

Sunday Oct 11. Went by lorry to the Rifle Range
at Totnes. Fired 5 rounds grouping.
5 rounds single marking.
I got an 8 inch group. & 16 out of 20
got in the 4 heifer yearling tonight as
we fear a frost.

Monday Oct 12. Awoke to the sound of rain once more.
The weather's been very bad for
some time and we hear of corn not
yet cut. Dad & I dug a few potatoes.
Went by lorry to S. Brent to see
some H. G. films.

Tuesday Oct 13. Weather fair. Dug potatoes this
morning. Mr. Andrews representing
Devon W. A. E. C. called this aft.
Next year's programme as follows:
Lay Park, BARLEY Seeds
Bull Field, OATS. (ONWARD) SWEDES.
LINHAY, OATS. (S. 84) FLAT POLKS
CROSS PARK, 3 ACRES POTATOES,
MANGOLDS, KALE.

Went and looked at the Trifolium
today. It has been in 3 rows now
and begins to look well. The Mustard
in Cross park is just peeping; sown
last Wednesday.

Tuesday
Oct 20th

Picking up potatoes this morning.
After tea Loo led the horses
whilst I banked out 4 more
rows of potatoes.
Weather fair. Finished work at
8.15.

Wed.
Oct 21st

Just finished dinner when Loo came
in. He has obtained 20 half day
off from school for potato picking
which is a great help.
Listened to a recording of General
Smuts' speech in the House of Commons.
Great speech.

Thursday
Oct 22nd

Market day at Plymouth.
Just returned from "recruits night"
at Bittaford. Learning how to right
& left turn, etc., very important. VGH!

Friday
Oct 23rd

Renewed my cold; feeling very seedy.
Caught 2 more moles in Crosspark
Total now 6. I should think there
are another 6 there. Mending sacks
in the Granary.

Saturday 14 galb of milk this morning.

Oct 24. Loaded Meavy III & Tink II
in the cart and drove 3 in-
calvers & 2 heifer yearling over
to Torr Down, Dad & Tom helping. Dad
went as far as ERMINGTON.
We did the trip in 3 hours.
20 - 11. 20 - 2 home 5 pm

Sunday
Oct 25. Picked up Mr Angh & went up to
Bittaford to H.G. Parade. Pouring with
rain nobody there. The rest being at
Hillhead. Sgt. May sent us home.
Went out to see Bert & family this aft.
He was at an Officers' Meeting of the
M.T.C. so only saw him for a minute.
Mother & father both with colds.

Monday
Oct 26th Very wet day. Dad very bad.
Mum better. I picked up a few
apples. New heifer giving 3 gallon.

Tues
Oct 27th Received a reply from the Silage
Officer, re, Mangold tops for silage.
No good. As fermentation sets up poison.
Picking up apples.

Monday
Nov 2nd

I took Ivor, David & Mam over to Torr Down again. When we arrived it was raining but after one false start we succeeded in threshing a barley rick after dinner.

Tuesday
Nov 3rd

Picking up & bagging apples. This evening had first Home Guard meeting in Broadford Barn illuminated by candle, ORANGE LINE. CORDITE & BICKFORD FUSE. 2 ft per minute.

Wed
Nov 4th

Dad & I picking up apples & bagging them. Weather fair. fun over this evening.

Thurs
Nov 5th

Writing this at breakfast, OUR TROOPS HAVE ROMMEK ON THE RUN IN EGYPT. The Italians have asked for an Armistice to bury their dead.

Friday
Nov 6th

Too here all day for half term
We pulled 3 loads of Mangolds &
carried them in the same field. Bull Field.
Hanging around waiting for Jeff to take
apples to Minchenhay

Sat
Nov 7th

Pulled & drew four load Mangolds
back here in the tip.

Weather fair Drew 2 load of Commons.
Still great news from Egypt

Sunday
Nov 8th

Over at Broadford this morning at
exercise. Set a $2\frac{1}{2}$ hour time-pencil
to an incendiary which duly went off.
Also fired single round each from
a sub. Machine gun & Tommy Gun.
Mrs Roosevelt broadcast the G.P.S. tonight
Number of German & Italian prisoners
now 30,000 to 40,000.

Hitler makes speech, I make a
German soldier for our target
practice.

Monday
Nov 9th

Great news again this morning. Whilst Rommel is still retreating rapidly, American troops have landed in Algiers & French Morocco the object being to stop the Germans retreat. A great move. Pulled a load mangolds. Sent load of apples.

Tues
Nov 10th

Went home again from school. We pulled more mangold & picked up some potatoes. Received air-graph from Doug, also snaps from Geoffrey Harwood. Berbrodator H.G.

Wed
Nov 11

Pulled mangolds. Went to H.G. training film a S. Brent this evening, excellent. including combined operations at Vaags in Norway.

Thurs
Nov 12th

Phymouth with apples etc. Attended G. & F. Club lecture given by Mr Currie, Agric. Economist at D. Hall. I proposed vote of thanks.

Frid
Nov 13

Got some parings to cover cave. Pulled a few loads. Total in cave now 15.

Sat
Nov 14th I & J left early this morning for
Bathstow Cross for another load of water
straw. All went well. We left at 10
9 am, back at 4 with 112 bundles.

Sun
Nov 15th Down on the range at blue this
morning, firing Sten guns which are
very cheap things

Monday
Nov 16th Lydbridge Mkt. I bought new cow for
£55.10. Milked her out, seems O.K.

Tues.
Nov 17th Turned cows in big orchard.
Picked up apples pulled mangolds
W. fine. Over at Bewdford. Arrived home
at 9.15 shortly after terrific barrage from Ach-
Ach. Went out with tin hat. D.M. Bran frightened

Wed
Nov 18th Great day, so. It brought $\frac{1}{2}$ ton
cake. Shall be able to feed the
cows up now.

ach
che

Thurs
Nov 19th
1943

Market day.
Sold lot of apples. Dad went over
to Lou Down with Jeff and brought back
30 cut of Barley
W very fine.

Friday
Nov 20th

Mam went to Hornwood
Had a big day at the mangolds.
Weather is grand

Sat
Nov 21st

Mangolds all day. the cave is
getting very long. 40 load

Sun
Nov 22nd

Our squad met at x in hand at
9:45 and went by lorry to
Langstone Manor. via Yealmpton.
We were issued with our new
equipment & arrived home
at 4 o'clock. My heifer calved.
She has had a very hard labour for
some time. Shall note how long takes
to get better.

Sat
Nov 28th Dig through the potatoes on the
headland to clear away for the
banker. W. fine.
The Russians are knocking the Germans.

Sun
Nov 29th Went to Harford this morning. Were
shown Harford patrol's O. Base. All
crept underground like rabbits. We
are going to have a much more up-to-
date Base, theirs being one of the first
built. Drove M & D to Looe Down to tea.
Just going to listen to Winston Churchill.

Mon
Nov 30th I am vexed that there is no market
today as I shall have to keep the
heifer's calf until Plympton next
week. Went up and banked out
several rows of spuds.

Tues
Dec 1st Picking up potatoes - a tedious job.
Dad & I mended the barn roof.
Home Guard met at Kings Arms for
lecture. NRANGATON. H.G.

Frid
Dec 11th

Picked up a few potatoes

Sat
Dec 12th

Making plenty of farm yard manure now, with 10 cows lying in weather wet 1943

Sun
Dec 13th

Home Guard. Choose a site for our O. Base.
I cut off some wood on Linhay Field.

Mon
Dec 14th

Mam & A. Colth went to Plymouth. John came up to borrow a pigs trough, on his way to Woodbury Mkt

Thurs
Dec 15th Drew load of roots, cleaned up
Shippers as usual. Dad & I picked
up some potatoes
W. Met. Home Guard tonight
1943 WRANGATON.

Thurs
Dec 17th To Plymouth. Sold the worth of Apples
I went to the Royal to see
gone with the Wind. Brilliant acting
by Vivien Leigh as Scarlett. Was
impressed by the moral of the story
which shows that, above all things
in life the land is best.

Frid
Dec 18th We are having torrential rain.
Cutting off wood in Linhay field

Sat
Dec 19th Drew load sweedes after poured
with rain.

Dec 24th Had Xmas Card from M.O. called
Conway. Also one from Doug.

- Dec 25th Christmas Day
I met Uncle on horseback & took him back to Ermington late tonight. Sitting by the fire, Uncle's toast was "Here's hoping we meet each Xmas until we're sick of it."
- Dec 26th Heard from Noreen DOUGLAS FITSMURICE
KILLED IN ACTION. Dear old Doug.
- Jan 1st All the above 5 days I have been threshing. Am sick of the job
- Jan 2nd Finished threshing at Broadford
coming here tomorrow
- Jan 3rd Threshed our corn today.
Cross. in-hand yielded 57 cwt. - 2 acres.
Wheat & Barley in Cross-fark approx 2 tons.
I paid £3.14 to threshing man
Rastin 15.0. A lovely day
- Mon Jan 4th Snowing & raining today
Fetched Aunt Edith from Bettaford
- Tues Jan 5th Threshing at Jack Smearthons
Home Guard at King's Arms
My promotion to Corporal going forward

- Tues
Jan 12 I drew 5 2 horse-load of dung
to Cross-park. Some going
Warrington. H.G.
- Wed
Jan 13^a Hedging in Linhay field
- Thurs
Jan 14 Plymouth.
Dad & I went to the Gannett to
see "Coastal Command" & "Fire" film.
- Frid
Jan 15^a Made a start with ploughing in
Linhay field. Working out the
corners.
- Sat
Jan 16^a I & Dad drew 5 load dung to
Cross-park. The rain continues
day after day. The fields are
in a terrible state.
- Sun
Jan 17^a Drove all our squad on a
search for an O.B. Went to
Fowlescombe & looked over the
ruins of the Elizabethan Mansion.
Very fine house in its day.

Sun,
24th

1944

H. Guard to Wraggaton & thence
to Alborough. Found site for O.B.

At dinner Mother fell into a dead
faint. Dad & I carried her to the
couch where she recovered.

After I went to Lorr Down. They are
coming tomorrow.

Mon
25th

John Moreen & Susan arrived this aft.
Mother fainted again but with Moreen
around she was in good hands.

When I went up to see her I found
Susan in bed with her.

Dad & I went to fetch the Doctor
but he, knowing the symptoms said he
would come in the morning.

Tues
26th

Mam has to go very quietly. She is
suffering from Blood Pressure.
I went ploughing getting on well.
H. G. met here. I to Wraggaton

Flea Beetle

1 gallon Paraffin
4 LB PARADICHLOROBENZENE.
1 LB CRUDE KRESOTE SALT.
enough 80 - 160 LB seed.

} 2 Tablespoonful
per $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 lb seed

Wed
27th

Mother & little Susy came over for the day. I went ploughing sea. Mom better. Terrible weather nothing but rain. At dinner an army lorry brought heaps of stores & weapons. 4 Stens a .22. & a "tommy" gun. Sergt Ough & I up in the band all eve sorting it.

Thurs
28th

Home all day.
Sergt & I went to see Jim tonight he is joining us.

Frid
29th

I had a big day at plough
Got on splendidly

1944

Have neglected the diary lately. The weather during this interval has been the same. Rain almost every day.

One day I went threshing at John's. Three consecutive evenings I spent on H.G. work. And Mam is now quite well again.

Sat Feb 13 Finished ploughing Linhay Field & have applied for the £2 acre subsidy. Weather fine. Turned the horses in Bull Field where tufts of Yorkshire Fog are 6 inches high.

Sun 14th H.G. here. Threw hanging grenade each from Pump house etc.

Mon 15th Dad fetched the 6 cart corn from Mattacott Bros. He went to Ivy Mkt. I drew 4 load dung to Crosspark.

Tues 16th Drew 5 load of dung. Went to Wrangaton for H.G.
Kingsbridge raided again.

Wed 17th Drew 2 load of sweedes.
I went over to Foss Down with
Jeff & fetched the remainder of the
cabs. Weather fair.
DAD & I GOT IN SOME HAY.

Thurs
18th To Plymouth.
Lovely day. Had interesting evening
at Y.F.C. Told how I had 2 One Year
Ley. Etc.

Frid
19th Took the plough in to Crosspark
Made good start in the extremely
~~awkward~~ corner. Very settled weather.

Sat
20th Got 2 load sweedes.
Bert & family up this afternoon.
I tormented the ground inside
Ley Park gate to prevent it getting
hard.

Sun
21st Home Guard with .22 on golf links
at Wraglington.
Weather fine. Gerald & I went for
ride out to Left Lake

Mon 22 Ploughing in Crosspark bumped over
several big rocks
all glorious

Tues 23rd H. G met at Rutl Wood.

Wed 24 Ploughing in Crosspark

Thurs 25 to Plymouth in glorious weather
Finished ploughing in the lung
in Crosspark

Frid 26th Odd day

Sat 27th Got 5 of Burt's boys up
& we got up about a ton
of ware potatoes. Perfect Weather

Sun 28th H. G tried the Sten guns
in the Orchard.
Went to Fox Down

Mon 1st March

Boys up again got up a fine lot.
We are very lucky to have had
such a mild winter. The Potatoes
are in perfect condition.

Tues
2nd

Home Guard met at Ruff.
Take Stevens home.
Weather glorious

Bury working down the ground in the
Bull field and picking up spuds.

Sat
6th

Boys up again. Took up 30 cut

Sun
7th

Uncle came up. For met him at
Small Lane.
I went as far as Ermington with
him. * DAD's heifer calved.

Mon
8th *

I harrowed over Linhay Field
Weather fine. In the evening I
drove the lark down to Flete
Sergt Baker & his men attacked us
who were on sentry duty.
We captured them all.
After cider at Mr Baker's. Alf Lumsden
singing on the homeward journey.

Tues

- Wed 10th Harrowing & rolling in Lintay field
Weather fine
- Thurs 11th Took 2 cart potatoes to Plymouth
And collected rent etc. I was a bearer at
Mr. Westlake's funeral. This was the first time.
- Frid 12th I tormented the acre for rats & vetches
in the Bull Field
- Sat 13th Boys up again getting up potatoes
This evening the ~~patrol~~ patrol attacked
the camp. Jim & I had the unwelcome duty
of covering the rest with sten-guns so
we didn't go in. The others got in & chalked
several vehicles. Home at 2 a.m.
- Sun 14th No H.G. today. I sent 20 gallons of
milk in the 2 big churns. Planted
some lettuce. Took Loo on the moor for
a ride.
- Mon 15th Ivy market. Bought a cow for £55. 10.
In the afternoon sent to Tooley's thrashing.
- Tues 16th Drizzle all day. I cut off some ash in
Ley Park. No H.G.

Thurs
25

Frid
26
Fleeting day. Dad went back with the cows.
Man came to see about the new water supply.
I attended an N.C.O.'s meeting at the Kings Arms.

Sat
27
Weather wet.

Sun
28
H.G. here: we exploded a stick of Gelignite.
Went to Torr Down this aft. Little Susan
has the measles. She was very poorly.

Mon
29
Cows dropping back fast.
I drew 2 loads of dung to our new garden
in Bull Field.

Tues
30.
Started ploughing Ley Park.
Ivor began his 20 half-days.
Home Guard. Warrington.
I finished milking 9.10 pm.

Thurs. To Plymouth. Ploughing Ley Park

Frid 2nd I rolled brospark this afternoon. When I got home at 6 found Mam gone to Torr Down for a few days. W. glorious.
TURNED OUT THE COWS.

Sat 3rd Had 3 boys up to pick up the potatoes we are harrowing up.

4th At Harford until 3 pm. doing drill under Sgt Barker of the Elite patrol. Mine & I gained top marks for sten. shooting at a moving target. W. glorious

Mon 5th Mam came home this afternoon with J. M & Susy. J has bad cold. Dad & I gardening. Son harrowing Linhay field.

Tues 6th Mr Ford came & drilled the Oats & Peas in Linhay field. Son harrowed it in. Then we did an acre of X park getting ready for Re-takes

Wed 7th I sowed 2 cart M. Chalk - 1 cart triple ~~superphosphate~~ Super. A terrific wind blew this aft

April

- Thurs 8 Great day. Boys up & with Ivor & David we planted $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of Potatoes in Bull field. Grand weather
- Frid 9 To Plymouth in the morning. This aft I sowed the Cats & Vetches in X park
- Sat 10 Planted $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre of Arran Banner in Bull Field. 3 boys out also David & Ivor. Weather perfect.
- Sun 11 Quiet day. Did some gardening. Went for a short ride after dinner
- Mon 12 Boys up again & almost finished the acre. The second ploughing has made conditions perfect.
- Tues 13 H. G. here. Shot gun practice.
- Wed 14 Westlake & Ivor out today. Deeply tormented the old potato ground & picked up $\frac{1}{2}$ ton! Still more there. The weather is extraordinary. We are basking in a heat wave which is drying everything up. Dad went Newton & bought me a row

June 6th 1944.

As Dad and I were driving the car up to the meadow this morning Mrs Brown told us that the Invasion had begun. The 8 a.m. news reported large airborne landings by the Allies. Things were very quiet as we drove to Plymouth, without any signs of the great events taking place across the Channel. I have been expecting a "stand to" order for the Patrol but none is issued so far. At nine this evening we hear the King give a more or less religious address to his people. Then the news: The landings on the beaches have been surprisingly easy. During the day only 56 enemy planes were seen. After the news came recordings of General Eisenhower, Gen Montgomery & inspiring Gen de Gaulle. How different the day has been from what I imagined.