

MY MEMORIES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

BY ALICE MASON.
1939 TO 1945.

I REMEMBER I WAS IN MY KITCHEN LISTENING TO THE RADIO ON SEPTEMBER THIRD 1939. THERE WAS SILENCE. AND THEN A VOICE SAID. THIS IS LONDON. THE PRIME MINISTER IS JUST GOING TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT. SO WE HEARD THE NEWS THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. I HAVE TO TELL YOU-

ENGLAND IS AT WAR WITH GERMANY. I JUST COULD NOT BELIEVE WHAT I HAD HEARD. AND LATER MY FATHER CAME IN. AND HE SAID. WELL SO YOU HAVE HEARD. WE ARE AT WAR. WE SAT DOWN. AND HAD A TALK. WE KNEW THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WOULD BE RECRUITED.

NOW I WAS WORKING FOR A FARMER'S WIFE. HELPING PART TIME IN THE DAIRY. HER HUSBAND HAD A FARM OF 100 ACRES WITH COWS AND SHEEP. HE AND HIS SON RAN THE FARM.

AND ALSO HAD A MILK ROUND. I USED TO HELP FILLING THE MILK BOTTLES AND WASHING THE EMPTY MILK BOTTLES. SCRUBBING OUT THE DAIRY. ALSO CLEANING THE HOUSE. WITH MRS LUCKRAFT.

SHE WAS KEPT BUSY. WITH MAKING BUTTER AND CREAM. ALSO PLUCKING AND GETTING CHICKEN READY FOR SALE. THEY HAD ONE SON AND A MARRIED DAUGHTER. WHO LIVED IN MODBURY. THE WEEK AFTER THE WAR HAD BEGUN. I WENT TO WORK AND WHEN I GOT THERE MR LUCKRAFT SAID. WEL-

WE WONDERED IF YOU COULD DO MORE WORK FOR US BECAUSE THE SON HERBERT WANTED TO JOIN THE AIRFORCE. THEY WANTED ME TO LEARN TO

TO MILK THE COWS AND ALSO SOME MORE WORK IN THE FIELDS. I DECIDED I WOULD DO THIS EXTRA WORK. SO I GOT ON QUITE WELL WITH THE MILKING. STARTING AT 6-30 AM AND THEN 4-30 PM IN THE AFTER NOON. THE MILK CHURNS HAD TO BE FILLED AND THE CON SADDLES HAD TO BE CLEANED OUT. AND HAY AND MANGO HAD TO BE READY IN THE CAN STALLS FOR THE COWS TO EAT. AND I ALSO HELPED WITH THE MILK ROUND IN THE VILLAGE AND AREA. SO I WAS KEPT BUSY WITH OTHER JOBS AS WELL. AND I WAS ALSO TEACHING MUSIC AND PLAYING THE ORGAN ON SUNDAYS. WE HAD EVACUEES IN THE VILLAGE FROM LONDON. AND SADDLERS WERE ALSO POSTED AROUND THE DISTRICT. WE USED TO GET UP SOLAR EVENINGS FOR THEIR ENTERTAINMENT. AND SOME TIMES THEY WERE ASKED IN FOR A MEAL. MY FATHER MADE THE VEGETABLE GARDEN BIGGER. SO I HELPED WITH THE DIGGING AND PLANTING.

NOW I MUST MENTION THAT I WAS ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED IN 1940 MY HUSBAND CAME FROM KENT. SO ON BOXING DAY 1942 THE CEREMONY TOOK PLACE IN RINGMORE CHURCH. I HAD THREE BRIDESMAIDS. THE RECEPTION WAS HELD IN THE WOMENS INSTITUTE. PEOPLE HELPED WITH THE FOOD. AS WE WERE RATIONED. WE HAD RATION BOOKS FOR FOOD AND CLOTHING. SO THE WAR WENT ON UNTIL THE END. WHEN WE ALL

CELEBRATED V.E DAY. WE HAD WON THE WAR. MY DAUGHTER NORAH WAS BORN IN MAY 1945.

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1939 TO 1945 -
MARGARET LOCK.

MARGARET LIVES AT SEA VIEW RINGMORE WITH HER PARENTS Lily AND STANLEY TRIGGS

THEY HAD A BUSINESS DOING BED AND BREAKFAST AND EVENING MEAL.

STANLEY DID PART TIME GARDENING.

IN 1938 THE MAN WHO DID THE POST ROUND IN THE VILLAGE RETIRED. MARGARET DECIDED TO TAKE ON THE JOB. SHE QUITE LIKED DOING IT. AND ENJOYED MEETING THE PEOPLE IN RINGMORE AND AROUND THE AREA. SHE HEARD THE NEWS ABOUT THE WAR. IN 1939, SHE BEGAN TO WONDER IF SHE WOULD BE CALLED UP. WHEN IN 1940 MARGARET HAD A LETTER TO SAY SHE MUST REPORT TO MOUNT BATTEN IN PLYMOUTH. AND WAS TOLD SHE WOULD HAVE TO JOIN ONE OF THE FORCES. SHE WAS CHOSEN FOR THE AIR FORCE. SO SHE BECAME A WAAF. SHE WAS POSTED TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. SHE TRAINED TO BE A WIRELESS OPERATOR. AND LIKED

THE JOB. SHE HAD MANY FRIENDS. SHE GOT LEAVE TO BE ONE OF MY BRIDESMAIDS IN DEC 1942. SHE WAS DEMOBbed IN 1945. SHE WAS QUITE READY TO TALK ABOUT HER LIFE IN THE FORCES.