



Circular

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

Autumn 2010

Number 429



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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

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The Royal British Legion
Women's Section Circular
Autumn 2010

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From Head Office



Message from The National Chairman

Mrs Cecilia Harper

I hope that by now everyone is preparing for their Women's Section Awareness

Event in September. Please may I ask you to send in photos and descriptions so we can publish them in the Circular. The event doesn't have to be extravagant or too time consuming, it is to make the public aware of what we do, and how we do it, and very importantly hopefully attract new members, which we desperately need.

Going forward to County Standard Bearer Competitions, to save time in sending Bars to all the Counties, and then, those Counties that don't hold Competitions because they don't have any competitors have to send the bars back, can we ask instead that your Secretary writes in for the Standard Bearer Bars telling us the date of your competition, name of Judges, name of winner and the runner up. This will ensure our records are kept up to date and unnecessary time and postage aren't used. Plus you would make Avril Bailey in the office very happy.

On a different note altogether at Conference next year we will be having an Anniversary Purse Presentation. So ladies here is your

chance to make that extra effort for our 90th year. Arrangements for Conference are well in hand and we do hope you will enjoy our planned celebrations.

Lisa of course, is once again juggling 3 Conferences, this year's minutes, 2011 bookings, agendas, guest lists, speakers etc, and looking at the 2012 arrangements. I sometimes think she is an octopus in disguise with special talents.

Thinking about 2011 Conference, Ladies, the staff and the officers put in a lot of hard work to make sure Conference works, but without your input of motions and debates it is very difficult. If you feel strongly about something bring it to Conference for debate, approach your Central Committee member on how to go about it, as long as it concerns the Women's Section, or the welfare of our beneficiaries, anything can come to Conference for debate by any member and for delegates to vote on at the end of the debate.

If we don't have the input, then we will find ourselves having a 1 DAY AGM, and I am positive you don't want that. There are 49,999 of you Ladies out there.

IT'S TIME TO DO YOUR BIT
USE IT OR LOSE IT



This years Women's Section Day
should be celebrated Nationwide



WOMEN'S SECTION DAY

September 2010

How is your Branch or County celebrating Women's Section Day?

Once your celebrations are arranged please do let Head Office know the details so we can publicise this on our Website. Remember to take along your camera and send in your pictures and articles for the Circular.

NB: If you do send your photos into us and would like them to be returned to you, please also send a self addressed and stamped envelope for their return.

Military Family Members

Emotional Cycle of Deployment

By Claire Carroll

I am putting together a series of monologues written by military family members, both men and women, about how they coped with, are coping with, or are coming to terms with an Afghanistan deployment separation. My husband is going to be deployed there at the end of September 2010 and the news of this, and the conflicting emotions that accompanied it, has brought the whole subject sharply into focus for me.

The purpose of this project is to highlight the experiences and needs and fears of families – to make other people aware of the far reaching personal effects of conflict and to show that military families might want and need support too. In the process of this we will raise money for forces charities as chosen by all those who take part in sharing their experiences.

I hope to hear from you whether you are a wife, husband, partner, child, parent or sibling of

someone in HM Forces who is going to Afghanistan, was in Afghanistan or is still in Afghanistan. It doesn't matter what your experience was or is. Any experience and feelings are valid. You may have felt a wide variety of emotions both positive and negative. You may have felt sadness, fear, joy, loss, anger, bitterness, resentment, detachment, relief, panic, guilt. There may have been funny moments along the way. Anything you want to share may help someone else to come to terms with their own feelings.

If you would like to take part by sharing your thoughts and experiences, you can do so in several ways. For example:

By writing down what you want to say. The writing can take any form you want – either narrative, a letter or even a poem.

Telling me over the phone – I will record what you tell me and type it up later.

Tape recording a piece yourself and sending me the recording.

It would be good to include with this a few details of your family situation. For example your

age, relationship to the deployed, number and ages of children, etc. As much information as you feel comfortable giving.

However, I do stress that your anonymity will be guaranteed.

Some of these will be selected for a stage production and it will be my intention to try and publish a collection of all the accounts in book form so that the pieces can reach as wide an audience as possible and perhaps give comfort to those who read it.

In submitting a piece you will be giving me permission to use it in any form for the purposes of raising money for Forces charities. All profits will be shared amongst the Royal British Legion, Help for Heroes, SSAFA and other Forces related charities as chosen by those who participate.

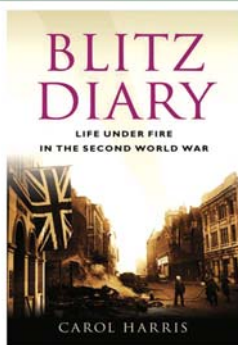
I am an actress, my husband is in the Royal Navy, and I will seek the voluntary services of actors to bring this project to life.

You can contact me, Claire Carroll, on: ecod2010@hotmail.com or via the Royal British Legion website.

The History Press

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Press Release



Blitz Diary

Life Under Fire
in the Second World War

Carol Harris

25th July 2010,
at £9.99, hardback
ISBN 978-0-7524-5172-5

**First-hand accounts of the
experiences of ordinary people
during World War II**

The first German bombs fell on London on 24th August 1940. From then on, Britain's cities endured a long and terrible campaign of bombing that destroyed large parts of the country, killed thousands and left hundreds of thousands homeless.

20,000 Londoners died in the Blitz, including 3,000 on one night. Not only the capital suffered – on 8th November 1940, 30,000 incendiary bombs rained down on Coventry, laying waste to the city, including, famously, its cathedral.

- A collection of remarkable accounts from the War's darkest days.
- Includes heart-warming stories of survival, perseverance, solidarity and bravery, the preservation of which has become increasingly important as the Blitz fades from living memory.
- A chronological narrative of real-life experiences under aerial bombardment in Great Britain.
- Stories from port cities – London, Plymouth, Bristol and Liverpool, all of which suffered badly.
- Published to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the start of the London Blitz – 24th August 1940.
- Featuring rare and previously unpublished contemporary accounts from WWII experiences.

Carol Harris is a writer and journalist who has written extensively on the Second World War, the 1930s the '40s, and her series 'Women at War'. Carol has recently featured in the week-long BBC One series *The Week We Went to War*, in September 2009. She lives in south-east London.

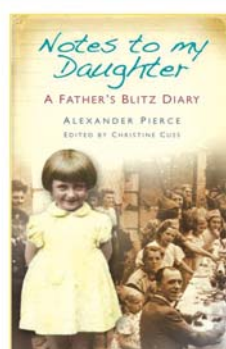
Requests for review copies, images and interviews contact
Hazel Kayes at 01453 732508 email: hkayes@thehistorypress.co.uk

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Press Release



Notes to my Daughter

A Father's Blitz Diary

Alexander Pierce

Edited by Christine Cuss

To be published on 9th August 2010,
at £9.99, Paperback
ISBN 978-0-7524-5554-9

**A poignant diary (1934-1946) kept by
a father for his daughter as
the Second World War
raged around them**

When Christine Cuss (née Pierce), was born in 1934, her doting father began a journal addressed to her. At first he recorded everyday details such as first teeth and family holidays, but as the 1930s progressed his words took on a more sinister tone, as Europe and the world prepared for war.

A rare historical document written by Alexander Pierce, torn between his duty to his country and his duty to his family. The memoir is an example of the spirit of the British people in difficult times. In the stirring events of the time, Alexander chose his family, not least his only daughter.

- In 1934 Alexander Pierce started the journal for daughter Christine, to read when she was older.
- Love letters to his cherished child portray the life of an extraordinary small family.
- Sentiments expressed in this publication will not fail to touch those who read them. It is a moving insight into family life in London during the Second World War, including the Blitz.
- Foreword by Bishop Richard Moth

Alexander Pierce was born in 1904 and joined the army after he left school. He later worked as a maintenance man at a brewery and a hospital. He died in 1979.

Christine Cuss, his daughter, was born in 1934 and worked as a secretary. She found her father's journal a year after his death, in 1979. She is now retired and lives in Sandwich, Kent.

The author is donating all royalties received from sales to the Royal British Legion – for the support of wounded troops returning from Afghanistan and for widows and their families.

Requests for review copies, images and interviews contact
Hazel Kayes at 01453 732508 email: hkayes@thehistorypress.co.uk

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In memory of



We regret to inform you that sadly these ladies have passed away:

Mrs Daisy Peverett – Manea Branch President and Vice-President of Cambridgeshire County at 90 years old.

Mrs Edith Wharram – Lowfield Heath Branch Past-Chairman and later Vice-Chairman at 90 years old. Members of the branch have said that Edith was a very cheerful lady and they will all miss her.

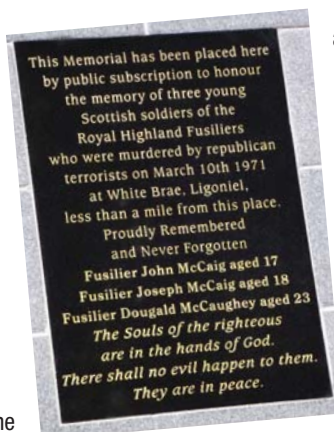
Mrs Winnie Thomas – Yelverton Branch Secretary. An exhibition marking her achievements was held which included her certificates, Awards and citations.

Mrs Cora Jones – Workington Branch President since 1986 and before that the Branch Standard Bearer for many years.

Poignant tribute to murdered soldiers

The memorial is dedicated to three Scottish soldiers, Dougald McCaughey and brothers John and Joseph McCaig who were lured to their deaths in one of the most infamous attacks of the Troubles. Relatives have attended a poignant memorial service in Belfast. These three soldiers from Ayr were gunned down by the IRA after being brought from a Belfast bar to the isolated White Brae on March 9th 1971.

On Saturday 29th May the family members of these three soldiers held a private memorial service



at the site of the atrocity, with a number of veterans from the Royal Highland Fusiliers who had served with these soldiers.

On Sunday 30th a 15ft obelisk memorial with their carved images was formally dedicated at Ballysillan Avenue followed by a parade of Standards to a drumhead service of remembrance which was attended by approximately 1,000 people. Some of those who were in attendance were the Lord Mayor Naomi Long, North

Belfast MP Nigel Dodds, senior members of the Royal British Legion and personnel from ex-service associations.



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The Royal British Legion is recognised as the custodians of Remembrance.



Branch and County News



Louth Branch 85th Anniversary

This photograph was taken of members of Louth Branch at their garden party in their Chairman's garden to celebrate their 85th Anniversary. Pictured from left to right are: Mrs Brenda Pocklington County Vice-Chairman, Mrs Jean O'Flynn, Mrs Jackie Featherstone, Mrs Janet Smith Branch Chairman, Mrs Kath Willoughby, Mrs Fay Coyle, Mrs Marjorie Jackson, Mrs Mary Papworth, Mrs June Lovely Branch Secretary and Mrs Jean Stringer County Treasurer.



Awards for 185 years of service

Olveston and District recently held a Poppy Appeal awards evening. Chris Aplin, the Community Fundraiser for Gloucestershire, presented the awards for the sterling service people have given in poppy selling each year at Remembrance time. Sixteen people were eligible for awards, but due to various reasons some were not able to attend. Pictured alongside Chris Aplin and Janice Jackson, the Poppy Appeal Organiser, are the recipients who were able to attend the evening.

Hazel Bennett and Cheryl Meredith both received 10 years awards; the women's Section Branch chairman Peggy Oakhill, Iltyd Hughes and June Hughes all 15 years; Mary Morey and Josie Drew both 20 years; Arthur Robbins 30 years service. Certificates of appreciation were also presented to Joyce Parker and to Tomorsa Kennels for their support over many years. The recipients unable to attend were Angela Williams five years; Mary Griffith and Megan Scott both 10 years; Rita Hitchcock and Rosemary Trott both 20 years; Valerie Tutin 25 years; Brenda Pullin and Pat Thirkettle both 30 service. Many thanks to everyone for their much appreciated and continual support in such a worthy cause.

Croxley Green Branch

The Croxley Green Branch of the Royal British Legion Women's Section, braved the cold wind on Saturday 19th June to have a stall at "Croxley Revels" - an annual community event held on the village green and visited by thousands of local residents. They gave out publicity material; increased awareness of the existence of the Women's Section both nationally and locally and raised funds by selling bric-a-brac. Five membership forms were handed out on the day.



Ladies in Action

This photo was the winning entry in a recent competition by Northamptonshire County. The ladies are from Burton Latimer Branch. Well done ladies.



Royal Garden Party at Hillsborough Castle

This photograph was taken of 20 members before they attended the Royal Garden Party at which Prince Edward and his wife attended. Joanne treated all those attending to lunch at her home and this is where the photo was taken. Although the weather was miserable they had a lovely day.



Winchester Branch 85th Anniversary

Mrs Elaine Micklewright County Secretary of Hampshire is pictured above presenting the Branch Certificate to Mrs Buckingham Branch President and Mrs Butcher Branch Chairman at their tea party after the Service of Re-dedication which the Mayor and Mayoress attended as one of their last duties in office. The picture right was taken of the Parade of Standards at this event.



Pete's Travels

Mrs Helena Suttle, better known as Pete, has been on her travels once again, this time she has travelled to Japan. The photo left was taken of her in front of Matsumoto Castle which is 400 years old. The photo right was taken in front of a Buddhist Temple in Yokohama.



Branch and County News



Harlow Newtown

This photo of their display at this years Biannual Flower Festival at St Andrews Church was sent in by members of Harlow Newtown Branch. Their display was depicting Water and a verse from the Bible. The ladies pictured are Mrs Penny Branch Chairman, Mrs Ruder Branch Member, Mrs Colman Branch President and Mrs Francis Branch Vice-Chairman.



Clayton & Keymer Branch

This photo was taken of Mrs Jenny Budd, Chairman of the Clayton & Keymer Branch. The occasion being St Lawrence Fair which was held in Hurstpierpoint Sussex, where their branch held a tombola stall in aid of the Poppy Appeal, and raised £410 from the proceeds.



Happy Birthday Joan

Here is a photo of Mrs Joan Burrows from Eye Branch in Suffolk cutting her birthday cake to celebrate her 90th birthday at their Branch meeting. Mrs Burrows has been an active member for 60 years and supports all of the branches activities. We hope you had a lovely birthday Joan.



Lostock Hall Branch

This photo of Fran Coles, Branch President and Pat Berry, Central Committee member with the 65th Anniversary Certificate for Lostock Hall Branch.



75th Anniversary

This photo was taken of members from Portishead Branch celebrating their 75th Anniversary at their local hotel for lunch with a cake and champagne reception afterwards at which their Town Clerk and assistant also attended.



Tilehurst Branch

This photo was sent in by members of Tilehurst Branch who attended Annual Conference in Blackpool, pictured from left to right are Maureen Wheeler (Committee Member), Jenny Beeney (Branch President), Janet Spice (Committee Member) and Pat Angrisano (Branch Secretary). The Branch were especially excited this year as their Motion regarding standardising Standard Bearer's uniforms was unanimously passed at Conference!



Congratulations to Mrs Taylor and Mrs Woods

This photo was taken of Margaret Taylor, Backpool Branch President (right) receiving a Merit Award and Alison Woods, Backpool Branch Chairman (left) receiving a Gold award from Mrs Joan Porter, County President.



The Royal Garden Party

The photo left was taken of some of our members enjoying their lunch at the Victory Services Club before their afternoon in Buckingham Palace gardens. The photo right was taken of four of our ladies leaving the Victory Services Club for Princess Anne's Royal Garden Party to celebrate her 60th Birthday. Pictured from left to right are: Thelma Richardson, Joan Porter, Mary Squires and Nora Bowman. The ladies were very grateful for the opportunity of a life time and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially as Princess Anne came over to speak to several of them whilst they were in line.



Branch and County News

Flower Festival

Mrs Webb and Mrs Everist, members from Cheshunt & District, took part in their local flower festival which was held in Christ Church Waltham Cross. The theme for this year was books or poems. Here is a photo of their display for the poem "Flanders Fields" written by John McCrea.



Ramsey Branch

This photo was taken of Mrs Gill Ward, Branch Secretary, and Mrs Janet Cook, Branch Chairman, at their local carnival where they held a chocolate tombola stall dressed as "Jack and Jill".



80th Anniversary

The President and Members of Northop Royal British Legion Women's Section Branch recently celebrated their 80th Anniversary with a lunch at a local hotel.



Leatherhead Branch

Branch members Sylvia Oliver, Sue Hill - Chairman and Jane Summerfield are pictured here manning their stall at their County Fair. The theme of the stall was "Covent Garden".



Standing Proud

Mrs Helen Richardson, National Parade Marshal is pictured here proudly standing amongst members of the War Widows Association of Great Britain at Greater Manchester's Annual Service at Manchester Cathedral.

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Branch and County News



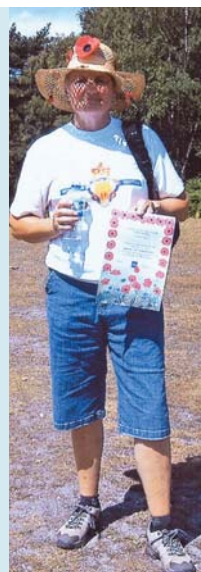
Haverfordwest Branch

The photograph above was taken of members of the Branch at the National Memorial Arboretum. They were awarded a lottery grant to enable 32 veterans to visit the Arboretum and RAF Cosford Museum; wreaths were laid on the National Memorial and the Burma Star Memorial. A very emotional and nostalgic two days, not to be forgotten. The photograph below was taken of members at Ascot Racecourse on a ladies day. Among them are Mrs Doreen Warlow – Chairman, Mrs Joan Thomas – Vice-Chairman and Mrs Margaret Burke – Treasurer.



Well done Christine Poole

This photo was taken of Christine Poole, Hampshire County Treasurer after she completed the 10 mile Hampshire RBL Poppy Walk. Christine together with Pauline Hooper, County Publicity Officer and Ruby the Dog managed to raise £450. Members from the County Committee laid on food and drinks for the participants, many Army and Air Force cadets took part and the RBL were pleased to raise £2878 for the Poppy Appeal.



National Day of Commemoration

This photograph was taken of (from left to right) Mrs Doreen Lumley, Dun Laoghaire Branch Chairman, Mrs Joanne Andrew-Steer, Northern Ireland District President and Central Committee member, and Mrs Sheila Thompson, District Chairman. The wreath which they are pictured with was laid on behalf of the people of Ireland for all Irish Servicemen and women who have lost their lives in War and peace keeping duties at the Irish Government's National Day of Commemoration held at the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham, Dublin.



Happy 100th Birthday

Mrs Billie Fletcher pictured here celebrated her 100th birthday in June; she retired as Helston Branch Secretary at the age of 95. Billie is still a staunch Women's Section Member.

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JEWELLERY WANTED

During Conference 2011 Val will have a new addition to her stall, she is asking that anyone attending Conference **please bring along any unwanted or mis-matched gold jewellery** and hand it in to Val. All the Jewellery collected will be melted down and sold with the proceeds going to the Women's Section Benevolent Fund.

