CURTAIN ROLLS DOWN ON MOST STUPENDOUS TRAGEDY OF HISTORY

War Comes to End at 3 o’Clock This Morning Bellingham Time, After 1,567 Days of Horror—German Delegates Affix Signatures to Surrender Terms at Foch’s Headquarters and End War Which Has Cost at Least 10,- 000,000 Lives—All Tenzonic Monarchs Are Dead or Fugitives and Red Revolution Is Running Through Pillar Nation of Alliance,

KAISER FLEES TO HOLLAND, BUT ENGLAND MAY SEEK EXTRADITION AND TRY HIM FOR MURDER

German Navy Scattered Into Units, Each Seeking Safety In Denmark or Awaiting Turn of Events—As End Approaches the Allied Armies Sweep Forward—Last Drive of War Made by Pershing’s Men in Lorraine Territory.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11.—President Wilson issued a four-page proclamation at 10 o’clock this morning announcing that the armistice with Germany had been signed. The proclamation follows:

“My Fellow Countrymen: The armistice was signed this morning. Everything for which America fought has been accomplished. It will be our fortunate duty to assist, by example, by sober, friendly counsels and by material aid in the establishment of just democracy throughout the world.

“WOODROW WILSON.”

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION ANTWERP BRANCH

Tweemaandelijkse Newsletter Nov Dec 2018

Verantwoordelijk uitgever:

Gordon Wilkins, Van Peborghlei 11, 2640 Mortsel.

Afgiftekantoor 2000 Antwerpen 1
EDITORIAL

Dear Reader

What a busy two months have passed! Some proof of this you will find in our report pages starting at p 9.

100 years have passed since the end of that terrible war that was going to end all wars. I received permission from Randy Vaincourt from Canada to edit his father’s world-famous poem *Just a Common Soldier* (also known as *A Soldier Died Today*), for which I am very grateful.

100 years after that horrendous war of which many fights were fought on Flemish soil, our Poppy Appeal has an even deeper meaning this year: so, if you can, come and help out on the 3rd of November on the Meir (see p. 3).

Of course, do not forget that we have our Christmas Lunch on the 9th of December (see p. 6)! Father Sid Christmas expects your!

I hope you will enjoy your last Newsletter of 2018 and wish you all a very merry Christmas and a brilliant 2019 on behalf of the Committee!

Marc Tulfner
Newsletter Editor
trblantwerpnews@gmail.com
**Diary Dates**

The following list is compiled from information received from each association.

### November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>TRBL</td>
<td>Poppy Appeal</td>
<td>Meir</td>
<td>Please contact Lynne Marinus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-11</td>
<td></td>
<td>TRBL</td>
<td>Remembrance Sunday</td>
<td>Saint Boniface</td>
<td>With reception</td>
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### December

<table>
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<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-12</td>
<td>11 till 4</td>
<td>MTSeafarers</td>
<td>Christmas Bazar</td>
<td>Antwerp Harbour Hotel</td>
<td>100 Noorderlaan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>TRBL</td>
<td>Christmas Lunch</td>
<td>De Basiliek</td>
<td>See page 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-12</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>ABCA</td>
<td>Christmas Lunch</td>
<td>De Basiliek</td>
<td>See ABCA Newsletter or website</td>
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</tbody>
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### Later in 2019

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>12.00</td>
<td>TRBL</td>
<td>Valentine Lunch</td>
<td>De Basiliek</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-09</td>
<td></td>
<td>TRBL</td>
<td>Tank Ceremony</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>27-10</td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>TRBL</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>De Basiliek</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-10</td>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>TRBL</td>
<td>Poppy Lunch</td>
<td>De Basiliek</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-12</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>TRBL</td>
<td>Christmas Lunch</td>
<td>De Basiliek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE: Although we do our best with accuracy, things do change. So please check with the relevant association in case of amendments. We will post any updates in future Newsletters of course. Do you know of an event that our members might be interested in? Drop a line to the Editor with details and he will try to include it.**

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**Poppy Appeal 2018**

3 November 11 a.m. Meir

It's that time of year again - the Annual Poppy Appeal! Those of you who wish to help out, please contact Lynne Marinus on 0495/188089 or lynnemarinus@gmail.com

As you all know the Poppy Appeal is only a success thanks to all your efforts - and we continue to be grateful for each and every one of you who helps out in one way or another.

Lynne
Singing Their Own Lyrics (7)

Stand by your beds (General Salute)
Stand by your beds
Here comes the Air Vice Marshall
He’s got several rings
But he’s only got one arsehole.

I have no pain, Dear Mother,
Tune: “My love is like a red red rose”

I have no pain, dear mother now,
But oh! I am so dry.
Connect me to a brewery
And leave me there to die.

John Brown’s baby
Tune John Brown’s Body
John Brown’s baby has a pimple
On his arse
John Brown’s baby has a pimple
On his arse
John Brown’s baby has a pimple
On his arse
And the poor child can’t sit down.

See more at:
http://www.westernfrontassociation.com/great-war-people/brothers-arms/372-songs-war.html#sthash.i6qDphYq.dpuf

Surprised U.S. soldiers at the WWII invasion of Normandy captured Korean soldiers in German uniforms. The men were captured first by the Japanese and conscripted. Then captured by the Russians and conscripted. Then captured by the Germans and conscripted. After the Americans nabbed them they finally became official P.O.W.s for the duration.

TRBL Antwerp - Vacancies

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR HOME & HOSPITAL VISITS

We are looking for volunteers who would be happy to visit Branch Members who are not mobile, well, or in hospital, as part of the Branch Community Support Scheme.

No special training is needed just common sense and a sense of humour.

Interested? Please contact Mary Ann:
0486 646 941 (evenings) or
Maryann.marinus@hotmail.com
Marc,

This poem was written by my late father, a WW II veteran of the Royal Canadian Air Force and a long-time columnist.

I would be happy to have you use his words in your newsletter. As there are a few incorrect versions floating around the web, I am including the correct text below.

-Randy V. - Canada

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, everyone.

And tho’ sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we’ll hear his tales no longer for old Bill has passed away,
And the world’s a little poorer, for a soldier died today.

He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary and quite uneventful life.
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,
And the world won’t note his passing, though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were young,
Fellow who, in times of war and strife, Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?

A politician’s stipend and the style in which he lives Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.
While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all, Is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension small.

It’s so easy to forget them for it was so long ago,
That the old Bills of our Country went to battle, but we know
It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a soldier, who has sworn to defend
His home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier’s part
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor while he’s here to hear the praise,
Then at least let’s give him homage at the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.

Just A Common Soldier, also known as A Soldier Died Today, is one of the most popular poems on the Internet. Written and published in 1987 by Canadian veteran and columnist A. Lawrence Vaincourt, it now appears in numerous anthologies, on thousands of websites and on July 4, 2008 it was carved into a marble monument at West Point, New York.
Christmas Lunch
9 December 2018 12.00
Reception with canapés
Salad of sea food
Creamy Leek Soup with Bacon
Fillet of Turkey in a Brandy Sauce with
Apples, Cranberries, Chicory and Croquettes
Christmas Log
Mocha, Tea and Sweets
Wine and Water and a little present from
Father Christmas

€ 44, - pp.
Pay to BE53 9730 0871 2553 RBL
Mention: Name + Christmas Lunch
+ number of participants

In Memoriam
It is with great regret that we have to inform you of the death of Mr

John Gardner.

John was a long-standing member of the British Royal Legion Antwerp. Born 18 January 1922 and died 25 September 2018.

John will be sorely missed and we extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

Bring the Family
During the American Revolution, many British soldiers serving in the colonies actually brought their wives and children along. Women in the army at this time served as nurses, washer women, and sutlers (merchants who sell items to soldiers), or took jobs to support their families. Approximately 20% of soldiers serving in America had their wives and children with them.

Keep your Wig on
The regiment known as the Blues and Royals has a tradition of saluting even when not wearing a cover (hat). The origin of this act comes from the Marquis of Granby, who led a cavalry charge in the Battle of Warburg during the Seven Years War. His wig blew off as he led the charge, which originated the phrase “Going at it bare-headed.”

Mission to Seafarers Antwerp
Christmas Bazar

1 December 2018
(from 11 till 4)
Antwerp Harbour Hotel
100 Noorderlaan
Oh! What a Lovely War

Up to your waist in water,
Up to your eyes in slush –
Using the kind of language,
That makes the sergeant blush;
Who wouldn’t join the army?
That’s what we all inquire,
Don't we pity the poor civilians sitting beside the fire.

Chorus
Oh! Oh! Oh! it's a lovely war,
Who wouldn't be a soldier eh?
Oh! It's a shame to take the pay.
As soon as reveille is gone
We feel just as heavy as lead,
But we never get up till the sergeant brings
Our breakfast up to bed
Oh! Oh! Oh! it's a lovely war,
What do we want with eggs and ham
When we've got plum and apple jam?
Form fours! Right turn!
How shall we spend the money we earn?
Oh! Oh! Oh! it’s a lovely war.

Oh! What a Lovely War is a 1969 British comedy musical film directed by Richard Attenborough (in his directorial debut), with an ensemble cast including Maggie Smith, Dirk Bogarde, John Gielgud, John Mills, Kenneth More, Laurence Olivier, Jack Hawkins, Corin Redgrave, Michael Redgrave, Vanessa Redgrave, and many big names more.

The film is based on the stage musical Oh, What a Lovely War!, originated by Charles Chilton as a radio play. The title is derived from the music hall song Oh! It's a Lovely War, which is one of the major numbers in the film.

What Hitler learned from Japan

In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria with no consequences from the international government. Throughout the 1930s, foreign powers looked away as the Japanese army marched through China, leaving a trail of corpses in their wake. In 1937, when China took a stand against the Japanese army at the Battle of Shanghai, not a single foreign power came to their aid. The lesson Hitler took from this was clear: no one wanted to get into a war, so no one wanted to take any action against an aggressive nation. He had an unblocked path to power. More about Japanese atrocities in our next issue.

(During WWII 1% of American prisoners in German prisoner of war camps died. Of U.S. soldiers captured by the Japanese 40% died.)
Nearly a century ago, when Major George Howson MC opened his factory in 1922, he had but one dream: “to give the disabled their chance.” Thousands of wounded soldiers, sailors and airmen were returning from The Great War without the means of earning a living and Howson was sure he could do something about it.

Poppies had become popular as an icon of public Remembrance through the work of Anna Guerin of France and Moina Michael of the USA, who took Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae’s famous poem, “In Flanders Fields”, and devised a practical way of raising vital funds for wartime charities. The British Legion had been set up the year before and the very first Poppy Appeal – using silk poppies made by widows in France – had raised £106,000.

Howson saw his chance and asked Earl Haig (founder of the British Legion) if he could make the poppies for their next Poppy Appeal. Howson had been given a cheque for £2,000 and used it to set up The Disabled Society with just 6 staff. Within 10 years, the name had changed to The Poppy Factory and Howson was employing over 350 disabled veterans to make the poppies. The factory moved to Richmond in 1925 and in 1928 Howson founded the annual Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. Towards the end of the century, the needs of veterans started to change. They wanted to work in their local communities, to be closer to their families, and to utilise the wide variety of skills that they learned during their time in HM Armed Forces. This was the cue to innovate. In 2010, The Poppy Factory embarked upon a hopeful venture – much like Howson did in 1922 – and took their expertise for employing disabled ex-Service personnel on the road to help veterans find the work they wanted in the places they wanted to be. The Poppy Factory has now built upon its strong historical foundations to provide an exceptional employability service that supports hundreds of ex-Service personnel with health challenges into rewarding employment with businesses across the country every year.

FROM: WWW.POPPYFACTORY.ORG

The Disabled Society founded
1 January 1920
The Disabled Society (later to become The Poppy Factory) was founded shortly after the end of WW1 by Major George Howson MC and Jack Cohen MP in response to the growing need for employment support amongst wounded Servicemen returning from the Great War.

This is a reminder to all our Members that your membership fee for next year is due for payment. The amount remains the same i.e. Euro 28.

The recommended payment method is directly to London. This is easily done by making a bank transfer ('overschrijving') from your Belgian bank account in Euros using the following details:
Payee: Charles Novacroft Direct Ltd re RBL
IBAN: GB91NWBK60720170076359.
BIC: NWBKGB2L
This way there will be no delay in receiving your new membership card.

If you have any questions or problems please contact Phil Shaw, Membership Secretary on 0486 189 734.
Among very many distinguished guests we were proud to welcome: HM Ambassador Alison Rose accompanied by Terry Whittle (National Chairman RBL) and his wife Anne.
GP90 was a re-enactment of the original march (and visit to the battle fields), which happened 90 years ago by many thousands of ex-servicemen and their families. It also celebrated 90 years of the completion of the Menin gate in Ieper. Around 2500 RBL members from all over the world gathered in northern France and West-Vlaanderen for a two day visit of the battle fields of the Somme and Ieper (Ypres). On our coach we had a guide called Patrick who was an Aussie living in England, a real font of knowledge. He made the trip so interesting and had a great sense of humour and was a really nice guy. On the final day we did the march in Ieper to the Menin gate, there were 1250 standard bearers and around 1500 wreath layers, the column was almost 3 kilometres long. A real privilege to be part of this celebration, doubt if I will ever see so many standards in one parade again and meeting so many fantastic ex-servicemen.

Antwerp Branch Participants were Robert Chambers (council member), Stephen Cook (wreath layer) and Frans Frison (standard bearer).
Remembrance Deurne

TRBL Antwerp Branch were present at the Deurne Remembrance on 2 September in honour of the resistance fighters and heroes who were executed. The event took place in and around the Saint Fredegandus Church. Robert Boyle was PM, SB’s were Jean and Martje.

(BY URBAIN DEGROOT)

Remembrance Boom and Klein Willebroek

TRBL Antwerp Branch were also present at the Remembrance of the Liberation of Boom and Klein Willebroek. Robert was PM, Frans and Jean were SB’s.

(BY JEAN AND MARTJE)
### Your Committee Contacts 2018

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**TRBL ANTWERP OPEN EVENING**

**WHEN?** Every first Thursday of the month  
**WHERE?** Café Highlander, Stadswaag 21, Antwerp  
Come along and say hello, we look forward to seeing you.