

## The men and women who served and returned

### Royal Navy (RN)

**Sidney (Sid) William George BERRY\*** (1920-2006) Leading Cook.

The ships he served in were in action in the Lofoten Raid, Arctic Convoys and the hunt for the *Bismarck*. After his ship, *HMS Mashona*, was sunk he joined the submarine service for a quieter life! His story can be read on page 112.

**Charles Pierre BERTHON CBE** (1893-1965) Rear Admiral, Engineering Branch.

He joined the Navy as a 13-year-old cadet in 1906 and had served in the Home Fleet during WWI. In WWII he served in Malta (shore post 1940), *HMS Orion* and *Woolwich* (Med Fleet 1941). He was Mentioned in Despatches. For the rest of the war and until he retired he was responsible for the maintenance of Fleet Air Arm aircraft. He purchased Leadenporch House from General Stobart in 1948 and lived there until his death in 1965.

**Frank Reginald BIGNOLD\*** (1923-98).

**Anthony (Tony) BOLTON** (1920-2010) Lieutenant Commander, Supply Officer.

He served in the RN throughout the war. He was landed at Arromanches two months after D-Day as part of a naval supply team that had the enormous administrative task of working round the clock to keep supplies moving inland from the 'Mulberry Harbours' to support the advancing troops. He was later part of the naval forces that liberated Norway in May 1945. His wife, Avis, was a Wren. He was released from war service in 1946 but remained in the Navy until 1955 and subsequently joined the RAF - see page 102 for his post-war career.

**Robert (Bob) CALLOW\*** (1923-D).

**Norman Arthur DAVIS** (1917-2006) Petty Officer.

He served from 1942 in Landing Craft. He was cousin to Harold, Frederick and Ewart Davis (RAF). His father, George Davis, died in WWI and his name is on the War Memorial (p.25).

**George Thomas GODFREY** (1913-78) Stoker Petty Officer.

He served from August 1932 to January 1946.

**Joseph (Joe) HIORNS** (1920-97) Leading Stoker.

He served with Sid Berry in *HMS Mashona* but left before she was sunk. However, he later shared Sid's experience of abandoning ship because his next one (name unknown) was torpedoed and sunk by a submarine. He was the brother in law of CQMS Bill Minnear.

**James (Jim) LEWIS\*** (1921-D).

No details of his service are known. He emigrated to New Zealand after the war. His brother John H (known as 'Gudgeon') Lewis was killed in action at Monte Cassino and his name is on the War Memorial (p.56).

**William (Bill) John MALCHER\*** (1925-70) Telegraphist (S).

He was one of three brothers who served. Read their story on page 161.

**Kenneth (Ken) TARLING\***

**Percy TUSTAIN\*** (1910-50) Chief Stoker.

He joined in 1929 and served on *HMS Suffolk*, *Repulse* and *Nelson* and a number of other ships in the Pacific Fleet. He was known to be good at boxing. He left the service in late 1946 and went to work at Morris Motors in Cowley where he suffered a fatal accident.

**Frank WEEDON** Lieutenant.

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He served from August 1942 to December 1945.

### **Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS)**

**Avis BOLTON** (1926-2008) née Bell, Wren.

She was the wife of Tony Bolton, Lt Cdr RN. They met and married while serving.

**Stephanie HIGHAM** (b 1920) née Pigott, Third Officer (Special Duties).

She was a linguist trained to read German signals for decryption by Bletchley Park. Read her story on page 149.

**Edna SEWELL** (b 1925) née Evans, Wren.

She joined the Navy aged 18 years old, fresh from school. Read what this was like in her story on page 177.

### **Royal Marines (RM)**

**William (Bill) COWLEY** (b 1925) Corporal.

46 Commando. His Commando was part of the D-Day invasion force. Some time later he was badly wounded in the head while advancing through Europe. Read his story on page 124.

**Brian Morris DAWES** Marine.

30<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Marines. He served from August 1942 to May 1946.

### **Army**

**Kenneth (Ken) Albert BERRY\*** (b 1923) Sergeant.

Driver and Transport Manager, 246 Field Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Royal Engineers. He joined in May 1942 and landed on the beach in France on D-Day+6 with some replacement vehicles for those lost on D-Day. He recalls that one replacement was needed because a D-Day driver had reversed his vehicle back into the sea - and wrote it off - trying to avoid driving over piles of dead bodies on the beach. He then drove his Company Commander through Europe to Germany, being shot in the neck by a sniper en-route, but only required two weeks to recover and so arrived in Bremen on 26 April 1945 still with his Company Commander. He went with 246 Company to Palestine (now Israel) and Egypt for a while before being de-mobbed in December 1946.

**William (Bill) Herbert BIGNOLD \*** (1919-91).

He served in the South East Asia Command (SEAC) area.

**Arthur William BLISS** (1913-2004) Sergeant.

The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He served in Ireland, Italy and Germany.

**William (Bill) BOYD** (1915-94) Sergeant.

He was awarded the Belgian *Croix de Guerre* for valour.

**David James BRAIN** (1911-88).

The Royal Artillery. He served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army (Desert Rats) in North Africa and Italy.

**Leslie George BURTON** (1929-2005) Private.

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Served in the Far East.

**Frederick (Fred) BUTLIN** (b 1927) Private.

General Service Corps. He joined in 1945 but was invalided out just under a year later after contracting pneumonia and pleurisy.

**Denis George CALLOW\*** (b 1921) Private.

He served first in the Royal Artillery and with them sailed in convoy for Alexandria in Egypt the long way round via Durban and through the Suez Canal to arrive in time for the Battle of El Alamein. He then joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers, with whom he fought up through Italy to Pola in Yugoslavia where he recalls meeting up with Joe Tarling (p.64). After six months garrison duty they moved to Trieste where he was moved yet again to The Queen's Regiment and eventually was demobbed in late 1946 or early 1947.

**Ernest Edward (Jockey) CALLOW\*** (1912-87) Sergeant.

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. He travelled to South Africa in the same convoy as his brother Denis but his ship carried on to Singapore where he was made a PoW when it was captured by the Japanese. He was subsequently part of the forced labour that built the infamous Burma railway.

**Kenneth (Nimmer) CALLOW\*** (D).

The Royal Army Service Corps. He was the cousin of Denis and Ernest and brother of Robert (Navy).

**Arthur Edward (Nobby) CLARKE\*** (1910-82) Lance Corporal.

The Royal Engineers. He served in France, Belgium and Holland.

**Henry Joffre (Joffer) CLARKE\*** (1915-81).

The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He was named after a famous WWI French General admired by his father. He was wounded in the back by shrapnel while in Normandy.

**Leonard (Len) John CLARKE\*** (1912-73).

The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and The Hampshire Regiment. He was wounded in the leg in North Africa, recovered, but then was wounded again in the same leg at Salerno. This time he was invalided out. He married Jean Woolley who was a Land Girl stationed in Deddington (p.77).

**Frederick (Fred) John DAVIDSON\*** (D) Corporal.

The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He served in Greece and Italy.

**Peter Leonard DAVIDSON\*** (D) Sergeant Major.  
The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. He served in India.

**Norman Frederick DELLAR** (1922-88) Sergeant.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Parachute Regiment.  
He served from August 1940 to February 1950.

**Peter FRANKLYN** (1923-98) Lance Corporal.  
The Royal Armoured Corps 10<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Royal Tank Regiments.  
He met his wife, Pauline, when she was a teenage evacuee to Deddington. Peter survived the battle to liberate Europe and they married in 1947. Read their story on page 131.

**Thomas (Tom) William GARRETT\*** (1920-2000).  
The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Six men and women from the Garrett family served in the World Wars. Read their story on page 134.

**Maurice A GILKES** (1926-D) Corporal.  
The Queen's Royal Regiment. He served from September 1944 to January 1948.

**Albert Edward (Ted) HARPER** (1920-76) Private.  
The Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He was captured during the Dunkirk evacuation and became a PoW. Read his story on page 139.

**Ronald Ernest HARPER** (1912-76) Corporal.  
The Royal Artillery.

**William Henry HAWKINS** Private.  
The Royal Army Service Corps, Driver. He served from June 1939 to January 1946.

**Percy Cleghorn HOBART KBE CB DSO MC** (1885-1957) Major General.  
He had previously served with the Corps of Royal Engineers throughout WWI. In 1923 he transferred to The Royal Tank Corps. His unconventional ideas on tank warfare and inability to get on with his superiors led to his dismissal in 1939 from his role of training the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade (later to become well-known as the 'Desert Rats'). He was called back by Winston Churchill in 1941 and was given command of the brand-new 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division ('Black Bulls') but was again denied the chance to deploy into action due to age and ill-health. Instead he was assigned the task of using his unconventional ideas to develop specialised armoured vehicles - known as 'Hobo's Funnies' - for D-Day. These were widely credited as the key to getting Allied Forces successfully ashore and inland from the beaches of Normandy.

He was lessee and then owner of Leadenporch House from 1940 to 1948. His sister, Elizabeth, had married Field Marshall Montgomery before the war but died tragically young.

The present occupant of Leadenporch House, Jo Eames, has written a novel *Not only the good boys*, Peach Publishing, 2011, in which the General features as a major character. It covers the period between March 1943 and June 1944 when 'Hobo's Funnies' were being developed - and ultimately sent into battle.

**John HODGES MC** (b 1922) Captain.  
The Royal Armoured Corps. He fought with distinction through North Africa and Italy where he was decorated. Read his story on page 153.

**Arthur HUMPHRIES (D).**  
The Royal Tank Regiment.

**William HUNT (D)** Sergeant.  
Royal Engineers. He served throughout Europe after D-Day and also in Palestine where he met up with his cousin Ken Berry.

**William (Bill) IVINGS (1921-99)** Corporal.  
The Royal Army Service Corps, Transport Division. He was a member of the Deddington Home Guard as a despatch rider before joining the RASC in 1940. He drove 3-ton Bedford trucks and, when they came into service, DUKW amphibious vehicles. He served in Egypt and Germany and was present for the liberation of Belsen Concentration Camp.

**Edward (Ted) B W JOHNSON MC (b 1922)** Captain.  
The Royal Irish Fusiliers. He was decorated for his actions in the Battle for Leros. Read his story - including Christmas in a PoW camp - on page 157.

**Leslie (Les) LEGERTON (1916-2005)** Private.  
7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment. He survived the Burma campaign without a spare pair of glasses! Read his story on page 155.

**George LOWTHER (D)**  
Royal Army Service Corps. He served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army driving tank transporters.

**Arthur Denis MALCHER\* (b 1926)** Private.  
Royal Army Ordnance Corps. The story of the three Malcher brothers can be read on page 161.

**Morton Griffith MATHIAS (1899-2004).**  
He served in The Royal Artillery initially and then transferred to a searchlight battery in The Royal Engineers.

**William (Bill) Henry MINNEAR (1912-97)** Company Quarter Master Sergeant.  
The Somerset Light Infantry and The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Like Ted Johnson, he was taken prisoner after the Battle of Leros and spent two years as a PoW in Germany. Read his story on page 157.

**Cecil Henry PEARSON\* (1922-71)** Sergeant.  
He joined the RAF aged 16 as an apprentice instrument maker in 1939 signing on to serve 12 years from the age of 18. He was with the support units that followed the 8<sup>th</sup> Army through its North African and Italian campaigns. In 1947 he returned to the UK, was posted to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1948 and came back to UK again in 1950. He left the service in 1952 and worked initially for Alcan Laboratories in Banbury but then emigrated to Australia where he worked for Ansett Airlines. He died at the early age of 49.

**Ernest Cecil PEARSON (1890-1956)** Corporal.  
He was the father of Cecil (above) and Edmund who joined the RAF(p.66). He had served in The Essex Regiment in WWI in France where he received a bullet wound to his right ankle. He was called up for service again in 1939 as a clerk but was invalided out in 1942.

**Thomas (Tom) Charles PRATT\*** (1916-D) Private.  
The Somerset Light Infantry.

**Reginald Geoffrey ROBERTS** (1890-1946) Major.  
Pioneer Corps. His family lived in Deddington House. His wife, Freyda, nursed evacuee children (p.80) and their daughter, Primrose, was an ROC plotter in the Oxford Post located in the Bodleian Library (p.75).

**Kenneth (Ken) SMITH** (1916-2009) Trooper.  
4<sup>th</sup> Royal Tank Regiment. He enlisted in 1937 and served with the BEF in France and was evacuated via Dunkirk. He then served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army ('Desert Rats') at El Alamein, Tobruk and Monte Cassino.

**Francis (Frank) John TARLING\*** (1921-2003) Private.  
He joined The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry's Territorial Battalion in April 1939 and transferred to The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment in December 1943. He was wounded in Italy during the battle for Monte Cassino and was reported missing; however it subsequently transpired that he had been captured while keeping another wounded man company. He was interned as a PoW in Stalag VII/A in Germany. He married Doris Sorrell, who had been an evacuee to Deddington, in July 1945. Her brother Henry's (Harry) name is on the War Memorial (p.56)

**Joseph (Joe) TARLING\*** (D).  
London Irish Rifles.

**Francis (Frank) TUSTAIN\*** (1915-88) Sergeant.  
He was conscripted in 1940 into the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry where he became a Despatch motorbike rider in the anti-tank section. He landed with his company - which included his brother Billy - on Sword Beach on D-Day+6 in 1944. He lost a leg fighting in Normandy and was invalided home. After extensive time in hospital he was discharged in 1946.

**Leonard (Len) TUSTAIN\*** (b 1920) Private.  
He was conscripted into the 52<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in 1940. He had a bad motorbike accident in 1941 and spent time in hospital and then recuperated with The Suffolk Regiment. His nurse was Jo Kelly whom he married six months before he went to France. At the end of 1941 he joined the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion to serve as a Bren Gun Carrier Driver in the same 'Specialist' company as his brother Frank. They both landed on Sword Beach on D-Day+6. He was wounded 10 days later near Caen with severe phosphorus burns to arm and face. After two weeks hospitalisation in France he was sent back to the UK for treatment at the Canadian Burns Hospital in Basingstoke. This included the pioneering use of maggots to clean the area, and extensive skin grafts. He was discharged in 1946.

**George UNSWORTH** (D).

**Anthony (Tony) VINCENT** (D).  
The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

## The Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS)

**Ivy BUSBY** (b 1920) née Smith.

She was previously married to Private William (Bill) Coulton who died in 1941 and whose grave is in the churchyard (pages 15 and 58). She moved to London where she joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in June 1942 and served until 1945 maintaining heavy artillery. She later re-married and returned to live in Deddington.

**Mary TIBBETTS\*** (1917-D) and **Margaret TIBBETTS\*** (1918-D)

They were the daughters of Horace (1887-1957) and Sarah (née Deeley) Tibbetts. Horace was the village blacksmith at the Archway on New Street; his forge subsequently became Len Plumbe's Archway garage.

## Royal Air Force (RAF)

**Frank Colman BOWLER\*** (1898-1989) Squadron Leader (acting Wing Commander). He joined The Royal Flying Corps towards the end of WWI which then became the RAF. He was one of the four Bowler men who served in three wars with distinction. Their story is on page 114.

**Thomas Geoffrey BOWLER\*** CB CBE (1895-1974) Air Vice Marshal.

He initially served as a soldier at Gallipoli in WWI, then transferred to the Royal Flying Corps. He served with distinction in WWII (p.117).

**Ronald (Ron) CANNING** (1924-2006) Leading Aircraftman.

He was a Wireless Operator serving at Chicksands which was an outstation of the code-breaking centre at Bletchley Park; here he met Daphne his future wife. Read their story on page 121.

**Walter CAPORN** (b 1922) Sergeant.

He qualified as an Engine Fitter at RAF Halton in 1939. He served in India and Burma from 1941 until war end. Post-war he spent time on various air stations including in Iraq. He left the service in 1954.

**Richard Stanley CHAPLIN** (b 1921) Corporal.

He was a Wireless Operator who served from April 1939 to November 1945. He subsequently moved to Australia.

**Brian COSGROVE MBE** (1926-2010) Sergeant.

He had a craving to fly from an early age. His first flight was aged eight in a Dragon at an Alan Cobham Circus. He enlisted in late 1943 but there were no vacancies for pilots. He therefore trained as a Meteorological Air Observer. After a spell in Yorkshire he transferred to the Far East where he was taught (quite unofficially) to fly Dakotas in which he spent a lot of time. He was demobbed in 1947 and went to work for Spillers. He joined the RAF Volunteer (Training Branch) in 1948 (p.102).

**Ewart Ashley (Maxi) DAVIS\*** (1921-2002) Leading Aircraftman.

He served at RAF Filey, Yorkshire, as a mechanic on Mosquito aircraft.

**Frederick (Fred) William DAVIS\*** (1916-70) Leading Aircraftman.

He served in Belgium, Germany and Malaya.

**Harold (Harry) Francis DAVIS\*** (1913-94) Leading Aircraftman.

He served from 1940-46 at the RAF Flying School in White Waltham, Berkshire, RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire and in Havant, Hampshire.

**William (Bill) Maurice DRAKE** (b 1925) Squadron Leader.

He joined the RAF in 1944 as a Navigator. He flew in Mosquitos in India and Burma preparing for the relief of Singapore. Post-war he saw service in Malaya and the Suez campaign. In the Cold War, when the RAF had responsibility for the nuclear deterrent, he flew in Canberra aircraft equipped to carry the nuclear bomb. Following several years in Intelligence at MOD, he left the service in 1977. As soon as he left the service he joined the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and marched with them.

**Frank Leslie DRINKWATER** (1920-99) Leading Aircraftman.

He joined the RAF in May 1940 and served in the Middle East, India and the Western Desert with 203 Squadron Transport section. He was demobbed in 1946.

**Frederick (Fred) James ELLIS** (b 1923) Warrant Officer.

He joined in 1942 and qualified as a Wireless Operator. He served in India flying Liberators over Burma. He was de-mobbed in 1945 but rejoined in 1947 flying in Lincoln bombers then transferred to Coastal Command in 1951 flying in Lancasters, Shackletons and Neptunes on Cold War tracking operations against Russian submarines. After a time in Transport Command (Beverleys) he left the service in 1965 and became the well-known landlord of the Unicorn Inn on Market Place until 1987.

**Kenneth (Ken) GARRETT\*** (1924-91) Corporal.

Served in the RAF Volunteer Reserve from 1942 to 1946 mainly in the Middle East. Read the Garrett family story on page 134.

**Walter George HAYWARD** (1922-2000) Leading Aircraftman.

He did his training as ground crew in Blackpool then was based at Kemble, Pershore and Bibury.

**Denys Guy L HEYWOOD** (1926-2010) Group Captain.

He joined at the end of WWII and later flew Vulcan Bombers carrying the nuclear deterrent during the Cold War - and over 50 other types of aircraft. Read his story on page 143.

**Bruce Campbell HUNT** (b 1920) Flight Lieutenant.

He served from December 1941 to January 1947.

**James Carlyle MARMION OBE** (b 1924) Group Captain.

He joined the RAF in 1942 and after extensive training in UK, USA and Canada graduated as a Navigator/Bomb Aimer in June 1944. His first operational flying was in Catalina flying boats based in Madras, India, in 1945. He converted to the B24 Liberator and joined 321 Squadron (Royal Netherlands Naval Air Service) in Ceylon. His service in the post-war years is on page 103.

**Thomas Edward MOSELEY** Corporal.

He served from April 1940 to October 1945.

**Edmund Ernest PEARSON\*** (b 1924) Leading Aircraftman.

His involvement with the war began when he was only 15 as a member of the Home Guard at Adderbury where he then lived. At 16 he went to work for the Northern

Aluminium Company (now Alcan) at their plant for re-cycling crashed aircraft and scrap aluminium from manufacturers located on the southern of the present two trading estates to the south of Adderbury. The northern estate was Adderbury Station on the branch line from King's Sutton to Chipping Norton and Kingham.

He joined up aged 18 and trained as a Ground Wireless Operator to be posted in due course to Freetown, Sierra Leone, from where the RAF flew anti-submarine patrols to protect the convoys heading to and from South Africa. In early 1945 he was posted back to the UK and, in accordance with the policy of giving a posting as close to home as possible, he was sent to Chipping Warden where he was a wireless operator in the control tower. When hostilities ceased in Europe he had several UK postings before de-mob in 1947. As a civilian again, Edmund returned to working for his old company in Banbury.

**Leonard (Len) Charles PLUMBE** (b 1921) Leading Aircraftman.

He trained as a skilled Engine Fitter and was sent out to the Far East. His jungle experiences can be read in his story on page 165.

**Harold Henry PRATT\*** (b 1922) Leading Aircraftman.

11 Squadron RAF Regiment. He joined in July 1942, trained as a Ground Gunner and then served in Burma, India, Singapore and Japan. He was demobbed in 1946.

**Tom SMITH** Leading Aircraftman.

He joined the RAF when he was 18, trained as driver and landed at Arromanches on D-Day.

**Ray SONES** (1926-2011) Leading Aircraftman.

Pre-war he was a member of the Air Training Corps (ATC). He volunteered for regular service in 1943 aged 17½ and trained as a Radar Fitter serving in Blackpool, Egypt and Malta. He was demobbed in 1948.

**George SPENCELEY** (b 1921) Warrant Officer Pilot.

He was shot down and spent three years as a PoW. While undergoing a forced march by the Germans, their column was attacked by Allied aircraft in error. Read his story on page 179.

**William (Bill) Foster SPIERS** (1922-2001) Leading Aircraftman.

He joined at the age of 18 in 1941 and, after training and qualifying with No 2 Mechanical Transport Squadron, he joined 13 Operational Training Unit based in Bicester which was one of the two principal bomber training units in Britain. After D-Day he joined the forward support units through Holland and Germany until the end of the war where he remained with the British Air Forces of Occupation Communication Wing until returning home in September 1946.

**Robert (Bob) STEVENS** (1921-2004) Leading Aircraftman.

He found to his surprise that he was colour blind. This meant that he could not serve as aircrew so he trained as a Radio Mechanic. He served from 1939 through to war's end. Following the Allied invasion of Europe, he was based in Belgium. He was the husband of José Stevens whose story can be read on page 184.

**Bernard SYKES** (1921-92) Flight Sergeant.

## Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF)

**Daphne Maud CANNING** (b 1925) née Tucker. Aircraftwoman 1<sup>st</sup> Class. She was a Radio Operator at Chicksands. She kept in touch with her boyfriend (and future husband) in India - almost certainly illegally! - by using a spare radio channel to chat at night. Read her story on page 121.

**Pamela (Pam) DANCE\*** (b 1924) née Lewis. Leading Aircraftwoman. In civilian life she was a professional cook so was employed as such when she joined up in October 1942. She saw the WAAF as a better alternative to working in an ammunition factory or in the Land Army. She served mainly in Bomber Command. Part of her service time was spent at RAF Edgehill. She was demobbed in 1945 after what she looks back on as 'three good years.' In 1945 she married a naval man from Kent, Victor Jones (deceased), who had been in the Fleet Air Arm and had survived the sinking of *HMS Ark Royal*. She is the sister of Sergeant Arthur Lewis.

**Edith Elsie GARRETT** (b 1925) née Minty. Leading Aircraftwoman. She was one of the six Garrett family members who served in the world wars (p.134).

**Margaret (Margery) HAWES** (b 1922) née Faber. Sergeant. Her own account: 'I joined the WAAF in January 1941 and, after a week or so of training and marching round the mirrored ball room of the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate, was posted to Corsham (Wilts) to work as a plotter in one of the underground Filter rooms of Fighter Command. After a couple of years there I was sent to Inverness. This was an excellent posting as we had our bicycles and would explore the countryside, sometimes taking them on the train to the west coast and cycling back along Loch Ness. We sent our families eggs by train and they arrived intact. These were more welcome to my widowed mother than the large boxes of kippers sent by my generous brother. In 1944 I volunteered to go to Belgium and was sent to Malines near Brussels. We tracked the V2 rockets fired from Peenemunde. We saw one nasty incident when two women were chased by a crowd who shaved their heads. They had been friendly with German soldiers. On VE Day<sup>1</sup> we danced in the streets with the crowds, everyone so happy and smiling. I was demobbed in 1946.'

**Peggy PACEY** (b 1918) Section Officer. She spent most of the war on a motorbike. Read her story on page 163.

**Emily Mary WEBB** (1918-92) née Garrett\*. Corporal. She was another of the six members of the Garrett family who served in two world wars (p.134).

<sup>1</sup> Victory over Europe Day - 8 May 1945