



Welcome to the Forth edition of this journal in which we hope to report on the activities of the Federation and of the member Associations. The intention is to give you reports on events that have happened since the last Federation meeting and news of events coming up in the future and we also intend to include news of interest to member Associations. For this to work we need you to send us news and photographs of events that you think would be of interest to other Associations and also any future events that you would like to be included. **Unfortunately I have not heard much from any of you, nobody has sent me a report on American thanksgiving flag ceremony or the event on the Barbican. I cannot get to everything so I rely on you to send me report. So if you are at something of interest then send me a short report and photos if at all possible.**

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. Happy and Prosperous New Year to You all.

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Review of the year

In the last Journal of the year we have below a message from our Chairman.

2012 witnessed the Federation continuing to make progress. Events such as the Armed Forces week and the Remembrance Festival raised our profile even more and the Federation is now recognised as an organisation well worth belonging to.

We changed the venue for our meetings to the Milehouse Bus depot social club and it was good to note that the membership continues to rise and the meetings have a positive feel about them and all members have been happy to contribute to any discussion.

Obviously the two high light events of the year were Armed Forces week and the Remembrance Festival both very successful but of course there were many other events such as Sea Sunday, Atlantic Day and Remembrance Sunday to name but three where the Federation and it's Standards were seen to be in attendance and very much appreciated.

I wish to thank the members of the committee and our Patron Charles Crichton for their support and commitment to the Federation and of course to our Delegates, it most certainly makes my job as Chairman a lot easier, especially as at last we now have a first class Secretary in Richard. We now look forward to 2013 and I am confident that we will become even more successful.

Basil Downing-Waite

Federation Chairman

PAST EVENTS

After the events of November this month has been fairly quiet.

On the 2nd December at 1100 there was a wreath laying ceremony at the Memorial at North Corner dedicated to the North Corner Heroes. It was a moving event attended obviously mostly by former Royal Marines, as George Sheard was one of the "Cockleshell Heroes", under the command of Parade Marshall Richard Bendall BEM paying their respects to Brave men who paid the ultimate price and went on a mission knowing that could well be the case. Plymouth's Lord Mayor was there to represent the City and Basil Downing-Waite the Federation Chairman attended as did our Patron Cdr. Charles Crichton OBE. Wreaths were laid by The Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Plymouth RNA, the SBS and the family of George Sheard. The Steam Packet pub very generously laid on a buffet lunch for us all.



On Tuesday the 4th December at 1130 the funeral took place at Efford Crematorium of George Stone, Secretary of the Korean Veterans Association. As well as many Veterans from his Association, family members and friends, five Standards attended including the Korean Veterans Standard carried by Peter Clark. The Federation would like to thank those Standards who attend.

Monday the 31st December saw the regular service and wreath laying at the grave of George Hinkley VC in Ford Park Cemetery. As has become perfectly normal in the last months of 2012 it was sheeting down with rain so the service, with seven standards in attendance, was held in the very nice chapel in the cemetery. The service was conducted by the Rev. Peter Warland RN, chaplain to the RNA Plymouth, and the wreath was laid on the altar by the Great, Great, Great Grandson of George Hinkley, the still being sounded by Basil Downing-Waite. After the service some of those present made their way in the lashing rain to the grave where the wreath was laid on the grave. Afterwards over a welcome cup of tea and a small tot for some, John Whiteman thanked everyone who had attended.

This event has been taking place for the last ten years to honour George Hinkley and it is also the 150th anniversary of the award of the VC to George in 1862 when he received the Victoria Cross for rescuing two colleagues under fire during an action in China. He was one of the first recipients on the medal as it had only been introduced about ten years earlier.



Standard Bearers assembled outside the chapel and marching into the chapel

FUTURE EVENTS

As far as I am aware there are no events planned for January.

CALENDARS

The Chairman and members of the Federation would like to thank Ossie Glover and Chas Singh for their generosity in financing and production of the Federation Calendar this year featuring Veterans who are delegates to the Federation. Copies of the calendar are available from the Chairman and the Secretary, details above, for £5 plus postage if required.

END PIECE

And finally we have a couple of photographs from the RNA Plymouth's Christmas Social sent to me by John Whiteman who also sent me the photographs of the Service for George Hinkley.

