

Transcripts of Sonya Teale's interview with Mrs Vera Newland, 23rd October 2007.

Part 5

This is part 5 of the recording of Mrs Newland made on the 23rd of October 2007 by Sonya Teale. Words in *italics* are those of the interviewer.

I offered her £250 which she said was very good and I could have it so in 1943 we bought the house and we have lived here ever since so we've been here 65 years now my daughter was born here and my niece was born here and my nephew they were all born here in my front bedroom so those call this their home coz this is where they were born so I think we can say we live in Rowlands Castle quite a long time.

My daughter Susan when she left Redhill school she went to Warblington school where her husband said she met with hated but they met now they're married. She went to Mr Kenwood's, Havant when she was 16 she left school went as a reception receptionist and she stayed there till long time after she was married and I'm not quite sure how many years it was but she done quite a few years there and when she left there she moved to Dunsbury Way Community Centre and was a receptionist there until she retired a few years ago for which it was 60 I think it was so should left there three years so she should do all the paperwork for the schools and that. So she was very well liked I think down there everybody knew her and all the old dears used to come to get their feet done she knew and they all spoke very well over so I'm quite proud of her and she had yeah then she had two children Sally who is married and now got one little boy who would be four tomorrow and Simon who has two dear little girls, one's 6 and one will be 3 in February so we are quite a nice little family yeah

This is what I remember about the troops; they were all parked up the Horndean Road, all around the Memorial and all down Whichers Gate Road. We also had a pillbox at the top of the road. When my sister used to have a sleepover at night, when she went home in the morning to get all her things for work, we made a great big jug of tea and she used to take it out and give it to the Troops that were over at the Memorial. They were so grateful and always used to bring the jug back in the morning. One day when I was hanging out Sue's nappies on the line, one of them come down and says, "I've done this before, so I'll give you a hand". He gave me a hand hanging the nappies up which I thought was quite funny you know. They were very nice chaps and our hearts used to go out to them all because the next day they had probably gone, and you didn't see them anymore. I often wondered what happened to them all, but there you are, that's life. When the King came to inspect the troops, we all went up to the Staunton Arms on the corner there. Sue was a couple of months old then so as the King come down in his car, I took one of her nappies out – a lovely white nappy – and I waved it to him. He put his hand up and waved back, so that's my memory of seeing the King.

When we were all small the great event for the year was the Flower Show and the Fair which was held up in the recreation ground we had 'Wars' fair which was lovely great big roundabout and swinging boats and the Flower Show was really beautiful. The men put heart soul into their allotments and my dad was a great one for arranging the trays so a lot of the men used to bring their

trays for dad to arrange for them, much to my mum's disgust as she had to have all that indoors but he used to do it now they nearly all won prizes for it and my brother Tom, he was a great one in knocking coconuts down so he we used to have to take the youngest one out the pushchair and put all the prizes he won into the pushchair and then carry carry whichever one was in there but at one day I remember I went on the swinging boats were dead and he used to smoke a pipe and he thought he'd knocked it out and put it in his pocket and as we were going up all of a sudden all this smoke came out of his pocket coz he'd left some tobacco in there at the wind caught it was burning a hole in his pocket and we thought that was hilarious, and we never let him live it down ha ha