

P.S. How do are you in the photo
against a tree? Is that just before or
after the war? Don't have any special
connections with the war?

Hockley Cottage,
High Street,
East Meon.
GU23 3JF

Dear Reg,

Please find enclosed the finished copy of your reminiscences about life during World War II, along with the black and white photograph that was used in the exhibition at the Country Fair last week. I am very grateful for all the time you gave up to the project; it is not everybody's idea of fun, being cross-examined about things that happened over fifty years ago and I have been very lucky to meet with such wonderful co-operation.

The response to the exhibition was good and the majority of you, the fourteen 'interviewees', have indicated that they would like a copy of all of the other reminiscences to keep. I am happy to try to arrange this. For those that have contributed, the price would simply be to cover costs, but if anybody else was interested, I would like to make a small charge on top which could go towards the upkeep of the village hall. Would such an arrangement meet with your approval?

I am also aware that there are many more individuals in the village that have wartime memories that would make interesting reading. Time did not permit me to follow up everybody's stories for the exhibition at the fair, but if there is any response to an appeal that I plan to put into Meon Matters, then I would hope to add a few more reminiscences to the collection. Also, if you know someone that you think would be happy to contribute, please ask them to contact me or give me their name, though I feel you are more likely to be able to convince them than I, as you have actually survived my interrogations!

To this end, I would like to hold on to any photographs or relevant paraphernalia that you may have kindly lent me, if that is convenient. If you would like to change any aspect of the text or add to it, that is easily done, just tell me. Also, if you have unearthed something else that illustrates your reminiscences, please pass it on to me.

I would like to emphasize how fortunate you have all made me feel in welcoming me into your home and putting up with my frequent pestering. I hope you feel the exhibition and the prospect of the collection of reminiscences make it worth the effort!

Very best wishes,

Janatha

Do let me know if you'd like to add/change anything. Thank you for your very real patience and please thank Barbara for her hospitality. I believe everything except:

- Soldier's book
- 2 photos

is that OK?

If the booklet idea goes ahead, I hope you'll be able to tell me when and where the photos were taken.

Best wishes, Janatha