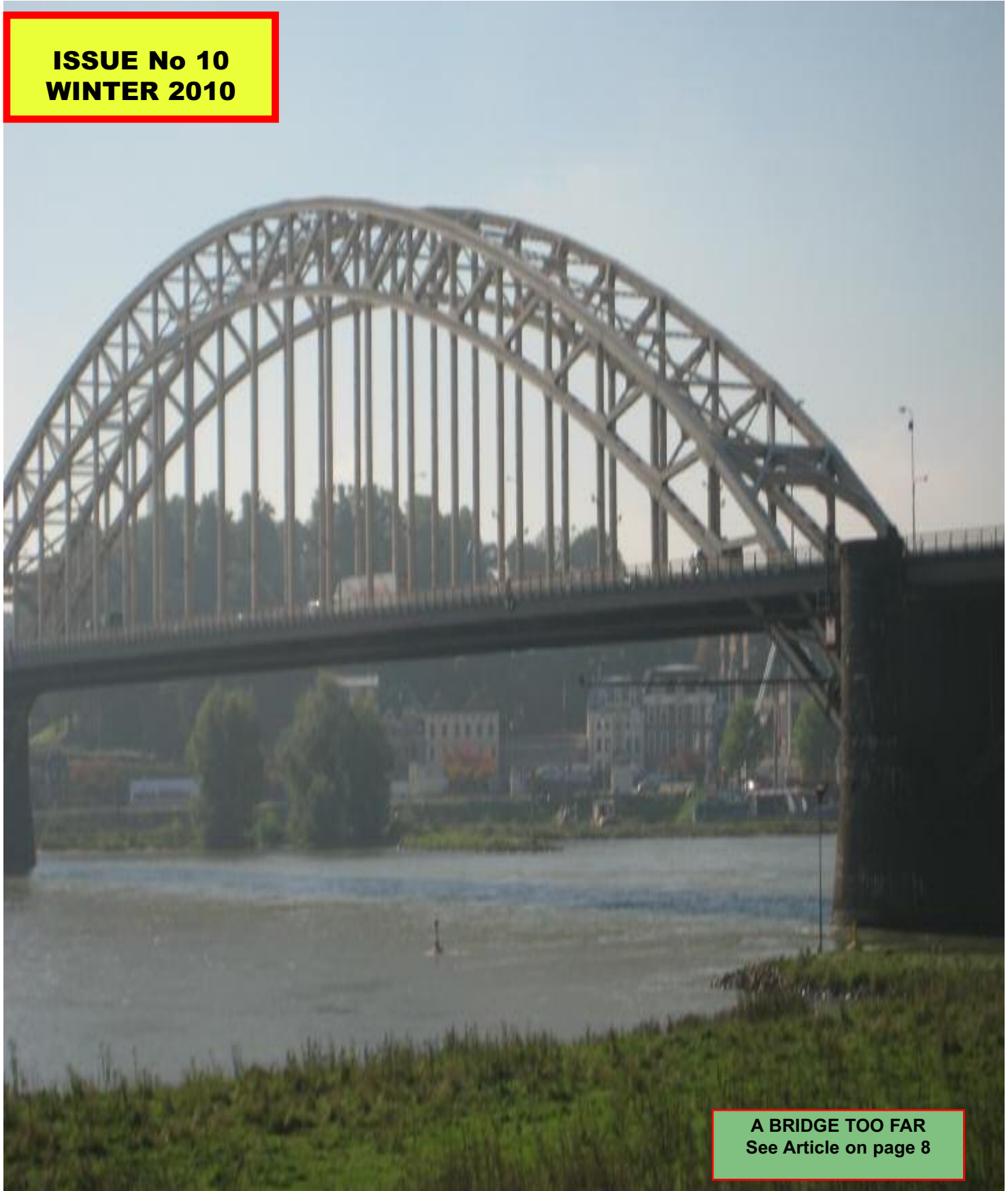




THE ROUNDTHEADS

NEWS LETTER OF THE LFB RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENT RON DOBSON QFSM WWW.LFBRMA.ORG

**ISSUE No 10
WINTER 2010**



**A BRIDGE TOO FAR
See Article on page 8**

THE CHAIRMANS MESSAGE

I was very proud to be elected as your Chairman at the Annual General Meeting last May and will try hard to maintain the standards set by your previous Chairman, Gerry Clarkson. Looking out of the window as I write this article the leaves are falling and the nights are drawing in. It will not be long before British Summer Time ends and winter is upon us. The party political conference season is also nearly finished with budget cuts high on the agenda. Many of our members will be receiving the winter fuel allowance and the free bus pass and we can only hope that these are not axed in the Chancellor's next budget. We will know the outcome one way or another by the time you read this article. The annual Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust service at St Bartholomew's Church and the laying of wreaths at the Firefighters Memorial near St Paul's Cathedral was very well attended this year. Next year (2011) the service will be held on the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York. The service will be held in St Paul's Cathedral which now looks fabulous after its recent very extensive cleaning. The General Secretary is hoping to arrange a special guided tour of St Paul's in the summer. This will be extremely interesting visit and I would recommend trying to get tickets for this event. This will be followed by lunch in a nearby restaurant. More details will be available nearer the time. You may have heard on the radio or read in the press that some Chief Fire Officers have expressed a wish for the Fire Service to take responsibility for the Emergency Ambulance Service. They feel that this would improve the service to casualties and accident victims by improving the speed of response and making the system more efficient. I have personal experience of a similar system in France which has been successfully operating for some years. It will be interesting to see how this issue progresses. I enjoyed seeing many of you at the annual Dinner and Dance at the Charing Cross Hotel at the end of October. This is always a very enjoyable evening and well worth attending. Once again I would like to recognise the enthusiasm and hard work of the General Secretary, the Committee Members and the Branch Secretaries. They are the mainstay of our Association and deserve our thanks and appreciation. I hope that the approaching winter months are much milder than last year and wish all of you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Martin Coffey OBE



UPDATE ON THE OLD BARBICAN FIRE STATION.

Work on demolishing the ground floor and basement of the old Milton Court site has started, and will be followed by construction in the spring. We will bring you more photos as we get them.



FIRE BRIGADE MODELS

There are 3 types of 1960's, 1970's style firemen; they are 9 inches tall, made of cold cast bronze. £69.00 One is in 1960's style uniform hand painted, with black leggings and helmet. £79.00 One is in 1970's style uniform hand painted, with yellow leggings and helmet. £79.00 These prices include vat and posting, there is also a 32 paged catalogue at £6.00 which has the full range of fire figure's and fire engine model's

PAUL SLADE, FIRE BRIGADE MODELS
15 GRENNELL CLOSE, SUTTON, SURREY, SM1 3LU
0208 644 8730 or Check out my web site
www.firebrigademodels.net



THE ROUNDTHEADS

The Dudgeons Wharf Incident

I read with interest the article about the Dudgeons Wharf Incident. When I was Sub.O. F24 Burdett Road Blue Watch, two weeks earlier we were called to a reported fire at this storage tank. This tank had contained Miocene, a turpentine substitute. On July 17th 1969 it was a hot humid day with mist over the River Thames and work was progressing in the demolition of Tanks when a fire was reported from the tank in question. Attendance has been already noted, the fire was dealt with and then the two Stns Officers and those now deceased, went onto the top of the tank. As the two Stn. Officers came down the spiral staircase the tank gave a strong judder and Blew. To my knowledge, if there had been any holes on the top of the tank, gases within would have vented. The supposed cause of this tragedy could have been the crustation that had been formed on the inside of the tank, fell away due to movement leaving glowing hotspots (Bulls Eyes) which combined with vapours within to cause an explosion. Three of the Firemen who died were good oppos of mine Terry Breen, John Appleby and Alfie Smee. I knew Mick Gamble well. Carvosso was from the old C Div. I meet Kathleen Breen widow of Terry at the Firemens Corner at the Highgate Memorial Services and have met some of John Appleby's Family from time to time. They Will Not Be Forgotten

Norman Paulding (NAP) LFBRMA

MEMORIES OF TIME PAST

In the early 1960.s I was stationed at New Cross Fire Station. It stands on the Queens road in south east London and though it was perhaps not the busiest fire ground in the old LFB, it certainly had its moments during WW11. I recall talking to an elderly member of the public one day as I stood outside the watchroom. He recalled the war years and mentioned the terrible loss of life when a large store in New cross road was bombed on a certain day in 1944 At about 1230 on the afternoon of 25th November 1944, the Brigade which was then manned by both full time and AFS crews received multiple calls by landline to Woolworth's store, not two minutes from the station itself. An enormous explosion resulting in a great loss of life had the crews leaping into their fire gear before the bells went down, because the impact of the German V11 rocket which had struck the building in New Cross road at about 1226 was of such enormity that it had shaken the ground for miles around and raised a plume of dust and smoke many hundreds of feet into the air. Firemen, now known as fire fighters, occasionally share humour with tragedy, and it is in that context that I speculate what the riders on the Appliances must have thought as they pulled urgently out onto the forecourt. I wonder what their reaction had been when a seemingly crazed grey horse that was at full gallop, eyes bulging, ears back and tail flowing thundered past the station in the direction of Peckham. The Grey horse was in harness and pulling a slithering covered cart which was careering from one side of the road to the other and threatening to overturn as time and again it traversed the tram lines.

A small ashen faced woman in her mid 40's sat high on the wooden seat. She had applied the brake and was desperately heaving at the reins whilst screaming at the horse to stop. I have discovered that the little lady was my friends mother Mrs Ada Peacock. She had been allotted a shorter retail bread round that morning, and instead of going right through New cross Gate and thus past the fated Woolworths store, she had taken a shorter route from Brockley Cross, a route that took her down Jerningham road which terminates on the other side of New cross gate railway station. The hand of destiny had certainly dealt her a fortunate card when she trotted 'her grey horse 'Item' down the quiet road in the direction of New Cross. Her covered cart which was painted red and yellow with the initials RACS along each side was a familiar sight in those days for on a daily basis Ada delivered fresh bread to bakers shops in the Brockley Cross and New Cross area. Had Ada not made a diversion that morning by coming from Brockley Cross via Jerningham road to New Cross road, she would have been involved in the carnage and she and Item would probably have been killed. The catastrophic explosion was probably many times greater than old warhorses had ever before encountered on any field of battle so it was hardly surprising that old 'Item' Reacted the way he did. Ada wrestled with the reins and no doubt it was in her mind that she would probably come to a very sticky end, but no doubt she had no alternative other than to hang on for dear life and pray. Amazingly Item finally came to a snorting and steaming stop in Peckham, two miles from where he had initially bolted. It had been the slope of the railway bridge that straddles New Cross railway station that had afforded a certain amount of protection for Ada, and a downhill gradient from which 'Item' could accelerate in the direction of Queens road. I wonder if there are any very elderly retired Firemen who had served at New Cross in those days can recall that day.

Tony Lynham

THE CHAIN LOCKER

To all those old diving dogs of the LFBSAC that used this fine establishment in Falmouth, whilst diving from the Chalice and the Harry Slater..... remember those dive trips in the late 1970 & 1980.

Hope that your all keeping fit and well. "Cheers"

John H. Heagney



THE ROUNDTHEADS

DEAR EDITOR

Thanks for info on "Dickie Day". It brought back lots of memories. Dickie was a lovely man and quite old when I joined the job at Manchester Square, (See attached pic, Dickie third from left - bottom row) so he must have been nearly 100. He was the mess manager and was the only man I knew who could slide down the Two storey pole carrying a tray with 8-10 cups of tea and not a drop spilled.
Ray Stanborough.

Please find above the reply from my father, after emailing him a copy of the article regarding Dickie Day. My reason for writing is I wonder if it would be at all possible to inform David Day (son) that I can run him a copy of this photo of his father should he not already have it.

Many thanks

Warren Stanborough

Kingston B/W WAR-

REN.STANBOROUGH@london-fire.gov.uk



Dear Editor

Reading the article about the Dudgeons Wharf as brought back my memories of that tragic time in the Brigade. I was stationed at C25 Cannon Street on the Red Watch and if my memory serves me right Paul Carvosso was on the Blue. I do not if you know the reason, why Paul happened to be at Millwall that day but it turned out that a standby duty was asked of the Blue Watch to go to Millwall and although it was not Paul's turn he volunteered to do it because he lived that way. I do believe my facts are right, but if not I do apologise. I also believe that fate does have a part in our lives and in this case a tragic one. **Ron Field.**

Caring Hands - A Break at Littlehampton

For some, as the years go by, the body changes with illness, the feel good factor goes, and is replaced with pain weakness and a troubled mind. We have to go through our day with our cancer, disability with our arms and legs and some brain damage. You see your wife and family suffer in giving you care and it takes some of their life away. You want to turn away from doctors, hospitals and operations, and take your carer with you on a break, to have laughter, to relax with no stress and to eat good food in good company. With the help of the Fire Fighters Charity we found a place that does not allow stress in its building, only laughter and kindness and true care for everyone, during our stay there was always good food served with a smile. The name of this superb centre is Marine Court Littlehampton, East Sussex, run by the Firefighters Charity, the money raised for our Charity is doing a great job at the centers at Penrith, Harcombe House and Littlehampton.

With many thanks for an enjoyable stay from both me and my wife.

Ernie Havis

Again this year, in November Dave Roberts and I will be going down to the Fire Services National Benevolent Funds Rest and Recuperation and Therapy Centre at Harcombe House, Devon. The idea is to go down for a 4 day period and help the Head Grounds man Jeff Ryall and his Staff with any jobs that need doing in the Centre and also the surrounding grounds and forest that the Fund owns. This can be anything from painting, decorating gardening and, as we did last year a bit of forestry work. Over that week we must have moved several tons of timber from the forest, for sale to local firms. They supply you with Board and Lodgings. Breakfast Lunch and Dinner are superb. Boarding is in the Work party block, very clean, warm with Bunk beds. After work stops in the afternoon, you can go down to the indoor pool, use the sauna. After dinner you can go over to the Bar where you will meet up with people on Therapy. I could go on for hours about getting involved, but the best way to find out is at first hand. So all you painters, decorators and builders give it a go it is very satisfying. If theres up to 4 of you who fancy doing a bit, Call Jenny Braund at Harcombe on 01626 859009.

Andy Poole. R.M.A Ben Fund Rep.



THE ROUNDTHEADS

At Westway Community Transport we run a Community Car Scheme which provides lifts for Kensington & Chelsea residents who find it difficult or impossible to use public transport. The scheme is supported by volunteer drivers who either drive their own cars or our cars here at Westway CT. This voluntary work is flexible and a fair number of our volunteers are semi-retired or retired so some of your members maybe interested. We are continuously recruiting new drivers to support this scheme. If you would like to know a bit more about our organisation then please visit our website www.westwayct.org.uk or please give me a call on 020 8968 2040. I look forward to hearing from you.

Lori Bedborough Co-ordinator

Out & About Scooter Loan Scheme & Volunteers

Scooter Loan Scheme Ph: 020 8960 8774

Volunteer line Ph: 020 8968 2040

Fax: 020 8969 5733 e-mail: lori@westwayct.org.uk



London Fire Brigade Retired Members Association AGM & REUNION WEDNESDAY 18TH MAY 2011



THE 2011 AGM WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SIR FREDERICK DELVE SUITE COMMENCING AT 3PM AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE REUNION, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE JERWOOD SPACE UNION STREET SOUTHWARK FROM 5:30PM. A CASH BAR AND HOT FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE REUNION. TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM YOUR BRANCH SECRETARY FROM MARCH AT A COST OF £10. DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION FROM THE LFB AND THE JERWOOD SPACE



On August 11th a party of 69, consisting of members, partners and guests took to the Thames to enjoy a 3 course lunch and cruise lasting 1 1/2 hours. A good time was had by all who attended and it is hoped that we shall be undertaking a similar trip next year on the 10th August. If you would like to attend please contact the Secretary for details in February when the booking will be made. Barry Sargent Secretary



THE ROUNDTHEADS

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL 7TH SEPTEMBER 2010

On the day six members of the LFBMA Paul and Ernie Havis, Richard Holsgrove, Mary Wilby, Emily Carter and Olive Whitcombe had the honour of attending the service. The congregation was made up of mostly RAF personnel and the guest of honour was the Duke of Kent. After receiving our tickets I received a telephone call inviting me to read a passage from the former Dean's book at the service 'Memories and Meanings'. After the service we saw the march past of the RAF and Veterans, the LFB Standard paraded by Norman Paulding was the only Fire Service Standard on Parade. Following the march past we saw a fly past by a Dakota, Lancaster Bomber and a Spitfire. We then made our way to a reception at the Guildhall where we met up with other members of our group, in the Cathedral they were seated in the nave and because I did the reading Olive and myself were on the cross benches near the lectern. At the Guildhall we were treated to drinks and lunch, eaten with much difficulty, balancing a plate with knife and fork and few seats to sit on. Outside the Guildhall there was a group with war time appliances, uniforms and a collection of gear used at that time. While at the Guildhall Olive and myself received an invitation from an RAF Officer to attend the 'Rare Tea Companies' launch of RAF tea, which was made to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Battle Of Britain, at the Aldwych underground station in the Strand the following day. The station is now closed and the old booking hall was used. We enjoyed a very pleasant evening with members of the RAF and met an 91 year old pilot and exchanged war time stories while eating a tea consisting of war time food including corned beef sandwiches. Following tea we were invited to attend a reception hosted by Air Chief Marshall Sir. Stephen Dalton at the Memorial Courtyard, Ministry Of Defence on the 15th September. There we were introduced to many guests including several Members of Parliament and some of the women who had flown fighter planes from factories to air fields during the war. In all you can see that we had a very memorable week which would not have been possible had it not been for our Secretary Barry Sargent who nominated us to attend St. Paul's following a contact from the RAF. If you are wondering what my connection is with Fire Service, I joined the AFS at Westminster Fire Station in August 1939 and on Friday 1st September we were called up and posted to Sub Stations, and on the 3rd September we became full time members of the AFS, which later became the NFS. During the Blitz I was stationed at 34 A Division Control in Little Deans Yard Westminster. I then went on to No 5 Regional HQ Control Lambeth until 1948 when the local Authorities took over the Fire Service and I was taken into Control by London Fire Brigade. I then transferred to Surrey Control until 1965 when the GLC came into being and I returned to Lambeth Control from where I retired in March 1980 completing my service in the Operations Room.

Emily Carter BEM



It was a privilege to take part in the Salute to the Battle of Britain Pilots and Veterans, some of whom were from other lands, they laid their lives on the line, saw their comrades die in total destruction, and when the call came they went out again and again, courage of the highest order. Their brave actions prevented the invasion of this country. The Service in St. Paul's Cathedral was very grand and moving, it gives me great pleasure, just being in that great Cathedral. We lined up in the yard to take part in the Parade; my son was pushing me in my wheelchair with an escort on both sides. As we turned into the road there was loud applause from the crowds that were lining the route all the way to the Guildhall, I felt very proud to be part of the Parade. I thought of the thousands of lives lost, Airforce, Navy, Army and Fire Service, some that I had served with. The Parade was honouring them all and I was moved with my thoughts sitting in my wheelchair. It was a very good touch to have a Spitfire and a Hurricane parked on the forecourt of St Paul's. When we got to the Guildhall, with all its flags and crowds of people, we were taken to the Great hall and received a very warm welcome from the Lord Mayor, celebrities' and dignitaries together with a group of Firemen dressed in AFS uniform, my old comrades. The room was filled with warmth from people who had served, knew the fear and knew that our freedom came at a heavy price. May I record my thanks to the RAF Association for a day that I will not forget and one that truly honoured those who did not come home and paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Ernie L. Havis

THE ROUNDTHREADS

THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE 2010

The Service of Remembrance on Sunday 12th September was held again at the Church of St Bartholomew the Great West Smithfield, City of London. The Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters processed into the Church and took their places. Standards from Brigades across the U.K., together with the Union Flag, and Standards from the Fire Service College, National Association of Retired Firefighters and the London Fire Brigade were received. The Service was attended by the Fire Minister Bob Neill MP, Communities and Local Government. He was accompanied by Sir Ken Knight the



Government's Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser. They both joined the Parade and went on to lay a Wreath, on behalf of the Government, at the National Firefighters Memorial. Following the Service, the Parade formed up with vintage fire and emergency vehicles, Standards, a marching band comprising players from the West Midlands and the Tyne and Wear Brigades and almost the entire congregation. The Parade, from Cheapside to the United Kingdom Firefighters National Memorial situated near to St Paul's Cathedral, was escorted by City of London Police foot patrols, motor cycle outriders and mounted branch officers. At the Memorial a short but poignant Wreath Laying Service was held, with those present observing a two-minute silence. The Last Post, Reveille and a Lament (by a lone piper) were played. The Names of Firefighters who sadly made the ultimate sacrifice during the past twelve months were read out. Over fifty wreaths were laid, not only by loved ones but also by a wide cross-section of the Fire Service Community. Twenty five Brigades were represented at the Ceremony which was attended by about three hundred and fifty



people and observed by many tourists. The parade was dismissed after the final wreaths were laid and many people then approached the Memorial and stood in quiet contemplation. The Standard Bearers and Fire Service Bands are to be congratulated for providing such a stirring input to the whole of the Remembrance Event.

THE ROUNDTHEADS

'A Sense of Place' – Anchoring Heritage at Hermitage River Projects

The lives of boatmen, bargees and river dwellers on the Thames in central London will be chronicled in a project awarded a £49,100 grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). 'A Sense of Place' will be led by Hermitage River Projects, a dynamic river-based charity located on a site of historical and archaeological significance, just downstream from Tower Bridge, in the heart of what was once the navigational centre of the City of London. Together with Hermitage Community Moorings (HCM), Hermitage River Projects has created an historic harbour to ensure the preservation of traditional river- and sea-going boats including Thames sailing barges, tugs, fishing vessels and coasters. Some of the boats are over 100 years old; all are navigable ex-working vessels that have been lovingly restored. Through the HLF-funded project, Hermitage has collected images, film, documents, archaeological finds and histories of the site, and the historic boats, to create an archive that will be a source of information for events in the Pier House (the mooring community space). Hermitage holds a number of public Open Days for various shore-based communities including schools, museums, history groups, and local residents. In particular children from nearby Hermitage Primary School, got involved as part of their Upper Key Stage Two curriculum. A series of oral history training workshops was also arranged for community volunteers so they can help in interviewing and recording the reminiscences of watermen and lightermen, and those working the tugs, barges and tourist boats, the fire, police and RNLI launches and the other varied craft that populate the river. Digital workshops were also provided to train volunteers in how to edit, store and archive the material collected and recorded. Hermitage is now part of the infrastructure of the River Thames and contributes to a vibrant river economy by supporting the essential ancillary services such as boatyards, dry docks, chandlers, diesel stations, marine engineers and shipwrights that are vital for the preservation of the historic vessels. Situated in the Upper Pool it is also close to the River Police headquarters and museum at Wapping. Also, the Upper Pool's last remaining eel fisherman, Bruce Pope, maintains his eel pots adjacent to the Hermitage moorings. For Hermitage River Projects Anne Wainwright said: "This project will reassert this unique part of London's river heritage for all to experience and enjoy". For the Heritage Lottery Fund, Head of HLF London Sue Bowers said: "This project will add a new dimension to the historic vessels moored here by gathering the stories of those associated with the working river that was the lifeblood of London as well as for those who lived on it and by it.. For more details & updates, go to www.thamesdiscovery.org

The project was launched on 11th September 2010 during the Mayor's Thames Valley Festival.

LFB RMA TOUR TO HOLLAND

Over the weekend of the 30th September 43 members and partners undertook a Battlefield tour to trace the route of Operation Market Garden (A Bridge to Far). Travelling by coach we left the UK for our hotel in Eindhoven, arriving late in the afternoon after encountering heavy traffic around Antwerp following road works. The following day we travelled Hells Highway to visit the Son, Grave and Nijmegen Bridges. Due to extensive road works and part of Hells Highway being replaced by a motorway we found it impossible to get to the Son Bridge, our only failure over the weekend. On route we visited the 101st Airborne Museum and took lunch in the very picturesque Nijmegen town centre. We then visited the German Cemetery of Yesselsteyn where some 50K World War 2 soldiers are buried. It was then back to the hotel for a very welcome supper. Day 2 saw us once again on the road, our first stop was at the Hartensteyn Museum in Arnham. The Hartensteyn, during the war was



HQ to both the German and British forces and now houses an extensive museum dedicated to Operation Market Garden. After lunch, which was taken in the Hartensteyn Restaurant next to the Museum, we visited the drop zones, Ter Host Dressing station and Lucas Church where the evacuation across the Rhine began. Before leaving Arnham we visited the Oosterbeek British Cemetery, a small service was held and a wreath was laid on behalf of the RMA by Mick Meech. After a free night in Eindhoven it was back to the UK via the road works and a stop to stock up with the necessary vitals for the coming winter months. The tour would not have been possible but for the hard work and knowledge of our resident guide Mark Smith, he continues to astonish us all with his knowledge of both the 1st and 2nd World Wars, he makes the tour interesting and is able to paint a picture of the events that took place through words. Many thanks must go to Mark, and we hope that he will be available to guide us through next year's tour which will hopefully take place in September, when we will visit the V1 and V2 rocket sites in France and then take a departure from the 19th century and visit the Battlefield at Waterloo in Belgium. If you are interested please contact the General Secretary.

Tel 01268692675 or email bazzambe@supanet.com

THE ROUNDTHEADS

England may have lost the football but our Swimming section has retained the National & Masters team trophies again. 16 swimmers from all sections (retired, operational, FRS young & old male & female) of the Brigade went to Worcestershire (26.6.10) to defend there titles and did so against stiff opposition from 15 other Brigades from around the country. This year's event was hosted by Hereford & Worcester FRS and although we had a lot of stiff opposition we were able to win through. Anyone interested in joining us or finding out the standard should check out the Fire Services Sports & Athletic Association web site on www.fssaa.co.uk/swimming Lincolnshire FRS have offered to host 2011 National swimming championships sometime in September 2011 so plenty of time to dig out those trunks and get down to your local pool for a dip!

Contact Bob Bray, Biz Barrell, Roger Gibbs or Phil Charrington for further info on LFB Swim Team.



Dear RMA members My name is Arthur Lockyear, and I am a retired fire fighter from Tyne and Wear. This October will see my book '**Warriors in Fire Boots** - A tribute to the valour of fire fighters' published, and I wondered if you might be able to give it a mention in the next edition of your magazine, as I feel it will be of interest to your members, as most of the action is based in London. The book traces a gallant heritage from the time of Queen Victoria and the death of James Braidwood in 1861, through the Blitz and the award of the George Cross to Harry Errington and William Mosedale, and the losses at the Smithfield and Cheapside Street fires, to more contemporary, though no less gallant losses in service. Any help you can give me would be very much appreciated. There will of course be a donation made to the Fire Fighters' Charity from any proceeds. It will retail at £14:99 and is published by 'Jeremy Mills' Ltd. Please read below an extract relating to the first night of the London Blitz, Sincerely and fraternally, Arthur

Extract from **Warriors in fire boots**

The air raid warning which sounded over the South Wharf area of Rotherhithe, South London that 7th September, was followed by considerable enemy air activity, with heavy concentrations of high explosive and incendiary bombs falling, which consequently caused serious fires in a number of industrial buildings, including wax-paper mills, and sparks from this inferno were carried to the nearby nurses' home setting it alight. A number of staff worked in a courageous and concerted attempt to subdue the fires and prevent its almost inevitable spread, until the water supply failed. By this time even more incendiaries had been dropped in the area of the wharf and as a result the pier was alight in several places, as were a number of barges and barge moorings. Consequently fires were blazing inside the wharf, and all around. The fire brigade had meanwhile begun operations to remove residents from the hospital to a boat moored near to a pontoon, and had, eventually, to order all staff to evacuate the premises because the worsening fire situation. All female members of staff with the exception of Sister Hope ran down the now burning 264 foot long pier, to the boat alongside the pontoon. Most unfortunately an incendiary bomb fell onto the pier causing its collapse before Sister Hope was able to join her colleagues. At this point the staff and casualties were taken from the now blazing pontoon by a skiff commanded by Senior Fireman Barrett across the river to Millwall, where local people, despite their own extreme difficulties and fearful concerns, gave them shelter, and much needed cups of tea (truly the spirit of the Blitz), before they were moved to a public air-raid shelter. Sister Hope, now stranded on the pier, took shelter in the hospital with another member of staff, Stoker Hobbs, until they were rescued by two fire fighters, Sub Officer Timothy Muir and Auxiliary Firemen Samuel Melvin, who despite the terrible inferno raging all around them, and being fully aware that their chances of surviving a further rescue attempt were not great, made a re-entry to the hospital and brought Sister Hope and Stoker Hobbs to relative safety. Muir and Melvin escorted both people between fiercely burning wards out of the hospital building, and towards the road through burning trees, and placed Sister Hope in a fire appliance, which provided her with some small relief from the extreme pain brought by the radiated and convective heat. Bombs continued to fall, and eventually the decision was made to withdraw all personnel from the area of the blazing hospital, because of the presence of an unexploded bomb. During the evacuation they moved cautiously along the debris strewn roads, through choking and blinding billows of smoke until the fire appliance carrying Sister Hope careered into a water filled bomb crater, and Sister Hope had again to be rescued by Fire Service personnel. She was taken to Cherry Garden Fire Station where she was kept until the 'all clear' sounded next morning. She afterwards stated that she would not have attempted an escape through such overwhelmingly dangerous conditions without the support of the fire fighters, to whom she was particularly grateful. For their courageous actions that first dreadful night of the London Blitz Sub Officer Timothy Muir and Auxiliary Firemen Samuel Melvin were both awarded the George Medal.

THE ROUNDTHEADS

Be safe in 2011 - test your smoke alarm

To ensure a safe 2011 make it part of your regular routine to check your smoke alarm. Although around eight out of ten householders own a smoke alarm, not everyone realises that checking whether or not it works is just as important as fitting the alarm in the first place. Checking your smoke alarm takes no more than a couple of minutes each week and being too busy or forgetting could cause damage to your home at best, or tragedy at worst. Some people remove batteries from smoke alarms because their alarm keeps on ringing. If this is the case check the position of the alarm. It may be too close to a kitchen area and being activated by cooking fumes. Steam from baths and showers also trigger alarms, as well as cigarette and pipe smoke and use of gas and electric bar fires. Alarms prove time and again that they save lives, but a smoke alarm with the batteries removed or run down will not protect you. Replace the battery but never remove it permanently.



How often should you check your smoke alarm?

Once a week

Test your smoke alarm each week by pressing the test button on the alarm.

Every six months

Every six months you should open the case and gently vacuum the inside to remove dust from the sensor. If the smoke alarm doesn't open, vacuum through the holes.

Once a year

Change the battery every year (unless it is a ten year alarm) or when you need to.

Replacement

Replace the battery in your smoke alarm if the low battery warning sounds (an intermittent bleep). It is also best to replace smoke alarms with completely new units after ten years.

Don't forget you can contact your local fire station and ask to arrange a home fire safety visit free of charge.

HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR THE LFBRMA

The London Fire Brigade Retired Members Association has signed up with www.easyfundraising.org.uk, an innovative website where thousands of people are raising money for charities every time they shop. By using easyfundraising to access over 2000 well known retailers, savvy shoppers generate a free donation for the good cause of their choice. And as donations can be as much as 15% of the purchase price, London Fire Brigade Retired Members Association is really hoping members and their friends/family will log on and support them. With British shoppers set to spend a staggering £39 billion online this year alone, Dennis Cebunka secretary for Kent London Fire Brigade Retired Members Association is keen for as many people as possible to sign up: "In the current financial climate we know that every penny counts so we're not asking people to donate, just to shop online as they normally would. Almost all of us shop online these days so what could be easier than raising funds simply by making the purchases you make anyway?" Featuring over 2000 of the UK's most popular retailers including M&S, Argos, Amazon, Boden, Tesco and many more, easyfundraising has already helped UK charities raise over £1.7 million. **As well as raising funds, the free to use website also gives shoppers access to hundreds of offers, discounts, vouchers and free delivery codes that they won't find elsewhere.** To support London Fire Brigade Retired Members Association, Visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lfbrma> and follow the instructions. Founded in 2003, easyfundraising is the UK's number one charity shopping site (source: alexa) with a user base of over 150,000 supporters of charities and good causes. Free to use service for both supporters and causes. Charities, associations, schools, sports clubs, churches, community groups, sponsored events, boys and girls clubs can all benefit from using easyfundraising. Unlike other loyalty and reward sites, there is no direct benefit to the users themselves; donations are made directly to the causes members choose to support.

For further information on easyfundraising contact support@easyfundraising.org.uk

IF ANY MEMBERS WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE THEIR COPY OF THE ROUNDTHEADS ELECTRONICALLY, PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR
keith.sefton@btopenworld.com

LFB RMA DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2011

Members wishing to attend an event, should write down their name, address Tel No/Email, Name of event and enclose a chq payable to LFB RMA. Then return it to the Secretary with either a non refundable deposit or full payment. For further information regarding any event contact the General Secretary, some dates and prices need to be confirmed and may be subject to change, numbers for some events are limited, therefore an early response is suggested.

Barry Sargent MBE

14 The Driveway

Canvey Island Essex SS8 0AD Tel :- 01268 692675

E mail :- bazzambe@supanet.com

Wednesday 18th May

AGM : Sir Frederick Delve Suite Southwark @ 3pm : REUNION : Jerwood Space Union Street Southwark @ 5:30pm.

Light refreshments available at the AGM : Reunion Tickets available from your Branch Secretary @ £10 : Cash bar and hot food available at the Reunion.

Monday 6th June

Guided tour of St. Paul's Cathedral @11am.

Cost £15.00. Followed by lunch at Strada Restaurant, St Paul's Churchyard : Payable on the day in the restaurant.

July

Guided tour of Houses of Parliament : Followed by Lunch. Date & time to be confirmed

Cost £25.00 Lunch to be taken in the Civil Service Club Great Scotland Yard .

Wednesday 10th August

Thames River Boat Lunch Cruise, 12 : 00pm to 2pm.

50 places have been reserved @ a cost of £42.60 per person. Price to include 1½ hour cruise, 3 course lunch, ½ bottle of wine & mineral water. Following the cruise, arrangements have been made to have the use of Civil Service Club Great Scotland Yard, where you will be able to purchase drinks.

September

Battlefield Tour : Dates to be confirmed

Visit to V1 & V2 Rocket site at Eperlecques Northern France followed by a Battlefield tour of Waterloo.

Price to be confirmed but will be approximately £200 per person and will include:- Coach, entry fees to Museums, Guided Battlefield Tour , 2 nights B&B Hotel accommodation plus one evening meal and lunch.

Saturday 29th October

Annual Dinner & Dance Charing Cross Hotel.

The price to be confirmed but will be approximately £70.00. And will include:- Pre dinner reception,

4 Course meal and live entertainment.

Other events take place during the year at no cost, if you would like more information, or would like to attend please contact the relevant organisation on the relevant telephone number.

June (Date to be Confirmed)

Service of Remembrance held at the LFB Fireman's Corner Highgate Cemetery.

This is a small Service were families & friends of LFB Firefighters who have been killed whilst on duty are remembered.

For tickets contact the LFB Communications Section on 020 8555 1200 ex 30768

Sunday 11th September @ 1200 hours

National Memorial Service Bishopsgate Church & the National Memorial by St.Paul's Cathedral.

For tickets and further information contact the Fire Fighters Memorial Charitable Trust Secretary

Paul Settle on 01233 732348

Friday 11th November

Remembrance Service City Hall.

Service of Remembrance for LCC/GLC members, tickets available from the General Secretary.

December (Date to be Confirmed)

LFB Carol Service held in Westminster Cathedral.

For tickets contact the LFB Communications Section

on 020 8555 1200 ex 30768

Message from our Chaplin

We're at that time of year again where Remembrance is very much the theme, where does the time go! Whilst I was in the Army back in the 1980's one of my postings was at Celle a short drive from the site of the Bergen/Belsen concentration camp, we used to travel there



with visiting family to pay respect as well as get a feel for a place where there had taken place acts of unspeakable cruelty, where man's at times inhumanity to man was played out in it's starkest form. Entering the site and walking around the memorial really brought home the despair of the place even though the events had taken place half a century earlier, seeing mass graves where during those dark days the signs told us as many as 16 000 (dead) were buried, in each grave! The feeling of stark despair was heightened by what appeared to be the truth, of the legend, that no bird life existed on or near the site. An Army mate living at Celle whilst I was stationed there and now happily retired with his wife in Dorset, had married his German sweetheart whom he met back in 1946 in the Celle area and she bears out the testimony of local German folk, mostly Farmers, that no knowledge of the events which took place in the camp became known to the local population until after the War. In the weeks ahead many brave and sacrificial acts as well as tragedies of war will be remembered and Jesus' words from the verses in the Bible John 15:9 – 17 will be spoken out aloud on many occasions "Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends". As assistant Chaplain for a number of years of the London Fire Brigade I attended services of remembrance where Fire fighters had paid the ultimate price and my predecessor Alan Healey I believe officiated at one or two Funerals where such sacrifice had been made in the present age by serving Fire Brigade staff. Hats off to all retired and serving members for the bravery displayed in signing up for a job that put's the well-being of other's first, truly, on a daily basis, if not consciously, living out the words of the verse quoted above. Remembering properly is a very worthwhile and necessary human act; it puts life into perspective and rightly honours those that have gone before. May God bless each member and their families in the days ahead and make our memories sweet.

Jeff Potter

07943321919 020 8505 2520

email jeff@lcmchaplains.org.uk



THE ROUNDTHEADS

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The LFB RMA reserves the right to edit articles or emails submitted for inclusion to the magazine.

Important News For members

The LFB RMA website is changing. The new web site address will be www.lfbirma.org. This will go live officially mid to late January 2011 and at present contains a 'under construction' message for visitors. **The www.lfbirma.org.uk web site address will no longer function after November 2010** and members should use the new web site address www.lfbirma.org. Details of this will also be forwarded to members with their subscription reminders in January 2011.

Blazer Badge	£15.00
Ladies Head Scarf	£10.00
Cuff Links	£8.00
Pin Badge	£1.50
RMA Tie	£10.00
Knitted Cap	£6.00
Baseball Cap	£6.00
Polo Shirts - Black	£12.00
Sizes M. L. XL.	
Jacket - Black	£25.00
(Windproof, water resistant, full zip, two side pockets)	
Fleece Jacket - Black	£22.00
(Full zip, two side pockets)	
Jacket Sizes M. L. XL. XXL.	
Car stickers	75p each
LFB-RMA Shield / Plaque	£20.00
Christmas Cards 10 for	£3.00

You can view all our items & more at WWW.LFBIRMA.ORG.UK

LFB RMA Trading Items



To order any items or request more information call Erik Crichton on 020 8597 5862 or Email lfbirmatrading@aol.com
Postage prices on application