

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

## County Chairman's Seminar Feedback Meeting

Our Hampshire County Chairman held a feedback meeting at Old Basing on the 18th March 2024 to inform Hampshire branches of the outcome of the RBL National County Seminar held recently in Birmingham. Several important issues were addressed including an update on the election of office bearers on the national Board of Trustees and Membership Council and the requirement that the appointed incumbents clearly understood their roles. A mediator has been appointed to oversee and resolve the RBL's cultural problems.

Also of note are the six strategic priorities of the RBL. They are to -

1. Develop an new strategy for the RBL.
2. To address the financial performance of the RBL.
3. To build a foundation for Income.
4. To strengthen the RBL culture and governance.
5. To improve data, digital and technical capabilities.
6. To improve the membership experience of both active and passive members.



County Chairman and Training Officer addressing the meeting

exists so that the armed forces family has friends and allies standing by them in every community. The value of our membership and their purpose brings a number of advantages to the RBL and the armed forces community. These include campaigning, camaraderie, knowledge, remembrance, fund-raising and kindness. Branches and branch compliance were also discussed. If a branch is not compliant by completing the MS 1 form and submitting its financial status the branch opens itself to being inspected by the Charities Board and then can be prosecuted for illegal fund raising and holding such funds.

Branch membership priorities are

Branch compliance, Community support, Training and events and Membership services.

Training is imperative for office holders in branches. There are training course for branch community support, branch treasurers and branch management. Some of the training is now done on line.

John Davies is our County Training Officer.

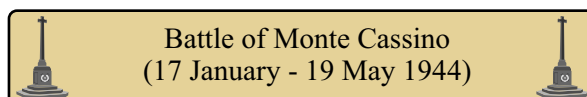
In the discussions held, it was determined that the main issue throughout the RBL is transparency. There is a crucial need for open and honest conversations to be held at all levels. If this does not take place the RBL will lose membership and will eventually cease to function as it is supposed to. The RBL is currently running at a deficit and is unable to sustain its obligations at the current rate of expenditure in the medium term. There is a requirement to grow income. This must be done by doing the following - modernising the Poppy Appeal, delivering a fundraising strategy and maintaining its performance, developing and implementing a brand strategy to support the cause of the RBL and its fund-raising ambitions.

Assistance to beneficiaries has increased by 35%. Part of this effort has been to assist 7000 households with heating fuel bills. 29215 grants amounting to £ 18,1 million have been awarded in the last year and £7628 million was spent on backdated benefit appeals and debt write offs.

Membership enjoyed attention at the seminar. Membership

The revised version of the Membership Handbook March 2024 is available in PDF format or can be requested from your Membership Engagement Officer (MEO). There is also man additional summary of changes made in PDF format to make things a little easier. The handbook has been drawn up to accompany the Royal Charter and was created to help RBL officers; committee members; members and staff make sure they're acting within the rules of the Royal Charter.

The Membership Handbook is revised biannually in March and September. Matters pertaining to Legal, Safeguarding, Risk and Insurance, Remembrance and Finance are addressed and then a report is submitted to the Membership Council for approval of the proposed revisions. Your input is valuable, and you are encouraged to share any feedback or proposed revisions. Please contact Membership Services [membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk)



## Remembering the Battle of Monte Cassino (17 January - 19 May 1944)

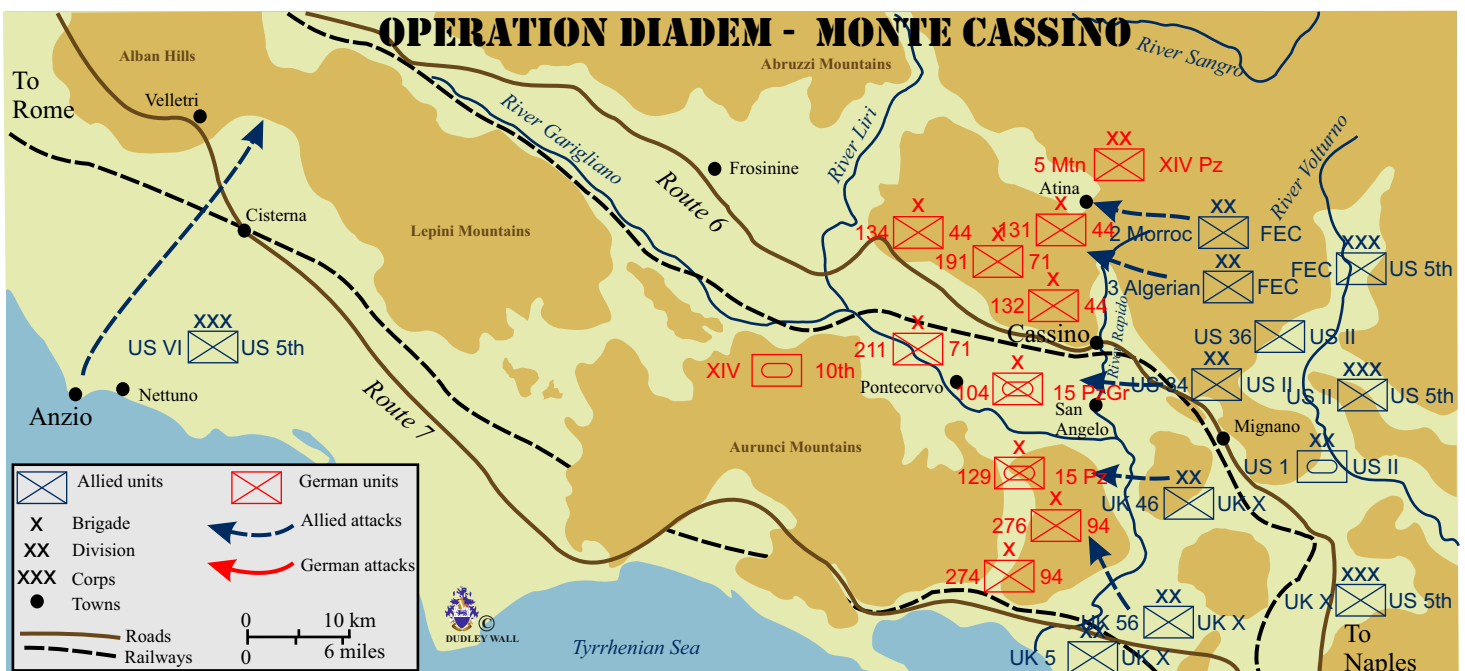
The Battle of Monte Cassino (17 January - 19 May 1944) was part of the campaign in Italy. Monte Cassino is situated in western central Italy near the coast and was strategic terrain as it allowed the Allies the best access of advance to Rome. The battle consisted of four military assaults by the Allies against German forces who were deployed along several east west defensive lines in Italy. The Allied objective was to break through the Winter Line, known by the German's as the Gustav Line to allow them to advance on Rome. The western part of the Gustav Line was held by German forces in the Rapido-Gari, Liri, and Garigliano valleys and several surrounding peaks and ridges. Monte Cassino, a historic hilltop abbey founded in 529 by Benedict of Nursia, dominated the nearby town of Cassino and the entrances to the Liri and Rapido valleys. It was key terrain for the Germans. Up to this time Monte Cassino was designated a protected historic zone and was unoccupied. Some German troops had dug into positions in the slopes below the walls of the abbey. As the Allied forces advanced in the area they came under artillery fire on numerous occasions and therefore believed that the Abbey was occupied by German artillery observers. This motivated an aerial attack on 15 February 1944 when Allied bombers dropped 1,400 tonnes of high explosives on the Abbey, causing much damage. Thereafter German paratroopers established defensive positions in the ruins.

**November 1943.** The US Fifth Army advance along the west coast halted due to German resistance. They were trying to reach the Garigliano River and the town of Cassino. The British Eighth Army advanced along the east coast over the Trigno River and were about to attack German positions on the northern banks of the Sangro River. On 28 November British and New Zealand forces conducted a major offensive to break through at the east end of the Gustav Line. They were then to advance and capture the town of Ortona. At this time all German forces in Italy were placed under command of Field Marshal Kesselring (Luftwaffe) who was a very experienced combat general and was responsible for the planning and leading the German defence of Italy. By

December the US Fifth Army reached the Garigliano River south of the Gustav Line and had not yet reached Cassino and the Rapido River. On the east coast the British 8th Army were able to breach the Gustav Line. Canadian forces captured Ortona and took up defensive positions until June 1944. At this time General Montgomery and General Eisenhower returned to England to prepare for the Normandy invasion.

**January 1944.** During the entire Italian campaign both the US Fifth and British Eighth Armies suffered heavy casualties. To speed up the advance northwards an amphibious landing at Anzio was conducted by US 6 Corps with British 1st Infantry Division on 22 December simultaneously with an attack on the Gustav Line and Monte Cassino. German reactions at Anzio were quick and the Allied forces were bogged down on the beaches and in the flooded adjacent marshlands. At the same time British units under command of the US Fifth Army crossed part of the Garigliano River and the French forces under command crossed the Rapido River. US forces conducting the First Battle of Cassino suffered heavy casualties. The Germans repelled all attacks, requiring the Allies to re-plan their advance.

**15 February 1944.** The monastery on Monte Cassino is situated on key terrain overlooking the valley below and therefore was bombed from the air. The ruins of the monastery provided the defending Germans with much needed cover. Indian and New Zealand troops on the immediate front suffered heavy losses without gain. The Germans also conducted attacks at the same time on Anzio to prevent the Allies breaking out of the beachhead. Twenty Allied divisions participated in the final battle for Monte Cassino and the breakthrough of the Gustav Line attacking along a twenty-mile front. The German defenders suffered heavy casualties but the Allies suffered even more (55,000). The Germans suffered approximately 20,000 killed and wounded.





**25 May 1944.** The German 10th Army conducted a full retreat northwards. US VI Corps turned eastwards to cut them off. The US commander, Lieutenant General Clark feared that the British forces would reach Rome first and ordered US VI Corps to deviate from the original plan and advance northwest towards Rome. The British Eighth Army continued to advance north along the east coast and made contact with the German 10th Army. The responsibility for the capture of Rome remained with the US 5th Army on the west coast. The change on orders created confusion and a delay in making contact with the Germans and allowed them to withdraw. The British Eighth Army covered a distance of 225 miles (362 km) towards Perugia in 6 weeks fighting the German 10th Army.

**June - August 1944.** After the Americans entered Rome, the South African 6th Armoured Division captured Florence and led the Allied advance on the Gothic Line stretching from the coast some 30 miles (48 km) north of Pisa, between Florence and Bologna to the Adriatic Coast south of Rimini. Polish II Corps captured Ancona after a month long battle on 18 July and effectively shortened the Allied lines of communication for the forthcoming fighting in northern Italy. On 25 August Operation Olive commenced. The Gothic Line defences were penetrated without achieving a decisive breakthrough. The British wanted to conduct a major advance in late 1944 to allow the Allied armies to advance northeast through the "Ljubljana Gap" (area between Venice and Vienna) to prevent the Soviet army from advancing into eastern Europe. This was strongly opposed by the U.S. Chiefs of Staff who did not think that it aligned with the overall Allied war priorities. DW



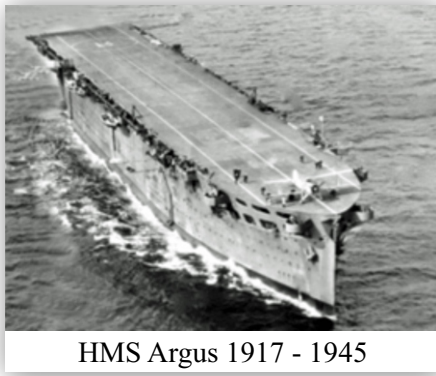
Commander of the 8th Army, General Sir Oliver Leese watches Allied bombing of Cassino with 6 SA Armd Div commander





## Flat Tops of the Royal Navy

Operating aircraft at sea is nearly as old as aviation itself. The dilemma was whether dirigibles (air ships) or 'heavier than air' machines would become the platforms of choice. Both offered reconnaissance and gunfire spotting capabilities and it was these aspects, rather than kinetic power, that mostly influenced naval commanders at the time. Battleships reigned supreme; aircraft lacked range, reliability, and firepower, and it would take another 25 years for aircraft carriers to replace battleships as the principal surface combatants in major navies.



HMS Argus 1917 - 1945

Unlike many innovations at the beginning of the 20th Century, Britain did not always lead the way and American industrial might and innovation contributed towards development of aviation, particularly at sea. Britain's first aircraft carrier was

HMS Ark Royal, a converted collier. She carried seaplanes capable of launching torpedoes and made her operational debut at Gallipoli in 1915. She was followed by other merchant ship conversions, but opportunity was taken in the latter stages of the war to transform three fast battlecruisers – a type of vessel that lost credibility after Jutland – into aircraft carriers. HM Ships Furious, Courageous and Glorious were hybrid conversions with hangarage aft and flightdecks forward. Subsequent refits transformed them into carriers we might recognise today. They were to give useful service in the early stages of World War II but both Courageous and Glorious were sunk in 1940. The first true British 'flat top' was in fact HMS Argus which had been converted from a liner in 1917 and remained in service until 1945. Simultaneously HMS Hermes was laid down as the first British carrier designed from the keel up and the larger HMS Eagle was converted from a battleship under construction for Chile. Both were too late for service in the Great War but served until sunk in 1942.

A proper aircraft carrier is not just a floating airfield. She needs speed, endurance, and onboard facilities to operate, direct and maintain aircraft, and carry sufficient ammunition, food, and fuel to conduct independent operations at sea for several months at a time. To achieve this, she needs escorts to protect her and a logistics train to refuel, rearm and replenish stores when required. Although self-defence can be provided by her organic aircraft, this detracts from her primary offensive role. In all respects, it should go without

saying that a carrier is only as good as the aircraft she carries, their number, versatility, and firepower.

The inter war period should have seen seismic developments in British carrier aviation but the initiative shifted to the Americans and Japanese. The Royal Navy was still dominated by the gunnery branch which focussed on battleships while maritime aviation was now in the hands of the nascent Royal Air Force (RAF). The RAF was wedded to long range strategic bombing and the Fleet Air Arm, and indeed Fighter and Coastal Commands, was neglected. Although naval aviation was wrested back to Admiralty control in 1937, British carrier borne aircraft were obsolete compared to those operated by the Americans and Japanese. Fortunately, although Germany and Italy began building aircraft carriers, these never became operational.

Examples of carrier-borne aircraft in 1939 included Fairy Swordfish torpedo bombers (aka 'Stringbags') and Gloster Sea Gladiator fighters, both biplanes; the latter was capable of only 250 mph while the Japanese Mitsubishi Zero and the American Grumman Wildcat monoplane fighters could fly at 330mph with far greater agility. British carriers also embarked the Blackburn Skua dive bomber which, although a monoplane, was slow at 250mph. Despite its relative antiquity and 143mph top speed, the Swordfish proved a remarkably successful aircraft - playing a starring role in sinking the cream of the Italian fleet at Taranto in 1940 and disabling the German battleship Bismarck in 1941. It's claimed that the Japanese drew inspiration from the British victory at Taranto for their attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Meanwhile, aircraft carrier production continued apace. Starting with HMS Ark Royal (2) (sunk 1941), six fleet carriers of the Illustrious and Implacable classes, and eleven



HMS Ark Royal (1955-1979)  
with USS Nimitz (1972-)

light fleet carriers were built. In addition, to support the convoy system and war against U-boats, 44 escort carriers were built mainly using merchant hulls. By the end of World War II, the Royal Navy had amassed 20 aircraft carriers (5 sunk) and 44 escort carriers (3 sunk) while the US

Navy had 33 aircraft carriers (5 sunk) and 78 escort carriers (7 sunk). The Imperial Japanese Navy had 20 aircraft carriers (16 sunk) and 5 escort carriers (5 sunk). HMS Ark Royal (1955-1979) with USS Nimitz (1972-)

H.M.S. ARK ROYAL

Although the Swordfish served throughout the war, there was an urgent need for modern aircraft. This was solved by procurement of the American Wildcat

## Flat Tops of the Royal Navy

(renamed Martlet from a consignment ordered by France), augmented later by the Hellcat. Simultaneously, sea versions of the Hawker Hurricane and Supermarine Spitfire (renamed Seafire) were developed. Marinizing land-based aircraft for carrier operations is not always successful: the need for sturdier undercarriages, folding wings and arrestor hooks adds to weight and performance inevitably suffers. That said both Hurricane and Seafire gave sterling service, although the former was mostly used by escort carriers, Catapult Aircraft Merchant (CAM) ships and Merchant Aircraft Carriers (MAC). The Swordfish was eventually replaced by the Fairy Albacore (another biplane), then by the Fairy Barracuda and Grumman Avenger in the torpedo bomber role whilst the Swordfish was relegated to anti-submarine duties using bombs and depth charges. The 460mph Hawker Sea Fury fighter/bomber was developed, entering service just after the war as the navy's last piston engine fighter, leading directly to the successful Hawker Seahawk jet fighter.

At the end of World War 2, work stopped on several more aircraft carriers that had been laid down. Many of those that had served were scrapped or sold to friendly navies (the Argentinian Veinticinco de Mayo in 1982 was once HMS Venerable – whoops!). Many of the newer light fleet carriers were used to support ground operations during the Korean War. Carriers were also used during the Suez Crisis with HMS Ocean inserting troops tactically by helicopter for the first time.

The Illustrious class HMS Victorious, operational throughout World War 2 including loan to the USN, was converted to operate the latest generation of jet aircraft, finally paying off after a fire alongside in 1968. The Centaur class of light fleet carrier (all laid down during but completed after the war) included HM Ships Centaur, Hermes (2), Albion, and Bulwark. Apart from the slightly bigger Hermes, these ships were too small to operate some of the larger jets and Albion and Bulwark were converted into Commando Ships in the early 1960s with Hermes assuming this role from Albion in 1972. Both Hermes and Bulwark were later to operate Westland Sea King anti-submarine warfare (ASW aka 'Pingers') as well as Wessex and, later, Sea King troop carrying (aka 'Junglie') helicopters.

The last two fleet carriers were HM Ships Ark Royal (3) and Eagle (2). Displacing some 45,000 tons, these were at the time the largest ships built for the Royal Navy; twice the displacement of the Centaur class and larger than the refitted HMS Victorious. Laid down during the war, both were relatively small compared to 80,000-ton+ nuclear-powered strike carriers of the USN but could at least operate the latest fast jets entering service such as the Hawker Siddeley Sea Vixen, Blackburn Buccaneer and, in Ark Royal's case, the McDonnell Phantom. Significantly, all post war carriers operated the Westland Gannet, initially ASW but latterly Airborne Early Warning (AEW) aircraft. As most of the

wartime carriers paid off, Ark Royal, Eagle, Victorious, Hermes, and Centaur continued throughout the 1960s to provide the cutting edge of British naval power. In her final 1970s configuration, Ark Royal could carry 12 Phantom fighters, 14 Buccaneer strike bombers which could also be used for in-flight refuelling (IFR), 4 Gannets (AEW), 1 Gannet (Carrier Onboard Delivery - COD), 6 ASW Sea Kings and 2 Search and Rescue (SAR) Wessex helicopters. In the early 1960s, it was planned to procure four 55,000-ton new carriers - CVAs 01-04 with the first two named HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Duke of Edinburgh. All were cancelled by the 1966 Defence White Paper and a decision made to phase out fixed wing aviation in the Royal Navy on spurious grounds that global air support for the fleet could be provided by the RAF operating from airfields ashore. HMS Hermes (1959-1984)/INS Viraat (1984-2016)

With the demise of proper strike carriers and withdrawal from East of Suez (ironically, we've never left!), the Royal Navy refocussed on ASW defence of NATO's Striking



HMS Hermes 1959 - 1984  
/ UNS Viraat 1984 - 2016

Force and reinforcement shipping in the North Atlantic. For this task, the requirement for 'through deck' command cruisers was envisaged to replace Hermes, Bulwark and the cruisers Blake and Tiger that had been converted to each carry four ASW Sea Kings. The new class would be called HM Ships Invincible, Illustrious and Ark Royal (4). Although primarily built for ASW Sea Kings, a case was made for each to carry up to 5 Short Take Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL) British Aerospace Sea Harriers, ostensibly to destroy Russian 'Bear' long range reconnaissance aircraft; a step change to CAM ships launching a Hurricane to counter German 'Condor' bomber/reconnaissance aircraft during the Battle of the Atlantic. The Invincible Class were later redesignated aircraft carriers and, with Hermes, were fitted with ski jumps so that Harriers could be launched at optimum angle of attack, maximising payload and reducing fuel consumption on launch. Although it had been agreed to sell Invincible to Australia, the Falklands War of 1982 intervened and both Invincible and Hermes sailed for the South Atlantic with 8 and 12 Sea Harriers embarked respectively. These were later augmented by a further 8 Sea Harriers and 10 RAF ground attack Harriers. The Sea Harriers armed with American Sidewinder missiles enabled Britain to achieve air superiority and defeat the determined and powerful Argentine Air Force but lack of AEW proved a major shortcoming. Necessity being the mother of invention, this was quickly rectified after the war by fitting Sea Kings with Searchwater radar (aka 'Baggers'). Hermes paid off in 1984 and was sold to India where she served until 2016 as INS Viraat. A purpose-built commando ship, HMS Ocean (2) was eventually commissioned in 1998 and served until 2018 before being sold to Brazil as NAMAtlântico. Conscious of the folly of trying to conduct carrier operations on the cheap, steps were taken to replace the Invincible class with two 65,000 carriers - HMS Queen



## Flat Tops of the Royal Navy

Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales. These are the largest warships ever built for the Royal Navy, but pundits were disappointed that they would not be fitted with angled decks, catapults, and arrestor wires as in previous fixed wing carriers. This would have enabled a wider choice of embarked aircraft and facilitated cross deck operations with US and French navies. Despite attempts to reverse the decision, certainly for Prince of Wales, it was decided both ships would operate the F35B (STOVL variant) Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter. These have less range and a smaller payload than the F35C (carrier variant) – 900nm/1,500lbs as opposed to 1,200nm/1,800lbs – with no organic IFR capability; for comparison, the Phantom F4 had a range of 1,457nm extended by IFR from Buccaneers and a payload of 18,650lbs. Although the Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey tilt rotor might be a solution for both AEW and IFR, AEW remains helicopter borne with Augusta Westland Merlins fitted with the new 'Crowsnest' radar system. The Queen Elizabeth class are a compromise but offer greater potential for strike operations than the erstwhile Invincible class. But, to come anywhere close to developing the sortie tempo of a USN strike carrier with 75+ aircraft, an enhanced carrier air group of 36 F35Bs would be required plus Merlin helicopters for ASW, AEW, COD and SAR.

Article and photos provided by Cdr Rob Scott RN, Branch Secretary Droxford & District RBL

## Group Captain “Sailor” Malan DSO and bar DFC and bar



Spitfire Mk.I K9953/ZP-A,  
Flt. Lt. Adolph Malan,  
No. 74 Squadron, Hornchurch, May/June 1940

**A**dolf “Sailor” Malan was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1910 in Wellington, Cape Province, South Africa. He was given a short service commission in the RAF in 1935 and after qualifying as a pilot was posted as a Pilot Officer flying Gloster Gladiators. At the beginning of the war he was promoted to Flight Lieutenant and took part in the Battle of Britain. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for bravery on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1940 when he shot down several enemy aircraft. He was appointed commander of 74 Squadron RAF on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1940 as a Squadron Leader and awarded a bar to the DFC on 13 August 1940 for further destruction of enemy aircraft in the air. On the 24<sup>th</sup> December he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for his leadership and further aerial combat successes. On 22 July 1941 he was awarded a bar to the DSO. He was promoted to Group Captain (equivalent to a Colonel in the army) in October 1942 and was posted as Station Commander to RAF Biggin Hill, one of the most prominent RAF bases in the south of England. By the end of the war Sailor Malan was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest scoring ace in the RAF with 32 kills, sharing this position with Irishman Brendan Finucane DSO, DFC and two bars.

Sailor Malan returned to South Africa after the end of World War Two in 1946 and worked for Oppenheimer's Diamond Trading Company. In 1959 he returned to Britain to visit his old squadron (74 Squadron), which by this time was equipped with Hawker Hunter jet fighters. Sailor Malan passed away on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 1963, having suffered from Parkinson's Disease. DW / Photo source - IWM

## Poppy Appeal Matters

Our Poppy Appeal Manager for Hampshire North is recruiting. There are a couple of vacancies for Poppy Appeal Organisers in Hampshire North that need to be filled. This is a worthwhile cause and gives an opportunity to contribute to the welfare of our armed forces and veterans. The vacancies are in Farnborough at ASDA and in Farnborough at Morrisons. If you can help please contact Sarah Ferris.

Phone - 07742 762988

Email - [SFerris@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:SFerris@britishlegion.org.uk)

Claire Smith, our Poppy Appeal Organiser for Hampshire South is also looking for assistance at the following places -

Netley and Hamble (SBC08) including Tesco Bursledon (1 supermarket collection worth £24,000).

Fareham Sainsbury (SBD08) (1 supermarket table worth £10,000).

Sainsbury Eastleigh (SBC07) (1 supermarket table worth £10,000).

Woolston (SBK02) (delivery route worth £2,654).

Fordingbridge (SBH13) (delivery route worth £5,557).

Boyatt Wood (SCB02) (delivery route worth £1,998).

If you can help in any of these districts, please contact Claire at [csmith4@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:csmith4@britishlegion.org.uk) Tel: 07526 200209



## Buriton and D Day

Buriton: Saturday 8th June (1-4 pm). Buriton is holding a D-Day event to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Part of the event is dedicated to a special exhibition explaining what local research has discovered about D-Day connections with the parish. 80 years ago hundreds of allied troops were camped in and around the parish in the build up to the D-Day Landings and Operation Overlord. The Buriton Village Association has done some research into the event that has revealed some fascinating local stories including some first-hand accounts of activities. As well as recollections concerning the Canadian troops who were camped around the village there are accounts from people who were in the area at the time. By bringing all the stories together, the exhibition will highlight the scale, complexity, secrecy and bravery of Operation Overlord 'through local eyes. The ongoing quest for more information especially the exact identification of which Canadian Units spent time in the parish continues.

If anybody has any information about this please contact Doug Jones (01730 231326 or email [doug.pam@btinternet.com](mailto:doug.pam@btinternet.com)).

The event will take place in Buriton Village Hall between 1pm and 4pm and will also include other displays, photographs and information about life in the parish in years gone by. Please come along and see how the local history has been brought together. The event is free, and everyone is encouraged to bring any old photos, newspaper articles or other information relating to Buriton, Weston, Nursted or Ditcham. All are welcome and there is no admission charge. More details about the Buriton Heritage Bank local history project are available via [www.buriton.org.uk](http://www.buriton.org.uk) Please contact Doug Jones on 01730 231326 or via [doug.pam@btinternet.com](mailto:doug.pam@btinternet.com) or visit [www.buriton.org.uk](http://www.buriton.org.uk) if you are able to help with any information.

## Petersfield Branch Armed Forces Drop-In Centre

### Armed Forces Drop-In Centre



**FREE**

Winton House Centre

18 High Street

Petersfield

GU32 3JL

First Thurs of the month

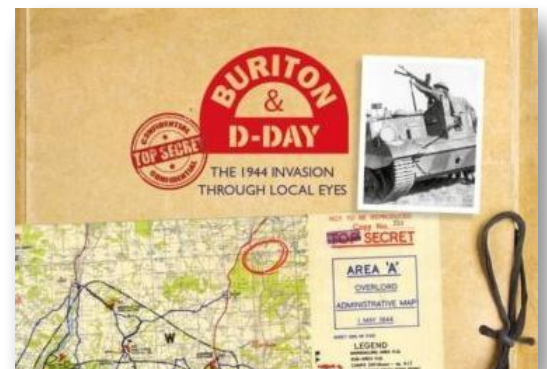
16:00hrs - 20:00hrs

**Come along  
and reminisce  
over a brew  
and cake!**

You will also have the opportunity to ask questions about local service and charities in the area.

*"Serving those who serve: a place to unwind and connect with others."*

[armedforces@petersfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:armedforces@petersfield-tc.gov.uk)





## Other News

### Hampshire RBL Golf Dates 2024



Calling all Royal British Legion golf players! There are three days arranged for 2024 so please put these in your diaries, contact your mates and enter as many as you can to support the RBL POPPY APPEAL and to win prizes for yourself and kudos for your Branch.

April 8th. Sherfield Oaks Golf club near Basingstoke. 18 Hole 4-man team Texas Scramble, consisting of coffee bacon roll, 18 holes of golf and a 1 course lunch.

May 13th. The Army Course, Aldershot. The annual RBL Pairs stableford competition playing for the Bob Knight trophy. Team of four, best pair of scores within wins. Food before and after golf.

June 3rd. Armed Forces Day, Sherfield Oaks, near Basingstoke. Four-man team event, with team prize, secret pairs and individual plus NTP and LD prizes. Food before and after golf.

Forms and cost details for all of these days are now available and requests for these can be sent to me directly or be found on the Hampshire RBL events website nearer the time.

Please do your utmost to participate. After all, they are being run for you and that of our great organisation.

Rick Bourne- Hampshire RBL Golf Secretary  
[rickbourne@yahoo.com](mailto:rickbourne@yahoo.com)  
 07900 648675



### The Efficiency Medal for Territorial Forces of Great Britain and Colonies



This medal was instituted on 17 October 1930 awarded to all British and Commonwealth territorial forces for twelve years continuous efficient service. War service and peace time service in West Africa counted double. (ie six years service). This medal was awarded during the reign of King George VI. At least 19 bars were awarded to indicate which country the recipient came from. DW

### Standard Bearer Training Dates 2024



#### Hampshire Standard Bearer Training 2024

	<b>EASTLEIGH</b> <b>Pavilion on the Park</b> 1 Kingfisher Drive, Eastleigh, SO50 9LH	<b>ASH</b> <b>Ash Manor School</b> 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 9th 18:50 - 20:00
<b>February</b>	No Training	Tuesday 20th 18:50 - 20:00
<b>March</b>	Sunday 17th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 12th 18:50 - 20:00
<b>April</b>	Sunday 14th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 16th 18:50 - 20:00
<b>May</b>	Sunday 12th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 16th 18:50 - 20:00
<b>June</b>	Sunday 9th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 18th 18:50 - 20:00
<b>July</b>	Sunday 14th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 9th 18:50 - 20:00
<b>August</b>	Sunday 11th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 6th 18:50 - 20:00
<b>September</b>	Sunday 8th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 10th 18:50 - 20:00
<b>October</b>	Sunday 13th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 15th 18:50 - 20:00
<b>November</b>	Sunday 3rd 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 5th 18:50 - 20:00
<b>December</b>	No Training	No Training
<b>Please note:</b> All Standard Bearer should attend two training sessions a year, and be physically fit enough to carry the Standard, as agreed when they signed the yearly MS1 Form.		
<b>Annual RBL Conference Newport 10th - 12th May 2024</b>		
<b>Hampshire Parade Marshal: David Graham</b> E: <a href="mailto:Hampshire.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community">Hampshire.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community</a> M: 07597 455112		





## 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.HamsphireRBL](http://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 (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 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

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)

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

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

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

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

Rev John Morley

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

Annual Conference Delegate: Tim Russell

Poppy Appeal Manager North: Sarah Ferris

Poppy Appeal Manager South: Claire Smith

Regional Poppy Appeal Manager: Clare Peppiatt

Poppy Appeal Coordinator - North: Vacant

Poppy Appeal Coordinator - South: Pat Prior BEM QVRM

Principal Recruiting Officer: VACANT

County Training Officer: John Davies

Community Support: VACANT

CCSC: VACANT

Clubs Liaison: Paul Holyoake

Communications Support: Dudley Wall [HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com](mailto:HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com)

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: Andy Cassidy

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

Deputy County Standard Bearer: Andy Cassidy

County Youth Standard Bearer: Natalia Szymkiewicz

Ceremonial Support: David Graham, Karen Graham

County Padre: Reverend David Roache

Golf Officer: Rick Bourne

Membership Engagement Officer: Holly Church, 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.