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JUBILEE

Britain drafts military plans for Syria, recalls parliament

London.—Prime Minister David Cameron said last night that any military action against Syria must be specific and not entail being dragged into a wider Middle East conflict.

"This is not about getting involved in a Middle Eastern war or changing our stance in Syria or going further into that conflict," Cameron told reporters in his first public comments on the matter. "It's about chemical weapons. Their use is wrong and the world shouldn't stand idly by." Cameron's spokesman told reporters that no decision to use force had yet been taken

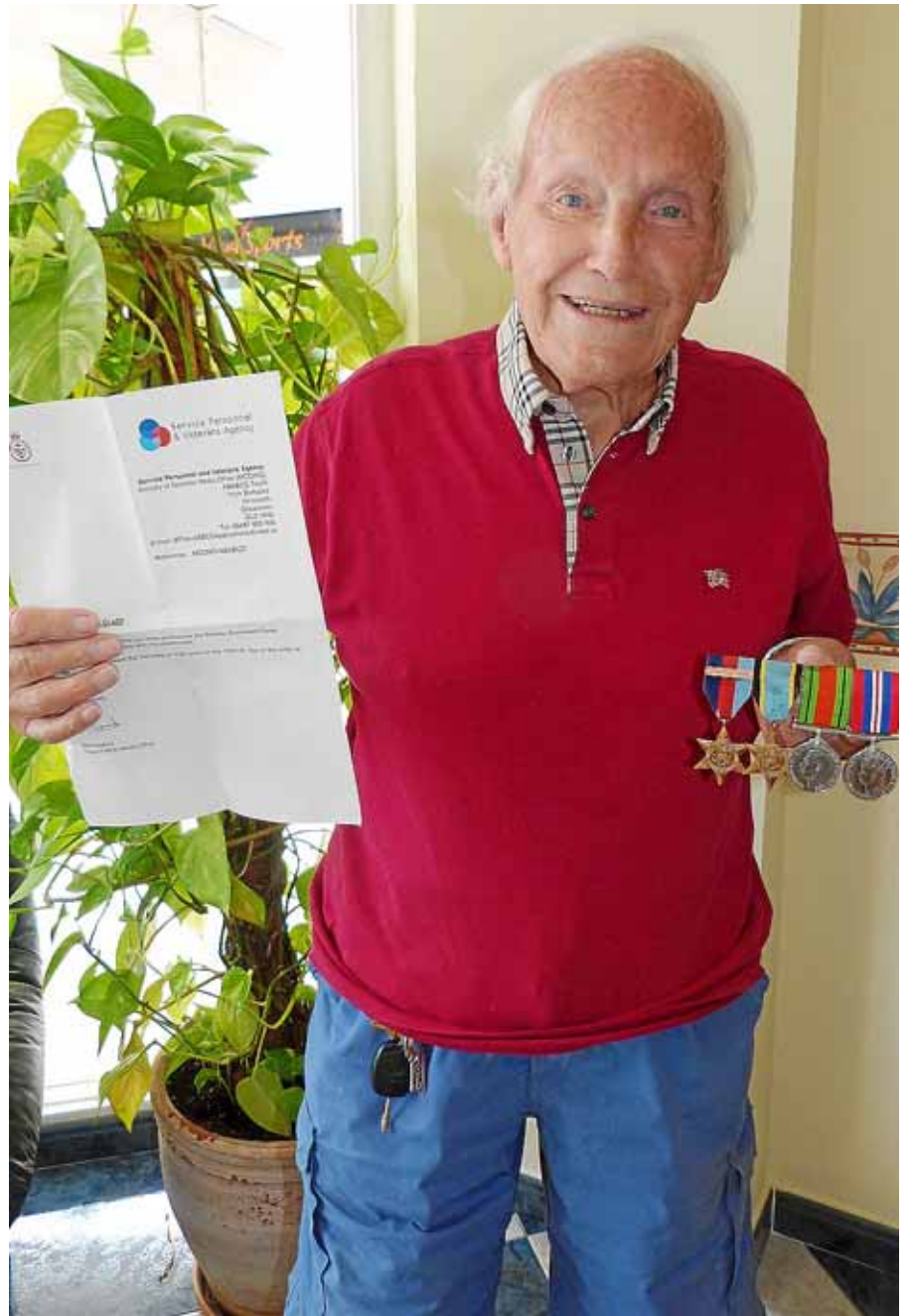
but said that the prime minister felt strongly that the world had to act.

"Any use of chemical weapons is completely and utterly abhorrent and unacceptable ... and the international community needs to respond to that," the spokesman said, adding any decision would be part of a "strict international framework".

"It's reasonable to assume our forces are making contingency plans," the same spokesman added, stressing any decision would be based on evidence from "a range of sources".

See Page Nine, Comment

Better late than never



● World War 2 Royal Air Force airman finally gets his medal from the Ministry of Defence: See Page Three.

Tory MP slams “childish Spain” over Gibraltar: See Page 4 Inside

Spanish and Italian stocks bask in euro zone growth halo

London.—Investment in Spanish and Italian stocks has surged on the back of improved economic data, trumping a Spanish party funding scandal and the risk that the government in Rome could fall.

Investors have given both countries a wide berth for years but are being lured back by rosier survey data and the end of the recession in the euro zone.

Signs of economic revival have helped

lower both countries' borrowing costs and drawn money into Italy-focused funds at the fastest rate for a decade, EPFR data showed. Italian and Spanish exchange-traded funds took in more money in July

than in the entire second quarter. Their benchmark stock indexes are up accordingly; Italy's FTSE MIB is on course for its best quarter since late 2009, and Spain's IBEX 35 for its best since late 2010.