
ELMTON AND CRESWELL MEN WHO FOUGHT IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR



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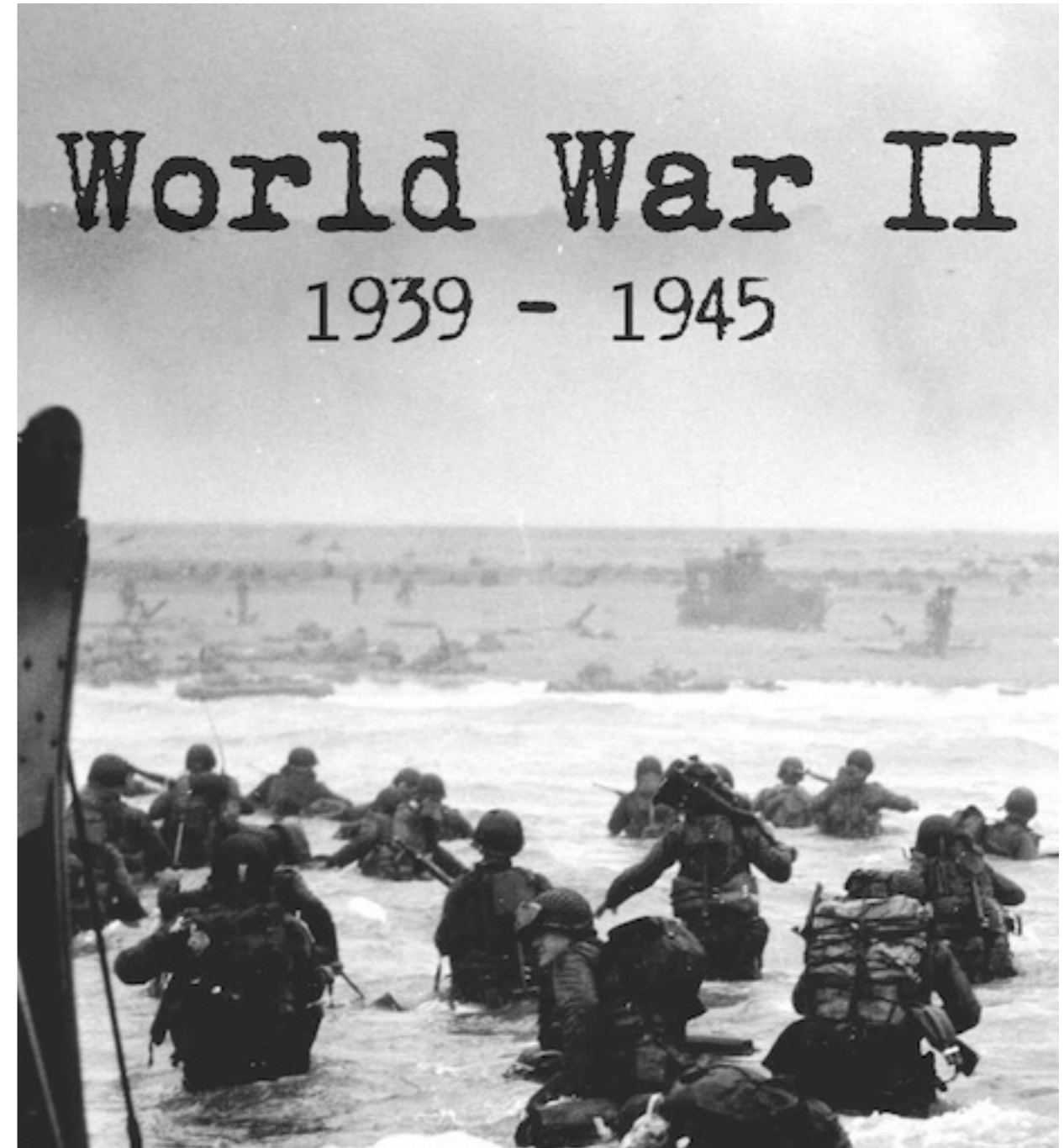
ElmtonwithCreswell
LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



CHAPTER 1

A Brief History of WWII

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Twenty-one years after The Great War, the world was still reeling from the devastation caused by the conflict. However, the previously defeated Axis powers were still disgruntled over their loss of territory, forced reparations and disarmaments. This recent fuelled war would become the most widespread and deadliest conflict in history resulting in over 50 million fatalities.

Since World War One there had also been many social changes for the better, such as the standing and importance of women in society. In 1938, shortly before the world was plunged into another blood-filled war, the charity Women's Royal Voluntary Service for Air Raid Precautions was founded. This was the result of pressure from women who demanded their own uniformed service to assist the war effort. This would prove fundamental in years to come, due to the large number of lives the war would claim, in giving Britain the best chance it had at overthrowing the Axis Nations. Their slogan was, 'Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do. Join us now.' The WRVS was the brainchild of its founder, Stella Isaacs, the Marchioness of Reading. The badge of the organisation can be recognised by an oval shape with red and gilt enamel. In 2014 the voluntary service celebrated its 76th anniversary.

On 1st September 1939 German troops, directed by Adolf Hitler, marched on Polish soil marking the beginning of the Second World War. Two days later Britain and France declared war on Germany after continuously ignoring deadlines to withdraw troops. Prior to this, the British were

already concerned with the deteriorating international situation and the rise of Nazism within Germany prompting the British government to introduce a limited form of conscription in April of the same year.

Immediately, the British Army deployed the British Expeditionary Force, which at the time was made up solely of current serving military personnel from the pre-war Army, to support France along with significant support from the Royal Air Force. By 11th October 1939 the first deployment was completed with 158,000 men landing in France.

Merely two days after the commencement of the war, Creswell resembled a small garrison town as troops from the Merseyside area arrived. As a result, many buildings within the small village were repurposed for the war effort. Soldiers of the 6th (Cheshire) Cavalry Field Ambulance, took over the Junior School as billets, two sentries used a billiards table in the Social Centre as sleeping accommodation while the Station Hotel was used by Officers and the swimming Baths, once drained, were used for sleeping quarter for around thirty men. In total one hundred and twenty servicemen settled into Creswell in matter of months.

Since the successful invasion of Poland by German forces, Hitler began to turn his sights onto claiming additional territory. By 10th May 1940 the German forces applied their Blitzkrieg method and invaded Belgium, Holland and France. By the end of May Belgium and Holland were invaded with Paris falling into Nazi German control only two weeks later.



Photo of the Home Guard in Creswell

As a result of the swift movement of German troops the British Expeditionary Force was forced to evacuate from Dunkirk in June. It is estimated that 226,000 British troops were rescued from the channel port of Dunkirk. Around this time Italy, spearheaded by the fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, joined the Axis side. Though this was a blow to the foothold of Allied forces, Britain was successful in winning the Battle of Britain, the three month air campaign which ended on 31st October 1940, forcing Hitler to postpone his plans to invade British shores. Despite this victory, raids on major cities continued, claiming 40,000 civilian lives in the Blitz bombings.

Elsewhere only minor clashes occurred and were named the Phoney War. On the 10th May 1940, in Norway, the Germans correctly predicted that the British would attempt to block Swedish iron resources from falling into enemy hands. An invasion of Norway began on 9th April 1940.

During this time in Creswell, a General War Purposes Committee was formed. The Committee's purpose was to provide financial aid and advice for wives, families and those working to benefit active servicemen. In addition, they also helped people to get in touch with Prisoners of War in

co-operation with the British Legion and Red Cross. It is also heart-warming to note that the War Committee provided the local children with presents every Christmas for the duration of the war, which during a time of strict rationing was a pleasant luxury. Shortly after this, in March 1940 Air Raid precautions were implemented for children attending day school. Householders within five minutes' walk of the senior school in Creswell were asked to accommodate children who lived further away if any air raid warning was sounded.

Now that German forces had secured their hold on Western Europe they turned their main focus to the Eastern Front to invade Russia for their oil reserves. The Soviet's refusal to become an Axis power, because of clashing ideologies, led to the invasion of Russia, codenamed Operation Barbarossa, which occurred on 22nd June 1941. Swift advancement by the German troops saw the rapid fall of Sevastopol in October then Moscow coming under attack by the end of the year. Fortunately for the Soviet Union, the harsh winter weather crippled the German personnel, who were too ill-prepared to battle through such debilitating conditions, providing the new Allied force the advantage to launch a successful counterattack.

While Germany fought on two fronts, the Italian forces were attempting to advance from Tobruk into Egypt. As a result of launching a military incursion into a British protectorate, a counterstrike by British, Australian and Indian forces led to the eventual capture of Tobruk from the Italians. In response German attacks, aiming to help their Axis

comrades, attempted to reclaim the area which over time would be unsuccessful.

On 7th December 1941 the last Axis Nation entered the war, the Empire of Japan, by launching a surprise offensive, the attack on Pearl Harbour and invasion of U.S. held and British Commonwealth countries. The reasoning for the offensive has been speculated that the Japanese Empire wanted to expand territory and form a protective perimeter while also retaliating against the oil embargo placed upon them by the United States. No longer able to remain neutral, the U.S. became an Ally in the war and aimed to seek retribution for the lives mercilessly lost.

With the continuing threat of Air-Raids in 1941, Creswell continued to implement further precautions against the threat. A rota of teachers and volunteers was formed to be on duty to watch for any fires and fighting them once an alert had been given. Many of the buildings in the village were fitted with Stirrup pumps, buckets of sand and water and a set of keys to ensure the safety of anyone taking cover in the churches or schools. In addition an electric Air-Raid siren was installed at the coal mine to act as a first warning system to the area. Sometime in 1941 Clowne Rural District Council had undertaken the role to collect and put forward money for the construction of a warship in an attempt to help in the war effort. A target for each of the neighbouring towns and villages was set to achieve this goal, for Creswell the target was £22. The adopted boat was subsequently christened "Britannia". By December, updates of the war reached Creswell. Though

the news mentioned the harsh battles being fought in Libya and Russia, the overall aim of such reports aimed to keep up morale of the civilians and that the tide of war would soon change.

After the bitter Russian winters cost them the advantage and therefore halting their swift advance, the German forces experienced setbacks in Stalingrad as the Soviets counterattacked which came as a double blow as they also suffered losses in El Alamein, Egypt at the hands of British forces currently under the command of Montgomery. It would appear at this time that the fortunes of the Axis side was beginning to turn.

Since joining the war, the Japanese continued to expand across Asia as they seized control of Borneo, Java, Sumatra and eventually Singapore which housed a highly defended British fortress. Around 25,000 prisoners were taken from this stronghold and sadly many would die in the Japanese camps in the years to come as a result of malnutrition or the severe punishments given when not following orders, which were only given in Japanese. However by June 1942 the Japanese would reach the peak of their expansion efforts as the American Navy would come to destroy four Japanese carriers and a cruiser at the Battle of Midway, marking a turning point in the Pacific war.

Despite the turn in fortunes for the Allied forces towards the end of the year, it is around this time that the mass

murder of Jewish people at Auschwitz began as the first gas chamber became operational. Soon after, news of the atrocities would fall into the hands of the Allied forces, who swore to avenge all those murdered.

Back in Creswell the War Office began to inform locals of the dangers of undetonated explosive ordnances which had been dropped across Britain. A large number of children had received serious injuries or lost their lives by handling the bombs. The War Office instructed that Children should be warned to stay away from bombs found on commons and in the open countryside.

The year 1943 marked the turn of the tide in the war as Russia and Allied forces began to push back against Germany. The first major defeat for the Axis side came at Stalingrad where they were forced to surrender in February. However it wasn't all loss for the Germans as the battle in the Atlantic was still raging on as German U-boats continued to sink merchant vessels attempting to aid the Allies.

Elsewhere the victories in North Africa, mid-May saw surrenders from German and Italian forces, which enabled the invasion of Sicily, Italy in June to be successfully launched. From here it was only a matter of time before Italy eventually surrendered on 8th September 1943. However, Mussolini managed to evade capture and was rescued by a German task force and established a fascist republic in the North. Despite the Italians no longer being a threat the fight

through Italy was to prove slow and costly as the German troops continued to battle on.

Continuing their campaign the Allies managed to land in Anzio, Italy and bomb the monastery at Monte Cassino, this would eventually lead to a final retreat by the Germans in May 1944. Soon Rome was liberated on 5th June of the same year, one day before Operation Overlord, also known as the D-Day Landings in Normandy. The German forces were now beginning to lose ground especially with the Soviet offensive gaining pace in Eastern Europe; it was only a matter of time before the war would force Hitler to spread his forces far too thin. To add salt to the wound while the Russian advance began on the Eastern Front, Allied bombers began to attack German cities in large daylight Air-Raids to further cripple the German war effort.

The well-known D-Day landings occurred on 6th June, where Germany would have to face opposition on the Western Front for the first time since the beginning of the war. A total of 6,500 vessels landed over 130,000 Allied forces on five Normandy beaches. In addition, 12,000 aircraft provided cover to the infantry storming the beaches and bombed German defences. The attack caught the German troops off guard and eventually both American and British Empire forces punched through. This foothold then allowed the invasion of France to commence; sadly the progress was slow as a result of the restricting countryside and thick hedgerows,

but, with persistence, Paris was finally liberated from Nazi control in August.

With France lost it would only be a matter of time before the Allies would attempt to march into Germany to finally cut off the head of the snake. To delay this, German troops initiated a counteroffensive, known as the Battle of the Bulge, in the Ardennes, France. The battle saw the deaths of 19,000 Americans.

During conscription in Britain not all young men ended up serving overseas, nearly 48,000 men aged 18-25 instead stayed to work in the collieries which were now working much less efficiently with many of the miners enlisted in the armed forces. These young men became known as the Bevin Boys after the British Labour politician Ernest Bevin. In Creswell forty new Bevin Boys arrived to work in Creswell Colliery one Monday morning in 1944. According to a newspaper article from the Worksop Guardian, the men were to stay in the area for four weeks before moving on to other collieries in the North Midlands. They were described to be a cheerful bunch aged between 18-20 years old and were originally from the South.

In contrast to the group of cheerful Bevin Boys the village of Creswell also obtained dark news from men overseas. An officer with the 11th Armoured Division wrote about the harrowing details of the Nazi Concentration Camps. The particular camp in question was just south of Antwerp and the unfortunate officer inspected the torture chambers, what he

saw affected him deeply and he wished to inform those back home about the horrors their enemy were capable of. Another excerpt was published from Frank Barlow who was currently serving in Italy. He detailed instances of animosity that many civilians living under Nazi and Fascist leaders harboured for the British and Allied troops.

As the Soviet troops pushed the Eastern Front back they eventually arrived in Poland and began to liberate the concentration camps in the areas they reclaimed, such as Auschwitz on 27th January 1945. In March 1945 Allied Forces established a bridge across the Rhine at Remagen. Germany began to feel pressure from both European fronts and the Balkans, much of their conquered ground now lost. With Germany forced onto the back foot and being pushed back to Berlin, it had now become a race between the Allies and Soviet troops to see who would storm the German capital first. The Russians were successful in this endeavour and arrived in Berlin 21st April, 1945. Knowing the war was ultimately lost Hitler evaded being brought to justice for his crimes by taking his own life 9 days later. Mussolini was apprehended and dealt with by Italian Partisans just 2 days later. With no other options Germany surrendered on the 7th May.

Shortly after this in Creswell, the village received the sad news that one of their own, David James Brown, had sustained fatal injuries as a result of a plane crash in which he and all his companions lost their lives in the line of duty.

Although the threat in Europe was neutralised the war was still not yet won, as the Japanese continued to fiercely fight in the Pacific theatre. Now fighting had ceased in Europe the other Allied forces were prepared to send their men to assist in neutralising the final Axis power, however, to prevent further high losses of military personnel President Harry S. Truman decided it was time to use the newly developed Atom bomb. The first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on 6th August while the second hit Nagasaki on 9th August. The devastation to infrastructure and the substantial loss of civilian life ensured that the only option available was to surrender. The formal surrender ceremony occurred in Japan on the American battleship USS Missouri on 2nd September 1945 which finally marked the end of a bloody War. A War which had claimed millions of lives across the world, destroyed homes, decimated cities and left livelihoods forever scarred and to this very day still casts a long dark shadow on our history.

Since the end of the World War Two, like many towns, Creswell began their plans to honour those who gave their lives to keep Britain out of Nazi control. In March 1947 the Vicar at that time began to compile a complete list of names of all the men and women who had served in the forces between September 1939 and August 1945. This list would then be used to construct a Roll of Honour which would be placed in the Memorial Chapel. The following year in July the Parish magazine published a letter which was sent to Mr. and Mrs. West who had lost their son during the conflict in Faenza,

Italy. In it the letter detailed the work the War Graves Commission had done to ensure the overseas cemeteries were worthy of the brave soldiers who gave their lives. The letter detailed the beautiful peaceful surroundings and the respect and care with which Imperial War Graves were being treated. It was hoped relatives of servicemen who were buried overseas were at ease knowing their loved ones were being treated with the respect they deserved.



Certificate of Honour given to those who aided the war effort



8th June, 1946

TO-DAY, AS WE CELEBRATE VICTORY, I send this personal message to you and all other boys and girls at school. For you have shared in the hardships and dangers of a total war and you have shared no less in the triumph of the Allied Nations.

I know you will always feel proud to belong to a country which was capable of such supreme effort; proud, too, of parents and elder brothers and sisters who by their courage, endurance and enterprise brought victory. May these qualities be yours as you grow up and join in the common effort to establish among the nations of the world unity and peace.

George R.I.

A certificate given to children who lived through World War Two to remember and further celebrate victory by the Allied Nations. On the reverse is a list of key dates in the War.

IMPORTANT WAR DATES

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 1939 | | |
| SEP 1. Germany invaded Poland | JAN 31. The remnants of the 6th German Army surrendered at Stalingrad | |
| SEP 3. Great Britain and France declared war on Germany; the B.E.F. began to leave for France | MAY Final victory over the U-Boats in the Atlantic | |
| DEC 13. Battle of the River Plate | MAY 13. Axis forces in Tunisia surrendered | |
| 1940 | | |
| APR 9. Germany invaded Denmark and Norway | JULY 10. Allies invaded Sicily | |
| MAY 10. Germany invaded the Low Countries | SEP 3. Allies invaded Italy | |
| JUNE 3. Evacuation from Dunkirk completed | SEP 8. Italy capitulated | |
| JUNE 8. British troops evacuated from Norway | DEC 26. Scharnhorst sunk off North Cape | |
| JUNE 11. Italy declared war on Great Britain | 1944 | |
| JUNE 22. France capitulated | JAN 22. Allied troops landed at Anzio | |
| JUNE 29. Germans occupied the Channel Isles | JUNE 4. Rome captured | |
| AUG 8-Oct 31. German air offensive against Great Britain (Battle of Britain) | JUNE 6. Allies landed in Normandy | |
| OCT 28. Italy invaded Greece | JUNE 13. Flying-bomb (V.1) attack on Britain started | |
| NOV 11-12. Successful attack on the Italian Fleet in Taranto Harbour. | JUNE Defeat of Japanese invasion of India | |
| DEC 9-11. Italian invasion of Egypt defeated at the battle of Sidi Barrani | AUG 25. Paris liberated | |
| 1941 | | |
| MAR 11. Lease-Lend Bill passed in U.S.A. | SEP 3. Brussels liberated | |
| MAR 28. Battle of Cape Matapan | SEP 8. The first rocket-bomb (V.2) fell on England. | |
| APR 6. Germany invaded Greece | SEP 17-26. The Battle of Arnhem | |
| APR 12-Dec 9. The Siege of Tobruk | OCT 20. The Americans re-landed in the Philippines | |
| MAY 20. Formal surrender of remnants of Italian Army in Abyssinia | 1945 | |
| MAY 20-31. Battle of Crete | JAN 17. Warsaw liberated | |
| MAY 27. German battleship <i>Bismarck</i> sunk | MAR 20. British recaptured Mandalay | |
| JUNE 22. Germany invaded Russia | MAR 23. British crossed the Rhine | |
| AUG 12. Terms of the Atlantic Charter agreed | APR 25. Opening of Conference of United Nations at San Francisco | |
| NOV 18. British offensive launched in the Western Desert | MAY 2. German forces in Italy surrendered | |
| DEC 7. Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour | MAY 3. Rangoon recaptured | |
| DEC 8. Great Britain and United States of America declared war on Japan | MAY 5. All the German forces in Holland, N.W. Germany and Denmark surrendered unconditionally | |
| 1942 | | |
| FEB 15. Fall of Singapore | MAY 9. Unconditional surrender of Germany to the Allies ratified in Berlin | |
| APR 16. George Cross awarded to Malta | JUNE 10. Australian troops landed in Borneo | |
| OCT 23-Nov 4. German-Italian army defeated at El Alamein | AUG 6. First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima | |
| NOV 8. British and American forces landed in North Africa | AUG 8. Russia declared war on Japan | |
| | AUG 9. Second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki | |
| | AUG 14. The Emperor of Japan broadcast the unconditional surrender of his country | |
| | SEP 5. British forces re-entered Singapore | |

MY FAMILY'S WAR RECORD

1262



Memorial headstone to honour Canadian crew who lost their lives when their plane crashed in Creswell.

World War One memorial being unveiled in Creswell



1939-1945 War, Events Recorded in the Creswell/Elmton area

1939 – 1945 War, Events recorded in Our Area

Cheshire Yeomanry with their horses is billeted in Whitwell, Creswell & Welbeck and surrounding farms. They then were posted to Egypt

Southgate House (Van Dykes) used as an Arm Camp, then as a Prisoner of War Camp for Italians.

3 Oil Bombs drop 100 yards East Sheffield Rd; Shop & Houses are blown up.

Schools from Lowestoft are evacuated to most of our Local Schools. The children are put with Local Families, about 4000 children & teachers.

A Barrage Balloon for the defence of Sheffield brakes free and lands in fields.

Bombs drop on the Mill Lane area, including an Oil Bomb a stack of corn set on fire.

Approx, 10 bombs dropped on Hodthorpe, damaging houses & killing a pet dog

Flying Bombs (Doole-bugs) crossed our area in 1944 trying to hit Sheffield.

Whitwell Colliery water cooler, hit by bomb

Barn used by escaping German Prisoners of War.

Searchlight Battery with Anti-aircraft guns.

Wellington Bomber crashes at Henny Moor Farm. Crew of Canadians all killed.

Oil Bomb & High Explosive Bombs Dropped in fields

Welbeck Abby used as a Army Camp. The underground tunnels & estate was used as Ammunition dump.

Beau-fighter plane crashes near to the pit tips.

Norton Prisoner of War Camp, (Germans)

Anti-aircraft guns.

Prisoner of War Camp,(Germans later Italians)

2 Bombs drop behind houses at Hills Town

Railway man killed by German plane whilst filling steam engine with water.

Canadian Bomber crashes.

Glider crash lands.

3 Land mines explode (one whilst being defused) causing damage to roofs & windows.

Bombs drop near Isolation Hospital (Basset House)

Search Light Battery

American Airman parachutes out of crippled plane and is "captured" by the Home Guard.

German Flare lights up sky.

Designed by R H Glassey for the
Elmton with Creswell
Local History Group. 2013

Elmton and Creswell Men Killed In the Second World War



Barlow Frederick George

14340369 Trooper

7th Queen's Own Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps

KIA 26th July 1944

Remembered in Ancona War Cemetery

Frank Barlow was 28 years of age and originated from Killamarsh becoming a teacher at Creswell Church of England Senior School before enlisting. He was killed in action at El Alamein in the Western Desert, North Africa, 26th July 1944.



Bentley Walter Hamilton

5957754 Private

8th Battalion Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

KIA 8th September 1940

Remembered in Brookwood Memorial

Private Bentley, commonly known as “Ham”, died of pneumonia at the age of 24 in Leeds hospital just six weeks after enlistment as a result of being given damp blankets. He was given a full military funeral at St. Mary Magdalene, Creswell and buried in the churchyard.



Briggs Thomas Richard

D/SSX 19259 Able Seaman

H.M.S Kite, Royal Navy

KIA 21st August 1944

Remembered in Plymouth Naval Memorial

Thomas Briggs was 32 years of age and was the son of Charles Edward Briggs and Annie Elizabeth Briggs (nee Bennett). He was serving on board H.M.S Kite during a Russian convoy escort duty when his ship sunk by fire from a German



submarine U334 in August 1944.

A total of 229 men lost their lives with only 15 surviving the attack. He left a wife and a twenty month old son. It is later noted that the U334 was itself sunk two days later.

Brown David James

1037536 Corporal

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

KIA 15th June 1945

Remembered with Honour in Creswell (St. Mary Magdalene) Churchyard

Corporal Brown aged 24 years of age was killed when the plane in which he was travelling crashed at Swanage, Dorset. The plane was on route to the Far East war zone. He was the son of David and Margret Brown, both of Creswell. He left behind a wife, Edna Brown, and a one year old son. He was buried in the St. Mary Magdalene churchyard. On his military headstone made of limestone the following quote can be seen:

“We planned a beautiful future only to end in a dream Loving wife Edna”

Budworth Eric Leslie

2370433 Signalman

Royal Corps of Signals

KIA 18th February 1944

Remembered with Honour in Elmton and Creswell Cemetery

Signalman Budworth aged 22 years of age was accidentally killed when on despatch rider duties in England in February 1944. He was buried in the Skinner Street Cemetery. He was the son of William and Elizabeth Budworth, of Creswell.



Cowley Colin

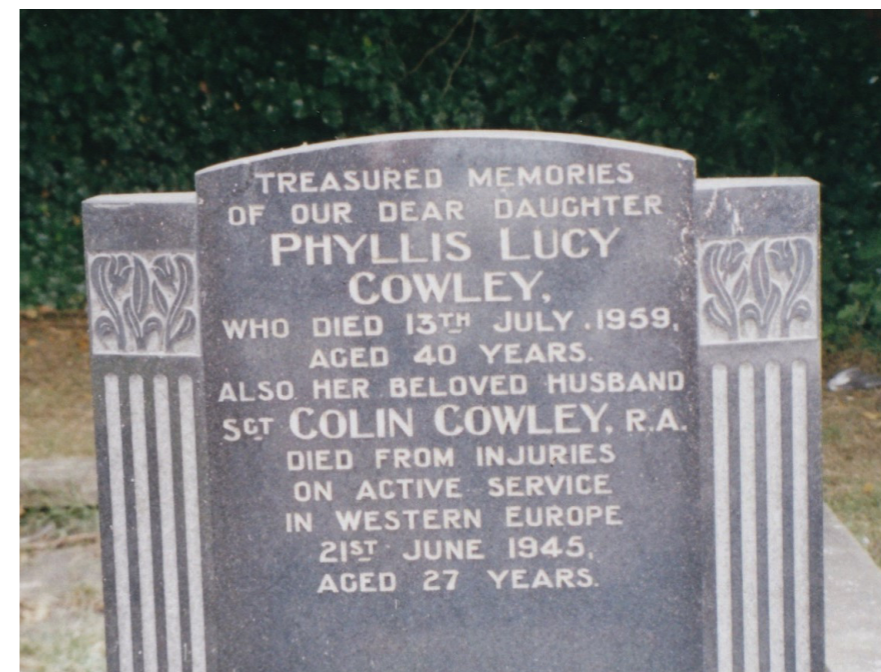
934054 Sergeant

133 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

KIA 21st June 1945

Remembered with Honour in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery

Sergeant Colin Cowley was 26 years of age when he died as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty when serving in Western Europe. He was the son of Thomas Edward and Alice Cowley. He left behind a wife Phyllis Lucy Cowley. He is also remembered on his family gravestone.



Gibson Arthur

4858962 Private

Seaforth Highland, Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders

KIA 17th April 1944

Remembered in Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio

Arthur Gibson aged 26 years was killed in action at Anzio, Italy. He left behind a wife.

Harbottle Leonard

D/DKX 110931 Stoker 1st Class

H.M.S. Hecla, Royal Navy

KIA 12th November 1942

Remembered with Honour in Plymouth Naval Memorial

Leonard Harbottle who was 34 years of age was a leading stoker on H.M.S. Hecla and killed in the line of duty. He left behind a wife, Lucy Harbottle and five children. He was the son of J. T. and Beatrice Harbottle.

Hemingray William

4974089 Private

1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters, Nottingham and Derby Regiment

KIA 15th June 1941

Remembered with Honour in Nicosia War Cemetery

Private Hemingray aged 24 years was killed as a result of a bombing raid on his barracks in Cyprus. He was the son of Samuel William and Lily Hemingray.

Highfield Ernest Huckerby

4978993 Corporal

4th Battalion, Parachute Regiment, Army Air Corps.

KIA 11th January 1944

Remembered in Sango River War Cemetery, Italy

Ernest Huckerby Highfield was 26 years of age and the son of Mr and Mrs. Huckerby of the Model Village, Creswell. Prior to his enlistment in 1940 he worked underground at Creswell Colliery. He was also a well-known athlete and sportsman playing for Creswell Recreation and Creswell Nomads Football Clubs. Additionally he was a former member of



Creswell Boys Brigade Bugle Band. He had seen service with Notts and Derbys and Duke of Wellington Regiments. During his war service he was stationed in Iceland, North Africa, Sicily and Italy. While serving as a corporal in the regiment he was killed in Anzio, Italy leaving a wife Annie Highfield.

Jones Robert Edward

1868613 Sapper

59 Field Company, Royal Engineers

KIA 1st June 1940

Remembered in Dunkirk Town Cemetery, Nord

Robert Jones, 28 years of age, died of his injuries in a Belgian hospital during the evacuation of Dunkirk. He left a wife, Edith Jones, a son and a daughter.



Keeton Herbert Sidney

114307 Pilot Officer (W.Op./Obs.)

236 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

KIA 30th May 1942

Remembered in Hamburg Cemetery

Officer Keeton was 21 years of age and the son of Sidney and Ada Keeton. While on patrol over the North Sea a German convoy was spotted off the Dutch coast. Herbert Keeton's plane was shot down by a German fighter and later his body was washed up and buried in Heligoland Bight, Germany. Upon the end of the war when Heligoland was blown up, his body was later re-interred in the War Cemetery in Hamburg.

Mellish John Thomas

1046421 Sergeant (Air Gunner)

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

KIA 14th March 1944

Remembered in Creswell (St. Mary Magdalene) Churchyard

Sergeant Mellish was 22 years of age who died from his wounds received whilst on a bombing raid of German

battleships who were sheltering in the Norwegian Fiords. He was the son of John Henry and Agnes Mellish of Creswell.



Newton Richard

D/KX 90151 Leading Stoker

H.M. Submarine Thunderbolt

KIA 28th March 1943

Remembered in Honour in Plymouth Naval Memorial

Leading Stoker Richard Newton was killed at the age of 28 years when in action whilst serving on board submarine H.M.S. Thunderbolt off the coast of Italy. It is worthy of note that H.M.S. Thunderbolt was originally called H.M.S. Thetis

but sank whilst undergoing sea trials off Liverpool in 1938. It was salvaged and renamed. He left behind a wife, Phyllis Newton, and a one year old son. He was the son of Richard and Rhoda Newton.



Parker Joseph Ernest

14523296 Gunner

494 Battery, 146 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

KIA 8th January 1944

Remembered in Creswell (St. Mary Magdalene) Churchyard

Gunner Parker, 31 years of age, from Thornbury Gloucestershire was the son of Ernest and Madeline Parker and husband of Margaret Parker. He was killed in active duty.

Pigott Arnold Edward

642849 Leading Aircraftman

Royal Air Force

KIA 28th September 1944

Remembered in Singapore Memorial

Arnold Pigott was 22 years of age born in North Wheatley was the son of Charles Edward and Lillian Pigott. He was lost at sea off the coast of Java in the Pacific Ocean.

Russ Norman

6893099 Fusilier

2nd Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Royal
Inniskilling Fusiliers

KIA 23rd December 1944

Remembered in Santerno Valley War Cemetery

Fusilier Russ was 33 years of age and the son of Linton
Thompson and Lily Russ. He was killed in action in Italy. He
left behind a wife, Vera Annie Russ.

Shepherd Thomas

5052688 Private

2nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders

KIA 11th January 1945

Remembered in Hotton War Cemetery

Thomas Shepherd was 27 years of age and son to William and
Nora Shepherd. The lorry in which he was travelling came
under enemy fire just outside Nijmegen, Holland. As the
troops disembarked a direct hit from German artillery killed
all the men. He left a wife, Dorothy Shepherd.

Soar Albert Edward

2614889 Guardsman

5th Battalion, Grenadier Guards

KIA 4th February 1944

Remembered in Anzio War Cemetery

Guardsman Soar, aged 25 years, was the son of Albert and Sarah Ann Soar. He was born in Creswell and had served with 4 Company 5th Battalion in Africa prior to the landings in Italy. He was killed at Anzio where he is now buried.

South Ronald

195242 Pilot Officer (Air Gunner)

90 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

KIA 9th March 1945

Remembered in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery

Ronald South was 22 years of age and the son to Robert Charlton South and Augusta South of Rhodesia, Nottinghamshire.



Starbrook Jack

5887773 Lance Corporal

2nd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment

KIA 30th April 1944

Remembered in Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio

Lance Corporal Starbrook of Creswell was 25 years of age when he was killed in action at Anzio, Italy. He was called up with the first militia just before war broke out. He was the son of Sarah Starbrook.



Stothard Ralph

7909364 Corporal

44th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armed Corps

KIA 20th September 1944

Remembered in Mierlo War Cemetery

Ralph Stothard was 28 years of age when serving in 'B' Squadron of the 44th Royal Tank Regiment of the R.A.C. The Squadron was protecting the "Corridor" of the Guards Regiment pushing forward to join up with the Parachute Regiment at Arnhem, Corporal Stothard and his comrades in sixteen Sherman tanks came under heavy fire from German Panther tanks. The turret of Ralph's tank was blown off killing

Ralph and Trooper Nicholls instantly while the three others in the tank managed to crawl out. The villagers of Nuemen near Eindhoven, Holland erected a monument on the site of the fatality and hold a remembrance service there 20th September every year. He left a wife, Doris Kathleen Stothard, and a two year old son. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Stothard.



Stretton John Victor

Sub-Lieutenant (A)

H.M.S Tracker, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

KIA 3rd October 1943

Remembered in Lee-On-Solent Memorial

Sub-Lieutenant Stretton, 21 years of age, was the son of William and Annie Stretton from Creswell. He was killed in action off Montevideo in Uruguay (South Atlantic).

Vaughan Arthur

T/150515 Driver

Royal Army Service Corps

KIA 31st May 1940

Remembered in Honour in Dunkirk Town Cemetery

Arthur Vaughan was 39 years of age and originated from Holbeck, Nottinghamshire. He was one of a number of troops hiding in a cellar in Dunkirk, May 1940. Without food and water for almost a week they were found by German troops who ordered them out and started shooting them. Driver Vaughan suffered severe injuries to his stomach and legs and subsequently died in the following June in a Belgian hospital. This information was supplied by the British Red Cross from Geneva. He was the son of Willie and Lily Jane Vaughan and husband to Mary Vaughan.

Waplinton Leslie

Gunner

Royal Artillery

KIA 10th July 1944

Remembered in La Delivrande War Cemetery, Douvres

Gunner Waplinton was 29 years of age when he was killed in action at Caen, Northern France, soon after the D Day landings in Normandy, June 1944. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Waplinton.

Ward Kenneth William

7889793 Trooper

Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

KIA 20th November 1941

Remembered in Alamein Memorial

Trooper Kenneth Ward of Creswell, 21 years of age, was killed in action at Tobruk, North Africa. He was the son of William J. and Hannah Ward.

West John Raymond

1913191 Sergeant

272 Field Company, Royal Engineers

KIA 28th November 1944

Remembered in Faenza War Cemetery

Sergeant West was 24 years of age and son of Francis and Minnie West. He died from his wounds which he received in Italy, 1943.

Wheatley Harold

7935871 Trooper

11th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

KIA 24th February 1945

Remembered in Jonkerbos War Cemetery

Harold Wheatley, 31 years of age, born in Creswell was the son of James and Mary Wheatley. He died from his wounds received two days after his regiment was in action in the drive for Nijmegen, Holland. He left behind a wife, Bessie Wheatley, two sons and a daughter.

Wildgoose Richard

Lieutenant

6th Armoured Regiment, 1st Hussars, Royal Canadian Armoured Corps.

KIA 11th June 1944

Remembered in Honour in Bayeux Memorial

Richard Wildgoose emigrated to Canada before the beginning of the war and enlisted in the Canadian army. It is believed he received a commission and was killed in the raid on St. Nazaire, France, March 1942.

Wood Geoffrey William

C/JX 352168 Ordinary Seaman

H.M.S. Curacoa, Royal Navy

KIA 2nd October 1942

Remembered in Chatham Naval Memorial

Geoffrey Wood, aged 19 years, originally from Creswell was the son of Frederick Cecil and Lilian Wood. It is reported that he died from injuries sustained when his ship collided with the troopship Queen Mary in dense fog. It is understood that he was the only casualty.

Whitehead Robert

KIA 30th November 1940

Robert Whitehead, also known as Bob, was killed in action by enemy fire. He left behind his wife Eliza Whitehead.

Higham Raymond

Private

Army Catering Corps.

KIA 20th June 1951 during the **Korean War**

Remembered in Creswell (St. Mary Magdalene) Churchyard

Private Higham, aged 22 years, was fatally wounded in Korea. At the time of being wounded he was an observer for the Artillery on night duty. He stood up to warn a young soldier that there were incoming shells and was shot by a sniper, damaging the 3rd and 5th vertebrae. He was brought home wounded and later died of his injuries and buried in Creswell Cemetery. The army would not admit that he was killed in action so his name was not to be put onto the Cenotaph. The Creswell Section of the British Legion agreed that they would disband if Raymond's name were not engraved on the Cenotaph. His brother Ken Higham is still very bitter about the manner in which his brother was treated posthumously.

Men and Women of Elmton and Creswell Who Served In the Second World War



List of Abbreviations

A.C.C.	Army Catering Corps	R.C.S.	Royal Corps of Signals
A.P.T.C	Army Physical Training Corps	R.E.	Royal Engineers
A.T.S.	Auxiliary Territorial Service	R.E.M.E.	Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
C.M.P.	Corps of Military Police	R.I.D.G.***	
Fleet A.A.	Fleet Air Arm	R.Ins. Fus	Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
K.C.Y.L.I.	Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry	R.N.	Royal Navy
K.S.L.I.	Kings Shropshire Light Infantry	R.N.A.S.	Royal Naval Air Service
K.O.S..B.	Kings Own Scottish Borderers	S.R.	Special Reserve
N & D POW	Notts & Derby Prisoner of War	V.A.D.	Voluntary Aid Detachment
N.A.A.F.I.	Navy, Army and Air force Institutes	W.A.A.F.	Women's Auxiliary Air Force
PoW	Prisoner of war	W.L.A.	Women's Land Army
R.A.	Royal Artillery	W.R.N.S	Women's Royal Naval Service
R.A.C.	Royal Armoured Corps		
R.A.F.	Royal Air Force		
R.A.M.C.	Royal Army Medical Corps		
R.A.O.C.	Royal Army Ordnance Corps		
R.A.S.C.	Royal Army Service Corps		

ADAMS C.B.	////////
ADAMS J.A.	Pioneer Corps
ADIN G.	R.A.C.
ALEXANDER E.	W.A.A.F.
ALLCOCK J.	Pioneer Corps
ALLCOCK N.	W.A.A.F.
ALLEN	A.T.S.
ALLSOP S.	R.E.
ALSOP H.	Pioneer Corps
AMEDRO A.	Gen. Service
ANDERSON A.	R.A.C.
ASHFORD A.E.	R.A.F.
ASHMORE E.	R.A.F.
ATKIN B.	R.A.F.
ATKIN W.	R.A.F.
AUSTIN S.E.	R.N.
BACON F.	R.N.
BACON J.W.	Royal Marines

BAGSHAW A.	R.A.F.
BAGSHAW E.	R.A.F.
BAILEY W.	W.A.A.F.
BAKER H.	R.A.F.
BAKER L.A.	R.A.S.C.
BAKER T.	R.A.
BAKEWELL F.	Notts & Derby
BAKEWELL F.	W.A.A.F.
BAKEWELL L.	R.E.
BANTON P.R.	R.A.F.
BARKER F.	R.A.
BARKER H.	R.A.F.
BARLOW J.R.	R.N.
BARLOW S.L.	R.A.
BARLOW S.M.	R.A.F.
BAXTER B.	R.A.F.
BEECH A.	R.N.
BEECH C.	R.A.F.

BEECH H.J.	Royal Marines	BRELSFORD M.	K.O.S.B.
BEECH J.	R.A.S.C	BRESLFORD M. Mrs	Land Army
BELLAMY W.E.	A.P.T.C	BRELSFORD T.C.	TANK Brigade
BENNETT A.	R.N.	BRENTNALL E.	R.A.F.
BENNETT L.	R.N.	BROWN R.	R.A.F.
BENNETT M.	A.T.S.	BROWN S.A.	R.A.F.
BENTLEY A.N.	R.A.O.V.	BROWNBRIDGE G.	Royal Marines
BENTLEY G.	R.A.F.	BRUCE J.	Queens
BENTLEY G.A.	P.A.	BRUCE W.	////////
BENTLEY W. H.	////////	BUDWORTH H.W.	R.A.M.C.
BETTS E.	W.A.A.F.	BULL C.F.	////////
BIRD W.H.	R.A.C.	BULL E.	R.A.
BODEN H.	R.A.S.C.	BULL H.	R.A.
BRAMFORD A.	N & D Pow	BULL S.	R.E.
BRAMFORD D.	Scots Guards	BULMER A.C.	R.A.F.
BRAMFORD H. Mrs	NAAFI	BULMER F.W.	Fleet Air Arm
BRELSFORD E.	R. Ins Fus	BULMER J.A.	R.E.
BRELSFORD J.	R.A	BURROWS R.	Inf Brigade

BURROWS R.H.	R.A.	CHILDS A.	Pioneer Corps
BURTON C.	R.A.	CLARKE N.	A.T.S.
BURTON E.	R.E.	CLAYTON A.	R.A.S.C.
BUTCHER L.	A.T.S.	CLAYTON C.	R.A.F.
BUTLER G.H.	R.A.S.C.	CLAYTON M.	R.A.S.C.
BUXTON W.	R.A.S.C.	CLIFFORD E.A.	Royal Signals
CALKWELL J.	Notts & Derby	CLIFFORD S.R.	R.N.
CALVERSBERT C.S.	R.A.O.C.	CLOWES J.R.	R.A.F.
CALVERSBERT R.C.	R.A.S.C	COOK C.	R.A.
CARTLIDGE C.A.	R.A.F.	COOPE	Royal Fusiliers
CHAMBERS W.	////////	COOPER E.	R.A.C.
CHAPMAN J.D.	R.A.F.	COOPER M.	A.T.S.
CHARLESWORTH G.W.	Grenadier Gds	COOPER W.H.	S.R.
CHARLESWORTH J.	R.A.S.C.	COPE J.M.	A.T.S.
CHARLESWORTH J.H.	R.A.F.	COPPIN V.	R.A.
CHARLESWORTH M.	R.A.F.	COUPE W.A.	R.A.F.
CHEETHAM D.W.	R.A.F.	COX H.	Pioneer Corps
CHERRY H.	R.A.F.	CROFTS M.E	A.T.S.

DAVIES D.	R.A.F.	EDWARDS E.	R.A.F.
DAVIES H.	R.N.	ELLIOTT I.	A.T.S.
DAWES L.	R.A.F.	ELLIS R.C.	////////
DEAKIN C.H.	Pioneer Corps	ELLIS R.E.	R.A.C.
DENMAN G.	R.E.	EVANS E.	R.N.
DENT A.	R.N.	FAULKNER M.	W.L.A.
DEXTER C.	R.N.	FERGUSON G.	Notts & Derby
DODSWORTH R.	R.A.S.C.	FIDLER J.T.	W.Yorks
DOOLEY F.	R.A.S.C.	FISHER J.E.	K.S.L.I.
DRABBLE T.J.	R.A.F.	FORD J.	Dorsets
DRING D.	Essex R.A.	FOX E.	Gren Guards
DRING M.E.	A.T.S.	FREEMAN A.	R.A.
DRONFIELD V.	R.A.M.C.	FREEMAN M.	R.A.F.
DUFF H.A.	////////	FRETWELL W.	Sh.Foresters
DUNWELL C.	R.N.	FROGGETT A.	R.A.F.
EDGE J.	R.A.F.	FROGGETT W.H.	R.A.F.
EDGER D.	A.T.S.	FROST L.T.	Pow
EDGER I.	R.E.	GARBUTT R.	Notts & Derby

GARFITT D.R.	R.A.
GASCOIGNE J.R.	R.A.F.
GENT H.	I.A.P.C.
GIBSON A. A.	////////
GILBERT R.	R.A.F.
GILL S.E.	R.S.C.
GLADMAN W.G.	R.E.
GLASBY C.H.	R.A.
GLOSSOP R.H.	Indian Army
GODBER A.C.	R.A.O.C.
GOUCHER E.F.	R.A.F.
GOUDLING E.	A.T.S.
GRAINGER R.H.	R.A.F.
GRANEY G.	R.A.F.
GREASLEY K.	R.A.F.
GREAVES	R.A.F.
GREAVES C.H.	////////
GREAVES F.W.	R.C.S.

GREEN P.	R.A.F.
GREEN W.	Airborne
GREETHAM L.	K.C.Y.L.I.
GREETHAM R.D.	R.A.M.C.
GREETHAM T.S.	R.Ins Fus
GROSVENOR H.	////////
GROSVENOR L.	Green Howards
HALEY G.	R.N.
HALL	R.A.S.C.
HALLAM J.H.	R.A.M.C.
HALLAM J.W.	////////
HALLAM K.	R.A.S.C.
HANCOCK C.	Notts Yeom
HARBOTTLE L.	R.N.
HARDING A.	R.A.
HARDING G.	W.A.A.F.
HARDING J.T.	Int Corps
HARDING R.	R.E.

HARDWICK A.E.	R.A.F.	HIGHFIELD E.	Parachute Reg
HARDWICK E.	R.N.A.S.	HIGHFIELD N.	W.L.A.
HARDWICK E.L.	W.A.A.F.	HIGHFIELD W.E.	R.E.M.E.
HARRISON C.	R.A.	HILL P.	Royal Fus
HARRISON R.N.	A.C.C.	HIPPEY M.	A.T.S.
HARRISON V.	NAAFI	HODGKISS D.	R.A.S.C.
HARRISON W.I.	A.T.S.	HODGKISS R.	Northants Reg
HARVEY C.	Inf Bde	HODGKISS W.	R.A.F.
HARVEY L.	R.A.	HOLMES B.	A.T.S.
HARVEY W.	Notts & Derby	HOLMES E.	Notts & Derby
HASLAM L.	W.L.A.	HOLMES N.	R.A.F.
HAYWARD V.	R.E.	HOLMES R.	R.A.S.C.
HAYWARD W.E.	R.A.F.	HOLMES T.L.	Royal Ings
HAYWOOD J.A.	R.N.	HOLMES W.A.	A.P.T.C.
HAYWOOD R.	R.A.M.C.	HOPEWELL G.	R.A.
HEATH G.	R.N.	HOPTON J.H.	R.A.F.
HEMINGRAY J.	R.C.S.	HOULDSWORTH G.	R.N.
HEMINGRAY M.	W.L.A.	HOWARTH G.	R.A.F.

HOWE B.	R.A.F.	JOHNSON C.	R.A.F.
HOWLIN H.	A.T.S.	JOHNSON C.R.	////////
HUGHES J.	R.N.	JOHNSON M.	R.A.
HUGHES S.T.	R.A.	JONES D.	W.A.A.F.
HUMPHRIES J.E.	Pioneer Corps	JONES E.	R.A.
HUNT G.T.	R.N.A.S.	JONES H.	R.A.C.
HUNT H.	R.A.M.C.	JONES I.	R.A.F.
HURT K.	R.A.F.	JONES J.	Pow
HURT W.L.I.	R.C.S.	JONES S.E.	C.M.P.
HUSSEY J.E.	R.E.	JONES W.	R.E.M.E.
INGAMELLS F.W.	////////	KINNERLEY A.	R.A.
INGRAM P.J.	R.N.	KNOWLES H.	R.A.F.
INGRAM W.L.	R.A.S.C.	LEAKE F.	R.A.S.C.
IRONS G.	Notts & Derby	LEAKE F.	R.A.S.C.
JACKSON E.	R.A.F.	LEYLAND A.	R.N.
JACKSON R.	R.A.O.C.	LIEVESLEY D.	R.E.
JACKSON T.	Fire Fighting	LIMB	R.A.F.
JARVIS G.W.	R.A.S.C.	LIMB C.V.	Gren Gds

LINDLEY A.	R.A.F.	MAWRY A.	////////
LLOYD F.K.	R.A.F.	McCALL G.E.	R.N.
LLOYD R.	Notts & Derby	McDERMOTT F.R.	R.A.F.
LOCKHART	R.A.F.	McDERMOTT J.	R.A.F.
LOCKWOOD G.	A.T.S	MELLISH F.	////////
LOWDE B.	R.N.	MELTZ J.E.	Coldstream Gds
LOWDE R.	R.N.	MERCER E.	A.T.S.
LYONS E.	////////	MEREDITH E.	A.T.S.
MALPASS F.I.	A.T.S.	METCALFE E.	R.A.F.
MALPASS H.	////////	MILLER V.C.	R.A.F.
MARKS J.	R.A.	MILLWARD E.	R.E.
MARSDEN G.	Leics Regt	MILNER K.T.	Royal Dragoons
MARSDEN G.	////////	MILTON J.G.	Notts & Derby
MARSDEN W.	Notts & Derby	MITCHELL F.	R.A.
MARSHALL J.	W.A.A.F.	MITCHELL S.	R.A.F.
MARVIN W.	Yorks & Lancs	MOLLATT R.	R.A.F.
MASON L.	R.I. Regt	MORRIS E.	A.T.S.
MATHER A.	R.A.F.	MORRIS G.E.	R.N.

MORRIS J.R.	R.A.F.	PARKER A.	R.A.C.
MORRIS W.	R.A.M.C.	PARKER B.	R.A.F.
MOSLEY B.	Fleet A.A.	PARKER F.E.	Wrens
MOSS H.	R.A.F.	PARKER R.A.	R.A.F.
NETTLE C.	R.A.S.C.	PARKES E.W.	R.A.F.
NEWTON D.	Green Howards	PARKES G.	R.A.F.
NEWTON D.	R.A.F.	PARKES K.	R.A.C.
NEWTON H.A.	R.A.F.	PARKES L.	Lincs
NEWTON J.	R.A.	PASHLEY	R.A.F.
NEWTON R.	R.N.	PATTINSON L.	Notts & Derby
NEWTON R.	////////	PEARSON C.F.	R.A.F.
NOBLE C.W.	R.E.	PERKINS R.	Sher Rangers
NOBLE W.	W.A.A.F.	PIERPOINT T.	W.A.A.F.
OAKLEY S.K.	R.A.S.C.	PILKINGTON W.	R.A.C.
OLIVER C.	R.A.F.	PITT R.	R.A.M.C.
OLIVER J.	R.A.	PLATTS L.	R.A.S.C.
OWEN G.V.	R.N.	PLUMB A.	R.A.
OWEN O.	Notts & Derby	POLLARD G.	Sher Rangers

POTTER C.S.	A.T.S.	ROBERTS W.	R.N.
POWELL J.	R.A.F.	ROBINSON B.	W.A.A.F.
POYNTER D.	R.A.F.	ROBINSON C.E.	R.A.F.
POYNTER G.E.	Lancs Fus	ROBINSON G.	R.N.
QUARTLEY H.B.	R.A.O.C.	ROBINSON H.	R.A.
RADFORD G.H.	R.I.D.G	ROBINSON J.W.	Pioneer Corps
RAINES D.M.	W.A.A.F.	ROBINSON L.G.	Statistics Bt
RAWSON E.	////////	ROBSON T.	R.A.F.
REED C.	Pioneer Corps	ROGERS G.	R.A.S.C.
RICE A.	R.A.F.	ROGERS G.	R.N.
RICE G.	R.A.S.C.	ROSE W.F.	R.A.F.
RICE J.	Pioneer Corps	ROSS H.	R.A.M.C.
RICHARDSON H.W.	R.E.M.E.	ROSS N.	W.A.A.F.
RICHARDSON T.W.	R.A.S.C.	RUSLING M.	R.A.
ROBERTS C.	R.A.F.	RUSS J.	R.I.F
ROBERTS D.A.	Wrens	SAMPSON J.	W.A.A.F.
ROBERTS D.L.	R.A.	SAUL G.	////////
ROBERTS G.	C.M.P.	SCORAH S.C.	R.C.S.

SCOTT A.J.	S. Wales Brdrs	SMITH P.	R.E.M.E.
SCOTT K.	R.A.S.C.	SNOWDIN D.	Devon Rgt
SCOTT W.	Yorks & Lancs	SOAR E.	R.A.F.
SEARGEANT C.	R.A.M.C.	SPOTWOOD F.	A.T.S.
SEVERN S.	R.A.F.	SPOTWOOD F.	R.A.F.
SHACKLOCK F.	V.A.D.	SPOTWOOD J.	R.A.
SHAW J.	R.A.F.	STACEY W.	NAAFI
SHAW T.	R.A.S.C.	STANIFORTH T.	R.A.F.
SHEPHERD J.	R.N.	STUBBINGS A.	Sher Rangers
SHEPHERD P.	Seaforth Highs	STUBBINGS G.	R.A.
SHERRARD L.	Hussars	STUBBINGS T.	R.C.S.
SHUKER L.	R.A.F.	STUBBINS F.	R.C.S.
SIMMS H.M.	A.T.S.	STUBBINS J.	R.A.S.C.
SIMMS J.	R.A.	TAFT E.J.	Rifle Brigade
SLATER G.	R.A.	TAFT J.	R.A.S.C.
SLATER R.	Sher Rangers	TAYLOR D.	Airborne
SMITH E.	R.C.S.	TAYLOR D.	W.A.A.F.
SMITH E.W.	R.A.F.	THOMPSON E.	A.T.S.

THOMPSON G.	R.A.	WASS F.G.	Commandos
THOMPSON J.	R.A.S.C.	WEBSTER R.	R.A.M.C.
THOMPSON S.	R.A.	WEST C.	R.A.
THORNEYCROFT A.	R.E.	WEST F.	////////
TURNER J.A.	R.A.	WEST F.B.	A.T.S.
URIEN J.	A.T.S.	WESTON A.	R.A.F.
VALLANCE A.G.	R.N.	WESTON J.	R.A.F.
VALLANCE E.F.	Airborne	WHITE H.	R.A.
VALLANCE T.	R.N.	WHITEHEAD W.	R.A.S.C.
VARDY G.	Tank Brigade	WICKENDEN W.	R.A.
VARDY J.	R.A.M.C.	WILBY J.	////////
VICKERS I.J.	R.A.F.	WILCOCK W.	R.A.F.
WALKER F.	R.A.	WILKINSON A.	R.E.
WAPLINGTON J.H.	////////	WILLIAMS F.	W.A.A.F.
WARD H.	R.E.	WILLIAMS H.	R.A.
WARD W.	////////	WILLIAMS R.	R.A.S.C.
WARREN J.	W.A.A.F.	WILSON E.	Infy Brigade
WARRENER A.	Pioneer Corps	WINTER G.C.	////////

WOOD G.K.	R.A.M.C.
WOOD J.	A.T.S.
WOOD R.	Pioneer Corps
WOODHEAD L.G.	R.A.
WOODHEAD T.	R.H.A.
WORVIELL G.B.	R.E.
WRAGG A.	Queens Bays
WRAGG M.	R.A.F.
WRIGHT A.	////////
YATES E.	R.A.
YATES J.	Mil Police
YEARHAM L.	R.A.M.C.
YOUNG J.	Notts & Derby

CHAPTER 4

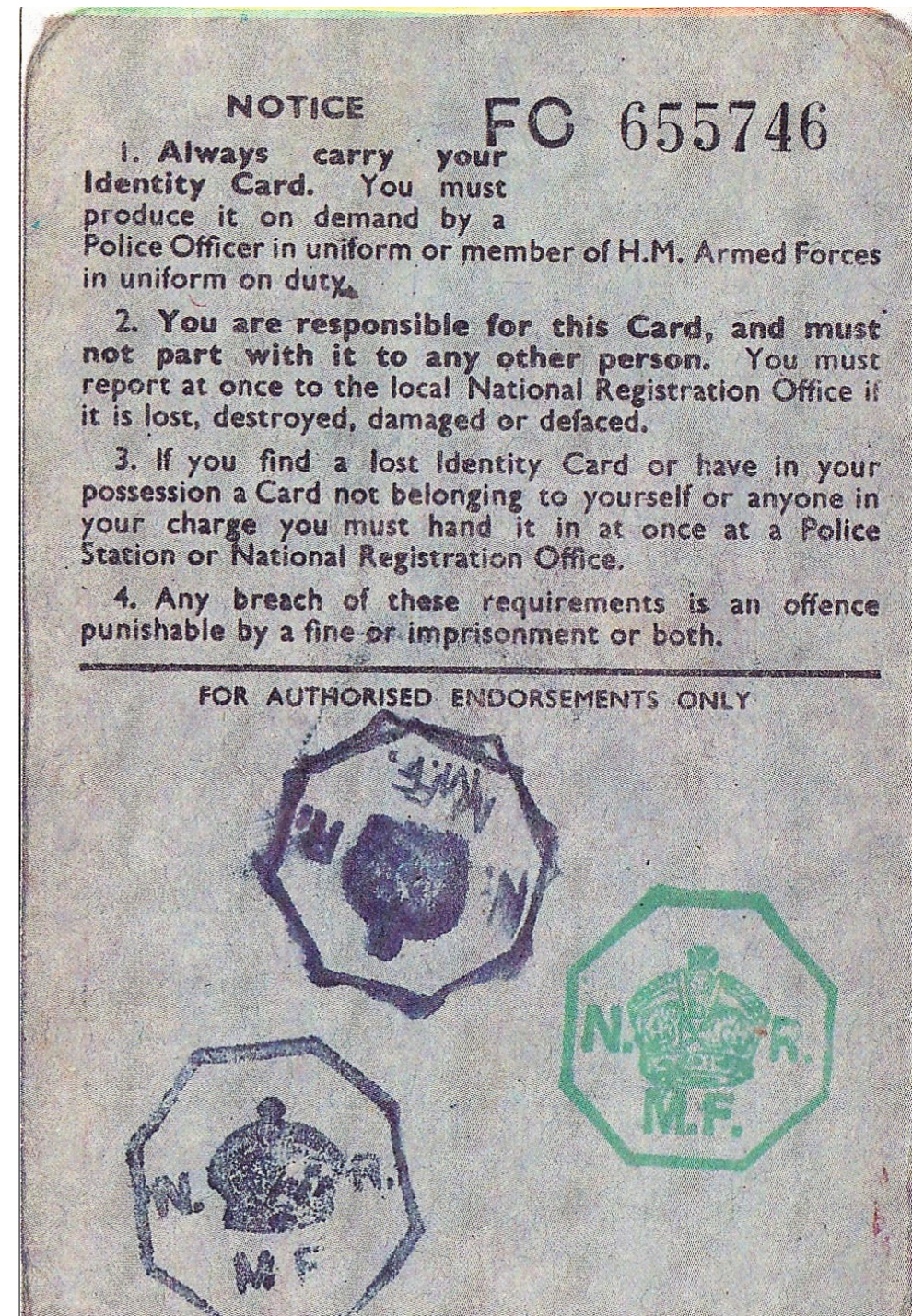
Child Evacuees



Between 1940 and 1941 the German Luftwaffe turned their attention to Britain. With the help of advancements in science and engineering since the previous World War it was only a matter of time before Germany would attack from the air, which now would be far more devastating. Thanks to the Government Evacuation Scheme which was developed during summer 1938, the number of fatalities, though still much higher than past airborne attacks, would ensure the safety of millions of children from the South and therefore decrease the loss of life.

Primarily, focus was concentrated on armament factories and Air-Fields. Defence by the Royal Air Force against these initial raids became known as the Battle of Britain. However, it wasn't long before it became evident that bombing at night was far more effective and residential areas would be easier to target, these attacks would come to be known as the Blitz. As war broke out and subsequent bombardments ravaged the capital and other major cities the safety of the children became a priority. The first relocation which started on 1st September 1939, named Operation Pied Piper after the children's story, saw 3.5 million people moving to less risk areas in the Midlands and North of Britain.

In June 1940 children and teachers from Lowestoft were evacuated some 200 miles to Creswell and welcomed with open arms. The evacuees arrived by train and were taken to the Regors cinema from where they were subsequently transferred to local homes.




An identity card carried by all the evacuees.

PAGE 1

MINISTRY OF FOOD

RATION BOOK SUPPLEMENT



OFFICIAL
PAID

This is a Spare Book
**YOU WILL BE TOLD
HOW AND WHEN TO USE IT**

HOLDER'S NAME AND REGISTERED ADDRESS

Surname..... HERRING

Other Names..... William R

Address..... 1 Walton Way
Mitcham

<p>If found, please return to</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">MITCHAM</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FOOD OFFICE 7 JUL 1941</p> <p>Date of Issue.....</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">L.61</p>	<p>NATIONAL REGISTRATION NO.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; font-size: 1.2em;">CNC2</td> <td style="width: 33%; font-size: 1.2em;">37</td> <td style="width: 33%; font-size: 1.2em;">1</td> </tr> </table> <p>Class and Serial No. of Ration Book already held</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;"><u>RBI PP 609997</u></p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">R.B. 9</p>	CNC2	37	1
CNC2	37	1		

A ration book which all evacuees had to carry.



Lowestoft evacuees who arrived in Creswell June 1940, during World War Two.



Original Lowestoft evacuees visiting Creswell many years later.

Acknowledgements

*Thank
you*

Acknowledgements

We thank the following:

Burt Ledger and Graham Taft for information on men killed in WWII who first gathered and sent this to us. The men's names also appear on the Cenotaph in Creswell.

Further research found service men and women who also fought, in a memorial book in Creswell Church.

Members of the Elmtown with Creswell Local History Group, in particular Helen Gibson and Daphne Row.

Invaluable help has been given by Charlotte Cawthorne for compiling and typing this book.

Without this the book would not exist.

The information in this book has been researched from different sources hence the discrepancies in the spelling of names and the amount of detail given for each of the men, whether relating to their army regiments and numbers or to personal accounts of their lives.

Compiled by Pamela Finch and Enid Hibbert

Elmton*with***Creswell**
LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

