



BNTVA

the Charity for Atomic Veterans
Registered Charity 1173575

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Monthly Newsletter – July 2018

Welcome to the July 2018 edition of the BNTVA Monthly newsletter. This printed version will be distributed to anyone who requests it. We will aim to take the news items from Social Media and the Newsdesk and collate them together. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please contact us using the above contact details.

ANRAN



We would just like to thank ANRÁN: Luxury Boutique Accommodation in Devon for the donation of a wonderful two-night stay. Alan and Mel were the wonderful recipients after Mel out bid everyone. Alan and Mel are going to use the two-night stay for their wedding anniversary in November.

The auction was held at the Annual Conference in Weston Super Mare in May 2018.

Political Support from Chris Evans MP – Islwyn

For 15 years they put themselves in harm's way to ensure the UK had what it needed to protect itself during the Cold War. Although the weapons are devastating in their power, they ensured the United Kingdom had strong international influence which continues to this day. Those servicemen and women who played their role in the testing endured blinding light, scorching heat and radioactive fallout in the service of all of us. They did it without complaint.

Some were also involved in testing the effects of radiation on human beings, including being asked to fly aeroplanes through highly radioactive mushroom clouds.

Radioactive fallout was the worst risk they faced. It did not cause immediate harm, but instead revealed itself over time through medical issues in later life, and in their children and grandchildren.



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Vice Patron: John Hayes MP
Chaplain: The Very Reverend Nicholas Frayling

There are examples of descendants of test veterans developing genetic disorders and problems including misshapen organs and other developmental issues. Islwyn has a long history of supporting the nuclear test veterans. Risca hosted an annual march organised by the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association since 1993. They did it to recognise and honour the service of nuclear test veterans. I had the honour of joining veterans on the marches, including the last in 2011 after dwindling numbers meant the event could no longer continue.

Despite the personal cost of what they had to do, veterans have waited over 60 years for recognition of their service. At the same time, they have had to face the legacy of the tests. Last month, during Prime Ministers Questions, I asked Theresa May to honour and recognise our nuclear test veterans with a medal. She told me she would look carefully at it.

Since then the Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson promised a medals review and new research into the health effects of nuclear testing on veterans. This is an important victory for the campaigners in the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association who have spent six decades fighting for fairness.

I hope the committee which makes the decision takes into account the exceptional circumstances and service by nuclear test veterans. We owe them all a considerable debt of gratitude and they deserve recognition for their unique service. During the Cold War, our country called on over 20,000 brave service men and women to take part in the British Nuclear Testing Programme.

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Mr Trivett

Can you help Mr Trivett?

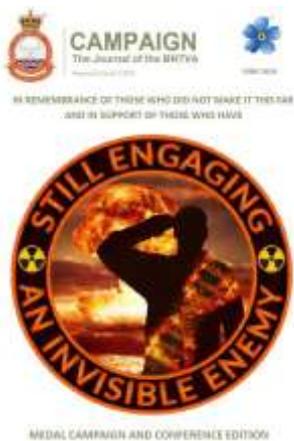
we are looking for anyone that served with 59 Airfield Squadron RE between 12/11/1957 to 19/11/1958.

Or do you know of anyone that was at the Crash Party from 28/02/1958 to 18/09/1958?

If anyone could help Mr Trivett find any Veterans that served at this time he would be very grateful as he has tried but with no success.

If you have any information, please contact Susan at s.musselwhite@bntva and she will pass on the information to Mr Trivett.

Campaign Magazine

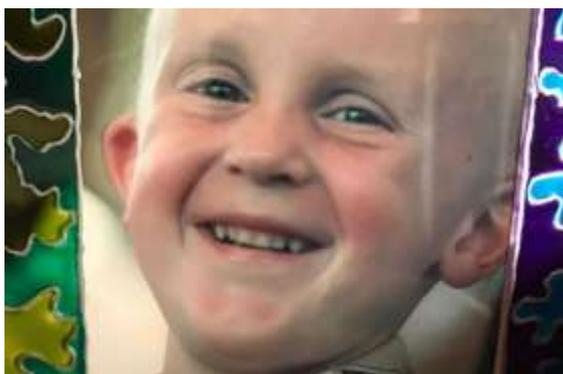


What would you like in your new look BNTVA Campaign magazine?

Would you like to write something for the magazine? If you are looking for a comrade that you haven't seen in years or would you like to tell your account of your time at the tests we would like your stories.

Please contact editor@bntva.com by 1st September 2018 to get your article included in the next edition.

Family of boy killed by rare cancer ask Defence Secretary if it is linked to Britain's nuclear tests



The family of a boy killed by a rare cancer aged just seven believe it could be the result of Britain's nuclear tests in the 1950s.

Wayne Kinson's relatives fear his veteran grandad passed on horrific health issues from being ordered to take part in atomic experiments during the Cold War and have begged the Defence Secretary for new research.

RAF Sergeant Roy Kirkland was ordered to sleep just half a mile from the target area for a nuclear bomb and had to pick up dead seabirds from Ground Zero. His two daughters later fell ill, and grandson Wayne was diagnosed with a cancer of the nervous system at age three.



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He died after four years of aggressive treatment for a rare neuroblastoma. He is one of thousands of relatives of test veterans who have suffered health issues such as cancers, limb deformities, extra teeth and spina bifida.



Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson has met with activists and ordered a review into giving veterans medals and launching a new health study.

Wayne's aunt Denise Venning said: "New research is wonderful news but the biggest health issue for these veterans now is their descendants. Any new study really must include them.

"Their children and grandchildren have terrible problems to deal with, and their families deserve to know as much as possible about it."

Roy wrote a memoir of his time at the bomb tests on Christmas Island in 1958, revealing he not only lived in a tent next to a target area that was turned to glass by the bombs, but was also told to clean and pack contaminated instruments used by scientists to monitor the blast.

Denise said: "My dad used to say all they had on was a pair of shorts and when the bombs went off

they were simply told to look the other way. Afterwards he was told to clear the beach of all the dead birds and debris from the bombs using his bare hands.

"He was devastated to see the illnesses in our family and particularly when Wayne was diagnosed he would say 'I wonder if it was anything to do with me'."

Roy, then 21, was sent to the South Pacific as Britain prepared to detonate three A-bombs and 2 H-bombs before a global testing ban.





Wayne's aunt Melissa, left, and mum Claire, right, have also suffered rare illnesses

His memoir reveals that after a few months his unit was ordered to move from the main camp, which was 30 miles from the blast zone, to 'B site', right next to the target area.

Roy wrote: "Scientists were going to explode an A-bomb. This was to be done by putting the bomb in a large basket slung under a flying barrage balloon tethered to the floor by steel cables rooted in large concrete pads. Now we knew what those concrete pads half a mile from our tent lines were for."

He said they were not moved back to main camp during the actual explosions, but to a level area near 'B site'. He wrote: "We huddled together in total terror, stunned and silent by this phenomenon. There are not enough words to describe everything at that moment in time. I would say it took at least half an hour for us to contemplate even talking in any semblance of normality.

"What right had the British government of that day to subject me and thousands more to that torture without facts being explained to us first about the after-effects? We stayed at B site as life went on, writing letters home and yearning for the day when we could go home."

Roy returned home to Burton-on-Trent, wife Angela and baby Denise, who was born while he was away. The couple went on to have four more children, two with chronic health problems. Daughter Melissa Cooke has severe thyroid and joint issues, and her son was born with a faulty heart valve. Another daughter, Claire Kinson - Wayne's mum - has had skin cancer, chronic fatigue syndrome, and has unexplained lesions on her legs.

Roy died of acute kidney failure in 2004, aged just 67.

The veterans are waiting to hear what form the new study will take.



Message to all our Nuclear families from Sandie

We are now nearing our super annual Nuclear Test Reunion event at Pontins Western Super Mare again, it was such a success last year and with your help will be an even better one this year. The site is clean, the food fantastic and the staff very helpful. With the chalets all being ground level there is plenty of room to get about and special amenities for the disabled. It is such a great 4-day event and at a cost of £80.00 per person half board is a wonderful offer. Plenty to do with quizzes, forums and lots of laughs.

Monday 24th September - Friday 28th September 2018

If you would like to attend, please email or call me for an application form and I can either post it or email it to you. Or if you prefer you can book direct on 01934-428200 or 01934-428204 please remember to quote NTR when you book.

Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph

Would you like to attend the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph in November?



If you would like to please email chairman@bntva.com or write to the address above and register your interest.

Please include

First and last name
Date of birth
Town of birth
Telephone number
Address including post code

We have limited number of spaces so please register interest by the 20th August 2018.



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