

David Boulter – Memories of Brockenhurst 1940

1. A very uncertain time militarily.
2. The “Southern” sixth form is depleted in numbers and tuition and studies are “jagged” due to school changes
3. In a community hall in the centre of Brockenhurst a kind of Home Guard organisation is being structured.
4. Several sixth formers volunteer to join this ragged band of warriors.
5. They are shown how to put bullets into a gun and how to hold the gun.
6. Some nights a lorry would take them into the Forest and they would stand under tree clumps with the wind moaning through the branches above and watch for parachutists.
7. A rustling bush or a horse stamping its hoof nearby and the gun was clutched more tightly.
8. But there was a touch of adventure about it.
9. Until.....
10. These brave “soldiers” were summoned to the Headmaster’s study (Mr G B H Jones MC MA (note the Military Cross)).
11. “What do you boys think you are doing? Who gave you permission? What do you think your parents would say? I tell you, there is nothing glamorous about war”.
12. And so it proved to be – as the next 5 years unfolded.

David Boulter
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