



The Royal British Legion



Market Harborough

In Touch

Issue 164

May 2012

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**

13 June

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

Redcaps Reunited

Necia Wolfe reports on the first Redcaps Reunited event in Blackpool.

I was the only ex-Redcap who had served in WW2 who belonged to this group that I found on Face Book so was treated royally. It was a wonderful weekend.

The majority of the Redcaps (men and women) had served in Germany and Ireland, all much younger than me. Two of them were brought together for the first time since they were blown up and shot 40 years ago in Ireland, and to see them hug brought tears to everybody's eyes.

Many friendships were renewed and new ones made. I have made about 80 plus new comrades who will be friends for life. There was so much affection and fun all weekend. We invited a very special lady as guest of honour and she asked if she could give a short speech at our formal dinner. Her name is Hilary Horton and she is the wonderful RAF nursing officer who cared for the bodies of the six young Redcaps who were murdered at their post in Iraq in 2003, so that they could be returned home to their families. She suffered PTSD and is only just recovered.

Later she told me that by inviting her to join with the group it had closed a door for her and helped her so much.

We raised £200 from a raffle and auction which is being divided between Help for Heroes and RBL. I was so proud to be there and have accepted an invitation for next year!

Military Memories

A talk given by Sir Michael Carleton-Smith at the last branch meeting. Sir Michael Carleton-Smith's service in the Army took him to all five continents and over a dozen countries. He joined the Army in 1949 and was commissioned at Sandhurst with its memories of the famous RSM who had once admonished a cadet with the words, "King H*****, Sir. You are an idle monarch, Sir". This and other anecdotes enlivened a fascinating talk about Sir Michael's successful, diverse and sometimes exciting career. Many of those under his command in the 1950's were National Servicemen for whom he had the greatest respect. His experiences during those years brought back memories for many of our ex-N S members. The Cold War was an anxious time as Allied forces faced the superior Warsaw Pact countries and Sir Michael recalled facing them as he patrolled the German border. His first experience of conflict was in Kenya during the Mau Mau insurrection and in Korea. In Malaya and later in Borneo he came to know first hand the unique

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
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problems of jungle warfare. In Hong Kong he was concerned with attempting to stop the flow of illegal immigrants. Mention of his time in Cyprus rang bells with our two young members who returned from peace-keeping duties there earlier this year. More peaceful postings took him to Australia and to Canada. Back in Britain, successes in Staff College courses were necessary steps along Sir Michael's upward path which finally led him to hold the rank of Major General. The enthusiastic applause and keenness of members to chat afterwards showed the success of the talk

The MOD reported the following soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

Corporal Brent McCarthy, aged 25 from Telford of the Royal Air Force, and Lance Corporal Lee Davies, aged 27 from Carmarthen of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, killed 12 May.

Corporal Andrew Roberts aged 32 from Middlesbrough and Private Ratu Silibaravi aged 32 from Fiji, both of 23 Pioneer Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps, killed 4 May

Guardisman Michael Roland, aged 22 from Worthing of 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, killed 27 April 2012.

Sapper Connor Ray, aged 21 from Newport of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) died on 18 April 2012 from wounds received 11 April 2012.



Tuesday 5 June

Reservations before 29 May to
Les Moore 01858 463112

All cancellations phone the
Angel 01858 462702 before
10am on the day of the meal. If
you don't cancel as above you
will be charged for the meal
Failure to pay will bar atten-
dance from future lunches

Menu

*Roast loin of pork, roast potato,
vegetables, rosemary gravy*

*Individual chicken pie, mashed
potato, vegetables*

*salmon, watercress sauce, warm
new potatoes*

Sweet

*strawberry gateaux, strawberries,
clotted cream ice cream freezer
cake, vanilla ice cream,*

*warm Bakewell Tart, creamy cus-
tard*

Fresh fruit salad and fruity sorbet

Coffee and mints

£8-50 - pay on the day
Meet in the bar at noon

What's Going On?

Forthcoming Events

- 18-20 May National Conference
- 26 May RNA Coffee Morning
- 9 June Harborough Carnival. Volunteers needed to help man the stall.
- 17 June Standard Bearers Re-dedication Service, St Dionysius
- 23 June Armed Forces Committee Coffee Morning. Harborough Theatre
- 25 Jun Flag Raising Ceremony for Armed Forces Day at the Council House
- 1 Jul Armed Forces Day Welland Park, Flypast by Dakota
- 11 Jul Talk by George Gamble on a little known WW1 disaster.
- 28 July RNA Cheese and wine Party. Great Bowden Village Hall, 7 p.m. £5 to include 2 glasses of wine.

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Next Committee 7 June

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the editor or the Market Harborough Branch.

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