

October 2015

Review

Blind Veterans UK | St Dunstan's since 1915





BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Raymond Hazan, Esq., OBE,
President,
Blind Veterans UK.

Please convey my warm thanks to the Members of Blind Veterans UK
for their kind letter sent on the occasion of their Centenary which is being
celebrated this year.

As your Patron, I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you
did and, in return, send my best wishes to all concerned for a most memorable
and successful year celebrating this most significant anniversary.

ELIZABETH R.

13th August, 2015.

From the Chairman.

Your message from Tim Davis.

This month I would like to pay tribute to our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. I would also like to pass on her "warm thanks" to you the members of Blind Veterans UK.

On the facing page is a very special letter that was sent to Blind Veterans UK to wish each of you a memorable and successful year as we celebrate our most significant anniversary.

On Wednesday 9th September 2015 The Queen became Britain's longest-reigning monarch. She has demonstrated continued and resolute service for 63 years, and that was widely publicised and celebrated by many of us up and down the country. It was business as usual for our Monarch, as she and Prince Philip continued their official engagements in Tweedbank, where she formally opened the new Scottish Borders Railway.

Length of service is always significant, but it is her leadership, great example to others and consistency of approach throughout her reign, that I believe has made an impact for many. She also has a wonderful way of connecting with people, whether in person or across the media, in this country and across the Commonwealth.

As our Patron she has connected with you, the members and family of Blind Veterans UK. She has visited our Brighton centre a number of times, and at investitures has presented you with military and civil honours. This year as many of you have experienced, she graciously granted us the privilege of a garden party at Buckingham Palace to celebrate our centenary.

I wish on behalf of us all to extend to Her Majesty, a special thank you for the very many years of great support she has given to this organisation and its members, and I'm sure will continue to do in the years to come.

On the cover: VJ Day London 15th August 2015.
HRH The Prince of Wales speaks with blind veteran Arthur Lawson MBE who fought with the 14th Army in Burma.

Back page: HM The Queen at the Brighton centre in 1985. The Queen enters the sports hall ahead of watching a judo display.



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Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

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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 someone who could be eligible to join Blind Veterans UK they can phone our Membership Department on Freephone: 0800 389 7979.

Blind Veterans UK Calendar

Activities from the Brighton centre.

October.

International Week 4th to 10th.

Golf Weekend 17th and 18th.

Bowling Club 18th to 31st.

November.

Spa Week 8th to 14th.

Amateur Radio Week 22nd to 28th.

December.

Turkey & Tinsel Week 6th to 12th.

February 2016.

Computer Club 7th to 13th.

Archery Club 14th to 20th.

Bowling Club 28th to 12th March.

To book your place at the Brighton centre please telephone the Booking Office on 01273 391500.

Activities from the Llandudno centre.

October.

Walking Week 4th to 10th.

Photography Week 11th to 17th.

November.

Military Week 2nd to 9th.

March 2016.

Health & Wellbeing Week 6th to 12th.

For further information or to book your place at the Llandudno centre call 01492 864580.

Activities from the Sheffield centre.

December.

Christmas Week 14th to 18th.

Younger Group 21st to 24th.

For further information please telephone the Sheffield centre on 0114 267 2550. Or to book your place please telephone the Booking Office on 01273 391500.

Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

Time to nominate for the 2016 Founder's Day Awards.

The Founder's Day Awards are a time for us to celebrate our charity, but we need you to nominate those you feel deserve to receive one of these highly prized Awards. The categories for the 2016 Founder's Day Awards are shown below.

Historically the Founder's Day Awards are held on 26th March, the date in 1915 when the first 16 war blinded veterans entered the new training centre at St Dunstan's Lodge in London's Regent's Park. However, to accommodate Easter, this year Founder's Day will be held on 31st March at the Brighton centre.

The recipients of the 2015 Founder's Day Awards were featured in the May Review and if you know of someone you think would be eligible for a Founder's Day Award in 2016, please do nominate them.

The categories are:

- i) Community Award** for the best contribution to their local community or the family of Blind Veterans UK — by a member, spouse, widow or widower.
- ii) Training Achievement Award** for the best novice on learning new skills — members only.
- iii) Creative Art Award** will recognise endeavour in a creative activity and encompass art, handicrafts, sculpture and music. If practical, an example should be sent with the proposal form. If not practical, then please send a photograph — members only.
- iv) Sports Person of the Year Award** will celebrate an exceptional sporting achievement during the award year — members only.

v) Outstanding Achievement Award is made to a member who has achieved an outstanding level of independence via their participation in activities promoted or provided through and by Blind Veterans UK — members only.

vi) Innovator of the Year Award.

For a person or organisation who successfully introduces a beneficial idea or device to Blind Veterans UK.

vii) Chairman's Commendation Award for exceptional staff achievement. Nominated by line managers.

For guidelines and a proposal form, please contact Jane Keane, Blind Veterans UK, Queens Road, Llandudno, Conwy, LL30 1UT. Telephone: 01492 868707 email: jane.keane@blindveterans.org.uk

Nominations are treated in confidence and discussed by Selection Committees in January 2016. Nominees are not informed that they have been nominated until the Selection Committee have reached their decision.

Review format changes.

If you would like to receive the Review in another format apart from print, it is also available in audio as an MP3CD or on a USB. Should you wish you can also receive the Review 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.

One Amazing Day. DVD of our Centenary Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

One amazing day, the DVD of our Centenary Garden Party, is available to buy for £10, which includes p&p. You can buy it at our online shop at <http://shop.blindveterans.org.uk> or telephone 0300 111 0440 for credit or debit card orders. When you place your order please quote the reference Review. If your photograph was not included in this Buckingham Palace Garden Party special edition of the Review you could quite possibly find yourself in the DVD.

Join Blind Veterans UK Masonic Group.

For many a year St Dunstan's had a weekend for those beneficiaries who are Freemasons, to get together and enjoy an annual meeting, whilst being hosted by the Temple Lodge in Brighton.

With the name change to Blind Veterans UK, the group remains the same, and their weekends still continue. But as the name of the charity has changed, so has the size and momentum of the group.

If you are a Freemason, and interested in joining fellow Masons for a great weekend in April each year, we invite you to join us down at the Brighton centre, where we are the guests of the Temple Lodge.

Age, Rank or experience is no barrier, it's a wonderful weekend for all.

Please contact W.Bro. Clive Jones the group's Chairman/Secretary for more details.

You can contact email: clivejones67@btinternet.com or telephone: 07854 800256.



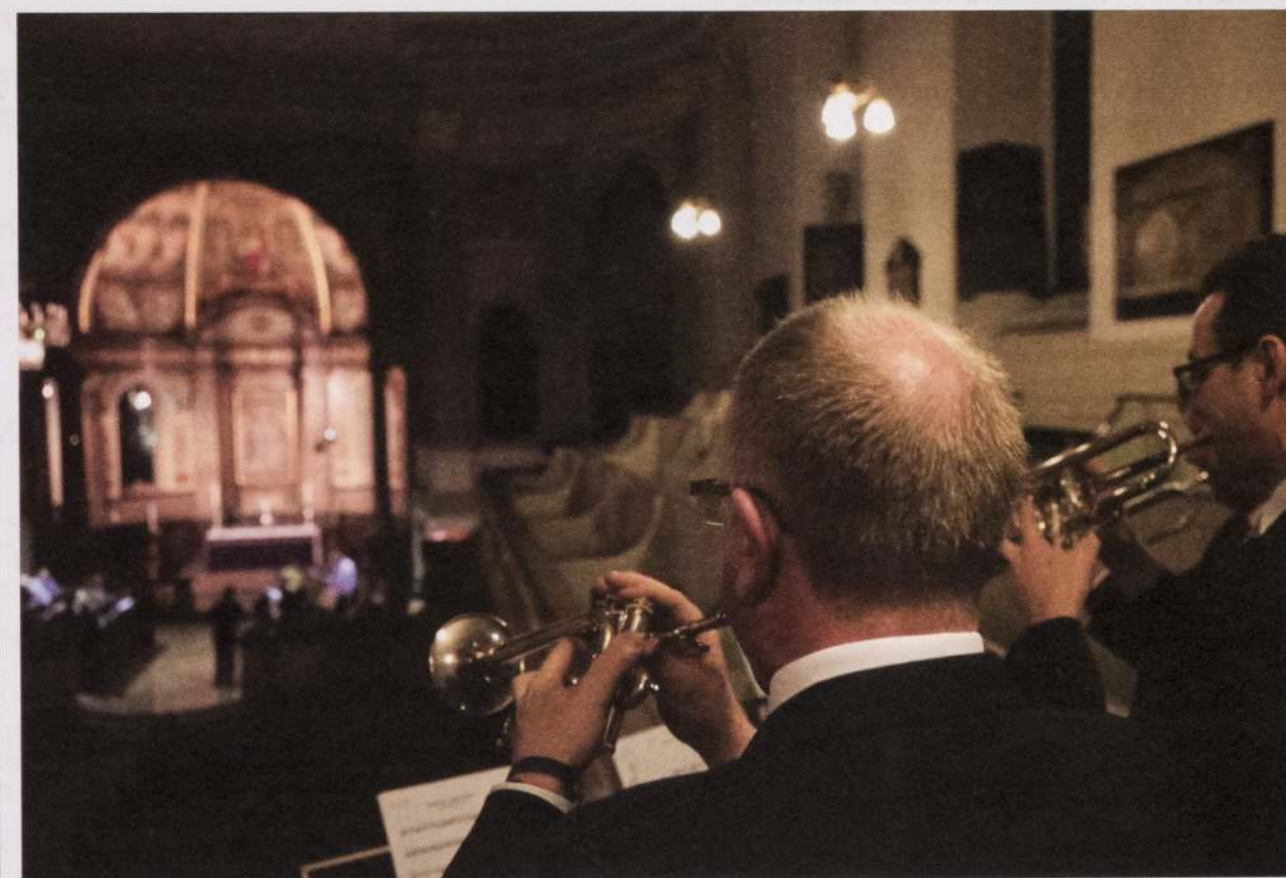
Picture: Clive Jones, third from left, with Blind Veterans UK Masons at the Brighton centre.

Join us for our annual Christmas Carol Service on 9th December.

For the last 100 years our charity has been associated with St Marylebone Parish Church as the First World War blind veterans married there and it's where their children were christened. Once again we will celebrate Christmas there with our annual Christmas Concert. Please do join us on Wednesday 9th December for festive carols and readings and addresses by Kate Adie, Bernard Cribbins, Nigel Anthony and blind veteran Steve Evans. Music will be provided by Philsavonia — The Savage Club Brass Ensemble directed by Stephen Henderson and mezzo-soprano Sandra Porter, as well as more musical delights throughout the concert.

Doors open at 6.15pm and the concert starts at 7pm and tickets are priced at £10 for members and at £15 for non-members of Blind Veterans UK.

You can purchase tickets online at www.blindveterans.org.uk/carolconcert or telephone Jennie Chmura in Blind Veterans UK events team on 020 7616 7959.



Picture: Our Christmas Carol Concert at St Marylebone Parish Church.
Photo: Francis J Miles.

Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey.

We look forward to seeing members and their guests at the Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey on 6th October. If you applied to attend then you should already have received your Pour Mémoire (to keep at home), ticket and your lunch invitation (please bring both of these with you). If you have not received these then please contact Amarah White on 020 7616 8366 or Abby Tarrant on 020 7616 8371.

Please also remember to bring a form of ID with you, either a passport, bus pass (must contain a photo) driving licence (possibly for your guest), disabled parking blue badge or Blind Veterans UK ID card.

10.45am — Westminster Abbey doors open.

11.45am — All guests to be seated.

12.00 noon — The Service of Thanksgiving begins.

12.55pm — The Service of Thanksgiving ends.

Please remain seated until a Westminster Abbey Honorary Steward directs you to leave. Guests joining us for lunch will be shown to the College Gardens for a complimentary sandwich lunch. However you are free to depart any time you wish to following the Service.

1.15pm — A sandwich lunch will be available and will be served in marquees in the College Gardens for those who have indicated that they wish to join us for lunch.

There will be plenty of seating available and for those of you who will join us for lunch following the Service of Thanksgiving if you require any special dietary requirements, and have advised us of this in advance, please make yourself known to the catering staff.

1.30pm — Guests not staying for lunch depart. Coaches will be provided to take guests to the five mainline stations: Waterloo, Victoria, Paddington, Euston and King's Cross.

2.15pm The Canon in Residence, Reverend Professor Vernon White and the Chief Executive of Blind Veterans UK, Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB will address the lunch guests.

2.45pm — The service of food and refreshments ends.

3.00pm — Guests depart and the first set of coaches depart to the five mainline stations : Waterloo, Victoria, Paddington, Euston and King's Cross.

3.30pm — Second set of coaches depart to the five mainline stations: Waterloo, Victoria, Paddington, Euston and King's Cross..

Blind Veterans UK Prayer.

As we celebrate our centenary year and plan for our Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey we have been granted the greatest of honours by The Reverend Christopher Stoltz, Minor Canon and Precentor, Westminster Abbey.

He has written a Blind Veterans UK Prayer for our special Service of Thanksgiving that will be read by Father Ian Evans CF, Assistant Chaplain, General Capability.

We have reproduced the Blind Veterans UK Prayer below.

O God, our creator and our life, you have fashioned us as your people, and you love all that you have made. We thank you for the blessings you give us, for healing and wholeness, and for the invitation to share in your abundant life.

Bless the work of Blind Veterans UK, its leaders, and all who find health and hope through its service, and finally draw us to yourself in that heaven-ly kingdom where death and crying are no more, and where we shall see you face to face; through him who is the resurrection and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please contact us if you have been appointed to the rank of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur or if you were involved in the Liberation of France during WWII.

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
LONDRES

L'AMBASSADEUR

No 2015 - 526550

5 June 2015

Dear Mr Davies,

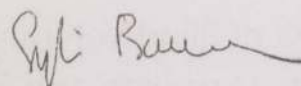
I have the pleasure of informing you that, at the proposal of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and on this embassy's initiative, the President of the Republic has appointed you to the rank of *Chevalier* in the *Ordre national de la Légion d'Honneur* by decree of 15 May 2015.

I offer you my warmest congratulations on this high honour in recognition of your acknowledged military engagement and your steadfast involvement in the Liberation of France during the Second World War.

As we contemplate this Europe of peace, we must never forget the heroes of June 1944 like you, those men who came from across the Atlantic, the Channel, the Mediterranean and the Pacific to begin the liberation of Europe by liberating France. We owe our freedom and security largely to your dedication, because you were ready to risk your lives.

I am happy to enclose your insignia of *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur* and once again extend to you my heartfelt congratulations.

Yours sincerely,



Sylvie Bermann

Mr Thomas Elfred Davies

In the September 2014 Review we ran the news that those of you who fought for the Liberation of France in 1944 were to be appointed with the rank of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, the highest decoration in France.

We included an application form for those of you who were eligible to apply for this most prestigious of gallantry awards. Elvet Davies who landed in Normandy in 1944 completed the application form, and, as far as we are aware, is the first blind veteran to receive his Légion d'Honneur as a result. He took it with him to the Llandudno centre where Steve Boswell, Llandudno centre manager, (shown below) presented Elvet with his Légion d'Honneur at an 'investiture' there.

We will bring you an interview with Elvet in a future edition of the Review, but if you have applied for, or received, the Légion d'Honneur or if you took part in the Liberation of France during the second World War, please contact Charlotte Mackenbach in the Press Office at Blind Veterans UK. Charlotte is on telephone: 020 7616 7941 or email: charlotte.mackenbach@blindveterans.org.uk Our Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB would like to honour each of you at a special reception.





Photo: Blind veteran and proud Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur Les Eastwood, who took part in the Liberation of France in 1944, shows his gallantry award.

Changes to bookings for the Llandudno centre.

Over the past few weeks some of you may have discovered that you have not been able to book a holiday stay at the Llandudno centre during February and March 2016. One of the reasons for this is that staff at the centre were conducting a review of transport arrangements.

About 80% of you, our members, who come to the Llandudno centre arrive on a Sunday or Monday. As time has progressed and the number of members who book a stay has significantly increased this has resulted in longer journeys for many of you, with less space on the vehicles for luggage. Both the journey times and the lack of space on vehicles have both featured heavily in the feedback that we collect at the end of your stay.

As a result a team looked into how we can change the current arrangements to make journeys to and from the centre more pleasurable. The team looked at a wide range of options and came to the conclusion that we needed to make two key changes.

Firstly those of you who are booked in for training need to arrive and depart on separate days to members who are booked in for holiday and respite stays.

Secondly the pickup days need to change for members who are booked on holiday or respite to spread arrivals across the week.

The new pickup dates have been selected to reduce the number of pickups each vehicles needs to make, thus shortening journey times and increasing luggage space on the vehicles.

With the intention to reduce time spent in traffic jams, the driving team have also looked at ways to avoid such traffic hotspots as the M6 on a Friday.

The new arrangement cannot address every issue and regrettably the journey from Plymouth or Newcastle will still be a long one but the new arrangements should reduce the time you spend in the vehicle.

To help explain the changes we have answered some frequently asked questions.

Who will this impact on?

The changes will impact on members who will make a new holiday or respite booking to arrive on or after 1st February 2016 and who require a door to door transport using Blind Veterans UK transport facilities. If you currently have a booking your dates will not change.

What happens if I arrive by train, plane or my own car?

If you travel to the centre by train, plane or in your own car this will have no impact.

When will it start?

Holiday and respite bookings can be made six months in advance of arrival. The new arrangements will be in place from the 1st February 2016. If you currently have a booking your dates will not change.

What are the new arrival and departure dates?

The new arrangements are based on the first letter or letters of your postcode, which we have set out in the following chart.

Postcode.	Arrive Llandudno.	Depart Llandudno.
AL	Thursday.	Wednesday.
B	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
BA	Thursday.	Wednesday.
BB	Tuesday.	Monday.
BD	Tuesday.	Monday.
BH	Thursday.	Wednesday.
BL	Monday.	Monday.
BN	Thursday.	Wednesday.
BR	Thursday.	Wednesday.
BS	Thursday.	Wednesday.
CA	Tuesday.	Monday.
CB	Thursday.	Wednesday.
CF	Tuesday.	Monday.
CH	Monday.	Monday.

CM	Thursday.	Wednesday.
CO	Thursday.	Wednesday.
CR	Thursday.	Wednesday.
CT	Thursday.	Wednesday.
CV	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
CW	Friday.	Friday.
DA	Thursday.	Wednesday.
DE	Friday.	Friday.
DH	Tuesday.	Monday.
DL	Tuesday.	Monday.
DN	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
DT	Thursday.	Wednesday.
DY	Friday.	Friday.
E	Thursday.	Wednesday.
EC	Thursday.	Wednesday.
EN	Thursday.	Wednesday.
EX	Thursday.	Wednesday.
FY	Tuesday.	Monday.
GL	Thursday.	Wednesday.
GU	Thursday.	Wednesday.
HA	Thursday.	Wednesday.
HD	Monday.	Monday.
HG	Tuesday.	Monday.
HP	Thursday.	Wednesday.
HR	Friday.	Friday.
HU	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
HX	Monday.	Monday.
IG	Thursday.	Wednesday.
IP	Thursday.	Wednesday.
KT	Thursday.	Wednesday.
L	Monday.	Monday.
LA	Tuesday.	Monday.
LD	Friday.	Friday.
LE	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
LL	Friday.	Friday.
LN	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
LS	Tuesday.	Monday.
LU	Thursday.	Friday.

M	Monday.	Monday.
ME	Thursday.	Wednesday.
MK	Thursday.	Wednesday.
N	Thursday.	Wednesday.
NE	Tuesday.	Monday.
NG	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
NN	Thursday.	Wednesday.
NP	Tuesday.	Monday.
NR	Thursday.	Wednesday.
NW	Thursday.	Wednesday.
OL	Monday.	Monday.
OX	Thursday.	Wednesday.
PE	Thursday.	Wednesday.
PL	Thursday.	Wednesday.
PO	Thursday.	Wednesday.
PR	Tuesday.	Monday.
RG	Thursday.	Wednesday.
RH	Thursday.	Wednesday.
RM	Thursday.	Wednesday.
S	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
SA	Tuesday.	Monday.
SE	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SG	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SK	Friday.	Friday.
SL	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SM	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SN	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SO	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SP	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SR	Tuesday.	Monday.
SS	Thursday.	Wednesday.
ST	Friday.	Friday.
SW	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SY	Friday.	Friday.
TA	Thursday.	Wednesday.
TF	Friday.	Friday.
TN	Thursday.	Wednesday.
TQ	Thursday.	Wednesday.

TR	Thursday.	Wednesday.
TS	Tuesday.	Monday.
TW	Thursday.	Wednesday.
UB	Thursday.	Wednesday.
W	Thursday.	Wednesday.
WA	Monday.	Monday.
WC	Thursday.	Thursday.
WD	Thursday.	Wednesday.
WF	Tuesday.	Monday.
WN	Monday.	Monday.
WR	Friday.	Friday.
WS	Friday.	Friday.
WV	Friday.	Friday.
YO	Tuesday.	Monday.

We hope that you will find the new arrangements improve your journey into the centre but if you have any queries please contact the Llandudno centre on 01492 868700 and ask to speak to someone about the new transport arrangements.

Order your 2016 VIP large print diaries.

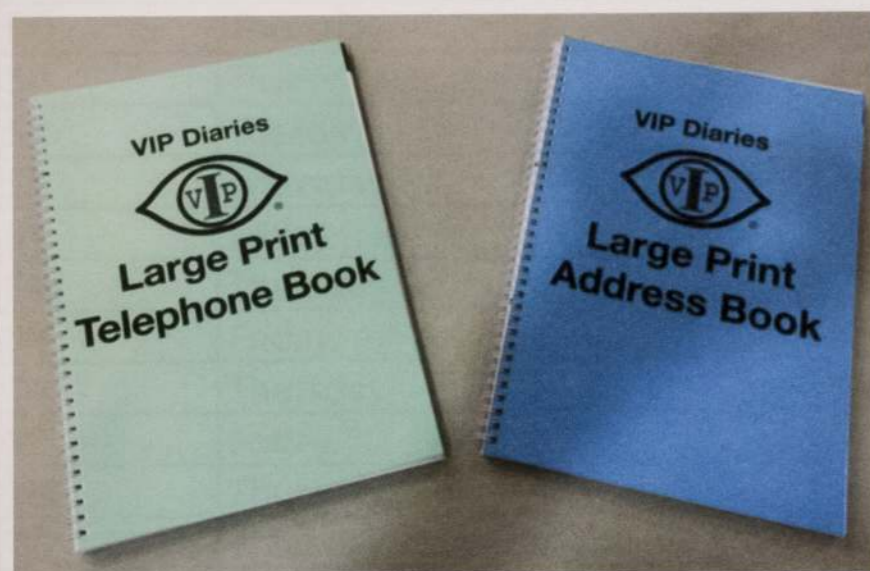
As we rapidly approach 2016 you can now place your orders for VIP calendars, diaries and address and telephone books.

- 2016 A3 Calendar £5.50.
- 2016 A4 Desk Diary £8.95.
- 2016 A6 Pocket Diary £5.15.
- VIP Address book £9.25.
- VIP Telephone book £9.25.

To place your order please telephone Nathan Clements in the Procurement Office at the Brighton centre on telephone: 01273 391441.



Picture: Large print 2016 wall calendar, desk diary and pocket diary.



Picture: Large print 2016 telephone book and address book.

Sign up to Blind Veterans UK fundraising events in 2016.

Brighton Half Marathon 28th February 2016.

The course starts and ends on Madeira Drive on the seafront between Brighton Pier and Brighton Marina. Runners briefly head north past the Brighton Pavilion before turning back to the coast. The route then turns east until runners are sent westward towards Hove. At the Hove Lagoon runners make their last turn and head east to the finish line on Madeira Drive. The registration fee is £25 and you will need to raise a minimum of £250 in sponsorship.

Virgin Money London Marathon 24th April 2016

Every year, approximately 30,000 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 that also include the London Eye and the Tower of London. We have guaranteed places for a £45 registration fee and £2,000 minimum sponsorship so please get in touch if you would like to join our team.

100k Yorkshire 18th to 19th June 2016.

London to Brighton 100k Walk 2nd to 3rd July 2016.

Entries are now open for the 2016 event. 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 100k course, or you could take part as a team relay. A team of four can each complete 25k or a team of two can complete 50k each. If you would like to take part the early bird registration fee is £50 for the 100k or £35 for the 50k distance for an individual or £100 per relay team (£25 each). Individuals need to raise £300 for the 100k and £200 for the 50k and relay teams need to raise £500. For further information or to sign up go to: www.blindveterans.org.uk/100k/

Prudential RideLondon to Surrey 100 31st July 2016.

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 or telephone Jennie Chmura on 020 7616 7959.



Her Majesty
QUEEN ELIZABETH II
Patron

Her Majesty The Queen is Britain's longest reigning Monarch.

As you read in the Chairman's letter, on Wednesday 9th September 2015 The Queen became Britain's longest-reigning monarch. Her Majesty came to the throne on the death of her father, King George VI, on 6 February 1952. On 9th September 2015 she had reigned for 63 years, 216 days and 16½ hours. Here we pay special tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II, our Patron.



Picture: HM The Queen's visit to the Brighton centre in 1954, when she met the late Dickie Brett (back to camera). Dickie was wounded in Italy during WWII, when he also lost both hands and sustained damage to his hearing. He became a keen carpenter and is shown in the photograph in the carpentry workshop.



Picture: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with Ian Fraser, the second Chairman of St Dunstan's, now Blind Veterans UK, who aged 19 was blinded by a German bullet on 23rd July 1916 during the Battle of the Somme.



Picture: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II greets members, their families and staff at the Brighton centre in 1962. **Photo:** Reproduced with the kind permission of The Argus.



Picture: HM The Queen is presented to Tommy Milligan, a First World War blinded veteran, at a reception to celebrate our 50th Anniversary.



Picture: HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at the Brighton centre in 1962. Sir Neville Pearson (standing left) is speaking and Commandant Lawrie Fawcett stands behind him. Lord Fraser and Matron Ramshaw are standing to the right of the Royal party. **Photo:** Reproduced with the kind permission of The Argus, Brighton.

The Queen is known for her great sense of humour and in 1981, at a garden party at Buckingham Palace, that was demonstrated when she spoke with Joan Osborne and Joan's late husband Bob. Here Joan recalls:

"It was just one week before the wedding of HRH Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer. There had been thunder-storms on the morning of the garden party and as Bob and I stood in line to meet the Queen it was overcast with the threat of more rain. As the Queen walked along speaking with everyone, she spotted Bob's badge and said 'You're a St Dunstaner' and asked how long he had been a member. She walked on to meet other people, then turned back to us and said: 'I'm so sorry I can't do anything about the weather'. Bob and I both laughed with her and were thrilled that she'd turned back to speak with us.

"She is a great Monarch and it is wonderful to celebrate her reign."



Picture: HM The Queen opening the new South Wing at the Brighton centre in 1985.



Picture: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh addresses members, staff and guests.



Picture: HM The Queen and HRH Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh at the Brighton centre in 1985 with the late Matron Penny Goodwin in blue.



Picture: The late Ken Revis OBE and his wife Joan were among those who met the Queen and Prince Philip.



Picture: Her Majesty The Queen greets our late Chief Executive, Robert Leader DL, at a reception at Buckingham Palace in 2001 to celebrate our 85th Anniversary.



Picture: Her Majesty The Queen greets former Chairman, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox OBE RN. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh speaks with former President, the late Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, and Joyce Beaumont-Edmonds.

From the September 1916 Review. An account of the Battle of Loos, by Pte. D. Matheson Maclean, late the 11th Royal Scots, a First World War blinded veteran.

An estimated 30,000 Scots fought at the Battle of Loos when around 7,000 were killed, and of course many others were wounded. Their loss was felt throughout every village and town in Scotland as The Battle of Loos was the largest British battle on the Western Front in 1915 as Allied forces attempted to break through German lines. About 60,000 British troops were killed or injured in the fighting over several weeks.

At the time referred to as 'one of the greatest battles of modern times,' to mark the centenary of the Battle of Loos, and remember and mourn those who fought in it, we bring you a first-hand account from Blind Veterans UK Review magazine of September of 1916. The account was written by Pte Duncan Matheson Maclean, a First World War blinded veteran of the 11th Royal Scots, who fought in the battle from September 1915. His account begins:

Perhaps as one who has had the privilege of visiting France on two occasions, I may be allowed to relate a few interesting items in connection with the battle of Loos, one of the greatest battles in modern times, and in which the 9th Scottish Division took a leading part.

On the afternoon of 24th September 1915, our company assembled on the billet parade ground, and there we were addressed by our Company Commander, who wound up as follows:

"As you are aware we are about to take part in one of the greatest battles that our country has ever undertaken to perform, and whatever the future may bring I ask you as representatives of Scotland to remember on the battlefield your duty to God, your King and your country."

Such were the words spoken by Captain Bell to the men whom he loved, and who today mourn the loss of a good soldier and a noble hero.

At 6.40 on the same evening we marched away to take our places in the trenches in preparation for the following day's great struggle.

As one who has been fortunate enough to escape the fate of many others who took part in that famous charge, the cheerful way in which the boys looked on the coming struggle (not knowing what the morrow would bring) will remain in my memory for ever.

What followed after taking up our positions in the trenches is perhaps difficult to relate, but it is a well-known fact that officers and men alike realised that they were on the eve of a great undertaking and perhaps no one realised it more than those whose duty it was to lead their men on to glorious victory.

At 5.30 the furious bombardment commenced, and at 6.30 the skirl of the bagpipes told each man that the Highland Brigade had set the ball rolling. The order then was quick and sharp, and in a moment we were up and at them. The reception we got was hot and fast, but already the Highlanders were at their deadly work, and in the twinkling of an eye the whole Division was engaged in the deadly combat. What happened while we were in hand to hand combat with them is not a soldier's tale to tell, simply because I should never wish to face it again, and moreover I do not desire to tell it to others.

By the time the Highland Brigade had forced their way well in front, and after a bloody struggle we succeeded in coming into line with them. By this time the toll had been heavy; the leading officers had been killed, and all that remained of our battalion on the field were two officers. Our Company Commander in rallying the boys was shot in the head and neck, and fell with a cry that will ring in the ears of those that were in close attendance on him: "Lead on my men; I'm done for."

The day's adventure at Loos many of you have read with pride, and therefore I do not think it necessary that I should relate to you any further proceedings until nightfall. We were then occupying a German trench about a hundred yards in front of the Hohenzollern Redoubt when suddenly we heard a voice from behind shouting: "Captain H. Oh! For God's sake retire; we are surrounded."

This was the voice of our veteran C.O. who had stuck to us all day, and by skilful leading brought us safely back into the Redoubt, which we occupied until the 30th. A few minutes previous to this event our Commanding Officer in a vain endeavour to bring up reinforcements is believed to have lost his way, and today we who had the pleasure of knowing him as a Commanding Officer

realise with regret that Scotland has lost a true and gallant leader. The loss of our Divisional and Brigade Commanders as well as three colonels and the staff naturally made us realise that we were in a tight fix, but the good news was conveyed to us that the command of the Brigade from the night of the 25th had been taken over by Major G.G. Loch (1st Royal Scots), who has since, for his devotion to duty and skilful leadership, been promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.

The hardships that were endured in the Hohenzollern Redoubt can only be remembered and realised by those who took part in the gallant defence of that important position. For five days we had one biscuit and one tin of bully beef among five of us, and to see the agony of the wounded and to hear their cry for water was sufficient to make us at that moment wish that we had never existed, but the re-assembling of the Battalion on our withdrawal made us realise with deep regret that many of our gallant comrades had died a noble death for the land of their adoption.

D. Matheson Maclean.

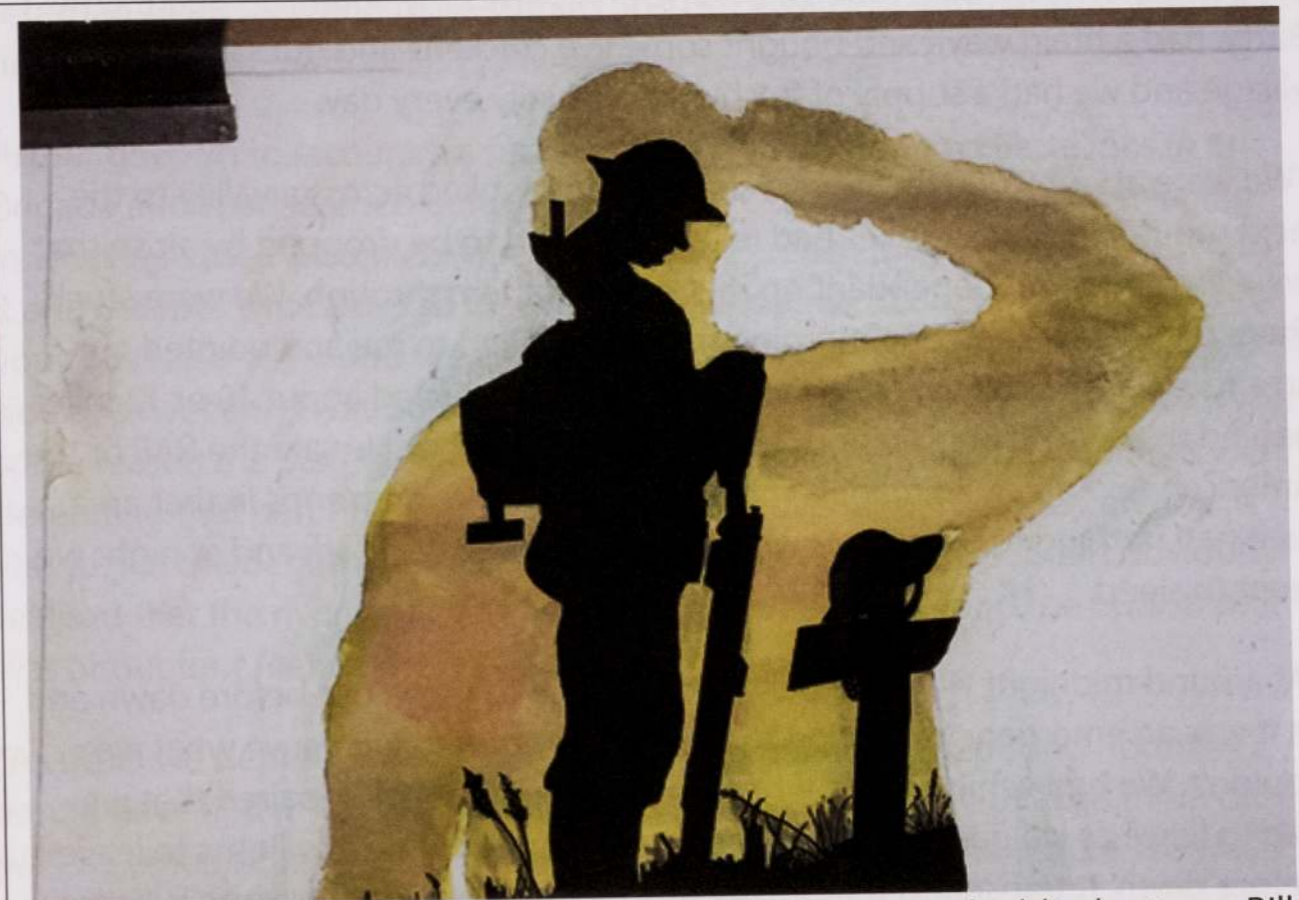
Born on 29th March 1894 Duncan Mathieson Maclean was adopted by Mrs Matheson in Edinburgh and lived at 195 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh. He enlisted into, and fought with, the 11th Royal Scots until he was blinded by a sniper's bullet at Ypres on 18th October 1915 at the age of 21. He was initially treated in the Wharncliffe War Hospital in Sheffield until a Mrs Laidlay of 7 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh informed St Dunstan's there was a war blinded soldier in the hospital. He was then visited by Sgt Davis and transferred to the 2nd London General Hospital where all of the eye cases were treated before going to St Dunstan's on 10th February 1916.

He married on 16th November 1916, but sadly at the present time we do not have details of his wife or their daughter who was born on 7th April 1920. After training in poultry farming he and his wife moved to The Forge, Brimpton, Reading, Berkshire where they ran their own poultry farm. Duncan Mathieson Maclean died on 17th August 1947.

We would like to thank the great actor Tom Cotcher for coming to the Review's studio to record this account, as it has lain forgotten in the Review for almost 100 years and it is now available for the world to read of and hear on Audioboom.



Picture: Actor Tom Cotcher in the Review's office prior to reading Duncan Matheson Maclean's account of the Battle of Loos.



Picture: For the Fallen, painted at the Llandudno centre by blind veteran Bill Turner.

Arthur Lawson MBE. 15th August 2015 the nation remembers The Forgotten Army. By Catherine Goodier.

As Arthur Lawson accepted his Division's sign, a black cat, he wondered, if, like the proverb, he also had nine lives. Serving with the 17th Division in Burma during the Second World War he had already experienced one life threatening event in Poona, and he was, like the cat, to escape death again and again, exhausting seven of his nine lives.

Here Arthur Lawson MBE, a former Sergeant in the Highland Light Infantry and REME, who joined Blind Veterans UK in 2008, recalls those days.

"Based at Tiddim we did the best job we could to maintain mainly jeeps and any other mechanical equipment that came within our orbit. I became great friends with the one other Sergeant and the Sergeant Major as we had to run the 48 Brigade Light Aid Detachment. (L.A.D.). We took it in turns to go to a wholesale NAAFI at Dimapur, a rail terminal 300 miles north west of us where 4 Corps HQ was quartered, as it was a few days respite from the firing line. We'd take a jeep and a trailer and a Corporal would buy food for the men to supplement the meagre rations. On one of his visits my chum, Sergeant Ernest Batty, had a brain wave and bought some live chickens and ducks from a local village and we had a supply of fresh eggs virtually every day.

"We were about 8,000 feet above sea level and looked across a valley to the next mountain. Our supplies had recently started to be dropped by air so that we were no longer dependant on mules to get them through. We were stuck there until 1944 when one morning my chum called to me and pointed out an airdrop across the valley. We watched as planes circled about 10 or 12 miles behind us towards our Division headquarters at Imphal. He said the RAF or the American Air Force had made a mistake as there were no troops in that area. As it had nothing to do with us we got on with our day's work and at night we went to sleep.

"At around midnight we were wakened and told to move out before dawn and as it was an emergency situation to take what we could and leave what we couldn't. We had vehicles with wheels off and engines half repaired that we had to leave as we packed up in the dark without showing any lights to leave before dawn. It transpired that the air drop we had watched in some surprise was to Japanese troops who were between us and our Divisional headquarters at Imphal.

"Anyhow we set off in the dark and because we were the Light Aid Detachment when the Brigade moved we went last as we had to deal with any breakdowns or accidents.

"There was a section of the road that we knew the Japanese had a gun trained on and if they saw anything move they fired. It was quiet until we arrived. I was the very last and my chum Ernest Batty was immediately ahead of me. At that point I heard the whistle of a shell coming over. I slammed on my brakes and stalled the engine. The shell exploded immediately in front of me. I wasn't hurt, but I couldn't see to drive on and as I didn't know whether the engine had been damaged by shrapnel I didn't start it. I couldn't see anything as there was so much soot and dust.

"My chum who had of course heard the shell burst, but couldn't see me, came running back shouting 'Are you alright?! Are you alright?!' Before he came back I thought that if I abandoned my jeep and ran for it another shell might come over and that might damage my jeep and I would be left on foot with the Brigade gone so I decided to stay put and hope that the jeep would start and get out before the next shell came over. I told my chum I was alright and he returned to his jeep and mine started and got away just in time. That was the first near miss."

Arthur goes on to recount his second. "We had two Ghurkha Battalions in our Brigade and I had learned quite a lot of Urdu. On one occasion I was sleeping in what we called a bunker, which was really a trench that had a roof added to it and the roof was raised so that you could slide in and out of the trench and you could also stand and fire a rifle out of it. I was sleeping in my bunker on one side of a river and I was outside the perimeter on the west side of the box as for some reason the Staff Captain had put me outside the box. The Ghurkhas were defending that part of the perimeter using the river as part of the defence. It was just at the beginning of the monsoon season and the Ghurkhas obviously realised that the river was overflowing and was about to flood the bunker as it was about four feet below ground level.

"As usual we slept fully dressed, even wearing our equipment, and normally I would have had my boots on but on that particular night had taken them off. I was wakened from my sleep by someone shouting at me. All I could see was a head silhouetted between the ground and the roof of the bunker and my first thought was that it was a Japanese soldier and why hadn't he just dropped a

grenade into the bunker. I thought that as I pulled the pistol out of the holster in my belt to shoot him, and fortunately, just a split second before I pulled the trigger I realised he was speaking in Urdu and saying that water was coming and to move. I was sitting up and suddenly realised several inches of water had already seeped into the bunker. I threw my boots and slid out of the bunker just before the water whooshed in and it was filled with water within a split second. I thanked him for waking me and he went back into the river and swam back and I never knew who he was. So that was another life threatening event.

"There was another incident when I was on a detachment but was driving alone. We had a very brave Brigadier who liked to go with one of the Battalions and when they went on an operation the Brigadier went with tactical headquarters (Tac HQ). The Brigadier, the Brigade Major, the Staff Captain and the Intelligence Officer and he usually took me or my chum, sometimes with a detachment of two or three Craftsmen.

"I was on one of these missions going with a Battalion, although of course they were on foot, and I was behind in a jeep by myself. I thought I'd taken the right track in the jungle, maybe I had, maybe I hadn't, but as I approached a village I was stopped by local Burmese villagers who said in broken English 'Japani wallah'. They pointed to the village to show the Japanese were there. I presume it was true, but I had no way of knowing, and decided not to check, so turned round to retrace my route. I reckon those villagers saved my life.

"I was wounded during the Battle of Imphal when three bits of shrapnel hit my right leg. There's still a tiny bit in my knee but it doesn't bother me, and as it's too far into the joint the doctors say that it would do more damage to remove it as it hasn't moved over the years.

"When our Brigade pulled out from Tiddim, Imphal and Kohima were under siege and it took three weeks for us to fight our way down the 160 miles. As Japanese blocked the road part of the Brigade would get through and another part of the Brigade wouldn't make it through so we were broken into sections. It took about three weeks for all sections of the Brigade to get down to Imphal.

"During that time when we were fighting we fell into a trap as one night we were allowed to break through a roadblock and capture some land. It was just at dusk and there was no time to dig in as it was just starting to get dark when we got to this point so we settled in for the night. We had a defended perimeter

of course, but unknown to us, a significant number of Japanese were hiding in the trees. We thought they'd let us take that ground but they were hiding in the trees above us. So they attacked not only from outside the perimeter but also from inside. During that night we really thought it was unlikely that we would survive, and if we did we would be taken prisoner.

"It was a terrible hellish night with the Japanese in amongst us, and in the dark not knowing who was Japanese and who wasn't. It really was a dreadful night. However, we did manage to survive and clear the area after dawn so I reckon that was another serious life-threatening event.

"One of the reasons we were terrified during that dreadful night was because we knew how Japanese treated prisoners they took in the field. We had grown used to the jitter parties they would throw to deprive us of sleep when they would mount mock attacks at night. You could never tell if it was real and 20 soldiers could keep a whole Garrison awake through the night. They were constant so we were constantly deprived of sleep. But that was part of life and we would do the same to them.

"What really terrified, and sickened us, was the way the Japanese treated prisoners that they took in the field. They would bring them up at night to within ear shot of where we were, we didn't have wire, but where you would imagine there would have been wire, and they would torture them and we could hear those poor men scream. Before dawn they would kill them if they hadn't died while they were being tortured, and booby trap the body so that in daylight when the Japanese had retired from the scene and we wanted to bury the bodies of the poor fellows their body would blow up when we moved them. So that made us ever more terrified of being taken prisoner.

"I would like to mention that their attitudes, both to being taken prisoner and their determination, was rather stupid. If they had a mission to accomplish they would carry on trying to accomplish it even when it had become hopeless. One particular example of this came later when the Battle for Imphal had run its course. The Japanese had thrown most of their army into this effort because the Battle of Imphal was part of a very determined effort to invade India as it was the road into India that we were defending.

"They [the Japanese] made a really determined effort to capture Imphal and Kohima but there came a point when it was obvious we had been victorious

in that battle and the Japanese army was pretty well decimated, but they kept coming. Having reached that point when we were about to counter-attack and breakout of Imphal we had assembled all the available field guns into one gun park with a view to an opening salvo to precede our breakout. In order to defend this concentration of artillery there were anti-aircraft guns at various points around the area.

"The Japanese had realised that if they captured one of these anti-aircraft guns they could use it to fire on our concentration of field guns. So they sent a patrol with a strength of 32 men, which must have included some gunners, and the remainder of infantry and they attempted to capture this one solitary, isolated, anti-aircraft gun, which had one section of infantry defending it with the gun crew.

"So there was a section of 10 infantry men and four or five gunners defending it with 32 Japanese attacking. They kept coming and the defence was successful, but the Japanese actually kept coming until the very last man died trying to capture the gun on his own. It was a complete nonsense, apart from the fact I'm told that one man would not have been able to operate the gun. Whereas any sensible British Patrol would have withdrawn when they lost a significant number of men who were killed or wounded. They would have withdrawn and reported back to say that they needed a stronger force to carry out this mission, but the Japanese wouldn't do that. They just kept attacking."

After the Battle of Imphal the troops were addressed by General Slim who expressed his gratitude for all they had done.

The atom bomb was dropped as they fought their way towards Rangoon and when I asked Arthur what he thought about that act, he replied to me as the late Alf Lockhart, a Second World War blinded veteran, a Far East Prisoner of War FEPOW who had been used as forced labour on the Burma to Siam Railway.

"We heard about the atom bomb as it was called and I have to say that while the vast majority of soldiers thought it was a good thing, I had serious misgivings. That was a personal view because I felt that it was a terrible weapon to have used on a city, although I regarded the Japanese people as barbaric and cruel. In Germany you could say it was the SS or the Nazis. It wasn't the whole German people who acted the way the Nazis did. I didn't see any difference

between a Japanese Officer and a Japanese private soldier as they all seemed to have this barbaric cruelty.

"So while I recognised that it shortened the war, and it was saved us that next 18 months of privation and danger, I still thought that at the very least the allies should have demonstrated the bomb on an uninhabited island and given the Japanese the opportunity to say 'well if we don't surrender that weapon may be used on us'. The other thought in my mind was that while the Japanese didn't observe the Geneva Convention the bomb should have been classified as an illegal weapon. We knew that the Japanese would have used poisonous gas or chemical weapons against us if it was convenient for them to do so. But I felt that as America and Britain regarded themselves as civilised nations we should have given more warning between Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But nevertheless was it a price worth paying when we were winning? It's not as though it was our last chance to win the war because we were winning in Burma, the Americans were winning in the Pacific and they were almost on the point of invading the Japanese mainland. So we were winning the war without the atomic bomb.

"People say to me they used it on Hiroshima and the Japanese didn't surrender so they used it on Nagasaki but they didn't give the Japanese very many days between Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

Before he left Burma Arthur tried to find a friend who had been made a FEPOW. "I visited some of the hospitals where prisoners of war had been taken to as a family friend had been captured and made a FEPOW. I had no idea where he was, he could have been anywhere, he could have been in Japan, but I wanted to find him. I didn't find my friend, but I did see and meet the men who had been taken to hospital, and I saw the condition they were in. During the war while we were fighting we had no idea this was going on with such barbaric treatment of men."

Arthur returned to Scotland after the war where he enjoyed a successful career as a central heating engineer. I asked if during those war years in the Far East he felt forgotten.

"It's pretty well known now that the 14th Army was called the Forgotten Army by anybody who knew it existed at all. We felt neglected and I was very happy when it came along that a big commemoration was to be held for the 70th

Anniversary of VJ Day. And indeed it was a great celebration. I expect I was still smarting a bit from the Forgotten Army Syndrome but it was an extraordinary day and I was delighted that the Royal British Legion, financed by the Big Lottery Fund, had made arrangements and it was wonderfully well organised.

"We were at the Drum Head Service on Horse Guards Parade in the afternoon and that really was a wonderful ceremony. The Burma Star Association did us all proud and through them I had been volunteered to speak to the BBC, and was interviewed in advance and some excerpts were included in the live broadcast of the Drum Head Service.

"The Drum Head Service was followed by a 'meander' down Whitehall and then a reception at College Green for all participants and Prince Charles and Camilla were at the reception and I had the good fortune to speak with Prince Charles. He's a very charming gentleman and I was pleased to thank him for joining us. And also very happy that the whole event gave publicity to the 14th Army, the Forgotten Army — no longer forgotten."

Arthur was awarded the MBE for Services to Veterans, Civic and Community Affairs over the last 65 years.

"I have been an executive officer at various levels of welfare organisations. I was aware of St Dunstan's, now Blind Veterans UK, as a respected charity although I did not have any direct contact with it until I found myself with impaired eyesight.

"I'm absolutely astonished at finding such a wonderful organisation. It's difficult for me to make comparisons but I have found that the attitudes and spirit of the staff of Blind Veterans UK is so positive and helpful. I personally benefited from my training at the Sheffield centre where I was taught to touch type and given equipment and assistive aids.

"It's just a wonderful organisation in every respect, both the attitude and the facilities and the resources which are available to veterans with impaired vision or with total loss of eyesight. It is just too wonderful and I have recommended at least one friend and I'm certainly happy to spread the word that it's a wonderful organisation."

Cousins Reunited. By Nadia Wazera, Art & Craft Instructor Llandudno.

Joan Jackson was originally from Beverley, Hull and last had contact with her cousin Bill Benn 63 years ago. After her own military service she became a military wife and moved around a lot, only returning to Hull once each year. Following military service Bill, from Beverley, worked as a psychiatric nurse and later a social worker.

Joan explained that following WW2, Hull city centre was re-developed to build a by-pass. The communities were moved out and families often lost touch. Last year, Joan came on an intro course and made friends with a couple also on Intro. After a difficult time recently she was encouraged by them to attend Llandudno for a training course in painting and for a holiday.

Simultaneously, Bill was on ILS training, in particular cookery skills in the kitchen. Joan describes how she invited Bill to sit with them as he was sitting alone. They began to talk about where they were from and they soon recognised the street names and discovered they were the cousins who last saw each other 63 years ago. Joan's mother was Bill's dad's eldest sister and they also share an aunt who will be 100 next year. Both Bill and Joan have been overwhelmed by the experience and are delighted that Blind Veterans UK have helped to bring them back together.



Picture: Bill and Joan at the Llandudno centre.

Blind Veterans UK Centenary Walk. By Chris Cardwell.

I don't know who first thought of celebrating our centenary with a 100 mile walk, but what an excellent idea! The challenge was straightforward, a seven day walk from Winchester to Eastbourne via the South Downs Way, and so it was that on 28th August a small but perfectly formed group of four members, Brian Eldridge with his wife Margaret, John Cantwell, Peter Burbury and me, Chris Cardwell, assembled at the Brighton centre.

The assistance we received from all of the members of staff and volunteers who guided and supported us was nothing less than exemplary. Volunteers, Chris, Joey, Kayla and Ron were all good company and very helpful as were the staff from the Brighton centre; Alex, Amy, David, Jo, Juliette, Laura, Leon, Natasha, Russell, Steve, Sue and Theresa. Working together they made this a memorable event and the detailed preparation and skilful execution carried out by the core team of Louise Timms, Steve Mills and Craig Brindley provided a challenging but safe experience for which we were all grateful.

My mind had contained an image of a walk through a pastoral, gently undulating landscape and this proved to be only partially correct. Incorporated into this scene were some rather sizeable hills which tested our stamina and capacity, mine in particular! The weather was, as they say, changeable but it rained for only some of the time and when the sun shone our spirits rose even higher.

The routine we followed was unchanging. Walk only once properly assembled, pause when the opportunity emerged and stop when told to do so, then get up the following day and repeat the exercise. This was a readily understood approach which served us well. The sun, rain and wind were easy to detect and vistas and landmarks were always described for those who could not see them.

I quickly learnt that the enquiry "Are we ready?" was very much a rhetorical question intended to cause movement rather than elicit a reply and that when Craig prefaced a statement with "I won't lie to you" what followed would require a redoubling of effort! Talking of effort, I did admire the way in which Craig could jog between the front and rear of the column whilst carrying a Bergen the size and weight of a small bullock.

We embraced the numerous opportunities for slips, trips, falls, slides, stumbles and (Peter's favourite) sudden partial immersion in large puddles of previously unknown depth. I had thought my RAMC service and nursing background would prove helpful and perhaps that Brian's Veterinary Corp experience could also prove to be of assistance. Surely there could not be much difference between a damaged foot, paw or hoof? Thankfully for others, the staff decided that our injuries were perhaps better dealt with by those who could actually see them and our residual skills were not put to the test.

Encouragement to stay upright came in the form of Craig's suggestion that the first man down should buy everyone a drink.

Do read on to learn more about our travels through Wessex, West and East Sussex.

Saturday Winchester to Near Exton — 15.2 Miles.

The first days walking took us past the location of "Tough Mudder" a 12 mile obstacle course that will, by the time you read this have been successfully completed by Craig Brindley and Steve Mills. We ascended up to an Iron Age Hill Fort on Old Winchester Hill at 197m. It must be noted that Craig's description of the origins of ancient Hill Forts was factually correct throughout and, in my opinion, quite memorable.



Picture: Author of this report Chris Cardwell with his fellow blind veteran Brian Eldridge.

Sunday Near Exton to South Harting — 13.6 Miles.

Today we passed through East Meon & Buriton on way to lunch at the Queen Elizabeth Country Park Visitors Centre, followed by an ascent of Tower Hill at 210m. It rained, but were we downhearted? No not really!

Monday South Harting to Littleton Farm — 12.2 Miles.

This walk was cut short due to the terrain, adverse weather and fatigue. Not an easy day, up and down four challenging hills, Beacon Hill at 242m, Treyford Hill at 236m, Linch Ball Hill at 248m and Charlton Forest Hill at 233m. In between we encountered a Bronze Age Hill Fort located at 'Devils Jump' and farms passed included Buriton Farm, Crypt Farm & Tegleaze Farm. This was another wet day, brightened by lunch at Crypt Farm, to the south of Cocking village.

Tuesday Littleton Farm to East Steyning — 16.4 Miles.

Just for a change, this was a very hilly day including; Sutton Down at 245m, Bignor Hill at 226m. The location of a Roman Villa, with its world class mosaic floors and Toby's Stone, Westburton Hill at 178m, Rackham Hill at 193m, Kithurst Hill at 213m and Chanctonbury Hill at 238m. We passed through Houghton, Amberley and Washington, taking lunch on the ridge line of 'The Chantry'. The rain had stopped and the sun shone.

Wednesday East Steyning to Housedean Farm, Falmer — 18.6 Miles.

This was a challenging day. We walked through Steyning, Upper Beeding, Fulking, Poynings, Pyecombe and Falmer ascending Truleigh Hill at 216m, Devils Dyke at 217m and Ditchling Beacon at 248m. Whilst striding by a Pig Farm, the kindness of a farmer meant we got to hold a piglet in the first day of its life. An experience for us and probably quite a shock for the piglet!

Lunch was at Saddlescombe Farm following which we outpaced the incoming rain at the top of the Beacon. This really was a long and hard day but we caught up the distance previously lost.

Thursday Housedean Farm, Falmer to Alfriston — 14.4 miles.

We passed by Lewes, Kingston, Rodmell, Southease, Itford, Denton, Newhaven & Alfriston and walked part of Jugg's Road, a medieval drove road. Castle Hill at just 200m felt, at this stage, more like an incline than a hill following which we walked past Red Lion Pond & White Lion Pond taking lunch at Black Cap Farm. It was overcast most of the day but we were grateful for the absence of rain.

Friday Alfriston to Eastbourne — 11.2 miles.

The final day saw us pass (but not enter!) the Plough & Harrow, a 17th Century Pub in Lillington and then a brisk trek took us through Friston Forest to the Seven Sisters Visitors centre, Cuckmere Haven (Cuckmere River) and the famous Seven Sisters comprising; Haven Brow, Short Brow, Rough Brow, Brass Point, Flat Hill, Bailey Hill & Went Hill. Birling Gap and the Lighthouse awaited followed by Beachy Head with yet another Lighthouse below it, on to the finish of South Downs Way in Eastbourne.

A late and may I say well deserved lunch at the Beachy Head Pub followed. So there you have it, an excellent week, well researched, supported by skilful logistics and expertly led. All we needed to do was supply the determination and a quarter of a million steps, and we did it! What a splendid way to join in the commemoration of 100 years of service.

For anyone thinking of something similar in the future, a kit list would comprise good boots, waterproofs, and woolly hat plus of course the most important elements of great company, friendship and humour, trust in your guides and the profound pride in being in an organisation that offers such opportunity.



Picture: Jolly japes during the 100 Mile Centenary Walk.

Family News.

Congratulations to:

Birthdays:

Samuel Mellor who celebrated his 101st birthday on 23rd September.

Births:

Clive & Yvonne Woods who celebrated the birth of their great grandchild Harrison Forsyth who was born on 28th June 2015 to their granddaughter Maxine Forsyth and husband Ben.

Anniversaries:

Platinum (70th):

Arthur & Marjorie Hunt of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire on 10th September.

Kenneth & Muriel Bennett of Darwen, Lancashire on 21st September.

Blue Sapphire (65th):

Ian & Margaret Compton of Dolgellau, Gwynedd on 6th September.

Noel & Pat McCarthy of Spalding, Lincolnshire on 9th September.

Terry & Joan Murphy of Bexleyheath, Kent on 9th September.

Diamond (60th):

Ray & Patricia Munday of Rochester, Kent on 3rd September.

David & Beryl Wellbrock of South Shields, Tyne and Wear on 3rd September.

David & Eunice Giles of Birmingham on 3rd September.

Colin & Margaret West of Brighton, East Sussex on 10th September.

Roger & Hilda Perry of Llanbryn-mair, Powys on 10th September.

George & Win Fraser of Looe, Cornwall on 23rd September.

Ted & Jean Ellis of Lingfield, Surrey on 24th September.

Len & Joan Hawkins of Sheffield, South Yorkshire on 27th September.

Golden Anniversary (50th):

Frank & Christine Berry of Long Buckby, Northampton on 4th September.

Roger & Mary Godfrey of Bath on 4th September.

Phillip & Ena Mary Grieve of Taunton, Somerset on 11th September.

Brian & Joan Widdowson of Newark, Nottinghamshire on 18th September.

Pearl (30th):

Andy & Nicola Bull of Victoria, Australia on 14th September.

Silver (25th):

William & Jean Moretti of Thetford, Norfolk on 28th September.

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.

Laura Archer who died on 25th March 2015. She was the wife of Gilbert Archer.

Martha 'Patty' Finney who died on 18th August 2015. She was the wife of William Finney.

Brenda Green who died on 29th August 2015. She was the widow of the late George Green.

Ivy Green who died on 5th August 2015. She was the widow of the late Ronald Green.

Winnifred Lodge who died on 18th December 2014. She was the widow of the late Frank Lodge.

Susan Murdoch who died on 15th September 2015. She was the wife of Peter Murdoch.

Alice Thomson who died on 8th August 2015. She was the widow of the late Victor Thomson.

Frederick 'Fred' Tucker who died on 2nd September 2015. He was the widower of the late Elsie Tucker.

Welcome to Blind Veterans UK.

Alexander Aldridge of Crowborough, East Sussex served in the Royal Tank Regiment from 1944 to 1948.

Ronald Algar of Stanley served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1955.

Jonathan Angove of Barry, South Glamorgan served in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, Royal Artillery and the South Wales Borderers from 1941 to 1946.

Robert Armstrong of Ryton, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1956.

Joyce Avery of Frome, Somerset served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1953.

Gerald Bending of Brixham, Devon served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1966.

Adrian Bishop of Chippenham, Wiltshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1963.

Frances Blackwood (née Watkins) of Midhurst, West Sussex served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1945 to 1947.

Dennis Blake of Brentwood, Essex served in the London Irish Rifles from 1939 to 1946.

Harry Bowell of Blackpool, Lancashire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1944 to 1948.

Reginald Booth of Swindon served in the Royal Engineers from 1958 to 1978.

Arthur Brookes of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1950 to 1956.

Roland Brown of Bognor Regis, West Sussex served in the Army Catering Corps from 1950 to 1956.

Olive Browning of Epsom, Surrey served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1945.

Alfred Cackett of Crowborough, East Sussex served in the Royal Artillery from 1953 to 1958.

Patrick Carroll of West Bromwich, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950.

Louis Churchman of Gravesend, Kent served in the Somerset Light Infantry from 1943 to 1947.

Leonard Clark of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

Alan Cooke of Newport, Shropshire served in the Royal Navy from 1960 to 1972.

George Cornthwaite of St. Helens, Merseyside served in the Royal Artillery from 1954 to 1957.

John Crabbe of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1951.

Brynley Crates of Penarth, South Glamorgan served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1952 to 1954.

Ronald Davies of Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1948.

Anthony Davison of Warrington, Cheshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1953.

John Defty of Houghton Le Spring, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

Roy Deverell of Weymouth, Dorset served in the General Service Corps, the Queen's Regiment and the Royal Artillery from 1944 to 1948.

Geoffrey Dorey MBE of Shirley, Surrey served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1916 to 1949.

Ernest Dove of Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment from 1955 to 1960.

Dennis Dyer of Richmond, Surrey served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1947.

Robert Eaglestone of Caernarfon, Gwynedd served in the Royal Engineers from 1955 to 1961.

John Edwards of Faringdon, Oxfordshire served in the Welch Regiment from 1945 to 1948.

Kenneth Edwards of Llansamlet, Swansea served in the Royal Signals from 1957 to 1962.

Graham Evans of Boncath, Dyfed served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1960 to 1962.

Frank Few of Tilehurst, Berkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

Charles Foskett of Bexleyheath, Kent served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1946.

Christopher Godfrey of Kingsbridge, Devon served in the Royal Artillery from 1961 to 1963.

Anthony Gordon of Guildford, Surrey served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

Cyril Hadfield of Rochdale, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1947 to 1959.

Mary Hartley (née Hermolle) of Birmingham served in the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1944.

Geoff Haywood of Oswestry, Shropshire served in the Queen's Division, Queen's Regiment, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and the Green Howards from 1977 to 2001.

Gilbert Higham of Stockport, Cheshire served in the General Service Corps, Inniskillin Fusiliers and the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1945 to 1948.

Sidney Hilton-Roberts of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

Jean Hughes (née Allford) of Waterlooville, Hampshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

Geoffrey Johnson of Ipswich served in the Royal Navy from 1963 to 1974.

James Kirkwood of Wareham, Dorset served in the Royal Navy from 1946 to 1948.

Nathan Krieger of Woodford Green, Essex served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1942 to 1945.

Edmund Lauder of South Shields, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Signals and the Royal Army Reserve from 1948 to 1960.

Leonard Lee of Chichester, West Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1954.

John Lewis of Frome, Somerset served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1950 to 1956.

Jeffrey Locker of Peterborough served in the Army from 1971 to 1975.

Francis Lowry of Swansea served in the Royal Artillery from 1958 to 1964.

Francis 'Frank' Major of Sunderland, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1949 to 1955.

James Maley of Glasgow served in the Army Catering Corps and the Royal Corps of Transport from 1962 to 2000.

George Marsden of Whitstable, Kent served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1948.

Patricia Mason of Frome, Somerset served in the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1961 to 1962.

Michael Martin of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan served in the General Service Corps, the Welch Regiment and the South Wales Borderers from 1943 to 1947.

Robert McIntyre of St Clement, Jersey served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1967.

Richard O'Brien of Weymouth, Dorset served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1956 to 1978.

Thomas Parkin of Spennymoor, County Durham served in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1955.

Agnes 'Nancy' Peter (née Wilson) of Dundee served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1945.

Jack Porter of Sutton, Surrey served in the Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1941 to 1948.

Alex Preston of Netherton, Huddersfield served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

George Pringle of Polegate, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1955 to 1957.

Donald Rose of Watford, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

Reville 'Arthur' Rowland of Sheffield served in the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1954.

Morris Saxby-Taylor of Gillingham, Kent served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1954.

Peter Sivyer of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Corps of Transport from 1960 to 1974.

Joan Smith (née Little) of Kings Langley, Hertfordshire served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1949.

John 'Jack' Suckling of Solihull, West Midlands served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Artillery from 1945 to 1947.

Thomas Taylor of Glasgow served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1946.

Robert Tolson of Merton, South West London served in the Army Catering Corps from 1952 to 1955.

Margaret Truelove (née Jones) of Stockport, Cheshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1945 to 1947.

George Turner of Hampton, Middlesex served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Signals from 1943 to 1947.

William Valentine of Maidenhead, Berkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1946 to 1948.

Bryan Wade of Paignton, Devon served in the East Surrey Regiment from 1952 to 1953.

Ronald Ward of Oldbury, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1949.

Ernest Wheeler of Gnosall, Stafford served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

John Wheeler of Horsham, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

George White of Hailsham, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Graham Wilcox of Weston Super Mare, Avon served in the General Service Corps in 1945.

Tom Willis of Alvechurch, Birmingham served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1946.

Frank Wilson of Chesterfield, Derbyshire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Leonard Wood of Halesworth served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1948.

Gertrude Wolfe of Aldershot, Hampshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1945 to 1948.

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.

Phyllis Batey (née Folkard) of Thetford, Norfolk died on 26th August 2015, aged 95. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1942. Serving on the medical staff of Nore Command she was based at HMS Pembroke in Chatham and later at HMS Beehive in Felixstowe and HMS Watchful in Yarmouth, involved with coastal forces. She was discharged as a WREN (HGR) in 1946.

Donald Blachford of Polegate, East Sussex died on 10th September 2015, aged 92. He enlisted in the Royal Air Force in 1940 training as a pilot. Engaged in the North Africa campaign he was shot in the left eye at the Battle of El Alamein and discharged from service in 1946 as a Warrant Officer.

Sidney 'Jim' Butler of Wrexham, Clwyd died on 14th September 2015, aged 87. Having been a Sea Cadet as a boy he joined the Royal Navy in 1945 and trained in Portsmouth. He served in HMS Sheffield as a Telegraphist, with fond memories of deployments in the Mediterranean and South America. He was discharged in 1948 as a Leading Telegraphist.

Gerald Chambers of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 15th September 2015, aged 88. He enlisted in the Royal Air Force for National Service in 1945. Having trained at Melksham and Kirkham, he joined Training Command and served in London, Nottingham, RAF Driffield and RAF Padgate prior to discharge as a Corporal in 1948.

Rodney Cordy of Harleston, Norfolk died on 21st September 2015, aged 78. He started National Service in 1956 with the Royal Army Service Corps. He was posted to Dorset and then Germany and left as a Lance Corporal in 1958.

Ronald Elgood of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire died on 3rd September 2015, aged 90. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 and trained as a navigator in Canada. Before seeing service in Lancaster bombers the war ended and he transferred to Transport Command, flying Dakotas in India and the Far East. He was discharged in 1947 as a Flying Officer.

Robert 'Bob' Evans of Sandown, Isle of Wight died on 18th August 2015, aged 63. He joined the Royal Armoured Corps (Queens Royal Irish Hussars) in 1969 and served in Bovington, Catterick and Germany. He was discharged as a Trooper in 1973.

Harold Green of Norwich died on 31st July 2015, aged 97. He joined the Royal Norfolk Regiment in 1939. Posted to Singapore during the war he was a FEPOW for three years. He was discharged from the Army in 1946.

Walter 'Fred' Hall of Braintree, Essex died on 25th August 2015, aged 90. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and served in the destroyer HMS Belona on Arctic Convoys. He was discharged as an Able Seaman in 1948 following a deployment to Australia in February that year.

Derrick 'Dick' Hardy of Market Harborough, Leicester died in August 2015, aged 83. He was called up for National Service and joined the Royal Engineers in 1950. He specialised as a driving instructor and was stationed in Aldershot. He extended his service until 1955, leaving as a Sapper.

Gareth Harmon of Treorchy, Mid Glamorgan died on 1st June 2015, aged 69. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1965 and served in the UK, Europe, Belize and Canada until he was discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1985.

George Harper of Tamworth, Staffordshire died on 30th August 2015, aged 89. He joined the Royal Marines in 1945 serving as a driver with the occupying forces in Germany. He was discharged as a Marine in 1947.

William 'Bill' Harvey of Birmingham died on 27th August 2015, aged 91. In a reserved occupation he joined the General Service Corps in 1945 and after initial training joined the King's Own Scottish Borderers two months later 1945. After further transfer to the Royal Engineers in 1945 he served in the UK, France, Algeria and Palestine and was discharged as a Sapper in 1948.

David Hill of Otley, West Yorkshire died on 3rd June 2015, aged 84. He was called up for National Service and joined the Army Catering Corps in 1949. He served in various UK locations and was discharged as a Private in 1951. He continued for a while on part-time National Service remaining with the Army Catering Corps. He transferred to the Royal Leicestershire Regiment in 1952 and was eventually discharged in 1956.

Edna 'Margaret' Hind of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 14th August 2015, aged 94. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1941 and was later posted to Preston with the Royal Army Service Corps, working in the receipts office. She then became a technical motor transport clerk until 1942 when she was posted to the REME in Derby to work with motor transport spare parts. She was demobilised in York in 1946 as a Sergeant.

Albert Hodges of Leyland, Lancashire died on 15th August 2015, aged 93. He served in the Royal Engineers and the Royal Artillery from 1938 to 1946 leaving as a Driver Mechanic. He was sent abroad with the 19th Field Regiment Royal Artillery. He was then sent to Italy and saw front line action as part of the 8th Army. He then had a short tour of Cyprus followed by Egypt and Palestine. He was a driver mechanic pulling a 25 pounder using a quad vehicle.

Peter Homewood of Peacehaven, East Sussex died on 18th August 2015, aged 88. Serving in the Brighton Police Force he volunteered for the Royal Navy in 1945 and after initial training at HMS Royal Arthur, Skegness he served in Ceylon and South East Asia Command. He was discharged in 1947 as a Leading Stores Assistant.

Alan Hornsey of Wirral, Merseyside died on 26th August 2015, aged 86. He joined the Royal Air Force for National Service in 1950 and served in Radio Navigational Aids in the UK until 1952.

Jenny Hudson of New Milton, Hampshire died on 19th September 2015, aged 92. She joined the Women's Royal Air Force in 1946 and served in Ismailia, Egypt. She was discharged as an Aircraftswoman in 1949.

William 'Ryan' Hughes of Swansea, Mid Glamorgan died on 3rd August 2015, aged 80. He was called up to complete his National Service in March 1953. He carried out his training with the South Wales Borders in Brecon and transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in April. He specialised as a truck driver and later drove a variety of tanks. Discharged in 1955 he was in the TA until 1958.

Edward 'Ted' Keen of York, North Yorkshire died on 30th August 2015, aged 86. He joined the Royal Engineers for National Service in 1946 and served as a 2nd Lieutenant in Egypt until 1948.

Peter Laker of Hove, East Sussex died on 31st August 2015, aged 90. He joined the Merchant Navy as a cabin boy in 1940, serving until in 1947 when he enlisted into the Royal Navy as an Officer Steward. There he served all over the world in the Far East, Mediterranean, North Africa, New Zealand, Atlantic, Australia, Normandy and India. He discharged from the Royal Navy in 1954.

John Lane of South Shields, Tyne and Wear died on 9th September 2015, aged 95. He served with the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1967 leaving as a Sergeant. He served in a variety of locations and was part of the British Expeditionary Force and subsequently evacuated through Dunkirk. He was then sent to the Middle East and found himself in Palestine and later in Iraq. He was captured in 1942 and shipped to Italy and then onto Germany to Stalag 4B. He was released by the Russian Cossacks and marched back to the USA lines.

Maldwyn Lloyd-Jones of Dolgellau, Gwynedd died on 1st April 2015, aged 97. He was ordained in 1940, becoming a curate. He spent time in the Falklands and on return to the UK joined the Royal Navy in 1952. He spent time in Korea from 1952 to 1954 onboard HMS Newcastle and a brief period with the Fleet Air Arm in Carlisle before joining the Royal Marines. He was with 42 Commando at Suez and in 1956 transferred to Singapore to HMS Terror and then joined HMS Warrior in Honolulu at the time of the bomb tests. He returned to the UK and became Padre on board HMS Vanguard and left the Royal Navy in 1968.

John Longley of Braunton, Devon died on 2nd February 2015, aged 90. He joined the Royal Navy from school in 1942 at the age of 18. He went to Naval Engineering College in 1943 and was discharged as a Lieutenant Commander in August 1969, having served in home waters, the Mediterranean and Far East.

Margaret 'Peggy' Luck of Brighton, West Sussex died on 24th August 2015, aged 96. In a reserved occupation but persuaded the authorities to let her join Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1941. She became part of the Balloon Command in Stanmore as secretary to the Squadron Leader. She then moved to Intelligence and helped produce the magazine for Ack Ack Command for Geoff Webb who began the 'Archers'. She then moved to Lincolnshire with 460 Australian Squadron, sorting personal belongings for missing airmen on operations and was later recommended for code and cypher work. She was promoted to Sergeant then went back to Stanmore. In 1946 she was discharged as a Sergeant.

John Merrall of Preston, Lancashire died on 9th September 2015, aged 78. After call up for National Service he joined the Royal Air Force in 1960 and trained at RAF Locking and RAF Leeming Bar, qualifying as an electrical engineer. He completed his service at RAF Bridgnorth and was discharged in 1962.

Leonard 'Leon' Moules of Chichester, West Sussex died on 6th September 2015, aged 95. He joined the Gloucestershire Regiment in May 1940, the time of the Dunkirk evacuation. He went to North Africa with the 8th Army and was involved in the invasion of Sicily and went on to fight in Italy. He then returned to England and was later sent to France, four weeks after D-Day, where he fought through to Berlin. He was demobilised as a Sergeant 1946.

William Reed of Lyme Regis, Dorset died on 14th September 2015, aged 93. He enlisted into the Dorset Regiment in 1943 and trained in Scotland. He landed in France just after D-Day and was discharged in August 1944.

John Roberts of Eastbourne, East Sussex died on 22nd May 2015, aged 85. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps for National Service in 1948 and served in the UK before discharge as a Private in 1950.

Trevor Shaw of Bradford, West Yorkshire died on 19th August 2015, aged 84. He joined the Parachute Regiment in 1952 where he served in the UK and Suez until 1955 when he re-enlisted into the TA until 1958. He later served in the Royal Engineers from 1963 to 1966.

Gerald Skeggs of Flitwick, Bedfordshire died on 26th August 2015, aged 79. He joined the Royal Air Force as an administrator in 1953. He served at RAF St Athan, RAF Waterbeach and RAF North Luffenham before going to Germany. Returning to the UK he was discharged as a Corporal in 1965.

Wilfrid Spink of Aberfeldy, Perthshire died on 8th August 2015, aged 85. He volunteered for National Service when he was 18 and did his training in a variety of locations around the UK. He completed his driver and electrical training and commenced his service with the 12th Royal Lancers and eventually transferred to the 8th King Royal Irish Hussars, serving until 1959.

Kenneth Stotesbury of Steyning, West Sussex died on 5th September 2015, aged 95. He joined the Royal Signals in 1940, serving in Iraq, India, Sri Lanka and Singapore. He was discharged as a Corporal in 1946.

Richard Stupples of Wrexham died on 3rd September 2015, aged 101. He served in the Royal Artillery from 1947 to 1948 leaving as a Warrant Officer II. He served for two and a half years in India and Burma. Discharged as a Warrant Officer II he remained on reserve until 1959 and served for a further 2½ years.

John Turnbull of South Shields, Tyne and Wear died on 31st August 2015, aged 82. He enlisted into the Royal Air Force in 1951, serving in Singapore and Malaysia in pay accounts. He was discharged in 1955 as a Senior Aircraftman.

Harold Unthank of Saltburn By The Sea, Cleveland died on 18th August 2015, aged 89. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1944 and served in India and Malaysia until discharge as a Lance Bombardier in November 1946.

Christina 'Chrissy' Viles (née Bell) of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire died on 8th September 2015, aged 91. When her husband was sent overseas to Burma she joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1943. She trained in Swiss Cottage, specialising as an officer's steward. Serving in London, Blundell Sands, Liverpool and Crail, Fifeshire followed by Glasgow, she was discharged as a WRN in 1945.

Joseph Williamson of South Shields, Tyne and Wear died on 31st August 2015, aged 93. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940. He trained at Cardington and then at Cranwell as a heavy lorry driver before serving in the UK, later deploying to India and Bengal. He fought in Burma and towards the end of the war moved to Singapore. He was discharged in 1946 as a Leading Aircraftman.

William Woolf of Hove, East Sussex died on 21st August 2015, aged 95. He joined the London Irish Rifles in 1936 as a Band Boy member and trained as a rifleman when war broke out. He served in the UK followed by North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He was wounded twice and on the last occasion he was medically discharged in March 1945, leaving as a Sergeant.

Marion 'Mac' Young of Chinnor, Oxfordshire died on 20th August 2015, aged 95. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1941, trained at Arborfield, Berkshire and was posted to an Ack Ack unit in London. She also served at Epping Forest, Romney Marshes and Whitby before being discharged as a Warrant Officer in 1945.

