



TRBL Holland Branch Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 1 April 2012

Chairman's Chat

Dear Members,

Since our last Newsletter the Committee has met once, on 11th February 2012. There was, as usual, a great deal to discuss and a number of proposals were considered, on the Membership administration side and future events and ceremonies.

We are busy organising a special Ceremony to 'Dedicate' our new Branch Standard and also to 'lay-up' the three old former Branch Standards. Our Branch Standard Bearer Ad Rotscheid has recently been provided with a new uniform, so will present an equally resplendent appearance as the new Standard at this Ceremony. You will be informed about the venue and date of this soon, as we hope to see as many members as possible present on this important occasion.

This contribution is deliberately brief due to the large amount of other content this time. However, I trust you all had an enjoyable Easter and hope to greet you at future events and ceremonies.

John Bright



Two newsletters ago, we informed you that Rosalin Emerson was in need of assistance with her Poppy Appeal collecting activities. A number of members offered to help out, for which we are very grateful. However, as we told you in our last newsletter, Rosalin has since unfortunately had to lay down her function entirely.

Committee members Ken Lightwood and Ray Waller jumped into the breach this time around and effectively took over the Poppy Appeal to great effect, but we cannot expect them to continue to do so, considering their prior commitments and responsibilities. Therefore, we are appealing to you once again: we are still very much in need of additional volunteers to help out during the 'Poppy Collection' period, but we are now desparately in need of someone who is willing to take on the role of Poppy Appeal organiser for the time being. If you are interested, or would like more information on what this function entails, kindly contact any committee member.

Thank you in advance!



Calendar of Events

April

25th ANZAC Day Remembrance Service, Westduin Cemetery, Den Haag

May

4th Wreath laying service at the Waal Bridge Nijmegen, 20:00

'Dodenherdenking' ceremonies at Eindhoven, Waalre, Oisterwijk, Tilburg, Epe, Gorsel, Amsterdam Nieuwe Oosterbeegraafplaats and Dam Square, Beemster, National Monument for Seafarers and Crooswijk Cemetery, Rotterdam, Airmen's Monument, Den Helder, Monument 1940-45, Voorthuizen and the Airgunners Memorial, Dronten.

5th Liberation Parade, Wageningen.

30th Members' lunch at the Van Ghent kazerne

Photograph in Legion Magazine

The eagle-eyed among you may well have noticed that a photograph submitted by yours truly was included in the latest issue of Legion Magazine. The photograph was taken at the Menin Gate in Ypres, and also featured in our last newsletter!

www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/medals or call Legionists on 08457 7252 725 (Sun - 4pm Monday to Friday) if you have a medal query. Be aware that companies offering replacement medals have no knowledge of your medals against loss as there will be a cost to replace them.

Sappers reunited thanks to Legion
What a surprise I had looking at a photo of Royal Engineers Sappers sent in by Frank H Thomas (Lof Tins, Sept/Oct 2011). I recognised one of the young Sappers and couldn't believe my eyes, it was me! I also recognised some of the others in the photo. I have been in touch with Frank and we have had several conversations. He has had other replies to this photo and he will be passing their names and telephone numbers on to me so I can reminisce with these guys too. I am so grateful and pleased that Legion operates the service.
Tom Hall
By email

Armbands at the ready
The armbands that were worn in the England's Spain football match in November last year would, I am sure, be very popular with lots of sporting teams and could raise more than a few pounds. Are there plans to produce them for sale?
Brightlingsea
FRB says: There are no current plans to produce armbands for sale. However, those worn by the England team, as well as their poppy emblazoned jackets, were auctioned and raised a substantial sum for the Poppy Appeal.

Can you help?
New Legion member Graham Tuckwood is an avid collector of WW1 Officer's Armbands. He would like to get in touch with any members who have the same hobby, or an interest in cricket. Call him on 01558 823 474 or email gtuckwood@leion.org

Did you serve on the aircraft carrier HMS *Illustrious* or its predecessor? If so, Mike Brockwell, Vice-Chairman of the HMS *Illustrious* Association, would like to hear from you. Write to him at 236 Gosspop Drive, Gosspop Green, Crawley RH11 5LH.

Michael Humphrey is writing a book about prisoners of war in WWII. To aid his research, he would like to hear from any former POWs willing to share their stories. Write to Michael at 14 Pitsea Way, Seaton, Devon EX12 2UR.

Correction: The item "The largest member legion", which was printed in the Nov/Dec 2011 issue of Legion, was submitted by Carol Adams of Haring and District, not Jim Jamies as stated in the magazine.

Send us your images for the readers' gallery

I created this pencil drawing of HM The Queen, the Legion's patron. This year marks 60 glorious years - long may she reign. Geoff Spanton, by email

I took this photograph for the Legion's 60th Anniversary held at Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium, on 2 July 2011. Alastair Bright, by email

This photo of Willem Breestraat Cemetery in France was taken by my 11 year old daughter. She climbed to the top of the monument here. My family likes to spend our holidays on the Somme and we love the pictures of the various cemeteries. Nick Birnie, Saffron Walden

In August last year I had the privilege to be asked to lend my eyes to Robin Gibb and the Soldiers for the promotion of the Poppy Appeal record I've Gotta Get A Message To You. It was a great day. Brian Tegg, Oxfordshire

This is a picture of my son Ben at the MIA. We visited to see the name of my husband's best friend, Charlie Wood, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2010. Liz Hasley, Staffs

LEGION HELP **£50M** The total amount of money the Legion has pledged to the Defence Recovery Capability, a programme to help wounded, sick and injured personnel

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Members' lunch at the Van Ghent kazerne, Rotterdam, 30 May 2012

E.E. van Gelderen

Dear Members,

For Wednesday, May 30, 2012 we have again organised a lunch at the Van Ghent Kazerne, Toepad 120, 3063NJ Rotterdam. Like the last time this will be held at the EchosHome Het Anker. We will be welcomed there with coffee/tea from 12.00-12.30 hrs and then move on to another room for our lunch, 12.30-13.30hrs. Afterwards, we shall have our usual 'chat and drink' session in the bar. Should you want to participate, please let Mrs. Elsa E. van Gelderen, tel. 010 4827584, eevangelderens@kpnplanet.nl, Karel Doormanstraat 297 B, 3012GH Rotterdam, know asap, before May 23

and transfer € 13.- p.p. to her ING bank account 31 20 249, stating: Lunch 30-05 -2012. For that amount you will get a simple, three course meal. The drinks at the AMT you have to pay for extra. We can already tell you that for the autumn



we have a special, easy trip through Rotterdam in mind, with a guide.

We hope to welcome a lot of our members at the Van Ghent Kazerne. Don't forget to bring along your ID (for security reasons at the gate) and a cheerful mood!

Kind regards,

Your committee

PS The Van Ghent Kazerne is next to the Van Brienoord Bridge. Tram 21 (De Esch) stops (relatively) close by.

Poppy Appeal 2011

We are delighted to inform you all that we managed to collect a magnificent amount of money for last year's Poppy Appeal. In total, the donations, great and small, amounted to €8413.72. On behalf of The Royal British Legion, we would like to thank everyone who helped us to reach this total, be it by donating, actively collecting or by providing

logistic support. Thanks to your efforts and commitment, the overall tally for the 2011 Poppy Appeal has got that little bit closer to the aim of £40 million that was being targeted in the 90th Anniversary year! We are setting our sights on a total amount of €10000 this year. Will you help out again this year and enable us to reach this target? To do so,

it is vital that we increase the number of places where we sell our poppies every year. We currently utilize some 67 locations, ranging from schools and churches to bookshops and societies. Do you have any good suggestions regarding a suitable spot for a poppy collecting box, and would you be willing to commit to delivering the poppies there and collecting the proceeds and left-over poppies again? If so, please get in touch with our Treasurer Ray Waller (RayWaller@btinternet.com or 06-27506049).

We are hoping to expand our operations to 100 locations this year, which should increase local awareness about the activities and aims of the Royal British Legion, as well as yield an even higher total than last year.

Wageningen, 5 May 2012

H. de Jonge

As in previous years, the municipality of Wageningen will once again be organizing a Liberation parade on May 5th. The Royal British Legion Holland Branch has been invited to participate as usual, which we fully intend to do.

Those members who wish to take part are requested to contact Mr. H. de Jonge as soon as possible (tel. 023-5333126). This is to ensure that the necessary parking tickets and – poten-

tially – NS train tickets can be distributed in good time.

A number of less mobile persons may be able to catch a ride on the old military vehicles. Please contact Mr. de Jonge for more information.

Show your support for the Royal British Legion Holland Branch and the 5th of May celebrations by joining in with us!





Invasion of London cabs in Gelderland

Laurens van Aggelen

It has been a long time in the making, but on May 3rd no fewer than 80 original London cabs will travel to the Netherlands. These taxi-cabs have offered their services to transport 160 British World War II veterans, enabling them to attend and participate in an impressive programme of remembrance.

Flanked by KLPD motorcycle police (in cooperation with the Gelderland-Midden and Zuid police force) they will travel from Hoek van Holland to Gelderland that day. There, an official reception awaits them, put on by Arnhem mayor Pauline Krikke, and they will enjoy a welcome luncheon at the Koninklijk

Tehuis voor Oud-militairen and Museum Bronbeek in Arnhem. Many notable guests will attend this private get-together, including the British ambassador, the Queen's Commissioner in Gelderland, and the mayors of the organizing municipalities.

That same afternoon, the British veterans will visit the Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery around five o'clock for a short remembrance and wreath-laying service. On May 4th the veterans will take part in the remembrance service at

Groesbeek, followed by a remembrance ceremony on the Grebbeberg (Rhenen) that evening.

On May 5th, a visit to the Airborne Museum in Oosterbeek and a reception organized by the municipality of Renkum will be followed by the veterans making their way down to Wageningen that afternoon, where they will enjoy a heartwarming Liberation parade.

This unique trip is being offered to the



veterans by the London Taxi Charity. This volunteer organisation has been arranging outings in taxi-cabs for war veterans since 1948. During the course of the trip, the veterans can count on the support of various volunteers, such as those of the Market Garden Foundation in Arnhem and the Royal British Legion Holland Branch.

We will provide full coverage of this unique event in our next newsletter and online.

New Member

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest member of the Branch Mr. Bert-Jan van Donk.

Of course we would like to add many more names to this column in future newsletters. Do remember that we all share the responsibility to attract new members to the Legion. Without them, the long-term future of our Branch remains uncertain!

A Belated Happy Birthday to:

- Mrs. M.A. Alblas
- Mr. J. Bright
- Mr. J.H. Cameron-Webb
- Mr. M.D. Carn
- Mr. M.A. Don
- Mrs. R. Hadingue
- Mrs. M.G. Honselaar
- Mr. B. Katsma
- Mr. A. Rotscheid
- Mr. A.C. Standen
- Mr. R. Swankhuizen
- Mr. P. Thomson.



SHOULD YOU HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER WITH AN INTERNET CONNECTION, DO NOT FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE NOW AND AGAIN: www.trblhollandbranch.nl! YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON FACEBOOK : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Royal-British-Legion-Holland-Branch/165977903485813>. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE JUST RECENTLY SET UP A TWITTER ACCOUNT, FOLLOW US HERE: <https://twitter.com/#!/RoyalBritishLeg>.





25 Year Jubilee Nationaal Comité 4 en 5 mei

Laurens van Aggelen, Public Relations Officer



On March 27th, the 25th Jubilee of the Nationaal Comité 4 en 5 mei was celebrated at a festive get-together in the Nieuwe Kerk on the Dam in Amsterdam. On this occasion, Queen Beatrix was presented with the first copy of the lustrum publication 'Breekbare dagen' ('Fragile Days') by Nine Nooter, director of the Comité. The committee of the Royal British Legion Holland Branch also received an invitation to attend.

The Nationaal Comité 4 en 5 mei has played an important role in organizing numerous national activities on May 4th and 5th since 1987. Besides the Remembrance Ceremony, the Comité assists in coordinating the Liberation festivals, but also supports educational projects such as 'Het Nationaal Aandenken' (The National Memorial), 'Adopteer een monument' ('Adopt a Monument'), develops mass-media campaigns and collects and disseminates knowledge, e.g. about war monuments and remembrances throughout the country. To achieve these aims, the Nationaal Comité cooperates with many local, provincial and national parties.

The Nieuwe Kerk is a most fitting location to celebrate this special occasion, for every year, this church dating to the 15th century forms part of the May 4th remembrance service at the Nationaal Monument on the Dam. Ten years ago, the Nieuwe Kerk was the setting for the church wedding between the Prince of Orange, Willem-Alexander, and Máxima Zorreguieta on February 2nd 2002.

Not only Queen Beatrix, but also prime-minister Mark Rutte and Health, Well-being and Sports minister Marlies Veldhuijzen van Zanten-Hyllner attended the jubilee meeting on the 27th. These latter two both spoke of the importance of remembering on May 4th and celebrating on May 5th. The evening, which was attended by guests from the world of politics, management and veterans affairs and countless organisations that commemorate victims or war and persecution, was enlivened with music and dancing. A very diverse programme allowed for looking back and looking ahead.

Lustrum book

To mark this lustrum, the Stichting Collectieve Propaganda van het Nederlandse Boek (CPNB) and the Nationaal Comité 4 en 5 mei have produced the book 'Fragile days'. This book, featuring a preface by prime minister Rutte and an introductory essay by the historian James Kennedy, reviews the developments regarding May 4th en 5th over the years. This history was written on the basis of questions about commemorating and celebrating that are still be-

ing asked to this day. The publication also contains the literary May 4th lectures, that have been held annually since 1992. An extensive photographic essay rounds off the volume. Nine Nooter, who handed the first copy of the book to the Queen, was in for a surprise later that night when secretary of state Veldhuijzen van Zanten-Hyllner suddenly addressed her. Nooter was awarded the distinction of Knight in de Order of Orange-Nassau and was duly presented with the trappings belonging to the distinction.

The jubilee also saw the initiation of the Torch campaign 'Freedom is passed on'. The torch is *the* national symbol of remembrance and celebration on May 4th and 5th. The campaign aims to raise the profile of the torch – in the form of a sticker or pin/badge – to that of a symbol recognizable to every Dutchman, and to ensure that everyone knows that it stands for identification with the acts of remembrance and celebration. More than 430.000 children will pass on some 1.2 million torch stickers and cards to their grandparents, neighbours or aunts and uncles, along with a message about freedom.



Source images: <http://www.4en5mei.nl>

