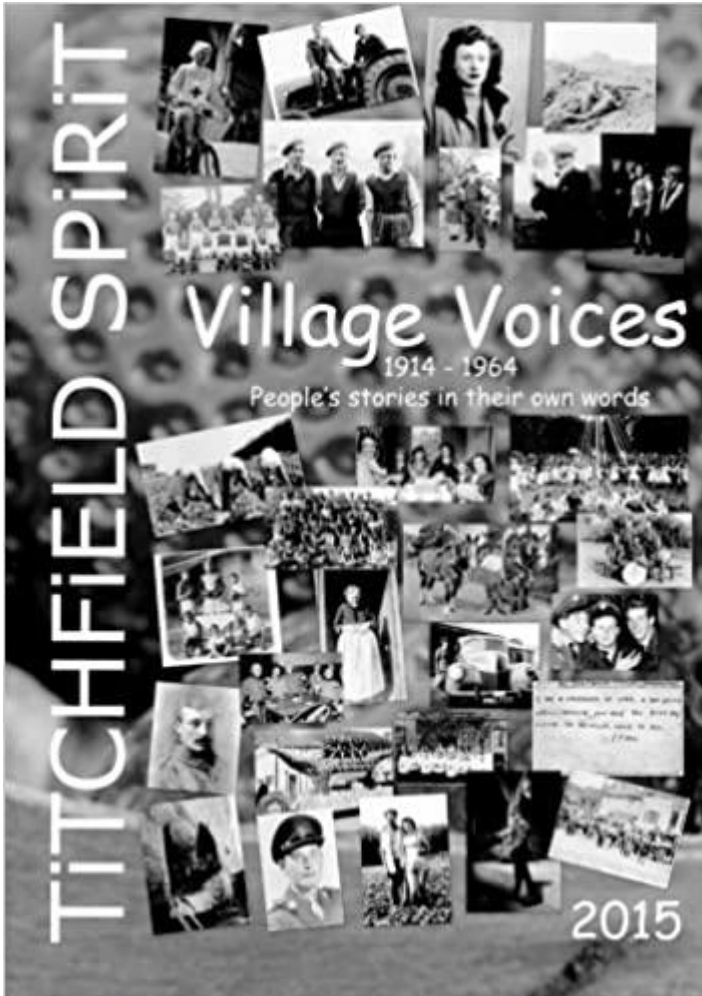


## Titchfield Voices

Personal memories of the war years in Titchfield have been collected together in “Village Voices, 1914 - 1964: People's stories in their own words”, Paperback – 30 Oct. 2015 - by Mr Ross Underwood (Author), Mrs Ann Wheal (Author) <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Village-Voices-1914-1964-Peoples-stories/dp/0950813184>



**Several of these mention how the garage, and also somewhere in nearby St Margaret's Lane, was taken over and used as a dispersed AST facility: -**

**John Williams** The garage just down the road was Priory Garage and to help the War effort it was used to assemble Spitfire tail planes. I believe there was also some Spitfire assembly work in St Margaret's Lane. There were not many private cars around so not much petrol was sold. The glass domes on top of the petrol pumps advertising Shell, Esso etc were taken down and Mr Maltby, the garage owner, stored them near his house.

**Kitty Potter** I was ordered to do War work and went in St Margaret's Lane making parts for the Royal Air Force.

**Kate Scott** "Gran's sister had small hands and had to pick out human remains when

they were repairing the Spitfires. Gran and the other girls worked in the Spitfire factory - now BA Systems. They were picked up from the ferry. Bob Chase had a garage on Titchfield Hill on the A27. He used to make bits for the Spitfires.

**Donald Upshall** The Priory Garage on the A27 was commandeered. It was just a filling station, but it was extended and toilets put in for the ladies who worked there.



(Back in the summer of 2018, after hearing about the possibility of Priory Garage being involved, this was investigated. The current proprietor/owner couldn't confirm the stories but said that when they took over the premises they demolished a brick and concrete pill box structure at the back of the

main workshop. He was struck by the fact that the gun port didn't open to the outside but faced into *the inside* of the building. A very similar structure still exists less than 3 miles from the garage inside a large, privately-owned barn which we also know was being used to repair Spitfire wings. Again, not outward but inward-facing gun ports ... a strange arrangement we are still puzzled by.)



It is likely that all these premises in the vicinity of Titchfield were requisitioned by AST Hamble, a company that repaired damaged Spitfires and returned them to active service. The repairing of Spitfires during the Battle of Britain summer of 1940 was a key factor in getting the planes back into operational activity.

*If you can help fill out our understanding of the part played by people and places in Titchfield to make, or repair, the planes that helped to safeguard the peace please get in touch.*

Air Transport Auxiliary Hamble Ferry Pool 15  
Back row: Margaret Dunlop (Argentina), Roberta Leveson (USA), Claire Halsey, Rosemary Bantler, Kay van Doozer (USA), Emily Chown (USA), Mary Wilkins  
Third row: Vera Strod (Denmark), Betty Hayman, Grace Stevenson (USA), Jackie Sobor (South Africa), Margaret Duhalde (Chile), DB, Dora Lang (killed)  
Second row: Anna Leska (Poland), Rosemary Rees, Margot Gore (CO), Philippa Bennett, Veronica Volkert  
Front row: Anne Walker, Tanya Whittall (killed), Mardi Gehring (Australia); All rows left to right.