

What's Going On?

Forthcoming Events

- 5 Sep RNA Trip to Arboretum
- 13 Sep Branch Meeting & Poetry
- 17 Sep Battle of Britain Service
10.45 Little Bowden Church
- 11 Oct Branch AGM, Buffet and
Poppy Awards
- 28 Oct De Montfort Remb' Festival
- 28 Oct M H Poppy Appeal launch
- 11 Nov Armistice Day on the
Square from 1045 hrs
- 12 Nov Remembrance parade &
Service from 0915 hrs + on
The Square at 1045 hrs
- 18 Nov Band Remembrance Concert
- 2 Dec RNA Coffee Morning
- 9 Dec Sea Cadets Coffee Morning

Welfare

If you are aware of any one who may benefit from the Legion welfare services ring **Betty**

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

From the Archives, Miscellany, Remember This?, News, etc.

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Editor or the Market Harborough Branch. The editor reserves the right to decide what is to be published and to edit material submitted. No part may be reproduced without prior permission.

The newsletter is online at
www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough/newsletter

Branch Contacts

Chairman

John Standish 0116 2404170
chairmhrbl@btinternet.com
5 Manor Rd, Fleckney, LE8 8TN
Mobile 07710 799595

Vice Chairman

Stewart Harrison
srh30232@gmail.com

Secretary, Welfare & Youth

Betty Ramsay 1858 434923
betty.ramsay@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer & Membership Sec'y

Myra Grewcock 01858 419517
m.grewcock47@gmail.com
8 Holdenby Close, MH. LE16 8JE

Poppy Appeal

Dave Prior 01858 540431
Office - 6 Fairfield Road MH LE16 9QQ
01858 433492
paoteam@btinternet.com

Standard Bearer

Hilary Brazil c/o 01858 434923

Monthly Lunches

Kathie Morley 01858 419714
kathiemorley@talktalk.net

In Touch - Editor

Tom Ashmore 01858 433108
tashmore@ukvet.net
9 The Pastures, MH. LE16 9EA

Branch Website

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

The Royal British Legion



Registered Charity No. 219279

LIVE ON

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



Market Harborough Branch

Founded in 1923

Centenary Month of the Battle of Passchendaele



Vertigo sufferers do not attend this school! See p4 for why

Next Monthly Branch Meeting
7.30 pm Wednesday 13 September
Committee 7 September

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

In Touch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996

Issue 227
August 2017

Branch News

July Branch Meeting

The 29 members present were told that the HDC preferred the hospital memorial portico staying where it is although the Project group wanted it moved to the Memorial Gardens. The local MP had raised the matter in Prime Ministers Question Time. Problems remained on renovation of the memorial Garden Crosses. A volunteer is sought to arrange their layout each year. The Band Concert cannot be held at the Baptist Church so an alternative venue is sought. The Armed Forces Day parade and drumhead service was successful but not the Flag Raising so in future it could be in the Memorial Gardens. Records Office had not yet collected the archives but the Portacabin had been almost cleared. Whether the Branch would be represented at TRBL GP40 event will be decided by the Committee. Nomination papers for the AGM would be in the August In Touch and would note those who would not seek re-election. The importance of finding a replacement for the resigning Secretary would be emphasised. A branch sponsored Harborough in Bloom planter was in doubt, A Poppy Walk in M H was proposed. Royal Albert Hall Festival of Remembrance ticket information was available. The Chairman had

written to HDC re vandalism in the Memorial Gardens. Membership was 129 and completed accounts awaited auditing. Booking for the Anniversary dinner on 23 March 2018 at the Conservative club had been made. July In Touch was on-line and copies ready for distribution.

After Meeting Event

In the absence of a talk there was a discussion about how to attract new members. Members were asked to pass on any ideas to Stewart Harrison.

August Lunch

A few less this month but there were 20 people present to sing Happy Birthday to two of them!

Peaker Park

The Branch was represented at their 'Open Day' on 8th July. Their 'Fine Dining' evening is on 17 September and if you wish to attend please ring them on MH 414460..

County Newsletter

The June issue says Lisa Michael, the new Membership Support Officer, is at County Office in the VAL building at 9 Newarke St. Leicester on three days each week but in the Derby Office at other times.

Cover Image

Badge of RAF Aerial Erectors' School copied from Ex-RAF Aerial Erectors' Association website, www.hariggers.co.uk/

From the Archives

AVERAGE WAGES

In the 1940s skilled and unskilled workers in the building trades were expected to work in excess of 50 hours per week. The average daily rates of pay for building workers varied across the country, but in the south of England they were:

YEAR	SKILLED	UNSKILLED
1940	17s 6d (87p)	13s 7d (68p)
1941	18s 4d (92p)	14s 5d (72p)
1942	18s 9d (94p)	14s 10d (74p)
1943	19s 7d (98p)	15s 5d (77p)
1944	£1 0s 5d (£1.02)	16s 1d (80p)
1945	£1 1s 3d (£1.06)	17s 1d (85p)
1946	£1 4s 7d (£1.23)	19s 10d (99p)
1947	£1 7s 1d (£1.35)	£1 1s 8d (£1.08)
1948	£1 7s 6d (£1.37)	£1 2s 1d (£1.10)
1949	£1 7s 11d (£1.40)	£1 2s 11d (£1.15)

The figures in brackets are the direct modern decimal equivalents with no adjustment for inflation. The price of the *Daily Mail* newspaper shows how the buying power of the pound has changed.

In 1940 a *Daily Mail* cost one penny (1d); today it costs 40p, equivalent to 8 shillings or 96 times the 1940 price.

from a cutting in the Daily Mail

The rate of inflation used by the Bank of England which is based on the Consumer Price Index, shows that 17s 6d in 1940 would be worth £45 today an increase of 5200%.



Hospital War Memorial Portico

Continued from p6

A corporate charity football tournament has raised more than £20,000 for The Royal British Legion. On Friday 12 May, The Royal British Legion Challenge Cup held at Queen's Park Rangers Football Club saw nine teams from M&S, Rolls Royce, The City of London Corporation, Osborne and Stackhouse Poland compete against Paratroopers from 4th Battalion, Parachute Regiment.

M&S were crowned the champions, beating Rolls-Royce in the final in a dramatic penalty shoot out.

LUNCH

AT THE ANGEL



for good food and good company

5 SEPTEMBER MEET IN THE BAR AT NOON

MENU

Chicken Supreme; Roast leg of lamb; Loin of Cod; Salad - Red Leicester or Ham/hard boiled egg. Fresh fruit salad/sorbet; Meringue roulade/fruits & cream; Chocolate mousse & shortbread
Tea or coffee & mints. £9.25

To book, contact Pat Middleton, email patriciamiddleton@hotmail.com or phone 01858 445827

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

A Rigger's Tale, Clogging it by Stephen Champy Champion de Crespigny.

Reproduced from the Ex-RAF Aerial Erectors' Association website

One day in the winter of 1952/3 I was called into the office at Henlow by Chiefy Hancock and was given a job to do at RAF Barton Hall in Lancashire. Charlie Ashmore, Al Hammond, Jock Edgar, Moushter Foreman (he was called "Moushter" because he addressed everybody as moush) and I were to go there to install sixteen gibbets and associated type 24 VHF aerials on two 90ft wooden towers. The towers had been erected by civvy contractors working for the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works (otherwise known as the Ministry of Public Blunders and Wonders), one at the receiver site and the other at the nearby transmitter site. RAF Barton Hall, later known as RAF Longley Lane when it became a ROTOR site was located between Preston and Garstang and near to the village of Broughton. The base had been the HQ of No.9 Group, Fighter Command during the war and was in the process of being converted into an underground ROTOR site.

ROTOR was a huge and elaborate air defence radar system built in Britain in the early 1950s to counter possible attack by Soviet bombers

We had got to Preston in the late morning and after booking in were told that there was no service accommodation available and we would have to stay in civvy digs. The local police gave us the address of the only digs available for miles around in outskirts of Preston. It was the worst digs we had ever encountered and we



had to share two double beds so we decided to start work straight away and return to Henlow as soon as possible.

We arrived on the site and started to assemble the gibbets when the weather turned bitterly cold and bolting them together with the dipole aerials and hauling them up to the top of the tower made our hands so cold

Gibbets were Gallows shaped attachments fixed to the mast and to which the aerial was secured

even with gloves on our hands were numb. When it got too dark to work, we returned to our crummy place and put our hands into a basin of warm water. I don't think any of realised how painful it would be - it was agony!!

After something to eat we went out for a drink to warm ourselves up and then went to bed after deciding who was going to sleep with whom. I was to sleep with Al Hammond. While we were in bed, on the top floor or attic, the weather outside got even colder (there was no central heating in those days). Al and I were so cold but neither of us was the kind to cuddle up together even for warmth. We decided enough was enough, we got out of bed, moved the furniture around, and pulled the carpet up and carefully placed it on the bed so as not to disturb the dust. We turned the blankets over the edge of the carpet so that the carpet would not touch our faces and after all this commotion we slept quite well until about 5 am. We were then woken up by a terrible clatter in the street below. It was dozens of mill workers walking to work with wooden clogs on. This happened every morning we were there.

This was the quickest job we ever did and when we arrived back at Henlow, Chiefy Hancock remarked how fast we had been. We may have the record time for the installation of sixteen gibbets. Who knows?

Ex-RAF Aerial Erectors Association



The Ex-RAF Aerial Erectors Association was founded in 1996 as a result of my (Eddie Edwards) trying to trace my old service friends. I had served as a rigger (Aerial Erector) for 12 years having joined the RAF in 1956. There are now over 400 riggers in the Association and I am pleased to say it is still growing. We have a four monthly newsletter, *The Update*, and a reunion is usually organised every other year.

There is an excellent, well produced, very technically comprehensive website (www.hariggers.co.uk/) with many drawings of masts and aerial systems. There are photographs of many past and present aerial sites from around the world such as this British Antarctic Survey Base, Halley, Falklands, Kenya, Hong Kong, Singapore, Sri Lanka, etc. Present day 'Riggers' are in the RAF Air Combat Service Support (Communications) Units.



Legion News

Membership Newsletter

One item gave these details of the

Toby Carvery

discount vouchers scheme

celebrating the launch of their national corporate partnership with TRBL,, Toby Carvery is offering Legion members 2 for £10 vouchers until 30th August. To claim this, simply download the Toby Carvery App and register using the promotional code 'RBL'. You will also receive another 33% off voucher just for registering! Offer not available on Sundays or Bank Holidays. Please see full T&Cs on the voucher



Dementia

Leics. Police are now involved in a national scheme of using information recorded on a form by carers or family so that if a person with dementia is reported missing it can help in finding him. To get the form visit <https://leics.police.uk/advice-and-information/victims-witnesses/advice-carers-people-dementia>

Miscellany

August 1917 News Items

- 4th Trying to avoid conscription in USA may mean execution
- 14th China declares war on Central Powers
- 14th Pope makes another peace plan
- 17th Kaiser accepts Pope's plan
- 20th Due to food shortage in Hungary, prisoners serving less than 2 years to be released.
- 20th 4 million shells from 3000 British guns launch 3rd Battle of Ypres
- 25th 5 German sailors sentenced to death following a mutiny
- 25th New OBE & CH honours introduced
- 28th USA rejects Pope's peace plan



The Cow's burning up on re-entry!

Man goes to the doctor, with a strawberry growing out of his head. Doc says, "I'll give you some cream to put on it.

By Tommy Cooper

Remember This? (From August 2012)

Poppy Team trip to the Menin Gate

Walking along the massive walls of Ypres was like a stroll in a park. Cut grass, park benches, mature trees and flowers camouflaged the purpose of these high battlements. Suddenly the Menin Gate cut through the battlements, a white marble shrine to some 55,000 soldiers of WW1 who have no known grave. The immense structure, covered with names is a shocking sight. The volume of names in letters only 2" high stretched from cornice to floor on every wall. It was overwhelming to think that so many men were never found. Occasional empty spots in the lists show where a soldier's name has been removed after his grave had been identified. It is numbing to the imagination while walking away along the battlements on the other side of the

Gate. It was difficult because everything was now modern, lovely and normal again. The exquisite moat ended in a large lake with waterfowl and sweeping trees. The eye caught the top of a cross above a small, neat cemetery. This cemetery (Ramparts Cemetery) has a scattering of Irish-men amongst a swathe of New Zealand Maoris. Strangely I felt I would have liked to tell their mothers that they had a beautiful view and a peaceful place of rest. Meeting the President of the Inner Wheel of New Zealand I shared my thoughts with her hoping she will pass the message. A memorable visit and I had the honour of laying the wreath to the haunting pipe lament played by Graham Pryor.

By Sara Whitley-Kinzett

Deputy Standard Bearer John Cox has reluctantly resigned from his post. As he says his spirit is very willing but age is taking its physical toll.

John was Branch Standard Bearer for 11 years and won the County

Cup in 1994, carrying the Standard at the Albert Hall Remembrance Service the same year. The branch thanks John for his sterling work over the years and we hope he will continue to support the work of the Branch and the Legion for years to come.