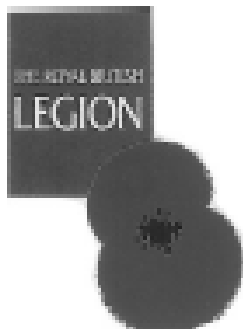




# **The Royal British Legion**



## **Market Harborough Branch**

Reg Charity 219279

# ***In Touch***

Issue 157

October 2011

The monthly newsletter (founded 1996) of the Market Harborough Branch  
(BR0106) of the Royal British Legion.

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

**Next Monthly Branch Meeting  
Wednesday  
23 November**

Function Room, Conservative Club, Fairfield Rd, Market Harborough  
7-30pm

## Branch News

### Subscription Renewals.

It is now time for members to re-new subscriptions which this year will be £14.

It will help our Membership Secretary if you can pay as promptly as possible and for those who are not on direct debit payment a move to that payment method would help even more.

It will save you time and worry about remembering to pay and the membership secretary's workload will be considerably eased.

### Branch Committee

We had a better turnout for the last meeting and we were quorate. The committee is responsible for the management of the Branch, it clearly cannot do this unless it can make decisions.

It is vital that the Committee has sufficient active members to enable it to function so we need more volunteers for the Committee.

The Branch Bye-Laws state 'there shall be a Branch Committee comprising the branch officers and not less than three and not more than twelve other members'

There are plenty of vacancies so don't be shy when it comes to the AGM.

Tom Ashmore has been invited to take the Branch's History Project Display, shown in the local library earlier this year to a Reception at County Hall on 25 October.

The Reception is being held to commemorate the 90 years of the Royal British Legion

## Branch AGM

Note this will be held on 23 November at the Conservative Club instead of the traditional date of 9 November..

Please give some thought to how you might best serve the Branch and don't be shy about volunteering..

Urgently needed are:-

1. a new editor for *In Touch*
2. A Team Leader for the Social Team
3. Members of the Social Team
4. More welfare case workers.
5. A Publicity Officer - to handle press releases, take photos of branch events etc.
6. A member to actively seek new ways of recruiting members of all age groups.

Will members please note that we are asking that you nominate and vote for individual members of the Committee and not electing en block.

We hope that this will encourage more members to put there name forward for positions on the Committee (including the Branch Officers)

## Welfare

If you are aware of any one who qualifies for, and who may benefit from, the Royal British Legion welfare services please contact

Betty Ramsay  
01858 434923

## **Poppy Appeal**

Dave Pryor reported at the Branch committee that last years total was a little under £30,000.

This is a fantastic result and all connected with the Appeal deserve full credit for a job well done.

Of course it does make it harder this year to beat that total.

This is more so since it has been decreed that the Branch can only do street collections from the 5th to 11 November. This is effectively a week less than last year.

Poppy Launch will take place on October 29th with the razzmatazz that Dave Pryor is so good at organising.

Please step up to the mark to help Dave out this year with collections, either on the street, house to house or placing collecting tins. Dave also announced the appointment of Mark Hudson as Deputy Poppy Appeal Organiser.

## **Festival of Remembrance**

This years Royal British Legion County Festival of Remembrance will be held on Saturday November 5th starting at 7pm.

Tickets will cost £10 and are on sale from County Office 0115 2616584.

Les Moore has had only one request for a party. If you wish to go to the event as part of a Branch Party you must give your names to Les immediately..

Please note this year's event will be held at Leicester Cathedral not De Montfort Hall.

## **War Memorial Commemoration**

The re-dedication service of the War Memorial was well attended.

The service re-enacted parts of the original service in 1921.

Extracts of the speeches made then are just as relevant today as they were then.

Thank you to The Very Reverend John Morley for organising the service.

Next step is to approach the District Council to clean and restore the Memorial to it's original glory.

No doubt this will take a few years for the budget to be approved, perhaps in time for the centenary?

In the meantime perhaps a couple of 'do not climb on this memorial' notices would be appropriate.

## **The Long March**

The TV programme of the Long March to Freedom will be shown on 'Yesterday' Channel spread over three episodes. The first will be shown at 2200 on 10 November followed by episodes two and three at the same time on 17th and 24th November.

Branch member Tony Johnson will feature on the programme. It promises to be an interesting true story of the Allied POWs forced march.

## **Puzzle Corner**

What number containing 3 different digits when subtracted from its reverse gives an answer containing the same three digits in yet another order.

(More than one possible answer)

## **Poetry Competition**

### **Introduction.**

The Market Harborough Branch of the Royal British Legion launches a poetry competition to coincide with the period of annual Remembrance.

### **Theme**

The theme for the competition will be 'Remembrance in the context of the Royal British Legion'

The scope of the poems could range from the work of the Royal British Legion, the association of the Royal British Legion with the Poppy Appeal, particular soldiers or military actions and events, the families of military personal, but we want to leave as much as we can to the Interpretation by the entrants.

### **Classes**

There will be 4 classes –

Class 1 – Aged 7 to 11

Class 2 – Aged 12 to 14

Class 3 – Aged 15 to 18

Class 4 – Open age group

The entrants in Classes 1 to 3 should fall into the age range as at 7 November 2011.

### **Rules**

Available from Harborough Mall offices, by e-mail from

mhrbichair@hotmail.co.uk, or via the Branch web site

[www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough)

All poems must have a title and must not exceed 40 lines in length (excluding title).

Entries must be relevant to the theme of the competition and must be the original work of the entrant. The poem must not have been published, self-published, published on

a website or broadcast before November 7 2011.

Entries can be either typed or hand written. If hand written they must be legible, entries which cannot be read in their entirety by the judges will be disqualified.

The entrants full name, address and telephone number should be written on the reverse of the poem and the class they are entering. For those in Classes 1 to 3 the date of birth should also be included and those under 16 should have their parents or teachers counter signature.

Only one poem which must be written in English, per entrant

Poems may span two pages but pages must not be printed double sided.

A panel of 3 judges will judge the entries and their decision is final and neither the judges nor the Royal British Legion will enter into any correspondence.

The copyright of each poem remains with the author. However, authors of the winning poems, by entering the competition, grant the Market Harborough Branch of the Royal British Legion the right to publish and/or broadcast their poem for one year from November 11 2011. Use of the poems elsewhere during this time is subject to permission from the Branch which shall not be unreasonably withheld.

### **Entries**

Closing date will be 5pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November, entries received after this time will not be considered by the judges.

Entries can be submitted by post to

The RBL Poetry Competition, 5 Manor Rd, Fleckney, Leicestershire, LE8 8TN. Alternatively they can be left at the offices of the Harborough Mall

The winners will be announced on Friday 11 November.

Entries cannot be returned.

#### Prizes

A Waterstone's voucher to the value of £10 will be awarded to the winners in each age group and the overall winner will receive a voucher of £20

It is hoped to present the winners with their prizes before the Royal British Legion Remembrance Concert to be held at the Baptist Church on November 19<sup>th</sup> and for the overall winner to read their poem at the concert. (Tickets for concert can be obtained from ABC Music and R D Jeacock priced £5 each)

The overall winner will be invited to read their poem (or have it read on their behalf) during the Sunset Ceremony organised by the Royal British Legion to be held at 4pm in the Memorial Gardens on Saturday 12 November. The winning entries may be published in the Harborough Mall and read out on HFM. They will be published in the British Legion Branch News Letter, on its web site and other places as the Branch may feel appropriate.

### **Branch Dinner**

Will be held at the Golf Club on March 9th->

Tickets cost £17-50 from Pat Middleton. Cheques payable to Market Harborough Golf Club.

## **Civil Defence Personnel**

The following letter was sent to all local authorities in Hertfordshire on 9 Sep 1939 by the County A.R.P Officer

Dear Sir

During the past ten days the Civil Defence Personnel have been on duty, or standing by, for long periods, day and night, and for several days consecutively.

It is imperative that they should immediately be given proper periods of rest in case actual air raids should develop. In the case of part time workers, many of whom have their ordinary days work to do, the long spells of duty are affecting their capacity for their work and difficulties are arising with their employers. Immediate arrangements should be made to ensure that -

1. All personnel who have been on duty for long hours should be given an immediate rest spell.
2. As far as possible part time workers who have their ordinary paid jobs should not have duties on consecutive nights which prevents proper sleep.
3. These arrangements should be carried out even if it involves temporarily reducing the number of persons on duty in squads, parties or wardens sectors below the number stipulated, provided that the local authority concerned is in a position to mobilise the proper numbers at short notice.

Thanks to John Liddell for this article.

## Bomber Command Memorial

At last, and not before time some would say, following negotiations between the Bomber Command Association and authorities in London, including Westminster City Council, Royal Parks and Transport London, a Bomber Command Memorial has received the green light to be erected in London.

Something like £4m had to be raised, not only for the cost of the Memorial but also its ongoing maintenance for years to come.

The funds were raised by the hard work of many charities and generosity of individuals over the past few years. The statue of a crew of airmen is going to be magnificent and will be unveiled by a member of the Royal Family in early 1912 and there will be a dedication service some time later. The picture shows an artist impression of the memorial

Of the 125,000 aircrew who trained for Bomber command nearly 60% became casualties.

47,268 killed in action or died as POW

8,195 Killed in accidents

37 Killed in ground battle action

9,838 POWs

4,200 wounded in action

4,203 wounded in accidents in UK

Thank you to Tony Johnson for this article

Editors note

Co-incidentally in news just breaking a researcher makes a claim that Wg Cdr Guy Gibson VC, the leader of 617 Sqn in the Dambusters Raid was shot down and killed by friendly fire. A tape has been found which was left by a air gunner who wracked by guilt left it with his wife.

The tape claims that while returning in his Lancaster from a raid a twin engine, single rudder plane came up behind and thinking it was a Ju 88

he shot it down. During his debrief the Intelligence Officer asked why he thought it was a Ju88 and he said "It had twin engines and a single rudder". He was told by the officer "and so has

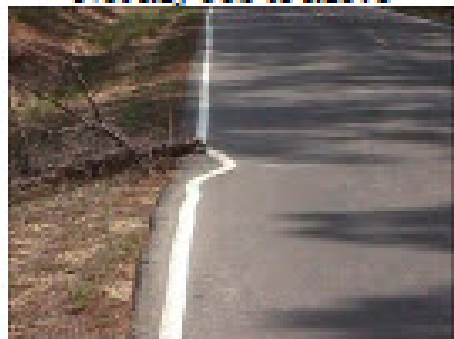


a Mosquito what if his radio had been knocked out and he was lost and spotted a Lancaster - he would only want to follow it home" It happens that Guy Gibson was indeed flying a Mosquito. In the combined Lancaster- Mosquito raid when he mysteriously disappeared. Until now it has been presumed he crashed while flying too low or ran out of fuel.

The only identifiable remains was a laundry mark from a sock.

The researcher claims that co-ordinates in the Bomber Command records were right where Gibson's plane came down.

### Not My Job to Move



### The MOD reported the following soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

Marine David Fairbrother 42 Commando was killed on Monday 19 September. Aged 24 from Blackburn.

L/Cpl Jonathan McKinlay 1st Battalion, The Rifles was killed on Wednesday 14 September. Aged 33 from Darlington.



**Tuesday 1 November**  
**Reservation before 26 October to Les Moore 01858 463112**

**Cancellations on the day to Les before 9-30 am.**

**If Les not available phone the Angel 01858 462702 before 10am. If you don't cancel as above you will be charged for the meal.**

### Menu

*Breaded Alaskan Pollock, new potatoes, peas*

*Roast loin of pork, apple sauce, stuffing, roast potatoes & vegetables,*

*Lamb's liver with smoked bacon, mashed potato, Savoy cabbage, onion gravy,*

*Hot ginger bread pudding & custard*

*Fresh fruit salad and ice cream*

*Profiteroles with chocolate sauce and cream*

*coffee & mints*

**Only £8-25**

**Meet in the bar at noon**

## What's Going On?

- 25 Oct** RBL History Project  
at County Hall
- 29 Oct** Poppy Appeal Launch.  
10am in the Square
- 5 Nov** Leicester Festival of  
Remembrance. Lecest  
er Cathedral
- 5 & 6 Nov** Football and Rugby  
Poppy matches
- 7 Nov** Remembrance Garden  
set up 0830.
- 11 Nov** Acts of Remembrance  
1015 Welland Park Me  
morial, 1100 Memorial  
Gdn Gates
- 12 Nov** Sunset Ceremony  
Memorial Garden 4pm
- 14 Nov** Remembrance Garden  
dismante 0830
- 19 Nov** Branch Remembrance  
Concert 7-30 Baptist  
Church
- 23 Nov** Branch AGM. Note  
change of date

### **Puzzle Corner—Answer** One answer is

$$954 - 459 = 495$$

### **Branch Contacts**

**Secretary**  
Betty Ramsay  
01858 434923

#### **Treasurer & Membership**

**Secretary**  
Myra Grewcock  
8 Holdenby Close, MH  
LE16 8JE  
01858 419517

**Poppy Appeal**  
Dave Pryor  
01858 540431

#### **Wreaths**

John Liddell  
01858 465003

**Standard Bearer**  
Hilary Brazil  
c/o 01858 434923

**Monthly Lunches**  
Les Moore  
01858 463112

#### **Editor - *In Touch***

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[In-toucheditor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:In-toucheditor@hotmail.co.uk)  
Next Committee Meeting Nov 3

### **And Finally**

A reminder that next month we re-vert to a two page format concentrating on branch news. This will stay as the format for the foreseeable future.

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