

# In Touch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996

## The Royal British Legion

Registered Charity No. 219279



Shoulder to Shoulder with all who Serve

### Market Harborough Branch

Founded in 1923

**91**

Years of Caring



**2014: WW1  
Centenary Year**



These war graves in north Wales are of Canadian soldiers. See the story on page 4

With thanks to Prime Life Ltd, parent company of Peaker Park Care Village Market Harborough, for printing this issue.

Issue 186

March 2014

### Next Monthly Branch Meeting

7.30 pm **Wednesday 9 April**

Committee 3 April

Function Room, Conservative Club,  
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

## **Branch News**

### **February Branch Meeting**

There was a poor attendance which was especially disappointing for our after meeting speaker, Bib Hakewill who gave a very interesting presentation about Market Harborough in the lead up to the First World War. Look out for a flavour of his talk in the August issue of In Touch .

### **Congratulations!**

We are very pleased to include this photo from Valerie of her and John taken at their recent wedding. Mr & Mrs Standish, we wish you every happiness.



### **Pastures New**

George Seward has left St Luke's Hospital following a stroke. He has moved to Badgeworth Court Care Centre, Badgeworth, Cheltenham, GL51 4UL close to his family. He would welcome your letter.

## **Obituaries**

### **Brian Ernest Marshal**

As a Legion member, Brian will be remembered as an energetic, successful Branch and County Youth Officer who secured the affiliation of cadet units to our and many other branches. He served as our branch vice chairman and then as President until ill health caused him to resign.

His many activities in the wider community included being a magistrate, prison visitor, an officer of the Order of St John, official of a local charity and a member of the Scout movement.

His military service, at home and abroad, had been as a career officer in the medical branch of the RAF.

We offer sincere condolences to his wife, Gillian, and his family.

### **Kenneth George E Harrison**

Born in Doncaster in 1920., Ken joined the Royal Engineers in 1939 and served in Nigeria, India and Burma reaching the rank of Captain. His civilian career was in Personnel Management and later in Welfare. He joined the Branch in 2003 and although not well known to many members, he did contribute two articles for In Touch.

Our deep sympathy goes to Ursula, his companion, and his family.

News continued on p7

Cover Photo St Margaret's Church, Bodelwyddan, North Wales  
The graves are of Canadian soldiers from near-by Kinmel Park who were victims of Spanish flu and five who were killed in the 1919 riots.

## Remember This?

### *The ATC and the RBL*



*Flt Lt John Standish, Cpl Nick Harrison, George Fleming and Brian Marshall stand by Flt Lt Valerie Smith and Mark Hudson at the signing ceremony.*

My thanks to all members who were able to attend the parade to commemorate the exchange of Affiliation Certificates between our Branch and 1084 Squadron, Air Training Corps. The event came at the end of a period of negotiation and the making of arrangements to achieve an important first for the County. I have learned a lot which will be helpful to me in setting up future affiliations.

The evening, for which we thank our ATC hosts, was a happy occasion and, following the signing by Flt Lt Valerie Smith and Mark Hudson, a presentation was made to the Squadron on behalf of the Branch by our President Peter Wilson. Mr Wilson donated a superb limited edition print showing aircraft, past and present, which served with the RAF's famous 633 Squadron.

#### *A Report by Brian Marshall County Youth Officer*

### *WE'RE FLYING IN FORMATION*



*Flt Lt Valerie Smith, Commanding Officer 1084 Squadron, accepts the print of 633 Squadron aircraft from Branch President Peter Wilson.*

The Affiliation agreement reads: "We, the under-signed having a clear understanding and respect for the aims and objectives of each other's respective organisations, do hereby agree to provide mutual support and encouragement within our community and, when requested and practicable, do hereby agree to provide help and support in achieving those aims and objectives."

Having got off to such a fine start, I am pleased, on behalf of the Detachment Commander, to invite you to the next ceremony with the Market Harborough Army Cadet Force Detachment at the Headquarters, Coventry Road, on Thursday 29 April at 7.15 pm. Your full support will be much appreciated.

*Within the limitations of differing page size and layout this is a copy from In Touch March 2004*

## **Kinmel Park Riots**

from Julian Putkowski

As published on the excellent web-site of the Canadian Great War Project  
<http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com/writing/kinmelPark.asp>  
and included here with their agreement.

On the evening of March 4, 1919 at around 9:00 PM, approximately 1,000 troops rebelled and started a riot. The idea likely came from a strike that the British troops staged a few months earlier, resulting in their early demobilization. Once the riot started it quickly got out of control. It started with one of the canteens, spread to a sergeant's mess quarters and then into "Tin Town" where the troops took their revenge against the local profiteers. The mutineers remembered their debt to the Salvation Army, and these quarters were spared. The YMCA and the Navy and Army Canteen Board

thousands of dollars, with stolen or destroyed cloths, food, alcohol, cigarettes and tobacco and equipment.

On the morning of March 5<sup>th</sup>, the officers tried to take control of the situation. They organized some of the 'loyal' troops to try to bring the situation under control. They encountered some of the mobs that had formed and things quickly got out of control. Five Canadians were killed in the subsequent encounters, 28 wounded. In the aftermath, soldiers were arrested, and then quickly released fearing that arrests would lead to more outbreaks of violence. In the

end 51 Canadians faced a court marshal, 27 were convicted and sentenced anywhere from 3 months to 10 years. The government essentially covered the mutiny up, sealing all records of it for 100 years.

Local newspapers covered the affair, and added their own sensationalism. The London Times reported on March 7, 1919:

*"The rioters then proceeded to the quarters occupied by the girls, who were in bed, and carried away their clothes. The girls were not injured, but had to remain in bed the next day because they*



'Tin Town' after the rioting March 5, 1919

(NACB) were viewed to have inflated prices; their buildings were looted and damaged. The overall damage was calculated to be in the

*could not dress themselves. Next day, the rioters were masquerading about the camp in girls' clothing."*

The Regimental Diaries report that, after investigation, the allegations of rioters going into the women quarters were unfounded; the clothes had been taken from the NACB store. The Times later recanted (March 8):

*"The girls' camp was not attacked. As a matter of fact the girls were treated with the utmost chivalry. No man entered the girls' bedrooms while they were occupied."*

The Times also initially reported, and later recanted, that the rioters had killed a Victoria Cross winner. They did, however, accurately sum up the incident:

*"In view of the splendid discipline and record uniformly maintained by Canadian troops since the beginning of the war in England and France, the 'incident' at Kinmel Park is regretted. It is considered that by comparison with others discipline amongst the Canadian troops is of a high order. It is also regretted that reports of the incident have been exaggerated."*

Although the means did not justify the end, the result of the mutiny was

that troops stationed at Kinmel were given priority for returning to Canada, and by March 25<sup>th</sup> approximately 15,000 soldiers had been redeployed to Canada.

This is one of the most misunderstood and undocumented parts of the Canadian effort in the First World War. The riot itself, was not unusual. There were many other mutiny's by French and British troops, many more serious than the riot at Kinmel Park. During and after the War, the British military hierar-



After the riot-  
(Canadian War Museum picture)

chy tended to downplay the role the "Colonials" had played, and while they kept tight censorship on the British mutiny's, they were more than happy to let the press

know about the goings on at Kinmel Park.

After 5 years of war, it must have been surprising to the residents of Bodelwyddan to hear about soldiers waiting to go home being killed. They provided a custom tombstone for **Corporal Joseph Young**, who was killed during the rioting. It reads:

*"Someday, sometime we'll understand"*

Fellow branch member Nigel Powner may remember stopping his coach near St Margaret's Church to point out the significance of the war graves. It was on a tour holiday in 2000.  
*Editor*

## *The Bar*

-----  
The Saloon is sometimes  
called a Bar - that's true.  
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A bar to heaven, a door to hell,  
Whoever named it, named it well.  
A bar to joys that home imparts;  
A door to tears and aching hearts

A bar to manliness and wealth;  
A door to want and broken health.  
A bar to honour and to fame;  
A door to grief and sin and shame.

A bar to hope, a bar to prayer;  
A door to darkness and despair.  
A bar to honoured useful life;  
A door to brawling senseless  
strife.

A bar to all that's true and brave;  
A door to may a drunkard's grave;  
A bar to Heaven, a door to hell,  
Whoever named it, named it well.

Written by a Life Convict  
while in Prison

Found on an old discoloured sheet  
of paper by Tom Jeacock and copied  
by the Editor to include in In Touch.

## *Miscellany*

### **March Centenary Snippets**

**1914**

US writer Tennessee Williams born.

**1915**

Lloyd George says women will have  
men's pay for war work.

**1916**

Import of spirits, motors and pianos  
is banned for the duration.

**1917**

Russian Czar abdicates: power  
passes to socialist government.

**1918**

School leaving age is raised to 14.



Found in the archives. Was the  
Branch Dominos Champion?

### **Smile time**

Did you hear about the man  
who bought a paper shop?  
It blew away.

Bakers trade bread recipes  
on a knead to know basis.

A 20 ft hole has appeared in  
the M25.  
Police are looking into it.

Continued from page 2

### Coffee Morning

Although several members were involved in organising and running it, the event on 22 February, could not, under Legion Rules, be said to be by RBL. This was because it was in aid of the local cadet units and not Legion funds. However, about £300 was raised and will be shared equally by the four units.

### March Lunch

A better turnout this time with 24 people present including new and seldom seen members. Now that they have sampled the Angel fare, we hope they will come again.

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## RBL County News

### Training Officer

With Hilary Brazil's appointment, there are now seven county posts filled by our branch members.

### Armed Forces Covenant



At this ceremony on 4th March 2014 Harborough District Council formally signed the Covenant. (details later)

## LUNCH AT THE ANGEL



for good food and good company

**1 APRIL** **MEET IN THE  
BAR AT NOON**

### MENU

Waterloo farm shoulder of lamb  
with mini roast potatoes, Yorkshire  
pudding & red currant jelly gravy

'Angelic twist on coq au vin'  
Roasted chunk of chicken breast &  
chicken thigh served with fondant  
potatoes draped with a rich sauce

Baked Scottish salmon  
sat on mash potato with a lightly spiced  
tomato & red pepper sauce

Asparagus & cream cheese crepes  
with a bowl of parsley buttered new  
potatoes (V)

All served with a selection of vegetables  
- - - - -

Vanilla cheesecake topped with  
mandarins & oranges with Purbeck  
clotted cream ice cream (V)

Fresh fruit salad with Purbeck fruity  
sorbet (V) (gf)

Warm Bakewell tart  
with morrello cherry & almond  
compote and mini jug of cream  
- - - - -

Coffee or tea and mints

£7.50 - pay on the day

To book, ring Les Moore (01858  
463112) before 22 Mar. To cancel a  
booking you must phone The Angel  
(01858 462702) before 10 am on the  
day or you will be charged.

## What's Going On?

### Forthcoming Events

- 22 Mar **Anniversary Dinner at MH Golf Club**
- 9 Apr After meeting social event.  
Jane Tugwell talks about the new Harborough Museum
- 14 May After meeting talk 'Sacrifice & Remembrance - WWI & CWGC' by Jeremy Prescott
- 17/18 National Conference -  
May Torquay
- 11 Jun After meeting talk- 'VSO in Nepal' by Rohini & Chris Corfield
- 13 Aug Branch meeting as a possible Peaker Park joint event

#### Welfare

If you are aware of any one who qualifies for, and may benefit from the Legion welfare services please contact **Betty Ramsay on 01858 434923**

#### RBL Helpline

is open to everyone, 8am - 8pm, 7 days a week on Freephone **0800 802 8080** for advice and support for serving & ex- service people and dependents.

#### In Touch Next Month

'Hospital Visits' 98 years later, WWI Centenary Snippets, 'Remember this?'

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

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