

## Salonika Campaign Society Battlefield Tour 2026



### Salonika Campaign Society Battlefield Tour

20 – 29 September 2026

#### The 'Sappers in Salonika' Tour

Led by Alan Wakefield, the Salonika Campaign Society is offering a chance to visit key sites associated with British efforts during the Salonika Campaign, 1915-1918. The overall theme of the tour will be the role of the Royal Engineers with the British Salonika Force. Locations will include the Doiran battlefield, where the BSF suffered 35% of its total battle casualties, the Struma Valley, where XVI Corps faced the threat of endemic malaria as well as their Bulgarian adversaries and Kosturino Ridge, where 10th (Irish) Division made a stand in the Winter of 1915. Time will also be spent on the Birdcage Line, built to defend the city and port of Salonika from Bulgarian attack in 1915-1916. We will also attend commemorations to remember all those who served and died during the campaign.

#### Proposed itinerary

Sunday 20 September

- Tour begins late morning with meeting at Thessaloniki airport
- Ceremony of Remembrance at CWGC Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery
- Overnight in Serres

Monday 21 September

- A study of a range of operations in the Struma Valley – final locations to be confirmed but to include RE river crossing methods
- Visit to Strimoniko (formerly Orliak) to discuss RE role in signals and lines of communications
- CWGC Struma Cemetery
- Overnight in Serres

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### Tuesday 22 September

- Dova Tepe Fort in the Krusha Balkan Hills
- Doiran Memorial and CWGC Cemetery
- Visit to Akritas (formerly Vlodaya) to view British positions
- Overnight in Doiran

### Wednesday 23 September

- Visits to La Tortue; Petit Couronne; Hill 340 – to include RE involvement in raids and major operations against Petit Couronne
- Overnight in Doiran

### Thursday 24 September

- Visit the 22nd Division Memorial
- Visit to the ‘Devil’s Eye’ Observation Post on Grand Couronne
- Visit to The Hilt – key position in Bulgarian second line

### Friday 25 September

- A Day on Kosturino Ridge
  - Rocky Peak and Ormanli village
  - Memesli village
  - Site of Kajali village
  - Crete Rivet and Crete Simonet
  - Tatarli village
  - 10th (Irish) Division Memorial
- Overnight in Doiran

### Saturday 26 September

- Visits to sites on the Vardar sector and in the Krusha Balkan Hills – to include some of the following:
  - Horseshoe Hill
  - Bowls Barrow
  - Machukovo (now Evzoni)
  - Site of Rattray’s Bridges (Krusha Balkan Hills)
  - Mavroplagia (formerly Karamudli) village – RE aerial cableway
- Overnight in Kilkis

### Sunday 27 September

- Attend Official Commemorations at the Five Nations Memorial, Polykastro
- CWGC Karasouli Cemetery
- Kilindir (now Kilindria) railway station – to discuss RE role in railway operating

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- Overnight in Kilkis

Monday 28 September

- Birdcage line – including 99th Field Coy. bridge position
- Lembet Road Allied Military Cemetery
- Thessaloniki Port
- Overnight in Thessaloniki

Tuesday 29 September

- End of tour

If you are interested in joining the tour please contact SCS Chair, Alan Wakefield, to get your name on the emailing list for further details: [aj.wakefield@talktalk.net](mailto:aj.wakefield@talktalk.net)