

The Quickfirer! No 37 January 2009



Bringing alive the dry pages of history

Seasons Greetings from the BHL Team

As we look forward to the start of a new year and ventures to battlefields a plenty one cannot but think back to the first Christmas in the trenches, December 1914 and that most magical of tales in the Christmas Truce. Much has been written about this incredible episode that took place in during remarkable times. My thoughts always turn to the stunning Le Touret Memorial where young Percy Huggins and Sgt Gregory of the 1st Hertfordshire's are buried having been sniped on that most famous of days. Further south in the tiny intimate cemetery of Rancourt found on the eastern fringes of the Somme, you discover the graves of Privates Vant, Bowman & Workman of the Worcestershire Regiment killed on Christmas Day 1916 proving that there was not always goodwill and peace to all men.

Thanks for all your support in 2008 and have a wonderful festive period, our office will be closed between the 23rd December and 5 January inclusive.

Julian & Clive



The above image is taken from the Xmas Card for the 37th (English) Division, we shall be following their exploits in 2009 notably at Arras in May

This month in History – January

The Zimmerman Telegram

In January of 1917, British cryptographers deciphered a telegram from German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmerman to the German Minister to Mexico, von Eckhardt, offering United States territory to Mexico in return for joining the German cause. Zimmermann himself dispelled initial suspicions regarding the telegram's authenticity by giving a speech in which he confirmed its existence. This message helped draw the United States into the war and thus changed the course of history. The telegram had such an impact on American opinion that, according to David Kahn, author of *The Codebreakers*, "No other single cryptanalysis has had such enormous consequences." It is his opinion that "never before or since has so much turned upon the solution of a secret message." In an effort to protect their intelligence from detection and to capitalize on growing anti-German sentiment in the United States, the British waited until February 24 to present the telegram to Woodrow Wilson. The American press published news of the telegram on March 1. On April 6, 1917, the United States Congress formally declared war on Germany and its allies.

Our 2009 Tour Schedule

5/9 April Somme Strolls £475
26 April/1 May Gallipoli £890
10/14 May Walking Arras £475
24/28 May Vosges Walks £725
14/18 June Normandy £490
19/23 July Wipers Walks £475
26/30 July Cambrai £475
9/13 Aug Redcoats/Khaki £475
6/10 Sept Somme Strolls £475
20/25 Sept Gallipoli £890
11/16 Oct Road to Rome TBC
**please note we already have limited space on our Gallipoli, Arras, Vosges & Cambrai trips*

These selected units wear this honour with pride

Zetten 18/21st January 1945 (the Thrust to the Ruhr)
The Royal Leicestershire's Princess Louises Kensington Regiment, The Gloucestershire Regiment, The Essex Regiment, The South Wales Borderers.



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