

## PART 2: BETWEEN THE WARS: 1919-1938

### Chapter 12: Bookended by Two Wars

Grandad used a variety of diaries during this period including Letts, Collins, Boots, Harper (Cromwell series and Belgrave), Cartwright and Rattray (Seandar), Cooke (Universal). His diary, in 1919, was a gift from his niece, Olive.

Although the fighting on the Western Front ended in November 1918, a comprehensive peace treaty was only signed in Versailles in June 1919. Grandad noted *"Peace signed at Versailles 3.12pm received here about 3.55pm"*. To mark this, a Bank and Public Holiday was declared for Saturday 19 July 1919 and grandad noted this *"Peace Day"*. Large crowds gathered in London and there was a victory parade of nearly 15,000 troops. This ended with the unveiling, in Whitehall, of a [temporary wood and plaster monument](#) to those killed or wounded. On 2 August 1919, grandad noted a *"parade and presentation of medals to the Comrades of the Great War"* and, on 11 November 1919, that *"all the works etc stood for two minutes in commemoration of Armistice at 11am"*.



The end of the hostilities of the war affected grandad and his family in various ways. On 1 January 1919, his brother, Cyril started a 12 day holiday from the Army Pay Corps. On 5 February 1919, Cyril went to Nottingham to see about being discharged and, on the 7<sup>th</sup>, went to Clipstone for his discharge. The following year, it seems the army camp at [Clipstone](#) was being dismantled as, on 6 July 1920, grandad's father bought two army huts from Clipstone. He noted that his father and Arthur, his brother-in-law, started to *"pitch douse"* the huts on 12 July and that his father bought a further army hut in August that year.

By the end of this period, in 1938, the likelihood of another major European war had greatly increased. On 26 September 1938, grandad noted that there was a *"European war crisis"* and that they had started digging air raid trenches in Kirkby and distributing gas masks. Grandad noted that he and grandma had received their gas masks but that mum had been promised hers later. However, on 30 September, grandad considered that war had been averted because Neville Chamberlain had met with Hitler in Munich and [agreement](#) had been signed between Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy.<sup>1</sup> He noted that this allowed Germany to march into Czechoslovakia on 1 October 1938.

*Neville Chamberlain returning with the Munich Agreement in 1938*



<sup>1</sup> This event was noted by Edith Searson in her book(let) *"I Remember"* (p52) although she referred to it as *"that scrap of paper"*.