

GENERAL ARRANGEMENT OF MACHINE

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MATERIALS

MARK

FLESQUIERES & CAMBRAI 2017

CENTENARY PROGRAMME



Welcome & Introduction

November 20, 1917, was a day that changed the course of history.

Now, 100 years later, we gather to commemorate the men who fought in the first great tank battle the world had ever seen.

We will revisit the scenes of that epic encounter, relive some of their experiences, and share our memories with others whose ancestors were here.

On behalf of the Friends of D51, we would like to welcome you to Cambrai on this historic occasion, and invite you to participate in the events described in this programme.

Tim Heap

(Chairman UK Branch)

Philippe Gorczynski

(Chairman French Branch)

Major General Sir Laurence NEW CB CBE (retired)

Royal Tank Regiment

TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

- **Please note that timings and details of events are provisional and will be finalised as soon as possible**
- **We are trying to organise an advance visit to the new Deborah Museum ahead of the official opening – details to be confirmed**
- **A media visit is being arranged to Cambrai during the weekend, and some events may be attended by British and French journalists**

Saturday 18 November, 2017

- **10:00 FLESQUIÈRES FRIENDS' BARN** (i.e. THE FORMER HOME OF DEBORAH, rue du Moulin)
Opening ceremony - Great War military re-enactment groups (open to the public 10:00-17:45)
- **10:30 FLESQUIÈRES CHURCH:** Opening
Exhibition of photos "**Flesquières and our villages in the Turmoil**" showing the area in wartime (open until 17:00), Jean-Marie Caudmont
Exhibition designed by the children of Flesquières and Ribécourt: "Message of Peace" & "A la Mémoire de nos Soldats"
- **11:30 SALLE DES FÊTES, FLESQUIÈRES**
Opening of exhibitions & Conference (in French): "**The Central Tank Workshop and Stores at Erin**" with Antoine Berthe, chairman of the GRHAT research group – <http://www.tank-erin.com> (1 hours)
- **14:30 FLESQUIÈRES CHURCH**
Conference (French only): "**Archaeology of the Great War**" with Yves Desfossés et Alain Jacques, (1 hours)
- **15:45 FLESQUIÈRES FRIENDS' BARN**
Presentation of **full-size working replica tank Damon II** by its creator Johan Vanbeselaere – see Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/YpresSalientTanksP1917A> (1 hour)
- **16:45 FLESQUIÈRES FRIENDS' BARN**
Tribute to the men of D51 by Pierre Pavy (in French only – 1 hour)
- **19:00 VAUCELLES ABBEY**
"**Cambrai Day**", **Evening of the Centenary of the Battle of Cambrai**: reservation is required (65€/person) visite.org@tank-cambrai.com
- **All-day events:**

Great War **military re-enactors' camp** in Friends' Barn, Flesquières (10:00-17:45)

Exhibition: "**Flesquières and our Villages in the Turmoil & Message of Peace**" in Flesquières Church (10:30-16:30) Exhibition: "**The Tanks Central Workshops of Erin**" & "**D51 – 20 Years of Passion**" & **The Central Workshop & stores at Erin**, (11:30-16:30 in Salle des Fêtes)

Quick lunch organised by the group of volunteers of Young Farmers for Cambrai area

Sunday 19 November, 2017

- 09:30 – 10:30 : **MONUMENT DES NATIONS/CHEMIN DE L'EPINETTE, Flesquières**
Experience a trip back in time with Damon II, lay of wreaths at the Monument of the Nations
- 11:00-17:00 : **SALLE DES FÊTES, FLESQUIÈRES**
Exhibition of military models, WW1 artefacts, **book signings** by WWI historians, etc.
- 14:00 **FLESQUIÈRES CHURCH :**
Conference (in ENGLISH only): The Story of Deborah D51 by John Taylor, author of the book :
"Deborah and the War of the Tanks (1½ hours)
- 17:00 **FLESQUIÈRES FRIENDS' BARN , rue du Moulin**
Tribute to the men of D51 by Blake KUBENA, professional London actor (in ENGLISH only – 1 hour)
- **All-day events:**
Great War military **re-enactors' camp** in Friends' Barn, Flesquières (11:00-17:00)
Exhibition: "**Flesquières & our villages in the Turmoil**" & "**Message of Peace** by the children of Flesquières and Ribécourt , Flesquières Church (11:00-17:00)
Exhibition: "**D51 – 20 Years of Passion**", **Models, and souvenirs** in Salle des Fêtes, Flesquières (11:00-17:00)
- Quick lunch organised by the Jeunes Agriculteurs de Cambrai, Flesquières Friends' barn, rue du Moulin

Monday 20 November, 2017

- **07:00 TRESCAULT TO FLESQUIÈRES, in the tracks of Deborah D51**
Guided Battlefield Walk in ENGLISH and FRENCH (meeting **7:00 a.m.** coach Flesquières, place des Combattants) reservation required: visite.org@tank-cambrai.com
- **10:30-11:30 CAMBRAI MEMORIAL, LOUVERVAL**
Ceremony and wreath-laying at the monument commemorating 7,048 men who died in the Battle of Cambrai and have no known grave, Music by the Somme Battlefield Pipe Band
- **13:30-14:30 CAMBRAI , GERMAN CEMETERY, route de Solesmes,**
Guided visit . 14h00 Ceremony and wreath-laying
- **15:15-16:15 FLESQUIÈRES CHURCH**
Conference (in FRENCH only) with Jean-Luc Gibot, co-author of the famous book: **"Following the Tanks"** (1 hours)
- **16:30 RUE DU MOULIN, FLESQUIÈRES**
"The fate of Deborah" (30 minutes)
- **17:00 FLESQUIERES HILL BRITISH CEMETERY**
Centenary service with commemorative **"Flare of memory"**
- **19:00 GRAND PLACE (i.e. THE MAIN TOWN SQUARE IN CAMBRAI)**
Son et lumière dramatically illustrating the Battles of Cambrai and the destruction of the city

Further events

18-26 November, 2017

- **CAMBRAI, SALLE DE LA MANUTENTION, 22 rue de Capucins**
Exhibition and films on the Battle of Cambrai (hours TBA)

20 to 25 November, 2017

CAMBRAI, MAIN SQUARE,

‘Son et Lumière’ starts at 19.00 pm every evening

25-26 November, 2017

- Serving members of Royal Tank Regiment and their families will be in Cambrai for their own programme of events to mark the centenary of the battle, and of their regiment
- These events will NOT be open to the public, and local hotels will be heavily booked for the weekend
- Official opening of the Deborah Museum will take place on Saturday the 25th November – this will be a private event with VIP guests and strict security
- Sunday the 26 November, CAMBRAI avenue de la Victoire & Square: “Freedom of the City” of Cambrai to the Royal Tank Regiment & Regimental parade open to the public.
- FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CAMBRAI TOURISM OFFICE :
- <https://www.tourisme-cambrai.fr>