

Wartime West Sussex 1939 – 1945

ON THE HOME FRONT - FUNDRAISING AND COLLECTING

Fundraising and collecting

Extracts from *Despatches from the Home Front, The War Diaries of Joan Strange 1939-1945* (Monarch Publications, 1989)

1941

December 6thToday I drove the YMCA canteen to Shoreham and getting back earlier than usual Miss Thompson asked if I'd go to the Connaught Theatre to collect some books. She and I had to meet Cicely Courtneidge in person! It was a thrill! All week Miss Courtneidge has been appealing for games, books, musical instruments etc for the AA and BB crews - our men who are in isolated spots. The YMCA was asked to collect the thousands of really good things that had been given. It took us one and a half hours loading and unloading. When I got home Mother had had a thrill too - Uncle Herbert had sent a cheque for £25 for us to use at Christmas time for needy cases! Lovely.

February 23rd Worthing made £590,000 during its War Weapons Week!

1942

October 31st The ban on central heating has ended. We had our first coal fire two days ago. All car owners with cars laid up are to fill up a form giving details of their tyres. There will be a big round up of rubber soon we imagine. Worthing has had a "non-ferrous" metal drive for a week. I took some decrepit coffee pots to the centre. We have a lot of collecting receptacles in the scullery now: one for waste paper and cardboard, one for pig food, one for compost, a jar of milk tops metal, bones, a jar of cheese rind etc for Ken's hens and so on!.....Everyone is asked to have no more than five inches of hot water in the bath. Bread is a grey colour, because of the flour. We are advised not to make Christmas puddings till much nearer to Christmas as they get mouldy quickly. The few advertisements on hoardings advise us to "Save more and lend it to the Government" and "Less shopping means more shipping for vital supplies".

November 30th It is "Prisoners of War Week" and it started today with a "Bring and Buy" sale in the Assembly Hall. Mother found it impossible even to force a way in. It raised over £2,300. The target is £5,000.

1943

March 1st London has opened its "Wings for Victory Campaign" and over £30 million has been subscribed today already. Worthing holds its week in April and the target is £500,000.