



**FRAM**  
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**6th  
Series**

October 2013

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Framlingham and District  
Local History and Preservation Society**

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*Heir of Antiquity! - fair castle Town,  
Rare spot of beauty, grandeur, and renown,  
Seat of East-Anglian kings! - proud child of fame,  
Hallowed by time, illustrious Framlinghame!*

From: *Framlingham: a Narrative of the Castle,*  
by James Bird (1831)

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# FRAM

6<sup>TH</sup> Series Number 4  
October 2013

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*Editor: M.V. Roberts, 43 College Road, Framlingham*

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Half a century ago this year, as I approached the end of my degree course, I decided, reluctantly, that teaching was not a suitable career for me, given my chronic aversion to children. Fortuitously, I came across my Tutor John Northam (Gerry's dad) in the University Library tearoom, and raised this problem with him. He suggested that librarianship might be an alternative. In total ignorance, I asked what it meant to be a librarian. He mentioned bibliography, reader guidance, and support for scholarly research, all of which sounded much easier than teaching, not to mention controlling kids, so I contacted the Library Association, took and passed a postgraduate course in librarianship at Loughborough College, and worked as a librarian for the next thirty-one years. It was during this time that my professional body celebrated the centenary of its being empowered by Royal Charter to oversee and validate the qualifications of professional librarians, and also, latterly, to provide a forum for non-qualified persons working in libraries.

When I came to Framlingham in 1994, then leaving my paid role in the library sector, I was quickly recruited to the Lanman Museum up at the Castle as a Steward, two years later becoming a Trustee and the Hon. Treasurer of the Museum. The organisation dealing with the training and validation of qualifications in the museums sector is the Museums Association, but here again, that Association's central role is to serve professionals employed in this field, rather than with volunteers such as myself, or actual users, whether they be researchers or casual visitors.

For twenty-five years, I have served on the Council of the British Records Association. In the archives sector, we actually have a body that brings together both the practitioners - the archivists - and the actual users of the source materials, both amateur and academic. Professional qualifications and training for archivists is the responsibility of a completely separate body, the Archives and Records Association.

Archives themselves come in county, city and borough record offices, artefacts and images live in museums, and we go to libraries for printed books. Unfortunately, however, for these generalisations, there are more archives in museums, local, regional and national, than there are in record offices, while many museums and record offices hold substantial printed collections, and libraries often cohabit with museums and art galleries. Indeed, for the researcher, amateur or professional, his or her source material may, and often will, be drawn from all three sectors; archives, books, artefacts/images.

At Guildhall Library, my workplace for twenty-five years, there have always been large collections of books, archives, and prints and maps and users commuted readily between them as they took forward their researches. Staff employed there needed to be cognizant of the resources throughout the Library, regardless of their own professional background and qualifications.

I like to think that that provides a model for the future development and usage of all three sectors. We need resource centres crossing sectoral boundaries to deliver what the user actually needs. Sectoral training and qualifications are one thing, service is another. We have to come out of our silos.

Perhaps this may be, in microcosm, what we can and should achieve at our library here in Framlingham.

\* \* \* \* \*

Andrew Lovejoy has provided details of two additional items for his list of sources for the history of Framlingham, published in our April 2013 issue:-

J.M. Robinson, *The Dukes of Norfolk* (1995)  
Robert Wingfield, *Vita Mariae Regina* (1554)

\* \* \* \* \*

To end on a sadder note, we have to report the death of Doctor John Black, a member of our Society for many years, and its Minutes Secretary for four years. The Society was represented at John's funeral on 31<sup>st</sup> May, and we express condolences to his widow, Dorothy.

CO was Colonel Woolley, 32 Reg → Brandeston Hall until  
Sept 1942

LIGHTEN OUR DARKNESS *History*  
THE STORY OF THE "SHINING SEVENTH" 1940-1943

By Tony Moore

*War makes rattling good History: but peace is Poor Reading*  
(Thomas Hardy, The Dynasts)

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Searchlight Regiment Royal Artillery Framlingham, started life as a London Territorial Unit of The Royal Engineers prior to 1939 and were also known by the nickname "Shining seventh". When eighty young eighteen to twenty year-old men fresh from their various military depots in the south of England, arrived in Framlingham on the famous Fram Flyer (the local LNER branch line passenger train), life in the town would change forever and take on another meaning. The once peaceful tranquillity would be shattered for several years to come.

Soon after arriving they were informed that they would no longer be serving in "The Royal Engineers", but transferred with immediate effect (August 1940) into the ranks of the "Royal Artillery". Most of the personnel would be dispersed throughout the area supporting satellite units. They would serve in other various locations on searchlight, gun and plotting sites, such as Martlesham, Brampton, Creeting St Mary, Helmingham, Knodishall and Tannington, other locations will be named later on.

The Regimental Headquarters that was established saw several moves, firstly The Crown Hotel on the Market Hill, Framingham (a large part of the hotel and outbuildings were requisitioned but luckily for the locals the public and lounge bars remained open to the general public), next move was to Brandeston Hall, and from there to Monewden Hall.

However, this paper will focus mainly on one such unit 329 Troop Framlingham Battery (Headquarters in The Assembly Hall, Church Street, Framlingham). They would be located on the outskirts of the town at Lampard Brook. This area of Lampard Brook was in a shallow depression or small valley on Hill Farm. It lay next to a small side road that led to the village of Kettleburgh in one direction and to Saxtead in the other. Nestled in this small valley the Main Searchlight was sited. Two other beacons or smaller searchlights were situated a little further towards another site in the direction of Kettleburgh; these served another different purpose and will be discussed later on.

The details of the searchlight are quite impressive although some information has been hard to ascertain. These massive appliances were manufactured by General Electric and the Sperry Company (of Gyroscope fame). They were mostly of 60 inch (152.4cm) diameter with a rhodium plated parabolic mirror, reflecting a carbon arc discharge peak output from 800,000,000 maximum candlepower and a minimum (some units) of 210,000,000 candlepower. Unfortunately the exact power output of the Lampard Brook searchlight is not known. Many were mobile and mounted on trailers that could be quite easily towed from site to site when the situation required. It seems that the Lampard Brook searchlight at first was on a mobile trailer but later it

became a static one mounted on a concrete base. The working team operating the main searchlight was normally four other ranks including an NCO. Another vital piece of equipment that would have been essential to the whole operation were the sound locators.

The number of personnel serving on the main site would have been from twelve to fifteen other ranks and an officer in command. Women of the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) to a large extent replaced all men towards late 1942 and early 1943. It was during this period that some Polish military personnel also served on many sites. The power source provided for the site and the searchlight came from a 15kW generator, in this case mounted on a mobile trailer. This enabled the main searchlight to give an effective beam visibility of approximately 28 to 35 miles; however this would vary in cases of low or thick cloud conditions; humidity would also have an effect.

The beam of light emitted from the large main searchlight would lock onto any hostile aircraft. Being illuminated and trapped in the light beam would greatly assist the allied night fighters and ack-ack guns on the ground would bring down the enemy planes.

With regard to other smaller searchlights or beacons, both were situated in a separate field a few hundred yards away from the main searchlight and nearer to the junction of the main Framlingham to Kettleburgh road. These served an entirely different purpose. Although not quite as powerful in their output, they were no less important in their supporting roles. Of these two searchlights, one was known as a homing beacon; its main function was to assist and direct stricken allied and RAF bombers and fighters returning from raids in Europe. Many of these returning aircraft were so badly damaged they would not have been able to get to their own home airfields. Radio contact in most cases would not be possible because of damage, engines faltering, low on fuel and the pilot or co-pilot may even have been badly wounded or killed. (In that case it would have been left to a flight engineer or another member of the aircrew to nurse the stricken aircraft to the nearest emergency landing site or airfield as quickly as possible before it was forced to crash in open country.)

The second of these two smaller searchlights was also known as an orbit beacon and its main purpose was to guide and co-ordinate allied aircraft into assembly groups or boxes, rather like a giant parking-lot in the sky. Both fighters and bomber squadrons would form in these boxes covering an area of many square miles prior to massed raids. This mass of aircraft would have come from dozens of bases scattered throughout the UK. Radio silence was strictly enforced, as utmost secrecy would have been essential to prevent any leaks of information given to the enemy prior to these massive raids.

These two smaller searchlights or beacons would have been mounted on mobile trailers surrounded and protected by walls of sandbags. Their own generators would have provided the power source.

A plotting or control room to co-ordinate all searchlight operations in the area was stationed at Carlton Hall, near Saxmundham. For a while this location was also the HQ of the 32<sup>nd</sup>. Members of the Royal Artillery and Polish personnel manned this in

the early days; however the ATS took over. Overall control of all searchlights in the area was the province of RAF Debden in Essex, which was also responsible for all the fighter bases in eastern England.

Defence of these isolated sites fell to one solitary twin barrelled Browning machine gun, ex RAF, most probably removed from a damaged or scrapped aircraft, backed up by the .303 bolt action Lee Enfield rifle, that would have been the standard issue for each of the personnel on the three sites. The military also had a series of mobile ack-ack guns that covered all East Anglia. No enemy aircraft were shot down by the Lampard Brook contingent, but an ack-ack site at Knodishall, chalked up a first when a Private Freddie Haddon of the 32<sup>nd</sup> RA received a Mention in Despatches for his part in downing a Messerschmitt 109 fighter by rifle fire.

All of the Lampard Brook personnel lived in Nissan huts on the site; brick rubble and other broken material can still be found to this day in the area. They were also self-catering and drew food rations from the main cookhouse or quartermasters' stores in the town. Army vehicles delivered mail, fuel and other requirements on a weekly basis. Scattered through the town were many other support units such as workshops, medical departments, transport facilities, canteens/cookhouses, and the famous quartermasters' stores. These are listed in the appendices.

During periods of relaxation, personnel would visit the many public houses of Framlingham. In the opening years of the war beer was quite plentiful and was not rationed until late 1941. Another attraction was of course the Regal Cinema opened in 1939 in New Road. Dances were held in halls remaining available, as most were commandeered by the military. The Anglo American Club opened in New Road in 1943, mainly for the use of US airmen and personnel from the USAF 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force based at Parham/Framlingham, though other services also had access. Many local women from the town were employed both full and part time, leading to wartime romances, and many of the military personnel both British and American met their future wives in the town and the nearby villages, and even settled down after the war and continued to live and work in the area.

Religion played a part in their day-to-day lives, though church parades were few and far between. The 32<sup>nd</sup> had their padre in The Rev. Canon Eddoes of Carlton, who was also the local Rector there. In spite of petrol rationing he managed to visit all of the widely scattered units in the area to hold short services. Officers from a mixture of different corps and regiments, including the 32<sup>nd</sup>, were catered for in several locations round the town. One was on the Market Hill, the premises of Hubert Ling a solicitor and like everyone else with spare space, the military billeting officer requisitioned most of his house and offices. Initially this was to be the officers mess to the Suffolks' and the 32<sup>nd</sup>, but was soon to include other armed services. During my research I was in touch with a Mrs Pemberton in a nursing home near Bury St Edmunds, the granddaughter of the late Rev. Canon Abbay rector of Earl Soham. As the War began she went to the army recruiting office opened (in part of the labour exchange) in Station Road, Framlingham, and duly signed (being Miss Daphne Burdekin at the time) for the Auxiliary Territorial Service. After a few hurried weeks of basic training she was posted back to Framlingham with the rank of private to be employed as a cook, based in the premises of what was Hubert Ling's. Her



commanding officer was Lady Blanche Cobbold of nearby Little Glemham. She spent many happy hours meeting and feeding officers of all ranks including officers of the 32<sup>nd</sup>. She furthered her army career by gaining a commission, serving in other theatres of conflict. After the cessation of the war in Europe her final posting was in Cyprus during the EOKA troubles, returning to the United Kingdom as a captain. Those early days in Framlingham as a cook in the officers mess would remain one of her fondest memories.

In 1943 when living in Station Road I can recall being woken by the wailing sound from an air raid siren situated in the town, about one o'clock on a cold morning and being hurriedly ushered to a brick-blast bomb shelter situated in a neighbour's garden. The blast shelter had no door or cover at the entrance so it was very cold and draughty and my blanket did nothing to keep out the cold. As my parents hurried me along to the shelter I was aware of the drone of an aircraft engine very high up in the clouds. Looking up I also saw several beams of intense light being emitted from three or more searchlights sweeping the sky seeking out the aircraft. One beam of light in particular came from the direction of Lampard Brook. Another beam of light (I learned later) came from the direction of Tannington. This searchlight (part of the 32<sup>nd</sup>) was situated in a small spinney next to the village school. I cannot recall hearing any response from any ack-ack guns or the sound of RAF night fighters, but the whole of this episode lasted no more than ten minutes and the all clear was sounded from the sirens in the town. Tired and cold we trooped back to our beds to snatch back any sleep we could before morning.

*Wright Cyclone*

From the direction of the USAF bomber base at Framlingham/Parham, there was always the sound and roar from the massive Pratt and Whitney engines on the B17 Flying Fortresses being tested in preparation for the next day-time raids over enemy targets in occupied Europe and Germany. Along with the loud sounds from the base drifting over the fields towards Framlingham came a glow of lights. The Americans did not take much notice of black-out precautions and even when an air raid from hostile aircraft was in progress, it always seemed to herald even more lights being switched on. From memory, I think there was always the glow of light from the air force base. Many damaged allied bombers limping home from night-time raids over Germany and Europe were known to have taken advantage of the runways at Parham/Framlingham, in all probability directed there by the Lampard Brook homing beacon. Unfortunately for the damaged bombers and the USAF air base it played into the hands of prowling long-range German bombers and fighters, who followed these damaged aircraft back to England. With blazing runway and other lights from the airbase, this presented an ideal opportunity to create havoc with bomb, rocket and machine gun attacks.

Did the Luftwaffe bomb the searchlights at Lampard Brook? One informant who served with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Regiment at this site from early 1940 gave an emphatic YES! The local military and indeed the local population would have received prior warning (three to five minutes if they were lucky) of an impending enemy air raid from the air raid sirens situated in the town. One hostile night-time raider caught in the powerful light beams from several searchlights including the Lampard Brook searchlight attempting to evade the beam that had locked onto his aircraft unloaded a stick of high explosive bombs onto the site. Luckily all the bombs exploded some

distance from any military targets. As to the German bomber, this would have been either a twin engine Dornier or a Heinkel. After the air raid, it was concluded that it was most probably a Heinkel, as these were usually employed by the Luftwaffe for sneak night time raids over England seeking out opportunist military and civilian targets. It was also claimed by the media that many of these raids carried out at random were indeed terror raids meant to lower the morale of the population. The German bombers took off in small groups from bases in Europe, flew over the English Channel and on arriving over the coast dispersed in groups of twos, threes or even singly to different given targets, but mostly at random. This was to a large extent forced upon them because of their reception from ack-ack guns, British and allied night fighters, and the well-known English adverse weather conditions.

Brandeston Hall (now part of Framlingham College) became the Regimental Headquarters during 1941-1942 for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regt Royal Artillery. Other units of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regt were to be found in Covehithe, Chediston, Charsfield and Hinton Green. Many other army units were based in and around Framlingham in preparation for the allied invasion of Europe. One in particular I won't forget was the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment. A knock on our front door in Station Road and my mother was confronted by an army dispatch rider from that regiment. He had come to report that my younger sister had been knocked down by another DR from the same regiment. Luckily she was not badly hurt apart from a few scratches and bruises and would be brought home in a staff car after they had looked after her with lemonade and biscuits. Also included were small liaison units of the Royal Air Force. The town also had regular visits from an armoured train that plied the branch line; train "C" as it was known. The armoured wagons it towed had mounted machine guns and light artillery guns and were manned by members of the exiled Polish army. Its last and final trip recorded was a run to Framlingham on the afternoon of March 26<sup>th</sup> 1943. No doubt the threat from the German invasion was over and this warranted its withdrawal. (The armoured steam locomotive survived the war and started a new life after the protective steel panels were removed, this time towing carriages until it was finally scrapped in late 1949 or early 1950).

The military build-up in and around the town was augmented by the presence of the 8<sup>th</sup> USAF, when the newly constructed air base opened on July 14<sup>th</sup> 1943. Squadrons of Boeing B29 four-engine heavy bombers flew in from the United States. Beside aircrews it included several hundred ground staff. When hostilities finally ended in Europe the base fell silent and it officially closed in August 1945. The town had seen the population of military and air force personnel grow and in spite of hardship for the civilian inhabitants with shortages of foodstuff and many other goods, everyone managed to survive. The taverns and inns still sold vast amounts of ales and beers although even this was rationed to a degree. Spirits were non-existent but if you knew the landlord well enough he could somehow manage to produce a bottle of whisky or gin from under the counter.

With sudden influx of more military and air force personnel in the town prior to the invasion of Europe more accommodation and housing was required. Homes that had spare rooms were soon requisitioned. My grandfather had a business in Crown and Anchor Lane, with living quarters above the shop including two spare bedrooms, which were soon requisitioned and two corporals from the Royal Engineers became

the new lodgers. 1940 saw pillboxes, gun pits, strong points, slit trenches and tank traps appear all round the town along with miles of barbed wire. Many of the roads round the town were mined and booby-trapped. Next to the bridge that crosses over the small river in Fairfield Road adjacent to the Fens is a small piece of land, where the army had dug a very well-hidden trench that covered the road from the direction of Broadwater. Manned by four or five army personnel was a Bren gun/heavy machine gun. Traces of this strong point can still be seen. Munitions such as shells, grenades and even phosphorous bombs were stored under ground for use against the enemy who might invade the country. Although at the end of hostilities most of these hidden caches were recovered and destroyed by the sappers, some still lay hidden and forgotten about to this day.

It was not long before halls and civilian housing became full and the military erected tents and Nissan huts wherever there was a space. The town became a large barracks; even the Castle Meadow had gun emplacements and trenches all covered with masses of barbed wire and sandbags. Piped water was laid on and a high water tower was built near to the outer moat. Although the tower is long since demolished, the water tap still remains in place in use today. When D-Day duly arrived and the military dispersed to Europe, the local Home Guard took over many of the vacated army sites until they themselves were eventually stood down and were disbanded. All signs of military occupation have now gone and only the odd piece of rusted barbed wire can be found. Nothing now remains at Lampard Brook apart from the odd piece of broken brick.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Searchlight Regiment's sites in and around Framlingham were no more and the personnel were now serving in Europe. After 1944 Framlingham returned to some form of normality when the military left town at least in body. The soul however remained and the memory lingers on for some. As for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Royal Artillery and the 329 Troop in particular, they were all stood down or were amalgamated with other units shortly after the Second World War. Very few of the men and women who served their time in Framlingham with the forces, are with us now, and it is only the fading memory of those who were children during these terrible times who may remember them.

*I am indebted to one of the remaining survivors of the Second World War conflict who was stationed at the Lampard Brook site for sharing his memories with me, Mr Leslie Brock, still living in his adopted town of Framlingham. He was one of the many soldiers who stayed, settled, met and married a local girl, and found employment in the town. At the time of writing this article (2008) he is in his late nineties with a sharp mind and still enjoys a healthy life-style. He informs me that up until recent years he had kept in touch with one or two of his old army pals who served with him in the area. Alas, time has taken its toll and none now remain.*



Les Brock, in November 1941 of 329 Troop Framlingham Battery, 32<sup>nd</sup> Searchlight Regiment Royal Artillery, who served on the searchlight site at Lampard Brook on the outskirts of the town.

## APPENDIX 1

### Facilities and locations in the town used by the army 1939-1944

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Officers' Mess ✓                          | Major Hubert Ling (solicitors) Market Hill   |
| 2. Sergeants' Mess ✓                         | Conservative Club, Church Street   |
| 3. QM Stores and Ops Room ✓                  | St Michael's Rooms, Church Street  |
| 4. Company Office ✓                          | Conservative Club Foyer, Church Street   |
| 5. Medical Centre ✓                          | The Hall in the Conservative Club  |
| 6. Motor Transport Department ✓              | Buildings and sheds in Badingham Road  |
| 7. Equipment Stores ✓                        | Buildings and sheds in Badingham Road  |
| 8. Food Store and Butchery ✓                 | Old Slaughter House, Queens Head Alley   |
| 9. Ammo and Fuel Dump ✓                      | Castle Meadow  |
| 10. Other Ranks Dining Room and Kitchen ✓    | The Hall in the Castle and the Masonic Hall, New Road  |
| 11. Pioneers Workshops ✓                     | Old Shop in Fore Street  |
| 12. Lorry Park/Spare Equipment ✓             | The Castle Meadow  |
| 13. Other Ranks' Accommodation and Billets ✓ | The Castle Hall, Castle Meadow, Pageant Field in Nissan huts and under canvas, in civilian housing throughout the town |
| 14. Officers' Billets/Accommodation ✓        | The Crown Hotel, Conservative Club and civilian housing  |
| 15. Masonic Hall ✓                           | This was also used as a Mess Hall for Other Ranks and later for members of the Home Guard                              |

Another location was in Reeves barn in Vycles Road where up to twelve other ranks were billeted. They would be seen marching in a column down College Road at approximately 14.00 hours to the other ranks Mess Hall. One comment made at the time, was that the lone

German daytime raider that dropped a stick of HE bombs on the sale yard, the Sir Robert Hitcham School and in College Road (leading to the death of Miss Harvey, school mistress at the Hitcham's Primary School) was in actual fact trying to score a hit on the Masonic Hall or the nearby Drill Hall after observing military presence in the area below. [Another local legend was that the bomber's pilot had unhappy memories of student days in Framlingham, and was trying to destroy Framlingham College. *Editor*]

Other halls in the town were requisitioned by the army and used for messing, offices, billets and storage. The only halls not taken over by the military were those belonging to schools. Places of worship were ignored even though they possessed large spacious interiors with seating that could be easily removed.

As preparations for D-Day loomed, in all the surrounding areas and villages accommodation such as housing and village halls was requisitioned by the military.

*(I am indebted to Muriel the wife of the late Peter Bridges of Framlingham who had started to research the military and Home Guard presence in Framlingham during World War II for handing his original list of locations in the town to me after his untimely death. He was also in the process of researching all the military pillboxes, strong points, gun pits, tank traps as well as mined roads and bridges. Peter was called up for his National Service to serve in the army based at Crookham near Aldershot in the early 1950's. He became a Corporal Instructor on the training depot. He was the first person that I met when I stepped off the train at Crookham railway station to embark for my initial training where I was to serve for three hard years in the service for King (later Queen) and country.)*

## APPENDIX 2

### Military units and sites controlled from Framlingham during 1939-1944 probably - excluding the Home Guard

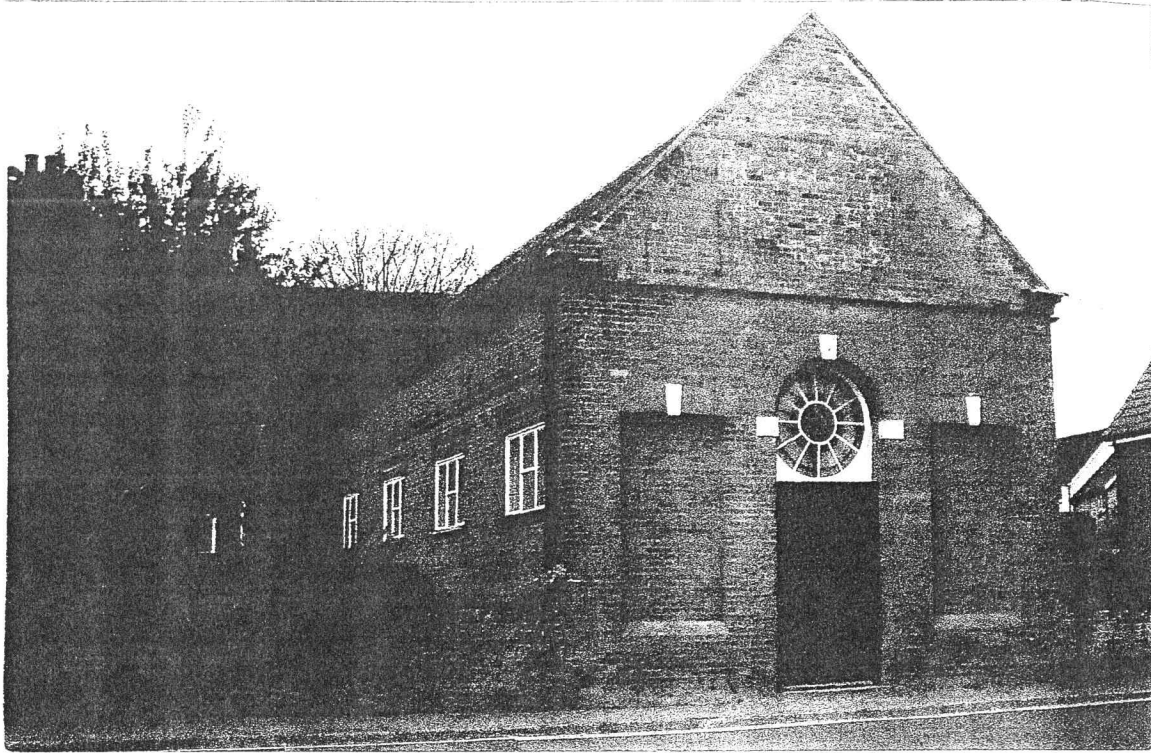
Badingham, Bawdsey, Benhall, Blaxhall, Bredfield  
Cratfield, Crowfield  
Dennington, Debenham  
Earl Stonham  
Framlingham (HQ)  
Henham Park, Hollesly  
Knodishall  
Laxfield  
Metfield  
Sudbourne  
Theberton  
Wenhaston  
Wrentham

Reproduced from a research paper by Peter Bridges.

To date I cannot find the original source of the above information given to Peter, but here again no mention is made relating to the Home Guard of Framlingham or any other nearby village units.



**Private Daphne Burdekin, ATS (Auxiliary Territorial service) Earl Soham Rectory, September 1939, granddaughter of The Rev. Canon Abbay, Rector at Earl Soham. She was married twice, her last husband was a Captain Pemberton. Together they had many exciting postings including Jamaica and Cyprus, this being during the EOKA troubles. She was also in Vienna, Austria when she decided to leave the army in late 1947.**



The Masonic Hall in New Road. This hall was requisitioned by the military during 1939-40 and used by other ranks as a mess (food hall). Was this the intended target of a lone German aircraft that flew over the town on a fateful Sunday afternoon in October 1940?



The Drill Hall also in New Road, was another building used by the military in 1939-40. This would have been a prime target observed from the air by the German pilot.

Top. Bandmen of the Royal Engineers and three members of the ATS at the entrance to Framlingham Castle in the summer of 1939.

Lower. Personnel of the Royal Engineers (known as The Shining 7<sup>th</sup>) on the Castle Meadow in 1939. Many of these men would eventually be transferred to The Royal Artillery after a few months they would be manning the many searchlight sites, ack-ack gun batteries and plotting rooms in Framlingham and in the villages up until D-Day.

See my article. 32<sup>nd</sup> Searchlight Regiment Royal Artillery Framlingham 1940-1943, and others.





FRAMLINGHAM, AN APPRECIATION  
PART 2

By Andrew A. Lovejoy

---

*St Michael's Church*

St Michael's Church, Framlingham, has been here for at least eight hundred years, and a church has been on the site for at least a century longer. The first incumbent of whom we have record was Henry de Vallibus who was inducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1311, the patron at the time being Edward III (1327-1377), who in 1311 was presumably Prince Edward. Clearly the celebration of baptismal, marriage and funeral services throughout all those years has meant that St Michael's has rendered a powerful impression on the lives of people in Framlingham. It is a living entity which is marked by the development of the facilities on offer in the church which supports a committed congregation attending divine service every Sunday

The church can perhaps be divided into three spheres of attention, the organ, the nave and the chancel. To commence with the nave, this has been with us since 1300. The only remains of the twelfth century church are the chancel arches. The single hammer beam roof of the nave was completed in the early sixteenth century, the single hammer beams being disguised by the fan vaulting. The pews in the nave are memorials introduced into the nave since it was refurbished from 1888 onwards. Canon Pilkington, Rector from 1885 to 1917, was responsible for that. The wall painting in the nave dates from 1400 and depicts Christ being lifted on to a cross by God. It was discovered during the refurbishment of the church in 1888.

The organ in St Michael's is particularly special. The organ case and pipes date from 1630 and the mechanics of the organ were placed there by Thamar of Peterborough in 1674, at which times the organ was located in Pembroke College, Cambridge. Pembroke, the patron of St Michael's church, sent the organ to Framlingham in 1708, when the existing organ, dating from 1500, was demolished. The only part of that early organ surviving is the screen behind where the organist sits. This screen is almost unique in England, as the only other examples of parts of organs dating from so early a date are at St Laurence's Church, Appleby-in-Cumbria and Old Radnor Church in Powys, North Wales. The Thamar organ has been located at various places in the church over the years. It was Canon Bulstrode who, in 1970, restored the organ to its present site and rescued the organ's gallery from the Great Hall of the Castle. The organ as an instrument is a delight. It has been played by organists from all over the world, and is one of the finest organs in the East of England.

The chancel, a mausoleum for the Howard Dukes of Norfolk family, gives St Michael's an extra note of distinction. There are four Howard tombs of the sixteenth century. They are amongst the finest in England. There is also a fifth Howard tomb, that of the Earl of Surrey, Sir Henry Howard, which is early Jacobean. The Howard tombs maybe the last major display of religious imagery in England before the full impact of the Reformation made such things impossible.

The tomb of Thomas Howard, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Norfolk (1472-1554), is particularly celebrated. It bears comparison with any in Northern Europe. You have to visit, for instance, the royal burial ground of the French kings at Blois near Paris to see anything equivalent. Indeed, Thomas Howard visited the royal court of Francis 1<sup>st</sup> (died 1547) four times, and saw Francis's tomb at Blois. Lord Howard also saw the tombs of the Dukes of Orleans at Abbé St Denis near Paris, which also had an influence on the design of this tomb in Framlingham. It was also influenced in design by architectural features elsewhere in England. The Divinity School at Oxford has figures which are similar to the ones on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Norfolk's tomb. Then the lions on the top of the tomb in question bear comparison with the lions on the staircase of Hatfield House and Kings College Cambridge. We do not know the name of the sculptor of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke's tomb, but the received view now is that the side panels of the tomb were designed and prefabricated in the 1520s or 30s at the workshop of the Priory of Black Canons at Thetford and stored there, and were then brought to Framlingham, this being indicated by the mason marks on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke's tomb (1559).

The two figures on the top surface of the tomb are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke himself and his second wife, Elizabeth, the daughter of the Duke of Buckingham. (The archivist at Arundel Castle, Sussex, has confirmed this.) The 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Norfolk was a singular character. He was the senior layman of England and the richest man in England after King Henry VIII. He served as a Privy Councillor throughout Henry VIII's reign (1509-1547). Amongst the many offices he held, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke was Viceroy of Ireland in 1520-1521. The Duke was fanatically ambitious, merciless and utterly ruthless. He saw two of his near relations, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, on the throne of England, and did not lift a finger to help them when they were executed by Henry VIII. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke's greatest achievement was to die in his own bed at his palace at Kenninghall, near Diss, Norfolk. It was a close shave. Because of a problem with the opposing factions at Court and the Seymours, uncles of Edward VI, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke was due to be executed on the morning of 28<sup>th</sup> January 1547. Henry VIII died the previous night and so the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke was reprieved.

The other three Renaissance tombs in the chancel are those of Henry Fitzroy, illegitimate son of Henry VIII, Mary Fitzalan, Margaret Audley and Elizabeth Audley. All these tombs are very fine.

The last Howard tomb is that of Sir Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey (1517-1547), who was said by the sixteenth century critic, Castiglione, to be the closest England reached in engendering the model Renaissance courtier. This tomb is dated 1613 and as such is early Jacobean. Sir Henry was only thirty years of age when he was executed on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 1547, and yet had experienced an extraordinary life. Born at Tendring Hall at Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk, he spent his first twelve years at Howard houses in Essex and Suffolk, including Framlingham Castle. At the age of twelve he joined the royal court of Henry VIII as an Esquire. He turned out to be a brilliant classical scholar. He perfected the English sonnet and wrote down the rules for writing blank verse. If you had been at Oxford University before 1990 and were studying English, you were required to study the poems of Sir Thomas Wyatt and Sir Henry Howard, the two Henrician poets to come down to us. Life at court necessitated participating in military affairs. Sir Henry served in Henry VIII's army on the Continent and at the

age of twenty-eight was made a General.

Sir Henry had five clever children. The eldest daughter Jane was amongst the first girls in the country to receive a full classical education. She became Countess of Westmorland. However, it was Sir Henry's bad luck to find himself embroiled in bad relations with others at Henry VIII's court. Sir Henry, unfortunately, was arrogant, highly insensitive, lacked his father's quicksilver mind, and thought of himself as one of the last representatives of the old high aristocracy. His enemies at court, the Seymours, demurred, and eventually managed to impose on Sir Henry a trumped-up charge of treason. Legists today are unanimous in finding the charges of treason utterly false. Jesse Childs' book *Henry VIII's Last Victim* describes what a nightmare poor Sir Henry experienced. He was executed on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 1547 and his body was buried at All Hallows Barking by the Tower.

The tomb of Sir Henry was recently redecorated. On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 1977, the Howards from Castle Howard in Yorkshire and the Howards of Arundel met for a service of rededication of Sir Henry's tomb, which cost them £6,000. *The Times* on the following Monday reported that the congregation present at St Michael's that day resembled the line-up for the Battle of Bosworth Field on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1485. (On the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sir Henry's execution a service of blessing was held at 2pm on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1997. A poem of Sir Henry's was read and prayers said. It was a very moving occasion. Canon Richard Willcock officiated.)

There are two other tombs in the chancel of St Michael's which bear comment. On the extreme right of the chancel is what is supposed to be a tomb of a priest, whose identity is unknown. And then on the south right-hand side of the chancel is the tomb of Sir Robert Hitcham referred to in Part 1. This tomb has been described as a precocious essay in early Baroque. Sir Robert, an Ipswich man, was a very senior lawyer who bought Framlingham Castle and the patronage of St Michael's from the Howards for £14,000 in 1635 and died in the following year. He was Attorney General to Anne of Denmark, the legal advisor of James 1<sup>st</sup>'s wife, and Senior Sergeant at Law to James 1<sup>st</sup> and Charles 1<sup>st</sup>. Sir Robert was exceedingly rich. His will was eventually ratified by Parliament in 1653, and as a result a Poor House was constructed in the Castle grounds, which opened in 1729. The almshouses were built in New Road in 1654, and a school opened for forty boys in about 1680 in the church grounds. Sir Robert's will included the creation of various facilities in Debenham and Coggeshall.

It would take much time to detail all the interesting memorials and other features. One should look at the Coat of Arms dated 1660 in the south-west corner of the church to gain the fact that the Rector at that time was Richard Golty, the incumbent from 1630-1650 and from 1660 to his death in 1678, one of Framlingham's celebrities. There are other memorials in St Michael's which one should not pass by.

Reverend Richard Golty deserves some more comment. Born in 1596 at Ashbocking near Ipswich, his grandfather was a woolstapler at Calais until 1558, when Calais was lost to the English Crown. Richard's grandfather then settled in Ipswich. Richard's father Edmund had bought an estate at Ashbocking worth £2,000, which entitled him to a coat of arms. Richard Golty went up to Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, in 1613,

receiving his BA in 1616 and his MA in 1619. He then became curate in 1621 of a parish in Lancashire. In 1624 he found himself curate of St Michael's. The rector of Framlingham at that time was Thomas Dove, Bishop of Peterborough, who held the rector-ship from 1584 until 1630 *in commendam*. (He never visited Framlingham). In 1630, on the death of Thomas Dove, Richard Golty became the rector, appointed by Sir Theophilous Howard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Suffolk.

Richard Golty is best remembered for a tythe book he kept from 1628 until 1650 and from 1660 until his death in 1678. The book is in private hands in Framlingham and consists of two account books totalling 438 pages. We are therefore more aware of what was going on in seventeenth century Framlingham than we are of eighteenth century Framlingham! It might be added that Richard Golty enjoyed a stipend of £43.6s.8d, the second wealthiest living in Suffolk, and that sum was much bolstered by the income from tythes.

The year 1650 saw Richard Golty leaving St Michael's as he refused to give an oath of allegiance to the Cromwell government. He retired to the family estate at Ashbocking. His successor, in 1650, was a dissenter from Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, Henry Sampson. The latter was an independent in religious matters and was founder with Thomas Mills, a Baptist, of the dissenting persuasion in Framlingham. In 1660 at the restoration of Charles II, Richard Golty returned as Rector of Framlingham, and Sampson was expelled.

On the return of Richard Golty in 1660 to the rector-ship of Framlingham a coat of arms was produced. It shows the initials of Richard Golty and also those of Christopher Newgate and Nicholas Brown, the churchwardens in 1660. The painting in the south-west corner of the church cost £10.3s.9d.

The memorial tablets to the Jeaffreson family are on the north aisle wall of the nave. You have read in Part 1 that William Jeaffreson bought 12 Market Hill, Lloyds Bank Chambers, in 1828 from Sam Bloss for the site of his surgery and operating room. He married Caroline Edwards, one of the beauties of East Suffolk. The wall memorial to the Jeaffresons celebrates many of William Jeaffreson's offspring, including his eldest son George, who continued his father's medical practice on his father's death in 1865. George retired circa 1890 and died in Moot House, Castle Street, in 1911.

St Michael's is an exciting place. Fortunately we are blessed with a church which is amply served by a lively priesthood and attendants. Perhaps I can end this short account by relaying to you an anecdote. The Duke of Norfolk, who arranged the Coronation Service of Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1953, was visiting the Framlingham Chapel at St Michael's. He was met on the church path by the Rector of the day, Canon Bulstrode, who accompanied the Duke to the south-west door of the church. Before reaching there the Rector said to the Duke, shall we pray my Lord? The Duke assented and both men made their way to the altar rail. The Duke then said the Lord's Prayer and the Rector the Ave Marias.

## **DEPARTURE POINT**

History does not eliminate grievances; it lays them down like landmines.

*From: A.N. Wilson, *The Victorians*  
(2002)*

*“History is five minutes ago”*

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