



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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Her Majesty The Queen
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NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2012

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Chairman's Report

May I first wish you all a very Happy, Peaceful and Fulfilling New Year. I hope we shall see you at the many events which your hard-working Committee are planning for 2012.

May I also, on behalf of the membership, thank the Committee members who agreed to stand for re-election at the AGM 2011. Sitting on your Committee is a very satisfying experience, and we are so lucky to have a team rich in experience and professionalism. I particularly wanted to thank Jack Wicker OBE, who has decided to stand down as Vice-Chairman after many years in post, since he replaced the late Christopher Miles-Thomas. Thank you Jack for your wise counsels and constant support. We are delighted that you have accepted the invitation to be our Senior Vice-President, and so we shall continue to have the benefit of your experience. Let us congratulate David Bean, who was elected as our new Vice-Chairman, while still maintaining his portfolio as Welfare Officer. Finally I wanted to record our deep debt of gratitude to David Blanchard, who once more has agreed to continue as our Acting Treasurer, after he had already officially resigned from the post of Treasurer at the AGM 2010. We continue to search for a worthy successor, and meanwhile it gives us all great comfort to have David at our side to keep us *intra vires*.

2011 was a landmark year for the Paris Branch, when we celebrated our 90th anniversary. For our highly successful celebratory Dinner-Dance we owe so much to the devoted hard work of Janet Warby and Joan Hicks. Not content to rest of their laurels, they are already preparing a Reception at the Ecole Militaire on 8th June 2012 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of our Royal Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. We invite you to put that date in your diary.

2011 was also an exceptional year for our Poppy Appeal and overleaf you will find Joyce Gilhooley's Report. We admire her devotion, and it has given all her friends great satisfaction to see her outstanding success this last year.

Attached you will find a list of the Commonwealth War Graves in the Paris area. We hope that if you are ever in the vicinity you will pass by and pay your respects to the fallen.

We honour in this Newsletter two survivors of the Second World War, our own "Barrie" Wilson, one time Branch Chairman, who died in 2010, and whose biography has been supplied by his family, whom we thank warmly. Also we honour "Freddie" Cardozo, a former S.O.E. operator, at whose funeral in 2011 we were represented by a former S.O.E. *frère d'armes*, our Branch member Bob Maloubier. His obituary from The Daily Telegraph, supplied by his son, Colonel Geoffrey Cardozo, late Military Attaché in Paris, reads like an adventure story, but as Edmund Burke suggested: "*fiction lags after truth*".

"We will remember them"

POPPY APPEAL ORGANIZER'S REPORT 2011 CAMPAIGN

As the RBL Poppy Appeal Organiser I would like personally to let you know how well the Paris Branch has done on this the 90th Anniversary Year. Also to thank all members who have helped to make this possible.

The Poppy Appeal is an integral part of the RBL's mandate and the help of members in donating either large or small amounts with their subs is truly most important and appreciated.

We have a list of locations which have proved outstandingly generous this year, and up to date this is certainly a record breaker! We are in the region of 15,000 euros! Some new supporters have contributed enormously to this success, and the schools and churches all seem to be taking it on board. I might add – so have the pubs!

The bulk of this total comes from the sale of poppies at the various locations and this year in particular we had fantastic assistance from the Embassy at the Coffee Morning. The Coffee Morning is given to the RBL to boost the funds and this year Lady Westmacott generously helped this by donating 50 percent of the proceeds from the sale of the new Embassy book. This made last year's Coffee Morning one of the best yet.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped me personally by driving me around to deliver the poppies, collecting the tins, counting the money and going with me to the Bank to deposit the cash!

I have spent hours sending out thank you notes either by e-mail or the post so if I have forgotten anyone – my sincere apologies.

Finally, I hope we can rely on your generous support for the 2012 Appeal.

Best wishes,

Joyce Gilhooley.

CHRISTMAS TOMBOLA PRIZE-WINNERS

SMALL PRIZES

WINNERS	PRIZE	TICKET NUMBER
Cockle	Crackers	1217
Leck	Umbrella	0790
Gautier-Lynham	Kitchen Scales	2201
O'Reilly	Ladies Fashionable Necklace	0436
Thourot	Fruit/Vegetable Grater	2618
Zouaghi-Maulet	Portable Calendar Clock	1225
Corrigan F.	Brittany's Biscuit	2382
Tucker	Mug	2621
Bateau-Clubb	Porcelain Tea Container	0912
Spencer-Bernard L.	Hand Bag Table Holder	3474
Yates C.	Decorated Lady's Handbag Mirror	1791
Dagbert	Book – Bombing of Monte Casino	3201
Lyon G.	Reader's Digest Book	2878
O'Reilly	Decorative Plate	0434
Robinet	Six Glasses	2542
Jones	2 Sets of Table Mats (Japanese)	3095
Daglish	Reader's Digest Book – Europe du Nord	2056
Riols Daphne	Reader's Digest Book – South America	0380
Hastings	Photo Album (Disney)	0592
Hallows	Photo Album (Disney)	2980
Stam A.	Picnic Bottle	1993
M-F Charles	Lipstick & Mirror Handbag	0382
April	DVD “Usual Suspect”	2252
Varty Rev.	CD songs from Disneyland	1915
Allbeury	CD songs from Disneyland	1192
Simonet	Chocolate Goodies in Silver Bag	3424

LARGE PRIZES

WINNERS	PRIZE	TICKET NUMBER
Stam M.	Italian Hamper	1998
Zouaghi-Maulet	P&O Boat Crossing Calais/Dover 1 Car + 9 Persons	1236
Forster M.	DFDS Crossing Dunkerque/Dover	1209
Auduc J-J	Hand painted China Bowl	2263
Coe J.	Tour of Bruges 1 day trip Cityrama	2706
Hallows	Bottle of Pink Champagne	2976
Cretel	Bottle of Offley Port	2411
Gould E.	Book: Winston & Clementine personal letters	3059
Jones	Antique Bracelet	3085
Thorn Edward	Japanese Porcelain Tea cups & Tea pot	3710
Peron M.	Mince Pies	2504
Brun-Schmitt	Bedroom Clock	0421
Leck	Wall Painting	0779
Robinet	Station Clock	2541
Mambret	Bottle of Japanese Liqueur	1725
Levalleur	Passion le Cheval Book	3436

Please contact Miss Joan Hicks – 01 30 54 33 06 to arrange for collection of your prizes before end of March 2012. We would like to thank all those who contributed to this Tombola.

Commonwealth War Graves in the Paris Area

The information in this note has been provided by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, following a request from the Paris Branch. We had enquired how many Commonwealth war graves were in the Paris area, and their location. The data on the cemeteries concerned can be summarized as follows:

Commune	Département	1914-18 Casualties*	1939-45 Casualties
Bagneux	92	Over 30	A small number
Bièvres	91	-	Over 10
Clichy Northern	92	-	Over 200
Les Gonards, Versailles	78	Over 150*	10
Levallois-Perret	92	Nearly 30*	-
Neuilly-sur-Seine Old	92	1	-
Pantin	93	Nearly 100	-
Pontoise	95	A small number	Over 10
St Germain-en-Laye New	78	A small number	Nearly 10
Villeneuve-St Georges – Old	94	Over 10*	Nearly 50
- New	94	-	Over 20
Viroflay	78	-	Over 70
TOTAL: 330 Approx. 400			

*= Commentary by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as follows:

1. **First World War** casualties fall into three categories:
 - i) The earliest are the soldiers who died of wounds in French and British hospitals in or near Paris in 1914, when the ambulance trains ran south-westward from the Aisne and the Marne;
 - ii) The soldiers present in the Aisne and the Marne in the summer of 1918;
 - iii) Men who died after the Armistice.
2. **Les Gonards, Versailles:** The great majority of casualties died in N° 4 General Hospital in 1914-15.
3. **Levallois-Perret:** The cemetery was used by the Hertford British Hospital. 4 of these graves were brought from the permanent American Cemetery at Suresnes.
4. **Villeneuve-St Georges Old:** The majority died in 1914, when the railway station was on the British lines of communication and a British ambulance station was posted there.

Obituary: Brigadier Barrington Wilson, CBE, DSO

Brigadier Barrington Wilson - affectionately known as "Barrie" - died in 2010. He was for many years a member of the Paris Branch and Chairman from 1968 to 1976.

Barrie was born in in Pakistan (then British India), where his father, a Colonel in the Royal Artillery, was serving at the time. He was educated at Wellington College and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich and commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1932.

Barrie had a very distinguished military career serving in India, Egypt, and the U.K. pre-war. He saw active war service in 1944-45 as Brigade Major RA in 11th Armoured Division and in command of the Field Artillery Regiment in the Guards Division taking part in the Normandy invasion. He fought in the battles around Caen, Vire, and Falaise before crossing the Seine at Vernon. Then, still with the same division, he took part in the liberation of Brussels in September 1944. He was engaged in the battle of Arnhem, crossing the Rhine at Rees and ended the war at Kiel/Cuxhaven in Germany.

For his war service he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, Chevalier de l'Ordre de Leopold II, Belgium, and Chevalier de la Croix de Guerre, Belgium. After the war he held many successive appointments: Instructor, Staff College Camberley, then Chief of Defence Staff, British Joint Services Mission in Washington, before attending the Ecole Supérieure de Guerre, Paris. He was second in command Royal Horse Artillery Regiment in Germany: Commander, Anti-Aircraft Regiment in Malta; Instructor, NATO Defence College in Paris; then back to the War Office as Head of Military Operations Branch (NATO Section) in London. He will still be remembered by some as the Military Attaché at the British Embassy in Paris as Brigadier from 1961 to 1964, after which he was Chief of Public Information, SHAPE until retirement in 1967. He remained in France and was instrumental in setting up "riding for the disabled" in France as a member of the Comité d'étude et d'action of the Fédération Nationale Handi-Cheval.

He was always interested in international relations and for his great services to Franco-British relations he was made Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in 1972, a Commander of the British Empire in 1977, and promoted Officier de la Légion d'Honneur in 1988 – the latter being presented to him by Président François Mitterand.

Barrie was a gifted horse-rider, playing polo against HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and Lord Louis Mountbatten in Malta, show-jumping and steeple-chasing with talent, but was also keen on fencing, rugby, swimming and travel, amateur dramatics, painting, photography. To all those privileged to know him Barrie was always helpful, enthusiastic and a fine gentleman.

He married Aileen Mary Hornung in 1941. He died aged 98, three months after his beloved wife, and is survived by his two daughters Tania and Zandra, four grandchildren and five great-grand-children to whom we extend our sincere condolences

Obituary: FREDERICK CARDOZO - 1916-2011



Frederick Cardozo, who died on 7th October in the Loire Valley aged 94, played a key role in the organisation and operations of the French Resistance in the Massif Central immediately before and after D-Day.

An officer with Special Operations Executive, Cardozo was parachuted on to the snow-clad Mont Mouchet, some 50 miles south of Clermont-Ferrand, on the night of 8-9 May 1944, together with two Frenchmen and an

American. His brief was to report to London on the strength and location of the Resistance in the area, to make recommendations about the types of arms required, and to integrate maquis activity with the forthcoming Allied invasion in Normandy.

Cardozo's first challenge was to overcome the suspicions of Emile Coulaudon, better known by his code-name, Colonel Gaspard, who was the socialist leader of some 2,000 maquis in the area, many of them Communists wary of SOE's connection with de Gaulle's Free French. Gaspard's doubts were however dissipated after Cardozo arranged for 28 plane-loads of arms and ammunition to be parachuted in between May 26 and June 9.

Freddy Cardozo's natural affability and bonhomie, allied to his perfect French, meant that he himself was invariably warmly welcomed by the Resistance. He found it harder, however, to appease the rivalries and jealousies of the maquis chiefs, who were often reluctant to unite in the common cause.

With the Allied invasion of France clearly imminent, volunteers flooded into the Resistance, so that by the end of May Gaspard commanded some 4,000 well-trained and well-armed men. The problem was that an equal number of potential maquis in the region was neither trained nor armed. It was hard enough simply to vet and feed the new arrivals, and to find them blankets. But Cardozo failed to convince Gaspard that there was no point in taking on new volunteers while equipment for them was lacking.

He soon distinguished himself in action. When the Germans attacked Mont Mouchet on June 2, he took part in a well-executed movement in their rear, which inflicted some 40 casualties on the enemy, and forced them into a hasty retreat.

The Resistance leader in Clermont-Ferrand warned that another, more formidable German onslaught was forthcoming. Anticipating his own arrest, he asked Cardozo to assure the appointment of his successor – an extraordinary testimony to the esteem in which the British officer was held.

When the Germans again attacked Mont Mouchet on June 10, Cardozo's skilful use of Browning machine-guns took a heavy toll. Next morning, though, there was no alternative to retreat, and thanks to the rearguard making the Germans fight for every yard, the main column reached safety some 17 miles to the west of Truyère. Frustrated, the Germans began murdering and terrorising civilians. In the village of Ruynes-en-Margeride alone, 27 men were shot.

In mid-June Cardozo ensured the drop of a further 25 plane-loads of arms and ammunition. Subsequently he led a successful ambush in which 10 German soldiers, together with two officers, were captured. The maquis wanted to kill them, but Cardozo's more merciful counsels prevailed.

Travelling by car on minor roads, Cardozo found his way as far west as Argentat in La Corrèze to co-ordinate resistance groups, and to arrange for arms drops in that area.

On his return to Truyère on June 20 he found the village being shelled by a heavy German force. Again, it was necessary to beat a retreat; this time, though, some 100 maquis were killed in the process. The Germans also murdered 60 wounded men on stretchers. Cardozo

and his wireless operator hid in the woods near St. Martial, and on June 21 watched helpless as the Germans set that village ablaze. Subsequently they managed to escape north-west through enemy lines to Cezens.

Still bent upon uniting the various elements of the Resistance, Cardozo had another narrow escape when he turned up for a meeting with two leaders who, unknown to him, had been arrested. Fortunately he sensed that something was wrong with the rendez-vous, and managed to get away.

Finally, on July 13 at a meeting at the Barrage de l'Aigle on the Dordogne west of Mauriac, in La Corrèze, Cardozo achieved his purpose when it was agreed to amalgamate the disparate maquis forces under the titular leadership of Gaspard and the effective command of Colonel Fayard. On the morrow, Bastille Day, 36 Fortresses parachuted in some 430 containers of equipment.

Thereafter the Germans were under increasing pressure in the area. In August, when they retreated east from Aurillac, Cardozo led a group of maquis to harry them, to such effect that it took them four days to accomplish a march normally completed in three hours. Meanwhile the German garrison guarding the dam nearby at Mur de Barres was surrounded by the maquis. Cardozo reinforced the cordon, and insisted on negotiations which were responsible for the dam being taken over intact.

In September Cardozo moved north to join Colonel Fayard, who succeeded in cutting off a force of 5,000 Germans south of Nevers, virtually ending the German occupation of central France. His mission more than accomplished, Cardozo returned to London. He was awarded the MC in 1945, and in France the Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur and the Croix de Guerre avec Palme.

Sixty years later Cardozo was still revered for the courage and *sang froid britannique* he had shown in France, as well as for his humour and humility. To the end of his life he was invited every year to address the village fete La Forestie in Chalignac, where he had been based while seeking to unite the Resistance in July 1944.

Frederick Henry Cardozo was born on December 1 1916 at Newhaven in Sussex, where his father was commanding a garrison after being wounded the previous year at the battle of Loos.

The Cardozos, of Portuguese descent, established themselves in the London tobacco trade at the end of the 17th century. From the end of the 18th century, however, Frederick's ancestors, including his father, were East India Company merchants in Madras.

Frederick's mother was the daughter of Henry Daniell, who ran the family china and antiques business from Wigmore Street, and helped to organise both the Wallace Collection in Manchester Square and the Pierpont Morgan Collection at Prince's Gate.

Frederick Cardozo's early years were spent in Devon, where his father had bought a farm, but when, in 1922, the government stopped subsidies for farming, the family moved to St. Remo, and then, after a spell in Geneva, to the Loire valley in France. Frederick went to Jesuit schools in Geneva and Tours, and then to Prior Park in Bath, where he excelled at games. The hockey team actually won the European Schools Hockey Tournament in Koblenz, where they refused to give the Nazi salute. The Führer, unamused, left before the prize-giving ceremony.

Cardozo began his career as a bank trainee, but soon opted for a military career. He passed through the Supplementary Reserve Officers Scheme at Sandhurst, before being commissioned into the South Lancashire Regiment. His youthful bonhomie made him immensely popular with his men, who christened him "The Kid" on account of his short and wiry stature.

Shortly after the beginning of the Second World War, the regiment was sent to France, only to be forced back from Brussels to Dunkirk by the German Blitzkrieg of May 1940. Cardozo was

wounded in the bottom by some shrapnel, which his orderly extracted with a pen-knife.

After a protracted and uneventful period of home defence, Cardozo's battalion moved to Scotland to train for D-Day. There, in a lull between bawdy songs after a gruelling exercise, he heard a voice intoning similarly crude ditties in French. Cardozo took up the refrain, and, the duet over, went to introduce himself. His fellow-singer turned out to be Henry Thackthwaite, who worked with the Free French in SOE. In no time Cardozo found himself recruited.

After his return from France in the autumn of 1944, Cardozo was sent to the Udine area of north-eastern Italy, where he helped to stabilise the region and demobilise the Italian maquis. He was also involved with the repatriation of German prisoners through Vienna.

Later Cardozo attended Staff College at Quetta, in India, and was posted to intelligence appointments in Karachi and Haifa with the Airborne Division, before rejoining his regiment at Trieste. After a spell as British instructor at the Ecole de Guerre in Paris, he returned to England in 1955 to command a wing at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

During the Suez Crisis, in 1956, Cardozo was sent out to Cyprus to the headquarters of Brigadier "Tubby" Butler's 16th Independent Parachute Brigade, with orders to ensure close liaison between the Parachute Regiment and their French equivalents, battle-hardened veterans of Indochina. When operations began, Cardozo was a member of the force dropped into Egypt to secure key positions before the surface troops arrived. He saw some brisk fighting as the Egyptians attempted to regain a captured water-works.

When the French were told that Anthony Eden, rattled alike by American pressure and opposition at home, had ordered the British to pull out, they were aghast. Not until a full British colonel was dispatched with formal written orders that the French too should halt did they accept the position.

General Hugh Stockwell, in command of British surface forces, contrived to interpret the "cease-fire at midnight" order to his advantage by recalling that midnight in London was 2 a.m. in his war zone. He ordered Butler "to get as far down the canal as possible." Butler, accompanied by Cardozo, duly led 2nd Parachute Battalion at speed down the 300-yard tarmac causeway between the Canal and Lake Manzala. By the time they halted, at 2.20 a.m. On November 7, they were only 23 miles from Port Said.

Shortly after the Suez fiasco Cardozo left the Army, and for the next ten years worked from France as press attaché for the Americans.

After General de Gaulle took France out of Nato, and the organisation's headquarters were transferred from Paris to Brussels at the end of 1966, Cardozo moved to London, where he joined the Latin Mass Society as secretary to its president, the broadcaster Harmon Grisewood, his first cousin. He soon left, however, when he discovered that many members were more Catholic than the Pope.

Later, he worked for the Save the Children Fund in Morocco, and for De Beers in Sierra Leone before retiring to Bath, and finally, after a short time in London, to his beloved Loire valley in France. He remained an excellent tennis player, and continued to play the violin to the end of his days.

Frederick Cardozo married, in 1949, Simone Bigot, whom he had known in the Loire valley as a child; they had a son, a British Army officer, and a daughter.