



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION PARIS BRANCH

NEWSLETTER - February 2018

Dear Fellow Member,

On Armistice Day 2018 we will be commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, the centennial of a war that had resulted in the death of approximately one million British and Commonwealth soldiers, and that of over four million Allied personnel. Truly a terrible, terrible War.

This year Armistice Day falls on a Sunday and, as is always the case, many churches will be marking the event with special services and masses. As in every other year The Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance will be held at Notre Dame Cathedral during the afternoon of that day. At that service we will be commemorating not only those who died during World War 1, but also the many British and Commonwealth servicemen and women who have perished in other wars and battles. Even if you attend your local church on that Sunday morning, please consider coming also to the Cathedral in the afternoon. A packed congregation will be palpable proof of the Legion's commitment to remembering those who gave their lives that we might live.

To my knowledge many communes have a local memorial and/or cemetery containing the graves, headstones or some other form of recognition of British and/or Commonwealth service personnel who died during World War I or World War II. We plan to develop a library of photographs depicting these. We have a lot of information about the numbers of the fallen, and now we intend putting together the pictorial evidence. If you are aware of the existence of such tangible items, please photograph them and send to Mark Yates. He has taken on the responsibility for this project.

It is always with great sadness that I have need to pass on news of someone's death. François Archambault was the founder of l'Association Mémoires et Espoirs de la Résistance. He was a member of TRBL for some ten years during which time he showed his support for our objectives and organised the joint ceremonies that took place at the statues of Sir Winston Churchill and of Général Charles de Gaulle in Paris. François died in January and we sent our condolences to his widow, Catherine.

On behalf of TRBL Paris Branch I recently put my signature on an Agreement with Le Souvenir Français. That Association was created in 1887 and has similar objectives to those of TRBL. The Agreement we have entered into is for reciprocal support of each other's ceremonies, particularly those of TRBL on 4th August (at the Arc de Triomphe) and 11 November, and their major annual event, The Day of Commemoration, on 26th November, also held at the Arc de Triomphe. We are exploring ways of participating in further activities together.

The first Branch Meeting of 2018 will be on 20th March, at the Clubhouse. As you are aware, Branch Meetings are open to everyone and it is an opportunity for you to listen to the deliberations of your Committee, including our plans for the future, and to pose your questions. After the meeting we gather around the bar for a less formal chat. Please join us that evening at rue Acacias.

We will be saying goodbye to our Chaplain, Revd Canon Matthew Harrison, in March. He will be replaced as The Royal British Legion Chaplain for the Paris Branch by Father Aidan Troy. Fr. Aidan is Chaplain of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, Paris.

Although the event itself is as yet some two months ahead of us, I am taking this opportunity to send you some raffle tickets for the Grand National, a major UK horse-racing event that is scheduled to take place at Aintree on 14 April. We have these raffles in order to raise money for the General Fund, so may I urge you please to buy tickets for yourself and to offer as many as you can to your friends and family. Please send the ticket stubs and the money to the Clubhouse as soon as possible. If you haven't already seen them, attached are the results of the Christmas Draw. Many people won prizes; if you weren't one of them then maybe you'll have better luck in the Grand National raffle!

Finally, don't forget the monthly lunches at the Clubhouse. They always prove to be convivial occasions, and I particularly enjoy them as it's my opportunity to meet and talk with our members. Looking forward to seeing you there!



David Bean
Chairman

FORTHCOMING BRANCH LUNCHES

22 February

22 March

12 April

17 May

14 June