

*FRANK MORRALL*  
*WR/319/233/29*

At the beginning of World War II, Britain needed to increase home food production, and the area of land under cultivation was rapidly increased. County War Agricultural Executive Committees and district committees under them had exceptional powers to determine the direction of farming at a local level. Once the short-term objective of increasing food production had been met, thought was given to implementing a more general National Farm Survey with the purpose of providing data to form the basis of post-war planning. Census forms were sent out on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1941 for the farmer/market gardener to complete. In addition, every farm and holding of five acres (ranging from large farms to market gardens) received a visit from an inspector who surveyed and classified according to the physical condition of the land. These records may be viewed in the MAF 32 category at The National Archives, Kew; a team of Badsey Society members visited The National Archives in January 2013 and took copies of the records.

Frank Morrall (1893-1971) lived at 20 Port Street, Evesham, and was a part-time farmer who owned the land. He was also a garage proprietor and vegetable merchant. Frank Morrall had 13 acres of land, which he had occupied for 14 years; he worked the land with one full-time male family member and one male and five female seasonal workers as required. He grew cabbage for fodder and potatoes and had 48 chickens, nine ewes and 42 pigs; he hired horses as required. He did not have a tractor.

As the farm was over 5 acres in size, Form B496 needed to be completed by inspectors. The inspector, R W Sidwell, judged the farm to be 100% good, conveniently laid out, on soil which was 100% heavy, when he visited on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1942. There was no farmhouse. The situation in regard to road and railway and the condition of buildings, farm roads, fences, ditches and field drainage was considered fair. There were no infestations of any kind and no derelict fields. There was a roof water supply for farm buildings and no water supply to the fields; there was no electricity.

Management of the farm was classed as B, the reason being personal failings, given as inexperienced. The condition of arable land was fair with adequate use of fertilisers; there was no pasture land.