



# The Bulldog Bulletin



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

President: Priva Guha British Consul

The Newsletter of The Royal British Legion  
California Branch No 1  
**October 2013**



Devonshire and Dorset Regiment



The King's Regiment



The King's Royal Hussars



The Light Dragoons



The Light Infantry

**The Royal British Legion**  
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The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment

## RBL Chairman's October report,



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### Annual Dues

**The annual dues are now due and payable in the amount of \$30.00, the Legion year goes from October 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 through September 30, 2014. We have received the new cards from London.**

**Please make your cheque payable to Royal British Legion and mail to Pamela Sweetman, Treasurer, at 2616 Snowy Egret Way, Elk Grove, CA 95757.**

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## The Royal British Legion

Will Present  
The Thirty Fifth Annual San Francisco

### Festival of Remembrance

Sunday, November 10th 2013 at 3:00 p.m.  
Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Street, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

Preceding the Service, the orchestra will Present a short concert, starting at 2:30 p.m.



[This service is open to the general public](#)



**It is our responsibility as Royal British Legion members to support the Poppy Appeal.**

If any of you know of British Shops and any other British Organizations who would help with the sale and distribution of the Poppies. This would help us reach our goal; we have just received our supply. If anyone needs information about the poppy appeal, please call Pamela Sweetman, Poppy Appeal Chairman at 916-714-0748

**A scheme endorsed by David Cameron to plant millions of poppies across Britain to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War has been refused a grant by the official organization tasked with funding commemorations.**



**British troops of the 4th East Lancashire Regiment in trenches near Nieuport Bains Photo: Alamy**

The 2014 Real Poppy project, run by the Royal British Legion, was singled out by the Prime Minister as a fitting way to mark next year's 100th anniversary of the start of the conflict in a speech outlining the type of events the Government wanted to encourage. The scheme has also had the backing of Prince Charles. However, the Heritage Lottery Fund, which is distributing grants for centenary events, said that because it was experiencing a "high level of demand" for grants, it had turned the project down.

The disclosure comes only a day after it emerged that the HLF had awarded almost £100,000 to the Peace Pledge Union (PPU), a pacifist organisation, to raise awareness of the role of conscientious objectors during the war. The HLF had approached the PPU and urged them to apply for funding.

There are growing calls for the poppy project decision to be reversed. Bruce Simpson, chairman of the Western Front Association, a group of 7,000 members dedicated to research of the conflict, said: "This absolutely has to be rethought. I cannot understand the thinking behind it. It is all very well to have unusual, diverse projects going on, but they should not be in place of ones like this, which seem to be at the absolute core of what the commemorations should be about. The poppy is such a symbol of the war and this seemed such a classical project."

The project was launched by the Greenhithe branch of the Royal British Legion, in Kent. Gareth Johnson, the local Conservative MP, who has been supporting the scheme, said: "I am astonished and dismayed by the decision. As David Cameron made clear, this is exactly the sort of project we should be helping."

### **How should we remember the First World War?**

**We have two contrary views of the First World War – one of triumph and pride, the other of tragedy and sorrow. But as we prepare for the centenary next year, we must be aware that the truth is never that simple, says Harry Mount**



British and Commonwealth graves in Tyne Cot Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium.

The Government is to spend £50 million on commemorative events Photo: ALAMY

A decade after my great-grandfather was killed at Gallipoli, his widow and one of his daughters – my great-aunt – visited the site on a cruise ship. It came as a bit of a shock when my great-aunt told me what a wonderful time she had had – not least because Ian Hay, the amusing novelist, playwright and First World War veteran, was also on board.

How stupid of me to be shocked. I had felt – wrongly – that the default attitude to the First World War should be one of sombre melancholy. But what did it have to do with me, really? There is no correct default attitude and, even if there were, the only people who could justifiably have a claim on it – those who fought in the war – are all dead now.

And so are nearly all of their children: my great-aunt died three years ago, at the age of 102.

So the rest of us are now groping in the dark when it comes to knowing exactly how to commemorate the awful slaughter that shaped, and still shapes, the map of Europe, its politics and society.

No one could argue with the desire – obligation, even – for modern generations to remember the war, especially not as its centenary approaches.

It is only appropriate, despite the expense, that the Government will spend £50 million on commemorations of the outbreak of war, and of the anniversaries of Jutland, Gallipoli, the Somme, Passchendaele and the Armistice, along with Imperial War Museum events, educational initiatives and Lottery-funded commemorations at war memorials. And it is surely welcome, as Eric Pickles tells this newspaper today, that the Government will pay £5 million for every state secondary in Britain to send two children and one teacher to the First World War battlefields and lay remembrance wreaths. How wonderful, if unfeasible, it would be if every schoolchild in the country could go; wonderful if, while they were at it, they could also visit Hastings, Agincourt, Bosworth and the Crimea.

It's hard to argue with all the other decent things that have been proposed by the Government, either – a service at Glasgow Cathedral and Westminster Abbey to commemorate the beginning of the war; flags at half-mast across the country; separate Scottish and Welsh memorial campaigns. The danger is, though, that while remembering the facts of the First World War, we forget what it was really like – and that, by overdoing the commemorations, war fatigue will set in.

Main article: [Antigonish \(poem\)](#)

Mearns is credited with the well-known rhyme, composed in 1899 as a song for a play he had written, called *The Psycho-ed*. The play was performed in 1910 and the poem was first published as "Antigonish" in 1922.

**Yesterday upon the stair  
I met a man who wasn't there  
He wasn't there again today  
Oh, how I wish he'd go away  
When I came home last night at three  
The man was waiting there for me  
But when I looked around the hall  
I couldn't see him there at all!  
Go away, go away, don't you come back any more!  
Go away, go away, and please don't slam the door  
Last night I saw upon the stair  
A little man who wasn't there  
He wasn't there again today  
Oh, how I wish he'd go away  
"Antigonish" (1899)**

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A near Disaster (October 30,1939)

**The German submarine U-56**, commanded by Lieutenant Wilhelm Zahn, found itself bang in the middle of a contingent of the British Home Fleet sailing just west of the Orkney Islands. Leading the contingent was the battleship HMS Rodney followed by the HMS Nelson and HMS Hood all surrounded by a protective screen of destroyers.

Here was the U-56, sitting at periscope depth in an ideal firing position and straight ahead was the Flagship of the Fleet, HMS Nelson. Elated, Zahn fired three torpedoes at the target which was impossible to miss. Two of the torpedoes actually hit the Nelson but did not explode! The U-56 made a quick getaway. Had the torpedoes exploded, the V.I.P.s on board the Nelson would have been in great danger.

They had gathered for a conference to determine what action had to be taken after the sinking of the Royal Oak at Scapa flow.

The illustrious guests included the C-in-C Home Fleet, Admiral Sir Charles Forbes, the First Sea Lord, Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Dudley Pound, and Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Winston Churchill! This heaven sent opportunity caused Admiral Karl Donetz, the German U-boat supremo, to write in his war diary "Without doubt, the torpedo inspectors have fallen down on their job ... at least 30% of our torpedoes are duds!" Gunther Prien, hero of Scapa Flow, remarked "How the hell do they expect us to fight with dummy rifles". Without doubt this was a great embarrassment to the German Navy - 31 U-boat attacks from favourable positions, 4 attacks on the Warspite, 12 attacks on various cruisers,

10 attacks on destroyers and 5 attacks on troop transports - without a single hit! All torpedoes failed to explode. How lucky we were!

## Former model Christine Keeler, 71, is unrecognisable as she pulls shopping trolley 50 years after Profumo affair.

By Chris Hastings. Published: 22:07 GMT, 24 August 2013  
([dailymail.co.uk/news/article](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article)) Layout edited jmh 02/09/2013

Dressed in a shapeless top and sandals and pulling a plastic shopping trolley, it is difficult to imagine that this woman was once one of the world's most photographed – and infamous – beauties. But the pensioner pictured here is Christine Keeler. Her sexual liaisons 50 years ago with Tory Minister John Profumo and a Russian military attaché based in London led to one of the biggest political scandals of modern times.

This is the first time Keeler has been photographed in public for seven years, and the 71-year-old is unrecognisable from the fresh-faced model and showgirl who found herself embroiled in Profumo affair in 1963.



*Humble lifestyle: The former model Christine Keeler pictured out shopping near her home.*

- The former showgirl and model was once one of the world's most photographed beauties
- Her sexual liaisons with Tory Minister John Profumo and a Russian attaché led to one of the biggest political scandals of modern times
- She now lives in a sheltered accommodation block in South London

Although she revelled in her notoriety at the time and sold her story to newspapers all over the world, Ms Keeler now lives in a sheltered accommodation block in South London, and is estranged from her two sons.

### *Beauty: Keeler in her prime back in 1964*

In an interview last year to publicise her latest book about the affair that rocked the British Establishment, she said: 'My children don't want to be associated with that bloody whore Christine Keeler. It's awful but that's the way it is.'

The scandal happened at the height of the Cold War when it was discovered that Keeler had been sleeping with both Profumo, the then Conservative Minister for War, and Yevgeny Ivanov, a naval attaché based at the Russian Embassy in London. Keeler and Profumo began their affair after being introduced at a party at the Cliveden estate in 1961 by their mutual friend Stephen Ward, a high-society osteopath and portrait-painter.

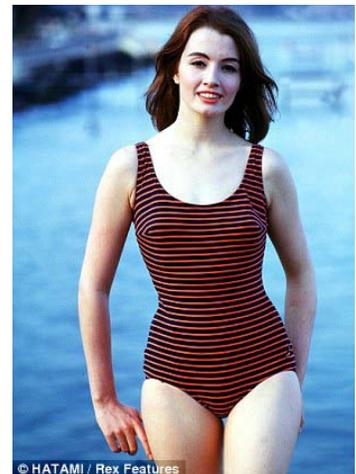
Profumo, who was married to actress Valerie Hobson, had no idea that Keeler was also sleeping with Ivanov. In March 1963 he told the House of Commons that rumours of his affair were untrue, but he was forced to resign three months later after admitting he had lied.

Ward, who was prosecuted for living off immoral earnings, took an overdose the day before his trial ended and died on August 3, 1963. Keeler was found guilty of unrelated perjury charges and was sentenced to nine months in prison.

The passage of time has done little to diminish the public's fascination with the scandal. Andrew Lloyd Webber has written a musical, 'Stephen Ward', due to open in December. It is understood Keeler declined to co-operate with the project.

*How Christine Keeler looked in the 1963 film The Keeler Affair (Go to the Daily Mail source here and scroll down. (jmh))*

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2401524/Former-model-Christine-Keeler-71-unrecognisable-50-years-Profumo-affair.html#ixzz2d5chrTnF>



## Air Raid Shelters

During the war, a total of 2,250,000 Anderson air raid shelters were erected in Britain. Named after its designer, Dr David A. Anderson, they cost seven pounds for those earning over 250 Pounds Sterling per year, free for those earning less. These shelters were made from corrugated steel and were 9 feet by 5 feet in size. The Ministry of Home Security ordered that these shelters must be up by June 11, 1940, and that they be covered by earth to a depth of 15 inches on top and 30 inches on sides and back. After the war they were used as small garden sheds or coal bunkers. In the spring of 1941, the Morrison shelter was introduced, a low steel cage for use indoors. Cost was the same as for the Anderson shelter. When the sides were folded down the steel top could be used as a table. A total of 38 million gas-masks were also distributed. By 1941, public air raid shelters in London were fitted with 462,000 bunks for adults and 11,000 for children. Bunks were also provided in 46 of London's Tube Stations. Stacked in warehouses were millions of cardboard coffins in expectations of many dead from air raids.



## Bomb Shelters in England

After the German Luftwaffe was defeated in the Battle of Britain and the cancellation of 'Operation Seelowe', the planned invasion of Britain in late 1940, Germany set about protecting its own citizens from attack by enemy bombers. In October 1940, Hitler ordered the construction of bomb shelters and flak towers in all the major cities. The cost was enormous. Around 120 thousand million Reichsmarks and 200 million cubic metres of reinforced concrete was the estimate given prior to the work proceeding. Thirty major cities were included in the programme which employed some 80,000 workers and aimed at 3,000 shelters being built. In addition to this, thousands of smaller shelters were built into tunnels, caves and mines. In late 1941, construction was somewhat delayed by the building of the Atlantic Wall and construction of U-boat pens in France. After the war many of these shelters and bunkers were blown up by the Allied authorities but were used first as emergency accommodation for Displaced Persons. By the end of the war, 131 cities and towns in Germany had been bombed. Air raid deaths in Germany has been calculated at 443,000, this includes the 56,000 foreign civilians. One may ask where is the moral justification in killing hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians in the hope that doing so will force a military surrender?

## Missing World War II Ace Located After 71 Years

After 71 years, a British historian has located the final resting place for a heroic young Royal Air Force pilot who was listed as missing in action and presumed dead in May 1940 during World War II.

WWII-era Hawker Hurricane, the same model flown by RAF pilot Derek Allen



According to British newspaper the Telegraph, 22-year-old Flying Officer Derek Allen took to the skies for his first time in combat on May 10, 1940, the day that Germany launched its invasion of France and the Low Countries. Over the next eight days, Allen shot down four enemy aircraft himself and shared credit for three other downed planes. He would be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his performance.

Forced to bale out on May 15 after his Hurricane plane was hit with anti-aircraft fire, Allen walked for 24 hours through enemy territory in order to get back to his squadron.

About 6:30 a.m. on May 18, Allen was back in the air when a German gunner shot his plane down over farmland in northern France. By that time, German tanks and infantry had already managed to break the French defensive lines; they would soon advance to the coast. On May 26, the RAF provided much-needed protection from the sky as Allied forces were evacuated en masse from the French seaport of Dunkirk to England. Paris fell to the Germans on June 14, and defeated, France signed an armistice on July 22.



RAF Pilot Derek Allen, 1940. Credit: Daily Mail UK

When Allen's parents were first told their son was missing in action, it was hoped that he might have been captured by the Germans and still be alive. Much later in the war, a RAF adjutant visited to tell them his plane had crashed and he was presumed dead. When the war ended in 1945, Derek Allen was one of 40,000 missing British airmen.

The story might have ended there—but while going through British Ministry of Defense files, historian Andy Saunders found a witness account of a Hurricane that was hit near the French town of Cambrai on the same day that Allen and his plane disappeared. After getting approval from Allen's family and French officials, Saunders conducted excavations and found small parts of the downed plane. That evidence convinced the RAF Historical Branch to look deeper into their files for Allen's old records, and eventually they confirmed that his body was buried in an unmarked grave in the village of Poix-de-Nord, near Cambrai.

Now that Derek Allen's final resting place has been found, his younger brother Richard, now 81 years old, plans to lead family members in a dedication service at his brother's grave. "It is a great relief that we know what did happen to Derek and where he ended up after all these years....We are grateful to Andy for finding this out and it means an awful lot that the family have at last a grave to visit so we can pay our respects."