

Edition Date: October 2023

## We will remember them

To all whom we have lost this month. Our sincere condolences to family and friends. Geoffrey Buckley, died on 8 August 2023 at the age of 101. He was a member of the Hayling Island branch of the RBL and served as a merchant seaman during World War Two and deployed on the Malta convoys. In 1992 he went to Malta with his wife to be awarded the Malta George Cross Fiftieth Anniversary Medal. His funeral was held at the Oaks Crematorium, Barton's Rd, Havant on Wednesday 30 August.

*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

## Remembrance

**A**t this time of the year we focus on remembrance. Veterans, families and the general public gather at memorials to pay their respects and to reflect on those who gave their lives for freedom.

The following words come from a memorial far away in another country. They were written in the 1920s but remain just as important and applicable to us all today.

“Our allegiance to the Fallen is a bond of honour and true affection, and is the inspiration of true unity and fellowship to our Warrior Brotherhood. Those who fell, irrespective of class or creed, are the “Nobility of the Nation” and we know from long experience that if we work for them and do the things they would have us do, that bond which joins us shall never be broken.

Let our actions be our Remembrance in the silence of reflection. We do not mourn them but greet them with the affection of true men.

They say to us, in the silence, “Fear neither life nor death, but work towards true brotherhood. DW



**A** 72 Sqn North Weald reunion was held recently. Wreaths were laid. Petersfield RBL Branch was represented by David Lloyd who supplied the photos. The DC 3 Dakota is a part of the Battle of Britain Flight and wreath laying was conducted near the same location.

## Bravo Zulu at 90!

At the tender age of 90 years, Commander Charles Wylie, OBE, Royal Navy - a member of the Droxford & District Branch and Korean War veteran from Newtown in Hampshire - has completed his first ever parachute jump. Ignoring sage advice never to leave a serviceable aeroplane by such means, Charles completed his jump on 8th September 2023 in tandem with an instructor from the Parachute Regiment's 'Red Devils' to raise support and awareness for Alzheimer's Research UK. Charles' wife Jean was diagnosed with

Alzheimer's some 9 years ago and it's Charles' wish that any presents for his 90th birthday should be directed to this charity. Although this won't benefit Jean directly, it will help combat this terrible disease that affects not only those in their 70s or 80s but younger people as well. So far, Charles has attracted 300 donations that, with Gift Aid, has raised over £21,000. Donations can still be made at [Charles WYLIE Jump4Joy](#).

73 Years ago...Less than 5 years from VJ-Day, Britain was at war again. The Allies had divided the Japanese colony of Korea at the 38th Parallel; North Korea under Soviet and Chinese influence with the independent Republic of (South) Korea supported by much of the rest of the world.

Initially thought to be an exercise, some 100,000 troops of the Korean People's Army (KPA) invaded South Korea. A hastily assembled UN force led by USA and UK was overwhelmed by the KPA, retreating to the Pusan Perimeter. An amphibious counterattack at Inchon in September cut off many KPA troops and, with the support of 21 nations under US General Douglas MacArthur, the invaders were driven back to the Yalu River on the border with China. In October 1950, an alarmed Chinese government responded by committing hundreds of thousands of men to the conflict. Eventually, the fighting reached a stalemate on the 27th of July 1953 at the 38th parallel where it had started three years before. An armistice was agreed but the war has still not been formally concluded. Six million lives were lost, mainly civilians with 1,078 British Servicemen killed in action. At the time, Boy Seaman 1st Class Charles Wylie was serving in HMS Comus, a 'Co' class destroyer. At 1,710 tons and capable of 36 knots, she had used her 4.5-inch guns to bombard the coastal railway line which carried supplies to the KPA. On the 23rd of August 1950, HMS Comus'

Captain (Lieutenant Commander R A M Hennessy, LVO, DSC, Royal Navy) ordered "FULL AHEAD BOTH ENGINES - HARD A-STARBOARD!" and four 500lb

bombs dropped by two Russian-built Ilyushin 2 fighter-bombers hit the sea on the port side. His prompt action saved the lives of 185 out of a ship's company of 186, and his ship from certain destruction. In Charles Wylie's own words:

"During the Morning Watch I was at my Defence Station as an ammunition supply number to the twin 40 mm Bofors mounting amidships. As the enemy aircraft dived at us from astern, I was interested to watch them and intrigued by the sparkling of their wings. A few seconds later, when machine gun bullets and 20 mm cannon shells were spraying all around me, I dived for cover - behind ready-use

lockers filled with graze-fused Bofors shells. I thought I was a hero for having survived. The ship's real heroes were in Number 1- Boiler Room. One of the bombs that missed the ship blew a hole in the ship's side some 6 feet long and 2 feet high, killing Leading Stoker Jimmy Addison. Leading Stoker John Banister now found himself up to his neck in sea water in the dark, and suddenly in charge of a nasty situation.

The boilers would have exploded and blown the ship in half, but he quickly isolated his boilers from the adjacent No 2-Boiler Room and vented off the steam. Subsequently he supervised shoring up bulkheads to prevent their collapse. He was gazetted for a well-deserved Distinguished Service Medal which he received from King George VI at Buckingham Palace".

Leading Stoker Jimmy Addison was buried at sea on the day after the action and, traditionally, his kit was auctioned to raise money for his next-of-kin. HMS Comus limped back to Kure in Japan. The poem that follows was written by Charles Wylie and is dedicated to Leading Stoker Jimmy Addison (deceased) and his watch-mates - Leading Stoker John Banister DSM and Stoker Billy Moss.

*Was it only yesterday that the ship was bombed so badly?  
Was it only yesterday that Jim was killed so sadly?*







HMS Comus, a 'Co' class destroyer

*And now today, we've saved the ship, and we're limping to dry dock.  
Today we're doing mundane things to relieve the numbing shock.*

*The pipe is made "D'ye hear there? There'll be an auction soon,  
In the after Stokers' Messdeck, ten minutes after noon."  
The Coxswain's cleared Jim's locker and saved his precious bits  
To send home to his missus to try to save her wits.*

*Now all that's left is Pusser's kit, his jumper and his shoes,  
His toothpaste and his razor blades, his tropicals and blues.  
"How much this tube of toothpaste?" The bids come thick and fast,  
Until they get ridiculous and peter out at last.*

*"Twenty quid for toothpaste, not even to my taste.  
You'd better put it in again; it mustn't go to waste."  
Three times we bid, three times it sold, it found a home with Bill,  
And on we moved to socks and vests and bought them with a will,  
Until we'd nine months' wages to send home to his wife,  
Until each turned and sighed and left to get on with his life.*

Article and images submitted by Cdr Rob Scott RN, Branch Secretary  
Droxford & District RBL

## Petersfield Branch Battle of Britain Memorial Service

A memorial service was held at St Peter's Church, Petersfield, to commemorate the Battle of Britain. It was officiated by Revds Will Hughes and Alison Waterhouse and attended by The Mayor Jamie Crissey, The Mayor's Cadet, members of the 1927 Air Training Corps, The Royal British Legion and a large congregation. The service commemorated the 83rd year of the Battle of Britain - a time when only a handful of RAF pilots and their Spitfires and Hurricanes stood between us and complete defeat. Luckily the RAF prevailed and Herman Goering called off his Luftwaffe. David Lloyd, Petersfield RBL



## Lymington Branch Sponsored Walk

Lymington Royal British Legion members held a sponsored walk of 5 miles around Lymington in fancy dress on Saturday 2nd September to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal.

The walkers raised £550 for the Poppy Appeal 2023. It was a very hot day but residents and public houses customers contributed. The photo at left is of the members who participated and was taken on the last leg of the walk. Well done to them all.

Jean Barras Branch Secretary



# Romsey Abbey RMA Memorial Service



The Secretary and Treasurer of Romsey Mountbatten Branch of the RBL, Patti Cunningham, very kindly sent a link to the photos taken by former Royal Marine Ryan Shelley, who attended the service. He is a member of the Test Valley Royal Marines Association and is now a photographer. In Ryan's own words on his web site he says the following - *"As a former Royal Marine, it was a real honour to capture this event and I hope you would please keep me in mind for any future opportunities. I really*



*hope you enjoy them, I feel they really capture the spirit of the event."*

Ryan has given permission to use his photos. I have included his phone number that appears on his website - 07514768846. Please support one of our own veterans.



RYAN SHELLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

07514768846



# THE KING'S / QUEEN'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

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 the armed forces 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 Shilling and its envelope illustrated were paid to an officer by the name of Lt Hale, who volunteered to serve with the



Obverse



Reverse



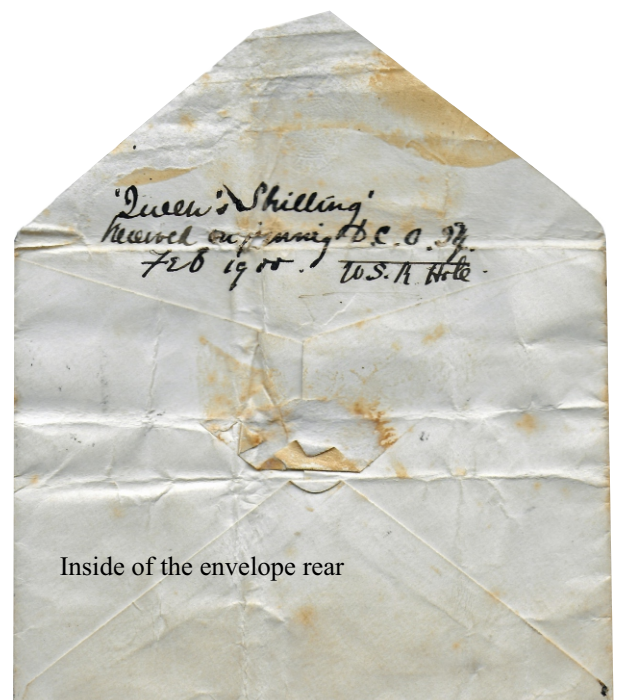
Envelope front

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. DW



Envelope rear with regimental stamp in blue ink

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.



Inside of the envelope rear



## Other News

### Basingstoke, Overton and District Branch gathering

Basingstoke and Overton District RBL branch are promoting the Royal British Legion in the Basingstoke and Deane Area. We will be parading at 11am on the 22nd October prior to our 'Trench Style Sunday Lunch' Event at the Gabardine Bar. Lunch is available between 11am and 5pm.



Tickets for the lunch are £10 and can be entered into a free prize draw. Tickets can be bought in advance or on the day. There will be an opportunity to donate to Branch Funds on the day. (Note: this is for Branch Funds not the Poppy Appeal which is a separate fundraising event).

### Winchester Branch Appeal

Winchester Branch are looking for a Treasurer and appeal to the local community for a volunteer. Please contact the branch secretary - Chris George by email - [chrisgeorge199211@gmail.com](mailto:chrisgeorge199211@gmail.com)



### Poppy Appeal Matters

Poppy Appeal is fast approaching and we are always keen for extra pairs of hands. If anyone can 'gift' some time, we'd be delighted to have you join us. There are always times in the supermarkets where our regular volunteers might like to take a break or maybe you can help with dropping off stock? If anybody is keen to help, in whatever capacity, we'd love to hear from you!

Thank you,  
Sarah Ferris  
Community Fundraiser - North Hampshire  
07742 762988  
[SFerris@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:SFerris@britishlegion.org.uk)



### Poppy Walk



#### Poppy Walk

Royal Victoria Country Park, Southampton  
Saturday 11th November 2023

Come together for the Poppy Appeal this November for a short, family friendly walk to lay a poppy tribute and mark Remembrance.

Free entry for a limited time only.

Sign up today, search **POPPY WALK**  
[rbl.org.uk/poppy-walk](http://rbl.org.uk/poppy-walk)



Please support the Poppy Walk to be held at the Royal Victoria Country Park, Southampton on 11 November 2023.

Sign up for a personal remembrance day at [rbl.org.uk/poppy-walk](http://rbl.org.uk/poppy-walk)

### Standard Bearer Training



#### Hampshire Standard Bearer Training 2023

	<b>EASTLEIGH</b> Pavilion on the Park 1 Kingfisher Drive, Eastleigh, SO50 9LH	<b>ASH</b> Ash Manor School Manor Rd, Ash, Aldershot GU12 6QH
Please arrive ten minutes before training starts to prepare yourself and your Standard.		
<b>January</b>	No Training	Tuesday 10th 19:00 - 20:00
<b>February</b>	Sunday 12th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 7th 19:00 - 20:00
<b>March</b>	Sunday 12th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 7th 19:00 - 20:00
<b>April</b>	Sunday 9th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 18th 19:00 - 20:00
<b>May</b>	Sunday 14th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 9th 19:00 - 20:00
<b>June</b>	Sunday 11th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 6th 19:00 - 20:00
<b>July</b>	Sunday 9th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 11th 19:00 - 20:00
<b>August</b>	Sunday 13th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 15th 19:00 - 20:00
<b>September</b>	Sunday 10th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 12th 19:00 - 20:00
<b>October</b>	Sunday 8th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 17th 19:00 - 20:00
<b>November</b>	Sunday 5th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 7th 19:00 - 20:00
<b>December</b>	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: <a href="mailto:Hampshire.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community">Hampshire.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community</a> 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.

### The RNVR Long Service and Good Conduct Medal



Obverse



Reverse

This medal was awarded to petty officers and ratings for twelve years service with the required training, character assessed as "very good" throughout the period. War service counted as double time.

It was awarded to all British and Empire sailors who met the requirements for award.

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."  
— Albert Einstein

## County Contact Details

Postal Address for Hampshire County Committee  
Hampshire & IOW MEO (or Name), Royal British Legion, 199 Borough High St, London SE1 1AA

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.HampshireRBL](http://www.facebook.com.poppy.HampshireRBL)

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](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)

Committee members - Melvyn Cole, John Davies, Paul Holyoake, Brian Mansi, Avril Mitchell, Vic Thorn

County Management Board: Tim Russell, Robert Bartlett, Ges Brown, Melvyn Cole

Conference Committee: Chairman Brian Mansi, Secretary Avril Mitchell, Pat Prior BEM QVRM, Melvyn Cole, Chris George, Nigel Thomas.

Cups Sub-Committee: Brian Mansi, Avril Mitchell, Pat Prior BEM QVRM

Annual Conference Delegate: Tim Russell

Community Fundraiser North: Sarah Ferris

Community Fundraiser South: Jackie Lax

Regional Fundraiser Manager: Clare Peppiatt

Poppy Appeal Coordinator - North: Jacki Gatfield

Poppy Appeal Coordinator - South: Pat Prior BEM QVRM

Principal Recruiting Officer: VACANT

Training Officer: VACANT

Community Support: VACANT

CCSC: VACANT

Clubs Liaison: Paul Holyoake

Communications Support: Dudley Wall

County Webmaster: Avril Mitchell [Hampshire.Web@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.Web@rbl.community)

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

Events Support: VACANT

Parade Marshall: David Graham, Deputy Parade Marshall: VACANT

County Standard Bearer: Pete Pullin, [ppullin@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:ppullin@britishlegion.org.uk)

Deputy County Standard Bearer: Andy Cassidy

County Youth Standard Bearer: Amelie Neal

Ceremonial Support: David Graham, Karen Graham

County Padre: Reverend Mark Christian

Golf Officer: Rick Bourne

Membership Engagement Officer: Pete Pullin, Membership Engagement Manager: Martin Pelling

Membership Council Representative: Gerry Nunn

Public Relations Officer: VACANT

Independent Examiners: Ges Brown, Mike Davis

UK Honours Awards: County President, County M.E.O.

[Errors and Omissions Excepted](#)