



Bringing alive the dry pages of history

Fromelles revisited — June 09

Last June we reported on the discovery of 5 burial pits on the Fromelles battlefield behind the German lines at Pheasant Wood. The exploratory investigation revealed a harrowing glimpse of one of the Western Front's most controversial engagements and its terrible aftermath. News of the discovery stirred up an emotional response both in the UK and Australia. These men may have died 90 years ago, but many of them are very much alive in the thoughts of their descendants today. Families of the missing of Fromelles were quick to come forward in the hope that their relative might at last be found. The Australian and British governments quickly agreed that there was only one course of action possible; the bodies would be carefully recovered from the pits, attempts would be made to identify them and they would at last be laid to rest, with dignity and respect, in a new cemetery. It is planned that all of this will take little more than a year, with a ceremony to dedicate the new cemetery taking place on the anniversary of the battle in July 2010.



Battle Honours intends to be there for this moment of history and so can announce the return of our Walking Artois tour 18-22 July 2010. This will incorporate a visit to the Fromelles site on the day of the cemetery opening. Lest we forget, for further details see

www.cwgc.org/fromelles



This months featured VC holder is Edward "Mick" Mannock VC, DSO & 2 Bars, MC & Bar. A true Great War Legend.....

VC— Edward "Mick" Mannock June 1918

On the 17th June, 1918, he destroyed a Halberstadt machine near Armentieres. 7th July, 1918, Doulieu, he destroyed a Fokker, that vertically into the ground from 1,500 feet he then attacked another Fokker biplane, firing 60 rounds into it, which produced an immediate spin and crash. 14th July, near Merville, he attacked a Fokker from 7,000 feet, and downed another two-seater. 19th July, 1918, Merville, he fired 80 rounds into an Albatross, which went to the ground in flames. 20th July, 1918, La Bassee, he destroyed an enemy two-seater, an hour later he attacked a Fokker biplane and drove it down out of control. 22nd July, 18, Armentieres, he destroyed an enemy triplane from a height of 10,000 feet. Major Mannock was awarded a VC, DSO & 2 Bars, MC & Bar. This highly distinguished officer during the whole of his career in the Royal Air Force, was an outstanding example of fearless courage, remarkable skill, devotion to duty and self-sacrifice, which has never been surpassed. The total number of machines definitely accounted for by Major Mannock up to the date of his death in France was 50. An pre war TF soldier in the RAMC and Cpl in the 2 Dragoons Mick Mannock finally met his end on the 26 July 1918 and is today commemorated on the Arras Flying Services Memorial.

These selected units wear this honour with pride

Waterloo 18 June 1815— *The Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards, The Grenadier Guards, The Coldstream Guards, The Royal Scots, Ox & Bucks LI (52nd Foot), Kings German Legion, Gordon Highlanders, The Royal Waggon Train*

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2009 Tour Availability

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Armistice walking tour

