This collection was compiled for the Nayland and District Royal British Legion

to commemorate the 75th anniversary

of the end of the Second World War in 1945

Researched, compiled and edited by Mary George and Wendy Sparrow © 2020

Sadly, the commemorative events planned in Nayland with Wissington for May 2020, including a local history exhibition of memorabilia, letters and photographs, were cancelled because of the COVID-19 global emergency. This document would have formed display panels for that exhibition. Instead, we are publishing it on the Nayland and Wiston Community Website as a tribute to those who lived through the Second World War. It commemorates the local men who gave their lives between 1939 and 1945, the men and women who served overseas, were prisoners of war, or served on the home front in the Fire Service, Home Guard, Land Army and Red Cross. It also records the hardship suffered by civilians who ‘did their bit’ for the war effort and their joyful celebrations when the war ended.
As Britain prepared for another war in 1939, the impact of the Great War was still evident.

Post-war agricultural and industrial depression and the global financial crash resulted in high unemployment, industrial strikes, hunger marches and dire poverty for many families. Agricultural land lay fallow for years without farmworkers, horses or investment. In 1930 there were still 700,000 men in Britain receiving a disability war pension. Forty-six men from Nayland and Wiston had been killed. Some survivors returned with physical and mental disabilities. Many of them had worked on local farms or in village industries that had gone by 1919. The gasworks, leather factory, mill and brewery were closed or sold off for other purposes. The Compasses pub in Bear Street was bought by the Hatten family in 1918. They had a grocery shop there for the next one hundred years. Six of the first council houses in England were built at the end of Bear Street in 1920, more on Harpers Hill and in Wiston during the 1930s, but many village houses were still without proper sanitation or running water.

However, there were still six pubs, The Anchor, Butcher’s Arms, Queen’s Head, Star & Garter, White Hart and Victoria. A wide variety of shops and small businesses provided the day-to-day needs of the village. In 1923 the mill began to supply electricity using hydropower provided by the millstream. Electric streetlights were installed to replace the gaslights removed from Nayland streets in 1914 but these were turned off during the blackout years of WW2.

The previous war highlighted the consequences of lack of advance preparation. By early 1938, the government was preparing the population for another. In September 1939, plans for organising industry, agriculture, food distribution and military conscription were already in place. Army manoeuvres took place along the Stour Valley during 1938. Tanks travelled through Nayland – one of them hit a shop. Unlike in WW1, agricultural workers were exempt from conscription into the armed forces, although many did choose to join the services.

All women over 18 were expected to have a greater role than in WW1 by serving in the armed forces, as well as the Land Army, hospitals, industry and the WRVS at home. A national registration census was carried out in 1939 for the purpose of issuing ID cards, food ration books, fuel and clothing coupons.

The importance of the Home Front was emphasised early on. Nayland Headmaster, George Taylor, recorded in September 1938 that Air Raid Precaution lectures and demonstrations had been organised at Nayland School in Church Lane. Gas masks were distributed by him in March 1939 and teachers received emergency training. Government circulars for Air Raid precautions were issued to schools and the general population. A First Aid Station was created in the room beneath the Congregational Chapel in Stoke Road. Nayland Home Guard was set up in 1940. A secret underground Auxiliary Unit would cover the Valley following an invasion.

Mass evacuation of children from cities and towns to rural areas began in the Summer. Evacuees were registered at Nayland School in September 1939 when the Headmaster recorded that he had re-arranged classes to accommodate ‘... the large number of admissions owing to war emergency’ and sent the names of evacuees to the County Education Office. Everyone of any age was encouraged to ‘do their bit’ by growing produce or making clothes and household goods last longer - ‘Make Do and Mend’ - and recycling paper, glass and scrap. Above all, everyone was constantly reminded:

‘KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON’

Sadly, six more names were added to Nayland war memorial. Many other local men were injured or held as prisoners of war. Unfortunately, there is no list recording the men and women from Nayland and Wiston who served during WW2 but this 75th Anniversary compilation of photographs and documents aims to bring together the stories of some of them as we commemorate all those who lived through years of trauma and celebrated the end of the war in 1945 with joy and relief.
In 1946, Nayland-with-Wissington Parish Council held a public meeting to consider adapting the war memorial erected after the Great War. A tablet engraved with the names of six servicemen who had been killed during WW2 was added to the base of the memorial. No names were added to the Wiston War Memorial.

Robert Arthur CUNDY

Gunner – Royal Artillery – Maritime Regiment
Died 29 October 1942 – age 29
Commemorated PLYMOUTH Naval Memorial
Nayland War Memorial and Memorial panel in
St. James’ Church Nayland

Robert was a son of Arthur Herbert Cundy and Emily Florence (Thorpe) Cundy of Nayland. His Thorpe uncles, Ernest, Herbert and Walter were soldiers who died in action between 1914 and 1918. They are named on Nayland War Memorial and the Nayland-with-Wissington Roll of Honour in St. James’ Church. His father Arthur Cundy and uncles William Cundy and Charles Thorpe also served as soldiers during the First World War and are named on the Roll of Honour.

Robert with his mother

Robert was living in Wiston and working at the East Anglian Sanitorium (*later known as Jane Walker Hospital*) during the registration of 1939.
Frederick Ronald GANT
Lance Corporal – Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers – Cheshire Regiment 2nd Batt
Died at sea 13 July 1943 – age 31: Commemorated CASSINO Memorial, Italy
Nayland War Memorial and Memorial panel St. James’ Church Nayland

Frederick was a son of James and Minnie Gant of Boxford and husband of Ethel Mary Gant and father of Max and Gerald Gant. They lived in Fen Street in Nayland. He was an uncle of Richard Sparrow. The battle at Monte Cassino has been described as one of the most brutal of the Second World War and has been compared to Passchendaele and the Somme. British, Polish and American forces of the Eighth Army fought to take control of the mountain where the Germans had occupied the Monastery and blocked the route to Rome. Polish troops were the first to reach the top of the mountain. Terry Bannister’s father, Josef Pankiewicz, was at Monte Cassino. This photograph shows him holding a shell in the ruins of the Monastery.
James William Henry PADGET - “Paddy”

Staff Serjeant - East Surrey Regiment 1st Bn.
Died 17 June 1944 – age 26 : Buried Orvieto War Cemetery, ROME
Commemorated Nayland War Memorial and Memorial panel St. James’ Church Nayland

The Battle for Rome ended in June 1944 when Allied Forces took the city. One hundred and ninety British soldiers were buried at Orvieto after heavy fighting.

James was a son of James and Estella (Wilson) Padget. His wife, Ivy Monica, served in the women’s forces during WW2. Ivy lived in Burghfield, Berkshire with their son Tony at the time of Paddy’s death. His father came from Northumberland and was one of three brothers who were military engineers billeted in Nayland during WW1. They married three Wilson sisters in Nayland after the war. The Padgets and Wilsons were linked to many long-established Nayland families.

In 1939, Paddy’s brothers Gordon and Ronald Padget were bakers with Roberts Bakery at the Guildhall. They served during WW2 and continued to live in Nayland afterwards. Ronald served in the RAF and was an active member of the Nayland and District Royal British Legion until his death in 2004.
Arthur Henry RICHES

Private – 2nd Bn. Hertfordshire Regiment
Died 31 May 1940 – age 27 : Buried DE PANNE Communal Cemetery – killed at Dunkirk
Commemorated Nayland War Memorial and Memorial panel in St. James’ Church Nayland

Arthur was the youngest son of John William Riches and Ellen Alice Riches of The Pest House, Gravel Hill, Nayland. Arthur was a regular soldier before the war. He served with the British Expeditionary Forces in France in 1939 and was the first Nayland man to be killed in action. Before he joined the army, Arthur worked on local farms and as a postman in Nayland.

Arthur’s brother John (Jack) was a soldier during WW1 who was injured in June 1917 at Monchy and was named as Arthur’s next of kin in regimental records.

There were other soldiers from Nayland families who were caught up in the retreat from Dunkirk. Some escaped and were rescued while others spent years in German POW camps after being injured and captured.
Walter SCOTT – (full name Albert Walter George Scott)
Private  - 1/4th Battalion Essex Regiment
Wounded c. June 1942 in North Africa Campaign : Died of Wounds 30 November 1942 in Palestine
Buried RAMLEH War Cemetery, ISRAEL
Commemorated Nayland War Memorial and Memorial panel in St. James’ Church Nayland

Walter was a son of Mrs. Francis Annie Scott of Bear Street Nayland. He was a builder’s labourer in 1939. Known as “BIM”, he was a well-known member of Nayland Football Club – renowned for keeping “refreshments” in the goal net to sustain the team throughout the match.

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Paul Rowland TAYLOR,  B.A. (Oxon)
Flight Lieutenant – RAF Volunteer Reserve
Died 5 November 1943 – age 25 : Buried HALFAYA SOLLUM War Cemetery, EGYPT
Commemorated Nayland War Memorial and in Wiston Churchyard, where a seat is inscribed:
“Organist of this Parish, Scholar of Oxford. Killed 5th November 1943 serving in the Royal Air Force”

Paul Taylor served from the outbreak of war when he was a Research Scholar at St. John’s College, Oxford. Fellow pupils at Sudbury Grammar School have said he was involved in the development of Radar. Paul was a keen cricketer who, with his father George Taylor, encouraged boys at Nayland School to play for Tendring Park Cricket Club. His father was Headmaster of Nayland School from 1921 to 1946, Secretary of Tendring Park Cricket Club during the 1930’s and Nayland Librarian. His French mother, Madeline Juliette Taylor, taught Domestic Science, Needlework and Music.

Paul’s brother Alan Taylor was also in the RAF. He was badly burned when his plane was shot and damaged just a few months before Paul died. Paul and Alan Taylor were members of Tendring Park Cricket Club, shown in this photograph taken in 1938. Alan is seated on the far left of the front row and Paul is seated just behind him. They had a younger brother Michael and a sister Mona. Another young man in this team photograph is Eric Barton who served with Nayland Home Guard until he was old enough to join the Navy and spent time an Italian POW camp. It is likely that others in this cricket team served during WW2.
Charles ‘Chuck’ Gumm was from Spokane in Washington State, USA. On 1st December 1943, 1st Lieut. Charles Gumm became the first P-51 pilot to down an enemy plane. Two months later he became the first of the Fighter Group to down five or more aircraft to earn the name ‘ace’. On 1st March 1944 he took a P-51 Mustang, a new long-range single engine fighter aircraft, for a test flight from Boxted Airfield. The plane lost power when it was flying over Nayland. Although Lieut. Gumm had time to eject, he stayed with the aircraft and steered it away from the houses and church. He attempted to land in the fields beyond but was thrown from the cockpit and killed. Muriel Norfolk was serving in the Land Army at Thrift Farm at the time. She described what she saw from the Forty Acre Meadow where she was looking after bullocks and sheep.

“It was about lunchtime, a beautiful day, and I heard the plane overhead. I don’t know how he missed the church. The wing of the plane hit a tree and I saw the plane crash. It went up in flames. I saw the pilot on the ground, dead.”

The people of Nayland and Wiston added their names to a tribute in the Nayland-cum-Wiston Parish Magazine expressing gratitude for his heroism. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for gallantry in action and his name is always remembered at the annual Remembrance Sunday service in Nayland. The Boxted Airfield Historical Group always lay a poppy wreath on his memorial bench on Remembrance Sunday.
Published in Nayland-cum-Wiston Parish Magazine following the plane crash in 1944

Lieut. Gumm was commemorated in July 1945 during a service at St. James’ church

The service included a recital of the united choirs of Nayland and Wiston

A Stars and Stripes flag was presented to the village by Col. Osgood and Chaplain Adams of USAAF

It was laid on the high altar with the Union Jack
The USAAF were stationed at Boxted and Wormingford Airfields. The Americans became very much part of Nayland life, visiting local families, pubs and the Riverside Café on the other side of the bridge opposite the Anchor. The bases had their own dance bands. Many of the young women in Nayland and Wiston cycled to the dances held in a hangar on the base at Wormingford, or to those arranged at Horkesley Park and Tendring Hall at Stoke where soldiers were billeted. The Biggs family owned a garage and cycle shop on the corner of Fen Street. The government had commandeered all petrol pumps so there was no petrol to sell but American and British servicemen hired bikes there for one shilling per week.

The Americans helped village boys to convert old petrol tanks from the airfields to small boats or rafts for playing in the river. Children’s Christmas parties were arranged at the airfields. The “Yanks” didn’t have food rationing and often gave chocolate and sweets to village children. At the end of the war, children from several villages were collected in lorries and taken to a party at Wormingford base. Margaret Roberts remembers this as the first time that she tasted ice cream or saw a cartoon film. In June 1945 there was an Anglo-American Picnic at Longwood. The USAAF also invited visitors from local villages to an open day at Boxted Airfield as part of the VE celebrations.
Leonard Rice and Joyce Crissell of Wiston - parents of Shirley Williams of Nayland - were married at St. Mary's Church at Wiston in 1940 while Lenny was serving in the Royal Air Force. He was a bus driver for Norfolk’s Bus Company. Horace Crissell served during WW1 and re-joined the army in WW2 – until the authorities discovered he was older than he had disclosed.
Bill Webb joined the army in 1940 aged 18.
He served with the Suffolk Regiment, Royal Tank Regiment, Wiltshire Regiment, Queen’s Royal Regiment, King’s Shropshire Light Infantry, The Royal Norfolks and finally in the RASC. He had postings in England and in Normandy. After the war he served in the Far East. His father Albert Webb was wounded during WW1 and served as an ARP warden and Special Constable during WW2.

Cyril Hughes and his brother Charles were soldiers during WW2. Their grandfather and uncles - Frank and Stanley Hatten, Richard and William Hughes - are named on the WW1 Roll of Honour in St. James Church. Charles Hughes was one of the survivors rescued from Dunkirk by the flotilla of small boats sent from England. On the boat he experienced the added trauma of witnessing an officer shooting himself in front of his men. Charles died of pneumonia at Ipswich in 1945.

Sydney Swann was the son of Walter Swann. His father was a WW1 veteran who worked for Norfolks Bus Company for over forty five years.
Bombadier Ernie Hunt on far left: father of Kathy and Chris

Ernie served in India before the war and in the British Expeditionary Force in 1939. He was badly injured at Dunkirk in 1940, captured, and spent the next three years in a German Prisoner of War Camp. German surgeons tried to save his leg but it had to be amputated. His safe return from Stalag 7 to Birch Street in Nayland during an exchange of prisoners was reported in Suffolk Free Press in November, 1943.

Several other local men were captured during WW2 and spent years in Italian, German and Japanese POW camps.

Eric Barton

Eric Barton and his friend Cecil Westgate joined the Royal Navy at 18 as Ordinary Seamen after serving in Home Guard and ARP in Nayland. Eric’s brother Leonard joined the Navy later. While on patrol along the North Africa coast and carrying army forces on the way to Tobruk, Eric’s ship was attacked by Italian fighter planes, forcing the crew to abandon the sinking vessel. Survivors were picked up by an Italian destroyer and spent weeks being moved from one camp to another until they reached Albania. During 1943 there was a ‘rank for rank’ exchange of Prisoners of War between Britain and Italy. Eric was still only 19 years old. After a short recuperation in Nayland he returned to service. His ship picked up casualties from the D Day Landings in 1944.

Eric Barton’s book ‘A Village Boy’ tells the full story of his service and includes a great deal of information about wartime Nayland and Wiston.

William Pitts (Billy) father of Nicky Pitts.

Billy Pitts was a regular soldier before the war. He served in the British Expeditionary Force, was captured in France in 1940 and sent to a German POW camp.

Dick Rolfe, husband of Eva

Dick Rolfe grew up on the Tendring Hall Estate. He joined the territorial branch of the Suffolk Regiment at the age of seventeen and served in the Far East during WW2. The Suffolks were posted to defend Singapore. Dick was captured by the Japanese on his 21st birthday and spent over three years in Japanese POW camps, one of the 60,000 Allied prisoners used as forced labour on the notorious Burma Railway. After the war he married Eva Biggs and worked at Nags Farm for his father-in-law, Sonny Biggs, till he took over the running of the farm when Sonny retired.

Alfred Biggs was a POW in Italy and Germany. He was a groom at Tendring Hall before the war.

Ted Hawkins, husband of Joyce

Ted Hawkins was another local soldier captured in Singapore. He also spent three and a half years in a Japanese POW Camp.
POWS in German Camps found a variety of ways to keep themselves occupied

The band above was the St Dunstan's band at Stalag 52

The one below was a band formed at Stalag 9C
Prisoners at Stalag 9C displayed their talents in a variety of entertainments
George Nevard, father of Margaret (Nevard) Smy served mainly in the Middle East and North Africa where he was with the Royal Artillery protecting oil refineries and aerodromes. In October 1944 he was posted to Italy where he spent some time as a clerk at the Allied Headquarters at Caserta Palace – the former palace of Mussolini. Trevor Smy’s father, William J.R. Smy, served in the Essex Regiment, including at Dunkirk.


Leonard was a serving soldier (Royal Artillery) in 1942 but his younger brothers were still in the Army Cadet Force.

Bill Jackaman joined the Army Cadets in Nayland when he was at Sudbury Grammar School and then the Home Guard when he was 16, becoming a Lance Corporal a year later. In 1944 he was called up for the regular army and became a Lance Bombardier in the Artillery. He served in the Artillery Survey Regiment, missing D Day because he was not in the infantry. Their grandfather, George Jackaman, was the Lock keeper at Nayland Lock around 1900. Their father, Walter Jackaman is listed on the WW1 Roll of Honour in St James’ Church. Walter survived WW1 but died of typhoid fever at the age of 39, leaving his wife with three small boys to care for, the youngest only a few weeks old. They lived in the Fen Street almshouses and moved to the new Council houses on Harpers Hill in 1939. Bill was one of the organisers of Nayland Youth Club and featured in a variety of village entertainments, including playing Hitler in a satirical sketch entitled ‘Der Fuhrer’s Face’.
FIREMAN DURING THE LONDON BLITZ

Ewart Russell (known as “Rusty”) from Wiston served as a Fireman in the centre of London throughout the Second World War, all through the Blitz, where he saw significant action as a consequence of general bombing and fire bombing by the Nazi Luftwaffe.

This photograph was taken on 15th November 1939 when he was aged 26. He was the younger son of Luther and Rosa Russell from the East Anglian Sanatorium at Wiston (later Jane Walker Hospital) where from 1928 the family had lived in a wooden bungalow with Mr Russell senior in charge of the farm.

On 23rd December 1939 Ewart Russell married Muriel Sawdy, whose paternal grandfather was the Rev Charles Sawdy previously Minister of Nayland Congregational Church. Her maternal grandfather was William Norfolk of bus company fame.

After the war Ewart Russell trained to be a school teacher. His first teaching post was at Stoke-by-Nayland and then at Nayland old school. From 1948 to 1950, Ewart and Muriel Russell and their two young sons (David and Bob) lived on Gravel Hill before moving to Colchester.

“Rusty’s” older brother Tom, who also lived at Wiston before emigrating to South Africa in the 1930s, served in the South African Army during the War.

Ewart Russell’s record of service as a Fireman – and badges from his hat, mounted on small wooden shields he made
Josef Pankiewicz

Terry Bannister’s father joined the British Army when he was 17 years old, but his experience of the devastating effects of invasion and occupation started in 1939 when he was 14. This is a synopsis of his harrowing description of the German invasion of Poland, his family’s capture and transportation to Russia and their struggle to survive.

Josef was staying at his grandmother’s home in Lwow when it was bombed by waves of German planes. His family and neighbours hid in the cellar. A unit of twelve Polish soldiers set up a machine gun in their garden but they had little ammunition. All the Polish soldiers were killed. There was devastation everywhere. Initially, the family went back to their farm, although by then it was occupied by Germans and later by their Russian Allies.

In February 1940, they were among 200,000 Poles taken by militia in a single night and transported. By August numbers had risen to over two million. Women and children were loaded into train waggons fitted with rough plank bunks. Their only food was heavy bread and water, sometimes not even that. The journey took four weeks. Some children in Josef’s waggon died. Eventually, after being transferred to lorries then sledges, they reached the Ural Mountains. The Russians gave them saws. They were told to build huts from trees in the forest and they managed to create a log cabin shared with four other families. Jozef ended up labouring in gold and platinum mines in very primitive conditions. Workers were paid in food coupons or roubles, but only if they found enough metals. Many people died.

When Germany declared war on Russia in 1941, prisoners were told that they were free to go anywhere, but no travel arrangements were made. A group of about forty friends and family pooled their resources, collected roubles and other items in a bucket, bribed railway staff, and bought train tickets to Kazakhstan. Hundreds of deportees were trying to do the same. From Samarkand, they travelled by lorry, camel and horse drawn cart to find work at a collective farm where they lived in mud huts. In 1942, the British Army opened a recruiting centre. Josef’s mother persuaded him to try his luck and make the arduous journey in freezing weather. Hundreds of men arrived at the centre. Many were emaciated and some died in the cold. Josef was one of the lucky ones. He was fed, showered, deloused, given uniform and boots. They lived in tents for two weeks, had regular meals and regained their strength. After that they did their army training in Mosul, Iraq.

Josef served the British Eighth Army in Palestine, Egypt and Syria. In 1944 he was posted to Italy where some of his friends were killed at Monte Cassino. He arrived in England in 1946 and was sent to a disused army camp in Rivenhall where a Polish Community of displaced persons was established. He met and married Sheila and they raised a family in Kelvedon. After the war, the Red Cross traced his mother and some other relatives in the area of Poland that was formerly in Germany. Josef spent his final year in Nayland with Terry and Keith Bannister.
Nayland Home Guard: and Churchill’s secret underground army

Here in Nayland, many local men of all ages answered the call and began to prepare themselves and the village for a possible invasion. The first Captain was ‘Basty’ Salaman, a vet by profession who lived at the Vine House at that time. He was followed by Herbie Taylor, the baker in Mill Street. Bob Finch was Sergeant. WW1 veterans such as Section Leader Edward Oakes, served alongside teenagers and those working in reserved occupations. Leslie Amos and Bill Norfolk, drivers with Norfolks Bus Company, served in the Home Guard. One of Bill’s cousins, another William Norfolk, died in a Japanese POW camp in Malaysia. He is commemorated at Stoke-by-Nayland where his family were landlords at the Angel Inn.

Villages and towns set up Home Guard Units from 1940 onwards. The ‘Dad’s Army’ tales of using broomsticks for training were confirmed by Bill Jackaman’s recollections. There were also more secret Auxiliary Units, two of which covered the Valley between Polstead and Bures. Underground bunkers were built where the Auxiliaries would base themselves in the event of invasion. They were given additional training in sabotage and better weapons than the Home Guard, but there was no public drill in uniform. Building materials and wireless equipment were supplied by the Ministry of Defence to secret locations. Two men died in a bunker somewhere on land in Stoke-by-Nayland when they were overcome by fumes in their badly ventilated bunker.

It is likely that the tin of explosives found beside the Anchor under the Abel Bridge was planted there by an Auxiliary Unit. It was found in 1957 when the bridge was being repaired. One of their tasks in the event of German forces invading via the East Coast was to blow up all the bridges along the Stour Valley to hinder progress by road.

Other defences built in preparation of attack included concrete tank traps along Stoke Road and Bures Road and gun emplacements within the parish. The remains of some of these can still be seen in gardens in Fen Street and Bear Street. Pill boxes were built all along the river valley. There was a searchlight at Leavenheath, just beyond Gravel Hill, that covered the surrounding area. Muriel Norfolk remembered sticks of bombs falling on the back road from Gravel Hill, probably intended for the searchlight.
Sally Bartrum’s mother, June (Bennett) Curtis, was a member of the Women’s Home Guard Auxiliary. Her father, John Curtis, was a ‘Desert Rat’ who served in the 8th Hussars during the North Africa Campaign. He was reported missing in 1942 and was injured in a shell attack on British tanks. After the 1944 D Day Landings he served in France and Germany. John and June were the landlords at The Anchor in Nayland for almost 30 years from 1950s to 1980s.
National Food Rationing was set up after a registration census in 1939. ID cards and individual ration books were issued to the whole population.

Food imports decreased and shortages increased, in part because of attacks on merchant ships, so new items were added to the rationed list and allowances were reduced. Families developed ingenious recipes using off-ration items to eke out their supplies. Cheese production was limited to National Cheddar, with the result that regional cheeses were lost for many years. The Government published regular advice and recipes, including one for 'Woolton Pie' *(named after the Minister or Food)* a vegetarian pie created by the Chef at the Savoy, and carrot cake. Rationing continued after the war and did not end until 1954. It must have been a shock when bread was rationed for the first time after the war had ended.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Item(s) Rationed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>Bacon, ham, sugar and butter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td>Meat rationed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July</td>
<td>Tea, margarine, cooking fats and cheese added</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>Jam, marmalade, treacle, syrup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Egg distribution controlled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August</td>
<td>Extra cheese ration for manual workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November</td>
<td>Milk distribution controlled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December</td>
<td>National Dried Milk introduced. Points system and Vitamin Welfare scheme introduced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>American dried egg powder on sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July</td>
<td>Sweets rationed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>Extra tea allowance for those aged 70 plus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>Whalemeat and snoek became available for sale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July</td>
<td>Bread rationed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOOD CAME OFF THE RATION GRADUALLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Item(s) Rationed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>Bread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December</td>
<td>Jam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>Sweets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td>Eggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Cream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Butter, cheese, margarine and cooking fat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Meat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Individual adult ration allowances varied. The standard allowance ensured fair shares for all, regardless of income. Those in essential roles involving heavy manual work, such as coalminers, farmworkers, or serving in the Armed Forces, had a slightly larger allowance to provide extra calories. Pregnant women had a better allowance to ensure that babies were born healthy. If employees were able to eat at a works canteen the whole family benefited from not having to provide a midday meal for the working members of the family. A healthy, balanced, low fat, low sugar diet was enriched by unlimited seasonal fruit and vegetables (if available) and some unrationed, but sometimes scarce, tinned food. Long queues outside food shops became the norm. Many wartime recipes were bulked out with potato or used cheap cuts of meat such as mutton scrag end, pig’s head or offal. There were often long queues at horsemeat shops.

This was a typical standard WEEKLY allowance for adults:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Weekly Allowance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bacon or ham</td>
<td>4 ounces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other meat</td>
<td>to the value of one shilling and two pence, equivalent to two chops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter</td>
<td>2 ounces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese</td>
<td>2 ounces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margarine</td>
<td>4 ounces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking fat</td>
<td>4 ounces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>3 pints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>8 ounces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>2 ounces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>1 per week, (plus tinned dried egg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserves</td>
<td>1 jar per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweets</td>
<td>12 ounces per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Those living in rural areas had more opportunity to forage for seasonal wild food such as berries, nuts, mushrooms and herbs, something that was encouraged by the Ministry of Food in leaflets such as ‘Hedgerow Harvest’ and official recipe books. Rose hips are very high in vitamin C. The National Rose Hip Campaign began in 1941 to compensate for the lack of citrus imports. Collection was organised through Scouts and Guides, various women’s groups and schools, including Nayland School where it was mentioned in the Headmaster’s logbook in 1944. The harvest was sent to manufacturers for conversion into syrup and it was intended for children only. 6000,000 bottles were produced in the first year. It continued to be supplied to children under five during post-war rationing. In 1939 the Nayland Headmaster recorded that supplies of Cod liver oil and malt extract were received for distribution to Nayland pupils to prevent vitamin deficiency.
DIG FOR VICTORY

Rural areas also had the advantage of space for growing vegetables in gardens, keeping chickens for eggs or catching rabbits. There were one hundred allotments being cultivated in Nayland before the war including six tended by Nayland School where produce was grown by the pupils, shared between families or sold to cover all costs. The annual rent was three shillings per plot. In towns there was often no choice except to plough up parks and other open spaces to provide plots for growing food. A few young women from Nayland joined the Land Army. Some worked at local farms rather than moving far away from home.

Allotment plots covered every part of the field in Nayland

Many villages had Pig Clubs where residents bought a pig and shared the cost of feed including recycled kitchen waste. After the pig was slaughtered, half the meat had to go to the Meat Marketing Board. The rest was eaten as fresh meat, cured or pickled

Nayland School Canteen was set up in 1943. The meals were cooked at East Bergholt and distributed to village schools including Nayland. The Headmaster wrote in his logbook that sometimes the meat element did not arrive, or there were not enough meals provided for all children, so he had to open ‘Emergency Supplies’ to ensure that everyone had a hot meal. The Headmaster recorded that some school meals were free, some half price.

Emergency Food Scheme: This scheme operated alongside normal rationing and was intended to supplement local food supplies in the event of an invasion when it was anticipated that food in village shops would run out. Tinned and dried goods were hidden away in private property at a variety of places within the Parish. At the end of the war this notice appeared in the Parish Magazine. The WI organised jam production centres to share sugar allowances and preserve surplus fruit more efficiently.

‘The Emergency Food stocks have now been removed from our village dumps and the thanks of all are due to the following householders who volunteered to store the food and who have had it for four years - often at considerable inconvenience: Miss Algar, Mrs. Batten, Mr. Breeze, Col Sykes. Mr Towns, Col Waller, Mr. Wilson. Upon the winding up of the scheme for Dump Distribution and requisition of shop and farm food stocks for Nayland and Wiston it is satisfactory to remember that if invasion had come our scheme was reported upon as being the most complete and satisfactory that had been inspected in the district. The late Mr Batten was Parish Food Organiser during the most critical years.’
German and Italian Prisoners held at camps in Britain became part of the war effort to keep the population fed and worked on farms all over the country. Prisoners from camps at Bures and Stoke by Nayland worked at local farms. Many of them were still in Britain as late as 1947. In November 1946 the Parish Magazine reported that German POWs had worked in St James’ churchyard and improved the immediate surroundings of the church. After that they did some repair work inside the church.

Fundraising events for RED CROSS and POW causes were organised in Nayland and Wiston from time to time. The Parish Magazine reported that a Garden Fete at Longwood in July 1944 raised £203 for the Prisoners of War Fund. The Women’s Voluntary Service collected money for Red Cross projects throughout the war. Many local people qualified as First Aiders at courses held in Nayland and a first aid post was set up at the Congregational Chapel in Stoke Road.

In 1943 a service in Westminster Abbey was conducted by the Dean of Westminster to promote and dedicate the work of the Red Cross and the Order of St John of Jerusalem and to pray for peace. A collection was made on behalf of the Duke of Gloucester’s Red Cross and St John Fund. As well as prayers, hymns and readings from scripture, there were readings from William Shakespeare, John Donne and Sir Francis Drake.
GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

This Council has been requested by the Government to co-operate in plans which are being made for the protection of civilian life in the event of war.

The Government has asked the Council to find out what housing accommodation would be available in an emergency and what homes would be suitable for those children who would be given the means of leaving the great cities. It is particularly important to know in which houses homes could be provided for children, where they could be lodged, boarded and cared for. Payment would be made by the Government for each child.

The children would, as far as possible, be moved school by school, accompanied by their teachers, and arrangements would be made for the children to attend school in the districts to which they were taken.

A representative of the Council will call upon you to find out how far you will be able to assist in this matter. A card will be produced authorising enquiry.

This note is sent to you now in order that you may be aware, in advance, of this enquiry and why it is being made.

The information supplied by you will not be used for any other purpose than that described and will not involve you in any work or responsibility unless and until an emergency arises. I feel that the people of the Melford Rural District will desire to offer all the help they can in this important branch of civil defence. It needs no words of mine to convey to you what that help will mean to children of the big cities.

A. HINDE
Chairman, Melford Rural District Council
The government had started planning for the evacuation of all children from cities to the countryside in 1938 but the scheme was not finalised until 1939. The Women’s Voluntary Service (WVS) took charge of the organisation of transport and accommodation. At the end of the school Summer holidays, over three million school children together with mothers with children under five, were moved out of urban areas over the course of three days. Several thousand came to West Suffolk via Bury St Edmunds and were sent to our local villages.

Differences between town and country ways sometimes came as a shock to both sides. Many village homes were still without electricity or piped water and many evacuees had no experience of farm animals or rural village life. Local children were surprised by the less disciplined behaviour of pupils from London. The initial evacuation was short-lived as the expected air raids did not materialise. Parents wanted their children back at home but families had to go through the trauma of separation again when the blitz began. The extreme poverty and poor health of many children became more widely recognised. An official report in 1941 resulted in pressure to introduce Family Allowance payments in 1945.

Maureen stayed for a short time only, but Shirley spent most of the war with the Roberts family in Newlands Lane. Her letters home showed that, although she missed her parents, she was enjoying country life and ‘getting on all right’ at school.

Children from West Ham Schools were sent to Nayland and Wiston and attended Nayland School. Pupils were visited regularly by LCC Nurses and Welfare Officers. Pupils were still able to sit examinations for scholarship places at LCC Grammar Schools. Some evacuees stayed in touch with the families that looked after them during the war and made return visits to Nayland. Some had happy memories that led them to move to this area as adults, although others remember being bullied by local children.

Rural areas were not always safe havens. Nayland with Wissington was bombed from time to time and a low flying German plane machine gunned Birch Street and Mill Street during a daytime raid. No one was seriously hurt, but residents had to rush indoors for cover.
AIR RAID SHELTERS in rural areas were very simple affairs as most people had to rely on those designed for domestic use. Cities and towns had huge public shelters, often built into existing underground tunnels, where thousands could be accommodated, but there were three main designs for people to use in their own homes or gardens. One of the responsibilities of local ARP Wardens was to distribute the pre-fabricated shelters that people had to install themselves.

ANDERSON SHELTER. This was named after John Anderson the then Home Secretary who was responsible for Air Raid Precautions. The shelters were made from straight and curved galvanised corrugated steel panels which were bolted together. Six curved panels bolted at the top formed the body of the shelter and the straight panels formed the ends with a door located in one end. The shelter was partially buried in the ground and had a concrete floor. This type of shelter could accommodate up to six people but it had the disadvantage of sometimes filling with rainwater.

MORRISON SHELTER. This was named after Herbert Morrison, the then Minister of Home Security. It was an indoor steel ‘table’ shelter assembled from a kit of parts and bolted together inside the house. The steel top doubled as a table and there were wire mesh panels around the four sides with an entry door through one of the panels. It was common for small children to sleep inside these shelters in case of overnight bombing.

BRICK OR CONCRETE BLOCK BUILT SHELTER

The third type of small shelters were privately built, often located in gardens or back yards where they were usually partially below ground. At least one of these has survived in a Nayland garden. It was built in 1940 by the Nayland building company, William Deaves & Son, and is now used for storage.

Concrete block shelter

There was a constant noise of aircraft from the local airfields or German bombing raids. A doodle bug flying bomb landed near the river at the end of Bear Street in 1944 causing a massive explosion. The damage from the blast spread right across the village. Ceilings collapsed and windows were blown out. The Headmaster recorded in the logbook that windows were broken at the school in Church Lane.
Throughout the war there were national fundraising initiatives to finance the cost of the armaments and equipment for the Army, Navy and RAF. In 1941 there was ‘War Weapons Week’, ‘Warship Week’ in 1941 and ‘Wings for Victory’ in 1943.

In 1944 a national campaign to invest in Government Bonds and Nationals Savings aimed to boost funds by at least £300,000 to cover the cost of the war. The whole population was encouraged to put their savings into government war funds. Towns and villages were allocated a target figure based on population. Parades, entertainments, rallies and speeches were held throughout Britain for a week.

Nayland-with-Wissington’s target was (initially) £12,000. The week of events and the incredible sum achieved were reported in the local press.

**NAYLAND**

**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**

On Saturday week, Nayland and Wiston opened the week with a poster competition, judged by public voting:
- under 11 1st Ivan Woodward, 2nd Michael Fryer;
- age 12 to 16, 1st Harold Hammond, 2nd Peter Collins;
- Open class, 1st Mrs. Montague, 2nd Mrs. Sykes.

On Monday the 1st Nayland Group of Scouts and Guides, Brownies and Cubs gave a variety concert in the Queen’s Head Hall, the proceeds being invested for the Children’s Welcome Home Fund.
On Tuesday a cinema show was given in the Mission Hall,
On Wednesday a whist drive,
On Thursday a miniature rifle competition,
On Friday a concert by the Boxted Follies in the Queen’s Head Hall.

The week concluded on Saturday by a Fete in Mr Webb’s Meadow. There were side shows, sports and competitions, an American section and also a fine display by the A.T.O. Band.

The target was £12,000 and increased to £18,000 which was also beaten, the grand total being £18,863

*Suffolk & Essex Free Press, 1944*
MRS VIOLET WALSH

Mrs Walsh and her husband Captain Bernard Walsh lived at Stourbank (now Bear House) in Bear Street. She was a Red Cross VAD during WW1, working in London and at the military hospital based at Great Horkesley. During World War II Mrs Walsh gave much valuable public service of all kinds on behalf of Nayland and Wiston.

She ran a canteen with several local women volunteers in the then unoccupied mill in Mill Street for the troops stationed at Horkesley Park. She organised a Warship Week, the Nayland Spitfire Fund, played a prominent part in the Welcome Home Fund for returning servicemen and ran charity events in her garden.

Mrs Walsh was appointed as a local Salvage Steward for the National Salvage Campaign, storing tons of wastepaper at Stourbank. She also organized the Village Dump of iron and steel scrap for the war effort.
In 1943, the British Legion took over the East Anglian Sanitorium, a pioneering tuberculosis hospital that had been founded by Dr. Jane Walker in 1901. A section had been opened in 1916 for the treatment of servicemen with TB. The initial 1943 budget for extensive alterations was £50,000. Part of the re-organisation included ‘Nayland Hall’, “... a wing ‘devoted to the care and restoration of young women from the Women’s Auxiliary Services”. This was opened in March 1945 by Queen Elizabeth. The event was reported extensively in the local press and was met with great excitement by local residents.
Her Majesty, looking radiant as the Spring sunshine and dressed in a blue ensemble, was received by the President and Chairman of the British Legion. She first inspected the guard of honour formed by some of the patients, chatting here and there to some of the girls. Her Majesty made the following speech from the terrace of the main building.

“I am very glad to come here today to visit this British Legion House, the newest of three whose purpose it is to care for those who suffer from tuberculosis and to lead them towards the goal of health and towards their independence. ... the British Legion is lighting new beacons to guide all who strive to help their fellow men and women who have served, and who are still serving, in His Majesty’s Forces. Those who come to this centre of healing will find not only all the modern methods of science and medicine, but something else at least as valuable. They will find, I trust, a new purpose in life and a fresh start, so that every woman, however ill, may learn a trade or occupation and feel with hope and confidence that there is always a use for her skill. It is comforting when there is so much destruction in the world about us to come to a place where science and goodwill are working together to build up rather than destroy. I pray that all who come to Nayland will be given, strength, courage and renewed health and that all who work here will have the reward of their unselfish service. I have much pleasure in declaring Nayland Hall open.”

Bury Free Press 1945

The Queen opened the main door with a silver key before touring the hospital. She spoke to patients working on handicrafts in the workshops, where they made soft toys, gloves and poppies for Remembrance Sunday. News soon spread and villagers from Nayland and Wiston rushed to line the route waving flags and cheering as the Queen left. Union Jacks flew from The Fox at Wiston and a group of children walked from Leavenheath School with their teachers to see “the lovely lady”. The Queen commented on the wonderful setting and views of Wiston. The Suffolk Free Press reported that the site “... has become a picturesque village with the charming Chase Cottage in the foreground. In front of the buildings are well laid out gardens, lawns for games and sun balconies”. The British Legion covered the cost of providing new individual ‘shelters’ and endowments of £160 were made to cover annual costs. The Women’s Section of the British Legion provided hairdressing cubicles and a professional hairdresser. Nayland-with-Wissington British Legion Branch had a membership of fifty-seven in 1945. After WW2, many more local ex-servicemen joined the branch and continued the work that began in 1920s.
Penny Allen’s father, Eric Allen (seated at right end of middle row) served in the RAF. His unit was part of the Liberation Forces that went through France, Belgium and on to Berlin during 1944 and 1945. He wrote very vivid letters home to his wife, including this description of VE Day celebrations in France on May 9th 1945.

We had a rather more exciting time yesterday than I had anticipated. During the morning the Mayor of the Village came round to asked us if we would parade in the village during the afternoon. We heard Churchill’s speech from a receiver in the village square and then we formed up and marched with the local American unit to the village war memorial. The entire village was there and all the children were formed up into a squad and were carrying lovely bunches of flowers which they placed on the memorial. They looked very sweet and it was really touching when they sang some hymns. After the Mayor had said his piece and the saluting and singing of the National Anthems was finished we all marched round the village to the accompaniment of the local band, which comprised a trumpet played by an old boy about 80 and a drummer (79). It was really too funny for words.

In the evening we went to town to the dance I told you about. We had a pretty hefty shot of Cognac before leaving and as we passed through the village we were stopped by two Yanks in a jeep who insisted that we had I don’t know how many ‘pulls’ on their bottle of Calvados. When we got to town we went into a cafe and had a Cognac and some Champagne and arrived at the dance at about 8 o’clock. The first drink we had there was a glass of English beer. Before we could get another one it was all gone. From then on we drank Champagne, 25 francs for half a small tumbler. The music was supplied by a very hot American 5 man band. With some WAAFS and ATS to dance with it was wiz-o because it was limited to 60 couples and everyone was able to sit at the side tables. It was lovely to hear all the Champagne corks popping. By the time it was all gone which was about 11 o’clock we were all feeling very merry and as we walked through the town on the way back to the place where we had parked the waggon, we were shaking hands with everyone we met and generally fooling about. I had a thick head this morning, but it was worth it. I shall always remember VE Day. What a shame it is, Darling, that we can’t spend such momentous days as these together.
There were several street parties to celebrate the end of the war on **May VE Day and August VJ Day in 1945** and another on **Victory Day in 1946**. These photographs show the party in Fen Street. The Headmaster merely recorded that Nayland School was closed for two days because of VE Day. More parties were held at the American bases for children from local villages and there was an Anglo-American Picnic at Longwood. The *Suffolk Free Press* also reported that children were taken on a day trip to the seaside at Clacton and that elderly residents had a garden party of their own.
The VJ street party held in the High Street, Nayland was reported in the Suffolk & Essex Free Press and photographed from either end of the tables that filled the centre of the village.

Note the original site of the Nayland telephone box. It was moved to the Fire Station after the war.
This leaflet was distributed throughout the parish in 1945. In 1944 the Committee applied for registration under the 1940 War Charities Act. It is obvious from contemporary newspaper reports that “Welcome Home” committees were fundraising in many villages and towns from 1943 onwards. In Nayland the fundraising included regular whist drives run by Herbert Taylor’s wife in a room next to the bakery in Mill Street and a variety of entertainments by village groups.

Other documents in a private collection show that members of the Nayland with Wissington Committee wrote to the Ministry of Food in 1945, expressing the hope that food rationing restrictions could be relaxed to help provide a ‘good spread’ for returning servicemen without using up the precious personal food rations allocated to their families.

The request was refused.
Many forces served long after Victory in Europe in May and Japan in August.

They were based in Europe, India and the Far East. Eric Allen served at RAF Station Gatow Airfield near Berlin from July 1945 to June 1946. His frequent letters home included descriptions of the dire conditions in Berlin and the burgeoning black market trade between Allied troops and German civilians. He also witnessed the March Past of Allied Army, Navy and Air Forces in central Berlin on July 21st 1945 where Churchill, Eisenhower and the British Commanders took the salute.

**July 3**<sup>rd</sup>  We go to tomorrow and on to Berlin. ... with Montgomery’s pet troops the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division (Desert Rats) and the Guards ... so our behaviour and appearance must be correct. Our troops in Berlin will be the only links between British and Russians, who are a little suspicious of us.

**July 14**<sup>th</sup>  The bomb damage in Berlin is difficult to describe, it is on such a vast scale. There are miles of just empty shells of buildings – just the walls standing. On the outskirts of the city there is grass growing in the tram tracks the rails are rusty and the overhead wires all gone. Not far from the city centre is a wooded area. One could see where bitter fighting had been going on. Great trees were blown to pieces, statues with great holes in them. The ground was littered with smashed vehicles and those tiny remote-controlled tanks with big blocks of high-explosives lying nearby. A German woman was in the middle swapping Agfa roll film for five cigarettes.

   We walked along the lakeside and came upon three old boys fishing. We sat watching them for a little while and then another old boy came along with about six rods. He lent us one apiece and we sat there fishing for the rest of the evening. I caught seven quite nice fish, which helped to fill the old boys’ basket.

**July 21**<sup>st</sup>  Now a word about this extraordinary black market that has sprung up in Berlin. It seems to me that it first started by allied soldiers trading cigarettes for cameras, watches etc. Some Germans wanted money for their things while others were prepared to pay fabulous prices for cigarettes. The Reichstag building has become a sort of open market. Every day there are hundreds of people doing ‘business’ quite openly. As soon as you get near the place you are pestered to sell cigarettes. The price has stabilised at 100 marks for 20 – this is £2.10 shillings. You will see a camera, the owner will ask you for 2000 marks, £50 for us. If you want the camera you sell 400 cigarettes. There is no point in keeping the marks as you are unable to change them into English money. It is a big enough job to get our wages changed to postal orders, they make certain that you don’t change any more than you are paid. The Russians, some of them anyway, have large quantities of money from the sale of things they have looted. The Yanks are cashing in on this. You will see jeeps drive up, crowds gather round and the Russians vie with one another. The Yanks must have some way of getting the money home ‘cause they’re all selling their watches.
**July 21st**  Parade: A whole crowd of us were taken into Berlin to witness the march past of the British Berlin Garrison. We saw the tanks, guns and armour of the Desert Rats; Guards, Marines, Canadians, the Marines band and a Scottish Pipers band. The RAF were in it too. They had roped off enclosures for the military spectators and I had a fine view, right in front, almost opposite the saluting base.

I saw Mr. Churchill, Monty, Ike, Anthony Eden, Mary Churchill, General Alexander, Vice Admiral Conningham, Mr Attlee and Air Chief Marshal Sir Charles Portal and some other big shots. I noticed that the few German civilians who were able to get anywhere near the saluting base rushed eagerly to get a look at Winston before he left at the end of the parade.
All over Europe there were celebration Parades for various sectors of the population that had contributed to the war effort.

This Red Cross parade was held in London in July 1945.
8th June, 1946

TO-DAY, AS WE CELEBRATE VICTORY,
I send this personal message to you and all other boys and girls at school. For you have shared in the hardships and dangers of a total war and you have shared no less in the triumph of the Allied Nations.

I know you will always feel proud to belong to a country which was capable of such supreme effort; proud, too, of parents and elder brothers and sisters who by their courage, endurance and enterprise brought victory. May these qualities be yours as you grow up and join in the common effort to establish among the nations of the world unity and peace.

George R.I.
IMPORTANT
WAR DATES

1939
SEP 1. Germany invaded Poland
SEP 3. Great Britain and France declared war on Germany; the R.E.F. began to leave for France
DEC 13. Battle of the River Plate

1940
APR 9. Germany invaded Denmark and Norway
MAY 10. Germany invaded the Low Countries
JUNE 3. Evacuation from Dunkirk completed
JUNE 8. British troops evacuated from Norway
JUNE 11. Italy declared war on Great Britain
JUNE 12. France capitulated
JUNE 29. Germans occupied the Channel Isles
AUG 8–OCT 31. German air offensive against Great Britain (Battle of Britain)
OCT 28. Italy invaded Greece
DEC 9–11. Italian invasion of Egypt defeated at the battle of Sidi Barrani

1941
MAR 11. Lease-Lend Bill passed in U.S.A.
MAR 28. Battle of Cape Matapan
APR 6. Germany invaded Greece
APR 12–DEC 9. The Siege of Tobruk
MAY 20. Formal surrender of remnants of Italian Army in Abyssinia
MAY 20–31. Battle of Crete
MAY 27. German battleship Bismarck sunk
JUNE 22. Germany invaded Russia
AUG 12. Terms of the Atlantic Charter agreed
NOV 18. British offensive launched in the Western Desert
DEC 7. Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour
DEC 8. Great Britain and United States of America declared war on Japan

1942
FEB 15. Fall of Singapore
APR 16. George Cross awarded to Malta
OCT 23–NOV 4. German-Italian army defeated at El Alamein
NOV 8. British and American forces landed in North Africa

1943
JAN 31. The remnants of the 6th German Army surrendered at Stalingrad
MAY Final victory over the U-Boats in the Atlantic
MAY 13. Axis forces in Tunisia surrendered
JULY 10. Allies invaded Sicily
SEP 3. Allies invaded Italy
SEP 8. Italy capitulated
DEC 26. Scharnhorst sunk off North Cape

1944
JAN 22. Allied troops landed at Anzio
JUNE 4. Rome captured
JUNE 6. Allies landed in Normandy
JUNE 13. Flying-bomb (V.1) attack on Britain started
JUNE Defeat of Japanese invasion of India
AUG 15. Paris liberated
SEP 3. Brussels liberated
SEP 8. The first rocket-bomb (V.2) fell on England.
SEP 17–16. The Battle of Arnhem
OCT 20. The Americans re-landed in the Philippines

1945
JAN 17. Warsaw liberated
MAR 20. British recaptured Mandalay
MAR 21. British crossed the Rhine
APR 25. Opening of Conference of United Nations at San Francisco
MAY 2. German forces in Italy surrendered
MAY 3. Rangoon recaptured
MAY 5. All the German forces in Holland, N.W. Germany and Denmark surrendered unconditionally
MAY 9. Unconditional surrender of Germany to the Allies ratified in Berlin
JUNE 10. Australian troops landed in Borneo
AUG 6. First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima
AUG 8. Russia declared war on Japan
AUG 9. Second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki
AUG 14. The Emperor of Japan broadcast the unconditional surrender of his country
SEP 5. British forces re-entered Singapore

MY FAMILY’S WAR RECORD
In June 1946 there were yet more celebrations when the whole Nation held official VICTORY CELEBRATIONS

The day of national celebration in London began with a royal procession at 10 am from Buckingham Palace. King George VI, Queen Elizabeth, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret travelled in the State Landau, accompanied by a Captain’s Escort of the household Cavalry. When they returned to The Mall they were joined by the Chiefs of Staff and Supreme Allied Commanders at the saluting base.

A March Past of thousands of service and civilian personnel from all over the world, Aplus service vehicles, artillery equipment and regimental bands began at 11 am and went on until the flypast of thirteen batches of RAF fighter planes in the early afternoon.

From 3 pm there were musical events in Hyde Park, Green Park, St James’ Park, with military bands, teams of school children doing folk dancing, Scots dancers and pipers. There was an open-air performance of ‘As You like It’ by the Bankside Players in Regent’s Park, and public dancing on Gloucester Green to the music of military bands. There was community singing, plus Punch and Judy shows at hourly intervals until early evening.

At 7.30 pm, another round of entertainments, light shows, fireworks, orchestral concerts and coloured water displays along the Thames. Displays of RAF planes were caught in searchlight beams in the dark sky.

The King arrived at the Houses of Parliament at 10 pm and travelled by boat to Chelsea. The whole event ended at midnight with the firing of 50 shells followed by the National Anthem.

All public buildings, monuments in central London and 103 masts in the Mall were decorated with huge flags representing military and civilian organisations and allied countries. These were floodlit at night as were several ships on the Thames. The decorations and illuminations continued until 15th June to allow for as many visitors as possible to see the spectacle (no television!). Towns and villages all over Britain held their own, albeit less spectacular, events.

Nayland with Wissington Parish Council raised an additional precept of £25 to pay for a children’s party. The Parish Clerk applied for a permit for ‘special rations’ so that one hundred and twenty children would have a ‘good tea’. It was reported that they enjoyed the usual games and sports, plus a gift of one shilling to take home.

After the war, a Post War Planning Committee was set up to investigate potential sites for a village hall and playing field.

The Committee included some of the servicemen who had recently returned to Nayland and some WW1 veterans. Chairman H Sawdy, W Balls, H Taylor, L Norfolk, W Deaves, E Hunt, A Fenn with the Clerk (7 members of Parish Council) were joined by E Barton and D Mitchell.
Acknowledgements

Some of the information included here came from family collections of photographs, letters, official documents, memorabilia and the recollections of local people recorded over many years. We are very grateful to everyone who shared these unique items and memories with us.


Further information came from Mary George’s books published by Nayland Primary School in 2005 as part of a series covering the history of Nayland Schools. These were based on research of Feoffees charity records, school logbooks, Parish Council minutes, local newspaper archives, regimental archives, census records, Dr Slade’s unpublished History of Nayland and local photographs and documents held in private family collections’ Book 2 : ‘Nayland School at War’ and Book 3 : ‘For King and Country’

Other recommended books and websites with relevant local information and photographs:

‘Is it Wiston or Wissington?’ by Rosemary Knox (2001)

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society www.naylandconservation.org.uk
A variety of local history books and the online Archive Project
Nayland and Wiston Community Website https://www.naylandandwiston.net
Includes links to Community Times and to many village organisations

Boxted Airfield Museum www.boxted-airfield.com/boxted-airfield-museum
Parham Airfield Museum, Suffolk
www.parhamairfieldmuseum.co.uk/british-resistance-organisation/history/

Sadly, the planned commemorative celebrations in May 2020 could not take place. The global outbreak of COVID-19 virus reached Britain in January. By March every Spring and Summer event in the parish, including the VE Day Exhibition and shared luncheon planned for the VE Day weekend, had been cancelled. The church, school and both halls were closed. People isolated themselves in their homes. There was minimal traffic through the village and residents practised ‘social distancing’ when leaving the house for essential purposes only.

It is hoped that a pre-recorded service will replace the service that was originally planned for May 8th on Caley Green. That recording and this booklet will serve as our tribute to those who served in any capacity during the Second World War.

At the time of writing, it is impossible to guess how many will be lost during this pandemic, or what the economic and political repercussions will be. We can only hope that it will come to an end soon.
British Military Actions 1945 to Present

31 conflicts / interventions; over 7000 deaths.

Compiled by Andrew Gowen for Nayland and District Royal British Legion : VE DAY 2020

Palestine (Sep45-Jun48)  British soldiers fought in Palestine—against both Arabs and Jews—until the ignominious collapse of the British mandate in 1948. The bombing of British headquarters at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem—a “terrorist” bombing, of course, except that it was carried out by a man who was later to become Prime Minister of Israel, Menachem Begin.

Malayan Emergency-(1948-1960)-British forces battled local communist guerrillas in Malaya.

Yangtze incident ( Apr –Jul 49). A historic event which involved the Royal Navy ships HMS Amethyst, HMS Consort, HMS London and HMS Black Swan on the Yangtze River for three months during the Chinese Civil War in the summer of 1949.

Korean War-(1950-1953)-The UK joined in the American-led UN effort to defend South Korea from North Korea and China.

Anglo-Egyptian War of 1951-1952 --Egyptian guerrillas, aided by the government carried out a campaign against British forces stationed at the Suez Canal and against other symbols of Britain and the West. On January 25, 1952, British troops retaliated against Egypt by attacking an Egyptian police station, killing 50 and wounding 100. The conflict ended with a change in the Egyptian government and the eventual withdrawal of British troops. This conflict led to Britain's involvement in the 1956 Anglo-French-Israeli invasion of Egypt in 1956. (see below)

Mau Mau Insurgency-(1952-1956)-Kenyan guerrilla war against British rule.

Cyprus Emergency--(1955-1959) - Guerrilla war by the Greek Cypriot militant group, the National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters (EOKA), to force the withdrawal of British from Cyprus. The primary goal of the rebels was to unite Greek-majority Cyprus with Greece. Britain, which had controlled or ruled Cyprus since 1878, granted independence to Cyprus in 1960.

Suez/Sinai War--Precipitated on July 26, 1956, when the Egyptian president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, nationalized the Suez Canal. The canal had been owned by the Suez Canal Company, which was controlled by French and British interests. On October 29, 1956, 10 Israeli brigades invaded Egypt and advanced toward the canal, routing Egyptian forces. Britain and France, following their plan, demanded that Israeli and Egyptian troops withdraw from the canal, and they announced that they would intervene to enforce a cease-fire ordered by the United Nations. On November 5 and 6, British and French forces landed at Port Said and Port Fuad and began occupying the canal zone. This move was soon met by growing opposition at home and by U.S.-sponsored resolutions in the UN (made in part to counter Soviet threats of intervention), which quickly put a stop to the Anglo-French action. On December 22 the UN evacuated British and French troops, and Israeli forces withdrew in March 1957.

Dhofar Rebellion (1962-1976)-Marxist rebels, aided by the new South Yemen government, battled the Omani government forces in the western region of Dhofar. British air and ground forces aided the Omani government defeat the rebels.

Muscat and Oman Intervention (1957-1959)--British troops aid the Government of Muscat and Oman (now known simply as Oman), against rebels. British troops withdrew after a successful campaign. This war is also known as the Jebel Akhdar War.

Jordan Intervention (1958)--Britain airlifted troops to Jordan in response to a request for aid from the Jordanian king. King Hussein felt threatened by the recent union of Syria and Egypt, as well as the violent revolution in Iraq in which the Iraq king, a member of Hussein's family, was brutally murdered. After the situation calmed down, British troops left Jordan.

Congo (Jul60- Jun64). The UK contributed to the UN peacekeeping force.

Brunei Revolt (Decemver, 1962)-Britain had been in negotiations with t Malaya, Singapore, Sabah, and Sarawak to form a new Malaysian Federation as British rule in these areas was ending. Indonesia opposed Brunei (and Sabah and Sarawak—all of whom were in the northern part of Borneo/Kalimantan Island-Indonesia controlled the bulk of the island) from joining this federation, and pro-Indonesian rebels launched a rebellion in Brunei in 1962. British forces defeated the rebels.

Malaysia-Indonesia Confrontation (1963-1966)-Indonesia launched a guerrilla war against Malaysia (the new nation comprised of Malaya, Sabah, and Sarawak) to take control of the northern portion of Borneo. British forces supported the Malaysians. Australia and New Zealand also participated in the war against Indonesia.
Ugandan Army Mutiny (1964)—The army of Uganda, which had recently become independent of Britain, mutinied against the government of President Milton Obote in January of 1964. Unable to control the situation, Obote called for help from British forces who put down the revolt. This was done by 45 Commando RM.

Aden Conflict (1964-1967) - Rebels in the British-rulled part of Yemen known as Aden waged a guerrilla war against the British and associated Yemeni forces. Radfan operations. Following the British withdrawal, the new nation of South Yemen was formed.


Queen Elizabeth 2 Bomb Scare (May 1972) Major Richard Clifford, Special Boats Service officer parachuted into the sea in mid Atlantic after a bomb-scare in Queen Elizabeth 2.

Cyprus (1974 – present). Initially 41 Commando intervening in the Turkish invasion and subsequently part of the UN Peacekeeping Force.

Rhodesian Monitoring Force (Dec 79– Mar 80). Monitoring the cease fire between Mugabe and Rhodesian Army.


The Falkland Islands War (1982)

Gulf War (1991)-British, U.S., French, and other Allied nations joined together to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Also known in the West as the First Iraq War.

Air Operations in Iraq. (1991-2003)- Following the Gulf War of 1991, British and American warplanes enforced a "No-Fly Zone" in both northern and southern Iraq to prevent Iraqi government air strikes against Kurdish and Shiite forces. This resulted in nearly constant air strikes by the Allies against Iraqi military targets. As the launching of the 2003 invasion of Iraq approached, the British and U.S. forces increasingly used the No-Fly Zone status as a means of degrading Iraqi defences leading up to the invasion.

Bosnian War (1992-1996)- British forces, as part of NATO, engaged in combat operations and peacekeeping operations in Bosnia during the protracted Yugoslav civil wars.

Kosovo War (1999)-British forces, as part of NATO, engaged in combat operations and peacekeeping operations in Kosovo during the protracted Yugoslav civil wars.

British military intervention in the Sierra Leone Civil War (2000-2002)-British forces intervened in the Sierra Leone Civil War and helped government forces end the war. British troops remained in Sierra Leone for several more years to ensure the peace and train government forces. Amphibious Group held offshore to reinforce as necessary – not needed.

Afghanistan War (2001-2014)-British troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan in 2014, though the war there continues.

Iraq War (2003-2009)-British troops were withdrawn from combat in Iraq in 2009, though U.S. troops remained until 2011.

Libyan War (2011)-British air and naval forces joined in a coalition to aid Libyan rebels against the government of Muammar Khadafy. British special forces played a role on the ground.

ISIS War (2014-Present)- Upon a request for military assistance, the UK, along with several other Western nations (U.S., France, Canada, etc.) began military operations against the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) forces in Iraq. This military intervention later included airstrikes and special forces operations against ISIS in Syria and Libya, as well as in Iraq.