

Accommodating war workers 1940s



Frank remained in lodgings at Pendennis for more than 2 years. Then he and his wife, Rose, rented "Hilby", fully furnished, with another couple, Jim and Louie Tween.

Hilby is an Edwardian house on Pearcroft Road which belonged to one of the teachers at Wycliffe College (he and his family were away with the school, and its pupils, at Lampeter in Wales for the duration of the War). Both couples had a daughter with them.

"Hilby" in 2015

New maisonettes

As more war workers came to Stonehouse the Air Ministry decided to build some flats, or maisonettes as they became known. In 1941, land was requisitioned at the western end of the town and rows of houses erected "almost overnight" along the edge of Woodcock Lane leading to Doverow Avenue and Copner Road. Workers who had been boarding with local residents moved into these along with families conscripted to work at Hoffmann's or Sperry's.

The Air Ministry proposed to name the new roads after the towns from which the "shadow factories" came. Stonehouse Parish Council was not in favour! Doverow Avenue was named after the nearby hill and Copner Road after local farmer John Copner.

Frank and his wife were allocated a maisonette on Woodcock Lane. After the war, Frank moved with his wife to Midland Road on the Park Estate. In later years he lived in a retirement flat in Orchard Court at Laburnum Walk.



Woodcock Lane before the maisonettes were built on the fields to the left of the photo.



Frank, with his wife Rose, in 1969 having received a company award for a production improvement suggestion

Frank died in October 2012 and was buried in **St Cyr's** Churchyard, Stonehouse.



Frank aged 92