

## HOME FRONT RECALL

### Interview Summaries

The Home Front Recall project was carried out by West Sussex Record Office in 2005. The summaries below give details of the main topics covered in each interview and are arranged by name. If you wish to listen to the interviews you should contact the West Sussex Record Office and quote the relevant reference number:

[http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure/explore\\_west\\_sussex/record\\_office\\_and\\_archives.aspx](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure/explore_west_sussex/record_office_and_archives.aspx)

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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Anonymous</b>   |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 24/06/1934   |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | 12/07/2005   |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH18/4</b>  |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Personal Details, Education, Childhood, Home Life, Neighbourhood, Significant Events   |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p><u>Personal Details</u></p> <p>Born 24/06/1934 at Limmer Lane, Felpham, Bognor Regis. Then moved to Glamis Street, then to High Street in 1940/41. Moved to Richmond Avenue just after the war to a house where Canadians had been billeted.</p> <p>Father was a gardener, mother was a housekeeper, both were caretakers at St. Mary's RC School during the war.</p> <p>Grandparents: maternal grandmother was a court dress maker, paternal grandfather worked on the land and paternal grandmother was a housekeeper.</p> <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>Began at St. Mary's RC School, Glamis St. c1937. Headmistress – Sister Everela.</p> <p>Evacuees c1942?</p> <p>Not much disruption to school life. Description of action in case of air raid.</p> <p>Got scholarship to Chichester High School 1945.</p> <p><u>Childhood</u></p> <p>Playing in abandoned houses in Bognor.</p> <p>Play acting, skipping, five stones, cat's cradle, cards, knitting.</p> |

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|  | <p><b>Anonymous continued</b></p> <p>Reading – public library situated behind Hantsford's gent's outfitters.</p> <p>Trips to London to see Crazy Gang.</p> <p>Parties put on by Home Guard at Drill Hall, Bedford Street. Also put on by Canadians at Pavilion. Dances at Pavilion.</p> <p>Outings to Slindon and Arundel.</p> <p>Bunny Barton's show at Esplanade Theatre.</p> <p>Saturday Morning Pictures.</p> <p>Beach closed. Remembers opening c.1943</p> <p><u>Home Life</u></p> <p>6 brothers &amp; sisters. Household also consisted of two 'aunts' and an 'uncle'.</p> <p>Gas masks – obtained and checked at Sudley Lodge.</p> <p>Procedure in air raid – Morrison shelter in shed at rear of pub, High Street.</p> <p>Blackout.</p> <p>Rationing. Detailed discussion about food – what and where it was obtained from.</p> <p>Kimball's restaurant, Chichester.</p> <p>Details about mother's serious accident. Anon's job to buy food – from 'World Stores' next door.</p> <p>Cheap lunches available at Pavilion.</p> <p>Father and brother in Home Guard. Brother later joined Royal Engineers.</p> <p>Attended Methodist Sunday School.</p> <p>Sister in St John's Ambulance Brigade.</p> <p><u>Neighbourhood</u></p> <p>Memories of Canadian troops in area.</p> |
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|  | <p><b>Anonymous continued</b></p> <p><u>Significant Events</u></p> <p><b>Local</b></p> <p>Raids at Tangmere</p> <p>Seeing planes with gliders in build up to D-Day</p> <p>Account of first Bognor bomb falling in Den Avenue</p> <p>Remembers bombing of Longford Road, Sturgess Road. Strafing of High Street. Bomb near Villa Maria School. Casualty list posted on building on Belmont Road.</p> <p>Description of damage to home bomb blast.</p> <p><b>National and International</b></p> <p>Radio announcements: declaration of war, appeal for small boats for Dunkirk.</p> <p>VE Day and VJ Day – not on residential street so did not attend street parties.</p> <p>Gathered by Methodist Church.</p> <p>Dropping of atomic bombs.</p> |
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Wartime West Sussex 1939-45 Project  
West Sussex Records Office – Home Front Recall interview summary

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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Mrs Burden</b>  |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 13 February 1920   |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | Not known  |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH18/29</b>   |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Bishop Luffa School<br>Foreign troops<br>Air raid shelter at Runcton<br>Knitting<br>Dances<br>Troops and D Day<br>Land work during summer holidays<br>VE day |

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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Harry Clark</b>  |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 01/12/1922  |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | Not known   |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH 18/20</b>   |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Personal Details, Education, Work, Home Life, Leisure, Service, Significant Events  |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p><u>Personal Details</u></p> <p>Harry Clark, born 01/12/1922 in Hastings. Later moved to Sidcup and then to Littlehampton. Mother and father worked at opticians in Hastings called Cliff and Brown. Then ran guesthouse in Arundel Road, Littlehampton from 1930-1941. Went back to optician work 1941 family moved to flat at South Terrace, Littlehampton.</p> <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>Attended kindergarten and started school in Sidcup.</p> <p>School at Littlehampton 1930-1932. Remembers Miss Toy.</p> <p>Chichester High School 1932-1939. Remembers specific teachers. Talk about school certificate.</p> <p><u>Work</u></p> <p>1939 joined the school library as an assistant and from there joined the County Library Service where he remained until retirement in 1982 (excluding time in Forces).</p> <p>Detailed discussion about Library Service – jobs and duties, usage, precautions in event of air raid, clerk of County Council My Hayward.</p> |

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|  | <p><b>Harry Clark continued</b></p> <p>War work – details about fire-watching at County Hall.</p> <p><u>Home Life</u></p> <p>Talk about guesthouse – guests i.e. the Coath's and Mr Lyer, accommodation, rationing, no air raid shelter etc.</p> <p>WAAF from Poling billeted at guesthouse.</p> <p>1 Austrian guest was interned.</p> <p>At home would listen to radio and read.</p> <p>Aunts (from father's side) would sometimes visit.</p> <p><u>Leisure</u></p> <p>Member of Amateur Dramatics Society which met and performed at Littlehampton Congregational Church. Details about Societies activities – raising money, performing at barracks etc.</p> <p><u>Service</u></p> <p>Called-up August 1942. Went to Skegness. Left England March 1943. Served in Durban, South Africa, Bombay and Karachi, RAF Drink Road.</p> <p>Talk about leave.</p> <p>Writing letters home – censorship.</p> <p>Returned to Britain July 1946 – description of cocooning Sunderlands at Stranraer.</p> <p>Demobbed November 1946.</p> <p>Rejoined Library Service February 1947.</p> <p><u>Significant Events</u></p> <p><b>Local</b></p> <p>Anecdote relating to bomb at Thorney Island.</p> |
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|  | <p><b>Harry Clark continued</b></p> <p>Extended discussion of bomb on Congregational Mants.</p> <p>Discussion of bomb on Pier Road.</p> <p>Memories of the bombing of south coast aerodromes 18/08/1940.</p> <p>Talk about Battle of Britain.</p> <p>Memories of bombing of Ford aerodrome.</p> <p>Bombing of the Royal Oak at Scarper Flow.</p> <p>Story of being on a train when it was strafed near Bosham – didn't notice!</p> <p><b>National and International</b></p> <p>Declaration of War.</p> <p>End of War – overseas.</p> |
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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Frederick Thomas Gibbins</b>   |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 12 February 1934  |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | 5 July 2005   |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH 18/1</b>  |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Air raids, Canadian soldiers, rationing, evacuees, VE Day   |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p>Born Nutley East Sussex. 2 Council Cottages, Dodds Bottom, Nutley.</p> <p>Description of hearing war declared. Memory of seeing many soldiers marching north along A22. Remembers staggered barricade across village street which stayed for 2-3 months. Memories of seeing planes going to and fro – could sometimes see swastikas they were so low.</p> <p>Description of bomb landing 500-600 yards away from him. Mr Coleman, a local man, pushed him into a ditch. Bombing of Wellington Factory.</p> <p>Recollections of German plane coming down at Bell Lane, Nutley. Detailed description. Either 30 September or 4 October. Pilot called Hans Bertram, 23 years old. Buried in sandbag in Nutley churchyard. Reburied in 1950s in Brownhills, Staffordshire. Has looked in records of 72 Squadron, Biggin Hill. Returned to site with children in 1968.</p> <p>Memories of Canadian troops. Stationed at Pippinford Park (owned by Hayley Morris), Chapelwood Manor and Messford Camp.</p> <p>Canadians put on parties – detailed description.</p> <p>Account of Hayley Morris' son dying while flying</p> |

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|  | <p><b>Frederick Thomas Gibbins continued</b></p> <p>Lysander.</p> <p>Detailed account of bomb landing at Courtlands/Courtlands Gate area in 1941. 1 civilian fatality.</p> <p>Description of food supply. Father grew vegetables in the garden.</p> <p>Canadians were very generous, especially Chuck Hepworth – cheese, butter, tins of jam.</p> <p>Sister in war work at High Wycombe of Slough producing magnetos for aircraft.</p> <p>Canadians very well accepted. No black troops, some North American Indian. Baseball games with troops.</p> <p>Kids used to collect ammunition. Description of friend Percy Stott's close call.</p> <p>Ashford Forest used for manoeuvres – gas and mortar range – used to get ammo there.</p> <p>Memory of evacuee Austrian Jew Herbert Strumpel – anecdotes.</p> <p>School. Headmaster – Mr Royal. Son known as Booey Royal.</p> <p>Mentions ID card, ration book, gas mask and taking down signposts.</p> <p>Description of crash of Wellington bomber on 31 July 194?. Pilot called Victor Sutton.</p> <p>Seeing aircraft leave for D-Day 5 June 1944.</p> <p>Sister's Canadian boyfriend killed in Valse.</p> <p>Account of anti-aircraft guns. Bomb landing in garden of Basil Henrichey who bred rabbits – 100s killed. Strange effects of bombs.</p> |
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|  | <p><b>Frederick Thomas Gibbins continued</b></p> <p>Description of shelters. Waters family. Pylons at Ashdown Forest.</p> <p>Hearing about VE Day. Told about Normandy landings at school – what it meant to the children.</p> <p>Brother in army 1942, came back 1946. Father died 1945 just after end of war (born 1898). Three cousins in the Navy – all survived. One cousin in army censored mail. Father in Home Guard.</p> <p>Joyous at news of VE Day but nothing actually changed. Restrictions came in quickly, but ended slowly. Noticed things were better around leaving school in 1949. Became a refrigeration apprentice and spent two years in the army at 18.</p> <p>Talks about how war changed people. Thoughts on Churchill and Bomber Harris. Thoughts on how war changed himself. Feelings towards Germans. Feelings on the conflict looking back.</p> |
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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Patrick John Groves</b>  |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 21 July 1936  |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | 6 July 2005   |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH 18/2</b>  |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Places in Sussex, school, airfields   |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p>Lived Durrington Lane, Worthing in a police cottage.</p> <p>Joan born 1926</p> <p>Mabel and Sylvia (the terrible twins) born 1929</p> <p>Places mentioned:</p> <p>Upper Beeding, Caterham, Portley, Crawley, Stretham, Croydon, Petworth, Portslade</p> <p>Lengthy descriptions of:</p> <p>Fontwell</p> <p>Worthing – Arundel Road, Durrington Cemetery, Cotswold Road, Hayling Rise</p> <p>School:</p> <p>Walberton School, St John's School Chichester, less detail on Seaford College and Shoreham Grammar.</p> <p>Mentions Ford and Tangmere airfields.</p> <p>Talks about High Salvington crash in 1940 – Heinkel III</p> |

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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Barbara Joan Hitchcox</b>   |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 26/07/1926   |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | 21/07/05   |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH18/8</b>  |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Everyday life and varied war experiences   |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p><b>Background Information</b></p> <p>Mrs Barbara Hitchcox<br/>         Born 26/07/1926 at Brentwood, Essex<br/>         Educated until Jan 1940, completed courses in administrative work<br/>         In Jan 1940 school burns down due to boiler fault<br/>         Lived in Horsham</p> <p><b>War experiences/Reminiscences</b></p> <p><b>Sept 1940</b></p> <p>Cousin, Aunt and Uncle move from Dagenham after house bombed – ‘land mine’<br/>         (1000lb/2000lb bomb???? note)<br/>         Description of sleeping arrangements<br/>         Description of work at Garage<br/>         Description of Messerschmitt scraffing houses<br/>         (Messerschmitt uncertain but definitely an e/a?)</p> <p><b>Description of YMCA work</b></p> <p>Description of work as a food officer</p> <p><b>1943</b></p> <p>Description of work at ENSA – Dept. of National Service Entertainment<br/>         Organisation secret, signed Official Secrets Act<br/>         Description of administrative work at ENSA</p> |

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|  | <p><b>Barbara Joan Hitchcox continued</b></p> <p><b>1944-1946</b></p> <p>At Drewery Lane with ENSA, lengthy description of work</p> <p>Description of Home Life during war. No Andersons provided</p> <p>Description of camaraderie between civilians</p> <p>Description of how food was home grown</p> <p>Description of Canadian soldiers arriving in Horsham</p> <p>Description of relationship with Canadian soldier</p> <p>Description of working in ARP; on switchboard there, description of work there</p> <p>Description of operational build up to D-Day, remembers gliders on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1944</p> <p>Description of use of Horsham after D-Day</p> <p>Description and comment on Lord Haw Haw 'how factual he was'</p> <p>Description of Fifth? Column (Abwehr? query? Summanists? note)</p> <p>Description of good social life; Cinema, soldiers</p> <p>Description of VE &amp; VJ Day</p> <p>Description of German and English POW's – contacts etc</p> <p>Description of Husband and career; Home Guard, Submarine, Merchant Navy</p> <p>Description of his wartime experiences</p> <p>Reading of letter describing V1? Action (30/07/1944)</p> <p>Description of Canadian boyfriend</p> <p>Description of adverse reactions to Holocaust,</p> |
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|  | <p><b>Barbara Joan Hitchcox continued</b><br/>how hatred of Jews, communists, Poles and<br/>Germans was still present at end of war</p> |
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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Charles Lambourne</b>  |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | February 1939   |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | Written summary of interview done for Fishbourne Book Project – date now known  |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH 18/12</b>   |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | School, air raids, recreation, working life, Fishbourne   |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p>Charles Lambourne was born seven months before the outbreak of World War Two and lived in Fishbourne until his marriage when he and his wife moved to Westergate. Before going to Fishbourne Primary School he went to the infants school in Orchard Street, Chichester – where he remembers spending a whole day learning to tie his shoelaces.</p> <p>Fishbourne School had three teachers when he moved there in 1946 and he particularly remembers Mrs Green who was very kind to all the children. Her sudden death one weekend left him devastated and is still his most vivid image of the school.</p> <p>Though he lived at 1 Frederick Road it took him half an hour to walk to school because the road was very quiet and he and his friends used to play around on the way to and from school. He was not a fan of school dinners, especially as corned beef was served with monotonous regularity!</p> <p>Charles also went to Sunday School which was led by Miss prior and her sister and which he</p> |



**Charles Lambourne continued**

remembers as a mixture of stories about Jesus and nature walks.

At home he recalls the dresser built into the wall which served as a shelter against unexpected bombing. His sister Wendy slept in the shelf, while Charles slept on the floor. His younger sister Mary slept under the stairs. When the sirens went off, they went across the road to an air raid shelter while his father, a member of the Home Guard, patrolled the street with a Sten gun. His mother had a fund of stories and would keep all the local children entertained while they waited for the all clear.

Two German planes which crashed in the area provided Charles and his friends with hours of entertainment. They used the wings of the plane which crashed by the macaroni factory as a diving board – and it was only after the war that anyone knew it still contained an unexploded bomb. Equally dangerously, some of the older boys took the machine gun from the plane which crashed at Dell Quay – and some live bullets which they exploded using a hammer. They also used the tank-traps in Clay Lane as one of their play areas.

The steam trains on the Midhurst railway also provided scope for mischievous boys who placed pennies on the line so that the trains would flatten them.

At a quarter to seven every weekday evening,

**Charles Lambourne continued**

however, the streets would clear as someone called out "Dick Barton" and everyone raced in to listen to that night's installment.

Charles fondly remembers the toffee-apple man who came round on a trade bike and Mayor's shop where "you could buy lemonade powder for a farthing which would make a full bottle of drink" and the bag of broken biscuits for a penny. During the heavy snows of 1947, children couldn't get to school, but somehow Charles persuaded his mother to take him to the second-hand shop where he had seen a fortress he was desperate to own!

His father was a regular visitor to The Woolpack. The young Charles has crisps and lemonade – not only because of his age but so he could help his Dad home at the end of the evening!

Several local trades-people called round. His mother usually bought something from the itinerant traders with their suitcases filled with toothbrushes, flannels, towels and dusters.

Charles looked forward more enthusiastically to the arrival of Freddie Earwicker's baker's van with its tempting smell of delicious newly-baked bread. As a teenager, he developed an interest in photography and developed his own films in a dark room which he set up at home. Once this became known, he built up a local trade charging five pennies for a strip of negatives. He was to return to a different form of photography

**Charles Lambourne continued**

later in his career. Other money-earners, which helped him to develop his photographic interests included acorn picking "for Mr Ralph's pigs", haymaking and learning to drive a horse. These farming interests may have been helped by the fact that his mother worked with the cows at Pusey's Farm.

Transport to Chichester was a choice of the 31 bus to The Cross or walking. When the family had their annual week's holiday Dad hired a car and they would have day trips out to Bognor ("a long way to us in those day") or go for a picnic on the Downs.

Charles has clear recollections of two local celebrations. Though he was only 6 at the time, he can remember the Frederick Street party to celebrate the end of the war. Somehow people had been able to produce food that was just not available during the war years – jam tarts, cakes, homemade chocolate and "all sorts of things you'd never had before". When you were thirsty there was a cow you could milk yourself ("I think the first one was called Rosie"), with other cows waiting when one dried up.

Entertainment was provided by Mr Gibbs who played the violin while villagers danced around him. The other celebration was the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 which took place in Chichester. There was a great procession and a display of maypole dancing by the school.

**Charles Lambourne continued**

At fifteen Charles left school and got a job at Brinkham's Nursery. His first job was heeling the privet which was certainly preferable to his most hated job of weeding between prickly bushes.

1953-4 was also the time when myxomatosis was at its peak and he remembers going round collecting dead and dying rabbits and disposing of them in vast pits.

Then disaster struck and Charles had an attack of rheumatic fever which left him paralysed from the leg down. He was in bed for a year and had to endure daily infections. It was thought he might never walk again and he was also diagnosed as having a weak heart.

Fortunately he recovered sufficiently to return to work of a less physically demanding nature – and this is when he returned to his interest in photography. He became a cinema projectionist starting at the Granada in Chichester (the former Corn Exchange and subsequently McDonalds) where he met an attractive usherette who was to become his wife.

Call-up papers arrived when he was eighteen but, having had rheumatic fever, he was classified as Grade 3 ("you're no good for the army!"), so Charles continued his career as a projectionist. This took him to The Odeon (for a week), to the Gaumont and then back to the Granada. He also became the projectionist at the cinema at Midhurst – but the manager had to

**Charles Lambourne continued**

stay on and lock up if the film was a long one since Charles had to catch the 9.30 last bus to Chichester. As television grew more popular, people stayed at home far more and many cinemas had no option but to close down.

At Brinkman's he had been paid £4.10.0 a week but the Granada paid only £1.9.6 ("My mum kept the pound for housekeeping and I had the nine shillings and sixpence!"). To set this in context, his mother earned only ten shillings a week for her work at Pusey's Farm.

What does Charles remember most of his Fishbourne childhood? Nobody worried about having the latest computer or television or the poshest car, "People lived in harmony ... it was a lovely era to live in". Everyone helped everyone else. Grown out of clothing was passed on to other families if there was no one waiting to inherit them. And no one complained if you walked on their land – and in return you didn't do any damage to it. He recalls playing on the farm that is now the site of the Roman Palace – and being chased not by the farmer (who didn't mind) but by his pigs (who did!).

The harmony was, however, almost put at risk as a result of his brother's collection of white mice. He began with two "but it became two hundred and two" and one night his father was so fed up with them that he enabled them to escape. Their next-door neighbour was clearing

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|  | <p><b>Charles Lambourne continued</b></p> <p>mice out of her house for ages. The white mice even seemed to crossbreed with wild mice because shortly after partly white mice appeared in Fishbourne!</p> <p>The Yeo family were an example of the kindness and thoughtfulness of Fishbourne folk. Charles remembers the big, well-scrubbed wooden table in the kitchen and Mrs Yeo's invitation to "pull up a chair" which was accompanied by a thick slice of bread and thick homemade jam. Mr Yeo's wisdom was shown then he told everyone not to interfere in a fight between Ron Yeo and David Russell. They were always scrapping and needed to get it out of their systems. The two fought until they dropped, with nobody the winner, and after that they became the best of pals.</p> <p>"I'd sooner have those days than the days kids have now. People had time for you...good old days".</p> |
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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Donald Leaver</b>   |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 4 September 1934   |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | Not known  |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH 18/3</b>   |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Education, work, childhood, home life, memories of war and Burgess Hill.   |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p>Born Fairfield Road, Burgess Hill in 1934</p> <p>Father was a builder and cleared bomb damage in London. Grandfather had a carting business. Moved from Fairfield Road to Church Road c1938, then to Newport Road c1939.</p> <p>Father's involvement in WW1. Mother was a laundress. Went to London Road junior and senior school in Burgess Hill. Describes school life. Remembers Miss Long, Miss Whilmhurst, Mrs Hormam, and the head teacher Miss Mitchell. Remembers being ink monitor and having milk from Mr Johnson at the Dairy. Talks about toilets and a brief description of Church of England building.</p> <p>Attended building school. Became an apprentice at Norman &amp; Burts – restoring church bomb damage in London for 3-4 years. Mentions St Paul's, Amen Corner, St Bride's, the Queen reopening Fleet Street, Chelsea Church.</p> <p>Anecdote about St. Giles, Cripplegate, Barbican Centre, fire of London and the plague.</p> <p>Westminster Hall. Describes Norman &amp; Burt as employers, wages and closure of the firm.</p> <p>Talks about National Service.</p> <p>Self employed for 34 years.</p> |

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|  | <p><b>Donald Leaver continued</b></p> <p>Remembers fishing in his childhood at Old Street Lake, and the birds nesting. Played on The Brow, The Brickie (Fairfiled Rd Rec), Newport Road, Roach Pit, Daisymeade.</p> <p>They had evacuees from Lewisham and Lee in London. The Jacksons were Jewish evacuees at Newport Road.</p> <p>He played war games and was given German items by his cousin.</p> <p>He went to the eye hospital at Brighton after catching measles.</p> <p>Describes home life in 1930s and 1940s.</p> <p>Listened to the radio (accumulator was charged by Mr Martin). Vegetables were grown in the garden, they kept chickens and rabbits.</p> <p>Describes the fruit trees.</p> <p>Memories of the day war broke out. He began school the day after war broke out on his 5th birthday. Detailed memory of seeing German bombers (en route to Kenley airfield?). Bomb dropped on brewery next to eye hospital.</p> <p>Mentions incendiaries on police station.</p> <p>Gives a lot of information about Burgess Hill and mentioned Mr Mead's pottery work. Cant's brickyard was used as a Navy store during the war. Talks about Canadian troops and beach defences, including the pier at Brighton.</p> <p>Remembers doodlebugs and air raid shelters, and Italian prisoners of war working on a farm.</p> |
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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Barbara Olive Lockyear</b>   |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 25 March 1933   |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | 11 August 2005  |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH 18/15</b>   |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Air raids, Battle of Britain, school, recreation, evacuees.   |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p>Father was a gamekeeper for Sir William Bird. Maternal grandfather had been a Naval Lieutenant. Paternal grandfather was a postman at East Marden.</p> <p>Memories of war. Father bought a radio. Father was accidentally shot by Canadian and American soldiers in village.</p> <p>Family in East Marden – stayed there during early part of the war. Aunt was a teacher and the school. She got mumps and went back home.</p> <p>Memories of Battle of Britain, dogfights. Mentions Tangmere, Ford and Woodcote. Father was a special constable. memories of particular air raid incidents. Collecting shrapnel and bullets for playing with and as scrap collecting. Mending pots and pans. Playing with a dropped petrol tank at Park Farm, Eartham. Playing on Sir William Bird's Estate.</p> <p>Description of Tangmere being bombed – watching from Hungerdown. Stucker dive-bombers and the noise they made. Memories of Auto-giros. Finding a secret underground store at the Thicket Lane, holding supplies in case of</p> |

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|  | <p><b>Barbara Olive Lockyear continued</b></p> <p>invasion.</p> <p>They had an Anderson shelter; her aunt had a Morrison shelter. Describes family's reaction during air raid. Detailed description of doodlebug crashing in woods behind house and damage caused.</p> <p>Memories of cousin returning from war (mother's nephew). Sailor from Eartham sank at sea (Mr Tidy) – sang "For those in peril on the sea" at school when reported missing.</p> <p>Attended Westhampnett School. Began age 4 in 1937. Remembers chatting to pilots. Sitting in class with gas masks on. Air raid shelter description. Had little camp beds at school for afternoon nap. Details about teachers – Mrs Slade. Talks about school food. Evacuees at the school and also teachers from London schools – Miss Norton. Took 11+ at Boxgrove School and passed. Attended Lacastiran School.</p> <p>Remembers collecting rosehips and acorns and potato picking at Westhampnett School.</p> <p>Collecting radar deterrents dropped from aircraft and also propaganda leaflets all for salvage.</p> <p>Food – father grew vegetables. Preserving the food, storing apples in shed. Missed brown bread, butter and banana!</p> <p>Talks about utility clothing taping the windows in blackouts. Father's role as special constable to check blackouts.</p> <p>Had an evacuee from London – description.</p> |
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|  | <p><b>Barbara Olive Lockyear continued</b></p> <p>Tooting (?) evacuees attended school but not joint lessons.</p> <p>VE Day</p> <p>Italian prisoners of war were billeted in 'The Old Thatch' cottage, Eartham. Later German POWs. They interacted with the POWs.</p> <p>Remembers D-Day and seeing the first Holocaust pictures in the papers.</p> |
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Wartime West Sussex 1939-45 Project  
 West Sussex Records Office – Home Front Recall interview summary

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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Garry Long</b>  |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 30/05/1935   |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | Not known  |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH 18/27</b>  |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Personal Details, Education, Work, Home Life, Military Presence, Memories of Specific Events   |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p><u>Personal Details</u></p> <p>Garry Long born 30/05/1935 at Cosy Nook, Green Lane, Chichester.</p> <p>Father was a lorry driver for F J French Wholesale Grocers, started driving a horse and cart, then on to lorries.</p> <p>Mother ran a Fish and Chip shop.</p> <p>Father's father was a Coachman at Handcross House.</p> <p>Mother father was a builder.</p> <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>1940 St James's Infant School, Miss Simons Head</p> <p>1943 Central Junior Boys School, Miss Luckiness, Miss Bradbury and Mr Wilkins Head</p> <p>Passed 11+ went to Lancastrian School, Mr Morgan for a few weeks, then to Worthing High School for the rest of year, then to Chichester High School, leaving in 1953.</p> <p><u>Work</u></p> <p>Apprentice Vickers Armstrong Weybridge draftsman</p> <p><u>Home Life</u></p> <p>Parents, sister and himself grew vegetables in</p> |

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|  | <p><b>Garry Long continued</b></p> <p>garden also kept chicken, and with rest of family kept a pig all sharing the meat when slaughtered.</p> <p><u>Military Presence</u></p> <p>Recalls build up of Canadian troops at Goodwood.</p> <p>Air Force in Tangmere 16/08/1940 airfield was bombed and Billy Fisk 1<sup>st</sup> American to be killed in war.</p> <p><u>Memories of Specific Events</u></p> <p>Descriptions of bombings around Chichester 1943 and 1944.</p> <p>Recalls tank traps around the city. Also describes trains coming down from Longmore Road loaded with tanks going to Southampton for D-Day.</p> <p>Describes belonging to Concert Group which went round entertaining the V.E. Parties.</p> |
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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Peter Longhurst</b>  |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 25/05/1926 West Grinstead   |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | 25/07/2005  |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH 18/9</b>  |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Personal details, Education, Work, Home Life, Significant Events  |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p><u>Personal details</u></p> <p>Father was a Tenant Farmer<br/>         Mother worked at Knepp Castle<br/>         Paternal grandfather was a Farmer<br/>         Maternal grandfather had a military background</p> <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>Dominion Road School, Worthing<br/>         Sussex Road Senior Boys School, Worthing<br/>         Details of schooling when war broke out also about evacuees from London.</p> <p><u>Work</u></p> <p>Description of working life starting at age 14 at Lancing Carriage Works as a rivet lad then apprenticed Coach Finisher. Also joined the Auxiliary Fire Service part time at night aged 15 as a messenger. Then in 1943 joined the Navy as a signaller leaving in 1952. Rest of working life spent with Territorial Army then Power Station. Detailed life in the Navy from 1943 to 1952.</p> <p><u>Home Life</u></p> <p>Sisters were evacuated to Mansfield, Notts.<br/>         Father involved in building pill boxes and tank obstacles.</p> |

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|  | <p><b>Peter Longhurst continued</b></p> <p>Mother worked at Pulinberry Nurseries.</p> <p>Details of growing vegetables in garden and allotment, also breeding rabbits for food and using fur.</p> <p><u>Significant Events</u></p> <p>Heard on radio declaration of War.</p> <p>Recalls of after Dunkirk clearing the boats away from the beach.</p> <p>Details of bombs falling in Worthing and German Bomber crashing by Worthing Hospital.</p> <p>Details of hearing about V.E. Day at sea in Far East.</p> <p>Description of being at sea off Japan when atom bombs were dropped.</p> <p>Details of V.J. Day.</p> |
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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Alan Rickard</b>   |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | Not known   |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | August 2005   |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH18/17</b>  |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | General memories of growing up with some war time experiences   |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p>Living in the same house in Salthill Road throughout his life, Alan Rickard has seen over 60 years of change happening all around him. He was born there but that was not unusual in the 1940's even though there was a general shortage of fully qualified midwives. Fortunately it was an uncomplicated birth!</p> <p>As he was only 5 when the war ended, his direct memories of the war are limited. He does, however, clearly remember seeing his father looking out of a window and watching the doodlebugs flying past. They left a trail across the sky and there was no need to worry unless the engine stopped. The house had a shelter in the hallway where the family would go in an emergency. He also remembers the sky being filled with bombers day after day and being fascinated by the pounding vibration on the ground. The Canadian troops (he thought they were American at the time) who were dug in along the road happily shared their chewing gum with the local lads. He also remembers the "dragon's teeth" tank traps. Something of his parents' fears were transmitted to him but to</p> |



**Alan Rickard continued**

Alan, who was too young to be aware of what war really meant, the military activities were more a source of interest and excitement. As the war ended in 1945, Alan started at Fishbourne Primary School. The Headteacher was Miss Harris – a Victorian-style disciplinarian who made good use of the cane! She was followed by Mr Whitehand, a retired RAF Officer with a deep interest in gardening which he attempted to develop in his pupils. Alan had mixed feelings when the school canteen was built.

The provision of food meant Alan no longer had to walk home and back during lunch break – but the canteen was built on the garden which he had spent so much time nurturing!

Only one class visit springs to mind and that was to a farm up Blackboy Lane “where we looked at the cows and walked back again.” He was very impressed by the Pumping Station which he walked past each day on his way to school – partly because of the siren on its roof but also because of its huge pumping engine.

Having passed his 11+, he went to Chichester Boy’s Grammar School and then went on a 2 year engineering apprenticeship. After working for 4 years on oil burners and 10 years with Shell & BP, he worked from home for the next 10 years. The expanding business – and inability to have non-work time at home – led him to

**Alan Rickard continued**

seek premises in the Shopwycke Industrial Centre, where Rickard Heating LTD flourishes to this day.

He had a special link with the Sunday School in Mill Lane. Not only was he impressed by the “tall, thin, elegant” sisters who ran the Sunday School but his sister was as assistant and ultimately a teacher there.

Fishbourne did not have a cubs or scouts group so Alan joined the Funtingdon group, run by Rev. Dizzy Dunlop, padre at the Royal Sussex Regiment at Chichester. He particularly enjoyed the scout camps at places such as Beaulieu.

The games he and his friends played were simple ones requiring little if any equipment.

Two half-built houses remained half-built throughout the war years and became a popular playing venue. There were a lot of young families since most of the houses had been built in the 1930's and the fact that so many children played together did a lot to foster a real community spirit. Everyone helped everyone else – if you had a surplus of a particular fruit of vegetable you shared it with neighbours and they did the same for you. This mutual support was evidenced when neighbours rallied round with replacement clothing after his parents clothes had been stolen during a burglary. Buying new clothes was not an option since rationing was still in place. The reduction of this

**Alan Rickard continued**

community spirit today is something he laments.

“Whereas you used to know everybody in the village, you don’t even know the name of all the roads now”.

The village policeman used to know all families – and he was a force to be reckoned with! Before pinching garden gnomes or going scrumping, for example, the village boys would look to make sure the policeman was not in sight. In fact, they had to carry out a fairly continuous check since they couldn’t hear him coming on his bike!

In order to buy the house in Salthill Road his father had needed a mortgage. He arranged this with the Rechabites Benefit Society, which required all its borrowers to sign a pledge of abstinence from alcohol for the whole of their life. (The society, formed in 1835, took its name from the Old Testament character Rechab who commanded his family to avoid alcohol and to live in tents.) The houses were built on agricultural land and you could choose one of several widths of plot depending on what you could afford. There were few building regulations apart from the need to leave a stipulated minimum depth back from the road.

Once a week his mother went by train to Chichester to do some shopping but they did much of their shopping in Fishbourne. In the village shop in Halfrey Road, run by Mr & Mrs

**Alan Rickard continued**

Stevens, people would meet to chat as well as shop. The family also used The Post Office (which has recently closed) and the two bakers in the village. They also used local traders who called including the baker, milk and newspaper roundsmen, a vegetable seller (in the 50's) and Mr Matthews' Fish & Chips van. One of the buildings which he vividly recalls was the sweet shop run by Mrs Barlow which sold liquorice bootlaces, sherbet dabs, bulls eyes, aniseed balls, toffees of all sorts, boiled sweets, pear drops, gobstoppers...

On one occasion to avoid bomb damage in Chichester when several shops had their windows blown in, his mother decided to take him to shop in Bognor. While they were there, an air raid warning sent them all scuttling into Timothy Whites. When the all clear sounded they emerged to find many of the Bognor shops in a similar state to the ones they had been trying to avoid in Chichester.

His mother also took great interest in the excavation of the Roman Palace and would report back to the family on the latest developments. One day she was incensed by her meeting with Barry Cunliffe, the Director of Excavation. Mrs Rickard had been photographing the newly found skeleton which lay in its pit when a piece of paper blowing in the wind fell into the pit.

**Alan Rickard continued**

As Mrs Rickard bent over to retrieve it, the Director raced over to tell her not to touch anything. She tried to explain what she had been doing but the famous archaeologist thundered "Madam, if there was a piece of paper in the pit, it was meant to be there".

As if to make up for his father's abstinence, Alan showed an early interest in the local pubs! His first experience of strong drink was at The Black Boy, run by the Scarterfield family. Though too young to buy drinks, Alan and his friends would tip up the drip-trays under the optics and thus sample a range of spirits. At the Bulls' Head, where he still downs the occasional pint, Alan particularly enjoyed Saturdays in the early 60's when Alf Marsh played the piano and everyone joined in. Until the new A27 was built, Fishbourne Road was part of the trunk road and, as a result, all the pubs had a lot of passing trade which prevented them from becoming typical village pubs where the clientele were all regulars.

Cricket played quite an important part of Fishbourne life. Wally Sadler loaned a field for the cricket ground which boasted a tin hut pavilion and a marquee in which team teas were served. As well as playing (and helping his mother prepare sandwiches before leaving for the match), Alan became Secretary of the Club in 1958 – an interesting but thankless task!

**Alan Rickard continued**

As part of the "Dig for Victory" campaign, most villagers grew their own vegetables but some were more ambitious. Ted Matthews, a near neighbour, bought a field that ran along the back of several gardens in Salthill Road and reared pigs and chickens. Alan had a reason to be more interested in Brinkman's Nurseries ("at one time the biggest in acreage in Europe") since he went out with the owner's daughter!

The Rickard family liked to take part in national events and celebrations but (apart from the famous street parties celebrating the Queen's Julilees) tended to join the main celebrations rather than the local ones in Fishbourne. Thus Alan remembers sitting on his father's shoulders at the Victory Parade in 1945 and joining the crowds in The Mall to watch the splendour of the procession in the Queen's Coronation. He still has some pictures he took with his Box Brownie camera. Alan is a great believer in taking children to events – "they mean more to you, especially as the years go by". The family also made annual visits to the Dockyard Days at Portsmouth and to the Open Days at Tangmere and at Ford (a Fleet Air Arm station whose long runways were used by bombers limping home). He was plane spotting at Tangmere one day when he saw Neville Duke flying his red Hawker Hunter on its way to breaking the Airspeed record. By chance he happened to be looking up

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|  | <p><b>Alan Rickard continued</b></p> <p>in the sky when Peter Twister set up a new record only a few months later.</p> <p>His parents (to whom Winston Churchill was a great hero) and Churchill, whom he describes as “inspirational”, are the people who most influenced him. He still has a photo of Churchill on his walls and a collection of books about the great wartime leader. On a different level, he was, like most of his contemporaries, influenced by the Beatles and the Rolling Stones.</p> <p>Looking back over 60 years, what does he think has changed? “Everything!”</p> |
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|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>John Sams</b>   |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | Not known  |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | Not known  |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH18/21</b>   |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Firewatching<br>Evacuation<br>Ford and Tangmere airfields<br>Bombs in Worthing<br>Teaching from 1940<br>ARP<br>Traveled to India and joined Indian Army in 1941<br>Influence of experiences<br><br>See more of John Sams story at<br><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/13/a4578113.shtml">http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/13/a4578113.shtml</a> |

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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>David Staples</b>  |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 29/04/1935  |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | 18/08/2005  |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH18/19</b>  |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | General memories of war including evacuees, community, food, D Day  |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p>Age 4 at outbreak of War</p> <p>Born 57 High Street, Chichester</p> <p>Father – Market Gardener for Mr Heaver</p> <p>Mother – In service in Summersdale then housewife</p> <p>Description of fathers work</p> <p>In Home Guard and Fire Watcher</p> <p>Animals owned by neighbours include pigs &amp; donkey</p> <p>Falling in pigsty</p> <p>Description of trips to Wartime Portsmouth</p> <p>Description of local trades people</p> <p>Memories of maternal grandmother</p> <p>Description of household; lodger Bill Price – worked at Brewery, 2 kids, parents, evacuees, neighbours kids</p> <p>Close knit community</p> <p>Garden food; 18 Belgian hares for food - 6d for skins, chickens – eggs, allotment for vegetables</p> <p>Abattoir – friend lived next door</p> <p>Sister worked at Observer proofreading age 14, then went to NFU as typist</p> <p>Food during war – had lodgers sweet ration</p> <p>Memories of playing with wooden crates, making</p> |

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|  | <p><b>David Staples continued</b></p> <p>things like go-carts</p> <p>Skating down New Broyle Road</p> <p>Recollections of out break of war</p> <p>Propaganda</p> <p>Dogfights – Tangmere</p> <p>Memories of Battle of Britain</p> <p>Special Constable; "Ginger" Smart</p> <p>Air raids – at home, description of communal shelters in Cross Street, garden</p> <p>Began school 1940 at Lancastrian Infants School, Orchard Street, tortoisés at school, air raid shelters</p> <p>Had diphtheria at 5 months – ill throughout childhood</p> <p>Evacuees – had 2 at home – description, also of other family evacuees</p> <p><b>Disc 2</b></p> <p>1942 – Began New Park Road School, left in 1946</p> <p>Description of Liberator plane crash at Laundry – memories</p> <p>Going to Stockbridge with father to see bomb crater</p> <p>Crash in Wellington held? behind hospital – watching from garden – presence of Home Guard at crash site</p> <p>Collecting shrapnel etc found Commando dagger Wellington held? and gold watch Mother made a lot of clothes</p> |
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|  | <p><b>David Staples continued</b></p> <p>“Granny” Turner next door also made things – material</p> <p>National Service 1953 – description of service – spending time in Germany?</p> <p>Foreign troops in Chichester – American troops at North Lodge, Chichester</p> <p>Run-up to D-Day – watching the planes</p> <p>War structures – tank trap in Brandy Hole Lane, anti air craft guns at Hunters Road</p> <p>Goodwood airfield</p> <p>Pets</p> <p>Trips to seaside, Del Quay, Bosham, Midhurst</p> <p>Description of sea/beach defences at Selsey</p> <p>Bishop Bell – rumours of being pro-German</p> <p>List of sweets. Bananas – talk about fruit, Oranges in stocking at Christmas.</p> <p>Father worked the vicarage garden, planted with fruit and vegetables</p> <p>VE Day party on High Street</p> <p>Sister? Went to The Cross, volunteered, YMCA</p> <p>Barrage balloon – description</p> <p>Changes in High Street, discussion of Summerstow?</p> <p>Moving to Franklin Place</p> <p>Memories of VJ Day</p> <p>POW's in area, friends dad a driver of displaced persons and POW's (Polish and German mainly) to farm work</p> |
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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>John George Still</b>   |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 05/08/1930   |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | Not known  |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH 18/7</b>   |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Personal Details, Education, Childhood, Home Life, Significant Events  |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p><u>Personal details</u></p> <p>John George Still, born Portslade 05/08/1930, moved to Fishersgate at the age of 3 years.</p> <p>Fathers occupation was Electrician</p> <p>Mother's occupation was Book Keeper at Holes and Darcher (Davidacre?) Dairy until 1943 then at Flynns Dyers &amp; Cleaners N.I. &amp; Tax details on Company.</p> <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>Infants School Portslade.</p> <p>St Andrew's School from age 7.</p> <p>Steyning Grammar School from 1941.</p> <p>Description of school life.</p> <p><u>Childhood</u></p> <p>Details on travelling from home to Steyning Grammar School.</p> <p>Evacuees from London, then after fall of France local children were evacuated.</p> <p>Description of how to identify the British and German planes.</p> <p>Identity Cards.</p> <p><u>Home Life</u></p> <p>Description of Blackout, curfews and rationing.</p> |

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|  | <p><b>John George Still continued</b></p> <p><u>Significant Events</u></p> <p>Memory of the day War was declared.</p> <p>Portslade Gas Works hit by bomb, details of Luftwaffe map of Southwick with Targets marked.</p> <p>Mines on beach.</p> <p>Details of Canadian Army in Steyning and training on the Downs, also making a film in Steyning in 1943.</p> |
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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Leslie James Alexander Strudwick</b>  |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 5 October 1939   |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | 15 August 2005   |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH 18/16</b>  |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Wartime childhood, food and rationing, father in AFS, bomb damage, recreation.   |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p>Born 25 Walnut Avenue, Old Parklands.<br/>         Delivered by Dr James Craig. 2 younger brothers. Father worked for Smith &amp; Jewell on individual estate making parts for Hurricanes. Also a firewatcher in A.F.S. (Auxiliary Fire Service). Talks about father's A.F.S. uniform from photo. Parties at fire station towards end of war.</p> <p>Description of a child's view of the war. Sleeping in cupboard under stairs with mother. Later a shelter was built in Withall's garden and they went there when the siren sounded. Remembers watching dogfights. Listening to wireless. Father made him a wooden aeroplane.</p> <p>Talks about clothing – siren suits and "make do and mend". Food – scrag end stews, dripping, garden full of vegetables, root crops. They kept chickens because mum didn't want to eat them. National dried egg, dried milk and orange juice. Rationing and queuing. Treats of boiled sweets. Making cakes with vegetables. Sketch of breakfast, lunch and dinner. Milk from handcart – kept in larder or boiled. Talks about how meat was kept.</p> |

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|  | <p><b>Leslie James Alexander Strudwick</b><br/><b>continued</b></p> <p>Preserving fruit and vegetables. Scarcity of meat. Mrs Strudwick's father (Leslie's grandfather?) worked at Southbourne Food Office. Blackberry picking. Vegetables were put in jam. Ice cream was rationed.</p> <p>Christmas in wartime. Blackouts and collecting firewood. Discussion of wireless programmes. Recollection of bombs falling by North Street, Chichester. Leslie was in a pushchair aged about 2. Clearing of bomb damage.</p> <p>Talks about the lasting fascination with the 1940s.</p> <p>Cousin was badly burned when a Liberator crashed on the laundry in the east of the city. Playing in woods etc. Battles using brussels sprouts stalks! Soap boxes for go-carts. Helped father in allotment. Watching Doodlebugs and father's advice. Remembers Morrison shelter. Rumour that Bishop Bell and Brinkmans Nurseries were Nazi sympathisers. Bias of the news.</p> <p>Talks about Canadian troops at Westbourne, D-Day, prisoners of war in the area, ID cards, ARP (Air Raid Precaution) personnel. Remembers church attendance at Warblington. VE Day with street parties and bells ringing, the cinema and wartime medicine.</p> |
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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Mary Taylor</b>   |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 31 March 1936  |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | Not known  |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH18/23</b>   |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Vicar's son in Rustington was a blackshirt<br>Home Guard<br>ID cards<br>Evacuees<br>British and Canadian troops<br>Regiments<br>Canteens<br>Garden fetes<br>Food<br>Concerts<br>Royal Engineers<br>Americans |

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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Doris Tidy</b>   |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 1926  |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | 4 August 2005   |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH18/13</b>  |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Fulbourne – home life and school.<br>The Mill, Mill Lane, Fulbourne |

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| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Mrs Sheila Trust (nee Riley)</b>   |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 9 July 1937   |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | Written account for her grandchildren and other children who came to her for information on World War 2.  |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH 18/32</b>   |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Air raids, rationing, gas masks, prisoners of war, VE and VJ Day.   |
| <b>Summary</b>                 | <p>When I was two years old the war began. My father was the manager of a leather shop and was called up to fight. The men who were called up were given 6 weeks training and then sent off to fight. My father was a dispatch rider. He used to ride a motorbike to take information to other departments and headquarters within the army. Telephones were not used like they are today.</p> <p>After my father had gone to the war, we were bombed out*. The German bomb landed in our back garden and made a 50ft crater. It blew the back of the house right off. I can remember it looked like a large dolls house. It was 6 o' clock in the morning and we were still in bed and were very lucky we were not injured. The next-door neighbour was a milkman and was already up and sitting on the toilet when the bomb fell and he had to be dug out of the rubble. The badly damaged houses were unsafe and had to be knocked down completely. We had no house to live in and had to go to live with my</p> |

**Mrs Sheila Trust continued**

Grandmother for a short while. We were then found a requisitioned house to live in (requisitioned houses were empty houses which the government borrowed until the end of the war to use for unfortunate people like us.

Food and clothes were in very short supply even bread, and to make things fair ration books were issued. There were very few sweets, no ice cream, not much fruit just a few apples in the shops and sometimes at Christmas there were oranges, but never any bananas. We were lucky as my Grandfather lived with us and he had two allotments and a garden so we had a good selection of vegetables. My Grandfather was too old to go to war. He was a retired policeman. Although he did work on the security side at Tangmere Aerodrome. Tangmere was a well-known aerodrome and was involve in the Battle of Britain. Rationing did not end until several years after the war.

Night times there were no streetlights and we had to have blackouts in the windows. This was thick black cloth. No light was allowed to show through the windows. This was to make it difficult for the enemy to see towns and villages from the air and there were no road signs. When there was going to be an air raid a siren was used. Most people would go to a special air raid

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shelter. This was a building often underground or reinforced if above, which gave protection from the bombs. When the raid was over an "all clear" siren was sounded. There were people called Air Raid Wardens who were there to help people. These were men and women who had not gone to war because they were past the age of call up or had important jobs to help keep the country running.

When I went to school I had to take a gas mask with me as all the children had to. We had to practice putting these on. If there was an air raid when we were at school we had to go to the shelters. It was quite dark with lots of bench seats, all we could do was learn our tables and things we could chant out. We were not allowed home until it was all clear.

Beaches had barbed wire all along the tide line in case of invasion and people called Home Guards would patrol the area.

Many women worked in factories to make ammunition and other men's work while they were away. They also worked on the land to grow the vegetables and milk the cows. They were called Land Girls.

My father was captured by the Japanese, my

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mother was informed. Firstly he was missing, then that he was a prisoner. He had to work on the very famous railway. The prisoners had to keep building and repairing this railway which was being bombed for it was important this railway was not completed for this would have helped the Japanese. The film this was shown in was Bridge over the River Kwai. After my father was taken prisoner I received a shoe box from America with little presents in. Like we do today for the Romanian children.

My dad was still a prisoner when people were celebrating Victory in Europe. This was the war with Germany, we were not as happy as a lot of people although we were very glad for them. This was V.E. day. Then came Victory in Japan called V.J.Day.

The Americans had brought the war to an end by dropping the first Atom Bombs to be used. These were dropped on 2 Japanese Islands called Nagasaki and Hiroshima. These bombs were dreadful and killed and injured many many people, even today many people and later families are still suffering from the effects. This shows how terrible wars are.

Soon after VJ day my mother was informed by the Japanese Government that my father had

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|  | <p><b>Mrs Sheila Trust continued</b></p> <p>died two years earlier in 1943 and it was now 1945 so all our hopes for him to come home had been in vain.</p> <p>After a few years my mother married a very nice man called Arthur, he had met my father when they had first been called up to war and were doing the 6 weeks training. He had contacted our home to see if my father was there.</p> <p>My story has a happy ending, my mother was happy again, I was happy as I had a new baby sister called Sue. Until then I had had no brothers or sisters. Although I had waited nearly 13 years, I think it had made my sister more special. It was also good to have a stepfather who could tell me about my dad.</p> <p>*Bombed out in Basin Road, Chichester, 10 March 1941. This is a car park today.</p> |
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|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Mr and Mrs Tuppen</b>  |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | 28 July 1935 and 1 February 1939  |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | Not known   |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH18/25</b>  |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Plane down off Portland Road, Portslade/Hove<br>Crash – Mill Hill Shoreham.<br>Flying Fortress crash c1944, Southwick Hill<br>Marauder after D Day<br>Seafront closed<br>Evacuees<br>Rationing<br>Military vehicles |

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|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Interviewee</b>             | <b>Gillian Doris Young</b>  |
| <b>Date of birth</b>           | Not known   |
| <b>Date of interview</b>       | 27 September 2005   |
| <b>Record Office reference</b> | <b>OH18/31</b>  |
| <b>Main topics</b>             | Evacuees<br>Blackout<br>Dogfights<br>Plane crash near Storrington<br>Knitting comforts for troops<br>Rationing of fuel<br>Children's Christmas parties<br>VE day – beacons being lit on the Downs |

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