

DOP/01/014

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Born February 1894

000-474 Heroes and Cowards talk – Pretty much the same as before – but a high quality recording.

507 History boosted up when they were kids. drummed into you that you felt proud to be English. Geography map red patches of different countries – that all belongs to us. You felt proud, cock-a-hoop.

538 Had greatest Navy in world, saying Britannia ruled the waves and the sun never set on the British Empire – Built up – Crimean War – Charge of Light Brigade – children thought it marvellous. Then War – people came back – sports a Park at Wolverton at Whitsun. Veterans walked behind the military band, fancy, ain't they heroes. That's the impression from school. Once war started us kids it was Ooh hell we shall have to have a do. Today everybody is well educated, you wouldn't find them volunteering would need conscription.

645 In past at Sports Meetings were very popular at Wolverton Park – points out tug of war picture of 1948.

Side Two

012 Everybody had the measles at his time at school.

018 Had to go to school till 14. If you had a certain percentage of attendances and could get employment, you could leave at 13. In Hm's case, it was his birthday on Monday. Was standing on corner with other boys in on Sunday and man asked if any boy wanted job. HM said yes – man wanted butcher boy. When can you start Tomorrow morning (when he was 13). Didn't go back to school – went to Foreign Meat butches – Eastmans – 3s6d a week -0 working Saturdays as well. Came to house to enquire why not at school (visited house if missed school for a few days). had letter from authorities to say he'd reached number of attendances, was free to carry on employment, but in event of losing job before 14, had to go back to school. Couldn't go to Works until 14 as soon as 14 left and got apprenticeship in works.

056 Foreign Meat – frozen. English meat not frozen. No fridges, If not sold on Saturday night it went bad in summer. Sold off on Saturday night. Meat came in containers to Goods Shed at Wolverton. Then brought on flat horse drawn carts =to the shop. covered in muslin, frozen still – hearts, kidneys, rabbits, apart from lamb and beef.

102 Foreign meat shops – Eastmans in Church Street, also London Central Meat Co. in Stratford Road. Rump steak – 6d a pound a fresh meat butcher Bill Strange's and Jack Gady's – English meat shop – their beef was 8d a pound.

118 People used to be careful not to be seen going to a foreign meat shop. Delivery boy-he recalls going to house in Cambridge street – home of foreman – delivered to front door –

woman told him off and asked him in future to deliver to back door – because he had foreign meat – didn't want the neighbours in street to see.

178 Went to works got 4s for 54 hour week. Packet of cigarettes, 10 for 2d. then. Woodbines were routine smoke of British Army. Padres used to carry Woodbines in their pockets in the trenches. The first time HM was wounded he was laid on stretcher at bottom of trench. The padre came to him knew him and placed a Woodbine in his mouth. everybody that was wounded, they put a Woodbine in their mouth. One of the Padres became Vicar of st. Martins in the Fields – known as Woodbine Willy. Woodbines had no cigarette photos. Ones with silk flags were BDVm, card in Players, Gold Flake and Capstan. Had packets of 10 and tins of 50 cost 10 – in canteen.

292 Never used to go to church as adult, but every child went to chapel or church. When little taught religion and never forgot it. When came in and out of line at Plugstreet Wood, every time you came out there would be somebody killed, one of you mates. Came out of trenches through wood, duckboards led by Bucks Cemetery, and I used to look at them crosses and I used to think I'll bet I won't be long before I'm on =e of them. You know that sort of feeling. When out padre said bishop coming to confirm anyone that would like to be confirmed. HM said he would because I had a feeling, that you know I might not be long before I passed over, cos you didn't know when it were going to happen. HM only one out of his bunch confirmed. Bishop of St. Petersburg South Africa who confirmed him behind the lines. Still has Confirmation Card. Others took no notice. About a week's preparation at a farmhouse – never learnt anything just had a few lessons. Then confirmed, then wounded just afterwards – funny isn't it.

345 Always believed and believes now that your life if all fixed out for you in every blooming detail I never could have gone through what I went without there was a reason for it.