

DOP/01/035

Mrs Earl (nee Kately) born 1897
Orchard House
Wolverton

000 Born at Spencer Street, New Bradwell. Didn't come up to Wolverton, except to work and market. 9 in family. older brother(18 and a half) was in Territorials.

070 Day before war broke out Territorials went to camp (at Marlow) went to station to see them off. Came back next day. stayed in the Drill Hall for two or three days then went off to Chelmsford.

121 Brother wrote quite a few letters home and a lot of field postcards. Didn't know where they were because of sponsorship. Brother missing believed killed – reported as missing. Salvation Army sent several letters, but never found body. Thinks news killed me dad. He worried about him dreadfully after the war it began to tell, before she married her dad died of a tumour on the brain that was worrying about me brother being killed. Thinks there were twelve in the same street killed – all went to school together. Brother was 19 – made a corporal. Sergeant with him was also killed (Alf Meecham R.K.).

171 She was in Girls'; Club – gave concerts. Got money for cigarettes to send to troops. Had flower days, selling flowers in white dress with hat with flowers on. Were always sending parcels, knitting socks. went round Works' Ding Hall collecting money.

193 She worked in works in Sewing Room, made carriage seats and blinds, pillows, sheets, towels, sewed carpets together. During war she worked on munitions shell cases, measuring up to see if they were the right size. Thinks they were made in the brass shop. Some had sack at end of war, but she went back to the Sewing Room. Easy job, a sitting down job, clean.

265 Went short of a lot of food during the war. Remembers having ration books.

290 Always giving money to something to send parcels to the boys. In parcels would be sugar, loaves of bread jam, butter, sweets – just what we could spare. Sent to own people, but they were shared when they got out there. when organisation collected they'd normally send cigarettes – normally sent to a Sergeant.

325 Met husband before war. He was in Artillery – he was about 20 when he went. He went into Germany eventually. engaged during war – although nobody knew. Dreadful sitting at home and waiting for news, wrote as often as he could, but would often just send a field postcard. Never knew where they were.

390 Letter saying brother was missing officer said he'd write again if they had news. Family wrote letter after letter for news sent to different officers.

414 Wrote to several of soldiers out there, as they knew them all – several years afterwards spoke to one of them – said he knew that Reg was killed and knew where he was buried whether he was right or not I don't know, I didn't take any notice.

423 November 11th we nearly went mad. Thinks they decorated the Fronts of the houses and put flags across the street. When war was finished didn't know when they were coming home. Her husband came home nearly 12 months after war ended.

454 If several of the boys came home together they'd have a party. several didn't want to talk about it after the war they'd had enough of it.

666 Used to sounded soldiers in Tickford Abbey – went there with Girl's Club to sing to them – Goodbye Dolly grey etc.

691 Earned 5/- a week at 14 gave about 4/6d to mother – kept rest for clothes, and sweets. every birthday got 1/- rise. She made her own blouses and skirts.

Side 2

Most had own allotments then – her father did. Some people in Bradwell kept pigs. Sausages were about 4d per lb. Had meat most days. For breakfast had toast and dripping or home-made lard. Had tea, but not coffee. Now and again made own lemonade.

100 Lot of sharing between neighbours called it “do-as-you-like street”.