

Decorations

None



Appearance

A gentleman of somewhat rounded proportions about 5'6" to 5'7" in height, round face, with balding head, gingerish hair, and round metal glasses. Despite South Coast origins, has traces of a Northern accent. Prone to bouts of lumbago and dyspepsia.

Date and Place of Birth

1885 in Eastbourne

Home Address

23 Lime Crescent, Walmington-on-Sea

Work Address

Swallow Bank, High Street, Walmington-on-Sea

"This is war, you know!" (usually spoken to a platoon member whenever an aspect about the war is trivialised)

"This is War, not -" (usually followed by a phrase of what it wasn't, e.g. Greyfriars, a dry cleaners)

"That's a typical shabby Nazi trick!"

"We're not savages, we're British!" (when a member of the Platoon attempts some sort of vandalism or damage to achieve a goal)

"Stop talking in the ranks!" (said when he wants silence)

"Like a smooth well oiled machine."

"Go to it".

"He who holds the crossroads holds Walmington-on-Sea".

Quotes

- “You stupid boy” (to Pike)
- “Is that you, Jones?” (usually uttered when Jones has donned some outlandish disguise)
- “I think you’re entering the realms of fantasy here, Jones”
- “Ah, just waiting to see who’d be the first one to spot that” (whenever a member of the platoon makes a good suggestion that he’s missed, or spots an obvious flaw in one of his plans)
- “Oh, there’s no time for that sort of thing” (to Wilson if his deputy is pointing out that permission ought to be obtained first)
- “Don’t be absurd” (in response to a statement that contradicts Mainwaring’s delicate British sensibilities)
- “Come away, Wilson” (in response to one of Hodge’s tantrums)
- “Let’s not have any of that sort of talk here” (whenever a member of the platoon makes a comment even slightly criticising the British or a positive comment about the Germans)
- “Good, good” (when told some bad or distressing news which he, at first, does not recognise or comprehend)

Family and Contacts

- Wife, Elizabeth. No children.
- Brother, Barry (a travelling salesman selling jokes and carnival novelties)
- Cat, Empress (of similar temperament to Mrs Mainwaring)
- Arthur Wilson, chief clerk at the Swallow Bank (vague, and inclined to lord his upper-class upbringing)
- Frank Pike, clerk at the Swallow Bank (well-meaning, but none too bright - clearly his upbringing)
- William Hodges, greengrocer and Chief Air Raid Warden (aggressive busybody, determined to undermine Mainwaring’s efforts)
- Rev Timothy Farthing, vicar of St Aldhelm’s (ineffectual, and has some unsavoury ideas that he’s picked up from his missionary days)
- Maurice Yeatman, verger of St Aldhelm’s (always interfering and prying, and always takes the Vicar’s side)
- Fellow Rotarians: Councillor Conway, Chief Clerk Wilson

Interests

- The Home Guard; the nightly parades are the highlight of his day.

Captain, Bank Manager, Rotarian, pillar of the community: George Mainwaring is all of these. Born in Eastbourne in 1885, his father, Edmund, was a member of the Master Tailors Guild. His childhood was at times a difficult one; he was a shy child, and lived in the shadow of his more gregarious elder brother Barry. He won a scholarship to Eastbourne Grammar in 1896, but found his time at the school lonely and isolating.

Upon leaving school in 1902, he found work at the Eastbourne branch of Swallow Bank as a office boy. Finding himself well-suited to the care and attention required by his job, he progressed through the bank's hierarchy: Clerk, Assistant Chief Clerk and finally Chief Clerk. At the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, he attempted to join up, but was initially denied active service due to his poor eyesight. He was eventually commissioned into the Pioneer Corps in 1918, arriving in France on 14 November 1918 (three days after the Armistice) and serving for the whole of 1919. He returned to the bank in 1920, but found himself blocked for promotion - he suspects due to lack of service during the War. After the death of his father in 1922, he applied for a transfer to the Guildford branch.

In Guildford, he met a local woman, Elizabeth Whatley, the daughter of the suffragan bishop of Clagthorpe, and they married in 1930 after an extended courtship. The marriage did not get off to a good start; Mainwaring planned to surprise Elizabeth with a honeymoon in the Scottish highland, but Elizabeth was having none of it. On getting the cold shoulder from his new wife, Mainwaring sunk to his lowest ebb, and spent the honeymoon learning to play the bagpipes. George and Eliza-

beth's marriage has been rocky, with Mainwaring frequently on the receiving end of both her tongue and her fists. Although she rarely leaves the house, she often telephones him at work in order to berate him for some perceived transgression.

He threw himself into his work, and by the summer of 1939, Mainwaring had reached Assistant Branch Manager at the Swallow Bank in Guildford. In the spring of 1940, he heard that a new branch manager was needed in the Walmington branch (the previous manager having been confined to an asylum following a nervous breakdown), and applied for promotion with little expectation that he would get the job. To his surprise, he succeeded (he later discovered that he was the only applicant), and accepted the job, much to the annoyance of his wife. Although Walmington is closer to his roots in Eastbourne, the town is quite insular and he has frequently found himself to be an outsider, and so he has pushed to involve himself in civic affairs - the Rotarians, and now the Home Guard.

On hearing Anthony Eden's broadcast announcing the formation of the Local Defence Volunteers, Mainwaring realised that he had an opportunity to endear himself to the townspeople with his bravery and leadership, and so appointed himself commander of the newly-formed Walmington Platoon (with a rank of Captain, despite the official rank being 'Platoon Commander'). Fortunately, in the confusion surrounding the formation of the LDV, GHQ haven't yet noticed. His hope is that future inhabitants of Walmington will thank him for managing to pull a group of local shopkeepers "up by their bootstraps" to become an efficient fighting unit.

Decorations

Scout badges for Tenderfoot, Knots and Splices, Fire Making,
First Aid and Elementary Tracking.



Appearance

Tallish gangly youth, medium build, Brylcreemed black hair, slightly baby faced and with a simpleness in his high pitched voice.

Date and Place of Birth

1923 in Walmington-on-Sea

Home Address

20 Hill Street, Walmington-on-Sea

Work Address

Swallow Bank, High Street, Walmington-on-Sea

Notes

Quotes

- 'Uncle Arthur.'
- 'Shoot him Captain Mainwaring.'
- 'I'll tell Mum if you don't, Uncle Arthur.'

Family and Contacts

- Mother, Mavis Pike
- Uncle Arthur, who he called Daddy in his younger days
- Mr Mainwaring, manager at the Swallow Bank and commanding officer of the LDV
- The Walmington Pikes - his father has family in Walmington (mostly fishermen and their families) from whom his mother became estranged after Frank was born and she moved to Weston-Super-Mare. Frank occasionally visits his grandmother Agnes, the matriarch of the family, but isn't on speaking terms with the rest of them.

Interests

- DIY Electronics - reads Practical Wireless and has built his own radio set
- Watching films at the cinema, particularly Hollywood gangster films (Jimmy Cagney, etc)
- Listening to the radio
- Reading the Hotspur (which he then passes to Lance Corporal Jones) and the Beano
- Fishing

Background

Frank Pike lives at home in Walmington-on-Sea with Mavis Pike, his mother; he doesn't know who his father was, save that his mother says that he went to sea soon after he was born. After his father left, his mother moved to Weston-Super-Mare with him, where they remained until he was twelve. Soon after arriving in Weston-Super-Mare, Mavis met Arthur Wilson, chief clerk of the Weston branch of Swallow Bank, who became a close friend of the family to the point where Frank refers to him as "Uncle Arthur". On Arthur's transfer to Walmington in the summer of 1935, Mavis decided that she and Frank would follow. Since leaving school in 1939, Frank has worked as a clerk in the Walmington branch of the Swallow Bank, thanks to his Uncle Arthur.

Frank was a sickly child; according to his mother, he had a weak chest and suffered from croup, and she now insists that he wears a scarf to keep his neck warm whenever he goes out, lest he catch his death of cold. He suffers from hay fever, so spends all summer with streaming eyes, and also has weak ankles, flat feet and sensitive skin (as did his Uncle George). He has webbed toes on one foot and is rather self-conscious of them - he does not like showing his legs or people looking at him whilst he undresses, and will not take his socks off in company.

Due to these infirmities, Frank's mother has been very overprotective of him, and prevented him from taking part in many activities during his youth (which he finds highly embarrassing). She wouldn't let him join the Sea Scouts when younger, because she didn't want to lose him to the sea as she

had his father. As a result, Frank cannot swim and gets seasick easily. In part due to his mother's molly-coddling, Frank has a gentle nature that verges on the naive; he has a habit of sucking his thumb, and finds it hard to sleep without Mr Snuggly, his teddy bear. He still cannot understand why he never hears Uncle Arthur leaving at night or coming back to the house in the morning.

Frank yearns for adventure, despite his weak constitution and gentle nature. He's an avid fan of gangster movies and war films, and joined the Walmington Home Guard at the first opportunity (without asking his mother's permission - she initially objected, but relented when Arthur joined up as well). He has a youthful but naive enthusiasm for his Home Guard duties, but is often unable to accept everyday realities and has a tendency to compare situations to scenes from his favourite films. He is the platoon's official runner, and has been appointed "Information Officer".

Decorations

- Military Medal
- 1914-15 Star
- British War Medal
- Victory Medal



Appearance

About 5'4" in height, of medium/stocky build, round face, bald head with silvery/grey slightly bushy hair at sides. Has a slight stoop, and is a bit slow on his feet. Very politely spoken.

Date and Place of Birth

1865, Walmington-on-Sea.

Home Address

Cherry Tree Cottage, Cherry Tree Lane, Walmington-on-Sea

Work Address

None

Notes

Quotes

“May I be excused?”

“I’m sorry, I must have dozed off!”

Family and Contacts

- Two sisters, Dolly and Cissy, with whom he lives at Cherry Tree Cottage. None of them ever married.

Interests

- Opera
- Gardening
- Beekeeping - has his own apiary in the garden
- Cricket
- Bowls
- Light entertainment - played in a show troupe at work called the Gay Gondoliers.

Background

Born in 1865 in Walmington-on-Sea, Charles Godfrey was born to a genteel middle-class family. He grew up in the house in which he now lives with his two younger sisters, Dolly and Cissy. On leaving school at sixteen, he moved to London and went into the the department store trade, working at the Army and Navy Stores in the Strand.

At the outbreak of the Great War, he did not volunteer for the armed forces, believing himself incapable of harming another person. In May 1916, he was conscripted into the Army, but appealed to the Military Service Tribunal as a conscientious objector, who granted his exemption on the condition that he join the Royal Army Medical Corps. By June, he had completed his training and was on his way to the western front.

In July 1916, the Battle of the Somme began; as an orderly within RAMC, Godfrey found himself in the thick of the fighting, where the battle was at its bloodiest. The experience of modern industrialised warfare horrified him, but brought out in him a resolve to aid his fellow soldiers. In September 1916, he was decorated for bravery for rescuing wounded soldiers under fire, being awarded the Military Medal. This proved uncomfortable; he maintained that the wearing of medals was ostentatious, and that he had only done what any decent man would have done.

In early October 1916, during a German counter-attack on the Ancre Heights, he was badly wounded; his left hand was left virtually useless, his legs were riddled with shrapnel, he was bayoneted in the groin and the legacy of a blow to the

head by a German soldier's rifle butt left him prone to blackouts. He was medically discharged from the army with the rank of Lance Corporal, and spent the remainder of the War convalescing.

After the Armistice in 1918, Godfrey returned to work, now at the Civil Service Stores on Victoria Street. In 1930, his father died and left the deeds to Cherry Tree Cottage to Charles and his sisters, and in 1932 he retired and returned to the family home in Walmington.

His war injuries have made him a regular attendee at the local Clinic in his later years; he suffers from rheumatism, gout, piles and a weak bladder, and is also known to fall asleep at the most inconvenient of moments.

Godfrey is a very polite and well spoken gentleman, who always sees the good side of people (perhaps with the exception of Chief Warden Hodges, whom he believes to be corrupted with power). He is an upright principled member of the community, who prefers not to believe gossip, and is kind almost to the point of naivety. When the LDV was formed in May 1940, he joined up with the intent of bringing his medical experience to bear and once again aiding his fellow soldiers, and has consequently been appointed Platoon Medical Orderly.

Decorations

- Egypt Medal
- India Medal
- Queen's Sudan Medal
- Queen's South Africa
- King's South Africa Medal
- India General Service Medal
- 1914-1915 Star
- British War Medal
- Victory Medal
- Long Service and Good Conduct Medal
- Khedive's Star
- Khedive's Sudan Medal



Description

About 5'8" in height, thinish wiry build, very agile for his age. Fine head of silvery grey hair, small moustache, permanently wears glasses.

Date and Place of Birth

1870 in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Home Address

91 High Street, Walmington-on-Sea

Work Address

Jack Jones, High Class Butchers, 91 High Street, Walmington-on-Sea

Notes

Quotes

- 'Permission to speak, Sir.'
 - 'Don't Panic, Don't Panic', (normally said when getting into a big panic himself).
 - 'Very Tasty - Very Sweet.'
 - 'When I was in the Sudan...'
 - 'They don't like it up 'em, they do not like it up 'em' (referring to the cold steel of his bayonet).
 - 'The old cold steel.'
- Also prone to malapropisms (amphibious/ambidextrous, fraternising/fertilising) and odd turns of phrase ("fire and brimstone and treacle").

Family

- Father, George (works as caretaker at the Peabody Museum)
- Mother (lives near Worthing)
- Brother, John (lives in Eastbourne)
- The boy Raymond (butchers assistant)

Interests

- Regaling whoever will listen about his tales of the Sudan.
- Member of the Loyal Antediluvian Order of Cuttlefish (a fraternal organisation - he wears a small golden cuttlefish on his lapel to indicate that he's a member of Kraken degree).
- Member of the Butchers' Federation and Poulterer's Association.
- Reading the Hotspur (he gets Private Pike's copy when he has finished with it)

Background

Jack Jones was born to a working class family in Leamington Spa in 1870; his father George was a butcher. On leaving school at the age of 14, Jones joined the Warwickshire Regiment as a drummer boy in 1884. He served in numerous campaigns including being with General Gordon at Khartoum in 1885, in the Sudan at Omdurman with Lord Kitchener in 1898 (fighting the 'fuzzy-wuzzies' in the Mahdist Revolt), in the Second Boer War from 1899 to 1901, on the North West Frontier from 1902 to 1914 (fighting the Pathans), and in France from 1914 to 1916 (during which time he earned the nickname "the Mad Bomber", due to his misplaced enthusiasm for using grenades). In 1916, he was given a medical discharge due to poor eyesight, something that had plagued him for much of his adult life.

Jones' military service may have been distinguished, but his career was not - he was only a Lance Corporal on discharge, having been promoted to that rank in 1901. Despite having survived some of the bloodiest conflicts in recent Empire history without injury, his health has suffered as a result of his service; he gets recurring bouts of Malaria, which he contracted in South Africa, and he suffers from a degree of post-traumatic stress (flashbacks to his some of the more brutal incidents in the Sudan, South Africa and the North West Frontier).

After his discharge in 1916, he took over his father George's butcher's shop in Walmington-on-Sea, his family having moved south from Leamington in 1892 while he was in the British Army. The shop continued to return a tidy profit

under Jones' stewardship; in 1935, he was able to purchase a new Ford model BB box van for deliveries. Most of his trade has been with the townspeople in the upper town (the lower town being mostly fishing families who prefer to eat what they catch). The advent of rationing has caused him some difficulties, with meat now in short supply, but he has taken care to ensure that members of the LDV receive their full rations to keep them fighting fit (even if it sometimes involves brown paper packages under the counter).

Jones has the indomitable spirit that Britain needs in the dark days of WW2, despite sometimes getting into a panic. He knows his place in life, always being respectable to those above him, and has never lost his military mannerisms. Always the first to volunteer for anything - and always a second or so behind the rest of the platoon in his drill movements. He has been appointed squad leader for the second squad in No. 1 Section.

Decorations

- Polar Medal
- 1914-15 Star
- British War Medal
- Victory Medal



Appearance

About 5'10" in height, craggy features, balding thin grey hair, slight stoop, round staring eyes (which he rolls when in a crisis or telling a story), broad Scottish accent. In true naval style, has tattoos on his arms.

Date and Place of Birth

1871, on Barra

Home Address

93 High Street, Walmington-on-Sea (above Funeral Parlour).

Work Address

Funeral Parlour, 93 High Street, Walmington-on-Sea

Workshop near junction of High Street and Salthaven Road.

Notes

Quotes

'We're doomed, doomed!'

'It was a terrrrrrible way to die.'

'I mind the time when I was a wee bit laddie on the Isle o' Barra, a wild an' lonely place ye understand.'

'Folly, sheer utter folly.'

'Silly auld fool' (normally aimed at Lance Corporal Jones).

'Rubbish, sheer rubbish'.

'I never doubted ye fur a moment' (when inevitably proven wrong in his suspicions)

'Did ye ever hear the tale o' the Auld Empty Barn' (cue shaggy dog story, ending with the punchline "there wasnae anything in it")

Family and Contacts

- Never married, no surviving parents, no siblings.
- Heathcliffe, the boy assistant (a surly, monosyllabic youth)

Interests

- Highland dancing, bagpipe playing. President of Walmington Caledonian Society (and only member, having raised the fees so much that the other member refused to pay)
- Telling ghost stories about his adventures in far off lands and the South Seas.
- Hypnotism, which he learned in the South Seas

Background

Private James Frazer was born on the Barra in the Outer Hebrides. His father was a crofter and sheep farmer, but the young Frazer was determined to go to sea. He briefly worked as a fisherman's apprentice on Mingulay before joining the Merchant Navy in 1885 at the age of 14.

In his thirty years in the Merchant Navy, he served on ships in the Pacific and Far East, which were the scenes of a number of adventures. In the late 1880s, with his friend Jethro, he heard of a deserted temple on an island near Samoa, which contained an idol with a giant ruby "the size of a Duck's egg". Jethro and Frazer encountered a witch doctor, who put a curse on Jethro for stealing the Ruby, shouting "DEATH! THE RUBY WILL BRING YE DEATH! DE-E-ATH". While in the China Seas, he learned the art of hypnotism. Between 1907 and 1909, he served as cook on the Nimrod as part of Shackleton's British Antarctic Expedition, for which he received the Polar Medal.

At the outbreak of WW1 he joined the Royal Navy, serving on minesweepers as a cook. He rose to the rank of Chief Petty Officer, but was demoted for striking an officer with a boat hook. During this time, he became a crack shot with a rifle, picking off mines at sea. In 1916, he served at the Battle of Jutland where his ship was torpedoed.

After the War, he returned to the Merchant Navy, serving until 1925, when he settled in Walmington. He originally ran a philatelist's shop on Coast Road, but decided that in wartime making coffins (using skills that he'd picked up on Mingulay) would be a better money spinner. He began by supplying cof-

frims to Mr Drury and assisting in pall bearing, but by 1940 had become an undertaker in his own right, doing the full service, aided by his boy assistant Heathcliff.

Frazer is a prophet of impending doom, and believes that to every man who sins comes Nemesis, and that fortune telling is the work of the devil, despite his dabbling in hypnotism. He delights in telling scary stories to his colleagues in the Home Guard (for example, about the 'slithery green thing' that was supposed to have chased his friend Vince Hawkins up some lighthouse stairs).

He is also a stereotypically miserly Scot; he has invested in over £3,000 of gold sovereigns (which he keeps in a small black chest in the house, as he doesn't trust Banks, Bankers or Captain Mainwaring), but still wears the same silk top hat that he'd bought in 1911 (when he paid 8/6 for it). If he wants a treat, he buys himself a small herring. Like any Scotsman, he enjoys his whisky, and claims never to drink water. He also claims that he never wears socks, stating that a man from the Highlands has no need of such frivolities. He is fiercely proud of his Scots background, and is ready to have a go at anyone making jokes about kilts.

Frazer thinks that it is a sheer disgrace that the LDV is being led by a bletherer with no medals, and takes delight in letting Captain Mainwaring know whenever he had carried out the funeral arrangements of someone about his build, age and size. He believes that the private soldier is the backbone of the British Army, and has been appointed the platoon's Lewis Gun operator (not that they have a Lewis Gun yet).

Decorations

None, but was given the 'Sacred Order of the Golden Kris of Aba Dhobi' by a Sheik whilst working as a hall porter at a hotel in Park Lane.



Appearance

About 5'10"/5'11" in height, blackish/brown swept back hair with sideburns, thin moustache, medium build, Cockney accent. Always very smartly dressed in civvies, wearing a double breasted striped suit, often with a loudly coloured shirt and tie, Homburg hat and spats.

Date and Place of Birth

1902, Plaistow, East London

Home Address

23 Tackleway, Walmington-on-Sea

Work Address

1b Slope Alley, Walmington-on-Sea

Notes

Quotes

“You just can't get it in the shops these days.”

“Now I can help you there.”

“Mind you, as its war-time it will cost you, 'cos you can't get 'em”

“Taffy” (said to Private Frazer)

“Silly old duffer,” (usually said to chide L/Cpl Jones).

Family and Contacts

- Not married.
- Father, Alf (a tram driver, nearly always unemployed)
- Mother, Ivy (a housewife)
- Three brothers (Albert, Edward and Jack) and two sisters (Mary and Kit), plus a cousin (Arthur, his mother's nephew)
- A number of ex-girlfriends in Plaistow (Ruby, Ida, Annie)

Interests

- Wheeling and dealing
- Making money
- Darts
- Cards

Background

Born and brought up in Plaistow in the east of London, Joe Walker had a sense of honesty, deference and loyalty to King and Country instilled into him from an early age by his parents, despite his poor background.

Leaving school at the age of fourteen, he held a series of jobs (delivery boy, factory work, hall porter at a Park Lane hotel). When he turned eighteen, his cousin Charlie offered him a job as a used car salesman in his garage, and it was from this point that he began 'wheeling and dealing'. His greatest opportunity came during the Coronation of King George VI in 1937, this event taking place during a bus strike. He 'borrowed' two furniture vans belonging to a client of the garage (the vans having been parked up there) and used them to convey people into Central London for the big event, even hiring out the camp beds that the vans had been carrying.

Two years later, the War started, and to a spiv like Joe, it was another opportunity to make money. He set himself up as a dealer in essential supplies - knicker elastic, cigarettes, alcohol - anything that was rare or rationed and would fetch a good price. However, he was not the only person to have sensed the opportunity, and with violence becoming increasingly prevalent on the streets of East London, he decided in March 1940 to move to pastures new on the South Coast.

Describing himself as a "banana salesman and wholesale supplier of illuminated signs", he set about renting a lock-up garage as a warehouse, with a market stall as ostensible cover. His remaining contacts in London have continued to supply

him with illicit goods, which he sells - for a price - to those he trusts. There is no doubt that Joe Walker is a valuable member of the local community in Walmington, by virtue of the fact he can obtain most items that are rationed, albeit at a price and if not too many questions are asked by the purchaser.

His latest shipment, however, has proved to be hard to shift. His cousin managed to lay his hands on a few crates that conveniently fell off the back of a lorry, but the contents of the crates are quite peculiar: Oriental jade statuettes of a stylised cuttlefish. Joe has been trying to sell these objects d'art to the townspeople of Walmington with mixed success; the fishermen down on the Strade have been his best customers, but the rest of the town have been indifferent - and his cousin has started to ask for payment for the crates.

When the formation of the LDV was announced in May 1940, Walker saw it as a means both to avoid being conscripted into the regular army (in case his back-up plan of a forged medical certificate claiming an allergy to corned beef didn't work) and as a way to provide cover for moving his illicit wares around the town.

Decorations

- 1914-14 Star
- British War Medal
- Victory Medal



Description

About 6'0" tall, with a distinguished gait and manner. Medium build, with grey receding hair. Very well spoken, and often compared to the MP Anthony Eden, and with the film star Jack Buchanan. Rather laid back, with a dry sense of humour.

Date and Place of Birth

April 1887, at Stonehouse in Gloucestershire.

Home Address

Single room at 23 Bridge Street, Walmington-on-Sea.

However, effectively lives with Mavis and Frank Pike at 20 Hill Street (even though Frank is blissfully unaware of this)

Work Address

Swallow Bank, High Street, Walmington-on-Sea

Quotes

"Do you think that's wise Sir?"

"Would you mind falling in, in three, nice, neat, rows."

"Would you mind awfully falling in please?"

Bank has also left much to be desired; in the summer of 1939, his manager suffered a nervous breakdown, leaving Wilson to keep the branch ticking over until a replacement arrived. The replacement did not arrive quickly; the Bank found the position difficult to fill, so it was not until the spring of 1940 that a new manager arrived. The new manager, George Mainwaring, has proved to be exasperatingly keen, and has a chip on his shoulder regarding his middle-class origins (possibly due to the influence of his wife Elizabeth). Wilson has tried to be a steady influence on him, both in the Bank, and now in the LDV as the platoon's Sergeant.

Family and Contacts

- Mavis Pike
- Frank Pike (rather fond of him, almost fatherly - but concerned about how he's changed since moving to Walmington)
- Lucy, daughter by first marriage (lives in London)
- Mother, Virginia
- Great-Uncle Reginald, 4th Baron Stonehouse
- Great-Uncle Bertram, retired chairman of M. Samuel and Co.
- Great-Uncle Algernon, retired headmaster of Meadowbridge School.

Interests

- The songs of Noël Coward.
- Reading the Picture Post magazine.
- Cricket - captain of the local cricket team
- Golf - member of Walmington Golf Club, but does not play

Background

Arthur Wilson was born to a decidedly upper-class family on their estate in Gloucestershire in 1887; one great-uncle is the 4th Baron Stonehouse and another is the chairman of a merchant bank in the City of London. He was largely raised by his nanny, his parents taking a hands-off approach, before attending Cranborough Preparatory School in 1892. In 1898, he failed the entrance exam for Harrow, but gained admission to Meadowbridge (a lesser public school) thanks to the actions of another great-uncle - the Headmaster.

At Meadowbridge, he failed to make the most of an exclusive private education and spent little time on his studies, instead gaining a reputation as a wag and a minor bully. His parents had hopes that he would join the Indian Civil Service on leaving school, but he failed the entrance exam in 1905. Yet again, his family came to the rescue and he started working for his great-uncle at his merchant bank in the City. He married his first wife (Anne, a member of a dance troupe) in 1910, but they divorced in 1913, leaving her with a young daughter (Lucy).

When the Great War began in 1914, Wilson did not rush to the recruiting office so much as gently saunter, but the increasing demands of his ex-wife persuaded him. Nevertheless, his upbringing made up for what he lacked in enthusiasm, and he served first with the Royal Artillery (with the rank of Sergeant), seeing action in the Battle of Mons. In 1915, he was reluctantly commissioned as a Captain in the Middlesex Regiment, and fought at both Gallipoli and Passchendaele.

After the Great War, Wilson moved to the Swallow Bank,

joining the Weston-Super-Mare branch as an Assistant Clerk. In 1924, he met Mavis Pike, a recent widow with a young son. He felt that they had a chemistry that had been lacking from his earlier marriage, and they moved in together soon after. Fearing a backlash from her family for seeing a divorced man, Mavis insisted that they keep their relationship a secret, and so Wilson became Frank's "Uncle Arthur". Despite his rather lackadaisical approach to his job, Wilson was promoted to Chief Clerk of the Weston-Super-Mare branch in 1930, but soon found the increased responsibility rather onerous, and so began to look for a transfer to a quieter branch. An opportunity arose in 1935, when the Chief Clerk's position at the Walmington-on-Sea branch became vacant (the previous incumbent having had a nervous breakdown). Wilson applied for the transfer, and was surprised when he was successful (he later found that he had been the only applicant). Mavis was not initially keen on moving closer to Frank's father's family, but Wilson gradually won her around.

Since then, Wilson has become increasingly less certain that the move was a good idea. The sea air of Walmington doesn't appear to have been good for Frank's health; already a sickly child, he has acquired an unhealthy pallor, and the frequent fogs have aggravated his chest. Frank has developed a morbid fear of the sea, in part due to his mother's mollycoddling (his father having been a fisherman who was lost to the sea). Most worryingly, Frank's family have expressed little interest in interacting with their relative.

The environment in the Walmington branch of the Swallow

Notes

From Minder. Played by George Cole, who also played Flash Harry. George Cole also appeared as an evacuee in *Those Kids From Town* (alongside Harry Fowler, who played George Truscott in *Went the Day Well?*) who lodged with a vicar. George Cole played the Boy in the *Olivier Henry V*, so give him a few (paraphrased) lines from that.



Appearance

About 5' tall, with a pronounced Cockney accent.

Date and Place of Birth

May 1927, in Walford.

Home Address

Mother lives at 23a Turpin Street, Walford.

Since evacuation, lives with Rev. Farthing at The Vicarage, Church Lane, Walmington-on-Sea.

Work Address

None

Decorations

None

Quotes

"I may only be young, but I've watched you three. You treat me like a boy, but you're not proper men. You're (Mainwaring) red-faced but white-livered, you're (Wilson) all mouth and no trousers, and you (Walker) will steal anything that isn't nailed down and say that you bought it proper. I'm not going to put up with you lot any more. I'm going to find something better to do."

Family and Contacts

- Colleen Daley (mother)
- Arthur Daley (father)
- Henry Edwards (half-brother, commonly mistaken for each other)
- Rev. Timothy Farthing (evacuation host)
- Joe Walker ("Uncle" Joe - aunt's boyfriend)

Interests

- The RAF, Spitfires, Hurricanes - anything to do with flying.

Background

Thirteen year-old child evacuee from Walford, East London.
Half-brother of Henry Cuthbert Edwards. Known to Joe Walker
(nephew of one of his girlfriends). Lodging with the Vicar.

Notes

Flash Harry from the St. Trinian's films. Played by George Cole, who also played Arthur Daley. George Cole also appeared as an evacuee in *Those Kids From Town* (alongside Harry Fowler, who played George Truscott in *Went the Day Well*) who lodged with a vicar. George Cole played the Boy in the *Olivier Henry V*, so give him a few (paraphrased) lines from that.



Appearance

About 5' tall, with a pronounced Cockney accent.

Date and Place of Birth

May 1926, in Walford.

Home Address

Mother lives at 23a Turpin Street, Walford.

Since evacuation, lives with Rev. Farthing at The Vicarage, Church Lane, Walmington-on-Sea.

Work Address

Decorations

None.

Quotes

"I wish I was back in the Queen Victoria. I'd give up bein' famous for a pint and bein' safe"

Family and Contacts

- Colleen Daley (mother)
- Arthur Daley (stepfather)
- Arthur Daley (younger half-brother, commonly mistaken for each other. You take an avuncular/paternal interest in Daley)
- Rev. Timothy Farthing (evacuation host)
- Joe Walker ("Uncle" Joe - aunt's boyfriend. Source of some fascination)

Interests

- Horse-racing

Background

Fourteen year-old child evacuee from Walford, East London. Half-brother of Arthur Daley. Known to Joe Walker (nephew of one of his girlfriends). Lodging with the Vicar.