

# World War II in Warsop

## The Home Front

### Norton Prisoner of War Camp



The two wooden angels at the entrance of the chancel of Warsop Church are a link to the Prisoner of War camp at Norton. They were carved by Franz Egmont Seibel whilst he was detained at the camp that unofficially became known as the 'University of Barbed Wire'.

Prisoners from the camp also created a scroll displayed in the Bethel Church for many years.

After initially receiving extreme Nazi prisoners in 1944 Norton Camp became a Study Camp in August 1945. Courses were provided for the low risk German prisoners to enable them to make a positive contribution to rebuilding the country on their return home. They covered sixth form education, teacher training and theological studies.

From December 1946 until the camp's closure in April 1948 the prisoners were able to meet up with local families. There are accounts of friendships formed over a shared meal or a drink with some keeping in touch after their return to Germany.

Norton Camp accommodated European Voluntary Workers (otherwise known as displaced persons) from the late 1940s into the 1950s.

Information from 'An Appreciation of Norton & Carburton POW Camp 1944-48' by The Battle of Hatfield Investigation Society 2019.

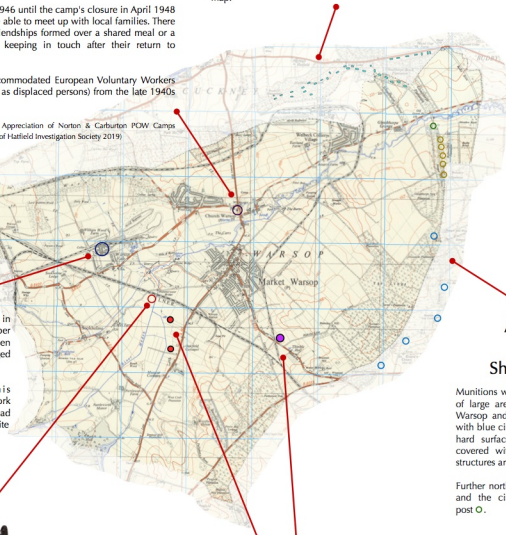
### RAF Cuckney Maintenance Unit

MU66 was a Ground Equipment Depot responsible for supplying tools, MT (Mechanical Transport) spares, paints, ropes and all manner of general items to RAF bases in the area. These disposal sale advertisements show the types of equipment that would have been stored there.

Accounts from local women and men who worked there describe garages, workshops, forges, a canteen, and living accommodation. Some of the huts had well kept gardens.

Elsewhere, other types of Maintenance Unit in other locations were responsible for supplying aircraft equipment and barrack & clothing supplies.

The positions of some of the buildings are shown on the map.



### Bevin Boys

Bevin Boys were conscripted to work in the coal mines of between December 1943 and March 1948. They were chosen by lot as 10% of all male conscripts aged 18-25, plus some volunteers.

Gerald Carey's account of his experiences moving from London to work at Warsop Main Colliery on can be read on the BBC's WW2 People's War website

### Ammunition Stores in Sherwood Forest

Munitions were stored beneath the tree cover of large areas of Sherwood Forest between Warsop and Edwinstowe. The stores marked with blue circles were the larger type with a hard surface between two earth banks, covered with a curved roof. These five structures are still to be seen in the woodlands.

Further north there are five 'zig-zag' trenches and the circular earth banks of a sentry post.



### Lancaster Crash Site

in the early hours of 4th March 1945 the Luftwaffe deployed Junkers JU88 nightfighters to intercept allied bombers returning to base. One of these fighters came across a Lancaster bomber based at RAF Wigley that was on a training mission over the Bassingbourne ranges. The Lancaster was hit in the starboard engine and the crew baled out near Warsop Windmill. The plane crashed into a field near the railway embankment at Sookholme. Six of the seven crew survived but Sgt R. Campbell the mid gunner was killed.

### Bomb Sites

Records indicate that high-explosive bombs exploded at the sites indicated by the red dots. These bombs may have been discarded on aborted raids on Sheffield.

Accounts of a V1 'doodlebug' impacting at the site with the purple dot have been discounted. It seems likely that this was a German Mistel, a large explosives-carrying drone mounted beneath a small piloted control aircraft.

OLD WARSOP



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