

In Touch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996

The Royal British Legion

Registered Charity No. 219279



LIVE ON

To the memory of the fallen and the future of the living

94

Years of Caring



Market Harborough Branch

Founded in 1923

Centenary Year of 1917



The story on
p4 starts
where this
process was
used.

Next Monthly Branch Meeting
7.30 pm Wednesday 14 June
Committee 8 June

**Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough**

**Issue 224
May 2017**

Branch News

April Branch Meeting

In the act of homage, members were asked to remember particularly the Late Gillian Marshall (widow of the Late Brian). The Chairman reported that the Committee were reviewing the Branch Bye-laws and Inventory. An update of the hospital memorial portico Project Group was given by Revd Morley. Amongst other matters reported on were the need for more volunteers for the new Branch Community Support system; the HQ policy on the N I Veterans Investigation (see April In Touch); for 'Light a Building Red for Remembrance', the Old Grammar School will be suitably illuminated; ANZAC Day on 25th April would be remembered at the Victoria Park memorial in Leicester; the possibility of an earlier time of day for the Remembrance Band Concert will be investigated; the Branch would be represented at the National Conference by Delegate, John Standish and Standard Bearer, Hilary Brazil; the new County MSO (Membership Support Officer) will be at the 9 Newark St. Office each Tues., Wed, & Thurs.; County Newsletter now available; a Saluting Dais will be made at Gartee from donated materials; an 'Aged Veterans Counselling' service is free by phone

or on-line; Branch membership now numbers 130; discrepancies in accounting for Poppy Appeal cash handed to security firm G4S are being investigated by HQ; 28 people had attended the April Lunch at The Angel; the format for the MH Armed Forces Day will be the same as last year with some additions; In Touch had to be printed before the May lunch menu was received but it was included in the on-line version.

After a short break the Chairman introduced Ken Hook and Margaret Richards who then gave a talk and slide presentation about the Market Harborough in Bloom Volunteers. They said 'we are an enthusiastic group aiming to make our town as visually attractive as possible.' To



show their achievement in this they take part in the annual RHS East Midlands in Bloom competition, part of the RHS Britain in Bloom event.

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Cover Image

Collecting the latex from a Rubber Tree in a plantation in the north of Malaysia - from a photo taken by Tom Ashmore on 21/8/1988

Remember This? (From May 2007)



Around the World with the RBL

House Branches A Dying Breed

The History of the Safeway Branch

The Safeway Branch of the RBL was formed in 1946, originally through Allied Suppliers when that company had its Head Office in the City of London.

Allied Suppliers was among a number of companies and institutions based in the City with employees returning from the Second World War who formed their own "House Branch". The purpose was that of comradeship and to help give financial support to many from the two World Wars who were less fortunate than themselves.

Allied Suppliers became Argyll Stores and in 1988 took over the U.K. part of Safeway. By 2003 the Safeway Branch had a membership of 245 split between pensioners and employees and raised funds for RBL, nearly £34,000 in 2002 (£13,000 by 11 riders in the Pedal to Paris), and "Car Raffle" £3,000 for the Poppy Appeal. The majority of the stores invited collectors in with their boxes.

Safeway lorries also transported poppies for the Legion to the Royal British Legion Village in Kent, from the Poppy Factory in Richmond twice weekly. Safeway had in previous years also sold Poppy Ale & Poppy Whisky in selected stores.

The highlight of the year was the Annual Re-union Dinner held in London on the Wednesday evening prior to Remembrance Sunday, at which guests included the President of the RBL and an eminent speaker from the Services. It was well attended along with Safeway pensioners and In-Pensioners from The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, with whom there was a long-standing association, indeed, many of them being customers at Safeway Chelsea!

Safeway, together with Lloyds of London, were the only two remaining In-house branches, a tradition that they were very proud to maintain.

Another snippet from May 2007 was in Branch News
A membership milestone The long hoped for total number of
Branch Members has now reached 140.

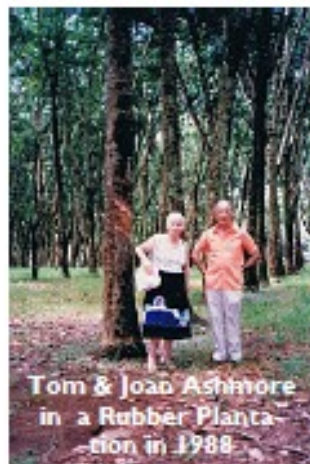
MALAYA - THE UNDECLARED WAR

1948 - 1960

From an article provided by John Cox who served in that War.

In 1945 we saw the end of the brutal Japanese occupation of Malaya and Singapore. Little did we know that within a few years our armed forces would once again be called upon to do battle, this time against Communism. This became Britain's bloodiest undeclared war, which lasted 12 long years.

The Elphin Estate near Sungei Sipit in Parak Estate was typical of a well run rubber plantation. British managed



Tom & Joan Ashmore
in a Rubber Plantation in 1988

with a labour force consisting of Malays, Chinese and East Indians. On the morning of Wednesday 16th June 1948, two Communist

Terrorists (CTs) of the Malaya Communist Party (MCP) armed with sten guns fired through the door and window of the manager's bungalow killing him instantly. Within hours terrorists killed the British manager

and assistant at an Estate near Ipoh. Also on that day a Chinese construction worker in the same district and a Chinese foreman from the Subur Estate near Kuala Lumpur were also killed. By no means were these killings isolated.

Over the next 2 years a campaign of murder and tenor was carried out against managers and workers on estates and mines which were owned by Europeans. This was to strike fear and cause disruption and economic chaos throughout Malaya. Many people were killed by the Malayan Peoples Anti British Army led by Chin Peng, the Secretary General of the Malayan Communist Party, (right) who during the Second World War had



worked with the British against the Japanese occupation of Malaya.

Prior to these killings, limited action was taken, and no actual decision had been made to counter the growing Communist threat. The cold-

blooded slaying of the planters on that day in June was a direct challenge by the Communists against the whole British regime in Malaya and on the 16th June 1948 Sir Edward Gent, the High Commissioner of Malaya (right)

declared a State of Emergency in Perak and Johore, within 2 days extended to the whole of Malaya and which was to last for 12 long years. During



those 12 years, nearly 900 contacts with the enemy were reported. 100,000 British Armed Service's personnel from 60 units were involved along with the Police, the Commonwealth, Malaya and Gurkha Forces. The majority of the British that served were young conscripts, this came about by the introduction of the National Service Act of 1947 which came into force on 1 January 1949. This made service in the Armed Forces compulsory for all fit male British subjects. They were fresh out of training with little experience for what lay ahead - but they were quick to learn, they had to - the enemy was ruthless and determined.

On Sunday 14th June, 1992, in a small Christian cemetery in the little

town of Batu Gajah, 15 miles from Ipoh, in the State of Perak, West Malaysia, a Commemorative Service was held by the Planters Associations of Malaysia to remember all those who made the supreme sacrifice during the Malayan Emergency, the 2nd World War and the Borneo Indonesian Confrontation. During the emergency, 6707 of the enemy were killed - 4000 either captured or surrendered. 446 British Armed Forces personnel lost their lives. The combined Security Force's losses including civilians, totalled 5313 dead or presumed missing.

The following paragraph was taken from an address given by DATO John Bishorek BEM, soldier and planter, the Chairman of the Little Acre Sub committee at the Service.

"We must not forget to pay homage also to those young men from the far flung corners of Britain and the Commonwealth who answered our call for help. Young men in the flower of their youth, many just doing their National Service duty. Their ages ranging from 18-22, as a slow walk along the headstones will reveal. Young men looking forward to returning to their loved ones, but now laying in eternal rest alongside those they had come to look upon as comrades - in arms, the planters, tin miners and Police in the fight against the Communist insurgency. Their sacrifice has not been in vain".

Continued from p2

The awards on display showed that the entries have been regarded by the judges as very successful and from the slides shown of the many colourful planters and flower beds in the town and the immaculate rose garden in Welland Park it is clear that the original aim of making the surroundings visually attractive has been achieved.

Financial support for all this had been required throughout the 21 years of continuous growth and development and has been provided by donations and sponsorship by businesses and other organisations. Their names appear on the planters most of which are of the same design and colour like these on The Square



The very informative and well produced presentation was followed with applause which showed how much it had been appreciated by those present.

Poppy Call, the RBL handy-man service for the ex-service community is now available free of charge and without means test for those over 70. If you require help with little jobs around the house call 0800 032 0306

Miscellany

May 1917 News Items

- 1st Poland seeks independence from Germany and Austria
- 2nd The King asks families to eat less bread
- 4th British cargo ship torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean
- 7th Petrograd soviet bans weekend street meetings
- 7th Reports of Jews being terrorised by Muslims in Palestine
- 16th First US Naval flotilla arrives near British coast
- 16th Plans for Irish Home Rule exclude Ulster
- 28th Pan-Russian Peasants' Congress calls for a democratic federal republic



Morris Dancing
May Day tradition

EXPERIENCE:

The name men give to their Mistakes.

SMILE:

A curve that can set a lot of things straight!

From the Archives

(a cutting from the Harborough Mail)
HARBOROUGH Royal British Legion stalwart John Sutton has retired as its Secretary. He will continue as an active member, help his successor Andy Marriott and may become a member of the County executive.

Mr Sutton (73) served with the RAF from 1941 to 1947 before taking up a career in banking but had to retire due to ill health. He has been involved in local organisations including the Royal Air Forces Association and Neighbourhood Watch.



During Mr Sutton's term of Legion office, local membership grew from 50 to 80, finances improved and the group successfully organised VE and VJ 50th anniversary events, as well as the usual Remembrance activities. During the last year he has helped to set up a saluting base for ceremonies, develop a memorial in Welland Park and a memorial plaque to the late Col Derrick Hignett in the town centre.

Harborough Royal British Legion President Peter-Wilson said: "The branch has a lot to thank John for. We are sorry his health and other commitments have meant he had to retire. It's the end of era"

R H (Bob) Bond

A long time Branch member, he died on 30th March aged 92. Bob will not be remembered by many present day members because he left Market Harborough in the 1990s to live in Barnard Castle near Newcastle. Here, his wife, Dorothy was secretary of 1084 Sqdn ATC.

Gillian Marshall

A previous Branch member and widow of the late Brian a former Branch President has died at the age of 82. Condolences are offered to both families.

LUNCH AT THE ANGEL



for good food and good company

6 JUNE

**MEET IN THE
BAR AT NOON**

Warm Provencal tart & Salads;
Chicken Supreme on mash; roast
pork loin; Field mushroom, spinach
& poached egg.
Fruit salad & sorbet; Cremé brûlée;
Lemon meringue pie, orange, cream.
Tea or coffee & mints. £9.25

To book, contact Kathie Morley,
email kathiemorley@talktalk.net, or
phone 01858 419714

To cancel, ring The Angel (01858
462702) before 10 am on the day or
you will be charged

What's Going On?

Forthcoming Events

- 26 May Peaker Park BBQ 4 pm with entertainment
- 11 Jun Sunday BBQ Carvery lunch+ entertainment @ Peaker Pk
- 14 Jun Branch Meeting +Talk (1917)
- 24 Jun Armed Forces Day @ Leics Cathedral
- 24 Jun RNA Cheese & Wine
- 25 Jun MH Armed Forces Day
- 8 Jul Garden Party 12 noon @ Peaker Park
- 5 Sep RNA Trip to Arboretum
- 28 Oct De Montfort Remb' Festival
- 28 Oct M H Poppy Appeal launch

Welfare

If you are aware of any one who may benefit from the Legion welfare services ring Betty Ramsay on 01858 434923

RBL Helpline

is open to everyone, 8am - 8pm, 7 days a week on 0808 802 8080 for advice and support for serving & ex-service people and dependents.

In Touch Next Month

'Enoch Upton', Miscellany, Remember This?, News, etc.

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