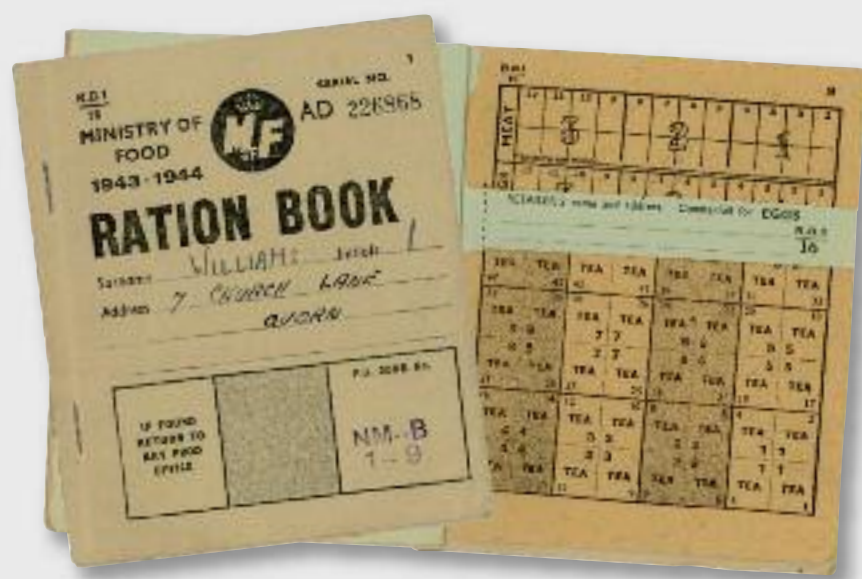


World War II

1939 to 1945



As in many places, life was hard in Quorn during WW2; food and other essentials were rationed, men were away and there was fear of the air raids. Many of those who couldn't fight volunteered for either the Home Guard, as Air Raid Precaution wardens or as volunteer members of the Fire Brigade.



The Fallen

Nineteen young men from Quorn lost their lives in action, their average age was only 25. Victor Camp from Mansfield Street and John Carver from Cradock Drive were just 18 years old. All of their names were added to Quorn War Memorial.

Evacuees

About 150 children, mainly from Sheffield, Hove and London, were evacuated to Quorn. Some returned home when little seemed to be happening, only to come back to Quorn when bombing became more severe.

Scan here to play the audio for this board.



1 American paratroopers at Quorn Camp. Left to right: John Ray, Phillip Lynch, John Steele, Vernon Francisco. Only John Steele survived the war.

2 ARP parade along Station Road by what is now part of the White Horse. Leading the men is Harold Mee.

3 Evacuees from Hove in 1941 in the fields off Buddon Lane. Far left: Robert Hudson, next to Peter Billingham.

4 VE Day party, Freehold Street. Girls: second left, Christine Baum, fourth left, Sylvia Marshall, sixth left, Janet Warren. Boy at the front, Trevor Newton. Ladies left to right: Mrs Marshall, unknown, Mrs Perkins, Mrs Birkin, Dorothy Birkin. Annie Harrold is at the head of the table wearing a headscarf.

5 ATS 'listeners' at 'The Hurst' on Loughborough Road. Back row, left to right: Anne Smith, Johnnie Wheeler, Joan Bradshaw. Front row, left to right: Peggy Stansfield, Mary Berry, Jay Nightingale.



Quorn Camp

In February 1944, 2,000 American paratroopers from the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the US 82nd Airborne Division arrived at Quorn Camp off Wood Lane, in the grounds of Quorn House. After five bleak years suddenly there was glamour and excitement, and the village took these young men to their hearts. They left for D-Day at the end of May 1944, returning in July much depleted, with 200 of them having been killed and 400 either badly injured or captured. They departed in September 1944 for Holland as part of Operation Market Garden. Quorn still remembers the Americans and after the war many veterans would return to visit. Shortly after the Americans left, the site became a Prisoner of War camp. The last Germans left Quorn in 1948.

Beaumanor Hall

Beaumanor Hall at Woodhouse was one of the largest Y stations (listening stations) in WW2. Many 'listeners' were girls from the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) and were billeted in Quorn. The coded information collected was sent to Bletchley Park, where the 'boffins' used it to crack German codes.

VE Day

It was announced on Monday 7th May 1945 that the war in Europe was going to end the next day. Preparation for celebrations started and at midnight blackouts came down and there was a parade around the village. On VE Day, factories and schools were closed, bunting and flags were put up and every street joined in a street party.