



# TRBL Holland Branch Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 1 August 2010

## Chairman's Chat

Dear Members,

Welcome to this, the first of my regular 'Chairman's Chats', that I intend to send to you via our Branch Website and Newsletter.

I begin by expressing my pleasure at the fact that you are continuing your Membership of The Royal British Legion (TRBL). I consider this an extremely positive indication of your continued commitment to our great British organisation.

Our current membership total appears to be 203, but this includes approximately 50 members of the former Amsterdam Branch who have not yet reacted to our request for clarification of their intent – so I appeal to those of you to whom this applies to confirm to our Committee as soon as possible, your situation in relation to TRBL Holland Branch.

We have, meanwhile, welcomed three new members to the Branch and I hope that they are only the first of many, as this will help to ensure that we can continue, together, to maintain an active Legion presence in the Netherlands.

Following the Branch inauguration, your Committee Members were actively present at numerous remembrance ceremonies on 4<sup>th</sup> May, and also at Wagenin-



The new TRBL Holland Branch committee, minus the latest two additions.

gen on 5<sup>th</sup> May; here, though the organisation was rather poor, the usual large and enthusiastic public attendance made up for this by the appreciative reception given to the parading Veterans, and especially those in wheelchairs.

We have, in the meantime, held two Committee meetings, at which many basic, important issues were discussed and I can inform you with confidence that the Branch is now well and truly 'up and running'. At the second of these meetings, Mrs. M. Alblas was elected as 'Membership Secretary' which function she will perform in addition to that of 'Pipes and Drums Rep'; and Mr. Alistair Bright was elected to the Committee in his, already agreed, function of 'Website Manager and Newsletter Editor'.

I attended, in the company of other Committee Members, the reception for Armed Forces Day, hosted by H.M. Ambassador to the Netherlands, Mr. Paul Arkwright at his residence in Den Haag. This was a most enjoyable occasion, especially as three of our Veteran Members - namely, Mr. Ken Woolley, Mr. Peter Louis, and Mr. Jan Laus were presented with their Veterans badges by the Ambassador. Prior to the presentations, it was enjoyable to meet the other guests in the grounds of the residence, especially as the weather was so lovely.

At the moment we are in the middle of the holiday period and I trust that you are all enjoying this, at home or abroad, and whatever your holiday address, you are well-equipped with bucket

## Forthcoming Events

- **September**
  - 17th** Valkenswaard Remembrance ceremony
  - 18th** Eindhoven Liberation Parade
- **November**
  - 7th** Remembrance Day service Jonkerbos Military Cemetery Nijmegen, 11:00
  - 13th** Amsterdam English reformed Church, Rotterdam Crooswijk Cemetery, St. Mary's Anglican Church Remembrance Service, Den Haag Remembrance Service, Wassenaar Service, Rheindalen Remembrance Ceremony, Nederweert Remembrance Ceremony, Swartbroek Remembrance Ceremony, Valkenswaard Remembrance Ceremony and Sittard/Brunssum Remembrance Ceremony
  - 18th** Haelen International Remembrance Ceremony at Monument van Verdraagzaamheid, Roggelseweg 58, Haelen, 14:00

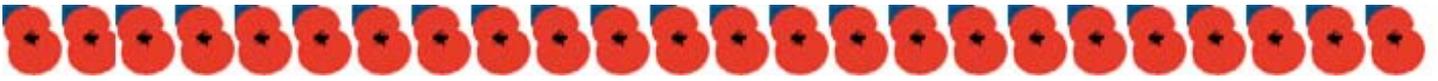
and spade and/or umbrella! Your Committee will return from their respective holidays (either rejuvenated by or exhausted from these) to meet again on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, when our attention will be firmly focussed on the forthcoming Remembrance period and planning for the new Legion Year.

I am sure that you will enjoy reading our first informative and interesting Branch Newsletter.

Legion greetings and very best wishes to you all.

John Bright





## Remembrance ceremony, Rijksmonument voor de Zeevarenden 1940-1945, Rotterdam

On May 4th, a wreath was laid on behalf of the Royal British Legion at the Rijksmonument voor de Zeevarenden 1940-1945 in Rotterdam. At the instigation of our Rotterdam Area representative Mrs Elsa E. van Gelderen three years ago, the wreath of tRBL Holland Branch is now laid together with that of Nautilus International, which was formed on May 15 2009 when the British Seafarers Union merged with the Dutch one. Both unions have a very long history. During the Second World War, the

Dutch ships were officially based in the UK as the Dutch Government and Queen Wilhelmina had their headquarters in London. It is not really surprising then that since WWII there has been a strong bond between the two seafaring countries and their unions.

*(Courtesy of Elsa E. van Gelderen).*

**Top right: The Remembrance ceremony at the Rijksmonument voor de Zeevarenden 1940-1945. Bottom right: The Monument with wreaths. Photographs by Mr. D. Troost, Nautilus International.**



## Presentation of Veterans Badges to TRBL Holland Branch members



Mr. Paul Arkwright and Mr. Peter Louis.



Mr. Paul Arkwright and Mr. Ken Woolley.



Mr. Paul Arkwright and Mr. Jan Laus.

### Urgent: e-mail address?

We are 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. So if you have an e-mail address, please be so kind as to pass it on to Mrs. M. Alblas at **membership-@trblhollandbranch.nl**, and indicate to her whether you would prefer to re-

ceive this newsletter digitally or in printed form.

Also, we would like to know when your birthdays are, so that we can at least congratulate you in print in forthcoming newsletters!



### Feedback

If you have any feedback, either positive or negative, about the content or styling of this newsletter, please do let us know, so we can accommodate your wishes to the best of our ability. Furthermore, if you would like to contribute anything to future newsletters, your input is more than welcome, so again, just get in touch with the newsletter editor, Mr. Alistair Bright, either via e-mail at **caribbright@gmail.com** or via postal address **Kaiserstraat 10, 2311 GR, Leiden**. We look forward to your reactions!

IF YOU HAVE AN INTERNET CONNECTION, DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT **WWW.TRBLHOLLANDBRANCH.NL** EVERY NOW AND THEN FOR UPDATES!

