

# BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH

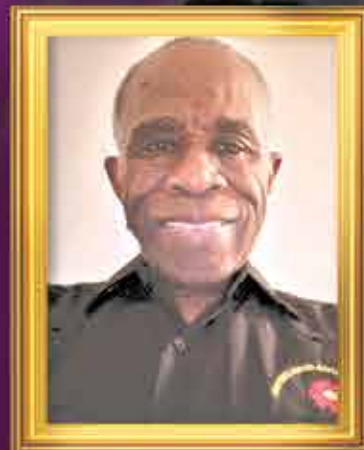
**"CELEBRATING 104 Years AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION"**  
(1921-2025)

**"STILL CARING FOR OUR BAHAMIAN WORLD WAR II WIDOWS"**

## CURRENT SENIOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Adina Munroe-Charlow, MBE**  
Chairperson/Treasurer/Welfare Officer



**Canon Andrew Toppin**  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman/1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Treasurer/Secretary/Chaplain

## CURRENT STANDING COMMITTEE



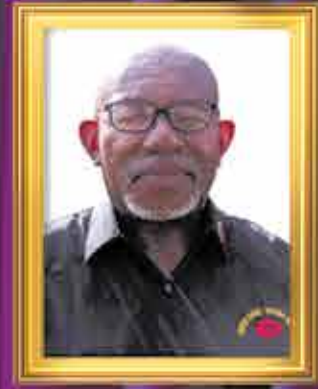
**Franklyn Brown**  
Son of WWII Veteran  
Executive Member



**Kevin Hanna**  
Son of WWII Veteran  
Executive Member



**Jeffery Pinder**  
Son of WWII Veteran  
Executive Member



**Derek Neymour**  
Son of WWII Veteran  
Executive Member



**Charles Hepburn, Jr.**  
Great Grandson & Grandson  
WWI & WWII Veterans



**Valentino Sherman-Griffin**  
Grandson WWII Veteran



**Edward Rodney Neymour**  
Grandson WWII Veteran

BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH  
1939-1945

## BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH *Registered Bahamian World War II Widows*



**Widow Genevieve Strachan**  
Nassau, Bahamas



**Widow Mary Taylor**  
Nassau, Bahamas



**Widow Mizpah Strachan**  
Nassau, Bahamas



**Widow Nellie McPhee**  
Nassau, Bahamas



**Widow Theresa Johnson**  
Nassau, Bahamas



**Widow Doreen Brown**  
Nassau, Bahamas



**Widow Almeria V. Pinder**  
Nassau, Bahamas



**Widow Florinda Kellman**  
Freeport, Grand Bahama



**Widow Muriel Thompson**  
Freeport, Grand Bahama



**Widow Francis Mae Simmons**  
Freeport, Grand Bahama



**Widow Thelma Saunders**  
Fresh Creek, Andros



**Widow Adline Wallace**  
Nicholls Town, Andros



**Widow Barbara B. Farrington**  
Rock Sound, Eleuthera

**"OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE.... THEY ONLY FADE AWAY...."**

**BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH**

**Address: No. 35 Baillou Hill Road-P.O. Box N-1047-Nassau, The Bahamas**

**E-mail Address: [britlegionbahamas@ymail.com](mailto:britlegionbahamas@ymail.com)**

**Telephone Contacts: 242-422-1047/601-2530**

**Tik-Tok Address: [britishlegionbahamas242](https://www.tiktok.com/@britishlegionbahamas242)**

**Facebook Address: British Legion Bahamas**

**Website Address: [BritishLegionBahamas.org](http://BritishLegionBahamas.org)**



# BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH

## POPPY DONATIONS HELP TO FEED OUR REGISTERED WAR WIDOWS



### PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL PUBLIC & PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE COMMUNITY



### HARD WORK PAYS OFF IN 2024 & 2025 FOR BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH SENIOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

■ British Legion Wins No. 1 Branch Award In North America, Asia, & Caribbean At International Conference In July, 2025.



Mrs. Adina Charlow & Mr. Willis Charlow hold prestigious award won by the British Legion-Bahamas Branch at the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League International World War II Conference held in Ottawa, Canada in July, 2025.



British Legion Executives Celebrates with Andrew Toppin on his promotion to an Anglican Canon in June 2025.

■ Chairperson, Adina Munroe-Charlow - Receives Member Of The British Empire (MBE) Medal From King Charles III, In London, England On 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 For 18 Years Of Service To The Elderly World War II Veterans & Widows In The Bahamas.



Mrs. Adina Munroe-Charlow at Buckingham Palace after receiving her Medal of Service from King Charles III on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.

*“Thank you Bahamas for your Many Years of Financial Support to the British Legion-Bahamas Branch - We appreciate you!”*

“LET US CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THEM!”



# HISTORY, ROLE, AND PURPOSE OF THE BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH



## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Royal British Legion (London) was established in May 1921, following the Great War in 1918, and The British Legion-Bahamas Branch later joined its International partner as a “registered Member Branch” in 1945, after World War II;

AND WHEREAS, the British Legion-Bahamas Branch is a legally recognized local Bahamian non-profit organization, registered and licensed under the laws of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas 2019 Non-Profit Act;

AND WHEREAS, the main goals of The British Legion-Bahamas Branch are:

- (a) To provide **financial assistance** to its registered World War II Widows on a monthly basis, through a War Grant funded by its Regional Headquarters, The Royal Canadian Legion, and the Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas;
- (b) To **perpetuate the memory** of those who died and served in World Wars I and II;
- (c) To **educate the general public**, by means of multimedia, publications, and television, highlighting the important contributions that all Bahamian veterans made toward world freedom through their participation in both World Wars I and II;

AND WHEREAS, the British Legion-Bahamas Branch, along with its international and Commonwealth War Branches is celebrating **104 years** of the Royal British Legion’s (London) existence as a non-profit organization that honours World Wars I and II Veterans, commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War II (1945-2025);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip E. Davis, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, do hereby proclaim 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 as “World Wars I and II Veterans’ Month” celebrating “Our Bahamian War Heroes”.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have  
Hereunto set my Hand and Seal  
This 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2025.

PHILIP E. DAVIS  
PRIME MINISTER



BY MRS. ADINA D. MUNROE-CHARLOW  
Chairman of The British Legion-Bahamas Branch

**BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH** celebrates, along with its Commonwealth colleagues & headquarters in London, the 80th Anniversary of the end of World War II. We celebrate all of our Bahamian men and women who served. It was on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1945, eighty (80) Years ago, World War II officially came to an end.

### When was the British Legion International and British Legion-Bahamas Branch formed?

THE British Legion International Headquarters was formed in 1921, two years after World War I, at a representative WWI conference in London, England.

The British Legion-Bahamas Branch (BLBB) – Formerly known as The Bahamas Ex-Servicemen Association, it was formed by Bahamian WWII ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen after World War II in 1945 to “preserve” their war experiences and legacies for future Bahamian generations. The British Legion- Bahamas Branch is an official non-profit organisation registered under the Non-Profit Organisations

Act, 2019, with its headquarters in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

It was in 1966, when The Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) accepted the administrative responsibility from its worldwide headquarters, British Legion International in London, to provide and distribute financial assistance grants to all World War II veterans and widows of 15 Caribbean member state branches, including The Bahamas.

The main role and purpose of BLBB is to ensure that its “registered” ex-servicemen, ex-servicewomen, and widows of deceased WWII veterans receive, every month, small war grants provided by both its Canadian headquarters and the government of The Bahamas. Registered members are verified annually in order to continue to receive their international and local war grants.

### Eligibility to apply for membership & monthly war grant

To become “eligible” to receive a monthly war grant, one must be in financial need and would have served in World War II between 1939-1945 or one must provide proof of being the widow of an ex-serviceman who had served in World War II and who could also be further verified by the British Legion International and the Bahamas Branch as serving in that war.

### Executive Committee

This committee is the local governing body of this military non-profit organisation. It comprises positions of a Chairman/Treasurer, Vice Chairman, Executive Secretary, 1st Assistant Secretary, 1st Assistant Treasurer, Chaplain, Assistant Chaplain, and a Uniform Branch Representative.

## BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH ALSO SALUTES THE LATE SQUADRON LEADER AND ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON MEYER RASSIN, FOUNDER OF DOCTORS HOSPITAL

This year, The British Legion-Bahamas Branch, will be remembering and celebrating the late Squadron Leader and Orthopedic Surgeon, Meyer Rassin for his service to The Bahamas during World War II. Dr. Rassin was assigned to The Bahamas and Florida during the war in 1942.

(REFER TO “PAGE 7” FOR MORE INFORMATION).

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (LONDON) CONTINUES TO CELEBRATE 104 YEARS AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION

This year, the British Legion-Bahamas Branch, including all other Commonwealth British Legion Branches, celebrate, along with our International headquarters, the Royal British Legion (London), 104 years of existence as a non-profit organisation serving all World War II veterans and widows throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada, Africa, Australia, and the Caribbean. It was on 15th May, 1921, 104 years ago, that the Royal British Legion (London) was incorporated as a non-profit organisation as a result of the merging of four (4) international war veteran associations that were already established three (3) years after the Great War ended in 1918.

The main objectives of the Royal British Legion upon its incorporation were:

- 1 TO FINANCIALLY PROVIDE for all war emergency service workers, including soldiers, who were wounded during the Great War;**
- 2 TO PROVIDE COMPANIONSHIP to all soldiers who had no families and homes to go to after the Great War ended, and finally**
- 3 TO REMEMBER all war emergency service workers, including soldiers, who**

**lost their lives defending our freedoms and who protected the way of life during that time**

### BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS LOCAL BRANCH:

Today, the British Legion-Bahamas Branch, along with its Commonwealth World War Associate Branches, continue the main objectives of our headquarters, Royal British Legion (London), in the provision of financial monthly war grants to our now thirteen (13) registered Bahamian widows of the fallen. There are no more “Registered” Bahamian World War II Veterans. Current registered World War II widows of the fallen ages range from 78-98.

### REGISTERED UNDER THE CARE OF THE BRITISH LEGION-JAMACIA BRANCH:

The Late Acting Corporal Doreen Carmel Jones-Rickards (100), served in The British Auxiliary Territorial Service (A.T.S.) during World War II. She passed away during the month of May 2025, she lived with her daughter in Kingston, Jamaica during her passing.



## The Late Comrade Matthias E. Munroe World War II Veteran

As Daughter and current Chairman of The British Legion-Bahamas Branch, I Salute my father, The Late Comrade Matthias E. Munroe, World War II Veteran. The Late Comrade Matthias Munroe, served in The Royal Air force (R.A.F.) as an Aircraft Engineer between 1941-1945. He was a very active Executive Committee Member of The British Legion-Bahamas Branch, with his last position serving as Executive Secretary.

I WILL REMEMBER HIM! I MUST REMEMBER HIM!

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Adina D. Munroe-Charlow



# HISTORY OF THE POPPY

THE Poppy is associated with a poem known as “Flanders Fields,” which describes some of the worst battlefields in France during World War I. Its author, the Late Colonel John McCrae, a former well-known Professor of Medicine, served as a gunner in the South African War and in the Great War, known as World War I. He describes in this poem the site of the field where he landed in France with the first Canadian Contingent as a Medical Officer. It was during a lull in battle, in 1915, that he wrote this popular poem, which became famous after he died in 1918.

After World War I, paper poppies were sold to help wounded soldiers and their families. The British Legion International, since 1921, has made and distributed millions of poppies each

year and sold them to care for their sick-and-shut-in Veterans Worldwide.

The British Legion-Bahamas Branch receives poppies from its Headquarters located in Ottawa, Canada every year so that the legacy of Remembrance Day could remain intact throughout The Bahamas and that the care of our elderly World War II Veterans and Widows could remain a constant move of saving this Great War legacy in the Bahamas.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT REMEMBRANCE DAY

**1 . Question:** When did World War II begin, and how did The Bahamas become involved in this War?

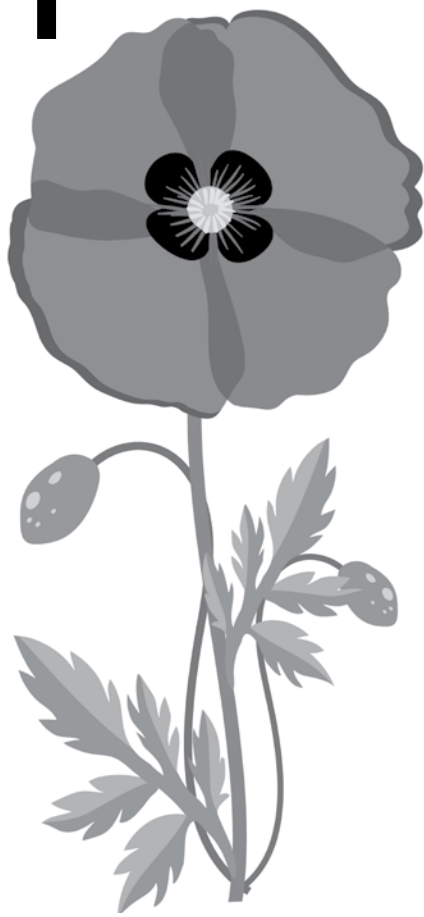
**Answer:** World War II began on 1st September 1939 when Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, attacked Poland. Great Britain issued a call to all men between the ages of 20 and 40 to enlist in the military services, which included some 3 million volunteers from its Empire and Commonwealth Countries; thus, the Bahamas was affected as our young men and women answered the call to fight for the Crown.

**2 . Question:** When was the First Remembrance Day Observed?

**Answer:** The Royal British Legion instigated the 1st Remembrance Day on the 11th November, 1921.

**3 . Question:** Why is there an Act of Two-Minute Silence at Remembrance Day Ceremonies Worldwide?

**Answer:** An Act of Two-Minute Silence began on the anniversary of Armistice or Veterans Day in 1919 in memory of the millions killed during World War I, and this act of respect continues even today. It really was a suggestion that was made by an Australian journalist, the late Edward George Honey, who wrote a letter to The London Times in May of 1919, which made this suggestion to pause for a period of silence reflecting the gesture of respect for all those men who sacrificed their lives for freedom. The suggestion was accepted by King George V and was introduced in military ceremonies throughout the British Empire ever since.



## 104 YEARS OF THE POPPY EXISTENCE

This year (2025) also marks the 104th birthday of the Poppy. It was 104 years ago, that the Royal British Legion's then president, the late Earl Haig, announced the introduction of the Poppy as a symbol representing the blood shed by thousands of soldiers, (including our Bahamian soldiers), who died during the great war of 1914-1918. He announced that on the 11th day of every November, which was formerly

known as Armistice Day, would now be known as “Remembrance Day.” This day would be considered a “Poppy Day” to raise funds for the care of surviving war veterans. Since that very first Remembrance Day, in 1921, eight (8) million poppies were purchased and worn in support of this worthy cause.

Today, as chairman of the British Legion-Bahamas Branch, I encourage the entire Bahamas to purchase and wear a poppy

in remembrance of the sacrifice that was made for world peace and freedom.

The Bahamas Branch of The British Legion continues the traditional poppy fund raising drive to care for our now remaining 13 registered WWII bahamian widows residing here on the Island of New Providence as well as those residing on the Islands of Freeport, Grand Bahama, Nicholls Town, Fresh Creek Andros, and Rock Sound, Eleuthera.



THE LATE Earl Haig at the British Legion Poppy Factory  
Photo: Courtesy of Heather Anne Johnson



The Hanna Family salutes and pay Tribute to our father,  
**THE LATE**  
**Comrade Ambrose "Cabbage" Hanna**

It was 79 years ago that he represented the Caribbean Region in World War II at the age of 16 when he join the British Army. He was accepted into the First Bahamas Battalion of the Caribbean Regiment. He trained in Jamaica and was sent to Fort Eustace, Virginia, for further training in live ammunition. Our father's last post before returning to the Bahamas on 6th January, 1946, was Suez, Egypt where he trained in warfare. He was a very active member of the British Legion-Bahamas Branch until departing this life for a greater reward.

**Sadly missed by your children, we Salute you as one of the Bahamas World War Hero who has given the World the Freedom we all enjoy today.**

## THE POEM

BY JOHN MCCRAE

### In Flanders Fields

In Flanders' fields  
the poppies blow  
Between the crosses,  
row on row,  
That mark our place:  
and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely  
singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid  
the guns below.

We are the dead.  
Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn,  
saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved,  
and now we lie  
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel  
with the foe;  
To you from failing  
hands we throw  
The torch; be yours  
to hold it high,  
If ye break faith with  
us who die  
We shall not sleep,  
though poppies grow  
In Flanders' Fields.





# BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH PRESENTS FIRST POPPY TO GOVERNOR GENERAL



**NASSAU**, The Bahamas - Mrs. Adina Munroe-Charlow, Chairman, British Legion Bahamas Branch, presented the Governor General, HE the Most Hon. Dame Cynthia Pratt with the First Poppy of the year at Government House, October 15, 2025 in a courtesy call. Also in attendance were Charles Hepburn, II, Derek Neymour, Franklyn Brown, Canon Andrew Toppin-Vice Chairman/1st. Asst. Treasurer, Adina Munroe-Charlow-Chairman/Treasurer, Her Excellency Widow Nellie McPhee, Kevin Hanna, Jeffrey Pinder and Valentino Sherman-Griffin.

(BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)

## BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH PINS SECOND POPPY ON HER EXCELLENCY, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE BAHAMAS-MRS. SMITA ROSSETTI



**PHOTOGRAPH** from left to right : Canon Andrew Toppin, 1st Vice Chairman/Chaplin/1st Assistant Treasurer, Her Excellency, Smita Rossetti, Adina Munroe-Charlow-Chairperson/Treasurer/Welfare Officer, and Jeffery Pinder, Executive Committee Member of the British Legion-Bahamas Branch



**CHAIRPERSON**, Adina Munroe-Charlow, pinning a Diamond Poppy on British High Commissioner, Her Excellency Smita Rossetti

IN LOVING MEMORY OF EX-SERVICEMAN

## REV. DR. EARLE FRANCIS & DR. MARJORIE FRANCIS



Rev. Francis, in his youth, served as Bugler; an Ex-serviceman of World War II. Additionally, he served as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church for 50 years (1964 to 2014). He was powerfully assisted by his beloved wife, Dr. Marjorie Francis, assisting as Organist of First Baptist Church for over 45 years. She was affectionately referred to as his "Sweet Potato" and upon his death, became a British Legion widow. This couple, joined in Holy Matrimony on June 29, 1947, were married for over 66 years. Pastor Francis often stated, "Old Soldiers Never Die, They Just Fade Away!"

Forever in our Hearts



# BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH PINS THIRD POPPY ON COMMANDER OF THE ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE & COMMAND TEAM



## BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH WINS “BEST RAN-BRANCH AWARD”

ADINA Munroe-Charlow, the Chairperson of the British Legion—Bahamas Branch, was in Ottawa, Canada, from late June to early July 2025. She attended and was honored at the 35th Ex-Services World War II League Conference, also known as the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL) conference. The event was hosted by the Royal Canadian Legion.

**Dates:** The RCEL conference took place from June 28 to July 4, 2025.  
**International award:** At the conference, Munroe-Charlow received the Dominion Executive Council Award, the highest international honor in the league.

**First-place performance:** She was recognized for her financial integrity and transparency in managing the British Legion—Bahamas Branch. The branch was ranked first in performance among 58 countries.



MR. and Mrs. Charlow, along with British Legion's 2nd Vice Chairman, Franklyn Brown Speaking with Christopher Warren former Secretary General of British Legion Headquarters located in London, England.



ADINA MUNROE-CHARLOW, MBE, Chairperson, British Legion-Bahamas Branch and Willis Charlow, husband.

# IN MEMORY OF OUR FATHER

# JAMES THOMAS CAREY

OCTOBER 1924 - FEBRUARY 2015

CELEBRATING  
OUR WAR VETERAN



Patricia Carey Collins, Barbara Carey Burrows, Paulette Carey Jacobs, Dr. Earla Carey-Baines, Sheila (Shelly) Carey and Thomas (Tommy) Carey.



# BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH SALUTES FOUNDERS OF DOCTORS HOSPITAL

The British Legion-  
Bahamas Branch Salutes  
The Late Squadron Leader  
& Orthopedic Surgeon,  
Meyer Rassin and Wife,  
Surgical Nurse, Ella Rosetta  
Laura Rassin, for their  
Service During World War  
II & to The Bahamas

Founders of former  
Rassin Hospital



THE RASSIN Hospital in 1955



DR. Meyer Rassin  
WORLD War II Squadron Leader, Orthopedic Surgeon



LATE Squadron Leader & Orthopedic  
Surgeon Meyer Rassin in Operating  
Room in early years of serving the  
Bahamian Public



ELLA Rosetta Laura Rassin  
World War II Surgical Nurse

The late Dr. Meyer Rassin and Ella Rosetta Rassin came to Nassau, Bahamas in 1944. Squadron leader and Orthopaedic Surgeon Meyer Rassin was posted by the Royal Air Force (London) to medically take care of troops that were stationed in the Bahamas and Florida during World War II. Dr. Rassin was the very first “Certified Surgeon” in The Bahamas at that time.

He and his wife Ella, loved The Bahamas and its people so much, until at the end of the war, they returned to Nassau in 1947 where he got his medical license to operate a small clinic on the Island of New Providence. His wife Ella, was his surgical assistant in the operating room he occupied during the war.

Today, The Bahamas has Doctors Hospital and a number of private Doctors Hospital Clinics serving Bahamians throughout the Island of New Providence and Freeport, Grand Bahama.



YOUNG Dr. Meyer Rassin with  
Medial Certificate



YOUNG Rassin Family in The Early years in the  
Bahamas

**“The Legion is at the heart of a national network that supports our Armed Forces community through thick and thin – ensuring their unique contribution is never forgotten.”**

IT IS NO WONDER THAT SUCH A MAN WITH A PHILANTHROPIC HEART WOULD BE AFFILIATED WITH SUCH AN ORGANIZATION.

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE HONOURABLE

DR. LIVINGSTONE  
**NATHANIEL  
COAKLEY,**  
C.B.E., J.P.



**“Sir Coaks”**

Thanks the Bahamas Branch of the Royal British Legion for their continued assistance to Veterans and their families as well as remembering the contributions of Bahamians who defended this country and International freedom.



# GRAND BAHAMA SUPPORTS THE BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH DURING THE 2025 REMEMBRANCE DAY CELEBRATIONS



GRAND Bahama Royal Bahamas Defence Force Rangers

PILOT Club of Freeport lay wreath at Grand Bahama 2025 Remembrance Day church service

LEFT to Right: Vanessa Smith, Marlene Ritchie Knowles, Loretta Knowles-Parris, Lynette Bain, and Denise Smith



GRAND Bahama Royal Bahamas Police & Defence Forces leading 2025 Remembrance Day Grand Bahama Parade



DIVYA Lady Knights Templar Council No. 1643 lay wreath at the late Comrade Henry Kellman' grave on 2025 Remembrance Day

FROM left to right - Lady Knights: Nicola Joffer, Shinique Dean, Cetta Bethel, Sir Knight Richard Little, Worthy Chief Councilor, Angela Sands, Lady Knight Theresa Rolle – Absent from photograph is Lady Knight Helen Mcphee

INDELIBLE MEMORIES

"PATRIARCH & PAST GRAND MASTER"

A TRIBUTE TO COMRADE

Edric Garfield Sturrup

1923 - 2016

Comrade Edric Garfield Sturrup was a family man. But he dedicated those years between 1941 and 1945 to military service for his beloved Bahamas during World War II. On August 27, family members, friends and a respected cadre of government officials attended his funeral at St. Barnabas Parish. It was plain to see that his 94 years alive had been productive and meaningful to many.

Private Edric Sturrup served as a military Officer in The Bahamas Battalion Squadron during those four years. The Squadron is recognized as the first Bahamas Defence Force during the colonial era. After training for front line battle in Jamaica, he returned to New Providence and joined his squad in guarding and protecting the ports of entry and the utility companies against any invasion on the island during the war.

After the end of World War II, Comrade Sturrup became employed on "the project" in the United States, before returning to The Bahamas to work in the hospitality industry. As a result of serving in World War II, he would become a member of British Legion-Bahamas Branch (BLBB), formerly known as The Bahamas Ex-Servicemen Association. This non-profit military organization was formed by Black Bahamian World War II Ex-Servicemen after World War II in 1945 in order to "preserve" their experiences and legacies for future Bahamian generations.

Cannon Basil Tynes, in his eulogy, applauded Sturrup for his dedication not only during the war, but also as a member of his congregation. Cannon Tynes reminded those in attendance of the timely adage that "Old Soldiers never die...They only fade away."

#GuardOurHeritage

1923 - 2016 FROM THE ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENSE FORCE. AUGUST 30TH, 2016

COMRADE

LLOYD TOPPIN

In 1944, Lloyd paused from woodworking and answered the call of duty to serve his country. He joined the Royal Air Force (R.A.F), where he served in the maintenance squadron until the end of World War II in 1945. His Service throughout this period strengthen his work ethic, where he became a more disciplined, punctual and developed his core values of honesty and generosity.

Old soldiers never die. They only fade away. Heartiest congratulations from the family of the late Comrade Lloyd M. Toppin.





GRAND Bahama Girls Brigade



GRAND Bahama Girls' Guides



GRAND Bahama Boys Brigade



GRAND Bahama Girls and Boys Brigade attends 2025 Remembrance Day church service



DELORES KELLMAN, WWII veteran' daughter represents - The British Legion-Bahamas Branch at Lucaya International School Remembrance Day assembly



# The Girl Guides Association of The Bahamas



The Girl Guides Association of The Bahamas proudly extends heartfelt congratulations to **The British Legion-Bahamas Branch** on your remarkable achievements and continued service.

Your dedication to honoring and supporting veterans, preserving history, and fostering community remembrance is truly inspiring. Your commitment to service aligns strongly with our own mission of developing young women of courage, confidence, and character who make a positive impact in their communities.



CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE.



# "WE ALSO WERE WARRIORS"

- THE THREE MAILLIS BROTHERS  
WHO WENT OFF TO WORLD WAR II...  
AND ALL CAME BACK!



The sons of Greek Sponge merchant Pericles John Maillis and Mrs Kalliope P. Maillis, who came to Nassau about 1905 and became one of the leading Greek sponge Merchants until his untimely death in 1926. Mrs. K.P. Maillis was deeply involved with war relief and war related charitable efforts.

JOHN CHRYSTOM PERICLES MAILLIS, Born Nassau 1915, was one of "the Gallant Five" as they were called, the first 5 Bahamians to volunteer for the RAF. John Maillis served as an RAF fighter pilot in England and saw serious air combat on the India/Burma front against the Japanese. He survived 3 plane crashes and was heavily decorated. Now deceased.

ALEXANDER PERICLES MAILLIS, born Nassau August 14 1916, was attending his second year in New York University having obtained his first degree in Economics and Finance and was drafted under the US/ British War treaties which allowed Br. subjects working in the USA to be drafted. He was trained as a paratrooper and sent to Indiana University to learn German and French and attached to the US Third Army. Crossed to England and to Normandy France on DD+17 and served as a Sergeant in General Patton's US Third Army Air Corps Intelligence and was in the drive all the way across France and was the first US Army soldier to enter the City of Frankfurt, Germany to ascertain resistance. He was also won a US Army Essay Prize and an in-service scholarship to the Sorbonne University in Paris demobilizing in 1946.

ANTHONY PERICLES MAILLIS, Born Nassau 1917, was studying opera at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York when he volunteered for service in April of 1944 because of WWII. He was aboard the John A. Bole out of New York for her "shake-down" cruise out of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They went to the Pacific via the Panama Canal in 1945 where the Bole arrived in Pearl Harbour June 7th 1945. Then on to Okinawa for picket and patrol duty and narrowly escaped being sunk by Kamikazes. After mine-sweeping operations in the Yellow Seas, the ship joined a cruiser-destroyer task force off Korea to cover the landing of troops. The Bole was then ordered to Saishu To, a volcanic Korean island where they accepted the surrender of the island and demilitarized it. Even in the mist of war duty, his famous voice gained note. He was noted at the time in U.S. Navy news with a mention to quote "...The famous pianist, and the Bole's Communications Officer, Eddy Duchin.. "played accompaniment for Seaman Maillis, who had an unusually fine voice and was rumored to have sung at Carnegie Hall...the music was Four-O" (quoted in part from An Anecdotal History USS John A. Bole.)



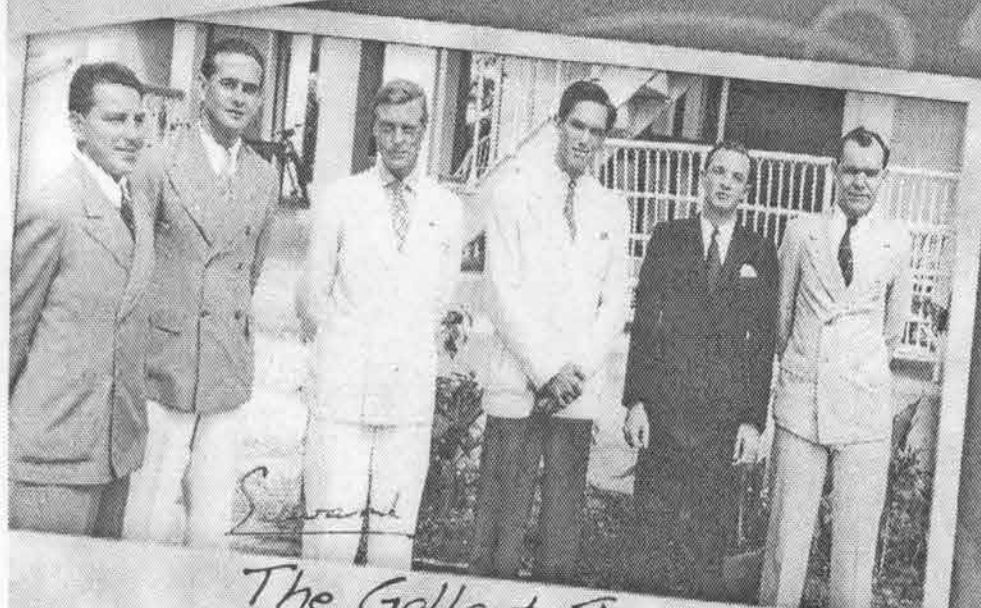
John C. P. Maillis, RAF



Alexander P. Maillis



Anthony P. Maillis



The Gallant Five

John C. P. Maillis, D. Lester Brown, John Maura,  
Cyril Fane Saloman, Ivor Thompson with HRH Duke of Windsor

WE ARE  
PROUD OF YOU!

FROM,

The Extended Bahamas Maillis family.

ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION HONORABLE DISCHARGE									
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL)		32 183 704		T/SGT		AAF		AUS	
MAILLIS ALEXANDER P		32 183 704		T/SGT		AAF		AUS	
395 FIGHTER SQ 368TH FIGHTER GP		23 MAR 46		SEP CTR FT DIX NJ					
IMPERIAL HOTEL NASSAU NP BAHAMAS		14 AUG 16		BAHAMAS					
SEE 9		BN BN		5/6		170		0	
MILITARY HISTORY		X		STUDENT		X-02			
9 OCT 41		9 OCT 41		FT DIX NJ					
INTELLIGENCE NCO 631		M-1 CARBINE		30 CAL SS 160 MAY 44					
ARMOENNES CENTRAL EUROPE RHINELAND		GO 33 WD 15 AS AMENDED							
WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL		AMERICAN SERVICE MEDAL		EUROPEAN-AFRICAN					
MIDDLE EASTERN SERVICE MEDAL		GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL							
NONE		NONE		30 MAY 44		EIO		10 JUN 44	
22 APR 44 18 JUL 44 11 MAR 48		NONE		30 MAY 44		EIO		10 JUN 44	
2 8 17 1 9 8		T/SGT		25 FEB 46		USA		7 MAR 46	
CONVENIENCE OF GOVT AR 615-365 15 DEC 44 AND RR 1-1 DEMOBILIZATION									
INF PARACHUTE JUMPING 4 WKS 1949		UNIVERSITY OF PARIS SVCS							
PAY DATA VN 5520		3.95		1176.80		J HARRIS COL PD			
31 MAR 46		30 APR 46		6.80					
LAPEL BUTTON ISSUED		ASR SCORE (2 SEP 45)		77					
JOSEPH COLOSIMO CWO USA									

C3670001

**Honorable Discharge**

United States Navy

This is to certify that

ANTHONY PERICLES MAILLIS

is honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy Personnel Separation Center

and from the U.S. Naval Service of the United States

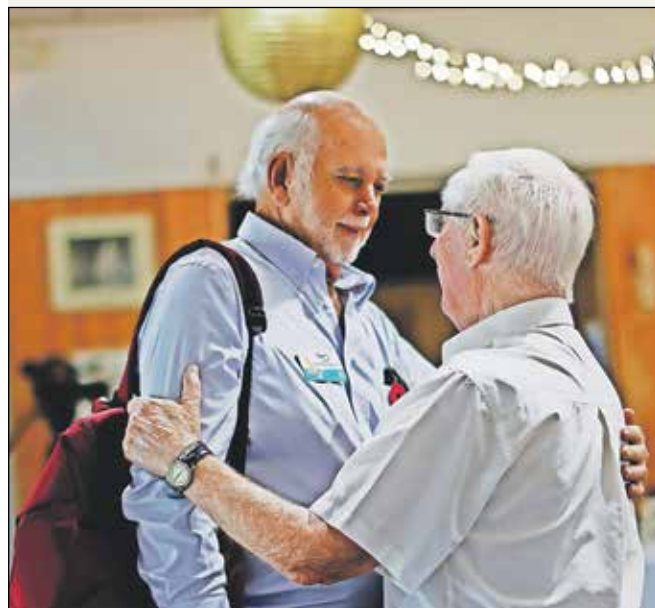
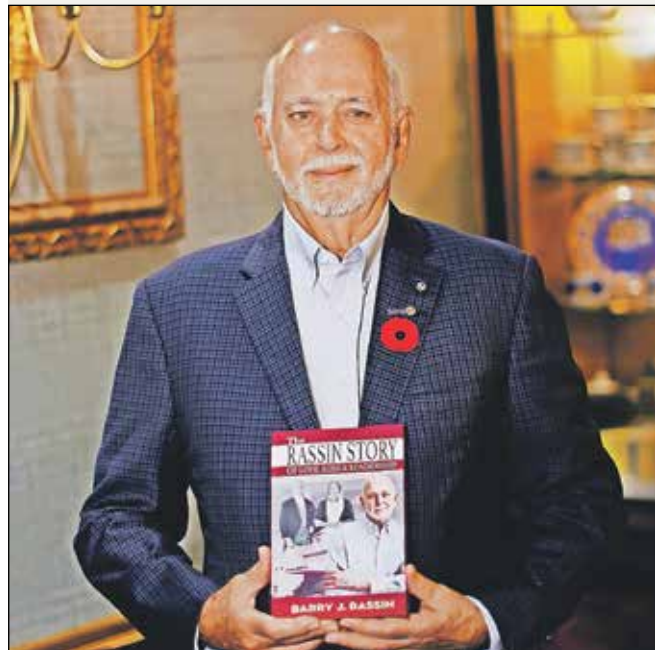
This certificate is valid in all countries.

Testimonial of Fidelity and Obedience

JOSEPH COLOSIMO CWO USA



# BARRY RASSIN CELEBRATES HIS LATE PARENTS MEDICAL LEGACY IN BOOK



## ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II (1939-45)

*We Salute Our Family's Hero  
And His Legacy*



**WARRANT OFFICER BASIL L.I. JOHNSON, D.F.M., C.B.E.**  
*Flight Engineer, Pathfinder Force: 156 Squadron  
Bomber Command Group 8, Royal Air Force  
President of The British Legion -  
Bahamas Branch 1966 - 2002.*

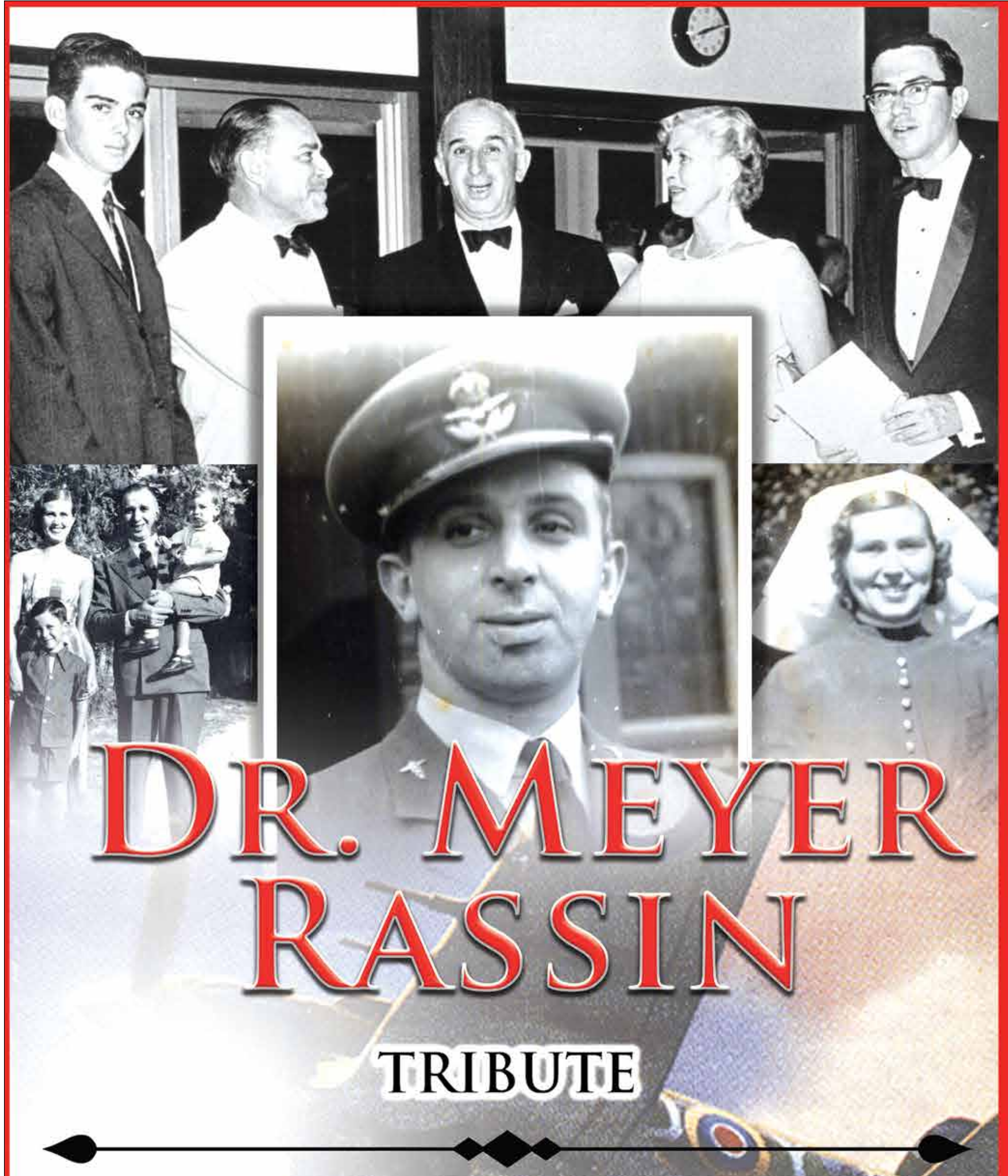
He carried the flag of the colony of the Bahama Islands  
at the June 6th 1945 V-Day Parade in London



Read his story in  
**The Black Prince of Grant's Town**  
*Life of a Bahamian Hero*  
By Felicity Johnson

Available at local bookstores





*Our father, came to Nassau in 1944, posted by the Royal Air Force to take care of the troops in The Bahamas and Florida. He was an Orthopedic Surgeon and was the first certified surgeon in the country. He loved the Bahamas and the people here so got his license to return with the family in 1947.*

*The Rassin Family*

**T**his story is fundamentally about my father, Dr. Meyer Rassin, who, along with my mother, dedicated his life to the healthcare of his patients from the time he came to The Bahamas during World War II, until he died.

He overcame many barriers, from antisemitism to local jealousies to government obstruction. Dad built a hospital so he could ensure that those who came to see him for care received the best possible care. He treated his patients right up until the time he was murdered at the age of 82.

As a tribute to him I continued his legacy by building a modern hospital with up to date equipment and opening it for all the local physicians and surgeons in The Bahamas.

My wife Esther and my membership in the Rotary Club of East Nassau were the stabilizing support that enabled me to handle all the barriers that I had to confront to continue Dad's legacy.

THE AUTHOR, Barry Rassin, was Chair of The Rotary Foundation from 2023-2024, having served as World President of Rotary International from 2018-2019.

Barry retired as President of Doctors Hospital Health System in Nassau after a 38-year career.

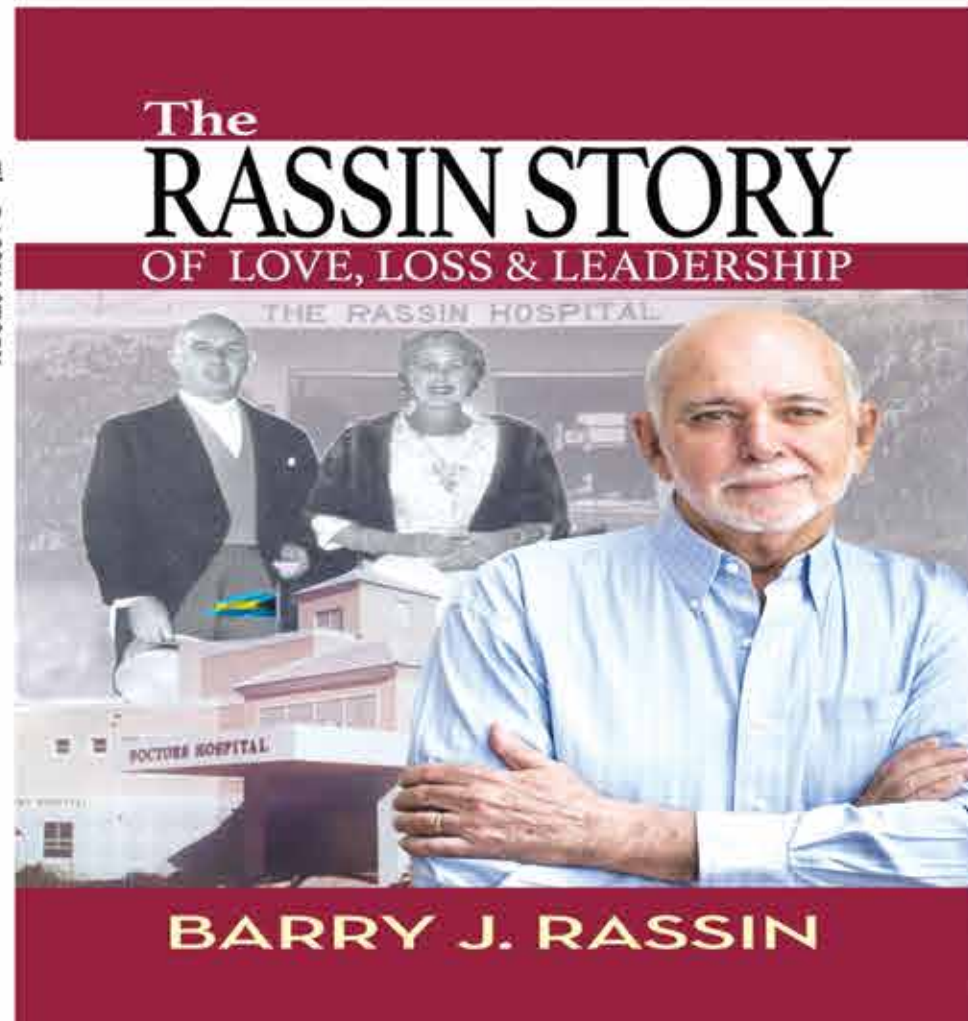
He has been a member of the Rotary Club of East Nassau since 1980, serving as President then as Governor for District 7020. He was the founding Chairman of Volunteer Bahamas, a national program to create a culture of volunteerism in the country. He was also on the National Consultative Vaccination Committee that coordinated volunteer efforts toward Covid-19 vaccinations. Barry serves as a Director for the University of The Bahamas.

He is a founder of HANWASH: Haiti National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy, a collaborative program to bring potable water and satisfactory sanitation to all the citizens of Haiti.

Media



The RASSIN STORY OF Love, Loss & Leadership  
BARRY J. RASSIN  
Media







**HONOURING THE SACRIFICE MADE BY ALL  
THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM  
AND DEMOCRACY DURING THE FIRST  
AND SECOND WORLD WAR.**



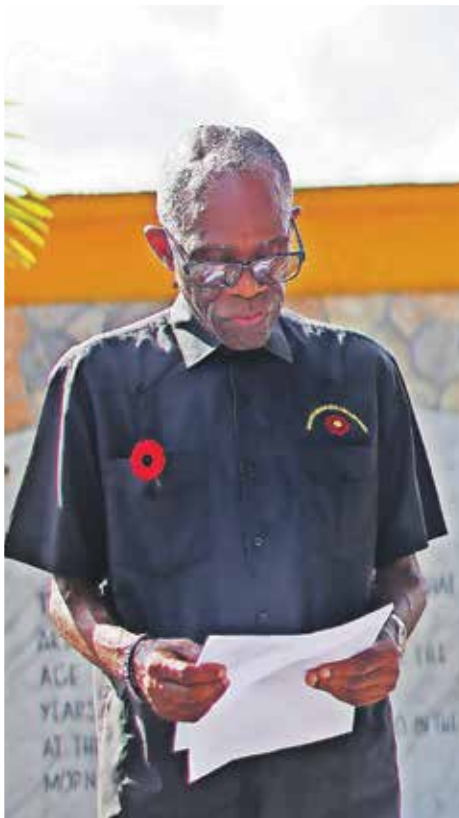




# BRITISH LEGION- BAHAMAS BRANCH 2025 FAMILY WREATH- LAYING CEREMONY HELD AT BAHAMAS VETERANS CEMETERY

SATURDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER, 2025

The British Legion-Bahamas Branch held its annual wreath-laying ceremony for the families of parents, fathers, and husbands who are buried in the Bahamas Veterans Cemetery, located on Infant View Road, in Nassau, Bahamas. This year (2025), the British High Commissioner to The Bahamas, Mrs. Smita Rossetti, participated in this short wreath-laying ceremony.







HER Excellency along with Chairperson Adina Munroe-Charlow of the British Legion-Bahamas Branch

# BRITISH LEGION-BAHAMAS BRANCH CELEBRATES & PARTICIPATES IN THE 2025 REMEMBRANCE DAY WREATHLAYING CEREMONY HELD AT THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE-(CENOTAPH)

SUNDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER, 2025



CHAIRPERSON, Adina Munroe-Charlow, along with Executive Committee Members of the British Legion-Bahamas Branch



HER Excellency with Chairperson Adina Munroe-Charlow, along with members of the Executive Committee of the British Legion-Bahamas Branch

The British Legion-Bahamas Branch Executive Committee, along with its WWII families, celebrated and participated in the 2025 Remembrance Day Parade and Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Garden of Remembrance (also known as The Cenotaph) on Sunday, 9th November, 2025.



CHAIRPERSON, Adina Munroe-Charlow along with registered Widow Genevieve Strachan, at the Centoph on Sunday, 9th November, 2025.



Post would like to stand with the British Legion in celebrating the remaining Bahamian World War Veterans and all men and women who served in World War I & II.



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Ph: (242) 677-1441 | 26 Patton Street, Palmdale Nassau, Bahamas





**The Commander Defence Force, Commodore Floyd Moxey, along with his Executive Team, Officers, Warrant Officers, Noncommissioned Officers and Junior Marines proudly salute the surviving veterans of World War II, their thirteen widows, and all who served in World Wars I and II, including those who made the ultimate sacrifice.**

We remember their courage, service and sacrifice in preserving the peace, freedoms and prosperity we now enjoy.

We also salute and remember our four brave, young Marines who died in the line of duty and the 15 survivors of the Defence Force patrol craft, Her Majesty's Bahamian Ship Flamingo, which was attacked and sunk during routine patrol by foreign military aircraft on May 10th 1980.

The names of those lost at sea are Able Seaman 'F'enrick Sturup, Marine Seamen 'A'ustin Smith, 'D'avid Tucker and 'E'dward Williams. May our fond memories of their life, service and sacrifice never **FADE**.

