



Bringing alive the dry pages of history

England Cricket Team visit the Salient

Whilst at the Menin Gate on Friday 26 June the crowd seemed larger than normal. Before long 2 pipers, a classical singer, a brass band and the England Ashes squad had arrived to make a ceremony to remember. The practice of visiting the battlefields for sporting teams is nothing new to visiting Australian and New Zealand sides, to their credit. For England however it was a first and from chatting with a number of them and their guide the battle honours group were sure that the visit had made an impact. Their guide Nick Bird from the Guild of Battlefield Guides had earlier taken them to the grave of England Cricket star Colin Blythe in Oxford road cemetery and replaced a copy of the cricket ball that had sat by his headstone until the 1980's. They whole squad appeared reverent and were happy to mingle post ceremony so it was with some despair that their visit was marred in the press with allegations of missed buses and binge drinking, through out Mr Flintoff appeared sobre and thoughtful. The subject of the Great War certainly puts mere sporting rivalry in perspective and the losses of both Colin Blythe (England) & Albert (Tibby) Cotter (Australia) are remembered as we approach this summers series. As

As a footnote, Nick also remarked that "The Greater Game" written by two blokes he had heard of proved very helpful, so if, just if, the side are motivated to victory in the upcoming ashes series then Julian & Clive will take the full credit due! Lets sign off by wishing both sides well and an England victory (with the exception of George Brown who I can hear replying from Perth already)



This months featured VC holder is Major General Clifford Coffin VC, CB, DSO & Bar



VC— Clifford Coffin—July 1917

On 31 July 1917 in Westhoek Belgium when his command was held up in attack owing to heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, Brigadier-General Coffin went forward and made an inspection of his front posts. Although under the heaviest fire from both machine-guns and rifles and in full view of the enemy, he showed an utter disregard of personal danger, walking quietly from shell-hole to shell-hole, giving advice and cheering his men by his presence. His gallant conduct had the greatest effect on all ranks and it was largely owing to his personal courage and example that the shell-hole line was held. Born in Blackheath in February 1870 his father had been a Lt General, Clifford was educated at Haileybury and the RMA Woolwich before taking a commission in the Royal Engineers. Pre war he had served in Jamaica, the Boer War and Sierra Leone. In 1914 he was appointed CRE for the 21 Division and served both at Loos and the Somme where he was awarded a DSO for "for distinguished service in the field", as a Brigadier he commanded the 25th Bde, 8th Division during the March retreat being awarded a bar to his DSO. From May 1918 he commanded the 36 Ulster Division, earning his VC and he commanded them through to ultimate victory. Post War he dedicated his life to ex servicemans charities before passing away in Torquay aged 88 in 1959.

2009 Tour Availability

- 19/23 July Walking Wipers
1 Space left
- 26/30 July Walking Cambrai
Full
- 9/13 Aug Redcoats to Khaki
2 spaces left
- 6/10 Sept Somme Strolls II
1 spaces left
- 20/25 Sept Gallipoli II
2 spaces left
- 8/12 November Ypres
Armistice walking tour

These selected units wear this honour with pride

Quarry Hill—The Capture of Mont Pincon 30 July 1944—*Seaforth Highlanders, The Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders, The Scots Guards, Coldstream Guards, The Highland Light Infantry, the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry.*

www.landscapephotographycourses.com

