



Welcome to the Eighteenth edition of the Journal. There have been no events to report this month apart from a funeral so I thought I would make the theme of this Journal "Remembrance" so I have two articles on this theme. I hope you enjoy this edition. The journal is not only for the officers of Associations but also Association members so we ask you to give it as wide a distribution as possible to members and anyone else you think might be interested.

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FEDERATION PARADE MARSHAL

I am sorry to have to report that our Parade Marshal Richard Bendell BEM RM has had to step down from his post due to medical and other problems. We will greatly miss Richard as he was an excellent Parade Marshal who took charge with great efficiency but also with compassion and respect for his fellow veterans, I personally always enjoyed a parade which was commanded by Richard. I am sure we all wish him the very best for a swift recovery to his problems and look forward to seeing him on parade again. His replacement will be Jerry Joess of Commando Gunner Regroup who can be contacted on 01752 240908 and jwj8993@hotmail.co.uk

THE ALTAR AT THE REMEMBRANCE FESTIVAL

Some of you may have noticed the altar on the stage at the Remembrance Festival and wondered where it came from. The altar was borrowed from Mayfield Church in Anthony and has an interesting history.

The Second British Army was the only British Army which took part in the Northwest European Campaign as its assault troops landed on the Normandy beaches on "D" day the 6th June 1944.

The Altar with the cross and a pair of candlesticks was made by the soldiers at the Second Army rest camp near Bouffay, close to Bayeux in Normandy, during August 1944. It rendered service to countless numbers of men throughout the Northwest

European Campaign. The altar made of wood salvaged from the bar of a shell-torn cafe has the colours of the Second Army – blue and white – painted on the top and the Second Army shield on the front.

It was dedicated at the rest camp by the Rev. William Sargeant CF, rector of Needwood Staffs. Following up in the wake of the Second Army's advance it was next used in the Garrison Church, at Bourg Leopold, Belgium, (formally a Cabaret which was bomb damaged and then restored by the men of the Royal Engineers) from the opening of the church on the 11th December 1944 until the 8th April 1945.

Thereafter it was in use in the Garrison Church at Emsdetten, Westphalia, Germany (formally the ballroom of the Hotel zur Post) until July 1945. The war in Europe now being over the Second Army disbanded and the altar had completed its designated task.

The matter of its disposal was referred to Sir John Carew Pole who at the time of the disbandment was in command of Second Army Reinforcements and he decided, rather than the altar being broken up or suffering neglect, to send it to England to be erected in his home Church of Mayfield in the parish of Anthony, Cornwall, and this was done in February 1946 which is how we can get to use it.



Right Reverent Nick McKinnel the Bishop of Crediton assisted by the Federation chaplain the Reverent Peter Warland

THE POEM "THE FALLEN"

I am sure you have all hear the exhortation **They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old etc**: It adorns many war memorials and we say at Remembrance services throughout the year but do you know where it comes from?

I was lucky that our Chaplain the Reverend Peter Warland brought the full poem to my attention a while ago and I thought I would include it in the Journal as it is well worth reading.

The poem was written by Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), the poet and art critic, who was born in Lancaster in 1869. He worked at the British Museum before going to war, having studied at Trinity College. Whilst on the staff of the British Museum he developed an expertise in Chinese and Japanese art. He wrote this poem in 1914 and was lucky enough to survive the war and returned to his work at the British Museum.

Here it is in full and I hope you find it interesting.

For The Fallen

*With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.*

*Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.*

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

*They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.*

*But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;*

*As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.*

FUNERAL OF MARY DAVIS

Our Chairman has received the communication below regarding the funeral:-

Basil,

I would like to take this time to thank you on behalf of the members of ATS/WRAC Association, Plymouth Branch for arranging the attendance of the 8 Standards /Bearers and the representatives from other organisations at Mary's funeral. I am sure she would have been pleased we were there to say farewell.

On reading the Federation News I would just like to say that the eulogy was written by the ex-chairman, Mrs Betty Mitchell, who served along side with Mary for about 10 years, and read by the current Chairman.

It was nice to meet you all, and trust we will meet again in nicer circumstances.

Jane Evans

Chairman

Plymouth ATS/WRAC Association

FUNERAL OF DEREK POSNER

The funeral of Derek Posner took place at Western Mill Crematorium on the Tuesday the 18th February 2014. Derek had been a long time member of the MNA in Plymouth and had been their Standard Bearer up until a few years ago. Derek did not have any family but his friends were in attendance and there were 10 Standards present including the Merchant Navy Standard carried by Louis Bonicci, and the RNA Standard was carried by David Newman. Derek had gone to sea in the RN first and then in the Merchant Navy and the RFA. After the service everyone adjourned to the Beacon Park social Club to drink a toast to Derek. Communications below regarding the funeral.

Dear Richard.

A brief note to thank-you & the Standard bearers for such strong support at Derek (Posser's) funeral. His adopted family have said how moved & grateful they were for such an unexpected Turn-Out. The Rev Harvey Barnes commented he usually expects one Standard if lucky at many Service's funerals & was very impressed. It is hoped to get hold of a Boat & scatter his ashes in Plymouth Sound & we will be advised. On their behalf, Thank-You again & please mention this at the next Fed Meeting.

BAZ. Chairman South West Seafarers Association.