

born Sunday morning at noon

My mother always said when the
Second W.W. ended.

My great-aunt, Elizabeth a midwife
of many years - but without training,
officiated - she was late to suffice
my Mother's life - as she caught
the flu that was a deadly one in
1918 - killing more people than had
been killed in the great war.

The reddit war, I was looked
after for the first few weeks of my
life, by my grandmother who lived
well down at No. 33 cedar Dr.
Hinckley - we lived at No. 35

both street I was born in
1920 like the ones described in
P. J. Kinsella? The streets where the
humble are seen? Red brick
terracotta tiles upon roof of back
to back houses & lit by gas -

Bell & Sculby - man down with
staircase leading from it to his
bedrooms

the woman washed half way up the
blocks of

There were 6 or 7 houses
having to share 2 toilets -
the toilets were at the end of
the block - shared by the men &
a room for refuse. They were
also our playground - which
along with the pavement of the
street, made up the sum total
of it.

In the houses opposite we
quite big families all squeezed
into these small boxes - this
resulted in quite a few harasses
upon the poor over-worked members
of the families especially the
mothers - & especially the
hot summer days - dirt & heat
had a bad effect on tempers & no
little sister & I used to lean
out of our bedroom window to
have a front seat view of the
Drama unfolding beneath us.

344

we sat on Schoolroom chairs - one each - clasped our
gloves - towards the end of the course we were invited to Glasgow
onwards - some of us had children on feet & hands - were invited
to our Instructor's house to sleep at night.

William Metcalfe - middle-aged - a kindly man

a simple talker - a Scot from Glasgow - both
his brother & wife had been teachers - ^{he} were excellent
instructors - but his Glasgow accent ^{of his talk} was a misery?
like me had to be listening to very carefully to
understand him. Glasgow accent ^{is very clear} always
blowing across ^{was} Glasgow means the natives there have
the thick with dialects the Glasgow accent of weeks

The course was a crash one of construction
physics - magnetism - electricity - Ohms Law - principles
of the internal combustion engine - compasses - inductors
pneumatic exhaust - Horse & Hobs Lamp Practice:

In the evenings - evenings & colder - we were instructed
in wiring & soldering ^{HF} & basic electrical ^{lectures} technicals of
the college as soon as teacher instructed on this ^{in this} for this
as it was the harder part of the course not
being all practical. This ^{is} taught ^{is} always
be illustrated by his speaking words - which always
aroused. Now girls always remember first of all to
arrived. I had waited for this course ^{for some time} &
I was determined to pass it

For your news, ^{now} I was so anxious to qualify
in the work I had already done - & could be much
I never knew of any of the station ^{social} ^{and rules created}
lates of ^{as} off ^{the} I just studied - went
Collecting ^{books} to keep the fires going - a fire I
could never enjoy as the 2 other Wards commanded
at 2 chairs by the small fire place - They ^{thankfully} did
not go out when they were not using, the ^{assisted} life
of Cromwell - I was really scared of the Scots girls fire
places - I think I was scared because I was keen to
stays & they weren't - It was a God send there is no cold one.
The greatest gift a blessing - an extra blanket at night & a
cup of tea in the cold classroom, Hanger.

Cromwell was as if isolated from the world
there were no newspapers - no news. But we were instructed
that if we heard on aircraft take off from this with an unusual
sound - we were not to talk about it to anyone - The jet engines?

For American invitation
 For a very special celebration
A special celebration
 They made us invited

Quite surprised on this occasion
 By presenting each of us
 With a beautiful big beautiful Rose
 which they pinned on our uniform

The Huge Ginger
 Built to house both ^{by} Portuguese
 Liberators & their ^{men} troops ^{men}
 Was crowded with men

Oh don't let me
 They'll get cherry, as again

She was adored in purple and green
 She ^{had} ^{not} ^{been} ^{seen} ^{before} ^{anywhere}
 Wearing the Orange Queen ^{ring}
 She ^{had} ^{all} ^{the} ^{time} ^{been} ^{watched} ^{and}

Similarly in love ⁱⁿ ^{green} ^{and} ^{purple}
 What was big all Waiting for?

Beginning at the front
 The largest Band I ever saw

Conducted by a Bearded man
 In blue and red

In dark green and blue
 Steaming perfumes and incense
 Much biggest band was
 The Band of his land would
 Make you want to part
 Dance or marry

But everybody did
 They just laughed on and
 At the long night Dance
 We hadn't told
 So we didn't know
 But we were planning
 To set a few records
 I am suddenly wonderful
~~musical~~ ^{new} show
from Canada

pink ^{and} ^{blue}
~~pink~~ ^{and} ^{blue}
~~pink~~ ^{and} ^{blue}
~~pink~~ ^{and} ^{blue}

which
 were
 gallantly
 pinned
 on our
~~hopes~~

He whistled idly
 in my ear
 or not and then
 Oh dear No and then
^{when} ^{you} ^{say} ^{no}

part 24

In a matter of days I was called upon to face a choice or
Leave Officer - they got younger! - ^{Forced} ^{in York & had}
service - She tore me off a strip - I was ^{VERBALLY} ^{not physically} ^{a bit in}
days in the cookhouse - I reported there after cycling ^{doctor} ^{Winded Blown}
to church Fenton early the next Monday morning - the kitchen
was crammed with out-of-work ^{AA} crew - Hostilities having
been wound down - What are you doing here asked one
handsome - They were all handsome young pilot - I told
him I was reporting for my punishment - You have to cycle
down to C. & for ten days - forget it & we'll do the chores
for you - what a knight in shining armor he was -
I pedalled back to duty quicker than I'd come & so was saved
from my sentence.

Fenton My Tech Drama teacher had written

Inxford ^{about} to the Ministry re my Service release - as I had on the result
of an Honours mark on my Associate Certificate been given a
Scholarship to a prestigious ^{London} Acting Academy - I didn't ask
her to - although anxious to take up the Scholarship I was
reluctant to leave the Services & had I not been had this offer
I would definately have made a career in the DAPPS - however
as the result of her plea I was called in front of the
handsome - I had never had the pleasure of meeting
he explained kindly how he couldn't release me early & then
was interrupted by a young WAAF Officer - not the
one who had sentenced me earlier - she stood in front of his
desk & gazed so seriously into his eyes that I could not
even breathe & without bateing - I quietly withdrew from the room
I hope she got her man!

How we did worship these brave men boys
& quite rightly too often after mostly sat on Operation Stations
Our thoughts & prayers were always with them & they knew this
& the result was - ~~death~~ the atmosphere on those camps was not
death & destruction but optimism love & laughter & comradeship
with a will to do our best in the work we had to be
helpful & competent ~~and~~ - partners in a situation that was not
of our doing but ours to triumph over the will of man that had
not been of our choosing

Horsham St Faith
3 miles from
Norwich

I look down
from The ^{High} Balcony of
flying control

Cycling down to cycles.

For you
I listen up there
You God
of love
above
in Hell

I look down from The Balcony
of The ~~Balcony~~ House
of Flying Control
Seeing the many mist of winter
Both around the loaded land
embrace them safely earthbound
As if to keep them ashore!

As the F planes The Aurora fly yellow green
Are waiting for the signaling light
Are waiting they must leave this
To signal they must leave this perchance some give
To this zone who did not give their earth
Fly this zone who did not give their earth To leave the
Earth for this stay low As if Backwardly back
Before stand her aged Ellengakas
On testing the Tyres of his kite Then slowly round
To check lighter has no heart
In this tragedy the night play
The very light signal its time to go

Sheathed in H.S.
Oh no not a shield
But a mist's embrace
To keep them earthbound slowly
I numbered with flying 600
With flying 600
They climb into their place

Perchance some give
To signal they must leave this
Stay low As if Backwardly back
To leave the earth they leave
earthy round
The pen tract

at 2 wings down a broad staircase at the top of which was mounted the figure of a winged Victory.
I could follow the stairs - up - up - up - I ascended it would have been hard to climb it - as it had no railings & many iron steps were loose & shaking, hand & hand with them I went up very slowly and I almost slipped off several times -

had lived long where the station was like this - I would say in the winter without heating the station was like this - we had no heating or nothing - cold I'd wear my cap to the bottom of the stairs took a thick coat, down the stairs I'd take off my coat & a bath hat on my coat & coat over my coat & when I went out every step had to be counted like paradise lost & I had to

the station or the friends I had to buy free from regulation - I didn't always need a very costly lodgings as we were forced to do - staying out of the town & a very costly a long time holding a hot drink I always slept in a very expensively lodgings & as thin as this contact with the alien P/L - the best the elephant Valley no - always give me the best - One gal operated the Peacock bar - always give me the best - second the character from the Town of the P/L - These evenings were reserved to the Ops Plotting Table of the Aeroplane - if lost the pilot would be ordered to Transact business to Transact for his & and by the 3 stations a vector to steer would be given within a minute - indeed - he was asked to Transact for a bit at minute intervals -

of no flying & sleep on the Super Station floor. my mother made me a sleeping bag which was much appreciated off the floor, but used to seek shelter underneath & being hungry she satisfied her needs by breaking the wooden floor. So to ever the holes made be seen used our ten dinner plates !

One night I was suddenly awakened from slumber to feel something run up the side of my sleeping bag, I jumped up off the doorway dash along half on behind the screen I reached for the doorway dash along half on behind the screen standing on this I put on the light - there was nothing to be seen - My companion - the most wonderful was - a plucked wire back I'd been dreamt my best & comrade - Not more than 10 feet off my sleeping bag - the life partner whom the sound of his voice could work to get him within a minute a vector to sleep and so do I make a dash to Signal Station Chard Station

The result - The sets were removed to "Gamble" - apparently I didn't enjoy an evening the window of the window of the First Post I was not let always to deal with old new problems or made to feel the windows were affected with old new problems or made to feel the window was another matter - after that there was the next morning noise coming from the busy kitchen, a series of sharp bangs at the window like the noise of a gun - but when we had dug up the window panes

the previous night so it was short supply. This morning so I was a sleep click -

The village was a noisy quick dead Rion road

It was amazing! - Now the farmers - even the amazeballs knew what time we'd be up or down at the house - when - if we were absent in
leave - or standing in for another girl they knew - & were bothered
if we were late on duty

I was billeted with a Liverpool girl by name
of Audrey - Bill & Edna - we were paired with one another & worked together quite
well but we were opposite to really get - Now I married my wife off the camp & the
girls in the hut - Yorkshire Farmers - were real characters - They had a reputation
for staying on the lonely farm long looked after now by a doting mother & then when
poorly decided they would marry a young girl from the village to ensure that in
their old age they would be looked after - This was the case of the farmer
& his wife whose we were billeted - He used to say the Pato he is a wold village
I used to reply well tell me - he never did - & we never had time or energy
after one hour of duty to find out!! His brother lived just there & still work
his Army calls from the great war - He never paid his ~~assistant~~ bill with any money
for anything this keep - so he lived on the farm from his pay - bacon
for his pig & meat for dinner & ham for tea - the ceiling of the kitchen
almost sprung from the weight of the hams hung there - He never had a
lock although the Farmer's Burglar looked off a lovely modern bathroom
at 8 but used to him at 10 meetings & I used to look at him a bit cold
find him with the family - was always surprised to see how clean he looks
I found - his skin was so tough that dirt just shone off it - One day his
wife or house persuaded him to have a bath - we all waited outside the bathroom
door to hear to about his spit from it - his first words "was was
he slept with a wife"

Never again - & he stuck to her word
in his bedroom or so we were told - having never visited this - until
one night - mischievous night we made him an apple pie bed - with bushes
& many other things - there was again we listened outside his door but no
sound of anger or surprise - we could only assume he was so tough he
never noticed his bad bedfellows! - The dog - dog - Kit the Farmer was
as tough as old boots - worked his own chair & placed the table we never
saw him give affection to his hard working wife - He used to describe by looking out
of the window when other women from the village passed by saying "My what a smart woman
or a fine woman Mrs ~~100~~ 125? You never rose to this bait but kept on

had a dog called Sleep
and the poor bairn would sleep

scrubbing the kitchen floor etc.

Towards the end of the war
 Some ~~war~~
~~conflict~~ became war weary
 or were sadly ~~broken~~ began to
 reflect ~~warlike~~ behaviour
 A girl working in our ~~fix~~
 shop was getting married - no
 wedding gown so I borrowed
 one for her from my friend in York
 less thoughtful than the host never received
 invitation or even a piece of cake
 When the dress was returned to me
 it was stained with Wine & Beer -

I hurriedly took it to the Dry cleaners
 & asked the stains could be removed
 Thankfully they were

An Army Officer The Burning Plane when I was on duty
 The Navigator was buried a visit his grave
 I couldnt ride my bicycle - as the
 Cookhouse was a long way away
 I missed supper however I wasnt hungry
 for several weeks I couldnt drink
 a hot cup of tea it always tasted hot
 - I got a streak of white hair on the
 back of my head & every evening when
 the mists rose from the lake soon
 descended upon me like a curtain
 I never missed a duty because of this
 The girls in the heat used to rub my back
 with wintergreen - The WO officer
 inspecting the hut never failed to say
 I love the smell of Myer's wintergreen -
 I hoped no one else noticed it - I was given
 little orange pills & weekly sessions of a sunlight
 lamp in the men's sick quarters. There wasn't
 a sick quarters at the time for Wafer & I was
 always was the subject of hilarity a kind
 Dick Bay attendant supervised me in the lamp
 I thought it was because of the damp side what
 So asked for posting to my native County Yorkshire

Become
 less
 disciplined
 & kind
 & work
 still high
 less thoughtful
 of others
 peace time
 Behaviour?

After several months the haze - he always wore
 a cap walking around dressed in a uniform
 perhaps he didn't have one! however appearing extremely
 Perhaps he didn't have one!
 came through to church services - looks deathly pale
 & worn out not at all the friends she made - she made
 a good many friends herself happy - I was still suffering from either of Jan
 morning

The Bayderstone
Inn I was late
as usual.

One lovely summer evening cycling down
the hill to meet my friends at ~~Delin~~ in
the village of ~~Leeds~~ I noticed - can't think
why an American ~~was~~ walking on the pavement
in the opposite direction with a rather large lady ~~FAST~~
it was just a glance as I was speeding ~~FAST~~
the hill - late as usual ~~for~~ ^{my} ~~and~~ ^{with Friends}

Arriving at the Inn which was crowded
I couldn't see my friends, so I ^{stood} - searching ^{for them}
amongst the crowds I saw that ^{AMERICAN} ~~she~~
he must have run back quickly! - it ^{second}

I'll never forget how it seemed the crowd between
us parted & he came towards me ^{THIS WAS 1940} asked my
name - on being told Cathie he replied
"See Cathie can I be your Heathcliff &
all through out friendship which lasted
60 years he was addressed as Heathcliff <sup>by me & my
friends</sup>
He was a very interesting companion - cycling
with me - to explore Norfolk - He loved
the countryside & the villages & Norwich
we attended the concerts there at the Forces
club - remember that the singer singing his
loudest after every song! One day we got
lost & found ourselves in the middle of the
large American Airfield ^{luckily we}
were surrounded by Army policemen - police cars
armored cars - fire engines ^{surveillance} we were questioned
but when they realised we were friendly ^{NOT FOES}
we were escorted at the double to the nearest
exit. I thought ^{all the way to our}
^{Spies or whatever} New Orleans newspaper

No one less like ^{a Hepcat} ^{we} They thought we were
I thought this ^{euro} ^{over} ^{over}
Gentle people had come was funny but my
companion took a very serious view - he thought
I should have punched him & congratulated me
on my coolness! - I said about English girls
wonderful! - ^{the first compliment I received} -
When the Americans were posted back
home - I visited the American quartermaster's office
first & last time to say Goodbye to Heathcliff
He gave me his ^{my} records to keep & the boy
from the huts came & waved me a fond farewell
as I balanced the records on my bicycle

7488222 227 97

every one couldn't have been kinder to me
I arrived at Church Benton was greeted
kindly by the Sgt in charge of Signals
~~Office~~ he said - I could have you stay
here & ~~a~~ ^{work} in the Ops room - But ~~as~~ ^{for} you
under ground & your ~~health~~ hasn't been
all ~~now~~ it is under ground see I think
it would be better from your state
of health if I sent you to the

Fixtione Post & you are billeted on
a Farm — A Farm! The prospect

interested me & thanking him for his
kindness I introduced myself to Mr. The
farmer & his wife Grace, who had a
small holding in a nearby village

Please
Turn Over

There was one other WAAF in the B. Net
9 of us scattered in other houses
though as our duties were not conducive
to our every meeting one another with
the exception of the ^{two of} Captain in charge
of our duty plan & seemed strange &
I missed the girls & I & on an operational
station. Again the AAF was kind to me
& I had an appointment to see a Specialist
at Leeds Infirmary - he could only suggest
weekly exercises - however as that would not have
filled in my duties I declined & left it to
the air of my native Yorkshire to help to cure me