

The Quickfirer!



Bringing alive the dry pages of history

Sgt York's battlefield found after 90 years

After an extensive archeological survey by leading American historians it is believed the lost site of Sgt York's legendary action has been located in the small commune of Chatel-Cherey, France. The site which has long been speculated over produced in excess of 1,400 artifacts, many of which will be displayed in the US. The action on October 8 1918 led to York being awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour for capturing over 100 prisoners. It went down in US folklore and was later immortalised by the 1941 Hollywood epic "Sergeant York" starring Gary Cooper. Alvin York was courted as a national hero post war and had a highway, theatre and anti aircraft weapons system named after him! He eventually passed away in his native Tennessee on 2 September 1964. The action though often exaggerated was never the less incredibly brave with only 7 US survivors to tell the tale.

This month in History – January

Two Zeppelin Airships (L3 and L4) bombed the east coast towns of Great Yarmouth and Kings Lynn on the night of 19th January 1915. These slow moving 190 metre long airships were the first to bomb England, causing 20 casualties. Several bombs were also intended for the Kings Royal residence at Sandringham but missed.



VC— Lieutenant George Knowland, Number One Commando (having transferred from the Norfolks after gaining a commission from the ranks fighting in Italy.) Posted to Burma, he was charged with defending Hill 170 near Kangaw. On 31st January 1945 massed Japanese Infantry attacked the Hill. Throughout the day he rallied his men, using all weapons available including the 2 inch mortar which he fired from the hip. Over 300 Japanese were killed before the final enemy assault in which Knowland was killed. His bravery and selfless actions had proved inspirational to his men.

The following units wear this honour with pride

Corunna, Napoleonic Wars 16th January 1809.
14th (Buckinghamshire) Regiment of Foot, 5th
(Northumberland) Regt of Foot. 38th (Staffordshire) Regt of Foot. 92nd (Gordon Highlanders) Regt of Foot. 20th
(Devonshire) Regt of Foot . 32nd (Cornwall) Regt of Foot.

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Sgt Alvin York
328th
Infantry Regt
82nd Division
Medal of Honour
CdeG

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