



Welcome to the Ninth 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.

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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PAST EVENTS

On Friday the 31st of May 6 Federation Standards and 6 Royal British Legion Standards attended at the American Navy memorial at the Tamar Bridge Car park. Unfortunately I don't have any further detail but I will try and bring you some in the next Journal room permitting.

FUTURE EVENTS

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| Mon 3-Thur 6 June | Visit to Plymouth by the Society of United States Daughters of 1812 |
| Tue 4 June. | 10.00am Remembrance Service for US Prisoners of War 1812 at St Michael's Church Princetown & the American Memorial HMP Dartmoor. |
| Wed 5 June | 11.00am Door of Unity Service-Minster Church of St Andrew Plymouth
Attended by the Daughters of 1812. Unveil new memorial plaque. |
| Thur 6 June | 11.00 am Normandy Veterans wreath laying-Hoe Belvedere Gardens |

Mon 24 June	10.00am Raising of the Armed Forces Day Flag-Guildhall flagpole
Sat 29 June	Plymouth Armed Forces Day RAF and Allied Air Forces Monument Service-Plymouth Hoe
Sun 30 June	11.15 am Sea Sunday-Minster Church of St Andrew Plymouth. Service will include Atlantic Day and a commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic.

The AGM of ATS/WRAC held at the National Memorial Arboretum on Saturday 13th April 2013

I must thank Ruth Jennings for sending me this interesting report about the Arboretum, It contains much information I was not aware of and I happened to be at the opening ceremony.

ATS/WRAC Chairman, Jane Evans; Secretary, Nikki Rochelle and Federation Delegate, Ruth Jennings, attended their Corps Association Annual General Meeting along with 150 other ladies of association branches from all over the UK. We were able to roam around at will to view the many beautiful memorials either on foot or by hiring a scooter to enable us to cover the vast acreage and ultimately, climb the rather formidable hill up to the main national memorial which is rather awe inspiring in its size, beauty and intensity.

There was also the chapel in which; at 11 am each day a Silence for Remembrance is held; which is then followed by a very interesting 15 minute talk to explain all about the concept and creation of the Memorial. In addition there are memorabilia stalls near the chapel plus in the main building there is a very inviting coffee shop also a gift shop, easily accessible toilets and nearby, a marquee which can be booked for various AGM's, meetings etc.

We were told that on 11th November at 1100 if the sun shines, the memorial is built so that a beam of sun shines directly on to the memorial and also goes across the park, enters the window of the chapel and illuminates the cross on the altar, I would love to see that.

There is quite a large car park at the Arboretum but when very busy days are anticipated, for example the "Ride to the Wall" when thousands of bikers gather there while doing a charity run; an overflow 'park and ride' is set up near-by. There is a fee for the car park which goes towards the maintenance of the park and I think that is fair because there is no entrance fee and they do hope to be able to keep it as free access for all if at all possible.



Ruth and her colleagues at the NMA



The ATS Memorial



Memorial to the ATS ACK ACK Girls

ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

At the last Federation meeting the Chairman Basil Downing-Waite briefed the meeting on a recent Armed Forces Covenant meeting and I thought that a wider audience would be interested in this subject so I have included it in the Journal.

He has also been involved with the Armed Forces Community Covenant and they had a meeting recently to discuss various bids for grants after they supported three bids last year and are now considering further bids. Two bids have been successful and these were one from the Theatre Royal Peoples Company whose representative Roxanne Peak-Payne, the Community Projects Producer, talked to a meeting recently and the other bid was from a Royal Naval Pre School organisation who wanted IT equipment to help the children who are from both civilian and service families. On the panel who consider these bids there are civilian representatives and also many senior military officers so nothing get considered without some deep thought. The bid which was sent back was from the Naval Area Community Officer who wants to develop a volunteering scheme as part of resettlement training but they have been told to come back with more details. The scheme had previously been supported by the RBL, but they have now changed their funding criteria, so they are hoping that the Covenant will help with funding but they require more detail before they will approve the bid.

The covenant meeting also had a talk from the Manager of the HMS Drake recovery unit (The Haslar Unit) who described the excellent facilities they have at the unit. The only way people can get into the unit is to be wounded, injured or sick. He would be happy for any veterans to go and visit the unit so if any of the delegates wish to take that back to their Associations the chairman would be happy. Peter raised the question that the head of Babcock's had stated that families will not be able to visit personnel in the unit because it was on a Nuclear base. The chairman reassured Peter that this was not the case.

They were also given a talk by John Pentreath on the Veterans Accommodation Project. The chairman was disappointed by the response from Plymouth City Council and reminded their representative that they had previously discussed this and they had been quite supportive but there seemed to be some confusion as to whether the accommodation was for a retirement or care home. John Pentreath is going to provide further details to the Council and the chairman said that he had reminded them that this was a great opportunity for the council to do something positive for the Veterans of this great Garrison town.

Below is part of an article that was sent to me by Ian Walker a Normandy Veteran. It relates to the celebration of D-Day in Hudson, Quebec Canada a small town outside Montreal and well illustrates how others are taking on the task of remembering this great day now that many of the Veterans are unable to do this.

**D-Day Veterans and friends to gather once again on
June 6th sixty-nine years later.**

By Rod L. Hodgson

Thursday June 6th 2012 will be the sixty-ninth anniversary of the Allied landings in Normandy, France during World War II. Each year since shortly after the war ended in 1945 a small group of D-Day veterans have gathered on the exact anniversary date to reflect on that momentous day in our history and remember those who did not return as they gave the Supreme Sacrifice.

Over 14,000 Canadian soldiers stormed onto Juno Beach that day and over 1,000 were casualties of which some 359 were killed. But the Canadians made the best Allied gains that day along their five mile stretch of open beach in northern France. Of the 5,300 Allied vessels involved that day only 109 were Canadian but there were 10,000 members of the R.C.N. and R.C.N.V.R. on those ships.



Once again this year local veterans will meet for cocktails and a luncheon. For 2013 the luncheon will be held at the Hudson Branch #115 of the Royal Canadian Legion on Beach Road. Even though the original organization that was known as the “D-Day (Normandy)

Society” no longer exists, the title is still used in conjunction with the more modern term, “Friends who Remember”.

2013 will be the third year new Co-Convenors Rod Hodgson and Patrick Daunais will be organizing the luncheon. Former convenors and D-Day veterans Ian Walker, Harry Trenholme and Walter Charron have made a step back after over sixty years of organization. A newer, younger generation has now stepped in to continue this tradition. Patrick has an amazing collection of World War II memorabilia in his basement in St. Lazare, some of which will be on display this year during the annual luncheon.

Hundreds of men and women who have made Hudson their home over the years fought and died in World War II (twenty-four died) and many of them were present at what is often called “The Longest Day”, June 6th, 1944.



(Duplex drive Sherman tank at Courselles sur Mer, France.

It could travel on land and sea)