



CDA Journal

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'Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow'



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Annual General Meeting 2018

AFS at Great Yarmouth - The Last Day

Bethnal Green Disaster Memorial Service

Volunteer Wardens -

Heroes of the Birmingham Blitz

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Front Cover Picture: *AFS Green Goddess NYR 719 pictured in the yard of Great Yarmouth Fire Station on her last day of service.*

The full story will be found on page 8 of this issue of the CDA Journal.

Photographs: Michael Mason

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the May edition of the CDA Journal.

The Annual General Meeting gave the opportunity to highlight the work being undertaken by kindred organisations e.g. Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust which included an outline of future developments.

An article by an AFS veteran describes the final days at Great Yarmouth Fire Station in 1968 and the feelings of his compatriots at the news of disbandment.

A report of the Bethnal Green Disaster Memorial Service 2018 is featured. The CDA was once again represented by Nick Ridsdale and Terry Hissey.

Professor Carl Chin pays tribute to the Volunteer Wardens and their role in the Birmingham Blitz during the Second World War. This commemoration is most welcome as it highlights the work of these largely unsung heroes. Readers may or may not be aware that following that conflict, reporting of the Second City's ordeal was classified (by the onset of the 'Cold War') for thirty years. Thanks largely to the work of the Birmingham Air Raids Remembrance Association, more citizens are now aware of their city's contribution to the war effort.

'Book Shelf' features a number of publications, and of particular note is the life of Harry Patch—the last surviving 'British Tommy' of WW1 until his death in 2009.

The internet continues to produce some little gems of Civil Defence history. For instance, I came across the film of a Dundee CD Corps exercise at Taymouth Castle almost by accident. I was searching for other CD related material at the time and in the process discovered it amongst Scotland's film archives.

A report of yet another local authority bunker being sold off leaves me somewhat perplexed, if not a little concerned. At the end of the 'Cold War', the majority of these buildings were either sold off, demolished or used for storage. By contrast, national government retains its crisis operations centre (PINDAR) under Whitehall as do the armed forces at various locations. Surely, common sense dictates that local civil administration and emergency responders need a stand-by protected emergency control centre from which to operate in the event of say nuclear terrorism? I trust my comments will produce comments from readers.



Finally, the August edition of the Journal will be given over almost wholly to reporting the Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the disbandment of the AFS and CD Corps—your photos would be most welcome.

Graham Whitehead

OBITUARY

Pat A Andrews BEM



Patricia A. Andrews BEM died on the 27 December 2017, aged 93, in Saint Nicolas's Hospital in Blaye, France after a short illness.

Patricia served with the WVS in Lisbon during WWII and from 1959 in the Holme Valley in Yorkshire. She was awarded the WRVS Long Service Medal in 1972 and 2 Clasps in 1984 and 1998 and a BEM in 1987.

She retired to France with her family in 2002. She leaves a son, Duncan and his wife Elaine.

Duncan summed up his mother's life with these words:

'My mum was A Writer, A Broadcaster, A WRVS Volunteer for which she received a BEM in 1987 New Years Honours list , A Police Interpreter, A Traveller, A Cook, A Genealogist, An Organiser, A lover of life and above all, a Wife and Mother first and always. Just some of her attributes.'

Editor's note: The photograph featured opposite was taken at Pat's 90th Birthday Party.

Readers of the CDA Journal will recall her delightful periodic 'Letter from France' in which she wrote about her experiences as a WVS volunteer.

May She Rest in Peace.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO VICTIMS OF OVERSEAS TERRORISM

A ceremony to dedicate a new national memorial to British victims of overseas terrorism will be held on 17 May 2018.

Families of those who have lost loved ones in terrorist attacks abroad or others who have been directly affected are invited to apply to attend the event at the National Memorial Arboretum, in Staffordshire.

The National Memorial to Victims of Overseas Terrorism - entitled Still Water - is dedicated to all British victims of overseas terrorism and will stand to honour any future victims.



The 'Still Water' Memorial

Tobias Ellwood, Minister for Defence People and Veterans, said:

This memorial is a poignant tribute to British people killed in terrorist attacks abroad and will act as a focal point for remembrance for their loved ones and the whole country.

It is a space for quiet reflection and contemplation and I hope that it will become a place where those who have been affected can come to remember.

I would encourage anyone who has lost a family member in an overseas terrorist incident to apply for a place at the dedication ceremony and join this act of remembrance.”

*With acknowledgements to
the Ministry of Defence.*

ROCA NEWS



**National Memorial Arboretum –
Sunday 13th May 2018 ~ Note change
of day & the date for this year's annual
ROCA day at their National
Grove.**

We will mark the RAF Formation 100th anniversary and all who served in the Corps throughout its 70 year history to 1995. The ROCA National Standard and all Group Standards are invited to the RAFA Service,

Our ROCA Grove Commemoration will gather in our Grove following the RAFA event. For those who do not wish to attend the RAFA service you do not require a ticket to join our ROCA gathering from 1300. The ROCA short commemorative event will include the Parade of Standards, welcome by the Chairman who will plant a Remembrance Cross at the ROC Memorial. The National Standard will be present all Groups are invited to bring their Standards to parade in the Grove. If you wish to do so, please wear berets and medals

ROCA Web Site rocatwentytwelve.org

Newsletters available on the member's pages feature some fascinating articles and personal recollections of ROC times. Well worth a read.

See the ROCA web site for more information.

*With thanks to Jenny Morris,
National Secretary
Royal Observer Corps Association*

CDA PRESS OFFICER

Following his re-election to the CDA Committee at the AGM, Andy Smith volunteered to be our Press Officer having, as you can see from his E-Mail address, some experience in this field. The Committee have had great pleasure in appointing him to this role. Please feel free to contact him:

Andy Smith
wordsmithreviews@yahoo.co.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

The CDA Annual General Meeting was again held at the Toby Carvery, Stonebridge Island. The Minutes of the 2017 AGM, Report for 2017 and the 2017 Accounts which were sent with the previous Journal were approved. With regard to the latter, it was noted that we were in surplus over the year. Thanks were expressed to the Treasurer for the continuing solvency. The meeting also recorded their thanks to Nick Ridsdale who has continued to serve as the CDA Standard Bearer. It was again noted and much appreciated that Nick has led the procession from the Church to the Bethnal Green Tube Station Disaster Memorial in March every year since the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust came into being.

The results of the elections are given on page 2 of the Journal.

This year our President, Sir Graham Meldrum made mention of the recent BBC series 'Ambulance' which featured the West Midlands Ambulance Service. The resulting programmes turned out very well as they had concentrated on the people as much as the events and that this was both those out in the ambulances and those in the Control Room and the effects on both groups of events in the field. He also mentioned the help and support from the volunteer First responders. (*Watch out for Series 3—Ed.*)

The meeting discussed many aspects of volunteering and the reporting in the media. The comparison was drawn between recent programmes featuring in one the damage caused by particular bombs dropped in WWII and the effect on the occupants and, in the other, the effects on members of the 'White Helmets' and their resolve to continue to work there despite the dangers to themselves and their families.

Noting the 70th Anniversary of the disbandment of the NFS and the return of responsibility for Fire Services to Local Authorities in 1948 as well as the 50th Anniversary of the Stand-down of the CD Corps and AFS and the importance of recording the service given; it was suggested that TV Producers be approached with this as an idea. Having worked closely with a TV Company on 'Ambulance', the President offered to approach them to see if it was a possibility.

Alan House updated the meeting on the situation at the Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust of which he is now, effectively, the head of operations. He reported that the scope had been widened and Firefighters from both earlier days and more recent casualties were to be included on the memorial adjacent to St. Paul's but this would require a rebuild and development. Their on-line Book of Remembrance has been further developed and now included Firewatchers and Fireguards and, hopefully, a plaque to them will be unveiled at their commemoration on 13 May.

Alan also mentioned that groups such as Mountain Rescue are working towards having an annual 'Emergency Services Day' this year on 9 September which clashes with the Annual FS London commemoration event. These people are of course, in our eyes, Civil Defenders. It was mentioned that the CDA have tried to form links with local units of such organisations but have failed. See www.nesm.org.uk/

Alan House had been at the NMA on 23 March for a meeting about the FS Annual event to be held on Sunday 13 May and reported that there had been damage to the slates on our 1949-68 Memorial probably as a result of the weather. Since the meeting The Secretary has been in touch with our builder who, sadly, has retired but who will visit, inspect and report back so that remedial action can be taken before our June event. *(Now repaired—Ed)*

The CDA event on Saturday 16 June will reflect that it is the 50th Anniversary of the Stand-down and try to tell the story of the service given by volunteers between 1949 and 1968 in part through members' personal stories.

The CDA will apply for tickets for The Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday 2018 as 4 members paraded in 2017 but it was mentioned that there are rumours that there will be changes due to a variety of matters.

Look out for 'Portillo's Hidden History of Britain' on Channel 5 which is expected to feature at least 1 building with Civil Defence interest—Editor

AFS AT GREAT YARMOUTH - THE LAST DAY

I am Michael Mason and together with my twin brother David were both members of the AFS in Great Yarmouth, based at the Great Yarmouth Fire Brigade (GYFB) main station at Grey Friars Way in the town. Some of you might remember I did post an article about my early years in the CD in this magazine but things were to change when the CD was down sized in 1967.



Our little band of AFS volunteers

We were both members of the Field Cable section and with that gone we were given Sector jobs in Welfare and Ambulance. Not the same as the FCP. We later found out that the AFS was left untouched by these changes so we decided to jump ship and joined the AFS in about June 67. Things were going well until just into the New Year the dreaded news came that both the CD and AFS were to be disbanded on 1 April 1968.

Management in the Fire Service asked if any of us would like to become Retained (part time) Firemen. We both said yes and so on the 1st March 1968 we were enrolled into the GYFB. We were to serve with the GYFB and Norfolk Fire Service both whole time and part time until 2003. One of the best jobs in the world.

On the last night of the AFS we were on AFS duty at Yarmouth from 1800 hours on Saturday until 1200 hours on Sunday. by that time it was all over. We had been out on a shout with the whole timers to a horse in a dyke at about 1900 hours so that kept us busy for part of the evening.

On the Sunday we cleaned our Green Goddess NYR 719 and after photographs we put her back in its appliance bay and that was the last time I saw it.

Photographs of our little band accompany this article. Three of us were to become whole time Firemen and one stayed a retained Fireman. It was a sad day for everyone as lots of friendships had been made in the CD and AFS and to see most of the kit go to auction was soul destroying.

Since that time we have only had one CD AFS reunion back in the early 2000's.

In 2000 I did purchase an ex AFS Austin Gipsy and a Brockhouse Line Layer trailer which has been fully restored to what it would have looked like in 1968. I have also acquired on the way most of the CD manuals and booklets together with rescue equipment and badges, rank markings ,etc.

It was a sad time, but as I said above things changed in my life for the better, so I have a lot to be grateful for, for being a member of both the CDC and AFS.

Will some form of volunteering on such a scale ever return to this country?

Michael Mason

FROM THE INTERNET

www.drakelow-tunnels.co.uk

Drakelow tunnels, near Kinver Edge, Worcestershire is the site of a former Home Office Regional Seat of Government (RSG9) and it's later manifestation as Regional Government HQ 9.2. Details are given of the history of the tunnels right up to the present day. The site is now in the hands of a Preservation Trust and is open to visitors at various times.

<http://28group.org.uk>

'28 Group Observed', is an ongoing project to chronicle the restoration of the ROC 28 Group HQ and UKWMO Caledonian Sector HQ bunker, and gather information about the people who worked there.

<http://movingimage.nls.uk/film/6771>

EXERCISE "CHALLENGE" is a film made in 1963 and features the Civil Defence Corps, Dundee Division on exercise at the Home Office Civil Defence Training

School, Taymouth Castle, Scotland. It is a silent film and runs for just over 28 minutes.

www.andersonshelters.org.uk

Contains information about surviving World War II Anderson bomb shelters, and about the design and construction of such shelters.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/>

In the web site's search engine type in 'Civil Defence—From the First World War to the Cold War'. This takes you to a document detailing the history of Civil Defence buildings. It is downloadable in pdf format.

<http://nuclearsecrecy.com/nukemap/classic/>

There has been much talk and speculation over the past few years concerning the possible use by terrorists of a small 'dirty' nuclear device on a major centre of population. Well an historian of science and nuclear weapons and a professor at the Stevens Institute of Technology in the United States has devised a 'nukemap' based on the nuclear weapons effects computers utilized during exercises during the Cold War. It is simple to use – you select the type and size of device e.g. 10kt ground burst, and a 'target' say (and God Forbid!) Birmingham. The effects of heat, blast and nuclear radiation are displayed on a map together. It makes for very sober reading indeed and raises all sorts of questions.....!

HIGHLAND COUNCIL SELLING INVERNESS BUNKER

A bunker built to survive a direct hit from World War Two's most powerful bombs has been offered for sale.

The subterranean property in the Raigmore area of Inverness was upgraded in the 1980s during the Cold War. The enhancements included a capability to protect those inside from a nuclear, biological or chemical attack. Highland Council, which owns the site, has offered bids for the bunker.

The facility was constructed as two underground levels in 1941 and the site was used for processing information from radar stations on the Scottish coast and in Northern England. Secrecy was paramount during its wartime use. Personnel were denied access to areas in the building other than those they worked in, and were never permitted to talk about their work.

For a time after the end of World War Two the site was used for RAF training purposes. In 1958 the Civil Defence Corps moved into the building and it continued to use the facility until 1968.

In the early 1980s, the bunker was designated as an emergency centre for the then Highland Regional Council. Officials would use the facility to organise the recovery of the area if a nuclear attack took place.

With acknowledgements to BBC Scotland

November 2017

BETHNAL GREEN DISASTER MEMORIAL SERVICE 2018



*Fr. Green and Revd Hall lighting the
173 candles in remembrance of the victims*

St. John's Church was packed on Sunday for the Memorial Service to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Bethnal Green tube disaster last Sunday. It was a very moving event with the names of all the victims being read out by members of the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust committee, several reading those of their own family members lost in the tragedy. At the same time 173 candles were lit on the altar by Fr. Alan Green, Rector of St. John on Bethnal Green Church and Revd Christine Hall.

As part of the Service, Sandra Scotting, honorary secretary of the Trust, gave an update on the recently completed Memorial, across the road, that had now become a new landmark in Bethnal Green. She thanked everyone that had donated to the project, everyone that had supported the committee, despite set-backs, red tape and delays, to ensure they did not give up, and particularly to St John's Church for hosting the Services each year and many fund-raising events. To much applause the designer/architect of the Memorial, Harry Paticas, was thanked and also charity patron, Tommy Walsh, that had given the benefit of his extensive knowledge and advice in helping to keep costs down. The many Pearly Kings & Queens present were also thanked for helping the charity to raise funds over the last 11 years, often in dreadful weather conditions.

The original Founding Trustees that set up the charity 11 years ago are still part of the committee. They are Fr. Alan Green, Alf Morris, Derek Spicer and Lee & Sandra Scotting. Sandra also thanked all past and present committee members for working so hard to ensure that the Memorial was completed. Dr. Toby Butler and his band of volunteers from the University of East London were thanked for recording the memories of so many people involved in the disaster. These and the history of the disaster are available for posterity as schools packs, online, as audio units from Bethnal Green library, and the Memoryscape on the railings by the Memorial.

Although this would be the last big Memorial Service the charity will continue to organise them for as long as people wish to join in. The committee was pleased

that they had organised the unveiling before Christmas as the two main people cutting the ribbon were not present today. Alf Morris was unwell, and Dr. Joan Martin – the 102 year old doctor on duty the night of the disaster at the Queen Elizabeth's Children's hospital - had died in January.

Starbucks and their staff from across the road from the Memorial, were thanked very much for supplying the food and drink available afterwards and the Brick Lane Beigel Shop for supplying the beigels.



*Nick Ridsdale, CDA Standard Bearer leads the procession
from the church to the BG Memorial*

After the Service the parade crossed the road to lay wreaths on the Memorial, led by the Civil Defence Association banner bearer, lots of Pearly Kings & Queens, MP Rushanara Ali, Mayor John Biggs and LBTH councillors and, of course, many survivors, relatives and committee members. After a blessing everyone returned to the church for refreshment.

This was followed by a play about the disaster in the crypt performed by the Lucky Dog Theatre Productions. This was very well supported. Then as dusk approached photos of many of the victims were projected onto the Memorial. Lots of relatives stood and watched and many were in tears. The photos were be projected every evening until 9th March.

BBC London reported the 75th Anniversary in its programme 'Inside Out'. A recording is now available to view on You Tube (type in 'Bethnal Green Disaster'). It can also be downloaded for posterity.

With thanks to Sandra Scotting, Hon Secretary, Stairway to Heaven Trust

VOLUNTEER WARDENS—HEROES OF THE BIRMINGHAM BLITZ

Vivid news film of the conflicts in Spain, Abyssinia and China from the mid-1930s brought to the British people the awfulness of modern warfare. Of course, wars had always been horrifying, but these seemed worse because they enveloped in pain and suffering not only soldiers but also huge numbers of civilians. This was an unprecedented shift in warfare. In particular, distressing footage showed the panic of old men, women and children as they fled air raids and the onslaughts of enemy troops. The effects of aerial bombing in these wars deeply affected the considerations of the British Government.

As early as 1935, when appeasement was pursued vigorously and rearmament was still resisted, procedures were put in place for training experts who could co-ordinate civilian responses if war broke out and there were raids on Britain's cities. A circular about 'Air Raid Precautions' was sent out to councils, encouraging them to co-operate with Westminster and private employers to set up local ARP organisations. The public were urged to join such bodies. Primarily the Government was concerned that councils should provide an adequate emergency ambulance service and facilities for training in anti-gas procedures.

From the outbreak of war on September 1, 1939, both Air Raids Precautions activities and the overall running of Birmingham were supervised by an Emergency Powers Committee. Its members included the Town Clerk, Sir Frank Wiltshire, who became the city's Wartime Controller working from a fortified basement in the Council House. This was in direct contact with nine report centres elsewhere in the city. Each was well-protected, gas-proofed and had two sets of staff headed by a controlling officer who was a corporation official. They included a message supervisor, plotters of maps, telephonists, filing clerks and messengers – all recruited from professionals.

On the ground the operations of ARP were helped by 300 trainers, some of whom had received instruction at Home Office bases. At a local training school in Kings Norton they worked with ARP volunteers, whose numbers swelled to 55,000 people within a fortnight of the outbreak of war. As one reporter stressed, 'this by no means exhausts the number of citizens who are rendering public service', for there were also hundreds of men and women who were engaged in social service work and were not attached to an official body. Everybody seemed to be doing something to prepare for bombing raids and as the Birmingham Mail declared on September 15, 1939, the city projected a 'Solid Home Front'.

In particular ARP volunteers engaged in 'realistic exercises' in parks and roads. They rescued 'casualties' from damaged buildings; they put out mock blazes; they dealt with incendiary bombs in specially constructed tin huts; they made trial runs from their depots to check the time it took to cover their district; and they practised decontamination routines. From the beginnings of the Blitz on Birmingham, ARP volunteers had to put into practice what they had learned. They did so with skill, dedication and determination. Amongst them were those in the Air Raid Wardens'

Service. Headed by a Chief Warden, by early 1940 they were distinguished by their uniforms and helmets. Six or more of them were headed by a senior warden and each team, split into day and night shifts, was charged with a sector of 500 people. In total there were 2,303 sectors and 450 posts.

These were run both by paid wardens and by those who were volunteer clerks, telephonists and messengers. They served about five sectors and were chosen for their strategic significance. The numbers of wardens peaked at 19,800 members – most of whom were part-timers and many of whom were women.

Amongst these women was Amelia Johnston of Ravenshurst Street, Camp Hill. Her bravery was highlighted under the heading of 'Hospital Heroes' in the Birmingham Mail on July 5, 1941. In the early hours of April 10, she was on patrol duty when she realised that eight people were trapped in a wrecked house. Despite the falling bombs and heavy ack-ack fire, 'she went to the first-aid post, directed a doctor to the scene, and tried to get through the debris into the cellar'. Unable to achieve her objective, Amelia fetched a rescue party and helped to attend to the casualties. She was awarded the British Empire Medal, and it was believed that she was 'Britain's first woman warden' to gain this distinction as well as to two commendations. Amelia was not the only gallant woman. Another was Beatrice Withers, a shopkeeper from Balsall Heath.

One night in November 1940 she was on duty in St Paul's Road, paying particular attention to a woman with a baby who was on the verge of blood poisoning. Two bombs dropped on a nearby house and Beatrice was hit in the temple by four pieces of shrapnel, whilst pieces of glass and a window frame 'came flying over me'. Recovering, Beatrice blew her whistle, called for help and went to rescue the mother and baby. This she did. Then she moved to the house which had taken the full force of the explosives, recalling that 'I shall never forget the sight'. The building was wrecked and it seemed that no-one could have survived the frightful blast. Under the headline of 'Very Bad Night', the Birmingham Mail recounted her story on March 28, 1941.

"Suddenly we heard a child's faint whimper. Rescue men who came on the scene started tunnelling from the next door cellar and soon saw a woman's hands sticking out towards them. I said, 'That must be Mrs Sharp. The baby will be near. This proved to be true. The mother had been sitting around the kitchen fire with her children, and when the bomb came and blew them and the fire grate as well into the cellar below she had the mother's instinct to throw herself protectively over her youngest – Marjorie aged five and a half. The little one was unhurt and soon opened her eyes. "Mrs Sharp just idolised that kid. She is a grand little girl, with flaxen hair and dark brown eyes. "Usually the family went to a shelter but they had stayed at home that night because Mrs Edith Sharp had a heavy cold. She was killed by the bomb, as were three of her children from her first marriage – Frederick, Raymond and Joyce Carey. Also killed were Jessie, John and Dennis Sharp whilst their father, Alfred, died a month later of his injuries.

Bob White was the rescuer who dug out Marjorie, the only survivor. He was just sixteen years old, and later in the war he was awarded the Distinguished Flying

Cross for his courage as a Lancaster tail gunner. In 1980 his account of saving Marjorie was published in an Evening Mail Special. A relative sent it to Marjorie, who was now married and living in Newport, Shropshire. She wrote to the man who had saved her life, thanking him 'for the happiness that I have enjoyed in the years that have passed' since the raid. On December 10, 1980 they met and for the first time since the bomb had fallen, Marjorie went to St Paul's Road.

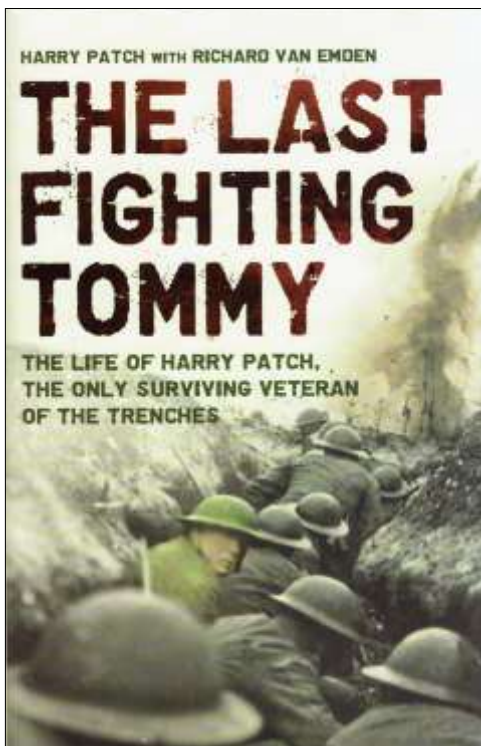
Beatrice Withers was awarded the British Empire Medal for her courage that night in Balsall Heath.

Another heroine who was so honoured was Winifred Yate of Gopsal Street, Duddeston. According to the Birmingham Mail of June 14, 1941, she had assisted in leading 200 heavy dray horses from stables which adjoined burning premises. One animal stepped on her foot and injured it, 'but she remained on duty until the "Raiders Passed" sounded'. A few days later, Winifred rescued two men injured by falling debris, after which an explosion hurt her so badly that she had to spend three months in hospital. Sixteen other Birmingham wardens received British Empire Medals and eleven were commended by the King. Seventy-seven of their comrades were killed by the enemy and 414 were injured. Let us remember them.

Professor Carl Chinn

With Acknowledgements to Birmingham Mail.

BOOK SHELF



It is customary to want to celebrate the first or last of something. By 2007, Harry Patch was the only surviving veteran of the trenches of WW1 and was willing, and able, to tell his life story to an enthusiastic listener after eighty years. Similar stories of war and civilian life could have been told by thousands of others, some of whom survived the war but many who did not. Veterans only wanted to forget their experiences but were often unable to do so and certainly had no wish to relate them. Harry was of a similar mind for decades and was able to return to Civvy Street with only disturbed sleep and a tendency to duck at loud noises to remind him.

Henry John Patch was born in the Victorian era and christened in 1898. He was brought up to a country life in Combe Down, Somerset with his father, a master mason and his mother in service to a doctor.

One of Harry's brothers enlisted in 1913 but the other was rejected as unfit, living to 96 despite that. Harry was apprenticed as a plumber and was 16 at the outbreak of war, the call-up age being 18. Some lied about their age in order to fight but he wanted to finish his apprenticeship.

Call-up papers arrived in 1916 and he was soon made a lance corporal but lost his stripe after fighting to regain his stolen boots. His fine marksmanship saw him gain the position as a Lewis gunner with an extra 6d per day. After six month's training he was posted near Ypres (Wipers).

Harry spent four months on the Western Front at Ypres and was able to recall most of the activities in the trenches around the time of Passchendaele. Stories of the dead and dying during the fighting, long suppressed, were recalled. Less easily remembered was the time spent out of the front line "resting".

The five man Lewis gun team was like a family and shared packages from home. The team was shattered on 22nd September when three were killed by shrapnel. Harry was hit by a piece which was removed without anaesthetic in the casualty clearing station. The wound was a "Blighty" one and, after de-lousing and re-clothing, he was sent to a Liverpool hospital.

Around Christmas he was sent to a Convalescent Camp in Sutton Coldfield. There he met his future wife Ada Billington by bumping into her. After this abrupt introduction, matters progressed slowly as Ada would neither get engaged or married until the fighting was over. The ceasefire was signed before Harry returned to France.

Whilst waiting to leave the Army, he took part in a mutiny because of continued drills. He was disgusted at the fact that it had taken him three days to get into uniform but five months to be demobbed.

Returning to a job in Bath, Harry and Ada were married in 1919. He refused to re-join his old employer because they would not pay him a man's wages. A long-term ambition to pass his exams as a sanitary engineer succeeded at the second attempt whilst working as a plumber. He then started his own business.

As he was too old for the military, Harry joined the Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) at the start of WW2 and witnessed the raids on Bristol and Bath. When once fired on by a German bomber, he wished for his old Lewis gun to return fire.

The business was not viable because his employees had been called up so he became the sanitary engineer for several military camps. When these camps were no longer required, the contents were available for "disposal" by those in authority such as Harry.

Still fit and well, Harry retired at 65 and he and Ada enjoyed each other's company for ten more years until Ada had a stroke and later died. Harry married twice more and out-lived both wives but his life was marred by rifts with both his sons.

Aged 92, Harry was consulted by geologists for his knowledge of the local stone quarries which were a cause for concern because of their closeness to the surface and tendency to collapse.

He was persuaded to return to Ypres at

105 with a few other veterans, where he attended the ceremony at the Menin Gate and met a German veteran.

In 1999, Harry was awarded the Legion d'Honneur and wore it in memory of his friends who had died. He too passed away in 2009.

This book is full, as was Harry Patch's life, of tales of everyday life and of the horrors of trench warfare. If you think that this review tells all, you are wrong. There is much more to keep you glued to this story which was recorded just in time.

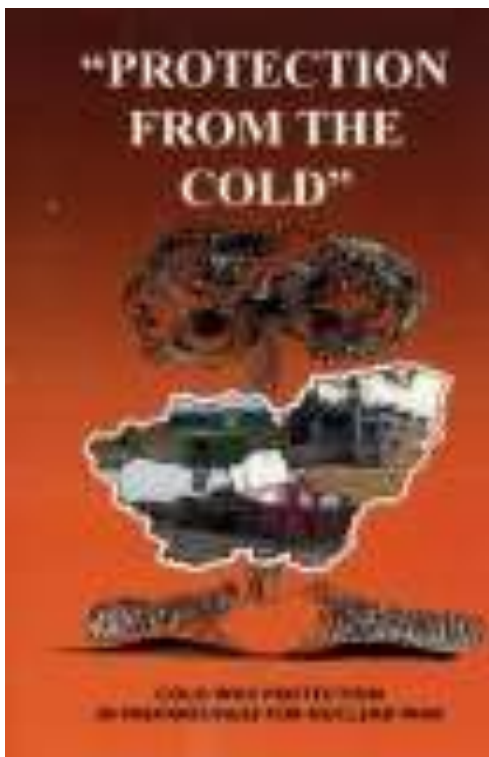
JKG

Authors: Harry Patch and Richard van Emden

Published by Bloomsbury Publishing plc

ISBN 978 0 7475 9115 3 (Hardback)

238 pages Price: £16.99



Protection From The Cold was originally conceived to provide a comprehensive survey of the numerous underground nuclear Monitoring Posts in and around South Yorkshire during the period known as the 'Cold War' (1946 to 1991). These sites were operated by the men and women of the Royal Observer Corps, whose origins date prior to World War 2 and who occupied these posts to provide a warning and monitoring role in the event of a nuclear attack on the United Kingdom during the 'Cold War'. As the initial research to this book progressed other protected sites were identified and were considered to be just as significant to the 'Cold War' period and ultimately required inclusion.

Over the past years there have been extensive surveys of these sites which have been brought to the public's attention through the internet by organisations such as Subterranea Britannica or through forum sites such as '28 Days Later' This book has never been intended to replicate the work already undertaken by these internet sites or indeed work already published.

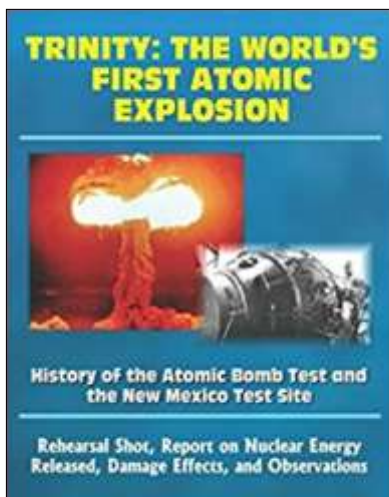
Instead it complements such work by providing a locally based context with respect to South Yorkshire; enhancing the understanding of the operational links between the numerous organisations operating such sites, and identifying the developmental changes to such organisations and sites during the 'The Cold War'.

Authors: Simon Craine & Noel Ryan

Published by Wildtrack Publishing

A5, 250 pp, Softback

ISBN 978-1-904098-19-5 Price: £9.95



The history of the world's first atomic explosion on July 16, 1945 at the Trinity test site in southern New Mexico is covered in this unique compilation of reports and publications.

The report of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory provides a comprehensive record of the atom bomb test; other publications reveal secrets of the test site.

Los Alamos Laboratory,
US Government
Paperback. Price:£8.09
Amazon Sep 2017

EVENTS

2018

Sunday 13 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)

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

Thursday 8 November
Field of Remembrance
Westminster Abbey

Sunday 11 November
Remembrance Sunday

Saturday 17 November
WW2 Living History Weekend
Eden Camp, Yorks

Saturday 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: Copthorne 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.



*The Blessing being given at the Bethnal Green Disaster Memorial.
This was followed by Terry Hissey playing the 'Farewell' call.*

The CDA Journal is printed and published by the Civil Defence Association
24 Paxton Close, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3TD, England.