

# The Quickfirer!



Bringing alive the dry pages of history

## Memorial to Scottish Soldiers unveiled



Last week beneath leaden skies on Frezenburg ridge, Ypres the new Celtic cross was unveiled at a ceremony attended by several hundred people. Massed pipe and drum bands opened the ceremony which later finished by buglers playing last post. The location is a poignant place, for many of the Scottish casualties would have fought close to the spot 90 years ago. The keystones of the memorial are fittingly formed from old bunkerblocks and the cross from Scottish granite. Fundraising was carried out both in Scotland and in Zonnebeke. Our "Wipers 90th" tour will visit the memorial in October. Lest We Forget.

## Issue 21 September 07



Clive and Julian just returned from their epic battlefield retrace to the Falkland Islands. Pictured above on Moody brook track, as per the epic photo of 1982 they head towards Stanley, flanked by Wireless Ridge and Tumbledown. A truly memorable trip was had largely due to the presence of veteran Para Captain Bob Darby. Plans for a tour are underway!

## This month in History – September

**On Land** – 25th September 1915 saw the largest Allied offensive of the Great War, to that date. Launched amongst the mining towers and coal slag heaps of Artois, the BEF also used Gas for the first time. The cylinders' released gas through manifolds aimed at the German lines. When the wind changed direction much of the chlorine gas cloud sat still or drifted back into allied trenches with awful results. The majority of troops involved in the first attacks were the Territorials of 15th Scottish and 47th London Divisions both of which went on to have illustrious careers on the Western Front, being highly rated by the Germans. Some areas gained were two miles deep but wide gaps and rising casualties brought the battle to halt on 8th October.

**VC– 2/Lt Arthur Fleming-Sandes, 2/East Surrey's, at Loos, he took command in the field when his company were pinned down by grenades and machine gun fire in a critical position.**



*He jumped on the parapet and with the enemy only 20 yards away began throwing bombs. He was quickly wounded and blown off his feet by a bomb but got up and advanced urging his men to follow, rallying the situation. He was then severely wounded for a second time. He survived the war and qualified as a barrister. He died in 1961.*

## 2007 Tour Place Update

Gallipoli—Sold out.

Verdun 14-18 Oct. a unique chance to walk this incredible battlefield, an in depth quality look at the Verdun campaign. Looking at Fleury, Fort Douamont, the Ossuary, Fort Vaux and walks through forests scarred with shell holes and trenches. £399 \*3 places left\*

Wipers 90th Anniversary tour 1-5th October. Walking the areas of the Third Ypres Battles. Polygon wood, Gravenstafel, Zonnebeke. Including battlefield archaeological field visit and attendance at burial of 4 Australian soldiers remains found in 2006. £375 \*5 places left\*

Cambrai 18-21 November an anniversary small group walking tour £345 \*1 place left\*

## The following units wear this honour with pride

**Loos** September 1915-Hertfordshire Regiment, Irish Guards, Suffolk Regt, South Wales Borderers, Northamptonshire Regt, DLI, Highland Light Infantry, Essex Regt, Gloucestershire Regt, London Regt, The Black Watch.



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