

Postscript

Some names that we were given were just that, without any detail and no mention even of the Service involved. When there was insufficient detail to research further with any degree of certainty, we simply recorded the information that we were given. This problem has been exacerbated by the passage of time and having millions of records destroyed in a bombing raid in WWII. Then, of course, there is that often-mentioned reluctance by so many to reveal their wartime experiences.

So we have placed on record the information that we have been able to discover, not only of those who died, but also those who returned and who, in all too many instances, bore the scars of their service. It is inevitable that we will have not included every one and we do ask that you tell us any missing or incorrect information. We would particularly welcome the names and stories of those who remained at home.

We will, in due course, compile any such new information (including corrections of errors) into a booklet of which we will advise you when it is available; we will also place this information as an addendum to the existing article on the Deddington OnLine village website (www.deddington.org.uk).

So our research will continue even after publication of this book. It is our way of acknowledging the sacrifices that have been made by the men and women of this Parish and their families and friends.

About the authors

Michael Allbrook

Michael moved to Deddington in 2007 from Surrey where he had run his own recruitment business specialising in staff for Human Resources. His earlier career was in personnel management with several companies including EMI. He was appointed a Companion of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development in 1989. He married Sally in 1969 and their two daughters and their families live locally.

His grandfather, Arthur, served in WWI and volunteered to train in gas warfare, a silly decision some thought, but his knowledge was soon considered too great to risk his serving on the Front. Three uncles also served; Walter was so traumatised by his experiences that he returned a changed man. Ted was shot and died whilst on patrol in No Man's Land and Jack died from his wounds in 1917.

In WWII both his parents volunteered for, and were, Officers in the Royal Artillery and the Women's Royal Air Force. Two uncles also served and all survived. Uncle Edward, who was in Tanks in the Desert Rats, took part in the North African Campaign, the invasion and fighting in Italy and was posted home to join the Normandy invasions. At this point he was severely wounded near Falaise which resulted in his spending the next year in hospital.

Michael's birth coincided with D-Day and the arrival of the first flying bombs. [For this reason](#) his Mother [and he](#) moved from Essex almost immediately [and then to London where](#) one memory is walking to school and passing so many bombsites awash with rose bay willow herb and buddleia.

Rob Forsyth

Rob's grandfather served in the Royal Artillery in WWI, as did his uncle and father-in-law in WWII. His father was an RNVR officer in WWII, serving in Coastal Command and Air Sea Rescue. His nephew served in the Fleet Air Arm in the 1980s.

He grew up in Priors Marston, Warwickshire, and Tring, Hertfordshire. During his time in the navy (p.128) Rob and his wife, Maureen, lived in many places and when they moved to Deddington in 1977 with their children Nicola, Justin and Jonathan, their plan was to be here for a couple of years but, like lots of other people, have found many reasons for remaining in the Parish ever since.

He left the RN in 1981 to seek wider horizons than a periscope offered and worked for a number of high technology companies, the last of which was Westland Group plc as its Marketing Director.

On retirement from this second career (1999), he continued in the aerospace business as a consultant for a few years and was a founding director of The Oxford Channel, one of the first local TV stations in the country.

He is now fully retired but still fully occupied with parish history, golf, tennis and four grandchildren.

All of the proceeds from the sale of this book, over and above the cost of printing, are being donated to the Deddington Branch of The Royal British Legion with the intention that they be used in due course to provide a memorial to those men who died in WWI but are not named on the War Memorial.

To that end, we are extremely grateful for the help and support we have freely received from:

- ◆ Norman Drake, Mary and Colin Robinson for help with publishing.
- ◆ Jill Adams for help with research.
- ◆ The Parish Council, Deddington Map Group, The Parochial Church Council, and Deddington School Governors who jointly paid for a Limited Edition (Hard Back) version of the book to be supplied free to Deddington Primary School, Deddington Library and local museums.
- ◆ The Deddington Market Group who underwrote the cost of printing additional copies for sale through shops and libraries.

And lastly - but no means least – we would like to thank our wives for their patience, support and understanding throughout the several years that this project has taken.