

A great honour for our War Memorial Project

Capel Times

Issue Four – November 2018

Free to all residents, friends and supporters

Her Majesty The Queen



Capel St Mary is honoured to receive from Her Majesty a letter about the commitment of the village to our War Memorial project. The village will wish to thank Her Majesty for Her kind and thoughtful message.

David Thompson – Editor



BALMORAL CASTLE

10th September 2018

Dear Mr. Bunkell,

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for your letter, and for the copy of the Capel Times which you thoughtfully enclosed, from which Her Majesty was interested to learn about the Capel St Mary War Memorial Project.

The Queen was pleased to hear that the residents of the village, and the staff and pupils at East Bergholt High School in particular, have shown such commitment to this project and the War Memorial Monument is now in place.

Her Majesty feels sure that the Monument's Dedication on 11th November 2018 will make this an especially memorable day for the residents of Capel St Mary, and Her Majesty sends her very good wishes to you all. I am to thank you once again for your kind thought in writing as you did.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Hussey

Lady-in-Waiting

Mr G Bunkell, CBE

Essential road closure 8 am - 2 pm

To ensure the safety of the many people we are expecting to attend our Dedication Service a temporary road closure will be essential.

The Street will be closed from the junction of Rembrow Road, heading towards the Methodist Church, up to the junction with Link Road from 8am until 2pm on the morning of 11 November.

The restriction will stop through traffic but residents from houses affected by the closure will still have vehicle access to their homes.

As a lot of people will be walking on The Street during the road closure, traffic marshals will assist residents who need to drive from or to their homes.

There will be a signposted diversion via Rembrow Road.

Help with necessary parking

Parking will be an issue for the Dedication Service, the afternoon events and the Lighting of the Beacon.

Please, village residents, if you are mobile, do not drive to the events. There will be limited parking for those for whom it is essential to come by car.

If they have Blue Badges we will need to have their details in advance. We are also looking at offering transport for residents with limited mobility.

For those with Blue Badges and others who need help with transport please email Capel War Memorial Trust at gary@capelmemorial.org.uk

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timetable
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Capel's lost men
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**Your Families' Stories
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Admiration from our principal guests...



**Deputy Lieutenant
of Suffolk
Sir Michael Bunbury**

'I visited Capel St Mary in August and met with Gary Bunkell and other members of the Committee. I was very impressed both with the preparations and also with the obvious community spirit that has made this project possible. I very much look forward to participating on the great day itself, Sunday 11th November.'



**Air Vice-Marshal
Simon Dougherty**

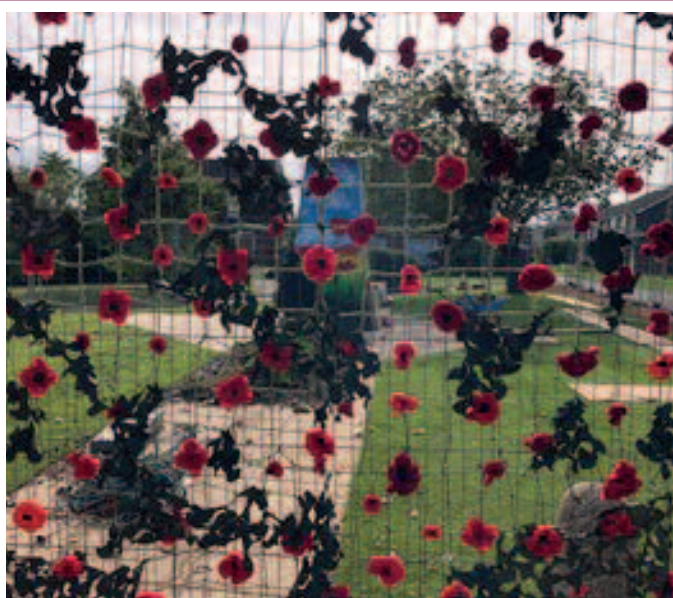
'We must never forget the huge sacrifices made by others and I am delighted to be involved in such an important project. The community has truly come together to make this endeavour such a success.'



**James Cartlidge
South Suffolk MP**

'As Capel St Mary's local MP, I have nothing but admiration for the efforts of the War Memorial Trust and the local community, who have shown great pride and determination to deliver this important project. The new War Memorial, placed at the centre of the village in this armistice centenary year, will be a fitting and poignant tribute to all of those local soldiers who tragically lost their lives.'

...for our wonderful community spirit



Decorating Memorial fencing with poppies

The paving and turf have been laid and work continues and the Memorial Garden at the Monument will be finished in time for the Dedication Service.

Until then, the protective fencing panels around the site will remain enhanced by a growing mass of commemorative poppies.

Coordinated by Sarah Weston, of Capel, village groups - including the Guides, Brownies and the WI

- and individuals, have knitted or crocheted the poppies.

Sarah has stitched the poppies on to camouflage netting attached to the fencing.

Poppies can be added until the fencing comes down. They can be left at the Village Bar, 12 Friars and 16 Thorney Road.

The poppy panels will be on display at the village hall exhibition after the Dedication Service.

Who made it all possible? **YOU DID!**

The War Memorial projects could not have been successful without overwhelming support from the village.

Unfortunately, the Data Protection Act, which came into force this year, has restricted the publication of the names of the many villagers who have contributed money or voluntary work to the project.

But it should be applauded that at the time of publication of Capel Times 119 individuals had become Friends of Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust.

Upwards of another 30 individuals had also contributed financially and otherwise.

A total of 22 groups, clubs, churches and schools made financial and other contributions as did 13 companies.

There was also help from outside donors and from Heritage Lottery.

**Chairman's Comment
- Page 5**

PRAYERS

**Prayers will be said
during the Dedication
Service by the village
Church leaders**



**Anglican:
Canon Jim Pendorf**



**Methodist:
Andrew Vellacott**



**Community Church:
Pastor Dave Owen**



**Roman Catholic:
Damian Hearne**

CAPEL ST MARY WAR MEMORIAL
www.capelmemorial.org.uk



Dedication of War Memorial & Act of Remembrance



Capel St Mary
11th November 2018
Order of Service

OUTLINE ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME AND BIDDING PRAYER

HYMN

ETERNAL FATHER, STRONG TO SAVE

DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL

AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

THE FALLEN

*Laura Allison, Head Girl East Bergholt High School,
David Williams, Deputy Head Boy East Bergholt High School*

THE EXHORTATION – *Sir Michael Bunbury*

LAST POST – *Mr Arthur Glazin*

TWO MINUTE SILENCE

REVEILLE

KOHIMA EPITAPH – *Sir Michael Bunbury*

LAYING OF WREATHS

PIPED LAMENT – *Rob Caird, Ipswich Piping Society*

READING

Paul's letter to the Ephesians 6 vs 10-18

Air Vice-Marshal Simon Dougherty

PRAYERS

HYMN

I vow to thee, my country

THE BLESSING

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

The service will be conducted by the Reverend (Ret'd Major) Mandy Reynolds, pictured right, a former British Army Chaplain, who served in the UK, Germany and Iraq.

She is former Chaplain to the Army Widows' Association, the Chaplain to the Normandy Veterans' Association and full-time Chaplain for Ipswich Hospital.



A full Order of Service will be available at the Monument site from 10am on 11 November

THE FALLEN



World War One

William Abbott
Herbert Bullard
Harry Chiverton
Walter Cole
Frank Cook
Frank Deck
Edgar Fallows
William Fallows
Frank Goddard
Charles Gough
Frederick Grimsey
John Lott MC
Francis Moncreife
George Norris
Arthur Peck
William Pettingale
Edgar Pittock
Frederick Ratford
Earnest Richardson
Frank Richardson
Ernest Rush
Arthur Stiff



World War Two

Reginald Allen
Walter Barclay
Harry Burch
Eustace Fraser
Raymond Fraser
Frank Green
Phillip Pells
Edgar Pittock
Frank Pittock
Kenneth Reynolds
Arthur Singleton
Harold Steward



Post World War Two

Peter Harris

Names of the Fallen will be read during the Dedication Service by East Bergholt High School students. See Order of Service.

WREATH LAYERS



Sir Michael Bunbury
Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk



Simon Dougherty
Air Vice-Marshal for the Armed Services



James Cartlidge
South Suffolk MP



Gordon Jones
Suffolk County Councillor



Barry Gasper
Babergh Council Chairman



Chris Matthews
Capel Parish Council Chair

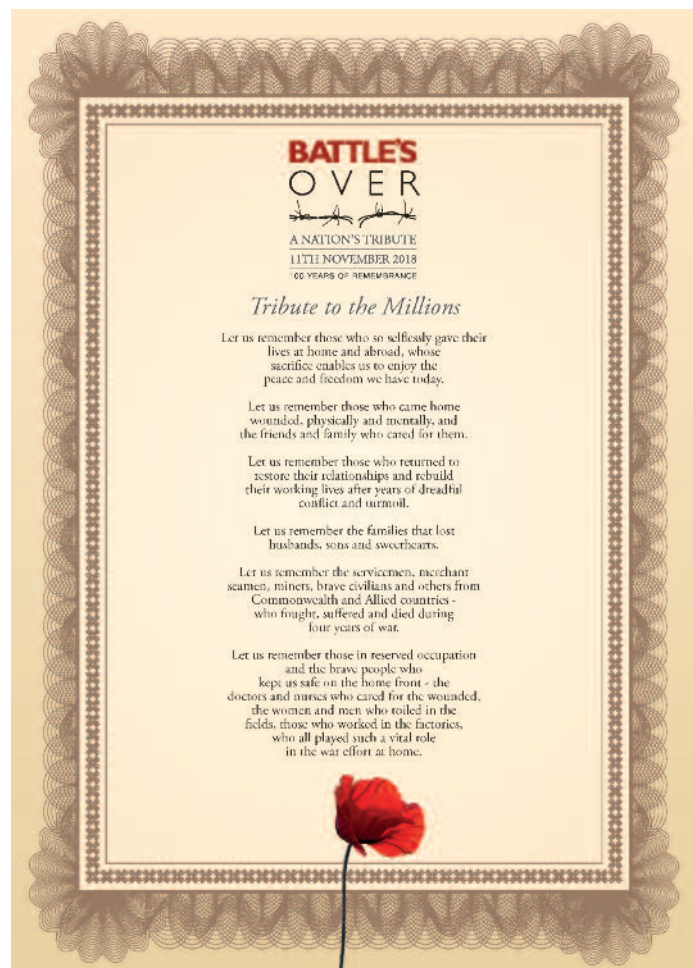


Walter Nixon
World War Two Veteran
For blind and all veterans



Group Captain Gary Bunkell
Chair, War Memorial Trust

Scouting and Guiding Groups will lay wreaths and children will plant Crosses. When the formal ceremony ends other groups and individuals are very welcome to lay their own wreaths.



The Battle's O'er! Piping in the dawn Ending the day

Capel's day-long events commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One will start with Bill Dimond piping the traditional Scottish lament, the Battle's O'er, at 6am at the War Memorial. He is one of 1,000 pipers across the United Kingdom and the world who will be playing the lament at the same time.

The lament was composed by Pipe Major William Robb, of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 1887-1891. It is known as a retreat march for playing at the end of the day and entered piping repertoire between the Boar War and World War One.

Bill Dimond, War Memorial Trust Secretary, will, at the sunset ceremony for Lighting the Beacon, pipe a selection of slow marches including the Skye Boat song and Dark Isle. He will pipe again at the end of day.

He learned to play the pipes, aged 13, in the Air Cadets, was a founder member of the Glen Morriston Pipe Band, Bury St Edmunds, and has played with the RAF Pipe Bands based at RAF Honington and RAF Waddington.

Andrew Sankey's lost uncle

Corporal William Roper was the elder brother of the Rev Andrew Sankey's mother, Muriel. He was born in South Africa, where his father was a serving Army Officer. On return to Colchester, William became an engineering apprentice but when married colleagues were being called up, he volunteered for the Royal Engineers when he was 19, to allow them to remain behind doing the essential work. He was killed in action on the Somme battlefield in August 1916, three days after he was 21 and on his sister's seventh birthday.

Your Family Stories Pages 20 to 24



Rod Caird
Ipswich Piping Society, will pipe during the Wreath Laying ceremony.

Timetable of our 24-hour day of events

Memorial Site
6am-6.15am

Lone Piper plays Battle's O'er as part of the National event. Union Flag raised.

The Street
10.20am -10.40am
Parade of:
Cadets, Guides and Scouts to the Memorial.

Memorial
10.30am
Public assemble at the Memorial. Music by East Bergholt High School musicians.

Memorial
10.40am-11.30am
Dedication Service with two-minutes silence at 11.00am.

Methodist Church and Community Centre
11.30am onwards:
Refreshments for all.

Community Centre
12noon- 5pm
Exhibition of work from the War Memorial Group, East Bergholt High School and local groups.

Children's Play Area
7pm
Lighting of Beacon, one of 1,000 across the country. Community singing.

Memorial
8.30pm
Lone piper. Union Flag lowered. End of the day.

A Beacon of Light in commemoration and remembrance

World War One started in Europe on 28 July 1914. On 3 August, the United Kingdom's Foreign Minister, Sir Edward Grey, was looking down the Mall, in London, as the lamps were lit. He declared: 'The lamps are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit again in our lifetime'. On 4 August, the UK was at war with Germany.

It was four years until our nation, Europe and the world saw the light of peace again.

A Beacon of Light in commemoration and remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One and the many millions who were killed or who came home dreadfully wounded will be lit in Capel St Mary at 7pm on 11 November. It will be the closing event of the day in which our War Memorial Monument is Dedicated.

It will be one of 1,000 lit across the United Kingdom, Channel

Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories.

The Beacon is the one lit to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th Birthday. Seven hundred people (the estimate of a policeman with crowd-control experience) gathered at the village hall for that lighting.

War Memorials throughout the country are being restored or renovated in time for the 100th anniversary. Capel's War Memorial Trust believes that our village could be the only one in the country which, over the last two years, has built its first-ever Memorial in time for the 100th anniversary.

The Beacon, bought by public donations, has been stored in the village and has been checked, tested and will be operated by Stuart Harris and Steve Bishop, both Capel Parish Councillors, who were in charge of it for the Queen's celebrations.



Checking the Beacon: Stuart Harris and Steve Bishop

Veteran to Light the Beacon

Walter Nixon, aged 95, a member of the Blind Veterans' Association, will Light the Beacon at 7pm on 11 November. In the morning he will lay a wreath at the War Memorial.

Ex-Bombardier Nixon served in Africa, Italy and Palestine from 1941 to 1946. He is from East End, East Bergholt, with family in Capel.



It cannot be said too loudly It cannot be said too often: Our village is wonderful

Comment

Group Captain Gary Bunkell, Chairman,
Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust

Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust will shortly stand down, as our work is done. In the two-and-a-half years since our formation the achievements have been considerable. Our objective from the first has been to erect an appropriate Memorial in the village. That we have done thanks to generous donations from villagers and businesses and work on major tasks by volunteers and Trust members. We had little idea quite how the project would develop. The visible evidence of our efforts is preserved in the main Memorial structure, Ben's Garden at the Primary School, in our Capel Times and wide publicity in the local and regional Press and on TV. We also won a grant from Heritage Lottery for educational purposes; researching the lives and deaths of the men being remembered; sourcing building materials; agreeing designs and seeking approval for the

Memorial; making presentations to many local and regional groups to raise awareness. Also, building a Website; marketing the project; preparing and distributing Capel Times; organising two quiz nights, a garden party, a concert; designing and printing the Order of Service and arranging the Dedication Service. My thanks to volunteers and businesses who have worked without payment at the main Memorial site and Ben's Garden. Without their support those project elements would not have been successful. The project, above all, is about people, especially our young people. It has generated incredible art work and creative writing from East Bergholt High School students, which has earned admiration at the highest levels as our front-page bears witness.



In place - Primary School's Acorn Pillar in memory of 23 lost pupils

A stone Acorn Memorial Pillar has been set in place in Ben's Garden at Capel St Mary Primary School. As well as remembering Ben, it is also engraved with the names of the school's 23 former pupils who died in World War One and World War Two. It is a lasting memorial to the men who went to war and did not return home and will help to create an awareness among today's and future pupils of the loss, sacrifice and horror of war. Refurbishment of Ben's Garden and preparation for the Pillar's installation was carried out by Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust members and other volunteers. All the money spent on the refurbishment and on paying for the Pillar was raised separately from money donated solely for building the War Memorial Monument in the centre of the village. Speaking for the teachers, staff and pupils, Zara Davis said: "The school is delighted with the Acorn. The children love it, too, and I have seen many of them reading the names and stroking the Acorn." She thanked Trust members and volunteers for their hard work.

Wear their Medals with pride

We are looking forward to a Dedication turn out worthy of the men who gave their lives for us, the future generations. Several Veterans from World War Two will be present and will be wearing their medals with pride.

Many people present will have had relatives who served in World War One or Two and since and are no longer with us through wartime death or who died after the wars. Their medals were hard earned. They were given by a grateful nation for human endeavour and bravery in adversity.

On this special day, their medals can be worn with pride at the Dedication by relatives, men, women and children, provided only that they are worn on the right-hand side of clothing. The left-hand side is for present and previous Service personnel.

Rotary Award to the Trust

Ipswich Rotary District Governor, David Simpson, presents a cheque and plaque to Gary Bunkell in recognition of the War Memorial Trust's efforts in raising funds and support for Capel's War Memorial.



My Dad was in Capel's Secret Army

My Dad, Gerald, joined Capel's Secret Army, aged 15, a year before the legal age for joining.

He was welcomed into that 2-0-2 underground group because of his tracking skills and fine shooting.

Everywhere the six adult members had been concealing themselves in the countryside, Dad had found them.

There were 2-0-2 groups of six men throughout Britain. Their

Jim Sporle War Memorial Trust member

role was sabotage if the Germans invaded. They were trained by Commandos, had better weapons than Front-Line soldiers, explosives and were, in effect, suicide fighters.

Capel's men had a dug out in woods in Bentley and Dad had a sub-machine gun, a Smith and Wesson revolver, 12

grenades and access to high explosive.

Neither the police nor the Home Guard knew about 2-0-2 groups anywhere.

Somehow the police heard that Dad had weapons in his bedroom. He was facing arrest until he gave them a secret phone number to ring.

*Your Family War Stories See Pages 20 - 24

High School is making its own War Memorial project film

Cheryl Schmidt
Assistant Headteacher

Work is underway at East Bergholt High School on the commemorative film that we are creating as part of the War Memorial project.

Pictured are computing teacher, Dru Watts and Year 10 student Isabella Conlon, storyboarding the final ideas at a planning meeting.



The film cast, and crew is made up of staff and students of all ages, including some ex-students who are returning to lend some technical expertise.

The film will be shown at East Bergholt High School as part of our Memorial Exhibition on Tuesday 13 November.

The exhibition has been made possible by the funding received from the Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust through Lottery education funding.

The exhibition will open at 5pm on 13 November and will also showcase art and live drama. No tickets are required, and the exhibition is open to the public.

Choir at the Dedication Service

Chris Sodey
Head of Music

East Bergholt High School choir will be attending the Dedication of Capel St Mary's War Memorial along with three Year 11 students, Jack Allard, Harry Lang and Bethany Partridge who will accompany proceedings on piano and organ.

The Music Department is committed to engaging students in a vast range of musical activities, fostering cross-cultural perspectives and building community relations.

Bravery, fear, wounds, death

Everything happened in slow motion when the bomb left the plane. Our own cries stifled by impending doom that was falling towards us at 600mph. I can see the fear in my comrade's eyes, his panic-stricken face embellished by his blue iris' and the embedded mud encrusting his face. My whole life flashes in front of my eyes in the brief seconds before the bomb exploded and I stood still, too frightened to move.

My sister and I had a good childhood. We often fought, but we still loved each other. My bond with her will never be broken, even if I die and they have to send a telegram to say I'm dead. My mother hadn't wanted me to go and fight in the war; she'd already had enough grief since the loss of our father when we were little. Such a kind person; she didn't deserve all of this to happen. If I die today, then at least she'll have my sister to look after her.

No one really knows why we signed up to be in the war. We weren't aware of all the mud, the cold, and the rats. They told us we'd be heroes. They told us everyone would look up to us. We believed them. Who wouldn't? Sometime I sit in the mud and think back to the days that are forever imprinted in my mind – like the days as a child in the garden, all the birds singing and our dog playing in the sun. I would give anything to re-live one of those days again. I just want to be happy again, war or no war. I'm plunged back to reality by someone shouting for my life, telling me to move. All of a sudden, I can't hear anything, and all my senses are telling me to run. Run for my life. That's all I can do as the bomb is rapidly getting closer.

Closer. Closer. Closer. I turn and start running. I drop my gun in a last-minute attempt to lighten the load. One million and one thoughts run through my mind as I'm running; am I going to die? What will my sister and mother do after two deaths in the family? Will they be able to cope? Suddenly I've tripped, and I fall to the ground. There is no time to stop moving. I have to keep going, I can't let the bomb reach my soul. I frantically race forward. I have to get away.

I hear a big explosion, and that's the last thing I remember.

Fleur Jackson

The sounds of the shrapnel could be heard for miles. One just skimming my stomach, but killing my friend, Bobby. Sergeant Colby said that we would either die on the battlefield while trying or come back alive with no success and be rewarded with a court martial or even death. So, I had to stay. I had no choice.

Suddenly the shrapnel stopped, everyone was silent. The only thing we could hear was humming, it was coming from the smoke that had formed just west of all the action. Then he spoke, and at that moment, I knew who he was. It was Wilhelm the second. Most feared German in England.

Then parts of our army fled then more and more until all that was left... was me. He started to walk around me saying "Why are you still here, why not run with your weak friends?" I didn't answer, while staring at my feet. Then he smashed his fist into my neck, forcing me to choke and hold my throat. Then I blacked out, who knows what the Germans could have done to me while I was out.

When I awoke I was lying in a pit of disgusting, rotting smelly bodies I screamed but what I saw after was a surprise. It was Bobby, just sitting at the edge looking at me, staring at me and then he said something that I will remember forever.... "You are not real. You do not serve your country anymore. You are no longer-" Before he finished his sentence, I interrupted him, I knew exactly what he was going to say, so I said it to him. "I am no longer" I sighed with a tear falling down my dirty cheek. "Alive."

Cameron Drake

Fear. You could see it in his eyes. The sheer terror would kill you inside out. He saw it. Everyone saw it. It was big. It was blue. It was dead. He stepped forward, like a deer in headlights. It was real. All of it was real. It was so lifelike. It was so deformed.

Jezza slapped himself over and over, hoping it was a dream. Nope, it was a reality. The sand was dry. The sand was bloody. There was another crash in the distance. It was on one of our ships. HMS HYDRA was done for. The Germans got that one, but they won't win this fight. The British were bombarding the Germans at Dunkirk. Jezza looked closer, still wondering if this was real. It couldn't be. But it was. He hesitated, but then got a grip.

It was a protestor, later identified to be as ex-fighter pilot called Anthony Constirance. Jezza knew him. His hands cupped over his head. Out of his eyes came a waterfall, dreading who else had died. He's had enough. not everyone can cope with a loss.

The next day Jezza was assigned to a squadron to push Dunkirk for the last time. Jezza refused. He said that it was too risky. A death threat was put towards him. He was told to do so or die.

They went for it. 5 fighter planes in a row and a formation. It was the end. The Germans saw it coming. One goes down. Two. Three. Four. Jezza was the last one. Kamikaze was his only choice. He did it. Jezza stopped the attack on Britain. He died a hero.

Kiran Nolloth

Deafened by the clamorous sounds of a cannon. Scarred by the perishing wounds and the desperate cries in the dead of the night.

The sky, a blanket of stolen dreams, cast its purpose along the trench, feeding off warm spirits of hope still inside of the poor soldiers trapped in this loathsome battle near Flanders Field.

The moon illuminated the thick frost that grew menacingly around it, it made me think that somewhere my family was looking up at the same lucent glow that was guiding me to them, and the thought suffocated me.

The unwelcoming silence scared away the day much to my despair although I dread the morning and what will happen.

The future twists my path like an omniscient figure causing destruction.

Eventually, the thick blanket folded up and flew away as the sun rose from its slumber but only to reveal another day of hell.

The world awakes but little I know that nothing, nothing could prepare me for the looming doom that lies ahead...

Panic rushed through my veins, my bones shivered with a bitter sensation. A twitching of a thunder storm that was taking over my body. Each minute, slowly devouring my mind. Fictitious thoughts were lingering in the corner of my vision, my head was splitting with a consistent beating of...

Amber Percival

War as a woman

It's March 17 1917. I am just 20 years old. I was born in Philadelphia. I have never married, and I have always been deemed not worthy for the Navy, nor the Army for that matter. Of course, I have never applied for I knew that I would be rejected. But today as England continues its battle with Germany they become more and more desperate. More and more hasty.

So today, I, Loretta Perfectus Walsh, am applying to join the Navy. I may be female but that's not going to stop me. I hope to be sworn in as at least a Yeoman. I wish for plenty of others just like me to join, for them not to be held back by gender, race or religion. And after all this is finished I will insist to hold my role.

If I am accepted, I must do as we are losing men all over the place, I shall challenge whoever may stand in my way and show such resilience that by the time I die I will have become a Loyalist. I would wish to be buried under a monument for my sacrifice and devotion to Womanhood. To be remembered as a Patriot.

Saffron Taylor

Watching our enemies firing their guns while soldiers are running in the thick mud fighting for our country, falling to their death, shooting out of trenches, blood dripping down our jackets.

Bandages on my legs and arms were falling off as I run towards the trench, shooting every enemy in my way, I'm half way to getting to the trenches as I see one of the English soldiers has been shot in the leg, I quickly pick him up and start on my way back to the trench.

After I get to the trench I lay under the shelter with the other soldier by my side, I get on my bruised knees and look at his wounded leg and gently pat my handkerchief over the blood, I took the bandage off my knee and wrapped it around the swollen shots. He opened his eyes and told me he was lucky to be found and he was very thankful.

I had to go and help the others now, I had left the soldier there to rest his leg. The more I got out of the trench the louder the screams were, they started echoing again and again, I shouted for help but before I knew it my vision had gone blank and I had fallen to the ground.

Ruby Howard

captured by school students



Dear Diary,

It has been almost five months since I last saw Dad. I miss him; I really do. Whether he is still breathing, is what worries me. For all I know, he could be buried beneath the ground I am standing on; his bloodied mouth full of dirt, choking for a last breath. As I imagine it, salty tears stream down my frozen face and I feel as if a sharpened wooden stake has skewered my pulsating heart.

Ow, I must divert myself away from these depressing thoughts and try to discuss the positive side of my situation (if such a thing exists). I'll try my hardest...

You're running the fastest you can. Collapsing into congealed clods of mud, your life in jeopardy. Bullets flying over you, each shot narrowly missing you. Then one hits; you fall. Horrified as the wound drains the excess life out of you, an ear-piercing scream escapes from your swollen mouth. The excruciating pain crawls up your lifeless leg. Staggering back to the trenches, you call for help. No answer. You are alone.

The feeling is overpowering, there is a negative energy inside me. One that is trapped and always will be. I cannot seem to think positively about Dad being away in the war. For a reason that I can't explain, a perception breathes inside of me, convincing me that he is not okay. That his last day has come. I pray that he comes back well, but whatever happens I will always be Daddy's little girl and he will always be my hero.

Holly Fair

Our minds hurt; we stubble across muddy fields. In these dreaded boots caked in brown slop. Now our feet start to blister Soldiers stumble; left right and centre. The birds aren't chirping The boys aren't singing. The sergeant isn't screaming. The gloom surrounds us, My body fills with nothingness. But I carry on! Then "grenade" My life flashed before my eyes The stench of dead injured men surrounded us And there he was Missing arms legs fingers His face as pale as a ghost His blood shot eyes It was as if he was yelling for help He laid there so vaguely His mouth was covered in the thickness of the red blood! He was gone!

Anon

MP praises High School art students' murals

South Suffolk MP, James Cartlidge, congratulated High School Year 10 art students and their teacher for the outstanding murals they painted on boards protecting Capel St Mary's new War Memorial Monument.

He said: "I was enormously impressed by the work of the East Bergholt High School students. Their murals are a fitting tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for their country and raise awareness of this fantastic community project ahead of the Monument's unveiling in November".

The photograph shows, from left to right: Group Captain Gary Bunkell, War Memorial Trust Chairman, EBHS Head of Art, Susanna Spencer, South Suffolk MP, James Cartlidge, and art students Artemio, Liam Warburton, Felix Mallett and Thomas Butcher.

The boards will be a significant part of a World War One exhibition in Capel Community Centre in the afternoon after the Dedication of the Monument on 11 November.

The impressive work on these two pages is a selection of students' creative writing about the war. Students have visited war graves and memorials in France and Belgium as part of their study of World War One and have taken part in Capel fund-raising events for the Memorial.

Dear Mother,

I'd like to say that I am safe now, that I'm happy now, that I don't have anything to worry about now; but that would be a lie. The truth is, is that I'm never safe here. I'm never happy here and I'm constantly worried. I used to rely on Oscar helping me along the way, always there for me and reassuring me, but something happened today that means he'll never be able to help me anymore.

He's in a safe place now, in a happy place, in a place where he doesn't have to worry, he's in a beautiful place called heaven. There's no one there to comfort me when I'm anxious, there's no one there to make me smile when times get tough and there's no one there for me anymore. No one.

I was hoping that the time would never come when I had to write this letter, I was hoping that my pen would never have to touch the paper with such sorrow. All I ever did was hope.

But dad once told me that everything happens for a reason...

Dylan Gray

Research and Writing



Griff Johns

The very detailed research and writing of the history of World War Two and the stories of the brave young men of Capel St Mary who died is by former Royal Marine Griff Johns

The history and the stories are on pages 8 to 19. The history is in a time-line dated form.

Time-line dates could make it easier to find on the web more about particular battles.

A book Griff is writing about Capel and the two wars will be distributed in the village next year.

The German President Paul von Hindenburg appoints Adolf Hitler as Chancellor on 30 January, a year after rejecting him, because, he said, Hitler's cabinet would become a dictatorship.

February

2 February: Hitler imposes curbs on the Press and Left-wing parties. **10 February:** Hitler declares war on Parliamentary democracy. **19 February:** In Tokyo, Japan says it will quit the League of Nations if their war in Manchuria, China, is condemned.

The League of Nations, formed 10 January 1920, had a mission to maintain world peace.

24 February: Hitler authorises Nazi para-militaries to act as policemen in Prussia. **25 February:** Japan quits the League of Nations. **28 February:** The Reichstag building in Berlin is burned down. Herman Goering declares it a Communist plot. All communists must be shot on the spot, he says. President Von Hindenburg signs a decree suspending legal guarantees for personal liberty, freedom of speech and the Press, and the right of assembly. Hitler has got his dictatorial powers. Dutch Communist Marinus Van Der Lubbe is found guilty of starting the fire and guillotined on **10 January 1934**. Four co-accused are acquitted.

March

1 March: Hundreds of anti-Nazis are arrested. **15 March:** Hitler proclaims the Third Reich. **20 March:** First Concentration Camp opens at Dachau, near Munich. **23 March:** German Parliament passes an Act allowing Hitler to rule by decree. **28 March:** Hitler orders boycott of Jews and Jewish shops.

April

1 April: Jewish shops forced to close through threats and violence.

May

2 May: Hitler bans trade unions. **10 May:** Books judged to be un German are burned on giant bonfires. **28 May:** The Free City of Danzig falls to the Nazis in elections and Nazis seize all Communist Party property.

June

Nazis set up race councils to encourage Aryan births and check mixed marriages. **7 June:** Border with Austria closed to non- Nazis. **13 June:** Hundreds of Nazis are arrested in Vienna, Austria. **14 June:** German Jews banned from 1936 Berlin Olympics. **19 June:** Austrian Premier Dollfuss bans all Nazi organisations. **23 June:** Germany becomes a one-party state.

1933



Adolf Hitler is Chancellor, Nazi terror begins, death camps are opened, World War Two is inevitable and millions will die

The Nazi terror bans all opposition, death sentence imposed for importing banned books, sterilisation for physical or mental problems. Only Nazis can be doctors.

July

14 July: Nazis ban all opposition activity. **18 July:** German citizenship is a condition of Nazi membership.

23 July: Importing of banned books is punishable by death. **26 July:** Plans discussed for compulsory sterilisation of those suffering from blindness, deafness, physical deformity, hereditary imbecility, epilepsy and St Vitus Dance.

August

5 August: Poland signs a treaty with Free City of Danzig for greater use of its port. **14 August:** An Austrian newspaper reveals an alleged plot by Nazis to invade Austria. **24 August:** Italian dictator Mussolini promises to aid Austria. **25 August:** Italy signs non-aggression pact with Soviet Russia. **29 August:** Nazis round up large numbers of Jews and send them to Concentration Camps.

September

7 September: Poland talks with Soviet Russia and Romania on a possible united front against Germany. **11 September:** Democracy is dead in Austria says its Chancellor Dollfuss. **18 September:** Germany decrees that all doctors must be Nazis. **20 September:** In Vienna, Dollfuss assumes dictatorial powers. **29 September:** Trial of Marinus Van Der Lubbe and his four co accused begins.

October

3 October: Chancellor Dollfuss is shot and wounded in Vienna by an Austrian Nazi. He vows to stay in office. **4 October:** Britain and Italy attack Nazism at a League of Nations session. **14 October:** Germany says that it will quit the League of Nations because of humiliating and dehumanised demands of the other powers.

November

10 November: Martial law declared and the death penalty extended in Austria. **12 November:** A vote gives Hitler huge support for leaving the League of Nations. **14 November:** New Reichstag opens. All members are Nazis. There are no women or Jews. **29 November:** Britain admits that its disarmament policy is a failure. Armed forces get a boost.

December

4 December: Austrian Nazi Leader Alfred Frauenfeld is arrested. **12 December:** New Reichstag meets for 12 minutes and is adjourned indefinitely. **29 December:** Premier Ion Duca of Hungary is murdered by a Fascist.

1934

Germany re-arms, forms alliances with Italy and Japan, gains Saarland, occupies Rhineland, annexes Austria, invades Czech Sudetenland.

1934

Mussolini urges Germany to arm. Japan warns the West: Hands off China. Germany denies secretly re-arming which is 300,000 strong, three times the Versailles Treaty limit. Winston Churchill warns about German re-armament. Italian and Abyssinian troops clash on Abyssinian-Somalia border

1935

Saarland votes for reunification with Germany and 1919 British occupation troops leave. Hitler demands parity and beyond with British and French forces. The League of Nations condemns Hitler's unilateral disregard of the Treaty of Versailles. The Swastika becomes the German national flag. Italian troops invade Abyssinia 1936.

1936

German troops re-occupy the Rhineland. Mussolini annexes Abyssinia. The Spanish civil war begins. Japan and Germany sign a pact and become allies as have Italy and Germany.

1937

Hitler agrees to a non-intervention pact on Spain if all other powers agree. Britain bans volunteers going to Spain to fight in the civil war. The Soviet Union refuses to stop aiding Spanish republicans. German Ambassador, Ribbentrop, gives a Nazi salute to King George. Eight Soviet Union generals face firing squads. Japan attacks China from Manchuria. Concentration camps opens at Buckenwald. British Ambassador seriously wounded by Japanese plane's gunfire. **October:** The Duke and Duchess of Windsor shake hands with Hitler.

1938

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden resigns believing Chamberlain too anxious to please Hitler and Mussolini. Hitler sacks Generals and appoints himself Supreme head of German Armed Forces. Hitler tells Austria to free all Nazis and appoint a pro-Nazi minister and demands self determination for Germans in Austria and Czechoslovakia.

The Anschluss - Germany annexes Austria. Nazis say Austrians must prove their Aryan ancestry before marrying. Chamberlain, Daladier, Hitler and Mussolini agree to the Czech Sudetenland being handed to Germany. Hungary annexes part of Southern Czechoslovakia

Chamberlain returns from meeting Hitler in Munich proclaiming: I believe it is peace for our time.

As the year opens hopes fade that the proclamation by the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, in 1938 - "I believe it is peace for our time" - will prove true. His confidence had come after meeting Hitler in Munich in 1938. But Hitler isn't for peace. He is racing towards war.

January

1 January: German women under 25 are ordered to do one year's civilian service for the Reich. **3 January:** The Royal Navy plans to boost its firepower. **4 January:** Fascist Baron Hiranuba becomes Japan's Premier

8 January: German Church leaders are punished for condemning anti-semitism. **17 January:** German Jews are banned from being dentists, vets and pharmacists and from driving, and going to cinemas and concerts. In Britain, police round up IRA supporters after bomb outrages in London, Manchester, Birmingham and Alnwick, Northumberland. **30 January:** Royal Air Force receiving 400 planes a month, four times the previous year's figure, but fewer than Germany.

February

2 February: Britain to appoint 12 Civil Defence Commissioners. **9 February:** Britain to provide free Air Raid shelters to poor families in the districts likely to be bombed. **10 February:** Pope Pius XI, an anti-Nazi, dies in Rome aged 81. **14 February:** Germany launches the 35,000-ton battleship Bismark. **15 February:** Britain increases defence spending to £580 million. **16 February:** Germany presses for election of a Pope sympathetic to Fascists. **23 February:** German Jews have to give up precious stones and metals. **25 February:** At least 100 Jews a day must leave Germany. **28 February:** Britain recognises General Franco as Spain's leader before the civil war ends.

March

1 March: America recognises Franco's government. **2 March:** Germany attacks election of Pope Pius XII fearing his anti-Nazi views. **5 March:** Jews are drafted to work for the Reich. **10 March:** Twenty-year jail sentences for IRA terrorist in Britain. The Czech Premier is sacked to preserve national unity. **13 March:** Hitler tells the Czechs to give Slovakia and Ruthenia independence. **14 March:** Germans march into Bohemia. Hungarians occupy Ruthenia. **15 March:** Hitler declares Bohemia-Moravia a German protectorate and enters the Czech capital Prague as conqueror. **17 March:** The Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, denounces Hitler and recalls the British Ambassador to Germany. **18 March:** French Premier Daladier is given full powers to act. **21 March:** Memel, Lithuania, is ceded to Germany. **28 March:** Franco's Fascists take Madrid and Spain's civil war ends. **29 March:** Britain to double the Territorial Army to 340,00 men. **30 March:** In America, Hitler's nephew William calls him a menace. **31 March:** Britain and France pledge to defend Poland from attack.

April

5 April: Britain launches her largest aircraft carrier, HMS Illustrious. Plans announced to evacuate 2.5 million children if there is war. **6 April:** Britain, France and Poland sign a mutual assistance pact. **7 April:** The Italian Army invades Albania. **8 April:** Italians capture Albania's capital. King Zog flees. **April 9:** Britain warns Italy not to go beyond Albania. Pope Pius XII denounces violations of international treaties. **10 April:** Dutch troops sent to the German border. **13 April:** Britain and France pledge to aid Greece and Romania if attacked. King of Italy accepts Albania's crown. **18 April:** Britain votes to aid Holland, Denmark and Switzerland if attacked. **25 April:** Britain's defence budget is £1,322million. **27 April:** Parliament approves military conscription for men aged from 20. **28 April:** Hitler tears up the 1934 naval treaty with Britain. **30 April:** Russia proposes a mutual aid alliance with Britain and France.

May

3 May: British farmers urged to Dig for Victory. **8 May:** The Pope calls for peace talks. **11 May:** Chamberlain warns that a German attack on Danzig means war. **22 May:** Hitler and Mussolini sign a Pact of Steel. Britain and France propose a mutual aid alliance with Soviet Russia. **31 May:** Germany and Denmark sign a non-aggression pact.

June

1 June: The Royal Navy's latest submarine, HMS Thetis, sinks, in Liverpool Bay during sea trials trapping 79 men. Hitler guarantees the frontiers of Yugoslavia. **3 June:** Britain's first military conscripts are enrolled. **12 June:** The RAF receives 750 planes a month. **23 June:** Ireland outlaws the IRA. **24 June:** Brazil allows 3,000 German Jews into the country. **25 June:** IRA bombs in London's West End injuring 17 people. **30 June:** Five IRA men are jailed for 20 years.

July

2 July: The Women's Auxiliary Air Force comes into being. **4 July:** Nazis beat up the Archbishop of Vienna, Cardinal Theodor Innitzer. **6 July:** Jews are ordered to join a new Reich Union of Jews. **13 July:** Britain's defence borrowing reaches £500 million. **14 July:** Infants and nursing mothers to get free or price-reduced fresh milk. **19 July:** General Wavell appointed British Forces Middle East Commander in Chief. **20 July:** Nazi Guards arrive in Free City of Danzig posing a new threat of war.

1939



Fewer than a full 12 months after the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain returns from meeting Hitler at Munich, waving a piece of paper and proclaiming Peace For Our Time, Great Britain and Germany are at war.

With war inevitable, Britain increases defence spending, produces more ships, tanks and planes, and introduces conscription. Germany invades Poland on 1 September. Britain is at war on 3 September. Soviet Union invades Poland.

August

9 August: King George inspects 133 ships of the newly mobilised Auxiliary Fleet. **16 August:** Identity Cards with Numbers for everybody if there is war. **17 August:** Hitler closes the Upper Silesia border with Poland. **20 August:** Poland rushes troops to the border. **22 August:** Britain and France reaffirm the commitment to Poland. **23 August:** Belgium restates its commitment to neutrality. Hitler and Stalin sign a non-aggression pact. **24 August:** Chamberlain is given wide ranging war powers. **25 August:** Art treasures are taken to safety from galleries, museums and Westminster Abbey. **26 August:** Hitler demands the Free City of Danzig, Polish Corridor and the end of the Anglo-French pledge to Poland. **28 August:** The Admiralty closes the Baltic and the Mediterranean to British Merchant shipping. **29 August:** Hitler sends Poland an ultimatum on Danzig and the Corridor. **30 August:** Most of West Ham Football Club players are conscripted into the Essex Regiment. **31 August:** Army and RAF reservists called up. The Royal Navy is mobilised. Hitler offers Britain a pact to defend the Empire in return for Germany getting Danzig, the Polish Corridor and the return of colonies lost in World War One.

September

1 September: German troops invade Poland. Mussolini announces Italy's neutrality. **2 September:** German Air Raid on Warsaw kills 21 people.

3 September: Britain tells Germany to withdraw its troops from Poland by 11am or a state of war will exist between us. Neville Chamberlain says no such undertaking has been given by 11am and Britain is now at War with Germany. France declares war on Germany at 5pm. The passenger liner Athenia is sunk by U-boat with the loss of 112 lives.

4 September: The RAF bombs the German Fleet at the North Sea entrance to the Kiel Canal. Air Minister Kingsley Wood rejects plans to bomb the Black Forest because it is private property. Winston Churchill is appointed First Lord of The Admiralty. French troops cross into German Saarland. The King names General Vicount Gort, VC, as Commander of British Field Forces. Australia, New Zealand and Canada declare war on Germany. Black Out regulations mean heavy fines for the smallest chink of light. 6,000 Suspected Aliens are interned.

5 September: USA President Roosevelt declares neutrality. **6 September:** Polish Government flees from Warsaw to Lublin. **7 September:** German Troops are sent to meet the French. **12 September:** Chamberlain flies to France for talks with the Allied Supreme Council. ENSA formed to provide entertainment to the British Armed Forces. ENSA stood for Entertainments National Service Association, the Forces said it stood for Every Night Something Awful. **17 September:** Soviet troops invade Poland. **18 September:** Aircraft carrier HMS Courageous is sunk with the loss of 500 lives. **20 September:** Anti German revolts in Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia. **22 September:** Scores of people are executed in Romania following the murder of Premier Armand Calinescu. **26 September:** France dissolves the Communist Party. **29 September:** Polish troops evacuate Warsaw as the city surrenders. **30 September:** French guns pound German lines near Saarbrücken on the Western Front. Some units advance into Germany. The German U-boat menace grows.

October

1 October: Call up of 250,000 more conscripts. **2 October:** USA recognises the Polish Government in Exile. **5 October:** Latvia signs a mutual aid pact with the Soviet Union. **6 October:** Hitler reassures Holland and Belgium of his friendship. **10 October:** Finland mobilises its Baltic Fleet. **11 October:** French Premier Daladier rejects Hitler's peace overtures. The Soviet Union cedes the Polish city of Vilna to Lithuania. **12 October:** The British Expeditionary Force has 158,000 men and 25,000 vehicles in France. 250,000 men aged more than 20 are being called up. **13 October:** President Roosevelt rejects Hitler's plea for mediation between Britain, France and Germany. **16 October:** 800 men die when the Battleship HMS Royal Oak is torpedoed in Scapa Flow. **19 October:** Turkey signs a mutual-assistance pact with Britain and France. **24 October:** German Foreign Minister, Joachim Von Ribbentrop, accuses Britain of secretly preparing for war. Hitler is angry that his peace overtures were turned down. **28 October:** German SS propose that Jews must wear a yellow star of David on clothes. **30 October:** Britain says mistreatment in Concentration Camps is reminiscent of the dark days of mankind. Hitler has ordered flogging of Jews. **31 October:** Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov says the Soviet Union will remain neutral.

Continued on page 10

The enemy at home

The IRA is active in the late 1930s, particularly in 1939. Bombs are planted in London, Manchester, Birmingham and Alnwick, Northumberland. There are civilian casualties. Bombers are arrested, tried and executed. The Irish Government bans the IRA.

1939

Continued from page 9



USA is neutral but President Roosevelt sells arms to UK.

November

1 November: Butter and bacon to be rationed. **4 November:** USA approves a Cash and Carry Bill ending its arms embargo. **5 November:** Britain and France are allowed to buy American arms. **8 November:** A bomb intended for Hitler kills seven, injures 60. **13 November:** First bombs dropped on Britain, in the Shetland Isles. **17 November:** Nine Czech students are executed in Prague for anti-German demonstrations. **20 November:** New magnetic mines are taking a toll of North Sea ships. **21 November:** Two Britons arrested in Berlin for a plot to kill Hitler. **24 November:** Gestapo shoots 120 Czech students. **25 November:** Finland ignores Soviet Union's demand to pull troops 16 miles back from their border. **28 November:** Stalin renounces Russian-Finnish non-aggression pact. **30 November:** Helsinki and Vipuri in flames from bombing as the Russian army invades.

December

1 December: Adolf Eichmann directs mass deportation of Jews from German-occupied lands. **6 December:** Britain agrees to send arms to Finland. **12 December:** German Pocket Battleship Graf Spee is cornered by British Cruisers Ajax, Exeter and Achilles while seeking refuge for repairs in Montevideo Harbour. She is refused time to complete repairs, sails to the centre of the River Plate and is scuttled. Her captain shoots himself. **14 December:** The League of Nations expels the Soviet Union. **20 December:** Stalin sacks General Meretzkov, Finland Front Commander-in-Chief. **24 December:** Hitler spends Christmas with his troops on the Western Front. **28 December:** Food rationing is extended to sugar and meat. **31 December:** The Finnish Army push the Russians back beyond the border on a 150 mile front.

The first full year of war opens with set backs and disasters in Norway and France. Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister. The Battle of Britain is a great victory preventing a German invasion by air and sea.

January

1 January: Two million 19 to 27 years-old are conscripted. **2 January:** Russia launches 200,000 troops against Poland, 50,000 are killed. **6 January:** Germans advance on 120 mile French front. **11 January:** Sweden promises to aid Finland.

February

16 February: Russian troops breach the Finnish Mannerheim defence line. **30 February:** German submarines ordered to sink Allied and neutral ships. **25 February:** First Canadian Air Force Squadron arrives in Britain.

March

5 March: The Royal Navy seizes seven Italian coal ships heading for Germany. **8 March:** Martial Law declared in The Netherlands. **13 March:** Finland signs peace treaty with Russia. **16 March:** Scotland suffers Britain's first civilian air raid death. **27 March:** Himmler orders the building of a Concentration Camp at Auschwitz.

April

Norway defeat

9 April: Hitler invades Denmark and Norway. **14 April:** British and French forces recapture Narvik in Norway. **2 April:** The Allies withdraw all troops south of Trondheim. **24 April:** The Allies decide to leave Norway. The 62-day campaign from the German invasion in April to Norway's surrender on 10 June is a disaster.

May

9 May: Britain occupies Danish Iceland and Faroe Islands. **10 May:** Germany attacks Belgium and Holland. Churchill replaces Chamberlain as Prime Minister. **21 May:** German troops are 60 miles from Paris. **22 May:** Holland and Belgium surrender. **27 May:** Germans take Boulogne cutting off British and French troops.



Winston Churchill rallies the nation against the Nazi menace

Dunkirk evacuation

26 May to 4 June: 338,226 British, Belgium and French troops are evacuated from Dunkirk beaches and harbour. Thousands of British troops become POWs and vast amounts of equipment and vehicles are lost. Winston Churchill says the defeat is "a colossal military disaster". **31 May:** British Fascist leader Oswald Mosley is arrested.

June

10 June: Italy declares war on Britain and France. **14 June:** German troops enter Paris. **17 June:** Lithuania is first Baltic State to fall in Russian attack. **20 June:** First Australian and New Zealand forces arrive in Britain.

July

Battle of Britain victory

10 July: The Battle of Britain begins and lasts until 31 October with the German Luftwaffe defeated. Hitler's plan for a sea and air invasion is called off. In one of his greatest speeches, Winston Churchill says of the Battle of Britain pilots: "Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few". **23 July:** The Home Guard is created. **25 July:** Germans bomb London for the first time. **26 July:** Britain bombs Berlin in retaliation sending shock waves through Germany.

1940

As Prime Minister, Churchill rejects calls to give in to Hitler. An extract from his fighting speech in Parliament declares:

'We shall go on to the end... we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills, we shall never surrender...'

Home Guard formed. British armour inflicts heavy losses on Italians in Egypt. Battle of the Atlantic begins.

August

18 August: Germany switches from bombing airfield to bombing civilian targets. **21 August:** Leon Trotsky, founder of the Red Army, is assassinated in exile in Mexico on Stalin's orders.

September

1 September: RAF bomb Munich. **9 September:** 400 deaths in air raid on London. 185 German planes shot down over London in a single day. British Armoured units inflict heavy losses on Italian troops trying to invade Egypt. **12 September:** Japan invades French Indochina. **22 September:** Evacuee ship City of Benares is sunk with the loss of 306 children. **24 September:** The King introduces the George Cross and the George Medal, bravery awards primarily for civilians. **30 September:** The Nazi Blitz puts civilians in the front line.

October

7 October: German and Italian troops invade Romania. **18 October:** Vichy France bans Jews from public office, the Press and industry. **25 October:** Huge fires and large loss of life following RAF air raids on Berlin and Hamburg. **28 October:** Greece is attacked by Italy. **30 October:** Battle of the Atlantic begins. German Merchant ships are converted to armed raiders.

November

7 November: Britain and Australia agree to cooperate on Pacific Ocean defence. **8 November:** Neville Chamberlain dies of cancer. **14 November:** Coventry is devastated in an air raid that kills 1,000 people. **15 November:** 350,000 Jews walled up in Warsaw Ghetto. **28 November:** Greeks defeat the invading Italians. Fleet Air Arm torpedoes seven Italian warships in Sardinia.

December

9 December: British forces capture Sidi Barani, take 1,000 prisoners, kill a General and capture his second in command in the first major campaign against the Italians... A few days later, 30,000 more prisoners are taken in Egypt.

23 December: Greeks capture Chimera city and 800 Italian troops in Albania. **29 December:** The City of London is fire bombed while at a low water mark in the Thames. St Paul's Cathedral escapes damage.

The story of the war continues on pages 14 to 19.

A new war and Capel's death toll begins...

1940 - 1942



Frank Pittock

Royal Engineers

1911 - 1940

Frank Leonard Pittock was killed on 27 May 1940 serving with the Royal Engineers, part of the British Expeditionary Force, holding back Germans from Dunkirk.

His death was on the first day of Operation Dynamo when the British, French and Belgium troops were evacuated from the beaches. The operation lasted from 26 May to 4 June 1940.

Frank's unit would have been blowing up bridges, blocking roadways and preparing defences to delay the advancing Germans.

He is remembered with Honour in Beuvry Communal Cemetery, France, Grave G8, and in the Book of Remembrance in St Mary's Parish Church, Capel St Mary.

Frank was entitled to receive the 1939 - 1945 Star and the 1939 - 1945 War Medal.

His brother, Edgar Walter Haste, survived war service but died in 1946.

Frank was one of 11 children of Alfred Pittock and Blanche Pittock (née Cutts). All the children were educated at Capel St Mary School.

Their father was born in Capel in 1880 and was a railway platelayer who lived in Railway Crossing Gate House, Little Wenham.

Frank married Winifred Wood Brown in 1938. They lived in East Dulwich, London. Winifred, an assistant nurse, married Harry Heath in 1945.

Arthur Singleton

Royal Artillery

1913 - 1940

Arthur Singleton, a Gunner, was serving with the 4th Battalion, 2nd Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, possibly as part of the ring defences around the British Expeditionary Force evacuation from the beaches of Dunkirk during Operation Dynamo between 26 May and 4 June 1940.

Following the evacuation, a second BEF was formed to try to link up with those cut off by the German advances.

It failed. Arthur was in the second evacuation which took place from Le Havre between the 10 and 13 June. He was killed in action on 10 June 1940.

Arthur is remembered with Honour in the Calais Canadian War Cemetery, Leubringen, France, and is buried in grave 7 g 2.

He would have been entitled to the 1939-1945 Star and the 1939 - 1945 War Medal.

Arthur was born in Bristol in 1913 to William Singleton and Harriett Cook who had married in St Mark's, Victoria Park, Tower Hamlets, London, in 1912. His mother, a widow, was a charwoman. His father, William was a coal porter.

For a time, the family lived with the Cook family on the London Road, Capel St Mary. Arthur went to Capel School. He married Amy G Ward in Stoke Newington, London, early 1940. Amy was born in Wickham Market in 1907. They lived for a time near the Methodist Church in The Street.

Following Arthur's death, his family moved to Wickham Market. Arthur is remembered with Honour on the Wickham Market War Memorial.

Eustace Fraser

Malay States Voluntary Force

1912 - 1942

Eustace Fraser, known as Bill, was an assistant planter in Malaya when Japan entered the war.

He joined Malaya Selangor Battalion of the Federation of Malay States Volunteer Force. His twin brother, Douglas, joined the Kedah Battalion attached to the Malay Volunteer Air Force.

Bill was shot by accident while resisting the Japanese invasion and died on 10 January 1942.

He was buried on the beach and later reburied in Cheras Road Civil Cemetery, Kuala Lumpur.

Douglas survived the war but their younger brother, Raymond, was killed in September 1942.

Bill is remembered with Honour in the Cheras Road Civil Cemetery, Kuala Lumpur, Grave 6. He is also remembered on Bentley War Memorial, on a plaque in Bentley Parish Church, in the Book of Remembrance in Capel St Mary Parish Church and on the Roll of Honour at Charterhouse School, Surrey.

He would have been entitled to the 1939-1945, Star, the Pacific Star and the Defence Medal.

Bill was born on 3 December 1912 in Richmond, Surrey, to Cecil Eustace William Fraser MA, a First World War major, and Nora Cecily Fraser (née Mustard), a Rector's daughter from Hingham, Norfolk. The couple married in September 1911 in London.

During World War Two, the family lived in Nursery House, Capel St Mary, next to today's Garden Centre, and later at Uplands Fruit Farm, opposite Bentley Church.

These two evocative artistic works are by members of the Capel St Mary Art for Fun Club. The painting of the poppies, above, is by Nicola Dodds. The art work of a soldier, below, is by Val Grantham. The soldier could have been any of the men who went to war in either of the wars.

The Club has been an enthusiastic supporter of the War Memorial since our campaign began. Paintings by club members will be on display in the exhibition following the Dedication of the War Memorial Monument on 11 November.

On behalf of all the Art Club members Nicola Dodds said: "We would like to say we really enjoyed painting pictures for the War Memorial, helping to raise funds towards a great project."



...20 years since the war to end all wars

Families grieve as the toll mounts and Capel men die

1940 1941 1942 1943

Raymond Fraser

West Kent Regiment

1920 - 1942

Raymond Kenneth Joseph Fraser, a Lieutenant with the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment attached to the 1 / 1st Battalion King's African Rifles, was killed in action on 16 September 1942 fighting to take control of Madagascar from the Vichy French.

It was World War Two's first combined sea, land and air forces operation. Its success prevented the Vichy French handing over the island to the Japanese.

Raymond is remembered with Honour in the Diego Suarez War Cemetery, Madagascar, Grave 2.B.5., on Bentley War Memorial and a plaque in Bentley Parish Church, in the Book of Remembrance in Capel St Mary Parish Church and on the Roll of Honour at Charterhouse School, Surrey.

He would have been entitled to the 1939 - 1945 Star and the 1939 - 1945 War Medal.

His brother Eustace, known as Bill, died in Malaya in January 1942. Eustace's twin brother, Douglas, survived the war.

Raymond was born in March 1920 in Bromley, Kent, to Cecil Eustace William Fraser MA, a First World War major and Nora Cecily Fraser (née Mustard), a Rector's daughter from Hingham, Norfolk. The couple married in September 1911 in London.

During World War Two, the family lived in Nursery House, Capel St Mary, next to today's Garden Centre, and later at Uplands Fruit Farm, opposite Bentley Church.

Frank Green

Merchant Navy

1911 - 1942

Frank Green was in the Royal Navy Reserve before World War Two. Early in the war he joined the Merchant Navy as Able Seaman Green and sailed with the Arctic convoys to Russia.

Returning from Archangel on 17 November 1942 bound for Loch Ewe in Scotland, he was in convoy QO-15. His ship, S.S. Goolistan, was carrying timber and cellulose. The convoy was scattered by freezing cold and stormy mountainous seas.

Goolistan was attacked between Bear Island and Spitsbergen, off Norway, by the German U-boat 625 and caught fire. The crew took to open boats but all were lost.

Frank was born on 11 June 1911, one of six children of George and Daisy Green (née Quinton) of Harwich.

On leave, Frank stayed with his brother, Alfred, who had married Phyllis May Finch. She was born in Capel in 1910. They lived in Hill House. Alfred died in a farming accident on 9 August 1943 and is buried in grave 156 Lower Graveyard, St Mary's Parish Church. Phyllis married John Ratford, younger brother of Frederick Charles Ratford who died in World War One.

Frank is commemorated with Honour on the Tower Hill Merchant Navy Memorial, London, Panel 53, and on his brother's gravestone.

He was entitled to the 1939-45 Star, Atlantic Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.

Jabez Steward

Royal Airforce

1923 - 1943

Jabez Harold Steward, an apprentice carpenter, joined the RAF Volunteer reserve when war was declared.

After training as a wireless operator/air gunner, he was posted to Royal Canadian Air Force Squadron 415 of Coastal Command based at RAF Station Thorney Island, flying Handley Page Hampden Torpedo-Bombers.

On the night of 17 May 1943, his plane flew to strike targets off the Dutch Coast, arriving just after midnight. The plane didn't return.

All that is known of its fate is that on 22 July 1943 the body of the pilot, Flying Officer Cameron Wathen, an Australian, was recovered and was buried in Kiel War Cemetery, Germany.

Sergeant Jabez, known as Harold, and the two other crew members have no known grave. They are remembered on the RAF Memorial, Runnymede in Surrey.

Jabez was born on June 12, 1923 in The Barracks (now The Driftway), Capel St Mary, one of five children of Jabez Steward and Maud Violet Steward (née Allison) who were married in March 1923. All the children attended Capel School.

Jabez senior, a farm worker, was born on 28 October 1899 in Tattingstone. Maud, a cook, was born on 15 July 1902 in Ipswich. Both were buried in St Mary's Churchyard.

During the war, Jabez's mother was a cook at the American Air Base in Raydon. His sister, Pamela, a cook assistant, married an American Serviceman.

Walter Barclay

Royal Highland Regiment

1899 - 1943

Walter Patrick Barclay, a career soldier, joined the Army as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Highland Regiment on 21 August 1918.

He was promoted through the 1920s and 1930s becoming an interpreter and then a Military Attache in Rome and Budapest before, as Lieutenant Colonel, commanding the 6th Battalion the Black Watch.

He died on 22 May 1943 from wounds received on 13 April 1943 during the Battle of Tunisia and was buried at sea.

Walter is remembered with Honour on the El Bab Memorial, Tunisia, Face 23 and in the Book of Remembrance, St Mary's Parish Church, Capel St. Mary.

Walter would have been entitled to the 1939-1945 Star, Africa Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.

He was born in Sumatra on 22 August 1899, one of five children of Theodore Charles Barclay and Elizabeth Mary Barclay (née Fraser) who were married on 3 December 1891.

Walter married Daphne Dorothy Crisp Binny on 8 June 1937 in London.

They had two children, Peter Charles Barclay, born on 26 February 1938, who is the Chief of Clan Barclay, and Penelope Jean Barclay, born in Rome on 23 August 1937.

At the time of his death, Colonel Barclay's and Daphne's family home was Little Wenham Grange, Little Wenham.

Harry Burch

Suffolk Regiment

1919 - 1943

Harry Walter Burch enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment and after training was posted to the 4th Battalion which was sent to Singapore after Japan entered the war.

When Singapore fell, 100,000 soldiers were taken prisoner by the Japanese. Among them were Harry's Battalion, men of the Suffolk 5th Battalion, other British, Australian and Indian troops and some civilians. They were condemned to work on the Siam-Burma Railway.

Harry died on 12 September 1943 in Tambaya Prison Camp, Burma.

He is remembered with Honour in Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery Grave B1. M12, the Book of Remembrance in St Mary's Parish Church, and on Capel's War Memorial.

Harry would have been entitled to the 1939-1945 Star, Burma Star and 1939-1945 War Medal.

Before enlisting Harry was a farm labourer. He was born on 19 February 1919, one of eight children all born in Hartismere District, Suffolk.

His father was James (known as John) Frederick Burch, born 1895 in Bosmere, Suffolk. He died in 1955 in Capel St Mary,

His mother was Olive Annie Jubilee Burch (née Riches), born in 1897 in Rickingham, Suffolk. She died in 1984 in Ipswich.

At the start of World War Two the family were living at 1 Bluegate Cottages, Bluegate Lane, off Old London Road.

At the going down of the sun and in

e in the war spreading across Europe, Africa and Asia

1944 1945 1946 1950

Phillip Pells

Royal Tank Regiment

1924 - 1944

Phillip Russell Pells, a Second Lieutenant in the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, landed in Normandy on D-Day + 5.

He was engaged in heavy fighting through the bocage of high hedges and banks and in Operation Epsom, the first and failed attempt to break the German stronghold at Caen between 26 and 30 June 1944. Caen was taken in July.

Phillip was killed in action on the 18 July 1944, the first day of Operation Goodwood, the attempt to break out of Caen. He was 19.

He was born in 1924 in Ipswich to Arthur George Pells, a brewer's manager and Florence Pells (née Martin), a domestic servant, who were married on 22 August 1909 in East Dereham, Norfolk.

Arthur, was born on 17 January 1887 at Eaton, Norfolk. He died on 16 March 1962 in Felixstowe. Florence, was born in 1888 in Guist, Norfolk. She died in Ipswich on 3 January 1930.

Phillip was educated at Ipswich School and is remembered on the School Chapel Memorial. At the time of his death, his parents were living in Hill House, Capel St Mary.

Phillip is remembered with Honour on the Bayeux Memorial, France Panel 8, Column 2, on the Ipswich Memorial, Panel 8, and in St Mary's Parish Church Book of Remembrance, Capel.

He would have been entitled to receive the France and Germany Star and the 1939 - 1945 War Medal.

Reginald Allen

Hampshire Regiment

1919 - 1944

Reginald Harold Allen's date of enlistment and posting to the 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment has been lost.

The Battalion fought in Egypt, Western Desert, Sicily and Italy before returning to Britain to train for D-Day.

The Battalion, part of the 231 Brigade, was in the first wave to land on Gold Beach at 7:15am on 6 June 1944, D-Day. It secured Arromanches by nightfall.

Reginald was killed in action on 11 August 1944 during Operation Totalise, begun on 8 August to capture Falaise.

He is remembered with Honour and buried in grave V11.E4, St Charles de Percy War Cemetery, France. He is also remembered on a plaque in St John's Church, Great Wenham.

Depending on when Reginald enlisted and posted to the 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment, he may have been entitled to the Africa Star, Italy Star, France and Germany Star and the 1939 - 1945 War Medal.

Reginald was born in Great Wenham early in 1919 to William Archibald Allen, a farm worker, and Florence Allen (née Couzens), a former hotel servant.

He had an older brother, William Archibald. Both boys attended Capel St Mary School. Reginald was a farm worker before enlisting.

The family was living in Ivy Cottage, near the Great Wenham Church, in 1939.

Kenneth Reynolds

Royal Corps of Signals

1915 - 1945

Kenneth Tripp Reynolds enlisted in the Regular Army's Royal Corps of Signals in 1933. He was sent to Egypt at the outbreak of the Italian-Abyssinian War, then drafted to Palestine at the time of the Arab-Jewish riots.

At the outbreak of World War Two, Kenneth was back in Egypt and served through the Libyan Campaigns where he was twice mentioned in dispatches: on 1 April 1942 as a Lance Sergeant and on 8 July 1941 as an Acting Sergeant. He returned to England with his health undermined after eight-and-a-half years' service abroad.

Kenneth was sent to Black Nottley Military Hospital in Essex. In March 1944, he was sent home to The Elms, Capel St Mary, never regaining his health and after much suffering died on 3 May 1945. He was buried at St Mary's Parish Church, on 7 May 1945.

Kenneth was awarded the General Service Medal Palestine Clasp, 1939-1945 Star, Africa Star, Defence Medal and the 1939-1945 War Medal.

He was born on 3 December 1915 in Bentley, Suffolk, one of four children of William Gladstone Reynolds, a farm bailiff, and Gertrude Alice Tripp.

Kenneth was educated in Capel St Mary Primary School and Felixstowe Secondary School where he gained his School Certificate, forerunner of the GCE O Level Certificate, in six subjects. He was a farm worker before joining the Army.

Edgar Pittock

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

1906 - 1946

Edgar Walter Haste Pittock was of an age, and from the medals to which he was entitled, to have been in the Army from the start of the war.

He could have been at Dunkirk and in Normandy after D-Day.

All that is known from records is that he was in the REME which was formed in 1942.

He survived the war and was found drowned in the moat at Little Wenham Hall on 13 August 1946 having last been seen alive on 9 August.

Edgar is remembered with Honour in the Church Ground, All Saints Church, Little Wenham and in the Book of Remembrance in St Mary's Parish Church, Capel.

He had received the 1939-1945 Star, France and Germany Star and the 1939 - 1945 War Medal.

Edgar's brother, Frank Leonard, a Royal Engineer, was killed in 1940.

Edgar was born in Capel St Mary in 1906, one of eleven children of Alfred Pittock and Blanche Pittock (née Cutts). All the children were educated at Capel St Mary School.

Their father, Alfred, was born in Capel St Mary in 1880 and was a railway platelayer who lived in Railway Crossing Gate House, Little Wenham.

He married Blanche Cutts in Grimsby, Lincolnshire, in 1904. Alfred died in 1934 at Little Wenham. Blanche died in 10 New Council Houses, Capel, on 9 May 1950.

Peter Harris

Royal Navy

1925 - 1950

Peter Edward Meade Harris enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1944 and saw action as a pilot in the Pacific and Burma theatres of war.

He was serving on HMS Glory when he died in a flying accident in the Mediterranean on 7 September 1950 during the ship's work up following the outbreak of the Korean War on 25 June 1950. Peter's plane was Sea Fury of 804 Naval Air Squadron.

Peter has no known grave but the sea and is remembered with Honour in the Remembrance Book in St Mary's Parish Church.

Peter had been awarded the 1939-1945 Star, Burma Star with Pacific Bar, Defence Medal and 1939-1945 War Medal.

HMS Glory was launched in 1943 and saw active service in World War Two and Korea.

It took the surrender of Lieutenant General Imarura, Commander of the Army of Japan, at Rabaul, Papua New Guinea, on 6 September 1945.

Peter was born in Broadstairs, Kent, on 3 October 1925, the son of Robert and Bessie Harris (née Halfnight). He had a younger brother, William, who was born about 1930 in the Samford Registration District.

His father, Robert Edward Meade Harris, was born in Bury St Edmunds, joined the Royal Navy and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

He served on Capel St Mary Parish Council for several years before his death, aged 60, in Pound Cottage, Capel, in March 1947. Robert and Bessie are buried at St Mary's Parish Church.

the morning we will remember them

A British and Commonwealth desert victory against Italians capturing thousands, Rommel's North Africa Corps arrives and engages the British, Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess lands in Scotland, the German coding machine, Enigma is captured, Germany invades Russia.

January

1 January: The RAF bombs Taranto, Naples and Italian naval bases in Libya. **2 January:** German planes bomb Eire as a warning not to abandon neutrality and allow Royal Navy access to Irish bases. **7 January:** Tobruk Airport is captured from the Italians; 100,000 Italians are taken prisoners; RAF bombs Tripoli: Benghazi, Libya, is captured. In a separate campaign, British and Commonwealth forces advance 100 miles into Italian Eritrea. **6 January:** British Aviator Amy Johnson lost in the Thames Estuary flying planes for the Air Transport Auxiliary. **10 January:** Malta is bombed by Italian and German planes.

February

3 February: Mussolini declares Southern Italy a war zone. **7-10 February:** Germany bombs Iceland. **12 February:** 400,000 German troops arrive in the Balkans. **14 February:** Advance guard of German Africa Corp arrives in Tripoli. **18 February:** Australian troops bolster Singapore defences. **19 February:** Hitler tells Greece to end war with Italy or Germany will help Italy. **21 February:** Japan warns Britain against troop movements in South East Asia. **28 February:** Vichy France accepts Japanese ultimatum to settle a border dispute in French Indochina.

March

1 March: Bulgaria joins the German-led Axis. **2 March:** The Dardanelles are closed to ships without permits or Turkish pilots. **4 March:** Turkey says it is better to die than join the Axis. The British sink 11 German ships and destroy factories in the Lofoten Islands, off Norway. **13 March:** An offensive personally directed by Mussolini is crushed in Albania. **15 March:** German Africa Corps General Rommel launches attack on British and Commonwealth Forces. British recapture Berbera, the British Somaliland capital, from Italians. **17 March:** The Government calls for 100,000 women to do war work. **21 March:** Britain takes the last Italian stronghold in Libya. **28 March:** Italians defeated in a naval battle off Crete with seven warships sunk and 4,000 sailors dead without a single British casualty.

April

6 April: Axis troops invade Yugoslavia. South African troops occupy the Abyssinian capital, Addis Ababa. **10 April:** USA occupies Greenland with Danish consent to stop German threat to convoys. British and Australian troops are besieged in Tobruk. **13 April:** Stalin signs neutrality pact with Japan and recognises its puppet state of Manchuria. British and German troops are fighting along the Libyan Egyptian border. **16 April:** 500 German planes mount the heaviest bombing of London so far. **17 April:** British troops cross the border into Iraq. Yugoslav resistance crushed by Axis forces from Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Germany. **26 April:** Three columns of Rommel's Africa Corps troops cross into Egypt. **27 April:** The British are pushed out of Greece. **28 April:** Free French troops advance into French Somaliland.

May

2 May: British and Iraqi troops clash for the first time. **4 May:** British troops occupy Basra airport and docks. **5 May:** Emperor Haile Selassie returns to Abyssinia exactly five years after the Italians invaded. **7 May:** The German coding machine, Enigma, is captured from a German weather ship. **10 May:** Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, crash-lands in Scotland, is found with a broken ankle by a Scottish ploughman and taken home for tea. He says he has an important message for the Duke of Hamilton. **11 May:** Heaviest bombing of London so far kills 1,400 people. In recent raids, 20,000 Londoners have been killed and 25,000 severely injured. Liverpool, Belfast, Southampton, Portsmouth and Clydebank have also been bombed. **14 May:** French Police in Paris hand 1,000 Jews to the Nazis. **15 May:** First successful flight by a British jet aircraft, the Gloster. **24 May:** Pride of the Royal Navy, the battleship HMS Hood, is sunk by the German battleship Bismarck. Only three of her 1,421 crew survive. **27 May:** The Bismarck is sunk by the Royal Navy after a long sea chase involving several capital ships. **29 May:** The Germans seize Canea, Crete's capital.

June

1 June: British and New Zealand troops evacuated from Crete suffering heavy losses. **5 June:** Vichy French planes bomb Amman, Transjordan. **8 June:** British and Free French forces invade Vichy French Syria. **11 June:** Large German troop movements on the Russian border. **13 June:** Vichy France arrests 12,000 Jews. **14 June:** President Roosevelt freezes German and Italian assets. **19 June:** Germany and Italy expel USA Consuls. **20 June:** President Roosevelt calls the Nazis international outlaws engaged in piracy for world domination. **21 June:** British, Australian, Indian and Free French forces seize Vichy Damascus. **22 June:** Germans, Finnish and Romanians invade Russia along a 1,800 mile front. **30 June:** Vichy France severs relations with Russia.

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Hundreds of thousands of Jews in Germany and occupied Europe are forced to wear the Yellow Star before being sent to Nazi death camps

Germany and its allies make huge gains in Russia before the war tide turns, 1,700,000 young single British women are called up. Japan bombs the US Fleet at Pearl Harbour and invades Malaya and the Philippines in a wide South East Asia campaign.

July

7 July: American troops take control of Iceland to prevent it being occupied by Germany. **13 July:** British and Vichy French sign an Armistice in Syria. **16-21 July:** German forces make big gains in Russia and advance on Leningrad. Panzer divisions far in advance of infantry drive a wedge between the Russians defending Moscow. Russians retreat along the front from the Baltic to the Black Sea. **23 July:** Vichy France lets Japan use Indochina military bases. **27 July:** Japan takes control of French Indochina capital, Saigon, and advances into Cambodia and Thailand.

August

7 August: Australia says it will not accept Japanese expansion in the Pacific. **8-17 August:** Russia bombs Berlin for the first time. Odessa is surrounded as German troops advance. Germans occupy the Russian Naval Base of Nikolaev on the Black Sea. **21 August:** France prepares to deport 5,000 Jews. **25 August:** Russia and Britain attack Iran to expel the Germans. **29 August:** Estonian capital, Tallinn, devastated by the Russians, is captured by the Germans. **31 August:** Finns push the Russians back to their old frontier.

September

1 September: President Roosevelt says that he will do everything to crush Hitler and the Nazis. **2 September:** Germans are within 30 miles of Leningrad. **6 September:** German Jews are ordered to wear the Yellow Star of David. **9 September:** Allied troops occupy Spitsbergen, North of Norway, to prevent its vast coal reserves falling into German hands. **14 September:** An RAF unit arrives in Russia to aid its Air Force. **19 September:** Kiev falls to the Germans. Russian and British troops enter Iran's capital, Tehran. **21 September:** German forces cut the Crimean Peninsular off from the rest of Russia.

October

2 October: Russians counter attack around Leningrad as the first snows falls. **4 October:** Norwegians threatened with starvation if anti-Nazi unrest continues. **5 October:** Russian bombers arrive in Yugoslavia to aid Josip Tito's Partisans. **16 October:** Vichy France sentences the former French Premier, Daladier, to life in prison for causing France's defeat. **21-24 October:** 50 French hostages are shot for killing a German officer in Nantes and 150 are shot for killing a German officer in Bordeaux. **25 October:** Germans take Kharkov in the Ukraine. **30 October:** RAF bombs German Naval Supply Base in Aalesund, Norway. In the Atlantic, an American Battleship, USS Ruben James, is attacked by German U-Boat. Only 44 crew are rescued.

November

2 November: The Crimea's capital, Simferopol, falls to the Germans. **3 November:** America's ambassador in Tokyo warns Roosevelt of possible Japanese attack. **4 November:** South African forces capture five Vichy French ships before they can be scuttled. **8 November:** The Royal Navy wipes out two Italian convoys in the Mediterranean. **10 November:** Churchill pledges to join the United States within the hour if it goes to war with Japan. **14 November:** The Aircraft Carrier, HMS Ark Royal, sinks after being hit by a torpedo. **18 November:** British and Commonwealth troops launch a major offensive on German and Italian forces in North Africa. **30 November:** Malta suffers its 1,000th bombing raid.

December

1 December: The Japanese Prime Minister, General Tojo, rejects American proposals for better relations. **2 December:** All 1,700,000 British single women aged 20 to 30 are to be called up for anti-aircraft gun duties and to replace men in desk jobs. **6 December:** Roosevelt appeals directly to the Japanese Emperor Hirohito to avoid war. **7 December:** Japanese planes attack the American fleet in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii. **8 December:** Britain declares war on Finland, Romania and Hungary. American Pacific islands, Wake and Guam, fall to the Japanese. Britain declares war on Japan. **10 December:** Japan invades Malaya and the Philippines. Royal Navy ships Prince of Wales and Repulse are sunk by planes off the coast of Malaya. **11 December:** Germany and Mussolini declare war on America. **12-31 December:** Russia turns the German tide, defeating Panzer Divisions, recapturing Rostov, routing the Germans besieging Moscow. In five days, 400 towns and villages are recaptured, 30,000 Germans killed and 700 tanks captured or destroyed. Combined British and Free Norwegian forces raid the Vaagso Island, Northern Norway. Eight German ships are sunk and all German defenders are killed or taken prisoner. Christmas Day Free French forces take the Vichy-supporting Canadian Islands of St Pierre and Miquelon. After a seven-day battle, Hong Kong's 6,000 defenders are overwhelmed by a Japanese force of 40,000. The attack is part of massive offensive in South East Asia.

Japan sweeps through South East Asia, Nazi Final Solution to slaughter all Jews under way, the British 8th Army is retreating in the North Africa desert war, The King awards George Cross to Malta, Princess Elizabeth registers for War Service.

January

1-7 January: In a United Nations declaration 26 countries affirm opposition to the Axis. Japanese capture Manila, Philippines. General Sir Archibald Wavell is head of Allied forces in the South West Pacific. Japanese troops land in Borneo. Japanese bomb Singapore in daylight. Japanese land on New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. The Allies fail to halt Japanese in Malaya. Japanese troops lay siege to Singapore. **8 January:** Russian troops push back Germans in the Crimea. **20 January:** Nazis discuss the final solution to exterminate the 11,000,000 Jews in Europe. **23-26 January:** First US troops in Europe since World War One land in Northern Ireland. German Panzers push British 8th Army to within 150 miles of Egypt. **29 January:** German and Italian troops take Benghazi, Libya. **30 January:** Irish Government says that American troops in Northern Ireland violates its neutrality.

February

1-29 February: America attacks Japanese bases in the Pacific Gilbert and Marshal Islands. Japanese forces land on Singapore, invade Sumatra. Singapore surrenders. Thirteen Allied warships sunk in the Java Sea. British Empire and Japan forces fight 80 miles from Rangoon, its civilians are evacuated. **1 February:** Germans appoint Norwegian Vidkun Quisling as puppet Prime Minister. **23 February:** Sir Arthur Harris takes over RAF Bomber Command. **27 February:** Vichy French leader Petain tells America that Germany won't control his fleet.

March

1 March: British destroy a German radio location station at Bruneval, Le Havre, France. **3 March:** America removes 100,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast, a war zone. **8 March:** Java surrenders to the Japanese. **22 March:** London broadcasts its first daily Morse Code bulletin to the French Resistance. **25 March:** A vital convoy fights its way to the besieged Malta. **26 March:** Nazis deportation of Jews to Auschwitz extermination camp begins. RAF bomb the Ruhr Valley. **27 March:** British Commandos attack German naval base in St Nazaire, France. The destroyer HMS Campbeltown rams the dock gates which are destroyed by explosives packed within the ship. **28 March:** 200 RAF planes shatter the Baltic port of Lubeck. **31 March:** Allied convoy reaches Murmansk, Russia, despite fierce German attacks.

April

1 April: Only 51,000. Jews are still in Germany. **3 April:** Germans start their retreat from Kharkov as Russian troops break through. **5 April:** Japan attacks British bases in Colombo, Ceylon, losing 27 out of 75 planes. **16 April:** King George awards the George Cross to Malta. **17 April:** Burma's oil fields are destroyed to stop Japanese seizure. **18 April:** Lord Mountbatten is appointed combined Allied South East Asia Commander. **25 April:** Princess Elizabeth registers for War Service. **29 April:** RAF bomb Lubeck enraging Hitler who orders the devastation of British targets. First hit are Exeter, Bath, Norwich and York. The RAF destroys the Baltic port of Rostock. Hitler orders that every British city in Baedeker guide book is destroyed.

May

2 May: Japanese take Mandalay, Burma. **4-7 May:** Vichy French surrender its Madagascar naval base to invading British. **6 May:** On Corregidor Island, Philippines, 10,000 American and Filipino troops surrender to the Japanese. **8 May:** American and Japanese navies both claim victory in the Battle of the Coral Sea. **10 May:** German and Italian air offensive against Malta ends after 11,000 missions. **20 May:** US Navy signs up its first Black sailors. **27 May:** Nazi governor of Bohemia, Reinhard Heydrich, is wounded by Czechs. British are driven back in Libyan desert by Rommel. **31 May:** Japanese midjet submarines raid Sydney Harbour, Australia. RAF raids destroy 200 Cologne factories. Russians and Germans battle for control of Donetsk River crossings south of Kharkov.

June

4-10 June: Heydrich, Final Solution architect, dies from wounds. In revenge, Lidice village outside Prague is destroyed, 199 men shot, 195 women sent Ravensbrueck Concentration Camp, children sent to another death camp. **7 June:** Russians launch an offensive against German-held Sebastopol. Japanese navy is routed at the Battle of Midway. **8 June:** Japanese ships shell Sydney and Newcastle, Australia. **16 June:** Royal Navy sinks an Italian cruiser and two destroyers in the Mediterranean. **21-27 June:** Tobruk falls to Rommel with 25,000 Allied prisoners. General Claude Auchinleck takes command of the 8th Army. Rommel routs 8th Army and threatens Cairo. 8th Army abandons Mersa Matruh. Germans take 8,000 prisoners. **25 June:** Major General Dwight Eisenhower is given command of US forces in Europe. **29 June:** The Polish underground say 1,000,000 Jews have been murdered: 700,000 in Poland, 125,000 in Rumania. In Holland, Belgium and French Jews are forced to dig their own graves, then shot. The Warsaw Ghetto imprisons 600,000 Jews with many deaths from disease and starvation. Germans launch an offensive at Kursk, south of Moscow.



In revenge for the killing of the Nazi Governor of Bohemia, Reinhard Heydrich, every man, woman and child in the Czech village of Lidice are slaughtered and the village is destroyed.

Sweet rationing in the UK, Mahatma Gandhi is arrested, Dieppe raid disaster, Germans advancing towards Stalingrad, Russian Convoy boy, aged 16, is awarded BEM for Bravery, under Montgomery the 8th Army turns desert defeats into victory.

July

1 July: Vichy France allows the Germans to hunt for Resistance radio transmitters. Black Sea port Sebastopol falls to the Germans. **4 July:** German air fields in Holland are bombed by US Air Force based in Britain. **6 July:** British halt the German desert offensive at El Alamein. **10 July:** Arctic Convoy PQ-17 of 33 ships, ordered to scatter by the Admiralty, is sunk. Only four ships reach Archangel, Russia. **12-16 July:** Germans slaughter 700 Yugoslavs in reprisal for the killing of Zagreb's Gestapo Chief. A new revolt against Nazi rule reported. **15 July:** First RAF daylight bombing raid on Ruhr Valley industries. **19 July:** Germans take Russian city of Voroshilovgrad. **22 July:** Churchill rejects US call for a Second Front in Europe before the end of 1942. **27 July:** Sweet rationing begins in Britain. **28 July:** Russians evacuate Rostov.

August

6 August: General Bernard Montgomery takes command of the 8th Army. Germans advance on Stalingrad. **7 July:** US Marines land on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. **9 August:** Bombay police arrest Mahatma Gandhi and 50 other leaders of the All-Indian Congress following a call that the British leave India. **17 August:** On his way to a Moscow summit with Stalin, Churchill visits the 8th Army. **19 August:** British, Canadian and Free French forces raid Dieppe, France. It is a disaster. Germans cross the River Don before an all-out assault on Stalingrad. **25 August:** The Duke of Kent is killed in a plane crash on the way to Iceland. **26 August:** All Jews in Occupied France are being arrested. **30 August:** Rommel launches new North Africa offensive.

September

2 September: SS troops begin genocide of Jews in the Warsaw ghetto, killing 50,000 over several weeks. Some Jews fight back, some commit suicide, those taken away are gassed in vans or sent to Concentration Camps to be gassed. **4-6 September:** Belfast police clash with IRA sympathisers after the execution of a 19-year old Republican. The IRA shoot two policemen. **6 September:** Germans take Russian naval base Novorossiysk. Germans attack Russian positions west of Stalingrad. **10 September:** The RAF drops 100,000 bombs on Dusseldorf. **12 September:** German U-Boat mistakenly sinks a ship, Laconia, carrying 1,800 Italian prisoners of war. Only 1,000 of the 3,000 on board are rescued. **13 September:** The RAF carries out its 100th raid on Bremen. Russian and RAF planes severely damage Romanian oil installations. **16-23 September:** Madagascar Vichy French refuse British Armistice terms. The British capture the main port and seize the capital. American General McArthur leads Australian and US troops against the Japanese on New Guinea. **30 September:** In a dawn raid, the 8th Army captures German positions near El Alamein.

October

6 October: Russian Convoy 16-year-old gallery boy, John Conroy, is awarded the British Empire Medal for Bravery. **10 October:** Britain and Germany are chaining prisoners of war in tit-for-tat reprisals which began with Germans chaining 2,500 Allied men captured in the Dieppe raid. **15 October:** Germans launch a new offensive on Stalingrad. **20 October:** Two American destroyers lost in the Solomon Islands. **23-25 October:** Genoa severely damaged in the RAF's biggest bombing raid on Italy. Followed by round-the-clock bombing of Genoa, Milan and Turin. **23 October:** The 8th Army attacks Rommel at El Alamein. **24 October:** General Eisenhower leads a huge task force from Britain to North Africa. **25 October:** British milk rationing is cut to two-and half pints a week. **26 October:** Himmeler becomes Interior Minister in a purge of the Nazi Party and the Army High Command. **30 October:** The start of Montgomery's victories knocking the German Africa Corps for six: 1,000 Allied guns open up at El Alamein, infantry attacks on two fronts backed by the RAF bombing German positions.

November

3-15 November: Montgomery breaks through Rommel's defences at El Alamein. Rommel's forces are in full retreat. 9,000 German PoWs taken, 300 tanks destroyed. Rommel retreats into Libya. German troops land in Tunisia. Tobruk is recaptured. British church bells celebrate by ringing out for the first time since 1940. **7-27 November:** Under the command of US General Eisenhower, the greatest armada ever assembled for a single operation, lands troops in Vichy French North Africa. Key objectives in Morocco and Algeria are taken by nightfall. Vichy France severs diplomatic relations with the United States. Admiral Darlan, Vichy Algerian military commander, orders a stop to fighting the Allies. Vichy French forces in West Africa join the Allies. **11 November:** Germany and Italy begin invading Vichy France. The French Toulon fleet is scuttled after German tanks enter the harbour. **26 November:** Russians breakthrough German and Romanian lines at Stalingrad threatening to destroy General Von Paulus's 6th Army.

December

8 December: German and Italian forces withdraw to Tunis. **13 December:** British Jews hold a day of mourning for the victims of the Nazi Genocide. **19 December:** The British Indian 4th Division is advancing down the Mayu Peninsula in Burma. **20 December:** Russians attack German forces on the River Don. **24-30 December:** Admiral Darlan is assassinated for betraying Marshal Petain. General Giraud replaces him and arrests 12 Vichy officials for their safety.

Final end for Mussolini's African Empire, Nazi bomb kills 33 young London children, Chindits operating behind enemy lines in Burma, Japanese massacre 30,000 Chinese civilians, flooding destruction as RAF breaches German dams.

January

1-22 January: Japanese withdrawing from Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. US and Australian forces recapture Buna, New Guinea. Japanese land more troops in New Guinea. USS Silversides attacks Japanese troop transports near the Caroline Islands. USS Chicago is sunk off the Pacific Rennell Island. Sanananda, New Guinea, is liberated. **7-24 January:** Free French capture Oum-El-Areneb, South Libya, and merge with British 8th Army. Tripoli. 8th Army chases retreating Germans across the Tunisian border. **4-31 January:** Russians capture German air and rail base at Chernyevskaya. German 16 month siege of Leningrad is broken. Russians take Voroshilovsk. German Field Marshall Paulus surrenders at Stalingrad. **14 January:** Churchill, Roosevelt and De Gaulle hold a conference in Casablanca, Morocco. **20 January:** Sandhurst Road School, Catford, London, is bombed killing 23 girls, aged five-to-seven, watching a school play, 15 other children and six staff. **27-30 January:** US Air force bombs Wilhelmshaven and Emden. RAF bombs Berlin twice in one day. **28 January:** Hitler orders mobilisation of everybody aged 16 to 65.

February

2 February: Japan tries to retake the Solomon Islands. **8-16 February:** Russians recapture Kursk, Rostov, Voroshilovgrad and other cities and towns. **8-18 February:** General Orde Wingate's Chindits begin incursions into Japanese areas of Burma. They cut the railway line between Mandalay and Myikyna. **18-26 February:** A new German thrusts takes three Tunisian towns. Rommel retreats again. Then, squeezed by Americans from the West and the British from the East, he is surrounded by the 8th Army.

March

6 March: The RAF pounds Essen, Ruhr Valley. **9 March:** Nazis destroy seven Polish villages and kill all the men for attacks on Germans. **10 March:** American 14th Air Force is formed in China. **14 March:** Germans retake Russian-held Kharkhov. **18 March:** Vichy French Guyana, South America, joins the Free French. **26 March:** US-Japanese naval battle in the Aleutian Islands ends in stalemate. Britons living in Vichy France are arrested by the Germans who fear an Allied invasion. **27 March:** Saboteurs blow up River Oder bridges in Frankfurt. **30 March:** The RAF drops French resistance leader, Jean Moulin, into France

April

7 April: Hitler and Mussolini have four days of talks about North Africa. Germans reinforce Dutch coastal defences. **15 April:** RAF drops 8,000 lb blockbuster bomb and 4,000 factory smasher bombs on Stuttgart. **18 April:** Admiral Yamamoto, Japan's naval strategist, is shot down by US fighter. **19 April:** Last remaining Warsaw Ghetto Jews fight Nazis SS. The SS are using machine guns and flame throwers. **21 April:** RAF marks Hitler's 54th birthday by bombing Berlin and other cities. **26 April:** Mass grave of 4,000 Polish officers found in Russian Katyn forest. **28 April:** Rommel evacuates Tunis. **29 April:** RAF's largest Baltic Sea mine laying operation.

May

2 May: Japanese bomb Darwin, Australia. **3 May:** Part-time work becomes compulsory for British women aged 18 and 45. **4-5 May:** General Sikorski, Polish leader-in-exile, tells his people to be friendly with the Russians. Stalin says he wants a post-war strong, free Poland. **7 May:** The Allies enter Tunis. **9 May:** Japanese massacre 30,000 Chinese civilians in Changjiao. **12 May:** Allies capture 110,000 Germans and 40,000 Italians as North Africa fighting ends. **13 May:** State of emergency in Southern Italy over invasion fears. **14 May:** Japanese submarine torpedoes a hospital ship without warning. Death toll is 299. **17 May:** RAF breeches Ruhr and Eder Valley dams. Floods kill 1,500 people and flood mines and ironworks. **20 May:** Allies destroy 100 planes on Italian airfields. **24 May:** Josef Mengele becomes Auschwitz Concentration Camp's chief medical officer. **25-31 May:** In Algeria, Generals De Gaulle and Giraud set up a French Provisional Government.

June

9-12 June: Allies capture the Mediterranean island of Pantelleria. **19 June:** Goebbels declares Berlin free of Jews. **21 June:** French Resistance leader, Jean Moulin, is arrested. **21-30 June:** Pacific island hoping US Marines land on New Georgia. US troops land on Trobriand, near New Guinea and on Rendova. **29 June:** Atlantic U-Boats are withdrawn to counter a threatened Allied Invasion. **30 June:** British rural signposts removed when invasion seemed certain can be put back.

July

4 July: Poland's leader-in-exile, General Sikorski, dies in a plane crash in Gibraltar. **6 July:** Japanese-US naval Battle of Kula Gulf, Solomon Islands. **8 July:** French resistance leader, Jean Moulin is executed. **10 July:** Allied

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General Eisenhower is Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. General Montgomery is Field Commander.



Sicily invaded by the Allies, Russia and Germany fight largest tank battle ever at Kursk, RAF bombs German secret-weapons base at Peenemunde, U-Boats return to the Atlantic, 60 sunk, Royal Navy sinks Germany's last Battleship, Scharnhorst.

troops land in Sicily, capture Augusta and Ragusa and land near Catani. Hitler and Mussolini meet in Northern Italy. Rome bombed, 1400 die. Sicilian capital, Palermo, captured. Mussolini falls from power, Marshall Badoglio becomes Prime Minister, King Victor Emmanuel takes over command of Italian forces. Fascist Party is abolished. Italy offered peace with honour if it stops aiding Germany. **13 July:** Germans routed in nine days in Kursk tank battle. **11-17 July:** Japanese win a tactical battle at Pacific island Kulom Bangara. US and Japanese navies clash near Pacific Bougainville island.

August

2-17 August: Allies break through the Axis defences in Sicily. Rome, Turin, Milan bombed. Messina captured. **3 August:** British and US planes pour 10,000 tons of bombs on Hamburg in day and night raids. **8 August:** Future US President, John F Kennedy, saves the crew of his stricken torpedo boat. A million Berlin civilians are evacuated. **15 August:** Naval Battle of Vella Lavella, Solomon Islands, begins. **16 August:** Jewish uprising in Bialystok City Ghetto, Poland. **17 August:** RAF bombs German top-secret weapons base, Peenemunde Island, in the Baltic. **19 August:** Russians advance into the Ukraine. **22 August:** Germans quit Kharkhov, their main Southern Russia base. **25 August:** Lord Louis Mountbatten becomes South-East Asia Supreme Allied Commander.

September

2 September: Concentration Camp inmates are used in medical experiments. **3-30 September:** Allies land on mainland Italy opposite Messina. Italy signs a secret Armistice. Reggio di Calabria and Brindisi, on Italy's toe, are captured. Allies land at Salerno, near Naples. Stiff German opposition. German troops occupy Rome. German secret mission to rescue Mussolini from his Italian prison. Germans retreat from Salerno. Allies enter Naples. **4 September:** Australian troops take Sazamaua, Papua New Guinea. **21 September:** The Battle for the Solomon Islands ends. **25 September:** Large area of Russia liberated its troops capturing Smolensk. **26 September:** Russians enter Kiev in the Ukraine.

October

1 October: U-Boats return to the Atlantic. **7-13 October:** Russians launch a new thrust along the River Dnieper. Russians cut German railway line to the Crimea at Melitopol. **11 October:** German Battleship Tirpitz attacked by midget submarines. **13 October:** Italy declares war on Germany. **14 October:** German defence lines along the River Volturno are broken. **19 October:** British and German POWs are exchanged in Sweden. Italian troops join Partisans fighting Germans in Yugoslavia. **24 October:** Allies bomb Austria from Italy for the first time. **29 October:** Troops take over London Docks from striking dockers. **31 October:** Allied advance up Italy is halted at Monte Casino.

November

6 November: Kiev falls to the Russians. **9 November:** 60 U-Boats are sunk in three months. **15 November:** RAF Wellington bombers use new precision bombing at night. **16 November:** Japanese submarine sinks USS submarine Corvina in the Pacific. **18 November:** Germans evacuate Sofia, Bulgaria. **20 November:** Heavy US Marine casualties in the Battle of Tarawa, Gilbert Islands. **19 November:** Vichy France leader, Petain, is a German prisoner. **20 November:** British Fascist leader, Sir Oswald Mosley, is released from prison, put under house arrest. **22 November:** Churchill and Roosevelt meet Chinese leader, Chiang Kai Shek for the first time. **24 November:** Gilbert Islands captured by the Allies. **25 November:** Sir Arthur Harris says Berlin will be bombed until the heart of Nazi Germany ceases to beat. **28 November:** Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin meet in Teheran.

December

7 December: British list of criminals and collaborators is scores of thousands long. **16 December:** Allies invade New Britain island, off New Guinea. **19 December:** In the first war crimes trial, three Germans are found guilty and hanged in Kharkhov. **24 December:** US General Dwight Eisenhower is appointed Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. General Montgomery is his Field Commander. **26 December:** Royal Navy sinks Germany's last Battleship, Scharnhorst, off Norway. **29 December:** Japan hands the Andaman Islands, Bay of Bengal, to Azad Hind, an Indian Nationalist fighting Britain. Canadian troops seize the Adriatic Port of Ortona.

Britain's Gloster fighter plane is the world's first operational jet, Leningrad siege is lifted, fighting rages in Italy, Japanese torture and murder British prisoners of war, airborne troops strike behind enemy lines in Burma, D Day Normandy landings are successful.

Home Front

January-June: Brief details given of Britain's and world's first jet fighter, the Gloster. Spitfires to be fitted with bigger engines. Ban lifted on women teachers marrying. Britain stops all travel to Eire to prevent information leaking to Berlin. House of Lords approves plans for a national health service. Same pay for women teachers as for men. London bus drivers strike. Troops drive buses. Labour party calls for coal, gas and electricity to be nationalised. House of Commons told that nearly 50 RAF officers who escaped from Stalag Luft were murdered. No civilian war casualties in Britain this month for the first time for three years. Ammunition train explodes in Cambridgeshire: 500 people homeless, 20 injured, two dead. First V1 flying bomb, Doodle Bug, hits Swanscombe, Kent. 95 more V1s hit Britain. German 'Day of Vengeance for D Day'.



Gloster jet first flew 1943, operational 1944

Russians advancing Westwards

4-29 June: Russians cross pre-war Polish border. Leningrad siege ends, 20,000 Germans killed, 1,000 taken prisoner. King George presents Stalingrad's Mayor with a Sword of Honour symbolising admiration for Russian resistance. 10 German divisions destroyed in the Ukraine. Germans move into Slovakia. Russians cross the Romanian border. Crimean capital, Simferopol, taken from Germans. Stalin tells Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary to declare war on Germany. Russians capture Sebastopol and the Crimea. Russians repel German counter attack in Romania. Russians advance on 500 mile Vitebsk Front. Hitler orders four of his five encircled divisions to fight their way out. Most of the German 9th Army is encircled. 16,000 Germans killed, 18,000 captured near Minsk.

Battle for Italy

22 January-2 June: British and American forces storm ashore at Anzio, 30 miles from Rome. Allies defend bombing Monte Cassino Monastery, a German fighting base. Anzio beachhead areas regained from German occupation. Monte Cassino, destroyed by bombing, is attacked. First RAF raid on Romania from Italy. British and Polish troops capture Monte Cassino. US troops capture Gaeta. Massive breakout from Anzio launched. Canadians breach Adolf Hitler Line South West of Monte Cassino. US troops take Terracina. Allied 5th Army makes contact with Anzio beach-head troops. Americans from Anzio take Cori, link with Monte Cassino troops. Allies 20 miles from Rome.

Pacific War rages

28 January-15 June: Japanese torture and murder of British and American PoWs is uncovered. Hideki Tojo becomes Japanese Army Chief of Staff. US Air Force attacks Japanese bases on Guam and the Marianas Islands. Allied landings on Dutch New Guinea take Japanese forces by surprise. Pacific Wakde Island secured, 800 Japanese killed. 12,000 US troops land on Biak Schouten Islands, in the New Guinea Campaign. Six tanks involved in the first armoured battle of the Pacific War. US partial withdrawal. Japanese retreat from Kohima ends 64 days of fighting. US Marines meet strong opposition to Saipan Island landings.

India and Burma heavy fighting

19 March-24 June: In the most daring Burma operation, a large Allied glider force lands 200 miles behind Japanese lines to build an airfield. Orde Wingate, Chindits' founder, dies in a plane crash. Japanese retreat from Kohima, Northern India, after 64 days of fighting. British 2nd Division advances 14 miles towards Imphal forcing Japanese retreat. British 2nd Division and 5th Indian Division meet on the Kohima-Imphal Road lifting the 88 day siege of Imphal. Chindits and Chinese forces take Mogaung, North Burma.

D-Day-the Invasion begins

6-30 June: Before dawn, paratroops and glider troops land in Normandy. The RAF pounds German defences. British and Allied forces are landing on the beaches. By nightfall, 156,000 troops are ashore. Bayeux is liberated. All beach heads are established. US troops cut road and rail links to the Cherbourg Peninsula and take Carentan, completing a 50 mile beach-head front. US troops enter Cherbourg. British capture Hill 112.

1944



Casualties of the Arnhem airborne defeat of Allied paratroopers and glider troops by the Germans. Only one-in-five of 10,000 men return. The battle to secure a Rhine crossing was a bridge too far for advancing ground forces.

Doodle Bug flying bomb toll rising in Britain, German retreat gives Hitler his 'worst day', Allied airborne assault on Arnhem fails with heavy losses, Russians advancing in Eastern Europe, British invade Greece, US destroy large Japanese fleet in a Pacific battle.

Home Front

3 September-31 December: National Day of Prayer on fifth anniversary of war breaking out. British and Empire casualties are 242,995 killed, 80,603 missing, 311,500 wounded and 190,381 PoWs. Doodle Bug flying bomb deaths in November and December are 1,083 killed, 2,358 injured.

Rapid Russian gains

1 July-31 December: 100,000 Germans encircled in East Russia. Russians capture Baranovicho 80 miles from Minsk. German 12th Corps, surrenders with 57,000 men. German losses are 300,000 in three weeks. Russians open Ukraine offensive. Two armies from Crimea join the Baltic Front. 40,000 Germans trapped in Ukraine. Russians enter Baltic states. Maidanek Concentration Camp where 1,500,000 died, liberated. Brest-Litovsk captured. Russian-Polish 1st Army gains Vistula bridgehead 40 miles from Warsaw. Russians attack Romania with 900,000 men 1,400 tanks and 1,700 aircraft and encircle 360,000 Germans in 23 Divisions. Warsaw uprising by 38,000 Polish Underground Army. Russians enter Bucharest, reach Polish-Czech border, cross the Danube into Yugoslavia, attack German Army Group South. Capture Latvian capital, Riga, surround German Budapest garrison. Russians and Yugoslavs liberate Belgrade and Dubrovnik. Russians take German base of Kirkenes in Norway.

Allies reach Germany

2 July-31 December: German counter attacks in Normandy fails. Caen falls to the British and Canadians. Rommel severely wounded in Spitfire attack on his staff car. Allied bombers hit strategic targets in Stuttgart, Munich and Saarbrücken. US troops capture Nantes, Angers and cross the River Loire. Montgomery launches Operation Tractable towards Falaise with carpet bombing by 800 planes. Allied airborne and seaborne troops land in Southern France. Germans surrender Marseilles. 200,000 Germans pull out of 40-mile Argentan-Falaise gap, the 'worst day of my life', says Hitler. British 12 Corps crosses Somme River. Canadians liberate Dieppe. British liberate Brussels, Antwerp, and Ghent. Americans forge East through Belgium, cross the Moselle, enter Luxembourg. Canadians trap Germans in Calais, take Ostend. Maastricht and Eysden, Holland, liberated. Germans surrender Le Havre. In Operation Market Garden, Allied airborne forces assault Nijmegen and Arnhem. British-US Airborne capture Nijmegen Bridge. Polish Paratroops land between Arnhem and Nijmegen. British in Arnhem are overwhelmed and forced to evacuate: only 2,163 of 10,000 men return. General Rommel commits suicide after a plot against Hitler fails. Americans capture Aachen, Germany. French forces reach the Rhine, capture Strasbourg and Belfort. Americans advance on a 30-mile front into Germany. Allies pour reinforcements into the Ardennes. 9,000 Americans surrender during the Ardennes Battle of the Bulge. Germans besiege US Airborne in Bastogne. American tanks relieve Bastogne.

Moving North in Italy

16 July-1 December: 8th Army captures Arezzo and reaches the Arno River. Polish 2nd Corps captures Ancona. US 34th Division captures Livorno. 8th Army takes Ravenna.

Greece invaded

16 September-5 November: British land unopposed on Greek Island of Kythera. British Airborne troops land at Patras, Greece, Crete and in the Aegean. Germans evacuate Athens. British liberate Athens and Piraeus and land on Corfu. British land at Salonika.

Japanese Burma defeats

8 July - 15 December: Japanese 15th Army retreats to Chindwin after losing 53,000 men and 17,000 horses. Japanese resistance crushed at Ukhrul, Northern Burma, across the India border and in North East India. Chinese 22nd Division crosses Irrawaddy. British 11th East African Division advancing to Chinwin take Kalewa. Chinese take Bhamo, North Burma. 19th Indian Division meets 36th British Division.

American Pacific victories

7 July- 31 December: Japanese Vice Admiral Nagumo and General Saito commit suicide on Saipan Island, 27,000 Japanese die in Banzai death charge on US Marines, thousands jump to death from a cliff. US deaths 3,116. US Marines land on Peleliu Islands. Iwo Jima island, 700 miles from Japan, is invaded. US 6th Army lands 60,000 men at Keyte, Philippines. Three-day Battle of Leyte Gulf: Japanese lose four carriers, three battleships, 10 cruisers, 11 destroyers, a submarine, 500 planes and 10,000 sailors. First organised use of Kamikaze (suicide) planes. 14,000 Japanese killed or captured in Peleliu, US casualties 9,300. Japanese airborne assault on Leyte has some success against US airfields. Heavy fighting follows before US victory.

World War Two lasted for six terrible years. Victory in Europe against Nazi Germany and its allies came in May. Victory against Japan was in August. Japan would have fought on longer but the dropping of atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki forced its surrender. The war's death toll was the highest in the history of conflict: 80 million people, military and civilian, killed, died of war-related disease or famine. China and the Soviet Union suffered the greatest losses. The United Kingdom lost 300,000 military and 70,000 civilians, mostly in the London Blitz.

Western Europe

January: Danish saboteurs wreck V2 factory in Copenhagen. US casualties figures to 21 December 1944: 135,323 killed, 362,824 wounded, 75,844 missing, 64,148 POWs. British capture Laroche 20 miles from Bastogne. Americans attack Germans South-East of Liege. British attack East of Maas. Americans bring German Ardennes offensive to its last legs. British Empire casualties to November 1944: 282,162 killed, 80,000 missing, 386,274 wounded, 294,438 PoWs. French attack Colmar Pocket, Alsace. Ardennes Salient obliterated.

February: Americans take Remscheid, Rhineland. Belgium completely clear of Germans. 50,000 British and Canadian troops with 500 tanks and 1,034 guns launch new offensive in Reichswald on Dutch German border. British and Canadians smash first Siegfried Line defences. British and Canadians take Cleve, Germany. The RAF and USAAF bomb Dresden, setting off a fire storm with a death toll of between 35,000 and 135,000.

March: Americans capture Trier on the River Moselle. American tanks dash across Rhine bridge at Remagen. British and Canadians enter Xanten on the Rhine. Four bridgeheads established across the Rhine. Americans take Saarbrücken. Allied bridgehead North of the Ruhr is 700 square miles, 16,257 prisoners. Americans take Mannheim, Wiesbaden, Frankfurt. Germans pulling out of Holland. French cross the Rhine, the first time since Napoleon.

April: 300,000 Germans in the Ruhr trapped by the US First and Ninth Armies. British Armoured Division enters the Rhine on the Dortmund-Ems Canal. French troops enter Karlsruhe. 18 US Divisions begin to clear the Ruhr. SAS Brigade paratroops land in East Holland to clear the way for Canadians pushing North. Americans take Hanover and the historic town of Weimar. British take Celle, cutting the road to Hamburg. Americans capture Essen. French take Baden-Baden. Americans overrun Buchenwald Concentration Camp. British take over Belsen Concentration Camp. Americans split the Ruhr Pocket at Hagen. Glider troops capture three German Generals and former German Chancellor Von Papen at a hunting lodge near Stockhausen. 29 German Generals and 317,000 men are captured. British reach the Elbe and launch an attack on Bremen. Americans take Leipzig, Halle. and Nuremberg. French take Stuttgart, reach Lake Constance on Swiss-German Border.

Goring says he will take over command as Hitler's deputy. Hitler orders Goring's arrest. Hitler marries Eva Braun, writes his will and appoints Admiral Donitz as his successor. Hitler and Eva Braun commit suicide in their Berlin Bunker.

May: German envoys meet General Montgomery at his Luneburg Heath headquarters to discuss peace. Envoys return to Donitz and recommend unconditional surrender. German troops and civilians are fleeing West to avoid the advancing Russians in the East. Admiral Von Friedeburg arrives at Montgomery's headquarters. All German forces in Holland, North-West Germany and Denmark are surrendering. Admiral Von Friedeburg arrives at General Eisenhower's headquarters in Rheims. General Blaskowitz, German Commander in Chief in Netherlands, surrenders. Donitz orders all U-Boats to cease hostilities. German Chief of Staff, General Jodl, signs unconditional surrender to Western Allies and Russia. General Böhme announces unconditional surrender of German troops in Norway.

First U-Boat surrenders at Portland Harbour, Dorset. Germany's Dunkirk Garrison surrenders to Czech forces. German Rear Admiral Bruning arrives at Felixstowe to unconditionally surrender all his forces. British troops land on Alderney, Channel Islands, and take 3,200 Germans prisoner. British arrest Himmler, who is in disguise. He commits suicide. General Montgomery is appointed Commander in Chief, British Force of Occupation, Germany and British member of the Allied Control Commission. Winston Churchill resigns as Prime Minister. King George agrees that Parliament will be dissolved on 15 June.

June: The four Allied powers divide Germany into four zones: British, American, French, Russian. Nazi plans to exterminate all European Jews by mid 1946 are discovered.

Greece and Italy

January: British troops enter Thebes, North-West of Athens. **April:** Americans reach Po Plain. Polish Corps captures Bologna. Italian Partisans take Genoa and stage a revolt in Milan. French capture Ventimiglia. British 8th Army reaches Venice. Italian Partisans capture Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, shoot both, take their bodies to Milan and hang them upside down from lamp-posts in the square where 15 Partisans were executed the year before. German Armies sign surrender terms at the Royal Palace in Caserta.

Eastern Europe

January: Russians attack from North and the South of Warsaw, advance 100 miles on 160-mile front. Warsaw falls. Cracow taken and East Prussia entered from the South. Russian tanks enter Ebling on the Baltic. Russian General Zhukov cuts off 66,000 Germans and Poznan Fortress. Three German Armies cut off in East Prussia. Russians liberate Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Poland. Russians capture Memel on Baltic coast clearing Lithuania of Germans. Two of Zhukov's armies establish Oder bridgehead 40 miles North of Berlin.

February: Russians enter Landsberg 80 miles North-East of Berlin. Yalta Conference in the Crimea is held between Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin. 16,000 Germans try to break out from Budapest, Hungary. Russians complete capture of Budapest. Germans wipe out Russian bridgehead North-West of Budapest.

March: Germans cut off in Pomerania as Russians reach the Baltic. In Hungary, German SS Panzer Armies launch a counter attack from Lake Balaton towards Budapest. Russians launch pincer movement to clear Upper Silesia. Two fresh Russian Armies counter German offensive towards Budapest. Kolberg falls to Russian Polish 1st Army. Russians take German strong points covering approaches to Austria. Russians take Gdynia, with 9,000 prisoners, North-West of Danzig, capture Danzig with 45 U-Boats and 10,000 prisoners and trap Germans at Breslau and Glogau. Upper Silesia is in Russian hands.

April: Russians and Bulgarians gain control of Hungary's oil production region. Russians take Bratislava on Czech-Austrian Border, reach railway line North-West of Vienna cutting rail link with Linz. Four Russian Armies of 137,000 men, 530 tanks and 2,400 aircraft attack Königsberg held by 35,000 Germans. Königsberg falls. Russians occupy Vienna. Hitler's last order of the day to the Eastern Front is that whoever gives orders to retreat is to be shot on the spot. Russian Armies begin the offensive on Berlin along Oder-Neisse line, shell Berlin and complete its encirclement. Stettin, on the Baltic Coast, and Wittenberge, on the River Elbe, are taken.

May: Berlin surrenders to 1st White Russian and 1st Ukrainian Armies. Stalin announces the end of war. Last German resistance in Czechoslovakia is crushed by the Russians. Austrian Radio announces the end of Anschluss with Germany and re-establishment of Austrian Republic.

Burma

January: British Indian Division crosses the Irrawaddy River North of Mandalay. First convoy for three years through Burma to China.

February: Indian Division crosses Irrawaddy South-West of Mandalay to strike Japanese rear, takes Meiktila airfield in Central Burma.

March: New Chinese 1st Army takes Lashio in Burma. Indian Division completes capture of Mandalay. Chinese forces reach end of their Burma Road campaign. British Division reaches Burma Road after eight months of fighting.

April: Yamethin falls in race for Rangoon. Japanese lose last coastal supply base in Burma. British 14th Army captures Chauk oil centre on Irrawaddy and take Pinyinman in Central Burma.

May: Indian paratroopers land south of Rangoon. The 14th Army captures Pegu. Japanese surrender Rangoon. 14th Army links up with troops from the Arakan, Central Burma, trapping all Japanese West of the Irrawaddy. British 12th Army set up headquarters in Rangoon.

August: Japanese in Burma sign surrender agreement in Rangoon.

Pacific and Japan

January: 100,000 US troops land on the Philippines. US bombers destroy Kawasaki aircraft works, Kobe, Japan. British Fleet Air Arm carrier planes destroy Japanese oil refinery, Palembang, Sumatra.

February: US troops land unopposed on Luzon, Philippines. Australians land on New Britain, East of New Guinea. US takes Japanese naval base and airfield on Luzon, Philippines. Japanese are trapped in Manila. US intensive bombardment of Iwo Jima Island, Pacific, begins. US navy pounds targets around Tokyo. 30,000 US Marines land on Iwo Jima, suffer 2,420 casualties on the first day, raise their flag on Mount Suribachi.

March: Fighting ends in Manila and Japanese evacuate. US Navy hits Kure naval base in the Inland Sea, South-West of Tokyo. Suicide attack by Japanese on Iwo Jima: 20,000 killed, 216 captured. US losses are 6,891.

Pacific and Japan is continued on Page 19

1945



Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler is in disguise when captured by British soldiers. He commits suicide.

1945

Continued from page 18

April: US General MacArthur appointed Commander in Chief, Pacific Land Forces, Admiral Nimitz, Commander in Chief, Naval Forces. US Military Government established on Japanese Island of Okinawa. US Fleet off Okinawa hit by first suicide raid, codenamed Floating Chrysanthemum: three destroyers sunk, 116 Japanese aircraft destroyed. In the Battle of East China Sea US aircraft sinks the Battleship Yamamoto 60 miles from Japan. 2,488 Japanese casualties, four destroyers sunk, 58 aircraft destroyed

President Roosevelt dies suddenly, aged 63, on 12 April 1945. Harry Truman becomes President.

May: Australians land on Tarakan Island, Borneo. Japanese Kamikaze pilots sink 17 American ships off Okinawa. US 10th Army reach suburbs of Naha, Okinawa's capital. Australians take Wewak peninsula, New Guinea. Americans firebomb Nagoya on the Japanese mainland. Mitsubishi works destroyed. Japanese begin evacuation of Shuri, Okinawa: half the garrison of 85,000 is killed. A fifth of Tokyo burned out in firebombing raid. Japanese paratroops drop on US airbase in Okinawa and on Le Island, Pacific. Plans made to invade Japan on 1 November. Americans take Santa Fe on Luzon. Osaka is destroyed by fire bombing.

June: Bombing displaces 4,930,000 Japanese. Australians enter Brunei, Borneo, and land at Lutong, Sarawak. Organised resistance ends on Okinawa after 82 days of the bloodiest Pacific fighting: 98,654 Japanese killed, 6,922 captured. US losses: 6,990 killed, 29,598 wounded.

July: General MacArthur announces the liberation of the Philippines. US navy shells Hokkaido Island steel centre in Japan. Allied Carrier planes sink 12 ships, damage nine others, in Tokyo Bay. Allies launch 36-hour air and sea bombardment of Kure naval base and other ports along Japanese coast from Osaka to Nagoya: escort carrier and 12 ships sunk, 84 cargo vessels sunk or damaged, 200 planes destroyed or damaged. Last ships in Japanese Battle Fleet are destroyed. British midget submarine sink Japanese heavy cruiser, Takao, in Singapore.

August: Blockade of the Japanese mainland is complete. First atomic bomb, Little Boy, is dropped on Hiroshima. Russians declare war on Japan. Second atomic bomb, Fat Boy, is dropped on Nagasaki. Russians attack across Manchurian frontier. Japan unconditionally surrenders. VJ day is announced in Britain. Three of the Japanese Emperor's family are sent to China to stop the fighting. Japanese forces in China, Manchuria, Burma surrender. Royal Navy take Hong Kong. Royal Marines fight off Japanese suicide detachments. Japanese official casualty figures from air raids, including atomic bombs: 260,000 killed, 412,000 injured, 9,200,000 homeless, 44 cities completely destroyed.

September: Japan formally surrenders aboard USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. World War Two has finally ended. Japanese Emperor Hirohito asks his people to co-operate in setting up a peaceful state. Forty Japanese arrested for war crimes. In Singapore, Lord Mountbatten accepts surrender of Japan's South-East Asia forces.

Aftermath 1945 - 1953

After the defeat of Germany and before the victory against Japan, a British General election swept Winston Churchill from office and gave a 145 House of Commons majority to Clement Attlee's Labour Party.

The new Government instituted huge changes at home and abroad. It nationalised the Bank of England in 1946, the coal industry in 1947, railways, long-distance road haulage and electricity in 1948 and the steel industry in 1949.

The school leaving age was raised from 14 to 15 in 1945 and the National Health Service came into being in 1948.

The Indian Independence Act 1947 partitioned the British Raj into three: India, East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and West Pakistan. Burma became independent in 1948.

Then there was another war.

On 25 June 1950, North Korea, backed by China and Russia, crossed the 38th Parallel border and invaded South Korea.

Sixteen nation, under a United Nations mandate, sent fighting troops to protect South Korea. America provided the largest force of 140,000 troops. Britain sent 100,000 men.

An Armistice was signed on 27 July 1953 with both sides looking each other back where it had started: the 38th Parallel.

The Korean War claimed the life of the final casualty named on Capel St Mary's new War Memorial Monument, Royal Navy Lieutenant Peter Harris. He died on 7 September 1950 when his plane disappeared in the Mediterranean while his ship was working up to join the Korean War.

His full story is on Page 13.

Who are we?

Meet the nine members of the War Memorial Trust team who have led the campaign to erect the village's first-ever War Memorial Monument which is to be dedicated at 11 am on Sunday, 11 November, the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended World War One. Our mission was to remember and honour those who sacrificed their lives in World War One and World War Two and since so that future generations would live in freedom.

Mike Woodward
Treasurer



Royal Air Force 1969 -1974. Joined at the height of the Cold War. As an air radar mechanic first-line serviced Vulcan nuclear bombers at both Vulcan bomber stations, Scampton and Waddington. Worked in insurance and started my insurance brokerage in The Street. Capel resident since 1986.

Gp Capt. Gary Bunkell
Chairman



Ex-UK's senior Royal Auxiliary Air Force reservist. Enlisted as an airman 1984, commissioned 1988, rose through the ranks to Group Captain. Aide-de-Camp to Her Majesty 2007. Serves as RAF Liaison Officer, East Anglia. Capel St Mary resident since 1978. Civilian profession: finance.

Flt Lt Bill Dimond
Secretary



Ministry of Defence for 37 years involved in procurement and finance for wars in the Falklands, Gulf, Balkans, Afghanistan. Air Training Cadet 1971, RAF VR (T) commission 1984, on RAF Wyton's strength as member of Small Arms Training Team responsible for Central Eastern UK.

Jonathan Bunkell
IT and Marketing



Jon Bunkell, born in Capel, East Bergholt High School student, is active in village affairs. He is a Capel Fun Day and a Community Trust member and Vice-Chairman of Capel Community Association. He was voted Villager of the Year, 2018. Occupation: software sales and marketing.

Griff Johns
Researcher/Writer



Capel Times researcher/writer. Royal Marine Commando 1968 - 1974, Far East, Mediterranean. with 41 and 42 Commando. Served with SAS and SBS. Electricity supply overhead live-wire linesman, then technical standard engineer. A resident of Capel St Mary for 25 years.

Jim Sporle
Landscape Gardener



My family came to Capel in 1937. I have been involved with youth work at St Mary's Parish Church, the PTA at the Primary School and the Scout Group. My Dad lost friends in World War Two and another friend's brother is remembered on our War Memorial.

Chris Streatfield
Ex-Merchant Navy



Joined the Merchant Navy, aged 16, as a catering boy. Sailed on a troopship to the Malaya war in 1957-58. A steward on liners cruising around the world. Worked in London and Felixstowe shipping offices and on ferries. A P&O Manager. A Capel St Mary Parish Councillor.

David Thompson
Editor, Capel Times



Ex-Army: National Service, RASC, 1953-1955. Journalist: regional, national and overseas newspapers, PR consultant, 1950 - 2003. Resident Capel from 2004. Organiser, The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations, Parish Councillor with a special interest in the Neighbourhood Plan.

John Sturgeon
Ex Teacher



I taught English at Copleston and Chantry High Schools for 25 years. Parish Councillor, 2007 to 2015. Joined the working party to build a War Memorial. When it became clear councils are not allowed by law to build War Memorials I joined the Trust team. A Capel St Mary resident for 29 years.

It isn't too late to send family war stories for inclusion in a new archive for future generations to study.
Contact davidf.thompson@btinternet.com for more information.

Your family stories of World War One

Three brothers killed, two on the same day in the same battle



Tragic family losses, from the left: William Southgate, Frederick Southgate & Walter Southgate

WILLIAM SOUTHGATE William Henry Southgate was born on the 30 July 1888 in Chapel Court, Ipswich. He left school at 13 and became a labourer and joined the Territorial Army. Army life suited William as in 1907 he joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps as Henry Southgate.

By 1914, he had been posted to India. While the rest of his unit returned home, he didn't, possibly due to his ability in telegraphy. He was moved to Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq). On the 1 July 1916 Henry was admitted to a Basra hospital suffering from heat stroke. He died later the same day. It took the Army three months to inform his mother he had died on active service. Henry is commemorated on Basra Memorial in Iraq.

FREDERICK SOUTHGATE Frederick Fayers Southgate was born on the 5 January 1891 in Upper Orwell Courts, Ipswich. He left school at 14 and started working in the Xylonite factory in Brantham. In 1914, Frederick answered his country's call and joined to the Army, aged 22.

In April 1915, after being in the trenches for three months, he was killed in action taking part in the Northern pronged attack on Aubers Ridge in order to take the high ground. His family received no notification of his death for a month. However, the family had already become suspicious due to the lack of communication.

A letter from his sweetheart Rose Tuckwell, was written to the War Ministry. It reads:

Dear Sir, Would you kindly let me know if you can tell me anything

Holly Nixon, aged 16, writes about the Southgate brothers, her great grandmother's East Bergholt cousins. Holly's grandfather on her father's side, Walter Frederick, is named after one of them.

The story of Holly's great grandfather on her mother's side, Ernest Peartree, was in the previous Capel Times.

The Nixons have lived in Capel for 20 years. Grandfather Walter once worked in Brackenbury garage, now the Esso garage on the A12.

about my young man as both his parents and myself are very much upset about him as it has been over a month since I heard from him by doing it you would shortly oblige. R. Tuckwell

Frederick Southgate's body was never found. He has no known grave. He is named on Panel 29 of the Le Touret Memorial France.

WALTER SOUTHGATE Walter Southgate was born on the 28 October 1896 in Lawford, Essex. He left school at the age of 14 and started working at the Xylonite factory in 1912. On the 27 August, along with his brother Frederick and two other friends, he joined the Army. Walter was 17 and not eligible to join the Army, but he said that he was 19 so that he could be with his brother and could fight abroad.

On 9 April, 1915 Walter, like his brother Frederick but on a different section, took part in the battle of Aubers ridge and, like his brother, was killed in action.

A month later a note was sent informing his mother, Sarah, that he was missing in action. Three months later she was informed that a Walter Southgate was being treated in a hospital for injuries. Sadly this was incorrect and was a different Walter Southgate. It took the authorities 17 months to inform his mother of Walter's true fate.

Like his brother Frederick, no body was found and Walter has no known grave. He is commemorated on the 7th panel of the Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium.

Dr Mike Bush, former Director of Public Health for East Suffolk and a county resident for 50 years. He is ex-Army, former hospital doctor and GP, communicant at St Mary's Church, writing about the search for the last days of his young great uncle.

Lost Uncle Willy's presence is still with me

Uncle Willy, my father's older brother, did not want to be conscripted on reaching his 18th birthday in 1917 so in the closing months of the year, two weeks before his birthday, he enlisted as a volunteer.

After initial training in Kent, Private James William Bush, 6th Battalion Northampton Regiment, arrived in Boulogne in early 1918.

A few notes pencilled in a pocket diary and a few letters from home reveal little. Although we now know of the dreadful conditions on the Western Front there was no hint of this in his correspondence.

Like many young soldiers, he probably thought that there was no need to distress the folks back home with unnecessary detail."

What details there were, from April 1918, my family picked up later from the Regiment, the Comrades Association, the War Diary and the War Graves Commission.

The 6th Battalion was at Morlincourt, in the Somme, with the British 5th Army, when the Germans began their final big push in March 1918. The battalion went into the line in front of Gentelles on the 23 April then on to Cagney

The War Diary reports: "In the line

25 April 1918. Fairly quiet throughout the day, intermittent shelling. Then a considerable bombardment commenced to which our artillery replied.

"All activity died down by 7.15pm and no attack took place. They were relieved by a battalion of Moroccan troops. The relief was completed by 5am and the battalion marched to bivouacs."

Private Bush didn't march off. He was dead. The Battalion Chaplain wrote that my uncle was almost certainly killed in the bombardment and the change-over took place before the dead could be buried.

There is no grave but his name is on a memorial stone at Pozieres among the graves of many of his comrades.

Uncle Willy died before I was born but he has always been in some way a presence. In old grandma Bush's house, and in our house when she came to live with us in 1940, there were the two campaign medals and the bronze plaque bearing the inscription: "He died for King and Country."

These objects are still displayed in my house in Raydon.

Your family stories of World War One

Great uncle Ben, one of the many men we should remember

David Thompson
Editor

Many thousand men who fought in and survived World War One came home with live-changing or life threatening amputations, wounds or other serious injuries. My great uncle Ben Thompson was one of them.

He was in the Army early in the war and was among some of the first troops to land in France and Belgium.

Ben said almost nothing about his four years in France until my father came home from World War Two. Only then did he opened up a little.

He was one of the miners who tunnelled under, and blew up, the German held Hill 60.

The last of several attempts to blow the Hill sky-high, in 1917, killed 10,000 Germans. The blast was heard in London and Dublin.

Ben was gassed three times and took part in the last great successful push against the Germans in 1918.

His lungs were seriously affected by the gassing leaving him with breathing problems and persistent heavy and repeated coughing.

He couldn't work indoors but was able to rent a small tenant dairy farm in Derbyshire.

Aged seven and eight, I spent part of my school holidays at the farm during World War Two. At night, I could hear his repeated terrible coughing.

Ben lived a long but far from full life, dying in the early 1960s. His death certificate stated the cause of death: lungs destroyed by poison gas.

We remember those who died in the wars. I shall also be thinking of great uncle Ben, and those from Capel and elsewhere, who died of war injuries later in life but whose names are rarely known or remembered.

Say a prayer for them, too

I took the Cornish flag to my great uncle's grave

My great uncle Private 11283 George Gerance Miners was one of thousands of young men who answered Lord Kitchener's call to arms, exchanging jobs and family for war. The volunteers were patriots and were proud of their country.

On arriving at the Devon and Cornwall Light Infantry depot, Gerance would have been met by utmost chaos. The depot was organised to accommodate and train 200 men. In August 1914, the volunteers had swelled ten-fold.

There were no uniforms, equipment, weapons and far too few officers or NCOs to look after the men. Surprisingly order was quickly established and the recruits were dispersed to the new Service Battalions being raised. Gerance was posted to the 7th Battalion in Aldershot, probably on 2 September 1914 a few days after enlisting.

The 7th DCLI landed at Boulogne on 25 July 1915, part of the 61st (Light Infantry) Brigade which was deployed in the Ypres Salient of low lying, artificially drained pasture land.

The Salient rapidly deteriorated under constant shell fire into a vast stinking swamp in which digging trenches became impossible. The men lived in half flooded shell holes or behind sand bagged breastworks. The Ypres Salient was the most miserable and most feared sector of the Western Front.

When the 7th went into the Front Line on 27-28 February 1916 the ground was waterlogged. In



Saint Piran's Flag is the flag of Cornwall

Sue Carpendale, a Babergh District Councillor, was born in Cornwall and writes about her great uncle, who died after just six months in the worst sector of the Western Front.

March there was frost, rain, snow and sleet. The snow melted, filling the trenches with water. The Germans fired aerial torpedoes into the trenches causing extensive damage.

The War Diary reported: "Quiet except for intermittent bombardment of Canal Bank, and a few trench mortars in Front Line. In afternoon steady rain and sleet began turning to snow which continued all night". With most World War One records destroyed in a fire, there is nothing to tell us how Gerance died. We have to assume he was one of the unlucky 14 soldiers killed from the intermittent

shelling or bombardment of the trenches.

The Army Registers of Soldier's Effects, shows a payment of £2.10s.2d, together with a gratuity of £6.10s paid to Gerance's mother, Honor Jane. His mother applied for the 1914-1915 Star Medal, which was rarer than the other two Medals he would have received. Gerance is buried at Bard Cottage Cemetery, Diksmuidseweg, North West of Ypres. It is one of the smaller cemeteries in the area and not one frequented by the tour companies.

In 1916, 100 years after he was killed, I made a pilgrimage to Gerance's grave. It is in a beautiful place, tranquil, moving, immaculate.

I had an odd sense that none of the young men buried there were still there, that somehow they had gone.

I left Gerance with something from his home land. Alongside a little wooden cross and poppy, I had taken a small Cornish flag, a button badge and a pebble from a Cornish beach, all of which I buried at the foot of his headstone. The inscription supplied by his parents is: "Sleep beloved until the day break."

I am grateful to be able to honour Gerance's sacrifice and keep his memory alive.

My thanks to Hugo White, historian, of the Cornwall Regimental Museum and Gary Bunkell who supplied background material.



Ypres Salient 1916: It was in conditions like this that Gerance Miners died.

Armistice! It is too sad to die from wounds on that day

Penny Thompson writes about the the extra sadness at the death of great uncle Ernest.

It was sad enough that my great uncle, Ernest Richard Biggs, died in hospital in Rouen from wounds but it seems especially sad that he died on Armistice Day, 11am on 11 November 1918.

Especially sad for the family because they never knew whether he died before 11 am or even whether he was aware that there was to be an Armistice.

The date and battlefield where Ernest was wounded is also unknown.

He was born in August 1881 at Garnstone Castle Weobley, Herefordshire, (it was pulled down in the 1950s), where his father was head gardener.

Ernest and his brother, Gilbert, the under gardeners, enlisted together in the Royal Welch Fusiliers. Gilbert survived.

In July 1907, Ernest had married Amy Elizabeth Jones.

When Amy died her home was found to be a time capsule of life with Ernest. Even his wedding suit was hanging in the wardrobe.

I am the only family member to have visited his grave in Rouen. But he is remembered on two Herefordshire War Memorials and on a plaque in Weobley Churchyard. The plaque, unusually, honours both those who died and the survivors of the war.



Your family stories of World War Two

Trusting in the flying race horse

Two young miner sons of a friend of my grandfather in their colliery street in Nottinghamshire, together with a young friend, joined the paratroopers and fought in the hard battles of 1944 and 1945.

They all survived and came home to the street, a big welcome and work back at the pit.

There was great concern for them from racing fans in the street when they put all, every penny, of their war gratuity on a horse in the 1946 Derby, the first since 1939.

Not just any horse but one that was described as an unconsidered outsider at a starting price of 50/1 in a field of 17.

To the astonishment of the street, and the rest of the country, the horse won.



Its name, of course: Airborne.

David Thompson

Terry Bramer told of his grandfather's World War One role in Capel Times Issue Three. Here he tells of his father flying aid to Partisans in Yugoslavia and to the 14th Army in Burma.

The caricature is of my late father, Flight Lieutenant Ronald (Ginge) Bramer, which was drawn while he was stationed at Bari in Italy during 1944. He was with No 267 (Flying Horse) Squadron Transport Command, flying Dakota aircraft carrying supplies and personnel around the Mediterranean including to Egypt, Malta, Greece and Yugoslavia.

In October 1944, on a night time operation, his aircraft carried Brigadier Fitzroy MacLean to an improvised landing strip in enemy-held Yugoslavia on a mission to coordinate operations with Marshal Tito's Partisan Movement.

Although some of the aircraft taking part became bogged down in soft ground, his was manhandled out by "a vast number of partisans, all armed to the teeth and in a ragbag of army attire", and all returned safely.

In February 1945, the squadron was redeployed to India and then Burma, to supply fuel, ammunition and food to troops opposing the Japanese and to evacuate casualties. This involved both landing at hastily-improvised landing strips and dropping supplies directly and by parachute. One of the last operations in Burma was an airdrop of essential food and other supplies to the impoverished inhabitants of Rangoon, which had just been reached by the 14th Army.

Distinguished Flying Cross

In January 1946, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The citation states: "He has taken part in a large number of operational sorties. The majority of these have been supply dropping missions to the Partisan troops in Yugoslavia, and have been flown in adverse weather over mountainous terrain.

"More recently this officer has been engaged on supply dropping operations in Burma, flying through severe monsoon storms and landing supplies, often within five miles of the front line. At all times he has displayed a high degree of courage and devotion to duty".

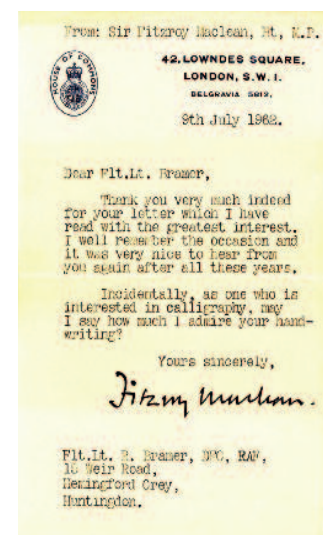
(On a copy of the citation, my father has crossed out the phrase "often within five miles of the front line" and noted "five miles indeed? Sometimes 1,000 yards!")

He was always disappointed that his medal was sent through the post and not personally presented by King George VI. However, in 1995 on his 80th birthday, during a visit to a Duxford Airshow and a flight in a vintage DH 89a Rapide, one of the civil aircraft he flew after the war, I was able to arrange for him to meet Princess Margaret, there at a Colour's presentation to the Anglian Regiment.

Protocol meant that she was not able to present the medal again, but she had been well briefed and had a short conversation with him, which he never forgot.



Sir Fitzroy MacLean and his letter to Ronald Bramer



My wife's father was killed on a stretcher by a bomb blast

My wife Shirley's father, Fredrick Dennis Oliver, was born in London on 17 March 1915. He enlisted as Private 6140442 in the 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment in 1933 and served on India's North West Frontier from 1935-1937.

Fredrick was in Khartoum, Sudan, in 1938 before being stationed in Colchester where he met his future wife, Nellie Vince. They married on the 5 August 1939 in St Mary's Church, Higham.

When war broke out in 1939 he went with the British

Expeditionary Force to France. My wife, Shirley, was born on the 6 May 1940. A few weeks later Fredrick escaped from Dunkirk.

After being stationed in Dunblane, Scotland, in 1942 his regiment joined the British First Army under General Anderson in North Africa. In 1943, the regiment was in heavy fighting at Jebel El Ahmera (Longstop Hill), North of Mejez El Bab, 40 miles from Tunis, held by the Germans for nearly five months.

Fredrick, aged 27, was wounded on the 23 February 1943 and

Chris Streatfield, a Capel St Mary Councillor and former Merchant Navy man, writes of the search for his wife's father's name on a North African desert oasis memorial.

taken to a First Aid Station. He was on a stretcher when a bomb or shell blast killed him.

There were no remains to bury, he has no known grave, but is remembered on at the Allied War Cemetery Memorial, Face 21, near Mejez El Bab. The cemetery is the largest in Tunisia with 3,000 graves and 2,000 names on the Memorial.

On a Mediterranean cruise with Shirley and our son Chris in November 1998, we docked at Sidi Bou Said in Tunis Bay. I hired a car and drove to Mejez El Bab,

an oasis in the desert, which is very well kept by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The very friendly staff showed us where to look for Shirley's father's name and with a wreath we soon found it. It was so quiet and peaceful but also so sad.

I obtained most of the information about Fredrick at the East Surrey Regiment Museum at Clandon House, Surrey, now all lost in a fire which destroyed the house.

Your family stories of World War Two

A War tale with an antipodean twist

By Damian Hearne



There is one story about my Dad, fighter ace Squadron Leader P J Hearne, DFC, which is not known much beyond the wartime Royal Air Force, his family and close friends. It hasn't been publicly told elsewhere, even among the tributes to him in his obituaries in January this year. It is of his shooting down an Australian pilot and how he was cleared by a court marshal.

Aerial warfare is seldom displayed with authenticity in the various mediums we watch. You are in a 3D world and stuff is not long in view when it gets close. You do not have endless rounds of ammunition. You do not have long to make a decision and formulate your actions.

We were at war and Hearne was on patrol. Over Britain, on this occasion in an American built long-range Mustang with his Number 2, Jimmy Butler, flying in tandem off his port wing. Directly out of the sun, came two unidentifiable aircraft bearing down on an attacking course. So, instinctively, Hearne dived, wheeling sharply round and, at the anticipated point that he expected the attacking plane to pass through his gun sites, he opened fire.

The unidentifiable plane turned out to be a Typhoon, which was fatally damaged. However, the Aussie pilot bailed out and made a safe if unconventional landing. His Number 2, incensed by events, opened fire on Dad's Number 2, who thankfully evaded and returned to base. The subsequent court-marshal totally exonerated Squadron Leader Hearne, or I wouldn't be telling this story. The Australian pair were severely reprimanded. I am not sure of the final result for the Aussie Number 2, who had, with full awareness, callously fired at a friendly aircraft.

The sequel to this tale was played out in a pub, where my dad was having a drink with some members of his Squadron. A group of Australians were at the bar going on about how much better pilots they were than their British counterparts. Hearne must have had a death wish when he proudly announced to all how he had only recently shot one of them down and it wasn't that difficult.

He was rescued by his loyal friends who spirited him out of the place as an Aussie lynching party was being assembled. They were cocky in those days and why not, one's life was on the line, daily.

**Peter Hearne joined the RAF in 1941, trained as a pilot in Canada, flew Spitfires and Mustangs escorting bombers and is credited with destroying at least five enemy planes and damaging others. His DFC was awarded for "always displaying the greatest keenness for operations and his degree of courage." He stayed in the RAF after the war. On retirement he farmed mushrooms in Capel St Mary.*

Romance worthy of Shakespeare - Sharon Pendorf writes of how her parents came to meet and marry

It was an Antony and Cleopatra moment when my parents met. My Mum, June Karen, was in her words, larking about lying back on a chaise longue at a Tea Dance in Cafe Dansant in the Winter Gardens on the Prom in Cleethorpes.

Her friend, Popsey, asked who she thought she was. Mum replied that she was Cleopatra waiting for Antony. A young American overheard, approached, introduced himself as Antony and said would he do?



My parents met whenever Dad, Anthony Guarino from New Jersey, in the US 8th Army Air Force, could get away from his airbase in Lincolnshire.

Dad, known as Tony, was transferred to Raydon and June, encouraged by him, travelled with Popsey to see him.

I remember Mum saying how much she enjoyed visits to Flatford Mill and, cycling with Popsey, areas close to Raydon, Hadleigh and Christchurch Park.

My parents had a Registry Office wedding on 7 September 1944 so Tony could file the papers for June to travel to the United States. She was one of thousands of GI Brides who sailed to New York on the Queen Mary, arriving in February 1946.

Dad met her with a bunch of bananas which Mum couldn't get in England during the war.

Canon Jim took Tony and June back to Raydon when they came to see us after we emigrated to England in 1976.

Then, of course, my parents went back to Cleethorpes where their romance began.

In the Home Guard, aged 17, Terry Galer, armed with just five rounds for his rifle, was standing by in Capel St Mary ready for a German invasion of Suffolk in June 1944.

Early in 1944, aged 17, and living in East Bergholt, I joined A Company 6th Battalion, Suffolk Home Guard, as a motorcyclist. There were several military incidents, including numerous exercises of securing Raydon airfield, much to the amusement of the American Military.

One memory stands out. In June 1944, we received orders to parade at HQ at 1800hrs with full kit, rifle and bedding, from which we would be transported and told of the "battle" plan. Arriving at the place, we found that it was Aisthorpe Church Hall, Capel St Mary (the site of today's Rectory) where we would be spending the rest of the night until 0600hrs the next day.

We were then advised of the serious situation. This, of course, was the week of the Normandy Invasion and the Big Brass thought the Germans might try to invade us by sea along the coast or by airborne troops. We would join up with other units.

We were then issued with five rounds of live ammunition. At the time, we never thought how many invaders we could kill with five rounds.

So, after a very peaceful night, except for guarding the Church Hall, at 0600hrs, I journeyed back to East Bergholt, handing in the unused ammo. After this we settled down to normal "exciting" exercises. Soon afterwards the Home Guard was disbanded. I later received the Defence Medal.



I was 10 when war broke out and there was a lot for a boy to do. There was visiting the two American air bases in Suffolk, Raydon and Boxted, boarding a badly shot up B17 at Raydon, visiting the site in Capel St Mary where a B24 crashed after a mid-air collision, and sites where several fighters had landed.

After the Home Guard, I was called up, aged 18, for military service in early 1945, I joined the Regular Army and served three-and-a-half years in the RASC, all in Britain. I reached the rank of sergeant. When on demob, I received the Victory Medal.

That wasn't the end of my military service. I joined the Territorial Army as a REME mechanic, also as a sergeant, stationed at Ipswich and spending some time in Germany.

Then there was 10 years as a Special Constable.

Your family stories of World War Two

I scattered my father's ashes on his old airstrip to lie in 'some foreign field that is for ever England'



Bill Bunkell, on the far left, with the crew of their submarine-hunting Liberator aircraft.

Group Captain Gary Bunkell writes about his father's squadron's long flights to sink Japanese submarines, lay mines in the Bay of Bengal and take part in special operations behind enemy lines.

Dennis William Bunkell, known as Bill, spent his early life in Norwich. His father, who had been gassed during World War One, died when Bill was five so from an early age Bill knew what hard work was about. He left school at 14 and was apprenticed as an engineer.

Aged 18, he had volunteered as an RAF mechanic in 1940. By 1943 he had volunteered again to train for aircrew duties. Training had taken him to Canada and the West Indies but in June 1944 his war was really about to start.

By the end of the war, he had, from a jungle air strip in Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, completed 45 operational missions as the flight engineer on a Liberator aircraft.

Operating at the very limits of the aircraft's capability the crew flew across endless tracts of the Bay of Bengal hunting Japanese submarines, laying mines and, on special operations, dropping agents behind enemy lines.

His Squadron was special by any measure. They earned 20 bravery decorations and lost 105

personnel. He was still only 23 years old when the war ended.

He finally came home in 1946 having reached the rank of Warrant Officer. He immediately volunteered as a reservist with the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and served until 1960. He just couldn't leave the military life alone.

He retired to Capel St Mary in 1985 where he spent the last 20 years of his life. He passed away in January 2005 a few weeks before he and I were due to go to Sri Lanka to visit locations where he had served.

I still made the trip and my father's ashes now rest in the jungle clearing from which he flew. It is, in the words of poet Rupert Brooke, 'some corner of a foreign field that is for ever England'.

Although special to his family, he was not by any means unusual. Thousands like him had served their country with great distinction. My father gave some of the best years of his life. Thousands gave the rest of theirs.

Two sons were prisoners: only one returned home



Wedding day for Fred Manning and Marguerita Nunn. Fred died on the Japanese Burma-Siam railway. Right: His brave mother, Edith, in later years.



Our grandmother Edith Baker was a cheery, kindly lady who even in advanced years looked in on neighbours in the terrace of cottages in Chelmondiston where she had lived for most of her adult life.

However, her life was full of tragedy. Edith lost two of her three husbands and a baby son. During the war, her two soldier sons were taken prisoner.

Edith's first husband, Frederick Manning, died of Spanish Flu during 1918 world-wide epidemic, just over a year after their son, Frederick Louis was born.

Edith married Edgar Potter in 1922. Their first son died aged three weeks. My father, Stanley George was born in 1924. Edgar died in 1925 from a heart complaint. Edith married William Baker, who survived her after her death in 1972 at the age of 85.

Fred joined the 4th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment in February 1940. In June he married Marguerite Nunn at Shotley Church. In 1941, he was posted to Herefordshire where Marguerite found temporary lodgings nearby.

His battalion sailed from Liverpool in October, to Canada, down the American coast to Trinidad, crossing to South Africa and Bombay, arriving in Singapore in January 1942. The Battalion was taken prisoner by the Japanese on 15 February 1942.

Fred was interned in the Changi Prison and is thought to have been a chauffeur to a Japanese officer. In December 1942, he was among first Suffolks sent to work on the Burma-Siam Railway. He died of Beri Beri on 22 November 1943 and was buried alongside the railway line. After the war his remains were taken to the

Gillian Williams pays the family's tribute to their remarkable grandmother and her courageous sons.



Stan Potter: Survived four German PoW camps

Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery in Burma.

Fred's daughter, Diana, was born in April 1942 shortly after Marguerite learned of her husband's capture. Fred knew that he was to be a father but never learned that he had a daughter. Marguerite's letters to him were returned to her unread by him.

Diana honoured her father's memory by visiting his grave, with her husband, in November 2016.

My father, Stan, joined the Royal Artillery aged 18 around the time that his family would have learned that Fred was missing in action. He was drafted into the Royal Army Medical Corps and attached to the Parachute Regiment. He was in the 181 Air Landing Field Ambulance Unit.

On 18 September 1944, he flew over Suffolk in a Horsa glider en route to Arnhem, in occupied Holland, in the operation Market Garden. The airborne assault was

to secure the bridge over the River Rhine. It was a disaster and became known as A Bridge too Far.

The gliders followed the River Orwell down to the sea. Villagers in Chelmondiston watched them going over, not knowing that a village lad was in one of them.

Also watching from the roof of the Co-op store in Ipswich, where she worked, was Joan Last who lived in the same village as Stan. They married in 1953.

My father was stationed in an hotel caring for wounded soldiers. He made regular trips to the battlefield to bring the wounded to the overflowing hotel.

He 'volunteered' to remain behind when the Allied forces withdrew across the Rhine. On 26 September, my father was taken prisoner and transported across Europe to four different POW camps including Sagen (location of the Great Escape), and Stalag X111C in Hammelburg.

His mother received a telegram in late 1944 saying Stan was missing in action. He was liberated by the Americans on 4 April 1945. Then six weeks leave before being drafted to a Gibraltar hospital for two years. He was demobbed in 1947.

Dad was an unassuming man, who talked about Arnhem only to his family. He always wore his medals with pride on Remembrance Sunday, as well as remembering Fred. He was a member of the Arnhem Veterans' Association and made several pilgrimages to Arnhem. Dad lived a healthy, happy family life dying, aged 80, in 2004. Frederick Manning's name is commemorated on the War Memorial in Chelmondiston.