

We will remember them

To all whom we have lost this month. Our sincere condolences to family and friends. We remember David Clarke of Petersfield RBL branch and Norrie Bartlett of Yateley and Hawley RBL Branch who passed away recently.

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



The RBL 10 Year Strategy

This extract comes from the RBL Summer edition of the national quarterly magazine.

Vision. Bringing society together to recognise, remember and support the Armed Forces community.

Mission. To support our Armed Forces community and ensure their unique contribution is not forgotten.

Values.

1. Stand together. We stand with an ever evolving Armed Forces community, sharing a lifelong commitment to support and comradeship. We share knowledge and build connections. Together with a national network of charities and partners, we ensure life during and after service is filled with purpose and community.

2. Be respectful. We stand with the Armed Forces community, valuing and respecting all experiences with empathy. We put people first, treating everyone with fairness and kindness, acting with integrity.

3. Take pride. We exist to make a positive difference to the Armed Forces community, remembering and honouring service and offering support. We are thoughtful and focus our passion in the right way, taking ownership to ensure every action counts.

4. Embrace change. We look ahead to better understand the needs of those we serve, leading with confidence, expertise and relevance. Guided by evidence and committed to learning, we are responsive and adaptable, empowered to ensure what we do is meaningful and impactful.



A 4 South African Infantry Regiment soldier doing duty at Buckingham Palace in 1917.

A South African Infantry Brigade was under command of 9th Scottish Division in France during the First World War and saw extensive active service. One of the South African Brigades epic battles was at Delville Wood. On the 15th July 1916 the SA Brigade was ordered to capture Delville Wood at all costs. 3153 South African soldiers went into Delville Wood on the 15th July and on the 20th July, once the Wood was captured, only 755 soldiers came out alive. DW



Victory In Japan (VJ) Day August 1945
Operation Pedestal Malta August 1942





Remembering VJ Day

Free Exhibition
15 - 16 August
St Mary's & All Saints
Droxford SO 32 3 QL

Friday 15 Aug 6pm - Join us for a commemorative Evensong Service conducted by Reverend Canon Anthony Hulbert

Saturday 16 August 10.30am - 3pm - hear the stories and history of those who fought the "Forgotten War". Displays and recordings will concentrate on the British, former British Empire and Dominion forces and civilians who took part in the fighting in South East Asia. Viewed from the personal histories of those who were there during the Far East Campaign. Rob Scott



Photos of VJ Day from the Imperial War Museum



Southamptston Branch & Club 80th Anniversary of VJ Day

The Southamptston Branch & Club are arranging an 80th anniversary evening to celebrate VJ day. Following two very successful weekends to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day and another for Armed Forces Day the Southamptston Branch and Club are hosting an 80th anniversary VJ celebration evening on Saturday 16th August.

We are inviting all current and ex-service personnel plus members and their families to join us on this very special occasion. We will be providing entertainment and a buffet prepared and donated by our Ladies Section during the evening. We will also have a huge VJ cake which one of our veterans has arranged which will be donated to the Mountbatten Hospice after the event. Everybody is welcome to join us and help make it a memorable and special evening.

Kind regards
Archie Parsons

Southampton RBL Branch and Club Saturday 16th August VJ Day Celebration

Members / guests and veterans are invited to join us for a special commemorative evening to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VJ Day.

**Raffle with a variety of prizes
Light buffet kindly provided by the Southampton RBL ladies.
Entertainment DJ Wayne**

**Everybody is welcome to join us and make it a memorable evening.
Bring along family and friends to enjoy the occasion and pay our respects to Britain's forgotten armed forces.**

Remembering Norman “Norrie” Bartlett RN. Few men witnessed both D-Day and VJ Day, the last act of WW2. Naval gunner Norman “Norrie” Bartlett died just before his 99th birthday, having lived life to the full, from humble beginnings. Born in London in 1926 and adopted by the Bartlett family as an infant, a trip on the Isle of Wight ferry to watch the Coronation Review at Spithead in 1937 when he declared “it's the Navy life for me!”



sealed a lifelong commitment to the Senior Service. He tried to enlist in 1940, but at age 14 was turned away. He pulled the wool over the recruiter's eyes two years later aged 16¼.

Colour blindness ruled out his first choice as a signaller, so he trained as an aviation mechanic and later, as a gunner before he joined the Fleet. He saw action in the Atlantic and Arctic convoys aboard the destroyers HMS Bulldog and HMS Dragon, took part in both diversionary actions for the Normandy landings (Operation Fortitude) and in the invasion itself, until HMS Dragon was crippled by a German midget submarine and scuttled in the Bay of the Seine.

Norrie was assigned to the brand-new destroyer HMS Barfleur, gearing up to join the Pacific Fleet, but before she sailed, married his wife Betty in December 1944. His ship arrived in the Far East in July in time for the last few weeks of conflict with Japan and accompanied the flagship, USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay for the Japanese surrender. Norrie spent the remainder of his service on HMS Barfleur, helping to repatriate Allied Prisoners of War, before returning to the UK himself in 1946 to demobilise.

After retraining as a boiler engineer in civilian life, he helped

with construction of the first generation of UK's nuclear submarines. After the war, he and his father-in-law helped to establish a British Legion branch in Englefield Green, Surrey and later moved to North East Hampshire. After retirement, he sailed again with the Royal Navy, with his grandson, CPO Nick Clark aboard HMS Invincible as part of a “families at sea” package from Gibraltar to the carrier's home base in Portsmouth.

Very active with veterans until his final weeks, Norrie addressed the 75th anniversary of VJ Day commemorations at the National Memorial Arboretum alongside the Prince of Wales and then RBL President James Bashell and attended the Festival of Remembrance. In later life Norrie enjoyed visits to battlefield memorials at Ypres and Arnhem and twice to Normandy to honour former shipmates, thanks to charity Taxis for Military Veterans.

Norrie was laid to rest following a service at the Royal Garrison Church in Aldershot, as other local churches were too small to accommodate his large extended family and many friends from the RBL, North Hampshire Golf Club and Hart Male Voice choir, who led the hymn singing. We are proud to report that he was attended by eight RBL standards and three RN Association standards from across Hampshire and the chaplain stated that he had never seen anybody more honoured. Thanks again to all those who supported Norrie.

Hart Male Voice Choir edited a video of the service, focusing on their music and singing. The parade of standards also appears at this link: [Norman Bartlett Funeral](#)

Neil Parkes Secretary RBL Yateley and Hawley Branch



Southampton RBL Branch and Club 80th Anniversary VJ Day and Picnic in the Park

Southampton Branch in conjunction with The Southampston veterans Breakfast Club and supported by Southampton City Council will be holding an 80th Anniversary of VJ Day on Saturday 16th August.

Timetable of Events

1030 am. Veterans and Standards will form up in Watts Park.

1045 am. Veterans led by Pipes and Drums will parade to the Southampton Cenotaph.

1100 am. A short service will take place, led by a veteran and the Lord Mayor of Southampton, followed by a wreath laying. Military vehicles will park at the Cenotaph prior to the service.

After the ceremony Veterans will form up and march through East Park to Palmerston Park where we will hold a picnic in the park, where everybody will be most welcome to join us. Please bring your own food.

Display tables for the RBL / Southampton Veterans Breakfast Club / Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance and others will be on site in the park.

We hope to have entertainment with a Cadet Band of local DJ. The afternoon in the park will finish at 1400 hours.

Everybody is welcome to join us on this memorable occasion and enjoy a picnic in the park with old comrades, friends and family.

SOUTHAMPTON RBL CLUB 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

From 7,30 pm, also on the 16th August the Southampton RBL Club will be holding a special evening to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the club with entertainment and a free buffet. All veterans, serving personnel and guests are invited to join us and help make it a memorable and entertaining evening.

Hampshire Poppy Appeal

Be the Heart of Remembrance in Your Community

At the Royal British Legion, we proudly stand with our Armed Forces community - past and present - providing vital support such as rehabilitation, care, legal advice, and financial assistance. Every poppy tells a story of service, sacrifice, and hope. As a Poppy Appeal Organiser, you can help ensure those stories are never forgotten.

By joining our team, you'll play a key role in making poppies available in your local area—bringing your community together to honour those who served and supporting veterans and their families. Become a local hero of remembrance. DM us today to find out how you can get involved.

Claire Smith. Poppy Appeal Manager - South Hampshire and Isle of Wight T07526 200209E
Csmith4@britishlegion.org.uk





The cemetery is located at Woodlands in the North of Singapore. Dedicated to the men and women from United Kingdom and the Commonwealth and The Netherlands who died defending Malaya and Singapore against Japanese forces during World War 2. It is comprised of the War Graves, Memorial Walls, State Cemetery and Military Graves and is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

I became aware of Kranji after visiting the cemetery with the RAF Seletar Association in 2003 and through research for my "Petersfield Roll of Honour" booklet I found the name "Ernest John Benjamin Finn" – a native of Petersfield who was killed in Singapore 3/1/45 and is buried in Kranji. As a result of my finding I lay a poppy cross at his grave whenever I visit – the most recent being 2018. During this visit I accompanied members of 230 Squadron (I was a former Squadron member) where a eulogy to Wing Commander James Brindley Nicolson VC, DFC was read by Squadron Leader Monaghan and I recited the RBL Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph.

David Lloyd



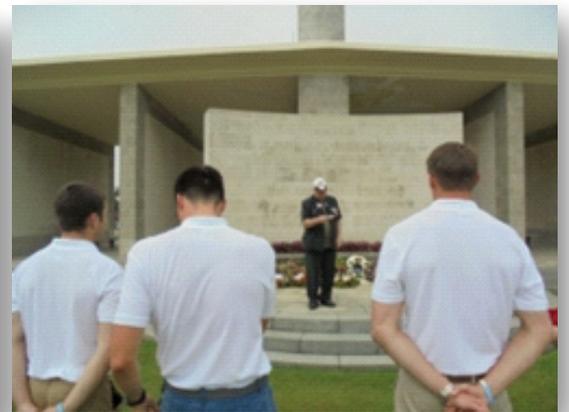
David Lloyd standing next to Aircraftman Ernest Finn's grave.



230 Squadron RAF personnel



Kuan Joo – former Singapore Army paying respect to RAF personnel buried in the cemetery



The exhortation & Kohima Epitaph





On the 9th July David Lloyd and his wife were honoured at the Petersfield branch of the RBL. David received the 20 Years Service award for serving as Petersfield RBL branch Secretary. David was presented with a certificate and tankard and, as David says, "the power behind the throne - his wife Kristina, was presented with a bouquet of flowers. Well done to both of you for your dedicated service to the armed forces, veterans and the RBL. DW



During the Second World War most service personnel received their medals through the Royal Mail. Medals were placed in a cardboard box as illustrated to the left

and posted directly to the recipient. The Defence Medal was awarded to service personnel that included three years service in the United Kingdom or one years service in a non-operational area or for six months in an area threatened by enemy air attack or other threats. The police, fire service and civil defence personnel were entitled to the medal. DW

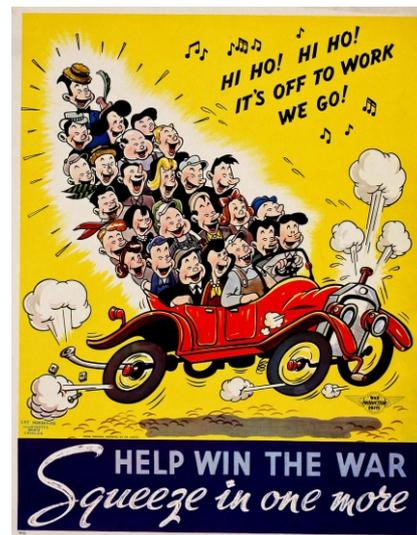
Royal British Legion Fuel Rationing during World War Two

During World War Two all our petrol was imported from overseas and this vital commodity was the first thing to be rationed. It was essential that petrol was available for the armed forces to keep them mobile in order to firstly defend our country but secondly to be able to do their work when they were deployed outside the country, fighting the enemy.

It was also equally vital for essential work to be done on the farms to produce food and for industry to keep the country going. Fuel was also important for keeping our railways and other public transport moving. Those people fortunate to own a private motorcar were given fuel ration books that had a set number of coupons worth a set amount of fuel. This allowed the private vehicle owner the ability to travel short distances. In some cases fuel for private use was stopped altogether, thus forcing people to use public transport or even revert to horses and carts.

Prior to the start of the war fuel was imported from the Middle East and elsewhere by different commercial companies such as Shell, Esso and BP. These companies competed to sell their fuel to the public. The Secretary for Mines Mr Geoffrey Lloyd got a law passed in parliament to prevent this from happening and in September 1939 all petrol distributors in the country were ordered to pool their resources once individual petrol branded fuel sold at garages, was depleted. A single price was negotiated and only one grade of petrol was sold.

Commercial vehicles and tractors were allocated an allowance of special leaded petrol which was not available to private motorists. To prevent black market activities it was coloured red. Those who were caught trying to strain the fuel to get rid of the red colour so they could use it for other purposes were heavily fined. DW



The situation in the Mediterranean theatre of operations was becoming more serious as Malta was under constant threat from the Axis forces. Malta was a strategic part of the campaign and was being used as a forward operating base for the war in North Africa and to control the Mediterranean Sea.



Operation Pedestal was launched in August 1942 and was a British operation to bring much needed supplies to Malta as it had been under siege by the Axis forces from 1940. Royal Navy ships, submarines and RAF had been operating from the island of Malta attacking Axis shipping convoys to Libya to disrupt the supply of much needed logistics for the Axis during the North African Campaign.



Cap badge King's Own Malta Regt

British forces suffered great losses but were able to deliver enough supplies to allow the forces and the population of Malta to continue to resist. One of the most vital commodities required on Malta was fuel. It was delivered by fifty ships

in a convoy that sailed from Britain on 3 August 1942 and passed through the Strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean on the night of 9th / 10th August. The convoy came under attack from the Axis using bomber aircraft, German E-boats,

Italian MAS and MS boats. Axis minefields and submarine operations were also used. In the operation over 500 Merchant and Royal Navy sailors and airmen were killed. The intense attacks by the Axis resulted in only five of the fourteen merchant ships reaching Grand Harbour. One of the ships that got through was the Ohio, crewed by British sailors. It was carrying vitally needed aviation fuel. This convoy allowed Royal Navy submarines to return to Malta to conduct operations. The fuel also resulted in the arrival of Spitfire fighter aircraft flown from the aircraft carrier HMS Furious and then allowed a concerted effort to destroy Axis ships operating in the Mediterranean Sea.



Royal Malta Artillery cap badge

This forced Italian naval convoys to sail much further away from Malta and increased the length of their journey, thus using more fuel and adding more time to their journeys, making them more vulnerable to Allied attacks from the air and sea. Eventually the siege of Malta ended when the Allied forces forced the Axis out of Egypt and Libya after the Second Battle of El Alamein that lasted from 23 October to 11 November. Operation Torch conducted by US and British forces after landings off the west coast of North Africa in November allowed land-based aircraft to escort merchant ships to Malta. DW

We Remember Them



Basingstoke memorial at the Civic Centre

Kings Birthday Honours submissions

The King's Birthday Honours – 2026 Nominations
On behalf of Paul Bennett, the RBL National President, the Private Office invites members to consider and submit nominations for The King's Birthday Honours 2026.

The RBL Honours Committee welcomes nominations for a National Award for Legion members, volunteers and staff, whose contribution to RBL goes further than is normally expected. The overriding principle is that awards should be made on merit, defined as achievement and exceptional service. Nominators should consider candidates who have made successful changes, with the emphasis on specific achievement; have demonstrated innovation and, where appropriate, leadership, which has delivered outstanding results.

To find out more about RBL's Honours Guidance, please visit the RBL website. The final deadline for submissions is 8 August 2025.

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, County Website: <http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/hampshire>

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrb/ Facebook Email - Hampshire.web@rbl.community

Poppy Appeal - 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 (Rhodesia), MMM (SA) with any information or articles by the 20th of the month at:
HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com

ALL LEGION ENQUIRIES

(including Welfare requests) should be directed to the national call centre
0808 802 8080

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Ceremonial Support: David Graham, Karen Graham

County Padre: Reverend David Roache

Golf Officer: Rick Bourne

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Membership Council Representative: Gerry Nunn

Public Relations Officer: VACANT

Independent Examiners: Ges Brown, John Davies, Pat Prior, Malcolm Brunsden and Avril Mitchell.

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

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Errors and Omissions Excepted

