

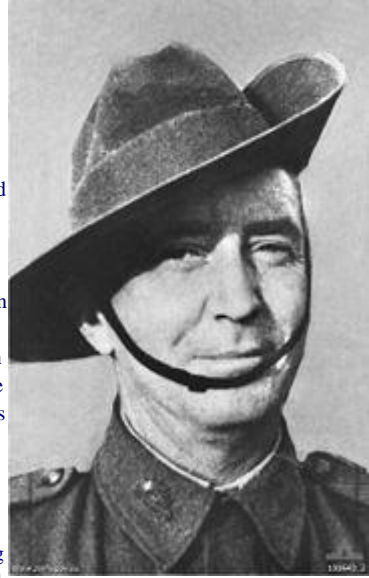


Bringing alive the dry pages of history

New Tank Memorial in the Salient

A new memorial commemorating the efforts of the Tank Corps and the HBMGC is to be unveiled this weekend in the village of Poelcapelle, the new memorial will include a nice feature in the form of a visitors book in a memorial register along side a memorial roll listing every tank man that fell in the defence of the Ypres Salient in the Great War. In addition a poppy will be laid annually for every name featured in the register, the enclosure floor is the silhouette of the fighting compartment in a MKIV tank. In 1/1 scale and marking out all the crew positions this added

feature to the battlefields will be a welcome one for visitors wishing to commemorate and remember the role of tanks in the 1917 & 1918 fighting in the area. The memorial is flanked by Belgium, Union and RTR flags and an early viewing will be afforded to those of you joining us on our Wipers Walks tour departing the 8 November. The work is largely through a group of local enthusiasts and we look forward to shaking them by the hand in November and thanking them for keeping the memory of the BEF alive. The tank memorial marks the spot of a famous 1917 land ship that was knocked out on the site and remained for many years after the war (*inset photograph the memorial taking shape August*)



This months featured VC holder is Pte Percival Eric Gratwick 2/48Bn Australian Infantry remembered for his bravery at the Battle of El Alamein October 1942

VC – Percival Gratwick 25/26 Oct 1942

Gratwick, who was born in Katanning WA and had worked as a prospector in the Pilbara region, he served the 2/48th Bn from South Australia and was awarded a VC for his part in the battle of El Alamein. On the night of 25/26 October 1942 during the attack at Miteiriya Ridge the platoon to which Gratwick belonged suffered considerable casualties, including the platoon commander and sergeant. Gratwick, realising the seriousness of the situation, charged a MG by himself, and killed the crew with hand grenades. He also killed a mortar crew. Under heavy machine-gun fire Gratwick then charged a second post, using his rifle and bayonet. In inflicting further casualties he was killed by machine-gun fire, but his brave and determined action enabled his company to capture the final objective. Gratwick's VC is on public display in Fremantle, there is also a hospital named in his honour. He is buried in the El Alamein War Cemetery

These selected units wear this honour with pride

Poelcapelle October 1917 - Otago Mounted Rifles, Auckland Regiment, Gordon Highlanders, Life Guards, Suffolk Regiment, Royal Fusiliers, Royal Scots, Coldstream Guards, Somerset Light Infantry, British West Indies Regiment.

Proposed 2010 Tour Schedule

11/15 April - *Walking Wipers*
2/7 May - *Walking Gallipoli I*
23/27 May - *Chemin de Dames*
20/24 June - *Dieppe/Normandy*
4/8 July - *Somme Strolls*
18/22 July - *Walking Fromelles*
1/5 Aug - *Redcoats to Khaki*
22/26 -Aug - *Der Tag! 1918*
5/9 Sept - *Road to Rome 1944*
19/24 Sept - *Walking Gallipoli II*
03/06 Oct - *Battle of Britain & London at War*



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