

Edition Date: September 2022

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

The origins of the 2 Minutes Silence

On the 11th November 1918 the First World War concluded when the Germans signed the Armistice Agreement at the railway siding in the forest of Compi  gne at 05h30. The agreement was made that all hostilities were to stop at exactly 11h00. All forces were instructed to remain fast at their positions in the line and stop all fighting. In Cape Town, South Africa the casualty lists of all those who were killed or wounded were announced in May 1918 and a local businessman, Mr JA Eagar, suggested to the minister of the church he attended that a period of silence was to be observed as a token of all South Africans who had been killed in the Great War. It was supported by Mr RR Brydon (another city councillor) who had lost his son, Major Walter Brydon who had been wounded three times and had been gassed in France and had been killed in action on 14 May 1918.

In the same month the Mayor of Cape Town, Councillor Harry Hinds wrote a letter to the local newspaper (The Cape Times) to initiate the period of three minutes silence as discussed by Mr Eagar, Mr Brydon and the church padre. This pause was to commemorate all those who had been killed during the war and was to be signalled by the firing of the Noon Gun (an old cannon that was fired daily to indicate the time at noon). It was done for the first time on the 14th May 1918 and signalled all activity in Cape Town to come to a halt where ever a person was, and for them to bow their heads in remembrance in silent prayer for those in the trenches in Flanders. When the city fell silent a trumpeter who was on the balcony of the Fletcher and Cartwright Building on the corner of Adderley and Darling Streets played the Last Post. At the end of the period of silence he then played Reveille.

One member of the congregation of the church where the original discussion took place was a local man by the name of Sir Percy Fitzpatrick. His son was also a member of the

same battery that Brydons' son served in was also killed in action in France. Fitzpatrick suggested that the period was shortened to two minutes. His reason for this was that the one minute was to give thanks for all those soldiers who had survived and one minute for all those who died. This was adopted and the daily pause for two minutes continued to be made in Cape Town up to 17 January 1919.

Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, while on a visit to Great Britain, then wrote a letter to King George V suggesting that a moment of silence was implemented throughout the Empire to remember the fallen and that it should take place on the 11th November every year. On the 7th November 1919 King George V made a proclamation "that at the hour when the Armistice came into force, the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, there may be for the brief space of two minutes a complete suspension of all our normal activities ... so that in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead."

The King's Private Secretary, Lord Stamfordham wrote a letter to Fitzpatrick stating –

Dear Sir Percy,
The King, who learns that you are shortly to leave for South Africa, desires me to assure you that he ever gratefully remembers that the idea of the Two Minute Pause on Armistice Day was due to your initiation, a suggestion readily adopted and carried out with heartfelt sympathy throughout the Empire.
Signed Stamfordham

On 7 November 1919 The Times of London carried this message from the King : "Tuesday next November 11, is the first anniversary of the Armistice, which stayed the world carnage of the four preceding years...it is my desire and hope that at the hour when the Armistice came into force, the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, there may be, for the brief space of two minutes, a complete suspension of all our normal activities. During that time, except in the rare cases where this may be impracticable, all work, all sound and all locomotion should cease, so that, in perfect silence, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the Glorious Dead".DW

Quote of the month

**The armed forces are the nations insurance policy.
If you let the policy lapse, you are not covered when
there is a disaster.
DW**

Victory over Japan Day 15 August - We Remember

Victory over Japan day (VJ Day) is remembered as the day when the Japanese finally surrendered on 15th August 1945. It brought about the end of World War Two when the formal surrender was signed on 2nd September 1945. Petersfield Town Council PTC marked the occasion in line with their Armed Forces Covenant promise to commemorate it as an Act of Remembrance as guided and advised by appropriate national organisations. The mayor of Petersfield attended the parade alongside members of their council, the Mayors Cadet, Ward Councillors, the RBL, 1927 Sqn ATC, Churchers CCF and TPS CCF.

Thanks go to David Lloyd of RBL Petersfield for submitting the photos and information.



Branch activities

Basingstoke, Overton and District

Basingstoke, Overton and District Branch held its monthly meeting on the 16th August. Planning for the forthcoming Poppy Appeal activities in November is in hand and preparations are well under way. After the end of the official business the members present, shared an informal chicken curry meal which was prepared and provided by the Nepalese veterans of the branch. The Secretary and Treasurer of Kingsclere Branch were invited to attend in a spirit of sharing comradeship between neighbouring branches. It was a successful gathering and everybody reminisced about things of the past. A big thank you is extended to our Nepalese veterans of various Gurkha regiments, and their families for making the evening a very good one.

Old Basing Branch

Many congratulations to Chris Beadle for finally getting to Buckingham Palace to receive the British Empire Medal he was awarded in the Queen's New Year's Honours for 2020. Chris, seen here with his wife Pat, received the award for service to his local community. He is an active member of many organisations in Old Basing including the RBL and tirelessly promotes good causes.



Bordon Camp, Hampshire during World War One



8th Battalion, Black Watch Regiment (Royal Highlanders) training at Bordon Camp, 1915



Operation Remembrance at Ringwood



The Commonwealth War Graves in Ringwood Cemetery. These are WW2 mainly RAF as there was local fighter base close to Ringwood. We formally honour them at Remembrance with Poppy Crosses placed on each Grave during a service attended by Ringwood Mayor and Councillors.



Memorial Lantern - This is a stainless steel figure of uniformed kneeling Soldier holding a WW1 lantern, commissioned from an award winning Blacksmith and paid for by public subscription and the council. The flame is lit on each day that a Ringwood member of the armed forces has died. The names on the War Memorial are all commemorated this way. It also provides a way of remembering those who die in the service of the Crown in future.



Normandy Vets Memorial - This is in the cemetery of St Peter and St Paul Church- the parish and civic church of Ringwood. Honoured on 6th June each year and at Remembrance.



Ringwood War Memorial - recently refurbished and re-dedicated details were in Hampshire Link. More recently used to commemorate Falklands.

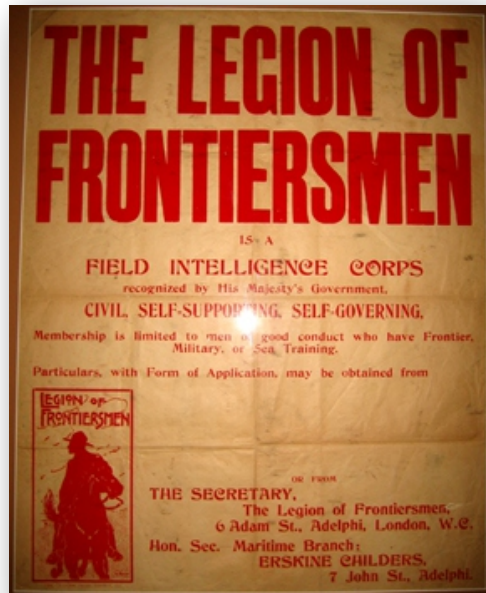
These photos and information were kindly sent by Rev'd Terry Roberts, Chaplain, Royal British Legion, Ringwood and District Branch

The Legion of Frontiersmen

The Legion of Frontiersmen was raised in 1905 in Great Britain by Roger Pocock who was a former police constable in the North-West Mounted Police and was a veteran of the Anglo Boer War. His motivation came from an impending invasion of Britain and the Empire and was raised as a Field Intelligence corps that would watch over and protect the

boundaries of the Empire. The HQ was (and remains) in London and had branches throughout the empire to prepare enlistees for war and to foster vigilance in peacetime.

Today the Legion of Frontiersmen in the UK is an organisation of Civil Defence volunteers and



World War One recruiting poster

many members have a background in the Armed Forces, Police and Emergency Services. Their role is to maintain the Legion's proud tradition of duty and service to Crown and Country in defence of freedom. Members conduct training in a variety of Civil Defence activities and skills and provide volunteers for work in the community. This includes fundraising for military charities, repairing and restoration of war memorials and providing ceremonial guards-of-honour for civic ceremonies. The Legion of Frontiersmen GB is affiliated to the Civil Defence Association (CDA) and is part of the international Frontiersmen network, The Legion of Frontiersmen - Independent Overseas Command (IOC).

The Legion volunteered for military service in the First World War but the British government declined their services so members of H Troop of the Legion of Frontiersmen joined the Belgian Army, serving with their 3rd Lancers instead and served in France. The Frontiersmen fought with great distinction alongside their Belgian comrades from as early as October 1914. Very shortly afterwards in 1915, the War Office in London gave authorization to raise a battalion of Frontiersmen within the British Army. It was designated as the 25th (Service) Bn. Royal Fusiliers (Frontiersmen). They were deployed to East Africa and served there from 1915-17. Men of the unit distinguished themselves in combat and were awarded on Victoria Cross and several gallantry medals. The

Frontiersmen battalion of the Royal Fusiliers were given the battle honours: "Kilimanjaro", "Behobeho", "Nyangao" and "East Africa 1915-17".

The link between the Legion of Frontiersmen and Belgium continues to this day. The Frontiersmen from the City of London & Colour Squadron playing a part in the annual ceremony of Relais Sacre (the lighting of the Sacred Flame) at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey. This ceremony takes place every year just before Armistice Day. More information is at www.frontiersmenhistorian.info

The Legion of Frontiersmen suffered heavy casualties in the First World War. Each of the countries of the Empire had a branch. In Canada the Legion of Frontiersmen helped raise and fill the ranks of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the 19th Alberta Dragoons, the 49th Battalion - Canadian Expeditionary Force (today's Loyal Edmonton Regiment), the 210th Battalion (Frontiersmen), - Canadian Expeditionary Force, the 25th (Frontiersmen) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, and the Newfoundland Regiment.



Legion of Frontiersmen on parade at Royal Horse Guards
2000s Photo from internet

Uniforms. The Canadian Legion wore navy blue shirt Tunic with leather buttons; nickel shoulder chains, Khaki breeches or trousers and brown leather footwear. They wore a straight brim brown Stetson hat with a leather band and regimental crest and monogram. Brown leather fringed gauntlets; silk blue and white "bird's-eye" neckerchief; regulation

on LF holsters were also worn.

Decorations. Branches of the legion, in different parts of the Commonwealth award medals to deserving members of units. The Australian Division awards a decoration called the "Australian Medal of Merit" and within the organisation has used the post nominal letters AMM. These are all unofficial and have caused controversy.

DW



Cap, collar badges
and shoulder title



Royal Fusiliers
cap badge

Military Museums within close travelling distance

Museum of Army Flying. The museum is at the operational airfield of the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop and lies on the A343 between the A303 and Salisbury. Directions are available from the museum website at <https://armyflying.com>

The museum is open from 10:00 to 16:30, seven days a week and in July and August opening is extended to 1730. It is closed from 24th to 26th December. Entry costs are £14 for adults (over 16), £8 for children between 5 and 15, concessions for seniors, over 60 and students are £10 and a Family Ticket of two adults and up to three children are £38. There is free parking on site. Booking tickets can also be done on line.

Free admission is given to the following -

Army Air Corps (plus their accompanying Spouse/Children)

Army Air Cadets (when booked through the Army Air Corps)

Serving British or Commonwealth Military personnel on production of an MOD 90 or equivalent ID Card

AAC Veterans with an AACVA Membership Card

Wheelchair pushers and carers of disabled people

Middle Wallop Military residents (with proof of address)

Children under 5

Army Flying Museum Gold Members

Corporate Partners

The collection covers the five main branches of Army Aviation: Royal Engineers (1878 – 1912), The Royal Flying Corps (1912-1918), Air Observation Post Squadrons (1941 – 1957), the Glider Pilot Regiment (1942 – 1957) and the current Army Air Corps (1957- to date). BS



Other News

Totton Poppy Appeal require volunteers.

Totton Poppy Appeal are looking for volunteers to help distribute paper poppies and poppy tins to shops, and to collect in Asda Totton and elsewhere from Saturday 29th October until Remembrance Sunday 13th November.



Hampshire 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>

Please see the separate PDF document attached with the newsletter.

In support of
RBL
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

HAMPSHIRE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

Featuring performances from:

- The Band of the Hampshire Constabulary
- Mehreen Shah
- The Southampton Philharmonic Choir

...plus more to be announced!

Sunday 6th November 2022, 7:30pm

O2 Guildhall Southampton
W Marlands Road, Southampton, SO14 7LS, Doors open 6:30pm

Tickets £15

Ticket Office Tel: 02380 632601
southamptonguildhall.boxoffice@livenation.co.uk
or scan QR code for online ticket sales

@poppy.hampshirerbl @HampshirePoppy www.hampshirepoliceband.co.uk

Volunteer for the Poppy Appeal

Poppy Appeal volunteers are vital in enabling us to support our Armed Forces community through thick and thin – ensuring their unique contribution is never forgotten.

For more information on becoming a part of our incredible volunteer team please see the key information below, or scan the QR code to visit our site.

rbl.org.uk/poppyvolunteer

As the Poppy Appeal is fast approaching we are urgently looking for Volunteer Collectors to help at our manned stand collections. Can you spare a few hours for our Armed Forces Community? Meet new friends and join local volunteers across Hampshire & the Isle of Wight. Sign up today here: <https://forms.office.com/r/4B9qqJugqK> or contact Claire at csmith4@britishlegion.org.uk Tel: 07526 200209

Know the medal - The Coronation Medal



This medal was awarded to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953. Serving personnel in the armed forces and the emergency services were eligible if they were on duty at the time. The medal was also awarded to some civilians. Of note Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing reached the summit of Mount Everest on 2 June and were personally awarded the medal by the Queen on 16 July 1953 for their achievement.

British Forces Resettlement Services



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

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

0808 802 8080

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Errors and Omissions Excepted