

A Parish at War

A military record of three Oxfordshire villages

Deddington - Clifton - Hempton

The Supplement

Robert Forsyth

Copyright © Oxon Publishing Ltd 2012

Photographs are reproduced by courtesy of the authors, the subject of the photograph, members of their family or Deddington OnLine unless otherwise stated.

Printed and bound by CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon, CR0 4YY

Cover design: Temple Design Publishing Solutions Ltd
0161 798 7662

Front cover

**A troop of Deddington soldiers in 1914
The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
(courtesy of Clive Sanders)**

Back cover

A poem by George Harris, formerly of Clifton



Salute to Invaders (1936) Thomas Van Oss
(courtesy of the Van Oss family)

Contents

Preface	ii
Corrections to the Book	iii
The 18th and 19th Centuries	1
The Boer War (1899-1902)	4
The First World War (1914-18)	5
The Inter War Years (1918-39)	8
The Second World War (1939-45)*	9
The Post War Years (1945-2012)	21
Personal Stories	27
Endnote	67

* Includes photographs of evacuee children and old shops facing pages 16 and 17. They came to hand too late to be included as numbered pages.

Cross references marked (p...) in the text refer to a page in *The Supplement*. Those marked (book p...) refer to a page in the original book.

Comments in [square brackets] within the text are editorial notes.

Name or **(name)** indicates where known by other than the first name listed.

Acknowledgements

The information and photographs in this supplement have mainly been provided by the person named in the entry or by their next-of-kin and family. Where this is not the case an acknowledgement has been given.

I am most grateful for all the help I have received. Once again, this has been from so many people that it is impossible to name everyone individually but I do know that without them this project would not have been possible.

Preface

Nearly six hundred copies of the original book have been sold. Inevitably such a wide distribution has prompted many more memories and stories which are now contained in this supplement to the book.

Sales have far exceeded our original expectation and Michael Allbrook and I would like to say how very grateful we are to all those who have supported this project. It has meant that sufficient money has been raised to proceed with the final phase of placing a memorial plaque in the parish church. It will record in one place for the first time the names of all those from this parish who have given their lives for their country from The Boer War onwards - including the twenty-three names of those who died in WWI and WWII who are not on the War Memorial. A design for the plaque has been submitted to the Diocese of Oxford (p.68) whose approval for such memorials on church property is required.

The memorial will be a visible and lasting conclusion to our project. Less visible, but equally lasting, will be the various ways in which the project has affected the parish as whole. At one level it has undoubtedly provided future generations with a record of the toll that war imposes on communities such as ours; at another level, it tells the story of how well communities - because our parish is not unique of course - come together to cope with the exigencies of war; and thirdly it has, in several instances, been the catalyst in bringing together family members who have become dispersed - 24 on one notable occasion - to exchange information and put names to faces on old photographs.

Robert Forsyth

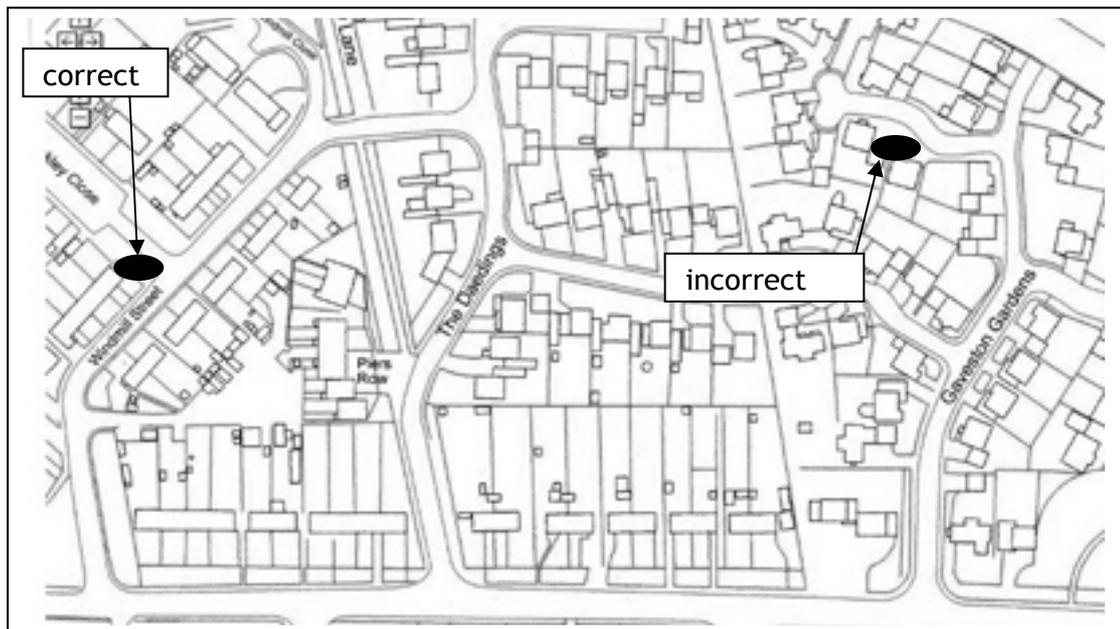
September 2012

Corrections to the Book

- p.8* **Note to the diary entry for March 21.** Line 3. Reference to the East door should be to the North door.
- p.14 **Caption to illustration.** The left hand name should read...Private B Wheeler.
- p.19 **Le Touret Memorial.** The first name should read...Albert E Spencer.
- p.59 **Charles Pierre BERTHON.** Line 6. The name Stobart should read Hobart.
- p.63* **Cecil Henry PEARSON.** This entry should be in the RAF section.
- p.65* **Harry Francis DAVIS.** Delete Harold. He was christened Harry.
- p.66* **Frederick (Fred) James ELLIS.** An important piece of information was omitted from Fred's entry.

On 7 February 1952 Princess Elizabeth flew home from Kenya following the death of her father, King George VI. Her flight was escorted all the way by RAF aircraft. Fred was serving in 203 Search and Rescue Squadron at the time and his Lancaster aircraft, in which he was the gunner/wireless operator, was tasked with escorting it from Northern France, across the Channel and to Northolt airport. He recounted this live on Radio Oxford 60 years later to the day.

- p.67 **Tom SMITH** was born in 1921.
- p.73 **Royal Observer Corps Post** At the time of researching the book there was conflicting advice as to just where the ROC Post was located; the ROC Museum had provided me with a map reference from the wartime Regional HQ's records so I decided to use that because surely they would know where it was? However Don Walker and several others have categorically stated that the position indicated in the book (Gaveston Gardens) is wrong and that the correct position was near to what is now the junction between Windmill Street and Mackley Close.



So it would seem that ROC Regional Headquarters did not know where their post was after all - or was it just a 'cunning plan' to confuse the enemy!

p.81* **Pauline FRANKLYN** née Savill. Add ...and her younger brother Terry.'

p.81* **Dorothy (Dol or Doris) TARLING** née Sorrell. The comments should read:

'She was Ada's younger sister. She married Frank Tarling (p.64). After the war they were joined in Deddington by their mother Eva.'

p.109* **Photo caption.** 'Coleman' should read 'Colegrave'.

p.148* **Editor's note.** 'Heinz 51' should read 'Heinz 57'.

Note: some of the corrections marked* were incorporated in later print runs.