CHILDREN SUFFER

- WEEKS BEFORE — TALK / I.D. CARDS GAS MASKS CARDBOARD BOXES
- ACTUAL WEEK — SAYING GOODBYE TAGS / PILLOWCASES
- FRI 1ST SEPT 39 TRAIN JOURNEY TWO BY TWO — WHERE GOING TO LOOK AFTER ME — PEOPLE WAVING
- ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL — BEING "PICKED"
- SUN 3RD SEPT 39 — WAR DECLARED. BASIL WILLIS. CAMBRIDGE RUMOURS / CRYING.
- QUIET FOR SOME MONTHS — THEN THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN
- PLANES (SPITFIRES MOSTLY) INTO HILLS
- MY FRIEND'S FATHER CONTRACT WITH RAF TO HAUL HIS MEN GO TO SCENE OF CRASHES & RESCUE PILOTS (IF POSSIBLE) & TAKE CHARGE UNTIL RAF TRAILORS CAME FROM AIRFIELDS TO "PICK UP PIECES" IN ORDER TO REUSE PARTS & BUILD OTHER PLANES.
- DUNKIRK — TROOPS FROM EVERY REGIMENT TIRED, HUNGRY, DIRTY WITH BATTLE DR
- AS FAR AWAY FROM THE CHANNEL AS POSSIBLE
- SO IF ~~HITLER~~ INVADED ENGLAND — & AT THAT TIME THERE WAS A VERY REAL THREAT THERE WOULD BE SOLDIERS TO FIGHT. THE TROOPS REGROUPED & TRAINED FOR WAR IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

& THERE WERE A LOT IN OUR SMALL VILLAGE.

- THEY TOOK OVER SCHOOL HALLS/CHURCH HALLS BASEMENTS - EVERY SPACE WAS TAKEN OVER. MARCHED & SANG.
  THEY BUILT BRIDGES etc IN THE WOODS/FOREST

- WE KIDS HAD TO HELP ON THE FARMS
  WE WALKED MILES UP STEEP FELLS/HILLS TO PICK MOSS - THEN WE DRIED IT IN A SHED & IT WAS SENT TO SOME PLACE TO MAKE BANDAGES FOR THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

- ~~THE~~ THE GIRLS IN THE VILLAGE ALSO

  KNIT ~~HE~~ HATS & SOCKS FOR PILOTS

  WE ALSO DARNED & REPAIRED THE BIGGEST

  HOLES IN SOCKS ~~ETC~~ FOR THE SOLDIERS

- NOTHING WAS WASTED - ALL SCRAPS OF

  FOOD WAS COLLECTED BY THE "PIG MAN"

  HE HAD LOTS OF PIGS (KILLING PIGS FOR MEAT)

- WE WERE NOT SHORT OF CERTAIN FOODS

  LIVING IN A FARMING COMMUNITY - BUT ~~IT~~

  WE DID NOT SEE OR EAT A BANANA FOR ~~WAS~~ FOUR OR FIVE YEARS

- I ALSO DID NOT SEE MY FATHER FOR 4 YEARS

- I HAD TO MAKE A TRIP BACK TO THE CITY FOR MEDICAL REASONS ~~OTHER WISE I WOULD~~ THE CITY WAS VERY INDUSTRIAL - SO IT WAS BOMBED - SHIPYARDS - MUNITION FACTORIES BEFORE MY FATHER WENT INTO THE RAF (205 BOMBER GROUP - I CAN REMEMBER - HE WAS ON A RESCUE SQUAD - I HELPED TO RESCUE A BABY WHO WAS CRAWLING OVER THE RECKAGE OF HIS HOME - ALL OF HIS FAMILY PERISHED IN THAT RAID.
MY FATHER WAS GLAD THAT HIS CHILDREN WERE SAFE. ~~HE~~ HIS THOUGHTS WERE THAT HE HAD HAD HIS LIFE & HE WANTED US TO HAVE A LIFE ALSO

- WHILE I WAS IN THE CITY THERE WERE AIR RAID WARNINGS - ~~BUT I WAS~~ & PLANES DROPPING BOMBS BUT NOT WHERE I WAS.

- ALL OF THE AVENUES HAD SMOKE SCREENS

- BALLOON BARAGES - WIRE ROPES FROM ONE TO ANOTHER. - PLANES

- PLANES USED TO DROP LAND MINES

- ~~BY FRIENDS OF~~ - PARACHUTES.

- NOBODY HEARD THEM SOME DIDN'T EXPLODE UNTIL AFTER WAR

- FOR A GIRL I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE
- THE HUSBAND OF MY MOTHER'S SCHOOL FRIEND WAS A MARINE OFFICER ON A FAMOUS BATTLESHIP - KING GEORGE THE VTH - IT HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BATTLES OF THE WAR - I BELIEVE THE SHIP IT SANK IN BATTLE WAS THE SHARNHORST A HUGE GERMAN BATTLESHIP -

  WELL THE KING GEO V WAS VERY BADLY DAMAGED & LOTS OF SAILORS & MARINES WERE KILLED ON BOARD. BUT IT LIMPED BACK INTO PORT - THE RIVER TYNE - FOR REFIT.

- THE ~~MARINE~~ OFFICER TOOK MY UNCLE & MYSELF ON BOARD & IT WAS SCARY TO SEE THE DAMAGE & SEE WHERE SO MANY ~~HAD~~ DIED

- NOW AT THE SAME TIME - MY HUSBAND TELLS ME - WHO I DID NOT KNOW AT THAT TIME - HE WAS PLAYING IN BOMB CRATERS - WATCHING PLANES TRYING TO GET BACK TO GERMANY & DITCHING IN THE NORTH SEA - HE PICKED UP AN OLD COMPASS & HE TO THIS DAY BELIEVES IT WAS USED & LOST BY A SPY
- MY HUSBAND & HIS FATHER ONE MORNING AFTER A PRETTY BAD AIR RAID HAD TO GO TO ANOTHER SHRAPNEL & BULLETS

ALSO & HE SAW A GRAVEYARD WHICH HAD HAD A DIRECT HIT & COFFINS WERE ALL OVER THE ROAD WHICH HE HAD TO PASS. THE HOUSES THAT WERE STANDING WERE RIDDLED WITH BULLET HOLES.

- MY GRANDMOTHER & AUNTS LIVED IN AN AREA NEAR A HUGE FOOD WAREHOUSE & IT WAS BOMBED - THE BUTTER & ~~LARD~~ WAS RUNNING IN RIVERS ALONG THE ROAD
- TWO OF THEIR FRIENDS WERE KILLED THAT NIGHT & ONE WAS BLOWN ~~ABOUT~~ FOR QUITE A DISTANCE

- MY GRANDMOTHER WAS VERY LUCKY

- THE COMMUNAL AIR RAID ~~SHELTER~~ THEY HAD JUST ENTERED FOR THE NIGHT — A BOMB FELL AT ~~ONE OF~~ THE ENTRANCE & SHE AND OTHERS HAD TO WALK MILES UNDERGROUND TO GET TO ANOTHER EXIT, IN THE MORNING

- THE ENEMY PLANES, PARTICULARLY ON A MOONLIT NIGHT USED TO FOLLOW THE RAILWAY LINES, & TRAINS - WHOLE ROW OF HOUSES WAS HIT INSTEAD OF THE TRAIN
- ~~ONE TRAIN~~ ONE NIGHT

- BACK TO THE VILLAGE - WE KIDS HAD A GOOD TIME - ~~PRIVATE~~ TENNIS COURTS - SWIMMING IN THE RIVER - WALKING THE FELLS - PICKING SNOWDROPS - PRIMROSES. - WILD STRAWBERRIES - BLUEBERRIES - & SKATING ON FROZEN FARM PONDS & SOME OF US - SKIING & TOBBOGANING - AS IF THERE WAS NO WAR - WE HAD A LOVELY HOME & LOVELY FOSTER PARENTS BUT THERE WAS ~~THAT~~ ALWAYS THAT LONGING FOR ONES OWN PARENTS & HOME.

- SOME OF THE VILLAGE BOYS & THEY WERE ONLY BOYS OF 18/19 NEVER CAME BACK HOME. YOU RECALL AT THE START OF MY TALK I MENTIONED BASIL - HE WAS MISSING IN SINGAPORE, PRESUMED KILLED. ~~BY THE WAY~~ HIS UNCLE CAME TO THE VILLAGE & STAYED AWHILE & PREACHED. ~~IT WAS~~ HE HAD BEEN THE BISHOP OF RANGOON (BURMA) & SAD HIS NEPHEW DIED IN THE FAR EAST.

- I MENTIONED A TOBOGGAN WHICH WE USED TO BORROW ~~FROM AN THE PARENTS OF AN 18 YR OLD~~ AT THE FIRST SNOW & RETURN IT IN SPRING TO A COUPLE WHOSE 19 YR OLD SON WAS A GREAT SKIER. HE WAS A COMMANDO WHO LANDED IN NORWAY & (BECAUSE HE COULD SKI) - HE NEVER CAME BACK HOME - HE WAS KILLED ON DUTY IN NORWAY

- ANOTHER VILLAGE BOY 18 - WHO WAS A PILOT - ONLY SON - CAME HOME FOR A WEEK-END - LIVED ~~at~~ OPPOSITE ME - IN A SPORTSCAR - ~~FLYING~~ LEATHER FLYING JACKET ON & BIG BOOTS - HE WAVED - SAID HE WAS ON A WEEK-END'S LEAVE - WAS VERY TIRED - SPITFIRE PILOT - FLYING ENDLESS HOURS - HE NEVER CAME BACK HOME EITHER TO THE VILLAGE - ~~HE WAS~~ HIS PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN & KILLED - THESE 3 BOYS WENT TO BARNARD CASTLE BOYS SCHOOL WHICH WAS THE EQUIVALENT TO SALTUS.
- ONE DAY - IT WAS THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN - WE WERE WALKING DOWN THE VILLAGE WHEN SOMEONE SHOUTED TAKE COVER - TAKE COVER. UP ABOVE THERE WAS TWO PLANES FIGHTING - WHAT THEY CALLED "A DOG FIGHT" THE NOISE WAS TERRIFIC & THE BULLETS WERE SHOWERING DOWN - I HID IN A PORCH & COULD SEE THESE PLANES WEAVING ABOUT - IT WAS - WELL - AWESOME!
- ABOUT 3 HRS LATER WHEN ALL WAS QUIET MRS BELL ASKED IF I HAD SEEN MY BROTHER - ~~WHO WAS~~ WE FOUND HIM STILL CROUCHING BEHIND THE SETTEE IN THE SITTING ROOM - ~~IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT WH~~ IF YOU COULD HAVE SEEN HIS FACE - WHITE!

- SOME PEOPLE HAD VERY NARROW ESCAPES FROM BULLETS DROPPING ~~EEE~~ INCHES FROM THEM - LUCKY NO ONE WAS KILLED.

- SOMETIME LATER I WENT TO ~~S~~ A PRIVATE SCHOOL 24 MILES IN TRAIN IN THE MORNING 24 HRS ~~AT NIGHT~~ AFTERNOON. THE NIGHT TRAINS WERE PACKED WITH FAMILYS FROM LONDON GETTING AWAY FROM THE DOODLE BUGS. THE WERE FLYING BOMBS SENT FROM ~~GER~~ THE FRENCH COAST - THEY SAID IF YOU CAN HEAR THEM YOU ARE OK, BUT IF YOU DON'T THEN THEY WOULD LAND NEAR YOU - THEY WERE HORRIFIC WEAPONS & DEVASTATED LONDON & OTHER SOUTHERN CITIES.

- AND THEN THINGS BEGAN TO CHANGE - SUDDENLY THERE APPEARED ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR WORKING ON THE RAILWAY LINES & WE KIDS USED TO WAVE TO THEM AS WE TRAVELLED TO SCHOOL. AS A MATTER OF FACT WHEN I SEE YOUNG CHILDREN HANGING OUT OF CAR WINDOWS, I THINK OF A SCHOOL FRIEND WHO LEANED OUT TOO FAR FROM THE TRAIN WINDOW & THE TRAIN WAS PASSING A WALL & HER HEAD WAS KNOCKED OFF & INTO THE CARRIAGE THROUGH THE WINDOW AMONGST HER PALS - NO I WAS IN ANOTHER CARRIAGE -

- SOON OUR MORNING TRAIN WOULD BE SHUNTED INTO A SIDING TO ALLOW LONG TRAINS CARRYING TANKS & AMMUNITION & BIG GUNS & WE USED TO WATCH AS THEY WENT BY - MANY MORNINGS WE WERE LATE FOR SCHOOL - BUT YOU KNOW WE KIDS USED TO KNOW THAT SOMETHING BIG WAS GOING TO HAPPEN / AND WE KNEW DEFINITELY THE DAY WHEN THE SOLDIERS WHO HAD COME TO OUR VILLAGE ALL THAT TIME AGO TO REGROUP - THEY WERE ONE BIG BATTALION READY TO GO TO WAR - THEY SAID ~~THEIR~~ GOODBYES TO US VILLAGERS - LOTS WITH TEARS IN THERE EYES. - WE NEVER DID HEAR FROM THEM AGAIN AFTER "D-DAY"

- IT WAS THEN TIME FOR MY BROTHER & I TO RETURN ~~TO~~ HOME TO THE CITY & OUT OF THE 99 CHILDREN WHO SET OFF ON THAT SAD TRAIN RIDE IN 1939 ONLY 4 OF US

WERE LEFT IN THE VILLAGE AT THE END OF THE WAR.

- BONFIRES IN THE STREET
FATHER HOME FROM TWO CAMPAIGNS ETC.

—

Dear Mrs.Bullock,

On behalf of J7L I am writting to thank you for your wonderful speech on Thursday.The class enjoyed it very much .We were all intrigued by some of your adventures.All of us had heard about living in Germany at the time from Mr.Feilder and it was nice to hear about living at the time.

Yours Sincerly,
Mark Burrows

Chris Chiappa very interesting Donny S.

Kris Dakin

Ian Morrell

MAX Fiedler

A. collis

Sean Terceira

Philip Sousa
Please come again!

I enjoyed it', ☺

James Brookes

Peter Kyle

Adam Lopez

Daniel Brisson

Cindy Mosley ☺

Adam Cooper

"Great!"

Best of luck

Matthew Davis

Chris Pullen

Chris Conway

I enjoyed it

David Roach

Scott Simmons

Dear Ms Bullock

Thank you for that nice speech on thursday 19th I know every body enjoyed it. And liked how you told your storries, and it was also fasinating to all of us. And scary to us about your friend.

Thank's

James Brookes Chris Chiappa David Roach

Daniel Brusson

Peter Kyle

Ian Morrell Justin Rebello

Adam Lee

Philip Sousa

Scott

Chris Conway

Alexander Doyle

Mark Barrows

Chris Dakin

Sean

# SALTUS JUNIOR SCHOOL

Dear Mrs. Bullock,

Thank you so much for coming to school to share your wartime memories with us. The students certainly enjoyed hearing them.

Christina De Silva