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## REMEMBERING THE WWII GENERATION AND BEYOND

Let's commemorate VE and VJ Day 75  
and other conflicts



**JOIN US IN MARKING VE AND VJ DAY 75 AND OTHER ANNIVERSARIES**



### **DESIREE NIEZEN – A YOUNG BRANCH SECRETARY SUPPORTING HER BRANCH TO RECRUIT MORE MEMBERS**

'The RBL feels like a big family and other Branch Officers will do anything they can to help you.' Desiree Niezen is the Secretary of the Hannover Branch in Germany. Desiree first became familiar with the Branch and the Legion after joining the Branch's Highland Games team. She is now a member of the team and helps her branch recruit more members.



### **TERRY AND PAMELA AUSTIN – TWO BRANCH OFFICERS HELPING THEIR BRANCH GROW**

Terry and Pamela Austin joined the Sedgeford & District Branch in 2008 and soon after that they became Branch Officers to support their Branch. More than 10 years after they first joined, their Branch is going from strength to strength with over 70 members, many of whom attend the popular monthly lunches and other social events that Pamela organises regularly.

[Read the story >](#)



### **VE DAY 75 COMMEMORATIONS**

The Legion is hosting VE Day 75 events on 8-9 May and is inviting all of those who contributed to the victory in Europe 75 years ago, including veterans, spouses and civilians from reserved occupations across the UK and Commonwealth to attend. There are 750 places and each participant will be accompanied by a nominated companion. Please share this with your community to help us reach as many people as possible.

[Find out more >](#)



[Read the story >](#)



### **VJ DAY 75 COMMEMORATIONS**

To commemorate VJ Day 75 we are inviting WWII veterans to attend a national service taking place at the NMA, that will form part of a three-day public programme of events from 14 - 16 August. There will also be an opportunity for veterans of the Asia-Pacific campaign to join tours to key commemorative, and CWGC sites, across South and South East Asia. Please help us spread the word by sharing this with your community.

[Find out more >](#)

### **MORE COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS IN 2020**

The Legion will commemorate the 76th anniversary of D-Day with a service that will be held at Bayeux Cathedral, followed by a Remembrance service at Bayeux War Cemetery. We are also collaborating with the South Korean Embassy and the British Korean Veterans association on an event marking the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. There will be more information about all the events on our website in the Spring.



### HELPING A HOMELESS VETERAN

'If it wasn't for the Legion, I wouldn't have a full-time job and I wouldn't have a house now.'

When Leon Parker left the Army, he struggled to adapt to civilian life and ended up homeless. We helped get Leon off the streets and into a fully furnished flat, which enabled him to get a job as a chef in a 5-star hotel.

[Find out more >](#)



### DMRC PARTLY FUNDED BY THE LEGION

The Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre is officially open, providing care and support to wounded, injured and sick Armed Forces personnel. The Legion funded the Royal British Legion Complex Trauma Gym for patients with complex injuries to be able to focus on regaining mobility, fitness and independence.

[Find out more >](#)

### Did you know that...



The Legion invited Second World War Veterans to visit schools to talk to young people about their wartime experiences and raise awareness of the 75th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day. Also the Legion will launch a range of educational materials for school assemblies.



The Legion and D-Day Veterans accepted the Judges Special Award for last year's D-Day 75 commemorations at the Millies. Ahead of the Award Ceremony, the Legion team and Veterans were at Number 10, Downing Street at a special reception hosted by The Prime Minister.



### **TAKE PART IN POPPY QUEST IN FOUR LOCATIONS ACROSS THE UK IN JULY**

Poppy Quest is a fun way to challenge yourself and discover more about your city. We provide you with a map and a series of questions to help you navigate the route and uncover city gems along the way. Taking place in Cardiff, York, Portsmouth and London, this 10k discovery walk is for everyone including children and your four-legged friends.

[Find out more >](#)



### **JOIN THE LEGION'S POPPY RIDE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK**

Poppy Ride returns for its second year, offering three different distance route options to cater for everyone from beginners to experienced cyclists, and providing you with an opportunity to ride alongside veterans. All three circular routes will start and finish at the Battle Back Centre, a sports rehabilitation centre funded by the Legion, located in Shropshire.

[Find out more >](#)



### **ATTEND OUR SPRING CONCERT AND HELP THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY**

Join us on 23 April to celebrate St George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday. The Royal British Legion Central Band will be showcasing their skills, while special guest readers and the choir of St George's will also contribute to the delightful evening of words and music. Wine and snacks will be available before the concert. Tickets cost £35 and you can [book online](#) or by contacting Rebecca on 020 3207 2272.

[Find out more >](#)

## Have you helped local members of the Armed Forces community?

We know RBL Branches and Members are reaching out to and supporting local members of the Armed Forces community in need. We'd like to hear some of your examples of how you've helped serving and ex-serving personnel and their families in your community.

We would like to share your stories in a future edition of the e-newsletter. If you want to be featured please send an email to [Membershipcomms@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:Membershipcomms@britishlegion.org.uk) with your name, branch and a description of how you've helped members of the Armed Forces community. We might not be able to publish every story but we aim to share as many of your stories as possible.

## Going back in time

*From The Royal British Legion Magazine July, 1945*

Repatriated prisoners of war – including many Navy boys – and their wives were entertained by Park Gate (Southampton) Branch and Women's Section. There were 52 guests to tea. They had strawberries for the first time since the war.



**Repatriated prisoners of war—including many Navy boys—and their wives were entertained by Park Gate (Southampton) branch and Women's Section. There were 52 guests to tea. They had strawberries for the first time since the war.**

Test your knowledge of VE and VJ Day



### Who was the British Prime Minister on VJ Day?

1. Clement Atlee
2. Winston Churchill
3. Anthony Eden
4. James Callaghan

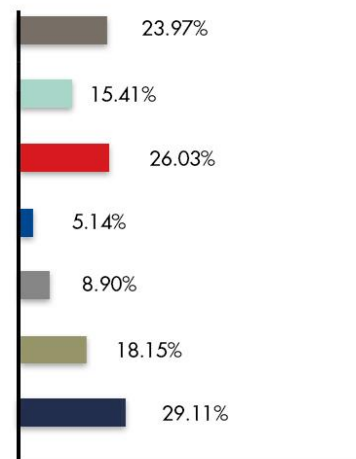
[Take the quiz >](#)

### Last month's poll

*What is the biggest challenge preventing you from taking up a leadership role in your Branch?*

**292 Participants**

1. I don't have enough time/ I work full time - 23.97%
2. I don't think I have the skills or experience - 15.41%
3. I am not an active member of the Branch - 26.03%
4. There isn't a Branch close to me - 5.14%
5. I don't want to take that responsibility - 8.90%
6. I have health problems or other personal challenges - 18.15%
7. Other - 29.11%



## ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO JOIN

Our members play a vital role in ensuring that The Royal British Legion can continue to provide support to the Armed Forces community as well as upholding the importance of Remembrance. Share this email with others you think might be interested in Legion membership.

[Join now!](#)

If you have questions about your membership card or want to change your home or email address please contact our Membership Services team [MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk)

Best wishes,

Sandra Fruish,  
Assistant Director Membership  
[membershipcomms@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:membershipcomms@britishlegion.org.uk)

*Commemorative events photos: All images © Crown Copyright. IWM.  
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### CONTACT US

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