

CAROL MAGUIRE

My father was in the RAF during the 2nd World War.

He was first stationed at Porthcawl, South Wales, and was then moved to Hatfield, to work at the De Havilland aircraft company.

He was part of the ground crew who serviced the war-planes that landed on the De Havilland airstrip and took off again, almost straight away.

Planes, including Spitfires, were often hot from missions and leather gloves had to be worn for their work as the planes had to be turned around quickly. It was exhausting work and they were working very long shifts.

My mother was Welsh and had met my father in Porthcawl. At the outbreak of war, she was a primary school teacher working in a London school. She was evacuated with her class to a village in rural Staffordshire and lodged with the vicar and his wife . She was responsible for dealing with any problems experienced by the children she taught.

In 1946 my parents moved to Wheathampstead and settled in Gustard Wood. My mother taught firstly at Sandridge and then at St Helen's School for her final 18 years before retiring in 1979.

[as told to her friend, Pat Walker, during research for WW2 project]