

The Quickfirer!



Bringing alive the dry pages of history

This month in History – January

VC– Widnes born **Tom Mottershead** joined the Royal Flying Corps in August 1914, largely due to his background in mechanical engineering. By August 1916 he was flying bombing and reconnaissance sorties over Flanders. On 7th January 1916 while on patrol near Plugstreet, in a FE2d “Pusher” aircraft they were attacked by two enemy Albatross craft of which one was shot down by his observer gunner but the other riddled Mottersheads’ airframe and set alight the fuel tank. The observer, Gower, used the fire extinguisher to try and douse the now burning pilots clothes as he fought with the controls of the blazing machine. Picking out a flat field, despite his suffering he lined up to land, with pieces of burning fabric and wood still falling from the plane. The burnt undercarriage collapsed on landing and flipped the plane over. Gower survived but Mottershead died of his wounds 4 days later and was awarded the VC for showing such bravery, endurance and gallantry.



At Sea – The two former German Warships Breslau and Goeben, under Turkish control since 1914 made a final sortie into the Aegean in January 1918. Near Imbros they battled and sank two aged and outgunned Navy Monitors. However in efforts to out manoeuvre the other Navy craft both Cruisers hit an allied minefield. The Breslau sank with losses of over 300 hands and the Goeben was towed away. The ship was refitted and actually flagged for NATO until the 1960’s.



The following units wear this honour with pride

Chillianwallah January 1849—Second Sikh War– 3rd Light Dragoons, 24th Foot (Warwickshire), 9th Queens Royal Lancers, 14th Light Dragoons, 29th Foot (Worcesters) 61st Foot, (Gloucesters) 2nd European Bengal Fusiliers.

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As we enter our fourth year of tours we would like to wish you all a happy 2008, our exciting brochure led program offers more variety than ever and with our group bespoke tours seeing Julian & Clive on possible ventures to Quebec, Sicily & Malaya we look set to add further exciting Battle Honours to our company name. We look forward to meeting you on the “old front line” in the near future.



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