

In Touch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996

The Royal British Legion

Registered Charity No. 219279



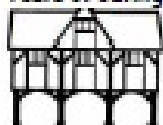
Shoulder to Shoulder with all who Serve

Market Harborough Branch

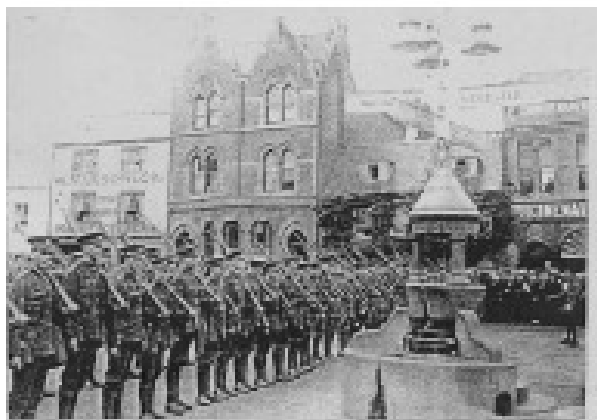
Founded in 1923

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Years of Caring



**2014: WW1
Centenary Year**



Market Harborough 'Territorials' on The Square
on 6th August 1914. See p3

Next Monthly Branch Meeting
7.30 pm Wednesday 10 September
Committee 4 September

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

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

Issue 191
August 2014

Oops!!

The Editor regrets the omission from last month's cover of the usual expression of thanks to Prime Life Ltd. for printing the newsletter.

Branch News

July Branch Meeting

The meeting started with Dave Allen, who had organised 'The Great 40s Revival Night' on 7th June, presenting a cheque for £2000 for the Poppy Appeal.



We were pleased to welcome two new members to the Branch.

The Ramsay Walkers had again completed the London Poppy Walk. The County Half-year conference, now called the Summer Meeting, had been attended. Outreach centres had been established in the County but that at Market Harborough was still to be finalised.

Members were reminded of the WWI commemorations and were encouraged to participate.

The Armed Forces Day events had been very successful.

The AGM will be on 8th October and the Chairman asked members to consider being willing to become more involved in the Branch as Committee members or office holders.

The AGM Nomination form and details are enclosed with this issue. Please return to the secretary by the stated date.

In celebration of their 70th Wedding Anniversary, Joan and Tom Ashmore had treated members present to a drink and after the meeting the Chairman presented Joan with a bouquet of flowers and Tom a congratulatory card. The 70 years



theme was continued in the 'After Meeting' presentation given by Tom called 'Looking Back Over 70 years of Marriage'. Personal events in specific years were put into the context of what happened nationally. Applause showed that it was enjoyed.

Continued on P 7

Cover Photo

Territorial, 'E' Company, 1st /5th Battalion. Leicestershire Regiment assembled for a public send-off for war service.

Remember This?

For King and Country

There had been a local armed force in Market Harborough since Napoleonic times, originally called the Loyal Volunteers, eventually becoming the volunteer Territorial, 'E' Company, 1st /5th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment. In addition there was a mounted unit, a detachment of 'D' Squadron, of Prince Albert's Own Yeomanry. Later the Army Service Corps was represented in the town with a unit from the Leicestershire and Lincolnshire Brigade Company.

A Territorial Drill Hall was established in King's Head Place, Coventry Road, in what had been the 'Second Grammar School', vacated after the new Burnmill Road building opened. Although there was some rivalry between the 'Terriers' and the cavalry, both units appear to have used the drill hall as did that of the ASC.

King's Head Place and the Drill Hall no longer exist having being replaced by Yeomanry Court, a development of apartment buildings. There is still an echo of the military past with the

Army Cadet Force detachment buildings on part of the original site.

When in 1914 General Mobilisation was ordered on 3rd August, the 'Terriers' were on their annual summer camp and so had to return to Market Harborough. Britain declared war on Germany at midnight on 4th August and on the



6th 'E' Company, fully kitted, marched from the Drill Hall to The Square for a public send-off. Local photographer, Mr Speight recorded the event with the above photo

and after a short service and the singing of the National Anthem, the assembled troops marched off. The small ASC unit went to the station for a train to Leicester, but the infantry, on foot, to Oadby where they stayed the night before marching to Loughborough the following day and then to Derby. From there, no doubt with other units, they went by train to Luton.

Where you may have seen this before was your 2014 Anniversary Dinner Place Card

The lead up to the outbreak of WWI in Market Harborough

Every thing was normal, the horse was the usual form of transport and was the hunting vehicle favoured by many foreign grandees renting houses in the area for the season. Stabling was available at the Swans, George, Hind and Angel Inns. Hunt Balls were held at their due time. Shops such as the Home and Colonial, Co-op, Symington and Thwaites, Frank Hall and others were looking after the residents of the town and the villages around.

The Cattle Market was held weekly in the Market Place on Springfield Rd.

There was building work with the enlargement of the town in Coventry Road and Cross, Charles and Gardiner streets of the 'new town'. The houses would all have lavatories connected to a sewer. The corset factory was having a new block built off Mill Hill and a new Lodging house, designed by the factory architect, was beside it.

Timber and other material was brought in by the Canal which also took away the bales of wool sheared locally and the Chemical Manure

from the bone factory. The railway carried the coals, parcels and fish. The Charabancs carried the workers on their outings and the first regular bus service was established.

The Symington corset factory was the largest employer and although they were pioneers in the use of sewing machines in making the garments, ironing was still done by hand.

All was normal.

The Territorials, E Company, of the Leicestershire Regiment was based in



Territorials and ASC detachment assembled on the Square for a public send-off on 6th August 1914

the Drill Hall (where Yeomanry Court now stands) and were joined in their recruitment drives by an ASC unit in Leicester, under Col

Blackader, titled Leics, Rutland and Lincs detachment. A Yeomanry Unit had been based in the town for generations under the wing of Prince Albert Own Yeomanry (PAOY) who met at Lutterworth or Billesdon. They locally used the meadows where the Commons car park now is.

Then the war arrived

Also on 6th August

On 6th August E company marched off to Loughborough enroute for Derby where they were put on a special train to Luton. The Navy men and RAMC (mostly St Johns officers) had already been posted.

A highly patriotic local draper Frank Shindler started his List of all those on Active Service from the UDC area and from the villages. By Christmas 1690 were serving. Shindler's List changed through the war as the Casualties mounted but was updated each week in the *Harborough Advertiser* forerunner of the *Harborough Mail*.

The Ladies of the area set up a War Hospital Depot where they made bandages and packed comforts. Many of the large houses were offered as War Hospitals now that the German and Austro Hungarian occupants had returned home, horseless. Armed guards appeared on the Welland bridges. Part of the Cattle Market was fenced off for a Remount Depot which stayed all through the war.

The able bodied Dad's who were left formed the Volunteer Training Corps Like the latter day Home Guard, their job was to protect the town against invasion.

This article, mainly by local historian, Mr Bob Harkwill, is based on the very interesting illustrated talk he gave after the branch meeting on 13th February.

The main headline in the Sydney

Morning Herald

BRITAIN AT WAR

was followed by these reports
The Prime Minister of the Commonwealth made the announce ment yesterday in Melbourne, the news coming afterwards by cable. A later cable announced that Germany had declared war on England.

No actual conflict between Britain and Germany is reported so far, though a British cruiser was chased, by German warships. The German cruiser Breslau bombarded a French naval station in Algeria,

The German cargo steamer Pfalz left Melbourne without a clearance yesterday, and the forts at Port Phillip Heads fired across her bows. She was subsequently seized.

It is unofficially reported that the destroyer Pamamatta has captured the German mail steamer Seydlitz, which left Sydney hurriedly on Monday last.

Many citizens and soldiers all over Australia are volunteering for ser vice in the proposed expeditionary force

All the coast fixed defences are fully manned, and are supported by reserves of militia.

With acknowledgements to Trove Digital Newspapers for these extracts.

All over by Christmas

Newspapers on 4 August 1914 reported that Britain's declaration of war against Germany sent cheering crowds surging to gather in Downing Street and outside Buckingham Palace, singing the national anthem.

In the House of Commons, Herbert Asquith, the Prime Minister, was loudly cheered as he gave MPs details of the ultimatum calling on Germany to respect the neutrality of Belgium, guaranteed by Britain, Germany and France in the treaty of 1839. But the Kaiser had already dismissed this treaty as a mere "scrap of paper".

Germany's rail system has been carrying hundreds of trains across the Rhine each day and some 1,500,000 men are believed to have been deployed already. Field Marshall Sir John French, who will command the British Expeditionary Force, has a high regard for the French Army with its tradition of offensive élan and he has been heard to express the opinion that the war will be over by Christmas.

It is a view shared by many but fiercely opposed by Lord Kitchener, the newly appointed Secretary for War, who believes the struggle will be a long one.

These extracts are taken from the Chronicle of the 20th Century published by Longmans. ISBN 0-582-03919-3

Miscellany

August Centenary Snippets 1914

US cruiser takes gold to Europe for Americans stranded by the War.

1915

Swedish actress Ingrid Bergman is born.

1916

USA pays \$25 million for the Danish Virgin Islands.

1917

Black US soldiers riot when a white policeman strikes a black woman.

1918

In New York a haircut now costs 50 cents & a shave 25cents.

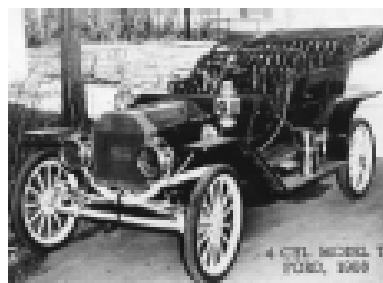
August Anniversaries

2nd UK 1st Roller skating rink 1875

3rd Columbus 1st voyage starts 1492

8th Great Train Robbery 1963

12th Model T Ford first sold 1908



12th Grouse shooting season starts

15th 1st regular detective force 1872

22nd Battle of Bosworth 1483

25th 1st international air service 1919

27th Romans land in Britain 55BC

WWI Centenary Commemorations

On 4th August the events started at 7 pm with a short service by the WWI war memorial at the Cottage Hospital. It was followed by the unveiling and dedication of a plaque in the Memorial Gardens and then a Solemn Commemoration in St. Dionysius Church. Readings of the works of War poets were interspersed with those from the Bible, periods of silence, choral singing and prayers. Four candles were blown out at intervals and the event ended with the church bells ringing and one tolling in memory of those from the district who died.

The branch was well represented in the large congregation.

On 9th August re-enactments of Harborough at War took place on The Square. Cadets in WWI civilian dress were recruited from the crowd to join others in Army uniform. The realism of War was shown with wounded soldiers and by reading letters from the front. Also portrayed was the local women's suffragette movement. Patriotic music of the time was played by the Harborough Band.

National Memorial Arboretum

The Royal Leicestershire Regiment (The Tigers) memorial will be unveiled and dedicated at 2pm on Friday 26 September. See p8 for details of a visit by RNA on the 27th.

LUNCH AT THE ANGEL



for good food and good company

2 SEPTEMBER MEET IN THE
BAR AT NOON

MENU

Supreme of British chicken sat on
mash potato with smoked bacon,
mushroom & tarragon sauce (gf)

Loin of Cod on herb diced potatoes
with a white wine sauce (gf)

Roast loin of pork with roasted po-
tatoes, stuffing & Yorkshire pudding
(can be gf)

All with a selection of vegetables

Summer salads with warm new
potatoes with a choice of:-

Home cooked ham (gf) or prawn
Marie rose (gf) (v)

- - - - -

Panacotta topped with Morello
Cherries, laced with Disarrono (gf)

Afternoon cheesecake with Straw-
berries & mini jug of Cream (V)

Fresh Fruit Salad with
Fruity Purbeck Sorbet (V)

- - - - -

Finished off with either fresh tea or
coffee with chocolate mints

£8.50 - pay on the day

To book, ring Les Moore (01858
463112) before 23 August. To cancel
ring The Angel (01858 462702) before
10 am on the day or you will be charged

What's Going On?

Forthcoming Events

- 30 Aug RNA Coffee morning - Harb' Theatre 9 am to 12 noon
- 27 Sep RNA visit to National Memorial Arboretum. If you wish to go, ring MH 465502
- 2 Oct 7.30pm 'Pack up your troubles' at The Curve, Leicester. £15
- 8 Oct Branch AGM & buffet
- 25 Oct De Montfort Hall Festival of Remembrance. £15 @ box office
- 25 Oct 11am Poppy Appeal Launch

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

'A Pilgrimage to the Front Lines', Centenary Snippets, 'Remember this?', etc

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Branch Website

www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough

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www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough/newsletter