



The Bulldog Bulletin

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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CARDIFF



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PLYMOUTH

**The Newsletter of The Royal British Legion
San Francisco, California Branch**

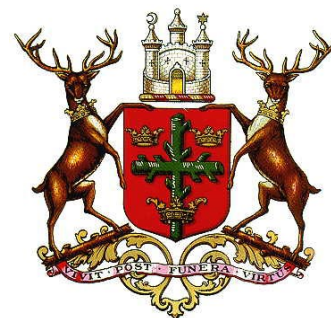
April, 2012



EDINBURGH



DARDY



COVENTRY

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RBL Chairman's Apeil report,



Submitted by the Branch Secretary

Hi Pat: The meeting with the ALWMC was very interesting and certainly cleared up some misconceptions that I had. These are my notes:

1. The ALWMC represents 16 American Legion Posts although only 8 were represented. There were 2 others also present in addition to the 4 of us as guests. The meeting format and agenda were virtually identical to ours.
2. Exit date of July 1, 2013 is required due to the complete refitting and remodelling of the interior of the building in addition to the remodelling of the "rotunda" between the Memorial building and the Opera House into a memorial garden and fountain located on the soil of the foreign nations battlefields. The models and plans we observed look magnificent. The S.F. Board of Trustees has \$190 million provided by bonds to accomplish this restoration which had been expected to take 2 to 2.5 years. Recent discovery of asbestos and other environmental issues may require additional funds and push the restoration time out to 3 years.
3. The Herbst Theatre and S.F. Museum of Modern Art facilities currently located in the building are actually paying rent to the ALWMC from which they derive substantial financial benefit. They will also have to move out on 7/1/13 with the subsequent loss of funds.
4. The ALWMC have made the Board of Trustees aware that during the remodelling they expect them to provide similar facilities in a similar location for ongoing veterans affairs. The Presidio has been mentioned as a possible location, however many of the American Legion Posts are opposed to this idea because the Presidio is much more isolated. They would prefer a location on Van Ness Avenue. They are apparently prepared to sue the Board of Trustees but the legal situation is complicated and although they believe their case is valid, if they do not adhere to the required paperwork/process they are afraid the case could be thrown out. They are therefore proceeding cautiously.
5. The impression was given that they are suffering from loss of membership and support due to attrition and the the Veterans of Foreign Wars are similar shape as are other associated veterans organizations such as the DAR. If they have to move to an inconvenient location for a period of up to 3 years they are concerned about what might be left of them to move back in. As a result they very much welcome our support and the support of all veterans organizations to see them through this and to reoccupy the building for veterans affairs when the restoration is complete.
6. Although we might consider the RBL as guests of the ALWCM, it was revealed that the basic charter for the building states "American Legion and other veterans organizations" which gives the RBL some individual credibility.
7. They would like to give the RBL members a presentation which addresses the remodelling, etc.
8. This information leads to many other questions, e.g. Since there is no way that the ALWCM can utilize all that space, will they be able to rent out space after the remodelling is complete? What are the expectations of the S.F. Board of Trustees after spending \$190 million plus? What kind of shape will the ALWCM/RBL and other organizations be in more than 4 years from now when the remodelling is complete?

Best Regards, Roger.

Albert Speer was born in Mannheim, [Germany](#). He was educated in architectural studies at the Institute of Technology in Karlsruhe, and later at the Universities of Munich and Berlin. Inspired by [Hitler's](#) oratory prowess, he joined the National Socialist party in January 1931, where he developed a close friendship with Hitler. He believed Hitler and the Nazis could answer the communist threat and restore the glory of the German empire that he considered lacking under the Weimar Republic.



Speer quickly proved his worth by his efficient and creative staging of Nazi events. He designed monuments and decorations, as well as the parade grounds at Nuremberg where a party congress was held in 1934 and captured on film by Leni Riefenstahl in *Triumph of the Will*. That Nuremberg rally was the archetype of what became identifiable as a Nazi-style of public rallies as spectacles, characterized by huge crowds of uniformed marchers, striking lighting effects, and impressive flag displays directed by Speer.

In 1937, Hitler gave Speer the opportunity to fulfill his youthful architectural ambitions by appointing him Inspector General of the Reich. Hitler selected Speer, his "architect of genius," to construct the Reich Chancellery in Berlin and the Party palace in Nuremberg. Hitler also commissioned him to refurbish Berlin, a project for which Speer prepared grandiose designs that were never completed.

Speer became one of the most loyal members of the Nazi regime and was a member of Hitler's inner circle. In 1938, he was awarded the Nazi Golden Party Badge of Honor. A year later, Speer's office assumed control of the allocation of apartments belonging to Berlin Jews who were evicted. His workload grew in 1941 after Berlin's Jews were deported to the east.

When Fritz Todt was killed in an air accident in February 1942, Speer was appointed to succeed him as Minister of Armaments. He later took on the grander title of Minister of Armaments and War Production and became the principal planner of the German war economy, responsible for the construction of strategic roads and defenses, as well as military hardware.

Despite the unrelenting Allied bombing attacks designed to disrupt war production, Speer managed to increase armament production dramatically. In 1941, Germany produced 9,540 front-line machines and 4,900 heavy tanks; in 1944, output reached 35,350 machines and 17,300 tanks. This impressive growth was achieved as a result of Speer's use of prisoners of war and civilian [slave laborers](#) in the munitions factories. By September 1944, some seven and a half million foreigners worked as slave laborers and, in violation of the Hague and Geneva Conventions, Speer exploited two million prisoners of war in the production effort.

Speer's relations with Hitler deteriorated when Speer disobeyed Hitler's order to destroy Nazi industrial installations in areas close to the advancing Allies. He later claimed that he independently conspired to assassinate Hitler, though historians doubt whether he ever meant to execute this plan.

Speer was found guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity at the [Nuremberg International Military Tribunal](#) in 1946. He had been charged with employing forced laborers and concentration camp prisoners in the German armaments industry. His [testimony](#) was notable because he was the lone defendant to accept responsibility for the practices of the Nazi regime — both for his actions and for those not under his control. He was sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment in Spandau prison, after which he published his best-selling memoir, *Inside the Third Reich* (1970). He described himself in this account as a technician unconcerned with politics, but he still took responsibility for his role in aiding the Nazis, and expressed his regret at having done so. Again, he assumed responsibility for those actions beyond his immediate control, and expressed regret for his inaction during the slaughter of the Jews.

Speer died in London in 1981

THE BBC

The British Broadcasting Corporation, located in Bush House on the Strand, London, was the most respected and listened-to radio station in the world. Its reputation was built wholly on being truthful about world events. Millions of listeners throughout Nazi occupied Europe, at great peril to themselves, secretly listened to the news broadcasts every night at 7.30 and 9pm. The programs were introduced by the first measure of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, three dots and a dash, V-for- Victory. Then followed what was known as 'messages personnels' coded instructions to all resistance groups to prepare them for the Allied landings in Normandy. These messages were meaningless to the majority of listeners but to the informed few they could mean, prepare to blow up a section of railway line at such and such a point, or prepare to receive an incoming SOE agent at a certain landing strip. With the approach of D-day the most awaited message was the first two lines from the Paul Verlaine couplet. The first, sent on June 1, was an alert message "The long sobs of the violins of Autumn". The second, an action message "Soothes my heart with a monotonous languor". This summoned all resistance groups to arise immediately throughout France.

THE LAST EXECUTION IN THE TOWER OF LONDON

This historic even occurred on August 14, 1941. German spy, Josef Jakobs, was executed while seated tied to a chair, by an eight man firing squad from the Scots Guards. The white lint target patch placed over the area of his heart bore five bullet holes from the eight shots fired. Jakobs had parachuted into Britain on January 31, 1941, and broke his leg on landing. He lay all night in a field until his cries for help were heard next morning. He is buried in an unmarked grave in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery at Kensal Green, London. (The chair on which Jacobs sat during his execution is now on display in the Royal Armouries museum in Leeds)

EXTERMINATION CAMPS

The first camp in which Jews had been gassed was Chelmno in Poland. The first gassings took place in December, 1941. This was the first camp mentioned by name in the West. A train had left Holland on November 20 carrying 726 deportees, on the 24th, another train with 709 Jews departed and on November 30 a total of 826 Jews were deported. All the Dutch people knew was that the trains were heading east for Poland. The word 'Auschwitz' was unheard of in the West until April 18, 1943, when an eye-witness report reached London. However this report was never made public.

In 1942, the Allies knew of the wholesale massacres taking place in camps such as Chelmno, Treblinka, Belzec, Sobibor and Majdanek but the horror of Auschwitz was still to emerge. Conferences were arranged, telephone calls and telegrams exchanged, discussions took place and notes were passed back and forth but nothing was actually done and all this time the deportations and killings went on and on. Even in December, 1943, when the airfield at Foggia in Southern Italy was captured, thus bringing the camps within range of Allied bombers (a round trip of just under 1,300 miles) the camp at Auschwitz was still not identified as the destination of the deportee transports. On May 31, 1944, the complex at Monovitz was photographed for the second time and Auschwitz itself was photographed but the row upon row of prisoner's huts, which was holding around 52,000 prisoners, failed to register as an extermination camp in the minds of Allied intelligence services.

On April 7, 1944, two Jewish prisoners, Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler, escaped from the camp and headed for Slovakia where they reached the village of Skalite on Friday, April 21. Next morning they travelled to Zilina where they contacted the Jewish Agency. Their report, together with the report of two other escapees, Peter Mordowicz and Arnost Rosin, eventually reached London and on June 18, 1944. Brief details were heard on the radio during a broadcast from the BBC. This alerted the outside world to the reality of Auschwitz. The first photographs to reach the west were of corpses scattered around the Majdanek camp. These were taken by the Red Army on January 3, 1945. Auschwitz had still to be liberated.

SS DOMALA (March 2, 1940)

British India passenger liner of 8441 tons, launched in 1921. Bombed by the German Luftwaffe, badly damaged, set on fire and had to be beached off the Isle of Wight. This was the first naval action in the English Channel in World War II. (Some sources say that around 100 people were killed) Later, the ship was salvaged and rebuilt under her new name, Empire Attendant. It was while part of Convoy OS-33 that the ship was torpedoed in 1942 by the U-582 south of the Canary Islands. The ships captain, forty-nine crewmembers and nine gunners were lost. In the U-Boat's log she is entered under her former name, 'Domala'.

EAGLE SQUADRONS

Many American pilots served in the Royal Air Force and in order to circumvent the US Neutrality Act they assumed Canadian or South African nationality. They formed the Eagle Squadrons, approved by the British Air Ministry in September, 1940, and operated within the RAF Fighter Command. The first Eagle Squadron was No. 71 Squadron, formed with Hurricanes at RAF Station, Kirton-in-Lindsay, in Lincolnshire. The ultimate total of US pilots thus serving numbered 243 with additional squadrons Nos. 121 and 133 operating from Kirton-in-Lindsay and Coltishall respectively. On September 29, 1942, airmen of the three Eagle Squadrons of the RAF were transferred into the US 8th Air Force the first contingent of which arrived in England on May 12, 1942. Long before the USA entered the war, American volunteer pilots were already assisting the Chinese Nationalists in their war against the Japanese. Known as the 'Flying Tigers' they were led by Colonel (later General) Claire Chennault. Flying the P-40 fighter plane their insignia was the Shark's Mouth painted on the nose.

Great Dance Routine

An entertaining dance routine from the movie “The Seven Little Foys” starring Bob Hope and James Cagney. In the movie, Bob Hope plays the role of Eddie Foy and James Cagney plays the role of George M. Cohan.

<http://biggeekdad.com/2011/01/great-dance-routine/>

The Year of My Birth

(VERY Fascinating!)

**The screen is going to fade to black and follow the instructions below.
You'll Be Pleasantly Surprised At This One**

Click: [Year of your birth](#)

**Type the year only!!!
Then click the question (?) mark.
Sit back and enjoy!**

THE SCREEN MOVES BY ITS SELF.

Now take a look at this picture...



Painted by Chinese Artists, Dai Dudu, Li Tiezi and Zhang An, oil on canvas, 2006.

This painting is truly remarkable. Even more amazing though, is that the canvas has been computerized. When you click on the link below, a much bigger version of the computerized painting appears. Run your cursor over the people. The program tells you who they are - every single one of them. BUT (click on a person) and you obtain the individual's life history. This is fascinating...

It can keep you busy for hours!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Tommy Johnson - you ain't gonna believe this one! Tommy Johnson plays boogie woogie. An amazing pianist. Plays boogie-woogie piano music incredibly! The Real Boogie Man! **[Click Below](#)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHmmd1pLi8>

A Liverpool girl goes to the welfare office to register for child benefit.

"How many children?" asks the welfare officer.

"Ten" replies the Liverpool girl,

"Ten?" says the welfare worker.

"What are their names?"

"Nathan, Nathan, Nathan, Nathan, Nathan, Nathan, Nathan, Nathan, Nathan and Nathan"

"Doesn't that get confusing?"

"Naah..." says the Liverpool girl, "It's great because if they are out playing in the street I just have to shout 'Nathan yer dinner's ready!' or 'Nathan go to bed now!' and they all do it."

"What if you want to speak to one individually?" says the curious welfare worker.

"That's easy," says the Liverpool girl... "I just use their surnames"

War hero's medals sell at auction for £5,800



CHOCKS AWAY: Richard Henry Hardy is pictured second from the right with the Lancaster Bomber crew. Below, his medal collection which sold at auction.

By [John Turner](#)

Published on **Wednesday 21 March 2012 11:45**

MEDALS awarded to a war hero who retired to the Isle of Man have sold at auction for £5,800.

Squadron Leader Richard Henry Hardy, known as Andy, moved to the island to run a pub after the war.

He flew 84 missions over enemy territory in the Second World War and bailed out twice by parachute after his plane was hit.



This earned him a gold badge of membership of the so-called Caterpillar Club for people who have successfully parachuted from a disabled aircraft.

The six medals, which included the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Distinguished Flying Medal, went under the hammer at a sale with Hall's auctioneers in Shropshire.

They were sold along with log books documenting Squadron Leader Hardy's bombing missions as well as photographs, which complemented their value.

Halls' medals specialist Derek Ainsworth said: 'The log books were absolutely fascinating.

'Hardy started as a navigator and later trained to become a pilot.

'Apart from flying all the bombing missions, he was also a member of the Pathfinder Group that flew over targets first.

'It's amazing how he survived 84 missions over such heavily defended territory.

'It was one of the best groups of medals that we have ever sold at Halls because the gallantry awards are supported by log books, which gave the pilot's account of each mission flown.'

Sq Ldr Hardy, who came originally from Nottinghamshire, left the RAF on January 1, 1957 and moved to the Isle of Man where he ran a pub. He died in 1966.

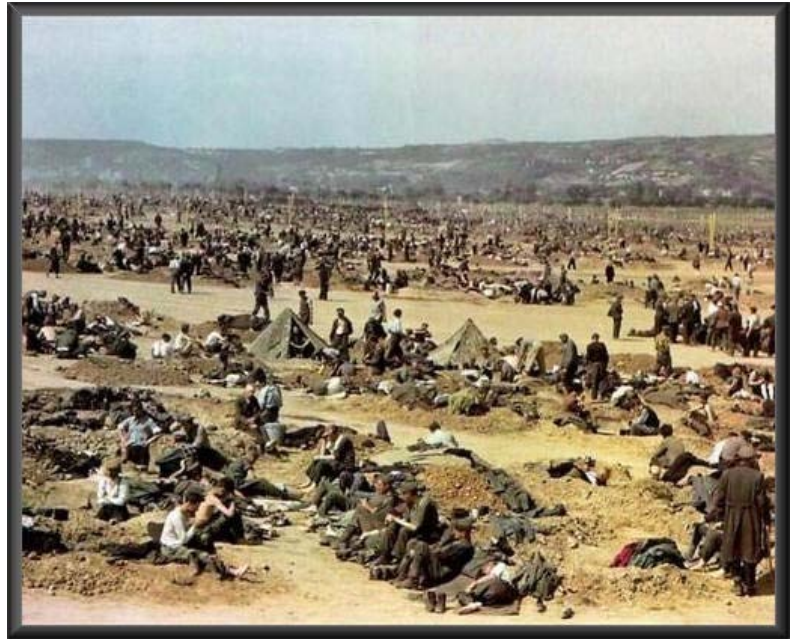
The collection was sold by his daughter, who lives in Shropshire and the successful bidder was a South Wales collector.

STARVATION AT REMAGEN

After the capture of the Remagen Bridge, the US Army hastily erected around 19 Prisoner of War cages around the bridge-head to hold an estimated one million prisoners. The camps were simply open fields surrounded by concertina wire.

Those at the Rhine Meadows were situated at Remagen, Bad Kreuznach, Andernach, Buderich, Rheinbach and Sinzig.

The German prisoners were hopeful of good treatment from the GIs but in this they were sadly disappointed. Herded into the open spaces like cattle, some were beaten and mistreated. No tents or toilets were supplied.



The camps became huge latrines, a sea of urine from one end to the other. They had to sleep in holes in the ground which they dug with their bare hands. In the Bad Kreuznach cage, 560,000 men were interned in an area that could only comfortably hold 45,000. Denied enough food and water, they were forced to eat the grass under their feet and the camps soon became a sea of mud.

After the concentration camps were discovered, their treatment became worse as the GIs vented their rage on the hapless prisoners.

In the five camps around Bretzenheim, prisoners had to survive on 600-850 calories per day. With bloated bellies and teeth falling out, they died by the thousands.

During the two and a half months (April-May, 1945) when the camps were under American control, a total of 18,100 prisoners died from malnutrition, disease and exposure. This extremely harsh treatment at the hands of the Americans resulted in the deaths of over 50,000 German prisoners-of-war in the Rhine Meadows camps alone in the months just before and after the war ended. It must however be borne in mind that with the best will in the world it proved almost impossible to care for such a huge number of prisoners under the strict terms of the Geneva Convention. The task of guarding these prisoners, numbering around 920,000, fell to the men of the US 106th Infantry Division. The Remagen cage was set up to accommodate 100,000 men but ended up with twice that number.

On the first afternoon 35,000 prisoners were counted through the gate. About 10,000 of these required urgent medical attention which in most cases was completely absent. All roads leading to the camps were clogged with hundreds of trucks bringing in even more prisoners, sent to the rear by the advancing 9th US Army. By April 15, 1945, 1.3 million prisoners were in American hands. At war's end, 1,056,482 German prisoners were held in US camps in Europe, 692,895 were classified as Prisoners of War and 365,587 classified as DEF's (Disarmed Enemy Forces) In May, 1945, the number of prisoners held in Allied camps in northern Europe numbered 5,235,700.

Tourists, cruising down the Rhine today can pick out a small memorial and plaque built on the site of the former POW cage. In the Remagen cemetery there are 1,200 graves and at Bad Kreuznach, 1,000 graves.