



PATHS OF MEMORY
1914-1918

ARC-EN-BARROIS

*In the footsteps of
Vera, Eva, Marie and others...*

THE BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL OF ARC-EN-BARROIS

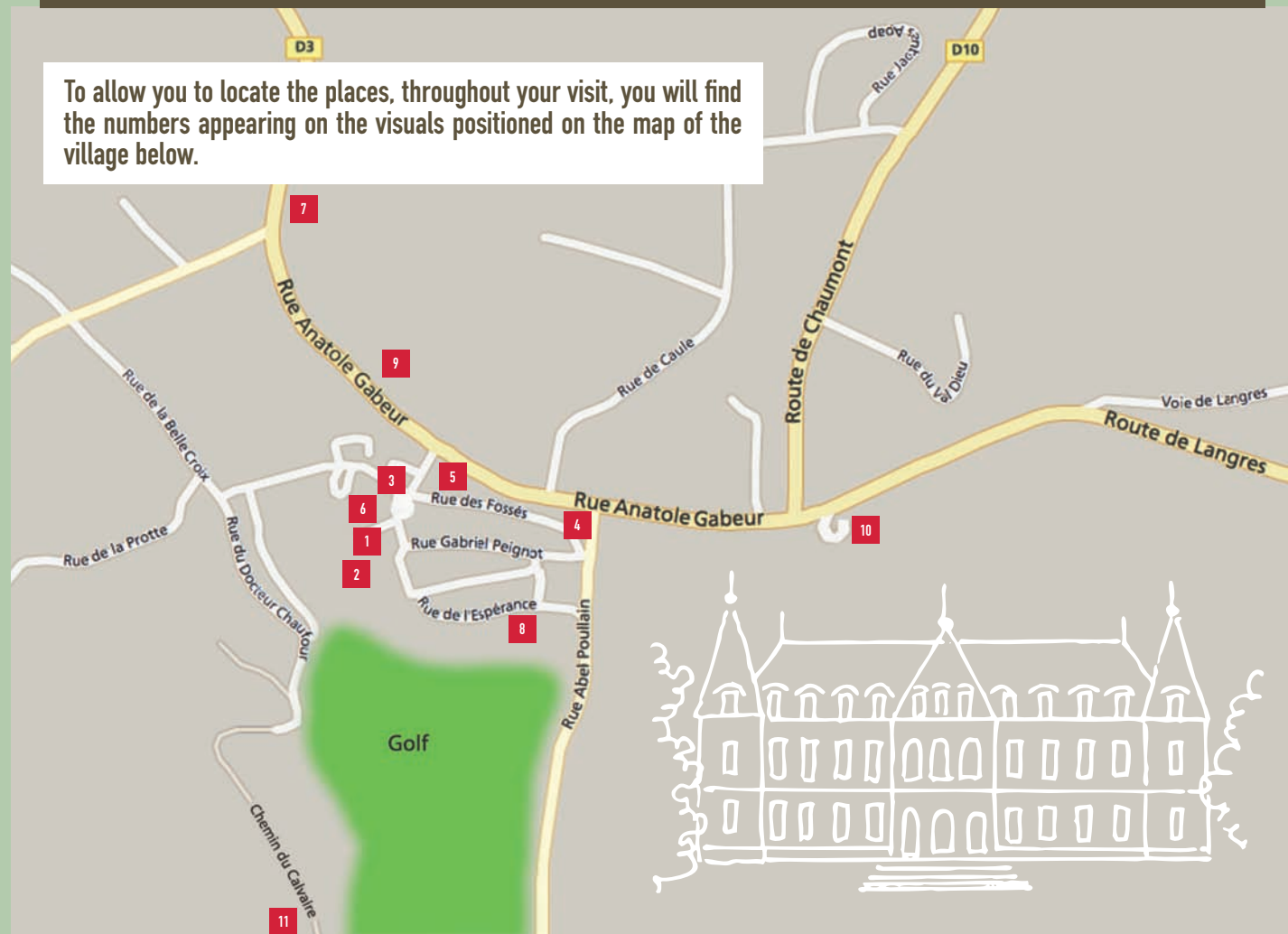
3,071 wounded French soldiers, brave survivors of the Verdun and Argonne fronts, were cared for by a devoted British staff, under the direction of Miss Madeline Bromley-Martin, from 29th December, 1914 to 1st February, 1919 at the castle of Arc-en-Barrois which had been transformed into a temporary military hospital.

"Words taken from the plaque at the top of the Chateau steps. In addition, the hospital benefited from the strong participation of finance and staff from other international countries, including the USA, Canada, Australia, New-Zealand and Denmark".

This brochure is an extension of the commemoration of the centenary of the Arc Hospital July 4th and 5th, 2015. May this original memory path help you find the warmth and affection felt by residents, wounded and caregivers at Arc from 1915 to 1919.

In line with the comments by Robin Holland-Martin direct descendant of the Bromley-Martin family :
"This is the beginning of a "re-birth" of that history and not its final chapter".

To allow you to locate the places, throughout your visit, you will find the numbers appearing on the visuals positioned on the map of the village below.



Adresses utiles : Office de Tourisme des 3 forêts : 2, Place Moreau - 03 25 02 52 17 - Médiathèque : 40b rue Anatole Gabeur - 03 25 01 19 61

On the front cover "Vera, a Nurse at Arc-en-Barrois 1916" Jane Emmet De Glehn 1873-1961, by kind permission of David Messum Fine Art, London



THE CASTLE

"We are established as a temporary hospital in an old French chateau. The grand salons, dining-rooms, the billiardroom have been transposed in very suitable wards. We have 180 beds which have been kept occupied most of the time and continuously during the Verdun battle".

Doctor Charles Hardwicke, Chief-doctor of Arc-en-Barrois Military Hospital

"This hospital, organised by Lady Scott, widow of the explorer, has been placed under the direction of Miss Bromley-Martin. 90 patients are being treated here and are receiving careful and attentive treatment. Rest assured that the wounded, their families and all of France will remain heartily grateful".

Doctor Mignon, Medical Inspector, Head of the Army Medical Service



"Men and women of the aristocracy, gentry and middle-classes volunteered to work in military hospitals".

History of hospital. Marjorie DesRosier

"Brought up in gentle families they, the V.A.D's, exchanged a carefree life for one of distasteful tasks".

Laurence Binyon, English poet, orderly



LATRECEY STATION



In a few minutes each has had his hot drink or lemonade, has been inspected by the doctor, and has been lifted into the ambulance. We draw out, carefully and gently, the wounded on their stretchers, and lay them down in the porch".

Laurence Binyon, English poet, orderly

X RAYS



"While one man is in the dark room, which hums and splutters with sparks, as the radiographers prepare their magical apparatus, another waits on his stretcher in the passage for there is no time to lose if we are to finish by noon...and we, the two bearers, give him a cigarette and talk".

Laurence Binyon, English poet, orderly

OPERATING ROOM



"The bed chamber of the owner is converted into a quite passable operating-room".

Doctor Charles Hardwicke, Chief-doctor of Arc-en-Barrois Military Hospital

"The sterilizing for all the hospital was done in the theatre on a primus stove. A large chaudiere was in the middle of the room. This was kept going night and day with wood, as there was no gas, coal or electricity".

Eva Smith, English nurse

DENTAL AMBULANCE



KITCHEN

"After the operations, the wounded ate a most hearty supper: a tumbler of wine, a tumbler of water, a pound of bread, three bowls of pea-soup, a hunk of cheese, an orange and a handful of biscuits".

John Masefield, English poet, orderly

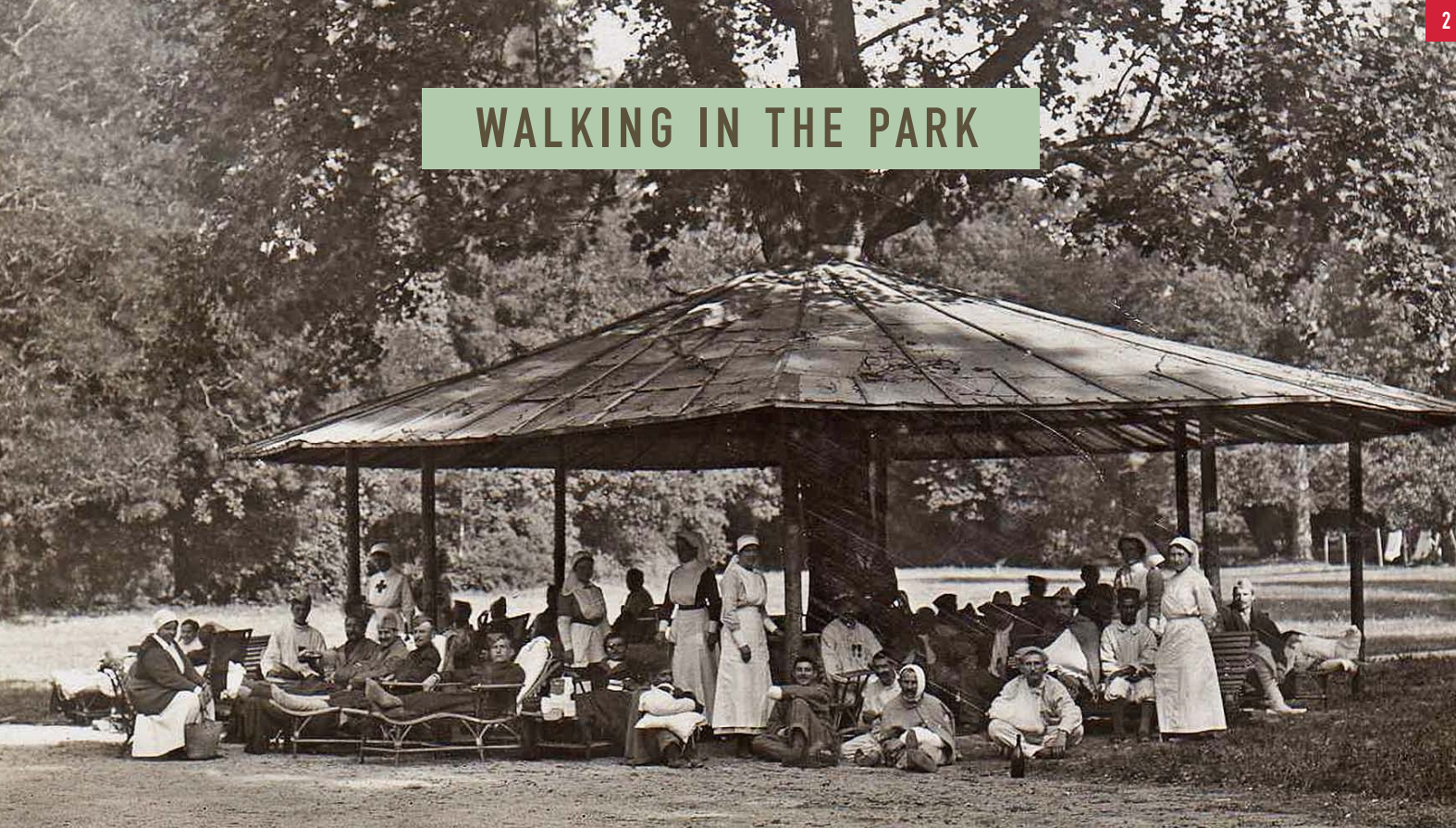


Wilmington Ambulance at Arc-en-Barrois (1916)

CARE ROOM



WALKING IN THE PARK



UNDER THE TULIPTREE

"One seems to feel the wonder of delicious sunshine and rustling leaves, and the life-giving sweetness of the air. Quite close is a great tuliptree and round its stem a shelter has been constructed, under which are a quantity of « chaises longues » for the wounded. I saunter along the little river, where every now and then a trout rises and flops in the cool stillness of the twilight".

Laurence Binyon, English poet, orderly

THE PENTHOUSE

"There is a shelter, a penthouse of wood built against the wall of the chateau. Pine boughs have been laid on the felt-covered roof of it, to mitigate the heat of the sun. Here are half a dozen beds, a little outdoor ward for patients whom the fresh air will help to recovery".

Laurence Binyon, English poet, orderly



ARTISTS

SUSAN STRONG

American opera singer



"She is young, handsome, gifted with a glorious voice. Her closest friend is a faithful little terrier known at Covent Garden as Melle Confiture".

Francis Bruncker, journalist, THE KING magazine



HENRY TONKS

Saline infusion : an incident in the British Red Cross Hospital, 1915, by Henry Tonks



WILFRIED DE GLEHN

The Field Hospital at Arc-en-Barrois, 1916, by Wilfried de Glehn 1870-1951.



THE HOSPICE



"Fortunately there existed at the higher end of the village, an old Monastery known as the Hospice recently used as a common hospital and by the courtesy of the Maire and Conseil d'Arc, this very suitable building was placed at our disposal. It brought the number of beds up to 70".

Anonymous English writer, dedicated to Duc de Penthièvre



WALKING IN THE VILLAGE

BAGATELLE HOUSE



"Housing arrangements for training nurses and VADs in the chateau's top floors were overly crowded and unsuitable in the long term. Later (trained) nurses, who worked night duty and VADs able to pay for private lodging, rented rooms in homes along the village streets, including the grand premises of Bagatelle, the « Maison du GARDIER ». The male orderlies rented in « Lion d'Or » or in the empty former convent.



Mr Gazin the « Administrateur of the Domain » did everything in his power to assist us and the hospital owes him its sincerest gratitude. The voluntary services of Mme Gazin and of that family were most valuable".

History of hospital – Marjorie DesRosier

THE LION D'OR INN



"Mme Legay served very good dinners considering war restrictions. Boar meat comprised the « piece of resistance ». Naturally we were served only with the juicy steak from the animal. Every other part, even the hoofs, boiled down were used to make little cakes or pies. No butter of course but delicious cheese off a farmer. Old men passed their time fishing in the Aujon and many a speckled trout did we enjoy on our table".

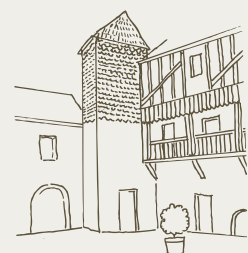
Marie Speakman, the wife of William Speakman, American dental surgeon



THE CEMETERY

"Many, both men and women, assemble to honour the soldier who has died and follow him to his grave in the cemetery on the outskirts of the village. It is the duty of two of us to follow to and under the tall trees on the hillside where the soldier is laid to rest, to represent the homage of England to the fallen son of FRANCE".

Laurence Binyon, English poet, orderly



THE VILLAGE PEOPLE

"Throughout the war numerous Arc villagers gave important aid to hospital staff and care of the French soldiers.

Hospital ambulances were driven to pick up food donations and it became a happy time of creating new friendships with villagers and families".

History of hospital – Marjorie DesRosier



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Laurence Binyon, English poet, orderly

WALKING THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE



MONTROT CHAPEL

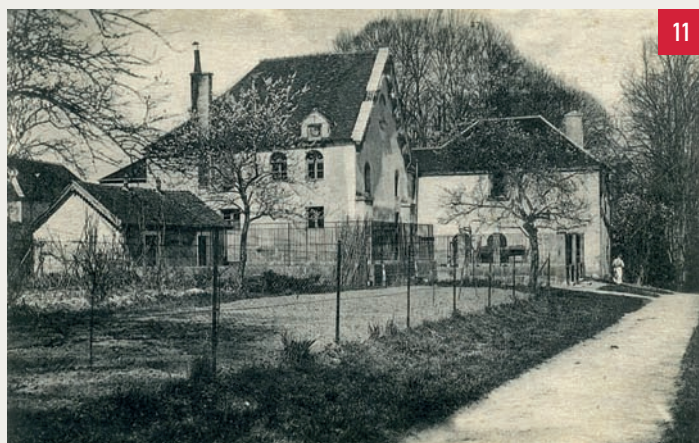


"Sunday, Spt.10 1916. Pilgrimage to the Montrot Chapel to celebrate the anniversary of the Marne. What a sight ! Old and young, mother pushing babies in carriages, bicycles winding their way in and out of the crowd; carts drawn by donkeys; any old trap capable of carrying human freight and all going in the same direction. What I saw, I shall never forget.

The stately bare trunks of giant pines formed the nave and wings of a natural cathedral on a hill. Its aisles were filled with people kneeling on the ground while a host of priests in gorgeous robes were officiating at improvised altars at the top of the hill".

Marie Speakman, the wife of William Speakman,
American Dental Surgeon

THE KENNELS



"They were away up in the forest. Dogs of all description. They were returning to their kennels, weary, happy, tired-out, most with their little tinkling bells on. Two were very fierce and kept apart. They were trained to pull down anything from a man to a beast at a sign from the huntsman".

Eva Smith, English nurse

"We went for long walks in the forests. The spring flowers were wonderful. One could not help walking on lily of the valley, daffodils...

May and I hired some cycles and what cycles! May had one with a free wheel, bell and one brake; Boys also had a free wheel but not bell. Mine was a fixed wheel, no bell or brake and about half a saddle to sit on.

We had supper outside the estaminet: wonderful omelettes and coffee! We were surrounded by a crowd of French men, women and children. They had never seen English nurses in uniform. The water was so clear, we could see trout swimming round".

Eva Smith, English nurse



Toboggan parties



In search of truffles



Swimming in the Aujon



"There were quite a few sprightly probationers among the nursing staff and I was not yet nineteen".

Henry Michael Gordon Clark, English orderly

*Poem of
Laurence Binyon*

For the fallen

*They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:*

*Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun
and in the morning*

We will remember them.

Hommages aux poilus

"I am full of admiration for the French soldier, the patience and philosophy with which he confronts great pain, and often the prospect of permanent disablement is beyond all praise".

Doctor Charles Hardwicke, Chief-doctor
of Arc-en-Barrois Military Hospital

"There is never a word of complaint and under the most trying circumstances they are always dignified".

Wilson Crewdson, English orderly

"Gentle in speech, courteous in bearing, constant in fortitude, fervent in the faith of his country's cause".

Laurence Binyon,
English poet, orderly

Jane de Glehn

25 Juillet 1916

Arc en Barrois.

Illustration

"Portrait d'un jeune poilu 1916" Jane Emmet De Glehn 1873-1961,

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