

The Impact of War on Northwick Manor

By Mick Wilkes

The Dark Ages

The legend of the citizens of Worcester taking refuge on Bevere Island is well known and has its origins in the Pre-Norman period when the Midlands was ruled by King Harthecanute of Denmark. In those days, the citizens were expected to pay a form of tax to the King, called 'Danegeld', but not only did they refuse to pay it, in May 1071 they killed the King's tax collectors and the troops guarding them. Bent on retribution, the King sent a large army to Worcester with the intention of putting the citizens to death, destroying the town and laying waste to the surrounding area. However, by the time the army had arrived, the citizens had taken refuge on Bevere Island and prepared to defend themselves. After destroying Worcester, the King's army attacked Bevere Island, but was repulsed four times and finally a truce declared [1].

Bevere Island would require defending again in World War 2, as we will see later.

The English Civil War

Worcester had a pivotal role in this war between King and Parliament, being a Royalist garrison for much of the period. The city featured in both the first skirmish of the conflict in August 1642, the last major battle in 1651, and suffered a major siege in between. The Civil War touched Northwick Manor in a number of ways although there appear to be no lasting, or obvious, reminders of it in the local landscape. Since a muster of Trained Bands held at Worcester in 1641 included a number of men of Claines (then spelt Claynes), it is very likely that they, and possibly other men of the parish and of the Northwick area, would have fought in the forthcoming war [2].

After the Battle of Ripple, near Upton upon Severn, in April 1643, the Army of Prince Maurice, the Royalist commander for Worcestershire, camped in the Claines area, no doubt demanding both provisions and billets from the locals. Troops would have made an appearance again in the area when Parliamentarians lay siege to the Royalist garrison in Worcester, in May 1646. The siege lasted until late July that year, and although the city walls lay some way to the south of what is now the Northwick Manor Project area, it is very likely that the good people of Claines and the Northwick areas would have had the besieging troops billeted in the area and be expected to feed them [2].

Although the main actions of the final battle of the Civil War at Worcester would be fought some way to the south of the Manor, the Scots army, led by Charles II, had approached the city from the Kidderminster direction, passing through Hartlebury, and occupying the city on 22nd August 1651. The bulk of this army would therefore have passed through the Northwick Manor area on the way to the city. The Battle of Worcester was fought on 3rd September when, after ten hours of fighting, the much larger Parliamentarian force, commanded by Oliver Cromwell, overwhelmed the King's forces, driving the survivors of the battle northwards out of the city. Again the people of Northwick Manor would have witnessed troops of both armies passing through their area, but now in some haste. This would include the King, who escaped

northwards up the Kidderminster road to Hartlebury, and onwards to his temporary hiding place at Boscobel, in Shropshire, before making his way to France [2 and 3].

In contrast, the next conflict to have an effect on the Manor would be fought in a far off place.

The Crimean War

The name of the Alma Tavern and the adjoining Alma Street, on the east side of Droitwich Road, commemorates the Battle of the River Alma, fought near Balaclava in the autumn of 1854. This was one of a number of battles fought by an Anglo-French force on the Crimean Peninsula in an attempt to prevent Russian expansionism in the Black Sea area [4].

Although it is not known if men from the Northwick Manor area fought in the Crimean campaign, there is very clear evidence that men from the area fought, and lost their lives, in the Great War of 1914-18.

World War 1

The war memorials in the churchyards of St John the Baptist Church (47 names listed), at Claines, and St Stephen's Church (80 names listed), in the Droitwich Road, commemorate those local men who died in this war, and in World War 2 (see the Appendix). In addition, the Claines churchyard extension contains five Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstones marking the graves of five of the men who lost their lives in these two wars, but who had died on home soil, possibly of wounds sustained elsewhere (see the Appendix). It is difficult to discern which of the men on the Claines memorial died in which conflict, and a number of names on the St Stephen's memorial are now illegible.

The St John the Baptist Memorial has the words: "See ye to it that these men shall not have died in vain". Therefore, if it has not already been done, a challenging project for the future would be to research the stories behind names on each of these memorials and the headstones at Claines, and to restore the names that have eroded on the St Stephen's Memorial, thereby ensuring that the memory of what these local men did is perpetuated. It should be possible to establish from published sources in which arm of the services these men served, where they died and, at least in some cases, where they are buried (I am willing to give advice on this should it be required).

A war memorial of a different form occupies the southern extremity of the Project Area: Gheluvelt Park. Created by Worcester City Council from the former recreation grounds of Barbourne College, and opened on 17th June 1922 by Field Marshal Sir John French, The Earl of Ypres, the park commemorates the successful action fought by the 2nd Battalion, The Worcestershire Regiment, at Gheluvelt in Belgium, on 31st October 1914 [5]. In this action, the 2nd Battalion counter-attacked German forces in the grounds of Gheluvelt Chateau, which is situated close to the Menin Road, about four miles to the east of Ypres. The Germans were advancing through a gap in the British lines towards the Belgian coast and the only troops available in the area to stem this movement were the 2nd Battalion of the Worcesters, the survivors of which were at the time in reserve and resting from an action only a few days before. The remnants of the Battalion successfully stopped the Germans at Gheluvelt, but lost another third of their number in the action, 187 men of all ranks being killed or

wounded. The Commander in Chief of the British Expeditionary Force, then General Sir John French, said that the counter-attack had thrown back the enemy at a time that he described as “the worst moment of his life”, and that in all probability the counter-attack had saved Ypres from capture and the British Army from defeat [6].

Also commemorating this battle, and located on the north side of the park, is a row of cottages built by the City Council at the instigation of the then Mayor, Alderman Arthur Carlton CBE. These were for occupation by disabled sailors and soldiers. The foundation stone for the cottages was laid by Field Marshal Sir William Robertson GCB KCVO DSO on 16th January 1919, and the homes were opened by General Lord Rawlinson GCB GCVO KCMG on 13th July 1920, both officers having been commanders in the Great War [7].

The Great War probably touched the Northwick Manor area in another way for a large munitions factory was constructed at Blackpole in 1916. The factory would go on to produce many millions of rounds of small arms ammunition and employed mainly women in the production processes. It can be confidently predicted that some of those women were from the project area. After the war, the factory was bought by Cadbury’s, the chocolate manufacturers, and no doubt many of the women from the area continued to be employed there during the inter-war period [8].

World War 2

The contribution of the late Maurice Jones to what follows must be acknowledged. Maurice lived in Colin Road for the whole of his life and was a witness to many of the wartime events affecting Northwick Manor. Recording the history of Perdiswell Airfield was a life-long interest of his. He was an early volunteer for the Defence of Britain, later Defence of Worcestershire Project, and recorded many of the items mentioned below, and which now appear in the Historic Environment Record.

World War 2 has been described as “total war” and so, unlike previous conflicts, involved the whole of the British population in one way or another. No area of the country was immune to air attack, or from making a contribution to the war effort. Northwick Manor was prepared for war and made its contribution just like everywhere else.

Although Britain did not declare war on Germany until 3rd September 1939, the realisation that Germany was rearming after Adolph Hitler and the Nazi Party had come to power there in the early 1930s, meant that preparations to meet that threat were begun some years before the war actually started. It was expected that an air attack, in the form of bombing of towns, cities and munitions factories, would be used by Germany to preface the war. This led to the rapid expansion of the Royal Air Force, the development of Civil Defence arrangements of various forms, the preparation of schemes for the evacuation of people, and the relocation of key manufacturing facilities from the perceived vulnerable areas. After the occupation of France and the Low Countries by German forces in the summer of 1940, and the realisation that Britain could be invaded by the enemy soon afterwards, rapid preparations were made throughout the country to meet enemy forces dropped from the air or brought by sea. These too, as we shall see, would have an impact on the project area [9 and 10].

Perdiswell Airfield

There is a record of flying having taken place on former parkland attached to Perdiswell Hall as early as 1914. However, it was not until 1931 that Worcester City Council decided to establish a municipal airport on this open space to the north of Bilford Road and to the east of Droitwich Road. Thereafter, flying was undertaken on a regular basis, although the limited size of the new airport meant that it was really only suitable for light aircraft rather than serious airline services. Nevertheless, the idea had been supported by the Air Ministry which envisaged requisitioning such small airfields in time of war. The Munich crisis in 1938 resulted in increased flying activity at Perdiswell, with both the Royal Air Force and the Austin Aircraft Division at Longbridge using the facility. Among the regular users of the airfield was the Air Transport Auxiliary which ferried aircraft from the factories, like Longbridge, to RAF stations.

For a period during 1940, the airfield was covered in a grid pattern of old cars and agricultural equipment to prevent its use by enemy aircraft should there have been an invasion attempt. Later in that year the obstacles were removed to allow Tiger Moth aircraft of the RAF No 2 Elementary Flying Training School (No 2 EFTS) to operate there, firstly training instructors to teach others to fly, and then later giving elementary pilot training to men who, if successful, would go onto more advanced training before joining operational squadrons. Other RAF units located in and around Worcester, would also use the airfield for their light communications aircraft. Initially, RAF personnel were billeted out in the nearby residential areas, and Maurice Jones remembered servicemen being billeted in his parents' house in Colin Road. In addition to the constant drone of aircraft taking off and landing at the airfield, men in air force blue uniforms walking or cycling to and from their work and training must have been a constant reminder of war to the Northwick Manor residents. Later, barracks were constructed around Perdiswell Hall to accommodate RAF personnel, and other airfield buildings and facilities alongside the canal.

During the summer of 1944, wounded British troops from Normandy were flown into Perdiswell for speedy transfer to wartime emergency hospital at Ronkswood [11].

After the airfield was relinquished by the RAF in 1945, the barrack buildings at Perdiswell were used to accommodate German prisoners of war until 1947 [8]. When they left the airfield was returned to the City Council which, since then, has cleared most of the RAF buildings and a pre-war aircraft hangar, and has used the area for recreational purposes. Only two of the RAF buildings now remain.

Civil Defence

An Air Raid Precautions Department was established by the Home Office in 1935 and the first advisory circular sent out to local authorities later that year. In 1937 legislation was enacted placing the responsibility for Air Raid Precautions upon local authorities and, as a consequence, to organise the provision of air raid shelters, the arrangements for dealing with casualties and bomb damaged buildings, the fire services, and the air raid warden service. Three former wardens' posts have been recorded by Maurice Jones in the Northwick Manor area: at No1, Northwick Close; at No 15, Leslie Avenue and at the Claines Village Hall, in Cornmeadow Lane. There will have been others in the project area yet to be identified and recorded. The local wardens were responsible for enforcing the blackout - any light showing would have

alerted the enemy bombers to the presence of buildings and people – and guiding people to the air raid shelters. During and after a raid, the wardens would call in the fire service to deal with any fires within their area of responsibility, arrange for rescue teams to help remove the dead and injured, and ambulances for the evacuation of the casualties to hospital or the mortuary.

The construction of air raid shelters would take a number of forms: the Anderson Shelter, which was supplied as a kit of corrugated sections to householders for construction in their back gardens; the Morrison Shelter, a smaller steel framed, wire mesh covered structure to be erected indoors and which could double as a table; and the more familiar large brick and concrete structure built by local authorities on waste-land, in the streets (every residential street would have at least one and many streets would have two or three), in school playgrounds and factory yards. Known as communal surface shelters, these were for use by people who, for various reasons were not at their homes during an air raid. None of these structures was proof against a direct hit by a bomb, but were primarily to protect the people in them from blast and flying debris, including broken window glass and roof tiles, both of which could be lethal.

The wailing of sirens would alert the population to the imminence of an air raid and the need to take shelter. The all-clear was signalled by a steady note on the sirens. One siren has been recorded at the northern extremity of the houses in Cornmeadow Lane, but it no longer survives. Of the many air raid shelters constructed in the project area, only three brick and concrete communal shelters are known to survive. Two are adjoining Claines Village Hall, at the junction of Cornmeadow Lane and St Anne's Road. These are now used by a children's nursery. Another exists on school premises at the end of Brook Street, a short distance south of the project area [8].

Claines Church Hall was earmarked as an Emergency Feeding and Sleeping Centre for any families from the area who were bombed out of their homes, while Northwick Cinema and St Stephen's School were designated as Rest Centres, but thankfully these proved to have been unnecessary, for the area was spared from bombing [12].

The Fire Service

Prior to World War 2, fire services had been organised on a local basis. The onset of bombing raids in the previous war had highlighted the need for a more coordinated service, but it was the threat of another war, when air raids were expected to be more widespread and devastating in their effect, that led to the Fire Brigades Act in 1938, and would actually result in an improved service. This legislation made District Councils responsible for fire services and formalised the creation of the Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS). The AFS would be staffed with volunteers but would supplement the full-time Fire Brigades. During some of the larger bombing raids by the Luftwaffe on British cities, the coordination between the volunteers and the full time fire service did not always work well and so in 1941, the two services were combined to become the National Fire Service (NFS). Consequently, 33 NFS Areas were created throughout Britain, No 23 Area incorporating the counties of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire. The headquarters for No 23 Area was established in Bevere Manor and it was from here that the response to major air raids would be coordinated. Bevere Manor was occupied No 23 Area Headquarters until the NFS was

disbanded in 1948, and the responsibility for providing fire services devolved to County Councils and County Boroughs.

Evacuation

One of the iconic images of World War 2 is of children with their gas masks and identity labels, usually pictured at railway stations, waiting to be evacuated to a place of safety from the large cities likely to be bombed. The government evacuation schemes were planned in the 1930s and much of Worcestershire was designated as a reception area. Consequently, two days before war was declared, children were transported from areas of Birmingham to the county for their safety. The children of Montgomery Street Junior School from Birmingham were, for example, taught at St Stephens School. Out of school hours, the children and their mothers would have been billeted with families in the Claines and Northwick areas of the city.

Less well known was a scheme to move the Royal Family, the government and their support staffs out of London to the relative safety of the Midlands. As early as 1938, the Office of Works, which had an office in Worcester, was surveying the area for suitable accommodation. The process of requisitioning hotels, large country houses and private schools in readiness for such a move began in September 1939. A two stage move was planned, with government departments having least need to be in London moving first, in what became known as 'Yellow Move', followed by key ministries, the government and the Royal Family, should London become untenable. This was called 'Black Move'. Some elements of Yellow Move were carried out, and parts of the Air Ministry, the War Office and the Foreign Office did move to Worcestershire [10]. However, in the event, Black Move did not prove to be necessary, although preparations were made for it in 1940, when the threat of an enemy invasion was at its greatest. One of the buildings earmarked for government use was Bevere House, and was apparently prepared for the Black Move, because Maurice Jones recalled seeing guard posts, manned by troops, being established at the entrances to the property. Had this final move taken place, then communications between the scattered elements of government would have been critical part of the scheme. Maurice remembered a wireless aerial being erected on the ridge of high land to the south of The Firs, Bevere, to enable contact with other elements of government to be made [8].

Home Defence and the Home Guard

The Home Guard, initially called the Local Defence Volunteers, was formed in May 1940, to provide an extra layer of military defence, primarily against a threatened German invasion of Britain. The force was formed after the successful attacks by Germany on, and subsequent occupation of, Holland, Belgium and France, had shown British military planners the enemy's new techniques of warfare, including the use of subterfuge of all kinds to gain an advantage, parachutists to capture key objectives well behind defence lines, and the use of armoured columns and dive bombing aircraft, in combination, in what became known as "Blitzkrieg" or Lightning War. Consequently, the tasks of the Home Guard included:

- 1) Checking for activities of enemy agents and saboteurs, mainly through the use of road checkpoints. The public had a role in this by watching for strangers in the area or for suspicious activities which were then to be reported to the police or military authorities.

- 2) Watching for enemy parachute landings and attacking them before it was possible for them to organise themselves. The Home Guard were also to check that any motor vehicles not in use were properly immobilised to prevent their use by the enemy.
- 3) Manning static defences, such as anti-tank road blocks, pillboxes or defended buildings, sandbagged emplacements and trench-works, where they were expected to stay at their posts until the last man and the last round. There was to be no retreating! By this means they were expected to 'buy time' for the regular home defence forces in the area to form up and manoeuvre for a counter-attack. They were also expected to guide regular forces through their area.
- 4) Place an armed guard on facilities vulnerable to sabotage by the enemy, including munitions factories, public utilities (water supply, sewerage, electricity and gas supplies). The Home Guard also had a role in the destruction of petrol supplies to ensure that they could not be used by the enemy, and
- 5) Help the Civil Defence volunteers during and after air raids.

Some Home Guards would be involved in manning light anti-aircraft guns to protect key factories. A small number of Home Guards and local Army Cadets were also secretly recruited and trained to carry out acts of sabotage against, or assassination of, any enemy troops which might occupy the area after a successful invasion. Their clandestine work would have been carried out during the hours of darkness.

Initially, all Home Guards were volunteers (later conscription would be necessary to keep up the numbers in the force), and were recruited from those men in reserved occupations, those too young (a minimum age of 17) or too old (up to 65) for service in the regular forces. Their training would be undertaken mainly in their spare time, and for men who were working 12 hour shifts in the munitions factories, or long hours on the land, service in the Home Guard could be onerous. Tiredness was endemic in the force, but their enthusiasm for their role and the experience brought to it by men who had served in the past, particularly during World War 1, overcame this and they become a force to be reckoned with. Their role was taken very seriously, after all the country was threatened with a possible invasion at any time during the late summer of 1940, and into the next year, and it was apparently quite unlike the impression given by the popular TV series, 'Dad's Army'!

Worcestershire raised twelve battalions of Home Guard, a force of about 19,000 men, and later some women. Worcester City raised one of those battalions, while the unit adjoining to the north of the city boundary was part of the Malvern Battalion.

Worcester City was designated as an "anti-tank island" and was prepared for all-round defence against any enemy armoured columns that had found their way inland from the invasion beaches. Perdiswell Airfield was seen as a particularly vulnerable feature for attack by enemy parachutists and was to be heavily defended as a consequence. The City's outer defence line against ground attack ran through the Northwick Manor area and included a number of infantry trenches, sandbagged emplacements, a machine gun post, just the north of Northwick Close, and road blocks on the Northwick, Ombersley and Droitwich roads. Of these outer defences there is now no sign, although the overgrown machine gun post survived until the 1990s. A further

line of defence was created along the Barbourne Brook, with a block on the main road bridge over it.

In organising the defence, the city was divided into several sectors, the North Sector Home Guard being responsible for defending the approaches from the north, assisting in the defence of Perdiswell Airfield, defending the Metal Castings factory on the Droitwich Road and the Waterworks, as well as destroying any enemy parachutists landing on Pitchcroft. For this purpose, No 1 Platoon of the North Unit was based at the Waterworks and No 3 Platoon at Metal Castings, on the Droitwich Road. No 2 Platoon was located well to the south of the study area and therefore does not concern us. Further north, the defence of the Claines area was the responsibility of the No 22 Platoon of the Ombersley Company of Home Guard, this company being, in turn, part of the Malvern Battalion. The assembly point for the Claines Home Guard when going on duty was the Claines Schoolyard [9].

During the period of greatest threat of enemy invasion in 1940 and 1941, the River Severn was designated as a 'Stop Line', with each bridging point guarded to prevent enemy troops from crossing the river. As such, the locks at Bevere were seen both as a potential crossing, and a vulnerable feature which could be sabotaged by enemy agents. The guard on the locks and Bevere Island was primarily the responsibility of the Hallow Platoon Home Guard, part of the Knightwick Company of the Malvern Battalion. It is not known what defences were built around the locks, but infantry trenches on the island would be likely. A corrugated iron hut, said to have been used as a shelter by the men guarding the locks, has been re-erected on the caravan site, near the Camp Inn, on the west side of the river [9].

A group of resistance fighters is known to have existed in the area to the north of Claines, with a camouflaged underground bunker provided for their use near Porters Mill. They would almost certainly have carried out acts of sabotage in the project area should it have been occupied by German forces [14]. But, intriguingly, there was also a secret underground bunker in the yard of Northwick Farm. This was apparently constructed by men disguised as Gas Board workers, with the entrance, in turn, disguised by a Gas Board manhole cover. Inside, the bunker was provisioned with armaments and explosives, but who was it for?

There is some evidence that resistance fighters were recruited in the city, some of them being members of the cadet force at the Worcester Royal Grammar School, and so it is likely that the bunker at Northwick Farm would have been used by such people, had the need arisen. Apart from a hollow in the concrete of the farmyard, there is no sign of the bunker now [9].

War Production

Worcester City had a number of factories involved in the production of war materials, including aircraft components, during World War II. Those recorded in the HER for the Northwick Manor area, or nearby, include:

- 1) Blackpole Royal Ordnance Factory. This was requisitioned back from Cadbury's soon after the start of World War 2 and recommenced the production of small arms ammunition. As in World War 1, the factory almost

- certainly employed women from the Northwick Manor area. The main buildings of this former ROF still exist within a present day trading estate.
- 2) Metal Castings. Produced castings for the aircraft manufacturing factories elsewhere and was taken over by the Ministry of Aircraft Production during World War 2. Men from the Northwick area would also be likely to have been employed here. The Metal Castings factory still exists on the Droitwich Road.
 - 3) Airscreens Ltd. This company formed the clear perspex components of aircraft cockpit canopies during World War 2 and occupied a small factory on the site of the present veterinary surgery in Northwick Road. The factory was replaced by the modern buildings only in recent years.
 - 4) Faithful Overalls. A long established Worcester firm with their factory located opposite Vine Street in Northwick Road, turned their hands to war work by producing uniforms, anti-flash gloves for Naval gunners, and parachutes.

Sources

1. 'Aspects of Worcestershire' by Andrew Johnson and Stephen Punter (Logaston Press, Herefordshire, 1989).
2. 'Worcestershire Under Arms' by Malcolm Atkin (Pen and Sword Books Ltd, South Yorkshire, 2004).
3. 'Cromwell's Crowning Glory' by Malcolm Atkin (Sutton Publishing, Stroud, 1998).
4. The Oxford Illustrated History of the British Army, edited by Drs Chandler and Beckett (Oxford University Press, undated but 1990s).
5. See the bronze plaque attached to the arch leading to the park.
6. 'The Worcestershire Regiment in the Great War' by Captain H FitzM Stacke MC (G T Cheshire & Sons Ltd, Kidderminster, 1920s).
7. See the two further bronze plaques attached to the arch leading to the park.
8. The Defence of Worcestershire site records on the HER.
9. See 'The Defence of Worcestershire and the Southern approaches to Birmingham in World War II' by Mick Wilks (Logaston Press, Herefordshire, 2007), for a detailed appraisal of the threats to the wider county and the preparations to meet them.
10. Also see '20th Century Defences in Great Britain – The West Midlands Area' by Colin Jones, Bernard Lowry and Mick Wilks (Logaston Press, Herefordshire, 2008).
11. 'Action Stations – 3. Military Airfields of Wales and the North-West' by David J Smith (Patrick Stephens Ltd, Cambridge, 1981).
12. Requisition lists held by the County Record Office.
13. See the booklet, 'St Stephen's Parish Church – A Brief History and Guide'.
14. See 'The Mercian Maquis – The Secret Resistance Organisation in Herefordshire and Worcestershire during World War II' by Bernard Lowry and Mick Wilks (Logaston Press, Herefordshire, 2002).

Appendix

Wartime casualties recorded on local memorials or buried at Claines.

The St John the Baptist Church War Memorial lists men of both World Wars as follows:

A Banner H E Barnard H A C Barnes W I T Bradley H W Brown F Bullen P H Bullock W Bullock A G Burrow G T C Cartland C Conn F G O Curtler P I Divers W E Donovan T Dowdeswell R J Drinkwater W R Garland D V Gwilliam V H George C Haines G Hames G J Harding G A Hextall H Houghton H W Jones R W Knott H N Loynes G M Mathews G W MacDonald R G MacDonald S Munn J Munn G J Pitt J H Pitt D Purser H E V Purser T W Pye E Randle F Rhodes F Sevenoaks S Skillern D F Slocombe G Stone E F Thomas G R Wallace J N S Watkins A E Williams

There are also the following headstones in the adjoining graveyard:

7263 Private T Gaughan of the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. Died aged 40 on 24 November 1917.

17675 Private H W Jones of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Died aged 23 on 16 September 1916.

206856 Corporal E A Shrubshall of the Royal Air Force. Died on 25 February 1919.

6142909 Sergeant D F Slocombe of the East Surrey Regiment (78th Division). Died aged 21 on 12th February 1945.

3241 Gunner J Watkins of the Royal Field Artillery. Died aged 22 on 18 June 1916.

The St Stephen's Church War Memorial lists the following men

World War 1 – Thomas Allington Thomas Allport George Baldwin Vere Bayly Aubrey Beck Albert Biddle George Biddle John Brant Ernest Bridges Sidney Cale George Chance Alfred Clay Charles Collins Ernest Collins Oscar Coombe Martin Curnock Frederick Curtler Walter Davis Percy Duckworth George Evans Frank Evans John Evans George Firkins Leonard Flux Gilbert Gibbs Archibald Gibbs William Gerrett Harold Goodwin Alfred Gordon Charles Hacoeks Reginald Hartley Norman Hartley Frank Hemming Frank Hemmings Percy Hemmings Arthur Hencher Edward Hill Samuel Holding Albert Hooper Horace Huband Edward Jaynes Alec Jones Kenrick Jones William Jones Frederick Joseland William Langford Thomas Mann Charles Mellor Edward Morgan Ernest Morgan Reginald Morris William Mumford Charles Newey John Painter Albert Price Hubert Price Walter Price Albert Phillips Josiah Pugh Ernest Roberts Harry Roberts Charles Shuard Freer Spreckley Guy Spreckley Joseph Stallard Joseph Thomas William Thomas Leonard Tysoe Sidney Vine Walter Walters Charles Ward Fred Ward Thomas Willis Henry Yapp.

World War I2 – Frank Brooks Stanley Eden Donald Hemmings Dennis Munn John Reynolds Leslie Twinberrow.

Mick Wilks – Updated on 6th Feb 2010.

Photograph captions:

De Havilland Tiger Moth aircraft of No 2 Elementary Flying Training School flying from Perdiswell. From a painting by the late Maurice Jones (Courtesy of Maurice Jones).

One of the few surviving communal surface air raid shelters in the north Worcester area. This one can be seen at the end of Brook Street (Photo by Mick Wilks).

The War Memorial at St Stephen's Church is in the form of a crucifix and located close to the south-east corner of the church. The memorial has 80 names of local men who lost their lives in two world wars carved in the plinth (Photo by Mick Wilks).

A Cross of Sacrifice surmounts the war memorial at St John the Baptist Church, Claines, and commemorates the loss of 47 parishioners (Photo by Mick Wilks).

The Alma Tavern in Droitwich Road commemorates one of the battles fought in the Crimean campaign in the mid-19th Century (Photo by Mick Wilks).

These cottages, along the north side of Gheluvelt Park were built for disabled sailors and soldiers, were opened by General Lord Rawlinson in July 1920 (Photo by Mick Wilks).

This attractive tower formed part of the waterworks and was sited near Tower Road. Now sadly demolished, it was used by the Home Guard as an observation post during World War 2. (From Mick Wilks collection of old post cards).

One of two surviving communal surface air raid shelters that can be seen at the Claines Village Hall, off Cornmeadow Lane (Photo by Mick Wilks).

The former Royal Ordnance Factory at Blackpole would have employed women from the Northwick Manor area (Photo by Mick Wilks).