

### 76th Annual Remembrance Ceremony & Parade



Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton

**O**n 21<sup>st</sup> November 2010, a week after Remembrance Sunday, AJEX will once again march down Whitehall to attend their annual Ceremony, in remembrance of the fallen British Jewish service men and women.

Each year, a dignitary is invited to take part in the Parade as the Reviewing Officer and this year, the



70th anniversary year of The Battle of Britain, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton KCB ADC BSc FRAeS CCM RAF has agreed to take on this very important role.

Joining the RAF in 1976, Sir Dalton served in Germany and the UK during the "Cold War". He has also served in the Middle East and flew armed missions over Iraq. Other serving roles include being commander of RAF Coltishall, Air Commodore as Director of Defence Eurofighter, Director of Air Operations, Deputy Commander in Chief Personnel and his current role as Chief of the Air Staff.

Married with two grown-up children he enjoys tennis, skiing, squash, golf, theatre and reading.

**Parade and Ceremony - Sunday 21st November 2010**  
**2pm at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, London WC2**  
**Fall-in Horse Guards Parade at 1.50pm**  
**Nearest Tube Station Westminster**  
**(Jubilee, District & Circle lines)**

### AJEX will Soon be 90!



**B**e ready to join in the celebrations as AJEX turns ninety in 2011! We have some ideas up our sleeve, but would certainly welcome further suggestions on how to celebrate and commemorate nine decades of support for the contribution made by British Jewish men and women to the British Armed Forces.

### National Chairman News

**W**ith six months in the chair, I thought I'd round up what's been going on at AJEX's Head Office.

I have spent much of my time representing AJEX at a number of remembrance services and parades. Remembrance is with us all the time and especially with the war in Afghanistan.



Dr. Arnold Phelops

Our ongoing Education Programme is reaching out to more and more schools throughout the year. We recently paid our annual visit to JFS in Kenton where the AJEX veterans met 200 pupils during the daylong visit, to relate wartime experiences and answer many and varied questions.

I am pleased to announce that a Jewish Police Branch has been formed, while we also strengthen our relationship with the Jewish Lads & Girls Brigade.

Finally, the current economic situation affects AJEX too, and funds for all these services mentioned need to be found. So please do contact Head Office if you feel you can help in anyway further.

## Unique Visit to Italy



Veterans at Anzio Cemetery



American Cemetery - Anzio

In early May the AJEX Southgate branch arranged a very unique trip - 82 veterans including wives, carers, widows, 2 military escorts and a doctor, travelled to Italy to honour those who died in WWII.

Several battle sites and cemeteries were visited, wreaths laid, Star of David markers placed, Kaddish said, short services held and the AJEX National Standard dipped in salute. The trip was arranged with the support of the Lottery funded Heroes Return scheme.

More photos and a full report of this remarkable trip will be in the next issue of the AJEX Journal.

Photography by: Stanley Pinner



AJEX Remembers...



One of the Wreaths Laid in Italy

## Finally at Rest in Fromelles

Fromelles has been described as the bloodiest battle in the military history of Australia. On the night of July 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> 1915, 8000 Australian and Allied soldiers were killed and wounded, cut down by German machine gunners as they were ordered to advance across open ground. The Germans buried the dead in mass graves as there was no time for proper burials. In time, they were almost forgotten. In 2007 records were uncovered and excavations began, while attempts were made to identify the bodies. Among those positively identified was an Australian Jewish soldier, Lt. B L Mendelsohn.



Lieutenant Mendelsohn's Grave

Article by: Wally Leaf

On 19 July 2010 at Fromelles near Lille, France, a group of twelve AJEX veterans led by National Chairman, Dr. Arnold Phelops, joined thousands of guests and dignitaries, including Prince Charles, for a moving ceremony. Here the dead were finally laid to rest in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery. Standards were dipped in salute, among them the National Standard of AJEX, carried by Leslie Sutton.

After the main ceremony AJEX Veterans and relatives of Lt. Mendelsohn held a short service of commemoration. Kaddish and El Moleh Rachamim was recited by AJEX Executive Director, Jacques Weisser and British Army Chaplain, Rabbi Arnold Saunders.

At the request of the family, Adon Olam was sung to the tune of "Waltzing Matilda".

## National Chairman's Diary

### APRIL

- Elected as National Chairman of AJEX at the AGM

### MAY

- Attended RAF Remembrance Ceremony at Runnymede
- Attended Paris Remembrance Ceremony
- Chaired Honorary Officers' meeting
- Attended American Air Force Remembrance Ceremony at Madingley

### JUNE

- Attended Trustees Seminar organised by COBSEO
- Attended Hasmonian Boys' School as part of our education programme
- Chaired NEC meeting
- Attended function at the Stamford Hill Branch, London
- Attended Remembrance Ceremony at the National Arboretum
- Attended London Borough of Barnet's Veterans Day Parade

### JULY

- Attended Northern Regional Conference
- Attended Brighton & Hove AJEX for 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of President and Chairman, Aubrey Cole



Dear Mr Levene,

May I thank you for the generous cheque and awareness on receiving my welcome Chanukah gift.

I feel (like many do) there is much I would like to say on receipt of these kind gestures - but I feel highly emotional in this disappearing world - that such kindness still exists and again I THANK YOU not just for me and my family, but also for those unable to express this caring from yourself and staff who make sure we are happier and cared for.

Every good wish for you and all for a Happy Chanukah - Pesach - Purim and all of your days!

Amen.

Anonymous

## AJEX-BRANCHNEWS...

### Armed Forces Week in Blackpool

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010, AJEX's Blackpool branch took part in services at Blackpool Town Hall, Fylde Memorial Arboretum and at the Cenotaph, where Rabbi David Braunold took part in the service and about 3,000 people were in attendance. The branch was also represented at a Garden Party, hosted by British Limbless Ex Service Men's Association together with other Ex-Service organisations and the Mayor.



### Newcastle Remembers Gerald Frank

Dr Peter Wagerman made a special visit to Philip Cussins House, a residential care home in Newcastle upon Tyne, to present a cheque from Newcastle AJEX in memory of AJEX member the late Gerald Franks. The event arranged by Jeffrey Fox, Chairman of Newcastle AJEX, was enjoyed by AJEX members and representatives from the Franks family. Alan Share, Chairman of Philip Cussins House, thanked AJEX for their continuing support.

### Cardiff Remembrance Parade

Last November, AJEX Cardiff branch, together the Cardiff Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade, took part in the local Civic Service at Cathays Park. In attendance were Mike Salomon, Chairman of the Brigade, Standard Bearer Laurence Cohen, Rabbi Michael Wollenberg, the Lord Mayor and Mr Rhodri Morgan, the Welsh Assembly leader. As well as the two minutes silence there was also a twenty-one gun salute.

## AJEX Annual Conference News

The AJEX Annual Conference, held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2010 in Hendon, opened in true tradition with the parade of the National Standard carried by Leslie Sutton, AJEX National Standard Bearer.

Dr. Peter Wagerman, the National Chairman, then paid tribute to the late Peter Russell MBE, former National Treasurer and Remembrance Parade organiser for many years. He described Peter as a much loved figure, the past Chairman of Willesden Branch and an AJEX stalwart. He will be greatly missed.

The agenda covered the year's work of the association with quite some time spent hearing about the work and exciting future of the Jewish Military Museum - the JMM.



Henry Morris presentation by Dr. Peter Wagerman

Ron Shelley, JMM Chairman, paid tribute to the longstanding work of Henry Morris, JMM's Curator and Dr Peter Wagerman announced the appointment of Henry as the first President of the JMM and presented him with a certificate of appreciation and a medallion of office.

Dr. Arnold Phelops took over the meeting as the new National Chairman and announced a list of appointments to the National Executive Council and the appointment of Alan Cass as National Treasurer and Jeffrey Fox as regional Deputy Chairman.

**For an up-to-date list of AJEX Officers of the Association go to [www.ajex.org.uk](http://www.ajex.org.uk)**

## Regional Conference

On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2010, delegates gathered from all over the northern provinces, Merseyside, Blackpool, Newcastle, Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham and were joined by AJEX's National Chairman, Dr Arnold Phelops, as well as AJEX Honorary Officers and members of the National Executive Council.

The Conference was held at the Ziff Centre in Leeds and was organised by Chairman of the AJEX Leeds branch, Len Fineberg, who also paraded the Leeds branch Standard.

Len Fineberg, followed by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Leeds - Councillor Patrick Davey, Dr Arnold Phelops, Jack Lewis - Record of Honour Chairman, and Jeffrey Fox all addressed the conference.

Dr Phelops spoke about the organisation's stronger links with other associations including the Armed Forces Jewish Community, the Jewish Police Association and JLGB. Discussions were had about the continuation of the National Remembrance Parade too.

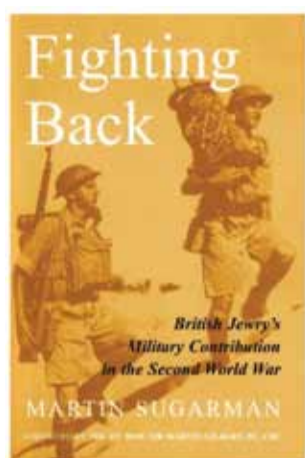


Delegates with Deputy Lord Mayor

With Jeffrey Fox approved as the new Regional Deputy National Chairman, he thanked Ron Singer from Birmingham AJEX, for his work on the renovation of the AJEX National Memorial and congratulated Manchester AJEX on their Annual Parade at Heathlands.

In closing, Jeffrey Fox expressed his appreciation to all delegates for attending and Leeds branch for their hospitality.

## Book Review



Review by: Henry Morris

**M**artin Sugarman's book *Fighting Back* is a "must have" for all members of AJEX and I would go so far as to say it should be in every Jewish home. Jews have served in the British Armed Forces for nearly three centuries, but in WWII they served in every branch of the military and ancillary services in numbers greater to their proportion of the general population.

The book, researched in a most scholarly manner over many years, whilst providing all the facts and figures, tells a moving and gripping story of which the Jewish community can be proud. Jewish men and women served in every theatre of the war producing heroes like Petty Officer Tommy Gould, Flt Sgt Louis Aaron and Sgt. John Patrick Keneally, all awarded the Victoria Cross. They served on the high seas and on battlefields as far apart as Normandy and Burma, from the Battle of Britain to the Dam Busters. Over 3,000 died.

He explodes the anti-Semitic myth that Jews are cowards and disloyal and exposes the failure of successive British Governments to show proper appreciation of the part played by Palestinian Jews. This is a book that should also be available in schools and libraries.

Martin Sugarman is the Archivist of the Jewish Military Museum. This book is published by Vallentine Mitchell and can be obtained from AJEX Head Office at the discounted price of £16 + P&P. It is also available on-line from the publisher [www.vmbooksuk.com](http://www.vmbooksuk.com) and [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk).

## News from The Jewish Military Museum

**T**he Jewish Military Museum (JMM) has had an extremely busy and exciting year.

### Accreditation

In March 2010 it became an MLA Accredited Museum. The MLA Accreditation Scheme for Museum's Archives and Libraries, sets nationally agreed standards for museums in the UK, with over 1800 museums participating in the Scheme.

### New Look



In July 2010 the JMM launched its new brand, which will be rolled out over the coming months and used in earnest once the new premises are confirmed, and work begins in developing the new site while spreading the word about this exciting venue and education centre.

### Acquisitions

Over the past ten months, the JMM has also been fortunate enough to acquire more memorabilia such as medals, uniforms, artefacts and documents. Not everything is suitable for display and limited space dictates what can be shown, although changes to the display

are made from time to time. The museum archives, which continue to grow, will however be very useful when the collection has more display opportunities in time to come.

We are indebted to Brenda Goldberg the Museum Director and Martin Sugarman the Archivist, and other volunteers, who have worked long and hard to bring the archive into its current presentable order. The collection is frequently consulted, both by the media and by individuals.



Daniel Millan's Uniform

One recent donation to the museum which is now on display, is from Corporal Daniel Millan, who served in the Royal Signals from 1981-92 including service in Belize with the Gurkhas, providing air support and communications.

### Museum in Wales

The year will close with the coming together of the Jewish Military Museum and the Firing Line - Cardiff Castle's Museum of the Welsh Soldier. Opening on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at the Firing Line in Cardiff, is a significant display from the Jewish Military Museum's collection, illustrating the Jewish contribution to the British Armed Forces. The similarity of these two establishments, is exactly what has brought them together. AJEX's Cardiff branch will be involved in the three month exhibition. This is the first major event, to be held outside of the museum's London home.

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