

The Quickfirer!



Bringing alive the dry pages of history

Battle Honours Guide in Kabul

Our very own Julian Whippy is at present on the battlefields of Afghanistan. This week he visited the Old British Cemetery known as “Kabre Ghora” and the site of action from the Second Afghan war at Sher Pur, Kabul. The Old cemetery is believed to contain the remains of 158 soldiers and some family followers from the periods 1839-42 and 1879-80. It stands in the lee of the hill known as Bimaru, now engulfed by modern Kabul. General Roberts had captured Kabul in October 1879 but by December growing insurrection and Afghan forces had forced him to defensive positions in a part built fort known as the Sher Pur Cantonment. 7000 British troops defended fiercely against a force at least 5 times their size and caused the enemy over 3,000 killed and broke the Afghan force. Many casualties from 2001-present are now commemorated on memorials of the walls within. NB . We are not planning tours there just yet!

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Julian at the Kabul Memorial

This month in History – August

Raid on Dieppe– August 1942 . Bowing to pressure from the Russians, and eager to demonstrate offensive power the allies raided the coastal town of Dieppe at dawn on 19th August. Nearly 6,000 troops took part, the majority being Canadian. It was an awful costly failure, with well over 50% being killed, wounded and captured.

VC— Lt. Colonel Cecil Merritt. South Saskatchewan Regiment. Dieppe, France. Merritt was a barrister and Canadian Army Officer before the war, living in Vancouver. His regiment were the right flank of the raid on Dieppe, attacking the village of Pourville. Seeing the advance was being pinned by machine gun fire and held up on a narrow bridge he ran forward across the bridge waving his helmet shouting “*come on lads theres no danger!*” His Citation says “*For matchless gallantry and inspiring leadership whilst commanding his battalion*” Merritt then stormed a pill box and organized defence of the withdrawal despite being wounded twice. He was subsequently captured and spent the rest of the War in Germany. He later spent time in both politics and law.

2008 Tour Availability

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. *Just 2 Places left*

Walking Arnhem 14-18 Sept

£425 Anniversary week! The Drop Zones, Wolfheze, The Cauldron, The Bridge & Nijmegen *3 places left*

Verdun 19-23 Oct £425

an in depth tour of this truly immense battlefield, walks around Verdun town, Col Driants defence, Doumont, Vaux and much more. *6 places left*

The following units wear this honour with pride

Il Castello, Italy — 3-8 August 1944 -

The 2nd Btn Parachute Regiment, The 2nd Ghurka Rifles, The 3rd Ghurka Rifles *For your chance to learn more on the Italy Campaign 1944 see our attached 2009 tour list*



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