



# THE PLYMOUTH VETERAN

## JOURNAL OF THE FEDERATION OF PLYMOUTH AND DISTRICT EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATIONS

Welcome to the 61<sup>st</sup> edition:

The journal is not only for the officers of Associations but also Associations 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

**Burns Day:** Like many other Associations the local HMS Ganges celebrated Burns Day. In fact they marked it twice, once on Burns Day itself with a lunch then again the following Saturday with the traditional Supper with the Haggis Piped in, Addressed and a toast to Robbie Burns. The Ganges members are always keen for a celebration; they followed it up with a Valentine Social a couple of weeks later.

**HMS Ocean** It was a sad day that saw many people down at the Sea front of the Hoe watching HMS Ocean flying her 'Paying Off' pennant as she sailed into her home port for the last time. This lovely lady has given over 20 years faithful service and in the minds of most people could have gone on to give many more because in real terms having recently had a major upgrade would have been most able to do so. Her new owners, the Brazilian Navy must be delighted with their purchase at such a cheap price.

### Fall of Singapore .

#### 76<sup>th</sup> COMMEMORATION OF THE FALL OF SINGAPORE 1942

By Dave Hutson

Here in Plymouth we held a Commemoration Service at the Minster Church of St Andrews to mark the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1942.

The event was arranged by the Plymouth Far East Prisoners of War Family [Formerly the Devon & Cornwall Branch of the FEPOW Association] and attended by members of our group. Also in attendance were four Standards Bearers from the Plymouth Federation of Ex Service Associations, a Bugler, Serving members of the Armed Forces, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, representatives from the Federation and members of the Public. The new Aircraft Carrier HMS Prince of Wales was represented by Lt Cdr David Prowse, the Ship's Damage Control Officer.

It was a moving Service which paid respect to all, from all nations, who suffered from this defeat in Singapore and subsequently throughout the Far East suffered captivity with many thousands making the supreme sacrifice.

After the Service the Wreath that was placed on the Altar in the Church was re-laid at the FEPOW Memorial Rowan Tree adjacent to the

Following the service Federation Chairman Basil Downing-Waite submitted the following letter to the evening Herald that they kindly published.

*Today, Thursday 15th February I attended a lovely memorial service in St Andrews Church Plymouth for the Commemoration Service on the 76th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore. Sad to say there were not many members of the public in attendance as they may not have been aware of it. The address given by the Vicar reminded us of how shameful man's inhumanity to man can be and of the terrible suffering of prisoners at the hands of the enemy and of the many lives lost in unbelievable circumstances and conditions. Lines from the prayer of the Far East Prisoners Of War Association really says it all. 'Hoping and praying that never again, Man will sink to such sorrow and shame, The price that was paid we will always remember, Every day, every month, not just in November'. Our thanks to members of the FEPOW Association for organizing the event, they are determined that we shall never forget.*

## **Future Fit Junior Field Gun:**

In 1999 the Exhibition Building, Earls Court finally closed down after over 60 years of staging public shows. This brought to an end the Royal Tournament and the demise of the Royal Navy's traditional Field Gun Competition.

In 2012 the Devonport Command Field Gun Association made the decision to revive the sport for children in the form of a scaled down field gun, and an obstacle course similar to the Royal Naval Field Gun Competition. This was designed to encourage fitness, teamwork and discipline in a sport, which enables schools to compete against each other.

We have had help in achieving our goal of manufacturing these field guns through the help given by the Salvation Army who allow us to use their workshop in Devonport, the Probation Service help provide personnel and the homeless also aid our project. All of these services are given free with no expectation of recompense. Profit from the manufacture of these field guns is then used to help support the Royal Navy & Royal Marine Charity and Help for Heroes as well as providing funding for manufacture of more field guns.

In the Plymouth area we now have seventeen schools involved and have had two Tournaments, which have been held on Plymouth Hoe during Armed Forces Day in 2016 and 2017. The tournaments were supported by the schools, parents and visitors to the Hoe giving the children a real feel for the excitement aroused by taking part in this amazing sport.

Plymouth City Council have supported this project and the recognise the opportunity it has given to the school children as has Admiral of the Fleet Sir Mark Stanhope who is one of our patrons.

A junior field gun unit costs £850 and some of the schools find it difficult to raise enough money to purchase the set. As a result of this situation we have been able to obtain the help and support of several individuals and organisations, who have donated money in order to support and encourage this new sport in schools.

Each junior field gun purchased by an individual or organisation will have a plaque fitted to the gun to remind the school who donated the money for their equipment. This is an everlasting gift which is highly appreciated by the Head Teachers, staff and of course the children.

The late Rear Admiral Mike Thomas wrote in our constitution:

“To involve all sections of the community, especially young people, in our belief in raising standards through developing and nurturing team work fitness, physical and emotional resilience and mental agility. This so they may have the self-esteem and self-confidence to play leading and successful roles in the community. This we will do by developing a programme of junior, youth and senior field gun targeting youth groups, schools, colleges and universities which will involve pupils, staff and parents.

### **Commonwealth Flag Raising**

A well-attended event with Several Federation Standards in attendance.

### **Obituaries with Federation Standard in attendance:**

Standards of the Federation were requested to attend several Funerals and the appropriate Association Standard Bearers willingly gave their support including the service for Surgeon Capt. Rick Jolly OBE. Standards will only attend if requested by the family of the deceased.

Following a talk at one of our meetings by Knapman Funeral Directors a lot of useful advice was given that I consider to be worth sharing. Stan from Knapmans who gave the presentation is a former Marine Commando and was not advertising just giving some sound advice to Veterans.

### **Bespoke Service for Veterans and their Families experiencing Loss or Bereavement.**

The Veterans Bereavement Support Centre was created by those who have served in the Armed Forces and Merchant Navy for those who serve and have served and to ensure that they have full access to a specialist bereavement support network at the time of need for their family and friends. Since its inception, the service has grown and through the massive network of professionals we are able to offer a comprehensive range of services that support people not just after they have lost someone special but also before, so that the support is available and that they can plan ahead.

We offer a bespoke service for families needing assistance with bereavement and support including advice on funeral care 365 days a year from our national office in Romsey. We do not charge for our services and we are all volunteers. We are a not for profit organisation run by Volunteers in a clear effective way and we are signed members of the Armed Forces

Covenant. No one is paid to work for us and we ensure all of the donations that we receive are used for the benefit of veterans. We are run by an elected management team who come from various occupations and have family links with the Armed Forces and we also have tri-service advisers to the team, so that we encompass the military aspects into the running of the organisation. In addition to the management committee there are numerous sub-committees each with own military link person so that every part of our project is managed effectively.

Telephone **02381550066**

Please leave a message if we are unable to answer

Outside office hours these will divert to our out of hours team

## **Forces Pension Society**

If you have trouble getting travel insurance etc. due age or health troubles due to Age and Health etc. Forces Pension Society maybe able to help. See Photos.

## **DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2018**

This will be published in editions of the Journal

Articles/Pictures for possible inclusion in future additions of the Journal should be sent to the Editor Baz Downing-Waite [bazval@btinternet.com](mailto:bazval@btinternet.com) preferably in Word Format to permit editing. Event organisers are invited to send input and update information to the Chairman by email: with pictures in jpeg

### **MARCH**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>: 1045 Lord Mayor's Civic Church Service. St. Marys All Saints Plymstock

### **APRIL**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Walk at Ford Park to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the RAF

### **MAY**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>: Lord Mayor's Choosing, The Guildhall Plymouth

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>: The Lord Mayors Civic Church Service, The Minster Church of St Andrews. Plymouth

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>: Lord Mayor's Day. Plymouth City Centre.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>: Plymouth and Southwest Malaya & Borneo Vets, End of Hostilities service, to be held at the Peace Garden. The Service starts at 1200 hrs on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. Standards will be welcome to parade by 11:45hrs

### **JUNE**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>. 88<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication of the Door of Unity. 14.00. Minster Church of St Andrews. Standards as requested to muster 1330.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> : 1000 Armed Forces Flag Raising Ceremony. Guildhall Flag Poles.

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>: 0930 Armed Forces Day. Plymouth Hoe. (100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RAF)

## **JULY**

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup> 1100. SEA SUNDAY. MINSTER CHURCH OF ST ANDREW PLYMOUTH**

**The congregation of the Minster Church of St Andrew, Plymouth, will welcome everyone to join together in a Service to give thanks for our Seafarers.**

**STANDARDS REQUESTED: ASSEMBLE 1030**

## **AUGUST**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> 1130. VJ Day. Short Service of Remembrance at the Rowan Tree, the Minster Church of St Andrew Plymouth. Organized by the Plymouth Branch Far East Prisoner of War Families Association (FEPOWFA).**

## **SEPTEMBER**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> MERCHANT NAVY DAY: 1100 Mayflower Steps, Plymouth Barbican. Standards to Muster 1045**

## **OCTOBER**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> : 1100. Captain Henry VC Commemoration at Ford Park Cemetery. Organised by the Royal Artillery Association. STANDARDS REQUESTED: ASSEMBLE 1030.**

## **NOVEMBER**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup>: Remembrance Festival Plymouth Pavilions**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>: 1100 Remembrance Parade Plymouth Hoe**

**Sun 11<sup>th</sup>: 1030 for 1100 Royal British Legion Remembrance Day Parade Ivybridge.**

**Sun 11<sup>th</sup>: 1500. Ceremony of Remembrance at the Rowan Tree, Minster Church of St Andrew, Plymouth. Organised by the Plymouth Branch of the Far East Prisoner of War Association (FEPOW). All welcome to attend.**

## **DECEMBER**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> 1930 Lord Mayor's Carol Service. The Minster Church of St Andrews. Plymouth**

**Sun TBA 1100 (form up at 1040) Devonport North Corner Commemoration Service. Anniversary of Operation Frankton. Organised by the Royal Marines Association  
STANDARDS REQUESTED: ASSEMBLE 1030**

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> 1930. The Lord Mayor of Plymouth's Carol Service-Minster Church of St Andrew,  
STANDARDS REQUESTED: ASSEMBLE 1900**

**Mon. 31st Hinkley VC Commemoration at Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth. Organised by the Royal Naval Association.  
STANDARDS REQUESTED: ASSEMBLE 1030**

## Small selection of photos



In Loving Memory of



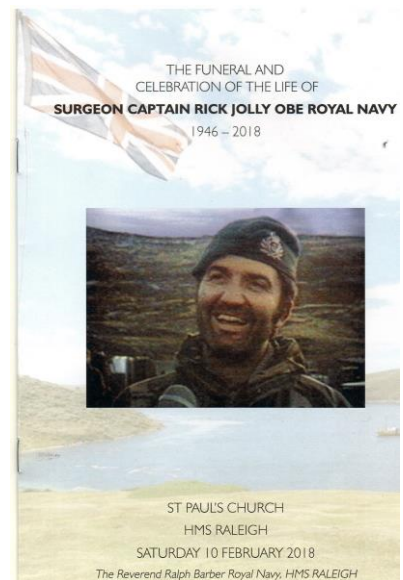
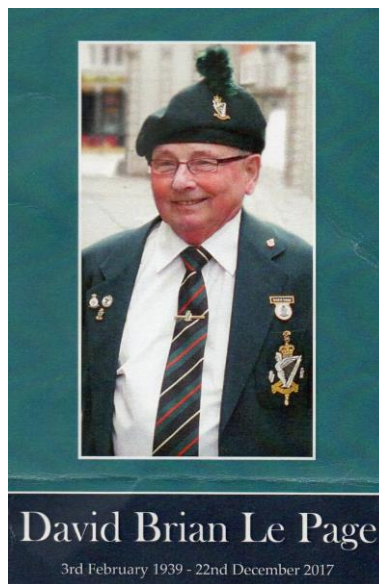
**John George Douglas**

3rd September 1938 - 18th December 2017



Weston Mill Crematorium

Friday 5th January 2018  
at 10.45 am







**Facts about the Forces Pension Society**

- The Society was founded over 70 years ago
- Since then it has campaigned consistently on behalf of its Members and the whole military community for the best possible pensions for the Armed Forces and their Families
- We deal with hundreds of pension enquiries every month from our Members at a time when Armed Forces Pension Schemes have never been more complex
- We offer our Members access to a wide range of exclusive offers from trusted Affiliates ranging from Healthcare to Cruising, Cars to Clothing and Finance to Funerals
- In 2015 we achieved one of our most notable successes in persuading Government to harmonise widows' pensions, ensuring that all future widows now retain their pension on re-marriage
- We are a fast-growing organisation with 50,000 Members from all ranks, serving and retired






**Forces Pension Society**  
 68 South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, London, SW8 1RL  
 Telephone: 020 7820 9988 e-mail: memsec@forpen.co.uk  
 www.forcespensionsociety.org

**Join us and get more from your pension**

## What can the Forces Pension Society do for you?



The Forces Pension Society serves the interests of the Armed Forces community as the independent, not-for-profit Forces Pension watchdog. We hold governments to account, arguing for better pensions and campaigning against unfairness in the schemes.

With a number of schemes in operation Armed Forces Pensions have never been more complex. Since our formation more than 70 years ago, we have never been in such demand for help from our Members seeking support from our team of pension experts.

Joining the Society means our Members (and their partners) receive a wide range of benefits including:

- Access at any time to help from our Pension Advisory Service
- Access to a growing range of valuable membership offers in Travel, Healthcare, Motoring, Legal & Financial and Personal & Home
- Free copies of our bi-annual magazine Pennant and our regular e-newsletters full of helpful information
- Representation where it matters on the MoD Pension Board and the Public Sector Pension Council



**Join us and get more from your pension**

## THE FEDERATION WEBSITE

The Federation website is worth checking out, here is the web address [www.fedexservicesassoc.co.uk](http://www.fedexservicesassoc.co.uk). We now have lots of photos and other information on the website including the Diary of events.

