



The Monte Cassino Society

Furthering an interest in the Italian Campaign 1943–1945

NA15141

Spring/Summer 2014

Aim

To remember and further an interest in the experiences of all who took part in the Italian Campaign.

Welcome

Anniversaries concentrate the mind and the 70th anniversary of the end of the battles for Cassino certainly has.

Nine years ago three daughters of Cassino veterans armed with a limited list of Cassino veterans (and North African veterans) set out to test the water to see what interest there was for a Society to be run by sons and daughters. We were very soon joined by the son of a veteran who agreed to be our Treasurer and who still holds that post today. Since those early days we have been joined by a small band of very willing workers, all determined – as our Aim says—To remember and further an interest in the experiences of those who took part in the Italian Campaign.

It was in the Autumn of 2005 that our first newsletter was distributed to thirty four members.

Since that first germ of an idea we have gone from strength to strength. We are represented at National level at the Field of Remembrance in Westminster and the Cenotaph Service as well as by our members at local services

around the country. Our website has ‘spread the word’ and attracted much interest and new members. The memorial in the National Memorial Arboretum that we funded, and dedicated to all those who fought for the capture of Monte Cassino, also attracts comment and interest.

We have made regular pilgrimages to Italy and organized services at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire: We plan a dedication service there for our new standard in May next year. I hope as many as possible will be able to attend and support us.

I think we can be justifiably proud of what we have achieved. Obviously none of the Committee took part in the Italian Campaign, we all became involved out of love and respect for our Fathers and we hope to continue the work for many years to come.

Judith Coote

Daughter of the late Gerald Soady,
91st LAA Royal Artillery, 4th British Infantry
Division

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Welcome | 1 |
| News | 1 |
| Letters | 5 |
| 70th Anniversary | 6 |
| New Members | 15 |
| In Memoriam | 16 |

News

New Standard

Our new standard was delivered just weeks before our anniversary trip to Italy and was carried with pride at Cassino War Cemetery, Sangro War Cemetery and at the War Memorial in Picinisco, a mountain village to the east of Cassino. It was at the service at Picinisco that the local priest blessed the standard which will be dedicated at the National Memorial Arboretum next May. Unfortunately the English speaking priest due to perform the blessing—in English—was unable to attend and his replacement spoke only Italian! However, the schoolchildren were able to join in the prayers making it rather special.



News (continued)

Mike Anslow also carried the standard at the Armed Forces Day Parade at Henley in Arden and at the Italy Star Association National Memorial Service in Canterbury.

Many thanks to those who donated to the cost of the standard and to Garth Wright who organised a collection to raise funds for it.



STANDARD ON PARADE AT HENLEY IN ARDEN BEING CARRIED BY MIKE ANSLOW—FAR LEFT



ITALY STAR ASSOCIATION NATIONAL MEMORIAL SERVICE, CANTERBURY

Heritage Lottery Bid: North Leigh School

The Society has been approached by a private school, North Leigh House School, Warwickshire, to join them in a project where the students will compare the bombing of Coventry Cathedral and the Abbey at Monte Cassino. The climax to the project will be a visit to Monte Cassino with the possibility of a number of veterans being invited to go along. To help the students with their lottery grant application, they must show their aims and outcomes and partnership with a recognised organisation.

Our involvement would be -

- 1 Interviewing veterans on film
- 2 Provide photographs & memorabilia for exhibition
- 3 Join us at the National Memorial Arboretum next May
- 4 Joint visit to Monte Cassino in June/July next year

An added advantage to us is the offer of the students setting up a website which we would then administer and maintain.

On the subject of lottery funding, we have been asked by the Fund Manager, Zoe Edmonds to mention that the Heroes Return 2 Fund is still available and to urge anyone who might be eligible to apply.

Monte Cassino Society Ties and Scarves

We have ordered a number of ties and scarves with the Society name and logo embroidered on them. Both will replicate the colour of the standard, blue background with stone abbey and gold writing.

The scarves are the long narrow variety (as opposed to square) and will cost £10 plus postage.

The ties will cost £7 plus postage.

More information re ordering ties and scarves will be in our next newsletter. John Leach has volunteered to oversee marketing.

The Not Forgotten Association

The Not Forgotten Association has recently invited our veterans to two prestigious events, A Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and tickets for Centre Court at Wimbledon. Five veterans (with carers) attended the Garden Party and a further two had front row seats for the Ladies Final at Wimbledon.

The only expense involved in any of the Association's invitations is the cost of travel to the venues—everything else is paid for by the Association.

News (continued)

The following extracts came from two gentlemen who attended Buckingham Palace a few weeks ago—

.....It was a most memorable occasion especially to be presented to HM Queen Elizabeth II. As usual she was most punctual in her arrangements. Her equerry knew quite a bit about me and Cassino. I was shocked by his detailed knowledge. Her Majesty enquired about my service in Italy with the Royal Sussex and told me to enjoy myself while, of course, Anna my Granddaughter and I did. Tea was delicious sandwiches and cakes, followed by a stroll in the lovely gardens.

This was followed by a display by the Scots Guards Band of counter marching etc.

I can only say what a happy event in total and I thank you for your help.

Les

Thank you so much for putting my name forward to attend the Garden Party. My son and I enjoyed every moment and I really did feel I was treated with respect.

We have never been so close to royalty and when I said to my son that I couldn't see the Queen he said "She's just over there, you can see the top of her yellow hat!" I had no idea she was so small, 5ft nothing like my dear wife. The highlight for me was when Prince Andrew singled me out and chatted for several minutes, asking about my medals, which campaigns I had fought in, what life was like for tank crews in WWII. I still can't believe it really happened.

Frank

The invitations we have had so far have been thoroughly enjoyed by those who have attended but it is too expensive to write to everyone individually so I have only contacted veterans known to me. I am sure there are more who may wish to be considered for future invitations. If you are interested, please contact Judith (contact details page 16).

London Remembrance Services

It is a little early to be thinking about the services in November though we have already been asked for numbers and have ordered the tickets for the Cenotaph Service; the request for tickets for the Field of Remembrance will arrive shortly. A pro forma for dedications in the Field of Remembrance and requests for tickets for both events will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

The reason for mentioning it now—Maureen Stringer has two wheelchairs she is happy to lend to anyone wishing to attend the Cenotaph March but unable to stand for such a long time and then march from Whitehall to Horse Guards Parade. There will be plenty of helpers for anyone interested.

We hope that in this special anniversary year we get a good number involved.

Service of Dedication of Standard

We have hired the facilities at the National Memorial Arboretum for the afternoon of Saturday, 23rd May 2015. All details re timings, cost, etc will be announced nearer the time. We will require some indication of numbers as we will, as on previous occasions, have afternoon tea following the service; an opportunity for friends old and new to get together.

Our trips to Italy have always been very friendly occasions and it has often been suggested that we should have some sort of get together in this country. Pat Gudgeon has been looking at hotels in the vicinity of the Arboretum and has found an hotel in Burton on Trent— a ten minute drive from the Arboretum—who are prepared to offer a two night discounted rate for our group. We will also have some input in menus. Before we commit we will have to take a look at the hotel but from their website it looks very promising. There are ten rooms on the ground floor and a further 10 accessible by lift. Should we find this hotel acceptable they will take bookings from individuals and keep us informed of numbers.

Obituary

Harry Launder (Royal Corps of Signals) was a fervent supporter of the Society and never missed an opportunity to contact his local paper with our latest news. The following was reported in the South Wales Echo on the 29th May 2014. His daughter Janet writes - "He was so proud to be a member of the Monte Cassino Society and campaigned to the end".

Sad farewell to veteran



Second World War veteran of the battle of Monte Cassino, Harry Launder, who has passed away, and (inset) on peace keeping duty in July 1943.

JASON EVANS

@evanisthecrime • 01792 545549
jason.evans@swwmedia.co.uk

THE funeral of a Swansea veteran who took part in one of the bloodiest battles of the Second World War takes place today.

Harry Launder was just 20 years old when he took part in the Monte Cassino campaign.

The desperate fighting to capture the Italian hilltop monastery in 1944 has been described by military historians as similar to the terrible scenes of trench warfare seen in the Great War.

The fighting lasted four bloody months, with one estimate putting casualties as high as 250,000.

Ninety-year-old Mr Launder — who lived on St Helen's Road — passed away on March 15, and his funeral was due to take place today at Swansea Crematorium at 12.30pm.

Over the years Mr Launder made several trips back to Italy including one in 2009 when he joined hundreds of fellow veterans — including Kiwis, Canadians, Poles, Americans and

Gurkhas — for a visit to the battlefields and cemeteries to mark the campaign's 65th anniversary.

He was also an active member of the Monte Cassino Society, which represents veterans and their families.

Speaking to the Evening Post before the 2009 trip, Mr Launder said: "The fighting was terrible, and there were tremendous casualties.

"The Germans held the high ground, and were able to see everything that happened in the valleys below.

"Conditions were awful, with snow, ice and mud. We were trying to fight our way up the mountain to take the monastery.

"We think about our colleagues who were killed every day — every day is a remembrance day."

Mr Launder served with the Royal Signals, and was attached to the 2nd New Zealand Division during the battle.



A Swansea veteran, who took part in Monte Cassino in the Second World War has died. Thanks, and respects, to Harry Launder.

Belinda Newton God bless you sir.

My father-in-law fought at the battle for Monte Cassino, he was only 19 years of age and he was shot in the neck. Thank god for these brave men.

Bernie Coles RIP. We will not forget!

Marilyn Francis God bless you Harry, thank you, so much you have given to us, our hero, RIP. Bless you.

Anita Pugh We owe so much to Harry and his comrades. Time now to rest, Harry. Thank you.

Adele Yule Llewelyn Thank you **Elizabeth Crocker** My uncle Frankie Richards died out there he was 19 years of age (Monte Cassino).

Andrew Macmillan Help our Heroes today but never ever forget these heroes either!

Gloria Owens My father, David John Cairns, was wounded at Monte Cassino.

Julie Alewood-Vallario RIP **Val Thomas** Our Uncle Peter Golba fought there.

From Richard Hall, author of *Theatres of War*

I am very glad to tell you that *Theatres of War* the book I dedicated "to the men and women who served in the liberation of Italy 1943/45" has won **The People's Book Prize (Fiction) 2013/14**.

Thank you to all those who voted for it.

Monte Ornito

Rebekah Owens, great-niece of Albert Edward Faulkner (DCLI) who was killed in the battle of Monte Ornito has edited a collection of his letters as an e-book on Lulu.com which is available to anyone interested in the campaign.

Minturno

My uncle, George Porthouse is buried in Minturno Cemetery. He was in the Sherwood Foresters. My dad, his brother would like to hear from anyone who knew him. Uncle George died in October 1944, aged 20.

Thank you.

Jill Porthouse (jill_porthouse@hotmail.co.uk)

Letters

The following letter, written by Jim Morgan, Royal Corps of Signals attached to 4th Indian Division was published in the *South Wales Echo* on 29 May 2014

Those who fell in Italian Battles will never be forgotten

NEXT month a great deal of media attention will be focused on celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings—and rightly so.

This was without question an action which demanded courage, dedication and sacrifice of the highest order by all of those involved.

But during these celebrations may I ask readers to remember the importance of an earlier campaign which also required all those qualities and on which to a large extent the success of the Normandy landings depended.

I have just returned from Italy, where I joined a handful of veterans who met to mark the 70th anniversary of the Battles for Monte Cassino, which spanned the first five months of 1944.

Information I have received from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission shows that they maintain some 40 military cemeteries in the whole of Italy. Of these at least 13 are south of Anzio and contain more than 20,000 graves of service personnel who would have died during the year before the Normandy landings.

If figures of Allied casualties other than those from the Commonwealth, such as Americans, Poles and French who are buried elsewhere are taken into account, this figure can easily be estimated at more than 50,000.

Beach landings at Sicily, Salerno and Anzio had already taken place long before D Day. They were not minor skirmishes, as the casualty figures show.

In the beautifully kept Cassino cemetery alone there are more than 4,000 recorded casualties.

I was able to return there under a scheme organised by the Monte Cassino Society, which was partially funded by generous donations from the National Lottery. They also included provision for relatives and carers, but many of our party of just over 100 financed their own visits.

Sadly of the total only 14 were veterans. Our average age was over 90.



THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS NOT THE ONE PUBLISHED IN THE SOUTH WALES ECHO BUT IS OF JIM MORGAN IN CASSINO COMMONWEALTH WAR CEMETERY TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN AND THE BATTLES FOR CASSINO

Time has taken its toll and for most of us this will probably have been our last pilgrimage. I know also of several others from Wales and elsewhere who would have dearly loved to be with us but who, for health and other reasons were unable to make the journey.

The memorial service in Cassino Cemetery was attended by several thousand ordinary people as well as dignitaries from many nations. It was everything that could be asked of such a solemn occasion; a military ceremony conducted with dignity and respect. In accordance with tradition, standards were presented and wreaths were laid.

After the service an informal reception was hosted by the British Ambassador. Prince Harry, who had attended the service, insisted on talking to each of the veterans individually. It is much to his credit that he showed a genuine interest and in fact remained with us for over an hour, overstaying his allotted time, much to the concern of his escorts.

I do not write this letter to draw comparisons between the importance of the Normandy and Italian campaigns, but to assure the families of loved ones who did not return from Italy that they are not forgotten and are remembered not just on occasions such as these anniversaries, but at all times by those who served with them.

The liberation of Europe did not begin on D Day as many historians would have us believe, but at least one year earlier with the invasion of Sicily.

Jim Morgan
The Monte Cassino Society

Accounts

70th Anniversary Trip to Monte Cassino

“Why am I doing this” I said to myself as I set out for the airport. “Do I really want to join a large group of complete strangers?” I could not have been more wrong!!.

As I stood in the foyer of Liverpool airport holding up my Cassino Society sign, while my sister checked her list, I played the game of “spot the veteran”. It wasn't difficult with those who had blazers and berets but the rest soon found us. A great group of people who had a smile and a welcome even for this total stranger. My previous worries suddenly began to disappear.

The flight was uneventful and Flavio was waiting in Naples to gather us together and to take us to our coach. We were soon travelling down the Autostrada when the driver received a phone call from Flavio, We had left Jim behind. After much laughter at Doreen expense we were assured that Jim was safe and would be put on the Gatwick coach and would arrive later.

On arrival at the Hotel the check in was swift and we were soon able to collapse on the bed to catch up on the early start. The evening meal again rekindled my worries as the group was now even bigger. I was deliberately late in joining my sister but eventually got up the courage to walk into the bar to find her. Why I was worried I will never know as I was soon chatting to the group like an old friend.

I had been to Monte Cassino many times as a tourist and once with my Father, but nothing could have prepared me for this first visit with the Cassino Society. To see the veterans, widows and families standing by graves deep in thought and contemplation brought me to tears. The short ceremony was poignant and the bugle and pipes haunting. On the visit with my father I left him sitting on a bench with his memories of his young lieutenant who had died here but was buried at Sangro. This time I sat on Toms bench and looked up at the memorial and the Abbey above. I thought of all the heartache all these veterans must be feeling,

On Saturday we were joined by Perry who had written books about the war in Italy. His commentary as we travelled through the Voltorno area brought the battles to life. His descriptions of the battles that were fought in that winter of 1944 and the conditions faced by the men made the war real for me for the first time. Dad never talked about his experiences but after Perry's talks I realised how lucky we were to get him back home safely.

The Abruzzo National Park visit was a stroke of genius. It took us away from the horrors and sadness of war and into an area of outstanding beauty. Cameras were clicking continuously at the beautiful scenery. I would like to bet that everyone had more photographs of mountains than they realised. The lunchtime meal was one I will remember for ever. The panini (sandwich) ordered by the men was dinner plate size and contained broccoli, aubergine, sausage and a huge slice of mozzarella if you opted for a SLICE of pizza you got a 9 inch square. I don't think anyone had an empty plate. We did however find out that latte was a glass of milk to get a coffee (latte) you ordered a *caffè latte molto caldo*. You gain useful information in the most unlikely places. Back to the hotel for a meal and an evening of entertainment and fireworks thanks to a local wedding but not enjoyed by people who had gone to bed early.

Monday was the day we had all been waiting for, the 70th Anniversary Ceremony at the British Cemetery. It was a long day and hard on your feet but I wouldn't have missed any of it. It was a solemn occasion filled with pomp and ceremony which made you proud to be British. The ceremony heartfelt and the singing uplifting. I was so proud of the dignity of the veterans and wished that dad could have been there. It was then onto the reception to meet Prince Harry. The Prince spoke to everyone and was very interested in any information

about the battle, he said that he had read many books but seeing the area and listening to the veterans brought it all to life. We were the last in the queue but he greeted us as though we were the first. A fitting end to a wonderful day. I know of one right hand that was not washed that night and I don't think hers was the only one.

The visit to Sangro Cemetery was the one I had been waiting for as I was to visit the grave of Dads very young Lieutenant. We were greeted by the Mayor and the Veterans led by the piper and the standards proudly marched down to the reception party and on to the memorial. The service was simple but went straight to the heart. Many had reason to visit this cemetery and we soon went our separate ways in search of loved ones. We found the grave of Lt William Reed from Glasgow and after a short silent prayer and a message from Dad Steven played a Scottish lament for him. As this would probably be our last visit we said our goodbyes before returning to the coach and a picnic in the park. What had been a very solemn day ended on a funny note. Some were late back to the coach so Garth got out his bugle to call them in, unfortunately his teeth kept slipping and we were all laughing so much it was impossible for him to continue.

Our last day we spent in Picinisco a beautiful hill top village which also happened to be home to Flavio. We had a very warm welcome before walking up the hill for the memorial service. The eulogy by the children in both English and Italian was outstanding for children so young and their hearty rendition of our national anthem in English had to be heard to be believed. The lunch provided by the villagers was typically Italian and was washed down with beer, wine or water. In return we had taken lots of sweets for the children which were well received.

So what were the ups and downs of the trip. The downs were few. The bug that laid some people low was unfortunate but on the positive side it did give people a rest. Perhaps a rest day could be incorporated into the next itinerary.



NORMA AND DOREEN AT THE GRAVE OF THEIR FATHER'S YOUNG LIEUTENANT

The ups, well for me it was ups all the way. I enjoyed the company, the itinerary, the hotel and the food (but then I like Italian food), but most of all the veterans. I laughed until I ached, especially when selling raffle tickets (a big thank you to everyone who helped us to raise so much money) and sorry Jim , you never did get the kiss of life.

My thanks must go to Judith and her team for all their hard work before and during the trip. They worked so hard to ensure that our trip was so special. I hope Judith has now had a well earned rest. Thank you to everyone for making me so welcome and for making it a trip I shall remember fondly for a long time.

Norma Lewis
Daughter of the late Thomas Wain MM, Royal Engineers



SANGRO CEMETERY

MONTE CASSINO REFLECTIONS

by Lyn Anslow

A lone piper from our group, playing skirling bagpipes



Perfect pink water lilies just coming into flower on still water,
goldfish swimming beneath the surface.



A group of very British officials, “two rows of flags” intoned by
one of their number as they paced the grass slowly,
seemingly unaware of the real soldiers
—the veterans—around them.



Planning for the coming of a young man, his own war behind him,
safely corralled into public duty.



An old man, a veteran,
standing alone, tears running down his
face and splashing right down to the ground.
A man—his son—running to him and folding
him in his arms as he wept for all those
long forgotten boys and men,
the memories of his lost youth,
the years coming to an end.



Small groups moving around, talking,
gesticulating, quiet, feeling the weight
of the long silences pressing down on them.

Quietly murmured memories,
of boys in their twenties,
snow, cold, bivouacs in the summer,
farmhouses in the punishing winters.



Huge slabs of granite, balanced up-ended,
grey, carved with gold lettering,
difficult to read in the bright daylight.



Ordinary life going on around—cars, a lawn
mower, children playing.

And up on the hill, brooding over all - the monastery of Monte Cassino,
standing in blood and death.



The piper plays again.



MONTE CASSINO CEMETERY: REFLECTIONS

by Lyn Anslow

A quick arrival at the cemetery, coaches disgorging their passengers,
many people in uniform dashing around, more just standing, watching.



No longer a place of quietness and memory,
crowded, noisy,
young and old already starting to
form lines behind the ropes.



The veterans and helpers making their way
slowly to the designated area, right at
the front under a gazebo, a prime position.



More and more people pouring in, some standing on the low
marble plinths, some trampling down carefully tended
shrubs in their efforts to obtain a good view.



People chattering, constantly shifting position,
cameras and phones ready.



Finally—the band strikes up, spectators fall silent
as the standards are carried slowly to the front,
up the steps, to the cross of Remembrance.

behind them comes a large group, mainly in uniform,
pacing slowly to the foot of the steps, stopping and shuffling into position.



The first clergyman comes forward to the microphone, the service begins.

All round photographs being taken,
of the cross, the standards, the colourful group in the
middle— but mostly of the uniformed figure at
their centre, standing stiff and upright, as a soldier
stands, his cap almost hiding the red hair beneath.



He mounts the steps, places a wreath, steps back and salutes.

More photographs, more wreaths, the last hymn.

He mounts the steps again, stops to exchange a few words with some
of the waiting veterans, paces slowly along the lines of grave
stones, stopping to read some as he passes.



Then back along the pathway to the entrance, into the waiting vehicle,
quickly whisked away, duty done.

A Royal Prince who came and paid homage to the dead—and honoured those still alive
waiting to see him, under their gazebo—the real Very Important People

ITALY MAY 2014

Our party numbered one hundred and one and included fourteen veterans . Veterans, wives, widows, children, grandchildren, four generations in one family! In addition, we met with several Monte Cassino Society members at the service in Cassino War Cemetery and at the reception that followed.

We had a very full itinerary—as described by Norma in an earlier item. From comments received it appears to have been a very successful, emotional and worthwhile trip and thanks go to all who contributed to making it so.

DAY 1 After spending some quiet, reflective time at Cassino Cemetery (as described earlier by Lyn), we moved on up to the Abbey and Snakeshead Ridge. Unfortunately the weather was not kind to us and it poured with rain while the BBC reporter was interviewing our veterans. As he reported on the news programme that evening, it was not unlike the conditions men fought in seventy years earlier.



DISAPPOINTING WEATHER FOR THOSE VISITING THE ABBEY FOR THE 1ST TIME



THE POLISH CEMETERY PHOTOGRAPHED FROM THE ABBEY



PHOTOGRAPH OF A PAINTING IN THE MUSEUM



WINDOW DONATED BY THE MONTE CASSINO VETERANS ASSOCIATION

We moved on to St. Angelo where we ate our picnic lunch beside the fast flowing River Garigliano at the site of the crossing and the of the Peace Bell



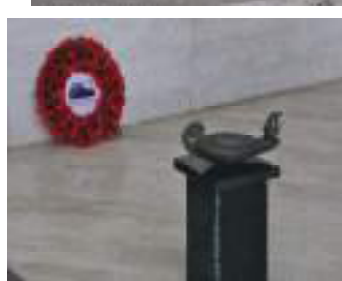
PERRY GIVING THE BACKGROUND TO THE AREA AND THE CROSSING

DAY 2 Today we visited St. Pietro Infine Museum and later, the Italian War Cemetery



The village, destroyed in the war, has never been rebuilt and is now a museum. The Mayor came and introduced himself to us while we were having coffee

We stopped off at the Italian War Cemetery—Many of our veterans, including some travelling with us, were in the North African Campaign so it was inappropriate to have any form of service but we left a wreath as they too were doing their duty and each one a son, husband, father.



There was also some pretty impressive military hardware on display on the site



DAY 3 Two coaches set off for Abruzzo National Park



DAY 4

THE BRITISH SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

TO COMMEMORATE

THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ITALY CAMPAIGN AND THE BATTLES OF CASSINO

MONDAY 19TH MAY 2014





Prince Harry meeting veterans at the Reception following the Service



DAY 5 A beautiful drive over the mountains to Sangro River War Cemetery where we were met by the Mayoral party and three partisans.



DAY 6 Our final day when we visit Picinisco. A big thank you to Flavio who arranged it—another highlight!



We have a dual remembrance service—the village of Picinisco lost men, women and children to enemy action on their way to safety in North America and we remember our soldiers who did not return home. During the service the Padre blessed our new Standard. The Mayor welcomed us, the children entertained us and the ladies fed us!



THE CHILDREN'S WELCOME WITH FLAVIO

JIM MORGAN PRESENTING A CHEQUE TO THE SCHOOL



Very many thanks to photographers Judith Uden and Graham Dickinson - it has enabled us to put together these highlights of the 70th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Italy

Monte Cassino Memorial in The National Memorial Arboretum

The 70th Anniversary was remembered in the United Kingdom by our members— John Clarke (6th Battalion The Black Watch), Nick Lobb (Grandson of the late Gerald Soady, Royal Artillery) and Pat Lucas (daughter of the late Albert Dickinson, the Somerset Light Infantry) who visited and laid wreaths.



New Members

Michele Bingham, Great Uncle William Reading, 2nd Btn The Hertfordshire Regt.

Chris Bright, Father Harry Bright, R.A.S.C.,

Philip Bujak, Father Jan Bujak, 3rd Carpathian Division, 2nd Polish Corps

George Cowie, (present 7 Fd Sqn RE)

Colin Graham, Father Lt Col FCC Graham, 1st Btn Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

Helen James, Father James Frape, Shropshire Yeomanry

Helen Prescott, Father Williama Sweetman, 319 Battery, 97th HAA, 3rd Btn London Scottish

Leslie Shirley, Veteran, 8th Army

Martyn Thomas, Father George Thomas, Royal Artillery, KIA 21 May 1944

Lester West, Father Thomas West, KRRC

Stuart Wood, Father James Wood, Royal Artillery, 6th Armoured Division

Holiday Let in France

One of our members has a 2 bedroom self contained house to let in Rochechouart — sleeps 4 comfortably but can accommodate 6. He is willing to let it to our members for £150 per week.

He is happy to collect people from Limoges Airport (35 mins) or train stations in Limoges or Angouleme.

Ryan Air flies from Stansted and Gatwick

Contact Iain Gordon, 8 Rue Aurora Sand, Vayares les roses, 87600 Rochechouart or
tel 0033 5555 02003

In Memoriam

Harry Launder, Royal Corps of Signals
Basil Lewis, 52nd field Rgt. Royal Artillery
Cyril Stapleton, 2788 Sqn. Royal Air Force
William Sweetman, 319 Btn. Heavy AA, 3rd Btn
London Scottish



Contact us:

Michael Anslow

anslow9@hotmail.com

Doreen Belcher

dorbel36@live.co.uk

Judith Coote, Secretary

jude@whlooe.eclipse.co.uk

White Horses, Meadway, East Looe, Cornwall. UK PL13 1JT

John Leach

barbara495@btinternet.com

Stan Pearson, Treasurer

stanley.pearson@talktalk.net

Philip Soady

phil.soady@ntlworld.com

Paul Taylor

paul_taylor17@yahoo.co.uk

Suzanne Turk

pontecorvotank@aol.com