

# *Account of Purley on Thames*

## The start of WW2

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*Some memories of Bill Fisher about the start of the Second World War locally.*

Ray Townsend who was Headmaster of Pangbourne County Council School was appointed as Evacuee Officer, a duty he performed admirably. He also taught maths as a Pilot Officer at Reading ATC to those cadets who aspired to become the pilots of the future. I was one, but when I went to volunteer, I was only offered navigator or air gunner so I remained in my reserved occupation which lasted until the ripe old age of 20. I was then called up for the Royal Signals.

The Home Guard patrolled the river between Pangbourne and Purley locks usually at dusk. I do not know if Pangbourne to Goring Lock was patrolled but would assume all reaches of the Thames received the same treatment.

One of the first items which suffered from rationing was the sweets and chocolates which really hit me hard since I was crumpet hunting in those days and badly need those items to assist my endeavours.

All unemployed males were impressed into working on creating a tank trap which crossed the Oxford Road near Marsh Farm.























