

In Touch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996

Issue 182
November 2013



The Royal British Legion

Registered Charity No. 219279

Shoulder to Shoulder with all who Serve

Market Harborough Branch

Founded in 1923



years of caring in the
local community



11-11-11 REMEMBER THEM (pp2 ,4,5)

Next Monthly Branch Meeting
7.30 pm **Thursday 12 December**
Committee 5 December

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

Branch News

Poppy Appeal Awards

Following the AGM last month, the President Andrew Granger, presented certificates and letters of appreciation to the 21 Poppy People present of those eligible this year.



Remembrance Garden

Volunteers had answered the appeal at the AGM for helpers to set up, and later dismantle, the crosses, memorials and signs.

Remembrance Observance

The Sunday Parade and well attended Church Service was followed by wreath-laying and a short service on The Square. On Armistice Day, the small ceremony in Welland Park was followed by the more 'official' wreath-laying by the gates of The Memorial Gardens and a Sunset Ceremony.

Festival of Remembrance

Several members went to the de Monfort Hall event to which a minibus had been arranged.

Poppy Launch

The collection period was started with the now traditional Northampton Pipe Band, Cadet trolleys, Standard and 'a few words' from the Branch Chairman assembled on the south side of The Square.

'Fifth of November'

Several members accepted the invitation to join Peaker Park residents at their enjoyable Fireworks Party.

A 'Swing Night' musical entertainment and Buffet at the Assembly Room in aid

of the Poppy Appeal also attracted some members.

Branch Meeting

In opening the meeting our new Chairman thanked all who had supported the Remembrance events. The social event was a presentation 'Our Branch' about notable events and people, past and present.

REMINDER

Subscriptions of £16 for the current year were due on 1st October. If you have not yet paid yours please send it now to Treasurer, Myra Grewcock (address on page 8). To save being reminded please consider paying by Direct Debit.

Cover Photo

Taken at the National Memorial Arboretum on 19 July 2011 on a visit organised by the RNA.

Chairman's Report at the AGM.

This is my final report as Branch Chairman and I look back at a busy and successful Anniversary year.

The social scene has continued to be a highlight of the branch. The brilliantly organised Anniversary Dinner at the Golf Club was well attended and graced by the presence of the Lord Lieutenant, Lady Gretton JP. Enjoyable lunches have continued each month and the residents' social events at Peaker Park, to which branch members were invited, were popular and much appreciated. The annual band concert was again successful and an interesting trip to the Poppy Factory was well attended. Several after meeting events, which added a social element to the evening, were well received.

The Branch newsletter, In Touch, has continued to provide those unable to attend meetings, with regular branch news. It is now being printed (free of charge) by Prime Life Ltd., parent company of Peaker Park and is another example of a very close relationship developed with the Care Village which is also providing storage space for the Remembrance Garden crosses. I record the Branch's extreme gratitude for this support and I hope it continues and flourishes to the benefit of both.

When I became Chairman I set out several objectives I wanted to achieve.

Firstly to seek a volunteer Branch Recruiting Office to actively canvas for new members but no one took on that role. Our stands at the Carnival and the Armed Forces Day have aimed at recruiting new members, but with limited success.

To engage more with young people Betty Ramsay and I set up a Youth Group. This was not successful as only the ATC cadets representatives attended and interest waned so that the project to build a carnival float had to be scrapped at the last minute. The poster competition, aimed particularly at schoolchildren, attracted only 2 entries. A more direct approach will be made in the coming year by writing to all the local schools.

Thanks to Rev'd John Morley who took on the role of PR which has increased our public profile. We have actively canvassed the local Council about cleaning the War memorial and signing a Military Covenant. We have continued in the discussions about the the Cottage Hospital War memorial.

I would like to thank those who helped to achieve my target to broaden the scope of our meeting, others who worked hard in their respective fields, especially Betty and Myra and all members for their support. I hope this will continue for my successor to whom I wish the best of luck.

Remembrance Sunday Around the World

2011 Pictures from The Guardian website



Hong Kong, China - the Canadian prime minister, Stephen Harper, and his wife, Laureen, at Sai Wan war cemetery



Sydney, Australia- a soldier walks past the Cenotaph at the Remembrance Day service held at Martin Place



Enda Kenny Republic of Ireland, Prime Minister, prepares to lay a wreath at the cenotaph in Enniskillen in Northern Ireland



Valletta, Malta- war veterans raise their standards after two minutes' silence at the Cenotaph



Paris, Place de l'Etoile - President and Prime minister review troops



Taguig City, Philippines -A Filipino soldier plays Taps beside the memorial hall, where the names of fallen US soldiers are recorded

A few years ago the Australian Government's Department of Veterans Affairs published on their website a list of the arrangements for Remembrance day in thirty one other countries. Alphabetically they range from Argentina - Service in St



John's Cathedral, Buenos Aires (seen on left) - to Vanatu - Commemorative Ceremony at the Cenotaph, Port Vila. Geographically they go from Sweden in the north

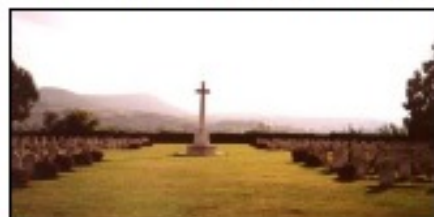
- Service at the English Church, Stockholm - to the south Pacific where in Nauru (the world's smallest



republic, population 8100) - "Commemorative Ceremony at The Cenotaph at the Government Offices, Yaren District, Nauru." (across the runway from the airport terminal)".

In many countries where Remembrance Day has no national signifi-

cance, there may be ex-patriot communities for which it is important. In Hungary, for example a Commemoration Ceremony was to be held in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery (below)



outside Budapest. Two of the few countries listed with a parade were Barbados, where it was to be in Bridgetown's Trafalgar (Heroes) Square (below) and Jamaica at the National Heroes Park, Kingston. In



Tenerife the RBL branch used to have its service beside the sea.



Wear Your Megals With Pride

By Ken West

It was the end of just another run of the mill Friday night at the Scout HQ. As the boys 'Fellin' for the Flag Down, I read out a notice or two, ending with the instructions for that weekend's Annual Remembrance Parade in the village. 'To you mean the Poppy March?' - I recognised the voice of little Timmy who had recently joined us from the Cub Pack. I replied "Yes, it's the one where we

wear our poppies but was officially the Remembrance Day Parade". He rejoined "But that's for the old men from the British Legion — Why do we have to attend?". I explained that it wasn't compulsory to attend, but as Scouts we should show our respects to those men whose names appeared on the village War Memorial. He came back saying that they were all old men who were unknown to him. I replied that they were not old men when they were killed and like many that I'd served with in WWII, were mostly aged 18 - 25 years old.



"You was in the Army?" - I nodded in reply - "Well - where's your megals? My uncle was in the army and he has got three megals". I told him that when we were discharged we were not issued with medals, but had to apply for them later, and I hadn't bothered to apply for mine. Tiny demanded to know why not and I said there was no point, as with all the activities we did, Camping, Bridge Building, Field-craft, they would only get in the way. Quick as a flash, he said I could wear just the ribbons like the Village bobby did. After we dismissed, Timmy came to me and said that as a soldier I should be

proud to wear my megals. I promised that I would try to get some for Sunday's parade. He said, in all seriousness that if I didn't wear any, he would go home and not parade.

I spent all Saturday afternoon in a search. The wartime shops which we had used were long gone I drew a blank at all the Gent's outfitters as a last resort, tried Moss Bros. They could supply but it would take a week. They did however, suggest I tried Tarrants Jewellers across the street. The young "Mr Humphreys" behind the counter was very sorry, then as

Miscellany

an afterthought asked me to wait. He came back with a cigar box of medal bars and oddments, from which I managed to get the ribbons I needed. but no bar to mount them on, so at home I ground the teeth off an old hacksaw blade and sewed on the ribbons and affixed it to my Scout shirt.

On Sunday morning I entered the HQ and took off my jacket. As I turned round, little Timmy was facing me, he took one look and his eyes widened. Cor - look at them - you've got more megals than my uncle". With that he ran outside and joined the assembling parade.

At HQ after the parade, he came up with some of his Cub pals and proudly showed them my megals starting off a round of questions about them. One lad asked if I had been a 'Desert Rat'. I said no - I was a 'Polar Bear'. He shrugged his shoulders and gave me a sympathetic look and I realised that you could not be a hero to everyone. Timmy saluted me with a cheeky grin before trotting off home.

As I cycled home on my trusty old steed, I felt a glow of satisfaction that not all of my Friday nights had been a waste of time and that although it was the 1970's perhaps it was time for me to "Wear my megals with pride".

*Ken West has contributed many articles to **In Touch** in the past and we are delighted to have this new one. Editor*

01 01 01

The Commonwealth of Australia comes into being. Edmund Barton is first Prime Minister.

03 03 03

A man was arrested for spitting in St Louis, USA

06 06 06

Italy reaffirms its Triple Alliance with Austro-Hungarian-German Empires.

09 09 09

Professor Lovell claims there is oxygen on Mars.



and the Editor adds at a more personal level

08 08 08

one of the few birth dates I can remember, that of Australian friend Mike Steele.

07 07 (20)07

My son Malcolm marries Olga from Bogata, Colombia and hence his article in the August 2013 **In Touch**

What's Going On?

Forthcoming Events

- 16 Nov Annual Band Concert
- Note there is no December lunch
- 12 Dec After Meeting Quiz and Buffet
- 2014
- 7 Jan Late Xmas Lunch - see menu in December issue
- 8 Jan After meeting event
- ? Feb Branch Coffee Morning
- 22 Mar Anniversary Dinner at M H Golf Club

Welfare

If you are aware of any one who qualifies for, and may benefit from The Royal British Legion welfare services please contact
Betty Ramsay
01858 434923

In Touch Next Month

Christmas dinners you've never had, other goodies and latest news.

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