



The Legionnaire

The Newsletter of
The Royal British Legion
Rheindahlen Branch e.V.

Produced by
Neal Thompson
Public Relations Officer

WELCOME to the **second** edition of this year. The aim in the future, and of course **where possible**, is to send out the Newsletter by email as an 'electronic document' but in traditional 'MSWord format'. Not only does this approach reduce production costs but it allows us to reach all members quickly. To that end, for those of you, who received this in the post, please email the Branch with your details; First Name, Last Name and email address. Your details will not be given to other members of the Branch.

THANK you for your responses to the email with regards to **changing the name of the Newsletter**. I am pleased to say that the majority of you would like it changed and the suggestions are encouraging. To that end, a decision of what we will call the Newsletter in the future will be discussed at the next Branch Committee Meeting.

VOLUNTEERS required. See page 5 (Forecast of Events).

BRANCH Website. www.rblrheind.com is our present website and a new one is under construction and should be online in the next couple of weeks. It is hoped that it will keep the same URL (existing web address) but nevertheless it will have a fresh look, an email will be promulgated with the update.

BRANCH Webmaster. On the change of the present website, the Public Relations Officer, namely Neal Thompson will take over the responsibilities from our Secretary Francine and will become the new webmaster.

BRANCH Committee. Please see the back page of this Newsletter which displays the Branch Committee Organisation Chart which includes photographs of key personnel. If you would like to volunteer to be a member of the Branch Committee or indeed be elected for one of the key appointments, then please let us know.

WE are celebrating the **Legion's 90th birthday**. We're 90 years old this year! Our 90th Anniversary celebrations were officially launched at the Royal Albert Hall at the end of September 2010, but festivities will go on until the end of 2011. Whilst we plan on having a Branch Bash of some description to celebrate the Anniversary in the near future, Minden is holding the main Celebration in Germany. Please contact Mike Godfrey on 0571 30033/34, or N Hill on 0571 61387 for further details. Promoting our 90th Birthday. Get the message out! Branded merchandise celebrating our 90th Anniversary, including, flags, balloons, bunting and customised posters. www.britishlegion.org.uk. The Poppy Shop www.poppymshop.org.uk also has a variety of 90th Anniversary items available, including Poppy Party packs, t-shirts, 90th lapel badges, wristbands and mugs. **See photograph on page 4.**



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 18-19 June 2011 – Highland Games (Xanten).
- 27 June – 2 July 2011 Volunteers' Week (Rheindahlen). **Volunteers required**
- 2 July 2011 – Veterans Day and Party in the Park (Rheindahlen). **Volunteers required**
- 9-11 September 2011 – British Day at the Krefeld Show. **Volunteers required**

The Royal British Legion Rheindahlen Branch e.V.

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Act of Remembrance - The Old Cemetary, Roermond - Sunday 17 April 2011

By Tricia Roberts who represented the Branch and accompanied by Andrew Gardiner

The Chairman of the Roermond Branch of the Wapenbroeders, Lt Col (Retd) E Jacobsz led the very moving and poignant Act of Remembrance honouring the memory of the RAF and RCAF aircrew who gave their lives in World War II for the freedom of Roermond.

The prayers outside the chapel were led by the Dean of Roermond Mgr Robbert Merckx and Rev (Sqn Ldr) Alex Hobson, Chaplain JFC HQ Brunssum. The two speakers, Mr Kemp, an Alderman of the Municipality of Roermond and Group Captain Ormerod OBE MA from JFC HQ Brunssum enhanced the Service with their tributes. After the Service the congregation, led by Piper David Moir accompanied by two of his children, David jr. and Emily arrived to lay the wreaths at the graves of:

Flying Officer Goodwin, RCAF
Squadron Leader Stuart, RAF
Flight Sergeant MacLennan, RCAF
Sergeants Bradley and Powell RAF
Flying Officers Hill, Lowrie and Turner, RAF

As we approached the graves, RAF and Army Service personnel stood reverently behind each one, heads bowed.

But not only the British and Canadian Servicemen were honoured; tribute was also made at the gravesides of the nine Dutch Partisans who also died, fighting for freedom and as we walked through the blossom filled cemetery and stopped at each grave, 'The Partisan' song came to mind "Through the graves the wind is blowing, freedom soon will come". As is tradition, children from the Alphonsus School laid floral tributes at the graves and Lt Col Jacobsz gave a short résumé about each Partisan's fate. Family members of the partisans were also present. It was a most memorable occasion.



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PRESENTATION/History Evening. As you are probably aware, the Lion's Head has good facilities to hold presentations and lectures. We have a projector and screen and of course, a television and a DVD player. We held a 'successful' '**History Evening**' on Thursday 14th April 2011, one of our loyal members; Dick Simmons gave an excellent and very informative presentation on the 'recovery of Free Derry from the Provo IRA in 1972'.



Dick Simmons left school in Jul 1960 and joined the Army. During the period September 1960 and August 1963 he trained to be an Ammunition Technician at the Army Apprentices School, Chepstow, South Wales.

Following further training at the Army School of Ammunition, Bramley, Hampshire, in February 1964, Dick was posted to 3 Base Ammunition Depot RAOC (3 BAD RAOC), 10 miles west of Rheindahlen and he remained

there until February 1967. Whilst at 3 BAD, Dick married his wife Monika.

He was then posted to Central Ammunition Depot Kineton, RAOC until September 1969. Until December 1971, he was posted to the permanent staff of the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham when he then returned to 3 BAD. During this posting, from June to October 1972 he did the 4 months emergency tour of Northern Ireland with the Londonderry EOD Section from 13 Jun to 13 Oct 1972, hence his presence in NI for Op MOTORMAN. On return to Germany he was offered and took up the post as a civilian Ammo Tech having achieved 12 years Army Service.

Dick remained in the job as a civilian AT until 1990. The fall of the Berlin Wall and on the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact changed life entirely. He foresaw the lesser requirement for ammunition and a British Army presence in a now- united Germany and learned how to work with budgets. This proved a good choice as he was then appointed as the Assistant Depot Management Accountant at 3 BAD until its closure in 1996.

Dick was then asked to go to BAD Wulfen as Depot Mgt Acct and took up the post there for 3 years until its closure. On seeking further employment for the final 10 years of his working life until retirement, Dick applied for and was appointed as 2IC BFG of the Vehicle Licensing Office. He held this post held until February 2009, when he eventually took up permanent gardening.

Dick achieved the rank of SSgt during his 12 yrs Army Service.

Thank you Dick for sharing this story and your presentation with the branch. It is hoped that other friends will share their stories with us. Providing we have other volunteers who would like to take part in this scheme, it is the intention to hold the events after each of the four General Meetings in the year. Anyone interested in taking part in future presentations is to contact the Branch.

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CHEQUE Presentation from The Rendezvous Club 1 Military Intelligence Battalion. Thank you for a generous donation of £916.



CARRYING on with the theme **Legion's 90th birthday** a banner has been placed at the entrance to JHQ. As you can see with our very own Public Relations Officer stood by it, it is some size.



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Forecast of Events

15 May 2011 – Car Boot Sale (Herford).

June 2011 – Standard Bearing Training (Herford).

June 2011 – District Committee Meeting (Herford).

18-19 June 2011 – Highland Games (Xanten).

27 June – 2 July 2011 Volunteers' Week (Rheindahlen). **Volunteers required.**

2 July 2011 – Veterans Day and Party in the Park (Rheindahlen). **Volunteers required.**

9-11 September 2011 – British Day at the Krefeld Show. **Volunteers required.**

Branch Administration.

Please notify the Secretary of change of personal details (address/telephone number/email address etc). Please let her know if you have changed your personal Bank account details.

Home Banks. Please visit the branch and collect a Home Bank, this is just one of the ways that you can make small donations to the Royal British Legion from home.

Lion's Head Opening Hours. Please note that the Lion's Head is now not open on Sunday's and on Friday's, it is now open from 1800 hours. Obviously you can still enjoy the Wednesday Bingo and Poker every first Saturday of the month.

Legion Official Magazine. Please inform the Secretary if you are not receiving the Legion Official Magazine.

Remembrance Day Fri 11 Nov 11. The Royal British Legion, Rheindahlen Branch would like to take this Opportunity to inform you that on the 11th of November this year, Remembrance will be concentrated at the Rheichswald Military War Cemetery. There will be no parade at JHQ.

In future the emphasis for Royal British Legion members and the Military will take place at the Rheichswald Military War Cemetery, as it should be.

Others who wish to attend this ceremony will not be prevented in doing so, although will have to make their own transport arrangements and be aware that parking space will be at a premium.

General Officer Commanding United Kingdom Support Command has already been briefed by the Branch Chairman, and concurs with this plan. The British Consulate General will also attend.

It is felt very fitting that this inaugural Ceremony will be carried out at 1100 hours on the Eleventh day of the Eleventh month in the year 2011.

These arrangements do not impinge on the normal Ceremony carried out in Rheindahlen on Remembrance Sunday.

FEEDBACK. If you have any feedback or suggestions for the Rheindahlen Branch RBL, the Lion's Head, the service we provide or indeed the Newsletter, please contact the Branch. **Thank you.**



Support us

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The Royal British Legion Rheindahlen Branch e.V.



**President
Steve Owen OBE**



**Chairman
Steve Reid**



**Vice Chairman
Ron Pearson**



**Padre
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Mike Eagle
Veronica Eagle
Andrew Gardiner
Liz Hine
Val Laucke
Karen Roskams**

Poppy Appeal Organiser:

Ron Pearson

Branch Committee:

**Maureen Bley
Eldon James
Tam Pearce
Tricia Roberts
Neal Thompson (Public Relations
Officer/Webmaster)**



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