



## **The Bookhams in World War II**

This book has been prepared by members of the Military History Group of the Bookham and District University of the Third Age.

At the time of World War II Great Bookham and Little Bookham were peaceful rural villages. The book describes how the community both prepared for and experienced the conflict. Evacuees from London had to be accommodated, defences and defence corps had to be set up to prepare for possible air attack or even invasion.

Although on the fringes of the intense aerial bombardment of London in 1940/41 the villages did experience some bombing. This is still vividly remembered by some who were living here at the time and is graphically described in the extracts we include from a local schoolboy's contemporary diary.

A significant reminder that the war had really come to the Bookhams was the arrival in 1942 of the Canadian Army, many of whose members became involved in the community life of the villages.

Food and fuel rationing made life very difficult and with the later addition of clothes rationing 'make do and mend' was very much the spirit of the times. However life went on as normally as was possible with community activities continuing relatively unaffected.

The story records and, hopefully captures what life was like in the Bookhams during these momentous years.

There is to be an open presentation entitled "The Bookhams in World War II" on Thursday 27th September at 7.30 p.m. in the Old Barn Hall, Church Road, Bookham. Doors open at 6.45 p.m. The book will also be launched at this event. It will cost £10.

Following the above launch, copies will be available from Wishing Well, High Street, Great Bookham, Bookham Post Office and other local outlets, also Barton's Bookshop, Leatherhead, Leatherhead Museum (when open), or £10 plus £1.50 postage from the Sales Secretary (cheques should be made payable to L&DLHS), 64 Church Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8DP.

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