

# NATIONAL SERVICE REMEMBERED

## PDF RESOURCE

‘National Service Remembered’ is a heritage project which uses photography and oral history narratives to bring to life a little remembered time in our history: the National Service years, which spanned from 1947 to 1963.

### What was NATIONAL SERVICE?

*The National Service years spanned from 1947 until 1963, and in that time more than two million men were conscripted into the British Army, Royal Navy or the Royal Air Force.*

*National service was mandatory, and generally all able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 30 were called up. However, it was possible to defer if working as an apprentice or studying, or even be exempted altogether if working in an essential service.*

*National Service conscripts were expected to serve 18 months, although this was extended up to 2 years during the Korean War (1950-53).*

*All National Service conscripts were asked to attend medical assessments, after which they were sent for six weeks of basic training in the British Army. Once the conscripts arrived at their training base, they were issued with their uniform and equipment, and training could begin.*

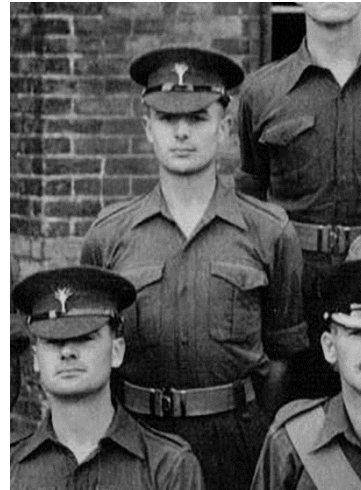
*After basic training, National Service conscripts served in a variety of roles across the Armed Forces and, as well as serving at home, many Servicemen were posted to one of Britain's many garrisons around the world. An overseas posting also often meant that the conscripts saw active service.*

same but DIFFERENT

David Ryan



Elwyn Davies



John Cresswell



DIFFERENT

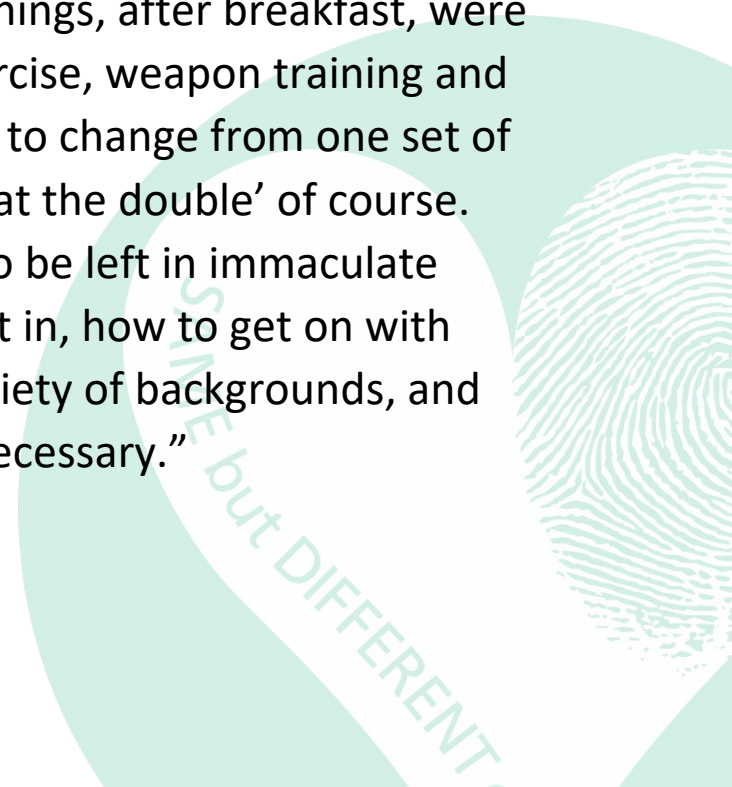


## MILES ANDERSON

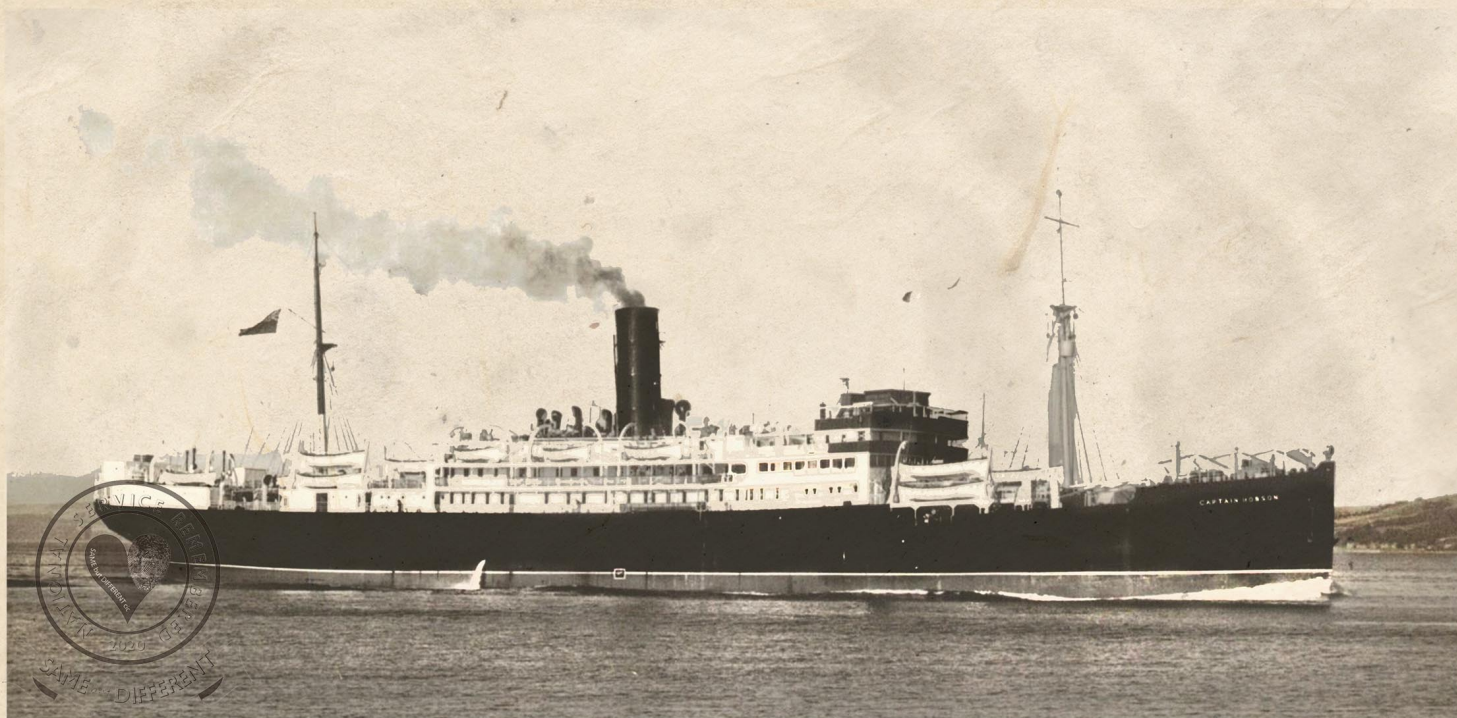
“It was 66 years ago that I went down to Cardington with my government supplied rail ticket in September 1954. I was to serve my National Service in the RAF. On arrival at Cardington we were kitted out, issued with all the necessary equipment and after a brief touching base were bussed to our ‘Square Bashing’ camps.

We were billeted in a hut with probably 18/20 young men, each allocated a bed, bedding, a small cupboard and small wardrobe or place where uniforms could be hung out of sight. There were two solid stoves, one at each end of the hut to provide warmth.

From then on it was all spit and polish, discipline, regimentation and drills. Our mornings, after breakfast, were a succession of drills, physical exercise, weapon training and lectures. At each occasion we had to change from one set of clothes into another one, and all ‘at the double’ of course. Everything back in the billet had to be left in immaculate order. I learnt discipline, how to fit in, how to get on with people who came from a wide variety of backgrounds, and how to keep a low profile when necessary.”







# S.S. "CAPTAIN HOBSON"

National Service Remembered

## POST CARD

CORRESPONDENCE

To my sweetheart.  
I saw an old school friend  
today, who now happens to be  
an Officer. I was excited to see  
him but I called him by his  
first name - I got into trouble  
for that and sent to the  
cookhouse to work! I've got  
blisters for thumbs now.  
I miss your apple crumble.

NATIONAL SERVICE REMEMBERED

ADDRESS

The Chapel,  
91 Wrexham St,  
MOLD  
CH7 1HQ

Always yours  
Charles







# HEDNESFORD

National Service Remembered

## POST CARD

CORRESPONDENCE

Just a quick note for you all. Spent my 21st birthday in Amman. Because it was the Battle of Britain day, we had a parade and were given the day off. Quite lucky I suppose!

ADDRESS

The Chapel,  
91 Wrexham St,  
MOLD  
CH7 1HQ

I hope I can come home soon. Keep a slice of cake for me.  
Sending love.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Did National Service impact your life? If so, how?

Was anybody here conscripted; where were you based?

Were your loved ones conscripted?

How do you remember National Service?

Was it a positive or negative experience?

Did taking part in National Service influence the course of your life, or the path of your loved one?

