

The Quickfirer!



Bringing alive the dry pages of history

Project Hougoumont 2015

Wellington aptly described it as the “battle within the battle”, and there is no doubting the tactical importance of the farm standing in Wellingtons right centre. The Farm complex is in a bad state of disrepair and funds are urgently needed to provide remedial work and time is fast running out. Partial funding has been successfully sought, Project Hougoumont has been set up to raise the balance so that the work can be completed satisfactorily, and indeed the site enhanced. Their website www.projecthougoumont.com provides further details on this worthy venture to protect one of our nations most significant battle sites. The farm was recently visited by a BHL group on the Khaki to Redcoats Tour where Frank Toogood had us “smelling the cordite” with his account of the battle.

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BHL's Frank at Hougoumont Farm

This month in History – July

July 1918 -French and American forces combine in an attack near Reims in what becomes known as the Second battle of the Marne. US 1st and 2nd Divisions take 8,000 prisoners and capture 145 guns. In Siberia, only days before, the Bolsheviks murder members of the Russian Royal Family including Czar Nicholas II.

VC— William Boulter was born in Wigston, Leicestershire in 1892. He joined the 6th Northamptons in September 1914 aged 21 and by 1915 he was a Sergeant. As part of the ‘elite’ 18th Division he took part in an assault on Trones Wood (Somme) on 14th July 1916. When the larger part of two companies were held up by hostile machine gun fire Sergeant Boulter, with utter contempt for danger and in spite of being shot in the shoulder advanced forward, alone, until he got in range and then threw hand grenades at the position. He knocked out the gun and thus allowed the advance to continue, and the wood was taken after fierce close quarter fighting. He spent convalescent time at Ampthill depot and in front of a crowd of 20,000 was presented a gold watch and a clock in Northampton. He returned to the front as an Officer in September 1917 but contracted Trench fever and played no more part in the war. He died in 1955.



Forthcoming Tours Update

Somme Strolls II 7-11 Sept. £399 Looking at stages of the Somme battle; Fricourt, Contalmaison, Thiepval, Pozieres and Guillemont. This is a superb tour of the now tranquil fields of Picardy.

Walking Arnhem 14-18 Sept £425 Anniversary week! The Drop Zones, Wolfheze, The Cauldron, The Bridge & Nijmegen *5 places left*

Zeebrugge and Wipers 5 -9 Oct £399 Ypres Town, the Bluff, Polygon Wood, and study the daring coastal raids on Zeebrugge and Ostend. Nieuport and Operation Strandfest!1917.

Verdun 19-23 Oct £425

The following units wear this honour with pride

Namur– July 1695 - The Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards, Royal Scots, The Queens, Kings Own (Royal Lancaster), Royal Fusiliers (London Regt.) Bedfordshire Regiment, Royal Irish Regt., The Royal Welch Fusiliers.

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