

Ammunition Stores and Factories near Oswestry

Munition Filling Factories

There are no records of Munition Filling Factories in Shropshire during WW1 or WW2. (Ref 'Royal Ordnance Factories' and 'Royal Filling Factories' on Wikipedia.)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Ordnance_Factory

ROF Wrexham

The Wrexham Industrial Estate had its origins as a [Royal Ordnance Factory](#), ROF Wrexham, during [World War II](#). The site employed 13,000 workers.^[2] The factory made [cordite](#), an explosive propellant for shells.¹

Ammunition Boxes

Ammunition boxes were made locally in Oswestry.

See photo in Oswestry Library collection – 'Thomas' Timber Yard' OSW-NM/O/15/17/20.

(Available on the OL&FHG Website)

Shropshire Military Camps

Useful information on Shropshire Military Camps may be found here:

<http://shropshirehistory.com/military/camps.htm>

The following article on CAD Nesscliffe may be found there:

Central Ammunition Depot, Nesscliffe (SJ354192)

During the 1930s, there was a recognition of a need to provide secure storage for munitions within the United Kingdom. The proposal was to create three Central Ammunition Depots (CADs) in easily-hewn and relatively horizontal rocks: one in the south (Monkton Farleigh); one in the north of England (Longtown, Cumbria); and one in the Midlands. While Monkton Farleigh came into operations in 1939, CAD Nesscliffe was only opened by the War Office in 1941. In order to service the extensive property, the War Office took over the virtually defunct Shropshire and Montgomeryshire Railway and built extensive additional service tracks along the 8¾ miles of railway line from Maesbrook to the former Ford and Crossgate railway station. Like a typical ammunition depot, the site was laid out over an extensive area to avoid total destruction should an accidental explosion occur, or the site be attacked by enemy. The depot was made up of five separate sites at :-

Kinnerley (SJ354192)

Pentre (SJ374170)

Ford (SJ408139)

Argoed (SJ327217)

Loton Park (SJ357137)

The first four sites were capable of storing around 55,000 tons of shells. Loton Park was used for storage of both incendiary ammunition and chemical weapons shells from 1943. This was one of only two Chemical Warfare depots operated in co-operation with and guarded by the United States Army Air Force, specifically 7th US Chemical Depot Company. Locomotives and train drivers were provided by the Royal Engineers, who also maintained the extensive network. Their main servicing depot for rolling stock was on the stub-junction of the former branchline to Criggion. Ammunition storage on site officially stopped in 1959 and the ammunition depot closed in 1961. Since this time, the area has been used as a training area adjacent to Nesscliffe Army Camp. The latter has a capacity of 530 personnel.

Airfield Information Exchange

This website has useful information on the Nesscliffe site and other Shropshire airfields.

Eg.

<http://www.airfieldinformationexchange.org/community/showthread.php?4825-Kinnerley-Ammunition-Depots>

For information on Col.Stephens and the Shropshire and Montgomery Light Railway see:

<http://www.hfstephens-museum.org.uk/smlr>

and

BBC Shropshire- History of the Potts Line/

http://www.bbc.co.uk/shropshire/content/articles/2008/10/08/potts_line_railway_feature.shtml

For public access to the Nesscliffe Training Area see:

<https://www.gov.uk/public-access-to-military-areas#nesscliff-training-area>

Map and Satellite Views of Kinnerley.

May be found at

<http://wtp2.appspot.com/wheresthepath.htm?lat=52.718072664725405&lon=-2.952446937561035&gz=16&oz=7>=1>

Historical Sporting Note

Footballers Duncan Edwards and Bobby Charlton did their National Service with the Royal Ordnance Corps at Nesscliffe. This allowed them to play for Manchester United at the weekends! See details on Wikipedia.

The Royal Logistical Corps Museum have a photo of Lance Corporal Duncan Edwards displaying his England Caps (Museum Ref RAO/298).