



Edition Date: February 2022

## We will remember them

We remember - Lawrie Hughes of Old Basing Branch who passed away in December 2021, Stanley Taylor (Cpl 1st Bn The East Yorkshire Regt) and a D Day veteran, of Hartley Wintney Branch, Peter Hobdell of Fleet, Crookham & District Branch, Major Mike Humme MBE, of Southampton Branch, Fred Behagg of Fleet, Crookham & District Branch. To all whom we have lost this month. 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.

The Hampshire County RBL County Conference took place on the 15th January 2022 on Microsoft Teams in view of the COVID 19 pandemic and increase in the Omicron strain of the virus. Over fifty people attended and a number of senior officials of the RBL addressed the group.

What is important is that the new committee has been elected to run Hampshire County RBL under the leadership of the County President, Colonel Andy King and Tim Russell as County Chairman. A new County MSO has been appointed and he is Pete Pullen, from Whitchurch branch.

Charles Byrne (from RBL HQ) addressed the meeting as well and made a number of very important points. One being that we belong to a nationally cherished and trusted organisation that has an excellent reputation for what we do; supporting our armed forces, veterans and beneficiaries. Another important point made was that people join the RBL because they want to be involved and they want to belong. We were also reminded that the pillars of the RBL are remembrance, welfare, comradeship and being duty bound to do something to make a difference to those we support.

Steve Slack also made an important point in that we need to get the younger generation involved. Steve is involved with the Army Cadet Force and suggested that branches contact youth organisations such as Cadets to get them involved by giving them training in Standard Bearing and give them the opportunity to participate in Remembrance activities.

An appeal was made to branches to try and make a contribution to the County Welfare Fund where possible. A few branches do so already but more funding is needed.

## Quote of the month

"We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are."

— Anaïs Nin

Our County Webmaster, Avril Mitchell kindly provided this report on the County Conference.

Tim Russell County Chairman opened conference with the Exhortation and silent tribute and prayers were said by our County Padre, Rev Mark Christian. We received a number of reports from our various county officers which had been circulated to branches prior to conference and heard a verbal report from our BCS Rep, our Youth Officer and our CFR North.

Our conference speakers were Director General of the Royal British Legion, Mr Charles Byrne and Allen Parton, a Royal Navy veteran who suffered life-altering injuries during service. Mr Byrne gave a full and clear report of the RBL's plans for the future and answered questions fully and frankly with a breadth of knowledge of the issues we face. It was encouraging to know that the matters we have raised with him have been taken on board and that progress may be made in resolving some of them.

The RBL have a lot of plans in place for streamlining the way we work and these will start to be put in place over the next few months. Mr Parton's presentation took the form of a short video followed by a verbal report. The video showed us the story of Allen's very lowest point following his injuries and how a simple, accidental meeting with a dog named Endal was to completely change his life and give him a purpose and a future. Allen is now one of our biggest advocates for the welfare services we offer. I would recommend anyone to seek out his video on YouTube, there wasn't a dry eye at the end. Allen has made it known that he is willing to visit branches so if you would like to hear his story please contact Avril for his email address.

We gained three new County Committee members, for which we are most thankful – it will lighten the load on all of us. We look forward to getting out and about visiting branches this year. There will be Group Meetings planned in the near future and we hope to see more of you attend these.

A number of awards were presented by our County President, Colonel Andy King. These have been posted to the recipients. These were:

The SHAW CUP and The Howard Memorial Cup awarded to Old Basing & District.

The Hampshire County RBL BUSINESS AFFILIATION SHIELD awarded to Oliver's Fish and Chip Restaurant, Old Basing.

The POPPY APPEAL ORGANISERS' CUP awarded to: Jean Barras.

A Chairman's Award given posthumously for Richard Hill Brown, former PAO for Waterlooville.

We encourage branches to send in award application forms, a bit of healthy competition is no bad thing! We anticipate that next year conference will be held as a live event in the Jubilee Hall, Bishop's Waltham. We would like as many of you as possible to attend please. Avril Mitchell

## Money Matters

### County Treasurers Report

Many of you will already know from the recent County Conference, of the revised arrangements for submission of Branch accounts. Previously when accounts were sent to the MSO, a copy was kept in the County file at Area Office. This being no longer available, from now on will Branch Treasurers when submitting their accounts to the MSO, also send a copy to the County Treasurer for our records.

On the subject of auditing accounts, I would ask that all Branches use an RBL IE. to audit the accounts if at all possible. If using a local Independent examiner or accountant, please ensure that they are given, or are aware of the RBL rules and regulations regarding our Charity finances. Some are already aware of these anyway, but some are not.

Needless to say, our Veteran beneficiaries welfare is our paramount aim, and to this end I would ask all Branches to please contribute as much as possible. Please consider your Bank and BFI balances and see how you can help by contributing your surplus funds over and above your budgeted needs to run your Branch.

Branches with BPT BFI accounts are able to draw out funds for specific authorised spending, other than Welfare. If you have a local project that you wish to fund, please first contact our MSO to ascertain if it will fall within the very precise Charity regulations governing BPT funds access.

Finally, Treasurers old and new, if you require any help or have questions please get in touch. At long last Training Courses are available online now as well, so contact Mike our County Training Officer for details Hampshire.CTO@rbl.community. I, like you, am a volunteer plugging away as best I can.

Regards

Ges

## We Remember Them

**M**ajor Mike Humme MBE - Southampton Branch. Major Mike Humme MBE, a member of the Southampton Branch has sadly passed away after a long illness. Mike served in Germany for many years where he became a Legion member. Upon moving back to the UK he transferred to the Southampton Branch and very quickly immersed himself into Legion activities becoming Treasurer in 2010 a position he held for 12 years.

He was also the Branch Welfare Officer and then Case Worker when the system changed and helped so many people over the years. In addition he did voluntary work in the local community helping retired members of different organisations. Mike was a staunch member of the Legion and a true friend to all those who knew him. He devoted so much time to helping others less fortunate and the Branch will be much poorer without him.

He will be sadly missed but never forgotten. Sincere condolences to his wife and family Submitted by Archie Parsons.

### MAJOR MIKE – WE WILL REMEMBER YOU

**L**eadling Aircraftsman Fred Behagg, Royal Air Force 1921 - 2021. Fleet, Crookham & District Branch. Fred Behagg was born on 23 April 1921 in Chalk Farm, London. During WW1 Fred's father served with (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Middlesex Regiment seeing action at Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Poelcapelle and Passchendaele. With the memory of the trenches of the Great War, his father suggested he join the RAF and in 1941 Fred signed up, training as a signaller. After Morse Code and High Frequency Direction Finding training to direct and assist aircraft, Fred was posted to RAF Predannack, Cornwall, a Coastal Command station with Liberators, Blenheims and Mosquitos.

Fred married Freda in March 1944 at Holy Trinity, Camden and soon after boarded the troopship, Athlone Castle for India. On arrival, Fred was posted to 357(Special Duties) Squadron at Jessore in East Bengal, (now Bangladesh) close to the Burma border. The squadron operated



LAC Fred Behagg  
Jessore, East Bengal, 1944



Liberators and Dakotas dropping troops and supplies behind Japanese lines. Fred working in a bamboo hut, miles from anywhere and anyone, operated Morse and direction-finding signals to aircraft returning to Jessore.





Major Mani Rai MBE and Fred Behagg  
Remembrance Sunday, Fleet, 2021

The two atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki bought a sudden end to the war. Fred said "It was a great relief to know that the war was over. We had no sympathy for the Japanese although it was a terrible thing and a cruel way to do it. For us, the war was over and we'd be going home. Although I'm not a vindictive person, I will never, ever forgive them – I heard such terrible stories from prisoners-of-war".

At Rangoon in June 1946, Fred embarked the troopship SS Orduna bound for Liverpool.

After docking they went to the demobilisation centre and were issued a demob suit, a Raglan overcoat, a Trilby hat, and £60 'from a Grateful Nation'.

Fred began work as a cashier for the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO), which represented local government 'white collar' workers. He 'stayed happily for thirty years' with NALGO (which amalgamated with two other unions to form UNISON in 1993) until his retirement.

Initially, Fred and Freda lived Essex, remaining there until Freda's death in 2013. Fred moved to Fleet and closer to his eldest son, Brigadier Alan Behagg, and became a member of the branch. Fred passed away at Frimley Park hospital on 24 December 2021.

It was a pleasure to invite Fred to be our Guest of Honour at the branch's VE75 commemoration and his very last outing on Remembrance Sunday where Fred chatted with Hampshire Deputy Lord Lieutenant Major Mani Rai MBE. Farewell Fred – the last WWII veteran of our branch and one of the last Burma veterans. Submitted by Tim Burt.

**W**illiam (Bill) Sample. In the past few months three members of Basingstoke and Deane Branch have sadly passed a way. The Branch Chairman has kindly let us know of the passing of Mr William (Bill) Sample who was Vice Chairman up until recently. He passed a way on the 20th November 2021 whilst undergoing treatment for Leg Ulcers. Bill was the Chairman and the Poppy Appeal Organiser of the branch in 1990 when Frank Connolly (the current Chairman) joined the RBL and they became good friends. Bill dedicated his later years to co-ordinating the Basingstoke Poppy Appeal

and under his guidance the donations gradually rose from approximately £20,000 to £65,000 in the pre COVID years.

Bill received a Basingstoke and Dean Mayoral Award for his services to the RBL and Ex Services Personnel and their families in Hampshire. He stood down from the Branch Chairman's position a few years ago and concentrated his efforts on the Poppy Appeal. His ill health and mobility problems finally caused him to step down as the Branch's PAO in mid-September this year. Whilst he was very ill with his legs and mobility issue's Frank, amongst others, never realised that he was so ill and his death has come as a great shock to everybody at the branch.

**N**eville Smale August 2021 and Maurice Bastable 22nd December 2021. Both Neville and Maurice were the "visible" presence of the Branch during the Poppy Appeal in Basingstoke's shopping centre for over 20 years. Neville was to be seen, adorned with his Poppy badges and beret, outside Lloyds Bank and Maurice, resplendent in his Grenadier Guards bandsman's uniform, took up a position outside Marks and Spencer's. Between them they often collected up to 20 full cans a day and on one particularly busy day they managed to collect enough money to fill 30 cans. Both helped with the background work, such as packing Poppy boxes and labelling the collection cans. They each appeared to have their own following of regular "customers". On one occasion they were able to distribute over 500 poppy pins in a single day! Both members will be a hard act to follow. Local Basingstoke shoppers have passed comments on their absence and frailty. Maurice was an artist and painted some wonderful pictures and I am lucky enough to have one to remember him by. Both I personally and the Branch have lost 3 good friends. (From F. Connolly, Chairman, Basingstoke & Overton Branch RBL.

**T**he Hartley Wintney Branch report the passing of Stanley Taylor. He served as a Corporal with 1st Bn The East Yorkshire Regt and was a D Day veteran. He passed away on the 6th January 2022.





## We remember a Bramley family



During World War One the Vicar of St James Church in Bramley, the Rev T. Hayes Belcher had three sons who joined the army and all three did not come back from France. They were -

Lieut. Col. Harold Thomas Belcher D.S.O. of the Royal Field Artillery who was killed in action near Ypres on the 8th July 1917

Major Raymond Douglas Belcher. D.S.O., M.C, also of the Royal Field Artillery who died of wounds at Le Treport on the 7th Dec. 1917

Captain Gordon Belcher. M.C: M.A: Cantab who served with the Royal Berks Regt and was killed in action at Festubert. 16th May 1915.



## Looking for a Guest speaker?

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the South Atlantic War. Barry Neal is a veteran of the South Atlantic Campaign and is offering to give a talk on his experiences. Barry served on the Victor K2; flying on Air to Air Refuelling (AAR) operations throughout the war. Barry flew twice on Black Buck 1, the first Vulcan bombing raid on Port Stanley Airfield; the second sortie being the rendezvous refuelling for the Vulcan on its return from the Falklands to Ascension island. He is a signatory on the 20th Anniversary Black Buck First Day Covers. He has lectured to various ex-Service and civilian organisations around the country on Air to Air Refuelling in the South Atlantic, specifically Black Buck 1. If any Branch is looking for a guest speaker to talk about this topic during this year please contact Barry on Phone number 07789 - 435477 or [barry.r.neal@gmail.com](mailto:barry.r.neal@gmail.com).

## Security during War Time

Security during war time has always remained a very important aspect of every day life. It still remains just as important and is the responsibility of all the armed forces as well as the rest of the nation. During World War Two a vast number of posters were designed to remind people that it was their responsibility to keep our secrets secret. During both war time and peace all countries have a requirement to know what their adversaries are doing to improve their defence capability as well as their military offensive capabilities. This knowledge gives the adversary the upper hand and they can then prepare for any contingency.



It allows them to develop counter measures to regain an advantage on the battlefield.

Within the military the responsibility lies with the Counter Intelligence department of the Intelligence Corps. Deception plays a role as does psychological warfare. Whichever nation is best at these tasks has the advantage and is best able to protect its armed forces and its people.

## 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.



# A look at Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

The US army Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) handbook indicates that there are a few main types of symptoms. Each person experiences these symptoms in different ways and for different lengths of time. Experience has shown that some service personnel show symptoms directly after a traumatic event and others do not develop symptoms until years later. It has also been found that symptoms tend to come and go.

The main signs.

**Reliving the event.** This may take the form of nightmares concerning the event or having flashbacks of experiencing the trauma again. For some an event or experience may cause the person to relive the original experience. Triggers can include certain smells, hearing loud noises (such as firecrackers going off, or something similar) or even watching a film where a similar event is portrayed.

**Avoiding situations that are a reminder of the event.** Some people will try to avoid people, situations, or places that bring up memories of the event. Situations that make a person feel unsafe. These include things such as being in crowds, watching films or television shows that relate to the event. Another indicator is where a person tries to stay as busy as possible. They will avoid asking for help, or deny that there is a problem.

**Negative beliefs and feelings.** Some people who have just returned from a deployment where they have experienced a form of combat may appear to be a bit different to before their deployment. Some are more introverted and will try to stay away from close relationships. Affection for others is difficult. Some people try to forget the event/s and do not talk about it at all. Some may also feel that the world is not a safe place and cannot

trust or rely on anyone. Others may have a feeling of overwhelming sadness and regret. They may feel hopeless. Over and above these some people may feel ashamed that they survived while comrades were killed.

**Restlessness.** A person may feel that they cannot settle down and they have difficulty concentrating. They experience more sleeplessness than may be normal. Quite a few people tend to be easily startled due to sudden loud noise.

The results of ongoing symptoms. Depression can set in and some may abuse illegal substances. In turn this downward spiral results in difficulties obtaining or maintaining employment. Some people struggle with relationships as their condition worsens. This condition impacts on family life and if the family environment is not strong then difficulties develop in relationships and may result in separation or divorce. A singularly important indication is the occurrence of substance abuse. This may be in the form of regularly drinking excessively, abusing pain medication that is taken for injuries sustained while on service, or taking other narcotic drugs. Over time, this kind of regular abuse can develop into a substance use disorder (SUD), which not only compounds the problem of the trauma, but also necessitates appropriate treatment for the addiction as well.

**Why is this important for the Royal British Legion?**  
Our charity and all our efforts are aimed at remembrance and the welfare of service personnel, veterans and families. We gather regularly and many of our members are veterans or are still serving. Being able to spot the symptoms in time helps us achieve our welfare support role. Be vigilant, be caring and help where possible by having understanding and patience.

## Hampshire military establishments - RAF Thorney Island

RAF Thorney Island was built in 1938 as a fighter base. It played an important role during the Battle of Britain and came under attack by the Luftwaffe on occasion. Thereafter it was used by RAF Coastal Command for the protection of shipping off the south coast. Many different RAF squadrons were stationed at RAF Thorney Island over an extended period of time during the war. After the end of the war, the RAF used the airfield to train navigators up to the 1960s. Thereafter 242 OCU of Transport Command took the airfield over. They deployed C130 Hercules. 46 Squadron RAF was also based there, flying Andover CMk1 transports. From 1965 to 1969 Thorney Island was a flying training unit and trained aircrew on Varisity, Argosy and Beverley aircraft. In 1968 the first C130s (in the RAF) were received. The RAF stopped using the airfield in the late 1970s.



Armourers 609 Sqn RAF loading 3 inch rockets 60lb warheads on Hawker Typhoon Mark Ibs, RAF Thorney Island, Hampshire. Photos from the Imperial War Museum



## A Son of Hampshire



Lt Cdr Darren Chapman  
Commanding Officer  
847 Naval Air Squadron



847 Naval Air  
Squadron crest



3 Commando Brigade  
Air Squadron  
patch



Joint Helicopter Ops  
patch

On the 6th May 2006 the British armed forces were deployed in Iraq and were operating from Basra City when a Westland Lynx helicopter of 847 Naval Air Squadron was shot down over central Basra by an enemy ground to air shoulder launched missile while on operations killing the entire crew. They were Wing Commander John Coxen RAF; Lieutenant Commander Darren Chapman RN; Flight Lieutenant Sarah-Jayne Mulvihill RAF; Captain David Dobson AAC and Marine Paul Collins. The task of 847 Naval Air Squadron is to support 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines in operations.

Lieutenant Commander Darren Chapman, Royal Navy, was the Commanding Officer of 847 Naval Air Squadron which is normally based at Yeovilton having been appointed to this command in December 2005. Prior to that he was serving with Joint Helicopter Command as a staff officer. Lt Cdr Chapman was recently qualified on the Lynx Mk7 and had extensive experience as a helicopter pilot. He was a qualified Helicopter Instructor and Helicopter Warfare Instructor. Lt Cdr Chapman joined as a Rate and worked his way up to become a commissioned officer in the Royal Navy.

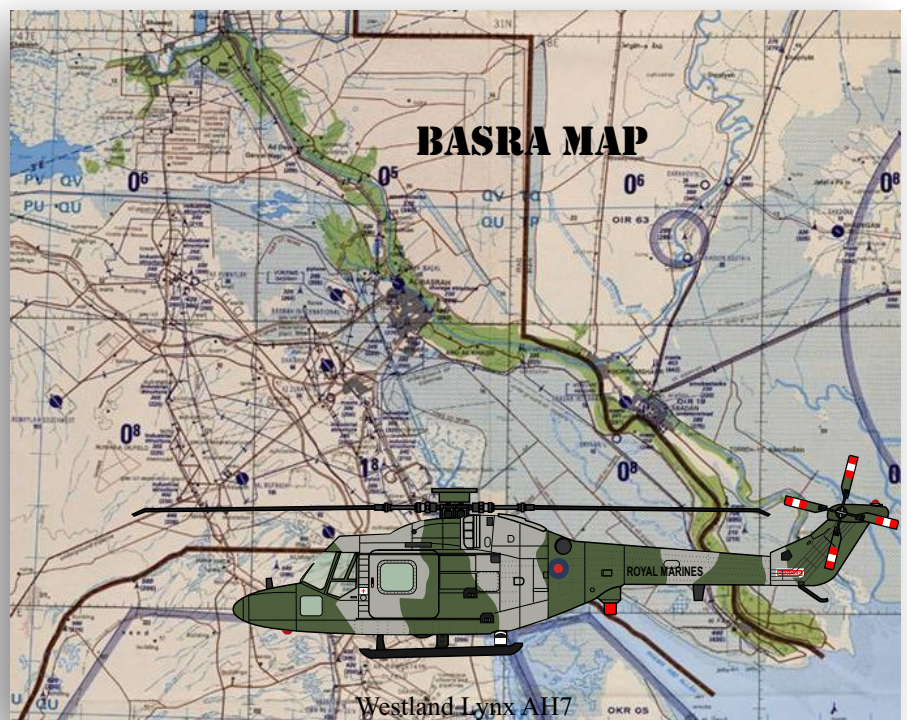
Lt Cdr Chapman spent most of his flying career flying Sea King Mk4 Commando helicopters. He was sent to the USA to serve as an exchange pilot with the United States Marine Corps. He was a veteran of the first Gulf War in 1991 and had seen active service in the Balkans in the mid-1990s prior to deployment for Operation Telic in Iraq in 2003. He had also served with 845 Naval Air Squadron as a pilot.

Squadron history. 847 Naval Air Squadron (NAS) was raised in June 1943 as a torpedo bomber squadron of the Fleet Air Arm at RNAS Lee-on-Solent. The squadron was amalgamated with 810 Squadron in June 1944 while serving in the Far East in Ceylon (Sri Lanka). The squadron was disbanded and then re-raised in the late 1950s for the Cyprus emergence.

In May 1963 the squadron was reformed at RNAS Culdrose and was equipped with Whirlwind HAS.7 helicopters as the third Royal Marine Commando squadron. and disbanded again in December 1964. It was yet again re-raised in March 1969 at Sembawang and was equipped with 10 Wessex HU.5. It deployed on various major flood relief operations and stood down again in mid May 1971. Between May 1971 and Aug 1995 the unit known as 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron. A squadron was formed as 847 Squadron at RNAS Culdrose briefly during the Falklands War. It deployed at Port San Carlos and later at Port Stanley during the Falklands war and was disbanded in September 1982.

The squadron was then reformed on 1 September 1995 from 3CBAS at RNAS Yeovilton. Their role of the squadron changed to that of tactical support of ground forces. The Royal Marines Commando and the Army Air Corps supply the aircrew. Maintenance is done by Army personnel of the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (REME). A Flight of the squadron was equipped with 6 unarmed Gazelle AH.1 and they were withdrawn from service on 12 May 2005 at RNAS Yeovilton.

847 NAS deployed to Iraq in Oct 2007 and remained there until they returned to their home base at Yeovilton in February 2008. The squadron saw active duty for its 3rd tour between Sep 2008 and Mar 2009 with Lynx AH.7 in Afghanistan. In July 2012 the AH.7 was replaced by the more powerful Lynx AH.9A. The Squadron deployed for a fourth tour to Afghanistan in January 2013. In September 847 NAS replaced the Lynx with AW159 Wildcat AH.1 helicopters





## Ranks - from private soldiers upward

The lowest rank and starting point for most British soldiers is that of Private. Not all regiments and corps use this term. Traditionally regimental terms for the rank have developed over the years and are an entrenched part of regimental history and pride. Often the term used is an indication of the soldier's trade or job in the army.

Private. All other regiments and corps not mentioned below.

Trooper. In the cavalry and the Special Air Service.

Gunner. Royal Artillery.

Sapper. Royal Engineers.

Signaller. Royal Signals.

Craftsman. Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Guardsmen. Foot Guards regiments and the London Regiment.

Fusilier. Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Royal Welsh and The Royal Highland Fusiliers, (2nd Bn, The Royal Regiment of Scotland).

Rifleman. The Rifles and the Royal Gurkha Rifles.

Kingsman. Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

Ranger. Royal Irish Regiment

Airtrooper. Army Air Corps.

Drummer, Trumpeter, Bugler, Piper and Musician are ranks used in various military bands and units.

Commonwealth traditions. Some Commonwealth armies also follow a similar tradition. The South African army tends to use the term Rifleman for all infantry soldiers and Private for many of the corps. All armour units use the term Trooper, the artillery use the term Gunner and the Intelligence Corps uses the term Scout; a tradition from the Anglo Boer War days.

Once promoted to the next rank up, one becomes a Lance Corporal. However, the Royal Artillery and Commonwealth artillery corps use the term Lance Bombardier and Bombardier instead of Lance Corporal and Corporal. Thereafter the rank of sergeant is used by all regiments and corps. The Rifles use the spelling "Serjeant" in place of "Sergeant" as part of their traditions.

Warrant Officers are also known as Sergeants Major (not Sergeant Majors). They hold a Warrant of Appointment. Officers hold a Deed of Commission, signed personally by the Monarch.

Officers are divided into groups. They are as follows, Subalterns - Second Lieutenant, Junior officers - Lieutenant and Captain, Field officers - Major and Lieutenant Colonel, Senior officers - Colonel and Brigadier, General officers - Major General, Lieutenant General, General.



All Foot Guards Regimental Sergeant Majors worn on battlefield blouse "bunny jacket" 1950s - 1960s



Coldstream Guards  
Colour Sergeant



Foot Guards Rank Badge  
Garrison Sergeant Major

Notes. Foot Guards and Honourable Artillery Company Lance corporals wear two chevrons instead of one. This is allegedly because Queen Victoria did not like the appearance of only one chevron.

Corporals are automatically appointed as lance sergeants and wear three chevrons. When lance sergeants wear full dress their chevrons are white, whereas a full sergeant's chevrons are in gold. When wearing service dress lance sergeants wear three chevrons, whereas a full sergeant wears four.

Colour sergeants wear the ensign of their regiment above crossed swords in front of their chevrons.

Warrant Officers Class 2 wear the ensign of their regiment above crossed swords with a crown above to indicate their rank. Warrant Officers Class 1 wear the Royal Coat of Arms. The Garrison Sergeant Major of London District (always from a Guards regt) wears the Royal Coat of Arms in front of four chevrons.

Notes. Household Cavalry do not use the term "sergeant" in any of their ranks. NCOs and warrant officers of the Household Cavalry do not wear rank insignia on their full dress uniforms (however officers do). Rank is indicated by the wearing of aiguillettes. A Lance Corporal of Horse is an appointment and not a rank. Any new corporal in the Household Cavalry is immediately appointed a Lance Corporal of Horse (LCoH) on attaining the rank of corporal.

### HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY RANKS



Lance Corporal



Corporal and  
Corporal of Horse



Staff Corporal,  
Squadron  
Quartermaster Corporal



Regimental  
Quartermaster Corporal



Regimental  
Corporal Major

## The Home Front during World War Two

**D**uring World War Two service personnel went to many battlefields throughout the world to fight against the Axis forces. The war was also fought at home as the country was under constant threat of aggression. The German air force launched hundreds of air raids on British cities and towns. They targeted factories, and military installations. At a point they also began to bomb civilian targets. The war was brought to everybody's homes and daily life was disrupted. There was no telling if or when the enemy was going to invade our homeland and therefore it needed to be protected and everybody needed to be ready. The government authorised the recruitment of Home Defence units. These men and women worked hand in hand with the Auxiliary Fire Service, the police, air raid wardens the ambulance service, the British Red Cross, St John's Ambulance and the Royal Observer Corps.

The attack on homeland Britain had a psychological effect on the whole nation. Morale was affected and most people made do with what they had and relied on their determination to "do their bit" for the war effort. Family members deployed with the armed forces in the various campaign theatres relied on industry to produce weapons, ammunition, aircraft, ships and much more to keep the war effort going. The defeat of the enemy was paramount.

Food was a vital part of keeping going. Keeping the economy going supported the men and women on the front line. Civilians at home suffered great hardship with rationing of food, clothing and fuel. The nation, as a whole, displayed determination and tenacity in everyday life to win the war.

More than 80,000 women joined the Women's Land Army to work on the farms to produce crops to feed the nation. Women in the urban areas joined the Women's Voluntary Service and did whatever needed to be done to support victims of the Blitz and those sheltering in the underground railway stations. Military installations, airfields and more was needed to defend the nation and thousands worked on these projects to keep the armed forces effective and ready. A daily battle took place to recycle and reuse all manner of goods. People donated scrap iron, pots and pans to contribute to the manufacture of war material. Women were also called up for war work as mechanics, engineers, munitions workers, air raid wardens and fire engine drivers to allow men to deploy to the front. The cost of the war at home is estimated to have cost approximately £30 Billion. The war ensured that many technological advances were made. Huge social changes during the war resulted in life after the war never returning to the same again.



England morale boost pin badge



Air Raid Precaution members badge



Auxiliary Fire Service lapel badge



Women's Voluntary Service pin badge



Civil Defence Corps pin badge



British Red Cross badge

## Know the medals of World War Two

### 1939 - 1945 Atlantic Star



This medal was awarded in 1945 for six months service on board a ship. Recipients could include RAF and army personnel who were deployed in a maritime role and had to have completed six months between 3rd September 1939 and 8th May 1945.

Recipients must have already qualified for the 1939 - 45 Star but the time served to qualify for that Star could not be included in the time served for the Atlantic Star.

There were two clasps for the Star - the Air Crew Europe and the France and Germany clasps awarded at the end of the war for this medal. In 2013 the Bomber Command clasp was authorised. This is the second most senior Star.

## Word Search - New Year

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

ALDERSHOT, ANDOVER, BORDON, BURLEY, DROXFORD, EASTLEIGH, FAWLEY, GOSPORT, KINGSCLERE, LISS, ODIHAM, OLDBASING



## County Websites

RBL Website:  
[www.BritishLegion.org.uk](http://www.BritishLegion.org.uk)

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

Facebook Page  
[www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrbl/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrbl/)

Facebook - Email  
[Hampshire.web@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.web@rbl.community)

Poppy Appeal  
[www.facebook.com.poppy.HamsphireRBL](http://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:

[HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com](mailto:HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com)

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

County Personnel  
Patron Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL  
President Col Andrew King  
County Vice President Brian CN Soffe  
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