

# Hall and Woodhouse Limited: the war years, 1939-1945 Part I

Frank Pike

Later than many, earlier than some,  
I knew the die was cast - that war must  
come

*The White Cliffs* - Alice D. Miller

## **Prelude and beginning**

To the girls and boys of my generation by which for this purpose I mean those born towards the end of the First World War in 1918 and in the five years or so following, and who are now living in their late 70s or early 80s, the Second World War has a significant meaning; its events and our experiences of them left an indelible impression on our characters and subsequent outlook on life which those too young to know will probably find it impossible to appreciate. It was a time when we grew almost overnight from children into adult men and women.

It is not the purpose of this book to record, or comment on the rise of Adolf Hitler and the causes of the war; but it is important to understand that it did not start suddenly and without warning. Whether, as a nation, we heeded the

warning signs early or seriously enough, there cannot be any doubt that we did not.

I do not make any excuses therefore for taking licence and including some personal recollections of those earlier years before 1939 during which happenings both at home and abroad began to cast a sombre and ever darkening shadow across the country.

I was living with my parents at Elvera (30), St. Leonards Avenue, Blandford, the house where I was born on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1921. My father joined Hall & Woodhouse as a clerk in March 1906, and became assistant company secretary in May 1921 - the first time such an appointment had been made. I too joined as a clerk in May 1938 having left Blandford Grammar School with moderately successful Oxford School Certificate results, and a failure to gain enough marks in the competitive examination for entry to The Post Office (a failure for which I have been ever thankful).

My starting wage paid weekly, was 15/-, but I had a rise of 5/- to £1 at Christmas



Figure 1. The author, November 1940.

which as a percentage increase was generous indeed. At that time only the directors, and senior staff were salaried.

My memory does not extend back to the General Strike of 1926, but I recollect events of the 1930s with greater clarity as the decade unfolded. So, the Wall Street crash of 1930 and President Roosevelt's New Deal are but vague memories, but I recall the stagnant and depressed world economies that helped fan the flames of National Socialism and Fascism. A check in the salaries record of the time shows how everyone was affected.

For example, in August 1930 my father's salary was increased to £33:6:8 per month, and he received a bonus of £50 which was reduced to £15 in 1931-3, doubled to £30 in 1934 and increased to £35 in 1937 when his salary was increased by £15 p.a. - exactly the amount by which the bonus had been reduced between 1930-37. There was no further increase until August 1940 when his salary was £38:15:0 p.m. or just £63 a year more than in 1930. This position seems to have applied to everyone.

However in June 1940 he received a bonus of £180. No doubt for helping to 'bear the burden and heat of the day' - as the chairman was fond of quoting. The Dunkirk factor perhaps, or had inflation set in?

On this salary my parents had to be careful with money but this never verged on meanness and we were able to afford a simple annual holiday and a small car. I remember an Austin 7 saloon (TK4) being replaced by a Morris 10 (JT 3765) in 1937, which was kept until about 1950. It was virtually impossible to buy a new car for several years after the war ended.

There was an underlying pacifist, anti-war feeling at the time, some of the teachers at Blandford Grammar School belonged to an organisation 'Pick and Shovel Peacemaking', whilst others wore white poppies on Armistice Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November. I remember being pleased to hear on the wireless news the Prime Minister (Stanley Baldwin) announce that

the Navy was to be expanded, but certainly not everyone agreed with me.

I believe 1936 marked the end of an epoch. The end of the old post war world and the beginning of the new pre-war world. In Great Britain it began with the death on 20<sup>th</sup> January of a King (George V) and ended with the departure of another on 11<sup>th</sup> December (Edward VIII). The pace at which Europe was moving inexorably into war was quickening. Hitler occupied the Rhineland and annexed Austria. Mussolini invaded Abyssinia and a civil war started in Spain where the Lutwaffe was able to rehearse for grimmer work to come, and in the Far East there was open war between China and Japan. In 1937 when travel was still quite an adventure for the young, I was fortunate enough to go to the world Scout Jamboree in Holland. We did not suspect then the dreadful fate that would befall that country just three years later. The country however was in a festive mood for the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in Westminster Abbey on 12<sup>th</sup> May. In September 1938 together with France, Britain stepped back from the brink of going to war over Czechoslovakia and Neville Chamberlain who had succeeded Mr Baldwin as Prime Minister on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1937 met with Hitler for the second time, to sign the Munich Agreement, following which he assured us that there would be peace in our time. I recall clearly the sight of cars heading West down Salisbury Street with household goods like mattresses and trunks strapped to

the roof and then returning later when the scare was over.

It was about this time that contractors started to rebuild the army camp after many years spent demolishing the old buildings, for Blandford was destined to become a garrison town again after conscription was announced in April 1939.

This had an amusing spin off because the many Irish labourers working on the camp used The Blue Boar for their drinking, with the result that when whisky was rationed (based, I think, on the year to August 1940) the tenant George Wilson had a larger quota than anyone else locally - certainly much more than The Crown Hotel. George was a boxing enthusiast and used to organise bouts in a ring that stood in the hollow at the centre of the camp. The evenings ended with twelve contestants in the ring, three a side facing outwards with one glove only each. When the bell sounded, the idea was to hit the man nearest - the last one standing being declared the winner.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June 1939 Colonel C.H. Woodhouse (Mr Jock Woodhouse's father), a regular serving officer and a director since 1919, was moved to write two letters to his cousin Col. H.S. Woodhouse, the company secretary - (David Woodhouse's grandfather), from The Junior United Services Club, London.

Please see Times Wed 31<sup>st</sup> P14. Militia men for A.D.G.B. [Air Defence Great Britain] go to

Blandford (inter alia), so will be R.A. with R.A.F. attached. This implies that the bombing range [presumably this referred to Criche Down] and air generally can be used by that camp. I imagine a gunners camp - heavy drinkers!

The first militia men arrived in July 1939 before the huts were completed, and lived in tents. It was a wet summer.

My dear Harold,  
I'll do what I can through clerks in the W. O. and through N.A.A.F.I., but it is likely to be a bit involved. The procedure is roughly - N.A.A.F.I. sees the C.O. and asks him whose beer the camp should have. C.O. decides usually through an administrative, or Institute Committee.  
Sgts Mess decided by R.S.M.  
Good - then on giving one months notice they decide they want a change, whereupon N.A.A.F.I. changes.  
Knowing the C.O. is not so important as getting the N.A.A.F.I. area representative to plant the local beer on him (the C.O.). Alternatively, to my mind even better to let N.A.A.F.I. put in what they like and then introduce our beer to Sgts and men through local pubs whereupon they will demand a change which N.A.A.F.I. must carry out. Now that we have got on N.A.A.F.I. list, we should consider Bovington and Dorchester and Wyke Regis camps - possibly Christchurch also. All this N.A.A.F.I. will arrange. My own experience is that troops don't like the beer on first arrival at a new station and demand a change, then having changed they stick to their second choice. The whole thing is chancy.  
The one definite advantage is that one has a

monopoly of the Institute for the period that one has the Contract.

This monopoly does not apply to Messes.

We appear to be in SW area. H.O.

Devonport.

Direct action by myself appears to be directly contrary to K.R.s but means that I must watch my step.

Yours ever

Charles

Nationally, the Air Raid Precautions Act (1937) forced local authorities to plan for the safeguard of civilians against expected air raids. Money was allocated for the development of the Spitfire and Hurricane, also for Radiolocation stations around the coast, all of which were to prove invaluable in our defence.

By the end of 1938 millions of gas masks had been issued, air raid shelters were constructed in open spaces and gardens, and plans were made for the evacuation of children from the cities to the comparative safety of the country, including Blandford. Payment received for billeting was 10/6 a week for the first child and 8/6 for each additional child. There were 4,000 evacuees in Dorset at the outbreak of war.

Peace in our time the Prime Minister had promised, so it came as a shock to many when on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1939 Hitler, breaking the promises he had given at Munich sent his army into Czechoslovakia and later into Danzig. An even greater shock came on 22<sup>nd</sup> August when the Soviet Union and Germany signed a non-

aggression pact that secretly agreed to the partition of Poland and to the handing over of the Baltic States to Russia. As Britain had treaty obligations to go to Poland's aid, this meant that, barring a miracle, war was certain.

Just ten days earlier, at noon on Saturday 12<sup>nd</sup> August 1939, the chairman Francis (known to everyone as 'Mr Frank') Woodhouse reported at the company's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting that 'The balance sheet shows that we are enjoying a period of prosperity, but there is some doubt about the future.' Quite an understatement! Three days earlier 120 ships of the Reserve fleet lined up in Weymouth bay for inspection by King George VI.

Practically it was different, as a letter to L.M. Austin (architect) dated 25<sup>th</sup> August 1939 shows. Writing about The Crown Hotel, Wimborne.

In view of the international situation, Mr Chinn (the licensee) has asked us to stop all questions of major alterations or rebuilding ... we appreciate the inconvenience to which you have been put, but we are sure you will appreciate that the present crisis is no ordinary occasion ... .

It is interesting that the letter reference given was HSW/MG (Harold Woodhouse /Maurice Gilbert) - he was the sole shorthand typist, there were no women in the office at that time.

Several employees had joined 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. Dorsetshire Regiment T.A., and a letter

dated 16<sup>th</sup> June 1939 written from Blandford Drill Hall made application for men to attend annual training camp at Corfe Castle from 16-30<sup>th</sup> July, and those given leave to do so were named as Fiander, Silk, Cole, Lane, Avery, Gould. Others, including Noel James and myself (I joined 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1939) chose 375 Bty Queens Own Dorset Yeomanry Regt (also based at the Drill Hall), our annual camp that year being at Okehampton. This was paid leave given in addition to the annual holiday entitlement.

The Drill Hall stood with its outbuildings, garages and parade ground that extended back to the railway cutting, next to the Cottage Hospital where the new part of the Community Hospital now does; and so it was that at 5 o'clock on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939 I tidied my desk and left the brewery, as did the other members of the T.A. which was being embodied. The next morning I became 907517 Gunner Pike F.K. We were dismissed at lunch time, and I went to Dean Court to watch the 'Cherries' last match before war was declared. It was ironic that this resulted in a record 10-0 victory, against Northampton Town.

At 11.15 on the following morning, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September we were gathered together in the Drill Hall to listen to the Prime Minister's broadcast which ended.

... I have to tell you now that no such reply has been received, and consequently this country is at war with Germany. Now may God bless you all and may He defend the

right. For it is evil things we shall be fighting against - brute force, bad faith, injustice, oppression and persecution and against them I am certain that the right will prevail.

I went home to find my mother weeping at the prospect.

After about ten days during which time many of us dug trenches in the Recreation Ground for the use of hospital staff and patients, whilst others assembled gas masks in the old workhouse (now Castleman Homes), we moved to Shaftesbury. My first billet was the floor of the billiard room in a club that adjoined The Kings Arms, then a small town pub. In the rear yard of the inn the army had hastily set up in the open air an 'ablution block' - cold water and galvanised iron basins. It was then that I learnt an important lesson of life - it is often not what you know but who you know, that counts - for I asked my father to introduce me to the landlord (Eli Allen) which he did, so that every morning thereafter I was welcomed into his kitchen with a cup of tea, a slice of fruit cake, and a bowl of hot water. It was no disadvantage either that the Battery Sergeant Major was Frank Guy, tenant of The Anchor Inn, Shapwick.

Whilst we were all young, probably living away from home for the first time and enjoying the freedom that brings, some were older and more experienced in the ways of the world. These 'lads' adopted The Two Brewers in St. James for their drinking whilst the rest of us were more

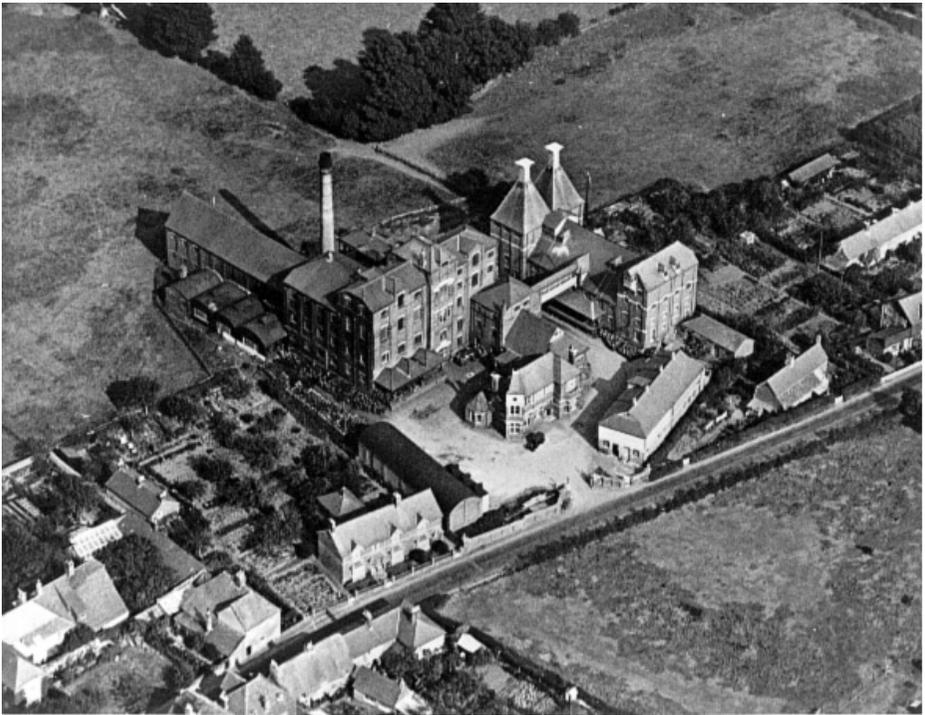
likely to be found with a modest half pint of beer or cider in The Kings Arms or The Fountain, Enmore Green. They were all company owned at the time.

Being under the age of eighteen, together with about sixty other 'immatures' (the armies term, not mine), we left the Yeomanry. I was posted in October to a Searchlight Regiment in the Thames Estuary, Kent, and so departed the local scene.

### **The brewery in 1939**

To set another scene. In the years running up to 1939 the directors made several important and far sighted decisions, yet in many ways the pace and the scope of change was very slow when compared with that of the 'dot com' society in which we now find ourselves compelled to live.

In 1935, the Board took what must be one of its wisest decisions ever and one for which sixty six years later we still have reason to be very grateful. This was to revise the Articles of Association to restrict the transfer and transmission of shares to members of the Woodhouse family, which had the effect of turning the company into a 'Private Company.' It is certain that this action has been responsible more than any other for ensuring that the company has been able to continue as an independent business. The directors who made this decision were:



*Figure 2. The brewery in the 1930s.*

F.D. Woodhouse - Chairman &  
Managing  
H.S. Woodhouse - Managing &  
Company Secretary  
C.H. Woodhouse  
R.F. Woodhouse  
R.M. Woodhouse - Solicitor, partner in  
Peacock & Goddard, London  
Solicitors.

By 1937 the world depression had receded somewhat and the company was able to set about seeking a modest expansion

of outlets for its trade. So it was in that year some properties in Marnhull were bought outright from Eldridge Pope & Co. Ltd., and in 1938 the purchase of the Wimborne brewery of Ellis & Son, with fifteen licensed houses around Poole and Bournemouth, was completed. Also, the directors were always on the look out for sites on which to build new pubs, for example The Upton Hotel (now Greenridge) opened in March 1936. It cost £7,560, and the land on which Darby's Corner and The Sir Winston Churchill were built after the war was

acquired. In spite of this activity, it should be remembered that the company's trading area was small and restricted to a radius of around 25 miles from Blandford. It was bounded in the west by Portland (Royal Breakwater Hotel), to the North by Sherborne, Shaftesbury and Salisbury and then south to Alderholt, Cranborne, Longham and Bournemouth town centre. (The Royal Arms). However, within that area there were many more pubs than now. In Blandford alone, nine company inns have gone.

Badger, Salisbury Road  
New Inn, East Street  
Blue Boar, East Street  
Red Lion, Market Place  
Coachmakers, Damory Street  
Rose & Crown, Dorset Street  
George, Salisbury Street  
Star, East Street  
White Horse, Orchard Street

The company owned also several off licences in the Bournemouth area. Some had the suffix 'House' such as Bennett, Cleveland, Essex, Langley, Latimer. Others were in Wallisdown and Parkstone. Their trade was substantially different in that draught beer in quantity was sold 'jug & bottle.'

There were more independent breweries everywhere, each vying for customers business. Locally all the following provided keen competition:

Dorsetshire Brewery - Sherborne  
Brutton Mitchell Toms Ltd. - Yeovil  
J.A. Devenish & Sons Ltd. - Weymouth

Eldridge Pope & Co. Ltd. - Dorchester  
Fookes Bros. - Milton Abbas  
John Groves & Sons Ltd. - Weymouth  
G.B. Matthews & Co. - Gillingham  
Gibbs Mew Ltd. - Salisbury  
J.L. Marsh & Sons Ltd. - Blandford  
Palmers Ltd. - Bridport

The company enjoyed a good share of local 'free' trade from the Political, British Legion and Social Clubs. Probably more than today, although Brickwoods, Ind Coope, Strongs, Ushers, Watneys and Whitbreads all had depots locally.

The brewery complex was much smaller, the southern boundary ran along the back wall of the malthouse (Woodhouse Inns) and turned left approximately where the road at the back of the brewery is now. Beyond were green fields.

Life at work for everyone was very different, as the following examples illustrate. The brewery day started at 6am until 5pm. Office hours were 8am to 5pm (4 o'clock on Wednesdays). Noon on Saturdays. Annual leave was two weeks. There were no canteen facilities, but the brewery workers could draw a quart of beer daily from an allowance cask in the racking cellar. The hooter told local residents the time at 8 o'clock and then 1-2 and 5 o'clock. It was sounded also for the two minutes silence on 11<sup>th</sup> November and when the Conservative candidate was successful in a general election!

For brewing Badger beers, barley was bought from local farmers, mainly

through the agencies of Blandford & Webb (Blandford) or Christopher Hill (Poole) and malted at Blandford and Ansty. Hops came exclusively from Kent and Worcestershire, in pockets that weighed 1½ cwt. each.

Proprietary beers were delivered by rail to Blandford station. Bass and Worthington from Burton-on-Trent, and Guinness from Dublin, via Bristol. Hall & Woodhouse was the brewery furthest east to take Irish Stout which was a good selling point, especially in the free trade. This bottling plant was below the malt-house, with a separate loading stage alongside. Company beers such as XXXX, Light Dinner Ale, Popular Ale, Brown Ale and Stout were bottled on plant at the rear of the brewery.

It was decided on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1939 to extend the building and upgrade the plant for which the order was approved at a Board meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> August, also to obtain estimates for the building, (just in time). On 23<sup>rd</sup> September it was resolved to accept Messrs. Mulley 's of Christchurch tender of £6,404 provided 'we are satisfied that they have the steel and other materials required in sight, the work to be completed within sixteen weeks of signing the Contract.' In fact, the work was completed in July 1940 at a cost of £8,240. This allowed a 12½% gross profit for the contractors and for 'the increase in the cost of materials, transport and labour caused by the present situation.' This was as advised by our architects Lambert & Seaton of

Bournemouth on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1940, whose letter ended 'we shall be glad of an early reply, as owing to the war conditions we shall be obliged to close our offices for the duration, and we are anxious to clear up all outstanding matters before this is done.' No doubt there were some teething problems because it was not until 30<sup>th</sup> April 1941 that a Board minute recorded, 'The bottle beer plant is now working satisfactorily, and the business had never been more busy.'

Also, it was at the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> May that the first indication of the serious international situation was minuted. 'It was reported that steps were being taken for adequate Air Raid Precautions for all the staff and men employed on the brewery premises.' I am indebted to Jim Mantell for the information that two solid, safe shelters were dug, one near the malthouse and the other at the rear of the brewery. They were made available for use at night by villagers living nearby.

A letter from the Home Office, Air Raid Precautions Department of 11<sup>th</sup> August advised 'that a vacancy has been allotted for the companies A.R.P. organiser to attend a course at the A.R.P. staff college, London from 5<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September.' Presumably someone did.

At the same meeting it was noted that the Customs & Excise department had suggested the closing of the bonded store in White Cliff Mill Street, Blandford. 'This would cause its considerable inconvenience.' Nevertheless, it closed. It was

a cellar store that the company rented from J.L. Marsh & Sons Ltd, the entrance to which can still be seen in the front wall of The White Cliff Nursing Home. Their brewery was in Bryanston Street.

At a directors meeting held before the Annual General Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1939, a decision of great importance for the future was taken when it was resolved that 'if possible when the leases of The Crown Hotels at Blandford and Wimborne fall in on or about 1952, that they both be placed under management and a new department be started under the company to deal with this business.' So, what was to become Badger Inns was conceived. The whole of the main Crown Hotel, Blandford, was rebuilt in 1937/8 at a cost of £10,738:9:11. Work on The Crown Hotel, Wimborne, was never carried out, the hotel closed in 1964 and the property sold to Woolworths.

1939 was a vintage year for important decisions. Again, on 27<sup>th</sup> May after two years of negotiations it was resolved 'that the pension scheme for members of staff that had been approved by the Inland Revenue Authorities be finally adopted to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January last, and that the scheme be sealed.' The position of staff too old to be members was each to be considered on its merits. Personally, being under the age of eighteen, I was ineligible and was not accepted for membership until 1947. This was unfortunate, especially as in 1942 it was decided to pay the premiums for members of staff

serving in H.M. Forces. Ce'est la vie! Company pensions were uncommon before the war and whilst this original scheme with Scottish Amicable lacked several elements now considered essential to the present arrangement, it was nevertheless an enlightened decision for the directors to have made.

The brewing book recorded that the last peacetime brew was on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1939.

### **1939 the first months of the war**

For Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September the brewing details were recorded as: 'Gyle No. 57. Began brewing at 6.30 o'clock in the morning. Thermometer in the air 540. Wind South West. Fine 61 brls Brown Ale. Racked to vat on 11<sup>th</sup> September for bottling.'

With the departure of 9 clerks and men who had volunteered for service by joining the Territorial Army, every department within the brewery was affected to some degree which became worse as the effects of conscription were felt. The total payroll at the time was 85 men. However, it was not until a meeting on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1940 that it was reported 'additional office staff would be required to replace men called up for army service.' Two women, Miss E. Schofield and Miss N. Rowland were engaged as a result of this. Many others were to follow.

From the wages book it is possible to

trace when staff such as Cyril Taylor, Ralph Hussey and Hubert Adams were called up. A more junior clerk Eric Parr left in August 1941 to join the R.A.F. He was later tragically killed in action whilst serving as an air gunner.

At a Board meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1939, the minutes recorded that 'The position of those serving in H.M. Forces was reviewed. It was resolved that each case be dealt with on its merits. The general principle agreed was that married men be allowed the house for their wives and families if living in one of our houses or rent if not, but limited to 10/- per week. That single men be allowed £2 half yearly for clerks and £1 half yearly for others.' At the same meeting a discussion took place as to whether any steps should be taken as to the future direction of the company in the event of emergency, or casualties. It was considered that this was not necessary.

Three directors were also serving:

Colonel C.H. Woodhouse O.B.E. M.C.  
Colonel H.S. Woodhouse T.D. J.P.  
Captain R.F. Woodhouse

It was resolved that 'they be granted leave of absence from attendance at Board Meetings under Article 83 of the Articles of Association whilst serving in H.M. Forces.'

All the departures meant that the day, to day management of the company became the responsibility of just five



Figure 3. Harold Woodhouse

men, none of whom were young in years.

*F.D. 'Frank' Woodhouse* - Mr Frank became a partner in 1893 and a director in 1898 when the company was incorporated. He was chairman and managing director from 1916 until his death on 29<sup>rd</sup> May 1952. A qualified doctor and surgeon, he took a special interest in the brewing side of the business and personally selected the local barleys for malting; he was also a good judge of hop samples. Together with Mr Pike he interviewed prospective tenants and fixed the rents, and shared with Mr Rose the collection of tied house cash.

There was a manual 'Imperial' typewriter on his desk for he was a good one finger typist, and could often be heard tapping out his own letters. Failing this, the office staff knew when the chairman was in because he always



Figure 4. F.D. 'Frank' Woodhouse

left his hat on the post at the bottom of the stairs.

The chairman lived near the Brewery at Old Ford House. He was a member, and first President of Ashley Wood, and sometime Broadstone Golf Clubs, a good snooker player, a keen shot and enthusiastic fisherman. He was also a Governor of Blandford Grammar School, Chairman of the Cottage Hospital Management Committee and Chairman of Blandford St. Mary Parish Council which for many years met in the Boardroom. I remember him telling me that as a young man in London, he had attended the first night of *The Mikado* at The Savoy Theatre in 1885.

A.E. 'Albert' Pike - In the absence of Harold Woodhouse, my father assumed responsibility for the many and varied duties of company secretary as well as much normal clerical work, including I suspect, typing his own letters for some-time, as there are no reference initials given on the copies filed. He usually saw that the mail was distributed after it had been opened by the chairman, before he went home for breakfast.

It was his rule that the company secretary should never take his summer holiday until the annual return had been completed, and sent to Companies House.

He was a member of Blandford Bowling Club, at which game he represented Dorset on several occasions and he enjoyed a game of whist and snooker. He was, for several years, a member of Blandford Parochial Church Council, and a sidesman.

Father became company secretary in February 1943 and retired on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1954. A Board minute at the time stated 'It was resolved with the greatest regret the resignation of the Secretary of the Company, Mr A.E. Pike. The directors recorded their appreciation of the forty eight years service given by Mr Pike during which, as a responsible official of the company, he had shown great accuracy and knowledge which would be difficult to replace.' He was subsequently appointed to be the first associate director which position he retained until his death in 1966.

L.C. 'Charlie' Jesty - Mr Jesty joined the company in October 1904, and was for many years the cashier. He alone was the wages department which meant drawing the money from Lloyds Bank and making up the wage packets every Friday. Each foreman came into the office to collect those for his own department.

Mr Jesty also was wines and spirits buyer that during the war meant buying what he could from where he could. Overall, it was not a lot.

I guess he was one half of the first office romance for, following the death of his first wife, he married Norah Rowland who was one of the first two women to join the office staff in 1940. In his spare time, he was a keen shot and fisherman. He was also a special constable for several years. Mr Jesty retired in February 1954 and died twenty years later in 1974.

A.R. 'Reg' Rose - A Blandfordian and 'blue coat' boy, Reg Rose joined the company in May 1904 and was until 1920 the



Figure 5. L.C. 'Charlie' Jesty

firm's outside representative or 'outrider' for North Dorset only, but from 1920 his duties were extended to cover the whole area served by the brewery.

His prime task that he shared with the chairman was the collection of money from the tied trade because few country licensees had bank accounts until after the war. This was done mostly on a regular journey basis, and incidentally rents were charged quarterly in arrears. It was a good opportunity also to look at the state of the properties because the Estates Department did not exist before 1939.

It was his duty also to attend at all pub 'changovers' to value the stock and keep a watching brief over what was happening. He visited the 'free' trade customers and, whilst by his genial disposition he made many friends, I cannot recall that he was a salesman *per se*. It was a conscious decision by the company during the war to give priority for supplies to the public houses and then to the service canteens and messes, so that the traditional free trade tended to suffer.

Not being around at the time I cannot comment on how Mr Rose managed with petrol rationing, but presumably he had an allowance of some kind.

Reg Rose was an active member of Blandford Amateur Operatic Society and sang the tenor lead in many of the societies productions of Gilbert & Sullivan operas. He sang also in

Blandford church choir and was well known in Masonic circles. He was 'on strength' as an A.R.P. warden in May 1940. Mr Rose also retired from full time employment in 1954 but continued to attend 'changeovers' on a part-time basis for many years. He died in 1980, aged 93.

*John Elliott Douglas* - John Douglas joined the company in July 1933 from Portsmouth United Breweries following a Board resolution that a 'Practical Brewer be engaged at once for a trial period.' This ended on 28<sup>th</sup> December when it was agreed that Mr Douglas was proving very satisfactory and it was resolved that he be appointed permanently.

He remained as head brewer throughout the war, and until he died at the age of 72 on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1950. John is buried in Blandford St. Mary cemetery, having lived alone in the Brewers House for 17 years.

I have found no records covering the last months of 1939 that are worth commenting on, indeed no Board meeting was held between 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1940. Brewing continued until the end of October on a five day weekly basis, it then dropped to four days, Monday being the usual rest day.

The boilers were coal fired and the company was advised by letter on 4<sup>th</sup> November that 'to comply with the decision of the Government, the prices of coal are increased by 1/- (one shilling/or

5p) per ton as and from 1<sup>st</sup> November 1939.'

Having applied previously to be a registered supplier to N.A.A.F.I. at Blandford camp on the grounds that 'we are the only brewery within 18 miles of this camp we would like the opportunity of supplying it as we did in the last war.' Mr Pike wrote to our advertising agents Henbest Publicity Services of Bournemouth that we would like advertisements made for display in the Post Offices on the camp as 'we really wish to draw the attention of the soldiers to our houses in the locality.' He suggested:

'When you have a beer be sure its "BAD-GER" brand, Brewed in Dorset by Hall & Woodhouse Ltd, established 1777. Look for the Sign (Badger Block) of quality.' (not the snappiest of slogans!)

Jim Mantell recalls being given 5/- by Mr Frank to help paint over all the brewery windows as part of the blackout regulations. This meant that the lights had to be switched on during the normal working day. It seems that some licensees were not doing all they could with their house blackouts, as a letter from The National Trade Defence Association advises.

Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1939.

Dear Sir,  
Licensees and the "Black-Out"

Will you please draw the attention of your members to the following important matter. The daily papers have recently reported a few

cases in which licensees have been summoned for not adequately obscuring the lighting of their premises during the present crisis. It is most strongly urged that licensees should make their lighting arrangements above criticism, thereby setting an example to the general public. If this obvious duty is neglected licensees are furnishing the militant teetotal section with a pretext for demanding drastic restrictions on the Trade, such as for example the enforced closing at sunset of all public houses.

It is also suggested that five minutes before the close of the evening permitted hours all lights except one in each room should be switched off, so as to minimise the contrast between the brilliant lighting indoors and complete darkness outside. This would tend to avoid the danger of accident to customers and also afford an indication to them for "last orders please!", and consequent easier clearing of licensed premises.

Yours faithfully. E.T. NORMAN

Publicans were informed by the military authorities what they would be paid for boarding soldiers. When meals were provided this was 10d a night, with 8d for each additional soldier. Breakfast was 8d, dinner 11d, tea 3d and supper 1/-. The allowance for an officer was 3/-, for the first one, and 2/- for additional officers. They were responsible for buying their own meals.

In France, little was happening, the French army was safely (or so they believed) occupying the Maginot line with

the British Expeditionary Force on its left flank. The German army manned its own defences, and as the words of the song said:

We are going to hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line  
Have you any dirty washing, mother dear?  
We are going to hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line  
If the Siegfried Line's still there.

It was the time of the 'Phoney War.' At home, as the nights grew longer there was much grumbling about the blackout, and it was questioned whether there was a need for such stringency in view of the absence of enemy air activity, but all pleas were of no avail.

At sea there was considerable activity. It was just ten hours after Britain's declaration of war when the liner Athenia with some 1,400 passengers aboard was torpedoed without warning at 2100 hrs on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, about two hundred miles west of the Hebrides, with the loss of 112 lives, including 28 Americans. She was on passage to Montreal. On 17<sup>th</sup> September a U-Boat penetrated the defences of the naval base at Scapa Flow, torpedoed and sank the battleship Royal Oak as she lay at anchor, with the loss of 786 officers and men. In the channel, three small cargo ships sank due to enemy action whilst others limped, damaged, into port.

However, it was not all doom and gloom because the fateful year ended with a

notable victory. The pocket battleship Graf Spee which had in three months sunk nine British cargo vessels (some 50,000 tons) in the South Atlantic was severely damaged in an engagement with the cruisers Ajax, Achilles and Exeter. She put into Montevideo for repairs but under international law could remain for only 72 hours, so the Captain made for the nearby estuary of the River Plate and scuttled his crippled ship. On 21<sup>st</sup> December, the German High Command announced that the Commander, Capt. Langsdorff had 'followed his ship.' Actually, he shot himself in a hotel bedroom in Buenos Aires.

According to the brewing book the weather that had been tolerable - '44° Wind S.W. Wet' on 14<sup>th</sup> December, worsened just before Christmas to '28° N. freezing' on 22<sup>nd</sup> December around which temperature it remained until 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1940 when it plunged to '20° N.E. freezing' and to '12° N. freezing' on 18<sup>th</sup> January. Although temperatures fluctuated over the next four weeks, on 14<sup>th</sup> March it was stated as '40° Wind N.W. snowing.' It was by normal standards, a cold winter.

The new year, 1940, that was destined to become one of the most significant in this country's long history started as the old year ended, dull, cold and quiet so this is probably as suitable a time as any to set down some recollections of the company structure and working practices as they were sixty years ago, compared with the present day.

*Beer* - Draught beer was the main product. There were no keg beers or lagers, just Mild Ale (XXX) Pale Ale, XXXX, and Stout. Fermentation took a full seven days. The casks were made from Memel oak - no metal containers, and the beers were racked into Hogsheads (54 gals), Barrels (36 gals), Kilderkins (18 gals), Firkins (9 gals) and Pins (4½ gals). So the coopers (Harold Neale and Dick Sibley) were key workers. Opposite the brewery, where the car park is now, were three cottages; also a cooperage, owned by William Brine, who did some work for the company, but not a lot.

Excise duty, that was payable by 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month (relaxed to the 25<sup>th</sup> in July 1940) was calculated at the start of fermentation, with a 6% loss allowance. Blandford had its own Customs & Excise officer. I remember three, Mr Sheldon, Mr Carter and Mr Mallette. They had a right to enter on the brewery premises at any time.

Beers for bottling, that included a Brown Ale and Popular Ale went to the conditioning room and then after filtration into 'bright beer' tanks.

The bottles were mainly screw stoppered, each case, also wooden, took 24 pints, so being a drayman was not a job for a weakling especially considering the weight of the larger casks. There were no canned beers.

Mineral waters were bottled in what was originally a malthouse, almost opposite

the brewery. Varieties included Raspberryade and Cherryade; also syphons of Lemonade and Soda Water (on which a tax was payable), but not tonic water nor any type of squash or cordial. Those, like Roses Lime Juice, were purchased. The foreman for many years was Harold Haim.

*Wines and spirits* - The wines and spirits store occupied an area immediately between the offices and the brewery where the records are kept now, including the cellar that housed vintage ports and other fine wines. Access from the offices was where the stationery cupboard is; here were racks of empty bottles on both sides, some new but many that had been washed on return from customers, in a copper that stood by the step that now leads into the printing room. A credit of 1/- per dozen bottles was allowed. This applied to spirit bottles also; for example brands of whisky such as John Haig, Johnnie Walker; White Horse, John Dewar, VAT 69 and Black & White all of which arrived in lidded wooden cases by rail to Blandford station, and thence by railway transport to the brewery were sorted into each variety and returned to Scotland for re-filling. Deliveries came into what is now payroll, the entrance is visible by different coloured bricks. These included casks of whisky (Old Highland Blend), Brandy (Pale British), rum, sherry and various ports which according to quality had a different coloured seal (e.g. Red, Blue or Green). The casks were lifted by hoist to the area that is now offices but was then more like an attic under a pitched slate

roof. It was the advertising store also. Bottling was gravity fed to a small filler and separate labelling machine beneath. Orders were dispatched from an exit between the back door of the office and the brewery because the loading stage was back by the main wall.

At this time, and for some years after the war, spirits had to be accompanied by a 'spirit permit' that was completed in the office, put into an envelope and stapled to the relevant case.

Bill Lane (the late Ken Lane's father) was the long serving, foreman, assisted by Reg Lethbridge. Two of the first women to be employed, Eileen Cross and Margaret Puckett (Rumbold) also worked in 'wines & spirits' after the war, until retirement, having been moved from the beer bottling department.

*Transport* - There was no vehicle workshop. The lorries were maintained at local garages, mainly Paizze & Goldie (where the new flats are near The Crown Hotel) and Fianders (on part of Ryan Court), Whitecliff Mill Street. The brewery complex, unlike now, was almost devoid of cars, as everyone walked or cycled to work. Company cars were virtually unknown and I believe Mr Rose had the only one. It is doubtful if this was garaged at his home, or if it was available for private motoring.

I recall that the Chairman owned a large American Packard that was driven by Cleaver Ridout, who doubled as handy-

man at Old Ford House. Harold Woodhouse in 1939 drove a large Austin Saloon.

Some local deliveries were still made by horse drawn drays. Figure 6 shows Arthur Stickley with two horses, and Bobby Roper in the single dray, circa 1941. Some horses had been stabled in what is now the computer department where the beam used to lift feed to the store above is still visible; but from about 1935 were housed in the 'lower yard' near the river. The stables were converted for use as the cider bottling and storage department.

*Pubs and properties* - All the licensed properties were tenanted, with a full tie and subject to three months notice. The exception was The Crown Hotel, Blandford which had been leased since 1934 to Paul Todd. During the war he was commissioned in the R.A.S.C. and I met him in 1942, quite accidentally walk-

ing through Dundonald Camp (combined operations) near Troon, Ayrshire. The hotel manageress during this time was Brenda Griffiths, but the hotel was ruled (the appropriate word I think) by the head waiter Bill Mayo who was James' and Bill's father.

However, a letter about the hotel illustrates that not everyone was happy to accept the cliché 'Don't you know there's a war on.'

Dear Sirs,

I have been staying at the Crown Hotel, Blandford, since Tuesday of last week.

When my bill was presented to me, after arranging a definite rate per week, a sum of 10/- was added for tips.

I have travelled in every county in this Country, except Northern Ireland, and a good part of the countries abroad and I have never yet seen such a thing on a Hotel Bill in this country. I thought, therefore, it was in the



Figure 6. The 'New Inn' is now 'The Stour'- the name was changed in 1964.

interests of the management to bring this matter to your notice. Other matters are that the prices charged are as high as I paid in the Savoy Hotel, in London; I have been refused to be served with Whiskey and Splash, in the Lounge, it being insisted that only bottled Soda Water are served there. The price of the Whiskey is 1/- which is 10d anywhere else - and so on.

I am Supervising Agent at Blandford Camp, and from this source you have received much business, but it is my intention to take no more there. I contend that in your own interests you should be informed that a lot of the officers are very dissatisfied with the high prices charged and are using other Hotels.' The gentleman was obviously not satisfied with the reply because he wrote again a month later. 'Blandford is a town of round about 3,000 inhabitants and the charge for Bed and Breakfast is 12/6d. I have stayed at The Angel Hotel in Cardiff (managed by Honeywells' Company) and it is a hotel about six times the size of The Crown, is better furnished, is better managed and is completely equipped with hot and cold water and their charge for their rooms (which are better than the Crown) is 10/6d, Bed and Breakfast. I could give you various other instances ... .

It is interesting that, at least in the early years of the war, some development work was permitted. On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1940, Dorset County Council gave authority for;

- a) The construction of a car park adjoining The Talbot Hotel, Iwerne Minster
- b) The construction of 'a new means of access from the car park into the Shaftsbury - Blandford road (A350).

There is no record of when the application was made, maybe it was before September 1939!

On 14<sup>th</sup> August the Hampshire Brewers Union issued a warning about military patients in Licensed Houses.

Dear Sirs,

Military Patients in Licensed Houses

During the War of 1914-1918 an order was in force prohibiting the supply of alcoholic beverages to patients in the Forces dressed in "hospital blues". It should not be assumed that this regulation has been withdrawn and it is therefore recommended that licensees should refrain from serving men of the Forces, who are obviously hospital patients, in order to avoid friction with the military authorities.

Yours faithfully, R.C. CHAMBERS Secretary  
HAMPSHIRE BREWERS' UNION

This is similar to advice given by W.K. Creech (one of the company's local solicitors) in February 1917. Writing that he was sorry, the licensee of The Museum Hotel, Farnham was in trouble, but he wrote, 'It is no offence to serve the German prisoners with intoxicating liquor, but it is to do so to soldiers on duty.'

It is a fact that licensees tended to stay in one House much longer than nowadays, and it was not uncommon for them to clock up at least twenty years. Also, there was a stronger family connection with sons following fathers, or other members of a family joining the company. Two good examples are:

The Albion Hotel, Wimborne with The Black Horse, Sturminster Marshall. Harry Sibley was at The Albion from 1921 to 1956, and Bill Bishop at The Black Horse between 1924 and 1953. This tenancy was taken then by John and Jean Sibley. John (son of Harry) learnt about the trade in The Albion, Jean was Bill Bishop's granddaughter. After their successful interview, the chairman commented 'They're young, but both from a good stable.' The valuation was £180.4.6, and the annual rent increased from £30 to £50. They stayed until 1973.

The Farquharson Arms, Pimperne, Frederick Adam was licensee from 1929 until his death in 1958. His widow took over for a short while and then Roy and Hazel Adam (son and daughter in law) were mine hosts until 1981.

Other examples of longevity are:

Cashmoor Inn, Cashmoor - R. Taylor  
(1933-1964)

Cock & Bottle, Morden - W.C. Hayward  
(1927-1956)

Portland Railway, Weymouth - A.E. Apps  
(1922-1955)

Cleveland House, Boscombe - H.H. Pike  
(1928-1949)

Latimer House, Winton - T.W. Bacon  
(1922-1957)

In the absence of an Estates Manager, or a 'building squad' the directors and Mr Pike dealt directly with local builders for small repair and redecoration work. For example, G.A. Wilson carried out a lot of work at the brewery, and in and around

Blandford. Architects were engaged for larger contracts. The principle one retained at the time was L. Magnus Austin of Poole with whom the directors enjoyed a very good working relationship - even after The Upton Hotel was built before it was realised that no provision had been made for beer storage!

The licensing laws were far more restrictive than now, although there were many more local courts, each with its own licensing committee. In North Dorset, magistrates sat at Blandford, Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Sherborne and Sturminster Newton. There was an annual Brewster Sessions in February to which licensees dutifully went, although not compelled to, to have their licences renewed, and to hear the police report on their conduct during the previous year. It was on this day only that applications for new licences (or the upgrading of existing licences) were heard. There was no appeal against refusal, but if approved the grant had to be endorsed at 'confirmation sessions' held later in Dorchester Court, although Bournemouth was its own confirming authority. Licensing laws remained unchanged until 1961.

Monopoly value was also assessed, and had to be paid. For example Darby's Corner, Broadstone (1954) £3,100, Central Hotel, Parkstone £2,100 for upgrade to seven day licence in 1950. This money was held by a Compensation Authority who paid, as the name implies, compensation should a licensed premises that had been in

existence before 15th August 1904 be declared redundant.

*Office and Administration* - The front elevation of the office building has remained unchanged since it was built about a century ago, but the rear has been extended and altered radically, as has been described.

In 1939, and for nearly a decade after the war there were just three offices. Entering on the right hand side where the reception area is now was the office where at that time my father, Charles Jesty, Cyril Taylor and latterly, I worked. I use the word 'worked' rather than 'sat' because throughout the offices were Dickensian type desks with lids that opened rather like the old fashioned school desks. Each had a high stool, but it was easier to write standing up than sitting down. Mr Rose had a space that he used when not travelling, and where he reconciled the cash he had collected.

In the bow window was a stout wooden shelf on which the ledgers were placed in the morning and carried back to the strongroom every evening. Each ledger weighed 14.5k or 32lbs. In this office the source documents (an expression that had not been invented in 1939) were taken for posting and its true, I swear, all entries were 'called over' every day. There were six sales ledgers, two each 'Publican' for cask beer and wines and spirits. 'Bottled Beer' and 'Mineral Waters.' These and other account books were printed and bound individually by

either Beales of Bournemouth or E.S. & A. Robinson of Bristol. They supplied also stationery, invoices, credit notes etc. Local printing was entrusted to Edmonds & Son.

Each department was responsible for ordering its requirements, and checking the documentation. Invoices were entered into a large analytical purchase journal from which each entry was posted to the suppliers account in the purchase ledger, and monthly totals to the expenses ledger.

In this office, too, transactions were completed by writing out customer accounts, some tied trade statements were sent every week to match up with the cash collection journeys of the following week. A compliments card was enclosed, advising that 'Our Mr Rose (or Mr Woodhouse) will have the pleasure of calling on you on ... .' Free trade accounts were sent every calendar month.

It was the responsibility of this office also to maintain the bank journal, cash book, rent journal and ledger and other books of account, and to pay suppliers accounts. There was a monthly 'calling over' ritual to be observed for these ledgers, carried out by the chairman (in the mornings as I recall!) and my father.

Somehow Mr Jesty found room to make up the wage packets, and he kept an appetising array of wine and spirit samples on top of a safe that stood in the corner by the fireplace.

Immediately on the left of the front entrance was an interview room and then a highly polished mahogany counter where visitors reported, including those who had been advised by their doctor to swallow 'Brewers barm' as a cure for blood disorders and/or bad complexion. I think the charge was 6d a jar. The counter extended to a pillar, still there, beyond which was a hatchway to the open plan general office, the strongroom (where the postroom is) and then to the secretary's office which was demolished after the war when the offices were enlarged and the loading area extended outwards.

There was a back door, opposite the entrance, so at times the draught was considerable. In the lobby was a single lavatory and washbasin that must have become unisex when the women arrived. However, there was a rain water outlet in the corner just outside which proved to be very convenient, on occasions!

In the outer office old hands, Teddy Foote, Cecil 'Winston' Churchill, Owen Witt and Eddie Lethbridge worked alongside the younger clerks Hubert Adams, Noel James, Ralph Hussey and Eric Parr. Their prime responsibility was the receipt and processing of orders which usually arrived on odd pieces of paper without the discipline of a required time before despatch. It was a laborious process, all orders being entered early in the morning into a order book from which eventually the day books were prepared and three part priced invoices written. Somehow the information reached the department

concerned, for the orders to be assembled ready for despatch. The responsibility for arranging the loads and journeys rested with the transport foreman who had a small desk on the main loading stage.

Each cask had an individual number, and it was a clerks' job to go to the racking cellar and record each number prior to the order being despatched. The information, when returned to the office was entered into one of several cask books under the cask number column. The stupidity of this exercise was compounded because numbers were not logged in. Therefore, it was only when it was noticed that a number had not been utilised for sometime that questions were asked. Is cask No. 1234 still at the Dog & Duck where it was sent six months before? Needless-to-say, it was a waste of time - no-one ever owned up, as far as I recall, to cutting one in half for flower tubs, or converting to a rainwater butt.

A single G.P.O. telephone (Blandford 9) was affixed to the back wall. There was an extension to the off licence branch, Chamen & Richards, 9 The Plocks called by turning a handle on the switchboard that had lines only to the chairman's and secretary's offices and the brewing room. There was no internal telephone communication with any other department.

There must have been a rudimentary costing calculation, although I have no

knowledge of what it was, or who was responsible. However, I do remember that fresh from college in 1950, together with Pat Walsh (second brewer) we instituted a regular system that used terms unknown previously in the company, such as 'Prime cost per barrel,' 'variable costs,' and 'fixed costs.'

### **1940 - year of disaster and the finest hour**

It is time I think, to return specifically to the war years and to 1940 in particular. There is evidence that the military moved into several company properties - Gilbert Drake wrote from The Fleur de Lys, Cranborne on 24<sup>th</sup> August;

Regarding the club room. The army authorities requisitioned it on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1939 and we receive 3/- weekly payment.

From A. Knight of The Drum & Monkey Inn, Hazelbury Bryan came on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

The army authorities working the searchlight at Hazelbury Bryan have erected a hut on the four acre ground at Pleck rented by me. I have not been asked by anyone to give permission ... they have knocked off a gate post ... there will be no ploughing up order on this field as the army is using it.

At The Horns Inn, Colehill, the tenant Mr Heathcote wrote on 2<sup>nd</sup> October;

The military took possession of the garage,

yard, clubroom and pleasure garden on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1939 ... the billeting money received was the usual 6d per night for soldiers billeted in the house.' [He grumbled that the only financial return he got for the use of requisitioned property was at the rate of £39 p.a.] 'This sum does not of course represent in any form what the property would have brought in from a business point of view.

Mrs Maud Wooding of The Red Lion Hotel, Stalbridge wrote to the chairman on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

The troops are going tomorrow - have a few here. The C.O. and two other officers are going to sleep here. I would rather have N.C.O.'s! The C.O. would like the lounge for himself and nine officers, but I told him I must have the lounge. The Boys would give me "the air" and I should lose lots of customers. The compensation officer called on Thursday. The rates will be paid in full and the rent, but nothing for loss of visitors and trade. They are as mean as hell. Hope you are well. The large light is not up to standard, dark and cloudy.' (I assume she was referring to the bottled beer).

A formal notice from the Clerk to Sturminster Newton Rural District Council dated 12<sup>th</sup> October said

Take notice that in exercise of the powers delegated to me by the Minister of Health under and by virtue of Regulation 51 of the Defence Regulations 1939, I have this day taken possession of the premises known as loft and stables attached to The Crown Inn, Marnhull.

The Clerk to Sherborne Urban District Council wrote on 15<sup>th</sup> November to tell the company 'I am very pleased and grateful that you raise no objection to the cellar at The Antelope Hotel being used as a public air raid shelter, provided the work is carried out at the Councils expense.' This might be regarded as shutting the stable door after the horse had bolted because about six weeks earlier, on 30<sup>th</sup> September, Sherborne suffered an air raid in which 18 people were killed, 32 injured and 766 properties damaged as a result of 60 bombs being dropped in the space of a few minutes. The raid began when about 40 bombers were turned back from Yeovil by fighters and jettisoned their bombs over Sherborne. It was reported at the time that clearing up the debris was made difficult by an unexploded bomb in Cheap Street, and fractured main service pipes. The effect of the raid was still being felt in July 1942 when W. Coombes & Son, owners of a cafe and bakery next to The Swan wrote,

We shall be obliged if you would allow us once more to open the subject of the clearance of air raid debris from the rear of our premises adjoining The Swan yard ..., the most straightforward way of carrying out the work would be to back the lorry to the Swan yard sheds which are already destroyed ... bearing on the subject is the matter of The Swans sheds which have collapsed and the roofs are protruding over our property, also the matter of rebuilding the boundary wall which we believe is your property.

Another reason for wanting to do the work was given as 'we are desirous of laying in an emergency supply of coke for our bakery [the previous dump having been destroyed in the raid] and all our available space is taken up by debris.' Obviously The Swan had a narrow escape, but a war damage claim was made for both The Swan and The Antelope Hotel.

Information that Wimborne would be stoutly defended against the invader, even if a small local difficulty might have to be resolved was evident from a letter received from the company solicitors, H.W. Dibben & Co. on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1940.

Green Man Inn, Wimborne

The tenant of the above, Mr H.H. Harris, has asked us to communicate with you and inform you that the Military Authorities have suddenly decided to install a machine gun post in the small bedroom over the tap room and there has to be six men in control of the same day and night. In order to get to and from the bedroom it is necessary to pass through the room which is used as a cellar or store for barrels of beer, etc. and there is nothing to prevent access to and from the bars. This difficulty can be overcome if the original suggestion of carrying the stairs direct down into the private part of the premises can be carried out. We may say at once that Sir John Hanham would not be prepared to alter his decision with regard to the expenses of this arrangement because it is to no advantage so far as he is concerned. Mr Harris would be glad if you could kindly take up the matter with him as soon as possible

as the proposed change in the position of the exit from the stairs would be an advantage for all times and in the present emergency is very essential.

In Wimborne also, at least one licensee was sufficiently concerned about the effect the war was having on her trade to write to the chairman on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Mrs Evelyn Best at The Smith Arms had a positive idea.

Dear Sir,

I am wondering if you might consider having the cellar of The Smiths Arms reinforced as an air raid shelter for my customers during business hours. As I have no shelter trade seems to be getting very quiet, and I think if my customers know I have some kind of protection they will stay instead of going home as soon as the siren sounds. Hoping you will be able to do this to assist my trade.

Yours faithfully,  
Evelyn K. Best

As part of the defences of Blandford concrete anti-tank obstacles were erected in the garden of The Crown Hotel, where some can still be seen. Other obstacles were erected under the arches of the bridges, these certainly hindered the flow of water when The Crown Meadows flooded which they did regularly as no one had the time or labour to clear the river weeds. Also, across West Street from the corner of the hotel to the cafe opposite, sockets were prepared to receive substantial steel rails as part of the perimeter anti-tank defences.

What were described as 5,000 gallon rectangular dams were erected by the National Fire Service on the car parks adjoining The Crown Hotel and The Half Moon Inn, Whitecliff Mill Street. These were known as E.W.S. (emergency water supplies). The company granted permission for 'widening the garden path at the rear of The Star Inn, East Street, to enable access to the river.'

On 27<sup>th</sup> October the company received a letter from B.A.S. Hicks, controller and Hon. Org. Sec. of A.R.P. for Blandford Rural District Council. It was written from Brook House, Blandford St. Mary. The subject was *Courses for Roof Watchers* to be held at Dorchester, or other centres and he requested details of trainees whom the company may wish to attend. No record can be found as to whether anyone was detailed to do so. It is probable they were as there was an emergency fire crew manned by employees on standby at the brewery.

On 7<sup>th</sup> December 1940, my father wrote to the company solicitors, Traill, Castleman Smith & Wilson. It was headed 'Damage due to enemy action,' and the first property listed was The Crown Hotel Blandford. This would certainly have referred to the occasion when incendiary bombs caused fire damage to the roof of the hotel. It could have been disastrous but for prompt action by the emergency services. Jim Mantell recalls the occasion well. 'One or two landed on the road outside the brewery; the Crown meadows were flooded at the time, and



*Figure 7. Dummy pill box in the garden wall of The Crown Hotel.*

when the water receded several bombs could be seen sticking up in the mud.'

Other properties listed were:

1) The Ship Inn, Weymouth - damaged

on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

On the previous night of 16<sup>th</sup> November, Bournemouth and Poole were bombed, and the following company properties were included in his letter.

2) 320 Malmesbury Park Road, Bournemouth

'One window in the front bedroom and one in the back bedroom broken and the lock blown off the back door. I am not sure about the slates but no wet has shown in the ceilings yet' - W.D. Briginshaw, tenant.

3) Off Licence, Sea View Road, Parkstone.

'I beg to notify you that one of the plate glass windows of the shop was cracked today by enemy action' - E.J. Brown, tenant.



*Figure 8. Anti-tank obstacles in the grounds of The Crown Hotel.*

- 4) Albion Hotel, Newton.
- 5) Royal Arms Hotel, Bournemouth.
- 6) Off Licence, Bennett House, Capstone Road, Bournemouth.
- 7) Off Licence, Essex House, Terrace Road, Bournemouth

All the damage was fairly minor, and there is no record of any company property actually being destroyed or severely damaged by enemy action at any time.

Dear Mr Woodhouse,  
Personnel for Decontamination of Clothing Depots

Thank you very much for your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1940 with the names of five men who will be willing to help us in the matter of Decontamination of Protective Clothing.

I have sent on these names to Captain Leschallas who is the Superintendent of this work for the County.

As soon as the building and boilers are ready he will come and ask to be allowed to interview the men concerned and also to arrange for their training in anti-gas.

With many thanks for the trouble you have taken in the matter.

Yours sincerely  
Sgd. S.W.S. Hamilton  
County Air Raid Precautions Officer

This letter shows that as well as being firemen, A.R.P. wardens, fire watchers and presumably members of the Home Guard, the brewery employees also undertook to help with the Decontamination of Protective Clothing. If this referred to the results of a poison gas attack, then luckily they were never needed.

The phoney war continued through the remainder of the very cold winter, and into early Spring.

At the brewery, Board meetings were held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and 11<sup>th</sup> May, the minutes of which were quite normal and did not make specific reference to the war situation, except for the need to replace office staff. It was however decided to buy fuel economisers for the two boilers 'on the understanding that if there was not a 10% saving in fuel they would be removed without cost to ourselves.' Trade was buoyant for it was reported that 'the increase in the sales of beer for the eleven months to 30<sup>th</sup> April was 2735 brls.' No doubt some of the increase was attributable to the military presence as a letter received from N.A.A.F.I. dated 24<sup>th</sup> February 1940 illustrates (see Fig. 9).

Bureaucracy was flourishing when in April the Brewers Society took up strongly with the Sugar Control the question of the exclusion of malt extract from the provisions of the sugar restrictions. The Society hoped 'the sugar control will issue instructions without delay through the Customs & Excise that malt extract should be excluded from restriction.'

Generally, the population was accepting restrictions that would be with them for years to come. Some food rationing was introduced in January 1940. The ration book ruled the country's weekly allowance. Every adult was, for instance, allowed in June 1940, 4ozs per week of

ham, bacon and butter, whilst pregnant women and children under the age of five years were entitled to extra eggs and seven pints of milk every week. One effect of rationing was to improve the nation's health generally because the poorer classes of society were able to afford reasonably priced foods which were rationed fairly.

Clothes rationing did not start until June 1941 when, again, a coupon system was introduced based on the amount of fabric required to manufacture different items of clothing. Initially the allowance was 66 coupons a year, but this was reduced later to 48 'points.' The Government introduced the famous utility clothing scheme that was to ensure a certain minimum

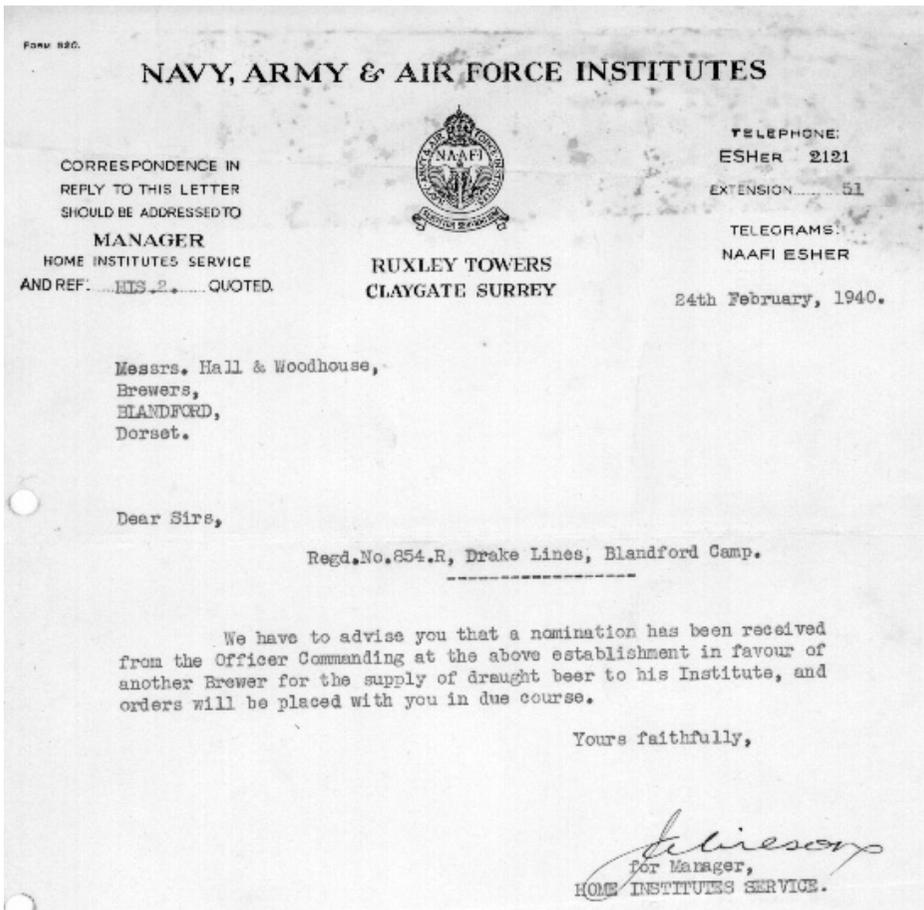


Figure 9. Letter from the Home Institutes Service.

standard of quality. Utility clothing bore a mark CC41 (Civil clothing 1941). The scheme lasted for some years after the war. Women used great ingenuity by creating garments from parachute silk, old bed linen and surplus blackout material. Stockings were replaced sometimes by an artificial seam drawn in ink down the leg by a friend (Nylons arrived with the G.I.'s).

It was just before dawn on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1940, that the Danish and Norwegian governments were presented with a German ultimatum demanding that they accept on the instant and without resistance the 'protection of the Reich' against what it was claimed was a plan for Anglo-French Occupation.

Thus began DISASTER NO.1. Denmark capitulated with scarcely a shot being fired. Within a few hours five large Norwegian cities and an airfield were in German hands, although there was some fighting before Oslo fell.

In the North at Narvik, inside the Arctic Circle, from where Germany shipped supplies of iron ore it had been decided to land a small force to stop this. Thus, whilst German troops were being loaded for the journey to Norway, British troops in smaller numbers were embarking on the Clyde and Forth for the same destination.

The campaign resulted in a new word entering the vocabulary. Vidkun Quisling whom the British had once honoured with

a C.B.E. - a word now synonymous with treachery, proclaimed himself head of a new Norwegian government and ordered all resistance to stop. He lasted just six days before being kicked out by the Germans; after the war he was tried, sentenced to death and executed on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1945.

It turned out that the Allies had to fight a one sided battle, lacking field artillery, anti aircraft guns and air support. There was even a failure to supply snow shoes that the Germans had. Consequently, the Anglo-French contingent was evacuated from the northern port of Namos on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, despite the harbour being a blazing shambles. A larger Allied force of 25,000 men who had driven the Germans out of Narvik on 28<sup>th</sup> May, later abandoned the port and were hastily re-embarked. King Haakon and his government were taken aboard H.M.S. Devonshire and left for London and five years exile, leaving behind resentful Norwegian troops who felt they had been let down by the British. Why did this happen?

DISASTER NO.2 had started on the Western front and every Allied soldier was needed to plug the gaps there. Previously, with the approach of the Whitsun holiday, the House of Commons agreed that the traditional adjournment debate to start on 7<sup>th</sup> May should be about what was becoming a military debacle in Norway. Subsequently it was extended into a general examination of the governments conduct of the war so far, and Mr Chamberlain was reminded

forcefully of his public statement on 5<sup>th</sup> April that 'Hitler has missed the bus.'

As the debate continued it became obvious that the government was rocking and although it won by 81 votes, its normal majority was around 200; so it was considered to be a moral defeat and it became more and more likely that the Prime Minister would have to resign. The government's cause was undermined dramatically by a former cabinet minister, Leo Amery, who winding up his speech quoted Oliver Cromwell's words in dismissing the Long Parliament, 'You have sat here too long for any good you may have been doing. Depart, I say and let its be done with you. In the name of God, go.' Also, it had been felt for sometime that the situation warranted the opposition parties joining the government but their leaders declined to do so under Chamberlain. That sealed his fate. So who was to succeed him? The favourite was Lord Halifax, the Foreign Secretary, but he was a Peer and deeply associated with the pre-war policy of appeasement. It was in the middle of this political crisis that at dawn on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May - another hot summer's day - the Germans invaded Holland, Belgium and France. It was not unexpected.

It was said at the time that Lord Halifax had refused to form a government, but during the afternoon Chamberlain tried to persuade him to change his mind. He was told that he had gone to the dentist, and could not be contacted. So it was that the Prime Minister went to

Buckingham Palace where the King accepted his resignation, and had no alternative but to send for Winston Churchill. The King said 'I want to ask you to form a Government' to which Churchill replied that he would most certainly do so. Having kissed hands on his appointment Churchill returned to his office and worked until 3 am. Before retiring to bed, he is quoted as declaring 'I feel that I am walking with destiny, and that all my life has been a preparation for this hour, and this trial.' So, a truly momentous day ended with the start of a full scale German offensive in Europe and a new Prime Minister in Britain.

It is still almost unbelievable that within eleven days, evacuation plans for the B.E.F. were being put together and that before the end of May more than half had been evacuated through Dunkirk, the last survivors being embarked on 4<sup>th</sup> June with very little else than the clothes they wore. My wife, Margaret, then aged sixteen recalls being on Blandford station with ladies of the W.V.S. to welcome a troop train. Her abiding memory is of the silence and the state of dress, or undress, of the soldiers. A few managed a quiet 'thank you' for the tea and refreshments but there was none of the usual cheerful banter. She remembers also that there seemed to be little or no transport, so that the troops had to walk to the camp.

It is not generally appreciated that not all the B.E.F. left from Dunkirk. It was a week later on 11<sup>th</sup> June that the C.L.G.S.

General Sir Alan Brooke returned to France with a small H.Q. staff via Cherbourg and headed for Orleans and the Loire Valley where there were still many British troops in danger. As a result of his decisive actions, not in accordance with the governments original instructions, nearly 150,000 soldiers, 300 guns and 47,000 Allied servicemen were brought to England through Cherbourg, St. Malo, Brest and other ports; so, the total number of men carried out of France by the Navy was more than half a million.

On the night of 16<sup>th</sup> June, Marshall Petain succeeded Reynaud as Prime Minister of France and authorised immediate negotiations for a ceasefire.

Brooke wrote in his diary, '... and when the end came, they never even had the decency to inform me officially that the French forces had ceased fighting. They just abandoned the British forces in France to their fate and left them to extricate themselves as best they could in the face of an unopposed victorious German army ...'. In the meantime on 10<sup>th</sup> June, Italy entered the war. Churchill described Dunkirk as a miracle of deliverance but warned that 'wars are not won by evacuations.' It was about this time that he rallied and inspired the nation with two of his greatest speeches. One on 4<sup>th</sup> June, included the words, 'We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France ... We shall fight in the fields and streets ... We shall never surrender' and on the day after the French government sought an armistice.

The battle of France is over, the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilisation. Upon it depends our own British lives and the long continuity of our institutions and Empire. The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows he will have to break us in these islands, or lose the war. If we can stand up to him all Europe may be free and the life of the world move forward into broad sunlit uplands, but if we fail then the whole world including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for will sink into the abyss of a new dark age made more sinister and perhaps more protracted by the likes of perverted science. Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duty, so bear ourselves that if the British Empire and its commonwealths last for a thousand years, men will still say this was their finest hour.

With the enemy occupying the coast of France after a campaign of amazing ease, there were real fears that nothing would stop Hitler putting his plan for operation 'Sea Lion' into effect, and that an invasion was imminent. Dorset was at the western end of the probable invasion coast, and most of the county, including Blandford, was proclaimed to be a defence area. Internal movement was not restricted, but anyone wishing to enter it had to have a good reason. The beaches were out of bounds to civilians, and they were protected by rolls of barbed wire and other large obstacles.

The church bells fell silent, only to be rung again should invasion happen, and other

actions taken that were supposed to deter or confuse the enemy. For example, road signposts and milestones were removed, and place names obliterated. Evidence of this can still be seen in the Parish Church where references to Blandford were blacked out, some have never been restored.

Looking back, it would have been difficult to mount a successful landing at the time, but if it had been done the defences were initially woeful and disorganised. It is now known that German intelligence grossly overestimated our defensive strength, and their commanders could not agree about the execution of Sea Lion. By the end of September the invasion barges (12% of which had been destroyed by the R.A.F.) were moved to a position of safety and on 12<sup>th</sup> October, in great secrecy, the operation was postponed until the summer of 1941. It was, of course, eventually abandoned. So much for land and sea, the Battle of Britain was fought in the air from early July until the end of September, thereafter the Luftwaffe confined itself to night raids. On 4<sup>th</sup> July a serious air raid took place at Portland, much damage was done and there were many casualties. It was reported that the dive bombers attacked without interception which was a bad omen for the future. A convoy in the channel nearby was targeted at the same time.

Dorset's front line airfield was at Warmwell which itself was bombed on 25<sup>th</sup> August with little real damage and no casualties. The official date for the begin-

ning of the Battle was 10<sup>th</sup> July. At first the Luftwaffe concentrated its attack on airfields, radar installations and ports, but following a raid on Berlin, on 4<sup>th</sup> September, Hitler announced his intention of wiping out London. So, at a critical moment the enemy made a fatal mistake in turning his attention to the capital. This gave the air defenders the breathing space they needed.

Each Spitfire cost about £5,000 and on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1940 the chairman of Strong & Co. Ltd. of Romsey wrote:

For your information there are numerous Spitfire Campaigns being promoted in our area, and my Directors have decided to subscribe to these at the rate of 10/- per house with a minimum of £1:1:0d in the areas in which such funds are being raised.

The Spitfire paid for by the appeal in Blandford was named 'Who's a Feard' - the county motto. It was shot down at Gravesend on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1942.

It was on 7<sup>th</sup> September that the Luftwaffe switched its attack to night bombing of London when after dark a second wave of some 250 bombers arrived and resumed the attack following a massive daylight raid. There was to be one more daylight assault on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September when 200 bombers, escorted by about 600 fighters headed for London. They were intercepted and although some got through, many were dispersed and others shot down. Later, another formation returned and was rout-

ed. This day was the turning point of the battle, and one of the turning points of the war.

By the beginning of October, R.A.F. Fighter Command had won an historic battle, just, and Churchill was able to pay tribute to them. 'Never before in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.' On 9<sup>th</sup> November Neville Chamberlain died. Despite his honest but mistaken efforts to achieve 'peace with honour,' he said that he trusted he would live to see the day when Hitlerism had been destroyed and a liberated Europe had been established. He did not - he died a broken man - though still a member of the Cabinet.

The next Board meeting of any consequence was held at the brewery, on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. It was attended by the chairman, R.M. Woodhouse, H.S. and C.H. Woodhouse (both now serving officers), W.F. Symonds of Mason & Son, the company accountants and auditors, and Mr Pike.

Apart from confirming that the fuel economisers fitted were most satisfactory and showed a saving of 25%, the main business was to consider the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 1940. These showed a balance of £46,029:5:10, and it was decided to recommend, a) distribution of a final dividend of 10% on the Ordinary shares making 15% for the year, less tax at 7/6 in the £, i.e. £6,250; b) place £5,657:8:10 to general reserve; c) extra remuneration for the managing

directors, £900 and d) to carry forward £33,221:7:0. The issued Share Capital was:

5,000 - 5% Cumulative Preference Shares  
10,000 - Ordinary Shares

Both shares were fully paid with a nominal value of £10 each (subdivided into £1 shares in 1959).

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 3 pm at the brewery. Although there were thirteen shareholders on the register, only the directors attended.

There were many local brewers organisations covering the whole country, as well as The Brewers Society, the company being mainly interested in two, The Dorset Brewers Association and The Hampshire Brewers Unions (H.B.U.). The minutes of a meeting of the H.B.U. on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1940 gave an indication of the number - of local breweries there were in the area:

Brickwood & Co. Ltd.  
John R. Fielder & Son  
Watney, Coombe Reid & Co. Ltd.  
Edwards Brewery Ltd.  
Winchester Brewery Co. Ltd.  
Henty & Constable Ltd.  
Peters and Youngs Breweries  
Geo Gale & Co. Ltd.  
Portsmouth & Brighton Breweries Ltd.  
Courage & Co. Ltd.  
Eldridge Pope & Co. Ltd.  
Crowley & Co.  
Wm. Cooper & Co. Ltd.

The company was not represented at this meeting. The main topic for decision was a proposed increase in the price of beers, so, for example it was resolved. 'That the new 7d in the county should be increased by 20/- per brl making the minimum tied trade price 138/- per brl.' Major Rolph Pope proposed, and it was resolved 'That the new 10d in the county should be increased by 24/- per brl making the minimum tied trade price 204/- per brl.'

Traditionally, and for many years after the war, there was a difference between tied trade and free trade prices. The extra paid by licensees was known as 'wet rent'. At this meeting it was also agreed: 'That free trade prices should be advanced by similar increases to those which had been imposed on the tied trade prices.' Other points of interest from the meeting were noted as;

In the Government's opinion brewing and malting had been classified as essential industries.

Beer output compared with 1939 is about 4% down.

Ten days extra was to be allowed for the payment of beer duty. This would not be payable now until the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month, instead of the 15<sup>th</sup>.

A mutual support scheme was referred to and Major Pope stated that support was already forthcoming from four brewers in the Dorset area. It was agreed that if as many brewers as possible co-operated

there would be no need for rationing, and the greatest possible economy would be effected as regards the operation of transport.

Brewers were ready to help one another, as these letters show:

Messrs. Hall & Woodhouse, Ltd., The Brewery, Blandford, Dorset.

Dear Sirs,

We thank you for your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., and also for saying that you would do your best to help us should our supplies be cut off, and, in answer to your question, that was the intention of our letter. We note you would require us to supply casks and materials except possibly Malt. As to the gravity, we should require about two thirds of ninepenny beer and one third of eightpenny beer and a little over the hundred of tenpenny and elevenpenny. No doubt your gravities would suit us; as you say, it would much simplify matters.

Yours faithfully Sgd: John Lovibond Managing Director.

Messrs. Hall & Woodhouse Ltd., The Brewery, Blandford, Dorset.

Dear Sirs,

We are in receipt of and thank you for your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> instant and are very pleased that we have been able to help you over your difficulty with Shives. We should like to say that the bag of Shives you returned contained only 12½ gross but that the one we sent you contained 16.2/3 gross. We should be pleased to receive the balance when convenient to you.

Yours faithfully

for ELDRIDGE POPE & CO. LTD.,  
sgd. G. Parsons  
HEAD BREWER

On 14<sup>th</sup> August the secretary of the H.B.U. wrote to members about 'Tax on Cider':

In August 1939 cider was 3d to 3½d a pint and beer 4d, now beer is 7d and cider is still as it was. The question of tax collection on cider should be very simple as the trade has now drifted into the hands of a very few makers ... this commodity should also bear its proper proportion of tax from the liquor industry.

My thought is that this did not happen for many years.

Replying on 8<sup>th</sup> July to a letter received from the local organiser of the T. & G.W.U., the chairman wrote:

we have no objection whatsoever to any of our men joining your Union. They have always dealt with us direct in the past, as in a family concern like ours all have direct access to the managing directors at any time. No grievances have been brought to our notice. Should there be many of our men who are members of your Union, we shall be pleased to hear from you if they have any grievances that require redress.

This was endorsed at a Board meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July when it was resolved to thank him for his letter and to advise that the directors would be pleased to meet to hear his proposals.

This Union was the main negotiator for the brewing industry, and I cannot remember any really serious problem arising at Blandford; certainly after the war if there was a difference of opinion it was usually settled amicably over a pint of beer in the brewery bar.

It must have been gratifying to learn that any problems wartime restrictions brought did not affect the keeping quality of the company beer for on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1940, Dr. James Oliver of Briant & Harman (consulting chemists) was able to write.

We thought you would be interested to know that after five weeks at a temperature of 80°F the bottle of XXXX on which we reported on 11<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July has remained without deposit, and shows only a very slight haze. It is normal and sound in palate flavour, [I am not surprised, it was certainly one of the best beers ever produced by the company].

Everyone was desperate for news and entertainment, and the wireless became very important in peoples lives, not only did about 16 million listen regularly to the B.B.C. bulletins but tuned into laughter shows like I.T.M.A., Band Wagon, Life with the Lyons and Garrison Theatre. The news readers, previously anonymous, were revealed so that Alvar Liddell, Bruce Belfrage, John Snagge and others became household names.

Cinemas were packed (there was no T.V.) so that screen advertising was considered to be a profitable form of publicity.

The letter from P(Percy).J. Carter was about a contract to advertise Badger Beers, and it is interesting to note the number of local cinemas that he owned. In Blandford, the Palace had opened in 1935, it seated nearly 500, had a modern stage with lighting, an orchestra pit and dressing rooms. It is now a Somerfield supermarket. The Ritz, Blandford's original cinema, was on the opposite side of the road.

Judging from the fact that apart from two formal minutes each recording the sealing of one document only, there was no entry made in the directors minute book between 27<sup>th</sup> July 1940 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 1941; also the shortage of surviving correspondence for the second half of 1940 suggests that in the brewery nothing of outstanding interest happened.

However, interference from the civil service was never far away as the following letter illustrates vividly.

Gentlemen,

Extension of Part III of the Civil Defence Act to all factory premises

I am directed by the Minister of Home Security to inform you that he has decided to take steps to bring all "factory premises" as defined in the Civil Defence Act, 1939, within the scope of the provisions of Part III of that Act, which require air-raid shelter of the approved standard for the greatest number of persons at work on the premises at any one time in a normal day. Notification will be sent to you when a formal Order applying to your premises has been made. In the meantime

this letter is being sent to occupiers of factory premises not covered by existing Orders, in order to enable them to consider what action is required. Even where shelter of the approved standard is already provided, the occupier may well wish to consider the recommendations with regard to emergency protection which are made in the leaflet mentioned below.

Shelter of the approved standard is shelter which complies with the standards prescribed in the Code "Air Raid Shelters for Persons working in Factories, Mines and Commercial Buildings" (S.R.O. 1939 No. 920 obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office at York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2., 120 George Street, Edinburgh 2, 26 York Street, Manchester 1, or 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; or through any bookseller price 6d net). The Code required in paragraph 8 that shelters should be so situated and accessible by day and night as to enable the workers to pass from their work places into the shelters within seven minutes. This time limit was based on the supposition that work would cease when the sirens sound, but as may be seen from the leaflet enclosed the Prime Minister has now called for the continuance of work after the sirens wherever necessary (provided that circumstances permit) under arrangements made by agreement between the management and the work people concerned. In these circumstances it is essential that Code shelters provided in future should, wherever practicable, be sufficiently near to the actual work-places to enable the workers to use them on a warning of imminent danger. Where this is impracticable, the leaflet recommends the provision of emergency pro-

tection at the work-places on lines indicated in A.R.P. Memorandum No. 16 "Emergency Protection in Factories" (obtainable as above, price 1d. net). Where such protection is provided and accepted by the workers as part of an arrangement for working after the sirens, it is not at present contemplated that any action should be taken over Section 16 of the Civil Defence Act to require the provision of Code shelters for workers who would be using the emergency protection.

Where Code shelter has not yet been provided but is provided within three months of the date of the Order extending Part III of the Act to the premises, grant will be payable at the rate of 7/- in the £ in respect of reasonable expenditure of a capital nature incurred in constructing such shelters. Grant will similarly be payable (if not already paid) in respect of Code shelters already provided, and the Minister will be prepared to consider extension of the time limit of three months mentioned above, if good cause is shown, e.g. if delay is caused by difficulties of securing necessary materials or if Code shelter is found at a later date to be required for workers for whom emergency protection was provided in the first instance.

As respects emergency protection, no grant will be payable, but the Board of Inland Revenue is, broadly speaking, prepared to regard expenditure on such items as dwarf

walls (including, where such walls are erected in pairs, overhead cover between the walls), wire netting and similar safeguards against flying glass and the provision of protection for roof spotters, as revenue expenditure of the year in which it is incurred. In individual cases, however, it is possible that the work carried out may not be of a specially elaborate character constituting a structural alteration and, in particular, it may be such as to be likely to have a permanent value apart from the present emergency. It will, therefore, be necessary for each case to be considered in the light of the actual facts.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant  
Sgd. L.N.B. Ogden

Spasmodic daylight air encounters continued during October and November; London was pounded night after night throughout the Autumn and Winter as were most cities such as Coventry and Liverpool, and great damage was done.

*The second part of Frank Pike's history of Hall and Woodhouse's war years will appear in the next issue of the journal. We wish to thank the author, David Woodhouse (Managing Director) and Mark Woodhouse (Vice Chairman) for permission to reproduce this piece.*