

These extracts from from the diary of Edward (Ted) Loveridge were kindly provided by Alice Opoku and give us a feel for growing up and life on a farm in the midst of the WW2 air raids.

## DIARY OF EDWARD ROBERT MARK LOVERIDGE

1944, Age 16-17

### Fri June 23

No chapel (alert). Haymaking in evening. New cat. Weather good.

### Sat June 24

No alert all day. Haymaking in afternoon and evening. Copland to tea. He did raking. I did sweeping in afternoon. Both and Harold did mowing (14 acres) in evening. Weather quite good.

### Sun June 25

Good night. Cleaned out rabbits, and looked for mower knife in morning (what there was of it. Not up until 11!) Took afternoon to change! Thought about essay, only thought!

Pat up in afternoon – when is the rabbit food coming?

By the way, I'm still sleeping down in the lounge. Damned Doodle Bugs brought my ceiling down about a week ago.

Good news. Cherbourg <http://www.aetherczar.com/?p=905>.

Wrote card to Laurence in evening, also attempted essay – not much good. Got boots and brasses clean for corps, weather dull, looks like rain. Cows in mowing grass. Why must cows get out at 10.50 on a Sunday evening!

### Mon June 26

Corps today. Poulton tries to teach internal combustion engine. Not much good!! Rain on and off all day. Alert in the afternoon so no contemporary history. Hurrah! To bed early? Not likely – cows in mowing grass again.

### Tue June 27

Blasted bike packs up on the way to school, pedal goes round but bike doesn't go. Doodle Bug in the Recreation ground.

Rains like stink all day and soak my trousers on the way home. Get changed and soak them again getting rabbit food. Have bath and reasonably early night.

### **Wed June 28**

Bike packs up again. Alerts on and off all day. Weather pretty foul all day. Home early, but do nothing except attempting to mend Doreen's puncture, only to find that it was the valve wrong all the time. Take bike down to Doreen's office in evening and go to the Odeon. "The Hour Before the Dawn" <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0036930/> was not too bad but, I knew the end before the beginning which rather spoilt it. "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0028401/> which was with it was rather good, and the news was all right. Doodle Bug interrupts our journey home along Woodcote Green Road, but it soon passes over.

### **Thur June 29**

Ride Doreen's bike to school – makes a change to have one which works properly. Have to get up much too early in order to get corps things ready. Too many officers about as it is Cat A pt II (Not for me thank goodness!!). Either officers are too efficient or cadets inefficient, only 11 passes out of 29 - not so good. Flying bombs about all day - weather better, but not good. Take up a couple of loads of hay in evening though not very dry.

Here's to a good night's rest without the blasted pilotless planes. Can't write any more – pen's running dry. And so to bed.

### **Fri June 30**

Getting behind with this blasted diary. Not writing this till Sunday, so I cannot remember what happened – much. There was an alert all the morning, sounded past as we were going into chapel and only a little "All clear" in the afternoon. I did a little haymaking in the evening. Had a little trouble putting rick cloth on – we were just going to fix it when it blew off.

### **Sat July 1st**

Longest alert for some time, perhaps a record, 12 (midnight) till 2 pm – 14 hours. I was on the tower all the morning but went home after dinner and left Bowes to look after the afternoon alerts (he had a couple). The dinner wasn't too bad – founder's day. I didn't miss any school through being on the tower and I didn't even miss going in to prize-giving as there was none owing to the alert. It rained in the night so the hay did not get made, although I brought Copland home to do something. We stooaged around but did not find anything to do. We looked at Banstead's horses, and then he went home.

Went to the pictures with Doreen in the evening – saw "Fanny by Gaslight": it was quite good, but not outstanding. There was no particular small film – a whole host of little tiny ones – which were quite good.

### **Sunday July 2nd**

Up early – 9.30 am!! Greeted by an alert, a bomb (flying) arrived while I was dressing. Don't do much in morning, repair mower and get ready to do some fencing. Pauline arrives, so I get changed for dinner. I decide not to go fencing after all. Go to get "Nobby" to go horse-hoeing, but it starts to rain so I let him go again.

### Friday October 27th

After a long interlude I again decide to try to keep a diary. Up about 7.30 (am)! And milk one cow. Wash down before breakfast. Run Mother down to hairdressers soon after breakfast (did Uncle Ted pass his driving test so early?) and then go ploughing in 13 acres. Finish the head-land about dinner time and go mangold-cart in the afternoon. Also get 1 load of kale (already cut) with Peter. Draw wages - £2, still 3 weeks' back money to come - £6.

### Saturday November 4th

Went to the pictures last night with Pauline, Harold and Doreen – saw “The White Cliffs of Dover” <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0037462/> – good. Draw money, £2. Beet-screwing improving, help George and Pam. Milk in afternoon. Harold gets his farm – starts on Monday.

### Wednesday 15th November

RIP RUN OVER AND KILLED.

Micky has her pups!!  
We keep Bruin  
(entered September 24th)

### 1945 Age 17-18



*Ted at Highfield Farm, Epsom on VE (Victory in Europe) Day, 8 May 1945*

### **Monday September 24th 1945**

Turn out books for Reading (I hope), and find this wretched Diary. Look for pen to write it up with but fail to find same. 'Swallow a dictionary'!! - proceed to look for it – foul weather. Also try to plough 13 acres. Now I must look for pen – Ta Ta.

Triumph I've found the pen, which somebody has very kindly tidied up for me.

Pam does her best to give me a heart attack in the evening by ringing up. I don't think she realised that we've got 2 phones in the house – enough said. Wait for Doreen to finish her bath so that I can have one and go to bed.

### **Sunday November 1945 (at Reading)**



*Ted at Reading*

Date and year now essential, as I write this so seldom.

I just found the Diary when tidying a drawer, so I thought I would write it up. As I have not said so before, I am having a good time here. Last Sunday I went out to N.I.R.D. [http://www.arborfieldhistory.org.uk/properties\\_NIRD.htm](http://www.arborfieldhistory.org.uk/properties_NIRD.htm) again.

Quite interesting. Yesterday I went to the Pavillion again and saw "Blithe Spirit" <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0038363/> again and it was still good! Also saw "One night of adventure" again (the coast film), which was also still good. Went to bed early (11.30)! Got up about 10 to 9 this morning and read the papers for about an

hour or so after breakfast. Then collected Hall Photo and Christmas cards, returned to my room, made bed and tidied up, and am now writing this. I don't know what to do this afternoon, I had intended to go out to Sonning, but it is a bit cold, so I might stop in and do some work.

I must have a haircut tomorrow as Doreen is coming to see me on Tuesday.

***Note: Ted died in Sussex in 2010, aged 83.***

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