



CDA Journal

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'Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow'



**70th Anniversary Commemoration
of the formation of
Auxiliary Fire Service
Civil Defence Corps
Industrial Civil Defence Service
National Hospital Service Reserve**

Civil Defence Association

President:
Vice-President
Chaplain:

Sir Graham Meldrum CBE QFSM FIFireE
Mrs Didy Grahame OBE MVO
Rev. Richard Walsh

Chairman: Patrick Stanton
5 Leagate Road
Gipsy Bridge
Near Boston
Lincs PE22 7BU
01205 280144
pstanton280@btinternet.com

Committee Members:

Malcolm Bidder
Martin Blackburn
Sue Dexter
Colin Harmsworth
Terry Hissey
Andy Smith
Philip Stead
Alex Woodward

Vice-Chairman / Journal Editor:

Graham Whitehead
4 Whitehorse Close
Lower Wick
Worcester WR2 4EB
01905 429694
cdajournal@btinternet.com

CD Memorial Gardeners

East Midlands Branch

Secretary: Tim Essex-Lopresti
24, Paxton Close
Matlock
Derbyshire DE4 3TD
01629 55738
aedissel@btinternet.com

Standard Bearer:

Nick Ridsdale

Collections Officer

Alex Woodward
cdacollections@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kevin Knight
24, High Ridge
Matlock
Derbyshire DE4 3HP
01629 584142
knightowls@btopenworld.com

Web-site Editor

Colin Harmsworth
E-Mail: co@jcac.org.uk'

Facebook Administrator

Philip Stead
admin@outdoorsandafloat.co.uk

Bank: Lloyds, Boston
30-91-04, a/c 01208688

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Front Cover Picture: Patrick Stanton, Chairman of the Civil Defence Association lays the CDA wreath at the 1949—1968 Memorial.

The design of the Memorial itself is in the shape of a triangle - the International Civil Defence emblem (Shown on uniforms etc. as a blue triangle on an orange background).

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the August, 2019 edition of the CDA Journal.

Participants in our Annual Commemoration this year came not only from this country but also with connections to other parts of Europe. I know I echo the appreciation felt by the CDA Officers and Committee for their attendance. The Civil Defence 'family' stretches far and wide and across the generations. Indeed I believe the youngest person there was 14 and the oldest in their 90s. A microcosm of the voluntary effort in emergencies both past, present and the future.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our photographers Keith Gregory and Eva Stanton for providing an excellent cross section of photographs of the Commemoration. It is only restrictions of space which has prevented me from including many more.

Ever heard of 'Protect and Survive' chocolates? Well page 8 will provide the answer?!

citizenAid is a relatively new charity whose aim is to empower the average citizen with basic knowledge and skills to enable them to assist victims in the immediate aftermath of, for example, a terrorist bomb.

Eddie Baker has provided a unique insight into the role of the AFS in and around the London conurbation during the 1960s.

The ROC Association commemorated the work of the 'Seaborne' Observers who supported the D-Day operations 75 years ago.

The report about the refurbishment of the former RSG-4 bunker in Cambridge is welcome news. It is heartening to learn that these structures are being preserved for future generations. A positive move in the right direction, considering the wholesale destruction of buildings, materials and records which has occurred in the past.

Terry Hissey's visit to the Cold War exhibition at the National Archives, Kew provides us with a photographic record of this special event.

What a unique piece of history can be found tucked away at Slough Fort, Kent! Not one, but three(!) former AFS vehicles have been saved from the scrapyard.

Eden Camp, Yorkshire will be hosting the Annual Services Parade and Service on Sunday 8 September 2019. Other events there can be found on page 19.

Graham Whitehead

COMMEMORATION OF THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF AFS, CDC, ICDS & NHSR

On the morning of 15 June, the weather looked very cloudy and the forecast stated that rain would fall after 1230hrs. As it happened the Met Office was right and the Commemoration went ahead without us being troubled by a downpour.

It was a delight to see and meet such a gathering of representatives of various organisations and their families and friends. Some had travelled a considerable distance including Kathleen Hill from Gibraltar, Steve Qunney of Isle of Man Civil Defence, as well as a serving member of Berwick Coast Watch in Scotland.

In addition, those present included two holders of the George Cross, also representatives from Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade, Derbyshire Federation of WIs', ICPEM, Joint Civil Aid Corps, PDSA, ROC Association, RVS, War Memorials Trust, Fire and Rescue Services of Leicestershire, Staffordshire and West Midlands. We also had two members of a C D Corps Re-enactors group.

We gathered in the Chapel and lead by the CDA's Chaplain Rev Richard Walsh, prayers were said in remembrance of the Civil Defence casualties of World War Two, also those who served during the Cold War, and those who serve today.



Sir Graham Meldrum, CDA President addresses the assembled company



Moi, widow of Leslie Wooler accompanied by her son, views her late husband's entry in the Book of Remembrance

Entries were unveiled for CDA members who had died since last year, namely, Dennis Norman Fisher, James A Frost and Leslie Wooler. Included in our prayers were the bravery of rescuers in this country and abroad whose efforts we remember with gratitude.

The President read a letter received from HM The Queen, and then invited Graham Whitehead, Vice-Chairman to give the presentation marking the 70th Anniversary of the formation of AFS, CDC, ICDS and NHSR.

The Vice-Chairman said he was undertaking this role on behalf of Dr. Robin



Standard bearers lead the procession of representatives to the memorials

tional Hospital Service Reserve to support those charged with First Aid and Medical Casualties. In the event of a national emergency, the C D Corps would be supplemented by other whole-time C D workers whilst an Armed Forces Reserve would be formed into Mobile Columns.

The Home Office regarded all these volunteers as an essential war-related organisation—a component of the country's policy of nuclear deterrence. However it is on the record that these volunteer organisations were actively involved in supporting the Emergency Services and Local Authorities in so called “peacetime” incidents, both local regional and national. Some of the most notable disasters were the Harrow rail disaster, East Coast floods, Stockport air crash and Aberfan.



The CDA President lays a wreath at the 1939—1945 Memorial

Woolven who was unable to be present due to family matters.

Only four years since the WW2 civil defence organisation was closed down, and in response to the danger from a belligerent Soviet Union and its acolytes, it was decided to set up a new organisation to meet the threats of the atomic age. Under the Civil Defence Act 1948, the Home Office was to recruit a new volunteer manned Auxiliary Fire Service to support the Fire Service; a Civil Defence Corps based at County and Metropolitan Borough Councils: an industry-based Industrial Civil Defence Service; the Special Constabulary to support the Police Forces; and a Na-

At the CD Memorials, our President laid a wreath at the WW2 memorial, Anthony Stanton, Holly Meldrum-Jones and Jim Beaton's grandson at the Animal stone. The Chairman laid a wreath at the 1949—1968 memorial and this was followed by representatives of kindred bodies who laid theirs at the various stones and plots within the site.

Wreaths were then laid at the adjoining Fire and Rescue Service Memorial. The CDA Vice Chairman was followed by Officers of the various Fire and Rescue Services represented on the day.

Following the formal proceedings, it was time to renew old acquaintances and to make new friends.



Left: Stephen Ralph of the PDSA lays a wreath at the Animal Memorial. The PDSA have been regular attendees.

Below: Kathleen Hill, who was in school in Gibraltar when the Bedenham exploded and George Henderson was awarded his GC, lays a wreath at the George Cross Memorial. She is supported by , Jack Bamford GC, Jim Beaton GC and Ray Heming, son of Edward Heming GC.



The Vice-Chairman lays the CDA wreath at the foot of the Fire & Rescue Service Memorial



A senior Fire Officer lays a wreath in remembrance of those firefighters who gave their lives during WW2 and since that conflict



Terry Hissey playing the 'Farewell' Call

*Pictured l to r:
Colin Harmsworth, CO, JCAC,
Patrick Stanton, Chairman, CDA
and Tim Essex-Lopresti,
Secretary, CDA*

*Text: Graham Whitehead
Photographs:
Keith Gregory and Eva Stanton*



You don't need a new pair of glasses - the picture above really does show Protect and Survive chocolates! Terry Hissey recently visited the Cold War exhibition at the National Archives, Kew. He sent the chocolate bars to our Secretary, who remarked that they tasted pretty good as well! They were hand made for the National Archives by Choc Affair Ltd, Hazel Court, York YO10 3DR www.choc-affair.com

GW.



citizenAID is a UK registered charity with a focused mission to prepare individuals, communities and organisations to help themselves and each other when there are multiple casualties, particularly from deliberate attacks.

Who founded citizenAID?

Brigadier Professor Timothy Hodgetts CBE QHS

Senior Health Advisor to the British Army and Honorary Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Birmingham.

Mr Andrew Thurgood

Consultant Nurse in Pre-hospital Emergency Medicine and Advanced Clinical Practitioner in Emergency Medicine.

Professor Sir Keith Porter

Clinical Professor of Traumatology at the University of Birmingham and University Hospital Birmingham.

Colonel Professor Peter Mahoney CBE QHS PhD

Consultant Anaesthetist and the inaugural Defence Professor of Anaesthesia and Critical Care.

Why do we need citizenAID ?

Many know what to do when someone collapses with a heart attack. But being able to act effectively after a deliberate attack requires different knowledge and skills.

citizenAID provides this information. In the minutes following an attack, be-

fore emergency services arrive, simple actions like opening an airway or stopping bleeding are vital in saving people's lives.

citizenAID empowers YOU to do this. citizenAID helps the general public to stay safe and improvise effective treatment before emergency services are available to provide professional medical support.

citizenAID enables the public to save lives.

How can citizenAID help you ?

citizenAID is a simple system comprising of an award winning free App, online familiarisation videos, a Pocket Guide, and educational material for both adults and children.

citizenAID has a network of volunteers across the country who share the charity's teaching material.

There are also ambassadors who support the charitable aims and provide a geographical focus to lead the public preparation effort.

For more information go to www.citizenaid.org



MEMORIES OF THE AFS IN THE 1960s

I joined the Auxiliary Fire Service in my native Croydon in August 1960 and was posted to the Park Lane Headquarters station. At the time there were three AFS crews in the Croydon Fire Brigade. Park Lane station had duty crews on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and also on Wednesday there was a crew at Woodside Fire Station. I was fortunate that Croydon Fire Brigade fully utilised the AFS and on Tuesday evenings we turned out to any fire call in the brigade area, a total of 4 stations, alongside our wholetime colleagues. Wednesday evenings were slightly different in that the two crews had to take alternate calls.



In 1961 the Park Lane station was closed and a new headquarters complex was opened in Old Town. As well as an eight bay wholetime station we now had our own AFS station built with four double length bays. At the same time the crew from Woodside Fire Station also moved into this station. Gradually more appliances were added and eventually we squeezed into the station 6 Pumps, 2 Land Rovers, a Field Telephone Trailer, a GP Lorry and 4 Motor Cycles. Also an AFS Control Unit was garaged in the Old Town wholetime fire station and a Pipe Lorry was garaged in the second bay at Addington Fire Station.

Meanwhile following a successful recruiting campaign we were soon crewing appliances 4 evenings a week from 19.00 to 22.30 and on Friday and Saturday nights from 19.00 through to midday the next day and had been issued with fire helmets to replace the wartime steel helmets which had been originally issued. The 'Green Goddesses' as the AFS Pumps become known were quite basic being fitted with only a hand-bell and twin amber flashers, although we soon changed ours to blue lenses, no BA and no chimney gear. Later, around 1967, when part of the London Fire Brigade our pumps were fitted with blue rotating beacons which did help with traffic problems.

Following a promotion to Leading Fireman in 1963 I was now riding in charge of the Friday evening crew. The same year I had led a five man crew in the Brigades Annual Competitions and we won the AFS Pump Competition. The drill consisted of setting into a hydrant, running 2 lines of hoses each of 2 lengths, knocking down 2 targets and making up all equipment.

In 1964 I was again promoted this time to Sub Officer. As part of on going training some of the AFS crews were shown the use of Escape and Hook Ladder drills, never imagining that we would ever have to use either. Operational incidents consisted of run of the mill jobs such as House Fires, Chimney Fires, Grass Fires, Rubbish Fires and RTAs. One of the larger fires that come to mind was just after midnight on Bonfire Night 1962 was to an old school partially used as a Boys Club and partially by the Borough Engineers Dept. In total 13 jets were used to extinguish the fire. The only other fire of any consequence that comes to mind was on one Friday evening when Croydon's pump, turntable ladder and AFS pump were backing up Wood-

side's appliances at a second floor flat fire in Addiscombe when another call came in for a large departmental store in the centre of Croydon, where smoke was issuing from the ground, first and second floors. The pump escapes from Croydon and Thornton Heath were mobilised and the TL and AFS pump were sent on from the previous job. At last the training came to fruition and some of my crew assisted with slipping and pitching an escape to a second floor window. When at last the fire was out and the job was scaled down my crew was left along with a London Salvage Corps crew, carrying out the final clearing up in the basement room where the fire had started.

On another occasion we attended a chimney fire with Addington's Pump Escape in the sprawling New Addington estate. Whilst dealing with this call a neighbour from around the corner appeared stating that her chimney was also on fire. Addington's Sub Officer asked me to take my crew and deal with the second chimney fire but when I reminded him that we didn't carry a chimney set (rods, etc.) his answer was 'take ours while we clear up this one and drop it in the station when you've finished'. During the last calendar year of the Croydon Fire Brigade, 1964, AFS crews attended some 440 incidents.

In April 1965 there was a major change when the Croydon Fire Brigade was amalgamated into the enlarged London Fire Brigade. The four wholtime stations plus the AFS station became part of 'H' Division and Croydon Fire Station was numbered H31. As far as the AFS crews were concerned the main difference was that we were now only turning out to calls on our own station ground. The nearest AFS pump would be sent on to 4 pump fires and for bigger make-ups anywhere in the whole of the Brigade area the number of AFS pumps sent on was at Fire Control's discretion.

One of the first large make-ups I attended was in a Timber Yard, Ripple Road, Barking, out towards the Essex border. Others that come to mind were the 30 pump Grocers Hall fire in the City of London in September 1965 and a warehouse fire in Southwark in January 1966 when hose lines and ladders froze solid. On another occasion we were sent to a waste paper warehouse on the bank of the River Thames in Battersea. On arrival I was sent with my crew down onto the foreshore to assist in bringing hoses ashore from the fireboat which was moored midstream. When that task was completed I was then sent by a



London AFS recruitment poster

senior officer to take charge of 2 hoselines working from the top of stacks of waste paper inside the building. I must admit that I was surprised to find that both lines were manned by wholetime firemen.

Although AFS pumps were not included in make-ups i.e. a 'make pumps 10' request would get 10 wholetime pumps plus a number of AFS pumps (2-3) I do believe that senior officers would probably downsize make-ups knowing that they would get additional AFS pumps e.g. a fire normally requiring 12 pumps might only have a 'make pumps 10' message sent thus saving wholetime crews for further calls. On one occasion there was a large fire in a Cash & Carry Warehouse, in Greenford, West London. Water supplies were poor although there was a canal nearby but inaccessible to fire appliances. Pumps were made fifteen and a request for all available AFS pumps to attend. That night there were fifteen on the run in London and all were sent on. Portable pumps were unloaded and taken through the footpath access to the canal and water supplied to the fireground.

One night we even attended two separate fifteen pump fires. The first was to a ship fire at Erith on the Kent border which had been alight since mid-afternoon. As soon



*A preserved example of the iconic
AFS Green Goddess fire appliance*

as we booked on the run just before 19.00 we were sent on, the wholetime Pump and Emergency Tender from Croydon were already in attendance. The hold of the ship was full of sulphur and everyone came out with their uniforms covered in a yellowish powder. After being relieved from this we returned to station and almost immediately we were turned out to a Paint and Wallpaper Store and Warehouse in West Croydon. This in turn became another fifteen pump job on our own ground.

A 'make pumps 6' fire, eventually to become a 12 pumper, in a factory manufacturing elastic bands at Tolworth, South-West London on the Surrey border provided our pump operator with an interesting night of work. The address given was Red Lion Road off Tolworth Broadway and all the other appliances entered Red Lion Road from the Broadway end and parked one behind the other. However by a bit of fortunate map reading we entered from the opposite end, the A3 Kingston By-Pass, and arrived at the fireground nose to nose with the first pump in attendance. Consequently when the Hose Layer provided a relay from a large water main on the A3 it was set into our pump. We then provided 4 lines of hose, one to a TL, one to a

firefighting jet and two to the main fireground pump. It kept the pump operator very busy for a time.

The following morning was the finals of the Brigade AFS Pump Competition held at Lambeth Headquarters. It was a 4 man drill with the pump driving across the start line. When the front wheels crossed the line the clock started and we could stop anywhere before the finish line. One length of hose had to be set into a hydrant to supply the pump, one line of two lengths was run out to knock down the first target and the another length was added, taken up inside the tower to the first floor window and used to knock down the second target in the yard below. All equipment was made up and the pump driven across the finish line to stop the clock. We came third, not a bad effort after a night's firefighting.

Another use that London made of the AFS crews was on Bonfire Nights. On 2 pump stations, the wholetime pumps were taken off the run for normal PDAs and only used for bonfire shouts. Pump escapes and AFS pumps, where available, then made up the PDA for other calls. One year Croydon's pump escape was already out on a shout when we booked on duty. Shortly afterwards a call came in for a house fire on our own ground and we were mobilised together with Woodside's pump escape. We were first to arrive and found a settee smouldering in the front room of the house. Fortunately this was in the days before polystyrene foam and although it was a bit smoky we got a hosereel to work just as Woodside arrived.

AFS appliances with their 1000 g.p.m. pumps came into their own when serious flooding occurred and I remember one bad weekend when on the Friday night we were sent to Kew Bridge where the Thames had overflowed and we spent many hours trying to clear a large flooded area which had marooned a public house and a number of other properties. Next night we were back again, this time to Kew Green where we pumped out the basement of Jo Grimond, the Liberal Party leader. Just to make sure that we did the job properly A.C.O. Lloyd, Southern Command Commander and ex Chief Officer of Croydon Fire Brigade, was also there. Another time when there was some bad flooding Mr. Lloyd walked into our station just before 19.00 and presented me with a list of addresses of flooded premises and advised me 'to have a look at each and do whatever I could'.

Sadly in the 31st March 1968 the AFS was disbanded much to the dismay of the many riders of the Green Goddesses and I am sure many senior fire officers who made good use of these volunteer firefighters. So ended 8 years of riding the Green Goddesses and firefighting in Croydon and around London. In 1970 I changed employers and moved home to Cambridgeshire where I joined the retained service and served for another 25 years but that is another long story.

Eddie Baker

This article originally appeared in the magazine 'Fire Cover', official publication of the Fire Brigade Society. Editor.

ROC ANNUAL COMMEMORATION 2019

The Royal Observer Corps Annual Commemoration took place on 11 May 2019 at the National Memorial Arboretum, with a good turnout of members from all over the country. This year marked the 75th Anniversary of the participation of Observers on the D-Day landings.

Prior to D-Day, a need was stated for observers trained in aircraft recognition to advise gun crews on board the Defensively Equipped Merchant ships (DEMS) during the allied invasion of Europe, "Operation Overlord". This scheme became known as "seaborne". The observers required to man the ships were drawn from some 1400 members of the Corps who volunteered for this duty. How well they performed is recorded in many letters of appreciation received from the Chiefs of the various Services. Ten of the volunteers were 'Mentioned in Despatches' and subsequently HM King George VI approved the wearing of the shoulder badge "Seaborne" by all who took part in the operation.



Left: Salute to the Seaborne Observers



Right: The 12 group Standard was carried by Gordon Johnson

With thanks to 12 Group, Royal Observer Corps Association

Photos by Jenny Morris (12 Grp) and David Peace (8 Grp)



FORMER RSG-4 BUNKER TO BE REFURBISHED

A concrete relic of the Cold War is to be revamped and brought back into use after remaining untouched for 65 years. The bunker, formerly known as RSG-4, was built in 1953 to house 300 local government officials from Cambridge in the event of a nuclear attack. The University of Cambridge which acquired the building in the 1990s, will convert it for specialist storage use over the next 18 months. A spokesman described the building as "an interesting piece of history".



The two-storey time capsule is a dusty warren of strip-lit corridors, large dormitories and offices, each labelled for different government departments of the period. The exterior concrete walls are 1.5m (5ft) thick, with entry restricted to a single, combination-locked metal door. In the centre of the basement is a "war room", flanked on two sides by observation rooms connected by reinforced convex screens. A diesel generator, wiring and soundproof walls are also part of its original features.

The bunker stands in 3,000 sq m (0.75 acres) of land off Brooklands Avenue, close to the university's botanical garden. Steve Matthews, facilities support manager at the university, said it would have been the communications centre for local government and had bunk-bed space for more than 300 people. "This was where they would co-ordinate everything - from the police to the military and hospitals - once they'd locked themselves in and were able to understand what was going on outside," he said. "There are lots of little corners, little snippets of the 1960s. It's an interesting piece of history."

The university bought the site in the late 1990s for more than £1m, but has so far left the building untouched. Replastering and asbestos removal is under way before the rooms inside are prepared for long-term, temperature-controlled storage. "Anything we do will respect the building, and we'll try to keep as many of its original features but still make it a usable space for the university," Mr Matthews

With acknowledgements to the BBC

COLD WAR & 21st CENTURY CD ON THE INTERNET

AFS & CDC on Exercise 'Caviar' produced during the period 1950 – 1959 (Silent)
[British Pathe](#)

'The C D Corps of Canada & USA' 1950s film [YouTube](#)

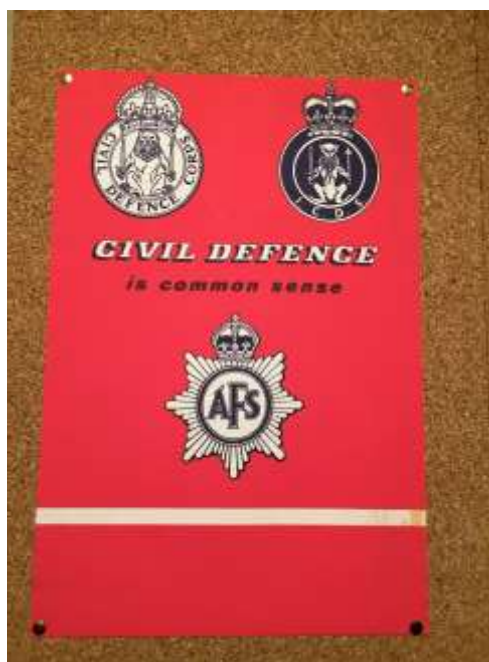
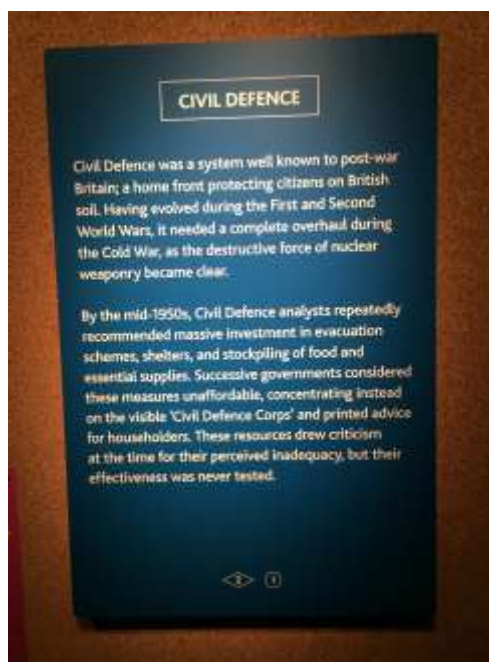
'Operation Lifesaver' Calgary, Canada – 1950s film about evacuation before nuclear attack [YouTube](#)

'11 Steps to Survival' Nuclear weapons effects, survival etc. Emergency Planning Canada 1973 [YouTube](#)

COLD WAR EXHIBITION, NATIONAL ARCHIVES, KEW

The photographs featured on this page and page 17 were taken by Terry Hissey on a recent visit to the Cold War Exhibition held at the National Archives, Kew.





CIVIL DEFENCE VEHICLES AT SLOUGH FORT, KENT

Built in the era of Palmerston, Slough Fort on the Hoo Peninsula in North Kent, guards the confluence of the Medway and the Thames.

Parked at the side of the fort, a trio of Civil Defence Vehicles - the property of a local resident, whose neighbours (apparently) did not relish the presence of those proud beasts on his front drive!

The fort is staffed by dedicated volunteers, and the line-up of vehicles, as much a local landmark as the Victorian defences.



Stuart Millson



EVENTS

2019

Sat/Sun 24—25 August
WW2 Living History August
Bank Holiday Weekend
Eden Camp, Yorks

Sunday 8 September
All Services Parade
Eden Camp, Yorks

Sunday 15 September
Battle of Britain Day

4—11 November
Remembrance Week
Eden Camp, Yorks

Saturday 2 November
Wreath Laying
1130am, CD Memorial, The NMA

Thursday 7 November
Field of Remembrance
Westminster Abbey

Sunday 10 November
Remembrance Sunday



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.

SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY FORCES COMMUNITY

EDEN CAMP

MODERN HISTORY THEME MUSEUM

MALTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE, YO17 6RT



All Services Parade and Service Sun. 8th September 2019

Gates open 10.00am, Parade and Service 2.30pm
Free admission to military veterans
and serving members of HM Forces.*



For more info. call: 01653 697777

www.edencamp.co.uk

***Free admission also extended to carers, chaperones and chauffeurs of military veterans.**

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