



The Royal British Legion



Market Harborough Branch

Reg Charity 219279

In Touch

Issue 147

December 2010

The monthly newsletter (founded 1996) of the Market Harborough Branch (BR0106) of the Royal British Legion.

**Next
Monthly Branch
Meeting
Wednesday
12 January**

Function Room,
Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd,
Market Harborough
7-30pm

Merry Christmas To All

I wish all members of the branch a very Happy Christmas and may the New year bring you what you desire.

Whilst we celebrate please spare a thought for those people who, for what ever reason, feel unable to join the festive celebrations and those are spending Christmas alone or homeless.

Our thoughts are very much with the armed forces and their families at this special time of year.

Editor

Private John Howard from 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment was killed in Afghanistan on Sunday 5 December 2010



A Childs Prayer

A mother was teaching her 3 year old daughter to say the Lord's Prayer.

For several evenings at bedtime the young girl repeated it after her mother.

One night she said she was ready to say it by herself.

Her mother listened with pride as she started 'Our Father who art in heaven' and she said each word very carefully right up to the end 'and lead us not into temptation' she prayed 'but deliver us some e-mail Amen'



ANGEL the
HOTEL & RESTAURANT

37 High St, Market Harborough
LE16 7AF. Tel 01858 462702

- * A family owned hotel with 28 en-suite rooms.
- *Function room for private parties
- *Family restaurant serving evening meals and traditional Sunday lunch
 - * afternoon teas (Apr to Sept)
- * Lounge bar - a great place to enjoy a drink with friends

Waiting to Welcome You

Welfare

If you are aware of any one who qualifies for, and who may benefit from, the Royal British Legion welfare services please contact

Betty Ramsey
01858 434923

Poppy Match

Leicester City was the first football club to wear the Poppy emblem on their shirts, when on November 2 2003 shirts emblazoned with the Poppy were worn in the Premier league fixture against Blackburn Rovers.

This year, for the first time all Premier League clubs wore a Poppy emblem on their shirt.

Leicester City played Derby County at this years Remembrance Match. The match ball was landed on the pitch in a Squirrel helicopter from the Defence Helicopter Flying School and the following was printed in their match day programme.

Tommy Benfield - Fallen Hero. Tommy Benfield played football for both Leicester Fosse and Derby County.

Tommy made his debut for the Fosse on Nov 12 1910 and three years later became part of football folklore when he scored the first ever goal at Highbury (the old ground of Arsenal FC).

Tommy transferred to the Rams in 1914-15.

Tommy was the son of Thomas Charles and Elsie Benfield of Woodland Rd, Leicester. He served as a serjeant with the 6th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment in WW1 and was wounded on or about 11 September 1918 by a sniper when his battalion was in close support at Heudecourt. He died of wounds on 19 September aged 29 and he is buried at Varennes Military Cemetery.

Christmas Word Search

Find the names of Santa Clauses reindeers?

The answer will be found in next months edition

M	R	M	B	T	J	R	L	P	Z
E	M	R	E	L	U	M	O	R	L
B	A	M	E	D	I	P	R	A	Q
T	O	H	O	C	H	T	U	N	R
C	P	L	A	I	N	E	Z	C	E
C	P	R	E	H	S	A	D	E	N
H	U	V	I	X	E	N	D	R	N
C	Q	P	G	F	S	E	C	R	O
L	R	S	I	X	A	K	H	X	D
X	G	K	Y	D	X	W	I	Q	P

In Memoriam

Glenys Hocking-Davies

Passed away Nov 26 after a long illness. A lady with indomitable spirit who will be long remembered by those who knew her.

A memorial service will be held at St Dionysius on December 17th at 2-30 pm.

Life on the Ocean Waves

Sarah Peachy is a Lieutenant on HMS Montrose which is East of Suez, off Mogadishu, Somalia - Pirate hunting! She sent it to the Harborough RNA on the occasion of their Trafalgar Dinner.

We have completed our second full counter piracy patrol and are now firmly established in a routine where we spend three weeks at sea followed by just three nights in port. The aim of the patrols has been to both deter and disrupt piracy in the International Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC).

Having successfully deterred acts of piracy within our allocated patrol areas and having effectively reassured the legitimate merchant shipping trade which uses this key waterway, Montrose has now repositioned further to the south working close of the Somali coast not far from the city of Mogadishu.

Montrose's Lynx helicopter has been conducting early morning and late evening sorties with a view to detecting Pirate Action Groups (PAG) of local whalers and skiffs departing the now well known pirate camps along the east coast of Somalia. Surveillance has also taken place on these camps looking at movements of pirates and stockpiles of fuel, ladders and skiffs.

Despite the fact that the Gulf of Aden and Somali Basin are better known for their piracy than their bird life we have still seen a wide variety of bird life as we search the waters

for pirates. Many migratory birds actually touch down for a brief rest on the deck before continuing their journey. Recent visitors have included Yellow Wagtails, Warblers, Hoopoes, Swallows and a Scops Owl. It is thought that the owl spent at least two nights living in the helicopter hanger before continuing its migration south for the winter.

During the first week of October in between the Lynx's sorties we hosted stand easy in the hanger in aid of the SSAFA Big Brew and by selling tea, coffee and cakes alone raised £233.70.

To help bolster the donations members of the Wardroom were auctioned off as 'slaves' for the day. The XO was bought by an enthusiastic consortium from the Marine Engineering Dept, under a 'no constraints' deal. As such he spent his day cleaning bilges and the sewage treatment plant and proved himself a creditable tea boy. He earned himself the honorary rate of ETM (ME)2 as recognition for his hard work. Overall the Big-Brew up raised a total of £503.70.

Morale has also been kept high onboard by several other charity events such as 'Miss Montrose' organised by the Royal marines and the beard growing competition. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

This was sent by Mike Middleton.



Christmas Traditions

Christmas is celebrated in many countries and it is interesting to note some of the traditions.

Mexico - Celebrations begin on December 16 when each family hosts a Posadas where the scene of St Joseph and Mary looking for lodgings is portrayed, followed by prayers and singing. Children receive their gifts on 6 January and Rosca de Reyes, an egg bread is eaten. The bread contains a small doll representing Baby Jesus and the person whose piece of bread has the doll is declared 'Godparent of Baby Jesus'. Celebrations end on Feb 2 when the 'Godparent' hosts a big party.

Italy - Here children don't write letters to Santa Claus asking for gifts but instead write letters to their parents expressing their love for them. Presents are given on 6 January by Le Befana. Legend has it that she was an old witch invited by the Wise Men to join them paying respects to the Christ Child. She refused but regretted her decision and took some toys of her dead child to give as presents for Baby Jesus. Unable to find him she left the gifts for other children.

Poland - Polish people believe that what happens on Christmas Eve will affect the next year, good fortune will come if the first visitor is a man and the postman is welcomed into the house as it symbolises money and success. Christmas and Santa Claus day are separate. Gifts are given on December 6. .

Christmas Eve includes a meatless supper. On Christmas Day families spend their time at home and no cleaning or cooking is allowed, they eat the leftovers.



Christmas Quiz

1. What other name is given to the carol 'O Tannenbaum'
2. What is the carol with these letters forming the title - OLT OB
3. What are the traditional names of the 3 Wise Men
4. When Saigon fell what song was played on the radio as a signal for Americans to evacuate
5. How many sides does a snowflake have.
6. When is the 'Feast of Stephen'
7. How long did it take Charles Dickens to write 'A Christmas Carol'
8. How many presents would you get if you received all the gifts listed in the 12 Days of Christmas
9. What are the two little boys called in the song sung by Rolf Harris
10. Who wrote the book that inspired the 1983 film 'The Snowman'
11. There are two Christmas Islands, name the oceans they are in.
12. Before Pope Julius 1 decreed that Jesus was born on December 25 what date did early Christians celebrate His birth.

Answers next month!

Branch News

Emergency General Meeting

So we can send a delegate to Annual Conference the accounts must be with County before 31 December. An EGM will thus be held at the Conservative Club on Dec 22 at 7pm to approve the accounts.

Tom Ashmore has produced the Branch Annual Report. It is available on the branch web site or from Tom.

The Branch is still asking for volunteers to act as Branch Recruiting and Branch Publicity Team Leaders. Following the sad death of Glenys the Social Team Leader post is vacant. Volunteers for any of these posts should contact the Chairman. Hilary Brazil was inducted as Branch Standard Bearer following the retirement of George Fleming. Early news suggests that we have already matched the total of £22,200 raised last year for Poppy Appeal.

Thank you to all involved.

Puzzle Corner

Place the numbers 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 along the sides of a triangle so they numbers on each side add to the same total and the total is as large as possible.

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      X
     X  X
    X    X
   X  X  X  X
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Orders is Orders

During my National Service, I was posted as permanent staff on a training battalion for recruits after they had completed their six weeks basic training. I was placed in charge of a barrack room of 20 or so men. If anyone was missing from the room at 20.00 hours (10 pm for the uninitiated) he was to be declared absent.

I found myself in this situation one night. None of his fellow recruits knew where the missing soldier was, but one of them thought he had heard that the man concerned had been taken to hospital.

Standing orders stated that in an event like this the soldier's/kit/ equipment etc. must be placed in the company stores for safe keeping. "Volunteering" three of the recruits to collect up the items (a corporal never carried anything while recruits were available!) I marched them to the Company Stores, only to be told by the night duty orderly clerk that he would not accept the equipment in case the soldier had been admitted to hospital with a contagious disease!

It was now about 11.00 o'clock, so I went to the communications office and asked the night duty telephonist to phone the local hospital to inquire whether or not they had admitted our missing man. The telephonist informed me that his standing orders did not allow him to make outside calls during night duty—only to receive in-coming calls. Sarcastically I inquire "What happens if war is declared during the night?" "In

that case," he replied, "I would write down the message on the official message pad and make sure the CO received it first thing in the morning!"

So I was stuck with all this equipment etc. All I could do was take it back to the barrack room. If I had left it outside I would most likely be charged with neglect of government equipment or some such offence. Next morning at barrack room inspection, our eagle-eyed 2nd Lieutenant noticed the empty bed space, still containing military property, and promptly charged me with disobeying standing orders.

Later that same morning, I came up before the Company Commander and told him of the difficulties I had encountered in trying to follow the standing order. "Hmm," he said, "It was a bit awkward. But nevertheless I find you guilty as charged. Have you anything to add before I pass sentence?"

"With respect, Sir," (one always spoke with respect to an officer!!) "May I ask what I should have done in the circumstances? What is the correct procedure?"

The Captain turned to look at the RSM (ever present on these occasions), who in turn gave a slight shrug of his shoulders and looked up at the ceiling. Whereupon the captain turned back to me and said: "CORPORAL, THAT IS YOUR PROBLEM, NOT MINE. A reprimand to be added to your record. March him out Sergeant Major."

This was sent in by Bob England



The Christmas lunch will take place on 4th January

Places for this meal are restricted to 60 and should be reserved in the first instance by contacting your own association ie if ex RAF contact Margaret Cator (RAFA), ex RN contact Pat Middleton (RNA) or Betty Ramsey (RBL) 9 December was the official closing date but late places may be available

Cancellations on the day to Betty Ramsey before 11 am.

If Betty is not available phone the Angel 01858 462702 before 11am or the meal will be charged

The cost for this sumptuous traditional Christmas Lunch will be £12-50

Meet in the bar at noon

Please note there is no branch lunch in December.

What's Going On?

- 4 Jan Christmas Lunch
- 8 Jan County Conference
Melton Mowbray
- 9 Feb Branch meeting and
buffet
- 26 Feb Branch Coffee Morning
- 9 Mar Talk by branch
member Sir Michael
Carleton-Smith entitled
The Afghan Dilemma
- 11 Mar Branch Dinner - Golf
Club tickets £18.
Contact Pat Middleton.
- 30 Apr RNA Coffee morning
- 28 May Armed Forces Coffee
morning

Puzzle Corner—Answer

To give you something to do over the holiday the answer will be published in the next edition.



The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the editor or the Market Harborough Branch.

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The newsletter is online at www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough.

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To be appointed

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Next Committee Meeting 8 Jan

And Finally

More than 10 million turkeys are eaten in Britain every Christmas with 9 out of 10 having it for dinner. Henry VIII was the first British King to eat Turkey at Christmas