



CDA Journal

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'Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow'



In This Issue:

**Bethnal Green Memorial Unveiled
Commemorating the AFS
Disbandment 1968
The Blitz - WW2 & Aleppo**

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Front Cover Picture:

The badges of the civil defence organisations that were disbanded on 31 March 1968:

***Civil Defence Corps
Industrial Civil Defence Service
Auxiliary Fire Service
National Hospital Service Reserve***

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the February 2018 edition of the CDA Journal.

This particular issue has as its primary topic the events leading up to the disbandment in 1968 of the Auxiliary Fire Service, Civil Defence Corps, Industrial Civil Defence Service and the National Hospital Service Reserve. The aftermath of this event is also recorded in some detail. 50 years on, our Annual Commemoration in June will focus on the contribution made by those volunteers between the years 1948-1968.

The Bethnal Green Tube Disaster Memorial was unveiled late last year. I think it only right and proper that we record our sincere appreciation and thanks to Sandra Scotting and her team from the 'Stairway to Heaven' Memorial Trust for the sterling work that they have undertaken, and, in spite of difficulties along the way, have seen this project through to its successful conclusion. This has resulted in the establishment of a permanent memorial to all those persons who either lost their lives or sustained injury as a result of this tragedy.

There is an interesting article comparing the courageous work of the 'White Helmets' - Syrian Civil Defence volunteers and their forebears in the Blitz during World War Two.

A full programme of events is planned for 2018 and I thank those organisations concerned for providing the information.

A positive example of 21st Century Civil Defence is the production by the British Red Cross Society of three apps covering emergency alerts, first aid, and baby and child emergencies.

On a topical note, I'm sure readers will have heard the report of Hawaii accidentally triggering their public warning system in response to the assumed launch of a missile from North Korea. One wonders how the UK population would be alerted should a similar event occur here?



I have received a small number of articles from veterans looking back at the 1968 disbandment and recalling their thoughts. They are most welcome—but—I would really like to receive more reminiscences. If you 'were there' in 1968, please do consider putting pen to paper and share your memories of that fateful year.

Thank you very much.

Graham Whitehead

DISBANDMENT 1968

Author's Note:

I have included information in this article to give both younger readers and those who may not be familiar with the background of events leading up to the disbandment of the Civil Defence organisations in 1968.

Introduction

On 31 March 1968, the Civil Defence Corps (CDC), Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS), Industrial Civil Defence Service (ICDS) and the National Hospital Service Reserve (NHSR) were disbanded by the government of the day.

This article will cover :

- Civil Defence 1948 – 1968
- Announcement in Parliament
- Reaction
- Response
- National Voluntary Civil Aid Service
- False dawn
- Moving Forward
- The Future

Civil Defence 1948 – 1968

The Civil Defence Act 1948 established the CDC, AFS and ICDS.

Its primary role, as established in the Act, was for the volunteers to assist their local authority in:

- A. Collection of the results of hostile attack
- B. Control and co-ordination as a result of an attack
- C. Rescue
- D. Protection against the effects of nuclear, biological or chemical attack.
- E. Instruction and advice to the public.

The organisation and structure of the CDC and ICDS was closely based on that which had been tried and tested during the Second World War. In spite of the use of atom bombs on Japan which heralded a new dimension in warfare, it was decided that an already proven system would be appropriate. Each local authority was designated as a Corps Authority and required to recruit and train volunteers. The CDC was organised into sections:

Headquarters – divided into Operations, Reconnaissance, Signals & Field Cable
and Scientific Intelligence sub-sections.

Ambulance & First Aid

Rescue

Warden

Welfare (inc. elements of WVS)

The AFS initially utilised some of the former NFS fire appliances left in store

following the end of WW2. But in the early 1950s a new generation of vehicles, painted in their characteristic green livery and red lettering were issued to fire brigades. Among them was the 'Green Goddess' fire engine which in recent years has attained something approaching a cult status amongst emergency vehicle preservationists and some sections of the general public.

The detonation of thermonuclear weapons in the 1950s represented an even greater threat to the civilian population, however there was little change until the 1960s. At this point it is pertinent to mention that although the CDC, ICDS and AFS were viewed by the Home Office (the government department charged with overall responsibility for civil defence matters) as war-only organisations, it is a matter of record that those same volunteers participated in many thousands of what would be called 'peacetime incidents' during that period. For example, the Harrow Rail Disaster 1952; East Coast Flood Disaster 1953; The "Big Freeze" during the Winter of 1962/3; Stockport Air Disaster 1965 and of course the Aberfan Disaster of 1966. Many other incidents were recorded, and others not so. Indeed during the "Big Freeze", I well remember as a young civil defender spending every evening and weekends covering a period overall of two weeks helping to distribute water to citizens, particularly those who were disabled and/or elderly living in North Worcester. The water mains which had been laid in that part of the city had somehow been constructed too near the surface, with the result that the exceptionally cold weather had frozen the water distribution network.

Although each CDC Section had its own training programme, volunteers were expected to be familiar with the work of other Sections. So, for instance, as a Signals Section member, I was trained not only to operate radio and telephone, but also field cable, reconnaissance inc. map reading, elementary fire fighting, basic first aid and light rescue. One other important thing I learnt during those days was the ability to improvise – this facet has stood me in good stead for many years, and I contend that never assuming that everything will be "alright on the day" is a sensible attitude, and perhaps needs to be taught to some of the younger generation. But I digress!

Until 1964, a nation-wide annual Civil Defence recruitment week was held which included a televised appeal from the Home Secretary, plus an advertising campaign utilising various media including, cinema, television and billboard posters. Open days and exhibitions were also held by local councils. One of the most memorable posters of that era featured a uniformed Civil Defender holding a shield which was emblazoned with the letters CD. The design conveyed the subliminal message that the role of Civil Defence was the protection of the civilian population. The strip line at the base read 'Civil Defence is Common Sense'.



In 1965 a Home Defence Review concluded that there was a need to retain some semblance of civil defence activity largely to demonstrate to the public that the government was committed to its civil defence responsibilities. Civil Defence activities would however be concentrated on “those measures, which would be likely to make a significant contribution to national survival.” The Corps was to be retained but its establishment was slashed to 75000. Its role would now be to help the local authorities man the control system and to provide limited numbers of specialists to help organise the first aid and welfare resources of the community after an attack.

This meant the end of the Corp’s roles in rescue, first aid and welfare – the very roles it had been set up for in 1949. Local authorities should now discharge their civil defence responsibilities mainly with their own employees and look to the Corps and other agencies such as the Red Cross and the WRVS for any specialist skills needed. Civil Defence was now to be “essentially the carrying on of government in war” and the role of the control system was “to save lives and provide a framework of administration to utilise the available resources to best advantage, to maintain law and order and to prepare for the restoration of a more normal life”.

Announcement in Parliament

On 16 January 1968 the then Prime Minister announced that Civil Defence would be placed on a “care and maintenance basis”. Corps authorities were instructed to stop recruitment and training for the Corps but they were to keep and prevent any deterioration of the existing controls and the equipment in them. The Auxiliary Fire Service and the National Hospital Service Reserve would be put onto the same basis. However, the authorities were told that “The Government envisages that emergency planning should continue at the minimum level needed to enable more active preparation to be resumed if necessary without losing too much ground.”

Reaction

The stand-down of the Civil Defence organizations, coming so soon after the re-organisation of 1967, understandably came as a very great shock and disappointment to the thousands of men and women who had given such loyal and devoted service for so many years. Demonstrations of protest against disbandment took place in many parts of the country and a mass parade was held in London. Despite this and the presentation of a petition to the Prime Minister, the existence of the CDC and AFS and local authority responsibility for them was formally ended on 1 April 1968 by the Civil Defence Corps (Revocation) Warrant 1968. Corps members were allowed to keep their uniforms and received a note of thanks from the Queen although in reality it was written by the same civil servants who had decided the Corps’ fate.

In some quarters there was a suspicion that the government had been influenced in its decision by the anti-nuclear lobby of the governing party, but this has never been substantiated. However there was clear evidence of dismay and disquiet about the disbandment in both Houses of Parliament and from across the party divide. This was echoed by many local councils and professional bodies such as the Association of Civil Defence Officers (forerunner of today’s Emergency Planning Society) also sections of the media.

Response

The mood amongst many Civil Defence volunteers changed from one of initial shock and anger to defiance - and to keep going whatever the government of the day had decided. However there was firm determination that any new body should not be a simple replacement for the CDC but instead should have a strongly developed peacetime role acting in close support for the local authorities and emergency services. At this stage it needs to be emphasized that many volunteers viewed the Corps as having a wider remit than that envisaged by the Home Office. In view of the many peacetime disasters in which the Corps participated, it did not seem to occur to anyone in Whitehall to amend the Civil Defence Act 1948.

The response of some local councils was simply to take the former Corps volunteers under their own wing and provide them with uniform and equipment to enable them to pretty much carry on as before March 1968. The future of such bodies depended largely on the support of their elected councillors, but such are the vagaries of the political climate, that when a change of governance took place it could mean the end for those volunteers. For example, Haringay Emergency Corps was set up in 1968, and functioned until the local elections in 1970 whereupon the incoming administration simply abolished the HEC and sold their equipment.

However, the vast majority of volunteers desired to form a new nationwide organization whose role would be much more broadly based than the old CDC. In many regions of England and Wales groups of volunteers met together to decide in what form the new body should take. In the Midland Region, for example, delegates from Birmingham, Hereford, Oxford, Mid-Warwickshire, Solihull, Stoke on Trent, Walsall, Warley, West Bromwich, Worcester City and Worcestershire held a one day conference on 15 June 1968. The venue was Birmingham Civil Defence Control Centre, Meadow Road, Birmingham an underground purpose-built bunker constructed in 1954.

A full programme had been organized which included syndicate discussions. No.1 syndicate considered National/Regional organization, local organization, insurance, charitable status and finance. No. 2 dealt with training, operations and call-out procedures. No.3 discussed accommodation and equipment, and also sought answers "Where do we train and what do we train with?" From these deliberations there emerged a new nationwide voluntary organization entitled the 'National Voluntary Civil Aid Service'. The badge of the new organization was that of a phoenix rising from the ashes, with the motto 'Resurgam' (latin for I Am Rising Again).

Birth of a New Voluntary Service

Having seized the initiative, the Midland Region thereupon called a two day national conference at a city hotel in Birmingham to put their ideas into practice. This was held over the weekend 19/20 October 1968. Eric Alley, CD Officer for Birmingham, and Vice-Chairman of the city's VCAS Branch said "Slavish adherence to the old CDC organization would be our death-knell. We need a lively forward-looking fearless national body." Dr W F R Pover of Birmingham University, a Home Office Scientific Adviser on Civil Defence commented that the new service should develop into instructional groups to produce new educational techniques. He went on to say "It's not the just a pair of hands we need but skilled leadership. A feeling of benevo-

lence is not enough and we should not hesitate to turn away prospective volunteers who have nothing to offer.”

The government declined to send a speaker to the conference, however a member of Her Majesty’s Opposition did accept and made some pertinent comments.

Dr. Milan Bodi, Secretary-General of the International Civil Defence Organisation gave delegates a detailed presentation of the role of the ICDO which also included a film on disaster relief training.

False Dawn

The heady optimism generated by the conference was not to last. For most newly formed VCAS Units, the paucity of equipment, lack of a training venue, little if any funding, and finally lack of interest by local authorities (save a few) lead inevitably to loss of morale and decline in membership. A few Units did survive by concentrating on just one life saving objective – that of first aid. In 1971, the newly elected government undertook a review of home defence in the knowledge, following comprehensive reviews by the departments concerned with war planning, that the current state of preparedness meant that civil defence did not exist in any practical form. The review was to be completely cost-driven and the civil servants considered various options based on expenditure.

One immediate result was an attempt to revive civil defence at the local level, but given the political problems surrounding the very idea of civil defence - it was now to be sold as more politically acceptable “emergency planning”. An exercise called Survival 1 was held in 1970 which found that local authorities could cope with any emergency from their own resources which allowed the announcement to be made that a “national volunteer force” (i.e. a re-established Civil Defence Corps) would not be set up and local authorities were encouraged to incorporate volunteer bodies such as the Red Cross into their plans. All active civil defence training at Easingwold was stopped and it would become a staff college. It would now only train staff designated to hold administrative and decision-making posts in wartime and was renamed the Home Defence College. This was the final ‘nail in the coffin’ for many VCAS volunteers.

In 2018, just two of the original VCAS Units continue to operate. One is Derby Civil Aid which concentrates on providing public and commercial first aid courses plus first aid cover for various public events. It also provides non-urgent hospital patient transport for the local Hospital Trust. The other is Malden Emergency First Aid Society (sometimes known in the past as Malden Civil Aid) which provides public first aid courses and cover at various public events in the locality.

Moving Forward

So what happened during the years following the CD disbandment? Well, the Isle of Man continues with their CD Corps – with the peacetime aspects added and even today are able to get CD Long Service Medals awarded. The Channel Islands have an active Civil Defence Force, with Guernsey even utilising their former ROC Posts as radiological monitoring stations equipped with instruments sensitive enough to detect the presence of radiation, should one of the nuclear power stations along the

French coast encounter serious problems.

In the UK, the Fire Service developed their Rescue skills and took over that aspect of support that CD had provided. West Midlands Ambulance Service recently announced the formation of specialist HAZMAT teams tasked with responding to industrial disasters involving dangerous substances.

What about the UK Voluntary Sector? To answer that question may I refer you to Chapter 9 of the CDA publication 'A Brief History of Civil Defence'. There you will find a comprehensive list of Civil Defence-related Voluntary Organisations operating in the 21st Century.

Since the publication of the Brief Guide in 2005, there have been further developments in this sector:

- ◆ Following the closure of a number of HM Coastguard Stations, concern was expressed at the consequent lack of visual coast watching in areas of risk. This prompted the setting up of volunteer coast watchers, one of which is Coastwatch Berwick. Their role is the visual observation of the waters in their area, and reporting of incidents where lives may be in danger for appropriate action by the maritime rescue services.
- ◆ In April 2014, the 'Joint Civil Aid Corps' was formed in Milton Keynes with the aim of supporting the local community in times of need or disaster. It draws volunteers from all walks of life, with cadets starting at age 12 and adult leaders, instructors and volunteers from 18 and over.
- ◆ Following the serious floods emergency in 2007, the government finally realised that in the event of a major disaster, the emergency services and local authorities simply could not respond to any and every call for help, especially in the immediate aftermath. This would mean that for some time until resources could be made available, communities would need to fend for themselves. This prompted the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Unit to encourage what they termed 'Community Resilience' - in effect local communities e.g. Parish Councils preparing and testing local plans utilising the skills and abilities of residents until external response is available.
- ◆ In recent months, the British Red Cross Society announced the formation of BRC Emergency Reserve Volunteers. The aim being the provision of teams to provide unskilled backup to professional and volunteer responders.
- ◆ On Humberside, Neighbourhood Watch Groups have extended their remit to provide assistance to local residents in an emergency.

Internationally, the selfless bravery of the 'White Helmets', Syrian Civil Defence Volunteers has received world wide publicity.

In Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA, Civil Defence volunteers continue to be actively encouraged by their governments and are seen as an essential part of emergency planning and response.

The Future

The author considers that the following topics require action:

1. Public protection measures relating to natural and man-made disasters need greater attention and publicity than is happening at present. Citizens should be given advice now via various media including social networking. Government needs to be much more open about these matters, otherwise rumours, false information etc. could potentially compromise any response.
2. A national warning system which is robust, flexible and adaptable, capable of issuing warnings on a local, regional or national basis. The alerting method adopted by the Netherlands is a prime example.
3. Government to give active and ongoing encouragement to emergency volunteers, including the adoption of an annual national Civil Protection Week.
4. The institution of a 'Civil Protection Long Service Medal'. Candidates for such an award would of course need to fulfil certain criteria e.g. membership of an accredited voluntary body; length of service; standards of training, operational experience etc.
5. The creation of a national body representing all emergency volunteer groups, thus providing one unified 'voice' on civil protection matters to the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Unit. (The present COCG-sponsored Voluntary Sector Civil Protection Forum does not adequately fulfil this role).
6. The Neighbourhood Watch system in Humberside which has broadened its remit to include local civil protection duties, should be adopted on a nationwide basis.
7. The National Schools Curriculum to have basic first aid and lifesaving training added as a compulsory subject. To apply to all schoolchildren up to the age of 18 years.

Looking back over 50 years, one thing is apparent and that is that in spite of indifference in certain quarters, the spirit of voluntary service and the desire of citizens to actively participate and prepare for, and respond to, many types of disaster continues to this day and into the future. That same attitude of selflessness, of seeking no material reward or recognition but simply to help others in distress will I'm certain, continue to inspire and motivate future generations..

Graham Whitehead

(With thanks to Judith & Tim Essex-Lopresti for proof reading this article)

BETHNAL GREEN TUBE DISASTER MEMORIAL UNVEILED

The unveiling of The Bethnal Green Tube disaster Memorial took place on Sunday 17th December 2017. It was organised at fairly short notice once the work was completed so that the survivors and also Joan Martin MBE, a doctor on duty the night of the disaster, could enjoy the event while they were still well enough to attend.

11 survivors attended on the day including Alf Morris, Trust Chairman, who had been rescued by off-duty Warden, Mrs Chumley, and Joan Martin together cut the ribbon.



Dr Joan Martin MBE is second from left, next to Trust Chairman, Alf Morris

Also present were the local MP Rushanara Ali, Tower Hamlets Mayor John Biggs and Mayor of London Sadiq Khan. They all made speeches praising the unique memorial and the architect, Harry Paticas, who designed it, as well as the committee of the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust and everyone that had contributed to the funds to help build it

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said: "The disaster was a tragedy of unimaginable proportions. It was a night that claimed the futures of 173 innocent Londoners and it's only right that these men, women and children are remembered with this beautiful memorial. The Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust and all those involved in fundraising have done a fantastic job in creating this fitting monument and ensuring that their memories live on."



Fr. Alan Green, Rector of St. John on Bethnal Green Church blessed the memorial on behalf of all the victims, whatever their Faith or none. Among those laying wreaths was CDA President Sir Graham Meldrum.

Approximately 300 people were present to witness the unveiling and many then went on to Bethnal Green library for refreshments.

Thoughts are now turning to commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Disaster with a Memorial Service on 4 March 2018.

It is a fitting and thoughtfully designed memorial, which has been built in part using sustainable and recycled materials. It is a reminder of the great sacri-



fices made in the Second World War and the resilience of the citizens of the East End of London.

It can be seen all around that busy junction that has always been known as the Salmon & Ball, and might now be known as the Bethnal Green Memorial junction instead.

Sadly, Dr. Martin passed away on 15 January 2018. She was 102 years old.

With thanks to Sandra Scotting, Hon. Secretary/Trustee, Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust.

Photographs: Evelyn Teichmann, Sir Graham Meldrum & Sandra Scotting.

THE BLITZ—WW2 & ALEPPO



It was interesting that a 4 part series about The Blitz in the UK and the second in an occasional series about the White Helmets were screened close to each other. Both of them addressed the experiences of their Blitz in very different – yet complementary – ways.

The UK Blitz programmes were each based on a single bomb dropped on a housing area and the effects on the families of those who lived there. There were photographs taken at the time and in recent days linked to very moving interviews with survivors and their descendants.

The White Helmets in Aleppo programme was an assemblage of film taken as events happened concentrating on a single team of extremely brave rescuers.



This documented both what they did and their conversations about the effects on them and their families and why they did what they did. At the end, one of the team was killed as he was preparing to take his family to Turkey and safety.

What was left very much in my mind was the question: 'Would the actions and reactions of the UK Civil Defenders have been much the same as those White Helmets?'

The only answer that came to mind was 'Yes, Almost Certainly and that I Would Like To Hope So.'

Tim Essex-Lopresti

65 YEARS AND COUNTING.....



CDA member Daphne Snowden was featured in the Royal British Legion magazine following the award of the Service Bar having completed 65 years service to that august organisation. Many congratulations—and please do carry on with the good work!

COME AND JOIN US!

CDA member Andy Smith would like to see a larger CDA representation than usual at this year's Battle of Britain Memorial Day which is to be held at Capel-le-Ferne Kent on Sunday 1 July.

It is the 25th Anniversary of the unveiling of the Memorial. Those on the Home Front played an important part behind the scenes during the titanic airborne battles, so please do try and attend.

It is usually held in blazing sunshine, though, of course, that aspect cannot be guaranteed(!) - what is certain is that it promises to be an unforgettable event.

For further information see: www.battleofbritainmemorial.org

Contact: Andy Smith wordsmithreviews@yahoo.co.uk

COMMEMORATING THE AUXILIARY FIRE SERVICE

The Auxiliary Fire Service was formed in 1949 and disbanded, along with the rest of the Civil Defence movement, on 1st April 1968. The NFS and AFS Vehicles Group are planning to commemorate this with two significant events this summer.

We will be at Wicksteed At War, a big annual show run by the Military Vehicles Trust on 8th-10th June, and at The 50th Anniversary Show of the Fire Services Preservation Group at the Motor Museum at Gaydon on 21st-22nd July.



At each event, we are planning two different demonstrations. Firstly, to demonstrate the tremendous pumping capability of the Green Goddess, we will set up a relay pumping demo, taking water from the lake using the first Goddess, through a few



lengths of 6-inch hose and through a couple of Goddesses as relay pumps, and eventually discharging back into the lake using 4 large ground monitors. We can run the pumping demo several times each day.

Secondly, we will do what we can to recreate the Mobile Column, and drive the vehicles round the area. OK, so we don't have 100 vehicles, but we hope to have representatives of motorbikes, a Land Rover, Control Unit, Hose Layer, Pipe Carrier, Petrol Carrier, General Purpose RLs, and of course, Green Goddesses. We plan then to lay some 6-inch hose at speed from the Hose Layer, and show how the Goddess is connected into the hose line.

So how can **you** get involved? I would love to have one or two people at each event who remember the AFS, and could help me with the commentary. Although I can say what the vehicles were used for, and what a Mobile Column could achieve, it would be lovely to have personal experiences and reminiscences about the training and exercises. We would also like people to ride in all the vehicles, especially if you have a period helmet and melton tunic!



If you would like to be involved in the action, we will be having training sessions in Nottinghamshire in the next few months. If you own an AFS vehicle, and would like to bring it to either event, please let me know.

David Moore, NFS and AFS Vehicles Group. info@nfs-afs.org.uk or [07718077584](tel:07718077584)

For more information, please see our website www.nfs-afs.org.uk

Wicksteed Park is near Kettering. See www.wicksteedatwar.co.uk
Gaydon is about 10 miles South of Royal Leamington Spa.
www.fireservicepreservationgroup.org

EVENTS - 2018

Sunday 4 March
75th Anniversary of
Bethnal Green Disaster
Memorial Service

St John on Bethnal Green Church,
London (CDA participation)

Saturday 17 March
WW2 Living History Weekend
Eden Camp, Yorks

Saturday 24 March
CDA Annual General Meeting
Toby Carvery, Meriden, Birmingham

Saturday 31 March
WW2 Living History Weekend
Eden Camp, Yorks

Sunday 1 April
RAF 100 Commemoration
St. Clement Danes Church, London
(ROCA participation)

Saturday 28 April
Escape Lines Memorial
Society Reunion & Service
Eden Camp, Yorks

Saturday 12 May
ROCA Annual
Commemoration
The NMA

Sunday 13 May
Firefighters Memorial Trust
Thanksgiving Service
The NMA

Sunday 20 May
Royal Corps of Signals
Reunion Day
Eden Camp, Yorks

Sat/Sun 8-10 June
‘Commemorating the AFS’
NFS & AFS Vehicles Group
Wicksteed Park, Northants

Saturday 16 June
CDA Annual Commemoration
The NMA

Saturday 16 June
Fire Service Preservation
Group Rally Weekend
Eden Camp, Yorks

Saturday 30 June
Armed Forces Natl Parade
Llandudno, North Wales
(ROCA Heritage Display)

Sunday 1 July
Battle of Britain Memorial Day
Capel-le-Ferne, Kent
(CDA participation)

13—15 July
Royal International Air Tattoo
RAF Fairford (ROCA Heritage Display)

Saturday 14 July
Airborne Forces North
Remembrance Day
Eden Camp, Yorks

Sat/Sun 21-22 July
50th Anniversary of Fire
Services Preservation Group
Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warks
(including NFS & AFS Vehicles Group)

EVENTS - 2018

Saturday 25 August

WW2 Living History Weekend

Eden Camp, Yorks

Sunday 9 September

**Firefighters International
Service of Remembrance**

St. Sepulchre-without-Newgate,
London

Sunday 9 September

All Services Parade

Eden Camp, Yorks

Sunday 16 September

Battle of Britain Service

Westminster Abbey, London
(ROCA participation)

Saturday 20 October

**Palestine Veterans
Association Reunion**

Eden Camp, Yorks

Saturday 3 November

Wreath Laying

11.30am, CD Memorial, The NMA

Monday 5 November

Remembrance Rocks Week

Eden Camp, Yorks

Thursday 8 November

Field of Remembrance

Westminster Abbey

Sunday 11 November

Remembrance Sunday

Saturday 17 & 24 November

WW2 Living History Weekend

Eden Camp, Yorks

CDA East Midlands Branch

The East Midlands Branch hold meetings in and around Lincoln. All CDA members and supporters are cordially invited to attend.

For more information contact:

Patrick Stanton, Co-ordinator

Tel: 01205 280144

E-mail: pstanton280@btinternet.com

Birmingham Air Raids

Remembrance Association

Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at 12 noon. Updates on Association projects, tea and a chat. Venue: Cophorne Hotel, Queensway, Birmingham. All welcome.

Contact:

Barbara Johnson 0121-749-2009

It may be of some comfort and reassurance for next of kin of deceased CDA members to know that arrangements can be made for a Civil Defence coffin flag to be despatched, often at quite short notice, to be used at the funeral. Please be assured that such a request will be handled with sensitivity and discretion.

In such instances, the Secretary should be contacted on:

01629 55738.

Members and Families may also like to know that Deceased Members of the CDA have been added to the roll of the Perpetual Mass Association at the Benedictine Monastery of the Holy Cross in Chicago. Thus they will share in the spiritual benefits of the monthly mass and the daily office of the monks.

BRCS FIRST AID & EMERGENCY APPS



The British Red Cross Society has recently released three apps for downloading to mobile phones etc.

Emergency Alerts

This unique app delivers real-time alerts, severe weather warnings and practical advice in an emergency.

www.redcross.org.uk/en/What-we-do/Emergency-response/Emergency-app-landing

First Aid

If a friend or family member was having a heart attack or was choking, would you know how to help them? Our free app features simple, easy advice on 18 everyday first aid scenarios, as well as tips on how to prepare for emergencies, from severe winter weather to road traffic accidents. With videos, interactive quizzes.

www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/First-aid/Mobile-app

Babies and Children

Be prepared to help babies and children with the free Red Cross first aid app for Apple and Android.

www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/First-aid/Baby-and-Child-First-Aid-app

(Editors note: It is prudent to check that your device is compatible with the apps before downloading)

KENT CD VEHICLES - UPDATE

Stuart Millson has been investigating the location of the display of Kent Civil Defence vehicles featured on the back page of CDA Journal No. 61.

He has spoken to a neighbour, and this good lady thinks that the buildings were at the old West Malling airfield (now the housing area known as 'Kings Hill').

She remembers working at a place very similar in appearance to the buildings in the photograph—it was a transport depot close to the old RAF airfield.

Thank you Stuart for this information and also your neighbour. It fills in another gap in our knowledge relating to the history of Civil Defence in the UK.

Graham Whitehead

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