

Wartime West Sussex 1939 - 1945 ON THE HOME FRONT - DIGGING FOR VICTORY

Growing vegetables on an allotment in Worthing

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

1941

March 19th Help! I've not written this old diary for nearly a week. It's the allotment's fault! The weather has been so good that I've gone up most evenings and got too tired digging to write the diary. The two oldish men on the next plot have helped me a bit as they are taking over a bit of Ken's plot which is already dry. There is a very friendly spirit up there and I hope to learn a lot.

May 3rd For four weeks I have had acute neuritis in my right arm thanks to "digging for victory" in the north-east wind in the evening!... Mr Frampton has sown my second early potatoes and main crop, etc for me in the allotment.

May 10th Did two hours digging up of the lawn for extra root crops. It's still very cold and there was a severe frost last night - I do hope my new potatoes haven't suffered.

October 13th I've taken on my new allotment today!

December 27th We've had a really lovely Christmas... Food was good thanks to the Canadian and Australian parcels and my allotment! - 4 lbs of Brussels sprouts from it.

1942

October 11th Helen has been ill today... Her boys and I went up to the allotment this morning and dug up carrots and potatoes. They loved doing it and we all got a good crop.

1943

June 20th I had a game of tennis up at the club. It's the first time I've played there for three years. The place looked awful – only two courts are usable, weeds are everywhere, the ARP have two huts there, allotments have been dug on the car park...

© Monarch Publications E300121652