



**Veterans & Families – Listening Project**

**email: [veteransnfamilies@yahoo.com](mailto:veteransnfamilies@yahoo.com)**

**[www.vflp.org.uk](http://www.vflp.org.uk)**



# Welcome to our September Newsletter 2023

Summer is a season that radiates warmth, optimism, as well as positive energy. It denotes a calm and peaceful ambiance with clear blue skies. Radiant, lovely, lustrous summertime days, luminous and peaceful, with a golden sun. The summer season is also a time for festivals and celebrations in many regions throughout the world. As well as time for THE V&F-LP newsletter.



**HOT TOPIC**  
**Grab a Snack & Come-On Right Back**

## **Ben Wallace's resignation letter and the Prime Minister's response: 31 August 2023**

Letter from the Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP to the Prime Minister announcing his resignation, and the Prime Minister's response.



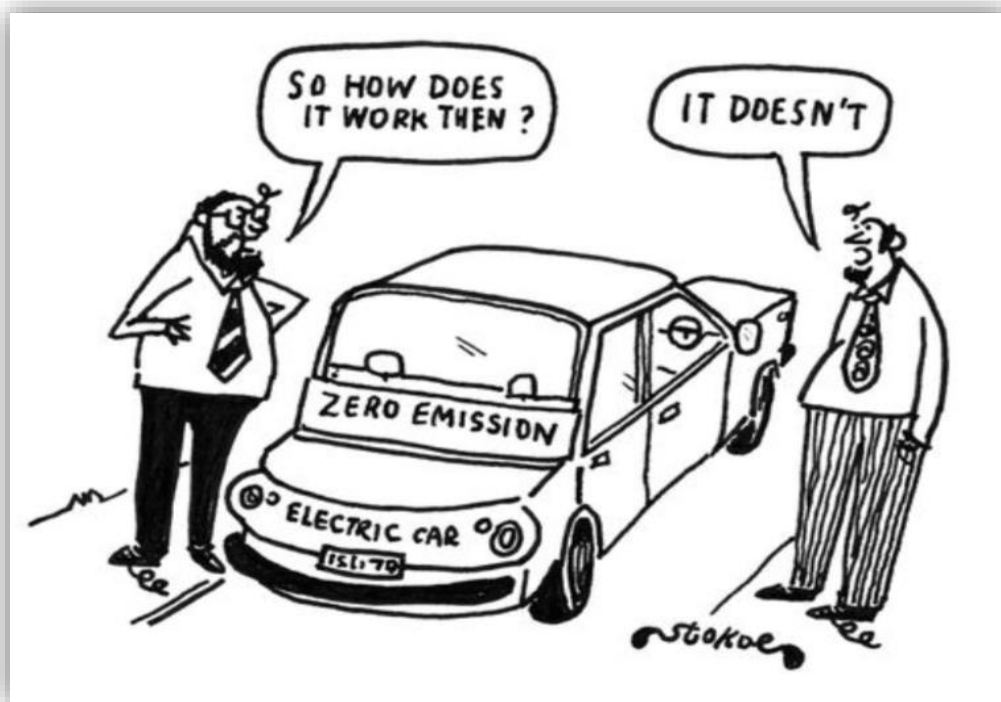
**Ben Wallace**



**Grant Shapps**

Secretary of State for Defence

# The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP



## Veteran-run start-up gives military body armour second life

A green start-up has developed a process to recycle body armour fibres, which could reduce emissions and save money.



A green tech start-up has developed a process to recycle end-of-life body armour fibres, which could retain high-quality protection for soldiers, reduce emissions and save money.

When body armour used by soldiers expires, it is currently incinerated, resulting in the loss of the valuable fibres. With the help of nearly £500,000 of DASA (Defence and Security Accelerator) funding, Uplift360, based in London, has developed an eco-friendly and low-energy method to reuse the fibres in the war-zone worn gear instead.

This uses a sustainable system to break down the fibres, often commercially referred to as Kevlar, a strong, heat-resistant synthetic fibre used in armour, while preserving its strength so it can be recycled back into the supply chain.

In future, this breakthrough process could lead to substantial cost savings for Defence. Kevlar is estimated to be 85 times more expensive than steel, so reusing this material brings benefits for both the environment and spending.

## GONG FOR CRISIS RESPONDERS

A NEW medal has been announced recognising humanitarian service in the UK and abroad.

King Charles approved the decoration, which will be awarded to troops and civilians deployed in response to the likes of conflict-related crises, epidemics or natural disasters.

Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden called the step "a fitting tribute to heroes".



[soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://soldiermagazine.co.uk) AUGUST 2023 9



*"Let's try this one more time, soldier - where's the other shoe?!"*

# Claiming Your Pension



Don't forget that if you are still serving, or if you are a Veteran, when you reach pension age you will need to apply for your pension for it to be paid.

If you are still serving, you should submit an **AFPS Form 1** [bit.ly/46JpOqB](https://bit.ly/46JpOqB) on

JPA, or send to the address on the form.

If you are a Veteran and have not yet reached your pension age (even if you are receiving an Early Departure Payment), you should submit your claim for your preserved pension using the **AFPS Form 8**

[bit.ly/43rakVo](https://bit.ly/43rakVo) around 3 months prior to reaching your pension age (age 60/65 in AFPS75, age 65 in AFPS05 and State Pension Age in AFPS15).

To protect against fraud and potential security issues, the AFPS Form 8 should be completed, witnessed and returned by post to Veterans UK, MP335, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow, G2 8EX.

You can find AFPS Form 8 on **GOV.UK** – search for 'AFPS Form 8'.

If you need support completing your application, please contact your Unit HR Administration (if you are still serving) or JPAC Enquiry Centre on 0800 085 3600.

Once we have received your application, we will let you know we have it and details of your pension payments will follow.



THE NOT FORGOTTEN



THE NOT FORGOTTEN

We're excited to be taking our events programme for 2023-24 all around the UK (and abroad), with a wide range of entertainment, sports, respite and challenge breaks, day trips and afternoon teas.

More details about each event will be published on this page and on our social media channels in due course, so look out for updates!

Alongside our core programme look out for many more community, fundraising, partner and challenge events from our supporter and beneficiary community – we'll be promoting them on here and on our social media channels.

To register your interest in attending any of our 2023-24 events, please email [events@thenotforgotten.org](mailto:events@thenotforgotten.org) stating which **event(s) you would like to apply for in the subject line of your email.**

# Cenotaph Parade: Non-Association Veteran Registration

Register now







## **One-bedroom vacancies at Centenary Lodge, Aldershot**

Stoll is the leading provider of supported housing to Veterans in the country. We currently have one-bedroom vacancies at Stoll's Centenary Lodge, Aldershot.

**Centenary Lodge** on Evelyn Avenue is home to a mixed community of Veterans of different ages, their partners and families. People will also receive tailored support to meet their individual needs, enabling residents to make steps towards living fulfilling and independent lives.

### **Eligibility to apply for housing at Stoll**

Have you served (completed basic training) in the British Armed Forces or Reserve Forces or the Merchant Navy under Arms?

- Do you have support needs due to physical disability, mental health issues, homelessness, or ongoing health conditions?
- Are you a Veteran in need of supported housing?
- If you are the widow/widower of a Veteran and have a support need, you are also eligible to apply.

### **Stoll Tenancies**

We offer starter tenancies of 12 months to 5 years, depending on your property, which will be discussed at your viewing.

Our aim is to provide the housing and support that enables people to lead independent lives. When you are ready to move on from Stoll then we can help. We can provide advice, support you with applications and provide access to grants to help you with the move.

**Contact Anne walker or Sue Suther if you are interested in applying for these vacancies.**

[Anne.walker@stoll.org.uk](mailto:Anne.walker@stoll.org.uk) **020 73852110** [Sue.suther@stoll.org.uk](mailto:Sue.suther@stoll.org.uk)



## Images of Stoll



**“And only YOU can hear this whistle...?”**

## VETS STEP BACK IN TIME

THREE Black Watch veterans made a pilgrimage to their former jungle stomping ground, 44 years after their posting to Belize.

Peter Pendlebury, Danny Donovan and Graham Angus spent two weeks visiting various locations across the country, including British Army Training Support Unit Belize – where, together with station staff, they paused to remember troops who lost their lives while serving there.

Among them was 18-year-old Pte Ian Tasker, who died during the battalion's 1979 deployment to patrol the disputed border with neighbouring Guatemala.



SEPTEMBER 2023 [soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://soldiermagazine.co.uk)



## 'ACTION NOW NEEDED'

■ MILITARY charity Fighting with Pride has called for an immediate hardship fund to support those with urgent needs following the government's apology for the way LGBT+ veterans were historically treated.

Up to 5,000 former personnel are estimated to have been impacted – both mentally and physically – by the so-called "gay ban", which ended in 2000.

The apology came at the same time as a judge-led review into the policy was published. Among its recommendations were substantial financial reparations to those affected.

The charity's Craig Jones said: "We must ensure the government moves quickly, so words translate into action."

[soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://soldiermagazine.co.uk) SEPTEMBER 2023



*"You only think you're barking at nothing.  
We're all barking at something."*



# Divers discover tragic WW1 destroyers off Orkney



**The wrecks of two WW1 Royal Navy destroyers – plus a merchant ship accidentally sunk when rammed by a British warship – have been identified by divers in Orkney.**

HMS Hoste and Negro sank within hours of each other after colliding in December 1916 as they returned to the Fleet's base in Scapa Flow, taking 55 souls with them.

And all aboard the small cargo steamer SS Express died when she was accidentally rammed and sunk by destroyer HMS Granville.

All three wrecks – plus a fourth, as-yet unidentified vessel – were found between Orkney and Fair Isle by the Lost in Waters Deep Expedition, a team of civilian divers determined to give peace of mind to families of seafarers by formally identifying lost vessels and their crew in Scottish waters.

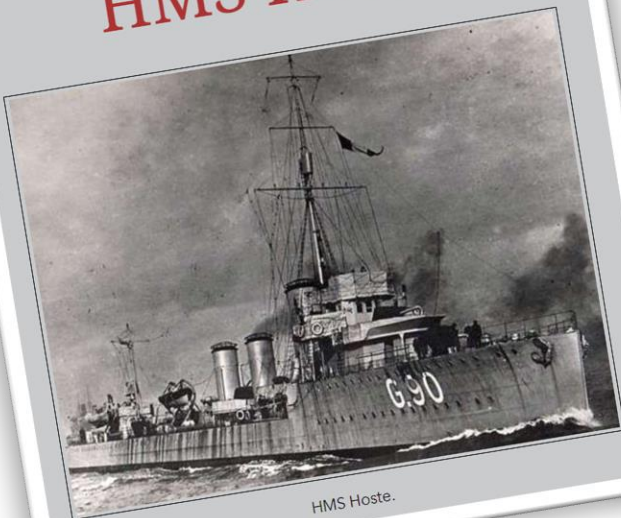
Last year the divers discovered torpedo gunboat HMS Jason, sunk by a mine in the Inner Hebrides in 1917.

# Remembering the First World War

## Naval losses off Northern Scotland, The Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland.

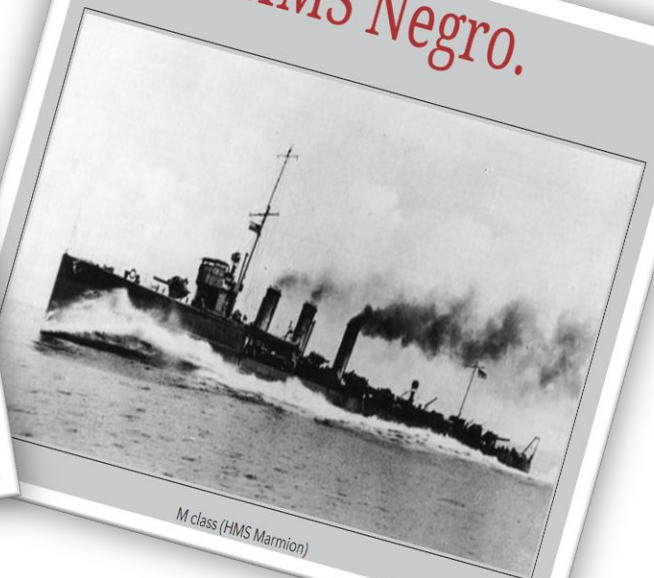
[LostInWatersDeep.co.uk](http://LostInWatersDeep.co.uk)

HMS Hoste



HMS Hoste.

HMS Negro.



M class (HMS Marmion)

# Medals & Awards



## World War One



### The 1914-15 Star Medal

The 1914-1915 Star medal was awarded to those who served anywhere overseas between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915, the near identical 1914 Star (or Mons Star) was presented to those who served in Belgium and France between 5 August and 22 November 1914.

Individuals could only receive one of these two medals. The 1914-1915 Star was never awarded on its own as once military personnel qualified for this medal they were automatically entitled to the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

The Name, Rank and Number were stamped onto the rear.

This medal was given the nickname "Pip", a dog, from a British strip cartoon published in the Daily Mirror from 1919 to 1956.

## British War Medal



This silver medal was issued to British and Imperial Forces who served overseas from the outbreak of war to the Armistice of 11th November 1918. Members of the Red Cross were also entitled to this medal. It was the most common British campaign medal awarded, over six million were awarded. 100,000 bronze medals were awarded to members of the Labour Corps and other units raised in the British Empire.

The Name, Rank and Number are engraved around the edge of the medal.

This medal was given the nickname "Squeak", a penguin, from a British strip cartoon published in the Daily Mirror from 1919 to 1956.

## The Victory Medal



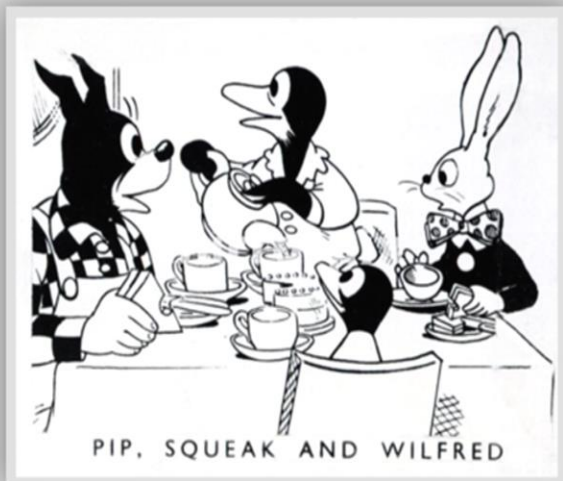
This medal was only issued to those awarded the British War Medal and who had been part of a military unit that had engaged with the enemy in a theatre of war.

The Name, Rank and Number are engraved around the edge of the medal.

This medal was also awarded for mine clearance in the North Sea between November 1918 and November 1919 and for participation in the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War up to 1st July 1920.

This medal was given the nickname "Wilfred", a rabbit, from a British strip cartoon published in the Daily Mirror from 1919 to 1956.





*Every day is...*



# November (Armistice Day) Remembrance



On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> of November (Armistice Day) Remembrance Saturday at Guildford Fire Station.

We will be holding afternoon tea from 16.00 until 18.00. This will consist of scones, cakes, sandwiches, Teas, Coffee ETC.

At 17.50 we will make our way to the appliance bays and will be stood to attention.

We will be presented with a rendition of the poem "In Flanders Field" which will be followed by the last post.

The attendees will be stood down and the event will conclude.

It would be fantastic to see of all services including blue light and military represented at the event.

If you are coming, can you please let me know to allow for catering requirements. If you have any dietary requirements please let me know.

**PS** for your information our ex services veterans hubs now have our own badge/insignia which we will use to put on mugs ETC.

An example of which is below and will appear on any future documentation and or memorabilia.

As you can see it consists of a standard veterans badge and added is a flag which consists of the colours of the emergency services.

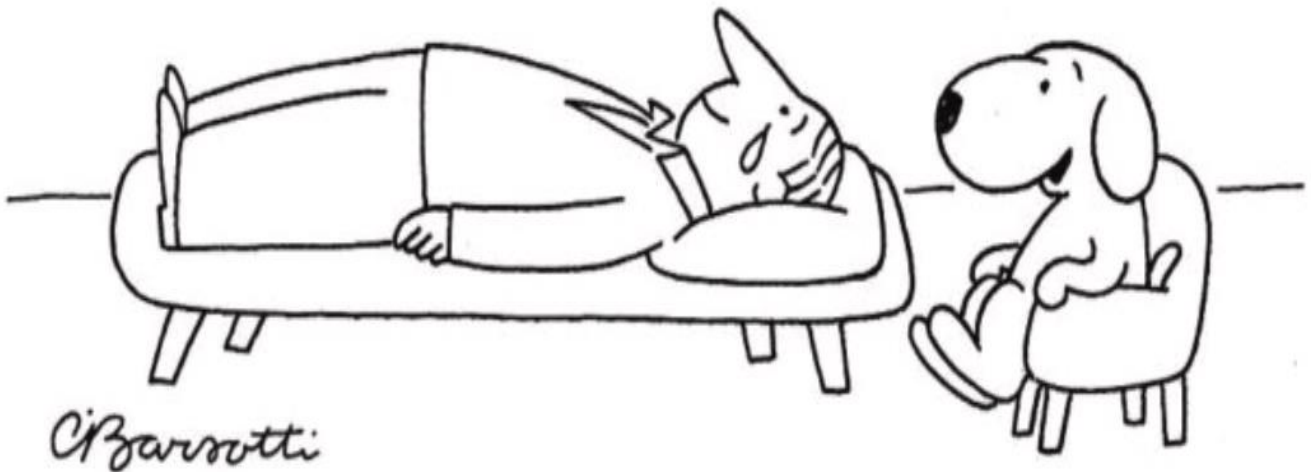


Pat Sheridan BA (Hons)  
Surrey Fire and Rescue Service  
Tel: mob 07711571939  
Email: [pat.sheridan@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:pat.sheridan@surreycc.gov.uk)



Thank you  
**VETERANS**

HONOURING ALL WHO SERVED



*C. Barvotti*

*"Well, I think you're wonderful."*

Official Statistics

# Location of UK armed forces pension and compensation recipients as at 31 March 2023

Published 31 August 2023

This annual Statistical Bulletin provides summary statistics on the location of UK armed forces veterans in receipt of an occupational pension, and service personnel and veterans awarded compensation for service-attributable injury/illness, as at 31 March 2023. Summary statistics are presented by country with lower-level geographical breakdowns also presented for those in the UK.



"Sometimes I don't want to be a good boy..."

# NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM - a place to remember

For many service families, Remembrance Sunday is an important date in the calendar, with many seizing the opportunity to join their local communities in commemorating those lost in the service of the country, while also paying tribute to their loved ones still serving today.

This Remembrance Sunday (12 November), thousands of veterans, serving personnel and members of the public from all over the country will also be coming together at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire for a service at the iconic Armed Forces Memorial.

The Arboretum is the Nation's year-round place to Remember everyone who serves our country in the Armed Forces, emergency services and community voluntary groups. The gigantic Portland stone walls of the Armed Forces Memorial carry more than 16,000 names of service personnel who have been killed whilst on duty, died in operational theatre or were targeted by terrorists since the end of the Second World War. Tragically, new names are added every year, with the walls designed to accommodate thousands of further inscriptions.

The Remembrance Sunday Service of Remembrance is free and open to anyone who would like to participate, advance booking is recommended to guarantee entry and to save on parking. Following the service, visitors can explore the 150-acres of gardens and woodlands at the Arboretum which are home to over 400 memorials, many of which are



dedicated to individual Royal Air Force squadrons, past and present.

However, as the Nation's year-round place to Remember, visitors can uncover the incredible stories of service and sacrifice whatever time of year they visit, aided by a packed programme of events, activities and exhibitions.

The Arboretum is a fantastic place for families and friends to meet up at weekends or during the school holidays with activities including the Stick Man trail, craft and storytelling. Every year in June there is a huge weekend-long, celebration for Armed Forces Weekend and this winter Illuminated Arboretum, a spectacular festive light trail, is returning to the Arboretum between 7–23 December.

The National Memorial Arboretum is open and free to visit every day of the year except Christmas Day and advance booking online is recommended to save on parking. To arrange your visit or to buy tickets for Illuminated Arboretum and other events, visit [www.thenma.org.uk](http://www.thenma.org.uk)



REMEMBRANCE | 21  
NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM — A PLACE TO REMEMBER

# Don't forget



# to thank a vet!

## Follow US Today on:



[www.linkedin.com/in/veterans-families-listening-project-aa9a74b0/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/veterans-families-listening-project-aa9a74b0/)



[www.facebook.com/VeteransnFamiliesListeningProject](http://www.facebook.com/VeteransnFamiliesListeningProject)



@VnF\_LP



Veterans & Families-Listening Project  
Email: [veteransnfamilies@yahoo.com](mailto:veteransnfamilies@yahoo.com)  
[www.vflp.org.uk](http://www.vflp.org.uk)

V&F-LP is an independent member of ASDIC.  
The association of Ex-Service Drop-in Centres.  
Linking Veterans' Drop-ins together across the  
United Kingdom.



Take care  
From the team V&F-LP

All information is correct at the time of going to press & PDF  
Veterans & Families-Listening Project (V&F-LP)  
does not endorse any products or service(s) advertised

\*Subject to change