

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CEMETERIES TOUR

For members who took part last June in my guided tour around the Dover cemeteries and also anyone else who might be interested, I thought you might like to know that on Saturday 12th August 2000 I shall be conducting a similar commentaried tour, but this time around the churchyards of St Mary, Cow Gate and Charlton under the auspices of the White Cliffs Countryside Project.

Rendezvous will be at 2pm in the car park of Dover Leisure Centre on the site of the now disappeared St James' churchyard alongside the Tidy Ruin in Woolcomber Street.

By the time this letter appears in the journal I shall also have repeated the cemeteries' tour under the same promotion. These will be the only such tours this year and their repetition in future will be gauged upon the success or otherwise of this year's. I hope therefore to draw on your support!

Yours sincerely,
Martyn C. Webster

THE FIRST BOMBS

In the April Newsletter there was a report by Terry Sutton on the installation of the first two historic plaques, in which he referred to my comment at the unveiling of the first one that, to my belief, it might have been the first bomb to drop on a town anywhere in the world. It appears that I was wrong.

I subsequently received a telephone call from a Mr R Bent of Birchington who drew my attention to a book entitled "Bombs Gone" by Wing Commander John A MacBean and Major Arthur S Hogben, published by Patrick Stephens Ltd in 1990. In the Introduction they state:—

".....the very first bombs dropped in anger from a heavier than air machine were during the Turkish-Italian war by Lieutenant Guiho Gavoti of the Italian Air Service, when on the 1st November 1911 he dropped bombs on Turks and Arabs in the towns of Tagura and Zara in North Africa."

"Bombs Gone" is obviously a very authoritative book and I am very grateful to Mr. Bent for lending me his copy. I understand that he has worked in Dover in the past and that his wife still has relatives in the town.

Please feel free to publish any of this letter if you think our members would be interested.

Yours most sincerely,
Peter Johnston