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BLP News

Last Post Association's Jacky Platteeuw

In March, the Last Post Association announced the passing of Jacky Platteeuw, Director of the Last Post Association. Jacky joined the Association in 1998.

He was a strong defender of the mission of the Last Post Association to continue to honour and to remember the fallen soldiers of the Commonwealth.

For many years, he was present almost every evening at the Menin Gate and he took charge of the ceremony. He was a well known person by the many pilgrims who attended the Last Post on a regular basis.

Benoit Mottrie, Chairman Last Post Association said 'He was a fantastic colleague and above all a great person. We're very grateful for what he has done and for what he has meant for the Association. We will miss him very much.'

He was well known to BLP Members and played a pivotal role in the BLP's attendance at the 75th Anniversary Liberation ceremony on 6 September 2019.

Credit Last Post Association: <https://lastpost.be>



Forthcoming Ceremonies

May Last Post	2 May
June Last Post.....	6 June
July Last Post.....	4 July
- 80th Anniversary Ceremony	
August Last Post.....	1 August
September Last Post	5 September
October Last Post.....	3 October
- Intelligence Corps	

80th Anniversary Ceremony

The Brookwood Last Post Association first started holding ceremonies at Brookwood in January 1941 as a substitute during the Nazi occupation of Ypres, Belgium.

Due to the Covid virus restrictions in the UK, the ceremony commemorating 80 years of the Brookwood Last Post was postponed from January and will now happen in July, when the UK is expected to be free of social restrictions.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

BLP Membership

The Brookwood Last Post Association exists to remember people killed in conflicts from around the world, specifically, but not only, members of the Commonwealth.

To help us achieve that aim, we rely on fundraising and individual memberships. Membership costs £10 per calendar year and helps with the administration costs including public liability insurance and web site fees.

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

<https://brookwoodlastpost.org/membership>

Individual Remembrances

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

- Private Francis Madden
- Mr James John Cooper Wyatt
- Donkeyman Saturnino Lopez
- Captain Clement Marc Jumeau
- Captain John MaCalister
- Lieutenant Michael Cartwright
- Major Philip Frank Chamier
- Signaller Talbot O'Neill
- Captain Victor Maclean
- Lance Corporal James Hill
- Lieutenant Colonel Toby Gray

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

Previous Ceremonies

Members of the Surrey Chapter UK on their annual Memorial Day ride out attended the October last Post. The weather was not great, but it was still good to see many motorcycles parked up.

October saw our first Individual Remembrance from conflicts this century, when we remembered Lance Corporal James Hill who was killed in Afghanistan on 8 October 2009. L/Cpl Hill's mother attended and said a few words about her son. It was an emotional and moving experience.



Our December ceremony was held just prior to the UK entering another lockdown period and we were joined by the Intelligence Corps as they were commemorating 80 years since their incorporation.

Members of the Corps laid a wreath and Colonel (retired) Nick Fox described the work of the Intelligence Corps.

The ceremony's poem for the day, untitled, was scratched on the wall of her prison cell in Budapest by Hannah Szenes, shortly before she was executed:

*'One – two – three... eight feet long
Two strides across, the rest is dark...
Life is a fleeting question mark
One – two – three... maybe another week.
Or the next month may still find me here,*



But death, I feel is very near.

I could have been 23 next July

I gambled on what mattered most, the dice were cast. I lost.'



Due to the Covid virus restrictions in the UK after Christmas, the January, February and March ceremonies were not announced and restricted to members of the BLP. There were no groups represented and the ceremonies were extremely short, with an Individual Remembrance and the sounding of The Last Post which was a recording from under the Menin Gate.

<https://brookwoodlastpost.org>