



The Bulldog Bulletin



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

President: Priya Guha British Consul General

**The Newsletter of The Royal British Legion
California Branch No 1**

June 2013



Royal Logistic



The Royal Scots



The King's Regiment



The Highlanders



The King's Royal Hussars

The Royal British Legion

California Branch No 1

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The Royal Artillery

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RBL Chairman's June report,



For those members who are finding it difficult receiving the Legion Magazine, I thought it may be a useful link.



<http://www.legion-magazine.co.uk/>



We have changed the meeting night to the 2nd Tuesday of the month, the next meeting will be June 11th at the San Rafael Yacht Club, 200 Yacht Club Drive San Rafael CA. 94901 at 6.00 p.m.

'We're so proud he's getting full military honours': Mother's heartbreak at funeral of teenage British soldier stabbed to death while partying with friends on Cyprus beach

Click below for full story

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2237569/Mothers-heartbreak-funeral-teenage-British-soldier-David-Collins-stabbed-death-Cyprus.html#ixzz2UzTOayh8>



THE FIRST SHOT

The first shot of World War II in Europe was fired 20 years, 9 months, 19 days and 18 hours after the last shot of World War I was fired. It was fired from the 13,000 ton German gunnery training battleship Schleswig Holstein (Captain Gustav Kleikamp) which was on a visit to Poland to honour the sailors lost on the German cruiser *Magdeburg* sunk in 1914, some of whom were buried in Danzig. It was anchored in Danzig (now Gdansk) harbour at the mouth of the River Vistula. At 4.30 am on September 1, 1939, the ship moved slowly down the Port Canal and took up position opposite the Westerplatte (an area containing Polish troop barracks, munition storage and workshops) and at 4.47 am, at point blank range, the order to "Fire!" was given. World War II had begun. Seven days later, on September 7, after a heroic defence by Major Henryk Sucharski and his troops, and a devastating attack by Stuka dive bombers, the 209 man strong Westerplatte Garrison surrendered. Losses were 14 men killed and 53 wounded. A Polish soldier, Staff Sergeant Wojciech Nazzarek was killed by machine gun fire, becoming the first Polish victim of the war.

The Schleswig Holstein berthed at Gdynia (Gotenhafen) till the end of the war. Attacked by the RAF on December 18, 1944, twenty eight crew members were killed. Attacked again in March, 1945, the burning ship was scuttled near the port on March 21.

Where World War II began.
Site of the Westerplatte Garrison.



RAF BIGGIN HILL

The most famous of the fighter stations that took part in the Battle of Britain. Situated on a small rise on the North Downs of Kent just south of London it achieved fame on May 15, 1940, when its fighter aircraft shot down its 1,000th victim, a feat not rivalled by any other fighter station. The first of the thousand was a Dornier 17 shot down in November 1939, the last a FW-109. To celebrate the 1,000th, a kill shared by French pilot Rene Mouchotte and Englishman Jack Charles, Vickers, the makers of the Spitfire, threw a fabulous party for all Biggin Hill pilots at Grosvenor House in London. Everyone of importance from the Air Staff down to the chorus girls from the Windmill Theatre were invited. That night, around thirty London taxi drivers volunteered to give the pilots and their guests a free ride home. The station became the home for short periods of time to many famous pilots including Douglas Bader, Stanford Tuck and Sailor Milan. During the course of the Battle of Britain a total of 1,736 enemy aircraft were destroyed by pilots from Biggin Hill. Losses to the RAF were 915 aircraft destroyed. In the specially built Chapel of Remembrance are the names of 453 pilots from fifty-two squadrons from eleven countries, killed in action. On June 18, 1940, Winston Churchill gave his famous speech to the House of Commons, ending his speech with "Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, 'This was their finest hour'".

In 1916, three British officers, including the famous **Captain T.E. Lawrence** (known as Lawrence of Arabia), attempt to engineer the escape of thousands of British troops under siege at the city of Kut-al-Amara in Mesopotamia through a secret negotiation with the Turkish command.

Since December 1915, British forces under the command of Sir Charles Townshend had been under siege from Turkish and German forces in Kut, on the Tigris River in the Basra province of Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq). Four attempts to push the enemy troops back had resulted only in some 23,000 casualties—nearly twice the strength of the remaining regiment. Exhausted, undersupplied and plagued with illness, Townshend's men were on the brink of surrender when the British regional command decided to try one last diplomatic maneuver.

Then working in military intelligence in Cairo, Egypt, the recently promoted Captain Thomas Edward Lawrence found office work dull, and thus was excited to be sent, along with two other officers, on a secret mission to negotiate the escape of Townshend and his troops with their Turkish counterparts. On April 27, they made their offer: if the Turks allowed the men in Kut to leave the city and rejoin Allied regional forces located to the south of Kut, they would be rewarded with £1 million in gold.

Turkish officers, confident of their imminent victory at Kut, refused the offer, and all Lawrence and his comrades were able to secure was the release of some of the wounded. Kut fell on April 29, as Townshend and his remaining 13,000 men were taken prisoner, in the largest single surrender of troops in British history to that point.

Lawrence's well-written reports to British military command, both about Kut and Arab nationalism, won him high favor among his superiors. He was soon sent on another important mission, to help engineer an Arab revolt against the Turks led by Feisal Hussein.

The siege of Kut

Al-Kut was the scene of a fierce battle during World War I. The British Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, led by General [Townshend](#), marched north from Basra in September 1915 in what became known as the Mesopotamian Campaign. They reached Al-kut on September 26, where after three days of fighting they drove the [Ottoman](#) forces from the town.

After a halt of nearly 9 months, Townshend then headed up river to [Ctesiphon](#). Following a [battle](#) there, the British forces withdrew back to Kut. On December 7, 1915, the [Turks](#), under their commander, the German Field Marshal [Baron von der Goltz](#), arrived at Kut and began a [siege](#). The British cavalry under Colonel [Gerard Leachman](#) succeeded in breaking out, but Townshend and the bulk of the force remained besieged. Many attempts were made to relieve Townshend's forces, but all were defeated. Some 23,000 British and Indian soldiers died in the attempts to retake Kut, probably the worst loss of life for the British away from the European theater. Near the end of the siege, T. E. Lawrence and Aubrey Herbert of British Intelligence unsuccessfully tried to bribe Khalil Pasha to allow the troops to escape.

Townshend, with some 8,000 surviving soldiers, finally surrendered Kut on April 29, 1916. The captured soldiers were divided, where the officers were sent to separate facilities, and many of the enlisted soldiers were impressed into hard labour until the surrender of the Ottoman Empire; more than half of them died. The British went back on the offensive in December 1916 with a larger and better-supplied force under General Sir [Frederick Stanley Maude](#) and reconquered Kut on February 23, 1917.



This is one of the reasons Arabs are scared to death of the Israelis.

What you are about to watch is an actual event. The Israeli Armed Forces filmed this in real time. What you'll see is a fully armored Syrian tank being hit by an Israeli laser-guided, steel-penetrating, phosphorous-filled "hand held" rocket. The rocket is small, very portable and is a tightly controlled weapon.

Each one is accounted for when they are checked out and back in. There must be no fewer than 2 soldiers present to verify the use, one must be a senior officer with a minimum of 10 years military service (the name and program is classified).

This tank was headed for one of Israel's settlements. ***There were four more tanks one mile to the rear of this tank. They turned around before getting to this area after learning what had happened to the lead tank.***

You can hear the ammunition going off after the initial strike. No Syrian tank crew member survived this event (pretty obvious) **and it did not make the news.**

It is an everyday event for Israel's Armed Forces and they do not permit the "embedding" of news reporters with their armed forces like the Americans do. **This weapon and its tactical use is for their survival, not for "news" entertainment.** Perhaps we should take a page from the Israeli Military Handbook

Click on the link and put it on Full screen

[LiveLeak.com - Rocket Attack On Tank](#)

Click on the link below

[Amazing lost sketches of life inside Japanese PoW camp discovered in a shoe box by British war veteran's stunned family - and now they're going on the Antiques Roadshow](#)

A **Yorkshire** man takes his cat to the vet.

Yorkshireman: "Ayup, lad, I need to talk to thee about me cat."

Vet: "Is it a tom?"

Yorkshireman: "Nay, I've browt it with us."

Claude Rains

William Claude Rains in London, England, the son of British stage actor Frederick Rains, he made his stage debut at the age of eleven, and learned the technical end of the business working first as a page, then working up to stage manager.

He came to the United States in 1913 but returned to England during World War I, Rains served in the [First World War](#) in the [London Scottish Regiment](#), with fellow actors [Basil Rathbone](#), [Ronald Colman](#) and [Herbert Marshall](#). Rains was involved in a gas attack that left him nearly blind in one eye for the rest of his life.

By the war's end he had risen from the rank of Private to Captain.

After the war he returned to the theater, where he was associated with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, later becoming its teacher.

He returned to the United States, working from the mid 1920s for the New York Theatre Guild productions.

He took a Universal Studio screen test that proved positive and his long career in motion pictures began - the greatest portion of which was spent with Warner Brothers where he became a busy actor with his smooth distinguished voice portraying a variety of roles, ranging from villains to sympathetic gentlemen. His "breakout" role came as Julius Caesar in "Caesar and Cleopatra," where he garnered a million dollars for his performance.

He was nominated Best Supporting Actor four times for his work in the films "Mr Smith Goes to Washington" 1940, "Casablanca" 1944, "Mr Skeffington" 1945 and "Notorious" 1947, but never received the award.

He made a successful Broadway return in 1951, appearing in "Darkness at Noon" winning a Tony Award as Best Actor (Dramatic).

He appeared in over 60 films, most notably in "Build Thy House" his first, a 1920 British film, "The Invisible Man", "Hearts Divided", "The Last Outpost", "Juarez", "Kings Row" "Phantom of the Opera", "Lawrence of Arabia", "The Greatest Story Ever Told" and again "The Invisible Man", which was a 1966 remake and his final movie role.

He also made many notable television guest appearances in the 1950s and 1960s after his film roles decreased.

He fell ill in his later years, and he retired to his residence near Sandwich, New Hampshire.

Needing emergency medical attention, he was taken to Lakes Region Hospital where he died of abdominal hemorrhage at age 77.

He was buried in nearby Red Hill Cemetery beside his sixth wife who had died three years prior.

On his marker is emblazoned the epitaph: "All things once are things forever, Soul, once living, lives forever."



It's Murphy Again

Murphy was staggering home with a pint of booze in his back pocket when he slipped and fell heavily. Struggling to his feet, he felt something wet running down his leg.
"Please Lord," he implored,
"let it be blood!!!"

You've Been Drinking Again

An Irishman had been drinking at a pub all night. The bartender finally said that the bar was closing. So, the Irishman stood up to leave fell flat on his face. He tried to stand one more time; same result. He figured he'll crawl outside and get some fresh air and maybe that will sober him up. Once outside, he stood up and fell on his face again. So he decided to crawl the four blocks home. Again, he fell flat on his face. He crawled through the door and into his bedroom. When he reached his bed he tried one more time to This time he managed to pull himself upright, but he quickly fell right into the bed and is sound asleep as soon as his head hit the pillow.

He was awakened the next morning to his wife standing over him, shouting,
"SO YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING AGAIN!"

Putting on an innocent look, and intent on bluffing it out he said, "What makes you say that?"

"The pub just called; you left your wheelchair there"

Manfred Albrecht Freiherr von Richthofen (2 May 1892 – 21 April 1918), also widely known as the **Red Baron**,

Interesting animation of an historic event. 5 minute video.

http://www.youtube.com/embed/ywug11nLFfg?feature=player_detailpage



A Yorkshireman's dog dies and as it was a favourite pet he decides to have a gold statue made by a jeweller to remember the dog by.

Yorkshireman: "Can tha mek us a gold statue of yon dog?"

Jeweller: "Do you want it 18 carat?"

Yorkshireman: "No I want it chewin' a bone yer daft bugger!"

Enigma coding machine used by Nazis in WWII to be sold at auction

Rare: An original WWII Enigma coding machine similar to this one is to be auctioned

An encoding device used by Nazis in the second world war to encrypt messages is up for sale later this month.

The three rotor Enigma machine was used by the German military to send hidden messages before the code it used was famously cracked at Bletchley Park Complex.

Although there are thousands of the machines in existence it is rare to find one for sale, and it could fetch thousands of pounds when auctioned at Christie's on September 29.

Christie's specialist James Hyslop told CNN: 'It is rare for one to come up for sale,

'Many are believed to have been produced but it's not a particularly high survival,'

Originally produced by a Dutch company for commercial use after the First World War, the Enigma was the most advanced machine of its kind and paved the way for modern computer systems.

Using a complicated system of rotors, the machine would encode messages before sending them via Morse code to another machine. If the receiving machine had been programmed with the same settings - one of 158 million million combinations - the message would be deciphered.

Hyslop told CNN that the technology was bought for sole use by the German military in 1929 who believed that the code used by the machines were impossible to crack.



Important: A team of cryptologists, linguists, scientists and data analysts are credited with shortening the war after cracking the code used by Enigma machines

However the team of cryptologists, linguists, scientists and data analysts at Bletchley led by the English mathematician Alan Turing were able to break it.

At its peak the team were cracking 6,000 encrypted German Enigma messages every day and are credited with shortening the war by two years.

Simon Greenish, Director of the Bletchley Park Museum, said the importance of the machine can not be underestimated and the team at Bletchley may have contributed to which side won the war.

In November last year, the world record price for one of these machines sold at auction was set at £67,250 and it is hoped this one will top the amount