

UPPINGHAM IN LIVING MEMORY
Snapshots of Uppingham in the 20th Century

Part I: Uppingham at War



Uppingham Local History Study Group

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED
The information given in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's Service.

HOME GUARD

INSTRUCTION No. 15—1940

COMMON GERMAN MILITARY EXPRESSIONS

<i>English</i>	<i>German</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>
Halt ! Who goes there ?	Halt ! Wer da ?	HARLT. VAIR DAR ?
Hands up !	Hände hoch !	HENDER HOCH.
Come closer !	Kommt hierher !	KOMMT HEAR-HAIR
Surrender.	Ergebt euch	AIRGAYBT OICK.
Do not shoot.	Nicht-schiessen	NICKT SHEESSEN.
Throw down your arms.	Waffen hinlegen.	VAFFEN HIN-LAYGEN.
Stand still.	Stehen bleiben.	SHTAYEN BLYBEN.
Go in front of me.	Vorausgehen.	FOR-OWSE-GAYEN.
Forward !	Vorwärts !	FOR-VAIRTS.
At once !	Sofort !	SOFURT.
Double !	Marsch ! Marsch !	MARSH MARSH.
Faster !	Schneller !	SHNELLAIR.
Slower !	Langsam !	LUNGSUM.
Left !	Links !	LINKS.
Right !	Rechts !	WRECHTS.
Stop !	Halt !	HARLT.
Come back !	Kommt zurück !	KOMMT TSOORICK.

NOTE.—The pronunciation given in Column 3 is the nearest English equivalent to the German sounds. The exact pronunciation can only be learned from a German speaker.

*Prepared under the direction of
The Chief of the Imperial General Staff.*

THE WAR OFFICE,
20th September, 1940.

Printed under the Authority of HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
by William Clowes & Sons, Ltd., London and Beccles.

G. 254.—2428. (9/40). 180M.

Home Guard Instruction No. 15. (HMSO)

Cover illustration: amongst the papers of the late Ernie Marlow is a photograph of the Uppingham Home Guard parading in 1941 along High Street West in front of The Red House and adjacent cottages that were once sited on the Lorne House lawn.

Reproduced courtesy of John G Marlow.

UPPINGHAM IN LIVING MEMORY

Snapshots of Uppingham in the 20th Century

Part I: Uppingham at War



The Home Guard on parade in Uppingham
Reproduced courtesy of David Bland.

© Uppingham Local History Study Group
2005
ISBN 0-9540076-4-6

Published by
Uppingham Local History Study Group
7 Newtown Road
Uppingham
Rutland LE15 9TR

Previous publications

Uppingham in 1851: A Night in the Life of a Thriving Town, 2001

Uppingham in 1802, 2002

The Making of Uppingham, 2003

In addition to those who have written chapters of this volume, the following members of the Group have been involved in this project:

Carolyn Cartwright, Caroline Crombie, Hilary Crowden, Julia Culshaw (Chairman), Patricia Damen, Brian Robertson, Fiona Stewart, Norman Tomson, Sue Westlake.

Rosemary Canadine designed the publication and Centuryprint of Cavendish Courtyard, Corby, printed it.

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements
Abbreviations
INTRODUCTION

	<i>Page</i>
1: PORTRAIT OF THE TOWN 1939-45 by Betty Howard	1
2: EVACUATION OF THE CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS TO UPPINGHAM by Roy Stephenson	17
3: KINGSWOOD SCHOOL AND UPPINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH by Margaret Stacey	25
4: LIFE AT UPPINGHAM SCHOOL as recorded by Henry Dawe	31
5: RECORDS AND RECOLLECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL AND CENTRAL SCHOOLS by Helen Hutton and Henry Dawe	37
6: THE PARISH CHURCH IN PEACE AND WAR by Peter Lane	41
7: MEMORIES OF BLETCHLEY PARK 1941-5 by Ione Roseveare	53
CONCLUSION Sources	



Passing-out parade, Oakham, December 1944
Reproduced courtesy of David Bland.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to the following people who have spoken to us or written to us regarding their memories of wartime Uppingham: the late Mrs Rose Dams, Mr and Mrs Tom Dorman, Mr Walter Flitney, the late Mrs Lilian Glithero, Mrs Marie Harris, Mrs Joan Hinman, the late Mr Ted Holmes, Mrs Jean Hunt, Mrs Sheila Kerfoot, Mrs Jessie Jones, Mr Paul Liquorish, Mrs Nellie Mason, Mrs Joan Maund, Mr Ian McKinnell, Mrs Sheila Northen, Mr Derek Pace, Mrs Beaty Peasgood, Mr Edmund Preston, Mr Peter Scott, Mr Dick Smith, Mr Alan Snodin, Mr and Mrs Gordon Stones, Mrs Daphne Thomas, Mrs Nina Tilley, Mrs Joan Ward, Mr Keith Watson, Mr Dennis Wright, Mr Maurice Wright.

The following deserve our thanks for their support towards this publication: Mr Harvey Barker, Mr D Brown (Kingswood School Archivist), Dr Ian Canadine, Mr Michael Culpin, Mr Ashley Dawe, Canon Stephen Evans, Dr P Forsaith (librarian/archivist of the Wesley Historical Society), Mr Geoffrey Frowde, Mr and Mrs Norman Harrington, Miss Margaret Jennings (for permission to reproduce material from *As We Were: Extracts from the Log Books of Uppingham Community College*), Mrs Penelope Lorena, Mr Jerry Rudman (Uppingham School archivist), Mr Harry Spry-Leverton, Miss Margaret Stones, Mrs Mary Sullivan (née Davies), The Church of England Primary School. Illustrations have been obtained from and are published by kind permission of Mr David Bland, Mr Bob Feetham (editor of the *Rutland Times*), Mrs Marie Harris, Mrs Jessie Jones, Mr John Marlow, Mr Tony Traylen, Greenhill Books, HMSO, Sinclair Stevenson, Spiegl Press, the editor of the *Rutland and Stamford Mercury*, the rector and PCC of Uppingham.

The group also wishes to acknowledge its debt of gratitude to Professor Alan Rogers, whose training and leadership over four years inspired us to produce this publication, and to Mr Robert Wills, whose generous initial donation provided the group with essential financial support.

Abbreviations (other than those in common use)

ABCA	Army Bureau of Current Affairs
AFS	Auxiliary Fire Service
ARP	Air Raid Precaution
BCP	<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>
COGAM	<i>Camden Old Girls Association Magazine</i>
FANY	First Aid Nursing Yeomanry
ITMA	<i>It's That Man Again</i>
LDV	Local Defence Volunteers
PNEU	Parents' National Education Union
RDC	Rural District Council
SPCK	Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge
SPG	Society for the Propagation of the Gospel
ULHSG	Uppingham Local History Study Group
USAAF	United States Auxiliary Air Force
WAAF	Women's Auxiliary Air Force

INTRODUCTION

Uppingham at War, the first part of a new local history series entitled *Uppingham in Living Memory*, brings together historical research into aspects of wartime Uppingham with personal recollections from residents of the town. We hope that this fully illustrated volume from the Uppingham Local History Study Group will be of great interest to Rutland residents and historians alike and will open up to a wider audience the life of this small market town during one of the most challenging periods of the twentieth century.

The aim of our new series is to provide an insight into the life of the town in the twentieth century. Unlike our previous publications, which relied solely on written records, this volume is supported by recollections of local residents. Our interviews with them have either been transcribed or recorded onto cassette tape, and are stored in a filing cabinet belonging to Uppingham Local History Study Group and kept in Uppingham Library.

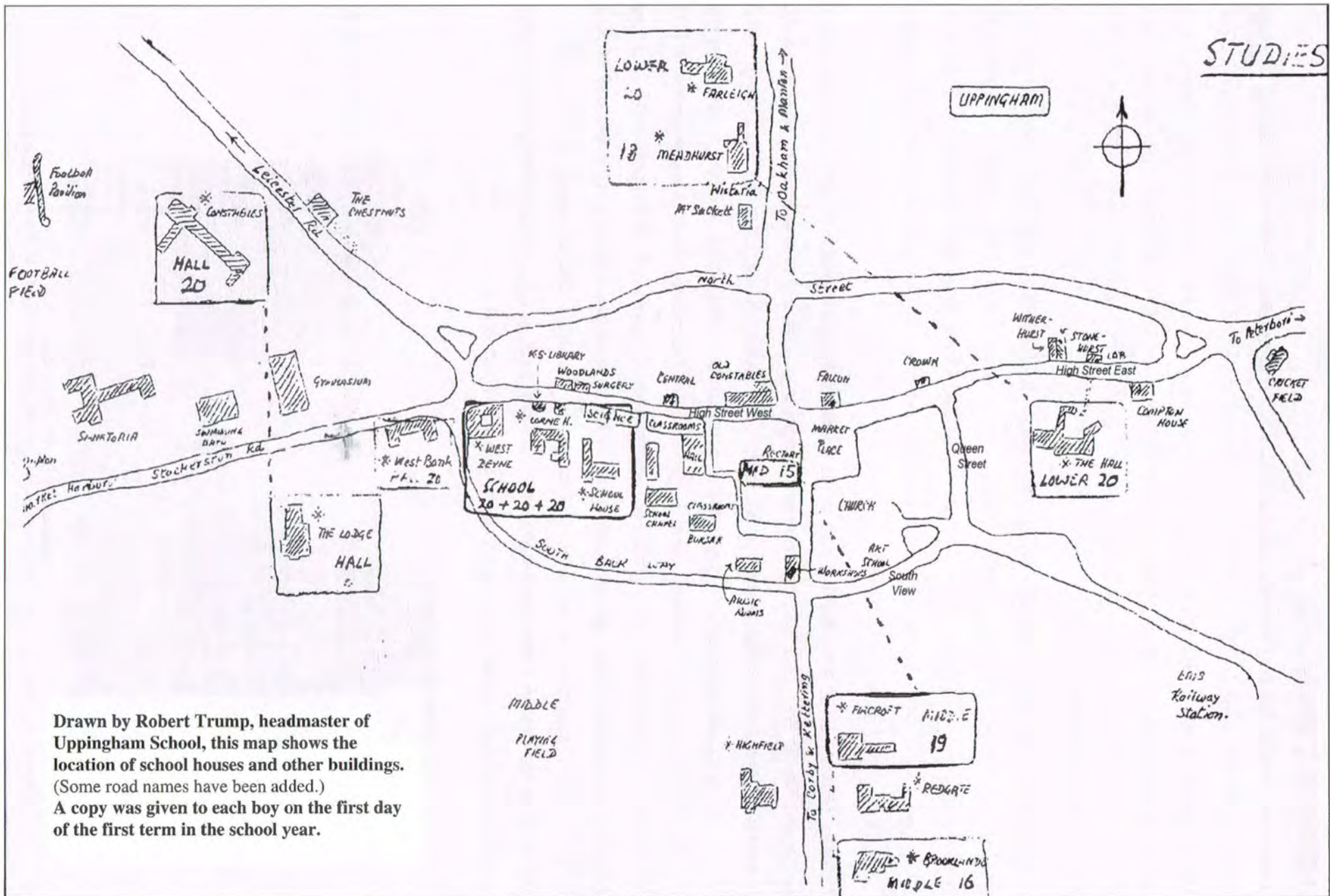
We offer *Uppingham at War*, the first part of the series, in the sixtieth anniversary year of the end of the Second World War. We have by no means sought to give an exhaustive account of all elements of wartime Uppingham in the present publication. The topics chosen for study were those which appealed most to the group as well as to individual researchers, and which were felt to be of interest to a broad cross-section of the local community. Chapter 1 therefore gives us an overview of how Uppingham responded to the war over the six-year period. Chapters 2-5, whilst principally based on schools in Uppingham, shed light on wider issues of life in wartime. Changes in the life and work of the Church in Uppingham are the focus of Chapter 6. The final chapter stands alone; though not connected to the war in Uppingham itself, it is included here to give a fascinating glimpse of one current Uppingham resident's experience of the Second World War.



Uppingham in the snow, 1942

(Best, G M, *Continuity and Change: A History of Kingswood School 1748-1998*, 1998, p.184)

STUDIES



Drawn by Robert Trump, headmaster of Uppingham School, this map shows the location of school houses and other buildings. (Some road names have been added.) A copy was given to each boy on the first day of the first term in the school year.

1: PORTRAIT OF THE TOWN 1939-45

by Betty Howard

Introduction

In Chapter 1 we look in detail at how the Second World War affected Uppingham and its residents. By placing events taking place in the town in the context of what was happening in the world at large, it is hoped to give a fuller picture of the way in which local communities such as ours responded to the war effort.

Background

Events leading up to World War Two – among them Germany's annexation of Czechoslovakia, its demands for Danzig and its eventual invasion of Poland – have been extensively documented. By 1938 the Committee of Imperial Defence had issued a paper which contained four key recommendations in the event of war, namely

- the evacuation of mothers and infants, school children and the sick and elderly, to safe districts;
- the provision of shelters for those who remained;
- provision against gas attacks and accumulation of respirators;
- rationing; ration books were printed to be issued when food shortages indicated strong action was needed.

This paper and its consequences would regulate life for Britain's population during the next six years, and, as ever in wartime, moods would shift rapidly.¹

Infrastructure

In early summer of 1939 Uppingham was much as it is now, easily recognisable apart from later alterations on Scale Hill and Orange Street. The crush of small dwellings around what is now the library on Queen Street had been cleared and the road known as The Quadrant had been built. There were three schools, namely

- The National School, primary and secondary, then on the corner of Spring Back Way and Scale Hill, and now demolished;

- The Central School (now the Community College). The term is not geographical. Central schools had been first established in 1911 by London County Council to provide supplementary craft and trade courses. One 'passed' to attend there. The school had acquired new permanent buildings in June 1939;
- Uppingham School with its well-established buildings in the town.

Uppingham station and railway were active and used locally, especially by Uppingham School pupils. The 'Leicester Red' (Midland Red) buses to Stamford, and Glenn's Garage, provided public and private transport in the area. Street lighting was much more subdued and not all the town was illuminated. There was no bypass, with traffic passing through from East to West along the main streets. What is now the Town Hall on High Street East was then the Church Rooms and what is now Goldmarks on Orange Street was the Rural District Council Office where rates were paid and the Register Office housed. There was no library and no Friday Market. There was a fairly new cinema, the Rutland, which had opened in 1937 with a showing of *Little Lord Fauntleroy*.² Few houses had gas or electricity. Nearly all pupils walked to school, even from nearby villages, using well-trodden, familiar footpaths. A fortunate few had cycles and those from villages further afield such as Barrowden, Belton and Morcott, were collected by a Central Garage bus.

Countdown to war

In July 1939 £500 million was allocated as new defence borrowing and the Territorial Army was mobilised, indicating the seriousness of the situation. All the homes in Uppingham had received Public Information leaflets giving guidance on the blackout and specifying methods of converting rooms into safe refuges. Millions of gas masks had been distributed, and in Uppingham the 'Church Rooms' had been the collection point. Shelters and trenches had begun to appear. Little mention is made of public shelters in the town, but many houses had cellars and makeshift retreats.

THE
NOSTALGIA
POSTCARD
COLLECTOR'S CLUB



Evacuees, 1939

Mrs Muriel Duncan of Knoll House in Uppingham, Rutland inaugurated the first home for evacuees under five years of age who had left the cities without their mothers. Mrs Duncan's five charges came from Canning Town and Bow and are seen in the beautiful gardens of their new home. The experiences of both evacuees and of the people who took them in varied considerably. The parents did not know where their children were going, but were informed later. Most people from this initial evacuation drifted back to the cities when the bombers failed to come.

Nostalgia postcard

This Edition © IRIS Publishing Ltd. MCMXXII. Set 33

Photo © Hulton Picture Company



Mrs Duncan's 'Nanny' with five refugees in the garden at Knoll House

Trenches with timber coverings also appeared in gardens. There was a shelter on the east side of the National School, probably for its pupils, and on the nearby Cinder Track some form of refuge is said to have appeared. Boys and masters at Uppingham School undertook alterations to the cellars, and trenches were dug on Beast Hill and Tod's Piece. It is said that Knoll House along the London Road had a good strong shelter built for family use.

Mrs Muriel Duncan, owner of Knoll House, became quite well known for inaugurating the first home for children under the age of five, evacuated without their mothers. Rutland had nominated its County Air Raid Precaution (ARP) Officer, Major J D Joyce, and on 6 July 1939 a major exercise took place in the area, with total blackout from midnight until 2 am. Bombers from Cottesmore made two simulated raids acting the parts of attackers. One 'attacked' the Welland Viaduct (then an exceptionally busy railway line) and one 'bombed' a large petrol station/depot in Oakham.³ During the year a campaign had been launched to recruit auxiliary firemen in Rutland to practise fire fighting once or twice a week in the evenings. More Special Constables were also recruited to replace those who would be joining the forces.⁴

Chamberlain's declaration

On 3 September at 11.15 am Chamberlain announced on the wireless that 'this country is at war with Germany'. Immediately, the Armed Forces Act, which stated that 'all men aged between 18 and 41, other than reserved occupations, are liable for conscription', came into being.⁵ The Home Fleet was back in Scapa Flow, and the British Expeditionary Force was ready to go to France. Winston Churchill joined the Cabinet as First Lord of the Admiralty. A great mass of 827,000 school children and teachers, and 535,000 women expecting

babies or with small children were evacuated. On that day the SS Athenia, a liner travelling from Glasgow to Montreal, was torpedoed by the Germans and 112 passengers and crew died. A ministry of information was formally created. Originally, there was no clear idea of its function but, during the war, it was to interpret Government policies and maintain civilian morale.

In Uppingham on that Sunday morning, anyone who had access to a wireless would be listening, and many would have some idea of the dangers of a modern war - one that engaged the whole nation. For a lot of men and women in Uppingham, the Great War was still clear in their memory. Those who attended Church on that day would hear no ringing of bells since they had all been silenced. The bells were now only used in the event of an invasion. It is not clear how Uppingham parish Church complied with blackout regulations. Evening services started an hour earlier and interior lighting was dimmed, but there seemed no specific curtaining of the large windows. According to a mass observation panel, in October 1939 the blackout was felt by the public to be far the most inconvenient aspect of the war.⁶ That Sunday evening each householder would be caught up in the daily routine of ensuring that no light was visible from outside. Although air-raid wardens kept a vigilant watch for escaping lights from windows, pedestrians were allowed to carry dimmed torches.

An edict of the lord chamberlain stated that all theatres, cinemas and places of entertainment where the public would congregate were to close. There were many protests and letters to the press on this order. George Bernard Shaw wrote to say that *even more* theatres and cinemas should be opened so as to offer the general public, and men on leave, wider diversions. On 16 September, the order was repealed and Uppingham's cinema could re-open.⁷ The Central School's *Log Book*

for 3 September registered that 'The headmaster placed the School for the coming week at the disposal of Miss Wright, headmistress of the Camden School for Girls.'⁸ This mass evacuation lasted for just a few weeks, during which the Central School shared its premises with the Girls' School until it moved to Grantham. Uppingham School also shared its accommodation and facilities with Kingswood School for Boys, evicted from its Bath home by the Admiralty.

The Phoney War

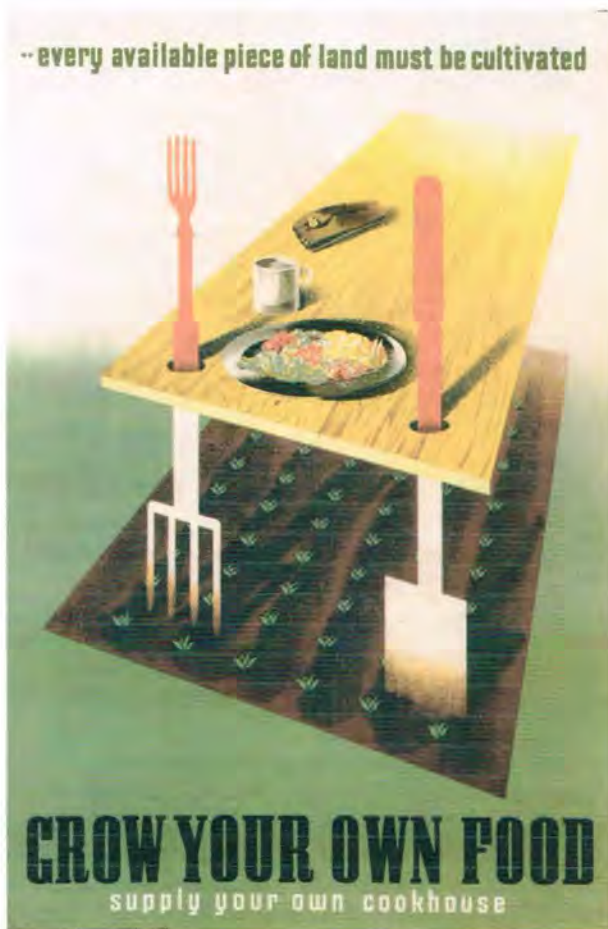
The period from September 1939 to May 1940 was strangely quiet. The country was at 'action stations' but there was little action. The town's residents were learning how to deal with incendiaries with the help of the ARP personnel, who were at their post next to what is now Boots on High Street East, where the doorway was sandbagged. This post was regularly manned. The Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) had been mobilised. A national colour system was devised for use when telephoning; each warning notice was to be colour coded. YELLOW was for enemy aircraft approaching, RED for enemy aircraft within a few miles and GREEN, all clear.⁹ A 'Heavy Rescue' demonstration took place when a rope from an upper window at the Falcon was fastened at the other end to the fountain in Market Place. Young men, one of whom was Paul Liquorish's brother,

were lowered down. This was supposed to be a morale booster, showing the ease with which rescues from burning buildings could be achieved.¹¹ There were lighter interludes. In 1939 Arthur Marshall¹² was a schoolmaster at Oundle. Late one night there was a knock at his door:

A small figure stood there – a woman. She spoke, and she spoke lugubriously. 'I'm a high explosive bomb' she said. She was, of course, no such thing. I recognised her at once as an assistant in one of the town's two drapery establishments. On that particular evening she was taking part in an ARP exercise organised by the local council, and for this she was an explosive bomb. I asked her if she had gone off, was about to go off, or was embedded in the roadway. She said she was sorry but she didn't know. *They* had not told her. Thereupon, her duty performed, she accepted an invitation to take coffee and deserted her post.¹³

Making provisions

Here in Great Britain the same edgy lull continued. Official regulations and restrictions often seemed unreasonable; national identity cards were issued and required to be carried. Income tax was raised to its highest-ever level of 7s 6d in the £1. The great 'Plough-up Campaign' began, which was to change parts of Rutland for ever. Every possible acre was ploughed, including the most unsuitable land, and farmers were encouraged to concentrate on growing grain and vegetables. A system of subsidy and monitoring was



Economy and wit in a 1942 poster by Abraham Games¹⁰
Reproduced courtesy of HMSO.



Grow More Food Campaign Certificate of Merit given to Charles Frank Liquorish, Paul Liquorish's father
Reproduced with permission.

devised, with £2 an acre granted for the ploughing and cultivation of grassland. Many farmers profited from this arrangement and emerged financially sound at the end of the war. The price was adjusted regularly, and farmers classified as inefficient could have their land confiscated and handed over to others. The arable acreage in Rutland doubled and the numbers of livestock declined.

Higher demands meant an increase in the labour force, and volunteers in the Women's Land Army were directed to Rutland. This particular service was, unusually, a 'one rank force', employed not by the state, but by each individual farmer or company. By December 1939 4,500 girls over the age of 17 had been found jobs in the country. Those from cities were often surprised to find a lack of public services that they were used to such as electricity, mains water and sewage schemes. Not all farmers welcomed the new recruits, and many agricultural workers, anxious about their own jobs, opposed them.

Local workers

Joan Hinman though was welcomed. She arrived in Uppingham from Leicester and was met by Frank Gilman and driven to his farm in Morcott, where several other girls worked. The work was harsh and demanding and the hours were long, but living conditions were good. When Mr and Mrs Gilman's son was born, the girls bought him a second-hand silver napkin ring from Thorpe's, the Uppingham jeweller, as a christening present. A number of local girls elected, quite independently, to join the Land Army, and many of them, like Sheila Kerfoot, lived at home. A single-storey hostel was built at Lyddington, up Scales Dyke, off Main Street. Wing Grange was the point from which replacement uniforms were issued sparingly by Miss Brocklebank. Sheila's employer, W D Dennis, had land stretching to Caldecott and Rockingham. Some girls worked on Uppingham farms, in fields alongside the Ayston Road. They were paid one shilling per hour for a 48 hour week including Saturday morning. Bicycles were the main form of transport, but the girls would be collected by trucks if work involved extended journeys.¹⁴

Some publicity pictures distributed to attract girls to The Land Army were considered too romantic, and Dame Laura Knight was asked to portray a more realistic image. In October 1939, the ministry of agriculture produced the 'Dig for Victory' publicity, in conjunction with the great 'Plough-up Campaign'. Central School pupils were early activists, its *Log Book* recording, on 15 September 1939, that 'Forms II and III have spent most of their time gardening'.¹⁵ Although the 'Upper' playing field on Seaton Road escaped, Uppingham School's rugby pitches were ploughed up and sown with crops. Vegetables were also grown on land along the Leicester Road.

Food was important to the people, and the Government was anxious that the morale of the nation was not undermined by having too little to eat, whether through shortages or high costs. The scheme for food rationing

and the control of food prices was therefore put in place with the help of strong subsidies. Sir Martin Roseveare, father of the late Bob Roseveare of Uppingham, was directly involved in devising the 'fair shares for all' principle of ration books and a points system. On 8 January 1940 food rationing came into force, with bacon, ham, butter and sugar being exchanged for coupons in the ration book. Later in the year coupons for meat, tea, margarine and cooking fat were included. There was, of course, a general shortage of such things as cigarettes, razor blades, cooking utensils, matches and torch batteries, and mothers of small babies had to search and queue for feeding bottles, cots, prams and pushchairs. However, welfare foods such as milk, orange juice, rose-hip syrup and blackcurrant juice were readily available.



The 'romanticized' advert¹⁶
Reproduced courtesy of Sinclair Stevenson.

Shopping in Uppingham

In Uppingham there were three main grocery stores, all of which were out-of-bounds to the boys of Uppingham School and Kingswood School. The Co-op, on the corner of High Street West and London Road, occupied a Tudor building called 'The Town House', which was surprisingly demolished during a later road-widening scheme. The International Stores was in High Street West and Hayres was on the corner of Market Place. Unusually, there are no mentions of lengthy queues in the town. Uppingham was a self-supporting area of

gardens, allotments and had several local suppliers, such as butchers and bakers. Rationing coupons were sometimes sold by heads of large families who needed cash more than rations.

Orders for the following week's requirements were still being delivered to all the outlying villages, despite growing transport difficulties. Many people from the surrounding area walked into Uppingham to shop, for there were very few cars. Some cycled, but from Seaton it was convenient to catch a train and arrive at Uppingham Station. Residents, foolish enough to admit their intention of visiting Leicester by bus, found they were often handed shopping commissions by friends and neighbours. These included requests for small items like shoe laces, buttons and razor blades that were in short supply. In his spare time, Paul Liqueurish worked as a daily delivery boy for Baines the baker.¹⁷ He carried loaves, buns and pies to Uppingham School Houses, and very large orders for Kingswood School who dined in the Uppingham School gymnasium (now a theatre). Housemasters' wives were responsible for the domestic running of the Houses and nearly all the food was bought locally.

Community and Communication

Topographically, Uppingham was a small, compact market town. Its principal buildings, the church, council offices, public houses, shops and cinema, etc., were all close to one another. This resulted in a tightly knit community and engendered a strong feeling of unity. Everyone seemed willing to act in a neighbourly fashion, with food rations being pooled for weddings and parties, and home-grown fruit and vegetables generously shared. Social unity may not have been universal but, generally, to quote Thorpe, 'wartime Britain ... was, certainly after May 1940, a more politically united nation than at any time in the twentieth century. It was better fed, more productive and less embittered between its social gradations.'¹⁸ In the memories of its older residents, Uppingham reflected this solidarity.

Broadcasting

The radio offered diversion and entertainment. There were over nine million radio licence holders, so there was a large potential audience which 'wanted light-hearted, cheerful programmes', according to a mass observation survey of May 1940. Tommy Handley's *It's That Man Again (ITMA)* more than filled these requirements. It was relayed from the BBC's new studios in Bristol. Performers had to be 'security cleared' by MI1, which also vetted the scripts.¹⁹ Jokes about wartime problems, the blackout, rationing, civil defence, long working hours, and sergeant majors often provided colour and laughter.

After it had been shown in the big city, one of the first fictional propaganda films, *The Lion has Wings*, was screened at the Rutland Cinema. Such films were produced in a documentary style, and their main purpose was to reassure the British public that the Royal

Air Force was there to prevent them from being blown up!

Firm news about the war and events taking place was thin, even though ministry leaflets were issued and the BBC and newspapers carried public announcements. The people felt the government was remote and little information about security or short term plans seemed to be imparted. A mass observation survey in February 1940 found the public depressed and apathetic; people wanted something to happen, even if it were unpleasant.

Invasion

In April 1940 a British military expedition to Norway failed. This was followed by the occupation of Norway and Denmark by German forces. Finland, attacked by Russia, eventually surrendered, and Italy joined the War on Germany's side. Holland and Belgium were also occupied and finally France capitulated.

In Britain no less dramatic events were taking place. On 10 May Winston Churchill became prime minister of a coalition government and, on 13 May, he delivered his now famous speech which ended with the words 'I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat'. On balance, things seemed to be in Germany's favour and yet, during what should have been a time of low civilian morale, when there were understandable fears about the possibility of a German invasion, the evidence was of calmness and optimism.

The Home Guard

The threat of invasion prompted Anthony Eden, the War Minister, to call for a new Home Defence force. The Local Defence Volunteers (LDV), 'Look, Duck and Vanish' as they were jokingly referred to, were renamed the Home Guard in July. Churchill clearly stated that it was to be a part of the armed forces. Males between the ages of 17 and 65 were eligible, but were unpaid. The Home Guard was the butt of many jokes. Robb Wilton, a well-known radio comedian, poked gentle fun during one of his broadcasts:

The first day I got my uniform I went home and put it on. The missus looked at me and said 'What are you supposed to be?' I said 'I'm one of the Home Guards.' She said 'What are the others like? What are you supposed to do?' 'I'm supposed to stop Hitler's army landing.' She said 'What, just you?' I said 'No, not just me. There's Bob Edwards, Charlie Evans, Billy Brightside, - there's seven or eight of us, we're in a group on guard in a little hut behind the Dog and Pullet.'²⁰

In Rutland 604 men enrolled in a force that relied heavily on local initiative to improvise what was needed. Arms, ammunition and equipment, all in short supply, were at first deposited at the old police station in Oakham until space was found in a small room at the Drill Hall. Overall responsibility for the Rutland group lay with the Leicestershire and Rutland Territorial Association. Wing Commander J W Ogilvey Dagleish was the battalion commander. *Rutland Battalion Home Guard: Uppingham D Company, Platoons 13 to 16*, as it



Beating the INVADER

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

IF invasion comes, everyone—young or old, men and women—will be eager to play their part worthily. By far the greater part of the country will not be immediately involved. Even along our coasts, the greater part will remain unaffected. But where the enemy lands, or tries to land, there will be most violent fighting. Not only will there be the battles when the enemy tries to come ashore, but afterwards there will fall upon his lodgments very heavy British counter-attacks, and all the time the lodgments will be under the heaviest attack by British bombers. The fewer civilians or non-combatants in these areas, the better—apart from essential workers who must remain. So if you are advised by the authorities to leave the place where you live, it is your duty to go elsewhere when you are told to leave. When the attack begins, it will be too late to go; and, unless you receive definite instructions to move, your duty then will be to stay where you are. You will have to get into the safest place you can find, and stay there until the battle is over. For all of you then the order and the duty will be: "STAND FIRM".

This also applies to people inland if any considerable number of parachutists or air-borne

troops are landed in their neighbourhood. Above all, they must not cumber the roads. Like their fellow-countrymen on the coasts, they must "STAND FIRM". The Home Guard, supported by strong mobile columns wherever the enemy's numbers require it, will immediately come to grips with the invaders, and there is little doubt will soon destroy them.

Throughout the rest of the country where there is no fighting going on and no close cannon fire or rifle fire can be heard, everyone will govern his conduct by the second great order and duty, namely, "CARRY ON". It may easily be some weeks before the invader has been totally destroyed, that is to say, killed or captured to the last man who has landed on our shores. Meanwhile, all work must be continued to the utmost, and no time lost.

The following notes have been prepared to tell everyone in rather more detail what to do, and they should be carefully studied. Each man and woman should think out a clear plan of personal action in accordance with the general scheme.

Winston Churchill

STAND FIRM

I. What do I do if fighting breaks out in my neighbourhood?

Keep indoors or in your shelter until the battle is over. If you can have a trench ready in your garden or field, so much the better. You may want to use it for protection if your house is damaged. But if you are at work, or if you have special orders, carry on as long

as possible and only take cover when danger approaches. If you are on your way to work, finish your journey if you can.

If you see an enemy tank, or a few enemy soldiers, do not assume that the enemy are in control of the area. What you have seen may be a party sent on in advance, or stragglers from the main body who can easily be rounded up.

became known, was responsible for the defence of a scattered area, which included nearby villages. Throughout the summer of 1940 all vulnerable points and observation posts in Uppingham were manned at night.

France's surrender meant that the threat of invasion was real and menacing, and newspapers speculated about when, where and how it would take place. The government assumed sweeping powers over people and property; all householders in Uppingham, as elsewhere, received a copy of the leaflet *If the Invader Comes*. The ministry of information warned of the need to prevent any information reaching the enemy, and posters were commissioned advising of these dangers. In a letter to Lord Davidson, John Rodgers in the ministry of information suggested that postmen and milkmen should be part of this 'dissemination of propaganda on the Home Front'.²² Postmen were to be told to scotch any idle rumours and express the viewpoints heard in BBC bulletins. Milk rounds-men were not only to be asked to deliver government leaflets, but also to pass on correct and accurate messages by word of mouth. Suddenly Uppingham's title vanished; all signposts were blanked out and its name disappeared from the station. Robert Sterndale Bennett, a music master at Uppingham School and a member of the Home Guard, instigated a detailed survey of field names set on maps of Rutland in order to enable quick local identification, should German parachutists land. Watch was kept from the top of Uppingham School tower.

Uppingham Home Guard, now a network of local observers, kept watch on the Welland Viaduct and Gretton Tunnel. Although designated as 'spotters' and 'reporters', they were prepared to face and attack the enemy, against which they were now armed. One hundred and thirty-five Lee Enfield rifles had arrived, followed by eighty-five Canadian Ross rifles. Ted Holmes remembered the arrival of the latter very clearly.²³ Since, at first, there was no official meeting place, Home Guard members met regularly at the Maltster's Arms, run by Ted's father. The leather trappings on these rifles were so pale that dubbin and stain had to be applied to make them less easily spotted in the dark. The men could do little to repel determined and well-armed invaders, but they signalled defiance at a time of danger and raised local morale.

Action on all fronts

In the midst of all these fears, life carried on in Uppingham. The Central School was having problems, due no doubt to the disappearance of so many men into the Services. On 1 April 1940 the *Log Book* reads 'Owing to the fact that it has been found impossible to appoint a caretaker, the timetable will have to be altered and the senior boys will have to help with the school cleaning.'²⁴ The school's domestic science teacher gave a series of wartime cookery demonstrations at the Gas Showrooms in Queen Street. The school ended the summer holiday early and re-opened in mid-August, unofficially, with a small attendance of about 28 pupils. Children who had obtained approved work, generally

agricultural, were allowed to be absent. Much publicity was given to 'salvage drives', collections of paper, scraps and rags, and some Central School boys were detailed to help in the collection. Scripture periods were forfeited for this duty!

A 'progress indicator' erected in Market Place during War Savings Week encouraged the population to contribute all the cash they could towards the manufacture of tanks, guns, planes and ships. Householders' gardens were filled with vegetables and fruit, and food scraps were saved to feed hens, rabbits and pigs. The Central School's older girls tended the Girl Guide allotments and spent time bottling fruit and making jam. A new cinema, The Regent, opened in Oakham, giving Uppingham filmgoers a wider viewing opportunity. The radio was a fine form of information and entertainment; *Music While You Work*, originally intended for war workers, became highly popular with listeners everywhere.

At Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire a gifted group was occupied throughout 1940 in breaking down the ENIGMA cipher used by the Germans for operational communications. Their findings were an essential tool in our defences and, ultimately, responsible for shortening the War. Bob and Ione Roseveare, a much respected and admired Uppingham couple, were an integral part of this highly secret organisation.²⁵

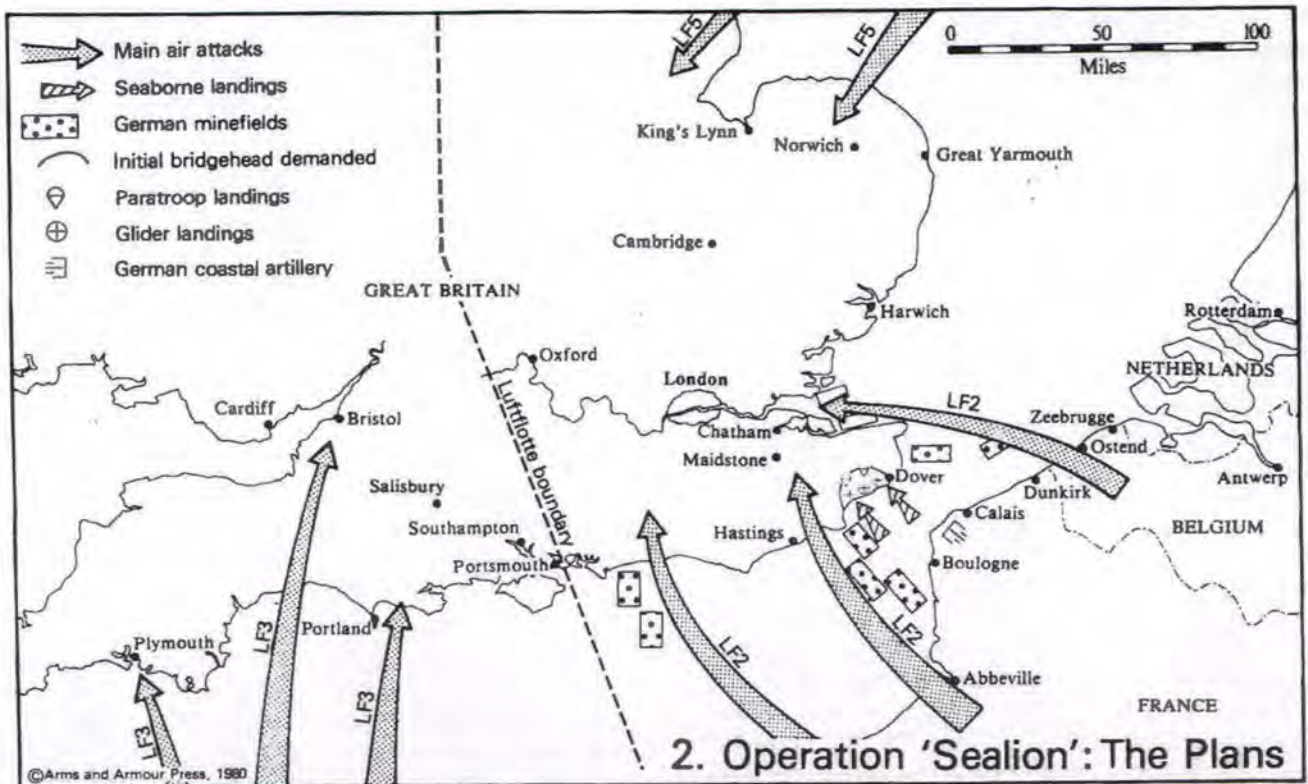
The Battle of Britain was fought during July, August and September of that year. After it was won, Winston Churchill paid his famous tribute to 'The Few'. Conflict in the air had shown just how essential it was to build more planes. In September a Spitfire Fund was proposed to encourage towns and cities to raise money for a Spitfire they could call their own. As an entire plane cost £5,000, smaller groups and areas raised contributions for just a 'wing' or a 'body'. Uppingham collected £429 2s 4d by the time the effort closed at the end of the month.

The RAF's ability to defend its airfields and to defeat the enemy, together with the advent of radar screening, helped reduce the fear of invasion. Bletchley Park provided the vital information that operation 'Sealion' had been postponed, a strange prolonged delay in Germany's planned invasion attack. Invasion, however, of another form, arrived in September 1940.

The Blitz

In July and August that year, the ministry of information placed advertisements in newspapers encouraging sensible behaviour in the face of air-raids; all Uppingham households received an official leaflet entitled *Your House as an Air-Raid Shelter*.

On Saturday 7 September nearly 2,000 people were killed or wounded in London's first night of the Blitz, aimed at the Dockland area. These attacks continued for nearly a year. They were centred heavily on London but, in November, were extended to provincial cities. By May 1941 over 43,000 had been killed by the bombing and always in the background was the fear that



Plans for invasion of GB - 'Sealion'²⁶

Reproduced courtesy of Greenhill Books.

this was just a prelude to a sea-borne invasion. Even then, although the British public regarded the outlook as grim, surveys suggested that less than 3% thought Britain might lose the war.²⁷

Closer to home

Uppingham was not a target for German bombers but it was on the flight path to those who were. On 19 September 1940 the Central School's *Log Book* sounded a sudden threatening note: 'Air raid alarm at 3.30 pm. Took to the trenches. School dismissed at 4.35 pm on All Clear signals.'²⁸ Though the town was never attacked, residents were clearly aware of nearby incidents. A bomb and incendiaries were dropped at nearby Beaumont Chase and Maurice Wright remembers his home shaking.²⁹ Two bombs fell upon Easton-on-the-Hill, and one young person was killed. A landmine landed in Barrowden and over 800 incendiaries rained down on Empingham, but it was the raids on cities which seem to have remained longest in the memories of Uppingham people. On 14 and 15 November 1940 Coventry was subjected to a ferocious attack. Although it was so far from Uppingham, it is clear that this raid *was* witnessed in the town and identified by the direction of the glow in the sky. A raid in Leicester four days later in which 108 people were killed brought the horror even closer. Throughout the months there were heavy night bombing offensives by the Germans on Portsmouth, Birmingham, Merseyside, Cardiff, Bristol and Plymouth, and the raids on London continued.

By September 1940 Uppingham was braced for the twin threats of destruction and invasion. The Home Guard

continued its rigorous and conscientious training programme. Lectures, classes and long exercises demanded much physical effort. Middle-aged men of *Uppingham D Company* cycled in from outlying villages through wind and rain. There were tactical excursions against the regular army and the Company confronted 'enemy' air-borne troops in Wardley Wood. As the Company's younger men became more proficient, some were called up. It should be remembered that all Home Guard personnel exposed themselves to risk; invading Germans would shoot any civilian taking up arms. Raymond Birch had as his officer 'a schoolmaster from Uppingham'. He remembers early morning patrols 'in the summer at 3 a.m. dressed and with rifles, as that was the time that the enemy was likely to attack.'³⁰

The town was regularly wakened at night by the sound of the air-raid siren, though generally the enemy's target was a distant one. These alerts aroused sleepers, and the amount of disturbance was often out of proportion to the actual danger. At Uppingham School, the boys were eventually allowed to stay in bed instead of gathering in the housemasters' studies when the warning signal was heard. For many, despite daytime employment, the night siren meant further duties and responsibilities. ARP wardens and ancillaries met in the upstairs room of the Centre, as did the young junior Red Cross nurse, Joan Maund, who was committed to attendance with an accompanying nurse. There were camp-beds, hard and uncomfortable, for those able to catnap, and although Joan's mother considered these demands too frequent, Joan admits that she quite enjoyed the diversions.³¹

Friends and relations in cities under aerial attack often delivered first-hand accounts of deaths in target areas. In January 1941 Uppingham's fire appliance was called

out to help during a Manchester blitz. Uppingham Rural District Council received a letter of great thanks.



TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER.

24th January, 1941.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The Chief Constable, as Director of the Fire Brigade, has already written to the Chief Officer of your Fire Services to express his personal thanks to the Officers and Men who worked so magnificently here after the recent heavy air-raids.

May I now, through you, express the thanks of the City to your Authority for this invaluable assistance? You will be pleased to know that the Chief Constable has reported that every aiding unit - whether belonging to the Regular or to the Auxiliary Fire Services - showed that it had been excellently trained in fire fighting, and worked with enthusiasm and bravery. If you will convey the thanks of the citizens of Manchester to the individual officers and men who came here to help us, I shall be personally grateful to you.

I am,
Yours sincerely,

Lord Mayor.

The Chairman,

Uppingham Rural District Council.

Letter from the Lord Mayor of Manchester³²

Reproduced courtesy of Spiegl Press.

Evacuees

The onslaught of the London raids brought more evacuees into Rutland from danger areas, and the Central School absorbed older pupils travelling in from neighbouring villages, while infants attended their village schools. In Lyddington, Sheila Kerfoot's mother housed a married couple, both teachers, who had arrived with the pupils.³³

Derek Pace's father brought his London family to the area when he started work at Stewart and Lloyds in Corby. They moved into a small cottage with no services, where they inherited a lodger, an elderly woman, who lived there too. Derek's father always regretted leaving the city, as he saw no advantages in a rural life. However, by the end of the War, the children were settled in local schools and the family stayed.

Daphne Thomas' father, a Royal Fusilier, was stationed at Knoll House in Uppingham. She moved to the town from London with her mother and two younger brothers, finding accommodation in Queen Street. The children attended local schools and, when their father was invalided from the forces, the whole family remained in Uppingham. Daphne too was to stay at the National School, and her younger brother won a Scholarship to Oakham School.³⁴

One unfortunate pupil left school one year earlier than he should have done because no birth certificate arrived with him. Uppingham School's metalwork and woodwork rooms on Scale Hill were converted into a small factory which gave employment to a number of local young people.

Friends and Foes

In the outside world by the end of 1941 the course of the war was changing rapidly. Germany had attacked Russia on the eastern front and this eased the fear of invasion for Britain. On 7 December 1941 Pearl Harbour was bombed by the Japanese air force and the USA entered the war. In October 1941 HMS Gladiolus, a corvette, was sunk 400 miles off South Island by German U-boat 558 and all hands were lost. Amongst the ship's company was 27 year-old Able Seaman E S Dalby of Uppingham. At home the worst of the bombing seemed to be over. Various polls and surveys, even when treated with caution, indicated a strong, sound morale. People had carried on through what appeared at times to be a state of hopelessness. The year of 1942 was, however, to introduce some new elements.

In January the first US servicemen arrived in Britain and throughout the year their numbers increased steadily. Although this was a reassuring development, there was also a negative side to their presence here. The US forces life-style contrasted strongly with the austere conditions endured by most civilians and British servicemen. However, when the Americans became involved in the fighting on various fronts and in the strategic bombing of Germany, the differences seemed less important. A *Welcome* booklet was issued by the government with explanatory pages on currency and English phrases. The Army Bureau of Current Affairs (ABCA) emphasised the three qualities necessary to develop Anglo-American friendship under the exacting conditions of war, namely goodwill, respect and patience.

CURRENCY

ONE of our quaint English customs is to make the currency as difficult as possible for everybody, including ourselves. You can take it roughly that five shillings (better known as five bob) are equivalent to a dollar. Watch the half crown and the two shilling piece—they're very similar in size and design, but the half crown is worth 10 cents more. Various wartime measures have been introduced in this country relating to foreign currency, so please don't try to exchange money except through your own officials or a British bank. Here's a rough guide to the values.

Coin	Slang Name	Metal	Value
Half penny		copper	1 cent
Penny		copper	2 cents
Three pence (Threepenny bit)		silver or twelve-cornered brass	5 cents
Sixpence	Tanner	silver	10 cents
Shilling	Bob	silver	20 cents
Two shilling piece (Florin)		silver	40 cents
Half crown	Half-dollar	silver	50 cents
Ten shillings	Ten bob	paper (purple)	2 dollars
£1	Quid	paper (blue & brown)	4 dollars

THE enemy has a weakness for printing British paper money which we don't want to encourage, so we don't let any bills in except through certain official channels. It is important therefore for you to remember to get rid of paper money *before* you leave the country. This does not necessarily mean that you must spend it. We suggest you hand back to the Captain of your ship *before* you sail any unspent money and ask him to credit you with the value in U.S. currency. Actually it is forbidden to take British currency out of the country.

8

HALF PENNY

PENNY

THREE PENCE (Silver)

THREE PENCE (Brass)

SIXPENCE

SHILLING

TWO SHILLING PIECE

HALF CROWN

9

Explaining £, s, d to the Americans in the *Welcome* booklet³⁵

Reproduced courtesy of HMSO.

The world at large, though, seemed to be evolving into a global battlefield. The Japanese invaded Colombo, the Philippines, Singapore and Hong Kong, SE Asia and Burma. Their infamous POW policies have not easily been forgotten. The Russian-German conflict included the bloody, lengthy siege of Stalingrad. In North Africa, British, Commonwealth and US troops faced Germans and Italians and strange names such as El Alamein, Tobruk, Benghazi and Tripoli became more familiar. Brian Horrocks, an ex-Uppingham School pupil, was commander of the 13th Corps in the desert with Montgomery.

Meeting the challenges of war

Each day Uppingham carried on meeting the demands of war, but the enforced separation of families, husbands, lovers, parents and children caused private anguish and anxiety. Already young men whose names appear on the town's war memorial - Dalby, Porter, Thorpe and Charley - had been lost. Family burdens fell on women as much as on men and many were engaged in some kind of war work. Generally, however, the tenor of everyday life settled into a pattern. Food was being fairly distributed and 77% of women questioned about this at the time considered that the situation was better than they had expected. Lord Woolton, the food minister, was highly regarded for his points system, his introduction of British restaurants with affordable fare, and his setting up of extra food for babies, children, expectant mothers and agricultural workers. Residents carried on tending allotments and garden plots carefully and diligently; chickens, rabbits and pigs were still being reared so as to supplement food stores. 'Black market' dealings were suspected, especially in food and petrol, and cigarettes and un-rationed offal were generally supplied 'under the counter'. By 1942, average wages had risen by 30% and allowances for the wives of private soldiers had been increased.

A canteen, one large room with a counter at its end, had been established in Market Place. Tea, coffee and light refreshments were provided and card games allowed. It seems to have been a popular meeting place. The best attended social event, however, was the weekly Saturday night dance, held in the 'Church Rooms'. It was there that the district's young people met the RAF and Army units stationed locally and, later, the US, Canadian and Polish troops. The music was supplied by a local band, PSR, and records were played on an amplified gramophone. Alcohol was banned but some, no doubt, found its way into the building.

The Uppingham cinema was active, especially on Saturday evenings, with queues forming early. Themes of reassurance were common in the films and, although commercial film-makers were intent on good box office receipts, they none the less echoed this message. *Went the Day Well* depicted the seizure of a small English village by disguised Nazis and emphasised the courage of the Home Guard and local residents. As well as giving us *Casablanca* and *Bambi*, Hollywood paid tribute to the stoic British spirit with *Mrs Miniver*. Making people proud to be British was part of the

propaganda, and the cliché of rural England was used to appeal to patriotic sentiment, especially in the large posters painted by Frank Newbould. A Social Survey revealed that 32% of the country's population went to the cinema at least once a week, as did the residents of Uppingham.³⁶ After all, the cinema was the one comfortable, warm spot where couples could sit closely, side by side, in the privacy of a little darkness!

Publicity drives took place to encourage the continuation of contributions for the war effort. During 'War Ship Week', Rutland raised £191,414 14s 6d, and a destroyer was adopted and named HMS Cottesmore. A plaque was presented to Uppingham in recognition of its contribution. This plaque was returned to the town on April 2004, after 31 years at Catmose. The gratitude of Ralph Johnson of Oakham was recorded in the *Rutland Times* in June. He had served in HMS Cottesmore from 1941 until almost the end of the War and stressed the huge effort made by Rutland - particularly Uppingham - in its support for the ship and by all the local women who had knitted warm garments for the ship's company.

Air attacks continued. Belton-in-Rutland suffered a daylight raid in May 1942 when a Dornier 217 jettisoned its bombs on the village. A Kingswood pupil recorded in his diary, 'A plane went overhead, flying fairly high and making a loud noise. Spooner said he thought it was a Dornier. Most people thought it was a Whitley or a Manchester. We ourselves had seen the fighters going over.' Well spotted, Spooner!

Margaret Davies, whose husband Rupert was Kingswood School's chaplain, wrote of her 1942 Christmas in Uppingham: 'Having a *real* Christmas; dried fruit for cakes and puddings; painted cotton reels for the tree, stockings filled with toys and books from school bookshop. A coupon-free goose. School staff provided rations for party.'³⁷

Now Uppingham faced 1943 and the great push towards victory.

The Long Haul

Although England was still subject to air attacks, with the advent of 1943 the tide was turning. German forces surrendered Stalingrad; RAF, US and Commonwealth planes bombed Berlin and, in May, Italian and German troops retreated in North Africa and numbers of prisoners were taken, some of whom eventually ended up working on Rutland farms. Church bells across Britain, silent since 1940, pealed out on a Sunday morning to celebrate the victory of El Alamein. Eventually the ban on bell-ringing was to be lifted and Uppingham's population would hear again its church bells, but only on Sunday mornings.

Dr Barnes Wallis, designer of the Wellington bomber, had devised a 'bouncing bomb' which would 'skip' across the surface of water. It was intended to use this in the destruction of the huge Mohne Dam in the Ruhr, but extensive practice was necessary to ensure the



Wartime plaque returns after 31 Years
 Reproduced courtesy of *Rutland Times*.



The Dornier 217 shown here was a scaled-up development of the Dornier 17 (the 'Flying Pencil')

effectiveness of this weapon. In April concentrated rehearsals were planned to take place on Eyebrook Reservoir, two miles from Uppingham, with assurances being made that nothing would be damaged. Exercises began on 4 May when Lancaster bombers flew low over the reservoir between two laid targets and, on 14 and 15 May, nineteen Lancasters flew their last moves before operations. Many local residents, among them Ted Holmes,³⁸ had gathered to watch. He was working for George Snowden in the Saddle Room at Stoke Dry making wooden Lysander model aircraft kits and domestic utensils. Ted had a front-row view of the whole operation from his workroom, overlooking the water. Wing Commander Guy Gibson wrote in his log book 'Full dress rehearsal on Uppingham Lake completely successful.'³⁹ On 16 May, the nineteen Lancaster bombers set off from RAF Scampton on one of the most famous events of the War.

In 2003 on the 60th anniversary of this historic raid a Lancaster bomber from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flew low over the Reservoir again. Crowds, including many people from Uppingham, gathered in all the country lanes offering views over the water, and on the final pass the pilot tipped the plane's wings up and down as a farewell salute.

Bob and Ione Roseveare, by this time well acquainted, were heavily engaged in work at Bletchley Park, although because of the policy of no 'hut' knowing the

proceedings in any other, they never shared their knowledge with one another. British and US experts were pooling one another's programmes, and the code name ULTRA was used to cover information gleaned from breaking the German ENIGMA and Japanese PURPLE codes and the Italian C38M enciphering machine.⁴⁰

During May 1943 in the 'Wings for Victory' campaign Uppingham contributed an astonishing £24,354 10s towards the Rutland total of £225,486 2s 2d - sufficient to buy 5 Lancaster bombers.

Into 1944...

The pace of war escalated in the spring of 1944. The Red Army entered Poland and Rumania. The RAF, although having suffered heavy losses on its bombing raids over Germany, joined with the US Eighth Army Air Force in continued intensive attacks. Allied troops pushed further into Burma. In England in May, 'Overlord', the sea-borne invasion assembly, was gathering strength. On 6 June, D-Day, a vast allied armada landed in Normandy. Over a thousand of those involved were US Paratroopers who had left Cottesmore just a few days previously. Throughout June and July the Allied forces pushed onwards into France, Belgium and Holland and by August General de Gaulle was back in Paris. In June, however, Germany's secret weapon, the V1 (doodlebug) crossed the Channel in day and night raids and landed on British soil. Once again, children were being evacuated from London and the south-east.

The Glaston Veterans

In February 1944 at Glaston, a short distance from Uppingham, men of the 4th Parachute Brigade, RE, had arrived from operations in Italy and further afield. They were billeted at Bisbrooke Hall, the Three Horseshoes and in private houses. Their off-duty time was often spent in Uppingham and there was transport to Peterborough and Leicester, but there is a tale of 'borrowed' bicycles being hidden in the branches of a Glaston tree. In September they were transferred to Spanhoe Airfield and then by Dakotas to Europe. In the horror and heroism of Arnhem, out of the 155 of those Glaston paratroopers, 19 died, 64 were evacuated and 72 were reported missing.

In 2004, on May Day weekend, a few remaining members of the 9th Parachute Regiment met on the 60th Anniversary of their time in Glaston. They chose the Falcon in Uppingham, a town which had figured largely during their time spent in the area. It was a lively, articulate group with the conversation as much about current snooker as about service life, but they were all willing to share their memories, some clearer than others. The Market Place 'Canteen' and the Saturday evening 'Church Rooms' dances were fresh in their memory, as was their reluctance to show comradely love to US troops who also attended these dances. The Falcon Hotel had, at that time, been earmarked for



Surviving members of the 4th Parachute Brigade who were stationed in Glaston prior to their 1944 Arnhem battle, welcomed by local friends in 2005, when they once again visited Glaston for the dedication of a memorial bench

Reproduced courtesy of Rutland Times.

officers, and the Unicorn public house had been a popular alternative for other ranks. A stall in Market Place which provided fish and chips was mentioned, as was the 'borrowing' of bicycles and, on one occasion, a single-decker Leicester bus. Missing the last Army Service truck often meant a long walk back to Glaston, but as they said, they had been trained to cover a lot of ground on dark nights. There was also an incident in which some pies disappeared from Culpin's window in High Street East!

Faces grew more serious as the men talked of Arnhem and their strong belief that the operation had been an over-ambitious gamble by those in charge. Preparation had not been adequate, and lives had been needlessly lost. Those mobile after the battle returned to Glaston to be re-posted. The dead, wrapped in parachutes, were buried in Holland and the injured were transferred to German hospitals and cared for by RE Medical Corps who had volunteered to remain behind. One of the members present had been taken prisoner and held in a camp.⁴¹ On the Saturday of the reunion weekend, a service was held in Glaston church with a few local people joining this small, brave group.

Further changes

The blackout was replaced by the 'dim-out' in Uppingham by September, and windows could now be curtained normally. Diffused car lights were allowed and street lighting was increased. Salvage operations continued, and a paper-collection point was situated next to Tabram's farm in High Street West. Although the town's Civil Defence had reverted to part-time duties, hopes of a quick ending to the war were fading. V2 rockets, half of which fell upon London, were launched in September. On the 19 September Wing Commander Guy Gibson, VC, DFC and DSO, - of the Eyebrook Mohne Dam rehearsals - was killed on a raid in Germany.

In November, 'Stand Down' orders began for Uppingham Home Guard and, on 3 December, contingents from all over Britain marched through London in front of King George VI on their last parade. Smaller parades were held elsewhere. Humour often accompanied references to the Home Guard. Local citizens were not allowed on the beach in coastal areas at night for fear of fifth columnists' activity. A courting couple was discovered by a Home Guard patrol. The leader demanded their identity cards and said to the man 'Do you know that you have been in a prohibited area?' 'Oh no he hasn't!' snapped the girl.⁴²

The cost of training this vast part-time army had been astonishingly low. There had been no pay - members had been expected to feed and clothe themselves. Despite this, fifteen George Cross medals had been awarded (two of them posthumously).

It was also in 1944 that four young men, whose names would appear on Uppingham's war memorial, were killed in action. J H Smith lies buried in the Taukkyan War Cemetery in Burma. Eric Dalby, aged 21, was buried in Hottot-les-Bagues, France. John Dain, Uppingham School's Captain and later a master, also lies in France. E J Dumford was a 31 year-old sergeant in the Coldstream Guards.

The final few months

The early months of 1945 brought direct conflicts and many harrowing disclosures. Russia unleashed its major winter offensive against German positions and the horrors of Auschwitz and other death camps were revealed. At the same time, allied forces were maintaining pressure in SE Asia. In Europe, the fighting became even more determined and bitter. Dresden was devastated by allied bombing and the resulting firestorm. The Rhine was crossed in March and the allied army raced across Germany, but V2s, the 'silent death', continued to land in Britain. British forces entered Buchenwald, Belsen and Dachau camps.

Franklin D Roosevelt died. Berlin fell. Hitler committed suicide and, on 7 May, Germany surrendered all forces on land, sea and air.

In correspondence with Uppingham School, Sir Brian Horrocks, by now a famous old boy, recalled 'We took part in the advance into Germany, captured Bremen, and then the final surrender came.'⁴³ Winston Churchill and the new US President, Harry S Truman, agreed that 8 May should be celebrated as Victory in Europe Day or VE Day, as it became known.

The early part of 1945 brought snow and plummeting temperatures to Uppingham. By the end of January, living conditions were depressing and extremely uncomfortable. Rationing was stringent. Dried eggs were used in place of the real article, and liquid glucose and parsnips were strange sugar substitutes. Tinned fruit, canned bacon and butter provided occasional treats, arriving from America by way of lease-lend or in food parcels. These were too few in number for wholesale distribution. Dick Smith's mother, having carefully hoarded part of her small sugar ration, made cowslip wine from flowers collected from along the railway banks and adjoining fields. Milk was still distributed from the farm yard which backed onto North Street East, the cows being brought from Twitchbed Lane for milking. The 'Milk at School' scheme ensured that pupils were provided with that essential, some free and others upon payment of one halfpenny for a third of a pint a day. In March it was announced that the clothes rationing period would be extended owing to the shortage of supplies. The women of Uppingham continued their make-do-and-mend miracles, as the local Land Army girls carried on with their arduous duties, often in appalling weather conditions.

A Kingswood pupil, who was a wartime lodger at Uppingham School, remembered: 'I think we felt very safe. There was little traffic, mostly bicycles, no air raids, and the war seemed far away as the Allied armies battled their way.'⁴⁴ Amongst those still on the battlefield was Guardsman H W McKean, son of the sergeant major instructor at Uppingham School. When he died he was buried in Forli War Cemetery in Italy.

In April the 'dim-out' was repealed, apart from a coastal belt five miles deep, and all blackout curtains and other structures could at last be removed from people's homes in Uppingham. Public lighting now brightened street areas and drivers could actually see where they were going. Perhaps this, in part, contributed to the relatively positive comment recorded by *Mass Observation File Report 600*, 'Although anxiety about jobs, housing and security still continues, the outlook seems brighter to most people.'⁴⁵ Also, despite the continuing rise in retail prices, the government had managed to stabilize the cost of living even though the average wage had risen by 50%. Daphne Thomas'⁴⁶ mother opened the Victory Café in High Street East, next to Culpin's, the butcher. There was a kitchen in the basement, a café on the ground floor and living quarters above. Customers included local residents, school staff and Uppingham School pupils, if accompanied by their parents.

Victory

Then, quite suddenly it seemed, after nearly six years of war, Victory Day arrived, cold and wet as it had been for some weeks. Villagers near Uppingham had planned street parties and decorations. Wives and mothers in the town rushed to the shops to stock up on bread, milk and whatever extras the shopkeepers would allow them for the special day. Provisions were pooled and precious tinned goods and confectionery unearthed. On the radio, news broadcasts started at 8 o'clock in the morning and continued on and off until 10 o'clock at night. Winston Churchill spoke at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, his words being relayed to the allied forces in Europe. One soldier, stationed in Germany wrote to his wife 'I listened in to Churchill's speech and when the realisation had thoroughly sunk into my mind, it all seemed so impossible. Here, celebration is out of the question. We are working as usual, not even an extra drink.'⁴⁷ Many other Uppingham residents have clouded memories of the day, war weariness perhaps having taken its toll. Peter Scott recalls one of his farm workers leaving his work in the field so as to help ring a peal of bells at Church. Nina Tilley and her friends, looking back, retain a picture of a special dance in the 'Church Rooms' and dancing in Market Place.⁴⁸ Fortunately a pupil's contribution to Uppingham School magazine paints a contemporary picture: 'Flags strung across the road. Dancing in the Market Place. Talking to Canadians [possibly members of the Canadian 'Goose' Squadron based at North Luffenham]. Chapel bells rung. School bells rung, and a full peal from the Church'.⁴⁹ Drinks parties in the Uppingham School garden were followed by a dance. Flares and crackers were let off in the quadrangle by the RAF. The pupil's article concluded, 'It was late before Uppingham quietened down.' In contrast, the *Log Book* of the Central School simply recorded 'The school was closed. Holiday to mark the Allied Victory in Europe.'⁵⁰

Jean Hunt, whose father had been in charge of Constables' garden, remembered the disaster that befell the thatched roof of the cottage on the North Street end of Hope's Yard. It caught fire and was destroyed during one of the Victory celebrations, probably by a firework, but fortunately no one was hurt.⁵¹

Tom Dorman of Uppingham had particular reason to remember VE Day. After over four years' service abroad with the Eighth Army, he landed back on Leicester Station at 4.30 am on the morning of 8 May 1945. He was collected by his family, who were overjoyed at his unexpected and unheralded return. Desperate to contact his sweetheart who lived in Melton Mowbray, he sought help from the Uppingham Police Station. In no time at all Olive was on her way and she and Tom were together again. In Tom's words 'the days that followed were full of happiness.'⁵²

VE Day may have marked the end of war in Europe but conflict continued further afield. US bombers attacked Japanese air-bases, followed by mass bombings of cities. On 6 August the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and the city annihilated and on 9 August a

second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki with devastating results. Japan surrendered unconditionally on 14 August and on the following day Victory in Japan Day (VJ Day) was declared. World peace had arrived.

A writer in the Uppingham School magazine observed 'VJ Day seems remote'⁵³ but it would have seemed far from remote to four young Uppingham men, Maurice Tilley, Peter Porter, Ernie Kernick and Fred Payne, who had faced fighting and inhuman conditions in the East. Eventually they arrived back in England and a 'welcome home' party was held at the Three Horseshoes in Glaston.

The aftermath

All remaining American personnel left Cottesmore by 11 June. On 1 July, Station 489 became RAF Cottesmore again and was transferred to Bomber Command in December. The best film of the War (according to a British poll) arrived. It was *Way to the Stars*, an elegy for those who did not return. The film told the story of a bomber base in England that had been first used by the RAF, then by the USAAF.

Several sales of 'ministry vehicles' were held at Spanhoe airfield, where motor cycles, jeeps, ambulances and trucks were auctioned. The disposal of these surplus vehicles attracted buyers from a wide area, including customers from abroad and also local purchasers. Frank Ellis wrote that he had bought some of these lorries and that his first contract involved transporting German prisoners of war from Woolfox to work on local farms.⁵⁴ Boys from the schools in Uppingham remember working alongside these men whilst on farming assignments.

On the 60th Anniversary of VE Day, in 2005, Operation Spanhoe was held at the airfield. It attracted many visitors from Uppingham. The extensive programme consisted of a very well attended memorial service, simulated air raids and skirmishes, a display of military and civilian vehicles, music and a heart-thumping Spitfire flypast. Four former American servicemen, who had flown Dakotas from Spanhoe to the D-Day and Arnhem landings, were present.

Uppingham Home Guard was finally disbanded in December 1945, though the Women's Land Army was to remain in force until October 1950. Joan Hinman,⁵⁵ Mr Gilman's recruit from Leicester, met her farmer husband and remained in the area.

By the end of 1945 many families in Uppingham were re-united and most residents seemed to realise that peace had finally arrived. Awards, major service and civilian medals, and decorations were distributed along with certificates, the majority bearing the King's signature and thanking Home Guard members, ARP units, the Red Cross and AFS volunteers, those who had housed evacuees and even school children. What no one had foreseen were the 'winters of discontent' of the next eighteen months. Dockers and miners went on strike, coal stocks almost disappeared, and there were stringent power cuts. In February 1947 the Central School's *Log*

Book recorded, 'No electricity until 2.30 pm, consequently radiators were not heated. Classrooms very cold (44 degrees). Water seeping through walls and ceilings made rooms damp. No milk delivered. Double sessions worked. Buses not able to get to Preston or Ridlington.'⁵⁶ The bitter cold was followed by widespread flooding, covering vast areas of local farm land. Eighteen months after the end of the war, the *Rutland* cinema still showed newsreels with the theme, 'We've done it before - we can do it again.'

Conclusion

Throughout the war years Uppingham had responded willingly to exhortations to join the Home Guard, the ARP or the Red Cross, to 'Dig for Victory', to 'Make-do-and-mend', to 'Grow your own food', to 'Give', to 'Save' and to do much more besides! Its men and women had joined the services, leaving their homes far behind. Others had contributed to the safety of various essential services. No bombs had dropped on the town, but its residents had experienced fear, fatigue and separation. Uppingham people who had lived through this period were articulate about their sense of shared community and structure. In retrospect, most agreed that they had accepted the massive intrusion into their lives as right and necessary. They were patriotic without the flag-waving. Responsibilities had been shouldered by many who had never sought them. All expressed a quiet pride in the way they had coped with the challenge. The most frequently expressed observation was 'Well, there was a war on - you just had to get on with it.'

Ten brave young men of Uppingham lost their lives in facing the ultimate challenge. Their names can still be read on the town's War Memorial and on the Memorial in the church: BRYAN, CHARLEY, DALBY, DALBY, DAIN, DUMFORD, MCKEAN, PORTER, SMITH and THORPE (see back cover). This same spirit of courage and defiance was shown not only by those 250 young men listed on the Uppingham School Roll of Honour but also by many of the former pupils of Kingswood School. All had played their part and given of their best.



War Memorial in the churchyard



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 celebration card sent to all children at the end of the Second World War

- ¹ Mackay, Robert, *Half the Battle*, Manchester University Press, Manchester, 2002, pp.33-6
- ² Hornsey, Brian, *Ninety Years of Cinema in Rutland and Melton Mowbray*, Stamford, 1994, p.14
- ³ Rennison, John, *Wings Over Rutland*, Spiegl Press, Stamford, 1980, p.14
- ⁴ Traylen, Tony, *The Services of Rutland: Police, Firemen, Hospitals, Ambulances*, Rutland Local History Group, II, Spiegl Press, Stamford, 1978, p.35
- ⁵ Legrand, Jacques, *Chronicles of the Second World War*, Longman, 1990, p.17
- ⁶ Mackay, *Half the Battle*, p.61
- ⁷ Taylor, Eric, *Showbiz Goes to War*, Robert Hale, 1992, p.18
- ⁸ Jennings, Margaret (ed.), *As We Were: Extracts from the Log Books Uppingham Community College*, undated
- ⁹ Traylen, *The Services of Rutland*, p.49
- ¹⁰ Osley, Anthony, *Persuading the People: Government Policy in the Second World War*, HMSO, 1995, after p.60
- ¹¹ Liquorish, Paul, verbal communication, 29 July 2003
- ¹² Arthur Marshall was also a well-known comedian, with his own radio show.
- ¹³ Taylor, *Showbiz Goes to War*, p.18

- ¹⁴ Kerfoot, Sheila, verbal communication, 11 December 2003
- ¹⁵ Jennings, *As We Were*
- ¹⁶ Tyrer, Nicola, *They Fought in the Fields*, Sinclair Stevenson, 1996, after p.52
- ¹⁷ See page 3
- ¹⁸ Thorpe, Andrew, 'Britain', in Noakes, J (ed.), *The Civilian at War: The Home Front in Europe, Japan and the USA in World War II*, Exeter University Press, 1992, p.21
- ¹⁹ Taylor, *Showbiz Goes to War*, p.18
- ²⁰ Taylor, *Showbiz Goes to War*, p.18
- ²¹ Macksey, Kenneth, *Invasion*, Wren's Park, 1980, p.75
- ²² Osley, *Persuading the People*, p.9
- ²³ Holmes, Ted, verbal communications, 8, 11, 18, July 2003
- ²⁴ Jennings, *As We Were*
- ²⁵ See Chapter 7 for Ione Roseveare's Memories of Bletchley Park 1941-5
- ²⁶ Macksey, *Invasion*, p.30
- ²⁷ Legrand, *Chronicles*, p.121
- ²⁸ Jennings, *As We Were*
- ²⁹ Wright, Maurice, verbal communication, 11 & 18 July, 2003
- ³⁰ Spelman, Judith, *Rutland Voices*, Tempus Oral History Series, Tempus, Stroud, 2000, p.90
- ³¹ Maund, Joan, verbal communication, 18 December 2003
- ³² Traylen, *The Services of Rutland*
- ³³ See page 4.
- ³⁴ Thomas, Daphne, verbal communication, 14 July 2004
- ³⁵ Osley, *Persuading the People*, p.27
- ³⁶ Mackay, *Half the Battle*, p.213
- ³⁷ *Magnet Magazine*, Network, The Methodist Church, 20, 1992, p.14
- ³⁸ See page 6
- ³⁹ Sweetman, John, *The Dam Busters' Raid*, Arms & Armour Press, 1990, p.75
- ⁴⁰ See Chapter 7
- ⁴¹ Members of 9th Parachute Regiment, verbal communication, 1 May 2004
- ⁴² Stepler, Glenn A, *Britons to Arms*, Alan Sutton, Stroud, 1992, p.153
- ⁴³ *Uppingham School Magazine*, July 1945
- ⁴⁴ *Uppingham Remembered 1939-46*, Kingswood Assn., Kingswood School, Bath, 1997
- ⁴⁵ Mackay, *Half the Battle*, p.208
- ⁴⁶ See page 9.
- ⁴⁷ Letter in the possession of the author
- ⁴⁸ Tilley, Nina, verbal communication, 18 April, 2005
- ⁴⁹ *Uppingham School Magazine*, July 1945
- ⁵⁰ Jennings, *As We Were*
- ⁵¹ Hunt, Jean, verbal communication, May 2005
- ⁵² Dorman, Tom, *The Return*, private communication
- ⁵³ *Uppingham School Magazine*, November 1945
- ⁵⁴ Ellis, Frank, *Holla if You're Far*, Spiegl Press, Stamford, 1987, p.30
- ⁵⁵ See page 3.
- ⁵⁶ Jennings, *As We Were*

2: EVACUATION OF THE CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS TO UPPINGHAM

by Roy Stephenson

Introduction

The evacuation of schoolchildren from London affected many communities. This chapter traces how the Camden School for Girls was moved out of London and received in the Uppingham area in September 1939.

Evacuation: a national initiative

After the Great War of 1914-18, the government was conscious that aerial attacks would become a much greater feature of any future war, so a civil defence strategy began to be developed in order to counter the likely effects of air bombardment in densely populated urban areas. An essential element in this strategy was the evacuation scheme.

As early as 1924 a sub-committee on air-raid precautions met under the chairmanship of Sir John Anderson (whose name was perpetuated in the Anderson air raid shelter) and their report in 1925 laid down some early principles: that evacuation was desirable, should be voluntary and should be applied to specific groups. However, such discussions were confined mainly to London.

Later developments

By May 1938 a committee on evacuation, again under the chairmanship of Sir John Anderson, had been established. Its report, published in October of that year, recommended that evacuees should be billeted in private houses and that local authorities should have the power to make this compulsory. Special schemes were also to be drawn up to enable schoolchildren to move out as a group in the charge of their teachers.

In November 1938 responsibility for evacuation was passed from the Home Office to the ministry of health involving LEAs and local councils. At this point the recommendations of the Anderson Committee were accepted, and it was agreed that priority for evacuation should be given to schoolchildren in the charge of their teachers, younger children accompanied by their mothers, expectant mothers and crippled or blind adults.

Furthermore, the country was divided into three zones, namely 'Evacuation', 'Reception' and 'Neutral'. Evacuation areas were those from which these priority groups would be moved, and Reception areas would receive such groups. Neutral areas were neither one nor the other. Rutland was, of course, designated as a Reception area. At this point local authorities were asked to carry out a survey to ascertain what accommodation would be available.

The local response

The Uppingham Rural District Council responded positively to these requests and at its meeting on 25 January 1939, the clerk to the council, Mr F Oakley, was instructed to take the necessary steps to carry out the scheme. At the meeting on 22 March 1939 the clerk submitted the following summary of accommodation available within the Uppingham Rural District area:

Unaccompanied children	846
Teachers and helpers	40
Others	82
Accommodation privately reserved	390
Total	2,098

New appointments

In readiness for the reception of evacuees, the new clerk to the Uppingham Rural District Council, Mr William Hopwood, was appointed Chief Billeting Officer for the Uppingham Rural District Council at their meeting on 9 August 1939, whilst the following agreed to act as Billeting Officers in these areas:

Ayston	Mrs Robinson
Belton	Mrs Hutton
Bisbrooke	Mrs Thorne
Glaston	Mrs Nyalassy
Lyddington	Miss Masters
Thorpe-by-Water	Mrs Northen
Uppingham	Miss Goodwin, Miss Clarke, Mrs Leatherbarrow, Mrs Curran

Making provisions

As part of its preparations Rutland County Council agreed to purchase twenty tins of Horlicks Malted Milk at a cost of 17s per tin. These would be stored at Oakham Central School, and a hot drink would be provided to all evacuees on their reception at Oakham. The cost of this was to be refunded by the ministry of health.¹

Rutland County Council's *Interim report on the reception of evacuated children and others in Rutland* states that instructions from the ministry of health provided for the reception of 4,800 evacuees at Oakham. Almost half of these numbers would be school-children accompanied by their teachers, and the other half would be mothers and young children under school age.²

The Camden School for Girls

Foundation

Frances Mary Buss (1827-1894) was an educational pioneer who founded two schools which were to set the

pattern for girls' day school education in the second half of the 19th century. Firstly, she established the North London Collegiate School for Girls in April 1850 in order to provide girls with education at the highest level. The school opened with 35 girls and was housed in her own home, with the family living mainly in the basement. A rapid expansion in school numbers meant that extra houses had to be acquired, and by 1867 girls were being entered for examinations on the same conditions as boys.

In January 1871, encouraged by this success, Miss Buss opened a second girls' school known as the Camden School for Girls. It accepted girls up to the age of 16 years and served as the Lower School to the North London Collegiate School. It opened with 40 girls in premises vacated by the North London Collegiate.



Camden School façade
Reproduced courtesy of Mrs Marie Harris.

Expansion

In those days girls were kept at home for domestic duties, but despite the prevailing fashion against education for women, the school was obviously filling a need, and numbers in the Camden School for Girls quickly rose to 200 whilst the standard of work continued to improve.³

Its educational status changed during these times of expansion. As a private school, Camden depended upon the care, energy and vision of its founder, Miss Buss. From 1873 it was administered as a public endowed school and became associated with the Worshipful Company of Brewers and the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, who donated scholarships and money towards building improvements.

Although the girls came from a range of social backgrounds - from professional executives to the

lowest-paid manual workers - their parents valued education and encouraged them in their studies so that the school's tradition for hard work was maintained.

Miss Olive Wright

Olive Wright was headmistress of The Camden School for Girls from 1918 to 1946. The eldest of ten children, she trained to be a teacher at Homerton College, Cambridge, followed by a year at Montpellier University in France. Her first teaching post was at West Ham Secondary School, followed by a position as senior mistress at Melton Mowbray. She joined the staff at the North London Collegiate School during World War I and then became headmistress at Camden.⁴

As an educationalist Olive Wright aimed to help individuals of the poorer classes to enjoy higher education. No person in her school was allowed to think that wealth mattered; all that did matter was your own personality, your willingness to develop your talents and to use them for other people. When the school's uniform was changed from navy blue to green in 1931, ways were found to help the poorer families and ensure that all pupils were on an equal footing.

Olive Wright was a lady with a powerful personality, a true intellectual with academic training in languages and economics and an inspired, autocratic headmistress. She developed the school against a background of national economic depression; her great achievement was the creation of a strong 6th form tradition, so that by the outbreak of World War Two the Camden School for Girls was firmly established as a grammar school in its own right.

Evacuation Planning

Decision time for parents

As tensions rose throughout the world, parents were faced with difficult decisions. Those in favour of evacuation argued that you could not wish to let your children experience the fears and dangers of air attacks in the capital, whilst those against evacuation said that if war should come it would be far better for families to stick together rather than separating.

One month to go

Before the end of the Summer Term in July 1939 Miss Wright, wishing to ensure that everything was in readiness for evacuation should a state of emergency arise, drew parents' attention to the following points:

- Every child should be provided with a rucksack so that her hands may be free. Labels will be provided by the School. Every child should have her gas mask, marked with her name, in a carrier, attached in front.
- Food for the journey: Every child should have in her rucksack (and not as a separate package) sufficient food for one day. No bottles may be carried. The School will serve food during any period of waiting.

at about the usual charge, and every effort will be made to procure milk for consumption at school.

- **Clothing:** pupils should wear full school winter uniform. Even in summer, tunic and winter top coat should be worn, and it is essential that every girl should have a pair of heavy shoes.

N.B. My experience of the shoes and sleeping garments brought to camp prompts me to urge parents to provide their daughters with really stout brogue shoes and with very much warmer sleeping garments. An outfit that is satisfactory in London may prove quite inadequate to the demands made by a different sort of life.

- Contents of rucksack should include: blazer, blouses, beret, pullover, if possible, warm vest, house shoes, woollen knickers, night wear, 2 pairs stockings, 2 towels and usual toilet equipment, 6 or more handkerchiefs. Any other garment may be added to the above.⁵

Eve of departure

In most Evacuation areas children were called back to school on Monday 28 August to take part in a huge evacuation rehearsal. On 31 August 1939 the ministry of health announced that the evacuation of children would begin the following day and would take several days to complete. Miss Wright wrote to parents:

On the eve of leaving London with our pupils, my colleagues and I wish to thank you for all the willing cooperation you have given us and for the prompt response you have made to our suggestions. You may rest assured that the physical, intellectual and spiritual welfare of your daughters will be of first concern whatever developments we may have to face ...
NOTE: It is particularly requested that pupils should not be accompanied to school tomorrow morning.

Instructions to pupils

- Pupils are required to wear full school uniform whenever they leave the house;
- Pupils are required to follow the timetable issued by the headmistress unless special exemption has been granted;
- The bedtime of each pupil is shown on her individual timetable and should be respected;
- Pupils are required to remain in their billets after dusk unless they have obtained special permission from the headmistress;
- Pupils are required to remain within bounds unless 1) they are accompanied by their hostess or 2) have obtained special exemption;
- Pupils are forbidden to eat in the streets or to make unauthorised purchases;
- Pupils may only accept invitations by the permission of the headmistress.⁶

These instructions will seem quite harsh but they were very much in accordance with the high standards of behaviour and responsibility that Miss Wright demanded of her Camden girls at all times. So operation 'Pied Piper' began on 1 September 1939, and within four days 1,334,360 individuals had been moved out of London.



Olive Wright

Reproduced courtesy of Mrs Jessie Jones.

Evacuation Day

Betty Williams (née Ross) remembers the day of departure vividly:

... a very warm September day and we had to wear our winter uniform with rucksacks on our backs. We were so hot! We had been told that it was a rehearsal and I can see my mother now, standing at our front garden gate, with tears streaming down her cheeks. I remember chiding her and reminding her that it was only a rehearsal. The long green stream wound its way from Prince of Wales Road to Kentish Town railway station. Mr. Clarke, the school keeper, carried Miss Wright's suitcase, his shirt absolutely soaked in perspiration.⁷

Nobody knew where the train was taking them until it stopped at the station in Oakham. Whatever the girls' feelings were on that day, they could be consoled by the fact that Oakham was a popular destination for many evacuees from the London area.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

POINTS FOR HOUSEHOLDERS.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN.

Billeting Payments.

Payment would be made at the rate of 10s. 6d. a week where one child is taken and 8s. 6d. a week for each child where more than one child is taken. The Billeting Officer would leave with you a form enabling you to claim these payments at the local Post Office. The form would have to be presented at the Post Office when the payment was claimed. Payment would be made weekly in advance, and the first payment would be made as soon as you presented the form to the Post Office.

What the Payments would cover.

These payments would be intended to cover full board, lodging and all care necessary to give the child a home. The payments would not be intended to cover the cost of clothes or medical expenses, which you would be under no obligation to meet.

What to do with the Children.

Arrangements would be made to continue the education of the children under the teachers who came with them. It might take a little time before the new arrangements were in working order. It is also hoped that it would soon be possible to organise games and play centres for the children out of school hours, so that they might be kept occupied away from home as much as possible. This would largely depend on local voluntary effort.

Communal Meals.

It is hoped that in most districts it would be possible to arrange for the children to have their mid-day meal at or near the school. A small sum would be charged to householders who wished the children whom they had received to have this meal.

Clothes.

The children would bring hand luggage, and their parents would be asked to send them with their gas masks, a change of underclothing, night clothes, house shoes or plimsolls, spare stockings or socks, a tooth-brush, comb, towel and handkerchiefs, and a warm coat or mackintosh. Some parents would no doubt be unable to supply their children with all these articles, but you would be under no obligation to supply extra clothes or equipment. The teachers who came with the children would be able to tell you whether the parents were likely to be able to send further clothes or money to buy them.

What to do if the child becomes ill.

The local doctor or the district nurse should be called in in the ordinary way if the child's state seemed to require it. The local authority will arrange for payment.

General Welfare.

A visitor from the local authority would call on you the week after you had received the children and you would be able to discuss any difficulties with this visitor.

PERSONS OTHER THAN UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN.

Who these people are.

Persons other than unaccompanied children whom you might be asked to receive would normally be children of pre-school age accompanied by their mothers or other adults who would be entirely responsible for looking after them. You would be under no obligation to look after children accompanied by their mothers, etc.

Billeting Payments.

Payment would be made at the rate of 5s. a week for each adult and 3s. a week for each child. The Billeting Officer would leave with you a form enabling you to claim this payment at the Post Office. The form would have to be presented whenever payment was claimed. Payment would be made weekly in advance, and the first payment would be made as soon as you presented the form to the Post Office.

What the Payment would cover.

These payments would cover shelter and access to water and sanitary accommodation. You would be under no obligation to give any other services, but the Government feel sure that you would wish to do all you could to help the children and their mothers forced suddenly to leave their homes and families and finding themselves in strange surroundings. It would be particularly appreciated if you could make cooking facilities available.

Identity Papers.

The mothers and other adults who came with the younger children would have Identity Papers which would enable them, if they had no means of their own, to claim a payment from the Ministry of Labour's Office. They would therefore, be in a position to provide themselves with food and other necessaries.

Difficulties.

If you should find yourself in any really serious difficulty you would be able to report the circumstances to the clerk to the local council.

No parents were present when the Camden girls left the Prince of Wales Road building on Saturday 2 September 1939, and they only found out where their daughters had gone when a notice was posted outside the School later in the day.

Some Camden girls were away on holiday at that time, and Nellie Bullock (née Gurney) recalls:

My sister and I were staying with family friends in Yorkshire when war came in 1939, so we were not with the main body of Camden when the journey was made to Uppingham, but shortly afterwards we travelled to Rutland on a slow, very crowded train, and were met at Melton Mowbray by Miss Skilbeck, history teacher, who took us in her car on to Uppingham.⁸

Uninvited guests?

There has always been speculation about the supposed destination of the Camden School for Girls on that September day. Daphne Hills, a former pupil, writes 'Rumour has it that Miss Olive Wright pushed us onto the first train in a fit of impatience and so we landed at the wrong destination.'⁹

Another former pupil, Margaret Haine, states 'We were in Uppingham though we should have gone to Grantham - a slight error!'¹⁰

Bryan Matthews makes the further claim that 'Camden School for Girls was by some bureaucratic bungling unloaded at Uppingham instead of at their planned destination, Bedford.'¹¹

Despite this, records of the Rutland County Council indicate quite specifically that 'these train-loads were allocated beforehand at a conference of the local authorities concerned, to the different districts', so dispelling the above claims.¹²

Billeting

A National Concern

Earlier that year the Minister of Health had insisted 'We want this to be a matter of real human relationship and affection - a willing host and a willing guest.'¹³ This was, of course, a statement of intent in an ideal world, but in reality few people are so naturally gifted as to be able to welcome strangers warmly and unreservedly into their home. Those who did offer happy and loving homes deserve our utmost respect in these difficult circumstances.

Coercion was a strategy frequently used by billeting officers, and at worst some children were 'force-billeted'. Introductions like this did nothing to engender good relationships. In addition there were those families who were only interested in the money (10s 6d a week for one child, and 8s 6d a week where more than one child was taken), so they crammed in as many people as possible. In addition, people were exempt from taking evacuees on account of their age or on production of a medical certificate. Changes in family

circumstances meant that new billeting volunteers were constantly required.

Good luck and a child's temperament were key factors in determining whether this was a happy experience for the evacuees. Inevitably it was a big change for the Camden girls, and Doreen Jones (née Jefferys) considered it a cultural shock which nowadays would have qualified them for counselling.¹⁴

Reception in Uppingham and dispersal to billets

The girls were taken to the Church Rooms in High Street East where potential hosts and hostesses awaited them in the manner of a 'cattle market'. Immediately there was some consternation, as the families gathered there had been expecting small, elementary school children. It appears that planning had been minimal and the recollections of the girls highlight the random nature of selection, with some girls being overlooked. Brenda Richards recalls her experience:

Eventually, the harassed billeting officer had disposed of all except Dina and me. We were put into his car and taken to an isolated bungalow some way outside Uppingham; the householder said he would take one of us. We said we were not willing to be separated. Back to Uppingham again! This time we were taken to a small cottage in the town where a young couple, married a week, had just returned from honeymoon. They took us in and were very kind. It could not have been easy for them. It was a small cottage, two up and two down. Our bedroom, really a landing, was the only means of reaching their room. We had a single bed and a mattress on the floor. Apart from a few shelves, there was no furniture. We washed in the scullery. The toilet was outside the back door. The greatest shock came the first Saturday when we found that we were expected to bath in the same water in a tin tub in front of the fire and without privacy.¹⁵

The kindness of strangers

Pat Frowde stayed with Mr and Mrs Harold Munton in Dean's Terrace and enjoyed a similar experience to that of Brenda Richards. The Muntons had just married in 1939 and lived in a two up and two down, and were very kind to Pat. She was required to wash up after lunch each day; it made her late, so she often had to run up to the Central School for afternoon lessons.

Nellie Bullock (née Gurney) recalls her stay with affection:

I was billeted at the Tea Rooms in Market Square where our hostess, a jolly, easy-going lady, fed us well, if without much variety, and left us much to our own devices. Looking back, I think we were very lucky really, when I hear of some people's experiences.¹⁶

Likewise Stella Adair (née Thurgate), who reports :

I was welcomed into Glaston House in the village of Glaston, home of the Gore-Browne family, together with four teachers and three other girls. That was a very happy experience; they were such a lovely family. But there was one drawback which Miss Wright could not tolerate and that was the lack of suitable accommodation

for our lessons. We were taken in buses to cinemas, church halls - anywhere where there was room for a class. So we moved into Uppingham where I was billeted to the home of Mr Baines, the baker, and next door was his brother, the butcher. I have fond memories of freshly made crumpets, with luscious beef dripping!¹⁷

Life with the Stewards

Muriel Bristow and Kathleen Barnard were billeted at the Uppingham men’s hairdressers. It was owned by an elderly gentleman (Mr Steward) who lived behind the shop with his unmarried daughter, his married son being the hairdresser. ‘Our stay was only short but we could not have found a nicer place in which to find ourselves. Every Sunday was special when eggs were on the menu for breakfast - one ready to eat in the eggcup and a second lying beside.’¹⁸ They kept in touch with the Steward family and revisited some 20 years later with their husbands.

John Steward remembers Dorothy Green staying with his parents in Newtown Road. Her father was a London taxi driver and, when her parents came to visit her one Sunday for lunch, the appearance of a London taxi caused quite a stir in that part of town. Mrs Steward gave them a food parcel - meat, sausages, eggs and

bacon - and after her initial tears Mrs Green gratefully accepted it, to distribute it among her friends in London.

High standards

Miss Wright always did her utmost to ensure that her girls had suitable billets, so that some girls had to move from one house to another, as Eileen Mitchell (née Rabbinowitz) recalls:

I was billeted in Uppingham with the local coalman’s family who immediately appropriated the iron rations we had been given at school - tinned milk, chocolate, and plain digestive biscuits. I spent the night for the first time under a thatched roof and shared the bed with my host’s children. Miss Wright moved me the next day to an idyllic billet at the home of the local butcher/farmer, a formidable lady with three teenage children who allowed me to help churn the butter and try, unsuccessfully, to twist sausages.¹⁹

In accordance with the ministry’s terms for evacuation, the accompanying staff from Camden received free accommodation - Miss Wright in the Falcon Hotel, and her assistant secretary, Miss Petherbridge (affectionately known as Miss ‘Bridge’), with Mr and Mrs Binley and their daughter Rosa who lived at The Hut in Unicorn Yard off North Street.



Miss Simons
(French)

French
assistante

Miss Enderby
(French)

Miss Rowan
(R E)

Miss Macwhirter
(Science)

Miss Brady
(English)

Miss Clegg
(Latin)

Miss Sillars
(Science)

Mrs Forge
(Economics)

Miss Hills
(French)

Miss Freehill
(Deputy Head)

Miss Wright
(Headmistress)

Miss Gill
(German)

Miss Pracy
(Geography)

Miss Butterworth

Miss Hulbert
(Art)

Miss Bulley
(School Secretary)

Miss Skilbeck

Camden School staff (names and subjects are indicated where known)

Reproduced courtesy of Mrs Marie Harris.

A Short Stay in Uppingham

Teaching premises

During these few weeks in Uppingham, and despite all the difficulties, Miss Wright did her best to ensure that the girls' education did not suffer too much. She saw to it that they had decent billets, a traditional assembly and adequate classrooms. Teaching accommodation was shared with the Central School in Uppingham, the Camden girls having sole use of the premises in the afternoons and at weekends.²⁰ Because of the operation of this double shift system, Rutland County Council agreed to increase the wages of the caretaker at the Central School by 5s a week.

In the mornings, lessons were held wherever possible: '... on the very first day, Latin lessons in the half-lit stalls of Uppingham's miniature picture house, 2-3 rows allotted to each form.'²¹ Other lessons were apparently taught in the church hall.

Arrangements for meals depended entirely on a girl's hosts and the proximity of their billets. The younger girls tended to live in Bisbrooke or Glaston whilst the older girls studying for their examinations were billeted in Uppingham. Parents often paid 2s a week to the host families to supplement the pay and enable their daughters to eat there at weekends. Miss 'Bridge, together with the domestic science mistress, spent some time each morning in preparing sandwiches for lunch.

Relations with Uppingham School

That year Uppingham's new term began on Thursday 21 September, and Kathleen Caldwell (née Barnard) remembers those days clearly:

At the end of September our boredom was suddenly relieved with the arrival of the Uppingham School boys back from their summer 'hols'. What more could we wish for? Crowds of young lads smartly dressed in immaculate school uniforms would now share the Uppingham streets with us. But danger loomed in front of Miss Wright's eyes. She had well earned the title of 'madam Hitler' from local residents and the Uppingham Headmaster (Mr J F Wolfenden) was next on her list. Unfortunately he shared her fears. Both schools were banned from speaking to each other; even to glance that way was forbidden.²²

Onwards and Upwards

Camden School's brief stay in Uppingham came to an end on 19 October 1939 when they left by train for Grantham. Undoubtedly many of the girls enjoyed country life and the change of routine; it was still summer time and there had been no air raid, so they had much to be thankful for.

Officially the Uppingham School boys had not been allowed to have anything to do with the 'greenflies', as the Camden girls became known, but one boy commemorated their presence in Uppingham with the following poem which appeared in the *Uppingham School Magazine* of November 1939:

Camdenia Passes

Oh, weep for Camden High School; it has fled!
Its virgin voice no longer fills the air.
We liked those costumes green – I heard it said,
"Earth has not anything to show more fair."

And, 'though forbidden friendly intercourse
(Wise rule for inexperienced juveniles),
Some even laughed at teacher's threats of force,
And gave us sudden, surreptitious smiles!

But if, at our approach, most crossed the street,
Magenta blushes colouring their cheeks,
Term-time alone was making them discreet.
Those were four noble, four inspiring weeks.

Green girls, your stay was brief we live and learn.
Perhaps our gallant interest caused you pain.

At any rate, if you return,
Look out! You may be well received again.²³

We have seen how the arrival of the Camden School for Girls impacted upon the town of Uppingham in this short period of time. A similar operation of housing and providing for the needs of evacuees was in place all over the country throughout the war years. As far as the Camden pupils were concerned, they were supported on their travels by a resilient and resourceful headmistress. Miss Wright could appear very austere and rather intimidating, but she was always kind to the girls, who were unanimous in their admiration for her. The school's motto of 'Onwards and Upwards' was to sustain the girls in their future homes of Grantham and Stamford.



J F Wolfenden

Reproduced courtesy of Uppingham School.



I WISH TO MARK, BY THIS PERSONAL MESSAGE,
my appreciation of the service you have rendered to your
Country in 1939-

In the early days of the War you opened your door to strangers
who were in need of shelter, & offered to share your home with
them.

I know that to this unselfish task you have sacrificed much
of your own comfort, & that it could not have been achieved
without the loyal co-operation of all in your household -
By your sympathy you have earned the gratitude of those to
whom you have shown hospitality, & by your readiness to
serve you have helped the State in a work of great value -

Elizabeth R

A letter of thanks to all those who welcomed evacuees into their homes

¹ *Minutes of the Elementary Education Sub-committee*,
Rutland County Council, 27 June 1939

² *Interim report on the reception of evacuated children
and others in Rutland*, The Record Office for
Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland

³ Birchall, Doris, *Miss Buss' Second School*, Ipswich,
1971, p.12

⁴ *Memoir of Olive Wright* (incorporating the Memorial
Service and Memorial Address by Miss H M Pipe)

⁵ *Camden Old Girls Association Magazine (COGAM)*,
September 1999, p.14

⁶ *ibid.*, pp.12,13

⁷ *ibid.*, p.14

⁸ *ibid.*, p.20

⁹ Hills, Daphne, written reminiscence

¹⁰ *COGAM*, p.24

¹¹ Bryan Matthews, *By God's Grace...*, Maidstone,
1984, p.170

¹² *Interim report on the reception of evacuated children
and others in Rutland*, The Record Office for
Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland

¹³ Wallis, Jill, *A Welcome in the Hillsides?*, Avid
Publications, Bebington, Wirral, 2000, p.xvi

¹⁴ *COGAM*, p.14

¹⁵ *ibid.*, p.16

¹⁶ *ibid.*, p.20

¹⁷ *ibid.*, p.24

¹⁸ *ibid.*, p.22

¹⁹ *ibid.*, p.14

²⁰ Jennings, Margaret (ed.), *As We Were: Extracts from
the Log Books Uppingham Community College*,
undated, entry for September 1939

²¹ *COGAM*, p.17

²² *ibid.*, p.22

²³ Matthews, *By God's Grace*, pp.170-1

3: KINGSWOOD SCHOOL AND UPPINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH¹

by Margaret Stacey

Introduction

At the trustees' meeting of Uppingham Methodist Church on 6 June 1946 Mrs Norah Stones proposed that the 'Address' presented by Kingswood School should be fixed in the church porch.² This was duly accomplished, and the first board hung in this position until the late 1990s, when the refurbishment of the church began. A small copy now hangs in the vestry.

In 2003, following communication with the archivist of Kingswood School, Bath, it was discovered that the school possessed its twin - a second board. It is nearly 60 years since these boards were hung, and little attention has been paid to Uppingham's board in recent years. Any church members who remembered the events have moved away or died and very little documentation is available.

The mutual presentation of these boards, expressing the deep gratitude of both Kingswood and the Uppingham Methodists towards each other, is a testament to the strong relationship these two institutions forged in the war years. The events behind the words are well worth placing on record as a story of faithful service of those who have gone before and a remarkable account of wartime courage and cooperation.

Outbreak of World War Two

A B Sackett, headmaster of Kingswood School in Bath, was informed on Christmas Eve 1938 that, in the event of war being declared, the school buildings would be required by the admiralty. Mr Sackett, however, was sworn to secrecy and had therefore to search the country for suitable premises without being able to inform his staff or anyone else what was happening.

One boy did pick up a rumour, and during the summer holidays told his father, a Methodist superintendent minister, to which his father replied 'Nonsense, laddie. The Methodist Church would never permit such a thing.'³

Uppingham School had already offered Redgate, a redundant school house, for use for any school that should need it. (For the location of this and other school houses, see the map facing page 1.) On 5 September 1939, two days after war was declared, Mr Sackett was at last able to inform his staff of the immediate requisition and evacuation of the school and that he would be taking up the offer of Uppingham's headmaster, J F Wolfenden (later Lord Wolfenden).



The twin boards

Background to Kingswood School

Kingswood School, founded by John Wesley in 1748, was a boys' school still strong in Methodist tradition. Most pupils were from Methodist homes. Many were the sons of Methodist ministers. Kingswood School was invaluable in providing continuity of education in a Christian environment for sons of the itinerant ministers.

The school would have been known to the Uppingham Methodists. In the early days of Methodism chapels were required to contribute to the 'Schools Fund'. Many of the Circuit ministers would have been educated there.

Arrival in Uppingham

Two hundred and seventy-eight boys from Kingswood were contacted a few days before the end of the holidays with the complicated travel arrangements for arrival at Uppingham station.

A special train will leave Northampton at 5.0 pm for Uppingham via Market Harborough to connect with the London, Birmingham, Lancashire and Oxford trains.⁴

Staff and prefects had been recalled a week early to assist with the huge task of transporting by rail, in twenty-seven wagons, the complete contents of the school. The ministry of works had provided some men, but all hands were needed to accomplish the unloading at Uppingham and transporting through the town (quite a task up the steep hill from the station). Everything from desks to medicine bottles was taken; it must have been quite a sight for the local community.

The impending arrival of the school was reported in the local paper, so no doubt the Uppingham Methodists were on hand to provide a welcome - perhaps with the traditional Methodist cup of tea? The logistics of the operation were amazing, but all was accomplished and term for Kingswood started only one week late.

Uppingham School to be "Shared"

A FEW DAYS after Uppingham School re-assembles next Thursday the staff and members of Kingswood School, Bath, will also arrive in the town, and the two schools will share the famous buildings from then onwards, presumably for the duration of the war.

In some cases where schools are so joining, there is an attempt to run the two as one, but Mr. J. F. Wolfenden, Headmaster of Uppingham School, made it clear to me on Wednesday that Uppingham and Kingswood School will, as far as possible, retain completely their own identities.

Arrangements began this week for the billeting of the visiting school, partly in the town and partly in the School houses.

By the way, Mr. Wolfenden tells me that before long at least one member of his staff will be called away to serve the country in another direction. There may, in fact, be several staff changes as a result of the war.

Report in the Lincoln, Stamford, and Rutland Mercury on Friday, 15 September 1939

Accommodation

Initially boys were billeted in fourteen separate places around the town - some in Uppingham School houses, others in hotels and private houses. Redgate on London Road housed the whole of the Upper House under Mr A J Milne and Mr J W Gardner. One young boy and his friend arrived after dark at the station to find no one to meet them. The porter took them to the nearest cottage where there was a light. They then had the embarrassment of arriving at an Uppingham School house to find the boys at supper. Eventually they arrived at Mr Sackett's home and were sent on to the correct house.

Uppingham boys gave up their cherished privilege of individual studies in order to make space for Kingswood. The gym (now the theatre) was given over entirely to Kingswood as a dining room, and Old Constables (Magpie Gallery) became, amongst other things, the prefects' room. The school chapel was used in turn by each school, and playing fields were shared (although the two schools rarely played each other at rugby or cricket - said to have been a wise move which may have added more to harmony between the schools than anything else).

One of the abiding memories of Kingswood boys seems to be the enormous distances they travelled round the town in the course of a day. Each boy was provided with a plan of Uppingham, drawn by Mr R W Trump. Certainly a routine of sleeping at Redgate, breakfasting at the gym, attending lessons at the main school, lunching at the gym, playing games on the Upper, studying at the hall, and so on through the day and evening would have become draining for even the hardiest schoolboy. Added to this, from all accounts there were some very severe winters during the war which compounded the difficulties.

All this movement around the town would soon have made the townsfolk very aware of the new school in their midst. Moreover, the Kingswood boys were easily identifiable by their appearance. Uppingham boys were turned out as 'young gentlemen' and at the beginning of the war were still wearing their traditional boaters. Kingswood boys, on the other hand, were a more motley crew. Many Methodist ministers would have struggled to maintain their sons at public school but, thanks to the ingenuity of their wives, it was not unknown for boys to be kitted out from Methodist jumble sales. As the war progressed and clothing was rationed, clothes became scruffier. One shop in the town sold cheap working men's corduroys with a high pointed back and slit pockets. They were purchased with coupons, and the Kingswood boys were pleased when they received money from home to buy these. One boy wrote home that the patch on his trousers had now nearly blended with the rest of the material, and stated proudly that 'I have now been wearing them continuously for 2 years'⁵ (one hopes they had been washed during this time!).

The Staff

Whilst the boys were settling in, masters and their families had many arrangements to make. In some cases, masters came on ahead without their wives. Properties had to be found, so vacant houses in the town were taken.

Mr Sackett and his wife Dorothy used Wisteria House for the duration of the war. This house was probably still in the ownership of the Drake family who had been prominent members of the Chapel from its beginnings in 1819. The house had been built by Henry Drake, grandfather of Lillie Drake, who was a member of the Chapel until her death in the 1950s and was still listed as living there in the Electoral Roll of 1945.

Alfred Barrett Sackett was a minister's son, an historian and geologist, and a First World War veteran with an artificial leg. Mrs Sackett was a university woman but also very practical and helped in the move even though she had four sons to look after. Kingswood pupils, suffering a wartime diet, remember the wonderful teas provided by Mrs Sackett when they were invited to Wisteria House. The Sackett's fifth child, their first daughter was born on 23 August 1940, and baptised at the chapel on 4 November by the Rev Arthur S Gregory, a notable figure in Methodist hymnology.

The chaplain, Rev Rupert Davies, lived in 'Bredon', Wheatley Avenue. Described as being 'tucked away off the road to Oakham',⁶ it was then the first bungalow in the road, probably what is now no 5. Rupert Davies was nicknamed 'the Pope', and therefore his house was 'the Vatican'. The move must have been difficult for Mr Davies and his wife Margaret, as their first child, daughter Mary, was born just three weeks beforehand, and baptised at the chapel on 29 October 1939. They also had a foster daughter, Barbara Kornicker from Germany, who was baptised in 1940 at the age of seventeen. During the years in Uppingham, three more children (including twins) were born to Rupert and Margaret Davies and were baptised in the chapel. To this day it is remembered how Rupert had to search the town for extra nappies when twins arrived unexpectedly!



Margaret Davies found herself spending Christmas 1942 in Uppingham⁷

At the bottom of Wheatley Avenue were Mr Maw and his wife, and nearby in the bungalow called 'The Beeches' (situated where the Beeches Estate now stands) lived Mr and Mrs Frank Tongue. Their son Christopher was born in 1943 and baptised at the chapel by Rupert Davies.



Members of staff and their families in the garden of 'The Beeches', Ayston Road, Frank Tongue's wartime home

Standing right: Frank Tongue;
Rev Rupert Davies in blazer; Mrs Davies centre seated;
Barbara Kornicker front left

Mr and Mrs Trump took up residence in Stonehurst on the High Street with Mrs Trump's mother, Mrs Mason. The boys slept on the first and second floors, putting their overcoats on the beds in winter to keep warm. Robert Trump was a senior housemaster and taught Maths and Physics, whilst Mrs Trump was to play a big role in the Methodist Chapel. Towards the end of the war, the Trumps adopted a little girl who was baptised at the chapel in 1944. Dr and Mrs G H Stead were next door in Withyhurst. Together with Stonehurst it provided the headquarters for the Lower House.

Mr F S and Mrs Cook, much loved housemaster and wife, took over Compton House on the High Street. The house had apparently been nearly derelict but the Cooks always had a tin of sweets for the boys and were described as being like lovable grandparents.

Ernest Eltham, second master and teacher of Classics, was housed at the Falcon, where senior boys occasionally presented their prep to him in the bar. Frank Mangham and his family were at Springway in Spring Back Way with some of the Lower House boys. Knoll House was used, the master being W G Ingram.

School and Town

So the school settled in for what they could never have imagined would become a stay of six years. The boys soon became familiar with the town and countryside, and were given a list of shops 'in bounds', which included Alf Dyer's bakery. The cream buns which helped to supplement the meagre rations are remembered to this day. Alf and his father, Robert,

were members of the Chapel and local preachers. One wonders if the Methodist boys were allowed a little more cream!

Younger children from staff families attended the local schools and parents were pleased with the education received. Masters acquired bicycles to get about the town. It was said that Mr Davies always made a wobbly ride, but that Mr Sackett was an accomplished cyclist in spite of his artificial leg.

Initially there was some reluctance on the part of Mr Sackett to form a Corps - perhaps Methodism was against this - but soon they joined with Uppingham boys. When the Uppingham Home Guard was formed in 1940 masters and wives as well as senior boys were involved. An Air Training Corps was also formed with the involvement of Kingswood masters A C Townend and Frank Mangham, who had been World War I pilots.

As well as the teaching staff, many of the ancillary staff came to Uppingham too, and were accommodated in the White Hart. Bill King, the grounds-man, had to find a new role, one of which was cleaning the boys' shoes every day. This necessitated an early morning tour around the town to the various houses, carrying a box. Asked by local boys one foggy morning what the box contained, he told them 'a fog dispersal unit'⁸ and lo and behold, later in the day, the fog lifted. Bill King was known as 'Mayor of Uppingham'.

The boys were encouraged to do 'public works' such as helping local farmers dig drains and clear fields, sometimes working alongside Italian POWs. Farmers Robinson, Oakley, Pattison and Miss Turner hopefully benefited from the assistance given, as it was especially enjoyed by the boys. Many of them wrote of their delight in the beautiful Rutland countryside. Mr Sackett, being an historian, encouraged the boys to visit the many historic churches in the county. The school was also involved in the archaeological dig at Glaston, recently revisited.

Kingswood and the Uppingham Methodists

The links with the Methodist chapel were mainly with the staff. The boys had their own services in the school chapel, very different from the Anglican tradition of Uppingham School. However, in the course of six years, many of them would have had reason to visit the Methodist chapel. At first, the school choir practice was held there. The chapel installed blackout early on which enabled evening activities to continue and thus made it a focus for social events. At least two money raising concerts were given there by Kingswood, raising £3 10s in 1941 and £4 19s 5d in 1942.

Attendance at the Methodist chapel was never large, having declined in numbers from its heyday in the 19th century. It was served by the minister from Oakham, as had occurred throughout most of its history. It was probably a very small fellowship that Kingswood joined but we have no reason to believe that they were not warmly welcomed. The minister in 1939 was the Rev

W H Pritchard followed by Rev Gilbert Watts from 1941-44 and then Rev W H Clark from 1944.

With so many men and ministers away at war, the Chapel must have been pleased to be able to add Mr Davies and several of the masters to the preaching team. Mr Davies took over some pastoral responsibilities, including on one occasion making provision for five motherless children. He also contributed articles to the local paper.

On account of the Kingswood connections some notable preachers were attracted. The Chapel Anniversary on 12 July 1945 was a special occasion, the preacher being Dr W E Sangster, father of Kingswood pupil Paul Sangster (who was later to take the 150th Anniversary in 1969). Many preparations were made for this big event. The minutes of the trustees meetings that summer reported that:

the Steward [would] arrange with Mr Bilsden to fit amplifiers in the Schoolroom. A few Members of the Kingswood School Choir to be invited to sing in the evening, owing to lack of accommodation it was not possible to accommodate the [whole] Choir. Mr Robb undertook to make enquiries as to possibilities of buses to Manton and Oakham. Tea to be held in the Legion Hall, the charge for the room being no more than 30/-. The arrangements were left to the Lady Trustees who would contribute 2/6d each and charge 1/- for the tea.⁹

Specially invited ministers came to baptise staff children, and the congregation knew it would be treated to a good sermon on those Sundays. However, not all of Kingswood's ideas were readily accepted. At the Trustees' meeting on 13 June 1944, it was reported that:

an application was made by Rev R E Davies for the use of the schoolroom for a day nursery school. The matter was carefully considered and it was decided that to grant this request would in some measure obstruct the work of the Church, and the Trustees felt they could not comply.

Rev Davies would surely have been pleased to know that in the 21st century, Uppingham Methodist Church wholeheartedly welcomed children on to its premises.¹⁰

Sunday School

One of the main areas in which the staff families were influential was the Sunday School. Several of the staff had young families and so would have had a personal interest. Minnie Woods had been the Sunday School superintendent for many years, but the teaching methods she had always used were a little old-fashioned by the 1940s. Mrs Vera Trump was a trained teacher so had lots of new ideas to offer. She set up training classes for the teachers, and towards the end of the war, she and Rev Davies established a Sunday School conference for the Circuit. Sunday School plays were produced every Easter by Vera Trump and Margaret Davies.

It is not known how many children were in the Sunday School but, judging from the Baptism Register, there was probably a good mix of local families and Kingswood staff children. Prior to the arrival of Kingswood, in the years 1935-9, there were only two Uppingham baptisms but, from 1939-46, during

Kingswood's stay, there were nineteen, eight of which were from Kingswood families.

'Religion and Life Week'

Although committed Methodists, both the headmaster and the chaplain were interested in a wider Christianity. Mr Sackett was keen to turn Kingswood into a Christian public school, rather than just Methodist, and Rupert Davies was later heavily involved in the first conversations for reuniting with the Church of England. This outlook probably led to the involvement in 'Religion and Life Week', held from 22 to 29 October 1944, and organised by Chris Bullick of Uppingham School, and Rupert Davies. This initiative came under

the umbrella of the Commission of the Churches for International Friendship and Social Responsibility (British Council of Churches) and was an Anglican and Free Church movement. It brought together people from all the churches in the town as well as Kingswood pupils, the object being to prepare for post-war life.

Several reports appeared in the local paper showing that many eminent speakers of the time were involved. In the wake of 'Religion and Life Week' a girls' club and a child welfare clinic were set up. Mrs Davies and Mrs Trump are documented as having been involved in this, as well as Barbara Colville (an Uppingham schoolmaster's wife, and a non-conformist), and Olive Tabram from the parish church.

Uppingham Shows the Way

THERE have been Religion and Life Weeks in most of the big towns of England, and the movement is now a nationwide one, but never before in so small a town as Uppingham, to which ignorant visitors have been known to refer as a village. Yet small towns have some advantages over their big brothers in this matter for everyone knows everyone else, and the chances of welding all the townspeople into a real family community are much greater. In its Week from 22 to 29 October, inclusive, Uppingham is going to hear speakers no less eminent than those heard in the greatest cities of the land. The two speakers on "Home and School," for instance, are Archdeacon H. McGowan and Sir Robert E. Martin.

"Big Guns"

THE FORMER, besides being Archdeacon of Aston (the home of Aston Villa) is Chairman of the Birmingham Youth Committee, and was elected by the youth of Birmingham itself to be the chairman of its "Youth Forum"—a "Parliament" meeting on Saturday afternoons, of all times, to debate all kinds of national and international affairs. He has done more than twenty years of practical youth work.

Sir Robert Martin is a great figure in this part of the Midlands. He is chairman of the Leicestershire County Council and of its Education Committee, and an acknowledged expert on the relations between Church and school and the whole question of religious education. He is also a trustee of Uppingham School.

Uppingham Minds Its Own Business

ONE of the most notable results so far of the Religion and Life Campaign in Uppingham has been the increased interest in local affairs and local government. So the meeting in the Religion and Life Week on "Local Affairs and You" is likely to be one of the most popular. Mr. H. H. Elvin, one of the two speakers on this subject, is known far and wide in the Trade Union movement. For over 30 years he has been the General Secretary of the National Union of Clerks and Administrative Workers; he is an ex-President of the Trades Union Congress and was for many years a Labour Adviser to the International Labour Organization. He speaks with great authority and wisdom.

Major Proby on the Land

THE chief "local affair" of Uppingham is, of course, the land, and Uppingham people are going to try to get straight the question of their responsibility to it. The speaker who is going to help them to do that is Major R. G. Proby, of Elton Hall, Peterborough, who is in the thick of land questions himself. He is a landowner and land agent, Chairman of the Central Landowners' Association and Chairman of the Agricultural Reconstruction sub-Committee of the Conservative Party.

Appeal to Youth

YOUTH is going to have its fling, too, during the Religion and Life Week. On the Sunday which opens the Week there is to be a special Youth service, and the address will be given by the Rev. Bryan H. Reed. Mr. Reed is the founder of the First Walthamstow Church Clubland, an original experiment in Youth Work in a crowded area of the East of London. His idea was to provide a club which should give every conceivable chance of self-expression to its members and at the same time be a real community centre in worship—and he succeeded.

Uppingham Looks Abroad and Ahead

THE Religion and Life Groups in Uppingham were at first mainly concerned with the Christian approach to purely local problems, but recently they have been throwing their net wider. And there is a highly important meeting during the Week—important because of its subject and because of its speakers on "The World, the Nation and You." One of the speakers is Mr. Ivor Thomas, M.P. for Keighley, one of the rising stars in the Labour Party. Not long ago he was running miles and miles for Oxford and Wales across country and on the track. Since then he has been on the editorial staff of "The Times" and written the chief leader for the "News Chronicle" (hence his Oxford pamphlet on "The Newspaper"). Now he is an expert in foreign affairs, and likely to serve his country well in that respect.

A Literateuse and a "Double Doctor"

MRS. KATHLEEN BLISS, who was for seven years an educational missionary in that acutely controversial country, India, is the other speaker. At present she is assistant-editor of the widely-read "Christian News Letter," which is taking a definite lead in the Christian treatment of national and international problems, and Secretary of the Christian Frontier Council, which is sorting out economic and social problems.

The high-spot of the Week in Uppingham will be the united service for everybody in the School Hall on the final high

29/9/1944

13/10/1944

20/10/1944

Reports of 'Religion and Life Week' in the Lincoln, Stamford, and Rutland Mercury

Departure

As the time approached when Kingswood was to leave Uppingham, Rupert Davies attended the quarterly meeting at Melton, on Saturday 9 March as a guest of Rev E J Jones. The membership at Uppingham now stood at 29 with, no doubt, many more attending or joining in activities. Mr Davies requested that a lay pastor should be appointed to Uppingham:

He pointed out that with the removal of Kingswood School and its staff the work that they had been able to do would be wasted if a gap was left and that no forward movement could be expected unless Methodism had a man on the spot. It was proposed, seconded and carried that the matter be referred to the Circuit committee.¹¹

No records remain of the discussion at Circuit committee, and although a major evangelistic campaign was held in the Circuit by Cliff College in 1950, there has never to this day been a minister 'on the spot'.

At the same meeting:

Rev E J Jones on behalf of the quarterly meeting thanked Mr Davies for the work done in the Uppingham area and asked that he accept our thanks and convey them and our appreciation to his staff. Rev Davies suitably replied.¹²

Conclusion

It is clear that Kingswood School and Uppingham Methodist Church formed a particularly close relationship during the war years. The spirit of goodwill and generosity shown by these two institutions is typical of the kind of interaction found all over the country, especially in small communities where locals provided much-needed support for displaced schools and families.

The greatest memorial to Kingswood and the Methodists is not to dwell on the past, but to learn how they conducted their lives in times of hardship, deprivation and compromise, and to take these lessons forward into the life of the Church and the town in the 21st century.

¹ This chapter is an abridged version of Stacey, Margaret, *The Story of the Twin Boards: Uppingham Methodist Church and Kingswood School 1939-1946*, Uppingham Methodist Church, 2005.

² *Minute Book of the Trustees of Uppingham Methodist Church 1935-1950*

³ Clapham, P, in *Uppingham Remembered: Recollections of a Fortunate Exile 1939-1946*, Kingswood Association, Kingswood School, Bath, 1997

⁴ Kingswood Association Magazine, I, 4, March 1996

⁵ Boynes, R N H in *Uppingham Remembered*

⁶ Sherdley, B F in *Uppingham Remembered*

⁷ *Magnet Magazine*, Network, The Methodist Church, Winter 1942

⁸ Gardner, J W in *Uppingham Remembered*

⁹ *Minute Book of the Trustees of Uppingham Methodist Church*

¹⁰ *ibid.*

¹¹ *Minute Book of Quarterly Meetings of the Melton Mowbray Circuit 1918-44*

¹² *ibid.*

4: LIFE AT UPPINGHAM SCHOOL

as recorded by Henry Dawe

Introduction

The history of Uppingham School, including the life of the school in the war years, is beautifully documented in Bryan Matthews' *By God's Grace*¹. Since it would be impossible for any local historian to improve on the detail of Matthews' research, a different approach has been attempted here. By drawing specifically on the memories of three Old Uppinghamians, it is hoped to provide a more personal insight into life at the school during the war.

Our three informants have been selected as they provide a neat span over the war period. Ian McKinnell arrived at The Lodge in January 1943, in the middle of the war, Edmund Preston in May 1945, the month the war in Europe ended, and Keith Watson in September 1947, allowing us a glimpse of post-war school life. Ian and Edmund's recollections are from interviews, whilst Keith's come from his own written account of 2004.²

Transport

Ian: Hardly anybody had got a car and, even if they had, they hadn't got any petrol. I had to get to school by going on the train most of the time until after the end of the war, because you couldn't get any petrol. I was taken to Leicester station, and caught a train which eventually went to Manton. I changed at Manton, and then the train went to Uppingham.

Food and rationing

Ian: We had little jars put on the dining tables: there were little jars for our sugar ration, other little jars for our butter ration.

We were very lucky in The Lodge because we had an enormous garden. (For the location of this and other school houses see the map opposite page 1.) Smallwood's gardeners had been called up, but he himself was a very, very energetic gardener.³ We had things which lots of houses didn't have, such as tomatoes and vegetables, so we felt we were fairly lucky. We were all aware that food was short.

Rationing continued after the war for things like butter and meat, but my feeling was that it was infinitely more relaxed.

Edmund: We had our own sugar ration and jam ration always put into a jam jar, the lid of which had our name on it. It was always kept on a table behind the door going into the dining room at Constables. When we went in for meals, we picked up a jam jar of sugar and our jam jar of jam and took it to help ourselves with our bread. The jars would last for quite a time, until our ration was replenished.

The first day I arrived back after the holidays, I remember it was sausage and mash: they were green mashed potatoes! The food was bad, but it was all

rationed, so you really couldn't complain, because nobody else would have good food, so that was par for the course.

Clothes, too, were rationed: when you'd finished with your clothes, if there were any decent ones left, your mother would take them to the school shop and he [Mr Wood, the manager] would give you a little for them and re-sell them to other boys who needed the same size.

Keith: Food in houses was adequate except for fish which we had once a week and which was almost universally disliked, being of indeterminate age and certainly not appetising. We were allowed food in studies which we kept in tuck boxes and large biscuit tins. Not surprisingly, mice were certainly in evidence and I remember one term taking two traps back to school and catching 20 mice in my study before the mice decided the traps were better avoided.

Communication

Ian: We were aware there was a war on, but I don't ever remember reading newspapers myself at that time, as they were very scarce. I remember that the masters would talk about it sometimes, and they would tell us what was happening, and occasionally we could listen to the news.

Edmund: You realised the war had been going on for a long time, but the war in the Far East was a little bit far away from us, and we really didn't know what was happening there, though Burma was on everybody's minds.

By the back door of Constables were the airing rooms. There were tables there with the daily papers on, and they were browsed over by boys all day long, every day. These would be reports on what was happening in the war.

Kingswood School

Ian: We didn't mix very much with Kingswood; we shared the chapel and the hall, but not at the same time. They occupied the gym [now the theatre] throughout the whole war as a dining room, so that wasn't available to us. They also had the facilities of the sports ground.

Edmund: Their tie was a black and white striped tie, and I think it also had a small stripe of red in it. They always wore what we called 'country clothes' like sports jackets and casual wear. We never, ever integrated.

Corps

Keith: In the first week of one's first term at the school the house captain would ask you if you wished to join the Corps. This was voluntary/compulsory and if you asked the house captain what happened if you said 'No' he told you that 'No one had ever said no and there was

a 100% attendance'. 'Square bashing' took place in front of the school baths on a gravel area with field craft taught in the surrounding countryside and, although Corps was largely unpopular, the training meant that later on having to do National Service was something of a 'doddle'. After obtaining Certificate A one could transfer to other sections, and Signals was popular. Many happy hours were spent erecting an 'eighteen set' in unlikely places like the parish churchyard and happily being 'out of contact'. Field Day exercises on one day in the summer term were also quite an experience, the popular venue being at the end of the Leicester Mile and close to Wardley Wood which in those days certainly carried a gamekeeper's line of vermin.

Ian: I particularly remember the sergeant major of the Corps, who was a man called McKean.⁴ When he conducted the Corps parades on the middle, you would

hear him from one end of the Middle to the other when he gave his commands.

Edmund: Soon after the war ended Lt General Sir Brian Horrocks came to inspect the Corps. We all had our battledress on; everybody had a forage cap on. With forage caps, you pulled the sides down and they covered your ears and you fixed it over your chin, so that in the cold weather it kept your face warmer. Horrocks came to me and stopped, because I was the only boy out of 500 who was wearing armoured battledress with a cricket cap! I was petrified as he looked me up and down and looked at this navy blue cap with a badge on the front, looked very disdainfully and then went on, without saying anything. The reason I had a cricket cap on was because the school had never had a forage cap to fit me because I had such a big head!

Inventory of clothes required by boys of Uppingham School

INVENTORY OF CLOTHES

One long great coat, either very dark grey or very dark blue,
 Three suits of clothes, *see below*,
 One Dress Suit (optional),
 Three pyjamas,
 Eight pairs of socks, black,
 Four flannel shirts,
 Three pairs of boots, one pair of slippers,
 One pair of football boots,
 Twelve handkerchiefs,
 Twelve shirt collars,
 Four vests and pairs of drawers,
 Two combs and two brushes, in bags,
 Six towels, (only sent home when boy leaves school),
 Four large bath towels, " "
 Two pairs of new sheets and three pillowcases, " "
 One clothes brush, " "
 Two dusters.
 Dressing gown,
 Three black neckties,
 One sponge in bag.

Every boy is required to wear:—

Sundays:

Black tail coat, and black waistcoat,

or

Black Eton jacket with Eton collar outside.

Week-days:

Black round coat and black waistcoat,

Trousers *without* pockets,

And a black neck-tie.

Straw hats must be procured at the School Shop, Uppingham.

It is desirable that every boy should have a hand-bag, to contain what is required before the luggage is unpacked.

N.B.—This should have the owner's name and Master's house distinctly marked on the label.

Every article of clothing, including boots, also brushes, etc., must be plainly marked with initials of Christian names, and surnames in full, as *J. F. SMITH*.

All Luggage, Letters, and Parcels should always be directed to the care of the House Master.

In the Summer Term, School is from 2.30 P.M. to 4.15 P.M., instead of from 4.30 P.M.—6 P.M.

Early School is omitted at the beginning of the Spring Term, and the hours of the morning adapted.

There are three half-holidays weekly in the Summer Term, on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

In the Spring and Winter Terms there is a lecture or music on Thursday from 5 P.M. to 6 P.M., and half-holidays on Tuesday and Saturday.

Every boy on first entering or on returning to School must bring his health certificate *immediately* to his House Master.

No boy may be absent from prayers on the first evening of term unless he has received written permission from his House Master.

The Uppingham School day

Exercise

Ian: We had a chap who looked after the gymnastics side of things, Sergeant Major Bacovitch, or 'Bacco'. He'd been a sergeant major in the British Army. He was 'Mr 5 x 5'. He was about five feet tall, five feet wide, and the whole of his body was so muscular, you wouldn't believe it! He had a voice that could frighten you to death!

We regularly had to do gymnastics in the middle of the morning, called 'breathers', in between teaching. I can see Bacovitch on the lawn in front of the school Hall, jumping about doing exercises. He shouted at you like billy-o, but he wasn't a ferocious chap.

Keith: House exercise largely involved running on one's own in one's own time along a certain route. We were not supposed to stop running and walk at any point and could be reported if discovered walking, but in the main little check was made except to make sure, on occasions, that we left the house and did not return too quickly. Some days there were afternoon lessons followed by an evening meal in house, with daily prep. in a boy's early years in the house dining room and latterly in studies.

Dress

Ian: You had to have your trouser pockets sewn up before you went back to school, as you weren't allowed to have your hands in your pockets.

Black coats - always, black ties - always, white shirts with a stiff Van Heusen collar - always, grey trousers - always. Until about 1941-2, all boys wore boaters all the time, but boaters were just about finished when I got there.

Edmund: In those days, all the masters without exception always wore their gowns and mortarboards. They took the mortarboards off in the classroom, but they kept the gowns on. You never saw a master without a gown unless he was off duty. In chapel, they all wore beautiful hoods.

Fagging

Edmund: I was a fag, meaning a lowly member of the house. Fags had to do all the dirty jobs, and had to run errands for the *pollies* [praeposters]. When Kingswood left, for example, I, being a fag, and being so junior in the house and in the school, was allotted - together with other people of my own lowly situation - the job of scraping the grease and the dirt off the floor of the gym!

A *polly* was allocated two fags, and we had to keep his study clean; every morning before he came down for breakfast, we had to dust it and on Saturdays we had to beat his study carpet so that no dust would come out of it whatsoever. If we did it inefficiently, we were beaten. I was beaten six times in five terms by the house *pollies*.

Keith: The first term, another boy in the house was allocated to me who had probably been there a year and whose job it was to coach me so that I passed the Fags'

exam some two weeks after arrival. This involved knowing a certain amount about the history of the School, the history of one's house, the names of former housemasters, the nicknames of current masters, the rules of the School and who was entitled to what privileges. The system of fagging was also explained. This was almost exclusively fagging within the house but there could be School fagging on occasions. The system was that a house *polly* would stand at the convergence of the two study passages which formed a right angle and shout 'fag'. Usually the last to arrive would be given the task, but not always, as obviously some fags had to run from a greater distance than others because of the position of their study. Fagging involved a number of minor chores. It could involve cleaning out the study of a house *polly*, but this was not an onerous task and the relationship with the house *polly* could be useful and sympathetic. Fagging duties were not time consuming and usually light. In short fagging was really no problem at all.

By today's standards the discipline was harsh, chiefly being in the hands of boys. The house *pollies* operated a system of marks which were usually allocated in threes but could be allocated in sixes, and one was beaten by the house *pollies* if one attained nine marks in a term. The evidence was clearly visible the next day in the showers with bruises and sometimes scars. Beating by housemasters did occur occasionally but I think most boys preferred the idea of being beaten by a master than by boys. Beating by the headmaster would be for a very serious offence and was rare indeed. Minor school offences included putting one's hands in one's trouser pockets and one could be accused of this, by a school *polly*. The solution was simple. We got our mothers to sew up the pockets and derived some pleasure (when accused) from showing the stitching to the school *polly* in question. Minor house punishments could include cold showers or other minor chores.

Town and gown

Ian: Boys weren't allowed in North Street at all and only Constables' boys were allowed on the North side of the High Street.

Edmund: There was no integration whatsoever between the school and the town. We had Hawthorn's book-shop (now Spencer's), and were allowed into Boots. We wore black and white speckled straw boaters, which we called 'bashers'. If a boy passed a member of staff with the member of staff on his right, he had to raise his hand to his forehead and touch his forehead in the middle with his right hand. If the member of staff was on his left, the boy lifted his left hand up, if the boy did not have his hat on.

Keith: Certain shops were 'within bounds' and others were 'out of bounds', usually, but not always, because the shopkeepers preferred not to deal with the school but, sometimes, perhaps because the School preferred boys not to go into those shops. One had to have a very good reason to visit a boy in another house and in the main this was prohibited or at least frowned upon. The

The town and school were largely separate in my day and therefore our knowledge of the town was minimal and incidental. In those days Uppingham had a cinema on the Ayston Road, almost adjoining Glenn's Garage, and opposite Meadhurst, a school house. The garage was an interesting collection of corrugated iron buildings which covered a very large area and I remember a silver bullet-shaped vintage motor car being garaged at Glenn's by a master, 'Daddy Ross', who on occasions would generously take a boy out with him for a run in it.

Once a year the Uppingham Operatic Society performed one of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas and this appeared to be a rare combination of town and school and the school attended every year.

Living conditions

Keith: The studies at Meadhurst were quite small with timber lining up to perhaps the first four feet of the wall which we then covered with pieces of material flatteringly referred to as 'tapestry'. This considerably improved the environment as the timber had been treated with brown varnish and was not beautiful. Each study had a sash window. The dormitories were in corridors above the two study corridors but because of numbers there was one additional room near to or on the private side of the house, which I think accommodated four boys of rather younger ages.

There was an ancient central heating system in the house which operated to greater or lesser degrees of efficiency in the house dining room and in the studies but, in the notorious winter of 1946-7, immediately before I arrived in the house, the pipes or radiators had burst in the dormitories and they were not made functional during my years at the School. As a result, in the Easter Term the mug of water alongside the bed could be solid ice in the morning and we wore rigger socks in bed and put the mat from the floor on the bed. If one had a sash window in one's partition or 'tish', it was required to be open just behind one's head. I believe that in the winter of 1946-7 Uppingham was cut off from the outside world by snow for quite a number of days or even weeks with snow well up the height of the lampposts.

Routine

Keith: The day in houses began at, I think, 7 am with a bell being rung in the dormitories and, after washing and shaving, this was followed by breakfast in the house dining room. We then gathered the necessary school books from our studies and attended prayers, either in the school hall or, I think, twice a week in chapel. If one was short of time it was necessary to run and to tuck the books under one's chin supported by the right hand and hope to reach hall or chapel before the doors were firmly closed by school *pollies*. On occasions there could be a struggle to prevent the doors being closed at chapel or hall and, depending entirely on the numbers, the late arrivals would either keep the doors open sufficiently long to reach prayers or be excluded and

have to report themselves to the headmaster. Happily 'early school' lessons, at, I think, 7.30 am and before breakfast, which had existed in my father's day, had long since been abolished.

May 1945

Ian: We had a day off on V E Day. They announced they were going to have a great fete in the quads by the hall and the chapel. It was announced that Lady somebody or other was going to make a speech and open the fete. A huge limousine with a chauffeur rolled up, and this old woman got out, with a great long black skirt, and she slowly climbed up the steps to the podium outside and declared this fete open. Afterwards, we discovered this was Alfred Doulton, our new housemaster in The Lodge!

There he was, dressed up as an old lady, and [since he had only just returned from the war] it was the first time the boys in the house had ever seen him. He had gone off in 1939, so we hadn't known him before the war. It was still the summer term, so he wasn't yet our housemaster, but we were told he was going to be from September.

Edmund: There were very few cars about, so everybody shot for a push-bike from a member of staff, to get out of the town and explore a bit. I got one and cycled all the way to Oakham, and there was a group of other people there when I got there.

I don't remember the mood of celebration lasting longer than that day, but I remember later that year being given a day's holiday in recognition of V J Day, even though it was in August during the school holidays. I managed to get to King's Lynn!

Conclusion

The memories of Ian, Edmund and Keith allow us a closer look into Uppingham School around the time of the Second World War. Their first-hand accounts are valuable in showing us how the war impacted on daily life at the school and how, more generally, Uppingham reflected the prevailing atmosphere of public schools in the 1940s.

¹ Matthews, Brian, Chapter 10, 'Wider Horizons, the War and Kingswood' in *By God's Grace*, Maidstone, 1984

² Recorded on 15 August 2005

³ Alistair Smallwood was housemaster of The Lodge 1925-46

⁴ RSM W McKean was instructor to the cadet Corps 1929-55. He lost a son in the war, cf. Chapter 1, p.14

⁵ Pickering, Bill and Jill (eds), *Uppingham School Roll 1922-96*, edition 11, Spiegl Press, Stamford, 1997, p.282

89	
Sept 11 th	Owing to the outbreak of war, school opened a day earlier than arranged. To make room for the children evacuated from the Camden High School, the school will open at 8.30 am until 12.30 for our children. Mr. Evans has been called up & Miss Joyce Brooks is taking his place.
Sept 20 th	Mr. L. Cracknell, the new S.A. Officer, visited the school this morning.
Sept 29 th	Mr. Cracknell called.
Oct 4 th	Stds I, II, III & IV were taken Nature Walks during the afternoon. The Seniors started digging the new garden.
Oct 10 th	The afternoon was employed in walks & gardening.
Oct 12 th	Walks were taken in the afternoon. Mr. Cracknell called.
Oct 16 th	Walks & gardening in the afternoon.
Oct 19 th	The Camden School has now left the district. The school was used in the afternoon for folk dancing & needlework.
Oct 20 th	The normal time-table was resumed today. In future times of recesses will be 9-12 & 1.20-3.45.

Outbreak of WW2, National School Log Book, September 1939, p.89

100	
Sept 11 th	During an air raid warning from 12.20 to 12.45 pm. the children who stay for dinner took refuge in the air raid shelters.
Sept 16 th	The school district made further instructions today. School opened at 9.45 am. Children were in shelters during an air raid warning from 10.15 to 10.30 am. Mr. Jones was absent from school all day.
Sept 17 th	School opened at 9.45 am.
Sept 18 th	Mr. Jones returned to school today. She had been held up by air-raids.
Sept 19 th	School started at 9.45 am. The children took shelter at 3.30 pm owing to an air raid warning. The all-clear was at 4.15, when the children were allowed to go home. Mr. Cracknell called.

Air Raids, National School Log Book, September 1940, p.100

5: RECORDS AND RECOLLECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL AND CENTRAL SCHOOLS

by Helen Hutton and Henry Dawe

The National School

Before its move to Belgrave Road in September 1962, the buildings of Uppingham's National School were located at the corner of London Road and Spring Back Way. The school was subsequently renamed Uppingham Church of England Primary School.

This section draws on the school *Log Books* now held at Belgrave Road for an insight into how the Second World War shaped events at the National School between 1939 and 1945.

The first *Log Book*, 1907-31, explains why such records were kept:

The Principal Teacher must make at least once a week in the *Log Book* an entry which will specify ordinary progress, and other facts concerning the school or its teachers. The Inspector will call for the *Log Book* at every visit, and report whether it appears to have been properly kept.

The following is a selection of the entries made by headmaster, Mr Leonard Hall, during the war years.



The National School, Uppingham, from London Road



Sir John Wolfenden plants a tree after opening the new Uppingham Primary School, March 1963

Second from the right: Mr Len Hall (headmaster)

Reproduced courtesy of the *Stamford Mercury*.

1939

9 March: Mr Johnson [Stanley Johnson, the Rutland Director of Education] called to enquire about numbers of desks for evacuation schemes.

1 August: Mr Johnson & Mr Sterndale Bennett¹ (Head ARP Warden) visited the school today with a view to making arrangements for the safety of the children in case of an emergency. We found the school field to be the most accessible place for trenches.

11 September: Owing to the outbreak of war, school opened a day earlier than arranged. To make room for the children from Camden High School, the school will open at 8.30 am until 12.30 for our children. Mr Evans has been called up & Miss Joyce is taking his place.

19 October: The Camden School has now left the district.

20 October: The normal timetable was restored today. In future times of sessions will be 9 - 12 & 1.30 - 3.45.

1940

14 May: Owing to the German invasion of Belgium and Holland, the school opened at 9 o'clock this morning. 123 present.

5 July: Mr Dolphin visited the school and made suggestions for ARP for the children.

11 July: Dr Rolleston [school medical officer, of Brewery House, Ketton] examined children for overseas evacuation.

2 August: Mr Johnson and Mr Rooser inspected the site for the school air-raid shelter. Mr Clarke the builder was present. School closed today for 2 weeks. The addresses of the teachers have been submitted to the office in case of emergency.

19 August: School opened today, 86 children were present. For the next 3 weeks the timetable will not be adhered to & a temporary register will be kept.

21 August: All children took shelter from 9.40 to 10.30 on the sounding of the air-raid sirens.

9 September: School term started. After a night of 7 air-raid warnings, school did not open until 9.45.

11 September: During an air-raid warning from 12.30 to 12.45 the children who stay for dinner took refuge in the air-raid shelter.

16 September: School opened at 9.45 am. Children were in shelters during an air-raid warning from 10.15 to 10.30 am.

25 October: It was reported to me that evacuees from London will arrive here on Sunday & will use this school as the station for billeting purposes.

14 November: School opened after half term. 39 evacuees from Croydon have been entered on a separate register. One of the teachers in charge of the evacuated children is now acting on the staff of this school and is in charge of Standard III.

20 November: After an 'alert' period lasting for 7 hours a number of children were absent from school.

21 November: The attendance was again affected by an all-night air-raid warning.

17 December: Children in shelters 1.35-2.55 pm

1941

6 March: Between 2.30 & 4 pm a number of children were taken to the gas mask repair depot for the repair of their masks.

3 October: Croydon teacher returns to Croydon today. She has been recalled owing to the gradual drift back of children to Croydon. However this leaves us with 20 Croydon children and no Croydon teacher.

1942

5 June: Mr Gregory terminated his services today. He joins the RAF tomorrow.

8 June: 6 boys were absent all day, farming under the new scheme.

10 July: Mrs Earey given compassionate leave, as her husband was due to be called up.

1944

14 July: Owing to the influx of evacuees from the flying bomb, our numbers on register have now reached 208.

28 July: Owing to the influx of evacuees from the London area, numbers on roll are 216.

1945

8 May: This is V E Day. In accordance with instructions already received the school will be closed for today and tomorrow to celebrate victory in Europe.

VE Day, National School Log Book,
May 1945, p.136

May 8 th	This is V.E. day. In accordance with instructions already received the school will be closed for today & tomorrow to celebrate victory in Europe.
May 9 th	School opened at 9 am. All went to church for the Remembrance Day service.
May 10 th	School closed at 3.45 pm for Whitmonstrade.

The National School: an eye-witness account

	132
July 13 th	I was absent from school during the afternoon, attending a meeting of the County Youth Committee.
July 14 th	Owing to the influx of evacuees from the flying bomb, no numbers on registers have now reached 208.
July 21 st	It was announced this morning that four Southwell & Ronald Atkinson had been awarded scholarships & that Alan Snodin & Peter Darr had been awarded special places.
July 26 th	Owing to the influx of evacuees from the London area, numbers of roll are now 216.
July 31 st	I took 15 loops farming this afternoon.

Alan Snodin's examination success: special place, *National School Log Book*, July 1944

Certain aspects of life at the National School are fresh in the mind of Alan Snodin, who attended the school until he won a special place at Oakham School in 1944 at the age of twelve.

On the subject of air raids, Alan recalls:

The siren was placed on top of the fire station; once it had gone, we all assembled with a member of staff, and we were conducted to the air raid shelter in the playground. During the air raids we all used to troop in a single line with our gas masks on, led by the form teacher. Pupils living in Uppingham were particularly encouraged to go home for lunch, so that there were not too many people on site should there be an air raid warning. As far as the blackout was concerned, all the classrooms had black curtains at the windows, for after-school activities taking place in the evenings.

Alan has fond recollections of 'Smiler' Hall, as the headmaster was always known:

He was a great character, and a great headmaster, as well as being chairman of the parish council for 21 years, and a member of all sorts of local clubs and societies. He would often take us farming to Glaston, to Park Farms in Ridlington, and to Charlie Hudson's farm in Preston. He and his wife lived on site, in the headmaster's house.

Though 'Smiler' was clearly a great favourite, other figures at the school were dreaded. Particularly strong in Alan's mind is Miss Badley, who

had a habit of caning anyone at the slightest whim. She used to cane pupils in front of the fire, which had a very large iron guard around it. You were always caned on the hand, so the trick was to stand in front of the iron guard, and at the last minute you would nip your hand out of the way, and she would follow through with the cane onto the guard and break the stick!

Curiously, it was not Dr Rolleston, the school medical officer, who made the pupils nervous, but the nurse 'who always accompanied him, known as the nit nurse, because she was responsible for inspection of heads and

hair!' These slight discomforts aside, Alan has nothing but happy memories of the National School, and is still in touch with some of the friends he made there.²

Upon leaving the National School, the majority of boys and girls headed to the Central School on the junction of the London and Lyddington roads. It is to this secondary school that we now turn our attention

The Central School

Just like the National School, the Central School kept a log book of day-to-day events and situations, of which those particularly linked to the war have been selected here.

1939

3 September: The headmaster placed the school for the coming week at the disposal of Miss Wright, Headmistress of the Camden School for Girls.

11 September: We now work one long session in the morning from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm. In the afternoon the School is used by the Camden School which also uses it all Saturday and Sunday.

1940

11 June: Progress indicator for War Savings was erected in the Market Place.

20 June: The cookery teacher commenced a series of war-time cookery demonstrations at the Gas Show Rooms in Queen Street.

10 September: Owing to air raid alarms on the previous night, school commenced at 9.45 am.

19 September: Air raid alarm at 3.30 pm. Took to the trenches. School dismissed at 4.35 pm on 'all clear' signal.

20 September: Mr Snowden and Form III boys were engaged during the morning session in erecting a hut near Stoke Dry for the Home Guard.

4 November: A number of evacuees who had arrived in Rutland during the half-term holiday were taken in from the surrounding villages.

8 November: Number on books before the evacuees arrived: 118. Number on books on 8 November: 150

1941

28 April: Owing to the headmaster's appointment as publicity secretary to the Rutland 'War Weapons Week' committee, considerable alteration to the timetable will be required during the next few weeks.

3 December: Miss Pyecroft was absent during the afternoon session to take a war-time cookery class at Bisbrooke.

1942

13 March: Headmaster absent part of the week acting as publicity secretary to 'Rutland Warship Week'.

20 April: School re-opened after Easter holiday. 19 boys worked on the land during the holidays and put in a total of 970 hours, 559 of which were done during the first week. 5 girls worked on the land and put in a total of 119 hours, 84 of which were done during the first week.

22 October: OC4 clothing coupon certificates were issued today to children eligible.

1943

7 May: The headmaster was absent at intervals during the week owing to his work in connection with Rutland's 'Wings for Victory Week'.

17 December: Mrs Codrington (deputy president for the Rutland Red Cross) and Mrs Ruddle (secretary) visited the school to receive a gift of £9 7s 6d from the scholars for the British Red Cross 'Prisoners of War Fund'. This sum was contributed by the scholars during the last five weeks from their own earnings.

1944

1 May: Much of the headmaster's time this week will be taken up by his duties as publicity secretary to the county for Rutland's 'Salute the Soldier Week' (May 6th-13th)

1945

8, 9 May: The school was closed – National Holidays – to mark the Allied Victory in Europe.³

The Central School: an eye-witness account

Walter Flitney's memories of the Central School around this time provide us with an insider's view of what the school was like:

Uppingham Central School consisted of two large wooden hut shaped buildings which used to house prisoners of war (1914-1918) who were employed quarrying ironstone from the iron workings which stretched from London Road, west to Gipsy Hollow (Newtown End) and eastwards towards Seaton Road. One hut was divided into three classrooms (Forms 1, 2 and 3), and the second was divided into two (Domestic Science – girls, and Woodwork – boys).

Boys had plots of land (two to a plot) where we were shown how to cultivate vegetables. Girls were taught how to cook and produced the meals which in turn were the school meals of the day.

Just as at the National School, 'discipline was strict; the use of the cane, for wrong doing, an everyday occurrence, it seems, looking back.'

Conclusion

The *Log Books* of the National and Central Schools are important sources of information for our study. Together with the first-hand accounts of Alan and Walter, they improve our understanding of the pattern of life for school pupils in Uppingham around the time of the Second World War.

¹ See Chapter 1, p.7

² Snodin, Alan, Recorded interview, Uppingham, 18 August 2005

³ Jennings, Margaret (ed.), *As We Were: Extracts from the Log Books Uppingham Community College*, undated

6: THE PARISH CHURCH IN PEACE AND AT WAR: 1925-46

by Peter Lane

Introduction

The emphasis here is somewhat different from that in previous chapters. Rather than being confined to the war years, this study affords us an even more complete picture of the parish Church by tracing its life and work from 1925 to 1946. Our interest lies in seeing how the Church reacted to the challenges raised by both peace and wartime and, indeed, if it even recognised that there were any.

The Scene

'Stands the Church clock at ten to three?
And is there honey still for tea?'

(*The Old Vicarage, Grantchester*, Rupert Brooke)

During the third quarter of the 19th century, the rector, Chancellor William Wales, dominated the Uppingham scene. He rebuilt and enlarged the parish Church to seat 750 people, quarrelled with Rev Edward Thring, headmaster of Uppingham School, about the town's drains and pushed for the formation of a National School (later the Church of England Day Schools) and a Mutual Improvement Society meeting and reading room located at the corner of Spring Back Way. He also set up a fever hospital and influenced missionary work amongst navvies at Glaston who were building the railway from Corby to Manton. Having regained social ascendancy, after Wales' departure in 1879, the Church enjoyed a generation of gradual and comfortable decline. His less formidable successors seemed not too concerned that the two non-conformist churches in the

town maintained strong support from amongst the town's shopkeepers, artisans, workmen and servants.

World War One

The First World War intruded brutally on this idyll. Uppingham's population of 2590 had been static since 1871, but in 1914, out of 1405 males, 378 joined up, with 42 later being killed and another 59 returning wounded or disabled.¹ Perhaps for the first time at Uppingham some of those women left behind learned they could earn enough to support themselves. With fewer potential husbands, many were now faced with doing so, thus increasing competition for available jobs. Also 449 Old Uppinghamians were lost. Then as now the school was the largest employer. It continued to underpin the prosperity of the town and its shops and to generate work for handymen and ground staff (mostly men) and domestic servants (mostly women). For the men who did return from the war, rigid social lines must have irked, and jobs were not so plentiful or well paid. Leaving aside for the moment the schoolmasters, gentry and some professionals, they must have been the largest number of townspeople ever to travel any significant distance away from Uppingham, let alone abroad. More importantly, both society's and their own horizons and expectations had been lifted – people wanted, and demanded a better life.

The indications are, however, that the Great War of 1914-18 did not break the mould of society here and that life in the Uppingham community continued much as it had done before.



Uppingham Church, south front and churchyard, early 20th century

Peacetime

Introducing the Parochial Church Council

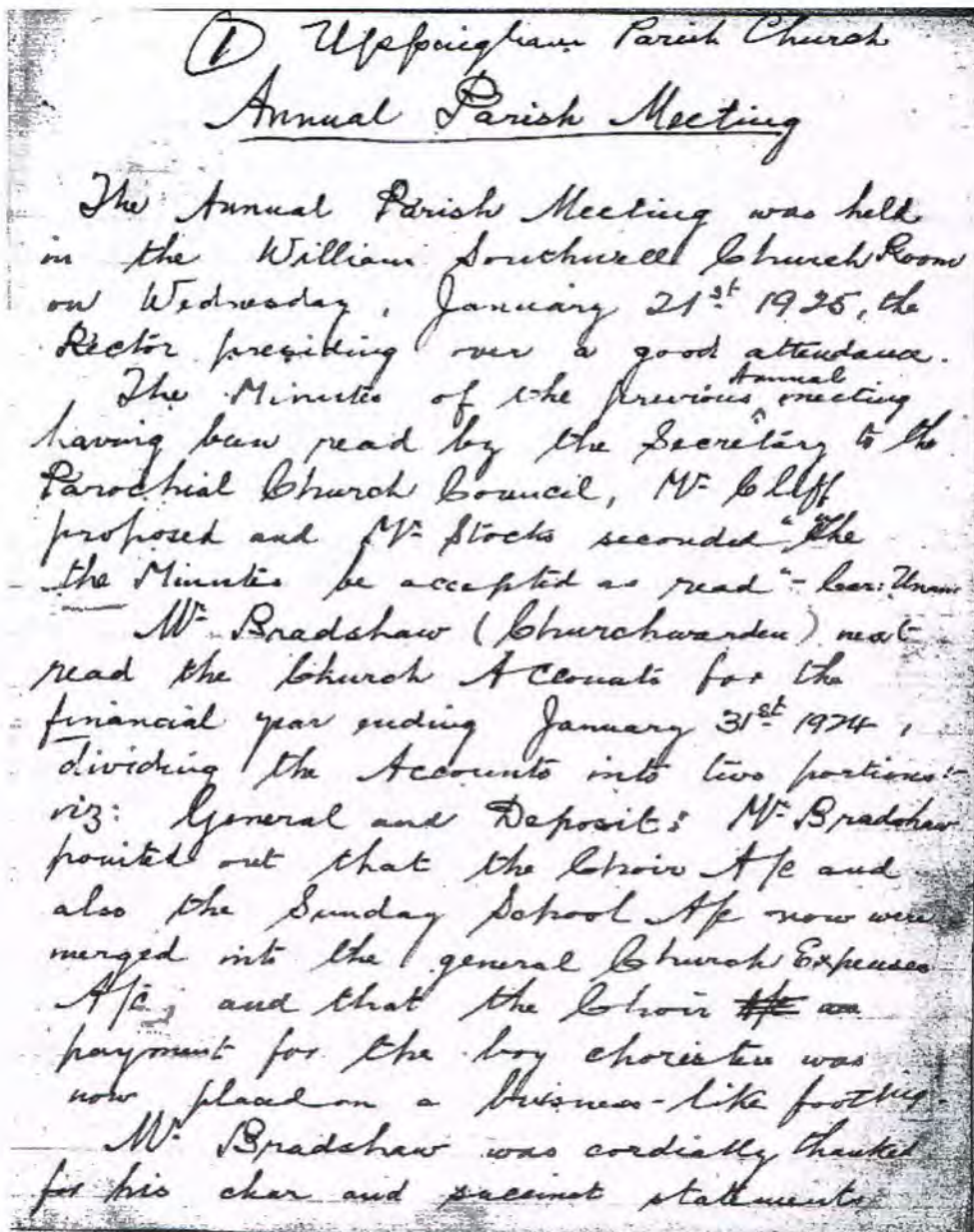
'A Committee of One is the most Effective and least Democratic' (Anon.)

Then, as now, the Church consisted on the one hand of the rector as teacher, leader, and servant of his flock responsible for their spiritual well-being, and on the other the congregation. As members of the Church the congregation shared responsibility with the rector for managing the parish, for maintaining its property and most importantly for raising whatever funds were needed to meet its costs, including a share of diocesan expenses. Previously this had been dealt with by the churchwardens through the church rate settled at the annual vestry and general meetings. However, in order to widen popular involvement but at the same time

ensure efficient management, in 1922 there had been introduced by Synod a system of parochial church councils. This consisted of the rector and churchwardens ex-officio together with a majority of elected members, from whom a treasurer and a secretary were chosen. At Uppingham twenty members were elected annually to represent the congregation and, long before ideas of gender equality became fashionable, by local decision these were ten men and ten women.

Minute details

The deliberations of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are recorded in a series of *Minute Books* kept at the Record Office in Wigston, Leicester² and form the source for this chapter. The earliest, Volume 2, starts with the annual meeting held on 21 January 1925, Volume 1 having gone missing.



① Uppingham Parish Church
Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the William Southwell Church Room on Wednesday, January 21st 1925, the Rector presiding over a good attendance.

The Minutes of the previous ^{Annual} meeting having been read by the Secretary to the Parochial Church Council, Mr. Giff proposed and Mr. Stocks seconded "the the Minutes be accepted as read" - ~~Sec: Giff~~

Mr. Bradshaw (Churchwarden) next read the Church Accounts for the financial year ending January 31st 1924, dividing the Accounts into two portions: viz: General and Deposits. Mr. Bradshaw pointed out that the Choir A/c and also the Sunday School A/c now were merged into the general Church Expenses A/c, and that the Choir ~~A/c~~ was now placed on a business-like footing.

Mr. Bradshaw was cordially thanked for his clear and concise statements.

First page of the 1925 minutes of the annual meeting

Annual meetings were open to all members of the congregation entered on the electoral roll and provided them with an opportunity to hear how the parish church had been managed during the past year, and to elect their representatives on Council for the next twelve months.

Since the business of annual meetings changed little over the next twenty-one years, a summary of what happened in 1925 is given here. Having approved the minutes for 1924, the meeting heard the treasurer's report on the church's accounts and, after some explanation, passed them. This included the 'Free Will Offering Fund' to which some members contributed in addition to their weekly giving - a practice today called covenanting. If figures were mentioned, there are none recorded - in point of fact there was a deficit of £45 1s 6d. Choirboys' pay, amounting to £25, had been in arrears for some time but was now paid up and the system reorganised. Only some years later did it become customary for the secretary to give his report on Council deliberations during the previous year.

There followed the rector's address, first giving thanks for the work of all those who contributed to any of the duties & responsibilities - churchwardens, choir, bell-ringers, teachers, district visitors, those running the Young Men's Guild, sidesmen, etc. - and then mentioning other matters he thought significant.

The third part of the business was the election of representatives to the rural-decanal conference, the sidesmen, members of the church council together with a range of committees and sub-committees for the year. If there were any complaints or queries, they went unrecorded.

The PCC met every month in the church hall. For the remaining ten meetings and at any special or emergency meetings, only the *ex-officio* and elected members were present. The rector was *ex-officio* chairman, but in cases of absence the annual general meeting elected a long-standing and respected member as his deputy, invariably the People's Warden.

The Work of the PCC

At Uppingham, four elements shaped the work of PCCs throughout the 20s, 30s and 40s:

1. Primarily, the PCC represented all sections of the town community. While a majority of members were drawn from the 'town' (including school non-teaching staff such as Mr Bolland), there was always a significant presence from those who taught and ran Uppingham School. S W Mansel-Carey, and the school's chaplain, the Rev R F McNeile, are just two examples; even though they were expected to be seen in the school chapel, they saw themselves and were seen by others as part of the town community.

2. A second significant factor was continuity of membership that can only have encouraged a conservative outlook. Of the ten women elected in 1925 (most likely re-elected), five were still members of Council in 1945 and a sixth, Mrs S Scott, since 1926.

There was a relatively greater turnover amongst the men. In 1945, G W Southwell, the butcher, had been a member since 1930 or earlier and J T Tabram, a farmer, from at least 1935. C J Bradshaw, first elected People's Warden in 1924, continued in that office for sixteen years until he died in February 1940. Most male PCC members had been sidesmen for a number of years previously. Terms of ten and more years for men and women council members were usual. It seemed that, once elected, death was the major and virtually only hazard they had to fear.

3. A third and over-riding influence was a carefulness with money, particularly with other people's money. The period 1928 to 1936 was one of economic depression. Those on the PCC expected to live within their means, spending only when it was unavoidable, and they extended this attitude of caution and thrift when dealing with the Church's money.

Clearly the PCC interpreted its function narrowly, or was encouraged to do so. Members were local shopkeepers, farmers and tradesmen with a sprinkling of professionals, usually Uppingham School teaching staff. All were used to managing on tight budgets and would have seen no good reason to spend money excessively or go beyond their view of the church's immediate and essential needs. Charity was pursued, as was the welfare of the congregation, but anything from the wider world was strictly the business of the government.

The social dimension took two forms. Firstly, the PCC controlled trust funds such as the St Thomas Day and Thorpe Charities with which they assisted poor people. In addition, at the Annual General Meeting, it was decided that the Sunday offertory collections for the year should be allocated to a regular list of agreed good causes so as to address local social needs and the work of the Church internationally. They were:

Good Friday	Ketton Homes
Easter Day	The rector
Whit Sunday	C of E day schools
Harvest Festival (weekdays)	Farmers' Benevolent Institute
Harvest Festival (Sunday)	Local hospitals
1 July, Sunday	Sunday Schools
Armistice Sunday	Earl Haig fund
Feast Day	Fabric fund
Advent Sunday	SPG
Christmas Day	Waifs & strays

The 'Church Rooms' also offered another bridge between the Church and the wider community. In them were held a variety of fund-raising events such as dances, whist drives and socials in support either of church funds or of charitable causes. The rooms also provided a base for various women's and children's groups such as the WI, a girls' club, and a Boy Scouts troop. Other than the local cinema, they were the only place for social events and could be hired for meetings, receptions, plays and pantomimes.

4. A fourth and final theme runs through the minutes - the key role played by the rector. His task was to engage the PCC's support for a range of spiritual

initiatives, and to urge it to do all it could to raise funds for running costs, maintenance and repairs, and to draw attention to local social issues needing support. Council's deliberations overwhelmingly reflect the rector's views and opinions, particularly where matters outside the parish were discussed.

The Richardson Era (1920-1930)

'Did nothing in particular, and did it very well.'
(Gilbert, W S, *Iolanthe*, Savoyard Lyrics)

By 1925 Rev George Leyburn Richardson DD had been rector for five years. He would remain for a further five until he retired in October 1930 on advice from his doctor because of his continued ill health. Besides being rector, he was also an honorary canon of Peterborough Cathedral and a proctor in convocation, i.e. a member of the General Synod, the 'parliament of the Church of England'.



Rev G L Richardson

Reproduced courtesy of the rector and PCC of Uppingham.

During the second half of his time at Uppingham the PCC's work was notable in two ways – the multiplication of committees and the attempt to get to grips with the problem of the inadequate wooden building of the 'Church Rooms' or 'Church Hall'.

Committees Galore

Whenever something required a decision or action, it was the invariable reaction of Council at this time to form a committee to think about it and in due course report back. In consequence there was much activity

but little achievement. In January 1925 there existed four standing sub-committees, responsible for free-will offerings, the 'Church Rooms', division of the diocese and parochial missionary work. In the course of the year, an electoral roll committee was added. Two years later the parochial mission committee was expanded by no less than five sub-committees dealing with literature, drama, music, visiting and finance.

The following year, in October 1928, a further committee to consider the possibility and desirability of building a new church hall came into being, as well as a tea committee, later renamed the 'Social or Entertainments' committee, consisting of all ten lady members of Council. At the annual meeting in January 1929, the number of committees had shrunk to five. By 1930, Richardson's last year, the number had returned to seven - 'Church Rooms', 'Missionary', 'Electoral Roll', 'Permanent Room' (as the new church hall was named), 'Appeals', 'Social' and 'Choir Robes'.

The 'Church Rooms'

The second issue was the 'Church Rooms' or Hall, already mentioned. It was wooden and inadequate, and one gains the strong impression that Richardson disliked it. Standing on the site of its successor, the present Town Hall, shows that it must have been small as there was space for a garden area that could be let out. Moreover, it was described several times in the minutes as a 'Hut'. It is possible that it was originally one of the surplus navvies' huts from Glaston left over after completion of the railway line, or perhaps from the World War I prisoner of war camp on the site of the present Community College.

In August Council gave a general approval to 'a forward movement' to erect a new permanent building with a hall 50 ft x 40 ft, with windows on both sides, a stage, two rooms for use as dressing rooms, committee rooms or classrooms, plus kitchen and offices. A decision was made to launch an appeal in the town for funds. At the January 1930 annual meeting, it was announced that the appeal had raised £81 18s 6d, with a further £98 14s 0d promised. Together with £1,032 6s 9d invested with the Diocesan Board of Finance and the 'Church Rooms' account balance making £1,405 2s 2d in total, there was enough to proceed.

Richardson's Legacy

Any assessment of Richardson's rectorship, bearing in mind his continued ill-health, needs to recognise his unflagging promotion of missionary work in the parish and support for church missions abroad through the SPG, SPCK and others. A 'Missions' sub-committee, raising funds by jumble sales, sales of work and social events, was an active part of the PCC's activities. Meetings of the 'Church Forward' movement took place in November 1926. The following year there was a visit from the Church Army Crusaders, and in November 1928 a mission school with speakers and special services was arranged. A 'Mission Week' took place most years and a Young Men's Guild was encouraged. The needs and support for the church's day schools and

Sunday School were never far from Richardson's mind. For lack of a curate, Captain Brooks of the Church Army undertook special duties amongst young people at Uppingham. Significantly, on the only three occasions when matters outside the parish were discussed (the League of Nations twice and the League of Law & Order once), it was Richardson who introduced them.

The Aldred Era (1930-1949)

'Increase in us true Religion, nourish us in all goodness'
(Collects, 7th Sunday after Trinity, BCP)

The bishop moved swiftly. Richardson resigned with effect from 10 October 1930 and, on 30 November, his replacement was instituted to the benefice of Uppingham with Ayston. Canon Cyril Clowes Aldred had graduated with an MA from Keble College, Oxford, trained at Ely Theological College and, with the exception of serving as army chaplain in the First World War, spent his whole career in the archdeaconry of Northampton. His previous appointment was rector of Abington, Northampton. He became Rural Dean of Rutland in 1938, was appointed a canon of Peterborough Cathedral in 1946 and Canon (Emeritus) in 1949. That same year he resigned and moved to be rector of Thorney with Brinton.



Canon Cyril Clowes Aldred

Reproduced courtesy of the rector and PCC of Uppingham.

In Aldred, the parish Church rediscovered a sense of direction and purpose that comes from vigorous leadership. It cannot have been easy for him or his PCC; he arrived at the height of the Great Depression,

succeeded by the Second World War that was followed by post-war austerity and rebuilding.

His incumbency was notable for revitalising and updating the church's management, for continually emphasising involvement among younger members, for recasting the church hall scheme, for engaging the London architect, Leslie Temple Moore RA, to prepare designs for improvements to the parish church, and for bringing to the PCC's deliberations a wider awareness of outside events. Aldred was keenly interested in the church's history. In close contact with fellow Rutland historians, Canon Irons of North Luffenham and school governor Arthur Hawley, he gathered from parish and manorial registers, Visitations and the Public Record Office, a formidable collection of information about the Church's past that he published in instalments in the monthly parish magazine, as well as giving lectures and lantern slide shows to raise funds for the Church.³

Aldred's Innovations

Aldred sought to introduce three changes in Sunday worship:

- Communion in place of the 11 a.m. Matins once a month;
- replacing Sunday School with a ten o'clock children's service in which they would play an active part, reading the lessons and having their own wardens & sidesmen;
- adopting *Hymns Ancient & Modern*.

It was all rather too much. The PCC agreed the monthly communion service, deferred the other two ideas until the rector had circulated a letter of explanation and steadfastly ignored his plea that the diocesan quota be paid in full this year.

With Richardson's departure, the idea of a new church hall went into abeyance until the new rector's ideas were known. In July 1931 the existing scheme was abandoned and the sub-committee told by the PCC to start again. In April 1932, Mr Dorman's tender of £1,779 10s was accepted by an 11 to 9 majority vote. The official opening of the new 'Church Rooms' by Mrs Owen, wife of the Uppingham School headmaster, took place on 13 October, followed by tea prepared by PCC lady members. Mr Dorman was thanked in person for his excellent and speedy building work, and, to commemorate the donor of funds, it was agreed to carve the name 'William Southwell Church Room' on the oak beam above the entrance.

Aldred's Legacy

The Church benefited considerably from Aldred's generosity. More than a century before, one of the church's two ancient patens had disappeared, only to resurface in 1932 in a London auction room where Aldred purchased it for £50. He was reimbursed in part by private donations and the rest from church funds. Two years later, at his own expense, he acquired the town's medieval pound or pinfold from the owner of

The Vaults to preserve the amenity of the churchyard from Beast Market Hill and, in 1937, also took ownership of the rundown buildings at the church's east end to create space for proposed future extension. These have now been converted into the church hall.

Under Aldred, national events began to be noticed, such as a colliery disaster at Gresford and the death of King George V in February 1936. The previous year's Silver Jubilee saw the Uppingham bell-ringers celebrating by ringing a peal and having themselves photographed with the rector.

Wartime

'Onward Christian Soldiers'
(Hymns Ancient and Modern)

The declaration

Neither before (in July) nor after (in November) is there direct reference in the PCC's minutes to the outbreak of war. Neville Chamberlain's announcement of hostilities made at 11.15 am on Sunday 3 September took place during morning service, so it is assumed it was made known and special prayers offered, as happened at other churches throughout the country. The concentration of the PCC's attention on the organ and 'Church Rooms' finances suggests members really did believe the war would be over by Christmas, with plenty of time in 1940 to consider raising the funds required.

Rector Aldred seems to have been more alive to the situation. At the end of the November Council meeting he announced that he had purchased ARP blackout material to cover windows in the upstairs room of the church hall. He added that the parish council had handed over to the church the eight old leather fire buckets which he had hung in the north porch as a fire precaution.

Sixty-six years after the event, the Church's reaction to the outbreak of hostilities - seen through the record of its PCC meetings - seems curiously relaxed. It is almost as if members did not believe it was happening or that it affected them directly. Admittedly, half were women and, of the men, a majority were either above conscription age or in reserved occupations such as farming. Only at the annual meeting in February did the rector make direct reference to the difficulties and trying times of the last few months, and yet the fall of France and evacuation of Dunkirk passed without comment.

In September, the war came closer when the rector reported that redecoration of the 'Church Rooms' had not been carried out because the building had been commandeered at short notice by the government for 'military purposes'. However, no soldier was allowed to move in without the prior certification from the sanitary inspector, who eventually reported the building to be in excellent condition.

We must assume that the threat of imminent invasion, the start of its precursor the Battle of Britain, and the daily presence of soldiers on the streets at last brought the town community to recognise the war was present,

close and very real. On the night of 15 November, Coventry was blitzed and, as the German bombers passed overhead, to and from their target, the glow from the burning city was visible in the night sky at Uppingham.

The War Effort in the Parish

There were unexpected and disturbing consequences of the war that had to be faced. In October, Aldred mentioned the considerable number of evacuees now living in the town, and asked members to invite any they met to join in the worship of the Church.

The most serious ramification, though, was that the churchyard wall needed to be repaired at the point where a large stone had been dislodged due to vibrations from heavy military traffic now passing up and down the hill. Mr Dolby was retained to pull down and rebuild a portion of the wall to a lower height but not to replace the railings. Worryingly, no cost estimate was possible and the ministry refused any grant, leaving the council to carry the full cost. Perhaps action was too little or too late, because later in the year a further part of the wall fell down. When it arrived in July 1942, the bill amounted to £59 1s 4d, and was debited to the 'Church Rooms' account. Yet this was not the end of the matter, for at the next month's annual meeting, it was reported that the lower churchyard wall was in a bad state and needed re-pointing. The problem outlasted the war.

If this was not enough vexation, in November 1941 the Rural District Council (RDC) wrote about [salvaging] iron railings in both upper and lower churchyards and around tombs. It required discussion and several votes before the PCC decided to keep the railings on the walls around the lower churchyard and to remove those at the upper churchyard. All that was to remain of those at the upper churchyard was a small strip near the churchyard steps. Uppingham School had paid for this in the 1920s as a safety measure to discourage its pupils, late for class, from rushing under the wheels of passing vehicles. After another vote, it was agreed that the railings should be sold. Nothing could be done about those surrounding tombs because only a deceased's relatives could give permission for their removal. The RDC was so informed and further advised that Council's decision required the archdeacon's sanction. The RDC had the last word. At the Vestry meeting in March 1943 it was reported the railings around both upper and lower churchyards would be removed shortly by order of the Ministry of Works & Buildings with payment of 25s per ton of metal. In June, removal, excepting those railings around the upper churchyard wall and two small gates adjoining the north porch and vestry, was scheduled. Finally, having taken all but a month short of two years, in October 1943 the rails were removed and £5 11s 2d received in payment. For most of 1943 and 1944, wartime problems recede from the PCC's attention, always assuming its minutes report a comprehensive and accurate picture of what they discussed. At the meeting of 5 June 1944, the rector



A casualty: these railings no longer exist

Iron railings in the churchyard

reported agreement between religious bodies to hold a short united service in Market Place on the day of the invasion of Europe. Yet declarations of peace in both Europe and the Far East passed unrecorded.

Since it was 'business', the minutes record the return of its 'Church Rooms' from the military on 1 January 1945.



The former 'Church Rooms', now the Town Hall.

In May, the PCC, believing the end of war was near, agreed to sell the two ladders that had been purchased for extra fire protection. The asbestos strips, used to cover the church windows in case of bomb blast, were also to be sold. Fortunately for posterity, the leather fire buckets were ignored and remained hanging in the north porch until, a generation later, Canon John Smith sent them to the county museum for safekeeping.

Clearly members of the PCC felt the war was truly behind them, and they could now address the numerous problems of peace beset by austerity and reconstruction.



A survivor: these railings still exist

One of the vestry's old leather fire buckets, now kept at the Rutland County Museum



Wider Parish Concerns

'Property has its duties as well as its rights.'
(Thomas Drummond, 1838)

The state of war had in no way lessened the PCC's day to day responsibilities for the church, its finances and congregation; instead it made carrying out its ordinary duties all the more difficult. On the one hand, shortages of workmen, supplies and materials hindered maintenance and upkeep. On the other an influx of troops on Saturday nights would have caused concern, indeed alarm, for the spiritual and moral welfare of parishioners - and a sense of excitement amongst younger congregation members.

Support at home and abroad

Throughout the war years, the Church continued its support of foreign missions, allocating the Advent Sunday offertory to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and an additional sum, generally £10 annually, to each of the SPG, SPCK, the Foreign & Bible Society and the Church Missionary Society. Additional collections for war charities were taken regularly, and at its meeting in October 1944 the PCC donated £5 5s from the collection on the archbishop's

National Day of Prayer to support religious work amongst the forces.

In the town, the Church's spiritual and moral welfare mission continued, but at a lower key, as food rationing and requisitioning of the church hall limited scope for meetings and social gatherings amongst younger people. At the end of 1940 the children's New Year's Eve party had to be cancelled at short notice due to unspecified illness in the town, which applied to the dance scheduled later in the evening. Unsportingly perhaps, but not unsurprisingly, the band demanded and obtained its fee. The next New Year's Eve went much better, when £5 16s 3d was raised for the children's party. The party then continued to take place each year throughout the war.

The Church was able to give support to the boys of Kingswood School. In November 1941 Aldred announced that, after consulting with the churchwardens and having obtained the authority of the bishop, he had allowed the school to use the church for service from 5 pm to 5.45 pm on Sunday evenings during the blackout. The following May he received a letter from Mr Sackett, Kingswood's headmaster, with a £4 donation in appreciation of the Church's help. Relations remained cordial. When, in 1946, Kingswood could at last return to Bath, a united farewell service was held in the parish church on 3 March, and on 29 March the PCC entertained the staff to an informal social in the 'Church Rooms' to say goodbye.

Reprint from **PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN LEAFLET**

(October, 1940):

MONUMENTS IN CHURCHYARDS.

ALL of us have a special interest in our country Churchyards. They are a characteristic feature of our English landscape. They are rich with the most sacred associations. They become more and more precious in our eyes, as threats of invasion come nearer and bombs are dropped even upon the countryside. So, because we prize them, we must take steps to preserve them. Any neglect or desecration of them would be unthinkable; any erection that is tasteless, unsuitable, or ugly is an offence against their sanctity.

"Our Diocese has been in this, as in so many other ways, supremely fortunate. Its Churchyards are well cared for and sometimes beautifully planted. The memorials which fill them are mostly in keeping with the quiet character of the place, and suit the Churches, which are built out of good stone so abundant in Northamptonshire and Rutland. Churchyards and Churches make, and always ought to make, one harmonious whole. They are, and always should be, restful and a delight to the eye."

"But latterly the practice has grown up of bringing into the Churchyards memorials and other ornaments of Italian marble which do not harmonize with their surroundings. *Crosses, tombstones, curbs, bowls, vases, chippings made of this material*, introduce a completely alien element into an English scene. They cannot be made to blend with our landscape and our Churchyards. I remember more than one place where the introduction of this foreign stuff has disturbed the peace of the surroundings, and spoilt what should have been a restful garden of the Lord. The evil is spreading, and it must be checked. I enjoin the clergy, *whose consent is always necessary to the erection of a tombstone or monument*, to refuse to allow such memorials to be erected in the Churchyards which are under their control."

In taking this action, *to which I am by law entitled*, I am fortified by very high authority. This is no case of Bishop and clergy being the slaves of a fad or a fashion. We all share the same view, but it is also the view of our own Advisory Committee, and of the Central Council of Diocesan Advisory Committees for the Care of Churches, who are greatly disturbed by the introduction of these monuments into our Churchyards, regard them as wholly unfitting, and ask that they may be discontinued. Such an opinion, from such sources, so learned, artistic, and experienced, is too strong to disregard.

It is not for me to speak of memorials which may be suited to a public cemetery: what does not fit one place may fit another. I am concerned only to defend our own Churchyards from something which does not suit them. Native stone, native wood, native craftsmanship—things which are neither distracting to the eye nor destructive of the quiet dignity of our Churchyards—these are the things which we desire to retain. I want the clergy to know that I am behind them in their efforts to retain them, and to prevent these hallowed places from being marred by the intrusion of objects which are really out of keeping with them. We have a great heritage: we must preserve it.

CLAUDE PETRIBURG.

Peterborough diocesan leaflet: *Monuments in Churchyards*, October 1940

Peace: the Challenge of Renewal

'Courage he said, and pointed'
(*The Lotus Eaters*, Alfred Lord Tennyson)

By 1945, peace was seen to be only a matter of time. At February's annual meeting, the rector thanked all who had worked for the church during the past years when the absence of men away doing military service had compounded the difficult task of carrying on everyday work. He then reviewed the challenges that peace would bring:

There will be a tremendous amount of work to be done in the not perhaps, too distant future. The 'Church Rooms', for instance, may serve the town even more fully than in previous years, and many possibilities for expansion are likely to materialise.⁴

Developments at the 'Church Rooms'

The first of the challenges, the 'Church Rooms', was returned by the military at the start of 1945 with £58 dilapidations. The 1940 committee, apparently still PCC members, was put in charge pending fresh elections, its initial tasks being to appoint a new caretaker, Mr Tilley, to set a new scale of charges, and to redecorate the upstairs room.

Following the custom established during the war, dances, both church social events and those organised by others hiring the premises, were now a regular

Saturday night event. The Rural District Council held meetings there at £20 a year. The county council installed lockable bookcases and hired a committee room for the library two afternoons a week, and both boys' and girls' clubs met there one evening a week. Generally, though, the efforts of the PCC's 'Social and Entertainments' committee were seriously hampered by continuing food rationing and the climate of austerity that lasted long after the end of hostilities. Perhaps the greatest benefit, at least to Mrs Aldred, was that from January, PCC meetings were held in the church hall and no longer in her sitting room!

The second challenge was the church and its necessary improvements. Since Wales' rebuilding of 1861, no major developments had been attempted other than the creation of a north chapel when the organ was moved to the south aisle, the repositioning of the lectern and Jeremy Taylor's pulpit, and the replacement of gas lighting with electricity. In 1936 the church architect, Leslie Temple Moore, had prepared an ambitious programme of improvements⁵ to the east end of the church, but it was never started due to the outbreak of hostilities. In 1945 he was asked to make proposals for the Lady Chapel and other parts of the interior. A legacy of £100 left by Mrs A W Clarke towards costs of alterations to the Lady Chapel proved fortuitous. The contractors, Bowmans, started work on 20 May and completed it on 15 June. The following day, the chapel was dedicated.

SE 4998/3		44
The Annual General Meeting was held in the Church Room on Tuesday, February 13th 1945 at 7.30 p.m. The Rector presided.		
APPOLOGIES.	Apologies were rec'd from Mr Scott, Messrs Hill & Stevens	
NOTICE OF MEETING.	The Sec. read the notice concerning the Meeting.	
MINUTES.	The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, confirmed & signed by the Chairman.	
RECTOR'S SPEECH.	The Rector, expressing his gratitude to the Ch. Council, the choir, the Sunday School teachers, and all Church workers for their loyalty & regular service during the past year, urged everyone to continue this excellent work for at least another year. As so many people were away on military duties which greatly added to the difficult task of carrying on everyday work, & there will be a tremendous amount of work to be done in the not perhaps, too distant future. The Church Room, for instance, may perhaps serve the town even more fully than in previous years, & many possibilities for expansion are likely to materialise.	
	The Rector went on to say that Mr Leslie Moore had paid his promised visit to Uppingham Church & hopes to get out a scheme for improving the Lady Chapel and Resistor th there would also be much bigger & equally important work to consider outside the Church itself, that is, the extension & reconditioning of the Day	

Canon Aldred's survey of peacetime challenges, PCC annual meeting 1945
Reproduced courtesy of the rector and PCC of Uppingham.

**UPPINGHAM CHURCH BELLRINGERS
MAY 12TH 1937**



W. J. W. Stokes, Uppingham.

G.W. STAPLES. J.C. STAPLES.

J.E. GOODWIN. R.T. BERRIDGE. H. CLARK.

A.J. CURTIS. H. BERRIDGE. H. THORPE. G.W. WRIGHT.

Uppingham Bellringers

Reproduced courtesy of the rector and PCC of Uppingham.

Reflections

'Man is by his constitution a religious animal'
'Atheism is against not only our reason, but our instincts.'
(*Reflections on the Revolution in France*, Edmund Burke)
and
'Slovenliness is no part of religion'
(*Sermon 88*, Charles Wesley)

As already noted, the task of Council was, and still is, to represent the views of parishioners to the incumbent, to support him in his spiritual duties both morally and financially, and to raise the money it takes to maintain and repair the fabric of the church. Neither the PCC, nor the Church as an institution, was immune to the financial pressures of the time, yet at least once a month in every year during the period discussed, a Sunday offertory was set aside for a special cause, whether for waifs and strays at Christmastime, ex-servicemen, overseas and local missionary work, Ketton Homes, local hospitals, the Farmers' Benevolent Institute or others. Even during the great depression, when the Church's finances were running at a loss, these payments continued equivalent to between ten and twenty per cent of the general account.

Only the public aspect of an incumbent's spiritual duties amongst his parishioners would be the PCC's concern. Both Richardson and Aldred organised 'Mission Weeks', holding meetings and inviting outside speakers. Aldred in particular grasped that, by supporting youth clubs, organising dances for teenagers and parties for children, younger members of the congregation would be diverted from getting into trouble.

The 1920s was a period that started with the challenge of dismantling a war economy and reintegrating to a civilian way of life those soldiers whose efforts were undone in the 1930s by the depression and massive unemployment that followed. The missing first volume of the minutes prevents us from discovering what part the church congregation played in whatever action the town may have taken after the First World War to adjust to peace. The fallen were honoured by the War Memorial, built by public subscription at the corner of the churchyard, and by the carved wooden plaque hanging at the left side of the tower arch, paid for from church funds. There has never been a year since their Minutes began that the PCC has not set aside the Sunday offertory nearest 11 November in aid of the Earl Haig Fund; this tradition continues to the present day.

The Making of the PCC

If the PCC adopted a narrow and strict interpretation of its function, it was because this was the attitude of the time. Its members were men and women who expressed their views and carried out their Christian duties as they and their contemporaries saw them. Whatever the upheaval to Uppingham's social fabric resulting from the First World War, it was as nothing compared to the effects of the Second. Although greater numbers left Uppingham to fight in the First World War, this did not have the same effect on the community as in the Second World War, which affected everyone, both civilians and

forces. It is suggested therefore, that it was the second of these two wars that broke the mould of Uppingham's relaxed way of life.

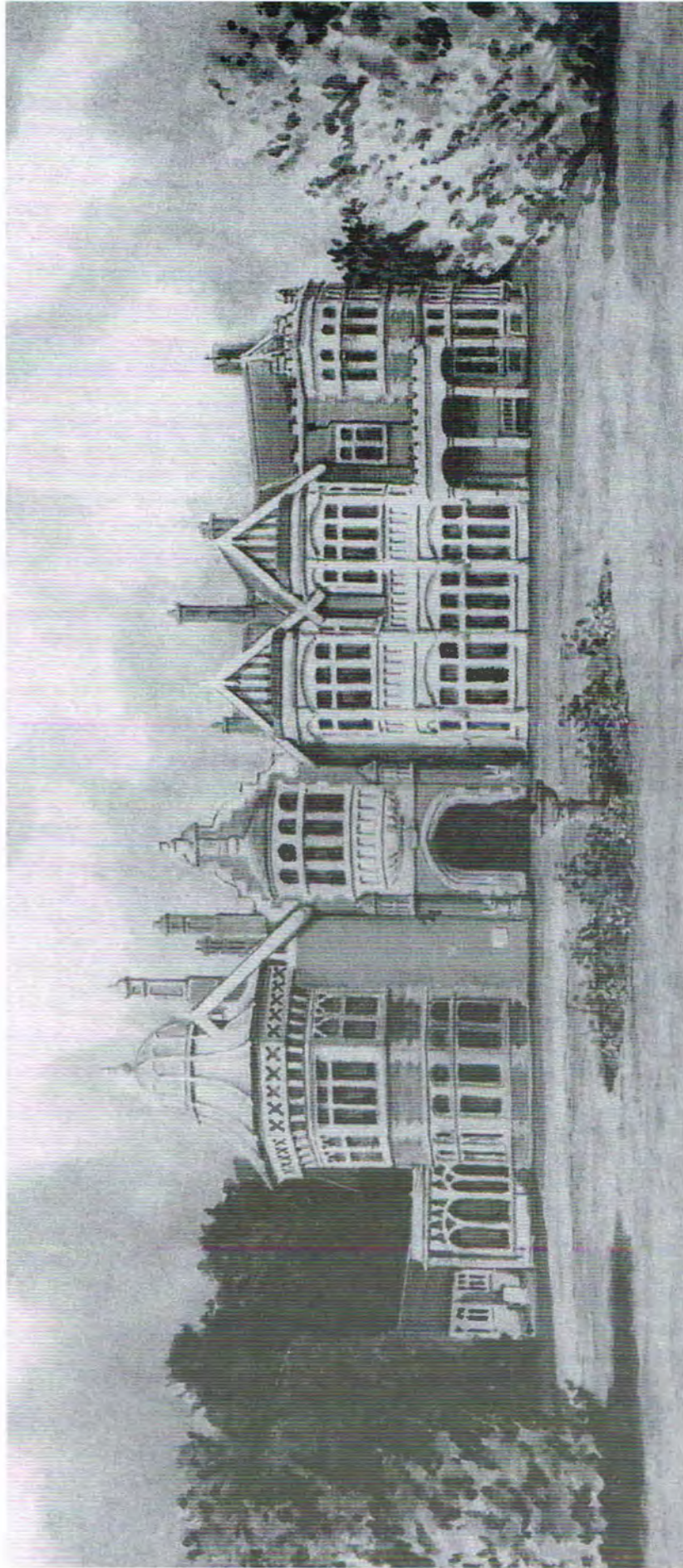
Although wartime made the PCC's work more difficult, these themes continued throughout the period of hostilities and beyond. Indeed the problem with the fabric and how to finance building works were not resolved until the next century by the present rector, Canon Evans.

Conclusion

Looking closely at the changing face of the parish church and PCC from the twenties until the end of the war has enabled us to contrast its attitudes and approaches in peacetime with those in wartime. The war years saw a distinct loosening in the town community's attitudes to social responsibility and standards of correctness, and these are reflected in the PCC's increasing willingness to engage in social and welfare responsibilities.

However, the fact that comes across most clearly from reviewing the PCC's minutes over these twenty-one years is the absolutely crucial part played by the rector. His personality and interests, his energy, his drive and his health were the vital ingredients that set apart an effective council from an undistinguished one.

-
- ¹ Phillips, G, *Rutland in the Great War*, J Padfield & Co, Manchester, 1920; *Victoria County History of Rutland*, I, p.231
 - ² Leicestershire Record Office, DE 4998/1-2
 - ³ Aldred, *Notes on the History of Uppingham*, ULHSG 2003 (reprint), p.31
 - ⁴ PCC Meeting, 13 February 1945
 - ⁵ Moore, Leslie T, *Proposed Church Extension – Report & Sketches*, June 1936, Leicestershire Record Office, DE 4796/85-88



Bletchley Park

7: MEMORIES OF BLETCHLEY PARK 1941-5

by Ione Roseveare

Introduction

This final chapter, though not directly related to Uppingham, is added at the end of our publication as it provides a unique insight into an aspect of the war that was kept secret from the world until the mid 1970s. Few towns of this small size could boast two Bletchley Park code-breakers as residents, yet Uppingham's Ione Roseveare and her late husband, Bob, both played a crucial part in the work of that groundbreaking organisation. It is a privilege to be able to present below Ione's personal memories of her time there.

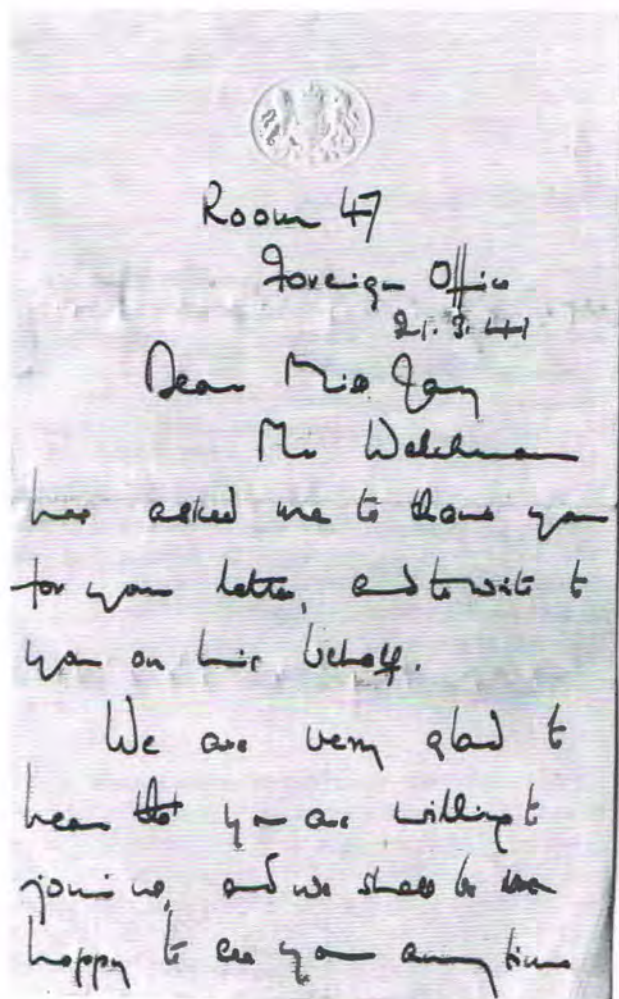
Background

In 1939, working for my LRAM, I had stayed on at St Brandon's school, Bristol, as a music student. When war started, the school was evacuated to the Bishop's Palace at Wells, and it was there, in 1941, that I was interviewed by Gordon Welchman, Head of Hut 6 at Bletchley Park. He could tell me nothing of the work

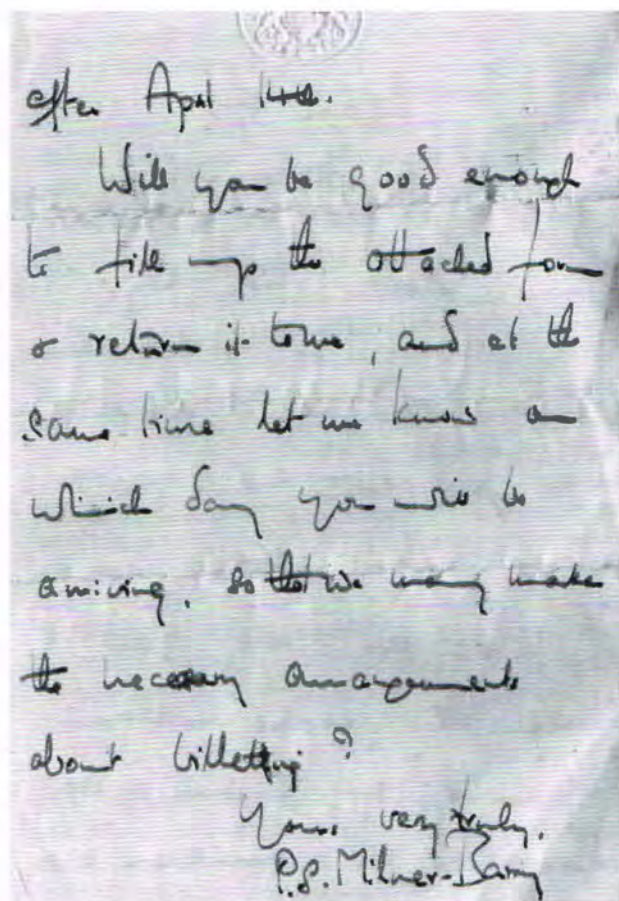
there, but that it was under the Foreign Office and was called Government Communications. Gordon was trying to recruit before Call-up for women started. Music having a low priority in wartime, I accepted and, three days after taking my exam in April, I was on Bletchley station being met by Stuart Milner-Barry, Second-in-Charge in Hut 6, later to succeed Gordon as its head. He took me to my billet, situated in Albert Street, within walking distance of the Park. The next day I was escorted by Stuart past the guard at the gate, taken to the main office where I was enrolled, made to sign the Secrets Act, given a pass, and told my pay would be £101 a year, of which 17 shillings would be deducted weekly for my billet.

Registration

Our next port of call was Hut 6, followed by the Registration room where all messages i.e. traffic were sorted. These were the German signals in code sent by air and intercepted by receiving stations such as



Room 47
Foreign Office
21.3.44
Dear Miss Jay
Mr Welchman
has asked me to thank you
for your letter, and to write to
you on his behalf.
We are very glad to
hear that you are willing to
join us, and we shall be very
happy to see you any time



after April 14th.
Will you be good enough
to file up the attached form
& return it to me, and at the
same time let me know on
which day you will be
arriving. So that we may make
the necessary arrangements
about billeting?
Yours very truly,
P.S. Milner-Barry

Letter from Stuart Milner Barry, Second-in-Charge Hut 6, confirming arrangements for Ione's arrival at Bletchley Park (Ione's surname was Jay before she married)

Chicksands. These were then sorted into the different types of traffic by colours for Army, Air Force, Weather, etc. by looking at the preamble. Later, when the colours had been exhausted, bird names were used for the different theatres of war from Norway to North Africa, France to Russia. There were five or six of us on a shift, one doing the initial sorting, and the rest entering each message by time of origin and letters of the preamble. The sheets were large, about 6 A4s, and were called 'Blists' after Roger Bannister of the Watch who designed them. Codes were broken by members of the Watch. We sat at architects' high tables on stools, and worked three shifts, namely Day 9-4, Evening 4-12, and Night 12-9. Some people in administration worked a permanent day shift from 9-6. We worked on two-week shifts usually, 14 days or nights, and then two days' leave. If one came off nights at 9 am, and returned at 4 pm to the evening shift, one nearly had 4 days. Sheila Dunlop, Head of the Registration Room, was always willing to accommodate special requests, and I was able to attend three of my siblings' weddings and my own twenty-first in 1941. I think we had one week's leave a year. Later on, I worked under John Manisty, Head of the Watch, who was a railway enthusiast, and he delighted in working out routes to seemingly impossible destinations which he might be able to reach in just a short leave.

Living conditions

Meals were served in the main building at first but, later, as numbers increased, a cafeteria was built just outside the main gates. One was entitled to one meal a day on evening shift, and supper and breakfast on nightshifts. Two sessions were available, as the work never ceased. After sixty years I can still taste the rather bland beetroot sandwiches at 3 am!

If one lived outside Bletchley, transport was provided in the form of station wagons, driven by FANYs. One had collecting points which might be on a lonely corner on the main road nearest to your village. When I was billeted at Mursley village, I was usually the only passenger. Drivers did not wait, and once a friend came out on his tandem to fetch me. I was in 4 billets altogether, starting with Bletchley, where my billetee went to work in the Post Office, then Newport Pagnell, Mursley, and finally in a flat I shared with a girl from Hut 8. At Mursley, Mrs Copperwheat looked after me and three Barnardo boys. Her husband had been a train driver and was killed when two trains met head-on in Bletchley station before the war. She was a dear, but after two years she took in an Army sergeant and life became a bit crowded, so I moved to a flat in Fenny Stratford.

There was a small sick bay at Bletchley, and I was taken there when I was knocked off my bike by a WAAF who was also on a bike. She was on the wrong side of the road, my head hit the concrete curb, and I found myself in the sick bay, being stitched up by an Army doctor. All I can remember is the Sister saying 'Isn't that needle a bit thick, sir?' After 2 or 3 days I went on leave, my head in a big bandage instead of a plaster, so that

hopefully I would be given a seat on the crowded train, and I was!

Division of labour

In 1943 (I think!) a school was started to initiate all newcomers to the Watch, and another girl and I ran it for about 6 months. The new people learnt the functions of each room, and how messages were blisted. This meant I no longer worked shifts and never did so again. Among my 'pupils' was Asa Briggs, later to become Vice-Chancellor of Sussex University and author of the history of the BBC. Also at this time, the first Americans arrived in Hut 6, led by Bill Bundy. He was later to become an Assistant Secretary of State under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. Gradually, the flow of newcomers ceased, and so did the school, meaning I was given another job by John Manisty. Next door to the Watch was the Qwatch. This means 'rubbish' in German but was the Quiet Watch where non-current traffic, previously unbroken, was looked at again. Two of us, formerly in the registration room, were given work looking for messages of similar length and time of origin in different keys, which might lead to the breaking of one key from another. These were called 'kisses'. The job was rather tedious, but it meant we worked on the day shift, and were in the Qwatch in the same room as John Manisty, Derek Taunt, Arthur Reed, and adjacent to the Watch. Dennis Babbage and others, including my future husband Bob Roseveare, were in another Qwatch room, doing similar work.

The social side

There were several clubs started, such as music, drama and Scottish dancing, and Bob and I learnt the latter in our lunch hour. The drama group included some professionals such as Hermione Gingold and Dorothy Hyson and they put on clever revues. Dances took place, and I remember dancing with Dennis Oswald, a master at Uppingham School before and after the War. At this same time, my sister Isobel Jay was at Uppingham running a PNEU school for the young children of seven members of staff, and was billeted with Dennis's wife, Dorothy. Incidentally this little school grew over the years, was no longer connected with Uppingham School or the PNEU, and is now called Windmill House School in Stockerston Road. There is a seat round the tree in the playground and on it a plaque saying that it had been given by my sister, the first headmistress.

At Bletchley, we were forces and civilians mixed, though I do not remember any girls in Hut 6 being in the Services. Christian names were used throughout in our Hut, and no military titles. We never talked outside our Hut about the work and one never asked others about theirs. By 1945 we were over 10,000 staff, I believe, but the secret held. I saw Churchill when he came, but had to leave before he finished speaking as I had transport to catch and they did not wait, even for the Prime Minister. By this time my salary was £340 a

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

The following message has been received from the Director General:-

"On this ever memorable day, I desire that all who are doing duty in this Organisation should be made aware of my unbounded admiration in the way in which they have carried out their allotted tasks.

Such have been the difficulties, such has been the endeavour, and such have been the constant triumphs that one senses that words of gratitude from one individual are perhaps out of place. The personal knowledge of the contribution made towards winning the war is surely the real measure of the thanks which so rightly belong to one and all in a great and inspired organization which I have the privilege to direct. This is your finest hour."

(signed) S.C.M.

8th, May 1945.

Approved:
Hank Kialka

Message from Sir Stuart Menzies, Director General of Bletchley Park

year, the same as that which I received in my first teaching post, after I had been to the Royal Academy of Music for a year, in 1946.

In hindsight

Bletchley Park allowed us to make friends for life, several of whom attended our wedding in 1947, including Derek Taunt, who was Bob's best man. A number also made it to our Golden Wedding Anniversary 50 years later. It was a privilege to have worked at Bletchley, as I was neither a linguist nor a mathematician, but it just happened that Gordon Welchman's father was Chairman of our school governors, and also that Gordon was at Marlborough College and so recruited Maths scholars from there, including Bob. When Channel 4 made the documentary 'Station X', several of our friends took part, including Bill Bundy, who said

It was a terrific human experience, and I've never matched it since. I've had other jobs with superb people, important and worthwhile pursuits but certainly for me personally this was the high point. Nothing gave the total personal satisfaction that Hut 6 did because this was a totally dedicated group, working together in absolutely remarkable team work.

This excerpt from the programme is quoted in Smith, Michael, *Station X: The Codebreakers of Bletchley Park*, Channel 4 Books, 198, pp.177-87

As for me, I met Bob and we were married after he had taken his degree at Cambridge. Gordon Welchman, Director of Personnel at the John Lewis Partnership after the war, recruited him once again, to work there. To bring the story full circle, after teaching in South Africa, and at Epsom College, we found ourselves in 1970 at Uppingham School, which I had first visited in 1941. We later retired there to Stockerston Rd, where my sister had lived for a short time, 60 years ago.

Ione Roseveare outside Hut 6, Bletchley Park.
 Photograph taken during Uppingham Local History Study
 Group visit in October 2003.



Form 2966

UNITED STATES of AMERICA
CUSTOMS DECLARATION

To be filled out at the
 DESPATCHING EXCHANGE
 Office

QUAN- TITY	DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS	VALUE	Parcel No. No.
1	Wedding Dress - Reason (note slip appended)	\$ 43 90	

Parcel No. No. _____
 Entry No. _____
 (Date Stamp of Mailing Office)

CAMBRIDGE MASS
 APR 5 1947
 U.S. POST

DESCRIPTION OF PARCEL
 (State whether Box, Package, Bag, etc.) _____

Gross Weight (Parcel) 5 lbs. oz. Insured No. _____
 Net Weight (Contents) _____ lbs. oz. Amount of Insurance _____

Send to
 consignee,
 employer.

IF UNDELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED:
 Au cas de non-délivrance, le colis sera dirigé:

(A) Deliver to: Miss NANCY COOPER
 Livré à M.
 34 Newcan Place, NW 1 - London

(B) Abandon.
 Abandonné.

(C) Return to sender. Return charges
 Remis au l'expéditeur, qui l'engage à payer
 guaranteed.
 les frais de retour.

W. P. Bundy
 (Signature of sender—Signature de l'expéditeur)
 133 Reason St
 (Address of sender—Adresse de l'expéditeur)
 Reason.

Miss IONE JAY
 (Name of addressee—Nom du destinataire)

—
 (Street and number—Rue et numéro)

DERDALE, HEREF
 (City, Province, State, etc.—Ville, Pr
 Département, etc.)

ENGLAND
 (Country—Pays)

Customs Declaration USA; reverse signed by William P Bundy, who sent Ione the wedding dress he had bought for her in America as a present

CONCLUSION

Although Uppingham was never the scene of fighting or bombing, it is clear from our research and from the memories of our informants that the town nevertheless keenly felt the effects of the Second World War. Particularly in education, in family activity and in day-to-day business, the war took a hold on the lives of Uppingham residents. Rising to the challenges they faced, they played an active part in the war effort, welcomed strangers into their homes and bore their troubles with equanimity. It is hoped that our study of selected aspects of life in Uppingham between 1939 and 1945 has shed new light on how the town and its people were affected by the Second World War and all its implications.

Sources

Verbal communication

Holmes, Ted, 8, 11, 18 July 2003
Hunt, Jean, May 2005
Kerfoot, Sheila, 11 December 2003
Liquorish, Paul, 29 July 2003
Maud, Joan, 18 December 2003
McKinnell, Ian, 15 August 2005
Parachute Regiment, Members of 9th, 1 May 2004
Preston, Edmund, 15 August 2005
Snodin, Alan, 18 August 2005
Thomas, Daphne, 14 July 2004
Tilley, Nina, 18 April 2005
Wright, Maurice, 11, 18 July 2003

Written communications and manuscripts

Dorman, Tom, *The Return*, 1945
Flitney, Walter, *Notes*, October 2004
Watson, Keith, *Memories of Uppingham School and Town 1947*, 2004
Minute Book of Quarterly meetings of the Melton Mowbray Circuit 1918-44
Minute Book of the Trustees of Uppingham Methodist Church 1935-1950
Minutes of Uppingham Rural District Council
Record Office of Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland, DE 4796/85-88, Moore, Leslie T, *Proposed Church Extension – Report & Sketches*, June 1936
Record Office of Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland, DE 4998/1-2, *Uppingham Parish Church Minute Books*
Record Office of Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland, *Interim Report on the reception of evacuated children and others in Rutland*
Record Office of Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland, *Minutes of the Elementary Education Sub-committee*, Rutland County Council, 27 June 1939

Printed primary sources

Aldred's Notes on the History of Uppingham, ULHSG, 2003 (revised)
Osley, Anthony, *Persuading the People: Government Policy in the Second World War*, HMSO, 1995
Thorpe, Andrew, in Noakes, J (ed.), *The Civilian at War: The Home Front in Europe, Japan, and the USA in World War II*, Exeter University Press, 1992

Books

Best, G M, *Continuity and Change: A History of Kingswood School 1748-1998*, 1998
Birchall, Doris, *Miss Buss' Second School*, Ipswich, 1971
Ellis, Frank, *Holla if You're Far*, Spiegl Press, Stamford, 1987
Hornsey, Brian, *Ninety Years of Cinema in Rutland and Melton Mowbray*, Stamford, 1994
Jennings, Margaret (ed.), *As We Were: Extracts from the Log Books Uppingham Community College*, undated

Legrand, Jacques, *Chronicles of the Second World War*, Longman, 1990
Mackay, Robert, *Half the Battle*, Manchester University Press, Manchester, 2002
Macksey, Kenneth, *Invasion*, Wren's Park, 1980
Matthews, Bryan, *By God's Grace...*, Maidstone, 1984
Phillips, G, *Rutland in the Great War*, J Padfield & Co, Manchester, 1920
Pickering, Bill and Jill, (eds.) *Uppingham School Roll 1922-1996*, 11th edition, Spiegl Press, Stamford, 1997
Rennison, John, *Wings Over Rutland*, Spiegl Press, Stamford, 1980
Smith, Michael, *Station X: The Code-breakers of Bletchley Park*, Channel 4 Books, 1998
Spelman, Judith, *Rutland Voices*, Tempus Oral History Series, Tempus, Stroud, 2000
Stepler, Glenn A, *Britons to Arms*, Alan Sutton, Stroud, 1992
Sweetman, John, *The Dam Busters' Raid*, Arms & Armour Press, 1990
Taylor, Eric, *Showbiz Goes to War*, Robert Hale, 1992
Traylen, Tony, *The Services of Rutland: Police, Firemen, Hospitals, Ambulances*, Rutland Local History Group, II, Spiegl Press, Stamford, 1978
Tyrer, Nicola, *They Fought in the Fields*, Sinclair Stevenson, 1996
Wallis, Jill, *A Welcome in the Hillside?*, Avid Publications, Bebington, Wirral, 2000

Magazines

Camden Old Girls' Association Magazine, September 1999
Magnet Magazine, Network, The Methodist Church, 20, 1992
Uppingham Remembered 1939-1946, Kingswood Association, Kingswood School, Bath, 1997
Uppingham School Magazine, July and November 1945

Articles

Macksey, Kenneth, 'Beating the Invader', *Invasion*, Wren's Park, 1980
Pipe, H M, 'Memoir of Olive Wright (incorporating the Memorial Service and Memorial Address)', *Log Books of Uppingham National School*

IMPORTANT WAR DATES

1939

- SEP 1. Germany invaded Poland
- SEP 3. Great Britain and France declared war on Germany; the B.E.F. began to leave for France
- DEC 13. Battle of the River Plate

1940

- APR 9. Germany invaded Denmark and Norway
- MAY 10. Germany invaded the Low Countries
- JUNE 3. Evacuation from Dunkirk completed
- JUNE 8. British troops evacuated from Norway
- JUNE 11. Italy declared war on Great Britain
- JUNE 22. France capitulated
- JUNE 29. Germans occupied the Channel Isles
- AUG 8-OCT 31. German air offensive against Great Britain (Battle of Britain)
- OCT 28. Italy invaded Greece
- NOV 11-12. Successful attack on the Italian Fleet in Taranto Harbour.
- DEC 9-11. Italian invasion of Egypt defeated at the battle of Sidi Barrani

1941

- MAR 11. Lease-Lend Bill passed in U.S.A.
- MAR 28. Battle of Cape Matapan
- APR 6. Germany invaded Greece
- APR 12-DEC 9. The Siege of Tobruk
- MAY 20. Formal surrender of remnants of Italian Army in Abyssinia
- MAY 20-31. Battle of Crete
- MAY 27. German battleship *Bismarck* sunk
- JUNE 22. Germany invaded Russia
- AUG 12. Terms of the Atlantic Charter agreed
- NOV 18. British offensive launched in the Western Desert
- DEC 7. Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour
- DEC 8. Great Britain and United States of America declared war on Japan

1942

- FEB 15. Fall of Singapore
- APR 16. George Cross awarded to Malta
- OCT 23-Nov 4. German-Italian army defeated at El Alamein
- NOV 8. British and American forces landed in North Africa

1943

- JAN 31. The remnants of the 6th German Army surrendered at Stalingrad
- MAY Final victory over the U-Boats in the Atlantic
- MAY 13. Axis forces in Tunisia surrendered
- JULY 10. Allies invaded Sicily
- SEP 3. Allies invaded Italy
- SEP 8. Italy capitulated
- DEC 26. *Scharnhorst* sunk off North Cape

1944

- JAN 22. Allied troops landed at Anzio
- JUNE 4. Rome captured
- JUNE 6. Allies landed in Normandy
- JUNE 13. Flying-bomb (V.1) attack on Britain started
- JUNE Defeat of Japanese invasion of India
- AUG 25. Paris liberated
- SEP 3. Brussels liberated
- SEP 8. The first rocket-bomb (V.2) fell on England.
- SEP 17-26. The Battle of Arnhem
- OCT 20. The Americans re-landed in the Philippines

1945

- JAN 17. Warsaw liberated
- MAR 20. British recaptured Mandalay
- MAR 23. British crossed the Rhine
- APR 25. Opening of Conference of United Nations at San Francisco
- MAY 2. German forces in Italy surrendered
- MAY 3. Rangoon recaptured
- MAY 5. All the German forces in Holland, N.W. Germany and Denmark surrendered unconditionally
- MAY 9. Unconditional surrender of Germany to the Allies ratified in Berlin
- JUNE 10. Australian troops landed in Borneo
- AUG 6. First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima
- 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



Uppingham at War, the first part of a new local history series entitled *Uppingham in Living Memory*, brings together historical research into aspects of wartime Uppingham with personal recollections from residents of the town. Fully referenced and illustrated with photographs and facsimile editions of official documents, this latest publication from the Uppingham Local History Study Group will be of great interest to Rutland residents and historians alike.