

Officers and staff of No 2 Company, 7th Battalion Somerset Home Guard, which had its headquarters in Keynsham, pictured in December 1944. From left, back row, G. C. Fray (inset), R. Steward, L. N. Upton, H. P. Gray, C. K. Godwin, F. S. Condon; middle row, R. H. Gillard, M. Bond, O. H. Sykes, W. S. Scammell, J. P. Briggs, H. G. S. Thomas; front row, Dr N. D. Gerrish, G. F. James, G. E. A. Richards, F. N. Partington, T. A. Venn, F. W. Tennant, BEM, and D. Kirkwood.



OFFICERS OF No. 2 COY.
7th BATT. SOMERSET HOME GUARD,
AT DEC. 31st, 1944.

MEALE & CO
BRISTOL.

MEMORIES BY JOHN BLACKMORE

My memories of VE-Day are confined to the Sports, which were held below Meadlands. We had a race which took us up the Barton and the steps, down Ashton Hill, down by "The Tree", and back to the field. The prize, if I remember rightly, was half-a-crown. But it was in saving stamps, and I thus preserved my amateur status!

I'm glad to say that as an Air Raid warden, my father never suffered the pain and indignity of one warden in the area. He, on hearing the siren, had gone to the bay window to get a better view of Bath. Unfortunately it was only when the curtain rail came crashing down on his head, that he realised he had tucked the curtain into his trousers as he dressed!

THE BATH CHRONICLE, SAT

CORSTON'S WAR MEMORIAL

DEDICATION SERVICE

PREBENDARY HOETS' SUGGESTION TO BATH

EPIGRAPH A "SHAM TOMB"

The people of Corston turned out in large numbers on Sunday afternoon to honour the memory of their gallant men who fell during the war and to witness the dedication of the village war memorial by Preb. M. E. Hoets, Rural Dean of Keynsham, who performed the ceremony in the absence of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Erected in the God's Acre of the parish church of All Saints, the memorial is constructed of Bath stone, and its total height is about 12 feet. Standing upon a step base, about two feet in height, is a large base stone, upon which is set an octagonal shaft, surmounted by a carved cap. This canopied cap has four faces, each bearing a representation of a scene from the New Testament, the subjects treated being the Birth, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of our Lord. On the square base is placed a bronze tablet, which bears the names of the Corston men who fell during the war. The memorial was designed by Mr. Mowbray A. Green, F.R.I.B.A., and the work was carried out by Mr. F. J. Blackmore, of Twerton.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

On the tablet appear the following names:
Captain E. W. Bartelt, 4th Somerset L.I. (churchwarden from 1911).

Sergeant W. Evers, 44th Siege Battery R.G.A.

Sergeant A. Jones, 1st Somerset L.I.

Sergeant W. Smith, S. Wales Borderers.

Private P. Box, Australian 25th Infantry Brigade L.F.C.

Private M. Brooks, Somerset L.I.

Private T. Daye, Duke of Cornwall's L.I.

Private J. S. Eades, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards.

Private P. Hannam, 2nd Somerset L.I.

Gunner C. Hannam, Anti-Aircraft Section.

Private J. E. Mercer, 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards.

Private H. H. Miller, Royal Gloucester Hussars.

Private A. J. Rivers, 10th Welsh Regiment.

The inscription reads: "In memory of the brave men of Corston who died in the Great War, 1914-1919. 'Greater love hath no man than this.'"

SERVICE IN THE CHURCH

A procession was formed on the village green. In its ranks were about 50 ex-Service men, and it was headed by the Keynsham Town Band. The procession marched from the green to the church, in which a short service took place prior to the final dedication. The pretty little church, which, if ever, has been so crowded, had no additional seating accommodation, and many would-be participants were unable to find room. While the service was being performed, the organist, Mr. J. S. Eades, played "O, Rest in the Lord." Among those present in the church were the Vicar and Countess Temple, Mr. and Mrs. D. Peters and family, Mr. J. Nicholas and Mr. A. E. Friswell (churchwardens).

The service, which was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. C. Parker, opened with the processional hymn, "Jesu, our hope, our heart's desire." After the chanting of the 23rd Psalm, the Vicar read the lesson from I. Thessalonians iv., 13.

WAR'S BOND OF SYMPATHY.

Preb. Hoets, in the course of his address, said that day was a great occasion in the history of the parish. It was an occasion which no one there was likely to forget. They were about to dedicate a memorial to the men of Corston who, when called upon, made the great sacrifice, for God, for King, for country, in a war which for five years convulsed the whole world, and the effects and consequences of which no man could yet foresee. Be their position what it might, rich or poor, high or low, learned or unlearned, they were all one in the bond of a common sympathy in the bearing of a common burden. He rejoiced to think that yet another parish in the Rural Deanery of Keynsham had erected a memorial of a character and a fitness which were indisputable. Batheaston, Bathford, Newton St. Loe, and Corston all had memorials of that kind. Twerton and Weston had made a similar choice.

THE LATE CAPT. BARTELT.

Memorial Service at Corston.

A memorial service for the late Capt. Fritz William Bartelt took place last evening at Corston Church, a place which, as the Rector (the Rev. Claud C. Parker) said, is "filled with memories precious to him and now not less so to themselves." Every reverence and solemnity marked the commemorative service, and the Church of All Saints was crowded with those eager to pay a last tribute to him. Besides relatives and personal friends, the gathering included a large number of the members of the staff from Brislington and Keynsham, of the firm with which he was associated; and the people of Corston. As the congregation assembled, Mr. C. A. Inman, a Bristol organist (and a representative of the deceased's solicitors) played "Flowers of the Forest." For the service, however, Mr. J. G. Pounds, the acting organist of Corston, presided at the organ. Mr. Pounds was, by a coincidence, in the deceased's Company in the days of the Volunteers. After the opening sentences of the Burial Office, the hymn "Thy Will be Done" was sung, followed by the Lord's Prayer and Responses, until the Psalms 39 and 80 were reached. The beautiful passage, "I heard a voice from Heaven... write. From henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord... for they rest from their labours" was intoned. The Lesson from St. John xiv. was read, by request, from "The New Testament in modern speech." Next came "Peace, Perfect Peace," then more prayers very feelingly read by the Rector and soon to a further hymn, "Abide with Me." After the address the congregation joined in that grand old hymn "O God our Help in Ages Past," and further supplications concluded with the Benediction. The Dead March in "Saul" was well rendered by Mr. J. S. Heap, organist at St. Mary's, Bathwick, and the service ended with the Nunc Dimittis as a recessional.

Speaking from the pulpit the Rector said: "We are met together this evening in memory of our dear brother and churchwarden, Fritz William Bartelt, and not simply to commemorate him, but to lay our burden of sorrow at the foot of the Cross and to ask our dear Lord to help us in our grief and to bless him in the new life to which he has been called. This church was, I believe, very dear to him; it was the church of his home, and I am sure that it must have been often in his thoughts in India. In this church he was christened and confirmed; here he often knelt before the altar to receive the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood; here he read the lessons at the Sunday morning services, and in 1911 succeeded Mr. G. Watts as churchwarden. His children were also christened at the font of this church. So you see, the church is filled with many sacred and happy memories of his presence—memories precious to him, and now not less so to ourselves. Captain Bartelt was one who had gained the respect and affection of us all. The Psalmist asks, 'How shall a young man cleanse his way?' and answers, 'Even by ruling himself after Thy word.' Yes, thank God, he was an example to the young men of the parish—pure, temperate, honorable, a loving husband and father, and a most devoted son. How great a wrench to him it was to leave his home and parents we can well imagine, but the call of duty was clear, and that call was met with constancy and courage. I should like to give you an illustration of his thoughtful kindness. Although he was much occupied and had few spare moments before he sailed, yet he made time to visit the families of those who had sons in his regiment in India that he might personally convey to them the messages and gifts from their families. On his arrival there he attached these lads to his company and made them feel that they had a true friend in him, and before the departure of one of these to Mesopotamia he called him to his quarters to wish him "God-speed" and to tell him that he would not forget him. It is such little acts of kindness and many like them that have endeared him to the hearts of those who received them and those whom they concerned. Yes, he was always kind and genial to those around him; and we have all missed and shall not forget his cheery words and simple kindness of heart. And so our dear brother has passed peacefully to his rest, after an illness borne very patiently and uncomplainingly, and surrounded by the ministrations of many kind friends. He is not the greatest sufferer: the

per lb.

d.

10/15

10/3 BATH

ANO

YOU PLACE

LTD.

BATH.

not forget his cheerful words and peace of heart. And so our dear brother has passed peacefully to his rest, after an illness borne very patiently and uncomplainingly, and surrounded by the ministrations of many kind friends. He is not the greatest sufferer; the great agony is with those who are left behind and who loved him so dearly. There is a fellowship in suffering. Many hearts are torn to-day by the loss of those they hold most dear: even in our little village recently we have heard that three of our dear lads are reported missing; one severely wounded. I say that this fellowship of suffering produces a common sympathy which brings some need of comfort to the stricken soul. But we must look higher than that. Our Lord made the greatest sacrifice of all when He died upon the cross; and now every sacrifice truly made follows and shares in the one Great Sacrifice for the whole world. It has been well said that every one of our soldiers who gives his life for his country so takes part in it. But those who are called upon to bear the agony of separation, these also are called upon to do their part, and perhaps the greatest by the sacrifice of will and heart, and to say through all their sorrow, "Thy will be done." It is hard: our Lord Himself found it hard, but He overcame, though the conflict in the Garden was a sore one. And so, though our dearest wishes be thwarted and our lives seem shattered, yet must we put our trust in God, believe that He knows best, and resign ourselves to His will. It is thus and only thus that we can turn an awful trial of this kind into a sacrifice pleasing to Him and so sure a blessing to ourselves. But apart from our own loss, do not let us be sad for him who has been called to another life. We do not judge the value of a life here by length of years. Our own Lord and Master was only 33 when he was called to the sacrifice of the cross. No, our life here also in God's sight is not judged by age but by how we use that which has been entrusted to us. Our brother has died a noble death: he has made his great sacrifice. His life was as truly given for his country as though he had fallen in battle. So there is much to thank God for in this. But we must not think that our usefulness and service ends with our life on earth. No, we may be sure that there is work and happiness in store for each faithful soul in the sunny shore of Paradise where abiding in Christ and surrounded by the Divine love it is purified and groweth unto that perfect day. May God, then, pardon in our dear brother all that is amiss; may he find joy in Paradise, rest in peace, and may everlasting light shine upon him. Our life here is, after all, but a short one, and the time will come, if we have been faithful, for that happy restoration and re-union, when we shall meet again those we love, and with them share the blessings of light and immortality which come to us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Among those in the church were Mrs. Ivo Peters (sister), Mr. Ivo Peters (brother-in-law), Mr. Robert Iegar (father-in-law), Mrs. Trask, Dr. James Wigmore, Mrs. Doveton, Mrs. Horton, Mr. and Mrs. J. Sebastian Heap, Miss Fitzgerald, Mrs. Claud C. Parker, Mr. Isaac Carr, Mr. H. C. Gibson (a co-director), and Mrs. Gibson, Mr. W. Dave and Mr. W. Angell (representing the Frorne Division Conservative Association), Mrs. Angell, Mr. Joe Nicholas (rector's warden at Corston), and Mr. Herbert W. Gibbs (sidesman), and several N.C.O.s from the 3rd/4th Somerset L.I., representing the Bath Administrative Centre.

The death is announced of Winston Churchill Simmons, of Richmond, Tasmania, at the age of 90. He was born in Hobart, and was a scion of the Marlborough family.

CORN AND WART CURE.

Lyons Bath Corn Cure succeeds where all Plasters and Caustics have failed. It attacks and removes Corns and Warts without injury to the most delicate, healthy skin. Price 1/4, only from TYLEE & COOPER, Chemists, Bridge Street, Bath. By post 1/4.

A
The
whic
pict
reel
Did,
Grat
scen
char
is c
path
with
tale
who
lead
miss
The
six

Th
Boo
and
Mr.
tour
week.
Ket
the n
neigh
The
was
the
The
hand:
day:
meml

At
barle
quart
lower
Ma
offic
to n
his c

Lat
that
crop
cocoon
of 2 p

Mas
Harrow
birthda
tions c
house.

On a
tion
Longsta
the Inc
further
Two
last eve
cis St. I
nated

Gain
enit ye
War O
blasphem
sons of
officers.
Allen
Hippod
yesterday
to be an
and 20s.
of rail

Brigade L.F.
Private E. Brooks, Somerset L.I.
Private T. Daye, Duke of Cornwall L.I.
Private I. S. Eades, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards.
Private P. Hannam, 2nd Somerset L.I.
Gunner C. Hannam, Anti-Aircraft Section.
Private J. E. Mercer, 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards.
Private H. H. Miller, Royal Gloucester Hussars.
Private A. J. Rivers, 10th Welsh Regiment.
The inscription reads: "In memory of the brave men of Corston who died in the Great War, 1914-1919." "Greater love hath no man than this."

SERVICE IN THE CHURCH.

A procession was formed on the village green. In its ranks were about 50 of Service men, and it was headed by the Keynsham Town Band. The procession marched from the green to the church, in which a short service took place prior to the actual dedication. The pretty little church has seldom, if ever, been so crowded, and, although additional seating accommodation was provided, many would-be participants in the service were unable to find room. While the congregation were assembling the organist, Mr. George Bowen, played "O Rest in the Lord." Amongst those present in the church were the Earl and Countess Temple, Mr. and Mrs. I. Peters and family, Mr. J. Nicholas and Mr. A. E. Frappell (churchwardens). The service, which was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. C. Parker, opened with the processional hymn, "Jesus our hope, our heart's desire." After the chanting of the 23rd Psalm, the Vicar read the lesson from 1 Thessalonians, iv., 13.

WAR'S BOND OF SYMPATHY.

Preb. Hoets, in the course of his address, said that day was a great occasion in the history of the parish. It was an occasion which no one there was likely to forget. They were about to dedicate a memorial to the men of Corston who, when called upon, made the great sacrifice, for God, for King, for country, in a war which for five years convulsed the whole world, and the effects and consequences of which no man could yet foresee. Be their position what it might, rich or poor, high or low, learned or unlearned, they were all one in the bond of a common sympathy in the bearing of a common burden. He rejoiced to think that yet another parish in the Rural Deanery of Keynsham had erected a memorial of a character and a fitness which were indisputable. Bathaston, Bathford, Newton St. Loe, and Corston all had memorials of that kind. Twerton and Weston had made a similar choice.

BATH'S MEMORIAL CRITICISED.

He could not refrain from expressing a wish, which was not a personal one only, that the City of Bath would in this respect follow the example set by her country villages—a cross, towering aloft on some height overlooking the city, Beechen Cliff for example, would be in the opinion of not a few of them a memorial far transcending any other. No one could fail to read it, or could mistake its intention, or fail to grasp its meaning. The Cross stood for sacrifice, and it was sacrifice that they wished to commemorate in such memorials. Let them contrast it with a cenotaph, which might be defined as a "sham" tomb—a cold and barren unreality, and they would not hesitate to make their choice. Not only was their memorial well and wisely chosen, but the place where it stood was of all places the best. It stood in consecrated ground, in ground set apart for ever for special use, and that of the most sacred kind, ground that could never be alienated or profaned. The memorial they had set up stood in a very real sense "before the Lord."

THE DEDICATION.

After the special war memorial hymn, "O valiant hearts," the Vicar solemnly read the names of the gallant dead. The service of dedication in the churchyard was then performed by Preb. Hoets. The succeeding hymn was "Jesus, lover of my soul," after the singing of which the Benediction was pronounced in the National Anthem sung, and the "Last Post" sounded. The service concluded with the singing of the hymn, "O God, our help in every need." Many floral tributes were deposited at the base of the memorial, including a basket of carnations, which Countess Temple placed there and inscribed "In loving memory of our gallant dead." Other tributes included a basket of carnations from Mrs. Bartlett, Corston, and a loving memory of our dear lads, and a beautiful floral and laurel wreath from the Service men of Corston, "in memory of our fallen comrades."

Sir John Horner, who has been very unwell, is much better, and intends to pass the summer at Mells.

The men who faced Hitler

DISCOVERING records of the last war brought back Home Guard memories to retired farmer Mr Alf Paget of Burnett.

Elm Farm now owned by Mr Paget's son, John, has been in the family since the 1700s. Mr Paget served in the Wincanton Home Guard before moving back to Keynsham.

Although about 45 years older, Mr Paget, who was made a captain and became second-in-command of 'E' Company, which was commanded by Major G. Thompson, can still clearly remember those eventful years.

Following the outbreak of war in September 1939, the Territorials were mobilised and young men enlisted for the various forces. But progress by the enemy in Europe was rapid, with Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland quickly overrun and France in dire peril.

The invasion of the British Isles not only seemed possible but imminent.

Volunteers

As a result of a broadcast by the Secretary of State for War, Mr Anthony Eden, a company of the Home Guard, as it became known, was formed in Keynsham.

The response from "patriotic men" to enrol at their local police stations was immediate and overwhelming throughout Somerset.

Mr Paget's records show that a meeting of a few local leaders in the Petty Sessional Court at Flax Bourton on May 21, 1940, presided over by Sir Charles Miles, of Clevedon, commanding the Somerset Territorial Army Association, decided that volunteers be formed into five platoons.

There would be one in each of the police divisions in the Long Ashton police divisional districts of Flax Bourton, Keynsham (under Capt W. S. Scammell), Temple Cloud, Portishead and Clevedon.

As soon as it could be formed the company was to pass under the command of Admiral Sir Hugh J. Tweedie of Wraxall.

The official instruction was that every volunteer should have an axe or leaded stick, to be provided by himself. The first meeting of Keynsham's provisional leaders was held in the town's police court on May 24, 1940, and the Keynsham Platoon was on the march!

The area of the Keynsham

Platoon — No 2 Company covered 50 square miles and included 12 parishes and most of the region between Bath and Bristol on the south side of the River Avon and about seven miles southwards from the river.

Bombs

Fourteen observation posts were established. Platoon HQ was set up in a room at the police station and people streamed in to enrol. A night duty system was arranged by the Platoon Commander and Major F. W. Tennant, second-in-command, and Mr. C. F. Clark, of the Westminster Bank, as assistant.

The arduous, almost continuous duties, brought in much information about lights and suspicious people. Apart from the local shotguns and an odd revolver or two, there were no weapons initially. Axes, heavy sticks and farm implements were recommended as "weapons" should the enemy appear.

There was to be no indiscriminate or "excited" shooting. If fewer than five parachutists were seen they could be reckoned to be British. If more than that, they were to be assumed to be the enemy — even in British uniform — in which case one had to act accordingly.

A Home Guard record stated: "The volunteer force is a fighting force and every means in our power must be taken to kill and disable the enemy should he appear."

Much assistance was given to the Keynsham Home Guard by local landowners such as Mr Leyborne-Popham, of Hunstrete House, Mr and Mrs A. R. Lane, of Whitewood Farm, and Mr F. Lane, of Maes Knoll, Mr Perry, of Queen Charlton, and J. S. Fry and Sons, of Somerdale.

The first reported bomb attack locally was on June 27, 1940 when five dropped

in a field near Marksbury. On August 19-20 about 14 bombs plunged into a small field near Keynsham cricket ground, causing a crater 40ft in diameter, and 10ft deep. Also the first petrol bomb was dropped and German propaganda leaflets were scattered over Hunstrete.

A slight adjustment had to be made in terminology after the first officers patrol was "sent out" from HQ. The phrase "sent out" was considered inappropriate. "Release the hounds" was thought to be more accurate.

With a force of 2,500 men, the Long Ashton Company became a battalion and platoons became companies. Keynsham progressed from a platoon to No 2 Company, commanded by Captain W. S. Scammell, MC, Burnett, Chewton, Corston and Saltford, Whitchurch, Pensford, Stanton Drew, Norton Malreward, Marksbury, Hunstrete and Compton Bando all came under Keynsham No 2 Company.

Landed

In August 1940 the title Local Defence Volunteers were renamed the Home Guard.

The real test came at 2155 hours on Saturday, September 7, 1940 when the call-out code "Cromwell" got every Home Guard unit at action stations by 0005 hours. Nerve gas warnings were issued; German parachutists and barges were reputed to have landed on the South Coast and "iron rations" were low.

But on September 8-9, at 2130 hours, there was an anti-climax when "stand-down" orders were received.

● More about the Keynsham Home Guard in next week's edition. The editor would welcome any photographs of this period for possible publication.

Garin's long run

TWENTY-two-year-old Garin Derrick, of Windrush Road, Keynsham, has been successful in more than a dozen marathon runs.

His latest run in the Birmingham Half Marathon was completed in 1 hour 28 mins 47 secs, bringing him into 50th position out of 150 runners.

Garin's interest in running started when he broke his ankle playing football and he had to exercise his foot. He now goes out run-

ning almost every day, and is self-taught, having had no professional training.

Six months ago he joined Bristol Athletic Club, and hopes to do more half marathons which cover a distance of 13 miles.

One of his stiffest tasks was to complete the Penine run of 26 miles.

Garin is an old boy of Wellsway School, Keynsham, and now works as a groundsman for Avon County Council in Bath.



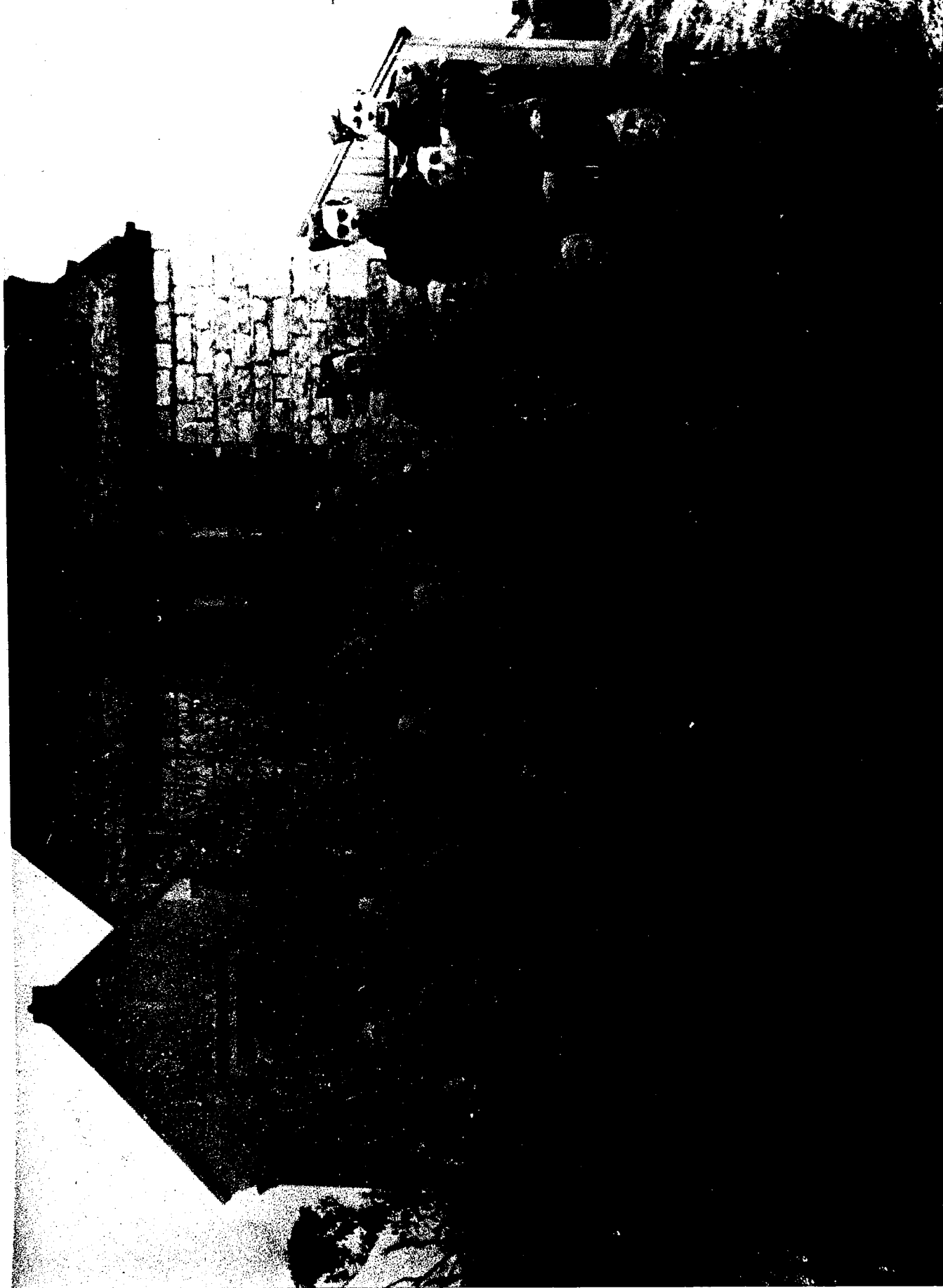
Corston Home Guard Sgt King - LT Bunker - LT Fenn

No. 7 Platoon:

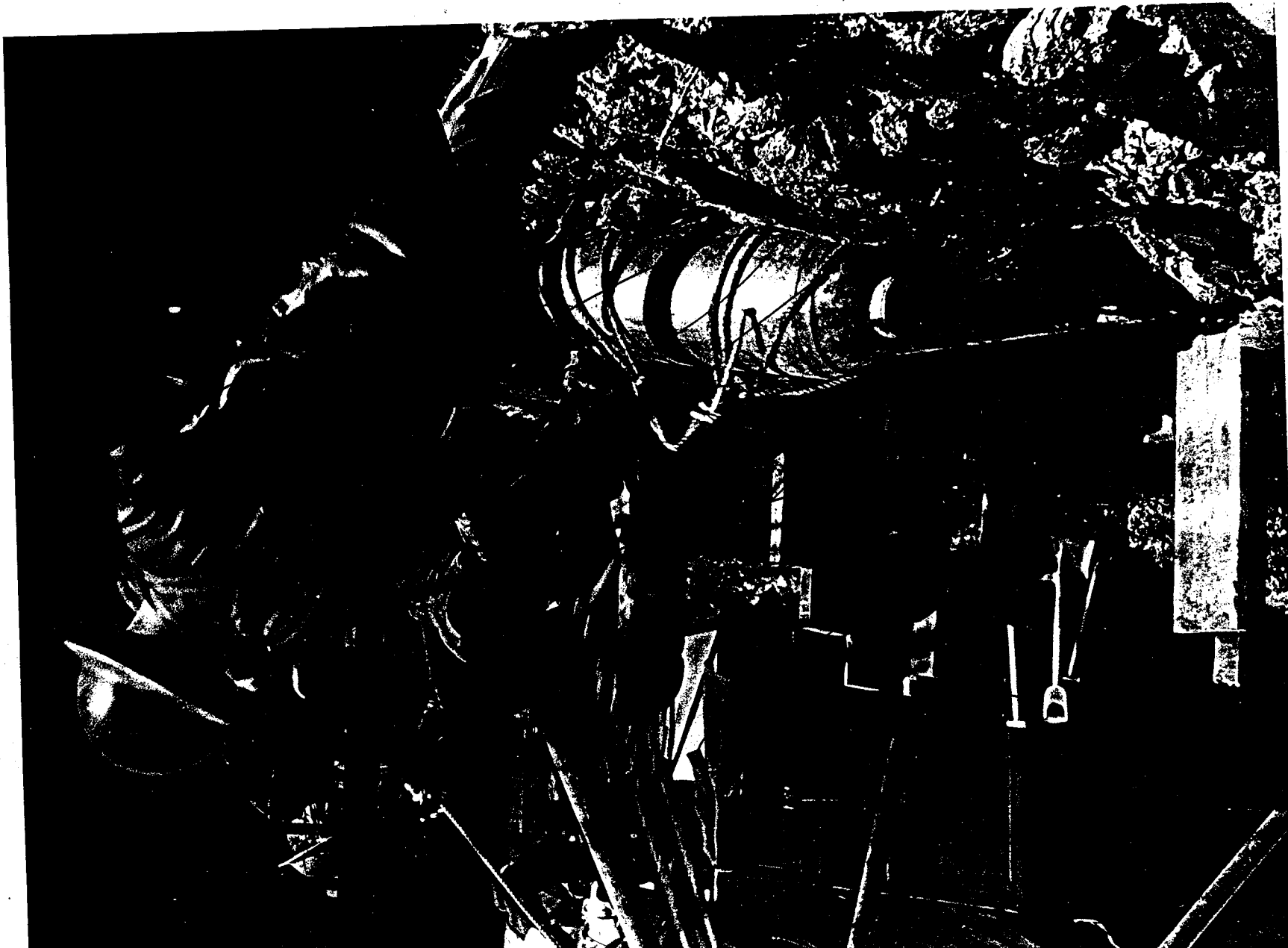
Suff & Corston

Lieut. N. G. SUTTON, M.C.
 Lieut. L. J. C. BUNKER
 Cpl. P. M. BLACK
 Pte. A. J. BRAIN
 L/Cpl. W. T. BRAY
 Sergt. R. R. R. DAVIS
 Pte. L. B. FORD
 L/Cpl. R. T. FORD
 Pte. E. J. GILLINGHAM
 L/Cpl. H. N. HARPER
 Pte. G. R. HAWKER
 " H. H. HEAD
 " R. S. HOLLAND
 L/Cpl. L. C. JAGO
 Pte. F. C. JAMES
 " I. L. JONES
 Sergt. S. G. KING
 Pte. R. H. LANGFORD
 " E. W. P. LAPHAM

Pte. H. W. LAPHAM
 Cpl. C. H. W. LASPER
 Pte. W. F. LITHERLAND
 Pte. A. B. G. LLOYD
 Cpl. E. A. MOUNTAIN
 Sergt. J. M. MURRAY
 Pte. J. H. NASH
 " J. NICHOLLS
 " D. W. OLIVER
 Sergt. W. H. PATTERSON
 Pte. E. W. J. PARSONS
 " R. J. PRIOR
 Cpl. F. W. ROGERS
 Pte. P. B. ROWAN
 Cpl. A. G. SHORE
 Pte. D. TABRAHAM
 " W. TAYLOR
 " C. H. WEBB
 " F. C. S. WEYMOUTH



MARGARET DE YONGA'S FATHER (ORIGINAL M de Y)



To:- All Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks
of No. 2 Coy. 7th Bn. Somerset Home Guard.

STAND DOWN MESSAGE.

Everyone of you has given valuable and voluntary service in the HOME GUARD. You did not actually come to grips with the Enemy but you did all in your power to be ready and fit to deal with him if he came, and to defend your area to the utmost.

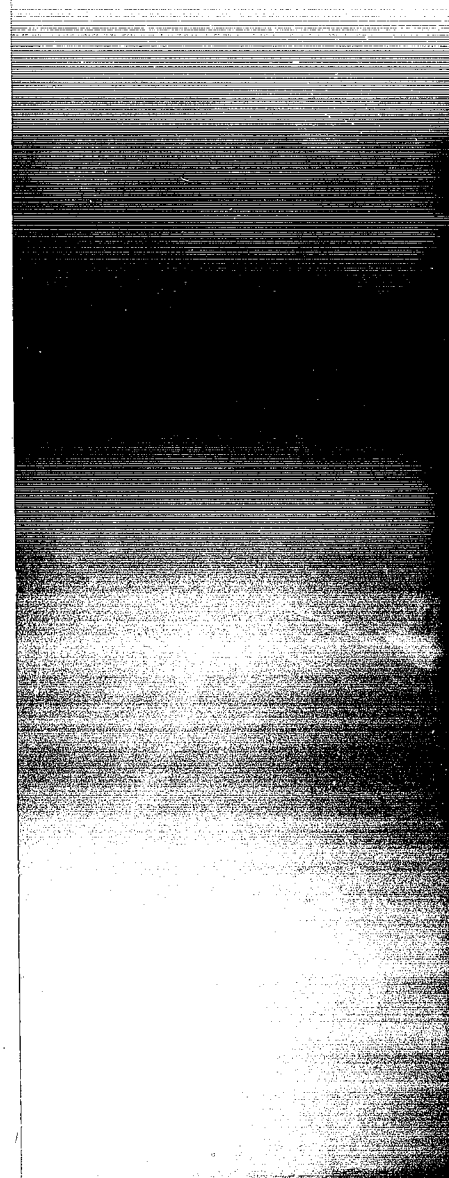
Your service and effort has received the recognition and thanks of H.M. The King and the whole Country. Please allow me to express and tender to each of you personally my own sincere admiration for your long and devoted work, my pride in having had the privilege of being your Company Commander from first to last, and my gratitude for your constant and loyal support in our united efforts and joint endeavours.

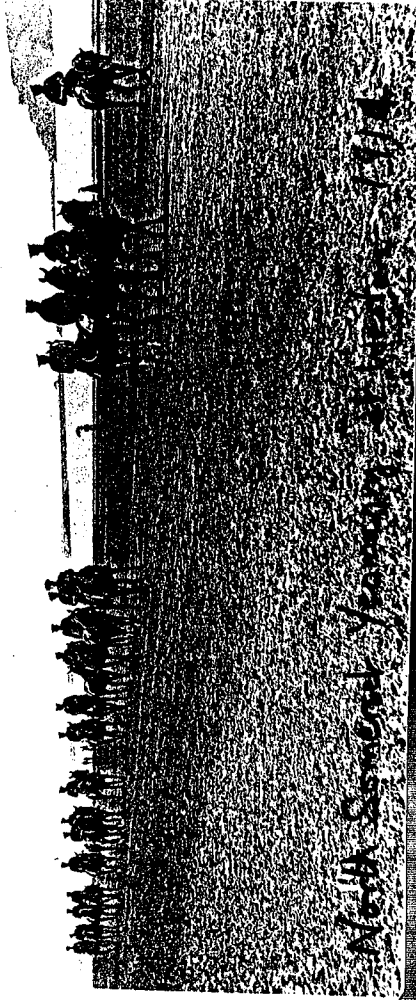
A Happy Xmas, Many and Peaceful Future Years, and Good Luck to you always.

W. J. Scammell
Major

O.C. No. 2 Coy. 7th Bn. Som. H.G.

Keynsham.
December, 1944.

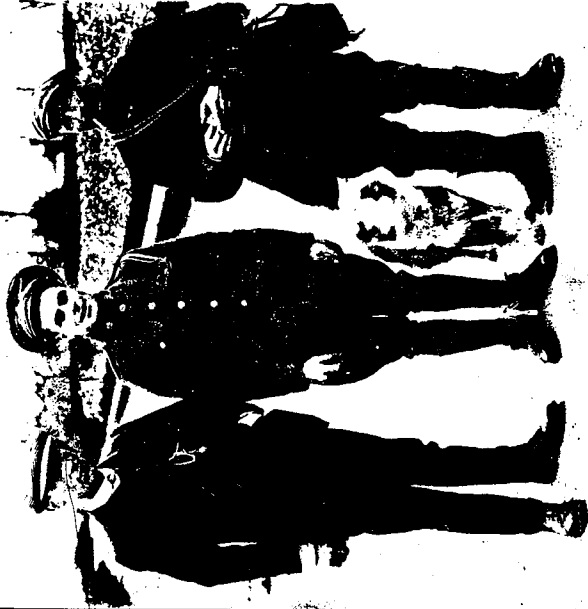




North Second Yearmen of Nelson 1918

54

Betty remembers it very
towed thro' Corroter on
the night



1918. Kings Arms

