



## Events in & Around Elham During WW2

## 1937

**Japan is at war with China though neither side had declared war on the other.**

## 1938

### **May 1938 Vicar's Letter to the Parish Magazine:**

The Government has lately been at pains to instruct the public in the rudiments of Air Raid Precautions (A.R.P.), so that if ever the country should be engaged in war (which God forbid), every person should know what to do in case of a hostile air raid. And especially should we be exposed to danger in this corner of the country. A great number both of men and women have attended A.R.P. lectures and have enrolled for special service in case of war. This surely is excellent for the better we are prepared the less likely we are to be attacked. The question then, as it seems to me, is not so much why should I learn what to do in an air raid, as, is there any valid reason why I should not take the trouble to get as efficient as I can so as to offer my services.

Perhaps I may be pardoned for making a personal allusion. I volunteered as a Fire-warden to fight fire. I am now convinced however, that in the event of a hostile air raid my duty would be in ministering to the wounded and the dying. Therefore, with the full approval of the local A.R.P. organiser, I now propose to join a V.A.D. detachment (if and when one is formed) and try to become a little more efficient in "first aid", for although some years ago I passed the examination, I should pity the poor unfortunate casualty left to my mercies now!

Rev. Isaac Williams. The Vicarage, Elham

### **Nov 1938 From the Parish Magazine:**

#### **AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS**

A.R.P. work has now been going on in Elham for nearly a year, and no doubt a good beginning has been made, but of late there seems to have been a certain amount of marking time.

Had war broken out last month, who would have been responsible for putting out fires caused by hostile incendiary bombs, and what apparatus is there for use? Now that the school premises have apparently been pronounced as unfit, where would have been Elham's First Aid Station? What training in the art of First Aid-as distinct from dealing with poisoned gasses-has been given to wardens and the assistants who would have had to handle casualties?

These questions are asked with the utmost goodwill, for it is well known that A.R.P. work has been carried out under great difficulties. But unless we are to continue to muddle on, satisfactory answers must be forthcoming.

It seems useless to wait for a lead from outside. Elham is a considerable distance from any town, is there any reason then why we should not try to solve these problems for ourselves and organize our own winter's programme accordingly?

Many persons have volunteered for various services; would it not be possible then for an A.R.P. fire-brigade to be formed and to be trained this winter in the simple elements of fire-drill, even if we have no fire-engine of our own? And would it not also be possible for a course of lectures on First Aid, under

the auspices of either the Red Cross or the Order of St John of Jerusalem, to be given to wardens and assistants; and examinations to be held afterwards so that qualifying certificates could be issued? If some work along these or similar lines could be done this winter it would not only make for greater co-operation and efficiency, but it would also give ordinary folk a sense of greater security and accustom them to what would be expected of them in a case of national emergency.

## 1939

### **Jan 1939 From the Parish Magazine:**

#### **A.R.P.**

A couple of months ago we made certain suggestions with regard to the local A.R.P. work. Now we are glad to report that an Elham Fire Brigade has been formed and is far advanced in training, and that arrangements have been made for a series of First-aid lectures to be given shortly in Elham.

Although, as previously stated, Elham School would not be a "First-aid Station" in the case of national emergency, it would, so we have been informed, be a recognised "First-aid Point". This means, in effect, that although first-aid would be given there, the premises would lack many of the conveniences and appliances to be found in a "First-aid Station".

#### **PARISH NOTES**

Best wishes to the eight families who are shortly to inhabit the new Council houses! [Cherry Gardens].

Throughout the period 1939 – 1945 Gordon Young, the son of Elham's Railway Signalman Bill Young, kept a small diary for each year. Extracts from Gordon's diary are shown below.

**Extracts from Gordon Young's Diary September 1939**  
**Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept At War with Germany**  
**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Sept Light engine ran through Elham gates on route Folkestone to Dover**

**Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept – The Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, addresses the Nation on the wireless**



At 11:15 BST the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, announced the British deadline for the withdrawal of German troops from Poland had expired.

**Sept 1939 From the Parish Magazine:**

**THE BRITISH LEGION**

On Sunday morning, 20<sup>th</sup> August, the Nave of the Church was completely filled with men of the British Legion, while members of the ordinary congregation found accommodation in the aisles on either side. The organ and the choir led the singing in the first part of the service, while the British Legion Band from Folkestone, accommodated in the Jesus Chapel, accompanied the well-known hymns. The occasion was the dedication of the standard newly presented to the Elham Branch of the Legion, and contingents from Barham, Stanford, Folkestone, Hythe, Cheriton, Rusthall, Chartham and Sellindge – all with their blue and gold standards – took part. The men sang well; and the standard was dedicated by the Rev. R.H. Isaac Williams, Hon. Chaplain to the Elham Branch, who took as the theme of his address “the Christian warrior”, as given in the sixth chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians.

After the service Brig.-Gen. H.S.E. Franklin, C.M.G., D.S.O., took the men’s salute as the marched past under the command of Lt.-Col. French-Blake. At the War Memorial the Vicar bade the men, in the midst of their rejoicing to remember the men who in the Great War went forth from Elham never to return, quoting the well-known words:

“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.”

A wreath of poppies was then placed by General Franklin on the Memorial, and two minutes’ silence was kept. Before the men were dismissed, they were addressed briefly by both General Franklin and Colonel French-Blake.



**HINTS ABOUT A.R.P.**

1. Mr Hawkins is Chief Air Raid Warden for this district, and the headquarters are the Fellowship Hall.
2. Be polite to your Air Raid Warden and make a friend of him. His is a trying job, and he is anxious to help you. He has no doubt called at your house to see about your gas mask. Remember that he has voluntarily given up a great deal of his spare time to make things safer for you.
3. Very carefully screen all your lights after sunset.
4. Make sure that your gas mask is in good condition, fits you, and is always handy.
5. The sign that an air raid is approaching is a siren sounded in short blasts or rising and falling in tone. The "raiders past" signal is a long steady note on the siren.
6. DON'T throw water on an incendiary bomb. Smother it in sand or earth and covey it out of danger.
7. Make up your mind beforehand what is the best thing to do in the case of an air raid. If you are out of doors you are safer lying down than standing up.

The autumn of 1939 had been the wettest on record and the Nailbourne in full spate had transformed the whole valley into a chain of shallow lakes from Lyminge to Barham. Some folk in the valley were very superstitious about the Nailbourne and they reasoned amongst themselves that this flooding must be an omen.

**Extracts from Gordon Young's Diary October 1939**

Sat 28th of October Slip near Lyminge, shuttle service Canterbury to Lyminge. Up empties past Elham 9:25 PM.



Audrey Ruston-Hepburn (Back row 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left)

Celebrates her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday whilst living with the Butchers at Orchard Villa in Elham.

14<sup>th</sup> Dec – Audrey Ruston-Hepburn's mother Baroness Ella van Heemstra, who had been visiting Audrey in Elham, had returned to the family home in the Netherlands soon after the declaration of war. In order to get Audrey to join her she had to have British government

approval, and the help and cooperation of her estranged husband. This all took time, and it wasn't until the 14th December that the Butchers were able to put her on a train at Folkestone to be met by her father in London. The few hours that they spent together, the last for many years, were precious to Audrey. Though a dodgy character, soon to be interned on the Isle of Man, Joseph Ruston had a much warmer personality than Ella. They parted at Shoreham Airport where Audrey boarded a KLM aircraft, painted bright orange to avoid it being shot down by the Germans, as had happened to another KLM flight a few weeks earlier. The plane took the additional precaution of wave-hopping over the Channel and North Sea and landed safely at Schiphol Airport. Here she was met by her mother, and her two half-brothers, whose company she had so much missed.

## 1940

### Extracts from Gordon Young's Diary January 1940

2 x 9.2 guns initially, then 2x12 inch stationed here from about January 1940  
15th to the 30th January Snow some delay to trains buses unable to get through on a number of days

Throughout 1940 Mary Smith, the daughter of Elham's Sub Postmaster Edward Smith, also kept a small diary. This diary formed the basis of Dennis Knight's book Harvest of Messerschmitts. Extracts from Mary's diary are shown below.

### Extracts from Mary Smith's Diary January 1940

#### January

11 Thur Attempted raids. Mrs Backhouse here in evening.  
17 Wed Got up in afternoon. Deep snow.  
18 Thur 11<sup>0</sup> at night. Deep snow still.  
19 Fri Alice to tea & supper. Still snow.  
20 Sat Nothing special. Still snow.  
21 Sun Couldn't go back to school as all roads blocked.  
30 Tues More snow. Sherry party in evening given by Fraulein Michelsohn.  
31 Wed Sawady doing priceless imitations of Hitler, etc. Mr Stadelmann's birthday.

### Extracts from Mary Smith's Diary February 1940

#### February

18 Sun Cold & snowy.  
26 Mon Rang up American Consulate about Mr Stadelmann.  
27 Tues Mr Stadelmann went. Sawady's birthday.

**25<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> Feb** Thaw and flooding. Troops move into the valley. Sibton Park HQ for the London Rifle Brigade. Also, in Elham were members of the Westminster Regiment. Sadly, a lot of these men were killed or injured during the subsequent battle to halt the German advance at Calais. Their heroic efforts

ensured further time was allowed to carry out the evacuation of troops from the beaches at Dunkirk between 26<sup>th</sup> May and the 4<sup>th</sup> June 1940.

**Extracts from Mary Smith's Diary March 1940**

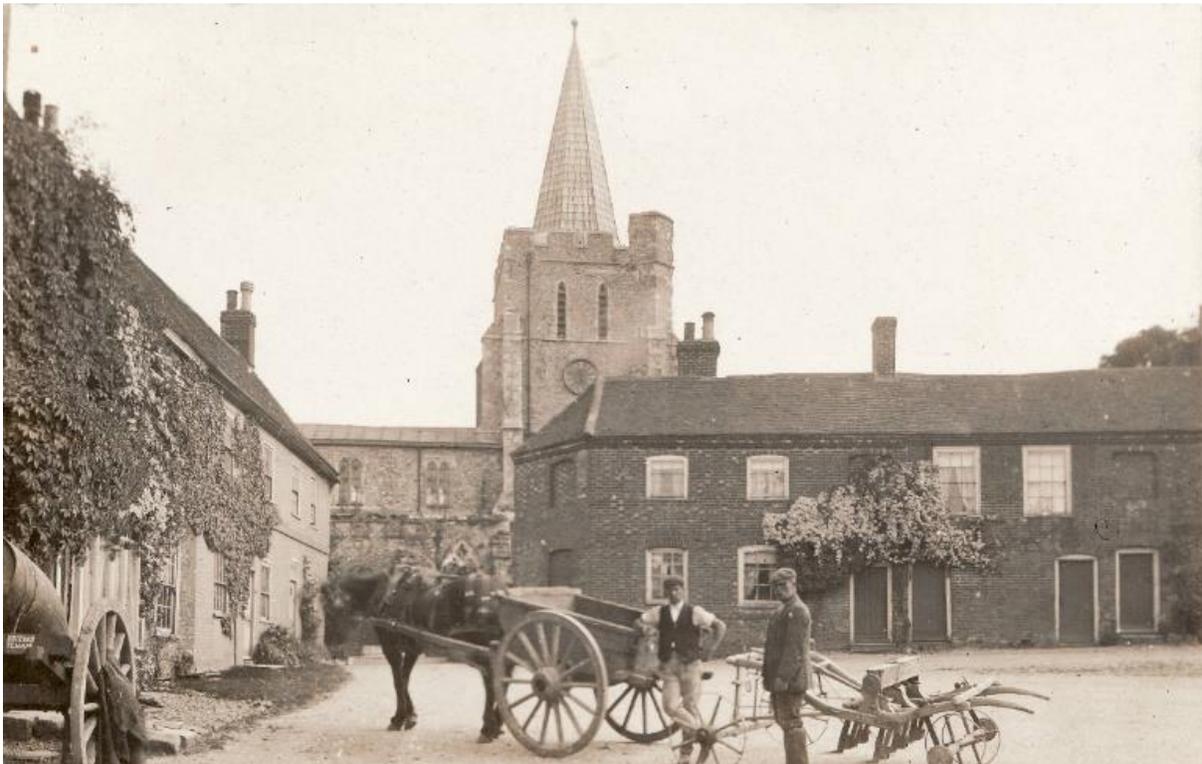
**March**

12 Tues Stadelmann sailed.

13 Wed Margaret called for hr in afternoon. Russo-Finnish treaty signed. Hostilities cease 11a.m.

14 Thur Snow blizzard.

**4<sup>th</sup> March** Cottages demolished in the Square



**5<sup>th</sup> March** Elham's shoemaker Frederick Smith was inundated with army boots coming in for repair. And contracted to "cobble all day and cobble all night" as truckloads of heavy boots came and went.

**14<sup>th</sup> March** Blizzards and driving snow, so Elham is again cut off. Lambs had started to drop keeping George Austin, the shepherd at North Elham, hard at work.

The Black-out is on and PC Hampshire was doing checks around the village with his tin hat on and carrying his gas mask.



PC Hampshire

### Extracts from Mary Smith's Diary April 1940

#### April

- 7 Sun The Hirsch's came to tea.
- 8 Mon Norwegian territorial waters mined in three places by Allies.
- 9 Tues Germany invaded Norway & Denmark.
- 11 Thur Churchill's statement on the Naval War.
- 15 Mon Offens came to tea. British troops in Norway.
- 16 Tues French & Canadian troops in Norway.
- 17 Wed Mr Sawady, Tutta, Heinz, Otto & Sigurd came to tea.

### Extracts from Mary Smith's Diary May 1940

#### May

- 8 Wed Vote of censure.
- 9 Thur Alien's Officer called. Dr G. In London. Rang up home at night.
- 10 Fri Germany invaded Belgium & Holland. Chamberlain resigned.
- 12 Sun At home. Mr G., Sawady, Mr Frost, P. Schnelling, P. Feistmann, K. Schinge, Mr David & Mr Guttmann interned.
- 13 Mon Arrived to find above. Dr Cohn interned. Queen Wilhelmina arrived in London.
- 14 Tues Holland surrendered late at night.
- 15 Wed Dutch towns occupied by Germans.
- 17 Fri Dr G. Went to London. Stayed at school for the night. Brussels captured.
- 18 Sat At school till 9 o'clock 'bus. Dr G. Came back with news of evacuation to Yorkshire.
- 21 Tues Germans captured Arras & Amiens. Folkestone warning at night.
- 23 Thur Raid warning round about in evening.
- 24 Fri Boulogne in Nazi hands. King spoke at 9.
- 26 Sun Raid warning 12.50 – 2.10a.m. Evacuation of E. & S.E. coast ordered.
- 27 Mon King of Belgians gave up. Went to see Canon Holden with Dr G.
- 28 Tues Raid warning in morning. Rash & temp 99.4.
- 30 Thur Nothing special. Wrote evacuation labels.

**Extracts from Gordon Young's Diary May 1940**

Fri 10th Holland & Belgium invaded  
Fri 31st No trains, buses in lieu

**4th May** – Audrey Ruston-Hepburn celebrates her 11<sup>th</sup> birthday in Arnhem.

**9th May** – In Arnhem a young Audrey Ruston-Hepburn presents flowers to the Sadler's Wells corps de ballet. That evening the group manage to leave Arnhem and the advancing German forces, Audrey and her family were not so lucky.

**10<sup>th</sup> May** Germany Invades Holland and Belgium. Chamberlain resigns.

**12<sup>th</sup> May** Troops in Elham were warned that enemy parachutists had landed. Patrols sent out but at 10:00 they stood down as it was a false alarm.

**16<sup>th</sup> May** Secretary of State for War, Anthony Eden announces the formation of the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV).

A young Henry Shackleton recalls: "I joined the local defence volunteers with a stick and went out to The Gate Inn where the crossroads are and if any parachutists had landed, we would have annihilated them with our sticks! I was the only youngster among a lot of men whose language had to be questioned. Because I went home to mother and she said, 'Well, dear, how was it?' I said, 'Oooh, it was bloody marvellous!' She said, 'You do not use that word in our house. I don't mind you fighting the war, but I'm not going to have your language changed!

**26<sup>th</sup> May Operation Dynamo the evacuation of troops from the beaches at Dunkirk starts.**

**Extracts from Gordon Young's Diary June 1940**

Thur 6th June trains resumed running  
Mon 17th June France ask for terms

**Extracts from Mary Smith's Diary June 1940**

**June**

- 1 Sat Tired all day. Nearly all B.E.F. withdrawn.
- 2 Sun B.E.F. almost completely evacuated. Dr G. & children went to Chepstow.
- 3 Mon Barney's birthday (slippers). Muddled raid warning at 4a.m. Raid on Paris.
- 4 Tues Churchill spoke to House.
- 5 Wed New offence on Somme front. Jock stripped.
- 6 Thur Raid warning at night. Hot.
- 7 Fri Hot.
- 8 Sat Hotter. Made a cake.
- 9 Sun Very hot. Mr Backhouse came to tea. Terrible battle in France.
- 10 Mon Not so hot. Italy declared war on France & England.
- 11 Tues Attacks on Italian air bases. Paris in danger.
- 12 Wed Nearer Paris. Ma & Margaret went to Canterbury & bought asparagus.
- 13 Thur Somewhat nearer but counter attacked in one place.

14 Fri Capture of Paris by Nazis. Daddy put in celery.  
15 Sat Nazis still pushing on.  
16 Sun America to give all help but not army. French position very weak.  
17 Mon France gave up.  
18 Tues Speech by Churchill. Hitler & Mussolini confer on terms for France.  
21 Fri Margaret's bungalow to let. Armistice terms handed over in same carriage as before.  
Folkestone warning.  
22 Sat Margaret saw the Thorpes about bungalow. Scharnhorst hit & damaged. First green peas.  
23 Sun The Backhouses came to tea. French armistice terms given. Wrote to Mr Dryland.  
24 Mon Went to Lyminge about Ration Book. Took Dash & Jock for a walk. Folkestone warning.  
French & Italian Armistice.  
25 Tues French ceased fighting 12.35a.m. Miss Walton wrote, offering her flat. Folkestone  
Warning at night.  
26 Wed Showery in evening. Margaret put out cabbage plants. Landings on enemy coast.  
27 Thur The Thorpes took the Bungalow & Mr Hewson the Old Shop. Alice came for weekend.  
28 Fri Mrs Castle & Mr Backhouse called. Russia seized Bessarabia.

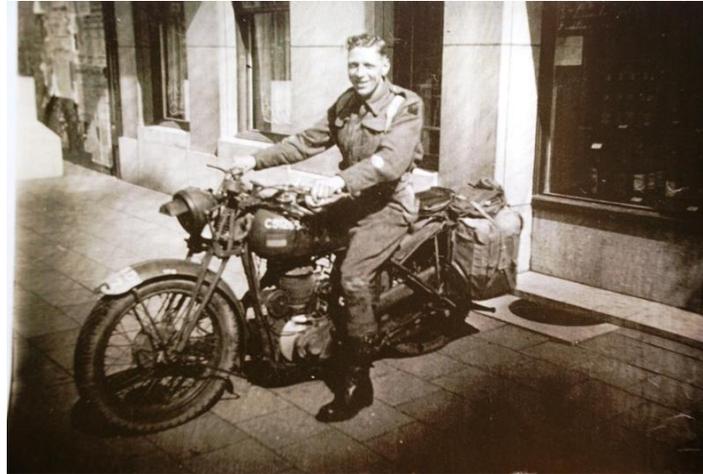
#### **4<sup>th</sup> June Operation Dynamo ends**



#### **Jun 1940 From the Parish Magazine:**

##### **DO YOU KNOW:**

- 1 Name and address of your air raid warden?
- 2 What to do and where to go should there be an air raid in the night?
- 3 That you would be safer lying down in a ditch, or up against a wall or tree, than standing up in the open.
- 4 What to say and do if challenged by a sentry?
- 5 That the telephone number of the Elham Police is Elham 225, and of the local Fire Brigade is Lyminge 87239 or 87252?



During this time Walter "Wally" Harris MM of the 168 Brigade of the 56 (London) Division, is sent to Elham to work on commandeered vehicles in the Elham Service Garage. *[Please Note: Although a Londoner by birth Wally had a strong affection for his time in Elham. He returned shortly before his death to give a splendid talk to the Elham Historical Society about his activities in WW2]*



He was billeted in this now demolished cottage, which is currently the site of Page Cottages, The Row.



**8<sup>th</sup> Jun** Walter Wally Harris MM borrows a motorcycle from the landlord of the New Inn and goes to Canterbury to pick up his girlfriend and her friend. They are booked into lodgings at Hunter's Moon. Unfortunately for Wally a young lady stumbles as she is crossing the road near the Cross Keys pub, in front of Wally, falling to the ground. As Wally goes to her aid a policeman intervenes and questions Wally about the motorcycle's ownership, tax and insurance. Wally is summons to attend Canterbury Magistrates Court on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1940.

### Extracts from Mary Smith's Diary July 1940

#### July

- 1 Mon Heard from Miss Melles that her young man was missing. Ginger went to Mrs Savage's. Letter from Mr Dryland.
- 2 Tues Went to Folkestone with Mamma to Dr Hirsch's flat. Margaret got off with a soldier. Ma went to see Aunt Jane. Miss Park's medal given.
- 3 Wed A.A. fire in morning – saw a Nazi bomber shot at over Running Hill at 3.55. Then fighter attacked one over Square. S.S. Andora Star sunk with aliens on board. Margaret & Alice in Canterbury shelters. Sharp storm at 7p.m.
- 4 Thur Burst of gunfire & siren here for about ¼ hour in morning. Mr Backhouse's sale. He came to supper & brought Ma some eggs. Announcement of capture of French fleet.
- 5 Fri Mr Backhouse came to say goodbye. Two bangs at 6a.m. as Nazi plane was brought down just off Hythe.
- 6 Sat Banging at 5.30a.m. Planes brought down off coast. Mr Backhouse went. Barbed wire being laid in fields.
- 7 Sun Mrs Bragg came to tea. I went to tea with Uncle. Distant A.A. fire at 9p.m. Masses of planes Overhead & were in cellar about ½ hour.
- 8 Mon Shell bursts over Adam & Eve just before 4p.m. – then Messerschmidt fell at Bladbean. Little boy of 18 in it, slightly wounded in head, but otherwise all right.
- 9 Tues Trail of white smoke from invisible plane about 11.40. then cracks of A.A. fire. Saw the Messerschmidt brought down street by R.A.F in evening.
- 10 Wed Letter from Bibbe & Mr C. Hirsch. Machine gun fire about 11.15a.m. \more of above & A.A. fire at 2 – fierce battle over Channel. Roar of planes overhead at 7p.m. Joan came to dinner & tea.
- 12 Fri Showery, windy & cold. Sent Bibbe some sweets for the children. Corporal & Mrs Bragg called. Some drunken soldiers smashed Annie's window.
- 13 Sat Mr Eden came in to phone in evening. Raid warning 6 – 9 but nothing to hear. Miss Gray died at Stanmore.
- 14 Sun Bursts of A.A. fire at 3.45. Battle over Straits. Mrs Bragg & Margaret were in Standard Hill Wood. Churchill spoke at night.
- 19 Fri Raids round about & a lot of buzzing at 1 & 4p.m. Aunt Beauch brought Miss Gibson to see the house. Hitler spoke to the Reichstag. Letters from Cilly [?] & Alice.
- 20 Sat Swoop of machine gun fire almost overhead at 6.30p.m. The plane crashed at Denton. Saw pilots descend by parachute over Adam & Eve.
- 21 Sun Torrents of rain & thunder nearly the whole afternoon. Dash had a bit of dysentery. Mrs Bragg & Alice here.
- 22 Mon Sunny most of day. Warning from 10.30 – 11.25 all round at night. Lord Halifax made a fine speech. Sambo had a new bed from Auntie Annie.
- 23 Tues Czecho-Slovak Government recognised. Good recorded speech by Miss Dorothy Thompson.
- 25 Thur Gunfire & warning 12.10 – 1.20 & then from 3-8.18.
- 27 Sat 3 Folkestone warnings that we knew of. Many planes but that's all. Heavy thunderstorm at

|        |  |
|--------|--|
|        | dinner time.   |
| 28 Sun | A lovely sunny cool day but raid 2.15 – 3.30 & again 8.30 – 9.45. Heavy A.A. fire just before that.  |
| 29 Mon | Siren at 7.20a.m., another in morning that we didn't hear & another ditto at dinner time. Attack on Dover Harbour. Heavy Nazi losses.      |
| 31 Wed | Very distant gunfire in morning. Warning from 3.50 – 7p.m. M. gunfire about 4p.m. & slight A.A. later. Barrage balloons over Running Hill. |

**Jul 1940 From the Parish Magazine:**

**PARISH NOTES**

We are sorry to have to say that Kenneth Williams and Jack Johnson are reported "missing".

There is to be no Elham Flower Show this year.

The Church clock still strikes the hours, but otherwise the bells are now silent.

If you should hear the bells clanging, it will probably mean – well, you know!

If such should prove to be the case, or if there should be a raid of any kind, **don't** rush out of the house and block the roads (unless, of course, you have your allotted wartime duties to perform). Stay under shelter.

The Government order to civilians is clear, **Stay where you are**. If it is thought necessary to move you from your house, you will be told clearly what to do and where to go by either the military police or air raid warden. Take orders from nobody else.

**8th July** Walter "Wally" Harris MM makes his court appearance with his Commanding Officer.



First German aeroplane shot down over England at Bladbean Hill.

Leutnant Johann Böhm from 4<sup>th</sup> Staffel Jagdgeschwader 51.

Shot down at 3.45pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 1940

**10th July The Battle of Britain starts**

**Extracts from Mary Smith's Diary August 1940**

**August**

- 1 Thur Cold & dull. Wore brown tweed coat to meet M. Pegden at night. Leaflets dropped at night giving Hitler's speech of July 19<sup>th</sup>.
- 2 Fri Cold & dull still. N. Preech's birthday (16). Warning & buzz from about 7.15 – 7.30p.m.
- 3 Sat Sunny & coolish. Mr & Mrs Bowes & Tim called in evening, also Mrs Castle. Short warning about 6.55 – 7.10
- 5 Mon Aunt J. moved. Hot. Warning 9.30 – 10.30. One loud explosion. All went down cellar. Bomb near Fir Tree Farm, Stelling. No harm done.
- 7 Wed Italian troops massing against Egypt. Auntie Jennie came to dinner from 58 Broad Street, Canterbury.
- 8 Thur Several warnings. Lots of planes about 53 (60) Nazi planes brought down in attack on Convoy. 16 British pilots missing (3 found). M. of I. Talk in street at 8.30p.m.
- 9 Fri Sunny & windy. Warning 6.40 to about 7.30.
- 11 Sun 3 lots of A.A. 7 buzzes during morning attack on Dover Harbour. Heavy attack on Portland – at least 50 Nazi planes destroyed, 19 British. Mrs Bragg came to tea. 62 destroyed.
- 12 Mon Raids nearly all day. Nazi plane down on Running Hill about 8.30a.m. Loud odd A.A. bangs all morning. Heavy battle overhead 5.30 – 6p.m.. Down cellar. Tiles off Hemsley's & Butcher's. 78 destroyed.
- 13 Tues Nazi bomber overhead about 7.15a.m. Very sharp A.A. It came down across railway just beyond Barham Station. Air battle at 4p.m. Nazi airman down at Parker's by parachute. Leg wound.
- 14 Wed Dover attack at 12 noon. Plenty of buzzing but only one burst of machine-gun fire near. Margaret cut her first Kohl-rabi.
- 15 Thur B. Comber's birthday. One raid (nothing much) early morning, another before dinner, heavy for a time, another 3.30p.m. Very heavy (bombs at Palm Tree – no harm done) another 7p.m. only one sharp burst of machine gun.
- 16 Fri Buzzy raid at 12 & another at tea time – not nearly so heavy as yesterday. Nazis reached outer London.
- 17 Sat Daddy sent an R.P. wire to the Offens to see if safe. A lovely sunny & quite normal day. M. Pegden here in afternoon. Mr Duff-Cooper broadcast on R.A.F. successes at night.
- 18 Sun Heavy raids at dinner time & after tea. Bombs round about. Attack on London driven off. Alice came back.
- 19 Mon Quite a normal day. All Britain declared a defence area.
- 20 Tues Buzzy raid 2.30 – 3.30p.m. Heavy guns Dover way. Churchill spoke on the war situation. It rained in the evening the first time for ages.
- 21 Wed Two bursts of A.A. during morning. Explosions & some A.A. during the afternoon. Ginger came to tea.
- 22 Thur Heavy bangs during gunfire attack on convoy in morning. Raid warning 1 – 2.50p.m. – nothing but a few distant bangs & buzzing. Another 7 – 8p.m. A Spitfire crashed in flames on Adam & Eve. Pilot landed. Dover shelled at 9.30 – awful bangs.
- 23 Fri Quite normal except for a little very distant gunfire. Made Sambo a pillow out of my old dressing gown.

24 Sat Ghastly. Raids incessantly from 8.10 – 5.30p.m. Bombs at Dreads – terrific A.A. fire. Shelling over Dover.  
25 Sun Quite nice – nothing but a slight buzz 6.30 – 7.30p.m. Lord Halifax & Mrs Eden at church in morning. Saw them drive away.  
26 Mon Raids at 12 & 3p.m. – not bad here but bombs on Folkestone. Letter from Joan, telling of dreadful time in Ramsgate on Saturday.  
27 Tues Quite decent. A few pos at a stray Jerry about 12 and a buzz at one.  
28 Wed Terrible all day. Bombs at Park Lane. Alice slept here.  
29 Thur Only two raids. Saw a plane fall and a parachutist come down.  
30 Fri Terrible – Raids nearly all day.  
31 Sat Not quite so bad. Fierce scrap overhead at 9a.m. Nazi came down by parachute in Hog Green. Saw him. Only slightly wounded.

### Extracts from Gordon Young's Diary August 1940

Sun 11th August Marked out air raid shelter. Biked back to Canterbury  
Mon 12th August ME 109 brought down near 2nd gate 9:30pm  
Tues 13th August 07.15 Bomber passed over brought down online at Barham  
Wed 14th August Finished excavation for shelter  
Sat 31st August 5 bombs on Canterbury including Stour St area

### Aug 1940 From the Parish Magazine:

The Vicar's letter talks about his non-combatant role in the L.D.V., now **to** be known by the much more picturesque name of "Home Guard". "We are a jolly crowd, but I doubt not will be able to give a fierce account of ourselves in an emergency".

### PARISH AND CHURCH NOTES

We are relieved to state that Jack Johnson, who last month was reported as "missing", is now officially known to be a prisoner-of-war in Germany.



Josie's Morgan's father, Albert Fletcher, was chauffeur to Mr Constant at Lower Court, Ottinge and was also a member of the Elham Home Guard. The photograph was taken in the garden of their cottage at Lower Court, Ottinge. Albert later received a citation for his LDV & Home Guard service.

**12<sup>th</sup> Aug**



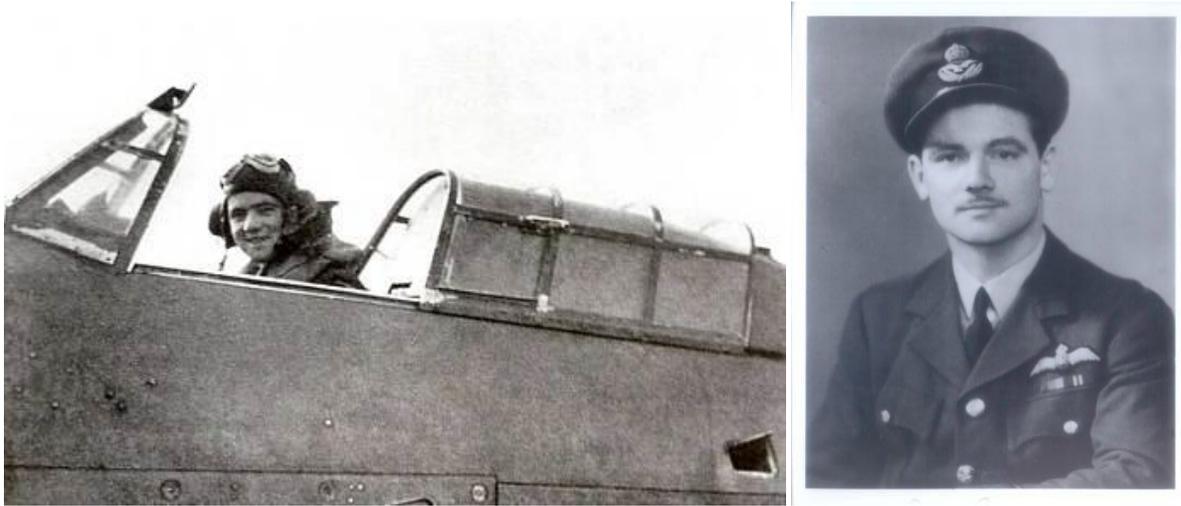
08:20 Oblt. Friedrich Butterwick was shot down over Elham. (Photo by Horace Cook)

His plane crashed into Running Hill, he was found dead in a field six miles away.

**15<sup>th</sup> Aug**



Anti-Aircraft Fire over Elham (Photo by Horace Cook)



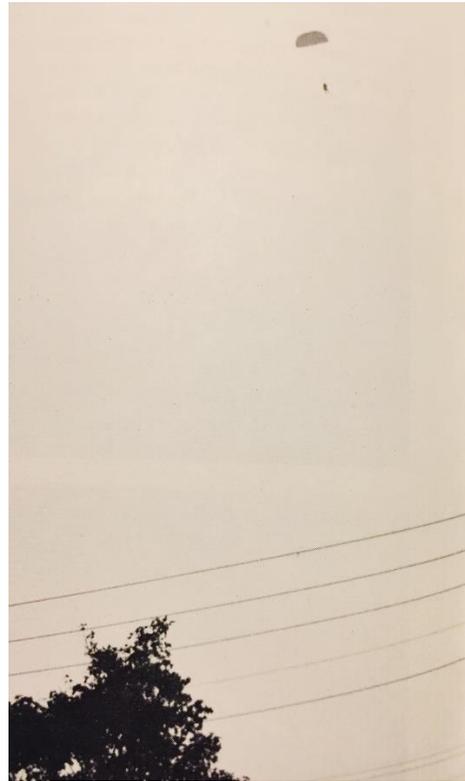
**29th Aug** Bill Green was shot down over Elham.

Bill was, by his own admission, a very inexperienced pilot when he was shot down over Elham at 20,000 feet. Unfortunately, his parachute was damaged by cannon fire and failed to deploy correctly. Amazingly it opened just seconds before he hit the ground at Mill Hill Farm, Elham.

In 1995 Bill, with his wife Bertha returned to Elham and were presented with a copy of Dennis Knight's book, Harvest of Messerschmitts. The following day they visited Mill Hill Farm and the Kent Battle of Britain Museum at Hawkinge, where they were greeted by the museums chairman, David Brocklehurst. David was then able to take them to the crash site near Ladwood where Bill's Hurricane came down in 1940.



In 2010 Bill returned to Mill Hill Farm and was interviewed by David Jason for an ITV Battle of Britain program.



**31st Aug** German air ace Oblt. Eckhart Priebe is shot down over Elham. He parachutes into the village, landing in the fields at Hog Green. Walter “Wally” Harris MM rushes from the Elham Service Garage through the streets and lanes and is first on the scene. Priebe hands over his revolver to Walter and for Priebe his war is over! Wally recalls “We scattered when we saw the plane catch fire and the pilot bale out, but I happened to be close to where he landed so I took his pistol and arrested him.” Soon the village PC Hamilton is there, just in time to stop Trixie Williams taking further swipes at Priebe with a stick. Trixie’s husband Ken had been taken POW earlier that year when he was part of the BEF in Northern France.

#### Extracts from Mary Smith’s Diary September 1940

##### September

- 1 Sun Scrapping & parachute (saw him) down at North Elham. Sudden violent A.A. fire at 3.30 – tiles off Uncle’s roof. A.A. at snooping Jerries at night.
- 2 Mon Raids nearly all day.
- 3 Tues Not quite so bad. Odd waves of Jerries coming back from London. Alice had a bad burn. 50 American destroyers for Britain.
- 5 Thur 2 raids – 3 planes down near – probably Spitfires.
- 6 Fri 3 raids but only bad in morning. Rang Dickie to wish her many happy returns at night.
- 7 Sat Terrible. Attack on Hawkinge in morning. Masses of raiders over 5 – 6p.m. Alice went to Mrs Swain’s. Terrible night attack on London.
- 8 Sun Day of Prayer in England & America. Ginger’s birthday. It rained for first time in about 6 weeks. Mr Eden reviewed the Home Guard.

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 9 Mon   | Slight raid in evening but lots of shelling. Joan arrived to stay.  |
| 11 Wed  | Warning from 3 onwards. Fighting overhead at 6.30p.m. Churchill spoke about invasion.   |
| 12 Thur | Aby very poorly. Joan went. Dull & windy. Officers came round about billeting. Henry & Rudé through the Cambridge.  |
| 13 Fri  | It rained hard in the morning. Aby better. Ginger went to London. Buckingham Palace attacked.   |
| 14 Sat  | Raids 3.40 – 5.15p.m. & 6.10 – 7p.m.  |
| 15 Sun  | Roars & fighting at 11.45 & 2.20p.m. Mrs Bragg came to supper.  |
| 16 Mon  | Roar but only distant scrapping at 8a.m. Odd Jerries over rest of day. Loud bangs which we thought at first were bombs at 6p.m. A soldier came in.                        |
| 17 Tues | Gale in early morning & most of day. Invasion plans affected. Heaps of apples off.. Raid (slight) in afternoon. Loud bangs in night.                                      |
| 18Wed   | Heavy raids 9.45, 12.45 & 4p.m. Alice came to tea. Saw glare from attack on Calais at 10p.m.  |
| 19 Thur | Rough & wet on & off. A nice reasonable day except for loud bangs overhead at 9p.m.   |
| 20 Fri  | Buzzy raid in morning. Otherwise quite decent. Ma's toe was done by the nurse. Mrs Thorp brought her rent & some tomatoes. Jock pitched over while chasing a rabbit.      |
| 21 Sat  | Alright till 6 when heavy A.A. at crowd of Jerries but nothing much developed. Mr Eden's detective called about the phone.  |
| 22 Sun  | Ghastly. Bombs on Kennels Bank at 4.15p.m. Ma had a nice lot of presents. Had a fire.   |
| 23 Mon  | Slight raids in morning and after tea. Corporal Bragg went to Wiltshire.  |
| 24 Tues | Eddy had nice presents on a tray. Two roaring raids in morning. Margaret had a bad cold & I went in the shop.   |
| 25 Wed. | Quite a reasonable day. Attack on Bristol. Margaret still out of shop. I took the dogs out.   |
| 26 Thur | Margaret back in shop but not up to much. No big raid but odd buzzing Jerries about. Dover shelled in afternoon.  |
| 27 Fri  | Mass raids at 9.30, 12, & 3.15p.m. Terrific battle just before dinner right overhead. Heavy shelling after dinner. Germany & Italy & Japan signed mutual assistance pact. |
| 28 Sat  | Buzzy raids at 10a.m. and after dinner. Letter from Pross. First American destroyers arrived.   |
| 29 Sun  | Harvest Festival. A few bangs at 8a.m. otherwise nothing but a couple of snoopers. Margaret went to tea & supper with Alice.  |
| 30 Mon  | No big raid but naggly with some loud A.A. shelling before dinner   |

#### Extracts from Gordon Young's Diary September 1940

Wed 4th September More bombs on Stour street in St. Peters area

Mon 9th September 60 bombs on Canterbury Friday 13th of September goods runaway from Lyminge smashed gates

Sat 14th September 2 coaches birthed in Elham yard for troops

Sun 22nd September Bombs on Elham

**1<sup>st</sup> Sept** Mrs. Elizabeth Boughton (Derek's Great Grandmother) was killed. The engine from a Hurricane became detached and fell to earth, destroying the kitchen where she had been preparing Sunday lunch.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sept** – 2.25pm Sergeant Malcolm Gray of No.72 Squadron was Killed in action. His Spitfire crashed in flames in Elham Park Woods.



**25th Sept** - Lord Lovat an extraordinary Scottish nobleman who had formed one of the first commando units choosing Gillies and game keepers for its personnel was up to his tricks in Elham during 1940. He arrived wearing a major's uniform with a tam-o-shanter and, after inspecting the Home Guard, was closeted for a long time with Major Kinsley Dykes to whom he presumably outlined his plans for the formation of special squads these units in the event of a German invasion would stay behind on Romney Marsh or in the Hills hiding during daylight and creating havoc behind enemy lines at night. For these suicide squads he was looking for men who had special qualities and knew the ground like the backs of their hands. After his visit it was noticed that leathery reliable "Foxy" Sturmeay the Huntsman, Shepherd George Austin and the immensely powerful William Benefield no longer trained with the Elham Home Guard platoon, nobody asked questions and the little underground bunkers with camouflage steel Leeds still exist on Romney Marsh and in the coastal Hills. (Harvest of Messerschmitts page 142)



The Messerschmitt dump in The Row, Elham.

### Extracts from Mary Smith's Diary October 1940

#### October

- 1 Tues Nothing much all day but some heavy A.A. about 10.15p.m. Cold & windy. Jock had a bare patch.
- 2 Wed Raid on nearly all day till 5.30p.m. when I took the dogs out. Heavy A.A. close at 3.30p.m. Margaret went to Mrs Bragg's after clipping Jock's head. Cold till evening. Wore a Viyella frock.
- 4 Fri. Not bad. Stray Jerries about in the clouds. Very rough with wind & rain at night. Hitler & Mussolini met on the Brenner Pass.
- 5 Sat Warning nearly all day. Nasty fighting before dinner and heavy A.A. just before tea. Margaret & Alice went to Canterbury.
- 6 Sun Mrs Bragg came to supper. Very wet & rough. Only odd buzzing.
- 7 Mon One buzzy raid about 10a.m. and another at dinner time dribbling on. Mrs Bragg came to say goodbye. Bangs in night.
- 8 Tues Mrs Bragg went. Buzzy & a bit bangy till 1p.m. Alice came to supper.
- 9 Wed Pam Pegden came 10 -12 for first time. Warning on most of day. Pretty bangy in afternoon. Sambo tore my face.
- 10 Thur Some rather roaring raids. Heavy showers & a bit of thunder. Cherbourg shelled by Fleet.
- 11 Fri Raids all day. Shelling at night. Lovely weather.
- 12 Sat Raids all day. Ditto.
- 13 Sun Only one raid after dinner. Mr Myers rang up.
- 14 Mon Went to see Mr Myers just as a bomb had dropped near the Westgate. Ma went down the school shelters. Alice went to London.
- 15 Tues Raids till about 4.30. A Messerschmidt exploded over Older's bank & the poor man was killed. Engine in Park Lane.
- 17 Thur Raids from early morning till after tea.
- 18 Fri Thick & wet most of day. Only snoopers. Nasty window rattling at 4.15p.m. Ordered new gatepost for Mr Newing. Invasion plans let out.
- 19 Sat Nothing much except terrific A.A. at a Jerry (which I saw) right overhead at about 3.30p.m. Had pork for dinner. Mr Pegden paid 10/-.
- 20 Sun Buzzy till tea-time. One or two lots of loud A.A. Heavy shelling. Saw flashes & flares over Running Hill when the R.A.F. attacked Cap Grisnez at night.
- 21 Mon Only a few snoopers but a good deal of shelling. Field next to the brickyard ploughed up. Churchill spoke to France. Guy File brought in 2 lovely spaniel puppies. Poem by C. Dane on Nelson in London.
- 22 Tues It was admitted by the B.B.C. that a dead German infantryman had been washed up on the S.E. coast. Raids nothing much except a buzz at teatime. A soldier called to return the lamp.
- 23 Wed Very dark & dull. Many seagulls in newly ploughed field. The London Irish marched down the street with bagpipes. Miss Sanson came to tea. More facts about Invasion barges admitted. No Jerries.
- 24 Thur Very slight raid at dinner time. 3 nasty bangs at 2p.m. Ma paid for nighties! Old shop given up by Sherwood.
- 25 Fri Raids (but nothing much) all day. Jerry down somewhere over Bladbean. Ma saw black smoke. A good deal of shelling at night. A soldier called at 10p.m. about razor.
- 26 Sat Nothing but a few slight buzzes. Cold & rainy.
- 27 Sun Woken by the siren at 7.45

**Extracts from Gordon Young's Diary October 1940**

Sat 12th October WD (*War Department*) loco 2261 and break van up & return. 2478 in yard, left at 9:30pm

**Oct 1940 From the Parish Magazine:**

**The Vicar's Letter**

So far the invasion of our Island Home has not taken place, and the "lightening war" of the German Air Force which was to prepare the way by terrorising London and paralysing both the Nation's power and will to resist has utterly failed in its main purpose. For this we must thank the R.A.F., nor must we forget the splendid and untiring work of the A.R.P. and A.F.S., while the cheerful courage and dogged determination to carry on displayed by the men and women of Britain has first surprised and then called forth the admiration of the world.

**15th Oct 9.20am Leutnant Ludwig Lenz – 1<sup>st</sup> Gruppe Lehrgeschwader 1 Killed in Action.** Bill Morgan remembers the Messerschmitt that came down having been separated from its engine. The engine made a large crater in the road outside the Brickfield Cottages (marked 1 on the above map) with the fuselage fluttering down the final position marked 3 on the map. This plane is mentioned in Dennis Knight's book *Harvest of Messerschmitts* and a photograph on page 149 shows Bill's sister Iris, in her housemaid's pinafore standing next to an unknown land army girl.



**31st Oct. The Battle of Britain is won!**

**Extracts from Mary Smith's Diary November 1940**

**November**

1 Fri Fine & raidy. Saw a whole crush of Jerries at 4 p.m. M. picked up a lump of shrapnel outside Miss Church's. Heavy AA at night. 2 bombs at Red Oak. The others saw a parachute & flaming plane.

2 Sat Heavy raids till dinner time when it blew up rough. Saw a rectangle of 18 Jerries. Very rough at night.

3 Sun British troops in Greece. A lovely day – pouring rain in early morning and all day long – not a sound. Postscript by Emlyn Williams about his charlady, 'The toughest little fighter of them all'.

4 Mon Lovely – rough till evening. A few Jerries about 8 p.m. Greek successes. British troops in Crete.

5 Tues Fine or showery all day. Roaring raids morning and afternoon. It came on very rough and wet at 9 p.m. American Presidential election.

6 Wed Mr Roosevelt elected. One raid (slight) in afternoon. Two awful bangs 9.15 & 10.15 p.m. Some say the latter were bombs.

7 Thurs Quite nice. Nothing but a few Spitfires about and lovely sun in afternoon. Letter from Mr Myers.

8 Fri Went to C. with Margaret to see Mr Myers and get time-table. Grace File came to tea. Auntie Jennie sent some quinces.

9 Sat My wireless set came back. John Gibson called in. Rough & wet at night.

Mem: Sambo 13lbs 6oz. on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. Margaret won 1/- by guessing his weight.

10 Sun British Legion service in afternoon, Plenty of Jerries about in the moonlight.

11 Mon Went to S.L.B.S. at Old Hospital. Underground most of day. Very rough at night.

12 Tues At school except for 1 lesson. No warning.

13 Wed At Hospital. Three warnings. Saw Miss Platt and bought Andrew a rug. Victory at Taranto announced. Terrific gale at night.

14 Thurs Trees across road. Warnings on and off all day. Mr Chamberlain buried at the Abbey. Terrible night attack on Coventry.

15 Fri Several warnings. Got home at three and had sprats. Rough at night.

16 Sat Two warnings. Got home at 1 to dinner. Squally showers. Dr G's birthday.

17 Sun Raids on and off till tea time. Shelling at night. Sambo got bad cut on his nose.

18 Mon About 8 warnings. Two land mines on Folkestone at 5 a.m. Everything shaken. Went out to tea with Miss Platt.

19 Tues About 6 warnings.

20 Weds 3 warnings. Bought Ma six pillow cases at 1/3 each. Alice came to supper.

21 Thurs 4 warnings. Dull and rainy. Mrs Sharman started to work here.

22 Fri Only 2 warnings. Koritzza captured by Greeks. Splendid story of wrecked bombers' return with wounded wireless operator.

23 Sat Two warnings before I came home at dinner time.

24 Sun Pretty buzzy till tea time, but not much AA. Alice came to tea.

25 Mon Had to start escorting children in every case. Joan came for the night. Letter from Dr G. £1.

26 Tues Warnings on nearly all day. RAF bombing fleeing Italians.

27 Weds M. went to tea & supper with Alice. Westgate siren very loud.

28 Thurs Two bombs dropped near Dane John & Labour Exchange. No-one hurt. Many underground at Hospital.

29 Fri Fine & sunny. Warning all day. Ma wore her bedsocks.

30 Sat Fine & frosty at night. Alice got a job at Portskinneth.

**Extracts from Gordon Young's Diary November 1940**  
 Saturday 13th November Elham Valley passenger service to stop

**Nov 1940 From the Parish Magazine:**

**The Vicar's Letter**

Last month I watched a British airman force down a German fighter on the outskirts of the parish. The Englishman was merciful as it seemed to me. He could have blown to pieces the German pilot, but he withheld his fire when the Nazi was obviously beaten and was coming down. He afterwards circled round for some time to make sure of his "bag", and then did something which fairly took my breath away – he quickly rolled his 'plane over in the air, as you might spin a tennis racket in your hand! It is, I believe what the R.A.F. call "the Victory Roll". Well, it struck me as typical of the national spirit which is overcoming all kinds of dangers and difficulties with courage and endurance in the full ardour of youth, until its efforts are crowned with Victory.

**Extracts from Mary Smith's Diary December 1940**

**December**

- 1 Sun Mr & Mrs Green came to tea.
- 2 Mon Nothing special.
- 3 Tues Cheque for £12 on account. Ma had a bad pain. Went to tea with Miss Hinde.
- 4 Weds Met Margaret and she came home after shopping with me.
- 5 Thurs Income tax Repaid 4/15. Bombs between New Dover Road & St Martin's in the morning. Rough at night.
- 6 Fri Cold & fine. Alice came to supper. No electric light in morning. Greeks in San Quaranta. Marshall Badoglio resigned.
- 7 Sat Another Italian general resigned. George Butcher married.
- 8 Sun Nice cold sunny day. Crowds of Jerries about at night. Greeks entered Argyrokastro at 11.15 a.m. Athens church bells ringing at night.
- 9 Mon In class rooms all day.
- 10 Tues Offensive against Italians – over 4,000 prisoners captured. Got a rotten cold.
- 11 Weds Cold beastly. Daddy went to Drs about dry throat & tongue. Staff meeting about holidays. 4 land mines on Whitstable.
- 12 Thurs Cold still beastly. Churchill announced 20,000 prisoners at capture of Sidi-Barrani.
- 13 Fri Cold improving. Italians retreating all round.
- 14 Sat Ditto. Saw Sally & Tom on bus. Dickie & John called in aft. Took the dogs for a walk. Laval dismissed.
- 15 Sun Further advances. Plenty of Jerries about during evening after a quiet day. Alice came to tea.
- 16 Mon Finished off reports. Sollum & Fort Caprizzo captured.
- 17 Tues Letters from Miss Wilkes and Miss Schles. Three more frontier forts captured.
- 18 Weds Broke up school. Paid £26 10s. 11d.
- 19 Thurs Pretty busy in shop. 31,546 Italian prisoners. Rough at night.
- 20 Fri A good deal about invasion in the papers & a good many Jerries over at night.
- 21 Sat Rather buzzy all day. Terrific shelling bangs about 9 p.m.
- 22 Sun Jerries over at intervals in evening. Very dry and cold.
- 23 Mon Scarf from Christine. Still very cold. Churchill spoke to Italian people at night. Cheque for £5-7 etc.

24 Tues Ran about with telegrams & presents all day. No Jerries at night. No operations by our bombers.  
25 Weds Uncle & Mrs Wellsted came to tea & dinner. Quiet all day. The King spoke after. 'Christmas under fire'.  
26 Thurs Quite a good meet. A quiet foggy day.  
27 Fri Daddy in bed with chill & temperature. Jerries again. Went to tea with Uncle.  
28 Sat Daddy still in bed – temp. 101 at night. Terribly busy. Mr Tucker called for eggs.  
29 Sun Daddy still in bed. Temp. 101.2°.  
31 Tues Mary Pegden came. Went to Canterbury with F. Boughton. Many kind letters.

#### Extracts from Gordon Young's Diary November 1940

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> December WD (*War Department*) loco 2479 on E.V. (*Elham Valley*) goods down & up  
Thur 26<sup>th</sup> December 6:30pm WD (*War Department*) loco goes through gates

## 1941

**27th Mar – 29th Mar Battle of Cape Matapan.** During this battle Leading Seaman Eric Hoskins of Standard Hill Cottages, Elham was awarded the DSM for “..conspicuous bravery under fire whilst operating one of the guns on HMS Warspite..”.

**Thursday 3rd July Frederick Leonard Cork Died Aged 48 – He served in WW1 and was the first Elham Service personnel to be killed in WW2**

Parish Notes of July 1941: We congratulate Leslie Ames on making the splendid score of 127 runs not out for the R.A.F. v. The Army at Lord's, and so winning the match.

## 1942

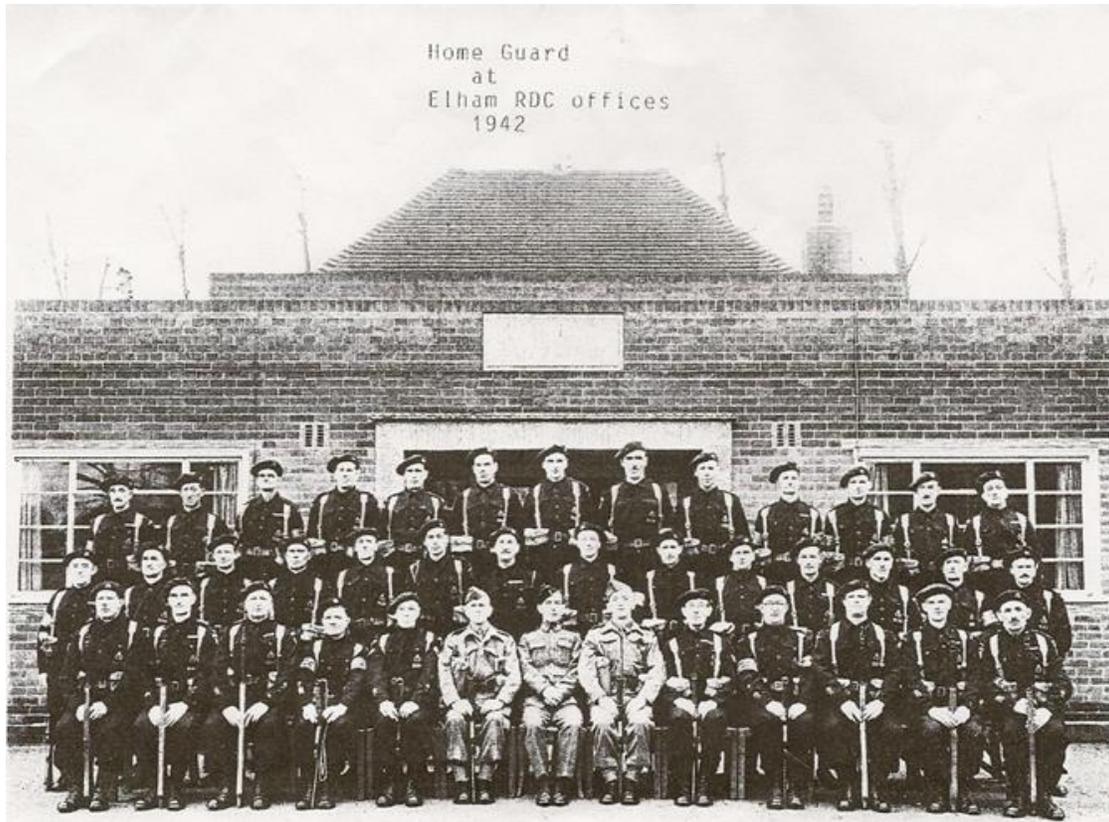
#### Extracts from Gordon Young's Diary for 1942

Frid 30<sup>th</sup> October Mrs Roosevelt and Mrs Churchill, Canterbury and Barham  
Sat 31<sup>st</sup> October daylight raid on Canterbury  
Sun 29<sup>th</sup> November 2 MEs gunned the (*Elham*) station

**3rd January Edgar Burnell Verney Died Aged 53**

**4th September James Bertie Seymour Died Aged 29**

**Tues 10th November Eric Leonard Hoskins DSM Died Aged 27**



**Dec 1942 From the Parish Magazine:**

**Victory Bells**

On Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, after a silence of nearly two-and-a-half years, the Church bells were rung to celebrate our Victory in Egypt. The ringers were : - Treble, Mr A. Castle (Leader); 2, Mr J. Verney; 3, Mr G. Mount; 4, The Vicar; 5, Miss Kate White; 6, Mr G. Kelly, 7, Mr W. Watson; Tenor, Mr T. Friend.

**1943**

**2nd Jan James W. Peary Died Aged 23**

**Extracts from Gordon Young's Diary for 1943**

Sat 27th of February Elham guns fired five rounds each

Sunday 4th April Elham guns fired two rounds each

Sat/Sun 26th April Goods smashed Elham gates

Tuesday 3rd August WD (*War Department*) train up 4pm (GY (*Gordon Young*) at home with chicken pox) Loco, bogie goods break, war flat, GUN (on 2 and 6 wheel bogies) 2 vans, war flat, GUN, 8 vans bogie coach, goods break, Loco

Sunday 10th October Arrived home to find gates down again - 5th time (*caused by a troop recreation train on Saturday night*)

**Jan 1943 From the Parish Magazine:**

**Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund**

DECEMBER RURAL PENNIES

*Collectors:* - Mrs Elliott £2 2s. 4¼d; Mrs Sturmev £1 13s. 1d.; Mrs E. Goldup 11/3; Mrs Ferrell £1 0s. 10d.; Mrs Goldup 7/6; Miss Savage £1 7s. 6d.; Mrs Horne 10/11½; Miss Hockerston 13/6; Miss Adamson £1 7s. 8½d.; Miss Peters 18/10; Mr Fox (S. Barham) £7; Miss Higgins £4 9s.; Miss J. Hubble and Miss P. Port £3 10s.; Mr Newing 5/6; Mr Mllen 5/-; Mr Cloke 2/5½. Total £26 5s. 5¾d.

Elham is to be congratulated on the splendid success of the Prisoners of War Week. To have raised £175 in one week is a great accomplishment. Organiser and helpers worked well and must be congratulated on the result of their labours. The Collectors of "Rural Pennies" too have put in a lot of hard work throughout the year and have done remarkably well. They have collected £153 14s. 10¼. The year's grand total raised in Elham is £328 14s. 10¼d.

**Elham National Savings Group**

Elham is to have the distinction of having its name painted on one of the new tanks going into battle. Three tanks were allotted to the Folkestone area, and in recognition of the excellent work of the Elham National Savings Group and its Hon. Secretary, Mrs Allison, the area Committee decided that one tank should be called "Elham".

The Secretary of the Folkestone area Committee for National Savings has written in a letter to Mrs Allison, "The final result of your Group's activities showed one of the greatest percentage increases in the area, and the Committee wish to congratulate you upon the success of your efforts and upon the distinction of having your Group's name placed upon a tank".

**Apr 1943 From the Parish Magazine:**

**Red Cross Rural Pennies**

March: - Social £9 18s.0d.; **Raffle of Lemon £3**; Mr Fox, South Barham, £7; Mrs Elliott £1 2s. 6d.; Miss Higgins £2 8s. 9½d; Mrs Sturmev £2 1s. 3d.; Miss Hockerston 16/11; Miss Adamson £1 12s. 2d.; Mrs E. Goldup 13/10½; Mrs Ferrell £1 3s.; Mrs Horne 12/2; Miss Peters £1 0s 3½d.; Mr Newing 4/3½; Mr Cloke 2/8; Mr Millen 4/-; Mrs Goldup 11/2; Miss L. Savage £1 13s. Total £34 4s. 1d.

**Parish Notes**

At a meeting at Elham on 29<sup>th</sup> March, at which Miss Vicars of London spoke, it was decided to form a branch of the Girls' Training Corps.

The Ministry of Information Films will be shown in the Methodist School Room on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, at 7.30 p.m.

There will be a Flag Day in aid of Y.M.C.A. Mobile Canteens for the Troops on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> May.

**Jul 1943 From the Parish Magazine:**

**Vicar's Letter**

The pounding that Germany and Italy are taking from the air must be terrible indeed. But when we remember all the brutal suffering the enemy has caused to the Jews, Czechs, Poles, Greeks, Abyssinians and others, we must feel that now we are strong enough to bomb their military objectives – although

some innocent civilians are bound to suffer in the process – it is the quickest way to cripple them and to bring relief to the oppressed peoples as well as the surest way to keep our own casualties to a minimum.

### **“Wings for Victory Week”**

This was held at Elham from 29<sup>th</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> June, and Mrs Allison, the local Hon. Secretary, and the Committee may be congratulated on the success of their efforts. The target was £3,000 which included £100 for the School. The School raised £200 and Elham’s total was £4, 521.

Squadron Leader Palmer, V.C., M.M. opened the week’s proceedings with an excellent speech. The Children’s Fancy-dress Parade produced some splendid and original costumes, while the Baby Show drew so many happy and healthy babies that the judge, Dr Enright, said he had never seen so many of such a high standard, and that he would have liked to have given them all prizes!

There was a Dance, with the R.A.F. Blue Eagle Band in attendance, when Canadian Pilot Officer Spence, D.F.C. gave a short racy talk on “Wings for Victory”. There was also a Whist Drive, and a long line of pennies which extended far down the High Street and amounted to £10 13s. 1d.; while across the road children were busy plastering a bomb with stamps.

The Committee would like to thank the Tradespeople for their generous help in kind, and also the unknown depositor of 10/- at the Bank.

### **Dec 1943 From the Parish Magazine:**

#### **Vicar’s Letter**

#### **British fair play**

The British public has not unjustly a reputation for love of fair play. Is it then because of weariness and overstrain that so many people seem to have lost their sense of proportion and justice over the release from gaol of Sir Oswald Mosley?

I detest his policies and for what he stands, but we must not forget that he has committed no crime, nevertheless without trial he has been in prison for over three years, because he was thought to be a danger to the country. Now however we are in a far stronger position, Sir Oswald is a sick man and his cause discredited.

During the latter part of the war, the Germans started using the “Doodlebugs”. These were unmanned large bombs, which looked like small aeroplanes and were driven by engines. You knew the sound of their engines and hoped that the engine noise would not stop, because if it did the doodlebug began to come down and then exploded as it hit the ground. One came down near the Prince of Wales pub in Rhodes Minnis and demolished 3 or 4 cottages. One lady lost the sight in one of her eyes, but the other occupants were not injured. Another one fell on the Methodist church in Lyminge, completely demolishing the building and the house next door. Again, no one was hurt. A third one fell at Ottinge, near the railway line. My father was delivering milk to the Railway cottages. He was blown by the blast into the kitchen of one of these cottages, but again he was not hurt.” (BBC People’s War Archive

## 1944

**17<sup>th</sup> January and 18<sup>th</sup> May, Battle of Monte Cassino**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb Frank Edward Southern Died Aged 29**

**30<sup>th</sup> March Derrick Constant Died Aged 45**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May Donald Ray File Died Aged 28**

**6<sup>th</sup> June D Day**

Walter "Wally" Harris MM comes ashore in France on D Day "just in time for tea"

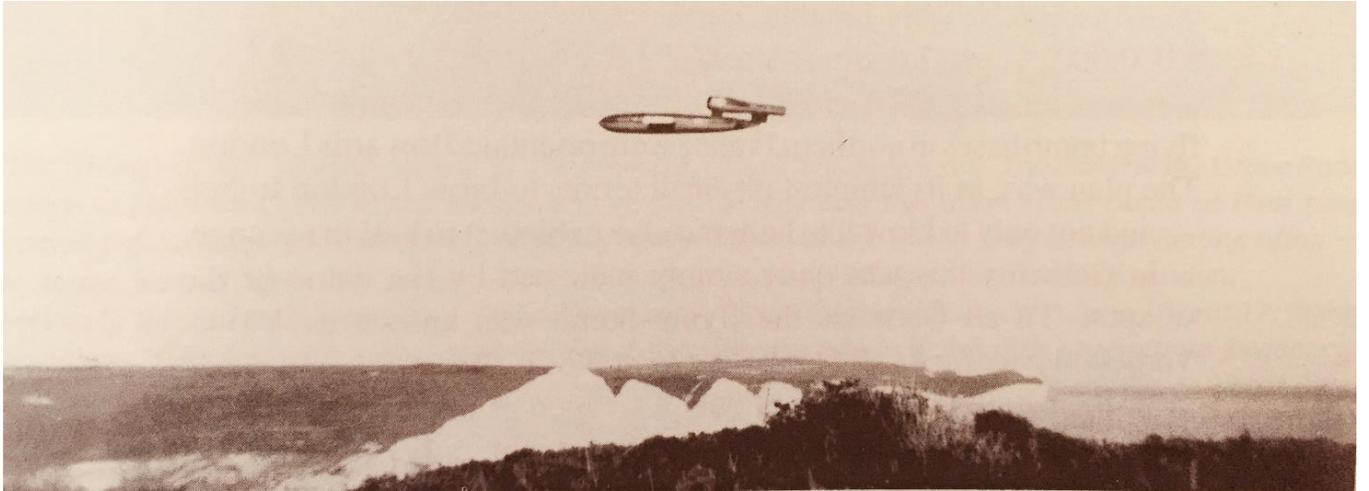
**12<sup>th</sup> June the first German V-weapon crossed the coast at Dymchurch**

This was Hitler's "Vergeltungswaffe1" or Revenger Weapon no.1 was a robot bomb designed to inject spirit into a fast-fading German national morale. Day after day, night after night it would speed across the sky, sometimes just above rooftop height. In appearance it had, from below, the deathly crudity of a black cross; angular, simple, narrow, entirely without beauty. An extract from the excellent book "Flying Bombs Over England" by Kent author H.E. Bates. ISBN 1-872337-04-x.

**13<sup>th</sup> June Leslie Mons Wren Died Aged 29**

**13<sup>th</sup> Jun** The first V1 Doodlebug flew across the English coast at Dymchurch and dropped into a field at Swanscombe in Kent on 13 June 1944 and the last one at Orpington in Kent on 27 March 1945. During that time, 6,725 were launched at Britain. Of these, 2,340 hit London, causing 5,475 deaths, with 16,000 injured.

A Bomb Census was conducted in each region to record the order in which bombs fell, the location, what caused them to fall short of London, and the damage sustained to casualties, livestock, property and infrastructure. The following table records the incidents in Elham and Acrise. Sixty two were recorded for the whole of the Elham District.



A V1 flying over Seven Sisters Cliffs. Summer 1944



July 1944. Damage caused by the Rhodes Minnis Doodlebug

| Date           | Time    | Location                                       | Cause   | Damage   |
|----------------|---------|--|---|--|
| 03 July 1944   | 2244 pm | Over Prince of Wales, Rhodes Minnis            | Shot down by fighter                                  | 13 Casualties (1 hospital case). 20 people homeless. Rest Centre, Elham opened. Road blocked. Extensive damage to property. 10 houses severely damaged. 55 houses slightly or moderately. Telephone wires damaged. |
| 22 July 1944   | 2358 pm | Acrise Wood, Acrise                            | Shot down by Anti-Aircraft gun fire                   | No casualties. Slight damage to 2 houses.  |
| 11 August 1944 | 0731 am | Beerforstal Farm, Elham                        | Shot down by Anti-Aircraft gunfire                    | Two slight casualties. Beerforstal Farmhouse & Barn, ceiling, roof & 1 wall. Wick Farm roof. Water Pumping Station roof.   |
| 15 August 1944 | 0430 am | North of Winter Down Farm, Acrise              | Shot down by Anti-Aircraft gunfire                    | No casualties. Damage to farm buildings & 3 houses   |
| 17 August 1944 | 1319 pm | Standard Hill Farm, Elham                      | Shot down by Anti-Aircraft gunfire                    | No Casualties. Slight damage to 2 houses. Minor road partially blocked   |
| 22 August 1944 | 0732 am | C.C. Fly, Winterdown Farm, Elham MR:642.621    | Probably shot down by Anti-Aircraft gunfire           | No Casualties. Farm House damaged.   |
| 23 August 1944 | 0820 am | Ridge Row Acrise MR:643.598                    | Shot down by Anti-Aircraft gunfire very small crater. | One woman slightly injured (bruises) Approx. 30 houses slightly damaged, 2 severely. 7 occupants evacuated. Road slightly damaged. Telephone wires cut.  |
| 23 August 1944 | 0820 am | In trees Ottinge Court, Elham MR:607.602       | Shot down by fighter.                                 | No Casualties. Elham Valley Rail line covered with debris. About 20 houses and farm buildings damaged, including Ottinge Court, Gammon's Farm.   |
| 29 August 1944 | 1656 pm | Fir Tree Farm, Rhodes Minnis, Elham MR:593.613 | Damaged by Anti-Aircraft gunfire and crashed.         | 1 slight Casualty. Extensive damage to Fir Tree Farm. Slight damage to several others.   |

**Types of bomb dropped in the area.**

| EXPLODED                          |                 |                 |           |                  |                         |                   |                      |                    |           | UNEXPLODED |                      |                 |                 |           |                  |                         |                   |                      |                    |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| High Explosive Bombs              | Parachute Mines | Parachute Bombs | Oil Bombs | Phosphorus Bombs | 1 kilo Incendiary Bombs | Sprengbrand Bombs | Anti-Personnel Bombs | Flying Bombs (V-1) |           |            | High Explosive Bombs | Parachute Mines | Parachute Bombs | Oil Bombs | Phosphorus Bombs | 1 kilo Incendiary Bombs | Sprengbrand Bombs | Anti-Personnel Bombs | Flying Bombs (V-1) |
| <b>CANTERBURY POLICE DIVISION</b> |                 |                 |           |                  |                         |                   |                      |                    |           |            |                      |                 |                 |           |                  |                         |                   |                      |                    |
| Acrise                            | 1               | 2               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  | 3         | .          | .                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| Elham                             | 47              | 1               | .         | .                | 6                       | .                 | .                    | .                  | 6         | 8          | .                    | .               | .               | 4         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| Elmsted                           | 19              | 1               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  | 5         | 1          | 1                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| Hawkinge                          | 185             | .               | .         | 1                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  | 8         | 21         | .                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | 1                  |
| Lyminge                           | 30              | 1               | .         | .                | 1                       | .                 | 4                    | .                  | 5         | 2          | .                    | .               | .               | 4         | .                | 1                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| Paddlesworth                      | 26              | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  | 1         | 4          | .                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| Stelling                          | -               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  | .         | .          | .                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| Stelling Minnis                   | 4               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  | 2         | 2          | .                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| Stowting                          | 6               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  | 3         | .          | .                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| <b>DIVISION TOTAL</b>             | <b>318</b>      | <b>5</b>        | <b>-</b>  | <b>1</b>         | <b>7</b>                | <b>-</b>          | <b>4</b>             | <b>-</b>           | <b>33</b> | <b>38</b>  | <b>1</b>             | <b>-</b>        | <b>-</b>        | <b>8</b>  | <b>-</b>         | <b>1</b>                | <b>-</b>          | <b>1</b>             |                    |
| <b>ASHFORD POLICE DIVISION</b>    |                 |                 |           |                  |                         |                   |                      |                    |           |            |                      |                 |                 |           |                  |                         |                   |                      |                    |
| Lympne                            | 424             | .               | .         | 2                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  | .         | 20         | .                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| Monks Horton                      | 9               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  | .         | .          | .                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| Newington                         | 22              | .               | .         | .                | .                       | 1                 | .                    | .                  | .         | 5          | .                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | 1                 | .                    | .                  |
| Postling                          | 3               | .               | .         | 4                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  | .         | 1          | .                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| Saltwood                          | 35              | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | 4                  | .         | .          | .                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| Sellindge                         | 22              | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  | .         | 2          | .                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| Stanford                          | 13              | .               | .         | 2                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  | .         | 6          | .                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| <b>DIVISION TOTAL</b>             | <b>528</b>      | <b>-</b>        | <b>-</b>  | <b>8</b>         | <b>-</b>                | <b>-</b>          | <b>1</b>             | <b>4</b>           | <b>-</b>  | <b>34</b>  | <b>-</b>             | <b>-</b>        | <b>-</b>        | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b>         | <b>1</b>                | <b>-</b>          | <b>-</b>             |                    |
| <b>WINGHAM POLICE DIVISION</b>    |                 |                 |           |                  |                         |                   |                      |                    |           |            |                      |                 |                 |           |                  |                         |                   |                      |                    |
| Swingfield                        | 7               | 2               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  | .         | 3          | .                    | .               | .               | .         | .                | .                       | .                 | .                    | .                  |
| <b>DIVISION TOTAL</b>             | <b>7</b>        | <b>2</b>        | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>                | <b>-</b>          | <b>-</b>             | <b>-</b>           | <b>-</b>  | <b>3</b>   | <b>-</b>             | <b>-</b>        | <b>-</b>        | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>                | <b>-</b>          | <b>-</b>             |                    |

Information Source: <http://www.hastingleigh.com/hast-ww2-flying-bombs-census.html>

**20<sup>th</sup> Aug** Anne Leva's father, Flt Sgt. Paul Leva, a Belgian flying with No.350 Sqdn was based at Hawkinge.

By this time the V1 campaign was in full swing and Flight Sergeant Paul Leva, who was operating within the fighter patrol zone, was about to meet one at close quarters over the Tonbridge area. He encountered a V1 travelling faster than his Spitfire. It was market day in Tonbridge, the busiest day of the week and despite the threat posed by doodlebugs, all seemed quite normal. One daring method attempted by fighter pilots was to fly alongside the missile manoeuvring a wing tip under that of the flying bomb and then bank steeply to flip the missile out of control.

Flying one of his unit's recently acquired Spitfire Mark X1Vs he duly employed this technique to bring down the one he had intercepted. *"The bomb went unscathed through the first two lines of defence and directed by the controller I duly spotted the ugly little brute with the glowing tail below me. I banked to enter a steep dive, gathering speed, and getting nearer and nearer to my target. Alas though I was not near enough so with my speed dropping after levelling off I could see that the distance separating us did not diminish anymore and even began to increase".*

*Utterly disappointed I nevertheless opened fire, aiming high to compensate for the distance. I had the happy surprise to see some impacts and bits flying off the wings. I fired burst after burst, damaging the bomb still more. Although no vital part was hit its speed diminished and it entered a shallow dive. My hopes were soaring again. I was now approaching my target so fast that I had to throttle back. Ready for the kill I positioned myself at what I estimated was the right distance. I depressed the trigger but instead of the staccato of firing bullets I heard only the whistling sound of escaping compressed air. The voice of the controller came back "Any luck?".*

*"No" I said forlornly. I damaged it but I have no ammunition left. It's very slow and losing height. I am practically flying formation with it. "Tough luck" said the controller "Time to turn back now you are getting very near the balloon barrage".*

*It was then that suddenly, spurred no doubt by my frustration I remembered the briefing of the intelligence officer, who earlier had spoken of sending V1s out of control by tipping up one wing. "Wait" I said "I think I can try something". Adjusting the throttle, I eased myself forward until I came abreast of the bomb. What a sight it was at close range! The wings were so ragged with the impact of the bullets that I wondered how it could still fly almost straight and level. Positioning myself slightly underneath I placed my starboard wing tip under the port wing of the bomb. I came up slowly, made contact with it as softly as I could, and then moved the stick violently back into the left. This made me enter a steep climbing turn and I lost sight of the bomb, I continued turning fast through 360 degrees then I saw it well below me, going down steeply, hitting the ground and exploding with a blinding flash.*

*When Leva landed at Hawkinge it was found that the fighters wing tip was badly bent where it had been in contact with the V1 and it had to be replaced. According to Paul Leva's log book he flew Spitfire Mark*

X1V RB155/MN-O on this particular day. The wing tip and Flight Sergeant Paul Leva's full story can be seen at the Brenzett Aeronautical museum. The 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020 would have been Paul's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sept** Whilst in occupied France Walter "Wally" Harris MM and his pal "Swanny" destroyed a German gun and took several prisoners. As a result of this action he was awarded the Military Medal.

**17<sup>th</sup> Sep – Operation Market Garden the Battle for Arnhem**

**Dec 1944 From the Parish Magazine:**

**Parish Notes**

The "standing down" of the Home Guard would seem to merit a social function of some kind. Probably most members of the Elham Platoon would welcome an opportunity of celebrating together the many hours of toil and camaraderie before the memory of them recedes into the limbo of oblivion.

The British Legion are holding a Whist Drive at the Ex-Service Men's Hut on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

**1945**

**Jan 1945 From the Parish Magazine:**

**The Forces**

On behalf of the Church the Vicar wrote a Christmas letter to everyone from Elham now with the Forces whose address was known. He has received some grateful replies, and here is an extract from a Corporal's letter. He is now with the B.L.A. "This time last year we were in Italy with 6 or 7 foot of snow, and the year before in the Middle East with outstanding heat. It is strange how different countries have so many types of weather, but I would sooner be in the old Elham Valley with my dear wife and children. God bless them. Will now take the chance to wish you and family a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Would you also convey my wishes to all at Elham. My thoughts are with you all this Christmas,"

**Parish Notes**

On Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> the members of the Elham Platoon of the Home Guard had an enjoyable dinner-party at "The King's Arms". Sergeant H. Palmer presided.

**Feb 1945 From the Parish Magazine:**

**“Our Boys and Girls”**

Last year Wing Commander J. H. Hoskins of Coastal Command. R.A.F., was awarded the D.F.C., and we now again congratulate him on gaining the D.S.O. for leadership in Bombing operations. Wing Commander [sic] is the youngest son of Mr and Mrs Hoskins of Standard Hill Cottages. We believe this to be the first D.S.O. awarded to a parishioner in this war.

Extracts from letters to the Vicar from parishioners on active service. Harry Baldock writes:-

“I spent a few weeks in Egypt and during that time managed to visit Cairo. As my guide and companion, I was lucky to have Padre Scott, R.A.F., late of Gloucester. Although our stay was very brief, we managed to visit most places of interest including the English Cathedral and of course the one and only sphinx.

.... We also have a very fine Church run by a R.A.F. Padre. The sung Evensong on Sundays is a very popular service and seems to bring one so very near to our people back home. We always sing as a prayer for our homes the hymn “Holy Father in Thy mercy hear our anxious prayer”.

A member of the W.A.A.F. writes:-

“I want you to know how happy it makes us who are away to know we are in your thoughts and prayers, and you and all those at home are in ours”.

It was good to see Frank and Jack Verney in Church, both looking very well when on leave recently.

**19th February Robert Walker Wilkinson Died 1945 Aged 19**

**22nd March Raymond D. Castle Died Aged 24 when held as a Japanese POW**

**Extract from Gordon Young’s Diary for 1945**

Fri 23rd March Flying bomb in Lambing Meadow

**May 1945 From the Parish Magazine:**

**Vicar’s Letter**

We are overjoyed at the safe return of three of our prisoners of war, viz.: - Henry Elliott, Ken Williams and Albert Want, and we hope that others will soon follow. Patrick Owens, we understand is going on well.

**Elham Prisoners of War**

Besides the three prisoners already returned Jack Johnson is being nursed up in Hospital in England and we hope to see him; and we are also looking forward to the liberation and return of Mark Constant and Oliver Newing. Gordon Dixon is in Japanese hands. We trust that the two Shackleton brothers of Rhodes Minnis have been freed from Germany, but they are on the Lyminge list.

**8<sup>th</sup> May VE Day –**

**V.-E. Day in Elham**

Services of thanksgiving and dedication were held on V.-E. day and also on the following Sunday. On each day a full peal of bells sounded the joyful summons to Church.



***Jun 1945 From the Parish Magazine:***

**Prisoners of War**

We are delighted to welcome back again to the Parish Mark Constant, who says that he was fairly well treated, and also Jack Johnson went through a great ordeal but who is now making a good recovery. We are glad to hear of the safe return from German prison camps of the Shackleton brothers of Rhodes Minnis and rejoice to hear encouraging news of Patrick Owens who was so seriously wounded.

***Jun 1945 From the Parish Magazine:***

**Parish Notes**

We congratulate Mrs. Taylor upon the clean and neat appearance of the Church, after all the dirt caused by the flying bomb.

**6<sup>th</sup> Aug Atomic bomb dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima**

**9<sup>th</sup> Aug Atomic bomb dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki**

**15<sup>th</sup> Aug VJ Day**

**Sept 1945 From the Parish Magazine:**

**Vicar's Letter**

**My dear friends,**

**The unconditional surrender of Japan, coming sooner than expected, is an immense relief to us all; for we who live in "Hell's Corner" scarcely need to be reminded that we have been living under the strain of "total war" for nearly six years.**

**For a whole year, supported only by our splendid but far-off Dominions, we stood alone on the brink of the abyss. Our people, determined, grim but gay, surely never showed their sterling worth to better advantage. The debt we owe to Mr Churchill and our nation leaders in those dark days is incalculable; while such names as Dunkirk, Alamein, Sicily, Normandy, the Rhine and Burma remind us of what we owe to our fighting forces by sea, land and in the air.**

**But we have been bewildered and our thanksgivings have been sobered by the thought of the two atomic bombs dropped upon Japan. Two explosions, and nearly half a million men, women and children blasted into Eternity or maimed for life – and we have done it!**

**This terrible invention is not different in kind from other bombs and weapons of war. It differs only in degree, but its use is not necessarily thereby justified. We were shocked when Mussolini justified mustard gas on defenceless Abyssinians by saying that it saved lives and shortened the war. Hitler also used the same arguments when launching his treacherous air attack on Rotterdam. War is a filthy business, but even so can we justify the use of atomic bombs? It would have been possible to have demonstrated to the Japanese the terrifying destructiveness of the atomic bomb without choosing built up and congested areas. It has created a sad precedent which may recoil one day upon the heads of the English speaking peoples.**

**This discovery of atomic energy has ushered us into an entirely new age to which we must adapt ourselves; but this at any rate seems clear, that unless our moral sense is strong enough to control this newly found power and turn it to man's well-being it will be the means of his own destruction. However, God has mercifully preserved us from horrible dangers and has led us through deep waters, and – who knows? – may yet be calling us to "our finest hour". The war has been one and indivisible, and all nations have been affected. The peace must also be one and for all to share. We have shown that we have a sense of duty and will respond to a noble and clear call. Together with our allies we must be determined to build up the stricken world and lead all men to brotherhood and peace. But we can only do this by realizing that God is the Father of us all, and that as His children we must keep His laws and live as brothers. To "seek peace and ensure it" will take all our moral and spiritual strength.**

**Your sincere friend and Vicar,**

**R. H. ISAAC WILLIAMS**

### **Parish Notes**

We welcome home from the R.A.F. our late Churchwarden, Mr Frank Verney.

Victory Thanksgiving Services were held at Elham Church on 15<sup>th</sup> August and the following Sunday.

Twice lately the junior members of the choir have enjoyed afternoons at Dymchurch with bathing, tea and cricket on the sands.

We are gradually getting the windows of the Church, broken by the flying bomb, mended. We hope that the work will be completed before the winter.

## **Saturday 13th October Sydney Crouch Died Aged 20**

### **Oct 1945 From the Parish Magazine:**

#### **Baptism**

Sept. 2, Christopher Francis Graves, son of Cyril Northcote and Ethelwin Edith Parkinson.

#### **Vicar's Letter**

Our first peace-time holiday for many years – if we have been fortunate enough to snatch a few days – has now drawn to an end, and we now have to face the many and various problems that confront us as we turn from war to peace. In some ways the difficulties facing us now are greater than those of the war. The strain has lifted, but we are all tired and on edge after all that we have gone through, and instead of living conditions being easier we find them in many ways harder than before. All this means a great testing of character both national and individual. We rose magnificently to the occasion during the war, and we must continue in peace our splendid team work for the benefit of all. It will take, however, all our patience, wisdom, courage and sympathy to lay the foundation of peace and happiness in our homes, our Country, Europe and the world. But this, with God's help, is what we have been called to do in our generation. Let us then think less of our rights and what we want, and more of our duty and what God wants. This to be like the holy angels whose festival we have just kept.

We rejoice that Mrs Dixon has at last heard from her son Gordon, who for some years has been a prisoner in Japanese hands, that he is safe and well.

#### **Parish Notes**

In answer to a recent request to re-open the Elham Valley Line for Passenger traffic, the Southern Railway have replied that they have at present neither the man power nor engine power available. Passenger traffic has nearly quadrupled in the last six years, and the 'bus service - though greatly improved – is still inadequate to meet the need. If the S.R. would run a frequent motor coach service in their line, making a Halt at Wingmore, it would be of great benefit to inhabitants of the Valley.



The names of some of the men in the photograph are:

Henry Shackleton  
Ron Mercer  
Bert Richards  
Olly Newing  
Sid Marsh  
Jack Marsh  
Jim Tutt  
Bert Want  
Jack Johnson  
Ken Williams  
Stan Woods  
Joe Horton  
Maurice File

After the last war Mrs. Blanch who ran the cafe in Mayfield Road (nicknamed Smokey Joe's) gave a party for the returning P.O.W.s, their girlfriends and mothers who lived in our area.

**Nov 1945 From the Parish Magazine:**

**Our Boys**

We rejoice that a trickle now seems to have started of our boys coming home and donning "civies" again. And others are expected shortly. We welcome them all Home, but especially Gordon Dixon, who has arrived from a Japanese Prison Camp.

It is with great regret, however, that we have to report that Mr and Mrs Douglas Castle have received official intimation through the Admiralty of the death of their elder son, Raymond D. Castle, in March last, while a prisoner of war in Japanese hands. He was an A.B. Seaman in *H.M.S. Exeter* when she was torpedoed in the Pacific Ocean in March 1942. It is particularly sad therefore that he did not survive another six months to be restored to his family.

**Parish Notes**

Peace Celebrations were held at Elham on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Dec 1945 From the Parish Magazine:**

**Parish Notes**

We are grateful to Major Parkinson, of The Manor House, for a gift of Crown glass for the damaged Church windows.

Armistice Day was duly observed with two minutes' silence at the Village War Memorial, where a wreath of poppies was placed by the Elham Valley Branch of the British Legion and a bugler sounded the "Last Post" and "Reveille". Members of the Legion then marched behind their banner to the Church for service. The sermon was preached by the Rev. G. Youell, C.F., and the Commemoration of the Fallen was taken by the Vicar.



## 1946

**January 1946**

### **CHURCH WAR MEMORIAL**

The Parochial Church Council has unanimously decided to complete – as a War Memorial – the Parclose Screen which is to divide the Jesus Chapel from the Chancel of the Church, and to fix the oak paneling which was purchased some time ago for the Jesus Chapel. The names of parishioners who have fallen will be recorded in the Chapel. This seems most appropriate, as during the war some of the soldiers stationed at Elham used the Jesus Chapel for private prayer.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee have approved the placing of the beautiful screen designed by the late Mr F. C. Eden, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., and a Faculty has been obtained for its erection. The plan is on view in the Church.

It is difficult to estimate the cost, but a considerable sum will be required to complete the scheme, and out of thankfulness for the outcome of the Battle of Britain fought over our heads and for our ultimate victories in East and West, the P.C.C. appeal for your generous support. Contributions may be placed in

the old oak chest just inside the Church or sent to the Vicar or either of the Churchwardens, who will send receipts for the same.

*{The screen was eventually built in March and April 1952}*

## **February 1946**

### **Parish Notes**

It is a treat to have a warmed Church again, even if some of the heat escapes through damaged windows. These, however, should now soon be put right,

## **March 1946**

### **Parish Notes**

At a general meeting held recently at the Ex-Service Hut it was decided to hold a Flower Show in Elham this summer. The last was held in 1939. Mrs Gammidge was elected Hon. Secretary and Mr Wilcox Hon. Treasurer.

## **July 1946**

### **VICTORY CELEBRATIONS**

The Victory Celebrations in Elham on 8<sup>th</sup> June commenced with a full peal of bells to summon all to the open-air Thanksgiving Service. Unfortunately, the rain then came on and somewhat marred the splendid programme arranged by the Parish Council. The Fancy Dress Parade had to be held in the Hut and excellent tea was served in relays in the School. There were sports and entertainments, and in the evening, there was a dance in the Hut.

## **1947**

### **23rd Dec H.T. Baldock Died Aged 28**

## **1956**

### **Rev. Isaac Williams celebrates 21 years in Elham**

Here is an extract of the interview he gave to a local paper:

The war was an exceedingly difficult and lively time for us all. Much of the Battle of Britain was fought over our heads and we all shared our joys and sorrows together when the Queens Regiment had the honour of fighting the last expensive rear-guard action at Dunkirk. I remember an officer of the regiment, who had been left behind with a remnant at Elham, coming to the Vicarage and crying like a child at the loss of all his pals.

I was glad to be able to comfort him in some degree, for I was privileged to read from the pulpit to the soldiers in church a special message of thanks from His Majesty the King.

In those days Mr Anthony Eden was a parishioner and on one occasion Mr Winston Churchill stayed with him. Being in the Home Guard, and on sentry duty all night, I found myself on one occasion feeling more dead than alive preaching to the unmistakable figures of Lord Halifax and his lady in the congregation.

Well, they were great times and as friends we laughed and cried together. But how we longed and planned to welcome our men home again.

But after the war came that most difficult of all periods of readjustment; and in some ways it is not yet over. For the time being spiritual values seem to be lost, but church congregations have slowly but surely increased. I hope, moreover, that the forthcoming Mission by the Franciscans will be a help to us all.

During all this time our daughters have been growing up in your midst; and in fact Elham Vicarage is the only home they ever remember. I should also like to say now that during all these 21 years I owe more than I can ever express or even know to the affection and quite ungrudging help of my exceedingly clever and capable doctor wife.

We are most grateful to you for the many kindnesses you have shown us in so many ways, and I ask for your prayers that I may continue to do my best to serve the parish in the years that remain.



### End of the Timeline