



# “THE JENDIT”

*All the clips*

**THE CREWKERNE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**



## **SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER**

Hello and welcome to our summer edition of the Jendit. This summer sees the first anniversary of our move to the GRC and with hindsight it has proved to be a good decision. It has certainly helped us to “up our profile” around the town and people seem more aware of our existence than they were twelve months ago. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at the GRC for their support over the last year.



*Members of the poppy riders join us at the Crewkerne Cider Festival.*



*The Branch stand at the Haselbury Mill.*

The Branch have been very busy fundraising at a number of local events this summer and it has to be said this has been our most successful year so far. Our first event was the Cider Festival held at the George Reynolds Centre on the 28<sup>th</sup> May where we had a recruitment stand and lots of activities for all the family, including a Coconut Shy, Apple Bobbing and Candy floss stall. We were also very grateful to be joined by

members of the “Poppy Riders” (Royal British Legion Motorcycle Branch) and the Wessex Military Vehicle Trust who helped to enhance our stand. In the evening, there was live music from a number of local bands and since this event our Branch Membership has risen to 63 so we continue to grow in numbers. Three weeks later on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, was our annual trip to the Weymouth



*Members of the branch on the march at Weymouth.*

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ISSUE 4



Veterans day parade. We had a full minibus and in addition a number of other members made their own way down. Although it was a very hot day most of us took part in the parade and all those that took part managed to complete it, so well done everyone. After the parade we all made our way to the Weymouth Pavilion where we were served a nice lunch and watched the entertainment laid on by the event organisers. I believe one or two of us may have indulged in some alcoholic beverages but only to keep us hydrated after a long march. Following this, the Secretary laid on a fund raising game of Bingo for us and all in all it was a very successful day out and I'm sure all who attended had a lovely time.

The following week we were invited to take part in the Wessex Military Vehicle Trusts annual show at the Haselbury Mill and this proved to be a very successful day of fund raising. At the end we raised a staggering £232.41 so well done to all who donated and helped with the stand and also thanks must go to our friends at the Wessex Military Vehicle Trust for inviting us.

Hopefully we can do it again next year.

Just a week later we had a stand at St. Barts School fete and again we raised a healthy £87.74 so another good result. Finally a week after that we were invited to the Crewkerne Hospital Fete and although this event is not normally a great fundraiser for us, we managed to raise a very respectable £67.02, so again well done to all who helped and donated to all the events so far this summer.



*Branch stand at St. Barts school fete*

### **Branch Appreciation for Terry**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> May this year our good friend and Deputy Treasurer Terry Austin was awarded the Branch Certificate of Appreciation. The committee agreed that Terry has been a stalwart of the Branch and the RBL as a whole, he has supported the committee and Branch through some difficult times and has always put the interests of the Branch first and for that we thank him and well done Terry. May you be with the committee for many more years to come.



*Terry Austin receives his certificate of appreciation from the Chairman in the company of members of the committee.*

### **Annual general meeting 2017**

Well it is that time of year, and the time has come to announce the date of the Annual General Meeting. The committee have agreed to the AGM being held at 1100hrs on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at the George Reynolds Centre. All members are encouraged to attend but if anyone would like to join the committee



please put forward your proposal to the Secretary in writing no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017. There is one officer post that will be vacant this year and that is the post of treasurer, as Jo Lyons our present treasurer is standing down so that she can concentrate on her career as a nurse. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and guidance over the last few years and we wish her luck for the future. So far we have one nominee for the post but if anyone else would like to apply please contact the Secretary by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017. In addition to this, any member wishing to put any matter on the agenda for the AGM should put it in writing or e-mail and pass it to the Secretary no later than 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the AGM.

### **Coffee morning**

Here's another date for your diary - The committee have decided to hold a 'Coffee Morning' at the GRC, all are welcome (members and non-members) we feel it is another good way of promoting the Legion around the town. The event will start at 1030 and will run until approximately 1230 on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> August. Please pop in for a drink, a cake and a chat and meet other Branch members. Cakes will be for sale and we will have a small draw.

### **Affiliation with the Crewkerne Army Cadets**

It is the Committee's intention that on the 8<sup>th</sup> October we will officially affiliate with the Crewkerne Army Cadets. This is something that has been in the pipeline for a number of years now and at last we find ourselves in a position to complete the affiliation. The Crewkerne Cadets have struggled in recent years to recruit but we believe that with the affiliation will come new interest in the Cadets and hopefully they can increase their numbers. It is hoped the affiliation will take place at the George Reynolds centre on the 8<sup>th</sup> October (timings to be confirmed) we will keep you posted and a general invitation will be sent out as soon as we can confirm the time and date.

### **Committee meetings**

It has now been decided by the committee that from now on, where ever possible, Branch/Committee meetings will be held on the first Saturday of the month. Confirmation of Branch meetings can be found on our notice board at the bottom of the stairs in the GRC. Meetings will commence at 1100hrs, all are very welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you there.



# Member's Archive

In this edition, members archive Tony Smith, remembers the Falklands conflict 35 years on and the role played by the then brand new type 22 frigate

"HMS Brilliant"



*HMS Brilliant anchored off South Georgia in 1982.*

*Tony (Smudge) Smith is one of our newer members, who served in the Royal Navy and saw action as a Chief Petty Officer (Marine Engineering Artificer) aboard the Type 22 Frigate HMS Brilliant, during the Falklands conflict of 1982. The following is his account of just one day in that conflict.*

I have chosen to concentrate on just a few hours of this one day on-board HMS Brilliant, 12<sup>th</sup> May 1982.

Brilliant had been despatched to provide air cover for the Type 42 Destroyer HMS Glasgow while she shot up the airfield and surrounding enemy positions around Port Stanley. As we were close inshore the ship was closed up at action stations, and when "off watch" my place of duty was with the After Damage Control Party.

It was obviously only a matter of time before the 'Argies' got upset about Glasgow lobbing 4.5" shells at them and whistle up an Air Strike. This eventually materialised



in the late afternoon in the form of twelve A4 Skyhawks in three waves of four. Throughout the following action, the First Lieutenant kept us informed over the Tannoy. The first wave flying at very low level approached from landward and went for *Brilliant*. Our Sea Wolf missile system picked them up, decided they were an acceptable target and fired off two missiles. Two A4s were taken out and debris from the second aircraft downed the third which crashed into the sea. The fourth aircraft dropped his bombs, which ricocheted off the water and bounced over us, he then turned away.

On seeing the decimation of the first wave of aircraft the second wave turned away without attacking.

The third wave also attacked at low level, three aircraft going for *Glasgow* and the fourth for us. The Sea wolf system looked at these targets, decided they were not a threat and parked itself. This wave was engaged by our 40/60 Bofors Guns and General Purpose Machine Guns (GPMG). No hits were registered. Again the bombs they dropped ricocheted off the water and bounced over us, one reportedly going between our masts. Unfortunately, one bomb did hit the *Glasgow* and passed right through her after auxiliary machinery room, luckily without exploding or causing any casualties but it did do a fair bit of damage to pipe systems and machinery.

In the midst of all this, one of our Sea Wolf Missiles went "Rogue" in its launcher and had to be fired off without guidance. It went wandering off but then looked like it might come right back at us. The First Lieutenant piped "Brace. Brace. Brace." Over the Tannoy and we all hit the deck and waited for the outcome.

We, in the after Damage Control Party, were getting as close to the deck as possible and there were dark mutterings to the effect of that it was bad enough that we were being shot at by the 'Argies' without our own bloody missiles turning on us. The Missile dropped into the sea 300 yards astern!!! Despite this it was a good, if lucky, day for the ship with a couple of 'firsts' to her credit: the first ship to use Sea Wolf in anger thus proving its effectiveness and the first ship to shoot down an enemy aircraft. *Brilliant* sailed from Gibraltar the day before the rest of the 'Task force' and so became the first Royal Navy ship to complete one hundred continuous days at sea since WW2.

The Sea Wolf and its surveillance computer system was originally designed as a short range point defence weapon configured to recognise very small fast targets (missiles) against a cluttered radar background, not aircraft, low flying or otherwise. During the conflict the system was able to be adapted to some degree to enable it to engage aircraft. This was entirely due to the presence of a civilian Marconi Engineer



who voluntarily remained on board with us throughout. Post Falklands modifications to the system mean it will now comfortably engage and destroy both types of target.

The editor would like to thank Smudge for giving us this insight into the Falklands conflict and would like to remind you all if you have anything you think might be of interest, please contact me.

## National News

Correspondence from Headquarters has advised us that Branches should consider charging members subscription fees on top of membership fees.

The Crewkerne Branch committee discussed this matter and agreed unanimously that they were not going to charge subscription fees. However, if this were to become policy/compulsory, obviously we would have to reconsider our position. At this moment in time it is optional and therefore the Crewkerne Branch will not be charging subscription fees.

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