

VE Day 75 from Louise Newman at Asherne

My Great Aunts Emma and Eveline Lawson, lived in Strete during the second World War at Asherne. My mother visited them at the beginning of the war and went down to the beach with Aunt Eveline, the beach was covered in barbed wire coils but my intrepid great aunt said to my mother not to worry as if you put your foot on the top in the right place you could easily get over the wire. As they were doing this a German Plane came over machine gunning, my great aunt said to my mother 'lie flat on your face' which she tried to do and fortunately the plane went over.



My mother was in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) during the war, giving soldiers their last meal before they were flown behind enemy lines. Very sadly my mother's two brothers were killed in the war, one served in the 3rd battalion of the Grenadier guards and the other in the Royal Navy. They spent holidays staying with their aunts at Asherne before the war and enjoyed very happy times on the beach and in the garden.

Among all the other people in Strete they were evacuated and moved to live with my grandmother in East Anglia. There are many entries in my aunt's diary describing moving things to Bowden which was out of the battle area, there are also letters from my great aunt about the worry of moving their belongings.

After the war Aunt Emma was involved with the Monument put up to people who gave up their homes and she advised that it should be written on the monument that they gave up their homes 'generously' not willingly as it had been all such an upheaval for the population.

During the Evacuation Asherne was used as a kind of headquarters as there was such a good view over Slapton Sands beach due to its location high up on the cliffs.

It is said Churchill and Eisenhower viewed the beach from Asherne.

Slapton Sands was later used and remembered as the beach used for D-Day training by American troops.

Many houses were blown up but fortunately Asherne survived.