



THE MONTE CASSINO SOCIETY

Furthering an interest in the Italian Campaign 1943–1945

NA15141

Welcome

Autumn 2018

Aim

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

Welcome to our Autumn 2018 newsletter. I think something is happening to time as every year seems to pass quicker than the last, and this one has really flown by.

We continue to get superb support from our members— Eight veterans were among the eighty plus who attended our Memorial Service at the National Memorial Arboretum in May and a further two were in our group of twenty nine who attended the Royal British Legion's Cenotaph Service and March on Remembrance Sunday. Tickets to the opening of the Field of Remembrance in Westminster are restricted but we always get a full complement attending. My thanks to everyone for their continued enthusiastic support, we very much appreciate it.



This will be my penultimate newsletter. We have received offers of help from several people, all of whom are able to take over part of the Secretary role, so we are hopeful that things will continue, if in a different form. The main problem will be communication—our dedicated committee work very hard to organise events on our behalf but it will require someone to collate and distribute information.

Finally, may I wish you a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Judith Coote

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

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News

75th Anniversary Commemorations

There are two special events planned to commemorate the seventy fifth anniversary of the end of the Battles for Cassino, one at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire and the other in the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Cassino.

Mike Anslow has been meeting with the events team of the British Legion who are organising the service in the Arboretum and Judith Coote is liaising with the British Embassy in Rome who are organising the service in Cassino War Cemetery.

News (continued)

National Memorial Arboretum May 2019

I thought I would give you a short update on a meeting I attended in London on October 23. A lot was discussed but these are the main points to date:-

1. The event will be known as Monte Cassino 75 or MC75 for short.
2. It has been a long time coming but the Royal British Legion have at last acknowledged that they have not supported the Italian Campaign in the past – hence their involvement next year.
3. The Legion have said that from Day One this event is about the Veterans and their widows, who will take centre stage at the Arboretum. To this end, I have asked Judith to compile a list of veterans/widows. The reason for this is to find out how many veterans/widows, with one carer each, hopefully will be able to attend on May 11 2019 the official reception and lunch. At the present time, I do not know the final ticket allocation.

On January 17 2019 there will be the official launch via social media of MC75.

May I finish by saying that, from what I've seen of the proposed day's events at the Arboretum, it will be a great day. So – please – put May 11 2019 in your diary. As soon as I know the ticket allocation, I will let you know.

M. Anslow

Letters

Dear Judith,

Do you remember my requests for notices about my relative Jonas Anker and the 'diplomatic and separate notice' about Stanislaw Chrzanowski that you published during the autumn of 2016? How time flies.

There is now another related request that I really hope that you may be able to help with. Might you be able to publish these two pictures? What we seek is any names of anyone recognised and even a living individual from one of the photos.

Best regards,

Stephen.



International Service of Remembrance, Commonwealth War Cemetery, Cassino, 16th May 2019

This is the information we have to date -

The British Embassy in Rome are organising a service of remembrance to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the battles of Monte Cassino (and the Italian Campaign in general) mid-morning on Thursday 16 May 2019 at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Cassino.

We have always organized events for the main anniversaries of Monte Cassino – including the 50th, 60th and 70th. We thought that the 70th would be the last main one, with veterans no longer being able to come out to Italy any more, but we were wrong! Judith is hoping to bring out 8 veterans at least, other associations may bring out other veterans, the Royal British Legion will be bringing a group (as well as the National Chairman and Standard).

As well as British officials and groups, we will be inviting Italian local and national military and civilian authorities, as well as representatives from the embassies of Commonwealth and other nations that fought at Cassino, plus any of their veterans and visitors who will be over at that time.

Defence Section, British Embassy, Rome

Hi

My Uncle Ernest Quinn was taken prisoner by the Germans on Montecassino February 8th 1944. As far as I know he was then in the RWK regiment and had been at the Monastery from December 1943. He often told us stories of his war years and said that while he was on the hill he used to sit and watch all the fighting going on down below in the village until he was captured. Can you tell me if you know of any Military photographs available of the men in action on the hill at that time period. He was POW'd for eighteen months which probably saved his life although not pleasant.

Regards

Julia Kelly

If you are able to help, please contact Judith (details on page 12)

The following appeared in the Sussex Express on 16th November 2018. Chris Clarke (right side of inset) (son of the late William (Nobby) Clarke, 132nd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery) gave a talk about his Grandad's war record. He was in the 11th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment and volunteered and joined up in 1914.

Artists and historians mark 100 years since armistice

Express Reporter
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A group of local artists and historians created special commemorative installations and events to mark 100 years since the end of World War 1 in Seaford.

Throughout the weekend, local animation specialists, Filmspot, projected specially created animations of poppies into the windows at the front of The Crypt Gallery, Seaford Library and David Jordan Estate Agents.

They also projected photographs of local and locally-stationed troops who died during WW1, as well as the Roll of Honour, into the windows at the front of The Crypt Gallery.

On Friday 9 November, Local historian Kevin Gordon gave a fascinating talk on the Armistice in Sussex to a full audience in the undercroft at

The Crypt Gallery.

On Saturday, The Crypt Gallery created a popular exhibition about Seaford during WW1, where Chris Clarke and Gary Lambert, two local residents, were on hand to talk about their grandfathers - local serving men.

The gallery also hosted a special projection installation by Filmspot of their bespoke poppy animation in the undercroft, and two pieces from the 'There but Not There' campaign were on display.

'There But Not There' campaign is a national commemoration initiative, providing silhouette military figures to communities throughout the country.

On Sunday Seaford Community Cinema screened the poignant film 'Journey's End', preceded by a short film in which Brighton poet Tommy Sissons recites

'Our Children Will Inhabit a Wilderness' to a packed audience.

The event finished on Sunday evening, with St Leonard's Church Bell ringers participating in a national bell ringing event with churches across the country.



'Poppy' installation in The Crypt Gallery Undercroft by Filmspot, and inset, Seaford residents Gary Lambert and Chris Clarke who were on hand at The Crypt Gallery on Saturday 10 November to talk about their Grandfathers, both local serving men during WW1.

Remembrance Services 2018

Our members represented us at Remembrance Services across the country, laying wreaths on behalf of the Society, from the Isle of Man to Cornwall and all points in between. Sadly Theo Davies who has always laid a wreath in Swansea was unable to attend this year due to ill health. We wish Theo a speedy recovery.



CHRIS CLARKE AT SEAFORD AND JUDITH COOTE IN LOOE

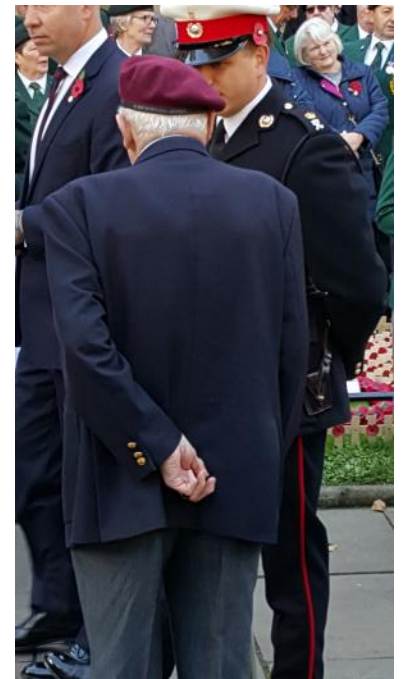
Field of Remembrance Westminster

Field of Remembrance.

Our representative at the front of our plot was veteran Jim Knox and behind were Phil Soady, Dianne Preston, Susan Deadman and myself.

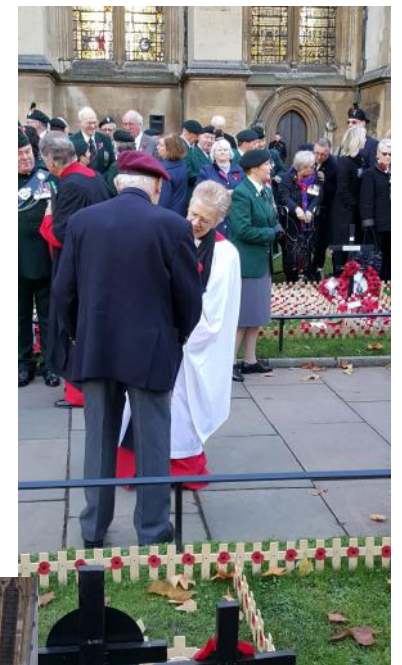
After the short service HRH Prince Henry began his walk around the garden stopping to talk to people. He walked the opposite way round the garden this year so we had quite a wait for him. He stopped to talk to Jim, probably recognising him as a veteran. Jim proved to be very popular this year because as well as Prince Harry at least three other people stopped to talk to him.

Maureen Stringer



A big thank you to Jim Knox who bravely stood in front of our plot until the Royal Party had passed.

Thanks also to Phil Soady for once again planting our dedicated crosses



PHOTOS BY
SUSAN DEADMAN

The Cenotaph

There had been torrential rain in London with rain forecast for Sunday. You can imagine our relief when it turned out to be dry and bright.

We had about 29 people in our group and we were all honoured to march alongside two of our veterans Jim Knox and Ron Evans. Our wreath bearer was 12 year old Holly Greetham who did a great job. We were all happy to see a lot of young children in the crowd, hopefully they will learn about what the march means. As we made our way back to Horseguards Parade HRH Princess Anne took the salute. I'm sure that we all feel that is a real privilege to take part in the march and to be in the presence of so many veterans and serving members of our armed forces.

Maureen Stringer



Jim and Ron were joined by Tony Cullin and Rob Evans



PHOTOS BY LIZ LONGMAN



For some years now Dave Mann of the Meridian Chapter has attended Chislehurst Remembrance Services and has laid a wreath on behalf of the Society. The following is taken, with Dave's permission, from the Meridian Chapter website.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11TH 2018

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE

It is difficult to conceive the magnitude of a conflict that over a period of 4 years would take so many millions of lives. In context, the sheer brutality of WW1 would see 10,944 casualties including 2,738 dead from 5 a.m. on the morning of November 11th 1918 until the final cessation of hostilities at 11 a.m. that same day—Armistice day.

Quite rightly the magnitude and impact of this war would see the early beginnings of Remembrance Day put in place in 1919, both here in the UK and around the Commonwealth. Closer to home in 1920 the war memorial at Chislehurst was dedicated at its current site with a background of thorn bushes and trees chosen by Sir Reginald Bloomfield RA.

The British Legion was formed by 1921 by a group of ex-servicemen to assist ex-servicemen and the organisation has subsequently grown exponentially over the years supporting those who have suffered and indeed those who continue to endure the effects of conflict in the modern world in which we live.

The organisation has also become an integral part of the Remembrance Day ceremony using the familiar sight of the red Poppy as its symbol of Remembrance. The symbolism of the Poppy was originally inspired by the poem written in 1915 "In Flanders Fields" by Canadian doctor, Lt Col John McCrae having lost a friend at Ypres.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.

In the same year it was formed (1921), The British Legion sold 9 million silk poppies and raised over £106,000 - a staggering amount of money back then and in 1971 they were given Royal status making them 'The Royal British Legion'

As expected, this centenary year of remembrance was attended by Meridian H.O.G Chapter members supporting the local Chislehurst RBL Branch and other community groups. The turnout predictably was significantly larger in number than that of previous years.



The day started with the usual early morning breakfast at the Chestnut Café which was full of Meridian members' fuelling up' for the day ahead! Across the road on the Queens Head Pub forecourt local groups were starting to gather along with local Clubs and Beavers who were also setting up with their ever popular fundraising tea and cake stalls.

It really is a community atmosphere and it is great to catch up with familiar faces, group leaders, Police Officers and all those involved in the days event. Alan Stevens from the RBL was there early with the Branch 'Standard', Poppies for sale and the Meridian H.O.G. Chapter wreath.

By 10:25 all surrounding roads were closed by the Police. Meridian Member and Parade Marshal Fred Blunden called the Parade into line and Meridian Road Captain Steve Uffindell took up his position at the front as RBL Standard Bearer.

The parade completed the half mile walk up to the Memorial where we were met by other groups, dignitaries and clergy and by 10:50 the service began - as did the rain! At first the rain fell quite gently but by the time 2 minutes silence was being observed umbrellas were up and it was falling quite hard.



At this point of quiet remembrance and reflection of those who gave so much in WW1 and all other conflicts I thought it quite poignant that the rain should be quite heavy, it was almost like millions of tears being shed in memory of the millions who had succumbed to war.

Every year we lay wreaths on behalf of Meridian Chapter and also 'The Monte Cassino Society' and I feel it is important that as many members are given the opportunity to take part in the ceremony and lay the wreaths. To this end I ask different members each year if they would like the honour of doing so. This year Road Captain Alan Wright laid the Wreath on behalf of our Chapter and long-time member Vic Davey laid the Wreath on behalf of 'The Monte Cassino Society' - they did so with pride.

By 11:10 the rain had passed and soon after the Service of Remembrance had finished and the task of our Parade Master Fred Blunden was get everyone to 'fall in' again and march back to the Queens Head.

Once back, the groups mingled for what seemed to be ages, no one was in a rush to leave, teas and cakes were still being served by the local Cubs and Beavers group. Ex services and Legion members opted for something a little stronger in the pub before slowly drifting away at around 1 p.m.

One rather pleasing point at the end of the morning was a request for myself and Fred to go along to the Cub group next year before Remembrance Sunday to give them a short talk on the Ceremony, the significance of poppies and also some assistance with Standard bearing. A small acceptance I thought of Meridian Chapters presence both at the event and in the local Community.

Well done everyone who turned out for this very special occasion, without doubt you all played a key part in a successful and respectful day - We will remember them.



Dave Mann
Charter Member & Assistant Director
Meridian Chapter Harley Owners Group

New Members

Lewis (Larry) Fox, veteran—49th LAA, Royal Artillery, 78th Infantry Division
Irene Dobson, daughter of the late George M Standen, Grenadier Guards
Reginald Scott, veteran—2nd Battalion, Cameron Highlanders
Sharon Shaw, daughter of the late Michael Slesar, (Polish) Carpathian Rifles

FINDING SAN ANGELO CEMETERY



in the Winter 2018 issue of the Monte Cassino Society newsletter Martyn Thomas appealed for help in finding the original burial place of his father, Gnr. George Henry Thomas, who had been buried in San Angelo Cemetery prior to being removed to the Cassino Military Cemetery. Although I was unable to help with identifying where the San Angelo Cemetery had been, I was able to offer a few suggestions based on my own search for the original burial place of my uncle, Pte. Gilbert John Long of the 5th Bt. Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, whose current resting place is in the Sangro River Cemetery (it was my father who had been at Cassino, whilst his brother fought along the eastern side of the Italian peninsula).

The first thing I suggested doing was looking at the Graves Concentration Report Form for Gnr. Thomas. This form can usually be found on the relevant page for the casualty on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) website. When I searched for Gnr. Thomas on the website I found the form under the heading "CWGC Archives" on his page (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2613133/thomas.-george-henry/>, click on the tab "Concentration").

The sixth column of the form is headed "Previously buried at" and within the column there is a reference (in this case, ICGR.WMB.2114) which is unintelligible to most people. When I had been searching for my uncle's original burial place, I simply e-mailed the CWGC (enquiries@cwgc.org, though there is also an online enquiry form at <https://www.cwgc.org/contact-us>) and asked them to decipher a similar reference in this column on his concentration report form, which they did by giving me a location and map reference, so I suggested that Martyn likewise e-mailed the CWGC. The map reference that I had been given by the CWGC referred to a British military map rather than to a modern map of Italy, so there was still work to do if I wanted to find my uncle's original resting place.

I was pleased to hear from Martyn later that he had received a map reference for the San Angelo Cemetery and, after a further enquiry, the latitude and longitude details and a Google map of the area. Martyn and I had separately contacted the Imperial War Museum regarding the military maps we were interested in (he for his father's original grave and I for my uncle's) and had both received the same reply, that the maps were currently in deep storage and not available for consultation by the public. Undeterred, Martyn searched for the relevant map (in the GSGS series) online and eventually found a Polish website (<http://english.mapywig.org/news.php>) which listed the GSGS maps. Here he was able to open GSGS 4164, which covers the Cassino area, and identify the location of the San Angelo Cemetery.

Locating hard copy military maps of the Second World War is not as easy as may be thought. The National Archives publishes a useful guide which is well worth reading (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/military-maps-second-world-war/>) and Beech, Gill and Mitchell¹ suggest (in addition to TNA and the IWM) the British Library and the National Library of Scotland.

My own search led me to a map on the British Library website and, though not a military map, it did at least show the location of the village where my uncle had been buried. Martyn sent me a link to the relevant GSGS map on the Polish website mentioned above and, though only a 1:250,000 scale map, this proved useful in confirming that I had the correct location. I have further research to do, but hope that one day I will be able to visit the original burial place of my uncle, which my father visited shortly after my uncle was killed (my father was given a 48-hour pass, and, with no transport available, walked the 40 miles there and 40 miles back). Sadly, to date, no family member has visited the Sangro River Cemetery, but that is also in my plans. For now, I am trying to find out what happened to the rest of my father's Bofors gun team, who, after being at Alamein and Cassino were unfortunate enough to run over a landmine on 1st July 1944, so if anyone reading this knows anything about the members of 118/30 L.A.A. Regt please get in touch. I would be happy to assist, if I am able to, anyone else who is trying to locate a burial place, but I am not an expert and only have my own experience to guide me.

Tom Long

(son of 5620278 Gnr. Robert Cecil Long, nephew of 5620406 Pte. Gilbert John Long)

E-mail: cridlake@yahoo.co.uk

¹ Beech, Geraldine, Eunice Gill and Rose Mitchell, "Safeguarding the Memory: Major Military Map Holdings in the UK", *The Cartographic journal*, 42(2) 168-172, September 2005.

(We will be visiting Sangro River Cemetery when we are in Cassino next May and will place a cross on the grave of Pte Gilbert Long on behalf of the family. Please let us know if you have a family member buried there)

The following synopsis of the **BATTLE OF MONTE CASSINO** was compiled by Paul Taylor. It is a very concise account, in bite size pieces, of the events from 10 July 1943 —25th May 1944.

BATTLE OF MONTE CASSINO

Invasion of Sicily – 10th July 1943, lasted 38 days. Invasion of Salerno 9th September by 5th Army, 2 US divs, 2 Brit divs. Taranto invaded same day.

Naples entered 1st October & Mark Clark headed for Mignano Gap, East of Monte Camino, attacked the mountain and took it 3 weeks later. US 36 div engaged in heavy fighting around San Pietro infine on slopes of Monte Sammucro. (Memorial to US troops in Venafro). Tehran meeting agreed to landing in south France but this meant getting North of Rome by spring '44. 8th Army held up on Adriatic.

6th January 1944 Americans took San Vittore on Monte Summucro after a tough fight. French attacked in mountains NE of Cassino at Acquafondata & St Elia Jan 16th. Brit X corps attacked across Garigliano 17/18 Jan 5/56 div on coast, 46th div protecting flank of US 11 corp. Took Minturno & Tufo – stiff resistance & 56th div sent to Anzio. Operation Panther failed in its aim of reaching Ausonia & St Ambrogio to deny the Germans the operation point over the Gari upstream where the US 11 Corp would attack on the 21/22nd Jan. However the bridgehead would establish an ideal springboard for the French & Americans in May.

US 36th div attacked over lower Gari 20/22 Jan. 141st Reg attacked on South bank North of St Angelo & 143 Reg S of village opposed by 15 Panzer Grenadiers (Senger's best div). Owing to poor cover, good enemy observation and poor boats the crossing was a shambles. The footbridges were quickly destroyed by gunfire and mines. Corp artillery fired 112,000 rounds in support but the divisions losses were 1681(143 killed, 663 wounded, 875 missing).

First Battle

Jan 21- Feb 4 French CEF (Corp Expeditioniers Francais) ordered to take Colle Belvedere and Colle Abate though General Juin would have preferred to press on to Atina and thereby to have a springboard to cut route 6. Took the mountains, forced off and then retook them, suffering 1481 casualties.

Jan 24 34th US div attacked by the barracks but got caught up in barbed wire, mines and machine gun fire & tanks got bogged in the river plain flooded by the Germans. Jan 29th using dry riverbed took Cairo & lower slopes of Monte Rotondo point 156 & 213. Jan 31st renewed attack on Cassino but 3 tanks captured. Feb 5 got as far as monastery walls but beaten back to point 593. Feb 6 suffered 5 counter attacks and retook point 593 on 10th/11th and tried to take Monte Castellone but failed. In Cassino managed to take jail area but 34th div lost 2351 inc' 318 killed.

Second Battle

2nd NZ div (Kippenberger) & 4th Indian inf' div brought over from Adriatic to support Americans but replaced them. 7th Ind brigade to take point 593 and advance down the hill to cut route 6 and 5th NZ brigade to take the railway station. Taker (4th Ind div) requested the monastery to be bombed, Freyberg agreed though Clark was not in favour. Alexander was in favour, with the support of the Supreme Allied Commander in the Med, General Maitland-Wilson. Monastery bombed Feb 15th. Late in the day 1st Sussex Reg tried to take point 593 and was beaten back. On 16th/17th tried again and got amongst the Germans but were beaten back after two hours hand to hand fighting. US 135th, 168th & 141st, between 5th & 11th Feb captured it several times but were thrown back. 1st Sussex on the 15th/16th & 16th/17th and 4th/6th Rajputana rifles on the 17th/18th tried and failed. Germans called point 593 mount Calvary.

Battle of Monte Cassino cont.

Maoris 25th Batt, 5th Brigade, 2nd NZ div attacked along the railway line into the town. Germans had demolished the line at 12 points, Nz's couldn't attack on land as it was waterlogged. On the night of the 17th engineers managed to fill/cross 10 of the demolitions apart from the bridge over the Rapido, but no tanks got to the station. B coy took station but were attacked from the Hummocks. Once dawn came fire was directed from Monte Cassino, also two Stug 111's moved from the town and Maoris forced to retreat. So the pincer on Monte Cassino wasn't achieved.

Third Battle – Operation Dickens

Freyberg decided to redirect the battle to the North of the town and abandoned the attack on Monte Cassino through the mountains. 6th NZ brigade to attack through the town & 5th Ind brigade to attack across the face of the mountain, take Castle Hill, Hangman's Hill & possibly the Monastery. 25th NZ brigade would link with 6th NZ brigade to develop to the station. This required the bombing of the town beforehand. It was intended to start on 24th/25th Feb but bad weather delayed bombing to 15th March. After the bombing 25th NZ brig & 19th NZ armoured Reg down the Cairo road, renames Caruso road. Tanks couldn't pass down the parallel road & Pasquale road. Some 105 para's survived the bombing and held up the NZ'ers around the Post Office.

However 25NZ battalion D Coy managed to take Castle Hill. Tanks moved up route 6 but were hampered by large bomb craters. C coy of 1st/9th Gurkas made it to Hangman's Hill 16th March and stayed there for 9 days under fire from the monastery. 4 tanks from around the nunnery attempted to get to the railway station, 2 got there and infantry followed suffering heavy casualties (33 killed, 54 wounded) but took station & round house, 17th March. Germans still held area around hotel des Roses, with anti-tank gun (Stug) in Hotel Continental. 200 Germans from monastery charged down hill and overran some Gurkas on point 165 who were going to support those on Hangman's Hill, running battle for several hours, some 160 Germans killed or wounded. NZ'ers in town still unable to link up with 26th NZ batt in the railway station. March 19th attacked up Cavendish Road supposed to have waited until monastery taken and route 6 cut but seen by spotter plane. 44 tanks & 3 dozers went up but 23 stuck, knocked out or damaged. 3 drove out, 8 removed, 12 lost. 3rd battle called off 23rd March.

4th Battle – Operation Diadem

17divs – BR X111 Corp St Angelo to Cassino station; 11 Polish Corp Cassino to Monte Cairo to take monastery and cut route 6; US11 Corp (85th & 88th div) 10k front east of Minturno to the sea. French CEF forces through Aurunci mountains to take Monte Maio & Ausonia defile towards Esperia & Monte Revole. There was a double ambush on the road out of Esperia though Germans came off worst losing some 50 vehicles in a kilometre. The attack by the French using the Goumiers across the mountains tops unhinged the Gustav line. 13th May attack by X111 Corp, 8th Ind div around St Angelo & 4th div in front of Monte Trocchio. Plymouth & Oxford bridges put up by 8th Ind div but Amazon, Blackwater & Congo not in place until 13th/14th May. 10th & 28th brigades, 4th div held a shallow bridgehead. Big effort on Amazon bridge which opened at 5.30pm; pushing bulldozer seized up after sump holed by gunfire, tank finally pushed it into place. 78th div took over from exhausted 4th div towards Cassino-Pignataro road (8th Ind div took the village). May 17th 10th & 12th brigade, 4th div wheeled towards route 6 and cut it less than 3k N of Cassino.

The poles, under General Anders decided to attack along Phantom ridge (5th Kresowa div) and along Snakeshead Ridge (3rd Carpathian div) 11th May, Germans repulsed both attacks and Poles lost 1800 casualties in 24 hours. 17th May renewed attack 3rd Carpathians got close to Albaneta farm but forced to withdraw from bottleneck by evening. 5th Kresowa div made progress towards point 569 but suffered heavy casualties. Germans withdrew on night of 17th so Poles surprised to find Albaneta farm abandoned but points 593 & 569 still defended but quickly taken. 30 Germans in the Monastery surrendered.

78th div took Primarolo ~& 1st Canadians took over from the Indians at Pignataro. Germans withdrew to Hitler line. May 19th 78th div in support of the Canadians launched an attack on Aquino lost 13 tanks after fog lifted. 1st Canadians fared no better on the 23rd, fell victim to Pantherturns on Aquino- Pontecorvo road. The Canadians took heavy casualties but took Pontecorvo, Aquino, Roccasecca & crossed the Melfa river. The poles took Piedmont on 25th May after losing many tanks. The Polish Corp was then withdrawn to reserve.

Anzio link up 25th May but Vietinghoff had withdrawn 7 divs of 10th Armee from Vallettri owing to Mark Clark disobeying orders. A memorial for the 2nd Beds & Herts Reg (10th Brigade) stands on via Folcara, east bank of Gari 2k South of Cassino near the site of the Amazon bridge. A memorial of the battle of the Melfa river (Canadians) is on the wall of a small church on via San Vito, Roccasecca.

*Paul Taylor,
son of the late Herbert Taylor, 28th Infantry Brigade Workshop, REME*

In Memoriam

John Belcher, husband of Doreen, who has worked tirelessly for the Society for many years

George Ronald Boakes, 6th Battalion The Queens Own Royal West Kents, 78th Division

Walter Pritchard, Royal Corps of Signals



JOHN BELCHER

Many will remember John who supported Doreen for many years. He passed away mid October after a very, very long illness. He was a wonderfully kind, patient man—a true gentleman.

Doreen wishes to thank everyone for their love and support.

Dear Judith,

Wanted to inform you that Walter passed away yesterday evening.

He was very proud to be a part of The Monte Cassino Society and will be cremated wearing his tie.

Some of my fondest memories with him were when we visited Monte Cassino.

He was in great shape until his 102nd birthday last September. He had a wonderful life - thanks be to God.

Kindest regards,

Susan E. Kane



WALTER PRITCHARD



On Remembrance Sunday Mike Anslow
carried the standard at a World War 1 event
at Henley In Arden



THE MONTE CASSINO SOCIETY

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