



# **The Royal British Legion**

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



## **Market Harborough Branch**

Reg Charity 219279

# ***In Touch***

*Issue 156*

*September 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  
12 October**

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

## **Branch News**

### **Peggy Tyler**

It is with deep regret that I have to record the passing away of branch member Peggy Tyler.

### **Newmarket Race Day**

On 8th August Newmarket held its 8th Poppy Race Day.

Unfortunately there was not enough support to organise a party from the branch but Betty Ramsay and family attended.

The Branch Standard joined the 42 other standards, led by Leiston Band, marching down the course to hearty cheers from the 12,000 strong crowd which included some 1350 members.

A salute was taken by the National Chairman before the main business of the day started.

A Gala lunch raised £2,300 and it is estimated that the amount raised for Poppy Appeal will be some £23,000.

Editors note - there is no mention of any success, or otherwise, of the Ramsay family backing any winners.

### **Poppy Walk**

Betty reports that the Ramsay Ramblers expect to raise about £140 for the Branch Poppy appeal through their efforts in taking part in the Poppy Walk in London.

The 'collection box' is still open so if you haven't already donated there is still time, cheques and postal orders will be accepted.

The Branch owes a hearty vote of thanks to Betty and her family for taking part in this event over the last few years.

### **Branch President**

Our Branch President, Brian Marshall recently had a fall and is now in residence at Peaker Park Care Village, Trojan Place, Market Harborough, LE16 7FP tel 01858 414460.

Brian is in No 74 Clipston and would welcome visitors and if you want to dine with him then that is possible for the exceptional price of £3.

### **Subscription Renewals.**

Nearly time for members to renew subscriptions which this year will be £14.

It will help our Membership Secretary if you can pay as promptly as possible and for those who are not on direct debit payment a move to that payment method would help even more. It will save you time and worry about remembering to pay and the membership secretary's workload will be considerably eased.

### **Branch AGM**

This will be held on 23 November. Please give some thought to how you might best serve the Branch and don't be shy about volunteering..

Urgently needed are:-

## **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 Ramsay**  
01858 434923

a new editor for *In Touch*  
A Team Leader for the Social Team  
More welfare case workers.

## **B** r a n c h C o m m i t t e e

For the last two Committee Meetings there hasn't been a quorum. This meant that the Committee could not carry out any business. To operate the Committee requires 7 members of the committee to be present two of whom must be officers. The committee is responsible for the management of the Branch, it clearly cannot do this unless it can make decisions. It is vital that the Committee has sufficient members to enable it to function so we need more volunteers for the Committee. The Branch is in great danger of not being able to function effectively if this doesn't happen.

This is your Branch

'Use it or Loose it'

## **C** o n g r a t u l a t i o n s

Tom Ashmore and George Fleming were both awarded one of the RBL's highest accolades - a Gold Badge. Awarded for meritorious service above and beyond what is expected the awards were announced at the Sept Branch meeting. The Chairman paid tribute to them both remarking on how much they had done for the Legion.

## **A** n y O t h e r B u s i n e s s

All members please note that there will not be any items raised or discussed as AOB at branch meetings. Items for the agenda should be sent to the Secretary preferably a week before the meeting.

## **W** a r M e m o r i a l C o m m e m o r a t i o n

This year is the 90th Anniversary of the dedication of the towns War Memorial. To commemorate this event a re-dedication drum head service will be held on Sunday 25 September.

Members are asked to assemble in the Memorial Gardens at 2pm from where they will march onto the Square under the direction of the Parade Marshall.

After the service, weather permitting, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant will be asked to chat to those who took part in the ceremony.

Please support this event.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information on the original dedication.

## **F** e s t i v a l o f R e m e m b r a n c e

This years Royal British Legion County Festival of Remembrance will be held on Saturday November 5th starting at 7pm.

Tickets will cost £10 and are on sale from County Office 0116 2616584 or contact Les Moore who will try to organise a party.

Please note this year's event will be held at Leicester Cathedral.

## **P** u z z l e C o r n e r

Using the following numbers each only once find two five digit numbers which when multiplied together give the largest possible sum.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

## **Dedication of War Memorial** **25 Sept 1921**

At 2-30pm Major General Sir Reginald Hoskins KCB CMG DSO, General Officer Commanding North Midland Area arrived to inspect the various units assembled in High St ready for the march down to the Square. The units represented included 5th Leicester Regiment, fire brigade, St John's, boy scouts and a large contingent of ex service men.

After the inspection the large parade marched to the Square, the Guard of Honour with rifles reversed.



Here they joined a huge crowd and the service opened with the hymn 'O God Our Help in Ages Past'. After prayers and readings a second hymn (God of our Fathers) preceded the unveiling of the Memorial. Sir Reginald said the following 'People of Market Harborough it is a great honour to me to unveil this memorial. ... I believe if these men could send us a message today .. they would tell us that comradeship was a big feature in winning the war. And they would remind us it is

a big feature of success in peace. They would tell us that no individual, no section of community, and no nation can attain a full measure of success whose aims are purely selfish. ... I do not believe any nation could fight for four years for an unjust cause ... I suggest that the cause was that the principle of right living among one's neighbours and right dealing with them was at stake - that was the cause and a just cause. This principle of right living and right dealing was the essence of the teaching of Christ, For that reason this beautiful memorial is most appropriate. It will be there to remind us of the debt we owe to the men who fell, it will also be there to remind us of the principles for which they died .. I firmly believe that you and I have some day got to meet these men face to face and they will require of us a reckoning. They will ask us what good we have made of their sacrifice, and if we can tell them we have upheld the principles for which they died on all occasions, if we can tell them that their dependents and families have been well cared for, are comfortable and happy, if we can tell them we have seen to it that their pals who fought by their side have been adequately and properly employed and are happy, if we can tell them that we ourselves have kept ourselves ready and adequately prepared to maintain those principles, to fight for them and if necessary die for them, if we can tell them we have brought up our children to believe that there is nothing grander or finer than to die for these principles - if we can

tell them all this all is well, but if we cannot tell them then we shall not be able to face them ..'

The Memorial was then unveiled Following which the Chairman of



the War Memorial Committee presented the Memorial to the Town. Included in his speech were the following words 'I beg of you and your Council therefore always to cherish this Cross with the greatest care and reverence and to see no harm comes to it and no desecration or dishonour. It is not guarded or fenced in any manner. We trust the people will feel it a sacred spot and we hope and believe even the children will show the same respect for it and not make it a playground. Chairman of the Council Mr E W Thompson received the Cross saying

'I can assure Mr Jefferies that the Cross will always be sacred to the Council ... We do not want to fence it, we want it to be open so that everybody can have a look at it and see it well. I hope it will remind us of the sacrifice made for us ... I accept it on behalf of the District, not only in the name of the Council but of all the people'

Afterwards the Bishop of Peterborough declared 'Market Harborough is now marked with the Cross. And you will from henceforth regard this place as holy. The little children will take care of it, will look at this cross with wonder and awe as they think it may be their own fathers and brothers who went forth at the call of duty to give their utmost in the cause of righteousness ..'

189 wreaths were then laid.



The Cross is made of Clipsham stone, 31 feet high and 17 feet 4 inches square.

The inscription reads  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN  
GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF  
ALL IN THE PARISHES OF MAR-  
KET HARBOROUGH GREAT &  
LITTLE BOWDEN WHO SERVED  
IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918.  
THIS CROSS IS ERECTED AS AN  
ENDURING MEMORIAL TO THE  
FALLEN. THEIR NAME LIVETH.

Editors Note

Thanks to Tom Ashmore for the transcription of the report in the Market Harborough Advertiser dated 27 September 1921 and John Cox for the photographs.



In November this year the TV channel 'Yesterday' will show a documentary on the Long March.

This occurred when the Germans marched Allied POW's across Poland for some 4 months starting in January 1945.

The men were marched hundreds, sometimes thousands of, miles in freezing temperatures.

Food was in very short supply, and POW's lived in fear of falling behind and being shot by the guards. Many men didn't complete the march.

One man who was forced into the march and who escaped during it was branch member Tony Johnson and he features in the recording.

Tony has also written a book about his experiences during WW2 as a radio operator in the RAF flying in the 'Wimpey'. He vividly recalls his parachute jump from the stricken aircraft as it was shot down by German AA guns. He describes life in a prisoner of war camp, and his experiences on the Long March and his escape to freedom.

The book is titled 'Escape to Freedom' and published by Pen & Sword. I can strongly recommend the book to everyone. It is a gripping tale of one man's war.

The Editor

## Advance Notice

The editor has already announced he will stand down after this year's AGM.

If no one steps in to take over the role he has agreed to continue for a little longer but producing only a one page edition of branch news. This will in essence be the front cover, pages 2, 7 and 8 of the current newsletter

There will be no other items, jokes, quizzes etc but at least **In Touch** will continue.

The October In Touch will be the last in the current format.

## Feeding Time

But who is feeding what to who?



## Lost

A few years ago the branch acquired a Merchant Navy Ensign so that we could recognise the contribution made by the Merchant Navy and celebrate Merchant Navy Day in September by flying the Ensign in the Memorial Gardens.

Unfortunately the Ensign has 'gone missing' but hopefully not sunk without trace.

If you know the whereabouts of the Ensign or have any clues which will lead to its recovery please let the editor know.

No rewards on offer other than the grateful thanks of the Branch.

## Would you believe it

On the label of Nytol sleeping tablets -

Warning may cause drowsiness.

On American Airlines packet of nuts  
Instructions- open packet, eat nuts

### **The MOD reported the following soldiers killed in Afghanistan.**

**Marine James Wright** 42 Commando was killed on Friday 5 August. Aged 22 from Weymouth.

**Lt Daniel Clack** 1st Battalion, The Rifles was killed on Friday 12 August aged 24 from North London

**Sgt Barry Weston** 42 Commando was killed on Tuesday 30 August, aged 40 from Reading



**Tuesday 4 October**  
**Reservation before 27 Sep**  
**to Les Moore 01858 463112**  
**Cancellations on the day to Les**  
**before 9-30 am.**

If Les not available phone the Angel 01858 462702 before 10am.  
If you don't cancel as above you will be charged for the meal.

### **Menu**

*Baked Fillet of Pollock on a bed of  
mashed potato, parsley sauce,*

*Roast leg of lamb, roast potatoes  
& gravy,*

*Trio of pork sausages on a bed of  
mash potato, rich onion gravy,  
all with selection of vegetables*

*Sticky toffee pudding & custard*  
*Chocolate fudge lumpy bumpy &  
cream*

*Fresh fruit salad with fruity sorbet*  
*Vanilla cheesecake, mixed berries  
& vanilla ice cream*

*coffee & mints*

**Only £8-25**  
**Meet in the bar at noon**

## What's Going On?

- 15 Oct Coffee Morning - Harborough Theatre. Volunteers to help please
- 25 Oct RBL History Project at County Hall
- 5 Nov Leicester Festival of Remembrance. Leicester Cathedral
- 5 & 6 Nov Football and Rugby Poppy matches
- 7 Nov Remembrance Garden set up 0830.
- 11 Nov Acts of Remembrance 1045 Welland Park Memorial, 1100 Memorial Gdn Gates
- 12 Nov Sunset Ceremony Memorial Garden 4pm
- 14 Nov Remembrance Garden dismantle 0830
- 19 Nov Branch Remembrance Concert 7-30 Baptist Church
- 23 Nov Branch AGM. Note change of date

## Puzzle Corner—Answer

$$\begin{array}{r} 96420 \times 87531 \\ = \\ 8439739020 \end{array}$$

## Branch Contacts

Secretary  
Betty Ramsay  
01858 434923

### Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Myra Grewcock  
8 Holdenby Close, MH  
LE16 8JE  
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*

John Standish  
5 Manor Rd  
Fleckney, LE8 8TN  
Tel - 0116 2404170  
in-toucheditor@hotmail.co.uk  
Next Committee Meeting Oct 6

## And Finally

The Basenji, an African dog is the only dog that doesn't bark.

One in three dog owners say they talk to their pets on the phone

*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.*

*The editor reserves the right to decide what is to be published and to edit material and no part of *In Touch* may be reproduced without his prior permission.*

*The newsletter is online at [www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough).*