



Paris  
Branch

# Newsletter

June 2022



## Page

2 Chairman's message

3 In Memoriam  
Platinum Jubilee Quiz

5 Members' Hobbies

7 The Battle of Cherbourg - 1864

10 Battersea Dogs' and Cats' Home

13 Commemorations & events from members  
Answers to the quiz



*This month's  
lunch  
Thur xx/xx  
1215 for 1230*

*See below for  
menu*

### **Chairman's report for the June 2022 Newsletter.**

Well so far, I have had a busy June. If I wasn't invigilating exams I was carrying out RBL duties. On the morning of the 2nd of June, Janet Warby and I delivered 4000 poppies and 1000 crosses to the two [Ama Waterways](#) ships birthed opposite Park Citron (Ama Waterways is a company which, amongst its Seine cruise offers, visits to Normandy military cemeteries and landing beaches where participants can leave poppies on the various sites. As such it is an important donor to the Paris Poppy appeal.) Then, after invigilating two exams, I rushed home to change for the Arc de Triomphe for the rekindling of the flame as part of Her Majesty's platinum jubilee celebrations. Here we met President Emmanuel Macron, Mme. Macron, ex-President Nicolas Sarkozy and our Ambassador Mena Rawlings. It was good to see some of our committee members in attendance along with friends from other organisations. ([Click to see more](#)). On Sunday the 5th, my wife and I went with Caroline Clopet to Juno beach before going to meet up with Bill Beauclerk and some of the RNVA Paris branch members at a hotel in Caen. We then went to the D-Day 78 service of remembrance



at Bayeux Cathedral which was very moving. With our Ambassador were the military attaches from the British Embassy, veterans and Rod Bedford from the Somme branch of the Royal British Legion. The service was conducted by the national chaplain of the Royal British Legion, the venerable Martyn Gough. After the service, we returned to Caen. The following morning, we attended a service at Bayeux cemetery, again was very moving, where I laid a wreath on behalf of our branch. ([Click to see more](#)). We then went to the commemoration and wreath-laying ceremony at Arromanches les Bains before a commemorative concert at the British Normandy memorial. This latter was impressive and, for those of you who do not know it, please note that we are planning to organise a visit by coach next September.

On Friday evening, at the branch, Bill Beauclerk, Patrick Gautier, Robin Sweeney and I welcomed Stewart Ross, an American author who has published several books on French history. He brought with him copies of his latest publication, the first of three volumes about the Gestapo in Paris in WW2. A fascinating work, it includes itineraries for walks around Paris to discover key spots of Gestapo activities. His visit had been planned before the COVID crisis which put a stop to his visit. He will be returning next year and we look forward to him giving a further talk about his books on that occasion. Looking to the immediate future I shall be attending the ceremony 'Order de la Liberation at Mont Valérien on the eighteenth of this month in the presence of the President. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, I shall attend a ceremony at the Thiepval memorial with members of the Somme branch of the RBL.

In the immediate, we are pleased to welcome back Elaine who has agreed to prepare our monthly lunch on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month. It looks to be well attended so far. You will find the menu below. Do try to join us.

## In Memoriam

Monday May 23, 2022 - MURIEL LANGLE

*Chevalier de l'Ordre National de Mérite*

*Médaille d'or de la Jeunesse et des Sports*

We are sad to learn of the death of our member. Muriel Langle, aged 84, in a Versailles clinic where she had been for some time following a fall. Her children were with her.

Muriel was a long-standing member of the RBL Paris branch having joined in 2012.

A retired teacher from the British School of Paris, she coached their hockey team to a series of victories.

Secretary of the BCWA, until 2020, she notably, launched the BCWA Newsletter.



*Muriel with RBL Committee member Jim Cockle - The Queen's diamond jubilee event 2012*

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## Platinum Jubilee Quiz

***(Answers on last page.)***

1. By the time she was three years old, the young Princess Elizabeth would say goodnight to her grandfather, King George V, employing a curtsey and a set phrase. What was the phrase?
  - a) 'Nighty night, grandpa.'
  - b) 'Sweet dreams.'
  - c) 'I trust your Majesty will sleep well.'
  - d) 'Good night, sleep tight, mind the fleas don't bite.'
2. Her father became King in 1936, when Elizabeth was ten. According to her nanny, when she was told that her family would be moving to Buckingham Palace, what did she reply?
  - a) 'What – you mean for ever?'
  - b) 'Isn't it a bit small?'
  - c) 'Must Margaret come too?'
  - d) 'But I want to live in a cottage.'
3. After meeting a young Prince Philip at a cocktail party, the politician Chips Channon noted in his diary that Philip had already been earmarked as the future husband of Princess Elizabeth : 'He is to be our Prince Consort, and that is why he is serving in our navy'. How old was Elizabeth when Channon made this observation?
  - a) 14
  - b) 16
  - c) 18
  - d) 20

4. During her courtship with Philip, the Queen played one song, over and over again, on her gramophone. What was that song?
  - a) Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah from Song of the South,
  - b) People will Say We're in Love from Oklohomah!
  - c) Prisoner of Love by Perry Como
  - d) There's No Business Like Show Business from Annie Get Your Gun.
  
5. The Queen and Prince Philip were married in 1947. Match their wedding presents with the person who gave it :
  - a) Lacework spun by the donor on his own spinning-wheel
  - b) A Chestnut Horse
  - c) A gold tiara
  - d) A 175-piece dinner service  
  - i) The Aga Khan,    ii) Mahatma Gandhi    iii) Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia
  - iv) Chiang Kai-Shek, Chairman of the National Government of China
  
6. At a British Embassy reception in Washington in 1951, the Queen was reckoned to have shaken hands with how many people?
  - a) 150   b) 500   c) 1,000   d) 1,500
  
7. Each year, how many people are invited to the Queen's garden parties?
  - a) 30   b) 3,000   c) 30,000   d) 300,000
  
8. When asked what he spoke about with the Queen at their increasingly lengthy Prime Ministerial meetings, what did Winston Churchill reply?
  
9. a) 'Oh, mostly world affairs.'   b) 'Oh, mostly children.'  
 c) 'Oh, mostly dogs.'   d) 'Oh, mostly racing.'
  
10. 'It's awful. I've got the kind of face that, if I'm not smiling, I look cross. But I'm not cross,' the Queen told a helper in Australia in 1954. She added. 'If you try to smile for two hours continuously it gives you....'      What?
  - a) a nervous tic.'   b) a stomach ache,'   c) a squint.'   d) earrache.'
  
11. According to her distinguished biographer, Ben Pimlott, what is it about the Queen that comes as a surprise to most of her portrait painters?
  
12. a) She hums a lot while posing  
 b) She insists on being painted from the right-hand side.  
 c) She barely talks.   d) She is a chatterbox.

13. According to his press secretary, what did Prime Minister Harold Macmillan say about the Queen?

- a) 'If only one were a younger man...'
- b) 'What a splendid girl she is!'
- c) 'She makes me want to burst into song!'
- d) 'Odd, but at times I detect something of a little northern in her accent.'

14. When Mrs Thatcher became Prime Minister in 1979, one thing about her puzzled the Queen. She asked a Tory peer :

- a) 'Why does she never put her handbag down?'
- b) 'Why does she go so low when she curtseys?'
- c) 'Why does she always sit on the edge of her seat?'
- d) 'Why does she never laugh?'



Don't forget to  
book in for this  
month's lunch.

Thursday 23 June  
1215 for 1230

Only €23 - Pay on the day  
(in cash please)

Contact Richard at 06 45 10 47 70 or  
richard.neave05@gmail.com

*Book soon to be sure of a place.  
(Cancellations up to 48h before)*



*LUNCH MENU 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
Aperitif*

*STARTER-  
Quiche*

*MAIN COURSE-  
Chicken Stroganoff*

*DESSERT-  
Fruit pie and ice cream*

*Wine served with the meal  
Coffee or tea*

## MEMBERS' HOBBIES

### Hobbies I have had.

This is a big subject and may take several episodes!

The earliest hobby I can remember is gardening. Goodness knows where that came from because the four square yards of carefully cultivated earth in front of our terrace house hardly qualified as a garden. Every house in the street



... with a tiny plot



had had the same tiny plot. The morning passage of the milkman was eagerly awaited by a number of ladies who carefully observed the progress of the horse and, on the slightest sign of a bowel movement on the part of the animal (as distinct from the milkman) came scuttling into the street wielding coal shovels. They would dispute violently their right to the valuable deposits of fertilizer which the horse had left generously on their doorsteps.

I was maybe eleven when I must have read a book on gardening and the upshot was that my father entered into negotiations with the tenant of one of the allotments allocated by the town hall to a substantial waiting list of retirees. Allotments were relatively few where we lived but, a little further north, they seemed to cover every scrap of available land. There, happy gardeners had spent most of a lifetime digging coal and now, in the evening of their days, it must have been with satisfaction that they pushed their spades into a softer soil - and in daylight too! Usually with a hut at one end, the allotment provided a refuge from marital bliss (now that they no longer had work to go to) and frequently led to an obsession with the competitive growing of leeks and marrows. This provided a major subject of conversation down the working men's club rivaled only by the amazing racing performance of homing pigeons.



*A typical allotment*

My father managed to sub-lease from the aging tenant of one of the local plots a quarter of the allotment which was beginning to exceed his abilities. My brother and I split it into two and joyously started to grow radishes and lettuce. Every evening we would cycle to this blessed plot and carefully look for signs that the seeds were germinating, that the seedlings were actually growing and in due course that some of them at least had reached a plausible size to grace the family table.

We had however, in our enthusiasm, been a little over ambitious with the lettuce and the radishes and, if the first ones were welcomed at the family table, they became so numerous that we were reduced to giving them away to neighbours. Then I was struck with a brilliant idea. We would sell them from door to door! Down in

the air raid shelter in the back yard - a dark hole rarely explored by parents and home of numerous dubious youthful experiments of one kind and another - we made a cardboard tray which could be hung round the neck and, in due course set off on an evening round. The results were quite good at first and it looked as if this might be a way of entering the fascinating world of capitalism... until ... Another door. A man answers.

"What's this then?"

"We're selling lettuce. Would you like one"

"Selling lettuce! From door to door. Have you got a license?"

"Uh... Uh... a license?"

"Aye, you're supposed to have a license for that - and I'm a policeman!"

Horried we prepared to beat a rapid retreat.

"Hang on lad. Before you go I'll take two. Oh and a bunch of radishes as well."

Intimidated nonetheless by this revelation of the illegality of our project we - perhaps unfortunately - abandoned our early attempt at retail trade.

My brother and I thus learned about the dangers of monoculture and the wisdom of varying crops and in fact acquired in due course a little genuine knowledge of gardening which has, curiously, turned out quite useful here in Paris 65 years later. But that's another story - and another hobby.

MY

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## THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

### THE BATTLE OF CHERBOURG 19TH JUNE 1864

#### INTRODUCTION

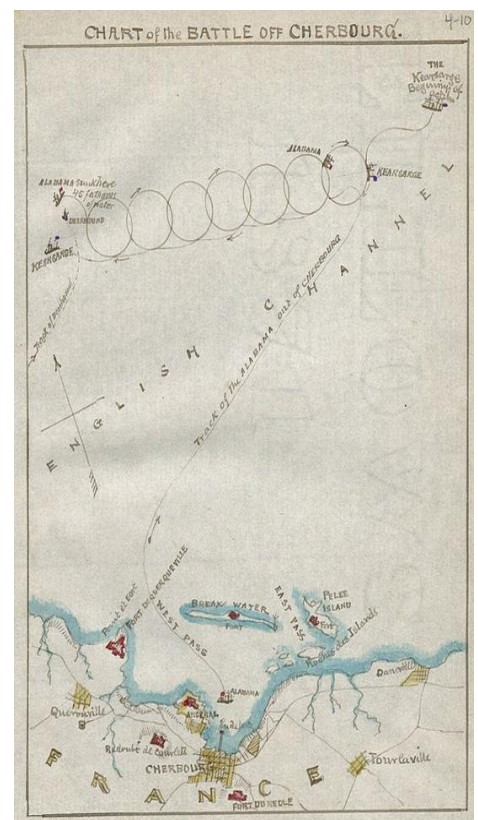
On the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944 the Americans, with British, Canadian and other national contingents, landed on the beaches of Normandy. The American army engaged in the Battle of Cherbourg and the city was liberated on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Curiously, this was the second time the Americans were engaged in a “Battle of Cherbourg”.

Here we look at the first battle which took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 1864, earlier by eighty years, almost to the day. This two-ship naval battle between the Confederate States Ship (CSS) *Alabama* and the United States Ship (USS) *Kearsarge* might better be called the Battle “off” rather than “of” Cherbourg, for it took place a few miles offshore, just outside French territorial waters. The *Alabama* had docked in Cherbourg for a much needed refit and to give the crew a rest. The *Kearsarge*, which had been trying to track her down for two years, lay in wait for her.

#### THE BACKGROUND

During the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century tension had been mounting in the USA between the anti-slavery northern states, and the “Deep South”, where the economy was based essentially on the cotton industry, dependent on slave labour. In 1861 following the election of Abraham Lincoln, the situation became critical. In response 11 southern states declared their secession and joined together to form the Confederate States of America or simply the “Confederacy”. The northern states became known as the “Union”. The Civil War which followed lasted until 1865; it involved not only land operations, but also included an important naval element.

*Chart of the battle*



## THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE C.S.S. ALABAMA

A model of CSS Alabama



The Confederate States did not possess any shipyard facilities, so when it came to building ships for their navy they were forced to go abroad. A contract was signed in 1862 for the construction of a warship in Birkenhead, near Liverpool in England. Although this ship was to be eventually baptized *Alabama*, she was simply known as *Ship N° 290*, a necessary precaution, for Unionist spies were present in the United Kingdom. At a diplomatic level relations between the United Kingdom and the United States were fast deteriorating, for the latter considered that any help given to the Confederates was an unfriendly act possibly leading to war. The ship, 220 feet long and displacing 1 050 tons, was designed for speed,

either under sail rigged as a barque, or under power driven by a steam engine rotating a propeller. In sailing mode, the telescopic funnel would be lowered and the screw would be raised, to improve performance - and to provide a useful disguise when stalking a victim ship.

## RENDEZVOUS IN THE AZORES

The completed ship was baptized *Enrica*, and classed as an unarmed merchant ship flying the British flag. She set sail, under the protests of the Unionist ambassador in London, for Terceira in the Azores, where she had a rendezvous with two other ships also coming from Great Britain. The first was the *Bahama*, a steamer carrying the future Confederate officers of the *Alabama* dressed as civilians, led by Captain Raphael Semmes. The second was the *Agrippina*, which brought cannons manufactured in secret in Great Britain, together with munitions, coal and other supplies. Once arrived in Terceira, the sailors of the three ships set to work to mount the cannons on the *Enrica* and fit her out to become a commerce raider of the Confederate Navy. On the 24<sup>th</sup> August 1862 at a formal ceremony, just outside Portuguese territorial waters, the British ensign was lowered and the Confederate flag hoisted. The *Enrica* was now the *Alabama*. A cannon salute was fired and inevitably “Dixie”, the *de facto* anthem of the Confederacy, was sung. Captain Semmes was now in business with a fully armed and loaded warship and his team of officers - but he had no crew members. He made a speech exhorting the sailors of the *Enrica* and the *Agrippina* to join the Confederate Navy and sail with him on the *Alabama*. Nobody budged and his invitation was met with silence. Then he said “I’ll pay you double salary and you will have a share of any prize money”. 83 men, nearly all British, stepped forward and volunteered. (Money talks! Every man has his price!). The non-volunteers returned to England on the *Bahama*. The *Agrippina* became Semmes' supply ship for food, coal and other materials.

## THE CORSAIR CAMPAIGNS OF THE ALABAMA

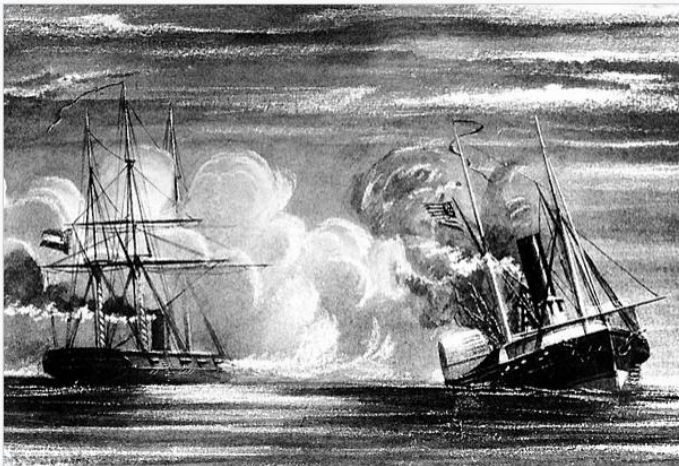
The *Alabama* set out on her mission to destroy the maximum number of merchant ships flying the Stars and Stripes whilst avoiding the US Navy ships which would be sent to find her and destroy her. She was successful beyond the wildest dreams of her captain, for in a cruise covering tens of thousands of miles, lasting just 21 months, she would capture 60 Union merchant ships. The Union economy suffered and the naval blockade on the Confederation was eased as the Union deployed several ships to find and trap the *Alabama*. The tactic used by Captain Semmes was to approach an unsuspecting victim whilst flying the



British ensign, then, at the last moment, unfurl the Confederate flag. The *Alabama* crew then captured the ship, took anything of value, then set it on fire and sank it.

Common decency prevailed and no violence was directed at the crew or any passengers of the ships captured. They were taken on board the *Alabama* and put ashore at the next landing. If the *Alabama* had too many prisoners, the next ship captured would not be set on fire and sunk. Instead all the prisoners would be transferred to it and the ship released. In all some 2 000 persons were captured, but not one came to any harm.

The *Alabama* became a phantom ship, staying only two or three months in any one zone of the ocean. Whenever news of the ships destroyed reached the ears of the Unionist government they sent a warship, but when it arrived, the *Alabama* had already left, only to resume its work of destruction thousands of



19th century print, depicting the sinking of *Hatteras* by CSS *Alabama*, off [Galveston, Texas](#) on 11 January 1863.

miles away. *Alabama's* campaign started well in the vicinity of the Azores, where she intercepted and destroyed 20 Union ships, twelve of them whalers. She then took up a new station off Newfoundland, to capture Union ships carrying grain to Europe. Then she went south to the Gulf of Mexico. The USS *Hatteras* was sent to intercept her, engaged in battle with the *Alabama*, and was severely damaged and sunk.

From there the *Alabama* went to the South Atlantic, where she sank a further 29 ships. She spared one ship, the *Conrad*, which was re-baptized *Tuscaloosa* and used with the *Agrippina* as a supply ship. This non-stop odyssey was to take the *Alabama* to the

Indian Ocean and even into the South China Sea, but after almost two years at sea, the ship and the crew were becoming tired. A port was needed where the ship could be refitted and its crew given a rest.

## **THE ALABAMA DOCKS IN CHERBOURG**

Returning to the North Atlantic, on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1864 Captain Semmes took his ship into Cherbourg to be dry docked. However the Unionist authorities soon learnt of the presence of the *Alabama* and sent the USS *Kearsarge* which arrived on the 14<sup>th</sup> June in international waters off Cherbourg. This Unionist ship, commanded by Captain John Winslow, had been looking for the *Alabama* for many months and at last had cornered her.

*Crew of the Kearsarge and 11" gun*



## THE BATTLE OF (OFF) CHERBOURG



Manet's depiction of the battle

Knowing that he was trapped, Captain Semmes decided to abandon the safety of Cherbourg and sail the *Alabama* out to face and fight the *Kearsarge*. He cancelled the dry dock and simply asked the French for his ship to be coaled. This completed, the *Alabama* put out to sea on the 19<sup>th</sup> June to meet her destiny. This dramatic situation had for the last few days created quite a sensation amongst the citizens of Cherbourg and a large crowd gathered to watch the departure and witness the battle.

The ships closed to a range of 1 000 yards and the *Alabama* fired first. The *Alabama*, however, discovered that some of her munitions were defective, in particular a shell that hit the *Kearsarge*'s steering gear and could have been fatal, did not explode. After almost two years at sea perhaps the powder had become damp. Several shots hit the *Alabama* including one below the waterline. She began to sink by the stern. Captain Semmes hoisted a white flag and the firing stopped. The *Kearsarge* then set about saving the crew of the *Alabama* and asked a passing British steam yacht, the *Deerhound* to assist. The latter saved 47 men including the captain and most of the officers, but instead of delivering them to the *Kearsarge*, the *Deerhound* left the scene of the battle at full speed and landed the Confederate sailors in England. This was not at all appreciated by the Unionists!

## DIPLOMATIC TURBULENCE USA / UK

After the end of the American Civil War, the US government claimed compensation for the damage done by the *Alabama*, on the basis that the British Government was fully aware of what was happening, allowed the construction of a warship and did not prevent her setting sail. After many years of negotiation an agreement was reached and the British Government paid a large sum of money to the Americans.

## THE WRECK TODAY

The wreck of the *Alabama* lay in some 30 fathoms for 120 years until, in 1984, the French Navy minesweeper, the *Circe*, located her by means of sonar. Still there, the wreck is the property of the United States, but, now designated an archeological site, Franco-



American teams of divers have regularly visited it,. Conditions are particularly difficult for the divers due to strong tidal flows and poor visibility. Nevertheless a number of artifacts have been recovered.

To see more artifacts click [HERE](#)



Patrick Noble



## BATTERSEA DOGS & CATS HOME

### LONDON

The Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, or just "Battersea", rescues dogs and cats until an owner or a new one can be found and is one of the UK's oldest and best known animal rescue centres. It was established in Holloway, North London, in 1860 and moved to Battersea in 1871. A non-Government funded organisation, it cares for an average of 240 dogs and 145 cats across all three centres at any one time. The charity has cared for more than 3.1 million dogs and cats over its history.

### FOUNDATION

Battersea was founded by Mary Tealby (1801-1865). She called it "The Temporary Home for Lost and Starving Dogs" and it first consisted of her scullery. As the number of dogs delivered to her grew she hired some nearby stables funded by herself, her brother and Sarah Major. In 1860 the RSPCA agreed to assist and the committee meetings were held at the RSPCA offices at 12 Pall Mall. The Times ran a story ridiculing the idea of opening a "home" for dogs when there were homeless people in London. It accused Tealby of "letting her zeal ...outrun her discretion". Its most impressive supporter in the 1860s was Charles Dickens. He wrote about a "remarkable institution" that had saved "over a thousand" dogs in 1860. He noted that the dogs were cared for but if necessary humanely disposed of. By 1864 the finances were sound and they were handling 2,000 dogs that year. Battersea started taking in cats from 1883, but its name remained Battersea Dogs Home until 2002.



### THE WAR

In 1939, a government pamphlet called, "Advice to Animal Owners," recommended pet owners to have their pets destroyed unless they could send them to the country. Battersea manager Edward Healey-Tutt opposed this strongly and, throughout the war, Battersea fed and cared for over 145,000 dogs.

### EXPANSION

In 1979 Battersea acquired Bell Mead Kennels in Berkshire, now known as Battersea Old Windsor, and in 1999 a centre in Kent was purchased - Battersea Brands Hatch. In June 2010, at a period when Battersea was running into financial problems, Claire Horton joined as Chief Executive. She turned the situation around, increasing volunteers and fostering careers. For this, in 2016, she was named Charity Chief Executive of the Year at the Third Sector Awards. Horton was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2020 New Year Honours for services to animal welfare and is currently Director General of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

## 150 YEARS

To mark its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010, the charity's London Cattery was opened by HRH the Duchess of Cornwall. Royal Mail released a set of stamps featuring a series of dogs and cats adopted by staff. It also launched a commemorative book, *A Home of Their Own*, which charts the history of the Home. This includes a look at prominent people who have adopted animals such as Elton John, who credited his dog Thomas with helping him through a rough period. Starting in 2011, Battersea implemented the "Staffies. They're Softer Than You Think" campaign to educate the public on misconceptions concerning the Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

On 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II unveiled a plaque to officially open the intake kennels named after their founder, Mary Tealby kennels. In 2016, a new state of the art Veterinary Hospital was opened at the London centre.

## REBRANDING

In 2018 the charity rebranded as just "Battersea" "to be here for every dog and cat". The charity's public affairs work involved spearheading the campaign to increase maximum sentences from six months to five years for the worst animal cruelty crimes in England and Wales. Battersea has been campaigning since 2017. The charity also launched the Battersea Academy, and launched a campaign "Rescue Is My Favourite Breed" in 2019.

## PATRONAGE & SUPPORTERS

In 1885, Queen Victoria became patron of the home, and it has remained under royal patronage ever since. The Duchess of Cornwall is the current patron, and Prince Michael of Kent is the President.

In 1862, Charles Dickens published an article about the home for the magazine *All the Year Round*. He called it as "extraordinary monument of the remarkable affection with which the English people regard the race of dogs".

More recently the Post Office too has done its bit.



## PUBLIC IMAGE



Battersea has featured on many television programmes and documentaries. The Channel 4 programme "Pet Rescue" which was aired in 1997 featured Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. BBC One programme "Animal Rescue Live" was broadcast live for a week at Battersea in July 2007. The programme was presented by Matt Baker and Selina Scott. ITV's Paul O'Grady's "For the Love of Dogs" has been filmed at Battersea since 2012 and has won multiple awards including three National Television Awards for 'Factual Entertainment'. It was nominated for a BAFTA in 2013. The show is now in its ninth series. Notable former 'in-mates' of Battersea have been, Larry – Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office 2011, Palmerston – Chief Mouser of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office 2016-2020 and Gladstone – Chief Mouser of HM Treasurer 2016.

J. Warby

## Commemorations & Events reported by members

### Bernienville



Laurence David-Grant, whose husband was an officer in the 1st Regiment de Marche du Tchad and who is now Treasurer of the "Association de la maison des Anciens de la 2<sup>e</sup> DB" writes of this ceremony at Bernienville, near Evreux, to commemorate an event in Morocco in August 1943.

This reminds us of the part played by the French forces in North Africa in WW2 which did much to enable, indirectly, the defense of Malta and to hamper Romel's advance on Egypt.

The 1st Regiment de Marche du Tchad was a French infantry regiment involved in numerous North African

actions. In 1944 it embarked, partly on the requisitioned, "Franconia" to the UK there, under general Leclerc, to join the DFL, the backbone of the Free French Forces - Churchill's "Fighting French" - which liberated Paris and eventually reached as far as Berchtesgarden.



*From Laurence David-Grant*

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### Vieil Hesdin



On Saturday 21 May 2023 the Mayor of Vieil Hesdin, M. Christian Druelle, headed a ceremony of remembrance for 3 servicemen of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Searchlight Battalion, the Royal Artillery, killed in action in 1939 defending the village from the German forces advancing from Arras to the coast.

The 3 servicemen, all from the area of Birmingham, were initially buried in nearby woodland but were re-buried after the war in

the communal cemetery of the village through the auspices of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The service was well attended with equal numbers of French and British paying their respects.

Pipe Major Yves Holbec of the Somme Battlefield Pipe Band led the March to the cemetery playing the lament "Flowers of the Forest".

*From Roderick Hutchison*



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Answers to quiz: 1c, 2a, 3a, 4b, 5a, bi, ciii, civ, 6d, 7c, 8d, 9a, 10d, 11d, 12c.

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