

## **No.64 John Henry Morby**

Jack Morby, born in Wednesfield in August 1920, was rejected by Wolverhampton Wanderers, at the tender age of 16, when he failed a trial with them in 1936.

Hunting for another way into League Football the strapping defender found his way to Hednesford Town in 1938 where he occupied the No.5 shirt, although he was capable of performing well in any of the defensive positions.

The outbreak of World War Two came at just the wrong time for young Jack as the six-year break seriously interrupted the early part of his chosen career.

However, he kept his hand in by guesting for Blakenhall St Luke's during 1940-41 before finally getting a shot at the 'big time' by signing for Aston Villa in December 1943. The country, and League Football, were still operating in war conditions, which allowed him to also guest for Leicester City during 1944-45 when not required to assist Villa.

Jack played 32 wartime league games for Villa, in 1945-46, along with three in the FA Cup; two of the cup games were against Chelsea when the aggregate attendance was upwards of 116,000.

With League Football back to normal, Jack managed two seasons with Villa, occasionally returning to the Keys with Villa Reserves, before joining non-league Worcester City in July 1948 for a two-year stint, moving to Kidderminster Harriers in 1950 and finally to Lye Town between August 1951 and May 1952.