

May 2012

Review

Blind Veterans UK | St Dunstan's since 1915



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We mark the 30th Anniversary of the Falklands war as members recount their time in the South Atlantic on pages 21 to 31.

Picture: Royal Marine Commando Sergeant Alan 'Reggie' Perrin.

From the Chairman

Your message from Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE, RM.

It is extraordinary to think that it is now 30 years since the Argentines invaded the Falklands. I am sure many of you have vivid memories of that time. Several of you, like me, were there. Many more will have known someone who was there – a son, relation or friend – someone who you cared about and feared for. News then was much less in your face than it is now. No e-mails, no mobile telephones, no skype, no Sky News – just the rather lugubrious Mr Ian McDonald who gave frequent briefings on TV in his slow, deliberate and immaculate voice that gained him the nickname of 'the-speak-your weight-machine'. 255 British men and women were killed during the short few months of the war, and 777 wounded. It was a heavy toll to pay, but it in no small way impressed those who watched from the sidelines around the world that you can't expect to mess with this proud country and get away with it.

I was asked by a journalist recently if I thought it had been a 'just war'. I thought that was rather an odd question. What else are you supposed to do if people from another country arrive on your doorstep unannounced with guns, then use them, then just take over in complete opposition to the local people? When the diplomats failed to find a solution war was inevitable. Leaving the Falkland Islanders, all British citizens, in the lurch would certainly not have been a 'just' course of action.

Today the world is very different in so many ways. It often amazes me how fast things change, and how even the pace of change seems to be forever accelerating. But Spring is now in the air again, and that is always a time for optimism, not least with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and the London Olympics just around the corner. Let's hope it is going to be a good year for us too, individually and as an organisation.

On the cover: Nigel Whiteley leads the Service of the Dedication of the Blind Veterans UK Standard in the Chapel at the Brighton centre. More on Pages 21 and 22.

Photos by Jax Whiteley.

Review

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Contact: Catherine Goodier T 020 7616 8367 revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk



Blind Veterans UK Calendar

Key: B for Brighton centre - L for Llandudno centre - S for Sheffield centre

May	July
Golf 12th to 13th	Gardening Week B 1st - 7th
Snowdonia Weekend L 14th to 16th	Writer's Weekend B 5th - 7th
Writer's Forum B 19th	History Week B 15th - 21st
	Golf 21st - 22nd
June	
Archery Week B 2nd - 10th	Amateur Radio B 27th - 4th
Music Week, L 3rd - 9th	August
Writer's Forum B 16th	Race Week B 5th - 11th
Golf 16th - 17th	Writer's Forum B 18th
Ladies Week B 17th - 23rd	Golf 18th - 19th
	Archery Week B 24th - 1st

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

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Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information.

Join Calibre Audio Library

Calibre Audio Library provides a nationwide subscription free postal service of audio books with over 8,500 titles. You could join the 19,000 members already enjoying their large range of audio books, which includes latest best sellers such as Stieg Larsson's *The Girl Who Played with Fire*.

73% of Calibre's 19,000 members are now listening to their books on MP3CDs and USB memory sticks. There are a number of reasons for this increase. Firstly, the sound quality of this format is much clearer and there is a range of players, such as the Boom Box Plus and King's Audio, which cost less than £30 and are easily available. Secondly, many members are more familiar with digital formats as they receive their Talking Newspapers in this way. There are also plans to introduce streaming and downloading services of books in 2012.

To join Calibre Audio Library you can call their Membership Services Team on 01296 432 339, or download a form from their website at www.calibre.org.uk There is single payment of £35 and thereafter people can enjoy a lifetime of great literature. There are no postal charges or fines for late or damaged books.

Driving Day at Goodwood Motor Circuit.

Graham Raphael of Motorsport Endeavour has invited eight members to take part in a driving day with Band of Sisters on 30th May at the Goodwood Motor Circuit, Westhampnett, West Sussex PO18 0PH. Exact details will be given closer to the date, but if you are a female member of Blind Veterans UK who has served in the Armed Forces, and you would like to take part, please contact Catherine Goodier at revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk or telephone: 020 7616 8367. As this is not a Blind Veterans UK event you must make your own travel arrangements to and from Goodwood Motor Circuit.

Explore Ford's Heritage Collection in Dagenham, Essex.

We have places for five members to explore Ford's British Heritage Collection on 11th May 2012. The collection, which is not open to the public, contains 85 vehicles and other Ford memorabilia celebrating over 100 years of this great company. The oldest car in the Essex based collection is a 1910 Model T built in the USA. It sits alongside examples of Manchester built Model Ts and also the very last Model T ever built by Ford Motor Company. Other milestone vehicles include the oldest surviving Transit van from 1965, the first Ford Racing Puma and the first production Focus RS. There are also the very last models produced of the Cortina, Capri, Sierra RS Cosworth, RS200 and Escort. Unusual items of memorabilia include a Merlin V12 aero engine, one of 33,000 built by Ford for the Air Ministry during World War Two. There is the Ford powered Miss Britain IV motorboat which reached 124.24 mph at Lake Coniston in November 1982 to break the water speed record for diesel-engined craft.

If you would like to take part please contact Catherine Goodier on revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk or telephone: 020 7616 8367.

We would like to thank Graham Raphael of Motorsport Endeavour and Ford for this great opportunity. As this is not a Blind Veterans UK event you will need to make your own way to and from Ford, Dagenham.

Channel 4 want to know of your experiences on public transport

Channel 4 is conducting an investigation into Britain's transport system and what it's like for disabled travellers and blind and partially sighted passengers.

As Channel 4 will be the host broadcaster for the Paralympic Games they want to know how public transport works, or doesn't work for you, especially if you have tickets for the Olympics and Paralympics.

But more broadly they would like to know your stories of your experiences using public transport.

If you would like to take part please email: cara.berkeley@itn.co.uk or telephone Insight Radio on telephone 0141 357 3518.

The Band of HM Royal Marines Concert – Wednesday 11th July 2012

It is approaching that time again when we will soon have the pleasure of the company of the Band of HM Royal Marines at our centre in Brighton.

We at Blind Veterans UK are privileged each year to experience the magic of this concert; a day which is always immensely enjoyed by all. This special event is a highlight amongst our annual programme for local and visiting members. However hosting this event also provides an opportunity to invite and give something back to our volunteers, VIPs and supporters and to demonstrate our ongoing connection with this group of people.

As you are aware it is a popular event and we only have a limited number of seats available for local members and their spouses. If you wish to apply for a place, please contact Charlotte Davies on telephone: 01273 391412.

There will be a limited bus service for members living in the immediate vicinity of the Brighton centre who require the assistance of transport. If you do live locally, and are able to make your own way in, this would help to alleviate unwanted pressure on the Transport department.

Lunch bookings will not be accepted on the day except for those already staying in house.

Order of events for the afternoon:

1330	Pimms served in the Inner Garden
1400 – 1515	Band of HM Royal Marines Concert
1520	Afternoon tea in the Inner Garden
1600	Guests depart

Bowling Club dates for October and November 2012.

Please note the Bowling Club will meet at the centre in Brighton from 28th October to 10th November 2012.

Blind Veterans UK centres accommodation charges update 2012

As we enter into the new financial year, Blind Veterans UK remains committed to providing the best quality and range of services to our members. Our three centres are an integral part of service provision and in order to ensure we can continue to provide an excellent level of service and standard we employ an annual pricing review for our accommodation charges.

As with previous years, part of our ongoing dedication of responding to and meeting our members' needs calls for the review of our accommodation charges at our centres. This review ensures we are still achieving viable operating costs for the organisation, whilst allowing us to continually strive to provide and develop innovative services.

Below are the new charges for our three centres in Brighton, Llandudno and Sheffield. These were effective from 1st April 2012 and as you will note the increases have been kept to the absolute minimum. Brighton Clubs will still be eligible for an accommodation discount in 2012, subject to certain terms and conditions. Club presidents will receive further information regarding these.

Brighton and Llandudno charges for non war blind members

Permanent Care	2011	2012
Brighton only		
Nursing	£539 (£77 per day)	£553 (£79 per day)
Residential	£441 (£63 per day)	£455 (£65 per day)

Respite		
Nursing	£483 (£69 per day)	£497 (£71 per day)
Residential	£357 (£51 per day)	£364 (£52 per day)

Holiday		
Low season 1st Oct – 31st March	£217 (£31 per day)	£224 (£32 per day)
High season 1st April – 30th Sept	£273 (£39 per day)	£280 (£40 per day)

Clubs special		
Low Season 1st Oct – 31st March	£201.25 (28.74 per day)	£206.50 (£29.50 per day)
High Season 1st April – 30th Sept	£257.25 (£36.75 per day)	£262.50 (£37.50 per day)

Theme week surcharges	£25.50 depending on the event and the seasonal cost	£26
Port Hall/Beacon Hill	£161 (£23 per day)	£164.50 (£23.50 per day)

Introductory week		
Members	Free	Free
Spouses at Brighton and Llandudno	£98	£101
Spouses at Sheffield	£68	£70

Training		
Members	Free	Free
Spouses at Brighton and Llandudno	As per accommodation booked	As per accommodation booked
Spouses at Sheffield	£92	£95

Brighton and Llandudno charges for war blind

	2011	2012
Nursing	£287 (£41 per day)	£294 (£42 per day)
Residential	£224 (£32 per day)	£231 (£33 per day)

Respite		
Nursing	£287 (£41 per day)	£294 (£42 per day)
Residential	£224 (£32 per day)	£231 (£33 per day)

Holiday		
Low season 1st Oct – 31st March	£182 (£26 per day)	£185.50 (£26.50 per day)
High season 1st April – 30th Sept	£199.50 (£28.50 per day)	£203 (£29 per day)

Clubs: Special		
Low season 1st October – 31st March	£176.75 (£25.25 per day)	£182 (£26 per day)

High season 1st April - 30th Sept	£187.25 (£26.25 per day)	£192.50 (£27.50 per day)
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To arrange your stay please contact the Bookings Coordinator on: telephone: 01273 391422 or email: Ovingdeanbookings@blindveterans.org.uk

Prime Minister's Question Time

On 21st March Guto Bebb, MP for Aberconwy praised Blind Veterans UK and asked whether the Prime Minister would like to join him on a visit to Llandudno.

Q. Guto Bebb (Aberconwy) (Con):The Prime Minister might be aware that the St Dunstan's charity, which provides support for injured Servicemen, has recently changed its name to Blind Veterans UK. To raise awareness of this name change, will he join me in visiting its new residential centre in Llandudno to see at first hand the wonderful work it does in supporting our veterans?

The Prime Minister: I always enjoy my visits to Llandudno, and perhaps I will be able to schedule one before long. I would like to put on the record my thanks for the tireless and highly professional way in which the charity assists service personnel who have tragically lost their sight. My hon. Friend pays it a great compliment and does his duty by explaining the change in its name, so that people know what it is and can give it money. As a country and a Government, we have a huge debt to pay to former service personnel. They have done extraordinary things on behalf of their country, and we need to look after them through their lives. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor will make some announcements about that in his Budget.

Sign up for events with the Sports and Recreation department in 2012

The Sports & Recreation department has expanded its programme of events for 2012 to include some new activities and to also take advantage of the area around the Llandudno centre. Details of this year's remaining activities are shown below, along with the names and contact details for the instructors in the Sports and Recreation department at the Brighton and Llandudno centres.

Snowdon Walk (new) 14th - 16th May. Please contact Nikki Green 01492 868740 or Paula Sartain on 01492 868741 at the Llandudno centre.

Kayaking Trip (new) 30th June - 1st July. Please contact Nikki Green 01492 868740 or Paula Sartain 01492 868741 at the Llandudno centre.

Dorking Sportive Cycle Ride (new) 8th July. Please contact Andrew Seivewright 01273 391465 at the Brighton centre. If you fancy riding on part of the 2012 Olympic Road Race route then here is your chance in this new event with a choice of distances – GP form required.

Fishing Trip (new) 10th July. Please contact Nikki Green 01492 868740 or Paula Sartain on 01492 868741 at the Llandudno centre.

Activities Week 19th - 25th August, venue to be confirmed. Please contact Kayla Hammond 01273 391467 at the Brighton centre. The old favourite for those who fancy some extreme sports and team building activities - GP form required.

Lympstone Challenge Weekend (new) 6th - 7th October. Please contact Andrew Seivewright at the Brighton centre on 01273 391465. A new slant on an old favourite – based at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines base in Devon, a weekend of fun activities – GP form required.

Great South Run 28th October. Please contact Steve Mills at the Brighton centre on 01273 391481. The traditional 10 mile road race around the streets of Portsmouth taking in the historic dockyards and seafront – GP form required

Please note that places are limited so please be quick if you are interested.

Letters to the Editor

As we welcome your letters please do send them in to us. They could be in response to an article in the Review, or something you feel to be of interest to your fellow members. You can send letters by post to Blind Veterans UK Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. Please mark them Letter to the Editor. Or if you prefer please send an email to the Review at email: revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk

Dear Editor

Recently, I had a letter from my Canadian cousin, who had enclosed a cutting referring to a St Dunstan's Clock (1965).

I thought it may be of interest to readers of the Review.

Yours faithfully

Christine Stalham

Dear Mrs Stalham

That is a very interesting article and I'm sure readers of the Review will enjoy the item greatly. Thank you for sending it in as it is also a very useful contact for us to make with the Royal Ontario Museum.

Yours sincerely

Editor

The article, which was published in Inspiring Ideas for Everyday Living, April 2012 is as follows:

Q: I have a Braille clock from my great grandfather, who went blind in the First World War from mustard gas. The brass Braille plate on the top reads: "St Dunstan's 1915 - 1965." I believe the clock itself was made by Smiths Clocks and Watches. I'm wondering about its value. Laura Ippolito, Toronto.

A: Your great grandfather's mantel clock is remarkable on a couple of levels. It's a family keepsake from three generations ago and it gives recognition to a renowned institution that tackles the difficulties of living with sight loss. St Dunstan's is a charity based in London, England, that was founded in 1915 and provides lifelong support to blind and visually impaired ex-Servicemen and women in the UK, enabling them to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

Your tactile clock, made by Smiths Clocks and Watches, commemorates St Dunstan's 50th anniversary in 1965. Made without a glass dial cover, its reinforced hands were designed to withstand touch reading. Four raised metal dots at 12, three, six and nine o'clock orient a blind person to the time. The plaque on the top of the clock says the same in Braille as the written words. Today, talking alarm clocks are more common. This stylish clock from the 1960s is worth about \$50. Conrad Biernacki, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.



Picture: The inscribed St Dunstan's Braille clock.

Founders Day in Llandudno

The annual Founders Day celebrated the very best of Blind Veterans UK and showed that the spirit of endeavour, encouraged by our Founder Sir Arthur Pearson, still runs strong. Mark Lovatt and his staff opened their doors to host the Awards ceremony when the role of Master of Ceremony was conducted by Barry Porter, Director of Welfare Services. The Awards were presented by the Mayor of Llandudno, Councillor Greg J T Robbins, who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress Debbie Robbins.

We have used information from Barry Porter for the following winners who were:

Community Award – John Marcelle

John from Romford in Essex was recognised for his Parcels for Troops work. John, who completed a 23 year career with the 14th/20th King's Royal Hussars, has sent parcels to troops serving overseas for the last 21 years. He sends 200 parcels per month to troops in Afghanistan. With his team he has spent countless hours collecting the required boxes, assembling the parcels and ensuring their despatch and conveyance via BFPO. He has formed contacts with MOD, branches of the Armed Forces, retailers (noticeably Tesco) and freight carriers. As an example of his efforts, a recent collection day at one Tesco store organised by John culminated on the day in £23,000 in goods being donated and £900 cash and £600 in Tesco vouchers being collected. He even secured the presence of the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson at his latest Parcels for Troops Day.

Training Achievement Award – Harry Henson

After the death of his wife in 2004 Harry decided the best way to fill his time was to study for a degree. At the age of 85 he completed his Bachelor of Law Degree at Northumbria University. Harry served with the RAF from 1943 to 1948 and was subsequently a Police Officer for 30 years. To complete his studies Harry mastered the PC and access software. He completed the degree with his son Michael. He has recently said he now fancies studying for a History Degree.

Sports Person of the Year – Nigel Davies

Following in his father's footsteps he joined the Army as a boy in August 1976 and served in the King's Own Royal Border Regiment in the UK, Germany and Northern Ireland. He left the Army in April 1987. Prior to his sight loss quite suddenly at the age of 47, Nigel was an accomplished time trial cyclist. Converting this experience to riding a tandem represented a formidable challenge that Nigel took to with enthusiasm and determination. It was at this point where the idea of undertaking a triathlon began to emerge. Already a competent swimmer, Nigel's biggest obstacle was his running but with perseverance his run speed increased considerably. Nigel has now completed the fastest blind triathlon by one of our members. At two hours and 43 minutes, it is some 13 minutes quicker than the previous best time. This achievement will no doubt spur him on to further challenges in the future.

Creative Art Award – Jean Williams

Jean joined the Wrens in 1940 and served to the end of the war. Jean produces sculpture of remarkable quality. In her nomination she was described as: Jean is self motivated, continually developing her ideas and skills and overcoming whatever obstacles and challenges come her way.

Volunteer of the Year Award – Clare Wylie

Clare Wylie from Brighton won the award for her voluntary work at the Brighton centre. She joined the Brighton centre staff on a six month work placement from her employers American Express. During that time, Clare got involved in working with us on a day to day basis in various departments. She also gave of her own time helping at fundraising events on weekends and in the evenings.

Special Achievement Award - Simon Brown

Severely injured under fire in Iraq in 2006 whilst serving with Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, since joining the organisation, Simon has been incredibly supportive of both the Charity's fundraising efforts including speaking at numerous events, but also as a lead member of the younger group of war blinded members. He has considerable interpersonal and communication skills and whether he is representing us at a National

Arboretum Event, speaking to the media, or simply encouraging others to be as independent as possible, he is entirely genuine as you would expect of any true Yorkshireman.

Special Achievement Award to Paul James

Paul has been associated with the Charity for 47 years and is better known to some as the owner of PBK, our catering providers at Brighton and London. But he is also known as someone who is completely committed to supporting individual members in any way he can. Over the years this has involved escorting members on everything from skiing to bird recording trips and perhaps most significantly attending the annual 50 year badge holders Reunion event held over four days each year at Church Stretton in Shropshire, our wartime home. He has long standing friendships with many of those attending and is happy to fit in with whatever needs doing, be it pushing wheelchairs, moving luggage or simply chatting to our guests.

Joint Special Achievement Award

The Award went to Billy Black, Charlie Eastwood and Chris Lee. When the Llandudno Centre opened on the 19th of September 2011 it was the beginning for the centre, but the end of a remarkable journey for them. They had covered 327 miles by marching from our Brighton Centre, via Harcourt Street in London, and our Sheffield Centre, to Llandudno in a fortnight. Having served respectively in the Royal Highland Fusiliers, The Royal Signals and REME they had all done a bit of square bashing in their time but this was a truly formidable undertaking requiring great determination.

Outstanding Achievement Award - David Cranson

Identifying a member for outstanding achievement is difficult. An outstanding achievement may be to climb a mountain, or to learn how to safely make a cup of tea. The list can be endless but, we make this award to a member who has achieved an outstanding level of independence through their participation in activities promoted, or provided, through the Charity. David served with the Royal Artillery in the UK and Germany, he would be the first to admit that on developing very poor sight as a result of an optic atrophy that adjusting was extremely challenging and at many times he has felt very low indeed. But

he has challenged himself and has learnt how to accept, adapt and achieve. During the last year he competed in the Triathlon, undertook a coast to coast bike ride, for the first time in his life learnt how to use a computer and in October last year attended our Sheffield centre for our first photography week having not picked up a camera for over 20 years. Taking blind photos is an interesting concept challenging to those of us with sight, it's even more remarkable when you see the results.

The Ted Higgs Trophy - Norman Perry

This award is given in memory of the late Ted Higgs, who lost all of his sight in 1944, whilst serving with the Royal Artillery. It has been kindly donated by members of his family. The award is given to a War Blind member in recognition of lifetime achievement. Norman was blinded whilst serving in North Africa in 1941. He spent time in Timbani in South Africa before he was repatriated to the UK. As a member of some 70 years Norman epitomises an extraordinary level of determination and courage exercised on a daily basis. A founder of our Archery Club he remains to this day at the age of 92, an active and highly skilled blind archer, a formidable bowls opponent and a highly skilled cane worker whose beautiful chair work is a disappearing art. For many years Norman was a senior physiotherapist latterly managing a large hospital department. In retirement he remains active and independent in both mind and spirit. I can think of no one who better sums up what being a St Dunstaner has been about.

The Chairman's Commendation Awards

We will include their citations in the June Review, but the winners were:

Paul Cartwright, Natasha Cartwright, Aaron Buckland, Kathleen Golds, David Parsons, Robert Blackburn, Gaye Staff, Inderpal Kallah, Mick Byrne.

Harry Beevers 10 questions on the subject of... mammals

1. Which mammal appears on the official flag of the Falkland Islands?
2. Which mammal gave its name to a Sopwith fighter plane in World War I?
3. Which wild mammal spread throughout Australia between 1860 and 1910 despite the building of a 1,000-mile long fence to stop it?
4. Of the four main characters in Kenneth Grahame's children's novel "Wind in the Willows", which is not a mammal?
5. The gypsy dish Hotchi- Witchi is made from which small mammal sometimes called the Urchin?
6. In George Orwell's novel, "Animal Farm", what kind of farmyard mammals are Molly, Clover and Boxer?
7. Which mammal has the largest number of teeth?
8. Which is regarded as the world's slowest mammal with an average ground speed of around 7 feet per minute?
9. Which mammal native to North America reputedly began appearing in the British countryside when Mr Brocklehurst a Cheshire landowner released a pair into the wild?
10. In which form of traditional entertainment could one see the mammal characters Hector and Toby?

Blind Veterans UK is proud to welcome Simon Brown

Simon Brown, 33, joined Blind Veterans UK in early April in his new full time role as Membership Officer, working in the Membership Department. He is tasked with recruiting new members to the charity. Well known to many of you Simon, who was brought up in Morley in Yorkshire, joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (2 Lancashire) in May 1997. After qualifying in mechanical engineering he served in Germany, Kosovo, Poland and Canada before being posted to Iraq in 2006. There he lost his sight in a shooting incident whilst on active duty in late 2006, and became a member shortly afterwards.

He is really positive about his new job and is already establishing links in public and private sector organisations to find more members and raise the profile of Blind Veterans UK. These include Service organisations, Social Services Visual Impairment Teams, Blind Associations, hospitals and specialist services such as ophthalmic clinics. Simon will ensure that all eligible ex-Service men and women who need our services are encouraged to apply for membership.

If you know of someone who is eligible to become a member, or have links with any relevant organisations, please contact Simon on: telephone: 020 7616 7979, or email: simon.brown@blindveterans.org.uk



Picture: Simon Brown in a Blind Veterans UK poster.

Proud to carry the Standard, by Nigel Whiteley.

Nigel Whiteley's association with Blind Veterans UK, then St Dunstan's, began in 1972 when as a member of the Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Crew he would work with First World War St Dunstaners at the annual summer camp. Here he tells what it means to him to be the Blind Veterans UK Standard Bearer.

I have been extremely proud to represent St Dunstan's for several years as Standard Bearer, representing the organisation at Military and Veterans events; around the UK in Chatham, Greenwich, Swanage and Cardiff – and many other locations in between. I hope to be able to continue to be a visual representative of Blind Veterans UK for as long as my health allows. I will parade the Blind Veterans UK Standard at ceremonies to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Falklands war. They will take place across the South of England, and I will also be at the National Armed Forces Day event in Plymouth in June.

I was pleased to be able to participate in the Laying up of the St Dunstan's Standard and the Dedication of the new Blind Veterans UK Standard, which took place in the chapel at the Brighton centre on 7th March. I was deeply honoured that so many other military organisations sent their Standards to show their support for this wonderful military charity.



Picture: Nigel Whiteley leads at the Service of Dedication of the Standard.

To mark the 30th Anniversary of the Falklands War, the Review asked Nigel Whiteley of his experiences during that time. Here Nigel recounts his Service days in the Falklands.

My Falklands war started on 10th April 1982 as I was sitting in my office; where I was Lead Instructor for the Royal Naval Command First Aid School at HMS Raleigh. My phone went and it was the administration chief who told me I had a draft. I asked when and was told I had two hours to prepare; and to make sure I had my steaming kit, overalls and working rig, a couple of spare white shirts and my hat. He told me to be onboard a vehicle which would leave Raleigh to take us to Portland Naval Base in Dorset where we would set up medical services aboard five trawlers, which had been requisitioned by the Royal Navy. Ships taken up from trade were all known as STUFTs. We would also have to train the crews who were mainly Royal Naval Reservists in fire fighting and first aid as they would man the trawlers down to the Falklands. The ships were fitted out and we sailed six days later for the Falkland Islands – completing most of their training on the way. This meant I had to transfer between the vessels at sea.

The main task for the trawlers was to search for mines to allow the mine clearance team to go in and detonate them. They were also the insertion vessels to take Special Forces teams into the Falkland Islands.

After I had completed their training, I was temporarily transferred to 846 Naval Air Squadron, which is one of the Commando Air Squadrons. Our job was to take troops and their equipment forward, and to bring any casualties back for treatment. We were based at Navy Point on the Falklands, an old meat packing factory, which had been recaptured by the British Forces before we got there, and had been turned into the hospital, known as the 'Red and Green Life Machine' in Ajax Bay.

Part of the job involved moving casualties from the ships which had been hit, one of which was HMS Antrim. I'm not sure if I picked Terry Bullingham up as we didn't have time to look at those who had been wounded – we just had to get them in the air as quickly as possible and care for them as we flew to Ajax Bay, or direct to the Hospital ship SS Uganda, where they could be treated.

I boarded three ships that had been hit and it is what I was trained for. It was my job, we didn't have time to think about our surroundings, or who the casualties were, we just had to act quickly to ensure we didn't lose anyone who had been wounded, and we didn't.

When the fighting finished I was asked if I would volunteer to stay down there. I was then transferred to NP2100 Unit, which consisted of ships that were part of the Forward Support Unit 01, which looked after minesweepers. I was then based on RMS St Helena, which was owned by the Island of St Helena. We were the mother ship for HMS Brecon and HMS Ledbury who were mine hunters. It was one of my duties to run the recompression chamber on the St Helena if the divers needed it. This meant that I finished my time 'down south' in comfort having a cabin all to myself, and steward service, together with a fully fitted ships hospital and even a doctor!

We came home in November 1982 to Portsmouth and we went to Rosyth where we destored the ship and handed it back to civilian hands. At Rosyth a Major from the Royal Military Police come onboard and read a warning about selling rifles and other weapons that had been taken from the Argentinean forces, in pubs or anywhere else! What he didn't realise was that as he told us about the penalties should anyone be caught doing that, he was actually leaning in a very relaxed manner against an object that was covered by a tarpaulin, which was actually an Argentinean sea mine.



Picture: Petty Officer Nigel Whiteley, photo taken in 1976.

The road to Bomb Alley!



Picture: An Argentinean bomb explodes on board the Royal Navy frigate HMS Antelope on 23 May 1982, killing the bomb disposal engineer who was trying to defuse it. **Photo** The Reggie Perrin collection.

For the many new members we have reproduced interviews from an article in the 2007 Review by Simon Rogers. Here Blind Veterans UK members tell their story of the Falklands War.

Alan Holderness, from Blackburn in Lancashire was just 17 at the time and serving in the Royal Marines. He recalled his own departure: "Alpha Company got put on the Hermes, so they went straight away. We were told that we were going down on the Canberra, so we went down to Southampton and ended up kipping in a shed, very nice, while they got the Canberra refitted before they let us onboard. We got onboard and settled down. My memory of sailing off is that it was dark. Just as you passed the headland there must have been a crowd of cars there and they were all flashing their headlights as we were pulling out. It was a bumble down there. There was a lot of political activity going on behind the scenes but we were interested in keeping fit, keeping up our physical routine. There were civilian chefs onboard, gourmet chefs who would cook anything. Unfortunately, our chief cook at the time decided we should keep our hand in, so he volunteered us. We had to keep up with the military side of our training and then work shifts in the galley. The kitchens were filthy, they were absolutely honking, so the first thing we did was scrub everything down. I think time passed very quickly for us because we were frying thousands of eggs.

None of the other units volunteered their lads, which we weren't happy about, but we managed to work our way through.

"There was a limit to the amount of exercise that could be done, but we did a lot. Everyone grouped at Ascension Islands. While we were waiting we went ashore for forced marches. It was a weird place, just this great volcanic rock in the middle of the ocean. It was just barren, a terrible place. We practised disembarking. The temperature must have been 100 degrees C without the sand. We spent time fishing, trying to catch sharks. There are only so many times you can run around the deck. We just wanted to get on with it."

Royal Marine Steve Sparkes recalled being taken through the hospitalisation zone on the Canberra. "There were stretchers set up and areas set up as operating theatres. I believe it was a way of conditioning us for the coming conflict. It was an interesting time for me as I had never been to sea on a ship before."

Alan 'Reggie' Perrin describes the Canberra as luxurious with access to swimming pools and other facilities. "It was a big adventure. I think I was too stupid to realise it was dangerous. I was just 17, a young man without any responsibilities. Getting ready was one big rush. I had worked hard to be there, taking on jobs no one else would want to do to, just to show my commitment. I didn't want people to ask how old I was and stop me going. At the time I didn't really drink as I was very much into keeping fit, so I wasn't really bothered when I wasn't allowed to have a drink in one of the Canberra's bars on the way down to the South Atlantic."

Terry Bullingham who served onboard HMS Antrim recalls: "We started making our way north, escorting the Tidespring, which had the Argentinean prisoners onboard. We also had the British Antarctic Survey team onboard and were heading out as the Exocet armed Argentine Cruiser General Belgrano was torpedoed by HMS Conqueror. The second largest ship in the Argentine Navy, she was reckoned to have a crew of 1,000 men. Skirmishes continued over the next few days, with RAF Vulcan bombers targeting Port Stanley. On 4th May, HMS Sheffield was hit by an Exocet missile that started a fire that made part of the hull glow white. The crew abandoned ship after some hours of fire fighting. In six days time, it would sink while under tow."

A new peace initiative was launched by the UN on 7th May, the same day; Britain extended the exclusion zone to within 12 nautical miles of Argentina. On the Antrim, Terry remembers the debate. "We're going back towards Ascension but we're not getting into the tropical heat and there's all this business about General Haig being a peace maker. We were going into the World Service every hour to hear how it's getting on. We've got this stuff on the public address, listening to Lillibullero, and these talks are going on and on. Eventually we handed the Tidespring over to HMS Arrow and they carry on escorting it. We don't go back to Ascension. We get sent back down again, this time to the Falklands. I remember we had a bit of a snag on the aircraft, and I was with the boss on a test flight. We were flying above the Task Force. It was quite amazing really, an aerial view. We saw the sleek Type 42s, the Canberra, which still looked pretty good, and the old Uganda looked like something from the old days with a Victor funnel, and the Atlantic Conveyor, not knowing that they are all going down in history. From the air, 5,000 ft, I can see all the hulls in the water, which is green and I didn't know the significance to me seeing that Task Force."

The Hospital Ship Uganda arrived on 11th May, taking up a station in a Red Cross Box, effectively a neutral zone that they shared with an Argentine ship, Bahia Paraiso. The first casualties would arrive the next day, casualties from HMS Sheffield. Casualties usually went to a first aid station that was manned by Royal Marine Sick Berth Attendants.

HMS Glasgow was holed by a 1,000lb bomb and forced to withdraw. Harriers from Hermes mounted further raids. Bad weather dogged the Task Force over the next few days, but aerial bombardment of Port Stanley and other targets resumed. Alan Holderness continues. "When I got into the South Atlantic waters things started taking on more of an atmosphere. As the waters got colder it got more realistic. We still thought it wouldn't happen. We wanted it to happen, because we were bored rigid. But as we moved down it got more serious. We got Russian ships shadowing us, air raid sirens all times of the day. When you are on a great white ship in the middle of the ocean they're not going to hit the little slim ones first. They're going to come for you first."

Steve Sparkes adds: "We steamed really fast because the hull of the ship just shook. We got there really quickly. The Navy gave us a demonstration of what they were capable of; the frigates were turning on a sixpence, leaning right over and firing off as they did so. It gave us peace of mind to know we were

protected because we were just a great big white lump. They called us the White Whale. You couldn't miss us, such an easy target."

Alan recalls that they were kept busy. "We had practice drills and false alarms. If there was an aircraft in the area, we got the warning and we were up on deck manning guns fitted up on deck, fixed to the upper fencing. It took on a whole new meaning. We must have been in the Exclusion Zone when a reporter let it slip where we were, that there were 3,000 men on a big white ship waiting to go ashore, so we all disembarked. Most of us got disembarked and went into Fearless and other assault ships before the landing. That was a nightmare because you're trying to jump in with all your kit, your weapon, and everything. The docking area of the Canberra was down here and the LSR was down there and then it was up here and then it was down here. There were quite a few who ended up in a big snotty heap. One of the blokes I knew, Dave Sturgess, went in and he was lucky not to get crushed because he went in between the two boats"

On 19th May, the Cabinet in London approved for landings to go ahead. HMS Glamorgan began bombarding targets between Stanley and Lively Island. A Sea King helicopter carrying 21 soldiers was lost at sea. The next day would prove significant on several fronts. It saw the start of the Royal Air Force's first offensive mission flown from a carrier since 1918. HMS Glamorgan started bombarding the south coast as a diversion for events in Falkland Sound. It was not entirely successful.

Terry Bullingham continued: "On May 20th we go in at night, coming down between East and West Falklands. We had all these people on the ship, SAS and SBS men; we knew they had swapped their ranks. We had the Officers in the Chief's Mess and the NCO's in the Ward Room and they were serious minded. I remember going back to get my book on night watch and one of them is sleeping in my bed and under the pillow was a revolver. In the middle of the ship! And he was sleeping with a firearm! So they never relax! We put them ashore with the helicopter at Fanning Head, this hill, we later realised there was a company of Argentine Marines on this hill. Eventually there were only about 14 of them left. We started firing on the hill with a 4.5. Looking up from the hanger we could see the two barrels pumping them out every 15-20 seconds. I remember the thing, 'Fire for effect'. And that got Argies running down the hill. And with SAS and SBS, all the knives and grenades, long hair, these were real fighting soldiers.

"We go on down with six other ships. We had stayed on ZULU time thinking it would confuse the Argies. They did their early morning strike and it was about 11 o'clock with us. The Antrim and other ships came under fire. They were bombing us. We were distracted and we see these flashes of 500 pounders going into the Ardent. There are flashes and smoke and that concentrates the mind a bit. And then it was our turn. I had gone into the hanger offices and I heard this 'whack' and the whole ship reverberated. Four Skyhawks had come up the arse end and one of them had put a 1,000lb bomb right down the sea slug missile launchers. Through the flap, where it had rattled around, went through the bulkhead and ended up in the afterheads. As it bounced around in the head, it had hit the deckheads and brought up a bloody great lump like a mole hill. Now as we were all a bit green, we thought it had gone off and this was heat. It hadn't gone off because they hadn't fused it properly. Thank God. If it had gone off that would have been it for us. We were looking at this lump and getting the fire hoses as the routine in that kind of situation is to swab the flight deck down with cold water to keep it cool. And there were a pair of Mirages following the attack, coming down at right angles, so fast you can't really track them. They're like the Red Arrows. The stars on the side, and I suppose they were both firing, but I only remember the one line of cannon shot coming straight towards me. I had the Flight Commander on deck and he got hit in the arm and the aircrewman on my right, he got hit. And it was just a sickening smack in your head. And there's a ringing in your head. Next thing I was on the ground and that was it. I did a quick mental check and think the body's alright. I could hear a screaming noise and the doctor gets to me and gave me some morphine. I think he says 'I want this man off the ship'.

"I think about a dozen of us were hit. I could hear the footsteps and we all ended up on the Ward room floor lying on the carpet. I was going in and out with the morphine at this stage, but I remember the noise of these attacks and the cannon going. I remember being taken by shipmates on a stretcher with others on the flight deck. And a Sea King came and our flight deck was too small for a Sea King so it put one wheel on the deck and we were all shoved in. We ended up on the Canberra just off the flight deck. I was on there for about four hours and the medics decided to operate. I think I was one of the first they operated on. This happened three times to me, but I had an out of body experience, floating around and I was quite happy to die. I was happy to drift away. I suppose this must be what it's like when you go. I came back to the body and I could hear people talking and they took bits of shrapnel out. I

still have a gash on my forearm. At a slightly different angle it could have left me without a forearm. But the thing was, it was the eyes. And I remember this bastard from The Sun came up and said 'How do you feel?' So I told him."

May 21st was D-Day for the Royal Marines and Paras at Port San Carlos. Steve Sparkes continues: "We steamed in the early hours of the morning. We could see land and started getting ammoed up. We went in Port San Carlos - Bomb Alley. They very cleverly got the Canberra under a ridge. The SBS had done the reconnaissance work and they parked the Canberra under the edge of this ridge. So when the enemy aircraft started coming in they couldn't drop their bombs on us, much as they tried! They were just coming over the top of us and landing in the sea, they couldn't get to us, but the minute we went in there the air strikes just kept coming and coming. It was quite impressive though, the defence missile systems were amazing. We ammoed up with grenades and unloaded ourselves on the beach. There were choppers going in and the first wave of landing craft. We hurtled in as there were still aircraft coming over. They kept coming. We landed and the first casualty was a helicopter that was brought down in Port San Carlos. They were shot down and the pilot and co-pilot were killed. We rushed through the water, formed a square and advanced up. We had a couple of enemy casualties but once they saw the force of us they just started to run away. It was all so quick. We took a couple of prisoners. There was a house and they were firing from a machine gun in it. We secured that, then we advanced about a kilometre up the valley and secured a bridgehead. Support came in behind us with the RAF and Rapier anti-air missile systems. That was our saviour because once they were rigged up, the RAF Regiment were brilliant. Everything that flew over us they took out.

"The first night was horrendous because it never stopped raining. As fast as we dug in, it filled up with water. It was peaty, so we had to abandon the idea of digging in and built shelters with rocks. It was freezing, we were soaked to the skin and we stayed like that all night because we were expecting an enemy attack. But it never came that night. The rain stopped but a clear sky brought other dangers. It was a nice sunny morning. We secured the area in the morning and the ship was unloading stores at the bottom and it was quite secure. We started sending out patrols. I was in charge of the gun, so I stripped it down, because I was Lance Corporal in charge of the gun, the worst possible time I'd stripped it down and the air raid warning went. And as soon as the warning went I started to put it together and I didn't even have five seconds. This Mirage

came up the valley and I could see the pilots face and I'm trying to put this gun together and it shot past. He was so close I could have shook his hand. I will never forget how close he was. He didn't drop any bombs because he didn't have any. He just flew off into the distance. He got away because he was flying under the radar systems of the Rapier, they were looking up and he just came in close to the ground.

"That flyby didn't cause any damage but others were less fortunate. A chopper was brought down that just happened to have my large pack in it with my bags, with chocolate and stuff, and spare kit. Everything had gone they had packed on, so I had lost everything, my sleeping bag, spare socks, ammunition and ration packs. All I had was my front order, three pairs of socks, ammunition and 24 ration packs. So day one, I had no home comforts and there were none spare. I was sharing a sleeping bag with a mate of mine, Billy Boan, a gunner. We were sleeping back to back because it was so cold. I was sleeping with a pair of socks under my armpits and a pair on. I used to rotate them around because they got soaking wet every day."

On 23rd May, in a strike that echoed the events that blinded Terry, two Skyhawks fired two bombs into HMS Antelope. One port side, the other starboard, though that plane collided with the ship's mast and blew up. Neither bomb exploded until Bomb Disposal Officers attempted to use a small diffusing charge. Staff Sergeant Prescott was killed, whilst Warrant Officer Phillips lost an arm. It was one of the first news items that Terry would hear when he regained consciousness on the Canberra. The explosion started a series of fires and the 175 crew abandoned her in San Carlos waters.

Alan Holderness continues: "We had to watch the Antelope burn. That was horrendous. You see the film footage of that aircraft coming in, that's what we were watching, every now and again they would deviate the path. The thing is they had set up Blindfire Rapier and we were led to believe it would be hunky dory, but it never worked, the radar just never worked. We were getting told air raid red when they were on you. That was fairly hairy. I got blown up. I was sent about 30 yards through the air. It was actually one of our equipment repairers Mac McAndrews. I was his No2 on his GPMG. I'd got moved across. We'd regrouped, I got moved across and put with the group I wouldn't have normally been with and he got killed. A bomb landed at the side of his trench and killed him. You're there but for the grace of god and all that. And you do wonder -

because you would normally have been in that trench, or around that trench.

"But in that bit of San Carlos, you are sitting getting your kit ready, you are looking out and the ships are in the Sound, it's a lovely clear day and you see these aircraft coming over the hills and you're thinking 'They must be Harriers. It's like everything is in slow motion. You can see the pilots in the cockpit. You see them come in and there's the dawning realisation that they're not Harriers or RAF, and there's a big long silver tube with a parachute coming out the end and you're thinking 'He's come to blow us up'. It just goes slow motion until you hear the first bang and then there's a great flurry of activity because we'd all been caught out in the open. Normally they'd attack the ships first, but this time they had just cut straight for the trench. My trench was on the other side of this peat hill. The first wave came through; there were big explosions, canon fire across the ground.

"There was a big explosion, I got lifted off my feet and ended up in a big snotty heap and just thought I had lost my left leg. I just couldn't feel anything. From the hip down it was numb. I was dragged into my trench. There was a Corporal and a Colour Sergeant. I was panicking. 'I can't feel my leg, I've been injured'. There was blood on my leg and I was panicking so he gave me a good slap to calm me down and wiped the blood off my leg and there was this tiny little hole. So it was, put on a bit of field dressing and get on with it. There were no lumps of metal, it was just a hole."

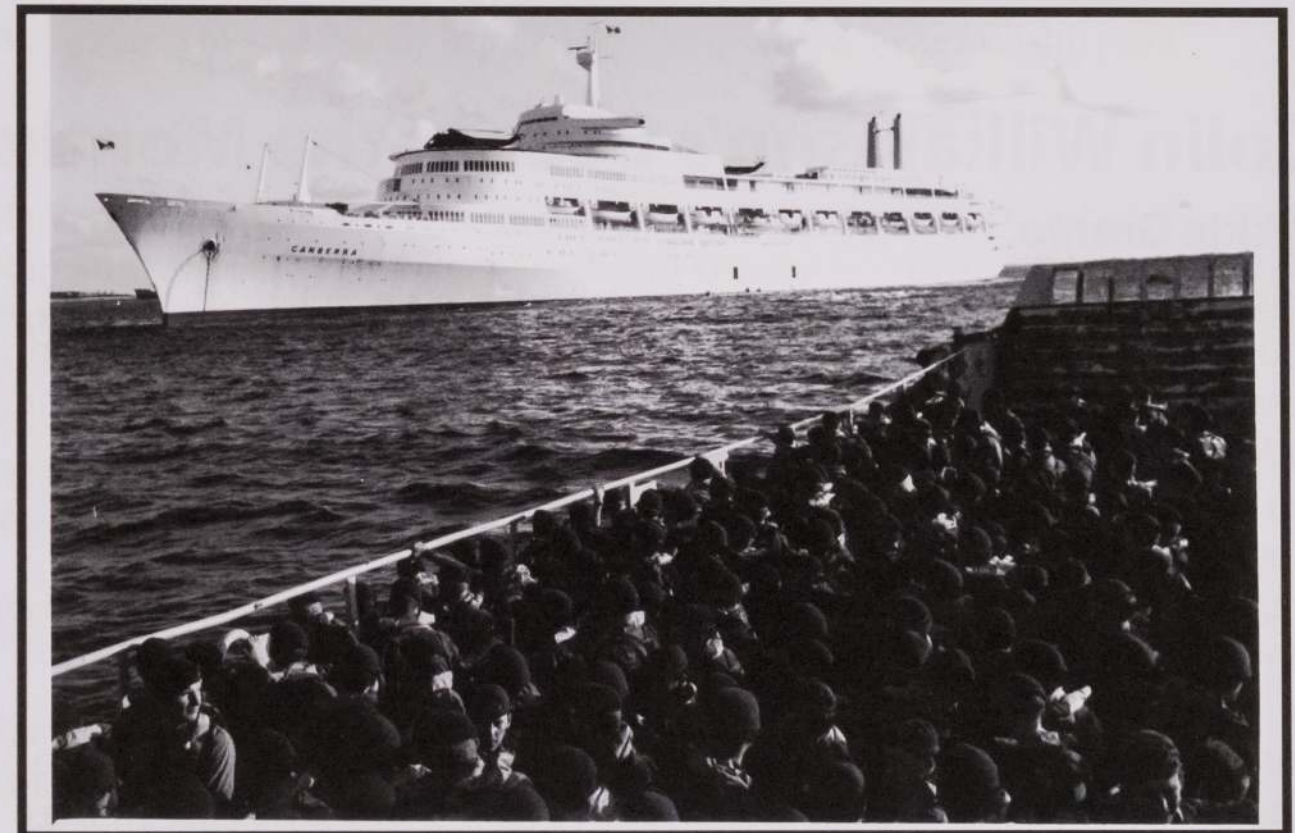
Meanwhile Steve Sparkes and his unit were on the move. "After about 48 hours we started to yomp forward as a spearhead. We came under enemy fire. We sent out patrols probing, so there were a lot of enemy contacts. We sussed out from Intelligence that they were based on Mount Kent. Apart from the landing, this would be the next real assault. Special Forces had done a recce on it and we were ordered to go in. We picked up our helicopters - the pilots were wearing night vision goggles - and we flew out and we were supposed to get to an RV where the SAS were going to meet up and take us up to a position up the mountain. The weather was atrocious; they got us there but couldn't land, so we had to abandon it that night. The mission was remounted the next night. It was perfect. We flew in by choppers and landed on the bottom of this mountain and assaulted as a unit in the extended light. We had a lot of enemy contact but we didn't lose a bloke that night. We had some casualties and took prisoners. The majority just ran away, they were dropping their helmets just

abandoned leaving their stuff and going over the hill. When we secured the mountain, we realised what we had achieved because there must have been hundreds up there. There must have been 40 Argentinean casualties. That started a snowball effect, another unit would move, the Paras, 45 Commando, 2 Para, 3 Para. You could hear the other attacks going on. We were holed up in our position; they would attack another position, so we were sweeping through the islands."

On 25th May HMS Coventry and the Atlantic conveyor were both hit and soon sunk. By the 28th, the Paras began their assault on Goose Green. By the next day, they would take twice their number in prisoners.

As May closed the Task Force felt confident enough to bring the Uganda into Falkland Sound, the channel between the main islands, and pick up casualties from Ajax Bay.

We will conclude Alan, Reggie, Steve and Terry's accounts in the June Review.



Picture: Royal Marine rehearsals for the landings in the warm sunshine of the Ascension Islands, with SS Canberra in the background. **Photo:** The Reggie Perrin collection.

Answers to Ten questions on... The subject... mammals from page 18

1. Sheep.
2. Camel.
3. Rabbit.
4. Toad, the others being Mole, Ratty the water vole and Mr Badger.
5. Hedgehog.
6. Horses.
7. Killer Whale, with 260 teeth, but just whale can be allowed.
8. Three-toed sloth.
9. Grey squirrel.
10. Punch and Judy show, Hector the horse and Toby the dog.

Colin Williamson's Beer of the Month.

Tyskie Gronie.

This is a very nice golden lager beer from Poland with a nice, firm white head and fresh, crisp taste. This beer is one of the most bought beers in Europe and pretty good value for money at around £1.70 for a five hundred millilitre bottle. Tyskie capture around 18% of the Polish beer market and not surprisingly, with the influx of Polish workers to our shores it was inevitable that their favourite brew would follow in their footsteps. It's a hoppy beer with a hint of rich maltiness and is a very refreshing alternative to bland English lagers and with an ABV of 5.6% it's easily drinkable.

During World War II, German forces crossed the Vistula river and occupied the brewery, forcing the workers to brew beer for them. After the war, the brewery was then taken over by the employees on behalf of the state before becoming privatised in the nineties.

This euro-beer can be bought at most corner shops and large supermarkets.

Family News.

Congratulations to:

Andy and Natalie Allen on the birth of their daughter Chloe Natalie Allen, who arrived safely on Thursday 29th March at 4.50am.

Birthdays:

James 'Jimbo' Booth of Barnet, Hertfordshire who celebrated his 100th Birthday on 23rd January 2012.

Anniversaries:

Platinum (70th):

Arthur and Mabel Porter from Bognor Regis, West Sussex on 4th April.

Blue Sapphire (65th):

Ken and Hilda Chalk of Felixstowe, Suffolk on 5th April.

Ken and Mariette Pilbeam of South East London on 7th April.

Patrick and Helen Feeney of Southwick, West Sussex on 11th April.

Fred and Jean Elliott of Chichester, West Sussex on 19th April.

Trevor and Joyce Judd of Petersfield, Hampshire on 19th April.

Reg and Joan Goudy of Stockport, Cheshire on 26th April.

Tom and Amy Bryden of Rowlands Gill, Tyne and Wear on 27th April.

Golden (60th):

Derek and Joan Payton of Weymouth, Dorset on 21st April.

Bruce and June MacKenzie of Blackheath, South East London on 28th April.

Ruby (40th):

Derek and Valerie Thomas of Liverpool, Merseyside on 1st April.

Bernard and Margaret Bladen of Finchfield, Wolverhampton on 29th April.

Pearl (30th):

George and Marion Kirby of Blackburn, Lancashire on 3rd April.

Tom and Mary Christie of Leeds, West Yorkshire on 16th April.

William and Jaretzke Niles of Washington, Tyne and Wear on 20th April.

Silver (25th):

Nick and Sue Morgan of Devizes, Wiltshire on 4th April.

And belated congratulations to Chris and Dorothy Spellacy who celebrated their wedding anniversary on 26th January.

We regret to announce the death of:

Walter Briggs who died on 23rd March 2012. He was an Overseas Affiliate in Spain.

Florence Buck who died on 3rd April 2012, she was the widow of the late William Buck.

John Coape-Smith who died on 1st March 2012, he was an Overseas Affiliate in Australia.

Edith Griffiths who died on 10th January 2012, she was the widow of the late Edward Griffiths.

Irene Norman who died on 12th March 2012, she was the widow of the late Douglas Norman.

Robert 'Bruce' Rolls who died on 23rd October 2008; he was an Overseas Affiliate in Australia.

Ann Williams who died on 1st January 2012, she was the wife of member John Williams.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to their widows, widowers, family and friends.

Mine and Kathleen's Big Day, By Ernie Bignell

On 1st March 2012, my wife Kathleen and I celebrated our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. On Sunday 4th March, to mark the occasion, we held a celebratory luncheon in the Winter Garden at the centre in Brighton. It was a wonderful day that was attended by 45 members of our family. The party included our three Bridesmaids and two Great Granddaughters.

The luncheon was arranged with PBK Catering, supervised in his usual efficient manner by Trevor, who was assisted by his super staff. Thank you Trevor. It was a superb lunch and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and their short visit to the centre. Kathleen and I would like to express our thanks for the beautiful basket of flowers. It happily arrived as we returned home from a lunch. We would also like to make a huge thank you to Blind Veterans UK, for allowing our celebration to be held in the centre. As our family are spread across the country it was the ideal venue. Kathleen's cousin even travelled from Gibraltar. As a member of Blind Veterans UK I must say what a wonderful organisation we belong to.



Picture: Kathleen & Ernie cut their Anniversary cake. **Photo** by Cathy Bignell.

Welcome to Blind Veterans UK

Alfred Booker of Loughborough, Leicestershire served in the Royal Artillery and the Army Catering Corps from 1939 to 1946.

Arthur Brown of Manchester served in the General Service Corps from 1945 to 1946.

Dennis Callaghan of Liverpool served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

William Carrick of Huyton, Liverpool served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

Olive Clark of Rhyl, Clwyd served in the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1953 to 1956.

Richard Claxton of Swanage, Dorset served in the Royal Signals from 1953 to 1956.

Albert Deadman of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1952 to 1957.

Christopher Dunn of Wallasey, Merseyside served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1950 to 1964.

Peter Edwick of Manningtree, Essex served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

Michael Fogarty of Halifax, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Hampshire Regiment from 1975 to 1992.

Geoffrey Gaimster of Spalding, Lincs served in the Royal Navy from 1948 to 1955.

Harold Gooley of Prescot, Merseyside served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Artillery from 1947 to 1949.

Anthony Heathcote of Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1948.

John Hembury of Rowley Regis, West Midlands served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1953 to 1955.

Reverend Hilary Jackson of Darlington, County Durham served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1945.

David Jones of Stafford, Staffordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1949.

Ronald Juchau of Worthing, West Sussex served in the Royal Signals from 1939 to 1946.

David Lee of Waterlooville, Hampshire served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1969.

Victor Lusha of Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the King's Royal Rifle Corps from 1953 to 1960.

Ronald March of Norwich, Norfolk served in the Royal Norfolk Regiment from 1945 to 1948.

Anthony Matthews of Shipley, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Signals and the Royal Engineers from 1955 to 1960.

Peter McCabe of Bath served in the Border Regiment, the East Lancashire

Regiment and the Lancashire Fusiliers from 1946 to 1948.

Peter Mills of Carterton, Oxfordshire served in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry from 1953 to 1956.

Dennis Neale of Cardiff served in the General Service Corps, the South Wales Borderers, the Lancashire Fusiliers, the Royal Engineers and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1943 to 1961.

Albert Neville of Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

Arthur Nicholson of Daventry, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Daphne Palmer of Coventry served in the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1950 to 1952.

Norman Patterson of Liverpool served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Brian Pierpoint of Southport, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Brian Powis of Hunstanton, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1982.

Keith Putt of Lewes, East Sussex served in the General Service Corp and the Royal Army Service Corps from 1948 to 1955.

Raymond Racy of Bristol served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1947.

Henry Rodney of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Scots Regiment from 1940 to 1946.

Cyril Saunders of Bergholt, Colchester served in the Royal Artillery from 1949 to 1955.

Hugh Saunders of Holywell, Clwyd served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the South Wales Borderers from 1951 and 1956.

Denis Saxby of Chesterfield, Derbyshire served in the General Service Corps the Royal Armoured Corps and the Royal Scots Greys (2nd Dragoons) from 1942 to 1947.

Roy Smith of Woodthorpe, Nottingham served in the General Service Corps, the Royal Armoured Corps and the Reconnaissance Corps from 1942 to 1947.

Eric Soper of Plymouth, Devon served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

John Stafford of Steyning, West Sussex served in the Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own), the Royal Artillery, Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers from 1939 to 1946.

Richard Temby of Preston, Lancashire served in the Hampshire Regiment from 1942 to 1947.

George Theobald of Bishopgate, Norwich served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1954.

Lewis Trinder of Aldershot, Hampshire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Robert Ware of Prescot, Merseyside served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Raymond Wiggins of Southampton served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

Arthur Wignall of Llandudno, Gwynedd served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1946.

In Memory

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of the following members and we offer our heartfelt condolences to their widows, widowers, family and friends.

John Abrahams, Royal Air Force

John Abrahams of Maidstone, Kent died on 9th March 2012, aged 87. He joined the RAF in 1943, when due to poor eyesight he was restricted to ground work as an aircraft fitter. After training he was deployed to France to one of the first allied fighter aerodromes where the Typhoon aircraft were located. He also served in Germany and was eventually discharged as an Aircraftsman in 1947. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Derrick Barrey, Royal Army Medical Corps

Derrick Barrey of New Milton, Hampshire died on 25th March 2012, aged 91. He initially joined the TA but was called up at the outbreak of war, joining the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1939. He was deployed to France with the BEF and spent some time in hospital in the UK due to wounds received at Dunkirk. After recuperating he was made a Sergeant and was posted to Persia and Iraq for 3½ years before discharge in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Joseph Beesley, Royal Air Force

Joseph Beesley of Prescot, Merseyside died on 31st December 2011, aged 86. He joined the RAF in 1943 as a signals operator in a mobile unit in the South of England and later in Norway. He was discharged as a Leading Aircraftsman in 1947. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Frank Birks, Royal Army Dental Corps

Frank Birks of Newcastle, Staffordshire died on 12th March 2012, aged 92. He joined the Royal Army Dental Corps in 1940, serving in the UK and India. He was discharged in 1944 as a Private. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Betty Bolding, Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Betty Bolding of Crawley, West Sussex died on 8th March 2012, aged 86. She joined the WAAF in 1944 and trained as a wireless operator, serving in Germany

before discharge as a Corporal in 1949. Our sympathy goes to all members of her family.

Albert Bradley, Royal Air Force

Albert Bradley of Norwich, Norfolk died on 29th March 2012, aged 89. He joined the RAF in 1941. At RAF Padgate he completed his Flight Mechanic Training. He served in various UK locations before being posted in India on aircraft recovery duties. He returned to UK and was discharged in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Leonard Bragg, Royal Army Ordinance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Leonard Bragg of Basingstoke, Hampshire died on 10th March 2012, aged 92. He joined the RAOC in 1941 on his 21st birthday. He served at home, leaving as a Corporal. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Norman Brewer, Royal Air Force

Norman Brewer of Felixstowe, Suffolk died on 18th February 2012, aged 86. He joined the RAF in 1943, serving in India, Burma, Malaya and Singapore. He was discharged as a Leading Aircraftsman in 1947. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

William Carter, Royal Navy

William Carter of Eastbourne, East Sussex died on 2nd March 2012, aged 87. He joined the Royal Navy, Chatham Division, in 1943 and qualified as a Telegraphist/Coder. He served in the UK and in Sierra Leone before discharge in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Ralph Carr, Royal Artillery

Ralph Carr of Durham, County Durham died on 31st October 2011, aged 96. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1942. He served on the South Coast manning an Ack-Ack battery counting V1 rockets. He also served in the Orkneys, Malta and Italy where he was on Military Police duty. He was discharged in 1946 as a Gunner. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

William Chesham, Royal Navy

The Reverend William Chesham of Hindhead, Surrey died on 5th March 2012, aged 88. He joined the Royal Navy as an Engineering Cadet in 1944. Having

completed his RNVR training at Plymouth, Reverend Chesham spent some time in the Far East on mine sweepers and a survey vessel and was later based in home waters and at the Royal Navy College at Plymouth. Reverend Chesham left the Royal Navy as a Lieutenant Commander in 1961. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Sidney Clark, Royal Navy

Commodore Sidney Clark of Gosport, Hampshire died on 1st August 2011, aged 95. He joined the Royal Navy in 1938 and carried out his seamanship training and navigation at HMS Ganges. He spent time in Japan and the Far East. He is a survivor of HMS Hella, which was a destroyer training ship which sunk near Gibraltar. He spent his leave thereafter in the Isle of Man. His service after the war was spent in the Instructor Branch serving on HMS Vincent. His last job in the Royal Navy was to be Chief Instructor at St Vincent. He then set up the Royal Navy Museum at Portsmouth. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Thomas Collingwood, Royal Air Force

Thomas Collingwood of Brighton, East Sussex died on 18th March 2012, aged 67. He joined the RAF in 1962, serving as a Junior Technician in the UK and Cyprus. He was discharged in 1967, but remained a reserve until 1970. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Geoffrey Collins, Royal Air Force

Geoffrey Collins of Shoreham By Sea, West Sussex died on 8th March 2012, aged 76. He served in the RAF from 1954 to 1956 as a Junior Technician, in the UK and Malta. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Marjory Collins, Women's Royal Army Corps

Marjory Collins of Dumfries, Scotland died on 24th October 2011 aged, 88. She served in the WRAC from 1948 until 1954 in the UK, Germany and the BAOR. Our sympathy goes to all members of her family.

Reginald Dodd, Royal Engineers

Reginald Dodd of Worcester Park, Surrey died on 4th March 2012, aged 91. He joined the Royal Engineers as a Sapper in 1940. After training he was promoted to Lance Sergeant and acted as an Instructor. He was then sent to a Bridging School at Claro Barracks in Ripon where he achieved a distinction and remained as an Instructor until he left as a Warrant Officer II in 1946. Our sympathy goes

to all members of his family.

Henry 'Harry' Dungey, Royal Pioneer Corps

Henry 'Harry' Dungey of Leeds died on 30th March 2012, aged 82. He joined the Royal Pioneer Corps in 1947. His duties included clearing ammunition left on the Yorkshire moors. After the war he was released to the Reserves in 1949 as a Private. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Stephen Farrell, Royal Air Force

Stephen Farrell of Llandudno, Gwynedd died on 27th March 2012, aged 88. He joined the RAF in 1942 and trained at Cardington and Scarborough. Graded and selected for pilot training in South Africa he was then sent to a selection board in the UK. After volunteering to complete flight engineers training on Lancaster Bombers at RAF St Athans he then had a succession of postings ending with the RAF Education branch in Plymouth preparing personnel for discharge. He was discharged as a Corporal in February 1947. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Vincent Flannagan, General Service Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps

Vincent Flannagan of Worsley, Manchester died on 27th March 2012, aged 83. He joined the General Service Corps in 1947, completing initial training in Bury. He then transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps, training at Aldershot. He served the first nine months in Nottingham before he was posted to Austria. He was discharged as a Private in March 1949. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

George Haines, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

George Haines of Chidham, West Sussex died on 3rd March 2012, aged 94. He joined the RAOC in 1940 and transferred to the REME when it formed in 1942. He was posted to India and fought in Burma and Malaya. He returned to the UK in 1946 and was discharged as a Sergeant that year, having been awarded the Burma Star. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Bernard Hancock, Army Catering Corps

Bernard Hancock of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire died on 26th March 2012, aged 74. He served in the Army Catering Corps from 1957 to 1959, leaving as a Private. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

John Henderson, Royal Air Force

John Henderson of Edinburgh died on 27th March 2012, aged 81. He joined the RAF as a regular in 1951, serving in the Suez Canal Zone and Cyprus. He was discharged as an SAC in 1954. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Lionel James, Royal Armoured Corps

Lionel James of Sandford, North Somerset died on 22nd March 2012, aged 81. He served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1949 to 1971, serving in the BAOR, the Middle East, the Far East, Germany and the UK. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Walter Jenner, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment

Walter Jenner of Folkestone, Kent died on 7th March 2012, aged 91. He joined the Royal West Kent Regiment in 1938 and was with the BEF in France early in the war. He was subsequently sent to North Africa and then Iraq. He later fought the Japanese in the Pacific theatre before discharge as a Warrant Officer in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

David Jones, Royal Army Service Corps

David Jones of Llandovery, Dyfed died on 14th March 2012, aged 93. He joined the RASC in 1939 and trained at Peninsular Barracks in Winchester. His service was in the UK in a variety of locations, dealing with supply matters. He was demobilised in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Gomer Jones, Welch Regiment and the Royal Signals

Gomer Jones of Winch Wen, Swansea died on 11th February 2011, aged 88. He joined the Welch Regiment in 1942 and fought in Northern France, including Normandy, before he transferred to the Royal Signals in 1945. He sustained a shrapnel injury to his thigh and some hearing loss and was discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1947. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Albert Lawrence, Royal Army Service Corps

Albert Lawrence of Maidstone, Kent died on 10th March 2012, aged 95. He joined the RASC in 1940 and trained at Nottingham where he qualified as a Bedford lorry driver. He served in a variety of locations around the UK. He was discharged in 1946 as a driver. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Margaret Loader, Auxiliary Territorial Service

Margaret Loader of Wherstead, Suffolk died on 11th March 2012, aged 91. After serving as an ARP warden from 1939 to 1942 she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service, completing her training at Wrexham. She was posted to Matlock, Derbyshire. She was later posted to Northern Ireland and then to Carlisle where the ATS were employed loading artillery on to railway trains. She was discharged in 1945 as a Private. Our sympathy goes to all members of her family.

Cecil Lyon, Royal Navy

Cecil Lyon of Preston, Lancashire died on 9th March 2012, aged 91. He joined the Royal Navy as a stoker in 1940. He joined the destroyer HMS Scout which escaped from Hong Kong just before the Japanese invasion and continued operating in the Far East. He then returned to the UK and joined the minelayer HMS Golden Fleece before eventually being discharged from the Royal Navy in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Ronald Male, Royal Air Force

Ronald Male of Halesowen, West Midlands died on 26th March 2012, aged 87. He joined the RAF in 1943. He served in the Middle East, the UK and South East Asia before being demobilised as a Corporal in 1947. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

James McCarthy, Royal Engineers

James McCarthy of Ashford, Kent died on 6th March 2012, aged 92. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1938. He was posted to Aldershot and was then deployed to France as part of the BEF. He was evacuated through Dunkirk and then continued his service in the UK. He was discharged as a Sapper in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Alistair MacDonald, General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers

Alistair MacDonald of Tain, Ross-shire died on 4th March 2012, aged 96. He joined the General Service Corps in 1942 before transferring to the Royal Engineers in 1943. He served in Kent and Sussex before being discharged as a Corporal in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Bruce MacKenzie, Royal Engineers and the Royal Artillery

Bruce MacKenzie of Blackheath, South East London died on 25th March 2012,

aged 93. He joined the TA in 1938 in the 1st Surrey Rifles, part of the Royal Engineers, in a unit specialising in anti-aircraft searchlights. In 1940 he was transferred to the Royal Artillery on Anti-Aircraft duty and in late 1940 he was posted to North Africa. He was made PoW at Tobruk in June 1942 and was held in North Africa, Italy and finally Germany. At the end of the war he was released by his captors. He was demobilised as a Bombardier in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

George Naisbit, London Regiment

George Naisbit of Worthing, West Sussex died on 12th March 2012, aged 93. He joined the London Regiment in 1939 and saw Service in Sicily, Italy, Germany and the Middle East. He was discharged in 1946 as a Sergeant. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

David Oram, Royal Air Force

David Oram of Watford, Hertfordshire died on 21st March 2012, aged 82. He joined the RAF in 1949 and was posted as a Junior Technician to RAF Mountbatten, working on Air Sea Rescue vessels, which were widely used before the introduction of helicopters. He was discharged from the RAF in 1953. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Tony Parkinson, Army Catering Corps

Tony Parkinson of Blackpool, Lancashire died on 9th March 2012 aged, 77. He served in the Army Catering Corps from 1953 to 1954. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Elizabeth Paton, Royal Air Force

Elizabeth Paton of Edinburgh died on 27th February 2012, aged 91. She joined the WRAAF in 1942. She trained in Morecambe and was then sent to Blackpool where she learnt to drive. After a posting to Wick in Caithness, Scotland on driving duties she was discharged as a Leading Aircraftswoman in 1945. Our sympathy goes to all members of her family.

Walter Platt, Royal Air Force

Walter Platt of Tittensor, Stoke on Trent died on 16th March 2012, aged 93. He joined the RAF in 1940. He trained at Cardington followed by Flying Training Command as a Clerk. Posted to Canada he was based in Caron and later Hamilton. He returned to the UK in 1944 and joined the RAF Regiment. He then became a Codes and Cypher Sergeant and was posted to Hong Kong. He was demobilised in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Ronald Roberts, Royal Navy

Ronald Roberts of Banstead, Surrey died on 6th October 2011, aged 87. He joined the Royal Navy in 1941. He trained at HMS Collingwood at Fareham before joining HMS Nelson. He then joined the HMS Edinburgh Castle in Sierra Leone. He was then sent to Dakhar before returning to the UK and completing a gunnery course. He was discharged in 1946 as an Able Seaman. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Gerald Rogan, Royal Air Force

Gerald Rogan of, Hexham, Northumberland died on 23rd March 2012, aged 75. He joined the RAF in 1954 and served in Norfolk, Malta, Germany and Cyprus before his discharge as a LAC in 1959. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Irene Sherratt, Women's Royal Naval Service

Irene Sherratt of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire died on 13th September 2011, aged 88. She was conscripted into the Navy in 1943 and trained at HMS Spartiate on the banks of Loch Lomond. Her first draft was to HMS Eaglet in Blundell Sands and later HMS Skirmisher in Milford Haven; both were shore establishments. She specialised as a Wren messenger and later moved to the RNATE at Torpoint, Cornwall, before her demobilisation in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of her family.

Stephen Smith, Royal Air Force

Stephen Smith of Chertsey, Surrey died on 4th March 2012, aged 77. He served in the RAF from 1952 to 1954 when he worked in the control tower at RAF Manston, Kent, which was a base for US Air Force planes. He manned the radio and was involved with passing weather reports to aircraft. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

David Stack, Royal Navy

David Stack of Newton Abbot, Devon died on 17th March 2012, aged 86. He served in the Royal Navy from 1943 in the Channel, the Mediterranean and the North Atlantic. He was demobilised in 1946, leaving as an Able Seaman. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Donald Sweetingham, General Service Corps, Royal Army Service Corps

Donald Sweetingham of Sandwich, Kent died on 1st April 2012, aged 86. He joined the General Service Corps in 1946. He later transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps and completed parachute training and vehicle mechanic training. He was posted to Palestine and spent most of his time in the Haifa area. He also spent time in Jerusalem and Gaza. He completed his service in July 1948, leaving as a Lance Corporal. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

William Taylor, Royal Air Force

William Taylor of Littlehampton, West Sussex died on 12th March 2012, aged 91. He joined the RAF in 1940 and trained as an electronics and electrics specialist. He became a training instructor, travelling around the UK airfields in an articulated lorry teaching aircrews and maintainers about new electronic equipment. He was discharged in 1946 as a Training Sergeant. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Sidney Williams, Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment

Sidney Williams of Slough, Berkshire died on 7th March 2012, aged 91. With fellow members of the Fulham Cycling Club, he joined the Kensington Regt TA in 1939. Subsequently called up he joined the Princess Louise's Kensington Regt, the Middlesex Regt in 1939. Associated with the Guards, he trained in Knightsbridge Barracks and served initially in then UK and then in Iceland for a year. His unit invaded Normandy on D-Day and fought through to Germany, capturing Le Havre en route and finishing at Nijmegen. He stayed in Germany for a year before returning to UK and was discharged in 1946. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Hugh Wynter, Royal Air Force

Hugh Wynter of Redruth, Cornwall died on 30th March 2012, aged 89. He joined the RAF in 1942 in Canada. He trained in Monkton, New Brunswick and qualified as an air gunner in the Fairey Battle. He joined a Wellington Bomber unit for operational training and then joined a Lancaster Bomber unit, carrying out 20 operational sorties. He then joined 207 Squadron where he completed a further 10 operational sorties before becoming an instructor. He was discharged in October 1949 as an Aircraftsman Second Class. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.