



Civil Defence Association Journal

'Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow'

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In This Issue:

*Annual General Meeting 2021
Biographies - New Secretary and Treasurer
New Emergency Alerts Warning Service
Story of Reporting Post 12 (Southwark) - Part 3*

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CONTENTS

4	Editorial
5	Annual General Meeting, 2021
6	Secretary - Biography
7	Treasurer - Biography
8	New UK Emergency Alerts Warning Service
9	Bethnal Green Disaster Memorial Service
9	Story of Reporting Post 12 (Southwark) - Part 3
15	Obituaries
17	'Civil Defence - The Fourth Arm'
20	Events

Front Page Photographs:

(Left) A 'Cold War' Air Attack Warning Siren capable of giving an audible warning in case of nuclear attack. Since 1991, the majority have been removed from service, save for a few which have been retained for use in flood warnings etc.

(Right) The 21st Century warning system will utilise mobile phones to disseminate warnings for a variety of incidents both local and national, e.g. major industrial accidents, flooding, terrorist attacks etc.

See page 8 of this edition of the CDA Journal for further information. Editor.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to Issue No. 75 of the CDA Journal. This has been distributed a little later than usual, mainly due to the change over of Officers following the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

The passing of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh has been mourned by millions of people both in the UK, and other countries. There have been a considerable number of articles about his life, especially his love and support for Our Dear Queen Elizabeth throughout their long years of marriage. One of his enduring legacies will surely be the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Those who have helped to organise the various sections for Bronze, Silver and Gold will I'm certain, readily attest to the very positive outcomes of the Award, both for the individual, their community and indeed their country.

Tim Essex-Lopresti who has stood down as CDA Secretary, was one of the key players in the establishment and development of the Association. But his commitment to the cause of Civil Defence goes way back to the 1960s with his membership of the Birmingham Division of the CD Corps. I first came into contact with Tim in September 1968. We were both attending a nationwide gathering of ex-Corps members, the objective being the setting up of a volunteer body to continue to use the C D skills learned for the continuing benefit of the community. His organisational skills came to the fore and ensured a successful meeting. I next came into contact with him in his capacity as Secretary of the East Midlands Branch, Institute of Civil Defence (later known as ICDDDS). I was at the time, editor of the ICDDDS Journal. His Branch was very proactive and took the lead in taking steps to ensure that there would be a Memorial to Civil Defenders. In large measure this was achieved through the dedication and commitment of the late Patrick Stanton and Tim.

I'm sure you will join me in expressing our gratitude and sincere appreciation for his many years of dedication to the vital ongoing work of Civil Defence.

Stay safe and well.

Graham Whitehead



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

The Annual General Meeting of the Civil Defence Association was held on a virtual basis (due to the Cov-19 pandemic), on Saturday, 27 March 2021

Present (Voting by Post / E-Mail / Telephone): Rev R Walsh (Chaplain), Mr C Harmsworth (Chairman), Mr G Whitehead (Vice-Chairman), Mr T Essex-Lopresti (Secretary), Mr K Knight (Treasurer), Mr M Blackburn (Committee Member), Mr M Bidder (Committee Member), Mr P Stead (Committee Member), Mrs S Dexter (Committee Member), Mrs J Essex-Lopresti, Mrs C Manby, Mrs C Erskine, Mrs E Deligianni-Stanton & Family, Mr E M Giudice, Sir N Thorne, Mr A House, Mr R Fadil, Mr J K Gregory, Mrs D B Leather, Mrs H Howell, Mr A McDowell, Mr D G Glen, Mr R Jarvis, Mr & Mrs L Labram, Mrs M Harling, Mr G de Carteret and Wulfruna Lifesavers (28)

Because of the Coronavirus problem that, not least, closed all Public Houses etc. the physical meeting was not able to be held. However, in accordance with the Constitution and with the approval of the Committee, the important elements were dealt with in accordance with the votes received by post, E-Mail and telephone by the Secretary in a virtual meeting. The Minutes, Annual Report 2020 and 2020 Accounts had been sent to all members with the Agenda etc. by post or E-Mail prior to the meeting.

For the record it is appropriate to mention that our Secretary, Mr Tim Essex-Lopresti, decided that, for domestic reasons, it was appropriate that he did not stand for re-election. The same applied to our Treasurer, Mr Kevin Knight, and Committee Members Mr Malcolm Bidder and Mrs Sue Dexter. It is also appropriate for grateful thanks to be extended to them for their service to both Civil Defence and the CDA over so many years.

Apologies for Absence

Both those present having voted and those who sent apologies are recorded above.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting on 28 March 2020. APPROVED

3. Matters arising from the Minutes.
Item omitted

4. Election of the Executive Committee to serve from the end of this meeting until the end of the 2022 AGM.

The list of those nominated had been circulated and they were ELECTED as follows:

Mr C Harmsworth	Chairman (CDA Website Editor)
Mr G Whitehead	Vice-Chairman (Editor, CDA Journal)
Mr A M Smith	Secretary
Mr M Blackburn	Treasurer
Mrs E Deligianni-Stanton	Committee Member
Mr T Hissey	Committee Member
Mr A Howes-Denton	Committee Member

Mr A Smith Committee Member
Mr P Stead Committee Member (Facebook Administrator)
Mr A Woodward Committee Member (Collections Officer)

5. Approval of the Executive Committee Report for 2020.
The Report was APPROVED.
6. Approval of the Accounts for the 2020 calendar year.
The 2020 accounts were APPROVED.
7. President's Comments
Item omitted
8. Discussion about 2021 Events.
Item omitted
9. Remembrance 2021
Item omitted
10. Any other business.
Item omitted

ADRIAN SMITH - NEW CDA SECRETARY

G'day, I am Adrian Smith, and I am also involved with the Joint Civil Aid Corps as the Deputy Chief Officer for the North of England and now have the honour of taking on the role of the Secretary of the Civil Defence Association.



I am a ten-pound pom for those who remember the scheme to allow families to migrate to Australia for Work for the sum of ten pounds back in the Seventies. I grew up in the North West of Australia and became very familiar with Civil Defence due to the Cyclones and Bushfires that would regularly strike the area. I joined the Australian Army and developed skills in Emergency Response in the Field Artillery and then further enhanced in the Intelligence Corps.

After 10 Years in the Army, I left and commenced a life working in the Safety and Security industry throughout Australia from Southern Tasmania, North West Australia, Christmas Island, to working as Security at the Australian Parliament.

During this period, I also continued to work in Emergency Response until I moved back to the United Kingdom with my wife and four children in 2007. Since arriving back in the UK, I have worked as the Port Security Manager at the Humber Ports and also completed my LLB and Master's in international law with Politics at the University of Hull.

I was surprised to discover that the UK has disbanded its Civil Defence which is flourishing in Australia as the State Emergency Services (SES), and as such, immediately applied to Join the JCAC when it was first brought to my attention.

My passion is to make Security and Emergency Response into viable career options for people with clear paths of education, training and job satisfaction, and to raise the role of the CDA into a modern organisation which not only remembers and honours the past, but also looks to and embraces the future.

Adrian Smith MA LLB MISRM

MARTIN BLACKBURN - NEW CDA TREASURER

Martin Blackburn is a Chartered Public Finance Accountant and recently retired from his Civil Service role as Financial Management Adviser and Data Protection Officer for the Isle of Man's Treasury.



Martin's career included 10 years as the Isle of Man's Emergency Planning Officer and Head of Civil Defence, and he holds the Civil Defence Long Service medal and bar for a total of 27 years' service having previously been a Civil Defence volunteer where he progressed through the ranks to become Civil Defence Corps Commandant prior to his full time appointment to the substantive post.

Martin is an Officer of the Order of St John, he joined St John Ambulance as a Cadet aged 11 years and has previously served as the Island's Deputy Commander, County Director of Training and Commissioner (Operations). After stepping back from his executive roles, he continues to volunteer as a Community First Responder, providing over 3,500 hours of cover last year, crews their front line ambulances as a "blue light response" driver and attendant for public duties and on patient transfers.

He also has bank contracts as an Emergency Care Assistant with the island's NHS Ambulance Service and as an Independent Investigating Officer for the Isle of Man's Cabinet Office.

In his spare time Martin is the Head of Freemasonry for the Isle of Man as Provincial Grand Master for the Craft and Mark, and Grand Superintendent for Royal Arch as well as serving variously as Trustee and as an Independent Examiner/Auditor to a number of local sporting and mental health charities.

Martin maintains an interest in Emergency Planning as the Director of Finance for the Emergency Planning Society whose head office is at the Cabinet Office Emergency Planning College at Easingwold, York.

NEW UK EMERGENCY ALERTS WARNING SERVICE

People in the vicinity of a terrorist attack, flooding and other risks to life will receive alerts on their mobile phone under plans being developed by the government. The aptly-named Emergency Alerts Warning Service will be introduced via a trial this summer thanks to new cell broadcasting technology.



A cell tower

It will be focused initially on specific parts of the country, but will be rolled out more widely beyond the trial period and could be used to alert people to dangers both locally and nationally. The plan builds upon a similar scheme many will have become familiar with during the coronavirus pandemic, with vaccination reminders and changes to local lockdown measures among the messages and notifications sent out to millions nationwide since the beginning of the crisis.

Such alerts are also widely used in other countries, including Japan, Canada and New Zealand, where it has been widely credited with saving lives during earthquakes. Although there was one notable occasion where an emergency warning sent by mistake incorrectly told people in Hawaii that they should prepare for an incoming missile.

In order to make sure the UK's alerts system is fit for purpose, public trials began in East Suffolk on 25 May, 2021 where residents received a test alert message. They would not have to do anything in response - it's just a test.

Should it prove effective, a national rollout will follow later this year, with the government hoping that it could help responses to future public health emergencies, industrial incidents, severe floods, fires and terror attacks.

Paymaster General Penny Mordaunt said: "The Emergency Alerts Service will be a vital tool in helping us to better respond to emergencies, both nationally and locally. This new system builds on existing capability and will allow us to more quickly and effectively get life-saving messages to people across the UK."

The messages would be broadcast from cell towers in the vicinity of an emergency, and the government says that they would be free, secure and one-way, with no location or personal data involved.

Recipients would get the warning, details of the affected area if a local event, instructions on how to respond, and be directed towards a government website for further information.

With acknowledgements to Sky News, and thanks to John Lawal

BETHNAL GREEN DISASTER MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service took place to commemorate the victims of the Bethnal Green Disaster which happened 78 years ago. It was held on Sunday 7 March, 2021, at St. John on Bethnal Green Church. It was beautifully conducted by Fr. Alan Green despite the empty church. It was very moving and lots of people were able to watch it online.

You can watch the service through this link:
<https://youtu.be/75tluX1py2k>

The local firefighters from Bethnal Green Fire Station formed a guard of honour at the Memorial on 3rd March, with a blessing from Fr. Alan Green, and to lay flowers on behalf of the Station in memory of the victims.



Stairway to Heaven Memorial

A collection to assist with the upkeep of the Memorial is normally taken at the conclusion of the service. However, due to the pandemic this was not possible. If anyone would like to make a donation, please go to the Trust's website listed below for more information.

Sandra Scotting MBE
Hon. Secretary
Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust
www.stairwaytoheavenmemorial.org
Tel: 01474 702513

THE STORY OF REPORTING POST 12 (SOUTHWARK)

Background

Information can be found in the November 2020 Edition of the CDA Journal.

Continued from the February 2021 edition of the CDA Journal.....

For the rest of that night, in eerie silence broken only by fire bells, the City burned, and continued to smoulder for many days. When the daylight came it was obscured by a fog of smoke and soot which clouded the sky, and at night the City glowed as with a nocturnal sunset. A fifth of the City was destroyed, and the damage was tremendous; ten of Wren's churches were destroyed, and the Guildhall, heart of administration, was but a shell. But London had learnt her lesson, severe though it was. In the New Year the Ministry of Home Security issued the first Fire Watching Order. Post 12, too, shared that night with the City, though the damage was but minor. Two bombs, causing damage, killed but one person who had momentarily returned home from a shelter to make a change of clothing. Thus, with the passing of the Old Year, ended the first part of the Nazi Blitz on London.

From September 7 to December 31 three hundred and thirty-seven alerts were recorded in the Log Book. The Post had dealt with 115 incidents comprising 96 fires, 12 high explosives, 6 U.X.B.s, and 1 oil bomb. Twelve persons had been killed and 56 seriously injured. Dealing with incidents, however, was not the only work of the Post. Twenty-eight sets of shelters had to be regularly inspected and reported upon, respirators were still brought in to be fitted, baby's respirator helmets had to be demonstrated, and the bombed-out attended to and their furniture moved. Shelters were a constant problem. In wet weather they leaked, in dry weather door fittings warped, the heaters fused, the bunks were torn and smashed, and doors blew off their hinges. The occupants occasionally fought, and children did untold damage to lighting and wiring. For all this, the occupants seldom complained, and if they suffered, they suffered in silence, for few of the shelters were sound-proof. Canteens were provided and well patronised, and shelter marshals did good work. There were arguments and awkward moments, especially on Saturday nights; "disreputables" were often turned out of one shelter only to go to the next. But on the whole the shelter life, for such it came to be, was not unhappy.

A separate chapter could be devoted to the shelters, but space does not permit. One incident may, however, be mentioned. One night, during the early part of the Blitz a woman, shelter-bound but slightly the worse for drink, narrowly escaped injury from two bombs, one after another, and had to be assisted into the shelter in a fainting condition. The shelter marshals, who were new to their task, endeavoured to bring her round but, unfortunately, instead of following one form of treatment, allowed themselves to be swayed by the many suggestions offered by the other inhabitants of the shelter who, in turn, shouted, "Keep her warm," "Give her air," "Lie her down," and "Stand her up." The result was that the unfortunate woman was reduced to a state of collapse, and eventually had to be removed by ambulance.

VI. The Blitz continues and wanes—1941.

The New Year had begun, and with it London entered the second part of the Blitz, which continued, but with waning ferocity, until May 10. There were heavy raids on a number of occasions, but with longer intervals between each. No incident occurred on the Post area for ten nights, so that Wardens were able to get a little of the rest they needed so much. On Saturday, January 11, the "blower" went up at 18.21 hours, but activity on the Post area did not begin until nearly an hour afterwards, when incendiary bomb reports began to come in. Of the twenty four fires dealt with, that which might have been the worst occurred at the United Dairies' depot in Ambergate Street, where hay stored in a first storey stable housing forty horses was set alight. The only person to be found on the premises was an elderly caretaker who did not know where the fire appliances were kept. Fortunately, large numbers of Wardens and volunteers soon appeared on the scene, and whilst some fought the fire with whatever appliances they could lay their hands on, others led the forty horses one by one down to the street through the thickening smoke.

In due course the AFS arrived, and the fire was extinguished without casualties or injury to the horses. An hour later, a report came through that there was a U.X.B. in Kennington Park Road, and this time there was no mistaking it. Not far from a neat crater were found two portions of the tail unit. The fins, of some weight, were grey-green in colour, and bore a yellow painted band. The yellow band being somewhat

rubbed '(in the fall of the bomb) a Warden remarked that " the Jerries must be getting short of bombs—the paint is still wet!" He was dealt with as he deserved. Verification was soon forthcoming, and evacuation thereupon carried out.

There is a pathetic reference in the Log to an old lady who, ill in bed in the area prescribed for evacuation, was removed by ambulance, at the request of the Post, to safety. At 23.25 hours a Deputy Post Warden reported another suspected U.X.B. which, falling in Alberta Street, had caused a considerable amount of damage, not altogether inconsistent with that which might have been done by a small high explosive. The usual verification was requested, but the verdict given was that the bomb had exploded. Orders for evacuation were therefore cancelled, but occupants of houses adjoining were unofficially advised by the Post to go elsewhere for the night, or at least to sleep on the side of the house furthest from the crater, since the Post still held to its initial opinion. Some took advantage of the suggestions, others, to their misfortune, did not. About this time the raid began to slacken, and most Wardens returned home to rest.

Three hours later an explosion occurred, and there was no doubt as to its whereabouts. To err is but human, and this is neither the time nor the place for recriminations. Two houses were completely demolished, and a number of others severely damaged. One casualty and two bodies were taken from the wreckage, but had it not been for the unofficial warning, the list would undoubtedly have been greater. Several people called at the Post the next morning to express their thanks for the advice which they had taken. The next night, although another heavy night for London, brought only incendiaries to the Post area. Sixty-one fires were tackled, including one on the roof of St. Mary's Church, to which, despite a daring ascent of the tower by Wardens, Fire Brigade assistance had to be fetched. By 06.00 the following morning every fire in London was under control; with Wardens' help, the new Fire Guards had proved successful. For three days there was no further alert, and the Post was able to look forward with quiet enjoyment to its First Social and Supper, held on Wednesday, 15th January, at the "Giraffe." Warden F. C. Blainey composed a song for the occasion (given in full on Page 2), and from that day the Post adopted for its motto the following, which appeared at the head of the menu :
" Where e'er we go we fear no foe."

Amongst the distinguished guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Southwark, the A.R.P. Organiser and his assistant, the Chief Warden, and the Leader of the Council. Following :1 hearty meal, with such delicacies as "HE. Beef", "Oil Bomb Pudding" and "Churchill Sprouts," the Mayor proposed the Toast to Post 12, to which the Post Warden, replied suitably. Deputy Post Warden toasted the Visitors, and the Leader of the Council responded. Music was provided by the Post 12 dance band. The evening was nearing its close when an alert sounded and put a sudden but not altogether unexpected end to the jollifications. Once more went the Wardens to duty, crunching across deep snow. Two H.E.s fell shortly afterwards, one just outside the Post boundary in Braganza Street, and the other in Marsland Road, causing no casualties. Now came the longest break so far, and apart from alerts at infrequent intervals, they brought neither casualties nor damage to Post 12 until March 8, a night of another heavy attack on the London area. The alert sounded about the usual hour, but some time elapsed before the first bomb fell on the Post area at

20.38 hours, when an H.E. fell, narrowly missing the Post itself, and demolishing eight flats on the opposite side of the Post to that on which the previous bomb had fallen on the first night of the Blitz. A Warden, taking advantage of the slight lull following the alert to have a bath, was most indignant on being discovered in his birthday suit completely covered in soot. Such was the excitement at this apparition that a Deputy Post Warden, also narrowly escaping with his life, stepped into the crater, which was rapidly filling with water, and had to be pulled out. Another Warden, standing in a doorway immediately in front of the spot where the bomb landed, suffered no ill effects.

In the meantime, the road became flooded and almost impassable. At the height of the excitement, a passing Warden from another Post reported a further bomb in Manor Place. Here, some three storey houses had been hit and, being of poor construction, had crumbled away into a mere heap of bricks and brick dust, from which protruded a large chimney stack, its chimneys drunkenly pointing to the sky. Save for the occasional sliding of debris as it found its level, not a sound came from the wreckage, which lay, a grim mound, in the moonlight. Cross-questioning of a small boy who had returned home from a shelter enabled a very accurate report to be despatched regarding the approximate number of persons estimated to be trapped, and before long Heavy and Light Rescue Parties were on the job. The usual crowd of sightseers gathered, and one of them, a woman, protested because the Rescue Party was not assisted by Wardens who were standing by. She was politely informed that rescue work in such as the present instance was best left to experts, but she continued to "create" and was eventually persuaded to move on by a diminutive policeman.

A number of people were brought out alive from the ruins of adjoining houses, but there was no hope for those in the premises which had received the direct hit. Rescue Parties, however, continued to dig in a scene which was made eerie by the light of enemy flares. A platoon of Pioneers cleared debris from the road and made themselves generally useful. Digging continued all day on Sunday, and some of the Wardens volunteered to assist in clearing rubble from the site, which was systematically sifted and searched yard by yard. It was not until two days later that the incident was closed, by which time eight bodies had been recovered. Casualties numbered sixteen, of whom eight were seriously and eight slightly injured.

A month passed, and was marked only by several important visitations to the Post, a Regional Commissioner, the Assistant Principal Warden for London Region, and the Southwark A.R.P. Controller. As a break in the monotony, fresh instructions (for the third time) were issued about the use of whistles. Originally they had been blown with much gusto to reinforce sirens, not that in London, at least, the sirens required reinforcing; they were then restricted to the indication of immediate danger; now they were to be used only for drawing attention to the fall of incendiaries. Now came what was generally agreed to be the worst night the Post had ever undergone the night of April 16. The night of May 10 was almost as severe, and even now these two raids are spoken of as "that April and that May raid."

The lighter April evenings delayed the approach of the Hun until 21.04 hours. Shortly after, clusters of flares appeared over Ambergate Street, with half hour

intervals between, over Manor Place (twice) and Penton Place, and an hour later extending from De Latine Street to Penton Place. There is something misleading and also foreboding about enemy flares; they take one's mind back to the days of the Crystal Palace, and glitter in the sky like decorations on a Christmas tree, but almost always they are the portents of calamity to follow. Sure enough, after another hour of waiting came first the incendiaries, followed by high explosive, then incendiaries again and more H.E. Seven fires had been dealt with before H.E.s dropped two hours later, the first and second in Alberta Street and Kennington Park Road, and the third in Hampton Street three minutes after, at 02.54. At 03.56 it began again with more incendiaries and then H.E.s at Peacock Street, Ambergate Street, Crampton Street, Newington Butts and Draper Street in the space of an hour, and at 05.37 on the railway siding in Steedman Street.

Rescue parties and ambulances were in such demand that it was over four hours before they arrived at Kennington Park Road, where the only Deputy Post Warden on duty that night assisted in rescuing three people alive from a basement, after morphia injections had been given by a local doctor. There were no casualties at Alberta Street, Hampton Street, Draper Street or Steedman Street, but in Ambergate Street four persons trapped were miraculously rescued alive within an hour; in Peacock Street three bodies were recovered, and in Newington Butts two casualties were sent to hospital. The worst incident was in Crampton Street, where a school in use as a First Aid Party Depot received a direct hit. Under tottering walls, Wardens and Rescue men toiled to bring out the casualties. At 05.20 (two hours after the fall of the bomb) the wreckage burst into flames, making rescue work even more hazardous.

For his share in this, and the night's work, the Post Warden was later awarded the George Medal. Rescue Parties were reinforced from other boroughs, but it was not until six days later that the incident could be closed. A number of men were rescued alive, two dying later in hospital, and eleven bodies, including that of a woman, were recovered. Approximately 200 incendiaries fell in the Post area that night, and most of them were dealt with by Wardens. To conclude the night's work the usual U.X.B. was discovered, in the grounds of St Mary's Church. There was a further heavy raid on London on the following Saturday, April 19, but Post 12 was unscathed. As always, after a heavy raid, Bomb Disposal lorries were busy collecting U.X.B.s, and in this connection a rather amusing message appears in the Log: "Losta bomb fuse."

On May 1, the Inspector General A.R.P., Wing Commander Hodsoll, visited the Post. On May 10 came the second of the two heavy attacks referred to above. Actually, the alert did not sound until 23.02 hours, and so far as the Post was concerned there was a lull until 01.10, when it was broken by the usual fall of incendiaries. It was estimated that no less than 2,000 were dropped on the Post area during this raid, causing fires in nearly every street. There were two H.E.s, one was a U.X.B., and the other fell at the junction of Manor Place and Stopford Road, completely demolishing four houses, two with shops below, and damaging nine others. A tobacconist's shop, fortunately not occupied, vanished entirely, and when the site was cleared later, not a trace was found of the stock-in-trade. A glass showcase in a dairy was blown from one side of the road to the other and landed in

a public house. Scales in a butcher's shop were blown off the counter and into the basement, trapdoors in the shop floor conveniently opening and closing for the purpose. Two persons trapped were rescued and a number of others treated for minor injuries.

Most damage this night however, was caused by fire. Wardens and Fire Guards ran from one fire to another, but still the sky glowed. Water supplies sank lower until in many places no more could be obtained. Owing to excellent work on the Post Area, however, only two major fires developed. Newington Butts and Draper Street, where most of the property consisted of lock-up shops. Here the fire spread from one place to another, and little could be done with water supplies, as they were, to halt it. The AFS were almost unobtainable. In Draper Street was a timber-strutted shelter under the Salvation Army building, which itself was constructed mostly of wood. Incendiaries dropping all round eventually set fire to the building, and the shelterers had to be hurriedly evacuated before the shelter itself became involved. One unfortunate man returned to the shelter to seek for his wife (already evacuated) and never left it again alive.

In the meantime, St. Mary's Church had caught fire, and burned like a torch, the rose window in the east wall filled as with glass of the brightest medieval orange. A heavy pall of smoke hung over the sky, reflecting the fires below. At the Elephant and Castle, just beyond the Post area boundary, a major conflagration was developing. In the Walworth Road, Newington Butts, St. George's Road, New Kent Road, Borough Road and London Road, shop after shop was consumed. Bands of fire spread from side to side of the roads and, sweeping from end to end, destroyed all in their path. The AFS were unable to get water from the hydrants and stood helplessly holding their branches. Clouds of red hot embers rained down and the roar of flames and crashing of falling walls was continuous. Dawn broke but still the H.E.s fell. Wardens flopped down, exhausted. A few went to the Elephant and Castle and assisted the AFS in chopping away shop fronts and hoardings to prevent the spread of fires. At last, at 05.54, the all clear came, and London gave an almost audible sigh of relief.

Fires continued to smoulder for several days, and Wardens spent the next few evenings damping down with stirrup pumps. The result of this raid, the last of any intensity on London, was 1,436 persons killed and 1,792 injured. The House of Commons, Westminster Abbey, the Temple and the Tower were amongst the historic places either damaged or destroyed. It was, indeed, a night which will never be forgotten. There was, however, one cause for rejoicing. A.A. Defences brought down no less than 33 of the 300 bombers which came over, and up to the present, the Hun has never again approached the Capital in such force. In these five months, from January 11 to May 10, the Post had dealt with 2,402 incidents, comprising 14 high explosives, 3 unexploded bombs and 2,385 incendiaries; 30 people had been killed and 28 seriously injured.

End of Part Three—to be continued in the next issue of the CDA Journal.

OBITUARIES

Anne Melrose



Anne Melrose (nee Morgan) passed away on 14 February 2021, aged 97, in hospital. She leaves her husband of 60 years John, son, Alan, daughter in law Gill. During the Second World War she was a member of the National Fire Service (the above photograph shows her in her NFS uniform. In later years, Anne joined the Civil Defence Association, and on one Remembrance Sunday laid a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of all Civil Defenders.

Isobel Mould



Isobel Burton Mould was born at George Street Stirling on 21 September

1928. In accordance with family tradition her middle name of Burton was her mother's maiden name. Isobel met her late husband Don whilst working for the same company, and they shared a common interest in ball room dancing. They married on 2 March 1957 at Christ Church New Malden, and had two children, David in March, 1968 and Carol in July 1964.

Isobel returned to work in 1973, and held a number of secretarial positions, latterly as a legal secretary for a firm of solicitors. She was actively involved with her local church and undertook a variety of tasks.

Her other main interest was with the Malden Emergency First Aid Society (MEFAS) (also known as Malden Civil Aid). She joined the unit at the same time as her daughter who was a cadet. As an active member, and Honorary Secretary, she, along with the rest of the family, help build the Society's headquarters in what is now the Malden Centre.

She trained to become a qualified first Aid Instructor, running various courses with the legendary Tom Kelley. At one of the training sessions in 2003 run by Christchurch for all the youth leaders, she met Stephen Kuhrt for the first time who had joined the parish as a curate a few days earlier.

Throughout her time with the Society she firstly became a committee member and finally the Secretary. Through the Society she helped organise first aid competitions for both Kingston and the other local boroughs and frequently received invitations to the mayor's parlour at the Guildhall in

Kingston.

In recognition of many years as Civil Aid member Isabel also attended one of the Queen's garden parties with some of her colleagues from MEFAS.

Isabel passed away on 16 February 2021.

Lady Caroline Johnson

Caroline Johnson was the daughter of Sir John Hodsooll, who is recognised as the 'Father of Civil Defence'. Indeed she was present at the planting of a tree in his memory on the site of the C D Memorials at the CDA Annual Commemoration in 2002 (see photograph in adjoining column).

She passed away on 28th February 2021, aged 78 at Oakhaven Hospice, Lymington after a long illness.

She leaves a twin sister, Charlotte, her



Caroline Johnson is pictured in the centre of the photograph

son Nicholas, and 3 stepchildren Marina, Alison and Colpoys.

May they Rest in Peace.

With sincere thanks to Alan Melrose David Mould and Charlotte Erskine.

LETTER FROM AMERICA

The Play of Life

Life's like a play: it's not the length, but the excellence of the acting that matters - Lucius Annaeus Seneca

It goes without saying that right now, we are all playing a part in a very interesting play. Who would have thought six months ago that the play we were in, the script, the staging and the players would all be radically changed.

The question now is how are we going to act in this new play. Some of us have large roles, some have small roles, some have roles that are constantly changing.

At the end of this play, what will the reviews be? No matter what the role, script or staging, we can all play the parts we have been given with a sense of grace, charity, thoughtfulness and kindness. In the final analysis, isn't that how we would want our performance to be reviewed?

Let this time of pandemic and sheltering in place be a time that brings out the best performance in all of us.

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

RGHQ, HOPE COVE SOLD

One of the finest examples of a Cold War nuclear bunker has been sold after being put on the market for £435,000. The Grade II listed structure, near Kingsbridge in Devon, was re-advertised for sale after failing to meet its asking price at an auction in February 2021. But now it has been sold, although the purchaser's details are undisclosed.



Former RGHQ Hope Cove

Located in a commanding position, high above the Salcombe estuary, and originally known as Hope Cove Bunker, it was in active use between January 1956 and September 1957, after which it briefly became the RAF Fighter Control School.

In 1958, following the departure of the RAF, the bunker was transferred to the Home Office for conversion into a Regional Seat of Government (and later as a Regional Government HQ) that would control the South West of England in the event of a nuclear war.

With acknowledgements to Business Live and thanks to Malcolm Bidder. 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 is an on-going project. Editor.

PAPER MILL RESCUE

On Friday, 23 October, 1959, five contractors' men were painting the inside of a large water tank at Bowaters Mersey Paper Mill, near Ellesmere Port. The tank was approximately 12 ft. deep and 20 ft. off the ground floor, with a manhole of about 18 in. diameter only. The men using a heated bitumastic preparation, were affected by the fumes, commenced to reel about and were mentally confused — one man quickly becoming unconscious and another became violent.

The rescue operation was commenced by Mr. Clifford Vaughan, Leader of the mill

C.D. Rescue Section, who was joined by Mr. Jack Lewis, Fire, Security and C.D. Officer, Mersey Mill. Carrying ropes, they squeezed through the manhole and climbed down an iron ladder to the bottom of the tank. The unconscious man was pulled to the foot of the ladder and then hauled up by workmen above assisted by Lewis and Vaughan. Although themselves affected by the fumes, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Vaughan returned to the tank to the rescue of the violent man, who had to be forced up the ladder inch by inch. The remaining workmen managed to reach safety with minor assistance.

Immediate first aid was given and four men were sent to Ellesmere Port Hospital where two were treated for shock and eventually allowed to go home and the other two were detained for observation following severe shock. Messrs. Lewis and Vaughan and the fifth workman were treated by the mill doctor and ordered home — though Mr. Lewis remained at the mill at his own request. In the opinion of Mr. J. T. Luke, Mill Manager and a Director of Bowaters, there is little doubt that but for the promptness and gallantry of the rescuers, two men would have lost their lives.

January 1960

EXERCISE 'KURSAAL'

It is difficult for organisers of exercises to find a method of training which will sweeten the rigours of war conditions with a coating of some novel form of interest. In staging a reinforcing move Exercise Kursaal to No. 4 Region, on the North bank of the Thames Estuary, 'D' Division achieved that end. On Saturday, 3 October, 1959 twenty appliances making up a Headquarters Company and two Fire Companies plus six motor cyclists rendezvoused at Brenley Corner Where the A2 joins the Coastal road and left at 1630 hours for London. After a short "tea and comfort" stop on Blackheath, the convoy proceeded.

Tower Bridge was crossed about 1900 hours, and the convoy then had to deal with the intricate streets of the City of London, complicated still further by diversions and traffic lights which tended to break up the formations. Once clear of the City, good time was made, the Column Base at Fairfax School, Prittlewell Chase, Southend, being reached by 2110hrs; ten minutes behind schedule after a run of about 82 miles.

Although hard lying and night guard duties on the £100,000 worth of equipment parked on the road naturally was not very enjoyable the meal provided on arrival by the Southend Borough Education Department was quite sumptuous. After settling in and the evening meal, detailed vehicles carried the "liberty men" down to the Southend Fire Station where a short step brought them to the sea front. After an excellent breakfast, again provided by the Southend Education Department, the Column left at 0900 hours on Sunday, 4 October.

Under the guidance of an Essex Fire Brigade Station Officer, the Shell Haven Oil Installations were visited. Only sufficient time could be spared there to give personnel some idea of the size and complexity of the huge area of tankage and plant. The column entered Tilbury Docks at 1115hrs and under the guidance of

another Essex Officer, had a look at the dock installations and the ships in dock. These included the 30,000 ton P. & O. "Arcadia" and the older but quite impressive "Strathmore." Midday meal was provided by C. D. Welfare personnel at Hornchurch Airfield. Medway Fire Station was reached by 1650hrs ten minutes ahead of schedule, and after refreshments the Companies proceeded independently to their home areas.

Radio contact from front to rear of the Column kept the Column together on the open road. Time operated traffic lights and the confusion of London City streets tended to break formation. Column soon reformed, however once clear of City. Six D.R.s working as a team for the three Companies proved better than 2 D.R.s controlling each Company independently. Guard duty, though onerous, is necessary to protect Column equipment.

It was suggested that driving mirrors should be more easily adjustable. Extra salvage sheets were needed to cover the "bedding" needs of H.Q. Company personnel and the Firewomen. It was suggested that panniers were needed on motor cycles for small personal gear. Except for passage through London the Column was in direct radio communication with Maidstone Fire Station by emergency radio 15 watt 2 channel sets during the whole outward journey.

January 1960

EXERCISE "POMPEY"

While others rested, or curled up in front of television sets, during one weekend recently, 140 men and women from Canterbury and other parts of East Kent were preparing for possible war. They were detachments from the regular and retained personnel of the Kent Fire Brigade, C.D., Kent County Ambulance, the A.F.S. and the S.J.A.B., who took part in "Exercise Pompey"—a two-day emergency column exercise organised annually by "D" Division of the Kent Fire Brigade.

To quote from the Kentish Gazette: 'After five hours of sleep at Portsmouth, 0530hrs, all the 150 personnel were up and about; the old hands were recalling exercises of "long ago". After breakfast visits to two awe-inspiring Polish mine sweepers in the harbour, then 4 hours most gruelling drive to Hastings, where at about 1400hrs a meal was served by C.D. personnel.

At 1600hrs watched by scores of children, the column moved off towards Ashford, for a final cup of tea and dispersal. Lt. Commander J. H. Fordham, Chief Officer, Kent Fire Brigade congratulated them on the job they had done during the weekend.

The object of the exercise was to gain experience in large-scale convoy work using despatch riders, map reading, emergency feeding and sleeping accommodation. It was also intended to test and to encourage liaison between the services.

December 1960

EVENTS

2021

Sat/Sun 28-28 August
1940s Living History Weekend

Eden Camp, Yorks

26—31 October
Halloween Fun

Eden Camp, Yorks

Saturday 6 November
Wreath Laying

CD Memorial, The NMA

Thursday 11 November
Field of Remembrance

Westminster Abbey

Sunday 14 November
Remembrance Sunday

At the time of compiling the list of events, the Covid-19 emergency regulations were still being fully applied in the UK.

It is therefore recommended that enquirers check with the organisers before booking and attending an event.

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

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:
0737 772 1768

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.

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