

Cockey Moor in World War 2

Memories of Roy Turner

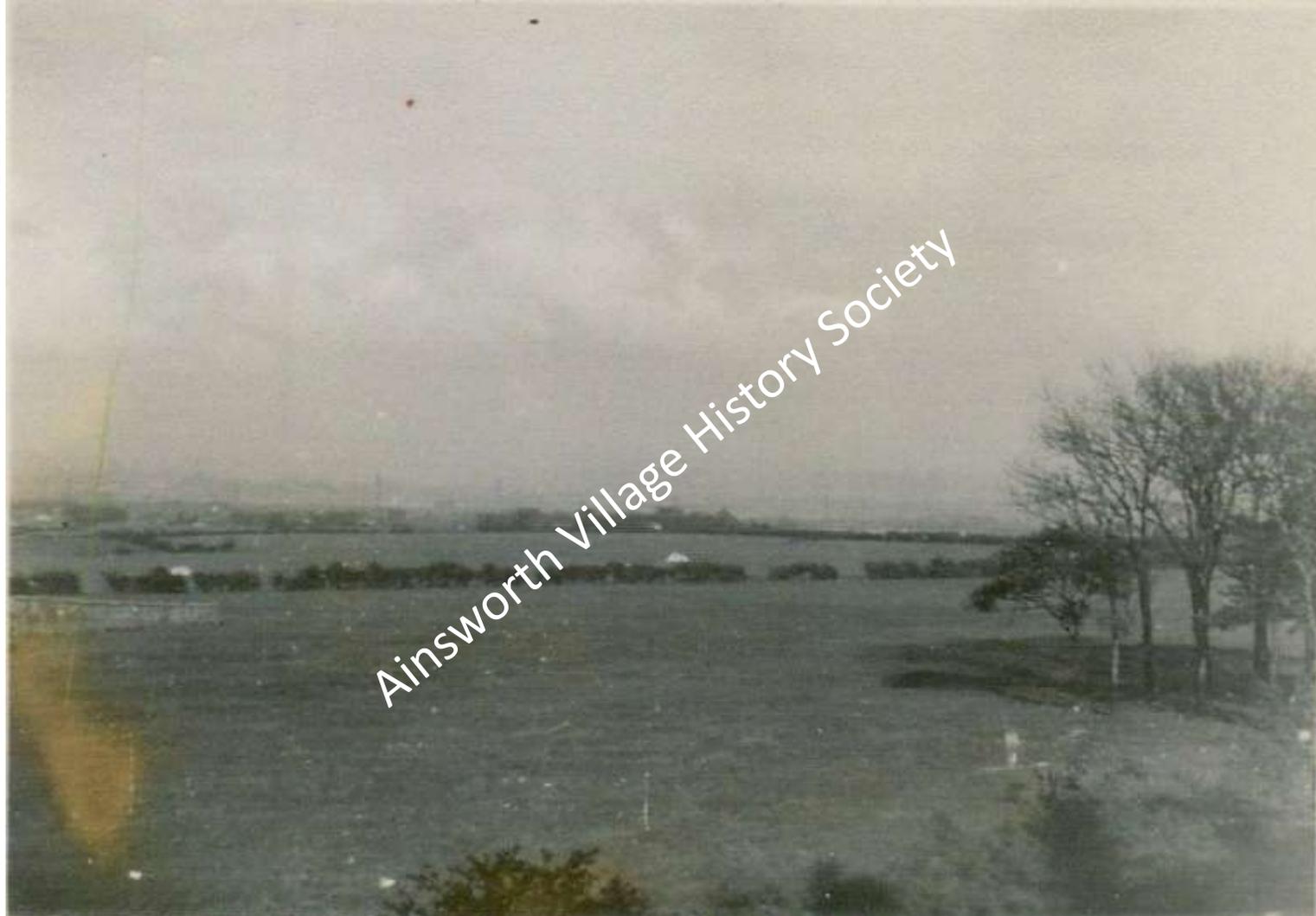
There were Whiteheads at Haslam Hey and also at Chantlers (at the junction of Dow Lane and Ainsworth Road)

There was a well 40ft deep on Linnet Lane

Mile Lane was a dirt track



There was little building in the Lowercroft area



View from 63 Lowercroft Rd, before houses were built

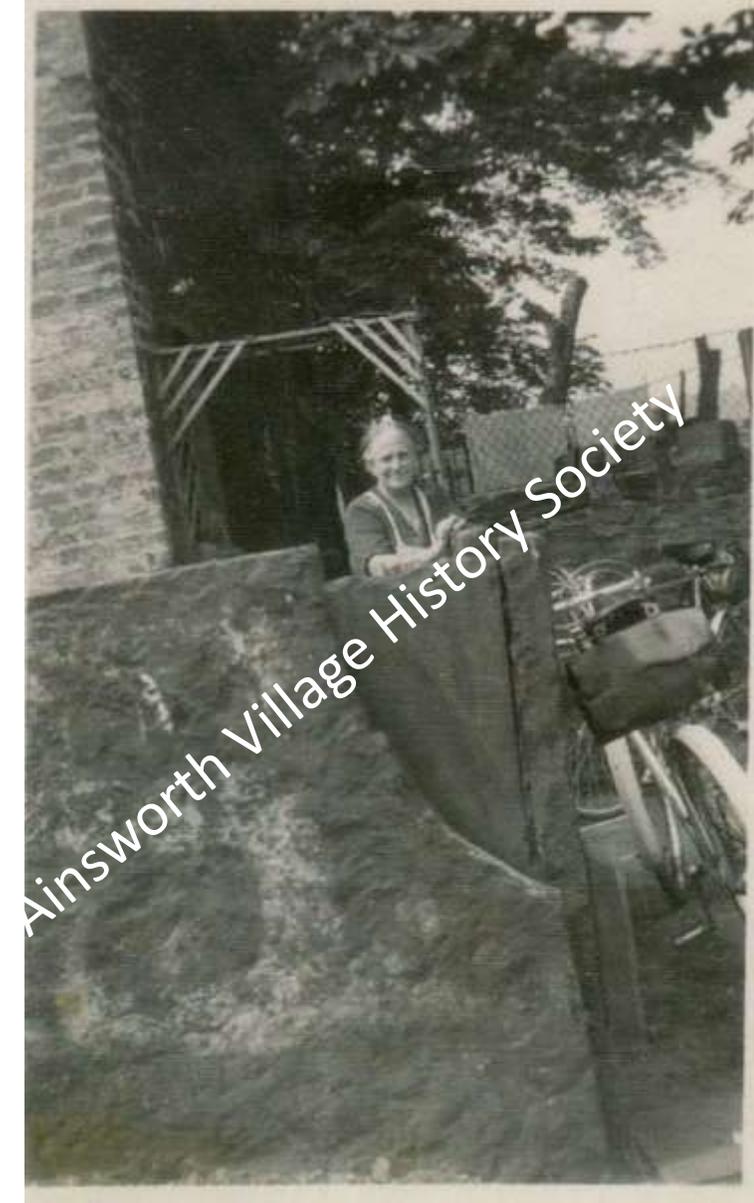
The camp enclosed a large area, including Lowercroft Works and the pavilion and tennis courts belong to the works.

It went north west from Moor Nook cottages (at the bend at the lower end of Lowercroft Road) round the bottom end of Bottom lodge and up to middle lodge. It then went north until passing below Haslam Hey and across to the end of Dow Lane.

It then followed Dow Lane, past the pavilion and went south west and then west until it returned to Moor Nook

There was a sentry post at Moor Nook and another at the junction of Lowercroft Road and Dow Lane, which meant that it was not possible to go along that section of Lowercroft Road.

To get past, it was then necessary to either go along Ainsworth Road to Dow Lane and walk up to get to Walshaw or to go along the West side of the camp to Bentley Hall Road and then along the top of the camp



Cottage at Moor Nook

The soldiers were housed in the mill and in huts



A few days after Dunkirk in 1940 a large number of returning soldiers were brought to the army camp to be housed in the mill. They were accompanied by relatives, many of whom were billeted with families on Lowercroft Road (Roy Turner's family took in a sergeant's wife)

During the harsh winter of 1940, the snow was four foot deep on Bradley Fold Road and Lowercroft road- and in the dip only the top of the gas lamps could be seen! The soldiers from the camp dug out the families in the village

During the war many playing fields were dug up to be planted with food for the war effort. This included the playing field at the bottom of Ainsworth Hall Road – just below Bankfield.

Bankfield was occupied by Thomas Hardman who lived there with his two sons (who had sports cars) and who owned Thomas Hardman and Sons woollen mill in Hornby Street Bury