

Edition Date: January 2023

## We will remember them

To all whom we have lost this month. Our sincere condolences to family and friends.

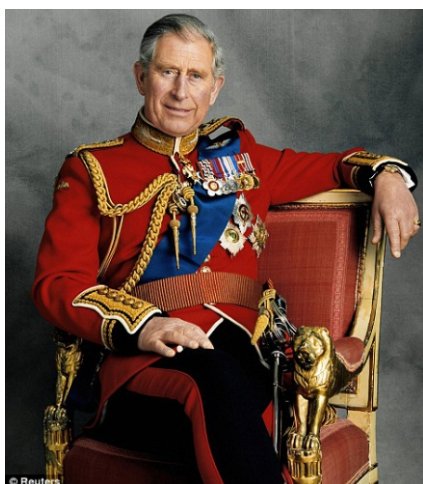
*Our mission is to safeguard the welfare, interests, and memory of those who are serving or who have served in the Armed Forces*

County correspondence can be addressed to Hampshire & IOW MSO, PO Box 317, Southampton. SO45 9BS

King Charles III delivered his first Christmas Day speech and referred to a number of important matters. His speech was focussed on family and community. He referred to his faith in people just as the late Queen Elizabeth II had. King Charles said *"It is a belief in the extraordinary ability of each person to touch with goodness and compassion the lives of others and to shine a light in the world around them."*

*This is the essence of our community, and the very foundation of our society. We see it in the selfless dedication of our armed forces and emergency services, who work tirelessly to keep us all safe, and who perform so magnificently as we mourn the passing of our late Queen. We see it in our health and social care professionals, our teachers, and indeed all those working in public service whose skill and commitment are at the heart of our communities. And at this time of great anxiety and hardship, be it for those around the world facing conflict, famine or natural disaster, or for those at home finding ways to pay their bills to keep their families fed and warm, we see it in the humanity of people throughout our nations and the Commonwealth, who so readily respond to the plight of others.*

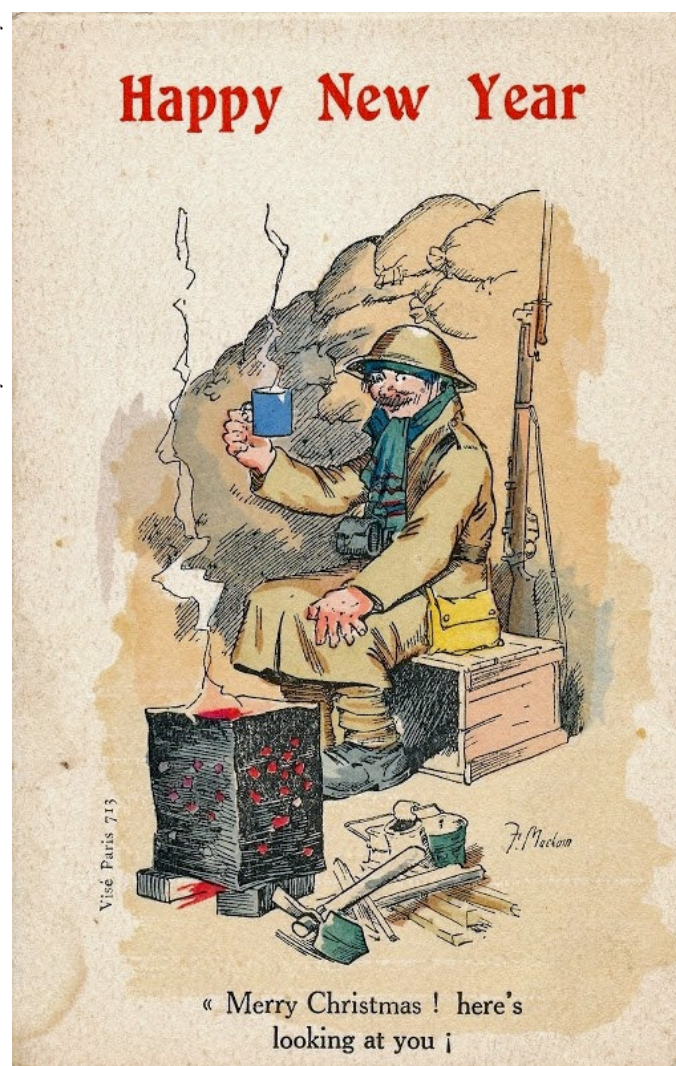
These words have a direct impact on the Royal British Legion and



Official birthday portrait  
by photographer Hugo Burnand  
taken off the internet

all its members, as we are a community based organisation that has the well-being of the serving armed forces, veterans and all their families at heart. We have undertaken to support them all in times of need, no matter what is required. We are directed to focus on our guiding principles of remembrance, service and assistance.

Compliments of the Season  
from the Hampshire Link



**The truth is that all veterans pay with their lives. Some pay all at once, while others pay over a lifetime. J M Storm**



## Petersfield branch news



Branch Christmas Dinner. Mascot, Wilf the Bear, attended the Christmas dinner held by Petersfield Branch. He is named after one of the three First World War medals known as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred, by the veterans of that war, so many years ago. The Dinner was well attended by branch member and a good time was had by all.



The branch also did very well with their Poppy Appeal collection period and raised a total of £32,021.48. As is the way of the branch, teams and individuals did a sterling job in raising funds and David Lloyd, the branch Secretary kindly sent in the breakdown per team / individual. Team Lloyd: £6868.77, Daz: £4822.66, Ian Seager: £2414.72, Rachel: £1561.27. An excellent effort all round.



## Branch Mascots

Many branches have a toy mascot and they are often taken all over where branch members travel. If you have photos of mascots, branch or otherwise, toy or otherwise, please email photos with a caption describing the location and event and we will publish them. Although, not a branch mascot I have a little home made bear that travels with me on occasion. The photo shows Thread Bear visiting Catterpillar Corner cemetery in France.





## Remembering a son of Hampshire

BARNES Second Lieutenant Ralph George (from Kingsclere). KIA Tuesday 30 October 1917 during the second battle for Passchendaele. Age 32. Commemorated on wall at Tyne Cot Memorial Panel 150 to 151.

Overview of the London Regiment. When the First World War started approximately half of all the active territorial battalions volunteered for service in France. This created a shortage of units and a second line of territorial units were raised for homeland defence. The new battalions were renamed so that the first line of defence was known as the 1/1st battalion and the seconded duplicate became 2/1st battalion. In a number of instances a third line was formed as the second joined the first in overseas service. This was the case for the Post Office Rifles (3/8<sup>th</sup> Bn London Regt). The London Regiment was one of the largest regiments in the army once it had been expanded for the war.

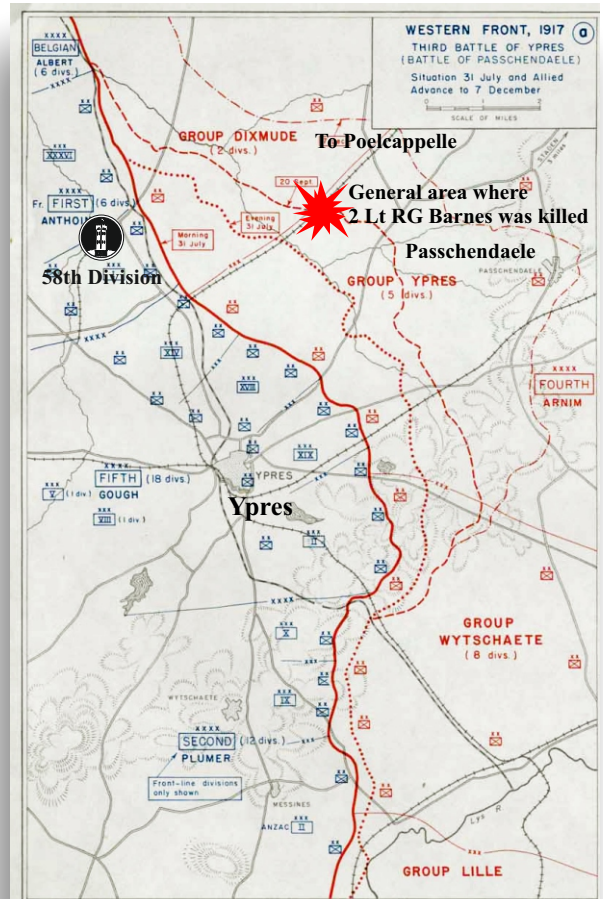
2Lt RG Barnes Battalion. 2/8<sup>th</sup> (City of London) Battalion (Post Office Rifles) was raised in September 1914 in London and mainly consisted of post office workers (hence the name). The battalion was then moved to Cuckfield where it was detached under command of 174 Bde of the 58<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The battalion did some training and then moved to Norwich in May 1915. It then was moved to Ipswich and then Stowmarket. In January 1916 there were further moves for the battalion to Sudbury, Foxhall Heath and then Sutton Veny.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1917 the 2/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion was deployed with 174 Bde, 58<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and arrived at Havre. From there the battalion with its brigade was in action on the Western Front. They participated in the Battle of Bullecourt, were in action on the Hindenburg Line, the Battle of the Menin Road Ridge, the Battle of Polygon Wood and the second battle of Passchendaele (where 2Lt Barnes was killed).

In September 1917 the battalion was responsible for the capture of Wurst Farm. In this action the battalion lost over half its fighting strength, dead or wounded. The 2/8<sup>th</sup> Bn was awarded a total of 40 gallantry medals, including a Victoria Cross which was won by Sergeant A. J. Knight. He was the only man from the 8<sup>th</sup> London Rifles to win a VC. The 2/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion (174th Brigade, 58th Division) was deployed on the Hindenburg Line in March 1917. They then saw action at Bullecourt in May and then were deployed for the Third Battle of Ypres. Due to casualties the 1/8<sup>th</sup> and 2/8<sup>th</sup> London Regt were amalgamated in February 1918. The amalgamated battalion remained with the 174th Brigade, 58th Division) for the German

Offensive in March 1918 on the Somme. In April they saw action at Villers Bretonneux and thereafter participated in the final Allied advance from October to November. The battalion with the rest of the Division were at Peruwelz after the Armistice.

By the end of the war the Post Office Rifles suffered 1800 men killed in action (including that of 2 Lt Barnes) and 4500 wounded.



8th London Regiment  
(Post Office Rifles)  
cap badge



1914 - 1918 War Medal and the  
Victory medal  
for service in World War One



58th Division sign





# A brief look at regimental Battle Honours

Battle honours are awarded by the Sovereign or president of a country to recognise the presence and contribution of a regiment or corps at a particular battle. They represent the honour, spirit and heritage of the regiments that carry them and they are therefore treated with respect and reverence. This is a British and Empire custom and continues today in many of these countries. The term "battle" is used in the most general form as often the conflict developed and became a series of campaigns and wars. Once awarded, the regiment is entitled to display the name of emblem representing the battle honour on their Colours or elsewhere, depending on their traditions. The Colonel of the regiment recommended the award and the Sovereign granted it.

The battle honour is a distinction that indicates that the regiment participated in fierce fighting at that battle against a worthy foe. It recognises participation and honour. Not all regiments display their battle honours on their Colours. As an example the King's Royal Rifle Corps and the Rifle Brigade display their battle honours on their cap badges. (See examples). The Royal Artillery do not have battle honours except for one - Ubique (Latin for everywhere). The Royal Artillery consider that their guns are their Colours and therefore treat them with the greatest respect and protect them in combat at all costs. In view of this custom there was a requirement to review the situation and eventually 66 batteries were awarded Honour Titles.

The conditions for the award of a battle honour were relatively simplistic. The battle had to have been a victory. The battle did not take place during a civil war. The majority of the members of the regiment had to have been present and had to have fought well to defeat the enemy. These conditions have changed slightly. The majority of the regiment still need to have participated but the winning of the battle is necessarily considered, whereas losses are. An example is the battle honour Dunkirk for World War Two. It was awarded to participating regiments and corps who successfully withdrew from the operation while undergoing great casualties as a result of enemy actions. Some wars (such as the Crimean War of 1852) saw the award of only four battle honours (including Sebastopol for the siege of that city for a considerable period where British soldiers suffered very heavy casualties).

In 1920 a Battle Nomenclature Committee was formed to evaluate the fighting during World War One and to categorise battles, Actions and Miscellaneous Incidents. It also determined rules defining participation and granting of Battle Honours to Headquarters, and Sub Units of regiments. Regiments have a say in how their Battle Honours are displayed. Some regiments display the name on their regimental cap badge and try to fit as many as possible onto the badge. Examples are of the Kings Royal Rifle Corps and the Rifle Brigade. Other regiments display only one Battle Honour on their cap badge such as the Somerset Light Infantry (Jellalabad) and the Gloucestershire Regiment (Egypt). The Gloucestershire Regiment also display an emblem on their cap badge; that of the Sphinx, also relating to their service in Egypt.

All regiments display their Battle Honours on their Regimental Colours. They appear in the form of an embroidered word or emblem or both in some cases.

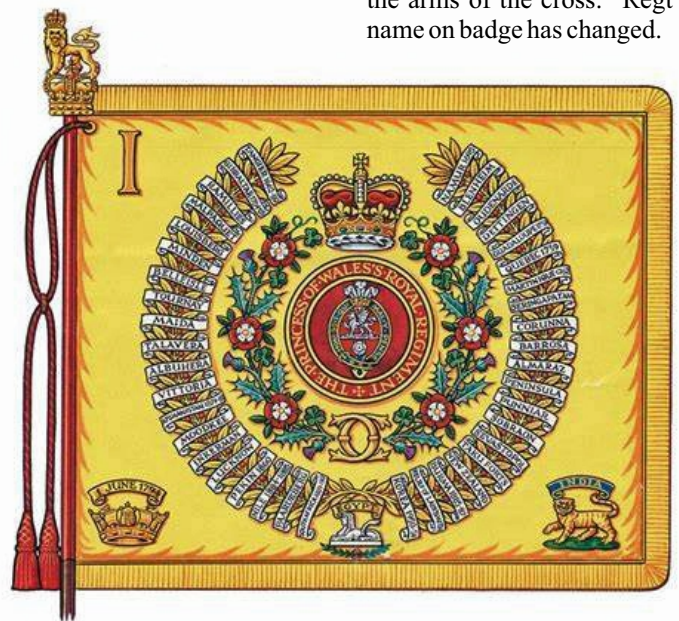
## THE RIFLE BRIGADE



Badge worn 1890s - 1910  
Main battle honour displayed under the Crown - Waterloo. Only 4 are displayed on the the wreath. The rest on the arms of the cross.



Badge worn 1937 - 1956  
Main battle honour displayed under the Crown - Waterloo. 14 still displayed on the wreath but changes have been made. The rest are on the arms of the cross. Regt name on badge has changed.



The Colours of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment showing all the Battle Honours of the various regiments that amalgamated over the years to form this one. Image from the internet.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT



Badge worn 1890s - 1959  
Only one main battle honour displayed on top of the badge on plinth below battle honour emblem - the Sphinx.

## SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY



Badge worn 1890s - 1959  
Only one main battle honour displayed on top of the badge.

## Other News

### Hants County Conference 2023

Notice is given that the Annual Meeting of the County Conference will be held on Saturday 21st January 2023 at The Jubilee Hall, Little Shore Lane, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1ED. The Conference will start at 10.30am and is anticipated to end no later than 4pm. Documents will be sent by the MSO to branch Chairman and Secretaries and are also available to download on MAP for those with access.  
<https://trbl.sharepoint.com/sites/BranchPortal-Hampshire/County/Shared/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Join up and be part of the team



**The Royal British Legion**  
**Lyndhurst & District**



**BURNS NIGHT**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
**7.30pm**

**Lyndhurst Community Centre**

**Tickets £15.00 per person, includes admission and buffet at interval, with haggis**



Join us for an evening of fun and dance, bring your drinks.  
Tickets available from Lyndhurst Community Centre or Lyndhurst Workmen's Club.

All profit to the Lyndhurst & District Poppy Appeal



Lyndhurst Branch is holding their annual Burns Night. Tickets can be obtained from the Branch Secretary, Dee Faulkner-White by at [faulknerwhite@btopenworld.com](mailto:faulknerwhite@btopenworld.com) Please help support the branch.

### British Forces Resettlement Services



### Know the Medal - 1914 - 1918 War Medal

This medal was awarded to British and Imperial (Commonwealth) forces for service during the First World War and also the period from 1919 - 1920 for those who were involved in mine clearing at sea as well as operations in North and South Russia, the eastern Baltic, Siberia, the Black Sea and Caspian. Approximately



Obverse

Reverse

6,500,00 medals were awarded. It was intended for clasps to be awarded with the medal to indicate the various campaigns (79 for the army and 68 for the Royal Navy) that the recipient was deployed on but this was deemed impractical and was not implemented. The Royal Navy clasps were actually authorised on 7th July 1920 but were never issued.

British Forces Resettlement Services (BFRS) continue to give support and assist serving members of the Armed Forces, Reservists, Veterans, and their family members.

British Forces Resettlement Services (BFRS) will be hosting its first Military2Defence (M2D) Insight Day at Swordfish Conference Centre, Yeovilton on 26th January 2023. It is an ideal opportunity if you are a veteran or soon to be leaving the armed services and would like to use the skills you obtained while serving. If you would like to register for the event, the following link is to be used; Military2Defence Insight Day on Thursday, 26 January 2023 ([bfrss.org.uk](http://bfrss.org.uk)). If you would like further information in reference to the Insight Day, please call the BFRS office on 02476 939931.

It is sometimes daunting to take the first step into civvie street and support is available. Their services are open to service leavers, reserve forces, veterans, civilian MOD employees, partners and families. Registration is free! Receive regular updates on job and training opportunities relevant to you. Use this link - [www.bfrss.org.uk](http://www.bfrss.org.uk)



## 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

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County Vice President Brian C.N. Soffe

County Vice President Robert G Knight

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Membership Council Rep Gerry Nunn [GNunn@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:GNunn@britishlegion.org.uk)

Hampshire Clubs Support - Paul Holyoake [hampshire.clubs@rbl.community](mailto:hampshire.clubs@rbl.community)

Branch Support – - Vacant

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Chair - Conference Committee Brian Mansi

CFR – Manager SW Claire Peppiatt

CFR – Hampshire & IoW Claire Smith

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**Errors and Omissions Excepted**