

March 2016

Review

Blind Veterans UK | St Dunstan's since 1915



On the cover: Portrait of a Stag by Chris Nowell, Creative Award Winner in Blind Veterans UK's Photography Competition.

Back page: Crafty by Reg Wilmott, Floral Award Winner in Blind Veterans UK Photography Competition.



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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.

From the Chairman.

Your message from Tim Davis.

March marks the start of spring and with it much reason for optimism and hope, as well as the prospect of improved weather and having greater opportunities to get out and about.

We also start the season of Reunion lunch events, which continue to be a hugely popular way to connect with old friends and establish new ones. It's also a great opportunity for the Blind Veterans UK team and Trustees alike to connect and hear first-hand your news, and what the organisation can do to better support all members. Over the last six years I've managed to attend almost all the different reunion groups at least once, and as we continue to reach and help more veterans, the organisation is continuing to add more to the calendar.

I hope you all take the opportunity to join us at your local event as my fellow Trustees and I greatly look forward to catching up with you then.

We also have a continually growing number of volunteers; some 500 plus, in total who donated over 2,600 hours in January alone. We celebrate their contribution through our Volunteer Awards and would welcome your nominations by the end of March for any you would like to call out and have recognised. There is a form in this edition of the Review for you to fill in and return to Victoria Dickinson, Head of Volunteering.

On the subject of recognition, I'd like to highlight some of the photographs in this edition of the Review. They were taken by members of the Blind Veterans UK who have either continued with their passion for photography, or have learnt how to use a camera despite vision impairment at the Photography Weeks that take place at our centres. I think you will agree have produced some wonderful pictures.

One of the winners, Chris Nowell, who was blinded in Afghanistan in 2007 is now a professional photographer. What a great example of 'gaining back independence' and achievement, which really highlights what can be achieved despite the obvious difficulties blindness creates. Well done to all involved.

Blind Veterans UK Calendar

Activities from the Brighton centre.

April.

Technology Week 10th to 16th April.
Masonic Weekend 22nd to 25th April.

May.

Photography Week 1st to 7th May.
Adrenaline Weekend 6th to 9th May.
Archery Club 29th May to 4th June.

June.

Gardening Week 5th to 11th June.
Ex POW Week 19th to 25th June.

Activities from the Llandudno centre.

April.

History Week 11th to 15th April.
Wood Week 25th to 29th April.

May.

Coarse Fishing Week 9th to 13th May.

June.

Adventure Week 6th to 10th June.
Potting & Planting Week 13th to 17th June.
Water Week 20th to 24th June.

Activities from the Sheffield centre.

April.

Beginners Photography Week 11th to 15th April.

July.

Culture Week 18th to 22nd July.

August.

Gardens Week 8th to 12th August.

Booking Themed and Club Weeks at the Brighton and Sheffield centres.

For further information and to book your place telephone the Booking Office on 01273 391500. If you have care needs please speak with your Welfare Officer.

For the Llandudno centre please telephone 01492 868741 or 01492 868740.

Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

RNIB's Talking Book Service is now free.

Our second Chairman Lord Fraser of Lonsdale was a founder of the first Talking Books service that celebrated its 80th Anniversary last year.

If you haven't already done so you can now register to receive free Talking Books from the RNIB. There are 23,000 titles to choose from that you can listen to on MP3CD, USB or digital download.

To sign up to Talking Books telephone the RNIB's helpline on 0303 123 9999 or email: helpline@rnib.org.uk or go to www.rnib.org.uk/talking-books-service

This month's Talking Review includes a podcast on the history of the Talking Books by Robert Kirkwood of RNIB's Insight Radio. The report includes a historic interview with Lord Fraser of Lonsdale. It is well worth listening to.



Picture: Lord Fraser listens to a Talking Book.

Review Short Story Competition: The Wrong Turn.

They say that everyone has a novel in them, but for the 2016 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 The Wrong Turn. Perhaps your character or characters took a physical wrong turn, went up the wrong street that changed events in their life. Or perhaps your character or characters made a wrong decision that was a turning point.

Whatever it was please get writing as we would love to read your entries. 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 2016.

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.

Please send your entries to Catherine Goodier, Review Editor, Blind Veterans UK Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD by 30th April 2015.

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.

Join Blind Veterans UK's Masonic Group and take part in the Masonic Weekend 22nd to 25th April.

In a 1929 issue of the Review an article asked about members who were Freemasons and gave names over the course of several issues. From that time, St Dunstan's Masonic group was founded.

Over the past 86 years, the group has gone through many changes, to name but a few, the size of its members and of course in recent times the name change of the charity.

An annual get together takes place at the Brighton centre each April. This year we will meet at the Brighton centre from 22nd to 25th April. The weekend is for men of like minds to practice Freemasonry, to rekindle friendships, and of course to contribute to raising money for several charities.

The members of the charity who are Freemasons, are hosted by The Temple Lodge in Brighton. Temple Lodge has hosted us for many a year and this relationship has remained over the course of time as strong as ever.

We also host the members of the Temple Lodge and members of the Masonic province of Sussex on an annual occasion in the Winter Gardens, where great food, wine and company are shared. It was at this event in April 2014 where The Freemasons Grand Charity gave a staggering £50,000 donation to Blind Veterans UK for restoration work.

The Masonic group welcome all members of the charity who are freemasons to join with us in April each year to continue our friendships to practice our Freemasonry.

If you are a Freemason, and you are interested in becoming part of the group, please contact the groups Chairman & Secretary W.Bro Clive Jones on:

Mobile: 07854 800256.

Email: dragoneye67@sky.com

Sign up to run the Royal Parks Half Marathon with the Sports & Rec Team at the Brighton centre.

The Sports & Recreation department at the Brighton centre has guaranteed places for eight runners in the Royal Parks Half Marathon that will take place on Sunday 9th October 2016.

This is one of the most popular events in the UK, taking you through London's scenic parks: Hyde Park, Green Park, St James's Park and Kensington Gardens. Runners have the chance to not only enjoy these beautiful parks in the Autumn but also take in some of London's most iconic landmarks, including the Houses of Parliament and the Royal Albert Hall.

Sports & Rec Instructors at the Brighton centre will work with you to prepare a training schedule to ensure that you are half marathon ready. If you would like to sign up please contact Russell Scullion on telephone: 01273 391481 or email: russell.scullion@blindveterans.org.uk

If you don't have a guide Russell and his colleagues will try to match you with a sighted running guide.

Audio tour of the Cutty Sark Clipper in Greenwich as part of Disabled Access Day.

You can join a one hour audio described touch tour of the world famous Cutty Sark Clipper on Saturday 12th March from 10.30am to 11.30am and from 2pm to 3pm.

During the hour you will explore the ship and her fascinating story on this audio described tour for blind and partially sighted visitors. As it is also a touch tour you can get hands on with history on the world's last remaining tea clipper.

Tours convene at the Admissions desk that's located in the shop. Guide dogs, hearing dogs and assistance dogs are welcome. For safety reasons, wheelchair spaces for the Cutty Sark are limited to three visitors at any one time.

The cost is £13.50 for blind veterans and your sighted companion or carer will be given free entry onto the Clipper.

To book please telephone: 020 8312 6608 or email: bookings@rmg.co.uk

Improvements to ROVI on Duty and IT Support line.

We've made improvements to the ROVI on Duty and IT Support telephone helplines. In the past these have been separate helplines, but on 1st November 2015 the two services were combined into one new ROVI-IT Helpline. The new service will be staffed by a specially trained team of Rehabilitation and Training Support workers who can deal with many queries directly. They will forward to our ROVIs and IT Technicians those queries where more specialist advice is required.

The service is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm and our aim is to answer calls promptly as they come in. If you call during the opening hours and are not able to get through, please leave a message (with your name and the nature of your query) and we will respond to your call within one working day. You can email at any time and we will get back to you within one working day. Requests for advice or information regarding equipment, or about difficulty in managing a day to day task, such as making a cup of tea safely, as well as enquiries relating to use of IT equipment, are the sort of issues members can contact the helpline about.

The current number will remain in use for the foreseeable future — we will, of course, inform you if it changes.

Until that time please continue to phone on: 01273 391447 for both ROVI and IT enquiries.

You can also email the service at: rovi-it@blindveterans.org.uk

As this is a new service we would welcome your feedback to let us know how you find it, good and bad comments. Please email any comments to Chris Clark, R&T Manager at the Sheffield centre.

His email address is: chris.clark@blindveterans.org.uk or you can telephone him on 0114 2672550.

Blind Veterans UK's Life Skills Programme at the Llandudno centre.

When Sir Arthur Pearson Bt GBE founded our charity in January 1915, with practically no exceptions, all the soldiers and sailors of the British Imperial Forces blinded in the war came under his care, in order that they might learn to be blind. The main idea that animated him in establishing this hostel for the blinded soldiers was that the sightless men, after being discharged from hospital, might come into a little world where the things which blind men cannot do were forgotten and where everyone was concerned with what blind men can do. A world where they could learn to be blind.

As a result of a long conference and some rather revolutionary ideas of Sir Arthur's, it was decided to teach eight trades and occupations. They were massage, shorthand writing, telephone operating, poultry farming, joinery, mat making, boot repairing and basketry as they provided the most practical openings for the sightless man who desired profitable work.

Continuing Sir Arthur's work and his vision of Victory Over Blindness a Life Skills Programme is being established at the Llandudno centre where it will be run by Sharon Williams the Life Skills Programme Manager. Here the Review speaks with Sharon about the importance of this programme.

Review: When did you join Blind Veterans UK and can you tell us about the Life Skills Programme?

Sharon: Williams: "I joined the team at Blind Veterans UK's Llandudno centre in January 2016 as Life Skills Programme Manager. The Life Skills Programme is the result of LIBOR and other monies of £1.65 million. Blind Veterans UK is using this money to refurbish the outbuildings at the back of the Llandudno centre to provide a two bedroom house and four purpose built flats which are a mix of one and two bedrooms. These buildings will be joined together by a beautiful glass atrium, which forms the communal and IT area.

"Working with our collaborative partner BLESMA the aim of the Life Skills Programme is to invite younger members onto a programme that address's homelessness, unsuitable housing, which enhances a multitude of life skills around confidence and independent living, and which gets people back into work or further education. We will work with members on the programme for a period of six weeks or up to six months in order to improve their self-esteem,

give them more purpose and to assist them on their independent journey when they return to their homes and their communities".

The first stage of the programme is to carry out individual assessments with our younger members to find out how they would benefit from the Life Skills programme.

Following that we will design a bespoke action plan for them to complete within a stated timeframe.

The programmes flexibility and delivery of a tailored service to meet each members individual needs is what I believe will ensure that this programme will go from strength to strength".

Review: What is the timeline?

Sharon Williams: "It is hoped that the building works, landscaping and the actual facility is completed by the end of May 16 so that suitable members can start to be allocated a place on the Life Skills Programme by the summer.

"I'm six weeks into my role and it's a fabulous opportunity to be part of such an exciting and diverse programme, I'm really enjoying it and I look forward to keeping members up to date on the Life Skills Programme as it develops through the Review.



Picture: Outside the buildings where members will stay during the Life Skills Programme Paul Wynne-Williams Facilities Manager, Sharon Williams Life Skills Programme Manager and Steve Boswell Llandudno Centre Manager.

Submit your nomination for an Award for Volunteers 2016. By Victoria Dickinson, Head of Volunteering.

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Timetable for the selection process.

The judging panel will meet in early April to review and make the selections from the nomination forms. Once the panel has made its recommendations a letter will go out to the nominees for an invite to attend the Award Ceremony event on Monday 6th June at The Tower of London.

Volunteer Awards 2016

Nomination form (please write clearly)

About the nomination	
Name of volunteer	
Volunteering role	
Volunteering location	

In the box below and overleaf please write:

Why have you nominated this volunteer for an award?

Please give details of the nominee's involvement and examples of their voluntary commitments. How have they gone the extra mile?

What benefits has the volunteer's activities brought to the member(s) they have been working with or the wider charity?

Please give details of the positive impact/benefits of their volunteering in a maximum of 300 words.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Do you have any information for microwaves that are suitable for blind people. I have tested a number but cannot find ones that will work with the rubber bump on that Blind Veterans UK have supplied.

Yours faithfully

Colin Forester.

Dear Mr Forester,

Thank you for your enquiry.

Generally I'd recommend the cheap two dial microwaves that you can buy from either Tesco or Asda for around £30. They are easy to mark and there is one dial for function and one dial for time.

They also come with a one year warranty so any problems you can exchange it, usually on the spot.

I hope that this is of help. Do please let us know how you get on.

Yours faithfully,

Vince Godber,
ROVI (Llandudno).

About you	
Name	
Relationship to Blind Veterans UK	
Email address	
Telephone number	

Please return the completed form by 31st March 2016 to Victoria Dickinson,
Head of Volunteering, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

Or email it to: victoria.dickinson@blindveterans.org.uk

Royal British Legion LifeWorks Course. Held at the Llandudno Centre 18th to 22nd January 2016. By Colin Williamson, Contributing Editor.

Not to be confused with our Life Skills Programme that will run from the Llandudno centre later this year, LifeWorks is a five day, fully funded course which aims to equip ex-forces personnel with the necessary tools to get into and maintain a job which is appropriate to them. The course is for anyone who has served in the armed forces regardless of how long and when they served.

Finding suitable employment is difficult enough for able bodied ex-servicemen and women never mind those with a disability or a long term illness. This course is designed to build on your existing skills such as leadership, good communication, self-motivation, reliability, problem solving and the ability to multi-task, the latter being a no-brainer for anyone that ever served in the military!

During the course you will learn how to write a CV, search, find and apply for a job and it will also provide you with the necessary skills on how to successfully navigate a job interview.

The Blind Veterans UK beneficiaries who attended the course recently were Charlie Parkinson, John Robinson, Louise Collins, Nigel Smith, Anthony Cooper, Karl Poole and Steve Birkin. I spoke with them about the course.

Former Worcestershire and Sherwood Forester Regiment Lance Corporal Nigel Smith told me "The course was a real eye-opener and it certainly exceeded my expectations. I think everyone on the course really enjoyed it and it has helped in so many ways. I learnt how to update my CV and the course has really boosted my confidence and self-esteem."

Another beneficiary on the course was ex-paratrooper John Robinson from Deeside. John said "I got more than I expected from the course. It gave me more confidence in relation to interview skills. It has removed obstacles such as having an up to date C.V. and it gave me examples of covering letters to send with my CV. The course also gave me more insight into team building and individual preparation.

I would strongly recommend that all younger members attend the course as it's an important tool to go forward in gaining employment.

"Ideally, I'd like a job within Blind Veterans UK, preferably at the Llandudno centre, as a support worker. I am currently volunteering for Blind Veterans UK as I feel that I want to give something back for all their help and support."

The Review also spoke with Royal Navy veteran Steve Birkin from Shipley in Yorkshire, this is what he had to say about the course.

"The course was really good and very informative. It was pretty much full-on for the entire week as there was a lot to take in but I'm really glad that I put my name down. My aim is to run my own business so the course tutors provided me with information on how to create business plans and what help is available out there for people like me. I'd definitely recommend this course for anyone who is seeking to get back into employment or indeed anyone who is in work but is looking at changing jobs. I intend to set up my own IT support and software development company specialising in apps and software for the vision impaired so I was given some contacts if I needed to speak to anyone for some further guidance."

CEO Nick Caplin paid a visit to the Llandudno centre during the week and he stopped by to see how things were progressing. This is what he had to say.

"I was very impressed by what I saw. There was clear evidence of younger members engaging in a very positive way with the process, determined to learn skills and techniques that will help them to be competitive in the job market. And some personal triumphs where members overcame serious concerns and anxiety to make progress. I know that this course has already paid dividend, for example with job applications submitted and a place now secured at RNC. This course has helped younger members to build their dignity, self-belief and confidence going forward. The early evidence suggests that it is a powerful intervention".

Another beneficiary who attended the course was Kingsman Anthony Cooper from 1st Lancashire Regiment. 'Coops' as he's known, spoke highly of the course and said:

"I run my own property development business and I'm looking to expand. The course was very interesting and it helped me with my CV and also gave me some tips on interview techniques. All in all, a very good course and I'd certainly not hesitate to recommend it to other younger beneficiaries".



Picture: The younger blind veterans who took part in the Royal British Legion's LifeWorks course.

Inventor would like to speak with blind veterans who are retired engineers.

Cardiff based inventor Jason Perkins would like any retired engineers who are now blind veterans to meet with or speak to him about his invention Peepo, a voice-activated GPS system for the blind. Peepo directs guide dogs and their owners to new destinations using a system of vibrations.

Jason created Peepo after speaking to members of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind. They told him that only six per cent of guide dog owners will venture to new destinations due to anxiety levels, so they have to rely on friends to help them when walking a route for the first time.

Jason then set about creating a device, built around existing sat-navs that would let blind people travel safely and confidently to a new destination with only their dog for company.

Peepo comes in two parts. The first is a handheld, voice-activated GPS device system, the second a device that attaches to the handle on the guide dog's harness, using vibrations to tell the owner which way he or she needs to turn. The centre of the handle vibrates when the person is on the right track, and all zones vibrate simultaneously when the destination has been reached.

Jason says that he opted for vibrations after the people he spoke to explained that GPS devices that give verbal directions are hard to hear in noisy situations, such as city streets.

He has already patented the device in the US, which he says is a bigger market than the UK, and is now hoping to secure further funding from the Welsh Assembly Government to perfect the device before taking it to market.

Jason's website is at: www.discoverpeepo.com

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

Rev George Wood receives the Legion d'Honneur.

In a forlorn mayday to God, Flight Sergeant George Wood 263 Squadron cried "Oh God, help me!" Here follows his incredible story that was submitted to the Review by Grace Seymour, to whom we are indebted.

On 31st October, blind veteran George Wood was awarded the Legion d'Honneur by a General Groasbriand in the Carantec Maritime Museum, Brittany. The following day, joined by his family, he attended the Sunday morning service in the local Carantec church when he returned this highest of honours to the Museum for safe keeping, and in recognition that it was the few, very brave French men and women and children of that area who enabled him to live to receive this award.

On 23rd September 1943, George was flying the COs aircraft and was one of eight Whirlwind pilots on an operation led by Flt Lt John McClure DFC, Royal Canadian Air Force, to dive bomb Ploujean Airfield. As George released his bombs, his plane suddenly blew up. Captain Lucien Marzin, who lived close by the airfield, watching the battle taking place overhead through his binoculars, thought two aircraft had collided as there was so much debris in the sky. Then he saw one rather large piece of debris split into two, and the part that broke away suddenly sprouted a parachute — and he said to himself: "I hope to meet that pilot soon" — because Captain Marzin was in the local Resistance.

Releasing the bombs George's plane disintegrated around him, leaving him trapped in the cockpit, as he couldn't get to the handle to unwind the hood and get out. The Whirlwind hadn't been equipped with the emergency exit gear that all RAF fighters had been fitted with when you pulled a lever and were automatically ejected from the plane.

In his cockpit George realised that in under a minute he would be digging his own grave, and so, in a forlorn mayday to God, he cried "Oh God, help me!" In under a split second he found himself in the air, watching the cockpit fall to earth, and as he recalled the only parachute drill the pilots were given — 'It won't mean a thing if you don't pull the string' — he pulled the ripcord and began to float to earth, only to meet death once again as bullets whistled past from small arms fire on the ground, but missed him as the parachute swayed to and fro.



Picture: Flight Sergeant George Wood, 263 Squadron.



Picture: During his visit to France to receive the Legion d' Honneur the Rev George Wood was taken on a flight from the French airfield where he was shot down in 1943. He is pictured here in the cockpit wearing his Blind Veterans UK cap.

George landed safely, jumped out of his parachute harness and began to run, unbeknown to him, across a minefield, which is why the Germans did not follow. Reaching a clump of trees, George quickly discarded his brightly coloured Mae West and shoved it under a bush. He continued to run until he met the outskirts of the airfield, which was surrounded by a 12ft steel fence topped with barbed wire. Hurrying along, he came to what he was hoping to find, a tree that had a branch growing over the top of the fence.

He shinned up the tree, scrambled over the branch, and dropped down on the other side — free of the airfield. There was a sandy road alongside, along which George hurriedly trod until he saw a man hoeing in a field nearby, and so he slowed into a saunter, gave the man a friendly wave, and reached the skyline where there was a forest where he was able to hide himself. George noticed that there was a 'ride' in the forest where some pheasants were pecking away, which meant that no-one had been down that way for a while, and so he disturbed the pheasants and eventually came to the edge of the forest. Down below was a road, then a river, and from across the river there was a welcoming church bell tolling. He had been told before going on ops that the most likely people to help you to evade or escape capture in France would be a prostitute or a priest, and so he immediately thought that would be his first aim, to get to that church and hope to find a friendly priest.

There was much activity in the road below him, so George climbed another tree and began to survey his surroundings. He did not know that a piece of the COs aircraft which he had been flying had fallen onto the airfield bearing the COs call sign Lochinvar which the Germans recognised. The Germans had called out 900 extra troops, hoping to catch a VIP, the Squadron Leader — a thorn in the flesh of the Luftwaffe — not knowing that their quarry was actually a Flight Sergeant on his 13th Op.

Along the road came a lorry load of Germans armed with fixed bayonets, who got out at intervals and started to look for him by sticking the bayonets into bushes and haystacks. Soon, underneath his very tree, some Germans gathered to have a cigarette. He could smell the tobacco as it wafted up to him, but no-one looked up. He realised then that this would be the best place to hide, rather than on the ground and risk being stuck by a bayonet, so he stayed up that tree, and when it got dark he would clamber down, cross the river, and try to find a priest at the church he had seen. As he watched the Germans sticking bayonets

into bushes and trees, especially one particular haystack near some outhouses where he saw a grey haired old lady go into the outhouses and come out to feed her chickens.

At nightfall he came down the tree and made for the water's edge, but this particular river was tidal, and the tide had now gone out. To get to the river, George found he had to overcome glutinous mud into which he sank deeper at every step, and by the time he was up to his knees, he realised that he would never get to the water's edge. Not wanting to be caught in the mud, he returned to the outhouses he had seen. It was now 9pm and he had been up since 4am and was feeling very weary. George wanted to feel in charge of the situation, so he thought he would try to have a sleep. It was moonlight, and he could see some sacks, so he made a little bed behind a barrel, and took out his escape kit and chewed on two Horlicks tablets whilst he assessed his situation. He had evaded death three times — from the cockpit of his aircraft, from being shot whilst descending on his parachute, and from being blown up by a mine — and had so far evaded capture. Feeling very thankful, he soon fell asleep.

In the morning he was awakened by the sound of the lady he had seen before coming in to feed her chickens. She came over to the very barrel behind which he was hiding, but didn't see him, dipped her canister into the barrel, filled it with corn for the chickens, closed the lid, and went out again. As George looked around to try and find a safer hiding place, suddenly the door flew open. A lad of about 13 came in, and got such a shock to see George there. George pointed to his wings and the boy ran out again, only to return a few minutes later with his patron, M. Yves-Marie Gueguen, who assessed the situation straight away, hurried George into the haystack, which had been prodded with the bayonets the day before, and gave him a bottle of cider and some bread. He couldn't speak English and George couldn't speak French but they understood one another.

Soon, crawling on his knees into the haystack came a well dressed Frenchman, Dr Jean Le Duc, and as he crouched there he gave George much encouragement by telling him, in good English, to be of good courage, and that the next day he would come and take him to a safe hiding place. George was most thankful, as he watched Dr Le Duc crawl out of the haystack to resume his duties as the local doctor.

George needed to look like a local lad of under 18 years or he would have been arrested on sight and sent to Germany to work, so he was given a beret, a blue mac, and made to take off his flying boots, which he gave to M. Gueguen, who in later years wore them to church every Sunday, and George wore his sabots. Thus attired, he was hustled into the doctor's car, where he met Lulu Rault, who would look for barriers. George lay on the floor in the back of the car covered by a blanket as they drove into Morlaix, crossing to the other side of the river, and passing the place where he had been hiding. At every bend in the road, Lulu would jump out to see if cars were being inspected, but there were none, so eventually the doctor allowed George to surface.

As soon as he had done so, they passed some German patrols, but they had their backs to the road poking bayonets into bushes. They eventually arrived in Carantec, and there George was put into the safe hands of Lulu Rault, who was living there on her own. Lulu's sister, Mme. Yvonne Rothschild, and Dr. Le Duc's wife, Marie Louise, came and fed them at lunchtimes.

George was given a Carte d'Identite stating that he was Pierre Foch, born on 22nd November 1926, a deaf and dumb student studying English at Montpellier University. As this forged document had to be officially stamped Marie Louise, the doctor's wife, took it to the appropriate department, and after making an enquiry which she knew would take the clerk out of the office, reached over the counter and stamped the document herself and altered it from Carantec to Santec.

George stayed with Lulu for several days, but an informer had spotted something unusual, and Marie Louise was summoned to be interrogated, as it was believed she was harbouring an Allied airman. She called their bluff, saying that she would not be so stupid as to take such a risk, a mother with three young children, and invited them to inspect her home as she knew by that time George would have left. She gave such a good performance that she was allowed to go, whilst all the time, in her bag was George's RAF uniform which she was taking to be made into trousers for her boys!

This meant that George could no longer stay at Lulu's house so at the dead of night, George went back to Morlaix with Dr. Le Duc on his moped, not by car this time, as his petrol ration had been used up on the previous trip. It was a hazardous journey because a moped makes a lot of noise, and they

had to travel during the curfew from sunset to sunrise, when only Germans were allowed to be about. At the slightest incline the moped refused to take two, which meant that George had to get off and walk up the hill, and so they arrived in Morlaix just after sunrise, much later than expected. As it was not permitted for two people to ride a moped they had to push it, threading their way through hoards of Germans coming out of their billets and crossing the road into the ablution block. Dr. Le Duc guided the moped, with George pushing behind, keeping his head well down, as befitted a frightened, callow 17 year old, whilst Dr. Le Duc kept saying excusez moi, excusez moi as they made their way through sleepy Germans going for a wash and a shave.

George then reached his next place of safety with Captain Marzin who lived right next to the airfield, and through his binoculars had seen George coming down on his parachute. George was taken care of there, and met M. and Mme. Boucherie, the parents of Mme. Marzin. Mme. Boucherie was bedridden, and as she had a commanding view from her room, she would thump the floor with her walking stick if danger approached. This was later used in the television programme 'Allo 'Allo! At the other end of the age group, Captain Marzin's eight year old son Lucien would relieve Mme. Boucherie from her outlook post, and when he came home from school, before doing his homework, he would saunter up and down the road, and would either whistle or sing Frere Jacques if danger approached.

Before George's arrival, a German aircraft had crashed close to where Captain Marzin lived and, with some friends in the Resistance, he had rushed to pull out the crew who lay dying, not so much as a rescue mission, but to rifle their pockets for anything that might prove useful. As they were doing this, the Germans came on the scene, and thought how heroic the Frenchmen were trying to rescue the crew of a German aircraft. Whilst George was staying there, two very high ranking Luftwaffe officers visited Captain Marzin to thank him for what he had done, not knowing that the man they wanted was in the next room. When they left, their Mercedes, flanked by two outriders, failed to start and George was looking through an upstairs window, anxiously waiting for the car to start and drive away.

The local boatbuilders, the Sibrilils, although no longer allowed by the Germans to build new fishing boats, which had to be licensed, were permitted to dismantle wrecks to repair other fishing boats. Every 11 days the boat they were

repairing would be inspected by the Germans, and whilst doing this, members of the Resistance would siphon off petrol from their tanks. These wrecks, now rebuilt under the noses of the enemy, were used to send those wanted by the Gestapo across the Channel, including Allied Servicemen, and 169 people had been rescued in this way. Now, however, their activities had been discovered, and two brothers, Leon and Ernest Sibiril, were now themselves wanted by the Gestapo, especially Ernest. One last journey was being prepared, to leave at high tide on 31st October 1943, to run the gauntlet and reach England, and Dr. Le Duc had arranged with the Sibirils that George be one of the passengers.

Unknown to them, a terrific naval engagement had taken place at Les Sept Iles a few days earlier, when the Royal Navy were defeated. A light cruiser and a destroyer were sunk, with the loss of 504 sailors. Fortunately for the proposed journey of the little fishing boat, the combatants had gone back to their lairs to lick their wounds, leaving those waters free on a dark and stormy night — but not before a heart-stopping incident when the boat toppled off the launch pad and turned turtle. Immediately it was righted as several men leapt into the water, and as the weather was so terrible, the commotion as the boat tipped over was not heard. The weather was so awful that no-one in their right mind would be sailing, which made the Germans drop their guard, and the little fishing boat floated on the strength of the tide past several gun emplacements and look-out posts into the Gulf of Morlaix. As they set sail, George tried to persuade the Sibiril brothers, who were at the helm, to switch on the engine. They didn't listen to him, but by then, along with all the other occupants, George was so seasick that he didn't care!

For 21 hours they ran the gauntlet and arrived in Plymouth. George received a quiet a cool reception there, for George Wood had been reported missing and believed killed in action, so it was suspected that, with blue eyes and fair hair, he might have been a German masquerading as George Wood. However, the person interrogating him was from Southfields, close to George's home in Wimbledon, so he began to enquire about all the pubs, including the barmaids, and naming them, which proved beyond doubt that George was the genuine article, so his interrogator pulled out a bottle of whisky, offering some to George, who managed to keep sober in spite of an empty stomach due to mal de mer. The next day George was taken to M15.

George rejoined his Squadron, and learned that the beautiful aircraft called

the Whirlwind was no more, it had been wiped out due to enemy action when trying to sink a merchant vessel, the Munsterland in the Battle of Les Sept Iles, but that's another story, and the Squadron was now equipped with Typhoons. Eight months later these aircraft did a wonderful job in the Battle of Normandy helping to liberate France.

After his return from France George went on to fly a further 60 missions and was discharged as a Flight Lieutenant in August 1946.

In 2014, on the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, the French Government announced that everyone still living who had taken part in the liberation of France would receive the Legion d'Honneur, and George was included in this number. However, to recognise the brave French men and women and children who liberated him so that he may in turn liberate France by flying Typhoons in the Battle of Normandy, George handed his award for safe keeping to the authorities of the Carantec Maritime Museum. He gave them his Legion d'Honneur during a ceremony that was held in the little church there at the end of October.

Typhoon pilots paid a very high price in the Battle of Normandy, and more than half lost their lives. Of the other half, some were taken prisoner, others were wounded, and those who were shot down in No Man's Land, trying to get back to Allied lines, were shot at by friendly fire because they were mistaken for Luftwaffe pilots in their blue uniforms, these were quickly replaced by khaki. Those shot down well behind enemy lines were, thanks to the French, hidden until the Allies took over that part of the country. So all in all, a Typhoon pilot did really put his life on the line to help liberate France.

This is why George felt that it is right and proper to return his Legion d'Honneur for safe keeping to that little corner in the Museum dedicated to George Wood, aka Pierre Floch. It is with the little fishing boat that he sailed across the Channel and many other artefacts from his escape story.

We would like to thank the Rev'd George Wood and Grace Seymour, the author, for making this article available to us.

Out On A Limb! By Colin Williamson, Contributing Editor.

In May 2015 two blind veterans from St Dunstan's South Africa joined blind veterans from the UK and the USA on Project Gemini, the annual exchange programme which is now in its sixth year. The two veterans, Peter Hall and Renier Heyns had something else in common apart from their sight loss, they were both amputees and both relied on outdated, decades old prosthetics to enable them to get around.

During a session of 10 pin bowling at Brighton Marina Renier's prosthetic began to come loose and we had to call on the services of the bowling centre's maintenance man to adjust the screw in Renier's limb. It was at that moment we decided to see if there was anything that we could do to make life a bit easier for Peter and Renier.

After a series of email exchanges with Mark Cornell from the Blinded Veterans Association (USA) and with help from Cameron Kinnear and Peter Gillatt from the South African Legion and the courier firm DHL we got to work and this is what we achieved.

Mark Cornell sourced some prosthetic limbs and associated equipment via his local doctor; the value of these items came to \$32,000, quite an impressive figure! I then got in touch with the South African Legion to see if they could help with the cost of the shipment of these items. The S.A. Legion contacted the courier firm DHL who agreed to pick up the package from Mark's home in San Antonio Texas free of charge and deliver it to the offices of St Dunstan South Africa in Pinelands, a suburb of Cape Town.

After carefully packing and weighing the package the courier firm picked it up on January 4th and it was delivered to South Africa a few days later.

This operation, as you can imagine, took a lot of planning and preparation and there were times when we thought that it would never come to fruition but with patience and tenacity we managed to pull it off. Thanks to all involved in this project for your hard work and co-operation.



Picture: Peter Hall accepts his plaque from Blind Veterans UK Chairman Tim Davis at the end of a highly successful Project Gemini 2015.



Picture: Renier Heyns with Chairman Tim Davis during Project Gemini 2015 from the Brighton centre.



Picture: Andrea with just a few of the prosthetic limbs that were sent to St Dunstan's South Africa.

Winners of Blind Veterans UK's Photography Competition.

The Blind Veterans UK members photography group meets regularly at the centres when they produce some excellent results during the residential weeks.

Last year they suggested an annual photography competition that was taken up by Chris Clark, R&T Manager Sheffield and Esther Freeman, Member Activities Manager Brighton. Photographs submitted were put into four categories: Black and White, Creative, Landscape and Portrait. They were judged by professional photographers Catherine Benson and Barry Coupe and Chris Clark and Esther Freeman.

The photographs form a moving exhibition that started at the Sheffield centre before being presented in the Winter Gardens in the Centre of Sheffield. It then moved to local Art Café Eten, where it resided for a month. It then went on display at Guide Dogs (Manchester) during an open day. Next came Blind Veterans UK's Younger Conference in Birmingham, followed by an exhibition at our HQ in Harcourt Street. From here it featured at Westminster Abbey for our Centenary Service of Thanksgiving and then onto the Guide Dogs National Breeding Centre. One set of prints remain on display Harcourt Street and one on display at the Sheffield centre.

Chris Clark said: "The standard of photographs was very high and there was a lot of consideration as we decided on the winning photographs."

Will Phillips who won the Black and White category with his photograph 'Wings of Victory' that is shown on the following page said: "This photograph would not have been taken if it wasn't for the influence and help from the staff and members of Blind Veterans UK. The themed Photography Weeks, have helped me move on from a point and shoot camera back to the more sophisticated types of equipment I have used in the past. The type of equipment I thought that I could never use again because of my eyesight problem.

"Wings of Victory was taken in the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. I was watching some pigeons moving in and out of a porthole on HMS Victory. I took a number of uneventful photos of the pigeons. Then one come out onto the rope and looked like it may take off. So I roughly framed up the image and waited for the big moment. The moment the bird moved I pressed the shutter button and then moved on. I did not look at my photographs until that evening. I was amazed the pigeon was framed in exactly the right place.

The shadow of the bird was also in the right place and the image was sharp. I took the photograph with a Canon DSLR. I tend to take many photographs and then review them later. If it is a bright day I cannot see my images to review them anyway. I do not like to 'loose the moment' to take many photographs during the day. Also I sometimes like to shoot from the hip and see if I captured anything interesting later."



Eddie Taylor, winner of the Portrait category, stands beside his winning entry Portrait of a Young Girl.



The winning entry in the Floral category by Reg Wilmott is shown on the back page of this Review.

Chris Nowell's winning entry Stag claimed the creative prize and we will bring you an interview with Chris in a future Review linked to his Peak District Photography Project.

Chris also won the Landscape category with his photograph of a castle on an island with mountains in the background that is shown below.



Picture: The stunning photography by Chris Nowell, winner of the Landscape category in Blind Veterans UK's Photography Competition.

Veterans G.O.A.L Group Event from the Llandudno centre. **By Carol Davies.**

The G.O.A.L Group celebrated a successful event at the Llandudno centre in October 2015 when we all had a great time.

Our week started when me — Carol Davies, Carol Sadler, Wendy Kane, Richard Haynes, Peter King, Graham Walker, John Brice and Stuart Croysdale made our way to the Llandudno centre on Sunday 11th October.

Day 1. We had hoped to go raft building but it was far too cold for this activity. So putting this on hold for another year we opted for our reserve of indoor wall climbing and Go Karting. What an amazing time we had. First we tackled indoor wall climbing; Lee & Dewi took us through the safety checks and some ridiculous role play, which we found hilarious. I am convinced it was for their entertainment. The whole group did very well on the wall as Richard Haynes and I managed to climb to the top of the circa 50ft wall, imagine our amazement. After lunch we made our way to the Go Karting track. We went through the safety checks then split into teams before being taken out onto the track for our little drive. I know a lot of Blind Veteran UK members have done this activity before us but there is nothing like experiencing it for one's self. Oh boy did we experience it, once the members sat behind the wheel they all suddenly became Lewis Hamilton. It was a good day for the girls; Wendy Kane won very impressively and left everyone standing. Peter King was second, followed by myself in third place. Our first day came to an end with a nightcap and a chat about our day in the bar at the centre.

Day 2. Today we travelled to Caernarfon to catch our train to Beddgelert on the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railway. It was a very sunny day so made the trip even more enjoyable. We arrived at Beddgelert, whose name means, Gelert's Grave and enjoyed refreshments at a local café. John Brice made his way to the tourist information to obtain directions to Gelert's grave. Gelert was a dog that allegedly belonged to Llewelyn the Great, Prince of Gwynedd. Legend states that Llewelyn returned from hunting to find his baby missing, the cradle overturned and the dog with a blood smeared mouth. Believing Gelert had killed the baby; Llewelyn drew his sword and killed Gelert. Llewelyn then hears a crying child and finds it under the overturned cradle alongside a dead wolf, which had been killed by Gelert. Llewelyn is overcome with remorse and buries the dog with great ceremony; they say Llewelyn never smiled again. As we

made our way along the river towards the grave one of our members noticed some cows which he thought were carvings. As he walked towards them for a closer look one of them got up. He will think twice before approaching another "external carving". We finally arrived at Gelert's fenced off grave which had a plaque telling his story. A G.O.A.L member asked a couple nearby if they would read the plaque to us. The lady gladly obliged. Afterwards her husband explained how happy his wife was to be asked to do this for us, he then went on to tell us she has Parkinson's and how challenging it was for her to do this. We in turn explained what our group was about; it was a really nice moment. We left the grave and were making our way to lunch when we were stopped for a chat by a very nice lady with the most unusual dog; it looked like a little pig. The lady told us it was a Jack Russel crossed with a Chihuahua.

We finally arrived back into the heart of the village and discussed where we should have lunch. Some wanted to return to the café we had visited earlier while others wanted to eat outside in the café we had found on the way back. Whilst debating someone shouted to us that they were the same café. The person who had called to us was our waitress from that morning; she explained that we were now at the back of the establishment.

After lunch we walked back to the station, or should I say some walked while others did synchronised cane walking choreographed by Richard Haynes. We enjoyed a relaxing journey back to Caernarfon where we were met by Mark and Dewi who drove us back to the centre.

Day3. We made our way to Conway and met our tour guide Neil Hilton outside the Castle at 11am.

The castle was built for Edward I, by Master James of St George, and is amongst the finest surviving medieval fortifications in Britain. An estimated £15,000 was spent building the castle, the largest sum Edward spent in such a short time on any of his Welsh castles between 1277 and 1307. Money well spent.

We had the most fabulous tour with Neil who really brought not only the castle alive but the people who lived, worked and visited the castle as guests. He told us how the main gate was protected; he explained that the gates were a very important and interesting part of the castle which most visitors walk through without a backward glance. We visited the prison towers and the royal

apartments. Neil took us up the stairs into the towers along the wall where magnificent views could be enjoyed, all the while telling us the history. It was a very good tour enjoyed by us all.

Day 4. We left early to pick up our canal boat at Llangollen Wharf. Lee and Dewi were our Captains for the day. Once again the weather was on our side, although a little colder. We loaded the boat and set off. Lee and Dewi taking control of the boat. The two Carol's took over the galley to cook lunch for the crew. The kitchen was fairly small with none of the modern gadgets we are used to. So armed with four gas rings a few saucepans and kitchen utensils, we managed to produce a pretty good spaghetti bolognaise. None of your instant stuff either, it was cooked from scratch. While lunch was bubbling away we provided hot drinks and many biscuits to the crew.

During the trip members of the group took turns steering the boat. Lee and Dewi were very fastidious supervising this exercise, ensuring everyone was fitted with a life jacket. Some members were better at steering than others. I think the best of the day has to go to Graham Walker (Mr R.C.T) while the worst has to go to Stuart (Rock On) Croysdale who would have been ace on the bumper cars (had we been on one). During our travels along the canal that day we passed some beautiful scenery and a boat with some Australian Rugby fans on board. One of the highlights was crossing over the magnificent Pontcysyllte Aqueduct nicknamed the stream in the sky. Some of the members took the opportunity to take a walk on the path that runs alongside the canal. We arrived at the turning point and made our way back. During the return journey we enjoyed our Spaghetti Bolognaise lunch. We arrived back safe and sound and made our way back to the centre.

Day 5. This was the day most of the group had been looking forward to, the Zip World Velocity at Penrhyn Quarry Bethesda. Velocity is "The Nearest Thing to Flying". It is the longest zip line in Europe and the fastest in the world.

The group were accompanied to the quarry by Lee and Mike who is a volunteer at the Blind Veterans UK centre at Llandudno. After booking in we all had to be weighed before collecting our special equipment for the activity.

Not the most flattering" of uniforms, particularly for shorter members of our party. We then made our way on foot to the "Little Zipper" to prepare us for

"The Big One". As each of us completed the "Little Zipper" we were herded into a pen to wait for the others. From there, we were all transported to the very top of the quarry in a 4 tonne ex-military vehicle. The trip up the mountain was an experience in itself, a very bumpy ride but great fun. Along the journey we were regaled with the history of the quarry. There are views as far out as Ireland on a clear day apparently, we will just have to take their word on that one. On arriving at the top we were taken to the platform and given a safety talk on the do's and don'ts. Reality kicked in as we were prepared one by one for the "Big Zipper". I heard screams of Geronimo, please Mum help me and words I dare not write as members were ejected from the platform. It was a truly amazing experience, one we would highly recommend to anyone thinking of trying it. We travelled back to the centre on a massive high.

That evening we walked down the road to a local pub where we enjoyed a meal together before walking back to the centre for our last nightcap together.

Saturday 17th October, we all made our way home. We had a most amazing week, plenty of fun and laughter, lots of great challenges doing things we have never or have not done in years. How can we top it next year, thinking caps on G.O.A.L Group!

If you are aged from 60 to 76 and would like to join the GOAL Group please contact me on 01754 450232 or email cdavies341@btinternet.com



Picture: The G.O.A.L Group participants Carol Davies, Carol Sadler, Graham Walker, Peter King, Wendy Kane, Stuart Croysdale, Peter King, Richard Haynes and John Brice.



Picture: In poll position Wendy Kane, 2nd place Peter King and in 3rd place Carol Davies.



Picture: With Dewi Roberts on the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railway.

Family News.

Congratulations to:

Births:

Trevor Wigmore on the birth of her granddaughter Florence.

Birthdays:

Albert Goudge who celebrated his 102nd birthday on 15th February.

Jack Suckling who celebrated his 101st birthday on 12th February.

Margaret Morrison who celebrated her 101st birthday on 19th February.

Jim O'Brien celebrated his 101st birthday on 25th February.

William Wathen celebrated his 100th birthday on 21st February.

Phylis Seabrook her 100th birthday on 5th February.



Picture: Blind veteran Jim Booth celebrates his 104th birthday with Isabella and Jools, two of his great grandchildren .

Anniversaries:

Platinum (70th):

Jeff & June Jeffrey of New Milton, Hampshire on 2nd February.

Fos & Barbara Foskett of East Bexleyheath, Kent on 9th February.

Joseph & Myrtle Hirsh of Chiswick, London on 10th February.

Blue Sapphire (65th):

Jack & Eileen Waring of Grantham, Lincolnshire on 24th February.

Diamond Yellow (60th):

Pat & Glynn Williams of South Shields, Tyne and Wear on 4th February.

Keith & Brenda Hester of Tilehurst, Berkshire on 11th February.

George & Irene Oliver of Woodingdean, East Sussex on 18th February.

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.

Sylvia Bagley who died in October 2015. She was the wife of Donald Bagley.

Elsie Hobday who died on 5th January 2016. She was the wife of Peter Hobday.

Rosa Hodgson who died on 7th January 2016. She was the wife of John Hodgson.

Paul Lory who died on 8th February 2016. He was the husband of Kathleen Lory.

Margaret 'Peggy' Middleton who died on 31st March 2015. She was the widow of the late Ernest Middleton.

Jean Murphy who died on 25th January 2016. She was the wife of Alan Murphy.

Sarah Simmons who died on 1st December 2015. She was the widow of the late Harold Simmons.

Josephine Simpson who died on 15th November 2015. She was the wife of Robert Simpson.

Mary Smith who died on 18th January 2016. She was the widow of the late William Smith.

Violet Smith who died on 1st August 2015. She was the wife of Rupert Smith.

Winnifred 'Winnie' Hoyle who died on 11th January 2016. She was the widow of the late Sidney Hoyle.

Margaret Wallace who died on 21st January 2016. She was the wife of Brian Wallace.

Patricia 'Pat' Waters who died on 14th February 2016. She was the widow of the late Ben Waters.

Welcome to Blind Veterans UK.

James Abel of Kirkcaldy, Fife served in the General Service Corps and the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders from 1947 to 1951.

Gordon Beddows of Walsall, West Midlands served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Robert Bell of South Shields, Tyne and Wear served in the Army Catering Corps from 1948 to 1950.

Marjorie Bennett of Yate, Bristol served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Michael Bolton of Holt Park, Leeds served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1955.

Arthur Boulter of Nottingham served in the Royal Marines from 1947 to 1959.

Dennis Buckley of Stoke On Trent, Staffordshire served in the Welsh Guards from 1949 to 1971.

Robert Campling of Newton Abbot, Devon served in the Merchant Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Charles 'Chaz' Brooks of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1959.

John Carroll of Springburn, Glasgow served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1958.

Paul Carter of Wirral, Merseyside served in the Merchant Navy from 1959 to 1960.

John Chapman of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards from 1953 to 1955.

Ronald Cole of Hove, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Francis Colley of Fleetwood, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1948.

Artin Cornish of Chelmsford, Essex served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950.

Robert Cory of Weston Super Mare served in the Devonshire Regiment from 1943 to 1947.

George Cresswell of Washington, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Navy from 1948 to 1955.

Norman Cutts of Sheffield served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Artillery from 1945 to 1948.

John Derrett of Perth served in the Royal Navy from 1955 to 1957.

Doris Dewhurst of Llandudno, Gwynedd served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1946.

Mary Dixon née Keech of Maidenhead, Berkshire served in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Nursing Corps from 1962 to 1964.

Brian Evans of Kilsyth, Glasgow served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 2006.

David Evans of Paignton, Devon served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1951 to 1953.

John Evans of King's Lynn, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1992.

Ronald Grenfell of Sunderland served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

John Gulbrandsen of Newton, Swansea served in the Royal Navy from 1953 to 1955.

Elizabeth Hardinge of Fareham, Hampshire served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1945.

Peter Hardy of Ipswich, Suffolk served in the Royal Artillery from 1949 to 1955.

Thomas Hardy of Bridgwater, Somerset served in the Royal Corps of Transport from 1971 to 1989.

Charles Hearn of Loughborough, Leicestershire served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

Gwynneth Howell of Newport, Gwent served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1945.

David Hughes of Walton Le Dale, Lancashire served in the Royal Signals from 1946 to 1950.

Joyce Hughes née Denby-Jones of St Albans, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Signals from 1944 to 1947.

Leslie Ives of Tavistock, Devon served in the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment from 1949 to 1951.

Kenneth Ivison of Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in the Green Howards and the Royal Corps of Transport from 1952 to 1970.

Victor Knill of Southend On Sea, Essex served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1939 to 1946.

John Lamb of Carlisle served in the Royal Signals from 1953 to 1957.

Peter Lamb of Grantham, Lincolnshire served in the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and the Parachute Regiment from 1941 to 1958.

Paul Langan of Newbiggin By The Sea, Northumberland served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1970 to 1975.

David MacKenzie of Brighton, East Sussex served in the Royal Military Police from 1967 to 1974.

Frederick 'Bruce' Marshall of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1949.

Lloyd Mathers of Ascot, Berkshire served in the Royal Pioneer Corps and the Army Catering Corps from 1942 to 1952.

William Milne of Dundee served in the Royal Engineers from 1957 to 1964, continuing in the TA until 1983.

Eric Moran of Beverley, North Humberside served in the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment from 1940 to 1946.

Roderick 'Rod' Maclaren of Auchterarder, Perthshire served in the Seaforth Highlanders from 1955 to 1957.

George McDonald of Leeds served in the West Yorkshire Regiment in 1955.

Gerald Moore of Worthing, West Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

Arthur 'Derek' Morgan of Letchworth Garden City served in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force from 1949 to 1953.

John Moulden of Accrington, Lancashire served in the Army Catering Corps from 1958 to 1964.

William Mullen of Burnley, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Harry North of Kenilworth, Warwickshire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Gordon Pearson of Stamford Bridge, York served in the Royal Army Corps Tank Regiment from 1949 to 1950.

John Powell of Beaminster, Dorset served in the Royal Signals from 1941 to 1946.

Arthur Roberts of Watford, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Army Educational Corps from 1947 to 1950.

Jadwiga Rybinska (née Rzeczycka) of Greenford, Middlesex served in the Polish Army from 1942 to 1949.

Peggy Scourfield (née Watkins) of Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1946.

Ishbel Sewell (née Milne) of Marlborough, Wiltshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1945 to 1954.

Kenneth Shuttleworth of Blackpool, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Armoured Corps from 1947 to 1954.

Aubrey Smith of Robertsbridge, East Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Frederick Smith of Spalding, Lincolnshire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps from 1944 to 1959.

Hedley Smith of Ashington, Northumberland served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1955.

James Stiff from Crawley, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

Dennis Taylor of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Kenneth Taylor of Pontefract, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Signals and the Royal Navy from 1955 to 1974.

Robert Walls of Stockton On Tees, Cleveland served in the Royal Signals from 1957 to 1959.

Keith Ward of Godstone, Surrey served in the Coldstream Guards from 1976 to 1980.

John Whalley of Liverpool served in the Royal Air Force from 1959 to 1981.

Donald White of Reading, Berkshire served in the General Service Corps and Royal Berkshire Regiment from 1947 to 1949.

Richard White of Burnham On Crouch, Essex served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1957 to 1959.

Ronald Woan of Crosby, Liverpool served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1946.

Eric Young of Perth served in the Royal Air Force from 1955 to 1957.

Lionel Whiteway of Wallasey, Merseyside served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Dennis Wilson of Pudsey, West Yorkshire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Artillery from 1947 to 1949.

Thomas 'Tom' Wright of Kidlington, Oxfordshire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps 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.

Joseph 'Joe' Allaway of Exeter, Devon died on 28th January 2016, aged 86. For National Service he enlisted in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1947 and was discharged in 1949.

Randolph Alves of Jarrow, Tyne and Wear died on 3rd September 2015, aged 75. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1962 and served in Gulf War 1 when he joined a convoy at Qatar to Um Qasr in Southern Iraq carrying containers in support of the Operation. He was forced to retire from the Merchant Navy in 1991 because of deterioration in his eyesight.

Harold Andrews of Exminster, Exeter died on 5th October 2015, aged 86. For National Service he joined the General Service Corps in 1947 and later transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, qualifying as a motor mechanic. He was discharged as a Craftsman in 1949.

Philip Andrews of Plymouth died on 11th January 2016, aged 96. He joined the North Somerset Yeomanry (TA) in 1939, transferring to the Royal Signals on in 1942. He served in North Africa and took part in both the Sicilian and Italian campaigns. Having fought at Monte Cassino, he returned to England, was deployed with the Americans to Belgium and was in Frankfurt when the war ended. He was discharged as a Trooper in 1946.

Arthur Banton of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire died on 21st December 2015, aged 93. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942, specialising as a wireless operator. He served in HMS Wallace as a Telegraphist and spent time on MTB's at Dartmouth before serving in the Channel Islands, North Sea, Italy, Malta and the North Atlantic. He was discharged in 1946.

Harry Beevers of Castleford, West Yorkshire died on 24th January 2016, aged 86. He served in the Royal Army Educational Corps in England, Somaliland and Kenya from 1948 to 1950 until discharged as a Sergeant. For a number of years he submitted his 10 Questions quiz to the Review, which was very popular.

Peggy 'Lizette' Bennett died on 14th January 2016, aged 96. Already in the TA she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service full-time in April 1939. She was commissioned in 1943 and remained in the Army until 1958, retiring in the rank of Captain.

Rita Beresford of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 5th January 2016, aged 92. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1943, served in the UK and was discharged as a Leading Aircraftwoman in 1946.

Norman Bonney of Barry, South Glamorgan died on 21st January 2016, aged 85. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1948 for National Service. He was posted to Aldershot and was a drill instructor for a while and also taught young soldiers how to type. He enjoyed his time in the Army and was discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1950.

Isabella 'Isabelle' Brittain of Haywards Heath, West Sussex died on 17th December 2015, aged 99. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1942. After service in the UK she was discharged as a Warrant Officer Second Class in 1946 and joined the Women's Royal Army Corps (TA) in 1948. Commissioned in 1949 she was discharged as a Captain in 1957.

Arthur Bunn of Norwich, Norfolk died on 17th September 2015, aged 95. He enrolled in the Royal Signals in 1939. He trained at Catterick and deployed with the 100th Armoured Division, fighting in Italy, Syria and Egypt. His unit moved through Italy and was in Austria when the war ended. He was discharged as a Private in 1946.

Jack Calver of Swaffham, Norfolk died on 15th January 2016, aged 100. He joined the Norfolk Regiment in 1934 and served in South Africa, India and Singapore. He was taken prisoner in 1942 and was in Singapore working on the railways until he was liberated in 1945. He was eventually discharged in 1946.

Thomas Cheetham of Liverpool died on 10th January 2016, aged 91. He enlisted briefly in the Royal Navy in 1943. After training at Chatham he left the Royal Navy in August that year and joined the Merchant Navy, seeing service in convoys to the Arctic and in the Mediterranean. He was discharged from the Merchant Navy in 1951.

Frederic Claridge of Orpington, Kent died on 24th January 2016, aged 93. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946 in the UK, Middle East, Egypt, Palestine and Italy, discharging as a Corporal.

Cecil Colley of Kingswinford, West Midlands died on 8th January 2016, aged 88. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1945 and served in the UK and Germany before being discharged as Sapper in 1946.

Robert Comlay of Havant, Hampshire died on 30th December 2015, aged 95. He enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1939 as a Writer. Working in the HM Naval Office for three years, he was posted to Colombo and Ceylon and was a Leading Writer by the time of his discharge in 1946.

Dennis Cottrell of Bristol died on 25th January 2016, aged 80. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1953. He was posted to Cologne West Germany and discharged as a Senior Aircraftman in 1955.

Frank Covill of Tattershall, Lincoln died on 2nd February 2016, aged 94. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1941 and served in Egypt and India as a driver until 1946.

Gordon Davis of Weston Super Mare, Avon died on 22nd January 2016, aged 84. He joined the Royal Tank Regiment for National Service in January 1950. Following transfer to the Royal Dragoon Guards in November he spent a year in both Germany and Egypt and was discharged as a Corporal in 1952, whereupon he immediately enlisted for part-time National Service with the North Somerset Yeomanry until 1955.

Terence 'Terry' Davis of Southampton died on 30th January 2016, aged 94. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1941 and served on Channel convoys before being discharged as an Able Seaman in 1951.

Dennis Dawson of Epsom, Surrey died on 4th February 2016, aged 85. He joined the Royal Signals for National Service in 1948 and served in Hong Kong until May 1950. He was also with the Royal Naval Reserve and the Sea Cadets for several years.

Roy Deverell of Weymouth, Dorset died on 1st December 2015, aged 90. He joined the General Service Corps in 1944, transferred to the Queen's Regiment in April 1944 and then to the Royal Artillery in September 1944. He was posted to India where he served as a Gunner and was eventually discharged in 1948.

Jack Durban of Seaford, East Sussex died on 1st December 2015, aged 94. He volunteered for the Royal Navy and joined the Fleet Air Arm in 1941. After training he joined 816 Naval Air Squadron as an Observer. He flew Swordfish in HMS Tracker, an aircraft carrier, and served in HMS Chaser on Russian convoys. He spent months in Perranporth, Cornwall over the D-Day period, flying sorties across the Channel in support of troops ashore. He ended the war as a Lieutenant Commander in the Pacific, based ashore in Australia.

Thomas Durbridge of Darlington, County Durham died on 6th January 2016, aged 93. He was called up in 1942, joined the Durham Light Infantry and trained at Brantworth Camp near Darlington. He served in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He was later deployed to Greece and was captured by Greek Communists. He was later released and discharged in 1947.

Harry Edwick of Bradford, West Yorkshire died on 25th January 2016, aged 84. He volunteered for the Royal Navy in 1949. Joining the Fleet Air Arm he specialised in survival and safety equipment. He served in the aircraft carrier HMS Indomitable and manned the Mall at the Coronation in 1953. He then joined HMS Albion and was at the Royal Fleet Review at Spithead in the same year. He was discharged in 1957 as a Naval Airman.

Derek Ford of Castle, Guernsey died on 8th December 2015, aged 93. He enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1940 as a midshipman. Serving worldwide he was promoted to Sub Lieutenant in 1942 and was in Big Ship Specialist Navigation in 1943. In 1951 he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and having served nearly 22 years, resigned his commission in 1962.

Bertram 'Bert' Ford of Exeter died on 27th October 2015, aged 92. He joined the General Service Corps in 1942, did basic training with the Shropshire Light Infantry and transferred to the Royal Artillery and became a Wireless Operator. With his Regiment, the 17 Field he went to North Africa and was later involved in the invasion of Sicily and then Italy. He later served in Austria before being discharged as a Gunner in 1947.

Brian Foster of Darlington, County Durham died on 27th January 2016, aged 79. He joined the Royal Artillery for National Service in 1955 and served in Egypt and Tripoli. Discharged as a Gunner in 1957 he continued on part time National Service until 1960.

Basil Gibson of Guisborough, Cleveland died on 9th January 2016, aged 96. He served in the Green Howard's from 1940 to 1946 in Ireland and East Africa, discharging as a Staff Quartermaster Sergeant.

Frederick 'Fred' Gregg of Birmingham, West Midlands died on 21st October 2015, aged 90. He served with the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment between 1944 and 1948, leaving as a Private. He served in various locations around the UK before being posted to India. He was then transferred on Internal Security duty in various locations in the Punjab and Central Provinces.

Donald Grice of Llandudno Junction, Gwynedd died on 12th January 2016, aged 91. He joined the Royal Marines in 1942, training at Lympstone, Devon and served initially in the Mediterranean. He was later in the Pacific onboard the carrier HMS Implacable before discharge in 1946.

William 'Bill' Hall of Leeds, West Yorkshire died on 29th December 2015, aged 85. He joined the Royal Military Police in 1951 and served in the UK and Malaya before being discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1955..

Albert Hancock of Brighton, East Sussex died on 27th December 2015, aged 94. On 6th August 1941 he joined the Royal Navy and trained at HMS Raleigh. He completed a gunnery course and served in the Mediterranean, Indian and Pacific Oceans. His last ship was HMS Rocksand, an LCA carrier. He left the Royal Navy in 1946 as an Able Seaman.

Duncan Hartley of Ascot, Berkshire died on 18th December 2015, aged 91. He joined the Royal Navy in 1945 and trained at Portsmouth. He stood by HMS Thesus building at Swan Hunters on the Tyne and did sea trials. He was discharged as a Sub Lieutenant in 1947.

Ronald 'Ron' Hawkins of Fordingbridge, Hampshire died on 24th December 2015, aged 82. He joined the Royal Signals for National Service in 1951 serving in the UK, Egypt and Kenya. He was attached to HQ 39 Infantry Brigade 3 Division. He was discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1953.

Kenneth Jackson of Lincoln, Lincolnshire died on 7th February 2016, aged 85. He joined the Royal Air Force for National Service in 1950 and served at RAF Watton until 1952.

Peter Jackson of Altrincham, Cheshire died on 18th January 2016, aged 95. He joined the Royal Artillery (TA) in 1939 and went to France with the British Expeditionary Force when he was evacuated through Dunkirk. In 1942 he transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers as a telecommunications specialist attached to various infantry regiments. He was discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1946.

Horace 'Jeff' Jeffery of New Milton, Hampshire died on 24th January 2016, aged 93. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940, specialising as an Airframe Fitter. He was posted to RAF Hendon in 1941 with 24 Squadron before going to Egypt in 1942. He worked on Wellingtons, Beaufighters and occasionally Spitfires. He remained in Egypt for 18 months and was demobilised as a Corporal in 1946.

Colin Johnston of Carlisle died on 20th January 2016, aged 84. He joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers for National Service in 1952 and served at Blandford, Great Malvern and Ashford until discharge as a Lance Corporal in 1954.

Illyd 'Paul' Jones of Burton On Trent died on 27th January 2016, aged 88. He was called up to the Royal Air Force in 1946. He extended to a full career and served in Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Cyprus, the Maldives, Northern Ireland, Persia and continental Europe. He was finally discharged as a Corporal in 1969.

Arthur Kell of York died on 24th January 2016, aged 90. He joined the Royal Marines in 1943 and served in the UK and Germany until discharge in 1946.

Brian Livesey of Preston, Lancashire died on 25th December 2015, aged 79. For National Service he joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1958, transferring to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers later that year. He was discharged in 1960 as a Craftsman, but stayed on part-time with the RASC until 1963.

James 'Jim' Logue of Dumbarton died on 9th January 2016, aged 63. He joined the Queens Own Highlanders in 1970 and served in the UK and Germany until discharge as a Private in 1979.

John 'Tom' Mann of Kidderminster, Worcestershire died on 28th January 2016, aged 91. He joined the General Service Corps in 1944 and transferred to the North Staffordshire Regiment. He moved again, to the Cheshire Regiment in 1945, serving in Scotland and later abroad in Jerusalem and Palestine. He was discharged in 1947.

Nancy Martin of Evesham, Worcestershire died on 22nd January 2016, aged 92. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1941 and served at various Royal RAF stations including Cranwell, Uxbridge and Aston. She was discharged in 1945 as an Aircraftwoman.

Colin Mather of Derby, Derbyshire died on 29th January 2016, aged 56. He joined the TA Royal Signals in July 1978 and completed his service in 1982

Ian McIvor of York, North Yorkshire died on 15th January 2016, aged 95. He joined the Royal Air Force from school in 1938 serving as a Pilot on Wellingtons, Lancasters and Lincolns. He was discharged as a Warrant Officer in 1949.

David McLennan of Dunfermline, Fife died on 28th December 2015, aged 77. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1957, training at Newbury in Wiltshire. He served in East Africa, Aden and Cyprus and was discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1964.

Ronald Minett of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire died on 16th January 2016, aged 93. He enlisted in the Royal Air Force in 1943 where he worked as an electrician and was a Leading Aircraftman. In 1945 he transferred to the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm and was an Air Mechanic 2nd Class when he discharged in 1946.

Wilfred 'Bill' Peerless of St Leonards On Sea, East Sussex died on 8th January 2016, aged 96. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1946, serving in Europe, Palestine, Jordan and the Middle East. He was discharged as a Driver.

Brian Pierpoint of Southport, Merseyside died on 25th January 2016, aged 94. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and served in Algiers, Gibraltar, North Africa, and Malta. He was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman in 1946.

George 'Gil' Price of Redcar, Yorkshire died on 20th January 2016, aged 81. He served in the Royal Signals from 1955 to 1956 leaving as a Signaller.

Eric Prior of Kidderminster, Worcestershire died on 16th January 2016, aged 95. He served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1939 to 1946 in France, India and Iraq, discharging as a Craftsman.

Kathleen 'Kit' Pyman of Farnham, Surrey died on 13th January 2016, aged 91. She joined Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) in 1942. Having served in Northern Ireland as watchkeeper and also in the Citadel in London, she was discharged as Wren in 1946.

Harold Richardson of Newcastle Upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear died on 2nd February 2016, aged 93. He joined the Royal Navy in 1945 and trained at HMS Raleigh. When at Devonport Barracks the Far East war ended and he was discharged in 1946 as a Stoker 2nd class.

James 'Roy' Robinson of Bakewell, Derbyshire died on 2nd February 2016, aged 90. He joined the Royal Navy straight from school in 1943. He served on board for the D-Day Landings, as well as in the Mediterranean, Suez, India and Malaya before being discharged as Temporary Sub-Lieutenant in 1946.

Margaret Rodgers of Hindhead, Surrey died on 19th January 2016, aged 95. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) in 1940. She was drafted to Singapore in 1941 with the first group of Wrens to be sent abroad. They escaped to Colombo before the Japanese invasion and moved home via Mombasa. She gained a 10 year short service commission at RNC Greenwich and served in various Fleet Air Arm stations finishing on the staff of C-in-C Portsmouth for two years. She was discharged as a Second Officer from the WRNS in 1955

Ernest 'Jim' Ruthven of Enfield, Middlesex died on 14th January 2016, aged 93. He joined the Middlesex Regiment in 1941, serving as a Private in France and Germany. He was discharged in 1946. He served in the TA with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1950 until 1952.

Veronica Shiell of Fareham, Hampshire died on 13th January 2016, aged 89. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1942 and, serving with a Royal Artillery ack-ack battery in London she suffered some hearing loss. She was discharged in 1944.

John Sloan of Newcastle Upon Tyne died on 16th January 2016, aged 95. He joined the Royal Signals for National Service in 1946 and served in Egypt until discharge as a Signaller in 1948.

Alfred Smith of Hull, North Humberside died on 18th January 2016, aged 93. He joined the Royal Navy in 1941 and following initial training he was posted to HMS Victory in Portsmouth and later served in HMS Iron Duke, HMS Ambuscade and HMS Adamant. Having served in and around Africa, the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic he completed his service in 1946.

Sidney Smith of Clacton On Sea, Essex died on 9th September 2015, aged 92. He joined the Royal Air Force Regiment in 1941 and served in India and Burma before being discharged as a Leading Aircraftman LAC in 1946.

Walter 'Wally' Smith of Gillingham, Dorset died on 7th February 2016, aged 90. He joined the Royal Signals in 1943, serving in the Orkneys and 18 months in Burma. He was demobilised in 1947.

Kenneth Taylor of Dorking, Surrey died on 23rd December 2015, aged 90. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and qualified as an electrical artificer. He served in ships in the Far East and home waters before discharge in 1946 as a Chief Petty Officer Electrical Artificer 4th Class.

Violet Tingley of Littlehampton, West Sussex died on 9th January 2016, aged 95. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1939 and served as an equipment assistant at various stations, including RAF Biggin Hill until May 1943.

Derrick Tuck of Birmingham, West Midlands died on 17th January 2016, aged 82. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1954, leaving as a Leading Aircraftman.

Norman Wagstaff of Aylestone, Leicester died on 27th October 2015, aged 94. From 1940 to 1946 he served with the Royal Air Force in the Far East. He was discharged as an Aircraftman First Class.

Roy Wardell of Frinton On Sea, Essex died on 24th December 2015, aged 96. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1939. He served in the Orkney Islands, Bermuda, France, Belgium and the UK prior to discharge in 1946 as a Staff Sergeant.

Peter Watkins of Ebbw Vale, Gwent died on 26th January 2016, aged 91. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1942 and trained as a driver in Edinburgh. He was posted to the 2nd Tactical Air Force in 1944, deployed to France and Belgium, and subsequently to Germany in 1946. He was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman in 1946.

Arthur Watson of Clacton On Sea, Essex died on 25th December 2015, aged 96. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940. He was in the aircraft carrier HMS Eagle when she was torpedoed and later served on corvettes. He spent most of the war in the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Far East and was discharged as an Able Seaman in 1946.

David Welbrock of South Shields, Tyne And Wear died on 16th January 2016, aged 89. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1945 and trained in Ireland and the south of England. He was posted to India and served in Delhi and Lucknow before being medically discharged in 1947.

John Widdrington of Ashington, Northumberland died on 31st December 2015, aged 94. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940. Trained as a driver he was posted in the UK, Northern Ireland, India and Ceylon. He was discharged in 1946 as a Temporary Corporal.

William 'Bill' Williams of Port Talbot, West Glamorgan died on 2nd February 2016, aged 86. He joined the Welsh Regiment in November 1950 for National Service and transferred to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in February 1951 and after service in Jamaica and Grenada he was discharged in 1952. He remained on part time National Service until 1956 in the Royal Army Service Corps.

William Winstanley of Liverpool, Merseyside died on 3rd February 2016, aged 98. He served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 in the UK until he was discharged as a Driver in 1946.

Walter Worthington of Sudbury, Suffolk died on 5th February 2016, aged 93. He joined the General Service Corps in 1942 and transferred to the Royal Armoured Corps in 1943 and his first unit was the Northamptonshire Yeomanry. He landed on Arromanches beach on D+4 and continued through Belgium and Holland to Germany. Having transferred to the Army Catering Corps in 1945, he was attached to the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards and discharged as a Trooper in 1947.

Bryan York of Rushden, Northamptonshire died on 17th January 2016, aged 82. He joined the Royal Armoured Corps in 1952 and served as a clerk in the UK until discharge as a Trooper in 1955.

