

A detailed historical map of Trentham, Staffordshire, showing the town, park, and lake. The map includes various landmarks such as Trentham Park Station, Trentham Hotel, Trentham Gardens & Pleasure Grounds, and Trentham Lake (Fish Pond). The text "Trentham's War 1939-1945 A timeline" is overlaid on the map in large, bold, black letters.

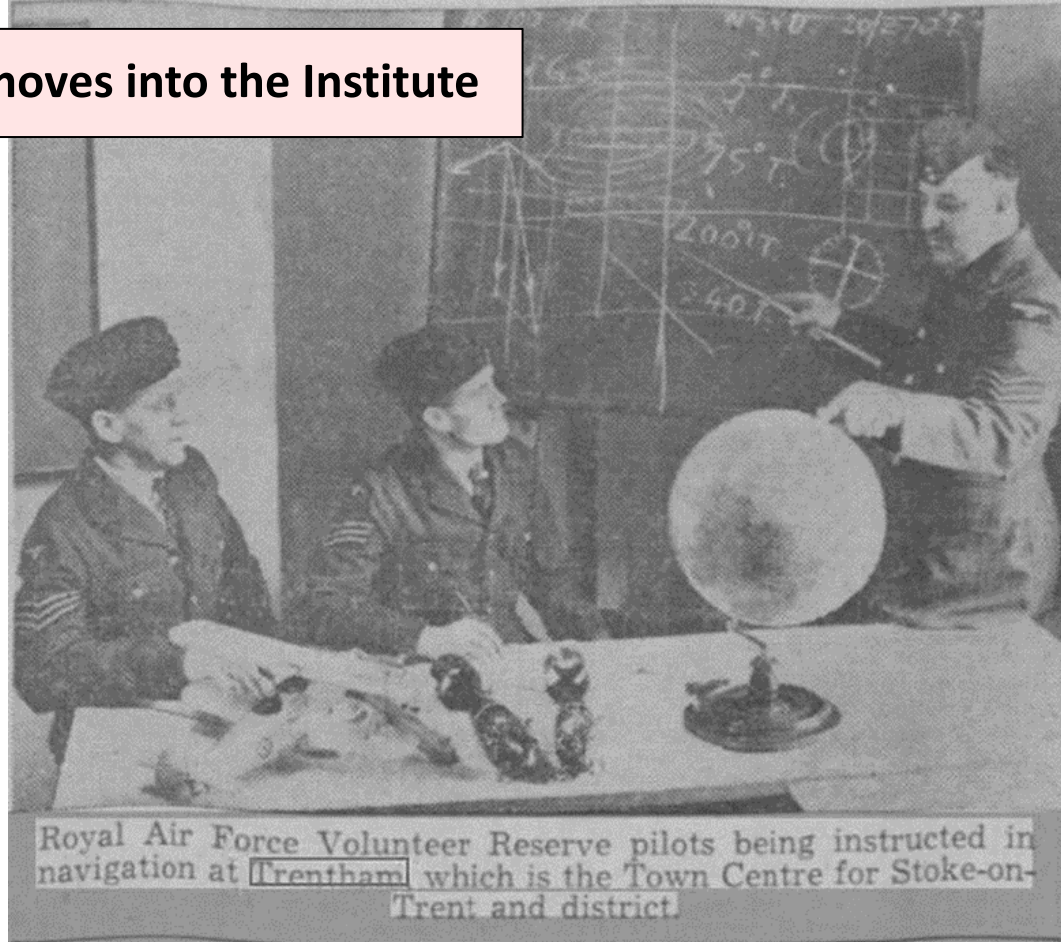
Trentham's War

1939-1945

A timeline

1939
16 May

RAFVR moves into the Institute



The aim of the RAF Volunteer Reserve Training Centre was to provide a pool of trained men, who, when qualified could be posted to RAF squadrons. The free training included navigation, airmanship, gunnery, wireless telegraphy and reconnaissance. A tall tower at the rear of building was used to teach the basics of parachute jumping. They received flying instruction at Meir Aerodrome.

In 1939 there were nearly 200 personnel under training, including 20 pilots, 64 wireless operators/air gunners, 10 observers and 100 ground staff.

SPEND YOUR SPARE
TIME IN THE
ROYAL AIR FORCE
**VOLUNTEER
RESERVE**

It's service you'll like!

VOLUNTEERS NOW WANTED
FOR TRAINING AS

**WIRELESS OPERATOR-
—AIR GUNNERS**

(Age 18 to 32)

Free Training—Expense Allowances—

Annual Gratuities.

Full particulars from:—

The Commandant R.A.F.V.R.,
Stone Road, **Trentham**,
Staffordshire

1939
July

Hanford ARP wardens already mobilized and ready for duty



Photo: Sentinel

1939
26
August

TRENTHAM GARDENS Ltd.

Until Further Notice the **BALLROOM AND RESTAURANTS WILL BE CLOSED** for Dancing and the Sale of Refreshments.

The Gardens and Amusements **WILL BE OPEN AS USUAL**, also **Swimming Pool and Cafe**. Light Refreshments will continue to be served in the Gardens.

Arrival of bank staff from London to establish the Central Clearing House for the Bank of England in the ballroom of Trentham Gardens. They are billeted with local families.



Photo
Bebbington
collection

1939
3
September

Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain broadcasts to the nation that:
“This country is at war with Germany”

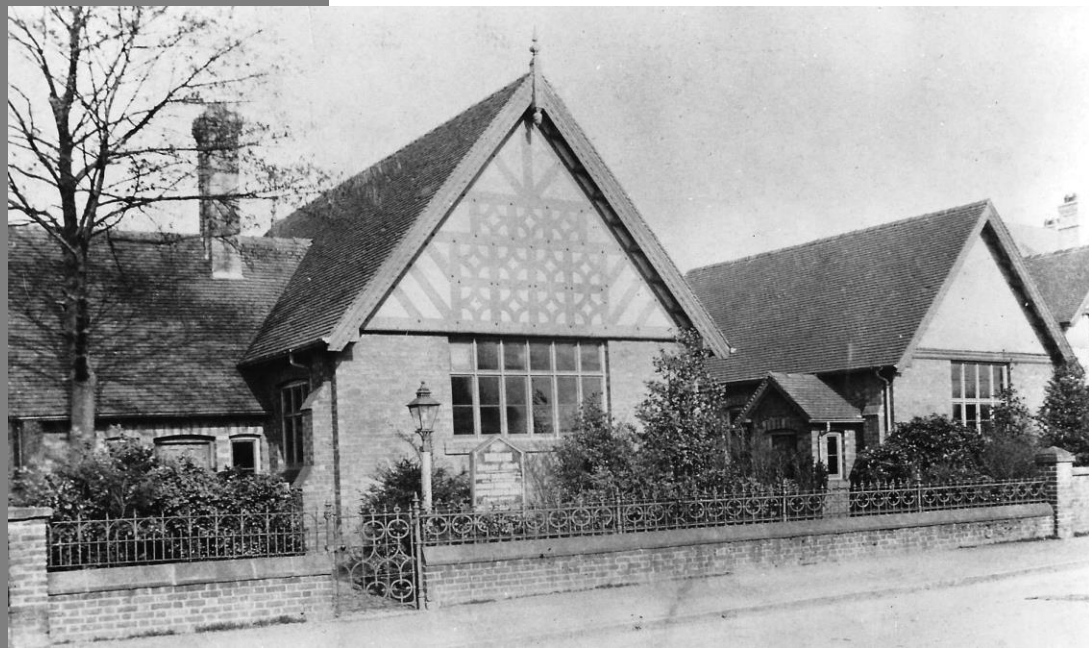


Photo – creative commons

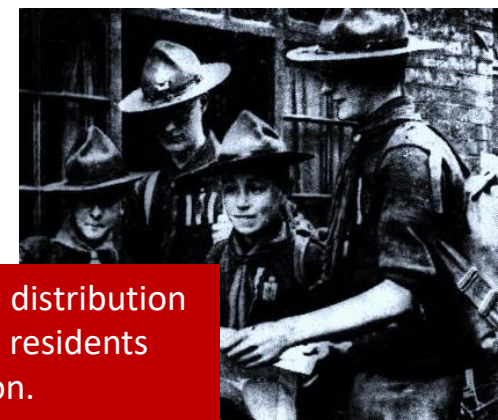
1939
September
to
November

Trentham residents become ARP wardens and civil defence volunteers and local boy scouts help to fit gas masks

The 1939 Register shows that 124 men and women were designated as ARP wardens. The senior warden was Mr J Stuart Maddock of Albert Road. Their HQ was in the Sunday School Rooms of the Methodist Church.



Dickie Williams [pictured top left] and other civil defence volunteers from Dairyfields practice first aid
Photo – family collection



Local scouts helped with the distribution of gas masks and showed residents how to put them on.

1939
September
to
November

Trentham War Hospitals Supplies Depot set up and run from The Priory by Mrs Isabelle Wenger



The Priory



Mrs. J. A. Dale, the Organiser of the Stoke-on-Trent Branch of the Women's Voluntary Service, presenting a W.V.S. badge to the Chairman of the Trentham Hospital Supply Depot (Mrs. A. H. C. Wenger) when she visited Trentham Priory Working Party.

Trentham Meeting

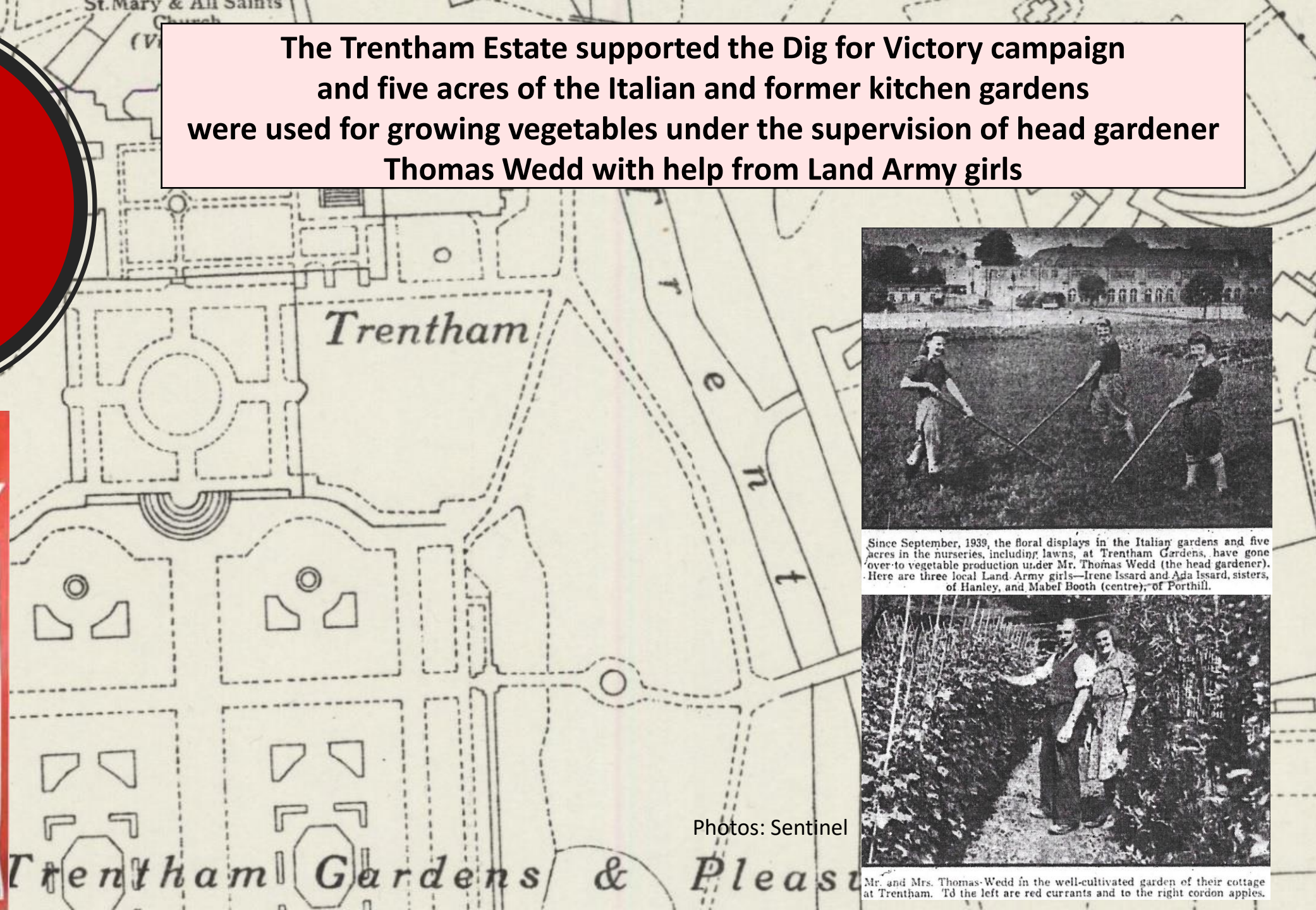
The first meeting of **Trentham** War Hospitals Supplies Depot is being held at **Trentham** Priory next Wednesday afternoon, and any **Trentham** resident wishing to help with the work will be welcome.

* * * *

1939 ->

The Trentham Estate supported the Dig for Victory campaign and five acres of the Italian and former kitchen gardens were used for growing vegetables under the supervision of head gardener Thomas Wedd with help from Land Army girls

DIG FOR VICTORY



Since September, 1939, the floral displays in the Italian gardens and five acres in the nurseries, including lawns, at Trentham Gardens, have gone over to vegetable production under Mr. Thomas Wedd (the head gardener). Here are three local Land Army girls—Irene Issard and Ada Issard, sisters, of Hanley, and Mabel Booth (centre), of Porthill.

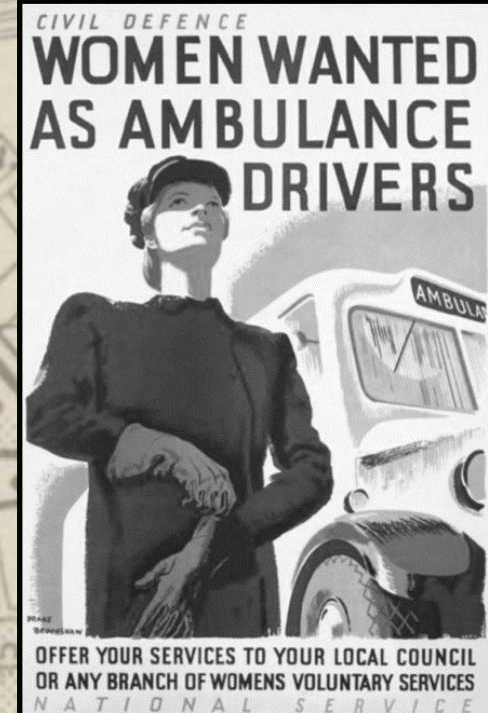
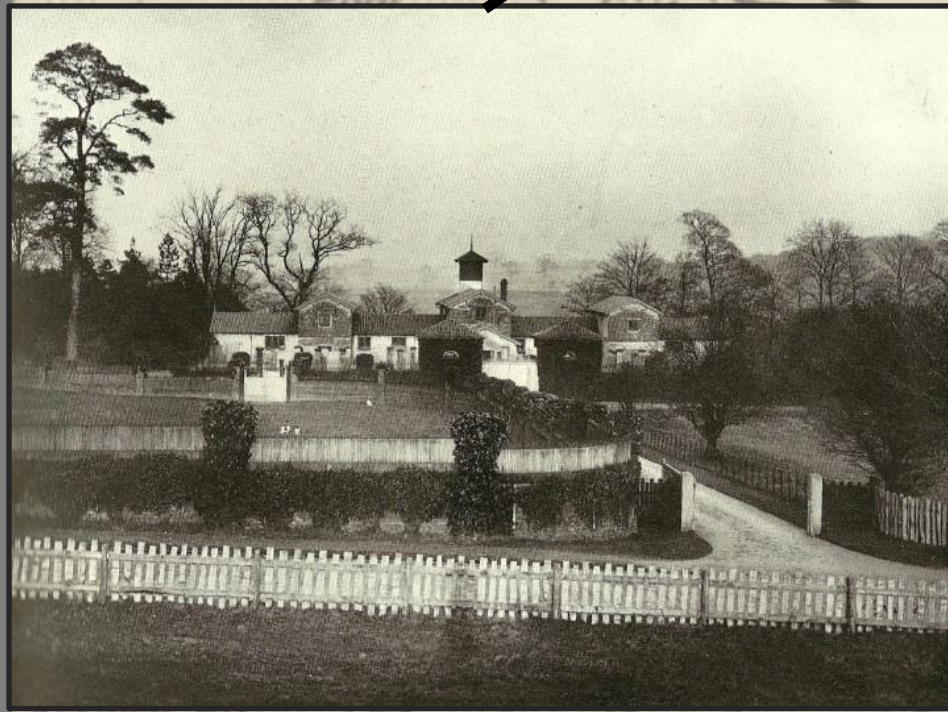


Photos: Sentinel

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wedd in the well-cultivated garden of their cottage at Trentham. To the left are red currants and to the right cordon apples.

1939 ->

The former North Staffordshire Hunt Kennels off Whitmore Road
becomes a base for Red Cross Ambulances



1939 ->

Weddings continue to take place at Trentham Church throughout the War



Robert Deacon and Betty Yates 1939



Joseph Longmore and Rose Bunn 1940



Margaret Turner and C. Marshall Amor 1942



Kenneth Wild and Ruby Fielding 1940



Sidney Wild and Kathleen Hickman 1940

1940 ->

Bank staff settle into life in the Ballroom and Gardens



Photos – Bebbington and Skilbeck collection

1940
May Bank
Holiday

Business “as usual” at Trentham Gardens and the Park

TRENTHAM GARDENS
Near Stoke-on-Trent

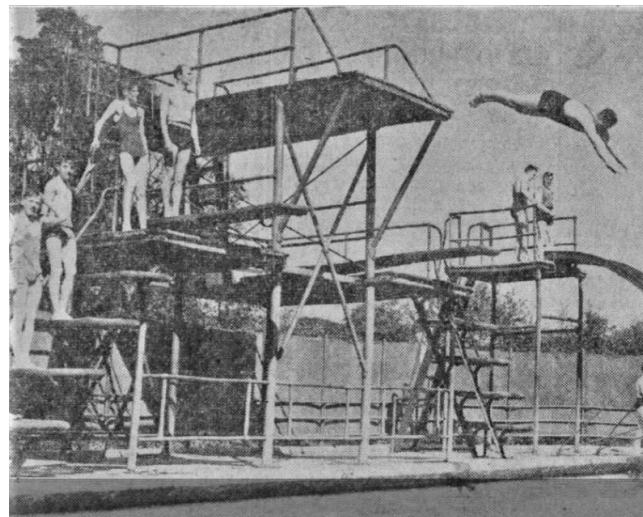
WHITSUNTIDE ATTRACTIONS

Open as usual, including the magnificent Swimming Pool.
All Sports and Amusements as in past Seasons (except Dancing due to the closing of the Entertainment Hall).
Miniature Railway—Motor Boats—Rowing Boats, Etc.
Catering restricted due to war conditions, but Teas and Light refreshments available in the Gardens.
On Whit-Sunday and Whit-Monday first-class Bands will give concerts in the Gardens, afternoon and evening.

ADMISSION—6^D. ADULTS 3^D. CHILDREN



Young visitors paddling in the stream at Trentham Park in 1940.



Photos: Sentinel

Local beauty spots and amusement resorts were crowded during the day. Trentham open-air baths were particularly popular. There were large crowds there on Saturday, and even larger yesterday, when would-be bathers had to queue up for dressing accommodation.

Holiday-makers in the district today consisted of miners and pottery operatives at whose places of employment essential repairs to plant, occupying anything from a day or two to a whole week, are being carried out; and a minority of office workers.

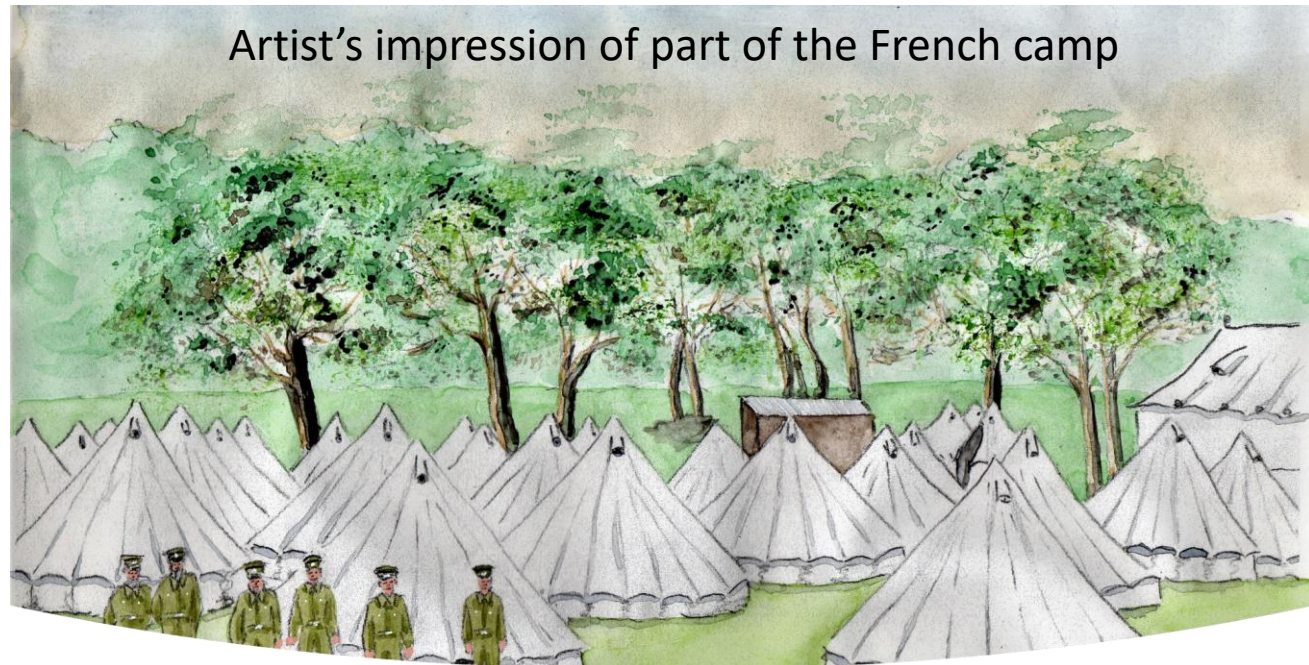
All the departments of the Stoke-on-Trent Corporation were working as usual.

1940
14 June

**The War Office takes over Trentham Park as an encampment for 3,500 troops.
The Duke agrees that admission changes to the swimming pool and gardens
be reduced to 3d per head for troops.**

1940
17 June

**Arrival of No. 505 Field Company, Royal Engineers, under orders to
“stage a camp” in the park, in readiness for occupation by troops.**



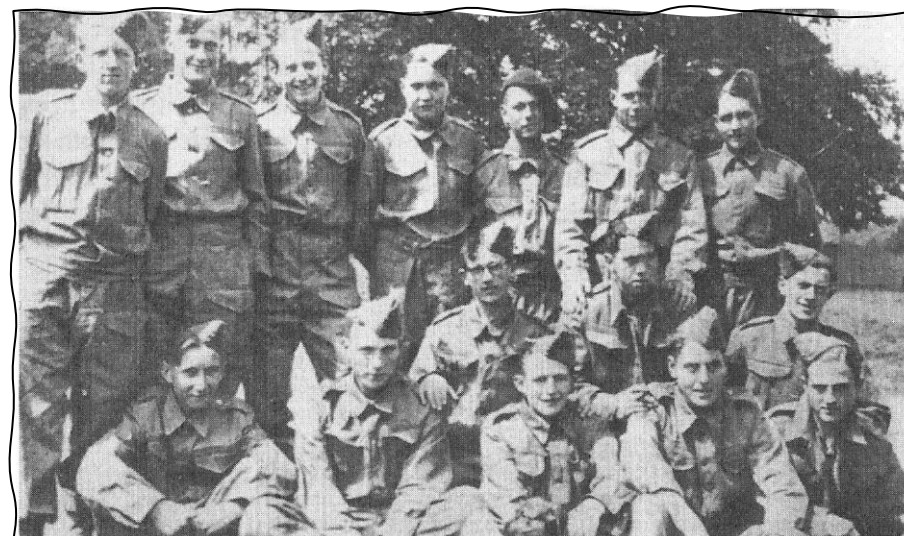
Painting: Alan Myatt

1940
18 June

French troops begin to arrive



23 juin à Stoke-on-Trent, cette équipe arrive de Brest. Au 2^e rang, à gauche, Robert Perrier le savon à barbe sur le visage. Il se rasait enfin !



A Trentham Park se forme le 27 juin une escouade de jeunes Brestoises et voisins autour du caporal Holley, chasseur alpin sous son béret. Debout : Guy André, Golhen, Hervé de la Ménardière, X, Holley, Jean Gourvennec, «Loulou» Kermadec. A genoux : X, Ange Mengant, X. Assis : Méchin, René Floch, Marcel Rodier, Marcel Cornen, Ernest Tassin. Dépouillés de leurs habits civils, ils viennent de toucher treillis et calot britanniques.



The majority of French troops that arrived were survivors of the 13th Foreign Legion half brigade and a half brigade of the Chasseurs Alpins, (Mountain Light infantry). After fighting in Norway, they had arrived in Brest to witness the defeat of the French Army and escaped to England, eventually arriving in Trentham.

Joseph Darchen Free French
Trentham Park 18 June -3 July 1940
Photo - Family collection

One legionnaire was impressed with the efficiency of British Military organisation in providing tents and cooking equipment, plus the camp's location in the vast park, with woods and an enormous lake full of fish.

But morale was poor as the troops were restless at the confused situation regarding their future status with the newly formed Free French movement of General Charles De Gaulle.

1940
June

Hospitality to French officers by British officers and local people



Trentham Park 1940. French officers enjoy a cigarette with a British colleague. *Evening Sentinel*



The Mayer family from Dairyfields
with French officers
Back Row - Elijah Mayer
Middle Row - Colin Mayer
Front Row - Eric Mayer
All were ARP wardens
Photo - family collection

Trentham Park Golf Club fundraising for the Red Cross

1940
20 June



Mrs. Moxon, who opened the Red Cross garden party held by the Trentham Park Golf Club yesterday, playing a round of clock golf with Mrs. J. A. Dale, Dr. Frank Yates and Alderman J. A. Dale.

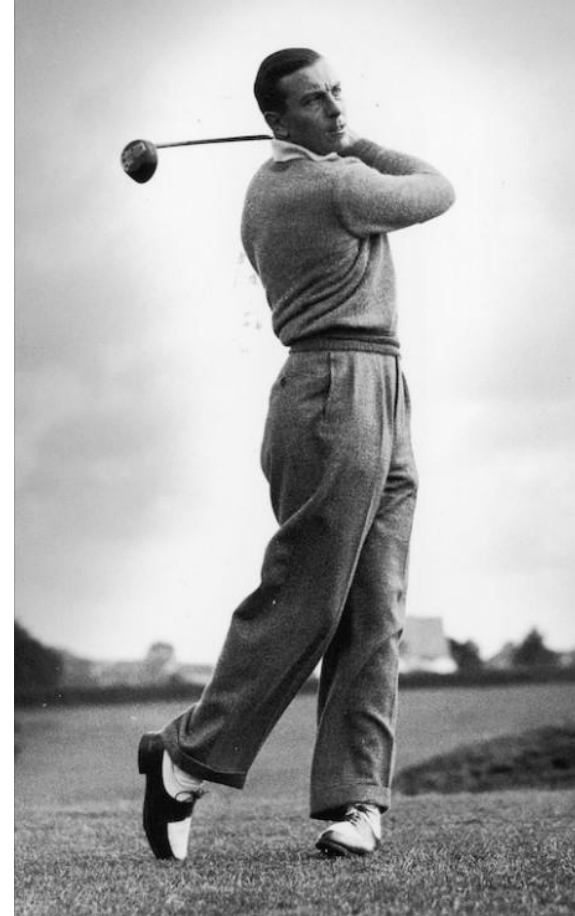
Photo: Sentinel

1940
27 June

Famous golfer Henry Cotton helps local fundraising for the Red Cross



Henry Cotton joined the Royal Air Force during WW2. He split his time between active duty and fundraising, organising a number of charity events with other professionals in aid of the Red Cross. He came to Trentham Golf Club on Saturday 27 June 1940 for an exhibition match which raised £1000. One of the few times that the proceeds reached four figures. He was later knighted for his hard work during the war, an achievement that gave him as much pride as any golf championship.



£1,000 FOR RED CROSS

SPLENDID RESULT OF N.S. GOLFERS' EFFORT

North Staffordshire sportsmen supported the golf exhibition match by Henry Cotton, Richard Burton, James Adams and Tom Hassall at Trentham on Saturday so magnificently that a sum of £1,000 was raised for the Red Cross.

At the conclusion of the event a meeting of the organising committee was held at which Mr. T. Cotton (Captain of the Trentham Club) presented each of the players with a coffee set, and announced that the effort had realised more than £1,000. He emphasised that this result had been made possible by the co-operation of all golf clubs in North Staffordshire, and it was a result far surpassing expectations.

All the players briefly responded, and Cotton, expressing appreciation of the effort of the local clubs, said it was only the third time in 57 such exhibitions that the proceeds had reached four figures. The other two occasions were his visits to Harborne (Birmingham) and Abbeydale (Sheffield).

The result of the match, which was decided over 36 holes, was a win for Cotton and Hassall by one up—the margin they established during the morning round when Cotton established a course record of 68. In the afternoon, the golf was not so brilliant, but it was always a close struggle, and eventually ended all square.

Cotton was round in 73, Hassall, who played a notably steady inward half, and Burton had 77, and Adams had 78.

The balls which the players used were sold for more than £43.

1940
28 June

Visit of General Charles de Gaulle to the camp as part of his attempt to rally support for the Free French movement



Photo –
creative
commons

1940
1 July

Over 600 French troops leave Trentham for repatriation to North Africa, having decided NOT to join de Gaulle's movement

1940
3 July

Arrival of French sailors following the seizure of French warships in British ports



Washing and cooking
in the camp



Photos: Sentinel

1940
4 July

French sailors continue to arrive following evacuation from Dunkirk the previous month



Photo: Sentinel

● French sailors strolling through the woods at Trentham Park, where they spent a short period in 1940 after the evacuation from Dunkirk.

1940
10 July

The French troops who decided to join de Gaulle's Free French
leave Trentham for Aldershot



*Le Général de Gaulle passe la Légion en revue à Aldershot (août 1940)
à ses côtés le Colonel Magrin-Vernerey.*

1940
12 July

The Duke writes to the Secretary of State for War to complain about the damage to the Park

"...while it may be a desirable site for a camp of British soldiers, it is scarcely suitable for a camp of soldiers of various nationalities, as it is next to a residential estate.

I request that orders be given that no foreign troops be sent to Trentham and that the damage be made good!"

The complaint against the French troops:

- Stealing railings and fence posts for fires.
- Breaking locks on the gates into the park and gardens.
- Sneaking out night and shooting at deer.
- Using the Spinney as a latrine, constituting a menace to health.
- Washing in Park Brook and the reservoir, which is reserved for breeding fish.
- Poor conduct drawing complaints from residents of Dairyfields.

Claim for compensation £50

1940
29 July

War Department requisitions 100 acres of the Park, as more troops expected. Wooden buildings erected for kitchens and latrines. Complaints continue.

1940
7
August

Complaints about the French sailors:

- Chasing and killing deer with pistols
- Trespassing over the shooting coverts
- Snaring rabbits and digging their burrows
- Stealing potatoes and chickens from tenant farmers
- Fishing in the reservoir, reserved for breeding fish
- Cutting down young larch trees.



Deer in the Park, private collection

1940
13
August

Letter to Camp Commandant stated:

Nearly 50 deer escaped as they were pursued by French sailors. The deer forced their way through fencing by Gravel Pit Lodge. They will cause considerable damage and will have to be destroyed. A claim for compensation will made.



Gravel Pit Lodge – private collection

King George VI and General de Gaulle visit French camp in the Park

1940
25 August



25 August 1940. King George VI with General de Gaulle, reviewing French troops at Trentham Park.

1940
23
September

Troops who did NOT rally to de Gaulle, were moved for repatriation

1940
14
September

Clearing Bank employees organise swimming gala for the Red Cross



Swimmers Help Red Cross

Organized by "The Outcasts" Swimming Club, a successful swimming gala was held at the Trentham Gardens open-air bath on Tuesday, in aid of the funds of the Red Cross. The principal attraction was the diving exhibition by Mr. T. Scott, the Staffordshire and Lancashire water polo player, who represented England in the European games in Italy in 1927 and in the Empire Games in Canada in 1930. Miss Lorna Frampton, an Olympic Games representative, gave an exhibition of back-stroke swimming. In the team race for the Inter-Bank trophy the successful contestants were Lloyds Bank, the Midland Bank gaining second place, and Barclays and the National Provincial securing equal points for third place.

1940
28
September

Competitions continue at Trentham Park Golf Club



Competitors at the North Staffordshire Golfers' Alliance meeting at Trentham Park. In front are Mr. W. E. Cropper (Secretary), Dr. F. Yates (Trentham Park captain) and Mr. E. Walleit (Trentham Park Secretary). In the second row, Mr. W. B. Fenton and Mr. R. Storey, winners of the event, are seated on either side of Mr. Len Smith, the Alliance captain.

Photo: Sentinel

1940
5 October

Trentham Home Guard's fundraising idea

Home Guards' Spitfires?

Trentham members of the Home Guard have suggested that the 1,500,000 Home Guards throughout the country should give up one night's subsistence allowance—1s. 6d. for each man—in order to provide 20 Spitfire fighters for the R.A.F. In making the suggestion, which they point out would raise a sum of £120,000, Trentham Home Guards state that it would obviate unnecessary organization if a special date were approved by headquarters so that a simultaneous effort could be made. Each district or group could issue to section leaders a circular which would be returned with signatures authorizing the transfer of the grant for that night or week to a central fund. The totals on the specified date could then be deducted from the total grant due to the various groups or districts. This method, urge the Trentham members, would be simple to organize and would avoid the collection of so many individual amounts.



...Each member of the Home Guard should give up one night's subsistence of 1s 6d to raise the sum of £120,000 to provide 120 Spitfires for the RAF...

1940
10
October

**On the home front - Trentham Parish Hall opens
and becomes the HQ of the local Home Guard**

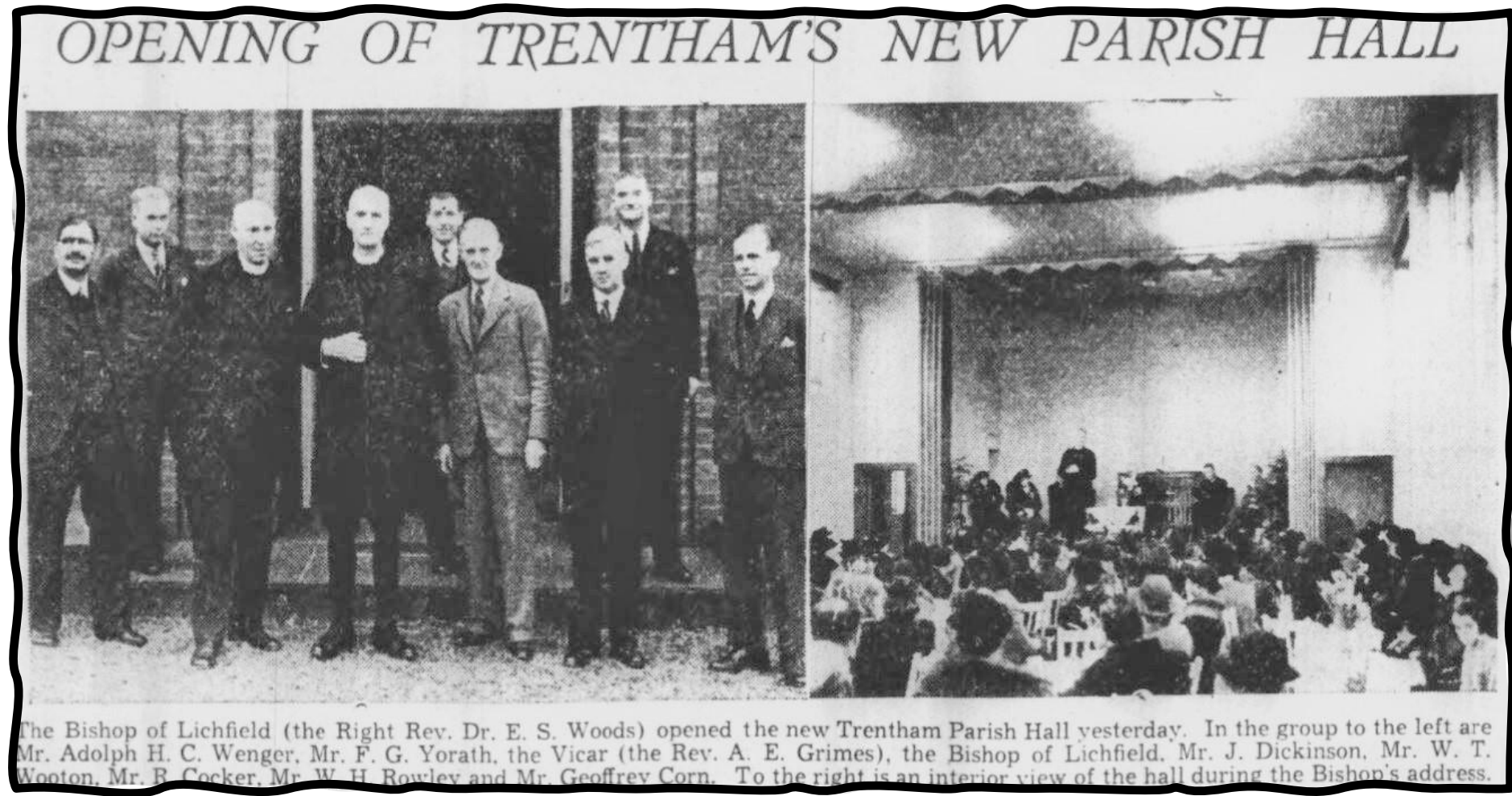


Photo: Sentinel

1940
16
November

First Trentham casualty Sergeant-Pilot Hugh Sharpley
Lost at sea



Town Clerk's Loss

It became known on Monday that Sergeant-Pilot Hugh **Sharpley**, younger son of Mr. E. B. **Sharpley**, town clerk of Stoke-on-Trent, and of Mrs. Sharpley, The Toft, Hanchurch, had lost his life during air action off the coast of Cornwall on Saturday. The information his parents received in a telegram was that he was "missing, believed killed." Mr. **Sharpley**, who was 30 years of age, was before joining the Air Force an engineering assistant to the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board, and previously he had been employed for a time on the engineering staff of the Corporation Sewage Works Department. He had a brilliant career in the Air Force, and first learned flying with the North Staffordshire Aero Club in 1935. He was also a fine rider, having won several steeplechases and played for the North Staffordshire Polo Club.

1940
Late
November

**The remainder of French troops leave Trentham Park
for repatriation to North Africa**



Photo www.historyonthenet.com/free-french-forces-during-world-war-two

1941

Requisition of 26.43 acres of land off Eccleshall Road by the Air Ministry for a Maintenance Unit, connected to RAF Stafford



1941
29
August

Evacuees treated to a visit to Trentham Gardens

DAY'S OUTING TO TRENTHAM



SOME of the young wartime visitors to Stoke and Fenton who were given a day's outing to Trentham yesterday by means of the Lord Mayor's Fund. In front are Alderman and Mrs. H. Leese and the Deputy Lord Mayor and Deputy Lady Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. G. J. Timmis), who accompanied the kiddies.

Photo: Sentinel

1941
25
September

Local children raise funds

Children Help Red Cross

Aiming to raise £5 on behalf of Red Cross funds, a sale arranged by a group of Trent-ham children realised £13 7s. The organisers were Yvonne Bailey and her school friends, Mary Smith, Doreen Hodson, Betty Schofield, Sybil Gould and Joan Sinton, and the effort was held at 9, Robinson-road, Trent-ham.

The children had made and collected articles for the sale, and also served refreshments, and were able to arrange a programme extending over two hours.

Sybil Gould, mentioned in the article and seen in the photo, shared some memories of World War 2...



"We baked our own bread, churned butter, made jam, grew our own veg. A favourite meal was lobby, with little meat but plenty of veg, suet dumplings and gravy. We also ate rabbits caught by our father – they were pests in the garden and he trapped them. During the war he would take rabbits to the butcher's shop, where he worked, and portions were added to the meagre meat ration."

1941
13
November

Speed the Tanks tour comes to Trentham Park



General Sir Robert Gordon Finlayson, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C., taking the salute at Stoke during the Speed the Tanks parade of members of the fighting Services and Civil Defence workers. With him are the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent (Mr. A. E. Hewitt, M.C.) and Colonel W. E. Greene, M.B.E.

TOUR OF TANKS FINALE

Tribute to Potteries

The North Staffordshire tour of a detachment of tanks, in connection with the Speed the Tanks drive, ended yesterday with a realistic mock attack by the machines in Trentham Park.

Thousands of people watched the thrilling display, which was a fitting climax to a tour which has aroused great enthusiasm throughout the district.

The tanks—a waiting Matilda and the Valentines—made two attacks, in which the vast crowd were treated as an enemy force.

THRILLING CHARGE

The tanks moved to high ground and then, under cover of smoke bombs and making full use of ground cover, they swept down on the crowd. Circling round, and with guns firing blank shells, they burst through the smoke clouds in a thrilling flank attack. To add to the realism of the assault, harmless fire crackers were exploded on the ground.

Back went the tanks to the high ground again, and then repeated the attack—only on this occasion they scorned the use of smoke bombs or cover of any description, but simply charged down on the crowd with their guns barking, indicating how an enemy force could be assaulted successfully by sheer speed.

Afterwards many hundreds of the spectators were given free rides in the tanks over the rough and bumpy ground.



Photos: Sentinel

1942

Clearing Bank Employees stage plays under the name Siren Theatre

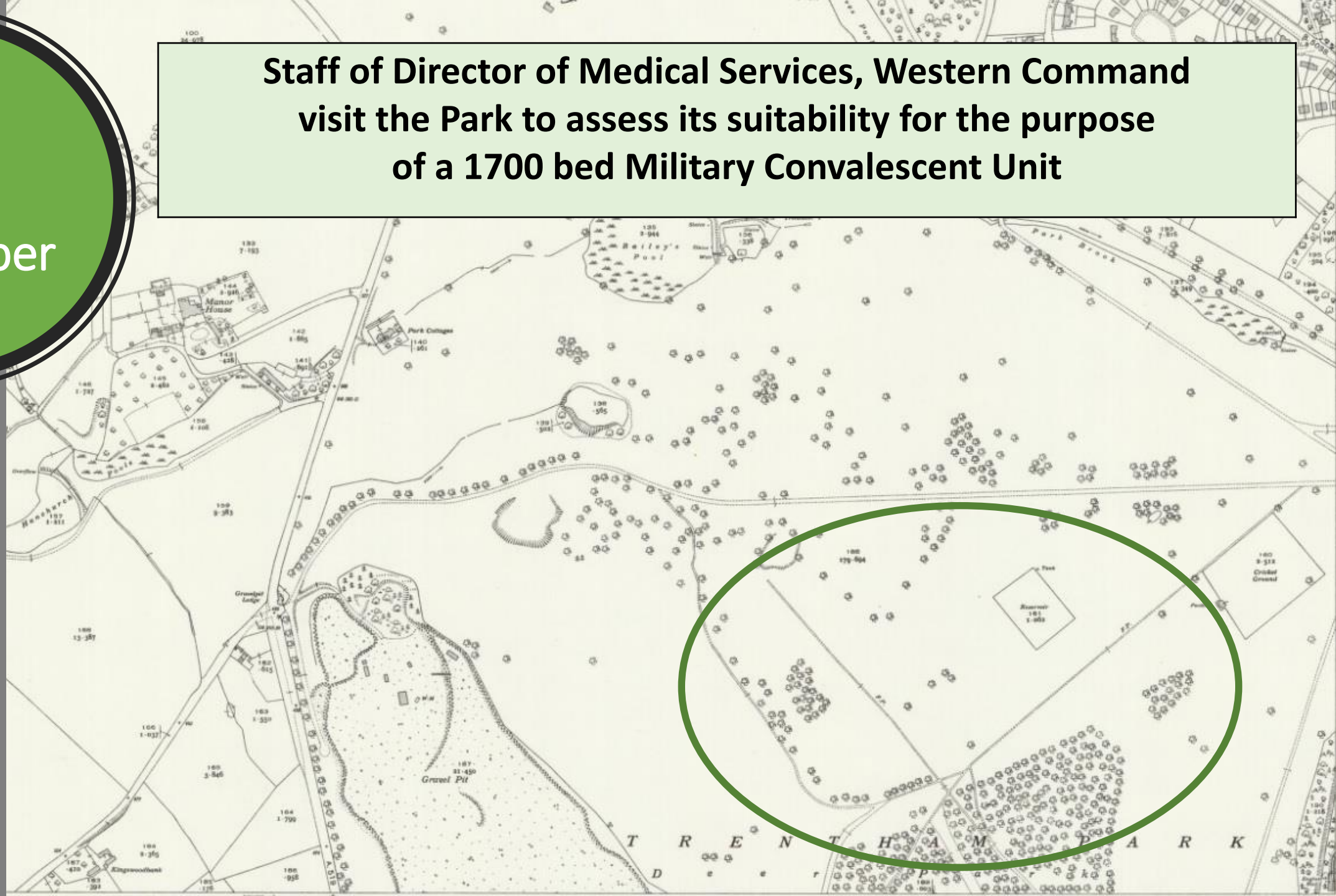


Photos: Peter Skilbeck

1942
21
November

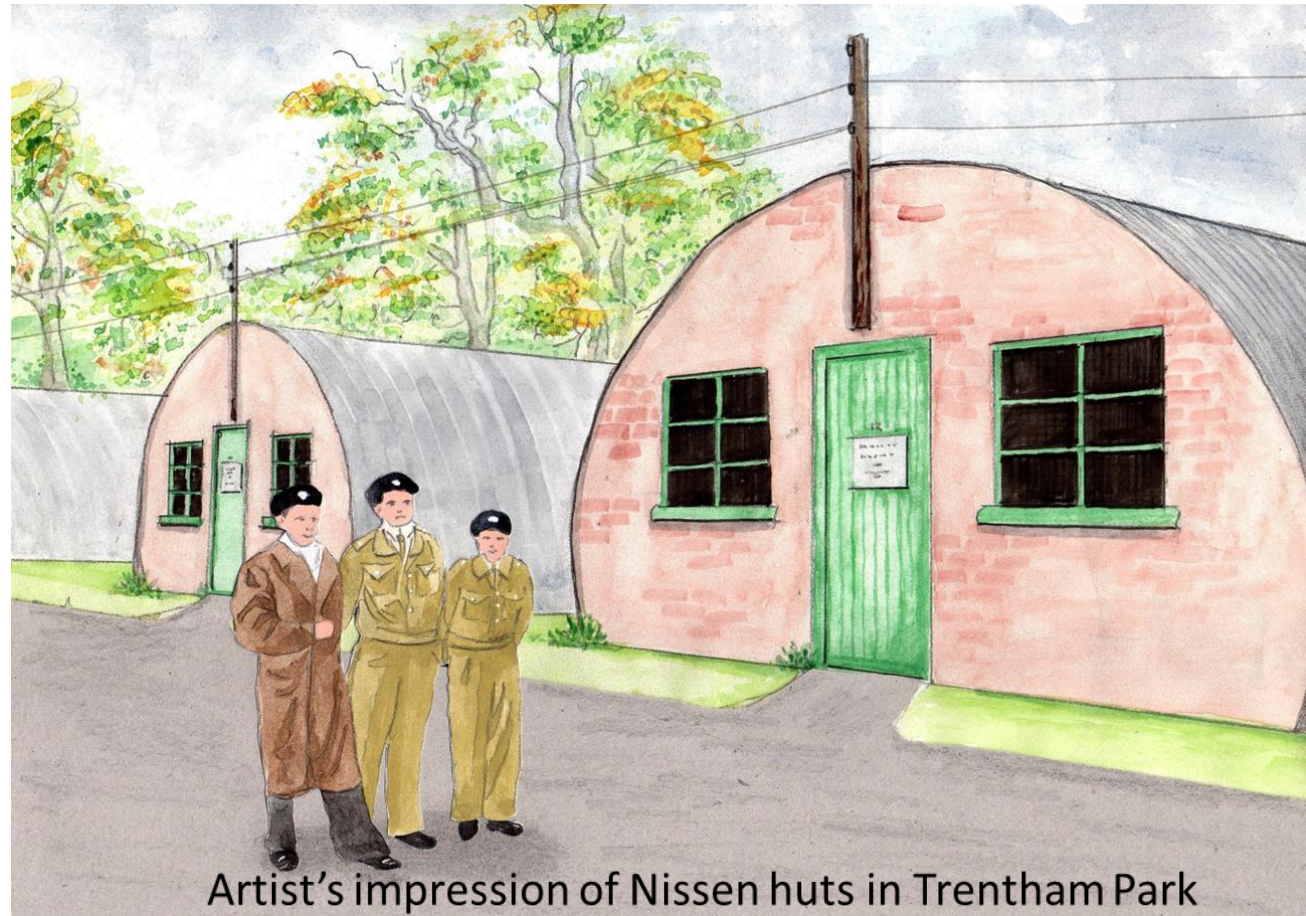
**Staff of Director of Medical Services, Western Command
visit the Park to assess its suitability for the purpose
of a 1700 bed Military Convalescent Unit**

Detail from
1937 rev 1940
25 inch
OS Map



1942
21
December

**First staff arrive with equipment and ambulances
to establish No.122 Military Convalescent Depot (MCD)**



Painting: Alan Myatt

Artist's impression of Nissen huts in Trentham Park

1943

Staff at the Clearing House continue to make the most of their evacuation and location, whatever the season



1943

Convalescents enjoying spudbashing duties



Photo: Sentinel

1943
14
October

**Improved facilities and number of staff increased
at No. 122 MCD, to provide 2000 beds**



Similar military
convalescent depot
at Cheltenham

1943
2
December

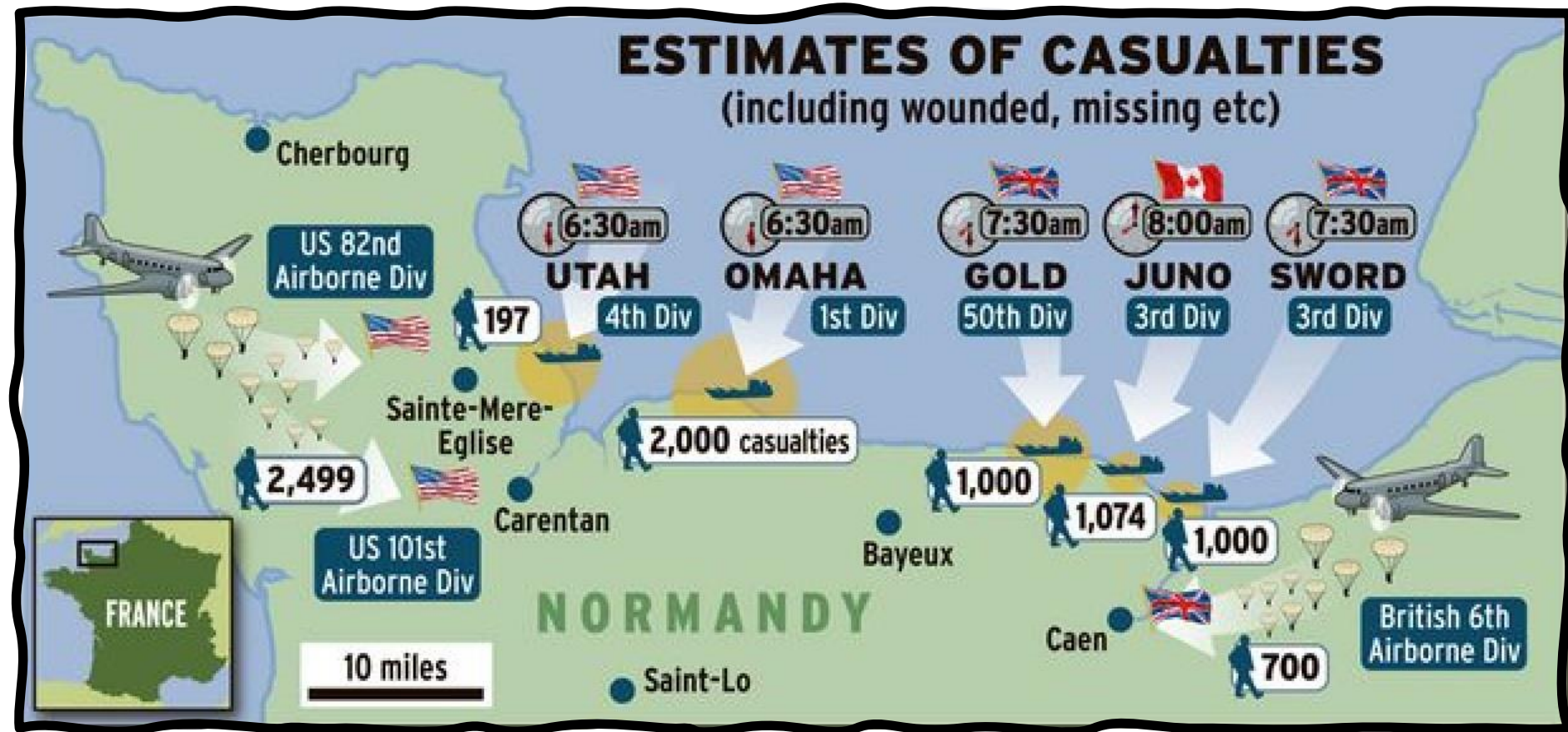
Requisition of additional land off Eccleshall Road and Park Cottages by Air Ministry



Photo - David Cooke

1944
6 June

'D' Day — Operation Overlord, 156,000 Allied troops invade France, causing a surge in casualty numbers in convalescent units



1944
16 June

Convalescents begin to arrive locally



Photo -
The Sentinel

1944
19 July

Local children raise money for Red Cross Funds

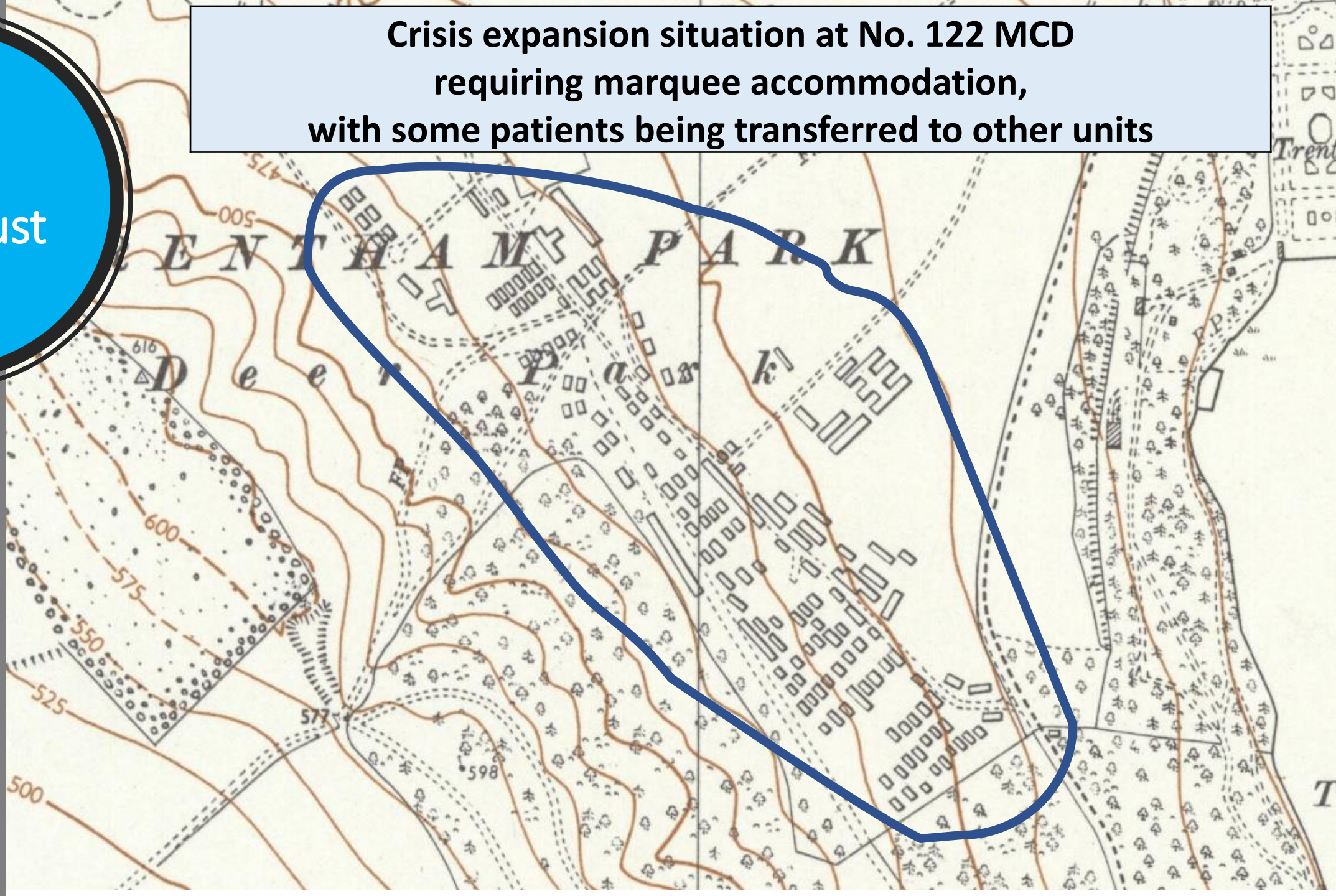


Photo: Vanessa Barnish

Children from the Marquis Kindergarten present musical playlets in Trentham Gardens

1944
11 August

Crisis expansion situation at No. 122 MCD
requiring marquee accommodation,
with some patients being transferred to other units



1945 rev 1948 6 inch OS
map of Trentham Park
showing camp layout

1945
8 May

'VE' Day — Victory in Europe Day
Local celebrations include a bonfire in Trentham Park

VE Celebrations in North Staffs.

VE celebrations in North Staffordshire are now in full swing.

They began yesterday—little uncertainly and amid the greatest tension, as people waited for the news. Flags appeared—perhaps rather timidly—during the morning, when it was known that Donitz had recalled his U-boats, and that total surrender would come in a matter of hours.

But, as the hours passed without any official announcement, the wilder element succeeded the early jubilation. Crowds stood about the streets and squares, waiting for news, snatching at rumours.

The Great News!

With the publication of the Victory Edition of the *Sentinel*, late in the afternoon, all problems were solved! There was a big rush for copies, and, as people read

fires—not many, but probably there will be more this morning.

One last night was in Trentham Park, and the logs for it had been collected by German prisoners—a funeral pyre of Nazism!

Celebrations today opened quietly—thanks in the main to much depleted bus services and to uncertainty about work! But a cheering and at the same time businesslike note was struck by a Hanley shop which put up the notice, early this morning: "Fish For All—But Bring Your Own Paper." There was a queue within five minutes.

A *Sentinel* reporter was asked by a boy of eight "what peace was like"—a query at once amusing and pathetic. Another sign of the day and the times was the deserted aspect of the Smithfield Market at Newcastle: normally a hive of industry.

Solemn and Festive.



1945
15 May

Casualties continue to arrive at Trentham Park station

Convoy Of Wounded

Military casualties, including 121 stretcher and 157 sitting cases, among whom were two North Staffordshire Servicemen, arrived at Trentham Park Station early this morning.

Two local soldiers, who were received at the City General Hospital, are **Driver F. R. Crane**, of 15, Parker-street, Burslem; and **Private I. Goldstraw**, of Mount Pleasant, Ipstones.

The cases were dealt with by the Civil Defence Services of Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle, Kidsgrove and Biddulph. There was also a strong Civil Defence contingent from Wolverhampton on duty, under Staff-Officer J. Nabbs.

The personnel carrying out the unloading at Trentham Park station included a large proportion of Stoke-on-Trent Wardens, while the St. John Ambulance Brigade members dealt with cases taken to the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary and to the City General Hospital, London-road. Many of the cases were conveyed to hospitals outside of Stoke-on-Trent as far afield as Shrewsbury.

Two of the Stoke-on-Trent W.V.S. mobile canteens served refreshments to the wounded at the Trentham de-training point.



Photo credit: Ambulance train - Wellcome collection.

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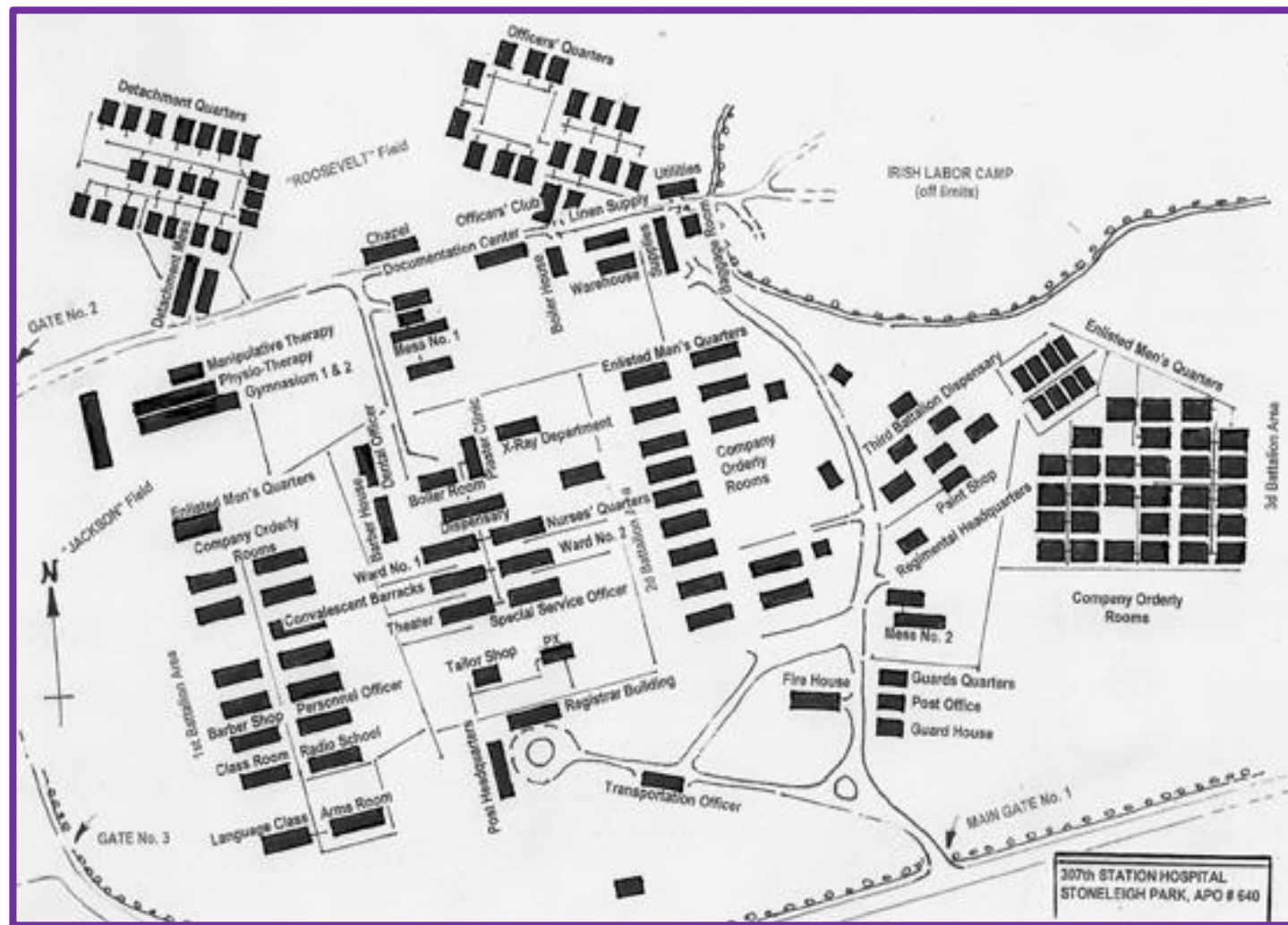


Trentham Park station

1945
11 July

No. 122 MCD relocated from Trentham Park to Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire

Rehabilitation training at Stoneleigh
1943 © IWM D 16614



1945
28 July

Post-war visit from the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland and garden party for Trentham tenants



Photos: The Sentinel

The Duke and Duchess entertained about 300 tenants, employees, pensioners of the Trentham Estate and schoolchildren in an informal garden party.

Tea was served in a large marquee and there were motorboat rides on the lake, trips on the miniature railway, a Punch and Judy Show and musical entertainment.



Children from the private school in the grounds of the Gardens

1941
-
1945

Prisoners of War were never located at Trentham, but they were brought from the nearest POW camps to provide labour

Italian POWs worked on local farms from 1941. They also carried out maintenance of grounds and gardens on the estate.

German POWs did not appear until 1944. They often worked around the convalescent camp and were more closely guarded than the Italians, although often with rifles containing no ammunition.



1945
15 August

'VJ' Day — Japanese surrender

SENTINEL, August 15th, 1945

VEST YOUR LOTTERY COUPONS
CONFIDENCE at
HUNTBAUGH'S
House of Confidence

Evening Sentinel **CITY FINAL**

No. 25,189 Telephone: Stoke-on-Trent 2381 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1945 (Registered for Transmission as a Newspaper) THREE-HALFPENCE

Always goes first... **BIRD'S CUSTARD**

WORLD JOY ON "CEASE FIRE"

King and Parliament in Victory Pageant

CAPTUROUS SCENES ON COMING OF PEACE

MacArthur Taking Capitulation

Victory joy and thanksgiving swept the world to-day, and chief focal point for Britain's celebration was the Royal procession to open the peace Parliament. Hundreds of thousands of people assembled in the rain and rent the air with resounding cheers as the King and Queen in an open carriage from Buckingham Palace to Westminster and back. It was a glorious reception, which was repeated when the King and Queen and the two Princesses appeared on the Palace balcony just before 1 o'clock.

It was a brilliant scene in the House of Commons when the King, in the uniform of Admiral of the Fleet, and the Queen, in turquoise blue, took their places on twin golden thrones before the reading of the King's Speech.

Heart of Empire's Thanksgiving

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

NORTH STAFFS CELEBRATIONS



VICTORY SMILES—Rain failed to damp the spirits of this jubilant group of residents of the gaily-decorated William-street, Shelton, who started at an early hour this morning to make the most of the VJ holiday celebration.

How Japan Took the News

HARA-KIRI BY WAR MINISTER

Government Resigns

Japan's War Minister has committed *hara-kiri* and the rest of the Japanese Government has resigned in consequence of the capitulation.

The Japanese News Agency stated that Kore-shika Anami, Japanese War Minister, "committed suicide at his official residence last night to atone for his failure in accomplishing his duties as His Majesty's Minister."

He added: "The very great damage caused by the atomic bomb completely changed the war procedure."

A Tokyo broadcast to the New York said: "We have lost, but this is temporary."

The broadcast was given by General Anami, who was Japan's War Minister in the Suzuki Cabinet on April 17th last.

Listeners monitoring the transmission reported that his voice broke down in tears.

Ten names of local men who died on war service inscribed on Trentham War Memorial

1939 to 1945

MICHAEL ROBERT BESWICK
JOHN GORDON BRASSINGTON
DONALD AUBREY F. CHATHAM
THOMAS DEAKIN
ERIC HEATH HUGHES
ERIC WILLIAM LAKIN
MICHAEL JOSEPH O'RYAN
ROGER SHARPLEY
HUGH SHARPLEY
ALBERT JOSEPH WILSON



Michael Beswick
29 June 1944



John Brassington
22 November 1943



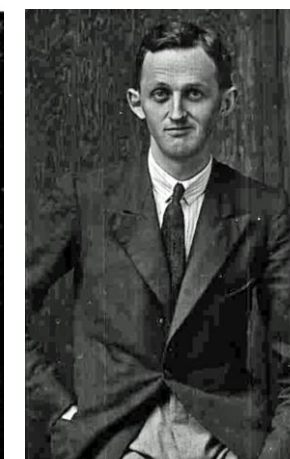
Thomas Deakin
11 November 1944



Eric Heath Hughes
20 March 1945



Eric Lakin
7 April 1945



Hugh Sharpley
16 November 1940



Albert Wilson
17 January 1945



Donald Chatham
25 October 1944



Michael O'Ryan
1 June 1944



Roger Sharpley
12 February 1944

1945
November

Arrival of No. 164 Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU) from Barmouth

2,000 Officer Cadets for Trentham Park

PERMANENT O.C.T.U. QUARTERS

Officer Cadet Training Unit No. 164, with a strength of 2,000 cadets, is to be transferred permanently to Trentham Park from Barmouth.

Most of the 2,000 cadets are expected to arrive next week, and the *Sentinel* was informed to-day by an Army official at Western Command headquarters, Chester, that the provisional date by which the transfer is to be completed is December 1st.

An advance unit of about 12 is already installed at Trentham Park, making preparatory arrangements.

It is stated that the cadets who come to the Unit will not need private billets.

There is already sleeping and living accommodation in Trentham Park for them.

In the early part of the war, members of the French Foreign Legion were quartered in the Park, and since then, for some years, the land and living accommodation were used for an Army convalescent camp.

It is reported from Barmouth to-day that the cadets are leaving the town this week, leaving only a section of the headquarters staff to clear up. Quantities of kit have already been sent away.

ABOUT 50 cadets of No. 164 Officer Cadet Training Unit, which is being transferred from Barmouth to Trentham Park, were due to arrive at Trentham to-day, but the main body have gone on leave until the end of next week.

This O.C.T.U., established at Barmouth five years ago, is to be based permanently in Trentham Park. A small advance party has been there this week, making preparatory arrangements.

Yesterday, hundreds of people on Barmouth promenade saw the passing-out parade of a company of cadets of the Unit—the last company to pass out. The total strength of the Unit is 800, and most of the cadets have now gone to their homes in all parts of the country for a week's leave. They will report at Trentham Park to-morrow week.

As previously reported in the *Sentinel*, there is enough sleeping and living accommodation at the camp—which in the later years of the war, was used as a Convalescent Camp—for practically the total strength of the Unit, but billets will be sought for a few of the Officers in charge, some of whom are married.



First passing out parade
5 January 1946

Saturday 5 January 1946. The first passing out parade for 164 OCTU. Cadet Niven receives the Belt of Honour with Commanding Officer Lt Col D.L. Darling standing to the left of the picture. W.P. Croft

1946
20
February

Notice of impending return to London given to Central Clearing House staff occupying the Ballroom

CLEARING HOUSE LEAVING THIS SUMMER

The Banks Central Clearing House evacuated to Trentham a few days before the outbreak of war in 1939, is to return to London this summer, after a stay of nearly seven years in North Staffordshire.

There are now about 1,000 employees of the Clearing House at Trentham and over 700 of them are drawn from the North Staffordshire area.

Official news has been received from the Committee of London Clearing Bankers about the future of the Central Clearing House at Trentham, and notices have been posted containing the following provisions:—

- (1) It is hoped that the gradual transfer of the Central Clearing to London will be completed between June 30th and August 16th, 1946.
- (2) Wartime temporary staffs are assured of continued employment at Trentham until transfer of the Clearing House to London within the period indicated.
- (3) As previously notified, any member of the wartime temporary staffs employed at Trentham who may be rendered redundant by the ultimate return of the Clearing House to London will receive three months' notice of termination of employment, and a leaving gratuity equivalent to one week's wages (plus any grants-in-aid in force) for each completed six months' service with the employing bank. Every reasonable facility will be granted for the purpose of attending interviews with prospective employers during the period of notice.



Farewell dance 29 April 1946

1946
October

Relocation of No. 164 OCTU to Eaton Hall, Chester

Cadets Leaving Trentham

The camp in Trentham Park, at present occupied by 164 Infantry O.C.T.U., is to be evacuated early in November when the unit will move to Eaton Hall, near Chester.

The O.C.T.U. moved to Trentham Park from Bar-mouth in November of last year and since that time 828 cadets have received commissions through the Unit; and 116 foreign cadets from Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Luxemburg and Palestine have also passed through the O.C.T.U.

At the beginning of the war the park was used as a camp for members of the French Foreign Legion, and was subsequently taken over as an Army convalescent camp.

It is learned from Western Command Headquarters that the camp is not to be de-requisitioned but will be taken over by another unit in due course.

Photo: Sentinel

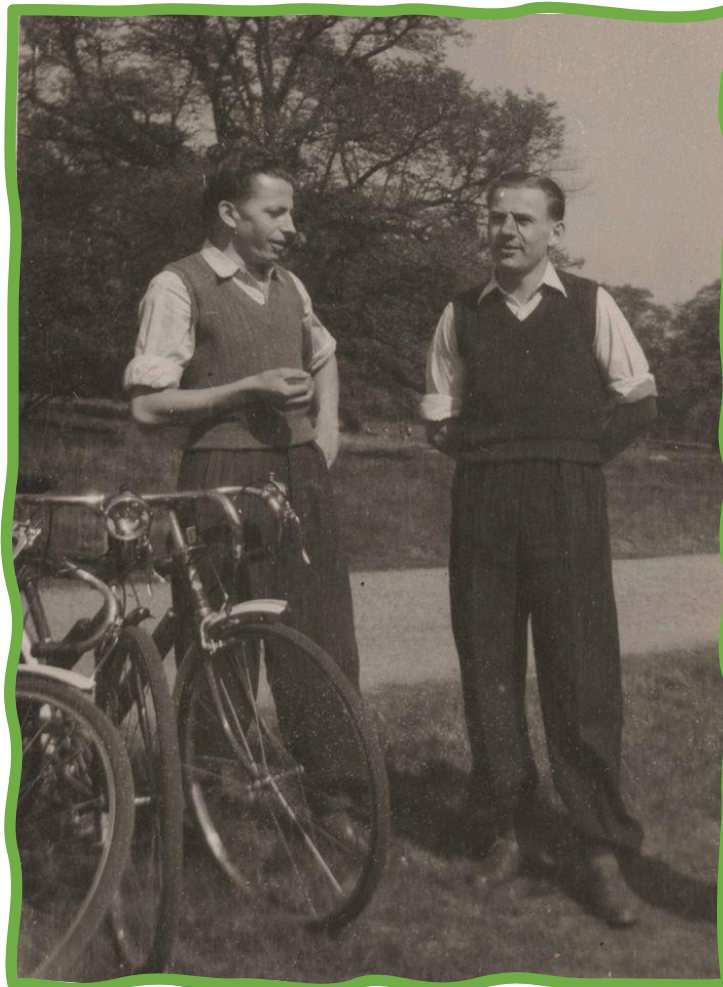


FINAL PASSING OUT.—A striking study of cadets giving "Eyes right!" to General Sir Brian Horrocks, the inspecting officer, at to-day's passing out parade at 164 O.C.T.U. at Trentham. The parade was the last at Trentham, as the O.C.T.U. is moving to Chester.

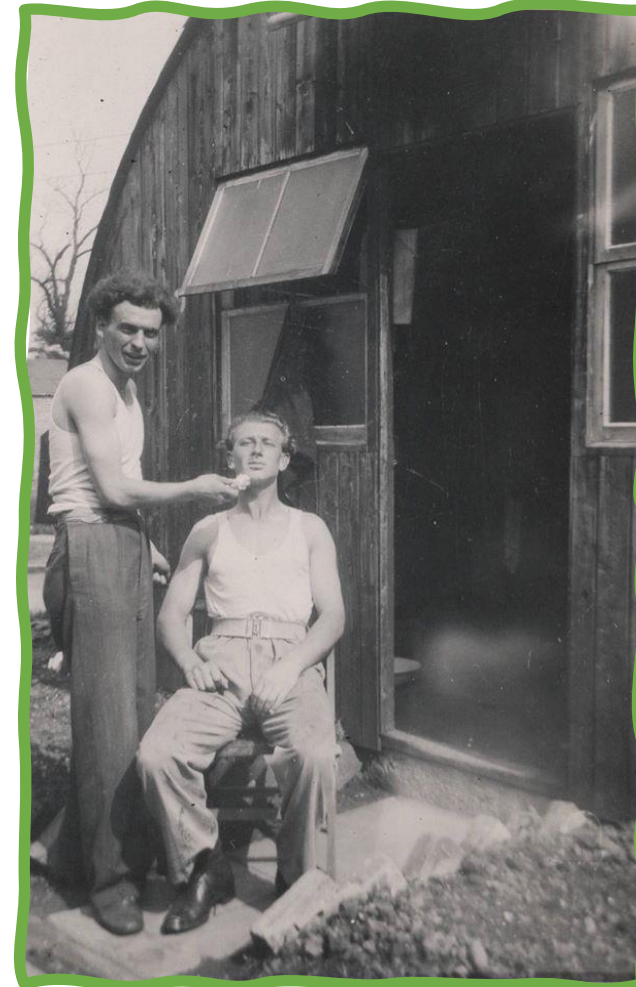
1946
July

Camp briefly occupied by Unit of Polish Resettlement Corps before its relocation to Blackshaw Moor

Tadeusz Wandzel is on the left. He was originally from Zywiec in southern Poland. He came to England with the 12th Polish Lancers which he joined after being liberated in April 1945, after a year in Buchenwald concentration camp. He went to Paris and then Naples before arriving in England.



The man standing is Alf Rybinski. He was Polish and originally from Poznan. Some of the men had been together in Buchenwald and became firm friends. Afterwards many stayed on in Stoke-on-Trent. The Rybinski and Wandzel families remain friends today.



Termination of lease of Trentham Gardens Ballroom to CCH

1946
16 August



Farewell
event

1947
-
1950s

Royal Auxiliary Air Force No 3059 Air Defence Unit set up at The Institute to work systems for air raid reporting and fighter control

Staffs. Air Defence Unit Preparations

PLANS for the conversion of the old Hunt Lodge and Institute at Trentham into headquarters for the Royal Auxiliary Air Force 3509 (County of Stafford) Air Defence Unit are well advanced, and it is hoped shortly to have sufficient equipment available to begin training in radar technique and up-to-date methods of ground control work.

Although the R.A.A.F. are anxious to attract new recruits for training — under similar conditions to those existing in the Territorial Army—they also feel that many war-time R.A.F. men and women will welcome this opportunity of meeting again in the informal

and convivial atmosphere of the Service, with the added attraction of being able to go home at nights.

Flight-Lieutenant L. H. Darby, the acting C.O. at Trentham—a Wing Commander is soon to be appointed in command—told the *Sentinel* that he had received many inquiries about peacetime training from former R.A.F. personnel.

They miss the happy-go-lucky life of the R.A.F. (he said) and I think this place will be just what is wanted. Many of the R.A.F. lads and W.A.A.F.S. have found that life in peace-time is not as exciting as they had hoped. They want some of the old companionship of the Services, and by joining us here they will be getting that as well as doing a useful job of work.

It will be possible to accommodate some 200 trainees at

Britain's
"Safety
Curtain"



... **YOU** can help put it up



Peace may well depend on there being a Radar safety curtain in the skies surrounding Britain. You can help put it up by joining a Fighter Control Unit of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force. Every Fighter Control Unit is manned by a large proportion of part-time volunteers. There is no more interesting way of spending your spare time. You work with the latest radar and radio aids, in company with people (many of them ex-airmen and airwomen) proud to be entrusted with so vital a task.

ROYAL AUXILIARY AIR FORCE not only includes Fighter Control Units (men and women) but also Flying and Regiment Squadrons (men), Air Observation Post Units (men). These train as complete units on their local R.A.F. stations.

R.A.F. VOLUNTEER RESERVE. Aircrew and ground staff (men and women) who carry out non-continuous training at the Reserve Centre nearest their homes. Flying training is done at nearby Reserve Flying Schools.

Join a **Fighter Control Unit**

To: O.C. No. 3509 (Co. of Staffs) Fighter Control Unit R.A.F. Trentham Institute
Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

Please tell me (without obligation) how to join: (a) a Fighter Control Unit,
(b) other spare time formations. (Crops out item not required).

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Give rank, trade, number if ex-R.A.F. or ex-W.A.A.F.



The RAF finally left Trentham in 1955 and the Institute was demolished in 1960



1947
9
September

Surrender of all Trentham Estate land requisitioned for military purposes prompts discussions about future use of the Park

TRENTHAM PARK

Negotiations for Camp Site

The Trentham Park sub-committee of the General Purposes Committee recommended authorising the Lord Mayor (Alderman H. Leason) and Town Clerk (Mr. H. Taylor) to continue negotiations for the tenancy or purchase of the Trentham Park site. This followed the receipt of a letter from the Ministry of Works, stating that the Camp was no longer needed by the Army, but that the War Department would not dispose of the site or derequisition it until the Corporation had pursued negotiations with the owners. The Corporation's interest in

Antine Sq., Hanley || No. 25,752 Telephone: Stoke-on-Trent 2381 TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 1947

Trentham Park As Site for the Proposed University

PLAN FOR O.C.T.U. CAMP

Vice-Chancellors' Visit

The O.C.T.U. camp in Trentham Park, which is to be completely vacated, is now the provisional site for the proposed North Staffordshire University, the Meaford Hall scheme being abandoned.

This was disclosed to-day when the Vice-Chancellors of Oxford, Birmingham and Manchester Universities visited Stoke-on-Trent to discuss with the North Staffordshire University Committee members connected with the proposed establishment of a university in North Staffordshire.



VISITING University Vice-Chancellors in Stoke. Left to right: Dr. R. E. Priestley (Birmingham), Lord Lindsay (Master of Balliol), the Lord Mayor (Alderman H. Leason), Sir Richard Livingstone (Oxford), Sir John Stopford (Manchester), and Professor W. J. Pugh (Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Manchester).

Leek Mill 10,000 May Travel

October
1947 –
January
1950

National Coal Board use Park camp as
a hostel to accommodate miners
from Poland and other countries

Trentham Park Camp

A resolution was passed strongly objecting to the **Trentham Park camp** or any part of the **camp** remaining on a permanent basis over any length of time.

The resolution also stated that the Council consider that representations should be made, that, as soon as considered reasonably practicable, the premises should be removed and the park revert to its original use for the benefit of the public.

Polish Miners

At yesterday's meeting of Stone Rural District Council, the Clerk (Mr. Ivan G. Gaskin) reported that he had now been notified by the National Coal Board that it is proposed to utilise **Trentham Park camp** for housing Polish miners.

Future of Park Camp

Reference was made at to-day's meeting of the Stone Rural District Council to the announcement, in last night's *Sentinel* that the **Trentham Park camp** is wanted, according to information received by the Stoke-on-Trent Corporation, by the National Coal Board for accommodating miners.

Mr. G. Wilks asked if the Council had received any official information from the N.C.B. on the matter.

We see things in the Press before we are notified officially (he said).

The Clerk (Mr. Ivan G. Gaskin) replied that all he knew about the matter was what he had seen in the Press.

On the proposition of the Chairman (Mr. L. J. Evans), it was agreed to seek information on the matter from official sources.

STIPENDIARY ON HOSTEL WELFARE

When told, at Stoke this morning, that there were 400 men at the **Miners' Hostel, Trentham**, and that there was no-one to look after their social welfare, the Potteries Stipendiary Magistrate (Mr. R. N. Macgregor Clarkson) said:

"I think it is a disgrace."

He had earlier adjourned a case in which a 26-years-old Scot, a resident of the **hostel**, had pleaded guilty to theft, in order that inquiries could be made by the Probation Officer as to what arrangements were made at the **hostel** for the men.

Mr. E. T. Lever (Probation Officer) told the Stipendiary Magistrate to-day that he had been in touch with the **hostel**, that the Welfare Officer had left, and that the Superintendent in charge, who was unable to come to court owing to business, had said it was impossible to give individual attention to the men and that they could not attempt to keep them on the straight and narrow path.

The Magistrate: Do they admit they want a Welfare Officer?

Mr. Lever: I think they do in principle.

"Should Protest"

When told there was no organisation at the centre to look after the social life of the men, Mr. Clarkson said:

If there is not, I think it is disgraceful. That these young men are liable to be herded together like this, and that there should be no social welfare for them—and no-one

apparently to look after it—is a disgraceful condition. I can only wish that the parents of fellows sent there will protest."

Chief Inspector Cartwright said there were people from Scotland and also aliens, such as Poles, at the **hostel**. There was no social life for the men.

In the case, the Magistrate placed on probation for six months Robert Dean, aged 26, of Kilmarnock, Scotland, a resident at the **hostel** for stealing pottery value 9s. 9d. from a railway van in Glebe-street. He was ordered to pay £1 5s. costs.

LATEST

1950

Miners' camp closes and buildings sold or dismantled

Thefts from huts
6 July 1950

Lead Hidden In Rabbit Holes

TAKEN OFF HUTS AT TRENTHAM

Two men who were alleged to have stripped lead from the roofs of huts in Trentham Park sometimes hiding it in rabbit holes and collecting it later, were each fined £25 at Eccleshall Magistrates Court to-day.

Dennis Wright, aged 25, and a Polish alien Konrad Hub-szer, aged 25, both miners, of 33, Lime-street, Stoke, pleaded Guilty to stealing 3cwt. of lead, worth £9, belonging to William Walter Reynolds from Trentham Park on June 17th. Both asked for five other offences of taking lead to the total value of £137 10s. from Trentham Park to be taken into consideration.

The Magistrates ordered defendants to repay between them that amount to the owner through the court.

Lead in Sacks

Superintendent W. Crook said Police-constable Burgess and Police-constable Stokes, of Stoke City Police saw the two defendants riding a cycle, fastened to which were a couple of sacks. They stopped at the rear of their home in Lime-street and went into the backyard. When questioned by the policemen, Wright admitted that the sacks contained lead taken from Trentham Park.

Superintendent Crook said when Wright sold the lead he signed the register "Bourne, 60, Cornwallis-street, Stoke," and told the purchaser he was helping to dismantle the huts at Trentham.

Two Tons in a Month

A former hostel for aliens at Trentham Park was taken over by Mr. Reynolds, a contractor, went on Superintendent Crook. During the past month or so there had been a considerable amount of lead stolen from there.

Both defendants had been going to Trentham Park in the early hours of the morning, stripping lead from hut roofs, sometimes hiding it in rabbit holes and collecting it later, said the Superintendent.

Mr. Stanley Shepherd foreman for Mr. Reynolds, said that about two tons of lead from a former canteen had disappeared within a month.

"We were getting so concerned that we were sitting up until 4 a.m. in the morning," said Mr. Shepherd.

Wright told the Magistrates that they did not strip the lead from the roofs, but "just came across it" and took it away.

SALE. Huts of all descriptions and sizes — Apply on site. **Miners' Hostel.** Trentham Park, Stoke-on-Trent 19 May 1950



Photo - Bebbington Collection

All that remain today are scattered foundations...

2022

Photos –
Glyn Bull



Brick from Potteries
Brick Company





Originally produced by the Trentham Heritage Project for VE Day 75
Amended and updated for Heritage Open Day 2022

Special thanks to Graham Bebbington for his support for this presentation.
Copies of his book ***Trentham at War : The Story of a Country Estate During World War II***
is still available for purchase.

Thanks also to Alan Myatt for his artistic impressions, where no photo images were available.

Thank you to others who shared their own or family photos.

News cuttings are from The Sentinel through the British Newspaper Index
and Stoke on Trent Archives Service.

Available as a scrollable document on the website: <https://trenthamheritage.org.uk/>

