

French lessons benefit WWI research project



The group in
France

► NINETEEN PEOPLE participated in a four-day trip to the Somme and Arras areas of the Western Front as part of the We Were There Too project, documenting the contribution of London Jews during the First World War.

In bitterly cold conditions, the group, led by project historian Paula Kitching, visited cemeteries where Jewish servicemen from Britain are buried. Stars of David were planted by Jewish graves.

At Gommecourt, project volunteer Lola Fraser laid a wreath on the grave of her great-uncle Joseph Josephs.

“We knew nothing about him

before, not even his proper name, and only found a grainy photo,” she said. “But owing to the research for We Were There Too—and this visit—he has become a real person.”

Seeing his grave had been “hugely emotional, particularly when I discovered his name, written in Hebrew, was not just Joseph but Abraham Joseph—and that my father, his sister’s son, had been named Abraham [Aubrey] after him”.

The group also visited Fricourt German Cemetery, where Jews who fought for Germany are buried.