

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



He received medical rather than spiritual support in this city - see page 5

Next Monthly Branch Meeting
7.30 pm Wednesday 14 November
Committee 8 November

Issue 241
October 2018

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

Branch News

September Branch Meeting

A new member David Leyland was welcomed by Vice Chairman, Stewart Harrison. The 25 members present heard reports about the ceremony of adding the name BW Coleman to the WW2 war memorial and the Afternoon Tea Party on 13 October for which posters have been prepared. It would be preceded by the Coffee Morning for which contributions and helpers were requested. It is understood that detailed plans for the development of the Cottage Hospital with its memorial portico are to be submitted in September. The Branch stall at the Volunteer Fair secured three potential new members and three Poppy Appeal Helpers and it was suggested that there should be a stall at the 2019 County Show. At Remembrancetide, the Silent Soldier will be added to the Crosses of the Garden of Remembrance which will be illuminated; cadets will perform a 'Silent Soldier' routine; a special peal of church bells on Remembrance Sunday; the old Grammar School will lit in red. The branch nomination for County Vice Chairman was approved (in his absence). Branch membership is 125. Helpers are needed for the Poppy Appeal Market Stall. Items of correspondence included invitations to a WWI lecture in Leicester and East Farndon memorial rededication and a reminder about the De Montfort Festival.

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After Meeting Social Event

Following the success of four previous Poetry Readings thirteen members read one or two of the eighteen poems either of their choice or of something suggested and agreed.

To commemorate the centenary of the end of WWI six poems were of wartime, that written and spoken by Sara Whitley- Kinzett starting the session. This was followed by Jill Mann with 'Life is a Picture' words relating to the the theme of Sara's piece. With a complete change of mood, Colin and Pauline McIntyre became the Duke and Duchess in W S Gilbert's very amusing poem of that name

Kathie Morley returned to the war with Rudyard Kipling's 'My Boy Jack' relieved by John Masefield's 'Sea Fever' read by John Morley. Next, two more amusing poems; 'When I am an old woman' read by Betty Ramsay and IT illiterate John Cox reading 'An Ode to the Computer'. Myra Grewcock took us to the seaside with Joan Ashmore's 'Cefn Sidan, Pembrey' and John Morley, with Robert Frost's sad, 'Not to Keep', returned to the war.

Colin made us laugh again with Pam Ayres' 'I have a Little Sat-nav' with Pauline responding with Theresa's 'The Dutiful Husband'. Wartime returned with Betty reading one of the poems spoken at the GP 90

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Cover Image

One of many images of Ely Cathedral found on the Internet

Do you Remember In Touch Too?
(published between the then bi-monthly
In Touch) This is from October 1988

Battle of Britain Sunday

The Market Harborough ATC Squadron are to be congratulated for arranging for the first time and at short notice, this year's parade and service. It was a good example of the way today's young people can maintain the traditions established by the ex-Service organisations and support their predominately ageing membership.

The Church had been decorated for the Flower festival and so looked most attractive. However, some of the displays caused anxious moments for the Standard Bearers who had to carry out a number of movements not in the Drill Manual in order to miss them!

Branch Lunches

Wednesday, 28th October at The Countryman, Great Bowden, 12 noon, Good food, reasonable prices, great company! Ring Tony Johnson (MH 440501) if you can come.

Tony will try to arrange a Xmas Lunch if there is sufficient interest. Ring him if you would like to attend.

It has been pointed out that members who are not retired are rarely able to join these pleasant gatherings and that occasional evening meals should be arranged. Something for next year, Tony?.

Open Harborough

The organisers regard this town event as being a success. Certainly, in the centre there were lots of people and a happy carnival-like atmosphere. Where we were "open", in the Settling Rooms, the crowds were noticeable by their absence. Considering the amount of effort put into preparing the displays and the time given by members on duty throughout the day, it was very disappointing. However, some visitors read our leaflets as they drank their coffee and a few stayed to look at the exhibition, the display screens and Mark Hudson's demonstration of our Web Site.

One positive outcome is that two ex-members from the now closed Houghton-on-the-Hill Branch have now joined us. Welcome Tom Harrison & John Townsend!

We are also most grateful to Big Dial Radio who generously donated the whole day's profit from the Coffee Shop, which more than covered our expenses. expenses.

**Have you paid
your subscription?**

Rocket

by Colin Budden

So we were conducting Northern Ireland Training in the regular haunt of the Stanford Training Area in Norfolk



Entrance to a replica village or area created for training

which I believe is still being used today. I was a Section 2 IC Lance Corporal commanding a half section of 4 men. Our mission was to go to the Bailey Bridge in a vehicle (4 Tonner Bedford Lorry) attack the position causing as much hassle as possible across the water and get out as quickly as possible. There were around 15 of us ready for the attack in or around the bridge/truck. Once the vehicle had stopped we would have seconds to dismount very quickly to get in formation either side of the truck and then to fire into the enemy position illuminated by the Schumuli Rockets which lit the sky. (Schumuli are 1.5 inch rockets that when launched into the air explode opening a Parachute to which Phosphorous is attached and

which burns giving intense light to illuminate enemy positions.)

Now ready we had a kip until we mounted up to go and carry out the attack. Zero Hour for the plan to take place was 3am. The truck sped towards the Bailey Bridge and braked



A Bailey Bridge but not at Stanton

heavily to a halt. Just as we were getting into our position I felt a massive thump on my chest. Adrenaline was obviously driving us forward but I felt blood start to stream down out of my mouth. My energy dissipated and I knew I had been hit directly but with what? I immediately staggered back to the truck and shouted I had been hit and was helped back up onto the truck by the team who had finished the attack and were re-boarding to go back to base. In the back of the truck I was continually asked if I was OK but the pain was immense. I was hit on the

right of my chest just above the top pocket of my Combat Jacket. Hit by what though?

Well there was an imprint of a circle which was the same size as a Schumuli Rocket. I had been hit by a Schumuli!!! We went straight back to base and I was taken directly to Ely RAF Hospital.



RAF Hospital at Ely

The first thing they wanted to do was to X-Ray my chest. They said we will cut off your Heavy Wool Jumper. I said Noooo remove it normally, I didn't want that ruined ha, ha! I stood upright against the back of a plate for the X-Ray and had to be caught as I nearly passed out. It was found that I had two cracked ribs and a collapsed lung.

I spent 2 weeks in hospital with visits from the Commanding officer and another person who I found out at the time was the person who fired the rocket. It was a 2nd Lieutenant from the Royal Artillery who was the culprit and was ordered to come and visit me in hospital. He had been given such a telling off and he brought me in a bunch of bananas. I didn't really speak to him much as I was very disappointed to

Obituary

Long serving Branch Member Marjorie Adcock died on 28th September, age 97. She was a RAF nurse in WW2 and dealt with casualties from the D Day landings and after the end of the war worked in a hospital for Japanese prisoners in Singapore.

Post war she became very involved in local community matters having been a Council Chairman on two occasions, chairman of magistrates and very well respected active member of several other groups resulting in her being awarded the MBE in 1987 for service to the Community. She was active in Church matters and attended of St Dionysius regularly. It was there that her funeral service was held on 8th October.

Sincere condolences are given to members of her family

learn that he had opened up the rocket illegally and cut off the parachute in order to be able to aim it at us in the night. I was not impressed at all. I do not know to this day if it was recorded officially as an incident or was just covered up?

Anyway I left hospital and had a few more weeks off before returning to work again on light duties initially. During that time I got a chest infection but the doctor sorted me out and I took it easy adjusting back into my role.

A bit of a scary incident but I survived.

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Service, 'Ypres', by Laurence Binyon. John Liddell became a 'tongue in cheek' modern farmer with John Betjamen's 'Harvest Hymn' and Jill gave us food for thought with Joan Asmore's 'Fair Isle Pattern'. Stewart Harrison became a member of a party visiting war graves when he read 'Gallipoli ...then and now' by Jean M Bingham. More humour when everybody seemed to know the words of 'There was an old Lady' and joined Kathie reciting it.

Reading Henry Reed's poem, John Cook, as a wartime sergeant tries to teach his inattentive recruits 'Naming of Parts'. The finale of the session was Tom Ashmore reading another W S Gilbert poem 'The Working Monarch' which was one of the songs in the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta 'The Gondoliers'.

Vice Chairman, Stewart Harrison thanked those who had taken part and Tom for another successful programme. Asked if there should be a similar session next year, those present were unanimous in wanting one.

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BCS (Welfare) visits and phone contacts have continued. The Standard Bearer was at the New Name dedication and would be at the Battle of Britain Service. The Branch lunch was attended by 25 people. Tickets for the Afternoon Tea Party would cost £5 and be available at the Con Club bar. In Touch delivery was in hand.

Miscellany

October 1918 News Items

- 1st Major Lawrence and his Arab rebels enter Damascus.
- 5th Austria appeals to President Wilson for peace.
- 6th 430 die when two liners collide off the Scottish coast.
- 7th British troops take Beirut & Sidon in Palestine.
- 15th UK's first oil well inaugurated in Derbyshire
- 17th Hungary declares independence from Habsburg Empire.
- 23rd Women to be allowed to become M Ps.
- 30th Austrian army has evacuated Italian territory.
- 31st Turkey surrenders and Dardenells reopened for Allies



Edinburgh Festival Fringe Jokes

- I'm not a fan of the new pound coin, but then again, I hate all change.
- Combine Harvesters. And you'll have a really big restaurant.
- I'm rubbish with names. It's not my fault, it's a condition. There's a name for it... My dad suggested I register for a donor card, he's a man after my own heart."

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More Branch News

Battle of Britain Service

Several Branch members were at Little Bowden Church on 16th September



including Jane Timms carrying the RAFA Standard and Hilary Brazil with ours. The Service was conducted by Rev. Alison Iliffe, her first since her appointment as vicar. The 1084 ATC Squadron and Band were present, two cadets giving the Readings. RAFA Chairman Geoffrey Moth recited the RAF Dedication before the Two Minutes Silence.

Coffee at the Market (& buffets)

A group, mostly of Branch '1918 Committee' members, meet socially each Friday morning. To celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary and a 70th birthday, two of them, Pauline and Colin McIntyre provided a wonderful buffet at their sheltered housing home for the residents and other guests including our group, but Pat Walker, although recovering well, was unable to attend having just had hip surgery. Prior to that Pat Middleton had a group 'wishing you well, Pat' buffet at her home.

Branch members are always welcome at **Peaker Park** at their social events such as Harvest Festival Lunch 17th October, 5th November Bonfire Night 6pm.
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

**6 NOVEMBER MEET IN THE
BAR AT NOON**

MENU

Loin of Cod on veg stew in tomato sauce; Chicken Supreme in smoked bacon on cheesy leeks; Mushroom, stilton & onion pudding with peas; Beetroot & red onion tarte with salad. Fresh fruit salad & cream; Profiteroles with chocolate sauce; Bakewell tart & custard.

Tea or coffee & Mints £9.25

To book, contact Jill Mann on
01858 461572 or by email
jillman164@gmail.com
To cancel, ring **The Angel (01858
462702)** before 10 am on the day or
you will be charged

What's Going On?

Forthcoming Events

- 13 Oct Poppy Appeal Coffee morning at the theatre - Helpers please!
- 13 Oct Thank You Afternoon Tea 2.30 to 4.30pm at Con. Club Ticket £5 from the Bar
- 27 Oct Poppy Appeal Launch from 10.30 on The Square
- De Montfort Festival of Remembrance
- 11 Nov Remembrance Sunday Parade, Services & Lunch at The Angel
- 24 Nov Band Concert- Baptist Church

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 10 am-noon on the second Thursday each month

In Touch Next Month

Centre pages story, Miscellany, Remember This?, News, etc.

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Branch Website

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

Committee - see Page7