

# 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

### 95

Years of Caring



## Market Harborough Branch

Founded in 1923

### Centenary Year of 1918



A C F Detachment Inspection  
in 2004 but their sergeant now has a  
different uniform (see p4)

**Next Monthly Branch Meeting**  
**7.30 pm Wednesday 13 June**  
**Committee 7 June**

Function Room, Conservative Club,  
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

Issue 236  
May 2018

## ***Branch News***

### **April General Meeting**

Very poorly attended with only 16 members present. They heard that a questionnaire seeking members views about the Branch would be circulated; three events commemorating the end of WWI had been arranged; donations and trophies for the Remembrance & Poppy walk had been obtained; 64 people were at the Anniversary Dinner and suggestions for next year were requested; no Branch names were put forward for County Chairman election; someone from the Council would speak about the Cottage Hospital Portico at the Committee meeting; a large donation had been promised towards the cost of the Branch participating in the GP90 event in August and a competition had been arranged for children to write the words for the Branch wreath which would be carried; the Chairman had discussed with HDC their ideas to celebrate the centenary of the end of WWI on 11<sup>th</sup> November and had put forward suggestions the cost of which might come for the HDC budget or Bowden Charities; a grant of £50 had been sought from SwiMarathon; there were to be discussions with Husbands Bosworth Chairman about their branch amalgamating with ours;

Membership is now 130; welfare visits and phone calls were ongoing; the Standard would be going to the National Conference in Belfast and the GP90 event; the Armed Forces Day committee had shut down and its £800 bank balance shared equally between the three Cadet units; absence of distributors might delay In Touch delivery and the need to comply with new Data Protection laws was mentioned.

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### **After Meeting Talk**

Susan Grogan spoke about her role as the Advice and Information Officer for Leicestershire and Rutland, one of those covering the RBL East Midlands Area based in Derby. She had established and now regularly visits 'Pop In' centres in larger towns in the district such as Market Harborough (held in the Library on the second Thursday each month) where anyone with Service or ex-service related problems could seek advice. There was a wide range of RBL help available and she would advise what might be appropriate and how to obtain it. She is supported by literature, copies of which she had available as she spoke. Following her talk she was warmly applauded and then several members asked her questions.

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Branch news continued on p7

#### **Cover Image**

Photo taken in April 2004 when Army Cadet Force detachment was affiliated to the Branch, shows Bernard Halsall MC with Mark Hudson

## ***Remember this from May 2003***

*Norman Banting recalling his national service days wrote the following*

I think it was Andy Warhol who suggested that "Anybody could be famous for a day". This was true in my case, not worldwide glory it is certain, but I did have my moment of fame throughout 7th Armoured Division. Yes, I was serving in the legendary Desert Rats, but the only sand we saw was on the Luneberg Heath in Germany. My 'moment of glory' came when the GOC Major-General Hull personally put me under Close Arrest.

It happened like this. We were to take part in a two-week exercise in which I was allocated a rather ancient Bedford 3 tonner. Off we set in convoy for our first destination, the location of which I was not advised, I just had to follow the truck in front of me. After some hours, my vehicle began to misbehave and lost power going up hills, becoming progressively worse. The result was that, not only did I lose contact with the truck I was following, but the rest of my unit passed me by, leaving me alone, in trouble, lost, and not knowing where I was supposed to be going. Another convoy caught up with me and although you must not overtake in a

convoy, but I decided to do so when possible.

While I was doing one of my my downhill speeding phases, a staff car passed me and an arm appeared from the window to indicate that I should pull in and join the convoy. I did as requested until the staff car was well out of sight then resumed my original tactics. The car reappeared some half an hour later and I was pulled into the side of the road. A car door was flung open and out leapt out a General, who proceeded to bawl me out. He was livid and immediately put me under close arrest. His ADC told me to continue my journey and report to my Colonel when I arrived at my (still unknown) destination.

To cut the story short, when I eventually located my unit, courtesy of the Military Police, I found the Colonel, together with senior officers, waiting for me. Although I explained my predicament to him, he was not impressed and stopped me seven days pay.

Later I was promoted so this episode did me no harm at all, except that all and sundry kept asking me 'were you the chap the General put under close arrest?'

## ***Operation Trenton 5***

**By Andrew Marriott**

For those of you who are not aware, I resigned from the Army Cadets 3 years ago, for two reasons, firstly the paperwork and secondly as I wanted to go on an operational tour. (Clearly a midlife crisis!) *[Andy was already in the TA, now the Army Reserve with the Royal Engineers]*. I joined 222 Med Sqn at Brentwood Road, Leicester and completed training to be a combat medical technician (CMT).

But as it was taking so long, after 12 months I requested a transfer back to the Sappers *[Engineers]*. Within 24 hrs of announcing this to the OC, I was offered the CMT job with a range of perks including the chance of a commission! Strange how I wasn't offered this before and I'm sure there's plenty of similar stories!

So, I reported to 350 Field Squadron (EOD) part of 33 Engineer Regt (EOD) which has Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and search responsibilities. At present, 350 is a search Sqn, this being our primary role, in which we deliver high risk, high assurance search tasks, searching people, buildings, planes, trains and automobiles, routes, areas and anything in between! As a result of specialist training I have qualified as a Searcher and Elementary EOD.

On 22nd February I was invited to re-join The Colours for 1 year and deploy on Operation Trenton 5, which is United Nations Mission In South Sudan (UNMISS). I was not about to miss an opportunity to serve Queen and Country! On Monday 16th April, I reported along with 32 other Sprs to the Mission Training & Mobilisation Centre (Individual) at Chilwell, 500m away from my unit!

After two days of assessment and admin. I, with 32 others was officially back in 'The Colours' and the start of the various stages of the 'Military Annual Training Tests' lasting several days and include Pistol and Rifle; Survival, security and substance misuse; Law of Armed Conflict; Countering Explosive Device Threat; Day and night time Navigation; Battlefield Casualty Drills (first aid) and 'RODET Roller Over Drills Egress



Trainer' which is based around a Mastiff crew cab, which they can roll over and you must release your body harness and extract yourself from the

vehicle by whichever doors or gunner's turret is accessible. Easier said than done once you have been spun around a few times and wearing helmet and body armour!

*This is the first of promised updates of Andy's training and deployment which will show one role of the modern Army.*

### **Background**

On 9 July 2011 South Sudan became the newest country in the world. The birth of the Republic of South Sudan was the culmination of a six-year peace process which began with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005.

The situation in South Sudan was seen as a threat to international peace and security in the region and established the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) to consolidate peace and security and to help establish conditions for development. Later UNMISS was reinforced and reprioritized its mandate towards the protection of civilians, human rights monitoring, and support for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and for the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement.

Britain's contribution has been sending Medical and Engineering troops who have built and provided staff for a hospital as well as making Infrastructure improvements.

*(info from UN and other sources. Ed)*

## **The WW1 Rugby VC**

Arthur Leyland Harrison was born in Torquay in 1886 and at school became a keen and skilful rugby player. Even after passing out from Dartmouth Naval College he was still able to play, when duty permitted, as the Navy encouraged the sport. His ability was recognised and he played in several national and international matches.

This did not jeopardise his naval career and in 1916 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander was mentioned in dispatches, for his part



in the Battle of Jutland. In April 1916 he was in command of one of the landing parties whose

task was to disable the German machine guns guarding the entrance to Zeebrugge harbour.

Coming alongside the mole his ship came under withering German fire. A number of officers were killed and Harrison was so seriously wounded that he was taken for dead and hauled below deck. Shortly afterwards he amazed both medics and his men by

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appearing on deck and insisting on leading his landing party. He charged up the ship's gangway and was shot down, as were all but two of his party. The wounded survivors were unable to retrieve his body. For his bravery he was posthumously awarded the Victoria cross which is now on display at Dartmouth

## ***Cadet Photos from the Archives***



**ATC  
affiliation  
February  
2004**

**Army  
Cadets  
helping at  
Coffee  
Morning**



**Sea Cadets  
help at  
Coffee  
Mornings,  
too**

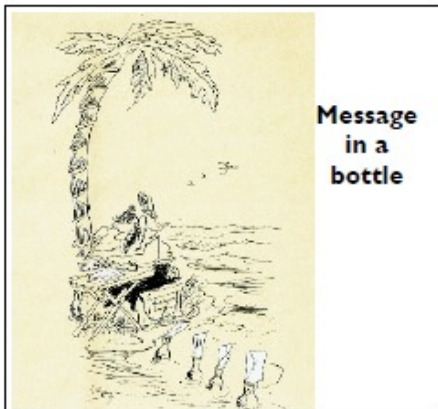
**ATC Mad  
Hatters tea  
party for  
RBL Branch  
90<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary**



## ***Miscellany***

### **May 1918 News Items**

- 8<sup>th</sup>** Government takes control of London Central Markets
- 9<sup>th</sup>** British military commander in Ireland retires
- 10<sup>th</sup>** Germans destroy Amiens & kill thousands with mustard gas
- 15<sup>th</sup>** Airmail service New York to Washington launched
- 17<sup>th</sup>** British meatless days ended
- 25<sup>th</sup>** Bavarian troops hanged for refusing to go to the Front
- 30<sup>th</sup>** Marshall law declared in Russia



**Message  
in a  
bottle**

### **More Cooperisms**

A chap drowned in a bowl of muesli.  
A strong currant pulled him in.  
I went to a seafood disco last week...and pulled a muscle.  
Two elephants walk off a cliff...boom, boom!  
What do you call a fish with no eyes?  
**A fsh.**

### More Branch News

Youth Officer, Betty Ramsay represented the Branch on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at the **Scouts' St George's Day Celebrations and Achievement Awards**. This is always most enjoyable and so impressive. Next year nine Market Harborough and District Scouts and a local Leader will be going to the World Jamboree in West Virginia. This looks a great adventure and very hard work. They are already in training and of course looking for sponsors and support, not only for themselves but for those from poorer parts of the world who could not otherwise go.

The Branch was represented at the **ANZAC Day commemoration** in Welford Road Cemetery on 25<sup>th</sup> April. About 30 people paraded to the Commonwealth War Cemetery where 7 soldiers and 1 nurse are remembered.

Special reference was made to the third ANZAC Day in 1918 when the Australian troops before entering battle were reminded of the Gallipoli Campaign in 1915.

#### Your views are requested

To make the Branch operate in a way that best suits our existing members and which might help to attract new ones please complete and return your Questionnaire by post or email as appropriate

Branch members are always welcome at **Peaker Park** at their social events such as BBQ & entertainment at 4pm on 25<sup>th</sup> May, Sea-side Special Sunday Afternoon with fish & chips on 11<sup>th</sup> June, Garden Party 12.00 to 2.30 pm 14<sup>th</sup> July. Ring MH 414460 if you will attend

#### Committee Members

**Jill Mann** (MH 461572)  
**Colin & Pauline McIntyre** (email cMcIntyre1945@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Pat Middleton** (MH 445827)  
**Kathie Morley** (MH 419714)  
**Barbara Pickup** (MH 433492)  
**Pat Walker** (MH 545560)

**LUNCH**  
**AT THE**  
**ANGEL**



for good food and good company

**5 JUNE** **MEET IN THE BAR AT NOON**

#### MENU

Chicken Supreme on mash; Roast leg of lamb; Baked loin of smoked haddock on mash; Ham & hard-boiled egg salad w new potatoes. All w veg. Fresh fruit salad w sorbet; Summer pudding; Apple Tart & custard.  
Tea or coffee & mints £9.25

To book, contact Kathie Morley on 01858 419714 or by email [kathiemorley@talktalk.net](mailto:kathiemorley@talktalk.net)  
To cancel, ring **The Angel (01858 462702)** before 10 am on the day or you will be charged

## What's Going On?

### Forthcoming Events

- 10-Jun Sponsored Walk in Welland Park
- ?? Jun HDC AFD Flag raising
- 23 Jun RNA Cheese & Wine @ Gt Bowden Village Hall
- 23 Jun Armed Forces Day Service & Parade @ Leicester
- 30 Jun Local Armed Forces Day event
- 8 Aug Great Pilgrimage 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 13 Oct Poppy Appeal coffee morning

#### Welfare

If you know any one who may benefit from Legion welfare ring  
**Betty Ramsay on 01858 434923**

#### RBL Helpline

is open to everyone, 8am - 8pm, 7 days a week on **0808 802 8080** for advice and support for serving & ex-service people and dependents. Locally, visit the **Pop In Centre** at the Library 10am-noon on the second Thursday each month

#### In Touch Next Month

From the Archives, Miscellany, Remember This?, News, etc.

*The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. The editor reserves the right to decide what is to be published. No part may be reproduced without prior permission.*

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#### Branch Website

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**Committee - see Page7**