**REMEMBRANCE DAY**

The St. Lucia Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Service Legion is observing Veteran Week 2017 from 1st November to 12th November 2017 – Remembrance Sunday. It is indeed an Honour and Priviledge for me as a World War 11 Veteran to address the Nation especially the youth on the occasion of Remembrance Day 2017.

Remembrance Day is one of the most important days in the year for the Veterans of both World Wars. It is the Day we Honour our young men and women who did not come back from the wars and sacrifice their lives for our freedom and the freedom of the world. We do this by wearing a Bright Red Poppy, to show that we have not forgotten them. We also honour those who came back from the War, those who volunteered to help win the War and the Peace we now enjoy, and are now in the evening of their years.

On the 11th November 2017, will be 98 years since the end of the First World War from 1914 to 1918, and 72 years since the end of the Second World War, from 1939 to 1945. It was the war to end all World Wars. It is 71 years since the St. Lucian Contingent which represented St. Lucia in the First Battalion Caribbean Regiment returned to St. Lucia from active service in the theater war.

There were over 30 St. Lucians among the 120 plus soldiers from the Windward Islands of St. Vincent, Grenada, Dominica and St. Lucia in the Caribbean Regiment. Having served in the Caribbean, U.S.A., the Mediterranean Sea, North Africa, Italy and Egypt with the British Forces from 1944 to 1946, we received a warm reception from the Government and people of St. Lucia.

The Caribbean Regiment did very well during the Last War. The boys from St. Lucia did well and we should be proud of them. We have a list of names and some pictures of a number of the veterans from St. Lucia presently. If anyone wants to know anything about his Brother, Father or Family who was in the Last War overseas or locally, we would be pleased to assist.

The St. Lucia Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Service Legion main objective is to see about the good and welfare of the St. Lucian Veterans, the widows, widowers and their family, as well as the needy Ex-Service men and women who sacrificed their youth when they joined the Windward Island Battalion in defense of their country. They knew in doing so, it would put their lives at risk but they went ahead anyway. This was a great sacrifice on their part.

Most of the War Veterans, Widows and Ex-Service men and women are senior citizens (over 80 and 90 years) and are unable to fend for themselves. Therefore, the Legion needs more assistance to look after the veteran’s widows and the Ex-Service men and women. They have made their contribution to this country and it is the nation’s duty to assist them now. They have done their part. Now is the public’s turn to show their gratitude by contributing generously to the Poppy Appeal Fund; not only on Remembrance Day but throughout the year.

We thank you.

H.M.L. Cyril

PResident