



County Standard Bearers Competition Congratulations to George Fleming who did very well once again being judged third.

Youth Section Standard The purchase of a standard has been agreed. It is hoped to run a competition for the affiliated cadet units in Market Harborough with the winner going forward to the County competition. Up to this stage, competitors would wear the uniform of their organisations.

BBC People's War Project A report on the current situation was given by Tom Ashmore, who has been coordinating contributions from the Branch, probably the only one acting as an associate centre. Over forty items had been posted on the website and more would be welcome before the project closes at the end of the year.

Quorn Branch Concert On 16/17 November Poppy Appeal concerts will be held in Loughborough Town Hall featuring the Band of the Grenadier Guards. Details and tickets from Geoffrey Gibson on 0116 235 0946.

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

It is with regret that we record the passing of
Bill Farnsworth, 1 Paget Road, Lubenham, Market Harborough LE16 9TL.

Charles Freer, 138 Coventry Road, Market Harborough LE16 9DA.

Bill Protheroe, 9 Perkins Close, Market Harborough LE16 7LJ.

We welcome these new members:

01858 463127 Staff Mr A R (Roy) 13 Welham Road, Great Bowden, Market Harborough LE16 7HS.

01858 464941 Veryard Mr R (Ronald), 37 Graceland Park, Farndon Road, Market Harborough LE16 9NP..

Please note the following amendments:

01858 446836 Duckham Mr T W (Terrence) *The address is 5 Glebe Road and not as shown last month.*

Rev Canon Moody, The Rectory, Rectory Land, Market Harborough, has moved from the district.

A new Membership Directory is being prepared and will be produced in the near future.



The Diary

SOME DATES TO KEEP FREE

- 5 Nov M H Branch Coffee Morning
- 5 Nov Poppy Football Match, Leicester
- 5 Nov Festival of Remembrance in Leicester
- 7/13 Nov **Remembrancetide** (full details on pages 3, 4 &5)
- 11 Nov Act of Remembrance in M H
- 13 Nov Remembrance Service in M H
- 16/17 Nov Poppy Appeal Concert, Loughborough, Quorn Branch
- 19 Nov Remembrance Concert, Baptist Church, 7.30pm
- 15 Dec M H Branch Christmas Lunch (details on page 9)
- 18 Dec M H Cadets' Carol Service, St Hugh's Church M H 2006
- 18 Mar M H Branch Coffee Morning
- 24 Mar M H Branch Anniversary Dinner
- 21 Oct M H Branch Coffee Morning

The date of the next meeting is November 9th

Branch meetings are held on the Second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm

in the downstairs Function Room at the Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough.

The Committee meets in the same room on the Thursday preceding the Branch Meeting at 7.00 pm



The Royal British Legion

Market Harborough Branch

Reg. Charity 219279

www.mktharborobl.ukvet.net



PROUD TO HOLD THE LISTER CUP

In Touch

Issue 85 October 2005

In Touch on-line

www.in-touch.ukvet.net

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A New Remembrance Service

*The following is the text of a memorandum from
Ian Townsend, Director General of the
Royal British Legion.*

Following such tragedies as Dunblane and 9/11, the Churches were approached by many non ex Service organisations for advice about appropriate Remembrance Services. There were no resources readily available for the clergy to draw on, and this led to the production of a book called *Beyond Our Tears* by a committee of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) under the auspices of the Joint Liturgical Group (JLG). During the development of the material for this book, the Legion was approached for its views about developing a new Remembrance Service which could be used in non military as well as military environments by people of all faiths and none, and could be adapted for use in a variety of locations such as a cathedral, a church, a churchyard, a school or at a War Memorial, since the last time it was updated was in 1968.

The Legion was concerned that it was being brought into the discussions at a late stage, but agreed that the publication could go ahead without a new Remembrance Service which would need further discussion. *Beyond Our Tears* was published last year, and is available at all good booksellers.

Since then the Legion has been represented at CTBI committee meetings by the National Chaplain, the Director General and the Director of Administration. The discussions have mainly concentrated on making the liturgy simpler, more straightforward and more inclusive, but the Legion representatives have ensured that all the essential traditional elements (the Exhortation, the Last Post, the Two Minute Silence, Reveille, the Kohima and appropriate hymns and National Anthems) remain. The Service includes many options so communities can decide for themselves the sort of service they wish to arrange.

The Legion's Ceremonial Handbook will be updated in due course.

version. This new way of working was more efficient and more comfortable. But it meant that the parties had to adapt to a loss of independence. For me at age 21, fresh from six months technical training, the presence of so much experience, so many arms-full of chevrons and crowns and such seniority of years, it was an eye-opener. To be joining them as their boss it was daunting!

After several months the whole unit was brought together when we occupied part of the site of No 11 AA workshop at Wednesfield near Wolverhampton. As the war came to an end our numbers declined but the conversion of guns continued: they came in from sites but went out to storage areas – ready for the next war!! This activity continued until the unit was disbanded, I believe, in May 1946. During the last 5 or 6 months of its existence, the unit occupied a large workshop at Egington near Uttoxeter, vacated when an American Army Engineer unit was repatriated.

After 60 years I am left with a number of questions:

Are any records of how many 3.7 Heavy AA guns were converted to remote control or how many we did not convert?

Was there any assessment of the improved success of AA fire attributable to the equipment?

Were 3.7's eventually manufactured with this or similar equipment?

What lessons were learned from this equipment that influenced the development of later control systems?

What happened to all those able men I had the privilege to command? Apart from John Marsden and I, are there any other members of 37R Installation Detachment REME left?

The Viscount Byng of Vimy

The article which appears on page 3 was obtained by Betty and Tom Jeacock on their recent visit to Byng House. The brief biography and the story of the formation of the Royal British Legion were written by Audrey Garlick and Edith Woodman.

Betty and Tom are grateful to the Branch Welfare team for arranging their stay which, they feel has greatly benefited them. They hope that arrangements can be made for others to go.

Christmas Lunch

The Angel Hotel, Market Harborough.

Thursday, 15th December

Noon for 12.30 pm.



Menu



Roast Turkey, Baked Salmon, Roast Beef
or Vegetable Gateaux
Christmas Pudding, Chocolate Torte
or Banoffee Pie

Tickets are £10, please reserve yours **without delay** by ringing Glenys on 01858 467835.
No bookings can be taken after 9th November.



The Poppy Appeal 2005/2006

Dougie McMeeken, Appeal Organiser
01858 463203

A Final Plea for Your Help

The Appeal runs from 29th October until 14th November and volunteers are still required to collect in the town centre and local streets.

Please help as much as you can to raise the funds necessary for the Legion to continue its invaluable work.

Telephone me as soon as possible if there is any way you would like to help.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

JOIN THE
HAPPY
HARBORO'
POPPY
PEOPLE



Random Thoughts

Middle age is when you choose your breakfast cereal for the fibre and not the free toy.

It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.

37R Installation Detachment REME Tom Ashmore

Tom has placed his story on the
BBC World War 2 - People's War website.

There must have been very many small, specialised units in the forces, some involved in secret, dangerous and exciting activities, others carrying out more mundane duties, but all contributing to the war effort. Little will have been recorded or published about the existence or purpose of many of these units. That this website provides an opportunity and an implied duty to do so, prompted me to set down what I can remember about the 37R Installation Detachment REME, in which I served from October, 1944 until it was disbanded in May 1946.



The R.E.M.E. Badge 1942 to 1947. A laurel wreath surmounted by the King's crown; on the wreath, four shields with the letters R.E.M.E. Inside the wreath is a set of callipers.

Thinking it unlikely that there would be any mention on the site of this tiny unit, I was delighted to find John Marsden's contribution "R37 Installation by REME" (there was always uncertainty whether the R preceded or followed 37). As John's article deals with R37 as part of his wartime experience, I will concentrate here on the unit itself. My own personal experience I have added as a contribution to the Forum which follows his story.

The 3.7 inch calibre anti-aircraft gun was made in two forms, one mobile on its own undercarriage and the other static (Heavy), for use on prepared foundations on "permanent" gun sites. Initially, both types were aimed manually, one man turning a crank to elevate or lower the

barrel, another to rotate the gun left or right. On static sites a tracking device (eventually, radar) measured the position and speed of the target aircraft and predictor equipment calculated the elevation and bearing to which the gun should be moved for its shell to hit the target. Each gun-layer had to turn his crank so that on the instrument in front of him he kept the pointer showing his elevation or bearing in line with a pointer set by the predictor.

As aircraft speeds increased, accurate manual gun-laying became more difficult and eventually a mechanised system was designed and equipment developed which could be added to existing guns in the field. In the 1940's this equipment was regarded as technically advanced and sophisticated, even secret. Highly skilled and experienced tradesmen would be needed and the work would require men of different traditional trades.

The 37R Installation Detachment was created to carry out this work (I do not know when). It was an independent REME unit within AA Command and outside the existing REME AA Workshop structure. Its O i/c was a Captain who answered direct to the senior REME officer, a Lieutenant Colonel, at Command HQ. He had two Lieutenants each responsible for a number of mobile parties each with five men. People with suitable skill and experience had often achieved promotion and the result was the formation of a unit nearly "all Chiefs and no Indians". Of a total complement of 65, 3 were officers about 36 were staff sergeants or sergeants and only 6 were without a stripe.

The unit HQ was at Golders Green, London NW11 and attached to No1 AA Workshop Company REME, its resident staff being the officers, a Cpl clerk and driver(s) for the Austin utility(ies). They arranged the deployment of the parties (and presumably, the 37R equipment) to the designated gun sites. Each party had its own 3-ton GMC truck, an enormous kit of tools and a good deal of independence. They were provided with accommodation and the facilities of the Royal Artillery unit whilst on site.

At the time that I joined 37R, its role was changing from wholly to partly mobile. Six of the parties had been concentrated in a permanent AA workshop, No 6, at Wainscot near Rochester, to which the guns were brought (on transporters) from their sites and returned after con-

Come to the rescue of Harborough Museum

*Those lovely Museum damsels are in distress - and the assistance of the Royal British Legion is requested!
So come on, folks, let us rally round the flag (sorry George, the standard) and ride to the rescue.
Here is the Museum's plea for help.*

This summer at the Museum there has been a special exhibition to celebrate the end of World War Two. 'Make do and Mend' concentrates more on life at home, but it also ties in with the other areas in the Museum where we show examples of Harborough at War. This exhibition will be open until the end of November.

As part of this some items of WW2 uniform are available for members of the public to try on. This has proved very popular, so much so that we would like to keep it as a long-term attraction. Unfortunately we cannot keep the items we have been using as they are needed elsewhere in the Museum service.

So, can you help us by donating any WW2 uniform in good wearable condition? This is a great way of bringing history alive for those who are too young to have experienced it, and to bring back memories to those who did.

Last year we were lucky enough to persuade a couple of members of the Legion to attend some of our special Junior School remembrance sessions. They brought along some of their medals and photographs and had an informal chat with the children. Both young and old found this very informative and enjoyable.

Is there anyone else who might like to be involved with some of these sessions? We are only talking about a half-hour of your time!

If you can help us with either of these requests please contact Zara Matthews or Jane Tugwell at the Museum on 01858 821087..

**Are you satisfied that
you are doing all you
can to help with the
Poppy Appeal?**



Saturday 5th Coffee Morning - at the Harborough Theatre from 10 am. All proceeds to Poppy Appeal.

Saturday 5th Festival of Remembrance Concert 7 pm, De Montfort Hall, Leicester, with the Band of the Scots Guards. *Please support a wonderful occasion.*

Monday 7th Field of Crosses in the Garden of Remembrance, Market Harborough. *Help is needed to set up and volunteers are requested to meet at the Garden at 8-30 am. Parking Tesco Car Park (40p).*

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 7th to 10th Sunset Ceremony led by the Branch Standard Bearers at 4 pm in the Garden of Remembrance *Your support at this moving ceremony will be appreciated. This is the sixth year we have carried out this ceremony; we sincerely hope we can keep it going for a few more years.*

The Architect of the R.B.L.

A widely popular man, General Sir Julian Byng served with distinction in World War 1, capturing Vimy Bridge in 1917. He was made a GCB, to add to his CB (1906); KCB; KCMG (1916) for making a successful withdrawal from Gallipoli.

In 1921 he became Governor General of Canada and in 1928 the Home Secretary asked him to become the Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, there being a need for a leader of great courage and prestige.

He received, to his great joy, his Field Marshall's Baton in October 1932. He died on June 6th, 1935 and, there being no children, the peerage became extinct.

Viscount Byng and the Royal British Legion

By the end of the First World War the Army and Navy Canteens had accumulated considerable profits of approximately seven million pounds (worth far more



Programme for Remembrancetide

Compiled by George Fleming

We Will Remember Them

Friday 11th The Act of Remembrance, 10.15 am at Welland Park Memorial, near Park entrance to left of school in Welland Park Road.

The Act of Remembrance, 10.55 am in the Square by the Memorial Garden Gates, followed by Two Minutes Silence and the Laying of Wreaths. *A maroon will be fired to signal the beginning and end of the silence. Please note there will not be a Sunset Ceremony on this day at 4 pm.*

now). It was a subject about which emotions were quickly raised as the money represented profits made from purchases by the men of the Forces out of their own pay. The disposal of the United Services fund, as it was called, would not be a simple matter and was fraught with political hazards.

The Chairmanship of the Fund was offered to General Byng, a man of integrity, strength of character and in whom the ex-servicemen had confidence.

He accepted on two conditions:

- 1 The Fund should be absolutely free from Government control and set up as an independent organisation.
- 2 That in all operations of the Fund there must be complete publicity.

But the immense task of helping the ex-servicemen, their wives, widows and orphans, as well as welfare work within the peacetime services, was an immense task and from the outset Byng sought to work through philanthropic organisations and clubs, in particular the Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Soldiers and Sailors, and the Comrades of the Great War. He was concerned that, while they and other smaller associations were doing much to help ex-servicemen, they were rival organisations and were working at cross-purposes.

In 1919 he said "It seems to us that if we could get

Saturday 12th Sunset Ceremony as usual in the Garden of Remembrance at 4 pm.

Sunday 13th Remembrance Service and Parade. You are invited to join the parade to the parish church, assembling 10 am on the Tesco car park (free today). The service will commence at 10.45 am, but you are requested to take your seat in the church by 10.30. Following the service there will be the laying of wreaths on the Memorial in the Square.

Monday 14th The volunteer working party will commence the removal of the display in the Garden of Remembrance at 8.30 am. *It is hoped that the work will be completed by 10.30 am.*

Saturday 19th Remembrance Concert featuring the Harborough Band in a programme of popular light music will take place at 7.30 pm in the Baptist Church.

those associations to amalgamate into one big organisation, we should be doing a very big work for the benefit of the ex-servicemen. We could support it very strongly financially and we could help in many other respects".

His conception was to result in the formation of
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION.
Please see page 8 regarding the origin of this article.

Letter from Edinburgh A FRIEND WRITES ON REMBRANCETIDE 2004

On 11th November, I was asked to play the bagpipes at the War Memorial in Waverley railway station. We parade about 60 or 70 veterans and I have the pleasure of marching them to the Memorial. All of the railway companies are represented at the wreath laying ceremony and at that time I play 'Flowers of the Forest'. I was somewhat amazed when a member of the fairly large audience clapped his hands when I had finished my piping - I don't know who it was, but I hope he is not there next year! After that ceremony, I go off with another set of Veterans to Rosebank Cemetery where the Gretna Memorial is situated. In 1916 men of 7th Battalion The Royal Scots set off from Edinburgh to the South Coast. Alas the train crashed at Gretna killing 230 men.