



The Royal British Legion



Market Harborough Branch

Reg Charity 219279

In Touch

Issue 154

July 2011

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

**'Shoulder to Shoulder
With All Who Serve'**

**Next Monthly Branch Meeting
Wednesday
14 September**

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

RASC & the Valetta

There was once a time when the Royal Army Service Corps had close links with the Royal Air Force and its air dispatchers flew regularly in the twin engine Vickers Valetta.

According to the book 'The Valetta - Vickers Last Piston Transport' 19 men of 55 Company RASC died in eight aircraft crashes during the Malayan Emergency in the 1950's. A further 16 men of the company died in RAF - Army operations involving this aircraft over Malaya and there are memorial plaques commemorating their sacrifice in the Aldershot Garrison church. In four man teams they delivered supply packs to soldiers during the jungle war against the communists. They dropped everything from ammo to food and medical supplies



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



including live chickens for the Gurkhas.

It was hard, physical graft and not without danger as the packs had to leave the aircraft at the right moment to hit the drop zone.

Often teams were flying four sorties a day at low altitudes over thick jungle. In all 55 Coy flew over 15,000 sorties, used 200,000 parachutes, dropped 29,500 tons of supplies.

The flying soldiers were not issued



with parachutes, probably because the aircraft flew too low for them to be

of use.

They were to use a safety harness when pushing the packs out of the open door - whether they did is another story. Thanks to John Cox for this article.

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

Advertising Signs

On a Garden Gate
Salesmen welcome - dog food
is expensive!

In a vets waiting room
Back in 5 minutes Sit! Stay!

A Plumbers Van
Don't sleep with a drip - call
your plumber

National Arboretum Visit

Our friends in the RNA are organising a trip to the National Arboretum on Tuesday 19 July. The coach will leave the Market Hall bus station on Northampton Rd at 9am. The coach should arrive in time for the daily Act of Homage in the Chapel and thereafter you can tour the Arboretum at your leisure. The coach will depart at 3pm arriving back in market Harborough about 4-15pm.

There is a cafe available serving hot and cold meals, snacks and drinks or you can take your own and eat at the tables provided. Admission is free and the coach will cost £7 per person.

To reserve your seat send a cheque payable to the Market Harborough Royal Naval Association to Pat Middleton, 7 Howard Way, Market Harborough, LE16 9LD.

Perhaps the car is in a cycle only lane?



New Medical Dictionary

Cauterise - made eye contact with her

Colic - a black and white sheep dog

Coma - a punctuation mark

Fester - quicker than someone else

Puzzle Corner

Seven friends hire a right hand drive mini bus for a day trip. There are 2 seats at the front (inc the drivers), 2 on the row behind and 3 on the back row. John wants to drive, Mary doesn't want to sit near any of the men, Susan is sitting behind Sarah and Paul - who has a bad neck so cannot turn round needs to pass sweets to Gary, John and Sarah.

Where is Andrew going to sit?

Armed Forces Day July 3rd

The event at Welland Park was a great success thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the Committee and in particular John Morley and Betty Ramsay.

The weather was excellent and the large number of stalls and military vehicles drew a steady crowd through out the day.

The event was opened by Lady Gretton, Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire and she stayed for several hours visiting the various stands and showed great interest in all that was happening.

The gun run display by the Army Cadets showed the athletic abilities of the young cadets and also their strength.

The Sea Cadets from Hinckley were present trying to drum up interest from the young people in their efforts to establish a Sea Cadet detachment in Market Harborough. Most of the Air Cadets were involved in the Wing Inter Squadron Competition at RAF Wittering but three cadets explained to many interested visitors the various WW1 artefacts on display along side the RBL trailer and Poppy Calls. Tom Ashmore ran the branch display in his usual inimitable style.

The Air Cadets having dashed back from RAF Wittering arrived to show the prowess of the squadron band giving an excellent marching band display and following this up with another static display as part of the closing ceremony.

The dog display from Melton Mowbray showed the dedication and

training that went into the 'sniffer dogs' and also the obvious enjoyment the dogs found in the task.

Displays by the Carnival Drums of Bowden provided a very up beat rhythm to the day and the RBL County Standard Bearers display was excellent in its precision and timing.

The closing ceremony was conducted by Cllr David Beatty, Chair of Harborough District Council and this was followed by the sounding of Last Post and Reveille.

Altogether an excellent day, but if we are to build on this success for next year then the Armed Forces Committee will need to find a new, and equally enthusiastic Chair as John Morley who has said he will be standing down from the role.

Volunteers step forward please.

Harborough Carnival June 11

The branch entered a float into the carnival to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the RBL.

The float was designed by George Fleming and a big thank you to him for such a splendid job, it drew lots of applause from the crowds en route.

The float was 'manned' by our Standard Bearer, and young Christopher with cadets from the Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps providing a uniformed presence.

Music was provided with a sound bite explaining what the Legion was doing followed by a modern version of Lean on Me, the words were soon learned by all on the float and the walkers alongside!



During the morning the County Trailer had been set up at the grounds and Poppy Calls was also present.

Once again Tom Ashmore provided the local branch information.

It would be fair to say that the Legion display didn't create a massive amount of interest but it was certainly a worthwhile day.

From a personal viewpoint I think the carnival float was an excellent way of showing the Legion off to the crowds and I would certainly be in favour of considering it again for next year.

Perhaps our affiliated youth groups would like to be involved with something aimed at the younger people and their parents?

The MOD reported the following soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

Highlander Scott McLaren, 4th Batt, The Royal Regiment of Scotland was killed on Monday 4 July, aged 20 from Edinburgh

Private Gareth Bellingham, 3rd Batt. The Mercian Regiment was killed on 18 June, aged 22 from Stoke

Corporal Lloyd Newell, The Parachute Regiment was killed on 16 June. His family asked for privacy

Craftsman Andrew Found, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was killed on 16 June, aged 27 from Whitby

Mad Hatters Tea Party

Some 30 to 40 Air Cadets, parents, friends and Branch members visited the headquarters of the Air training Corps to take tea and cakes on Sunday 12 June at a Mad hatters Tea Party.

The headquarters was decorated for

over the weekend of 11th and 12th June to commemorate the anniversary.

Cdt Sgt Tim Monk added "we have always supported the British legion and felt this would be a good way to celebrate the occasion, most of the people turned up wearing hats to join in the theme of the party!"



the occasion with RBL banners hung outside advertising the Legions 90th anniversary. The event was organised by the cadets and Cdt Sgt Becky Tomlinson one of the organisers explained "we were told about this anniversary and that the national headquarters of the RBL had asked all branches to organise an event

Winners of the best hat competition were Mrs Dagley, Cdt Sgt Tim Monk and our very own Tom Ashmore. Cdt Flt Sgt Kirsty Dagley won a special prize for her appearance as Alice.

Branch Chairman, John Standish, thanked everyone involved. "The cadets have been staunch supporters of the Legion and the idea of a Mad

Hatters Tea Party was a fun way to celebrate the Legion's 90th Anniversary. I am sure more would have turned out if the weather had been dry but I would like to thank all those who did venture out to what turned out to be a fun packed afternoon"

Can You Help

Hope you haven't just skipped past this article because it is asking for help!

Bob England would like to add to the Branch scrap book more of the branches social events run by the branch over the years

The scrap book covers a lot of the 'formal' side of the Branch but Bob would like to portray the branches lighter side.

So if you have any pictures taken at branch social events including dinners, coffee mornings, river trips, race days plus the many other things that have happened over the years then please pass them onto Bob or send them to the editor if that is easier.

Coming to an End

Last month the *In Touch* editor gave notice that he would have to reluctantly resign as he was finding it very difficult to do this at the same time as being Branch Chairman. He says it would be easier if there were a plethora of articles but apart from a few stalwarts this isn't so. He will stop producing the news letter after the next AGM unless things change significantly.

He is a man of his word!



Tuesday 2 August
Reservation before 26 July
to Les Moore
01858 463112

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

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

Menu

*Pork & herb sausage on a bed of
bubble & squeak-*

*Battered haddock resting on new
potatoes and garden peas.*

*Roast turkey, accompaniments and
vegetables*

*Cheddar cheese salad, new pota-
toes*

*Raspberry sundae, iced slice with
fresh fruit*

*Apple & blackberry crumble, clotted
cream ice cream.*

*Vanilla cheesecake, mandarins,
cream*

coffee & mints

Only £8-25

Meet in the bar at noon

What's Going On?

- 20 July RNA visit to National Arboretum Memorial.
- 6 Aug Poppy Race Day
Coach £15-50,
admission £9-50 or
£12. A popular & fun
day at the races.
Contact Betty Ramsay.

Important Notice

**There is no August
Branch Meeting.**

Next meeting
September 14th.

6th September lunch
Contact Les Moore before
30 August to book a place.

Puzzle Corner—Answer

Andrew is sitting on the
back seat, two behind
the passenger and next
to the kerb

Branch Contacts

Secretary

Betty Ramsay
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Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Myra Grewcock
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01858 419517

Poppy Appeal

Dave Pryor
01858 540431

Wreaths

John Liddell
01858 465003

Standard Bearer

Hilary Brazil
c/o 01858 434923

Monthly Lunches

Les Moore
01858 463112

Editor - *In Touch*

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Next Committee Meeting August 4

And Finally

In 1962 some of the top teenage dances included The Mashed Potato, the Loco-Motion, the Frug, the Monkey and the Funky Chicken.

Did you ever dance to them?

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.