

WASC 2181 ●

WAI 582 ●

Copy of front
page of presentation
book to Mr.
P. G. Knapman on
leaving Mills in
1943
and images of
local area

To **Percy G. Knapman, Esq.,**
Q.B.E., B.Sc., F.I.C.

We, your friends and colleagues on the Staff of the **Royal Gunpowder Factory** desire to tender this expression of goodwill and affectionate regard.

We offer our sincere congratulations on your good work in the service of the Royal Gunpowder Factory from the date of your appointment in 1912, and especially as our **Superintendent**.

The Staff have been ever mindful of the keen interest which you have always displayed in the welfare of the Factory, an interest which has done so much to inculcate esprit de corps, and has won for you lasting friendships and appreciation.

We wish to acknowledge warmly the courtesy, kindness and personal interest that we have received from you at all times and trust that you may be spared for many years in the service of the Crown.

Waltham Abbey 1943.

WASC 2181
WAI 582

Copy of front page of The Presentation Book given to
the last Superintendent of the R.G.P.F. when it closed in
1943.
Mr. P.G. Knapman



R O F

Waltham Abbey

A very old photograph found
in my father's factory articles

P. G. Knapman Waltham 1912 - ~~1943~~
1943



**The Superintendent's House, The Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey.
'Government House', Highbridge Street.
The Knapman's lived here from 1939 to 1950.
(Mr. Knapman worked at the MoD (then the War Department?) from 1943 to 1950)**

**The Firemen's Cottages (opposite the front of the house) are in the background.
The foreground shadow is that of the huge chestnut tree in the middle of the grass which took Percy Knapman 4 hours to cut with a hand mower!**

Firemen's Cottages opposite front of Government House, Highbridge S
in the background.

Shadow of the huge chestnut tree in the foreground in the middle
of the grass which it took Dad 4 hours to cut with a law
mower! 1939-1950.

Wai-0582-03(2)-Wai-2181-03(2)



Mrs. Upton looking at Swans. The bow of a barge can be seen on the left of the picture.
(Photo by P.G.Knapman)

Mrs. Upton lived in one of the factory houses on Highbridge Street - the back garden ended at the Tributary of the River Lea which ran from beside Powdermill Lane; under Highbridge Street (where a Roundabout now stands) through the grounds of Government House and on into the factory.

Mr. E. Upton had a factory house because he was the Clerk of Works in the Building Works Dept.



Swans and cygnets in the R.G.P.F. in 1940.

Outbuildings including the old Coach House, Waltham Abbey
Percy George Knopman kept his car 'Bullnose' Morris Cowley 8 HP
then from 1940-46
The factory fire-men's cottages can be seen opposite Government House

Photo taken 1940.

Grounds of Government House showing where the
tributary of the River Lea flowed from beside
Powdermill Lane, under Highbridge Street and then through
the grounds under several bridges and splitting into two
parts. One went to the left where it eventually petered
out and the other went on past various factory houses
gardens until it went into the factory itself. No one
unauthorised could go into the factory this way, although I
(Superintendent's daughter) could row from Powdermill Lane
up to this factory entrance.





Photo taken from one of the bridges
in the grounds of Government House
showing the part of the river which
went the opposite way from the Factory
and just flowed towards the Town Hall
and the Abbey. This part of our
grounds was not cultivated - it had
been a paddock when the Superintendent
and had a Carriage - horses. There
had been a tennis court too in 1920.

Wai - 0582 - 07 - WWC - 2181 - 07



Photo taken Christmas
1939.

The safety regulations
do not look very good.
I remember our cat
fell in one Summer
but fortunately did get
out. We held Garden
Parties for the Methodist
Chapel there, and gave
6p rides in the boat up
and down between the
bridges.



Photo of the swans in front of the boat-house down by the old paddock and tennis-court which had been laid after the first World War to give work to some of the redundant men. They also laid out beautiful flower beds and vegetable plots & were able to have some of the produce for their own use.



View of the tributary of the River
Lea taken from the boundary wall on
Highbridge Street with part of the old
Coach House (my father used that as a
garage when the car was laid up from
1940-1945) and the out-buildings used
for storing vegetables in the war. We
were quite self supportive growing all our
own fruit (an orchard with apples and pears) +
vegetables.

Photo taken Christmas 1939 -

WAI-058210-Walc-2181-10

R.O.F. Waltham Abbey 1939

Swans looking for a nesting site

P.G. Knapman

①



R.O.F. Waltham Abbey 1939

Swan eggs in nest

P.G. Knapman



③



②

R.O.F. Waltham Abbey.
1939

Swan on nest

P.G. Knapman



R.O.F. Waltham Abbey.
1939

Swans & cygnets

P.G. Knapman

④





R.O.F. Waltham Abbey,
1939

Swans on River or Canal

P.G. Knapman

(5)



R.O.F. Waltham Abbey,
1939

Cygnets swimming with
Mum! →

P.G. Knapman

(6)



(7)

R.O.F. Waltham Abbey,
1939

Swans on River or Canal

P.G. Knapman

R.O.F. Waltham Abbey,
1939

Mrs. Vpton looking
at Swans

(8)

P.G. Knapman





Bomb damage
at Waltham
Abbey in 1945.

Government
House is in
the centre at
the back.

P.G. Knapman

March 1945:
After the Bomb at
Waltham Abbey.
Top of Powdermill
Lane opposite
Government House.
(The Police Houses).
P.G. Knapman



Bomb Damage
1945
Waltham Abbey.

P.G. Knapman



