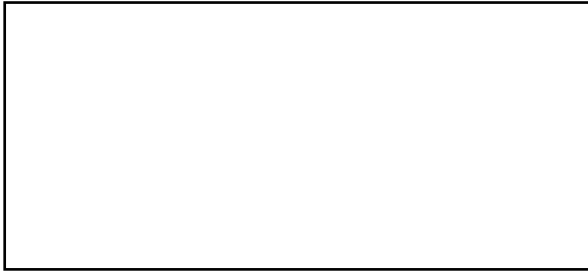




In Touch, Too



Reg.. Charity No 219279



The Market Harborough Branch Bimonthly News Sheet

Issue 12

June 1999

Robert Cramp

Our oldest member and WW1 veteran died on 12th June, 10 weeks after his 100th birthday. For the last several months he had been suffering from cancer .

Robert joined the British Legion in its very early days, probably in his local Langtons Branch. In recent years he had become known to many of us through recollections of his WW1 service published in *In Touch* (September, 1996), his participation in the 1997 Standard Dedication ceremony, the opening of the 75th Anniversary Exhibition in the Harborough Museum in March, 1998 and then, sadly becoming too ill to attend the Civic Reception last December to receive his Légion d' Honneur.

At the wish of the family, the Standard was not present at the funeral which was held at Hallaton Parish Church on 21st June, but the Branch was represented by our President, Chairman and five other members.

We extend our condolences to Mrs Cramp and to the family.

The Carnival

Does it always rain on carnival day? This year the newly purchased Gazebo gave much better protection against the elements and with George Fleming's large sign boards produced, in the view of one member, "the best looking stand in the Showground". However, all this was of no help to Gary Farnsworth as he drove around the whole route with the Parade in his "wagon" (motorised wheelchair). He got completely soaked but after this valiant effort his collecting bucket contained over £30 (and a pool of water!) Well done Gary!

As in previous years, the stand had two objectives - fund-raising with a Tombola and publicity & recruitment through the use of posters, leaflets and members available to answer questions.

Thanks to all those who contributed the prizes, helped with the preparations, manned the stand and who bought tickets, the Social Fund benefited by over £114.

Dominoes

Some time ago Andrew Marriott's elderly neighbour handed him a badge (or tie-pin?) which had belonged to her late brother, a WW1 veteran.



As the above illustration shows, the circular device bears the words Leicestershire and Rutland British Legion surrounding a 3/5 Domino. It is about an inch in diameter. Does anyone know its significance? Was it awarded to the winners of a County Dominoes Championship? Has anyone any other old Legion badges or tie pins? The County Circular carries the story and illustration, so some other Branch may be able to throw some light on the mystery.

The Branch's enquiries and information about the Badge and Jack Quain (see May *In Touch*), seem to have raised an interest at County Office in their history. The Circular now also asks for more background on Quain and those whose names appear on other County Trophies.

In Touch, Too is written and produced by Branch Vice Chairman, Tom Ashmore
9 The Pastures, Market Harborough, LE16 9EA. Tel: MH 433108 e-mail tom9pt@clara.net

Your comments and suggestions are wel-

Medals

It was good to have members of the RNA join us for the fascinating talk and exhibition which followed the June Branch meeting. Mr George Gambol told a story based on each of three very different British medals from his collection. One gave rise to a story about an action by a small group of infantrymen in the Afghan Wars. Another, very rare medal produced a vivid account of Nelson's victory at the Battle of the Nile and the origin of the oft quoted line, "The boy stood on the burning deck...". The London blitz was the scene of the story of a fireman who rescued the occupants of a house where a bomb had crashed through to the cellar but had not exploded. Mr Gambol showed us the George Medal which the fireman received and the bomb!!

After his talk, Mr Gambol answered questions and gave us an opportunity to see other examples from his extensive collection. He has said that would be pleased to come again to tell us the background to some of his other medals when a mutually convenient date can be arranged.

The evening was rounded off with a finger buffet.

100th Member

At a little ceremony at the start of the June Branch Meeting, new membership badges were presented to Leslie and Janet Sewell. Janet has the distinction of bringing the number of members in the Branch to 100. Sadly our lack of old records prevents us confirming whether this is the first time the century has been reached.

Branch Wheelchair

The wheelchair is primarily for use by Members but in fact, had its first outing on 3rd June when it was used by the Stroke Club.

To borrow it for outings, etc., ring Ken Purdy on MH 440623



Military Open Day

Bramcote, Nuneaton (on B4114)
Sunday, 4 July from 1030 to 1730.
Adults £2, Children £1. Parking Free.

Featuring the world famous White Helmets Motor Cycle Display Team, Military Bands, The Phantom Knights Marching Band, Armoured displays, numerous Military displays including the Parachute Regiment's Death Slide, Paintballing, Clay Pigeon shooting, over 100 side stalls (including RBL), refreshments, a giant Fun Fair and so much more. A great fun day out for all the family!

This annual event is run by 30 Signal Regiment to raise funds for Military, Local and national charities.

Mark Hudson received this information following a visit to the Branch Web site by Maj. Charles Greig O.C. Support Squadron but too late for the Social Committee to arrange a group outing.

If you are going please ring Mark (MH 469527) or Tom Ashmore (433108) if you would take someone or to say if you would like a lift.



Coffee Morning

Harborough Theatre
Saturday, 24th July

Offers please of items for Tombola, Cake Stall & Raffle to Bob England or John Cox (MH 434983)



Telephone Warning

If you receive a call purporting to be from a AT&T Service technician, or from anyone else saying he is checking the telephone lines, **do not** press the three keys he asks you to. If you do, any calls he makes on his phone

Warning received from County Office

Cheaper Motorway Meals

In the June/July 1998 issue of the Legion Magazine, Granada advertised a discount voucher scheme for clubs and similar groups. HQ Fundraising Division has now found that individuals and families as well as organised groups qualify for these vouchers which give savings of up to 40% on normal prices. For more information or to apply for vouchers, ring Granada on 01525 878317.

Characters & Coincidences

We have all said, "Now, there was a Character", about someone we have met or known of. Similarly, there have been incidents when we have said, "Well, what a coincidence!"

After the meeting on 14th July, let us swop stories of these people and events, so think up some of your interesting Characters & Coincidences

DIARY

26th June	Poppy Race Day, Newmarket. <u>Coach leaves Conservative Club at 8am</u>
30th June	Branch Committee Meeting - 7.30pm
4th July	Bramcote Military Open Day (see above)
6th July*	Branch Lunch at Old Red Lion, Welham
14th July	Branch Meeting- 7.30pm followed by "Characters & Coincidences"
24th July	Coffee Morning at Harborough Theatre
28th July	Branch Committee Meeting - 7.30pm
4th Aug.*	Grass Rink Bowls and afternoon tea. (novices especially welcome)
11th Aug.	Branch Meeting- 7.30pm followed by Games
14th Aug.*	Coach Trip to Shrewsbury (on day of Flower Show)
7th Sept.	Branch Lunch - venue to be announced
17th Sept.*	Long Alley Skittles Evening

* Ring Bob England (MH 464288 between 4.30pm & 8pm) for details & to book.