

No. 6 Platoon -Our Local Home Guard

My father, R.J. (Bob) Smith, was company sergeant of the local home guard unit. They used to drill in Groves' timber yard and apparently, Dad's voice could be heard at the top of the High Street! Dad lived in and ran the shoe shop, which you will know as the old surgery. (See *Memories of Milton* on page 45)



platoon photograph in *The Second Wychwood Album* (published by the Wychwoods Local History Society in 1990).

My father is on the front row 4th from the left, William Markham, who worked for Dad and lodged with us in the shoe shop, is in the middle row 3rd from the left.

Guarding Rissington

One of the responsibilities of No. 6 Platoon, Milton-under-Wychwood and Lyneham, was to guard Rissington aerodrome. A local HQ was established at the Merrymouth Inn, (that must have been a difficult decision!), where the guardroom was in the yard. They operated a roadblock stopping all vehicles and questioning the occupants. However, to ensure that the men had a peaceful night they rigged up a string and wire attached to a post at the roadblock 100 yards up the road and a bell in the pub so that a single guard could summon assistance if required. I'm afraid I cannot identify any of the five men in the photograph published in the Dec/Jan *The Wychwood*, but there is a



A Menu from 1944!

I have the Menu and Toast List for a Conference and Dinner held at the Bull Hotel, Burford on the 6th December 1944 signed by some of the Platoon. Even in the midst of wartime rationing they managed to serve the following:

<i>Thick Soup</i>
▲
<i>Steak & Kidney Pie</i>
<i>Brussels Sprouts</i>
<i>Boiled Potatoes</i>
▲
<i>Trifle</i>
▲
<i>Biscuits and Cheese</i>

My parents, Bob and Ena Smith were married at Swinbrook Church in April 1943. The platoon formed their Guard of Honour, as shown here.

Doug Smith

John Rawlins does not think that the photograph, supplied by Claire Ferris in our last issue, was the Home Guard. He thinks it is more likely that it was the 65th Northumbrian Regiment who used to park their ambulance in the driveway to Prebendal House. Have our readers got any other ideas? Editor