

DOP/01 /028

Mr. and Mrs. James Cox (born 1905)
53 Jersey Road
Wolverton
(Violet Cox's brother)

002 Manoeuvres – hundred of troop, on foot and horseback. Lived at Bradwell at time and they marched through there. Took some time for the (4 abreast) to go by.

012 Born in London came to Bradwell in 1912. One of five children. Could see troops from playground in Bounty Street. Went up to Wolverton once or twice to see them coming out of the Goods Yard Entrance.

032 Remembers reading in papers about war breaking out. Hard times, long queues. At school, arranged to do gardening. Had half acre of land on Mr. Wylie's field in Bradwell Road. All those with fathers at war dug it. His mother was a widow so they qualified. Grew potatoes, distributed between them all.

044 High father had died in 1907.

050 Times were worrying, even for a young boy, hearing of so many getting killed, people you knew.

054 Can remember being in shop. One of the sons came and the woman who was serving went into back part of house. JC remembers them crying. He'd come from France. After his leave was over went back and was killed within two or three days.

064 Saw them coming back from trenches – filthy – with mud etc. When he went to work in Works, they didn't say much – perhaps because it was too awful for other.

074 Can't remember playing games relating to the War. No it was too serious.

078 Life was very quiet during War – could walk up to Wolverton, and hardly meet a soul, when men were in work. In days before roads were tarred. If car went by there was a cloud of dust.

086 Can't remember teachers following the war with them in class. Three teacher s who had taught him got called up and killed. We felt it very deeply as kids.

096 Lot of enthusiasm at first, but as it progressed the horror of it all came on to everybody then. Agreed that there was probably a reluctance to be conscripted at the end. The war to end all wars, but it didn't. The second war came along.

106 He never felt enthusiasm for war, as the horror became apparent as it progressed; in fact I thought how lucky I was not to be old enough.

118 Women went from Wolverton to Luton to work on munitions.

122 Armistice Day, "They went blooming mad". We went round the Works arm in arm, hundreds of us. They came in the Printing Works where JC worked and had them out. People were overjoyed. Everybody went wild with delight. He went into Works and into several shops. Mrs. C. – her uncle Fred was on leave. He got drunk – people treated him, came home drunk. First time Mrs. C. had seen anybody drunk – she was terrified.

145 Job to say what changes there were after war. Never the same as it was before the war started. War makes people, like scientists and all that sort of thing, go more deeply into things and it was never the same. It was all long skirts and fashions in those days you see, before the war and it didn't go back that way afterwards. Things had changed, quicker than what they would have done in normal years. Development quicker in so many things.

161 Took some time for suffragette movement to take effect after war in Wolverton.

176 Mr. C can remember during manoeuvres a Scotsman coming to visit her grandmother in Young Street. Can only remember his sporran. (born 1909). Can remember him picking up one of her younger sisters and throwing her in the air. She lived 6-8 years with her granny to lessen the family. Went when one of sisters being born. And stayed for six years. She was useful, ran errands. Went for 6-14. Rest of family lived in Cambridge Street. Went down with another sister to Gran's whilst Mum was in bed with new baby. Younger sister when she went home and saw baby, she wouldn't leave. Mrs. C. stayed.

208 Mrs C. – Bit of stigma about the little streets – doesn't know, as this was the original Wolverton.

231 In Bradwell the women went shopping in aprons with a cap on – but you wouldn't see that in Wolverton. they seemed just that little bit different.

250 In Father Guest's choir when first in Bradwell – was with Bill Hood, the other of the two young choristers in red hats. Left after two to three months didn't like it Good classical pianist. When rode bike used to grin when people looked at him, seemed to enjoy it. Used to turn into High Street – at quite fast speed. A good swimmer – when first opened Bradwell Bathing Place, there was a challenge between him and a man named Boone from Newport prize of £1 – Father Guest beaten.

296 A well-built, tallish, full in the face. Thinks he enjoyed being considered eccentric. Difficult to understand him – rather than awkward. Thinks his daughter went to York House School. Adults thought he was a freak. Remembers walking over twice in his surplice to a service at Stanton Low where Cromwell relics there – two crossed swords. Two gauntlets and a helmet. Took doorway and had it inserted in St. James' Church. Was vandalised – chalice cup stolen. Window broken in early 20's.

354 Thinks he was a Labour/Lib. Man. When Captain Bowyer (later Lord Denham) had a political meeting at Bradwell Rec. he heckled from the back.

375 Army came and got hay from Wylies farm (Robert Wylie was the old man – had a son called Robert too). Charlie Wylie ran Stantonbury Park Farm.

406 Shortages in war – not much butter. Always fed alright. Mother had Parish money – just a few florin in her hand. Man called Mr. Moss came round with bag and paid it out. Doesn't know who decided who got what – too young to know.

478 Worked for a milkman when he was 11, had about six boys – named Mr. Middlewick. carried two gallon bucket, measured milk out with buckets, sizes altered during the war – was half pint and gill and pint, changed. Got up and started between seven and 7.30 – had to do it before school. 1/6da week, twice a day for five days, and once a day Saturday and Sunday. Did it all through 1916 blizzard, when up to his knees in snow. Remembers two policemen being killed by elm trees blowing over at the foot of Wolverton Hill. Had been in old school, and moved to new school in Bounty Street, in 1913.

486 Difficult to get a job – even during the war. Went to Office and applied – Hoppy Tilley had a toy factory. Couldn't get in Works if father didn't work there – only two options. Hoppy Tilley or Print. He got in Print – applied to get in Works unsuccessfully.

507 Hoppy Tilley had a club foot – not well-liked – would not tolerate a union, had pal whose brother tried to start union and got the sack.

540 Print had its own band and dire-brigade. In 19121-22 had a strike because they had a reduction in wages imposed. Had rifles butts in Newport Road. Behind houses used by Territorials (possibly by Church lads' Brigade).

579 'Old Soldiers' guarded viaduct – half a dozen of them in relays. Had a railway carriage. Guarded it all through War. Bathing under Viaduct continued. Veterans – too old for active service – dressed in Khaki.

625 In evenings after school played in streets in summer – street corner gangs, quiet in day – no young man. Terrible flu epidemic in 1918, whole families were taken with it. Some thought it might have been brought back by men from trenches. (Mrs. C.)

665 "We used to dread hearing the church bell toll because if a soldier was killed – I don't know how the church got to know, the vicar or whoever it was, the bell used to toll. And it was always the thing, the old people used to say, another ones gone". Lived in Young Street. People came to door and said I wonder who that can be. Is it somebody we know.

690 Had big memorial service at St. George's Church for those from McCorq's who'd died. Not many days padded but what the bells tolled.

703 Some Germans prisoners at Newport who came to and fro in a dray. Patches on their arms.