

Edition Date: February 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

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Hampshire County Conference

The annual conference took place at the Jubilee hall in Bishop's Waltham on the 21st January, starting at 10:30. The conference was opened by the County Chairman, Tim Russell who led with the exhortation and then introduced all the guests present, including our County Patron, Lieutenant General Sir Mark Mans, KCB, CBE, DL (Royal Engineers) and our County President, Colonel Andy King.

Colonel Andy King thanked the members of the County for their hard work over the last year and mentioned the work done by the Standard bearers, the Poppy Appeal and branches in general. He reflected on the past year, with the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; the war in the Ukraine and its effects on Europe and then emphasised the importance of our armed forces and the youth of the country.

Special thanks go to Reverend Graham Topping, chaplain to the Mayor of Winchester who delivered prayers and Councillor Angela Clear, the Deputy Mayor of Winchester for giving the civic address. Both stood in at short notice as their respective counterparts were taken ill.

County Chairman, Tim Russell appealed for all to stand together in light of the current uncertain situation in Europe and urged everybody to stand together, as our membership is in decline. An appeal was made to get all branch officers trained. There have been some frustrations with training days being arranged for branch members and little response or failure to turn up for the training. This resulted in training days being cancelled.

The County Accounts were presented and of particular note

were several branches who have given donations to the County Welfare fund. This money is essential for County Committee to carry out their welfare work and all were thanked for their generosity. Branches were urged to draw up their branch budget plans for better financial management. It was also mentioned that if branches do not submit their financial accounts to the County Treasurer by the deadline of 30th September annually, they will be given thirty days notice that the branch will be required to close.

The new County Youth Standard was dedicated at the meeting, and the County Youth Standard Cup was formally named the Ian McDougal Cup and was presented by Mrs Angela McDougal (wife of the late Ian McDougal) to Cadet Amelie Neal, our youth Standard bearer for all her hard work in this regard. The County Awards were also presented. Old Basing branch received the Shaw Cup. The Buckingham Shield was awarded to Lymington branch and the Wells Rose Bowl was awarded to Fleet Crookham and District branch. The Poppy Appeal Organiser's Cup was awarded to Rose Timms, Damon Nesbitt and Tim Russell.

Commodore John Voyce OBE, BEng, MSc, MA, CEng, MCIPD, FIMarEST, psc(j) of the Royal Navy was this year's guest speaker. He spoke about the Royal Navy and its work in Portsmouth, the Royal Navy presence in the North Atlantic as well as the effects of the war in Ukraine and the current security threat level.

Paul Harris QGM from headquarters also spoke to all present. He is a Trustee of the RBL and Trustee and Director of the National Memorial Arboretum and spoke about the overall situation in the RBL. Bob Bartlett extended a vote of thanks to the guest speakers and those present.



County Conference in pictures



Getting ready



Pre-conference chat



Standard bearers forming up



The Basingstoke representatives



The new County Youth Standard on parade



County Youth Standard



Cadet Amelie Neal receiving the Ian McDougal Cup from Mrs Angela McDougal

Battle honours, Badges and Flags of the Royal Navy

Unlike Army regiments, Royal Navy battle honours do not feature on the equivalent of a regimental colour. With 190 battle honours and many more single ship/squadron actions, this would require a very large flag indeed! Instead, each ship and Naval Air Squadron has a battle honour scroll mounted in a prominent position; for submarines, on the fin beneath the ship's bell in harbour. The scroll shows every battle in which the ship concerned, and any predecessors that bore the same name, were engaged. Although mainly His Majesty's Ships - including those from former Dominion navies, Royal Fleet Auxiliaries (RFAs) and merchant ships are also eligible. They are not transferable when an RFA or merchant vessel adopts the same name as once held by one of HM Ships and vice versa.



The Royal Marines, although involved in many naval battles together with land campaigns, display a single battle honour on their regimental colours: Gibraltar. Before being presented with new colours by King George IV in 1827, the Royal Marines declared 110 battle honours! It was decided that a globe within their corps' badge would represent these but with Gibraltar commemorating the successful siege and capture of the rock on 27th July 1704. As there have been various other sieges of Gibraltar involving the marines, a specific year was omitted.

The earliest official battle honour is ARMADA 1588. The only vessel currently in service entitled to bear that honour is the Trident ballistic missile submarine HMS Vanguard and the first of class of the next generation of ballistic missile submarines HMS Dreadnought will also be so entitled. The oldest warship still in commission, the First-Rate HMS Victory, also holds that honour together, of course, with TRAFALGAR 1805.



Each scroll is surmounted by the ship's or Naval Air Squadron's badge (sometimes incorrectly called a crest). Originally badges were shaped according to type of ship: circular for capital ships (battleships and battle cruisers and aircraft carriers), pentagonal for cruisers, shield for destroyers and diamond for auxiliaries or shore establishments. Today all warships, submarines and Naval Air Squadrons have circular badges, RFAs pentagonal and shore establishments diamond. The latter do not display battle honour scrolls other than as an artefact where there had been a ship of the same name. Incidentally, the Naval Crown that surmounts the badge is supposed to commemorate the defeat of the Spanish Armada: the stern galleries of large Spanish galleons dwarfing the topsails of smaller English ships.



Since the end of World War 2, only five battle honours have been awarded. These are: KOREA

1950-53, VIETNAM 1967-71 for units of the Royal Australian Navy, FALKLAND ISLANDS 1982, KUWAIT 1991 and AL FAW 2003 (the 2nd Gulf War). The last HMS Ark Royal is the only ship to have borne both ARMADA 1588 and AL FAW 2003.

Although not recording battle honours for the reasons given, the Queen's Colour of the Royal Navy is a silk White Ensign with the Sovereign's cipher in the centre. New King's Colours will be presented to all three Services in due course. The Queen's Colour of the Royal Navy The White Ensign has been the official ensign of the Royal Navy since 1864. Prior to this,



squadrons served under flag officers appointed under an appropriate coloured flag and ensign: red was the most senior, followed by white and then blue. The actual rank of the admiral was further identified from which mast he flew his flag: admiral mainmast, vice-admiral foremast and rear-admiral mizzen. In 1864, ensigns were standardised with the Royal Navy adopting the White Ensign which is also used by the Royal Yacht Squadron. Admirals' flags became the Cross of St George and, as steam ships often had a reduced number of masts, a red ball was added to one or both cantons nearest the hoist: none for an admiral, one for a vice-admiral and two for a rear-admiral. Commodores are not flag officers and fly a broad pendant - a swallow-tailed burgee based on the Cross of St George: when there were two classes of commodore, a red ball was added to the upper canton for commodore 2nd class, and this has remained for today's single substantive rank.

The Red Ensign was assigned to merchant vessels while the Blue Ensign is for government owned vessels. The Blue Ensign can also be worn by merchant vessels and yachts with the appropriate Admiralty Warrant when the master is a retired RN or RNR officer. Defaced Red and Blue ensigns are assigned to some yacht clubs while Australia and New Zealand have special blue ensigns as their national flags; the Canadian flag was once a defaced Red Ensign. There are of course other examples and complications, but I don't want to confuse you anymore!

Finally, the Union Flag of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is flown from the jackstaff in the bows of Royal Navy warships in harbour.



It is often incorrectly claimed that it can only be called the Union Jack when in that position. In fact, both Union Flag and Union Jack are equally acceptable terms for our national flag but only His Majesty's Ships may use it as a jack. The Union Flag is also flown when an admiral-of-the-fleet is embarked or when a court martial is in session.

By Cdr Rob Scott RN, Branch Secretary Droxford & District

Civil Defence during World War Two

The Civil Defence Service was established by the Home Office in 1935 just before the war started. It consisted of volunteers from the community and began life as the Air Raid Precautions (ARP). The name was changed to Civil Defence in 1941. It included the ARP Wardens Service as well as firemen of the Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) and later the National Fire Service (NFS). Also included were the Fire Guard, rescue, first aid post and stretcher parties. Nearly 2 million people served in Civil Defence and nearly 2,400 lost their lives to enemy action. Each local authority was responsible for Civil Defence and The local Civil defence organisation was divided into sections and had Report and Control centres were established to control Civil Defence activities.

Wardens were responsible for local reconnaissance and reporting, and leadership, organisation, guidance and control of the general public. Wardens would also advise survivors of the locations of rest and food centres, and other welfare facilities.

Rescue Parties assessed and entered damaged buildings during air raids and retrieve injured or dead people. They also turned off gas, electricity and water supplies in damaged buildings.

First aid parties provided on the spot medical assistance. More serious injuries were taken to first aid posts by stretcher parties and to local hospitals by ambulance personnel.

Gas Decontamination Teams dealt with possible gas attacks and decontaminated buildings, roads, rail and other material that were contaminated.

Fire Guards were responsible for a designated area and monitored the fall of incendiary bombs and pass on news of any fires that had broken out to the NFS.

Welfare teams supported injured and people bombed out of their homes by finding suitable accommodation, issuing new documentation (ration books, identity cards) and money to buy food.

The Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) aided in ARP and observer duties as well as running and operating the mobile canteens and rest centres.



Basingstoke and D Day

The local Wheatsheaf pub of Winton Square, in central Basingstoke was used by the 1st Airlanding Brigade as an officers mess from January 1942 and they remained at this location until the D Day landings began. This included Major John Howard who was the officer in charge of D Company, 2nd Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He and his men were tasked to capture the Caen Canal and Orne River bridges (today known as Pegasus Bridge and Horsa Bridge). This was done successfully and the operation prevented the German forces from attacking the eastern flank of the Normandy beaches on the day. The capture of these bridges on the 6th June 1944 were vital to the success of the D Day landings. Much of the informal planning for this operation took place in the mess.

The plaque on the wall of the Wheatsheaf pub was unveiled by a fellow airborne sergeant - Jim Beasant of the 13th Parachute Battalion who also jumped into action on D Day. Appropriately, Jim was the president of the Kingsclere branch of the RBL at the time. Jim has since passed and we remember him and all those brave participants. The history was researched by the Basingstoke Heritage Society, who arranged for the plaque to be put up on the wall and unveiled.

“Things you didn't do “ (A poem from the Vietnam War)

Remember the day I borrowed your new car and I dented it. I thought you would kill me. But you didn't.

And the time I took you to the beach and you said it would rain and it did. I thought you would say “I told you so”. But you didn't.

And the time I flirted with all your friends to make you jealous. Well, you were and I thought you would leave me. But you didn't.

You remember the time I spilt blueberry pie all over your new car seat. I thought you would smack me. But you didn't.

And the time I forgot to tell you that the dance was formal and you showed up in jeans. I thought you would leave me forever. But you didn't.

Yes, there were lots of things you didn't do, but you put up with me and you loved me and protected me. There were so many things I wanted to make up to you when you got back from Vietnam. But you didn't.
UNKNOWN



Each and every accomplishment starts with a decision to try.
Anon

Remembering the Sons of Hampshire

Number CH/1963(S) Private Alec Hardham Hopkins served in the Royal Marines Light Infantry. He was born in 1898 at Kingsclere and died in Edinburgh at the Rosyth Naval Hospital on 14th January 1919 aged 20 as a result of glandular fever due to an infection of wounds received on the Western Front. He was in the Chatham Division, Royal Marine Light Infantry and was the son of George and E. E. Hopkins, of Barton House, Kingsclere.



Royal Marines
Light Infantry
cap badge



Royal Marines
shoulder title

During the First World War the Royal Marines consisted of the Royal Marine Light Infantry (RMLI), sometimes referred to as Red Marines and Royal Marine Artillery (RMA). The RMLI were under command of the 63rd Royal Naval Division (RND) while deployed on land for the First World War. The RMA were also deployed on land in batteries and were deployed with army artillery. 63rd (Royal Naval) Division was an infantry division and were on active service from September 1914 to April 1919. They saw action during the Siege of Antwerp (1914), Battle of Gallipoli (1915), Battle of the Somme (1916) and the Third Battle of Ypres (1917). To begin with the Division was raised from reservists and volunteers of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. In 1916 the RN Division suffered heavy losses and was then transferred to the British Army as the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division. After the beginning of the First World War a Marine Brigade was raised from the Royal Marine Light Infantry and Royal Marine Artillery and consisted of four infantry battalions. Each battalion came from Chatham, Portsmouth, Plymouth, and Deal respectively and took on the name of their depot. The purpose of the units was to secure and defend ports established overseas. Two further brigades consisting of volunteers (four battalions each) were raised soon after. The eight battalions were named Drake, Benbow, Hawke, Collingwood, Nelson, Howe, Hood, and Anson. Thereafter each battalion was numbered from 1 to 8. These comprised 63rd Royal Naval Division. Once trained and equipped the division deployed to the Western Front.

British and French forces in Belgium were being pushed back by the Germans and supply lines from Britain were vulnerable. On 24th August 1914 German cavalry patrols reached the port of Antwerp, Belgium. This posed a threat as the Germans would be able to launch a naval attack from there on the southern coast of England. On the 27th August the Royal Marine Brigade landed to secure Antwerp and hold it. On 30th August the rest of the RMLI landed. The idea to use Antwerp was abandoned as western France was a better option and the RMLI were withdrawn on 31st September.

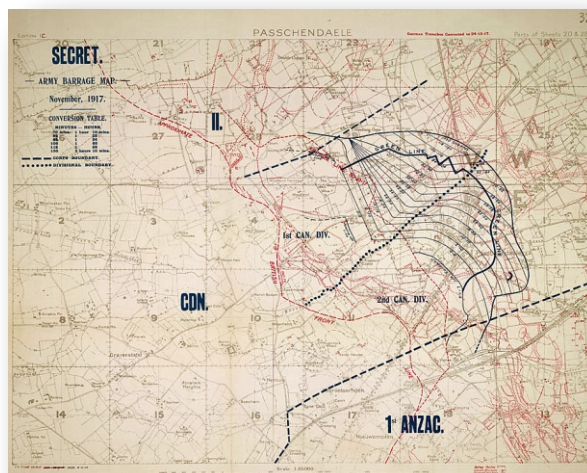
Gallipoli. The 63rd RN Division was

deployed to Egypt and then participated in the Gallipoli campaign, fighting at Anzac Cove and Helles. On 28th April four battalions of the Division were deployed to Anzac to reinforce Australian and New Zealand troops. After this the Division deployed to Helles and remained there until the end of the campaign, when it deployed to France.

Western Front. The 63rd RN Division participated in the last phase of the Battle of the Somme on the River Ancre to capture Beaumont. They had four objectives - to capture the German trench complex (Dotted Green Line), the road to Beaumont station (Green Line), a trench around the remains of south west Beaumont (Yellow Line) and Red Line beyond Beaumont. 1st RMLI bns Howe, Hawke and Hood attacked the Dotted Green Line and Yellow Line. 2nd RMLI bns Anson, Nelson and Drake attacked the Green Line and the Red Line. Beaumont was captured by the Division. The 63rd RND continued to fight and were deployed on the north bank of the Ancre to attack German positions on 17th February 1917. 188 Brigade and two battalions of 189 Brigade captured 700 yards of the road north from Baillescourt Farm towards Puisieux, to gain observation over the key terrain of Miraumont. They then went on to participate in the second Battle of Passchendaele from 26th October to 10th November 1917. 188 Brigade of 63rd RND captured Varlet Farm and Banff House. The centre of the attack was halted on the road between Bray Farm and the village of Wallemolen. That night Banff House was abandoned and the line reformed at Berks House. On 30th October, the 63rd RND came under heavy German artillery fire at their start line. Minimal progress was made and they were unable to link up with the adjacent Canadians. This meant that the troops at Source Farm and Vapour Farm were vulnerable. The Canadian outpost at Source Farm was reinforced to form a defensive flank to Vapour Farm. The 63rd Division suffered 3,126 casualties between 26th and 31st October. Night attacks allowed the position to be consolidated at a further loss of 14 killed and 148 wounded. It is most likely that Private Alec Hopkins was wounded in action at this time and evacuated back to England where he died.



Private Alec Hopkins gravestone,
St Mary's Church Kingsclere



Artillery barrage map Passchendaele 1917

Forthcoming Standard Bearer Training

 Hampshire Standard Bearer Training 2023			
	EASTLEIGH Pavilion on the Park 1 Kingfisher Drive, Eastleigh, SO50 9LH	ASH Ash Manor School Manor Rd, Ash, Aldershot GU12 6QH	
Please arrive ten minutes before training starts to prepare yourself and your Standard.			
January	No Training	Tuesday 10th	19:00 - 20:00
February	Sunday 12th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 7th	19:00 - 20:00
March	Sunday 12th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 7th	19:00 - 20:00
April	Sunday 9th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 18th	19:00 - 20:00
May	Sunday 14th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 9th	19:00 - 20:00
June	Sunday 11th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 6th	19:00 - 20:00
July	Sunday 9th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 11th	19:00 - 20:00
August	Sunday 13th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 15th	19:00 - 20:00
September	Sunday 10th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 12th	19:00 - 20:00
October	Sunday 8th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 17th	19:00 - 20:00
November	Sunday 5th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 7th	19:00 - 20:00
December	No Training	No Training	
Please note: All Standard Bearer must attend two training sessions a year, and be physically fit enough to carry the Standard, as agreed when they signed the yearly MS1 Form.			
Hampshire Parade Marshal: David Graham E: Hampshire.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community M: 07597 455112			

As per RBL regulations all Standard Bearers must undergo two training sessions per year. This is so that Standard Bearers are compliant with health and safety as well as fitness requirements.

Know the Medal - Operational Service Medal

This medal replaced the General Service Medal and is awarded for service in various campaigns. The medal remains the same but the ribbon is changed per campaign. It has been awarded for service in Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq and Syria. The award of a clasp is denoted by a silver rosette when the ribbon alone is worn. Operational Service Medal Operation HERRICK (Afghanistan) ribbon and additional Queen's Commendation award emblem



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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:

HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com

ALL LEGION INQUIRIES

(including Welfare requests)

Should be directed to the national call centre

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Errors and Omissions Excepted