

## **International art contest for the 'commemoration of civilian casualties of the First World War in Ypres'.**

---

### **Context**

Every year hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world come to Ypres and the Westhoek region of Flanders to commemorate the First World War. Besides many military cemeteries, numerous memorials honour the fallen soldiers. Little attention, however, has been paid to civilian casualties of the conflict. In recent years the In Flanders Fields Museum has assembled a List of Names in which all victims are included, be they civilians or military. Based on this list the City of Ypres now wants to commemorate in a dignified and permanent way each civilian casualty from Ypres or killed in Ypres. At the moment, the list counts more than 700 names of children, women and men, and new names are still being discovered.

### **Assignment**

Out of In Flanders Fields Museum's practice – which included telling this forgotten story of civilian casualties - the idea grew to integrate in a subtle manner the names of the civilian casualties into the memorial landscape by linking them to a relevant place in the city or in the landscape (for instance their place of residence or their place of death, see examples in appendix).

To this end the City of Ypres organise a creative competition on how to individually commemorate civilian casualties of the First World War in the public space. Artists and creative developers are invited to formulate a proposal and develop a prototype. The proposed memorial must be easily reproducible for each (individual) victim, and can easily be integrated in both urban and rural environments (both in Ypres and its neighbouring villages). The cost of reproduction and placement will be sponsored through crowdfunding: individuals, family, organisations or associations can become godfathers or godmothers of one or more civilian casualties.

Proposals can take any form or shape that can be subtly but still clearly visible integrated in the public domain. There are no restrictions in terms of materials, shape or size. Proposals must be simple yet strong in design, and must respect the symbolic character of commemoration. It must be clear at a glance what they are about.

The proposed memorial must include the following data (as far as known): name and surname of the casualty, date of birth and death, place of residence or domicile, capacity (Ypres, refugee in Ypres, wounded in Ypres), and place of death.

The following criteria will be used in the judging of received proposals:

- originality: it concerns an original concept measure made for this assignment
- durability: the proposal is weatherproof, vandal-proof, has a life span of at least 20 years, and needs limited aftercare
- reproducibility: the concept is easily reproducible in large numbers.
- affordability: a cost of maximal 150 euros per copy seems realistic to enhance sponsorship and crowdfunding by companies, and individuals
- recognisability: the proposal has the strength to become a visual anchor point
- subtlety: the proposal should fit into the context of remembrance and landscape
- practical feasibility: the accompanying description of production and installation
- applicability in various contexts (urban, rural; solitary, group - see examples), the proposal fits easily in different locations

Proposals must consist of a concise text of maximum three A4 pages (excluding images such as photographs, sketches, illustrations) while a full-size prototype must be submitted in a single copy. The description must make it sufficiently clear how the proposal will be integrated into different contexts.

The assignment will be awarded after evaluation of the entries by an expert jury, composed of members of the local Committee 'Art in the Public Space' of the City of Ypres and of In Flanders Fields Museum.

### **Realisation**

Once the winning commemoration concept has become known, the elaboration phase will begin. We expect this to start slowly, to the rhythm of an increasing number of 'godparents' adopting one or more casualties. In this manner, the lasting commemoration of its civilian casualties will gradually and subtly appear in the Ypres streetscape, adding an extra layer in the visible history of the city. This layer of remembrance will remind local inhabitants of the fate which once befell their city, and it will create a sense of recognition and solidarity among visitors - perhaps from places which were once also affected by the violence of war. But at the same time it will also mean a rupture in the military monopoly of the memorial landscape. It will add nuance and map the traces of a forgotten story. In the long run, this path will offer opportunities (city walk, app, extension to other towns or cities, etc.).

### **Budget**

The fee for the chosen design is 8,000 euros (incl. VAT), including a clear manual for further reproduction.

The city of Ypres becomes the owner of the design and thus acquires the copyright.

The second and third ranked proposals will each receive 1.000 euro.

### **Timing**

This call will be launched at the end of June 2020.

Deadline for submission of proposals and prototypes is 14 October 2020.

The jury will meet in October 2020.

The winner will be announced on the eve of 11 November 2020.

### **Method of submission**

Any adult can submit a proposal and prototype. The number of proposals per person (including variants) is limited to a maximum of three.

Submissions can be made on paper, as well as digitally, while the prototype needs to be in kind.

Submissions will be handed in or delivered by post: In Flanders Fields Museum Ypres, attn. Pieter Trogh, Sint-Maartensplein 3, B-8900 Ieper, BELGIUM (pieter.trogh@ieper.be) at the latest on 14 October 2020.

## **Appendix: some examples of civilian casualties**

In terms of content, this commemoration project is linked to the List of Names of the In Flanders Fields Museum (accessible via the website [www.inflandersfields.be](http://www.inflandersfields.be)), in which the civilian casualties from and in Ypres are included, insofar as they have been identified. This project aims to integrate the commemoration of the casualties into the urban fabric by means of a memorial concept in a location relevant to the victim: former place of residence, or place of death or injury. The choice of location will in the first place be determined by IFFM: for some casualties the museum has more than for others, while more than one location may be eligible, and more than one person may be connected to one location. Here are some examples:

### ***The CAILLIAU family***

Before and during the war, the Cailliau family lived in Dikkebusseweg 122 (old numbering) in Ypres. On 17 December 1914 the house was struck by a shell. Seven people were killed:

- August Arthur Cailliau (° 28/4/1863, Vlamertinghe; market gardener)
- Marguerite Magdalena Cailliau (° 3/11/1892, Ypres)
- Emile Joseph Cailliau (° 29/3/1901, Ypres)
- Prosper Isidoor Cailliau (° 15/8/1887, Ypres)
- Rachel Celina Cailliau (° 21/12/1902, Ypres)
- Bertha Maria Ludovica Cailliau (° 13/11/1905, Ypres)
- Joanna Yvonne Simone Cailliau (° 19/5/1912, Ypres)

### ***Louis KERRINCKX***

Carpenter Louis Kerrinckx was born in Ypres on 4 August 1888. He lived at 37 Korte Torhoutstraat, and died on 20 April 1915 during the shelling of the Kasselrij building, Grote Markt, Ypres.

### ***Eveline Crispine ALLEMAN***

Lived in Wytschaete when the war broke out. When war reached the region, she fled to Ypres, staying in the house of Abdon Moreau, 170 rue Lille, where she was killed by a shell on 15 April 1915.

### ***Maria VANASSCHE and her children***

Maria Vanassche (° 17/12/1877, Ypres), lived with her husband, Jules Laseure, and their five children at 45 Korte Torhoutstraat. During the shelling of Ypres they had moved into the house of the fugitive doctor Dieryck at the 'Genthof', D'Hondtstraat 21. On 3 December 1914 a shell struck the house, putting an end to the life of Maria and two of her children: Evrard Laseure (° 17/12/1905, Ypres) and Antonia Laseure (° 6/10/1910, Ypres).

### ***Irma Maria PARMENTIER***

Born in Passchendaele, she lived in Statiestraat 1 in her hometown when war broke out. In October 1914 she fled to Ypres, where she found shelter in the 'Basse Ville 4', near Diksmuidepoort (intersection of Diksmuidestraat and Wieltjesgracht. Irma was one of the casualties of the typhoid epidemic that hit Flanders in the winter of 1914-1915. She was hospitalised in the civil hospital along the Poperingseweg on 5 March 1915. She was subsequently evacuated to Saint-Omer (Pas-de-Calais, France) where she died on 16 March 1915.

### ***Café In den Ouden Wacht***

Before the war a pub called 'In den Ouden Wachte' was nestled in the passageway between the ramparts at the Menin Gate. On 22 April 1915, when the German artillery heavily shelled Ypres, about fifty people, both Ypres citizens and refugees, sought cover in the cellars of the pub. Two heavy shells laid the building completely in ruins, and 25 civilians were killed. After the war on this site the Menin Gate was built, the most important memorial of the First World War in Ypres (and in Belgium).

Some names of the casualties:

- Edouard Van den Bril (° 31/12/1876, Lille near Antwerp)
  - Jerome Gryson (° 25/7/1889, Moorslede)
    - o Resident at Zonnebeke, from October 1914 living as a refugee in Ypres
  - Arthur Hoornaert (° 29/9/1880, Elverdinge)
    - o Resident of Ypres, living Lange Torhoutstraat 29, on 22 April 1915 fled to the cellars of the Oude Wachte.
  - Julie Witterbecq (° 26/11/1902)
    - o Living in Ypres ...
  - ...
- 25 casualties, of whom 21 identified by name.

### **Emma Maria LEBBE**

Born in Westrozebeke, living in Elverdinge, on the farm of Emeric Lelieur (current Warandehof or Rabarberhoeve, Elzendammestraat 10, Elverdinge). On 8 August 1916 she was sitting in the courtyard reading the post when suddenly a shell struck and killed her.

