



13

Church of St Michael and All Angels

11

The Crown Hotel



6

The Greenwood Tree



The Stag



3

Willow Tree Cafe



1

War Memorial



1

Bolton's Bench



15

Elcombes



14

Verderers' Court



14

The Queen's (or King's) House



10

The Nondescripts



The Fox and Hounds



2

The former Grand Hotel



Locations relating to:

- 1 WW1
- 2 WW2
- 3 Both
- ⊗ Not accessible or visible

The War Memorial, on Bolton's Bench 1 is where a service was held before the Seventh Division left for Ypres in WW1. Their HQ was in the former Grand Hotel 2. A German submarine lurking in the Channel delayed marching orders. 15,000 soldiers, cheered by locals, marched 11 miles to embark at Southampton docks. Only 2,380 men survived 3 weeks of battle. A Catholic Church window commemorates the 'Immortal Seventh' Division. More names were added to the War Memorial after WW2 and the Falklands conflict.

The Grand Hotel was nicknamed 'The Ship' when, in March 1944, the Royal Naval training unit relocated from South Western Hotel Southampton in preparation for D-Day.

The HQ of the Rural District Council went from what is now Willow Tree cafe 3 (formerly Court Tea Rooms) to Empress Road 4 near the Civil Defence HQ and Engineering Depot.

Lyndhurst was a centre of enemy resistance - an Anti Tank Island (1940). Seven concrete roadblocks were designed for roads around the village in case of invasion. Concrete remains can be seen in a garden fence by Gosport Lane car park entrance 5. Eight Lyndhurst men were in Churchill's Secret Army, trained, like the Resistance, to sabotage an enemy invasion.

A JU-88 bomber chased by Fighter Command dropped 7 bombs in the High Street in 1940. One fell in the old Fire Station (now The Greenwood Tree) 6 injuring Dick Galton, an AFS volunteer. Bombs may not have exploded due to lack of altitude or sabotage by forced labour.

A black German Stuka (complete with bullet holes) shot down near Boldwood Road, was displayed in Poole's Garage 7 (now Peggy May's cafe) window.

Wartime leisure, darts, dances with live music, tennis, football, bowls and films were all available locally in pubs, Emery Down Hall and big houses. The Plaza cinema 8 (later Budgens supermarket) was very popular. The Civic Restaurant 9 ⊗ in Romsey Road provided cheap meals.

The Ministry of Food Office at Crown Lodge 10 (The Nondescripts Club) checked coupons and issued Ration Books and orange juice and cod liver oil and malt for children. The Ministry checked what farmers grew and ordered cultivation of infertile forest.

Air Raid Precautions (ARP) moved to HQ at Crown Hotel Stables 11 ⊗ from a hut in Empress Road. The ARP wardens watched for fires, enemy planes and sounded the Air Raid siren warning and All Clear signals. They checked for blackout and safety after air raids. Royal Engineers were also at The Crown.

Evacuees joined Lyndhurst School 12 children, alternating morning and afternoon sessions. The children marched to the air raid shelter in the school field, carrying gas masks, when the siren sounded. Families were encouraged to build their own shelters as there was often no time to reach a public shelter. Horse chestnuts and acorns were collected by children. Chestnuts were used in munitions and charcoal made from acorns was used in gas masks. WW2.

A marble war memorial at St Michael's 13 was given by local stonemasons, the Ellery family, who lost a son in WW1. War Graves are at The Bench Cemetery and Christ Church. Kings (Queens) House 14 was base for the Verderers and their Court. The Auxiliary Territorial Services (ATS) was based at Elcombes 15.

Lyndhurst had several hospitals. Hill (now Hartwood) House 16 Hospital was run by Lyndhurst Voluntary Red Cross (1,016 patients were treated in WW1), Haskells (now redeveloped for housing) 17 was a Medical Reception Station, Army Dental Centre and Regimental Medical Post. The WI grew fruit and vegetables in allotments there too.

More Ammunition Supply, Vehicle reserves depots and Ordnance Stores were by the present Fire Station 18.

The New Forest was important in both World Wars.

In WW1 30,000 soldiers camped with their animals and equipment on The Bench and Race Course in preparation and training for the battlefield.

In WW2 the Forest readied for a threatened German invasion.

Secret preparations were made in the Forest for the liberation of Europe, codenamed Operation Overlord (D-Day).

Roads were widened and surfaced, Mulberry Harbours were built at Lepe, the Solent was packed with ships and 12 airfields were constructed. On 6 June 1944 the troops made their way to the coast and Normandy. Lyndhurst and the Forest became strangely quiet overnight.

The population of Lyndhurst has increased from 2,000 to 3,000 since WW2. There was no carpark, one-way scheme or traffic lights at Romsey Road. There were stables at The Fox & Hounds, and animals roamed the High Street, as the Forest was not fenced. Everything one needed (not affected by the war) could be bought in the High Street.

Illustrations: James Bull (ex. * Angela Trend)
Text: Angela Trend
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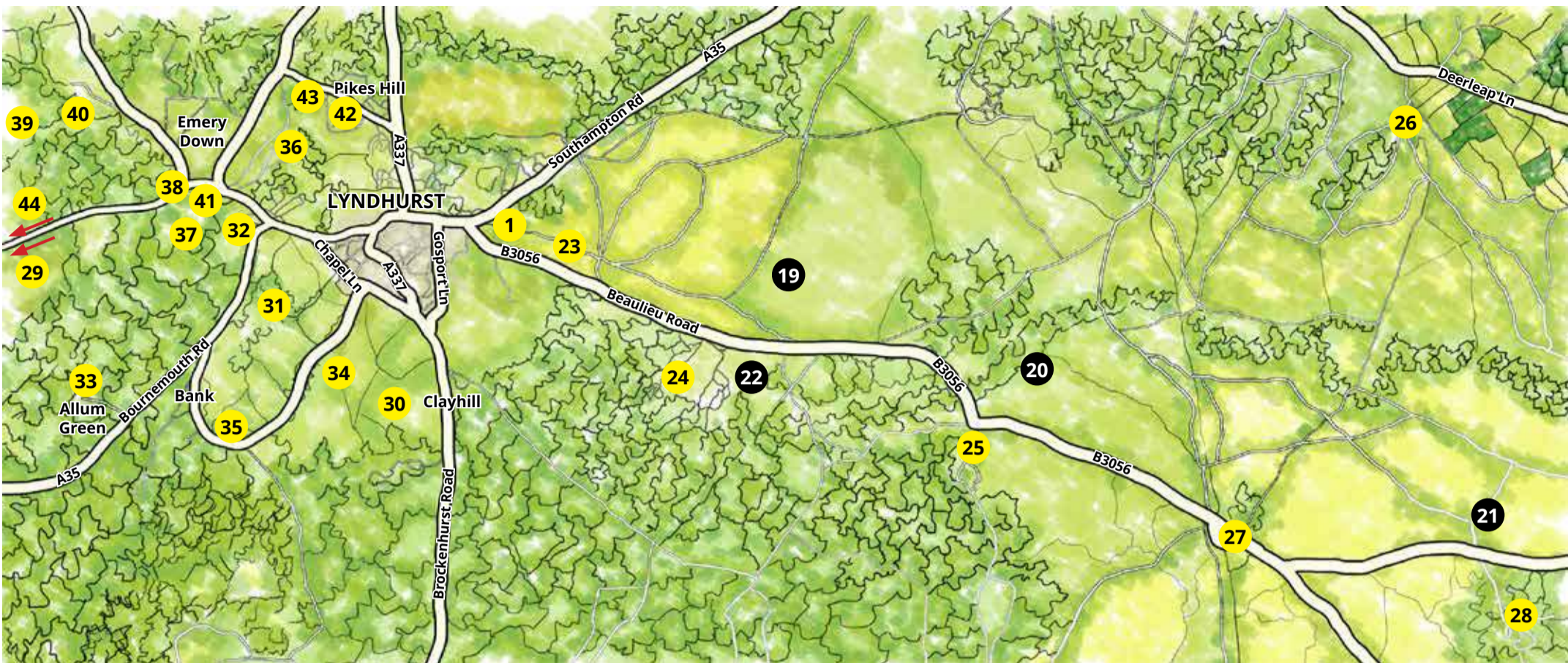
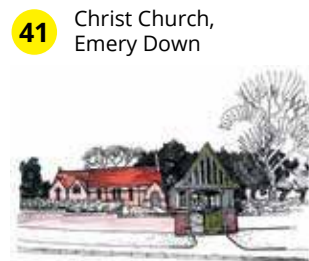


Lyndhurst

in

WARTIME

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Lyndhurst Local Defence Volunteers (later the Home Guard - 'Dad's Army') trained on The Bench (1) in WW2. Emery Down and Bank HG met at The Swan (32). At first the HG had no uniforms, equipment or weapons. Their rifles and issued had the wrong ammunition.

A First Aid post was by the cricket pavilion behind The Bench (1). The Royal Observer Corps, who spotted and reported enemy planes, were based in a brick hut by the trig point.

Whitemoor (19), Matley (20), Yew Tree Heath (21) and Pondhead (22) South of the Bench were used for military training in both wars. On Whitemoor Southern Command Bombing and Trench Mortar School trained men to use land mines and grenades. A War Dog School of Instruction (1917) was nearby. Dogs carried messages on the battlefield when barrage was heavy and communication difficult. Remains of practice trenches, hut lines and a Rifle Range can be found in the heather.

In WW2 the sandpit (23) was used to fill sandbags for protection from bomb blast. Advance Field Depot and shop, Ammunition Distribution Points, Vehicle Supply Dumps and Repair shops were on Whitemoor and Pondhead. On Matley Ridge a Diver Battery Team were designing bombs more powerful than German V1 flying bombs (Doodlebugs).

Hants Divisional Fire Service HQ was based at Park Hill (now Lime Wood) (24) away from the heavy bombing in Southampton and Portsmouth. At Denny Wood (25) and Longdown (26) strategic fires (Starship Decoys) replicating city fires attempted to divert enemy bombers.

Beaulieu Road station (27) was a Military Rail Depot with nearby ammunition store. Long concrete road strips still visible were for Fire Services vehicles to be ready in case of fires when convoys left for D Day. A Heavy Anti-Aircraft gun emplacement (Joyce) on Yew Tree Heath (21) was part of Southampton GDA (Gun Defended Area) with Battery HQ at Fernycroft (Scouting Activity Centre) (28). A HAA site at Matley (20) was a V1 'Doodlebug' defence.

Timber was essential in wartime especially for pit props in coal mines. Coal provided the fuel to produce the steam power necessary for industry and battleships. Canadians and Portuguese lumbermen replaced enlisted locals at Millyford Bridge (29) and Denny Lodge (WW2) Sawmills. The Portuguese Fireplace memorial at Millyford was part of the cookhouse. WW1 concrete remains mark the sawmill and railway.

Before WW2 officials visited every private house, listing the spare bedrooms, for billeting evacuees. The Billeting Office was in Romsey Road. One family expecting four

was dismayed when six arrived. A sick bay for evacuees was at Bench View, Southampton Road. Foxlease (30), the Girl Guiding centre, took evacuees and was a Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) base. The grounds were used for training Commandos and paratroopers.

Cuffnells (31) ⊗, once home of Alice Hargreaves, the real Alice, was Battery HQ for a Searchlight Regiment then HQ for a Light Aircraft Regiment and 304 Infantry Brigade. Dances and films for locals too were held in the dining room.

Women replaced enlisted men, in the Land Army, VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) nurses, ARP, AFS, factories, drivers and many other roles. Some Land Army girls were billeted at Swan Green (32) in cottages and the pub outbuildings.

Bombs exploded at Allum Green (33), shattering the house and killing four soldiers of the ROAC (Royal Army Ordnance Corps). The soldiers were evacuees from Dunkirk, there in case of an invasion. They repaired military vehicles. A memorial bench is close to the bomb craters.

Near Allum Green, Mill Lane, Emery Down, Fritham, Bartley and Longdown were searchlights and Armoury.

Ed Clarke, the Refuse and Salvage Officer, organised 'salvage drives,' collecting waste paper, old bones, rags, pans etc to send to recycling factories. Scouts and school children were rewarded with certificates. Tar drums were used to collect salvage picked up in the old 'Bean Station Bus.' Wilverley House (34) ⊗ stored salvage in the outbuildings and billeted evacuees and soldiers.

Deerhurst (35), near Wilverley, was a Royal Engineer Bomb Disposal unit and HQ of 139 LAA Regt and 185 Regt (Royal Artillery) before D-Day.

Northerwood House (36) ⊗ became HQ for the 33rd Army Tank Brigade. The 3rd Canadian Royal Army Service Corps (commemorated by the Canadian Cross at Boldwood (44)) were billeted here. They led the assault on Juno Beach. The Canadians generously entertained Lyndhurst schoolchildren with a jeep ride and Christmas party.

The Look Out Tower (37) ⊗ at Emery Down watched for forest fires which would expose soldiers, camps, lorries, jeeps, motor bikes, equipment and supplies camouflaged with nets under trees and roadside ready for D-Day. Concrete pillars and trenches at New Forest Inn (38) were part of the anti tank island defences.

Acres Down (39) and Pilmore Gate (40) had trenches and rifle ranges for training. Acres Down was a 'Battle Training Area' - a live firing area and a magnet for local boys.

The Lych Gate at Christ Church (41), Emery Down (1921) commemorates local men. A memorial tablet in Appletree Court District Council Offices recalls council workers.

Hill Rise (42) was a maternity hospital as was Northerwood House (36) ⊗ for a time for Portsmouth and Southampton. The Fenwick Hospital (43) used half of the beds for locals, the rest for military.

Lyndhurst as it might have been, without constant vigilance...



From a postcard