

GP90; Report from Herts County Representatives

Geoffrey Fisher (County Parade Marshall & wreath layer)
Paul Harding (County Standard Bearer and recordist)

Sunday, 5th August 2018; coach to hotel

Our coach left
Watford at 6:35; 7:00
Hemel Hempstead;
7:20 South Mimms;
7:45 Enfield; 8:05
Chingford;
10:20 Maidstone
Services; 10:45 Stop
24, welcome packs
from Leger's offices;
12:30 ferry – fish &
chips, Spitfire beer;
16:20 Lille Novotel Centre Garre, Lille; chicken then apple
tart for dinner, then walked to the station square; more beer.
1st day survived.



Monday 6:45 alarm, coach at 8:15; Somme battlefields



The Somme -
Delville Wood,
Thiepval,
Longueville,
Caterpillar Valley
CWG (left), Ulster
Tower (trenches),
Vimy Ridge, Arras
Fliers CWG; a
Monaco – lager
with a shot of
grenadine - with

Geoff, Des, Jeanette; Bob & Christine from Cyprus. Some
good videos were shown about WW1 on the coach.

Pork followed
by fruit cocktail
for dinner. Walk
to the square
again, same bar,
3 litre "Triton"
(right) blonde
beer shared with
Bob, Paul
(Hemel), Colin
(Enfield) & Geoff.
Every Legion club
should have one
of these.



Tuesday, 6:15 alarm, 8:10 coach Ypres battlefields

Lent Geoff my spare cycling cap, as the sun was even
hotter than yesterday. At Messines (below) we had our
packed lunches in a
play park, under the
shade of a willow
tree. Then on to Hill
60 and Caterpillar
Crater, where we
held a brief, poignant
ceremony to
commemorate a
Standard Bearer who
died yesterday.



Zonnebeke Museum and trenches were very realistic; the
best thing on the tour so far. Crest Farm, Passchendaele.
"Canada Gate", Tyne Cott, with what seemed like an
impromptu wreath laying ceremony.

Back at the hotel, dinner was fish with rice, followed by
chocolate tart. We might stay in Ypres tomorrow, maybe
attend The Last Post ceremony and have some good food.
An Uber back to the hotel afterwards would only be £53?
Let's see.

Wednesday, alarm at 6:45, left at 8:00. The Parade

With our wreath
ready to lay, we're
off to Ypres, and
there's a multitude
of coaches in Ypres
drop off over a
thousand
Standards. Skipped
on ahead of our
coach party and
reported back that
tea, coffee and
croissants were
available under the "chicken shed" marque. Sadly however,



in taking the call Geoff had to remove a white glove and in
doing so, dropped it into a
drain where it sank without
trace, distracting him
enough to not relay my
message to our coach party.

Met up with Jim, the
Castletown Isle of Man
Standard Bearer (my home
town) and had a few photos
taken with folks that know
my sister.

Parade was utterly
memorable – see below
panoramic.

Afterwards, checked into
the Membership information
desk and discussed the issues relating to the new
membership forms. My comments "will be taken further", so
really must write them down and send them off [now done].
All planned and looking good for staying behind this
evening; the chap at The Last Post Association stand said
I'd be welcome, with my Standard, at the evening's service.
Though it might be busy...

Paid for 2 x pairs of GP90 scrolls, 2 for Herts County and 2
for Rickmansworth for £59.52. Another monaco in a little bar
called Markt 22, with Dave and Reg from Welwyn Garden
City, who accepted our offer to stay behind. Dinner booked
In De Kolleblome, right next door, on the Grande Markt,
Ypres. Sadly however, when I checked the availability of an
Uber cab back to Lille, there was no service available. Was
there too many roads closed to allow the 50 or so coaches
to leave by 5:00 pm? It was too risky to chance - the
alternative would be a risky €100 taxi or more, so with 7
minutes to go before the coach left, we bottled out of
staying and were the last ones on the coach.

We figured it was probably for the best, as I did not have
permission to parade the Herts County Standard outside of
GP90; but it was a shame. Let's start work on GP100!

