



**ADDLESTONE RIFLE CLUB WAS RECENTLY SUBSUMED INTO CHOBHAM & DISTRICT RIFLE CLUB. WHAT FOLLOWS IS A SHORT HISTORY:**

Addlestone Rifle Club, like many other Rifle clubs, has its origins in the local Home Guard, specifically No44 (Simplemarsh) Platoon 'C' Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Surrey Home Guard.

**No. 44 (SIMPLEMARSH) PLATOON, "C" COMPANY, 10<sup>th</sup> BATTALION SURREY HOME GUARD**



Back Row: Pte. D. A. Dyma Pte. F. C. Fowler Pte. M. R. Stephens Pte. H. D. Firmer Pte. G. Allen Pte. E. R. Reason  
 Middle Row: Pte. H. Barker Pte. F. L. Spire Pte. F. S. Harvey Pte. H. V. Northover Pte. H. N. Hind Pte. S. V. Bodley Pte. H. Smith Pte. E. E. Pacey  
 Front Row: LCpl. F. G. Bunn LCpl. A. A. Elms LCpl. A. C. Barford Cpl. G. W. Duck Sgt. J. V. Barlett Lt. A. H. Powell 2511 A. Kayk Sgt. G. E. Root Cpl. H. E. Wing LCpl. T. W. Goss LCpl. T. Pies

These were the men who would have stood between Hitler and Addlestone if the mighty Wehrmacht had attempted to invade Southern England.  
 The 34th Home Guard Platoon of the Surrey Home Guard was made up of workers in reserved occupations and those too old or too young or unfit to go to war.

These local men who were either too young or too old for front line military service or were in reserved occupations (war production or agriculture) and were required as part of their training to practice their shooting.

When the Home Guard was stood down in 1944 they wished to carry on with their shooting and continue to enjoy the comradeship which they had developed. Consequently they formed the 'Addlestone Home Guard Rifle Club'. The annual membership fee was 5 shillings (25p)

They met weekly at the Chertsey Drill Hall where they were able to shoot small bore and monthly at Bisley to practice full-bore shooting. The membership was boosted by returning ex-servicemen, and membership was also opened to civilians, but greater use of the Drill Hall by the Territorials meant a move to a range at Oatlands, Weybridge in the mid 1960's.

There were different categories of membership favouring former Home Guard personnel and other former military, but gradually non-military started to be the majority so the name was altered to simply Addlestone Rifle Club.

It is of interest that one current member can trace his ancestry back to his great uncle who is in the above picture. Similarly trophies which were presented by founder members are still competed for.

Oatlands Park was subsequently required for building and in 1975 an arrangement was entered into with Chobham Rifle Club to use their facilities on a weekly basis as well as regular monthly events at NRA Bisley.

This continued until 2022 when Addlestone were offered the opportunity to merge with Chobham and District Rifle Club. Whilst very similar, albeit smaller, Addlestone were probably more prolific with full bore shooting at Bisley and with Clay Pigeon shooting on local ranges. Early indications are that the merger and the broader opportunities it creates will make for a very sound and happy unified Rifle Club.