

THE WIPERS TIMES

BRUSSELS BRANCH (BR3416)

Local Patron : H.E. The British Ambassador
President: Brigadier A. Fisher

www.britishlegion.be

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2014



Invitation to the Hotton & La Roche Highland Memorial Commemorations of the Battle of the Bulge

Sunday 4th May 2014

Put the date of Sunday 4th May in your diaries, as this is the date for the RBL Brussels Branch Annual Commemorations in the Ardennes at Hotton and La Roche-en-Ardenne.



British Achilles Tank that liberated La Roche-en-Ardenne in the Battle of the Bulge

ALL are WELCOME to attend.

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Programme

- 07:30 sharp** - Depart from Kraainem Metro car park (junction of Avenue de Wezembeek and Avenue Vandervelde). Transport will be available - either minibus or private cars.
- 09:30** - Arrival in Hotton in front of the church near the river. Welcome coffee offered by the Town Council at "Le Jacquemart" restaurant.
- 09:45** - Church Service, led jointly by the Curate and The Reverend Ann Babb.
- 10:30** - Wreath laying and speeches from the town dignitaries at the Monument to the Fallen at the entrance to the church.
- 11:00** - Procession, following the local Band, (or by coach) through the town, up the hill, to the CWGC Cemetery, Rue de la Libération, Hotton.
- 11:15** - Ceremony of Remembrance with a welcome by our President and Reverend Ann Babb. Wreath laying and distribution of Poppy crosses.
- 12:00** - Reception, hosted by the town, in Hotton's Sports Hall.
- 13:00** - Lunch at "L'Astuce", Rue du Moulin 24, 6990 Hampteu/Hotton. 2 course menu with a glass of wine, water and coffee - at own expense.
- 15:30** - Memorial Ceremony and wreath laying at the 51st Highland Division monument at Rue du Chalet, La Roche-en-Ardenne.
- 16:15** - Return to Brussels.

N.B. To book your place on the mini bus and or lunch, please contact Mrs Andrée Ferrant, Honorary Secretary: e-mail: andree.ferrant@hotmail.com or GSM: 0494.61.96.65, by Saturday 26th April 2014, at the latest, so we can arrange the minibus and confirm the restaurant reservation.

We look forward very much to seeing you at this, one of the most important events in the RBL Brussels Branch calendar.

Restaurant in Hotton



Memorial Day Service & Lunch, Evere 2014

Saturday 28th June

The RBL Brussels Branch will hold the annual services of commemoration and wreath laying at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery (CWGC) and Battle of Waterloo Memorial, both located inside Evere Town Cemetery on Saturday 28th June.

We will meet at 11:00 for coffee at Les Brasseries Rustiques restaurant, opposite the entrance to Brussels Town Centre Cemetery, Evere, Brussels. We will then move into the cemetery to remember those who gave their lives and shaped the future of Europe in 1815 and during both World Wars. British dead of the Waterloo campaign are buried under a monument unveiled by Queen Victoria in 1890, and the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery contains the fallen from both World Wars. This will be followed by a self paid lunch, again at Les Brasseries Rustiques.

More details will be circulated nearer the time.



Group Captain Dick Whittingham President RAFA and Brigadier Andrew Fisher President RBL Brussels Branch. CWGC Cemetery, Evere, Brussels. © Alan Puplett

1914-2014 Centenary Commemorations

Brigadier Andrew Fisher President RBL Brussels Branch

2014... One hundred years since the four years of horror of the First World War began. Most people's knowledge of the war is pretty limited, although there cannot be many who do not know of the enormous loss of young lives and the terrible conditions in the trenches.



Brigadier Andrew Fisher President RBL Brussels Branch

The four years of the War are being replicated, starting this year. Major battles will be commemorated individually at their 100th anniversary, and towns and cities in the UK and Belgium are investing a lot of time and money in holding events and services over the period. Museums have been re-equipped and modernised.

Now is the best chance to fill in those gaps in our knowledge. There are books, DVDs and TV programmes that are now very easy to come by. So why not follow the historical chain of events as they are remembered.

Today, as Russian troops mass on the eastern border of the Ukraine, we are reminded that the First World War started there, too. I hope that we can demonstrate that Europe has at last learnt from its past mistakes and that any sort of **War is absolutely not an option.**

I look forward to meeting you, your families and friends at the RBL Brussels Branch main events at Hotton & La Roche-en-Ardenne to remember the fallen of the Battle of the Bulge in May; Our RBL Memorial Day Service & Lunch, Evere in June; Our RBL Remembrance Sunday Service follow by social get-together, Brussels. The details of which and our other events are included in this Newsletter.

I would like to finish by thanking the Editor, Alan Puplett, and all those who have contributed to this Newsletter. It is interesting, useful and a very good read!

The “Red Coats” Society, 145 Bld de Smet Naeyer, 1090 Brussels:

Conference on a British Military theme 1st Tuesday of each month (ex. July & August) - 19:45

Musée Royal de l'Armée, Brussels: EXPO 1914-1918 IT'S OUR HISTORY

Conference on a military theme 3rd Wednesday of each month (ex. July & August) at 20:00

www.klm-mra.be



Tribute to Myriam Wraith who went beyond the call of duty!

Brigadier Andrew Fisher RBL Brussels Branch President

I am grateful to have been asked to say a few words of gratitude for Myriam's life and her contribution to her family, her friends and all those who came in contact with her.

Her early departure has been a blow to everyone and to me at least, it was unexpected. Her husband Hubert, daughter Valerie and her beloved grandson John, will mourn her passing, and we offer them our help and support over the difficult time that lies ahead.

I knew her personally through her work for the Royal British Legion in Brussels.

Myriam had a warm heart and was always kind and generous to others. It was largely through her hard work and devotion to others that the Brussels Branch of the Legion has kept going for as long as it has.

She took on everything that was thrown her way and she particularly cared for those who needed help and assistance. All of us here, and a great many who are unable to be present, owe their love and gratitude and deeply regret that she will no longer be with us.

Although she did not always have it easy herself, she radiated a sense of fun and pleasure in what she was doing. My main recollection of her was at Hotton, that having arranged it all, including the collection of money, she still had the capacity to fuss over her baby grandson.

We certainly will remember her. I am personally very grateful to her, as indeed we all are, for her love, loyalty, team work and of course ... for being Myriam.

GOD BLESS HER

From a friend and colleague Andrée Ferrant

I met Myriam when I worked at the Embassy. I used to help her setting up the room and making sure all participants would be happy. Myriam took the train from the Ardennes and arrived with her heavy bags and her smile at the Embassy!

Over the years we became friends. She paid a lot of attention to the elderly members and spent much time on the poppy appeal. She struggled with RBL London to obtain the UK Veterans' badge for some of our veterans.

I took over from Myriam when she became ill . She was very patient and friendly in explaining the job to me. Myriam was also doing the newsletter. A wonderful lady, never complaining, always ready to help and smiling despite her serious health problems.

From another friend and colleague Claire Whitfield

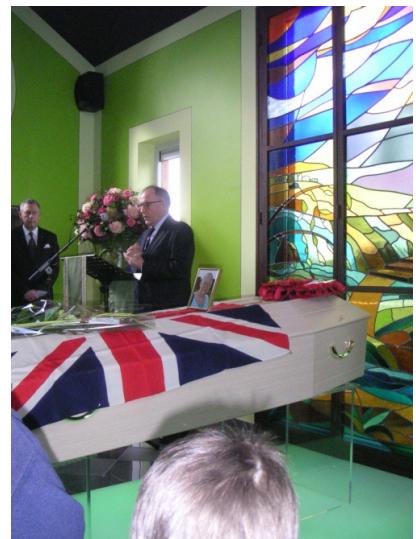
Myriam was a very enthusiastic Hon secretary, always smiling, always ready to help everyone and coming all the way from Haillot, in any kind of weather and staying late if need be. I worked with her for a few years in the Committee so I know how devoted she was. It was a pleasure to work with such a kind person.

Condolences from the RBL Brussels Branch

The Brussels Branch would like to extend its condolences to the families and friends of members who have passed away in the last few months. They will be sadly missed.

Mr. Emmanuel Longano MBE who passed away in January 2014 shortly after his beloved wife.

Mr. Bill Beange. Bill was a member of the RNA, after wartime service on the Atlantic convoys. He was an RBL protégé since the closing in Belgium of the RNA. His funeral took place with the aid of the Church of Scotland (Bill was born in Aberdeen in 1926), the RBL, the BCF and a previous employer.



Brigadier Andrew Fisher giving Myriam's Eulogy.
© Alan Puplett

Timeline of World War One - YEAR 1914: Part 1.

In 1914 World War One starts, after the build up of international tension throughout Europe. On the one hand the **Triple Entente** (Allies) which consisted of an alliance between **Britain**, **France** and Russia. On the other hand the **Triple Alliance (TRIPOLICE)** was the military alliance among **Germany**, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. **Germany** and Turkey had also a separate Alliance. Each member promised mutual support in the event of an attack by any other great power, or for Germany and Italy, an attack by **France** alone.

June 28 th	Franz Ferdinand assassinated at Sarajevo.
July 5 th	Kaiser William II promised German support for Austria against Serbia
July 25 th	Austria-Hungary severed diplomatic ties with Serbia.
July 26 th	Austria-Hungary ordered a partial mobilisation against Serbia. Britain suggested a conference to settle the 'Serbian Question'.
July 27 th	Germany refused the idea of a conference while Russia accepted it.
July 28 th	Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.
July 29 th	Germany refused to confirm adherence to Belgium's neutrality. Russia asked Germany to put pressure on Austria-Hungary to show restraint while ordering a partial mobilisation herself.
July 30 th	Germany warned Russia to stop her partial mobilisation. Austro-Hungarian War Production Law introduced.
July 31 st	Russia ordered a full general mobilisation.
August 1 st	Germany declared war on Russia - Great Britain and France order a general mobilisation.
August 2 nd	German forces cross frontier into neutral Luxembourg and demand right of transit through Belgium.
August 3 rd	Germany declared war on France and having implemented the Schlieffen Plan, invaded Belgium.
August 4 th	11 pm. Great Britain declared war on Germany. Germany declared war on Belgium. German troops attacked outskirts Liège.
August 5 th	Germans attack Liège fort system (Battle of Liège). Suffering heavy losses against the vastly outnumbered Belgians.
August 6 th	Serbia declared war on Germany. Austria-Hungary declared war on Russia. The British cruiser 'HMS Amphion' was sunk by a mine in the Thames estuary. Lord Kitchener appointed as Secretary of State for War.
August 7 th	British Expeditionary Force, troops landed in France. Known as the BEF and is made up entirely of Professional soldiers.
August 8 th	Defence of the Realm Act introduced in Great Britain - France captured Mulhouse in Alsace - Department of War Raw Materials was established in Germany.
August 11 th	Germany recaptured Mulhouse and drove the French out of Alsace.
August 12 th	Great Britain and France declared war on Austria-Hungary.
August 13 th	First squadrons of Royal Flying Corps fly to France.
August 17 th	The Russian 1 st and 2 nd armies advanced on East Prussia. With the Battle of Liège over, Germans push back the Belgian's to Antwerp and move towards Brussels as in the Schlieffen Plan, but they have been seriously delayed.
August 19 th	Serbian forces defeated the Austrians at Jadar River.
August 20 th	Brussels surrendered. Start of The Siege of Namur fort system. Big Howitzers like Big Bertha saw its collapse on 23rd Aug
August 21 st	Serbian troops forced Austrian troops out of Serbia. Orders are issued in Britain for raising of First New Army. Start of Battle of Charleroi by the Germans against the French, which fell 23rd Aug, with a view to the taking of Namur and Brussels.
August 22 nd	A French offensive in the Ardennes was defeated - Hindenburg and Luderndorff arrived at Marienburg to take command of the Germany army on the Eastern Front. The BEF 1 st encounter with the Germans, known as the 1 st Battle of Mons. Two VCs are won as the Germans are brought to a halt.
August 23 rd	The BEF withdraws from Mons due to the French Fifth Army's retreat on its right flank - Germany invaded France - The Austrian 1st Army engaged the Russian 4th Army at Krasnik.
August 25 th	The city of Lille was abandoned by the French - The Russian 4 th Army was forced to retreat from Krasnik.
August 26 th	Russian army defeated at Tannenberg and Masurian Lakes. BEF Battle of Le Cateau a tactical British Victory.
August 27 th	Royal Marines with their Rolls Royce scout cars and a unit of Royal Naval Air Service land at Ostend in Belgium.
August 28 th	First German attack on Verdun took place but was unsuccessful - The Battle of Heligoland Bight fought - The German Navy lost the cruisers 'Mainz', 'Köln' and 'Ariadne' – all three were sunk by the Royal Navy.
August 29 th	BEF halts (as at Mons) the German advance at St. Quentin and Guise - Samsonov, the Russian commander at Tannenberg, committed suicide - The Russian 3rd and 8th armies defeated the Austrians near Lemberg.
August 30 th	Paris bombed by aircraft of the Imperial German Air Force.
August 31 st	Battle of Tannenberg ended – 125,000 Russian troops were taken prisoner.
September 2 nd	The French government secretly moved to Bordeaux.
September 3 rd	Lemberg was occupied by the Russians. French aerial reconnaissance spotted gaps in the German advance towards the Marne and informed ground force commanders accordingly.
September 5 th	The French 6 th Army halts the German 1 st in the Battle of Ourcq 5 th to 8 th Sept, paves the way for the 1 st Battle of the Marne.
September 7 th	The BEF with the French 5th & 6th Armies on its flanks carry out a successful counter attack on the German 1st & 2nd. It lasted from 6th to 12th Sept. Famously 600 Parisien taxis brought 6,000 French réservistes to win the day on the 7th Sept

Timeline of World War One - YEAR 1914: Part 2.

September 8 th	Austria-Hungary invaded Serbia for the second time - "State of War" regulations introduced across the whole of France.
September 12 th	Conclusion of The 1 st Battle of Marne with the Germans pushed back 40 miles to well-defended positions on the north bank of the River Aisne. These were attacked in the 1 st Battle of Aisne that evening with appalling allied casualties. This was the end of their Schlieffen Plan and the start of dreaded trench warfare, which was to mark the conflict henceforth.
September 14 th	Moltke was dismissed of his command and replaced by Falkenhayn - This date marks the first time a radio was used in an aeroplane to direct artillery fire.
September 15 th	The first use of aerial photography by the Royal Flying Corps to assist ground forces.
September 22 nd	German U-9 sank three British cruisers off the Dutch coast - The Royal Flying Corps bombed Zeppelin sheds at Cologne and Düsseldorf.
September 25th-29th	Part of the "Race to the Sea" Battle of Albert, the French 2nd Army counter attack the Germans, but met solid resistance!
September 26 th	British Commonwealth Indian troops arrived at Marseilles. They build a tremendous reputation for Offence or Defence!
September 28 th	Germany starts off The Siege of Antwerp fort system. Howitzers such as Big Bertha's 420mm saw its collapse on 10th Oct.
October 1 st	1 st Battle of Arras French 10 th army counter attack the Germans with initial success and then repulsed and lose Lens.
October 3 rd	BEF begins to move its forces to Flanders to meet expected German offensive. Belgium starts evacuating Antwerp troops.
October 4 th	Britain sends fresh 6,000 troops to help defend Antwerp. Start of the first combined German/Austrian operation in Poland.
October 6 th	Belgium Government relocates from Antwerp to Ostend along with a lot of its population and all the defending troops.
October 8 th	The Royal Flying Corps bombed Zeppelin sheds at Cologne and Düsseldorf for the second time.
October 11 th	Start of the so-called Battle for Flanders, to save the Belgium coast and hence the ports. BEF Cavalry engaged near Hazebrouck. Three battles were fought concurrently La Bassee, Massines & Armentieres. Leading finely to Battle of Ypres.
October 14 th	German 4 th & 6 th Armies move forward to what becomes the most iconic struggle of the war, The 1 st Battle of Ypres. The BEF, aided by the French and Belgians on their flank, withstood a series tremendous assaults. All seemed lost but for the intervention of the 2nd Worcesters who plugged the gap. The Belgians flooded their area and the French had reserves!
October 17 th	Russian forces saved Warsaw from capture after 2 day Battle.
October 20 th	Trench warfare started to dominate the Western Front - First recorded sinking of a merchant ship by a U-boat when the 'Glitra' was sunk by U-17 off Norway.
October 29 th	Turkey entered the war on Germany's side.
November 1 st	Start of the 3 rd Austrian invasion of Serbia - The Battle of Coronel in the Pacific Ocean took place - 'HMS Monmouth' and 'HMS Good Hope' were lost with no survivors.
November 4 th	Austrians defeated at Jaroslav.
November 11 th	Start of the second combined German/Austrian advance into Poland.
November 18 th	Start of the Battle of Lodz – the German advance into Poland was halted by fierce fighting.
November 22 nd	The First Battle of Ypres ended with the onslaught of the Belgium winter. But with the professional BEF decimated, from now on the British Armies were conscripts. The gap to the coast was now closed, but the Germans would be back!
November 24 th	The German XXV Reserve Corps fought their way out of Lodz.
December 2 nd	Austrians captured Belgrade.
December 6 th	Serbia defeated an Austrian force at Kolubra River. Russian forces withdrew from Lodz.
December 8 th	Austria suffered a heavy defeat at a battle to the south of Belgrade. Battle of the Falkland Islands took place – the German Navy suffered heavy losses with over 1,800 men killed.
December 9 th	Warsaw bombed by the Imperial German Air Force.
December 12 th	Start of a major Austrian counter-offensive against Serbia
December 15 th	Serbia regained Belgrade. Austrian forces withdrew across their border.
December 16 th	Whitby, Scarborough and Hartlepool were bombarded by the German Navy.
December 24 th /25 th	Christmas truce especially along the Ypres Salient where Tommies and Fritz exchanged items from their 'Princess Mary boxes' or Kaiserliche. Even matches of football were recorded !

This Timeline article and layout was the idea of Jean-Pierre Pede with the main events from http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/1914_world_war_one.htm However, additions and amendments were carried out by Alan Puplett using:- <http://www.firstworldwar.com> & <http://www.1914-1918.net>



UK Minister for Africa, Mark Simmonds MP, sowed poppies with children of the British School of Brussels at the memorial to British nurse Edith Cavell ©British Embassy (all three pictures)



Dame Vera Lynn giving Fleur Empringham the main Raffle prize of the evening!

British Minister pays tribute to Edith Cavell

In one of the first commemorations of WW1, Minister Mark Simmonds, along with HE Jonathan Brenton, British Ambassador to Belgium, Mr. Paul Breyne, Belgian Federal Commissioner-General for the Centenary of the First World War, school children from the British School of Brussels BSB and members of the RBL Brussels, lays a wreath and sows poppy seeds at Edith Cavell-Marie Depage Memorial.

UK Minister for Africa Mark Simmonds (right) with Belgian Federal Commissioner-General for the Centenary of the First World War, Paul Breyne (left) and Deputy Head of Mission Katrina Johnson (centre).



UK Minister for Africa Mark Simmonds & British Ambassador to Belgium Jonathan Brenton (right)



A tribute to Dame Vera Lynn

By Fleur Empringham

I lived in Brussels during the German occupation, so understandably Very Lynn was unknown to me. But all this changed when, in January 1948, I joined my husband Arthur in Germany. Like all other service men and families, we listened to the weekly programme "Family Favourites" and Vera Lynn was a hot favourite. The lyrics of her songs went right to the heart of all men and women who had been in combat and experienced the trauma of war. And I soon realised how important Vera Lynn was to them.

In later years, Arthur joined the RBL Brussels Branch as a Committee Member in charge of the entertainment, including the Yearly Poppy Ball at the famous Metropole Hotel. The manager, Mr. Burca, was a true Anglophile and Arthur's request for the great hall was always granted. The purpose of the Poppy Ball was to collect money for the Charitable Fund and was considered to be the biggest event of the year in the British Community.

One should remember that in the 1960/1970 most English citizens living in Belgium had lived through the war years and were very supportive to the British Legion. In 1973, Arthur and Doug Cooper, Chairman of our Branch, had the brilliant idea of asking the support of Vera Lynn (she had not been made a Dame yet) by attending our Poppy Ball. Our expectations were great and our joy was unbelievable when we received her acceptance. We could now plan for the greatest ever Poppy Ball and, although for the two organizers (Arthur and I) it meant much extra work, we knew it was going to be worth the effort.

Arthur contacted the Metropole Hotel with the result that Vera Lynn and husband Harry Lewis were offered a suite free of charge. We started collecting prizes for our renowned tombola and that year we managed to get 400 prizes to be sold at 100 BF a ticket. I was in charge of the bookings and, instead of the usual 400 yearly bookings, that year the hall was filled to capacity with 600 people and I could have sold double. They wanted to come from all over Belgium to see and hear their own Vera Lynn. Vera also donated quite a number of her records which were sold for the benefit of our great cause and there was also a special raffle of a magnum of Gin. To my great astonishment, I had bought the winning ticket.

On the Friday evening Arthur and myself took Vera and Harry to a cocktail party at the British Consul's residence to which all important members of the British Community were invited, giving them the opportunity to meet Vera Lynn before the following night. After the party, we took them back to the Hotel for a private dinner with our Chairman, Doug Cooper, and his wife Dédé and 8 other members of the Committee.

As Patron of the RBL Brussels Branch, the British Ambassador and his Lady always attended our Ball and Vera Lynn and Harry Lewis were sitting at their table. Our Poppy Ball was sensational. Vera sang her well-known songs and there was a general atmosphere of great happiness. The evening passed all too quickly and when Vera prepared to leave, Doug Cooper, Arthur, Harry and I followed her up the few steps to a small balcony overlooking the hall. The orchestra had stopped playing and everybody in the room was looking up to this Great Lady. When 600 people started singing "Auld Lang Syne" it raised the roof and I realised that in their heart Vera Lynn was still their own Sweetheart. A never to be forgotten experience.

The 1973 Poppy Ball went down in history as the biggest ever Poppy Ball Contribution to our Charitable Fund. **All thanks to you, Dame Vera Lynn.**

Calendar of Events 2014

Sun 20 th Apr	HMS Vindictive Commemoration (TBC) Zeebrugge
Sun 4 th May	RBL Hotton & Highland Memorial Commemoration (Battle of the Bulge) & Lunch
Mon 12 th May	RBL Branch Lunch 12:00 - Les Brasseries Rustiques, Ave du Cimetière de Bruxelles 155, 1140 Brussels. Tel: Brenda 02 767 47 26
Wed 14 th May	Joint RBL / British Charitable Fund / Wednesday Club – Lunch. See details in this issue
Wed 28 th May	RAFA Remembrance Service at Rebecq. www.rebecq-memorial.eu
Mon 2 nd Jun	RBL Branch (70 th D-Day Anniversary) Lunch
Sat 28 th Jun	RBL Memorial Day Service & Lunch, Evere.
Sat 5 th Jul	RBL Joint Service of Commemoration, Ieper/Ypres (TBC)
Mon 14 th Jul	RBL Branch Lunch
Mon 4 th Aug (a.m)	Commemoration of centenary of Belgian involvement in WW1 at Liège
Mon 4 th Aug (p.m)	Commemoration of centenary of British involvement in WW1 at CWGC St Symphorien, Mons.
Mon 11 th Aug	RBL Branch Lunch
Sun 17 th Aug	RAFA Tigelot Remembrance at Jalhay. 63 rd annual commemoration 10:00 – Jalhay / Verviers
Sept / Oct	Joint RBL / British Charitable Fund / Wednesday Club - Harvest Lunch (TBC)
Wed 3 rd Sep	Commemoration of the 70 th Anniversary of the Liberation of Brussels 10:00 - Parc des Muses, Ave Brigade Piron, Molenbeek. Brigade Piron memorial
Mon 8 th Sep	RBL Branch (Brussels Liberation) Lunch
October	Start of Poppy Appeal
Mon 13 th Oct	RBL Branch (Poppy Appeal) Lunch
Sun 19 th Oct	Comète Line Reunion, Air Force Chapel, Basilique, Brussels.
Tue 21 st Oct	RBL Branch Annual General Meeting (TBC) 14:00 – Offices of Fulcrum, Ave de Tervuren, 168
Tue 28 th Oct	Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the WW1 Battle of Ypres.
Mon 3 rd Nov	RBL Branch (Remembrance) Lunch
Thur 6 th Nov	Ambassador's Veterans Reception (TBC) 18:00 – 20:00 Venue TBA
Fri 7 th Nov	Commonwealth Torch of Remembrance – Eternal Flame Rekindled 12:00 - Colonne du Congrès, Rue Royale, 1000 Brussels (TBC)
Sun 9 th Nov	Torch of Remembrance – Brought from England to Gare Centrale, Brussels. (TBC)
Sun 9 th Nov	RBL Remembrance Sunday Service follow by social get-together. 12:00 – Pro-Cathedral Holy Trinity, Brussels
Sun 9 th Nov	British Torch of Remembrance – Eternal Flame Rekindled 17:00 - Colonne du Congrès, Rue Royale, 1000 Brussels
Tue 11 th Nov	Belgian Armistice Day – 11:00 - Colonne du Congrès, Rue Royale, 1000 Brussels
Mon 8 th Dec	RBL Branch Christmas Lunch



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Duchess of Richmond's Ball - Saturday 28th June

With the bicentennial of the Battle of Waterloo approaching, the Brussels British Community Association (BBCA) will host an Embassy Ball in the elegant surroundings of the Palais d'Egmont, Brussels with all proceeds to charity. In fact, the RBL Brussels branch received €7,000 last year. For more information see www.dorb.be



Harry and Denise Moore, Kenneth Schrijvers and other RBL Members, enjoying the social nature of the Joint Lunch in Oct 2013. © Alan Puplett

Joint Spring Lunch

RBL, BCF and Wednesday Club joint event on 14th May 2014

Following the success of last year's joint lunches organised for senior members of the RBL, BCF and the Wednesday Club, the next lunch will be held at 12:30 Wednesday 14th May.

On this occasion, the Wednesday Club has organised the venue, which is to be the Restaurant l'Auberge St Pierre, 8 Parvis Saint Pierre, 1970. Wezenbeek Oppem. <http://www.laubergesaintpierre.be>

As before, efforts will be made to arrange transport for those who need it. Any senior member of the Branch may participate. Will RBL members who wish to attend, or if anyone can volunteer to transport a member to and/or from the l'Auberge St Pierre, then please contact Colin Puplett 02 767 47 26 or email Colin.puplett@pandora.be Details of costs and menus are available from Colin, as it is essential to pre-book and select your menu ASAP! as this is a very Popular Event!

For members that also attend the Wednesday Club, they should inform their usual Wednesday Club contact person in order to arrange transport.

Well wishes from the RBL Brussels Branch

Our dear friend of the RBL Brussels Branch, Claire Whitfield, has unfortunately taken a fall and hurt her back. We all wish her a speedy recovery - she was missed at the April 2nd Monday Lunch to celebrate her recent Birthday! Claire would love a call, as she is housebound.

Update on Harry Moore (Ex Chairman RBL Brussels Branch) - Harry is currently in a rehabilitation centre in Woluwé and will move with his wife Denise to an establishment better suited to Harry's requirements. I will give contact details in the next issue

One of our loyal supporters, Eric d'Hulster, is in a two month revalidation treatment, after two serious operations. We look forward to seeing him and his wife Brigitte at our future events.

About the Royal British Legion, Brussels

Caring and campaigning for the serving and ex-Service community

The Brussels Branch of the RBL has a mixture of predominantly, but not exclusively, British and Belgian members.

A number served in the last World War and remained in Brussels after its liberation from the occupying forces.

We actively seek Members, both serving and ex-servicemen or women, with a tie to the services, but all are welcome. Annual membership is €20.

We also provide a social focus for our members which includes trips, lunches and various other activities.

The RBL Brussels Branch, like others in Belgium, also provides military representation at a large number of ceremonies enacted at the various war graves and cemeteries throughout Belgium.

Our main fund-raising activity on an annual basis is the Poppy Appeal, particularly relevant in Belgium as it is representative of the poppies of Flanders and Picardy where some of the bloodiest fighting of the First World War took place.

Main email contact: info@britishlegion.be

Membership Contact: Jean-Pierre Pede
membership@britishlegion.be

www.britishlegion.be



The Brussels Branch provides welfare for a number of protégés who are ex-servicemen or women in need of varying levels of support. This includes hospital and home visits as well as financial assistance.