

River Kwai setting for early morning Anzac ceremony



Legion members in Thailand recently travelled to Kanchanaburi – where a railway bridge was built over the River Kwai by PoWs during World War II – in April to take part in commemorations for Anzac Day (pictured above).

The members joined representatives from Australia and New Zealand for a traditional Dawn Service,



which included the sounding of the *Reveille* and a wreath-laying ceremony.

The Legion was also given permission to hold a collection for the Poppy Appeal during the event, which resulted in donations totalling 18,915 Thai baht (around £340).

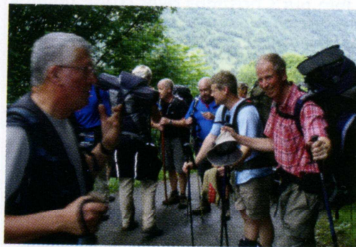
Thailand Branch Secretary, Bert Elson, was among those who took part. He said: "As members of The Royal British Legion, we were honoured to be alongside our Aussie and Kiwi friends."

Members walk for freedom

Members of Bordeaux and Southwest France Branch joined a group of nine hikers for this year's *Chemin de la Liberte* remembrance walk.

The walk, which is organised by branch member Scott Goodall, is a 45-mile trek through the Pyrenees, which traces the route taken by those escaping Nazi-occupied France during World War II.

Branch Chairman John Allsop and Standard Bearer Tom Lewis also helped arrange the remembrance ceremonies that are held along the route.



A member of the Albox Branch in Spain has also trekked through the Pyrenees to raise Legion funds.

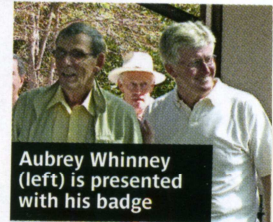
Jill West walked the Pilgrim Trail, which stretches from Roncesvalles in the Spanish Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela, to mark her recent 60th birthday. Her achievement helped raise more than 800 Euros for the Poppy Appeal.

'Golden' moment for members in Chile

Two members of Santiago Chile Branch have been honoured for their loyal service to the Legion.

Aubrey Whinney and Peter Whatmore both received Gold Badges during the branch's annual golf day and barbecue.

There to present the badges was HM Ambassador to Chile, Howard Drake. Mr Drake is also Honorary President of the Legion branch.



Aubrey Whinney (left) is presented with his badge

Brittany Branch keeps on growing

Central Brittany Branch has welcomed more new members than any other large Legion branch over the past three years.

To recognise the achievement, the branch was awarded the Jellicoe Shield at the 2009 National Conference in Eastbourne.

Branch Publicity Officer, Geoff Lace, said: "The committee is justifiably proud of this achievement. We have an active and enthusiastic membership, and the branch is a focal point for many ex-service people and their families."

