

The Home Guard

Affiliated to The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry



On parade in the Market Place



Lewis gun detachment - outside the Primary School

*(back row l to r) 'Wilkie' Wilkinson (no relation to Fred) , Albert Tyrell
(front row l to r) Herbie Smith, Sergeant Leslie Bowler, Fred Wilkinson*

This photograph and the one on the next page are courtesy of Joe Cowley who has a copy of an album presented to Major Morris (Commanding Officer) at the end of the war. A copy of the full album can be seen in the Deddington OnLine Gallery.



The Company, outside the Primary School

(Back Row l to r) Bert Wheeler, Brian 'Harry' Cox, Jeff Woolgrove, Cliff Homans, Joe Cowley

(Centre row l to r) Ernie Green, Herbie Smith, Cooper, Bernard or John Bowerman, Fred Wilkinson, Jack Hiorns, Len Vincent, Hawkins, Jim Stockford, Fred Ware, Bill Harper

(Front row l to r) Harry Harper, 'Wilkie' Wilkinson,¹ Albert Tyrrel, Major Arthur Morris, Sergeant Leslie Bowler,² Boyce Paginton, B Vincent, ? Kinge

Others who served in the Home Guard include:

Jack Beddar
Jack Brooks
George Busby
Bill Castle
Bill Harper
Ian Haynes
Dr Hodges
Bill Ivings

Denis Malcher
(?) Mosedale
Bill Prew
Bill Shirley
'Coakey' Smith
Percy Smith
George Trevor
Albert Turrell

Sidney Wales
Jeanne Wales née Rule³
George Willet

¹ 'Wilkie' Wilkinson had been the batman (servant) of Major Roberts of Deddington Manor during WWI and had remained with him post war.

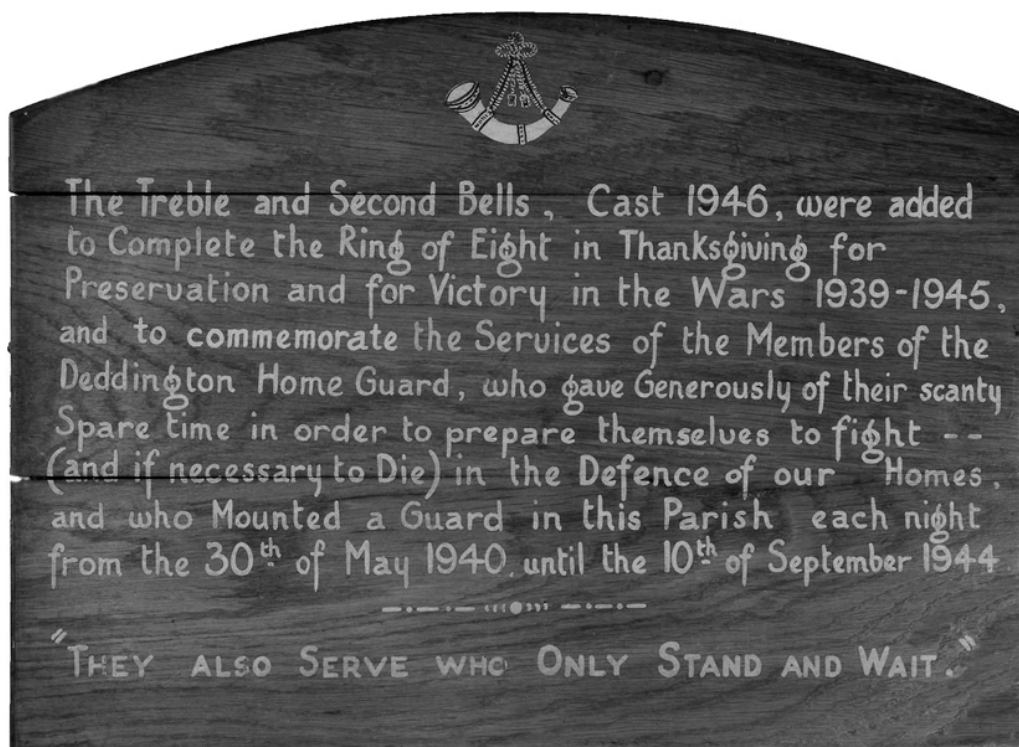
² This was his Home Guard rank. He was actually Captain Bowler MC whose distinguished service in WWI can be read on page 115.

³ Trained to be a comptometer (code machine) operator.



A pillbox at Somerton guarding the south side of the canal bridge

There are now very few examples of WWII architecture in the area. Air raid shelters and Observer Corps posts have been demolished and all that remains, beyond a few signs of old airfields (see p.92), are a pair of concrete pillboxes either side of the road from North Aston to Somerton. They guard the bridge over the canal in the foreground, the railway line and its bridge hidden behind the canal side cottages. The north side one is very similar. The embrasures would have given a good arc of fire for a machine gun along the approach road. No doubt there were also mobile road blocks (large tree trunks on wheels) as there were on each of the four roads into Deddington.



A commemorative plaque in the church bell tower recording the appreciation of the Parish.