

STONEY STANTON AT WAR 1939-1945

2020 REMEMBRANCE DISPLAY



Generations Genealogy Remembrance 2020 Display

In lieu of our usual display at St Michaels church being cancelled due to covid we have decided to produce a small digital display, this years display will focus on the year 1940, giving details on the general history of the war in that year as well as what happened to individuals from the village of Stoney Stanton.

As ever we would also like to appeal for any information people may have regarding the village and its inhabitants during both WW1 and WW2, we are particularly looking to try and gather the identities of people who served during WW2 and survived as there is has never been any solid information compiled about this yet.

Lastly we would like to thank everybody who has come forward with information in the past and helped create the annual displays that we put on, it couldn't be done without the generosity of the village. We look forwards to being able to put on another display in the church next year, we will endeavour for it to be the biggest one we have done yet.

All of our displays are dedicated to those who fell during The Great War and World War Two.

The Great War

Private William Jeffs
Private Joseph Simpson
Private Sidney Riley
Private Sidney Judd
Private Ezra Baum
Able Seaman Harry Tansey
Private Wilfred Palmer
Private Arthur Sharpe
Private Francis Faulks
Gunner Samuel Batchelor
Corporal Percy Riley
Private Harold Church
Private Edmund Taylor
Private Percy Palmer
Able Seaman Ernest Maples
Private Archibald Taylor
Private George Alesbrooke
Private John Hill
Private Albert Finnegan
Private John Walton
Private Arthur Bailey
Private Bertram Brown
Private Arthur Taylor
Able Seaman Charles Dixey
Private Wilfred Fisher
Private Joseph Sutton
Private Arthur Barwell

Private James Spiby
Private Arthur Hunt
Private George Norton
Private Anon Richardson
Private Francis Hunt
Corporal James Whitmore
Sapper Frank Taylor
Private Harry Burman
Corporal Walter Achurch
Private Alfred Colver
Gunner George Faulks
Private William Chapman
Private Frederick Chapman
Private Edgar Lovett
Sergeant Harry Webb-Harris
Private Alfred Chapman

World War Two

Private Arthur Grocock
Aircraftman 1st Class Kenneth Abbot
Private Albert Farmer
Artificer 4th class Anthony Chesterton
Private Samuel Batchelor
Sergeant William Burrows
Private William Howkins
Private Frederick Johnson
Private Peter Beasley
Flying Officer Jack Middleton
Flight Lieutenant Harry Chapman
Pilot Officer David Simpson
Quartermaster Sergeant Kenneth Stevens
Sergeant Fred Hinton

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Generations

Genealogy Colourisation Artwork

Anthony Hugh Manwaring 1917-1940

Anthony Hugh Manwaring was born in Stoney Stanton on August 28th 1917. He was the first child of Evelyn and Hugh Manwaring and grandson of Reverend Anthony Edward Denny Disney and his wife Katherine Gertrude Disney. Evelyn was the second of four daughters born to the rector and his wife.

In the 1911 census Evelyn is 19 and single, still living at home with all of her sisters. An image of her aged around 16 in 1908, shows her as part of a ladies cricket team in Stoney Stanton. Her older sister Norah is also in the picture holding the cricket bat.



The reverend Disney stood outside St. Michaels church in Stoney Stanton in the early 1900's.



Evelyn Disney pictured with her older sister in a Stoney Stanton womens cricket team in 1903.

Evelyn married Hugh Manwaring on November 28th 1916, with Anthony's arrival the following August, 1917.

A sister for Anthony arrived in 1921, called Diana. Later on April 1st 1921 the three of them left the rectory and boarded the ship 'Malwa', bound for Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). Anthony was 3 and Diana just 3 months old.



The liner SS Malwa on which Evelyn, Anthony and Diana left England for Ceylon aboard.

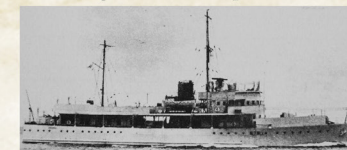
Anthony's father Hugh was a foreign exchange banker, possibly with the Eastern Bank which established premises in Ceylon in around 1920. On November 23rd 1923, the three returned, disembarking from the ship 'Oxfordshire', their destination, the Rectory, Stoney Stanton.

The next documentary evidence of Anthony is in 1937, when he arrives aged 20 as a Naval Officer at Plymouth from Colombo, Ceylon. Whether he had been visiting family or had been living there isn't known but he did return to the family home in Newbury, Berkshire.



The HMS Sussex (L) and HMS Forrester (R), ships Anthony served on before the Mosquito

His first ship in the Royal Navy was HMS Enterprise, an Emerald class light cruiser, he served as on her as a Midshipman. He was then was transferred to HMS Forrester, an F class destroyer and promoted to Sub-Lieutenant, after that he was transferred to HMS Sussex, a County Class heavy cruiser where he achieved the rank of Lieutenant. He was mentioned in dispatches on the 1st of January 1940 for actions against the enemy. His final transfer was to the river gunboat HMS Mosquito on its maiden voyage.



The river gun boat HMS Mosquito that Anthony served upon.

On the 28th of May 1940 the Mosquito set sail for Dunkirk, as a river gun boat the Mosquito could get much closer to the beaches to pick up men, for the next few days the Mosquito would make the treacherous trip back and forth from Dover to Dunkirk and back until on the 1st of June 1940 the Mosquito's luck ran out, at midday while taking on Belgian troops the Mosquito was struck by a bomb dropped by a Stuka dive bomber, several crew members including Anthony were killed instantly, the crew abandoned the Mosquito as it was beyond repair and sinking quickly, the survivors were picked up by other ships and returned to the UK. For the second time in the war Anthony Hugh Manwaring was mentioned in dispatches, this time for services in the withdrawal of troops from Dunkirk.

On the anniversary of his death in 1941, a small notice was placed in the newspaper, His sister Diana married Major Ian Joseph Steel on July 9th 1947 in St. John's church, Calcutta.

Anthony is buried in the military section of Ramsgate Cemetery and is remembered on a plaque inside St. Michaels church.



STONEY STANTON AT WAR 1939-1945

WAR IN THE WEST PART 1

War In The West: Denmark & Norway

The first theatre of war in the west was in fact Scandinavia, the Germans had decided that they needed to invade Denmark and Norway in 1939. This was to counter allied plans to station troops in Norway as well as help prevent the mining of the North and Baltic Seas, prevent the supply of iron ore and other materials from Sweden being interrupted by the Allies and to provide a safe staging area for U-boat operations.

On the 16th of February a major incident occurred known as the Altmark Incident, the Royal Navy trapped and boarded the German oil tanker in neutral Norwegian waters. The Altmark was transporting British POWs picked up by the German cruiser Graf Spee in the South Atlantic to Germany. The Norwegians had boarded the Altmark at the request of the Royal Navy but had not thoroughly checked for POWs which the Altmark claimed to have no knowledge of. Because of this the Royal Navy took matters into its own hands and boarded the ship and took it by force, killing 8 Germans and wounding another 10 in the process, 300 British POWs were rescued but the inaction of the Norwegians to prevent an act of aggression by the British against the Germans infuriated Hitler who decided to intensify preparations for the invasion of Norway and Denmark.



HMS Cossack returning the 300 British POWs rescued from the Altmark. The rescue was a major propaganda victory for the government and the Royal Navy

The German invasion of Denmark and Norway under the name of Operation Weserübung began on the 3rd of April when the German navy launched covert supply ships ahead of the main invasion force which was scheduled to land on the 9th. On the 8th one of these covert ships was discovered and sunk by the Polish submarine Orzel, German personnel in uniform were pulled from the water but the gravity of the situation was not understood by the Royal Navy or the Norwegians.

On the 9th the main phase of Operation Weserübung commenced with German forces performing a swift assault on key Danish positions, most of these attacks were unopposed. The Danish army was not prepared or realistically equipped to repulse the invasion, the Danish King Christian X decided the best course of action was to capitulate rather than resist preventing civilian casualties.

The Germans invasion of Denmark lasted less than 6 hours in total making it the shortest campaign of the war.



Danish soldiers pictured just before the German invasion, some of the men pictured would be some of the few Danish Soldiers killed during the 6 hour conflict.

At the same time the Germans were beginning their invasion of Norway, it started with disaster for the Germans, the German cruiser Blucher was carrying troops up the Oslofjord to capture Oslo and the Norwegian royal family, however it was spotted and destroyed by an ageing coastal fortress in the fjord, after being hit by torpedoes and shells from the fortress the Blucher sank with

the loss of 850 killed and wounded and 1000 captured. This also allowed the Norwegian royal family to escape to Britain with the Norwegian gold reserves. However Oslo and several other southern and eastern Norwegian population centres fell soon after, The Allies sent forces to help defend Norway, particularly around Narvik, and the Royal Navy caused heavy damage to the German Navy during 2 engagements at Narvik, sinking most of the German Navies destroyers. Narvik would also be the first time the Germans suffered a major land based tactical defeat at the hands of Norwegian general Carl Gustav Fleischer leading a combined force of Norwegian, British, French and Polish troops. The allies position in Norway became untenable after the German invasion of the low countries in May and sealing the fate of Norway. By June 9th all of Norway was in German control, however many Norwegian troops were evacuated to Britain and would fight on for the rest of the war.



British, French, Norwegian and Polish soldiers gathered around a French tank near Narvik. The defence of Norway was truly a multinational effort.

War In The West: France & the Low Countries

The first months of 1940 saw the stalemate known as the "phony war" continue, however by May that was all going to change with the German operation Fall Gelb (Case Yellow). The plan called for the majority of German forces to attack through the lightly defended Ardennes forest against weaker French divisions whilst a smaller German force attacked through the Low Countries to bait the western allies into sending the majority of their forces into Belgium.

The Allied defence of France and the Low Countries was almost doomed to fail from the beginning, both the British and French militaries suffered from critical deficiencies initially, The BEF (British Expeditionary Force) suffered from chronic underinvestment since the end of the First World War, because of this they lacked quality equipment in key areas such as armour with only the small quantity of brand new Matilda II tank being of any significant value.



A Matilda I tank, an example of the inadequate Tanks the BEF had to fight the German Army's Panzers, The Matilda I only had a machine gun so was helpless if engaged by enemy Armour.

These issues paled into insignificance compared to what the French army had to deal with, France had lacked direction due to political instability caused by the rise of revolutionary politics in the wake of the carnage of WWI, The French were also hampered by their general staff being comprised of WWI veterans who mostly believed another world war would be fought in the fashion of the First World War, who mostly refused to listen to younger officers who had newer ideas and often had a mistrust of newer technology, This is summed up in the French defensive strategy of focusing around the Maginot Line of defences and using the Low Countries as buffer states, believing that the Germans would attack similarly to the First World War.

When the Germans attacked in the early hours of the 10th of May they achieved a high level of surprise, Luxembourg fell almost unopposed, The Luftwaffe managed to achieve early air superiority over both Belgium and the Netherlands with most of the Belgian and Dutch air forces aircraft destroyed on the ground. German paratroopers managed to secure strategically important areas in Belgium but were largely unsuccessful in the Netherlands with casualties reaching almost 50%.

The Dutch army was mostly still intact by the 14th but the Luftwaffe bombing and destruction of Rotterdam caused the Dutch government to surrender to the Germans on the evening of the 14th. The Allies sent the bulk of their forces into Belgium and managed to halt the German advance for a short time, however the main German advance through the Ardennes had begun and even with the brave resistance of Belgian and French troops in the area the Germans had reached the river Meuse by the 12th.



German Panzer's lined up ready to advance, pictured are captured Czech 38T tanks as well as the modern and advanced Panzer IV tanks that outclassed most of their allied counterparts.

At this point allied co-ordination almost completely broke down caused by French leaderships moral almost completely disintegrating and their refusal to use radio communication due to fear of messages being intercepted, this meant that by the time messages arrived the Germans had often already advanced and the orders were meaningless. Both the French Army and BEF now had to retreat from Belgium for fear of being encircled, they managed to achieve local victories but because of poor co-ordination couldn't capitalise on any advantage, The Germans were now advancing at a rate that even they struggled to believe, by the 17th the main German advance had reached the English Channel, successfully cutting off the majority of British, French and Belgian forces. At this stage British high command realised the situation was hopeless and decided evacuation was the best way forwards and began the Dunkirk evacuations (Operation Dynamo) to get as many Allied personnel out of the encirclement and back to Britain.



German troops inspecting abandoned French Somua S35 tanks, many French troops mistakenly abandoned and even destroyed their own vehicles after receiving false reports of being imminently overrun.

STONEY STANTON AT WAR 1939-1945

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO FELL



Name: Arthur Grocock
Age: 24
Service: Army,
North
Staffordshire
Regiment
Rank: Private
KIA: UK, 28/04/41



Name: James Smith
Age: 30
Service: Army,
Royal
Artillery
Rank: Gunner
KIA: Netherlands,
18/09/44



Name: Peter Beasley
Age: 19
Service: Army,
Somerset Light
Infantry
Rank: Private
KIA: Netherlands
19/11/44



Name: Harry Chapman
Age: 21
Service: RAF, 625
Squadron
Rank: Flight Lieutenant
KIA: Verse Talsperre
07/03/45



Name: William Howkins
Age: 29
Service: Army,
West Riding
Regiment
Rank: Private
KIA: Anzio, Italy
12/02/44



Name: Anthony Manwaring
Age: 22
Service: Navy,
HMS
Mosquito
Rank: Lieutenant
KIA: Dunkirk,
01/06/40



Name: William Burrows
Age: 38
Service: Army,
North
Staffordshire
Regiment
Rank: Sergeant
KIA: Anzio, Italy
08/02/44



Name: Frederick Hinton
Age: 26
Service: RAF, 458
(Australian)
Rank: Sergeant
KIA: Cherbourg
09/01/42



Name: Kenneth Stevens
Age: 31
Service: Army Service
Corps
Rank: Mechanist
Quartermaster
Sergeant
KIA: Greece,
03/07/1945



Name: Anthony Chesterton
Age: 22
Service: RN, HMS
Eskimo
Rank: Ordnance
Artificer 4th class
KIA: Sicilian Coast
20/05/43



Name: Frederick Johnson
Age: 26
Service: Army,
Lincolnshire
Regiment
Rank: Private
KIA: Burma
07/04/44



Name: Albert Farmer
Age: 21
Service: Army,
Leicestershire
Regiment
Rank: Private
KIA: Tunisia
11/02/43



Name: Jack Middleton
Age: 21
Service: RAF, 18
Squadron
Rank: Flying Officer
KIA: Malta
31/12/44



Name: David Simpson
Age: 20
Service: RAF Volunteer
Reserve
Rank: Pilot Officer
KIA: South Africa
08/06/45



Name: Samuel Batchelor
Age: 26
Service: Army,
Leicestershire
Regiment
Rank: Private
KIA: Salerno, Italy
14/09/43



Name: Kenneth Abbott
Age: 19
Service: RAF, 30
Squadron
Rank: Aircraftsman 1st
class
KIA: Crete 20/05/41



STONEY STANTON AT WAR 1939-1945

RATIONING DURING THE WAR

Why Was Rationing Needed?

In 1939 the United Kingdom was heavily dependant on imports for food and other materials, on average 20,000,000 tonnes of food was imported every year including around two thirds of sugar and cheese, over three quarters of fruit, and two thirds of cereal. Britain also imported over half its meat requirements and was heavily reliant on imports of feed to support its own production. Nazi Germany had identified Britain's reliance on imports and devised a strategy that if war came the Kriegsmarine and Luftwaffe would attack shipping to try to starve Britain's population into submission.

The Scale Of The Task

In the first months of the war the Germans sunk millions of tonnes of shipping, this meant certain food supplies dried up. In response, the British Government set up the Ministry of Food in April 1940 and appointed Lord Walton to the post of Minister for Food. Walton had the task of not only making sure all 50 million people didn't starve, but also making sure that the populace were as fit and healthy as possible. There was also the added responsibility of educating the populace on cooking with the restrictions of rationing, to do this the Ministry Of Food produced many posters, books and films.



Cheese became rationed in 1941, a weekly ration for an adult was 50g (2oz)



Tea began to be rationed in 1940, a weekly ration for an adult was 50g (2oz)



Lard was also rationed in 1940, a weekly ration for an adult was 57g (2oz)



Preserves were also rationed in 1941, a two monthly ration for an adult was 450g (1lb)



Margarine was also rationed in 1940, a weekly ration for an adult was a 100g (4oz) week



Butter began to be rationed in 1940, a weekly ration for an adult was 50g (2oz)



A weekly Milk ration for an adult could be as low as 1200ml (2 Pints)



Sweets and Chocolate were rationed in 1942, a monthly ration for an adult was 350g (12oz)



Dried eggs appeared as a substitute for the lack of fresh eggs, an adult was entitled to 1 packet per month



Meat was rationed in 1940, a weekly ration for an adult was to the value of 1s.2d (1 Shilling and Sixpence), the equivalent of 6p today



Eggs were rationed in 1941, a weekly ration for an adult was 1 fresh egg



Ham and Bacon were rationed in 1940, a weekly ration for an adult was 100g (4oz)



Sugar was one of the first food stuffs to be rationed, a weekly ration for an adult was 225g (8oz)

How Was Rationing Implemented?

The Ministry of Food used the 1939 register to issue out ration books, once citizens had their ration cards they then had to register with a local shop who would supply their rations, the details of that shop were stamped in the book so as to stop people going to other outlets. Each book contained coupons which had to be signed or collected by shop keepers to prevent people getting more than their allocation. There were 3 types of ration books, buff, which was the standard book issued to most adults. Green books were issued to pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under 5, green books allowed first choice of fruit, a daily pint of milk and double supply of eggs. Finally there were blue books, which were issued to children between 5 and 16, these allowed a daily ration of fruit, meat and milk. Outside of rationing people were encouraged to grow their own vegetables and fruit, keep animals like chickens and if you lived in the countryside you were allowed to hunt wild animals such as rabbits and pheasants without it counting against your ration.

How Successful Was Rationing?

The population of Great Britain really bought in to rationing during the war, one of the major factors that helped with that attitude was the fact that the elite of the country visibly took part too, even the Royal Family had rationing books. That said there was some contempt from the population of cities towards wealthy restaurants and the people who lived in the countryside, who had easier access to non rationed food. There was also a black market, especially in food and fuel, however it was far less prevalent than in other countries who had rationing policies. Rationing in the UK during WW2 is widely considered to be one of the greatest examples civil management ever. The Ministry of Food managed to make sure nobody went dangerously without during the whole war, in fact during the period of rationing it is widely thought that the population of Britain became more healthy due to a lowered consumption of sugar and meat, a higher consumption of fresh organic fruit and vegetables and less reliance on canned preserved food.

STONEY STANTON AT WAR 1939-1945

CIVIL DEFENCE UNITS



Air Raid Precautions Wardens.

Air Raid Precautions Wardens, or the A.R.P. was a nationally organised but locally delivered scheme. It was established in response to the concern that any future war would involve heavy aerial bombing. Also, after the horror of gas attacks in the trenches of World War 1, that aerial gas attacks too could be used as a strategy against a civilian population.



An ARP Warden wearing his helmet and gas mask, ARP Wardens were issued better quality gas masks than the regular populace.

At the outset, wardens would have worn their own clothes with the addition of a steel helmet and wellington or work boots, with an arm band. By 1941, a blue serge uniform was supplied to full time or regular part time wardens. One in six wardens were women and many of the male wardens were veterans of World War 1.

The A.R.P. was established in April of 1937 and by the middle of 1938, there were 200,000 involved. There was yet another increase as a result of the Munich Crisis of September 1938. At the outbreak of war in September 1939, there were 1.5 million members of the A.R.P. or Civil Defence as it was later renamed.

A.R.P. posts were initially the wardens own home or a nearby shop or office, later, purpose built structures were built. In a built up area, it was recommended that there be 10 wardens per square mile.

Due to the so called 'Phony War' from 1939 to May 1940, with the lack of aerial bombardment, wardens were required to register everyone in their area and to enforce the 'blackout'. This meant ensuring no light was visible outside for the enemy to use in order to locate bombing targets. When bombing did eventually begin, the warden's

job was a high risk one. They were expected to escort people to shelters and check their sector. After an air-raid they would often be the first on scene, helping with first aid and fire fighting if required. They also needed to report on bomb damage and often coordinate with other Civil Defence units.



A Stirrup Pump like the type issued to ARP Wardens to aid in fighting fires.



An ARP Warden's Rattle, these were used in addition to sirens to warn of incoming bombing raids.

Special Constables.

There were 130,000 Special Constables in Britain in World War 2. Stoney Stanton had at least seven Special Constables; although there may well have been more. Due to the lack of archive material other than the 1939 Register, it is hard to be sure.

Their ranks were supplemented by retired officers recalled to service, with 7,000 being full-time paid officers and the rest part-time and voluntary. Working their usual job and then assuming police duties afterwards. Whichever they were, they all had at their disposal the full powers of a policeman.

Their uniform was the same as a regular constable, other than the epaulettes, which had the initials WRC standing for War Reserve Constable, they also wore steel 'Brodie' helmets rather than the regulation police helmet.



A Brodie helmet as worn by Special Constables, painted in Police markings and colours.

The Auxiliary Fire Service.

This service was formed in 1938, as part of the emerging civil defence of Britain, in order to support the regular fire brigade. Many worked part time, going on-duty every 4th night. The name was changed to National Fire Service in 1941.

Sadly, there don't seem to be any archives relating to the A.F.S. or N.F.S. We do, however have a photograph taken in 1940 and some names from the 1939 Register for Stoney Stanton.



Stoney Stanton Auxiliary Fire Service in 1940.

Back Row L-R: Norman Stevens, Francis Hunt, Fred Corns, Albert Corns, Alf Rowley, Jack Everton

Middle Row L-R: Len Walker, Bob Walker, Bill Haywood, Reg Chapman, Harry Briggs, Frank Stevens

Front Row L-R: Eric Clarke, Len Simpson, Jack Robertson

Home Guard or Local Defence Volunteers.

The Home Guard operated between 1940 and 1944 with 1.5 million volunteers. They ranged from the age of 17-65; although the upper age limit was not always regulated!

The force comprised of those either too young or too old for service, those in a reserved occupation or men deemed unfit for service in the regular forces.

Their primary role was to act as a secondary line of defence should an invasion occur by Germany or other Axis powers. They were to slow down or otherwise impede the enemy, allowing regular forces the time to act. They also defended factory sites and key communication points against capture by enemy forces or fifth columnists. Keeping communication routes clear in order to allow the regular forces to engage the invaders. Stoney Stanton came under the umbrella of the Market Bosworth Battalion who's headquarters were at the Drill Hall in Hinckley, Stoney Stanton's contribution to the Home Guard was part of A5 Platoon alongside Sapcote, Sharnford and Potters Marston under the command of a G.W.H. Moore.



Men of the Stoney Stanton and Sapcote home guard pictured early in the war.

There is no mention of any members of the Home Guard in the Stoney Stanton 1939 Register. So any information on men of the village who were known to have been a part of the Civil Defence service would be gratefully received.



STONEY STANTON AT WAR 1939-1945

THE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCES

Civil Defence Forces - Special Constables

Frederick Jones was born on July 4th 1883 in Croft, but by the age of 8, he and his family were living in Stoney Stanton.

In 1891, Frederick lived with his family on Highfield Street, his father William was 35 and like so many, a quarry worker. Alice was 33, John at 12 was working as a stocking knitter, Robert 10 and Frederick 8 were both schoolboys, Samuel was just a year old.

The family still lived on Highfield Street in 1901, by now John was a quarry foreman; John 22 was an engine guard in the quarry as was his brother Robert, now 20. Frederick was 17 and a quarry man, Samuel 11, Annie 6 and Alice just 3. A decade later in 1911, the family lived at 22, Mountsorrel Cottages, Frederick was 27 and still a quarry man, Annie was 16 and Alice 13.

On August 4th 1913 Frederick Jones married Agnes Mary White, daughter of David White, a village shoe maker. The couple would have at least one child, a daughter Margaret, baptised on April 30th 1922.

Frederick Jones decided to join up at the age of 32 on December 11th 1915 in Hinckley. He joined the Royal Garrison Artillery, Anti Aircraft Reserve; Frederick was mobilized on June 1st 1916. He served until being demobbed on June 17th 1919, when he returned to Stoney Stanton and continued to work as a quarryman.

He and his wife had a daughter Margaret in 1922.

By 1939, when the country called for volunteers to create a new Civil Defense Force, Frederick answered. He joined as a Special Constable.

The job was voluntary and part time, fitted in around his work in the quarries. He would have undertaken the normal duties of a policeman and new ones like looking out for black market goods and those who sold them.

If Frederick had owned a car, he might have been given a small petrol allowance because his car would have become an official police vehicle whilst he was on duty. A small white card with the word Police was also issued to put inside the car to show it was on official police business.

Frederick died in 1950, aged 67 years old and was buried in Stoney Stanton cemetery.

Other Special Constables in Stoney Stanton during World War II were; John Middleton, Albert Hunt, George Vernon, John Middleton, Raymond Worth and David Simpson.

Civil Defence Forces - ARP wardens

Clarence Samuel Briggs lived at Ashleigh, Broughton Road. According to the 1939 Register, he was an ARP warden. This was as well as his full time job as a hosiery factory manager.

Clarence was born in 1896 and was the son of Samuel and Mary, in 1901 the family, including sister Annie, lived on Sapcote Road in the house called Oakleigh.

By 1911, Clarence was 14 and had become a clerk at a local hosiery factory, rather than follow his father into the quarries.

At some point during World War I, Clarence decided to join up. According to his medal card, he was in the Leicestershire Regiment and the Royal Sussex Regiment.

He survived the war and returned to his job in the hosiery trade. In 1922, Clarence married Ivy Amelia Gurney in Broughton Astley, the couple had one daughter, Mabel Cynthia.

Clarence must have worked hard as by 1939 he was recorded as being a factory manager, no mean feat for the son of a quarryman.

As an ARP warden, his duties were many, to see a full and original copy of the Air Raid Precaution Warden's handbook dated 1938, see the link as follows

<https://brownhillsbob.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/air-raid-handbook.pdf>

Clarence lived in Stoney Stanton for his whole life, and died at Ashleigh on March 3rd 1977 aged 81.

Other ARP wardens in Stoney Stanton during World War II were; James Underwood, Samuel Hilditch, Thomas Watts, Ernest Trawford, Elsie and Marjory Baum, Nun Walker, Willie Newbold, Davis Webb-Harris, Evelyn Simpson, Harry Lucas, Alfred Corns, Claude Emuss, Walter Kirkland, Tom Hill and Joseph Clarke.



ARP recruitment poster, these would have been distributed by local authorities.

Civil Defence Forces - Auxiliary Fire Service

The Auxiliary Fire Service was the third of the civil defence services, Reg Chapman was one of those firemen; he was born in Stoney Stanton on April 28th 1905, the son of William and Emma Chapman of Coronation Cottages.

His older brother Billy Chapman and uncle Frederick Chapman had both died serving in World War I.

In 1911, the Reg was 5 years old and living with 7 brothers and sisters; Linda, Harry, Billy, Annie, Julia, Avis and Myra. His father was a sett maker but by the time Reg began working he'd chosen a job within the hosiery trade.



Reg Chapman pictured in his Auxiliary Fire Service Uniform.

Reg married Emily Padbury in April 1928 the couple had 1 daughter, Norma.

In 1939, Reg and Emily were living on Huncote Road, Reg was recorded as a hosiery machinist and a member of the Auxiliary Fire Service, his nephew can remember that as well as duties here in Stoney Stanton, he and probably others had also served in the fire service in London. This was probably because he owned a motorbike and could therefore travel.

Reg died at a relatively young age of 66 on September 2nd 1971.

Other Auxiliary Fire Men were Frank Stevens, Len Walker, Fred Corns, Alfred Rowley, Frank Hunt and William Walker.



Civil Defence Forces - National Pigeon Service

This was one of the lesser known services during the war. George Hill was a member of the National Pigeon Service, and was already registered by September 29th 1939 when the 1939 Register or census was taken. The service was established in February of 1939. It was split into 7 military areas; western, eastern, southern, south eastern, Scottish, northern and Northern Ireland. To qualify, a member must have a minimum of 20 trained homing pigeons in their loft and meet the standards set by the committee.

The first operation was in November 1939, in all 200,000 pigeons were operational throughout the war, in both military and civilian services. Every reconnaissance and bomber aircraft carried 2 homing pigeons on board, in special water tight baskets. This was because below 5,000 ft any radio or distress transmissions could not be guaranteed to get through. If required, the location of the aircraft could be written on a piece of paper and put in a canister attached to the bird's leg. When the bird returned home to its loft, an urgent telegram could be sent to the Air Ministry.

The average speed of a pigeon in flight is 50 mph, with a range of around 300 miles. They were impossible to shoot down by ground troops and so the only weapon the Germans could use to help were birds of prey. In all 32 pigeons were awarded the Dickin Medal during World War II and there are 3

memorials to the service these birds gave during the war at Beach House, Worthing, Park Lane, London and Easttriggs, Scotland.

George Hill, was born in Stoney Stanton and lived here all his life. He was born in 1910 and his family were living on Broughton Lane in 1911, his father Tom was a coal merchant. In 1939, George was married to Hilda and they were living at number 10 Elmesthorpe Lane. George was employed as a diesel crane driver, a member of the National Pigeon Service and a member of Stoney Stanton Home Guard.

He became a prominent member of the community serving on the parish council for many years, being co-author of a book on the history of the village with Norman Stevens and helping raise the money and establishing a trust to buy the ground which became the War Memorial Playing Fields. This park is dedicated to those who gave their lives in order that we can enjoy our many freedoms today.



George Hill pictured in his Home Guard Uniform during the war.

STONEY STANTON AT WAR 1939-1945

2020 REMEMBRANCE DISPLAY



Nursing and Midwifery

In the build up and preparations for war in 1939, the government needed a strategy to ensure there were resources to care for war casualties as well as cover existing medical demand.

The establishment of the Emergency Medical Service and within it, the Emergency Maternity Service was the result. Maternity homes, hospitals and large properties in rural areas were commandeered to create a network of emergency maternity hospitals and later, hostels. Women in their final four weeks of pregnancy were strongly advised to evacuate from high-risk cities to temporary accommodation near to these hospitals and await the arrival of their baby.



Nurses arrive at the front, many of these were pre war professional nurses.



Emergency Medical Service recruitment poster looking for nurses and midwives.

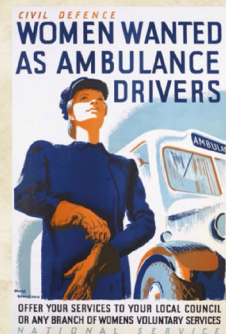
On September 2, 1939, more than 12,000 pregnant women left their city homes to wait out the final weeks of their pregnancy in the countryside. With 75% of midwives from hospitals in London being transferred to work with casualties of war, there was a severe shortage of maternity care. Most women at the time would have delivered at home; this became much more difficult due to the lack of midwives.

In Stoney Stanton, there was Frances Middleton, (nee Williams). On the 1939 Register she and her husband Thomas lived at 34, Sapote Road, Stoney Stanton. Frances was registered as an emergency midwife with the Emergency Midwifery Service.

Frances was first registered as a midwife in 1919 after gaining her qualifications from Leed Infirmary between 1915-1918.

Frances was originally from Holyhead in Anglesey, Wales. She lived with her widowed mother, Mary Ann and a younger sister Margaret Ellen.

Frances married Thomas King Middleton in Holyhead in October 1925 and the couple had a son, Thomas F Middleton in 1929.



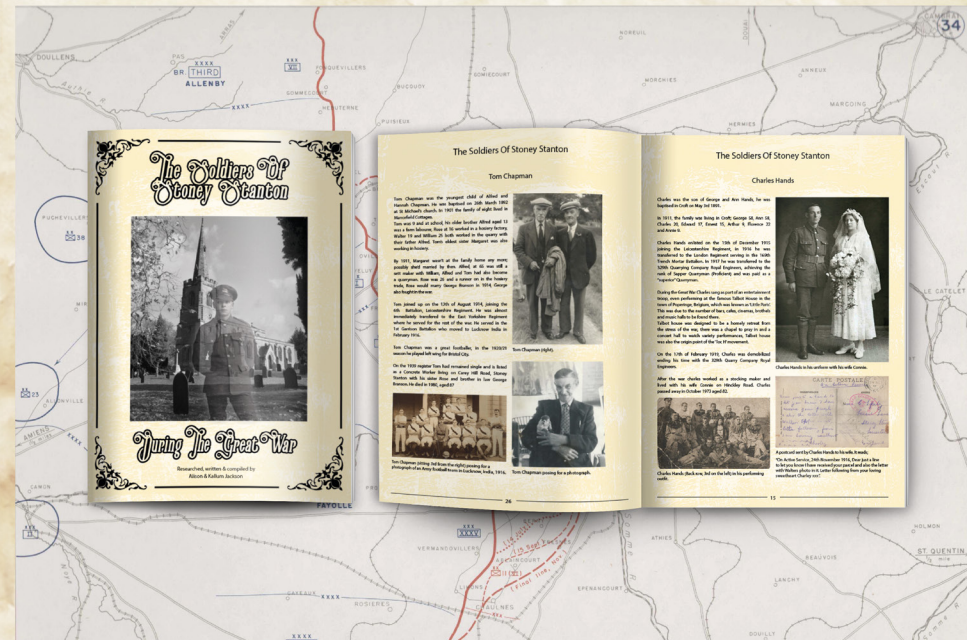
Emergency Medical Service recruitment poster looking for new ambulance drivers, there were shortages of medical professionals in all fields due to many being recruited into the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Generations Genealogy Remembrance 2020 Display

We would like to thank you for taking the time to read this small display that we have put together and hope that you may have learned something new about the village and its inhabitants during WW2.

We would also like to remind people that we still have copies of our book available, you can currently get one by messaging Generations Genealogy on Facebook. £1 from every sale will be donated to the British Legion.

We are already in the process of planning our next book so be sure to follow us on Facebook for updates on that as well as our regular posts about the history of Stoney Stanton and its inhabitants.



Generations
Genealogy Colourisation Artwork