

# The Quickfirer!



*Bringing alive the dry pages of history*

## D-Day Cover-up Uncovered in Normandy

Enthusiast Gary Sterne first learnt of the existence of the “Maisy” battery a number of years ago when he found reference to it on an officers D-Day map marked as an “*area of high resistance*”. After the war the area was covered by top-soil and farmed over, Normandy bocage hedgerows made it invisible to the outside world whilst the site was overlooked by historians and forgotten by locals. The sites future has now been secured and the intention in time is to open it up to battlefield visitors. The battery was the headquarters complex for the coastal defence of Omaha Beach, amongst its numerous gun positions was a Dunkirk captured British 25pdr! It is now becoming clear that the famous Pointe du Hoc with its telegraph poles as barrels was an elaborate ruse by Rommel and a costly one at that. Nineteen men were killed at the site on June 6, is it possible they formed part of an elite force aimed at knocking out the Maisy battery with its 180 tons of ammunition? Gary plans to unveil a memorial to the casualties killed at the bunker complex during June 1944. Having spoken with Gary we hope to visit on a tour in the future.

*Photo courtesy www.armourer.co.uk*

## Issue 2 February 2006



The Maisy Battery after 60 years underground

### 2006 Tour Schedule

#### The Kaisers Battle 1918

4 night walking tour from  
£299 3\* Arras Hotel  
8/12 April

#### Walking Normandy

4 night tour from £329  
3\* Hotel 17/21 July

London Soldiers on the  
Somme 3 night tour,  
3\* Arras Hotel £259

14/17 September

Walking Arnhem 4 night  
tour, 3\* Hotel from £329  
23/27 September

Walking Gallipoli 5 night  
tour, Anzac Hotel from  
£775 16/21 October

## This Month in History—February



***In The Air-*** On 9 February 1916 a German air raid on Kent causes 3 deaths whilst on the 21st the French bring down Zeppelin L77.

***On Land*** – 21 February 1916, a delayed start to the battle of Verdun began with a terrific bombardment led by 1400 guns packed onto an 8 mile front under the command of the Crown Prince Wilhelm.

**VC — Michael O’Leary** Irish Guards on the 18 February 1915 at Cuinchy, France, L/Cpl O’Leary was one of the storming party which advanced against the enemy’s barricades. He rushed to the front & killed 5 Germans who were holding the first barricade, after which he attacked a 2nd barricade 600yds further on. This he captured after killing 3 & capturing 2 of the enemy, the L/Cpl thus practically took the position by himself and prevented the rest of the party from being fired upon.

### The following units wear this honour with pride

**Suez Canal, 3-4 February 1915** -The Hertfordshire Yeomanry, 2nd Westminster Dragoons, 2nd Punjab Regt, 7th Rajput Regt, 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, 101st Royal Kohat Pack Battery (Frontier Force) & 2nd Bombay Pioneers.



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