



Back row, first on left

Jack was a prominent member of St. Martin's Church, and could often be seen with his wife and his sister making their way along Church Road to services.

He was one of several children, including: Lucy,

Dorothy, who married a Bartlett and had 2 sets of twins, and

Ida, who married a Mr. George.

Various sources, including Brian Austin

Surname:

Thyer

Christian Names:

Jack

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Most folk say Jack was married and his sister, Lucy, lived with the couple. Some say he was single.

Occupation:

Seed merchant

Address:

'Glebe Nurseries'
Kewstoke Road,
east side, opposite
Moody's Stores.



Back row, 2nd from left

Bert's first shop was between Graham George's cottage and the Lamb Inn. Later he took a shop on The Parade. His wife, Blanche, a blonde lady to match her name, ran the wool shop next door to the shoe shop. His son, Alan worked with Bert in the shop and took over the business when Bert retired.

Bert was often seen around the village with his son, walking the dog. He was an enthusiastic gardener and kept an allotment throughout the war years.

Information courtesy of the late Alan Smith

Surname:

Smith

Christian Names:

Bertram Reginald

Dates:

b.1907

d. 1994, aged 87

Rank: Private

Family:

Married Blanche

Stokes

Sons: Alan and Bryce

Occupation:

Cobbler and shoe
retailer.

Address:

Shop 'Cheltenham
House', The Parade,
High Street

Home: 'Clarence
House' High St.,
'twixt Hollydene and
Primrose House.



Back row, 3rd from left

Birth registered Jan - March quarter 1925.

William John Wride was the only son of William, Bill, and Hester Wride. Hester Wride was formerly Hester Payne, born 6 May 1894.

Hester had inherited the Cottage in Kewstoke Road from her father, Oliver Payne. It is the white house that is now 6 Lower Kewstoke Road. Highly probable that Jack was born there given the prevalence of home births at the time.

Jack did not serve in the war as he was excused on medical grounds/failed medical, (not entirely sure of the reason as I heard my father quote both). I remember him as being quite a sickly person who had a lot of trouble with chest infections which is a probability for medical rejection. He was also partially deaf.

He was apprenticed to the gas board and spent all his working life there.

He never married and lived in the Cottage with his parents until their demise, Bill died first and Hester, known to many as Et, died on 4th April 1972. At some time in the late 70's or early 80's Jack sold the cottage and moved to Kewstoke where he died in the late 80's.

Information courtesy of Gerald Payne

Surname:

Wride

Christian Names:

**William John
[Jack]**

Dates:

b. 1925

Family:

Son of William John
[died 1965] and
Hester Wride, nee
Payne

Occupation:

Worked for Gas
Company

Address:

Kewstoke Road



Back row, 4th from left

The entire male population of Sprakes Terrace seems to have joined the Home Guard.

Bill moved to Weston before the 2nd war and worked on the building of 'The Pool' on the sea front. Later he worked for the Railway as a Permanent Way Inspector in charge of tracking gangs between Uphill, Yatton and Weston.

Before he moved to Worle, he had run a barbers shop with his uncle, and all his life he cut hair for friends and neighbours, and shaved with a cut throat razor.

He loved darts and played at the New Inn, which had the best players.

When Bill's daughter Evelyn died in her 40s, Lucy and Bill were heartbroken and both died within a few years.

Information courtesy of Rex Perks

Surname:

Perks

Christian Names:

**William John
[Bill]**

Dates:

b. 1908

d. 1988

Rank: Private

Family:

Wife: Lucy Raines.

Son, Rex, who
worked for the Gas
Board, and daughter,
Evelyn

Occupation:

Fussells, later
Head Ganger for
Great Western
Railway

Address:

8 Sprakes Terrace,
Station Road.



Back row, 5th from left

Eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Kingsbury of Lyefield Farm, Worle. Wilf ran a dairy business with his father and was well known in the village. The report of his wedding on 19th June, 1934 appeared in the Mercury together with a picture. He married Miss Edith Lily Griffin of High Street, the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Griffin. Wilf and his young family lived at Banwell House, High Street and later moved to Castle Road and then to Mendip Avenue. Wilf and Edith ended their days happily ensconced in Poppyfields residential home. Wilf and his brother, Fred, carried on the dairy business after their father retired, but then sold up. Wilf went to work at Bristol Aerojet as a Progress Labourer and then went to Fussell's until he retired.

Information courtesy of David Kingsbury

Surname:

Kingsbury

Christian Names:

Wilfred John

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Married Edith Griffin.

Several children, including David, the youngest.

Occupation:

Dairyman and labourer.

Capt. St. Martin's bellringers.

Address:

Family home was Lyefield Farm



Back Row, 6th from left

Jack's father was 'Harry Hack'.

Jack's wife, who had been a Miss Warman, was a school teacher at Worle Elementary in Spring Hill. [see the 1934 school photo given by Eric Sperring.]

Jack was a bellringer at St. Martin's and was one of the team who rang the muffled quarter peal on 8th Feb, 1940.

W. W. Hack, whom I believe was Jack's uncle, replaced the roof timbers of Woodspring Priory in 1934. See Gazette, dated 24th February, 1934, page 3 top and page 6 column7, top.

Various sources

Surname:

Hack

Christian Names:

Jack

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Jack married a Miss Warman

Sister: Gladys

Brother: Nelson

Occupation:

Plumber, decorator and builder

Address:

Business in High Street, opposite entrance to Greenwood Road.



Back row, 7th from the left

Nobody is sure about this chap's Christian name. Bill has been suggested. There are references in 1939 directory to the following Tuckers:

E. Tucker, 'Redland', High St.

Harry Tucker, 'Brentry', New Bristol Rd

Henry Tucker, 1 Sprakes Terrace, Station

Richard N. Tucker, Coronation Rd

*William Tucker, Cave View, High St.

William Tucker, 4 The Rows.

Other Tucker boys were named Oliver and Bob. It has been suggested that our Tucker had a sister. So many men from Sprakes Terrace were Home Guards that I do wonder if this is Henry.

*Johnnie Tucker's father, also eliminated.

Various sources

Surname:

Tucker

Christian Names:

Not known

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Occupation:

Address:



Back row, 8th from left

People say that Dave Norris was a quiet chap, so this may be why it took a while to find out about him. There is a Mercury report of David's bike being stolen in 1940 by Patrick Jude from Liverpool, who was sentenced to 7 days hard labour.

The Mercury carried a report of David's death on 13th September, 1968, as follows:

A 59 year old railway sub-ganger was killed when he was struck by an express train at Worle junction. He was Mr. David Norris of 'Hemswell, Castle Road, Worle. It is believed he was working on the down line, at the junction, with 2 other men, and was using an air compressor.

A single man, Mr. Norris lived with his widowed mother and younger brother. He had been railwayman since before the war and during the war spent much of his time working in the Severn Tunnel area. A keen amateur photographer and gardener, he was a member of the National Union of Railwaymen.

Various sources including Fred Norris, John Beacham and John Durston

Surname:

Norris

Christian Names:

David

Dates:

b. 1909

d. 1968

Rank: Private

Family:

Single

Occupation:

Track worker,
known as a sub-
ganger, for the
railways.

Address:

'Hemswell',
corner of Castle
Road and Kewstoke
Road, now known
as 34 Lower
Kewstoke Road



Back row, 9th from the left

Great Chap – very good horseman. He won many cups for point to point. He belonged to Weston Harriers. Dick arranged for Kaye Lovell [Gunningham] to learn to ride. Lay preacher with the Methodist Church. Generous to the chapel in Lawrence Road, especially at harvest time. Sense of humour and fun.

He told a story about 2 units of the Home Guard having some contest on manoeuvres. George Cousins, of Worle Platoon, spied on the opposition and told the Worle boys the plans. Worle won. Perhaps this explains the cup. See page 36.

See the 'People of Worle' file, which has detailed memories supplied by his grandson, Will.

Information courtesy of Will Blake

Surname:

Chaplin

Christian Names:

Dick

Dates:

b. 2nd Oct 1890 in

Cardiff

d. 1968

Rank: Private

Family:

One of 5 children,
Edith, Lillian, Else and
Ellis

Wife': Ella Maud
Giles

Daughter: Elizabeth
[May] m. Ken Blake.

Nephew: Peter
Chaplin, number 23.

Grandson: Will Blake,
20 Manor Valley, is
Ken's son

Occupation:

Farmer/grower

Address:

Moorlands Farm.
Moor Lane



Back row, 10th from the left

Mr and Mrs Sansom lived in Hill Road, in one of the houses with the 'half moon' of grass in front of them. Originally from South Wales. Gary worked at Butt's quarry with Olive and Dennis Urch's father. He lived with the Urches when he first came over from Wales, then got a cottage opposite the top of Hollow Lane, next to the Usher's and Pemberthy's. Gary moved to Hill Road when the cottages in Kewstoke Road were condemned.

In retirement he worked as a lollipop man for Mendip Green School, so many people remember him well, including me and my children.

Various sources

Surname:

Sansom

Christian Names:

**Albert Garfield
[Gary]**

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Married

Occupation:

Quarryman.

Lollipop man in
his retirement

Address:

45 Hill Road.



Back row, 11th from left

Well known bell ringer, lead ringer on 8th February 1940, when the first ever muffled quarter peal was rung at St. Martin's.

George worked at Huish's quarry as well as at Howard Court, and later became a caretaker at Worle Senior School.

His daughter, Mary, married Mr. Moore who was Olive Urch's boss at the South Weston Electricity Board.

Various sources, including the Mercury

Surname:

Prescott

Christian Names:

George

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family: Married

Son: Robin

Daughter: Mary

Occupation:

Worked at
Howard Court,
Home Farm,
Kewstoke

Address:

'Oakdene', High
Street, behind
Dawsons' Garage.



Back row, 12th from the left

Percy Prewett took over the premises on south side of the High Street, where Griffins plied their trade as cycle retailers. He was Maurice Williams' godfather.

Percy drove a green van, which he kept parked in a shed next to the shop. He used it for deliveries as far out as St. Georges. When David Venn was 12, he worked for Percy, delivering papers and often went on deliveries with him, as well as paying in the takings at the Westminster Bank in South Parade. Percy would put the money in a paper bag and send David off on the 'bus. On Saturday evenings the shop was full of men waiting for the Pink 'Un and the Green 'Un for the sports' results.

Percy also worked for Bartlett's, driving livestock wagons to Bridgwater and Priddey fairs. Later he became a GPO postman.

Information courtesy of David Venn

Surname:

Prewett

Christian Names:

Percy

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Married Miss
Gibbs

Daughter: Ruth

Occupation:

Newsagent

Address:

'Brambleside',
New Bristol Rd, nr
Annandale Ave.



Back row: far right

Len's parents were Charles and Harriet [nee Chaplin], who had 14 children, of whom Len was the youngest.

His first job at the Potteries was as a clay digger at the clay pits where ASDA now stands. Later Len did shift work loading the kilns.

He joined the Home Guard after failing a medical for the army because of a back injury – probably from the clay digging.

Information courtesy of David Venn and Nadine Kilvington.

Surname:

Venn

Christian Names:

Len

Dates:

b. 1908

d. 2004

Rank: Private

Family:

Married with 5 children: Joan, David, Brian, Roy and Helen

Occupation:

Royal Potteries

Address: 2 Rozel Villas, Castle Road.
Later moved to Station Road.



2nd row from back, 1st on left

John Beacham says this is the brother-in-law of George Starr. If you have any information, please contact me.

Courtesy of John Beacham

Surname:

Williams

Christian Names:

H.

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Occupation:

Address:

Wick St. Lawrence



2nd row from back, 2nd from left

Arthur was a member of the family who owned Forsey's factory. They did something with offal, including burning it, thereby providing Worle with its odd smell at times.

There is surprisingly little known about Arthur. Can you help?

Various sources

Surname:

Forsey

Christian Names:

Arthur D.

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Occupation:

A. D. Forsey Ltd.

Pig and Poultry food manufacturers, hide, skin and fat merchant and haulage contractors.

Ricketts Lane Works

Address:

'Byways' 2 Old
Bristol Road



2nd row from back, 3rd from left

As a young man, Reg worked for the council 'on the bins'. He injured his spine in an accident with the hydraulic equipment and had treatment for two and a half years. His injury prevented him from joining HM Forces as a regular, so he joined the Home Guard.

He was a gas lamp lighter in the High Street between Coronation Road and The Scaurs for 3d a night, of which he paid his daughter, Veronica, a ha'penny for carrying the steps.

His coal from South Wales was unloaded at Puxton. He delivered coal and milk, starting at 5.00 a.m. every day. His round went from Wick St Lawrence to Sand Bay and Kewstoke as well as Worle, and occasionally to Uphill.

Saturdays were always spent watching Worle Old Boys.

Information courtesy of Veronica Hunt.

Surname:

Hunt

Christian Names:

Reginald James

Dates:

b. 1894, approx

d. 1978

Rank: Private

Family: Married Elsie May Watkins.

Daughter: Veronica.

Nephew: Geoff

Occupation:

Coal and Milkman

Address:

Cherry Tree Farm,
High Street.



2nd row from back, 4th from left

Harry Knight was a cousin of a large Worle family. His daughter, Cynthia, married Dennis Greenslade. Dennis moved to Worle to take up a position as a policeman in 1946. Harry's niece, June, married John Beacham.

Harry's cousin, Bertram Arthur Knight, saw active service in WW1 and later worked, with Harry, at Butt's quarry. Bertram Ronald Knight's widow, Sophie, still lives in Spring Hill.

Harry's niece, Margaret June Knight, married John Beacham [number 56]

Information from various family sources

Surname:

Knight

Christian Names:

Harry

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Daughter: Cynthia.
Cousin of Bertram
Arthur Knight.

Occupation:

Butt's Quarry

Address:

'Nesta' 12 Mayfield
Avenue.



2nd row from back, 5th from left

We don't have a Christian name, but Mr. Tucker worked for Coles's, the growers in Milton Road as their head gardener.

He was often on Home Guard patrol with John Beacham.

Various sources

Surname:

Tucker

Christian Names:

?

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Occupation:

Head Gardener

Address:



2nd row from back, 6th on the left

Wilf was one of seven children. His brother, Ken, still lives in Cherrywood Road. Stanley, another brother, also served in B Company Home Guards. Wilf was called up after the picture was taken, and joined the army. He served in Germany as a cook and married a German girl, 'Irmgard', whom he called 'Carrots' and who lives locally. His son, Fred, works at Sainsburys and daughter, Vera, lives at Milton Brow. Wilf Payne was in the same class as John Beacham at school

When Wilf came out of the army he and his wife went back to Wick to live before moving to Milton. Later, he became Pier Master for Campbells on the Old Pier and lived in Pier House. The whole family, including his brother, Ken, had free trips on Campbells until Wilf retired.

Information courtesy of Ken Payne [brother]

Surname:

Payne

Christian Names:

Wilfred

Dates:

b. 24th May, 1926

d. 1993 approx

Rank: Private

Family:

Married Irmgard

Son: Freddie

Daughters: Sylvia and Vera.

Sisters: Phylis,

Gwendoline, Rosina

Brothers: Ken, Stanley, Leonard

Occupation:

Farm worker

Address: His family were the first to move into the council houses in Wick St. Lawrence.



2nd row from back, 7th on left

Ivor worked with Olive Urch's father at the quarry. The Urch family watched him walking up to work past their house for his shift, then Mr. Urch knew it was time to go himself.

The family home in Ebdon Road was a cottage built sideways on the road, Somerset style. It has since been demolished.

Ivor's son, Colin, lived locally for many years and was a very fit jogger!

Information courtesy of Dennis Urch, Olive Goodwin and Pete Slade.

Surname:

Sandford

Christian Names:

Ivor

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Married

Son: Colin

Daughter: Doreen

Occupation:

Huish's Quarry

Address:

1, Kencote, Ebdon
Road, opposite
Paynes, later
Lynch Villa, Ebdon
Rd.



2nd row from back, 8th from the left

Son of Francis Henry, 1864-1940, a builder of 'Devonia House' and grandson of Robert, Lord of Oldmixon Manor, who built St Annes Church in Hewish.

Harry's father built many of the houses in Greenwood Road as well as the villas in High Street opposite the old Vicarage. They were named after Royal residences: Windsor, Sandringham, Balmoral etc.

Also gave the land for the Village Club in Mendip Avenue

Various sources

Surname:

Phippen

Christian Names:

Harry James

Dates:

b. 1898

Rank: Private

Family:

Harry married in Bristol 1934 to Doris Raymond.

Occupation:

Builder and builders' merchant and shop on the north side of High Street.

Address:

'Ruffiwell', New Bristol Road.



2nd row from back, 9th from the left

Arthur was one of 6 children, 4 boys and 2 girls. He and his wife, Elsie, were both from Highbridge. They married in 1927

Arthur's daughter, Joan Pope married Bob Wyatt from the Lamb Inn. They had 2 children, Richard Wyatt, the television presenter and Ann, who has a hairdressing salon in Mendip Avenue. Joan says her father was a lovely man whose whole life was taken up with horses.

Arthur's youngest brother, Arnold died in 2010, aged 94, in Burnham on Sea.

Information courtesy of Joan, Ann and Richard Wyatt

Surname:

Pope

Christian Names:

Arthur Reginald

Dates:

b. 1907

d. 1966

Rank: Private

Family:

Married Elsie

Toomer

2 children, Jeffrey
and Joan

Occupation:

Groom for H. N.

Day and licensee of
Lamb

Address:

Cottage in Madam
Lane

Later, Lamb Inn.



2nd row from back, 10th from left.

Peter Chaplin made a considerable fortune from the sale of building land, and moved to Guernsey, where he still lives. His wife, Flo, died in 2009.

He is the nephew of Dick Chaplin, number 9 in this book.

June Beacham was very friendly with Flo and stayed with them on Guernsey several times.

Information courtesy of June Beacham

Surname:

Chaplin

Christian Names:

Peter

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Peter was married to Florence. He was the son of Ellis Chaplin.

Brother of Joyce and Vera. Vera's married name is Edwards

Occupation:

Farmer/grower

Address:



2nd row from back, 11th from left

Farmed on Worle Moor, but that is all we know at present.

1939 Directory gives Hannah, Nellie and Violet May all living at the same address.

There is a Mercury report on 17th January 1953 about a Maurice Wells, living at the same address, who may have been related to Tom, or perhaps Tom's real name was Maurice?

Various sources

Surname:

Wells

Christian Names:

Tom

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Son of a farmer

Occupation:

Market

Gardener/ farmer

Address:

'Solferino House'
Lawrence Road



2nd row from back, 12th from left

Jack worked for Mr. Wilmot at The Newtons as a horseman, looking after the hunters for Weston Harriers.

Mr Wilmot was senior officer for Worle Home Guard in the very early days of the war, but is not in the photograph.

Various sources

Surname:

Smith

Christian Names:

Jack

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Occupation:

Horse man

Address:

Hill End,
Kewstoke Road,
1939



2nd row from back, 13th from left

Rolf Carey's wife was friendly with Fred Parson's wife [Icelton Farm], but we have no further information.

There were also several other families of Careys in Worle.

Various sources, including June Beacham

Surname:

Carey

Christian Names:

Rolf

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Married with a family.

Occupation:

Farmer

Address:

East Town Farm,
Wick St. Lawrence



2nd row from back, 14th from left

There is some suggestion that he lived on the hill near the Observatory.

Information, please, everyone.

Various sources, some of which do not tie up.

Surname:

White

Christian Names:

Wilf [some called him Bill]

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Occupation:

Address:

15 The Rows?



2nd row from back, 15th from left

Harry Poole walked everywhere, particularly down to Collum Farm, where he worked, every day.

Cecil Parson's son, Bob, remembers his father speaking highly of Harry, who rose through the ranks in the Home Guard.

Various sources, including John Beacham

Surname:

Poole

Christian Names:

Harry

Dates:

Baptised c 1892

Rank: Private

Family:

Probably son of
Silas Poole, a
carter at
Woodspring Priory

Occupation:

Farm worker

Address:

Priory View,
Lyefield Road.



2nd row from back, far right

Family connection to the schools inspectorate has been suggested.

Information courtesy of Brenda Bartlett

Surname:

Crease

Christian Names:

Ken

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Married Esme

Langworthy.

3 daughters.

Occupation:

Market Gardener

Address:

1, Lynton Villas

Castle Road



3rd Row from back, 1st on left

Rolf worked at Fussells with W. R. A. Knight, brother of Harry Knight, who is number 17 in this book.

In 1982 Fussell's Rubber Co. Ltd. gave a dinner in honour of long serving employees. E. R. Rogers was remembered for his 44 years of service.

Information courtesy of Shirley Knight

Surname:

Rogers

Christian Names:

E. Rolf

Dates:

Died: 1963

Rank: Private

Family:

Father of Olive
and of Shirley,
who married
Tony Knight

Occupation:

Fussell's.

Address:

Number 1,
Sprakes Terrace



3rd row, 2nd from left

Worked for Arthur Tripp and also on land near Collum Farm.

In-law of John Beacham.

Tim rented the house in Lawrence Road from Muriel, Bill and Bert Skidmore and Sid Francis for 18/- a week.

Various sources, including Veronica Hunt

Surname:

Starr

Christian Names:

Tim

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Married Gladys Knight. Children.
Brother: George

Occupation:

Farm Labourer

Address:

Baytree Farm
Cottages, Ebdon
Road and later at
9 Fernlea,
Lawrence Road.



3rd row from back, 3rd from left

Walter's son, Maurice wrote: 'My father was born in 1905 & initially lived in a house in Ranscombe, a market garden in Milton, on the south slopes of Worle hill.'

Mr and Mrs Williams were always happy to have Maurice and Mim's friends in to play – as long as you didn't talk while the news was on! In 1950 the family swapped houses with the Pitman's, who needed more space for their undertaking business. Walter, his wife and 2 children moved to 'The Roses', a couple of doors east of Avonia.

Walter belonged to the Worle Division of St. John Ambulance, where he was Ambulance Officer.

Information courtesy of Maurice and Marion Williams

Surname:

Williams

Christian Names:

Walter John

Dates:

b. 1905

Rank: Private

Family:

Wife: Vera Gladys
Alice Leslie known
as Mary.

Two children,
Maurice John and
Marian Rose [Mim]

Occupation:

Long distance lorry
driver for Taylors.

Address:

Avonia , High
Street.



3rd row from back, 4th from left

Frederick Trego certainly looks every inch an NCO. He was a WWI veteran, having been in the army in the first conflict. He had been a horse handler, caring for and preparing the horses for the cavalry. His jobs in 'civi street' included S.W.E.B. for whom he participated in the laying of the transatlantic telephone cable from the Post Office to the shore. He also lit the red oil lamps each evening to mark S.W.E.B.'s road works. At another stage in life he worked as a tram driver in Weston.

Fred's late son, Cecil [Fred], was involved in Britain's secret resistance movement, known as Churchill's secret army. This was not made public until 50 years later. Donald Brown, who was head of Worle Comprehensive School and now lives in Uphill, wrote a book on the subject, entitled 'Somerset versus Hitler' [1999] and a report appeared in the paper.

Information courtesy of David Trego [grandson]

Surname:

Trego

Christian Names:

Fred

Dates:

b. 1896

d. 12th Oct, 1967 [obit]

Rank: Corporal

Notice his medal strip

Family:

Wife: Florence Cross

Daughters: Phylis,
Nancy, who married
Dennis Urch in 1953,
Jean, who died at 8
years old.

Sons: Cecil [Fred to
friends]

Henry [always called
'Chum']

Occupation:

S.W.E.B Maintenance
Supervisor, and also a
Tram Driver.

Address: 9 The Rows,
old cottages.



3rd row from back, 5th from left

Most people say the surname should be Hutchings, but some suggest Hitchings. It is also uncertain whether his name has a letter 'g' or not. He was a sergeant, either way.

The medal strip suggests either he was a veteran of a previous conflict or a regular soldier at some time.

Various sources

Surname:

Hutchings

Christian Names:

Jack

Dates:

Rank: Sergeant

Family:

Father of Eddie
and Pat.

Occupation:

Address:

2 Bon Nuit,
Castle Road.



3rd row from back, 6th from the left

He was a sergeant, but had no medals.
Two pips on hat and a badge of some sort.

Reg worked for Moore's the butcher in High Street.

Reputation of flirting with the girls,

Various sources, including Johnnie Tucker.

Surname:

Palmer

Christian Names:

Reg

Dates:

Rank: Sergeant

Family:

Sister: Jeanette
Palmer

Occupation:

Butcher

Address:

'Ascot',
Greenwood Road
Last house on
right



3rd row from back, 7th from left

Another bemedalled sergeant. Jack Venning is holding a cup, which may well be the ultimate reason for the photograph.

His daughter, Joan, was a great friend of Olive Urch, who remembers that Jack's wife was a dressmaker and they had Joan's grandmother living with them.

Joan appears in the Netball Team photograph taken at Worle School, now Hillside school, before the senior school opened.

Various sources, including Olive Goodwin

Surname:

Venning

Christian Names:

Jack

Dates:

Rank: Sergeant

Family:

Married

Father of Joan
and Margaret.

Occupation:

Builder

Address:

1 Bolton Terrace,
Coronation Road,



3rd row from back, 8th from left

Here we have an officer, with 2 pips on his shoulders. This may be one reason we have no Christian name. Check pips.

Said to be a Captain Mainwaring type. Bossy.

Savages found in Weston!

Edric Athelstan Savage, 19 Cecil Rd

Charles George Savage 37 Stanley Grove

E. A. Savage, F.C.A., A.S.A.A., Chartered Accountant for Sully and Co Oxford St.

Various sources, including John Beacham and Brian Austin

Surname:

Savage

Christian Names:

'Ginger'

Dates:

Rank: First
Lieutenant

Family:

Occupation:

Address:

Somewhere in
Weston



3rd row from back, 9th from left

Popular officer. Said to be a 'nice fellow'.

Founded the Wayfarers Amateur Drama Society in Weston. Well known to Brian Austin.

Source, John Beacham and Brian Austin

Surname:

Gibson

F.Ch.S., M.P.S.

Christian Names:

Ernest Henry

Dates:

Died 2nd July,
1979.

Rank: Second
Lieutenant

Family:

Occupation:

Registered
Medical Auxiliary
and Chiropodist.

Ran Chemist shop
at 2 High Street.

W-s-M, next to
YMCA

Address:



3rd row from back, 10th from left

FORMER WESTON COACH DRIVER: The death has occurred suddenly of a former Weston coach driver, Mr. Horace Frank Ackland [76] of New Cottage, The Scaurs, Worle. Mr Ackland came to Weston from North Petherton as a child. He started with Bristol Tramways Co. And later drove coaches for Burnells, Atyeos and Bakers.

As a skittler he played for the New Inn A team, Worle, and in the 1921-22 football season gained a medal playing for Worle AFC in the Cheddar and District League. He served for 12 years in the Territorial detachment of the Royal Engineers, and was CSM of B Company, 8th Somerset [Weston] Battalion of the Home Guard. In this capacity he took part in the victory parade in London at the end of the war.

Sources: June Ackland [daughter in law], and an undated obituary in local paper.

Surname:

Ackland

Christian Names:

Horace Frank

Dates: No date for obituary in local paper

Rank: Private at time of photograph. Later CSM.

Family:

Daughters: Florrie and Doreen

Sons: Ray and Norman

Grandson: Regular in Royal Engineers

Great friend of A.

Pope, no. 22

Occupation:

Coach Driver for Bakers

Address:

New Cottage,
The Scaurs.



3rd row from back, 11th from left

Nevill Fitt [Bob] was the son of a vicar who was also hunting correspondent for 'The Sporting Life'. Nevill bought and sold cattle privately as a livestock agent. His favoured cows were a breed from the Outer Hebrides: Red Polls. They were shipped to Avonmouth Docks. How he moved them from there, we do not know. We do know that his nick name of 'The Bob Man' comes from the fact that he sold livestock for guineas and took the odd shilling as his profit. He did business regularly with Dick Chaplin.

During petrol rationing, he drove a gig with a thoroughbred mare, Susan, through the village regularly. His autobiography, The 'Bob' Man is SBN 239.00173.7, published by Moonraker Press in 1977.

*Information and copy of the autobiography courtesy of Bob Parsons. *NB Nevill has no final 'e'.*

Surname:

Fitt

Christian Names:

**J. A. Nevill,*
known as 'The
Bob Man'**

Dates:

b. 1902

Rank: Sergeant

Family:

First wife: Daisie
Hobbs

Daughter, Maureen
Grandsons: Andrew
and Graham

2nd wife: Jeanne Beer

Occupation:

Livestock agent

Address:

'Upalong',
Ranscombe Avenue



3rd row from back, 12th from left

Corporal King looks like a tough cookie to me.

Lived with Beat White [who was known as 'Mrs King'] and worked for Langworthy's.

Various sources

Surname:

King

Christian Names:

Maurice

Dates:

Rank: Corporal

Family:

Believed to have had a son, Paul King.

Occupation:

Market gardener

Address:

16 Hill Road



3rd row from back, 13th from left

Gordon worked for Charlie Church in St. Georges before striking out on his own. He was very good at his job so other market gardeners say, very tidy and organised. Generally referred to as 'Gordy'.

There is a photograph of Gordon in 'The Good Earth', working his land.

Various sources, including Kaye Gunningham

Surname:

Pope

Christian Names:

Gordon

Dates:

Rank: Corporal

Family:

Married Rene
Flagg

Occupation:

Market Gardener

Address:

Worked land
adjacent to
Hinton's on hill



3rd row from back, 14th from left

Harry also worked at the Paint Factory in the High Street, at Brooke's Dye Works and at Bettridges.

His eldest son, Ken was on active service at the time that this photo was taken. Sadly, Ken's name appears on the War Memorial, having died on D Day. He is buried in Grave no.14 at Benouville Churchyard

Harry's other 2 sons, Brian and Graham, still live in Weston.

Information courtesy of Brian and Graham Burgess

Surname:

Burgess

Christian Names:

Harry

Dates:

b. 1902

d. 1981

Rank: Private

Family:

Sons, Ken, Brian,
Graham, daughter
Kathleen

Occupation:

Railway porter at
Puxton

Address:

53 Hill Road [was
no. 39 until the
renumbering.]



3rd row from back, far right

Bill had a lorry with the legend on the doors, 'A. Day: An apple A Day'. In 1940 he was fined for selling vegetables from a lorry, which he had been doing for many years. How silly the law can be!

Family moved to Locking – I don't blame them.

Various sources, including Rex Cox and Pete Snook

Surname:

Day

Christian Names:

**William Charles
[Bill]**

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Married with a big family including daughters Linda and Hazel

Occupation:

Market Gardener

Address: 'Wayside'
Cottage, Spring Hill,
by the school,
known as The
Splotts.



Front row, far left

Ron's wife is believed to have been a teacher from Bristol, who worked at either Bourneville or Windwhistle Schools.

Sportsman. Involved with everyone in the community. He played skittles, but we don't know at which pub.

Information courtesy Brenda Bartlett

Surname:

Board

Christian Names:

Ron

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Married , 3
daughters

Occupation:

Farmed with 2
brothers, one
named Phillip

Address:

Banfield Farm



Front row, 2nd from left

Sam was a member of the St. Georges Home Guard and has no idea why he would have been at the Newtons with the Worle men. In fact, he denies being there, although his wife says it is definitely him. His cousin, Chris, also says it is Sam. He joined the Local Defence Volunteers early in the war and was promoted to Lance Corporal sometime around 1942/3. Sam took over Grove Farm from his father and now lives on Worlebury. He will be 90 in June of this year [2010]

During his time with the Home Guard, he remembers patrolling the full length of the Toll Road twice a night during the 12 hour shift, which lasted from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. They often rested in a shed near the St. Georges railway bridge, and sometimes slept on the Old Pier.

Played for Worle Old Boys Football Club.

Information courtesy of Sam and his family

Surname:

Cox

Christian Names:

Sam

Dates:

b. 1920

Rank: Private

Family:

Parents were Sid and Rhoda. Brother Alfie, sisters Dorothy and Beatie

Married Jessie Ham in 1949.

Sons: Roger and Brian and 2 grandsons.

Occupation:

Farmer

Address:

Grove Farm.



Front row, 3rd from left

Glandon was recognised in our meeting by his brother's granddaughter, Ann Fewings, nee Gillett.

Information courtesy Ann Fewings, nee Gillett

Surname:

Gillett

Christian Names:

Glandon

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Wife: Laura

Occupation:

S.W.E.B.

Address:

'Netherton'

Cottage in

Madam Lane



Front row, 4th from left

Worked for Moore's butchers in High Street, opposite The Maltings.

Went round to local farms and stock rearers and slaughtered the pigs in situ.

Surname:

Phillips

Christian Names:

Frank?

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Occupation:

Slaughterman

Address:

Cottage in Spring Hill



Front row, 5th from left

Often referred to as "Len". Harry's wife, Winifred, was Horace Ackland's [no. 39] sister.

His son, Brian, was best man at the wedding of Dennis and Nancy Urch.

Daughter, Patricia, now of Saville Road, worked at Fussell's Factory. She told me that Harry was a lovely, placid man.

Sources various, including Dennis Urch and Patricia Burrows.

Surname:

Burrows

Christian Names:

Henry [Harry]

Dates:

b. 1902

d. Feb 1972

Rank: Private

Family:

Married Winifred
Ackland

Sons: Brian and
Graham

Daughters: Joan,
Pamela, Patricia

Occupation:

River Bank
Maintenance

Address:

4 Sprakes Terrace
Station Road



Front row, 6th from left

Son of Jimmy White.

We really need more information about George. Can you help?

Various sources

Surname:

White

Christian Names:

George

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Married with
children

Occupation:

Wheelwright

Address:

Kewstoke Road,
opposite Moody's
Stores.



Front row, 7th from left

A quiet chap. Kept himself to himself.

His daughters were Sheila [Bubbles] and Cynthia. Very attractive.

Various sources, mostly Pete Snook.

Surname:

Blatchford

Christian Names:

Not known

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Married with 2 daughters.

Occupation:

Market Gardener

Address:

Spring Hill



Front row, 8th from left

Worked for Sid Gunningham for a while,
according to Brenda Bartlett.

Sources include Brenda Bartlett

Surname:

Lee

Christian Names:

John

Dates:

Rank: Corporal

Family:

Daughter: Sheila
and twin sons

Occupation:

Farm worker

Address:

Lyefield Road?



Front row, 9th from left

Sid lived to see his son, John, married to Kaye Lovell and he knew their 3 children, Matthew, Andrew and Jane. Sid found the Home Guard tedious – it was not ‘his thing’ and he would have preferred to stay on his farm. John says that Sid was normally late for meetings and could never find his kit.

Sid witnessed an incident when a sergeant was shot dead when the platoon was having firearm practice. The sergeant was shouting to the men and walking across the range when someone’s gun went off. At the inquest it was stated that safety catches should have been on. There was some gossip as to whether or not it was an accident. Jack Raines’ fatal accident at the Observatory was also remembered. There was also a weekend camp at Uphill, when Sid said the food was a disaster!

Information courtesy of John Gunningham

Surname:

Gunningham

Christian Names:

Sidney Charles

Dates:

b. 1913

d. 1999

Rank: Private

Family:

Married to Doris M.

C. White

Son: John

Occupation:

Farmer

Address:

Lived at Collum

Farm in 1940s, later
moved to Manor

Farm



Front row, 10th from left

Worked at Nutwell Farm for the Tripps for a while. Lived in the Lynch, off Ebdon Road [by the bumps near Baytree Farm]

Some argument over the spelling of his surname. Some say it was Watkiss.

Various sources

Surname:

Watkins

Christian Names:

**Edward John
[Jack]**

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Married

Occupation:

Farm worker

Address:

Lynch Villa,
Ebdon Road



Front row, 11th from left

Fred married a girl named Mary who appears in the VE photograph taken at Hillend. They had one daughter, Dorothy [Dot] who married John Wilcox, and one son, Graham.

Fred worked for Brigadier and Mrs Flemming at Beauchamp House, Norton Lane. He cared for the horses and took them to the hunt at Priddey regularly. He was also chauffeur and gardener for the Flemmings.

His name appears regularly on the team list for Worle Old Boys Football Club.

Information courtesy of Dorothy Wilcox, nee Williams

Surname:

Williams

Christian Names:

Fred

Dates:

b. 1909

d. 1993

Rank: Lance

Corporal

Family:

Wife's name was Mary.

Daughter: Dorothy [Dot, married John Wilcox]

Son: Graham

Occupation:

Gardener

Address:

2 Clovelly Villas
Kewstoke Road



Front row, 12th from left

John was 85 last February [2010] and now lives at 2 Mendip View, Hodders Lane, Wick St. Lawrence.

He lied about his age to sign on for the Home Guard on the same day that his brother signed on for the army. John was only 16, and the youngest of the 58.

He was married on 18th July 1953 at St. Martins by Vallance Cook, to June Knight, daughter of Jim Knight and niece of Harry. John only ever had 2 jobs, the first at Cyprus Farm for 17 years and the second at East Huish Farm for 37 years. June tells me that he cycled 8 miles a day all his working life and went home to lunch. She says you could set the clock by him. He is placid and they never row. With John what you see is what you get. They met at a Home Guard dance in the Church Hall, courted for 5 years and have been married for 58. A lovely, welcoming couple.

Information from the 'horse's mouth'!

Surname:

Beacham

Christian Names:

Valentine John

Dates:

b. 1925 d. 2012

Rank: Private

Family:

Wife: Margaret

June Knight

Sisters: Ethel and

Nora

One son and one daughter.

Occupation:

Farm worker.

Address:

Castle Cottage,

Duck Lane, Wick

St. Lawrence



Front row, 13th from left

Cecil farmed with his father and brother, Henry. Cecil's son, Robert, still farms the same land, and has a wife, Liz, a son and twin daughters.

Cecil was a small, quiet, very good looking young man. He had a sister, Dorothy, who was married to Edgar Hutchings and now lives off Station Road. He also had a brother, Henry.

Liz describes her father-in-law as having beautiful blue eyes and a lovely way with him. Bob says that sheep were Cecil's life. In the early 1940's one of his ewes produced 5 lambs, which he hand reared. There is a photo of the 6 sheep and Cecil outside the farm. The Germans bombed and the ewe was killed. Mr Bisgrove's old 3 piece suite is still in the kitchen at Icelton. It is about 70 years old and still in good working order.

Information courtesy of Bob and Liz Parsons

Surname:

Parsons

Christian Names:

Cecil

Dates:

13th July, 1914 –
28th March 1982

Family:

Married Mary

Croker

2 sons and

1 daughter [Phylis
Anne]

Occupation:

Farmer.

Address:

Icelton Farm,
Wick St. Lawrence,
[My favourite of all
our local farms]



Front row, far right

He is reputed to have been round faced with a florid complexion, and a 'bit of a lad', but evidence is sparse.

Various sources

Surname:

Bunn

Christian Names:

Ron

Dates:

Rank: Private

Family:

Married Mary
Diamond.

Occupation:

Farm Worker.

Address:

Ebdon Road

List of associated publications:

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|---|
| Worle at War | Raye Green | ISBN 978-0-9569752-0-1 |
| 'Somerset v. Hitler | Donald Brown | ISBN 1 85306 590 0 |
| 'The Bob Man' | J. A. N. Fitt | SBN 239 00173 7 |
| 'The Somerset Home Guard' | Jeffrey Wilson | L35.31 in Weston Library, Local History Room |