

## The Second World War (1939-45)

### Those who died

#### Army

**Thomas (Tom) Willem VAN OSS** (1900-41) Major.

Royal Engineers. He was inspecting coastal camouflage in a patrol boat off-shore near Boston, Lincolnshire, when it hit a mine and he and 15 others were killed.

He is remembered on this plaque in the Parish Church at Walberswick in Suffolk from where his family originally came.

He is also remembered on Panel 4, Column 3, of the Brookwood Memorial in Surrey. This Memorial, unveiled by the Queen in 1958, commemorates the 3,500 men and women of the Commonwealth Forces who have no known grave. His Personal Story is on page 50.



#### Royal Air Force

**Kenneth (Ken) Henry HARRIS. DFM.** (1917-1940) Sergeant.

His parents were Henry and Agnes Harris. Agnes grew up in Deddington as the eldest of George and Agnes Smith's 12 children. Kenneth was born in Ongar, Essex. The Harris family came to live in Deddington at some time post WWI.

He joined the Merchant Navy in 1934 and trained with Marconi as a Wireless Telegraphy Operator. He was still at sea in *SS Troutpool* in November 1935 but at some subsequent (unknown) stage he joined the RAF and, after training, was appointed to 82 Squadron as a wireless operator/gunner in Blenheim Mk IV aircraft.

On 7 June 1940 (just after Dunkirk) his aircraft was badly shot up by Me 109s while on a reconnaissance mission between Abbeville and St-Valéry, France. The aircraft returned to base (Wattisham) but was so badly damaged it was written off. For this operation he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal (not gazetted until 9 July) 'for gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations'. He was promoted to Sergeant at the same time.

On 13 June his aircraft was attacked by two Me 109s and then crash landed at Courgivaux, Marne, five kilometres WSW of Esternay, France. He was the only one of the three crew to be killed. It is not known if he was killed in the air or by the crash. The other two crew members were taken prisoner and became PoWs.

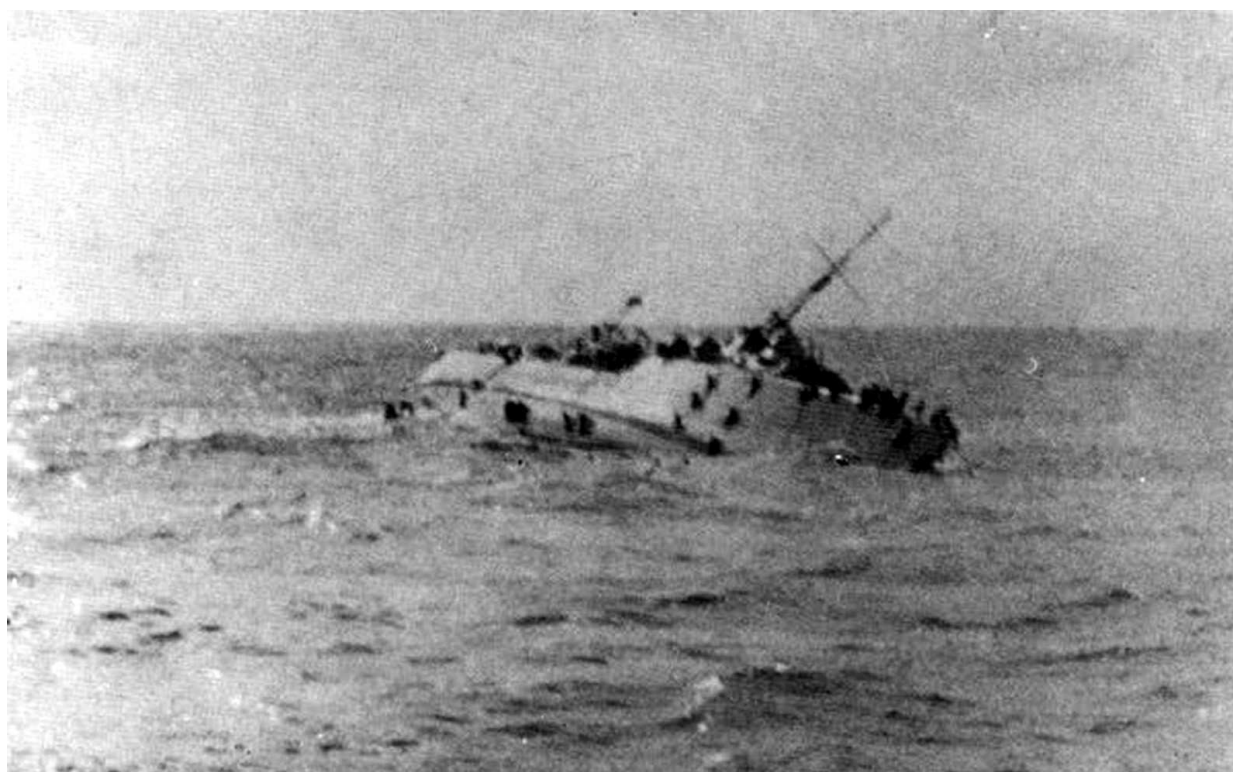
His grave is in the French Military section of Courgiveaux Communal Cemetery. He is the only British WWII serviceman buried in this cemetery.

The Smith family story is told on page 44.

## Those who served and returned

### Royal Navy (RN)

**Sid Berry's story** is the first Personal Story on page 112 of the book. He joined his first ship, *HMS Mashona*, in March 1941 as an Assistant Cook. Only two months later the ship was ordered to join the hunt for the *Bismarck* in the Atlantic. He recalls seeing shells from *HMS Rodney*, destined for the *Bismarck*, passing overhead. Shortly after this *Bismarck* was sunk and *Mashona* was ordered back to Plymouth. While en route, on 28 May, she was attacked and sunk by German Focke-Wulf aircraft. Since publication of the book this dramatic archive picture has come to light.



**28 May 1941 - The sinking of *HMS Mashona***  
(courtesy of the Strathdee Collection)

Sid must be one of the figures in the photograph abandoning ship. He told the story that when the ship went down - which would have been soon after this photograph was taken - he was sucked underwater and when he came back to the surface he thought he had gone blind but in fact his cork lifejacket had ridden up over his head! He was not rescued until after dark and then spent six weeks in hospital with an injured leg.

**Robert Adrian ROBERTS DSC** (b1921) Lieutenant Commander.

He was step-brother to Lawrence Pyman (book p.56) and brother to Primrose Roberts (book p.75).

He joined the navy as a special entry cadet in September 1939 and was first appointed to the light cruiser, *HMS Orion*, in May 1940. Almost all his war service was spent in the Mediterranean apart from a few months in 1942 carrying out Sub-

Lieutenant's courses, after which he joined the Hunt class destroyer, *HMS Lamerton*, as the anti-submarine officer. He was Mentioned in Despatches for his part in sinking a German submarine - U 443.

In October 1943 the Afrika Corps were bottled up by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Armies in Cape Bon Peninsular. The navy blockaded the area to prevent escape. Lt Roberts was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his part in various actions while Navigating Officer of the Inshore Squadron.

He then joined the destroyer, *HMS Teazer*, as the First Lieutenant. The ship was tasked to support the landings in Southern Europe. When *Teazer* returned to the UK in December 1945 he went on what was known as the Long 'N' Course to become a fully qualified Navigating Officer and served in several appointments in that capacity until he requested to be placed on the Retired List in March 1956.

**George Thomas SMITH** (1900-61) Able Seaman. See page 45.

**Stanley (Stan) William SMITH** (1907-D). See page 46.

**Norman C STONE** (1926-2010) Leading Radio Mechanic.

He joined aged 18 in May 1944. After basic naval training at *HMS Royal Arthur* and *HMS Ganges* he specialised in radar detection equipment - even at this stage of the war it remained a very new science if not art - and worked on its development in *HMS Collingwood* at Gosport. He was released from service in October 1947. He and his wife Angela came to Deddington in 1986. He was well known for his interest in local history and was Chairman of the Deddington Map Group.

## Army

**Michael George BAKER** (b1924) Captain.

Royal Artillery. He enlisted in 1943 and was posted to India and then to 24<sup>th</sup> Mountain Regiment in Burma. After the defeat of Japan he went to Singapore and Surabaya in East Java and finally back to India. He was demobbed in 1947.

**Humphrey Willis Chetwode LLOYD** (1892-1965) DSO MC and Bar. Major.

Duke of Edinburgh's, Wiltshire Regiment. He was the Military Attaché in Tehran and helped expose a plot to blow up Churchill. See his Personal Story on page 34.

**Roland David HOLLOWAY MD TD** (1909-77) Lieutenant Colonel.

Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). He was a GP in Deddington from 1935. He and his wife, Nancy (née Evans) first lodged with Mr Stockdale (Chemist) next to The Volunteer Public House while the Old Post House, New Street, was renovated for them. He was called up into the RAMC in Oxford in the autumn of 1939 when he moved his family into rented accommodation. They had 4 children: Susan, Richard (deceased), Edward and James.

Additional information provided by his daughter, Susan Oldfield

'He went to France with the British Expeditionary Force. He worked in a hospital in Paris and was evacuated from Boulogne in June 1940. They amputated a chap's leg on board ship crossing the channel. They got as many of their patients out of Paris as could travel and left those too ill and hoped the Germans would look after them.'

'My father left home again from Liverpool in October 1940; no one knew where they were going until three months later my mother heard he was in Egypt where they had travelled via the Cape of Good Hope. He was attached to GHQ 8<sup>th</sup> Army in

Cairo (16<sup>th</sup> General Hospital) and also served in Khartoum in Sudan and I think Palestine for some months.'

'He arrived back in the UK at the end of 1944 and was posted to Crookham where he was demobbed in late 1945 or early 1946. He continued to serve in the TA until 1950. After the war he joined as one of three partners in a practice in Surrey. We lived at Okewood Hill a small hamlet south of Ockley. He retired in December 1972 and became a farmer.'

**Frederick Samuel (Sam) KEYES** (d2008) Private.  
Royal Berkshire Regiment. He served in the Far East.

**Ernest (Ernie) SMITH** (1910-87) Lance Corporal. See page 46.

**Hugh SPOTTISWODE** (unknown-2008) Major.  
His wife, Elaine, is believed to have been a Wren at Bletchley Park.

**James Henry (Jim) YERBURY** (b1926) Gunner. Radio Operator.  
He grew up in Deddington and joined the Royal Artillery, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, in 1944 as soon as he was old enough to do so and then served in India during the period known as 'Partition' when the Nations of India and Pakistan were created. Most of his time was spent on riot control keeping the two different religious communities - Hindu (India) and Muslim (Pakistan) - apart. It is estimated that some half a million people were killed in the rioting. He was demobbed in 1947 and returned to the UK to live in Banbury.

**Thomas Percy (Perce) WALKER** (1908-91) Private.  
Royal Artillery. He was not A1 medically on joining and was stationed at Aldershot for 18 months before being discharged. He then went to work for the Air Ministry at Moreton-in-the-Marsh airfield.

**Desmond de Warrenne WALLER** (1920-78) Lieutenant Colonel.  
Served in the 4<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Punjab, Indian Army, until 1947 when India became independent. He returned to UK to join the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, married Angela Wright (see ATS section) and subsequently served in Egypt (qualified in Bomb Disposal), Royal Military College, Sandhurst, Canada and Germany. He played tennis for the army and competed in the Junior Wimbledon Tournament.

### **Auxiliary Training Service (ATS)**

**Margaret (Margy) Eleanor MITCHELL** née Collin (b1921) Corporal.  
She joined the Land Army on the outbreak of war but the work damaged her wrists. She subsequently spent a year at Bletchley as a secretary and then joined the ATS. Her detachment was one of the first to cross the Rhine into Germany at the end of the war. She and her husband, Charles, lived at The White House in Clifton after they married in 1950.

### **First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY)**

**Angela Mary WALLER** neé Wright (b1924) Radio Operator.  
She was at school at Cheltenham Ladies' College for the first part of the war. In 1943 she and her best friend, Anne van Gruisen, were interviewed by a lady from the Ministry of War without being told what for. Ostensibly they were joining the FANY organisation but this was a cover. It was only later, after basic training at a former private school near Banbury (Overthorpe) that they found out that they

were to become radio operators for the Special Operations Executive (SOE) trained to communicate with special agents dropped by SOE behind enemy lines. They did not know the identity of the agents or the message contents - which were encrypted - but they did know, of course, if agents failed to respond at pre-arranged times indicating that they had probably been killed or captured. They operated from Poundon Hill Wireless Station, near Bicester, which post war became a Foreign and Commonwealth Office/MI6 Signals Intelligence Station and is now, somewhat more mundanely, Tower Hill Business Park.

Following the exciting period leading up to D-Day, activity at Poundon wound down and the two girls were sent abroad to Colombo in preparation for the planned invasion of Japan. This did not happen because the Japanese surrendered following the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and so Angela returned to the UK hoping to go to university at Oxford. Before she could do so she met and married her husband Desmond who was serving in the Indian Army and travelled to India with him. Following Indian Independence (1947) they returned to the UK by Flying Boat so that Desmond could join the British Army. Angela and their two children accompanied Desmond on all his postings. The family came to live in Deddington in 1978 shortly before Desmond's premature death.

### **Royal Air Force (RAF)**

**Thomas Henaghan MONAGHAN** (1920-96) Leading Aircraftman.

He grew up in Stirling, Scotland, where he enlisted in 1940 and was then posted to Barford St John where he trained to be a gunner and there met Edith Sykes from Clifton, whom he later married (p.15). He served until 1942 but was discharged because he was severely deaf. He then worked as a boiler maker for the railways.

### **Home Guard**

**George Frederick SYKES** (1920-97) He worked for Charles Gardner in a reserved occupation on Manor Farm, Clifton.

**Herbert IVENS** (1911-2000) See page 46.

### **Police Force**

The following list of names has been provided by Don Walker. He could not provide first names for the Sergeants because "we always had to refer to them as Sir".

**Sergeant Burton**

**Sergeant Ponsford**

**Sergeant Restrict**

**Sergeant Rand**

**Constable Fred Reynolds**

The policemen lived in Horsefair. The Constable lived next to the Courtroom which is now the Library. There was a cell behind it. The Magistrate was Mr Douglas Hopcraft.

### **National (NFS) and Auxiliary (AFS) Fire Services**

**Hilda DAY** Assistant Group Officer. NFS.

Died 24 February 1943 aged 26 in Deddington.

She was the daughter of Charles and Florence Day, of Crystal Hotel, Waterloo Street, Hull, Yorkshire. [This entry is based on information provided by the Commonwealth War Grave Commission, courtesy of The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock. The circumstances of her death are not recorded and no burial is recorded in the church register nor does the CWGC provide burial details. An online search revealed that Hilda was born in 1916 in Sculcoates, Hull, to Charles William Harlow Day and Florence Margaret Dobson.]

**Benjamin (Ben) Cecil John KERRIDGE (1908-96) AFS.**

He and his wife, Elsie Ward (b1912), both came from Suffolk. They moved to Deddington in 1936 because Elsie was nanny to the Van Oss boys (p.50) at The Old Corner House [now two houses - The Old Corner House and The Hermitage]. Ben became their chauffeur/gardener. They lived at Horsefair Cottage, part of the property.<sup>2</sup> Ben joined the AFS and his son Cecil (b1940) recalls Ben telling him as a young lad of the horrors of Coventry and showing him his badly dented helmet. Ben was also a coach driver/mechanic for Stanley Hall's company based at the King's Arms of which Stanley was the publican. Cecil recalls 'Old Tilly (Utility) buses with their slatted wooden seats were ideal for dirty overalls, which father, Sid Berry, Jock Callow, Bill Malcher, Vic Beesley and Walt Turnock drove, taking and fetching workers for their shifts from the villages to Alcan in Banbury at 6am, 2pm and 10pm. A dummy of the Alcan factory was built near Great Bourton to draw German bombers away from the real factory.'

When the Van Oss family moved closer to Oxford Ben, Elsie and their two children, Susie and Cecil, remained in Deddington. Ben, in addition to working for Stanley Hall, continued to look after The Old Corner House's garden for its next owner, Mrs Cora Collin (p.15), who reverted to using the old name of The Hermitage for the house.

Ben and Elsie retired to Suffolk in 1979.

**Elsie and Ben Kerridge with Cora Collin (centre) in the early 1970s**



**Jock Callow** (Publican of The Three Tuns), **Stanley Hall** (Publican of The King's Arms where the Fire Engine was kept) and **Albert Saunders**, are also known to have served in the AFS during the war and some of the others named in the 1950s photograph on page 25 may have served with them as well.

<sup>2</sup> **Dorcas Love**, who was a Landgirl (book p.77), also lodged at Horsefair Cottage. Ben and Elsie's son, Cecil, remembers being with her in the garden 'when a Spitfire narrowly missed the chimney'.

## Women's Land Army and Timber Corps (WLA & TC)

**Kathleen Alice Gertrude BOWLER** (1900-91) The 'Bowler Boys' (book p.114) sister.

**Cornelie (Cora) Dura COLLIN** née Stoop (1894-1978) lived in The Hermitage (formerly The Old Corner House) from 1940. She had been widowed in 1937. Her husband, Charles, was a very talented artist. She was a Landgirl in WWI and in WWII supervised placing of Landgirls working in North Oxfordshire. She also started a Youth Club in WWII and instructed girls in toy making. In 1962 she donated money, land and a building to provide a meeting place for the over 60s and cottages for the elderly. The land was that part of her garden located across the road on the NE corner of the crossroads containing the true Hermitage from which the main house later took its name. This building was administered by the Feoffees in the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> centuries to provide shelter for men and women 'of the road'. We know it today as The Holly Tree Club. She also founded the Deddington Housing Association.<sup>3</sup>

**Freda Beatrice SYKES** (1916-1979) Freda married Frederick Skuce.



A group of Deddington Landgirls - Freda is on the unidentified man's left side.

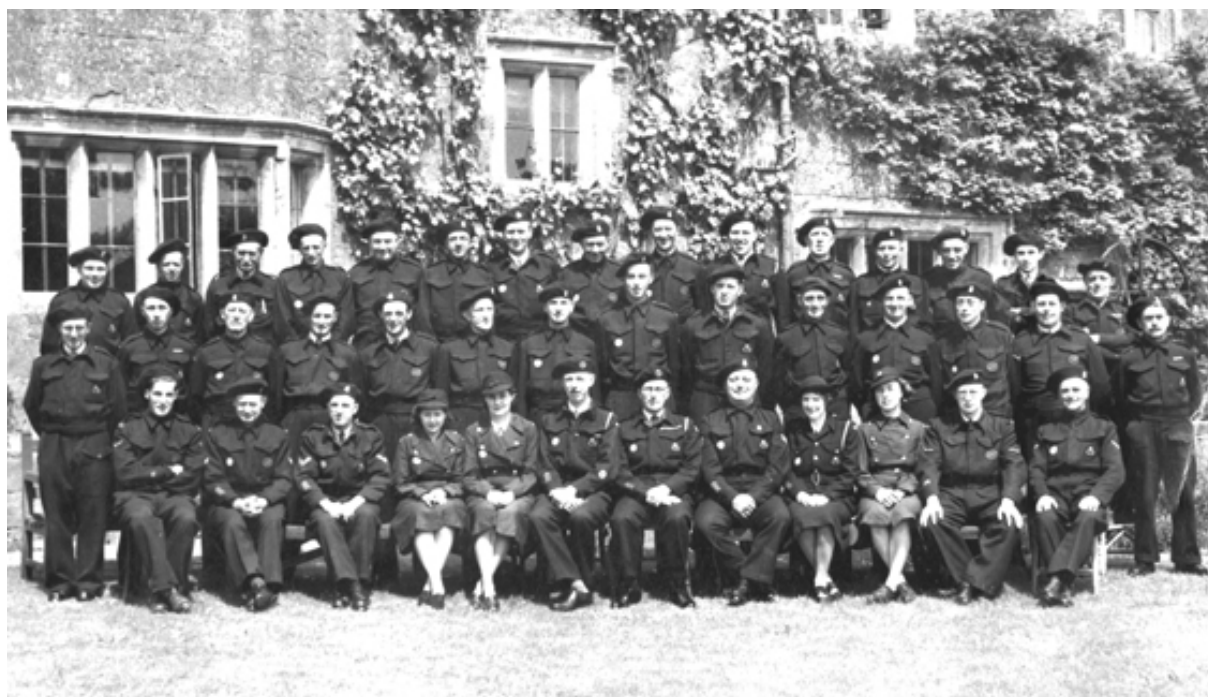
Freda is on the far right. She is at the wedding of her sister, Edith Sykes, to Thomas Monaghan. John Smith, a friend, is on the left.



<sup>3</sup> More about Cora's life and her considerable contribution to the Deddington community can be found in an article by Ruth Johnson in the May 2004 issue of the Deddington News.

**Margaret (Margy) Eleanor MITCHELL** née Collin (b1921). She is Cora Collin's daughter. She joined the Land Army on the outbreak of war and worked on Castle Farm but the work damaged her wrists so she eventually transferred into the army (p.12). She now lives in Woodstock.

### Air Raid Precaution Service (ARP)



*Numbers indicate places counting from the left*

- (Back row) (8) Jim Gardner (messenger) (10) Eddie Lines  
 (Middle row) (5) Percy Walker (8) Lawrence Wallin (messenger) (10) Mr Summerfield  
 (12) Percy Vincent  
 (Front row) (6) Geoffrey Furnish (7) Sid Rule (8) Herbie Callow (9) Doris Cole  
 (12) Denis Callow?

### Evacuees

**Pat ELLMORE** née Petre (b1930). Pat was evacuated to Deddington in 1939 where she lodged with the Spiers family (p.30). The photographs on the facing page are from her personal album. She recalls that their teachers gave much of their spare time to the welfare of the evacuees and generally 'mothered' them.

**Hilda TRITTON** lived with the Walker family in No 5 Hempton Road (p.54). She has not been recognized in Pat Petre's photographs opposite.

**The O'NEILL family** - consisting of parents Michael and Nell, daughter Peggy and son Mike - came to Deddington from the Isle of Dogs, London, in 1941. It was always a dispute between brother and sister as to whether they were evacuees or not. Peggy said they were not evacuees because they chose to move long after others had evacuated: Michael said that as they had been bombed out of their house three times this more than qualified them for evacuee, if not refugee, status... but the argument was never resolved! Read more about the O'Neill family on page 42.



**Evacuees from Campbell School, Dagenham  
Deddington School playground - Summer 1940**



*(Back, l to r)* Terry Savill, Kenneth Gore, Dennis Newton, Evelyn Whittet,  
Vera Lone, Renee Weekes  
*(Middle, l to r)* Elsie, Alice Camp, Daisy Ryan, Ada Brown , ? .  
*(Front, l to r)* Esme Law, Pauline Mason, Margery Webster, Margaret Collman, Pat Petre



*(Back, l to r)* Doris Gore, Joan Ley , ? , Pauline Savill, Doreen Stewart, Sylvia Petre, ? .  
*(Middle, l to r)* Joan Wood (twin), Doris Newton, Jenny Smith, Violet Collman, ? ,  
Rose Bennett, Rosie Stavely  
*(Front, l to r)* Joyce Wood (twin), ? , ? , Bernadette Ryan, ? , Joyce Herbert

**Their teachers - who are not in the photographs - were:  
Miss Wise (Headmistress), Miss Gwen Millard and Miss Joan Murfitt**

## Baker and butcher shops in the Market Place



Richard (Dickie) Dodwell (*left*) and his brother William (*right*) in 1910

Geoff Todd first provided this photograph but only Dickie's name was identified. A further search of the archives fortunately revealed that Dickie's son, Eric (deceased), had given the same photograph to the *Deddington News* many years ago; his accompanying note stated that his father was the baker and his Uncle William was the butcher.

The Dodwell family consisted of father, William - who came to Deddington from Waddesdon in Buckinghamshire - his wife, Emma and their four children - Dickie, William, Bernard and Christine. In the 1911 census father and all three sons are recorded as being employed in both the bakery and the butcher shop. It is thought that the butcher side of the business had closed by 1936.

Bernard Wallin took over the whole premises as a bakery in 1941. Dickie was 65 that year so possibly he retired. Bernard's son, John, recalls that the Dodwells used to slaughter their animals in the Tchure.

## Businesses, Shops and Trades

*Don Walker*

<b>Horse Fair</b>	
Police Houses	Now Stoneleigh House.
<b>Bull Ring</b>	
Coaches	Mr Stanley Hall at The King's Arms. Now Deddington Arms.
Shoe Mender	Mr Chris Ell. Now Wirral House.
Solicitor	Mr Fortescue. His office was in Wychway House. He lived at The Old Malt House, Church Street.
Taxi	Mr Tom Holiday. Now Dragon House.
<b>Victoria Terrace</b>	
Private School	Owned and run by Miss Ivens in Stoneleigh for 25 boys and girls. Open from 1934 to 1938.
<b>Market Place</b>	
Sweet Shop	Miss Cynthia French and her sister. Now Cedar Therapy next to the Red Lion which was run by Mr Jimmy Green.
Baker and Confectioner	Mr Dickie Dodwell. Later Mr Bernard Wallin. Now Hampton International Estate Agents.
Butcher	Mr William Dodwell. Now The Flower Shop.
Green Grocer and Fish	Mr Jimmy Hayward. He also did hair cuts in the back room. Now Viva/Sacs.
Drapery and Shoes	Mr Harold Wells known as 'Ticky'. Now Phillip Allen Updates. You could also do your banking there one day a week.
General Store and Ironmonger	Mr Charlie West. Later a Cafe run by his youngest daughter Ann. Now Mark David Estate Agents
Paraffin and Candles	Mr Arthur Canning. Now Southgate.
Co-op	Mr Francis George. Same place as today.
Grocery	Tuckers Stores managed by Mr Raymond Boon. Now Otters Restaurant.
Post Office	Mr Charlie West, later Mr Bolton. Now Eagles.
<b>Chapel Square</b>	
Butcher	Mr Sandy Hopcraft. Now Tax Assist Accountants.
Grocery	Mr Bert Weaver. Now Centrepont.
Jigsaw Shop	Wooden jigsaws made by Miss Surman. Now No 2 Chapel Square.
Featherton House	Surgery and Dispensary. Dr Jones, Dr Hodges and Dr Holloway. Dispenser was Miss Legge. Later the dispensary was moved to the Chemists in New Street.

### **Castle Street**

Sweet Shop Mrs Sanders, Walt Sanders Mother. Now 3 Hopcraft Lane.

Clock Mender Mr Reid. Wakehurst Cottage.

Coal and Wood Merchant Mr Fred Deeley. Castle Dene.

### **Philcote Street**

Coal Merchant and Sack Hirer Mr Jack Callow. The Old House.

### **High Street**

Private School Miss Bolton. Holcombe House. 1920-1935. 30 pupils.

Grocery Mr Peffy Lewis. He also ran the Labour Exchange from an office behind the shop. Now Heathfield.

Electrical Mr Goundry. Later Mr Oldham. Now No 10.

Butchers Miss Bolton and Mr Arthur Smith. When the butchers moved to New Street at what is now Eldred House, this shop became an Ice Cream Parlour run by the West family who had moved into the Holcombe.

Cycle Repairs Mr Bill Holiday. On the north side corner of Hudson Street. Now a cycle shop once again, called Cyclogical.

### **New Street**

Chemist and Barbers Mr Stockdale. Later Mr Duckett. Now Windermere House which still has its shop window. It also had a Gent's hairdresser in the room behind.

Private School Rosedene House. On the right of the archway opposite Hudson Street and still called Rosedene. Owned and run by Miss Melsom for five 'children of the gentry' two of whom were the daughters of the Mortons at Fritwell Manor.

Green Grocers Mr and Mrs Bill Compton. Now Three Horse Shoes.

Cobbler Mr Knibbs. His shop was in a garden shed behind Compton's Green Grocer shop.

Blacksmith and Farriers Mr Fred Tibbetts. The Archway on south side of the Congregational church. He also sold petrol from a hand operated pump - pull up once for half a gallon. Now a dental practice and Archway Court.

Gun Shop and Fireworks Mr Johnnie Runnicle. Later the ironmonger Mr Joe Beardsley. Now Bengal Spice Indian Restaurant.

Sweet Shop Miss Ruth Fowler. She was rather disabled. Now Stone House.

Baker Mr Bill Course. Now the Old Bakehouse next to The Stile.

### **Builders Yards**

P Franklin and Sons Earls Lane nearly opposite the school.

Douglas Hopcraft

St Thomas Street. Now the yard where the Veterinary Practice and Phil Rudge's garage workshops are. He was also the local undertaker. Mr Alf Stanley and Mr Frank Drinkwater made the coffins.

### **Public Houses**

Three Tuns

Now Crown & Tuns. New Street.

Red Lion

Market Place.

Unicorn

Market Place.

Plough

Hempton. Closed just before the war.

King's Arms

Now Deddington Arms. Horsefair.

Volunteer

Now Russell House. New Street.

Duke of Cumberland's Head

Clifton.

### **New Street Dairy**

Elsie Hore and her husband, Theodore, ran New Street Dairy from the Old Farm House on New Street. During the summer the cows walked down the Oxford Road to their grazing fields in Chapmans Lane. In 1940 Theodore fell off a wagon carrying hay and broke his neck. Bill Wheeler, Cyril Clarke and Jeff Butler then helped Elsie with the business. It was taken over in 1956 by Ivy (née Gregory) and Frank Rainbow and operated as Rainbow Dairies from St Thomas Street for 17 years. In the early years Mr Course let them use his bread van for the morning deliveries.

### **Chimney Sweep**

Mr Alf Yerbury lived in Castle Street opposite the small green. They did their rounds with a pony and trap. As children we would go to see the pony grazing on the green. Jim's sister, Cissy, who lived with them, was the school dinner cook. His son, Jim lived in Field View opposite the Castle grounds entrance.

### **Hedge Layers**

George and Tom Sykes who lived on Goose Green next door to one another were skilled at their craft. It was normal to cut a chain length<sup>4</sup> of hedge each day but you would often see Tom making his way home at 3pm having completed his length.

### **Night Soil Buckets**

A polite way of putting it. For the people who did not have a sewerage system to their house or a garden to empty the bucket as it was called, Mr Sid Canning came round weekly - usually on a Saturday night - with a bowser pulled by a horse. He would come and take the bucket and empty it into the bowser and take it to his fields near Bloxham Berge<sup>5</sup> and spread it. He used to come to the house where I lived in the Market Place.

### **The 'Gollywog' Lady**

Fanny Wheeler who lived at Corner House, Chapel Square, with her husband used to have a stall selling these dolls in the market on Pudding Pie Fair Day.

<sup>4</sup> 66 Feet or 22 Yards or 100 Links or 4 Rods. There are 10 Chains in a Furlong and 80 Chains in a Statute Mile. An Acre is 10 square Chains i.e. 1 Chain and 1 Furlong.

<sup>5</sup> This is the old name for the bridge over the River Swere by what is now Daeda's Wood.

### **Deddington Slaughterhouse**

This was situated up The Grove on the right hand side. It was owned by Sandy Hopcraft the local butcher. His slaughterman was Mr Jack Malcher (book p.161). Jack would go with Sandy to the various markets to buy cattle, sheep and pigs. They then brought them to the slaughterhouse to prepare them for Smithfield Market. Jack would take them to Smithfield in a large lorry to be there for the early market and meet the prospective buyers. The slaughterhouse closed in the early years of the war and Jack carried on as a slaughterman at the Banbury slaughterhouse for three days a week and then worked in the Deddington butchers shop the rest of the week. This was a very renowned business.



**One of Stanley Hall's coaches in the Bullring**



**Harvesting Big Wanbrook field, Grove Farm, for Mr Butlin. Don Walker is on the tractor and his Dad, Percy, is just visible sitting up behind the binder**