

Edition Date: August 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

New things happening

The Royal British Legion has a new National Chairman, Jason Coward, and a new National Vice Chair, Lynda Atkins. They took up their positions at the end of the 2022 Annual Conference which was held in London on 15 May. Jason Coward has previously served as an RBL Trustee and was also on the Membership Council. He has a great deal of experience and now leads our Board of 16 Trustees and also represents the Royal British Legion's interests throughout the UK as well as internationally, wherever there are branches.

The National Vice Chair is Lynda Atkins and has previously served as a trustee within the Legion. Lynda had served in the Royal Air Force and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers TA. Anny Reid and Paul Harris have been re-elected and John Boisson has been elected as a first-term trustee, having previously served on the Membership Council. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the charity's overall governance, policy and work. Its members conduct planning and make decisions to give strategic guidance to the Legion. The Trustees are legally and financially responsible for the decisions they make and the actions of the charity, so therefore hold a great deal of responsibility in how and what the Royal British Legion does. DW

A suggested strategy for looking after Veterans

A personal viewpoint.. Veterans are military service personnel who have completed their service. They remain soldiers, airmen and sailors. It is physically impossible to un-train or demilitarise them. They have all been prepared to sacrifice themselves for their country and their family. In turn, it is the responsibility of the country to return the favour. After all is said and done, the politicians send the forces to war, not the military themselves. The armed

forces are the nation's insurance policy. If the payments lapse, the policy becomes null and void and the country and its people are extremely vulnerable to all threats.

Premise. Veterans remain trained service personnel. They are proud of their service and achievements and will miss their time in service and some will have varying levels of difficulty in entering the civilian sector. Some may require varying levels of support to integrate so as to use their valuable skills in the civilian sector. Veterans will have both good and bad memories of their experiences. Some bad memories have a lasting effect on them. This has an adverse impact. Almost all veterans have difficulty in asking for help, if it is needed. They have been trained to endure hardship and have a mind-set of "get on with it". The overarching requirement is for military comradeship, an opportunity to share stories with like minded veterans and to maintain their sense of worth which was at its highest when they were still serving. Veterans need a sense of purpose and it is not always easy for them to find, once they have left the forces.

Methodology. Give them dignity and acknowledgement for their service. Give them an opportunity to meet other veterans to remember and to share comradeship and give them the meaningful reassurance that they and their families will be looked after. Some will need a readily available support service.

Solutions. Veterans organisations provide comradeship opportunities - a place to meet and talk. Some may need short term financial support to deal with "survival" emergencies. Fund raising, providing assistance for others and helping out in the community gives a sense of purpose. Remembrance gatherings are not just once a year but at regular monthly meetings. Veterans are grateful for the shared experiences they have had that only other veterans will understand. This takes place at Remembrance parades, meetings and other places of gathering, even if for a cup of tea in a café or a meal in a pub. This is the purpose of the Royal British Legion and all other veteran's organisations. DW

"Every man has his secret sorrows which the world knows not; and often times we call a man cold when he is only sad."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

SURVIVAL ➡ REMEMBRANCE ➡

➡ COMRADESHIP ➡ SENSE OF PURPOSE

National Memorial Arboretum - We Remember

The National Memorial Arboretum is UK's year-round centre of Remembrance. Although the National Memorial Arboretum is part of the RBL it has a separate Board of Trustees and independent charity status (No 1043992). The Arboretum is an evolving, maturing woodland landscape featuring 25,000 trees and a large collection of nearly 400 memorials. The 150-acre site is a living, growing tribute to those who have served and continue to serve our country. Since planting began in 1997, the National Memorial Arboretum has been a special place honouring those who have served, and continue to serve, our nation in many different ways.

This summer the Arboretum is celebrating sport, service and friendship between the nations and territories of the Commonwealth. It is well worth a visit and is situated in Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffordshire, DE 13 7AR. DW



Photos taken by Tom Wall (RBL member and SAAF veteran)

Portsmouth Harbour during World War Two



Canadian wounded soldier disembarked from Polish Navy destroyer ORP Ślęzak (Silesian) Portsmouth on return from Dieppe, 19 August 1942.



HM Sub Unbroken returns from patrol Portsmouth sometime during the 1940s.

Photos from Imperial war Museum

Branch activities

Ringwood and District Happenings

At Ringwood Town Council's Annual Town Assembly, on the 12th May 2022, Certificates of Outstanding Community Service were presented to worthy Ringwood residents to acknowledge their valuable and devoted service over very many years to the people of the town, two of the recipients being members of the Ringwood and District Branch of the Royal British Legion. Citations on their certificates read as follows:

Ringwood over very many years. Your exceptional contribution to Remembrance and honouring the fallen of the parish is of particular note, having brought credit upon you and the town. It is greatly and especially appreciated. We loudly applaud your valuable and sterling service whilst thanking you most sincerely.

The Town Mayor, Cllr Tony Ring, who was unable to present the Certificates in person, said, "Having played a part in this Council Merit Award initiative I am very sorry to miss this auspicious occasion when we honour three very worthy Ringwood residents for their contributions to our community over many past years.



Phil Doughty - We, Ringwood Town Council, desire to acknowledge the valuable and devoted service rendered by you to the people of Ringwood over very many years. Your service as standard bearer at Remembrance and other events is greatly appreciated. We loudly applaud your valuable and sterling service whilst thanking you most sincerely.



Rev Terry Roberts - We, Ringwood Town Council, desire to acknowledge the valuable and devoted service rendered by you to the people of

Terry Roberts, always supported by Phil Doughty, has for many years carried out much, much work in organising successive remembrance and commemorative functions for our town. The much praised and frequently noted Gateway Memorial lantern has quickly become a focal point and is testament to a legacy for past, present and future generations.

I am therefore very pleased to tell Terry and Phil that their efforts are truly appreciated and congratulate each of them on the award of a Certificate of Merit on behalf of the Council and the community at large."

Pictures show Phil Doughty and Revd Terry Roberts receiving their awards from Cllr Philip Day, Deputy Town Mayor. This article kindly written by John from Ringwood Branch. This article kindly sent in by the Branch Secretary.

RAF Odiham and the Sultan of Oman's Air Force

This article was submitted by David Lloyd from Petersfield Branch. David served for many years in the RAF and at one point in his career was with 72 Squadron at RAF Odiham. In April 1974 David and his squadron of Wessex helicopters were deployed to Oman as part of the RAF Wessex Detachment in Oman. (Sultan of Oman's Air Force).

At the time the Sultan of Oman made a request to Great Britain for assistance by way of a loan of helicopters to assist in the fight against a group of Yemeni backed radical dissident tribesmen. They were part of the Adoo (enemy) forces of the People's Front for the liberation of the Arabian Gulf in the western Omani province of Dhofar. British forces (infantry, artillery, SAS and supporting elements) had already deployed to assist prior to this. At this time there was a requirement for extra transport to construct a new defensive line, known as the

Hornbeam Line across the mountains before the onset of the monsoon period in late June.

For this purpose Great Britain deployed four Wessex helicopters, five pilots and ground crew. They arrived in April 1974 for the mission. Aircraft numbers XR 511, XR 525, XS 678, and XT 675 were dis-assembled and were flown out in two Belfast transport aircraft to Masirah,



where they were re-assembled and sprayed in desert colours for operations. They were then flown to their Omani base at Salalah on the 6th April 1974 for



operations.

The aircraft flew freight, conducted trooping, casualty evacuation, deployed

forward air controllers and deployed SAS patrols during six large scale operations against the rebels. The crews also deployed Sultan of Oman Air Force strikemastrs to direct strikes against the enemy.

The crews and aircraft returned to RAF Odiham at the end of the year.

This article sent in by our regular contributor David Lloyd. Many thanks.



Bicycles and the Military

The bicycle has been a useful vehicle for travel since the late 1800s and the military have been using them since the beginning. Bicycles came into widespread use in the military in the very early 1900s. The British army used them during the Anglo Boer war of 1899 – 1902 to great effect. Bicycles were even adapted for use on railway lines during this war.

The armed forces used bicycles for various tasks. In combat bicycles allowed for quiet movement (no engine noises), and had an advantage over the use of horses in that they did

2/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cycle Corps on parade with bicycles, Canterbury, 1915.



not need feeding and veterinary support. Each soldier was taught how to maintain and service their bicycles in the field with minimal logistics back-up. The bicycle also allowed the soldier to carry more equipment. They were a much cheaper form of transport. Military cyclists took on the role of dispatch riders, scouts and dragoons. They were also used for general transport as a soldier could travel further over longer distances than a soldier on foot.

The first time that bicycles were used in actual combat was on the 1895 Jameson Raid launched from Bechuanaland into the Transvaal Republic. This led to further use of bicycles in the Anglo Boer War of 1899 to 1902 where they were used for carrying messages and to deploy scouts. A unit was created to patrol railroad lines on specially constructed tandem bicycles that were fixed to the rails. The Transvaal unit; the Theron se Verkenningskorps (Theron Reconnaissance Corps) or TVK, was extremely effective in using bicycles in a combat and reconnaissance role. A reward of £1,000 was placed on Theron's head—dead or alive. The British army deployed 4,000 soldiers to try and eliminate the TVK

During the First World War all the major combatant nations were using bicycles within the military as a means of transport. The German Army had 36 independent

companies of bicycle infantry, a battalion of cyclists attached to every cavalry division, and an additional 10 reserve bicycle companies and 17 replacement crews. Most countries used cycle-mounted infantry, scouts, messengers and ambulance carriers. The Italian Bersaglieri (light infantry units) used bicycles right up to the end of the war. The German Army Jäger (light infantry) battalions all had a bicycle company (Radfahr-Kompanie) under command when war commenced and extra units were raised during the war. There were 80 cycle companies in total. This required the establishment of eight Radfahr-Bataillonen (bicycle battalions).

The British Army also raised cyclist companies within its infantry divisions. The 1st and 2nd Cyclist Divisions were established. The Belgian army's four Belgian carabinier

battalions had a cyclist company. They were equipped with the Belgica folding bicycle. A regimental cyclist school was established and conducted training in map reading, reconnaissance, reporting and cycle maintenance and repair.

During World War Two Japan used bicycles in the Far East during the Malaya and Singapore campaigns, allowing them to deploy quickly along country lanes and roads, covering long distances. In 1940 Danish soldiers deployed on bicycles to the front to defend against the German invasion. Polish forces also used bicycle troops during the 1939 invasion of Poland. The Finnish Army used bicycles extensively during the Continuation War and Lapland War. The Swedish army had six bicycle infantry regiments. The British army also had bicycle troops. Some were successfully deployed in the Far East by them. Allied use of the bicycle in World War II was limited, but included

supplying folding bicycles to paratroopers and to messengers behind friendly lines.

Bicycles are still used as a means of transport; especially by guerrilla units. This was done by the Viet Cong, and various African groups. Today, the Finnish Defence Forces still trains all conscripts to use bicycles and skis. The Swiss army had three Bicycle Infantry regiments up to 2003. The use of the bicycle by the military still has a place in certain circumstances. DW

Casualty evacuation drill Army Cycle Corps 1915.



2/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cycle Corps Canterbury, 1915.



Military Museums within close travelling distance

The Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum. This is the third article in the series from Blair Southenden on our local military and regimental museums. The Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum Originally founded in 1702 in Ireland the regiment formally took the title of The Hampshire Regiment in the Childers Reforms of 1881. Royal was added to the title after the Great war and it continued to serve until it was amalgamated with the Queen's Regiment in 1992 to become the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The museum is on the ground floor of Serle's House in Southgate Street, Winchester but is accessible from the Peninsula Barracks estate which lies immediately behind it.

The museum's website gives a good description of the items on display, a visitor is greeted by a stand of drums in the entrance and there are different examples of uniforms and medals to be seen.

The museum is open on Mondays to Fridays from 1000-1600 and subject to the availability of museum volunteers, on Saturdays: check the website for up-to-date arrangements. Entrance is free and as it is all on the ground floor it is accessible for disabled visitors. Entry is free. See <https://www.royalhampshireregiment.org/>

BS



Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum



Main entrance hall



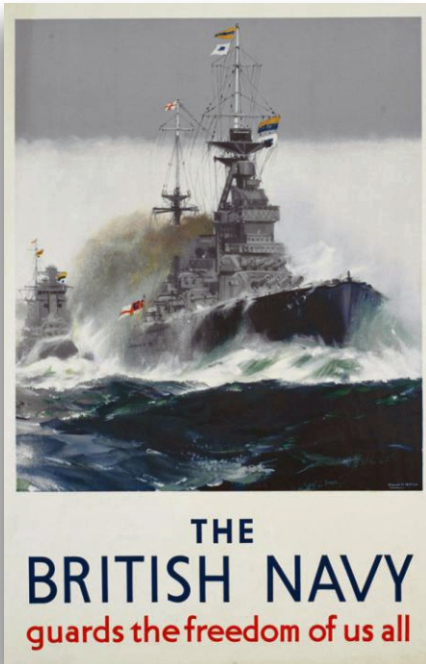
One of a number of Colours on display

Other News



Closely associated with the RBL is the RAFA. many RBL members are also members of RAFA and therefore both organisations work together for common goals. This news comes from David Lloyd of the Petersfield Branch of the RBL.

Bognor Regis – First RAFA Branch article of the Month. The RAF Association selected our Branch and Club as the first to be covered in their new monthly “Branch and Club Bulletin”. Not surprising, with all the welfare and social activities we are involved in. A huge thanks to all our volunteers and members of the hospitality team who put so much into achieving our aims and objectives, through running and taking part in our social activities, fund raising, upgrading and maintaining the premises, whatever. Without you, we would not be achieving what we do. Keep up the good work!
Dave Hewings, Branch 381 Veterans/RAFAC Liaison.
DL



Know the medal - The Iraq Medal



This medal was awarded for service in Operation Telic in Kuwait and Iraq from 20th January 2003 to 2004. Those who took part in actual combat from 19 March 2003 wear a silver rosette on the ribbon. To be awarded this medal a person had to serve for 30 days continuously or for an aggregate of 45 days in total. There is a clasp for this medal which has the dates 19 Mar to 28 Apr 2003 on it.

Warning Order:

Andover Armed Forces Veterans

Event: You are invited to attend the Andover Veterans Brew, Banjo's and Banter Club.

Date: first Saturday of every month

Time: 10:00 hrs to 12:00hrs

Location: British Legion Club
4 Western Rd, Andover SP10 2JG
Grid Ref; SU 36113 45333

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 civilian 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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County Vice President Brian C.N. Soffe

County Vice President Robert G Knight

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Errors and Omissions Excepted