



Est. 1941

BLP NEWS

80 Years of the Brookwood Last Post

In July we held the postponed 80th Anniversary of the BLP Ceremony. The Last Post was first sounded in the cemetery in January 1941 when Ypres was occupied and the sounding of the Last Post under the Menin Gate ceased.

The Mayor of Woking, Cllr Liam Lyons, the Belgian Defence Attaché Capt. Renaud Flamant, Angelo Munso of the American Battle Monuments Commission and Jonathan Lord MP were special guests.

Gordon's School Pipes and Drums paraded and the Pipe Major played the Piper's Lament during the ceremony.

We remembered eight individuals, six from the founding nations of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom. We also remembered a Belgian SOE operative and as the ceremony was held on the 4th July, an American as there are American soldiers commemorated on the Menin Gate.



There were Standards on parade from the Woking Royal Naval Association, the Artists Rifles and Woking District Scouts had several Standards in attendance. Alan Lopez paraded the BLP Standard and Tom Milne the Union Flag. Mrs Ruth Moore sounded the Last Post.

Wreaths were laid by the Mayor, Angelo Munso and Capt. Renaud Flamant.



<https://brookwoodlastpost.org>



Forthcoming Ceremonies

November Last Post 7 November
- Woking District Scouts
- 1st Claygate Scout and Guides Band

December Last Post..... 5 December

January Last Post..... 2 January

February Last Post..... 6 February

March Last Post 6 March

April Last Post..... 3 April

If your group would like to attend, please get in touch.

Individual Remembrances

Over the previous six months, the following individuals were remembered during the Individual Remembrance section of the ceremony:

- Sergeant Don Alphonso Humberston
- Captain Lionel Lee MC
- Gunner Kenneth Alfred Aylett
- Ensign Vera Leigh
- Corporal James Hendry
- Sepoy Jan Muhammad
- Wing Commander Basil Howard DFC
- Flight Sergeant William Radcliffe Lewis RNZAF
- Private Thomas Knowles
- Private First Class Clifton M Jordan
- Sergeant Rene Michaux
- Private William Dean
- Private George Almond
- Private Douglas Aubrey Elston
- Lance Corporal Frederick Good
- Private Percy Smithson
- Private William Mark
- Volunteer Fortunato Picchi

More detailed write ups may be read on the corresponding ceremony page of our website.

BLP Membership

Please seek out a member of the Association at a ceremony or use the form on our website if you would like to join. Thank you.

<https://brookwoodlastpost.org/membership>

Previous Ceremonies

We remembered Special Operations Executive Volunteer Fortunato Picchi in April. The first SOE agent to parachute into enemy territory – and first to be executed on 6th April 1941.

In May, the Mayor of Woking, Cllr Beryl Hunwicks joined us in one of her final engagements of her mayoralty year. Cllr Hunwicks attended three ceremonies during her two years as Mayor. The picture to the right is of Cllr Hunwicks reciting the Exhortation having said the Kohima Epitaph at a previous ceremony.

In June we were honoured to welcome the Surrey Chapter UK and the Household Division Veteran Riders Club.



Our Senior Standard Bearer Tom Milne attended for the first time this year in June and carried the Union Flag.

The BLP Union Flag was dedicated in 1968 and it is a beautiful flag to behold.



Our August ceremony was attended for the first time by the Standard Bearer from the Royal British Legion, Bisley, Knaphill & West End branch, Norman Holden.

BLP Member Brian Davis recited the Kohima Epitaph.

We remembered Gunner Kenneth Alfred Aylett, listed on the Brookwood Memorial to the Missing 1939-45'. Paul McCue read the appropriately titled poem called Searchlight.



In September, we had members of the Israeli Embassy and AJEX, The Jewish Military Association UK attend to pay their respects to Jewish people killed in the Second World War.

Mike Bluestone, National Chairman of AJEX recited the Kaddish.



We had family members attend of Sergeant Don Alphonso Humberston, killed in September 1914. A highly emotionally charged ceremony with some family members travelling from Leicester for the afternoon.

