

# THE WIPERS TIMES

BRUSSELS BRANCH (BR3416)

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NEWSLETTER JULY 2015



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In this issue, we conclude our three-part presentation of the Battle of Waterloo. François Roberti-Lintermans addresses the question of how an Allied army, against all odds, managed to defeat Napoleon's loyal and battle-hardened troops. Also, we take you to St. Helena, one of the most inaccessible places in the world, where Napoleon was exiled shortly after his abdication on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1815.

Alan Puplett, in his capacity as (trainee) Standard Bearer for the Brussels Branch, attended the D-Day commemorations at Caen, Bayeux Cathedral and Cemetery, while Andrée Ferrant was at the Brigade Piron Monument on 4<sup>th</sup> September to participate in the commemoration of the Liberation of Brussels.

We include an article to commemorate the centenary of the execution, on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1915, of British nurse Edith Cavell, put to death for helping allied soldiers escape from occupied Belgium.

Finally, we present the first of what, hopefully, will become a regular feature of the RBL Brussels Newsletter: a *self-portrait of and by one of our members*. We begin with Kenneth Schrijvers and his boyhood memories in Ypres and the Limburg. We are convinced other members will want to follow Kenneth's example and share some of their life stories and memories with Newsletter readers. If so please contact the Newsletter coordinator.

**Michael Whitburn, Newsletter coordinator**

## BATTLE OF WATERLOO : EPILOGUE

In the aftermath of the Battle there is the abdication of Napoleon, his forced exile to St. Helena - that "wave battered rock" in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean - and the fall of Napoleon's Empire.

On St. Helena, Napoleon employs himself in writing his memoirs - and re-interpreting the facts to match his own view of history. With time, Napoleon will become a cult figure and an object of popular patriotic fervour.

Since Napoleon could not possibly have been responsible for losing the Battle, someone else had to take the blame. The obvious scapegoat was Grouchy - the traitor who failed to rush to the Emperor's rescue.

What actually happened however is much harder to explain.

The question is: how were Napoleon's loyal and battle-hardened troops kept in check by an army largely made up of inexperienced soldiers with no more than 7000 British army and a few thousand Belgian-Dutch veterans?

Courage had nothing to do with it. On both sides the men fought bravely. The superior discipline of the British troops is not enough to explain the French defeat, no more than the late arrival of the Prussian army with only part of their troops.

The truth is that the Emperor should, logically, have crushed the army of Wellington.

If an explanation is to be found for Napoleon's defeat, then it will almost certainly be related to the chain of command.

And what do we see?

Wellington, forever in the front line, observing everything, moving troops and firing batteries to close the gaps, intervening personally to encourage his men, and most importantly, using terrain to gain advantage, to provide protection for his men and surprise the enemy.

And Napoleon watching the Battle from a command post situated some 2kms away, giving too few orders and unable to oversee their implementation for lack of visibility, blindly launching frontal attacks. Only much later in the afternoon does Napoleon move his command post to the Belle Alliance, but it is much too late. The main infantry onslaught has been repelled for lack of coordination with the cavalry attack; the first two attacks against La Haye Sainte have failed for lack of coordination with the artillery, and the repeated and bloody attacks against Hougoumont have caused terrible losses.

The main reason for the French defeat was the lack of coordination. Ney, who commanded the left wing of the army, might have made a good coordinator, but he was too busy fighting the enemy.

At around 3:30 p.m., Ney ordered a mass cavalry charge against the Anglo-Allied line. Ney's cavalry overran the enemy cannons, but found the infantry formed in cavalry-proof square formations. Ney, without infantry or artillery support, failed to break the squares. During the Battle he had five horses killed under him. At the end of the Battle, Ney led one of the last infantry charges, shouting to his men: "Come see how a marshal of France dies!"

So, when all is said, coordination or rather the lack of it can be attributed to none other than the Emperor.

What happened? Was he ill? Though he himself always denied it, many think he was.

(Translated and adapted by M.W. from *Une bataille racontée à mes amis*, by François Roberti Lintermans, with the kind permission of the Association de la Famille Roberti a.s.b.l.).

## **St. HELENA THEN AND NOW**

Napoleon arrived in St. Helena, a British protectorate, just over 200 years ago aboard the HMS Northumberland. Then as now, the island of St. Helena was one of the most inaccessible and forbidding-looking places on Earth, reachable only by the mail ship, which travels there once a month from Cape Town.

The island, with a population of roughly 3,500, occupies 47 square miles and sits some 1,200 miles from the coast of Angola and 1,800 miles from Brazil. The nearest land is Ascension Island, 703 miles north, which is also a British territory serving as an R.A.F. and United States air base.

Not many tourists make the journey. On St Helena there are no sandy beaches, five-star hotels, renowned chefs or nightclubs filled with celebrities. Its main economic driver is the British bureaucracy.

Napoleon's trail is easy to pick up, it being the main attraction advertised in all the tourism brochures for the island.

Napoleon's first home on the island was the Briars, where he spent a few brief weeks while his permanent residence at Longwood was being refurbished. The house was deeded to France in 1959. The pavilion lies in a shady spot surrounded by gardens. The small one-room house has been restored to its original neo-Classical style, with imperial green walls and period furniture.

A short ride from the Briars brings visitors to Longwood House where, in his own words, the great ruler wore his "crown of thorns" and ultimately died on May 5, 1821, at age 51. Today the place looks nice, newly painted and restored, surrounded by trees and shrubbery. The interiors are fresh and clean after an international fund-raising effort by the French Consul.

But when Napoleon arrived, he found it a great disappointment. The house lay on an arid and damp plateau 1,800 feet above sea level, open to the buffeting winds and often blanketed with mist. Contemporary accounts paint the domicile, which Napoleon shared with his courtiers, their families, several servants, his doctor and the British orderly officer assigned to observe him, as a damp and cheerless.



**Napoleon at St. Helena**

Here it is easy to imagine Napoleon's last days. A visitor can stand on the latticed front porch and gaze at the limitless ocean, imagining the emperor doing the same as he scans the horizon for passing ships and bemoans his exile on *questa piedra maladetta* – "this cursed rock".

There are about 30 small rooms and a courtyard at the house. The anteroom contains the original billiard table over which Napoleon used to spread his maps as he dictated his memoirs and relived his missteps at Waterloo. The drawing room has a replica of the camp bed where Napoleon died, placed close to the wall between two windows. Past the main salon lies a small dining room where Napoleon attended formal dinners served on fine Sèvres porcelain by butlers in livery. More poignant are the portraits of the empresses Josephine and Maria Louisa on the walls, and on the fireplace mantel the bust of the so-called King of Rome, Napoleon's legitimate son. After the second abdication Napoleon was not allowed to see his family again, a loss he sorely felt.

Napoleon was first buried on the island, in Geranium Valley. In 1840, 19 years after his death, when the political climate in France had changed, the coffin was unearthened and the well-preserved corpse sent back to France.

(Adapted from *St. Helena, "Cursed Rock" of Napoleon's Exile*, an article by Anthony Mancini, published in the New York Times on April 1, 2012).

## 71<sup>ST</sup> D-DAY COMMEMORATIONS 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015

by Alan Puplett

### Bayeux Cathedral 10:00hrs

The remembrance service was attended by members of the public and around 150 veterans of WW2. Once every one was seated, the Standard Bearers were led in to stand around the Gothic Altar.

The Reverend Patrick Irwin, the Royal British Legion Chaplain to Normandy, told the veterans gathered that "we thank you from the bottom of our hearts".

Servicemen "showed courage" in the face of a "resilient and well-equipped enemy", but they had had trust in their comrades, he added.

Reverend Irwin went on: "It was trust in their mates that really mattered. This trust bound men on the beaches of Normandy and it binds men together still."

He told the veterans gathered: "Your historic achievements will remain as one of the defining moments in the history of the last century."

And he called for their sacrifices to continue to be remembered, adding: "It's for successive generations not to betray this trust."

Sir Peter Ricketts, Britain's ambassador to France, gave a reading ahead of an exhortation by Lieutenant Colonel David Whimpenny of the Royal British Legion featuring the immortal words: "They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old, age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn, at the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them."

The Last Post was especially moving as was the singing of the British National Anthem.

We were then led out of the Cathedral to be presented to VIPs and guests.

We, the Standard Bearers, then marched in procession behind the band to nearby CWGC Bayeux Cemetery, where we were brought to attention around The Cross of Sacrifice designed in 1918 by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

### Bayeux Cemetery 12:00hrs



Bayeux CWGC Cemetery bears the names of more than 4,100 of the Commonwealth land forces, including many British, who died in the Second World War.

There are also more than 500 war graves of other nationalities, the majority of them German.

More than 338 unidentified men who died during the conflict also rest at the cemetery, which is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

As D-Day servicemen withstood the warmth of the Normandy sun, wreaths were laid at the Bayeux Memorial by dignitaries including Sir Peter Ricketts and David Whimpenny of the Royal British Legion.

The Rev Irwin, who led the service, said: "Here in this cemetery, we are reminded of the cost of D-Day. We pay thanks and welcome enthusiastically the veterans for whose courage and determination we are most grateful."

Many veterans observed the service from their wheelchairs, surrounded by families and friends. Again, the Last Post brought tears to the eyes of many in the audience. The National anthems of both France and England were also sung.

After the services, and having completed my duties as Standard Bearer, I laid RBL Poppy crosses with the names of our passed Brussels branch veterans.

(Article compiled with the help of press reports and photos)

## 71<sup>ST</sup> D-DAY ANNIVERSARY AT THE CAEN MEMORIAL TO THE 3<sup>RD</sup> UK DIVISION 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015

by Alan Puplett

For me, my own connection with the D-Day Commemorations started with a Normandy Veteran, the sadly departed, ex RBL, ex NVA Member, Harry Shaw OBE.

During one of the many discussions I had with him, he talked to me about one of his war heroes: German Tiger tank commander Michael Whittmann! I knew nothing about Whittmann and was rather taken back. Here was this no-nonsense Yorkshire man, whom I respected, who had an impeccable war record as a gunner in a Sherman Tank (nicknamed the “Ronson” by the Germans); and for this man to have a German hero?

We had talked about going to Normandy together for the D-Day Commemorations. Harry had often been there as Hon. Secretary of the Normandy Veterans association, Antwerp Branch (sadly disbanded), but he had never visited Whittmann’s grave or seen the battle site where his German hero had lost his life.

As it turned out, he never did go. When he fell ill, I decided to undertake the pilgrimage on his behalf and pay my respects, and along the way attend a few D-Day ceremonies. When I got back, Harry was seriously ill in hospital, and not always conscious. I whispered in his ear that I had visited the Whittmann sites we had talked about and that I had taken photos. He woke and looked at them as I explained what I had seen, and I saw the tears running down his cheeks before he drifted off again. Harry Passed away peacefully in his sleep that very same night!

The 71<sup>st</sup> D-Day ceremony was held on the afternoon of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in the Memorial Gardens beside the Caen Memorial Museum. France was experiencing its first heat wave of the summer, at 31°C. There was a slight breeze, but for yours truly, the RBL Brussels Branch Representative Standard Bearer, it was hot, very hot standing to attention in the sun. This was my 2<sup>nd</sup> major event as our Branch Standard Bearer and I realized I still had a lot to learn.

My contact at the RBL, Rod Bedford, our Representative for overseas branches and districts, had informed me about these RBL D-Day Commemorations, an even though the event was being organised by the 3<sup>rd</sup>(UK) Army Division, we were welcome to participate. The dress code was very strict and dress code breaches were certainly not going to be tolerated by Lt. Col. David Whimpenny, the RBL Chairman of Membership. So I had to make sure I was wearing the right tie, remove all my lapel badges and my RBL blazer badge. Plus, I had to buy a white shirt for the RBL commemorations at Bayeux Cathedral, Bayeux CWGC Cemetery and Arromanches, all of which would be taking place the next day, on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

First, a quick summary of the history of the 3rd (UK) Division: based on Salisbury Plain, at the heart of the British Army, it is the only division in the UK that is permanently in a state of operational readiness. ‘The Iron Division’ consists of 1st Armoured Infantry Brigade (Tidworth), 12th Armoured Infantry Brigade (Bulford Camp), 20th Armoured Infantry Brigade (Paderborn, Germany) and 101st Logistic Brigade (Aldershot).

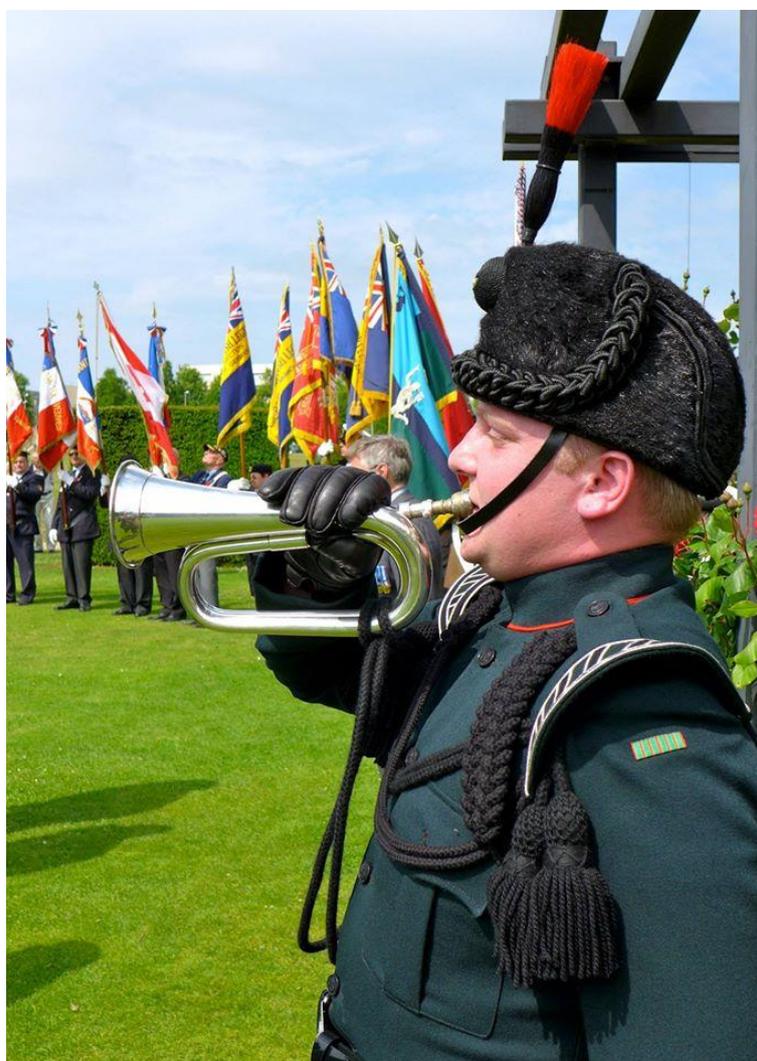
‘The Iron Division’ can trace its history as far back as 1809, in Spain, when in the early years of the Peninsular War the future Duke of Wellington decided, for the first time in the history of the British Army, to adopt a permanent divisional structure to help him fight the French.

The Division remained part of the Army structure throughout the 19th Century, fighting at The Battle of Waterloo (1815), against the Russians in the Crimean War (1854-6) and in South Africa during the Second Boer War (1899-1900).

The 20th Century saw the Division fight with distinction in the First and Second World Wars. In the First World War the Division was present at Mons (1914), Ypres (1915), the Somme (1916), Arras (1917), and finally as part of the occupation force of the Rhineland (1918-9), earning the nickname 'The Iron Division'.

During the Second World War there were two separate phases. First, the Division was part of the British Expeditionary Force sent to France to stem the German advance. It was evacuated from Dunkirk having fought bravely but unsuccessfully.

The second phase saw the Division lead the assault on Sword Beach on D-Day and fight as part of 21st Army Group across northern Europe and into Germany in 1945.



The 71<sup>st</sup> D-Day commemoration ceremony was conducted by an army chaplain. The Reading was given by Maj. Gen. Patrick Sanders, the General Officer Commanding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. He and other dignitaries laid wreaths after a moving rendition of the Last Post. A piper led participants the short distance to the Caen Museum, where speeches were given and gifts exchanged between Maj. Gen. Patrick Sanders and the Mayor of Caen.

## 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF BRUSSELS. COMMEMORATION AT THE BRIGADE PIRON MONUMENT

by Andrée Ferrant

On this beautiful September morning many distinguished guests, schoolchildren and a number of veterans of the Brigade Piron gathered around the monument to commemorate the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Liberation of Brussels by the Allies.



**RBL Branch members F. Delcourt (centre) and J.P. Pede (right) at the commemoration**

The Burgomaster of Molenbeek-Saint-Jean, Mrs Françoise Schepmans, gave a very good speech in which she explained, more especially for the benefit of the children present at the ceremony, the history of the Brigade Piron, a Belgo-Luxemburg unit that participated in the Battle of Normandy and the Liberation of Belgium and The Netherlands.

Colonel Jean-Baptiste Piron, commanded the brigade, and died at the age of 78 on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1978. He was buried in the cemetery of Molenbeek-Saint-Jean.

Mrs Schepmans insisted on the lessons to be learnt from history: war is not only something that is mentioned in history books or on monuments; there is war today, in countries like Syria, only a few thousand km away from Brussels. The children are the adults of tomorrow, who hopefully will build a better world than the world in which we live today. This can only be achieved with the help of their teachers, who do a great job explaining the history of their country.

The commemoration ended with the parade of the Veterans of the Brigade Piron, who received a well-deserved 'thank you' from the public.

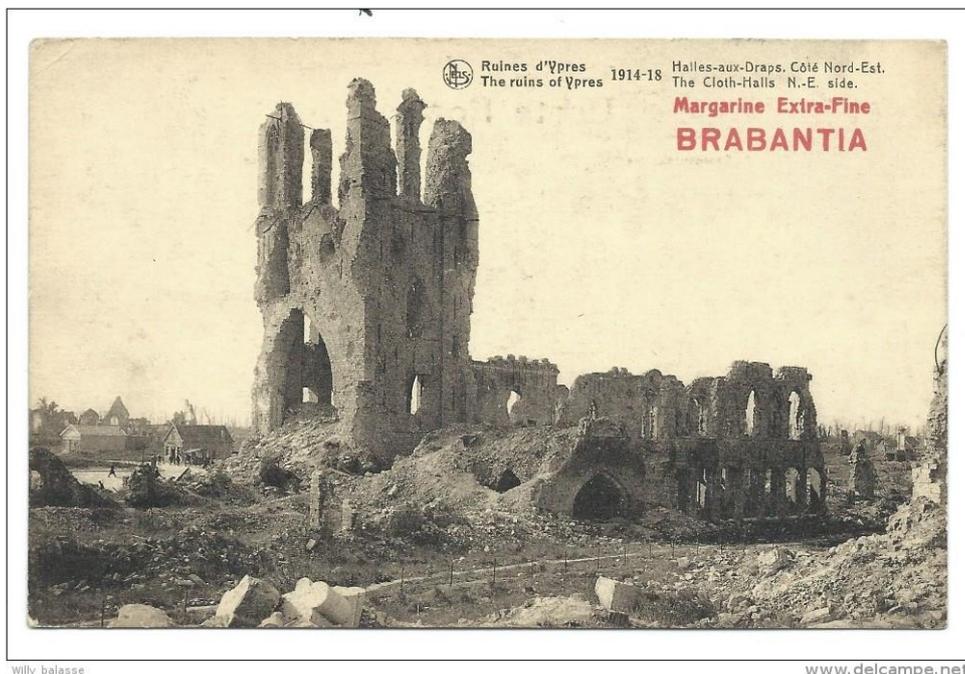
## ALL ABOUT ... ME

by Kenneth Schrijvers

I was born in Deurne-Noord (Antwerp) to an English mother and a Belgian father on 27th August 1920. My father had been a sergeant in the First World War and had twice been wounded in the Ypres sector.

Shortly after my birth, in October 1920, the family moved to Urmston (Manchester). Five years later, in 1925, the family was back in Belgium, at Ypres, where I was to spend the next 5 years of my life.

Most of my friends had fathers who were employed by the Imperial War Graves Commission, and I remember how we used to play among the ruins of the Cloth Hall - today home to *In Flanders Fields* museum. I became a member of the Royal British Baden Powell Boy Scouts and attended church services at St George's Memorial Church - built to commemorate over 500,000 British and Commonwealth troops who died in the three battles fought for the Ypres Salient during WWI.



**The ruins of the Cloth Hall in Ypres - an exciting playground for young Kenneth and his mates**

When I was 10 years old, my father was appointed Supervisor of Military Buildings, and the family moved house once again, this time to Limburg. My mother died in 1935. One year later, having passed the entry exam, I enrolled as a student at the Royal Flemish Cadet School, at Brustem (Limburg), and effectively joined the Belgian army on the basis of an 11-year contract.

I was mobilised in 1938 and again in 1939, and sent back to school when the political and military situation appeared to improve.

On 10<sup>th</sup> May 1940, I was awakened by the sound of dogfighting between Belgian and German planes. A few days later, we were all ordered on to a train bound for Argelès-sur-Mer (*département des Pyrénées-Orientales, région Languedoc-Roussillon*). We were then stationed at Valergues-Lansargues, near Lunel (*département de l'Hérault, région Languedoc-Roussillon*). At the end of August 1940, we were arrested on the Demarcation line and deported to Poland,

near Neu-Stargard, where we were imprisoned in Stalag IIB. Fortunately, I was released after just a few months, in December 1940, and in 1941, I was finally able to complete my studies, after which I was assigned a position by the Bureau for Demobilised Military at the Provincial Government in Hasselt (Limburg).

In January 1944, I left Hasselt for Molenbeek-St-Jean (Brussels), where I first found refuge at the Brasserie du Galop, at the corner of the Place Duchesse and the Rue de Manchester, but having been arrested by the *Geheime Feldpolizei* (Secret Military Police), I was then imprisoned from July 7<sup>th</sup> till the end of August 1944.

In October 1944, I joined the 77<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion of the US 7<sup>th</sup> Armored Division in the Ardennes, and in January 1945, I was reclaimed by the Belgian Army and made Lieutenant.

I was married in November 1947 to Carmen Putmans, having left the Army in July.

On 1<sup>st</sup> May 1948, I joined the Brussels Police Force and retired in 1980 with the rank of Divisional Police Commissioner.

## TRIBUTE TO MARK THE 30,000TH LAST POST AT THE MENIN GATE IN YPRES



The Last Post was sounded for the 30,000th time at the Menin Gate in Ypres on July 9th 2015.

To mark the anniversary, the Belgian town's personal tribute to the dead of the First World War was broadcast live and shared with a global audience. The Last Post was echoed at three locations in the UK: the grave of the Unknown Soldier at Westminster Abbey, Cardiff Castle in Wales and Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland.

The ceremony at the Menin Gate dates back to 1928. It is a tribute by the people of Ypres to the Allied soldiers who died in some of the bloodiest battles of the Great War.

The buglers of the Last Post Association, traditionally drawn from Ypres' volunteer fire brigade, blow the salute to the fallen every night at 8pm (CET).

The Menin Gate was built astride the road along which troops marched to the front, and commemorates the 55,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who have no known grave.

The Last Post has been sounded here without interruption since 1928. During the Second World War the tradition was kept alive at Brookwood Cemetery, near Woking, in the UK.

(Adapted from [centenarynews.com](http://centenarynews.com))

## LAST POST

by Carol Ann Duffy

Carol Ann Duffy was appointed as Poet Laureate in May 2009. She was asked by the BBC Radio 4 programme *Today* to write a poem to mark the deaths of Henry Allingham and Harry Patch, two of the oldest surviving veterans of the First World War. The poem was read by Duffy on *Today* on 30 July 2009, the day of Allingham's funeral.

The poem imagines "all those thousands dead" and pictures what would have happened to them if they had not died; "if poetry could tell it backwards" (adapted from Wikipedia).

If poetry could tell it backwards, true, begin  
 that moment shrapnel scythed you to the stinking mud...  
 but you get up, amazed, watch bled bad blood  
 run upwards from the slime into its wounds;  
 see lines and lines of British boys rewind  
 back to their trenches, kiss the photographs from home-  
 mothers, sweethearts, sisters, younger brothers  
 not entering the story now  
 to die and die and die.

(...)

You walk away; drop your gun (fixed bayonet)  
 like all your mates do too-  
 Harry, Tommy, Wilfred, Edward, Bert-  
 and light a cigarette.  
 There's coffee in the square,  
 warm French bread  
 and all those thousands dead  
 are shaking dried mud from their hair  
 and queuing up for home. Freshly alive,  
 a lad plays Tipperary to the crowd, released  
 from History; the glistening, healthy horses fit for heroes, kings.

You lean against a wall,  
 your several million lives still possible  
 and crammed with love, work, children, talent, English beer, good food.  
 You see the poet tuck away his pocket-book and smile.  
 If poetry could truly tell it backwards,  
 then it would.

## EDITH CAVELL



Edith Cavell was born on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1865. Having worked for several years as a governess in England and Brussels, Cavell returned home in 1895 to care for her father. It was then that she decided to become a nurse. She trained at London Hospital, during which time she helped care for the victims of an epidemic of typhoid fever and subsequently received the Maidstone Medal for her efforts.

After working several years as a nurse, Cavell returned to Brussels and became head of a pioneering training school for lay nurses at the Berkendael Institute. By 1914, when World War I broke out, the school was training top quality nurses for hospitals, schools, and private nursing homes.

Cavell often travelled back to England to visit her mother and it was in England that she heard of the German invasion of Belgium. Though well aware of

the dangers, she decided to return to her post in Belgium. The Berkendael Institute became a Red Cross Hospital, where Cavell cared for both German and Allied soldiers.

Cavell helped hide fugitive Allied soldiers and refugees from the Germans until arrangements could be made for their escape. She also supplied them with money and identification documents.

The German secret police began to suspect Cavell and others at the institute of harbouring the fugitives of war. Still, they could find no evidence to support their conviction. Then, on July 31, 1915, members of an escape route team that Cavell had worked with were captured. Cavell was arrested five days later and admitted she had participated in the escape operations. Under German law, the penalty was death.

Despite appeals for clemency from the American and Spanish ambassadors, Cavell was sentenced to death and faced a firing squad on the morning of October 12, 1915. Cavell was executed in her nurse's uniform and buried near the place of execution (near today's RTBF building).

Cavell's execution backfired on the Germans, who were immediately denounced as "murdering monsters." Cavell's death helped strengthen Allied morale and raise Allied army recruitment. It may also have contributed to the United States entering the war.

After the war, in May 1919, Cavell's body was exhumed and returned to England. With great ceremony, she was taken to Westminster Abbey for a memorial service attended by King George V and was later buried at Norwich, England.

Today, a statue at St. Martin's Place, near London's Trafalgar Square, honours her memory. The statue is engraved with a statement made by Cavell to her last English visitor before her execution. It reads: "Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness for anyone."

Read more: <http://www.faqs.org/health/bios/64/Edith-Cavell.html#ixzz3ojVJSMNM>

**EDWARD HEARN (d.29/8/2015)**

(from the Telegraph Obituaries column)



Squadron Leader Edward Hearn, who has died aged 93, was the bomb aimer of a Lancaster that was severely damaged over the target and his courage resulted in the award of an immediate Distinguished Flying Cross; a Bar was added after he was shot down over occupied France.

On one night in June 1943, Hearn and his crew were tasked to attack Cologne. Over the target, their Lancaster was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The damage was extensive and the windscreen around the pilot's cabin was shattered, flying splinters blinding Sergeant Cecil Wilkie, the pilot, who managed to stay at the controls. Fragments of shrapnel also injured Hearn and another member of the crew. Despite his injuries, Hearn stayed at his post in the nose of the bomber and directed Wilkie to the aiming point before releasing the bombs. Still unable to see, Wilkie flew the aircraft by touch, aided by the flight engineer. Hearn directed the two men to avoid searchlights and the heavy anti-aircraft fire in the area. Later, Wilkie regained limited vision in one eye and was able to fly the Lancaster back to its base near Lincoln.

Wilkie was awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal, second only to the Victoria Cross. Hearn received a DFC and two other members of the crew were decorated. The combined citation concluded: "In most harassing circumstances these members of aircraft crew displayed courage, fortitude and determination of the highest order."

After recovering from his wounds, Hearn attended a specialist bombing course before returning to No 50 Squadron as the bombing leader.

On August 7, 1944, the Lancasters of No 50 Squadron were tasked with attacking a strong-point in the battle area. Over the River Seine, a German night fighter shot down his Lancaster. Three members of the crew were killed but Hearn managed to bail out. He hid in a wood for three days before meeting a Frenchman who gave him shelter and put him in touch with members of the Resistance; they escorted him across the Seine, heading west in the hope of meeting the advancing Allies.

Finally, on August 28, an officer in the airborne forces collected him and he was soon returned to England.

Hearn was awarded a Bar to his DFC for his "unflagging zeal, courageous bearing and coolness in face of the enemy". After service in India, he left the RAF in September 1946.

He was chairman of the RAF Escaping Society in Belgium and president of the Royal Air Forces Association branch in Brussels.

Edward Hearn is survived by his wife, Paule and their two sons.

(<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/11861903/Squadron-Leader-Edward-Hearn-obituary.html>)

**The Brussels Branch wishes to re-iterate its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Edward Hearn.**

### CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2015

<b>Tue 20<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Annual General Meeting. Venue: The Fry Group, 168 Av. de Tervuren, 1150 W-St-P - 12:30
<b>Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Uccle Cultural Centre, Rue Rouge, 1180 Brussels : Projection of a film concert of the restored 1928 film of Edith Cavell entitled « Dawn » - 19:30
<b>Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Belgium Memorial Day with the reading of names of military and civilian war casualties of all nationalities who died in 1915, Colonne du Congrès, Rue Royale, 1000 Brussels - 14:00 to 18:00
<b>Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Commonwealth Torch of Remembrance - Eternal Flame Rekindled, Colonne du Congrès, Rue Royale, 1000 Brussels
<b>Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	RBL Remembrance Sunday Service followed by social get-together, Pro-Cathedral Holy Trinity, Rue Capitaine Crespel, 1050 Brussels - 12:00
<b>Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	RBL (Remembrance) <b>Lunch at the new venue</b> , Le Saint Hubert, Place des Chasseurs Ardennais, 20, 1030 Brussels
<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Belgian Commemoration of Armistice Day attended by the King of the Belgians, Colonne du Congrès, Rue Royale, 1000 Brussels - 11:00
<b>Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	RBL Christmas Lunch, Le Saint Hubert, Place des Chasseurs Ardennais, 1030 Brussels - 12:00

### FRIENDS OF THE FALLEN

11<sup>th</sup> November - What does Armistice Day mean to you?

In Belgium, there are 220 Communal or Church cemeteries where the graves of British and Commonwealth soldiers or airmen bear witness to two World Wars.

They lie alone, far from what was once their country, whether the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand or another Commonwealth country.

The Friends of the Fallen are members and supporters of the Brussels branch of the Royal British Legion. Once a year, on or around Armistice Day, they place Poppy-crosses, or Star of David or non-denominational Poppy sticks on lonely graves of British and Commonwealth soldiers and airmen as a sign that these young men and women are not forgotten. Each small cross should be seen as proof that we respect their memory and the sacrifice they made for their country, their loved ones and ... *you*.

If you would like to place a Poppy-cross or Poppy-stick on a lonely grave and make your Armistice Day more meaningful, please contact **Jacqueline Daugnaix-Whitfield** by phone (071/63.36.86 or 0478.66.23.44) or E-mail, on [jachrida49@gmail.com](mailto:jachrida49@gmail.com), mentioning the location of the cemetery and the names of the soldiers or airmen you wish to honour.

There is probably a cemetery not far from where you live, where a lonely soldier or airman is buried. You will find more information on: <http://www.inmemories.com/index.htm>

Crosses and sticks are supplied free of charge for RBL members. Supporters are asked to contribute €2.00 per cross. Should you wish to make a donation to the RBL Poppy Appeal, please say you want to become a 'Friend' when you contact Jacqueline Daugnaix.

## POPPY APPEAL 2015

Our 2014 Poppy Appeal proved to be an exceptional success and we would like to continue in the same vein for 2015 for our very worthy veterans.

The Brussels Branch remains extremely grateful for the support that it receives from all locations when it comes to its Annual Poppy Appeal. However, the success of the Appeal would not be possible without the help and support of all the volunteers who so generously give their time to deliver and/or collect the poppies and collecting tins.

With 127 poppy boxes and collecting tins to deliver and collect, a team of people works hard to ensure timely delivery for the Remembrance-tide period from 22 October to 11 November. We are always looking for new volunteers to deliver and/or collect - even if you can only manage one or two, this would be a great help. If you would like to join our team, please contact **Ann Morley** at [poppy@britishlegion.be](mailto:poppy@britishlegion.be) or by telephone on 0477 758 916.

### Where to buy your Poppy this year:

Air Museum, Parc Cinquantenaire, 1040 Brussels  
 All Saints Church, Chaussée de Charleroi 2, 1420 Braine-l'Alleud  
 St. Anthony's Church, Oudstrijderslaan 23, 1950 Kraainem  
 St. Andrew's Church of Scotland, Chaussée de Vleurgat 181, 1050 Brussels  
 BEPS International School, Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 23, 1050 Brussels  
 British & Commonwealth Women's Club, Rue au Bois 509, 1150 Woluwé St. Pierre  
 British Chamber of Commerce, Bvd. Bishoffsheim 11, 1000 Brussels  
 British Embassy and UK Representation, Ave d'Auderghem 10, 1040 Brussels  
 British International School, Emile Maxlaan 163, 1030 Brussels  
 British School of Brussels, Leuvensesteenweg 19, 3080 Tervuren  
 BUFC, Nekker Sports Centre, Mechelen  
 Burston Marsteller, Sq de Meeûs 37, 1000 Brussels  
 European Parliament, Sq de Meeûs, 1000 Brussels  
 Eurostar terminal, Gare du Midi, Ave du Fosny 47b, 1060 Brussels  
 Fleischman-Hillard, Sq de Meeûs 35, 4th floor, 1000 Brussels  
 FTI Consulting, Avenue Marnix 23, 1000 Brussels  
 Hill & Knowlton, Rue Montoyer 51, 1040 Brussels  
 Holy Trinity Church, Rue Capitaine Crespel 29, 1050 Brussels  
 ISF Waterloo International School, Chaussée de Waterloo 280, 1640 Rhode-Saint-Genèse  
 Lycée de Waha, Bvd d'Avroy 96, 4000 Liège  
 Marks & Spencer, Avenue de la Toison d'Or 26-28, 1050 Brussels  
 Michael Collins, Rue du Bailli 1, 1050 Brussels  
 Schuman Medical Practice, Boulevard Charlemagne 37, 1000 Brussels  
 SHAPE, 7010 Mons  
 Slaughter & May, Sq de Meeûs 40, 1000 Brussels  
 St. John's International School, Drève Richelle 146, 1410 Waterloo  
 St. Paul's British Primary School, Stationstraat 3, 3080 Tervuren  
 Sterling Books, Rue Fossé aux Loups 38, 1000 Brussels  
 Stonemanor, Steenhofstraat 28, 3078 Everberg  
 Stonemanor, Chaussée de Waterloo 41, 1640 Rhode-Saint-Genèse  
 Swedish/English Shop, rue Archimède 59, 1000 Brussels  
 Trafalgar, Passage Linthout 2-3, 1200 Brussels  
 Treasure Trove, Brusselssteenweg 7, 3080 Tervuren  
 UK Delegation at NATO, Ave Leopold III, 1110 Brussels  
 Waterstone's, Bvd Adolph Max 71-75, 1000 Brussels  
 Watson's Fish and Chip Shop, Chaussée de Bruxelles 192, 1410 Waterloo  
 Welsh Assembly, Rond Point Schumann 11, 1040 Brussels

## MEMBERSHIP FEE 2016

As a result of a decision by Central Office in London, there have been a number of changes in how your RBL membership is renewed and your membership fee is collected. Please take time to carefully read and carry out the following instructions:

Renewal of membership is due on 1st October (payment to be made from 1st October till 7th November 2015).

The amount (set by RBL UK) is **22.00 €/year**.

If you have recently received a letter from London asking you to pay your membership fee, **please follow the instructions for payment of €22.00 into their Bank account as laid out in the RBL letter.**

Members who have not received instructions from London are kindly requested to pay their Membership fee of **€22.00 into Brussels Branch Bank account IBAN: BE89 2100 1555 2485, BIC: GEBABEBB of RBL- Hon. Treasurer, Avenue de Tervuren 262/b6, B 1150 Brussels** with the mention: **Membership 2016 + your first name and surname, before 7/11/2015.**

We are sorry to bother you with these administrative issues, but it is imperative for our Brussels Branch that all fees be paid to London by mid-November 2015.

**Be careful however not to pay twice.**

You will receive your new Membership card directly from London with a new Member registration number.

With my very best regards,

J.P. Pede

tel: +322/7363180

e-mail : [jppem.jp@gmail.com](mailto:jppem.jp@gmail.com)

**Happy birthday wishes** to the 36 branch members who have celebrated their birthdays since the previous issue of the Newsletter in July: Beryl Ann Barlow-Harris, Raymond Bove, Michael Brereton, Ivan Brogniez, Susan Calamassi-Stewart, Griet Claerhout, Georges Colpaert, Mark Crane, Jacqueline Daugnaix-Whitfield, Michelle Davison, Fernand Delcourt, Erich d'Hulster, Roger Ellis, Fleure Empringham, Andrée Ferrant, David Fieldsend, Gaston Francson, Edwin Lefebre, Jules Lizen, Chantal Moerman, William Moore, Viviane Pede, Jean-Pierre Pede, Mireille Picron, Bernard Pire, Octavien Ricour, Freddy Roiseux, Gregory Ruthven, Kenneth Schrijvers, Desmond Senior, Heidi Taylor-Volker, Robert Thonon, Georges Van Hecke, Jill Whitburn, Chris White, Lisa Wingate-Hakin

We would also like to offer our very special congratulations to the branch members who have recently celebrated their **90+ birthday**. Finally, our belated but **warmest greetings to Michael Rose**, who celebrated his birthday in May, but whose name was inadvertently left out of the Happy birthday wishes list in July.

*With many thanks for their contributions to this October issue to Alan, Andrée, Ann, François, Jacqueline, Jean-Pierre, Kenneth and, for her invaluable technical assistance, Filomena.*