

Sedgley's 'Captain Mainwaring'

by Stella Lloyd



My father, Samuel Lloyd, was second-in-command of the Sedgley Home Guard during the Second World War, which was based at Ellowes Hall. I was born in 1928 and remember the LDV (later the Home Guard) being formed in 1938/9 when I was about 11. The captain of the Home Guard was Mr Bashford, a local headmaster; Colonel Sankey based at Gibbons in Lower Gornal was in charge of the wider Home Guard area.



Ellowes Hall – HQ of Sedgley Home Guard. Drawing by Ron Baker.

Before the Second War my father had been in the Army for 14 years - he served in the Great War and was later a major on the north-west frontier (now Afghanistan). He left the Army in 1928 and so was well suited to serve once more in the local area when the Second World War began. He was good friends with Alex Bekenn the local GP who had been an army surgeon in the First World War.

We lived in Springfield Grove during the war and I remember when incendiary bombs were dropped into the deep rift on the Beacon. When we had air raids the family had to shelter under the table because we didn't have an air raid shelter

After the war I went to work in an office in Dudley. When I married I went to live in Penn, but didn't take to it and wanted to move back to Sedgley - I now live in Cotwall End Road.