I still hold a traced map of Lufflitt Village and surrounding area prepared possibly for the exercise referred to by F.J. Pulman on page 49 or more likely for the Raleigh Exercise page 54.

See page 84

It is centred on No 4 Platoon Defended Home at a scale of 6 in to the mile and takes in most of the area within ¾ mile radius with circles drawn at ¼ mile and ½ mile as well as ¾ mile. The fields and dwellings are marked, as are the contours of 500, 600, 700 and 800 feet.

Around the D.H. are marked 4 posts.

Post A opposite the main churchyard gate, possibly under the holly in church croft.

Post B near Ringborough Cross at the top of the glebe field above the Vicarage.

Post C outside the Vicarage outbuilding against Mount Stephen field looking west.

Post D in the bottom south-west corner of the churchyard overlooking old Vicarage

These were obviously planned as manned look out warning posts around the D.H.

See dates opposite

Checking the dates on the opposite page it would appear that the days of the week would have been the same as for 1967 except the period before March 1st 1944 being a leap year. I have therefore indicated what I think would have been the days of the week in 1944.

17/5/85

A Letter from Sgt W Perkins

What a nice surprise to get a letter from you after all these years. I have a whole jumble of things going through my mind that your letter has stirred up; but where to begin is another matter.

In the early Home Guard days being whacked into some sort of shape under George Hooper and doing our drills with broom sticks etc (I was fortunate enough to have a .22 rifle), in later years when we were fully equipped and fears of invasion loomed, our role in the case of enemy passing through our territory was to hit and run, get near enough to place a few sticky bombs on their tanks and generally cause havoc; but always at the back of our mind was what would happen to the women and children and the village if the enemy retaliated.

See pages 54 and 66 The Raleigh Exercise incident, George Hooper was still in charge at Beacon, before I took his place when he went to Broadhembury. I was very disappointed because I was left out, to get there and back would have ~~meant~~ made me late for work. Word got to us at Beacon via General Osborne, that the army passing through was bedded down for the night at Langford Bridge, it seems that they were parked under the hedge in the road the Honiton side of

Hooper

Beacon

Osborne

Langford

the bridge; with sentries on the bridge itself. From what I can remember our patrol crossed the river above the bridge so as not to disturb the sentries (found by our scouts by the way) and attacked the convoy over the hedge with clay bombs and imitation rifle fire, and within minutes a few shouted orders from their officers and they were gone.

later years of the war enemy planes were often overhead and one night at Mohuns Ottery we had a real scare. Dan Buck and family was staying with us, aircraft busy overhead so we all came downstairs. It was a moonlight night, I opened our door and went outside to see what was going on just as an enemy plane coming from the direction of Hartridge released his first bombs, he had already made one pass
Incendaries and dropped a load of incendiary canisters right accross farmer Lane's farm catching his waggon house on fire, and we could hear him shouting accross the valley, most of the bombs dropped among the trees of Claypits hill. I shouted to Dan and dashed indoors as I heard the first
Bombs of the real bombs whining on the way down. It was a cluster of three and they dropped just over the Upottery road in Claypits farm, but we thought they were in the orchard outside our door. The noise was deafening and the shrapnel rattled on our roof even from that distance. He dropped several more

small ones down the line of the river, shearing off a lot of the alder bushes; and poor old Les. Horton (James Tailboard) to us had so much shrapnel in his mowing grass, that the air was a bit blue when he went to mow. The last of the bombs, a 500 lb one, was dropped near Langford Bridge in Stonehayes ground killing a number of Blackmore's cows 13 in all.

See page 63 Langford IV 215

To answer some of your questions, yes, we always had men posted outside our headquarters. We never knew when Gen. Osborne would pop in, which he did more than once at night, our patrols ranged quite a way over Hartridge. There was a large mound on Hartridge which was a very good lookout point over the common. We set to work and cut right through this hump, making a crooked trench and an excellent hideaway and vantage point for our Lewis gun team (spoils well hidden of course). We had exercises against Upottery and once our Battle platoon had to intercept the Upottery H. Guards on the way to attack your Luppitt defended home which we did, our scouts spotted them crossing fields between Hartridge and the aerodrome and we managed to surprise them and we won the day.

See page 81

One of my best endeavours as Sgt. after George had left us, was the exercise to attack your defended home (the Vicarage)

I pondered this for some time and worked out a plan. I had to get Eric Manley in on this because the plan meant using his Austin Seven car, and he could be trusted not to leak anything to the Lupkitt gang. I used to take the children to school and Walden Mr Walden (always artful) often used to catch me and in a roundabout way would try to get me to let on what was going to happen, he could then whisper in Derek's ear, it was a cat and mouse game for some time. The day came for action, Gen Osborne and Major Gundry were poking around and all your troops were around Balhayes the Vicarage. So we met at Balhayes getting there by various routes. I had already confided in George Hooper the plan, and he and the major was at our meeting place to watch and listen to the orders given. We set off across fields towards Overday and then back towards Overday the top of Church Hill. Our scouts had already informed me that the main entrance was guarded by two men at least. I posted the Lewis gun team overlooking the Vicarage from the top, and they opened up right away to make the enemy keep their heads down. L. Cpl Brangwell was sent down to take up a position one field back from the main gate to give covering fire. Two men were despatched down the hill behind the hedge opposite the gate and when we gave the signal they used clay bombs to destroy the sentries.

At the same time our main force came quickly down the hill in, and behind the Austin Seven with guns poking through the opened windscreen, followed up by C Pramnall's squad. Gen Osborne nearly gave the game away by poking around watching us, and later at the inquest the only thing he found fault with was the fact that he did'nt hear Charlie give his covering fire orders, but after he left both Major Gundry and George Hooper made it a red letter day for us by congratulating us on an exercise well planned and carried out. I thoroughly enjoyed my H. Guard days.

Osborne

Hooper

A section of the letter is here omitted as it is of a more personal nature.

To answer some of your questions, yes I did go over to Blaylits Hill after the bombing and found two canisters took them home unscrewed the bottom and took out the inner tube containing the powder the bottom piece contained the detonator which I placed on a block and dropped a brick on it detonating it. We kept them polished on the mantlepiece for a long time and then gave it to one of the shops in Honiton can't remember which one. Do you remember the Junkers 88 that was shot up by night fighters after a night flight over Bristol and came down at Smeatharpe. One farmer at Whatley

See page 62

went out with his shotgun towards the crash and going through a gap in the hedge something touched his head, and hung up by his parachute was one of the Germans I think he was about the only one alive, he had all his fingers shot off on one hand, he was taken back to the farm made comfortable until the police arrived. Part of the undercarriage had fallen one field away and although we were not supposed to touch anything one chap tore off a piece of copper tubing full of grease and pushed it down inside his trouser leg for making lighters. After the bodies and wreckage had been cleared away I found a piece of a map of Bristol with a cross marking the Docks. One wing of the plane and one engine had broken away in midair and although the ground was bone hard the engine screamed down and buried itself in a cornfield.

I remember the tunnel guard nights and the 8 o'clock goods train that used to throw out lumps of coal for our ganger hut fire. We had the whisper one night that Major Sundry would be walking the line somewhere, I put Eric and his squad on guard and sure enough Eric pulled him up coming from Honiton.

There was a telephone in the wall at the Tunnel entrance and one of our chaps picked it up one night and listened in to a conversation between two signalmen all about growing big marrows.

Ask Jim when you see him sometime if he remembers that song he taught us
Mares eat oats and does eat oats
And little lambs eat ivy
translated =
Mares eat oats and does eat oats
And little Lambs eat ivy

See P. 52

Another incident I remember quite clearly. Gen. Osborne was always drumming into us about immobilising our cars etc. Well one exercise we had (I believe we were all involved) and the Gen. left his car outside old Capt. Rocks place, when the exercise was over he was going to tea with Lt Walden. But on our way home Eric and I discovered his car was not made safe so we took out the rotor arm and put it under the drivers seat. His lordship came back and of course could'nt start the car and Mr Walden had to take him to tea in his car. Somehow I forget the details, we got a message to Mr Walden and let him know what we had done. We never heard a thing from the Gen. but Mr. Walden was tickled to death. Well Jack I think I've carried on long enough, Hope some of it is of interest.

See page 64 Osborne

Walden

Walden

A list of members of
NO 4 (LIPPITT) PLATOON "D" COY.
19TH SEATON BN. DEVON HOME GUARD
1940 – 1944 appears opposite
This list was presented framed to Lt W J Walden.

See page 40

Lt. Gen. E.A. OSBORNE. C.B., D.S.O.
Lt. W.J. WALDEN
C.S.M. A.G. HOOPER

See bottom of page opposite

SGT. J. SAGE
" A.J. CRABB
" J. EDWARDS
CPL A. BRADDICK
" F.T. BRADDICK
" S.C. EWINS
L/CPL. C. CHURCHILL
" A.W. CORRICK

SGT. E. VENABLES
" W.J. PERKINS
" T. WARREN
CPL. D. FONE
" A.E. MANLEY
" T.P. MARTIN
L/CPL. R.C. PRANGNELL
" H.J. THORNE
L/CPL. E. MANLEY

PTE'S. W. AGAR
W. AYRES.
A.F.W. BLACKMORE
D BUCK
R.C. BURGESS
R. CARTER
A. CLAPP
G. CLAPP
C. COLES
C. CRABB
A. DARE
L. DREW
B.A. FINN (REV'D)
D.P. GODFREY
B. HANCOCK
W. HANCOCK
W. HART
J. LARCOMBE
E. LOVERIDGE
L. MANVILLE
L. MARKER
R.J. MIDDLETON
S.J. MIDDLETON
F.J. PULMAN
K. PULMAN
L.J. PULMAN
R.R. PULMAN
L. ROCK
R. ROSEWELL
L. ROWLAND
S.O. SPARKS
G. SPILLER
E. THORNE
H. TOOMEY
F. TOTTLE
T.F. TOTTLE
T. TRAVERS
S.F. VALENTINE
G. WARREN
J. WILSON
A.F.C. WRIGHT.

MISS N. CRABB

MISS O.M. SAGE

90

Newspaper cutting. 26/7/85
Lent by Mrs Joyce Rosewell
Dolish

LUPPITT

Berry

The Church was, as usual, very prettily decorated for the Christmas festival by Mr. and Mrs G. Berry and son.

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1890
See P 117

Many will hear with deep regret of the death of Mrs William Sage, which took place at Allington, near Chippenham. Great sympathy is felt with Mr Sage in his sad bereavement. During the many years he lived at Overday Farm he enjoyed the esteem of all.

Sage

Berry

Again the poor in the parish have this Christmas been well looked after. Through the exertions of Mr G Berry, the hon. secretary and treasurer, and the prompt liberality of the subscribers, a goodly sum was soon collected. This year 35 families participated in the distribution. In addition to various sums of money, five sacks of flour, amounting to 1,400 lb. were distributed. Several families received over 90 lb of flour and three shillings in money. Mr John Sage assisted in the distribution and thanked Mr Berry, on behalf of the poor, for the trouble and interest he had again taken with respect to these gifts. All were pleased to see Mary Galway, who is in her 97th year, again come forward with her bag and receive her share.

Sage