

The Quickfirer!



Bringing alive the dry pages of history

Guides gain the coveted Guild “Badge”

At RAF Uxbridge last weekend the two main guides of Battle Honours, Clive and Julian, were presented their Guild of Battlefield Guides Badges by the patron Professor Richard Holmes. The Black Tie event in the officers mess, in the presence of the Belgian Ambassador was



the AGM for the 4 year old Guild which was set up to raise standards in the industry amongst guides and tour companies. To achieve the badge candidates must pass nine tough assignments and face critique from their peers at every stage. 36

This month in History – December

VC– On 13 December 1914 in the Dardanelles, Lieutenant Holbrook was in command of the submarine B.11, an old and obsolete craft built in 1905. Notwithstanding the difficulties of a treacherous current in the Straits, he dived under five rows of mines and torpedoed and sank the Turkish battleship *Messudiyeh*, which was guarding the mine-field. He then succeeded in bringing the B.11 back to the Mediterranean, in spite of being attacked by gun fire and torpedo boats. When they got back to safety the B.11 had been submerged for 9 hours. Holbrook died in 1976, the first submariner to be awarded the VC and to have an Australian Town named in his honour. (The residents of Germanton, NSW wanted a less Germanic town name)

On Land– One year after Commander Holbrooks’ gallant sinking of the *Messudiyeh*, Empire troops on the Dardanelles begin the superbly planned and brilliantly executed withdrawal phase from Turkish soil. Amidst freezing blizzards and torrential rain Suvla bay was evacuated in December with over 50,000 troops and 2,300 animals being taken away safely. Helles was evacuated in the New Year.

The following units wear this honour with pride

Defence of Kut Al Amara December 1915.

The Norfolk Regiment, Dorset Regt, Royal West Kents, 1st Punjab Regt, 7th Gurkha Rifles, 5th Mahratta Light Infantry, 6th Rajputana Regt. Ox and Bucks Light Infantry, 9th Jats.

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Commander Holbrook VC

2008 Tour Schedules.

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Why book with us?

- We walk the battlefields
- Maximum group size 25
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