

We will remember them

To all whom we have lost this month. Our sincere condolences to family and friends.



Our mission is to safeguard the welfare, interests, and memory of those who are serving or who have served in the Armed Forces



What is a Veteran?

What is a veteran.....someone who left home, left their loved ones and signed a blank cheque understanding they may have to make the ultimate sacrifice. Veterans are an intrinsic part of the community, you don't see them, they don't brag about their commitment when they used to keep you safe when you sleep. You can spot them by the way they talk, their demeanour and humility.

I joined the military straight from school at 16 years old and popped out 29 years later. Thankfully I have not needed to lean on the RBL, but I know they are there if I need help. Sadly around 4 veterans take their lives each month. It's all about

speaking with other like minded people so if you are a veteran and struggling a bit, reach out as support is there but you need to make the first step. I served 5 deployments to Afghanistan, 4 to Iraq, Balkans,

Middle East and others, I have no regrets on my time served, met some life long friends who if you

don't see for years, you pick up on the last discussion you had in the NAFFI 10 years ago. Veterans are a key asset for business as they bring self discipline, a commitment, and a "can do" attitude. If you are a Veteran in need of a bit of help, just reach out.

Major (Retd) Mark Holden RC Sigs



**Happy New Year
to all our members.**



Hampshire County Conference Reminder

This is a reminder that the County conference is to be held on Saturday 17th January 2026. At 10h20 all delegates and visitors must be seated in the conference hall. The Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester, Cllrs Sudhakar and Vivian Achwal are attending. There are two guest speakers. They are Colonel David Kenny and Mr. Michael Kurn. RBL Trustee, Phil Davies from head Office will also be speaking. Various annual reports will be presented. The County Chairman will make the closing address and the conference should end at 15h15. Everybody is welcome to attend.

January 1951. Chinese and North Koreans attack South Korea on the 38th Parallel.
31 January 1968. Viet Minh launch the Tet Offensive in Vietnam.
January 1982. Build up of Soviet / Kabul forces in Afghanistan results in heavy fighting.



The official definition of a Veteran is anyone who has served for at least 1 day in His Majesty's Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve) or Merchant Mariners who have seen duty on legally defined military operations. The 2021 Census shows that there are 1.85 million veterans in England and Wales (3.8% of the over 16 population), with around 2 million estimated across the whole of the UK. This can include a 16-year-old who did a week of basic training and was discharged due to injury, or someone in their 50s who served for over 20 years. Not everyone sees themselves as a veteran. A veteran can be of any gender, sexuality ethnicity or nationality, with an age of 16 or above. Each veteran will have varied experiences of service and these will all be different. Some may have seen combat and some may not. Most veterans will have had a positive experience in their time of service. This does not mean that they have not been witness to life changing experiences, violence or suffering. Each veteran will deal with the effects in their own way. Some will be affected by it and some will not. However they will make a choice to be seen as a veteran or not. Veterans families will know the difficulty in moving on transfer, settling in to new and unknown places and living in the fear that a loved one may not come back home from a deployment.

Transition from service life to a civilian occupation is often quite difficult for service personnel. The change from belonging to a military family to civilian life is very different. Adjustment to civilian life can be difficult. Part of the transition process is resettlement, which involves the support, advice and guidance provided to military personnel during their service and employment or vocational support in the run up to them leaving the armed forces before moving to civilian life. many find it difficult to ask for help. For most, their service in the military is much more than just another job. It defines their character and values. They are resourceful and self-reliant, and will downplay any need for help. Veterans are trained to put others before themselves. Others come first. Some veterans will talk of their experiences and some will not. They will talk about their travels and experiences but some will not. They may not talk about the loss of friends, injuries and deaths until they are quite ready to do so. What they will more than likely want is comradeship from other veterans who understand their background and experience. Do not be offended by this. It is the way of the military veteran.

There are many other veterans who have not served with the British armed forces and who are British citizens and are living in the country. They are equally military veterans but they do not have the right to this support as their service is not officially recognised by the British government. They have equally seen the horrors of war; they equally need to identify as a Military Veteran and they equally desire the comradeship of veterans internationally. Source - Office for Veterans' Affairs. Contact veterans@cabinetoffice.gov.uk. for more information and advice. DW

One Veteran's Medals



UNFICYP UN medal, General Service Medal with Northern Ireland and Dhofar bars, Gulf War 1991 medal, Long service and Good Conduct medal, Rhodesia Service medal, Oman General Service medal, Oman Victory medal, Zimbabwe Independence medal and Pingat Jasa medal for service in Malaysia.

David Lloyd served with the RAF as an Air Communication Technician. he enlisted as a Boy Entrant Air Wireless Mechanic in 1957 at RAF Cosford. He served at RAF Sekatar in Singapore, RAF Gan in the Maldives, RAF Nicosia with the UN forces on Cyprus. He was attached to the Zambian Air Force before being posted to RAF Wildenrath, RAF Gutersloh in Germany, RAF Luqa on Malta, RAF Salalah with the Sultan of Oman's air force, RAF Goode Bay in Canada, in Belize, Northern Ireland and in Rhodesia at the end of that war with the Commonwealth Monitoring Forces. Other home bases include RAF stations Wyton, Thorney Island, Yatesbury, binbrook, leuchars, Odiham, Waddington and Marham.

David left the RAF in 1982 after having obtained a Civil Aviation Licence at Brunel Technical College and then went on to work in Zimbabwe with Airwork, Saudi Arabia with British Aerospace, the United Arab Emirates with Airwork and then at RAF Anglesey. david is retired and spends much time as an archivist for the RAF Selatar Association and has been the Secretary of the Petersfield branch of the RBL for many years. DW

As the Nation commemorated our war dead on 11th November 2025, Commander Charles Wylie OBE Royal Navy (age 92) travelled to South Korea to remember a shipmate and many other British, Commonwealth and Allied sailors, soldiers and airmen killed during the Korean War. Cdr Wylie placed a poppy at the Busan war memorial for his shipmate Leading Stoker Mechanic Jimmy Addison who was killed when his ship, the destroyer HMS COMUS, was bombed. He laid another on behalf of then Leading Stoker Mechanic John Bannister whose prompt action undoubtedly saved the ship, and for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM).

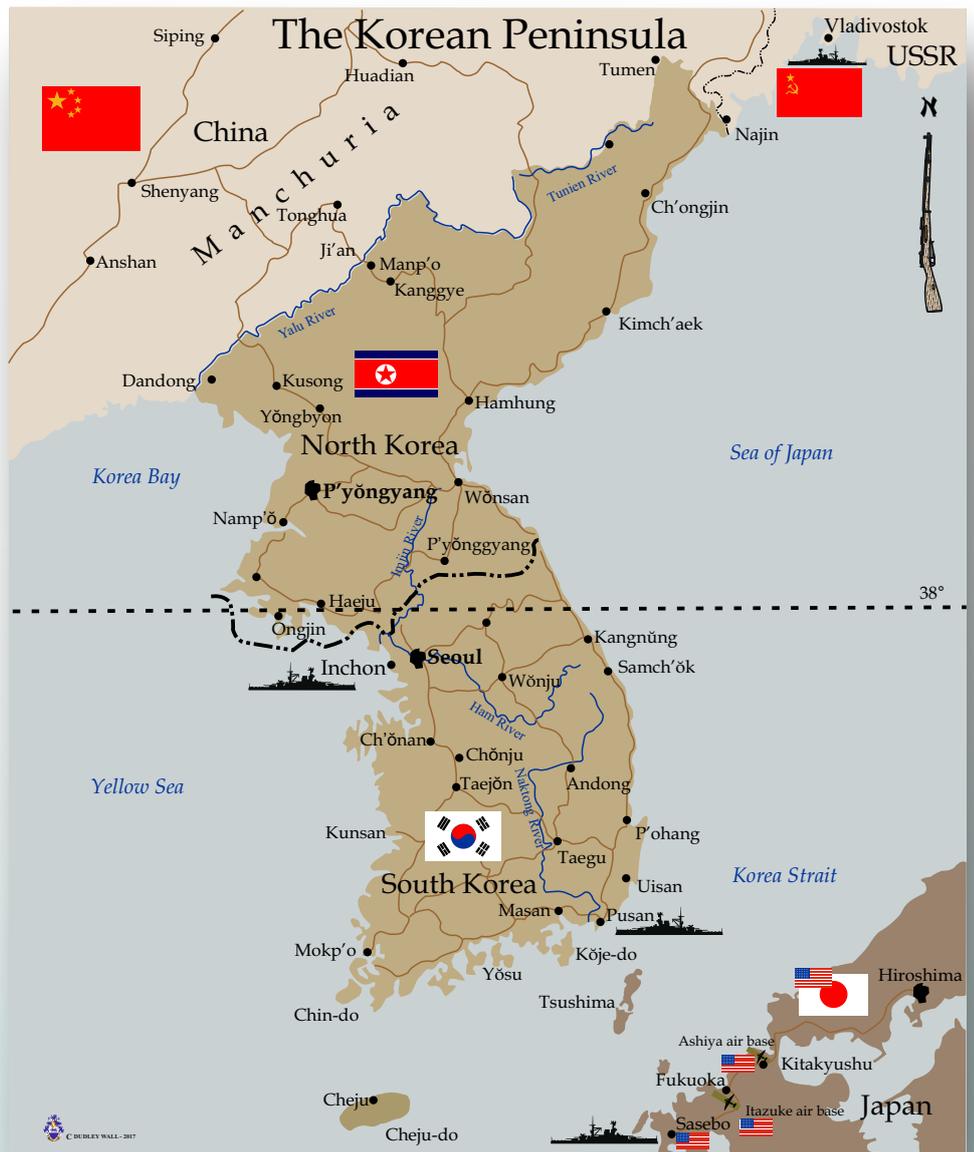
Under overall US command, the Royal Navy contributed some 75 warships and auxiliaries to defend supply lines and support ground forces to the west of the Korean peninsula. Of these, 6 aircraft carriers, 6 cruisers, some 20 escorts and 41 Commando Royal Marines took part. Fleet Air Arm aircraft from the carriers conducted strike missions while cruisers and destroyers provided naval gunfire support.

The Korean War lasted from 25 June 1950 to 27 July 1953. It was a significant military conflict on the Korean Peninsula. It involved North Korea, supported by China and the Soviet Union, fighting against South Korea

which was backed by United Nations forces, predominantly led by the United States. The war was one of the earliest and most notable confrontations of the Cold War, highlighting the ideological divide between communism and democracy. At the close of the Second World War in 1945, Korea was liberated from Japanese occupation. The peninsula was immediately divided along the 38th parallel into two occupation zones: the North, administered by the Soviet Union, and the South, by the United States. This division, meant to be temporary, became permanent as both sides established rival governments: the communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the North and the anti-communist Republic of Korea in the South. Tensions between the two increased, with both claiming sovereignty over the entire peninsula

On 25 June 1950, North Korean forces, equipped and advised by the Soviet Union, launched a massive invasion across the 38th parallel, swiftly capturing Seoul and pushing South Korean and UN troops into a small perimeter around Pusan. The United Nations Security Council swiftly condemned the invasion and authorised the use of force to repel North Korean aggression. Troops from countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and Turkey formed a coalition in defence of South Korea.

Talks for an armistice began as early as July 1951 but dragged on for two years due to disagreements over prisoner exchanges and the demarcation line. Finally, an armistice was signed on 27 July 1953. The agreement established the Korean Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), a heavily fortified boundary roughly along the 38th parallel, which remains one of the most militarised borders in the world. No formal peace treaty was signed and, technically, North and South Korea remain at war. The Korean War resulted in immense devastation, with an estimated three million Korean civilians and soldiers killed or wounded, alongside significant losses among Chinese and UN forces. The conflict entrenched the division of the peninsula, shaping the geopolitics of East Asia for generations. It is sometimes referred to as "The Forgotten War" in the West, overshadowed by the Second World War and the Vietnam War, yet its consequences endure, especially in ongoing tensions





Cdr Charles Wylie and grandson (South Korea 2025)

between North and South Korea.

Cdr Wylie was accompanied by his grandson, dozens of other veterans, their families and family members of those who died during the conflict. Feted and generously entertained by the Korean government, Charles Wylie spoke and read out the following poem he had written:
Noble South Korea

O noble South Korea, how so proud I am to write
How you climbed from devastation to set the world alight.
Some millions of your people died to keep alive the flame
Of freedom from a tyranny, I just refuse to name.



UN forces helped to keep your many foes at bay.

We're glad to know that freedom still ennoble every day.
Half your homes and businesses were just flattened to the ground.
A host of your young fighting men is no longer to be found.

But yet you toiled with zealous hearts to build your country's wealth,
So now I raise a brim-full glass to toast your lasting health.
You've set standards of endeavour that should inspire the world,
And FREEDOM is the message when your banners are unfurled.

In return Cdr Wylie and other veterans of the war were presented with a medal. The accompanying citation concluded:

In grateful recognition of your dedicated contribution, it is

our privilege to proclaim you an AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE with every good wish of people of the Republic of Korea. Let each of us reaffirm our mutual respect and friendship that they may endure for generations to come.

From Kwon Uh-Eul, Minister of Patriots and Veteran Affairs, Republic of Korea.

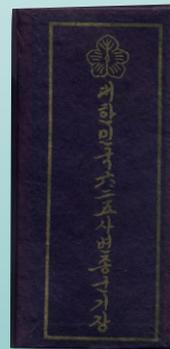
Of over 81,000 British servicemen who fought in the Korean War, 1,109 were killed: the highest toll from a single conflict since the Second World War. 75 years after its outbreak, veterans are now in their 90s and increasingly in need of support from the Royal British Legion and other Service charities. In addition, they should enjoy the undying recognition and respect of the people of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth who enjoy the relative peace and harmony that has followed their sacrifice.

**우리는그들을기억할것이다
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

Submitted by Cdr Rob Scott RN on behalf of Cdr Charles Wylie OBE RN (Droxford & District Branch RBL)



HMS Comus – docking down at Kure Japan to repair hull damage 1950



South Korean War Service medal and box

UN South Korean War Service medal

In the 1870s Europe was experiencing troubled times and as a consequence Cyprus was placed under British control. The island was divided between a population of Greek and Turkish Cypriots. The Greek Cypriots were in the majority and wanted Britain to withdraw its presence so that they could be united with Greece. This was known as the Enosis movement which was led by Archbishop Makarios of the Cyprus Orthodox Church and by Colonel George Grivas, Head of Ethniki Organosis Kuprion Agoniston - National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters (EOKA) in 1955. Both men encouraged the people to take up arms to attack British led government as well as to attack military installations and personnel. The effort to mobilise the civilian population gained momentum and the people demonstrated against the British presence.

EOKA began the campaign on 1 April 1955 by conducting a series of bombing attacks against government offices in the island's capital Nicosia. In these incidents nobody was killed but shortly after EOKA conducted a number of assassinations of Greek members of the police force as well as the local people who remained anti the Enosis movement. This resulted in a declaration of a state of emergency in November 1955 by Lord Harding, the Governor. The British Government then began a process to try and negotiate a political solution to the problem, in an effort to end the unrest. In March 1956, Makarios was sent to the Seychelles

in exile, in an effort to reduce tension. This did not work and the violence continued. resulting in the arrival of British military reinforcements. They then conducted a series of operations against EOKA who were based in the Troodos Mountains. These operations were quite successful and by 1957 most of EOKA's leaders had been killed or captured in the rural areas. In the urban areas the EOKA movement stepped up operations by encouraging riots by students and schoolchildren. They also deployed special execution squads to target police officers, military personnel and their families. The attacks carried on during 1958 despite the fact that Makarios had abandoned his desire for Enosis. In February 1959 an agreement was reached in London to allow Cyprus to be granted independence. Part of the agreement was that Britain would retain two sovereign base areas at Akrotiri and Dhekeila. (See map).

Cyprus became a republic in August 1960 but this did not see the end to the troubles and the Greek and Turkish communities continued to fight with each other. In 1974 a military coup took place in Greece. Its intention was to unite the island with mainland Greece. Turkey then invaded Cyprus and the island territory was divided. Today the island is known as Turkish Northern Cyprus and the Greek Cypriot Republic of Cyprus. Cyprus remains divided, split by a United Nations dividing corridor. UNFCYP is the longest running UN operation in the world and continues today. DW

British Forces Cyprus

British Forces Cyprus (BFC) is a tri service organisation and is tasked with the protection of the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) and other retained sites on a permanent basis. The British army deploys two infantry battalions (as at 2021 a Bn from the PWRR and 2 Yorks and supporting arms such as Royal Signals, Royal Logistics Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Military Police that are located in both SBAs. They cover a physical area of 98 square miles. RAF Akrotiri is an important base, providing air support and communication facilities for the general area which is of strategic importance for both military and humanitarian operations.

DW



Cyprus Comms Unit



Combined Sigs Supt Unit



Cyprus Joint Supt Sigs Unit



UN beret and arm badges

United Nations Forces Cyprus



United Nations Force - (Op TOSCA). The UN force with its HQ in the capital Nicosia, deploy on the island and is the longest running UN operation anywhere in the world. It is known as United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and many countries including the UK provide forces.

There is no operational link between British soldiers serving in the SBAs and the British contingent of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. Tours of duty last for six months and UN forces are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the Buffer Zone that runs between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots. All UN forces wear UN blue berets. DW

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Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrb/ Facebook Email - Hampshire.web@rbl.community

Poppy Appeal - www.facebook.com/poppy.HampshireRBL

Contact us

It's your newsletter!!!

If anyone has any articles that they would like published in the Newsletter then please contact the editor
Colonel (Retd) Dudley Wall MSM (Rhodesia), MMM (SA) with any information or articles by the 20th of the month at:
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(including Welfare requests) should be directed to the national call centre
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Errors and Omissions Excepted

