

The Quickfirer!



Bringing alive the dry pages of history

Anzac Rededication 91 Years after

Last October we reported the burial of five Australian soldiers in the Buttes Cemetery Polygon Wood, Ypres. A year on we are pleased that a further member of the party has been identified and a permanent headstone placed recording his name. George Storey of the 51st Battalion AIF was killed on the 30 September 1917 during the Battle of Polygon Wood. Aged 22 at the time of his death, English born George was working as a farm labourer in Western Australia, had been in France since September 1916 and had been previously wounded in June 1917.



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News reaches BHL of a newly proposed canal lock on the Canal Du Nord. This would threaten CWGC cemetery Sanders Keep, among those buried there is Thomas Jackson VC who died 90 years to the day that the planned route was announced. The above photo shows Sean, Mark and Steve at his grave on a recent Battle Honours tour

This month in History – October

War in the Desert—El Alamein October 23 1942, Operation Lightfoot is often regarded as a decisive victory of the 1939-45 war. Newly appointed commander Montgomery's men struck at the heart of Rommel's Afrika Corps. By the November 4th they were retreating having suffered the loss of 25,000 men. The allies had sustained 13,000 casualties. The tide had turned. In his pre attack briefing the offensive spirit of Monty was at the fore "Everyone must be imbued with the desire to kill Germans even the padres—one for weekdays and two on Sundays"

VC— Cpl James McPhie, 416 Field Coy RE—on the 14 October 1918 crossing the Sensee Canal a party of Sappers were maintaining a floating cork bridge. As Infantry crossed they bunched under MG fire and the bridge began to break up and sink. McPhie ran forwards shouting "It is death or glory work which must be done for the sake of our men on the other side". Axe in hand he was hit whilst holding the bridge together enabling those trapped to cross safely. This Edinburgh man is buried near to where he fell, Naves CWGC



2009 Tour Schedule

- 5/9 April Somme Strolls I
new walks for 2009
- 26 April/1 May Gallipoli I
- 10/14 May Walking Arras
- 24/28 May Walking the Vosges
new tour for 2009
- 14/18 June Walking Normandy
- 19/23 July Walking Wipers
new walks for 2009
- 26/30 July Walking Cambrai
- 9/13 Aug Redcoats to Khaki
- 6/10 Sept Somme Strolls II
- 20/25 Sept Gallipoli II
- 11/16 Oct Italian Campaign 44
new tour for 2009

These selected units wear this honour with pride

Courtrai 14/19 October 1918; Berkshire Yeomanry, Westminster Dragoons, Royal Scots, East Surrey Regt, South Wales Borderers, Border Regiment, Black Watch, Royal Sussex Regt, Northumberland Fusiliers.

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