













NOTE.—The character given on this Certificate is based on the holder's conduct during the period of his service with the Colours as stated below.

WARNING.—If this Certificate is lost a duplicate cannot be issued. You should therefore on no account part with it or forward it by post when applying for a situation, but should use a copy attested by a responsible person for the purpose.

Character Certificate of No. 1005155 Rank Dr. Ice Bomb.  
Name DRINKWATER William Frank  
Surname Christian Names in full.  
Unit and Regiment or Corps from which discharged or transferred to the Reserve } Royal Field Artillery

This is to Certify that the character of the above-named soldier during his service with the Colours has been.....

General Character Exemplary  
Reliable, trustworthy, honest,  
sober, intelligent, hardworking,  
accustomed to care of horses  
has been employed as storeman  
Wm. Guinness Major  
Woolwich Lt. COLONEL  
Date 2/10/22 H.C. & R.F.A. RECORDS.

NOTE.—An exemplary character can only be awarded to a soldier with at least 3 years' service with the Colours.

This is to Certify that the soldier named above was discharged\* transferred to the Reserve\* on 2-10-22, after having served with the Colours for eight years 224 days months.  
To be inserted in words  
Wm. Guinness Major  
Woolwich Lt. COLONEL  
H.C. & R.F.A. RECORDS.  
Woolwich Place.

\*Strike out whichever inapplicable.

To safeguard the holder of this Certificate from impersonation it should be noted that, in the event of any doubt arising as to the bona fides of the bearer, reference should be made to the description, when he left the Colours, of the soldier to whom this Certificate was given, which is recorded on his Discharge Certificate (Army Form B. 2079, Serial No. 4601.....), and should be in his possession.

NOTE—This Certificate is to be issued without any alteration in the manuscript, and is to be assessed strictly in accordance with paras. 418 and 419, King's Regulations, the military character being first recorded.

NOTE—This Certificate is to be issued without any alterations in the manuscript.

WARNING.—If this Certificate is lost a duplicate cannot be issued. You should therefore on no account part with it or forward it by post when applying for a situation.

Certificate of discharge of No. 1005133. Rank Lt. Col. Bdr. Name DRINKWATER, William Frank. Surname Christian Names in full.

Unit\* and Corps from which discharged } Royal Field Artillery

\* The unit of the Corps such as Field Co. R.E., H.T., or M.T., R.A.S.C., etc., is invariably to be stated.

Corps to which first appointed Royal Field Artillery. During the engagement from which he is now being discharged he has served in the following Corps:—

Royal Field Artillery

Only Corps in which the soldier served since August 4th, 1914, are to be stated. If inapplicable this space is to be ruled through in ink and initialled.

Specialist Qualifications (Military) Nil

Medals, Clasps, Decorations and Mentions in despatches { 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, Wound Stripes\* Nil. To be inserted in words.

Has served Overseas on Active Service†

Enlisted at Cirencester on 3rd Oct. 1910. \* Each space is to be filled in and the word "nil" inserted where necessary. † To be struck out in ink if not applicable.

He is discharged in consequence of Termination of 1st Period of engagement, vide para 32.A. Army Reserve Regulations.

after having served \* Eight years\* 224 days with the Colours, and \* Three years\* 141 days in the Army Reserve or Territorial Army†

\* Each space is to be filled in and the word "nil" inserted where necessary; number of years to be written in words.

† Service with Territorial Army to be shown only in cases of soldiers serving on a T.A. attestation. Date of discharge 2-10-22.

Wm. Guinness, Majr. Signature and Rank. COLONEL. The R.R. Office / R.F.A. RECORDS. Records. (Place).

Description of the above-named soldier when he left the Colours. Year of Birth 1892. Marks or Scars Large corn on 2nd joint 2nd toe right foot. Height 5 ft. 4 in. Complexion Sallow. Eyes Brown. Hair Dark Brown.





YEAR 1942

526/18472  
Parish No. Assessment No.  
17 / 6030

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT TO INCOME TAX  
FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDING 5 APRIL, 1942.  
October

NOTICE OF OBJECTION.

Any notice of objection to this assessment must be given to H.M. Inspector of Taxes not later than 21 days after the date of service of this notice, and should be given either by calling on the Inspector at his office with this form, or by giving the particulars overleaf and returning the form to the Inspector.

Where the Inspector is unable to make the alteration asked for, and you desire to appear before the Income Tax Commissioners for the District or before the Special Commissioners, and to appeal to them for the alteration, you should inform the Inspector accordingly.

DEDUCTION OF TAX FROM WAGES.

Your employer will be instructed to deduct the tax shown hereon from the wages paid to you during the period from 1 July, 1942, to 31 December, 1942 (the "deduction period").

The tax will be deducted as far as possible in equal amounts from all payments of wages (including overtime, bonuses, etc.) during the period beginning on the first day of the deduction period and ending 15 days before the end of the deduction period. Any balance of tax not so deducted will be deducted during the last 15 days of the deduction period.

If the notification to your employer does not reach him in time for the deductions to begin on the first pay-day in the deduction period, they will begin as soon as possible after he receives the notification.

If for any week the gross amount of wages would be reduced by the deduction of tax to less than £1 17s. 6d., your employer will restrict the tax deducted so that the amount payable to you (before making any other deductions) is not less than £1 17s. 6d., unless you ask for the full tax to be deducted. If you are a married man and make a declaration to that effect to your employer, the limit will be £2 17s. 6d. [In the case of an employee serving with His Majesty's Forces the limits are £1 instead of £1 17s. 6d. and £2 instead of £2 17s. 6d.] Any balance of tax which cannot be deducted owing to this restriction will be deductible during the last 15 days of the deduction period.

Office of H.M. Inspector of Taxes,  
(OXFORD 2nd DISTRICT),  
2nd FLOOR, 57, WOODSTOCK ROAD,  
OXFORD.

.....Date.

TAKE NOTICE that an assessment has been made upon you in respect of your Wages for the above Half-Year as follows:—

Amount of Wages £ 89 : s. less £ 2000. £ 2 : s.

Deductions allowed for the Half-Year:	Earnings Allowance (one-tenth of Net Wages)		Personal Allowance.		House-keeper.		Children.		Dependent Relatives.		£	s.
	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.		
	9		40								89	

Net amount chargeable after above deductions ... .. 38

Tax thereon,\* at the rate of 6s. 6d. on £ 38 , and 10s. 0d. on £ ... .. 12 9 -

Less:—Half-Yearly allowance of tax:—

- (i) on payments for Life Assurance and contributions to Trade Unions and Friendly Societies for Death or Superannuation Benefits—£ ... at 8s. 6d. in the £ ... .. 2 6
- (ii) on compulsory contributions under the Widows' Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1936—£ 10/- at 5s. 0d. in the £ ... .. 2 6

\* Allowance of tax on any dividends, interest, etc., taxed at 10s. 0d. in the £, but chargeable in your case at 6s. 6d. only—£ ... at 3s. 6d. in the £ ...

AMOUNT OF TAX PAYABLE FOR THE HALF-YEAR ... .. £ 12 4 6.

This tax will be collected by deduction from your wages (see Note opposite).

E. C. VISE, H.M. Inspector of Taxes.

\*The standard rate of tax is 10s. 0d. in the £, but a reduction to 6s. 6d. in the £ is allowable on an amount of income not exceeding £165 for the year.

- 1) Retirement on the 10 Dec 1959
- 2) Retirement Pensions  $\begin{matrix} L^c & S & d \\ 3 & 5 & 6 \end{matrix}$  a Week
- 

My Wife Retirement on 10 Dec 1959

Retirement Pensions  $\begin{matrix} L^c & S & d \\ 2 & 0 & 0 \end{matrix}$  Week

Watch and Pray



Soldiers who are **Christ's** below,  
Strong in faith, resist the foe.  
Boundless is the pledged reward,  
Unto them who serve the **Lord.**

Clara Wells

Baptised April 26<sup>th</sup> 1896

Confirmed March 4<sup>th</sup> 1911.

First Communion March 19<sup>th</sup> 1911.

The **God** of all grace  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness  
and bring you to **Everlasting Life.**

Be thou faithful unto Death

I will give thee a Crown of Life

Be not weary in well doing

14825584 Dvn Drenkwater  
69 Field Company RE  
3 Platoon.  
B.L.A.

Dear Mum and Dad

I have just received your letter telling that you have just heard from my mail and today is Whit Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May.

By now you have got that snapshot of the farm we were billeted at well while we were there a German plane came one night and drop three bombs in the field next to it and blowed all the

windows in while we were there. I expect to get my leave in June or July I don't know which yet but I am going to try and get a wireless home it's a big one and it has a lovely tone well it ought to be it is a six valve set and it's called a Telefunken it's a smasher, (well I'm hoping to get it home) well there is not much to write about so I will close now and all my love  
Bill

++++  
++++  
++



**POST OFFICE  
SAVINGS BANK  
BOOK**

BAMPTON, OXFORD

**N<sup>o</sup>** 2818

**KEEP THIS BOOK IN A SAFE PLACE  
Its loss may cause you trouble**

**POST OFFICE  
SAVINGS BANK**

---

**STATE SECURITY  
STRICT SECRECY OBSERVED**

---

**Signature of Depositor**  
(To be entered on receiving the book)

*G. Drinkwater*

---

In the case of a child under seven,  
insert the date of attaining that age.

.....19.....  
Deposits are not repayable and a  
signature is not needed until this date.

Before you leave the Post Office you should  
make sure that your deposit or withdrawal  
is correctly entered in this book.

 Please read the information on the last page.

Name **MRS CLARA DRINKWATER**  
 (with title and initials)  
 Address **12 COUNCIL HOUSES  
 BAMPTON  
 OXFORDSHIRE**

Any change of address unless temporary should be recorded here by the depositor

Account **BAMPTON, OXFORD**  
 This description must be quoted in any enquiry  
**No 2818**

This book should be sent to the Chief Office every year on the **November** unless interest for the previous year has already been entered.

Date of Deposit or Warrant. &c.	Amount of Deposit in Words or Method of Withdrawal.	DEPOSITS		
		£	s.	d.
1942.				
Nov 14 <sup>th</sup>	One pound	1		
Nov 24 <sup>th</sup>	Two pounds and Fifteen shillings	2	15	
	Two pounds	2		
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	<sup>H.E.</sup> Fifteen Shillings		15	
July 8	Demand			
Sept 23	Demand			
	Totals	6	10	

WITHDRAWALS			Initials	Date Stamp.
£	s.	d.		
1	10			
1	10			
3				



Name **MRS CLARA DRINKWATER**  
(with title and initials)

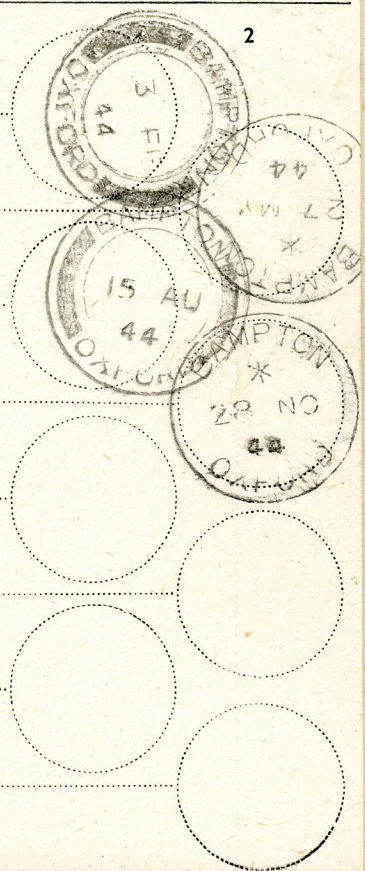
Address **12 COUNCIL HOUSES  
 BAMPTON  
 OXFORDSHIRE**

Account **BAMPTON, OXFORD**

This description  
 must be quoted  
 in any enquiry

**No 2818**

Date of Deposit or Warrant, &c.	Amount of Deposit in Words or Method of Withdrawal.	DEPOSITS			WITHDRAWALS			Initials.	Date Stamp.
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
1944	BALANCE	3	10		-	-	-		2
Feb. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	One Pound	1							
May 21	Demand				2			HC	
Aug 15	Demand				2			HC	
Nov 28	Demand				9			HC	
	Totals								





## Notes for Weekly Tenants.

To save time, please have the rent and the rent card ready for the collector when he calls.

The tenant must take proper care of the premises, which must be left at the end of the tenancy in the same tenantable condition as when entered. Any broken windows or other damage must be made good, or the cost of doing so paid for by the tenant.

A week's notice to quit must be given or a week's rent in lieu of notice paid before removal. The key to be given up to the landlord or the agent before 12 o'clock noon of the day on which the notice expires.

### TABLE OF RATES (see p. 1.)

(To the nearest 1d.)

Per half-year			Equals per week		Per half-year			Equals per week	
£	s.	d.	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
0	2	2	0	1	0	17	4	0	8
0	4	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	9
0	6	6	0	3	2	0	0	1	6
0	8	8	0	4	3	0	0	2	4
0	10	10	0	5	4	0	0	3	1
0	13	0	0	6	5	0	0	3	10
0	15	2	0	7	6	0	0	4	7

# KNIGHT'S RENT CARD.

1933

Tenant's Name W. F. Drummond

Address 12 New Street, Bampton

Rent per week 5/6

Date of Entry .....

Collector A. J. Basford

## INFORMATION FOR TENANTS.

(As required by Act of Parliament.)

(Statement of Rates Act, 1919, and Housing Act, 1925, s. 5.)

- Amount of Rates (including Water Rate) paid or payable by the Landlord in respect of the rooms or premises let, and included in the above rent:

During the half-year ending—	Amount			Equals per week	
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
31st March, 193 . . . . .					
30th Sept., 193 . . . . .					
31st March, 193 . . . . .					

(NOTE.—The proper particulars, according to the last demands of the Rating Authorities, must be inserted before any rent is demanded or receipt for rent given during any half-year.) (See back.)

- Name and Address of the Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. Campbell D.P.H. Wymey

- Name and Address of the Landlord or his responsible Agent

A. J. Basford Bledder Hall Wymey

Date.	Total Rent due.			Cash Paid.			Arrears.			Received by.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Pro forward								18	-	
Feb 11	1	3	6							
18	1	9	-	11	-		18	-	B 20/2/33	
25	1	3	6							
Mar 4	1	9	-							
11	1	4	6							
18	2	-	-	1	=	=	1	=	B 20/2/33	
25	1	5	6							
Apr 1	1	11	-	1	-	-	11	-	APR 3/4/30	
8		16	6							
15	1	2	-							
22	1	7	6							
29	1	13	-	16	6		16	6	B 11/5/33	
May 6	1	2	-							
13	1	7	6	16	6		11	-	APR 17/30	
20		16	6							
27	1	2	-	11	-		11	-	APR 29/30	
June 3		16	6							
10	1	2	-	11	-		11	-	B 10/10/33	
17		16	6							
24	1	2	-	11	-		11	-	B 26/6/33	
July 1		16	6							
8	1	2	-	11	-		11	-	B 10/17/30	
15		16	6							
22	1	2	-							
29	1	7	6							
Aug 5	1	13	-	1	2	-	11	-	B 8/8/30	

## Regulations for Tenancy.

1.—The Council agrees to let, and the Tenant agrees to take all that cottage or tenement with the outbuildings and garden ground thereto belonging, situate at \_\_\_\_\_ and numbered \_\_\_\_\_ on a weekly tenancy, commencing on Saturday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, One thousand, nine hundred and \_\_\_\_\_, at the weekly rent of \_\_\_\_\_ shillings and \_\_\_\_\_ pence, payable on the Saturday immediately following the commencement of the tenancy, and on every subsequent Saturday during the tenancy.

2.—The tenancy shall continue until determined by either party giving to the other of them seven days' previous notice in writing, expiring on any Saturday of his, her, or their intention to determine the same, and on the expiration of such notice the tenancy shall cease, but without prejudice to the rights of the Council in respect of any rent in arrear or any breach of any of the Tenant's obligations under this Agreement. In the case of the Council, such notices may be given or received to or by the Clerk to the Council.

3.—The Tenant shall pay the said rent at the times and in manner aforesaid without any deduction. The tenant shall also pay all rates, taxes, assessments and outgoings whatsoever (other than Landlords property tax) payable in respect of the said premises and all charges for lighting and water.

4.—The Tenant shall keep the interior portions of the premises and all fittings and fixtures, doors, cupboards, bells, wires, windows, locks, bolts and fastenings in good order and condition (fair wear and tear and damage by fire only excepted) and in such good order and condition (except as aforesaid) will leave the same at the expiration of the tenancy.

5.—The Tenant shall not fix any cupboard or other heavy article to any wall, or drive any plug or large nail into any wall without the written permission of the Clerk to the Council.

6.—The Tenant shall properly cultivate and keep in good condition the garden ground included in this tenancy and will leave the same in good condition at the expiration of the tenancy and will not without the written consent of the Clerk to the Council remove any tree or shrub therefrom.

7.—The Tenant shall use and occupy the premises as a private dwelling-house only and shall not use or

cause or allow the same to be used in such a manner as to be a nuisance or annoyance to the neighbours.

8.—The Tenant shall not exhibit any advertisement bill, poster or printed matter on the outer walls of the premises or in the garden.

9.—The Tenant shall not suffer any waste or improper use of the water supply to the premises and in particular will immediately notify to the proper officer any water leakage on the premises.

10.—The Tenant shall not assign or sublet the premises or any part thereof without the written consent of the Clerk to the Council.

Dec 28 187  
Aug 4 22/6 9/- (B/6) AGD  
7/18/34

Month	Date	Amount	Notes
Feb	24	1/2/-	
Mar	3	1/7/6	
	10	1/13/6	
	17	1/18/6	22/- (16/6) ADD 19/8/34
	24	1/2/-	
	31	1/7/6	
Apr	7	1/13/6	11/- (27/6) ADD 16/4/34
	14	1/18/6	
	21	1/13/0	
	28	1/18/6	16/6 (22/-) ADD 20/4/34
May	5	1/7/6	
	12	1/13/0	11/- (27/-) ADD 14/5/34
	19	1/7/6	
	26	1/13/-	
Jun	2	1/18/6	11/- (33/-) ADD 11/6/34
	9	2/4/0	
	16	1/18/6	
	23	2/4/0	27/- (27/-) ADD 25/6/34
	30	1/7/6	
July	7	1/12/0	16/6 (15/6) ADD 9/1/34
	14	1/0/0	
	21	1/4/6	11/- (13/6) ADD 23/1/34

Date.	Total Rent due.			Cash Paid.			Arrears.			Received by.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Aug 12			10/6							
14	1	2	-							
26		11	-							
Sep 2		16	6	11	0					B 21/8/32
9		11	-							
16		16	6							
23	1	2	-							
30	1	7	6							
Oct 7	1	13	-							
14	1	18	6	1	2	-				(16/6) ADD 16/10/32
21	1	2	-							
28	1	7	6							
Nov 4	1	13	-							
11	1	18	6	1	7	6				(11/-) ADD 12/11/32
18		16	6							
25	1	2	-							
Dec 2	1	7	6							
9	1	13	-		5	6				(27/6) ADD 11/12/32
16	1	13	-							
23	1	18	6	1	18	6				ADD 22/16/32
Dec 30		5	6							
Jan 16		11	-							
13		16	6							
20	1	2	-		11	-				(11/-) ADD 24/2/34
27		16	6							
Feb 3	1	2	-							
10	1	1	6		12	6				(16/6) ADD 17/2/34
17	1	1	3							

WITNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Regulations for Tenants of Council Houses

Approved at a Meeting of the Council held  
on the 3rd day of March, 1938

The Tenant agrees with the Landlords as follows:—

1. To take the Dwelling House situate as, and from the date of entry stated on, the front of this Rent Card, on a weekly tenancy to be determined by either party giving to the other one of them one week's previous notice in writing, expiring on a Saturday, at the total weekly inclusive rent stated on the front of this Rent Card, payable on Monday in each week.
  2. Not to carry on any trade or business nor display any notice, advertisement or sign-board relating thereto on the said premises, but to use the same as a private dwelling-house only, and not to sublet or take in any lodgers without the written consent of the landlords. In the event of the landlords allowing the Tenant to take a lodger or lodgers, the landlords shall be at liberty to demand from the Tenant payment, over and above the inclusive rent hereby agreed to be paid, of a sum not exceeding 2s. per week for each lodger.
  3. To pay the said rent at the times and in manner aforesaid without any deductions. The Tenant shall also pay all rates, taxes, assessments and outgoings whatsoever (other than landlord's property tax) payable in respect of the said premises and all charges for lighting and water (if any).
  4. To keep the interior portions of the premises and all fittings and fixtures, doors, cupboards, bells, wires, windows, locks, bolts and fastenings in good order and condition (fair wear and tear and damage by fire only excepted) and to leave the same in such good order and condition (except as aforesaid) at the expiration of the tenancy.
  5. Not to fix any cupboard or other heavy article to any wall, or drive any plug or large nail into any wall without the written permission of the landlords.
  6. To permit the landlords by their agents or workmen to enter and inspect the state of repair and condition of the premises at all reasonable hours of the day.
  7. Not to do or permit to be done on the said premises any act or thing which may cause nuisance, annoyance or discomfort to the neighbours.
  8. To keep the garden properly cultivated and in a neat and tidy condition.
  9. Not to erect on the premises any toolhouse, shed, greenhouse, fowlhouse or other building without the written consent of the landlords.
  10. Not to keep any animals on the said premises to the nuisance or annoyance of neighbours.
  11. Not to suffer any waste or improper use of the water supply to the premises, and in particular the Tenant will immediately notify to the proper officer any leakage on the premises.
  12. The Tenant to repair at his own cost (when damage is caused by his own negligence or carelessness) fencing and gates, fittings and cracked or broken glass.
- For the purpose of this agreement, a lodger is hereby defined as any person living on the same premises who earns wages outside and who is not supported by the tenant and is not an unmarried member of his family.

Tenants are requested to burn as much of their rubbish as possible.

1260

Witney Rural District Council

1950-51

Tenant's Rent Card

Ref. No. 151

Tenant's Name Drinkwater, J.

Situation of Premises } Buckley Row,

Langton

Commencement of Tenancy .....

Medical Officer } Dr. A. J. CAMPBELL,  
of Health } 28 Staverton Road, Oxford

Landlord } WITNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
or Agent } Housing Dept., 14 The Hill, Witney, Oxon

Year Ending Mar. 31st, 1951

Standard Net Rent	- -	<u>6</u> : .....	per week
General Rate	- - -	<u>1</u> : <u>11</u> .....	"
Water	" - - -	..... : <u>5</u> .....	"
		..... : .....	"
<b>TOTAL INCLUSIVE RENT*</b>		<u>8</u> : <u>4</u> .....	"

\* Add to } First week's rent...2.....s.....d. to balance  
Deduct from } total amount of Rates payable

**IMPORTANT.—It is most important that this Card be produced when a payment is made, but if for any reason it is not available, the Collector will issue a Temporary Official Receipt, to be afterwards exchanged for the usual entry on the Card.**

Summary of Secs. 58, 59 & 61 of the Housing Act, 1936

1. An occupier who causes or permits his dwelling to be overcrowded is liable to prosecution for an offence under the Housing Act, 1936, and, if convicted, to a fine not exceeding five pounds. Any part of a house which is occupied by a separate family is a "dwelling."
2. A dwelling is overcrowded if the number of persons sleeping in it is more than the "permitted number," or is such that two or more of those persons, being ten years old or over, of opposite sexes (not being persons living together as husband and wife), must sleep in the same room.
3. The "permitted number" for the dwelling to which this Payment Card relates is..... persons. In counting the number of persons each child under ten years of age counts as half a person, and a child of less than one year is not counted at all.
4. The Act contains special provisions relating to overcrowding already existing or which is due to a child attaining the age of either one or ten years, or which is due to exceptional circumstances. Full information about these special provisions and all provisions as to overcrowding can be obtained free on application to the Local Authority whose address is printed on this card.

When making any payment please see that all entries are made by the Collector in duplicate

WEEKLY RENT

£ s. d.  
: 8 : 4  
: :  
: :

through the Special Collection Sheet provided ANY OTHER KIND OF ENTRY IS NOT OFFICIAL

WEEKLY RENT

£ s. d.  
: 8 : 4  
: :  
: :

Patented  
1913

REG'D TRADE MARK. ALFRED GILBERT & SONS LTD., LONDON, N.W.9

1950 B/Fwd.	AMOUNT PAID	RECEIVED BY	REF. No.		ARREARS Car'd fwd.	Ho.No. St.No.		1950 B/Fwd.	AMOUNT PAID	RECEIVED BY	REF. No.		ARREARS Car'd fwd.	Ho.No. St.No.	
			Ho.	St.		1	5				Ho.	St.		1	5
Apr. 1						✓	1	Oct. 7	110 4	Shaw	1	51	✓	28	
.. 8	19 8	Shaw	1	51		✓	2	.. 14					✓	29	
.. 15							3	.. 21	16 8	Shaw	1	51	✓	30	
.. 22							4	.. 28						31	
.. 29							5	Nov. 4	16 8	Shaw	1	51	✓	32	
May 6	110 4	Shaw	1	51		✓	6	.. 11						33	
.. 13							7	.. 18	16 8	Shaw	1	51	✓	34	
.. 20	16 8	Shaw	1	51		✓	8	.. 25						35	
.. 27							9	Dec. 2	16 8	Shaw	1	51	✓	36	
June 3							10	.. 9						37	
.. 10							11	.. 16	16 8	Shaw	1	51	✓	38	
.. 17	110 4	Shaw	1	51		✓	12	.. 23						39	
.. 24							13	.. 30	16 8	Shaw	1	51	✓	40	
July 1	16 8	Shaw	1	51		✓	14	1951 Jan. 6						41	
.. 8							15	.. 13	16 8	Shaw	1	51	✓	42	
.. 15	16 8	Shaw	1	51		✓	16	.. 20						43	
.. 22							17	.. 27	16 8	Shaw	1	51	✓	44	
.. 29	16 8	Shaw	1	51		✓	18	Feb. 3						45	
Aug. 5							19	.. 10	16 8	Shaw	1	51	✓	46	
.. 12	16 8	Shaw	1	51		✓	20	.. 17						47	
.. 19							21	.. 24	16 8	Shaw	1	51	✓	48	
.. 26	16 8	Shaw	1	51		✓	22	Mar. 3						49	
Sept. 2							23	.. 10	16 8	Shaw 13/3	1	51	✓	50	
.. 9	16 8	Shaw	1	51		✓	24	.. 17						51	
.. 16							25	.. 24	16 8	Shaw	1	51	✓	52	
.. 23							26	.. 31						53	
.. 30							27	TOTAL							

WITNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Obligations of Tenants of Council Houses.

1. To take the dwelling house described, and at the standard rent (payable on demand) stated on the front of this Rent Card, on a four-weekly tenancy running from Saturday to Saturday.

2. To pay in addition to the said rent all rates, taxes, and out-goings (other than landlord's property tax) payable in respect of the said premises, and all charges for lighting and water (if any).

3. To keep the interior of the dwelling house and outbuildings provided by the Council and all fittings and fixtures, doors, cupboards, bells, wires, glass in windows, locks, sanitary fittings, bolts and fastenings and all electrical equipment and fences and gates in good order and condition (fair wear and tear and damage by fire only excepted) and to leave the same in such good order and condition (except as aforesaid) at the expiration of the tenancy.

If during the tenancy damage is caused to the premises or to any of the above items through misuse, negligence or carelessness forthwith to repair and make good the same at his own expense.

4. To sweep properly twice in each year the chimneys of the dwelling house.

5. To keep the garden properly cultivated and in a neat and tidy condition: and to burn as much household rubbish as possible.

6. To permit the Council by their Agents or workmen to enter and inspect the state of repair and condition of the premises at all reasonable hours of the day.

7. Not to do or permit to be done on the said premises any act or thing which may cause nuisance, annoyance or discomfort to the neighbours.

8. Not to suffer any waste or improper use of the water supply to the premises, and in particular to notify, immediately discovered to the proper officer, any leakage of water on the premises.

9. Not without the Council's previous consent in writing

- To carry on any trade or business on the premises
- To sublet or take in lodgers
- To fix any cupboard or other heavy article to, or drive any plug or large nail into, any wall, or fix television aerial(s).
- To paint or colour the outside of the premises
- To erect on the premises any shed or structure
- To park private car(s) on the Council's estate.

10. The parking of any bus, lorry or van on the Council's Estate is expressly prohibited.

11. In the event of the Council allowing the Tenant to take a lodger or lodgers, the Council shall be at liberty to demand from the Tenant payment of a sum for each lodger.

2632

This Rent Card is the property of the  
**WITNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
 1958-59

Ref. No. 1/56

Tenant's Name DRINK WATER W.F.

Situation of Premises } 1, BUSHY ROW

BAMPTON

Commencement of Tenancy

Medical Officer of Health } Dr. A. J. CAMPBELL,  
 28 Staverton Road, Oxford

Landlord or Agent } WITNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
 Housing Dept., Hillside, Witney, Oxon.

Year Ending March 31st, 1959

Standard Net Rent	...	...	12	:	=	per week
General Rate	...	...	3	:	8	"
Water Rate	...	...		:	8	"
	...	...		:		"
<b>TOTAL INCLUSIVE RENT</b>	...	...	<b>16</b>	:	<b>4</b>	"
(Excluding adjustments for Rebates or Lodgers)						

**IMPORTANT.**—It is most important that this Card be produced when a payment is made, but if for any reason it is not available, the Collector will issue a Temporary Official Receipt, to be afterwards exchanged for the usual entry on the Card.

Summary of Secs. 77, 78 & 80 of the Housing Act, 1957

- An occupier who causes or permits his dwelling to be overcrowded is liable to prosecution for an offence under the Housing Act, 1957, and, if convicted, to a fine not exceeding five pounds. Any part of a house which is occupied by a separate family is a "dwelling."
- A dwelling is overcrowded if the number of persons sleeping in it is more than the "permitted number," or is such that two or more of those persons, being ten years old or over, of opposite sexes (not being persons living together as husband and wife), must sleep in the same room.
- The "permitted number" for the dwelling to which this Payment Card relates is, .....
- The Act contains special provisions relating to overcrowding already existing or which is due to a child attaining the age of either one or ten years, or which is due to exceptional circumstances. Full information about these special provisions and all provisions as to overcrowding can be obtained free on application to the Local Authority whose address is printed on this card.

See Obligations of Tenants on back of Card

When making any payment please see that all entries are made by the Collector in duplicate

WEEKLY RENT

WK. NO.	£	s.	d.
	16	4	

through the Special Collection Sheet provided ANY OTHER KIND OF ENTRY IS NOT OFFICIAL

WEEKLY RENT

WK. NO.	£	s.	d.
	16	4	

Disals  
REG'D TRADE MARK. ALFRED GILBERT & SONS LTD., LONDON. N.W.9 DI-717-57

Week Ending	AMOUNT PAID	RECEIVED BY	REF. No. Ho. St.	ARREARS Car'd Fwd.	Ho. No. 1	St. No. 56
1958 B/Fwd.					✓	Week No.
April 5						1
" 12	1128	13/4	1 56			2
" 19						3
" 26	1128	21/4	1 56			4
May 3						5
" 10	1128	13/8	1 56			6
" 17						7
" 24						8
" 31						9
June 7	1128	1/6	1 56	1128		10
" 14						11
" 21	1128	2/6	1 56	1128		12
" 28						13
July 5	354	3/7	1 56			14
" 12						15
" 19	1128	0/7	1 56			16
" 26						17
Aug. 2	1128	11/8	1 56		✓	18
" 9						19
" 16	164	7/8	1 56			20
" 23						21
" 30						22
Sept. 6						23
" 13						24
" 20						25
" 27						26
C/Fwd.						

Week Ending	AMOUNT PAID	RECEIVED BY	REF. No. Ho. St.	ARREARS Car'd Fwd.	Ho. No. 1	St. No. 56
1958 B/Fwd.					✓	Week No.
Oct. 4						27
" 11						28
" 18						29
" 25						30
Nov. 1						31
" 8						32
" 15						33
" 22						34
" 29						35
Dec. 6						36
" 13						37
" 20						38
" 27						39
1959 Jan. 3						40
" 10						41
" 17						42
" 24						43
" 31						44
Feb. 7						45
" 14						46
" 21						47
" 28						48
Mar. 7						49
" 14						50
" 21						51
" 28						52
TOTAL						



**WITNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

**Obligations of Tenants of Council Houses.**

1. To take the dwelling house described, and at the standard rent (payable on demand) stated on the front of this Rent Card, on a weekly tenancy running from Saturday to Saturday (four weeks notice on either side is necessary to end this tenancy.)

2. To pay in addition to the said rent all rates, taxes, and outgoings (other than landlord's property tax) payable in respect of the said premises, and all charges for lighting and water (if any).

3. To keep the interior of the dwelling house and outbuildings provided by the Council and all fittings and fixtures, doors, cupboards, bells, wires, glass in windows, locks, sanitary fittings, bolts and fastenings and all electrical equipment and fences and gates in good order and condition (fair wear and tear and damage by fire only excepted) and to leave the same in such good order and condition (except as aforesaid) at the expiration of the tenancy.

If during the tenancy damage is caused to the premises or to any of the above items through misuse, negligence or carelessness forthwith to repair and make good the same at his own expense.

4. To sweep properly twice in each year the chimneys of the dwelling house.

5. To keep the garden properly cultivated and in a neat and tidy condition: and to burn as much household rubbish as possible.

6. To permit the Council by their Agents or workmen to enter and inspect the state of repair and condition of the premises at all reasonable hours of the day.

7. Not to do or permit to be done on the said premises any act or thing which may cause nuisance, annoyance or discomfort to the neighbours.

8. Not to suffer any waste or improper use of the water supply to the premises, and in particular to notify, immediately discovered to the proper officer, any leakage of water on the premises.

9. Not without the Council's previous consent in writing

- (a) To carry on any trade or business on the premises
- (b) To sublet or take in lodgers
- (c) To fix any cupboard or other heavy article to, or drive any plug or large nail into, any wall, or fix television aerial(s).
- (d) To paint or colour the outside of the premises
- (e) To erect on the premises any shed or structure
- (f) To park private car(s) on the Council's estate.

10. The parking of any bus, lorry or van on the Council's Estate is expressly prohibited.

11. In the event of the Council allowing the Tenant to take a lodger or lodgers, the Council shall be at liberty to demand from the Tenant payment of a sum for each lodger. 2632

I have read and fully understand the above obligations

Signed.....

This Rent Card is the property of the  
**WITNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

1959-60

Ref. No. 1/55

Tenant's Name W. J. Drinkwater

Situation of }  
Premises } 1, Manor View

Barnet

Commencement of Tenancy.....

Medical Officer } **Dr. A. J. CAMPBELL,**  
of Health } **28 Staverton Road, Oxford**

Landlord } **WITNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,**  
or Agent } **Housing Dept., Hillside, Witney, Oxon.**

	Year Ending March 31st, 1960		
Standard Net Rent ... ..	16	3	per week
General Rate ... ..	4	3	"
Water Rate ... ..		8	"
.....			"
<b>TOTAL INCLUSIVE RENT</b> ... ..	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>"</b>
(Excluding adjustments for Rebates or Lodgers)			

**IMPORTANT.—It is most important that this Card be produced when a payment is made, but if for any reason it is not available, the Collector will issue a Temporary Official Receipt, to be afterwards exchanged for the usual entry on the Card.**

Summary of Secs. 77, 78 & 80 of the Housing Act, 1957

1. An occupier who causes or permits his dwelling to be overcrowded is liable to prosecution for an offence under the Housing Act, 1957, and, if convicted, to a fine not exceeding five pounds. Any part of a house which is occupied by a separate family is a "dwelling."
2. A dwelling is overcrowded if the number of persons sleeping in it is more than the "permitted number," or is such that two or more of those persons, being ten years old or over, of opposite sexes (not being persons living together as husband and wife), must sleep in the same room.
3. The "permitted number" for the dwelling to which this Payment Card relates is..... persons. In counting the number of persons each child under ten years of age counts as half a person, and a child of less than one year is not counted at all.
4. The Act contains special provisions relating to overcrowding already existing or which is due to a child attaining the age of either one or ten years, or which is due to exceptional circumstances. Full information about these special provisions and all provisions as to overcrowding can be obtained free on application to the Local Authority whose address is printed on this card.

**See Obligations of Tenants on back of Card**

When making any payment please see that all entries are made by the Collector in duplicate

WEEKLY RENT

WK. NO.	£	s.	d.
	1	12	

through the Special Collection Sheet provided  
ANY OTHER KIND OF ENTRY IS NOT OFFICIAL

WEEKLY RENT

WK. NO.	£	s.	d.
	1	12	

1959 B/Fwd.	AMOUNT PAID	RECEIVED BY	REF. No. Ho. St.	ARREARS Car'd Fwd.	Ho.No. 1	St.No. 55	Week Ending	AMOUNT PAID	RECEIVED BY	REF. No. Ho. St.	ARREARS Car'd Fwd.	Ho.No. 1	St.No. 55
1959 B/Fwd.					✓	Week No.	1959 B/Fwd.					✓	Week No.
April 4						1	Oct. 3						27
" 11	112	0 1/4	L88	112		2	" 10	112	0 13/10	155	112		28
" 18						3	" 17						29
" 25	336	0 1/4	L88			4	" 24	212	0 7/10	158	124		30
May 2						5	" 31						31
" 9						6	Nov. 7	3--	0 10/11	L88	48		32
" 16						7	" 14						33
" 23	224	0 2/8	155	224		8	" 21	1510	0 7/11	L88	112		34
" 30						9	" 28						35
June 6	3--	0 9/6	155	148		10	Dec. 5	336	L88	8/12	155		36
" 13						11	" 12						37
" 20	35-	0 7/6	155	2--		12	" 19	224	0 22/12	155			38
" 27						13	" 26						39
July 4	244	L88	7/7	155		14	Jan. <sup>1960</sup> 2	224	0 9/11	L88			40
" 11						15	" 9						41
" 18	112	0 2/8	153	112		16	" 16	224	0 19/11	155			42
" 25						17	" 23						43
Aug. 1	112	0 9/8	155	124		18	" 30	224	0 7/2	155			44
" 8						19	Feb. 6						45
" 15	3--	0 17/8	155	148		20	" 13	224	L88	16/12	155		46
" 22						21	" 20						47
" 29	217-	0 1/5	155			22	" 27	224	L88	1/3	155		48
Sept. 5						23	Mar. 5						49
" 12	224	0 10/8	L88			24	" 12	224	0 10/8	155			50
" 19						25	" 19						51
" 26	224	0 29/8	L88			26	" 26	224	L88	2/3	155		52

TOTAL

# WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL – RENT CARD – 1974-75

Landlord or Agent: **WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL,**  
 Housing Dept., Church Green, Witney, Oxon OX8 6AU  
 Telephone: 3241

**IMPORTANT**—This Card is the property of the W.O.D.C. and must be produced when a payment is made but if for any reason it is not available, the Collector will issue a Temporary Official Receipt, to be afterwards exchanged for the usual entry on the Card.

Ref. No. ....

0010 447

MR W F DRINKWATER  
 1 MANOR VIEW  
 BAMPTON OXFORD

SEE OBLIGATIONS OF TENANTS' ON BACK OF CARD

Date Tenancy Commenced								
Week No.	£		p		£		p	
Rent	2	59						
Less Rebate								
Rates and Water	2	59						
Garage								
Lodgers								
Service Charge								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>58</b>						

Details of Rent Rebates available from the Treasurer at above address.

2909673

Alfred Gilbert & Sons, Ltd., London NW9 6NU

2631

## WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Obligations of Tenants of Council Houses.

1. To take the dwelling house described, and at the standard rent (payable on demand) stated on the front of this Rent Card, on a weekly tenancy running from Saturday to Saturday (four weeks notice on either side is necessary to end this tenancy.)
2. To pay in addition to the said rent all rates, taxes, and outgoings (other than landlord's property tax) payable in respect of the said premises, and all charges for lighting and water (if any).
3. To keep the interior of the dwelling house and outbuildings provided by the Council and all fittings and fixtures, doors, cupboards, bells, wires, glass in windows, locks, sanitary fittings, bolts and fastenings and all electrical equipment and fences and gates in good order and condition (fair wear and tear and damage by fire only excepted) and to leave the same in such good order and condition (except as aforesaid) at the expiration of the tenancy.  
 If during the tenancy damage is caused to the premises or to any of the above items through misuse, negligence or carelessness forthwith to repair and make good the same at his own expense, if not done within a reasonable time the Council shall carry out the work and charge the Tenant with the cost.
4. To sweep properly twice in each year the chimneys of the dwelling house.
5. To keep the garden properly cultivated and in a neat and tidy condition.
6. To permit the Council by their Agents or workmen to enter and inspect the state of repair and condition of the premises at all reasonable hours of the day.
7. Not to do or permit to be done, on the said premises any act or thing which may cause nuisance, annoyance or discomfort to the neighbours.
8. Not to suffer any waste or improper use of the water supply to the premises, and in particular to notify, immediately discovered to the proper officer, any leakage of water on the premises.
9. Not without the Council's previous consent in writing
  - (a) To carry on any trade or business on the premises
  - (b) To sublet or take in lodgers
  - (c) To fix any cupboard or other heavy article to, or drive any plug or large nail into, any wall, or fix television aerial(s).
  - (d) To paint or colour the outside of the premises
  - (e) To erect on the premises any shed or structure
  - (f) To park private car(s) on the Council's estate.
10. The parking of any bus, lorry or van on the Council's Estate is expressly prohibited.

2632/73

Signed .....

Summary of Secs. 77, 78 & 80 of the Housing Act, 1957  
 1. An occupier who causes or permits his dwelling to be overcrowded is liable to prosecution for an offence under s. 77, and is liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds. Any part of a house which is occupied by more than the permitted number of persons is liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds.  
 2. A dwelling is overcrowded if the number of persons sleeping in it is more than the "permitted number," or is such that two or more of those persons, being ten years old or over, of opposite sexes "not being persons living together as husband and wife), must sleep in the same room.  
 3. The "permitted number" for the dwelling to which this Payment Card relates is .....  
 4. The Act contains special provisions relating to overcrowding already existing or which is due to a child attaining the age of either one or ten years, or which is due to exceptional circumstances. Full information about these special provisions and all provisions as to overcrowding can be obtained free on application to the Local Authority whose address is printed on this card.



Img210. This is the front and back cover of the rent book for Frank Drinkwater when he and Clara lived at 12 New Road (since been re-numbered) for 1933

Img211. This is the payment page of the rent book for Frank Drinkwater when he and Clara lived at 12 New Road (since been re-numbered) for 1933

Img212. This is the rules in the payment rent book for Frank Drinkwater when he and Clara lived at 12 New Road (since been re-numbered) for 1933

Img213. This is the rent book for Frank Drinkwater when he and Clara lived at 12 New Road (since been re-numbered) for February-August 1934.

Img214. This is the front and back cover of the rent book of 1950-51 for Frank Drinkwater when he and Clara lived at 1 Bushey Row

Img215. This is the payment page of the rent book of 1950-51 for Frank Drinkwater when he and Clara lived at 1 Bushey Row.

Img216. This is the front and back cover of the rent book of 1958-59 for Frank Drinkwater when he and Clara lived at 1 Bushey Row.

Img217. This is the payment page of the rent book of 1958-59 for Frank Drinkwater when he and Clara lived at 1 Bushey Row.

Img218. This is the front and back cover of the rent book of 1959-60 for Frank Drinkwater when he and Clara lived at 1 Bushey Row.

Img219. This is the rent page of the rent book of 1959-60 for Frank Drinkwater when he and Clara lived at 1 Bushey Row.

Img220. This is the front and back cover of the rent book of 1974-75 for Frank Drinkwater when he lived at 1 Manor View.

Img221. This is the front and back cover of the rent book of 1974-75 for Frank Drinkwater when he lived at 1 Manor View.

Bill Drinkwater transcript of a sound recording

img185 Frank Drinkwater, the father of Bill, in his WW1 uniform.

img186 Character reference for William Frank Drinkwater when he was in the Royal Field Artillery. He was discharged after 8 years 224 days on October 2nd 1922.

img187 Certificate of discharge for William Frank Drinkwater, born 1892, from the Royal Field Artillery. He was discharged after 8 years 224 days on October 2nd 1922.

img188 Notice of assessment of income tax for the half year ending October 1942 for Mr William G Drinkwater (Bill) of 12 Council Houses (since been re-numbered).

img189 These notes are on the back of an envelope and show that Frank Drinkwater retired Dec 1959 with a pension of £3 5s 6d (£3 27½p) per week and his wife also retired on Dec 10th 1959 with a pension of £2 per week.

img190 The certificate is for Clara Wells who married William Frank Drinkwater. It shows that she was Baptised April 26th 1896, Confirmed on March 4th 1911 and took her first Communion on March 19th 1911.

img191 A lovely letter home from Bill Drinkwater to his parent Frank and Clara. Sent May 20th 1945 the day before Whit Monday.

img192 William Frank Drinkwater as a young man in civvies.

img193 The front page of the Post Office savings bank book for Clara Drinkwater.

img194 The signature page of the Post Office savings bank book for Clara Drinkwater.

img195 The first two pages of the Post Office savings bank book for Clara Drinkwater showing deposits from November 1942 to September 1943.

img196 The third and fourth pages of the Post Office savings bank book for Clara Drinkwater showing deposits from February 1944 to November 1944.

img199 This is Clara Drinkwater, the cousin of Nell Cox (née Wells) the wife of William Frank Drinkwater.

img200 Nell Cox, née Wells, was the cousin of Clara Drinkwater.

img201 Frank and Clara Drinkwater

a holding unit, for a fortnight, and they sent us on to our different groups, you know, different... I was along of... went with the 69 field company, with eight... When I got to there they'd just finished doing the Cook's Bridge over the Waas in Holland. We finished that and we went on up to the Rhine, and we - the Sappers - bridged the Rhine, it was the Westminster; we took up there to Kaliwaal; well, we were drawing the old pontoon and that, you know, just navvies, let's put it that way. And we done that one; I think there was ...the other side of the Rhine there was, I don't know whether it was a town or a city or something, but it was right flat to the ground; Rees I think it was called, of course it was a long time ago, mind.

JL It has been flattened in the War, you mean?

Did you meet with resistance, or were you just marching?

BD They were following the Infantry.

JL Yes; so the Infantry had done all the doing battle?

BD Yeah, they fought up the Rhine, and then we followed up and put this bridge over. We put the Westminster, the Americans were a bit farther down, they put the General Dauntsey, and then we finished that, and then we went up to the Elbe, the River Elbe. We put a bridge across there, but I can't remember the name of the bridge because we got sent back, 'cause when the Germans packed in. And we went back, come back to this country, we went to Inverary and trained as assault troops bridge, for the Far East.

JL Inverary, that's a ...

BD 'Not forgotten', yes, Richard Todd. And we went there, Lock Fyne; we built it at the side of the Duke of Argyll's castle, in them old Nissen hut things. We was there, and then all of a sudden we heard all of this noise, and it was in - can't think of the name of the village now - anyway we went there and we said 'What was up?' and they said "The war's over!" That's when they dropped the bomb up there, Japanese, you see. So we got transferred from there back to Halifax, and we went to Gibraltar; and that was it, finish.

JL So it was a short war, for you, wasn't it?

BD It was; yes.

JL What was the date you went out?

BD Oh, don't ask. I couldn't tell you.

JL Which year was it you went out to start with? When you were called up? When the ....?

BD It was about 1943, I think.

JL And you came back in '45?

BD Yeah; and we went to Gibraltar; and that's where I finished my days, there. It along of the tunnellers, they used to do the tunnelling in the Rock, you know.

JL Those tunnels are still there, aren't they?

BD Oh, yeah; I had about – well, I can't remember when we got there; but I come back about 1949, 1950, or something. And that was it.

Just that ride, well, as I was coming back, they found that cave, Saint Michael's cave, in the middle of the Rock. We had a... well, they only sent us out to see our days out, more or less, you know. 'Cause my demob number was 50, 51 - something like that; and we had to wait before we could come home, because all the boats was packed with the blokes coming home from the Far East and that.

JL So they were just giving you something to do, really, weren't they?

BD Well, that's right, yeah. So I was driving there, in Gibraltar, and what-have-you; and about – oh – six months before I come home they put me up in the Rock in the big garage they've got up there, the workshops;

JL Just being a mechanic, were you, up there?

BD Yeah; well, helping them, a kind of, I don't think really a mechanic, but helping. And then that was it, we come home on the boat.

JL Were you glad to be home?

BD Oh, yeah! Yeah. I mean, the Army was all right, I didn't mind the Army. You couldn't... well, they aren't like they are in a regiment, they're not all guards and all this spit and polish and everything; you just went about like in ordinary ...doing your job.

JL And you didn't see – I mean, you would have seen the results of the War, but you didn't see much action?

BD No, no. Well, action; we seed it when we bridged the Rhine, and the Elbe. Well, we'd taken the pontoons and that up, you see, what's a .. But the Sappers were doing the work over the... the thing, we was only just the lackeys then, you know.

JL Yes; you were the minions. And no fighting?

BD No, no. Sometimes we used to go into 'No man's land' and see what we could find, you know; but that was it; nothing at all like that.



JL And when you came home, was England as though it had been at war? There was rationing, wasn't there?

BD Oh, yeah. That was for a long time after the War. It was still in the fifties, wasn't it?

JL Yes, that's right, it did go on for a long time. I mean, I remember that very well. But for a child it's normal; it's the mothers, I think, that have a hard time, making things meet.

BD But they reckoned that in them days the people were more fitter than they are today; because of the rationing; that's right.

JL Well, we've got the problem of eating too much now, haven't we? And not enough exercise.

BD Well, years ago it was just one staple thing, you know; potatoes, greens, everything. Now, it's anything now, isn't it?

JL A huge choice now, isn't there?

BD And that was the end of my war days.

JL Well, it was very short and very sweet, then.

BD Well, it was, yeah. I mean there was nothing special about it, we were just the lackeys, that was all. We were doing our bit, that's right.

JL Well, we'll switch it off, then, shall we?

BD Well, yeah; there's nothing else, anyway.

JL Thank you very much.

*There is a pause in the tape there; and then the interview resumes, with B D talking about Gibraltar.*

BD It's a bit dull thing, see, but it was, the side of the...that faces Spain, it all slid down.

JL I never heard of that.

BD Well, when I first went there – it was done before we went there – we was - the Royal Engineers – was digging it out.

JL Digging out the Rock of Gibraltar?

BD No, the landslide; and then tipping it in the sea for that airfield; that's where the airfield was going. That's between the English and Spanish border isn't it, the airfield?

JL Do you remember the landslide happening, or had it happened?

BD No, it happened before we got there; but we was there taking the stuff away, you know. Tipping, yeah; being the navvies. Not only that, it's where they were digging the tunnels, that's where we were taking all the stuff and putting it in the sea for this ...

JL Just moving the land around, isn't it?

BD We used to have some fun stuff there, it was – you aren't recording, are you?

JL Well, I can switch it off if you like, if we're going to get personal. What about the Australian brides? We haven't heard about them.

BD ...because, well, they.... we was waiting to catch a boat, and they said, "There's a boat coming, but it's full of Australian brides, for Australia; because in this country, well, I suppose they married English ones.

JL Well, the Army wasn't out in Australia.

BD Well, they said it was the Australian brides. Well, they weren't the only ones, there was a lot on there, but there was a fair few of these what they call occupational brides.

JL I never heard of that.

BD 'Cause they called in at Gibraltar, and that's how we came to get on the boat.

JL There were G.I brides, that's where a lot of our lasses went over to the States.

BD Yeah. There was G.I.s on there, but they was in the Hospital, the big General Hospital there.

JL What, were they dressing the wounded there, or what?

BD No, no. You'd better switch it all off!

JL Oh, come on, we don't mind.

BD Well, it was the dam' beat women, got all these diseases.

JL Oh, I see, yes; they got the clap

BD Yeah; there was one bloke, and he was just rotting away.

JL I thought they just handed out condoms to all the service men?

BD Well, I don't think there was any there when we was there. No.

JL You just had to be careful.

BD But if you went into Spain, at La Linea, and that, and you went to a brothel, and you got this girl, or whatever – I don't know, I never went in them – you got a photograph of the girl, and on the back was when they had been inspected. Every few months – well, every so often, anyway; and if you caught anything, you'd put that card in, and she'd be banned forever.

JL So they did do some effort at looking after you.

BD Oh God, yeah. Yeah, 'cause some of our blokes went to Madrid, to the British Embassy, but I never got that far. I wasn't lucky enough.

JL They just got invited, did they, or...?

BD To do – like a guard, I suppose; but I wasn't that lucky..

JL Now that would have been interesting, wouldn't it?

BD It would have been, yes.

It wasn't far to travel on the road, I could walk it in an hour. Because one of our blokes, he used to play the electric organ, at the Rock Hotel; and that was three parts up it – I don't know if you've ever been up it?

JL You weren't allowed up there? You weren't posh enough?

BD No! That's why this bloke got up there, he was invited because he played the electric organ, for dancing and that. It was for all the officers and everything, wasn't it?

JL I suppose it would have been. Interesting times, though.

BD It was interesting, yes.

JL But you didn't get to see the rest of Spain? You didn't get to see North Africa?

BD No. We could have went, if I'd have wanted to, but I didn't bother, you know, I wasn't worried much, you know. The Royal Navy used to take us across, because they'd got the big naval yard, if we wanted to go; but I wasn't bothered, I stopped in Gibraltar. 'Cause they reckoned there was a lot of trouble out there

when we were there; I don't know where it was, in North Africa; Moors, what was they called? Was it the Moors or something?

JL Well, there was a lot of trouble in Algeria after the War, when they were trying to get independence, but it was the French involved in that.

BD Yeah; but I come back, well, that was about – I don't know, it's so long ago; in the '50s I reckon; no, end of '49 I got back in this country.

I heard on the Tannoy that people with guns, or something, you know, they, what they... souvenirs, then, you know, would, well, what-have-you, go to prison or what..

JL Be arrested..

BD Yes. And you could hear Ploy! Plop! Plop! all the way across, you know, over the side. I never brought anything, I wasn't bothered about things like that, you know.

JL Where did the guns come from? Did they just come from prisoners of war, or something like that?

BD No, it was just what they got when they was advancing, see, took off the dead, or revolvers or what-have-you. Well, I wasn't bothered, but one kiddy, in our lot; he was a driver, and he found a Luger; and we was in the barrack room, end of..

JL But which town was this that you were in?

BD Oh, I don't know; it was a German barracks, because it all had old glazing in them days, their barracks did. And this kiddy got this Luger; and he was sat on the side of his bed, and he said to his mate, "Look what I've got here," he said, "It's a Luger!" and he pulled the trigger; and it went off Bang! It went through a bloke's..... bloke's legs first, that's right, then a bloke's arm, and through a bloke's small parts; and I tell you what, his feet never touched the ground, going out.

JL Terrible.

BD Yeah. They wouldn't bother, years ago; they'd pick up a hand grenade, and pull the pin out and what have you. Them Sappers, they'd do anything. It wasn't mad, it was boredom; they wanted action, you know.

JL Yes, they didn't want to just sit around.

BD I was in their billet one day, and the group, they'd got a hand grenade, and they was unscrewing it, you know the primer then, you screw it up to the primer; they were screwing it down to about a thread-and-a-half; and then they'd pull the pin and chuck it on the ground, and the blokes that did it, they'd pull it out and see how far – you know.

JL This is seriously risky, isn't it?

BD It could kill the lot of them, you see. But I tell you what, I wasn't in there when they done it, I was gone, when they said they was going to screw it. And that was boredom, that was all...

JL And this is why I think in the Army they give the chaps such silly jobs to do; I mean shoe polishing, that's just to keep them busy, isn't it?

BD Yeah, I mean, you did; you get bored; not when you was in Germany, and that, because I mean you was on the go all the time.

JL You never were afraid?

BD I was, oh yeah; too right I was, yeah; specially when we done the River Rhine, or them what-do-you call them, can't remember now, them – like a bomb thing; it wasn't a mine, it was what they used to shoot out of a gun like a bomb thing; I can't remember what they were now. Well, Hades was exploding all round you, but you didn't keep above it.

JL It was all part of the job. Was it because you were so busy that you weren't..?

BD I think that's what it was; you wouldn't have had time to be frightened. You just done what you were told, and that was it. And one old fellow, he used to drive a lorry, and when they used to shell us he'd sit in the lorry; and we used to say, "Come on and get underneath that thing!" "No," he says – I can't think what his name was - he said "That's it!" and he kept there all the time. He never got hit at all. He was the sanest bloke of the outfit, he did clean the ...he hadn't got no nerve at all.

JL He just thought it was fate if they got him.

BD He said, "If my name ain't on it," he said, "I'm all right."

JL Did you lose any friends?

BD It was on the River Elbe, and I wasn't up there at the time, but the other bloke was up there, and then our M.T. Sergeant, Sergeant Proctor, they were shelling this side, where we was; but instead of him staying with the blokes, he went the opposite side of the thing, and that was where the shell exploded, blew him to bits. That's the only bloke I knew that we lost, anyway.

JL Did you see that happen?

BD No; no. I was out – I was back a bit further than that. I don't know; it's... you didn't bother. This is what .. I mean, I never worried. They used to say "Heads down!" because they wanted, you know, and that was it. And that's the

joke. That's right. When we used to go in, before you went up there, "Pig! Pig!" they give you half a cup full of rum, or something, you know. And you never worried about a thing.

JL So the war was fought on half a cupful of rum!

BD Yeah, well, he always used to say, "Have a bit of this to warm you up." And it did relieve you. Quite right.

JL Well, that's interesting.

BD Never mind, the war's over now.

JL Well, there's a war going on somewhere, isn't there?

BD Everywhere there's a war, now.

JL When you see that, when you see it on television, what do you feel?

BD Well, I feels frustrated; because I mean they should know better; I mean, look at this Iraqi war: I mean they're always on about all these, what do you – what's 'is name have got, these Iraqis have got; they ain't got nothing. And they reckon – I blame what's-'is-name, the Prime Minister, I do honestly; I think they'd have been better off underneath that Saddam, or whatever his name is, than what they are now. 'Cause look how many's being killed all the time. Still, I suppose they knows best, and that's it.

JL Do you think they know best? Do you really think they know best?

BD They don't know best; no. They're sick, aren't they, really?

JL Seems like it, doesn't it?

BD Yeah.

JL Or there's something else behind it; you just don't know.

BD Well, you don't know. But I think Bush is doing it because didn't that old – his Dad, was in that other war? It was Iraq.

JL He was in the Gulf War.

BD Yeah; and they told him to stop, didn't they, the United Nations? And he stopped. Well, he's – I reckon he done that so that he could finish it off.

JL A little bit of family pride? Just that.

BD That's right.

JL It's a terrible thing, isn't it?

BD Yeah, and it backfired.

JL Well, you wouldn't want to be out there.

BD No. No way.

JL And you feel sorry for the soldiers, because you've got this bit of experience behind you, and when you look at the young soldiers now ...

BD Oh, you do feel sorry for 'em, yeah. Well, they've got to fight somebody else's war. But what we had to do was the same, I suppose. It was just too bad. I mean, when we had World War One, that was supposed to be the war to finish all wars; and we've had more wars since then. I don't know.

JL Yes, it's about time it stopped, isn't it?

BD I don't think it'll ever stop; it'll get worse and worse. You see, the Yanks, they're trying to be the big "I ams," they're trying to be the masters, but I think they'll come unstuck one of these days, and that'll be it. They nearly come unstuck with that other war, wasn't it? With Russia. Taking them things to Cuba.

JL Yes; that was very nearly the end of the world, that was serious stuff, wasn't it?

BD That was; if it hadn't been for the Russians turning back I reckon it would have been the finish.

JL A very near thing.

Right, let's finish there, then.

BD You haven't got that thing switched on still, have you?

JL Yes, well, I think all of it's interesting.

BD Do you?

JL Well, I'll listen to it later, but I think it is, yes.

BAMPTON ARCHIVE

Memories of the Second World War

Bill Drinkwater talking to Jo Lewington about WWII

23 August 2004

JL I'm talking to Bill Drinkwater, and we're going to talk about your wartime experiences. I expect you think there's nothing to tell!

How old were you when you were called up?

BD Well, I was about the end of eighteen. I'll tell you: it was after D-day; I suppose it would be about six or seven weeks after D-day, something like that; and I went to Budbrooke Barracks, in Warwickshire, and done my six weeks' Army training.

JL How did you find that?

BD It wasn't too bad, take the good with the bad, you know.

JL Was that your first time out of Bampton, or had you done a bit of..?

BD Oh, no, that was the first time out. That was from an argument with the employment officer, he told me to go to Rutland, I said I wouldn't go, he said "We'll have you in the Army," and I was in the Army in about three weeks.

JL That's terrible! So you didn't go as a Volunteer, you went because you didn't want to go somewhere else.

BD But I wasn't worried; I think he done the best thing. 'Cause I had to go, so I might as well go then as... I went to Budbrooke Barracks, in Warwickshire, done the six weeks' training with the Leicesters and Warwickshires, and then we got sorted out, and I put in for the R A S C, Royal Army Service Corps; and we had to have - what shall I call it? - a thing to say, and anyway they sent me to Chesterfield, in the Royal Engineers; and that's what I finished up as.

I had eight weeks there; I was a lorry driver, quite good wagons; and we had to do an eight weeks' course. When we finished that, they sent me from there to Halifax, which was a holding unit, and we got sorted out, we went across in American with them TLCs, I think, which was a Diesel Tank Landing Craft. And we landed in Ostend.

JL Now were you supposed to know the mechanics of these things as well?

BD Oh, yes; we'd learned all that; well, I knew that before I went in the Army, you see, because I was driving. Anyway, we got to Ostend; we had good weather,