



PARTICIPATE IN A FRANCO-IRISH PROJECT ON THE MEMORIES AND INJURIES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The principal investigator of the project **“Memories and injuries of the First World War: Franco-Irish perceptions of the conflict”** is looking for two Irish secondary schools interested in participating in the joint project with two French secondary schools and to visit the First World War battlefields of the Somme in March 2019.

The project aims at strengthening cultural and historical links between France and Ireland while offering pupils the opportunity to jointly work on a common research project for a whole academic year. The two Irish schools selected will travel to France in April 2019. The two Irish institutions will then spend an entire week in France from **April 27th to May 4th 2019**. Irish pupils will be welcomed and hosted **gratuitously** in French host families and will **attend school** with their French comrades.



©V. Lavergne/SPCA/ECPAD/SPA 346 M 5904. Le 251^{ème} régiment d'infanterie avant sa dissolution, à Robrbach-lès-Bitche (Moselle).



DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The project focuses on (1) the memories of the conflict, (2) the homecoming of the injured and particularly disfigured WWI veterans. The Collège Victor Hugo (HAM 80400) chose to work on the homecoming of disabled and disfigured ex-servicemen while the Lycée Henri Martin (Saint-Quentin 02100) decided to deal with the memory of the First World War in Ireland during the twentieth-century. Both schools are situated on the Somme. The project received sponsorship from the Centenary Departmental Committee of the County Council of the Somme. The French National First World War Centenary Committee *Mission du Centenaire* also awarded the project the “Centenary Label” which recognizes the most innovative and structured projects and aims at promoting national and international visibility of projects dealing with the memory of the First World War.

The Lycée Henri Martin set up the project with their *Premières* (Fifth Years) while the Collège Victor Hugo chose a class of *Troisièmes* (Transition Years). Teachers of French, History, English and Film have agreed to participate in the project and we are now looking for **two dynamic and motivated secondary schools in Ireland to partner with us**. We are looking for two groups of no more than 20 pupils to partner with the two French establishments. Ideally, one group of Transition Years and one group of Fifth Years.

Given that Irish pupils will be lodged gratuitously in French families, it is expected that the budget of Irish schools will be: (1) the return flight ticket from Ireland to France, and (2) the return bus ticket from the school to the airport. Subventions from local, national and European institutions and agencies are possible and the principal investigator will help the Irish institutions in their application for funding. The French institutions have already applied for some funding.

The Centenary of the First World War represents a favourable opportunity to commemorate and honour Irishmen who fought in France during the First World War. The partnership offers the opportunity for Irish pupils to get an insight into the French secondary school system while working in close cooperation with French pupils and tightening cultural and historical links between France and Ireland.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Please send any expression of interest to Dr. Emmanuel DESTENAY (Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow, University College Dublin) emmanuel.destenay@ucd.ie by October 15th 2018. Please include a 300-word statement explaining why you want to participate in the project and how you will benefit from the trip to France. Remember the project bears both cultural and linguistic aspects and **MUST** deal with one of the two topics selected.



PROVISIONAL CALENDAR

October 2018: meeting with the principal investigator of the project to discuss administrative and organizational matters. First contacts with the French partner. Possible elaboration of an e-twinning platform to enable communication between the schools.

Between October 2018 and April 2019, Irish and French schools work and research on one of the two projects: “The memories of the First World War in France and Ireland” in collaboration with the Lycée Henri Martin, or “The homecoming of the disabled and disfigured in France and Ireland” with the Collège Victor Hugo. Written and cyber communications will be encouraged to make sure pupils get to know each other before the visit. Once an Irish school has been allocated a French school it cannot change for the duration of the project. Both schools agree on principle to work together and to give a joint-presentation on one aspect of the project.

Saturday 27 April 2019: arrival of the Irish pupils in France. Arrival to the host families in Ham or Saint-Quentin.

Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 2019: Irish pupils attend classes in the French institutions and work on their joint project.

Wednesday 01 May 2019: visit of the First World War battlefields.

Thursday 02 May 2019: final phase of the project and preparation for the conference.

Friday 03 May 2019: conference in Amiens. In the morning, a visit of the Cathedral Our Lady of Amiens is scheduled. A visit to the house, and now museum, of the well-known writer Jules Verne is also possible. A lunch will take place followed by the conference. Specialists of war injuries will deliver a talk on their research and explain the case of disfigured and disabled soldiers in post-war Europe. After the two presentations, each Franco-Irish network will present their research to the audience. Representatives of the County Council of the Somme and delegates from the French and Irish governing agencies will be invited.

Saturday 04 May 2018: departure from Paris.

May to June 2019: editing of articles for publication in daily newspapers and online newspapers.

