

# Carterton



## The serviceman's wife

Mrs Rafferty arrived in Carterton as a new bride when her husband was posted to No 6 MU at RAF Brize Norton in August 1936. She walked with her husband from the station at Bampton to her new home, a bed-sitter in converted stables at the end of Rock Road. The following year, she moved with her husband into the newly built Air ministry houses at Brizewood. There was no Doctor resident in the town but a lady in Arkell Avenue set aside a room for the Doctor to use on his weekly visits. Mrs Rafferty shopped in the Co-op which supplied everything, including boots, shoes and clothes although all of these were rationed.

During the war years, aircraft were moved around the ground to various hangers which were disguised as agricultural buildings. It took six men to manoeuvre a Spitfire along Black Bourton Road and into the hangers at Alvescot Road. Mrs Rafferty remembers waiting with her pram to cross the roads in the centre of Carterton while aircraft were passing to the hangers. Others can recall that getting larger planes past telegraph poles and street lamps could be a problem.



First RAF marching into Brize Norton from Bampton Station (1937)



Anzon



Early Brize Norton plane



Aldemarle and Horsa

Another memory of the war years was the evening parade of new recruits. They would march from the main gate of Brize Norton along the Black Bourton Road to the post office. A few at a time, they were allowed to go into the post office and the neighbouring sweet shop before being marched back onto the base.

At the weekly 'hop' in the WI Hall. There was always a plentiful supply of fit young men willing to act as dancing partners.

Prefab homes

