



BNTVA
the Charity for Atomic Veterans
Registered Charity 1173575

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Monthly Newsletter – February 2019

Welcome to the February 2019 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.

Soldiering On Awards



Douglas Hern who has been a trustee of the BNTVA for over 20 years has been shortlisted in the Soldiering On Awards in the Lifetime Achievement Category.

On February 13th a launch event was held at the House of Lords, which Doug attended. He was accompanied by Sir John Hayes. The event was very well attended, and we look forward to the awards ceremony on 5th April 2019.

Doug is pictured with Earl Howe, Vicky Michelle and Carly Paoli.

Public Health England

Our chairman wrote to Public Health England asking for details of how the information from the NRPB Study was captured. Some Veterans had been worried that their medical records had been flagged. They were right, Public Health England has a database of the Nuclear participants and check this regularly against the Mortality and Cancer databases held by the NHS. The full response was:



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Chaplain: The Very Reverend Nicholas Frayling



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

By email

chairman@bntva.com

Our ref: 14/01/fb/1070

Public Accountability Unit
Wellington House
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11 February 2019

Dear Mr Owen

Re: British nuclear test veterans

Thank you for your emails received on 14 January 2019 addressed to Public Health England (PHE). Your request for information has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). I can confirm that PHE holds the information you have specified.

I have addressed your request in the order raised:

1) *Exactly how has this information been collected, are medical records flagged in some way?*

To collect cancer incidence data relating to study participants living in England and Wales the National Health Service number for each individual not known to be deceased is submitted to the English and Welsh cancer registries twice a year for comparison with their records. The registries pass information on cancer incidence back to PHE and this is added to the study database. The system in Scotland is a little different. For Scottish residents their Scottish Health Board number has been submitted to National Records for Scotland (NRS) who have flagged the relevant individuals' records. Then when NRS is notified by the Scottish cancer registry of a cancer incidence for a flagged individual this information is passed on to PHE and added to the study database.

All information about deaths ultimately comes from the Office for National Statistics but for residents of England and Wales this information is obtained via the PHE Office for Data Release. In Scotland the information comes from NRS.

2) *Does PHE have direct access to NHS England and the database of births, deaths and marriages?*

The study does not directly access information from NHS England. The cancer incidence data in England come from within PHE directly from the National Cancer Registry which is operated by PHE and provided through our Office for Data Release. However, the cancer registries collect their data from the NHS. PHE has an agreement with the Office for National Statistics to access



directly their death data for appropriately approved studies and so that information is also provided to the study team via the PHE Office for Data Release. All our data about Scottish residents comes via National Records for Scotland.

No data on births or marriages are required for the study.

3) *If the veteran is now not living in the UK are they excluded from the study or how is this information collected as in point 1?*

Information on study participants is only collected while they are resident in the UK. If they leave the UK no further data is collected and they are recorded as ending their participation in the study at that time.

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query in writing in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied and would like to request an internal review, then please contact us at the address above or by emailing foi@phe.gov.uk

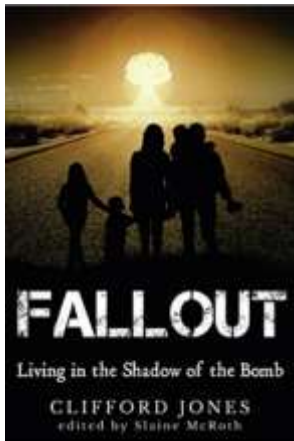
Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted by writing to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Florence Bonsu
FOI team



MP Support – Help us ensure all MP's are aware of the BNTVA



The first batch of Fallout books have been sent to MP's. Thank you to everyone who has purchased a book. We need more to be sent out, we need to get this book to every MP so that they can read the horrifying story of this family.

If you can help us with this initiative, £8 buys and sends the book direct to your MP with a covering letter from the BNTVA.

Visit the website using <https://www.bntva.com/product-page/fallout-living-in-the-shadow-of-the-bomb> or call 0208 144 3080 and we will process an order for you.

Joining the BNTVA

For those people who pay their membership of the BNTVA via cheque or cash, renewal letters were sent out at the end of January. We rely on the membership fee to enable us to continue in our fight for recognition. For those who have returned their fee or are paying by Direct Debit, thank you very much for your support.

Membership of the BNTVA costs from as little as £20 for a single membership and £30 for a family membership. We rely on membership funds to ensure that these Newsletters can be distributed. If you are not a member and would like to join the Association or know of a family member or colleague who would, please use the following methods:

Telephone – 0208 144 3080

Email – info@bntva.com

Postal Address - BNTVA PO Box 1223 Spalding Lincolnshire PE11 9GD.

BNTVA Annual Conference 2019



The BNTVA Annual Conference will be held at Chateau Impney, Worcestershire on the 18th May 2019.

You can stay at the hotel at a discounted rate or just attend the conference and dinner in the evening, the choice is yours.

If you haven't already booked and would like to attend please call 0208 144 3080, places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.



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