

Streets of Bournemouth War & Defence

At the beginning of the 19th Century, two local landowners, William Bankes of Kingston Lacy and Lewis Tregonwell of Cranborne, were in charge of the Volunteers patrolling the local coast. Fears of invasion, and the locally active smugglers, provide a background to the early town, but it is later wars, especially the First and Second World Wars, which had the biggest impact on the town. Convalescent soldiers were one of the most common sights after the First World War.

The Second World War brought not only very large numbers of servicemen and women to the town, but also the area's largest manufacturing industry at the two airfields (Hurn and Christchurch). Bournemouth suffered much less than other South Coast towns from bombing, but 350 civilians and servicemen were killed and 507 injured.



ABOVE

Remnants of Second World War radar station at Hengistbury Head exposed in eroded cliff

LEFT

Wartime anti-invasion defences still in place in the 1950s



WAR AND DEFENCE

This Theme contains the following Sub-Themes:

Before the land was enclosed

Volunteers and 'The old enemy'

Patriotic Victorians

World Wars fought on the Home Front

Britain's Small Wars

Before the land was enclosed

The town of Bournemouth celebrated its centenary in 1910, an arbitrary date perhaps, but following the precedent of our forbears the town celebrates its bi-centenary in 2010. The history of the area we now call Bournemouth is much older than the 200 years that this celebration implies. For most of its history, Bournemouth has been on the western edge of the county of Hampshire but the town was ceded to Dorset, along with Christchurch, to Dorset in the local government reorganisation of 1974. As far is known, the area before the growth of Bournemouth, sandwiched between the towns of Poole and Christchurch, had been a place of peaceful occupation. The aggressive policies of Napoleon Bonaparte in France contributed to the development of Bournemouth in several ways.

Volunteers and 'The Old Enemy'

The balance of power fluctuated between England and France during the period of the Hundred Years War 1337-1453 until by the end England and France had clearly separate rulers. Several towns on the English coast had been sacked and there was a constant fear of French invasion. Several hundred years later France had been at war in Europe since 1792, but it was not until the execution of Louis XVI, king of France, that England joined the anti-French coalition and war broke out between England and Revolutionary France. While there was no immediate threat of French invasion, the English Government began to repair and reinforce coastal defences and to raise, train and equip a huge force of volunteers.

The Volunteer Act of 1794 encouraged the establishment of '*Corps and Companies of Men as shall voluntarily enrol themselves for the defence of their Counties, Towns, Coasts, or for the general Defence of the Kingdom*' as a response to threats of invasion from France. The Dorset Volunteer Rangers patrolled the coastal areas of eastern Dorset and western Hampshire. At their head was Captain Lewis Tregonwell of Cranborne who could call on a company of forty men when required. However, the English victories at Trafalgar in 1805 and Waterloo in 1815 ended the Napoleonic threat, at least for a while.

On the coast, the Volunteer Rangers not only had a role as defenders of the realm but also acted in support of the Revenue. Many of the local smugglers lived in the villages along the Stour valley.





The local gentry would often turn a blind eye to smuggling, in return for a cut of the goods. Contraband such as tea, tobacco, brandy and anything else with an excise duty imposed on it, was moved from shore to village hiding-places. Smugglers were not the only stealthy group of people to be found on the beach. Around 1800 a group of fishermen and farm labourers were on the beach struggling to pull in nets loaded with mackerel, when they were abducted by a press gang comprising an armed party of sailors, who marched their prisoners off to Poole. In 1803 Farmer West of Muscliff's sons narrowly escaped capture by a gang of armed sailors. The navy was always short of seamen, especially in wartime, and relied on volunteers and pressed men to serve on the ships.



Patriotic Victorians

Crimean War (1853-1856)

Two roads in Bournemouth are associated with the Crimean War. Alma Road Bournemouth is named after the battle of the Alma that took place on 20th September 1854. Cardigan Road is named after Lord Cardigan who led the *Charge of the Light Brigade*, one of the best known stories of the war.

In 1851 the population of Bournemouth District was only 695. It is unlikely that any of the men went to fight in the Crimean War and none is listed as taking part in the Charge of the Light Brigade, but there is a footnote. On 25th October 1854, Cornet Maxwell Goad was severely injured at Balaclava when his horse was shot by a shell fragment, causing the animal to fall on him. Later in the day his brother, Captain Thomas Goad, was one of nearly 700 men who rode in the Charge of the Light Brigade '*into the Valley of Death*' where only 195 men survived. Maxwell Goad recovered to win promotion to captain the following year but sold his commission in 1856 and retired to Bournemouth at Fair Lea, Wimborne Road. He died on 30th January 1894 and is buried in Wimborne Road Cemetery. The Bournemouth Visitor's Directory announced his death on 3rd February and described him as 'a well-known resident in Bournemouth'. Both brothers' Crimean War medals were sold at auction in 1998.

The threat of war did not go away. Fears brewed again when Louis Napoleon, nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte, assumed the title of Napoleon III after a *coup d'état* in 1852. A request came for each county to raise a local volunteer force. In 1860, 35 men took the oath of allegiance at the Belle Vue Assembly Rooms and became the 19th Hampshire (Bournemouth) Rifle Corps. Christopher Crabbe Creeke became their second commanding officer, a post he held for 20 years. As volunteers, the men paid their own expenses, bought their own uniforms and rifles. The 19th joined other independent units in 1864 to make up the 4th Administrative Battalion of the Hampshire Volunteer Corps. In 1866 enrolment began for an artillery corps. Sixty volunteers made up the 4th Corps Hampshire Artillery Volunteers, with J. Haggard in command.

During the war between France and Prussia 1870-71, Britain looked on not wanting to be involved. The war ended with capture of Emperor Napoleon III, the nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte, following the siege of Paris. With the beginning of the French Republic, the former Emperor and his family



were exiled to England and settled in Kent. The story would end there except that there is a curious footnote. In 1881 Empress Eugenie was visiting the Queen of Sweden who was staying in Bournemouth. She was escorted to the Bath Hotel by Merton Russell-Cotes, the hotel owner. According to MRC she became very excitable and was obviously bothered about an item of furniture in the lounge of the hotel. It turned out to be a cabinet that had been in her boudoir at the palace at St Cloud. MRC had purchased it from a dealer who himself had bought furniture and effects from the sale in the Palais Royale after the Commune. The cabinet is still on display in the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum today.

The Boer War (1899-1902)

In South Africa, the field of battle occurred a long way from Bournemouth but loyal residents, buoyed up with patriotic fervour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, regarded it with interest. Once again, volunteers offered their services. Initially, these were spurned by the regular army, but on 13th December 1899, the decision to allow volunteer forces to serve in the war was made.

Two detachments of Rifles were sent from Bournemouth in 1901 under the command of Lieutenant W.R. Thomson. The troops did not see much action as their role was in communications although at one stage they were ambushed. One member of the force was seriously injured in the Barberton railway accident on 30th March 1902 when 34 members of the Hampshire Regiment were killed and 42 injured. In all, 9 local Volunteers were killed in South Africa and 4 more died from disease. On its return home in May 1902, the regiment was given an official welcome by the Mayor and Council. News that the war had ended was received on Sunday 1st June 1902 and the following day the town was decked with bunting and a service of thanksgiving was held in the Square.



Mr. W.B. Rogers was
quartermaster sergeant in
the 19th Hants Rifles
Volunteer Corps.

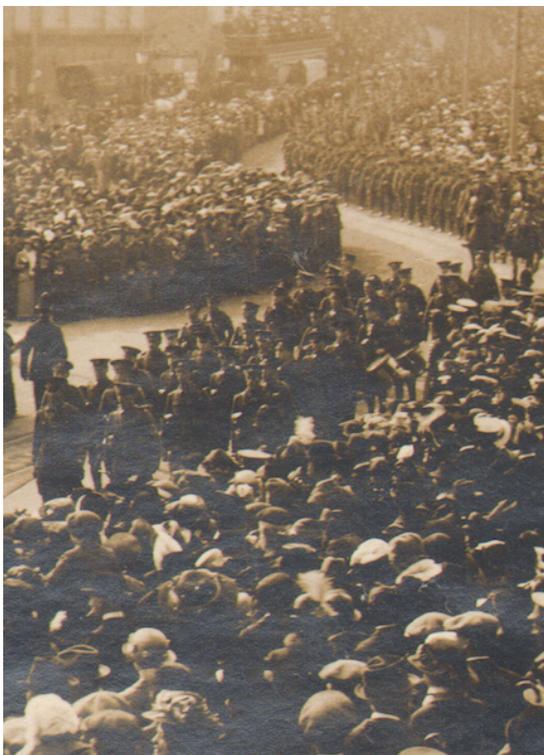
A draper by trade, he was a
member of the Board of
Improvement
Commissioners

World Wars fought on the Home Front

The First World War (1914-18)

Monday 3rd August 1914 was a Bank Holiday in England. It was a popular time for visitors to head for the seaside town of Bournemouth but the threat of war hung over the heads of happy holidaymakers. The following day, Tuesday 4th August, Britain declared war on Germany.

The First World War, the Great War, or the *war to end all wars*, was the first to have a significant impact on the lives of ordinary people who remained behind on the home front. Conscription, food shortages, the billeting of soldiers in the town, and the arrival of trainloads of wounded soldiers brought the war close to home. Were there any families in Bournemouth that did not lose a relative as a result of the war?



A recruiting march in
Bournemouth in 1915

Apart from the regular soldiers, at first the army relied on volunteers. Many able-bodied men willing to fight had already joined the Reservists or Territorials. These men were called out to guard



strategic places like railway stations and the cliffs. The increasing number of casualties, together with a decline in the number of men volunteering, resulted in the Military Service Act of January 1916. The Act specified that single men between the ages of 18 and 41 were liable to be called-up for military service unless they were widowed with children, or ministers of religion. Compulsory conscription started on 2nd March 1916 and very shortly afterwards the Act was extended to include married men.

Many thousands of troops were billeted around Bournemouth in family homes and others at campsites. These included units of the 7th Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment and the 6th Hants Artillery Battery. At the beginning of 1916, Bournemouth had between 2000 and 3000 billeted soldiers on the way to the war zones. Drill halls, parks, football grounds and even a cemetery were used for drilling. Other sites were used for training in digging trenches and firing. The town became used to men in uniform who were usually feted by residents. They were given special treatment with visits to the theatres and shows, but some residents complained about the soldiers monopolizing seats in parks, hasty marriages, and young girls needing protection against unwanted attention.

Wounded soldiers

Bournemouth was one of many coastal towns asked to receive wounded and sick soldiers and the first started arriving in October 1914. A large marquee was erected in the grounds of the Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital and became the military hospital. The Crag Head Hotel was turned into an emergency hospital. The Mont Dore Hotel, now the Town Hall, became another military hospital, at first for wounded Indian soldiers. Belgian civilian refugees and soldiers received special treatment after people heard exaggerated reports of German atrocities.

The casualties arrived by train. The local St. John Ambulance Brigade adopted standard procedures in dealing with the casualties. The majority disembarked at Boscombe Station in Ashley Road. The walking wounded disembarked first, then the stretcher cases were carried out. Often the streets were crowded with well-wishers. By the time the war was finished, the Brigade had dealt with 10,206 wounded men. These reluctant visitors to the town were well catered for. Their blue uniforms made them distinctive. Seats were provided for them in the Square and deck chairs on the beach at Boscombe. A canteen was established in the cloisters of the Undercliff Drive, supplying all kinds of beverages, cakes and cigarettes, free of charge. It was run by



volunteers and proved popular, the costs being defrayed by donations. There was also a bathing tent supplied for those wanting to swim.

Civilian Life

Fund-raising harnessed the energy and generosity of the people of Bournemouth. Flag days were regular occurrences with causes ranging from allied nations to wounded army horses. Other means of raising money included bazaars, displays, and entertainments. For those less able to give money, there were opportunities for knitting balaclavas and making other clothing for the troops abroad. Items were also made for the Hospital Supplies Depot in Southbourne. Economy in life styles was encouraged for the war effort. An Imperial War Economy Exhibition was held at the Grand Hotel in October 1916 demonstrating how cookery, housecraft, even poultry-keeping, could prove less wasteful.

Visitors continued to come during the holidays. Taking photographs or making sketches within four miles of the coastline was prohibited for security reasons: holidaymakers and locals alike were fined for carrying cameras. There were no steamer excursions. Venturing out on the water was limited to rowing boats and no further than the end of the piers. Motor trips continued to the surrounding countryside but petrol restrictions were in force.

The German U-Boat campaigns of the First World War successfully mounted blockades on Britain's food imports. At the end of 1917, people were panic-buying. Sugar was first to be rationed and this was later followed by meat. The idea of rationing food was to guarantee supplies rather than to reduce consumption. Luckily tea was never rationed although its distribution was controlled.

Women's Work

Women began to replace men in many occupations. A major employer of women was the cordite factory at Horton Heath just beyond Poole, which made explosives. There was an acute labour shortage on farms because men were needed for military service, and horses were commandeered by the forces. In 1917, the harvest failed and Britain was left with just three weeks' reserve of food. The Women's Land Army was set up and by 1918 there were 23,000 Land Girls at work milking, ploughing, herding and even thatching.



The war ended when Germany finally signed an Armistice on 11th November 1918. Before the days of television or radio, the news was proclaimed by the Mayor outside the Municipal Offices in Yelverton Road. Offices, shops and schools closed, and happy crowds thronged the streets. The bells of St. Peter's Church rang out, car horns sounded, and flags were waved. A service of thanksgiving was held in the Square in the afternoon with the Mayor and the visiting Bishop of Winchester presiding and another service at St. Peter's in the evening. The official Book of Remembrance contains the names of 650 dead. There are probably more.

Muscliff Farm Estates - Homes for Heroes

After the First World War, Hampshire County Council acquired 881 acres of land from local landowners, including Lord Malmesbury and the Cooper-Dean Estate. In 1925 Bournemouth & District Small Holdings & Allotments Society Limited bought 113 acres of land from the Council. The Small Holdings Committee then erected 19 houses on land which they owned and a further 17 houses on an area leased from W.G. Waterman. The estate began as part of the nationwide *Homes for Heroes*' scheme for soldiers returning from the War by Hampshire County Council. In 1930, 226 acres was sold to the Bournemouth & District Ex-Servicemen's Small Holdings association. The Bournemouth street directories show that 141 Muscliff Lane was occupied by Mr. & Mrs. E.W. Phippen from 1933 until the 1950s under the scheme. The Small Holdings Association registered with the Co-operative Union in 1920 and their offices were at Moordown Nurseries.



The Second World War (1939-45)

The threat of another war grew steadily after Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Weimar Germany in 1933 and the rise of his National Socialist Party. In 1935 the English government encouraged local authorities to make air raid precautions to protect residents in event of a war. The fear of poison gas attacks prompted a distribution of gas masks in 1939 even before war was declared. In developing diplomatic negotiations between Britain and Germany Neville Chamberlain sent his advisor Sir Horace Wilson to Berlin on 26th September 1938 with a personal message from the Prime Minister to Hitler. Wilson was born and educated in Bournemouth, the son of Harry Wilson a furniture dealer.

War was declared on 3rd September 1939. As in the First World War, it was to be fought both overseas and at home, but this time the people of Bournemouth were not just observers but lived with the threat of air raids and an advancing German army. On 7th September it was reported that a German naval convoy was on its way and troops at Bournemouth patrolled the cliffs. Soon afterwards, all the local beaches were heavily protected by mines, barbed wire, anti-tank blocks, and both piers were breached to prevent landings by enemy ships. The usual seaside activities were cordoned off for residents. Visitors were dissuaded from coming to the town by the whole south coast becoming an exclusion zone. Hotels were requisitioned by the Government to billet soldiers, especially those from the Commonwealth.

Protection of the populace was an early consideration. Public air raid shelters were constructed in parks, but some were soon dismantled as seemingly unnecessary and dangerous. Many buildings built in 1939 incorporated air raid shelters in their basements. The Odeon Cinema, San Remo Towers, and the Saxon King public house all boasted having adequate shelters. All homes were offered Anderson and/or Morrison shelters, but the Education Department dithered about provision at schools.

Compulsory National Service was introduced for the armed forces. Those remaining were encouraged to join the Home Guard or Air Raid Precautions (ARP). In addition, there were places in the Auxiliary Fire Brigade, the Special Constabulary, St. John Ambulance Brigade or Red Cross, and the Women's Voluntary Service. One of the first casualties was Auxiliary Leading Fireman Reg Cooper who was killed on a fire service exercise in Nortoft Road.



The efficiency of the ARP saved many lives when the bombing began. Councillor Harry Mears became Chairman of the ARP Committee in 1939. The Borough of Bournemouth was divided into three sectors, Central, Eastern and Northern, with headquarters at Fairlight Glen, Grovely Manor, and the Embassy Club, Brassey Road. When the air raid sirens sounded the Wardens would assemble at their Post. Incident Officers would rush to the place where the bombs fell, assess the problems and report back to their Post with requests for the necessary assistance. The Incident Officer guided all the operations necessary to rescue survivors, remove the dangers of escaping gas and water, control traffic in the site area, and later to clear the debris and ensure the site is safe and secure. Members of the Home Guard would attend bombed buildings to prevent looting.

In Bournemouth, 1500 men registered with the Home Guard in May 1940 as an initial line of defence against an invading enemy. Although ineligible for National Service because of their age or being in reserved occupations, many had wartime experience from the First World War. Bournemouth raised two major battalions, 6th and 7th Hants, totalling 5000 men. The Home Guard trained like regular soldiers and also manned the coastal defences.

At the same time, many of the Jews living in Bournemouth who had left Germany and Czechoslovakia in the 1930s were interned, mostly on the Isle of Man, because of the Government's fears that, living in a coastal area, they posed a serious risk to national security. In reality, many contributed directly to the war effort. Some, for example, joined the RAF serving, like many other German-speakers, as Special Operators providing Radio Counter Measures on bombing raids over Germany and others were involved, again because of their knowledge of German with intelligence gathering.

Not all men chose to fight. John Douglas Holland a member of Bournemouth and Southampton Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) registered as a conscientious objector. His faith informed his profound belief that it was wrong to kill and he was not prepared to fight. Unlike some other Friends, he was an *absolutist* and was not willing to join the Friends Ambulance Unit or undertake non-combat war work as he felt that this still contributed indirectly to the taking of human life. Following his tribunal at which he had to defend his beliefs, and which all COs were required to undergo, he was sent to Winchester Prison for six months and held in solitary confinement. After his release he was sent to work on the land for the Forestry Commission for the remainder of the war. His opposition to joining up caused a rift within the Bournemouth Friends some of whom, untypically, did not support him in his pacifist stance.



Bournemouth was spared much of the bombing suffered by ports, industrial towns and airfields. Enemy aircraft would fly overhead on their way to or returning from bombing raids on the Midlands. They would follow radio directional beams from France, but a radar station at Hengistbury Head deflected them in an effort to misguide the navigators. The early bombing was mainly from aircraft ditching their bombs on the last area of British soil before returning across the English Channel. The first local bomb fell just after midnight on 3rd July 1940 on a house at Cellars Farm Road, Southbourne. The house was destroyed, but there were no casualties. Later the same year on 16th November an attack by a single bomber resulted in 53 deaths and destroyed buildings in Westbourne, Malmesbury Park and Winton. Alma Road School was destroyed, as was Skerryvore, the former home of the author Robert Louis Stevenson.

The Allied Air Force reception and training unit run by the Canadians was based in the town throughout the War. With the entry of the United States into the war after the bombing of Pearl Harbour in December 1941, American armed personnel were stationed locally. Many hotels were requisitioned for senior staff. Airfields sprang up in the north of Bournemouth, and in the New Forest airfields from which many missions were flown against occupied France. The presence of these Allied forces attracted the attention of the Germans bringing a number of serious bombing raids during 1943. On the quiet Sunday morning of 23rd May an air raid by 25 *FW190s* hit the Metropole and Central Hotels causing hundreds of casualties amongst the stationed troops.

Bournemouth fared better than many large towns. There were only 51 air raids, dropping some 2271 bombs. The bombing resulted in 168 civilian deaths and 507 injured. 182 servicemen were killed and 401 people had been made homeless, according to official figures published by *The Bournemouth Times* on 8th December 1944. Damage to buildings was also relatively slight with 246 properties being totally destroyed or needing to be demolished in all 13,000 buildings were damaged. The only major buildings destroyed were Beales department store, the Punshon Memorial Church and West's Cinema, as well as the Central and Metropole Hotels.

Make do and mend

Unlike the First World War, food rationing had a major impact on life at the home front. Food rationing came into force in January 1940, only 4 months into the war. Buff coloured ration books were given to adults and children. Pregnant women were entitled to more food and had green



books. The Carlton Hotel became an office for issuing ration coupons. Not all food was controlled and the market gardens that had supplied fruit and vegetables for the hotel trade ensured there was still a good supply throughout the war. Sugar rationing began in 1940 but did not end until 1953. The various British Restaurants, one of which opened at the Pavilion in 1942, provided nourishing meals from a restricted menu, without ration coupons. People were encouraged to *Dig for Victory* by ploughing up open spaces and allotments to grow crops, and to keep chickens, rabbits, or even pigs in back gardens to supplement the diet. Restaurants were exempt from rationing and this was a cause of resentment as people who could afford to pay could supplement their diet. Eventually rules were put into force. A meal was to cost no more than 5s and could not consist of more than 3 courses, and meat and fish could be served in the same meal. Restaurants such as those at the Royal Bath Hotel quickly adapted their menus.

Apart from day-to-day life, all civilian activity related to the 'war effort'. Fund raising was important with flag days collecting money for countless good causes or buying National Savings. War Weeks would raise millions of pounds for patriotic causes like buying *Spitfires*, Bournemouth bought two, or subsidising a cruiser such as *HMS Phoebe*. Many local people had also played a critical role during the war working in the Airspeed aircraft factory at Christchurch airfield which produced *Oxford* trainers, *Horsa* gliders and *Mosquito* fighter-bombers for the RAF. The airfield was also used by a trials unit involved in the early development of aircraft radar.

As in the First World War, knitting socks and scarves for the troops was a regular activity. Everything that could be recycled was, Boy Scouts gathered scrap paper for the manufacture of bullets. People were asked to sacrifice their pots and pans for aircraft parts, and iron railings were pulled down to make tanks. *Make do and mend* was a Government slogan to encourage people to wear their clothing for as long as possible, and women's magazines were full of hints on how to alter old clothes to make them look more fashionable.

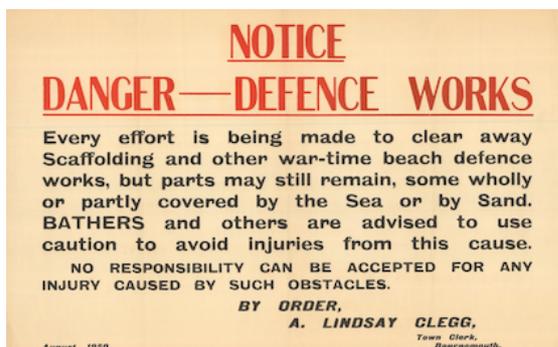
The battle for Berlin ended on 2nd May 1945, and VE-Day (Victory in Europe) was celebrated on 8th May. The war continued against Japan for another three months until the country surrendered on 15th August. The war was over but not for everyone. Bournemouth boy Ron Palin was still out in India as an instrument engineer with the RAF maintenance unit in Cawnpore and took part in the RAF 'Mutiny'. In January 1946 RAF personnel across the Middle East and South East Asia felt that their demob was long overdue and decided to go on strike in protest at the delay. Information,

revealed later, suggested that troops were being held back in readiness for any trouble following India's independence.

Cemetery	First World War	Second World War
Bournemouth East	120 burials including soldiers who died in Bournemouth's auxiliary and private hospitals. Memorials to 2 soldiers who drowned off Bournemouth in January 1915, whose bodies were not recovered.	68 burials, 7 are in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission plot.
Wimborne Road	48 burials.	38 burials
Kinson		4 burials
Bournemouth North		110 burials; 23 airmen killed during an air raid in Bournemouth on 23 May 1943.
St Peter's Church		4 burials
Bournemouth Crematorium (in the Bournemouth North)		34 servicemen and women
Bournemouth County Borough		175 civilian war dead

Table 1: List of burials from World Wars One and Two in Bournemouth

For several years afterwards, beach-goers were warned against washed-up mines. The piers had to wait until the 1950s before being rebuilt.



Just an occasional air raid shelter or pillbox now remains in the Bournemouth landscape.

Three Bournemouth soldiers have been awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy. Corporal Cecil Noble and Sergeant Frederick Riggs from the First World



War together with Lieutenant Colonel Derek Seagrim from the Second World War. They are commemorated on a scroll held by Lewis Tregonwell on his statue outside the Bournemouth International Centre. Hugh Seagrim, Derek's brother was posthumously awarded the George Cross in 1946

Britain's Small Wars

After the end of the Second World War it was hoped that world events would never again lead to such devastating consequences. But almost immediately British soldiers were fighting in India and Palestine. Since then most conflicts have taken place away from home and the lives of people in Bournemouth have not been endangered by military conflict.

The possibility of nuclear war introduced the threat of an 'invisible' enemy. Local Civil Defence had continued for many years after the end of the Second World War still under the command of Harry Mears. The training of the CD Corps volunteers maintained the pattern established during the Second World War but updated to take account of problems posed by nuclear, biological and chemical warfare. Exercises in preparation for a nuclear attack would take place in the New Forest. In the event of a nuclear attack the control centre for Bournemouth was the Hampshire County Council and County Borough of Bournemouth Area Control in Bingham Road, Christchurch. It had an underground bunker of 6 rooms with a civil defence training centre above. In contrast, opposition to nuclear war was growing and gave rise to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. A Bournemouth branch was formed in 1959, run jointly by the Principal of the Municipal College and a newsagent.

The threat of terrorist attacks on the mainland increased with the conflict in Northern Ireland. The Provisional IRA was accused of bombing Bournemouth on Friday 13th August 1993. During the height of the holiday season six incendiary devices went off in four stores in the centre of town, and two explosive bombs were found at the Pier Theatre.

Following the attack on the Twin Towers in New York in 2001 the Bournemouth Islamic Centre received hate calls for more than a year and paint was thrown at the mosque. In the summer of 2005 four suicide bombers struck in central London killing 52 people and injuring more than 770 on 7th July. Once again the Bournemouth Islamic Centre was on the receiving end of death threats,



and there were isolated incidents such as when a gang in Charminster threatened and racially abused a Muslim student from the United Arab Emirates on 10th July.

The role-call of wars continues. In 2010 regular soldiers, reservists and military personnel from Bournemouth are serving in Afghanistan. Bournemouth families mourn the deaths of Captain Mark Hale killed in Helmand on 13th August 2009 and Rifleman Jonathon Allott also killed in Helmand on 5th March 2010.

Edited by Louise Perrin and based, with permission, on original research by John Cresswell.

Additional reading

Edgington, Michael *Bournemouth Citizen-Soldiers: The Volunteers* 1988

Edgington, Michael *Bournemouth and the First World War* 1985

Edgington, Michael *Bournemouth and the Second World War* 1994