

The Quickfirer!



Bringing alive the dry pages of history

Triple burial of soldiers on the Salient

As was mentioned back in Quickfirer 5 of 2006, the mud of Flanders gave up the remains of several soldiers near Ploegstreet wood last year. Painstaking work identified one soldier as Private Richard Lancaster of the Lancashire Fusiliers. He was

killed in 1914 and is named on the memorial nearby. His dog tag and other personal items aided identification. More than 300 people, his 2 grand daughters and Soldiers from the Royal Fusiliers were present on July 4th to give the burial at Prowse Point Cemetery full military honours. Born in 1882, Lancaster was



This month in History – July

On Land – The very word Passchendaele is now inscribed in our nations psyche and so it was that on July 31st 1917 the enormous and costly battle of “Third Ypres” began. 90 years on and various nations commemorate the battle, and thousands will make the pilgrimage to the wet Flanders plain over the next few months to pay respect and learn more of what actually took place there. With British casualties approaching a quarter of a million, and German exceeding that it is deserving of real study, rather than to simply say it was “a waste.”

VC- Rear Admiral Anthony Miers VC CB DSO. Commanding HMS Torbay, a T-class submarine in the Aegean in 1942. He followed an axis convoy into Corfu harbour, a heavily defended anchorage and sank two ships before taking his vessel to safety despite being depth charged by his pursuers 40 times.



Controversially, Miers had been accused of war crimes in 1941 when during one week near Crete he ordered the machine gunning of German crew who abandoned ship and surrendered in the water and dinghies. He reportedly said “Submarines have no room for such prisoners” and later flew the Skull and crossbones as a flag when surfacing to bombard Other vessels.

The following units wear this honour with pride

Marne 1918—*The Counter attack in Champagne*– The Royal Scots, Devonshire Regiment, The Black Watch, D.L.I. , Gordon Highlanders, Otago Mounted Rifles, Cheshire Regiment, Royal Sussex Regiment.



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Mammoth Battlefield recce! Clive and Julian just returned from a whistle stop battlefield tour. Covering 6 countries, 14 Battlefields, over 3 centuries and 1000 miles it was both interesting, great fun and exhausting! All squeezed in to just 4 days and a Ford Focus on full throttle, the tour included Malplaquet(1709), Crossing the Rhine (1945), Sambre Canal (1918), Mons (1914/18) Waterloo (1815) Battle of the Bulge (1944) Etrux (1914) and Verdun (1916) Not a tour for detailed examination but rewarding and enjoyable none the less.

2007 Tour Schedules.

Somme Winter Walks 15-19 Sept. This unique tour focuses on the overlooked Autumn and winter battles around Flers, Guedecourt Ancre valley & Warlencourt that brought the Somme battles to a cold wintry end. £375

Walking Gallipoli £815
Walking the Beach heads, Gully ravine, Suvla Bay & Anzac. 23rd –28 September .Only 2 places left.

Verdun 14-18 Oct The fascinating and moving battlefield, Forts Vaux and Douaumont , The Ossuary and Trench of bayonets £399

Wipers 90th 1-5 Oct Passchendaele, the 90th anniversary of the battles, walking Polygon wood, Gravenstafel and Poelcappelle. £375

2008 Tours will be listed in the Autumn, but will include Mons, Zeebrugge, Falklands, Gallipoli Amiens 1918 and Waterloo.

Battle Honours Ltd , 39 Orchard Way, Lower Stondon, Henlow, Beds, SG16 6NA

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