

Wartime West Sussex 1939 – 1945 D-DAY

Remembering D-Day in Horsham

From *Memories from a town that disappeared, Horsham during World War II*
(Horsham Museum, 1989)

By Mrs S. Standing

I remember the week before D-Day that all the soldiers at dances had very short hair, and their uniform reeked of something - DDT?¹ It made our dresses smell horrible after we had danced with them, and the smell remained in those dresses for years. A few days later they all vanished to the war in Europe, and we sat in the canteen listening to the reports of the invasion of France. Normally we would be 'jitter-bugging' around the floor to music from the American Forces Network. Most of us were teenagers.....

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¹ Uniforms worn by some troops taking part in D-Day landings had been chemically treated to protect against gas attacks