

The men and women who served and returned

Since the end of WWII British Armed Forces have been involved in at least five wars and some 50 different conflicts. During the period that it was in force (1948-63) those called up for their National Service often served - and died - alongside regular servicemen and women in these conflicts.

Royal Navy

Alan ANDERSON National Service.

Ernest (Ernie) ANDERSON National Service.

John William Waller BURDON (b 1930) National Service. Sick Berth Attendant. He served from 1948 to 1950. His basic training was carried out at *HMS Royal Arthur* in Wiltshire (a 'stone frigate') with specialist training at the Royal Naval Hospital, *RNH Haslar*, in Gosport. He served most of his two years at *RNH Stonehouse* in Plymouth but latterly was attached to the Royal Marines at their infirmary. He has happy memories of being in the Devonport Divisonal team for RN athletics, playing rugby for the Royal Marine Barracks and, in particular, the music of the RM Band.

Terence (Terry) Henry CLARKE (b 1940) Chief Petty Officer.

He served in the Navy from 1955 as a boy seaman at the shore training establishment *HMS Ganges* where tradition required all boys to climb the 142 foot high mast. He subsequently served in submarines.

Robert (Rob) Stanley FORSYTH (b 1939) Commander.

He served from 1957 to 1980, mainly in submarines, including the Polaris Force and command of a nuclear attack submarine. His story can be read on page 128.

Anthony (Tony) HARPER National Service. Steward.

John HOLIDAY National Service.

Martin Henry PACKARD MBE (b 1931) Lieutenant Commander.

He joined the Navy aged 13 as an Officer Cadet. His career included some experiences more unusual than most. While serving as a Midshipman on the aircraft carrier, *HMS Triumph*, he was a passenger in a Firefly V off the coast of Korea which came under 'friendly fire' from US/South Korean forces who mistakenly assumed them to be the enemy on what transpired to be the first day of the Korean War. He later served in *HMS Pincher* in 1953 during a mission to the Arctic to monitor fall-out from Soviet nuclear tests.

Notwithstanding his earlier disastrous flying experience - including a crash landing on the carrier after being shot at - he joined the Fleet Air Arm as a pilot, but his flying career came to an end with a car crash in 1959 following which he spent two years on *HMS Blake* and became a Greek interpreter. Because of his language skills he was appointed to Malta in 1963 as a Naval Intelligence analyst. He was sent to Cyprus to lead a mediation process to resolve the intercommunal Turkish/Greek violence. Despite the apparent success of this mission it was abruptly halted and he was sent back to the UK. A request for transfer to the UN mediating section led to a year studying Arabic at Durham University but he was drawn in by his Greek

friends to help with opposition to the 1967 military dictatorship. The Foreign Office, who became aware of this, called for his Court Martial; this was rejected by the RN but he was allowed to resign his commission. Martin's own book *Getting it Wrong* (Authorhouse ISBN 978 1 4343 7065 51) and Brendan O'Malley's book *The Cyprus Conspiracy* (IB Taurus) both provide interesting insights into the highly charged politics of the Cyprus dispute.

He moved permanently to Greece where he continued supporting opposition to the regime. He also set up Levi factories in Greece and Malta and developed business in the USSR, which attracted the unfavourable attention of the CIA and led to media headlines.

His father, a Church of England vicar, was the incumbent from 1950 at Fenny Compton, Lower Heyford and Sandford St Martin in turn. His mother spent the last years of her life in Deddington; one sister lives in Deddington and another at Duns Tew.

John PARKINSON (b 1942) Petty Officer Mechanical Engineer.

He ran away from home in 1959 to join the Navy as a Junior Stoker. Life in his training establishment, *HMS Raleigh*, was tough; instructors still used 'starters' (short sticks) to enforce discipline on the boys, many of whom deserted 'over the wall' at night. After a short sea qualification period in *HMS Roebuck* he joined *HMS Lion*. The first six months were a 'flag waving' tour of the Mediterranean when *HMS Lion* escorted the Queen in the Royal Yacht, *HMV Britannia*. This was followed by a year showing the flag round South America - joining the Navy was clearly a good decision! At the end of 1962 he joined *HMS Belfast*. The ship received the Freedom of the City of Belfast on his 20th birthday. He recalls celebrating both occasions with a memorable (or possibly not!) run ashore. He left the Navy in 1964 to get married.

Ronald (Ron) SHEPHERD National Service.

David (Smudge) SMITH* (b 1941) Able Seaman, Gunnery Branch.

He was a Boy Seaman entry in 1958 to *HMS Raleigh*. He served on *HMS Loch Fyne* (Frigate), *Apollo* (Minelayer), *Adamant* and *Ausonia* (Depot Ships), *Letterston* (Minesweeper) and *Delight* (Destroyer). There were several Deddington men in the Royal Navy; himself, Terry Clarke and Alan Anderson all met up in Malta on one occasion. He left the RN in 1968 and joined the Merchant Navy working for BP tankers including manning the river boats going up the Amazon and Congo in pupose built, shallow draught, River class petroleum carriers.

Herbert John SMITH* (b 1938) Able Seaman, Gunnery Branch.

He joined in 1955 and served successively in *HMS Theseus* (training ship), *Bulwark* (aircraft carrier), *Excellent* (gunnery school), *Crane* (a sloop on Far East station), *Troubridge* (frigate on West Indies station), *Tenby* (frigate in Dartmouth training Squadron) and *Phoebe* (frigate on Far East station). He was landed at Mombasa, East Africa, from *Phoebe* and made his way back to UK and civilian life in 1968.

Gerald SYKES National Service.

He served on *HMV Britannia*. [Editor's note: service on the Royal Yacht was by special selection and required well above average ability].

Women's Royal Naval Service

Barbara FROST née Lewis* (D) Wren.

She served at *HMS Merlin* a Naval Air Station near Donibristle in Fife. She enjoyed her time so much that she named her house 'Merlin' after it.

Army

Leslie (Les) BERRY (D) National Service.
Horseguards.

Simon Pleydell BOUVERIE (b 1928) National Service. 2nd Lieutenant.

The Life Guards. He served from 1946 to 1948. After 14 months training he spent six months with his Regiment in Palestine on peace-keeping duties. He was in the leading armoured car when the British Army pulled out on 15 May 1948. Fifteen miles inside the Palestine border they encountered the Egyptian army; they were, he says, very 'trigger happy' and planning to attack and eliminate Jewish settlements. This never received any publicity for whatever reason - perhaps to avoid hostile Israeli reaction? - and the invasion was aborted quite quickly. The Egyptian army then withdrew behind its own borders.

John Leslie BOWLER MC (b 1932) National Service. Lieutenant.

The Welch Regiment. He served from 1950 to 1952. In 1951 they were deployed to fight in Korea; he was decorated for his actions. His story can be read on page 117.

George Henry BRAIN* (b 1935).

The Royal Army Service Corps, 16th Field Ambulance Division, 63rd Infantry Brigade of Gurkhas. He served from 1953 to 1957, mainly in Malaya. He had a brother who did his National Service in the army, but no details are known.

John CHENEY (b 1929) National Service. Bombardier.

He joined the Royal Artillery in 1949 and trained at Park Hall, Oswestry. He had been sent off to boarding school aged seven so was quite well used to living away from home. He therefore found himself in the slightly unexpected role of 'mothering' other recruits in his unit who were away from their families for the first time and suffering badly from homesickness.

He recalls little of note livening up his two years of National Service other than being inadvertently shelled in an Observation Post on Salisbury Plain by his own gunners. Most of his time was spent on clerking type duties at the Royal Artillery Depot in Woolwich. He finished his service in 1951 then joined the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars (TA) until 1955. He points out that this did not involve learning to ride.

Jack BREARLEY National Service. Corporal.

The Royal Army Ordnance Corps. He served from April 1947 to June 1949.

Terence (Terry) CLINCH (b 1936) National Service. Corporal.

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (REME) Corps. He served from 1952 to 1954, starting at Blandford Forum, then Barton Stacey, followed by Gosport where he did his clerk's course. Then on to HQ of Ack-Ack [anti-aircraft] command in Aldershot where he was in charge of distribution of 'Emers' (electrical and mechanical engineering regulations) to all depots. This meant collecting the Emers

once a month and taking parcels to the railway station and sending them on their way. Ack-Ack command was closing but he remained on with the Adjutant until the last base closed. His reward was a posting to Woolwich, London, which he recalls as being the worst barracks he was in. He formed a small band for dances whilst at Gosport. In Terry's own words 'I was summoned by the RSM to play at his pub club in Gosport, earning quite a lot of tips not to mention drink each evening. It meant I got back after lights out in company with the RSM and was never taken to task about my untidy state on parade the next morning - but then it was the RSM who inspected us!' He sums up his NS experience '... like most National Servicemen, I went nowhere exciting but made the most of it as one does.'

Donald DAVIDSON National Service. Lance Corporal.
The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Norman DRAKE (b 1939) National Service. Sergeant.
The Royal Army Educational Corps. He served from 1959 to 1961, largely in the Far East. His story can be read on page 126.

Peter FARLEY (b 1937) National Service. Bombardier.
He served from 1959 to 1961. He trained in guided weapons and served with 23rd Gibraltar Battery in Gibraltar, the Benbecula Missile firing range in the Outer Hebrides and in Dortmund, Germany.

Arthur Frederick Francis (Jim) FLUX MBE (b 1934) National Service. Captain.
Royal Artillery. He was called up in September 1953 and was selected for Officer Training at Mons where RSM Brittain was the senior NCO - notorious for having the loudest voice in the Army. On passing out he was appointed as a 2nd Lieutenant in 15 Medium Regiment as part of the British Army on the Rhine (BAOR) whose role was to oppose the Soviet Army should it try and roll forward over the German plain. He was the only NS officer in his regiment to be given charge of one of the four troops of 4 x 4.5 inch guns. He also learned to drive Matadors (gun towing vehicles) and Bren Gun Carriers and to sail on the Mohne See where repairs to the dam (breached by the Dambuster's raid) could be clearly seen. He completed his service in 1955 when he joined the Territorial Army as a Lieutenant in 257 County of Sussex Regiment RA until 1960 then, as a Captain, at 133 Infantry Brigade HQ. He left the TA in June 1963 when his job took him overseas.

Brian FRANKLIN* (b 1928) National Service.

Dennis FREEMAN (b 1929) National Service. Rifleman.
The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He served in the UK from May 1947 to mid-1948 and then was transferred to the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry serving in Greece - where the British Army still had a military presence - until he finished his National Service in May 1949. He was Standard Bearer for the Deddington Branch of the the Royal British Legion from 1993 to 2005.

Horace FRENCH (1931-99) National Service. Private.
The King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry). He served in Malaysia and was involved in the same action in 1950 in which Robin Hall was killed (p.95).

Victor (Vic) FULLBROOK National Service.

Roger GARDNER (1931) National Service. Private but qualified for 2nd Lieutenant.
He served with the The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry from 1949

in Cyprus and later in the UK with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, 6th Armoured Brigade until 1951. He did TA service until 1954.

Leslie (Les) GEORGE (D) National Service.
The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Geoffrey GIBBS (b 1933) National Service. Private.
1st Battalion, The Devonshire Regiment. He served from 1951 to 1953, mainly in Libya based at Derna (alternative Darnah) in North Africa which they reached via Tripoli and Tobruk still showing signs of the wartime siege.

Roger Leonard GINES (b 1939) Corporal.
The Household Cavalry (Royal Horseguards). He served from 1956 to 1959 and spent two years and four months of his time in Cyprus fighting the EOKA terrorists.

Andrew Fleming GREEN KCMG MA (b 1941) 2nd Lieutenant.
He was a short service officer in the 1st Royal Green Jackets from 1962 to 1965. After Mons Officer Cadet School, he joined the regiment in Penang in 1963. Having trained in jungle warfare, he served two tours in Borneo as a Platoon Commander. The first tour was on river patrols based in Lutong and the second in a fort deep in the jungle, right on the border with Indonesia, south of Mirri. Apart from defending the fort, their task was to patrol the jungle border to discourage infiltration by communist irregulars from Indonesia who were seeking to destabilise the new state of Malaysia which had just been formed to permit Britain to disengage from her colonial responsibilities in the region.

In 1965 his regiment was posted to Berlin as part of the garrison. The task of his platoon was to blow up two bridges over the Havel if the Russians should ever attempt to take over the British sector of the city.

On retirement from the army he joined the Diplomatic Service. He spent half his career in the Middle East. The remainder of his service was divided between London, Paris and Washington. His last post was as HM Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. He retired in June 2000.

David G HOOD MC (b 1933) Major.
The Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment (Sherwood Foresters). He served from 1951 to 1977 in Germany, Malaya, Norway, Libya, Cyprus and Northern Ireland. His MC was awarded whilst serving in Malaya. He is currently President of the Deddington Branch of The Royal British Legion.

Arthur LEWIS* (b 1927) National Service. Sergeant.
The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He was called up for National Service in April 1945. He joined at Goojerat Barracks, Colchester. While he was still training, the war with Germany ended but the war with Japan continued. He expected to be posted there; however, the Americans dropped the atom bomb on Japan and on 15 August 1945 the conflict ended. He was selected to be a weapons training instructor for platoons of 33 men as they were called up for National Service, with a Platoon Officer, two Corporals and a Lance Corporal. He was then given the job of training 33 Danish men who had joined the regiment. He was demobbed in 1948.

Ian Gordon McCUTCHEON* National Service. Private.
The Parachute Regiment. He served from April 1946 to July 1948.

James (Jim) Henry MORRIS (1929- 2004).

The Grenadier Guards. He served as a regular soldier from 1946 to 1952 as part of the British Army on the Rhine and was then a reserve for a further seven years. In 1958 he married Mary Malcher whose three brothers all served during the war, one in each of the services (p.161), and whose father, Jack, was in the Royal Observer Corps (p.72). He was a King's Sutton man.

Patrick READ National Service.

Derrick ROBBINS (1928-2010).

He served from 1946 to 1948 and was stationed at Brentwood, Aldershot, Exeter and Stockbridge. Unfortunately he did not tell us which regiment he served in but his extensive wartime memories of Deddington as a young boy can be read on page 168.

John Russell WALLIN* (b 1928) National Service. Lance Corporal.

7th Battalion, Light Infantry (Parachute Regiment) which became the 3rd Battalion in 1948. He was called up in 1947 under the war time system prior to the start of National Service. He served for two years as a National Servicemen thereafter. Training was carried out at Upper Heyford - four jumps from a balloon then the real thing. His battalion was posted to Hildesheim in Germany not far from Hamburg. He recalls that the city was still completely devastated. While carrying out a major exercise parachuting on to Luneberg Heath they had to abandon the exercise and go on full alert because the Russians had closed off access to West Berlin leading to the period known as the Berlin Airlift to keep Berliners supplied with food and essentials.

Thomas (Tommy) SMITH National Service. Sergeant.
Air Gunner/Wireless Operator.

Edmund WHEELER National Service. Private.

The Royal Pioneer Corps. He served from January 1950 to February 1952.

Milson WESTBURY (1930-2002) National Service.

He was an Aynho man who served in Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Corps from 1948 to 1950 and went to the Suez Canal Zone where the British Army had a standing presence. He was Standard Bearer for the Deddington Branch of The Royal British Legion from 1960 to 1993.

Timothy (Tim) Robert WILSON OBE (b 1962) Colonel.

The Queen's Dragoon Guards. He is still serving having previously served in Germany, Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Iraq. His story can be read on page 190.

Royal Air Force

James (Jim) BELL (b 1939) Corporal.

He was born and grew up in Oxford. He joined in 1957 rather than waiting to be called up for National Service. He served three years as a regular in the RAF Police based at RAF Brampton, Huntingdonshire, where he met his wife Barbara who was an Aircraftwoman at the time, working in the Station Headquarters.

He recalls that one of the buildings they had to guard contained German WWII aerial reconnaissance photographs of Russia that were, of course, very valuable in

the Cold War. However, they were also extremely inflammable and needed to be stored under refrigerated conditions as they were a constant security and safety hazard.

Another memory is of the time that all the local recruited staff in Cyprus had to be replaced, almost overnight, by UK servicemen and women because of bombs being placed in British bases by EOKA sympathisers.

On completion of his service in January 1960, Jim joined Oxford City Police, which in April 1968 amalgamated with other local forces to become Thames Valley Police. He worked in a wide range of Police posts and on retirement he was a Detective Sergeant on the Serious Crime Squad.

Anthony (Tony) BOLTON (1920-2010) Squadron Leader.

He joined the Royal Navy on the outbreak of war in 1939 (p.59). He remained in the service until 1955. After a brief spell in commerce he re-enlisted in the RAF in 1957 as a Flight Lieutenant. In the UK he served at Hucknell, Northolt, Marby, Old Sarum, Sealand, Abingdon, Uxbridge and Little Rissington. Overseas he was based in Singapore (Seletar) from where he went to Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur. His last overseas appointment was in Washington DC, USA. He left the RAF in 1973.

Roger Lovell BRADSHAW (b 1932) National Service. Leading Aircraftman.

He served from 1950 to 1952 in the administration branch of the RAF Medical Service stationed at Freckleton near Blackpool. His father (a Bloxham man) had served in WWI with Maurice French in D Company of The Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars.

Brian COSGROVE MBE (1926-2010) Flight Lieutenant.

RAF Volunteer Reserve. He had been a Meteorological Air Observer in the RAF from 1943 to 1947 (p.65). Having been demobbed and got a job with Spillers, he joined the RAF Training Branch in 1948 where he continued to pursue his love of flying by becoming a gliding instructor. He retired from the RAF a second time in 1964 as a Flight Lieutenant. By 1981 he had given up his main job and become secretary of the British Microlight Association. He subsequently became its Chief Executive and set up the present office in the Bullring in Deddington from whence, almost single handedly, he turned micro-lighting from an aerial 'Hell's Angels' into a fully competent authority authorised to administer air worthiness. He retired in 1993 and was awarded the MBE for his services to microlighting.

Terence (Terry) COUSINS National Service.

James (Jim) Percy FRANKLIN (b 1930) National Service. Leading Aircraftman.

He served from 1951 to 1953 in Egypt in the Canal Zone. From 16 October 1951 to 19 October 1954 troops were in an 'Active Service' situation; it was a dangerous time and many lives were lost through terrorist attacks on camps and vehicle convoys, sniping, abductions, murder and sabotage etc. It is estimated that around 70% of the British Armed Forces stationed in the Canal Zone during this Emergency period were conscripts completing their National Service and were not fully trained in anti-terrorist fighting.

Frederick Kenneth (Ken) HART (b 1927) Squadron Leader.

Engineering Branch. He served from 1952 to 1987.

John HIRONS National Service.

Stephen (Steve) George MALCHER* (b 1928) National Service. Leading Aircraftman.

The story of the Malcher brothers is on page 161.

James Carlyle MARMION OBE (b 1924) Group Captain.

He had previously served in WWII (p.66). His post-war flying career took him to USA, Canada, the Middle East, Africa, India, Singapore, Australia and Germany. From 1945 to 1953 he served a ground tour with a Fighter Group then operational flying on a Lincoln Squadron. From 1953 to 1957 he was responsible for the conversion of bomber aircrews to jet engined aircraft including training in the nuclear role. He advised on anti-Mau Mau operations in Kenya and during the Suez Crisis. He was awarded the OBE in June 1957. Between tours on 138 Valiant Squadron and the Vulcan wing, he was assigned to the Skybolt air-launched ballistic missile project in Dayton, Ohio, until its cancellation under the Macmillan/Kennedy accord on the Polaris submarine-launched system. His later and more senior staff appointments were increasingly in Air Reconnaissance and Intelligence in which he became a specialist. He retired from active duty in 1979 but served a further six years on special duties in Whitehall. He and his wife Stella lived in Deddington for many years before they moved to the West Country in 2006.

Alistair John McCUTCHEON* National Service. Leading Aircraftman.

He was based at Moreton-in-the-Marsh from November 1952 to November 1954 so he was - very conveniently - able to cycle home at weekends to play for Deddington Town Football team.

Kenneth Dogson (Ken) WILKINSON (1934) National Service. Senior Aircraftman. 208 Squadron RAF Regiment. He served from 1953 to 1955. His six months basic training was carried out at Padgate, Cheshire, followed by anti-aircraft training on the Bofors gun at Watchet, Somerset. His squadron was sent to carry out the RAF Regiment's role of airfield protection in the Suez Canal Zone. This encompassed the period known as the Suez Crisis for which participants received a campaign award only in 2003.

The Venerable John Hewitt WILSON CB MA (1924-2008) Air Vice Marshal.

He became an RAF Chaplain in 1950. For the first 10 years of his service he served on flying stations, most notably in Aden and Germany. He then served as the staff Chaplain to the RAF's Chaplain-in-Chief, the Venerable Frank Cocks, before being appointed in 1963 as senior Chaplain at RAF Cranwell. This was followed by Assistant Chaplain-in-Chief at the HQ Far East Air Force, and in 1969 he filled a similar appointment at the Strike Command at High Wycombe. In 1973 he was appointed Honorary Chaplain to the Queen and the next year he was made Chaplain-in-Chief to the RAF and remained as such until 1980 when he retired - the longest serving of any in that post.

He was appointed Archdeacon Emeritus and Canon Emeritus of Lincoln Cathedral and Chaplain Emeritus to the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers.

In 1991 he was appointed Rector of Somerton, the Heyfords and Rousham where he formed a close relationship with the USAAF personnel at the nearby Upper Heyford airbase.

Hewitt and his wife Joan's youngest son, Tim, was commissioned into The Queen's Dragoon Guards (QDG) in 1984 (p.190).

Women's Royal Air Force

Barbara Mary BELL (b 1940) née Holt. Senior Aircraftwoman.

She joined the WRAF in September 1957 following a visit by an RAF recruiting team to her school in Kendal, Westmorland. To a 17-year old, in the 1950s, it seemed to be a much more exciting thing to do than what were, at the time, other quite limited opportunities for women. Following three months of basic training at RAF Wilmslow, Cheshire she was posted to RAF Credenhill in Hereford for trade training as a typist. She was then posted to RAF Brampton where she met her future husband, Jim, who was serving in the RAF Police.

A highlight of her time in the service was taking part in the 1958 Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. This requires each service contingent to march down steps onto the arena floor, keeping in step as they transition to marching forward across it, then marching up the steps of the stage - not at all an easy thing to do in the presence of the Queen and senior members of the Royal family! The following day she took part in the Service of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey.

Barbara and Jim married in 1961, lived in Oxford until 1971 when they moved to Banbury and where they brought up two sons - Andrew (1963) and Chris (1966). The family moved to Deddington in 1981. Andrew served as a volunteer, manning the Royal Observation Corps nuclear war monitoring post at RAF Barford St Michael (see article on next page).