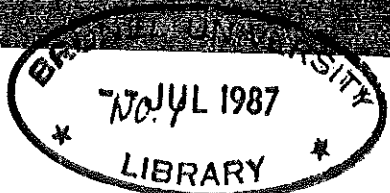


6.12.77.

2-181.



### Seventh Child

I was born Florence Anne<sup>^</sup> August 1912 in  
Acre Road Kingston-upon-Thames Surrey to Jane &  
Walter Watson, my <sup>their 7th child</sup> mother being a seventh child.  
When just a <sup>day</sup> few old we moved to Somerset Road,  
my father was Blacksmith & General FARRIER at  
Hodgkins Brewery, before that he worked (having  
his forge) at Hampton Court where he worked  
for a Detentary Dungeon.

He was a very honest upright man 5ft 10½ in  
weighing 18 stone, had a beautiful baritone  
voice, singing most evenings for local  
charity. I remember quite vividly as a  
very young little girl (my mother told me I  
was about two years old) why I remembered  
so well as I believe, I must have been very  
upset at the time because my father was  
singing on the stage in Kingston Empire, "The  
Village Blacksmith" the set on the stage  
was a forge, and when my father sang  
"and the children coming home from school  
looked in at the open door" I felt I  
wanted to be on the stage with all

the other children. On another occasion  
 I remember my mother taking me to see my  
 granny, mother's mum, who lived in a tiny  
 cottage called "Rose Cottage" <sup>in Hampton Middle</sup> ~~not~~ is still there  
 today, the furniture, ~~floors~~ <sup>were</sup> all made  
 of wood, just plain wood, my mother telling  
 me when I use to talk about Grannie  
 White wood, that my granny use to  
 scrub it each day, how they must have  
 worked in those days. As I have said  
 I was a seventh child having four brothers  
 and 2 sisters mother lost 3 baby boys before  
 I was born. In 1914 ~~my~~ father was called  
 up to go to France, he was a soldier at  
 Aldershot Sergeant Major in the R.F. I don't  
 remember him going, but I do remember  
 something was wrong because mother was  
 so worried and upset without him,  
 remember there was 4 little ones ~~other~~  
 Connie, Albert, William + me, and soon  
 after we had a baby brother named  
 Walter after dad. My Auntie, dad's sister  
 sent a telegram to France to let dad



know he had a son, his captain asked my father if it was bad news, my father said he was the proud father of a son, on replying the captain said "first sergeant" when dad said "no sir our 8th he was told that deserves 24 hrs leave, well when he came home I remember it so well, because I was so terrified when I saw this man in clothes I had not seen before, with leather pouches across his chest, he picked me up and threw me up in the air and kissed me so hard I just cried and run in the corner, my father crying and saying "My God my own children dont know me, after a few hours with my mother and baby brother my father returned to war in France.

During the war there was a flu epidemic I did not know anything about it except I remember all four my sister my two brothers and myself were in mother's bedroom in her bed, all four of

4.

us. Connie and me one end Albert and William at the other, mother sitting in a chair with a blanket round her, and Auntie Nell come over from Hampton to look after us, this is very vivid in my mind\* mother said nearly every window in the street had their blinds drawn owing to a death in their families, oh how I remember all of us having \* cream crackers with Golden Syrup on which was a real treat, in war time. All of us got well, one day the postman knocked when to our delight it was a parcel from my father, on opening it we saw on top a bunch of Violets from him to mother, inside was a big block of butter, with a note from dad, mother was to cut it up and the children could deliver it to as many people down our road with love



from him and the Belgian farmers  
in kindness for saving a mare and  
her foal, he was wonderful with horses.  
While at war he took his horse Ginny  
named after mother, though her name  
was Jane dad always called her  
Ginny, his horse was with him  
all through the war he always  
said they looked after one  
another, she would not let  
anyone get on her back, dad  
told me, owing to a bad wound  
in his side he was unable to  
take a very urgent despatch,  
so he ordered one of his men  
to take it, on mounting my  
father's horse, she just threw  
the soldier to the ground, my  
dear father just helping the  
man up, Ginny looked at  
dad he must have known  
something, he just mounted  
her and the despatch ~~was~~

b.

got through heavy gun fire etc  
owing to this very brave act  
my father wore a Oak Leaf on one  
of his medals "mentioned in despatches"  
We did not see my dad again  
until 1918 months after the armistice  
as his regiment stayed on to  
help (as he said with the clearing  
up) by now he was a Regiment  
S. M. R. E. During this time I  
remember my dear mother was  
very sad and worried, once  
putting a shovel of coal in  
the saucepan which was on  
the hob instead of on the fire -  
no dinner that day, food was  
very scarce no rationing then.

My sister Connie use to queue  
out-side Bentalls (a small shop  
then, now a wonderful big stone  
bet in Sarney I think) for  
potatoes. Mr Bentall bought all  
the pot. crop from a farm and



sold them to his customers (without any profit at all, another place she use to go was to Nutall in Kingston (C.B.H.S.) now for tea, which was a luxury, mother said ~~to come back with~~ she got a 4 lb packet

Connie was a milk-girl during the war <sup>1914.</sup> and after she use to drive a milk cart I ~~never~~ remember her standing up in the cart with shirt blouse, breeches, and a trilby hat on, and managing the horse. Thanks to our family upbringing we all loved horses. The name of the dairy was DENNY'S of Norbiton her round took her to the hospital, where some of our wounded were, she use to bring home some goodies from there, and one day she brought home a little better, mother said we could keep it if Connie brought home some milk for it then she did. During all this time we did not <sup>like</sup> seeing our mother

so sad and wearing a black dress, the reason we did not know, my mother had a letter from the War Office saying my father was missing presumed dead. To make matters worse than they were we had several nasty things happened to us, our house was on a corner of a road that lead to The Fairfield <sup>Highgate Surrey</sup> where our soldiers were, one day a knock on our front door at night, my mother thinking it might be my father answered the door, and to her sorrow she found a soldier lying on the steps, she called my sister Connie to help her, but it was not dad, but a poor young soldier who had been robbed and put thrown on our step, my mother heard someone call out, it was the local Policeman who we knew he came to mum's help, and said there was a lot of that sort of thing



going on at that time, getting young  
soldiers drunk & robbing them. ~~and~~

All this made my mother even more  
sad than she was with 5 children  
to bring up, she was a wonderful  
mother only my sister Connie and  
Albert knowing about my father  
missing. All ended well, one day  
my dad walked in, no wonder  
my dear mother fainted with  
relief and shock I should think

(1919) I was about 7 or 8 by now. It was  
arranged my uncle who was a  
"Cambridge Blue" and a vegetarian  
should come and look after us  
while my father took mother on a  
Steamer Trip from Kingston-Windsor  
Uncle came, mum & dad said  
be good I don't ever remember  
my mother leaving us before.  
My sister Connie took it into  
her head she was about 16 yrs  
old to visit Ba Ba. our granny  
dad's mother all the family



Babba

10

called her ~~mother~~ even my father, mother  
use to say that she did not like to  
be called Gwanoy, silly mum use to  
say. Connie got all dressed up  
in my mother's dress, feather boa,  
I think this is what it was called,  
and mother hat, and shoes, and  
caught the tram to Hampton  
Church St Mary's, then she had  
a walk passing the river on  
the left of the church, she  
thought she was so grown up  
in mother's clothes, at the time a  
steamer was passing, yes you  
guessed it mother and father  
aboard, seeing someone dressed  
in her clothes, they waved and  
my sister waved back, the  
steamer stopped at the ferry  
at Hampton, my parents got  
off, and came back home by  
tram with Connie, poor mum  
the day's outing was short lived,



when they got in uncle was having trouble with Albert he would not eat his dinner because uncle had cooked the veg: with the skins on a thing he always did being a true vegetarian. I heard my mother say I will never leave the children again and I don't think she ever did, only once for an evening, my dad was singing at a concert. Connie was the one who stayed up to look after us, she was a one to read Pegs Paper well she read herself to sleep in the arm chair, and had put the bolt on the door, and my parents could not get in so dad got the prop what <sup>knocking up on the windows</sup> mother used for the clothes line and woke Connie up, that was the finish of mums trips out.

After the war was over my dad set up in bussness in

Cambridge Road Norbiton. Surrey.

Blacksmith & general Farnier. He was a handsome man with warm brown eyes, a heart of gold but very strict. It was my job on Sat: to run the errands and take dad's dinner up to his forge ~~with one sat~~ for which my mother use to pay me 2d. I came home from getting the shopping my mother's friend Mrs. Boatwright was in the kitchen talking. I saw 2d on the table took ~~this~~ and bought two penny worth of pears, when I got home my mother asked if I had put the 2d in the gas metre as the gas was not cooking the dinner. I said no I thought it was for me, I have spent it.

Dad's dinner was late when he came home mother told him what had happened, and was I for it I was sent to bed, no tea. That did not worry me, it was what



my punishment was, my father came up stairs into my bedroom and smacked my bottom I could ~~not~~ bear the pain but not the fact of being smacked by my dad. I was the only one in the family that he had ever smacked and I have never forgotten it, no breakfast, came down to Sunday lunch the incident was never mentioned again and I never ~~took~~<sup>took</sup> money from the table ever again. The following week Mrs. Boatright's grand-daughter Renee Edith came to stay with her, mother said I could go to Sunday school with them at St Peter's Northton. We were that is my brother & sisters were christened there, after Sunday school Renee Edith and myself thought it would be <sup>parents</sup> nice to go to Putney where they lived, out of Sunday school, then for the long walk to Putney I remember the house was quite near Battersea.

Dogs Home when we arrived at the house R & E parents were all dressed to go out to lunch, which was the reason why the girls came to stay with their grandmother. Mr & Mrs. Jones were very cross with us and could not believe we had walked all that way, we were given a drink then we all got in the side-car he had a big Matchless - Motor Bike and brought back home, my parents were very cross with me for doing such a thing, and being so late for Sunday lunch. I enjoyed the walk and seeing Battersea Dog Home, I have always been very interested in animals and Natural History. I had never been so far away from home before so I took notice of lots of things it was quite an adventure: even if I



was too tired to eat my dinner  
I might tell you I never went on  
such walks again, without first  
asking mother if I could go, our  
parents must have been worried  
out of their lives. My days were  
spent going across the road to  
school. Bonner Hill School playing  
with my brother & sister and gardening  
we each had a plot of our own, and  
a big patch where veg. were grown  
at week-ends it was our jobs  
to dig this ready for planting  
and I remember my mother  
must have put halfpennies in it  
as we found quite a few, no wonder  
she use to say "you never know  
what you will find when digging."  
On Sunday was a busy morning  
for my father, people use to bring  
little puppies to have their tails  
cut, I was terrified to look  
until dad said it did not

hurt them. I put my hands over my eyes and peeped dad fondly held them and do you <sup>know</sup> what I saw, he bit them off, and the puppies use to lick him when it was done, he was quite right he never hurt them. First time I went to his forge I was afraid to go in because of big horses waiting to be shod, or anything else my dad had to do to them. I was fascinated by all the different sizes of <sup>these</sup> shoes dad had round on the wall, when the horses were not there, other jobs had to be done such as making the big <sup>iron</sup> kegs for wheels repairing iron gates, when he was working at Hampton Court Palace where his forge was, the building is still there, doors bricked up now. The beautiful gates in the Palace have many parts repaired and made in his forge by his clever hands. He use to get to work



at 4-30 in the morning walking to work, no <sup>transport</sup> in those days and at that time, on one occasion he was nearly there yet, to the big wall that surrounds the corner of the gardens in the Palace opposite H.C. 6 when a tramp asked him for some money to buy something to eat, he said I havint any money to give you but I will share my breakfast with you, mother always packed him a good breakfast, the tramp took it, no thanks, ~~dad~~ thought what an ungrateful man, while these thoughts were with him dad turned round and he saw the tramp throw <sup>his</sup> dad's breakfast over this high wall, dad ran and caught him, and said you can go and get my breakfast back, and threw him over the wall and waited, a policeman came round the corner and wanted to know what the trouble was, dad told him the policeman replying "I would have done the same Walter, the ungrateful — dad was

well known for his kindness, besides  
by the time breakfast time was ready  
my dad had done a few hours hard  
work, and must have been able to eat  
twice the breakfast mum could put  
him up, when he was at home for  
breakfast he use to have 2lb Rump Steak,  
After a few years dad thought he  
would sell his Forge as horses were  
going off the roads, and my brother did  
not seem they wanted to carry on like  
dad perhaps he told them it was a  
dead trade. When I was 10 I had  
a new sister Gwen born in Somerset Rd  
she was born at home, in those days not  
many babies were born in hospital.  
A midwife came, my sister was the last  
baby she delivered, she retired the  
same week, <sup>she</sup> was quite old, she use to wear  
a cloak and cap tied under her chin,  
and suffered with her back owing to  
the 100's of babies she had brought  
into the world I should think..



Before I left for school I went to say good-bye to mother, I knocked on her bedroom door and went in to find the midwife on the bed, and my mother rubbing her back with some maumie stuff (Methylated spirit this is how I thought babies were born. When my little sister was 2 years old we moved into "The Bricklayers Arms, Norbiton Surrey, my dad sold his business and bought the Public House, my sister Connie was bar-maid; Mr. Pollard the Pot-man who lived in and dad ran the house. when he applied for his license he was told ~~what~~ a fine character he had, and a fine physique. dont think you will have any bottles, in those days you had to be strong in case of trouble, only once did I see my father open the double doors in the public bar get hold of a man and throw him out, no more trouble after that, he was loved and respected by all his customers, we stayed about 6 yrs.

by this time ~~the~~ mother had had enough, she just hated it, she said it was not a fit place to bring up children in, by now we had a new brother Richard on the day he was born June 10th on a Sunday, early in the morning my sister Connie who was 20 years old told me to get my sister Gwen dressed and go with her and my brother Walter to Connie boy friends mother in New Malden, another long walk pushing Gwen in the pram she was just 2 yrs old 2 days. We were asked how our mother was, I said she was in bed not well (I thought) I was 13 yrs old and did not know anything about babies, we were ask to stay to dinner (I think it must have been all arranged) we stayed to tea, then the walk home for little sister nexted feed. I took her 2 o'clock feed with me, we got home about 5 o'clock. I was very worried wanting to see mother who was still in bed. Walter and myself went up stairs, Connie fed Gwen, we knocked on



the door and my brother William let us in, we saw mother in bed, and tucked under the bed-clothes was a beautiful baby boy  $10\frac{1}{2}$  lbs born and his name was going to be Richard George. My brother William sat by mother's side all the time telling us not to make any noise or touch the baby, mother showed us our new brother and let us kiss him, she gave us a kiss and told us to get to bed, poor mother she had a rough time she was over forty, my brother sat with her every moment he could. I don't say he was old enough to know mother wanted someone with her, dad and Connie were busy in the bar, pubs were open from 10 in the morning till 2-30, then again at 6-1030 mother got well, I had my baby brother to look after most of the time when I was not at school. When my brother was 2 yrs old my father could see mother did not like the public house, it was making her ill so he sold it, we were

sent to Auntie Nell (the one who came when we had Flu) in Milton Rd Hampton while mother & father stayed on in the B. Arms for 6 weeks to see the other people in as the saying is. While Walter, Gwen & baby Richard and myself were at Auntie I had the job of looking after them, I was 14 yrs old now left school owing to moving from Kingston to Hampton. For 6 weeks I was taking mother's place and looking after my little sister & baby brother during this time baby Richard caught Whooping Cough I nursed and looked after him all the time, taking him out in his pram each day. Auntie Nell said I should take him to the other side of the river (Thames) another long walk from Hampton to Molesey, I was to pack some sandwiches and a Thermos of Milk for the baby (he was not quite 2 yrs old) and I stowed out all day with him. Auntie Nell had our meal



23.  
ready when we got home, after we  
had our meal I use to wash Gwen  
and bath Richard and put them to  
bed, in the evening I use to sit in  
with Auntie Nell and she use to  
tell me things to make me laugh,  
she had two daughters single living  
at home, Nellie and Eva, they were  
very smart and I use to watch  
with open eyes as they made up  
their ~~faces~~ <sup>faces</sup> and got dressed in  
their smart clothes when they  
went out to meet their boy  
friends, and wondered if when I  
was their age I would be able  
to do the same. My father was  
out of a job when the 6 weeks  
was up, so mother came to Auntie  
(her sister) with us, and my father  
stayed just round the corner  
with Babba his mother, in a few

weeks he had got a job on the 24.  
Orient Line as a Master-at-Arms  
the boat use to travel to Australia  
and back, he looked very smart in  
his uniform, and on his return  
home he use to bring mother and  
myself nice presents' Connie was  
married and my sister Gwen was  
10 years younger than me that's  
why I got presents because dad  
said I was a good girl keeping  
mother company while he was  
away from home. When dad  
went on his first trip I got  
myself a job at Hall's motor  
accessories in Old Field Lane Hampton  
I worked in the stores department  
as a book keeper, it was my first  
job and I liked it very much  
and was told I worked very well.

On dad's return from his first  
trip I was indeed having my lunch in my  
lunch hour from work after lunch



I was getting ready to go back to work when  
and I said, 'I've come to your room, and what  
and the other day when I was young, and what  
do you do when I get home? He said I will come  
with you so you don't get a daughter to mine  
working in a factory, I will explain to the manager  
so don't worry, instead of going to my place I  
will go to work with the manager of the factory  
and all was settled in no time. My wife advised  
I felt a little bit sad in one way, but very  
proud to think my father had a lot of me  
and wanted something better for me, and said  
I could have some time at home with mother  
before I found another job.

I was very fond of children I had  
a lot of experience looking after my sister, Gwen  
and baby, brother Richard. When I was 12 1/2 I  
started as a nurse-maid to a dear little baby girl  
named Pamela. Her mother was so pleased with  
how I looked after the baby, by the time I was 15 I  
did everything for her and her mother. I was leaving  
Pamela's new father had moved to look after  
was in attendance at his birth with Dr. Woodhouse  
and a nurse from a London Hospital. Miss Price, who  
gave me instructions and I carried them out even to  
getting the little baby's nursery well and putting  
the little bed after I took my mother she was  
checked saying I have had 10 children and have never

been seen one, you have seen and some more than me.  
I was very proud of my father and when I was out  
with him I was after the best of I was waiting a  
bit before just to let them know. During to my work  
I brought up the children I had a thank-down and  
was in bed for weeks. ~~My~~ my parents were  
wonderful, one day a man called from the Army, New  
Spain in London with a message for me. I was  
brought it up to my bedroom and we opened it  
together, it was full of good news. I was  
and a little note from Lady Shackleton. The note  
was from E. Shackleton. I did not know her at all  
but had heard of her she lived in a Grace's  
Flower apartment in Hampton - Court - Palace  
where my father was then working as a waiter  
in the Palace. When my father came home from  
work I told him about the message and the  
note, I said only as to S. so good to me, she  
does not know me, my father said when I  
see her I will give her your message, I sent  
her a thank-you letter and in return to my  
message she sent me a letter back with my dear  
Dear Miss Watson, you ask why I am so good to you,  
the reason being, you have such a wonderful  
father. Well now you know for what a very proud  
daughter I am. The message arrived every  
week and I was ever made a member of the

2) When I got well my first visit out was to W.C.P. to the wife. Early about 1922 very busy making  
and a person for appointment was very grand 3 weeks. The youngest son Edward was born -  
Shackleton was on an expedition and for a treat for Jim. He got Henry for the Band  
Leader of the Day through to make a gramophone records to be played on the radio on Xmas day. She patron  
the record for me to hear. We had a lovely tea, she showed me over the whole place, and took me to  
her daughter Cecily. She was in her garden in a part of the palace grounds near the knot garden.  
Her daughter John took me home after a very delightful afternoon. I remained a friend of her  
family. I visited her death, my father said myself had a visit to her funeral service in the  
Chapel Royal in W.C.P. Place we sadly missed her. She was a wonderful person and I felt very  
honoured to have known her. She was a lady by name and nature. I remember one of the park  
keepers had his hat and his wife could not get work. My daughter for him. I got to know of this  
and she visited him 3 times every Xmas. How my father got to know X.D. was one day  
he was on duty in one of the rooms in the palace over looking the King's garden. He was standing in  
front of the window towards behind his back, when he heard a thud. He looked to his right  
where he saw a lady on the floor. He went to her, called for someone to help him move her. After  
all it was in the apartment where the public walk, he did know who she was, well after a few minutes  
some one said it was X.D., my father went down to her apartment to tell her family. Her son and  
my father got her in her room. In the afternoon a message came to my father about her call in  
to see her looking on his way home, then he did, she thanked him very much so did her 2 sons and daughter  
and they explained what happened when X.S. saw my father standing there she thought it was  
her husband (ghost) that why she fainter, and when she saw the family. X.S. saw my father he  
could have been dirt. Available. From that day my father was a friend of the whole family  
and continued to till her death. He had 2 drinks and my father see to go and visit her every  
day, message her son and hand what had no use in it any longer. She got the use of it so she could  
write to her son Lord Shackleton who was away on an expedition. His travels began started for years.  
My father missed her so much, he was a very educated man, read Shakespeare and very interesting  
company. I told me so often what a wonderful man he was. I think he was very good of him.



13  
I'm sorry to hear of the death of your father. I was this to my father one day Paul & I think T.S. is very fond of you. He said so many times she is fond of a memory. The family were so grateful to my father for all his business towards them mother. Her father was very ill. All Miss Elizabeth's family from her mother who had visited H.C.P. (after the death of her mother T.S. the family are no longer allowed to live in the Palace so now I was living in London) she was told the doctor was very ill when she returned home to Mrs S this was on the Friday 7 May 1940. On Sat the next day at 9 o'clock a knock at the back door, I opened it and who should be standing there but Miss C. She said I have just heard her grandfather is ill may I see him. I said I am sorry you are not to call he has just died, she turned round went in the garden and picked a bunch of forget-me-nots, walked into the bedroom fell on my father's chest and put the flowers in his hands. She must have been very upset indeed. The family wrote a wonderful letter to my mother, she had a funeral service at St Andrew's Church, where he was Christian and rather had him buried in St Andrew's Cemetery in a grave facing the little village school, and the sexton took me to see to think as a boy, the church was full and also school. He then was Raymond Sheehy the eldest son, following my father to his grave-side so you can tell how the family loved him. When I was ill, Raymond was very ill and I stayed at home with mother helping the local doctor. He used to call at our house in one of his patients were in bed with a new baby, I used to help if any with the children by his patients were ill, or wanted any dressings done. After a while I nursed a Mrs Saunders who lived in a beautiful house with a garden going right down the river. Thomas I nursed her and got her well, she had a fall and cut her arm on the gravel in a garden path. This is why she got this nasty complaint. Mrs Saunders became very fond of me. Mrs T calling me this afternoon about because I was never a nurse. Late 1890s I had met a young man and fell in love, we talked about marriage, my parents liked John very much it was very strange when we found out I was not with my girl friend's father's wife was a nurse maid like me.





expensive to borrow money to fortify it we were to pay the interest on the money we had  
received which worked out at 15% which was lot of money in those days, we managed  
to pay this all through the war, living on our savings and when we could we paid as  
much as we could of the mortgage thinking it off years before the time (made up for lost time)  
John was an artist, he went to Chiswick part of art leaving there just before we were  
married, during the war he did work for studios, designing shops there, art work in  
catalogues I remember he did quite a lot of work on a Knaresborough Bentalls own  
local big store, the drawings were nearly all of jewelry having the articles at home.  
I use to sit in the chair wearing the things while John painted them and feeling  
quite scared when the ack-ack guns went off and wondering what would have  
the things got lost, we had to pin the A. R. P. in the road when on duty when the siren  
came. John and I felt he was doing his bit for the war effort, he was retouching R. A. F. photos  
(secret) all about places that had to be bombed etc. Because we had no family I had to  
do a war job I applied for a job as A. R. P. Gardener at Hampton-Court-Palace ~~etc~~  
started on 11-11-1938. and stayed there for 4 yrs. It was hard work, I use to cycle  
from our house in Harefield to Richmond station, I had the key to the shed where I  
put my bicycle, no one about it was so early 4-30 in the morning. I walked  
to the Red Lion bus stop, caught a trolley bus to Kingston - then to Hampton-Court  
We started work at 5-30 in the summer time the sheds were altered then so  
we had more hours to work. There were 4 ~~small~~ <sup>small</sup> Red gardeners we had a little  
bush near the big glass house where the farmers line is. One of us worked the  
on duty each morning cooking breakfast, we had turn to do this I learnt quite  
a lot just watching the old gardeners (who were to old for war) they would not tell

By your way then I passed the other from today, and you reply was "don't give my name" I don't know what information you  
giving me nearly as that other I took me right on 10 yrs to ~~from~~ "that information"  
We had the press there one whole day taking photos of us working we asked what was it  
for ~~work~~ was told the photo will be in books etc telling the people abroad what the women  
were doing, most as taking a man pt on while he was at war.  
During this time our home was bombed it was on the 9th Sept. 1940 at 5-55 in the  
evening it was I remember very funny the bomb had gone, John was up a ladder doing  
something to a bedroom window, I pleaded with him to come down because I knew  
the planes use to come down then to make it get down from the ladder  
we looked up in the sky and saw planes, no direct in the cupboard under  
the stairs which we had made as a cover when raids were on, we had  
taken some of the floor boards up so we could put our legs down  
and put out there till the raids were over, we use to get a lot of  
raids, because we were in a direct air route to London the plane  
use to take them coming from the river Thames. The raid was very  
frightening the noise was so loud we did not fear the bombs, only the  
darkness being thrown over I was terrified at the time, on getting out  
of the cupboard my clothes were torn, no buttons on my dress. I remember  
John pushed me in the dining room near the wall and says stay there  
I am going to see if I can find our next door neighbor  
then went back for Remington's gun, it stayed there for some time, when



39. We passed a narrow canyon you thought it there we all said yes, great snow only  
no reason ~~to go~~ but I did was to dust a lead finally we got in  
made. I did not know what I was doing because I put it outside in the  
order that there is many stages because we had to all go down to the creek  
for shelter before I went ahead and to do quickly because some time back had  
been dropped the road made and me to go down to the bottom of the pass  
to see if there were any heaps of wet clay, I came back telling them there  
was he said we must get the B. Dispersed in at once. So we left our poor  
dances and saw a few more coming home from work, he said where else  
the horse fell I said about worry, your horse is alright. I did not know  
there was his one falling in his horse falling his dear wife. All the horses  
were new and we were all married about put over a year it was all very  
bad. We stayed in the church all night I spent most of my time looking after  
the babies who had been put to bed on tables when I first when in this room  
all I could see was little white bundles on table tops. I thought they were  
dead being killed in the road thank goodness they were alright and  
sleeping I made feeds for them in the flat opposite in the Deacons  
kitchen and taking them over to the babies mother so they could feed them.  
One of my kids there was a big bang it was one of the time forks  
(delayed action) it sent a gas man alright we were sitting target  
men, thank goodness we were alright and all was well.

We were not allowed to go back to our house. This word was repeated off John and I were sent to the many closed outdoor sphere we stayed with the vicar. Jess, family after a few days, we thought we must try and get back to keep an eye on our home, our friend Steve who lived in a burglar's at the bottom of our garden said we could live with her as she had plenty of room. This we did, and was able to keep an eye on things. One day we were sitting in her sitting room, when I saw two men go on the dining room. Hearing no doors or windows it was easy for them to get in to see why they were there. I quickly ran down the garden, not bother climbing fence they were all within vision. I asked them what they were doing with the window set, they replied we are taking staining for repairing the owner have asked us to. I said put that down as well or I shall call the police. I am the owner. They soon fled. We never had any more bother, one in a few weeks all our home what was left of it was collected and stored in a big house in Epson, their houses were all ready for this sort of thing during the war, the house was boarded up and made weather proof. We were very glad to leave our new home, but glad it was safe for this time being, no went to John's parents who lived in Swatburg they had four bedrooms only the two of them there, had we not gone there they would have had someone among one having rooms to spare food to take in people who had become homeless owing to the war.



35/ My father was a doctor of strength. At me at this time he came over to help  
clearing the mess, fighting all the way from H.C. Palace when he worked as a  
bomber he had been on night work, (only during the hours of the war) the Palace had  
to be watched over at night they had several incendiary bombs when he got  
to ~~his~~ our bombed house he was told we were at 11-12 days done, he came on  
to the church, I don't mind one or two of us broke down and cried. He was  
very sympathetic, kissing us and saying he knew when you don't give up, this is what  
Hitler wants to do to us all, we will show him what we are made of, and as you  
know this helped us all, and we felt better for this little pep talk. I think  
dad being a soldier for 25 yrs knew what he was talking about. When he  
volunteered for war work other than his job at the Palace, he was told he was too  
old for regular service he was 58 so he helped train the militia at the local  
Bull Hall and other A.R.P. work, he was a very good man when told he was too  
old for the army, saying the only army I am fit for is the National Army.  
During all this time he was working as a gardener at H.C.P. by the time my  
young niece Dora was starting to go in one of the services and asked me if I  
would help and help her do so, I knew she was to go in for the army so  
I took her to sign on for the "Land Army" because she was too young for this. She

15  
was 20 years and paying Quaker do help me I am sure you can do something  
I did I put 2 yrs in to her age and she was at 45 in the Royal Green Regiment  
detached in Glulphind as a cook she enjoyed her new life very much going east  
Germany France and last of all with the Wurmberg Troop in Germany My brother  
Wally was in the 1st Grenadier East Surrey one day ~~we were~~ my mother and myself were at  
the cinema during the week a photo came on the screen with all Grenadiers please report a  
dear father was at the front down seeing my brother up to pass dead road to us  
When I was at war I didn't even believe I would live to see the day I saw my own son  
off to war. God help us. When next I saw my brother it was on a Sunday afternoon I was  
trying to get our horse in order after the bombing, the council had made it habitable  
(fruit and repairs) when I saw my brother walking down the road, he said I can't stop -  
long time, things you are nearer to where I am stationed! He could not tell me when because  
of the war I have you any hot water because I would like a bath, I have not had  
my clothes off for weeks, he had a bath calling - how you any socks of socks, yes I saw  
then he was off leaving his socks near the dustbin, when I saw them the saying  
went through my mind, and his socks stood up. After about 1 1/2 yrs we were bombed  
for the second time (Flying bomb) 6 buildings down and many houses damaged  
we were out of the house at the time, the damage was terrible. Remember all the  
problems came were here of houses, and a neighbour's chickens were running



20  
about seven letters, written on our parents again. My parents being at Houghton was  
as you know both at Suckling on visiting my parents one day a road was on - the  
all day I could not wait any longer as I had to get home to get - for my mother  
mother was with me, we walked to the house when we got to Kempton Park where  
the prisoners of war were, it was very dark early, as it was winter and no  
street lights or any house lights owing to the black-out, when all of a  
sudden a car wheel stepped out in front of me. Halt who was there I was so  
shocked I did not even step. I ran on and said "Oh you silly fool you did  
frighten me, my mother-in-law who was behind me said as she passed the soldier  
was laughing her head off. On another occasion John Mum and myself were writing  
my parents, this time there was a thick fog, a rain was on all day, owing to the  
weather the planes were down, when again at K. Park a plane came so low that  
the fence down round the park and 2 fighter Spitfires collected and the  
planes made a circle for the airman who were killed, they were the pilot's  
airman who were helping with our war effort, my mother-in-law and myself  
just laid on the wet ground very shocked, we were helped to a shop  
where we were given a cup of sweet tea. My father was ill after a stay in the  
Hospitals had fine hours as we were told his had not long to live (3 weeks) so help  
my dear mother nurse him I stayed with them both operating this time with his parents  
traveling to London each day in the H.Q. which was a very worrying time so of

It was not to devote all my time nursing my dear father at the same time keeping my dear mother company during that time weeks should like to see the time we had his Reg. medical team in the sitting room what was a great help, no steam to drink, we got on well over pot pie kept dead happy. He was glad to be home by the way he had no idea what was wrong with him. I told him he had Anger's. The truth was he had cancer of lung. I was told my the doctor what to do by the way, in all the three weeks I did not have to give him over good seemed to very near me during this very sad time. I really thought the doctor would be wrong and he wasn't going to die. As I have said he had a wonderful baritone voice I use to love his radio on, it was so strong I think we heard him as nearly all the songs he use to sing, this gave him joy, I use to sit by the bed holding his hand, and when he heard the nurse he use to squeeze my hand and say how lovely to hear his songs. I never left my father during this time, I use to do everything for him, mother cooking our meals, and all the making she liked his bed changed each day, she said I don't mind the work if you look after dad I had some quiet a bit of running, and I liked it very much, the district nurse came in once, and dad said to her thank you for calling but I have got my nurse she looked at me then dad said yes she is my nurse and guardian angel. When dad had visitors I use to warn them not to look checked when they went in to see him, he had lost a lot of weight he did not see his face because I shaved him, first time I had shaved a man. Well the days went by I never left dad only to wash, change my clothes I sat with him night and day, I had a comfortable arm chair man put for me. One day my eldest son came all told me to go upstairs and try and



35) opt some sleep I had tried got up soon after my sister called. I had wanted you when I go to the room. This desk on his face was enough. He only wanted me. He said I managed better. That was the first & last time I never left him again. The doctor came every day. He said to mother, "nurses are happening in there I can't make it out." He is not having tablets or pain I can't make it out a few days before dad died. He couldn't pass water so I should get with hot water bottles and plenty of fluid because I did not want the doctor to take it from him. As he said he would have to in the morning, when he came. I presented the doctor with the sample. He said nothing, but we did not have to go through that. The air raid were on each day when the noise got too bad I use to go in a big cupboard. Mother had some a shelter, not the 3 weeks dad was ill. I am sure I was given something <sup>from above</sup> as I was not afraid, I put out with dad. I wonder if this had something to do with being a 7th child of a 7th child. My dear father passed away on the 8th May. He had five boys & 6 next in line were to see him.

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3) After my dad passed away we stayed with my other John coming over from his mother's. My father was so with himself we had to be of this to write the funeral was a real very good occasion. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack. I felt I could not attend after my weeks of looking after him and hoping for one of those miracles happening. I was very tired, and the doctor gave me a lecture. I pulled myself together and with the help of all my family I got in the car with my father's suitcase on our long journey to the church at Newry, Dundrum. Now we had mother to look after as we knew dad would have wanted they had been very good of one another and we have very well from the world miss him. He had been a lover of strength to us all. Time passed and healed, the war was at an end, a day or two after my dad died I had a dream, in the morning I put on the radio it announced this morning we invaded France my dream was ships on the sea in the dark, they were all camouflaged and in the sky was a big angel and a bright light and the face of the angel was dead. He is an ~~one dead~~ <sup>one dead</sup> was there in spirit. He had ~~wished~~ <sup>shown</sup> the whole of the war, and battles etc, he would he had been a soldier for 25 yrs I know everything would be alright with my dad at the helm. After the war was over and England rattled down, we were back in our house again we thought we would like a family after 9 yrs of mourning we were blessed with a son R. John born April 20th weight 7lbs 10oz a beautiful boy. He was beautiful, at last my dad would have come true he said just before he died that I should be blessed with a child.





At Peter's things all over the house. As Richard was growing up about 3 yrs old -  
~~we~~ we thought about having a brother for him I went to see my doctor the same one  
who brought Richard into the world whether it was alright for me to have another  
baby. I was 34 yrs old when I had Richard and labor was very prolonged, doctor saved everything  
and so on. Just I don't think you will have to wait so long as you did for Richard or what you  
3 yrs with 2 kids Jonathan was born a brother for Richard right 10. Says a beautiful baby Richard  
know all about the baby coming I think him as soon as I knew he was very interested in it all and  
asked endless questions and I was answering them as far as I could. He helped me get ready for  
the baby to give all the things from the his bedroom for his baby. Whether he did not think of a  
girl. Richard had even given the name Jonathan, one day when he was going to see and check  
the midwife, the baby was going to be born at home, we had to pass the local Cinema showing at  
the time was a film "My Brother Jonathan" Richard asked if we could not look at the picture  
outside, we walked up steps and he tried to read the notice, I help him say "M. B. J." He said  
that what I am going to call my new brother and Jonathan it had to be. When the baby was  
born Richard came into the bedroom and asked the doctor one question. Doctor how did you  
get my brother out of my mummy's tummy, the doctor looked at me, smiled and said you will  
have to ask mummy, poor Richard he did not ask me because I had already told him when he  
asked me the same question. I said I did not know, because when the doctor gave a big kick in  
was the time to send up the doctor, then he would give me something nice to eat and would go to  
sleep when I woke up the baby would be born. He accepted all what I told him, and was  
hoping the doctor would tell him. Richard was very happy he was to help the mummy, putting the scales  
upstairs in a cold water to wash, coming in to me saying how cold water get all the stains out. He was a  
tiny little he, I'd was loving watching him, he walked to the little brother and mummy because of  
him and was concerned when Jonathan cried. He came to the bedside and whispered what is the  
matter with Jonathan mummy, he makes so long for him now he is here he cry a lot. Now in family so excited  
we were very happy I get home too long just what I wanted.



At last the boys grow up and the happy time of my married life is over. I could have it all over again. Richard was very pleased with his brother, he loved him. He was the only one who loved him and wanted to know so many things. We had a very close relationship. He always asked me the questions, perhaps I explained things and made it all interesting. I always thought he would be a doctor or a vet. He was like me, passionately fond of books and animals. When Jonathan was about 2, Richard put over 3, our days were full of living the life of a vet. I often one appeared on my rabbit. Richard being my rabbit, Jonathan - (Frederick) (Wedgwood) Daddy there was always away working. Daddy worked in London so this was alright and me I was Red squirrel. From the time we got up that best time we loved the story. Grey Rabbit going down the garden pickingandelion leaves for our lunch. He use to work there and we use to eat them with lemon juice or they were delicious. One day we were in the butchers shop when Richard saw a rabbit tail on the counter, he asked if the butcher would let him have it, I said why don't you ask him. Please Mr. Butcher, may I have the rabbit's tail so my mum could see it on my dinner. Then I shall be just like my rabbit. This I did I think the tail stayed on till the dinner was over and he still has the tail to this day. My sons were never bored our days were not long enough. My training was excellent when I was five the boys were fed every 4 hours with milk. They were weaned Richard being a breast feed baby for 9 months. Jonathan breast feed for 3 months I put him on solid food because he took 2 teeth at 3 months. He was a big baby. He remembers he was 10th the firm. We use to give fruit and veg in the garden, no tin food for my babies, bones cooked with veg and potatoes. Peel or weed cut up put in a stone jar and put in the oven till all the goodness has been ready about 4 hours when it was cold it was a thick jelly. I think the

My going outdoors has in only one thinging up the birds with all the modern  
equipment they have now. Both Jim and I are very interested in Natural History so the boys  
spent some time with us collecting insects, butterflies, rats, fossils and wild flowers.  
I watching birds and animals so our days were full of interests. We all enjoyed  
ourselves. We use to walk miles, spend hours on public transport all well loaded with  
our equipment and plenty of food and drinks, with seldom any colds, no central  
heating in our house and having plenty of fresh air and exercise. We were very fit.  
Richard was 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  before he started, owing them being born in the 60s so it was told.  
He was very happy at school, local council district secondary modern. He got on well with  
teachers & pupils. He had so much to write and talk about after our week-ends, when  
he was about 9 or 10. John brought a 4-birth caravan brand new when we had delivered  
to the site. The paint was still not dry. We had it on a site, till we could get it on  
a private site in Sussex. The land was 7 acres of unspoilt ground just left for nature  
to take over, we kept the plot we had, ~~but~~ just like we would keep our own garden  
we use to spend all week-ends and school holidays down there, we had everything we  
wanted gas, and electric, full gas stove with oven, a toilet, fuel tank, toilet, we did not let  
it out to anyone, so we had a home in the country to do just as we liked. The boys  
learned all about nature, some days we use to walk round Doyham Heath (nature reserve)  
looking for dead sea birds, we use to bring all our finds home to the van, Richard was  
very keen to have a collection of some specimens of birds. He use to bleed them,  
dry them and mount them on a sheet of paper. They looked beautiful.  
On still evenings we use to begin this is painting a picture of



When we travel and walk round the bank of the river, then walk till it was dark, then with our torches go out in the fields and collect the water beet last collected on the river, bring them back in the van and set them, sometimes going to bed after a good supper quite late. In the morning the boys finishing the pt, while I cooked breakfast. Some nights we would put on all the lights and just sit in the van with all the windows and I doors open and let the water insects come into us, it was all very interesting. The sort of life went on, all the time the boys were at school and it never interfered with their school work just the reverse it helped them, when Richard was 16 yrs old he got 13 O levels then on to Swell took taking 3 A levels, Physics, Chemistry & Zoology then on to Queen Mary College, Lond. for his B.Sc. degree in Zoology <sup>Central Inst</sup> going on doing a Ph.D. studying the Cosmochelid eyes for 3 yrs, now working at Overseas Pest Research. Kensington we are very proud of him. Jonathan taking at 16 yrs 7 O levels, 3 A levels Chemistry, Zoology, Geology, getting his B.Sc. degree in Geology working now in Glasgow National History <sup>Planning</sup> Dept. Entomology Dept. As all the forms of studying nature must have helped them. We had a lovely surprise when Richard brought his thesis home to show us, on opening some we read not for you <sup>it had not been written if it had not been for my parents</sup> encouraging me interested in Natural History when I was a small boy and have helped and read that, Richard said well sum up all that. Jonathan is an expert on Coleoptera. He has a wonderful collection insects about them. has received P.W. Crisp. the Dumetia Entomologist Society. A Coleopterist Handbook 2nd Edition Revised 1975 by J. COOPER. P.W. Crisp. He collected for the G.M.H. Museum so what our sons did with us when small boys they are still doing it but in a scientific way.

The boys are both married Richard has a little son Stephen was born on  
the 13th May 1948 our first grandson. I was 63 yrs old when he came.  
I was beginning to think I was never going to be Norma's father children  
we don't see from very often when he is older I hope we shall have  
him stay with us, so we will be able to take him out for nature walks  
often we see to do with his daddys, uncle's penmanship how the years  
have flown, but what joy watching our two dear sons growing up  
I feel a bit sad when I hear how some children don't have the  
life our sons had, we were a very interesting family the only regret  
I have is the time went too quickly, I heard a little boy say to his  
mummy when he saw my basket of veg. mummy I thought that grew in time  
I am pleased we had a nice garden where we grew veg. fruit for the  
family nothing like fresh food for growing children. I am hoping  
grandson will soon start a family, thank goodness I have a nice  
wife has two charming children Stuart, Kyrilin they give us much  
joy, we see them nearly every Sat. John and myrtle walk through  
Home Park into the Palace grounds where I spent nearly all the  
week years ago, my grandpa, calling on my mother William and sister  
in law Maudie where we see their grand children, and we stay to  
see William in the Department of the Queen's Collection in A.C.P. He has  
been given by the Queen the very lovely medal which John needed



and H. V. O. I would have many of it in staff have had three models presented to them in his picture year. I don't know if both you my husband Jim is a artist-designer. He operated in stamp designing & met Jim as you know when I was about 19 yrs old. He was educated at Charming ~~High~~ <sup>High</sup> Learning when he was 20 yrs old. He worked in Korolet as a Commercial Artist then in 1935 time he started on his own, we had the garage made into a studio for him to work in, he does wonderful work depicting things of interest on the stamps, such as various insects, butterflies, animals, artifacts, crucifixes, coins, shells, flowers, trees, etc, etc, all for the commemorative, he has never been out of a job, he works very hard though he is of retirement age. He is not going to do so yet, why should he when he is so happy designing all the lovely stamps. Now the boys are married we have become vegetarians Jim has never been fond of meat so we please ourselves now, we enjoy this way of living, the meals are delicious, I like cooking and am thinking of writing a recipe book. I like to serve different meals each day, its surprising what I make one has to have a phone for it. I try to have fresh food and water as soon as it is cooked. I make all my own soap, shampoos, lotions. When he is designing I am in the kitchen doing the same with food when I was a school girl I was a cake-maker for the top girl for cooking so now I have more time for it. I just love it, turning out new dishes.

43 At the time in my life at school I always wanted to be a vet or doctor and always  
led by my domestic science teacher I would be a good all rounder. At the time we  
she would this I did not know what she meant I know now I have been  
interested in so much and always getting my heart into everything I did I  
always remember my teacher use to say all her husband's best work  
me to read and now I read to matter I don't know how William like me and from  
her husband's shirt making saying she knows you will do them as good as she can  
I use to help my married cousin in his clothing after her little boy Kenneth my  
second cousin I had twelve, one day when my cousin was visiting Baltha (our gramma)  
she told her I was at her home looking after Kenneth when I got food Dime so  
young she even the shirt, Baltha was wonderful and said you should be advanced to  
let work a young girl's own shirt, I did them and when Baltha saw them she  
was pleased with what she saw, the next time I saw her she said what a clever  
girl! was do even the shirt so beautifully. Mother use to say Dime will always make  
a good job of anything she does. I don't know if this was a good thing or not  
as I was always doing things for someone then, and even advise. It was all to do  
with having such good parents I think both men and dad were good at doing most  
things, Mother was a very good housewife mother a very good cook. Dad was a man  
of many parts. At sixteen he was in the south African War then all through the 1914  
war: ~~was~~ working with civil defence training people for the war effort. He was  
a very brave man, he never once went in a car road while it was to say  
why don't you, my dear if Hitler had his name on a truck for me I shall  
get it where ever I am. I often wished I could be so brave - but  
I don't feel been a soldier, so I didn't feel so bad about it.



# He use to say we were to take 'em off for good in 1944.  
I think he felt out of it not being a soldier, remember he had  
been in the army for 25 yrs and being at home seeing all the women  
and children suffer. This made him very sad. He sent my mother and  
over to Green my youngest sister away to Auntie Edith in Yorkshire, because  
one night a big bomb fell near the house, we lived quite near  
the met water works so that was a sitting target. When mother was  
away I use to go to see him, walking about 2 miles. I was very  
surprised one day he had cleared the dresser of all the china  
only leaving 1 cup, saucer (tea - dinner) 1 glass I said what  
has ever happened to my dresser while mother is away I am  
only having the things I want for myself, no rug on the floor  
~~either~~ got none was not there she would have been very cross  
seeing it like this, he seemed content in the home and  
liked all the work it must be dad did not mind looking  
after himself! but said during processing things was not  
for him! He used to get like an army horse. He just  
smiled. Mum was not angry long she came home hands on not  
it was the first time she had left dad so we understood.

During all this time my prisoner brother Wally was an active servant  
we did not know where, he was to stay in England training soldiers he  
was like dad a R.S.M. he asked dad what he ~~he~~ do dad to get  
over seas all my matter have gone. I want to have a crack at  
the enemy dad advised him, saying the only way you  
can go is throw in your stripes but knowing you you will  
soon get them back, this he did that's why we did not know when  
he was. Time went on, mother was so worried about my brother  
in the end dad wrote to Wally's commanding officer, a reply came  
back telling dad what he wanted to know. He was on the high sea  
dad knew what this meant, this seemed to stop us all from  
wondering what was happening, he went all through the war, ended  
up in India, where he was demitted, he put in for a job in Hong-Kong  
Revenue Inspector this he got out of many who put in for the job.  
Including high ranking officers, being a R.S.M. yes he soon got his stripes  
back, he was like dad a honest, upright man with a good  
character. Wally stayed in Hong for his retirement after 20 or 25 yrs



By working R I got close, we would have loved him to have come  
back home but his doctor told him the climate here would kill  
him. After living in Hk for all those years his wife Theresa was in  
full agreement with him so they moved to Perth Western Australia  
where he still lives. He has been home to see us and hopes to  
come again. He sent his wife home to stay with us for about 3 yrs  
while they were in Hk. He estimate her - regarding domestic  
thinking his wife Anne (that one) would do a good job and thank  
her well. I am afraid I was unable to do this, she was 30 yrs old  
all her life she had been waited on, she was unable to do anything  
regarding house-work jobs. We met her at Wilbur my little sons  
and husband waited for the boat to come in, we did not know her,  
only seen a photo of her, my brother wrote to say his friend, one of  
his staff, would be with her well when we looked up at the boat and  
now all those chosen faces I was thinking - I shall never recognize  
her, then I saw her eyes I was certain of it, I waved she waved  
back and I did not take my eyes from her, we waited for  
her to come through customs, nearly the last one because of her

51) Being Victorian I did not know of  
the way so pleasant to see us and made  
most known us for English was not too  
called them babies, they were about 10 yrs  
talking to W. Astor, then on to Mrs. Lehigh,  
of all the big cases and boxes. To her we  
up the stairs, shocked, arrived, came down  
of ourselves this will be spin home while you are in England, she said  
I could not stay if I did not like it, I began to wonder how she would  
settle down in our home. I did not know anything about her, only my brother  
saying he thought, and hoped she would learn a lot living with  
happy English family. Her first meal was cold roast chicken, salad, new  
potatoes etc. John came and gave Theresa the breast of the bird, what one  
dishes for visitors she at once said she liked from next so she had the  
legs, she finished her meal, went into the sitting room sat and watched  
T.W. then got ready for bed, she wanted me all the time I got her  
settled in bed said good night she asked me if I would look her  
bedroom down I tried to explain we did not lock our bedroom

some strength either in Alphabetical order.  
Thank God I had seen her, she would  
had she had to Richard, Jonathan and  
10 yrs grand old we caught the train from  
arrived home my sister-in-law plus  
arrived home and said to me "if I will stay  
of ourselves this will be spin home while you are in England, she said  
I could not stay if I did not like it, I began to wonder how she would  
settle down in our home. I did not know anything about her, only my brother  
saying he thought, and hoped she would learn a lot living with  
happy English family. Her first meal was cold roast chicken, salad, new  
potatoes etc. John came and gave Theresa the breast of the bird, what one  
dishes for visitors she at once said she liked from next so she had the  
legs, she finished her meal, went into the sitting room sat and watched  
T.W. then got ready for bed, she wanted me all the time I got her  
settled in bed said good night she asked me if I would look her  
bedroom down I tried to explain we did not lock our bedroom



57) When saying she would be alright, no harm would come to her with our  
provisions - I guess what she was afraid of in the morning I took her a cup  
of tea and asked her to sleep ~~at night~~ she said she had a bad night  
because she had not had her event. I said why, the reason was she  
could not undo the button, why don't you ask me, Theresa said 'I am  
used to asking it should have been done for me. I thought my goodness  
what have you done, then I thought she must have servants to do things  
for her. After her breakfast she asked me when do the servants come.  
I told her I did not have servants, she said who does all the work  
washing, and looking after John & the boys, when I told her I did -  
she threw her arms above her head and said 'good God, then  
she asked me to teach her how to do things, then she could help  
me. I felt so sorry for her and tried to help her, but I am afraid  
the only thing she could do by the time she felt to go home to my  
brother in H. Kong was wash-up, only china, make a bed, wash her under-  
clothes and iron a little bit. She traveled to London each day when  
she was studying English at the Belleg School of Languages, she got on  
very well with her English more at her letters than the spoken English.

53 The studies found, I felt very sorry for her she must have missed so many things during with us, one thing she was not use to was showing anyone bathroom I learnt this a few weeks after her arrival, the Nurse was talking to my nurse Jean and she told her she was not use to showing a bathroom with anyone and her she worked on bathroom for her a pink bath, hair, and some use a very comfortable but not what Theresa was use to. I found out by reading a book I got from the local library her father was well known in China, he was murdered by the Japanese in 1930. Theresa never social much about her family and I did not ask as I wanted her to be happy with us, she must have felt it very strange in a foreign country with people she did not know and first time meeting, she told me once she use to go out in the family car and how the windows were bullet proof, one of her brothers lived with General Chang, his wife when she married my brother her brother had to give his consent, she was very fond of me, visited on me at meal times, always waiting for me to sit to the table so she could hold my chair for me before I sat down. We missed her very much when she went back home to my brother she was in one way it was a load off my shoulder as I use to worry about her when she was in London at school. Back to normal, boys back in their own bedrooms, while Theresa was staying with us Ruckley, Gonatan showed



At a bedroom My brother returned from his job in Hong Kong. Since then my  
Hong Kong) and moved to Perth Western Australia where they still live. There is very  
happy there the climate suits them, they were coming home to the UK but was  
advised by my brother's doctor the climate here was not suitable after  
all the years they had lived in Hong Kong.

5986  
Spike from between Geneva East Rudland room, John and myself had another bedroom.  
My mother was pleased she had not. Well, not she did soon afterwards. I was not able to  
go home to nurse my dear mother as I had the baby to look after. I use to spend all day  
each week on a job. As for my sister Gwen, she was married a  
year before, it was very hard to get a house and a home together during the time, they  
asked mother if they could make their home with her. Mother was living in 3 bedroom  
house so there was plenty of room for Gwen and her husband Tom and mother was  
pleased to have them since all the family was married and she was dead.  
I use to get over home about 9 o'clock taking Rudland with me, John looking after  
another mother looked all her grand children Rudland being her 13th - 15 in all  
my grand daughter Fannie made milk a great granny. my dear did not live to see  
any of sons, his last words to me were you will be blessed with a child dear some his  
words came true within a year I had my darling little baby Rudland John. I went  
to see my doctor when I thought I might be pregnant this was confirmed the doctor  
telling me the baby would be born on the 8th of May, the year was but for a check  
because this date was when my father died I go before anyway this was not to be, as  
Rudland was 3 weeks premature 20th April, so dear words came true after all, we  
had been married 9 yrs before we were blessed with our first baby. She was  
a joy to us, so good we did not know we had a baby, my previous nursing  
came in very useful and he brought a new joy to nurse, dad would have  
known him he was so fond of children.



When Richard & I arrived home to look after mum while Gwen & Tom went out for the day, we ate to busy ourselves. First thing was to get mum's breakfast. Richard used to get her trays putting the best china etc on it as Granny asked it all was, he used to say! After mum had her breakfast we used to get her out of bed into a armchair, while I changed her bed, gave her a blanket bath and put on a pretty nightdress and bra and comb. Her hair which was still a pretty chestnut colour at the age of 78, she loved being looked after, when she was unable to do it herself this I knew, so I used to give her the full treatment. I carried her now, how she used to smile, lay back on her sweet smelling pillows and say "lovely dear. Richard use to help me tidy the bedroom. He duties and Granny looked watching him, he was so quiet and gentle now. We to call him a little angel and would say, I do believe to well. He a doctor when he grows up, well he did but a doctor of Zoology my father was always looking after animals so who knows dad was right - when he told me I would have a baby, perhaps toping the baby must - he like him we would cook lunch and have it upstairs with Granny, this we did because Richard use to say if we have our lunch with Granny she might eat it all up, this she use to do and really enjoy it.

My husband use to out with spinning while I walked up the hill - thing I could  
have then relating away while I was downstairs. Mother was pleased to have us  
back after her on Sat. I remembered how many Sat. we would have together as  
I know she was not going to get better, so we made the most of our visits  
we had tea in her bedroom and stayed with her until Green & I came  
home, sometimes it was very late, she we kept from <sup>us</sup> because she would  
worry having Richard out so late. I think Green could have thought  
about this too but she didn't, one day we missed the last train from  
Hampton - Kingston where we had a bus to catch to Stoneleigh, poor Richard  
was late going to bed on these occasions, but made up for it on Sunday  
he stayed in bed longer than usual. I told Green not to make to quite so  
late after this, which she did. After I left him I use to ask her if  
she wanted anything next time I came, she always said a nightdress please  
dear, she had plenty, but I always got her one, if it was one of mine, just  
to get her see she had her nightdress. After the last time I saw my dear  
mother was on the Sat as she died on the following Wed. I knew in my heart  
I would not see her again, so I made a great fuss at her took her a  
nightgown a white one with long sleeves, collar & cuffs finished this to



speaks she asked me how I knew about her mind, we talked quite a while, then she looked at me and said I think I will come and live with you and John and the boys when I get better, I said ok I am so pleased when you know we would all have to leave you, now you hurry up and get better. We had tea, I put all the best clothes on the tray including a pair of my hat brought her back from a holiday, she noticed this and said I am glad you have used it dear I don't like when I am on my own. When I left her she looked so happy, her mind at rest knowing she was going to get well and coming to live with us. After her on to the following week my brother Albert phoned me saying if you want see mother before she dies you had better come over now. I said I wanted to remember mother as I left her on Saturday. I said my good byes to her then, he understood and said so. At the time of phoning there was a thunder storm on, mother and I were afraid of storms, the boys were at school, Jonathan being in his first year, I had worried I would come and see him, he was waiting for me he must have seen I was upset, I told a girl I said you know Mumma does not like storms very much. I did not tell Richard or Jonathan about their dear Mamma till they asked me I thought

Things were too young and they loved her so. The time came one day  
and they were both young, had gone to Keenies, they asked no questions  
and I don't not any questions. We had mother brought to rest with that I did not  
think I would be able to follow her to the grave. I was not feeling very well, my  
brothers said they would look after me, saying don't let mother down, she would  
have wanted you there dear, her last words were in some form I did not know  
this; anywhere I went, I don't remember much as I had my eyes closed most  
of the time, after all family got back home, I had a cup of tea and John  
of left to go home to our little boy. My sister & her husband stayed on in  
mother's home, after some time when all things had been settled they moved away  
mother's wish was they should have her home, we arranged out mother's wishes  
that was the end of our parents home. I missed it very much, not going to  
visit after all those years. Now I had my own family to look after. John thought  
he would take driving lessons, so we could get out and about to do our  
collecting and bird watching, after some time he took his test and failed  
I don't think I should have been happy with a car as Richard and  
myself were not very good passengers, feeling sick most of the time.  
~~My brother about a year ago~~ After his test he came home and said I don't think  
I will bother about a car any more, you go down to Nuseex with Ethel  
my own reason and buy a new car again. On the following Sunday



10/ Ethel and her husband Jim drove me down to Mass. We drove a van  
each, was lucky enough to get a rate for them, and the following week  
we all went down to see the site and what remains we had chosen.  
The boys were so excited about having a son of our own. After a  
few weeks we went down again to see them. I visited the site. Ethel  
and myself went shopping, spent pounds in getting it all out.  
Then the great day came when we spent our final holiday in it.  
We did not let it out so each time we went down we took clothes to  
leave there until we had got all we wanted there, ~~and~~ and everything  
was as we had left it. We did not have far to go to the car, train to  
Boston then a bus ~~to~~ caught outside the station to Oldwick, Rosefine  
it was to take us just over 1 1/2 hours. In school holidays the boys and  
myself were there all the time, daddy coming down week-end. It was  
great fun, it must have been very good for us all having such long  
stays at the sea-side, we use to walk miles, as I have said we were  
all interested in Natural History so our days were full, we use to take  
good drinks out with us having a good breakfast before we left,  
and a good meal when we got home. What even the time it was like  
of happiness we use to have such wonderful interesting trips out. Richard use to be  
with me, for that with his dad, when he loved.

When it was time for John to go back to work, Louis and I went with him. I was  
not liking it one bit, saying it would be long before we see  
him. Jonathan did not look forward to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> shopping. The day daddy went  
home, after we had walked to the top of the hill saying our good-bys to  
daddy, we would return to the van, have a game of Beethoven records or  
do a puzzle, make our beds, wash, get to bed when we would play 3 spy with  
a bed, Jonathan saying don't go to sleep before we tell you. Richard and myself  
know he was missing his daddy, we see to play with Jonathan was asleep, what hourly  
days they were, never a dull moment, the ship has left after we doing little  
jobs getting water, chopping fire wood, helping with chopping etc as soon as our  
jobs were done we were off somewhere, counting on sea, walking, train, or bus.  
Sometimes the boys see to go off on their bikes, returning tired, hot, hungry.  
On returning from their trips the boys see to have a wash, while I made a supper for  
us to get the dust clean out on the lawn round the site when we use to sit and  
they would have their drink and tell me where they had been, what they had  
seen ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> show me any insects it what they had caught while  
the boys talked and sorted out their insects I would be inside the van  
getting our dinner, we had it in the evening, anytime from 5 o'clock, so we  
could have all the day doing our own things. If the weather was foul we  
use to visit the local museum with the carator. Now I remember  
the hand collection he had was all in flight as against just stones



by the one in the most museum. We are to help Mrs. V. Rodgers being very interested in Taxidermy, we are to make and learn quite a lot from him. He thought Rodgers for to clean and preserve the animals and birds, telling him what to use and how to work on making a frame of what bird or animal he was working on. Richard was very keen to learn. Jonathan and myself did not like the smells, they were awful. One day when we were sitting in the van of our 2 friends of last winter, before Richard was in the van, he was not feeling too good, he had a swollen finger. He was saying on his bed, "David Richard some and see this bird dear, it's like a cuckoo but I am not sure, perhaps you know about it?" by the time he felt he wanted to look it had gone later on when we were out in the field a man said a bird had been found dead, and taken to Mr Venables at Bogor museum. I began to wonder - was it the same bird. Richard and I went to the museum saw Mr Venables, I told him my story he asked me to describe it to him, this I did, then he said go in the other room and see if you can see any bird like it, and there in the cabinet was the bird, he told me it had been found about 4 miles from where I saw it, it must have nested on the place where I had seen it, then died of exhaustion. It was a quite a rare bird to this country. Distinct looking from the curators asked me to write down what I had seen the bird date, etc. then he started put it near the bird for all to see.

6/10 He told me I had been very fortunate to see it alive. He reached the  
land. Richard and he walked the land - got up from the bed to look at them  
I asked him about what was I seeing. On another occasion Richard and I  
were on Bognor beach in a point called London clay looking for fossils.  
we found some sharks teeth, and lots of little pieces which looked very  
interesting, we took them to the museum and our friend Mr Ven - was  
most excited he told us not to tell anyone, we all went back next  
evening (Summer time) and looked this time was when the tide was out, and  
the clay uncovered - we looked and looked, my eyes, and back aches  
we all found more pieces, he made a long story about it was all put  
together, named, A Feathering Turtle. it was given to the London museum,  
talked about in the news, on T.V. saying it was found by Mr Ven  
and friends being Richard Prothero <sup>and me</sup>. we were thrilled, to think if it has  
not been for us it might never have been found. One day we were on the  
beach at Helsey Bill and saw a few men uncovering a mammal - they had  
to work very quickly because of the tide, so we joined in, this was  
most exciting, and very interesting, regarding how long it had been there  
etc, ~~the~~ millions of millions of years ago, there were animals living in this  
country like this.



The boys were both extremely polite, taking the monthly magazine we need our advertisement in it, a Mr Newman a well known name, he had a butterfly farm, he was asking for similar caterpillars, which were found on Ragwort in the fields, then ~~the~~ when paperted were sent to Australia to help eradicate the Ragwort out there. We could get up, have a good breakfast get all our things together. Thomas, food and big tin the kind you buy biscuits in, sometimes we run out of tin, on our way I see to buy one in the little village shop, we had about 3-4 miles to walk to a field full of Ragwort, we use to get our tin full of these caterpillars walk all the way back to our van. The boys use to sort them on putting them in the tin and post them off to Mr Newman the same day, we must have sent him hundreds, hundreds, ~~they~~ <sup>the boys</sup> to get a little bit of pocket money for this. When Richard was at college taking his 7 levels he use to do his home work down at the van when we were there, Graham and myself use to buy outside watching the wild life etc, while Richard was doing this, it was quiet down there no disturbance regarding work. Tom or vice he passed his 3 A levels and Graham passed his O level when the results were posted down to them at the van in August.

53 It was wonderful to see them pass and waiting for them to say  
they passed the passers what by we had when John and I heard they and  
so pleased for them getting such good results after all their hard work  
~~was~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~celebration~~ going out for an evening meal  
No things promised by us if they passed, we did not think this was  
fair, we were to say do your best and not the end if you fail, you  
can always take them again. Richard got a little for quackery  
during his long summer break, he wanted to do this, because he was  
saying up for something regarding his hobby. One day he came home  
said he did not feel well, I said you look very ill, I think I think  
you however took of the sun, I made him stay in bed for a  
while putting cold compresses on his head. I did not like to see  
our boys not well, they were such good boys, I had a little  
talk to him and said it was not worth making himself ill in  
this way. His health was more important, and I would help  
him with his recovery. He saw reason, after all they work hard at  
their studies at the time of their life and he was growing very  
tall. We all learnt such a lot about the country side and sea.



99 show driving was long stay in Essex. We never got fed up going  
down the river some holidays we would spend in other parts of the country  
if we were after insects butterflies etc what the boys wanted to see  
or collect. Our traps to our own in Essex went on for about 18-20 yrs  
never getting tired of it Richard got a place at Queen Mary College London Union  
studying Zoology Certificate No 19912 B.Sc. Special Examination Internal 1968. He  
passed with Upper Second Honours Degree in Zoology. John and myself were so pleased  
he had done so well and so proud of our son after all he had started school  
at the local infants on to junior then senior all at the same school.  
Wherever ~~the~~ modern boarding school ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~small~~ ~~of~~  
then were he got 13 A Levels then on to Exell Technical College to get 3 A's.  
He had done so well to get so far. In 1969 doing postgraduate research  
at Queen Mary College London University, for his Ph.D. He studied the Copepodites  
Eggs for 3 yrs. DR. R.I. COOTER B.Sc. Ph.D. Richard started his first job at the Centre  
of Overseas Pest Research Centre in London as a scientist on 11th May 1971 studying  
the flight of the locust. When he brought his Thesis for his PhD and  
myself to look at it read on the first page —  
The Thesis would have never been written if it was not  
for my parents getting me interested in Natural History when I was

61 a little boy and some helped and even we all the way through, I  
mind saying I went out of the room, cried a bit, went back to Richard and said  
I didn't see ~~it~~ read that dear Richard just said it all these num  
parents could not have better than that. Jonathan our younger son  
by 3 years 2 mths 2 days took 70 levels at the same school as Richard going on  
Winton Polytechnic College taking his degree in Geology, 1974. He did not want to go on  
for his Doctorate, on the 3. 2. 1975 he started at University of Birmingham for 1 year  
Quaternary Entomology Section Dept of Geology. He married in 1976 got his job  
in National History Dept's ART Gallery - Museum Wellington Glasgow Scotland so our two  
sons have done very well and have gone far, still doing the same things they  
were interested in as little boys. We have a dear little grandson Stepler, Richard  
son I wonder if he will be interested in N History like his dad.

I don't know if I have even mentioned John professor. He is a  
Artist. Resigner specialising in Stamp Design. He has been self employed for  
23 years. He is kept very busy designing stamps for the Commonwealth. His work is  
so varied he depicts the local interests of the visitors on his stamps which they  
like. It involves a great deal of research, reading, visiting museums etc etc. He  
has the work so he is of retiring age, but still working hard. Now our  
dear ones are both married, we are still carrying on our collecting on a small  
scale and watching walking we run our traps not from our own as we have no traps  
get it, so our traps catch one local rabbit a day.



68 No other brother ever seen. Love the two great happy memories for and I don't  
want to miss one of the 100 years this April. Jim would in his old days really  
say I come up like gardening, knitting and cooking, now he has become a person  
I spend a great deal of my time with this sort of cooking. It is not  
interesting and delicious, and would recommend it. My days seem so long  
now Roland's brother one named I just had to buy myself in the house of a bill  
wanted to let some with Jim so I stop. I can't do I got myself interested  
in repeating cooking. I wish we both enjoy. When I was first married and had  
our first with me my mother said make the best of him. He will soon grow up. This I did  
with both of the shop, put myself every now. They were a real joy to me and I could  
have it all over again. I wish that thinking how I have a young girl with the old to write.  
Dear little Stephen, ~~and my~~ and my niece & nephews. Children grow up, I now have another  
with grand on Michael brother for Stephen. He loves Stephen to a bad now. He is a little older.  
I told his mother in law my husband's grandpa and Nana went down to Dreyfus to bed  
after him. Richard our son played with them. He is a little boy now, much  
funner and wants to let Stephen, and try and make him except his little brother of  
now. I would, when I come in the room where little Stephen was playing. He was  
only 1 1/2 years old, I said come and sit with Nana & cuddled him and saw  
that was daddy on the phone to say you have a new little brother — well he cried  
and said, don't want a brother then. I explained all about brother say daddy  
had a brother. Grand had had a brother. Grandpa has a brother. I have a brother —  
his you have a brother, he looked up with my face and looked so happy when  
he said his Stephen got a brother. Nothing else was said. Later he came up to  
me and said, Stephen got a brother. So you know when his daddy come

back that night <sup>69</sup> all would be well,  
when he saw Stephen in the morning.  
I said you will share your toys with  
your little brother won't you, oh dear  
his answer was no, so I explained how  
if he shared his toys, Michael would  
share his ~~with~~ toys with him, he liked  
this idea, said I'll share my toys, so  
we got off to a good start! His daddy  
thanked me. I love children, and do like  
them to behave, they want plenty of love  
and discipline, the young children are  
missing out on these two most important  
things, the first two years are the most  
vital years of the upbringing of a child.  
We are looking forward to seeing our  
grandsons and help in their behavior  
and talking and telling them how we  
behaved towards our parents brothers  
and sisters, as I see the young children  
around me I feel so sad how  
some of them behave - no fault



of their own <sup>70</sup> I am sure it all starts with the home life, its a pity, because to me there are no naughty children, its the naughty parents.

Now my younger son Jonathan has a little son. David John, my husband and myself went down to Hereford to see him. He is beautiful <sup>baby</sup> 14 lbs 3 ozs a bundle of joy for his ^dad and mum, also for us. Now we have 3 little boys to love and watch grow into strong, good, happy children. I hope I shall never call them KIDS as the trend is these days. When I sit and think I cannot believe we have bought up our own 2 boys now we have 3. grand-son how time flies! We have been helping Janet our daughter-in-law with Stephen & Michael while daddy is abroad. He is away for 6 weeks, so we <sup>working</sup> see them quite a bit. ~~at~~

We have been very busy renovating the Summer House "Bunny Cot" so when the boys come to stay they will be able to play and sleep in there just like their daddy used to. They don't seem to understand their daddy was a little boy like them. They want to know so much about their daddy, did my daddy do this, etc, etc. It's so nice living all our times over again. Stephen is at school now at a dear little village school in Pixham in Dorset he likes it very much. I get lots of drawing, painting, and pattern given to me which I shall always keep, he says he is going to be an artist a stamp designer like his grandpa (daddy's) dad. I wonder if he will, that I don't think we we know, more the pity.