



CDA Journal

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'Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow'



In this Issue:

New CDA Chairman

Heroic Animals Honoured

Heroes in the Eye of the Storm

75th Anniversary Window Display

80th Anniversary, Battle of Britain

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Front Page Photograph:

Rip, a crossbreed terrier, was discovered alone and hungry amidst the chaos following a heavy air raid on Poplar, London by a local Air Raid Warden in 1940. The Warden, Mr. E. King, took pity on him, fed him some scraps, and the pair became inseparable. Adopted as a mascot by Mr. King's colleagues in ARP. Rip showed a talent for sniffing out survivors trapped in bombed buildings and soon became an unofficial Search and Rescue dog. He seemed to have an instinctive ability for finding survivors and soon became the ARP's first 'official' SAR dog.

Photograph: PDSA

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the August 2020 edition of the CDA Journal.

I have purposely omitted news items relating to the ongoing Covid-19 emergency. Readers will already be receiving continuous updates from the media, some factual whilst others are purely speculative. I therefore do not think its appropriate at this time to comment further.

We have a message from Colin Harmsworth, our new CDA Chairman. He continues the tradition of past CDA Chairman in that the holder is either a past or current active Civil Defender. In Colin's case, he is actively involved, being Chief Officer of the Joint Civil Aid Corps. I am sure readers will join me in sending congratulations and wishing him all the best for his tenure of office.

In commemorating the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, we focus on the heroic role played by our animal friends during the Second World War.

The final part of the story of Gravesend Civil Defence Bunker covers the period from the early 1960s, disbandment of the CD Corps, 'care and maintenance', to the present day, where it is a heritage tourist venue.

Austin Ruddy's article brings into sharp relief, the ordeal suffered by the citizens and those sent to help them during the bombing of a major Midlands city in WW2.

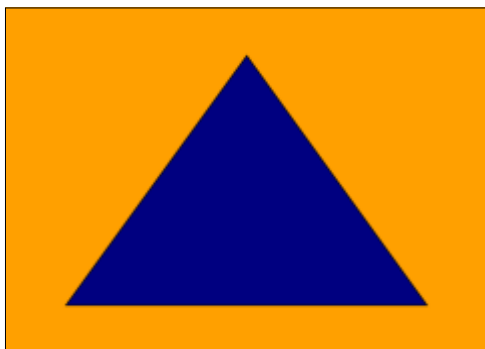
Three books are reviewed highlighting the ever present threat of a terrorist attack using radioactive devices ('dirty bombs') on citizens and infrastructure,

Nick Hill, Manager, Eden Camp describes how this unique heritage site has coped since March 2020. Nick and his team have always been very supportive of the CDA. We therefore send best wishes to them in their endeavours.

This year marks the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. The heroic role played by all those who took part in the defence of this country, should **never** be forgotten.

Stay safe.

Graham Whitehead



NEW CDA CHAIRMAN



Hi, I am Colin Harmsworth, and this has got to be the hardest thing to write. I am the founder and Chief Officer of the Joint Civil Aid Corps (the Corps), and now have the honour of being the Chair of the Civil Defence Association.

My early life was taken up as a musician and State Trumpeter with the Blues and Royals, Household Cavalry. Unfortunately, due to a medical condition, I was medically discharged from the Regular Army after 8 years.

Following my discharge, as well as running the family business, after a break of a couple of years, I served in the Territorial Army where I set up new Green Jacket band, the Waterloo Band of what was the 5th Battalion of the Royal Green Jackets. My musical interest continued as bandmaster and then Musical Director of various amateur bands.

Following attending university as a mature student, I had various positions as a General Manager and then Development Director, which led to two years in California.

However, due to family issues, I returned to England with my children, and after various roles, I joined Network Rail, where I remain today as a Programme Sponsor.

My two passions are the Corps, and the CDA. I have worked on developing the Corps for some seven years, researching the many elements necessary to bring Civil Defence back to the British Isles, with acknowledgements and respects to both the Isle of Man Civil Defence and the Irish Civil Defence. As an organisation, the Corps sets out to emulate the service of the original Civil Defence Corps, and for me, the importance of maintaining the CDA and developing it for the future is paramount.



OBITUARIES

Clive Phoenix

Clive Phoenix passed away on 9 April 2020, aged 69 years, after a long illness related to wounds received in an explosion in Northern Ireland during the troubles. He leaves three sons, one of whom was his carer during later times.

He was a regular soldier and served in Royal Signals in Germany and Northern Ireland. Being a very keen Civil Defender, he went on to serve in the Association of Pioneer Rescue Officers and British Civil Defence including training and equipping teams for service in several theatres including Kosovo.

He was also a member of the Civil Defence Association and the Royal Signals Association.



Clive Phoenix (centre) in conversation with HRH the Prince of Wales at a private meeting held for rescue officers who assisted during the York 2000 floods.

Reverend John Stanley Watts

The Reverend John Stanley Watts passed away on 6 March 2019, aged 91 years. He was a very keen member of the Civil Defence Corps and the Civil Defence Association. He served as a CD Messenger then Rescue Section, Coventry during WW2. He joined the CD Corps and served as Staff Off (Intelligence & Operations) from 1958 until 1968. (The photograph below shows him in uniform (he is 3rd from left in the middle row).



Daphne Snowden BEM

CDA member Daphne Snowden BEM passed away on 9 May 2019 following a long battle with cancer. 'Snowy' as she was better known to family and friends, was featured in the February 2018 edition of this Journal following the award of the Service Bar having completed 65 years service to the Royal British Legion.

May They Rest in Peace.

With thanks to the following people:

Patrick Stanton

Nick Ridsdale

Dene Phoenix

Timothy Watts

Professor Derek Moore

HEROIC ANIMALS 'WHO ALSO SERVED' HONOURED ON 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

The vet charity, Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) commemorated the 75th anniversary of VE Day with the publication of a set of exclusive PDSA Dickin Medal e-books.



These e-books pay tribute to the brave hero animals 'who also served' and helped save countless lives during World War Two, tell the remarkable stories of animal heroes honoured with the PDSA Dickin Medal. These include the story of messenger pigeon, Duke on Normandy, who flew for 27 hours through bullets and bombs to deliver vital, life-saving intelligence to Allied Forces.

The prestigious Medal – known as the animals' Victoria Cross – recognises outstanding acts of gallantry and devotion to duty displayed by animals serving with the Armed Forces or Civil Defence units in theatres of war.

The Medal was instituted by the charity's Founder, Maria Dickin, with the approval of the War Office and Imperial War Museum, to raise the status of animals and acknowledge the remarkable roles they play in society. It was first awarded to a messenger pigeon named Winkie on 3 December 1943.



The Dickin Medal

Mary Bawn, Head of Press, Voice and Brand at PDSA, said: "Throughout history, animals serving in the Armed Forces have made an extraordinary difference to the lives of so many, not only the men and women who serve, but also civilians who our military are protecting. Sharing some of these stories on VE day is a great way to celebrate the incredible, life-saving role animals have played throughout history, and continue to play today."

Rip - The 'Worlds first Search and Rescue dog'

Rip, a crossbreed terrier, who is often referred to as the 'World's first Search and Rescue dog'. He was found on the streets of London by a local Air Raid Warden in 1940. He had a talent for sniffing out

survivors trapped in the blitz rubble and despite never receiving formal training, in just twelve months he helped save the lives of more than 100 people.

Rip was awarded his PDSA Dickin Medal in 1945.

Duke of Normandy (Pigeon No. NURP 41. SBC 219)

Allied paratroopers from the 21st Army Group were dropped behind enemy lines days before D-Day. After their mission ran into numerous problems, the only way to get a message back was a pigeon named Duke of Normandy. His journey home – through bullets and bombs – took almost 27 hours. But he delivered critical intelligence to the Allied Command – and saved many lives.

Duke of Normandy received his PDSA Dickin Medal on 8 January 1947.

Brian – a parachuting dog

A 'qualified paratrooper', Brian (also known as Bing) served with the 13th Battalion Airborne Regiment during WWII. As the D-Day landings began, Brian was parachuted into the Normandy and fought side-by-side with his human allies. He also took part in the final airborne assault of the war.

Brian was presented with his PDSA Dickin Medal in March 1947.

Read the full stories of these amazing animal heroes and more download the free PDSA Dickin Medal e-books www.pdsa.org.uk

With thanks to Andy Smith, 'Louth Leader' and the PDSA

75TH ANNIVERSARY WINDOW DISPLAY

With the Cov-19 restrictions presently preventing the holding of very important commemorations, Simon Hill, Civil Aid/Mefas, came up with a novel idea. A window display was created at the Mefas HQ, New Malden which featured the role of the Civil Defence Services during World War Two.

For reasons of space it has not been possible to feature all the window displays, but trust that those shown here give a 'flavour' of what was displayed. Congratulations to Simon for organising this event!

Editor.



GRAVESEND CIVIL DEFENCE CONTROL CENTRE (3)

Volunteers from the Civil Defence Corps and others assigned to operate the bunker acquired the necessary skills to do so through a regime of training. There was separate training for the other parts of the Corps. From time to time there was participation in civil defence exercises, whether locally or further afield. On at least one occasion in the early 1960s the reason for the existence of civil defence and the function of the bunker were promoted to the local community by means of an open day. This, from the recollection of an activist involved, was used as an opportunity by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) to demonstrate inside. But for most of the time the bunker assumed an air of secrecy in public perception. This stimulated baseless local rumours, one being that it was a place to which privileged members of Gravesend's council would go for sanctuary in the event of a threatened attack and another was that it was a vault for money and valuables.

The operational life of the bunker saw upgrading of its equipment as well as changes to the types and arrangement of furniture, particularly in the control rooms. The details of this are limited, relying upon slight references in contemporary official documents and the memories of members of the Corps and others who visited the premises during its operational life. A complaint from those training there was of a pervasive dampness which resulted in the impaired operation of some equipment, including the telephone switchboard.



The Radio Mast

Recruitment of volunteers continued to be a struggle and despite the known dedication and achievement of the predecessors of the Corps during the Second World War, interest in membership is remembered by some former volunteers as having suffered to a degree from the mockery of elements of the population. There was also protest against the Corps by activists inspired by the CND. Meanwhile, with the decision to end National Service which had provided many of the personnel for the Mobile Defence Corps, this organisation was discontinued. It was succeeded in a lesser way by the use of the Territorial Army.

'The War Game'

Gravesend had a part to play in Peter Watkins' seminal drama-documentary, 'The War Game' of 1965, portraying the lead-up to a war between the Soviet Union and NATO and the effects on Kent of a nuclear attack on Britain. It suggested that civil defence could not have coped with the aftermath. Among a number of incidents included in the film was the looting of a food storage compound in Gravesend. Members of a local drama group and others were included as actors and extras. Banned from being broadcast at the time, this film was nevertheless screened at some cinemas and other venues, not to be shown on television until years later. The writer remembers its subduing effect on a military audience after being screened at the School of Infantry in 1970. The passage of time has not diminished its emotional power.

Contraction

There had been a growing recognition that without vastly greater provision at an unacceptably higher cost, the probable scale of destruction in the event of a nuclear attack would have overwhelmed the civil defence arrangements then in being, even with pragmatic reduced expectations of them. It was decided to shrink the size of the Civil Defence Corps and to eliminate the separate sections for rescue, ambulance, first aid and welfare, concentrating upon helping to provide an efficient communication and control system, although rescue work was still to be taught.

Britain's local authorities were advised to make the fullest use of their own staff for Civil Defence purposes. As an example of this, in Gravesend an attempt was made in February 1967 to reduce numbers of Corps personnel by urging that volunteers from council staffs be used, resulting in council and library staff being given training at the bunker in communications and control. The process was reinforced in October 1967 by a request to Gravesend's council as well as to all others, to use their own staff to man control centres and warden posts, using Civil Defence Corps staff only where this was not possible.

These changes had, in fact, produced the genesis of a national scheme that attempted to recognise and adapt to the new circumstances. A nucleus for communications and coordination for the activation of existing public services such as fire, police, emergency NHS staff, local authority works personnel and others while, at the same time, retaining the expertise of the Corps. It remained for this intended partnership to be melded.

Disbandment of the Civil Defence Corps: 'Care and Maintenance'

However, before this could happen, central government decided to proceed without involvement of the Corps which was stood down in 1968 as part of a scheme to place this aspect of home defence into a state of 'care and maintenance'. Civil Defence training premises were closed, with vehicles and equipment withdrawn and disposed of. Not only was the CD Corps discontinued but also that element of the Territorial Army which, following the demise of the Mobile Defence Corps, had been designated as having a post-attack assistance role, along with the Auxiliary Fire Service and the NHS Hospital Reserve.

Moreover, the Royal Observer Corps, a civilian voluntary body which had evolved from aircraft spotting to post-attack radiation monitoring from underground posts, had the number of its sites halved.

After 1974/5 the stand-by function for Gravesend's bunker ceased, with moveable equipment being extracted, but fixed furniture was left. Thereafter, the bunker became used as a store for local historical artifacts and for items forming part of a collection of Gravesend Library. With the introduction of shelving, the bunker was also a repository for some 20,000 closed files belonging to Gravesham Borough Council. Coordination of emergency arrangements in Gravesend now came to depend upon room spaces made available at the recently-constructed Civic Centre in the middle of Gravesend.

Conservation and public display

The existence and historical significance of the bunker, was revealed by a study of the post-medieval military and civil defences of north-west Kent undertaken in 1990 for the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council. This was followed in 1995 by a successful request of the New Tavern Fort Project (renamed Thames Defence Heritage in 2000) to Gravesham Borough Council for permission to undertake restoration of the bunker, remaining in their ownership, and to open it to the public. The latter was made possible by an underpinning programme of documentary research paralleled by the acquisition from a variety of governmental, local authority and other sources of the range of necessary furniture, equipment and fittings to produce an authentic refurbished layout.

A consequence arising from this was the removal of the large residue of council files which were an impediment to heritage development. Those of historical retention value were placed in an archival repository elsewhere and the rest, at the direction of the council, disposed of as paper scrap. Work had initially started to create a visitor experience which combined presentation as a Cold War heritage centre with historical refurbishing of the remaining spaces as parts of the control centre. Although a mock-up of an ROC underground post was created as part of an intended Cold War heritage centre (and has been retained), it soon became apparent that the rarity value of the bunker demanded display almost wholly as a Civil Defence Control Centre, in which its appearance and atmosphere could be recreated, all embraced within an interpretive explanation of the Cold War. With the generous financial support of the council, this was undertaken in phases. Even before completion, the first visitors were received in 2000.



A guide standing next to a large bomb effects calculator used during visits by the public to the bunker

The bunker was ceremonially opened as a museum in 2004, to mark the 50th year since its construction. This event was attended by Christopher Pond MP, senior council officials and local invited guests, as well as by George Rattray, the builder of the bunker and, remarkably given the history of hostility between the West and Russia, by an attaché at the Russian Embassy who, together, unveiled a commemorative plaque. In an expression of continuity to the present, Kent Emergency Planning provided a wall panel bringing the history of the county's civil defence up to date.

Guided tours run on various dates throughout the year. For further information please call Tel No. **01474 33 76 00** or see www.visitgravesend.co.uk

HEROES IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

Largely forgotten today, on the night of November 19-20, 1940, the Midlands industrial city of Leicester received its 'Blitz Night', killing over 100 residents. But amongst the death and destruction, even more forgotten, are the astonishingly brave and selfless acts carried out that night by the city's ARP, who, were in danger of slipping into history.

Four nights previously, the Luftwaffe had brought their brand of aerial destruction to the neighbouring city of Coventry. On this night, Birmingham was the main target, however, they also set their sights on Leicester as a diversionary attack. The Luftwaffe struck the unsuspecting city at 1945hrs, before the sirens had even sounded, having a free hand over Leicester.

As the air raid developed, the inner city residential area of Highfields, adjacent to Leicester's main railway station, received a pummelling and soon, civilian casualties mounted. A doctor and his St John nursing team immediately responded. Little did they realise that they were entering the eye of the storm.

At 2240hrs, whilst the fire and ARP services were at full stretch, a salvo of three heavy high explosive bombs fell on the Sparkenhoe Street/Saxby Street crossroads, demolishing three of the four corners and flattening a hotel, shop and four houses.

Up to 40 personnel were in the ARP depot in the Wesleyan Chapel schoolrooms adjoining Saxby Street Methodist Church, when the church received a direct hit. Amazingly, most of the ARP workers escaped with just minor scratches, though their equipment was destroyed.

However, the main area of concern was directly opposite, on Saxby Street corner. Four were killed at number 56, a boarding house. The 18 personnel of Leicester's Bond Street Mobile First Aid Unit (MFAU), under 40-year-old Medical Officer Dr Ernest Berry Garrett, raced to the scene in their converted bus, the first time it had been used.

Parking just opposite the incident, in Stoughton Street, the party took over the kitchen of 80 Sparkenhoe Street as an emergency dressing station and attended to the first casualties they found, 'with great coolness and endurance'.

Joan Howes lived at number 80 and recalled: "The bombs began falling and I went to the cellar. Shouting outside brought me running out and I helped pull two injured people from a cellar opposite. Shortly after, a doctor and ARP people crowded in to our house. They fitted our kitchen with wooden shutters as a temporary casualty station. Shortly, a bomb dropped at the front gate on a medical bus parked there. We were instructed to get out quickly. As I ran from the cellar steps, I looked towards the front of our house, to see a huge wall of flames. Unfortunately, the nearest shelter had been cracked by blast and we had to move to another shelter."

No doubt attracted by the fires, this second salvo had fallen on the eastern corner of

Stoughton Street/Sparkenhoe Street. The MFAU immediately blew up and was consumed by fire. Detective Constable Jock Joiner, then 24, witnessed it.

Earlier, Jock and his pal, DC Brian Hawkes, had been sent up on to the roof of the city's Central police station, on Charles Street, on fire watch, as a hailstorm of incendiaries came tumbling out of the darkness. "We were surrounded by the buggers. My shoes were burning from kicking them off that bloody roof for two-and-a-half hours," Jock recalled in 2006. No sooner had the pair flopped into the canteen for a break, than they were sent out again: "Inspector Poole came in and said, 'You, you, you and you', pointing to me, Brian Hawkes, Len Norman and George Trump, 'I want you to go up to Highfields. It's taking a right hammering.'"

Their job was to set up an incident post. They had not long set up their blue police lantern, when it was smashed by a nearby explosion. Jock and George were sent back for another lantern and set it up again: "We helped fetch the dead and injured out of houses in Saxby Street. You could hear whistles of the bombs coming down. Jets of flame shot from a fractured gas main in Sparkenhoe Street. The whole place was lit up like Piccadilly. You could almost wave at the bomber pilots – they came as low as they liked."

Shrapnel smashed into one man's gas mask case. He instinctively put his hand up to his chest and it took his finger off. Suddenly, a blast smashed the breath from Jock's body: "All I remember is a searing orange flame and gliding through the air, mouth wide open. It all seemed in slow motion. Oblivion."

Jock's escape was miraculous. He had been standing inches from his fellow officers. "I was hidden under debris," he said. Jock suffered from shock, shrapnel blew a hole in his steel helmet and the right side of his head was numb for months. It was two years before he could taste food.

But Detective Sergeant Leonard Norman, aged 34, and DC George Trump, aged 26, were killed instantly and DC Brian Hawkes, also 26, died early the next morning in the Leicester Royal Infirmary. PC Horace Burks was badly injured by bomb splinters and was off duty for six months.

Mary Maynard, Dr Garrett's daughter, says: "I remember father coming home. He was a tough man who didn't suffer fools, but he looked pale, the way he used to after attending bad road accidents. He was grey with dust and his smart leather doctor's shoes were cut to ribbons by broken glass.

"The MFAU was a converted single-decker charabanc, with an emergency operating table. My father was very proud of the bus and was very upset about losing it, as he had put a lot of work into it. Father said the policemen were discussing the incident, when they heard a bomb falling: some dived one way, the others the other and were killed."

On January 31, 1941, the Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy Commandant-in-Chief of the Order of St John, visited Leicester. She presented certificates of merit to members of the Bond Street MFAU, including Dr Garrett: 'Regardless of danger, Dr

Garrett went to the assistance of casualties lying in the street,' read his citation. 'He again established his post with equipment he had been able to save, in a surface shelter and, amidst further bombing, freed casualties covered by masonry to render first aid and remove them to Swain Street ARP First Aid Post. The work of this officer and his unit was exemplary and deserving of the highest commendation. They displayed the utmost gallantry and devotion to duty in most trying circumstances.'

Although off-duty, Miss Ivy Marsh, a St John Ambulance Sister of the MFAU, went with her unit in civilian clothing to the incident. Her citation read: 'Although in great danger, stunned by an explosion and half-buried under a fallen door, she worked while bombs exploded, attending injured DC Hawkes. She remained with him, until he was removed by ambulance.' Her 'coolness, pluckiness and bravery' was recognised by Leicester Watch Committee, who presented her with a certificate for bravery and the police, who presented her with a gold watch and by St John Ambulance, from whom she received a certificate of merit. The Chief Constable stated she displayed 'signal gallantry and courage.'

Miss Carrie Wells, senior first aid officer, heard a child crying for help. By light of the burning MFAU bus, she found him in the street. The boy, Frank Thorp, aged 15, was dragged away from the burning vehicle and, with the assistance of a soldier and two wardens, she applied tourniquets to the boy's arm and leg and carried him on a deckchair to Swain Street First Aid Post, a quarter of a mile away. Here, she gave what assistance she could, then returned to the incident, where bombs were still falling and reported again for duty. 'Her courage and resource in the face of great danger were most commendable,' noted her citation. Sadly, Frank Thorp died next day at Leicester General Hospital.

Nurse Mrs Hilda Hefford's citation reveals that after escaping from 80 Sparkenhoe Street, she 'showed courage in re-entering the house to help find morphia and instruments. She took part in the rescue of trapped men and twice entered the house, only leaving when ordered owing to the danger of fire.'

Widower DS Norman left two children under 16. His funeral was held at St Hilda's Church, Melbourne Road, Leicester, four days later. Neighbours lined the streets as the hearse bore his coffin to the church. Six CID colleagues acted as bearers and a guard of honour of 20 policemen formed outside the church. Leicester's Chief Constable and his Deputy attended.

DC Trump left a widow with one child. His funeral took place in his West Midlands home town. DC Hawkes left a wife. He was buried in St Deny's churchyard, Evington, Leicester. The Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable and other police lined the church entrance. In 2008, a new headstone was placed on his grave by Leicestershire Police Federation and in Upbeat, Leicestershire police's in-house magazine, Jock Joiner said: 'Hopefully, people will read about those lads who lost their lives in the line of duty. It's important people remember.' Deputy Chief Constable David Lindley also paid tribute: 'Brian, George and Leonard demonstrated enduring qualities including courage and commitment, service to community, putting others before self, regardless of risk and consequences. This is

what we should remember them for.' Their names appear in a roll of honour at Leicestershire Police's force headquarters.

In 1972, the Leicester Mercury newspaper stated: 'Whenever we refer to November 19, 1940, we call it the night there was a hero or heroine in every street. Throughout the city, the men and women of the Civil Defence Services were literally taking their own lives in their hands. They fought fires, tore at mountains of rubble to rescue injured and trapped people, with bombs still falling and before the fires had died down. This was the greatest night in the history of the people of Leicester.' It's a claim hard to dispute.

This article and photographs 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.

CAN YOU HELP?

I am writing a social history of how Britain prepared for nuclear war. It will be published in 2021 by Bodley Head.

One chapter will look at the Civil Defence Corps and AFS, so I'd like to speak to people who served with either body. I'd be very glad if any CDA members would be able to assist me. Please let me know what information you need from me.

My e-mail is ariel1212@hotmail.co.uk

Julie McDowall

LETTER FROM AMERICA

From CDA member Eugene M. Giudice, MBA, MLIS, Research Services Training Specialist, Chicago, USA.

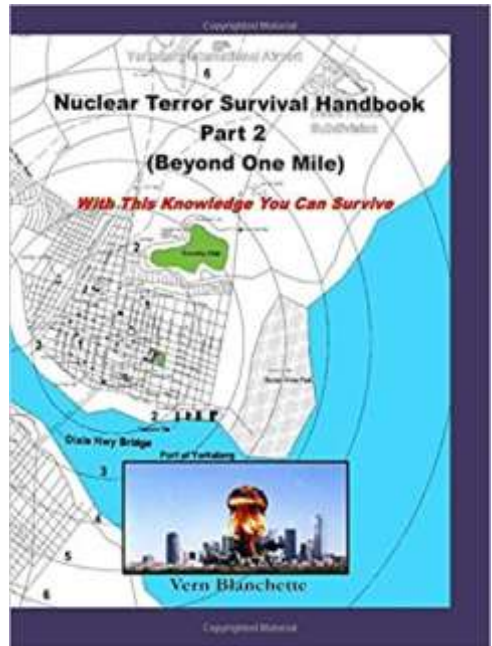
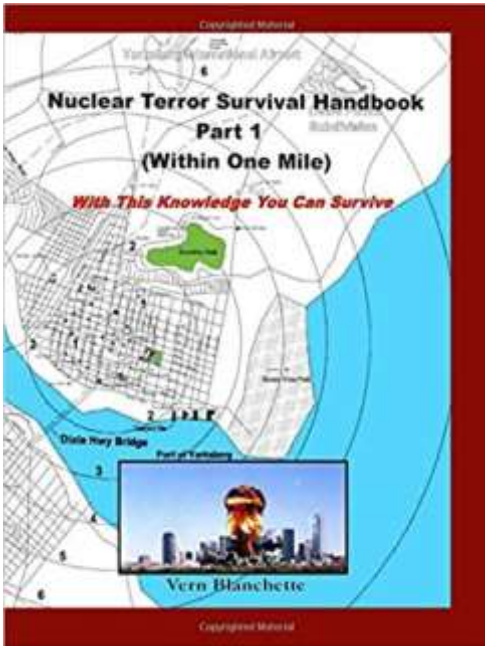
"My wife Colleen and I have been working at home since mid-March 2020 and neither of us will be going back to our respective offices until May at the earliest.

I am sorry to report that my mother, who survived the Blitz is ailing. I am thinking that the end is not far off.



On a more uplifting note, I've sent a picture of my grandfather's medals (see above). Officially, he was my grandmother's second husband but he was the only grandfather I ever knew. I also have original documents from his service record. My grandfather's name was Emile Bouette."

Nuclear Terror Survival Handbooks



The Nuclear Terror Survival Handbook is a two part book designed to inform about the effects of a low yield nuclear bomb detonated by terrorists in a city. The reader will “experience” the attack from the viewpoint of several citizens who live in or near the city. (Although this story takes place in the USA, it could just as well happen to any medium sized town in the UK).

Following each citizen’s story, is an analysis of their experiences and the bomb’s effects on them and their surroundings. Technical details of the effects are based on "The Effects of Nuclear Weapons*** which is widely regarded as the most technically accurate publication of its type.

Some of the citizens you'll meet are within one mile of the bomb and

include... Rachael Miskins – teacher at an elementary school; Bill Ruffe - police officer on duty; Broadrick Edwards - construction supervisor on site; Jetta Goldberg - dance instructor.

Stories of people beyond one mile and out to 250 miles from the bomb are told in Part 2 and analyzed as well. Some of those who are beyond one mile are... Marcus Gingman – hospital administrator at work; Laticia Washington – homemaker and mother at home; Rob Oberfelt – Emergency Operations Centre Director at home ;Tammie Janos – bank employee in a subway under the river.

Part 1 and Part 2 will enable the reader to understand the possible effects on people and property following the detonation of a low yield nuclear device by terrorists.

The author of these publications previously worked in the nuclear generation industry in the USA and presents this topic in an interesting and novel way. One could envisage these books being utilised as the basis for teaching aids, either as background information for a table-top exercise, or as a power-point presentation to aid a discussion group on emergency response to such a catastrophic event.

Recommended. Editor.
Paperback. 210 pages each book.
Author: Vern Blanchette. 2017.
£11.95 per book.
Available from Amazon.

*** *Effects of Nuclear Weapons, Glasstone & Dolan, Castle House Publications, 1977.*

Nuclear Terror

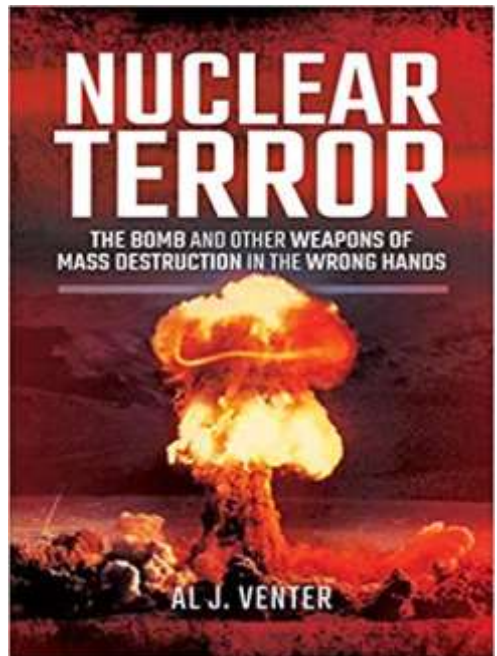
These are frightening times for us all: Sarin nerve gas being sprayed on innocent civilians in Syria, threats that biological warfare agents might be spread about on the New York Subway and the most terrifying of all, three dirty bomb attacks thwarted in Russia. The reality of all these developments is that the environment in which we live today is being seriously threatened by the calculated use of weapons of mass destruction, and from a variety of dissident sources.

Many rogue nations have attempted to build the bomb, an enormously complex task. So far only Pakistan and North Korea have succeeded, with Iran right now on the cusp of making that breakthrough. South Africa built six atom bombs in the 1970/1980s but with British, American and help from the

International Atomic Energy Agency dismantled both the weapons and the entire programme shortly before Nelson Mandela came to power.

In 'Nuclear Terror', the author assesses the developments over the past 10 years of different countries in their attempts to build a nuclear programme. Not inflammatory, or scaremongering, he takes an objective stance in chronicling these recent developments overseas and adds another valuable contribution to this conversation.

Recommended. Editor.
Hardback. 289 pages.
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Available from leading booksellers.



MESSAGE FROM EDEN CAMP

The following is an edited version of a letter recently received from Nick Hill, Manager, Eden Camp. As you will recall, it is the home of an important collection of exhibits related to Civil Defence. Editor.

We are pleased to announce that after 107 days of being closed, we were able to re-open to visitors on the 6th July 2020.

Whilst we attempt to try and return to a semblance of normality, life here at Eden Camp is somewhat different to what it was pre-lockdown in March. We have had to invest considerably in ensuring that both our staff and visitors are in a safe environment whilst on site. This has included reducing our visitor capacity by 50% and introducing a number of measures including hand sanitizing stations, protective screens and signage/information reminding visitors about the importance of hand washing and social distancing .

It is no understatement to say that the last three and a half months have been the worst in the history of Eden Camp whilst we have been operating as a museum. We have received absolutely no assistance, financial or otherwise, from public bodies etc.

We also missed out on paying our own special tribute on the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in June. However, even though we have now been allowed to re-open, we are still only allowed a certain number of visitors on site and we are still not allowed to organize an 'event' that brings together more than 30 people. We have therefore had to cancel the All Services Parade, due to take place on 13 September 2020.

Organising and hosting the All Services Parade has always been our way of giving back to the military veterans community by way of a thank you for helping us to create our unique tribute to all those that have served in HM Forces, Those of you who know us well will be aware that we are quite unique in the world of museums in that we are privately owned and therefore financed. All revenue generated is re-invested back into the museum.

We are grateful to those of you who, as individuals or as associations, have learnt of our plight, and who have kindly offered support (both financially and/or morally) either through: www.gofundme.com/f/eden-camp or via letters and cheques in the post or e-mails of support.

With your help and support we will try to ensure that we are in a better position next year when we can hopefully resume all our Special Events and continue to pay tribute to all those that our museum represents. We are planning to hopefully broadcast a virtual Parade and Service via social media on 13 September 2020.

If you decide to visit as individuals before then, (your support would be very much appreciated) and we look forward to being in a position to welcome you all back next year.

Regards,

Nick Hill

Museum Manager and on behalf of all at Eden Camp.

EVENTS

2020

11.30 am, Saturday 31 October Wreath Laying CD Memorial

The NMA

This event, hopefully, will provide the opportunity for members to attend a very informal gathering over coffee etc. following the wreath laying. At present each car has to pre-book one of a limited number of time related parking slots. If this is still the case in October it may not be practical.

Please contact the Secretary if you wish to attend and he will be in touch with you nearer the time for an update on the situation. His tel no. and E-mail address are given on Page 2.

Assuming there are no further developments, the under mentioned 2020 events may possibly go ahead.

Thursday 5 November Field of Remembrance

Westminster Abbey

Sunday 8 November Remembrance Sunday

2021

Saturday 21 March CDA Annual General Meeting

Stonebridge, Birmingham

Saturday 12 June CDA Annual Commemoration

The NMA

Birmingham Air Raids Remembrance Association

Meetings held January to November on the Third Thursday of the month at 12 noon.

Updates on Association projects Meal and a chat.

Venue: Brasshouse, 44 Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2HP.

All welcome.

Contact Anita Ward, Tel 07792 300 261

The BARRA notice has been updated, so please make a note of the changes.

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.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

2020 marks the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Winston Churchill's inspiring words given on the wartime poster opposite are a reminder to past, present and future generations of citizens living in this country of the enormous sacrifice made by those men and women to ensure that the freedoms we have today, and somewhat taken for granted, came at a heavy price. The threat was very real, but they met the aggressor, beat him, and thereby set the scene for final victory in Europe in 1945.

We were not alone however. Support came from the Empire and other countries some of whom had been occupied by the enemy.



The photograph to the left features two members of the Observer Corps manning an observation post on the Kent coast. They were an important part of the world's first fully integrated air defence system which had been designed by ACM Sir Hugh Dowding, C-in-C, RAF Fighter Command. The observers located, tracked and reported on enemy aircraft once they had passed inland and could no longer be seen by radar stations.

The Observer Corps, together with the Civil Defence Services and others provided essential support to those working at the sharp end of those momentous events.

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