

In Touch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996

The Royal British Legion

Registered Charity No. 219279



LIVE ON

To the memory of the fallen and the future of the living



Market Harborough Branch

Founded in 1923

Centenary Year of 1915



A landlord had
been a WWI
P O W. See
pages 4& 5

Welcome to
this milestone

Issue 200

May 2015

Next Monthly Branch Meeting

7.30 pm **Wednesday 13 May**

Committee 7 May

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

Branch News

April Branch Meeting

We heard that the latest news of the future of the Hospital War Memorial is that English Heritage support the Council idea of retaining it in its present position as part of a housing scheme on the site which would include accommodation for veterans.

The Anniversary Dinner had been a great success and the same Dinner Dance format would be used next year and has been booked.

VE Day would be remembered on 5th May with a special Lunch to which non-branch members would be welcome and on 8th May with a short service on The Square at 2.45 pm followed by maroons, a silence and the ringing of the church bells. There would be light refreshments at the theatre.

On 30th May a '40s Night' is being run at the Conservative Club on behalf of the Poppy Appeal.

A Special General Meeting would be held on 4th June to decide on proposals that Husbands Bosworth Branch should join our branch.

A Legion HQ organised 'Door to Door' scheme as part of new fund-raising system was strongly opposed as it could prejudice the Poppy Appeal collections.

After Meeting Talk

Vice Chairman, Brian Thomas, in introducing the speaker, Sir Michael Carleton-Smith, said how pleased we were that he was accompanied by a group of his distinguished friends. The talk, 'War and Peace in the Holy Land', traced the history and background of the many centuries of conflict between peoples of different faiths and aspirations. The very well researched details of the resulting death and destruction Sir Michael presented, were set against the many attempts at reconciliation or other peaceful means of accommodating the differences.

The talk helps to put into perspective the sometimes depressing news of the current situation in that small part of the world and how it affects matters elsewhere.

Applause at the end showed how well members present had appreciated Sir Michael's presentation and this was reiterated in the Vice Chairman's thanks on their behalf.

Local Scouts St George's Day

Our Branch, to which the district Scouts are affiliated, was represented by Youth Officer, Betty Ramsay, at their very interesting and successful Celebration and Achievements Event held at Welland Park Assembly Rooms, the Scouts having marched from the town.

Cover Photo

The Fox Inn at Wilbarston as shown in the whatpub.com website of the Campaign for Real Ale

Remember These Milestones?



The
Royal British
Legion
Reg. Charity 218778

Market
Harborough
Branch

Over
75
Years
1931-2006

Founded in 1933

Issue 50 November 2002 Editor Bob England
Original two sheet, tri-fold, 12 page format.
The main story was 'P.O.W. - France 1940' by 'Tiger' which described this anonymous member's experience of his first days after being taken prisoner after the retreat to Dunkirk until arrival in disgusting conditions in Poland.
'Notices' included the menu of the Christmas Dinner at The Countryman in Great Bowden.

In Touch

Issue 50 November 2002

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The
Royal British
Legion
Market Harborough
Branch


In Touch

Issue 100 January 2007

Issue 100 January 2007 Editor George Seward
'Madagascar with the RAF', the lead story, was prepared from the pocket diary found amongst the effects after ex-Aircraftman Frank Bent died. Clearly not a good sailor and often home-sick, Frank reached the Vichy French protectorate at the start of the British invasion and occupation of the strategically important island.


Issue 100 also included an obituary and tribute to Jim Osborne who died on Christmas Day. A 'tongue in cheek' piece reminded us 'You are never too old to enjoy St Valentine's Day'.

*Happy New Year
and welcome
to our
One Hundredth
Edition*



The
Royal British
Legion

Market Harborough
Branch
Reg Charity 218778



In Touch

Issue 150 March 2011
The monthly newsletter (founded 1996) of the Market Harborough Branch (249716) of the Royal British Legion.

**'Shoulder to Shoulder
With All Who Serve'**

Next Monthly Branch Meeting
Wednesday
12 April
Fusion Room, Conservative Club, Southfield Rd, Market Harborough
N30961

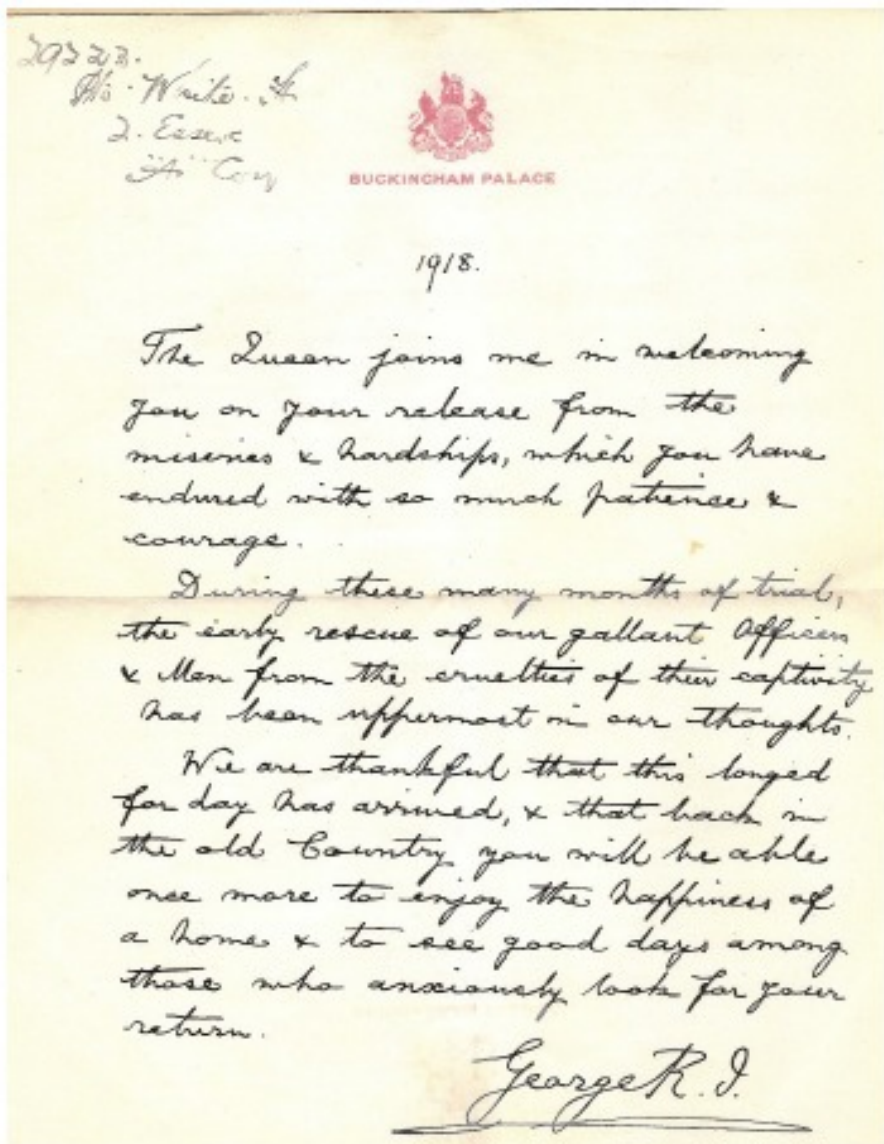
Issue 150 March 2011 Editor John Standish
The two sheet, A5 booklet format and design introduced by John in March 2010, was retained. 'The Other 149' was a review of In Touch since its introduction in June 1996. 'Lest We Forget' recorded the deaths of Ron Ford and Bernard Halsall, and 'Branch Annual Dinner' mentioned that over 70 members and guests attended.

The King writes to Harry White

John Timms has the letter

Harry White was my wife's maternal Grandfather and was taken Prisoner-of-War at Arras. Following his repatriation he received this letter,

found after he died and which prompted my contact with the Essex Regiment Museum (whose response is on page 5, Ed.)



This was the "Kings Letter" he received on his repatriation after the armistice. - I believe it was sent to all returning P.O.Ws.

He later went on to be the Landlord of The Fox in Wilbarston and his grave is just inside the Churchyard in



that village. The headstone shows that he died in December 1953.

Dear Mr Timms,

Thank you for your FAX of 01/02/2006.

I regret that we have little on your wife's grandfather other than to state that he is listed as being one of the men who received parcels from the Essex Regiment Prisoners of War Fund, and that his home town was Desborough. He also appears in the list of men who were posted as "Missing" in the Essex Chronicle, the newspaper for central Essex, in the edition of 31/05/1918. This suggests that he may have been taken prisoner in the period from 28/03/1918 onwards. At the latter date the 2nd Bn fought a costly action stemming the German advance at Arras. They

then fought an action when the Portuguese Division gave way in April which was also costly.

He was entitled to the British War and Allied Victory Medals, which is confirmed on the Medal Roll at the National Archives at Kew, File Reference WO329/1377. There is no note of these being returned on the roll and so it must be assumed that they reached him when sent out by the authorities in c1921.

There may well be more information in the local papers in his home area. Should you have an opportunity to look in this source, I would be grateful for a quick note, please, of the details that you might spot of any other local men who were posted in large numbers to the Essex Regiment. Often proud Wives and Mums wrote to local papers giving news of their men-folk at war.

You will appreciate, I am sure, that we have the potential to be asked about any man in the Regiment at any time and it is difficult for us to access sources outside the County of Essex.

Finally, could I ask his date of birth, please?

Do come back to me if I can be of further assistance,

Yours sincerely,

Ian Hook

Keeper of the Essex Regiment Museum

Portugal: a little-known WW1 combatant

After war erupted in 1914, Portugal became increasingly anxious about its tenuous hold over its African colonies (Angola and Mozambique). In order to secure international support for its colonial claims, at first it supplied aid to the Allies until forced to enter the war when Germany declared war on Portugal on 9 March 1916. This was precipitated by the Portuguese government seizing German steam ships on the River Tagus in Lisbon, as well as German shipping in other ports including Lorenzo Marques, Cape Verde, the Azores and Madeira.

Portugal's participation was initially limited to **naval support**, but in 1917 their first troops went to France. The Portuguese Expeditionary Force's part in the conflict was relatively minor as they only contributed 50,000 able-bodied soldiers at a late stage in the war. One battle they played a key role in was the Battle of Lys in Belgium in 1918. It was part of the **German Spring Offensive**, the last major German offensive of the First World War. The Portuguese divisions were struck hard by the Germans who took roughly 6,000 Portuguese soldiers prisoners.

This article in The London Illustrated News Archives was in Patrick Wingrove's Blog of 16 August 2014.

Miscellany

May 1915 News Items

- 8th Cunard liner *Lucitania* sunk by German submarine with loss of 1400 lives.
- 10th London's first Zeppelin air raid.
- 13th German south West Africa colony captured by Allies.
- 22nd 122 die in UK's worst train crash near Gretna Green.
- 25th Coalition government formed with a Cabinet of 13 Liberal, 8 Tory & 1 Labour MPs.
- 25th Venice bombed in Austrian air raid - only casualties: 3 ladies



I say old girl, let me carry your bag

If Bread is the Staff of Life, what is the Life of the Staff?

One long loaf.

Why are ghosts so bad at lying? You can see right through them.

Sea Cadets AGM

Youth Officer, Betty Ramsay attended the new unit's first AGM.

Sub Branch

A Special General Meeting of Branch Members will take place at 7.15 pm on Thursday 4th June at the Conservative Club to seek approval of Husbands Bosworth Branch's request to become a Sub-Branch of Market Harborough.

Their Membership has diminished and, for the immediate future, they are finding it impossible to continue. The Sub-Branch will retain its Branch number but all accounts / funds will be handed over to Market Harborough. It can continue to parade its own Standard.

This meeting's decision is endorsed by a majority vote

VE Anniversary Lunch

Some 55 members and invited guests enjoyed the nostalgia or novelty, and the taste, of wartime dishes. The appropriately decorated dining room and tables helped to make this a special occasion.

VE Day Anniversary event on Square

Starting at 2.15 pm the spirit of that day 70 years ago was captured in community singing until 3 o'clock when there was two minutes silence, followed by the ringing of the church bells. Refreshments at the Theatre echoed those at 1945 street parties.

LUNCH AT THE ANGEL



for good food and good company

2 JUNE *MEET IN THE BAR AT NOON* MENU

Escalope of British turkey
on a bed fried potatoes & drizzled
w/ a herb infused gravy (gf)

Supreme of salmon sat on fried
potatoes covered in a chunky
leek & white wine sauce (gf)

Roast shoulder of Pork
with roast potatoes, Yorkshire
pudding & gravy (can be gf)

All served with a selection of
vegetables

Warm Mediterranean vegetable
quiche with mixed salad & coleslaw
-!-!-!-!-

Fresh fruit salad w/ Ice Cream (gf)

Summer pudding w/clotted cream
& clotted cream ice cream

Lemon meringue pie
w/ mini jug of cream

-!-!-!-!-

Coffee and Mints

£ 8.50 Pay on the Day

To book, contact Kathie Morley, email
kathiemorley@talktalk.net

or phone 01858 419714 -

To cancel, ring The Angel (01858
462702) before 10 am on the day or
you will be charged

What's Going On?

Forthcoming Events

- 17 May Spring Lunchtime Party & BBQ
at Peaker Park
- 4 Jun Special General Meeting at
7.15 pm (see page 7)
- 10 Jun Branch meeting + talk by Susan
Grogan, Advice & Info'n Officer
- 20 Jun AFD Coffee Morning -Theatre
- 22 Jun Armed Forces Week Flag
Raising - Church Square
- 28 Jun Armed Forces Day Event-
Welland Park
- 4 Jul RNA Cheese & Wine - 7 .pm @
Gt Bowden village hall. £6 incl.
2 glasses of wine
- 8 July Branch meeting + talk ' Project
Patriot'

Welfare

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

RBL Helpline

is open to everyone, 8am - 8pm, 7 days
a week on Freephone **0808 802 8080**
for advice and support for serving &
ex- service people and dependents.

In Touch Next Month

'Uncle Jim', 'Miscellany, Remember This?',
News, etc.

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Branch Website

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www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough/newsletter