



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Royal British Legion Dickleburgh and District Branch NEWSLETTER

July 2021

Keep Calm and Carry On - Edition 19

I don't know about you, but I found John's quiz extremely challenging! Some questions were quite easy, and I dredged some more answers from the recesses of my mind, but then I had to resort to using my initiative (some might call it cheating) to solve a few more! No, not by using Mr Google or asking Siri, but by using a weighty, illustrated reference book that I found on our bookshelf – *Chronicle of the Twentieth Century* (bizarrely published in 1988)! But a handful of answers still eluded me. Answers below. John is happy to provide further instalments of the quiz – just let me know if you would like him to do so; it might be easier once the questions relate to events in our own lifetimes!

Much of this issue relates to remembrance – past, present and future (now that's a conundrum).

Thanks to Norman, John and all the photographers for contributions to this issue.

A Message from our Chairman

Pearl and I hope you are keeping well and looking forward to the relaxation of Covid rules on Monday (or enjoying them, depending on when this newsletter comes out!), though I doubt there will be a mass throwing away of masks, with many of us still wearing them especially in shops and on public transport. Apart from our excellent newsletter produced by Rosemary each month and Norman with his BCS hat on keeping up his regular phone conversations, the branch, like so many others, has been virtually dormant since the start of the pandemic, but recent changes regarding standard bearers have enabled me to be more active. So here is a mini standard bearer's report commencing with a short service on 26 June for Armed Forces Day at the Dickleburgh memorial conducted by the Reverend Norman.

On 27 June, I carried the branch standard at the Norfolk & Norwich Dunkirk Veterans' annual remembrance service at St Andrews Church, Honingham - 11 standards were on parade. On 1 July, I attended the funeral of Mr Raymond Baker, ex-RAF Regiment, at All Saints Church, East Barsham. Mr Baker was a friend of Ken Thomas, the previous county standard bearer, who knew that there would only be a small family gathering for the service, so contacted other veterans via social media resulting in about 30 attending. Ken, who is ex-RAF Regiment himself, carried their standard; six other standards, including ours, were on parade.



One from the Archives

Dedication of the new Dickleburgh standard, 2018

Dickleburgh standard bearers – John Roberts (5th from right), Wendy Hall and Gavin Macfarlane (5th & 4th from left) on parade with local RBL members

Pearl and I attended the Desert Rats Association Remembrance Day at High Ash on Sunday 11 July, a mobility problem prevented me from carrying our standard, it made me very envious when meeting up with our friends and their standards. This was an excellent day out, ending with a service at the Cromwell cruiser memorial. A contingent of the Household Cavalry was present from their summer camp at Bodney, an Honour Guard was provided by USAF and 15 standards were on parade for the service.

We hope that our regular branch meetings can resume soon, though we know numbers at our next meeting will be considerably reduced so we are keen to attract new members. I have submitted a piece to *The Sexton's Wheel* (monthly magazine for Long Stratton and Wacton) to encourage local people to join the RBL (our branch area includes Long Stratton) and also to identify any veterans (or their widowed spouses) who may need help and would perhaps like to join our Bun, Cuppa and Chat group when we restart. You do not have to be ex-services to join the RBL; it is just a way of supporting our armed forces community and remembering the fallen.

Please take care of yourselves and stay safe. **John**

Remembrance During Covid

Although we have been unable to hold meetings or join together for Bun, Cuppa and Chat afternoons during Covid, we have, with some inventiveness, still managed to mark all the major anniversaries and commemorations of the RBL year, although only one actually took place in a church and none involved the usual parades! So, here is an illustration of how we have pulled together over the past year to remember and commemorate those who served and those who died in the service of their country and to give thanks for the ending of the Second World War 75 years ago.

Our first challenge was to celebrate and commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe on 8 May 2020. Our President, Brigadier Alasdair Wilson, raised the Union Flag on the church tower early in the morning, with our local town crier, (aka our Padre, Revd. Norman) in attendance 'crying' for peace. All other activities during the day, including a commemorative 'dip' by the Norfolk standard bearers at 3pm, took place mostly in individual homes and gardens across the area.



Although we were unable to do anything together to mark Armed Forces Day in June last year, the Union Flag and the Armed Forces Day Flag were raised in various places locally including our standard bearer's garden, Scole Church and Diss Park. We had better luck this year when we had a short socially distanced service at the Dickleburgh War Memorial, conducted by our Chaplain, Revd. Norman, with several members and our standard in attendance.

The next occasion was the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day in August. Sometimes overlooked, but perhaps even more poignant than VE Day, this was a time to reflect not only on those who lost their lives in the Far East, but those, including civilian internees, who suffered so much in captivity, including working on the Burma Railway. We held a moving service in the churchyard, with David Woodrow, bugler, Robert Rayson, piper,

our branch standard and the VJ 75 standard in attendance, and took the opportunity to commemorate by name past members of our branch who had survived the Second World War or later service, but had died in more recent years, including some who had served in the Far East in World War Two. Our chaplain gave the cry for peace as town crier. Gordon Larkins, escorted by Daniel Lewis-Waldron, a youth member, laid the branch wreath at the war memorial.

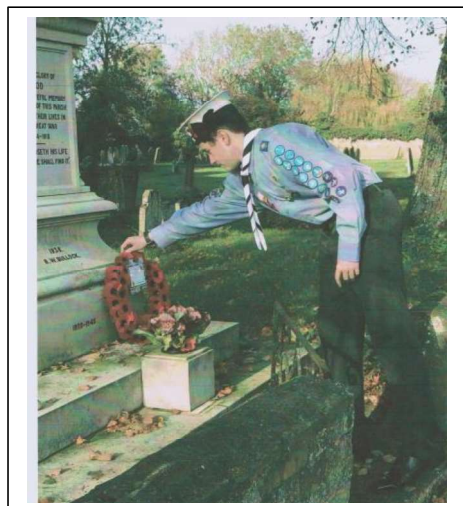


In September, the branch was invited to the Battle of Britain 80th anniversary service at Starston – the only church service the branch has attended since the start of the pandemic! Our chaplain took the service, and standard bearers and branch members from Harleston and Dickleburgh attended with the usual Starston congregation, though with the usual Covid restrictions in place

Remembrance Sunday last year put the branch's flexibility to the test. Although we were unable to hold the usual parade, we had intended to have the service in church, with reduced numbers, and with Covid protocols in place. But we went into lockdown again just days before Remembrance

Sunday, so instead held the service by Zoom, led by the Chaplain from home, with Fran and Sylvia Coomber providing the music and Alicia Lovett the Last Post from their homes, and Alasdair Wilson saying the Exhortation and the Kohima from an empty church. About 30 people joined in via Zoom. Wreaths were laid at the war memorial during the afternoon, including one laid by Daniel Lewis-Waldron on behalf of the Dickleburgh Sea Scouts and another for our absent friends from RAF Mildenhall. After the last wreath was laid, Revd Norman gave a blessing, and the Exhortation was said.

Finally, completing the most extraordinary year, on 17 April, members observed a minute's silence from their homes and our standard bearer dipped the standard in his garden in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh.



Future Remembrance

Although we cannot take anything for granted, we have started to plan for this year's remembrance and commemoration events and hope that they will be able to take place without restrictions. We have decided not to hold a Festival of Remembrance this year, but are planning involvement in several other events, including the traditional parade and service in Dickleburgh on Remembrance Sunday. We hope members of our local RBL family will be able to join us at the following:

Sunday 12 September, Battle of Britain service, Starston, 11am

Thursday 11 November, Armistice Day service and dedication of Memorial Book, Pulham St Mary, 10.45am

Sunday 14 November, Remembrance parade & service, Dickleburgh, 10.45am.

We still have vacancies for voluntary Poppy Appeal Organisers (PAOs) at Long Stratton and Dickleburgh. If you are interested, please contact the RBL Norfolk Community Fundraiser, Lyn Hatch, lhatch@britishlegion.org.uk, or our secretary/newsletter editor, Rosemary Steer.

Norman's Chuckle Corner

- ✚ There was a competition to cross the English Channel doing only the breaststroke. Three women entered the race a brunette, a redhead and a blonde. After approximately 14 hours the brunette staggered up on the shore and was declared the winner. About 40 minutes later the redhead came ashore and was given second place. Nearly four hours after that the blonde arrived and promptly collapsed in front of the concerned onlookers. When the reporters asked why she took so long to complete the race she replied, "I don't want to sound like a sore loser, but I think the other girls were using their arms."
- ✚ Three elderly sisters, aged 92, 94 and 96 lived in a house together. One night the 96-year-old ran a bath, she put one foot in and paused. She yelled down the stairs, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?" The 94-year-old yelled back, "I don't know I will come up and see." She started up the stairs and paused then she yelled, "Was I going up the stairs or down?" The 92-year-old was sitting at the kitchen table having a cup of tea. Listening to her sisters, she shook her head, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful" and knocked on wood for good measure. She then yelled up to her sisters "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who is at the door"!!
- ✚ A clergyman was playing golf with a friend whose language was a bit colourful, after nearly every miscued shot or cutting up the putting green or slicing the ball he would mutter phrases such as "Damn it, missed". After listening to this bad language for some time, the clergyman admonished his friend and said, "if you continue, you'll be struck down by a bolt from heaven", but this was all to no avail because at the next hole his friend took an almighty strike at the ball and then let fly verbally as well. Suddenly there was a crack of thunder and the clergyman disappeared in a puff of smoke. Then somewhere a voice was heard amongst the clouds, "Damn it! Missed."
- ✚ The army installed a computer as a demonstration and an officer fed in a question 'How far is it from these barracks to the coast?' 'Seven hundred', replied the computer. 'Seven hundred what?' the officer replied. The computer responded, 'Seven hundred, SIR!'
- ✚ A missionary was chased for over an hour through the jungle by a lion, but unable to go any further he knelt down and started praying for salvation. He looked up and saw to his amazement that the lion was also praying. "It's truly a miracle", said the missionary "You, a killer lion, joining me in prayer when I thought my time was up". "Shut up", said the lion, "I'm saying grace".

Quiz Answers

Association of dates and world events

- 1901 QVD – Queen Victoria dies
- 1902 BWE – Boer War ends
- 1903 FWSIB – First World Series in baseball
- 1904 BCB – Bing Crosby born
- 1905 FOTAA – Founding of the Automobile Association
- 1906 HC-BBPM – Henry Campbell-Bannerman becomes Prime Minister
- 1907 JWB – John Wayne born
- 1908 LTHOG – London hosted the Olympic Games
- 1909 LBFATEC – Louis Bleriot flew across the English Channel
- 1910 AOGV – Accession of George V
- 1911 IONI – Introduction of National Insurance
- 1912 SOTT – Sinking of the *Titanic*
- 1913 FCFS – First Chelsea Flower Show
- 1914 SOFWW – Start of First World War
- 1915 SOTL – Sinking of the *Lusitania*
- 1916 LGBPM – Lloyd George becomes Prime Minister
- 1917 USAEWWO – United States of America enters World War One
- 1918 EOFWW – End of First World War
- 1919 TOV – Treaty of Versailles
- 1920 PIUSA – Prohibition in United States of America
- 1921 IFSF – Irish Free State formed
- 1922 FOBBC – Founding of the British Broadcasting Corporation
- 1923 FCFAW – First cup final at Wembley
- 1924 FLGF – First Labour government formed
- 1925 MTB – Margaret Thatcher born
- 1926 GS – General Strike
- 1927 FOA – First Oscars awarded
- 1928 AFDP – Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin
- 1929 WSC – Wall Street Crash
- 1930 FFWCTH – First football World Cup tournament held.

Contributions or comments, please, to the Editor,
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If you have received this Newsletter, but are not involved with the Royal British Legion, don't worry, we just wanted to spread a little fun and humour around the area!