



CDA Journal

No. 73 November 2020

ISSN 1479-6856

'Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow'



In this Issue:

**'Civil Defence—The Fourth Arm'
Foxenden Quarry Deep Shelter
Veteran Recalls Birmingham Blitz
Remembrance 2020
Reporting Post 12 (Southwark)**

Civil Defence Association

President:
Vice-President
Chaplain:

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

Chairman: Colin Harmsworth
20 Crowborough Lane
Kents Hill
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK7 6HF
01908 559177
co@jcac.org.uk

Committee Members:
Malcolm Bidder
Martin Blackburn
Sue Dexter
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

Standard Bearer:
Nick Ridsdale

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

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
co@jcac.org.uk'

Facebook Administrator
Philip Stead
admin@outdoorsandafloat.co.uk

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

Press Officer
Andy Smith
wordsmithreviews@yahoo.co.uk

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 January 2021.

Items may be reproduced by 'not for profit' publications provided due acknowledgement is given. Commercial publications contact the Editor in advance.

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

CONTENTS

4	Editorial
5	Obituary
7	Veteran recalls Birmingham blitz
8	'Civil Defence - The Fourth Arm'
10	The Story of Reporting Post 12 (Southwark)
16	Foxenden Quarry Deep Shelter, Guildford
18	Letter from America
19	Events
20	Remembrance 2020

Front Page Photograph: The Civil Defence Memorial Garden, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffs. This photograph has appeared in a previous issue of the CDA Journal. It is featured again to illustrate what must surely be our late Chairman's lasting legacy; that of the creation of a Memorial Garden to commemorate:

- (a) the service and sacrifice of members of the Civil Defence Services during World War Two.**
- (b) that of our animal friends who gave so much support during that conflict.**
- (c) to those volunteers who served in the AFS, CD Corps, ICDS, NHSR and WRVS between the years 1948—1968.**

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 73rd issue of the CDA Journal.

By way of commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Blitz, we feature the first part of the story of a Warden's Post situated in Southwark, London during the Blitz on the nation's capital city. Written by, and privately published by one of the Deputy Post Wardens, it gives an insight into the day to day work undertaken as well as a vivid portrait of their actions before, during and after the bombs had fallen. The story of their endeavours ends in the latter half of 1944.

Following the disbandment of the Civil Defence volunteer organisations in 1968, much of the written material concerning the training and exercising undertaken was lost. In addition, many of the reports about their active participation in support of the Emergency Services and Local Authorities during 'peacetime' incidents was largely ignored or simply forgotten. Until now. A number of copies of 'Civil Defence—The Fourth Arm', for the years 1957—1968 have been saved and are now in my possession. This monthly magazine was produced by ARPI Co. which was owned by the (then) Institute of Civil Defence. The editors received a steady stream of reports and articles from amateur 'reporters' who were also volunteers working within the CD organisations at that time. Using a system known as 'optical scanning' I have commenced the task of reproducing this material for publishing in the CDA Journal. The overall aim being to record what the volunteers did, and in the process, provide a permanent record of their activities for future generations. This project is on going.

2020 has been somewhat surreal in that day to day activities which we took for granted were suddenly brought to a shuddering halt in March by the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic. At the time of writing, there has been a spike in the number of cases, and some restrictions have had to be re-imposed.

In spite of what has gone before, I do wish all readers an enjoyable Christmas with the hope that we see some positive outcomes in 2021.

In the meantime, please take care.

Graham Whitehead



Civil
Defence
is
Common
Sense!



OBITUARY

**Patrick Stanton
1942—2020**



Patrick was born on 23 March 1942 in London. During World War Two his father served in the RAF as a Medical Orderly with the Polish Squadrons. He was responsible for helping pilots out of their aeroplanes when injured or on fire. Hence Patrick's admiration and first exposure to the concept of rescue.

Following a career as a soldier serving with the elite Parachute Regiment, he set up the Association of Pioneer Rescue Officers (APRO) in 1967. As Senior International Rescue Officer he both trained and lead a team on over 200 missions overseas, and thousands of interventions in the UK. (APRO was recognised as an official UK emergency responder by the Department for International Development).

Lack of space precludes the listing of all incidents in which Patrick and his Team were involved, therefore, some examples of the interventions are listed below:

1985 Columbia Volcanic Eruption

1988 Armenia Earthquake

Following rescue work undertaken during the Armenian Disaster he was awarded the Soviet Medal of Order and Courage (the Soviet equivalent of the George Cross).

1992 Earthquake Erzincan, Turkey
Whilst Patrick was under a wrecked building, a further quake occurred registering 6.5 on the Richter Scale.

1994 Rwanda
Restoration of clean water supplies to the many thousands of refugees displaced by the genocide in that war torn country.

1994 Bosnia
Relief efforts for civilians caught up in the fighting. The Team came under fire from Serbian artillery on at least three occasions in spite of their vehicles being clearly marked with the badge of International Red Cross.

2000 York
Severe floods - Many water rescue missions undertaken.

Patrick's lifesaving activities were not confined to human beings, but also encompassed the animal kingdom and our feathered friends. Dolphins, seals, sheep and swans, were amongst those creatures rescued.

Indeed, he was awarded the Gold Medal and Bar from the National Animal Rescue Association, also the Medal of Excellence from the Swan Master.

He was also the recipient of a Whitbread Volunteer Action Award in 1993.

Patrick was a Fellow of the Institute of Civil Defence and Disaster Studies

(ICDDS) and was presented with their Diploma for his dissertation 'Order out of Chaos'.

In later years, the APRO changed its name to British Civil Defence (BCD) (non-governmental agency) with Patrick as its Director General.

Amongst the other activities he undertook was as a part time Civil Protection Consultant with the Post-War Reconstruction and Development Unit of the Universities of York and Jordan. It was at York that he gained an M.A. Arch. Degree.

He was a rescue consultant to the Russian Air Mobile Rescue Services and consultant and responder to the UN/DHA and UN/HCR.

In April, 2004, was awarded the Gold Medal of the ICDDS for meritorious service to Civil Defence and the Institute.

He was a very proactive Chairman of the East Midlands Branch of ICDDS, and in that capacity was the principal driving force behind the creation of the Civil Defence Memorial Garden, at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffs.

A Founder Member of the Civil Defence Association, he held the office of Vice Chairman and Chairman until March, 2020.

Patrick Stanton passed away on 9 August, 2020, following a long illness, bravely borne. He was 78. He leaves his wife, Eva, 2 sons, Douglass and Anthony, and Ivan, Hannah and Alexander from previous relationships.

The funeral was held at Boston Crematorium 3 September, 2020. Nick Risdale, CDA Standard Bearer was

present, and a close friend of the family played the 'Last Post'.

'May He Rest In Peace'

Patrick Stanton's family have produced a short video tribute to him which can be viewed by copying and pasting the under mentioned link on your web browser.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gMd__NrrvopUZbglWqQrqOfOSQ9BXewT/view?usp=drivesdk

Patrick and his family were exceedingly well supported during his last weeks by the charities listed below. Under normal circumstances, donations would be a plate / collecting box at the exit of the Chapel but the numbers attending the funeral were severely limited due to emergency regulations in force at the time.

Macmillan Cancer Support
Website: www.macmillan.org.uk

St. Barnabas Hospice Trust (Lincolnshire)
Website: www.stbarnabashospice.co.uk

Marie Curie
Website: www.mariecuries.org.uk

With sincere appreciation to Eva Stanton and her family, Nick Ridsdale & Tim Essex-Lopresti for their assistance in providing information and advice.
Editor.

Ronald William Gardner RIP

Died 25 September 2020, aged 79.
A fuller record will be published in the next issue.

VETERAN RECALLS BIRMINGHAM BLITZ



Joan Sprigg pictured whilst serving in the ATS

Ahead of the 80th anniversary of the Blitz on September 7, 2020, a World War Two veteran has recalled her memories of what it was like to live through first-hand.

Joan Sprigg, a resident at Royal Star & Garter, a charity which provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia, served in the Air Raid Precautions (ARP) in Birmingham at the start of the war.

The 96 year old revealed that she lied about her age to be able to join the ARP. Joan was actually 15 years, a year too young to sign up. She said:

"So I'm afraid I told a little fib and upped my age by a couple of months, and said I was 16." After training, Joan was placed at a first aid post at a school in Bordesley Green to help look after casualties during 1940 when the air raids started. The Blitz, which started on September 7, 1940, was the German bombing campaign on the UK during the Second World War.

Thousands of people were killed or injured, and many buildings were destroyed in the relentless bombing campaign of the Luftwaffe. 'The Complete Illustrated History of World War II', by Donald Sommerville puts the figure of British civilians killed at 43,000.

Talking about her experience of the air raids, Joan remembers a terrifying time. She said:

"They used to start quite early, and they would sometimes go on for 13 hours."

The building Joan was working in shook when the bombs exploded, she would administer first aid and help care for those with more serious injuries before they were taken to hospital.

Birmingham was home to a lot of vital factories, including where the Spitfire was manufactured - an important target for the German Luftwaffe. Joan's resilience kept her going, despite her young age. She said::

"Although I was very young somehow you coped, you got through it. The morning after an air raid, you would pick your way through the debris, but there was never a thought of giving in."

In 1942, aged 18, she joined the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Group Command at RAF Uxbridge where she worked for the remainder of the war.

With thanks to John Lawal and forces.net/heritage

Editor

'CIVIL DEFENCE - THE FOURTH ARM'

Background

Following the disbandment of the Civil Defence volunteer organisations in 1968, a considerable quantity of reports and articles relating to exercises and 'peacetime' incidents were either lost or simply thrown away. The monthly magazine 'Civil Defence—The Fourth Arm' was one such important source of material. Reports etc. from all over the UK were sent to their editorial office and provide a valuable insight into the role of volunteers during that period of the 'Cold War'.

Thankfully, not all copies have been lost and I now have the years 1959—1967 in my possession. Using a system called optical scanning, I've started to record reports etc for publication in the CDA Journal. This an on going project. Editor.

ODE TO TRAINEE FIRE FIGHTERS

We toast the firemen, lest we roast in fire
Whose bright helmets people so much admire;
Whose fast engines do confidence inspire,
In peace, they will travel where needs require.
In war, reports may come in by the quire
From radio, wardens, neighbours and wire;
And bombs may fill our roads so deep in mire
That protection from conflagration, dire
Demands more than men available for hire.
It needs help from trainees who won't retire,
Although their training communists besmire
With words and deeds calculated to ire
And divide friends who really do aspire _
To keep on training long after their minds and
bodies tire.

(Alan Brooksbank)

December 1959

EXERCISE UNDER CONTROL

Tyneside's C.D. "backroom boys" tested their efficiency on Sunday, 1 November, 1959 when "Exercise under Control" was held. Representative units of the Army, police and fire services, hospital service, gas, water and electricity industries and the National Coal Board took part.

The effectiveness of the CD. control system on Tyneside came under scrutiny during the five-and half hour exercise, which covered Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne-mouth, Whitley Bay, Longbenton, CastleWard, Seaton Valley, Blyth, Gosforth and Wallsend.

A nuclear bomb on Tyneside was assumed to have caused wide-spread damage, fires, and radio-activity, and to have inflicted many thousands of casualties among population and C D forces alike. Damage caused two of the sub-area controls (in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Wallsend) to be replaced by mobile controls.

"There are gaps in the warden organisation, which is the lifeline of the C.D. life -saving and rescue battle, and upon which the whole system of control depends," it was, therefore, a busy day "on the air" with the 23 controls (mobile and static), recce vehicles, the Army, police and fire service vehicles, maintaining wireless communications.

The object of the exercise was to train and practice controllers and their staffs, working in with the Army, police and fire service mobile columns in support of C D authorities. The hospital services and the public utilities through representatives of Newcastle Regional Hospital Board, Northern Gas Board, North Eastern Electricity Board, North Eastern Division C.E.G.B., major water undertakings and the National Coal Board were also involved.

Major General S. Lamplugh, C.B., C.B.E., Regional Director of C.D., accompanied by Brigadier P. H. M. May, D.S.O. O.B.E., M.C., Commander, 149 Brigade (T.A.), units of which took part in the exercise, visited as many controls (both static and mobile) as possible during the exercise.

December 1959

NORTH EAST HANTS COMMS EXERCISE

In a large-scale C.D. reporting and communications exercise in NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE the headquarters and wardens' sections of Aldershot, Farnborough, R.A.E., Fleet, Hartley Witney, Alton and Basingstoke took part. In Aldershot and Farnborough 20 wardens' posts were manned by wardens in various parts of the two towns, whilst sector posts operated from the Town Hall and Manor Park health office, Aldershot, and two private residences in Farnborough.

Sub-area controls operated at the training centre, Aldershot, and the C.D. office in Queen's Avenue, while the area control for the whole exercise was set up in the Town Hall, Farnborough. The police in addition to staffing their

own controls at area and sub-areas they reinforced and helped man the wardens' posts in Farnborough. The Aldershot G.P.O., C.D. industrial unit provided 18 members to assist the Aldershot wardens and act as exercise directing staff, whilst members of the War Department constabulary also took part.

The result of the exercise has yet to be analysed, but it is expected that some valuable lessons will be learnt, particularly as regards the use of the G.P.O. telephone system in an emergency, and the reporting of radioactive fall-out.

January 1960

COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE

On Thursday, 29th October, 1959 a C.D. communications exercise was held between the Surrey county districts of Bagshot, Egham, Chertsey, Frimley and Camberley, Woking and Walton and Weybridge. It began at 2.30 p.m. with members of county district staffs manning and operating a number of control centres. At 7.30 p.m. these centres were taken over by C.D. volunteers from the Headquarters section who had also been trained in operation and signal duties. The exercise ended at 9.30 p.m. The exercise was designed to try out the whole of communications in the area and to practise members of county district staffs and volunteers in operational and signals duties. In the evening the volunteers from Walton and Weybridge county district manned and operated a mobile sub-area control.

December 1959

THE STORY OF REPORTING POST 12 (SOUTHWARK)

Background

Some years ago a little booklet which had been privately published during the latter half of World War Two came into my possession. It told the story of a Warden's Post in the London Borough of Southwark from the expansion of Air Raid Precautions in 1938 to meet the likely hood of war with Nazi Germany, through to the commencement of attacks on London by a new and terrifying weapon - the ballistic missile (the V2).

Here at first hand is the story of a Warden's Post in World War Two written by a Deputy Head Warden who lived and worked through those years on the Home Front.

Note: You may find it helpful to have a copy of the street map of the Borough of Southwark, circa 1935—45. This can be obtained by typing in the words 'Southwark Blitz' on any internet search engine. This will give a list of websites to choose from.

Editor.

Preface

Nineteen-thirty-eight, with all its anxieties and rumours, is well behind us. At that time nations were growing more and more air-minded, and Governments and peoples began to think in terms of air raids and their perils. It was then, too, that the A.R.P of Southwark began to take shape.

We are indebted to the Author of this booklet for placing on record the sequence of events which led to the birth of Reporting Post 12 and the Work of the Post thereafter and, like many others, I also have very many memories of those early days—some humorous, others sad.

The pioneers of A.R.P. at this time put in some very hard work in addition to attending lectures in an atmosphere of doubt and incredulity. As the Wardens' Service became more efficient, the task of forming Groups and Sectors was undertaken, and new volunteers were allocated to them by the Local Authority. In spite of this, many of the public still thought that such a Service would never be required—events, however, have since proved the contrary.

I should like to take this opportunity to pay my tribute to the splendid and courageous deeds that were done in the darkest days of London's history by the men and women, and girls and boys, who rose to the occasion, doing most wonderful things. I have in mind those boys who faced danger as though it were a game, and those splendid young women who served us so well—cool and calm as if about some everyday task. I still marvel at those Wardens, fathers of families themselves, who turned out night after night to help others while their minds were worried about the fate of their homes.

The team spirit was with us; time was also found for social and recreational pursuits, in which we got to know each other even better. Memories of fireside yarns during

long winter evenings still linger, and those two great occasions—our First and Second Annual Suppers and Socials. I look forward to them once more as an annual event, so that when this war is over we may still keep contact one with another.

Post 12,
Southwark.

I. ZIMMERMAN,
Deputy Post Warden.

i. Introduction.

Now that the “beginning of the end” is in sight, it is felt that the time has come to place on record the part which the Wardens of Post 12 have played in this area.

It will be generally agreed that the Wardens’ Service has indeed borne its share in the Battle for the Defence of Britain.

In all weathers this band of men and women stood ready for duty, and proved their worth when the time of testing came.

This record, inadequate as it may be, is written with the hope that in later times, when Post 12 is no more, it may help to restore to memory those days of strenuous action and true comradeship when Post 12 was “ up and at ’em.”

Descriptions of incidents, except for the larger ones, have been kept as brief as possible to avoid repetition, but details of those not referred to in the text will be found in Appendix II.

Names have been purposely omitted because it would be invidious to mention one and not another where all have done good work.

To my comrades of Post 12, both past and present, I dedicate
“ THE STORY OF REPORTING POST 12.”

Post 12, A. H. PULLIN,
Southwark. Deputy Post Warden.

ii. Early Days 1933-1939.

It was not until the Munich crisis of September, 1938, that Air Raid Precautions came into the public limelight, when, in spite of the “Gentleman’s Agreement,” steps were taken to push forward with more active defensive preparations which, with the tension in the air, inspired many people to offer their services for Home Defence. It might, however, be mentioned that the Home Guard was not founded until May, 1940, and that the Civil Defence is by far the senior of the two services, although it is too much to hope that anyone will ever recognise it.

Along with the digging of slit trenches in public parks, local authorities commenced the issue of thousands of civilian respirators, and it was in this task that many volunteers began their first Air Raid Precautions duties. By Christmas the effect of the crisis had subsided, and A.R.P. fell again into the background. Notwithstanding, preparations continued behind the scenes, and in London, the County Council began with local Authorities, to shape the organisation upon which the lives of so many of its citizens were to depend. In February, 1939, the Southwark Borough Council asked for volunteers to make, in an agreed area, a trial census of the 125,000 respirators which had been issued the previous autumn. Over one hundred volunteers came forward, and the census in the area selected was completed within a fortnight. It was not until the following month, however, that the Borough

commenced the active organisation of its A.R.P. Services.

In so far as the Wardens' Service was concerned, the Borough was divided into 50 groups, which were in turn again divided into two, three or four Sectors or blocks of streets. Meetings were held, and eventually Head Wardens were appointed to every Group. Head Wardens then called meetings of each of their Sectors and appointed Senior Wardens to take charge. From this time each Group proceeded more or less to run itself with the aid of the Council's Area Officers, but with little contact as between Groups. Liaison with the Council and the Council's A.R.P. Organising Officer was maintained by means of meetings of Head Wardens which, in the early days, were held in the Council Chamber. These meetings were frequently enlivened by heated arguments with the Council Officers, and on at least one occasion, by a resignation en masse which, it must be admitted, provided a good deal of secret amusement to those not participating. Needless to say, the resignations were ignored by both sides.

In many Groups, if not all, steps were taken to complete the census of respirators, and many weary hours were spent in fitting and listing. Some people greeted the Wardens abusively, whilst others, mostly those with children, anxiously asked whether the Warden thought the respirators would ever be needed. When one saw the dust which in such a short time had accumulated on some of the respirators one hoped that the need would most certainly never arise. These cases were, on the whole, the exception rather than the rule. The majority of the masks were carefully tended; in one instance a moth ball had been placed in the box, the owner having quite overlooked the fact that she would have been obliged to breathe its pervading odour whenever she wore the mask.

The greatest difficulties were in coaxing children to be fitted, and in fitting those people who declared most positively that "they couldn't breathe with those things on." At the same visit, the Warden had to issue a box for each respirator in the family. Fortunately, the boxes were of a uniform size and did not vary with the size of the respirator. On the night of August 10, 1939, London was initiated into the horrors of the "blackout," later to be endured for over five years. There is no doubt, however, that the blackout, like the balloon barrage, until the Nazis were compelled to abandon all ideas of large-scale daylight attacks, did serve its purpose. Not in preventing raids, but in making it difficult for unskilled night pilots to seek out their objectives. Later, it became obvious that the only object was destruction.

The purpose of the trial "blackout" was to give the R.A.F. an opportunity of operating as far as possible under war conditions, and to test the value of the lighting restrictions. The effectiveness of the latter could hardly be judged, since the "blackout" was not to operate until 00.30 hours in the morning. The Borough Council made a friendly gesture in extinguishing the street lighting at 01.00 hours. With the approval of the Council, some Groups took the opportunity to hold small exercises, which were carried out with an abundance of enthusiasm and no little ignorance. Little did the actors realise in what circumstances they were later to trace and retrace their steps along those same streets, littered with rubble, timber and glass, lit by the glaring light of fires. From the middle of August it became clear that

the international situation was fast moving to a climax. With the invasion of Poland a decision, grave and irrevocable, could no longer be delayed. On the night of Saturday, September 2, each one of the eighteen reporting posts (shared between the fifty Groups) was manned all night for the first time. The instructions were late in arriving, with the result that some Head Wardens were stranded at their posts without relief until the following morning.

When dawn broke small groups of people were seen discussing the early Sunday morning papers which confirmed the impression that war was inevitable. And at 11 o'clock—it was so. Shortly after Neville Chamberlain's solemn declaration—"We are now at war with Germany," the sirens wailed for the first time, splitting the hot summer air. At first there was panic, especially amongst women and children, but the rapid appearance of the Wardens, with steel helmets as their only uniform, soon calmed them down. It did not occur to them that many of the Wardens shared their feelings in anticipating the fate of Madrid and Barcelona. But the time was not yet ripe, and the "all clear" soon wafted stridently above the roof tops. Rapidly the public houses filled, but some wondered "perhaps-next time." A week of alarms and excursions followed. Applications were shortly afterwards invited for the appointment of full-time paid Wardens, and this enabled the strain to be lifted from the volunteers who, between them, had been manning posts for the full twenty four hours.

On September 5, Captain G. T. Ward was appointed Chief Warden of Southwark. During the latter part of the month, Wardens assisted the National Service enumerators in the preparation for the biggest call-up that Britain had ever known. Gradually, complacency returned; well-known personages toured the "front line," and popular songs about the Siegfried line made their appearance. In the meantime, Germany increased her production of armaments, and made ready for "Der Tag." In the Air Raid Precautions Organisation of Southwark there were undercurrents of changes which in one night would destroy much hard work and organisation.

But the changes came and from them emerged—"Wardens' Reporting Post Area 12."

III. The Change-over-1940.

Whilst the prospect of any alteration in the organisation was extremely unpopular with the Wardens' Service, so much so that in the first instance the proposals had to be withdrawn, it was obvious that in times of stress the Report Centre would be unable to deal with fifty separate Head Wardens and their Groups. There was also the possibility of confusion which was likely to arise when air damage reports from two or three Groups all using the reporting post were transmitted on the same telephone. Under Ministry of Home Security orders, it was therefore decided that the fifty Groups should be amalgamated to make eighteen reporting post areas, and that Head Wardens should be replaced by Post Wardens, one for each reporting post, together with as many Deputy Post Wardens as were considered necessary for the area to be covered. Post Wardens were to be elected by common vote from the Groups concerned in the amalgamation. Certain posts were to be closed down for good and others opened at more strategic points, having regard to the larger area which they would now be required to cover.

The voting duly took place, but with what result was never made known. Notwithstanding, a number of Head Wardens and Deputy Head Wardens who had put in good work in the past, were now relegated to the ranks, since there were only to be the eighteen as against the original fifty complements of Post officers. The result was that the new plan did not obtain for itself the support which it might otherwise have had had the actual position been made clearer at the outset to those concerned. The Wardens themselves somewhat resented the transference of their allegiance to Post officers with whom they had had no previous acquaintance. In course of time matters adjusted themselves.

The Groups to be incorporated into the new Post 12 Reporting Area were :

- A.4 &B4 Head Warden J. H. Barham
- C.4 Head Warden I. Zimmerman.
- G.4 Head Warden A. H. Pullin.

J. H. Barham was appointed Post Warden and I. Zimmerman and A. H. Pullin Deputy Post Wardens. In this instance, the Head Wardens each continued in office. Their respective Deputy Head and Senior Wardens were, however, unfortunately compelled to revert to the ranks, since no other appointments were made below the level of a Deputy Post Warden. It was later found that a need existed for a rank of the type formerly held by Senior Wardens, and in the case of Post 12 appointments were unofficially made as regards the full-time paid Wardens to relieve the Post officers of a certain amount of supervision, especially as the latter were all part-time volunteers. In passing, it might be mentioned that Post 12 is the only Post in Southwark which has maintained up to the present time its original complement of Post officers, and is also the only Post where they have remained on an entirely voluntary basis. A full list of the Wardens who have served on the Post is given in Appendix I.

The two original reporting posts, Post 12---Steedman Street, and Post 13 Penton Place, were closed down, and the new Post 12 was opened in Amelia Street. The Post, as now reorganised, covered one of the largest areas in the Borough, extending from Braganza Street, Kennington Park Road and Newington Butts, to Draper Street; from Draper Street to the Walworth Road as far as Penrose Street, from Penrose Street to Sturgeon Road as far as Danson Road, and from Danson Road to Braganza Street. A patrol along the boundaries would take at least 30 minutes at a moderate pace. Within this area, it was estimated that there were not less than 3,500 families, mostly in large blocks of flats, or two and three storey houses built on the estate principle. In addition, there were a number of small factories, a council depot, a power station, public baths and wash-houses, two schools, a coal wharf, six railway bridges, several garages, a labour exchange, an Underground railway station, a church, a scenery store, almshouses and innumerable "pubs." Besides this, approximately 130 horses, always a source of anxiety in raids, were stabled in about ten different places. Fifty-seven fire hydrants covered the ground.

The new Post, therefore, began work with a considerable responsibility. Thirty-seven streets had to be covered by the patrols of its Wardens, as well as a number of the usual "yards" found in built-up areas, each with its own peculiar

egress and trade. There were not less than twenty eight sets of shelters, public, communal and street domestic, providing protection for over 2,300 inhabitants; the largest held 600, the smallest 10. In addition, the corridors and platforms of the Underground railway station held a further two to three thousand. The Post area was divided into ten "patrols," and an average of six Wardens was assigned to each, providing a patrol of three Wardens for a tour of duty on alternate nights. On most nights during times of raiding, however, patrols were manned by the full complement of six Wardens, and it was only later, in the lull periods, that Wardens could be persuaded to keep to their own particular nights of duty. This then, was the burden of Post 12, and at 19.00 hours on Monday, 29th January, Nineteen Hundred and Fortv, it came into action the change-over was completed.

IV. Preparing—1940.

The excitement of settling into the new Post soon evaporated, and the Post got down to work. About this time the Chief Warden began an intensive tactical training for all Civil Defence Services, and between January 29 and May 10, when they were temporarily suspended, over 116 of these exercises were recorded in the Post log book; of these, 19 were held on the Post area in 17 different locations. Wardens from the Post also participated in exercises held on other Post areas, either as guides or as "casualties." These were to some extent a distinct relief from the communication tests of the "can you hear me, mother?" type, and also the Practices without Movement, both of which were confined to telephone work only. The latter consisted of reporting imaginary incidents in all stages from the fall of the bomb to the closing of the occurrence, and in time became a tax on the imagination. As with most tests, unless some glaring mistake was made, nothing further was ever heard of them, and it was difficult to maintain interest.

With the Practice with Movement, in which Wardens and all other services—Heavy and Light Rescue, Ambulance, Mobile Unit and Stretcher Parties—played a more or less active part, interest revived. At the beginning, the exercises were called without previous warning at any time of the day or night, but experience showed that unless a Post received previous warning of the exercise, it had to be conducted with only those Wardens who happened to be on or near the Post, or who lived near enough to be "press-ganged," and the limited numbers thus available made it difficult to run an exercise as it should be run. Later, adequate notice was given, leaving the site of the occurrence to be selected by the prospective Incident Officer (I.O.) who was to conduct it. Needless to say, the easiest situations were chosen first. In due course, however, those parts which had come to be regarded as "danger spots" were forced to the front, and the IO. was compelled to use them rather than duplicate a previous test.

Those exercises, which were to prove valuable in the future, still live in the memory, and one recalls the trepidation with which one set out from the Post to the chosen site, followed by the band of victims who were to assist. First, the site for the occurrence was selected; consideration was then given to the roads which would be blocked by the fall of debris or closed to allow for service vehicles and the exclusion of ordinary traffic;

End of Part One: To be continued in the next issue of the CDA Journal

FOXENDEN QUARRY DEEP SHELTER, GUILDFORD

Foxenden Quarry Deep Shelter is in Guildford, underneath a car park on York Road. It was a purpose built public air raid shelter for the people of Guildford. It was one of eighteen other air raid shelters and tunnels in the area, all of which varied in size and were mostly converted cellars and basements. There was also a system of trenches nearby that originated prior to the Foxenden Shelter. The shelter was constructed in 1941 by JB Edwards and Co (Whyteleafe) Ltd in a chalk quarry and was designed to accommodate 1000 people.

It was in use until about 1944 when it was deemed that the threat had passed. During the latter periods of use from 1942 it was used for food storage and was considered a candidate for to be converted into a Civil Defence Corps reporting centre. This did not happen however and by 1945 the shelter was surplus to requirements and was closed for good. It then sat in this sealed condition until recently when it was 'discovered' during the construction of the car park. This has caused it to remain in a near perfect, undamaged and un-vandalised condition.

The shelter is situated about 50 feet underneath the public tennis courts in Guildford and is accessed by two steel doors in the car park. Evidence of the surface structures can be seen alongside the tennis courts, these being the block houses at the top of the emergency exit shafts both of which are comprehensively sealed. The shelter is constructed by first having tunnels cut out of the chalk, which are then lined with two courses of bricks. The rear most course of bricks on either side is slightly higher than the inward side to provide a 'step' to allow the sharply angled 'V' shaped roof to fit. This provides an inherently strong structure. The void above the roof was then packed with spoil to further strengthen the shelter. The floor is concrete throughout and some tunnels remain unlined.

The shelter has a First Aid Post, three toilet blocks (both male and female) two combination air vents/ exit shafts and a Shelter Marshal's office. There was also a bay set aside for the children of Sandfield School. There is also evidence of running water, electricity and lighting, air circulation and beds in some of the bays but interestingly the toilets lack flushing water or plumbing.

This is a fantastic and well preserved Deep Shelter and the Council open it to the public to visit a few times a year (ticket only). The Guildford Museum and the Tourist Information Centre in Guildford have a fantastic booklet available to buy that has a comprehensive history of the shelter – well worth a read, details below.

'The Foxenden Quarry Deep Shelter' By Helen Chapman Davies, ISBN 0-9543753-3-5 priced £3.00 (correct as of 17-05-2008) available from:
The Guildford Museum

With acknowledgements to the 'Time Chamber'



Floor plan of Deep Shelter



Entrance to Deep Shelter



One of the corridors in the Deep Shelter. The ceiling, walls and floor appear to be in excellent condition, given that the Shelter was closed and sealed in 1944.



Sign posts within the Deep Shelter. They look to be in reasonable condition in spite of the length of time they have remained affixed to the brickwork.

LETTER FROM AMERICA

Finding Service

One thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve. Albert Schweitzer

What I find interesting in Dr. Schweitzer's words is that one has seek and find how to serve. It's not something innate in the human nature. I may take issue with Dr. Schweitzer's words because I think we all want to be useful and helpful, but maybe that is the optimist in me coming out.

Maybe what we need seek and find are the ways we express our desire to be useful. How are we responding to that voice inside each of us that call us to of service to others? Some may choose to simply ignore that voice, other may have other voices that drown it out.

What I have learned from people in AA and other 12 step programs is that sobriety is achieved one day at a time. Maybe it is the same for being of service; one just needs to respond to the call of service today.

In this pandemic, the opportunities to be of service in large and small ways are as numerous as the sands of the seashore. The key is to find that grain of sand and make it your own. Do that enough times and you will wind up with a beautiful beach. Your service in some way may help make a beautiful beach for somebody else; be they a family member, work colleague, or client. The key is to reach out and make the effort.

With Appreciation to Eugene M. Giudice, MBA, MLIS (CDA Member, Chicago, USA) Editor.



EVENTS

2020

A full report on the Remembrance events we are associated with at the NMA, Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey and at The Cenotaph in Whitehall will be published in the next issue of the CDA Journal as so much has changed in recent weeks and days. Those who had indicated that they intended to be at one of the above events have been kept up to date.

2021

Saturday 31 March
CDA Annual General Meeting
Stonebridge Island,
Birmingham

Saturday 12 June
CDA Annual Commemoration
The NMA

The 2021 events are provisional. Confirmation will be dependant on the present public health emergency.

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.

REMEMBRANCE 2020



At the going down of the
sun, and in the morning,

We Will
Remember
Them

In Remembrance
of the 1,900,000
men and women of the
Civil Defence Services
who served during the
Second World War,
7,000 of whom
made the ultimate sacrifice.

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