

What's Going On?

The Social & Fund-Raising Team Reports

DIARY OF EVENTS

The date of the next Branch meeting is
March 11th

- 28 Feb Coffee Morning Harborough Theatre
- 3 Mar Lunch at The Angel
- 16 Mar First Ypres Trip departs (see leaflet enclosed)
- 29 Apr Desborough Branch Special Luncheon
- 12 July Poppy Walk, London
- 8 Aug Newmarket Race Day
- 17 Oct Coffee Morning Harborough Theatre

Lunch at The Angel **Tuesday March 3**

We meet in the bar at Noon **M E N U**

Roast Leg of Lamb

With rosemary gravy, roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Baked Fillet of White Fish

On crushed new potatoes with a dill and prawn sauce and garden peas

Savoury Leak and Mushroom Crumble

With roasted potatoes and vegetables

Fresh Fruit Salad

With vanilla ice cream

Bread and Butter Pudding

With creamy custard

Lemon Tart

With raspberry coulis and thick cream

Only £7

Join us and enjoy good food in good company.

Reserve your place now with Wendy Osborne on
01858 467636

SUPPORT YOUR BRANCH - GET INVOLVED

The Royal British Legion Market Harborough Branch

Reg. Charity 219279

Hon. Secretary:

Sara Whitley-Kinzett 01858 434476

Welfare:

Vida Edwards 0116 279 3729

Betty Ramsay 01858 434923

Poppy Appeal Organiser:

Dave Pryor 01858 545612

Standard Bearer

George Fleming 01858 462711

Social & Fund Raising Team:

Glenys Hocking-Davies 01858 467835

Wendy Osborne 01858 467636

Les Moore 01858 463112

Freda Carnell 077 422 987 68

Meetings are held on the Second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Function Room at the Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. The Committee meets in the same room on the Thursday preceding the Branch Meeting at 7.00 pm.

In Touch

www.in-touch.ukvet.net

THE MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER OF THE
MARKET

HARBOROUGH
BRANCH OF THE
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Founded 1996

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The Royal British Legion

Market Harborough Branch

In Touch

Issue 125

February 2009



*"See you at the Coffee Morning
in the Harborough Theatre
on Saturday February 28."
Con Halsall*

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Branch News Round-up

Coffee Morning Prizes and other contributions are still required and Les Moore (01858 463112) would like to hear from Members who can assist in any way, as outlined in the January *In Touch*.

In Touch Delivery Team Praised In the absence of the Chairman, George Fleming took the February meeting and opened by mentioning the volunteers who deliver the monthly newsletter which, he felt, is part of the strength of the Branch. The team comprises Tom Ashmore, John Cox, Bob England, John Swanack, Frank Thurgood and George himself.

National Conference Any resolutions should be addressed in the first instance to the Branch Secretary.

Desborough Branch Lunch Members are invited to a commemorative lunch on Wednesday 29 April and Les Moore has provisionally reserved the Community Bus. Please contact the Secretary Sara for details on 01858 434476.

Poppy Appeal Branch Organiser, Dave Pryor, said the amount raised to date was £24,678.50. This included funeral collections amounting to £878.50.

Mini-Coach Trip to Belgium A leaflet is enclosed giving details of the first of a series of tours organised by Dave Pryor. Please telephone 01858 468662 for further information and to book your place.

Is your Driving Licence Valid?

George Fleming writes: Motorists risk being fined up to £1,000 because they are unwittingly driving without a valid licence after failing to spot the extremely small print on their photo card licence which says it automatically expires after 10 years and has to be renewed - even though drivers are licensed to drive until the age of 70.

The fiasco has come to light a decade after the first photo licences were issued in July 1998, just as they start to expire.

what I mean. I was only 23, single, not too ugly. I'm now going on 70 and have been married twice. My first wife died 26 years ago from a heart condition leaving me with an eleven year old son and a sixteen year old daughter who did everything for us until I met my present wife three years later. I now have 23 years under the belt with her and if things go right, will celebrate our 25th anniversary before coming back to England to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Group's organization.

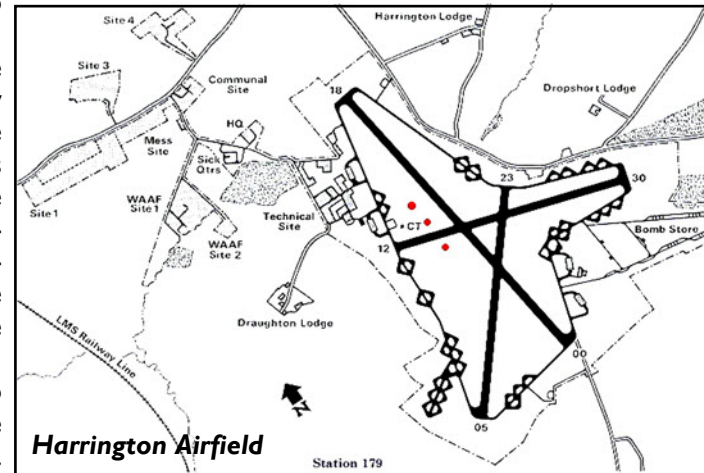
I only intended to write a few lines and have gone to the second page. As one former GI to another, can I ask a favor? I have found the address of the girl I mentioned which I did not have when last in Leicester. Could you make a few inquiries and see if anyone remembers her. I don't know how you can do it but if she is alive I would like to write and possibly renew our friendship. Even pay my respect when we come back in 1993.

What I have is her sister's address as she was an orphan before going into the service, if I remember correctly. Anyway here is what I have, ACW Dorothy Christine Riley, Leicester.

Some people have lived at the same place for years and never moved. It's like looking for a needle in a haystack, as the saying goes. If you wish to employ detective and have the time to do this I would be very appreciative but if you can't, forget I asked as I could be turning up a hornets nest.

I'm trying to remember if there is a Saracen's Head pub or the Queen's Arms in Market Harborough? I was not a drinker and have not changed since then. A half and half once in a while but that was all.

Besides, most of my pay went home as we were just coming out of the depression when I went into the army. By the way we were all army then so we have something in common.



In fact the day the war ended I was to be transferred to the Infantry as it was easier to do this than bring someone over as a replacement from the USA. One more day and I'd have been gone.

I hope I have been able to put some light into the life of an OI at Harrington. Nothing exciting, for me anyway. The flight crews were different. They were separate from us. The crews stuck together and

went home together. I was fortunate to fly home instead of taking the boat when it was over. I was home on a 30 day leave when Japan gave up and was discharged in August of 1945.

For me it was three and a half years in the army of which better than two years was spent in your country. My wife says two years I have never forgotten.

Visit the
Carpenter Aviation &
Northants Aviation Society
Museums
Harrington

Open 10am - 4pm
Weekends & Bank Holiday Mondays
from the 4 April 2009 to the 1 November 2009
Adults: £4.00 Children £2.00

<http://harringtonmuseum.org.uk>

An ex-Carpetbagger writes from USA

Some years ago, a Branch Member, the late Stan Woofenden, passed to Tom Ashmore a copy of the following letter dated 30.1.1990. It was from Sebastian H Corriere, President of the 801st/492nd Bombardment Group Association, based in Springfield, Virginia.

The Group operated from RAF Harrington, south of Market Harborough, and was a special unit to fly agents and supplies to Resistance groups in Occupied Europe. The project was to be known as Operation Carpetbagger.

In your letter of January 6th you asked what life was like for some of us while at Harrington. For me, it was like an every day job as I was in the ordnance section of my squadron. Knowing the armies do not differ except for the uniforms, you know how dull it can get at times. When not loading or unloading bombs or containers or whatever was required for a particular mission, it was either details to perform or a three day stint on KP.

Usually after the planes were loaded we sat in one of the huts on the line until they took off. We never saw any of the agents we dropped as they were brought to the aircraft just before take off. If a mission was scrubbed, we then unloaded the planes as each mission was to a different place and different loads were needed.

We had a security lecture at least once a week and could not have any cameras. The photographic section took any pictures needed. The only pictures I have of myself at Harrington were taken by my brother when he visited me one time. He was in the 9th AF and was stationed at Bottisford, about 40 miles north of us. I was fortunate to have spent a week furlough with him and a cousin, who was also in the air force, and took in Leeds and a few other places during that week. I'm sure you know how it is in the service. For



A B24 Liberator lifts off from Harrington

an hour of excitement there are hours of boredom. To keep us from being too bored, they had us clip .50 shells for the guns, while we sat around. Even going down to the bomb dump and taking inventory when it was below 0 degrees. I'm finding out more about our activities at Harrington since we have become an organization than when I was there.

Sorry I can't tell you more about life there except that I did go to the pubs in Market Harborough and Northampton more than Leicester. I was engaged to a WAAF who came from Leicester but broke up because we were being sent to the Pacific and figured it would take another two years to lick the Japanese. Too far and too long to be separated with her still being in the WAAFs.

When we came back for our Memorial dedication in 1987, my wife and I tried to locate her in Leicester through the Records Office but could not. I thought they would have records similar to the way ours are kept and if married had a record. They thought it strange that my wife came along and wanted to meet her if found. She was a fine young woman whom I met when we had a dance on the base and invited WAAFs from a nearby training school. We hit it off and started writing to one another. When we tried to look her up it was not our intention to cause any trouble for her if she had a husband, but to pay my respects upon my return to England. 45 years is a long time but it still does not diminish memories. I'm sure you understand

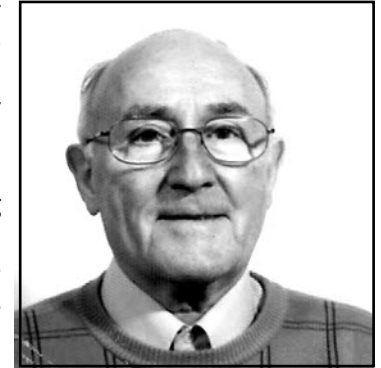
OBITUARY

Edward William Kreckeler

22.12.1924 - 8.1.2009

Having lived in Market Harborough only since 2006, Pam and Ted Kreckeler were not well known in the Branch. They moved from East Bergholt to be nearer their family and, had Ted's health permitted, would surely have entered into the life of the local community, as they certainly did in Suffolk.

After leaving school, Ted worked at the Bank of England until, in 1942 aged 18, he joined the Royal Air Force.



He served in the latter part of the war as a wireless operator in Lancasters, taking part in bombing raids over Germany and, after the war, on humanitarian missions.

After demob, Ted began a career with the Institute of Chartered Secretaries which was to span forty-two years. In the early eighties, he was responsible for the introduction of computers at the Institute.

During retirement in Suffolk both Ted and Pam became involved in various activities ranging from breeding dogs to ballroom dancing, horticulture and the theatre. They had a daughter, Susan and two grandchildren and were happily married for over sixty-two years.

The Editor adds.

I was privileged to enjoy Ted's company when he drove me on the rural *In Touch* delivery round. We had many a laugh as we reminisced about our lives - so different in many respects, other than we're both Londoners. I shall remember Ted as a kind, gentle, genuinely nice bloke.

Spotlight on the Royal British Legion Women's Section

The British Legion came into being in July 1921, as a result of the amalgamation of the four great ex-Service organisations which then existed and it is now the only national body of ex-Servicemen and women. In the same year the British Legion Women's Section was formed to safeguard the interests of the widows, dependants and families of men and women who have served in H.M. Forces, and to augment and widen the activities of the British Legion. It is the only body of women organised for this purpose.

In 1971, at the Jubilee Conference of the British Legion, it was announced that Her Majesty the Queen had conferred upon the Legion the honour of being known as The Royal British Legion.

The Legion is a body incorporated by Royal Charter, and the Women's Section is made an integral part of the Legion by virtue of Article 7, which lays down that women members are those who are admitted to



a specially formed Section of the Legion, namely, the Women's Section.

The Section is governed by the principles and policy which are laid down in the Charter, namely, that it will be democratic, non-sectarian, and not affiliated to or connected with any political body or

organisation.

The word democratic is interpreted literally. Not only the members of the organisation but also those responsible for its administration are representative of all classes.

The policy of the Legion and of the Section is to safeguard and to transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom, and Democracy, for which our kinsmen fought and died; to promote loyalty to the Crown, the State, and the Nation, as well as unity amongst all classes; to secure Peace and Goodwill, to make Right the master of Might, and to consecrate our comradeship by devotion to mutual service and helpfulness.

Branches of the Section will not pursue any policy other than that definitely laid down by the Board of Trustees of the Legion and the Central Committee of the Women's Section.

Jo Richardson is an enthusiastic member of the Women's Section at Wigston. Here she takes a light-hearted look back.

Wigston Women's Section was formed on 31 March 1939. We knitted socks for soldiers, a social gathering started during the last war when ladies met to knit for the troops. Eventually it was not necessary but a knitting class carried on every other Monday afternoon until dwindling numbers attending meant it had to close and a poignant little notice appeared in the local rag in the 1970's.

For fun(d) raising we ran Whist Drives with proper teas with neat little salmon sandwiches and the main raffle prize was half a home made cake faithfully brought in every time by Mrs Humberstone. There were the people who sat there and tut-tutted whilst perusing their hand and juggling



cards around saying "My, my these cards are so sticky".

I remember running about wearing pink hotpants in a local park at a girls' fancy dress football match - Women's Section versus the Townswomen's Guild. Who won? No idea, can't remember but it was such a laugh.

We've sorted through enough jumble and bric-a-brac to fill a warehouse. All these activities put the word fun into fundraising.

Sadly, our members don't seem so game for a laugh nowadays and only a small proportion of the overall membership helps in raising money for benevolent purposes.

Just a Bit of Fun

☺ Two television aerials met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much cop, but the reception was excellent.

☺ A set of jump leads walked into a bar. The barman said, 'I'll serve you, but don't start anything.'

☺ Two cannibals were eating a comedian. One said to the other: 'Does this taste funny to you?'

☺ An invisible man married an invisible woman. The kids were not much to look at either.

... and finally just one more groan ...

☺ A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. 'But why?' they asked. 'Because,' he said, 'I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer.'