

# exposure

Winter 2025

The combined magazine for the nuclear community



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In 1961 The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, had a lodge on Christmas Island.

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**Next issue copy  
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# **Foreword**

## **A Timeless Message**

I have sometimes been accused of being a hoarder. Although I deny the charge, I have to admit that I rent a Lok-n-Store at great expense. It's stuffed with files, pictures I have no room to hang, decades of sermons, and family items like my dad's old accordion that I can't bear to part with. I confess that there are several bottles of various vintages as well...

On a visit to the store last week, I found a box file marked NUCLEAR. It contains orders of service, dedication of Memorials, cuttings and articles I have written since 1987, during my years of ministry to the BNTVA, and latterly the wider Nuclear Community. I read the names of many good friends who are no longer with us, as we say, though in a deeper sense, if course, they always will be....

I found a magazine article that I wrote in 2006 after the Dedication of the new Memorial at the Arboretum. I wrote, As the Memorial was dedicated, there were prayers, tears, silence, memories, pride, anger, all mixed together; much like a normal family. And afterwards there was shared food, laughter, reminiscences, good conversation. It certainly was a special day, and the Memorial will be a source of inspiration for many years to come.

Well, it continues to inspire, and to remind a new generation of descendants of Veterans, and thousands of visitors to the Arboretum, of just what the country owes to the Nuclear Veterans' service at a critical time in our nation's history, and their long campaign for recognition.

By the time Exposure is circulated, Christmas will be past and New Year's resolutions will have been made. The heart of the Christmas story, and of the Christian faith, is 'God with us': God taking human form, to feel our sadness and to share our gladness. That is a message for every season. It goes back 2000 years, not just 20.

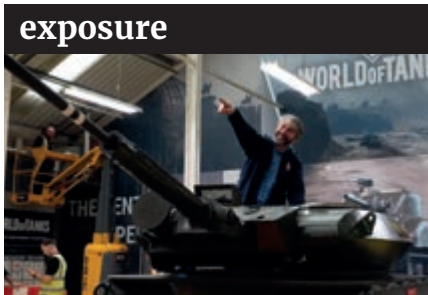
May I wish all Nuclear Veterans and your families a happy new year, during which I hope to see many of you at the Annual Conference or on NAVAD Day.

**Editor - Exposure**

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BNTVA  
the Museum for Atomic Veterans



## Exposure Online

See the magazine website at:  
[www.exposure.press](http://www.exposure.press)

# Annual British Nuclear Survivor Community Conference 2026

As published in the last exposure magazine (Autumn 2025), we will be holding our annual conference on Friday the 8th to Sunday, 10th May 2026, at the Hilton Hotel East Midlands Airport.

Since announcing the conference in the last issue we have already had around 30 veterans and descendants register to attend.

## The Venue

The Conference will be at the Hilton Hotel, East Midlands Airport.

This weekend is a chance to catch up with old friends, share stories, and make new memories. We'll have a day of interesting talks and friendly discussions, offering a great opportunity to learn something new and connect with fellow members. More than anything, it's a reunion for old comrades and a warm welcome for every family member.

We sincerely hope you can join us for this special weekend of friendship, support, and remembrance. We look forward to seeing you there.

Bringing together academics, heritage professionals, site managers, museums, researchers, and enthusiasts, the Network supports knowledge sharing, community engagement, and public education around one of the most significant periods of the 20th century.

## Event Details

### Friday 8th May 2026

If you wish to travel early you can arrive Friday afternoon/evening. Your evening meal will be provided and you'll be able to catch up with old friends in the bar.

### Saturday 9th May 2026 – Conference

10:00 – 17:30 Conference presentations with refreshment breaks and lunch

19:00 – 12.00 Dinner

### Sunday 10th May 2026 – Checkout

## How to Register

Call: **07884 187 800**  
or email: **office@thenccf.org**

If you call, leave a message on the answer machine telling us you would like to register for the conference and clearly leave your name and telephone number for us to get back to you.



Hilton Hotels and Resorts



## How to get there

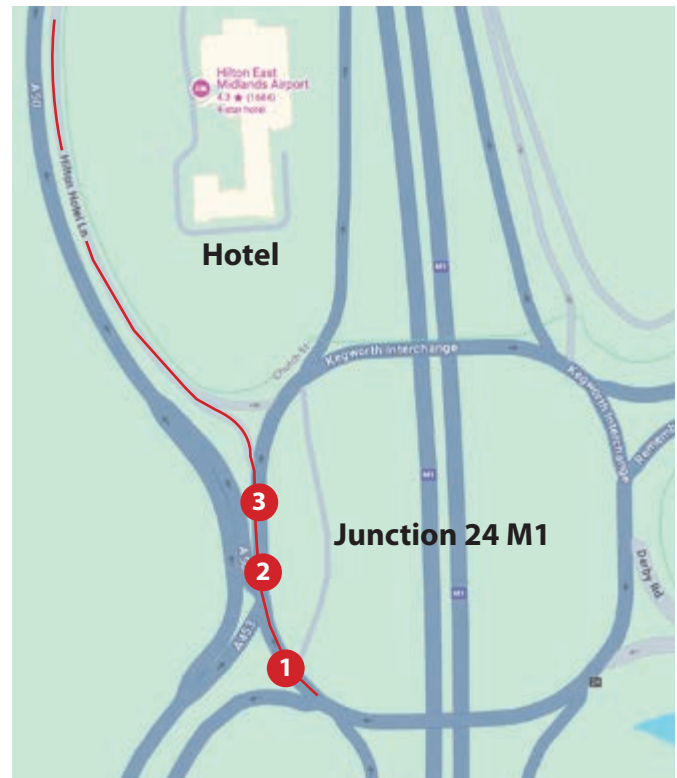
The Hotel is situated just off Junction 24 of the M1, four miles from East Midlands Airport. Its address is: **Hilton East Midlands Airport M1, Junction, 24 Derby Rd, Derby DE74 2YZ**

**By Car** – At Junction 24 of the M1, follow road signs and road markings to M1 North & Hotel. At the turn off for the A50 to Derby you will need to be in the 3rd lane from the left (M1 N and Hotel). See **1** below. Keep in this lane and take the next left onto Hilton Hotel Lane, see **2** and **3** below.

If you miss the turnoff and onto the A50, get off at the next Island a mile or so away, and head back towards Junc 24 of the M1 and you will approach the hotel slip road from the same direction you did previously.

**By Rail** – The closest station to the hotel is East Midlands Parkway (Midland Mainline). This station is a 5 minute Taxi drive away from the hotel.

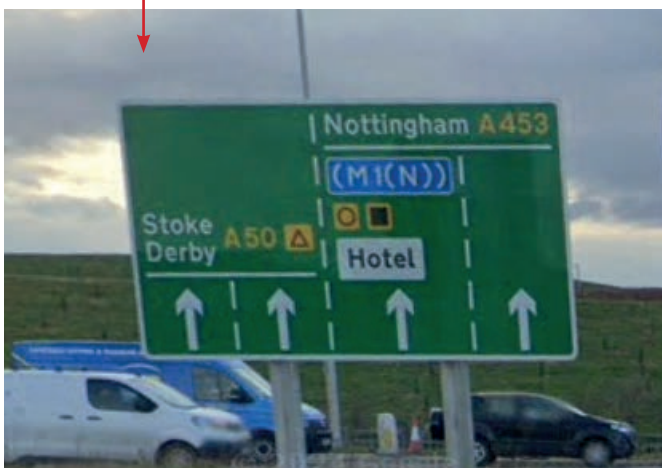
**By Bus** – It is possible to catch a bus from Derby, Leicester or Nottingham to East Midlands Airport using Trent Barton's Skylink service. From here it's a short taxi drive to the hotel.



Google Map



Google Street View



# We visit the Tank Museum Bovington



In October we were invited to visit to a Cold War Network event in Dorset and decided to visit the Tank Museum in Bovington, which houses the worlds largest collection of Tanks.

The museum is situated next to Bovington camp, home to the Royal Wessex Yeomanry who provide battle casualty replacements to the three armoured regiments.

## History

The first mention of the site being a museum was in 1919 in the Tank Corps Journal.

## Tank Museum

*“In a small railed off enclosure near the Tank Schools there is a very interesting collection of Tanks, every type being represented from the Mk. I, to the latest infantry carrier. ‘Little Willie’, the original experimental Tank, made in the early days, is also present.”*

In 1930, Major General Sir John Capper wrote a letter pushing for the formal creation of a Corps Museum. In February 1931, the decision was made to establish the RTC Museum. During WWII the museum was mothballed for obvious reasons but after the war the number of Tanks, Allied and Axis, grew.

In 1971 funding was secured for the first major expansion which currently houses our Warhorse to Horsepower Exhibition.

In 1990 the Tamiya Hall was opened part funded by the Tamiya Corporation who make scale models including Tanks, ships, planes, cars and motorbikes. The Tamiya Hall is now a multi-purpose space containing a café, soft play, bookshop,



The Trench Experience

a number of heavier vehicles, and importantly a new exhibition on the war in Ukraine.

## A New Millennium

In 2009 a large expansion to the museum, funded by the National Lottery was opened by HM the Queen. This included a new entrance, shop and restaurant, as well as a large new display hall – The Tank Story Hall. In 2014 the Vehicle Conservation Centre (VCC) was opened and is now home to around 100 AFVs (Armoured Fighting Vehicles). 2016 saw the opening, by Princess Anne, of the new Workshops.

## The Exhibits

The Museum presents the history of the tank from its first use in 1915 all the way up to the present day.

## The Trench Experience

The first hall starts with the first use of a tank in the Somme in 1916 and shows the life of a tank crew at the time and why the tank was invented to break the stalemate of the battle.

## World War 2 Hall

This area tells the history of the men of the Royal Armoured Corps (RAC), through various battles starting with the British counter-attack at Arras in 1940 and finishing with the fall of Germany in 1945.

The exhibition contains first-hand testimony from tank crewmen is at the centre of the displays, via written and spoken words.



The Trench Experience



Early WWII Vehicles – Matilda 1, Comet, A9 Cruiser and Matilda 2



Top Left: White Scout Car 1939  
Top Right: Churchill VII 1944

2nd Row Left: Churchill AVRE with Petard Mortar Gun  
2nd Row Right: M4A1 Sherman 1942

3rd Row Left: Jagdtiger 1944  
3rd Row Right: Tiger II 1944

Bottom: T34 1940



The Royal Armoured Corps Memorial Room

### RAC Memorial Room

The Memorial Room, created in partnership with The Royal Armoured Corps Memorial Trust, commemorates the sacrifice of almost 13,000 Royal Armoured Corps soldiers who have died in service, since the Corps was founded in 1939. The Memorial Room contains the Books of Remembrance, a digitised and searchable version of the Roll of Honour, and videos about those who fought in the RAC.

### Tanks for the memories

This hall shows the Tank in Popular Culture. The exhibition looks at how the tank has become a cultural icon through toys, games, models, and the production of works of art, books, comics, video games and films. This hall brought back a lot of memories from our childhoods, we compared which models we had built and which Action Men vehicles and Tanks we used to own. If you are taking children this will be one of the rooms they will enjoy the most.

Next to this area is the Gaming Zone where multiple people can play the video game, World of Tanks against each other. This contained an excellent cutaway of a Centurion tank.



### Cold War - Post WWII Tanks

This is the museums collection of Tanks that will be most familiar with our readership, with Key Vehicles in the are being the TOGII, Chieftain, Centurion and Bulldog.

### Tank Story

This hall is next to the restaurant and play area and features over 30 of the most important armoured fighting vehicles in history. It tells the story of the tank in context with the events of the last century.

It shows how this important this British invention was and how it helped shape world history with its domination of the battlefield.

### Ukraine

This is the newest exhibition at the museum and charts the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It shows the role of changing technology in 21st Century warfare and the Royal Tank Regiment's experience of training Ukrainian soldiers.

There are examples of including fighting vehicles used by both sides. Its also features personal stories from refugees who have settled in Dorset.

### Vehicle Conservation Area

During our visit we were allowed to view this hall, which houses over 100 armoured fighting vehicles, including a wide variety of unique prototypes and testbed vehicles. This hall isn't always open so if you intend to visit id check with the museum beforehand.

The hall is viewable from a balcony that overlooks the collection which is vast.



Vehicle Conservation Area



Top Left: A Centurion between a Challenger 2 and a Tortoise  
Top Left: The Challenger 2

Mid Row Left: Challenger 2 in Ukraine  
Mid Row Right: Russian T72 in Ukraine

Bottom Left: British Cold War NBC Suits  
Bottom Right: The Challenger 2 in the Tank Story Hall with the Restaurant balcony in the background



Finlay and Nigel on patrol



Tank Commander Wesley

## The Arena

This is an area where the museum displays vehicles in action, with commentary on mock battles and manoeuvres. On our visit we didn't see any displays in this area however they do put on displays during holidays which include:

- 1pm Monday – Friday during Easter Holidays and May Half Term
- 1pm Monday – Thursday, during Summer school holidays

This is free for all Tank Museum visitors.

## Accessibility

The Tank Museum is committed to a policy of accessibility, providing excellent access in and around the site. The site includes ramps and lifts to different levels and disabled parking is close to the entrance.

For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, there are type T induction loops on the newer interactives and subtitles on video content throughout the exhibitions.

In 2026, they have BSL Tours on 31 January & 19 September.

Braille guides are available from the Information point. Assistance Dogs including guide and hearing are permitted.

They also have a well-being room for use as a quiet space located behind the shop. This space has been created for visitors who are feeling overwhelmed, visitors with additional sensory needs, as a resting space for chronic fatigue sufferers, or as a private place to breastfeed. It is also beside a disabled toilet with baby changing facilities.

## Food and Drink

The **Restaurant** overlooks the Tank Story exhibition hall, and is open daily from 10.00 – 17.00.

They serve everything from pasties, sandwiches, salads to hot meals and homemade cake. Daily specials include mains such as lasagne, curry, moussaka, chilli and casserole. Gluten free, dairy free, and vegan options available.

The **Cafe** is near the Soft Play area and is open 1030 – 1630 year round.

## Visiting the Museum

This was my first visit to the Museum and I would definitely visit again. There are activities for young children and teenagers alike. Even if tanks aren't really your thing, you will find the museum interesting.

### Contact

The Tank Museum  
Bovington  
Dorset  
BH20 6JG  
UK

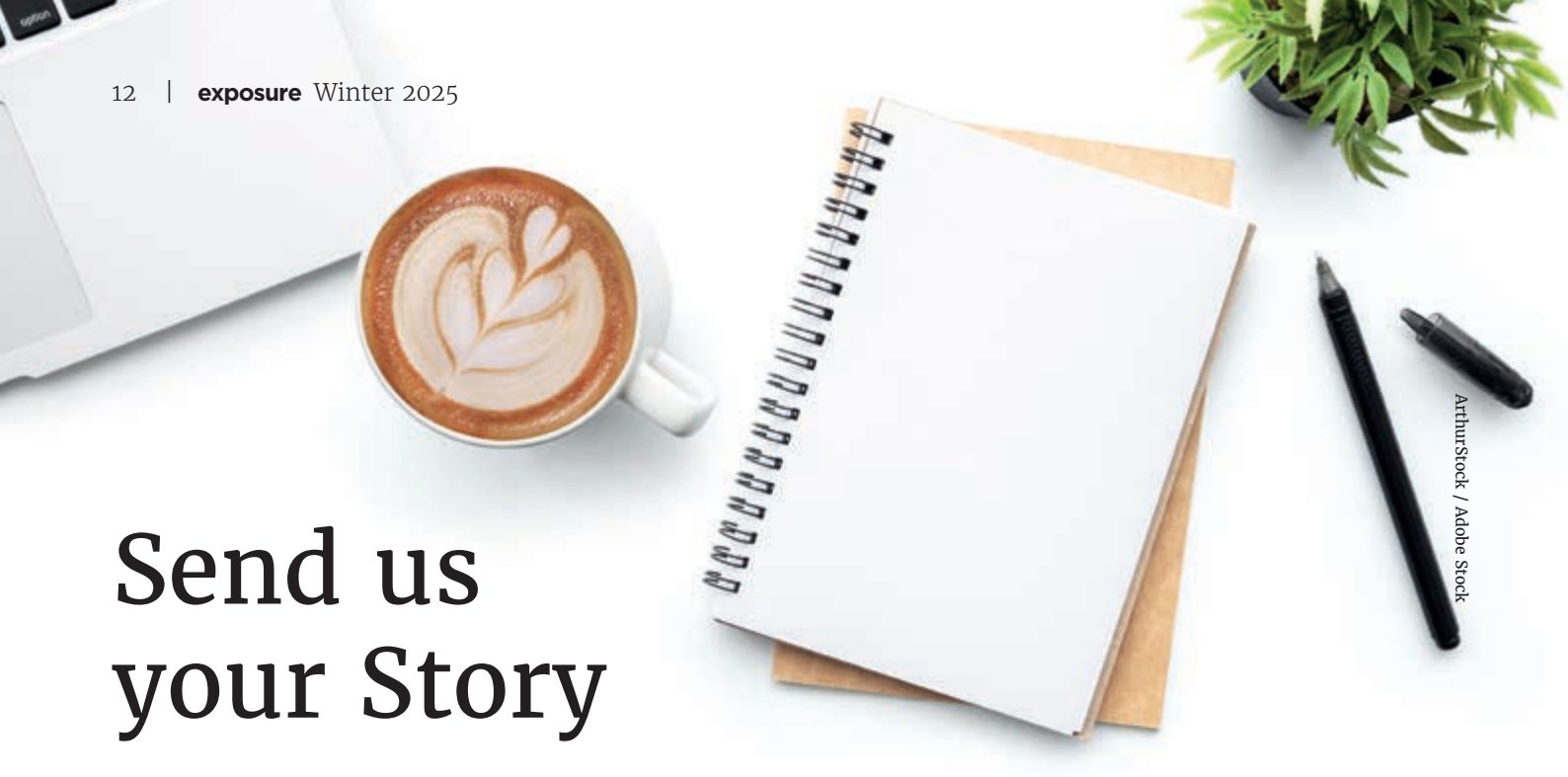
### Phone Enquiries

Visitor line: 01929 405096  
Business line: 01929 408951

### Online Details

Website:  
[www.tankmuseum.org](http://www.tankmuseum.org)

Email:  
[visit@tankmuseum.org](mailto:visit@tankmuseum.org)



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# Send us your Story

If you have a story that you would like to share and be published in exposure magazine then get in touch with us.

If you have something to say that would be of interest to our reader then why not write about it and send it to us. It doesn't necessarily have to be about your service or the tests, any experience or information you think would be interesting to the community would be welcome.

You may run Marathons, help with a local charity, or walk the Pennines or grow prize winning vegetables, whatever you do we would like to hear about it.

Don't worry if you don't have a computer we will accept hand written stories and type it for you. Don't worry about spelling or grammar we can check that and amend it too. If you have photographs that accompany your story you can send those and we will scan them and send back the originals to you.

If you do have a computer and would prefer to send us your story and pictures via email the details are below.

This is your chance to have your voice heard and share your experience with the rest of the community. Each magazine story also goes onto the exposure.press website which is then shared across social media for even more people to read it.

Once published a copy of the magazine is sent to the British Library and held in their archives, immortalising your story for future reference.

## Email

editor@exposure.press

## Or write to

The NCCF  
PO Box 8244  
Castle Donington  
DE74 2BY

If you are unsure or need help or advice please call:

**07884 187 800**

Please clearly leave your name and telephone number and we will get back to you.



Wikimedia Commons / Royal Engineers construct the airfield runway on Christmas Island

# The Nuclear Community Charity Fund

## **NCCF Launches Ground Zero Grants: A New Lifeline for Britain's Nuclear Veterans**

Targeted support programme addresses critical care funding gap for ageing community.

**P14**

## **The Forgotten Heroes**

UK's Elderly Veterans Face a Perfect Storm of Challenges

**P16**

# NCCF Launches Ground Zero Grants: A New Lifeline for Britain's Nuclear Veterans

Targeted support programme addresses critical care funding gap for the ageing community.

## The Challenge

Decades after serving their country during Britain's nuclear testing programme, the men who stood at Ground Zero face a new battle—one against time, declining health, and mounting care costs. For many in this rapidly ageing community, the gap between what the state provides and what care actually costs has become an urgent and unbridgeable chasm.

Now, the Nuclear Community Charity Fund (NCCF) is stepping in with a transformative solution that could significantly improve lives.

## A Strategic Response

The newly launched Ground Zero Support Grants represent more than just another funding stream—they signal a fundamental shift in how the charity supports its most vulnerable beneficiaries. Moving from ad-hoc assistance to a structured, evidence-based system, the NCCF is tackling head-on what it calls the "care gap": the often devastating financial shortfall between actual care costs and state funding.



We recognised that our community's needs were evolving faster than our response mechanisms," explains the charity's leadership. "The Ground Zero Support Grants are our answer to that challenge.

## Who Are We Talking About?

The NCCF serves what it formally terms the "British Nuclear Survivor Community"—veterans of Britain's nuclear testing programme, their families and descendants, and anyone who may have encountered radiological or chemical exposure in service to the nation. These are men who, in their youth, stood witness to atomic detonations, often with minimal protection, never imagining the long-term consequences they might face.

## Building on Solid Foundations

The Ground Zero Support Grants don't replace existing support—they enhance it. The NCCF's established Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund continues to provide flexible assistance for immediate needs, typically making direct payments to suppliers for specific goods or services that improve quality of life.

The new programme fills a critical gap that the existing fund wasn't designed to address: the complex, ongoing costs of long-term care. Together, these two funds create a comprehensive safety net that addresses both immediate needs and sustained care requirements.

## How the Ground Zero Grants Work

### Eligibility is straightforward:

members of the British Nuclear Survivor Community who are encountering ongoing care costs can seek a financial contribution toward them.

**The purpose is clear:** to bridge the demonstrable care gap where essential care costs exceed state funding. Importantly, this isn't about replacing available state support—it's about filling the gap where that support falls short.

**The structure is practical:** grants are provided as single, non-recurring payments calculated to mitigate the care gap over a maximum 12-month period. Each grant is strictly one-off and non-renewable, with amounts determined as a percentage of the assessed care gap, capped by a maximum "Fund Ceiling" set annually by trustees.

Critically, applications for care agreements already in place will be considered—recognition that many veterans are already struggling with costs they can't meet.



### The Application Process: Rigorous but Fair

The NCCF has designed an evidence-based assessment process that ensures charitable funds reach those most in need. Applicants must provide:

- A completed dedicated application form
- A local authority financial assessment (providing an objective baseline)
- Evidence that NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) assessment has been initiated and pursued
- Where CHC was denied, proof that reasonable appeal opportunities were explored
- Consent for review under the charity's "Wealth-Cap" policies (ensuring funds aren't used to protect inheritance assets)

This might seem demanding, but it serves a vital purpose: ensuring every pound reaches veterans with genuine need while maintaining the programme's sustainability for future beneficiaries.

### Protecting the Mission

The NCCF operates a zero-tolerance policy towards fraud—not to create barriers, but to protect the community it serves. Every safeguard exists to ensure charitable funds support the mission: helping the British Nuclear Survivor Community.

The charity also applies a principle of "Responsible Stewardship." This means that where less expensive but equally suitable care alternatives exist, grant calculations may be benchmarked against the more economical option. This prudent approach isn't about cutting corners—it's about stretching limited funds to help the maximum number of veterans.

### Looking Forward

The Ground Zero Support Grants represent a clear vision: sustainable, equitable support that will endure as the community ages. By establishing this structured, evidence-based model, the NCCF is building a system that can continue providing meaningful assistance for years to come.

For veterans of Britain's nuclear testing programme, the message is clear: if you're facing a care funding gap, this programme could be your lifeline.

The charity encourages all eligible community members to come forward and seek the dignified support they've earned.

### How to Apply

Applications must be made using a dedicated form available from the NCCF. You'll need comprehensive documentation, including financial and care assessments from your local authority and the NHS.

**For information and application forms:** Contact the Nuclear Community Charity Fund directly. Specific contact details and a web portal will be announced at the programme's official launch—watch for the charity's official communications.

**Don't wait:** If you're struggling with care costs that exceed state funding, reach out. This programme was created for you.

*The Nuclear Community Charity Fund exists to deliver education, research and support activities that ease suffering, increase health and wellbeing, and enhance social inclusion for Britain's nuclear survivor community. The Ground Zero Support Grants represent the latest evolution in our unwavering commitment to this mission.*

# The Forgotten Heroes: UK's Elderly Veterans Face a Perfect Storm of Challenges

How Britain's oldest veterans are battling invisible wounds while navigating an increasingly complex support system

At 87, former Royal Navy serviceman John Matthews still recalls the blinding flash on Christmas Island in 1957. Like thousands of other young British servicemen, he witnessed nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific—an experience that would haunt him and his family for decades to come. Today, as part of the UK's growing population of elderly veterans aged 80 and over, John represents a generation facing an unprecedented convergence of challenges. Yet, his resilience and that of his peers demand our urgent attention and inspire hope for a better future.

## The Hidden Crisis

Behind the quiet dignity that defines Britain's veteran community lies a troubling reality. According to the Royal British Legion's comprehensive 2014 Household Survey, approximately **480,000 members of the adult ex-Service community suffer from depression**, while around **370,000 report feeling lonely**. For those aged 75 and older, these figures represent more than statistics—they paint a picture of profound isolation in the twilight years of those who once served their country with distinction.

The numbers become even more stark when examining physical health challenges. The same survey revealed that roughly **630,000 adult ex-Service community members likely have problems getting around outside the home**, with approximately **720,000 experiencing difficulties with self-care**, including exhaustion and chronic pain. These mobility and self-care challenges are most prevalent among the oldest veterans, creating a cascade of interconnected problems that can quickly spiral beyond individual capacity to manage.

## The Nuclear Veterans: A Special Case Study

Perhaps no group illustrates these challenges more poignantly than Britain's nuclear test veterans and their families. Studies conducted on nuclear families by the Centre for Health Effects of Radiological and Chemical Agents have uncovered a particularly complex web of health and psychological issues stemming from exposure to atomic weapons testing between 1952 and 1967. These veterans report not only physical ailments—skin conditions, dental problems, early hearing loss, and cataracts—but also carry the psychological burden of uncertainty about radiation exposure and its potential hereditary effects.

The anxiety extends beyond the veterans themselves. One study found that **38% of nuclear test veterans and spouses, and 8% of descendants, reported distress or concern due to worries about historic perceived radiation exposure**. This intergenerational trauma creates ripple effects through families, with descendants reporting higher incidences of autoimmune conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, thyroid disease, and multiple sclerosis.

## A Patchwork of Support

The UK's support system for elderly veterans resembles a complex patchwork quilt—comprehensive in some areas, threadbare in others. The NHS's Op COURAGE program, launched in March 2021, represents a significant step forward, providing specialist mental health services specifically designed for veterans and their families in England. To be eligible, individuals must have served in the UK armed forces for at least one day and be registered with an English GP.

Combat Stress, the UK's leading veterans' mental health charity, works in tandem with NHS services, offering free treatment for complex mental health needs, including trauma, anxiety, depression, and PTSD.



The Digital Divide - 2.3 million people aged 65 and over still do not use the internet

Their services span from telephone support to residential treatment, adapting to meet veterans where they are—literally and figuratively.

The Royal British Legion continues its stalwart work through its comprehensive Helpline, providing everything from financial aid and housing advice to social support and tribunal representation. Meanwhile, specialised organisations like the Nuclear Community Charity Fund (NCCF) address the unique needs of nuclear test veterans, recognising what they term the “hidden care” needs within these communities.

### The Gaps in the Safety Net

Despite these efforts, significant gaps persist. There exists what researchers describe as a “fundamental disconnect” between the government’s assessment of its support mechanisms and the lived experiences of veterans, particularly nuclear test veterans. This disconnect has created what experts term a “significant and persistent unmet need” within the veteran community.

One of the most pressing issues is the lack of understanding among medical professionals about veteran-specific health concerns. While many veterans express satisfaction with the quality of medical care they receive, they frequently report that healthcare providers lack knowledge about conditions linked to military service, particularly radiation exposure. GPs are described as “poorly equipped” with information about conditions related to ionising radiation exposure and the psychosocial effects of intergenerational trauma.

The government’s War Pensions Scheme (WPS), while well-intentioned, has been criticised as inadequate for addressing the “unique and devastating set of injuries and illnesses” suffered by nuclear test veterans and their descendants. The scheme requires veterans to provide “reliable evidence” to prove a causal link between their service and their condition—evidence that is often impossible to obtain due to missing or inaccessible medical records from decades past.

### The Digital Divide

Adding another layer of complexity is the digital divide affecting older veterans. While healthcare and support services increasingly move online, approximately **2.3 million people aged 65 and over still do not use the internet** as of June 2024. This digital exclusion creates barriers to accessing online support, information, and increasingly digitised healthcare services. It’s crucial to bridge this digital gap to ensure all veterans can access the support they need.

We are seeing a generation caught between two worlds. Our veterans, who served in an analogue age, now need support in a digital world. We must ensure our solutions don’t inadvertently exclude those who need them most.

## VALOUR: Transforming UK Veteran Support

The UK government has launched VALOUR, a £50 million initiative to revolutionise veteran support nationwide. Overseen by the Office for Veterans' Affairs, this program tackles the current "postcode patchwork" of fragmented services that makes support difficult to navigate.

VALOUR creates a UK-wide network of recognised support centres, coordinated by Regional Field Officers who unite charities, service providers, and local government. The program focuses on housing, employment, health, and welfare through a data-driven approach that channels resources where they're most needed.

Crucially, VALOUR addresses "hidden" veterans—those disconnected from formal support networks. It will use proactive engagement to reach veterans in crisis, including those experiencing homelessness who may have previously withdrawn from help.

This initiative fulfils the government's Armed Forces Covenant commitment, ensuring veterans aren't disadvantaged in accessing support due to their service. While initially veteran-focused, VALOUR is designed to serve the wider Armed Forces community eventually.

The first network is being piloted in Northern England, creating a blueprint for national rollout. SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, has endorsed the program and will contribute its expertise to support implementation.

## Looking Forward: What Needs to Change

Addressing the challenges facing elderly veterans requires a multifaceted approach. Veterans themselves have suggested several key improvements, but it's clear that a comprehensive strategy is needed. This should include improved healthcare services, a better understanding of veteran-specific health concerns, and a more inclusive approach to digital services.

- **Enhanced Medical Training:** Healthcare professionals need better education about military service-related health conditions, particularly those linked to radiation exposure and the psychological impacts of service.
- **Streamlined Access:** The current system's complexity can be overwhelming for elderly veterans dealing with multiple health challenges. Simplified pathways to support, with dedicated case workers who understand the veteran experience, could significantly improve outcomes.
- **Inclusive Technology:** As digital health solutions expand, ensuring they're accessible and user-friendly for older adults is crucial. This might include simplified interfaces, telephone alternatives, and digital literacy support.

- **Recognition and Restitution:** Particularly for nuclear test veterans, there's a pressing need for a more comprehensive scheme than the current War Pension. One that acknowledges the unique nature of their service and its long-term impacts. A step forward on this point would be the expansion of the medical conditions triggering a pension award to include all the conditions accepted by the USA authorities for their veterans.

## A Matter of Honour

The challenges facing Britain's elderly veterans represent more than policy problems—they're a test of our national character. These men and women served when called upon, often in circumstances we can barely imagine. Their current struggles with health, isolation, and navigating complex support systems reflect not personal failings but systemic ones that we, as a society, have the power and responsibility to address.

As John Matthews puts it, looking back on his decades of struggle to access proper healthcare and support: "We didn't serve for recognition or rewards. We served because it was our duty. But now, in our final years, we just want to know that service meant something - that we won't be forgotten."

The question facing Britain today is simple yet profound: Will we honour that service with actions that match our words? For 80-year-old veterans and older, time is not a luxury. The moment for comprehensive, compassionate support is now.



“

We didn't serve for recognition or rewards. We served because it was our duty. But now, in our final years, we just want to know that service meant something - that we won't be forgotten.”



# I think I need help - How do I get it?

- Are you a member of the British Nuclear Test Survivor Community based in the UK?
- Do you have issues affecting your daily life?
- Struggle getting up and down stairs?
- Can't sleep properly?
- Difficulty walking to the shops
- Difficulty Bathing?

## The NCCF wants to help you

We have developed our simplest application form and recent usage seems to indicate it is being well received with a surge in applications and support being given to needy members of our community.

We don't just provide stairlifts and wetrooms, We look to provide innovative and useful assistance to people. We have provided respite breaks, repaired or replaced broken heating systems, replaced damaged

and dangerous carpets, funded dementia respite care and provided many other measures which have changed lives and increased wellbeing.

If you feel you need help but are not sure exactly what is available we have a range of assessment options to identify goods and services that can address your suffering and enhance your wellbeing.

Just get in touch and request an application form - We will take it from there.

Email:

[office@thenccf.org](mailto:office@thenccf.org)

or call:

01158 883 442

The Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund

Making lives better



# BNTVA

the Museum for Atomic Veterans

## Rays Story of Christmas Island

Ray got in touch with lost pals through exposure magazine

**P22**

## The Buffs

In 1961 The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, had a lodge on Christmas Island.

**P23**

## Johnnie Johnson

Our paths crossed three times

**P28**

# Rays Story of Christmas Island

We published an article back in 2023 and Rays Daughter saw the article and began the journey to get them in touch with each other.

Derek was in tent with me from when I first arrived, Geordie and Ray moved in later after Blue and John went home, so this would be from early 1958 to late 1958.

I have fond memories of walking on the beach, going for trips into the island on 3 ton trucks, morning tea visits to the cinema, and I can remember playing cricket and soccer. I'm not sure if the others were involved in those sports, it's a while ago.

Some good times, some not so good. I remember getting the early transport to the airfield so we could listen to the Chipmunks on the radio, the visit of Prince Philip. The tests were exciting and frightening at the same time. The bad bits, no drinking water in the tent lines, no privacy when you went to the toilet as the front was open. No fresh veggies, being sprayed with DDT daily.

It was good to be out in the sun, but after work and the 1pm lunch, but after there was nothing much to do until tea time. The NAAFI improved but was very basic when we arrived.

Some of the best moments were greeting the new arrivals and seeing the air hostess, apart from the two WVS ladies there were no females. The worst thing was waiting for the Bomb to be dropped, not knowing just what would happen.

I was posted back to RAF Honington, then went to RAF Melksham on a fitters course. Following this posted to Akrotiri in Cyprus. I returned to RAF Cranwell and told by the Electrical Officer that I was there for at least 5 years. Luckily working in the transport section I found that all the Bedford refuelling trucks all had to be re-wired, when this was completed, the MTO thanked me and said was there anything I wanted. I said an overseas posting while my children were in junior school, but the Electrical Officer was against that. To my surprise another officer said, "you work for me, not him, put in the application for an overseas posting and I will sign it".



Top left - Ray Walters, Top right - Derek Harrison  
Bottom left - Paul Stevens King, Bottom right - Patrick Groark

Needless to say I was not in the Electrical officers good books, however I finished up in Singapore at RAF Changi for three years, then came back to RAF Wittering.

I went through a divorce, left the forces and worked in various jobs until opening my own repair business in Grantham. I visited Australia on Holiday, and on return there was 4 foot of snow at Heathrow. Within a year we were back living in Bowral just south of Sydney. In 1990 we open our own swim school and for the next 28 years, we taught hundreds of children and adults to swim. It was a very enjoyable lifestyle.

In late 2023 my daughter in the UK saw an article in the Oxford times from Derek Harrison. I read it and saw it was the Derek I knew, and with the help of the Oxford times who printed my story, they asked Derek to get in touch, which he did. Then my article in Exposure was seen by Jayne, who put me in touch with Geordie and then Ray, so after 66 years all 4 were back connected, which is wonderful. Derek and Geordie are in the UK while Ray and I are Down Under.

## Ray Walters

# The Buffs

In 1961 The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, often referred to as the poor mans Masons, had a lodge on Christmas Island.



The Buffs Christmas Island 1961, Bill Lawrie in the red collar centre left

It was a popular organisation on service units in the UK and Germany and on troop ships after WWII. In 1950 I sailed to Egypt on the troopship "Empire Pride". There was also a Buff Lodge meeting on board organised by the permanent crew.

In 1961 after Operation Grapple, Christmas Island was on "Care and Maintenance". The lodge on Christmas Island was popular with other ranks, and made a nice change and was more fun from drinking in the NAAFI.

Sadly I can't remember any of the names in the Photo, but I'm sure someone will recall the event. I'm the one wearing the red collar. I was Primo (Chairman) on that occasion.

There are two RAF members in the photo who ended up as Warrant Officers and one of them on demob from the RAF became a Beefeater at the Tower of London.

Any money gained from the lodge was donated to the District Commissioner much to the annoyance of the Wing Commander Station Commander. The District Commissioner used the money to the benefit of the school and its children.

I left the Island in December 1961 and in 1962 saw the influx of American Troops who resumed nuclear bomb testing on the island.

My return journey to the UK gave me the option of flying to Honolulu, San Francisco and then going by train across the States to New York then London. I chose the first option which made sure I would be home for Christmas.

**Bill Lawrie**

# My Story

In 1958 the UK government needed to demonstrate to the USA its independent thermo nuclear capability so nuclear co-operation could resume. This is an account of the part my regiment contributed and the effect it had on servicemen involved.

Enlisted Royal Engineers 1956, trained as a field engineer, (military construction explosives demolitions ordinance and mine clearance.)

Posted 61 SQN 38 CORP Engineer Regiment Osnabruck B.A.O.R.

Returned to UK late 1957 prior posting to Christmas Island. Embarked troop ship Dunera 30th December 1957. Were informed no overseas allowance en-route and only half-pay. My comrades and I were not impressed.

On arrival Christmas island the regiment was tasked with completing the main airfield, laying an emergency runway, clear and tarmac over forty miles of double track roads, fifty miles of power pumped drainage, construct power stations, pumping stations, erect a network of communication masts between 150 - 250ft high, install blast protection and blast blocks, cook houses and messes for the incoming garrison and maintain existing buildings and services. But the island had no sand or gravel, so the coral was crushed and ground to produce the thousands of tons of concrete and tarmac needed. There was a shortage of basic construction tools but we made what we could. Most of the craftsmen's specialist tools arrived via the British forces post office (from family and friends).

My troop consisted mainly of national servicemen with up to date building skills their practical ability would overcome any problem during

construction. I worked closely with a Yorkshire lad Trevor Butler. After our next posting it would be fifty two years before we would meet again, the same amount of time it took the M.O.D to carry out a health survey on any nuclear veterans that could be located. After initial construction was completed at main camp, my troop was moved to the forward area B site at the far end of the island. One of our tasks was to erect the network of communication masts and rebuild them after each detonation, but again no tools or safety equipment. Our tower crane was a world war two barrage balloon attached to a ground winch, some very hairy moments.

Most of the work had been completed when medics arrived and began taking blood samples. Myself and several members of my troop were told to return to main camp as we had low blood counts.

On arrival I was ordered to the adjutant's office stood to attention. I will quote his exact words. "Corporal, if you want to stay in this man's army you will keep your mouth shut, got it". All of the work the regiment was tasked with was completed in ten months, and most of us were flown home for Christmas of that year. Medals were being handed out to aircrew but the men who had made it all possible, nothing, no general service medal or even a thank you for the hundreds of millions of pounds we had saved the then conservative government.

We had travelled halfway around the world to serve our country, some to give their lives never to return home, all to be buried at sea. On returning to the U.K our SQN was given the task of building a road through a disused artillery range, we seemed to get all the good jobs. In late 1959 I refused promotion and left the army returning to the building trade, but I missed the comradeship I had experienced so in a career change I joined the air force department fire service (now the M.O.D fire service.) Promotion and an A.O.C commendation followed rising to the rank of station officer. But in 1980 strange lumps began appearing all over my body within two years I was forced to retire as not fit for operational duties, my health quickly deteriorated prostate lymphomic and lung cancer followed, I am still receiving treatment, I am convinced the five nuclear detonations are the cause of my ill health.

American French and even Russian servicemen who participated in their own nuclear testing programmes were honoured, decorated and compensated. But for over fifty years British governments have paid millions to lawyers to obstruct and delay rightful recognition and compensation to the nuclear veterans, their plight and suffering ignored, no other country has treated its servicemen with such contempt. A few years ago the British nuclear test veterans association became a charity and adopted the forget me not flower as its symbol,

I will end with some soldiers verse.

*Forget Me Not*  
*Forget me not we can say*  
*With each and every passing day*  
*Hard work and courage was the norm*  
*Within our ranks self-pride was born*  
*We salute our comrades past and present*  
*Who gave this nation its own deterrent*  
*So once again we can say*  
*Forget me not in every way*

**D.J. Luck**

Served Royal Engineers. Christmas Island Jan 1958 - Dec 1958  
 Present at five nuclear detonations.

Dear Sir / Madam

I enclose a copy of a poem written by my friend Peter Caton. He was inspired to do so after reading my copy of our exposure magazine.

**Ernest Cocker**

**We are Heroes**

*We are heroes,*  
*We are heroes,*  
*Nothing much to look at, Heaven knows;*  
*What we do is*  
*Unrecorded,*  
*Rarely noticed,*  
*Never paid,*  
*Unquantifiable*  
*In these days.*

*We are heroes,*  
*We are heroes,*  
*Have you seen us coming in our droves*  
*To rid the world of villains,*  
*Resurrect the dead,*  
*Shine a light in darkness,*  
*Help you get ahead?*  
*Ha! We're here for none of this;*  
*Instead,*  
*We're here to spread*  
*A little love;*  
*It takes on many forms:.*  
*You'll recognise it*  
*When you need it most.*

*We are heroes,*  
*We are heroes,*  
*Have you seen our advert on the Web?*  
*Ha! We do not advertise,*  
*Capitalise,*  
*Organise our members when we're down*  
*To make some kind of protest*  
*For our cause.*

*No,*  
*We are heroes of a greater cause:*  
*Here to make a difference,*  
*A revolution in your head.*

*With strong determination,*  
*We do it out of love*  
*For one who's standing next to us,*  
*For Country,*  
*Planet,*  
*God;*  
*At least a godly cause,*  
*For there is such a lack of it,*  
*Such a dire need of it.*

*We are heroes,*  
*We are heroes,*  
*Ever-present,*  
*Heaven-sent,*  
*Heaven helps us,*  
*Heaven knows.*

**Peter Caton**

# The Sherman Tank Crash Incident

The Sherman Tank Crash Incident that occurred at the crossways in the Village of Wrantage on the 4th of June 1944

## The Americans arrive

President Franklin D Roosevelt passed a law in senate to send American military to help us fight the fascism in Europe.

A Mr Edmond Duke, our guardian during the six years that I was an evacuated, said to us three boys go out and ask the American GIs to come into the cottage and partake in some refreshments. We went up to the buck sergeant and three privates of the Sherman tank crew and said that the lady of the house, Mrs Ethel May Duke May, has invited you in to her house for some refreshments, they accepted the kind invite.

The centrepiece of Mrs Duke living room was ornate round table, a display cabinet with all their priceless memorabilia, such as royal regalia souvenirs, Also all Mr Edmond dukes war regalia and souvenirs. He served in the First World war as a sergeant in the Royal Irish Regiment, he also served and saw action in the Middle East, he held rank and served in the home guard.

They also had on show in the living room a large old type bible place on the top of a small round table, it had brass hinges. The cooking was done an open range fire place situated under the chimney. The house had no electricity or running water, on the floor were laid uneven stone flagstones. Both Mr and Mrs Duke were strict practicing Methodist law abiding citizens of strong Christian beliefs,

## The Situation of our cottage

Our cottage was the first house of the village, and was position at the bottom of a mile long hill, on the Taunton and Langport road. The B378 and the last house in the village if you were traveling from Langport the cottage was called the crossways because it was situation on a crossroads junction. The cottage was made of earth and straw and plastered over and had a thatch roof with roses around the door.

The four American white GI's knock on the front door Mrs Duke open the door and welcomed them in. As friends and comrades please sit at my table and I serve a chicken stew which I have made you. The American soldiers started to eat and drink their tea, in the meantime Mr Duke decided to go outside to look at the Tank. He found four American soldiers digging the tank out of farmer Diamond field, he said to them there is some food prepared for you guys if you like to join us for lunch you will be most welcome. They said thank you very much we will just get cleaned up and we will be with you. There was a knock at the front door this time when Mrs E Duke open the door in stepped four black American soldiers.

Mrs ETHEL DUKE welcomed the new guests to her home. As the new group of American soldiers entered the room, the sergeant and three privates soldiers all stood up and made their way to the front door to go out of the room.

Mrs Ethel said to them, "gentlemen you are leaving my house but you haven't finished your meal". The buck sergeant replied, "madam in our country we do not mix or socialise or participate in eating in the company of coloured people. we have a complete policy of segregation, I do not mean to offend you in any way". Mrs Ethel Duke got up and said in a strong voice giving the sermon of her life, and she told those white American servicemen how wrong they were in their ways.

She got up and said "this a Christian house and in the eyes our lord almighty we are all equal in gods eyes", but even after her condemnation of their unreasonable action they still left the cottage I never saw them again to speak to. In the meantime the four remaining coloured American soldiers sang hullabaloo praise the lord. We three evacuees shared a very important lesson that day as we looked up in their eyes and we were amazed and inspired with what we had just witnessed that day, a day that I shall never forget. It will stay in my memory forever.

Our crashed tank was on its way to join operation overlord and take their part in the invasion of France on the beaches named UTAH and OMAHA the two areas that had been designated for the American forces to attack.

I often wonder if the American GI's got back to their country after the war.

**Terry Brown**



# Johnnie Johnson - when our paths crossed, three times

He was my Station Commander at RAF Station "Wildenrath" in Germany in the year 1952 / 1953.



Johnnie Johnson, relaxing in between sorties on the wing of his Spitfire in Normandy, c.June–August 1944. His dog, Sally, is to the left. / Wikimedia Commons

He was my Station Commander at RAF Station "Wildenrath" in Germany in the year 1952 / 1953. The Aerodrome was built in the middle of woods. Group Captain Johnson was the first person to land on the runway here, piloting his Vampire aircraft which had the letters JJ on the rudders.

He was concerned about the view from the sky of the runway and got the whole station out planting fir trees along side the runway.

He thought this action would reduce the chances of the Russians from seeing the airfield from the air.

Johnnie Johnson was our number one Spitfire Fighter Ace during WWII. He was a handsome man and about 6'2". His first wife was an American, a beautiful lady who I think was an actress.

There was only one domestic house on the station, a wooden constructed building that had housed a German woodcutter and his family.

The Group Captain moved into these quarters and put up a notice that they were seeking a first class stable hand to look after their horses. I applied for the job and became their stable hand.

The Group Captain and his wife were away often, due to him being an air celebrity of the RAF and he often travelled to the states. Me and my mate used to go to their quarters and their staff used to give us a Lager each. On one occasion he came home early and caught us drinking his beer.

A little while later I was in his office on a charge. He said "Brown, you were in my quarters last time we met". He gave me 7 days yankers.

While I was stationed at Wildenrath Station I was drinking rather heavily and was going out with mates to the local village. You had to be back on Station by 11.55, but was always ignored that ruling and made our way back through the forest to our billet. One time we decided to come back via the main road past the main Guardroom, a mistake. The police Land Rover and the RAF Police surrounded us, one of the RAF Police said to me "Brown, I have been waiting to catch you on a charge" This particular Policeman had his eye on the girl I was going out with at the time so I punched him, a BIG mistake.

Once again I was posted to an RAF Station, in England, where the Station Commander was Group Captain Johnnie Johnson, I think it was RAF Little Rissington.

A while later I was working for BAC and was posted to Saudi Arabia. The person in Charge was a Mr Johnnie Johnson. The British Government supplied the Arabs with Lightning Aircraft and Jet Provost's.

The lowest rank in the Saudi Air Force was a Warrant Officer and RAF Aircrew taught the Saudi Warrant Officers how to fly.

I got on great with the Saudis and Lieutenant Beachy, the Saudi officer in charge praised my work and wanted me to stay.

When I got back I ended up in an RAF detention centre for 2 weeks. When I arrived there the Warrant Officer said "Brown, we have been waiting for your arrival. I can promise you that when you leave here, you will not punch any of our RAF Police Corporals again". He was right, I had learned my lesson.

They made my two weeks there absolutely hell. This time in detention put me on the straight and narrow. I never again while I served in the RAF misbehaved or broke any of the rules. It was a lesson well learned.

**Terry Brown**

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## Looking for Decontamination Flight Servicemen

Dear Editor,

I am Colin Wood, National Service RAF no. 5048933 SAC Wood, born in Edinburgh 1938.

I witnessed 4 atom/hydrogen test explosions during my 5 months and 2 days on Christmas Island in August/September 1958, under Operation Grapple. This was an incredible experience as a result of which I have given talks to members of the Civil Service Pensioners Association in both Croydon and Peterborough, and similarly to the Peterborough Women's Guild and Mothers' Union in Peterborough.

As a result of these talks and my service with the Foreign Office from 1955 until 2006 in 8 overseas postings in Africa, the Middle East and the Far East, I have written an interesting autobiography which has met with local acclaim. My departure from Christmas Island after the tests was on the MV Captain Cook crewed by Glaswegians. An incongruous contrast between the veterans and crew members in the middle of the Pacific Ocean!!

I would be interested to learn whether any one who served on the Island in Decontamination Flight after the aircraft sampling of the radiation particles on the hydrogen bomb explosions had ever been in touch with you, BVNTA or NCCF in regard to their well-being and welfare as a nuclear veteran. Despite reading many articles from servicemen witnessing the explosions, I have yet to see anything from someone who served in Decontamination Flight.

**Colin Wood**

If anyone has any information on anyone who served in Decontamination Flight, email **editor@exposure.press** or write to us at:

**Exposure  
PO Box 8244  
Castle Donington  
DE74 2BY**

# Christmas Island Memories

## 23455015 - SPR Duckworth.

On 20th February 1958 I was called up for National Service and reported to 1 Training Regiment, Mererooke Camp, Malvern, Worcs. I was then posted to 904 Training Regiment at Southwood Camp, Cove near Farnborough, Hants where I signed on to be a three year Regular. From there I was posted to Maidstone with 36 Regiment Advance Party ready to go to Christmas Island.

On 17th July we were driven by truck to London Airport and boarded a BOAC DC-7C, landed in Manchester for lunch and from there we flew to New York and stayed at the Governor Clinton Hotel. We then flew by BOAC to San Francisco, stopped briefly at Tulsa before flying on to Honolulu where we stayed one night. The next morning, we flew in an unpressurised RAF Hastings plane (what a comedown!) to Christmas Island.

I was with 20 Squadron on Grapple Z with the 'Starmix' troop at Airfield Camp mixing asphalt for the 'Barber Green' troop to lay the asphalt for roads and the airstrip. With hand axes we had to cut the bottom out of the bitumen barrels which were then lifted on to the tar kettle by crane. Then, the red hot bitumen was pumped out and put into a bowser to be used with crushed coral in the 'Starmix' and collected from there by truck to go to the appropriate sites for laying.

I have numerous photos of the site. I even have a photo of the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to the Island in April 1959 where we had to line up the bitumen barrels on a purpose-built asphalt strip.

So soon after my arrival at Christmas Island, the nuclear tests began. The procedure was that as the aircraft was being loaded with the nuclear device, we were driven by truck to a 'safe' place at the other end of the Island. Immediately after the test, we felt the flash and then the heat, and the blast followed soon after.

**The Nuclear Tests I witnessed, all atmospheric, were:**

Grapple Z	Pennant 2	22nd August 1958
"	Flagpole 1	22-08-58
"	Halliard 1	22-08-58
"	Burgeed 2	22-08-58

A few of us were lucky enough to spend our leave in Honolulu which was a unique adventure as whilst there were able to visit Pearl Harbour where we were given refreshments on board USS Bream in dry dock.

Another, albeit lighthearted, experience was the collecting of coconuts off the ground for the Gilbertees to plant for regeneration elsewhere on the island. There was a bit of a competition between the squadrons and we - 20 Squadron - won with a total of 46,000!!

When our twelve months posting was up, we were then sent back to Hendon and from there on to Maidstone.

As we were the Advance Party, we had the camp to ourselves until the Main Party arrived, about 116 days later, so we had a good time to ourselves.

Whilst there a mate of mine mentioned that he had read the Daily Orders which were requesting interest in postings to Maralinga, Australia. This sounded a good opportunity to us so we offered our services. The next news was that we were both on our way.



Bitumen barrels lined up for visit by Prince Phillip (me driving the Matbro forklift)

# Thankyou

## Garden of Remembrance 2025 - Westminster

The NCCF wish to thank everyone at the Poppy Factory and to Mike Chainey for all your help setting up the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster, your efforts preparing the plot for us is greatly appreciated.

Details on this years parade and Garden will be published when we have this information.



# BNTVA Museum Shop

The BNTVA shop is about to be restocked. New the new stock will be photographed and included on the shop website page which can be found at: <https://www.bntva.com/shop>



Proud Descendant of a Nuclear Test Veteran - Pin badge £5.00



Proud to be a Nuclear Veteran - Pin badge £5.00



Proud to be a Wife of a Nuclear Test Veteran - Pin badge £5.00



BNTVA Lapel Pin £5.50



Guinea Pig Ship, HMS Diana 1956-57 by Brian Marshall £17.50



BNTVA Blazer Badge £12.00



Christmas Island Challenge coin £10.00



Montebello Islands & Maralinga Challenge coin £10.00



Operation Grapple Challenge coin £10.00

**The stock to be added will include:** Guinea pig books, BNTVA ties, BNTVA caps, Snowstar thermal hats, Beanie hat (bobble), Beanie hat (no bobble), Gilet S L XL XXL, Fleece S M L, Red Polo M L XL 2XL, Navy Polo M L XL, White Polo L XL

# Your Story Matters

Help Us Preserve Nuclear Test Veterans' History. We're producing Operation Fallout, a documentary about the brave service personnel who witnessed Britain's nuclear tests, and we need your help to ensure these vital stories are told.



Jamie Sefton



Stuart Brennan

## Filming in Late February 2026

We're seeking veterans and family members willing to share their experiences in hour-long filmed interviews. We'll come to you—filming can take place in your home for your comfort and convenience.

## Who we're looking for

Particularly seeking Operation Grapple (Christmas Island) veterans:

- 2 × Royal Engineers – those who helped prepare the camp, runways, or infrastructure
- 2 × Royal Navy personnel – especially anyone who witnessed a test from a ship
- 1 × RAF personnel
- 1 × Descendant or spouse – son, daughter, wife, or widow (Christmas Island preferred)

Veterans from other test sites are also welcome, as your experiences speak to the universal story of all who served.

## What to expect

Natural, conversational interviews about your time during the tests and life after returning home. No scripts—just your story, in your own words. The interviews will be sensitively edited to let your voice shine through.

Time commitment: 1-2 hours in late February

Location: Your choice—we travel to you

Cost: None—all expenses covered

## Get in touch

If you or someone you know fits these descriptions and would be willing to participate in Operation Fallout, please contact via email at [editor@exposure.press](mailto:editor@exposure.press) or call **07884 187 800** to reply to this notice.

These stories deserve to be heard. Help us make sure they never fade away.

# Looking for lost pals



If you are looking to find and get in touch with long lost pals or anyone you may have served with, let us know who you are and where and when you served. We will publish your request here and will forward any replies onto you.

If you have any information or want to get in touch:

Call **07884 187 800**

Email **editor@exposure.press**

Or write to:

**Exposure**  
**PO Box 8244**  
**Castle Donington**  
**DE74 2BY**

We cannot publish personal information in the magazine but will pass this on to anyone wishing to make contact.

## Dates for Your Diary



### Nuclear Veterans Convention 2026

Hilton Hotel East Midlands Airport - See page 04 for details and how to book. More details of the event will be in the next Issue.



### All Tests Reunion 2026

Pontins, Sand Bay, Weston-Super-Mare  
The adult-only reunion brings together Veterans and their families for a 5 day holiday.  
Visit [www.labrats.international/atr](http://www.labrats.international/atr) for more information



### National Service of Remembrance 2026

Cenotaph, Whitehall, London.

# Important

## Contacting the NCCF & BNTVA Museum has changed



The old way of contacting the NCCF and BNTVA Museum has changed. Please read on for further information on how to make contact by phone using our new number.

In May Microsoft officially retired the Skype Application to shift their users to use Microsoft Teams as the primary means of communication and collaboration.

As a result old NCCF telephone number **01158 883 442** no longer functions. If you do call this number you will be met with a message that says the number is incorrect.

We have a dedicated mobile number for the primary means of communication going forwards. This will give us the flexibility to take calls away from the office.

### Please note

If you do call and we are unable to answer your call please leave your name, number and nature of your enquiry and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

We receive a high volume of scam calls

## Updated Contact Information

### By Telephone

If you wish to contact the NCCF or BNTVA Museum by telephone please call the new number:

**07884 187 800**

### By Email

If you wish to contact the NCCF or BNTVA Museum by telephone please call:

NCCF: **office@thencf.org**

Exposure Magazine: **editor@exposure.press**

BNTVA Museum: **office@bntva.museum**

### By Post

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PO Box 8244  
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PO Box 8244  
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# exposure

The combined magazine for the nuclear community

**Next issue copy deadline for all editorial sections: 28th February 2026**

Contributions for exposure magazine should go to the relevant section editor:

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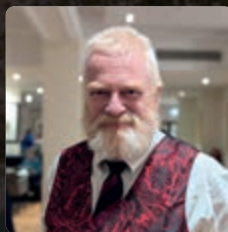
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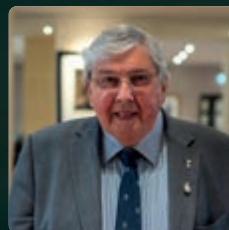


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