



TRBL Holland Branch Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 2 October 2010

Chairman's Chat

Forthcoming Events

Dear Members,

This second edition of our Branch Newsletter is being produced rather earlier than planned in order to include details about the forthcoming Branch Annual General Meeting, in November.

An AGM is the single most important event in any RBL Branch's year, and offers an opportunity to you, our members, to continue your commitment to The Royal British Legion in general and The Holland Branch in particular, by means of your presence and participation. For details, see page 3 of this newsletter.

Since our first newsletter, your Committee members have represented the Branch at ceremonies, of Remembrance and Liberation, at many venues in Holland. This representation is a most important feature of Branch responsibilities, and I would urge as many of you as possible to support such events. Although the continued existence of The Royal British Legion in The Netherlands has been assured by the creation of The Holland Branch, I do appreciate that active participation by many of you in events that take place in far-flung reaches of the country may no longer be possible. Nevertheless, your attendance at any cere-

mony in your own locality would be appreciated.



Our annual RBL 'Poppy Collection' will take place in November, and all enquiries about obtaining poppies can be made to our Poppy Appeal organiser, Rosalin Emerson, or for members in the Eindhoven region Dorien Grady, tel: 040-2123712 (evenings only), e-mail: gradybunch@orange.nl. This event is **the** fund-raising occasion of The Legion year: all proceeds of which go towards our main aim of: **'Safeguarding the welfare, interests and memory of those who are serving or have served in the British Armed Forces'**. If you are able and willing to assist, as a voluntary collector, please contact Rosalin.

On the subject of volunteers, I would like to find addi-

tional members to serve on our Branch Committee. If you are interested, and feel able to make a contribution to the Branch organisation, do contact any of our present Committee members who will be pleased to inform you of the duties and responsibilities involved. One immediate requirement is for a reserve Standard Bearer; after many years of stalwart service, Rien de Bruin has been forced to stand down from this function, and Ad Rotscheid (former Arnhem/Nijmegen Standard Bearer) has agreed to take over from Rien. But we still need a reserve who would also be prepared to 'fly the flag' (more precisely parade our Branch Standard) - training will be given. If you think you could carry out this task, please call Rien, or any other Committee member, for more information. You will find a form on the final page of this newsletter which you can use to nominate someone for a position on the Committee, or have yourself nominated by others.

Meanwhile, I hope that you enjoy this extended edition of our Newsletter and also urge you to regard it not only as a medium for receiving information, but also as a forum for your own contributions.

November

- 7th** Remembrance Day service Jonkerbos Military Cemetery Nijmegen, 11:00
- 10th** Members' lunch Van Ghent Kazerne, Rotterdam (see also page 2 of this newsletter)
- 11th** Remembrance Ceremony Lanaken, Cultureel Centrum Aan de Engelse Hof, 10:00
- 13th** Annual Remembrance Service, 323 Commonwealth and Allied War Graves, De Nieuwe Oosterbegraafplaats, Kruislaan 126, Amsterdam, 10:30
- Nederweert Remembrance Ceremony, British Military Cemetery, 15:00
- Amsterdam English reformed Church Remembrance Service
- Den Haag Remembrance Service
- Wassenaar Remembrance Service
- Rheindalen Remembrance Ceremony
- Valkenswaard Remembrance Ceremony
- Sittard/Brunssum Remembrance Ceremony
- 14th** Swartbroek Remembrance Ceremony, Parish Church, 15:00
- St. Mary's Anglican Church Remembrance Service 10:30 / Rotterdam Crooswijk Cemetery Remembrance Service
- 18th** Haelen International Remembrance Ceremony at Monument van Verdraagzaamheid, Roggel-seweg 58, Haelen, 14:00

Best wishes,

John Bright





Members' Lunch at the Van Ghent Kazerne, Rotterdam

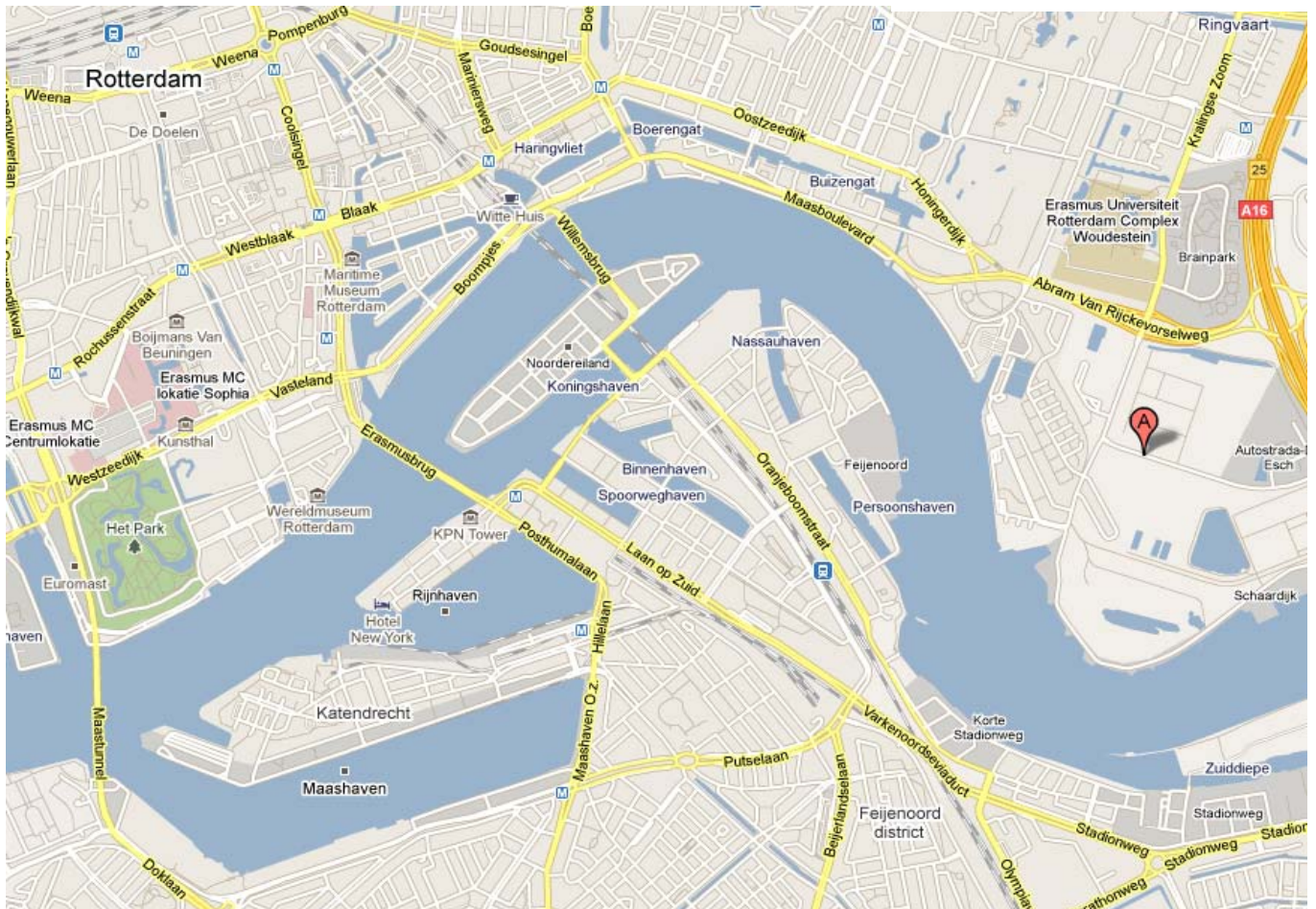
For Wednesday, November 10th, 2010 we have organised a lunch at the Van Ghent Kazerne, Toepad 120, 3063NJ Rotterdam. We will be welcomed with coffee/tea in a special room from 12.00 to 12.30hrs and will then move on to the Maasbruggen Restaurant for our lunch, from 12.30 to 13.30hrs. Afterwards we will go to the Algemeen Militair Tehuis (AMT) for chats and drinks. Should you want to join in, please let Mrs. Elsa E. van Gelderen (tel.: 010-4827584, email:

eevangelder@kpnplanet.nl, Karel Doormanstraat 297b 3012GH) in Rotterdam know as soon as possible, but before November 3rd at the latest, and transfer € 10.- p.p. to her giro account, number 3120249, stating: Lunch 10112010. Included in that amount is a 'meal of the day' (the Van Ghent cannot guarantee a 'blauwe hap'), an ice-cream dessert and a (soft)drink. The drinks at the AMT are at your own expense! We hope to welcome many of our members there. Don't forget to bring

along your ID (for security reasons at the gate) and a cheerful mood!
Best wishes,

Your committee
(Contributed by Elsa E. van Gelderen)

P.S. The Van Ghent Kazerne is next to the Van Brienoord Bridge. Tram 21 (De Esch) stops (relatively) close by. The map below shows the location of the Van Ghent kazerne in relation to Rotterdam centre (A).



Reminder: email-addresses, birthdays, language preference!

We are still very keen on gathering missing information about our members to make our database as complete as possible. We are especially interested in your e-mail addresses and whether you would perhaps consider receiving this newsletter digitally (and in full colour!) rather than a black-and-white printed copy, which costs money to produce as well as to post. Please pass on your e-mail address, birthdate and a preference for English or Dutch correspondence to Mrs. M. Alblas at: membership@trblhollandbranch.nl or write to her postal address: Strolaan 30, 6816 PP Arnhem. Thank you, especially to those who have already responded to our inquiries.





The Tanfield Steam Railway mystery

I am treasurer of my local RBL branch in Durham, a member of the County committee of RBL Northumbria, PAO in Chester-le-Street and very active within the Royal British Legion. I am asking if you can help me regarding the following matter. I live near Tanfield steam Railway which is a tourist attraction run entirely by volunteers. The stone in the photo on the right was lying alone in long grass at the top of an embankment and had it fallen over it would have been lost forever. The poppy emblems drew my attention, otherwise it just lies there unobserved not passed by anyone. I asked at the railway about it but only one man knew anything of it. He has been a volunteer there for many

years and remembers some people from Holland coming to an event five years ago and being around the stone, but knows nothing of it, he thought it was just a local piece and no-one else knew of its existence there. On behalf of the RBL, and because of the poppy emblem, I am now trying to trace the story/history of the plaque. As it is the 90th anniversary of the RBL next year we have some big events planned and if we could find some history of this we could perhaps do something about it. Would you have anything in your minutes for around May/June 2005? Or would any of your members remember having a trip over here to an event? I am contacting local papers to

see if they have anything reported then.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Cynthia Lodge



Reichswald Remembrance Ceremony

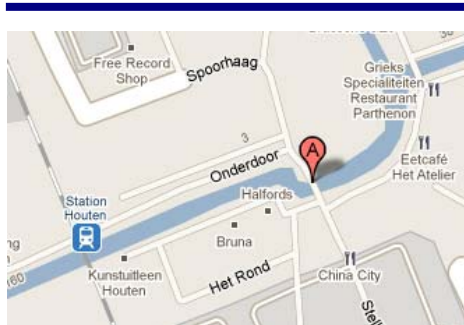
A Remembrance Service was held on Sunday August 15th for the people who attended from the UK (pilgrims) organised by RBL Poppy Travel (<http://www.poppytravel.org.uk>). These Services take place twice per year, generally in April and August in the Nijmegen area. The old Royal British Legion Arnhem-Nijmegen Branch had been assisting since the early 1970s, and now the Royal British Legion Holland Branch is carrying on. We try to ensure that a Padre, a Bugler, and Pipes and Drums are present at the Service.

Contributed by Dan Murphy

Top right: From left to right: The Rev. Canon G.G. Allen, The Highland Regt. Pipes and Drums, Ad Rotscheid (Deputy Standard Bearer), Gerry Ferrett (Representative RBL Poppy Travel) and Mr. Keith Prichard (National Representative RBL).

Bottom right: On left and right sides members of the Highland Regt. Pipes and Drums, then from left to right Dan Murphy, the UK Standard Bearer, Gerry

Ferrett, Keith Prichard, the R.C. Geoffrey Allen, John Bright (Chairman TRBL Holland Branch), Ad Rotscheid and Wayne Johnston.



Annual General Meeting

The first Royal British Legion Holland Branch Annual General Meeting will be held on **November 19th** 2010 at La Place Vergadercentrum, Het Rond 160, Houten. The venue will be open from 13:30, the meeting will commence at **14:00 sharp**. Unlimited tea and coffee will be provided. The venue is easily reached by public transport: take a train to Utrecht CS, change for Houten (approx. 5 mins from CS) and then a couple of minutes walk to the venue. The venue is also easy to reach by car, and parking at the nearby car park is free for the first two hours. Please note that the Agenda for the AGM will be made available at the venue on the day, but there will no item 'Any other Business'. Therefore if members have specific points to raise, they should send these to the Secretary, Mr. Derek Williams, as soon as possible but in any case, in advance of the meeting. Also, we would appreciate it if you informed the Committee of your attendance, so we have some idea of how many members to expect. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Left: Location La Place Houten (A)



The Royal British Legion Holland Branch Committee Candidate Nomination Form, 2010/2011

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

The Candidate is nominated to serve on the committee in the capacity of: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Committee member (please circle what is applicable)

Proposer:
(Please print names
below signatures)

Secunder:

The nominee hereby declares that he / she accepts the above nomination and will abide by the rules of the Royal Charter

Signed:
(Please print name
beside signature)

Oosterbeek Military Cemetery, 4th September 2010

On September 4th, as I do every year, I walked the "Airborne Wandeltocht" in Oosterbeek. This year there was something special I want to show you. There are 1756 military personnel buried at the military cemetery in Oosterbeek. Today, the organisers attached 1756 white balloons to a fence in order to block the view. We were asked to take away one balloon and set it free in the open air so as to break down the wall and create freedom together (see picture).

I found this a very nice symbolic gesture.

*Contributed by
M. Alblas*

Image courtesy of
burobuurvrouw,
grafisch ruimtelijk
ontwerp



R.I.P.

We regret to inform you of the passing of the following members: Mr. L. Jong-sma, Mr. H. van Bugnum, Mr. Cornelis Blijkersloot, Mr. J. Gordon, Mr. Arie van Vliet. Our thoughts go out to their families and loved ones.

New Service / Welfare Officer

Please be advised that Mrs. Rosalin Emerson is no longer the Service / Welfare Officer for the Royal British Legion Holland Branch. Mr. Derek Williams has now taken over this function. You can contact him in the following ways:

By phone: 06-17854356
By email: superwchef@hotmail.com.

