



Resource 2

Why was the location of Ypres so important during the First World War?

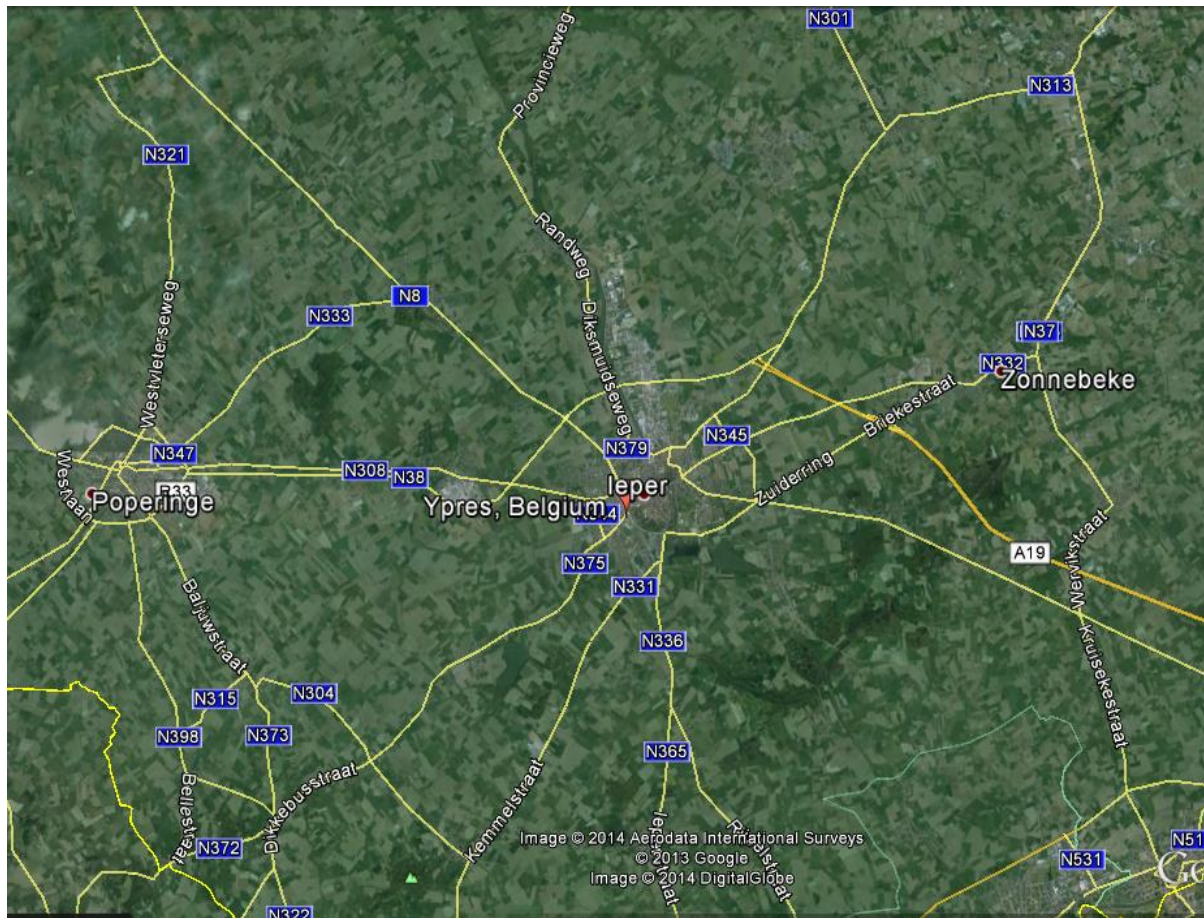
Map 1



The course of the "[Race to the Sea](#)" during 1914 following the [Battle of the Aisne](#). Allied front line and movement is shown in red, German front line and movement shown in blue.



Map 2



Map Data © 2014 Google

Ypres: Transport links: Ypres is at the hub of a local road network. A large canal – the Iser Canal goes north from Ypres to Dijkmuide connecting to the sea.



Map 3



www.greatwar.co.uk

The Ypres Salient, January 2015. The 'Salient' is the line which circles Langemarck, Zonnebeke and St, Eloi. In military terms, it is vital to control such a line which breaks the 'straight' opposition line. The Germans captured and then occupied the high ground overlooking Ypres.



The damage caused by shelling to the drainage systems in the area around Ypres meant that when it rained heavily, as it did in the summer of 1917, the battlefield soon became extremely muddy and very difficult to cross.