

# ***In Touch, Too***

The Market Harborough Branch  
Bi-monthly News Sheet

Issue 3

December 1997

## ***Christmas Greetings***

Why is it that there appear to be only about ten days between the end of November and Christmas Eve and the number of hours in each day gets progressively fewer? In the hope that enough will remain for this Issue of ***In Touch, Too*** to reach you in time, I will start with my own personal wish that you are able to enjoy your Christmas and that the New Year brings all you wish for yourself.

I am also pleased to pass on greetings from our American Legion friends in Toledo and from a Veterans' Internet Group whose electronic Christmas "card" arrived the other day. We may not know one another by name but we are all linked by the common purpose of providing support for the ex-service community and Christmas is a good time to remind ourselves of this. On your behalf I have sent Seasonal Greetings from Market Harborough to them and others with whom the computer keeps me in touch.

## ***Christmas Lunch***

Those of you whose names did not "come out of the hat" or were not able to join us on 12th December, missed a very enjoyable get-together of twenty seven members and wives. The good food, the relaxed atmosphere and the hospitality and service at the

"Shoulder of Mutton" at Foxton and the modest cost of £6.50, all resulted in a wish to have a similar gathering and not to wait until next Christmas before doing so. If you would be like to attend, write or phone me and if there is sufficient interest another Senior Citizens' lunch will be arranged.

## ***75th Anniversary Celebrations***

The exciting programme of events which Tom Jeacock is preparing is taking shape with some dates now firm.

**21st March.** The Harborough Band will give a public Concert, in aid of Branch funds, to mark the 75th Anniversary of our formation on 20th March 1923. Tickets will cost £3.50 & full details will be in ***In Touch*** in January. This is an important event. Please give it maximum publicity.

**3rd April.** Anniversary Dinner. An occasion for the Branch to celebrate with pride its 75 years history. Although primarily for Members and their guests, we hope members of other RBL Branches, and other organisations who have been closely associated with us, will join us. The cost is likely to be about £15. More details later.

**24th May.** Anniversary Parade and Church Service. This will be another opportunity to remind the general public that there is a thriving RBL Branch in Market Harborough.

**13th June.** Carnival time! Again, the Branch will enter a float in the parade and will have Fund-raising and Information Stalls. Please lend a hand when asked to do so.

**15th to 18th August.** A 4-day holiday in Scotland including admission to the Edinburgh Tattoo and staying half-board in a good hotel in Dumfries. Travel by coach. Cost £159 per person. Single supplement, £20. Early booking essential. Ring Tom Jeacock on MH 466829 for details.

## ***Other Possible Events***

A visit abroad in conjunction with the Normandy Veterans Association.

An outing to the RBL village in Kent, possibly including a visit to the Poppy Factory.

A trip to Duxford War Museum

These events will only be possible if there is an adequate number taking part. Please ring Tom Jeacock about any in which you could be interested.

## Photo Call

To mark the beginning of our Anniversary Year and as a record to which our successors can look back at future Anniversaries, we plan to have a photograph taken of our present members at the next branch meeting on 14th January. Please make every effort to attend. Ring me (MH 433108) if you need a lift & we will try to arrange one.

## Exhibition

Again as part of our attempts to keep the Branch and the Legion in the public eye, particularly as we start the next 75 years, Harborough Museum is mounting a special exhibition based on our history. Sadly, most of the Branch archives have been lost, so if you have any photographs, newspaper cuttings or other memorabilia relating to the activities of the Branch or to any of its members, please ring Tom Jeacock.

## New Member

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Nora Callender, recently moved to Market Harborough. Nora, who served in the WAAF during the War is also a member of RAFA.

## Annual General Meeting

It was encouraging to see so many members on 10th December. To those who made the effort to come, Thank You.

## President's Address

In reviewing the past year, Peter Wilson spoke of the achievements of the Branch. He referred to the ceremony of dedicating the new Standard, the unique "twinning" with the Toledo Post of the American Legion, our involvement in the Carnival, the Remembrance Day Service and Parade, the Two minutes Silence and the superb results of the Poppy Appeal.

## Chairman's Report

I, too was encouraged by what had been achieved, including the very welcome 19 new members who joined the Branch during the 1996/97 Membership year. The present strength is 94.

But I spoke of my disappointment at the small proportion of members who have come to normal Branch meetings. To help those for whom transport may be a problem, Gordon Adnett kindly offered to use the Community Vehicle. Other members are also willing to offer lifts. Ring me if you need help.

Some members have found Branch meetings dull, too long, lacking in camaraderie, even prone to bickering. We need to make the evenings more appealing. Please tell me what you think should be done.

## Treasurer's Report

The way in which the Accounts were presented was intended to emphasise the distinction between funds which can only be used for (mainly) Welfare and those used to operate the Branch as a group of members. The "Operating a/c" showed how reliant we were on Donations.

The Audit of the Treasurer's records and the Summary a/c which has to be submitted to HQ, showed that all was in order and that Branch finances are in a satisfactory state. On that basis the Accounts were formally approved.

## Poppy Appeal

As Poppy Appeal organiser, Peter Wilson reported another record result with income to date of over £10,000, which is more than 10% up on this time last year, itself a record. He thanked everyone who had helped with the considerable effort involved and gave particular praise for the work undertaken by Renie and Dick Fulford.

## The Election

On a proposal from Peter Wilson, Mr Stan Snow, President of the former Welland Valley Branch, was invited to fill the new Office of Second Vice President. Thank you Stan for accepting.

## Branch Officers

Elected unopposed,

President	Peter Wilson
1st Vice President	Ken Stimpson
2nd Vice President	Stan Snow
Chairman	Tom Ashmore
Vice Chairman	Connie Halsall
Secretary	Andrew Marriott
Treasurer	George Fleming

## Branch Committee

All ten Members who had agreed to be nominated were elected,

Gordon Adnett	Tom Jeacock
John Cox	Tony Johnson
Charles Freer	Sam Shutt
Dick Fulford	Jock Stuart
Bernard Halsall	John Sutton

## Standard Bearers

George Fleming and John Cox remain as Branch Standard Bearer and Deputy respectively.

## Membership Directory

It was agreed to provide each member with a directory of the names, addresses and phone numbers of fellow members. If you wish to be omitted from the list please let me know before 15th January.

## In Touch

Editor, Dick Fulford (MH 431515) awaits your news, views or stories for future issues.

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Your comments are welcome.