

# Life in Danehill During WW2

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of WW2 we are re-publishing the booklet produced by DPHS in the 1970s. It is a long document at 40 pages so we have picked out some of the highlights for you. The complete document, however, is reproduced below. **Some of the highlights are written by the people living in Danehill through the war and paint a stunning picture of the upheaval felt by ordinary people.** There are fascinating insights from a young woman especially the arrival of so many fit, young soldiers from Canadians to Maories into her life. There are two accounts of life changing experiences for small children from the city parachuted into a rural landscape of scary cows, aerial dogfights, non-flushing toilets down the garden and actually being allowed to walk on the grass!



Spitfires over Danehill

## Highlights

Click on the item to go straight to the section. Click the arrow at the bottom of each page to **return here**.



**1. The Gathering Storm**. Article by Derek Rawlings on the period of time leading up to the declaration of war. Preparations began as early as early as 1935 and gas masks were issued in 1937

**2. From the Parish Mag** Extracts, compiled by PhilLucas, from magazines just prior to the war give insight to what people faced

**3. Parish at War** Article by Derek Rawlings takes us through from the early ‘phoney’ war, evacuees coming into but also going out of the village, blackouts, food rations and First Aid training. Later Dogfights in the sky above, bomb damage, Home Guard, V1 flying bombs, POWs and VE Day.

**4. Home Guard** . Eye witness reports from those who were there.

**5. Recollections of an Evacuee**. Margery Lucas tells us about her evacuation at the age of eight.

**6 Recollections of an Evacuee** Kathleen Wheeler who was evacuated at age two.

**7 Alberta James recalls wartime life** as a young woman in Danehill

**8 Local Men Lost** Short Histories of those who did not Return.



# THE PARISH IN WORLD WAR TWO 1939-1945

## INTRODUCTION

By P. G. Lucas.

This was the subject of the Danehill Historical Society project for 1994/5. There was a large attendance when the presentation was made in Danehill Memorial Hall for the April Meeting of the Society. The presentation was repeated at Chelwood Gate Village Hall. At the same time we published our Magazine Volume 5 Number 4 that is the main content of this publication.

In addition I have added to the original book:

Some extracts from Danehill Parish Magazines from the pre war period.

Two Articles that were published in the DPHPS Magazine Volume 5 Number 6.

“When a Sussex Village Evacuates”, by John E. Audric

“Recollections of the Second World War”, by Alberta James.

And an article that was received after the original publication

“Recollections of an Evacuee”, by Margery Lucas.

Some of the slides used in the presentation have been scanned and are included in this volume.  
Most of the photographs were the work of the late G.D. Haslam Esq. of Danehurst, that his daughter in law kindly allowed us to copy.

The VE Day at the “Red Lion” photographs were loaned by Mrs Vi Rivers some of the others were loaned Mrs Alberta James.

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## THE GATHERING STORM

### PREPARATION FOR WAR

By D.S. Rawlings.

East Sussex County Council

Rural District Council

Danehill Parish Council

**1935** East Sussex County Council set up an Air Raid Precaution Committee.

**1936** Lt. Col. O. J. F. Fooks (retired) of Swithe Wood, Horsted Keynes is appointed the County Air Raid Precaution Officer. (He resigned from this post in February 1940, having been recalled to the Army).

**1937** In June of this year the A.R.P. Committee began to organise 'Civil Defence'.  
Volunteers were asked to come forward. In October came the Munich crisis and gas masks were issued to the public.

**1938** The Fire Brigade Acts were passed under which fire-fighting became the responsibility of the Rural District Council.

**1939** In January of this year First Aid Classes were begun at Danehill. On July 8-9th and August 10-11th, night exercises were held in Sussex with a 'blackout' from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. All volunteers taking part were required to bring their respirators. Etherton's Forge (now Curtain Craft) was the Auxiliary Fire Patrol Post for Danehill.



## EXTRACTS FROM DANEHILL PARISH MAGAZINES

March 1938-November 1939.

Compiled by P.G. Lucas.

Anti Gas and Air-Raid Precautions.  
VITAL TO EVERY MAN, WOMAN,  
AND CHILD IN THIS PARISH.

A  
**PUBLIC ADDRESS**  
Will be given in the  
**Memorial Hall, Danehill**  
on  
**Monday, April 4th**  
**at 8.15 p.m.**

CHAIRMAN—  
**G. D. HASLAM Esq.**

SPEAKERS—

**COL. W. GARFORTH, D.S.O., M.C.**  
(Home Office Air-Raid Precautions Department)  
**L.T. COL. O. J. F. FOOKS.**  
(County Organizer)  
**COL. C. REED, C.B., D.S.O.**  
(Uckfield Rural District Council Organizer)

All are urgently advised to come and  
hear about this Important Subject.

Handbooks dealing with Air-Raid Precautions, issued by the Home  
Office, will be obtainable at the Meeting price 4d. and 6d. each.

THE DANEWOOD PRESS, DANEHILL.

**MARCH 1938**

**29<sup>th</sup> September 1938** Munich Pact between Neville Chamberlain, the French Premier Daladier, Hitler and Mussolini over Czechoslovakia etc.



**Mr & Mrs Haslam celebrate the deliverance  
from war with their family, staff and tenants at  
Danehurst (Now St. Raphaels)**

*We are indebted to the late Mr. G.D. Haslam,  
seated in the front of the group, who  
photographed the bomb damage of 14/4/1940,  
the vapour trails of the air battles over  
Danehill and the London Irish Rifles Parade.*

**October 1938** (Notice pasted on to the cover of the Magazine in Red Ink

**A Thanksgiving Service for  
DELIVERANCE FROM WAR  
Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, at 3.15 pm.**

**December 1938** (sent out with the Parish Magazine)

**THE CONTENTS OF THIS LETTER ARE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE  
TO EVERY SOUL IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD**

Dear Sir, or Madam,

Volunteers are still needed for Air Raid Precautions services in Danehill and Chelwood Gate



Perhaps you have been thinking that the crisis is now over, and that there is no further need to think of these things: or alternatively, that our Parish is so scattered and so rural in character that no enemy aircraft would choose it for a target

Well, it is true that the crisis seems to be past, and we are all thankful. But it would be very rash to say that there will not be another one; the situation is still full of danger, and, remember, the less prepared our country is to resist air raids the greater will be the temptation for any enemy to try to win a quick victory by a sudden raid on a large scale. Do not put that temptation in his way.

In regard to the rural character of this area, it is true that we are more fortunate than most places in that respect. But in the last war there was a large military camp on Ashdown Forest, and there may easily be another; and such a camp might well be regarded as a legitimate military objective.

Moreover, if an air raid should ever come, our own anti-aircraft artillery fire will be on a scale many times greater than anything previously known, and the fragments of every shell fired will travel many miles and will have to come down somewhere. We, like every area in this part of England must reckon seriously with the possibility of injuries from this source. This means that our First Aid Posts at Danehill and Chelwood Gate, which will be equipped for treating small injuries, as well as slight gas contamination, and will, in addition, act as clearing stations for more serious cases, must be fully staffed with men and women having some knowledge of first aid, and anti gas work.

The number required for our two stations under the A.R.P. Scheme of the Uckfield Rural District Council is 16, but we ought also to have a considerable number in reserve, as it is always possible that some of those on the list might, when the time comes, have moved elsewhere, or be otherwise unavailable.

Will you volunteer for this work, and attend a course of training, if necessary? Courses and lectures in first aid and anti-gas work are to be held in the neighbourhood shortly

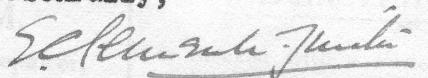
It is also probable that one-ton lorries, or similar vehicles with a flat floor large enough to hold a stretcher will occasionally be required as temporary ambulances. If you own such a vehicle, and would on occasion be willing to lend it for that purpose, will you please give in your name? Lastly, volunteers are required, preferably owners of cars, motor-cycles and bicycles, who would be prepared to act as messengers, particularly in case of any injury to the telephone system.

It is the aim of the A.R.P. scheme for the country as a whole, that every Parish should, in the above respects be, so far as possible, self-sufficient., and. we hope that you will help., if you can, to make ours so.

Please do what you can, and do not refrain from volunteering on the grounds that, if war came, you might find It necessary, or desirable to work elsewhere. No one can tell for certain what might happen in such a case; that is why we want volunteers in excess of the minimum number required.

Names may be given to either of the undersigned, who will gladly supply further information, or to any Air Raid Warden, a list of whom is given below.

Yours faithfully,



CHIEF AIR RAID WARDEN.



CHAIRMAN. A.R.P. COMMITTEE.  
DANE HILL PARISH COUNCIL.

E Clementi Smith

E.W. Pye



## AIR RAID WARDENS.

H. Baker.	Lilac Cottage.	CHELWOOD GATE.
W. J. Bird.	School House.	DANE HILL.
R. A. Cobby.	Clover Cottage.	DANE HILL.
J. B. Gardiner.	8. Rose Cottages.	DANE HILL.
H. Johnson.	"Quarries".	CHELWOOD GATE.
M. Pettitt.	"Avenings".	DANE HILL.
J. Pentecost..	Shotover Cottage.	DANE HILL.
G. York.	"Chelcote".	CHELWOOD GATE.

### **January 1939                    DON'T MISS THIS**

A Series of Lectures on First Aid will be given in the Memorial Hall, Danehill, by a qualified lecturer, beginning on January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 8 pm. It is hoped that as many as possible will attend these lectures, especially the younger people of the Parish. Ours is a scattered parish, and the more of us who know how to deal with minor cuts, wounds &c the better. It is quite impossible for the trained personnel of First Aid squads, in the event of an air raid, to help those at a distance. Come to these lectures and learn what to do in an emergency, thus helping yourselves, your families and your country.

**June 1939 EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE** The following have been appointed members of the Interviewing Panel for the parish of Danehill, to give advice to enquirers seeking guidance as to the branches of National Service which they can best undertake:- Mr. G.D. Haslam, Danehurst, Danehill.

Rev. H.F.C. Kempe, The Vicarage, Danehill.

Colonel T.H. Leigh, Holly Rough, Chelwood Gate.

### **September 1939         A.R.P.         Please read this.**

A course of First Aid Lectures will begin on September 15<sup>th</sup>, at 8 p.m. at the Memorial Hall. It is hoped that as many people as possible will attend, especially any of those who have volunteered for any branch of the A.R.P. or are willing to join now. To enable us, here in the parish, to man the local services for any length of time in the event of war, we require **double the number** who are now trained and have already volunteered.

As no help can be expected from other parishes, we will have to look after ourselves in this parish. The more of us who volunteer and get trained the less work there will be for others to do.

Many more people in the Parish can afford the time to put in an occasional spell of duty when necessary in the following branches.

1         First Aid and Stretcher Bearers.

2         Communications.

E. CLEMENTI SMITH. Chief Warden, Danehill.

### **September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1939    WAR DECLARED**

**October 1939**

**Advertisement In  
The Parish  
Magazine:**

*A Hearty Welcome to all Residents  
and Visitors to all Church Services.*



Come and join in Family Worship, Praise, Prayer, Intercession.  
A place of Peace in time of War.  
See List of Services on front cover.

Each month this space has been placed at the disposal of the Vicar and Churchwardens  
for the benefit of any charity or notice

By the **FRESHFIELD LANE BRICKWORKS.**



## **THE PARISH AT WAR**

By Derek Rawlings

War was declared at 11 a.m. on Sunday 3rd September 1939. Many Danehill residents were attending Matins at the Parish Church and the news of the declaration of war was brought to them by the Vicar's son, Jack Kempe, who had heard the Prime Minister's broadcast on the radio. Within half an hour the air raid siren at Haywards Heath was heard. Although this was only a practice, it brought home to everyone the dreadful fact that the country was again at war with Germany.

The immediate consequences of the declaration of war were the blackout, the arrival of evacuees from London and the putting of the Civil Defence on a war footing. The blackout was particularly difficult for those with electric lighting as ordinary curtains were, in the main, too thin and badly fitting to be effective. Over the days and weeks ahead suitable arrangements were made - often with frames covered with opaque material that could be put up at night and taken down in the morning. Large buildings, such as the Parish Church, had special difficulties. By October, even though Summer Time had been extended by six weeks to the 18<sup>th</sup> November, the darkening evenings made it necessary to transfer Evensong to the smaller Chapel at Chelwood Gate. From October 1940 there was Single Summer Time in the winter with Double Summer Time in the summer. It was not until 29<sup>th</sup> December 1940 that blackout curtains were fitted to the parish church - the gift of Mr. & Mrs. Hawkins Turner of Shotover (now Church Hill House) in Church Lane. Outside street lights were turned, off and cars had hoods put over their headlights blacking one out and permitting the minimum of light to shine down the road from the other. At the same time mudguards were painted white, white lines were put down the middle of the more important roads and kerbs were whitened. Petrol was rationed within the month. Food rationing started on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1940, initially only covering butter (4 oz), bacon and ham (4 oz) and sugar (12 oz), with extra sugar for jam-making and bee-keepers. Chocolate and sweets, margarine, eggs, milk, bread, meat, soap, clothes and coal were to follow in due course.

The specific gravity of beer was reduced by 5%, whisky production was reduced by 10%, whilst the making of gold jewellery was banned except for standardized wedding rings to be sold at a set price of £1 1s (£1.05).

The evacuees from various parts of London arrived the day war was declared. They were taken to the Vicarage and from there placed in private houses. Residents had been asked in advance if they would take children or mothers and babies and, after some difficulties, all were settled. Billeting allowances were 8s-6d (42p) per week for children, raised to 10s-6d from 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1940 for those over 14 years, and 3s-3d (16p) for children with their mothers.

The school, which should have restarted after the summer holidays on 5<sup>th</sup> September, was kept closed for a further week. Term began on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September and 37 evacuees were admitted to the roll on that day, with a further 14 admissions before the end of the month. On the Tuesday a school canteen was opened catering for about 75 each day.

At the beginning of October there were 89 evacuees in Danehill - 13 unaccompanied children and 30 mothers with 46 children under 5. By then, because of the phoney war, people were returning to London. The School Log Book records 9 returning and the pupils of St. Mary's School, Lewisham, who were evacuated to Danehill as a school unit and did not join our school, being transferred to Rotherfield. The blitz on London in 1940 brought a further wave of evacuees and, during the 5½ years of war, 180 such children spent some time at Danehill School.

Danehill Civil Defence, under the Head Warden Lt. Col. Clementi-Smith of Tanyard Farm, still had a great deal of training and organizing to do. A Warden's Post was established at The Orange Tea Rooms attached to The White House in the centre of the village. In the field alongside a circular water tank was erected for fire fighting purposes; there being no piped water in the parish. An auxiliary fire section with one - later two - tenders, and a trailer pump, was based in the



old bus garage next to The Red Lion at Chelwood Gate, with 4 volunteers on duty each night. The garage was also used later by the Home Guard. Besides the regular fire engine at Forest Row, there was also a small tender and trailer pump with a full time crew based at Dean Edwards' yard in Bonfire Lane, Horsted Keynes. The musician "Scan" Tester was a member of this crew.



were invited.

A first aid post was set up at Stocklands and there was also one at Woodgate (now Cumnor House School) but the latter soon moved when the military took over the house. The first troops to come to the parish were the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion London Irish Rifles with their camp at the Isle of Thorns. They attended their first parade at the parish church on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 1939. Their pipes and drums played at the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November. At Christmas the troops gave a party to which all the children

#### **MRS PYE WITH MRS CHARMAN AT "STOCKLANDS" FIRST AID POST.**

Throughout the war the civil population was encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the war effort - a challenge that many were happy to accept, although the standard rate of income tax was to rise to 10s (50p) in the pound. The contributions included collecting scrap metal and waste paper, knitting woollen comforts for servicemen, entertaining locally-based troops and subscribing to various war weapons funds. Local organizations took an active part in promoting such activities, especially the Church, Red Cross, Women's Institute, Parish Council and Women's Voluntary Service. The latter had been formed nationally in 1938 out of existing organizations to assist in hospitals, with air raid victims, evacuees and in many other ways.

The Church Magazine reports many of these voluntary efforts. Unfortunately it could not be issued between August 1941 and October 1945 because of a paper shortage; a period during which the national newspapers were, on some days, down to two pages.

The February 1940 issue contained an advertisement for the Freshfield Lane Brickworks with an appeal from the Red Cross for silver paper. It also reports a special performance for the London Irish Rifles of the Church Social Club's production of "The Ghost Train".

In August there was news of a salvage campaign started at Chelwood Gate by the WVS. Depots were opened daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Coach & Horses, Gorselands Bungalow in Beaconsfield Road, and Highfield and Christopher Fields in Church Lane. The proceeds went to Danehill & Chelwood Gate Red Cross Working Parties to buy wool, etc. to make comforts for servicemen. By 1945 23 tons of salvage had been collected and 6,900 garments made.

In October there was an appeal for contributions to the Spitfire Fund with collecting boxes in licensed premises, the British Legion Club and the Post Offices. In the next issue appeared "The Appeal will close on December 1st. The Parish Council hopes all will 'GO TO IT' during the remaining four weeks".

#### **SPITFIRES OVER DANEHURST, DANEHILL 1940.**

In January 1941 the Chairman of the Parish Council asked people to entertain soldiers in their own homes and in March the Church set aside £20, in the Vicar's hands, to help parishioners



suffering loss or damage due to the war. It was also noted that the school had exchanged letters with H.M.S. Danehill, a naval patrol vessel with a crew of 5, and sent them a parcel of books and toilet requisites.

In June the announcement was made of The New War Weapons Drive - "Help to Buy our Tommy Gun". The Danehill National Savings Group aimed to raise an extra £30 per week - enough to purchase one gun.

During the war there were extra people in the parish, both evacuees and military, so the shops and public houses were busy, though many goods were rationed or in short supply and some prices were fixed by the Government to prevent profiteering. The petrol pumps at Danehill, at the site now occupied by Curtain Craft, were taken over for military supplies and both the Ashdown and Mid-Sussex Garages used their facilities to make war supplies. The former made munitions and such things as ends for flame throwers, whilst the latter made spare parts for guns. In fact, their motor trade was seriously restricted, especially after the basic petrol ration was withdrawn in March 1942.

The German invasion of The Netherlands on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1940, the subsequent retreat from Dunkirk (27<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June) and the surrender of France on 22 June dramatically brought closer the physical threat of war to South East England. The immediate fear was of an invasion, against which a national unpaid defence force was formed of men aged between 17 and 65 years. Originally called the Local Defence Volunteers, the name was changed to the Home Guard in July 1940. Danehill's volunteers were in the 14<sup>th</sup> Platoon 17<sup>th</sup> Sussex Battalion Home Guard. At this time all signposts and other displays of county, town or village names were removed to confuse an invading enemy. They were not replaced until mid-March 1944.



The Battle of Britain, Germany's attempt to overwhelm the Royal Air Force and bomb the population into submission, began on 17<sup>th</sup> July. The first local bombs were dropped near Woolpack Farm in Bell Lane, Fletching at 2.40 a.m. on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August. The next day 3 high-explosive bombs fell in the field between Latchets Farm and Lindwood on the west side of 8<sup>th</sup> November there were a further 14 incidents in the parish - see appendix.

#### **DOG FIGHT OVER DANEHURST, DANEHILL.**

The largest was a stick of 11 bombs dropped at 3 p.m. on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October. The first fell near Swithe Wood in Horsted Lane and the last in the burial ground. There was only slight damage to property, 4 bombs falling close to houses, and Freshfield Lane was closed for a while.

Typical of the spirit of the time, a party from the Pioneer Corps came on their own initiative and filled in the crater in the burial ground, whilst a number of residents led by Mr. Etherton, the blacksmith, tidied up and helped repair the Lych Gate which had been damaged.



**BOMB CRATER IN CEMETERY**





**DAMAGE TO LYCH GATE**

Chelwood Gate. Owners of stirrup pumps in the parish were asked to form parties and help their near neighbours.

The need for civil defence remained throughout the war and the organisation was continually being brought up to date. By 1942, in addition to the Air Raid Wardens, the Auxiliary Fire Service and Firewatchers, there were first aid posts at Highfield in Church Lane and Stocklands in Doctors Lane at Chelwood Gate, a casualty reception of 18 beds at Shotover and other facilities at Ashdown House, Danehurst in Danehill and Chelworth in Chelwood Gate.

Although the threat of invasion receded when Hitler attacked Russia, contingency plans were kept under review. In May 1941 it was decided that, if the threat materialised, the 650 people due to be moved to Danehill from the coast should go instead to Forest Row. The reason was our lack of mains drainage and a piped water supply; neither of which were to come until after the war.

About this time Mr. G. Haslarn was appointed Voluntary Food Organiser for Danehill and Furners Green and Mr. E. W. Pye of Stocklands for Chelwood Gate. In the event of invasion they were to be responsible for the equitable distribution of foodstuffs.

In 1942 Lt. Col.. Clementi-Smith was nominated to represent Danehill in a triumvirate for liaison between the civil power and the military. Mr. D. Lucas of Reapyears, Chelwood Gate and Mr. H. Tunks of The Stores, Furners Green were to act at a local level.

The military build-up for the invasion of France on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944 was as apparent in Danehill in the preceding months as it was in the rest of Southern England. The invasion, however, was soon followed by the German attack on the London area with the V1 pilotless flying bombs, many of which came down in Kent and East Sussex. The second V1 to be launched and the first to fall in Sussex was clearly seen from Danehill in the early morning on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June before exploding at Mizbrook Farm, north of Cuckfield. As the allied armies advanced and overran the launching sites, the bombs only having a range of 185 miles, their numbers decreased and by August all the sites had been overrun. Luckily none of the bombs fell in Danehill, though many passed over, 3 failing just beyond the parish boundary.

At 7.20 p.m. on 11<sup>th</sup> July a V1, flying in a north-westerly direction at 1000 feet, was destroyed in the air by one of our own aircraft and crashed in woodland close to Freshfield Lane Brickworks. On the 18<sup>th</sup> another gliding in the same direction, its engine having cut out, fell at 1.35 a.m. in a field at Pound Farm, across the road from The Sheffield Arms. It killed one horse, wounded another and did structural damage to two properties leaving a crater 6 feet x 2 feet. Eight minutes after midnight on 30<sup>th</sup> July, one flying north at fifteen feet exploded above the ground at Pressridge Warren, causing slight damage to Wych Cross Place.

In consequence of the attacks some children were evacuated to safer areas. Danehill School's Log Book records that on 15<sup>th</sup> July fifteen local children were evacuated to Port Talbot in South



Wales, where they attended the Cwmavon School. The journey was made by train. Carriages from local stations were slowly gathered into a train which set off westwards; nobody knew where they were going. At last they went through the Severn Tunnel and along the South Wales coast with carriages being dropped off at various places on the way. It was late at night when they arrived.

The Log also records that 10 of the London evacuees left the school for Crediton in Devon on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and a further 4 children went to other places to stay with relatives or friends. Presumably the delay in sending the London children away was the need to consult their families or local authorities. The V2 rocket attacks which started in September 1944, and were directed against the London area, did not affect Sussex so the children were able to return. The Log shows 3 of the local children returning to Danehill School on 6<sup>th</sup> November and all but 2 of the rest on 18<sup>th</sup> December in time for Christmas at home.

The end of the war was now in sight. In February 1945 the Wardens Post in The Orange Tea Rooms was closed and transferred to Tanyard Farm, the home of Lt. Col. Clementi-Smith. In April it was reported that Danehill had returned to store: 169 helmets of the 183 issued, 18 eye shades (anti-gas) of 188 issued, and 8 whistles of 13 issued. The report also mentions that 13 stirrup pumps had been issued to Danehill but did not say if any were returned. About this time the dustmen were asked to collect any respirators the public wished to dispose of.

The Civil Defence was stood down on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1945, Germany surrendered on the 7th, with VE Day being celebrated on the 8th.



VE DAY BEING CELEBRATED AT THE "RED LION", CHELWOOD GATE.

The war with Japan was to continue, however, until their formal surrender on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1945, following the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> August, and the acceptance of Allied terms on the 14<sup>th</sup> VJ Day was celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1945.

One aspect of the peace with Germany, was the difficulty of returning to their homes some of the men held as prisoners of war owing to the changes in national boundaries in Eastern Europe and the chaos and destruction of the final battles. A number of such men were housed at Chapelwood Manor on the road to Nutley. From there many of them would go out every day to work on the local farms or at other occupations. One in particular, a blacksmith, walked down each morning to Mr. Etherton's forge in Danehill. A good worker, he was soon befriended by the family and repaid their kindness in virtually the only way open to him by making wooden toys for Mr. & Mrs. Etherton's grandchildren. He remained at Chapelwood Manor, coming each day to Danehill, for almost 3 years before returning to Germany. Other prisoners also repaid their employers and friends in a similar fashion or sold toys to earn some pocket money.

On the home front, the shortages and rationing went on for some years, and it took many months to bring back and demobilise all those who had served away from home in the armed forces and many other spheres.



### Notes

In compiling this article, I have consulted the following documents held at the East Sussex Record Office:-

- Danehill Parish Council Minutes P303/1/1.
- Danehill School Log Book ESC195/1/3.
- Danehill Admissions Register ESC195/2/4.
- East Sussex County Council Papers C/11/73/1; C/11/71/1-4; C/C49/9.
- Uckfield Rural District Council Papers DW/B14/1-5; DW/B 15/1-2; DW/B 16/1-3; DW/B/1-9 & DW/B/12-18.
- Papers SPA2/21/1-4.

Finally, to all those who have given me their recollections of life in the parish during the Second War I owe a debt of gratitude.

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## **BOMBS DROPPED AT OR NEAR THE PARISH OF DANEHILL IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
15/8/40	1900	Freshfield Lane, W. side of the field between Latchetts Farm and Lindwood; 3 HE.
15/8/40	c.2330	Chapel Wood, near Chelwood Farm; 5 HE; no casualties. On the same night between 1900 and 2000 hrs there were about 58 bombs dropped in nearby parishes; mostly 25 kilo with a few 15 kilo. One enemy aircraft was brought down at Frant and one at Rotherfield.
28/8/40	c.2245	Forest Row near Chelwood ? (sic); 1 HE.
27/9/40	1345	Tanyard Lane, between Coach Lane and Baxters Lane --damage to Clovelly, Stonehouse Farm and Orchardfield.
28/9/40	0215	Between Danehill Village and Chelwood Gate; 158 incendiaries - slight damage to three houses. An oil bomb at Tenberry in Coach & Horses Lane. Another at Buttocks Bank in Boxes Lane. An unexploded bomb at Woodgate (Cumnor House School) was not exploded until 12th October.
29/9/40	2150	Between A275 and Perrymans Hill; 5 HE, 1 oil bomb. 1 HE in a meadow near Woodgate Farm. 1 HE in the garden of Holly Cottage in Boxes Lane. 1 HE in a meadow near Avenings in School Lane. 1 HE in Tanyard Lane near Ashdown House. 1 HE in a meadow near Brookhouse Bottom. 1 oilbomb in a meadow near Perrymans Hill. Damage to Holly Cottage and Sylvadene in Boxes Lane, Hillcrest in Coach & Horses Lane and Danehill Lodge in Tanyard Lane.
31/0/40	0340	Beaconsfield Road, Chelwood Gate; 2 HE. One empty house wrecked. Damage to Wayside and Sellanria.
10/10/40	1215	Ram Wood, Woodgate Estate, west of A275; 1 HE.
14/10/40	1500	Swithe Wood to the Burial Ground at Danehill; 11 HE. Damage to Windon, Woodside, Clover Cottage, Fern Cottage and the lych gate. The first bombs fell below Swithe Wood and in Enholms Wood close to Beech Platt .Then one each in the gardens of Woodside and Clover Cottage, in Shotover Cottage drive and last bomb in the Burial Ground.





Bomb craters at Clover Cottage and



Freshfield Lane 14/10/1940

- 30/10/40 1850 Top of Perryman's Hill; 6 large HE. Cleve Cottage, Gilwood and Perry Cottage damaged and made unfit for habitation. Eight people were made homeless and were put up at Colin Godmans. A large crater was made in the field by Allins Farm which was itself slightly damaged and a cattle shed was wrecked.
- 6/11/40 1850 The Gale, west side of A275 between The Red Lion and Wych Cross; 3 HE, 1 UxB. Damage to roof and windows but no casualties. 1 HE fell on Ashdown Forest behind the house. 1 HE fell in the garden and another did not explode and was not disposed of until 30<sup>th</sup> December. 1 HE fell on the Forest across the A275 making a crater 8'x 12'.
- 8/11/40 1830 Freshfield Lane, between Kidborough and Danehill Farm; 10 HE, 2 oil bombs. Damage to Danehill Farm and farm buildings (now demolished), to Sandpit Cottage (now Downsview Cottage) and to Kidborough where a greenhouse was destroyed by the oil bomb and there was a large crater formed in the drive.
- 28/7/41 0155 South of St. Raphaels drive, off A275 south of Danehill Village; 1 HE. Crater in field.
- 8/1/43 0445 Open ground and woodland near Cumnor House School in an area of 120 yards; 11 HE, 3 UxB, exploded by BOS 13-16 April.

**FIRE TRAILERS PHOTOGRAPHED PASSING THROUGH DANEHILL ON THE AFTERNOON OF OCT 11 1940.**

From: "THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN"  
by Richard Townsend Bickers.

1940 October 10, 11, 12 & 13 Serious raids on London Day & night

1940 Monday October 14 (When 11 HE bombs were dropped at Danehill.)  
(Weather): Rain.

**Day:** Scattered light raids over Midlands and south east

**Night:** London gravely damaged by Bf 110s taking advantage of the full moon. Waterloo railway station was left with only two lines open. Services had to stop at all five main termini. Underground tracks were damaged, Roads, gasworks and power stations were hit, while 900 fires spread devastation with the usual heavy loss of civilian lives.

Aircraft losses; RAF 0, Luftwaffe 3.





BOMB CRATER IN DANEHILL CEMETERY



BOYS WILL BE BOYS - WOLF CUBS EXPLORING THE CRATER

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### OUR HOMES GUARDED.

The following articles have all been compiled by P. G. Lucas from his recollections and those of many local residents (whose names are given in the text)

### THE HOME GUARD

*Two texts were quoted in the Parish Magazine of August 1940; the first indication that local men had rallied to defend their homes: "There is nothing new under the sun" Ecclesiastes 1 v9, and a lengthy quotation from the book of Nehemiah, chapters 4-6, which includes: "and fight for your brethren, your sons and daughters, your wives and your houses" etc.*

### **THE XIVth PLATOON 17th SUSSEX BATTALION HOME GUARD**

*Recollections of Mr. C. W Shelford, C. O. Danehill Platoon. Mr. David Etherton, aged 6 on the outbreak of war, Mr. Henry Goodenough, born 1915, who was an A.R.P. Warden, then living at Chelwood Gate. And my own memories.*

By June 1940 the war had reached a critical stage. Our Army, and that of the French, had been entirely defeated and it was only through the miracle of Dunkirk that we had any troops left but we had lost most of our equipment. Hitler seemed invincible and particularly his Air Force. The dive bombers had caused the most frightful havoc in modern warfare and his Air Force was thought to be supreme. It was really only the Air Force that mattered. We had superiority in the Navy, but no ship dared appear in the Channel as it was far too narrow and could be bombed relentlessly from the coast. It was believed that Hitler would very soon get complete domination of the air. Churchill had already said that we would "fight to the last man when we were



invaded". At that time it really was a question of when.  
*(C. W. Shelford,)*

*On June 26th Mr. Anthony Eden, the War Minister, broadcast to the nation on the gravity of the situation, announcing the formation of "Local Defence Volunteers", able-bodied men - young and old could enrol.*

The first thing, of course, was to form some sort of organisation, and this was done by finding the most suitable person in each village and telling him to get on with it. In our case it was Major the Hon. Rupert Barrington. He had ended the Great War as a Brigadier, but as a regular had returned to his original rank. He was running the Isle of Thorns for Mr. Herbert Wagg. I telephoned Major Barrington and offered my services. I think I was the first to join. There was to be a platoon in each village and a district battalion.

Able-bodied men over the age of 16, those in reserved occupations and the men over 'call up' age were asked to attend local meetings and offer their services. I remember attending the meeting at the Memorial Hall when the local unit was formed. There was a considerable sense of urgency. Major Barrington was in charge, and there were ex-service men from the First World War all willing to offer their services. Names were taken and the likely duties explained. We made out own armbands with the initials L.D.V. proudly on view. The old hands soon fell into old army routines and helped by instructing the young ones in matters military. 'Sections' were formed, each with a mixture of ages, to undertake the various duties, in Danehill & Chelwood Gate - training sessions were organised.



**THE XIVth PLATOON 17th SUSSEX BATTALION HOME GUARD 1944  
WITH CADETS & A.R.P. WARDENS.**

**Back Row** Lt. Col. Clementi Smith - W. Penfold - H. Baker - L. Simmons - W. Ford - G. Etherton - F. McKellow  
C. Keel - G. Brown - L. Gasson - S. Wenham - W. Godley - ... Sanderson - A. Lucas - F. Bates - H. Goodenough

**2<sup>nd</sup> Row** W. Dixon - D. Lucas - J. Bates - F. Awcock - G. Stevens - H. Standing - W. Miles - C. Bates ("Major")  
E. Etherton ("Tim") - H. Sherlock - R. Hichins - H. Baker ("Bun") - E. Carter - E. Cobey - J. Turner - E. Walder -

**3<sup>rd</sup> Row** A. Burley - Mr Long - C. Newnham - E. Edwards - H. Warnett (Bert) C. Hall - J. Hames - C. Shelford  
J. B. Gardiner - A. Smith ("Whiffer") A. Turner - A. Marten - C. Manners - ... Husband - ... Rist - L. Gasson

**4<sup>th</sup> Row** F. Baker - C. Smith - B. Gasson - G. Turner - G. Smith - W. Anton - J. Comber - P. Marten - D. Bates.

One of the first things to happen caused us a great deal of amusement. We were told to parade in Danehill, just opposite the Vicarage, where we were to be reviewed by the Colonel. We were an odd-looking lot. We had our forage caps and L.D.V. armbands. Some of us insisted on wearing the forage caps sideways on and one man in particular had a very large straw behind his ear. Major Barrington had somehow got us to stand straight when two cars, both very large, were seen coming down the hill. The cars stopped in front of us and a very smart aide-de-camp leapt out of



each and opened the door. Out of the first came General Hilliard in full uniform with every medal under the sun, followed by his second-in-command whose name I cannot exactly remember; it was something like Colonel Blood. He was also dressed in full military uniform. General Hilliard addressed us and said what a fine body of men we were and what a splendid defence the country now had. After about three minutes they got back into the cars, the aide-de-camps banged the doors and away they went. Rupert Barrington was slightly amused by all this and couldn't help laughing with us all when they had gone.

(C.W. Shelford)

Telephone Exchanges, at The White House, Danehill (then The Orange Tea Rooms) and at Chelwood Gate were likely targets and guards were mounted there. An empty butcher's shop, adjoining the tea room and exchange, was taken over to be used as a guard room. I remember sweeping sawdust off the floor. We took our guard duties, one old, one young, in turn, two hours on and four hours off duty, patrolling the road outside the exchange. In the late evening and at daybreak we walked up Church Hill to watch from the top of the hill south of Christopher Fields for any sight of incoming aircraft, parachutists or any other likely invaders. A Searchlight unit was stationed at Furners Green behind Mr. Tunks' grocers shop (Chandlers). One of the younger volunteers spent the night at the unit with bicycle at the ready. We acted as messengers, who, in the event of a breakdown of telephone services, could cycle to HQ at Danehill with any messages received through the Searchlight units radio.

As winter closed in and invasion seemed less likely, the guards mounted at the telephone exchanges were the main duties performed. The guard room was moved from the cold butcher's shop to a more comfortable 'barn' behind the tea rooms. This was a room often used for small meetings and whist drives etc. It had an open coal fire. The Chelwood Gate guard room was in a shed next to the Telephone Exchange, opposite Sandy Lane. One of my memories of those nights on duty were the stories of the First World War recalled by the old soldiers, some quite unsuitable for a young man's ears.

(P. G. L.)

Soon the name changed from Local Defence Volunteers to the Home Guard. The Home Guard grew fast, denim uniforms and forage caps were produced which made us look a little more like soldiers and, what was more important, we were issued with rifles. The Canadians had shipped thousands of their Ross' rifles over to us. These had a 3.00 bore instead of the 3.03 of the British 'Lee Enfield'. The Canadians also supplied the special ammunition needed. It was a first-class modern gun - we soon became an armed force.

Much to my regret Major Barrington retired fairly early and it was then that I was made Officer in Charge with the rank of Lieutenant. I do not think there were any Captains, but there were one or two Majors hanging about; one of them was Lord Castle Stewart. He was great fun to work with, always good for a joke. He was succeeded by Colonel Henriques from Nutley - a very nice man to work with. The Colonel of the Battalion was Mr. A.N. Stewart who lived at Chuck Hatch, just south of Hartfield, again a very able man, but Colonels and Majors didn't really matter. The whole thing was based on the village Home Guard. Two other men were made officers; Mr. Gardiner, for the Danehill, and Mr. Hames for the Chelwood Gate parts of the Platoon. Mr. Gardiner, who kept the shop in the middle of the village, had been a sergeant in the First World War. He was an exceptionally brave man and had won a medal. I think the D.C.M. Mr. Hames and his wife looked after some people (*Mr. & Mrs. Pepper at Danehill Lodge*. PGL). I often walked down the path by the school and up the other side of the valley to spend hours talking to Mr. Hames in the kitchen. Mr. Hames had been a regular soldier for many years. He was very efficient and knew all about training. Lieutenant Gardiner represented everything that was best in the First World War. Lieutenant Harries was able to keep us up to date with modern military thinking and methods - I had wonderful support from them. There were so many others: Sgt. Hall, Sgt. Edwards and so many, many more. We had many adventures and the Platoon as a whole did



well, winning a Battalion shooting prize. On one occasion we contained Italian prisoners who were very excitable and quite definitely had thoughts of a mass escape.

(C. W. Shelford)

Bert Warnett told us that the Home Guard had been called out the previous night. There had been a disturbance by the Italian prisoners at Cherrills. The Home Guard were each given one round of ammunition and then surrounded the building. The rioting went on until the Home Guard were given the order to "fix bayonets" and close in; that did the trick; all was quiet after that.

(Henry Goodenough)

There was much concern when, early one morning, the sound of a rifle shot was heard in Danehill village centre. A bullet was found embedded in the door post of the disused butcher's shop. Later it was established that one of the Home Guards (of mature years and now anonymous) had been aiming his Ross Rifle, forgetting it was loaded..... no action was taken.

(P. G. L.)

The Home Guard, of course, included many different characters; a lot of them had served in the First World War; things must have been very different on the Western Front in France. My father belonged to the Home Guard and, after several months, was issued with a Sten gun. I thought it was a toy and sometimes, when he was at work, I took it to pieces - a good job he did not have to use it for real!

The Home Guard used to parade in front of The Orange Tea Room, now The White House, on Sunday mornings. Mr. Shelford of 'Latchetts' was the Commanding Officer. There were sand bags surrounding the door and windows of the brick building behind the tea room used as their headquarters. The Home Guard, just as in 'Dads Army' held exercises with the Army. Big, round, concrete blocks were in place beside the road near The Corner Shop. These were for tank traps. There was a tank regiment stationed at Sheffield Park which drove up the A275 to 'attack' the Home Guard at Danehill. The 'traps' were rolled into position across the road in readiness for the onslaught. The tanks rumbled up the road - and simply climbed over them - I wonder what they did next?

(David Etherton)

We worked with the Home Guard later on and did exercises with them - we did some firing practice.

(Henry Goodenough)

I volunteered for service in April 1941. The experience of joining the Army was a little less traumatic as a result of the training I had received with the Home Guard.

(P. G. L.)

*Mr. Brian Gasson born 1929, remembers:-*

I joined the Army Cadets attached to the Home Guard. We used to meet for training once a week in a hut in the garden of Chelworth, Admiral Beamish's house.

I was attached to the signals section of the Home Guard. I remember helping Ernie Baxter running telephone wires on cotton reels on telephone poles. In an emergency Lt. Jimmy Gardiner, who had one of the few village telephones, would walk down to Orchard Cottage, which was at the bottom of the cemetery steps, with a message. I would then cycle with it to Mr. Shelford, the C.O., at Latchetts.

There was a small ammunition store at the old sand pit in Freshfield Lane. There was also a rifle range there. We sometimes practiced firing rifles and Bren guns on the Forest near Old Lodge.



*'Dads Army', repeated so frequently on television, is the picture that most people have of the Home Guard, illustrating the slight chaos of the organisation, the old soldiers, youths and unlikely civilians providing many amusing situations.*

*We may now regard the Home Guard with affectionate amusement, but remember that in 1940/41 events moved with considerable speed. When there was a very real threat and sense of danger, local men did what they could to help in local defence.*

*The Occasional Paper of 3rd December 1944 included:-*

#### **TO THE XIVth PLATOON 17th SUSSEX BATTALION HOME GUARD**

“A salute to the Home Guard, thanking the Home Guard for their efforts”.....“For four years, throughout the hardest days of the war, a grave responsibility rested upon the Home Guard. Upon you a large measure of the safety of this depended.”.... “You willingly gave of your time” ...and .. ..“a word of praise to your ladies who for four years spared your help at home for the sake of the common good”.

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#### **AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS**

In 1940, when the first bombs were dropped in Danehill everybody was worried and started building air raid shelters. I was living with my parents in the cottage on the junction of Horsted Lane and the A275, now called 'Clover Cottage'. My father, Mr. West, our neighbour and Mr. Jack Dixon of St. Alans got together and built our shelter. It was just around the corner into a bank in the garden of 'Greenacres' the home of Cecil (Bogey) Awcock. When the shelter was finished I remember spending a lot of nights sleeping in it with the other families.

I remember the bombs dropping on the village, especially the 1000 lb bomb at Perrymans Hill which shook our house - my father took me to see the crater which was very big.

During the blackout the K.R.P. Wardens came round nightly to check if you had any lights showing. Several houses had sticky tape on the windows to try and prevent the windows being shattered by bomb blast.

Most able-bodied men were in the Home Guard or the A.R.P. The head master, Mr. Bird, was in the A.R.P., a little sign, a white 'P' still on the wall of the school house, was to show that there was at least one stirrup pump at the school. There were Bofors guns near the searchlights to shoot at the raiders caught in the searchlights. They had sound detectors to track the aircraft - even us children could recognise the drone of German planes.

*(David Etherton)*

I was an A.R.P. Warden. We had lessons on First Aid at Stocklands and used to practise bandaging and that sort of thing.

I worked for Mr. Walder at the bakery. Mr. Walder and I were in the A.R.P., Bill Frost was in the Fire Service and Bert Warnett in the Home Guard. We often compared notes; between us we knew quite a bit of what happened.

I joined the Red Cross before the war. When there was an air raid warning, we had to report to the depot at Forest Row. There was a warning soon after war was declared. I cycled quickly to the depot. All the stretchers, blankets, etc. had been taken up to London for a likely emergency; later they were returned.

One night a lot of incendiary bombs were dropped. There were fires all round, some up in the trees. One fell through the roof of Breeches Bennett's house. He threw it out of the window with a



shovel. The next morning Lt. Col. Clementi-Smith called on my wife. He was very annoyed - no one had reported the bombs to him and he was in charge of A.R.P.

One day there was a restriction on using the roads. Mr. Walder was told that all vehicles must be off the road by 8 a.m. We had to bake early that day. Norman Mitchell and I got to The Red Lion from Twyford at about ten past eight. Norman drove the van over the road onto the grass by the pub hoping to get round the corner without going on the main road. Ron Awcock, a special constable, was on duty. He said we must not go on and that we must take the van back across the road. Norman ignored him and drove back to the bakery saying that, as he was going into the army in a few days, he did not care if he was reported. The army was all over the place - in the woods and by the sides of the road. [Norman Mitchell was in the Army by August 1940].

(Henry Goodenough)

## AIRCRAFT DOWN

### MESSERSCHMITT Bf110. CRASH - ASHDOWN FOREST

27th Sep. 1940 between Ashdown cricket ground and "Gale".



A CRASHED MESSERSCHMITT Bf110  
(Not the one at Chelwood Gate)

From "THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN" by Richard Townsend Bickers. Published 1990 by Guild Publishing by arrangement with Salamander Books Ltd.

Chapter 2 The Height of Battle by Mike Spick,

p. 138."There were two days of intensive fighting before the month ended, on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> (1940).

September 27<sup>th</sup> started with the usual reconnaissance sorties, then, a formation of Bf 110 Jabos escorted by 109s raided southern England in what appeared to be a fairly purposeless incursion. Intercepted, they lost eight of their number." (Details of other raids)

"Total German casualties for the day were 54: 18 Bf 109s, 21 Bf 110s, and 15 JU 88s were written off, two further JU 88s crashed after a mid air collision over France.

British losses totalled 28: 15 Spitfires and 13 Hurricanes were written off and yet others force landed. More seriously 20 R.A.F. pilots were killed and a further five badly hurt."

p 180. "Friday September 27th (1940)  
(Weather) :Fair

Day: Raids on London and Bristol thwarted.

Night: London and Liverpool areas raided

Aircraft Losses: RAF 28, Luftwaffe 54.



## **LOCAL PEOPLE'S MEMORIES OF THE CRASH.**

"I was loading bracken onto a horse and cart, the bracken had been cut to make a fire break around "Gale", Ron Wheeler aged about 7 or 8, the grandson of my employer, Mr Charles Wheeler, was with me. Tom Arnold, who worked for Lord Cecil, came over to speak to us. There was an awful noise above us and we saw a plane coming down, it burst into flames and then dived straight into the ground with an enormous bang, it was about 30 yards away from us. We all started to run as ammunition started to explode and there was this awful fire raging, for a while I did not realise what was happening.

When I looked around I realised that the horse had bolted, Tom had run with young Ron into the big house. My main concern was for the horse, someone called out "get down there are bullets flying about" but I ran towards the main road. Ben Turner was with the horse and I managed to calm it down a bit and started leading it back to the stable. As I was passing the Red Lion I fainted, when I came round I was in Mr Macmillan's place opposite being given brandy. I was in a state of shock which was not surprising after what I had been through. It was something I shall never forget.

(One thing I will not forget was seeing a boot with a leg in it lying on the ground).

I had a small piece of the plane which I carried in my pocket for years. There were some burns on the horse".

*(Verbal Account of the crash by Fred Wood)*

When the German Messerschmitt ME 110 was shot down beside the Ashdown Forest Cricket Ground, my uncle George, who was the blacksmith at the Forge, and my father went to the site in their old Ford van to collect the bodies of the two German fliers. They were buried in Danehill churchyard but have since been removed to Germany.

*(David Etherton)*

Alice Manklow and I were local 'post ladies' during the war. During the early morning blackout, we took our bikes into the Post Office to load up for the early morning delivery. One morning two long crosses, laced up in canvas, arrived addressed to Ron Awcock, the undertaker, from the Red Cross. These were for the graves of the German aircrew. We tied the parcels to the front carrier, only to find that we could not get the bike through the doorway. So they had to come off and be tied on again as best we could in the dark.

*(Win Stepney)*

## **TYPHOON CRASH LANDING -WOODGATE 13th FEB. 1943.**

*From BOMBERS OVER SUSSEX 1943-45.*

*by Pat Burgess & Andy Saunders. Published Apr 1995.*

13th Feb. 1943. "A Typhoon of No 1. Squadron, Biggin Hill, piloted by Sgt. R.W. HORNALL experienced an engine fault and made an emergency landing near Woodgate Farm, Danehill, the starboard wing was smashed off of the kitchen garden boundary. The pilot was unhurt and was able to telephone his squadron from the orderly room of the 5th Canadian Armoured Division nearby.

An R.A.F. Typhoon aircraft crash-landed in the corner of the field near Woodgate - just below where The Pink House has been built at Cumnor House School. Everybody was amazed how he missed the electric cables in the field. The pilot escaped with minor injuries. Lots of people went up there to look at the crashed plane.

*(David Etherton)*

*Henry Goodenough remembers going to see the crashed aircraft. "It had crashed into the cypress hedge". Brian Gasson remembers sitting in the cockpit of the Typhoon.*

I was driving the van down Wych Cross hill when there was a lot of air activity. I stopped the van and got out. Some planes flew over very low. I could see the swastikas on the wings. They



machine-gunned the Isle of Thorns and flew on to Nutley. When I got home Gladys said "You have got mud all over you" - that was because I threw myself on the ground.

We worked with the Home Guard later on and did exercises with them. We had some firing practice. We were awakened by the sound of the first flying bomb. I said to Gladys, my wife, "they are flying low tonight".

(*Henry Goodenough*)

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## **SCHOOL AND EVACUATION**

*Notes by Diana Curta:-*

Evacuations from danger areas to safe havens had a great effect on those concerned. The first evacuation took place at the beginning of September 1939, when bombing raids were expected on London and on other large cities. The non-arrival of bombs at this time, the 'phoney war', led to many evacuees returning home, though some were to come back to the countryside later in the war.

Here in Danehill, the issue was further confused when children were sent away from here to Port Talbot at the time of the V1s and flying bombs from June 1944 onwards.

### Local Danehill School Children Evacuated to Port Talbot July 1944

Daphne M. Bates	d. of Charles	Rock Cottage, DH.
Enid N. Blake	d. of Wilfred	Keepers Cottage, DH.
Ethel J. Blake	d. of Wilfred	Keepers Cottage, DH.
Hilda G. Blake	d. of Wilfred	Keepers Cottage, DH.
John Blake	s. of Wilfred	Keepers Cottage, DH.
Gordon J. Gasson	gs. of Thomas	Queensbery Cott, CG.
Godfrey A. Lucas	c/o Mrs. Lucas	Collingford Cott, DH.
Margery Lucas	c/o Mrs. Lucas	Collingford Cott, DH.
Doreen Newnham	d. of Ernest C.	The Bakery, DH.
Francis R. Roymans	d. of William	Stratton Cott, CG.
Brian D. Smith	s. of Robert	Queensbery Cott, CG.
David R. Smith	s. of Robert	Orchardfield, CG.
Lucy Stevenson	d. of Albert T.	Sunny Bank, DH.
Peter Stevenson	s. of Albert T.	Sunny Bank, DH.
Robert T. Stevenson	s. of Albert T.	Sunny Bank, DH.

Daphne Bates, daughter of Charles and Elsie Bates, was one Danehill school-child who made the long and tedious journey to Port Talbot. There she lodged first with the headmaster of the local school. However, after a few weeks, Elsie Bates and her baby son also made the long train journey around the South Wales coast to Port Talbot. She found lodgings in a farm house and Daphne joined her there.

Life wasn't easy for the evacuees and one disappointment for Elsie was finding that she still had to fetch and carry water in buckets, just as she had always done in Danehill. Elsie also remembers that they didn't enjoy their time away and soon made their way back to Danehill. This was another long journey with baby, pram and all, and no help from the railway staff, who didn't think that they should be returning home.

From September 1939 over 180 evacuee children attended Danehill village school. After October 1941 only 89 stayed on and by the end of the war the number had dropped to 13.

Ernest Newnham, the baker, and his wife adopted their evacuee, as did some other local families. A few other evacuees settled in the parish and did not return to their former homes in London.



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## **WHEN A SUSSEX VILLAGE EVACUATES, [July 1944]**

by John E. Audric

*A contemporary account, which appeared in The Sussex County Magazine No. 18 p.259-60, of the train journey to Port Talbot. Danehill school children were evacuated on this train; see DPHS Magazine Vol. 5 No. 4 p. 21.*

I am a schoolmaster. Worse, I am a headmaster, and since the outbreak of war, many strange jobs have fallen to my lot, all of which I hope I have discharged with a fair degree of efficiency. Certainly there have been few complaints. I have served milk, administered orange juice, prepared lunches, collected horse chestnuts, weighed and measured my pupils at regular intervals, and issued extra clothing coupons, picked blackberries and rose hips and learnt to bottle them, built rabbit hutches and pig sties in connection with the "Back to the Land" policy, issued savings stamps for money each Monday, and money back for savings stamps each Tuesday., supervised knitting for the Merchant Navy, and taught myself to turn the heels of socks, while in the evenings I have instructed the A.T. C. and A.C.F. in the school, and when the cadets have gone home, changed into my Warden's uniform, and sat outside the school. I like my school; in fact, I am sure the building likes me. It surely regards me as part of itself.

Recently I had to bid it temporary farewell. I was placed in charge of a party of mothers, children, and babies. In all, there were two hundred, and I was told to take them to Wales. No circular such as "Hints to Headmasters in charge of Mothers and Babies" came with the order. Having had splendid training in statistics, I at once sorted out my party. There were 47 mothers, 122 small children, and 31 babies. Feverishly I rang the clinic. How much milk does a lusty young British baby consume per day? The answer was prompt, and it was illuminating. By multiplying the quantity by 31, I was able to arrive at the amount required by the aggregate total of babies. So much for the unknown. I scorned advice on how much milk schoolchildren could consume. Had I not served them for ten years?

On the morning before departure, there was medical inspection for all. Flying bombs hurtled overhead, while inside thirty-one pairs of magnificent lungs roared defiance at them. A small crowd of beaming women waited patiently in one room. They had heard that the mothers were travelling to Cornwall, and had come to offer their services as escorts. I thanked them graciously, and told them that we could do with some help, but that the destination was Ebbw Vale. The faces of the would-be escorts fell, and muttering that they would call back later, they quickly withdrew. The medical examination over, I called the mothers into a classroom, and attempted to address them, but six babies had different ideas. They addressed the whole village. Silence came at last. I asked the mothers to arrange for their prams to be at school in good time the next morning. Yes! luggage could be packed in them provided that each piece was labelled.

The next morning we were off. The escorts had presumably thought better of it, which was a pity, for the destination had been changed again. We were allotted two coaches on a very long train, and our coaches were the only two with babies in them. The Train Marshall visited us as soon as the train gathered up speed, and noticing the babies, hastily assured me that he knew that I could manage, old chap" and left me in proud isolation, but not for long. Within an hour I was becoming completely conversant with the varieties of feeding, and proudly asking the mothers how old their babies were. Then I depressed the cap on the American churning containing hot water, and so was able to give the correct mixture - hot water from the thermostat, milk from the churn. At our first stop the friendly W.V.S. were waiting with cups of hot tea for the mothers. This was well received, but the urns ran out with two compartments to go. Those who had drunk the beverage smiled compassionately at those who had not, who, in turn, scowled angrily back. At the next stopping place, two hours away, tea was again ready, but - horror of horrors! - the same two compartments were missed. My courage deserting me, I handed a feeding bottle to the



guard, grabbed a large two-gallon jug, and sprinted to the buffet, where I was able to fill it. Then, back to the train, and peace prevailed for the rest of the journey.

The hospitable Welsh awaited us. Billets were found for all. After two days in Wales, I returned home, where an anxious crowd awaited me. "Everybody is comfortably billeted!" I called out. This was quickly brushed aside. All spoke at once. "Whose baby was born on the train?" they all shouted. I hastened to assure them that such an event had not occurred, and they went away disappointed. All except one elderly lady, who, in spite of my assurances, smiled sweetly, but still repeated, 'Yes, but whose baby?' I had a sudden inspiration. "It was mine, Madam, but I did not like the look of it, so I left it on the train, surrounded by urns, churns, Spam, and buns. When I see it again, it will probably be driving the engine" Smiling benignly, she went off. My triumph was short lived. "Deaf as a door nail, she is" said the local greengrocer.

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## **"RECOLLECTIONS OF AN EVACUEE"**

By Margery Lucas.

At the start of the war I was almost eight years old and at that age it didn't mean very much to me. There were air raid warnings and such things and I do remember people talking about Hitler.

When the Battle of Britain was raging my young brother, Godfrey, and I went to stay with our Granny and Grandad Lucas in Danehill. I always loved being there amongst the countryside which was so different from the hustle and bustle of London.

The first time we stayed at Danehill was at the time of the Dunkirk crisis and I vaguely remember how relieved everybody was when my dad was reported safe from that encounter.

Godfrey and I stayed in Danehill until well after the Battle of Britain but I always remember watching the dog fights overhead. Godfrey used to sleep under the stairs with Granny and I slept under the big table as a precaution.

When things quietened down somewhat Godfrey and I were allowed to go back to London. By this time there was another member of the family - another brother, Bill.

Dad was away at the war and Mum and I together with Godfrey and Bill remained in London until that terrible weekend when Hitler sent over the first of his "doodle-bugs". Only half a mile away from us that Sunday morning the Guard's Chapel was hit with the loss of many lives.

Mum realised that we had to get out of London and so, once again, we came down to Danehill to stay with Granny and Grandad Lucas.

We went to the village school, where dear Mr. Bird was headmaster. Whenever I could I asked to stay to lunch because I loved, and still do, mince and potatoes, that was the staple diet. From Mr. Bird I learned a lot about nature and God's gifts all around us, together with country dancing in the school playground. So many things come to mind when one sits back and thinks. Going on nature walks, finding a rare orchid, picking wild strawberries and using the wood opposite as a mock battle ground. Our imagination was endless. We girls had to be the Red Cross nurses. Whenever I hear the song "There'll always be an England" I immediately think of us having to sit under our desks and sing this if there was a raid or any other trouble.

I remember Mrs. Harris's son getting married and how soon after that he was killed.  
*(Hugh Blackall see page 29)*

When Hitler stepped up his rocket onslaught it was decided to evacuate the children to a safer place and Wales was the destination. Godfrey and I were in the group which went from the Danehill area and I think we got on the train at Haywards Heath. I know it was a very long journey because the train was shunted from place to place to avoid troubled areas.



I remember going through the Severn Tunnel and we were eventually off loaded in South Wales. Our journey ended in a school hall in Cwmavon which is not far from Port Talbot. Village people came and chose which children they wanted. Godfrey and I appeared to be a bit of a problem because we had to stay together. However, we eventually went to stay with a man and his wife on the outskirts of the village, but we were not there very long as the lady was probably not able to cope with two children.

So we were re-located with another older couple, a Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah, we were very happy there. He was an elder of the local chapel and also worked at the Port Talbot steel works. Godfrey and I went to chapel every Sunday and to Sunday School. I was in the choir and if we had stayed longer we were going to sing at the Eisteddfod. When we had settled in our new billet I went each day to Port Talbot Secondary School and Godfrey went to the local Primary School. I even started to learn Welsh and even in my early 'teens the music in Wales was pure magic and remains so to this day.

My mother and youngest brother, in the meantime, had been evacuated to another part of Wales, to a farm near Carmarthen. During our stay in Wales they were able to come over and visit Godfrey and me.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah made us feel so much a part of their family and I shall be eternally grateful to them for their generous hospitality. In the fullness of time we were allowed back to Danehill and there we stayed until we were eventually allowed back to London.

## SCHOOL

Things were difficult enough at school following the disturbed nights, and then the Germans started daylight bombing. We had no air raid shelter at the school; when the Germans came over we all got under the desks the best way we could.

During the summer of 1944, when the 'doodle' bombs started, the boys had to take it in turn to sit outside the school on watch; when they heard the noise of a bomb, they had to ring a hand bell - we all got under the desks. *(Enid Wood,)*

Going to school always carrying our gas mask in its cardboard box; occasionally wearing them to have a lesson; also the gas mask was tested at that time by putting a postcard over the airway; the mask should then pop by the ears.

With bombing raids on London becoming very serious, lots of children were evacuated to the countryside; at least 30 came to Danehill. The school became overcrowded and the Memorial Hall was used as an extra classroom. Children went to Danehill School from the age of 5 to 14; very few went on to East Grinstead Grammar School, even if you passed the 11+ exam, there were not enough places - because of the evacuees in the surrounding villages.

School dinner during the war must have been a nightmare for the cook, Miss Miles and her assistant Mrs. Gasson. Everything was rationed, with the help of dried egg and powdered milk and very little meat we survived. *(David Etherton)*

## EVACUEES

My wife, Violet, was an evacuee who came down from Peckham with her brothers, Fred and Jim, and sister, Mary, to live with Mr. & Mrs. Wally Dixon at Beech Tree Cottage, next to the Police House; there was certainly a house full. *(David Etherton)*

*(Five children of the Morris family of Peckham, were evacuated to Danehill in 1941).*



## Kathleen Wheeler, Evacuee

I was two years old when I came with my brothers and sister to live with Mr. & Mrs. Dixon. Later I was adopted by them and now regard myself as a 'Danehiller'. Another of my sisters was evacuated and lived with Mr. & Mrs. Percy Standing. I married a local man, Jack Wheeler.

The Dixons were friendly with a Brighton family, the Craggs, who had four daughters. One of the daughters, Rita, an invalid who had been a 'blue baby', used to stay with us during the summer. Rene, her sister, and her friend, Violet, often came for the weekend.

There were hundreds of Canadian soldiers around the village; sometimes a dozen or more were sitting on the lawn and the grass outside chatting up the girls. I can still remember some of them - Martin, blue eyes, blonde curly hair and a super smile, loved eating raw peas - given half a chance he would chomp his way through the whole pea row. Steven, another lovely man, very quiet and very keen on Rene, but in the end it was George Hamilton who won her heart; they were married in Brighton just before he went overseas. I don't think either Martin or Steven survived the war. Rene's friend, Violet, also married one of the Canadian soldiers. On sunny days, Rita, the invalid, used to sit outside in her wheelchair; a Canadian soldier was posted at the end of our path so that he could help wheel her in quickly should any enemy aircraft fly over. *(Violet Etherton)*

*(Violet Etherton)*

*(Rita was one of the first to be operated on to correct her heart problem she never married.)*

When I came to Danehill, my sister, Mary, and I were at No. 5 Rose Cottages, next to the bakery. I think the greatest shock was the toilet halfway down the garden and no flushing. Water had to be drawn up in a bucket from a well.

Everything looked cleaner and bigger, as there was more space between the houses, and grass you could walk on without being shouted at. The grass behind the flats where we lived in London was surrounded by railings; only the caretaker was allowed on to mow it.

I remember the 'Shoveits nest' played on us townies by the village children. They would look into a hedge around bird nesting time and say "Look there's a Shoveits nest". When we went to look, we were pushed into the hedge.

The village children taught us how to slide on the ice in the school playground. Ice and snow that you got in the country was far different from the grey and watery slush of town. The two village ponds were used for sliding on when the ice would bear our weight. Cows, being driven down the road from one field to another, were a bit frightening, as most of us had never seen a cow before - big creatures with horns. There were the different sounds, especially at night, when everything sounded much clearer. The owls were a bit weird - took some getting used to.

You could run in the fields, go through the woods, go primrosing, blackberrying and chestnutting. You had a freedom town children never had. I remember Jean Newnham and Jean Baker teaching me to ride a bike in Freshfield Lane. Everything seemed cleaner, quieter - even the sun seemed brighter.

(Kathleen Wheeler)



## THE HOME FRONT

When war broke out, I started to work for the Woodgate Dairies - their men were being 'called-up'. One of my most vivid memories of the war was driving a milk float and delivering milk, whilst the Battle of Britain raged overhead.

A very ancient horse called 'Daisy' pulled the float. She had a mind of her own, allowing only so long a stop at each house before she moved on. This presented some difficulty when it came to taking money or exchanging some juicy gossip. I had to go into houses to shelter when the planes were overhead; on one occasion under a billiard table with two Old English sheepdogs - all of us shaking together.

There were dances every Wednesday and Saturday in the village hall. These were run by Mr. Harry White, his wife, Ada, played the piano, my uncle Frank Awcock the violin and Harry the drums. The ratio of soldiers to girls was about 10 to 1, so every dance was a gentleman's excuse me. As the evening wore on the dance-floor got smaller and smaller with soldiers coming in from the 'Crocodile' over the road. You could not see across the room for smoke.

I met my husband at one of these dances; September 11<sup>th</sup> 1941. He was stationed at Woodgate. We married on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1942. I used all the family coupons on a brown coat, frock and hat which I made myself. We all had rabbit pie for the wedding breakfast and a cake with a white cardboard top.

*(Alberta James)*

Every available piece of land was used to grow food, my father ploughed up fields which had small trees and gorse grubbed out. He said that he could not remember the land being put to the plough in his lifetime. Even the local playing field was not spared.

*(David Etherton)*

When I was on leave from the hospital where I worked, I remember helping my mother with her salvage work at Holly Rough. Quite surprising things turned up; I unrolled one newspaper and found a dead canary inside not much help to the war effort!

*(Miss R. Leigh)*

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*From DPHPS Magazine Vol. 5 No 5*

## **RECOLLECTIONS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

by Alberta James

When the war began there was great sadness and anger amongst the older people, we youngsters were quite excited! A fellowship began because it didn't matter whether your house was large or small, you could still be "hit". As the boys of the village left, boys from towns and villages all over the world came in, some very briefly. Irish, Welsh, Scots, Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders, New Foundlanders and some very handsome Maoris, the best dancers we had. Mr. Haslam<sup>(1)</sup> had asked us to make them all welcome in our homes - **sitting rooms** only of course!

The evacuees arrived and people who had offered to take them into their homes were asked to pick them up from the vicarage. We started off with two very pale thin little boys. They were thrilled to see the apples growing on the trees and started to pick them. Our Dad said they could have any found on the ground - so they crawled through the hedge and started on our neighbour's apples. In a fortnight they were just getting used to us when their mother came to visit them, they had a little weep and she took them home to Peckham.

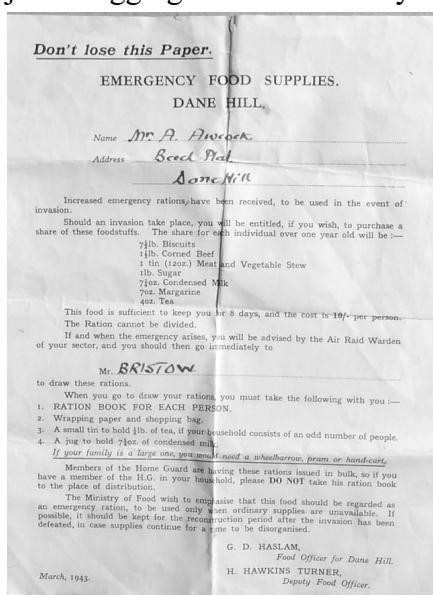
The first mistake our Parish made was being in a direct line between the coast and London. Many enemy planes never faced the London Barrage, just circled around, used up their fuel, dropped their bombs and went home. Thankfully near misses seemed to be the order of the day. Blackout



had begun and people used all sorts of materials to keep their windows dark. We didn't notice the darkness - we were used to it, and still are for that matter.

Dances were held in the hall every Wednesday and Saturday, a welcome break for the soldiers and the girls of the village. In spite of the rough floor and the soldiers' boots, some energetic "jitter-bugging" went on. Very occasionally fights broke out, they were quickly dealt with

especially by a very large Canadian M.P., we called "Gestapo". He rode a Harley Davidson motor bike and was quite able to carry off the offender across it. The last waltz was always "Who's taking you home tonight". Some of us had already left in order to have a slower walk home and still be in by eleven o'clock. The blackout had its uses!



## FOOD RATIONING NOTICE ISSUED TO ALBERTA'S MOTHER

Dried eggs came in with lend lease\*- 1 tablespoon of egg powder to 2 ozs of water = one egg. You could make omelettes with it. Lovely Spam also arrived.

Lord Woolton urged us all to use more potatoes raw, this to lighten batters. Potato water to make soup and gravy. The magazine, "Modern Woman" (1940), said "so much starch was making the young ladies let out their buttons", - there were other reasons too!

A scheme was set up by the Women's Institute for extra meat to be allowed to Mr. Newnham, the local baker, to make pies, some ladies helped in this. There was a black market, mostly from the Army cook-houses via the pubs, but of course around here there were plenty of "bunnies" and some had feathers on!

Fuel was rationed, baths were supposed to have five inches of water only. It was never made clear, if all the family got in together, whether they would each be allowed the five inches. People were told to use slack coal, tea leaves, hedge or grass cuttings and potato peelings for their fires. Not much fun to sit by on cold winter evenings, but there was the wireless to listen to, 1.T.M.A .... .. Brains Trust, "Workers Playtime" and "Music While You Work". Clothes rationing began in June 1941: 66 coupons a year, cut to 60 in 1942. Manual workers got an extra ten. There were utility wedding rings made of 9 carat gold, 30s 9d each. Mine is still going strong. People used all kinds of schemes to eke out clothing coupons - elderly aunts and uncles became very popular. Blankets became dressing-gowns and winter skirts and children appeared in all sorts of recycled garments. If you could get hold of a parachute you were made, nighties and cami-nickers were yours for the asking. Nearly everything ended up on the floor as rag rugs.

Lots of the girls of the village went away to join the forces, nursing or the land-army. Most farms had girls and when summer double time came in, it was a long hard day.

And so the war went on and people became very tired with worry over loved ones and making "ends meet", and the wretched "doodle bugs". When it ended it was a strange anti-climax, but it was a relief to go to bed expecting to still be there in the morning.



\* The Lend-Lease policy was a programme under which the United States supplied the [United Kingdom](#) (and [British Commonwealth](#)), [Free France](#), the [Republic of China](#), and later the [Soviet Union](#) and other [Allied nations](#) with food, oil, and [materiel](#) between 1941 and August 1945.

<sup>(1)</sup> Mr. G. D. Haslam, of Danehurst (now St. Raphaels) Chairman of Danehill Parish Council.

<sup>(2)</sup> "Shotover", now named "Church Hill House".

A service was held in the Parish Church on V.E. Day when the address was given by Viscount Cecil of Chelwood.

**THANKSGIVING FOR VICTORY SERVICE** The Official Service was held in Danehill Church on Sunday, May 13th at 11 o'clock. All the local organisations were represented, there was a large congregation.  
*(From Parish Occasional Paper No. 5 August 1945)*

There were great celebrations on 'V.E.' Day; soon after that the village men came home. What days they were!

*(David Etherton)*



VE DAY AT THE "RED LION"  
Local people celebrate.

### **THOSE AWAY ON SERVICE 1939-1945**

Notices in our Parish Magazines give an idea of the increasing tension leading up to the war illustrated by Derek Rawlings in his article on the A. R. P. preparations. During the 'Munich' crisis in 1936, when there was a state of emergency, some reservists were recalled to the armed services. National Service was introduced some months before the outbreak of war.

In June 1939 there was an announcement under the heading

#### "EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

.....the following have been appointed members of the interviewing panel for the parish of Danehill, to give impartial advice as to the branches of National Service which they can best undertake: Mr. G. D. Haslam, Danehurst, Rev. H.F.C. Kempe, The Vicarage, Danehill and Col. T.H. Leigh, Holly Rough, Chelwood Gate.

From the outbreak of war more and more men in various age groups were conscripted or 'called up' for National Service. There were also many volunteers.

The Parish Magazine from time to time published lists of 'Those Away on Service'. There were 55 names in the first of these in the July 1940 issue. They included 5 women, 44 men in the Army, 4 in the R.A.F., 3 in the Royal Navy and 2 Royal Marines. The Rev. H.F.C. Kempe must



have compiled this list with a heavy heart, having buried his only son, John Sealy, aged 18, on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

By July 1940 the German Army had swept through Europe and the Vicar recorded with much regret the following casualties:- Missing - Arthur Green and Victor Burns, both of the Royal Sussex Regiment." Also noted was the award of the Military Cross to Captain Tufton Victor Hamilton Beamish of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers.

Month by month more names were added to the list of those away on service. In August 1941 the first two deaths were recorded: Victor Burns and Hugh Blackall. The Rev. Kempe bids farewell to the parish on his departure to become Rector of Cuckfield in the last issue of the Parish Magazine until October 1944.

Towards the end of the war, the then Vicar, Rev. P.G.P. Cornish, published a '**Roll of Honour**'; a list of those who had served; at the time of the final list, he was asking for any other names to be sent to him for inclusion in the Roll - "for a complete record". The final summary of published names and a few not included which I have added is as follows:

A total of 183 names; 21 women and 162 men; 103 men in the Army, 38 in the Royal Air Force, 17 in the Royal Navy and 4 in the Royal Marines.

In November 1945 "Occasional Paper" No. 6, the Rev. Cornish quotes under the heading:

#### **"THE ATOMIC BOMB**

"The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces,  
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,  
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve  
And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,  
Leave not a wrack behind." (*From The Tempest*)

He also quoted from 2 Peter 3. 10 and 11 "...the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the element shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burnt up...."



First "Welcome Home" Party

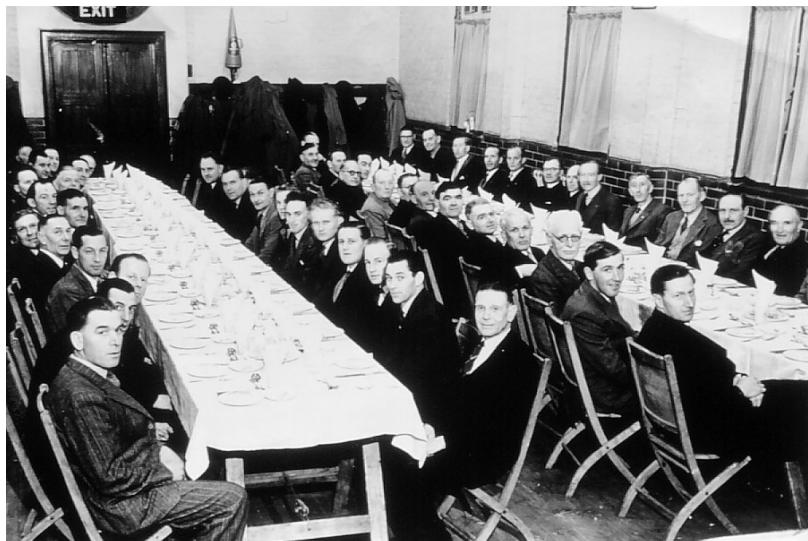
The Vicar put forward some ideas for a suitable War Memorial and under the heading '**RETURNING HOME**' wrote:- To the men and women of the Forces now home from so many and far places, we give a hearty welcome. We are glad to see you back.

You have been much missed. We have remembered you each one by name before God week by week in Danehill Church and at the Chelwood Mission Church.



We guess you do not want any fuss made of you: no brass bands and no ‘Conquering Hero’ songs. You feel that it is all you wanted just to be back in your homes again. Yet we cannot quite leave your coming back just there. Mrs. Scutt, Church Hill, would be grateful if the names of those who are back in the parish were sent to her”. Mrs. Scutt needed to know these names because, with help from Mr. & Mrs. Blackwell and Mr. & Mrs. Ellis, the first of a series of ‘Welcome Home’ parties was held on March 16<sup>th</sup> 1946 when “at an enjoyable meal, purses and wallets were presented to each of the guests”. I think that only one further party was arranged, which I attended; this was not reported in the Parish Magazine.

#### Second “Welcome Home” Party.



**There was no welcome home for five men from local families:**

#### **LOCAL MEN LOST IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

**Captain John Otway Hamilton Beamish**, the younger son of Rear-Admiral Tufton Beamish and Mrs. Beamish, was aged 25 when killed in action in January 1945. He served in the Royal Artillery and went to India in June 1942. In March 1944 the Regiment went to Burma and took part in six months arduous campaigning in mountain and jungle warfare. Following a period of further training, he declined a safe post in Western India to rejoin his own Regiment in Burma. He met a brave end, in January last, fighting the enemy with his Battery and his friends, and leaving us with an example of duty well done.

**Albert Belfield.** His parents lived at Vale Farm, Boxes Lane, Chelwood Common. His name does not appear in the local ‘Roll of Honour’. His family probably moved to Vale Farm during the war; a Christopher Belfield attended Danehill School. It is believed that he served in the Royal Air Force and died of pneumonia.

**Hugh Blackall**, son of Rev. Lewis & Mrs. Gertrude Blackall, was born in Canada on 22 November 1914. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Blackall returned to live with her mother, Mrs. Beech, at Jesmondene, Chelwood Gate. Mrs. Blackall married the widowed Mr. Harris, retired head master of Danehill School. Mrs. Harris taught at the school for many years. Hugh attended Danehill School from May 1919 to April 1927 when he went to Belvedere School, Haywards Heath. He joined the Civil Air Guard and learned to fly before the war, enlisting in the R.A.F. at its outbreak. Hugh was commissioned and joined 603, Edinburgh Defence Squadron, stationed at Turnhouse, near Edinburgh. Hugh married Dorothy Frances Richardson of Uckfield at Danehill on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1941. His squadron moved south to Rainham in Essex. On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1941 his Spitfire ran out of fuel returning from a mission over northern France and was lost when it came down in the sea. He was buried at Brookwood (R.A.F.) Cemetery on July 26<sup>th</sup> 1941.

**Victor Burns** of The Royal Sussex Regiment. Thomas Victor Burns was born 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1916. His parents lived at Rock Cottage, Furners Green. Victor attended Danehill School, leaving in



1931. He may have enlisted in the regular army. He was posted as missing in June 1940 and confirmed killed in action in August 1941.

**Arthur Gardner.** The parents of the five Gardner brothers who saw service moved to Chelwood Gate early in the war from London. Arthur was killed in action in France shortly after 'D' Day. His death was reported in the final 'Roll of Honour' of May 1945. His brothers, Albert and James, had both been Prisoners of War.

**James William Payne** was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1911. When he was admitted to Danehill School in 1916, he was in the care of Mrs. Baker of Danehill. It is probable that he was one of the children found a home by Mrs. Corbett. 'Jim' was a local sportsman and he appears on photographs of football and cricket teams. Some of us will remember him calling on our homes with the 'Club' book, making weekly payments for household items and clothing; a draw was made to determine who would receive the chosen item in the 20 week sequence. Although he lived just outside the parish with his wife and two daughters in Horsted Keynes, Jim was very much a Danehill man. His death was reported in the Parish Magazine:

"FALLEN IN BATTLE. James William PAYNE - The village was distressed to learn at Christmas that James William PAYNE, R.A.S.C. had been killed in December in the fighting which took place in the streets of Athens itself. Payne was driving in convoy when he was shot at with others by men in ambush. The casualties in this incident were mercifully few. A Service of Remembrance, attended by the British Legion and many friends of Mrs. Payne of Withy Cottage was held in the Parish Church on Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup>". There was also a requiem in Athens Cathedral attended by the Regent, the Archbishop of Athens, several members of the Government and the British Ambassador."

**Herbert Leigh** was a Major in the Indian Army. He was the son of Col. T.H. & Mrs. Leigh of Holly Rough, Chelwood Gate.

My younger brother, Herbert, was in business in Bombay at the outbreak of war when he joined the Indian Army. Reinforcements were sent from India to help with the defence of Singapore; the Japanese were there first; ships of the convoy were sunk. No news was received from or about my brother until some months after the war was over when it was assumed that he was one of those lost when the convoy was attacked; the Japanese did not release any details. For all that time we hoped that he was a prisoner of war (awful as that would have been) but sadly it was not so.

(Miss R. Leigh)

See "We Will Remember Them" - Details of the men whose names are on Danehill War Memorial - published by Danehill Parish Historical Society in 2001. A reprint of this is now available.

A number of men were Prisoners of War. **Arthur Green**, reported missing in July 1940, had been taken prisoner. Others mentioned in the Roll of Honour were **Leslie Bates, John Hudson and Herbert Leigh, Major**.

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"I was a local Post Lady during the war and remember there was great excitement in the Post Office when a letter arrived with the sender's name "Peter Wells" on the back. Peter had been missing for four months. It was still early morning when I reached the cottage in Boxes Lane. Mr. Wells was still in bed so I called out to him. He looked out of the bedroom window and hurried down when I told him I had a letter from his son. Peter was safe and a prisoner of war in Switzerland"

(Mrs. Win Stepney).

*From the Parish Magazine of May 1945:* The Parish learnt with great relief that **Charles Lucas**, R.A.F., elder son of Dallyn Lucas Esq. and Mrs. Lucas of Lambs Rough, was safe after being missing for six months. Mr. Charles Lucas was shot down over Holland, remained in hiding for many months and after many adventures which for security reasons he cannot yet relate, returned



home on leave at the beginning of last month". In fact, he was sheltered by a Dutch family who recently wished to make contact with him through our local policeman; he now lives in Australia.

Also "Leslie Bates, until recently a prisoner of war in Germany, is home again, and is most welcome. **Ernest Turner**, rather seriously wounded in Italy, is back in Danehill Parish to the great comfort of his wife and mother. **John Baker** is making progress towards complete recovery from a wound he received in Normandy shortly after D-Day. We understand Colin Manners has also been slightly wounded".

The exploits of **Major Geoffrey St. George Allen, Gurkha Rifles**, elder son of Mr. & Mrs. Allen of Kidborough Farm who was awarded the Military Cross were reported in the January 1945 issue:

"Major Allen, whilst on his way from Italy to a German prison camp, jumped from a moving train when six of nine others similarly escaping were shot. He was twice re-captured in Italy and twice escaped, eventually to the 5<sup>th</sup> Army lines. He roamed Italy for eighteen months; was flown back to India and was besieged by Japanese for three months in Imphal, Assarn".

*This short article, using reports in the Parish Magazine and some personal recollections, can only include the experiences of a few of the many people from our parish who served their country during the war. In addition to those in the armed services, many other people were engaged in war work, often away from home.*

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### UNITS SERVING IN THE AREA 1939-1945

Sunday 29th October 1939 was when, as the Parish Magazine recorded, we had the first full military Church Parade ever held in Danehill Church. Security regulations prevented the unit being named, many people will remember this day when, with their mascot, an Irish wolfhound



named "Tara", being led at the front of the column followed by a band of bagpipes and drums, the London Irish Rifles, with green hackles in their berets, marched through the village to the church.

BAND OF

#### THE 1<sup>st</sup> BN. THE LONDON IRISH RIFLES.

St. Patrick's Day Parade at the Isle of Thorns 17<sup>th</sup> March 1940.

(The Vicar noted, rather wistfully), " it is a pity that ordinary citizens do not follow the example of a wise and thoughtful authority and make weekly Church Parade a duty - for themselves" - and "We offer a welcome to both village and Church to our temporary guests and hope they will be as comfortable and happy as possible"

There had obviously been much activity leading up to this day, the military authorities had surveyed the area to find suitable accommodation and vacant premises were requisitioned.

On the Saturday before this Church Parade the main party of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The London Irish Rifles, a Territorial Unit, which had been mobilized, arrived in the parish. The Isle of Thorns camp was very suitable for housing the headquarters and most of the battalion, others were



billed in the old Vicarage (Richard Bertram House) and St. Bruno (Linwood). The petrol pumps at the Forge, Danehill were taken over and used by the army.



**St. PATRICK'SMDAY PARADE AT THE ISLE OF THORNS.**

**The figure in the foreground is Major Barrington, later to command the Home Guard**

Army units moved around a great deal, staying in one place for only a few months. Some units were here training and preparing for service overseas.

Security was tight and the Parish Magazine did not publish details of the units stationed here.

The Rev. H.F.C. Kempe noted in his diary that the 7th Somerset Light Infantry held a Church Parade on the 19th May 1940.

Woodgate (Cumnor House School) was taken over by the army and 5<sup>th</sup> Queens Royal Regiment were there in late 1939. This unit went to France and were evacuated from Dunkirk by June 1940. The South Lancashire Regiment were at Woodgate and the Isle of Thorns; a Danehill marriage gives us a date - November 18th 1940 William Alexander of this regiment married Elfreda Gladys Gasson.

The old Vicarage (Cherrils/Richard Bertram House) continued to be used by the army until the end of the war. One of the Canadian units stationed there included Military Police; their duties took them to trouble spots “..driving their Harley Davidson motor cycles and trucks to sort out the problems at local pubs and dances,” as mentioned by David Etherton.

St. Bruno (Lindwood) was not used by the army after the departure of the London Irish Rifles.

At Sheffield Park, a camp was constructed in the park, near the old cricket ground. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers were there in 1942; among them was the late Sidney George (Sam) Watkins who married Emily Lucas.

Units of the Canadian Army took over most of the camps and billets in the district and included: 4th, 6th & 13th Squadrons of the Royal Canadian Engineers. Royal Canadian Army Service Corps.

Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.

Royal Regiment of Canada.

Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps.

Royal Canadian North Shore Regiment.

When all these soldiers were stationed in the parish, the total population was greater than at any time before or since.

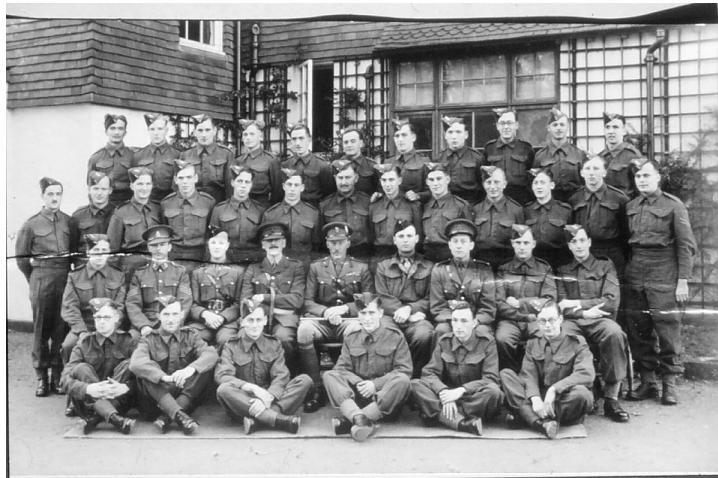
The Canadians were the last army units to be stationed in the parish. In preparation for D Day, the soldiers left their billets and were assembled round the district for several days; during the night they departed for France. Some of these men did not survive the action; for them Danehill was the last peaceful place they knew.

Men from many parts of the British Isles and Canada were stationed here and will have their memories of the place. Army life was hard and uncomfortable. Let us hope their brief stay with us was as pleasant as conditions permitted.



## RECOLLECTIONS OF SOME MEN STATIONED IN THE PARISH:

**James A. James**, Royal Corps of Signals, was attached to the Headquarters, 141 Brigade part of the 47<sup>th</sup> (London) Division (Bow Bells), stationed at Woodgate from the summer of 1941 for a few months. The unit had previously been stationed at Danny, Hurstpierpoint and were responsible for coastal defence between Shoreham and Rottingdean. 141 Brigade included battalions of the Royal Fusiliers and the London Scottish.



**HEADQUARTERS, 141 BRIGADE 47<sup>th</sup> (LONDON) DIVISION (BOW BELLS), At Woodgate**

**D. W. Glover, 302 Battery Royal Artillery Anti Aircraft**, writes: "Our unit, of about 20 men was stationed at Danehill, under canvas at Folly Hill, behind the school. Danehill was within the area known as the 'Southern Shield' and was chosen as an anti-aircraft site to combat the threat of the latest German weapon, the V1 Flying Bomb, which was expected to be launched on Southern England prior to the anticipated Allied invasion.

Once the Allied landings had taken place V1s were launched in ever greater numbers, of which Danehill had some of the first overhead.

The site operated out of the H.Q. at Colemans Hatch, which received a direct hit from a V1 on the mess hall killing several men, among them the Commanding Officer, and injuring many more. The barracks were totally destroyed and the H.Q. was then transferred to the Isle of Thorns camp.

As the V1 launchings were intensified it was realised that they were allowed to penetrate too far inland, so all A.A. sites were moved to a narrow coastal strip on the Pevensey marshes and along the coast to Bulverhythe and Bexhill so as to give maximum fire power concentration on a small area. Behind the coastal strip the R.A.F. operated on any 'Doodle Bombs' that escaped the guns. This situation lasted until the launching sites were overrun and destroyed.

The social side of the village was very active, with so many troops stationed around, mostly Canadians. Dances were held at the Memorial Hall on most Saturdays and sometimes during the week. The village people were very friendly inviting many of us to tea and other social events. The Women's Institute organized parties and teas for all the soldiers that were stationed in the vicinity. There were frequent visits to the site by the W.V.S. and the Church Army dispensing tea and wads.

During my time at Danehill I met a local girl who later became my wife; this was the most important and best event to happen to me during my stay at Danehill.

April 13th 1946: Married at Danehill Church: - Denys William Glover and Jean Lilian Blackwell

Denys (also known as Fred) recalls that the first doodle bug was tracked by the unit as it passed over Danehill. Bob Ogley's book "Doodle Bugs and Rockets", a comprehensive record of this campaign of attacks by V1 pilotless aircraft and V2 Rockets, confirms this.

*"Casualties and Damage in Sussex"*

*June 13th (1944) 04.20 Cuckfield. Mizbrooks Farm. First PAC (pilotless air craft) came from the direction of London, circled between Plaw Hatch and Danehill then went SW over Lindfield, turned due W and exploded. Slight damage".*



*Also 'August 29<sup>th</sup> 13.52, Marsh Green Camp, Hartfield, 2 killed, 37 injured".*

**Jim Cundy** served in the 6th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, part of the 9th (Panda) Division. The unit moved from Northumberland to Sheffield Park in April 1943. Jim's duties as the Brigadier's driver took him to the Danehill petrol pumps. In September 1943 the unit moved to Grays in Essex and on to India. On 28th October 1944 James Cundy married Beatrice Etherton whose father's petrol pumps had been requisitioned by the army.

**James King** arrived at Woodgate in May 1945 with the Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry, a Royal Artillery Battery. Jim was part of an advance party from Haverford West, which was intending to take over accommodation in Withyham. This was not considered suitable. Instead they were sent to Woodgate, Danehill. There were about 200 men stationed there until 10th November 1945 when the unit travelled to Tunbridge Wells by road, then to Glasgow by rail to embark for Italy on the following day. Jim has good reason to remember the dances in the Danehill Memorial Hall; it was there he met the young lady he was to marry who was at Horsted Keynes on war work.

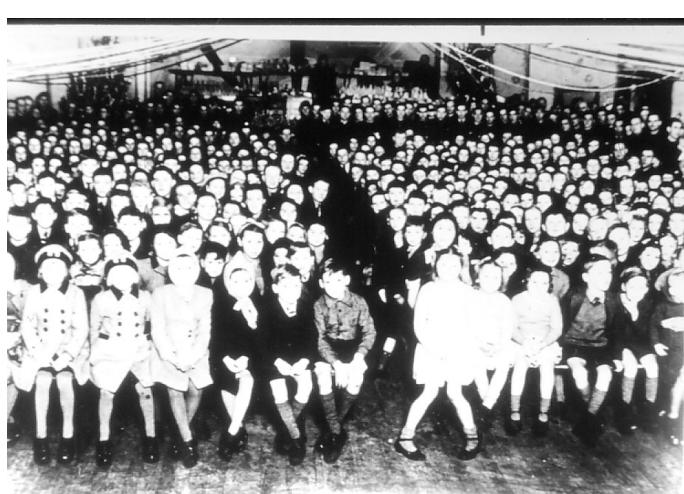
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It was several months later when the war came to our village and the first soldiers to arrive were stationed at the 'Isle of Thorns' Chelwood Gate. I will remember forever the London Irish Rifles marching down to Danehill Church from Chelwood Gate led by their band of pipes and drums dressed in green jackets and orange kilts; what a sight they were for children of my age.

There were lots of soldiers stationed around the village. Some Nissen huts were built in the grounds of Woodgate, under the trees where it was hoped they would not be spotted from the air. They were still there a long time after the war. I remember the Canadians playing baseball on the front lawn at Woodgate; several windows were broken in the process. These soldiers had a big influence on the children. Some were here prior to the ill-fated attack on Dieppe; many never returned. Before leaving on the raid they were drinking heavily in the local pubs. I can remember the 'Crocodile' having lots of windows smashed when the beer ran out.

**CANADIAN SOLDIERS OUTSIDE  
THE "CROCODILE" DANEHILL  
Note the corrugated iron  
"Blackout" screen**

The Canadians invited all the local children to a Christmas party at the Isle of Thorns in 1943. We were given chocolate and many other wonderful things which were sent to the Canadians from home; every child received a present the Canadians from home; every child received a present.



Many Canadians smoked 'Sweet Caporal' cigarettes. We children used to collect the empty packets which had printed inside details of types of military aircraft, Allied, German and Japanese. We tried to be the first to collect the set of 50. We certainly kept the village tidy.

One of the units stationed at Sheffield Park were the French Canadian Van



Doos", very boisterous and all with beards, who were the main trouble makers at local pubs. I cannot forget them because, during my National Service in 1952, I went to Korea, and there I fought with - guess who - the Van Doos" - what a coincidence!

There were many Canadians here before D Day. Many families in Danehill befriended them. They used to bring many "goodies" sent from home which we did not have. One or two local girls married Canadians **CHILDREN'S PARTYAT THE ISLE OF THORNS** and went to live there after the war.

#### GIVEN BY THE CANADIAN ARMY 1943

Before D Day Canadian troops were stationed in the woods to the north of Springfield Cottage; there was a large number - right up to Forest Farm.

It was a big thing when a searchlight arrived on the common below the school. What excitement! Tents were erected by the soldiers and the searchlight was soon in operation. What a sight it was when on full beam into the night sky. The soldiers were there for several months. Jean Blackwell who lived in Collingford Lane married one of the soldiers named Fred.

*(David Etherton)*

For a day of two before D Day some New Zealand soldiers stayed in Admiral Beamish's woods at Chelworth. I came home from work one evening to find two of them sitting on our door step soaking their feet after their long march - they had asked my mother if she could help them.

There was a Y.M.C.A. Canteen for the troops near the Red Lion; you can still see the concrete base of the building in the car park.

There were some Nissen huts at the 'Beacon' where soldiers were stationed.

*(Mrs. Violet Rivers)*

#### WORLD WAR 2 AND THE PARISH OF DANEHILL

Our thanks to the people whose memories we are quoting.

Mr. Fred Bass, at Woodgate in 1939 with the 5th Queens Royal Regiment.

Mrs. Elsie Bates and her daughter, Janet, evacuated to Wales 1944.

Mrs. Dorothy Blackall, widow of Hugh who was killed serving in the R.A.F.

Mrs. Beatrice Cundy.

Mr. David Etherton, aged 6 at the outbreak of war, born in Danehill.

Mrs. Violet Etherton, his wife, born in Peckham, aged 2 when evacuated to Danehill in 1941 with her sister.

Mrs. Kathleen Wheeler, her sister, also born in Peckham, evacuated to Danehill in 1941.

Mr. George Gardner, whose brother, Albert, was killed in Normandy.

Mr. Brian Gasson, born 1929, served in the Home Guard Cadets.

Mr. Henry Goodenough, born 1915, an A.R.P. Warden, worked for Walder's Bakery.

Mrs. Alberta James, worked at Woodgate Dairy at Woodgate.

Mrs. L. Knight.

Miss R. Leigh, whose parents were much involved with war work in the parish and whose brother, Herbert, was lost in the Far East.

Mr. W. Marten.

Mrs. Violet Rivers.

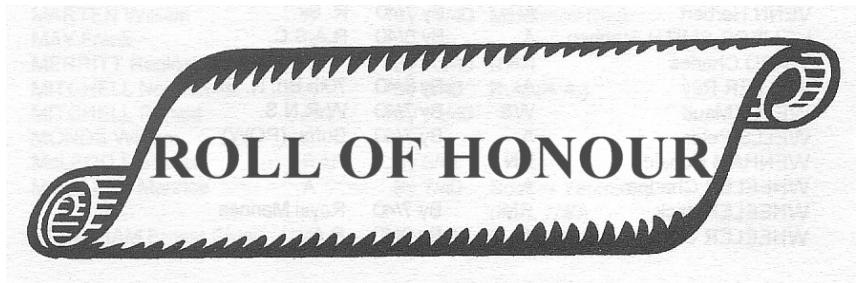
Mr. C. W. Shelford, lived at "Latchetts", was Commanding Officer of the 14<sup>th</sup> Platoon, 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sussex Home Guard, now lives in Chailey.

Mrs. Win Stepney, aged 90, living in Danehill, was a post woman.

Mrs. Enid Wood (nee Standing), at school during the war.

Also the men who were stationed here whose names are mentioned.





## LIST OF PERSONS AWAY ON SERVICE 1939/45

NAME	SERVICE	DATE	NOTES
ALLEN Charles Colin	A		
ALLEN Geoffrey St. G.	A	1/45	Ghurka Rifles; Awarded M.C. 1/45.
ALLEN-STEPTON Ronald	A		
AWCOCK Charles	RAF		
AWCOCK Charles	A	By 2/41	R.A.
AWCOCK Clarise	RAF	By 12/40	
AWCOCK George	RAF		
AWCOCK Margaret	CNR	12/41	Civil Nursing Reserve.
AWCOC K Stanley	RAF		
BAKER Cecil John	A		Sherwood Forresters
BAKER Fred	A	By 7/40	Royal Berks. Regt.
BAKER Harold	A	By 3/41	R.A. (A.A.)
BAKER Helen	WS	By 8/40	
BAKER Jack	A		
BAKER John	A	By 7/40	Essex Regt.; Wounded Normandy.
BAKER Maurice	A		
BAKER Reg	RN		
BARRINGTON Eric, Capt.	A	By 7/40	R.A. (A.A.).
BATES Albert	A		
BATES Charles	A		
BATES Horace	A	By 8/40	Royal Sx. PM 8140.
BATES Leslie	A	By 7/40	Hampshire Regt.; POW; Released & home by 5/45.
BATES Richard	RAF	By 12/40	4/45.
BAXTER Herbert (Jack)	A		
BAYNE Kathleen	WS	By 7/41	F.A.N.Y.
BEAMISH John, Capt.	A	By 7/40	R.F.A. John Oftway Hamilton. Killed Burma - see report.
BEAMISH Tufton, Major	A	By 7/40	Northumberland Fusiliers
BEAMISH Vivien	ATS	By 7/40	A.T.S
BELFIELD Albert	RAF?		On War Memorial; Died pneumonia?
BENNETT Charles	RAF		Horsted Keynes Parish.
BENNETT Fred	A	By 7/40	R.A. (Searchlight).
BENNETT Sydney	A	By 7/40	R. E.
BENNETT Richard	A	15/7/39	(R.A.) "Called up" for "Militia" which became part of the Army on outbreak of War).
BLACKALL Hugh	RAF	By 39	Pilot Officer; Killed in action 23/7/41.
BLACKALL Phyllis	WS	By 8/40	RAF (Nursing).
BLACKMAN Owen	RAF	By 6/41	RAF VR.
BLACKWELL Cyril	RAF		
BOSHIER Fred	A	By 4/41	70th Royal Sx. Regt.



BOWDEN SMITH Antoinette	VAD	By 7/40	
BRAY Geoffrey	RN		
BRINKHURST Roger	A	By 7/40	Royal Sx, PM 7/40.
BURLEY Maurice	A	By 7/40	Royal Sx.
BURNS Harry	A	By 7/40	C.M.P. (T.C) Roya Sx 7/40.
BURNS Mary	WS		
BURNS Thomas	A		Father of Thomas Victor (below), Harry & Mary Believed to have served in 10 <sup>th</sup> R. Sussex).
BURNS Thomas (Victor)	A	By 7/40	Royal Sx. Missing 7/40; Killed in action by 8/41.
CARTER William	A	By 6/41	S. Staffordshire Regt.
CHARMAN (EDGELE) May	WAAF		
CHARMAN Clive	RAF		
CHARMAN Dick (Dereck)	RAF		
CLARKE Dorothy	WS		
CLARKE Ernest	A	By 1/40	
CLARKE Mabel	WS		
CLARKE Wilfred	A	By 1//40	Queens R. Regt.
COBBY Donald	A		
COBBY Leslie	RM	By 8/40	
COLE John Richard	A	By 12/40	R.A
COOPER Albert	A	By 7/40	R.A.M.C.
COOTE Bernard	RAF	By 9/40	
COPPARD Philip	A		
COWAN Thomas	RAF	By 3/41	
DIXON Alec	RAF		
DIXON Dorothy	WAAF		
DIXON Jack	RN		
DIXON Josephine (DUBBER)	W.A.A.F.		
DUBBER Jack	A	By 7/40	A.M.P.C.
DUBBER Thomas	RAF		(Born Fletching, married Josephine Dixon, moved to Danehill in 1943).
DUKA Theodore	A	By 7/40	R.A.S.C.
ELUS Norman	RN		
ELPHICK Charles	A	39	Coldstream Guards (Reserve).
FOORD Walter	A		
FRANCIS William	A	By 6/41	A.M.P.C.
FROST Richard MBE	RAF	By 7/40	RAF VIR
FULLER Will	A	By 7/40	Royal Sx.
GARDNER Albert	A	By 8/40	K.R.R.C. Missing 8/40 POW 7/41.
GARDNER Arthur	A		Killed in action after D Day see report.
GARDNER George	A	By 8/40	KR.R.C.
GARDNER James	A	By 8/40	R.A. (A.A.)
GARDNER John	A	By 8/40	
GASSON John	A	By 7/40	R.E.
GASSON Joyce	WS		
GASTON Herbert	RN		
GASTON James	A	By 7/40	R.A. (Searchlight)
GOLDSMITH Harold	RN	By 7/40	
GOODENOUGH Claude	A		
GREEN Arthur	A	By 7/40	R. Sx. Missing 7/40 POW 7/41
HAMILTON Wilfrid	A		



HARDY Ronald	RN	By 7/40	
HARLAND Ann	WS	By 7/40	W.A.A.F.
HEARN Ben	A		
HEDGECOCK Frederick		RN	By 8/40
HEMSLEY William	A		
HODGKINS Paul	A	By 12/40	R.A. (A.A.)
HODGKINS Peter	A	By 7/40	R.A.M.C.
HUDSON Jack	A	By 9/40	R.A.S.C. POW
HUGGETT Alan	RAF		
HUNT Robert	RAF	By 8/40	
HYDE Bernard	RAF	By 8/40	
JEFFREYS Madge	WS		
JEFFREYS Tom	A	By /0/40	R.E.
JENNINGS Olivia	WS	By 7/40	F.A.N.Y.
LAING Allen	A	By 7/40	Scottish Horse
LANGRIDGE Harold	A	By 10/40	RAF
LANGRIDGE Ralph	A	By 7/40	R.A.S.C.
LEIGH Edward Lt. Col.		A	Indian Army
LEIGH Herbert A (IA)	A	By 8/40	2/20 Baluchis (Indian Army) Shown as POW Far East 10/44 Died Singapore; On War Memorial - see report
LOCKE George	A	By 7/40 R.A.S.C.	
LONG Robert	A		
LOOKER David	RAF	By 7/40	
LOOKER John	RAF		
LUCAS Albert	A	By 7/40	R.A.M.C.
LUCAS Charles	RAF	10/44	Was missing - see article.
LUCAS Fred	A		
LUCAS Frank	A	By 39	Coldstream Guards (Regular)
LUCAS John	RAF		
LUCAS Leslie	RAF	By 7/40	
LUCAS Norman M.	A		
LUCAS Philip	A	4/41	70th R. Sx,
LUCAS Thomas	A	By 5/41	R.A.
MANNERS(REYNOLDS) Myrtle	WS		
MANNERS Anthony	RN		
MANNERS Colin I.	A	H.L.I.	Wounded Normandy
MANNERS Hazel	WS	By 8/41	W.A.A.F.
MANNERS Roger	A		A.S.C.
MARTEN Alfred	A	By 7/40	Hampshire Regt.
MARTEN Herbert	A	By 7/40	R. Sx.
MARTEN William	A	By 1//40	Middlesex Regit.
MAY Frank	RAF		
MERRITT Reginald Davis	A	By 10/40	R.A.
MITCHELL Norman	A	By 8/40	R.A. (A.A.)
MITCHELL Ronald	RN	By 12/40	
MONDS William	A		
MCLEOD Frederick	RAF	By 6/41	
McMILLAN Maurice	A	By 7/40	Sussex Yeomanry (R.A. 7/40),
NEWNHAM Ernest Stuart	A	By 5/41	R.A.O.C.
NEWTON John	A	By 8/40	R.O.A.C.
NEWTON Kenneth	A		
NORTON William	RAF		



PADGHAM John	A	By 7/40	R.E.
PAYNE James	A	By 7/40	R.A.S.C. Killed in action 3/45
PEARSON Clement	RAF	By 7/41	
PENTECOST William	RAF		
PETTIT David	RN		
PETTIT Stanley	RN	By 7/40	
POLLARD Marion	ATS		
RAVEN Albert	A		
READ Robert	RAF		
REICHWALD Winifred	WS	By 8/40	F.A.N.Y.
REWELL Archibald	RAF	By 8/40	
REWELL Robert	RAF		
SALE P.E.	WS	By 7/40	
SALE William	A	By 7/41	R. Corps Signals
SHAPLAND Alan	A		
SIMMONDS Paul	RAF		
SMITH Charles	A	By 7/40	A.M.P.C.
SMITH Leslie	A	By 12/40	Essex Regt.
SPENCER Robert	RM	38	R. Marines (Reserve)
STEPNEY Donald	RAF	By 8/40	RAF
STEVENS Fred	A	1/40	R.A.S.C.
STEVENS Ronald	RAF		
STEVENSON Albert	A		
TOMSETT James	A		
TUNKS Eric	A	1/40	R.A.S.C.
TURNER Ernest	A	By 7/40	Somerset L.I. Wounded Italy 10/44
TURNER Fred	RN		
TURNER Jack	A	By 8/40	70th Bn. R. Sx.
TURNER Jack	RAF		
TURNER Leonard	A	By 7/40	R.A.S.C.
VENN Herbert	A	By 7/40	R. Sx.
VILLIERS-SMITH Stephen	A	By 8/40	R.A.S.C.
WARD Charles	RN		
WELLER Ray	A	By 8/40	70th Bn. R. Sx.
WELLS Maud	WS	By 7/40	W.R.N.S.
WELLS Peter	A	By 7/40	Buffs. (POW)
WENHAM Ronald	RN		
WHEELER Charles	A		
WHEELER Jack	RM	By 7/40	Royal Marines
WHEELER Sidney	A	By 9/40	R.A.
WHEWELL Michael, 2nd Lt.	A		
WILKINSON George	RN		
WILSON Norman	A	by 8/40	Household Cavalry (Regular)
WOOD Henry	RN		
WOOD Peter	RM		
WOOD Reginald	A	By 7/40	R.A.
WOOD Robert	A	By 8/40	R. A. (Searchlight)
WOOLGAR Unice	ATS		
YOUNG Alfred	RAF		
YOUNG Owen	RAF	By 7/40	

The names are taken from the Danehill Parish Magazines and Occasional Papers with some additions. The arm of service shown is as published. People may well have transferred to other



units. The dates shown are when an entry first appeared in the magazine except where a definite date is known. This may not be the complete list. The Vicar was still asking for any further names to be sent to him in November 1945. After this no further list was published. The list now includes additional names that were published in *DPHPS Magazine Volume 5, No 4*

Abbreviations used:

A -	Army
RAF -	Royal Air Force
RM -	Royal Marines
RN -	Royal Navy
WS -	Women's Service
ATS -	Auxiliary Territorial Service
WAAF -	Women's Auxiliary Air Force
WRNS -	Women's Royal Navy Service
RA -	Royal Artillery

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**The London Irish Rifles entertain local children on a Bre Gun Carrier**



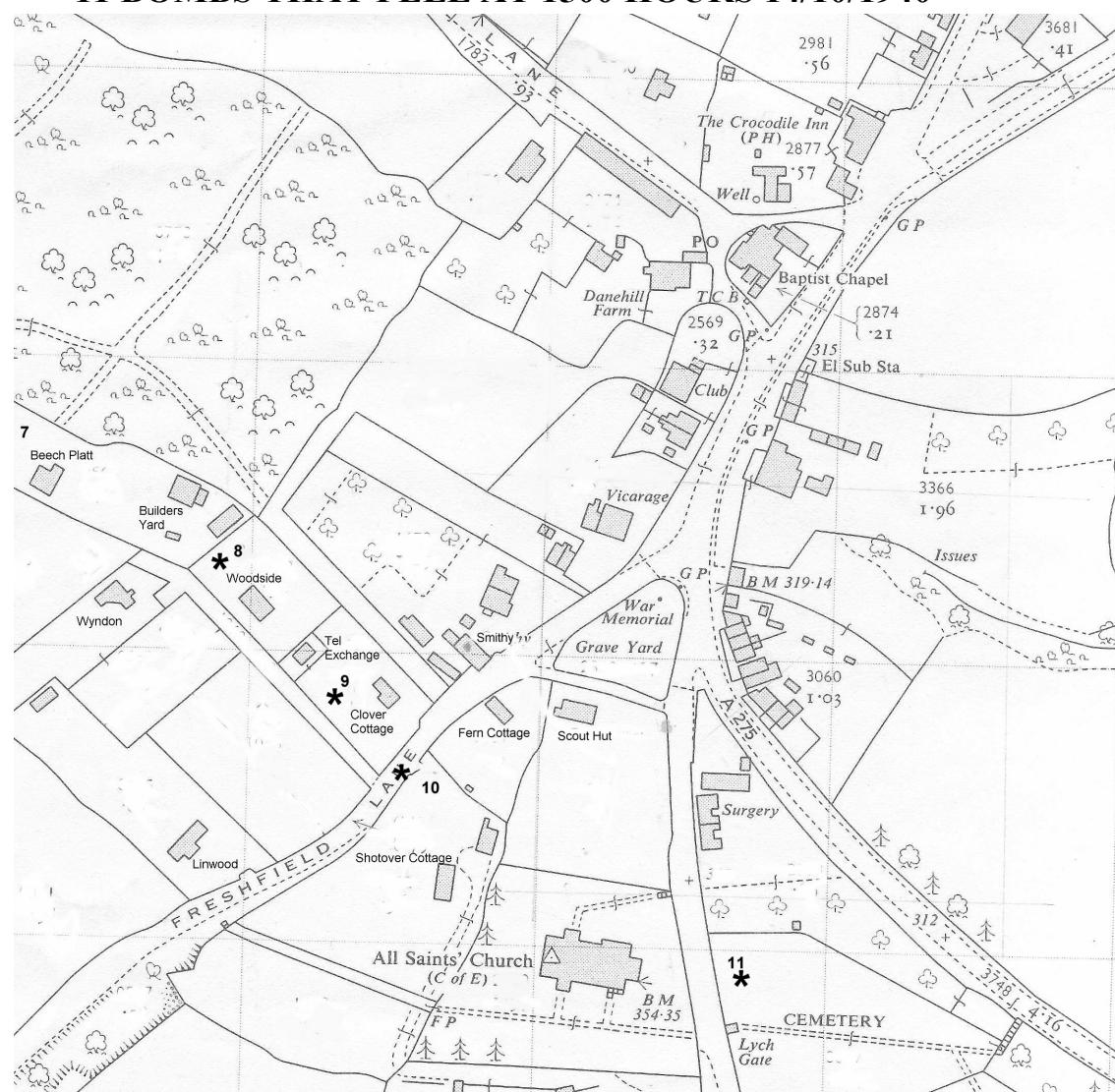
**Canadian Soldiers at The old Vicarage (Richard Bertram House)**



## 11 BOMBS THAT FELL AT 1500 HOURS 14/10/1940

**6**  
Bombs  
in Swife  
Wood

\*



Map

showing houses as they were in 1940 in Enholms Lane.

\* = Bomb landed. See pages 10, 11 & 12 for photographs and more details.

**Bombs 1-6** Below Swithe Wood and in Enholms Wood. **7** In Enholms Wood near the boundary with "Beech Plat".

**8** In the garden of "Woodside". **9** In the gardens of "Clover Cottage". **10** On Freshfield Lane and the drive to "Shotover Cottage". **11** In the Burial Ground.

Preparing this book for publication has brought more memories flooding back. On the afternoon of 14<sup>th</sup> October, 4 days before my 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday, I was visiting "Beech Platt", the home of Mr & Mrs Albert Awcock. Margaret Awcock and I had both been in the cast of "The Ghost Train" (see page 6) and our friendship had blossomed. I remember vividly the dreadful blast of the bombs in the wood getting closer and then on the other side of the house. Needless to say we all went outside to see the damage, there were a bomb craters in the wood near the garden boundary and in the garden of "Woodside" next door. As we walked up the lane we saw Mr & Mrs Cobby, of "Clover Cottage" looking at the crater in their garden, and then the one on Freshfield Lane. Later I remember walking up Church Hill and seeing Mr Haslam, whose photographs recorded the scene, and Mrs Haslam with half the village population surveying the damage. No lives were lost and there was only slight damage, apart from the grave of Simeon Wickens that received a direct hit. I feel a shiver down my spine when I realise, that, but for a slight difference in the moment of releasing those bombs, how near we were on that Autumn afternoon to losing our Parish Church, and possibly a number of parishioners, including myself.

(P. G. Lucas)

