



TRBL Holland Branch Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 2 November 2012

Chairman's Chat

Dear Members,

Welcome to this, our second Branch Newsletter of 2012. I hope that you find the contents interesting – in any case they are of importance to you, concerning events that have taken place and those forthcoming.

The two most important forthcoming events are our combined National Remembrance Service/Dedication of Branch Standard Ceremony at Oosterbeek on 11th November, and our Branch Annual General Meeting at Utrecht on 23rd November 2012. I do urge you to make an effort to be present at these important events. They offer you the opportunity to show your support and commitment to the RBL in general and the Holland Branch in particular. Since my last 'Chat' I have represented the Branch on many occasions:

The ANZAC Day Ceremony at Westduin Cemetery, The Hague on 25th April. This was originally a day of Remembrance for the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey on 25th April 1915. Today ANZAC Day has become the day in which we remember all Australians and New Zealanders who served and lost their lives in conflicts around the world. This includes Australians and New Zealanders who helped to liberate the Netherlands and Europe in WWII, and those who served alongside their Dutch comrades in Afghanistan. I always find this a most moving Ceremony.

Remembrance Ceremony Roermond (Limburg) on 29th April.

Wageningen 5th May. I was present

with various members and Committee members on a very wet day – we marched through the rain and got thoroughly soaked. Fortunately the rainfall ceased after the parade and we were able to dry out in the Veterans' tent. Despite the inclement weather, the population of Wageningen turned out enthusiastically in force, as it usually does.

Branch Committee Meeting at Amstelveen on 19th May.

British Embassy Reception on 13th June.

Ypres Ceremony and Garden Party on 16th June. In commemoration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.

Poppy Travel Ceremony at Reichswald Cemetery on 5th August. Met TRBL National President Sir John Kiszley (since resigned). This was a small scale ceremony, but nonetheless important and significant for the UK family members attending.

Reception on board HMS Ocean, Amsterdam Harbour on 13th September. Invitation from the British Ambassador to The Netherlands Paul Arkwright and Captain Andrew Betton RN, Commanding Officer HMS Ocean. This occasion was to celebrate the end of HMS Ocean's duties in the River Thames, as the Royal Navy's largest war ship, having played a key part in the Olympic and Paralympic security operation in London. The Ambassador expressed his recognition of the part HMS Ocean played during the Olympics and emphasised the strengthening of the enduring links and friendship that our (British and Dutch) countries enjoy. *ctd. next page*



Above: HMS Ocean, Amsterdam harbour (photograph J.B. Bright)





Selection from Tom Lanoye's *Niemand's Land*, *Gedichten uit de Grootte Oorlog* (Prometheus, 2002)

Does It Matter?

Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967)

Does it matter?—losing your legs?...
For people will always be kind,
And you need not show that you mind
When the others come in after hunting
To gobble their muffins and eggs.

Does it matter?—losing your sight?...
There's such splendid work for the blind;
And people will always be kind,
As you sit on the terrace remembering
And turning your face to the light.

Do they matter?—those dreams from the pit?...
You can drink and forget and be glad,
And people won't say that you're mad;
For they'll know you've fought for your country
And no one will worry a bit.

Wat Maakt Het Uit?

Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967)

Wat maakt het uit? Je benen verliezen?
De mensen zijn eens zo attent
En jij moet maar doen of het went
Dat zij, voor ze dansen of jagen gaan,
Een omelette met spek achter hun kiezen slaan.

Wat maakthet uit? Het gemis van je zicht?
Het werk voor de blinden is hoogst excellent.
En de mensen zijn eens zo attent
Als jij idolaat van 'vroeger' praat,
Je gezicht gekeerd naar het licht.

Wat maakt het uit? Die hang naar het graf?
Vergeet toch en vreet, zuip je ziek en wees blij.
Geen mens die zal zeggen: 'Hij heeft ze niet op een rij.'
Men kent jou—'Een held!' 'Een goede soldaat!'
Dus denk niet dat iemand er één reet om gaf.



POPPY APPEAL 2011 GRAND TOTAL:
£40 million!! Thank you to all who donated!

Chairman's Chat ctd.

Ceremony Middelharnis on 15th Sep-
tember. Unveiling of information
board Memorial to the crew of Avro
Lancaster R5552.

Valkenswaard Liberation Ceremony
on 17th September. Valkenswaard was
the first Dutch town to be liberated by
the advancing British Army in 1944.

Eindhoven Liberation Ceremony on
18th September. I had the impression,
whilst marching in the parade, that
there was less support from the local
inhabitants than in previous years,
although those who were present
were warmly enthusiastic and showed
undiminished appreciation of the
marching Veterans.

**Re-interment at Oosterbeek War
Cemetery** on 3rd October. Nearly 70

years after he was killed in action, Pte.
Lewis Curtis of the 5th Battalion The
Wiltshire Regiment was finally laid to
rest. He served in North West Europe
and was killed on 2nd October 1944
during an artillery barrage in the after-
math of Operation Market Garden. His
remains were discovered in a shallow
field grave at a farm south of Arnhem
in 2003 during excavations for the
building of a new housing estate; and
eventually identified by the Dutch Ar-
my Recovery Team in 2008 using Army
dental records. The service was attend-
ed by his niece and nephew and their
families. An Honour Guard was provid-
ed by the 5th Battalion The Rifles who
accorded Pte. Lewis Curtis full military
honours.

That concludes my chat, but I do hope
to greet many of you at Oosterbeek
and Utrecht.

John Bright



Poppy Appeal



Each year the nation expresses its
unequivocal support for The Royal
British Legion's work through
the **Poppy Appeal**.

The Appeal is the Legion's biggest
fundraising campaign and the 2012
Poppy Appeal launched nationally
on Wednesday 24 October with a
pop-up concert in Trafalgar Square
in London, starring Alesha Dixon and
Pixie Lott.

The 2012 campaign hopes to break
previous records with an ambitious
target of **£42 million pounds**.
Donations are welcome all year
round.



2012





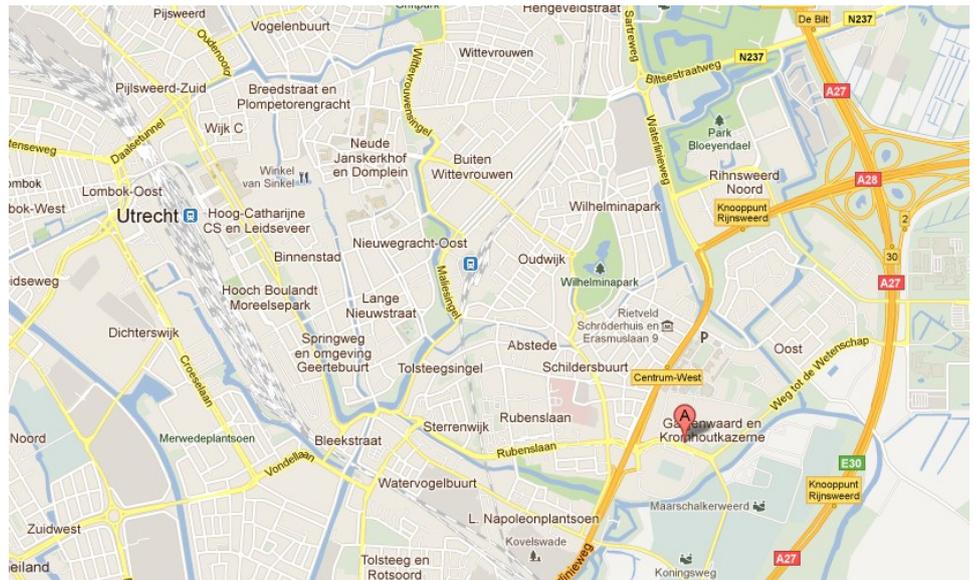
Branch Annual General Meeting Kromhoutkazerne, Utrecht, 23-11-2012

The third Royal British Legion Holland Branch Annual General Meeting will be held on **November 23rd 2012** at the Kromhout Kazerne, Herculeslaan 1, Utrecht. The meeting room, the Tamboerzaal, is in building K02 (opposite building V04/V05) and will be open from 13:00; the meeting will commence at **13:15 sharp**. Tea and coffee as well as a slice of cake will be provided. The meeting room is on the ground floor and wheelchair-friendly. The venue is easily reached by public transport: take a train to Utrecht Central Station, take the 12 or 13 bus to bus stop Stadion Galgewaard, from where it is a couple of minutes' walk to the venue. The venue is also easy to reach by car with free parking on-site. **It is imperative that you inform the Secretary of your attendance, as we have to provide a list of all attendees for security reasons. If you are arriving by car, please also pass**

on your license plate number. Note that the Agenda for the AGM will be made available at the venue on the day, but there will no item 'Any other Business'. Therefore if members have specific points to raise, they should send these to the Secretary, Mr. Alistair

Bright, as soon as possible but in any case, in advance of the meeting. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Below: Location Kromhoutkazerne (A) in Utrecht



Members' Lunch at the Van Ghentkazerne, Rotterdam (30-05-2012)

Another Members' Lunch was held last May at the Van Ghentkazerne, organized by Rotterdam Area Representative, Mrs. E. van Gelderen. Below, all are raising their glasses to Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee!



New Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Royal British Legion Holland Branch members: Mr. M. de Bolster, Mr. E. Geurts Ms. H. Schat-Hansen, Mr. R. Stacey and Mrs. P. Eikelenboom.



Photograph by Tina Jonkers

REMINDER: SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER, 11:30, THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION HOLLAND BRANCH NATIONAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND DEDICATION OF NEW BRANCH STANDARD, ARNHEM OOSTER-BEEK WAR CEMETERY. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!



The Royal British Legion Holland Branch Committee Candidate Nomination Form, 2012/2013

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail address:

The Candidate is nominated to serve on the committee in the capacity of: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Committee member (please circle what is applicable)

Proposer:
(Please print names
below signatures)

Seconder:

The nominee hereby declares that he / she accepts the above nomination and will abide by the rules of the Royal Charter

Signed:
(Please print name
beside signature)

Youth Membership—Updates

As reported in the most recent issue of Legion, delegates at the RBL Annual Conference voted to introduce a one-off payment of £5 for youth members (12-18 years of age). The Membership Council has decided to apply this immediately. Any new Youth Members who join the Legion from now on will pay the one-off fee of £5. Current Youth Members will not have to pay the fee.

It was additionally decided that all Youth Members will receive a proof of Membership letter instead of a Mem-

bership card as a trial to save costs.

Do you know any children or perhaps have children or even grandchildren of your own who might support the aims and objectives of the Royal British Legion and may therefore be interested in joining as a Youth Member? Perhaps you might like to treat them to Youth Membership— it has never been easier now that there is only a one-off Membership fee.

Contact our membership secretary, Mr. P. Thomson, or any other committee member for further details.



Daisy might be far too young to join the Legion, but she loves sporting the Poppy Appeal wristbands!

IF YOU HAVE AN INTERNET CONNECTION, DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.trblhollandbranch.nl EVERY NOW AND THEN FOR UPDATES! PLEASE ALSO VISIT (AND LIKE) US ON FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Royal-British-Legion-Holland-Branch/165977903485813>.

