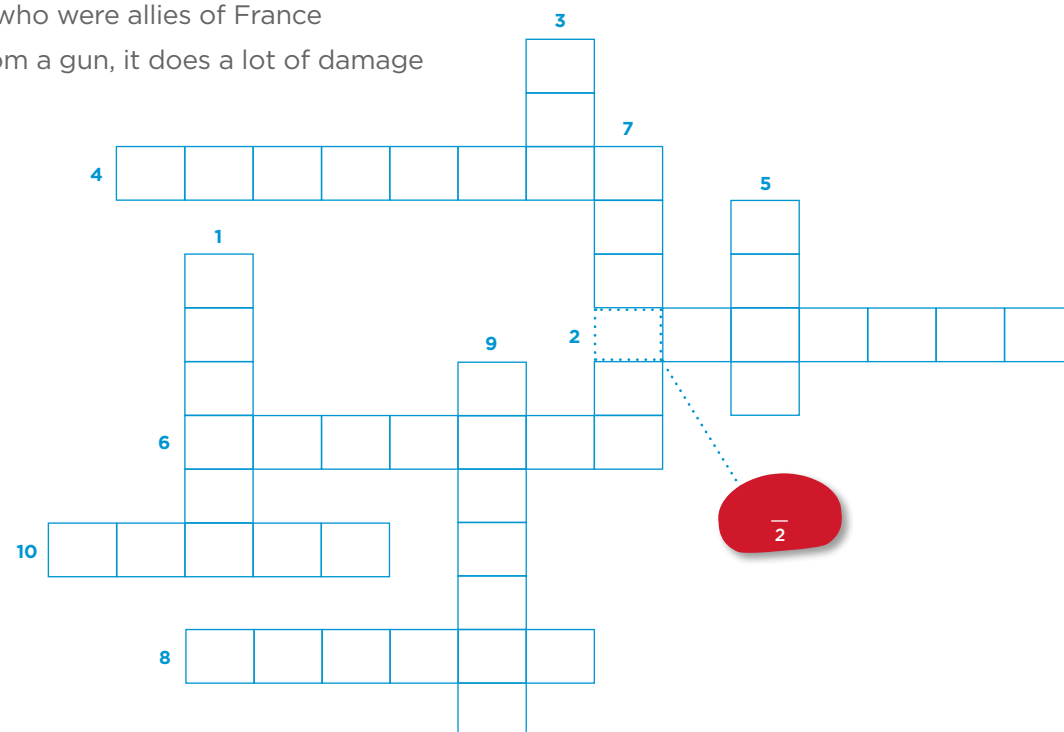
## MONS WAS THE THEATRE OF ONE OF THE FIRST BATTLES, BUT OTHER SIGNIFICANT BATTLES TOOK PLACE IN THE CAMBRÉSIS.

### THE BATTLE OF LE CATEAU / 26 AUGUST 1914

The Battle of Le Cateau took place following the retreat of British troops after the Battle of Mons. Although fewer in number and less well equipped, the British blocked the German army for 12 hours at the cost of heavy losses. This battle helped to once again contain the German advance and to prepare for the coming battles.

7,800 of the 40,000 British soldiers who fought at Le Cateau were injured, killed or taken prisoner. German losses are unknown (they are estimated at 3,000 to 7,500 German soldiers).

- 1/ Germany declared war on this country on 3 August 1914
- 2/ The country in which the city of Mons is located
- 3/ It is called "the Great \_ \_ \_"
- 4/ The occupation of the men who go to war
- 5/ Soldiers suffered from it in the trenches
- 6/ When a country does not wish to engage in war, it is " \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_"
- 7/ The poppy is the " \_ \_ \_ \_ \_" of the British soldiers
- 8/ The month in which war was declared
- 9/ Soldiers who were allies of France
- 10/ Fired from a gun, it does a lot of damage



### THE BATTLE OF CAMBRAI / FROM 20 NOVEMBER TO 7 DECEMBER 1917

Cambrai was a key point in the German supply line. During the attack, the British used Mark IV tanks for the first time. They managed to make the Germans retreat but the victory was to be short-lived. The Germans quickly mounted a counter-attack and Cambrai once again fell into German hands. The Allied forces lost around 45,000 men and the Germans lost around 50,000 men. 11,000 German soldiers and 9,000 British soldiers were taken prisoner. 100 tanks were destroyed.

## DID YOU KNOW?



### The tank at Flesquières (near Cambrai)

In November 1998, in Flesquières, a man with a fascination for the history of the Great War discovered a Mark IV tank that had taken part in the Battle of Cambrai. It had been buried under 3 meters of earth for 81 years. It bore the name "Deborah" and weighed 28 tonnes. It is currently on display in a barn, one wall of which has many shell and machine gun fire impacts.

### THE HUNDRED DAYS OFFENSIVE AND THE ARMISTICE / FROM 8 AUGUST TO 11 NOVEMBER 1918

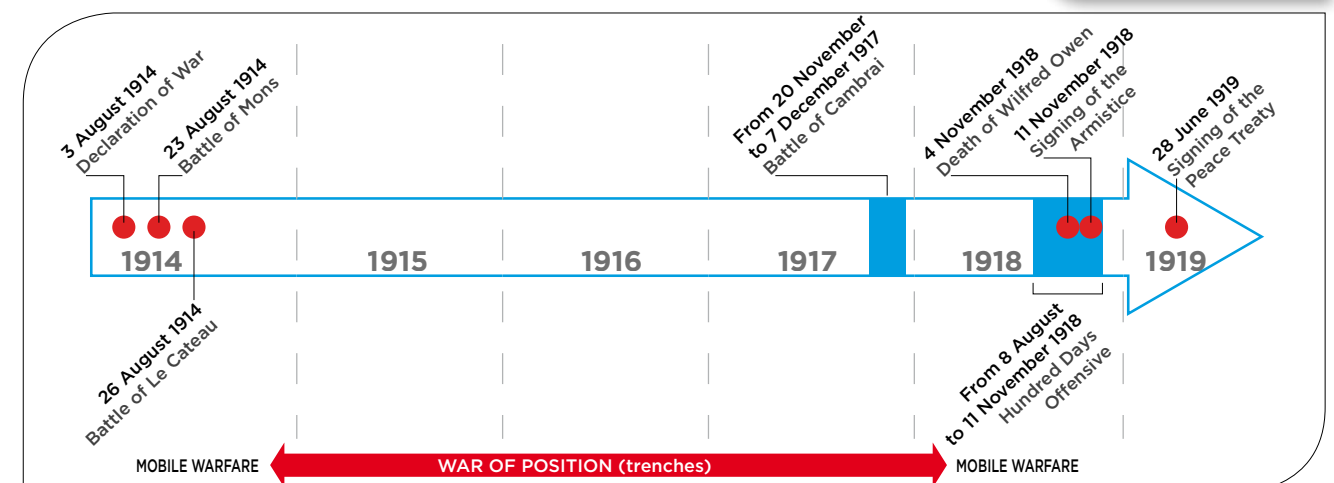
From 8 August to 11 November 1918, the Allied Forces launched a final offensive against the Germans. The period was named "the Hundred Days Offensive". Through a series of victorious battles, the Allies were able to regain some ground and force the German army to surrender. The Armistice\* was signed on 11 November 1918 and the Peace Treaty was adopted in Versailles on 28 June 1919.

### THE WAR TOOK A HEAVY TOLL ON THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED:

- around 18.6 million dead over 4 years (of which 9.7 million soldiers and 8.9 million civilians),
- France: around 1.7 million dead / United Kingdom: around 1 million dead / Germany: around 2.5 million dead,
- many young widows and orphans of war,
- cities and villages destroyed, fields rendered unusable due to buried shells.

### GLOSSARY

\* "Armistice": an armistice is an agreement signed by several governments for the purpose of ending hostilities between armies in time of war.







# Wilfred Owen (1893 - 1918)

## A British poet and soldier

Wilfred Owen was a British poet and soldier whose work marked the Great War for the British. He died at the age of twenty-five, having written around one hundred poems during the war. He is considered to be the most popular British poet, after William Shakespeare. His writings speak of the suffering of men and the absurdity of war.

### ANTHEM FOR DOOMED YOUTH

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?  
- Only the monstrous anger of the guns.  
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle  
Can patter out their hasty orisons.  
No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;  
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs, -  
The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;  
And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?  
Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes  
Shall shine the holy glimmers of good-byes.  
The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;  
Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,  
And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.



# Childhood and adolescence

Wilfred Edward Salter Owen was born on 18 March \_ \_ \_ \_ in Oswestry in the United Kingdom. He was the eldest of the four children of Tom Owen, an employee of the railways, and Susan Shaw, whose family was of the local bourgeoisie. Wilfred Owen followed technical studies, although he enjoyed reading, especially the works of John Keats, and writing poems from a young age. In 1913, he was admitted to university although he was unable to obtain financial aid to finance his studies. He decided to begin his working life and travelled to Bordeaux where he taught English before becoming a private tutor.

### GLOSSARY

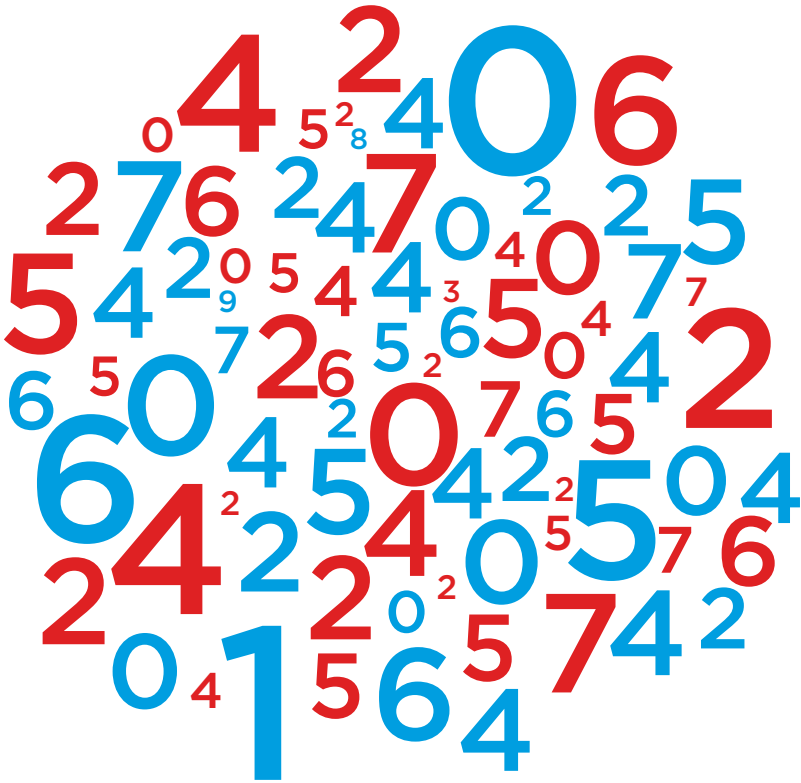
\* "private tutor": private teacher at home



To find Wilfred Owen's year of birth, cross out all the numbers that appear more than once. The numbers that remain will give you the answer.



MESSED-UP NUMBERS



# War and writing

In October 1915, he enlisted in the British Army as a second lieutenant and joined the Somme front in January 1917. Severely traumatized by an explosion, he was evacuated to Craiglockhart hospital in Scotland, where he met Siegfried Sassoon, another British poet-soldier who also wrote about peace. Sassoon encouraged Wilfred Owen to use his own experiences in his writing. This was to be a defining moment for Wilfred Owen. He found his own style and wrote a number of important poems, among which “Strange Meeting” which you can listen to in the Wilfred Owen Forester’s House.

## A tragic end

After his stay in the hospital, he returned to the front and died in Ors on 4 November 1918, during the crossing of the “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”, at the head of his squad\*. He was 25 years old. On 11 November 1918, while the bells rang out the Armistice, his mother received the last letter from her son, written in the cellar of the forester’s house at Bois-l’Evêque, as well as a telegram announcing his death.

### GLOSSARY

\* "squad": group of soldiers

13

R	Z	L	A	Q	D

B	Z	M	Z	K

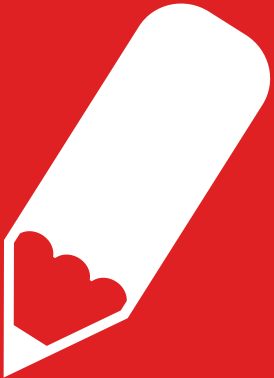
### DID YOU KNOW?

#### THE ARTS DURING THE WAR

All men were called to war. Among them, there were many artists who fought during the Great War or left works describing the conditions of the time. Musicians, painters and writers each recounted events in their own ways. Wilfred Owen was not the only artist of the Great War.

## MAGICAL COLOURING

This magical colouring picture will reveal an important British figure of the Great War. Colour the areas according to the specified colours.



● = black



Here is the last letter that Wilfred Owen sent to his mother.

Can you fill in the missing words?

To Susan Owen - Thurs. 31 October [1918] 6:15 p.m. - [2nd Manchester Regt.]



Dearest Mother,

I will call the place from which I'm now writing, 'The Smoky \_\_\_\_\_ of the Forester's House'. I write on the first sheet of the writing pad which came in the parcel yesterday. Luckily the parcel was small, as it reached me just before we moved off to the line. Thus only the paraffin was unwelcome in my pack. My servant & I ate the \_\_\_\_\_ in the cold middle of last night, \_\_\_\_\_ under a draughty Tamboo\*, roofed with planks. I husband the Malted Milk for tonight, & tomorrow night. The handkerchief & socks are most opportune, as the ground is marshy, & I have a slight cold!

So \_\_\_\_\_ is the smoke in this cellar that I can hardly see by a \_\_\_\_\_ 12 ins. away, and so thick are the inmates that I can hardly write for pokes, nudges & jolts. On my left the Coy. \_\_\_\_\_ snores on a bench: other officers repose on wire \_\_\_\_\_ behind me. At my right hand, Kellett, a delightful servant\* of A Coy. In The Old Days radiates joy & contentment from pink cheeks and baby eyes. He laughs with a \_\_\_\_\_, to whose left ear is glued the Receiver; but whose eyes rolling with gaiety show that he is listening with his right ear to a merry corporal, who appears at this distance away (some three feet) nothing [but] a gleam of white teeth & a wheeze of \_\_\_\_\_.

Splashing my hand, an old soldier with a walrus moustache peels & drops \_\_\_\_\_ into the pot. By him, Keyes, my cook, chops wood; another feeds the smoke with the damp \_\_\_\_\_.

It is a great life. I am more oblivious than alas! yourself, dear Mother, of the ghastly glimmering of the \_\_\_\_\_ outside, & the hollow crashing of the shells.

There is no \_\_\_\_\_ down here, or if any, it will be well over before you read these lines.

I hope you are as warm as I am; as serene in your room as I am here; and that you think of me never in bed as resignedly as I think of you always in bed. Of this I am certain you could not be visited by a band of \_\_\_\_\_ half so fine as surround me here.

Ever \_\_\_\_\_ x

WORDS TO BE PLACED:

signaller\* • chocolate • friends • danger • beds • thick • Commander • candle jokes • Wilfred • potatoes • crouched • guns • wood • cellar

To illustrate Wilfred Owen's letter, I have drawn the cellar and the characters. However, I made **7 INTENTIONAL MISTAKES** in my drawing... Carefully read the letter to find the mistakes in the picture.

GLOSSARY

- "servant": assistant to a military officer
- "tamboo": shelter, hut
- "signaller": A soldier with a telephone because mobile telephones did not exist at the time!

7 MISTAKES



# After Wilfred Owen

Wilfred Owen was not a famous poet at the time of his death in 1918. It is thanks to the efforts of his fellow poet-soldiers, including Siegfried Sassoon, that his texts would be published. Other artists would take inspiration from his texts or incorporate Wilfred Owen's words in their own work. These people would help make Wilfred Owen the most famous poet in the United Kingdom after William Shakespeare.

And what happened in France? Wilfred Owen is still unknown in our country. The first collection of his poems to be published in French was released in 2001 with the title, *Et chaque lent crépuscule*. In Ors, the Wilfred Owen association wants to make the “\_\_\_\_\_” a place dedicated to the memory of Wilfred Owen.

**Put the letters of each word in the right order to find the missing information**

The diagram shows a 4x4 grid of boxes. The top row contains the letters 'E', 'F', 'O', 'R'. The second row contains 'R', 'S', 'T', 'E'. The third row contains 'E', 'H', 'O', 'S'. The fourth row contains 'U', 'S', 'U', 'E'. A red circle with the number '17' is positioned below the grid, with a dotted line connecting it to the box containing 'O' in the third row, second column. The letters 'S' and 'L' are placed to the right of the second and third rows, respectively.

E	F	O	R
R	S	T	E
E	H	O	S
U	S	U	E

17



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## The symbolic places

For over 20 years, many British visitors have travelled to the village of Ors. It is only recently that the reason for their visits was understood: to honour the memory of Wilfred Owen by visiting the significant places of his passage through Ors.

He spent his last days in the small cellar of the forester's house of Bois-l'Évêque before being killed on the banks of the Sambre Canal. His body rests in the Ors borough cemetery, among his companions of the "Manchester regiment" (*Location: 3rd stone of the last row of the British military square - Plot number: A3*). Over the years, all of these places have become places of pilgrimage for British visitors. They are also central to the commemorations of the centenary of the Great War.

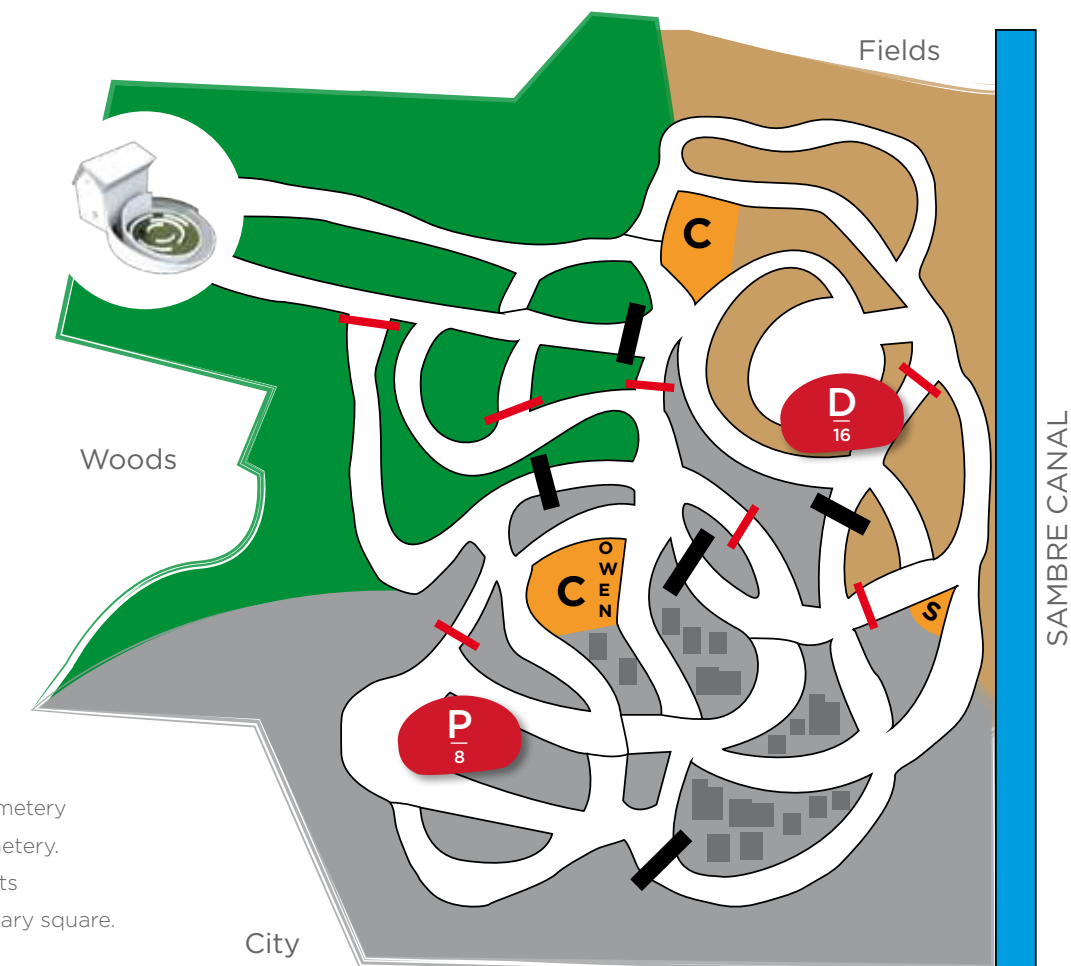
## DID YOU KNOW?



## Following in Wilfred Owen's footsteps

A 6.5 km walking trail links all of these places. The trail begins and ends at the Wilfred Owen Forester's House.

Can you trace the route of the walking trail and find the letters?



**C** = British military cemetery

**C Owen** = Ors borough cemetery.  
Wilfred Owen rests  
in the British military square.

**S** = Headstone





## THE CENTENARY OF THE GREAT WAR “A SHARED HISTORY, A COMMON PRESENT...”

### WE ARE CURRENTLY CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF THE GREAT WAR.

Over the next 4 years, cities and villages will be organizing events and exhibitions, and they will also be creating projects themed around this event in memory of the soldiers and civilians who lived through the Great War.

The centenary is also a time when all the countries who were involved in the Great War, allies or enemies, take the opportunity to send a joint message of peace to future generations.

«In memory of all combatants of  
all nationalities»

## The «Wilfred Owen Forester's House» project

With the will of the Wilfred Owen association, the support of the Community of Municipalities of Caudrésis-Catésis and the Conseil Général du Nord, the simple forester's house of Bois-l'Evêque underwent extensive works to become the “Wilfred Owen Forester's House”, a contemporary work honouring the memory of this British poet-soldier. The artist Simon Patterson transformed the house's roof and gave it the shape of an open book. On the ground floor, Wilfred Owen's poems are read aloud and projected onto the walls in English and in French. The cellar was left in its original condition in order to provide a better understanding of the conditions in which Wilfred Owen lived.

### DID YOU KNOW?



The **Wilfred Owen Forester's House** is managed by the Community of Municipalities of Caudrésis-Catésis which continues to develop many projects in the house. The house will play host to exhibitions and events over the course of the 4 years of the Centenary of the Great War.

Here are close-up pictures of the Wilfred Owen Forester's House. One of these pictures does not belong here. Can you guess which one?



A



B



C



D



14

E



F

THIS GAME BOOKLET WAS PRODUCED AND FINANCED UNDER THE INTERREG PROJECT “LA GRANDE GUERRE: CORPS, ARMES ET PAIX”

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME INTERREG IV FRANCE-WALLONIA-FLANDERS



To keep the memory of the Great War alive, 6 partners (see list below) wish to educate schools and young people on this landmark event, to have a presence at the commemorations of the 14-18 Centenary and to invite people to reflect on peace and international relations.

In order to achieve this, they have created two joint thematic routes:

- The first route traces the journey of the B.E.F. - British Expeditionary Force which fought in Mons, retreated to Le Cateau and ended its journey in Ypres.
- The second route follows the enlistment of pacifist figures before and during the Great War, such as Wilfred Owen (British poet and soldier) and Henri la Fontaine (Belgian pacifist - Nobel Peace Prize in 1913).

#### The partners

The Mons Tourist Office (B) – Leader  
The City of Mons (B)  
The Mundaneum (B)  
The Tourist Office of the Cambrésis (F)  
The Community of Municipalities of Caudrésis-Catésis (F)  
The Cambrai Agglomeration Community (F)

This project is co-financed by the European Union under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

To learn more about this project, you can download the app for smart phones and tablets available on the AppStore and the Google Play Store: “Grande Guerre: Corps, Armes et Paix”.



## ANSWERS

Page 4: (see picture) - Letters: A3 and E15 /// Page 5: POLIUS (po - il - us) - Letter: L5 /// Page 6 and 7: (see picture) - Letters: F7 and L4 /// Page 9: THE ANGELS OF MONS - Letter: O9 /// Page 10: LFRANCE - Letter: B2 /// Page 13: 1893 - number: 11 /// Page 14: SAMBRE CANAL - Letter: S13 /// Page 15: PORTRAIT OF WILFRED OWEN (see picture) - Letter: P10 /// Page 16: in the following order: CELLAR - CHOCOLATE - CROUCHED - THICK - CANDLE - COMMANDER - BEDS - SIGNALLER - JOKES - POTATOES - WOOD - GUNS - DANGER - FRIENDS - WILFRED - Letter: O6 /// Page 17: PALM TREE - WINDOW - PAINTING - MICROWAVE - OVEN - BUOY - HALOGEN - HOOVER (see picture) - Letter: P11 /// Page 18: Riddle: FORESTER'S HOUSE OF BOIS L'ÉVÊQUE - Letter: S17 /// Page 19: (see picture) - Letter: P8 and D16 /// Page 21: picture E - Letter: E14 /// Page 23: Final answer: 1 BALL OF POPPY SEEDS



YOU HAVE SOLVED ALL MY RIDDLES. YOU CAN NOW PLACE THE LETTERS AND NUMBER THAT YOU FOUND TO DISCOVER YOUR PRIZE!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	17		

#### THE FLOWERS OF THE GREAT WAR

3 flowers, 3 symbols, 3 ways of remembering the Great War:



##### The French “Bleuet”

The **bleuet** became the flower of remembrance of French combatants in reference to the horizon blue uniform that they wore in the trenches at the end of the war.



##### The German “Vergissmeinnicht”

The **white alpine** forget-me-not became the flower symbolizing peace, both because of its white colouring and its German name of “Vergissmeinnicht”, which means “Do not forget me”.



##### The British “Poppy”

The poppy is the flower symbolizing British soldiers killed in action. Its colouring is a reminder of the red of the battlefields, in reference to the poem of Canadian poet John McCrae called “In Flanders Fields”.

It was a Frenchwoman, Ms. Guérin, who suggested the idea of cultivating poppies, selling them and using the proceeds to rebuild the devastated areas to the British General Douglas Haig.

Every year since 1921, the British wear a poppy on their clothes in memory of the soldiers of the Great War.

Nowadays, the poppy is often made of paper; men wear it on the left-hand side and women wear it on the right-hand side.





## WILFRED OWEN FORESTER'S HOUSE

Route départemental D959 - Lieu-dit "Bois l'Evêque"  
59360 ORS

### INFORMATION

#### Pays de Matisse Tourist Office

Place du Commandant Richez  
59360 LE CATEAU-CAMBRESIS  
Tel.: +33 (0)3 27 84 10 94  
[www.tourisme-lecateau.fr](http://www.tourisme-lecateau.fr)