



CDA Journal

No. 66 February 2019

ISSN 1479-6856

'Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow'



2019
70th Anniversary of the formation of:
Auxiliary Fire Service
Civil Defence Corps
Industrial Civil Defence Service
National Hospital Service Reserve

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The Civil Defence Association Journal is published four times a year. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the CDA.

The Editor welcomes articles, photographs etc. for inclusion. Articles may be submitted either handwritten or (preferably) typed or in Microsoft Word format.

Copy deadline for next issue is 15 April 2019.

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

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Front Cover Picture: *A photograph of the Control Room at Gravesend Civil Defence Control Bunker which has recently reopened for prearranged evening visits following a period of restoration.*

An illustrated article about the history of the Bunker by Victor Smith will appear in a forthcoming edition of the CDA Journal.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the February 2019 edition of the CDA Journal.

Timothy Compston's article concerning Civil Defence and Nuclear War is a timely reminder that the threat of nuclear weapons has not gone away. Although their use would presumably be on scale much less than that feared during the 'Cold War', the fact remains that the knowledge and materials required to make even a 'primitive' nuclear device may very well be available and/or could be obtained by rogue states or terrorist groups. The latter have already shown their callous disregard for human life e.g. the recent bomb outrage in Kenya. In a number European countries e.g. Germany, Sweden etc. their governments have already produced and issued advice by various media to their citizens. The United States government has followed in a similar way. So where does that leave the UK?. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall a whole generation has grown up largely unaware of potential threats to the civilian population. Surely, its now time for those charged with the responsibility for protecting the public to change their present policy and be more proactive in promoting Emergency Preparedness.

'Staying Safe' is a new initiative by the Emergency Planning College to provide an online course on "Emergency Preparedness" (Civil Defence to you and me!) for the average man or woman in the street. It is a welcome move forward, and I will be very happy to receive feedback from readers who undertake it.

The role of ARP Wardens in Bristol during World War Two is highlighted in a report compiled by the University of the West of England.

The work of Bedford and Cumbria's Community Emergency Response Volunteers is yet another fine example of volunteer effort at local level.

The book review has a number of publications which feature the role of the ARP/CD Services in a number of cities and counties in the UK during WW2.

Austin Ruddy writes about one of the many 'unsung heroes' of the Home Front during the Second World War. In this instance a Warden in Leicester. Further stories about the bombing of Leicester will be featured in the CDA Journal.

Finally, did you, a member of your family or friends serve in AFS/CDC/ICDS/NHSR during the period 1949—1968?

I'm waiting to receive your memories, stories etc. about the training, exercises and attendance at "peacetime" incidents in which you participated. My E-mail address and home address/ telephone number is on Page 2.

Graham Whitehead

P.S. Many congratulations to Daphne Snowden (Snowy) BEM—see page 10.

OBITUARY

Dennis Norman Fisher
2 November 1932 -
14 November 2018



Dennis Fisher receives the Civil Aid Certificate of Appreciation at the 2015 CDA Annual Commemoration held at the National Memorial Arboretum

Dennis was born on 2nd November 1932 to Ena & Norman Fisher, then of 45 Juxon Street, Oxford. They moved when he was 7 years old to 14 Home Close, Wolvercote, Oxford. He grew up in the village of Wolvercote but went to St Philips & St James' school in Oxford.

He started work at the age of 14, and worked on the Great Western Railway at Yarnton in Oxfordshire. He worked in the signal box but because he was too short they made him stand on an orange box to pull the signal levers to change the points! He was also trained as a fireman on the footplate of the engines on shunting duty and attained his driver's ticket for the same.

At the age of 18 he was called up to do his National Service, and opted to join

the Royal Engineers. Sapper Fisher, with his skills, was called upon to man the boiler house, which tended to be good as the boiler house was next door to the cook house and so managed to get extra rations.

Whilst on a training exercise, he was summoned to the guard room, the Commander told him to take the Humber car, a shovel & two sacks and they gave him a grid reference and told him to pick up Lieutenant Summers, a tank Commander.

When he reached his destination he asked for Lieutenant Summers and was told they were just lifting a Churchill tank off him now and asked if he had brought the shovel & sacks? Shocked, he replied "Yes", they then said "Off you go lad, don't keep the Lieutenant waiting"!

When Dennis was de-mobbed he went back to being a signalman on the railway. On Saturday evenings Dennis would play records on his gramophone at the local village hall, it was there that he met a young lady called Jeanne Bull, who later became his wife in November 1957 on his 25th birthday.

The newlyweds bought a house in Roger Street, Summertown, Oxford. It was at this point, at his mother-in-law's house, they met a lady called Mrs Bromley, she was from the Civil Defence, and was recruiting volunteers for training. Both Dennis & Jeanne decided to join, this started his 61 years of involvement with the Civil Defence.

Dennis & Jeanne had two children, Keith & Marion, who were very supportive of him during his final illness.

After leaving the railways, Dennis worked at the Radiators factory in Woodstock Road in Oxford and spent 2 years driving lorries. He then went to work at the Atomic Weapons Research Centre at Harwell in their safety section as operations manager, his job was to organise safe carriage of radioactive substances all over the country.

In 1983 Dennis parted from Jeanne and went on to meet another lady who was also involved in Civil Defence, called Muriel, and later on she became his second wife.

Dennis & Muriel moved to West Hendred and rented a cottage which was allegedly haunted. They then moved to Leicestershire, first to Sewstern, then to Stapleford and started their own business "Rutland Executive Car Hire" and did very well.

Dennis loved their house, Sawgate Cottage, and even after Muriel passed away in 2008 he insisted on staying there. When he knew he was ill his daughter Marion found him a carer, Josephine, who did one to one caring. She did a splendid job looking after him.

His funeral was held at Grantham Crematorium on Friday 7 December 2018.

The service started with the entry of the standards to the March of the Civil Defence Services 'Come if Ye Dare'. The coffin was draped with the CD flag and both the Civil Aid standard and the CD Association standard were paraded. The service ended with the 'Farewell' call reflecting his contribution as CDA Chairman for a significant period. The mourners departed to the music of Edward Elgar's "Nimrod".

As previously mentioned, Dennis joined the Civil Defence Corps in 1957 and, in 1960, qualified as a CD Instructor. The subject matter he covered included Warden Section, First Aid, Signals, Headquarters etc.

Following the disbandment of the Corps in 1968 he was one of the founder members of the National Voluntary Civil Aid Services (better known as Civil Aid) and was National Chairman from 1974 until 1985. At the CDA Annual Commemoration in 2015 he was presented with the Civil Aid Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his outstanding contribution to that body.

Dennis was a member of the (former) Institute of Civil Defence for many years and held a number of important positions.

He was one of the founder members of the Civil Defence Association, and was its Chairman from 2001 to 2018.

He gave a lifetime of devoted service to Civil Defence and for those of us who knew him and served with him he will be sadly missed.

May He Rest in Peace.

Special thanks to Mrs Sheila McKech-nie (née) Fisher and Judith and Tim Essex-Lopresti. Editor.

Before Christmas we were told that CDA Committee member **James A Frost** died on 6 December 2018. James lived in Aberdeenshire. Sadly we do not even know his age. If any members have information about James please do let us know so that we can remember him properly.

CIVIL DEFENCE AND NUCLEAR WAR

Timothy Compston reports on why nuclear-related civil defence is high on the agenda after years in the shadows.

When it comes to civil defence – or the lack of it – across the UK, Europe and beyond, the question is being asked: with much of the infrastructure associated with the Cold War sold off, dismantled or moth-balled, just how prepared are we should the worst happen? In certain countries – the UK is a good example – the scaling back of nuclear civil defence provision has been particularly evident, to the extent that some facilities have been turned into glorified tourist attractions. Today, roadside signs even alert the public to the location of what were formerly secret nuclear bunkers. As tensions continue to mount on several fronts, with Russia, North Korea and Iran being cases in point, many governments and experts are coming to the same conclusion, namely that an urgent re-think on civil defence is required.



14kt nuclear blast, Nevada test site, 1951

Considering the dynamics of the nuclear threat that is driving civil defence thinking, a multi-lateral nuclear-armed world is certainly a more dangerous one, where old constructs like mutually assured destruction (MAD) do not necessarily hold sway. While there may be fewer nuclear delivery systems and warheads around than at the height of the Cold War, the reality is that it only takes one miscalculation for things to escalate out of control, and the more fingers on buttons the greater chance that something will go wrong.

The speech by the Russian leader President Putin in March 2018 serves to underline that it is not just about having a nuclear weapon that can threaten devastating destruction, but crucially, demonstrating that you have a credible delivery mechanism. Giving his annual Presidential address to the Federal Assembly in Russia he flagged up a number of weapons systems ranging from the new Sarmat (RS-28) ICBM that can put a warhead into orbit; a nuclear-powered cruise missile and a long-range underwater drone; all of which are designed to overcome anti-ballistic missile systems whose footprint has expanded over the past decade and a half since the US side withdrew from the Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty.

So, what practical measures should countries that feel themselves to be in danger take to protect their civilians? In the first instance, they can take mitigating steps to prevent conflict occurring in the first place, specifically through diplomacy and disarmament. There is the option to use military means to shoot down delivery systems

such as ballistic missiles – the Koreans, Japanese and Americans deployed Aegis-equipped ships during the recent tensions with North Korea – although this is not necessarily foolproof. Preparations can also be made to deal with the consequences of any attack. These may include measures such as educating the public regarding the steps they can take, constructing shelters, pre-positioning supplies and considering the medical resources that might be needed. Beyond this, it needs to be considered how any civil defence response is going to be implemented and communicated after an attack and in terms of recovery how damaged critical infrastructure will be brought back online.

The issue of concise and timely communications as part of civil defence efforts, when a ballistic missile – potentially with a nuclear warhead – is incoming, was brought into sharp relief back in January 2018 when, during a drill, an employee at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency accidentally sent out a text message to residents. The message said: “Ballistic missile threat inbound to Hawaii. Seek immediate shelter. This is not a drill.” Worryingly, it is reported that the false alarm was not corrected for 38 minutes as the authorities were initially unsure how to change it.

Here in the UK, there are certainly serious gaps in civil defence provision. As mentioned, many nuclear bunkers are no longer operational. Public information efforts like ‘Protect and Survive’ which were such a feature of the eighties – and told families how to make a ‘fallout room’ in their home – are no longer on the radar. Of course, with the end the Cold War, the threat of global terrorism and the view that any large-scale nuclear confrontation was unlikely for the foreseeable future it is perhaps not too surprising that resources have gone elsewhere.

After what happened in Hawaii at the turn of the year, questions were also naturally posed regarding how the British public would be warned of an imminent ballistic missile attack. Currently, there is not a system similar to the one in Hawaii that can send out alerts to mobile phones, although the Cabinet Office has, apparently, asked telecoms experts to help create something similar and the BBC News was told by a spokesperson from EE – the mobile provider – that the Government was “working with the mobile industry to put this capability in place”.

Staying with potential communication channels, the network of sirens across Britain that were such a feature of Cold War times and came to be associated with the ‘four -minute’ warning – the time it would take missiles to reach the UK from Russia – are sadly only a distant memory. As technology has moved on it also appears that the analogue National Attack Warning Systems (NAWS), which was created by the Government in the nineties and early in the millennium, working with the BBC, BT and others, to allow warnings to be issued via TV, radio and phone is also no longer at the heart of civil defence efforts. Moving forward, it seems that although traditional media will still have a role to play carrying key warnings, further development is likely to be related to channels like text messages, social media and specific apps.

At a global level, one country that has certainly made its mark in the field of nuclear civil defence field is Switzerland, which operates Polyalert. This was developed by the Federal Office for Civil Protection (FOXP), in collaboration with the cantons and

other partners, and works with 5,000 stationary sirens linked to a central control system. Communications are carried by armed forces networks and the Swiss secure radio network, Polycom and is also redundancy built-in, should some elements fail, thanks to the ability to utilise ultra-shortwave radio/radio data systems and commercial mobile phone networks.

Beyond this, in terms of physical structures the country has created a legal obligation for private individuals and public bodies to build and maintain a system of protective shelters. All inhabitants are guaranteed a place in a shelter near their homes in the case of an armed conflict. This principle has been implemented in Swiss law since 1963. Since then, the level of provision has been built up to the extent that there is now more than 100 percent coverage. There are small shelters in private houses and bigger shelters with a 100 or several hundred places to provide public infrastructure for those that have no access to a private shelter.

The Nordic countries too are well versed in civil defence. Reflecting heightened concerns about Russia's intentions, Sweden is seeking to reinvigorate its efforts as part of a revival of a total defence doctrine and the future of civil defence, as outlined by the Swedish Defence Commission in a new report entitled *Resilience*, which harks back to Cold War times. The report, which focuses on the 2021-2025 timeframe, admits that: "In the beginning of this century Sweden ended most of its planning for raised alert and war". It advises, among other things, that: "The command structures of civil defence in Government agencies have to be clarified and strengthened".

Concrete developments on the civil defence front in Sweden over the past few years include: closer co-operation on civil defence with neighbouring countries like Finland and Norway; a proposal to double the number of nuclear bunkers in the country over the next 10 years; a new updated version of the *If War Comes* leaflet which is to be issued during an Emergency Preparedness Week in May 2018 to all homes in the country and a 2016 letter sent to local authorities by the Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) that told them to prepare their civil defence infrastructure and procedures "in terms of war".

Despite the break-up of the Soviet Union, Russia too has continued to maintain an extensive civil defence capability for man-made and large natural disasters. This is symbolised by major annual drills on a scale not seen in the West. These have taken on an added significance given the on going tensions over Syria and Crimea, the expansion of NATO and the deployment of anti-missile defences close to Russia's borders. Back in October 2016, for example, 40 million Russians were involved in a four-day exercise which included 200,000 rescue professionals and almost 50,000 vehicles. This massive drill, according to Russian media reports, involved the rehearsal of protective measures for key personnel and the wider population in relation to radiation, chemical and biological scenarios – among others – as well practising coordination between federal, regional and local authorities; testing contingency plans and accessing the readiness of physical civil defence infrastructure like shelters.

For the future, the increasing potential for states beyond the major powers to create

nuclear devices and conceivably integrate them with ballistic missile technology means that more countries are likely to find themselves under threat of attack. The adversarial rhetoric between the US and Russia and their different geopolitical goals is also creating tensions with a nuclear dimension. This new reality is serving as a wake-up call for those tasked with civil defence and there is certainly a real appetite out there for measures that can help to protect citizens, even if they are not as comprehensive as those adopted by countries like Switzerland at the height of the Cold War.

Timothy Compston is a journalist and PR professional who specialises in security issues. He studied International Relations and Strategic Studies at Lancaster University, is PR Director at Compston PR and a previous Chairman of both the National Committee and CCTV PR Committee of the British Security Industry Association.

With acknowledgements to Intersec – the Journal of International Security, April 2018 Editor.

DAPHNE SNOWDEN AWARDED BEM



L to R, Mayor of Littlehampton Councillor Billy Blanchard-Cooper, the Vice Lord-lieutenant of West Sussex Mr. Harry Goring, Daphne Snowden and Deputy Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs. Margaret Bamford

Photo: Derek Moore

Congratulations Snowy

Sponsored by Derek Moore, Littlehampton's Poppy Appeal Organiser, CDA Member Daphne Snowden (Snowy) was awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year's Honours List for her work with the RBL and other organisations including the RNLI, Fire Service Trust and the CDA. A video of the presentation on 23 January 2019 can be seen at: <https://www.facebook.com/poppywithpride>

CIVIL DEFENCE LEAGUE OF CANADA



The Civil Defence league of Canada is a non-governmental civil defence initiative promoting citizen-centric civil defence in a world where sudden nuclear war is again increasingly possible. They encourage public education in personal safety know-how for nuclear attack scenarios. And advocate for community fallout shelter programs as well as general preparedness for other types of disasters and emergencies.

Above all else, they work to revive nuclear civil defence preparedness on the part of officials, emergency responders and everyday Canadians – measures that could save millions of lives in the event of nuclear war. (They believe nuclear experts like former U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry or the staff of Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists who warn that the risks of a nuclear conflict are actually greater today than during most of the U.S.-Soviet Cold War era.)

Further information can be found on their website <https://civil-defence.ca/>

CIVIL DEFENCE ON THE INTERNET

WW2 Civil Defence Uniforms, Insignia and Equipment

<https://www.ww2civildefence.co.uk/blog#>

Canadian Civil Defence Museum Video Gallery

<http://civildefencemuseum.ca/canadian-civil-defence-video-gallery>

'Civil Defence is Common Sense' is a Cold War history of the British Civil Defence Corps, Industrial Civil Defence Service, the Auxiliary Fire Service, National Hospital Service Reserve and the Women's (Royal) Voluntary Service, 1948-68.

<http://civildefenceiscommonsense.blogspot.com/>

'Control Room' a behind the scenes look at civil defence work during and after a Luftwaffe bombing raid on Bristol during the Second World War.

'Civilians in Uniform' Leatherhead applauds and thanks its Civil Defence Service for their sterling efforts, in this fascinating film made during the last months of the Second World War.

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/search/search-bfi/ww2%20civil%20defence>

Nuclear explosions can cause significant damage and casualties from blast, heat, and radiation but you can keep your family safe by knowing what to do and being prepared if it occurs.

<https://www.ready.gov/nuclear-explosion>

How to survive a missile attack: What's the official advice?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-42681595>

‘STAYING SAFE’ - NEW ONLINE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COURSE

The UK's Emergency Planning College (EPC) has developed an online course aimed at:

- ◆ Citizens who want to understand the actual risks to themselves and their family, and how to be prepared in an emergency.
- ◆ Professionals who may be involved in community resilience planning may also find the course beneficial.

In today's uncertain world, it's important to understand the likelihood of an emergency situation occurring, and how to be more prepared. Daily emergencies happen worldwide, however hearing about them depends on your location and the circumstances of the emergency.

The course has been designed to help the individual develop their own personal resilience and to understand the 'what ifs'.

This will allow a person to plan how to deal with them, prioritise them and lessen the affects to them and their family.

Topics covered:

- ⇒ Identifying types of emergencies
- ⇒ Risks, hazards and threats assessment
- ⇒ Impact and consequences of emergencies
- ⇒ Developing emergency plans
- ⇒ Individually preparing for emergencies
- ⇒ Developing personal resilience

By the end of the course the participant will be able to:

1. Assess the likelihood of risks, hazards and threats.
2. Explain the difference between threats vs hazards and intention vs capability.
3. Develop the skills to evaluate actual risk and understand how you could react in an emergency.
4. Explore information available, for use in your emergency plan.
5. Improve your own personal resilience to become more prepared for disruption.

The complete course is free, however if you so wish, you can upgrade for a fee of £32. Although it has been developed by the EPC, the course is managed on their behalf by futurelearn.com a distance learning company.

For further information consult either the EPC website:

<http://www.epcresilience.com>
or <http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/staying-safe>

WARDEN'S SERVICE IN BRISTOL DURING WW2



1938 had seen the start of the recruitment of Air Raid Wardens, the backbone of civil defence, whose organisation in Bristol was under the direction of the Chief Constable. The Wardens' Service was based around the ARP Divisions with a Divisional Warden in charge of each, these being further sub-divided into Groups, each headed by a Group Warden, and Sectors, with approximately 500 people in each. Progress, however, was slow and by September 1938 of the 2191 men who had volunteered and been accepted only 1064 were trained and 460 actually allocated to their respective sectors.

Nevertheless, although still under strength, on September 3 1939, all 187 Wardens' Posts were fully manned, each of these serving three or more Sectors

from such places as church halls and schools. At a later stage specially constructed posts of steel and brick were built, six Divisional HQ's were established and whole-time Wardens, both men and women, were engaged, raising the actual strength by the end of the war to 3,756 men and 1,582 women.

The bulk of the Wardens were unpaid volunteers and as the majority of these, unless in reserved occupations, were over forty years of age, many already possessed useful military experience, having served in World War I. By contrast full-time Wardens were relatively few, normally restricted to no more than two per post.

The Wardens' Service was designed to help the general public with advice, to give them information, and, under raiding conditions to give them warning of danger; to render assistance to those who might be injured or rendered homeless; to report air raid damage, and to allay panic.

It was also the somewhat unpopular duty of the Wardens to assist the police in enforcing the blackout regulations, which for much of the war were in force every night, from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise, and for this purpose patrols were instituted.

In addition, a special observation post on the tower of the Royal Fort, set up to detect and report the first fall of flares and bombs for Fighter Command, was also maintained and manned by Wardens. Nevertheless, in spite of the varied duties and the amount of voluntary service given, the service still found time to collect a large sum of money for the purpose of purchasing two Spitfire aircraft, R7194, "Bristol Civil Defence" and R7260, "Bristol Air Raid Warden" both first flown in March 1941.

With acknowledgements to the Humanities Dept, University of the West of England

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS

Bedfordshire

The Bedfordshire CERT (established in 2014) is a Community Emergency Response Team. CERT members are volunteers from a town, village or other local area, trained and willing to respond to an emergency and to provide support to increase resilience during emergency incidents such as fires, flooding, disease outbreak, major transport disruption or a loss of utilities.

The Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forum (BLRF) is made up of the “blue light services” such as Police, Fire, Ambulance, and Local Authorities. It also includes the Bedfordshire Local Emergency Volunteers Executive Committee (BLEVEC). Bedfordshire CERT is part of BLEVEC, along with other emergency voluntary organisations such as Midshires Search and Rescue, the British Red Cross, Beds and Cambs 4x4's, Royal Voluntary Service.

Every CERT volunteer receives regular training and is invited to attend large-scale exercises alongside organisations from the emergency service sector. Our training events are designed to test our members, and are realistic to reflect the risks in our area. Scenarios have previously included plane crashes, major floods and severe weather.

During a large scale emergency, Bedfordshire CERT may be called in to action by the Duty Emergency Planning Officer from the Local Authority to work alongside other emergency responders in the area, or even elsewhere in the UK.

Bedfordshire CERT responders are given the freedom to arrange their own localised training and social events depending on the needs of the community and its members. Full support and guidance is also available from Emergency Planning Officers across the Local Authorities.

As responders are all local, they bring a level of expertise and local knowledge that the emergency services often rely on. We spend the vast majority of our time preparing for large scale emergencies that fortunately rarely occur, however it is often the small scale emergencies that can have a negative impact on a community and cause disruption.

Cumbria

The report which follows was written by Kerryanne Wilde, Founder and CEO, Eden Flood Volunteers :

“At the start of the Floods on the 5 December 2015, I was at home in my own village in Shap and the water was getting deeper on Main Street and was flooding from Simpsons Garage and just reaching Andersons Newsagent and Post Office, which is half way down the village. There was no help or support coming from the

Council. The villagers were all pulling together, trying their best to protect their properties and businesses from the impending water and storm which was battering our County.

While watching the news on practically every channel, I could see the devastation unfolding across the County as the weather was getting worse and the floods were affecting more and more areas before my eyes. I wanted to do something to help my own fellow villagers but, also those around the County. Then what I call a "lightbulb moment" went off in my head. I wrote a post on Facebook and posted it around all the pages and sites which I felt would get to as many people as possible. I also posted a thread on Twitter and tagged as many followers as possible.

I made several calls to facilities and organisations, which I thought could be useful in Penrith to store such goods. The reason behind this was, Carlisle only had one main road into and out of it due to the damage of the floods, Penrith is right on the M6 corridor and had easy access to all the districts which had been affected by the floods. On the 6th December Eden Flood Volunteers was born. We were called Eden Flood Volunteers as this is where we were born. That aside, we support the whole of Cumbria and also the surrounding Counties (Lancashire, Yorkshire and Dumfries & Galloway).

On Monday 7 December at 9:00am at the Evergreen Hall in Penrith, I was overwhelmed by the generosity of the Cumbrian People. They turned up by the car loads full with bags and bags of goods. Bells of Lazonby were the first business to turn up with fresh bread and rolls to go out to those affected and the goods came thick and fast. Within 30 minutes it was apparent that the Evergreen Hall was not going to be big enough so I contacted Adrian Lochhead from Eden Arts at the Old Fire Station in Penrith and asked if the offer which he'd given me on the Sunday was still on the table? Could I pop down straight away to see him?

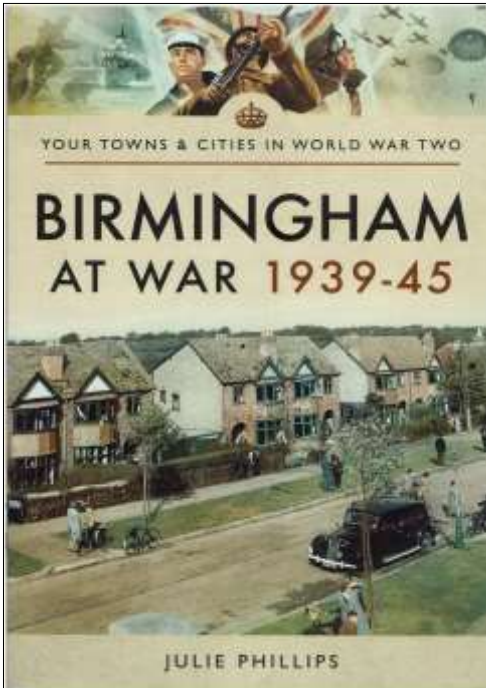
He said yes and this became our 1st main HQ to co-ordinate the relief and support around the County. We also needed more space, as what we had wasn't big enough, The Cooperative in Penrith gave us unlimited use of the empty space downstairs in their building to continue to coordinate our relief effort as did Newton Rigg College.

Support has and still continues to come from all over the UK and Europe, from all faiths, backgrounds and walks of life. It is amazing and testament to all those individuals that came together for one purpose and that is to support the Flood Affected/Families of Cumbria. Which now also includes all those facing Crisis, Emergency or Disaster.

Eden Flood Volunteers became **CERT (UK) Ltd** – Community Emergency Response Team (UK) Ltd, in 2016 and supports the whole of Cumbria.

Without our volunteers we simply could not have achieved all that we have".

BOOK REVIEW



mother was left with me to care for and you wonder what life was like for her and how she coped. That chapter told me what she and everyone else had to put up with. The book was nicely compiled and well documented.

John Broughton is a neighbour and keenly interested in history. He spotted the book, borrowed it and commented:”

An exceedingly interesting book, full of facts, beautifully written and exceptionally informative. Unfortunately some of the photographs are too dark.”

Title: Birmingham at War 1939-45

Author: Julie Phillips

Publisher: Pen & Sword

ISBN: 978 1 47386 697 3

Pages: 209 Paperback

£14.99

Other books in this series -

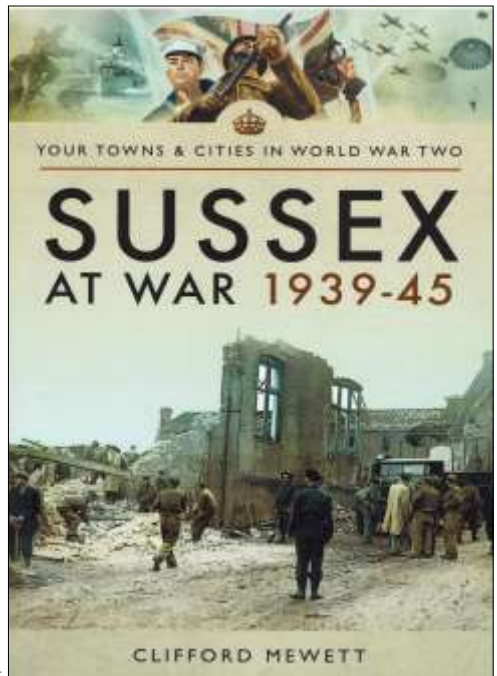
Reviewed by CDA members Chris and Barbara Leather:

Barbara: “I enjoyed reading this book very much. I feel that it has been well researched and constructed. For me, it brought back many memories of the war although I was quite young. I remember quite a lot of the defences: the AA guns and the majestic barrage balloons.

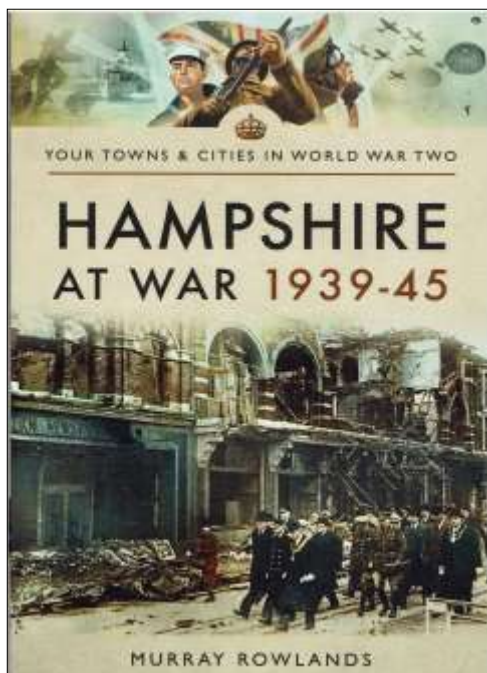
I would encourage people to read this book as the facts are straight to the point. My father was in the Home Guard and was often out all night then back to work in the day.

A very satisfying book.”

Chris:” I didn’t read the book from cover to cover, but various passages. I did read the chapter ‘Life in War’ because, my father being in the forces, my



Title: Sussex at War 1939-45
Author: Clifford Mewett
Publisher: Pen & Sword
ISBN: 978 1 47385 559 5
Pages: 123 Paperback
£12.99



Title: Hampshire at War 1939-45
Author: Murray Rowlands
Publisher: Pen & Sword
ISBN: 978 1 47386 9 967
Pages: 213 Paperback
£12.99



Title: Voices of The Second World War
A Child's Perspective
Author: Sheila A Renshaw
Publisher: Pen & Sword
ISBN: 978 1 52670 059 9
Pages: 158 Paperback
£12.99

These 3 books are currently out with CDA members for review so, hopefully, reviews will appear in future issues.



EVENTS

2019

Saturday 2 March
WMFS Band Concert

St. John's in The Square,
Wolverhampton

Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/bwmfs

Sat/Sun 2—3 March
WW2 Living History
Weekend—Axis-Allied
Eden Camp, Yorks

Sunday 3 March
Bethnal Green
Memorial Service
CDA participation

Saturday 16 March
WW2 Living History Day
(Northern WW2 Association)
Eden Camp, Yorks

Saturday 30 March
CDA Annual General Meeting
Toby Carvery,
Stonebridge, Birmingham

Sat/Sun 20-21 April
WW2 Living History Easter
Bank Holiday Weekend
Eden Camp, Yorks

Saturday 27 April
Escape Lines Memorial
Association
Reunion & Service
Eden Camp, Yorks

Sunday 5 May
Firefighters Memorial Trust
Annual Service of
Remembrance &
Wreath Laying Ceremony
'Holy Sepulchre London',
Holborne Viaduct, London

Sat or Sun May (tba)
ROCA Annual
Commemoration
The NMA

Sunday 19 May
Royal Corps of Signals
Reunion Day
Eden Camp, Yorks

Sunday 2 June
Broadway Tower
Memorial Service
Broadway, Worcs (ROCA)

Saturday 15 June
CDA Annual Commemoration
The NMA

Sat/Sun 15-16 June
Fire Service Preservation
Group Rally Weekend
Eden Camp, Yorks

Sat/Sun 22-23 June
Weston Air Festival
Weston Super Mare
(ROCA Heritage Display)

Saturday 29 June
Armed Forces Natl Parade
Salisbury (ROCA Heritage Display)

Sat/Sun 6-7 July
Wales Air Show
Swansea Bay
(ROCA Heritage Display)

Sunday 7 July
Battle of Britain Memorial Day

Capel le Ferne, Kent
(CDA & ROCA participation)

Saturday 13 July
Airborne Forces North
Remembrance Day

Eden Camp, Yorks

Fri/Sun 19—21 July
Royal International Air Tattoo

Fairford
(ROCA Heritage Display)

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: Cophthorne 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.

AN UNLIKELY HERO

Leicestershire's highest wartime award for civilian gallantry was attained by an 'unlikely hero'. Near the end of Leicester's Blitz Night, at 01.16am on 20 November 1940, a large parachute mine exploded at the corner of Knighton Road and Newstead Road, in Leicester's smart Knighton district, killing eight residents.

As the Leicester Mercury newspaper explained: 'The wardens of Leicester were a determined and courageous body who gave their best that night and this is reflected in a George Medal and four Royal recommendations for brave conduct which were awarded to them. Beaming, likeable, 54-year-old William John Higgott, an Inland Revenue Inspector, a man of rotund figure, ready open countenance and a bespectacled smile, was the warden who won the George Medal.

'The London Gazette states: 'Warden Higgott arrived at an incident immediately after a bomb had exploded and without regard for his own safety, entered a building which was a mass of ruins and in an unsafe condition. He came out with two children, one under each arm. He then returned and put out a fire in the upper part of the premises. He next went to a neighbouring building and extinguished a fire there. Subsequently he did extraordinarily good work and extinguished another fire where a large bomb had exploded at the corner of two roads. He showed a very high degree of courage and efficiency.' Mr Higgott has been a Warden since 1938.'



The only known photograph of Leicester ARP Warden William Higgott GM.

The Leicester Evening Mail newspaper added: 'When our representative rang Mr Higgott's home last night to convey the good news, he was not in. "I know nothing about it," said surprised Mrs Higgott, when told her husband had won the George Medal. "People have said he did good work that night, but when I mentioned it to him, he just replied 'Nonsense'. Mr Higgott, modest as ever, would not accept he had deserved the honour: "Hundreds did more than I did that night," he said modestly.

This article and photograph is extracted from 'Tested By Bomb and Flame: Leicester Versus Luftwaffe Air Raids, 1939-1945', by Austin J Ruddy, published by Halsgrove Books. Signed copies are directly available from the author on 07812 038781 for £19.99.