



Bringing alive the dry pages of history

### War graves damaged by shellfire in Gaza

Shells fired by Israeli artillery units have severely damaged the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery in Gaza. Set up in 1917 by British medical units and used until 1918, the cemetery was again enlarged by Australian General Hospitals based at Gaza in the Second World War. It has over 3,000 burials 200 of which are from World War Two. The damage this time is far worse than in 2006 when Israel paid £90,000 to repair damage before. Having been hit by at least 5 shells, over 280 headstones are damaged, some of them smashed completely. It is reported that one shell



remains unexploded beneath the surface and this is hampering a full assessment and repairs. Paul Price, the regional supervisor for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Israel, said repairs would be carried out as soon as possible. "While we are extremely relieved that our dedicated staff are unhurt, we were distressed to learn that Gaza War Cemetery has suffered considerable damage during the recent fighting," he said.

### This month in History – February

February 1945 -Massed Russian armies under Zhukov closed within 40 miles of Berlin and the Oder was reached near Frankfurt. The US Army pushed east from Dusseldorf while the British attacked the Reichswald forest. On the 4th February 1945 the "big three" of Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill gathered for a meeting codenamed "Argonaut", better known as the Yalta conference, for the purpose of discussing Europe's Post War organisation. On the agenda was the future of Poland, vital to the defence of Russia, the de-nazification of Germany, its disarmament and reparations. Priority also went to forcing the unconditional surrender of Germany and it's subsequent splitting into four occupied Zones. The defeat of Japan was discussed and Stalin agreed to help invade Japan within 90 days of the defeat of Germany. It was also agreed to cooperate in the hunt to find and try Nazi war criminals.

### 2009 Tour Schedule

26 April/1 May Gallipoli I  
10/14 May Walking Arras  
24/28 May Walking the Vosges  
\*new tour for 2009\*  
14/18 June Walking Normandy  
19/23 July Walking Wipers  
\*new walks for 2009\*  
26/30 July Walking Cambrai  
9/13 Aug Redcoats to Khaki  
6/10 Sept Somme Strolls II  
20/25 Sept Gallipoli II  
11/16 Oct Italian Campaign  
The Road to Rome

### These selected units wear this honour with pride

**Relief of Ladysmith– February 1900**– The Rifle Brigade, The Royal Fusiliers , 13th Hussars, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 1st Dragoons , The Queens, Devonshire Regiment, The Cameronians, East Surrey Regiment

