

The Quickfirer!



Bringing alive the dry pages of history

ANZAC Soldiers reinterred

At Buttes Cemetery, Polygon Wood on 4th October 2007 five Australian soldiers bodies were re-interred, having been found last year during the digging of a new gas main. In the first ever case of its kind, the Australian authorities used



DNA sampling to cross check the finds and astoundingly matched 2 of the men with living relatives. In an hour long moving ceremony, with dignitaries, firing parties, buglers and family present the five were gently lowered to ground. This time permanent headstones stood ready. Over 800 people and the worlds press had also gathered. Our Walking Wipers group were stood proudly amongst those gathered.

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Three Lancashire men return to "W Beach" at Gallipoli where their Regiment won "Six VC's before breakfast" in 1915. The Blue Skies pictured were a little deceiving for one of our group who insisted on skinny dipping at the beach to cool down. He was not in for long and retreated out fairly swiftly.

This month in History – October

In the Air– October 14th 1943 became known as *Black Thursday* after terrible losses to American B-17 bomber crews in their daylight raid on the ball bearing factories of Schweinfurt. The 291 strong bomber formation was attacked time and again by swarms of enemy fighters and flew through flak fired by over 500 anti aircraft guns. Friendly fighters were unable to accompany the bombers all the way and the toll rose to 59 B-17 Flying Fortresses shot down over Germany, 6 more crashed in England. Unescorted bomber raids were suspended.

VC– Sergeant Robert Downie 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers

At Lesboeuvs (Somme) on 23/10/16 this Glaswegian NCO took over and led a charge on enemy positions after his officer was killed. Amid shellfire and machine gun barrages he rallied the men shouting "come on the Dubs!" and ran at the enemy, accounting for several and knocking out a machinegun. Despite being wounded he then organized defence and helped beat off several counter attacks and gave valuable aid. Downie was also awarded the MM and was MiD twice, he died in 1968.



2008 Tours Update

The brochure for our exciting 2008 schedule is in production and will be sent out shortly. Tours will of course include strolling on the Somme and this years Ypres trips will combine with a day studying the Zeebrugge 1918 raids and the Nieuport sector. Places on the flagship Gallipoli tours are filling fast and interest in the Falkland Islands tour is underway! 1914, 1915 and the advance to victory 1918 are also well represented in the schedules. Email us with any changes in your address.

The following units wear this honour with pride

Scheldt October 1944 (Opening the port of Antwerp) Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, The Cameronians, Manchester Regiment, Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Scots, Essex and Kent Scottish, British Columbia Regiment.



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