

NOTABLE UNIT PERSONNEL

Over the years, the Doctor has worked alongside dozens of UNIT officers. Some of these officers were only part of a single adventure. Others, like Lethbridge-Stewart, were among the Doctor's oldest and most trusted friends. This character roster covers thirty years of UNIT staff.

BRIGADIER ALISTAIR GORDON LETHBRIDGE-STEWART

Toy soldiers – that was the present that Alistair Gordon Lethbridge-Stewart always received for Christmas. His grandfather was a military man and he was going to make sure that his grandson would follow in those noble footsteps. Little did he realise the impact the young boy would go on to have on the Earth.

Alistair Gordon Lethbridge-Stewart has had a long association with aliens. He first joined the Intrusion Counter Measures group in 1966 as a Colonel, seconded from the regular army due to his unwavering will and unquestioned authority. During his time with the ICG, he fought the Robot Yeti in the London Underground, where he first met the Doctor in his second incarnation.

Shortly after the incident, Lethbridge-Stewart received a promotion to Brigadier and was charged with heading up the UK branch of the newly

formed UNIT. The UK was set to be the first major UNIT operation, and would become the site of the Taskforce's first localised HQ. Whilst preparing his team, chosen from some of the best the ICG had to offer, he also brought in Dr Elizabeth Shaw from Cambridge as his Scientific Advisor. At around the same time, the Doctor was exiled to Earth, and the Brigadier found him an invaluable asset to his fledgling team.

During his time with UNIT, the Brigadier faced-off countless invasion attempts on Earth, ranging from Autons through to Axons, dinosaurs and giant spiders. He was always amazed by what the universe had to offer – but was always quick to deal with the threat, sometimes crossing the Doctor to get the best results. The Doctor considered the Brigadier's decision to blow up the Silurians as a form of genocide, and that act would taint their relationship for years to come.

Despite their differences, the Brigadier and the Doctor's third incarnation formed a close friendship during their years working together.

While the schedule of running UNIT was a tiring one, and the Brigadier often remained closed-minded about certain aspects of the position, Lethbridge-Stewart enjoyed his job and considered it a privilege to be at the front line of Earth's defence as the universe began to notice the planet.



By the mid-1970s, things at UNIT were changing. Mike Yates had been quietly retired, following his involvement in Operation GOLDEN AGE. Jo Grant had married and left to live in the Amazon with her husband. The Doctor – now free to roam the universe once more with new friend Sarah Jane Smith – was spending more and more time away from his UNIT duties. As the organisation changed its footing, becoming more aggressive towards any and all alien contact, the Brigadier found himself spending more and more time away from the UK, constantly on official business at UNIT's head offices in Geneva.

Jo, Sarah Jane and Harry, and pieced together his past. In the autumn of 1983, he returned to his job at the school. While there, he met Doris, a girl he had enjoyed a fun weekend with back in the 1960s, just prior to his enrolment to the army. They hit it off immediately, and the two of them married.

Lethbridge-Stewart retired from his teaching post in June 1989, after 13 years at the school. The peace of retirement didn't last long however, and he soon found himself caught up again with UNIT and the Doctor. Called in to assist with a war that had passed through from another reality, the Brigadier was united with the Seventh Doctor and the new UK Head of UNIT, Brigadier Winifred Bambera.



Once the Doctor had regenerated and seemingly left Earth for good, Lethbridge-Stewart decided that the time had come to move on. In October 1976, a full ten years after his fight with extraterrestrials began, the Brigadier left UNIT, choosing a quieter life. Moving to Middlesex, he took up a post teaching maths at Brendon Public School. During his second year at the school, the Brigadier found himself once more caught up in the Doctor's life. During a series of time-shifting incidents, the Brigadier came across a future version of himself aboard a spaceship. The fall-out from the meeting caused Lethbridge-Stewart to lose a large chunk of his memory.

All his adventures with the Doctor, UNIT, and the ICG were forgotten, and he carried on teaching, blissfully unaware of his past. It wasn't until 1983, when he again found himself aboard that same spaceship, this time meeting the younger version of himself, that the Brigadier found his memory restored, and all of his past adventures came flooding back to him.

Lethbridge-Stewart took a few months out from his teaching job, trying to come to terms with the return of his memory. He met with old friends, including



The experience brought back happy memories for the Brigadier, who then re-joined UNIT as a special envoy. Over the next few years, the Brigadier often left the UK on special UNIT business.

By the early 21st century, the Brigadier (still referred to as such, although now promoted to General) once more considered himself 'retired'. UNIT still called on him for favours, sending him here, there and everywhere, but most of the time, he stayed at home, tending to his garden.

