

Commader Michael Healy MBE
Royal British Legion Nice - Monaco Branch

Remembrance –

has inspired much of the population since 1921, when the British Legion started the movement. It means remembering WARS and their terrible effects. Disasters happen frequently like earthquakes, floods, landslides, tsunamis, which can kill many thousands, but Wars are special – they are man-made.

People say there is nothing in this world worse than War. I disagree – what is worse is LOSING a war. That is what happened to France in 1940 – 77 years later, historians are revealing the effects on Occupied France, which included our southern region from 1943 onward, once the Germans were the occupants.

It involved:

Mobilisation, Capitulation, Occupation, Humiliation, Annexation, Evacuation, all the inhabitants of Cap Ferrat, uprooted from their homes by the Germans and dumped in the West Var.

Deprivation, Deportation, Subjugation, Spoliation, Sequestration
Confiscation, Starvation, Collaboration, Denunciation, Condemnation
Desecration, Extermination, Desolation

There will always be wars, because there are always “baddies” who fabricate reasons to start wars, for territorial gains, minerals, raw materials, or – most likely: water, which will be in short supply. Or they make war just for fun. So it is necessary to ensure that we WIN wars – losing is just too unbearable - and yet it seems unlikely that our young people would respond to a call to arms as they did in previous decades when there was general mobilisation – in America: the Draft. So we might as well submit to these inconveniences and the youngsters can be deported by the conqueror for slave labour!. We have good Armies, but never enough to win a war. Adequate armed forces MUST be available to counter wars, preferably by deterring them before they happen. Winston Churchill recognized this, almost alone among the political leaders of his time who concentrated mainly on pleasing the public and getting their votes with roads, schools and hospitals. But by the time Churchill was voted into power, it was too late to re-arm, and the small provocations of Hitler became the Second World War, which killed millions. In the state of the world as it is today, we could do with him in charge. So now, at the foot of this bust by the sculptor Oscar Nemon, inaugurated in 1969, we lay a wreath to show our respect for – Sir Winston Churchill.

MH. 12 November 2017