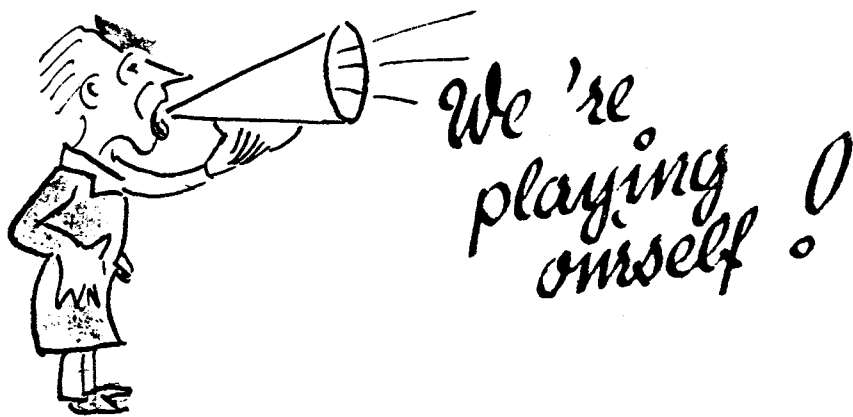


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



presents:



BULLETIN OF THE

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 24

Number 2

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: A collage of sections of an invitation to an entertainment organised by prisoners-of-war at Glen Mill at Christmas 1945, sent to the Major in charge of the camp. (Richard James Collection). See the article above.

GLEN MILL - A PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

Through the kindness of Mr Richard James of Saddleworth below is reproduced an account written by his father, Walter James. At the end of the Second World War the last-mentioned commanded 176 German Prisoner of War Camp, better known as Glen Mill in Lees.

His reminiscences have the precise, matter-of-fact style befitting a professional soldier of long experience, but through them shows a conscientious regard for a difficult job and a desire to do the best in very challenging circumstances. It is a valuable document of a little known aspect of local history.

* * * * *

"176 German Prisoner of War Camp was located at Glen Mill, Lees, near Oldham, and accommodated upwards of 6,000 prisoners, mostly WO's, NCO's and a few officer cadets. In 1944/45 there were also about 400 officers in a separate compound accommodated in tents. The British camp staff consisted of a Guard Company of 60 officers and men and there was a small staff to man the camp office, QM stores, compound staff, and some limited transport.

Glen Mill is an old cotton mill of four floors, each measuring about 100 by 80 yards; a big building but quite inadequate for the number of men it had to accommodate.

It was surrounded by a double security fence with raised sentry posts all round. From time to time this fence was raised and deepened and was considered impregnable by the engineer experts. The Germans however thought differently and seized every opportunity to prove the point.

The PW's slept on three floors of the mill, 2,000 to each of the three big rooms. They slept in three tier bunks which were in long lines of four abreast filling the whole floor except for a space of a few yards down one side, and lanes a foot wide between the long rows. This meant that at best a man would have to climb over at least one of his comrades to reach his own bed. The space left along one side of the room was for recreation and as their parade ground where they fell in to be counted at roll call.

The outside exercise compound was far too small and it was impossible to play games or take proper exercise. The toilets were in this exercise yard and these could only be used during day time. When the prisoners were let out in the morning there was a wild rush for accommodation. Long queues waited all through the day, wet or fine. At night latrine buckets were provided on each landing. Inevitably they overflowed and flooded the stairs.

The top floor of the mill was equipped as a 200 bed hospital. There were two German doctors and a staff of nursing orderlies.

There was a good deal of minor illness but during the time I was there only two men died. We had no problem getting all the medical supplies the doctors requested and it was generally agreed by the RAMC and the prisoners themselves that our hospital was one of the best of its kind.

The kitchens and ration stores were in the basement, and were staffed and to a large extent supervised by the Germans. Cooking was by steam and electricity and the scale of equipment was the same as for British troops. They received the same rations and cash allowance as we did, and as their cooks were far better than ours they fed really well. Many prisoners freely admitted that they were far better fed as prisoners than they were in the German army. They had chefs who specialised in various dishes, bakers and pastrycooks, and one man who seemed to do nothing but make vast quantities of dough nuts and fritters. They ate more potatoes and cabbage than the British and were allowed to draw extra in lieu of part of their bread ration.

They were adequately clothed with the same underwear as the British, plus their own uniform if still serviceable. If not they were issued with our battle dress fitted with large coloured patches. These patches were strongly resented, as it meant that a large hole had to be cut in a perfectly good garment and a patch of very inferior material fitted. This applied equally to the German uniform, which seemed quite unnecessary to me. Some men had very little when captured. Many of the Africa Corps were taken with only a vest and shorts and had to be completely kitted out. Another cause for resentment was the order forbidding the wearing of the Nazi emblem. This meant the confiscation of all badges and medals bearing the Swastika emblem. This I think was unnecessary and unjust, and caused a lot of ill feeling. These medals etc should have been returned on the owners' repatriation, but because of inadequate records I doubt if they were.

I was posted to 176 PW Camp on 12th January 1945 and I reported on 15th January, having previously been given a pep talk by the Sub-District Commander. I was to relieve the present Commandant, and clamp down hard on discipline and report soonest on number of prisoners said to have escaped. I asked for the help of a good Quartermaster and an infantry QM was appointed; in fact we arrived at the camp together and proceeded to take over. Being a Major I was posted as Asst Commandant and promised that a Lt Col would be posted in a day or two. This was in fact done, but as he was in East Africa it did not help me much. In fact he never did report for duty.

At the end of the first full day we had not achieved very much, except to discover that a very large amount of barrack furniture had disappeared from the prisoners' quarters. Burnt, no doubt, during the cold weather.

The Compound Officer and his assistants had made a number of attempts to count the prisoners and had ended up with a different figure each time. It was not within 50 of the number it should have been. 6,400 if I remember right. This was the result of tactics by the prisoners to cause delay and avoid

detection of the escapees. The more the delay the better their chances.

These delaying tactics were a very easy matter, and explain the system of counting we adopted. The mill yard was so small it was useless as a parade ground, so roll call had to be carried out in the rooms where the prisoners lived and slept. They fell in in five ranks in the available space and the compound officer walked along and counted the files of fives, while the British NCO's tried to keep them covered off and prevent them from moving from the file that had been counted to the one that had not. Then all the beds had to be checked and odd men were found under the bunks. Whilst this went on others crept along the rear and tagged on to the files that had been counted, so at a recheck the number differed again. They refused to stand still, or be quiet, or co-operate in any way. We could take them away for punishment, but this did no good as the cells were always full, and anyway there were still over 6,000 men determined to frustrate all our efforts.

At 9 am the next morning I was called to the telephone by a furious Brigadier at the War Office (PW1), demanding the names and descriptions of all escapers. I tried to explain the problem to him but he cut me off, saying it was my problem and it was up to me to solve it, by 6 pm or else.

After a short discussion with the Adjutant I decided on a plan and called all the officers and senior NCO's to a conference in the mens' canteen.

As it was impossible to count the prisoners inside the mill we would count them outside. In short, they would all, except the sick, be evacuated and fallen in on Constantine Street, outside the wire, in columns of fives. I had measured the distance and knew that they would all fit in, but only just. Both sides of the road were fairly open, on the left was high ground, and on the right it sloped down to a valley. The whole of the Guard Company were to be placed in positions where they commanded the road and the country on both sides, and where they could be clearly seen by the prisoners, thus discouraging any attempt at a breakout. The important points were manned by NCO's who had all our available Bren guns. Evacuation of the mill was to begin at 10 am. Most of the officers wanted more time, but time was short to begin with so there would be no lunch for either the staff or the prisoners.

It did not take long for the men to move off to their posts whilst the Germans watched in amazement at what was going on. They soon found out as at 10 am sharp the compound staff started to shepherd them through the small gate at the north of the compound. To make sure there were no mistakes we had three check points where a Sergeant of the provost staff ticked each one off on his clip board, not by name, as this would have been an impossible task, but one man one tick. In the end there were only two sergeants working as after a couple of thousand had gone through one NCO fainted and his check was useless.

It was a shock to me to learn how long it takes for 6,000 men to file slowly past in single file, and it had a disastrous effect on the unfortunate sergeants who had to keep the score. Add to this the confusion caused by those Nazis who refused

to co-operate and turned back, or tried to force through in a crowd etc.

I thought the long file of men would never end, and it was nearly dark when the last few stragglers were passed out and the counting of the sick and limbless men began. The prisoners had been standing on the road in an icy wind for over six hours, and they had had no mid-day meal, so it was natural that they were a bit restless. They had sung Lili Marlene, Horst Wesel Song, and all their other marching songs, and nauseum, stamping their feet in time to keep warm. On the whole they had behaved better than I had expected. Apart from a nasty incident at the south end, where a party of SS men had refused to move and the Lt had foolishly opened the main gate, only to be dragged inside by the prisoners. We only got him out again on threatening to shoot the culprits. It was just after this that I noticed that things had become quite silent at the north end. The singing and shouting had stopped and I realised that something serious had happened.

I walked quickly towards the north gate and saw the body of a prisoner lying across the footpath and the sentry walking towards me on his beat. I asked him what had happened and he said the prisoner had been warned not to leave the ranks, but the prisoner had run at him so he had fired. The prisoner was almost unrecognisable as the shot at such close range had blown the top of his head off. He was Paul Hartmann, a soldier in the SS who, like most of his comrades, was a PP. That is to say he was a Protected Person under the Geneva Convention as being a member of the medical staff. Like so many of the PP's in the SS he had no medical qualification or training, but traded on the privileges and status that his PP card gave him. He was a well known trouble maker.

Our medical orderlies took the body away whilst the PW's stood silently to attention giving the Nazi salute. Two other men were slightly injured with cuts on the face, which I learnt later were caused by fragments of bone from Hartmann's head.

Fortunately we had completed the count and I ordered the PW's back into the compound. They were all inside and at their meal in a very short time. They gave no trouble at all and were silent and subdued at the death of their comrade.

The shooting of Hartmann was most unfortunate and I foresaw some complications. I immediately ordered a Board of Inquiry to meet that evening, notified the civil police, and then phoned the War Office to give them the result of our count, and to inform them that one PW had been killed in the process. This really shook them and the telephone was continually ringing. My evidence to the Board of Inquiry was continually interrupted by this and they could not proceed without me so it was a long business. The President was a Major from another PW Camp who was very patient and thorough. All the members of this Board were from other units as I did not want to be accused of bias by detailing our own officers.

The police arrived and said they would take Hartmann's body to the mortuary and an inquest would be held in due course.

The following day, which I think was a Saturday, we were invaded by all the top brass from PW 1 Branch. They found they had been forestalled in the matter of an inquiry as the proceedings were already in the hands of the GOC District.

The next to arrive was the representative of the Swiss ambassador as they were the protecting power for the Germans. I allowed this gentleman to make his own enquiries among both the PW's and the British staff, and to inspect the prisoners' accommodation and feeding. Before he left he remarked that he visited British PWs in Germany in similar circumstances, and that he had seen German camps that were better and some that were worse, but he had never seen prisoners so well fed and clothed as those in Glen Mill. Whilst the Swiss representative was still with us the Papal Legate arrived with his aides in an opulent car flying the Papal flag. It appears that they also had some sort of protective role. They asked many questions but had little to say to the prisoners apart from the two German doctors.

All these people had to be provided with meals, given rooms where they could interview prisoners in private, and their numerous drivers and helpers also had to be looked after. This imposed an enormous strain on our administration, as I had some days before these events returned all our German domestic staff and clerks to the compound. Soldiers who had spent the night on guard were having to cook and act as waiters etc. The various officers, delegates and intelligence people who had come to investigate the incident certainly did a good job. I would think that about half the prisoners asked for interviews, and a great number were seen either individually or collectively. In only one respect were the camp conditions severely criticised, and that was in the matter of recreational space. I suggested that they put this in writing to the War Office, as I had a thick file of correspondence on this subject which had proved quite futile.

This unfortunate incident had resulted in many people seeing the camp who would otherwise not have come within a hundred miles of it. They must have used their influence, as within a matter of days authority to extend the exercise area was given on the lines proposed by me and previous Commandants. The Garrison Engineer started work at once and quite soon the PWs had a football pitch etc. This additional recreation area meant more sentries, but more men for this purpose were not forthcoming. A new Guard Company Commander was however posted to us. He was a live wire and set about making the most of our limited man-power.

On 3rd April 1945 the Inquest on Paul Hartmann was held at the police court in Oldham. This raised further worries for us as the two German doctors had alleged that the shot that killed Hartmann was an explosive round and the wound was not consistent with that to be expected from a .303 Mk. VII round. An ammunition expert had been called in, together with medical experts, one of whom produced Hartmann's skull from a paper parcel and passed it to these witnesses. The experts agreed that a normal round fired at close range could do this



GREENACRES
CEMETERY

CONSTANTINE
STREET

RESERVOIR

GLEN MILL

RES

railway to Greenfield →

LYHOLE
STREET

damage, and that matter was settled. I did have some misgivings on this score, as it would be possible, if someone was careless, to get ammunition of various types mixed up. On checking up in camp the QM produced some Mk. VIII Z and some tracer, which he had found in possession of men posted to us, but no special types were found in possession of the men in the Guard Company. It was a strange thing that we were never able to find the cartridge case of the fired round. The Gnr thought it had shot through the wire into the compound as he reloaded. It is probable that one of the PWs had picked it up and kept it as a souvenir.

Witnesses, both British and German, described how the shooting had occurred, and it appeared that Hartmann had given trouble all afternoon by making as if to run out of the ranks and then jumping back again. He was warned by the Gnr that if he left the road he would be shot but he only laughed. As the Gnr approached along his beat Hartmann jumped towards him, the Gnr instantly fired, and Hartmann fell across the pavement. I gave evidence that the body was lying on the pavement across the sentry's beat and the German witnesses did not dispute this.

The Coroners Jury accepted that the orders I had given to the sentries were reasonable in the circumstances and gave a verdict of Justifiable Homicide. This meant that there could be no disciplinary action against the Gnr or myself and all the various staff officers who had been hanging around awaiting developments went their various ways and left us to get on with our job.

During this period the PWs were just as arrogant as ever and would not believe that Germany was losing the war, and they only laughed when shown our newspapers. Escape attempts continued. Some were successful and some were not. One such attempt was particularly ingenious. At the opening doors each morning there was a mad rush to the latrines as was only natural, and the yard was full of milling men in a few seconds. On this occasion the crowd rushed out and among them, quite unseen, they carried a ladder made from timber from their bunks. This was quickly laid against the inner fence and with one wild jump the escapee cleared both the inner and outer fence and hit the ground ten feet below, then rolling down a steep bank out of sight. Three had jumped before the sentries opened fire. Two made good their escape, for a couple of days at least, and the third broke a leg and was brought back, to the cheers of his comrades. It was an excellent attempt, beautifully timed, and the three who got over must have been good athletes.

Tunnels were tried but must have been a bitter disappointment. The mill had a deep basement so it was not an easy place to start from. There was a deep lodge at the north end, quite deep, and a smaller and shallower one on the east side. On the other side they could only tunnel into the British camp. (See sketch plan attached).

One attempt was made to get away via a manhole to the main sewer. This was abandoned when the tunnellers were in danger

of being overcome by sewer gas. Two other attempts at tunnelling were defeated by flooding. The most successful effort started under the mill boiler, which was in use to provide steam heat for cooking etc. Work on this tunnel went on for several weeks and was close to completion when a sentry on patrol round the wire found the ground collapse under him.

Snap searches were frequently carried out, mostly by the camp staff, but sometimes by War Office teams of experts. These searches invariably discovered a collection of escape gear and improvised weapons, but this we knew was but a small part of what existed. We had been tipped off that firearms were in the possession of some of the prisoners, but many searches failed to reveal them. One day a sentry said he had seen something thrown into the north lodge from one of the upper windows. This was quite deep so we decided to ask the Fire Brigade to drain it. The result was five serviceable pistols and ammunition wrapped in waterproof with strings attached so that a good swimmer would have no great difficulty in recovering them. A further weapon was found in a most unusual place. It was noticed that a one legged man on crutches always wore his greatcoat, even on the hottest days. Since capture this man must have been searched many times, but in the back of his coat, between the shoulders was sewn an automatic pistol and a box of ammunition.

We knew that there was a plan in all PW camps for a mass breakout immediately the Nazis landed in England. The prisoners expected this to happen at any moment. That it never did happen did not prevent them making plans and preparations.

But for the fact that the SS had the most brutal methods of punishing prisoners who it was thought had co-operated with the British, we might never have known what was going on. Beatings were given with fearsome weapons, pieces of 2 x 2 timber torn from bed bunks, with rusty screws and nails sticking out at all angles, odd pieces of iron piping etc. The German doctors had to work very hard to save the lives of some of the victims, who always asked to be transferred to another camp, and before departure gave us all the useful information they could, but not the names of the culprits. One man told us that there was a bomb factory at Warth Mill Camp at Bury. This was at once checked and in the paint shop (Bury was a working camp) there was found all the ingredients for the making of explosives. Some camps specialised in the making of radio sets, some produced maps and escape gear such as compasses. We often knew that these activities were in progress. At Glen Mill we did not know that the PWs tapped all our telephone conversations until the P O Engineers discovered it when rectifying a fault.

On March 8th 1946 (VE Day) we told the prisoners that Germany had surrendered. At first this only raised a laugh, but when they were told to take down the "blackouts", and we gave the camp leader one of our portable radios, it gradually sunk in.

From then on all was quiet and peaceful, and the PWs co-operated in every way. They volunteered for any work that was available and some hundreds were employed on various projects. One gang took up the old tram lines from Manchester to Mersey Square, Stockport, and others worked on various housing estates being built at Whitefield, Littleborough, Todmorden etc. Many

also volunteered for farm work, but unlike the Italian PWs and Germans from working camps, they were not allowed to live out. Those who for political reasons were not allowed to go out to work were taken out on route marches across the moors with an escort of only one officer or NCO and two men to each 100 PWs.

The influx of prisoners did not cease on VE Day, and only 20 or 30 wounded men were repatriated. In fact during 1946 we had 2,500 men in and only 60 out. The latter number included some sent to Nuremburg for trial for war crimes.

On 14th March 1946 a Lt Colonel arrived to take over as Commandant. On 15th March 1946 he left.

As long as the war continued the morale of the PWs was high. Now our biggest problem was to keep it from collapsing altogether. Some of them asked if they might be allowed to buy musical instruments and specified a piano and instruments costing over £200. I asked how they proposed to pay for these and to my amazement they said that all the working prisoners had offered to pool their meagre pay to meet this.

We had not known that we had the famous impresario, Ernst Schmidt-Reinhardt, and a leader of the Berlin Philharmonic, not to mention one or two distinguished musicians like Fritz Koch, among our prisoners. Within a week or two we had an excellent orchestra and these erstwhile intractable prisoners would sit for hours listening to the works of the great German composers. Even the music was orchestrated or written by the musicians as the best we could obtain for them were the piano parts.

The prisoners wanted to give concerts to the public but this was vetoed by higher authority. It was however agreed that they could play to the camp staff and their relations and friends in the camp, and some very enjoyable concerts were given.

176 PW Camp was notorious in many respects and this was due to the policy of confining all potential trouble makers in specific camps, and Glen Mill was one of these. In the German army the officers, NCO's and men of the Whermacht were like their British counterparts, disciplined and reliable, with little thought to politics. When captured they accepted the situation and gave very little trouble. Given the chance, they would try to escape, but would not take futile risks to this end.

On the other hand there were a large proportion of young men who had been indoctrinated by the Nazis. They believed they were the master race and were arrogant and completely ruthless. In some cases they were guilty of war crimes and had become completely brutalised. These men were mainly from the SS and certain special units like the Gestapo. Parachute units and submarine crews seemed to have a high proportion of these ardent Nazis.

Because of the various degrees of indoctrination the prisoners were graded into classes:-

- Category A Prisoners of no political leanings who were reliable and unlikely to give trouble or attempt escape.
- Category B Prisoners who had no political record. Mostly regular long service soldiers.
- Category C Men known to have been subjected to Nazi teachings and had served in suspect units. These men could not be trusted.
- Category D Ardent Nazis from the SS, Gestapo, Army, Navy and Luftwaffe, and some civilians. These formed the majority of prisoners held in Glen Mill Camp and all of them would cause trouble whenever they could.

A few Class A and B prisoners were held at the camp for camp duties. These unfortunates however had a very bad time at the hands of the young thugs of the SS and there were many beatings and some were severely tortured. Things got so bad that they had to be taken from the compound and housed in the British lines. Many of these A and B types were not Germans, but had been conscripted when the Germans over-ran their country.

We well knew that the camp, within the prisoners' compound, was run by a committee of Nazi party members, mostly SS men, and we knew that the Camp Leader, a senior Oberfeldwebel, was appointed by them. He was, however, always a regular army man, as they had the sense to realise that we would never accept one of the Nazi clique. We sacked Lager Führers one after the other as they failed to get the discipline and co-operation we wanted, but in the end we came back to the first one, an elderly veteran who despised the Nazis, but feared them too much to let them see it. He told us bluntly that it was impossible for him to enforce our orders, but he was invaluable to the extent that he trusted us and, without giving names, he let us know when trouble was brewing. He was however the choice of the Nazis and he therefore got their support in the normal daily routine.

The Nazi trouble makers were seldom idle. Complaints about the most trivial matters just to waste our time. Latrine buckets emptied on the passing sentry, to make us angry. And brutal beatings of innocent prisoners, to instil fear into the remainder.

The Nazis, however, did not have a monopoly of dirty tricks. It did not take me long to decide that a dirty tricks department might be an asset and some of the tricks we produced certainly upset the trouble makers. One example was on the occasion when a number of men had been badly beaten for alleged co-operation with the British. I ordered that three suspects be put in the cells. In due course they were marched before me accompanied by the Lagerführer. Through the interpreter they were charged with the woundings. This they denied, but agreed they knew the guilty parties, but would not give their names. I then told them they would have five minutes to reconsider and if by then they did not give the culprits' names the consequences for them would be very serious indeed. At

the end of five minutes they still had nothing to say. I told the Lagerführer to wait outside and at a nod to the escort they were taken away towards the British lines. A few minutes later there were three bursts of Bren gun fire from the 30 yards range and those three prisoners were not seen again. The Lagerführer went back to the compound looking completely stunned. The three men were in fact locked in the British guard room and after dark were taken away on transfer to another camp.

This sudden disappearance of trouble makers had a marked effect. For a long time there were no beatings by the SS. The thugs were kept guessing as to who would be the next to disappear, whilst the majority, the well behaved prisoners, gave a sigh of relief.

It was not unusual for the leaders of the ruling group to frame anyone they disliked. This happened to one or two senior NCO's who had tried to enforce discipline and thus incurred the displeasure of the Nazis. Homosexuality and sexual perversion were favourite charges and these were always supported by carefully written statements signed by the witnesses. Their thoroughness was their undoing, and under cross-examination at least one or two would break down and contradict his own or someone else's statement.

The maximum punishment that could be awarded by the Commandant was 28 days detention, and the prisoner had the option of being tried by a military court. The Commandant could also remand for trial by military court if he thought his own powers were inadequate to the case. The military court followed the procedure for Courts Martial and its powers were almost unlimited.

The cells at Glen Mill were always full. There were only six, each accommodating two men. Men undergoing detention were better off than their comrades outside. More space, privacy, their own toilets, meals brought to them and books to read. As a form of punishment, detention was not a success.

A newspaper for German prisoners was published by the War Office and appeared weekly. In the years before the Armistice the Wochenpost was treated as lying propaganda and was not read, at least in public. Some few wanted to read it but dare not, and the bulk of the copies were cut up and put to a useful purpose in the latrines. It was in fact a well produced paper, giving truthful reports on the progress of the war, with articles by the International Red Cross on the situation in Germany, particularly as it affected the families of the prisoners. The interpreters often passed on news of Allied victories, but none of this was believed. In June 1944, when told of the Allied landings in Normandy, they just laughed, and in May 1945 when we told them of the death of Hitler and the German surrender, they still could not believe it. It was only the removal of the blackouts that finally convinced them that the war had ended.

Thereafter the conduct of the PWs was exemplary. They worked hard for long hours and there were no further attempts at escape. They provided many large working parties, on roads, housing, farms, and on large military depots like RAF Maintenance Units.

We also employed them in the British lines and for the first time enjoyed good cooking and service.

Repatriation was slow, the sick and wounded going first, then the politically reliable. Men of certain SS units were kept on as checks on war crimes were being made and needless to say Glen Mill had a few suspects. "



(Christmas 1945

Presented to the Commandant & Officers
of the P.O.W. camp 176

Glen mill Oldham

with the best wishes for a merry

X-mas

and a happy New-Year

by the men of this Camp

i. C.

Fischer Sps.
LAGER FÜHRER

Saddleworth in Wartime - Part One

In SHS Bulletins Vol 21, Nos 2 and 4, I described the search-light positions in and around Saddleworth. In Vol 22, No 1, I requested information on other wartime facilities, and I thank the four people who contacted me. There does not appear to be a definitive list of wartime facilities in Saddleworth, and with further help from readers of this Bulletin, it may be possible to prepare one!

My researches over the last two years have been spasmodic but here are some items which might help to jog a few memories.

Search Lights

(See pp 20 and 21, SHS Bulletin Vol 21, No 4)

1. Chew Mount (near Chew Reservoir).
2. Grasscroft (slag heap at the end of Beech Lane).
3. Near the Horse and Jockey Public House (in a field 100 metres SW).

(Note: reference was made to a possible site at Moorgate, and this was thought to be in Saddleworth, but is now confirmed as Moorgate, Micklehurst).

Drill Halls

1. Ashes Lane, Springhead (now a Community Centre). (Built in 1939 to replace one at County End?).
2. High Street, Uppermill (now a restaurant).
3. Denshaw (location?).
4. Greenfield (location?).

Rifle Ranges

1. Diggle (still used by Greater Manchester Police).
2. Springhead (in basement of Drill Hall. Still in use?).

There was also a small target bunker at the base of Wharmton, Grasscroft - recently filled in - was this private or used in the war effort?

Home Guard Bases

The Local Defence Volunteers (Home Guard - later known as Dad's Army) were started on 14th May 1940, and those in Saddleworth were part of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. The Colonel in charge was the late Harvey Rhodes. They met in the Drill Halls - 'A' Company in Uppermill, 'B' Company at Springhead, 'C' Company at Denshaw, and the Headquarters Company at Greenfield.

Also:

1. Scouthead - initially in the "Old Original" Public House, and then in the detached house, 1267 Huddersfield Road,

Scouthead. (Opposite the "Star Inn" Public House). This base also had two brick stores in the adjoining field (which still exist but have been linked together) and a Sentry Pill Box (evidenced by the rebuilt section of wall between no 1267 and the bus shelter).

2. Ashway Gap House - for Waterworks Department.
3. Diggle (location?).
4. Dobcross (location?).
5. Possible storage area at Lydgate in a field behind the former water tower.

Sentry Boxes

1. Scouthead (as above).
2. Bills o' Jacks (two still exist above the road near Binn Green).
3. Near the "Horse and Jockey" Public House (still exists off track about 50 metres NE).

Air Raid Shelters

1. "Swan Inn", Dobcross - in cellars.
2. St Chad's playing field, Uppermill (on concrete base between nursery and public toilets, or was this the site of the decontamination building?).
3. Austerlands?
4. Near Wharmton View, Greenfield.
5. Near the "Clarence Hotel", Greenfield?
6. "White Hart Inn", Lydgate - in cellars (used by school children).
7. Near Manor House, Higher Quick (shelter demolished 1959/60).
8. Springhead (location?).
9. "Grotton Hotel" - in cellars.
10. Basement of the old paper mill at County End.
11. Kinders Mill, Greenfield.
12. Oak View Mill, Greenfield.
13. Valley Mills, Delph.
14. Newroyd Mills, Waterhead (shelters still exist).
15. "Three Crowns", Austerlands - in cellars.
16. Lee Street School, Uppermill, had arrangements to use an underground cellar in the nearby railway goods yard, and then later the cellars of neighbouring houses (see p7 SHS Bulletin Vol 23, No 1).

(The "Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter" of 29th September 1939 refers to the many arrangements being made to consider erection of shelters).

Air Defence

1. Mock runway on the moors near Chew and mock village above Carrbrook? (to mislead German pilots heading for Manchester). Was this why an unexploded bomb landed on Greenfield Cricket Pitch?
2. Lewis machine guns at each searchlight site.
3. Aircraft beacon on High Moor?
4. Sirens at: Mechanics' Hall (now the Civic Hall), Uppermill;

- Dobcross Loom Works; Robert Fletcher's Mill, Greenfield; and Springhead Council Offices (ARP staff based in the cellar of the Council Offices?).
5. Two Barrage balloons apparently came loose from Manchester (?) and drifted over Saddleworth.

Prisoners of War

1. Housed at Ashway Gap House.

Evacuees

A total of 3,000 were expected in Saddleworth but not as many came. Saddleworth was designated to take evacuees from Bradford and they travelled by special train to Greenfield Station. Some children and teachers came from Bradford to Lydgate (see p77 "St Anne's Lydgate: The Story of a Pennine Parish 1788 - 1988" by Canon C C W Airne MA).

There was a sick-bay for evacuees at The Grange, Uppermill.

General

1. Food and Fuel Office was located in High Street, Uppermill.
2. Central Ambulance Dressing Station was located in Uppermill.
3. Ferranti tested a radio marker buoy on Yeoman Hey Reservoir.

'Made in Saddleworth'

1. Denshaw Vale Printworks: camouflage netting.
2. Diggle Loomworks: components for radar and bouncing bomb parts.
3. Slackcote Mill: textiles (wool) for uniforms.
4. Eagle Mill: sewing, overalls, boiler suits for Navy.
5. Hull Mill: bleaching, surgical dressing, yellow dusters etc.
6. Saddleworth Woollen Company: Army, Navy, Airforce cloth.
7. D & H Mallalieu: Army, Navy, Airforce cloth.
8. Lumb Mill: Naval stores - shipping wartime goods overseas.
9. Measurements Mill: hydrostatic fuses, engine thermometers, oxygen regulators and 'blind' flying instruments.
10. Bankfield Mill: Bakelite plugs, shell caps etc.
11. Greenfield Mill: cigarette paper.

References:

Newspaper microfilms - Uppermill Library.
Newspaper cuttings - Oldham Local Studies Library.
Newspaper references for 'Wartime in Saddleworth' exhibition - Peter Fox.

Kevin Lawton
7 Woodhead Close
Lees
Oldham
OL4 3JS
Tel: 061 624 0010 (evenings)

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS AT DELPH INDEPENDENT CHAPEL - PART II

Mr Howard Lambert has returned to Delph to transcribe more of the monumental inscriptions in the lower section of the graveyard. (See "Bulletin" Vol 24, Number 1, pp 4 - 12). He is intrigued by number 46 - can anyone shed light on the gruesome event recorded?

- 45 Ann wife of John WINTERBOTTOM of Strines. She died July 5th 1773 in the 58th year of her age. Also Ann his daughter. She died May 23rd 1773 in the 22nd year of her age. Also the said John WINTERBOTTOM who died of a palsy July 27th 1778 in the 64th year of his age.
- 46 John BARDSLEY of Lees who was most brutally and horribly murdered, (by James BARDSLEY his own son) Novr. 3rd 1839 in the 62nd year of his age. Also Thomas son of John and Mary BARDSLEY who died April 16th 1815 in the 13th year of his age. Also Robert their son who died May 2nd 1822 in the 6th year of his age. Also Eliza their dau^r who died May 7th 1822 in her first year.
- 47 Mary daughter of John HINCHLIFFE. She died Oct. 22nd 1790 (or 1796) in the 5th year of her age.
- 48 Betty wife of John WINTERBOTTOM of Strines. She died June 7th 1791 in the 38th year of her age. Also the aforesaid John WINTERBOTTOM who died JanY 28th 1830 in the 82nd year of his age. Also Mally his daughter (and relict of the late Ralph WHITEHEAD) who died Jan. 9th 1831 in the 46th year of her age. Also John son of David and Betty TOMLINSON of Oldham who died May 21st 1845 aged 4 months. Also James their son who died December 17th 1845 aged 4 months. Also James their son who died December 17th 1845 in the 4th year of his age. Also Betty daughter of the aforesaid John WINTERBOTTOM and wife of John SIMPSON who died Oct^r 13th 1847 in the 58th year of her age. Also William son of the above named Ralph and Mally WHITEHEAD who died January 22nd 1850 in the 43rd year of his age. Also John son of the above named John WINTERBOTTOM who died March 2nd 1870 in the 82nd year of his age.
- 49 Edmund WINTERBOTTOM died March 7th 1835 aged 60 years. He was a politician and a poet. His last words, ere his spirit left its tenement, at Shude Hill Delph, were, "My sons, with your latest breath advocate the cause of Liberty."
Mary his wife died in April 1848 aged 81 years. Also 5 of their children who died in infancy. Ann their daughter died at New York JanY 27th 1860 and was interred in Greenwood Cemetery, U. S. A., in her 56th year. The following lines added by desire of W^m WINTERBOTTOM, New York U. S. A. "Who ran to help me when I fell, and kissed the spot to make it well? My grandmother."

- 50 Esther the daughter of Jacob BOTTOMLEY of Dorey who died March 18th 1788 in the 2nd year of her age. Also Mary his daughter who died February 27th 1795 in the 15th year of her age. Also the aforesaid Jacob BOTTOMLEY who died April 1st 1816 in the 59th year of his age.
- 51 James son of Edmund WRIGLEY of Broadhead who died Oct^r 18th 1795 in the 3rd year of his age. Also Mary Ann his daughter who died March 20th 1803 in the 6th year of her age.
- 52 John son of Thomas and Peggy PLATT of Delph who died Feb^y 25th 1815 in the 16th year of his age. Also the aforesaid Peggy PLATT who died Sep^r 26th 1852 aged 79 years. Also the aforesaid Thomas PLATT who died Dec^r 22nd 1857 aged 81 years.
- 53 Jonathon KERSHAW of Little-end who died January 8th 1823 in the 77th year of his age. Also Mary wife of Jonathon KERSHAW who died January 20th 1821 in the 77th year of her age. Also Jesse the son of Jonathan and Mary KERSHAW who died 5th Feb^y 1797 in the 7th year of his age. Also Mary their daughter who died Sep^r 21st 1806 in the 33rd ? year of her age.
- 54 George Milton SWINDELLS of Moorside Oldham who died Dec^r 16th 1896 aged 91 years. Also Sarah Ann his wife who died Dec^r 18th 1857 aged 40 years.
- 55 Sarah the daughter of John SHAW of Sandbed. She died August 1st 1795 in the 3rd year of her age. Also Hannah his daughter who died Aug^t 28th 1809 aged 5 years. Also Sarah his wife who died Aug^t 26th 1816 aged 49 years. Also Thomas his son who died April 28th 1822 aged 20 years. Also the said John SHAW who died February 19th 1842 in the 80th year of his age.
- 56 Joseph CLAUGHTON of Stoneswood who died Aug. 12th 1784 in the 46th year of his age. Also Betty the wife of James MILNES of Stoneswood who died Dec 23rd 1787 in the 26th year of her age. Also the said James MILNES who died Sep. 4th 1839 in the 80th year of his age. Also Sarah his second wife who died November 27th 1843 ? in the 81st year of her age. Also Sarah their daughter who died June 27th 1852 in the 50th year of her age.
- 57 Catherine wife of Jonathan Mallalieu CLIFTON of Carr-Cote, born April 1st 1825. Died Jan^y 25th 1880. Also the aforesaid Jonathan Mallalieu CLIFTON born at Carr-Cote April 13th 1823 ? Died at South Shore, Blackpool, December 7th 1898. Also Sarah Margaret second daughter of the above named Jonathan Mallalieu and Catherine CLIFTON Born February 14th 1854 ? Died August 25th 1915.
- 58 John PLATT of White-Lee who died April 6th 1773 aged 75 years. Also Lydia his wife who died Aug. 15th 1779 aged 88 years. Also Alice their daughter and wife of Richard CROPPER of Manchester who died June 18th 1770 aged 39 years. Also Sarah their daughter who died June 19th 1770 aged

36 years. Also John PLATT Jun^r who died Nov^r 4th 1808 aged 74 years.

- 59 Joseph CLEGG of Cherry Clough who died 28th March 1772 in the 71st year of his age. Also Mary his wife who died 1st August 1770 in the 79th year of her age. Also Mary wife of James GARTSIDE of Cherry Clough who died 8th June 1790 in the 92nd year of her age. Also Benjamin GARTSIDE of Cherry Clough who died Dec^r 7th 1813 in the 86th year of his age. Also Sarah his wife who died March 5th 1811 in the 82nd year of her age. Also Alice their daughter who died Aug^t 28th 1815 in the 47th year of her age. Also Mary wife of Joseph MILLS of Junction, she died April 28th 1820 in the 36th year of her age. Also the aforesaid Joseph MILLS who died Jan^y 13th 1828 in the 39th year of his age. Betty the beloved wife of William GARTSIDE of Cross Gates who died Feb^y 17th 1854 in the 67th year of her age. Also the aforesaid William GARTSIDE who died March 2nd 1855 in the 73rd year of his age.
- 60 Jane the wife of James SCHOFIELD of Castleshaw who died April 10th 1816 in the 37th year of her age. Also the said James SCHOFIELD who died Dec^r 20th 1831 in the 47th year of his age. Also Joseph their grandson, son of John and Mercy SCHOFIELD who died March 20th 1841 AE 1 mon. Also William their son who died July 25th 1866 in his 8th ? year. Also Abraham their son who died May 28th 1868 in his 22nd year. Also the aforesaid John SCHOFIELD who died 28th Nov^r 1875 in his 63rd year. Also Mercy his widow who died 8th Dec^r 1880 in her 63rd year. Also Mercy his widow who died 8th Dec^r 1880 in her 63rd year. Also Jane their daughter who died May 17th 1902 in her 63rd year. Also John their son who died April 23rd 1913 in his 62nd year.
- 61 Abraham WRIGLEY of Slackgate who died 13th June 1861 in the 80th year of his age. Also Benjamin WRIGLEY his brother who died 13th March 1871 in the 84th year of his age. Also Mary WRIGLEY their niece who died 28th February 1900 in the 81st year of her age.
- 62 George WRIGLEY of Slackgate who died 2nd July 1857 in the 67th year of his age. Also Mary his daughter and wife of Ralph JACKSON who died 11th Jan^y 1863 in the 32nd year of her age.
- 63 John RHODES of Wadehill who died June 19th 1820 in the 76th year of his age. Also Betty his wife who died August 6th 1819 in the 74th year of her age. Also Pamela RHODES daughter of George their son who died Nov^r 28th 1837 in the 30th year of her age. Also John their son who died Oct^r 25th 1847 in the 69th year of his age.
- 64 Stephen SHAW of Spring House who died May 21st 1843 in the 66th year of his age. Also Mally his daughter who died Feb^y 9th 1800 in the 2nd year of her age. Also Betty his relict who died September 5th 1859 in the 83rd year of her age.
- 65 James BUCKLEY of Wallhill. He died at Thornhill near Wakefield 2nd October 1795 in the 54th year of his age. Also Martha his wife who died 21st July 1807 in the 69th year of her age.

- 66 Edna Alice BYROM daughter of Robert and Edna BYROM of Greenash who died 14th Sept^r 1855 in the first year of her age. Also Edna BYROM wife of the aforesaid Robert BYROM who died 12 Dec^r 1856 in the 36th year of her age. Also the abovenamed Robert BYROM of Brookland Lodge who died September 4th 1880 aged 66 years. Also Hannah second wife of the above named Robert BYROM who died August 21st 1899 aged 75 years.
- 67 James the son of James WRIGLEY of Broadhead who died July 4th 1781 in the 6th year of his age. Also Esther his daughter who died Nov 6th 1781 in the 13th year of her age. Also Sarah daughter of the abovenamed James WRIGLEY. She died January - 1795 (or 1793) in the 31st ? year of her age. Also Joseph his son who died January - 1795 in the 35th year of his age.

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Huddersfield Canal 4,12; 4,16

*** MISCELLANEOUS**

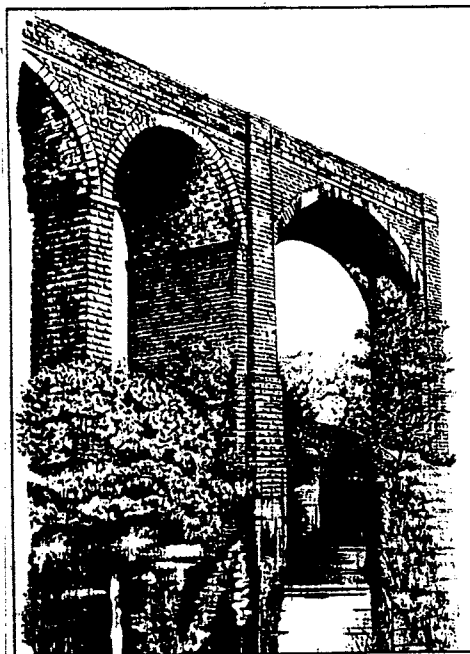
Air Raid Precautions (WWII) 1,7;
1,8
Bamforths (lantern slide makers)
2,18
Coronation (George VI) 1,7
Cricket 1,8
Dog-fighting 3,13; 3,14
Electraceum Cinema (Oldham) 3,10
Evacuees (WWII) 1,7; 1,8
Football 1,8
Glodwick Prize Band 3,10
Grotton Lido 1,7
Hearth Tax 4,8
Housing 1,14; 1,15
Lodging Houses 1,13

*** MISCELLANEOUS (cont)**

Lumiere Brothers 2,21
National Food Card Registration (WWI)
1,5
Parish Registers 2,4; 3,1
Pollution (smoke) 1,16; 1,17
Pollution (water) 1,15
Rivers Pollution Prevention Act 1,15
Rounders 1,8
Rush Carts 2,2
Saddleworth Palace Cinema 2,2; 2,24;
3,20
Stalybridge Hippodrome Cinema 2,21
Tramps 1,13; 1,14
VE Day 1,8

NOTE

The "People" category has been simplified because of the sheer volume of names mentioned in the "Bulletin". All surnames given in the text are recorded here. This is intended as a rough guide only, but hopefully will assist family historians in particular.



Enquiries about membership of the Saddleworth Historical Society should be sent to:

Mrs E Broadbent
30, Beechfield
Grasscroft
Oldham
OL4 4EL

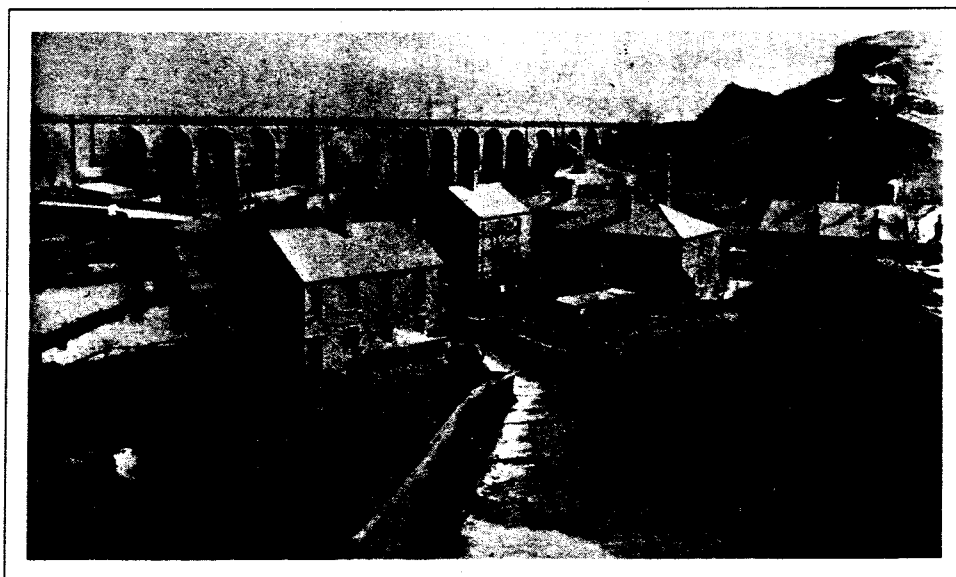
The Editor of the "Bulletin" is:

Michael Fox
4, West Mount
Shaw Hall Bank Road
Greenfield
Oldham
OL3 7LF

Contributions

The "Bulletin's" aim is to reflect and encourage interest in all aspects of the history of Saddleworth. It relies on a regular supply of articles, letters, short reviews etc from members and others. Fresh material is required constantly and should be sent to the Editor, who is prepared to discuss ideas for articles with anyone considering preparing one. Articles need not be confined to subjects within Saddleworth's borders, but preferably should have some connection with the district.

The Autumn "Bulletin" is due for publication on 31st October 1994. All material to the Editor by 15th October please.



SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 1994

"When the bees are in the heather
Lip deep in purple wine,
Then the life they live in Eden
On Pennine moors is mine."

Ammon Wrigley.

The Summer Trip was notable for the fact that the planning was nearly as exacting and the planners nearly as numerous as those involved in the D-Day Landings.

The run to Liverpool was uneventful except for the last 200 yards to the ferry, when some members had to be assured that passports were no longer required by the Seacombe Customs people. After taking coffee and circumnavigating Birkenhead's imposing Hamilton Square we visited the beautifully restored Benedictine Priory where worship has taken place for nearly a thousand years. Then on to Port Sunlight Village that oasis of calm and elegance so close to the huge industrial complex of Lever Bros. The Lady Lever Art Gallery must rank as one of the great treasure houses of the North. As someone remarked, we then took the Great Circle route to Parkgate.

It isn't easy to say a lot about Parkgate except that it still has those rare treats excellent potted shrimps, some good icecream and two very busy fish and chips emporia. It is fair to say that judging by the attention paid to these establishments in the village, the appetites of the average Society Member still remains impressive in spite of South American Football and South African Cricket. Many thanks to Wendy, Neil and Jim Carr for a successful outing.

Details of the Autumn Trip are now complete and will take place on Saturday the 17th September, 1994. By popular request Castle Howard, and Scarborough have been chosen. An application form is to be found at the end of this newsletter.

Lecture Programme.

We are now approaching another Lecture Season and the first two talks will be as follows - commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Museum.

Wednesday 19th October, 94. The Work of the Greater Manchester
Record Office. Maureen Patch.

Wednesday 23rd November, 94. The Oldham Local Militia.
John Cleverley.

The Syllabus showing the full series of lectures is enclosed with this Bulletin.

W.E.A. Courses.

A leaflet is enclosed giving full details of the Autumn and Winter Programmes.

Archaeological Group.

The next trip is to Castlefield on the 21st August, 1994, (Sunday). Anyone who is interested in joining this visit is to meet there on the Car Park at 2.0 p.m., or phone Jim Carr on 87 3612.

The Tameside History Books are on sale at the Tameside Library where the books by Mike Nevell who gave a lecture last March at the Museum, 'A Landscape Survey of an Upland Area', and now is the time to purchase your copies and consolidate the knowledge obtained from Mr. Nevell's lecture. This final book in the series completes the trilogy.

Industrial Archaeological Conference.

The North West Regional Industrial Archaeological Conference held on Saturday the 4th June, 1994, at the Museum where Professor R.B. Schofield gave a masterly lecture on the construction of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and the people involved in this giant venture was amply backed up by Mr. Alan Turner of Ove Arup & Partners who presented a graphic illustrated lecture on the Stanedge Tunnel Structural and Ventilation Surveys with hair raising camera trips down the ventilation shafts to this Trans Pennine Canal Tunnel. In the afternoon several site visits took place to the Tunnel Ends and the Red Brook Winding House with John Buckley leading the walk to the newly constructed Manns Wharf Bridge at The Royal George end of the canal. All in all a most successful day which fully complemented the Bi-Centenary celebrations which have been taking place along the Huddersfield Narrow Canal.

Indeed a face lift on the Red Brook Engine House, built by the Canal's Chief Engineer, Benjamin Outram, is currently under way in a Kirklees Council grant - aided contract, in co-operation with British Waterways. Proving the statements made at our conference by David Sumner the Chairman of the Huddersfield Canal Society, that this canal system would live again and that all of the £10 million invested into this re-instatement programme would be a worthwhile legacy for future generations.

Members are reminded that Local History and Industrial Archaeological Journals purchased by the Society may be borrowed on loan from John Buckley, 4 The Shaws, Uppermill, Oldham. OL3 6JX tel. No. 045787-2896.

The March lecture at the Museum commenced the Society's Bi-Centenary Canal Celebrations with a talk on 'The Huddersfield Narrow Canal 1794-1994', by Frank Smith the Secretary of the Canal Society based in Ashton-U-Lyne, his detailed and knowledgeable guided tour of the canal and its re-instatement works was an exercise in canal engineering, on the hoof down the tow path in the true canal boat tradition. A large audience thoroughly enjoyed this evening and stayed to the end.

The final April lecture dealt with an uncivilised Saddleworth indulging in blood sports and frightening off its Vicar. This was a feast of Church history starting in the 18th century and dealt with the discomfort of Richard Podmore, appointed minister of Saddleworth Church against the wishes of the people and being confronted with the whole community fled from Saddleworth Church never to return or deliver a sermon. Fortunately, Samuel Stone became the perpetual curate and sparked a religious revival.

Dr. Mark Smith gave this final Society lecture and his book 'Religion in Industrial Society - Oldham and Saddleworth (1740-1865)' will be published in September and encapsulate these facts, The Reception of Richard Podmore.

Ammon Wrigley Books.

If anyone in the Society is interested in purchasing Ammon Wrigley Books, two or three have recently been seen on sale at the following bookshop - Morten Books, Brooklands House, Padgbury Lane, Congleton, Cheshire. (Tel. No. 0260-277959) by appointment. Our correspondent Howard Lambert, reports them to be priced about £30 each.

It should also be noted that Ruth Greenwood of Knarr Clough, Thurston Clough Rd., Delph, Oldham. OL3 5RG., also has some copies of the re-print of her Grandfather's book, 'The Wind Among the Heather', available at £15.95 plus p.p.

Events at the Museum.

Art Exhibitions.

27th Aug - 18th Sept.	Janice Hingley.
1st Oct.- 23rd Oct.	Joyce Parfitt & Jean Fenton.
5th Nov - 31st Dec.	Jeff Beaumont.

Textile Working Days.

Sundays 11th September, 16th October.

Temporary Displays.

23rd July - 18th Sept.	Villages of Saddleworth. DIGGLE.
1st Oct - 20th Nov.	Your Life & Teeth in their Hands.
3rd Dec - January, 95.	Saddleworth Christmas.

Music at the Gallery.

Folk on Friday.

16th September & 14th October.

Other Events.

Wednesday 14th Sept.	Coffee Morning with bookstall and bric-a-brac.
Sunday 18th Sept.	Stained Glass Demonstration.
Friday 23rd - Sun. 25th Sept.	<u>BEER FESTIVAL.</u> This is one of the major fundraising events in aid of the Museum - includes a fine range of real ale, live music and coopering demonstrations.
Sunday 30th October.	Quilling Demonstration.
Friday 11th November.	A Ceilidh. Tickets from the Museum.
Date still to be arranged.	Family History Weekend.

MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

We welcome the following new members who have joined the Society.

Mr. & Mrs. R.V. Beale, Colne.

Mr. Terry Cooper, Delph.

Mrs. Beale is researching her husband's Broadbent family and having bought a Bulletin for Winter 93 became aware of Louise Broadbent working at the Diggle Hotel in 1861. This being contained in Leonard Broadbent's article 'The Broadbents in Diglee', subsequently Leonard was able to supply Mrs. Beale with the ancestry of Louise Margaret Broadbent (1842-), thus providing a solution to another genealogical search.

Unfortunately we have to report the death of Mr. Frank Wills of Grasscroft, who in his time had been the choirmaster at St. Anne's Church, Lydgate and whose sister Muriel is a regular attender at the lectures in the Museum. We must also record the sudden death on his retirement of Mr. Neil Roydes of Broadway, Royton, who as a member for some years and a keen collector of local history books supported our publication efforts at the launch of our new books. Finally we must note the passing of Mr. Harold Brooks of Beechfield, Grasscroft, who held interests in an Engineering Company at Walk Mill, Dobcross, for many years. Our sympathy is extended to all the members of the families concerned.

Canon C.C.W. Airne reported at a recent Committee Meeting that the Delph Independent Chapel Records have now been calendared for the Society Archives.

At the last Committee Meeting our Membership Secretary was able to report 418 paid up members, the corollary being that there are still over 20 subscriptions still required to be submitted to help the Society continue on its purposeful path. A personal letter is to be sent to each member involved in the hope of squaring the books.

Family Subscription.....	£9.00.	Single.....	£7.50
Retired - Single & family....	£5.50	Student	£5.50

1994 Subscriptions.

We are pleased to be able to announce the publication in September of a new book on 'The History of Platt Brothers.' by Reginald Eastham, one of our Society Members. It commences at Bridge House in Dobcross and will cover the glorious industrial past of Platt Brothers Textile machinery accomplishments in Oldham. In their day they were the world's largest textile machine manufacturers. The book also deals with their estates in Wales and provides a rich read of this very successful Platts family who originated from Saddleworth. This book is being published privately by Reg Eastham and will be worthy of your support and no doubt obtainable in due course from the Museum Shop.

J. Hindle.
August.



S.H.S. AUTUMN COACH TRIP, SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER, 94.

"REVISIT BRIDESHEAD !"

We visit Castle Howard, the beautiful 18th Century palace, which is the largest and most spectacular stately home in Yorkshire. The superb rooms and galleries are richly furnished and filled with family treasures. There is access for the disabled. A 'train' is also available to view 1,000 acres of parkland with lawns, rose gardens, woods, a scenic lake and fountains. There is an adventure playground, a plant centre and a self-service cafeteria.

Later in the afternoon we drive the short distance to Scarborough to complete the day.

Leave the Museum..... 9.0 a.m.
(Other pick-up points by arrangement from 8.30 a.m.
As for Summer trip)
Depart Scarborough 6.00 p.m.
Cost £11 adult, £8.50 child,
£10.50 senior citizens.
Includes all admission charges at Castle Howard, but no meals.
Picnic areas are available.

Please complete the booking slip and forward with remittance,
as soon as possible, to Jim Carr, 5 The Meadows, Uppermill, Oldham.
OL3 6JZ. Tel. No. 0457 873612.

Cheques to be made payable to Saddleworth Historical Society.

S.H.S. AUTUMN COACH TRIP, SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER, 1994.

CASTLE HOWARD & SCARBOROUGH.

To - Jim Carr. Please reserve _____ adult places.
Alternative pick up point request - _____ child places.
_____ senior places.

Total Amount encs. _____ Names of all persons _____

Tel. No. _____ Address _____

