

# ANNIVERSARIES: DATES TO REMEMBER

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



Every year there seems to be an anniversary of some kind, many about battles or conflicts. This year it is the 90th anniversary of The Royal British Legion – an organisation created specifically to care and support all those affected by conflicts, veterans of all ages and their families.

## 2011 90th anniversary of The Royal British Legion

The British Legion was set up in 1921 and awarded 'Royal' status in 1971. Its purpose is two fold – to ensure that Remembrance Day is recognised every year by wearing a poppy and laying poppy wreaths and to raise money from donations for poppies to help support ex-Service men and women and their families.

The Royal British Legion looks after any veteran or Service person and their family when they need it. Despite the fact there is now a welfare state, the support provided by the Legion is still in much demand. Due to continuing current conflicts involving British Forces, the men and women injured or affected by these conflicts will need

help for many years to come. The 90th birthday of The Royal British Legion is a chance to recognise the work of the Legion over the past 90 years and in particular the vital work it continues to do today and in future.

## 2011 95th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, World War I (1914–1918)

The Battle of the Somme during World War I is probably the most famous battle in British history, recorded as having the greatest loss of human life in one day: 58,000 British casualties (a third dead). Starting on 1 July 1916, it ended on 18 November 1916 with over 419,000 casualties from British, Empire and Commonwealth troops.

## 2012 30th anniversary of the Falklands War (1982)

In 1982, Argentina invaded a group of British-dependent Islands in the South West Atlantic, the Falklands. Britain responded by sending troops out to repel the invaders and defend the islands. The war lasted three months and Britain retained control of the islands. Britain suffered over 1,000 casualties\*, including 258 killed.

\*A casualty includes anyone injured, killed, missing or taken prisoner

- 1 The Royal British Legion's Riders branch
- 2 Scenes of devastation following the Battle of the Somme, 1916
- 3 The Cenotaph unveiling, London, 1920
- 4 Defending the Falkland Islands, 1982
- 5 The grave of Lt Col H Jones, killed during the Falklands conflict, 1982