

We will remember them

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



National Strategy



This article is from the RBL national website and is a brief summary of the new national strategy for our organisation.

The process of agreeing an intense focus on a small number of long-term priorities that allow us to realise our mission and deliver value to the armed forces community in a crowded landscape. RBL is developing a new 10-year strategy to ensure that the RBL is fit for the future. It is influenced by the RBL's many stakeholders Key opportunities that include -

Engagement - with Armed Forces and the public

Youth affiliations

Data insights – identify priorities and focus

Utilising skills/knowledge of membership

Developments were presented to County Chairs in March and formally presented at Annual Conference 2025

The outputs the strategy work will provide are as follows:

A statement of RBL's purpose, vision, mission and values.

An assessment of RBL's current capabilities and gaps.

A 10-year strategy document.

A financial model.

Agreed strategic goals.

Key performance indicators (KPIs) to evaluate impact.

Business and people plans to support the delivery of the strategy.

The key strengths the RBL has are as follows -

Strong lobbying and campaigning ability.

100 years of reputation, respect (symbolised by the poppy).

Royal patronage, prestige.

Passionate membership and supporters.

Camaraderie – knowing what it means to serve.

Our dedicated volunteers.

Strong fundraising abilities.

Branches embedded in communities.

Key weaknesses

Communication gaps.

Large organisation size – reaction time.

Lack of coherent decision making.

Aging volunteers, membership.

Bureaucracy.

Armed Forces not understanding RBL's role.

Staff turnover.

Perception RBL is only there in November.

Key opportunities

Engagement - with Armed Forces and the public.

Youth affiliations.

Data insights – identify priorities and focus.

Utilising skills/knowledge of membership

Communication, marketing – storytelling.

Unlocking of branch funds.

Sharing best practice between branches.

Act as a conduit for all military charities

Key threats

Lack of single focus or vision.

Aging and declining membership.

Public perception – public unaware of what we do.

Misrepresentation/misinformation about RBL.

Other armed forces charities moving in.

Staying relevant – 100 years old.

Shrinking veteran population.

Regulatory environment.

The Newport Agreement was introduced by Emma Cox, Women's Section MC Rep, and Liz Butler, Trustee. It was developed by representatives of the Board of Trustees, Membership Council and Executive Board and sets standards and commitments for how to work together. The RBL's version of the Nolan Principles (Seven Principles of Public Life which apply to anyone who works as a public office holder) was suggested. County Chairs were asked to read the agreement, to discuss it in groups, and feed back their thoughts on how to implement it.

Further detail on the agreement and how it will be implemented will be communicated by RBL HQ in due course.

6 June 1944 - D Day
17 June 1941 - Formation of the
Guards Armoured Division







The Southampton branch held a very successful evening to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. It was wonderful to see so many people supporting us on a very special occasion. One of our veterans arranged for a decorated VE cake to be made and he donated it and asked for it to be raffled on the evening. This raised £200 with the winner asking for it to be donated to the Mountbatten Hospice in West End who do such a wonderful job in the local community. We took it to the hospice the following day and they were overjoyed to receive the cake which was shared between patients and staff. Archie

Hampshire County has a new Chairman. He is Richard Moore and has recently taken over the position as County Chair from Tim Russell. We wish Richard everything of the best in his new post. The back page of the newsletter has a list of all the county office bearers and their email addresses. DW



The Guards Armoured Division was formed on 17 June 1941. The division remained in the United Kingdom, training, until 26 June 1944, when it landed in Normandy as part of VIII Corps. Its first major engagement was Operation Goodwood, the attack by three armoured divisions towards Bourguebus Ridge in an attempt to break out of the Normandy beachhead. That was followed by Operation Bluecoat, the advance east of Caen as the Falaise pocket formed.

Once transferred to XXX Corps, the division liberated Brussels. It led the XXX Corps attack in Operation Market Garden, the ground forces' advance to relieve airborne troops aiming to seize the bridges up to Arnhem, capturing Nijmegen bridge in conjunction with American paratroopers. During the battle of the Bulge, it was sent to the Meuse as a reserve in case the Germans broke through the American lines. It endured hard fighting in Operation Veritable, the advance towards the Rhine through the Reichswald, and again in the advance through Germany.

The division existed until 12 June 1945, when it was reorganised as an infantry division, the Guards Division.

After the Normandy campaign the division generally fought as four combined-arms battlegroups, two under each brigade headquarters.

Division Headquarters & Staff

5th Guards Armoured Brigade

- 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards
- 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards
- 2nd Battalion, Irish Guards
- 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards (Mechanized)

32nd Guards Brigade

- 5th Battalion, Coldstream Guards
- 3rd Battalion, Irish Guards
- 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards

Artillery

153rd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery 01/06/42-11/06/45
 55th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery 08/06/42-11/06/45
 21st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery 01/06/42-29/05/45
 75th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery 01/06/42-11/06/45
 94th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery 01/06/42-11/06/45

Engineers

14th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers 04/08/41-11/06/45
 15th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers 01/08/45-22/02/43
 615th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers 01/03/43-11/06/43
 148th Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers 04/08/41-11/06/45
 11th Bridging Troop, Royal Engineers 01/10/43-11/06/45

Signals

Guards Armoured Division Signals, Royal Corps of



Grenadier Guards



Coldstream Guards



Irish Guards

Signals 18/06/41-11/06/45

Recce / Scouting forces

2nd Household Cavalry Regiment

15/09/41-27/02/43

2nd Battalion, The Welsh Guards 13/04/43-11/06/45



Welsh Guards

Divisional infantry

Brigades

5th Guards Armoured Brigade 15/09/41-11/06/45

6th Guards Armoured Brigade 17/09/41-03/01/43

Guards Support Group 16/09/41-31/05/42

32nd Guards Infantry Brigade

1st Independent Machine Gun Company

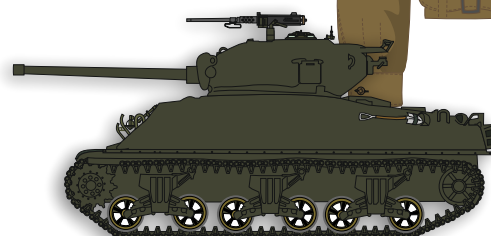
24/03/44-11/06/45 DW



Grenadier Guards
shoulder title worn during
World War Two



Guards Armoured Division
arm flash
World War Two



Sherman M1 A4 tank

Number (M2/079098) Private Frederick Keep served in the Army Service Corps. He died in Reading as a result of wounds received in action on the Western Front on 8th September 1916 aged 31. The prefix M2 indicates that Private Fred Keep was in the Mechanical Transport section of the ASC and was possibly an electrician. He is buried at Kingsclere, St Mary's Church.

The Army Service Corps (ASC) provided an essential service for the British army during the war. They were the largest single corps and at their peak had a total of 10,547 officers and 315,334 men under command. The ASC was responsible for providing food, equipment and ammunition as well as transport. During the First World War almost all supplies came directly from Great Britain using horsed and motor vehicles, railways and waterways. Due to the fact that Private Keep died at home due to wounds received in combat it is very difficult to determine exactly where he was at the time of his injuries. For this reason the following general information is relevant. The ASC was organised into units known as Companies, each having a specific role. Some of the Companies fell directly under command of the various Divisions of the army. Others were under command of higher formations at Corps Army or General Headquarters of the army in each theatre of war. These ASC units were part of the Lines of Communication. Many men of the ASC served with other units of the army in roles such as vehicle drivers.



Pte Frederick Keep's gravestone at St Marys Church, Kingsclere

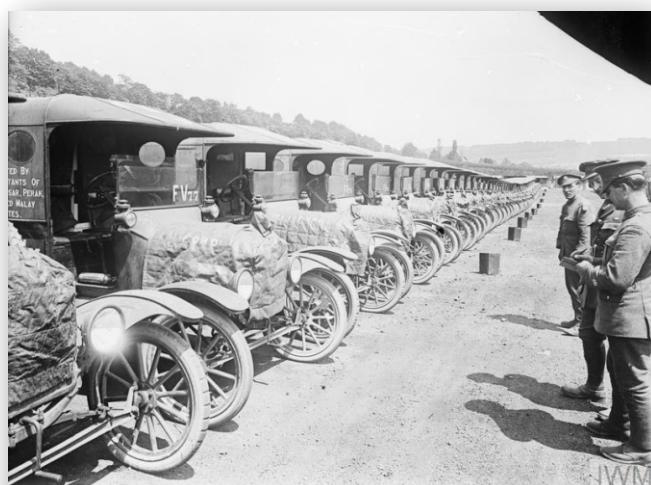


Horse Transport. This was the largest component of the ASC and most Horse Transport Companies were under command of the Division HQ. There were usually four at Division HQ in a Divisional Train. The rest were attached to Lines of Communication units and were referred to as Auxiliary Supply Companies or Reserve Parks. Those who served in this component had the letter T as a prefix to their force number.

Mechanical Transport. This component was part of the Lines of Communication troops except for those that were designated Division Supply Columns or Division Ammunition Parks (attached to Division HQs) and were responsible for all other logistics related matters in the army. The units in the Lines of Communication were divided into heavy artillery Ammunition Columns or Parks, Omnibus Companies, Motor Ambulance Convoys, or Bridging and Pontoon units. There were also ASC MT Companies and ASC MT Base Depots at home. The force number prefix for these men was the letter M.

Remounts. The ASC Remounts Service was responsible for the provision of horses and mules to all other army units. These units were always part of the Lines of Communication and were never under direct command of a Division. Soldiers who served in the Remounts usually had the letter R as a prefix to their number.

ASC Labour Companies. Tasks that included the disembarkment of stores and equipment from ships were labour intensive so the War Office sent 300 labourers for these duties. As more were sent to France they were formed into five Labour Companies (numbered 1 to 5) of the ASC. Each Company consisted of 6 officers and 530 other ranks. There were over 21,000 men deployed in this role. 28 of the ASC Labour Companies were then transferred to the new formed Labour Corps between February and June 1917. Three Companies were transferred to the Royal Marines. There were also specialised ASC Railway Labour Companies known as 33 and 34 Railway Labour Companies. Detachments were based at Le Havre, Bailleul, Steenwerck, Caestre and Strazeele.



Army Service Corps Motor Transport - Imperial War Museum photo

The Supply section, Field Bakeries and Butcheries. These units were also part of the ASC and provided a valuable service providing bread and meat for the troops in the field. DW

SOUTHAMPTON RBL BRANCH & CLUB

SATURDAY 28th JUNE

**ARMED FORCES DAY
+ 40th ANNIVERSARY OF
CLUB MOVING HERE IN 1985**

ENTERTAINMENT

from 8-00pm with the excellent

KAREN CURTISS

**KAREN WILL BE PERFORMING SONGS FROM THE
1940s/50s UP TO THE PRESENT ERA**

**VETERANS / MEMBERS / GUESTS
INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL
COMMEMORATIVE EVENING**

BUFFET PROVIDED BY THE BRILL LADIES

**REDUCED DRINK PRICES
DURING THE EVENING**

**EVERYBODY WELCOME PLEASE JOIN US
FOR A VERY SPECIAL NIGHT**



Veterans Clubs

An article in the Southern Daily Echo by Reece Barrett reports that Rose Timms has been awarded the title of Citizen of Honour for her work at the Eastleigh Armed Forces Veteran's Breakfast Club in Eastleigh. The club meets at Katerina's Café on the high street every second and fourth Sunday. The Mayor of Eastlea, Councillor Janice Asman presented a certificate and a badge of honour to Rose.

Veteran's breakfast and coffee clubs are a vitally important part of many veteran's lives where they can get together to enjoy the comradeship and banter that is such a part of everyday life while serving. They are also places where one can share stories or just take in the friendship of like minded people.

If you have any news of the activities of such gatherings in your towns and villages please make contact with the editor as we would like to hear from you. DW



Left - Rose Timms and right Councillor Janice Asman. Photo from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Poppy Appeal Facebook page (from the Southern Daily Echo).

Apex Mortgage and Protection.

We are a veteran-owned mortgage and protection brokerage based in Fareham and offer fee-free mortgages, specialist advice on protection insurances, and a free will writing service to veterans, serving forces members and their spouses.



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Apex
Mortgage
+ Protection

Reviews 456 • Excellent
★★★★★ 5.0
VERIFIED COMPANY

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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 (Colonel (Retd) Dudley Wall MSM MMM) with any information or articles by the 20th of the month at:

HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com

ALL LEGION ENQUIRIES

(including Welfare requests) should be directed to the national call centre

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Membership Council Representative: Gerry Nunn

Public Relations Officer: VACANT

Independent Examiners: Ges Brown, Mike Davis

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