

# A HISTORY OF OUR RESERVES



## **Acknowledgments**

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We are sincerely grateful to the Reservists, their families and their next of kin who have made this work possible. Thank you for sharing your stories with us; we hope we have done them justice.

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# Foreword by Paul Lincoln

For whatever reason, there has often been confusion associated with the role of the Reserves and how they contribute overall to Defence. This may be, in part, because their role has changed over the years across all three Services. But the Reserves of today, and most certainly those of tomorrow, will find themselves operating in the same environment as their Regular counterparts - whether it be supporting operational commitments overseas, working day to day across the United Kingdom or assisting with emergency or national support events such as the London Olympics in 2012. This commitment is both unwavering and fascinating, especially when you consider that, for the vast majority, they do all of this alongside a regular job.

Each Service has its own Reserve Force; all different, but all committed to the same goal: defence of the UK and its Overseas Territories. Each one has developed over the years from humble beginnings into a professional, highly trained and increasingly integrated element of today's modern force structure. This 'whole force' concept will see Regulars and Reserves across the three Services working together, both at home and abroad, to protect the security, independence and interests of the UK. Reserve Forces have played crucial roles in a number of recent operations, most notably campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq, post-conflict support in Libya, but also in the UK's enduring efforts in global counter terrorism, counter piracy and maritime security operations. All in all, over 52,000 Reserve personnel have served overseas in support of UK and Allied operations from April 2003 to the present day.

There have been many changes over the years and the Reserves are undergoing further transformation now. Notwithstanding these changes, the underlying ethos of voluntary service remains constant. As one such volunteer, I can testify that Reserve Service has undoubtedly helped both my personal and professional development. Understanding first hand the way in which the Services operate has enhanced the way in which I have worked within Defence. Whilst of benefit in its own right, in positions such as policy advisor to the senior British military commander in Iraq or as the senior civilian within the Permanent Joint Headquarters, this experience has been invaluable. More broadly, skills such as leadership and communication that I have gained through my military experience have benefited me enormously in my civilian roles.

There are many aspects to the Reserves that I have not touched upon, but which are explored in the extraordinary case studies in this e-book. I hope that by reading it, you get a better understanding of the history, roles and commitment it takes to be a Reserve – but most of all that you enjoy it for its intriguing insights into the world of the Reserves and the heroic role they have played, and continue to play, in the defence of our nation.

**Paul Lincoln**

**Director of Resources and Policy, Joint Forces Command**

**Ministry of Defence Reserves Champion**

# Introduction

Throughout the past century the Reserve Forces of the United Kingdom have made an essential contribution to the defence of the nation. Each of the Services has a volunteer Reserve Force: the Royal Naval Reserve (RNR), the Royal Marines Reserve (RMR), the Territorial Army (TA), and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force (RAuxAF).

Volunteer service has been an important part of national defence for hundreds of years, with volunteers being called to serve in times of national crises. Historically, voluntary service was confined to those who chose to give their time in training and preparation to allow them to be called to serve in times of national crisis. They were generally formed into two groups; the Militia, who were mainly infantry soldiers, and the Yeomanry, who took on cavalry roles. These volunteer soldiers learnt their required military skills, led by officers primarily drawn from the nobility who were often also their employers or landowners, whilst continuing with their normal civilian occupations. One such unit, the Castlemartin Yeomanry Cavalry, has the unique distinction of being the first volunteer unit to receive a battle honour and the only unit in the British Army to be honoured for action on British soil. Following their successful defeat of an attempted French invasion in 1797, they were awarded the battle honour 'Fishguard' by Queen Victoria.

However, it was not until 1903 that the first formal volunteer Reserve service, the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, was created by the Admiralty in the Naval Forces Act. This was soon followed by the Haldane Reforms of 1907, when Parliament passed legislation bringing together the Yeomanry and the Militias to form a new home defence reserve to be known as the Territorial Force. Later, in 1924, learning from the experience of the Great War, Parliament passed further legislation to create the Auxiliary Air Force as a Reserve service for the Royal Air Force.

## The Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Naval reserves have supported the British Navy in one form or another for hundreds of years. In 1859 the Royal Naval Reserve (RNR) was formed under the Naval Reserve Act, as a Reserve of British Merchant Navy seamen and British fishermen, who could be called up in times of crisis to serve in the Royal Navy. RNR officers were distinguished from those of the regular Navy by distinctive lace consisting of stripes of interwoven chain.

In 1903 the first civilian voluntary reserve service was formed - the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR). This was made up of five divisions, stationed in Bristol, London, Tyne, Mersey and Clyde, where civilian volunteers were trained in shore-based drill halls and warships no longer required by the Royal Navy. The RNVR uniform was distinguished from that of the regular Navy by its wavy gold lace and buttons stamped with RNV, leading them to become known colloquially as the 'Wavy Navy' for many years to come. The perceived distinctions between these services was aptly summarised by Lt Cdr Thomas Shaw, who served in the Royal Naval Reserve throughout the Second World War and beyond:

"There were three classes of naval officer then. The regular Royal Navy (RN) whose officers wore straight gold stripes with a plain curl on their cuffs; Royal Naval Reserve officers, all Merchant Navy officers (RNR) who wore two thin gold stripes intertwined with the corresponding curl above; and Royal Volunteer Reserve officers (RNVR) who wore a thin gold wavy stripe. The latter were mostly from civil occupations who had been granted Commissions ... The RN was still class conscious then and looked with disdain on the RNR, but tolerated the RNVR, as most, if not all, of the latter were then considered to be "gentlemen" at least. There was a popular saying then: RN – gentlemen and seamen; RNR – seamen but not gentlemen; RNVR – gentlemen trying to be seamen. I am afraid this feeling prevailed then and the RNR was not without fault as well, looking on the RNVR as bloody amateurs. The war proved otherwise and as time went on respect began to develop for each other's qualities and acceptance of each other as equal. On re-joining the RNR some years after the war I found none of those prejudices and got on well together, which is as it should be."

As such, for the first half of the 20th century there were two naval reserves: the Royal Naval Reserve



and the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Both services voluntarily undertook military training, and were committed to being called up in times of emergency for service in the Royal Navy. The major distinction was that the RNR was composed of professional Merchant Navy seaman, whilst the RNVR comprised civilians from many different professions.

## The Territorial Force

The Territorial Force (TF) came into being in April 1908 and was initially intended for Home Defence only. The conditions of enlistment for the TF set out at its creation did not therefore allow for soldiers to be sent for service overseas against their will. As a result of growing demand, in 1911 the Government of the day allowed Territorial Force soldiers to volunteer for service overseas which, under the conditions of the Imperial Service Section, allowed volunteers to serve abroad with their unit. Once 90% of the unit had volunteered to do so, the unit could include the words 'Imperial Service' in their title and could be posted to parts of the British Empire including India.

## The Auxiliary Air Force

The First World War saw the introduction of airpower into conflict, and the inter-war years were dominated by the theory of airpower and the belief that all future conflicts would be won or lost by prowess in the skies. The Auxiliary Air Force (AAF) was formed in 1924 by Lord Trenchard. The 'father' of the RAF had a vision of civilians who would serve their country in flying squadrons in their spare time. Instituted on 9 October 1924, the first Auxiliary Air Force squadrons - No 600 (City of London) Squadron, No 601 (County of London) Squadron, No 602 (City of Glasgow) Squadron and No 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron – were formed the following year.

Today, Reservists are essential members of the Armed Forces: they work alongside, and often fully integrated with, their Regular counterparts to deliver the nation's military capability both at home and overseas. They have fought in all of the major conflicts of the last 100 years, including both World Wars, the Falklands, Iraq and Afghanistan. They have supported United Nations peace support operations in the Balkans, Africa and the Far East. In addition, just like their Regular counterparts, they have taken on roles to support the civilian powers. For example, it was a Reservist unit which co-ordinated the military assistance to the civilian authorities in late 2009, following the devastating floods in parts of the country, whilst a significant number of Reservists provided essential support during the 2012 London Olympics and Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

However, Reservists uniquely contribute just as much time to society in their civilian capacities, balancing their military duties with their other work and family commitments. Reservists are, in the words of Winston Churchill, 'twice the citizen'. Despite this, the contribution of the Reserves is often poorly understood or simply not studied. For example, few are aware that it was a TA regiment that defended the port of Calais in May 1940, which played a crucial part in allowing the British Expeditionary Force in France extra time to withdraw to Dunkirk and ultimately ensured the success of the famous rescue operation.

This e-book seeks to highlight just some of the varied and valuable roles the individual men and women of the UK Reserve Forces have played in defending the UK, over and above their day jobs, for the last century.

# The First World War

The First World War was the first major conflict in which the newly formalised Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and Territorial Force saw active service. It was to be the first indication of the significant contribution these volunteers would make throughout the following century.

Reservists from both the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and the Territorial Force were deployed both at home and overseas, and played a significant role in some of the most famous battles of the War, including the First Battle for Ypres (1914), Gallipoli (1916), Ancre Valley (1916) and Passchendaele (1917). By the end of the war, some 70,000 Naval Reservists and 1,000,000 Army Reservists had been called to serve.

## Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Over 70,000 Naval Reservists served in the First World War, both in the Royal Navy and the Royal Naval Air Service. Surprisingly, many of these were assigned to the land-based Royal Naval Division, which fought at Gallipoli and all major battles on the Western Front. Reservist action in these campaigns saw many medals and decorations awarded, including multiple Victoria Crosses.

During the war a large proportion of Naval Reserves were incorporated into the Royal Naval Division (RND) for service ashore. The RND was formed in August 1914 to address the shortfall in Army infantry divisions, and comprised personnel from the Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Fleet Reserve and the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. The RND remained under Admiralty control even though they fought alongside the Army and, despite serving on land, they maintained naval traditions; they flew the White Ensign, used bells to signal time, used naval language, continued to use naval ranks and sat during the toast for the King. Attempts to persuade the RND to conform to Army practices were repeatedly tried but were generally unsuccessful.

The RND's first experience of action was during the Siege of Antwerp in late 1914. Antwerp was considered the stronghold of the Belgian nation, and one of the most important flanks of the Allied front in the west, guarding the whole line of the Channel ports. When the British Government discovered that the Belgians were planning to evacuate the town, they agreed to send the RND to help defend it. They arrived in August 1914 and, in the rush to organise and move the units to Belgium, almost all went to war without much of their basic equipment including packs, mess tins or water bottles, and the two RND brigades were only armed with ancient rifles three days before embarking for the continent.

Despite the efforts of the RND and the Belgian Army, in early October the German Army broke through the Belgian defences in the city of Lier, just south of Antwerp. With the eastern and southern flanks blocked by German troops, and the northern escape route closed off, the decision was taken to evacuate the city. The Germans entered Antwerp on 9th October and the Belgian commander offered the unconditional surrender of the remaining garrison troops. Some RND units managed to successfully withdraw from Antwerp and returned to England in October 1914, however, around 1,500 troops of the 1st Royal Naval Brigade crossed the Dutch frontier to escape from Antwerp and were interned in neutral Holland for the duration of the war.

The RND went on to serve in some of the bloodiest encounters of the war, including Gallipoli (1916), Ancre Valley (1916) and Passchendaele (1917). The RND was disbanded in 1919.

During the four years of the First World War, the Royal Naval Division suffered a total of 47,953 casualties and fought with great distinction in two of the most important theatres of the Great War: the Gallipoli Campaign and the Western Front.

## The Territorial Force

The Territorial Force (TF) was mobilised in August 1914, for home defence. However, at the outset of the war, all units were asked to volunteer, as units, for service abroad, and by the end of August 1914 nearly

100 had agreed to do so. They were soon sent overseas in response to the need to support the Regular Army, which had suffered heavy casualties and exhausted the supply of its own men.

Territorial units initially saw active service in North Africa, India and other imperial garrisons such as Gibraltar. This allowed the Army to release regular units for service in France and enabled the formation of an additional five regular army divisions by early 1915. However, as casualties mounted the TF was increasingly sent to the Western Front. In October 1914, the London Scottish became the first of the territorial infantry battalions to see action, taking 640 casualties during the First Battle of Ypres. As the war on the Western Front intensified, the pressure for troops constantly increased, encouraging the growing demand for the transfer of TF troops from the home defence to the Western Front.

As the war progressed, the distinctive, and often local, character of Territorial units changed with the inclusion of conscript soldiers. Around 50,000 TF officers and 1 million TF men served during the First World War, with approximately 120,000 killed in action. This accounted for around 10.5% of the entire TF; a figure which closely matches that of the toll suffered by the rest of the British Army. The Territorial Force was highly decorated for its role in the conflict, winning multiple medals for bravery and distinguished service, including the first Victoria Cross to be awarded to a Territorial for Lieutenant Geoffrey Woolley. By the time the war ended, 71 VCs had been awarded to Territorial soldiers.

The Territorial Force also played another, equally important, role in the First World War. During the conflict, all British military hospitals were run and administered by the TF, with many, like Alexander Fleming and Daisy Dobbs, voluntarily serving on the front line. Hospitals, both in the UK and on the continent, were manned and operated by the Royal Army Medical Corps and Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, supplemented by voluntary workers from a number of civilian organisations.

## **The role of female Nurses in the First World War**

From the time of Florence Nightingale and the Crimean War, female nurses have served in military hospitals. However, prior to the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act of 1907, there had been no national medical or nursing service dedicated to the care of the Reserve Forces. The Regular Army had been supported by the Army Medical Service and the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS). The 1907 Act made provision for both medical and nursing support to be available to the new Territorial Force. The Territorial Force Nursing Service (TFNS) was formed in March 1908, made up of six aristocratic ladies and six eminent London matrons, to be a sister organisation to the QAIMNS. It was to supplement the regular service in emergencies and all its members worked as nurses in civilian life. In 1913 the TFNS gave permission for members to volunteer for overseas service, if not required for duty at home, and at the outbreak of the First World War there were 2,117 nurses who had volunteered for mobilisation.

The number of nurses increased rapidly during the first six months of war, and continued to rise throughout its duration. Although military nurses had previously been required to be either single or widowed with no dependants, during wartime the desperate shortage of trained nurses meant that married women were welcomed into the TFNS. However, in 1920 all married women were required to resign, and the service returned to one of single women. The TFNS was renamed the Territorial Army Nursing Service (TANS) when the Territorial Force was renamed the Territorial Army. It existed until 1949, when it became the Territorial Army branch of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

At the end of the war, the Territorial Force was stood down, before being reformed in 1920 as the Territorial Army, taking the new name officially in October 1921. The new title was granted in recognition of the TF's service during 1914-1918.



# Charles Herbert Lightoller

**Occupation(s):** Sailor; farmer; innkeeper; property speculator

**Unit:** Royal Naval Reserve



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## Reserve Service

At the outbreak of the war, many merchant ships were transferred under the command of the Royal Navy, and their crews encouraged to join the Royal Naval Reserve. Lieutenant Lightoller was called to active duty aboard the *Oceanic*, a merchant ship on which he had been serving for many years. The *Oceanic* was put on the Northern Patrol, prowling a 150-mile stretch of water near the Shetland Islands. Considered the largest ship in the world when built, the 17,000 ton, 700ft vessel was far too large and totally unsuited for the waters in which she was sailing. As a result, on 8 September 1914, she ran aground near the island of Foula. Lightoller was off watch and in his cabin at the time, but he soon found himself supervising the lowering and loading of lifeboats. Three weeks later, the *Oceanic* broke up in a storm and was lost.

After the *Oceanic* ran aground, Lightoller spent some time as an observer in seaplanes, before taking command of a torpedo boat. He was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for his action engaging an enemy Zeppelin using the boat's guns.

Lightoller next commanded a small destroyer, HMS *Falcon*, which was lost in a collision. On promotion to lieutenant commander, Lightoller took command of the larger destroyer HMS *Garry*. In July 1918, *Garry* damaged a German U-boat with a depth charge, forcing it to surface. Lightoller ordered his ship to ram the submarine and sink it, and for his actions he was awarded a bar to his Distinguished Service Cross.

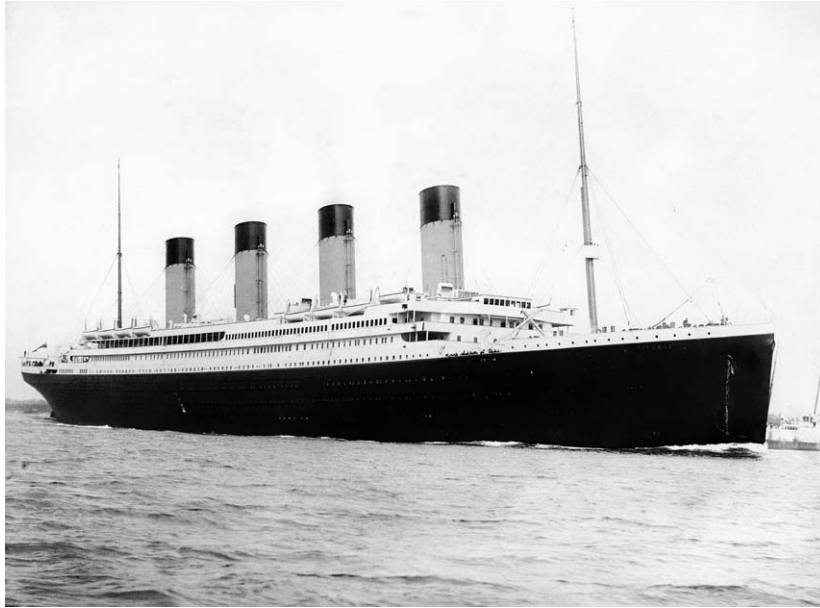
## Civilian Life

Charles Lightoller enjoyed a varied early career. Eager to escape his family's cotton mill business in Lancashire, he started a seafaring apprenticeship at the age of 13. He travelled widely, learning his trade on sailing ships on routes to South America and Australasia. He worked his way up the ranks and transitioned from sailing ships to steam ships.

In 1898 Lightoller temporarily abandoned his love of the seas to travel to Yukon in Canada, where the gold rush was at its height. Failing to strike lucky, he worked as a cowboy in Alberta for a short period, before heading back to England and finding employment with the White Star Line.

Lightoller joined the crew of the RMS *Titanic* for her sea trials, and was the ship's second officer on her

doomed maiden voyage. He helped coordinate the rescue effort, loading women and children into the lifeboats, before himself abandoning ship. He was the most senior officer to survive the sinking.



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After the First World War, Lightoller found it difficult to advance in his sailing career because of his association with the Titanic. He instead took a variety of jobs including as an innkeeper and a property speculator. He retained an interest in sailing for pleasure, and took his yacht to Dunkirk in 1940 to help with the evacuation.

## Daisy Dobbs

**Occupation: Nurse**

**Unit: Territorial Force Nursing Service**



British military nurses and their patients during WWI.  
Image courtesy of <http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk>; used with permission

**Reserve Service**

It is estimated that around 7,100 women served as trained members of the Territorial Force Nursing Service during the Great War, of whom around 2,300 served overseas.

Daisy Dobbs joined the Territorial Force Nursing Service on 3 February 1915. She proceeded on Active Service to Salonica on the 20th October 1916, where she remained for the following two years.

In February 1917 she was wounded during an enemy air raid but, despite her injuries, continued to attend to those around her. For her actions that night, Daisy Dobbs was awarded the Military Medal and became one of only a small group of women to receive the honour. The citation for the medal reads:

'For conspicuous bravery, calmness and devotion to duty in looking after the safety of the patients under her charge, even after she was wounded by a piece of bomb and bleeding profusely, during an enemy raid. One patient was killed beside this Nurse and another wounded by the same bomb.'

## Civilian Life

Daisy Dobbs was born in Portsmouth in 1890. Before the war broke out, she had trained, and was working, as a nurse.

# Harold Herrmann

**Occupation: Heating engineer**

**Unit: London Rifle Brigade, Territorial Force**



Image courtesy of Antony Herrmann; used with permission

## Reserve Service

After serving in the Belgian trenches and surviving German gas attacks early in the war, Harold's rare mastery of French and German attracted the attention of authorities in London, who realised he was best suited for undercover counter-espionage operations. Harold's missions involved detecting and catching German spies behind British lines. Often working alone and under difficult circumstances, at least once he resorted to running his motorbike on Cointreau. At one point Harold was discovered by another British Army unit. Unaware he was a British spy and deeply suspicious of his ability to speak fluent French and German, the commanding officer arrested him and brought him back to base, where Harold was sentenced to be shot as an enemy spy. Fortunately, Harold eventually succeeded in persuading his

captors to verify his identity with his superiors. In the nick of time, the response came back confirming his status as a British agent and Harold was spared the firing squad.

## Civilian Life

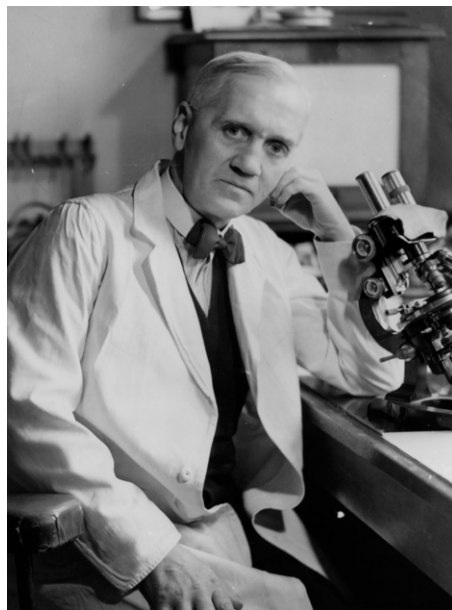
Harold was the first of three sons of Henry Herrmann, a second-generation German immigrant engineer, who moved his family back to Germany when Harold was a boy. Raised in Cologne, Harold grew up speaking fluent English and German and learned fluent French while studying in Lausanne, Switzerland; skills that would later make him a valuable asset to the war effort. Harold later moved back to the UK and enthusiastically signed up to the London Rifle Brigade, a unit in the then Territorial Force.

After the war, Harold returned to his career as a heating engineer and pursued his passion for botany and gardening. His lungs, which had been badly damaged by mustard gas while fighting in the trenches, continued to trouble him until his death.

# Dr Alexander Fleming

**Occupation(s): Doctor; scientist**

**Unit: Royal Army Medical Corps, Territorial Force**



© National Portrait Gallery, London

## Reserve Service

Fleming became Private Fleming of the London Scottish Regiment in 1900. Joining up with his brother, the two young men hoped to answer the call for volunteers to serve in the South African War, but before the year was out there was no longer a need to deploy any more volunteer soldiers there.

Fleming's experience would be recognisable to many of today's Reserves – part-time training at the weekend and in the evenings, route marches and summer camps. In August 1901 this included an unenviable 60 mile march in heavy rain from Aberdeen to Blairgowrie. In 1913, Fleming was awarded the Territorial Force Efficiency Medal, and despite his later reputation for having an untidy laboratory, he was known for his immaculate kit. The Fleming brothers were assigned to H Company, for which Alexander was to become something of a mascot. Throughout his early years at St Mary's Hospital he continued to serve as a volunteer soldier, until early 1914, when he found the pressure on his time too much and left the regiment after 14 years of service.

At the outbreak of war a few months later, Fleming once again volunteered his services, but this time with the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), to work as a bacteriologist alongside his head of department from St Mary's Hospital, Sir Almroth Wright. It was a remarkable team. Wright's development of the first anti-typhoid vaccine was a life-saver during the First World War and Fleming's work on the bacteriology of wound infections led to him being considered an expert on the subject.

Given the rank of lieutenant and working in a special field hospital in Wimereux, Fleming treated wounded soldiers and conducted research. Fleming's former regiment had been mobilised early in the war and sent to Messines, where they suffered extremely heavy losses. Fleming's wartime experiences with the RAMC were greatly different from those he would have had as a front line private with the London Scottish, and were to have a significant impact on his future discoveries. For instance, in a paper published in the *Lancet* during the war, Fleming described an experiment he conducted that showed how antiseptics could in some cases worsen a patient's condition by stopping the immune system working properly in deep wounds. Fleming was promoted to captain and returned to his civilian medical work after the war.

Fleming's association with the London Scottish remained close, and in later years he became a popular speaker at regimental functions. When reporting on his achievements, the London Scottish would always fondly refer to him as "ex-Private Alexander Fleming".

## Civilian Life

A native of Ayrshire, Fleming moved to London at the age of 16 to work as a junior clerk in the shipping office of America Line – a job he hated by all accounts.

To a certain extent, it was his volunteer service that was to bring Fleming to the institution he is most famously associated with - St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London. Fleming became a member of his regiment's water polo team, and fond memories of playing against a team from St Mary's were to be instrumental in his choice of medical school when he began his medical training in 1901. He qualified in 1906, however, such was his ongoing dedication to his unit, he sat his final Doctor of Medicine examination the day after a 12 mile competitive march. The team from the London Scottish were the only group to complete the march with all members remaining and on time. During his studies, he was asked about the relative humidity of air and its effect on the body. Knowing little about the subject, Fleming instead told the examiners about the march, offering a comparison of the London Scottish's kilt as opposed to trousers as effective marching kit. Fleming passed with honours.

His time as a volunteer soldier was also to have an important bearing on the direction of his future career. As a member of the regiment Fleming became an excellent rifle shot, regularly competing on behalf of the London Scottish. St Mary's were looking for a good shot to join the St Mary's Rifle Club and were keen to enlist Fleming. However, there were no surgical vacancies at the hospital - Fleming's original chosen speciality. Sir Almroth Wright was approached and persuaded to offer him a post in the Inoculation Department. Fleming was to stay at the school to conduct research into bacteria for the next 54 years.

After the First World War, Fleming continued his bacteriological research. In 1928, he discovered the world's first antibiotic – penicillin – a discovery for which he was later awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine. A team of researchers at the University of Oxford took up his work and developed a method of stabilising and purifying the antibiotic so that it could be brought into production. Fleming's regimental contacts were again to play a role in its wider development. Sir Andrew Duncan, the Minister for Supply during the Second World War, was an old regimental friend of Fleming's. In 1942, Fleming visited Duncan to explain the potential of the antibiotic and the benefits to the war effort. As a result, the Committee of Penicillin was formed and the government was persuaded to move valuable production capacity away from other war purposes, and into the production of penicillin. Mass production of penicillin was begun, meaning that by D-Day, there was enough available to treat all Allied casualties and prevent the deadly infections that Fleming would have seen during his First World War service.

With thanks to Kevin Brown, Trust Archivist & Alexander Fleming Laboratory Museum Curator.

# Ronald Colman

**Occupation(s):** Clerk; actor

**Unit:** London Scottish Regiment, Territorial Force



© National Portrait Gallery, London

## Reserve Service

Whilst working as a clerk in the City of London, and in an attempt to escape the tedium of office life, Colman joined the London Scottish Regiment.

When the First World War broke out, Colman's Regiment was mobilised and swiftly deployed to France in September 1914, which made him one of the first 100,000 British soldiers to be sent overseas. He was posted to the Western Front where the fighting was fierce, and took part in the first battle for Ypres. A month later, Colman was seriously injured by shrapnel in the ankle at the Battle of Messines. He was decorated for his service, and was invalided out of the army in 1915.

## Civilian Life

Before the war, Colman worked as a clerk for the British Steamship Company, where it took him only five years to rise to the position of accountant.

After being invalided out of the army, Colman returned to London, which at the time had few prospects in terms of employment. Failing to find work in the City, he turned his hand to the other thing he knew: acting.

Colman made his stage debut in 1916 at the London Coliseum. He went on to have a successful career as an actor both in films and on the stage, eventually venturing into television. He won the Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role for his part in *A Double Life* (1947), was nominated for three other Academy Awards and has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Due to the injuries sustained in service he had a limp, which he tried to hide in his acting for the rest of his career.



# Geoffrey Woolley, VC OBE MC

Occupation(s): Clergyman

Unit: Queen Victoria's Rifles, the 9th Battalion of the London Regiment, Territorial Force



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## Reserve Service

Geoffrey Woolley joined the Army in August 1914, commissioning as a second lieutenant briefly into the Essex Regiment before it was reorganised and he was transferred to the 9th Battalion The London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles). Many Territorials did not have long to wait on British shores, and Woolley was no exception. He deployed to France in November 1914, where his gallant actions near Ypres would earn him the most prestigious military decoration that can be awarded to British or Commonwealth Forces: the Victoria Cross.

The Queen Victoria's Rifles were posted to the Ypres Salient. In mid-April 1915, the British captured Hill 60, a strategically important observation point, to the south-east of Ypres. Woolley and his company of men were sent to take ammunition to those defending the hill from the German efforts to retake the ground. As the fighting intensified, many of the defending force and all the other officers on the hill were killed by the advancing Germans. Ignoring orders to withdraw, Woolley insisted that his company would remain in place to repel the numerous attacks until reinforcements were sent. When they were relieved the following morning, only 14 of the 150 men in the company remained.

For his actions on Hill 60, Woolley was duly recognised by his commanding officers, and two days after the attack was promoted directly to the rank of captain and awarded the Victoria Cross. The citation reads:

"For most conspicuous bravery on "Hill 60" during the night of 20th-21st April, 1915. Although the only Officer on the hill at the time, and with very few men, he successfully resisted all attacks on his trench, and continued throwing bombs and encouraging his men till relieved. His trench during all this time was being heavily shelled and bombed and was subjected to heavy machine gun fire by the enemy."<sup>1</sup>

After being invalided back to England suffering from the effects of a gas attack and psychological stress, Woolley was appointed as an instructor at the Officers' Infantry School, before returning to the Western Front in the summer of 1916.

1 <http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/29170/supplements/4990> [18.11.2013]

After the outbreak of the Second World War, Woolley again answered the call and returned to the military with a commission into the Royal Army Chaplains' Department. He was appointed Senior Chaplain to Algiers in 1942.<sup>2</sup>

## **Civilian Life**

Woolley's father was a clergyman and, after studying at Queen's College Oxford, it appeared Woolley intended to follow in his father's footsteps. Whilst at Oxford, Woolley joined the Officer Training Corps, a branch of the Territorial Force founded on the initiative of then Secretary of State for War Lord Haldane, to address the country's shortage of Reserve officers. However, with the outbreak of war, Woolley put his clerical ambitions to one side in order to fight for his country.

He resumed his theological studies after the war, and was ordained in late 1920. Following a brief period as a teacher at Rugby School, Woolley became a parish vicar in Hampshire and then the chaplain of Harrow School.

On his return from the Second World War and North Africa, Woolley spent the rest of his working life as a parish vicar until he retired in 1958.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2197291/WOOLLEY,%20HAROLD%20LINDSAY%20CATHCART> [18.11.2013].

# The inter-war years and the Second World War

The period between the First and Second World Wars was a defining one for the Reserve Forces, with the creation of the Auxiliary Air Force and deployments around the world for all three Services. As in the First World War, they served with distinction and played a key role in some of the most famous battles of the mid 20th century.

In fact, by 1942 there were as many Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve officers as in the regular Royal Navy, and their contribution was recognised by the modification of their uniform to more closely match their Royal Navy counterparts.

The Queen Victoria's Rifles, a voluntary unit of the newly-titled Territorial Army, played a crucial role in the defence of the town of Calais in 1941, helping to provide time for the successful evacuation of troops from the beaches of Dunkirk, and the machine gunners of 1/7th Battalion, the Middlesex Regiment were amongst the first troops to land at Normandy on D Day in June 1944.

Reservists serving in the Auxiliary Air Force, which had been formed in 1924, were responsible for both the first German aircraft shot down over British waters and over the mainland. Their huge contribution to the war was rewarded in 1947 with the prefix 'royal', conferred by King George VI.

## Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

As in the First World War, Naval Reserves served in every theatre of naval conflict – and almost every British naval battle throughout the Second World War. There was however one significant difference from the Naval Reservists' experiences of the First World War - despite the successes of the RND, during the Second World War the Naval Reservists fought entirely as sailors and not as soldiers.

Almost half a million Naval Reservists enlisted during the Second World War, and by 1942 there were as many RNVR officers as regular Royal Navy officers. This situation led to a cartoon appearing in the popular magazine Punch, which was to become a favourite of the Naval Reservists. Walking down a street with a sub lieutenant RNVR, with one wavy stripe, a young girl notices a Royal Navy commander with three straight stripes on his uniform. The RNVR officer says to the girl, "Straight stripes? Oh, those are the fellows who run the Navy in peacetime!"

The contribution the Naval Reserves made to the war effort was recognised by King George VI, who announced that they should adopt the same straight gold lace as used by the Royal Navy, with a small gold 'R' in the curl, and that the term 'volunteer' be dropped from its title, following which the Royal Naval Reserve came into being.

## Territorial Army

Changes in the nature of warfare in the inter-war years also had an impact on the Territorial Army. When the TA was reconstituted in 1920, only 12 of the 55 Yeomanry regiments retained their horses. The majority of the other Yeomanry regiments became artillery and armoured divisions. The new TA also had a substantially different commitment to the old Territorial Force: all members of the new forces were obliged to serve overseas if required.

In 1926, the newly restructured TA was called up for potential active service for 90 days during the General Strike. They were used for guarding warehouses and providing drivers for public transport. A somewhat happier milestone was reached in 1938, when the Honourable Artillery Company was chosen to provide a guard at Buckingham Palace for 24 hours. They were the first TA unit to do so.

The advent of the Second World War saw a significant increase in the size of the TA. As the threat of war increased in the late 1930s, the Government authorised the 'duplication' of all Territorial Army units, thereby doubling the size of the TA. With the outbreak of hostilities in September 1939, the Territorial Army was mobilized and its units absorbed into the British Army.

The TA was to play a role in many of the most iconic battles of the war, serving in all major theatres from North West Europe to the Far East. The Queen Victoria's Rifles played a significant role in defending the evacuation of Dunkirk, taking part in the fierce fighting around Calais alongside their regular counterparts the King's Royal Rifles. In North Africa, 131 and 169 (Queen's) Brigades formed part of the 7th Armoured Division – the famous 'Black Rats' who defeated Rommel's Afrika Korps. Meanwhile, the 4th County of London Yeomanry and the machine gunners of 1/7th Battalion, the Middlesex Regiment, were amongst the first troops to land at Normandy on D Day in June 1944.

The Territorial Army played an important role in the defence of London during the Battle of Britain, with volunteers such as Don Robbins manning searchlights. In 1935 the Government had decided to entrust the air defence of the UK to the TA, and in April 1939 Anti-Aircraft Command was formed under the direction of RAF Fighter Command. However, the majority of the anti-aircraft guns were initially operated by Territorial Army units. As the war continued to take its toll on both Regulars and Reserves, these units were freed up by the use of the Home Guard and the women of the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

The Second World War saw an important change in the composition of the TA, with the women's Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) formed in September 1938. The original women's volunteer service – the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps – had been disbanded in 1921 after serving during the Second World War as clerks, cooks and telephonists. At the outbreak of the Second World War, ATS members were employed again in these roles, and they also quickly established their best-known role as drivers for the Motor Driver Companies. In fact, during the evacuation of France, ATS telephonists were the last British personnel to leave the country. By the end of the war, over 170,000 women were serving in the ATS, including one rather famous recruit – 2nd Lieutenant Elizabeth Windsor.

## The Auxiliary Air Force

The inter-war years saw a hugely important milestone in the history of the UK Reserve Forces, with the creation of the Auxiliary Air Force (AAF) in 1924. By September 1939, there were 20 flying squadrons, equipped with aircraft such as Hurricanes and Spitfires, as well as 47 balloon squadrons. Men such as Sir Douglas Douglas-Hamilton and Flt Lt Pat Gifford quickly established a glamorous and daring reputation for the AAF, with many of its volunteers drawn from wealthy families.

Similar to the other two Reserve Services, the AAF was embodied within the RAF in August and September 1939, for the duration of the war. The Second World War record of the AAF demonstrates vividly the contribution that Reservists have made, alongside their Regular counterparts, to many of the major conflicts of the 20th century. For instance, AAF squadrons played an important role in some of the largest air battles of the Second World War, such as providing 14 of the 62 squadrons in Fighter Command for the Battle of Britain, and accounting for approximately 30% of all accredited enemy 'kills'. The highest score of any British night-fighter squadron was accredited to an Auxiliary unit, whilst the Balloon Squadrons destroyed an incredible 279 V-1 flying bombs. The Auxiliaries also claimed a number of important 'firsts'; 602 (City of Glasgow) and 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadrons were responsible for both the first German aircraft shot down over British waters and over the mainland. The AAF was also responsible for the first U-boat to be destroyed with the aid of airborne radar and the first 'kill' of a V-1 flying-bomb.

In 1947, the AAF's achievements in the Second World War were honoured by the prefix 'Royal' conferred by King George VI.

# Edward Thomas Chapman, VC BEM

**Occupation(s):** Coal miner; railway porter

**Unit:** 3rd Battalion, the Monmouthshire Regiment, Territorial Army



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## Reserve Service

In April 1945 Chapman crossed the Rhine into the Teutoburg Forest where the Monmouthshire Regiment were to play a part in clearing the road to Ibbenbüren. On their stretch of the road, the 3rd Battalion encountered strong resistance from a group of hand-picked and determined Nazis. They were German Officer Cadets and their instructors from the nearby officer school in Hannover, making a last stand. Ultimately, the battalion failed to achieve their objective to clear a two mile stretch through a thickly wooded ridge, however, this task later took a whole infantry brigade three days of hard fighting to accomplish<sup>3</sup>. Due to his courageous actions in the Teutoburg Forest, Corporal Edward Thomas Chapman was awarded the Victoria Cross.

A report in the London Gazette on 13 July 1945 vividly describes the bravery Cpl Chapman displayed on 2nd April 1945:

“Corporal Chapman was advancing with his section in single file along a narrow track when the enemy suddenly opened fire with machine guns at short range, inflicting heavy casualties and causing some confusion. Corporal Chapman immediately ordered his section to take cover and, seizing the Bren gun, he advanced alone, firing the gun from his hip, and mowed down the enemy at point blank range, forcing them to retire in disorder. At this point, however, his Company was ordered to withdraw but Corporal Chapman and his section were still left in their advanced position, as the order could not be got forward to them.

The enemy then began to close up to Corporal Chapman and his isolated section and, under cover of intense machine gun fire, they made determined charges with the bayonet. Corporal Chapman again rose with his Bren gun to meet the assaults and on each occasion halted their advance. He had now nearly run out of ammunition. Shouting to his section for more bandoliers, he dropped into a fold in the ground and covered those bringing up the ammunition by lying on his back and firing the Bren gun over his shoulder.

3 <http://www.royalwelsh.org.uk/downloads/B09-08-MONR-WW2-3rdBattalionTA.pdf>

A party of Germans made every effort to eliminate him with grenades, but with reloaded magazine he closed with them and once again drove the enemy back with considerable casualties. During the withdrawal of his Company, the Company Commander had been severely wounded and left lying in the open a short distance from Corporal Chapman.

Satisfied that his section was now secure, at any rate for the moment, he went out alone under withering fire and carried his Company Commander for 50 yards to comparative safety. On the way a sniper hit the officer again, wounding Corporal Chapman in the hip and, when he reached our lines, it was discovered that the officer had been killed. In spite of his wound, Corporal Chapman refused to be evacuated and went back to his Company until the position was fully restored two hours later.”

## Civilian Life

Ted Chapman was born in Pontlottyn, near Rhymney in Wales, the son of a coal miner. He left school at age 14 and like many of his generation followed his father underground at the Ogilvy Colliery.

From 1946, Cpl Chapman worked for Rhymney Engineering, and then as a railway porter. Later, he joined ICI Fibres in Pontypool, retiring in 1980 after 25 years with the company. He had a long and successful career in the Territorial Army, serving with the Monmouthshire Regiment until his final discharge as a much respected sergeant major in 1957. For his many tours of duty, and his continued full and active service in the Territorial Army, he was also awarded the British Empire Medal.

## Sam Kydd

**Occupation: Actor**

**Unit: 1 Battalion Queen Victoria’s Rifles, Territorial Army**

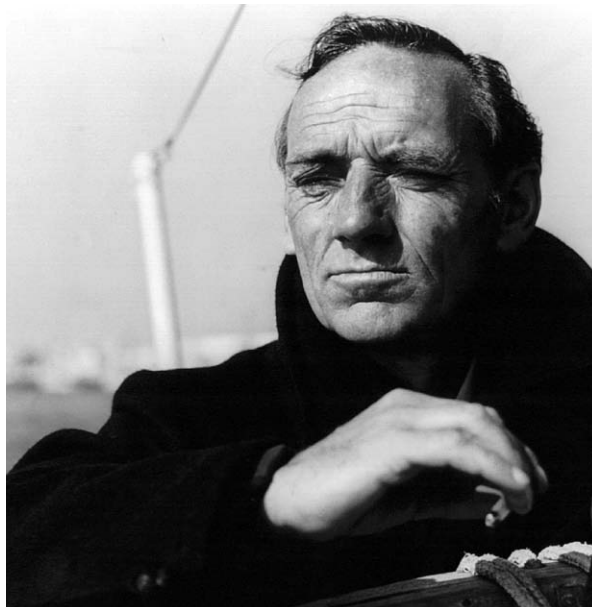


Image courtesy of Jonathan Kydd; used with permission

## Reserve Service

After the outbreak of the Second World War, the London-based 1st Battalion, The Queen Victoria’s Rifles (QVR) were mobilised to be part of 1st Support Group in the 1st Armoured Division. The division was not immediately deployed to France with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), however, with the rapid advance of German forces through France in early May 1940 the BEF’s position was becoming increasingly perilous, and as such three battalions of the 1st Armoured Division were dispatched in a



desperate attempt to secure the port of Calais for the evacuation of the BEF.

Arriving in Calais on 22 May, the QVR almost immediately found themselves part of a larger force defending the town against the advancing German troops. Despite being vastly outnumbered, this gallant force held the town for three days, but on the afternoon of 26 May the German besiegers finally broke through and forced a surrender. More than 3,000 British troops and 700 French were taken prisoner.

Though ultimately defeated, the stalwart defence of the town temporarily halted the advance of the German troops, allowing the BEF crucial time to re-group and prepare basic defensive works in the small coastal town of Dunkirk. As such, many historians believe that the soldiers who fought so valiantly at the siege of Calais were instrumental in ensuring the successful evacuation of the BEF from the beaches of Dunkirk during Operation Dynamo, which began a day after the siege of Calais was ended.

During his internment in the German prisoner-of-war camp Stalag XX-A, where he remained for the next five years, Kydd took command of the camp's theatrical activities, devising and staging plays for the other prisoners of war. He felt so strongly about his work there that, when he was offered repatriation after three years as a prisoner of war, he turned it down to continue his work keeping up morale in camp. In recognition of his valuable services during these years, he was awarded a pair of drama masks made by the Red Cross from barbed wire.

After the action at Calais, King George VI sent a message to the regiment, singling them out, saying that he had;

'learnt with pride of the heroic action of the 2nd Battalion and The Queen Victoria's Rifles at Calais; which assisted so materially in the successful evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force. Such self-sacrifice and gallantry are in keeping with the highest traditions of His Majesty's Regiment and mark a glorious page in its history.'

## **Civilian Life**

An army officer's son, Kydd was born in Belfast but moved to London as a child. During the mid-1930s Kydd was a Master of Ceremonies for various big bands such as the Oscar Rabin Band. He would warm up audiences with jokes, impressions and tap dance routines before introducing the other singers and attractions on the bill. In the late 1930s Kydd decided to join the Territorial Army.

With over 280 credits as an actor, Sam Kydd is considered a journeyman of British cinema, appearing in a number of British classics throughout the 1950s and 1960s, including the television series *Crane* (1963-65) and *Coronation Street* (in 1980-82), as well as films such as *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1959).

# Don Robbins

**Occupation(s):** Photo-engraver

**Unit:** TA RE 334 Barnett Coy, 33rd St Pancras Battalion, Royal Engineers (later Royal Artillery), Territorial Army



Image courtesy of Don Robbins; used with permission.

## Reserve Service

Don joined the 33rd St Pancras Battalion of the Royal Engineers in 1937 and was deployed as a searchlight operator in 1939. The searchlight operators once formed a large part of the Royal Engineers, but it was a short-lived outfit that is little-known today. He served alongside others from his local area of Barnet, North London, to defend the city from Luftwaffe attacks.

Unlike today, Don received limited training and much of his skill was learned once he had deployed. Searchlights were operated in teams of ten men with three simple bell tents and a marquee for shelter. There was a coke fire in the centre of each bell tent for warmth during the long nights on duty. On one occasion while training in Dengie Marshes, Don's tent blew away in the night and they were left lying in their beds in the rain.

## Civilian Life

Don Robbins began as an apprentice etcher in the printing industry. His apprenticeship continued after the war, and he stayed in the same business until retirement at the age of 68.

Don benefited from the maturity that he gained during his deployment and to this day continues to attend the social evenings every Friday at the same TA Centre in Barnet where he first joined up in 1937.

# Thomas Shaw

**Occupation(s): Merchant seaman; hydrographical surveyor**

**Unit: Royal Naval Reserve**



Image courtesy of Catriona Shaw; used with permission

## Reserve Service

Tom enlisted as a Royal Naval Reserve in 1941. The same year, he was seconded to Combined Operations Pilotage Parties (COPPs), one of the forerunners to the Special Boat Service (SBS). Tom, along with three other men, was dropped off the coast of occupied France by the submarine HMS Trident in the middle of the night. They paddled ashore in a folboat – a type of canoe – to scope the beach as a potential Allied landing sight. Before dawn they paddled back out to meet the submarine but were unable to make contact. The submarine was just as clueless as to their position. After a time paddling around the rendezvous point, the boats were suddenly illuminated - one of Tom's fellow sailors, presumably forgetting he was only a short distance off the coast of occupied France, lit up his pipe. The submarine saw the light and surfaced. Remarkably, the flare was not spotted by the Germans keeping watch on the beach and they were not fired upon. Back on board, Tom was greeted with amusement from one submariner who asked if he "could spare us a match Sir?".

He was also Navigating officer of the infantry assault ship HMS Prince Leopold on the Combined Operations Vaagso Raid, 'Operation Archery', in Norway in December 1941. The raid, in which commandoes raided the Norwegian island of Vaagso to destroy factories used in the production of high explosives, was the first operation where provision of air cover was integrated into the planning process, and as such is often recognised as the first truly tri-service operation.

During the Dieppe Raid in August 1942, which sought (and ultimately failed) to capture the German-held port of Dieppe, Tom was one of two navigating officers on HMS Invicta, an infantry assault ship. However, at the last minute he was switched to commanding a landing craft taking soldiers of the South Saskatchewan Regiment into Green Beach at Pourville. During the operation, which saw over half the Allied force of 6,000 men killed, wounded or taken prisoner, Tom made several runs to rescue those trapped and dying on the beach, disobeying orders to withdraw to make several more trips to rescue the injured, before being wounded himself. The raid was to leave an indelible mark on him, and he was never able to forget the events that took place that day.

In the later stages of the war, Tom trained the landing craft officers for D-Day in the Firth of Clyde at HMS

Brontosaurus and HMS Dinosaur.

Tom continued as a Royal Naval Reserve after the end of the War, and was attached to the 'Special Branch for Naval Control of Shipping' as a specialist navigator in the 1960s at HMS Scotia in Rosyth. Tom was awarded the Reserve Decoration in 1970 for long service.

## **Civilian Life**

Tom was born into a mining family in County Durham and left school at 14. In 1930 he joined the Merchant Navy as an apprentice seaman, having never left home previously and having only seen the sea a few times in his life.

At the age of 17, Tom found himself serving on the SS Glenlea in West Africa. One morning whilst he and a friend were painting the stern of the ship, three local children capsized their canoe. Tom and his friend rescued the children, returned them to shore and continued painting. The following evening the village chief appeared to present him with a set of mounted buffalo horns, a leopard skin and a ceremonial knife in gratitude for saving his heir. He also requested that the Captain give permission for the two young seamen to be taken ashore for a night as the guests of the tribe.

To help fund his studies at Leith Nautical College in the 1930s, Tom briefly worked as a painter on the Forth Rail Bridge and also as an assistant lighthouse keeper on the island of Inchkeith, Scotland.

In 1937 whilst in Formosa, his ship was impounded by the Japanese who were at war with China. The Chinese crew were assaulted and several were beheaded on the quayside. Tom, who was a boxer in his youth, was so angry at the Japanese behaviour that he promptly punched one of their officers and he was lucky not to have been executed himself. The situation was only resolved when HMS Devonshire steamed into Formosa and the Japanese were told to release the ship immediately or the Royal Navy would begin to shell their position.

At the start of September 1939, Tom was second mate on a ship in the port of Danzig, Poland. Tom and the captain of his ship became suspicious of the shipping agent, a known Nazi supporter, who tried to retain them in port. They took the decision to sail out of Danzig without their cargo and made for Scotland. War was declared a few days later. Had they remained, the ship, along with its entire crew, would have been impounded for the duration of the war. During the Second World War, all of the merchant ships Tom had served on during the 1930s were sunk by U Boats.

After the war Tom worked as the Marine and Dredging Superintendent for Leith Docks Commission, later to become the Forth Ports Authority. He was responsible for ensuring there was adequate depth of water in the docks and that the shipping channels and harbours were clear of debris that might endanger shipping. He was also responsible for the approaches to the docks out in the Firth of Forth as well as all the navigation aids. Tom's last undertaking before he retired was completing the hydrographical survey of Hound Point, now the site of the major oil terminal in the Firth of Forth.

# Patrick Gifford

Occupation(s): Lawyer

Unit: 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron, Auxiliary Air Force



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## Reserve Service

Pat joined 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron, an Auxiliary Air Force squadron based at RAF Turnhouse in Edinburgh, and earned his wings in 1932. 603 was originally trained for a bombing role; however, in the late 1930's the squadron was reassigned as a fighter unit. Spitfires were delivered and 603 Squadron became fully operational just in time for the outbreak of the Second World War.

On 16 October 1939, nine Junkers Ju-88 'Schnellbombers' began an attack on the naval base at Rosyth outside Edinburgh, where the pride of the British Navy, HMS Hood, was moored. The Supermarine Spitfires recently acquired by 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron at RAF Turnhouse were dispatched to intercept them. Aircraft from 602 (City of Glasgow) Squadron were also airborne and it was to be the first air battle over Britain since 1918.

Pat led the 'Red Section' made up of three planes. They spotted a stray German plane, flown by the second in command Lt Hans Storp, which had strayed from the rest of the bombers. Gifford fired the deciding shots, hitting the left engine and killing the gunner. This was the first enemy aircraft to be shot down over Britain during the Second World War. Nine minutes after Storp's plane came down, Flt Lt George Pinkerton shot down Group Commander Hauptmann Helmut Pohle's plane. Apparently oblivious to the notion of health and safety, the drivers of a passing train decided to stop on the Forth Road Bridge in order to give their passengers the best possible view.

By the end of the battle in the early evening, two German aircraft had been shot down and the Royal Navy had suffered 16 casualties and 44 wounded. Both Storp and Pohle survived being shot down, and Pat and George went to visit them after they were taken prisoner. The following morning Air Chief Marshall Sir Hugh Dowding, Commander in Chief of Fighter Command, sent a message reading, "Well done! First blood to the Auxiliaries." Both Pat and George were subsequently awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for their actions, and Pat was promoted to squadron leader.

Pat went on to command a regular RAF squadron, the first Auxiliary officer to do so.

On 16 May 1940, having led his squadron to Flanders to fight the German invasion, Pat's Hawker

Hurricane was shot down and he was killed.

## Civilian Life

Pat was born in 1910 in Dumfries and Galloway. He qualified as a lawyer in 1935 from Edinburgh University, before going back to his hometown of Castle Douglas to work in the family law firm. He was also a keen sportsman, and played cricket, rugby and tennis, as well as being a talented skier and marksman. A glamorous and privileged young man, Pat fitted the 1930s image of a fighter pilot. He had a passion for fast cars and owned an open top Frazer Nash sports car. Once, for a bet, he claimed that he could leave the clock tower at Castle Douglas at 10am, drive to RAF Turnhouse – over 95 miles away or three hours' drive along country roads – and be back over Castle Douglas in a plane by midday. He won the bet with minutes to spare.

# Ian Fleming

**Occupation(s):** Naval Intelligence Officer; spy; author

**Unit:** Special Branch of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve



© National Portrait Gallery, London

## Reserve Service

Ian Fleming joined the RNVR in July 1939 as part of his work in Naval Intelligence and was ultimately promoted to the rank of commander. His experiences in the Second World War consisted of covert operations and sabotage, including deploying his own commando unit behind the German front line for safe-breaking purposes.

In September 1942 Fleming became head of a special outfit called 30 Assault Unit, created to infiltrate German occupied territory. The unit conducted secret missions behind German lines and captured codes, documents and various types of military equipment, as well as gathering information on the status of the German atomic weapons programme.

In January 1945, Fleming was called to London to be informed of a new operation tracking down the money and gold that the Nazis had stockpiled. Secret operations were to start, aimed at getting hold of Nazi financial resources, in the hope of cutting off funding to German military industry. A mission led by Fleming was reportedly targeting a high-ranking Nazi officer, Martin Bormann, who was a key figure in



financing the German war effort. However, reports surfaced of Bormann's death and the mission appears to have failed.

## Civilian Life

Not unlike his fictional protagonist, after attending Eton, Fleming enrolled at Sandhurst only to drop out. Instead, he worked for a while with the stockbrokers Rowe and Pitman before ultimately becoming a journalist and writer. He used family connections to work his way through the middle ranks of Reuters, and he again put these to good use at the outbreak of the war in 1939, when he became aide-de-camp to Rear Admiral John Godfrey, Director of Naval Intelligence.

Throughout the Second World War, Fleming frequently mentioned his desire to write a spy novel. After demobilising, he began writing in the 1950s and soon became one of the best known authors of the 20th century, whose character James Bond is also closely associated with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserves.

# Douglas Douglas-Hamilton

**Occupation(s): 14th Duke of Hamilton, 11th Duke of Brandon, Keeper of Holyroodhouse and MP for Paisley**

**Unit: 602 (City of Glasgow) Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force**



© National Portrait Gallery, London

## Reserve Service

Hamilton became interested in flying at a young age and became the youngest squadron leader of his day, commanding 602 (City of Glasgow) Squadron from 1927 to 1936. It was through his experience in the Auxiliary Air Force that he was later to become world famous for the first flight over Mount Everest.

John Buchan, the author of *The Thirty-Nine Steps* and MP for the Scottish Universities, was dismayed that the Americans had been first to fly over the North and South Poles and was determined that a Briton would be the first over Everest. Buchan found Hamilton in the House of Commons smoking room and persuaded him to become the chief pilot of the first Everest flight.

The Houston Mount Everest Expedition arrived in India in February 1933 to wait for clear weather to attempt the flight. They spent their time swimming, until an old piece of driftwood turned out to be a

crocodile.

On 3 April 1933 Flt Lt David McIntyre and Sir Douglas Douglas-Hamilton became the first men to fly over the summit of Everest. These early aircraft were extremely basic, with the technological developments of the Second World War still a decade away. The Westland PV3 had an open cabin, so the problems of altitude, air pressure and oxygen supply experienced by the pilots were significant. To save weight, McIntyre and Hamilton carried no parachutes. Even then there was only fuel for 15 minutes over the mountain. In the event of engine failure, McIntyre and Hamilton decided, they would try to glide the 75 miles back to base.

Approaching the mountain, Hamilton and McIntyre discovered they were approaching from the wrong side and the wind direction would blow the aircraft down rather than up to the summit. Their oxygen was also malfunctioning, which almost caused Hamilton to pass out. At the very last minute, a sudden updraft gave Hamilton's aircraft the momentum to clear the peak of Everest. In the second plane, McIntyre took three attempts before crossing the summit, due to his cameraman splitting his oxygen hose and almost falling into unconsciousness. Turning to check on him, McIntyre had broken the strap on his own oxygen mask, and was forced to hold it to his face and fly one-handed for the rest of the flight.

When they returned to base, they discovered that the survey cameras on both aircraft had failed to work properly. The scientific aim of the flight had been to make detailed maps, and this had failed. The only solution was for McIntyre and Hamilton to attempt a second flight, but the expedition leadership back in London banned this because of the risks. Hamilton and McIntyre, in a defiant act of insubordination, ignored these orders and on 19 April they did the whole thing again, successfully obtaining the photos that, twenty years later, would guide Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay to the summit. In recognition of his role in the expedition, Hamilton was awarded the Air Force Cross in 1935.

The two pilots' experience led to the development of pressurised cabins in aircraft and helped produce the first detailed and scientific survey of the Himalaya region.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Hamilton resumed his commission, gaining the rank of air commodore. He was responsible for air defence in Scotland and took command of the Air Training Corps. Hamilton was the eldest of four brothers, and at the outbreak of the Second World War they made military history by all holding the rank of squadron leader or higher simultaneously.

He was later mentioned in Dispatches during the May 1940 Battle for France.

## **Civilian Life**

Hamilton studied at Balliol College, Oxford, where he gained a Blue in boxing before winning the Scottish amateur middleweight title.

He was the MP for East Renfrewshire from 1930 until moving to the House of Lords in 1940. In 1935, in order to experience the life of the employees in his family's mines, he joined a trade union and worked for a time at the coal face, being known as 'Mr. Hamilton'.

Hamilton was to acquire international fame for a second time when Rudolph Hess, the Deputy Führer of Nazi Germany, parachuted into Scotland on 10 May 1941 claiming he was to meet with Hamilton to plan a secret peace treaty between Germany and the British Empire. Hamilton denied this, and immediately reported Hess' arrival to the Prime Minister. As a result, Hess was imprisoned by the British Authorities until the end of the war.

Throughout his life Hamilton held numerous business positions and was appointed Privy Counsellor and Lord Steward of the Household. He served as Chancellor of the University of St Andrews for nearly 30 years and was a member of the Royal Company of Archers, the Sovereign's bodyguard for Scotland. He also served as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland four times.

# The Cold War

The early Cold War years were rather tough for the Reserve Forces. As with the end of the First World War, the Government's priority was now to 'win the peace'. However, worldwide post war instability, the threat from the Warsaw Pact and the commitment to NATO forced the UK to retain a substantial standing Army, Navy and Airforce supported by the National Service Act of 1948. It was not until National Service was abolished in 1964 that the government again turned to the Volunteer Reserves to support the regular forces facing the Soviet threat.

Significant changes in this period included the amalgamation of the Royal Naval Reserve and the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, to form the Royal Naval Reserve. Ceremonial events were to provide memorable moments for all of the Reserve services during the Cold War, most significantly in 1977 when the Queen's Silver Jubilee was marked by a review on 30 June. Perhaps uniquely, it was comprised entirely of Reserves and Cadets.

## Royal Naval Reserve

The role of the Reserves of the Royal Navy was reviewed at the end of the Second World War, resulting in their primary roles shifting to mine warfare and the provision of support to various on-shore headquarters. In addition, the Naval Reserves underwent several significant structural changes in the Cold War period.

The Royal Marine Volunteer Reserve (RMVR) was formed in 1948, with units in London and Glasgow. From January 1949, these new Reserves were trained for sea service, commando and amphibious operations. It was renamed the Royal Marines Reserve (RMR) in 1966.

In 1951 the Women's Royal Navy Volunteer Reserves unit was founded. Similar to the men's service, the only way to distinguish between the regular WRNS and the WRNVS was the small letter R on the uniform.

In 1954 the Naval Reserve was given a specific task: minesweeping was to be their speciality. They were collectively formed into the 101st (RNVR) Minesweeping Squadron of the Royal Navy, and were declared to be part of Britain's naval commitment to NATO. The association with Mine Counter Measure operations lasted until 1994 when the Reserve squadron of minesweepers was disbanded.

In 1958 the RNR and RNVR were amalgamated and, to avoid the need for new legislation, the older title 'Royal Naval Reserve' was retained for this newly unified Naval Reserve.

In April 1982, when the Falklands War broke out, the RNR was to play an important role in Operation Corporate, the British military response. There was no formal call-up of Naval Reserves, but nonetheless nearly 100 RNR personnel volunteered, leaving their civilian jobs to do so. Jobs ranged from manning communications centres and headquarters, to the medical Reserves who served on board ships of the fleet in the task force. A total of 49 merchant ships belonging to 23 different companies were requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence to support the war, and many of their staff who were Naval Reserves, including Captain Dennis Scott-Masson the commander of the Canberra, were directly involved.

## Territorial Army

When the Regular Army was de-mobilised in 1946 the TA was temporarily suspended, but quickly re-formed in 1947 with the addition of its own airborne capability and retaining its anti-aircraft capability. However, during the 1950s and 1960s the Territorial Army was both seriously under-manned and poorly equipped. Further cuts in 1960 saw the disappearance of many famous units, bringing the overall strength down from 266 fighting units to 195. The TA as a whole became known as the 'General Reserve'.

The threat of nuclear war led to a new role for the TA, that of civil defence. This included training exercises with the police, the Fire Service and other emergency services. One annual camp in three was devoted to training to respond to a nuclear incident, with volunteers such as Derrick Harwood learning nuclear

survival skills.

With the ending of National Service in 1965 the Government decided that it needed to re-assess the role of the TA to ensure that the UK could maintain its commitment to NATO. As a response to this priority, in 1967 the TA was re-branded as the 'Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve' (TAVR), and reorganised into four separate categories, including the Special Reserve Units reserved for NATO operations, and units reserved for home defence and University Officer Training Corps. The TAVR units' primary roles of NATO reinforcement and home defence meant that on occasion their annual camp period was spent abroad with the Regular Army in Germany, Gibraltar or the sovereign base areas of Cyprus.

However, there were also instances in which they were deployed on overseas operations. The Territorial Army Emergency Reserve, or the 'Ever Readies' as they were more commonly known, was formed after the end of National Service to produce a group of volunteers within the Territorial Army who would be liable to call-up without proclamation and who could be sent to reinforce the Regular Army in an emergency at very short notice. One company of 'Ever Readies' was called up in May 1965 and went to serve with the 1st Royal Sussex Regiment during the Aden Emergency.

## **The Royal Auxiliary Air Force**

In contrast to the other two Services, in the years immediately following the Second World War the newly-named Royal Auxiliary Air Force (RAuxAF) expanded to over 7,500 personnel and included 20 jet fighter squadrons, a transport squadron, 28 Fighter Control Units, two Radar Reporting Units, 5 Air Observation Post squadrons, an Air Intelligence Unit, 12 Regiment squadrons, 3 Maritime Headquarters Units and a Maritime Support Unit. However, by the late 1950s the force was almost entirely disbanded, leaving only the three Maritime Headquarters units in the RAuxAF for the next 20 years. These cuts left the RAuxAF virtually disbanded, with fewer than 300 personnel.

In 1979, a new defence strategy led to a renewed growth in the RAuxAF, with the formation of several new Regiment Field Squadrons, a Movements Squadron and an Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

# Sir Edward Heath, KG MBE

**Occupation: Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

**Unit: Honourable Artillery Company**



© National Portrait Gallery, London

## Reserve Service

Heath was commissioned into the Royal Artillery as a Regular in 1941. He rose to be a major commanding a battery of his own, providing artillery support in the North-West Europe Campaign of 1944-1945.

By August 1946 Heath had risen to the rank of lieutenant colonel, and after the Royal Artillery was demobilised he joined the Honourable Artillery Company. Heath remained active throughout the 1950s, rising to Commanding Officer of the Second Battalion.

In April 1971, as Prime Minister, he wore his lieutenant colonel's insignia to inspect troops.

## Civilian Life

In 1948, Heath became a trainee in the finance house of Brown, Shipley & Company.

In 1949 at the Bexley by-election he reduced the Labour majority from 11,000 to 1,000, and went on to win the redistributed seat with a majority of 133 at the 1950 General Election. After the Conservatives won the 1951 general election, he became a junior whip and resigned from Brown, Shipley & Co. to devote himself to politics.

Heath served as Deputy Chief Whip (1953-55) and Chief Whip (1955-59) and, from 1960-63, he was Lord Privy Seal with Foreign Office responsibilities, handling Britain's negotiations to enter the Common Market (the forerunner of the EU). In 1963, Heath was promoted to Secretary of State for Industry, Trade and Regional Development, and President of the Board of Trade.

The Conservative government lost the general election of 1964 to Harold Wilson's Labour government, by four seats. When the leadership election for the opposition came in 1965, Heath did not win outright, but his rivals Reginald Maudling and Enoch Powell withdrew their candidacies before the second ballot and Heath became leader. He was elected Prime Minister in the general election of 1970, with a 42-seat majority and, in 1973, completed the work he had begun a decade earlier by taking the UK into the European Community. He remained in office until 1974, when he lost the general election to a minority Labour government under Harold Wilson.

By the time he quit the Commons in 2001, at the age of 84, he was Father of the House, the Member of Parliament with the longest unbroken service.

# Brian Spillett

**Occupation: Fitter**

**Unit: 289 Parachute Light Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery**

## Reserve Service

Brian Spillett was a Territorial Army Lance Bombardier in P Battery, 289 Parachute Light Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery.

## Civilian Life

Lance Bombardier Spillett was posthumously awarded the George Cross in 1965.<sup>4</sup> Spillett became aware of a fire in the house of a neighbour who lived together with three generations of his family. He arrived, only partly dressed, to discover that the father of the family was still in the house. The whole house was already ablaze, but he went in despite being initially held back by other neighbours. Spillett managed to make his way upstairs but was unable to get through to the trapped man. He himself became trapped and had to escape the flames by jumping from a first floor window. Once the fire was over, he was found in the garden, badly burned and with other serious injuries. Brian Spillett was taken to hospital but died a week later.

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<sup>4</sup> Citation for his GC, in the London Gazette, <http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/43698/supplements/6203> [09.11.2013].



# Lewis Collins

**Occupation: Actor**

**Unit: 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (3 Coy, Finchley)**



Image courtesy of Geoff Butler; used with permission

## Reserve Service

Collins joined the London-based 10 Para (3 Coy, Finchley) in 1979, fitting in his Territorial Army service around his filming schedule. He completed his training and gained his wings in the mid-1980s.

Collins began a selection course for the TA branch of the Special Air Service, with 23 SAS, but, despite passing the tests, he was rejected on the grounds that he was too famous.

Lewis eventually left the TA with the cryptic explanation: "My reason for leaving the Paras was personal. I can say nothing – I value my life too much!"

## Civilian Life

Collins was born in Birkenhead. In his youth, he was a member of Liverpool Central Rifle Club, a keen karate and ju-jitsu practitioner, a drummer in his father's band, the Savoy Swingers (from the age of 13), and later worked as a hairdresser alongside Paul McCartney's brother, Mike. When Pete Best, the original drummer for the Beatles, left the band, Mike suggested Lewis as a suitable replacement, however Collins decided not to audition.

After joining several bands, window cleaning and waiting on tables, Collins decided to become an actor. He trained at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and soon appeared on stage and TV.

Collins' most famous role was the co-star in *The Professionals* (1977-83), a television action series about the fictional British secret service branch CI5, in which Collins played the crime-fighting hard man Bodie.

After *The Professionals*, he moved to the US to study film directing and writing at the University of California Los Angeles Film School, before setting up a computer business.

Although he was unable to serve in the SAS as a Reservist, Collins achieved his ambition at least on screen when he played the lead role in the 1982 film *Who Dares Wins*, a film about the SAS inspired by the Iranian Embassy siege in London in 1980.

# Derrick Harwood MBE TD

**Occupation(s): Tool maker, sales representative, historian**

**Units: Territorial Battalions of the Middlesex, Queens and London Regiment, Territorial Army**

## Reserve Service

Harwood joined the Territorial Army in 1958 after seeing an advertisement in the canteen where he worked. As Harwood was an apprentice, many of his workmates were several years older and had all seen action in the Second World War, or through national service in Korea or Malaya. Their reaction to the news that he had joined the TA was mixed with some even feeling it "foolish" to volunteer rather than wait to be called up for National Service. Nonetheless, his employers were very supportive, allowing him seven days leave for his two-week annual camp, provided he took the other seven from his annual holiday allowance.

The unit that he joined, C Company of the 7th Battalion the Middlesex Regiment, had an illustrious history. It was the first infantry unit to answer the Government's call in 1910 for overseas imperial service, with 96% of the unit volunteering. However, Harwood recalls,

"As I walked up the steps of the old drill hall in Enfield Town I knew none of this. I was simply following my mates in a young man's search for something different and exciting without having to leave the day job. I was certain that when I finished my apprenticeship I would be called for National Service. In fact that didn't happen but joining the TA seemed to be the best way to get on at the ground floor of a growing business. Add an annual 'Bounty' of £14.00 and I was all set!"

Harwood's TA career was nearly over before it really began. Three months after joining, Harwood received a letter informing him that he would be discharged. Marching into the Permanent Staff Instructor's office to seek an explanation, he was informed that, as an apprentice toolmaker, he was in a 'reserved occupation'. The Permanent Staff Instructor then presented him with a new form changing his occupation and indicated where he should sign. Having walked into the Permanent Staff Instructor's office as an apprentice toolmaker, he came back out an assistant store man. His military career was back on track.

In 1960 the battalion took on civil defence duties, and one annual camp in four was dedicated to civil defence training and learning about survival after a nuclear attack. Harwood practised casualty rescue, and learnt all about gamma rays and how the unit would try to survive in order to support the civil authorities in the aftermath of a nuclear explosion. Once, in 1962, when Harwood had been promoted to a sergeant, the battalion spent time at the Army School of Home Defence where they were tasked with building their own nuclear shelter. Once construction was completed, the battalion moved underground for 24 hours. But, when the candles mysteriously began to go out after 12 hours, they decided to surface rather quickly.

In 1965, the Middlesex Regiment merged with other Home Counties regiments to form the Queens and London Regiment. This prompted significant changes in Harwood's TA role, as they were now classed as a NATO reinforcement unit and were equipped to the same scale as the Regular battalions.

In 1967 Harwood was promoted to Company Sergeant Major, despite being only 27. Soon after, the company was lined up in the drill hall ready to take part in the Lord Mayor's Show. The local police came in and arrested a soldier for non-payment of a fine. Harwood was not happy to lose him from the parade. Fortunately, a quick collection by the Colour Sergeant walking through the ranks soon covered the fine and the local police station promptly released the soldier.

In 1972 the regiment's role changed once more and it became a Home Defence Battalion. By the time they took part in the National Home Defence exercise 'Square Leg' in 1984, the men were a match for the other regiments and Harwood had been commissioned as an officer. In 1985 he was posted back to his old company as the second in command and two years later became the company commander.

After 38 years in the TA, Harwood retired in 1996. Nonetheless, he remains closely involved with the Reserve Forces and pursues his lifelong interest in military history as the Reserve Forces and Cadet Association's historian and archivist.

## Civilian Life

Harwood was born in Middlesex. After leaving school at 16, he joined a local firm as a toolmaker's apprentice. On completion of his apprenticeship Harwood realised that he would never be happy working in a factory environment and moved to another local firm, first as a draughtsman and then in 1969 as the site engineer responsible for laying high voltage cables. With no formal qualifications, Harwood found that the leadership and management skills he had learnt from 10 years' service with the TA stood him in good stead. Following redundancy in 1977, Harwood changed direction and became a sales representative in the flour industry until 1992.

He then went to work for the Reserve Forces and Cadet Association (RFCA) as the recruiting and publicity officer in support of all the Reserve Force units in greater London. Upon retirement in 2004 he remained with the RFCA as the Lettings Manager, combining his skills as a salesman with his detailed knowledge of the RFCA estate, until he retired from the RFCA for a second time in 2010.

Harwood was awarded an MBE in 1993.

# Anthony Birch Sainsbury

## Occupation(s): Historian

**Unit: Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Tyne Division (1950–1954); London Division (1954-1974)**

## Reserve Service

Sainsbury first joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on HMS Calliope in the Tyne Division in 1950.

When he moved to London in 1954, he transferred to HMS President of the London Division RNVR. Sainsbury became the London Division Supply Officer and later Head of Supply Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve. He went on to become the first Staff Captain to the Admiral Commanding Reserves.

In 1974, he served as a member of the Mitchell Committee, which had been appointed to analyse and determine the role that the RNR should play for the next two decades. Sainsbury and his fellow RNR officer on the Committee, Commodore Patterson, were responsible for a telling paragraph that appears towards the end of the report's introduction:

'In general, our report urges a tighter and more efficient force, but it is important to remember that a voluntary Service should contain an element of fun.'

An exchange between Admiral Sir Terence Lewin, who in 1974 was the Second Sea Lord, and Sainsbury provides a valuable indication of Sainsbury's view on the naval reserves. When Lewin expressed his concern that the Royal Navy and RNR were in danger of being viewed as two separate services, Sainsbury responded; "If we [the Reserves] are good enough, we are the part-time members of a single naval service."

Sainsbury served as an aide-de-camp – an honorary military attendant – to the Queen.

## Civilian Life

Sainsbury was born in Liverpool in 1925 and served as a volunteer in the Liverpool Fire Brigade from 1940 to 1942, and subsequently as a 'Bevin Boy', one of the young men conscripted to work in coal mines up and down Britain, in Northumberland between 1943 and 1945.

At the end of the Second World War, Sainsbury began studies at Trinity College, Oxford, graduating in 1947. After graduation, he became secretary to the School Examinations Board of Durham University, also taking up the role of coach to the university's boat crew, before moving to London University in the same professional capacity in 1954.

During his time in the Reserves, Sainsbury developed a deep interest in naval history and became a well-respected name among naval historians, contributing to numerous publications. His particular area of expertise was the career of Admiral Sir John Duckworth, a Royal Naval officer who served in the major battles of the late 1700s. His work on Duckworth won him the prestigious Julian Corbett Prize in 1966. He also became a frequent book reviewer, known for his concise and sharp appraisals.

Sainsbury was also a vice-president of the Navy Records Society, and chairman of the five-man team that produced the Society's Centenary volume, *British Naval Documents*, in 1993. Roger Knight, a co-author, recalled:

'He corralled us, convened us, deadlined us and dealt with delays and crises. Fanny [his wife] fed the whole team many, many meals. Without his drive the volume – all 1,100 pages of it – would not have happened'.

A testament to the organisation skills that he was renowned for throughout his career, the volume appeared on time, on schedule and on budget.

# Dennis Scott-Masson CBE

**Occupation: Merchant sailor**

**Unit: Royal Naval Reserve**



Image courtesy of Dennis Scott-Masson; used with permission

## Reserve Service

At the outset of the Falklands War in 1982 the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Henry Leach, made a request for merchant ships to support the British response, Operation Corporate, as the Royal Navy did not have sufficient numbers to meet the needs of the rapid response. An RNR officer, Scott-Masson had completed the maritime tactical course at Woolwich and the senior officers' war course at Greenwich.

At the time, Scott-Masson was commanding the P&O Cruise liner Canberra in the Mediterranean, on the final leg of a world cruise. Four other senior officers on board Canberra were Reservists. Days after Argentina invaded on 1 April 1982, the Canberra was in Southampton, undergoing work to fit her out for war. Helicopter pads were added to the decks and hundreds of tons of military stores were loaded.

On 9 April the Canberra sailed to the South Atlantic, carrying Royal Marines 40 and 42 Commandos, and 3 Para. The liner was put through two weeks of exercises near Ascension Island, during which Scott-Masson had to turn the luxury cruise ship into a troop transport carrier. Canberra then joined the British task force and in the morning of 21 May entered San Carlos Bay, soon to be known as 'Bomb Alley'. The sheer size and glaring white hull of Canberra should have made her an obvious target, but during the 21 May over 2,000 troops disembarked without damage to the ship.

After this, Scott-Masson was ordered to sail to meet the Cunard liner QE2 which, like the Canberra, had been requisitioned as a troopship. They met in South Georgia, where Scott-Masson safely ensured the transfer of 3,000 Guards, Gurkhas and Blues and Royals onto the Canberra, all within 24 hours. Scott-Masson returned to Bomb Alley on 2 June, again disembarking the troops without injury or loss.

After Port Stanley was re-captured on 14 June, Canberra returned to San Carlos Bay to take prisoners of war back to the Argentine mainland, before returning the Royal Marines to Southampton. Scott-Masson and the Canberra arrived in Southampton on 11 July to be met by an escort of hundreds of small boats, with thousands of people watching from the harbour side.

The Canberra was nicknamed 'The Great White Whale' by ITN's Jeremy Hands. Over the 94 days the Canberra had been in the conflict, she travelled over 25,000 miles, took over 5,000 of troops into battle,

repatriated over 4,000 prisoners of war and treated 172 wounded members of the Armed Forces.

Following the Falklands campaign, Scott-Masson was awarded the CBE and made aide-de-camp to The Queen.

## **Civilian Life**

Scott-Masson was born in 1929, the descendent of two generations of merchant seamen. He was educated at Pangbourne Nautical College, before joining Shaw, Savill & Albion, a shipping company, as an apprentice on a troop ship.

In 1950 Scott-Masson started working for another British shipping company, Peninsular & Orient (P&O), where he was to stay for the rest of his career. He commanded several P&O vessels, including the 24,000 ton steamship Chusan, the school-ship Uganda, and the luxury cruise ship Oriana. Scott-Masson first served on the Canberra in 1964, as Chief Officer, and subsequently became Staff Captain before commanding it on two occasions.

Scott-Masson was extremely shy around passengers and often asked colleagues to host the captain's table with the excuse that he was expecting bad weather, even in the calmest of seas.

# Post-Cold War to the Present Day

The operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have heralded a new chapter in the history of the Reserves, with large-scale mobilisations for all three Services. Since 2008, around 2,300 Reservists per year have been called out for operations around the world, while at the peak in 2004, Reservists made up 20% of those forces in Iraq and 12% in Afghanistan.

Since the end of the Cold War, Reserves from all Services have also played an important role in major national events. For instance, 2,100 Reserve personnel provided support to the police and other civil authorities during Op Olympics – the 2012 London Olympic Games – making up around 15% of the Armed Forces personnel working on the Games.

## Royal Naval Reserve

Since the end of the Cold War the Royal Naval Reserve has worked ever closer with the Regular Services. In 2003 Reservists were mobilised for the operations in Iraq and subsequently in Afghanistan. Over the post-Cold War period Naval Reserves have also served in Bosnia, Kosovo, Sierra Leone and East Timor, operating both at sea and on land.

The post-Cold War period has seen numerous changes in the RNR. In 1993 the Royal Naval Reserve underwent a historic change in its structure; the previously separate Women's Royal Naval Reserve – popularly known as the Wrens - and the Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Reserve Service became part of the Royal Naval Reserve. Meanwhile, in 2007 there was another important change in the uniform of Naval Reserves. The 'R' was removed from the Reservist uniform, meaning that members of the Royal Navy and its Reserve could no longer be distinguished. At the same time the Maritime Reserve was formed through the joining together of the Royal Naval Reserve and the Royal Marine Reserve.

Royal Marine Reservists have taken part in a number of deployments in the last two decades. All RMR personnel have passed through the same rigorous command course as their Regular counterparts, wear the same coveted Green Beret, and serve alongside the Regular Corps. They provide general duties Marines on operations, but also a number of niche roles such as landing craft crews, media operators and civil-military co-operation specialists. Since 2002 the RMR has supported operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and the only currently serving member of the Royal Navy with a George Cross is a member of the Royal Marines Reserve. Since the end of the Cold War, the Royal Marines Reserve has also seen active service in Bosnia, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, the Caribbean, Georgia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## The Territorial Army / The Army Reserve

The end of the 1990s saw the Territorial Army start to take on a more high-profile role, as the Regular Army increasingly becoming engaged in overseas operations. Since 1998 approximately 10% of all forces deployed on operations have been Reservists. Around 6900 personnel were mobilised for Operation TELIC, the invasion of Iraq, and the TA continues to provide around 1,200 troops each year to support the Regular Army in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans.

Perhaps less commonly known is the wider role of the Army Reserve around the world, supporting peace support operations and capacity building initiatives. For example, in September 2013, 28 TA soldiers from 4th Battalion the Mercian Regiment spent two weeks training 1,800 soldiers from the Ugandan People's Defence Force in basic infantry and counter-insurgency tactics. 4 Mercian's experiences over the last decade demonstrate the varied contribution that Army Reserves have made - they have deployed soldiers to Afghanistan, Iraq and Cyprus, mobilised for the 2012 Olympics and been on exercise to Denmark, USA, Cyprus, Italy, Northern Ireland and Uganda.

In 2004 the Government announced a restructuring of the Army, leading to the TA being aligned to Regular regiments. This saw the 15 TA infantry battalions reduced to 14, but the overall strength of the Force remained the same.



As with their predecessors, today's Reserves continue to transfer skills between their civilian and Reserve roles. Perhaps more vividly than other roles, medical Reserves demonstrate the important relationship between the civilian and military roles. Medical personnel in theatre provide extremely high quality care to all – whether they are civilian, Allied Forces or enemy personnel. Even from the early days of the First World War, when Reservist Alexander Fleming was making advances in the understanding of infections, battlefield medicine has led to advances in civilian healthcare, and this is still the case today. For medics like Lt Col Ian Nesbitt, serving as a Reserve allows him to return to the NHS with a huge amount of operational experience, bringing direct benefit to the civilian healthcare system. Substantial numbers of Army Reserve medical personnel have been deployed to Afghanistan and during the last ten years, on operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan, the Reserves have met around 50% of the Armed Forces' medical commitment.

In 2013, plans to significantly increase the size of the TA were announced, and the Force was renamed the Army Reserve. The Army's target is to have 30,000 trained Reservists in place by 2018. Later in the same year a new capability for the Army Reserve was announced, with the creation of a Joint Cyber Reserve, designed to work alongside Regulars working in cyber security to safeguard vital data and computer systems from attack.

## **The Royal Auxiliary Air Force**

The Royal Auxiliary Air Force has also been mobilised in the post-Cold War era, and undergone several structural changes.

During the Gulf War in 1991, two Reservist squadrons – 4626 (Aeromedical) and 4624 (Movements) - were mobilised, and many individual Reservists served at UK-based headquarters and air bases in support of Operation Granby. Just 10 days after receiving call up papers, 160 men and women of 4626 Squadron arrived at their bases in Saudi Arabia. Only 48 hours after arriving, a scud missile attack saw 4626 Squadron become the first RAuxAF unit to come under fire since the Second World War. Almost immediately after the end of Op Granby, the RAuxAF was again mobilised to support Operation Provide Comfort, the humanitarian mission to aid displaced Kurds.

An important milestone was reached in 1994, when after a gap of 37 years, Reservists were again allowed to serve as aircrew. Initially these were ex-Regulars with recent experience, including both pilots and other aircrew. In 1996, following this trial, it was decided to establish 9 further Hercules Reserve crews to serve in the RAuxAF.

In 1997, the RAuxAF underwent another period of growth, and an Air Transportable Surgical Squadron and five Role Support Squadrons were formed. At the same time, squadrons of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (RAFVR) were absorbed by the RAuxAF to form a single volunteer Reserve force for the RAF. This led to a period of major expansion for the RAuxAF, and in the last two decades RAuxAF personnel have provided support to overseas operations in Kosovo, Macedonia, Albania, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Turkey, Kuwait and Sierra Leone.

As with the other Reserve services, over the last decade the RAuxAF has become increasingly integrated into the RAF, and in 2003, the RAuxAF undertook its first large-scale mobilisation for over 50 years. More than 900 people, over 70% of its trained strength, were called into full-time service and deployed to many locations overseas and across the UK.

# Chris Bailes QVRM

**Occupation(s): Aircraft electrician**

**Unit: Commander Maritime Reserves at Navy Command HQ in Portsmouth**



**Image courtesy of Chris Bailes; used with permission**

## Reserve Service

Born in April 1960, Chris Bailes joined the Royal Navy at the age of 16, as an aircraft electrician. He served mainly with the Commando Helicopter Force on deployments to Northern Ireland, Kuwait and the Balkans.

In 1994, Bailes left the Navy as a Chief Petty Officer and joined the Royal Naval Reserves as part of the first batch of aircraft engineers to join the Air Branch. Initially, Bailes was billeted in workshops, where he used the skills he had learned in his new civilian role at AgustaWestland. His billet was moved to 848 Squadron where Bailes became Training Unit Co-ordinator for RNR engineering personnel on Commando Helicopter Force (CHF). He took this role very seriously, organising structured training throughout the year as well as organising a trip to Norway for eight reservists to requalify for their Arctic Survival Training. Bailes also involved the RNR Air Branch Engineers in aircraft moves, preparing them for loading onto aircraft destined for Afghanistan as well as receipting them back from Afghanistan and rebuilding them for flight. It was for this work that Bailes was recognised and awarded the Queen's Volunteer Reserve Medal (QVRM) in the Queen's Birthday honours list of 2009.

In February 2009, Bailes was deployed to Afghanistan, where he spent most of his time in Kandahar on UK and NATO coalition operations. Bailes was also part of the Armed Forces support to the London 2012 Olympic Games, during which he worked as a team leader.

Since returning to the UK, Bailes has worked hard to become a member of the Maritime Reserves Field Gun Crew and assists in the preparation and execution of the bi-annual South Coast Proms held at HMS Excellent, Whale Island.

## Civilian Life

Upon leaving the regular Royal Navy in 1994, Bailes joined AgustaWestland, which supplies a wide range of military helicopters including Chinook, Apache and Lynx, as a logistical and technical support manager.

Bailes has found the skills and understanding he developed whilst serving in the RNR hugely beneficial in his job at Agusta Westland, a key supplier to the UK Armed Forces.

# Eileen Munson

**Occupation(s): Senior nurse lecturer at University of South Wales, Advanced Nurse Practitioner General Practice.**

**Unit: HMS CAMBRIA, Royal Naval Reserve**



Image courtesy of Eileen Munson; used with permission

## Reserve Service

Lt Cdr Munson has been a serving Naval Officer at HMS CAMBRIA, a Royal Naval Reserve Unit in Cardiff, for the past 30 years. From 1996 to 1997 she worked as the Senior Officer in charge of the midwifery unit at the Royal Naval Hospital in Gibraltar. In 2005 she served on board HMS Illustrious as the ship's first nurse practitioner, and in July 2006 Lt Cdr Munson was mobilised to work as a nurse practitioner to the Camp Abu Naji in Al Amarah Iraq, where she experienced attacks on an almost daily basis whilst helping to care for the battalion of 1,000 men and women. During the final weeks of her tour she also worked at the British Primary Care Centre in Shaibah.

Her second experience of war occurred in 2011 when Munson deployed to Afghanistan as part of the Royal Navy Herrick 14 Team to serve as the Advanced Nurse Practitioner at Camp Souter in Kabul. Besides being the Senior Nurse for the camp, her other prime role was to train the Afghanistan National Army in first aid and battlefield advanced care.

## Civilian Life

Eileen's passion for General Practice started in 1991 when she began working in Birmingham, in a joint role as a practice nurse and midwife. She has been working as senior lecturer for the past 11 years and continues to do session work as a Nurse Practitioner.

Eileen has been nursing for 30 years, having trained at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff. Since qualifying she has worked at the Cardiff Royal Infirmary, working in ITU, female surgery, renal medicine and paediatrics, prior to becoming a Registered Midwife. After a period as a Practice Nurse in Birmingham, Eileen returned to Wales and worked as a General Practice Nurse Manager in Gwent, where she was also nominated to become a member of the Monmouth Local Health Group Executive Board. In 2002, she joined the Community Health team at the University of Glamorgan, as a Senior Lecture. She currently works one day a week as Advanced Nurse Practitioner at Penygraig Surgery in the Rhondda, and is senior lecturer at the University of South Wales. She is chair of the Welsh Practice Nurse Association, and is an editing member of the Practice Nursing Journal Board.

# Ian Nesbitt

**Occupation(s): Intensive care consultant anaesthetist**

**Unit: 201 (Northern) Field Hospital (V), Territorial Army**



Image courtesy of Ian Nesbitt; used with permission

## Reserve Service

After graduating in medicine, Ian signed up to the Territorial Army, joining the 201 (Northern) Field Hospital (V) in 1991. The unit provides hospital infrastructure in the field to deployed ground troops both on exercise and on operations, administering high quality care to all, whether they be civilian, Allied Forces or even enemy personnel. It is entirely staffed by Reserves, who are predominantly employed by the NHS in their civilian lives.

During his time in the Reserve forces, Ian was involved in a range of activities, including serving as an individual reinforcement alongside Regular counterparts, but also as part of a deployed TA unit. His deployments ranged from peacekeeping in Kosovo to insertion operations during the initial Iraq invasion in 2003. Ian also served on war-fighting operations on two tours of Afghanistan.

Ian's first operational deployment was in 2002 to Camp Bondsteel, the main US base in Kosovo. This was to be a gentle introduction to operational deployment, partly due to the nature of the peacekeeping work which meant relatively low numbers of casualties.

The following year, Ian was part of the multi-national coalition force entering Iraq in early 2003, initially attached to 33 Field Hospital and later the 1 Close Support Medical Regiment in support of 1st UK Armoured Division. This was a more mobile deployment than Ian's previous experience in Kosovo, and involved the setting up of tented medical facilities at a variety of locations in southern Iraq until British troops entered the Presidential palace in Basra on the banks of the Shatt al-Arab waterway.

Over the last ten years, during the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Reserves have met around fifty percent of the Armed Forces' medical commitment. Substantial numbers of TA medical personnel have been deployed to Afghanistan, and Ian completed two tours in the country. During both of his deployments, Ian was part of the helicopter-borne Medical Emergency Response Team, which brings highly skilled medical care forward to the battlefield in order to support the most severely wounded patients, usually while operating in a hostile and austere environment. Ian also worked in the intensive care unit's emergency department and in operating theatres in Camp Bastion, which has been described as the busiest trauma hospital in the world. In Ian's own words,

'Typically, one sees more in several months at Camp Bastion than during a professional lifetime

elsewhere. It is a testament to the superb levels of skill, team-working and organisation through the whole chain of care and evacuation that the proportion of soldiers who survive their injuries has never been higher. It is a source of great pride to me that I was part of British military medicine during this period.'

As well as deployments around the globe, throughout his time in the Reserves Ian has participated in training exercises in places as diverse as Germany and Oman. In addition to delivering medical care on the ground, Ian was also a member of the Battlefield Advanced Trauma Life Support training team, responsible for training individual medical troops in pre-hospital care prior to deployment. Alongside this, Ian worked as a member of the Faculty for Army Medical Services Training Centre, designing and delivering training for units before they were deployed on operations.

Ian retired from the TA in 2013.

## **Civilian Life**

Ian studied medicine at Newcastle University, and is now a consultant anaesthetist in one of the UK's busiest intensive care units, at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne. He provides anaesthesia for a range of surgical procedures, including major vascular, emergency and general surgery.

As a direct result of his military experiences, Ian was appointed the Newcastle Upon Tyne NHS Trust's lead for major incident planning. Ian's deployments and military training not only provided him with experience managing major incidents; they also helped him gain the necessary skills to develop planning and training for the hospital trust to improve its response to any major civilian incident.

Ian has been particularly involved in facilitating the implementation of better management of massive haemorrhages, by presenting and sharing expertise locally, regionally and nationally. The clinical and logistical issues surrounding this have largely been developed and better understood thanks to the UK's military experiences over the last decade.

# Bryony St Clair Ellison

**Occupation:** Investor relations manager

**Unit:** HMS President, Royal Naval Reserve



Image courtesy of Bryony St Clair Ellison; used with permission

## Reserve Service

Ellison joined HMS PRESIDENT, based in London, in 2002, having moved to London after studying at Southampton, where she had spent three years at the university's Royal Naval Unit. After initial junior officer training, she joined the amphibious warfare branch, specialising as an amphibious primary watch keeper coordinating the movement of Royal Marines from ship to shore by landing craft and helicopter. In this role Lt Ellison deployed to Sierra Leone in 2006 with HMS Albion and, once again on HMS Albion, to the Baltic in 2007.

More recently Lieutenant Ellison was involved in the Armed Forces support to the London 2012 Olympics and was responsible for organising the Royal Navy's flag raising teams in all the medal ceremonies.

Currently, Ellison works at HMS President helping prepare sailors to take the Royal Navy's officer interview – the Admiralty Interview Board. She is also HMS President's training officer for the Amphibious Warfare branch.

Lieutenant Ellison has immensely enjoyed the experiences the RNR has presented, thanks to the variety of opportunities available.

## Civilian Life

Ellison works as Investor Relations Manager for a private equity company helping to finance small UK businesses.

Ellison is a keen athlete; she enjoys skiing, sailing and scuba diving, and ran the London Marathon in 2009. She is married with a young daughter.



# Diana Maddox

**Occupation: Security Adviser at London Stansted Airport**

**Unit: 39 Signal Regiment (Special Communications), 31 Signal Regiment and 71 Signal Regiment, Army Reserve**



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## Reserve Service

Diana's role in the Reserves was as a Class 1 Radio Communications Operator which involved managing communication exercises in the field and training fellow soldiers. She took part in regular exercise and training weekends, as well as a two week annual camp each year.

Exercise weekends consisted of a communications exercise with various troops deployed in the field communicating to each other and back to the main communications centre, where Diana was coordinating all communications traffic. The nature of the role was special communications so she was involved in the encryption and decryption of messages. Diana particularly enjoyed decrypting garbled incoming messages by second guessing what the paper tape that made up the message should have read when it had not been transmitted correctly due to airwave problems. These exercises were always a challenge, involving very little sleep but a great sense of satisfaction when the job was done.

Military training weekends mainly consisted of battle skills and fitness training. Diana was a member of the shooting team and attended several competitions, however the big prize always eluded her. She also participated in a number of adventure training weekends with the TA where she had the opportunity to learn to abseil, rock climb, canoe and even ski.

She passed her Heavy Goods Vehicle test with the TA and enjoyed driving the big trucks to and from weekends and cross-country. Recounting her first time driving a truck down an almost vertical hill, Diana said:

"I remember being told that whatever I did I mustn't put my foot on the clutch – it was a good job I trusted the person giving me that advice otherwise I would have ended at the bottom of the hill in a mangled heap! And to top all those experiences, I met my husband whilst guarding a trench on a wet and freezing TA weekend."

Summer camp was also an adventure – whilst the rest of the regiment was back in chilly England, Diana was posted to Cyprus twice and Gibraltar once. Diana recalls that "operating a radio in sunny climes beats operating in a muddy field in English weather any day – and when off duty, a bit of sightseeing is always in order."



## Civilian Life

Diana works at London Stansted Airport as a security adviser ensuring that the proper security procedures are upheld throughout the airport. She also acts as an airport threat assessor, handling telephone/verbal bomb threats, suspect packages or passengers and incidents, and liaises with the police to take appropriate action.

Diana is responsible for investigating security breaches which occur from time to time, reacting quickly to contain threats, investigate cases and identify those responsible. This included a recent instance of a passenger trying to transport live lobsters, which were successfully rescued by airport authorities and released into the sea near their home.

# Charles Ackroyd

**Occupation: District judge**

**Units: Royal Marine Reserves, Territorial Army Parachute Regiment (V)**



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## Reserve Service

Charles joined the Royal Marines Reserves as a 17-year old schoolboy, and commissioned as an officer at the age of 19. Like many in the RMR, in addition to the Norway-based extreme cold weather and survival training, he became a highly trained parachutist, and in 1981, as a lieutenant, he qualified as a parachute instructor.

In 1994, at the rank of major, Charles transferred to the Territorial Army's Parachute Regiment (V), and took up a place in Southampton University's Officer Training Corps. Upon promotion to lieutenant colonel at the age of 44, Charles took over as Commanding Officer and two and a half years later moved to the Territorial Army Officer Selection Board based in Westbury (which at the time was separate to the regular Army Board).

In 2000 Charles was promoted to the rank of colonel, leaving the TA Parachute Regiment to become part of the General Staff. His first job on promotion was in the Future Army planning team in Upavon, where many of the changes in the structure of the British Army which we see today were already being discussed. However, this role was interrupted by a three-month deployment to Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in September 2001, where he formed part of the stabilisation force trying to rebuild the country after the civil war.

Charles returned to the UK as Deputy Commander 43 (Wessex) Brigade, becoming the highest ranked TA officer in the West Country. In 2005, he deployed again, this time to the US Corp Headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq. During his challenging 6 month tour of duty, Charles used many of the skills he had developed in both his military and civilian careers to mentor the Iraqi brigadier who was in the process of setting up the Iraqi Army's legal service, as well as prosecuting in the Central Criminal Court of Iraq. The development of a robust legal system was an important step in allowing the newly-formed government of the country to operate.

Since returning to the UK, Charles has held a policy role in the MOD, using both his legal and military backgrounds to support crucial military operations.

## **Civilian Life**

Charles always wanted to be a soldier and he joined the Royal Marines Reserve at the age of 17 while attending school in Dorset. Charles' growing interest in the law led him to pursue a profession as a solicitor in his father's Southampton-based firm; though he continued to balance this with his career in the Reserves. He came to specialise in criminal and family law, before being appointed a district judge in 1998 in Portsmouth – a role he still carries out today.

# **Chris Owen**

**Occupation: IT project manager**

**Unit: 2IC, Royal Auxiliary Air Force**

## **Reserve Service**

Chris was commissioned into the Royal Auxiliary Air Force in 1992. Upon completion of his training, he became one of a small group of Maritime Intelligence Officers within Number 1 Maritime Headquarters Unit (MHU). His principle role was a submarine analyst working at the NATO Eastern Atlantic Command Centre at Northwood in the UK, where he used a variety of tools to collate reports on submarine activity. The key role of the RAF Nimrods in submarine hunting was the rationale behind the RAF holding a number of Maritime Intelligence Officers.

In 1999, Number 1 MHU became a wider-ranging organisation looking at supporting all forms of headquarters worldwide, rather than just the maritime domain as previously. To reflect this, 1 MHU was turned into a squadron and, given the unit's existing links with London, was privileged to be able to reform as 600 City of London Squadron, a Battle of Britain squadron with an illustrious past as the highest scoring night fighter squadron of the Second World War. Chris continued to progress from Pilot Officer to Flying Officer and by 2003 was a flight lieutenant.

During the 2003 Gulf War, Chris was mobilised to the MOD in London, before taking on the role of the INTEL Flight training officer at 600 Squadron and, after promotion to squadron leader, became the Senior Intelligence Officer.

Following some changes in command, Chris then became the 2IC Squadron second in command for four years up to 2013, which included a brief spell commanding the squadron.

Chris stayed with 600 Squadron until 2013, when he was promoted to wing commander and appointed to Air Command as the Liaison Officer to Greater London Reserve Forces and Cadets Association. He now represents the RAF on a number of groups and committees including the London RFCA Management board where he is Vice Chairman (AIR), the Armed Forces Community Covenant grant awarding panel and the tri-service Regional Employer Engagement Board for London.

## **Civilian Life**

Chris was born in Plymouth, a historically naval town, but was drawn to aviation from early childhood.

Attending Plymouth College, he joined the RAF section of the Combined Cadet Force and went on to become the senior cadet warrant officer. Chris gained his solo gliding certificate from the cadets and also took part in a joint services camp in Gibraltar.

In 1983, Chris joined Sainsbury's as a trainee manager and went on to become an assistant manager. In part due to his interest in technology, Chris was seconded to the Scanning Implementation team when bar code scanning first came about. After completing his secondment Chris transferred to Homebase which was then owned by Sainsbury's and rose to the post of Retail Systems Applications Manager after over a decade of loyal service.

Chris' key achievements included working on the introduction of the first loyalty card in the UK, establishing a new horticultural ordering system and playing a crucial role in converting Texas stores into branches of Homebase following an acquisition.

Chris' career took a different turn when he joined a software logistics company as a project manager setting up computer systems for a wide range of customers mainly in Europe. Chris has since joined the support division of the company where he still works today, with responsibility for some hundred associates and a revenue of over 75 million US dollars.