

Frederick Samuel Sharp
Headmaster of Lemsford School from 1936 to 1946

Information from Kath Atkinson <drkathatkinson@yahoo.com>
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Kath is the granddaughter of Frederick Samuel Sharp, headmaster of Lemsford school during the war. His daughter (my mum) is now in her late 80s and can still clearly remember her childhood at the school

One of the things she has told me was that an Italian POW, called Lorenzo, from a nearby camp was allowed to have Sunday lunch with the headmaster's family from time to time. He had at least one Christmas lunch with them. He was a doctor in civilian life and made her a little toy for one of his visits. Apparently the vicar also hosted a POW for lunch. Sounds like the village had a very big heart.

Her young age (born in 1933) may account for the fear of Germans. She had never seen one and only heard bad things so imagined them to be very scary people. One apparently parachuted down and got entangled in bush/trees in a neighbouring field. He was very young (20ish) but she was scared by the thought that a German had been so close. She doesn't know what happened to him.

On her birthday (27 July, year unknown), there was a bit of a dogfight overhead and she got ushered inside from her birthday party in the garden.

On another occasion a plane decided to machine gun the cows in a nearby field.

On the subject of the school, the produce from the garden was used for school meals. The Sharps also consumed some of the fruit. Mr Sharp taught gardening. He was a keen gardener but he acquired additional qualifications in horticulture in order to teach techniques such as grafting etc.

I presume others have recounted the smell of presumably glue from the aircraft factory nearby?