



Well we have made it to the thirteenth edition of the Journal, and you out there are sending me information for the journal which is good. I would ask that if you do send something in you include as much detail as possible and write it up so it is a short but concise statement of what happened.

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

### Merchant Navy Day.

On Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September Plymouth commemorated National Merchant Navy Day near Mayflower Steps on the Barbican. Twelve standards were parade and the Federation's Parade Marshall Richard Bendell was in charge of proceedings. The Standards and spectators assembled across the road from the Merchant Navy Memorial and the wreath layers lined up in front of the memorial with the veterans on the pavement above the memorial. The ceremony was conducted by Baz Gregory the Chairman of the local Merchant Navy Association.

Wreaths were laid by the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Cllr Vivian Pengelly, Mrs Chris Rankin on behalf of the National Watch Ashore, Baz Gregory for the Merchant Navy, the local Chairman of the Watch Ashore, Eric Rattle laid a wreath on behalf of RNA Plymouth and a wreath was laid by the Ganges Association. The last post was sounded and the standards dipped.

On completion of the wreath laying at the memorial the standards and veterans marched down to the Mayflower steps where a wreath was cast into the sea by Baz Gregory and Sid another member of the Merchant Navy Association.

After the service, tea, coffee, doughnuts, ice cream and water melon, was provided by the Real Food Kitchen and Cobler's Ice cream which was a very nice gesture on

their part, and finally some of the party had a few drinks in "The Admiral McBride". We were also blessed with excellent weather so everything went very well.



The Lord Mayor assisting an Arctic Veteran to lay his wreath



Baz Gregory laying a wreath for the Merchant Navy



Standards at the dip in front of the memorial



Standards and Veterans at the Mayflower steps for the casting of the wreath into the sea

## Battle of Britain Service

This year's service was held at St Andrews Church on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> September and was a well supported event with a good turnout of Federation Standards under the expert control of our Parade Marshal Richard Bendall BEM. There was also a good showing of well turned out RAF Cadets along with many local dignitaries, including the Lord Mayor and Serving RAF personnel and Veterans.

The RAFA Standard was carried by Grahame Hillier as his last official duty as their Standard Bearer, Graham is to be congratulated on carrying out the duty over many occasions over the years, he now hands over to Roger Galloway who will also be taking over from Graham as the RAFA Delegate to the Federation. The service was a well organised and carried out event setting a good standard for others to follow.  
*Basil Downing-Waite : Federation Chairman.*



The Veterans standards with the RAFA Standard



The Veterans standards and the RAF cadets



Graham Hillier on his last parade as Standard Bearer with the new Standard Bearer



Naval support from HMS Ganges

## Royal Navy Parading through Plymouth

Regrettably no one has sent me any details of this parade but I expect it was well covered in the Plymouth Evening Herald.

## FUTURE EVENTS

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|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Thus 17 Oct</b>             | <b>Launch of RBL Torpoint's Poppy Appeal- St James Church 1930. Standard Bearers to muster by 1900.</b>   |
| <b>Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Oct</b> | <b>Ceremony for Captain Henry VC - Ford Park Cemetery 1045 for 1100</b>   |
| <b>Sat 26th Oct</b>            | <b>The Saltash Festival of Remembrance will be at 19.00hrs in the Saltash Wesley church, standard bearers to muster at 18.30hrs. Parking outside the church is limited but town car parks are free a short walk away.</b> |

## The Rangers are coming!

I have prior knowledge that the Rangers Association is coming to Plymouth for the Remembrance weekend. David Le Page, one of the their number who lives in Plymouth, is organising a reunion for them over this weekend and we hope to see them at the Remembrance Festival on the 8<sup>th</sup> November and on the Hoe for Remembrance Sunday so I thought I would pass on the information I have about the Association which will be a welcome addition to our commemorations.

The Association is an amalgamation of the three Royal Irish Regiments, The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, The Royal Ulster Rifles and the Royal Irish Fusiliers. There are fourteen branches of which half are in Ireland and the ones in England are in places where the regiments have been stationed and of course have married the local lassies. Also a lot of people who joined the regiments were not from Ireland as David and two others come from Plymouth and many from the North of England joined the regiments. The amalgamation took place in 1968 and since then they have continued to transform from Rangers to the Royal Irish Regiment and now they are part of the Rifle Regiment's.

The members of the Association wear Green Blazers, Black Trousers, white shirts with regimental ties and the distinctive Caubeen headgear with the Green Hackle. The battle cry is FAUGH-A-BALLAGH and it is the only regiment in the British Army who can shout out on parade to the regimental march.

It is hoped that some of the Braches will be able to parade their standards both at the Pavilions and on the Hoe, they are certainly going to march from the Citadel on the Sunday and will swell our rank, an Irish regiment being paraded with a Scottish RSM that will be a sight to behold.



## New Fund Raiser Required

Fred and Joan Ford, our long time fund raisers told the last Federation meeting that they are going to give up the job at the end of the year. The Federation now needs to find someone to take over from them in organising the twice yearly collections in the Market and at Sainsbury's. The job entails organising the dates for the collections

and then co-ordinating the collectors to help with the collections and supervising the collections.

**If the Federation cannot fill this post then it may put in doubt the continuance of the Remembrance Festival in future years as we will be unable to finance this event. I am sure there is someone out there who can help us.**

Please contact the Chairman Basil or the Secretary Richard if you are interested in taking on this job and we will put you in touch with Fred Ford.

### First Class tickets on First Great Western

The Federation has kindly been given Four First class tickets for travel anywhere on First Great Western network and they are valid until February 2014 and March 2014 and we are auctioning them off to raise money for the Federation.

The tickets will be auctioned in pairs and as a guide for your bids a first class ticket to London and return is about £350.

Bids are to be sent to Basil Downing Waite the Chairman of the Federation at [bazval@btinternet.com](mailto:bazval@btinternet.com) or to his home address which is:-

34 Haroldsleigh Avenue

Crownhill

Plymouth PLPL5 3AW

The closing date for bids will be Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Below is a route map of the First Great Western Network from their website.

