

SOCIETY OUTING

Second Trip to Ypres

Patrick Sherratt

The first trip was fully booked within days and Patricia quickly organised a second trip.

So on Thursday 3rd July forty-one members joined the coach. Our crossing on this occasion was by DFDS to Dunkerque. A pleasant surprise awaited us as one of our members who is the Chief Engineer arranged for a small group to visit the bridge. Many thanks to Ed.

Derek has beautifully described in his report of the first visit on Saturday 21st June, the three cemeteries that we visited so I shall not add other except to say that all on this trip were gripped with the emotion that is felt when visiting these cemeteries and seeing evidence of such a large scale loss of life.

The only difference from to the first trip was that due to the later time of arrival in France by using a ferry it was not possible to have a break in Ypres at lunchtime.

Running like clockwork the timing enabled us to gain front row seats at the Menin Gate. The guest band on this occasion was the Christ's Hospital School that had a personal connection for me so was an added bonus.

With an earlier start and later time home all returned tired but appreciative of the experience of visiting the battlefield areas in this centenary year of the outbreak of World War I.



On the bridge of Dover Seaways © J Pople



Christs Hospital School Band Menin Gate © J Pople



Fire Service Volunteers Menin Gate © J Pople