

# The Quickfirer!



Bringing alive the dry pages of history

## This month in History – February

**VC**– *Sergeant Aubrey Cosens, 25th Feb 1945 of The Queens Own Rifles of Canada.*

Ontario born, Sergeant Aubrey Cosens earned the Victoria Cross for his actions in a battle to push the enemy from the small village of Mooshof in the Hochwald forest of Germany. Cosens assumed command of his battered platoon and two attached Sherman Tanks. Under



fire he first stood on the Tank directing fire and then used the Tank to ram a breach in the Farm house wall before jumping off and storming the building alone. He personally cleared the German defenders from three buildings in the midst of intense enemy fire, killing or taking prisoner at least 40 Germans. Whilst organising the defence of the position he himself was killed by a snipers bullet. He is buried at Groesbeek, Holland.

**Verdun**– A nine hour bombardment heralds the beginning of the battle of Verdun. 1400 German guns along an 8 mile front opened the way for 140,000 assault troops including units with flamethrowers. Within 24 hours the famous “Voie Sacre” is created, on paper, with the French Command realising that such an artery will be needed to keep the martyred city fed with supplies and men in the forthcoming struggle. The impregnable Fort Douamont falls only 4 days into the battle, and General Petain issues the slogan “*Ils ne passeront pas*” (They shall not pass)

The following units wear this honour with pride

**Jericho— Operations in the Jordan Valley 1918** The Cheshire Yeomanry , Cheshire Regiment, Royal Welch Fusiliers, Shropshire Yeomanry, Sussex Regiment, Middlesex Regt, The London Regiment, Glamorgan Yeomanry.

## Issue 26– February 2008

This months highly regarded BBC History Magazine carries a double page spread featuring Clive and Julian’s forthcoming book “The Greater Game”. The feature carried five cameos of sporting icons that fell in the Great War, who each will be detailed in depth in the book due out in May. The BBC chose Alex Turnbull who played with Man City and Man Utd before serving with the 8th East Surreys, Cricketer Colin Blythe, Tennis heartthrob Anthony Wilding and Frank ‘one eye’ McGee from Ice Hockey’s hall of fame .

“The Greater Game”– Pen & Sword 2008

## 2008 Tour Schedules.

April 13-17 Somme Strolls I £399  
April 27 Gallipoli I *SOLD OUT*  
May 18-22 Walking 1915 £399  
May 25-29 Walking Wipers I £399  
June 8-12 Redcoats to Khaki £425  
July 20-24 The Last 100 Days £425  
Sept 7-11 Somme Strolls II £399  
Sept 14-18 Walking Arnhem £445  
Sept 21-26 Gallipoli II £850  
Oct 5-9 Walking Wipers II £399  
Oct 19-23 Walking Verdun £425  
Nov 6-17 The Falklands tour £3400

2008 Brochure out now and online.



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