

February 2015

# Review

Blind Veterans UK | St Dunstan's since 1915



**On the cover:** Celebrating out centenary: Blind veteran Ken Facal, Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB, blind veterans Billy Drinkwater, Tony Harbour, Paul Jacobs GM, Colin Williamson, President Ray Hazan OBE and Simon Brown. Ron Freer, a WWII veteran who joined our charity in 1946 is at the front of the group.

**Back page:** Ron Freer and Tony Harbour.

**Contact:** Review Editor, Catherine Goodier 020 7616 8367  
Email: [revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk)



Feb 2015 | No 1056



### Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

Blind Veterans UK Review is published monthly by Blind Veterans UK, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD [www.blindveterans.org.uk](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk) A company limited by guarantee No. 189648, registered in England. Registered Charity No. 216227 (England & Wales) and SCO39411 (Scotland). ISSN 2050-1404. Unless otherwise stated all content © copyright Blind Veterans UK. All rights reserved. Printed by Newnorth.



**Picture:** The Chairman Tim Davis enjoys centenary cake at Harcourt Street with blind veterans Tony Harbour, Ken Facal, Billy Drinkwater, Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB, Communications Officer Colin Williamson and Communications and Engagement Officer Simon Brown.

# From the Chairman.

## Your message from Tim Davis.

Firstly, a belated very happy new year; I wish you and your families the very best of health, happiness and good fortune throughout 2015. One of my New Year resolutions is to stay better connected with family and friends. Life has a habit of getting busier, and time slips by all too quickly. My best and happiest experiences have generally been shared with those who I care for most. It is also family and friends who step up and help us through life's challenges. I'm sure this is true for many of you, and it is why I personally feel a sense of great importance to the charity's social events that bring members together to connect with old friends and provide the opportunity to make new friends.

This year we continue to expand the number of reunion lunches and lunch clubs across the country. We also publish our holiday and themed week supplement; so please take time to review this and book quickly as demand is always high.

Of course this year is a particularly special one, as we celebrate the charity's 100th birthday. We kicked off with events in our three centres and Harcourt Street on 29th January. We also unveiled a plaque at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel, at Hyde Park with MP David Blunkett and other guests of honour. It is where we first started our work with the first blind soldiers. As Chairman of Blind Veterans UK and a former member of the Hilton management board for nine years, this is a happy coincidence for me.

Throughout 2015 we will make the most of our centenary year, and I greatly look forward to meeting many of you at our Buckingham Palace Garden Party and the Thanksgiving Service at Westminster Abbey later in the year. It is important we mark this 100th year with pride and a loud voice. The charity continues to evolve, helping ever larger numbers of UK veterans who have a vision impairment. It is very important we all spread the word to ensure that those who need the help receive it, and that we grow our engagement with supporters who generously donate and make it all possible.

My best wishes to you all!

## Our 2015 Centenary Garden Party at Buckingham Palace — answers to frequently asked questions.

Thank you to the thousands of members who have returned their Buckingham Palace Garden Party application forms. We are delighted that so many of you will be joining us on 4th June. Please see below a list of frequently asked questions which may help you plan your visit.

### Please bring with you:

1) Two forms of identification for you and your guest.

One form of ID must show a recent photo.  
The other must show your name and address.

### Accepted photo:

Passport.  
Bus pass. This must contain a photo.  
Driving license (possibly for your guest).  
Disabled Parking Blue Badge with photo.  
Blind Veterans UK ID card.

### Accepted non-photo ID:

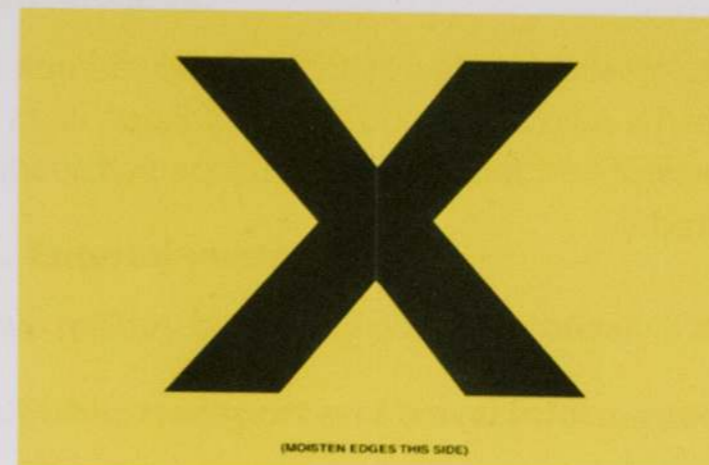
Utility bill dated within the last three months.  
Bank or credit card statement dated within the last three months.

**2. Your official invitation** — will be posted to you six weeks before the event on 30th April 2015.

**3. Your parking pass** — will be issued to all guests.

Your parking pass will be similar to the example on the facing page. There are a limited number of Disabled Parking Blue Badge spaces close to Buckingham Palace; other unlimited parking spaces will be available all along the length of The Mall. There will be Blind Veteran UK shuttle buses along The Mall to take you as close to Buckingham Palace as permitted.

Please also use your parking pass if you are travelling to Buckingham Palace by taxi or coach, hand it to your driver to put in the windscreen to allow you to be dropped off as close to Buckingham Palace as permitted.



**Picture:** An example of the parking pass.

### 4. Please do not bring:

A camera.  
Any luggage or bulky items e.g. rucksacks or holdalls.  
Mobile telephones are permitted but must be switched off when in Buckingham Palace grounds. We advise that if you are meeting friends you arrange to meet before entering Buckingham Palace and enter the Garden Party together. It will be very difficult to find your friends and colleagues once in Buckingham Palace grounds due to the number of guests attending.



**Picture:** HRH Princess Alexandra meets members at the 75th anniversary garden party at Buckingham Palace.

## 5. Dress code.

### Women:

Day dress.  
Trousers suits may be worn.  
Handbags and umbrellas are permitted.  
No medals.  
Hat/fascinator optional.

### Men:

Lounge suits and ties.  
Umbrellas are permitted.  
No medals.  
A baseball cap may be worn if it will help with your sight.

## 6. Timetable for the afternoon.

Please kindly note that gates open at 3pm and all guests are requested to arrive by 3.45pm. The Garden Party is due to start at 4.00pm when the Royal Family will arrive.

- 3.00pm** Gates open.  
**3.30pm** Tea is served in the Main Tea Tent until 5pm.  
**4.00pm** The national anthem announces the arrival of The Countess of Wessex.  
**4.30 pm** Tea is served in the VIP Tea Tent.  
**5.50pm** The Royal Party depart.  
**6.00pm** The National Anthem marks the end of the event.

## 7. Facilities.

### Seating.

There is limited seating within the Palace grounds. Please do not reserve chairs as this can cause difficulties. Guests are kindly requested to give up their seat to any elderly, pregnant or disabled guests.

### First Aid.

Red Cross volunteers will be on duty at the event.

### Rain cover.

There is very limited space within the marquees at the event. We advise that you bring an umbrella or waterproof with you in case it rains.

## Wheelchairs.

A number of wheelchairs will be available on the day for emergency purposes. If at all possible please bring your own wheelchair with you. Disabled and wheelchair access guests will not be required to walk up or down stairs.

## 8. Entertainment.

Two military bands will play alternatively throughout the afternoon.

## 9. Public transport and travel information.

The nearest train station is London Victoria.

The nearest tube stations are Victoria, Green Park and Hyde Park Corner.

Bus routes 11, 211, C1 and C10 all stop on Buckingham Palace Road.

## 10. Travelling by car or coach.

If you are travelling by car or coach into central London please note that you will need to pay the congestion charge. You can find out more about the London congestion charge at [cclondon.com](http://cclondon.com) or go to the Transport for London website.

There is unlimited free parking along The Mall, but you must put the parking pass in your windscreen. If you have requested a Blue Badge Disabled Parking space then you should approach the Palace by car via Constitution Hill, where Marshalls will direct you to the car park at the top of The Mall, please also put your parking pass in your windscreen.

Branded Blind Veterans UK shuttle buses will run up and down The Mall to take you from your car parking space closer to Buckingham Palace. If you would like to catch a shuttle bus they can be flagged down at any signed 'bus stop' point along The Mall as you would do for a regular bus.

If you are travelling by coach or mini bus, you will also need a car park pass for the coach windscreen and coaches should approach via Trafalgar Square and Admiralty Arch and park near the Duke of York's steps.

Attendees are requested not to be dropped off or picked up immediately outside Buckingham Palace. Cars are not allowed within the Palace grounds. Please allow plenty of time for heavy traffic in central London.

# Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

## BBO Big Band Concert.

Following the death of Blind Veterans UK member Peter Mayhew from Oxfordshire the BBO Big Band will host a fundraising concert in aid of us — Blind Veterans UK.

If you would like to attend an evening of Jazz, Swing and Big Band music with the BBO Big Band featuring vocalists, Tricia Bassett and Steve Bailey, the concert will take place on Thursday 26th February at 8.15pm.

Tickets cost £6 and they will be available on the door of the venue The Royal British Legion Club, Station Approach, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1NT, located next to Marlow railway station.

### Contact telephone numbers.

**The Brighton centre** 01273 307811.

**The Llandudno centre** 01492 868700.

**The Sheffield centre** 0114 2672550.

**The Booking Office:** To book accommodation please contact the Booking Office on 01273 391500. If you have care needs please first contact your Welfare Officer.

**ROVI on Duty:** If you need to speak with the ROVI on Duty please telephone: 01273 391447.

**IT Training Support:** If you need to speak with the IT Instructor on support please telephone: 01273 391432.

**New members:** If you know a veteran with sight loss who could be eligible to join Blind Veterans UK they can phone our Membership Department on Freephone: 0800 389 7979.

## Blind Veterans UK Golf Club.

Blind Veterans UK Golf Club welcomes golfers, old and young, past and present members, to join us in 2015 when we will aim to meet over seven weekends at the Brighton centre from April to October.

The anticipated golfing days dates are:

18th and 19th April.

16th and 17th May.

27th and 28th June.

18th and 19th July.

15th and 16th August.

12th and 13th September.

17th and 18th October.

The golf club practices and plays at the Rusper Golf Club in Surrey, and has in the past enjoyed many successful competitions and events there. The Saturday is for practice and training, with professional tuition a possibility, and the Sundays are for the Stapleford competition.

If you do not have a golf-loving friend or escort to accompany you on the course, Brighton Volunteering Development Officer Rosemarie Hegarty will help to find a local volunteer to match your needs. You can phone Rosemarie on 01273 391444 or email: [rosemarie.hegarty@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:rosemarie.hegarty@blindveterans.org.uk)

If you are interested in teeing off in 2015, please contact Pam Crossan on telephone: 02381 787636, or email [pcrossan@talktalk.net](mailto:pcrossan@talktalk.net)

# Accommodation Charges 2015.

We remain committed to providing the best quality and range of services to our members. Our three centres are an integral part of our service provision and in order to provide an excellent level of service, we employ an annual pricing review for our accommodation charges. Below are the new charges effective from the 1st of April 2015.

Changes this year are that spouses or carers attending an Introductory Week with a member will no longer be charged for accommodation.

Clubs using the centres will be eligible for the accommodation discount in 2015 subject to the previously agreed terms and conditions.

Members staying at Port Hall near the Brighton centre will be charged at the rate set out below.

## Charges for Non War Blind members.

### Permanent Care at the Brighton centre only.

	2014	2015
Nursing	£574 (£82 per day)	£588 (£84 per day)
Residential	£476 (£68 per day)	£490 (£70 per day)

### Respite Care at the Brighton and Llandudno centres.

	2014	2015
Nursing	£525 (£75 per day)	£539 (£77 per day)
Residential	£385 (£55 per day)	£399 (£57 per day)

### Holidays at the Brighton, Llandudno and Sheffield centres.

	2014	2015
Low Season charges for Brighton and Llandudno centres from 1st October to 31st March.	£245 (£35 per day)	£259 (£37 per day)
High Season.	£294 (£42 per day)	£308 (£44 per day)

### Holidays — Brighton, Llandudno and Sheffield centres continued.

	2014	2015
Sheffield charges all year round.	£140 (£28 per day) five day service.	£145 (£29 per day) five day service.
Clubs Special Group rates in Low Season.	£224 (£32 a day)	£238 (£34 per day)
Clubs Special Group Rates in High Season.	£280 (£40 a day)	£294 (£42 per day)

### Theme Week Surcharge for the Brighton and Llandudno centres.

	2014	2015
All Year.	£28 per week.	£29 per week.

### Port Hall.

	2014	2015
Standard Rate.	£175 (£25 per day)	£182 (£26 per day)
Clubs Discount.	£168 (£24 per day)	£175 (£25 per day)

### Introductory Week.

	2014	2015
Members	Free	Free
Spouses at Brighton or Llandudno.	£105	Free
Spouses at Sheffield	£77	Free

### Training.

	2014	2015
Members.	Free	Free
Spouses at Brighton or Llandudno.	As per accommodation booked.	As per accommodation booked.
Spouses at Sheffield.	£100 (£20 per day) 5 day service.	£105 (£21 per day) 5 day service.

## Charges for War Blind members.

### Permanent care at the Brighton centre.

	2014	2015
Nursing	£308 (£44 per day)	£322 (£46 per day)
Residential	£245 (£35 per day)	£259 (£37 per day)

### Respite care at the Brighton and Llandudno centres.

	2014	2015
Nursing	£308 (£44 per day)	£322 (£46 per day)
Residential	£245 (£35 per day)	£259 (£37 per day)

### Holidays at the Brighton and Llandudno centres.

	2014	2015
Low Season.	£196 (£28 per day)	£203 (£29 per day)
High Season.	£217 (£31 per day)	£224 (£32 per day)
Clubs:		
Special Group Rates in the Low Season.	£192.50 (£27.50) per day	£199.50 (£28.50 per day)
Special Group Rates in the High Season.	£203 (£29 per day)	£210 (£30 per day)

To make a holiday booking please phone the Central Bookings Office Team on telephone: 01273 391500 or email: [centre.bookings@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:centre.bookings@blindveterans.org.uk)

#### NOTE

Please be aware that holidays may only be booked six months in advance of a requested date (previously 12 months).

Bookings for respite care services and training cannot be booked direct. Please contact your Welfare officer.

## Review short story competition: Regent's Park 1915.

They say that everyone has a novel in them, but for the 2015 Blind Veterans UK Review short story competition we want to find out how many people have a great short story in them.

We invite you to send a fictional work on the theme of 1915 at our Regent's Park training centre and a snapshot of life there for the First World War veterans and women of our charity. So please get super creative and get writing.

All submissions should be an original work and not previously published. The competition is open to members, their spouses, widows or widowers. The judge's decision will be final.

The three winning stories will be published in the Review in 2015.

Please follow these steps when submitting entries for the competition:

- 1) Entries should be typewritten and should not exceed 1,500 words.
- 2) Only one submission per person.

Entries must be received by Catherine Goodier, Review Editor, Blind Veterans UK Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD by 30th April 2015.

## Did you serve at Church Stretton during WWII?

If you served at Church Stretton during the Second World War or you lived there and knew the Second World War members and staff of our charity please get in touch with Catherine Goodier, Review Editor on telephone: 020 7616 8367 or email: [revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk)

## Review format changes.

The Review is also available on MP3CD and USB, by email and in Braille. If you would like to change the format you receive the Review in please telephone Mrs Shernaz Kapadia on 020 7616 8368 or email: [reviewformat@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:reviewformat@blindveterans.org.uk)

# Reunion dates in 2015.

Date	Reunion.	Venue address.
5th March.	Edinburgh	Marriott Hotel, 111 Glasgow Road, Edinburgh, EH12 8NF.
18th March	Brighton	Blind Veterans UK, Ovingdean, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 7BS.
26th March	Middlesbrough	Thistle Hotel, Fry Street, Middlesbrough TS1 1JH.
8th April	Barrow	The Abbey House Hotel, Abbey Rd, Barrow in Furness, LA13 0PA.
10th April	Derby	The Hallmark Hotel, Midland Rd, Derby, Derbyshire, DE1 2SQ.
15th April	N Ireland	The Ramada Hotel, 117 Milltown Rd, Shaws Bridge, Belfast, BT8 7XP.
16th April	Central London	RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly, London, W1J 7PY.
22nd April	Cambridge	The Cambridge Belfry Hotel, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6BW.
28th April	Manchester	The Place Aparthotel, Ducie Street, Piccadilly, Manchester, M1 2TP.
29th April	Leeds	Thorpe Park Hotel, 1150 Century Way, Leeds, LS15 8ZB.
30th April	Swindon	South Marston Hotel & Spa (Mecure Hotel), Old Vicarage Lane, Swindon, SN3 4SH.
6th May	Eastbourne 1	Hydro Hotel, Mount Rd, Eastbourne BN20 7HZ.
7th May	Cardiff	Copthorne Hotel Cardiff, Copthorn Way, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff CF5 6DH.
18th May	Hook	Tylney Hall Hotel, Rotherwick, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9AZ.
21st May	Beaulieu	Beaulieu Hotel, Beaulieu Road, Beaulieu, SO42 7YQ.
27th May	Surrey	Effingham Golf Club, Guildford Road, Effingham, Surrey KT24 5PZ.
11th June	Eastbourne 2	Hydro Hotel, Mount Rd, Eastbourne, BN20 7HZ.

17th June	West Sussex	Crouchers Country Hotel, Birdham Road, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 7EH.
24th June	Liverpool	Liverpool Football Club, Champions Suite, Anfield Road, Liverpool, L4 0TH.
25th June	Llandudno	Imperial Hotel, The Promenade, Llandudno, LL30 1AP.
8th July	Portsmouth	Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club, 17 Pembroke Road, Portsmouth, Hants, PO1 2NT.
14th July	Exeter	Mercure Southgate Hotel, Southernhay East, Exeter, EX1 1QF.
11th August	Inverness	The Kingsmills Hotel, Culcabock Road, Inverness IV2 3LP.
18th August	Newcastle	The Thistle Hotel, Neville Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 5DF.
19th August	Durham	Ramside Hall Hotel, Carrville, Durham, DH1 1TD.
25th August	Blackpool	De Vere Herons' Reach, East Park Drive, Blackpool, FY3 8LL.
26th August	Chorley	The Pines Hotel, Preston Road, Clayton le Woods, Chorley, Lancs, PR6 7ED.
3rd September	Kent	Chart Hills Golf Club, Weeks Lane, Biddenden, Kent, TN27 8JX.
8th September	Worcester	The Whitehouse Hotel, Foregate Street Worcester WR1 1EA.
9th September	Norwich	The venue is to be confirmed.
10th September	Bristol	The venue is to be confirmed.
24th September	North London	The Noke By Thistle, Watford Road, St Albans AL2 3DS.
29th September	Birmingham	Ramada Hotel Birmingham, Penns Lane, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1LH.
30th September	Cornwall and Plymouth	Lanhydrock Hotel & Golf Club, Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 5AQ.
13th October	Sheffield	Kenwood Hall Hotel, Kenwood Road, Sheffield, S7 1NQ.



## **Blind Veterans UK fundraising events in 2015.**

### **Brighton Half Marathon — Sunday 22nd February 2015.**

We have a team of 28 runners taking part and raising funds for Blind Veterans UK, including members Paul Jacobs GM and Charlie Parkinson and five members of staff from Harcourt Street. If you know anyone who may want to come along and help cheer on our runners, please do get in touch.

### **Virgin London Marathon — Sunday 26th April 2015.**

Every year, approximately 37,500 people run the 26.2 mile (42.2km) marathon through the streets of London. The route runs along the south of the Thames and then the north side after crossing the river on Tower Bridge. From Greenwich and Blackheath to Buckingham Palace, runners pass some of the capital's famous landmarks, including the London Eye and the Tower of London. This year we have a fantastic 19 runners including members Kelly Hart and Steve Parnell.

### **Bupa London 10,000 — Monday 25th May 2015.**

The Bupa London 10,000 starts and finishes in St James's Park. The Race starts on The Mall and finishes on Spur Road opposite Buckingham Palace. Runners follow a clockwise route around the City of Westminster and the City of London, passing many of London's famous sights including, Admiralty Arch, Nelson's Column, St Paul's Cathedral, Mansion House, Bank of England, Leadenhall Market, The Monument, Millennium Bridge, Tate Gallery, Cleopatra's Needle, the London Eye, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey. The registration fee is £20 and you will need to raise £150.

### **Red Devils Skydive Nottingham — Wednesday 3rd June 2015.**

Experience the adrenaline rush of tandem skydiving with the best in the business at Nottingham's Langar Airfield. The Red Devils are one of the world's most famous parachute display teams and the official parachute display team for both the Parachute Regiment and the British Army. The registration fee is £100 and you need to raise a minimum of £500 in sponsorship or you can pay £299 for the experience and raise as much as you can in sponsorship.

### **London to Brighton 100K Walk — 6th to 7th June.**

The event is a tough personal challenge for anyone who wants to take part; experienced walkers, recreational strollers, or beginners who want to

do something great for themselves and for charity. You can take part as an individual and tackle the whole 100km course, or you could take part as a team relay. A team of four can each complete 25km or a team of two can complete 50km each. The registration fee is £75 for the 100k or £50 for the 50k distance for an individual or £120 per relay team. Individuals need to raise £300 for the 100k and £200 for the 50k. And relay teams need to raise £500.

### **Red Devils Skydive Salisbury — Wednesday 8th July 2015.**

Experience the adrenaline rush of tandem skydiving with the best in the business at Salisbury's Old Sarum Airfield. The Red Devils are one of the world's most famous parachute display teams and the official parachute display team for both the Parachute Regiment and the British Army. The registration fee is £100 and you need to raise a minimum of £500 in sponsorship or you can pay £299 for the experience and raise as much as you can in sponsorship.

### **Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 — Sunday 2nd August 2015.**

Celebrate the London 2012 cycling legacy and jump on your bike to cycle 100 miles through London and Surrey in the Prudential Ride London to Surrey 100 event. The cycle starts at the Olympic Park in Stratford, along the closed roads of London, through the beautiful Surrey countryside and finishes on the Mall outside Buckingham Palace. The registration fee is £49 and you will need to raise a minimum of £500 in sponsorship.

### **Great North Run — Sunday 13th September 2015.**

Join us for the UK's most popular half marathon which has been described as the greatest in the world! The route takes in the iconic Tyne Bridge and goes through Gateshead passing the famous international athletics stadium to finish in the coastal town of South Shields. The registration fee is £30 and you will need to raise a minimum of £300 in sponsorship.

### **Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon — Sunday 11th October 2015.**

You will run the 13.1 miles through four of London's Royal Parks — Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James' Park and Green Park in their autumnal splendor. The registration fee is £30 and you need to raise a minimum of £300 in sponsorship.

If you have any questions about any of the events or you would like to find out how to apply for a place, please email [fundraising@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@blindveterans.org.uk) or telephone Jennie on 020 7616 7959.

# Our Centenary Celebrations.

On 29th January we celebrated our centenary and 100 years of proud service since the day Sir Arthur Pearson Bt, GBE founded our charity. To mark this historic day, events were held at our Brighton, Llandudno and Sheffield centres and at Harcourt Street.

The main celebratory event was the unveiling of a plaque at 150 Bayswater Hill by Ron Freer and our Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB and David Blunkett, the UK's first blind Cabinet Minister. Ron, a former Lance Sergeant in the Royal Artillery, joined our charity in 1946 after he was blinded in the Far East, also losing his hearing.

It was a significant location as it is on the site of the original building where our work began when Mrs Lewis Hall, a continuous benefactor to the blinded men, loaned the house to Sir Arthur while necessary preparation work was carried out at St Dunstan's Lodge in Regent's Park.



**Picture:** David Blunkett MP for Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough, Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB and blind veteran Ron Freer.

Ron Freer said: "It is a great honour to have been asked to unveil this plaque. I have got so much out of my 70 years with Blind Veterans UK. When I returned from the Second World War having lost my sight I thought my life would be over. Through Blind Veterans UK I have been able to live a long, happy, independent life, and made some fantastic friends."

Nick Caplin added: "This anniversary also provides the opportunity for us to look forward to the challenges that lie ahead for Blind Veterans UK. It is a critical time for our charity as the number of blind veterans we support is increasing; in the past year, more blind veterans have registered for our help than ever before in the charity's history and this trend is set to continue."



**Picture:** Sir Arthur Pearson Bt, GBE would have been proud to witness Ron Freer, who will celebrate his 100th birthday in October, and Paul Jacobs GM, speaking at our centenary celebration. Paul, a 25 year old former Rifleman, was blinded by a Taliban bomb in Upper Sangin Valley, Helmand Province in Afghanistan's front line in 2009. He was awarded the prestigious George Medal for bravery as he continued to protect his colleagues after he was wounded. His medal citation praised his 'faultless courage, selflessness and dedication to his unit.'

Intrepid members and staff braved sub zero temperatures and heavy snow to attend the Sheffield centre to celebrate our centenary and the 10th anniversary of the Sheffield centre. They were joined by The Master and Mistress Cutler David and Ruth Grey and The Lord Mayor of Sheffield Cllr Peter Rippon, who unveiled the plaque. Centre manager Terry Heaton said: "It was a real testament to the can do mentality that there is at the Sheffield centre. We were snowed in but people still made it here for this historic day and Peter Bradley, a volunteer, showed his commitment when he made the journey from York. It was an absolutely brilliant day for everyone."

Lesley Darby from Nottinghamshire who was at the centre for the R&T Introductory Week said: "It was a privilege to have been here today for this historic event. I feel as if I belong to a family and I will get help in whatever I need. Being at the Sheffield centre this week and meeting veterans and staff has given me the confidence to deal with my sight loss. It is a fantastic place and a fantastic organisation that has given me back my peace of mind. I have nothing but gratitude for them and may the next 100 years be as good!"



**Picture above:** Sheffield centre manager Terry Heaton delivers a speech to blind veterans and staff ahead of the unveiling of the centenary plaque.

**Picture opposite:** The Lord Mayor of Sheffield Cllr Peter Rippon unveils the Sheffield centre's new plaque.



**Picture:** Brighton centre manager Lesley Garven speaks at a celebratory centenary tea in the lounge at the Brighton centre.

## **Blind Veterans UK G.O.A.L. Group event at Llandudno. By Carol Davies.**

Despite some of the G.O.A.L (Get Out and Live) Group Club members experiencing disruptions in the train service, Roger Williams, David Williams, John Evans, Ian Wynne, Paul Palmer, John Western and Peter King arrived at Blind Veterans UK's Llandudno centre safe and sound on Monday 17th November. Our first evening took us into town to the Home Cookin Restaurant where we enjoyed a great meal and got to know each other.

### **Tuesday 18th November.**

We left the centre and made our way to Electric Mountain. This involved a tour into the amazing mountain that hides Dinorwig hydro-electric power station, in the heart of Snowdonia. It's the largest man-made cavern in Europe. When we arrived we spent time in the information centre. We were then issued with hard hats and hair nets, before watching a short film about electricity and the power station. We were then taken on the tour bus to visit the mountain, led by the tour guide who was full of information and ready to answer any questions.

### **Facts about the mountain.**

Electric Mountain relies on natural rain to fall from the clouds onto the Dinorwig Mountain to fill the lake.

Each generator at Electric Mountain weighs on average three tonnes. That's the same as four adult elephants! Electric Mountain generates enough electricity a day to power 10,000 Xbox 360s.

Due to our vision impairment we could not see the detail of the machinery inside the mountain, but despite this the tour guide was very informative and made it a good experience for us all.

We departed Electric Mountain and made our way to the Llanberis Slate Museum where we enjoyed our packed lunch outside. It's hard to believe that on 22nd November we were still enjoying the sun surrounded by beautiful Welsh mountain scenery! After lunch we were given a slate splitting demonstration. Unfortunately we did not have time to check out all the Slate Museum had to offer and made a mental note to revisit during a future

event. We returned to the centre for an early meal before our Ghost Tour at Bodelwyddan Castle that evening.

### **Tuesday 18th evening at Bodelwyddan Castle.**

We all arrived at the castle and made our way to meet Billy Baxter, R&T Liaison Officer at the Llandudno centre, who would be our ghost tour guide for the evening. We had some difficulty finding the entrance we needed, and knocked on many of the large doors we happened upon in our effort to locate Billy Baxter who is part of the paranormal team at the castle. He certainly is a very busy fellow.

Without giving too much away, as a lot of you may wish to partake in a tour of your own, it comes highly recommended. We were taken around the rooms, each one having its own story to tell. While we were in one of these rooms Billy told us he was going to play his bugle which he did with great gusto. We all waited with baited breath thinking one of the spirits would echo his tune. It did not happen and we moved on. A little while later Billy was telling us another story when we all heard a bugle playing, Billy dropped to the floor in surprise when Roger Williams piped up, "Sorry Billy it was my mobile ringing". His mobile ringtone sounds like a bugle. Our tour ended and we made our way back to the centre for a well-earned drink at the bar.

### **Wednesday 19th November.**

After breakfast we climbed aboard our mini bus and travelled to Anglesey for the first of our day's activities, the Rib Ride along the Menai Straights. Our boat skipper greeted us on the jetty and introduced himself as Charles. We enjoyed a high speed ride down the Menai Straits, taking in the power of the current through a part of the Straits known as the Swellies. Charles regaled us with stories of boats going aground and of having to rescue those aboard. He explained it can be very hazardous to sailors who are unfamiliar with the Menai Straits. It shares its history with Nelson, whose statue looks out over the water. Charles told us Nelson had a great deal of respect for this notoriously challenging stretch of water around Anglesey. Our boat also went past the stunning National Trust property Plas Newydd - the home of the Marquess of Anglesey.

We were delighted by the fast power boat ride through the water, experiencing donuts and fast turns which meant we had to hold on really tight. It was very

exhilarating and once again we were very lucky with the weather, although it was very cold. After our Rib Ride we enjoyed a very nice lunch before making our way to The Anglesey Riding Stables. This was the activity many of us were looking forward to as we had never been on a horse before. We all met and mounted our respective horses. Some of us had to use the mounting block.

We were given instructions before setting off on our walk and I really do mean walk. Not a canter and definitely not a gallop. We had a very leisurely ride down the country lanes and back into the stable yard where we all had to dismount, some more gracefully than others, I will say no more on that subject. Those who bore witness could tell a different story.



**Picture:** The fast moving rib ride in Anglesey.

#### **Thursday 20th November.**

We departed the centre and made our way to Liverpool Albert Docks Maritime Museum where we entered the world of the Customs Officer — a dark and unseen world of smuggling, intrigue and danger, where things are not always what they seem. Sarah from Seized Goods brought some of the items from the museum and told us the history and allowed us to handle the objects.

It's amazing the lengths to which people will go to smuggle drugs and illegal objects into the country. Sarah showed us a handbag made of crocodile, a protected species in the country they were brought from. The bag was made out of the whole crocodile, head to tail, and was extremely heavy. We were also shown: ivory tusks and an African head carved from ivory but this item held a deadly secret inside, the hat had been full of drugs. There was also a guitar made from turtle shell and flip flops which were found to have drugs concealed in the soles. It was very interesting but we had to move on to our "Hands on Deck", session with Donna where we discovered more about Liverpool's maritime past as well as where some of our most famous phrases and sayings actually come from. Donna got us singing a sea shanty while pulling up a sail. Great fun although some of our members thought it was most childish.

#### **Friday 21st November.**

And so we came to the end of our event and had to say goodbye to each other until the next time. It was a great week. I would like to thank all the staff at the Llandudno centre for making us welcome and for all the help and support extended to us during our visit. Particularly to Mark Hollis, Paula Sartain, Lee Evans and Dewi Roberts in the Sports & Rec department who drove us to our event venues throughout the week, they were all wonderful.

If you are a member of Blind Veterans UK aged from 60 to 72 and you would like to join the G.O.A.L. Group on future events and Get Out And Live, please contact Carol Davies on telephone: 01754 450232 or on mobile: 07789 373 960 or email: [cdaviesgoalclub@gmail.com](mailto:cdaviesgoalclub@gmail.com)

Or you can speak with Chris Humphrey on telephone: 01603 701402 or email: [chrisandhazel3@gmail.com](mailto:chrisandhazel3@gmail.com)

Later in the year there will be G.O.A.L. Group events from Port Hall in Brighton from Monday 8th to Friday 12th June. And from the Llandudno centre from Sunday 11th to Saturday 17th October.

# Ray Sherriff — 1920 to 2014.



**Picture:** Ray Sheriff enjoys a tandem freefall.

It is with great sadness we announce that Ray Sheriff, a Corporal in the Parachute Regiment who was blinded at the Battle of Arnhem died on 27th December 2014. His funeral took place at Woodvale Crematorium on 12th January when the chapel was full to capacity. The service was a celebration of Ray's life. Ray leaves his wife Betty and the many great friends that he made throughout his life.

One of those friends, Gerry Jones, sent in the following tribute for Ray.

It was with a heavy heart that I learned on Saturday 3rd January from Betty Sherriff that Ray had died over the Christmas period. This was such sad news to receive, but for Betty and all the family it was obviously a dark Christmas.

Ray, who was 94 years old, had been in a home for about a year plus with that terrible disease dementia. Ray suddenly did not recognise anyone. What a sad end to such a splendid man and for Betty a tragedy.

Ray to me was inspirational, he epitomised the spirit that Sir Arthur Pearson and Lord Fraser instilled into the newly blinded men who came to St. Dunstan's. Ray had lost his sight in that disaster of Arnhem. A seasoned Parachute Regiment member he was part of the 3rd Airborne Division. Out of a total force of 10,500 fighting men dropped or landed at Arnhem only 3,500 survived. Faulty intelligence led to this disaster. He ended with shrapnel in his eyes and whilst attempting to escape he was shot in the leg.

On his repatriation he entered St Dunstan's and went to Church Stretton, our wartime home and training centre. He recounted many a story about his time there and I learnt from him, that having no eyesight was an inconvenience and not a disaster. He was quietly spoken with a lovely soft and polite manner; how on earth did he ever become a Para!

He was a great sportsman, cycling and swimming being his main outlets. Living just down the road from the Brighton Centre he spent many hours swimming up and down. I am not sure of the year, but let us say 20 years ago he swam one million yards in one year all in the aid of charity. That is certainly some commitment.

He was instrumental in forming the Arnhem Veterans Association, linking with many civilian and underground veterans in Holland and of course many of the Para Brigade who took part. He went ahead and did a tandem jump at the Remembrance service at Arnhem and the following year he and veterans, 64 in number, did a mass jump. That continued for many years until at the age of 86 in 2006 he and the remaining 10 veterans called it a day.

I first met him skiing with St Dunstan's in Bavaria. There are a couple of stories of him there, which are truly humorous. One concerns us when we came out of a night bar and when attempting to clamber into the back of a Landrover he fell forwards inside. All we could hear was muffled shouting. Our guides dragged him out only to find that he was wearing around his head a huge coil of rope. We were all allowed to feel whilst the cries continued. The guides were crying with laughter, but of course I was not as I said to him "Don't worry Ray the lads have gone for some bolt cutters." On that same trip he was seen by his guide sunbathing in the nude on a sun lounger. He had come out of the swimming pool and been put in this spot by his guide as it was in the sun. Whilst the latter joined us outside queuing for the beginners drag lift we slowly passed

where Ray was lying behind the glass on his lounge, but by now Ray was only wearing his swim hat. His nudity caused quite a stir and his guide was last seen scampering to the front of the building. Be fair, he was only sunbathing and why not, wouldn't you?

There is a wonderful video of Ray skiing when a small party were in Sorenberg in Switzerland. The video was filmed by Peter Zamudio. Peter is skiing backwards and to all intents and purposes it looks like Ray is skiing in a straight line until you take notice of the background which is continually changing. I would love to see it. Peter is our longest serving ski guide and was formerly in the RA and for some reason he has collected another former Para in the person of Charley Daly. Charley will not ski unless Peter is his guide. They make a great pair. On that same week's skiing Charley was also present and so was Betty and my wife Marian. On one night after wining and dining, the ladies retired and we carried on with the real drinking. The time came when I broadcast that I was off to bed. "Oh No You Don't" came from the Paras. After another couple of drinks I said I was off. The next thing I knew was that I was lying on a settee with my head on Ray's lap being nursed and Charley came along and administered a nice little drink straight into my mouth. After three of these even they decided to ascend the stairs. We were I suppose quite noisy. "No problem" from the lips of Ray, he was the boss. This all changed quite suddenly when on reaching our landing and Betty's voice rang out "Ray get in here now!" He went off like a lamb.

During those early years of our friendship Ray tried to help me with my Braille, which was then our main form of communication along with typing. He was very patient, giving me all kinds of tips. However, I was delighted when a call from Ray Hazan said he was trying out a talking computer. Hurrah no more Braille en masse.

Well there we are. These few recounted tales of Ray have made me remember him and feel a lot better. Farewell old friend.

Gerry Jones.

## Dave Stuttard MBE 1946 — 2014.

Blind veteran and former Trustee Dave Stuttard MBE died on 21st December 2014 at the age of 68 leaving his wife Dot, their son Steven and daughters Karen and Tracey.

Dave was a very popular member of our charity who served in the Royal Engineers for 40 years, leaving as a Captain. He joined Blind Veterans UK in 2003 and in 2005 with a team of Royal Engineers he put the skills he had learned in the Army to use to set up a clean water and sanitation programme in the Tolon-Kumbungu District of Northern Ghana in sub-Saharan Africa.

During the successful pilot project they brought clean water to some 2,500 people. In 2006 Dave set up the charity MyUbique, to carry out the essential work, and today more than 75,000 people in villages in the District have benefited from the supply of clean water and sanitation. An outstanding testimony to the success of the programme came from the District Assembly as reports show the work has eradicated Guinea Worm and Trachoma in the villages where clean water and sanitation have been introduced. Trachoma is the world's leading cause of infectious blindness from waterborne parasites.

Dave is deeply missed by his family and friends and his widow Dot said: "David was diagnosed with diabetes 40 years ago and that caused his sight loss but he never gave up the fight, and the work in Ghana through MyUbique shows the strength he had. He was such a good husband and dad and he is missed so much."

Speaking of his father, his son Steven said: "My dad was a man that I always looked up to. If there was ever a problem, to him there was always a solution. Nothing was ever a problem to Dad. Despite the health problems that were thrown at him, particularly in his later life, dad just got on with it. Not only that, he helped through the support of Blind Veterans UK, change the lives of tens of thousands disadvantaged Ghanaian people. I was fortunate enough to accompany him on one of his trips to Ghana and see what joy his work brought to the people there. We plan to carry on the work in my dad's memory".

Alison Molloy, his Welfare Officer, said of Dave: "He was a lifelong giver and I was most humbled to have worked with him and through such difficult times this last year."

In 2011 Dave was presented with his MBE by Her Majesty The Queen at Buckingham Palace in recognition of his charitable work with Blind Veterans UK and his own charity MyUbique. He was accompanied by Dot, their son Steven and sister in law Eleanor.



**Picture:** Dave Stuttard MBE is presented with his MBE by Her Majesty The Queen.



**Picture:** Dave Stuttard MBE with village children gathered around the water tap who have benefited from the work of MyUbique to deliver clean water and sanitation in the Tolon-Kumbungu District of Northern Ghana.

## Family News.

### Congratulations to:

#### Birthdays:

**Zoe Holman** who celebrated her 100th birthday on 26th January.

**Jordan Silver** who celebrated his 103rd birthday on 7th January.

**Jim Booth** who celebrated his 103rd birthday on 23rd January.

**Thomas Blackmore** who celebrated his 103rd birthday on 5th January.

**Percy Norton** who celebrated his 101st birthday on 27th December.

**Margery Williams** who celebrated her 102nd birthday on 7th December.

**Joseph Munroe** who celebrated his 102nd birthday on 20th December.

#### Anniversaries:

##### Platinum (70th):

**George & Edna Pearce** of Thornhill, Southampton on 10th January.

**Don & Elizabeth Hansen** of Stockton on Tees, Cleveland on 12th January.

**Kenneth and Joyce Bullivant** of Nottingham on 13th January.

**Richard & Dora St Clair** of Bexhill On Sea, East Sussex on 20th January.

**Percival & Joan Saunders** of Barnstaple, Devon on 27th January.

##### Blue Sapphire (65th):

**Ernie & Irene Brown** of Bournville, Birmingham on 14th January.

##### Diamond (60th):

**Graham & Jean Wain** of Chesterfield, Derbyshire on 7th January.

##### Golden (50th):

**Derek & Jean Russell** of Rossendale, Lancashire on 9th January.

**Lawrence & Christine Betteridge** of Barnard Castle, Co. Durham on 21st January.

##### Ruby (40th):

**Peter & Jackie Murray** of Eastbourne, East Sussex on 19th January.

**Peter & Susan Walker** of Abingdon, Oxfordshire on 25th January.

##### Silver (25th):

**Raymond & Jennifer Robinson** of Gateshead, Tyne & Wear on 26th January.



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

**Sheila Ager** who died on 13th November 2014. She was the wife of John Ager.

**Sheila Alexander** who died on 23rd December 2014. She was the widow of the late John Alexander.

**George Bailey** who died on 31st May 2014. He was the widower of the late Margaret Bailey.

**Joan Bartlett** who died on 1st December 2014. She was the widow of the late Robert Bartlett.

**Eleanor Bennett** who died on 13th December 2014. She was the wife of Gordon Bennett.

**Jasmine Butcher** who died on 2nd December 2014. She was the wife of William Butcher.

**Doris Clarkson** who died on 4th October 2014. She was the wife of Charles Clarkson.

**Yanka Firrell** who died on 30th November 2014. She was the widow of the late Sidney Firrell.

**Melanie Golding** who died on 29th December 2014. She was the widow of the late Montagu Golding.

**Doreen Hale** who died on 28th October 2014. She was the wife of Michael Hale.

**Patricia 'Pat' Harris** who died on 12th November 2014. She was the wife of Alfred Harris.

**Vicky Hope** who died on 17th November 2014. She was the wife of Michael Hope.

**Joyce King** who died on 11th November 2014. She was the widow of the late Terence King.

**Florence 'June' MacKenzie** who died on 1st August 2014. She was the widow of the late Brucke MacKenzie.

**Alice McGinnis** who died on 7th April 2014. She was the widower of the late James McGinnis.

**Doris Parker** who died on 1st October 2014. She was the wife of Alfred Parker.

**Grace Parker** who died in November 2014. She was the wife of Reginard Parker.

**Evelyn Quine** who died on 12th December 2014. She was the wife of Kenneth Quine.

**Christine Ramsden** who died on 1st September 2014. She was the wife of Arthur Ramsden.

**Joyce Ransome** who died on 12th December 2014. She was the wife of Joseph Ransome.

**Norma Rathmell** who died on 7th January 2015. She was the widow of the late William Rathmell.

**Rosemary 'Fuller' Richards** who died on 29th November 2014. She was the wife of Lawrence Richards.

**Iris Robinson** who died on 13th December 2014. She was the widow of Donald Robinson.

**Doris 'Betty' Roebuck** who died on 29th December 2014. She was the wife of John Roebuck.

**Irene Saddington** who died on 6th January 2015. She was the widow of the late Edgar Saddington.

**Florence Shorthouse** who died on 28th October 2014. She was the widow of the late Jack Shorthouse.

**Jean Swannell** who died on 24th November 2014. She was the widow of the late Roland Swannell.

**Catherine 'Katie' Tarwid** who died on 25th December 2014. She was the wife of Aleksander Tarwid.

**Eileen Taylor** who died on 5th November 2014. She was the wife of William Taylor.

**Georgina Thompson** who died on 29th December 2014. She was the widow of the late Desmond Thompson.

**Mollie Thurman** who died on 4th November 2014. She was the wife of Reginald Thurman.

**Marie Vickery** who died on 1st December 2014. She was the widow of the late Arthur Vickery.

**Annie Wood** who died on 11th December 2014. She was the widow of the late Thomas Wood.

# Welcome to Blind Veterans UK.

**Edward Archbold** of Milton Keynes served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1947.

**Constance Beattie (nee Booth)** of Aberdeen served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

**Margaret Bird (nee Glen)** of Preston, Lancashire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1944 to 1947.

**Donald Blachford** of Polegate, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Francis Blackburn** of Southport, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**Herbert Blackshaw** of Chapelton, Sheffield served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Norman Bond** of Chesterfield, Derbyshire served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1955 to 1960.

**Ronald Britton** of Bristol served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Edward Bunce** of Gosport, Hampshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**John Carr** of Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1946 to 1948.

**Ivy Chafer** of Scunthorpe, Humberside served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Kenneth Chapman** of Salisbury, Wiltshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1949 to 1955.

**Anne Chetwynd-Stapylton (nee Pease)** of Lewes, East Sussex served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1941 to 1946.

**Frank Corbett** of Walsall served in the South Staffordshire Regiment and the South Wales Borderers from 1939 to 1946.

**Peter Costigan** of Sheffield served in the Green Howards from 1960 to 1964.

**Anthony Clarkin** of Llandrindod Wells, Powys served in the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment from 1967 to 1976.

**Walter Clayson** of Staines-Upon-Thames, Middlesex served in the Coldstream Guards, the Royal Military Police, the Royal Armoured Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1944 to 1952.

**James Coggins** of Hyde, Cheshire served in the Army Ordnance Corps and the Cheshire Regiment from 1953 to 1959.

**Thomas Collins** of Fareham, Hampshire served in the Royal Navy from 1939 to 1953.

**David Crooke** of Leeds served in the Army Catering Corps from 1955 to 1960.

**Joan Culham** of Sherborne, Dorset served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Edna D'arcy (nee Richardson)** of Accrington, Lancashire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

**Kenneth Davison** of Chesterfield, Derbyshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1955.

**Catherine Dawes** of Hitchin, Hertfordshire served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

**Ronald Debins** of Redruth, Cornwall served in the Coldstream Guards from 1956 to 1963.

**Albert 'Rex' Edwards** of Solihull, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

**John Endres** of Ellesmere Port, Cheshire served in the Royal Dragoon Guards from 1947 to 1970.

**Kenneth Elvin** of Ipswich served in the Grenadier Guards from 1966 to 1973.

**Brian Fisher** of March, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1956.

**Beryl Ford** of Swaffham, Norfolk served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1945.

**Reginald Foxwell** of Bristol served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1947.

**Phyllis Fraser (nee Barker)** of Paignton, Devon served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

**Ronald Frost** of Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Navy from 1955 to 1957.

**Roy Gower** of North Hykeham, Lincoln served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1973.

**Harold Green** of Norwich served in the Royal Norfolk Regiment from 1939 to 1946.

**Leslie Grimes** of Etwall, Derby served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Philip Hall** of Sunbury-On-Thames, Middlesex served in the General Service Corps, Gordon Highlanders and the Cameronians from 1944 to 1948.

**Marjorie Hanson** of Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1945.

**John Hardy** of Bridgwater, Somerset served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1973 to 1991.

**Terence Hatton** of Tredegar, Gwent served in the Royal Tank Regiment from 1962 to 1970.

**Joan Howse (nee Old)** of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**Peter Hunt** of Newark, Nottinghamshire served in the Royal Signals from 1952 to 1957.

**Howard Hunter** of Cromarty served in the Royal Air Force from 1958 to 1960.

**Robert Jarvis** of Pontefract, West Yorkshire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps from 1943 to 1946.

**John Kenwright** of St Helens, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950.

**Robert Knight** of Bridport, Dorset served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1947 to 1949.

**James Kramer** of Stroud, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Gordon Lazarus** of Hull served in the Royal Navy from 1949 to 1956.

**Kajiman Limbu** of Oxford served in the Royal Gurkha Rifles from 1979 to 1993.

**Hugh 'Patrick' Maguire** of Bathgate, West Lothian served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Ulster Rifles from 1942 to 1946.

**Kenneth Marsden** of Haverfordwest, Dyfed served in the Royal Marines from 1942 to 1946.

**John Marsh** of Worcester Park, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1958.

**Rodney Matthews** of Emsworth, Hampshire served in the Queen's Regiment and the Army Catering Corps from 1959 to 1964.

**Ernest McGill** of Ellesmere Port, Cheshire served in the General Service Corps, the Royal Artillery and the King's Own Royal Regiment from 1944 to 1954.

**Hugh McKinlay** of Glasgow served in the Royal Signals from 1939 to 1946.

**Ronald Morley** of Sheffield served in the General Service Corps and the Corps of Royal Military Police from 1946 to 1948.

**Antony 'Tony' Mornement** of Chichester, West Sussex served in the Royal Engineers from 1954 to 1985.

**Robert Mulholland** of Barnet, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1957.

**Iris Nelmes (nee Findlay)** of Gloucester served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1945.

**Albert Newell** of Sonning Common, Berkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1954.

**Alan Newman** of Newcastle Upon Tyne served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1950 to 1956.

**Eric Noble** of Bognor Regis, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

**David Norsworthy** of Taunton, Somerset served in the Grenadier Guards from 1944 to 1948.

**Eric Parkes** of Birmingham served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Signals from 1942 to 1947.

**Patrick Pawley** of Dawlish, Devon served in the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and the Royal Wessex Regiment from 1974 to 1983.

**William Philcox** of Winchelsea, East Sussex served in the Merchant Navy from 1941 to 1943.

**Francis Plaistowe** of St Helier, Jersey served in the General Service Corps, the Royal Artillery and the Royal Warwickshire Regiment from 1942 to 1947.

**Reginald Pratt** of Northwood, Middlesex served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Marie Redshaw (nee Hayes)** of Waterlooville, Hampshire served in the Voluntary Aid Detachment from 1944 to 1947.

**Maurice Robinson** of Bolton, Lancs served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1958.

**Francis 'Frank' Rushton** of Dalton-In-Furness, Cumbria served in the General Service Corps and the King's Own Regiment from 1946 to 1948.

**William 'Bill' Quine** of Chesham, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Artillery and the Royal Military Police from 1952 to 1955.

**Donald Scott** of Colchester served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Signals from 1944 to 1948.

**Frank Sleat** of Tunbridge Wells, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Harold Smart** of Kenilworth, Warwickshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1955.

**John Smith** of Winscombe, Avon served in the Royal Artillery from 1937 to 1946.

**Ernest Soar** of Heanor, Derbyshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1949.

**John Taylor** of Caernarfon, Gwynedd served in the Royal Signals from 1959 to 1964.

**Albert Trodden** of Taunton, Somerset served in the Royal Artillery in 1951.

**Alfred Tucker** of Romford, Essex served in the Royal Navy from 1951 to 1958.

**Malcolm Tucker** of Bawburgh, Norwich served in the Army Catering Corps from 1946 to 1948.

**Peter Warner** of Thatcham, Berkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Elizabeth Webb** of Leominster, Herefordshire served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1944 to 1947.

**Trevor Wellings** of Halesowen, West Midlands served in the Worcestershire Regiment from 1958 to 1964.

**Dennis Wiltshire** of Thornbury, Bristol served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1944.

**Michael Worthington** of Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1980 to 1992.

**Edward Wynne** of Holywell, Clwyd served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Doris Young** of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1945.

# 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, families and friends.**

**Henry 'Hank' Adlam** of Bristol died on 2nd January 2015, aged 92. He joined the Royal Navy in 1941. Qualified as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm he served in aircraft carriers all around the world and was recalled for the Korean War when he flew Corsairs. He discharged as a Lieutenant in 1952.

**William Allgood** of Middlesbrough, Cleveland died on 5th December 2014, aged 97. He joined the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers in 1940. He was posted to the Middle East where he was caught in the Siege of Tobruk before being posted to Italy where he took part in the Central Campaign. After four and a half years abroad he returned to the UK where he was a trainer at the Machine Gun Training Centre until he was discharged as a Sergeant in 1946.

**John Appleby** of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands died on 5th January 2015, aged 87. He joined the RAF in 1946, qualifying as a Flight Mechanic. He served in West Kirby, Herefordshire and Staffordshire, discharging as an Aircraftman First Class in 1948.

**George Attwood** of Chatham, Kent died on 21st December 2014, aged 94. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941, training in Melksham as an instrument repairer. He was posted to a Beaufighter Squadron in West Malling, Kent and then went to the Middle East for 2½ years. He returned briefly to the UK before going to India. He was discharged in 1946 as a Leading Aircraftman.

**Peter Badman** of Shoreham By Sea, West Sussex died on 29th December 2014, aged 92. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 in Coastal Command and was an Instrument Technician, serving in the UK and the Azores. He discharged as a Leading Aircraftman in 1946.

**Leslie Baker** of Tilehurst, Reading died on 9th December 2014, aged 91. He enlisted into the Royal Air Force in 1941, qualified as an Engineer and worked on aircraft engines of all types, particularly Mosquitoes. After the Normandy Invasion he was posted to India in preparation for the Japanese invasion. He was demobilised as a Corporal in 1946.

**Quinton Beattie** of Ashbourne, Derbyshire died on 11th December 2014, aged 89. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 and served as a rear gunner in Wellington's until discharge as a Sergeant in 1947.

**Arthur Bickerdike** of Manchester died on 19th November 2013, aged 91. He joined the Lancashire Fusiliers in May 1939 and transferred to the Royal Artillery in May 1940 on coastal defence in Barrow-in-Furness. He later transferred to the Royal Engineers in 1942 and was involved with rail transport. He landed in France at Arromanches after D-Day and fought through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

**Douglas Bishop** of Abelour, Banffshire died on 29th November 2014, aged 95. He joined the Army wanting to be a trumpeter. He was in the Royal Artillery from 1934, trained as a signaller and was posted to the 9th Field Regiment at Bulford. He was commissioned in 1943. He moved to 15 Medium Regiment and was promoted to Captain. Deployed to France on D+4 he supported the advance into Germany. He discharged as a Captain in 1946.

**Ronald Blaber** of Seaford, East Sussex died on 13th November 2014, aged 94. He joined the RNR before enlisting in the Royal Navy in 1940 at Victory Barracks, Portsmouth. He trained at HMS Excellent as a gunnery rating before serving in Hunt class destroyers in the Mediterranean, Atlantic and the Channel where the ship raided German convoys. He was discharged as a Petty Officer in 1945.

**Maisie Brooks** of Westcliff On Sea, Essex died on 8th December 2014, aged 87. She joined the Women's Land Army before joining the Women's Royal Air Force in 1949 when she carried out dental training. She was then posted to RAF Cranwell where she was the Dental Nurse before discharging as an Aircraftwoman Second Class in 1950.

**Amos 'Dick' Burley** of Cirencester, Gloucestershire died on 9th December 2014, aged 88. He joined the General Service Corps in 1944, later transferring to the Royal Artillery that year. He was posted to India in 1945, remaining there until 1947 when he was then posted to Germany for five years. He was discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1953, although he served with the TA until 1955.

**Edward 'Ted' Butcher** of South West London died on 8th January 2015, aged 87. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1944 and trained in the London Docks. He specialised as a cook and sailed on Atlantic convoys and in the Mediterranean and UK waters. He also sailed to the Far East via the Indian Ocean. He left the Merchant Navy in 1947.

**Ronald Butler** of Cannock, Staffordshire died on 16th December 2014, aged 90. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1945 and served in Burma and RAF Cosford until 1947.

**Olwen Clark** of Neath, West Glamorgan died on 27th December 2014, aged 92. She enlisted in the Women's Royal Air Force in 1942 and served at RAF Innsworth and in Hereford doing clerical jobs. She was discharged as a Leading Aircraftwoman in 1944.

**Ian Cloke** of Rotherham, South Yorkshire died on 10th December 2014, aged 53. He joined the RAF Catering branch in 1979 and worked as a chef at various air stations including RAF Binbrook. He was discharged as a Senior Aircraftman in 1984.

**Edward 'Ted' Collins** of Harpenden, Hertfordshire died on 10th March 2014, aged 94. He joined the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment in 1940 then transferred to the Queen's Regiment in 1942 and was deployed to the Western Desert where he was wounded at El-Alamein and suffered from shell shock. Following recuperation in Beirut he was involved in the advance through Italy and later served in Greece before being discharged as a Private in 1946.

**Frederick Cox** of Horsham, West Sussex died on 26th November 2014, aged 99. He served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946, discharging as a Gunner.

**Joseph 'Joe' Crossley** of Leyland, Lancashire died on 15th November 2013, aged 88. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942 and served in minesweepers, initially stationed at Lowestoft. He was subsequently in the Mediterranean, based in Malta and was involved in the Sicily invasion. He ended up in Trieste and Yugoslavia. He was discharged in 1946 as a Leading Seaman.

**Leslie 'Les' Curtis** of Teighmouth, Devon died on 30th August 2014, aged 97. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940. He qualified as a Writer and served in Hunt class escort destroyers including HMS Eridge which was torpedoed off Tobruk and towed into harbour. He was discharged as a Writer in 1946.

**Betty David** of Grange Over Sands, Cumbria died on 29th December 2014, aged 93. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1942 and served at RAF Turnhouse and Berwick in Scotland, and later Middle Wallop. She was discharged at RAF Chivenor in 1946 as a Leading Aircraftwoman.

**James 'Denzil' Davies** of Ammanford, Dyfed died on 17th November 2014, aged 87. He carried out initial training with the Rifle Brigade before joining the Royal Army Service Corps in 1945. He was posted with the Royal West Africa Frontier Force, 82nd Division to South East Asia Command when he served in Burma. He was discharged as a Corporal in 1947.

**Louis 'Bob' Early** of Reading, Berkshire died on 25th December 2014, aged 100. He joined the General Service Corps in 1942 and upon completion of his training transferred to the Royal Artillery where he specialised as a signaller. He joined the 6th Field Regiment serving in the UK and in Germany at the end of the war where he worked undercover to identify Nazis who were hiding in a factory under a false identity. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1946.

**Roderick Efford** of Gosport, Hampshire died on 2nd September 2014, aged 92. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and qualified as a radio mechanic at HMS Daedalus, Lee on Solent. He was on Russian convoys and served on US lend-lease ships as a radar specialist on naval aircraft. He was demobilised as a Petty Officer Radio Mechanic in 1946.

**Patrick Fenoughty** of St John, Jersey died on 29th September 2014, aged 92. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1941 and served in Burma. After the war he served in Korea and subsequently in Scotland and England. He retired as a Battery Quarter Master Sergeant in 1960.

**Peter Finch** of Redhill, Surrey died on 30th November 2014, aged 82. He was called up for National Service in 1954, training at Oswestry and was commissioned in the Royal Artillery. He served in England and Scotland and was discharged in 1956. He then joined the TA with the Bedfordshire Yeomanry from 1961 to 1967.

**Ronald Fraser** of Sunderland, Tyne and Wear died on 3rd November 2014, aged 93. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1942 specialising as a Flight Mechanic. He served with Bomber Command at RAF Lakenheath, RAF North Creake and RAF Little Snoring. He was discharged in 1946 as a Sergeant.

**Robert Gadd** of Seaham, Co. Durham died on 14th November 2014, aged 96. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1937 and trained as a Fitter and Flight Engineer serving in various UK Air Stations. He was posted to South East Asia and then in the Suez Canal Zone, based at Port Said. He was discharged in 1952 as a Junior Technician.

**Mary Grafton** of Fakenham, Norfolk died on 1st June 2014, aged 95. She volunteered for the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1941 and trained at Warrington before serving at Church Stretton and Oswestry. Her last posting was with the Civil Resettlement Unit dealing with returning PoWs. She was discharged in 1946.

**James Gray** of Polegate, East Sussex died on 24th December 2014, aged 83. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps for his National Service in 1950. He served in Sudan, Egypt and the UK before discharge as a Corporal in 1952.

**Lionel Green** of Hartfield, East Sussex died on 10th December 2014, aged 80. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1953 for National Service and trained at RAF Padgate. After further training at Melksham he served in Germany at RAF Gütersloh before discharge as a Senior Aircraftman in 1955.

**George Hind** of Weston Super Mare, Avon died on 12th December 2014, aged 91. He joined the General Service Corps in October 1943. He transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers three days later and served in Egypt and Palestine and was discharged as a Craftsman in 1947.

**Jean 'Jeannie' Hiscock** of Chichester, West Sussex died on 16th November 2014, aged 87. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1945, transferring to the Royal Army Pay Corps. She was posted overseas to Malaya while the Emergency was taking place. She was discharged in 1949 leaving as a Sergeant.

**Jack Holliday** of Rugeley, Staffordshire died on 29th November 2014, aged 91. He joined the Royal Signals in 1942 and was posted to Buckinghamshire where he worked in a special communications unit linked to Bletchley Park. After D-Day he went to France and moved through to Germany, attached to the US forces. He returned to the UK and was posted to India and Malaya. From Singapore he went to Java before he was discharged in 1947 as a Corporal.

**George Hutchins** of Broadstairs, Kent died on 4th December 2014, aged 93. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939. He was posted to West Africa in 1942 with the West African Frontier Force in Nigeria. He also served in Ghana and

Gambia. He was then posted to Burma and fought through the jungle. He was injured at Buthidaung in the Akyab Peninsula and was evacuated to India. He was demobilised in 1946 as a Battery Sergeant Major.

**James Jackson** of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire died on 11th December 2014, aged 80. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1954 and after driver training at Gibraltar Barracks, Aldershot he was subsequently posted to Nienburg in Germany. He spent the remainder of his service in the BAOR driving and assisting with engineering tasks before being discharged as a Sapper in 1957.

**James Lally** of St Helens, Merseyside died on 1st December 2014, aged 83. He enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1951 and served in the UK and Germany. He was discharged in 1953.

**John 'Jack' Lanaghan** of Washington, Tyne and Wear died on 1st January 2015, aged 92. He joined the General Service Corps in 1942, transferring to the Royal Signals. He later joined 49 Inf Div HQ and 1 Brit Armoured Div in Algiers via Egypt and also served in North Africa, Sicily, Palestine, Syria and Jordan. He was discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1947.

**Alexander 'Alistair' Lawson** of Kensington, London died on 26th December 2014, aged 94. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939, training as a pilot at RAF Kinloss flying training school where he flew Harts and Harvards prior to being posted for two years at RAF St Athan. He then went into intruder operations in Mosquitoes. Following this he completed a tour in Malta and flew from Sardinia to be involved in the invasion of Italy. He was also involved in the Mediterranean before being sent to Northern Europe and finally Germany at the end of the war. He was discharged as a Flight Lieutenant in 1947.

**Kenneth Leckie** of Stretford, Manchester died on 20th December 2014, aged 89. He served in the Parachute Regiment in India from 1944 to 1948.

**Mary Leggett** of Hornchurch, Essex died on 29th September 2014, aged 92. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1942 when she spent a year on fire fighting duties and served in the Isle of Man, Derby, and at Aldershot. She was discharged in 1946.

**John Leigh** of Middleton, Manchester died on 28th November 2014, aged 90. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1942 and was awarded the Burma Star following war service as a Driver in Burma and India. After a brief transfer to South Staffordshire Regiment he was discharged in October 1946.

**Frederick Lount** of Nottingham died on 27th October 2014, aged 92. He joined the Royal Navy Air Service in 1941. He served in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and the Far East on HMS Unicorn amongst others. He dealt with Spitfires, Corsairs and various other sea going aircraft before leaving as an Acting Petty Officer Air Mechanic in 1946.

**Robert 'Bob' Main** of Kirkcaldy, Fife died on 29th December 2014, aged 97. He enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps in 1940, training with the Black Watch. He was later posted to Ghana in 1943 where he remained for two years. He was then posted back to the UK and demobilised as a Staff Sergeant in 1946.

**Peter Mayhew** of Oxford, Oxfordshire died on 28th November 2014, aged 86. He joined the General Service Corps in 1946 and a month later following training transferred to the Royal Engineers. He then went to Chatham, Kent and joined the Royal Engineers Band in which he played the cornet. He was discharged as a Sapper Musician in 1949.

**Elfrieda McDonald** of Leeds died on 22nd December 2014, aged 92. She joined the Women's Royal Air Force in 1943 and served as a wireless operator in the UK and Egypt until discharge as a Leading Aircraftwoman in 1947.

**James McFetrich** of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan died on 15th December 2014, aged 73. He enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1963 and served in the UK, Germany, Cyprus and Malaya until discharge as a Staff Sergeant in 1985.

**Roy McIntyre** of Barry, South Glamorgan died on 5th January 2015, aged 89. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1950 and specialised as a Driver with the MT department. He was later posted to Iraq and served near Baghdad for two years running convoys between Jordan and Iraq. He was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman in 1955.

**Harry Miners** of Plymouth, Devon died on 30th December 2014, aged 92. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941, specialising as a motor mechanic. He was posted to Egypt and worked in a mobile radar unit. He was later posted to Turkey and then Italy before discharge in 1946 as a Leading Aircraftman.

**Frederick 'Fred' Misselbrook** of Worthing, West Sussex died on 13th December 2014, aged 89. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and served in the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea before discharge as a Stoker 1st Class in 1946.

**Marjorie Mower** of Hove, East Sussex died on 27th November 2014, aged 92. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1939 and served until 1940 as she met her husband shortly afterwards, a soldier recently returned from Dunkirk.

**Raymond 'Ray' Murcott** of Wokingham, Berkshire died on 27th October 2014, aged 90. He joined the Grenadier Guards in 1942 and trained at the Guards Depot, Pirbright. He was involved in tank development as an instructor and was posted to Normandy at the end of June 1944. At the end of the war he returned to Pirbright and then went to Palestine before discharge in 1947.

**Reginald Noble** of Nottingham, Bulwell died on 15th December 2014, aged 62. He joined the Worcester and Sherwood Foresters in 1971 and served in Cyprus and Gibraltar until discharge in 1981.

**Harold Padfield** of Oxford died on 18th December 2014, aged 93. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1936 and served in the UK, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, North West Europe and Palestine. At the Battle of Arnhem he was taken prisoner but escaped after five months and made his way back to the UK. He was discharged as a Regimental Sergeant Major in 1963.

**Myrtle 'Mickie' Pike** of Oxford, Oxfordshire died on 8th December 2014, aged 93. She joined the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service in 1943. She was sent to Algiers with the 8th Army and later went to Italy and then returned to the UK via India where she helped with the embarkation of personnel. She was discharged as a Nursing Officer Sister in 1946.

**Terence Prendergast** of Newcastle, Staffordshire died on 11th July 2014, aged 86. He joined the General Service Corps in 1945 for National Service, transferring to the North Staffordshire Regiment the following month and after training in Northern Ireland was deployed to India. From there he was posted to the Sudan and transferred to the Green Howards in 1947 for Reserve service before being discharged in 1954.

**Joyce Price-Gibbons** of Folkestone, Kent died on 10th November 2014, aged 89. She joined the Woman's Auxiliary Air Force in 1942 and became an Armourer's Assistant on the Spitfire amongst others. She was based at East Dereham, Swanton Morley, Ashborne, Derbyshire and Melksham, Wilts. She later trained as an electrician before being medically discharged due to poor eyesight in 1944.



**Septimus Prime** of South Shields, Tyne and Wear died on 30th December 2014, aged 91. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942 and served in the cruiser HMS Sheffield and the Submarine Depot ship HMS Lucia. Discharged as an Able Seaman in 1946.

**Dr Raymond 'Ray' Racy** of Bristol died on 23rd November 2014, aged 94. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and qualified as a pilot, training in the UK and Canada. Based in Holland with 74 (Tiger) Squadron later in the war his plane had engine failure and he was captured. Moved to East Germany he was only a PoW for a month before being liberated. He discharged as a Warrant Officer in 1947.

**Andrew Robertson** of Huddersfield died on 15th November 2014, aged 83. In 1949 he joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps for National Service, transferring to the Royal Military Police and serving in the UK and Singapore.

**Robert 'Bob' Robinson** of Wirral, Merseyside died on 2nd November 2014, aged 88. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 serving on HMS Formidable in the Far East. He was discharged as an Acting Stoker in 1947.

**Francis 'Frank' Rugman** of Thornbury, Bristol died on 9th December 2014, aged 85. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1947 for National Service, serving in the UK until discharge as a Sapper in 1949.

**Thomas Salmon** of Prescot, Merseyside died on 12th December 2014, aged 91. He joined the Fleet Air Arm in 1942 and served in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Pacific before discharge in 1946 as an acting Leading Air Mechanic.

**George Shaw** of Gosport, Hampshire died on 8th December 2014, aged 84. He joined the Royal Artillery in December 1948 and transferred two weeks later to the Corps of Military Police and served in Berlin, Germany. He discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1950.

**Henry 'Harry' Shelton** of Wigston, Leicestershire died on 20th December 2014, aged 96. He enlisted in the Pioneer Corps in 1940. He was involved with tank repairs in North Africa with the 1st Army and was present for Rommel's defeat after El Alamein. He subsequently took part in the invasion of Italy and later went to El-Kabir in the Middle East. He returned to Naples on the vehicle inspectorate before being posted to the UK in 1944 to train apprentices; he was later posted to Germany. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1946.

**Stanley Skinner** of Ipswich died on 9th October 2014, aged 90. He joined the General Service Corps in December 1942 and transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps a month later. He served in the UK, Holland and Germany until discharge as a Driver in 1948.

**Cyril Smith** of St Asaph, Denbighshire died on 11th December 2014, aged 94. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1939 and worked for Marconi International Marine Communication Company. He served in the Red Sea on salvage operations, in the Mediterranean and his ship was torpedoed in the Maldives whilst assisting other vessels. He left in 1947 as a Radio Operator 3rd Class.

**Frank Stimpson** of Reading, Berkshire died on 6th December 2014, aged 94. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 becoming a Leading Aircraftman serving in the UK. He completed his RAF service on 10th April 1945, and on 11th April 1945 he joined the East Surrey Regiment, where he was sent to Austria, Italy and Greece, before becoming finally demobilised in 1946.

**Kenneth 'Ken' Stinchcombe** of Stonehouse, Gloucestershire died on 17th November 2014, aged 81. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps for National Service in 1951. He was posted to Milbank, Egypt and Korea. He returned to Milbank and was discharged in 1953.

**Ernest 'Bill' Stone** of King's Lynn, Norfolk died on 12th November 2014, aged 98. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1971, discharging as a Warrant Officer.

**Stanley Stone** of Northampton died on 13th November 2014, aged 90. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942 and served in destroyers in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and home waters until 1946, discharging as a Telegraphist.

**Paul 'Bill' Sykes** of Saltford, Bristol died on 1st December 2014, aged 82. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1950 serving in the UK and Rhodesia. He served as a pilot flying Meteors, Vampires, Tempests and Mosquitoes until discharge as a Flight Lieutenant in 1958.

**Charles Talkington** of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire died on 8th December 2014, aged 92. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and qualified as a Navigator. He flew in the Halifax bombers and was shot down over Mannheim, Germany. He was the only member of the aircrew to survive and was taken prisoner, spending two years in Stalag Luft IVB. After repatriation he was demobilised in 1946.

**Cyril Thomas** of Eastbourne, East Sussex died on 15th November 2014, aged 94. He joined the TA in 1938 and operated anti-aircraft searchlights in Hull, Yorkshire and London and then light ack-ack guns. He transferred to the Royal Artillery in 1940 and was commissioned in 1941. He joined the Commandos and went to Burma and Hong Kong where he was demobilised as a Captain.

**Douglas 'Doug' Tindall** of Bognor Regis, West Sussex died on 28th December 2014, aged 94. He joined the Railway Home Guard in 1940 based at Grantham railway station. Throughout the war he continued as a Signaller at a variety of boxes in the Grantham area until his Home Guard unit stood down in December 1944.

**Barbara 'Joan' Tonkin** of Ipswich, Suffolk died on 14th December 2014, aged 97. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1943. She trained as a radio operator at HMS Cabbala and was posted to HMS Drake in Devonport. She was discharged in 1945 as a Leading Wren.

**John Townend** of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire died on 28th October 2014, aged 91. He served in the Royal Navy from 1941 when he was deployed to South Africa and was involved with the invasion of Madagascar. He volunteered for Motor Torpedo Boats with Coastal Forces in also served in the Far East on a Minesweeper. He served in the South Atlantic, Indian Ocean, the Far East and at home. He discharged as a Lieutenant in 1946.

**Ian Townsend** of Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire died on 15th November 2014, aged 69. He served in the Royal Navy in 1962 leaving as a Mechanical Electrical Artificer.

**Malcolm 'Sandy' Vise** of Brighton, East Sussex died on 15th December 2014, aged 80. He joined the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1952 for National Service. He trained in the UK and for his last six months of Service served in Minden, Germany before being discharged in 1954 as a Lance Corporal.

**Eric Watmough** of Keighley, West Yorkshire died on 12th November 2014, aged 89. He joined the Royal Marines in 1942 at the age of 17 under the Y Scheme. He joined HMS Illustrious as a Gunner manning 4.5 inch anti-aircraft guns and served in the Atlantic, Pacific, Mediterranean and UK waters. He was involved with the landings at Salerno, Italy and also served with HMS Illustrious at Iwo Jima, Okinawa and with the US Task Force 57, eventually discharging as a Marine in 1946.

**Professor Donald Watt** of North West London died on 30th October 2014, aged 86. He joined the General Service Corps in August 1946, transferring in October to the Intelligence Corps. He learnt German while in the Army and worked with refugees in Eastern Austria. He was demobilised as a Sergeant in 1949.

**Leonard 'Len' Waugh** of Sittingbourne, Kent died on 23rd December 2014, aged 84. He served in the Royal Air Force for National Service from 1949 at RAF Weeton and later the MRU at RAF Chessington where he worked in the cookhouse. He was discharged as an Aircraftman First Class in 1950.

**Michael White** of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire died on 7th November 2014, aged 81. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1951 to 1953 for National Service when he specialised as a driver.

**Victor White** of Tetbury, Gloucestershire died on 7th December 2014, aged 96. In 1940 he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps, serving in the UK on coastal defences in Sussex and was then attached to the 33rd Advanced Brigade Field Ambulance. He went to Normandy and fought through to Germany, subsequently joining the Indian Army, he came home after the end of the Far East war. His medical unit looked after POWs in the troopship on the passage home. He was discharged in 1946 as a Warrant Officer 2nd Class.

**Harry Whitehouse** of Walsall, West Midlands died on 7th November 2014, aged 90. He joined the General Service Corps in June 1944 and transferred to the Royal Engineers two months later. He served for two years in India and later Burma until the war ended. He was discharged in 1948 as a Lance Corporal.

**Doris Young** of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire died on 27th November 2014, aged 90. She enlisted in the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1943. She served in the UK and was discharged as a Private in 1945.

