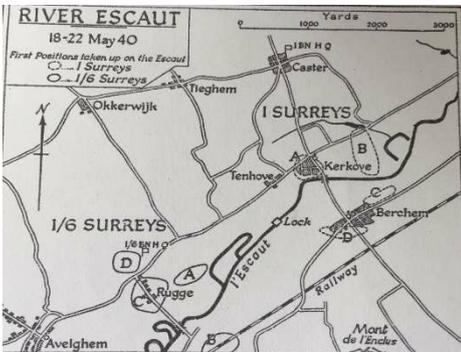


FOSIM Presents

The Battlefield Tour 2021 – Queens and East Surreys BEF - Apr to May 1940

Tuesday 11th – Friday 14th May 2021

Once again we follow the footsteps of our forebear Regiments in France and Belgium in 1940. It will be all most 80 years to the day as we join the Queens and East Surrey Regiments as they land in France and make their way to Belgium to take on the German Army as they invaded Holland and Belgium on 10th May 1940.



The Tour starts with the Battles around the River Escaut with both Regiments - 1st Surreys and 1/5th and 1/6th Queens between 16 – 22 May 1940 and follows the story as these Regiments battled their way back to Dunkirk to be evacuated by the 'little ships' around 30 May 1940. We will be bringing the personal accounts of some those who were there with us and visiting the CWGC at Esquelmes where we have 38 Queensmen buried.

Our hotel for two nights is at Mouscron where the East Surrey carrier memorial is located. We will be spending a whole day in the Dunkirk area seeing the beaches and other battles that went on in this locality including Wormhout and Nieuport and visiting the CWGC at Oostduinkerke where 11 East Surrey men are buried



On the next day we will be examining the Battles that took place further south around Arras and Abbeville as this was a major success for us. This is where the 2/5, 2/6, 2/7th Bn Queens were located and fought. We then venture into some of the atrocities carried out by the SS on the British Army (Norfolks). We also include a visit to see the new HQ of the CWGC. Our hotel for this night is in Abbeville.

On our last day we travel to the Boulogne area to hear about the Battle for Boulogne and visit La Coupole Museum (an Old V2 Rocket site) which is getting ready to commemorate the 80 years of the BEF. We then head to Calais to listen to the stories of the Battles that went on here. How many times have we all travelled through these ports and not visited the actual area, so now is the chance!



We hope this short flyer has whetted your appetite to join us on this incredible story of the BEF and our two Regiments, in four days to cover a two month campaign. Our Tour is again supported by Anglia Tours Limited who are providing the Coach, finding Hotels and one Tour Guide - Lt Col (Retd) Andrew Duff (Royal Anglian), who will provide the overall picture. Ian Chatfield will be acting as the Regimental Historian will give the Regimental Picture and Dee Hutchison, Secretary of FOSIM is our Tour Manager. For full itinerary email: fosim@btconnect.com