



# Back at Home

“He told me that they found it comical that when they started ... the supply of firearms was very difficult. I think a lot of them turned up with the historical broomsticks for drill, and he found it rather boring that they used to spend most of their night duty ... just patrolling round the wire fences.”

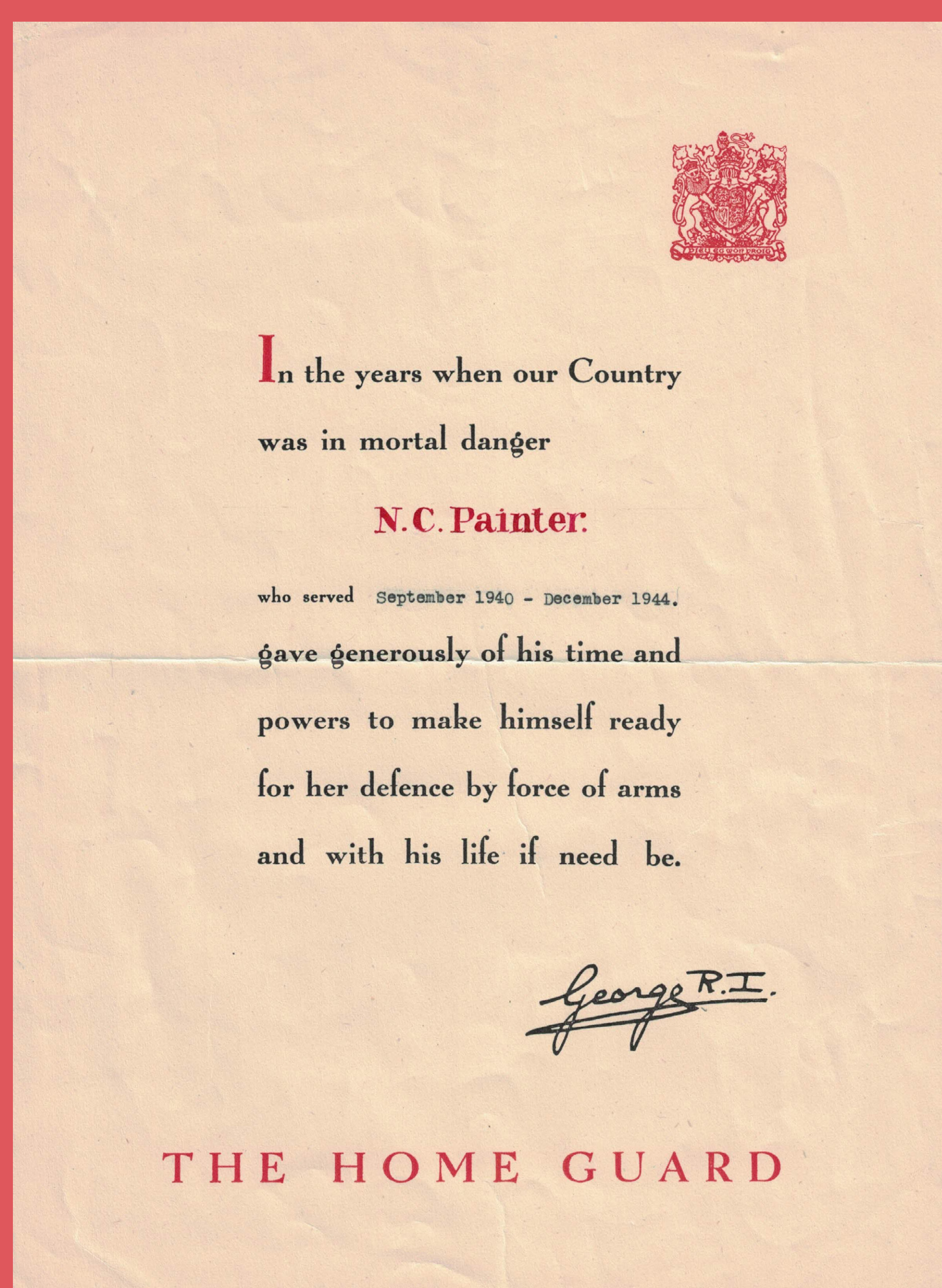
**Michael Ponting, a schoolboy in Oxford during WW2 talking about his father in the Home Guard.**

Whilst the men were away fighting in both the First and Second World Wars, the women of Britain took on their jobs. In order to support the war effort, many women took on new roles such as working in munitions factories, working as agricultural labourers, and becoming nurses. Many of these women also had families to care for, which became increasingly difficult with the introduction of rationing and special measures such as air raids and blackouts. The women had to be resourceful in order to create something fun for children. In order to Make Do and Mend, they fashioned new clothes out of fabric remnants, or created toys for children out of household objects.

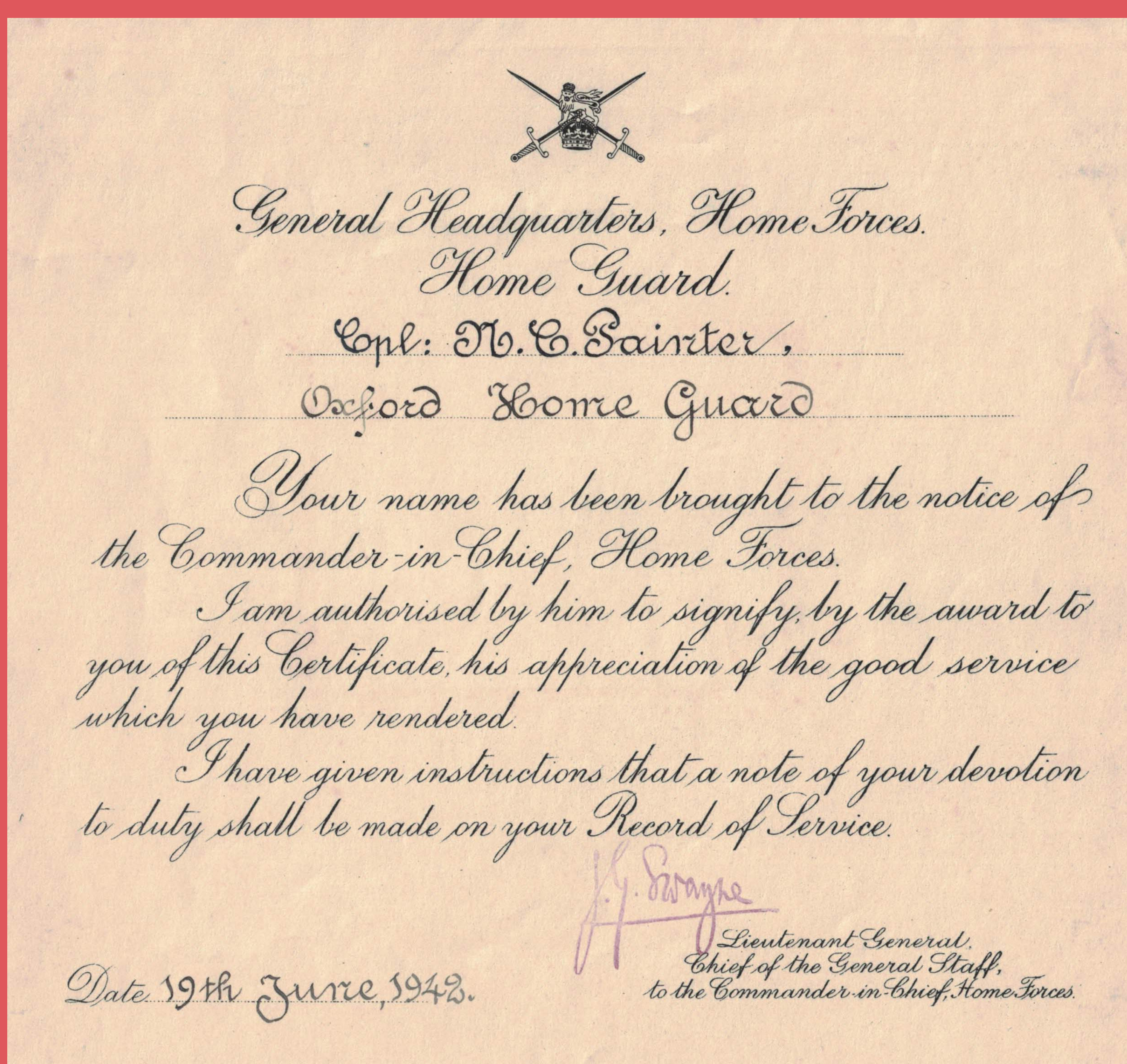
In the Second World War, men who were physically suitable but too young or too old to serve in the regular army joined the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV), which was officially set up in May 1940. Later in July, it was renamed the Home Guard and became a military unit of the British Army. They were issued with a rifle and uniform and received regular training to act as the secondary defence force preventing invasions from Nazi or other Axis powers. The Home Guard in Adderbury, Oxfordshire, carried out their duties by removing road and village signs as well as milestones that might give clues to invading forces. They also acted as sentries to check identity cards and vet strangers to the area. By 1944, there were seven battalions and another three units in the Oxfordshire Home Guard, with over 11,000 men serving in it.



Adults left back at home were encouraged to leave certain treats like milk chocolate for children.



Certificate of Good Service awarded to Corporal Nelson Painter by the General Headquarters Home Force on 19 June 1942.



The Record of Service Certificate belongs to Nelson Painter thanking him for his service from September 1940 to December 1944. The signature of King George VI is printed below.