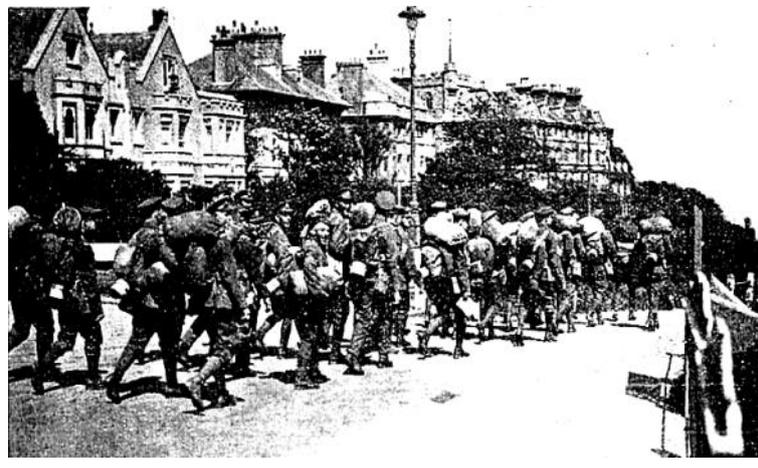




Easier Project
WWI and Folkestone



Picture courtesy of Step Short

Picture displaying troops walking down The Slope Road (now known as The Road of Remembrance). The troops are heading to the harbour.



Booklet prepared by pupils from Pent Valley with assistance from Kent in WW1

Folkestone Harbour

Point A on the route



Picture courtesy of JC Carlile Folkestone 1914-1919

On the 20th August 1914 the first wave of Belgian refugees arrived in Folkestone. By September 5th 1914, over 18,000 refugees had arrived in Britain through Folkestone. In this period there were only 35,000 people living in Folkestone. A Folkestone War Refugees Committee was quickly formed in the town and a Belgian Relief Fund was created by local newspapers around the country. Each refugee was given a medical examination by a doctor before they left Folkestone Harbour and were sent around England.

Activity

1. How many refugees arrived in Folkestone?
2. The picture below shows the pier where the boats dropped off some of the Belgian refugees. Draw where you think this happened



Folkestone Harbour Station

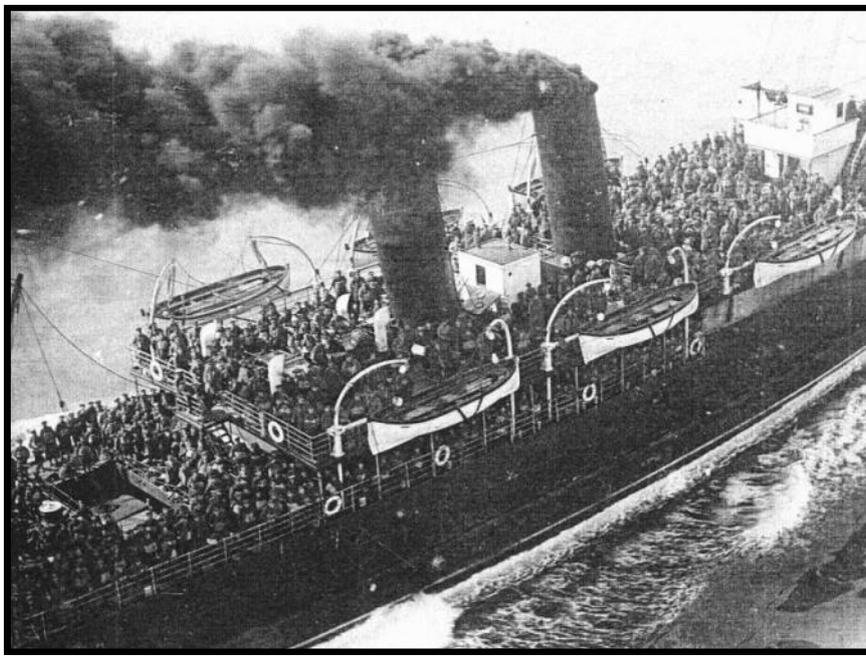
Point B on route

This train station was the last many British soldiers would visit. Soldiers travelled from all around Britain to places like Folkestone so they could catch a boat across the Channel to fight in the war. Over 10 million landings and embarkations took place from the harbour, with men going and returning from leave. Free refreshments were served for the troops at the Mole Cafe on the harbour arm by the Jeffrey sisters and their helpers.

A picture of the train station



A full boat leaving Folkestone Harbour for France. Many of these soldiers travelled to the town via the train station.



Activity

What was the name of the sisters who ran the Mole Cafe?

School for Spies

Point C on the trail

The spy school was opened by Major Cecil Aylmer Cameron. It was located on 8 Marine Parade on the Folkestone sea front. The building today is now apartments. The spies were trained there and then sent over to Holland, which was a neutral country in the First World War. From there they returned to Belgium where they reported back to Major Cameron on enemy troop movements.



A Picture of the spy school as it appears today. It has been converted into flats.



Picture courtesy of D. Price

This shows how Marine Parade looked during WWI. This kept the spy school secret

One of the most famous spies was Leon Trulin

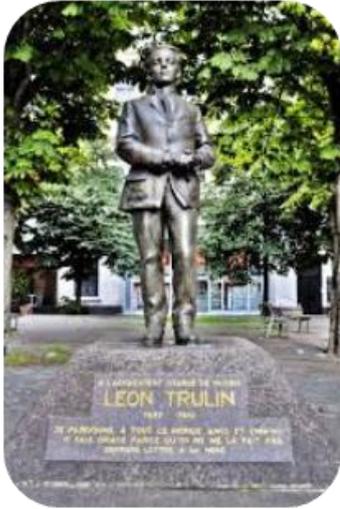
Leon Trulin

Leon Trulin was a Belgian refugee who came over to Folkestone with many other Belgian refugees, who had to flee the invading Germany army.

He wanted to join the Belgian troops and return to fight but was turned down due to being too short.

Instead of joining the army, he was told that he and some of his friends could become good spies. He was sent over to Belgium to spy on the Germans and then report back to England.

He and two of his friends were sadly captured and he was executed when he was 18 years old.



Activity

1. Who opened the spy school?

avid Cameron

Leon Trulin

Major Cecil Aylmer Cameron

2 Where was Leon from?

A. England

B. Belgium

C. Germany

3 How old was he when he died?

A. 14

B. 17

C. 18

Tontine Street bombing

Point D on the trail

On Friday 25th May 1917 a flight of Gotha planes targeted Hythe and Folkestone. Some bombs fell on Shorncliffe camp killing Canadian soldiers. Others fell in the station area but the worst damage was in Tontine Street when just one single bomb fell right outside Stokes Brothers Greengrocers and opposite Gosnold Brothers Drapery. One bomb killed 71 people.



Both images courtesy of Alan Taylor

Activity

1. How many people died as a result of the bombing in Tontine Street?

50

72

71

2. When did this event happen?

25th May 1915

25th May 1916

25th May 1917

Belgian Refugees in Folkestone

Point E on trail

Belgian refugees started arriving in Folkestone because of the conditions in their country. The people of Folkestone welcomed Belgian refugees and provided them with practical assistance. The local Scout group often escorted Belgian Refugees to places where they could get assistance. Seen here a group going up to the Harvey Grammar School site which had been vacated in 1913 when the new school was built.



Left) Picture of Belgian Refugees being assisted by the local Scout group

Courtesy of KCC Libraries Registration and Archives Folkestone

Catholic Church, Our lady help of Christians Guildhall Street

Point F on the trail



From J.C. Carllile

Local churches provided valuable help for refugees and were also places for refugees to meet up.

Sandgate Road

Point G on the trail



Several houses in Sandgate Road were purchased by a man called Mr Bobby. He was going to turn them into a department store but he handed them over to the Belgian refugees to use as a hostel. This is where Debenhams stands today and is on the left of the picture looking down Sandgate Road towards the Town Hall.

Activity

1. Note down how Sandgate Road has changed now

The Folk-Stones

Point H on the trail

The artist Mark Wallinger has collected and laid out individual stones on a massive square. 19,240 individually numbered stones stand for the exact number of British soldiers killed on 1st July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme.



Activity

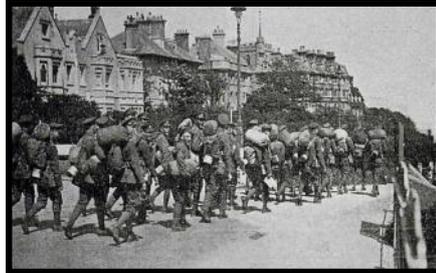
1) Why are the Folk-stones there, and what do they represent?

2) What year did the battle of the Somme begin?

Slope Road (Road of Remembrance)

Last point on the trail

1915: soldiers march from Folkestone's Leas to The Slope Road (now The Road of Remembrance) to embark for the Western Front from Folkestone Harbour.



The soldiers walked down the road and it was the last hill they walked down before they crossed the Channel. They walked down this in short steps due to the equipment they carried. Many never returned.

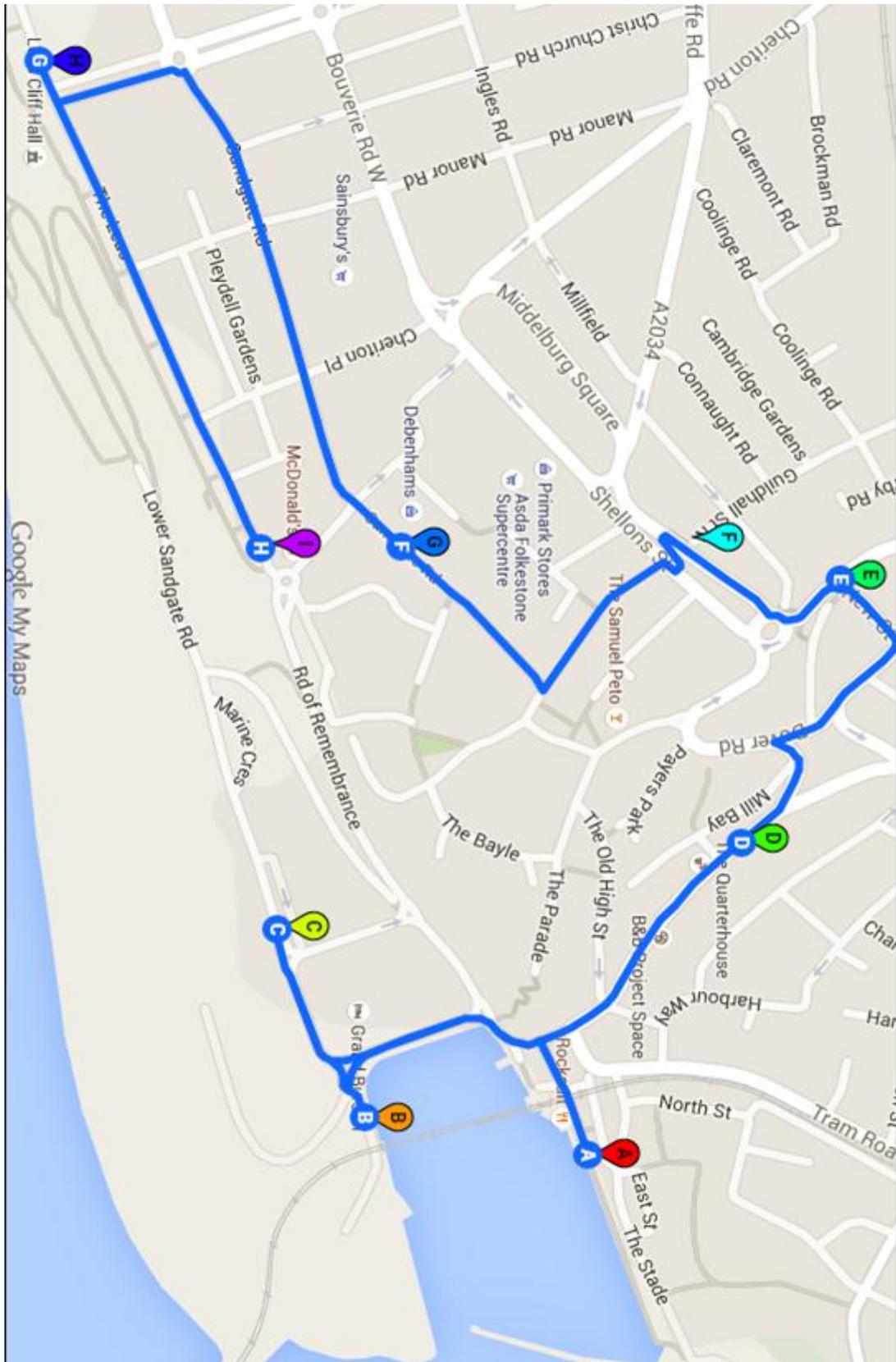


Step Short - Activity

- 1) Why did the soldiers have to walk in short steps?

- 2) Which way was the photographer looking in the picture above, towards the sea or up the Leas ?

Route of WWI Folkestone Trail





Our thanks for permission to use images from:-

Alan Taylor

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Step Short website