

7 WW2 & Norfolk

East Anglia, like the rest of the UK, was to become involved in yet another conflict which would see lives upturned. The destruction from bombs falling and severe loss of life; to be brought to near starvation because Germany invaded Poland and other countries. On 3rd September, 1939, a declaration was made by the then Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, 'Britain is at war with Germany.'

Families knew it would be tough, they also knew that with determination and grit they would not surrender this island without a fight. In villages and hamlets throughout East Anglia life was changing, life was preparing, men of all ages were signing up, families were being split. However young families would see the spirit and determination of their elders. The people who worked on the Broads would see a difference in their beloved Communities. Life from 1939 to 1945 would never be the same again.

During the early years of the war the people of Norfolk continued to live their lives normally, although you could feel tension in the air. There was a foreboding but laughter and banter could be heard in parishes and on the streets of their beloved Norwich and Yarmouth. Although there were pillboxes left from world war one, new pillboxes were built and men signed up to be home guard, men from all walks of life. They were going to protect us from invasion from France should Germany get that close, broomstick handles were replaced with rifles, the defences around Great Yarmouth were put on alert as the small coastal villages thought they would be on the front line.

Norfolk as we know was to change, the hamlets of perhaps two dwellings and a blacksmith were to go quiet, the once