



Editorial

Here we are heading into November, which is always a busy month for all Royal British Legion branches. We report on Legion Dinners, Poppy Appeal results and Armistice Day ceremonies (from 1934!) and give information about what will be happening in Market Harborough (68 years later!)

Do check the Diary on p11 and Notices p10. There is a reminder that subscriptions are now overdue and how they may be paid. Also details of the Remembrance Concert to which we hope you will come and bring your friends.

Included as an insert to this issue is a message from our new Poppy Appeal Organiser.

Last month we included advice from the County Office about being on your guard against distraction burglaries. Unfortunately we had a report from our Welfare Officer that one of our members has recently become a victim to such a crime. This should reinforce the warnings we printed. Remember these conmen are very, very plausible and convincing. Please, do not get complacent about this – it really could happen to you!

RIDDLE-ME-REE

What is the difference between an elephant and a pillar box? You don't know? Maybe that is why I am not receiving any stories, articles or anecdotes from our members. For future reference: An elephant is a large grey object with a trunk at one end and a tail at the other; while a pillar box is a somewhat smaller, cylindrical object, painted a bright red, with a slot near the top, waiting to receive your contributions!!! Ω

name and the amount each one collected from 8s. 8d. to £5 17s. 3d.; and the names of all the shops and businesses in town who contributed.

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Coverage is also given of Armistice Day services held in the Market Harborough District, and here we reprint the introduction in full:

“Whether by reason of Armistice Day falling this year on a Sunday or not, certainly the event seemed to have gained in significance, and last Sunday’s crowds attending remembrance services were a large increase on those attending in previous years. This is true not only of the great services in London, but also of the services in big provincial centres and in the country, towns and villages.

In the Market Harborough district the same statement holds good and notwithstanding the opinion of what must be a very small minority of people, there is absolutely no sign of any falling away of interest in the services of remembrance, and no evidence of any desire for their discontinuance, or for any alteration in their character.

“We will remember them” are no mere empty words. They still have an enormous significance to hundreds of thousands of people. The crowds who gathered on

1934
English Composers Edward Elgar, Gustav Holst and Frederick Delius die.
A Road Traffic Bill proposes, motorist driving tests, pedestrian crossings, speed limits in towns, standardised road signs.
Max Baer beats Primo Carnera in World Heavyweight boxing.
RAF to get 41 new squadrons to bring strength to 1310 aircraft by 1938. Churchill still warns of weakness of UK Armed Forces.
Cunard-White Star liner <i>Queen Mary</i> launched.
<i>Isle of Capri</i> “Top of the Pops”

Sunday were composed mainly of individuals who even at this time of day, sixteen years after the conclusion of the war, have still a direct personal interest in those who fell in the war.

The war and its personal losses are still very near to the people who suffered them, and remembrance day is a very solemn day for most.”

There then followed reports on services held at Market Harborough, Little Bowden, Kibworth, Western-by-Welland, Lubenham, Medbourne, Fleckney, Naseby, Husbands Bosworth, The

Langtons, Great Easton, Welford, Thedingworth and Mowsley, North Kilworth.

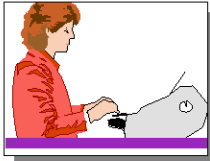
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The same paper also carried reports of the Kibworth British Legion annual dinner and an Armistice Tea of the Old Contemptibles Association at Little Bowden

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George Seward provided a facsimile of the full reports and this will be an invaluable addition to our branch Scrapbook.

If any other members have any old newspaper pages, cuttings or photographs which feature the British Legion, we would love to see them. Ω



Local Legion News - 1934

Uncovered by new member, George Seward in the Market Harborough Advertiser and Midland Mail dated Friday, November 16th, 1934.

The paper contains a report of the British Legion Dinner at Market Harborough, which was presided over by Capt. C. R. Knighton.

It reported: "Two speakers at the annual Armistice Dinner . . . expressed resentment in strong terms at the recent memoirs published by Mr Lloyd George, in which he blames the late Field Marshal Earl Haig for certain mistakes on the battlefield during the Great War."

It then goes on to mention the presentation of the Lady Wernher Challenge Cup for shooting to the Kibworth Branch.

"Proposing the toast of 'The British Legion', Capt. Knighton said the Legion was doing really good work and was an organisation that was well worth supporting. Replying, Mr H. M. Lonsdale said that the British Legion had been through two crises during the year . . . it had been proved that it was well and truly founded. A few months ago a section of the Press had stated that the Legion was not working satisfactorily, but at a conference, over a thousand against two had voted in support of the Executive Committee's decisions, which proved that the Legion had absolute faith in their committee.

"The British Legion membership had increased to the extent of sixteen thousand during the year and yet even now it did not represent a sufficient

percentage of ex-servicemen.

"Mr Lonsdale said the Market Harborough Branch, through the help of Mrs Gillilan, had given help to several way-faring ex-servicemen who had reached Market Harborough, and in one case it had been the means of getting a man who had come over from New Zealand a good position.

"The United Services Fund had been completely reorganised and, through the cutting of a few of the benefits and expenses, would be able to continue for 14 more years.

"During the last few days, said Mr Lonsdale, certain statements by a well-known politician had been made against the late Field Marshal Earl Haig, but he was certain that nothing would shake their confidence in the founder of the Legion.

"Referring to the criticism of Earl Haig by Mr Lloyd George, Mr Goodey said 'I find them very distasteful, and think it would have been better in taste if they had been said while Earl Haig was alive so that he could have answered them, or left unsaid altogether. All the great generals lost battles in the war, but England never lost a campaign. It was by Earl Haig that England was led to victory."

The report then goes on to list all those sitting at the head table and the entertainers. The catering, incidentally was by West's of Market Harborough.

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The page also contained details of the Poppy Day collections, when in almost continuous rain 50 ladies, 'undaunted by the deluge' sold poppies and raised the sum of over £114. In all the sum of £203 for the appeal was raised, and there follows a list covering over 9 column inches of every individual collector's



Branch News

OCTOBER MEETING. There wasn't even a buffet to tempt them but 51 members attended, the most "since records began". Treasurer, John Standish was kept busy taking subscriptions, and Tom Ashmore received outstanding payments for the Annual Dinner and sold tickets for the Remembrance Concert. Duggie McMeeken introduced himself as the new Poppy Appeal Organiser and had a good response to his cry for volunteers. He assured us that despite earlier problems, things were now back on track and with everyone's help we could achieve another record collection.

NEW MEMBERS. Four applications for membership have been received during the month and we welcome Mr Fred Brown, transferring from Kettering branch, Mrs Kathleen Davies and Mr & Mrs Osborne.

OLD MEMBERS. It is sad when advancing years leads to loss of independence and we were sorry to hear that our oldest member, Mr Tom Richardson is now in care at The Willows and that Mrs Barbara Cruickshank is in hospital.

BRANCH BYE-LAWS. RBL rules state "Every Branch shall make bye-laws . . ." (a sort of local constitution within the broader RBL rules). As the branch which won the Haig cup for ". . . a high standard of efficiency", it is fortunate the adjudicators did not discover that we did not have our own bye-laws! Now drafted, they have been submitted to County for approval. Ω



More News

VISIT to BRADFORD. The four members who joined the MH Photographic Society on their outing to the Museum of Photography, Film and Television on Sunday, 13th October had a most interesting and enjoyable but exhausting day out. There is so much to see, do and learn in this fascinating place covering everything from the earliest experiments through the development of the creation and use of photography, film and television. Thanks to the Photographic Society for inviting us.

VISIT to TIDWORTH. The invitation was specific: Mr George Fleming to attend a course for potential County Recruiting Officers. George says he was very impressed with the College, the quality of the RBL Training staff and the course content. "Hard work, enjoyable and a reminder of some of my Army courses", was how he summed up the weekend. We now await news of the appointment of a new CRO for Leicestershire and Rutland and pressure on all of us to build up Branch membership even faster!

CHANGES at COUNTY. County Office is moving at the end of October to 94 New Walk, Leicester. LE1 7EA (It will be good not to have to remember how to type the ½ character in the old address -117½ Loughborough Rd.) The phone numbers will be 0116 254 4090 for County Secretary & 0116 254 4099 for CFO.

Ms. Moira Watson has resigned as County Field Officer and her place has been taken, for the time being, by Mr Tony Pepper. Ω



MH Branch—Publishers

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS

A new innovation for the Branch is the production of a book. It bears the above title, is edited and produced by Tom Ashmore and Bob England and is now ready in paperback format.

It is a compilation of what we consider to be the best and most interesting (and some amusing) of the articles which have appeared in In Touch since its inception in 1996. The attempt has been made to give it a general appeal which will attract a readership outside as well as within the branch and RBL. Our RBL County President, Lt. Col. P. A. Roffey has kindly written a Foreword in which he says, "this book will . . . provide for future generations the thoughts and experiences of their forebears in the service and defence of our nation."

All the profits from this book will be shared between branch funds to help ensure the future of In Touch and the Poppy Appeal. As we are a charity organisation, we are not allowed to sell it, but "offer it in exchange for a donation to The Royal British Legion . . . A minimum donation of £6.50 is requested."

We promise you and others a good read! If you would like to order* a copy, please contact Tom Ashmore (MH433108).

* In order to minimise the amount of money the branch puts at risk, books will be produced in small batches with very little for stock. This has meant a DIY approach to printing and binding in which each book is individually hand made. If sales soar, Bob & Tom will have to cry for help! Ω



Programme of Remembrance Events

Saturday, Nov. 2nd: Remembrance concert p10

Monday, Nov. 4th: Set up the Garden of Remembrance. Help is needed for this. Please meet at the Gardens at 8.30 am. It is hoped that the work will be completed by 12.30.

Also on the 4th there will be a short Sunset Ceremony at 4 pm sharp. Mr John Cox will lower the Union Flag and raise it again by 8 am the next morning. This ceremony will be held every evening from Nov. 4th until Nov. 9th. On the 9th members of the Harborough Band will play Last Post and Reveille.

Sunday, Nov. 10th: This will be the annual Remembrance Service and Parade. Parade assembles at the Tesco car park at 10 am. The service in the Parish Church will be at 10.45 am (but please be seated by 10.30), followed by the laying of wreaths on the Memorial in The Square.

Monday, Nov. 11th: 10.15 am. Act of Remembrance at the Welland Park Memorial (near the main entrance)
10.55 am. The Square by the Memorial Garden gates. Act of Remembrance, Two Minutes Silence and Wreath Laying ceremony. Note maroons will be fired to signal the beginning and the end of the Silence.

Tuesday, November 12th: Working party to remove the display in the Memorial Gardens. Starting at 8.30 am, we hope to complete this by 11 am. Ω



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Payment was due on 1st October but still may be made by post to MHRBL Treasurer, 5 Manor Road, Fleckney, Leics.

LE8 8TN, or at the latest at the AGM. Cash should not be sent through the post. Make cheques payable to "Royal British Legion". The easy, no hassle, no need to remember, way to pay, is by Direct Debit. Ask the Treasurer for a form for next year.

POPPY APPEAL

Please read the enclosed message from the Poppy Appeal Organiser.

REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

REMEMBRANCE CONCERT



by The Harborough Band
7.30 pm Saturday, 2nd November
Baptist Church, Market Harborough

Tickets **£4.00** by post from Tom Ashmore, 9 The Pastures, MH. LE16 9EA. (sae please. Cheques to Royal British Legion) or from

ABC Music, St Mary's Road, Council Offices, Adam & Eve St., R D Jeacock & Sons, Coventry Rd.

Please display a poster. Ring Tom MH 433108 for a copy.



See the programme of activities from 2nd to 12th November on p 5.



Diary

Reminders for November (& see Remembrance programme p. 5) & some other dates to keep free.

- 25 Oct Husbands Bosworth Anniversary Dinner
- 26 Oct Poppy Appeal House-to-House starts
- 2 Nov Branch Remembrance Concert
- 2 Nov De Montfort Festival of Remembrance
- 4 Nov Garden of Remembrance opens
- 7 Nov Branch Committee Meeting
- 10 Nov Remembrance Parade and Service
- 11 Nov Armistice Day Ceremonies
- 13 Nov Branch AGM and buffet
- 7 Dec Branch Committee Meeting
- 13 Dec Branch Meeting + Punch & Mince Pies
- 13 Dec RNA Xmas dance
- 20 Dec Xmas Dinner (details later)
- 21 Mar 03 Branch 80th Anniversary Dinner
- 17 Oct 03 RNA Trafalgar Day Dinner

Meetings

Branch meetings are held on the **Second Wednesday** of each month at **7.30 pm** in the downstairs Function Room, Conservative Club Building, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough.

The next meeting is the AGM on 13th November, followed by a Buffet.

The Branch Committee meets at 7.30 pm in the **upstairs Lounge of the Conservative Club** on the **Thursday preceding the Branch Meeting.**



The Royal British Legion



Reg. Charity 219279

Market Harborough Branch



Founded in 1923

In Touch

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