

World War II

We have had access to a collection of papers which have been kept by the son of Jeffery Burnett Ham. JBH lived in Acacia House (now Henmore House) and was the Head Warden for ARP Area 38, which covered Weare and Allerton. At the start of the war, this was one area, but JBH requested that another warden be appointed for Allerton, and Weare became known as 38A. Acacia House was the ARP Wardens Post, since it had a telephone. JBH kept meticulous records of wartime activities, samples of which you can see below. We are grateful to Dave Ham for the loan of these papers.

Evacuees :

Over 400 evacuees came to Weare for varying lengths of time during the war, starting in 1939. The name of each evacuee was listed in an exercise book, together with the welcoming host. Some moved on to other families or other districts, and the dates are usually recorded. Others returned home, and a small number were locally employed, and therefore no longer classed as evacuees.

The list of names and host families has been transcribed. Click here to [access the transcribed list](#). Example of [original page](#).

Another exercise book noted the items borrowed from a central store in Axbridge, and their return: camp beds, bedding, crockery and so on.

Evacuee children were staying at Sparrow Hill Farm when it was hit by a bomb; the family immediately recalled them home to the city, where they felt they would be safer, and at least all together.

Rest and Feeding Centre

In 1942, meetings were held to set up committees should it be necessary to open a Rest and Feeding Centre. Click here to see a [record of the first meeting](#).

Diary

In addition to all the official records, JBH kept a daily log of activities in the village, bombs dropped in and around the area, meetings held, training sessions, fund raising Whist Drives, and so on. This has been transcribed. Click here to see [the transcription](#).

Air raid warnings - a special book records each of the air raid warnings, and the level of alert. Example of [a page](#) showing colours for levels of alert.

ARP warden duties - Each warden signed a log book showing the hours on duty, which was countersigned by JBH. Click here [for names](#). Example of [page in the log book](#).

Activity Forms - wardens had to fill in a form each time a bomb was dropped in the area. A transcription of the forms can be seen by [clicking here](#). Sample of [original](#) forms.

List of evacuees billeted in the Parishes of Weare and Allerton

There were around 500 evacuees given a home in Weare and Allerton throughout the whole of the war. The records book from which the following are taken records that some people and families were moved from one house to another locally or within the area. Some evacuees only stayed a short time, others stayed for the entirety of the war.

This exercise book also records items which were borrowed from the Axbridge placement centre, including beds and bedding, chairs, and even crockery. When these items changed house, or were returned, it was duly recorded.

The transcriber apologises for any errors in spelling of names (LW = Lower Weare, UW = Upper Weare)

<u>Evacuee</u>	<u>Billet</u>
<u>1/9/39</u>	
P Fountain	H J Stacey, Weare
P Sadler	-
W G Clarke	R J Ham, Stone Allerton
R Clarke	-
L Wulfson	-
E S W Winkworth	G H Lunn, LW
K S Dullimore	-
Mrs Fellows	Mrs J Burbridge LW
K C Fowler	Mr E Millard, Green Hill
R Graham	-
E W Harris	Mr S Ham, Alston Sutton
W A Bidgood	-
C Forcer	Mrs S Stitch, Brinscombe
A Forcer	-
R J Harris	Mr F A Cook, UW
M S Harris	-
D R Forden	Mr C Sheppard UW
S Nichols	-
L C Kenswell	Mr H S Ham, Elm Tree Farm
F C Polden	-
A E Beck	P Fisher, Brinscombe
J Rapley	Mr E S Redman LW
S Rapley	-
H Simpson	-
G B Maund	Mr C Croker, LW
R C Russell	-
H Eastwood	Mr J Miles LW
C R Dyer	-

D S Tapsfield	Mr P Francis LW
R R St John	-
J W Carteris	Mr W Ham LW
D J Lewis	-
H O Coleman	J B Ham UW
S Mackay	-
W J Russell	Miss Mapleton, The Old Mill
J Judd	-
D D St John	Mr F R Ham UW
A M Penny	-
H V Beck	Miss Dynes
R J Saxby	Mr T G Patch
D Koslick	-
Mr J Hughes	Mrs Phillips LW
<u>3/9/39</u>	
Mrs V Sharpcott	Mrs W J Raines
A Sharpcott	-
Mrs Elley	-
P Elley	-
Mrs Simon	Rev S F H Robinson UW
J Simon	-
P Simon	-
B Simon	-
Mr M Bevan	Mrs Phillips LW
R Bevan	-
Mrs A Bevan	-
R Bevan	-
Mrs Snaith	-
B Snaith	-
Mrs Tiffin	Mrs A Burbridge LW
I Tiffin	-
F Tiffin	-
Mrs Sibley	-
P Sibley	-
Roy Lapidge	Mrs Oldbury UW
Beryl Lapidge	-
Mr H Hopper	Mrs W Ham LW (it was noted that they became employed and residential)
Mrs Hopper	-
M Hopper	-
D Hopper	-
Mrs Prior	Mr W J Raines, Brinscombe
Rose Prior	-
Daisy Prior	-
Robert Prior	-

Mrs Trevellion	- (later to Mrs Roper UW)
Rose Trevellion	- ditto
Mr Hopper	J B Ham UW (later to Mrs W Ham LW)
Mrs Hopper	-
Denise Hopper	-
Michael Hopper	-
<u>14/6/40</u>	
Emmie Amos	Mrs Wilkins, LW
John Amos	-
Peter Gobbold	Mrs Oldbury UW
<u>29/9/40</u>	
Mrs Bradford	Mrs Archie Millard, Alston Sutton
Arthur Simmonds	-
Mrs Sellick	-
Peggy	-
Joan	-
Billy	-
Terry	-
<u>3/10/40</u>	
Elsie Nicholls	Mrs Haydon LW
Alma Nicholls	-
May D Nicholls	-
Billy Johnson	Mrs Always, Alston Sutton
Clara	-
Walter	-
Derek York	Mrs S Ham, Alston Sutton
Ronald Curtiss	-
Frank Phillips	Mrs L J Ham Notting Hill Weare
Joseph Phillips	-
Janet Sargeant	Mrs Sheppard UW (to Miss Cook and Miss Dynes 29/3/41)
Olive Sargeant	-
Joyce Sargeant	-
Charles Nicholls	Mrs Banwell, Brinscombe
Ernest Nicholls	-
Daniel Molland	Mrs Webber, Brinscombe
Keith Molland	-
Pat Massins	Mrs Fisher, Brinscombe
Jean Grant	-
Doreen Grant	-
Fred Phillips	Miss Cook UW
Arthur Phillips	-
Winifred Hubbard	Mrs Sid Stitch Brinscombe
Fred Hubbard	-
Richard Grant	Mr I Isgar Brinscombe
Terrence Massins	-

Miss Turner (Teacher)

Walter Johnson

7/10/1940

Mrs Anderson

Arthur

George

Buby

21/12/1940

Mrs Hopper

Michael

Denise

Early 1941

Mrs Trevellion

Rose

Mr D Sait

Mrs Sait

Elsie

Ronald

Jean

Mrs Rogers Snr

Sheila McAuliff

Mrs Latham

Dorothy

John

Mr Masters

Mrs Masters

Mrs Hope

Mrs Forts

Bristol Evacuees arrived May 22nd 1941

Iris B Lloyd

Edwin John Knight

Dorothy Caster

Brian Jones

Ernest Nicholls

Jean Lane

Sybil Jones

Doris Jones

Brian Jones

Barbara Middle

Jean Osbourne

Muriel Miller

Margaret Miller

Joan Keates

Shirley Keates

Patricia Moore

Miss Luttrell, Badgworth Court (then several moves)

Mr I Isgar, Brinscombe

Mrs A Millard Alston Sutton (then to Barton Camp 15/11/40)

-

-

-

Mrs Toms, LW

-

-

Mrs Roper UW

-

Mrs Irvine UW

-

-

-

-

Miss Durston

Mr J Isgar Brinscombe

Mrs John Ham

-

-

-

-

Miss Dynes LW

Mrs Toms LW

Mrs Chacklin LW

-

-

Mrs Banwell, Brinscombe

-

Mrs V Nuttycombe

-

-

-

Mrs Fleet, Lake view UW

-

-

-

Mrs Francis LW

-

-

Beryl Larcombe	-
June Lock	Mrs S Caple
Roy Lock	-
Marina Lock	-
Brenda Lock	-
Mrs Comerford	Mrs Fisher, Lake View Weare
Diane Comerford	-
Rosemary Comerford	-
Mrs Kennell	Mrs Lunn, LW
Nancy Kennell	-
Kathleen Kennell	-
Gracie Kennell	-
Jean Elliott	Mrs Snit, LW
Harry Elliott	-
Doris Elliott	-
Donald Elliott	-

Example

List of Crucives Billited in the Parish of Weare & Allerton.		
Crucive		Billor
1 P. Fountain	1/9/39	H. J. Stacey Weare
2 P. Sadler	R	}
3 W. G. Clarke		
4 R. Clarke	R	R. J. Ham Stone Allerton
5 L. Mulson		}
6 E. S. W. Minkworth		
7 H. S. Dillimore	R	H. J. Sinn Lower Weare.
8 M ^{rs} Fellows		}
9 H. C. Fowler	R	
10 R. Graham		M ^{rs} J. Burbridge " "
11 E. W. Harris	R	M ^{rs} C. Millard Green Hill.
12 W. A. Bidgood		}
13 b. Forces	R	
14 A. Forces		M ^{rs} S. Ham Alton Sutton.
15 R. J. Harris	R	}
16 M ^{rs} S. Harris		
17 D. R. Lorder	R	M ^{rs} S. Stutch Bunscombe
18 S. Nichols		}
19 L. C. Kerwell	R	
20 G. C. Polden		M ^{rs} F. A. Cook Upper Weare.
	20	M ^{rs} C. Sheppard " "
		M ^{rs} H. S. Ham Elm Tree Farm Weare.

Rest & Feeding Centre

A meeting was held in the Church room on Wednesday November 19 at 3pm to choose a small committee from each of the Parishes of Allerton, Badgworth and Weare

The Chair was taken by Mr Woodward and there was about 20 people present from the three parishes.

The following were duly elected to act for their respective parish, with powers to elect a large parish committee.

Allerton Parish : Mr Woodward, chairman; Rev Putt, Vice Chairman, Miss Teek, Miss Cook, Mrs Savier

Weare :Mrs Robinson, Mrs G Ham, Miss Dynes and J B Ham

Badgworth : Mrs Scisson, Mr Reece and Miss G Counsell

The following have been enrolled as helpers for rest and feeding centres in the event of any emergency.

Mr R E B Robertson, Mrs M H Robertson, Mrs G Ham, Miss M Cook, Miss G P Day, Mrs E A Knee, Mrs Joe Burbridge, Mrs A Burbridge, Mrs E Banwell, Mrs A Webber, Miss G M Dynes, Miss Avery, Mrs T H Tilley, Miss M Day, Mrs H Ponting, Mrs K M Kingsbury, Mrs J Berry

Enrolment forms returned to Axbridge Council Office 10/6/42

Transcript of hand-written diary kept by Jeffery Burnett Ham

(The first few entries are copied in full. Following that, some detail has been omitted especially where it is not relevant to the work in Weare. Notes of omissions or summaries of entries are in italics)

A Brief Record of ARP Work carried out in the Parishes of Weare and Chapel Allerton [ARP = Air Raid Patrol]

On Feb 24 1938 a Public Meeting was held in the Memorial Hall Weare with the object of explaining Air Raid precautions. The meeting was well attended by Allerton, Badgworth, Biddisham and Weare.

The chair was taken by Mr A E Tilley, Chairman of the Weare Parish Council. The speakers being H W Shearman Esq, from Weston super mare, area organiser for ARP. Mr Shearman gave an interesting address on ARP giving a rough outline of the duties of an Air Raid Warden, and explained what valuable help could be rendered by wardens in case of air raids.

At the close of the meeting, volunteers were asked for, and a number present signed on, to be trained as wardens, about 23 altogether, which were from the parishes of Weare, Badgworth, and Allerton.

A few weeks later, a course of lectures was arranged at the Town Hall, Axbridge, to cover a large district.

About 80 people attended the lectures when they commenced. But as the haymaking season approached the attendance fell off considerably there being a large number of men engaged in this vital work. The situation was discussed, and it was decided to postpone the remaining lectures for a few weeks.

In the meantime, there was very little work to be done as the war clouds seem to be passing over. However, it was felt that the public should have some instruction in the preparation of a refuge room and J B Ham, clerk to the Weare Parish Council, was asked to canvass the parishes of Weare and Chapel Allerton to ascertain the number of people in those two parishes that would attend a course of lectures to be held in the Memorial Hall Weare.

The response was good, there being about 80 people who promised to attend the lectures when they could be arranged. The arrangements were promptly made, and the lectures held in the Weare Hall, the Lecturer being Mrs Tucker of Weston super mare.

These lectures proved a great success and were very well attended throughout. When the lectures for the training of air raid wardens was continued at the Axbridge Town Hall only a small proportion of the number who commenced the lectures returned for training.

The lectures however were continued and the examination taken on July 28th. All who took the exam were successful. Badgworth had two wardens, Weare parish one, (J B Ham) and Allerton Parish none.

J B Ham was invited to act as head warden for the three parishes, but felt that the district was much too scattered for one head warden and suggested that Badgworth parish should be under a separate head warden, and suggested Mr Sisson might be asked to take the post. Mr Sisson accepted the post which left the parishes of Weare and Allerton under the care of J B Ham.

At this time there was very little work to be done, except for attending an occasional meeting.

Measurement for Respirators - 1939

However during the early part of 1939 instructions were received to obtain the size of respirator required for each person in the parishes. This was done by means of a metal gauge. Every householder in the parish of Weare was invited by circular letter to attend the Weare Memorial Hall on two days to be measured for a respirator. This was found to be a very convenient method, as all who were able to come turned out for measurement. Those who were unable to come were visited in their homes. All school children were measured at school. The work in Chapel Allerton was carried out by 2 or 3 helpers making a house to house visit.

Children under school age were not included, as a special type of respirator was to be issued for children up to 2 years of age, and another type for children from 2 to 5 years of age.

The result of the measuring was as follows in Weare 51 large, 268 medium, 40 small.

On Aug 21st 1939, information was received from the area organisers that respirators were now available and could be collected at any time at the ARP depot at Weston super mare.

Arrangements were made by J B Ham, using his own car for the transport, and delivering same at the Memorial Hall Weare.

The respirators were not assembled but received in four separate parts, viz face piece, container, band and valve. The cardboard carton for each respirator also had to be assembled.

There being 869 respirators and 869 cartons to be assembled for the three parishes, this looked rather a big job. But a number of willing helpers were got together and the work was soon complete, and the number of each parish were duly dispatched in readiness for fitting and distribution.

On Aug 26th a circular letter was delivered to each house in the parish of Weare inviting all parishioners to attend at the Weare Memorial Hall on Aug 28th and 29th to be fitted with a respirator. This was found to be a good method as nearly every body who could attend was fitted and collected their respirator. Those who could not attend were fitted in their homes. At the time of fitting a schedule was made of children under 2 years of age and from 2 to 5 years of age for the distribution of baby helmets and MM ("Mickey Mouse") respirators when available.

War declared - 1939

On Sept 3rd war was declared on Germany which had been in the balance for many days. Therefore the news was not unexpected. It now looked as if air raid wardens were to have a real job of work.

On Nov 27th a circular letter was received from the chief warden of the Axbridge Rural District, instructing head wardens to fit all children aged 3 to 5 years with a small respirator as baby helmets and MM respirators would not be available for several weeks. This was promptly attended to and all children in the parishes between 3 and 5 years of age were fitted with a small respirator in a few days.

This time there was only one qualified warden representing the two parishes and as the work was becoming more urgent as the weeks passed by, it was felt that more wardens were urgently needed to carry on the work.

Lectures for Wardens in Weare Hall

The area organiser at Weston super mare was consulted on the point, and offered to send a lecturer to Weare to give a course of lectures for the training of more wardens, providing at least 12 people would promise to attend. The head warden canvassed the two parishes with the result that about 20 volunteers promised to attend. The lectures were duly arranged and commenced on Dec 11th. The first three meetings were very well attended, but later through bad weather conditions and sickness the attendance fell off, and only five completed the course and took the exam, two of which were visitors outside of our district, which left only 3 for Weare Parish and none for Chapel Allerton. These three were all successful in their exam, and were Miss Dynes, Mr A E Tilley and Mr Aubrey Ham. The Wardens post was formed at Acacia House, Upper Weare, the residence of the head warden, there being a telephone on the premises.

Instructions were received that all babies and children under 3 years of age were to be fitted with a baby helmet or MM [Mickey Mouse] respirator, and sizes were required for the issue. These were obtained by a canvass of the two parishes.

1940

On February 16th, a special meeting was held at Winscombe to instruct wardens how to fit the baby helmets and a demonstration in its use. The head warden and Miss Dynes attended this meeting, which was found to be very helpful in the issue of the baby helmet.

On Feb 25th, a lecture was given in the WMH by Captain B Wallick on how to deal with an incendiary bomb. This lecture was attended by the newly qualified wardens and a few people from the parish. The lecture was very interesting and very helpful as Captain Wallick made use of lantern slides and cinema to illustrate how dangerous an incendiary bomb can be, and how soon it can be overcome when properly handled with a stirrup pump or sand.

Baby helmets issued - 1940

On March 5th the baby helmets arrived, also the Mickey Mouse type for small children. These were issued by the head warden and Miss Dynes making house to house visits. This was a very interesting job, as some babies took it as a huge joke while others saw the serious side and did not forget to show their objection. However, in spite of the objections the work was complete by 15th March. A special register is kept so that small children may have a change of respirator when it becomes necessary.

As it was now six months since the issue of respirators to the public had been made, it was felt that a general inspection was necessary as school children and some adults had been carrying their respirators daily. This inspection was carried out by the four qualified wardens making house to house visits. It was found that a few respirators were defective and these were all replaced, or separate parts replaced as was necessary. It took nearly four weeks to complete this work. At the conclusion of this work, there was great satisfaction felt, knowing that every person in the 2 parishes, including the smallest baby, was in possession of a sound respirator, which should give complete protection against poison gas should it be used at any time.

Remove distributing arm of cars - 1940

On May 25th instructions were received that wardens should visit all car owners, and instruct on the removal of the distributing arm of the car, so as to make all cars, when not in use, perfectly safe, and useless in the hands of the enemy. As this appeared to be very urgent the matter was promptly attended to and all car owners were visited the same day as instructions were received.

At this time Air raids along the west coast were quite frequent. But up to the present time no air raid warnings had been received at Weare Post. However it was felt that the public should have some instructions on how to deal with incendiary bombs, should they come, and a public meeting was called for June 9th in the Memorial Hall Weare.

This meeting was a great success, 111 people being present. The Chair was taken by Rev W Putt, Record of Allerton. Captain B Wallick gave an address on air raids and how to deal with incendiary bombs etc.

The address was most interesting and helpful and very much appreciated by the audience.

The following letter was received from Captain Wallick in reference to the above meeting, dated June 9th 1940

"Dear Mr Ham,

I would like to put on record my sincere gratitude to you and to all your wardens for your keen and successful work in obtaining such a very splendid attendance at my lecture this evening. I was delighted to see so many people present, and I hope that my few remarks in the short time allotted to me will in some small measure have given help and encouragement to those who heard me. I trust that the meeting will bear fruit in the extension of volunteers and that I may have the pleasure of giving the full course and granting certificates to new recruits.

Your continued enthusiasm as head warden has been much appreciated by us all, and the attendance tonight was certain proof of your united efforts in the Services of the Country."

1940 cont ...

Air Raid Warning

On June 25th Weare Post received its first air raid message yellow, at 12.30 am. Although the number of wardens were small, all were ready for any duty they might be called upon to perform.

We did not have long to wait for on June 30th at 12.10 screaming bombs were heard to fall very near. All wardens were quickly called up to investigate same. From a quick survey of roads and populated parts of the village, no damage to property of any kind could be found. A report to that effect was sent into the report centre, Axbridge. In the meantime a further search was being made in other directions. In a short time one bomb crater was found in a field adjoining Notting Hill 200 yards south of Weare School. No damage was done.

The location of this bomb was reported.

A further search was then made and another crater was found in the same field about 50 yards west of the first crater found. This was also reported. At day break a further search was carried out, when it was discovered that 11 bombs had been

dropped. 10 having exploded in open country without having caused any damage. One bomb did not explode. This was guarded by the Military and Police, until 6.30 pm the following evening when the Royal Engineers arrived and exploded same.

Sightseers in Weare - 1940

Weare was the first parish in the Axbridge Rural District to get bombs, and the second parish in Somerset. Therefore many people in the district came to see the craters which the bombs made. Mr A E Tilley on whose land the bombs fell, took advantage of the sight-seers, and made a collection in aid of the Red Cross fund. This was a great success, £12 being collected during one afternoon. As no damage had been caused the bombs really did the Red Cross a very good turn.

1940 Congratulations

It was very gratifying to receive congratulations from Captain Wallick and also Captain Row, No 3 Area Organiser of Weston super mare, on the way things were handled and on the reports sent into the Report Centre, which were said to have been perfect in every detail. This message was passed on to all the wardens, and was much appreciated by all.

It may be of some interest to record the position of the bombs dropped in Weare. The enemy plane was travelling in a northerly direction, and the first bomb was dropped on the east side of Notting Hill, about 300 yards south of Weare School, in a field on Mr F R Ham's farm. This bomb did not explode, which made it necessary for Notting Hill to be closed to all traffic until the bomb was exploded by the Royal Engineers. Eight more bombs fell in 3 fields on Messrs H S Ham and A E Tilley's farms, on the west side of Notting Hill about 400 yards west of Weare School. The last two bombs fell in a field on Mr A E Tilley's farm, south of the Main Bristol Exeter Road, 200 yards west of Tanyard Farm.

Warnings were now being received very frequently and bombs were dropped in other parts of Axbridge RDC on July 10th. These were followed by indiscriminate bombings but very little damage was caused, as nearly all the bombs fell in open fields.

Leaflets

On Aug 2nd a shower of leaflets was dropped at Berrow, Lympsham, East Brent and district, from an Enemy plane.

Enemy Plane down at Charterhouse - 1940

On Aug 14th an enemy plane was brought down at Charterhouse. This was a Heinkel 111 and many people from the parish went to see it.

(Through the rest of August and early September bombs were reported to fall in Biddisham, Compton Bishop, and Blackford)

From June 25th to Sept 1st, 183 warnings had been received which meant that the small number of wardens in the parish had been considerably overworked. During this time a number of volunteers had been doing duty at the post, which had been of very considerable help, and made it possible for the post to be manned every night, which was a very necessary procedure.

Warden lectures

In view of the fact that extra wardens were urgently needed for duty, a further course of lectures for the training of wardens was commenced in the Memorial Hall on 4th Sept. 12 people took the exam, 10 being successful, 8 of whom were from Weare. The 8 newly qualified wardens were : Mrs F C Tilley, Mrs Kendall, Messrs F H Coombes, JC Durston, T E Fowles, W Good, A V James and H W Menzies.

A rota of duty was drawn up and all wardens were doing duty in turn. 2 wardens being on duty each night outside while one warden and one messenger was on duty at the post. Air raid messages at this time were very frequent, some days as many as 8 warnings were received, which kept all wardens and volunteers very much on the alert.

Substance dropped from plane - 1940

On Sept 22nd a message was received from Captain Wallick at 11.20 pm who stated that a light substance had been dropped from an enemy plane 3 times during the day, one case caused severe blisters on handling. This substance must not be handled with bare hands. Pending further instructions.

Wardens were duly informed of this and precaution taken.

Contex fitted to respirators

Since the issue of respirators were made, it had been found necessary to have a contex fixed to each respirator to make it effective against arsine gas, which had not been provided for in the ordinary container. This contex was attached to the container of the respirator by means of adhesive tape.

(Fitting took place, respirators were checked, and children given larger sizes where necessary)

On Oct 29th, at 6 am, a message was received from Post 32 (East Brent). The following telegram has been received from Regional Commissioners.

"Confirmation is now available that the enemy is issuing a new weapon in the form of a small cylinder about 4 in x 3 in, containing shot and an explosive charge, operated by a spring lid. A full description will be circulated as soon as possible. Meanwhile the warning should be issued to wardens. Bomb disposal sections will be notified. It is not intended in the interest of security to make a public announcement. Please inform all wardens accordingly."

This information was duly passed on to all wardens.

A further message was received on Nov 1st at 10.50 pm

"A small antipersonnel bomb, weight 3lbs, consists of an inner cast iron core, and an outer tin case, with a fringed lid. Bomb explodes if handled. Method of dealing with it. Enclose with three sand bags, then four high. Take care it is not touched, exclude public and traffic up to 100 yards, erect a Red danger notice, and prohibit near approach. Report as for unexploded bomb."

This further message was passed on to all wardens.

Since the rota for wardens had been in operation, all wardens had co-operated well, and carried out their duty in a very efficient manner. But it had been suggested that a room in a public building, as a Wardens Post, for all wardens to take a turn at the post.

To get some decision on this point, a meeting was called in the Memorial Hall. 9 wardens were present.

Armlets were issued to the newly qualified wardens.

The discussion then arose as to the wardens post.

After giving the matter very careful consideration, it was proposed by Miss Dynes that the post be continued at Acacia House, but all wardens should take a turn at the post, instead of doing duty from outside as at present. This proposition was put to the meeting and carried by 8 in favour and 1 against. The 1 against preferred to carry on as we had been doing.

Some suggestions had been made that the LDV may give some assistance to wardens during winter months.

The head warden promised to make further enquiry and issue a new rota of duty as soon as some definite arrangements could be made.

Warden Alert - increased activity - 1940

On Nov 24th at 7pm a phone message was receive from Captain B Wallick asking for all wardens if possible to be on the alert, as enemy planes were particularly active over the district.

At 7.30 pm a number of incendiary bombs fell very near. A few minutes later, a report was received at the post that a house at Sparrow Hill had been hit and was on fire. The fire brigade was at once phoned for, and wardens rushed to the spot with a stirrup pump, and was able to overcome fire before brigade arrived, although the brigade was only 20 mins in getting together and coming from Axbridge. The damage to the building was slight being chiefly in the floor and ceiling, two bombs having gone through the roof. There was some damage to furniture, as one bomb went through to a bedroom

and on to a bed in which two evacuee children were put to bed. The children, luckily, were not asleep and made a quick dash downstairs to safety.

At dawn, a search of the fields was made and 28 bombs in all were found. These were found on the various lands here mentioned.

2 on Mr Day's Farm House, 2 on Mr Day's farm east side of road and 1 on west side of road. 3 on Mr Morgan's farm, east of road. 1 in garden of bungalow on west side of Sparrow Hill Road. 6 in Mr F Cook's field south of Short Bourton Lane, 1 on north side of lane, and 1 in field on east side of Mill Lane Cottages. 1 in Mr Raine's 2nd field west of Weare Chapel, 4 in Mr Millard's Home Field at Green Hill Farm. 2 on north side of Short Bourton Lane, 1 in small field on north side of lane, and 1 in Orchard at Green Hill Farm. 2 in Mr Leonard Ham's field south of Mill Lane.

In the evening of Nov 25th, the following message was received.

"The County Controller wishes every volunteer reporting n duty last night without being called, to be told that the operational requirements made this unavoidable. The hours of waiting have not been wasted and their devotion to duty is highly appreciated."

On Christmas night at 10.53 pm, the following message was received.

"To the head warden from the area Organiser

I send the compliments of the season to all ARP workers in your parish. Please express my grateful thanks to all your volunteers who have so willingly given us their co-operation during the past year. I would send special greetings to those who do duty at their post this Xmas night.

May the New Year bring us fresh determination to continue our civil defence work in spite of any difficulties troubles or sorrow we may be called upon to fact in 1941.

Captain F E Row"

1941

On Jan 4th enemy planes were very active in this part of the country. Many bombs being dropped in this district including Weston super mare, but none in our own parish.

On Jan 12th at 10.39 pm the following message was received at Weare Post.

"A small yellow cylinder, possibly attached to a long length of fine wire, and with a small parachute, or balloon, may now be found. These objects should not be touched and must be guarded, and reported to the police. Warn ARP personnel to avoid publicity."

The following warning was received on Feb 20th, and conveyed to all wardens.

"If circle of board is found at night and a light appears to be burning beneath it, an explosion may be imminent. People should take cover and not approach within a distance of 50 ft until the light has gone out."

Bombs at Notting Hill - 1941

On Feb 26th, H E bombs were heard to fall a short distance away at 8 pm. Enquiries were made by phone locally and it was thought that they were somewhere on the hill, near Notting Hill. Wardens were at once sent to investigate and it was found that a bomb had fallen in a field on the west side of Notting Hill. The only damage that could be found in the dark was the overhead cables had been brought down both electric and telephone. These were cleared from the road and the occurrence reported to Weston report centre.

At day break a further investigation was made, when it was found that 4 bombs had fallen, all exploded, 1 being in a field on the east side of Notting Hill on land in the occupation of Mr A E Ham, and 3 on the west side of Notting Hill in a field in the occupation of Mr L J Ham. It was found that in addition to overhead cables being down some slight damage to outbuildings, tiles being removed, etc. Also some slight damage to windows further away. The total amount of damage caused was comparatively small, there being no casualties in human life or cattle, although there were 13 head of cattle in the field where these bombs had fallen.

A parish meeting was held on March 1st with the object of enrolling fire fighters, but the meeting was poorly attended and nothing could be done in the matter.

On March 3rd enemy planes were very active over this part of the country, and much gun fire was heard in a westerly direction also some bombs in the same direction but nothing in the district. (No warning was received.)

March 4th was again a very busy night, chiefly in the same direction as the previous night, but some incendiary bombs fell at 2 or 3 points on the Mendip Hills the nearest being in the direction of Winscombe.

March 10th at 3am an explosion was heard, which was thought to be some distance away. About 15 minutes later however a phone message was received from the Wardens Post at Wedmore, informing us that it was thought to be somewhere in Weare district, but on investigation by phone it was found to be several miles away in a westerly direction.

March 14th at 12 o'clock midnight 5 explosions were heard in a westerly direction quite near, but was believed to be gun fire, upon enquiry by phone this was confirmed.

March 16th was a very busy night, when enemy planes were attacking Bristol but no bombs fell near our district.

Fire Fighter Recruitment

A house to house visit was made by the Head Warden with the object of enrolling fire fighters in the parish of Weare.

This took some considerable time, but was very successful. The work was completed on March 22nd and 35 fire fighters were enrolled. The parish was divided into small sections, and a small group of fire fighters was allotted to each section. By this means, the whole parish would have a fire fighter close at hand in any emergency.

1941 Bristol Raids

March 29th was a very busy night with enemy planes passing to and fro in the direction of Bristol, but no bombs were dropped in our district, and activity ceased at about 10.30 pm.

April 3rd a number of enemy planes were over making an attack on Bristol but no bombs were dropped near, and activity ceased after about 4 hours.

April 4th was a very busy night, a large number of enemy planes making a heavy attack on Bristol. There was a terrific A.A. Barrage in that direction, and a plane was seen to fall in flames about 5 or 6 miles away in a northerly direction. It was learned later, that 4 planes were brought down in this raid, which lasted about 5 hours. No bombs were dropped near.

April 7th, many enemy planes over but chiefly single planes, bombs were dropped in several scattered districts, but none in our district.

April 11th Good Friday - enemy planes were over in large numbers making an attack on Bristol.

The A A Barrage was very heavy and was almost continuous from about 10 o'clock to 4 am.

No bombs were dropped in our district but shell fragments were heard to fall quite near. Incendiaries were seen several miles away in a northerly direction, and it was thought an enemy plane was brought down at the same time, there being a red glow in the sky which resembled a plane on fire.

It was later learned that 5 enemy planes were brought down during the raid.

April 15th, May 1st, May 3rd and May 7th - *entries record a number of enemy planes overhead.*

He records : "Nothing of importance to report during the month of June"

Exercises -1941

On Aug 8th at 12.10 am, a phone message was received concerning an exercise that would probably take place between the 9th Aug and the end of the month; this was

confirmed by a written statement from Mr Ashley our Divisional Warden, at 7.30 pm on the 8th. The following was the contents of the message

"C P Circular F W 137/1941

Dear Sir,

At any time from tomorrow the 9th of Aug inclusive to the end of the month, it is proposed to hold a number of combined exercises within the Region. The exercises will be staged produced and underpinned from Regional Headquarters without previous warning.

The exercise will commence by a Yellow Warning being communicated to the Control Centre through any Warden by one of the Regional Staff.

The Yellow Warning will be followed by a Red, also through a warden.

Thereafter actions involving the employment of Service will be required. All messages including the warning will be prefixed with the works for exercise only R.E.G.E.X. and instructions should be given accordingly particularly to incident officers. Full cooperation must be insured with the police and fire services.

The contents of this letter have been communicated to the chief Constable and you should take steps to communicate with the police in your area and also with the fire chiefs.

Should an actual air raid alert occur whilst the exercise is in progress it will immediately be cancelled and all services instructed to return immediately to their respective posts and depots.

No more than the necessary publicity should be given to this scheme of exercise in order that realism may not be affected by preparations. But all wardens should be warned that a Regional representative may instruct them to telephone the report centre Yellow and Red warnings and that before doing so they should check the bona fide of this individual purporting to be a regional representative. The exercise may include the arrival of reinforcements and you should therefore overhaul your arrangements at rendezvous including messengers and guides.

I am sure these exercises will bring out the necessity of First aid and rescue parties sleeping at their depots and if this has not already been arranged in your area I should be glad if you would make another attempt to induce the personnel to do this.

Yours faithfully

C E Turner Jones

County ARP Controller."

A meeting was called at the Church rooms on 9th Aug at 9pm. 9 wardens were present and it was felt that the exercise should be carried out as near as possible to practical methods, and all agreed to take an active part in same.

(there is no record of this exercise having taken place)

Wardens measured for equipment

August 26th instructions were received to obtain measurements of all Civil Defence workers for equipment. The wardens at Weare were measured each night at the post as they reported for duty. *(It does not say what the equipment is)*

Incendiary demonstration at Allerton - 1941

On Saturday 18th October at 2.30 pm a demonstration of putting out an incendiary bomb with stirrup pump was demonstrated by Mr Newman of Weston super mare. There were 15 newly enrolled wardens present, and this demonstration was given at the back of the Old School, Stone Allerton.

A good fire was started and 3 incendiary bombs were used, and each warden had a chance of trying his skill at putting a bomb out.

This demonstration gave a practical touch of fire fighting and was of considerable help to those who took part in the demonstration.

ARP Exams

Nov 11th The final meeting and exam for wardens who had been attending the lectures was held in the Old School room, Stone Allerton.

This was a great success, there being 20 who took the exam, 14 from Allerton and 6 from Weare. All who took the exam passed and the percentage of marks was good, an average of 81.5% was obtained.

The following were the successful wardens for Weare :

R Roper, C Woodward, Miss S Yeomans, P M Robertson, Mrs M Robertson, Miss D Bishop.

These additional wardens now qualified make the total number in Weare qualified 17, and Allerton 15, in addition to these each parish has 2 unqualified wardens who also help to man the post when required.

Subsistence Allowance

Nov 26th, information was received that all wardens doing duty at posts were to receive subsistence allowances as from Nov 16th, and each warden was asked to sign a card authorising payment to be made direct to the Head Warden who would then be responsible for the payment of each warden. Payment would be made according to the hours of duty, under scale A B C D or E.

The first payment to be from Nov 16th to Dec 14th. The second payment would be from Dec 15th to end of the month, and then each payment would be for each calendar month. Claims to be submitted each month by the head warden and a record kept of such return.

Xmas message received as usual.

1942

Feb 25th The following message was received

"A number of Lethal Balloons have been released from Liverpool last night at dusk for a period of 8 hours, and are drifting south at about 14,000 feet at 15 miles per hour, and we believe are full of hydrogen and should not be approached by a naked flame, some will carry fuses and these should not be approached if the fuse is still burning. The finding of any of these balloons should be passed to the report centre and the police, who will arrange for their removal. "

March 9th The following message was received at 11.15 pm

"From tonight the warden in charge of each post must challenge any stranger who may come to the post and inspect his identity card. An entry is to be made in the post log book of any such encounter."

May 9th The following message was received at 12.01 am

"To all posts - Strictly Confidential and not to be disclosed to enemy
For the purpose of exercise super. Two alternative report and control centres for civil defence are being established in addition to the main report centre. These will be brought into action in the event of the town hall being out of commission. If you are unable to contact the report centre in the ordinary way and suspect the enemy are in occupation please send your messages to the alternative as follows "(2 addresses in Weston super mare then followed)

May 11th Message received asking senior wardens to obtain list of wardens who would be willing to be trained in the use of fire arms.

May 12th A meeting of wardens was held when 13 wardens were present. Eye shields were issued, and the senior warden asked for volunteers to be trained in the use of fire arms. There was some discussion as to the period for which wardens would be expected to train. But as no particulars had been issued, it was not possible to make any statement on this point. However 10 wardens volunteered for training provided the period was only a short one but it was felt that a long period of training could not be undertaken.

Respirators will be checked throughout the parish.

Some discussion arose as to the supply of uniforms but the senior warden said he had repeatedly asked for a supply of uniforms but up to the present time was unable to obtain any.

Housewife Service - 1942

May 15th a meeting in connection with forming a house wife service in the parish of Weare was held in the Church Room.

Mrs Battiscombe from Weston super mare gave a lecture on gas and it was arranged to have a course of lectures on the Service every Thursday at 7.30 pm. The meeting was well attended, there being about 30 present, and the lecture was much enjoyed. All the wardens from Weare and Allerton post were also invited to the course of lectures as a refresher, but only a few wardens were present at this first lecture, it was hoped that more would be able to come to later lecturers.

A list of the ARP wardens who consented to be trained in the use of fire arms was forwarded to ARP office in Weston super mare :

Weare Parish : W Good, R Roper, Aubrey M Ham, F H Coombes

May 30th The following message was received at 11.30 pm

"Dear Sirs,

Rescue from crashed aircraft lecture by Group Captain Necrae RAF

A lecture will be given on the above subject by Group Captain Necrae on Wednesday June 10th 1942 at 7.30 pm at The Albert Hall, Weston super mare. This is a most interesting and instructive lecture and of particular importance to personnel in both town and Rural Areas.

Signed R W Saunders

Area Organiser"

May 31st The following message has been received from Regional head quarters

"The RAF Raid on Cologne last night was successful and heavy. In view of possible reprisals in the near future, all services should be on the alert, particularly during this moon."

June 4th The final lecture on Housewife Service was held and the course of lectures was well attending throughout, there being about 30 from Weare, 14 from Allerton, also 12 wardens attended as a refresher. 20 Housewives were enrolled for window cards, 12 from Weare. Mrs Kingsbury, Miss Chandler, Mrs J B Ham, Miss Dynes, Mrs Raines, Mrs L J Ham, Miss Cook, Miss Mapleton, Mrs Yeomans, Mrs Coombes, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Chalklen

Weston Air Raid 1942

June 28th a number of enemy planes were over this district when a raid was made on Weston super mare . There was some damage and casualties in Weston, but no bombs were dropped in our district. As the telephone line was out of order no warning was received, but a message was received about 4 am Mon 29th, which gave the time the warning should have been received and the all clear.

June 29th a second raid on Weston super mare with damage and casualties.

August 1st at 12.30 am the following message was received

"Three new types of German incendiaries advised.

- I. Ordinary K.G. with more powerful explosive charge is known.
- II. Contains phosphorous ore and rubber which split and spread on impact.
- III. Combines H.E. and incendiary properties.

A letter describing precautions follows.

Meanwhile I. avoid for 5 minutes unless it will cause fire. Safety distance 20 yards lying down.

N.B. penetration greater than normal.

II. as for I. but attack when bomb has burst.

III as for ordinary incendiaries.

Make this known to wardens, do not otherwise publish this message"

Sept 7th the following message was received

"Extra fire precaution for the crops are requested for the next 24 hours."

Oct 4th A meeting of Weare Wardens was held in the Church Room Weare at 6pm. There were 10 wardens present.

The chief business was to arrange the most suitable day and time to visit a bomb recognition field at Hutton (*details discussed and arranged*)

The senior warden then asked if wardens would like to arrange a social evening of any kind and it was at once decided to hold a Whist Drive in the Church Room on Oct 23rd at 7pm, each warden giving 2/6 each to cover cost of prizes and other expenses in connection with same.

The proceeds being sent to Prisoners of War funds.

The Whist Drive was a great success, there being a good number present, and 13 tables in play. During the interval a draw was made for a chicken for which tickets had been sold throughout the parish during the past week. As a large number of tickets for the draw had been sold there were good hopes of a sum of £10 or more being raised for the prisoners of war fund, which was considered to be excellent.

(*later noted the total was £12-10-6*)

Parish 'Mock Auction'- 1942

A meeting of Weare wardens was held in the church room on Oct 27th at 7.30 pm (arrangements were made to attend First Aid Lectures)

The senior warden then asked if the wardens would care to hold a social evening of any kind to help with any charitable object. When one of the wardens stated that no effort was in progress in aid of the usual Xmas fund for parishioners serving in HM Forces.

It was then discussed and finally decided to have a Social on Wed Nov 18th with a Mock Auction, also a draw for a goose was decided on.

The parish was divided into sections and several wardens volunteered to make a house to house canvass for gifts to be sold by auction at the Social. It was also decided to meet again on Friday Nov 13th to complete arrangements. Miss Bendell and Mr Aubrey Ham very kindly promised to see to games etc for the social and J B Ham consented to be auctioneer for the sale of the goods collected.

Nov 13th A meeting of Wardens was held to complete arrangements for the social and mock auction.

Each warden who collected goods for the sale gave a report on what had been promised, and it was decided to collect all the goods on 16th and 17th, and bring same to the church Room. The goods would be numbered and catalogued in readiness for the sale the following evening.

Nov 18th The social and mock auction previously arranged took place and was a great success. The Room was filled to capacity and a short social was thoroughly enjoyed. After the social refreshments were served, and the draw for the goose took place. The Mock Auction followed. There were some 160 odd lots to be sold and it looked like being a very long job, but each lot found a ready buyer and every lot was cleared before 11 o'clock.

Nov 19th A wardens meeting was again held to settle up accounts and allocate the money to the service men and women from the parish.

When all accounts had been settled there was a net profit of £55-9-0. This was considered by all to be an excellent result.

After very careful consideration it was decided to give an equal share to each man and woman serving from the parish, and a special gift to Mr A Loxton who was badly wounded in the early part of the war.

There were 32 to receive £1-13-6 each and the balance, after postage and cost of cheques and postal orders had been paid, to be given to Mr A Loxton. The distribution

was left to the senior warden, J B Ham. In addition to the cash gift, each one serving received a Christmas Card which had been specially printed for same. The cards were worded as follows "The ARP Service at Weare sends you the enclosed gift from the Parishioners with every good wish for Christmas and 1943."

(It later transpired that one person had been missed out so a whist drive was held to raise further funds)

1943

The final First Aid lecture and exam took place on Monday Jan 18th. 13 people took the exam and all passed.

Jan 25th A whist drive was arranged for Friday Feb 5th by the members of the class each inviting 3 friends to make up a table, the refreshments being provided by each member of the class or their friends. The proceeds of same being given to Aid to Russia Fund. (£7-5-0 raised)

Feb 12th The following message was received at 12.15 pm

"In connection with exercise Allium now proceeding, will you please arrange for wardens to report to Weston report centre any of the following UX B which may be found. Yellow Band KD15 contains mustard stinker and stimulant, no apparent poxicity, give position SD and go Chloride test"

Feb 12th The following message received at 7.10 pm

"Exercise Allium. Our enemy is about to use a new weapon this is 21 N.C. a rocket weapon, may fire very persistent stinkers. Report also received of prussic stinkers grenades, again verify. Some casualties reported from similar incidents requested. Note possible use of stinkers."

March 26th It was reported that a quantity of machine gun ammunition had been found by one of the wardens in a field in Brinscombe Moor. Probably dropped from a plane. This was at once reported to the police, who collected it and found there were about 80 rounds.

Reports are now less frequent, and record the messages received from Regional Office.

On 3rd Nov, a whist drive was held, and on 6th Nov a Mock Auction which raised a total of £60-11-9. This was sufficient to give each of the 39 serving from the parish a present of £1-10-6 each, leaving a small balance in hand which it was decided to give to A Loxton who was badly wounded in the early part of the war.

1944

Films and lectures were held to keep up the training, including one about Butterfly Bombs.

There is much detail about a series of whist Drives held in Allerton and Weare to raise funds for the Nursing Association and The Red Cross.

March 27th a Red Warning was received at 11.40 and at 11.50 enemy planes were over and bombs were heard in several directions, and several lots of incendiaries were seen to be burning. Phone calls were made to ascertain if anything had been dropped in our district, when it was learnt that the Ordnance Depot at Notting Hill was on fire and help was required. A messenger was at once sent out to obtain help and in a few minutes 9 wardens were on the spot and soon the fire was under control.

At day break a search was made for butterfly bombs, but none was found, although there were a great many unexploded incendiaries, about 70 of these were collected. At 11 am the following morning a report was received that four H E Bombs had fallen in the moor at Brinscombe, 2 of which were reported to be U X B. A further crater was found in a field near the Ordnance Depot. This was reported to the police, who visited the 2 bombs which were reported to be U X B.

After examining the sights, it was found that both bombs had exploded under ground, and were very dangerous. The police ordered all cattle to be removed from the fields until the bomb could be dealt with.

April and May 1944 - 2 red warnings received, and a lecture attended on rescue work in crashed aircraft.

June 6th From County ARP, Taunton : "It is expected that from now on at all sub-control and report Centres, a Responsible Officer will be immediately available at all times, and all Civil Defence Services will hold themselves in readiness for any calls that may be made upon them."

Recruiting for Wardens in London - 1944

June 22nd message received :

"Group Wardens will be responsible for seeing that all personnel of wardens service are informed with utmost speed.

Very secret and most urgent.

Reinforcements of wardens services in London are urgently required. Arrangements on basis of inter-Regional Reinforcements. Board and lodging provided by Authority. Volunteers must be fully trained and be prepared to undertake full time temporary service and must obtain employers consent. They may be required for a few weeks.

Obtain all volunteers available and advise the area organiser with the utmost speed. First list of names to be submitted by 15.00 tomorrow 23/6/44 and every day until the total is complete.

No press or general publicity must be given."

(Presumably no-one went to London as it was not recorded)

Sept 10th 1944 The following message was received

"Thanks for your loyal support during the last five years. It is a pleasure to be the Divisional Warden of this part of No 3 area. Where though we have received much attention from the enemy, your keen sense of duty to your fellow citizens and your readiness at all times to do your duty have been a great credit to yourselves and have made my duty very much easier.

In the near future, when the last all clear has been sounded, I hope the opportunity will arise when I may thank you all personally.

Signed W J Watkins, Divisional Warden"

(should that have read "we have not received much attention"?)

Sept 11th A message was received at the Wardens post, stating that post duty for wardens may cease, but no warden could resign from the service until further instructions were issued.

Nov 1st 1944

A meeting of Weare wardens was held in the Church Room to discuss the possibility of raising funds for Men and Women serving in the forces from this parish for Xmas gifts. There were only 6 wardens present. After a short discussion it was decided to hold a whist drive on Nov 10th and that a house to house collection be made, and a draw was arranged, also a dance at a later date if the Memorial hall could be obtained. The Head warden promising to issue books for the collection and draw.

The Whist Drive was duly held on Nov 10th and Dance with draw on Nov (*date omitted*). The house to house collection was also completed and the whole effort proved a great success making a net profit of £49-3-3.

At the final wardens meeting held to allocate the money between those serving in the forces it was found there were 42 in the services and it was also decided to give a similar gift to A Loxton who was badly wounded in the war, making a total of 43 to receive gifts.

It was unanimously decided to give each one in the forces £1 each, and that the balance of £5-3-11 should be put towards a welcome home fund for those returning from the war.

The head warden was asked to get in touch with the Chairman of the Parish Council to call a meeting of parishioners to start a Welcome Home Fund, and this he promised to do as early as possible.

This is the last entry in the exercise book, which was written by hand, and later annotated with topic headings in the margin in red ink. I have added more topic headings, to make it easier reading.

Air Raid Log

DATE	YELLOW	PURPLE	RED	GREEN	WHITE	1944 DATE
Aug 31 st	1-49 PM.				2-11 PM.	Sept 1.
" "	2-51 PM.				5-35 PM.	" 12
" "		9-22 PM.	9-22 PM.		2-7 PM.	" "
Sept 1 st		2-19 A.M.			3-26 AM.	" 14
" "		9-20 P.M.	9-20 P.M.		3-24 AM.	" "
" 2 nd	1-38 PM.		1-46 P.M.		2-24 PM.	" 15
" "	2-55 PM.				6-56 PM.	" 16
" 3 rd			9-26 P.M.		2-30 AM.	" "
" "			3-50 P.M.		4-10 PM.	" "
" "			9-20 P.M.		3-10 PM.	" 17
" 4 th			10-38 A.M.		10-57 AM.	" "
" "			1-7 P.M.		2-16 PM.	" 18
" "			9-31 P.M.		5-4 PM.	" "
" 5 th			9-53 A.M.		10-6 AM.	" "
" "			12-23 P.M.		1-4 PM.	" "
" "			9-35 PM		4-30 AM.	" 19
" 6 th			12-10 P.M.		12-25 AM.	" "
" "			9-55 P.M.		3-0 AM.	" "
" 7 th						" "

Volunteer ARP Wardens in Weare (Post 38A)

The following were on duty throughout the war, for 6 or 8 hours (10pm - 6am or 11pm - 5am). Two people were on watch, approx once a week.

Jeffrey Burnett Ham was the Warden for Weare Post 38A

Sheila Yeomans

J C Durston

A E Tilley

A V James

S Vowles

D W Menzies

R Roper

F H Coombes

Aubrey M Ham

C Woodward

M E Ham

E H Day

M H Robertson

P M Robertson

J B Ham

D J Bendall

G M N Dynes

M J Sanders

K M Kingsbury

F J Isgar

Duties

SIGNATURE OF VOLUNTEER	ON DUTY		OFF DUTY		HOURS ON DUTY TO nearest 1/4 hour	FOR USE OF POST WARDEN OR OFFICER-IN-CHARGE		
	DATE	TIME	DATE	TIME		Mark against those duty turns for which Volunteers are not entitled to allowances the letters—		
						"N.E."	INITIALS	REMARKS
R. Roper.	4/6/43	11 PM	5/1/43	5 AM	6		J.R.H.	
B.G. Woodward	4/6/43	11 PM	5/1/43	5 AM	6		J.B.H.	
M. E. Ham	5/6/43	11 PM	6/1/43	5 AM	6		J.B.H.	
E. H. Day	5/6/43	11 PM	6/1/43	5 AM	6		J.B.H.	
K. M. Kingsburg	6/6/43	11 PM	7/1/43	5 AM	6		J.B.H.	
* J. Sagar	6/6/43	11 PM	7/1/43	5 AM	6		J.B.H.	
A. E. Tilley	7/6/43	11 PM	8/1/43	5 AM	6		J.B.H.	
A. V. Games	7/6/43	11 PM	8/1/43	5 AM	6		J.B.H.	
J. B. Ham	8/6/43	11 PM	9/1/43	5 AM	6		J.B.H.	
J. H. Fowles	8/6/43	11 PM	9/1/43	5 AM	6		J.B.H.	
R. Roper.	9/6/43	11 PM	10/1/43	5 AM	6		J.B.H.	
J. G. Dunton	9/6/43	11 PM	10/1/43	5 AM	6		J.B.H.	
F. H. Coombs	10/6/43	11 PM	11/1/43	5 AM	6		J.B.H.	
S. Coombs	11/6/43	11 PM	12/1/43	5 AM	6		J.B.H.	
Aubrey M. Ham	11/6/43	11 PM	12/1/43	5 AM	6		J.B.H.	

The following are transcriptions of Report Forms recording air raid damage in the area, which were kept by Jeffery Burnett Ham, Chief ARP Warden Post 38A Weare.

**A.R.P./M.I.
Warden's Report Form**

Form of report to Report Centres

Air Raid Damage (commence with these words)	None
Designation of reporting Agent	Post 38 Weare
Position of occurrence	In field on west side of Notting Hill, Weare. 100 yds south west of Weare School
Type of bombs	2 H E Bomb
Approx No of Casualties	None
Fire	None
Damage to mains	None
Name of roads blocked	None
Position of any unexploded bombs	None
Time of occurrence	12.10 am 30/6/40
Services already on spot or coming	ARP Wardens
Remarks	

Air Raid Damage (commence with these words)	None
Designation of reporting Agent	Post 38 Weare
Position of occurrence	In field on East side of Notting Hill, Weare. 300 yds south of Weare School
Type of bombs	1 HE Bomb
Approx No of Casualties	None
Fire	None
Damage to mains	None
Name of roads blocked	None
Position of any unexploded bombs	Field on East side of Notting Hill, Weare. 300 yds south of Weare School
Time of occurrence	00 hrs 11 mins
Services already on spot or coming	Military
Remarks	30/6/40

Air Raid Damage (commence with these words)	None
Designation of reporting Agent	Post 38 Weare
Position of occurrence	In 2 fields on west side of Notting Hill Weare. 400 yds west of Weare School

Type of bombs	6 H E Bombs
Approx No of Casualties	None
Fire	None
Damage to mains	None
Name of roads blocked	None
Position of any unexploded bombs	None
Time of occurrence	12.10 am 30/6/40
Services already on spot or coming	Military & Police
Remarks	

Air Raid Damage (commence with these words)	
Designation of reporting Agent	Post 38 Weare
Position of occurrence	Ashton Lane, Chapel Allerton
Type of bombs	5 HE Bombs
Approx No of Casualties	None
Fire	None
Damage to mains	None
Name of roads blocked	None
Position of any unexploded bombs	None
Time of occurrence	02.48 23/8/40
Services already on spot or coming	ARP
Remarks	One horse injured in nose, one small wound on back, and another on left shoulder

Air Raid Damage (commence with these words)	
Designation of reporting Agent	Post 38 Weare
Position of occurrence	Allerton Moor
Type of bombs	1 HE Bomb
Approx No of Casualties	None
Fire	None
Damage to mains	None
Name of roads blocked	None
Position of any unexploded bombs	Allerton Moor
Time of occurrence	10.45 pm 24/8/40
Services already on spot or coming	
Remarks	Report received from LDV Post (Allerton Windmill) that a bomb was heard to fall in direction of Allerton Moor, but did not explode

Air Raid Damage (commence with these words)	
Designation of reporting Agent	Post 38 Weare
Position of occurrence	Bomb was heard by Warden on patrol near Council Houses, Weare to fall unexploded in westerly direction on north side of Main Bristol Road
Type of bombs	HE

Approx No of Casualties	None
Fire	None
Damage to mains	
Name of roads blocked	
Position of any unexploded bombs	Exact position unknown. Believed to be near Compton Bishop
Time of occurrence	10.10 pm 29/8/40
Services already on spot or coming	
Remarks	This report has not been confirmed outside the parish

Air Raid Damage (commence with these words)	
Designation of reporting Agent	Post 38 Weare
Position of occurrence	Bomb was heard by Warden on patrol to fall in Easterly direction unexploded, probably between Weare & Cross
Type of bombs	HE
Approx No of Casualties	None
Fire	None
Damage to mains	None
Name of roads blocked	
Position of any unexploded bombs	Exact position unknown. Believed to be in Cross Moor
Time of occurrence	1-3 am Sept 1 st 1940
Services already on spot or coming	
Remarks	This report has been confirmed by Wardens on duty at Compton Bishop

Air Raid Damage (commence with these words)	
Designation of reporting Agent	Post 38 Weare
Position of occurrence	2 bombs reported by Wardens on patrol to have fallen in direction of Biddisham
Type of bombs	
Approx No of Casualties	
Fire	
Damage to mains	
Name of roads blocked	
Position of any unexploded bombs	
Time of occurrence	10.07 pm 4/9/40
Services already on spot or coming	

Remarks	This report has been confirmed by Badgworth Wardens
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Air Raid Damage (commence with these words)	
Designation of reporting Agent	Post 38 Weare
Position of occurrence	Bomb was heard to fall by private woman at Allerton in direction of Allerton Moor, unexploded
Type of bombs	
Approx No of Casualties	
Fire	
Damage to mains	
Name of roads blocked	
Position of any unexploded bombs	
Time of occurrence	2.10 am 5/9/40
Services already on spot or coming	
Remarks	This report has not been confirmed

Air Raid Damage (commence with these words)	
Designation of reporting Agent	Post 38 Weare
Position of occurrence	Brinscombe, Weare. 250 yds south of Brinscombe Farm, Weare, on land occupied by Mr Tom Isgar
Type of bombs	1 incendiary petrol
Approx No of Casualties	None
Fire	None
Damage to mains	None
Name of roads blocked	None
Position of any unexploded bombs	None
Time of occurrence	11.26 pm 5.11.40
Services already on spot or coming	ARP
Remarks	Bomb found 9.30 am 6.11.40. Report sent into Report Centre, Axbridge 10.30 am

Air Raid Damage (commence with these words)	
Designation of reporting Agent	Post 38 Weare
Position of occurrence	Mr E H Day, Sparrow Hill Far, Weare
Type of bombs	2 incendiary
Approx No of Casualties	None
Fire	Yes
Damage to mains	
Name of roads blocked	None
Position of any unexploded bombs	None found
Time of occurrence	7.30 pm 24.11.40
Services already on spot or coming	ARP Wardens & Fire Brigade
Remarks	Damage has been caused to roof, ceilings and furniture, but fire has been extinguished.

Air Raid Damage (commence with these words)	
Designation of reporting Agent	Post 38 Weare
Position of occurrence	In a field south of Main Bristol Exeter Road. 200 yds west of Tanyard Farm, Lower Weare
Type of bombs	2 HE Bombs
Approx No of Casualties	None
Fire	None
Damage to mains	None
Name of roads blocked	None
Position of any unexploded bombs	None
Time of occurrence	00.10
Services already on spot or coming	Military & Police
Remarks	

Air Raid Damage (commence with these words)	
Designation of reporting Agent	Post 38 Weare
Position of occurrence	Weare Ordnance Depot & Notting Hill
Type of bombs	Incendiary
Approx No of Casualties	None
Fire	Yes
Damage to mains	None
Name of roads blocked	None
Position of any unexploded bombs	None yet discovered
Time of occurrence	23.50
Services already on spot or coming	Wardens, police, 3 fire brigades, Home guard
Remarks	Fire still burning, but now under control.

Air Raid Damage (commence with these words)	
Designation of reporting Agent	Post 38 Weare
Position of occurrence	Weare, on hill near Ordnance Depot and in the Moor near Brinscombe
Type of bombs	HE, Incendiary
Approx No of Casualties	None
Fire	Yes
Damage to mains	None
Name of roads blocked	None
Position of any unexploded bombs	About 60 incendiaries on hill around depot
Time of occurrence	[not noted]
Services already on spot or coming	Wardens
Remarks	Fire under control

Form

Occurrence No 2

A.R.P./M.I.

WARDEN'S REPORT FORM.

Form of Report to Report Centres.

AIR RAID DAMAGE (Commence report with these words) **NONE**

Designation of Reporting Agent (e.g., Warden's Post No. **38**) **WEARE.**

Position of occurrence **In field on East side of Notting Hill Weare. 300 yards South of Weare School.**

Type of bombs :—HE ~~Incidental~~ Poison Gas **1: H.E. Bomb**

Approx. No. of Casualties :— **None**
(If any trapped under wreckage, say so)

If fire, say so :— **NONE**

Damage to mains :—Water/Coal Gas/Overhead electric cables/Sewers **NONE**

Names of Roads blocked **NONE**

Position of any unexploded bombs **Field on East side of Notting Hill Weare. 300 yards South of WEARE SCHOOL.**

Time of occurrence (approx.) **12-10 A.M. 00 Hrs 11 Mins**

Services already on the spot or coming :— **MILITARY-**

Remarks :—

00 Hrs 11 Mins 30/6/40

ORIGINAL } These words are for use with a report sent by messenger.
DUPLICATE } Delete whichever does not apply.

Occurrence No 1.

A.R.P./M.I.

WARDEN'S REPORT FORM.

Form of Report to Report Centres.

AIR RAID DAMAGE (Commence report with these words) **NONE**

Designation of Reporting Agent (e.g., Warden's Post No. **38**) **Weare**

Position of occurrence **In field on West side of Notting Hill Weare. 200 yards South of Cross Roads by Weare School.**

Type of bombs :—HE ~~Incidental~~ Poison Gas **2 H.E Bombs**

Approx. No. of Casualties :— **NONE**
(If any trapped under wreckage, say so)

If fire, say so :— **NONE**

Damage to mains :—Water/Coal Gas/Overhead electric cables/Sewers **NONE**

Names of Roads blocked **NONE**

Position of any unexploded bombs **NONE**

Time of occurrence (approx.) **12-10 A.M. 30/6/40**

Services already on the spot or coming :— **A.R.P. Wardens**

Remarks :—

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