

RESULTS OF THE MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS
“MEMORIES” PUBLICATION.

Phone call Monday 24/10/2010 from Margaret Broughton – Smith. - Daughter of the evacuee Margaret Phythian.

I emailed her with the identification photograph and my memories of the war years in Norton in Hales attached and also a link to the village web site. I also asked for her mother's phone number.

I telephoned her mother Margaret (formerly Margaret Phythian) who now lives with her husband in Manchester. Margaret told me that she is 78 years old and will be 79 in February 2011.

She told me that their mother told both her and her brother Billy that they must not be separated when they were evacuated to Norton in Hales. They were both billeted with farmers Mr James and Mrs Doris Lunt. The farm which Margaret referred to as “The Barn” was located down the road opposite the church near the council houses which I think is the road running down to the river Tern. After a short time the Lunts moved to another farm which was at Longfield on the other side of Market Drayton, taking the two evacuees with them. Margaret then attended Morton SAYE school near the Tern Hill Airforce base. She remembers spending a lot of time at the church and told me that the minister of the time offered to adopt her! She estimates that they were in Norton in Hales for approximately 12 months.

Phone call Tuesday 25/10/2010 from Eric Clayton. the third evacuee on the photograph with myself and Geoffrey Magnall. He now lives in a bungalow at 24, Lomas Close, Burnage, Manchester, M19 1TE. And his phone number is 0161 4315856. He doesn't have a computer.

Eric told me that his son lives in Windsor Road, Denton which is the same road where Geoffrey Magnall lives. He recalls that we spent 2 to 3 months with the Malkins and he estimated that it was November 1939 when it ended and he went home to Manchester. He does not remember the story that Geoffrey Magnall told about Mrs Malkin taking us hand in hand and knocking on doors asking if anyone would take us (and neither do I). He does remember that Mr Malkin had a wooden leg (as advised by Mary Keay) and also that he was a First World War veteran. He remembers that to us young lads, the Malkins appeared to be very old whilst they were possibly only in their forties at the time. He also said that Mrs Malkin lived to be 100 (I don't know where he got that information from). He recalls Mr Malkin taking us rabbiting, setting snares and catching lots of them as they were in abundance at the time. He also remembers Mrs Malkin cooking them and he said that nothing was wasted. He told me that Mrs Malkin once asked us if we liked chips and when we all said yes we only got one chip each. Eric returned to Manchester at the end of his stay with the Malkins. He recalled that when one of his first teeth was growing crookedly, Mr Malkin tied a piece of string around it and yanked it out! When he was back in Manchester, he remembers Billy Phythian living in the same area. He told me that Billy was a big lad and that at the age of 18, Billy was called up to do his National Service in the Lancashire Fusiliers.