



# 3rd Battalion Essex Home Guard PITSEA & VANGE



Stock photo's

24 pages

£2.80

Registered Charity no. 1176037

Alan Cox 2024

Registered address: The Green Centre, Wat Tyler County Park, Pitsea Hall Lane, Pitsea, Essex, SS16 4UH



## Essex Regiment Family History

### Essex Home Guard in World War Two

The Home Guard were created in May 1940 when a German invasion looked very likely. Initially they were called the Local Defence Volunteers but shortly after renamed the Home Guard. The men were aged 17 to 65 years of age and initially wore civilian clothes with armbands labelled LDV and were armed with local weapons but later they were issued with denim uniforms and finally army uniforms and rifles. Many of the officers and men were retired members of the regular and territorial Essex Regiment who were too old to enlist at the outbreak of war.

By February 1941 when it became clear that the new force was likely to be needed for some time it was recognised as an official military unit and so adopted army military ranks and operated alongside the regular army battalions on home defence duty. There was very close liaison between the home defence battalions of the Essex Regiment and the Essex Home Guard with the Home Guard often using the same training venues and borrowing instructors from the Essex Regiment. The Home Guard HQ and the administration in Essex was by the Essex Regiment Territorial Army at Market Road, Chelmsford.

The home defence battalions of the Essex Regiment tended to guard the more important installations like airfields, ports and coastline with the Home Guard looking after vulnerable but less important targets like road junctions, railway lines and stations, bridges, factories and even valuable agricultural sites.

Had the Germans invaded the Home Guard were instructed to defend Essex although their priority was to assist in the civilian evacuation for which detailed plans were developed.

At the start of the war the men were poorly equipped and trained and as a result the butt of wartime jokes but by 1945 they had become efficient at carrying out the tasks required of them.

On 7 November 1948 470 ex members of the Home Guard paraded at the Essex Regiment Chapel, Warley to celebrate the stained glass window erected in honour of the Home Guard. The inscription read - This window was erected to the glory of God and to commemorate the services of the 115,000 men and women who served in the Home Guard 1940-1945 in the defence of Great Britain and for the preservation of liberty and freedom.

Essex was part of the East Anglian South Zone with and internally organised as Western Division, Eastern Division and Independent Divisions:- Western Division .

## Essex Regiment Family History cont.

1st Essex Battalion - HQ Wickford - Companies at Canvey Island, Rayleigh, Rochford, Southend on Sea and Wickford  
4th Essex Battalion - HQ Romford - Companies at Romford, Harold Wood, Collier Row, Hornchurch and Upminster  
5th Essex Battalion - HQ Brentwood - Companies at Brentwood East, Stapleford Abbots, Ingatestone, Laindon and Brentwood West.  
10th Essex Battalion - HQ Harlow - Companies at Harlow, Epping and Ongar  
11th Essex Battalion - HQ Braintree - Companies at Bardfield, Good Easter, Little Waltham and Braintree  
12th Essex Battalion - HQ Stansted - Companies at Stansted, Newport, Dunmow and Saffron Walden  
15th Essex Battalion - HQ Dunmow - Companies at Dunmow, Halstead and Great Yeldham  
20th Essex Battalion - HQ Romford - Companies at Hornchurch, Upminster, Rainham Road and Emerson Park

### Eastern Division

2nd Essex Battalion - HQ Maldon - Companies at Danbury and Maldon  
3rd Essex Battalion - HQ Orsett - Companies at Tilbury, Stanford le Hope and Pitsea  
6th Essex Battalion - HQ Chelmsford - Companies at Chelmsford  
7th Essex Battalion - HQ Witham - Companies at Witham, Kelvedon and Copford  
8th Essex Battalion - HQ Colchester - Companies at Boxted, Halstead, Great Yeldham and Colchester  
9th Essex Battalion - HQ Weeley - Companies at Brightlingsea, Clacton on Sea, Harwich, Mistley, Thorpe le Soken and Walton on Naze  
14th Essex Battalion - HQ West Thurrock - Companies at Grays Town, Grays Riverside, Purfleet and South Ockenden  
16th Essex Battalion - HQ Prittlewell - Companies at Hadleigh, Chalkwell, Belfairs, Thorpe Bay, Shoeburyness, Southchurch and Southend on Sea  
17th Essex Battalion - HQ Clacton on Sea - Companies at St Osyth, Clacton, Gt Bentley, Brightlingsea and Walton on Naze  
18th Essex Battalion - HQ Blackheath - Companies at West Mersea, Rowhedge, Tollesbury, Stanway, Tiptree and Layer de la Haye  
19th Essex Battalion - HQ Grays - Companies at Grays and South Stifford  
Independent Essex Divisions  
1st Essex ( Electric Supply Company) Battalion - HQ Rainham - Companies at Chelmsford, South Benfleet, Romford, Rainham and South Woodford  
2nd Essex ( Essex Rivers) Battalion - HQ Chelmsford - Companies at Thames, Crouch/Blackwater/Chelmer and the Stour/Colne.

## Essex Regiment Family History con't

13th Essex ( Post Office) Battalion - HQ Chelmsford - Companies at Southend on Sea, Chelmsford, Colchester, Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Bishops Stortford

Anti Aircraft Batteries

7th Home Guard (Anti Aircraft) Battalion - HQ West Bergholt - Rocket Batteries - 101 Essex Home Guard Rocket AA Battery - Based at Chelmsford Recreation Ground and 102 Essex Home Guard Rocket AA Battery - Based at Colchester Army Barracks

131 Home Guard LAA Battery - HQ Shenfield - Batteries at Harland & Woolf Tilbury , Thames Board Mills Purfleet, Hoffmans Chelmsford, Shellhaven Corringham and Murex Rainham.

*References taken from 3rd Battalion Home Guard 1940—1945 compiled by  
Commanding officer. Lieut Colonel F Hughes, MC.*



Stock Photo from IWM

### 3rd ESSEX BATTALION HOME GUARD

#### Formation.

It is well nigh impossible to produce an accurate and detailed account of the formation of the Local Defence Volunteers in South Central Essex, because in those early days no one kept any records, few wrote any letters, and many memories have been blurred by confused events of the time.

The general picture is, that Brigadier. General. J. Wigan, CB, CMG, DSO, was invited to organize the LDV in Thurrock area it's neighbourhood, and he in turn asked Captain J. C. Chaplin, MC to organize the Thurrock area.

Captain. Chaplin first set to work to organize LDV units in country districts, those chosen being Bulphan, Orsett and Corringham. Next, works were welcomed into the LDV, first in Thurrock being those at the Grays Co-operative Society and Drums Ltd, with the cement firms of West Thurrock and Purfleet, organized by Major (later Lt Col.) A. V. Hussey OBE .

The tremendous inflow of recruits soon caused an expansion of the LDV. Captain Chaplin started fresh units in Horndon -on -the -Hill, Stanford and the Havens, which with Bulphan, Orsett and Corringham formed the Stanford Company. Lieut, Col. R. Neave was invited to organize the Tilbury area where another Company comprised of units in Tilbury itself East and West Tilbury, Muckingford, and Chadwell St Mary.

Lieutenant . Colonel. S. W. Chapman, MC undertook the organization of the Pitsea District, which included units in Pitsea, Bowers Gifford and Vange.

On some date prior to 28th July 1940 all these units from Wellington in the west, the Ockendons in the north, to Bowers Gifford in the east, were formally organized as a Battalion under control of General Wigan. The 3rd Battalion then covered the entire which later was to become the Estuary Sector.

*References taken from 3rd Battalion Home Guard 1940—1945 compiled by  
Commanding officer. Lieut Colonel F Hughes, MC.*



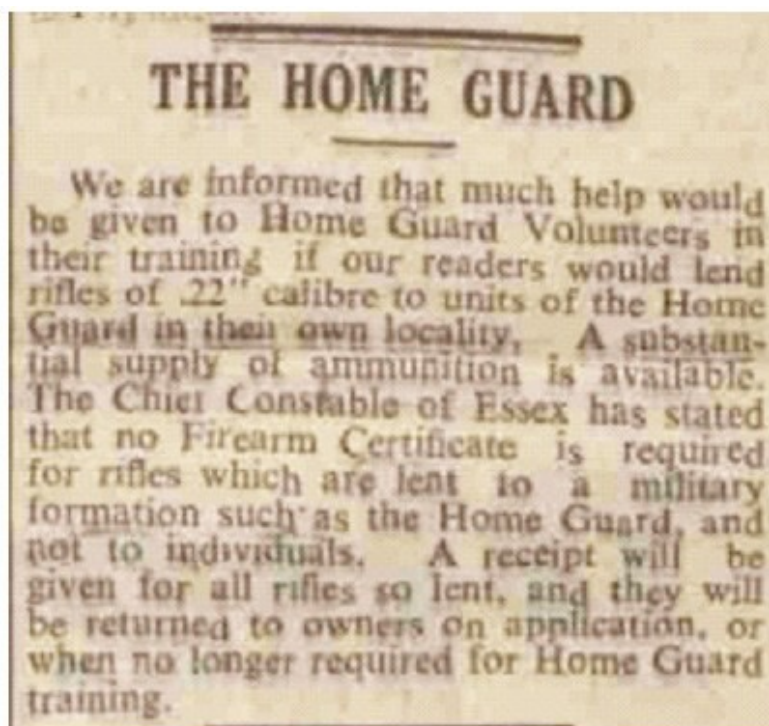
On 27th May 1940 Sir James Grigg in a broadcast detailed the duties of the LDV.

1. To locate enemy landings and give accurate information quickly.
2. To prevent enemy movement by car or motor-cycle, block roads, to hamper movement, and to defend blocks.
3. To guard important places to ensure their not being rushed.

When Home Guard Regulations were published in October 1942 the role of the Home Guard was expressed as follows.

“The primary role of the Home Guard is Local defence of their towns and Villages”

This will include reconnaissance patrols and may, in certain districts, include offensive patrols provided that these are not at the expense of the defence of localities.



*Essex Newsman - Saturday 09 November 1940*

When the first division took place On 19th October 1940, General Wigan relinquished his command, and was succeeded by Lieut Col R. Neave, whose H.Q was at Orsett House, and whose Battalion area stretched from Orsett to Bowers Gifford, and from Bulphan to Tilbury, comprised of three companies with H.Q.'s at Pitsea, Stanford-le-Hope and Tilbury.

Lt Col S. W. Chapman, MC, who commanded the Pitsea Company died shortly after the organisation was working smoothly and on 21st March 1941, was succeeded by his 2nd In Charge Captain. (then becoming Major) A. S Dangerfield. The original Platoon Commanders in the company , were Lieutenant. R.S Belding at Bowers Gifford, Lieutenant E.S. Patterson at Pitsea, and Lieutenant L. Reynolds at Vange. When Major Dangerfield resigned on account of ill health on 7th June 1943, he was succeeded by Major L. Reynolds, Whose new 2nd in charge was Captain E. S. Patterson.

Of the early days of the Pitsea company Major Reynolds writes:

10 suits of denims, ten rifles each with ten rounds SAA were issued to ten men at Pitsea Police Station on 19th May 1940. The "Company " did its first guard on Pitsea Railway Bridge and Telephone Exchange on 26th May 1940.

All LDV were on their toes on 1st June 1940 as there was a scare that an invasion was coming off. All petrol in the garage tanks was made unsaleable by addition of paint, etc.

On 8th June 1940 the Company was inspected by Brigadier General Charlton CB.,CMG,. D.S.O., D.L

*References taken from 3rd Battalion Home Guard 1940—1945 compiled by  
Commanding officer. Lieut Colonel F Hughes, MC.*

## Vange assault course.

The Battalions own assault course was at Vange, where hedges, ditches and contour provided a variety of problems. Good use of it was made of it, right up to the time the Home Guard was stood down.



Stock photo IWM



Walter Eric Hars, lived in Avondale Road, Pitsea. And served in the Home Guard until he was called up to the RAF in 1940.



Walter Eric Hars on the left, and Mr Diggins Pitsea Home Guard.

*Courtesy of S. Hars*



## ARMS

The first weapons issued to the Home Guard, as far as one's personal records go, were Ross rifles, (28.6.40) though weapons had previously been issued or lent by the police. These were .303 rifles and shot-guns. The first patrols went out in curious style; their only uniform was an arm-band- "Local Defence Volunteers" in black and white cloth later on khaki cloth. Rifles were carried in various ways, according to whether slings had been improvised or not, and small arms ammunition was carried in one's pockets. The most important item was the Police permit to carry a rifle.

## WHAT POWERS DID THEY HAVE

1. Any offence against security.
2. Interfering with any person performing essential services.
3. Acts of sabotage.
4. Propaganda, when continued after one warning.
5. Communicating with, or associating with, enemy agents, or communicating information of use to the enemy.
6. Divulging secret information.
7. Endeavouring to seduce from duty any person engaged in state services.
8. Loitering near premises used for essential services.
9. Committing any act with intent to assist the enemy.
10. Power to liberate homing pigeons or racing pigeons if the owner does not hold a Police permit.
11. Power to enter a house and take any steps necessary to prevent of apparatus capable of transmitting signals to the enemy.
12. Anyone failing to satisfy as to their identity or as to their purpose in the place where found. These were powers in a "Normal Area". In the "Defence Area" The Home Guard might also deny the use of roads to unauthorised persons.

TEAM WORK was encouraged by the Pinkerton Cup, kindly given by the former second-in -command Major J.M. Pinkerton for Battle-craft.

This was won by “A” (Pitsea) Company,

The following orders are given as an example of a Battalion exercise.

### EXERCISE - “DICKORY”

#### INFORMATION

At 2100 hrs the code-word has been received; personnel are called out and H.Q.’ manned. Commandos are ready to move and static troops ready to proceed to their DL’s.

Taking part: A,B,C and E companies of 3rd Battalion . E.H.G companies will form the defence.

Personnel of D company will act as “ENEMY” to stage certain incidents.

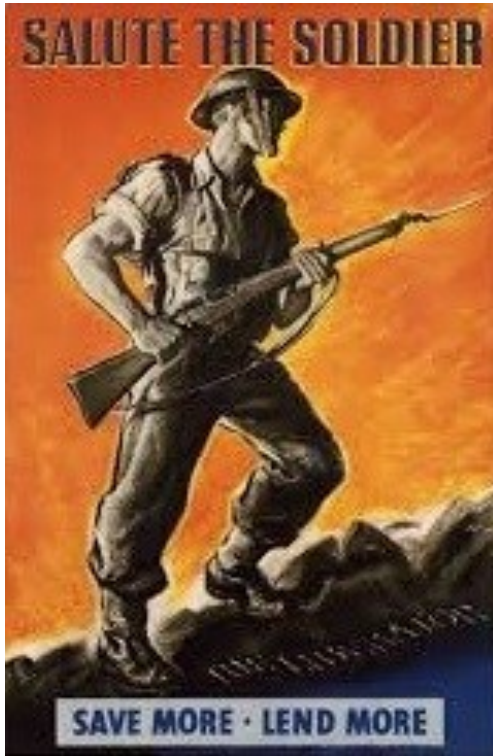
“A” Company will send representatives of their 3 commando plns, to Battalion H.Q. by one bus. This token force will represent their commandos, and is acting by token only to save further motor transport. The party should consist of Officers and NCO’S as far as possible.

#### Routes:

A Company commandos will move to Battalion H.Q. for instructions then to TIL BURY by Butts Lane, Mucking, Muckingford Chadwell.

#### INCIDENTS:

Will be staged for each unit moving to its action stations. These incidents will be carried out by Officers or senior NCOs of “D” Company who will be equipped with thunder-Flashes and incident notes to be given to Commanders passing certain spots.



Even on such occasions as “Warship Week” and “salute the Soldier” , and other Annual Savings Drives, the 3rd Battalion never staged a fully representative parade, for “A” company took part in the arrangements of the Billericay U.D.C., and the other companies at a totally different date with Thurrock.

## INVASION COMMITTEES:

The general experience seems to have been that, the larger the Parish the more seriously the Invasion Committee was taken, though there were small villages which were organised with admirable efficiency. Some idea of the problems Company Commanders were faced with, may be indicated by the fact that O.C. “B” Company had five Invasion Committees in his area- Bulphan, Orsett, Stanford-le-Hope, Corringham and Fobbing. And “A” Company one each in Vange, Pitsea, and Bowers Gifford, and half a share in Basildon and Nevendon.

In July, August and September 1940 the Home Guard regarded itself as on duty all the time, Every man asked himself “What shall I do if a German suddenly drops from the skies outside my house, Office or workshop door?” and because it was a practical possibility many took their rifles to work with them, especially if they worked in the country. In the same way their wives prepared for a similar contingency in the same spirit-no cup of tea and a cigarette, but a handful of pepper and a carving fork.

## OBSERVATION POSTS

And of the long hours spent in observation posts or at Company or Platoon Headquarters, little time was wasted. When it was an important duty to keep watch for the enemy landings over wide stretches of country side where planes or gliders would meet little opposition, observation posts were established overlooking Bulphen Fen, Pitsea Marshes, Mucking Flats and Tilbury marshes.

William John Walker on the 1939 Resister was living at Riverside Farm, Vange.  
And is shown as Observer at Observer Corps full time R.A.F.

Also shown on the 1939 Resister was William Dawes living at Railside, Victoria Road, Vange.

And is shown as Observer at Observer Corps full time R.A.F.

Nevertheless the Home Guard Medical Arrangements were devised to meet peculiar circumstances and I am personally convinced would have worked well in this battalion area had they been called upon to do so.

D. Macleod Gray, Major.

Stanford Lodge, High Road, Pitsea.

Battalion Medical Officer.

Vange 2220

## WOMEN AUXILIARIES.

In the Battalion there were 14 women auxiliaries, no one ever saw them at work, they had no stated hours, no uniform, no training centres, no specified job, just a badge which was proudly worn by all members on duty, they were just a band of women who volunteered to help in any capacity the Home Guard. At the time they were called Women's Home Guard, later they were called "Nominated Women" this name was not appreciated and were later called "Women Auxiliaries."

Tilbury Company had the greatest number of Women Auxiliaries.

Women volunteers are to be employed in the Essex Home Guard in such duties as Telephonists and cooks. They will be enrolled in the W.V.S, or similar organisation.

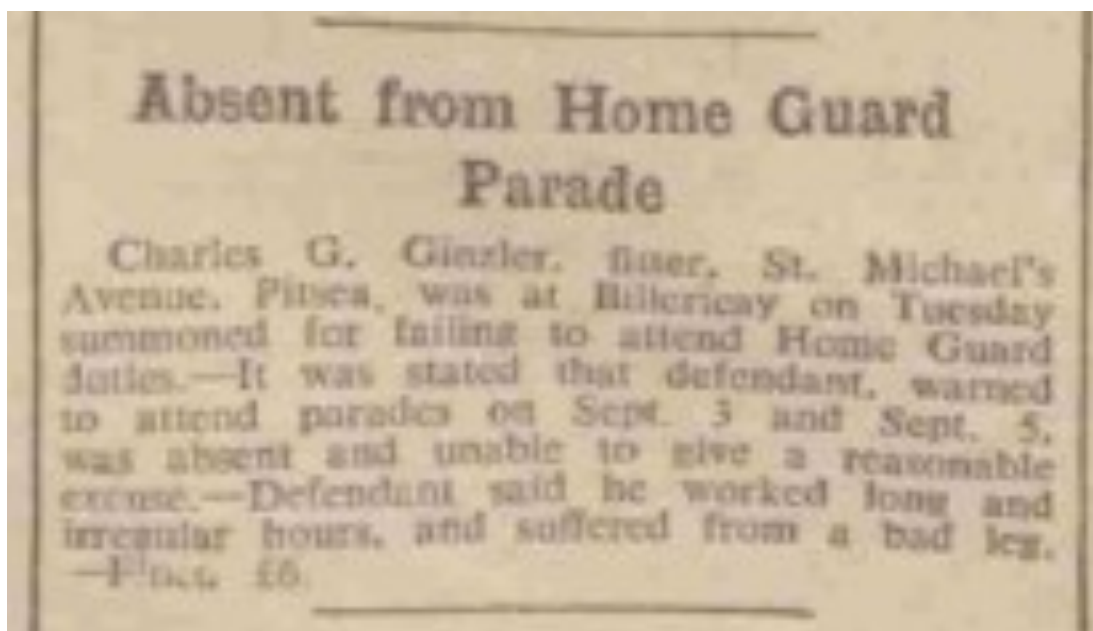
*The Essex Newsman & Maldon Express September 1941*

Certificates of Merit were awarded by the G.O.C Eastern Command to the following members.

Company quartermaster Sergeant E Sayer A Company 6th February 1945

(Pitsea, Vange and Bowers Gifford).

Corporal J.L. Barnard A Company 6th February 1945 (Pitsea, Vange and Bowers Gifford).



*Essex Newsman - Saturday 14 November 1942*



## From the War Diaries

<b>581</b>	4.2.44	05:45	05:49	Line N to S down Gordon Road across railway line to Bull Rd, Vange	4 X HE	About 250 houses damaged in Fairview Road, St James Rd & South View Rd etc. Sewers, electric light cables, telephone lines & gas mains damaged. Fire. About 200 people rendered homeless	5	17	31	Ambulance & Rescue Services fully employed. Mutual assistance rendered by 2 Rescue Parties from Brentwood & 1 from Thurrock. Incident Officer's Post set up. Rest Centre & Information Bureau opened. Mobile Canteen assisted by another from County operated, manned by WVS. Hot meals served at Craylands Depot by day & British Restaurant at night. Home Guard & Police patrolled area at night. Messengers maintained communications. Fixed FA Post at Pitsea & mobile FA Post also fully engaged. Staff transferred from Laindon & Wickford FA Posts. Public Utility Services advised. NFS attended
------------	--------	-------	-------	--	--------	--	---	----	----	---

<b>438</b>	19.4.41	22:40	23:54	In vicinity of Great Chalvedon Hall, B1011, Pitsea	25 IBs	No damage or casualties. Later reported 19 Chalvedon Ave. Rectory Road, Pitsea recd damage to the roof and furniture			AFS 1	Bombs dealt with by Wardens and Home Guard. Fire Brigade attended
------------	---------	-------	-------	--	--------	--	--	--	-------	---

# STOCK BRANCH CARRY VETO ON HOME GUARD IN THE LEGION

Eastern Area Convinced,  
Move for Admission  
Is Quashed

## 'DODGED COLUMN'

At the annual conference of the Eastern area of the British Legion at Caxton Hall, London, on Saturday, a resolution from Stock (Essex) which opposed the admission of the Home Guard to the Legion because the Home Guard "had no service qualifications as laid down by the Royal Charter" was carried by a large majority.

Moving the resolution, Mr. W. O. Harris said: "Had it been the L.D.V. I would have been in favour of admitting them. The L.D.V. was instituted at a time of great danger, and the men were volunteers. When the Home Guard came along they were no longer a suicide squad. Many young men were forced into the Home Guard. Many of them 'dodged the column.' They had a very comfortable time. They have not faced greater danger than the ordinary citizen. They were very adequately paid. We must see that there are no disharmonious elements introduced into the British Legion."

Mr. G. W. Barham, of Pitsea and Vange, said: "The Home Guard have turned out during raids and fought fires, and they have even helped to mend bombed homes. They have made terrible sacrifices and missed the comfort of their homes."

The resolution wiped out resolutions from other branches in favour of the admission of the Home Guard.

## HOME GUARD SHOT

Mr. Leonard Charles Ott, 44, a commercial traveller, of Wayside, Timberlog Lane, Vange, a member of the Home Guard, was fatally shot during a Home Guard exercise at Pitsea.

At the inquest at Billericoy on Saturday it was stated that an automatic rifle carried by Herbert D. W. Saville, a 16-year-old Home Guard, of Filbury, went off and Ott was killed.

Saville admitted that in his keenness to become a Home Guard he gave the wrong age. He thought the rifle was empty.

The Coroner (Mr. L. F. Beecle), returning a verdict of Accidental death, said it was by the intervention of Providence that five men were not killed instead of one.

Newsman Herald October 1944

## THE BRICK FIELDS

Further along the road we come to the brick fields, where many years ago a large number of the male inhabitants were employed making bricks from the clay of Vange Hills. These works are now closed down, but remains of them are still to be seen among the shrubbery. During the war an Observer Post was built on the summit of these hills to give warning of approaching aircraft, both friendly and enemy. Home Guards used the pits of the brickfields for target practice and manoeuvres, and so linked the romance of the past with the perils of the day.

## ANCIENT FARM HOUSE

Essex Newsman 06 February 1945



## “OVERLORD”

The first great work of the Home Guard was defensive, to show to the enemy a nation in arms in 1940. It's second great work was to assist in the invasion of the Continent of Europe when our armies had passed to the offensive.

The 3rd Battalions part was to find no fewer than 840 men weekly to guard posts at Vange, Stanford, Orsett, Muckingford, West Tilbury and Tilbury. All other duties and training were suspended so that a man's entire Home Guard duty might be devoted to protecting embarking troops.

Pitsea and Vange Home Guard  
In front of the Pitsea Railway Hotel



3rd Battalion Essex Home Guard.

PITSEA "A" COMPANY (Pitsea, Vange and Bower Gifford.)

Company Commander Major L Reynolds

Second in charge Captain E S Pattison

Intelligence Officer Lieut R H Howard

Amin O Lieut W J Wood

No 1 Platoon Lieutenant K B Cater

No 2 Platoon 2nd Lieutenant A N Cattermole

2nd Lieutenant A R Smith

No 3 Platoon Lieutenant T W Finch

2nd Lieutenant A J N Wheeler

Thomas George William Harris (Pitsea.)

Private George Arthur Charlick (Pitsea)

Arthur Edward Sayer

Corporal Walter Eric Hars (Pitsea)

David Edwin Bright

Len Humphrey

Charles Cowell

Bobby Hadwin

John William McDonald rk Jack

John William Barham

Albert Edward Searle

Harold Hockley (Bob)

Leonard Ott (Vange)

Private Herbert Saville

Mr Diggins (Pitsea)

Henry Alfred Butler

William Tebbutt

Len Humphrey

Ernie Keeble (Vange)

George Bowles (Bennie) (Vange)

Charles G Glazer (Pitsea)

Horace Downer (Pitsea)

William Ede

Harold Hockley (Bob)

Donald Hamilton

G.W. Barham (Vange)

M J Bert

If you know someone that served in the Pitsea and Vange Home Guard and they are not on this list please let us know at Basildon Heritage.

## Pitsea Continued

Mat. Reg. No. ....  
Rank. **PRIVATE** .....  
Name **CHARLICK** .....  
Address. **19 RECTORY PARK**  
**PITSEA ESSEX** .....  
No. **2** .. (**PITSEA** .....) Pl.  
"A" (Pitsea) Company.  
3rd Bn. Essex Home Guard.  
RELIGION - **C of E**

No. 10. Section 4  
No. 10. Section 8  
Rifle Number 1328027

Private George Arthur Charlick.

### PITSEA HOME GUARDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

A Christmas party was held at the Railway Hotel on Saturday, by Pitsea Home Guard, entertainment being provided by it's members and other local talent gathered together by Mr J. J. Bert, an officer in the Home Guard.

The artistes were Messrs Lyons, Kilby, Turner and Bert (Home Guard), and Miss Doris Shey, Sylvia and Shelia Izzard, Brenda Humphries, Joyce Holland and Mrs Allen, Mr Aldridge was a capable compere.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr J. W Dangerfield, one time Commander of the 3rd Essex Battalion Home Guard, to the helpers and artistes for their support in making the evening a success.

Southend District, Times and Laindon Recorder December 1944

### L.D.V. volunteer dies at 76

Mr. Arthur Edward Sayer, aged 76, died suddenly on Tuesday week at his home, 16, Rectory Hill Road, Pitsea, where he had resided for 24 years. Born at Kennington of a family line of Surrey brewers—George Sayer's Ales—he studied law and land valuation. Yearning for adventure, he joined the Royal Horse Artillery, served in the Boer War and was posted to India, where he served 10 years. He was transferred to the Indian Police, in which he served 20 years in the Bengal Province before retiring at the rank of Chief Inspector. After 30 years in India he returned to England and settled in Pitsea. During the 1939-45 War he served in Pitsea Home Guard, being one of the first volunteers of the original L.D.V. The funeral service was on Friday week at St. Michael's Church, Pitsea. He was buried in his wife's grave. Mr. Sayer leaves a daughter and four sons.



THIS IS HOW the Battalion was organized in April 1944.

“A” Company (Pitsea):

Major L. Reynolds. Company H. Q. Tudor Mansions, Pitsea.

“B” Company (Stanford-le-Hope) :

Major J. A. Tunnicliffe. Company H.Q. Co-operative Hall, Stanford-le-Hope.

“C” Company (Tilbury):

Major H.E. Judd. Company H.Q. Calcutta Road, Tilbury.

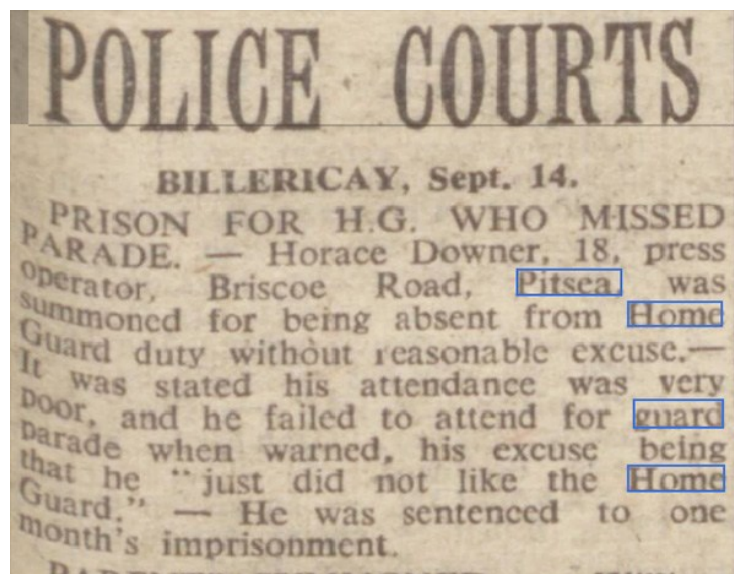
“D” Company (Havens):

Major J. Sutton, D.C.M. M.M Company H.Q. Thames Haven Hotel.

“E” Company (Bucklands):

Major S. H. Greens, G.M. Company H.Q. Memorial Hall, West Tilbury.

Warmen Courageous by Major Peter Finch.



*Essex Newsman 18th September 1943*

**The honour** of founding the 3rd Battalion belongs to those officers who were given command in Zone Part 11 orders No1 dated 12th July 1940, - Brigadier General J. T. Wigan, C.B., C. M.G., D.S.O., T.D., Lieutenant Colonel S. W. Chapman. M.C. Captain J.C. Chaplin, M.C. Lieutenant Colonel R. Neave, Major (Later Lieutenant Colonel) N. R. McLaughlin, O.B.E. and Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) A. V. Hussey, O.B.E. L.D.V detachments at Bulphan, Orsett and Corringham were formed by Captain Chaplin, who then raised detachments in Thurrock at the Grays Co-operative Society and Drums LTD. - Horndon-on- the-Hill, Stanford-le-Hope and Havens. Colonel Neave had meanwhile been active in the Tilbury area. Major McLaughlin in Grays, Colonel Chapman in the Pitsea district and Major Hussey in West Thurrock and Purfleet. The results of this considerable activity were seen when the scattered bands of volunteers were first brought together in Battalion organization under the Command of General Wigan. The thirty two sections which existed in the summer of 1940 were then divided into five Companies Thus:-

**Pitsea Company** (Colonel Chapman): Vange, Pitsea, Bowers Gifford and Basildon.

**Stanford-le-Hope Company** (Captain Chaplin): Orsett, Corringham, Horndon-on-the-Hill,

Thames Haven, Bulphan, Fobbing, Drums Ltd., Cory Brothers, London and Thames Haven.

**Grays Company** (Major McLaughlin) Four sections.

**Purfleet Company** (Major Hussey): West Thurrock, Purfleet, Aveley, Wennington, Rainham, Stifford, West Ham Colony, Thames Board Mills, Van den Burghs and Jurgens, South Ockendon and Murex Ltd.

*Warmen Courageous The history of the Essex Home Guard 1940 -1945*

“Fallow” the code name for Stand Down ‘

Had been issued on 1st November, and plans made for a final parade of the Essex Home Guard at Chelmsford on Sunday November 19th. On this day, some nine hundred Home Guards representing all the units of the Essex Home Guards attended a service at Chelmsford Cathedral.

## APPENDIX

### Pitsea Company:

Captain A. S Dangerfield, 38, Brackendale Avenue, Pitsea, Vange 2240.

Lieutenant L Reynolds, Cromwell Cottage, Kents View Road, Vange, Vange 3159.

Tudor Mansions, Station Lane, Pitsea, Vange 3235.

Battle H.Q Vange Scouts Hut, Vange.

No 1 Platoon, Pitsea, Second Lieutenant E.S. Patterson, 1, Tennyson Drive, Pitsea.

H.J Peck, 12, Popes Crescent, Pitsea.

Tudor Mansions (as Before) Pitsea.

No2 Platoon, Bowers Gifford, A. Belding, 2, Sadlers Villas, Bowers Gifford.

No3 Platoon, Vange, (including Basildon), Lieutenant L. Reynolds, (as Before).

Second Lieutenant, H. Chew, Church Road, Basildon, Scouts Hall, Vange,

Information for this booklet was also taken from 3rd Essex Battalion Home Guard

1940 - 1945

Compiled by Lieutenant Colonel F Hughes, M.C.

Commanding Officer.

And also

Warmen Courageous, The History of the Essex Home Guard 1940 - 1945

By major Peter Finch, M.A, F.R.G.S., R.A (T.A)





*The dedication of the Essex Home Guard Memorial Window in the Chapel of the Essex Regiment at Warley, on Sunday, 7th November, 1948.*



## VANGE BOOKLETS

All Saints Church Hall 1931 £2.10  
Barges at Vange Wharf £2.10  
Cashes Well No5 £2.10  
John (Paddy) Hemingway £1.50  
The Barge Inn 1832 – 2015 £2.50  
The Bull Public House 1878— 1961 £1.50  
The Vange Crystal Well £1.50  
Vange Board School 1876 £5.80  
Vange Fire Station 1934 – 1962 £3.90  
Vange Hall Brick Works 1886—1921 £3.30  
Vange Reservoir & Southend Water Company £2.00  
Vange Swimming Pool 1933-1952 £2.00  
The Shops of Vange London Road & High Road £5.00  
The 1st Pitsea and Vange Scouts 1913—1970 £4.50  
3rd Battalion Essex Home Guard. Vange and Pitsea. £2.80  
Royal Observer Corps, Monitoring Post, Vange, Essex. £2.10

## BASILDON BOOKLET

Locarno Mecca Dancing £6.00 1961 - 1971

## PITSEA BOOKLETS

W. J. Wager Dairies £1.50  
Tuskite Works Pitsea Hall Lane £1.50  
Broadway Cinema 1930—1970 £3.00  
Pitsea United 1909—1971 £8.70  
The Old Pitsea Market 1924—1969 £2.60





Ken Porter 07968 313614

[Kenneth.f.porter@gmail.com](mailto:Kenneth.f.porter@gmail.com)

[jo-cullen@mail.com](mailto:jo-cullen@mail.com)

Mobile 07552 947687

FaceBook: Basildon Heritage

[www.basildonheritage.org.uk](http://www.basildonheritage.org.uk)

[basildonheritage@outlook.com](mailto:basildonheritage@outlook.com)

**Basildon Heritage**  
The Green Centre  
Wat Tyler Country Park  
Pitsea Hall Lane  
Pitsea, Basildon  
Essex.  
SS16 4UH.

Monday & Wednesday's 10am—12pm

Saturdays 10am—3pm