

Edition Date: June 2022

### We will remember them

To all whom we have lost this month. Our sincere condolences to family and friends. Peter Coombes of Wrights Way, South Wonston. Peter joined the Legion on 1 January 1990 so had been a member for over 30 years. He was 91. We also remember Neville Smale, Bill Sample and Maurice Bastable, all from Basingstoke and Overton District Branch.

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

### Message from the County MSO

The Branch Year End will soon be upon us and our County MSO needs our assistance in providing the local branch committees with support to get the branches compliant with RBL regulations. Branch treasurers play a crucial in getting the branches compliant.

The branch accounts need to be prepared for the year ending 30 June 2022. Thereafter they need to be submitted no later than 30 September 2022. Pete has informed branches that Branch packs will be circulated at the end of June/beginning of July. This allows our branches to start the returns process early (i.e. in July) in order to meet the deadline. Branch Treasurers are advised to pay any outstanding invoices or expenses by the middle of June.

This will ensure that a bank statement is generated in July that shows the balance on the bank account at 30 June. This will be needed for submission with the accounts. If there are no outstanding invoices or expenses to be paid, branches are advised to make a small deposit into the bank account in June which should also trigger the production of a bank statement.

Branch Treasurers should check whether they meet the conditions for completing the Small Branch Return i.e. both income and expenditure are below £500 for the year (excluding any transfers to or from Head Office) and they have less than £5,000 in bank and investment accounts (excluding the BFI and CCLA). If a branch does not meet these requirements, they will need to complete the full return and arrange for the accounts to be independently examined.

Branch Treasurers should arrange the independent examination in advance and contact their MSO if they are experiencing difficulty identifying an IE.

If Branch Treasurers are already aware of any difficulties

they may face in completing their accounts, they should let their MSO know as soon as possible.

The RBL's Internal Audit team have been asked to undertake a lessons learned review on the 2022 Board of Trustee Elections process and we would be grateful for your support please. The RBL would like to determine why some compliant branches did not vote in the national election for a new committee. In order to help please use the link below to fill in the short survey to support this learning. Please click the link below or copy and paste it into your browser. The survey has four questions, so should not take long to complete. Please only submit one response per branch before the 6th June. - RBL - 2022 Election Process Survey ([surveymonkey.co.uk](https://surveymonkey.co.uk))

### RBL News

Elections were recently held to vote in this years National Officers and the Board of Trustees. A new National Chair, National Vice Chair, and one trustees have been newly elected and two further Trustees have been re-elected. All will take up their posts directly after the Annual Conference. The new National Chair is Jason Coward from Bristol, who has previously served as a Trustee and takes over from Una Cleminson who has completed a full three year term. The National Chair directly represents the interest of the Royal British legion and leads a team of 16 Trustees. Lynda Atkins has been elected the National Vice Chair and also previously served as a Trustee. Lynda is a veteran of the Royal Air Force and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers TA. Anny Reid and Paul Harris have been re-elected as Trustees and John Boisson has been elected as a first-term trustee. He previously served on the Membership Council. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the charity's overall governance, policy and work, always working within the bounds of the Royal Charter. Trustees are legally and financially responsible for the decisions they make and for the actions of the RBL as a charity.

The AGM parade video is available on YouTube under Royal British Legion Parade and Drumhead Service, Annual Conference, London. The link is here for those who wish to see -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKA1V3Fpu6U>

### Quote of the month

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

## Branch activities

### Basingstoke, Overton and District Branch Happenings

**B**asingstoke, Overton and District Branch has seen a number of new members joining the branch and has held a special general meeting in order to appoint office bearers to assist with the running of the branch. Branch Chairman Frank Connolly has been doing an excellent job of holding the branch together over the last number of years and has decided to take a less exacting role due to ill health. The result of the meeting is that a committee has been appointed and includes Chairman - David Barton, Vice Chairman John Davies, Branch Secretary Cheryl Felstead, Membership Secretary David Barton, President David Buttle, Vice President Frank Connolly, Treasurer Jane Barks, Events Coordinator Gary Barks, Standard Bearer David Barton, Deputy Standard Bearer Wayne Bilcock and Committee Members Rosena Hillier, Frank Connolly, Wayne Bilcock and Stuart Humphries.

### Petersfield Branch Victory in Europe Day Parade

**P**etersfield commemorated VE Day with a small service at the Petersfield War Memorial. Those who attended, included Vicar Rev Will Hughes, Mayor Phil Shaw, Mayor's Cadet Amy Bookham, Petersfield RBL President Jeff Williams, Standard Bearer Daz Hare, Town Councillors and RBL members. The service was in accordance with the "Second Army Thanksgiving service on conclusion of the campaign in North West Europe 6th June 1944 to 5th May 1945". Wreaths were laid. Kindly submitted by Petersfield RBL Secretary **David Lloyd**.



### Eastleigh, Chandlers Ford and District Branch News

**T**he former Chair of the Eastleigh, Chandlers Ford and District Branch, Paul Capper attended a presentation at the Branch to celebrate his unstinting service to the RBL over twenty-one years to the Poppy Appeal and in thanks for his leadership of the Branch. Paul was presented with a decanter by the current Chair, Steve Little.





## Remembering D Day and a Son of Hampshire

**D**ay (6th June 1944) was one of the most important events of the Second World War. This is a tribute to a son of Hampshire who took part. Captain Mortimer Cecil Lanyon, service number 105881, was a member of the Royal Horse Artillery and served during the Second World War. He was from Bishop's Waltham and



Captain Lanyon's medals - Military Cross, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, France and Germany Star, War Medal

was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into the Royal Regiment of Artillery on 9 December 1939. He saw active service in the North African campaign where he was awarded a Mentioned in Dispatches on 13 January 1944 for

gallant and distinguished services in the Middle East (place unknown but could be any of the following - Egypt, East Africa, Western Desert, Sudan, Greece, Crete, or Syria) and returned to Great Britain when that campaign finished.

He was deployed to France on D Day and landed on Gold Beach on 6th June 1944 as part of 22 Armoured Brigade, 7 Armoured Division, 30 Corps, 21 Anglo-Canadian Army Group (Montgomery). He saw much



Royal Horse Artillery cap badge

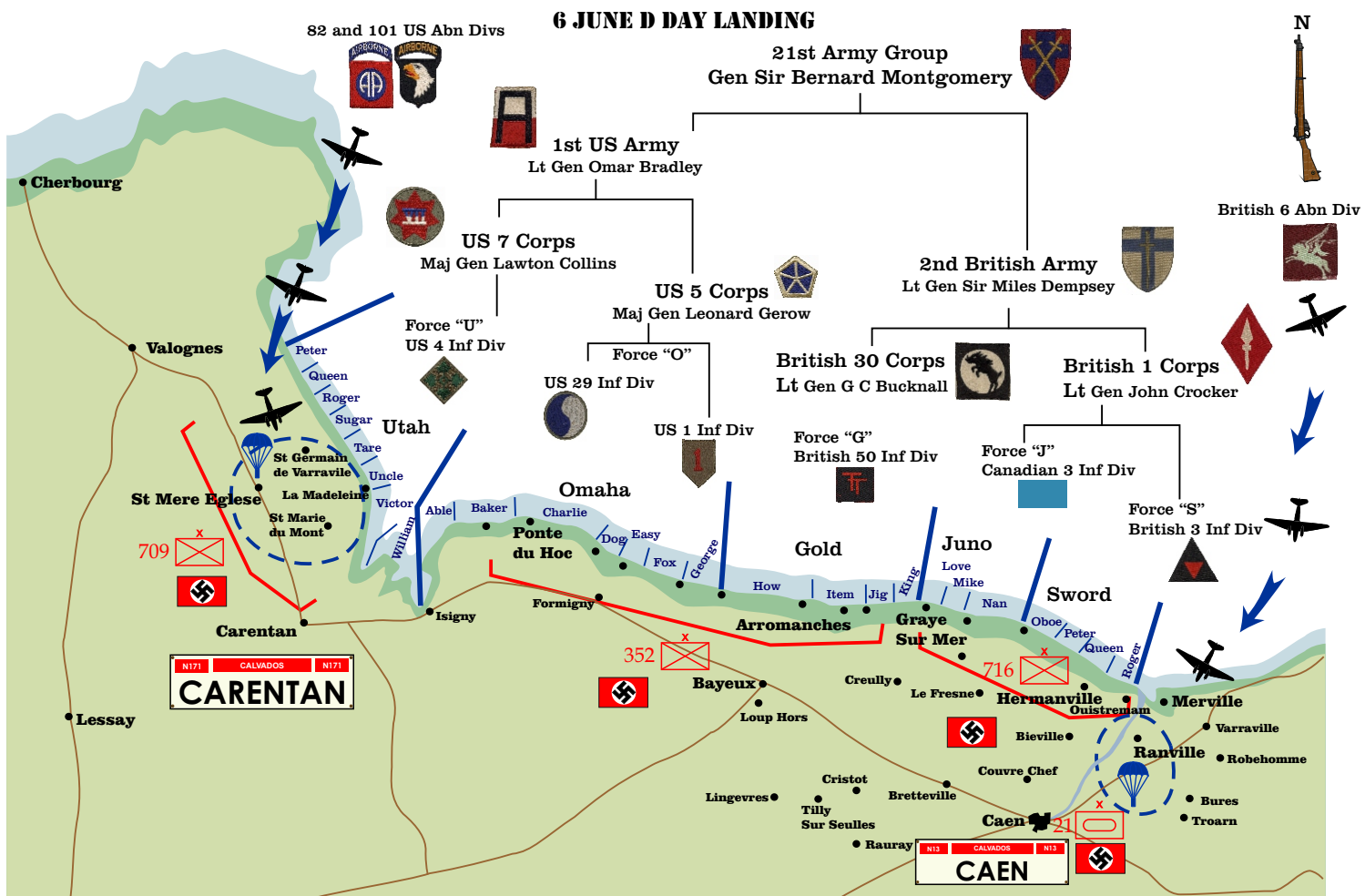
Captain Lanyon's tunic



Hand written label inside the tunic.  
It reads - Capt MC Lanyon, RHA  
922 10. 4. 42



action in north west Europe and was awarded the Military Cross which was gazetted on the 21st December 1944. This was for gallantry near Caen in France on 4 August 1944 fighting against German forces who opposed the Allied advance inland.





## The Queen's / King's Shilling

The term "Taking the King's / Queen's Shilling" is a term derived from the times that a shilling was paid to a recruit of the army or Royal Navy dating from the end of the English Civil War. If a person "took the King's / Queen's Shilling" it was a formal agreement that the recipient agreed to serve in the armed forces. The official practice of paying a shilling stopped in 1879 but it continued as a symbolic gesture into the early 20th Century.



Once the Shilling had been received the recruit still had the choice of returning it up to the point that they formally attested before a Justice of the Peace into the armed forces. On attestation the recruit was subject to military law.

Thereafter the recruit was paid a more substantial amount that was then used to pay for a variety of things. In the early days this second amount was approximately the equivalent of half a years wages and was very attractive in persuading people to sign up. At the time the custom was introduced the

daily pay for a soldier was a shilling a day but he was expected to pay for his uniform and food out of this amount. In 1847 a limit was placed on deductions. This made sure that a soldier was paid at least one penny (a twelfth of a shilling) a day, after deductions.

In the Royal Navy press gangs had the power to force men to join up. If a man was forced in this way to join he was given the King's shilling. However there was also the opportunity to join willingly. The incentive for this was an offer of two months wages up front.

Today a person who joins is unofficially described as "taking the Queen's shilling". This includes non-British and Commonwealth soldiers who join the British Army. There is evidence of an

airman being given the King's shilling upon

attestation into the Royal Air Force in 1948.

The envelope and Shilling below was paid to an officer by the name of Lt Hale, who volunteered to serve with the

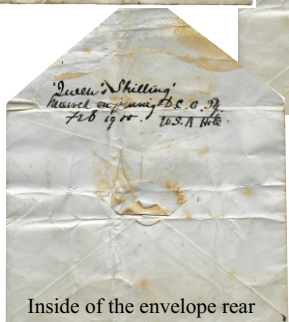
3rd Middlesex Regt during the Anglo Boer War 1899 - 1902. He accepted the Shilling and posted it home in the envelope to himself as a keepsake of the practice.



Envelope front



Envelope rear with regimental stamp in



Inside of the envelope rear

## Aldershot during World War Two



Soldiers resting during training



Scots Guards undergoing Bren Gun training



Temporary camp used during training



1st Bn Cameronians during Carrier training

The above photos are from the Imperial War Museum



## Military Museums within close travelling distance

**B**lair Southenden has kindly done some research into the different military museums in and around Hampshire and wrote this summary. Our county has a rich military history and this is the first in a number of articles that cover the military museums. The first military museum we look at is the Gurkha Museum in Winchester. It is well worth a visit. The photos were taken by me while on a visit there some time back.

### Gurkha Museum

Gurkhas from Nepal were first enlisted into the British Army in 1815. The museum covers the history from that time and explores both the military and cultural aspects of the regiment. Gurkhas are Riflemen and there is a close association between them and the antecedent regiments of the Royal Green Jackets.

The museum is open from Monday to Saturday from 0930 – 1700 with last entry at 1630. Located on the first and



second floors of what used to be called 'Short Block' in the barracks, there is access by lift to all floors and a stairlift is available. Disabled parking is also available. Entry charges are £5.00 for adults, Concessions £4.00 and children under 14 are free.



The museum also provides a regular programme of events; lectures, book launches and these may be attended in person or viewed afterwards on the museum website. See <https://thegurkhamuseum.co.uk/> for more information.





## Remembering a son of Petersfield killed during the Falklands War

**D**avid Lloyd kindly sent in these photos from Petersfield RBL branch. We remember Glen S Robinson-Molkte, a son of Petersfield, who was a Lieutenant-Commander serving in HMS Coventry, Royal Navy. He was killed in action when his ship was bombed and sank while operating off the northern coast of West Falkland. KIA 25/5/82. Resident Petersfield



## Soldier's wives and the return of a beetle wing dress

**A** special exhibition about soldier's wives will open at the Royal Green Jackets (The Rifles) Museum, Winchester on 21 May and will run through to the end of August. The centrepiece of the exhibition will see the return to Winchester from the West Highland Museum in Scotland of a special 'jewelled beetle-wing' dress made in India for Barbara FitzHenry, the wife of Captain William FitzHenry, Quartermaster and honorary captain in the 3rd Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps.

The dress which is one of only twenty known to exist world-wide, and only one of two in Great Britain (the other is in the V&A Museum in London) was made in Madras (now Chennai) in 1867. It was brought back to England when Captain FitzHenry and his family returned on completion of his service in 1870, and the couple with their children continued to live in Winchester. They remained living in Winchester, but sadly Barbara died in February 1877 aged 49 years. She was buried in the West Hill cemetery, Winchester. Within months, FitzHenry had remarried but he died on 25 November 1885 at Ashted, Surrey and was buried with his first wife at West Hill cemetery in Winchester.

The Royal Green Jackets (The Rifles) Museum is one of the six military museums located in the military quarter, formerly Peninsula Barracks. Details of how to find the museum and entry times may be found at <https://rgjmuseum.co.uk/visiting/find-us/>

Article kindly sent in by **Blair Southerden**, Secretary, Sutton Scotney & District RBL



## Know the medal - The Africa Star



Africa Star with Navy clasp

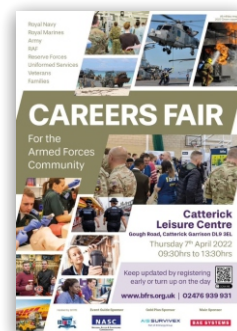
**T**his medal was awarded for service in an operational area in North Africa, Abyssinia, Somaliland, Eritrea, and Malta from 10th June 1940 to 12th May 1943. One of three bars could be awarded, to be worn on the ribbon. They were 1st Army, 8th Army and North Africa 1942 - 1943. Members of the 1st Army and the 8th Army wore a small brass number 1 or 8 on the medal ribbon. The North Africa bar was awarded to Navy personnel.



Africa Star ribbon with figure 8 for 8th Army personnel

## British Forces Resettlement Services

**B**ritish Forces Resettlement Services (BFRS) will be hosting a Careers Fair at the Catterick Garrison Leisure Centre on 7th April 2022. It is an opportunity for service personnel to meet with potential employers and Education & Training Providers. BFRS assist serving members of the Armed Forces, Reservists, Veterans, and their family members. Individuals can turn up on the day or register via this link: <https://www.bfrss.org.uk/events/684373/>



Use this link to search for employment, attend training courses and add your CV's. [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

Patron Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL

County President Col Andrew King

County Vice President Brian C.N. Soffe

County Vice President Robert G Knight

Chairman Tim Russell [Hampshire.Chairman@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.Chairman@rbl.community)

Vice-Chairman Robert Bartlett [Hampshire.vicechairman@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.vicechairman@rbl.community)

Treasurer Ges Brown [hampshire.treasurer@rbl.community](mailto:hampshire.treasurer@rbl.community)

Training Officer Mike Davis [Hampshire.CTO@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.CTO@rbl.community)

Recruitment Officer A Knight [Hampshire.CRO@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.CRO@rbl.community)

MSO - Pete Pullin [ppullin@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:ppullin@britishlegion.org.uk)

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)

Area Manager SW - Vacant

Branch Support – - Vacant

Youth Officer Steve Slack [Hampshire.CYO@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.CYO@rbl.community)

Chair - Conference Committee Brian Mansi

CFR – Manager SW Claire Peppiatt

CFR – Hampshire North Nicola Lawrence

CFR – Hampshire South & IoW Claire Smith

Communications Support Avril Mitchell [Hampshire.Web@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.Web@rbl.community)

Hampshire Link Editor Colonel (Retd) D. Wall MSM MMM [HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com](mailto:HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com)

**Errors and Omissions Excepted**