

Memories of the War by Diane Lusby

Just some memories of my childhood during WW2.

I was born in early 1940 in South Wales. We went on to live in London, where my parents worked in British Drug Houses, their occupation was necessary, dealing with the production of insulin for diabetics, therefore my father was in the Home Guard.

Apparently, at the sound of the siren for air raid warnings, my mother(just 4'10"), would run like hell with me in her arms to the nearest underground! Woe betide anyone in her way! We were actually 'bombed out' and I remember being taken to another house where a lady in a red dressing gown welcomed us in.

The decision was made for me to be evacuated back to Wales for my safety. I was too young to say I was an evacuee and called myself a 'Wacawee'.

Whist in London I remember the Barrage Balloons, which I thought was an elephant in the sky! I remember the sound of Doodle Bugs but of course I did not know of the pending danger.

I went to a nursery school in Hornsey Gardens, and the teacher was called Miss Daylong. We slept in little cots every afternoon and were give a big spoonful of Malt. Yuck! Even worse cod liver oil and orange juice.

When in Wales my parents used to save their coupons and send me chocolate animals in Shredded Wheat boxes from London.

Once on a train from Wales at the end of the war, an American soldier gave me a Jaffa orange and I thought it was a nice smelling ball and was about to throw it, luckily my Mum caught it!

My father (I didn't know him at first) took me to queue for a banana.....I was very disappointed as it was only a single banana because in the alphabet books (B for Banana was a full hand of them!)

I do remember in Wales we had a little dog called Monty named after General Montgomery.....years later I actually met Montgomery and told him about the name of our dog! He was quite amused and said lots of people called their dogs Monty after him. Well, these are a few of my memories, and I hope it paints a picture of different aspects of the war; and I thank God I'm here to talk about it, unlike so many who lost their lives.