



# “THE JENDIT”

*All the clips*

**THE CREWKERNE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**



## **SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER**

**Dear Members**

***Welcome to the spring edition of The Jendit. It would appear that the format has struck a chord with many of you as we have had some good feedback, and I am now starting to get articles from members to publish, but more of that later.***



Unfortunately, I must begin this edition with the sad news of the passing of two of our members in March. The first was one of our Eldest and longest serving Legion members, Mr Patrick MacCready, known to most if not all as Pat. Pat passed peacefully at the Orchards Care home in Crewkerne and had only recently celebrated his 93rd birthday. Pat was a familiar face around Crewkerne as for many years he was a Baker at Hodges Bakery in Market Square. However, something we found out just a few weeks before his passing was that Pat was a “Burma Star Veteran” and that he had served with the infantry in Burma during WW2. I am sure you will all join me in wishing his wife Margaret and all the family well at this sad time.

Editor:- Tony Samuel (Sam)

e-mail:-[antony.samuel@btinternet.com](mailto:antony.samuel@btinternet.com)

Tel. (01460) 279865

ISSUE 3



Just a couple of days later another of our members, David Biddlecombe, passed away after a long battle with cancer. David was a recent joiner to the Crewkerne Branch after moving from Weymouth to Clapton however, he has been a long time member of the Weymouth Branch. Weymouth-born David trained to be an architect but was called up for National Service during the Korean War and served in Korea and Hong Kong. He then joined the Metropolitan Police, starting as a constable in Soho and Piccadilly, later training as a marksman, and also working as a bodyguard

attached to James and Marina Ogilvy, children of Princess Alexandra. After 20 years police service he changed direction completely and, with wife Sheila, trained as a publican. They ran the Park Hotel successfully for 13 years from 1978, before a couple of years at the Royal Standard at Upwey near Weymouth. Again I am sure you will all join us in wishing Sheila and all the family well at this sad time.

On a happier note, on the 8th April, the Branch held their annual Christmas lunch at the Coach & Horses public house in South Perrott. I must say it was an excellent spread that James and Yvonne laid on for us (stunning mince pies, Christmas tree and all the decorations) and I am sure everyone had a great day. We held the obligatory raffle and raised £95 so well done to all who attended and took part and a huge thank you must go to all at the Coach and Horses.

Looking to the near future, on May the 28th (Bank holiday weekend), there will be a Family Fun Day and Cider Festival held at the Henhayes playing field. The Legion will have various stalls and activities there, so come on down and support the town



and the Legion and join in the fun. There will be live music later in the afternoon and plenty of fun and activities for young and old alike.

Also coming up later this year we will be affiliating with Crewkerne Army Cadets. This is something that the Branch has been trying to do for a good few years now, but I am pleased to say that the process has begun and we are now looking to set a date for the official parade where we confirm our affiliation, so watch this space for details.

On June the 18<sup>th</sup> the Branch will be attending the annual Weymouth Veterans day Parade. The Parade is something the Branch have attended for a good many years now and it is always a popular point in our calendar. Although the minibus is now full, you are all welcome to join us if you can make your own way down. For more information please contact the Secretary on 01460 279865.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our Vice Treasurer Terry Austin a belated Happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday for April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Terry has been a real stalwart to the Branch and the Committee over the years and we are all really pleased that he is still going strong even at this significant milestone birthday, so Cheers Terry and lets look forward to many more.

It gives the Committee great pleasure to announce that the Branch has also passed a milestone in the last few weeks, because Branch membership now stands at a very healthy 61 members. This is without doubt the largest membership the Branch has had for a good many years, and it is all down to you our members for spreading the word about the good work the Legion do, so thank you to all that have helped us grow in membership numbers.



# Members Archive

*Our regular readers will notice that this is a new feature to the Jendit and this is where you all get to have some input. We would like you to send us anything that you think our readers might find interesting, and we will see if we can fit it in at some point. Please remember not to send original photos etc. as we cannot guarantee their safe return.*



The picture above was taken in 1952 at the front of the Guard room at the then school of infantry (now the Land Warfare Centre) at Warminster. It is a Guard of honour provided by A Company 1st Battalion of the Gloucester Regiment (The Glorious Gloucesters) for the official visit of General Van Fleet of the American Army. He was the Commander of the United Nations Forces in South Korea in 1951. The Guard Commander is Major Davis, The Sergeant In the front rank is Sgt Lucas and the young fresh faced "Lance Jack" in the rear rank nearest the camera, is our very own Denis Bowman. A big thank you Denis, for sending this in and getting the ball rolling.



# National news

The Veterans' Gateway service has now gone live.

As part of the Gateway Strategy, the Legion is working to make it easier for those we support to understand and use our services by working in collaboration and partnership with other organisations. The Veterans' Gateway is the first step in this journey.

[Veterans' Gateway](#) aims to be the first point of contact for Veterans or their families seeking information, advice and support.

As the gateway to a network of expert partners – both within and outside of the Armed Forces sector – Veterans' Gateway will connect users with the right support organisation for their needs, quickly and easily. This simplification of the system has been brought about by a consortium of partners working collaboratively and led by the Legion.

The consortium is made up of the Legion, SSAFA – the Armed Forces charity, Poppy Scotland and Combat Stress, with funding from The Covenant Fund. Our connection with referral partners such as Shelter, Mind and other specialists allows us to be the gateway to a range of support that Veterans and their families might need but struggle to find.

The [website](#) itself covers the complex array of topics that the community faces, providing a [self-help functionality](#) where users can search for the matters concerning them. It highlights the [partners](#) Veterans' Gateway can connect users with and the main phone line users can call - 0808 802 1212.

Although the service is up and running now, the full public launch will be on 25 May 2017. This phase of 'Go Live' between now and then is important so we can test our functionality before the wider launch.

In the meantime, please [visit the site](#) and follow our social media channels for further updates.

- [twitter.com/VeteransGateway](https://twitter.com/VeteransGateway)
- [facebook.com/VeteransGateway](https://facebook.com/VeteransGateway)



### **Important notice from Terry Whittles, National Chairman...**

I am aware that some members have made enquiries about the Legion's official position in respect of the investigation of some UK veterans in relation to their possible involvement in events of the Troubles in Northern Ireland. I am writing today to outline the Legion's position on this matter, as well as clarify the Legion's position on parades held in protest at these investigations.

The Legion is fully aware of the recent press coverage and public concern surrounding legal proceedings against UK Veterans who served in Northern Ireland. As this is a legal matter, which is the subject of ongoing criminal investigations, the Legion is unable to comment on the merits or otherwise of individual cases, and the Legion should not interfere in what is a legal criminal process.

The Legion welcomes the fact that UK Veterans affected by the legacy investigation process will receive free MOD legal representation. We also note that, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, the Prime Minister stated that, as part of the Stormont House Agreement, the Government would look at the issue of a statute of limitations on incidents prior to the Belfast Agreement. The UK Government has also consistently made clear that they expect the Police Service of Northern Ireland's (PSNI) Legacy Investigation Branch (LIB) to consider legacy cases in chronological order.

Of course, the Legion must and will support all our Veterans. We do not offer legal representation in criminal prosecutions, as to do so would be inconsistent with our charitable objectives; however, we do provide a broad range of welfare support services to all members of the Armed Forces community. Any individuals or family members who find themselves affected by the legacy investigations are therefore encouraged to contact us if they feel the Legion can be of any assistance outside of legal advice.

The Legion is aware of plans for marches to take place in Northern Ireland, and a few other locations, in protest at the investigation of some UK Veterans' alleged involvement in events during the Troubles. Legion members can, of course, attend the proposed marches in a personal capacity, and I recognise that many will want to



do so. However, I would like to remind our members that attendance in an official Legion capacity is not appropriate. Similarly, I would like to request that parades such as these do not start at Legion properties and must not incorporate Legion imagery or associated symbols of any kind in the march itself nor any press or promotional material. This is in order to maintain our non-partisan position in the context of the highly politicised atmosphere surrounding this debate.

I hope the above clarifies the Legion's position in this matter, and that members will kindly observe my requests concerning related parades.

The Crewkerne Branch Committee members list:

- President .....David Lawrence
- Chairman .....Antony Samuel
- Vice Chairman .....Dennis Holland
- Secretary..... Alice Samuel
- Treasurer .....Jo Lyons
- Deputy Treasurer...Terry Austin
- Committee.....Sue Phinn
- Committee.....Brian Forster
- Committee.....Peter Brown
- Committee.....Rita Brown
- Standard Bearer.....Andrew Watts
- Membership Sec....Alice Samuel
- Welfare Officer.....Dennis Holland
- Welfare Sec.....Alice Samuel
- Welfare Treasurer...Jo Lyons