



CIRENCESTER.

C. Sparrow	L/Cpl. E. F. Pennell	Cpl. F. E. Telling	L/Cpl. H. F. L. Parker.
Sgt. A. E. Selby	L/Cpl. E. R. Ponting	Cpl. J. Westmacott	
Juggins	L/Cpl. H. S. F. Snuggs	Sgt. C. G. Hancock	Sgt. R. Palmer
L/Cpl. O. F. T. Carpenter	Sgt. G. Chiverton	Sgt. H. J. Turner	Sgt. J. G. Higgs.
Shores	Lieut. W. W. Pitter	Sgt. C. E. Timbrell	
Maj. W. E. Snelling	Lieut. G. C. Todd	Sgt. W. Legg.	
Law	Sgt. W. Harris	L/Cpl. S. Collinson	L/Cpl. L. P. E. Waldron
			Sgt. W. F. Sherwood.

WARTIME ROMANCE

Kemble Aerodrome had civilian workers, one of whom was Fred Taylor, a foreman, but many RAF airmen served there throughout the war.

For the boys in blue there were dances on site, and in Cirencester, but some preferred to come to Crudwell for relaxation, which led to village romances. Many a handsome young airman swept a village lass off her feet.

One such romance ended in wedding bells when Benny Morter was posted to Kemble and came to the Crudwell Toc H Canteen for his beans on toast. He met Eileen Gleed, and after service in India returned to marry Eileen in All Saints Church, when Evelyn Thorne played the organ for them.

HOME DEFENCES

With so many airfields in the area Crudwell prepared for the consequences.

It was possible, had there been an invasion, that the approaching enemy would make for the local airstrips, and one of the seven anti-tank ditches (as wide as a road) which snaked across Britain passed close by, going through Long Newnton and the Fosse Way and on to Culkerton. Concrete pill boxes also sprung up and the crumbling remains of two can be seen on the Long Newnton/Culkerton road, one on the Crudwell/Long Newnton road, and another on the Crudwell/Cirencester road near Kemble Airfield. These were manned by Home Guard machine gunners.

Army Searchlight and Ack-ack crews at Quelfurlong must have done an efficient job as only a few German planes dropped their bombs locally, some at Kemble and Long Newnton airfields, and three at Oaksey.

A stick of five bombs fell at Five Lanes, and Dick Hislop had a lucky escape, as these came down not long after he had driven by. As he arrived at Eastcourt he heard the thumps as they landed each side of the road.

Very little damage was caused, but it was inevitable that when airmen were in training there would be crash landings - one plane came down in Oaksey Woods.

Fire watching was a boring, but necessary job and Charlie Saunders remembers being on watch at the Ecco Factory (now A T and T) in Malmesbury, when he was paid 3/- (15p) a night to cover the cost of buying breakfast. Lord Haw-haw, in one of his propaganda broadcasts "Germany Calling" announced that German planes would bomb "the Ecco in the trees" but no raid came.

Some householders built air raid shelters in their gardens, which were damp and uncomfortable.

Gas masks were issued and Daisy Nurden remembers going to a wedding in Tetbury, when all the guests carried gas masks. They had to leave them outside the church, only hoping they could find their own when they came out after the marriage ceremony.