



The Royal British Legion



Market Harborough Branch

Reg Charity 219279

In Touch

Issue 148

January 2011

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

**Next
Monthly Branch
Meeting
Wednesday
9 February**

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

Branch Annual Report

This is taken from the excellent Annual Report for year ending 30 September 2010 produced by Tom Ashmore. Copies of the full report are available from Tom.

Highlights of the Year

New Branch web site launched.

Sainsbury chose Poppy Appeal as their Charity of the year

Armed Forces Day event at Welland Park

Visit to Guards Museum and St Clements Danes

Monthly luncheons at the Angel
Annual Dinner at the Golf Club

Two successful coffee mornings at the Theatre.

Remembrance Concert at Baptist Church.

10th Garden of Remembrance.

Average attendance at branch meetings was 39. Branch membership stood at 169 however the number joined offset losses. Despite this for the 3rd year the branch won the Edwin Powdrill Cup for increased membership.

Branch Standard was paraded 33 times by George Fleming.

Welfare team made numerous visits to the housebound, dealt with 6 applications for assistance and 6 Poppy Break Applications.

Members Achievements

George Seward presented with Director of Communications Certificate for 7 years work for ***In Touch***.

Flt Lt Valerie Smith received the Harborough Mail 'Pride in Harborough Award' for 'Hard work and determination' having been nominated by cadets from the ATC .

The 'Ramsay Walkers' completed their 5th London Poppy Walk raising money for the Poppy Appeal.

Chairman Mark Hudson and Barry Peck attended a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

Betty Ramsay elected to County Executive.



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

Annual Dinner

Enclosed is the notification for the Annual Dinner to be held at the Golf Club on March 11th.

I encourage all members to attend what should be a memorable evening with good food and good company.

Tickets are limited so please return the form to me as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Pat Middleton.

EGM

The EGM held on Dec 22 approved the branch accounts and they were lodged with County before 31 Dec.

Poppy Appeal

Latest figures issued by Dave Pryor, Poppy Appeal Organiser show the total raised this year so far is approaching £26,000.

This is a great achievement beating last years total of £22,000.

A big thank you to all who helped in the collections, more detail will be in next months *In Touch*.

Sign on Office Building



Christmas Word Search Answers

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

Blitzen, Comet, Cupid,
Dancer, Dasher, Donner,
Prancer, Rudolph, Vixen

The MOD reported the following soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

Cpl Steven Dunn 216

(Parachute) Signals Squadron.
aged 27 from Gateshead. Killed
21 Dec 2010

WO2 Charles Wood 23 Pioneer
Rgt RLC. Aged 34 from Middles-
borough. Killed 28 Dec 2010

Pte Joseva Vatubua Argyle &
Sutherland Highlanders. Aged 24
from Fiji killed 1 Jan 2011

Situations Vacant

The following posts are advertised by a well known local charity working on behalf of service, and ex service, personnel and families.

The charity is concerned that unless these posts are filled membership and the fund raising efforts of the charity will be affected.

It would like to take full advantage of the higher profile likely to be generated during the charities 90th Anniversary year.

Interest and enthusiasm are the only requirements and previous experience is not necessary.

Social Team Leader

The organisation runs several social events ranging from coffee mornings to dinners, monthly lunches and trips. You will lead a team of friendly and willing volunteers to keep the existing events running and look at adding to the range of events and at branch meetings.

Membership Recruiting Team Leader

A newly established post to set up a team of volunteers to help increase the membership of the charity. A clean slate is here for an enthusiastic volunteer to organise initiatives to recruit new members eg recruiting stalls at local events, targeting specific sectors for recruitment.

Publicity Officer

To seek to improve the profile of the charity in the local area this new post will work closely with the Mem-

bership Recruiting Team. Main responsibility will be issuing press releases to local papers and radio stations of forthcoming events and events held.

Would be desirable for the person to take snapshots at events (a camera will be provided if necessary)

Salary - fixed rate of £0 per hour.

The rewards come from knowing that you are contributing to the work of this renowned charity and helping your fellow members.

Applications to The Chairman, Market Harbour Branch Royal British Legion.

End of an Era Last Harrier Flights



Taken in a parking area in a police compound - guess where? Would you believe Dublin!



Not so famous

Tom Jones paid a charity visit to an old persons home. Although warmly greeted he was a bit put out that none of the residents knew who he was. He went up to one old lady and politely whispered to her "Do you know who I am?" Smiling sweetly the old lady whispered "No but don't worry my dear, one of the staff will tell you"

Christmas Puzzle Corner Answer

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

```

      7
     / \
    2   3
   /   \
  6     4
 /       \
8  5  1  9
  
```

Christmas Quiz The Answers

1. What other name is given to the carol 'O Tannenbaum'
A 'O Christmas Tree'
2. What is the carol with these letters forming the title - OLT OB
A Oh little Town of Bethlehem
3. What are the traditional names of the 3 Wise Men
A Caspar, Balthazar, Melchior
4. When Saigon fell what song was played on the radio as a signal for Americans to evacuate
A White Christmas (Bing Crosby)
5. How many sides does a snowflake have.
A Six
6. When is the 'Feast of Stephen'
A December 26
7. How long did it take Charles Dickens to write 'A Christmas Carol'
A 6 weeks
8. How many presents would you get if you received all the gifts listed in the 12 Days of Christmas
A 364
9. What are the two little boys called in the song sung by Rolf Harris
A Joe and Jack
10. Who wrote the book that inspired the 1983 film 'The Snowman'
A Raymond Briggs
11. There are two Christmas Islands, name the oceans they are in.
A Pacific & Indian Oceans
12. Before Pope Julius 1 decreed that Jesus was born on December 25 what date did early Christians celebrate His birth.
A 6 January

Lusitania Sunk - America Declares War on Germany

Was this America's reaction to the sinking of the Lusitania with the loss of 128 Americans? Well no it wasn't - the Lusitania was sunk in May 1915 and America didn't join in the war until April 1917.

The Lusitania was the jewel of the Cunard line and set sail from New York bound for Liverpool on 1st May with 1257 passengers and 650 crew.

At first the German submarines followed the Hague Convention which decreed that civilian ships could only be sunk after all aboard had been given chance to abandon ship. However when British merchant ships started to transport arms and naval vessels were disguised as merchant ship Germany adopted a sink on sight policy.

The day before Lusitania sailed Germany placed adverts in US papers warning that passengers

sailing through a war zone did so at their own risk

The captain of the Lusitania scoffed at these adverts saying "this is the best joke I've heard in many days" and reassured the passengers that with a top speed of 26 knots (30 mph) she was too fast for any German submarine.

At 1-20pm on 7 May U-20 surfaced to recharge her batteries some 9 miles off the coast of Ireland. Captain Schwieger spotted the Lusitania in the distance. He had only 2 torpedoes left having already sunk 2 vessels. He fired one torpedo from a distance of 700 metres. He watched and it became clear that a second torpedo wouldn't be necessary.

There was second larger explosion, Lusitania rolled over and sank in 18 minutes.

A total of 1,198 people died (785 passengers and 413 crew). Included in the passenger deaths were over 100 children and 128 Americans.

The Germans claimed that this second explosion was because the ships was carrying a secret cargo of high explosives, which would have meant Britain was breaking the rules of warfare. The British countered that it was due to coal dust igniting in her near empty bunkers.

There were 1248 cases (4 per case) of 3" shrapnel shells and a consignment of 90 tons of unrefrigerated butter and cheeses destined for the RN Weapons Testing Establishment in Essex. Which raised suspicions that this was in fact armaments of some description.

In 2008 American divers found evi-

Puzzle Corner

Find the missing totals of the column and row and the number of each symbol?

Ω	Δ	Δ	•	91
Δ	Δ	Δ	•	83
•	•	Ω	Ω	?
Ω	•	•	•	121
99	?	91	121	

dence of .303 rifle bullets and claim over 4m lie in the holds of the ship. The controversy of one or two explosions and was ammunition involved in the second still rages today. Was there only one main explosion as many survivors recounted, the first 'explosion' being more akin to a 'door slamming' rather than an explosion.

However back to the theme of the article, did the sinking cause America to join the war.

America joined the war in 1917 when British intelligence intercepted a telegram from Germany to Mexico. Germany proposed that if America entered the war Mexico should declare war on America and enlist help from Japan. This would prevent America from deploying troops to Europe. In return Germany would support Mexico in reclaiming Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

Additionally America was becoming increasingly concerned at the threat to its shipping by U Boat attacks having suffered the sinking of seven American merchant ships.

The Lusitania did however figure in the American propaganda and was used to encourage enlistment and support for the war using the slogan 'Remember the Lusitania'

Children!

It is very true that children brighten up a home.

They never turn the lights off!

Small girl seeing Buckingham Palace for 1st time "our front garden is concreted over too"



Tuesday 1 Feb

Reservation before 25 Jan

to Betty Ramsay

01858 434923

**Cancellations on the day to Betty
before 9-30 am.**

**If Betty is not available phone the
Angel 01858 462702 before 10am
or the meal will be charged for.**

Menu

*Mini Haddock Kiev's, chips and
garden peas*

*Roast breast of chicken, sage &
onion stuffing, bacon roll, roast
potatoes, vegetables*

*Pork & Herb sausages, mashed
potato, marrowfat peas, onion
gravy*

*Strawberry cheesecake with thick
cream*

*Fresh fruit salad with vanilla
ice cream*

*Jam sponge and creamy custard
coffee & mints*

Only £8-25

Meet in the bar at noon

What's Going On?

- 9 Feb Branch meeting and buffet
- 23 Feb RNA film show (Old Harborough) Gt Bowden Village Hall 7-30pm. £2-50 inc refreshments
- 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 (01858 445827)
- 18 Mar ATC 70th Anniversary Dinner - contact John Standish for information
- 30 Apr RNA Coffee morning.

Puzzle Corner—Answer

$$\Omega = 25 \quad \Delta = 17 \quad \bullet = 32$$

Ω	Δ	Δ	\bullet	91
Δ	Δ	Δ	\bullet	83
\bullet	\bullet	Ω	Ω	114
Ω	\bullet	\bullet	\bullet	121
99	98	91	121	

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

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01858 431999

Wreaths

John Liddell
01858 465003

Standard Bearer

Hilary Brazil
c/o 01858 434923

Social & Fund Raising

To be appointed

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Next Committee Meeting 3 Feb

And Finally

New Years Day in China
Chinese do not use knives or scissors, this may cut off good fortune. Children are not disciplined, superstition says if they cry on New Years Day they will cry all year.