

# The Quickfirer! No 35 November 2008



*Bringing alive the dry pages of history*

## 90th Anniversary Armistice Commemorations

As we all know this November marks the 90th anniversary of the end of The Great War. The Royal British Legion is honouring the memory of the War's heroes with a unique tribute. A Flanders' Field of Poppies will be planted beside the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres (Ieper). Through this tribute our special Flanders' Field will be awash with scarlet. The online dedication service has now closed and the task of planting over 61,000 Poppies begins. For those in London this year's ceremony promises to be a memorable one with the three surviving veterans present alongside current highly decorated soldiers and large screens will be erected in Trafalgar Square to broadcast the ceremony live.

Above you will see the first unveiling of our new logo, thanks to the hard work of Frank Toogood we are extremely happy to now boast a reference to Australia alongside the already familiar British, American and Canadian flags. We hope this striking image reflects well on Battle Honours as we end 2008 and look forward to the future.



## *This month in History – November*

4 November 1918 The Sambre canal crossings. Few days can be as memorable for the BEF than the 4 November 1918. The last major push took place across the Sambre canal. The operation saw the capture of villages & river crossings along a 30 mile front using 17 Divisions, the award of a number of Victoria Crosses was tempered by the last large casualty list of the war, most famously among them was Wilfred Owen. The area was visited on last year's Advance to Victory tour and is likely to appear back on the schedule for 2010. Lest we forget....

VC—*Lt-Col D.G. Johnson VC DSO MC (left)*, SWB, attached 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex, on November 4th, 1918. The 2nd Bde crossed the Sambre lock south of Catillon. Opposition was strong and before the bridge could be thrown, a steep bank had to be crossed. The assaulting platoons and RE's were thrown into confusion by a heavy barrage and MG fire causing casualties. At this moment Johnson arrived and collected men to assist the Engineers and personally led the assault. Though under heavy fire his second attempt succeeded and the canal, at a heavy price, was crossed.



## 2009 Tour Schedule

- 5/9 April Somme Strolls £475
- 26 April/1 May Gallipoli £890
- 10/14 May Walking Arras £475
- 24/28 May Vosges Walks £725
- 14/18 June Normandy £490
- 19/23 July Wipers Walks £475
- 26/30 July Cambrai £475
- 9/13 Aug Redcoats/Khaki £475
- 6/10 Sept Somme Strolls £475
- 20/25 Sept Gallipoli £890
- 11/16 Oct Road to Rome TBC

## *\*Quickfirer Offer\**

*Save £20 off any 2009 tour by booking before 31 January*

*Subject to full booking terms and conditions*

## These selected units wear this honour with pride

Sangro River, Italy November 1943—The Buffs, The Kensington's, The Lancashire Fusiliers, The Royal Fusiliers, The Cheshire's, The Essex Regt



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