**Tell us your Stories – Legion 100**

**Some interesting fact about the Isle of Man.**

1. At the turn of the Century, many young Manx men and their families left the Island after the mines were closed, to seek their fortunes in America, Australia , New Zealand and South Africa later joining their Commonwealth brothers to take up arms in the Great War.

2. During the Great War 1914-1918 **81%** of the eligible Manx male population joined up to fight for their King and Country, the most % of the population anywhere in the UK. **1261** Manx men and one nurse Sarah Walker paid the supreme sacrifice and were killed in action.

3.On **9th July 1917** the **Manx Legion** was formed in Douglas to support those returning from the Battle fields ,the war widows and their dependants- the British Legion being formed some 4 years later.

4.During **WW2** many Manx men and women joined up with some **501** Manx men and women dying in battles all over the world.

5.During that time **Major Robert Cain,** a local Manxman from Castletown, was awarded the **Victoria Cross** whilst severely wounded manning a sub machine gun at **Arnhem** helping to save 22 of his own men trapped there.

6. **Eight passenger steamers** from the **IOM Steam Packet Company** were commissioned to support “**Operation Dynamo”** rescuing some 25,000 troops at Dunkirk. Three vessels were lost, The Mona’s Queen, King Orry and Fenella sunk by German mines answering the call, to rescue the British troops trapped there. 24 men including 17 Manx crew were lost.

7.Since WW2 the Island has provided **6 National Standard Bearers** and one **National Chairman Mr Ian Cannell CBE.**

8.During the **Centenary Commemorations 2014-2018** members from **Ramsey Branch** in the north of the Island attended their War Memorial at **1800** each evening to lay a wooden Cross on each of the anniversaries of the deaths of all **112 Ramsey Town** men who died serving their Country.

9.**Three Legion Branches**- Douglas ( formed in 1917) Castletown (formed in 1918) and Ramsey Branch ( formed in 1920) have celebrated their **Centenaries.**

10.For the last **42 years** the Island has been awarded the **National Poppy Appeal Trophy** raising more than 3 x the National average per head of population. The Manx people generously supporting their Serving and Ex Serving Community.

**Ann Cottier – County Secretary -IOM County Royal British Legion.**