

DOP/01/034

Mrs Wyn Nichols (Letts) born 1894
124 Cambridge Street
Wolverton

Born in Radcliffe Street – lived Cambridge Street since 7.

049 Didn't have much to do with soldiers in 1913. Went out on manoeuvres every day.

064 Brother Fred went to war – aged 21 – joined Territorials when 18. Didn't have Drill Hall then, met in the Works. In France within two or three weeks. Practised shooting in the "Butts" on the Newport Road at Bradwell.

092 "Things wasn't published like they are today so it came out all at once to us. O August Bank holiday it was.

097 Knew her future husband before War, but didn't marry until after the war.

127 Went to work in the Print after leaving school at 14.

159 On August 4th didn't hear from newspapers – were told by others. Went to Brickhill Woods on picnic – brother Fred on Territorial camp, they were recalled. Found Fred's kitbag in the lavatory when they got back. Went to Brickhill with friends by train.

187 Knew future husband but not all that friendly with him. Got more friendly during war. Had fortnight's leave in four years. In Salonika, in Oxford and bucks Light Infantry. He took it as a matter of course he had to go, no fuss.

218 Effect of Fred going – family took it as a matter of course.

228 Didn't feel war like in 2nd war when there was bombs.

251 Day to day life carried on as normal. Shortages of food, but no bombs. "Of course we missed the boys, but there you are, that was it.

261 Can't remember munitions being done in Works.

271 Women did more of men's work in big town, not here in Wolverton.

444 Knitted socks for soldiers in knitting parties were told by the men about the mud.

475 Didn't go out so much as with boys as no boys to out with. Letter censored – couldn't tell you anything. Had letters with bits crossed out.

578 Worried, but carried on and hoped for the best.

590 Armistice – they all went mad didn't they? Girls in the Print were sent out. A bad bout of flu at that time – she was ill only went down the street and back. Vi's chap – went all though

war, coming back on ship caught flu and died. A lot of people died with the flu. Thinks they had a tea in the streets.

704 Harry not home till middle of 1919 from Salonika.

739 "It was all those young men. They say that's why they have wars, to kill you off and they don't kill us old uns off, that's the trouble".

Side 2

002 Hebby Woods had been out on the beer, Fred has been to his girls'. Hebby went home after the terriers had been called back, the buglers came round at 2o'clock in the morning, calling everybody up. Hebby didn't hear them they'd gone off without him, only found out next morning.

035 Harry's company had flu badly in Salonika, once he was the only fit one.

050 People not so much for enjoyment as today – men came back and just got on with their jobs.

098 Harry used to have to write letters for some of comrades – they came from Oxfordshire villages and couldn't read or write hadn't been on trains. One used to visit him after war, playing bowls.

130 Only had £20.30 demob pay. Harry had to buy new suit (12) shoes and so on.

145 Fred swore about Capt. Bowyer. Chap from Bradwell went and shouted at him during election meetings – because he'd had him tied to the wheel. (Fatty Odell).

195 Strike of 1915. Only got a few coppers more. Thought it worth it at the time. That's what started the Union. Only got about 14/- a week, 4/- at 14, after three months went up to 5/- worked 54 hours a week.

310 We never done nothing, we just carried on in our way; looked forward to our letters from our boys and that was it, and waited for them to come home. Cos I mean there was nothing doing in the place. You just went to work, you came home and made the best of the time between.

386 I don't suppose any of the ordinary (German) people wanted he war any more than we did. It isn't the ordinary people. It's them that has got to suffer but it isn't them that start it, is it It's only these big bugs.