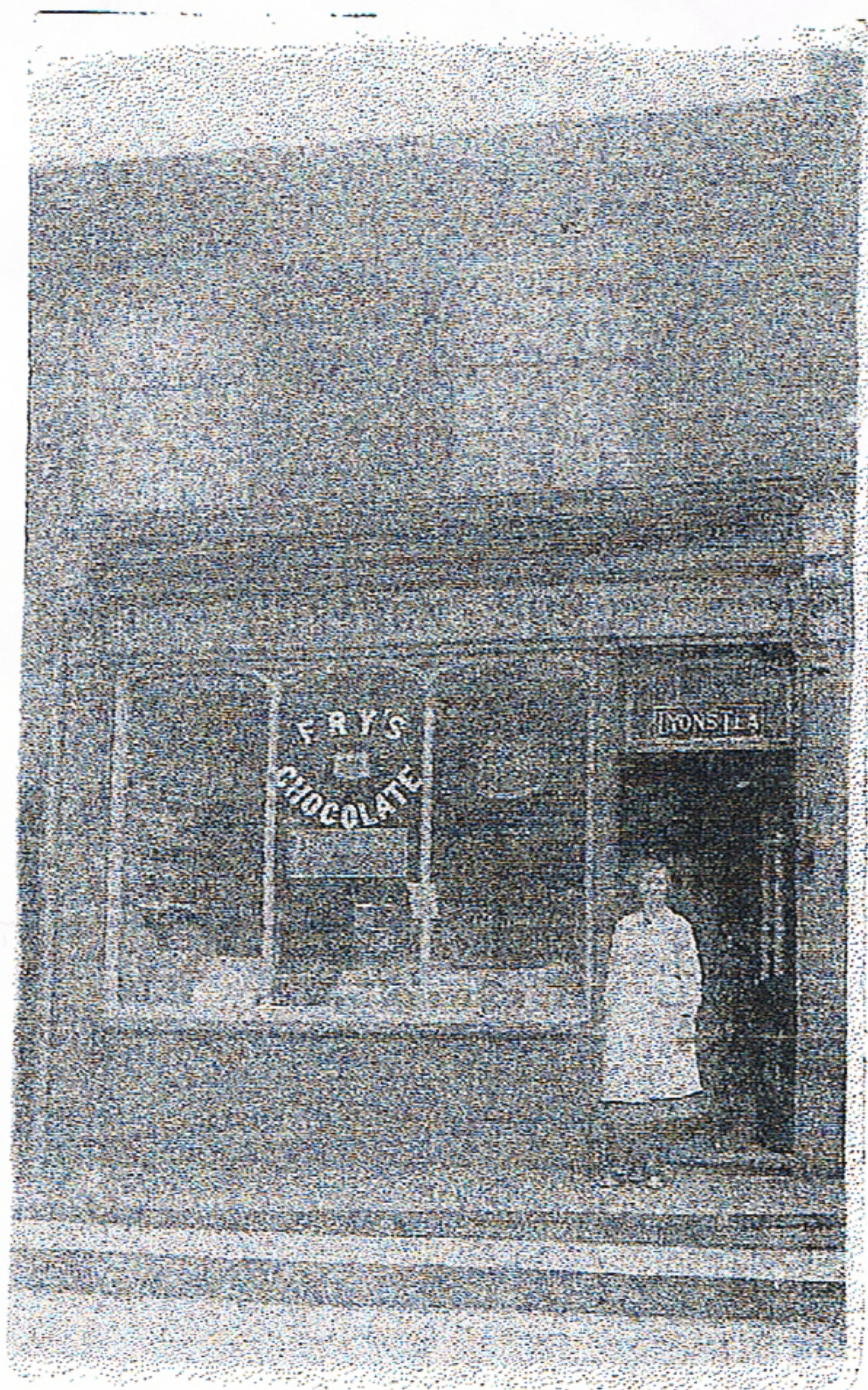


"One of my school teachers, a Miss Howell, had a niece doing war-work and she was working at the Shadow Factory at Elstree (de Havillands) and she got me a job there. I stayed there for two and a half years, and then my father was very ill, and later died, so I put in for, and got my release, and worked the ovens in the bakehouse together with my brother for about 18 months, until we sold the shop in 1945. After that we, my mother, brother and myself, went to live in Grover Road (No. 1) in two rooms, because we couldn't get anywhere else.

"From there I got married, when my fiancé came home on a month's leave from Italy. He then went back for a further six months. Then we lived in 47 Upper Paddock Road for six months, until we came into our cottage, 77 Villiers Road, right opposite where I was born. I had met my husband when a Special Company of the Cold Stream Guards was formed and called Coates Mission after their commanding officer came to Bushey & Oxhey, and was stationed in Aldenham Road. I know the house on the other side of the hill in Aldenham Road was used as their NAFFI. Coates Mission was formed to go to Sandringham when the King and Queen stayed there, also to go to Chequers when Winston Churchill was there. The Queen once asked the guards if they were wet (when they had been out beating for pheasant shooting), Joe said they couldn't have been wetter if they had jumped in a lake, but they couldn't say that to the Queen. Winston Churchill came and wished them a Happy Christmas while there. Joe used to send me a letter saying he'd gone fishing, then I knew where he was.

"I spent many years as a Sunday School teacher. I started going to church which was called Upper Paddock Road Baptist Church, when I was three. This is now known as Oxhey Village Church. I started teaching when I was 14 because we had so many children and were so short of teachers. I also played the organ for them - I didn't play very well, but I coped as best I could. My husband Joe who had been a Sunday School teacher in Stoke before he came down here, also became one here after he came home from the War. Eventually he was the Sunday School Superintendent and Church Treasurer. I still go to that Church, it is a small church with mostly elderly members, but we have a nice warm fellowship, much appreciated by those who meet there."



*Florrie Clewlow née Hunsdon in 1933*

"As far as the local shops are concerned, Grace remembers the Fish Shop (88 Villiers Road) as a greengrocers, but I don't. I remember it as Warwick's, then Gurney's then Linsley's. As for Palmer's (27 Villiers Road), I remember it as Morell's which was a drapers, then it was Spicer's, and then Palmer's -that was when it became a grocers. 97 Villiers Road, opposite Upper Paddock Road, was Jackman's, then Hocker's, then Sue Boulter had it as a grocer's and health shop. Next to that was Snob (99 Villiers Road) a shoe repairer, called Matthew's (Grace remembers that as Collins) then Pratt's before it finally became an Estate Agents. 107 Villiers Road is the present paper shop, which used to be Mr. Thomson's, then Watkins, then Plummer, then Smith and then Bardon's, then Patel's. Opposite these, I remember Marshall's a grocers, then Souter's then it became the ironmongers Crawley's. Next to that was Eastman's the butchers. 78 Villiers Road used to be the Prince of Wales public house.