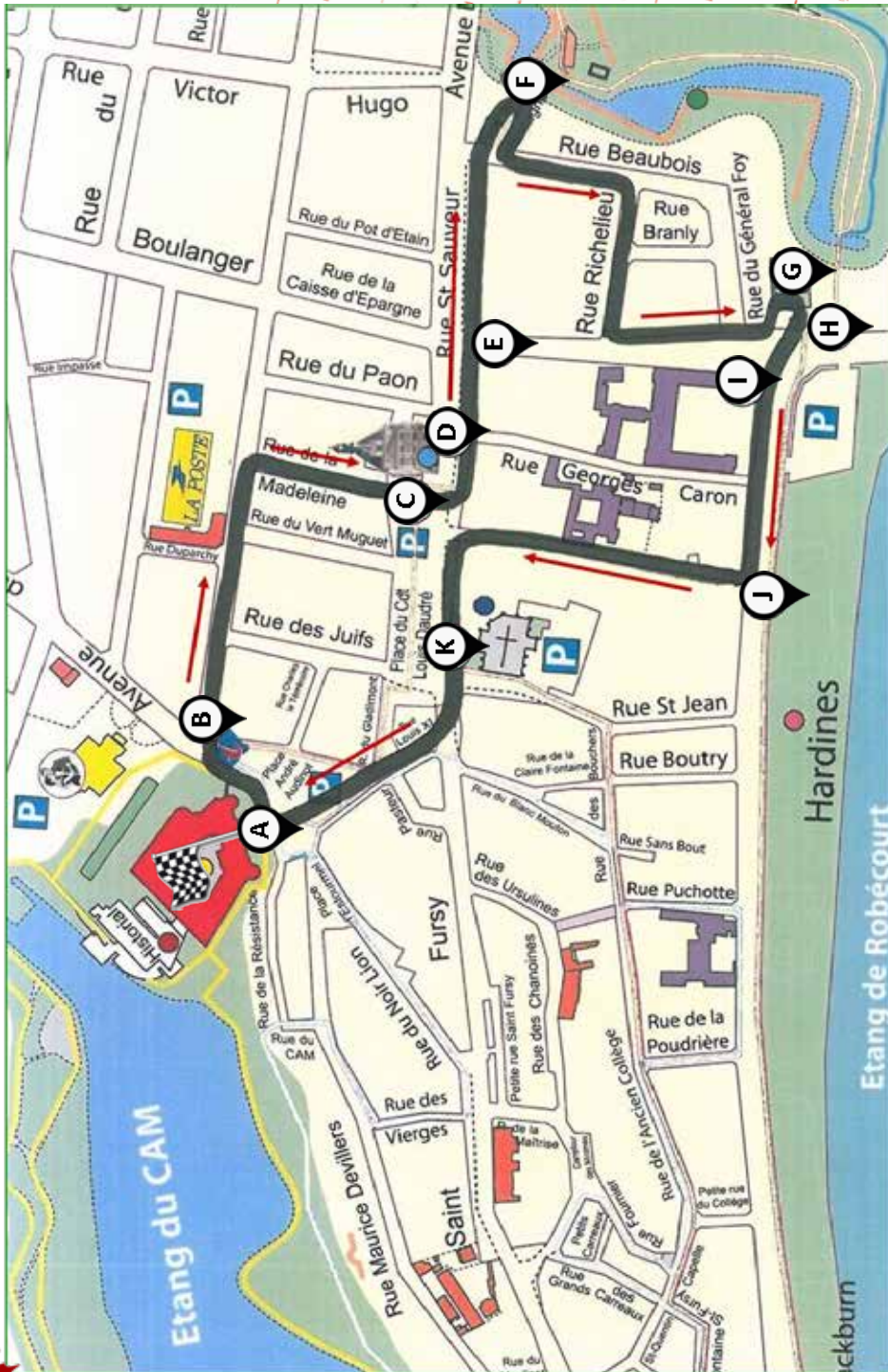


tour


STUDENTS HANDBOOK

Reconstruction of the city of Péronne



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INSTRUCTIONS

 FOLLOW THE MARKED TRACK ON THE MAP PAGE 8 OF THIS BOOKLET TO DISCOVER THE EVIDENCE OF WW1 IN THE STREETS OF PÉRONNE.

A

What is this building ?

When was it built ?

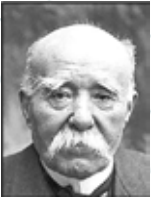


Look at the old pictures on page 5 and find out this building during WW1 ; note the corresponding letter in the circle.



What does this photo help you understand ?

B



Nowadays, this street bears the name of a man who was nicknamed « the Tiger ». Find out the name of that man who was minister of war (war secretary) and president of the national council :



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xxx La dernière maison Nissen de Péronne

Right after the war, weird houses were lined up along this street. There is only one of that kind standing nowadays near the « Pierre Mendès France High school ». Find the old photo showing that street at the time of reconstruction.



C

Stop in front of this building. What is it ?

Find a photo of it in 1918 :



Compare the two views of the facade. How was this building transformed when it was rebuilt ?



Rebuilding the city of Péronne

Read the following testimonies.

→ November 29th 1917 : the sights are so sad they are heart-wrenching ! all the houses have been hit by shells, some are almost split in half from top to bottom, allowing a glimpse into the interiors as you would find on architects' sketches ; others have gaping roofs and hanging tiles that draw silhouettes ; some others have burst walls ; and finally some are down to a heap of stones, bricks, beams and framework... the whole city is but a shapeless chaos of material. (Robert FERNIER, *Les années évanouies*)

→ November 24th 1917 : During this war, Picardy was the first to gauge the extent of the ruins, [...]. No one, unless they've seen it with their own eyes, could ever comprehend how horrendous the desert of Péronne is. (André DU BOIS DE LA VILLERABEL, Amiens archbishop)

→ 1919. In Péronne, the issue of reconstruction is much different : it is a brand new city that needs to be rebuilt on the location of the former one. (Maurice THIERY, journalist)

→ October 12th 1924. When your first representatives visited in 1920, [...] it was a camp amongst ruins, sadness and it was almost like death [...]. Please mister Mayor, tell your citizens how deeply grateful the people of Péronne are [for their help]. We wanted to show our gratitude by placing a commemorative plaque on this bridge ; it will remind the future generations of our common friendship. (Charles BOULANGER, mayor of Péronne - Letter to the mayor of Blackburn)

The damages are so huge in Péronne that it will take a decade to rebuild the city !

Destruction of the city of Péronne

● Read the following testimonies ; for each one of them, note down who is responsible for the destruction of the city.

→ March 22nd 1915. At 6:45 am, I hear a tremendous explosion followed by two others. I don't pay much notice to them ; that's what being used to hearing them means! But I am told it is a French or English airplane that is dropping bombs on Péronne. (Pierre MALICET, a magistrate in Péronne)

→ Thursday, June 29th 1916. The sound of the cannon is still as terrible as ever. [...]. It is said that the Franco-English artillery is aiming at all the streets so as to hit the amunitions convoys crossing Péronne. [...] Obviously, they never hit their target but destroy the city and kill women and children. (Pierre MALICET, a magistrate in Péronne)

→ July 18th 1917. Take the example of Péronne. When the Germans understood that they couldn't hold the city any longer, they blasted each abandoned building, including the beautiful cathedral and the city hall. On the latter, a scornful sign could be found : DO NOT GET ANGRY, ONLY ADMIRE. Péronne has literally been blown to pieces. Not a single square centimetre has been spared. (Charles H. GRASTY, *New York Times* correspondent)

→ March 21st-28th 1918. South of Péronne, on the Somme, we advanced. In the meantime, other detachments rushed forth to Péronne and the North. Here, the English have begun to counter-attack from the city. However, their troops fled when the Germans launched the assault. Péronne is in flames, What the French had meticulously built after the evacuation of the city by the Germans, the English have destroyed before their retreat. (Report from the German general Erich LUDENDORFF)

D



● On the City Hall facade, you can see how the Australians named this street when they liberated the city in 1918 ; Find this name and write it here :

● To what animal, symbol of Australia, does it refer to ?

E

● Facing the city Hall, stop on top of « Rue Béranger », have a look around, and find the old photo depicting it in 1918 :



F



● What is that building called ?

● When does it date back from ?

● Find a photo of what it looked like in 1918 :

G



● Stop at this war memorial : who are the two characters represented here ?

● Imagine what the character holding up their fist could say ?

H



• During the war, this delicatessen was a train station. Find a photo of the station in the WW1 photos bank :

• Compare the two photos. What part of the building was obliterated during WW1 ?

.....
.....

I



• This boulevard was named after the soldiers who, on March 18th 1917, took the city back from the Germans who had been occupying it since September 1914 (they will take it back again five days later). Write down the name of that boulevard to find out the soldiers' nationality :

.....
.....

J

• Find this street and note down its name :

• Find a photo of it dating from 1919 :



K



• What is the name of this church ?

• Find a photo of it from 1919 :

• What part of the church was completely demolished during the bombings ?

.....
.....

WW1 photos bank

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

