The most poignant memory of the war for me was the return of one of my brothers. He had been
a trumpet player in the 24th Lancers military band and was quickly sent into the war.   He was
involved with the Dunkirk landings. Having been a despatch rider with others, when they arrived
at the beach they were told to leave their motor bikes in the sea and just get on any boat.

We had no telephone in those days. My grandmother who lived in Cornwall kept the village shop
and post office and she sent us a telegram which read 'Jack had supper with us last night'. That was
how we knew that he had got back to England. During those war years everything was censored so
you had to be careful what was said.

I have various memories of war time living only 5 miles from Brize Norton where the American
troops were stationed.   At Christmas each year local families were asked to have two American
soldiers to their homes on Christmas day and Boxing day, to arrive in the afternoon.

 I specially remember one or two incidents. One was that the men always brought a gift, usually
sweets or biscuits. When we saw them we could not believe our eyes, those items so scarce due
to food rationing!

As a family we sometimes entertained at church or village halls with music, singing and poems.
My father asked me to play a piano solo which I did not want to do and he said 'If you don't do
it you will go to bed! ' One of the soldiers said 'Gee, don't say that sir!' So I obviously did play!

At tea time later when we were eating salad etc, I was transfixed by the soldiers helping
 themselves to blackberry and apple jam (which my mother had made) and spreading it over
their ham and salad! In later years I realised that they must have thought that it was Cranberry
sauce!

With regard to shopping, apart from the rations we were all permitted, my mother would
sometimes take a list hoping to get 'extras' off ration. She often came home after queueing,
 with only one or two items and sometimes she would say 'It was all sold out'.

1945 FAMILY AFTER VE DAY
ARTHUR   JACK
MOTHER   MARY   KATHLEEN   FATHER

1945 AFTER VE DAY
JACK   ARTHUR
DESPATCH RIDER   FLYING
ARMY   OFFICER
                       RAF