

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



Branch Accounts

Dear Treasurers and Committees,

I did mean to put a reminder in the previous issue, not that it's needed, that accounts time is upon us again and Holly is eagerly waiting your Branch accounts to be submitted as soon as possible. Several have already arrived, Thank you to those Branches.

To be compliant, you all know that the final date to send in to Holly is the 30th September. A few days before would be most useful as the accounts need to be accepted, and that can't be done on the very last day if there is a query.

We now have five County Independent Examiners, so please use them. Just get in touch with Holly to get the name of the most convenient for you. Should you need to use any other auditor, please ensure that they are provided with the Auditor's pack so they are fully aware of our Charity's and the Charity Commission's rules and regulations.

Branch funds! Many Branches are still keeping excess funds. Apart from the plain fact that we should not be retaining funds, the Charity Commission are pushing the Legion on this issue, and HO are pushing us at County. So please, do a budget, work out what you need and then send in the excess to the County Welfare Fund or the Poppy Appeal.

Being a Volunteer like yourselves, I have to do what I'm told, so I will be emailing Branches that have too much money. As always, any problems, complaints or advice, just get in touch with me or any of our Committee.

Regards

Ges Brown

County Treasurer



The CWGC



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission was founded in 1917 by Royal Charter. The organisation works on behalf of the Governments of Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom and is responsible for the commemoration of the 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth who lost their lives in the two World Wars.

The primary objective of the CWGC is to remember members of the armed forces who were killed in conflict and is of universal, perpetual relevance. They also believe that reflecting on their deaths is of continuing and paramount importance for all of us.

The CWGC looks after various cemeteries, memorials, graves, landscapes, and records in 23,000 different locations throughout the world in more than 150 countries and territories. They are both the practical way in which the commemoration of the fallen takes place and is an opportunity for discovery, inspiration, and engagement.

The CWGC believes that each individual who is commemorated were people like ourselves and had their own ambitions, hopes, and dreams. It is the duty and privilege of the CWGC to care for their graves and memorials and through their charitable Foundation, keep their stories alive. The commitment never ends.

Every year the remains of serving personnel who have been killed in war are discovered. The CWGC then tries to identify them and provide a burial with honours. Their names may not be on the many memorials to the missing but are then placed over their final resting place. The CWGC conducts active engagement with the general public and provides education programmes to ensure the stories of the fallen are told to all generations through talks and tours at our sites and in schools, clubs, societies and organisations. The CWGC War Graves Week every May throws a spotlight on the work they do and the men and women that are commemorated. Source CWGC website

8 September 2022. Death of Queen Elizabeth II
11 September 2001. Attack on New York Twin Towers
15 September 1940. Battle of Britain Day.



The Southampton Branch held a very successful 80th Anniversary of VJ Day on 15th & 16th August. On 15th the city council arranged a number of events during the day. Branch members attended a Flag Raising ceremony at the civic offices followed by a service at the VJ memorial in Town Quay Park. The event was well attended by the Lord Mayor and veterans plus the local media. Cunard then hosted a lunch for VJ veterans and their descendants on board Queen Mary 2. This was well attended and we heard some amazing and heart warming stories particular from family members. Later in the day a Lancaster Bomber flew over the city which was followed by beacon lighting plus a short concert featuring songs from the 1040s in Holy Rood Church.

On 16th August at 1100 am the Branch, together with other veterans groups organised a service at the Southampton Cenotaph. A pipe and drum band led a parade of veterans and standards with the Lord Mayor in attendance. The event was very successful and was then followed by a picnic in the park with music provided by the Sea Cadets Band.

On Saturday evening we held a celebration evening in the club for members, guests and veterans which was very successful. One of our members arranged a special VJ cake which was raffled and raised an excellent total for Branch funds. Overall it was a very successful and memorable weekend which will be long remembered by all concerned. The photos were taken on the Saturday evening.

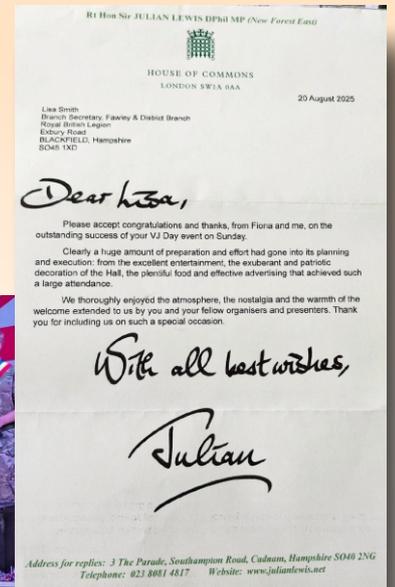
Archie Parsons - Southampton Branch



Memorial Service for Pilot Officer Martyn Aurel King
 On 16 August 2025, a deeply moving memorial service was held at All Saints, Fawley, Hampshire, led by the Rev'd Alison Bennett, commemorated Pilot Officer Martyn Aurel King, the youngest of the Few at 18. He was killed in action 85 years ago to the day. In the same combat, his Flight Commander and Section Leader, Flight Lieutenant JB Nicolson, won the Victoria Cross - becoming the only RAF fighter pilot to be so honoured throughout the Second World War. The service was attended by Sir Julian Lewis, MP for New Forest East and supported by Fawley Royal British Legion and the RAF; Jim Nicolson, nephew of the VC, gave a reading, and historian and author Dilip Sarkar MBE gave the address, representing the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust CIO. The event was a great success. PP



VJ Day 80th Anniversary Tea Party. On the 17th August at Fawley RBL Social Club held a celebration of VJ Day. Which would not have been possible with out a VJ grant from the RBL and all the volunteers who pulled together and made it such a success. A special thank you to Sir Julian Lewis for the opening speech, to our incredibly respectful cadets for their recites of local WW2 experiences and to the lovely and beautiful Terrie-May for her brilliant singing! Glorious Buffet enjoyed by all. Pete Pullin . Standard Bearer, Fawley and District Branch



Victory over Japan. Emperor Hirohito finally proclaimed cessation of hostilities to the Japanese people on 15th August 1945, thereby bringing the Second World War to an end. The Allied declaration at the Potsdam Conference attended by Truman, Stalin and Churchill in July 1945 had sought unconditional surrender but this was later modified to allow the Emperor to remain head of state. Successive defeats; extensive bombing of Tokyo and other major cities; naval blockade of vital oil and other imports; USSR's declaration of war on Japan and the routing of Japanese forces in Manchuria, together with the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by atomic bombs finally led to the Emperor's decision. It is estimated that this saved over a million lives that would have been lost had the planned land invasion of the main Japanese islands taken place in November 1945 (Operation Downfall). The instrument of surrender was finally signed on 2nd September onboard the battleship USS Missouri anchored in Tokyo Bay. Sporadic fighting continued but the war itself was finally over. The last Japanese soldier to surrender was 2nd Lt Hiroo Onada in the Philippines on 10th March 1974!

The Droxford & District Branch of the Royal British Legion marked the 80th anniversary of Japan's surrender with a service of thanksgiving at St Mary & All Saints Church on Friday 15th August 2025. This was followed by an exhibition, also in the church, on Saturday 16th August. To a packed congregation, the thanksgiving service was led by Meonstoke resident and Branch Chaplain, the Rev'd Canon Anthony Hulbert with participation by various Branch officers and Warrant Officer Bandmaster Jan Zawada, Royal Marines (Retd) who sounded the Last Post and Reveille. As has become traditional at remembrance services, this was followed by the Kohima Epitaph:

“When you go home, tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.”

Although dating from 1916, these words had added poignancy as they were chosen for the inscription on the British 2nd Division memorial to commemorate losses at the Battle of Kohima in Burma in April-June 1944. Readings included reflections from the diaries of a former Prisoner of War (POW) and messages of hope and conviction that our future is in God's hands from the Book of Isaiah (2:2-5) and St Paul's Letter to The Romans (8:31-39). The address by Canon Anthony was moving and informative and, as expected, setting just the right tone for the occasion. Supported by a choir drawn from the Meon Valley parishes, hymns and prayers followed the theme of thanksgiving, hope and remembrance, and included the popular and evocative 'I Vow to Thee My Country'. The service culminated with an enthusiastic rendering of 'God Save the King'.

A consortium of retired Royal Navy officers led by Captain Nick Fletcher put together an interesting and comprehensive display to cover all aspects of war in the Far East – the so called 'Forgotten War'. This included a 'talking heads' TV monitor presentation by three armed forces veterans from the branch whose fathers had either fought the Japanese and served as POWs or, in one case, interned for 3½ years as a civilian in Singapore's infamous Changi Gaol. Some of the display boards and artefacts had been borrowed from the Gurkha Museum in Winchester and the others reflected the huge amount of work conducted by Nick and his team. A nice touch was the use of bamboo canes to mark out the route and mount the various display boards. Display boards encapsulated all aspects of the war in the Far East from the British and British Empire perspective. The usual range of excellent refreshments were provided by Wilfred's Café and over 150 people attended the exhibition. Rob Scott.



Churchyard drinks apres service



Medals of Major Charles D'Alton, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (father of Tony Lee) who served with 82 West African Division in Burma.



Gurkha slouch hat and Kukhri fighting knife



Burma Star - Rifleman Manbahadur Thapa and other artifacts 3rd Gurkha Rifles



Medals and artefacts of Petty Officer John Stewart Lee (grandfather of Andrew Lee) who served in the armed merchant cruiser HMS Chitral escorting convoys between South Africa and the Far East.



Union Jack from the Town Class cruiser HMS GLASGOW



Order of Service



WO 1 Bandmaster Jan Zawada RM (Retd)



Petersfield Branch VJ Day Celebrations



VJ Day was remembered in Petersfield on the 15th. Wreaths were laid by various dignitaries at the town Memorial. The local radio station - Radio Shine did a coverage of the proceedings. David Lloyd



8th September 2022

Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, the longest reigning monarch of Great Britain died at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, after a 70-year reign. Queen Elizabeth II was born on 21st April 1926 and at the time of her birth was third in line to the throne. She became Queen in 1952, aged 25 after her father, King George VI died in his sleep. As Princess Elizabeth, she served in the British army during World War Two.



Upon her death, her son Charles, age 73, became the new monarch as King Charles III. During her reign, the Queen met 13 U.S. presidents and visited over 100 countries.



Queen Elizabeth II was the patron of the Royal British Legion. We remember her. DW



11 September 2001. The worst terror attack on US soil

The world changed on the 11th September 2001. Terrorists hijacked and took control of four passenger airliners and deliberately crashed them into skyscraper buildings (The World Trade Centre twin towers), the US armed forces HQ at the Pentagon and Flight 93 which crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 persons were killed. Four separate teams of terrorists had been in the USA for some time before they boarded the morning flights posing as passengers and commandeered the aircraft by force.

American Airlines Flight 11 (with 92 passengers on board and United Airlines Flight 175 (with 65 people on board) left Boston for Los Angeles were forced by the terrorists to fly to New York City and deliberately flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Centre. The impact and subsequent fire caused both 110-story towers to collapse, killing 2,752 persons including hundreds of rescue workers and people employed in the towers. While this was taking place, United Airlines Flight 93, which took off from Newark bound for San Francisco, and American Airlines Flight 77 with 64 passengers on board, which took off from Dulles (Virginia) bound for Los Angeles, were also hijacked. Flight 77 was diverted to Washington, DC, and deliberately crashed into the Pentagon building. All on board were killed in the incident. 125 military personnel inside the Pentagon building were also killed. Flight 93 with 44 people on board was diverted toward Washington but crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after passengers overpowered the terrorists on board.



Several British citizens working at the Twin Towers were amongst those killed. This major terror attack resulted in the wars in the Middle East to try and eradicate the terrorist organisations. The problem is ongoing today. DW

Prior to the Battle of Britain, Germany invaded the Low Countries and France, forcing Great Britain to adhere to its diplomatic commitments to assist in times of war. The British Expeditionary Force (BEF) was deployed to assist against the Blitzkrieg tactics used by Germany in its invasion of western Europe. Their intention was to attack Britain from the sea using harbours in the English Channel. The Royal Navy effectively controlled the English Channel and the North Sea. This situation encouraged the Germans to rethink their intentions of invading Britain, resulting in the Battle of Britain.

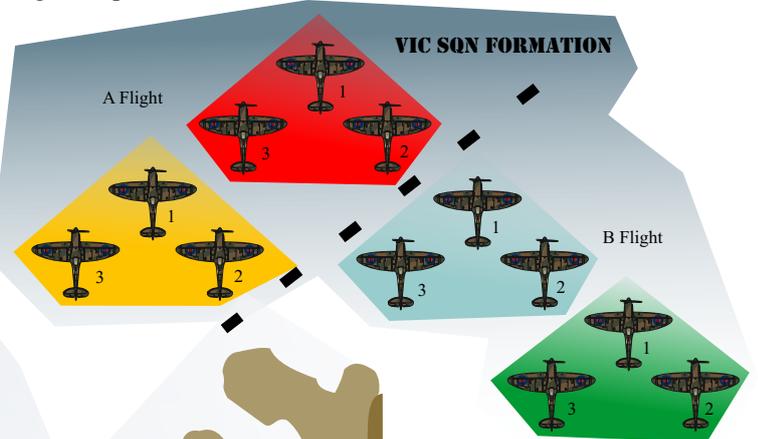
On 16th July 1940 Adolf Hitler ordered his armed forces to plan and prepare for an amphibious and airborne assault on Great Britain, code named Operation Sea Lion once the Luftwaffe had air superiority of Great Britain.

The Battle of Britain took place from 10th July to 31st October 1940. It needs to be seen in conjunction with the Blitz, a series of large-scale night attacks that took place between 7th September 1940 and 11th May 1941. The Germans saw these two elements as



Friday 13th September 1940 - The Bombing of Buckingham Palace.

part off the same campaign to force Britain to a negotiated peace settlement. The Luftwaffe started the campaign attacking convoys of ships and British ports in the English Channel in July 1940. The next step from a German perspective was to achieve air superiority over the RAF. This stage of the campaign started on 1st August by launching 12 days of attacks on the airfields and aircraft in the various RAF Fighter Commands. (See map). The focus of main effort then changed to attacking airfields and infrastructure. Thereafter they switched to attacking strategic industrial targets and aircraft factories. This approach was changed by the Germans when the Luftwaffe began attacking civilian targets (the Blitz). The change in targets allowed aircraft production to resume and the steady supply of aircraft to the RAF changed the course of the campaign resulting in the Battle of Britain being a complete success. DW



Recruiting in the armed forces is a constant activity that is required to keep the armed forces up to strength. The armed forces lose people due to a number of reasons. These include natural attrition such as resignations, discharge from service due to injuries and other health issues, retirement after completion of the required years service and more. This implies that new recruits have to undergo basic training.

Most young people start the journey to join the armed forces because they are motivated by the fact that family members have served and they wish to carry on the tradition. The first step is a visit to the recruiting office. There are many dotted around the country and the staff are able to give advice and make arrangements. In Great Britain recruiting offices are run by a civilian company and the recruiting offices are staffed by both civilians and military personnel. Today the recruiting process is largely computerised but unfortunately is not as efficient as it was in the past. It takes anything up to 6 months for somebody who is interested in joining the armed forces and fills in an on-line application form to actually start training. By that time, most potential recruits have moved on to other career choices as they need to earn a living and the armed forces miss out.

This was not always the case. The crossed flags badge is worn by recruiting sergeants in uniform. They spend a short while in their military careers in this role before returning to their units to resume normal duties. Posters were an integral part of the recruiting process over the years. DW



Recruiting Sergeants arm badge



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

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

County Chairman Richard Moore Hampshire.chair@rbl.community

County Secretary Avril Mitchell hampshire.secretary@rbl.community

Treasurer Ges Brown hampshire.treasurer@rbl.community

Recruiting and Retention Officer Hampshire.CRO@rbl.community

Community Support Co-ordinator Bob Bartlett Hampshire.CCSC@rbl.community

Training Officer John Davies Hampshire.CTO@rbl.community

Youth Officer David Barton Hampshire.CYO@rbl.community

Deputy Youth Officer Melvyn Cole

Clubs Liaison Paul Holyoake Hampshire.clubs@rbl.community

Webmaster Avril Mitchell Hampshire.web@rbl.community

Committee member Brian Mansi Ringwood.chairman@rbl.community

Membership Council Representative ((Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight) David Taylor DTaylor2@britishlegion.org.uk

MEM, Kevin Jeffery. KJeffery@britishlegion.org.uk

Parade Marshall: David Graham, Deputy Parade Marshall: Andy Cassidy

County Standard Bearer: Pete Pullin, ppullin@britishlegion.org.uk

Deputy County Standard Bearer: Andy Dawes

County Youth Standard Bearer: Amelie Neal

Ceremonial Support: David Graham, Karen Graham

County Padre: Reverend David Roache

Golf Officer: Rick Bourne

Membership Engagement Officer: Holly Church, Membership Engagement Manager: None

Membership Council Representative: Gerry Nunn

Public Relations Officer: VACANT

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

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

Committee members - David Barton, Melvyn Cole, John Davies, Paul Holyoake, Brian Mansi, Avril Mitchell, Tim Russell

County Management Board: Ges Brown, Avril Mitchell, John Davies

Conference Committee: Brian Mansi, Avril Mitchell, Melvyn Cole, Pat Prior, Nigel Thomas, Patti Cunningham

Independent Examiners - G.S. Brown and M. Davis

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

Poppy Appeal co-ordinator (South) Pat Prior BEM QVRM

Poppy Appeal Manager South Hampshire Clair Smith csmith4@britishlegion.org.uk

Poppy Appeal manager North Hampshire Chris Hayward chayward@britishlegion.org.uk

Errors and Omissions Excepted

