New Zealand Remembrance Trail
Colophon:

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On 25 April 1915, ANZAC troops land on the Turkish peninsula, Gallipoli. After eight months of stalemate the military operation at Gallipoli fails but the legend of the ANZACs as soldiers of great courage, loyalty, sacrifice and comradeship is born. The New Zealand Division is created in Egypt and moves to the Western Front. During the Battle of the Somme the New Zealanders lose 1,560 men and a further 5,440 are wounded. Then they move to the front in Flanders.

On 27 July 1917 the New Zealand Division launches an attack through deep mud, heavy rain and strong winds to take the village of Passchendaele. Concrete pillboxes, machine guns and deep belts of barbed wire protect the German positions. The result is 2,700 casualties, including 846 dead in less than four hours. 12 October 1917 remains the most tragic day in New Zealand history.

During October 1917 four ANZAC Divisions are at the centre of the major thrust in the Battle of Passchendaele. One of these, the New Zealand Division, is to provide central flanking support by seizing ‘s Graventafel Spur on 4 October. It is a formidable task requiring the men to advance up open slopes, all of which are comprehensively covered by a mixture of mutually supporting German pillboxes as well as isolated machine-gun groups posted in shell holes and protected by barbed wire. The New Zealand attack advances the line by more than 3,000 metres. The Division suffers 1,653 casualties including 330 fatalities.

On 12 October 1917 the New Zealand Division launches an attack through deep mud, heavy rain and strong winds to take the village of Passchendaele. Concrete pillboxes, machine guns and deep belts of barbed wire protect the German positions. The result is 2,700 casualties, including 846 dead in less than four hours. 12 October 1917 remains the most tragic day in New Zealand history.

In the winter of 1917-1918 the New Zealand Division occupies a sector in and around Polygon Wood, near Zonnebeke. Many of the casualties during this time are caused by gas attacks. When the Division is relieved on 24 February 1918, its three “quiet” months have resulted in 3,000 casualties, including more than 470 dead.

Of all the nations involved in World War I, New Zealand made the most significant sacrifice in terms of population: over 40,000 soldiers were wounded and more than 18,000 killed. But it was not entirely meaningless. The First World War spurred a greater awareness among New Zealanders of what it meant to be a ‘New Zealander’ and brought greater recognition of New Zealand as a united entity.
MEMORIAL MUSEUM PASSCHENDAEL 1917

The MMP 1917 presents the historic story of the First World War, with a particular emphasis on the Battle of Passchendaele. With more than half a million casualties for a frontline movement of only eight kilometres, ‘Passchendaele’ became a symbol of the great futility of the violence of war in all its horror. The MMP 1917 combines the interactive design of a modern museum with the exceptional aspect of experiencing the Dugouts & Trenches. The museum section provides an overview of the five battles of Ypres, with historical objects, authentic letters, posters and other documents, uniforms of the various armies and video clips etc. The tour continues through the unique Dugout Experience and concludes at the faithful reconstruction of German and British trenches, along which original shelters have been replicated. An intense visit that will only enrich your knowledge of the battle sites in the area.

THE NEW ZEALAND EXHIBITION: AN ENTRY POINT FOR NEW ZEALAND VISITORS

Zonnebeke was the centre of New Zealand operations in Flanders during the First World War. Today the village and the surrounding area still include a number of historical sites of interest to New Zealand. The Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 plays an important role in the valorization of several of these sites. Because of the strong affiliation between the MMP1917 and New Zealand, the New Zealand exhibition in the museum doubles as an entry point to the historical battlefields. In this part there is a strong focus towards New Zealand and their heritage in Flanders. Beside historical facts, New Zealand-related objects and panels, the visitors are linked to other heritage sites and points of interest on the Western Front. In the Hall of Reflection, there is a sculpture from the New Zealand artist, Helen Pollock ‘Falls the Shadow’. This remarkable and touching art work of remembrance was originally installed in 2008 at the Auckland War Memorial Museum to mark the 90th anniversary of the end of WWI. In 2009 it was shown in the MMP1917 temporary exhibition ‘From the uttermost ends of the earth New Zealand in Flanders 1917’ and it also saw a reinstallation at the Carriere Wellington Memorial Museum, Arras, France, from April 4th 2010 to July 2011. Now this unique work has a permanent place in the MMP1917.

Location:
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W www.passchendaele.be
www.passchendaele2017.org

Open daily from 09:00h to 18:00h.
Last entry 16:30h.
Annually closed from
16 December to 31 January.
The historic chateau grounds of Zonnebeke are the ideal departure point for an exploratory route along the battlefields of 1917. The well-known Polygon Wood and CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world, are located less than three kilometres away. You can completely relax in the chateau grounds, read a book on a bench in the park, stroll hand-in-hand by the lake or take a moment to stop and think about the history of WWI in the ‘Poppy gardens’, themed gardens dedicated to the various nations that fought in the Battle of Passchendaele.

The project ‘Passchendaele Memorial Gardens’ is part of the masterplan ‘Legacy of Passchendaele’. A part of this project was to reunite two Zonnebeke Chateau Grounds, that were separated since 1960. Seven gardens in the form of a poppy will be incorporated into the chateau grounds. The aim is to create a memorial garden for the countries that fought during the First World War. Each year from 2014 to 2018 the community of Zonnebeke will open one or more gardens. Each poppy consists of three little gardens.

No matter how impressive a visit to CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery, the German cemetery in Langemark, or other cemeteries and memorials is, one can only find names there, with the scantiest of details. With the ‘Passchendaele Archives’, the Memorial Museum Passchendaele intends to put a face and a story to those names. The ‘Passchendaele Archives’ are a collection of personal files of soldiers who fell between 12 July and 15 November 1917 of whom a photograph is available. The files contain photographs, family and military information. Nonetheless, the MMP1917 also builds up an archive even when there is no picture available. Anyone who has information on a soldier who fell during the Battle of Passchendaele can contact the museum via archives@passchendaele.be.

The museum will try to find out exactly what happened and will create a report, based on war diaries and journals of his unit. Next to this, the museum will also provide a map with the approximate place of where the soldier was killed or mortally wounded.

CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery is an impressive yet understated haven of tranquillity that extends through the former battle landscape. With its 11,956 graves, it is one of the largest Commonwealth cemeteries in the world and it is a silent witness to the bloody Battle of Passchendaele. During the British offensive of 1917, almost 500,000 victims fell in 100 days for a territorial gain of only eight kilometres. ‘Tyne Cot’ was originally a German defence position on the first line in Flanders. In October 1917, the Australian troops established an aid station there that soon grew in to a small cemetery with 340 graves for the soldiers who had succumbed to their injuries on the spot. After the war – between 1919 and 1921 – the British ‘Exhumation Companies’ collected 12,000 dead from the surrounding battlefields. Of these, only 3,800 bodies could be identified. The wall behind the cemetery contains the names of 35,000 soldiers with no known grave. They include British, Irish and New Zealanders who perished in the region after 16 August 1917. Many tens and even hundreds of thousands of visitors come each year to pay their respects to the men – some still only boys – who lost their lives in the surrounding battlefields. A visit that leaves no one unmoved. The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker and inaugurated in 1927. Nowadays, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is responsible for maintaining the cemetery. The visitors’ centre, which the British Queen Elizabeth II and the former Belgian Queen Paola inaugurated in 2007, provides more information about the cemetery itself and offers a panoramic view over the battlefields of 1917. A 5 km walking route, with thematic information panels, takes you from the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 to CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery. The visitors’ centre is open daily from 10:00h to 18:00h. Closed from 1 December to 31 January.

Contact:
Ieperstraat 1, B-8980 Zonnebeke
T 051 77 04 41
kenniscentrum@zonnebeke.be

Location:
Tyne Cotstraat,
B-8980 Passendale (Zonnebeke)
Parkspace via Vijfwegestraat,
B-8980 Passendale (Zonnebeke)
CYCLE, WALKING AND CARTRAILS

CYCLE TRAILS

Cycle route ‘The Legacy’
The cycle route is 37 km long and enables you to encounter the monumental heritage of the Battle of Passchendaele. The route starts at the Zonnebeke Tourist Office from where you cross the rolling landscape and travel along various WWI and WWII sites. This route is also ideal to cycle on an electric bicycle. The route map is available at the Tourist Office for €2.00.

Cycle route ‘Pioneer’
The ‘Pioneer’ cycling route takes you through the Front landscape and tells the story of German activity in the region in the time between the Second and Third Battle of Ypres. You will cycle past all kinds of relics of the war such as German bunkers, cemeteries and memorials. You will be following the trail of the German military transport and will experience the strategic importance of the rolling countryside to the south-east of Ypres. The route map is available from the Tourist Office and the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917. The route map is available at the Tourist Office for €6.00.

WALKING TRAILS

Walking trail ‘Pioneer’
The central theme of the ‘Pionier walking route’ is the war history in this area from a German perspective. Various aspects of the German war story feature along the route. You will learn more about the previously unseen construction work that took place in our region between 1915 and 1917 and the wartime suffering on the German side. This route is 11.7 km long and connects beautiful, unknown places in the hilly landscape to the east of Zonnebeke. The route map is available at the Tourist Office for €1.00.

CARTRAILS

Pioneer car route
Nowadays, the Westhoek forms a cross-border region with France, Wallonia and Flanders. There were no borders during the war; the Flemish Wervik and the French Wervicq-Sud were one and the same municipality. Many German ‘Pioniere’ (pioneers) or combat engineers stayed behind this German front. They were responsible for constructing and maintaining the trenches, bunkers, munition depots and field hospitals etc. Daily life in this occupied region was tough for the inhabitants. The British, Irish, Australians and New Zealanders in particular, were positioned on the western side of this front. The Pioneer car route is 75 km long and fully signposted. The accompanying brochure can be purchased from the Zonnebeke Tourist Office for €6.00.

In-Flanders-Fields route
Is a car route that’s covering 82 km. The route explores the Southern Westhoek and takes you past numerous relics and monuments from the First World War. It starts in Ypres and is fully signposted. The accompanying brochure can be purchased from the Zonnebeke Tourist Office for €6.00.

New Zealand Walk to Passchendaele (Passendale): 5.3 miles – 8.3 km
The masterplan of the community of Zonnebeke aims to improve the accessibility of heritage and landscape connected to the Battle of Passchendaele. The New Zealand Walk focuses on the New Zealand story during this battle with the Battle of Broodseinde (4 October 1917) and the First Battle of Passchendaele (12 October 1917). On 12 October 1917 the 3rd Australian Division and the New Zealand Division had the task to capture the village of Passchendaele.

The walk starts at the Old Cheese Factory and goes towards the ‘s Graventafel Memorial. At the Memorial, the hiker walks in a northern direction into the position of the New Zealand Division in October 1917. Along the walk, information panels tell the hiker more about this battle. This trail runs through the Ravebeek Valley with a scenic landscape. At the Wallemolen, the route goes southwards to Bellevue Spur. From Bellevue Spur the walk goes to Berlin Wood and back to the Old Cheese Factory.

The map with historical information can be purchased for €1.00 at the Tourist Office and the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917, Berten Pilstraat 5/A, B-8980 Zonnebeke.
Hiking Trail to CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery: 5.5 miles – 8.5 km
The northern hiking trail connects Zonnebeke Chateau (starting point of the trail) with the historical battlefields near the edge of Passchendaele. The New Zealand presence in this area is well highlighted on information panels. The most prominent site is CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery.

Hiking Trail to Polygon Wood: 5.6 miles – 9 km
The southern hiking trail runs towards Polygon Wood and the former battlefield near Beselare. Polygon Wood plays an important role during the WWI. Along the trail there is more information about the pre-war landscape and the New Zealand presence.

The walking map with historical information can be purchased for €1.00 at the Tourist Office:
Berten Pilsstraat 5/A, B-8980 Zonnebeke
+32 (0)51 77 04 41
toerisme@zonnebeke.be

NEW ZEALAND WORLD WAR I HERITAGE IN BELGIUM

The post-war New Zealand Government took the view that New Zealand’s soldiers who had no known grave should be commemorated near where they fell. For this reason New Zealand Division soldiers are not commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing. Instead there are New Zealand Memorials to the Missing at various places in France and Belgium, including CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery because of its proximity to the area where the New Zealanders operated at Passchendaele. CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery is the site of a New Zealand Memorial to the Missing for Passchendaele, one of three in Belgium. The others are at CWGC Messines Ridge Cemetery and CWGC Buttes New British Cemetery at Polygon Wood.
THE OLD CHEESE FACTORY - NGĀ TAPUWAE NEW ZEALAND FIRST WORLD WAR TRAILS
Ngā Tapuwae New Zealand First World War Trails lead you on a journey where you gain new insights into the unique New Zealand stories of Gallipoli and the Western Front. The trails provide captivating audio guides, interactive maps, lively commentary, and soldiers’ personal stories to bring the facts to life and make it possible to walk in the footsteps of New Zealand soldiers. The Ngā Tapuwae New Zealand First World War Trails’ website and smartphone/tablet apps also include information to help travellers plan their trip to the Western Front, giving them the best travel experience possible. Explore the Western Front, www.ngatapuwae.nz.

'S GRAVENTAFEL NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL
The New Zealand Memorial at ‘s Graventafel is an obelisk in Italian rock, designed by the Christchurch architect S. Hurst Seager. The words “From the Uttermost Ends of the Earth” are inscribed on a plinth at the base. The ‘s Graventafel Memorial was unveiled by the New Zealand High Commissioner to London, Sir James Allen, on 2 August 1924. It is associated in particular with the successful New Zealand operations on 4 October 1917, and its inscription refers specifically to the New Zealand contribution to the Battle of Broodseinde on that day. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains the memorial on behalf of the New Zealand Government.

POLYGON WOOD AND BUTTES NEW BRITISH CEMETERY
Polygon Wood is located at 1.5 km from the centre of Zonnebeke. It was in German hands from 1915 to 1917 and completely destroyed during the Battle of Passchendaele. There are two cemeteries on the site: one dates from during WWI, one from after the war. CWGC Polygon Wood Cemetery is a small battlefield cemetery with graves of New Zealand soldiers who were killed in the winter of 1917-1918. There is also one German grave. Polygon Wood was an old Belgian army property, with an impressive ‘butte’ or shooting range. After the war the graves of over 2,000 soldiers, including 170 New Zealanders, were brought in from the battlefields of Zonnebeke to the area of the Butte. Most of the soldiers at Buttes New British Cemetery were killed in 1917. 1,600 graves are of unidentified soldiers, 70 of those being New Zealand graves.
NEW ZEALAND BUNKERS
In the winter of 1917 and the spring of 1918, the New Zealand division occupied Polygon Wood and there built a number of concrete constructions. Both bunkers presumably date from the end of December 1917 or beginning of January 1918 and were built by the 4th field company, New Zealand Engineers.

MESSINES RIDGE MEMORIAL
The Messines Ridge (New Zealand) Memorial stands within CWGC Messines Ridge British Cemetery and commemorates over 800 soldiers of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force who died in or near Messines in 1917 and 1918 and who have no known grave.

MEMORIAL SERGEANT HENRY JAMES NICHOLAS
On 14 September 2008 the Polderhoek memorial to the New Zealand VC winner Henry Nicholas was inaugurated at the southern edge of Polygon Wood, with a view across Polderhoek Spur. During the advance on Polderhoek, in December 1917, Nicholas single-handedly rushed a German position, captured it and then carried out further notable actions. The memorial was erected in close cooperation between the New Zealand embassy and the MMP1917. Henry James Nicholas was only 26 when he was killed in action on 23 October 1918 in Beaudignies.

NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL
The New Zealand Memorial at Messines is similar to the one at ‘s Graventafel and was designed by the same architect, S. Hurst Seager. It is associated with the successful New Zealand operations at Messines in June 1917. King Albert I of Belgium unveiled the Messines Memorial on 1 August 1924.

On Friday 25 April 2014, a new monument was unveiled in Messines (centre of the village). It represents a soldier from New Zealand in 1914.

SAMUEL FRICKLETON MEMORIAL
On 7 June 2007 the Messines memorial to the New Zealand VC winner Samuel Frickleton was inaugurated. Frickleton captured two German machine gun posts. His actions played an important part in the outcome of the battle.
NEW ZEALAND WORLD WAR I HERITAGE IN FRANCE

MEMORIAL TO CHARLES RANGIWAWAHIA SCIASCIA (WARNETON – LA BASSE VILLE)
In 1914 Charles Rangiwawahia Sciascia left New Zealand as a Maori All Black, the son of an Italian father and Maori mother. He would rise to the rank of sergeant, serving at Gallipoli and in France, before being sent to the Western Front in Belgium. He went into battle for the last time on 31 July 1917, aged 25. The next day he was reported missing in action, his body was never found.

MEMORIAL TO CPL. LESLIE ANDREW VC (WARNETON)
Leslie Andrew was born in the Manawatu in 1897 and was enlisted with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in October 1915. Although he was only 18 he gave his age as 20 to ensure overseas service and arrived in France in August 1916 as part of the 2nd Wellington Battalion. He won the Victoria Cross for outstanding bravery and leadership on 31 July 1917. The memorial commemorating Lance Corporal Andrew’s courage is located within 60 metres of the site of the former Café Au Rooster where his third and final attack occurred. In the second World War, Andrew became officer and commanded the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force, and led the victory contingent in London in 1946. He died in 1969 and is buried at the Levin RSA Cemetery. The Andrews barracks at Linton Army Camp is named after him.

CWGC CITÉ BONJEAN MILITARY CEMETERY (ARMENTIÈRES)
During the First World War the city was occupied by the 4th Division (17 October 1914) until the German advance of 1918. The cemetery began in October 1914 and during the winter of 1914-15, there were burials of civilians (later they were removed). During the war the cemetery was used by field ambulances and fighting units. Nowadays the cemetery contains 2,132 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and there are more than 500 German graves in the cemetery. There are also 33 Second World War burials. The cemetery contains 452 New Zealand graves. This makes it the biggest final resting place of New Zealand soldiers in France. It is also the site of one of seven New Zealand Memorials to the Missing in France and Belgium where the names of 47 New Zealand soldiers who have no known graves are recorded.

Location:
Av. Roger Salengro 54, F-59280 Armentières
2 LE QUESNOY NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL
The town of Le Quesnoy was in German hands from August 1914 until the New Zealanders’ liberation on 4 November 1918. The Memorial is located on the inner ramparts of the town near where Lieutenant Averill scaled the ladder on 4 November 1918. The New Zealand sculptor A.R. Fraser produced a model of the memorial. The French sculptor Félix Desruelles used it to prepare the actual memorial. It was unveiled at a ceremony on 15 July 1923 attended by Marshal Joffre, Lord Milner and the New Zealand High Commissioner in London, Sir James Allen.

Location:
Ramparts - access via Rue Jeanne d’Arc or via l’Avenue des Néo-Zélandais, F-59530 Le Quesnoy

3 CWGC GREVILLERS BRITISH CEMETERY
This cemetery commemorates 2,106 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War and includes 151 New Zealand graves. Within the cemetery stands the Grevillers (New Zealand) Memorial which commemorates 446 men who served with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in the First World War. They died in the defensive fighting in the area from March to August 1918, and in the Advance to Victory between 8 August and 11 November 1918, and who have no known grave.

Location:
Crossroad between RD7 and RD29, F-62450 Grevillers

4 NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL (LONGUEVAL)
Longueval holds a special place in New Zealand’s military history during the First World War. It was near this place (15 September 1916) that the New Zealand Division joined the Battle of the Somme. This memorial marks the position which the New Zealand Division gained as their original objective in the First Battle of the Somme. The Division surged from its front lines between Longueval and the Bois des Fourcaux (High Wood) to launch a successful attack on Flers. Today the memorial stands on the site of the German defence line (Switch Trench). From the memorial you can see the line of the New Zealand attack (looking to the west). The CWGC Caterpillar Valley Cemetery (a few minutes’ drive from Longueval) contains 125 New Zealand graves and a memorial to the missing, who were killed in the Battles of the Somme in 1916. The Memorial contains 1,205 New Zealand names who have no known grave.

Location:
D20 between Longueval and Contalmaison, F-80360 Longueval

5 MARFAUX NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL
Marfaux is situated not far from Reims and Epernay. The Marfaux (New Zealand) Memorial takes the forms of a panel stone erected in the shelter in CWGC Marfaux British Cemetery, and commemorates, by name, 10 casualties of the New Zealand Cyclist Battalion who fell in July 1918 and who have no known grave. The cemetery includes 10 New Zealand graves.

Location:
Wellington Quarry - Rue Delétoille, F-62000 Arras

6 VERTIGNEUL CHURCHYARD
It includes the graves of 19 men who served with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in the First World War. Sgt H. Nicholas VC is buried here. He earned his VC at Polderhoek Chateau (Zonnebeke/Geluveld).

Location:
Rue Notre Dame, F-59730 Romeries

7 THE NEW ZEALANDERS TUNNELERS MONUMENT
This monument is an homage to the work realized by the New Zealander tunnelers. During the second part of 1917, they had to arrange the tunnels for the preparation of the Battle of Arras. They created an underground network of 20 km which emerges in front of the first German lines. The museum ‘The Wellington Quarry’ is named by the New Zealand sappers.

Location:
Wellington Quarry - Rue Delétoille, F-62000 Arras
NEW ZEALAND CEREMONIES AND EVENTS

ANZAC Day
CWGC Buttes New British Cemetery, Zonnebeke, 6 a.m.
25 April

ANZAC Day pays tribute to all of the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought during WWI. ANZAC Day commemorations begin in Zonnebeke, bright and early at 6 a.m. with the traditional Dawn Service at CWGC Buttes New British Cemetery, at Polygon Wood. Many soldiers from Australia and New Zealand were laid to rest here. The ceremony is followed by a breakfast in ‘OC ‘t Zonnerad’, reservations for breakfast (€5) can be made via www.passchendaele.be/tickets.

Exhibition '1917, Total War in Flanders - Passchendaele, landscape at war'
Villa Zonnedaele, Zonnebeke
3 June – 15 November

The main focus of the exhibition concentrates on the crucial role of the destroyed landscape during the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917. Both armies were forced to adapt their tactics and equipment. The impact on the servicemen, both physically and emotionally, was also enormous.

Entrance:
Free of charge, if visiting the MMP.

Opening hours:
Open daily from 10.30h to 17.30h.

New Zealand ceremony of remembrance
Zonnebeke
12 October

On 12 October 1917, the New Zealand Division advanced to take the Bellevue Spur offshoot. The result was devastating; 2,700 losses, of which 846 fell in less than four hours for a terrain gain of less than 400 metres. Thus, that day is eternally recorded as the most tragic day in the history of New Zealand. Exactly 100 years later the New Zealand Government, the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 and the Municipality of Zonnebeke commemorate this tragic day. The commemoration starts in the morning with a ceremony at CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery. The Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 is organising a number of themed activities throughout the afternoon in the Chateau grounds of Zonnebeke, including planting of trees in the Wood of Peace. In the evening a sunset service at CWGC Buttes New British Cemetery follows.

Tag for Remembrance Project
Memorial Museum Passchendaele1917
Visitors' Centre Tyne Cot Cemetery
1 July – 10 November

Leave your personal message of peace at the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917, the Visitors’ Centre at CWGC Tyne Cot Cemetery or online via www.passchendaele2017.org between 1 July and 10 November. A selection of these messages will be engraved on identity tags. These tags will be processed into a permanent artwork that will be displayed at the Passchendaele Memorial Park in Zonnebeke.
Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917
Berten Pilstraat 5A B-8980 Zonnebeke
T 0032 (0)51 77 04 41
E info@passchendaele.be | 14-18@passchendaele.be

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