



GUILSBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL



GUILSBOROUGH REMEMBERS

Introduction by the Royal British Legion:

"The first few months of 1945 saw the Allied forces in Europe rapidly gain ground and capture hundreds of thousands of prisoners. As the Allies closed in on a surrounded Berlin, Nazi leader Adolf Hitler committed suicide on the last day of April, and the German forces' unconditional surrender followed on 7th May.

A newsflash was broadcast to the public announcing the end of the war in Europe and that the next day was declared Victory in Europe (VE) Day (and a public holiday in the UK). Throughout the Allied world, millions celebrated. In Britain, pubs could stay open until late, and red, white and blue bunting could be bought without ration coupons. Streets were filled with singing and dancing, parties and parades. Special thanksgiving services were held.

Yet the joy and relief were tempered by memories of the hundreds of thousands who had died, or were still missing, and concern for those still at war. Brutal fighting continued to rage in east Asia and the Pacific until August. More than 250,000 Allied Prisoners of War were liberated in Europe, and their repatriation home had to be organised.

As the Allies swept across Europe, they uncovered the full horror of the network of concentration and forced labour camps and other locations where six million Jewish people and hundreds of thousands of others had been

murdered. Genocide, war and forced population movements created more than 50 million refugees and displaced people in Europe. It would take many months and vast resources to care for and resettle these people.

Yet after years of uncertainty and sacrifice, the people of Europe could face the new challenges of reconstruction and peace. The Second World War generation changed the course of history, and commenced the rebuilding of an exhausted country in the post war years. These men and women defended the freedoms we enjoy today. We remember their service and sacrifice".

Local Comment: Many Guilsborough and other local people were involved and were affected in one way or another by the war. Some lost their lives or the lives of relatives and friends, all suffered deprivation such as rationing, fuel and clothing shortages, and other economy pressures. Whilst some direct bombing or plane crashes happened in and around Guilsborough or neighbouring parishes, our quiet rural area generally suffered less than most. Whilst we rightly celebrate the end of the second world war in Europe, it is right to spare a thought for our current armed forces in conflict zones, and how they and their families are affected, and think about other local communities affected by current wars in villages like ours such as in Ukraine and elsewhere in the world.

Winston Churchill's VE Day Speech



"My dear friends, this is your hour. This is not victory of a party or of any class. It's a victory of the great British nation as a whole. We were the first, in this ancient island, to draw the sword against tyranny. After a while we were left all alone against the most tremendous military power that has been seen. We were all alone for a whole year.

There we stood, alone. Did anyone want to give in? [The crowd shouted "No."] Were we down-hearted? ["No!"] The lights went out and the bombs came down. But every man, woman and child in the country had no thought of quitting the struggle. ... So we came back after long months from the jaws of death, out of the mouth of hell, while all the world wondered.

When shall the reputation and faith of this generation of English men and women fail? I say that in the long years to come not only will the people of this island but of the world, wherever the bird of freedom chirps in human hearts, look back to what we've done and they will say "do not despair, do not yield to violence and tyranny, march straightforward and die if need be - unconquered." Now we have emerged from one deadly struggle - a terrible foe has been cast on the ground and awaits our judgment and our mercy.

But there is another foe who occupies large portions of the British Empire, a foe stained with cruelty and greed - the Japanese. I rejoice we can all take a night off today and another day tomorrow. Tomorrow our great Russian allies will also be celebrating victory and after that we must begin the task of rebuilding our hearth and homes, doing our utmost to make this country a land in which all have a chance, in which all have a duty, and we must turn ourselves to fulfil our duty to our own countrymen, and to our gallant allies of the United States who were so foully and treacherously attacked by Japan. We will go hand in hand with them.

Even if it is a hard struggle we will not be the ones who will fail."

¹ This and other quotes in italics are largely from the West Haddon History Society 'Home Front' pages. See (westhaddonhistory.org)

The Start of the War

The Second World War was a global conflict fought from 1939 to 1945 (although related wars began earlier). It was one of the bloodiest wars in history. More than 70 million people were killed and many more were wounded.

In 1935, concerned about bombing, scientists tested an early form of radar in a field near Weedon. The 'Davenport Experiment' used reflected radio waves from the Borough Hill BBC transmitter to detect a bomber.

On 1st September 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland and the Second World War officially began. Britain declared war on Germany two days later.

Memories from West Haddon¹ on the day war broke out include:

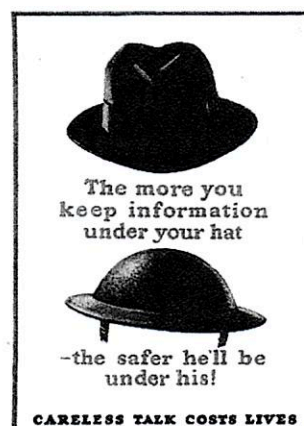
"We were busy making blackout curtains, waiting for the radio announcement. I burst into tears at the news - expected bombers to come and drop bombs straight away."

"I remember standing on the doorstep, waiting for 11 o'clock, heard the declaration on the wireless. It was a sunny day."

"I remember hearing Mr Chamberlain on the radio, and tearing down the A5 home to Mum and Dad."

"I was on holiday in Wales with my mother. I drove through the night to West Haddon then travelled on to my WAAF² unit."

In Britain, conscription was introduced immediately in 1939. By the end of that year, more than one and a half million men had joined the armed forces. The Northamptonshire Regiment fought all over the world. Alongside them were millions of soldiers from India and elsewhere in the Empire. From December 1941, women were conscripted too. They could either work in industries or join one of the women's branches of the armed services. These provided non-fighting roles that allowed more men to serve on the front line.



² Women's Auxiliary Air Force

GUILSBOROUGH AND HOLLOWELL HOME GUARD **Eastern Central District; 9th Battalion; 'A' Company; No.1 Platoon: Guilsborough**

Back Row: Wilf Warriner, George Buckby, Reg Haynes, Billy Williamson, Ken Sims, Jack Buckby, unknown, Les Costello, Pete Smith, Roger Muir, Mr Wildman, Frank Winkles.

Middle Row: Jack Smith, Bill Linnet, Sid Wagstaffe, Frank Crisp, Mr Kenny, unknown, Wilf Thompson, Mr Raynsford, Mick Whelan, Alfie Cadd?, Mickie Harris.

Front Row: Arthur Haynes, Edgar Cox, Stan Clarke, Tim Costello, unknown officer, Mr I.W. Sheelock (Leutenant), Stan Howarc, Mr Aarons, Frank 'Pip' Gammage, Fred Collins, Tim Whelan.



Names remembered by Ted Thompson and Jan Poydon

The Home Guard (Local Defence Volunteers)

The Home Guard was set up in May 1940 to help defend against invasion. Although Britain was never invaded, the Home Guard worked throughout the war, guarding factories, key infrastructure and patrolling fields.

Guilsborough (and Hollowell) Home Guard was Platoon No1, 'A' Company, 9th Battalion, No2 Sector, Eastern Command. Col J.G. Lowther³ was the No2 Sector Commander. Many of the menfolk were active in the Home Guard (see group photo on last page). One of the first duties of the newly formed No1 platoon was to guard the Catesby Railway Tunnel against invasion. No1 Platoon paraded on the top floor of the Ward Arms (aka Witch and Sow) Pub barn, and No2 sector later at Guilsborough Court for a while. Other 'A' Company platoons were: No2 (Spratton); No3 (Creaton & Cottesbrooke); No4 (Cold Ashby; No5 (Ravensthorpe); and a Thornby section⁴.

Corrie Howe was 16 years old when he started in the Home Guard, and went on to become one of the Royal Marines' 'Cockleshell Heroes' in canoe raid on warships in Bordeaux harbour. Ray Butlin and Peter Chapman were trained as tank driver/mechanics; Ray went on to be a dispatch rider on his BSA 600cc motorcycle. George Gadd was in the Grenadiers, Rio Letts the Argylls, but Maurice Darker was killed in North Africa.

The Home Guard was disbanded in Dec 1944.



The Northamptonshire Home Guard at the stand down parade in Northampton Market Square © Northamptonshire Archives Service

Regular Army

With the threat of invasion by Germany, many troops were based in Britain and stationed in country houses taken over by the government. For example, a battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment was lodged at Ashby St Ledgers and a battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment was posted to Haselbech House.

The 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry: In 1944, as a part of the 33rd Armoured Brigade, the unit participated in the Invasion of Normandy, landing on Gold Beach in Normandy on 6 June.

The 2nd Northamptonshire Yeomanry: After leaving the 20th Armoured Brigade in 1943, the Yeomanry was converted to an Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment. The regiment landed in Normandy in June 1944.



*The Northamptonshire Yeomanry on tanks
© Northamptonshire Archives Service*

The 4th Northamptonshire Yeomanry was formed as a deception unit. It constructed and moved dummy tanks in order to deceive the enemy as to the disposition and strength of British armour.

The 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment: This was a Regular Army unit that served in the Burma Campaign and India throughout the war.

The 2nd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment: Saw active service as part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in the battles of Belgium and France and had to be evacuated at Dunkirk. Then it spent two years on home defence, re-training and re-equipping, and later joined the forces sent to invade Madagascar in 1942 travelling to India and overland to Persia (now Iran) and Iraq in September of the same year. It travelled to Egypt and next fought in Sicily and Italy before being transferred to North-West Europe. The photo shows Troops from 2nd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment wait to board landing craft at Catania, Sicily, for the invasion of Italy on 2 September 1943.



The 4th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment: remained with the brigade in the United Kingdom for most of the war, including a considerable stint in Northern Ireland from June 1940 to February 1943. In February 1945, the battalion moved to North West Europe where it remained until the end of the war.

Glanville Hart was but one of the many who took part in the war. He joined the Navy aged 17, and HMS Edinburgh led him to the arctic convoys. He was

³ Grandfather of Hugh Lowther and Lucy Tompkins. Col J.G. Lowther went on later in the war to be Group Commander of 3 battalions in the centre of the County, of some 3,300 men.

⁴ Source: Home Guard original Documents from Jenny Lowther and Lucy Tompkins

torpedoed by a U-boat on May Day 1942 and spent months in Murmansk, Russia. Returning to England, he later took part in the D-day landings as First Lieutenant in command of a Landing Craft which was damaged by a mine on the run into the beach. He collected a new Landing Craft from Chepstow, re-crossed the Channel to France. Glanville passed away peacefully in his sleep on the 8th October 2018, aged 96.



Peggy Morris, Pam Townsend's mother, 97 years old on May 10th, was a senior WAAF driver, driving anything from staff cars to lorries, including a lorry with a light on top to guide landing aircraft. One night she swapped shifts and her friend got killed instead, when an aircraft landed on the lorry.

Major John Profumo⁵ was a troop commander in the Royal Armoured Corps based in Guilsborough. Major Enoch Powell⁶ is remembered as rather aloof and unlikely to visit the Guilsborough pubs, but he did visit Col. and Mrs Dollar at 'Hillside' house at the top of Nortoft. As did Group Captain Douglas Bader⁷, a friend of Peter Dollar whom he had met as a prisoner of war.

Men of Guilsborough who died in WW2

Major Graham Dollar, 3rd Dragoon Guards
 Capt Anthony Wilkinson, Northants Regiment
 L/Cpl Douglas A Mitchell, East Surrey Regiment
 Pte Herbert Bott, Royal Engineers
 Pte Jack Gammage, King's Own Scottish Borderers
 Pte Maurice Darker, Durham Light Infantry
 Trooper Wenzel Smith, Northants Yeomanry

Men of Guilsborough who served in WW2

Men who served in World War II included:	Richard Manning
	Keith Martin
	Frank McNally
Major General E. Fanshawe	Charles Mitchell
Col G. Dollar	Horace Muir
Captain J.G. Lowther	Arthur Mutlow
Harold & Alf Brown	Paul Page
Bill Clark	Alf Perkins
Fred Cornish	Bert Thompson
Ted Cartwright	Harry, Ted & Jack Smith
Frank, Bill and Jim Court	Harold & Peter Smith
John Darker	Percy Spencer
George Gadd	Jack Turland
Bertram & Charles Healey	W.R.M. Webster
Hugh & John Henderson	Ladies who served included:
Major & Corrie Howe	Jean, Audrey & Sue Faulkner
Herbert Johnson	Nancy Gammage
Rio Letts	Bridget Lowther
Bill & Bernard Lewis	Dulcie Manning
Gerald Maunders	Mary Soden
Lewis Manning	June Wilkinson

This list excludes those who served in World War II before coming to live in Guilsborough, such as Glanville Hart, who was one of the survivors of the sinking of HMS Edinburgh.



Broomhill Hall, nr Hollowell, WW2 convalescent centre

War Work

Factories across Northamptonshire made uniforms, guns, and ammunition. Northamptonshire produced most of the boots for the British Army. With so many men in the armed forces, many of the workers were women. Women's jobs included making tubes at the Corby Steel Works, driving canal boats to deliver coal, and making munitions in filling factories. Before women were conscripted to work in 1941, many entered the workforce voluntarily. In 1939, the Women's Land Army was set up to prevent food shortages.



Land Army girls billeted at Brampton House in Chapel Brampton worked on the farms in Spratton. Margaret Richardson, Dorothy Wakefield and Evelyn Eggleton were part of an orchard pruning group, sent round to a number of farms. (Spratton History Society)

Several Guilsborough women joined the Women's Land Army, including Mrs Nancy Howe. Mrs McIlwaine's kept the Land Girls supplied with Craven 'A' cigarettes. Harvest Festivals took place in the 'Sun Inn' on the High Street (now the home of Peter and Angela Hubbard). Many other did war work⁸:

"I went to work at Coventry Standard - lived with my Grandma in Coventry. We made wooden parts for aeroplanes, but I don't know what sort of aeroplane. Before the rush we were so short of work we sat and knitted between times."

"I was in service at the time - had to pack it up and go into the factory [Lodge Plugs, Rugby]. I worked 7am to 8pm, travelled into Rugby by bike. If it had a puncture, I had to walk. Or if it was snowing, I had to walk."

⁵ Profumo became a senior minister and was involved in a sex and spies scandal in 1961

⁶ He became a well-known right wing politician.

⁷ Famous RAF leader with 2 artificial legs, immortalised in the book/film 'Reach for the Skies'.

⁸ Source: West Haddon History Society 'Home Front' pages (westhaddonhistory.org)

The Grammar School, which was at that time the Guilsborough Village Hall was a base for the RAOC⁹ Home Industries Small Store. Due to the increased workload on Weedon Depot at the time, a 'Home Industries Scheme' for certain packing of small stores was started and was carried out in various villages. Stores were carton packed at the village hall and made ready for immediate use.

Rationing and making do.

Even with the work of the Women's Land Army, German blockades caused a food shortage. The government introduced rationing in January 1940 and each person received a ration book with coupons. At first, only meat, butter, tea, and sugar were rationed, but more foods were added later. Certain non-food items were also rationed, including clothes, petrol, and soap.

Due to the shortages, civilians were asked to not waste anything. Propaganda encouraged people to 'Dig for Victory' (making gardens allotments) and 'Make Do and Mend' (repairing old clothing). Recycling schemes were also introduced. They advertised that empty tins were used to build airplanes, rags were sewn into blankets for soldiers, and bones were turned into explosives. As well as regular collections, there were also appeals, such as Northampton Salvage Week. Local campaigns like these boosted morale by making people feel that they were helping the war effort. However, little scrap metal was actually used.

More West Haddon memories included:

"Once a week we went to Daventry to see what we could get in the way of meat and such off the ration. Clothes were turned inside out, unpicked and remade by Mum."
"There was a Tank Division up at Guilsborough and two of the lads used to come here to church on a Sunday. Well, my mother and I decided to invite them to Sunday lunch each week. We used all the meat ration for the week and had really good dinners."

"Rationing did make life difficult and supplies were hard to get. My husband Mr Spring, manager of the Co-op, was very fair and would save tins of salmon or fruit till he had enough so all his customers could have a tin for Christmas. You were allowed collar bacon one week and streaky the next. We used to have to cut a 2lb block of butter into exact 2oz portions, and you had to get it right or the Weights and Measures were on to you."

"The women of the local Women's Institute made hundreds of pounds of jam which was sold in the local shop. And the children of the village picked hundreds of pounds of rose-hips from the hedgerows to make up into Rose Hip Syrup."

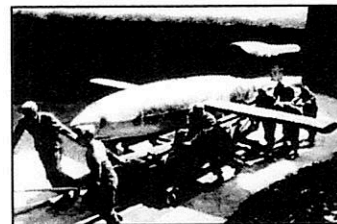
The Coventry Blitz and other Bomb Damage

In 1940 the Luftwaffe¹⁰ began to bomb British cities in order to ruin morale. They hoped this would put pressure on Britain to surrender. There was a very heavy German bomber raid of Coventry on the 14th/15th November 1940, that passed over Guilsborough. One of the aircraft jettisoned its bombs causing a large explosion and crater opposite Cold Ashby Lane Farm. People in West Haddon remember:

"The night that Coventry was bombed, Ned was on leave, trying to get back to West Haddon. He got a train to Leamington and then a taxi to Rugby, which bounced all over the road (due to the explosions). The taxi driver refused to go any further than Rugby, so Ned had to walk the rest of the way".

"I was over at Long Lawford. I remember a brilliant moonlit night: bullets fired down in the searchlight beams; anti-aircraft shells spattering on the roof"... "It lasted from 5pm all through the night till the next morning. Of course you couldn't sleep, and the children were terrified. They found cartridges from the tracer bullets in the school playground."

A V1 'Doodlebug' flying bomb exploded in Creaton in July 1944, injuring 5 people (2 seriously) and badly damaging 5 houses and 73 others, including the Bricklayers Arms.



There was a violent explosion near Crick in September 1944, when a bomb-laden Lancaster bomber crashed. A Wellington Bomber then crashed near Coton in October 1944.

One of the worst attacks in Northamptonshire took place in August 1942 when an air raid on Wellingborough killed six people and injured fifty-five. Luckily, it was a bank holiday and thousands of people at a fair on the edge of town were saved from the attack. The bombs destroyed or damaged hundreds of houses and several pubs, churches, and schools.

Destruction was also caused by accidents. In July 1941, an RAF Stirling bomber crashed in the centre of Northampton. Its bombs did not detonate, and no civilians were killed, but it caused huge damage to shops on Gold Street, shown in the photograph below.

⁹ Royal Army Ordnance Corps

¹⁰ The German Airforce



*Damage and an unexploded bomb in George Row, Northampton
© Northamptonshire Archives Service*

Another crash took place in December 1943 when an American B-17 bomber crashed in Deenethorpe. Fortunately, the crew managed to get out of the plane and clear the village before its bombs went off. The blast was felt as far away as Kettering, 12 miles from the crash site. During the war Hollowell Reservoir was used for low flying bombing practice by the RAF. Some locals shot and sold ducks off the reservoir to the flight crews in the Ward Arms (allegedly!).

An architectural feature of the war was the Anderson Bomb Shelter, and several houses in the village had these, including at the Bumford's house on West Haddon Road.



An Anderson Shelter

Evacuees

Compared to London, industrial cities, and ports, Northamptonshire was relatively safe. Recognising this, two women set up the Kettering Rest House. The charity home offered free stays, where "shocked and bombed-out folks could go for a week or two until they felt able to face life again." Similarly, because it was a low-risk area, Northamptonshire received more evacuees than any other county except Somerset.



*Evacuees arriving at Castle Station, Northampton in 1941
© Northamptonshire Archives Service*

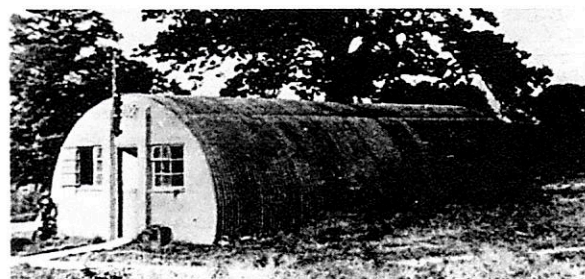
Spies, Generals and Tanks

Guildsbrough House on the High Street near the church, had several roles in the war years. Before the war, in 1937, it was rented by Herr Trek and Baroness Violet Schroder. He was a German spy, who joined the hunting and County set, who unknowingly welcomed this flamboyant rich countryside gent. He then drove around the area in his yellow Mercedes spying on RAF airfields and looking for country houses for the German High Command (on the assumption they would successfully invade us!) His chauffeur was Sid Wagstaff (see home guard photo) who worked at Heeps Garage.

Guildsbrough House was later requisitioned by the War Office. Major General Sir Evelyn Dalrymple Fanshawe CB, DSO was Commander of the Royal Armoured Corps (Headquarters of IV Corps) based there from 1939 to August 1940. It remained the headquarters of 9th Armoured Division and the 43rd Infantry Division, that formed the central reserve force of the invasion stop lines. It was the sole mobile reaction force, designed to meet any main invading army wherever they landed or penetrated the GHQ Line.

After the war Guildsbrough House became the home of the Major-General. Betty Townsend, Nigel Townsend's mother, who during the war had been a clerk in the Food Office (War Rations Coupons Centre) at the old Grammar School, became his P.A. The General went to the Nuremberg Trials to identify the spy Herr Trek. He died in 1979 and is buried in Guildsbrough cemetery.

There were many Nissen huts in Guildsbrough House, Guildsbrough Hall Park, and other grounds in the village. These were part of the Armoured Corps accommodation. One of the surviving Nissen huts in the Hall Park, near the old water tower, was still in use in the 1950's as the Guildsbrough Guides base.



Nissen Hut

Invasion of Europe: 'D-Day'

In the run up to 'D-Day' and after, every armoured division that went overseas passed through Guildsbrough as their final headquarters. On the night before D-Day Eva Farey, who lived on the West Haddon Road, remembered all the tanks suddenly disappearing.

To unload supplies in Normandy, two temporary harbours were assembled off the coast. The 'Mulberry Harbours' were built in sections in Britain and shipped

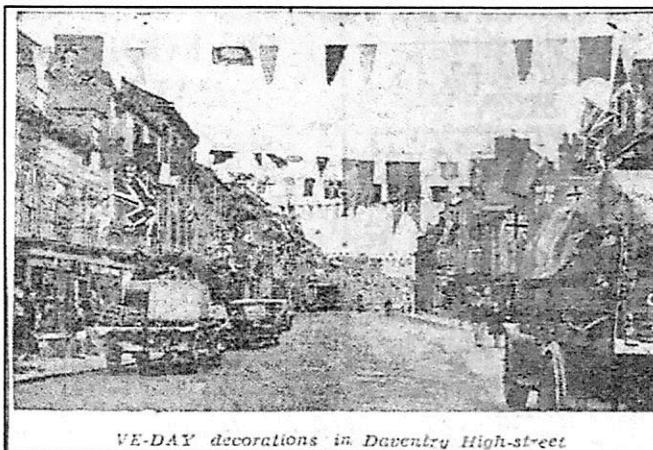
across the sea. Wenman Bassett-Lowke's model-making company in Northampton had made models of them to help test their design. The Corby Steel Works also supported the invasion through Project PLUTO - 'Pipe Lines Under The Ocean' - which supplied fuel to Allied troops after D-Day. Tubing made at Corby was coiled on a floating drum, then unwound onto the seabed as the drum was towed to France.

Prisoners of War

There were Italian Prisoners of War (PoWs) housed in two of the Guilsborough Court cottages. Nearby, in Yelvertoft, a Land Army Hostel was built. Shortly after the war it became redundant and was converted to a Prisoner of War Camp. Following this, the hostel became a centre for displaced persons and the farms were worked by Czechs, Poles and Germans. It functions today as the village hall¹¹.

"There was a P.O.W. camp at Yelvertoft. The van would come through the village and they would stop to buy their cigarettes. They couldn't speak English, but you got to know what they wanted. The Italians were very polite and would give a little bow to you."

Local VE Day Celebrations 1945



VE-DAY decorations in Daventry High-street

Daventry Celebrates



The whole of Teeton Celebrates with a fancy dress parade for the children followed by a tea party in the Church Hall. In the evening there was a bonfire for everyone on the village green. Carol Wallbank, a small child at the time, remembers it still¹².



NORTHAMPTON CELEBRATES. — A morning scene outside Northampton Town Hall as the Band of the Northamptonshire Regiment, under Bandmaster C. Marriott, march through the centre of the town playing martial airs.

Northampton Celebrates



Aftermath and Rationing

In the UK and Crown Colonies, there were a total of 384,000 military deaths, 67,000 civilian deaths, and 376,000 military wounded. At the end of the war, the recovery would start off with a UK debt, in today's terms, of about £5 trillion. Some of the loans, mainly from the USA, took until the end of 2006 to pay off. The country had exhausted its financial reserves and ended up with very run down industries and infrastructure. It could not afford to both rebuild and pay for consumer imports.

Rationing for clothes ended in 1949, and for food, 1954. Bread was rationed from 1946-48. Tea was still rationed until 1952 and then the following year sugar and eggs became freely available as did, finally, cheese and meats in 1954. An article in a Northampton paper in the same week as VE Day was celebrated, said that allotment holders:

"You must dig on for years ... using every last inch of their allotments, as the food crisis in Europe would remain for a long time". At home, there was peace, but the recovery would be long and hard

Produced by the Guilsborough Historical Group ©David O'Neil

¹¹ Source Yelvertoft Primary School

¹² Courtesy of Spratton History Society

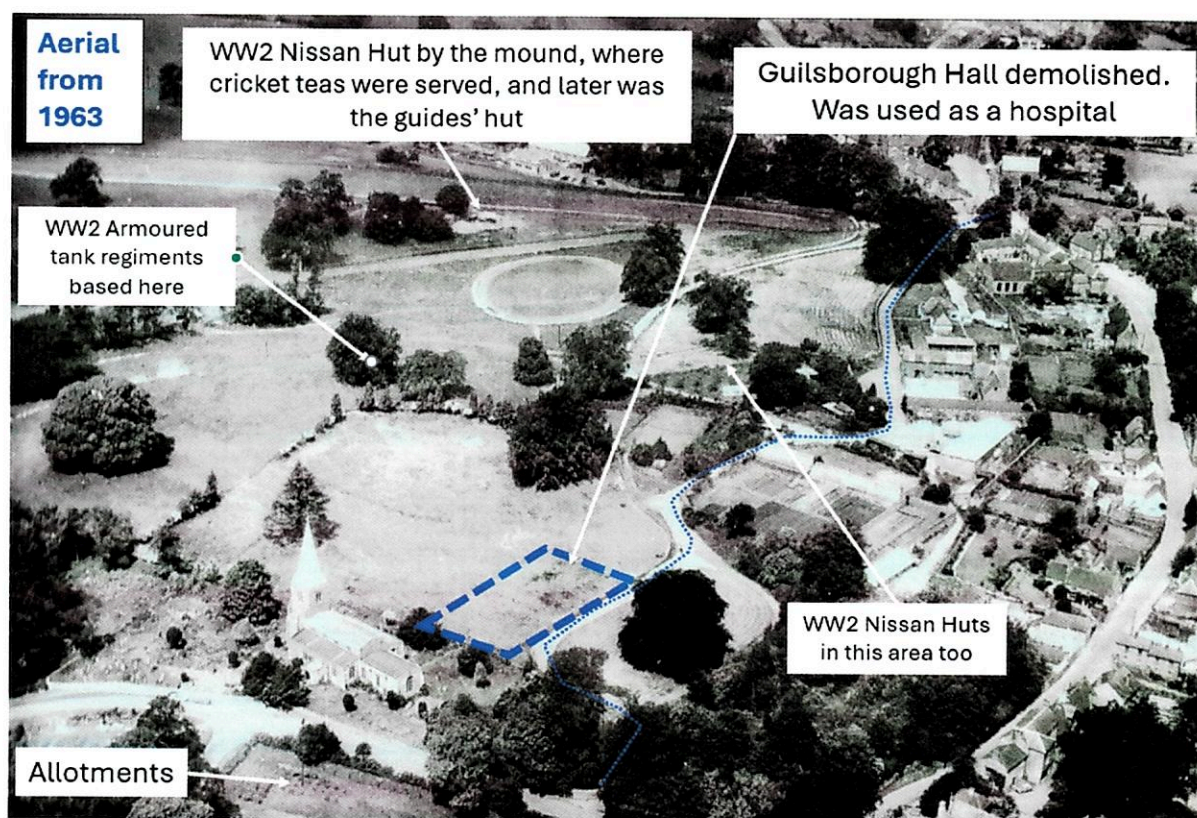
Guilsborough Hall and Park: Was one of the 'Operation Overlord' base camps for the armoured corps (tanks) ahead of D-Day. No.81 British General Hospital was located at the borough Hall from Nov 1943 to May 1944. The No.88 British General Hospital was located at Guilsborough Hall from Dec 1943 to June 1944.

Local man Ted Thompson remembered "I was 9 years old in 1945 and think we had a party in the Ward Arms to celebrate VE day. The sentry boxes were still positioned at the Guilsborough Hall Gates opposite the present shop and also the gates where Church Mount now is. The Army took the whole Guilsborough Hall Stables over and according to my Identity card our address changed in May 1942 to Coton; we had to show our ID when going home from school in the early part of the war".

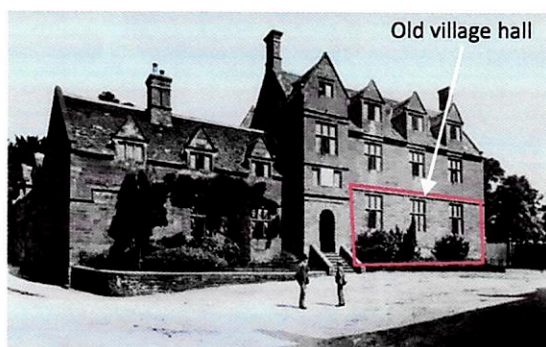
Guilsborough Court in WW2: This house became the HQ of the wider 'No 2 Sector' of Northamptonshire Home Guard, which paraded here for the last time on 3rd December 1944. Col J.G. Lowther was the Sector Commander.

Guilsborough House: This became the HQ of Royal Armoured Corps Training Establishment from 1942 to the end of the War – also see section on "Spies and Generals".

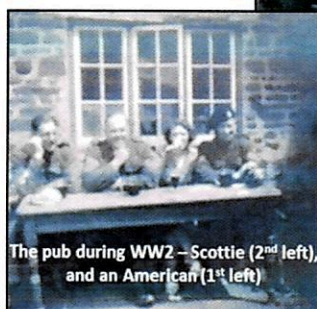
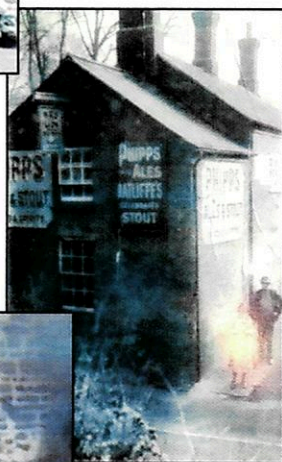
Hollowell Reservoir: During the war, Hollowell Reservoir was used by the RAF for low flying exercises. It is rumoured that the ducks were so alarmed that they were easily poached by the locals and shared with the pilots at The Ward Arms.



The Old Grammar School: The Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC) 'Home Industries Scheme Small Store' was based at the Village Hall, when the village hall was then located in the Grammar School. Due to the increased workload on Weedon Depot this scheme was set up for certain packing of small stores and carried out in various village and town halls around the county. Stores were packed in cartons and made ready for immediate use. The Grammar School was also a Food Office: War Rations Coupons Centre, as recalled by *Betty Thompson* when she worked there. Douglas Bader was known to have visited the wartime dances held in the village hall.



The Red Lion Pub, Nortoft, in WW2



The pub during WW2 – Scottie (2nd left), and an American (1st left)

Pubs were still open during the war, and provided respite for those on leave. The Red Lion is now a private house but the porch with its Red Lion carving is still there. Troops billeted in the village were regular customers, including American forces

Guildsborough Army Cadets after the war: Ted Thompson said of the Guildsborough Army Cadets photo below "I think I am one of the small ones. We used to meet in one of the Nissan huts next to the Girl Guides in the Hall grounds. Captain Stan Clarke from Hollowell was the Commander. I can identify *Pete Turland & Ron Gammage*. We used the Shooting range at Brington also the indoor range at the Drill Hall in Clare street".



Guildsborough Army Cadets c 1949-50



Newspaper Articles

**A GARDEN FETE
HORTICULTURAL SHOW AND
PONY SPORTS**

In aid of Northampton General
Hospital War Memorial Appeal
and the local "Welcome Home"
Fund,
in
THE PARK, GUILSBOROUGH
on
AUGUST 6th, 1945

to be opened at 2.30 p.m. by
S. SCHILIZZI, Esq., J.P.

SPORTS—2.15 p.m.
PONY SPORTS—4.0 p.m.

Entries on the ground
**PRIZE MONEY FOR FLOWER
SHOW—£20**

TEA—2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
AUCTION 7 p.m.
Numerous Side Shows and
Competitions.

Admission 1/-, Children 5d., Cars 2/-
Schedule for Flower and Vegetable
Show from
**MR. P. STIMME,
NORTON T., GUILSBOROUGH**
Schedule for Pony Sports from
**CAPT. A. MACILWAIN,
GUILSBOROUGH.**

20th July 1945, Harborough Advertiser

**HOSPITAL FETE
AT GUILSBOROUGH**

Mr. George Lewis, vice-chairman
of Northampton General Hospital
Appeal Committee, opened a fete
in aid of the appeal at GUILS-
BOROUGH on Monday.

One of the high spots of the
fete was a comic dog show organ-
ised by Mrs. A. Baldwin and Miss
B. Westcott, and judged by Mr. S.
Barker. A baby show was judged
by Sister M. A. Tutor, of East
Haddon, and organised by Mrs.
Thorntons.

Winners in each of the three
classes of a fancy dress parade were:
June Clarke (Make Do and Mend),
Jean Tomlinson (Miss Allies), and
Mr. H. K. G. Allen (A Dog's D. Light).

The parade was organised by Mrs.
E. Austin and Mrs. Pettifer, and
judged by Mrs. P. Wiggins and Mrs.
G. Lewis.

Stalls and stallholders were:
Fancy goods, Mrs. George Lowther,
Mrs. G. Dollar, Mrs. E. Fanshaw,
and Mrs. G. Kenton; produce, Mrs.
Hichen and Mrs. Richards; cakes,
Mrs. Pettifer and Mrs. E. Austin;
hoop-la, Miss Payne and Miss
Donald; jumble, Miss Cox; skittles,
Mr. M. Starnmer and Mr. Gadd;
darts, Mr. Bull and Mr. J. Starnmer.
Mrs. H. Martin ran several com-
petitions and sports were arranged
by Mr. N. Heeps, Mr. W. Shadlock,
Mr. H. Martin, and Mr. W. William-
son.

Mr. Cartwright gave pony rides
to the children and a sale of live-
stock, given by neighbouring farm-
ers, was conducted by Mr. W.
Webster. Teas were provided by the
Women's Institute, and Mrs. R. C.
Austin was in charge of the buffet.

A loudspeaker was operated by
Mr. Heeps, and the whole fete was
organised by Mrs. G. Lowther. The
treasurer was Miss Ida Heeps.

25th May 1945, N'ton Mercury

**THEY CUT 218
MILES OF
FLANNELETTE**

IF all the items packed for the
Weedon sub-dept. of the
Ordnance Corps by local volun-
tary packing stations had each
taken up six inches of floor space,
they would have stretched from
London to Delhi, or five times up
and down the length of England
and Scotland.

These packing centres were
situated in unobtrusive rooms in
14 towns and villages of the
county. It was an essential step
in providing the men at the front
with the tools to finish the job.

From the commencement of the
scheme in 1943 some 27,424,311
items were packed. The "peace-
ful" villages of Northamptonshire
—Crick, Blisworth, Kettering,
Little Houghton, Watford, West
Haddon—were not so sleepy as
they looked. The equipment
flowed into them and to the bigger
towns around, and left neatly
packed for every war-front in the
world.

Among many interesting facts
now disclosed about this work, the
centres used 1,730,212 cartons and
cut over 218 miles of flannelette
into 18-in. strips. The time taken
amounted to 97,863 man hours and
every moment of it was voluntary
labour.

Here are some other details:
Crick, items packed 1,198,847,
man-hours 3,338.
Blisworth, 1,348,089 3,181.
Daventry, 2,861,709 11,968.
GUILSBOROUGH, 1,528,746 5,820.
Kettering, 702,731 2,834.
Kettering 1, 2,365,461 12,213.
Kettering 2, 3,408,898 12,549.
Little Houghton, 1,061,023 4,154.
Northampton, 3,351,966 11,460.
Towcester, 1,198,396 7,429.
Watford, 418,217 3,778.
West Haddon, 1,800,835 6,755.
Wellingborough 1, 1,589,222
3,486.
Rothwell, 763,370 2,758.

7th Sept 1945, Nton Mercury

GUILSBOROUGH W.I.

Mrs. Renton presided at a Women's
Institute meeting, held in the
Chapel-room, Guilsborough. A
demonstration on "Make-do and
mend" was given by Miss Law. Mrs.
Cox and Mrs. Crisp were tea
hostesses. The competition for a
useful article made from oddments
of wool and judged by Miss Law was
won by Mrs. Hollis (slippers) and
Miss Johnson (scarf).

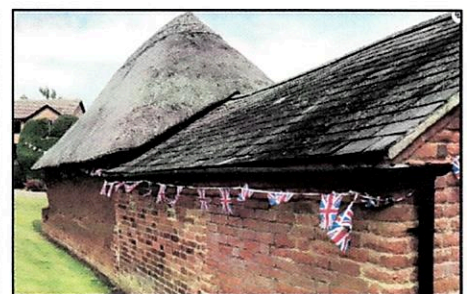
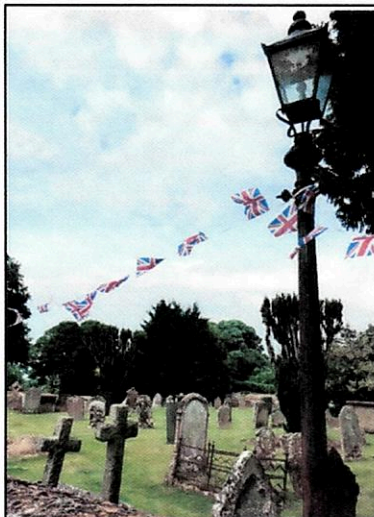
16 March 1945, Northampton Mercury

**H.G. "STAND-DOWN" SUPPER
AT GUILSBOROUGH**

At the stand-down supper of the
Guilsborough and Hollowell Home
Guard Platoon (Brixworth Bat-
talion), held in the Guilsborough
Grammar School, Colonel G. Middle-
ton was presented with a silver
tankard. The presentation, which
was accompanied by musical
honours, was made by Lieut. Shad-
lock, the platoon commander. Col.
Middleton, who raised A Coy. in the
early days of L.D.V., replied.

2nd Feb 1945, Northampton Mercury

VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations in Covid Lockdown Guilsborough



Prayers said 30 years ago at the 50th Anniversary of VE Day at St Etheldreda's Church on 7th May 1995

PRAYERS LED BY EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL

**Rev. Canon
William Gibbs**

Let us offer our thanksgivings to Almighty God, who made us and all creation, who in Christ has triumphed over evil and death, and whose Spirit abides with us to guide and to inspire.

For the victory achieved on land, at sea, and in the air, and for the liberation of so many from the cruelty of occupation and oppression
Let us bless the Lord

All

Thanks be to God

Glanville Hart

For those who endured captivity, torture or death that others might be free. Let us bless the Lord

All

Thanks be to God

Louise Torbett

For the heroism and courage of those who served in the armed services, who worked on the home front in civil defence, hospitals and relief agencies, in factories, shops and farms. Let us bless the Lord

All

Thanks be to God

Peter Moss

For the patient suffering and dedication of those who kept alight the lamp of freedom and sustained hope and resistance in the hearts of others. Let us bless the Lord

All

Thanks be to God

Joan Bott

For friendship and trust amongst all,
for an appreciation of our interdependence,
for the ongoing building of a new Europe,
and for a world that is in harmony with itself.

Thy Kingdom come

All

Thy Will be done

