

Edition Date: January 2022

We will remember them

Guy Obbard of Petersfield
Our sincere condolences to family and friends.

Our mission is to safeguard the welfare, interests, and memory of those who are serving or who have served in the Armed Forces

Editorial Comment.

We wish everybody a Happy New Year. This New Year brings new things. For one, it brings a new editor for the Hampshire Link. My first duty is to say a very big thank you to Darron Back who has stepped down after more than five years of dedicated hard work as editor. It will be very difficult to follow in his footsteps and I thank him for his patience and valuable advice in allowing me to continue.

I would like to make an appeal to all our branches for any news that they have and would like to see in the Hants Link. This is an excellent way of sharing both branch and individual news and achievements. Most branches have recently undergone elections of office bearers and the email list for this newsletter will now need to be adjusted accordingly. Please let me know via email if office bearers have changed.

By way of background I served in the Rhodesia forces and then in the South African army and have an avid interest in military history. This prompts me to put in articles of such a nature when there is no news from the branches. I hope that the content is of interest. We have a proud military heritage in Great Britain and all the stories need to be told. It would be excellent if veterans of our more recent conflicts also contribute their stories, memories and experiences. It is part of the Remembrance process.

The wider RBL membership community also has a vital role to play. They are the mainstay of our organisation. They work tirelessly to support those in need. This includes fund raising for the Poppy Appeal, welfare support, visits and more. A good friend of mine talks about the "One Team" concept within the RBL. We are all in this together; help is a call away and does not need to be a complicated business. We are there for each other.

Quote of the month

**The armed forces are the nations insurance policy.
If you let the policy lapse, you are not covered when
there is a disaster.**
DW

Being a Veteran

The transition from serving soldier to veteran – the psychological journey. When a member of the armed forces is at the end of their career or contract they are in a transitional period of leaving one environment for another. They have all undergone basic training to convert them from civilian to soldier. They have all been utilised in a specific military role according to mustering / trade / qualification. The implication is that they are not civilians and they never can be. You cannot undo the military training process. Once it is completed it is completed forever. Hence a soldier can never be a civilian again. They remain soldiers. On leaving the armed forces there is a process of re-integrating into a civilian environment. Since you cannot "undo" the training, a soldier / sailor / airman becomes a veteran. They cannot be civilians. Their experiences and memories of service whether in combat or not, cannot be made to disappear. They do not change overnight, as if a switch has been thrown to make them something else.

The veteran has a specific role to play in society, and they can do so, using their skills and ability to work with people from all walks of life. The move from the military into the life of a veteran is a massive change. Soldiering requires much physical and mental agility. It requires instant decision making, taking the lead in various circumstances, including dangerous ones. There is an intense sense of military family amongst the armed forces. This includes the personnel in uniform, their extended family and dependents. It goes even further than this. It extends to service personnel of other countries who have been in similar circumstances during deployment. It is a "Brotherhood" for want of a better description. Many veterans even tend to include former enemies in the "Brotherhood". The over-riding eligibility for the "Brotherhood" is the fact that its members, as armed forces personnel, have been in harms way and have the same experiences of danger, fear, adverse weather conditions and harsh environments.



Association of Discharged Soldiers and Sailors (ADSS) badge. A precursor to the RBL

What's happening in the Neighbourhood?



Cruiser Mk IV tanks of the 1st Armoured Division parading through Alton in Hampshire
Photo from the Imperial War Museum

RBL Membership in Hampshire




Our County has one of the larger number of branches and members. There are currently approximately 61 branches and 12 clubs. membership is a constant concern as overall the RBL is losing members and therefore is getting smaller.

Membership in Hampshire	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	
	10,668	10,793	8281	-23.28%

At present there are approximately 180,000 members of the RBL and there are 2470 branches. At the rate the membership is declining at present, there will only be 80,00 in five years time. For the RBL to continue its crucially important work in supporting serving personnel, veterans and their dependents we need to try and retain membership and actively recruit more members. One of the contributing factors for this loss is due to the fact that 41% of our members left due to a lack of access to RBL clubs, poor branch performance and as a result the closure of branches.


This brings us to ask why join the RBL to begin with? Personally I joined the RBL for three very specific reasons. The first reason is that I am a veteran and served for a total of 33 years and wanted the company of fellow veterans (and families) to share common experiences and their comradeship. The second reason is because there is a desire to do something positive for veterans, serving personnel and their dependants. The third and probably the most important reason was the act of Remembrance.

This Comradeship model was part of the presentation made to the last Hampshire County meeting. It summarises the situation and is a guideline for branches to regenerate our efforts to move forward to ensure that the legacy of the RBL is in place for future generations.

Andover Armed Forces Veterans

You are invited to attend the Andover Veterans Brew, Banjo and Banter Club. We meet every first Saturday of the month between 10:00hrs and 12:00 hrs at the British Legion Club, 4 Western road, Andover, SP10 2JG

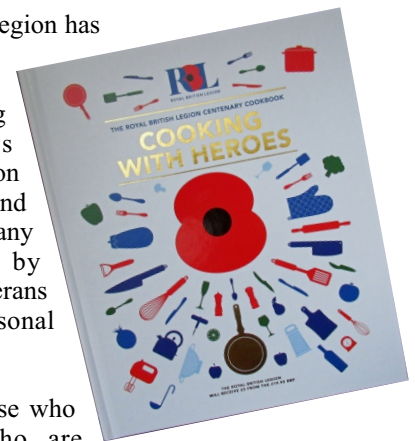


Waterside Veterans

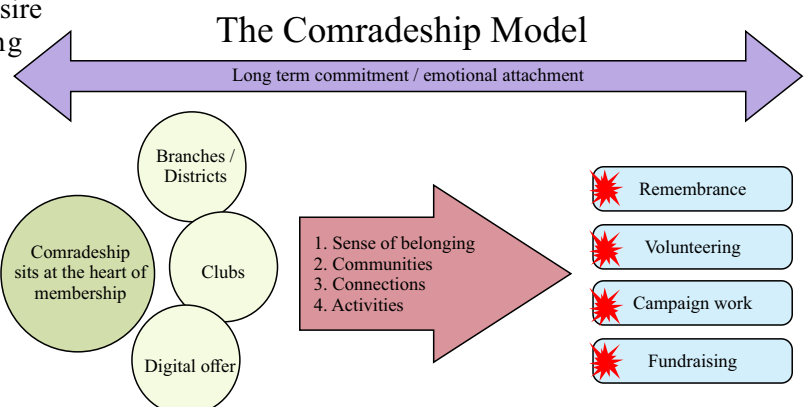
Meet every 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00hrs at Fawley and District RBL, Exbury Road, Blackfield, SO45 1XD. Ph 07979673343. Email WVCC@btinternet.com. Open to military veterans, serving personnel, families and dependants. Enjoy a cuppa, bacon butty and share stories.

Recipes from the RBL

The Royal British Legion has published a Centenary cookbook called "Cooking with Heroes". It is available to be bought on line through the Legion and is well worth it. It has many great recipes chosen by serving personnel and veterans and features their personal stories.



It is a must have for those who enjoy cooking and who are interested in the personal stories of our service personnel.



Branch News

Fleet, Crookham & District Branch

At the branch AGM on 6 December, Air Commodore Bill Tyack CBE stood down as Chairman after 15 years of successful Branch leadership and Simon Gornall accepted the Badge of Office.

Since November 2006, Bill's experience, wise knowledge and effective management touched and improved every aspect of the Branch. Bill has promoted and increased membership, comradeship and events, organized The Poppy Appeal and fund-raising, along with Remembrance and BCS.



Bill Tyack receives his Certificate of Appreciation from Tim Russell, Chairman Hampshire County RBL



Bill Tyack receives a farewell gift and Simon Gornall wears his new Badge of Office

Bill Tyack's drive to promote The Poppy Appeal and recruitment of Poppy Appeal collectors has been demonstrated by ever growing total amounts; in 2021 a Branch record of £59,600+ was collected. His (and Judy Tyack's) commitment to The Poppy Appeal is demonstrated by him continuing as Poppy Appeal Organiser and their home, Roughwood House remaining Poppy Appeal HQ.

Bill has driven the Branch's outreach to others in Fleet and Crookham. Most notably, a strong relationship with 3 Royal School Military Engineering (Royal Engineers) at Gibraltar Barracks, Minley who now lead the reprised Remembrance Sunday parade through Fleet. In addition, 4(Fleet & Crookham) Troop and 8(Gibraltar Barracks) Troop, Army Cadet Force are now affiliated to the Branch. The recently established Crookham and Fleet Mens' Shed are now firm

friends of the Branch helping manufacture full-size Tommy's for Remembrance and other initiatives.

Bill's leadership and management has set the standard for committee members to represent Fleet, Crookham & District Branch and the wider Royal British Legion. Thank you Bill and Welcome Simon.

Petersfield Branch

The Petersfield Branch held their Christmas Dinner at the Half Moon Sheet on the 14th December. Branch Secretary David Lloyd kindly sent in some photos of the celebrations



Grace



Santa & Mrs Santa alias David & Kristina Lloyd flanked by Peter Waddington,



"Wilf" Guest of honour and mascot

Condolences



There was also some sad news from Petersfield. Guy Obbard passed away and the community attended his funeral. We remember him.



Sons of Hampshire

A Son of Hampshire by default. Born in 1915, Gerard Ross 'Toys' Norton VC MM served with the 1/4th Hampshire Regiment during World War Two. He was born in South Africa and was educated at Selborne College, East London. He was an excellent



sportsman and played cricket, rugby and tennis. He joined Barclays Bank at Umtata in the Transkei and started his military career undergoing peacetime military training with the Middelands Regiment. He was transferred to the Kaffrarian Rifles in East London at the beginning of the Second World war. In 1943, he transferred to the 1/4th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment and saw active service in Italy with the battalion. He started as an NCO and was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry. He then took a Commission and continued to serve as an officer with the regiment.



On 31 August 1944 1/4th Hampshire Regiment was ordered to attack enemy positions at Montegrifolfo, Italy, Lieutenant Norton's platoon was pinned down by heavy fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, he advanced alone and attacked the first machine-gun emplacement that was firing at his men and killed the crew of three. He then advanced a second position containing two machine-guns and 15 riflemen, and wiped out both machine-gun nests, killing or taking prisoner the remainder of the enemy. Throughout these attacks he was continuously under direct fire from a self-propelled artillery gun. Once these obstacles had been dealt with Lt Norton then went on to lead his platoon against the remaining enemy positions. For his actions he was awarded the Victoria Cross. It was gazetted on 24 October



1944. Later in the war he was promoted to captain. Once the war ended he moved to Rhodesia (Zimbabwe today), where he ran a large tobacco plantation and became a Rhodesian citizen. Gerard Ross Norton died on 29 October 2004.

Lt Col Mayfield DSO LVO. Buried at Wolverton, North Hampshire

Lt Col Mayfield was commissioned in 1949 and served with the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards as a Platoon Commander during the Malaya Emergency from 1949 – 1951. In September 1948 the Battalion left at short notice for Malaya where it conducted operations against Communist Terrorists until returning home in 1951. 6 Officers and 8 Other Ranks from the Battalion were killed in action on these operations.



In 1952 – 1955 he served as a Lieutenant with the 1st Bn in Cyprus & Egypt.

1956 – 1957 as a Captain he was Adjutant of Eaton Hall National Service Officer Cadet Training School, Chester.

From 1958 – 1961 he served as a Major with 1st Bn in Germany. In 1963 to 1965 he was Company Commander of

K Company Scots Guards, training recruits at the Guards Depot, Pirbright, Surrey. In 1966 and 1967 he served as a Major (Staff Officer) at Headquarters London District. From 1968 to 1969 he was the second in command of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards in Edinburgh and London. During 1970 and 1971 he was the Regimental Adjutant at Headquarters



Scots Guards, Wellington Barracks, London.

On the 5th October 1971 he was transferred as to Windsor Commanding Officer 1st Bn. During this time he deployed to Munster with the British Army on the Rhine and also did two tours of Northern Ireland.

Lt Col Mayfield was awarded the following decorations and medals during his career - the DSO in 1972, LVO in 2000, General Service Medal 1918 -1962 Clasp "Malaya" and "Canal Zone" the Clasp "Canal Zone" was approved in October 2003 for service between October 1951 – October 1954. General Service Medal 1962 – 1999 "Northern Ireland"

Lt Col Mayfield retired in May 1974 and he passed away on the 30th November 2007 aged 77. His father was a distinguished Scots Guards Officer who served between 1918 and 1937 and later during the Second World war. His son Charlie was also a Captain in the Regiment from 1986 to 1991.

Animals in War and Peace

Since the beginning of time animals have been used in war. This tradition continues to this day. Traditionally horses were used by cavalry and mounted infantry units as well as for transport. Wagons were pulled by horses delivering supplies to the soldiers in the front lines and removing casualties from the front to field hospitals.

Pigeons were used to communicate messages tied to small containers on their legs passing vital information from the front line in the trenches to headquarters.



World War One cavalry (IWM photograph)

Dogs are used to guard installations and provide valuable security. They are also used to follow the scent of the enemy tracking them on the run. Dogs are used to detect explosives in the field and at various installations.



1 MWD Regt in training (MoD photo)

Unfortunately in the past animals have been misused as well. They have been trained to carry explosives strapped to them to get close to enemy positions or tanks and then the explosives are detonated, killing the dog in the process. Rats have been used in the same manner. More recently donkeys and camels have been used in the same manner by ISIS.

Dolphins have had cameras attached to them to conduct surveillance of enemy harbours and shipping. Today eagles are trained to intercept drones and bring them down to ground.

Some countries still use horses to deploy mounted infantry into battle in



King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery

counter insurgency conflicts. Horses are also used for ceremonial purposes such as parades. The British army have several hundred horses that are used by the Life Guards,

Blues and Royals and the Royal Horse Artillery for ceremonial tasks. It is estimated that 484,143 British horses, mules, camels and bullocks died between 1914 and 1918 and many hundreds of dogs, carrier pigeons and other animals also died on various fronts. Of the 2.5 million injured animals admitted to the Army Veterinary Corps during the First World War, over 85 per cent were treated and returned to duty. Between August 1914 and December 1917 more than 1,850,000 horses and mules were treated in veterinary hospitals and 80 per cent treated were returned fit for duty. This was critical as most of the British Army used horses, especially along the Western Front. Horses were used by Cavalry

regiments, to pull the guns, to bring up supplies and to pull the ambulances for injured soldiers.

The Army Veterinary Service was raised in 1796 as part of the Medical Services. The RAVC is responsible for the provision of care and training of all animals in the army. These are mainly horses and dogs but also include regimental mascots ranging from goats to an antelope. Personnel are



Ceremonial duties, Horse Guards Parade, London

recruited as veterinary surgeons and veterinary technicians to provide medical and surgical care of the animals. The Corps also has dog handlers who train dogs and deploy with them on operational service.

One of the most important elements of the RAVC is No 1 Military Working Dog Regiment. It is this unit that deploys to support the infantry and other units by detaching dog handlers and veterinary technicians in the field with their dogs specially trained to detect explosives and drugs. Dogs are also used for tracking and guarding purposes. In this role the

Corps is deployed throughout and is at the forefront of combat situations. Both male and female dog handlers belong to No 1 Military Working Dog Regiment and have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan recently.



The RAVC is based at the Defence Animal Centre at Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire but have personnel and animals through out the country and on operations. The ability to use horses in a combat situation is also kept going but the horses are largely used for ceremonial purposes at Horse Guards parade, with the Royal Horse Artillery (King's Troop) and elsewhere.



Hardships during World War Two

During the Second World War rationing of food, fuel and clothing was introduced to try and keep wastage to a minimum. It was vital to provide various materials in an effort to keep factories supplied that were manufacturing weapons, ammunition, vehicles and more for the war effort.

The government introduced a system of ration coupons for each person based on who lived at individual addresses. When buying goods, the coupons needed to be submitted to the shop, grocer, butcher or garage as proof of the allocated right to buy the applicable goods. The government did not want the individual to use their coupons all at once and therefore the coupons were printed on different coloured paper to regulate when coupons could be used. This prevented people from accumulating a lot of coupons in an effort to save them for later.

Clothing rationing coupons were issued to individuals in a book of 60 to begin with but by 1942 the number was reduced to 48 and later in 1943 it was further reduced to 36. The book of clothing coupons had to last an entire year. If a woman was getting married they would be entitled to get a few more coupons to allow them to buy a wedding outfit. The same applied to women who were expecting a baby so that they could buy nappies.

This system made sure that people looked after their clothing and families soon got into the habit of handing down clothing from older to younger children as they grew. The table (right) indicates how many coupons were allocated per item for a year.

Item	Men	Women	Children
Boots/shoes	7	5	3
Handkerchief	1	1	1
Jacket	13	12	8
Jumper/Cardigan	5	5	3
Overcoat	7	7	4
Pyjamas/nightdress	8	6	6
Raincoat	16	15	11
Shirt/blouse	5	4	3
Shorts	3	3	2
Skirt		8	6
Socks/stockings	2	2	1
Trousers	8	8	6
Underpants/knickers/vest	3	3	2



Know the medals of World War Two



This is the senior campaign star awarded to service personnel of all Commonwealth countries who served in World War Two. It was awarded at the end of the war for service from 1939 to 1945.

For those personnel who were involved in the Battle of Britain there is a metal clasp that was worn on the ribbon with the medal.

In recent times a further clasp "Bomber Command" was awarded to air crews of Bomber Command in retrospect for service flying over Germany.

Word Search - New Year

L	M	R	E	M	E	M	B	R	A	N	C	E	V	U
S	F	A	E	T	D	Y	R	O	T	C	I	V	S	A
E	T	Q	L	A	W	E	N	E	R	U	I	J	G	R
C	C	N	S	L	R	E	N	O	V	A	T	I	O	N
O	A	N	O	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	H	O	O	D
M	S	P	A	I	W	V	O	D	B	P	S	R	S	F
R	S	D	O	I	T	R	A	H	Y	M	O	H	O	A
A	I	P	G	S	L	U	O	O	X	D	A	D	T	L
D	S	W	W	S	I	E	L	S	D	X	H	S	B	C
E	T	N	K	F	L	T	R	O	H	T	U	I	W	D
S	A	G	A	L	M	D	I	W	S	R	R	V	M	Y
H	N	I	M	X	T	H	Y	V	T	E	P	M	I	L
I	C	M	Z	T	U	Z	O	G	E	Q	R	C	K	C
P	E	C	D	L	A	W	S	P	J	M	S	O	U	M
C	M	E	D	Y	P	Z	R	Z	E	Y	V	O	Y	H

RESOLUTIONS, POSITIVE, RENEWAL, VICTORY, RENOVATION, HOPE, TRUST, ASSISTANCE, REMEMBRANCE, RELIANCE, COMRADESHIP, BROTHERHOOD

County Websites

RBL Website:
www.BritishLegion.org.uk

County Website:
<http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/hampshire>

Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrbl/

Facebook - Email
Hampshire.web@rbl.community

Poppy Appeal
www.facebook.com.poppy.HamsphireRBL

Contact us

It`s your newsletter!!!

If anyone has any articles that they would like published in the Newsletter then please contact the editor with any information or articles by the 20th of the month at:
HampshireLink@outlook.com

ALL LEGION INQUIRIES
(including Welfare requests)
Should be directed to the national call centre
0808 802 8080

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Branch Support - South Andy Knight
Youth Officer Steve Slack
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CFR – Manager SW Claire Peppiatt
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