

Starter for 2010

What a wintry start to the year! The whole of Europe is in the grip of winter - for some it is exciting, but sadly for others it is a trying time. Spring will be here before too long we hope. The time for 'New Year' greetings may have passed but as we embark on the new year we wish you good health, joy and happiness.

Lets hope that we all have a good year ahead. And remember that we have The Royal British Legion which is here to help its members whenever they may need it -by providing support for those in need and by offering a sense of belonging.

Following the success of the Branch last year, we would like this to be another good year. To make it work we need your help and support at our events and meetings. The more members that take part the more chance we have of doing our best.

Do recommend the RBL to your friends and family. We are always looking for new members to help our membership grow and help even more of our friends.

We look forward to seeing you soon and please do feel free to contact the RBL committee at any time.

Donation from the Brussels British Community Association



Colin Puplett, Chair of the RBL Brussels Branch Welfare Committee received a cheque for € 3,000 kindly donated by The Brussels British Community Association. It was presented by the British Ambassador Dr Rachel Aron.



Full House for Remembrance Sunday Service

The Remembrance Service at Holy Trinity Church, Brussels, saw yet another packed congregation, who came to remember not only those who have died in previous wars but the men and women who are serving in our forces today in Afghanistan and around the world. We will remember them.

The Service was taken by Rev Innes and attended by the British Ambassador and representatives from UK Forces. Wreaths were laid at the Altar and the local Scouts and Guides also joined in the service by laying individual Poppy crosses.

Well done to all that organized the day. The traditional lunch, which was served and prepared by the BRYC and facilitated by Michael Rose was superb once again.



Rev. Robert Innes and the Standard Bearers



Lunch, Holy Trinity Church Hall



Ath Cemetery



Nivelles Cemetery

The above pictures show Poppy Crosses placed on the graves by volunteers who donated their time. The volunteers were a group of 2 British, 2 USA, 1 Greek and a British Family of 3.

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The Modern British Tommy

The average British soldier is 19 years old. He is a short haired, well-built lad who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears and just old enough to buy a round of drinks, and yet old enough to die for his country and for you. He's not particularly keen on hard work

but he'd rather be grafting in Afghanistan than unemployed in the UK. He recently left comprehensive school where he was probably an average student, played some form of sport, drove a ten year old rust bucket, and knew a girl that either broke up with him when he left for his tour of duty, or swore to be waiting when he returns home. He moves easily to rock and roll or hip-hop or to the rattle of a AK47 machine gun or RPG.



He is about a stone lighter than when he left home because he is working or fighting from dawn to dusk and well beyond. He has trouble spelling, so letter writing is a pain for him, but he can strip a rifle in 25 seconds and reassemble it in the dark. He can recite every detail of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either effectively if he has to. He digs

trenches and latrines without the aid of machines and can apply first aid like a professional paramedic. He can march until he is told to stop, or stay dead still until he is told to move.

He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation but he is not without a rebellious spirit or a sense of personal dignity. He is confidently self-sufficient. He has two sets of uniform with him: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his water bottle full and his feet dry. He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never forgets to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend his



own clothes and fix his own hurts. If you are thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food is your food. He'll even share his life-saving ammunition with you in the heat of a fire fight if you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons and regards his weapon as an extension of his own hands. He can save your life or he can take it, because that is his job - it's what a soldier does.

He often works twice as long and hard as a civilian, draws half the pay and has nowhere to spend it, and can still find black ironic humour in it all. There's an old saying in the British Army: 'If you can't take a joke, you shouldn't have joined!'

He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime. He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and he is unashamed to show it or admit it. He feels every bugle note of the 'Last Post' or 'Sunset' vibrate through his body while standing rigidly to attention. He's not afraid to 'Shout at' anyone who shows disrespect when the Regimental Colours are on



display or the National Anthem is played; yet in an odd twist, he would defend anyone's right to be an individual. Just as with generations of young people before him, he is paying the price for our freedom. Clean shaven and baby faced he may be, but be prepared to defend yourself if you treat him like a kid.

He is the latest in a long thin line of British Fighting Men that have kept this country free for hundreds of years. He asks for nothing from us except our respect, friendship and understanding. We may not like what he does, but sometimes he doesn't like it either - he just has it to do. Remember him always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood.

And now we even have brave young women putting themselves in harm's way, doing their part in this tradition of going to war when our nation's politicians call on us to do so.

Please stop for a moment and if you are so inclined, feel free to say a prayer for our troops in the trouble spots of the world.

Anon

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Michael Brown- Poppy Appeal Coordinator

Sadly, Michael Brown and his wife Wiebke are soon to leave us on posting to Berlin.

Michael joined the Branch about two years ago and straight away volunteered to take on the responsibilities of Poppy Appeal Coordinator. He immediately set out to further the reach of the appeal including NATO and SHAPE where he built up much needed and valued relationships and indeed friendships. Michael also looked to the wider British Community both business and the wider community, especially the schools where he made a number of presentations.

Michael organised his Poppy Appeal supporters to great effect. His success in doing this is reflected in the considerable increase in poppy sales and donations. In fact he doubled the Poppy Appeal and donations made to the branch from around € 6,000 per annum to in excess of € 12,000. This is much needed funds for the Welfare Committee and the branch as a whole.

Michael helped to improve the management of appeal assets. He has worked tirelessly, given much of his time and driven many miles on behalf of the Legion.

We are all very grateful to him for his commitment to the Legion and the



considerable contribution he has made over his short time with us. He will be missed by many of the friends he has made and from a Branch perspective he will be difficult to replace.

We wish him and Wiebke the very best of good fortune in Berlin.



"Are there many ex-Paras in the British Legion then ?"

2nd Reminder RBL Branch Subs 2010
2ième Rappel de la cotisations RBL 2010

Dear Friends, Chers Amis

For those of you who have not yet settled their Branch subs for 2010 of €20,00 please do so now or contact the Membership Secretary below.

Pour ceux qui n'ont pas encore réglé leur cotisation pour 2010 de €20,00 veuillez le faire maintenant ou contacter le Secrétaire d'Adhésion ci-dessous.

Bank n°/n° de compte : 210-0155524-85

For those who already use the European harmonization transfer code :

Pour ceux qui utilisent déjà le code système européen harmonisé :

Code BIC : GEBABEBB

CODE IBAN : BE89 2100 155 2485

If you are ill or immobilized please contact the undersigned.

Si vous êtes malade ou immobilisé, prière de contacter le soussigné.

Thank you for your loyal support

Merci de votre soutien loyal.

Michael G.M. Rose

Membership Secretary

Driestraat, 135

B-1851 Humbeek

Tel. 02/269.75.77

E-mail: michaelrose60@hotmail.com

Names and addresses/ Noms et adresses:

If anyone would need a correction of their name or title or postal address please be so good as to inform the Membership Secretary.

Si quelqu'un voudrait une correction à leur noms ou titre ainsi que pour leur adresse postal, veuillez s.v.p. aviser le Secrétaire d'Adhésion.

Message from RBL Head Quarters London

Message du Quartier Générale RBL de Londres.

Mr Nik Epton, our Overseas Membership Coordinator wishes to apologies about accents on foreign language spellings. The English system he uses does not have the possibilities for foreign language signs such as the various accents used in local tongues.

Mr Nik Epton, notre coordinateur d'adhésion pour outre-mer, s'excuse de ne pas utiliser les accents sur les lettres. Le système qu'il utilise ne permet pas d'accentuation telle qu'appliquées dans les différentes langues locales.



**The Royal British Legion “Brussels Branch”
& The Royal Naval Association “Belgium Branch”
Calendar of Events 2010 (Provisional)
Version: 1- January 2010**



| Month | Day | Date | Event | Time | Location |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| January | Monday | 18 th | RBL Branch Lunch | 12h30 | Rest. “Le Rustique” |
| February | Monday | 8 th | RBL Branch Lunch | 12h30 | Rest. “Le Rustique” |
| March | Monday | 8 th | RBL Branch Lunch | 12h30 | Rest. “Le Rustique”. |
| March | Saturday | 20 th | RNA/RBL Spring Lunch | 12h30 | BRYC |
| April | Sunday | 4 th | Easter Sunday | | |
| April | Monday | 12 th | RBL Branch Lunch | 12h30 | Rest. “Le Rustique” |
| April | Friday | 23 rd | St Georges Day | | |
| April | Sunday | 25 th | HMS Vindictive Comm. | 10h00 | Zeebrugge |
| May | Saturday | 1 st | Labour-Day | - | - |
| May | Sunday | 2 nd | RBL Hotton & March | TBC | Hotton & March |
| May | Monday | 10 th | RBL Branch Lunch | 12h30 | Rest. “Le Rustique”. |
| May | Thursday | 13 th | Ascension | | |
| May | Sunday | 23 rd | Pentecost/Whit-Sunday | - | - |
| June | Monday | 14 th | RBL Branch Lunch | 12h30 | Rest. “Le Rustique”. |
| June | Saturday | 19 th | RNA/RBL SummerDinner Dance | 19h00 | BRYC |
| June | Saturday | 26 th | RBL Wreath Laying | 11h00 | Evere Cemetary |
| July | Sat/Sun | 10/11 th | Belgium Navy W.E. | 10-18h00 | Zeebrugge Base |
| July | Tuesday | 21 st | National Belgian Day | | |
| August | Sunday | 29 th | Tigelot Remembrance | 10h00 | Jalhay/Verviers |
| September | Saturday | 4 th | Brigade Piron | 10h00 | Molenbeek |
| September | Monday | 13 th | RBL Branch Lunch | 12h30 | Rest. “Le Rustique”. |
| October | Monday | 11 th | RBL Branch Lunch | 12h30 | Rest. “Le Rustique” |
| October | Saturday | 16 th | RNA/RBL Trafalgar Lunch | 12h30 | “Le Manoir du Lac” Genval |
| October | Monday | 18 th | RBL AGM | 14h00 | Embassy |
| November | Wednesday | 3 rd ? | Ambassador’s Reception | 18h00 | 17, Rue Ducale |
| November | Wednesday | 10 th | Torch Committee | 18h00 | Gare du Midi |
| November | Thursday | 11 th | Armistice Day | | |
| November | Sunday | 14 th | Remembrance Service | 12h00 | Holy Trinity Church |
| November | Sunday | 14 th | RBL Church Lunch | 12h45 | Holy Trinity Church |
| December | Saturday | 11 th | RNA/RBL Christmas Lunch | 12h30 | BRYC |
| December | Monday | 13 th | RBL Branch Lunch | 12h30 | Rest. “Le Rustique”. |
| December | Saturday | 25 th | Christmas Day | - | - |
| December | Friday | 31 st | New Year’s Eve | | |

BRYC : The ‘Bruxelles Royal Yacht Club’ is on the Chaussée de Vilvorde ((Pont Van Praet) 1020 Brussels.

RNA Monthly informal meetings are on the 2nd Saturdays of the month except for July and August.

Between 11h00 and 14h00.

The Restaurant ‘Le Rustique’ is situated: 155, Ave du Cimetière de Bruxelles in 1140 Evere, phone : 02/726.16.48.

Please also note:

Musée Royal 3, Parc du Cinquantenaire, B-1000 Brussels (opposite the Auto World)

de l’Armée: The Museum organises every 3rd Wednesday of the month except for July and August
a conference on a military theme in the Museum at 20h00.

Organises every 2nd Wednesday of the month (except for July and August)
a conference on a naval theme at the Bruxelles Royal Yacht Club at 20h00.

The “Red Coats” Society, 145 Bld de Smet de Naeyer, 1090 Brussels at 19h45

organise every 1st Tuesday of the month (except July and August) conferences on a British military theme.

Cercle Georges Lecointe (Belgian Navy)

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Hotton

Remembrance Service

Sunday 2nd May 2010

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION
BRUSSELS BRANCH



For more information: www.britishlegion.be or contact: info@britishlegion.be

webmaster@britishlegion.be