

AFTER THE WAR 3

by Alf Bedwell

After the war I had one or two jobs at different places until we got to Bromley. That was a good job, but it didn't suit Iris. We were in and out of the doctor's, until one night when we were in the surgery, a new doctor saw us. He recommended that we get away from Bromley as soon as possible. He suggested we got to the seaside or the like. So the only place for us was back with my parents in Birchington and this is what we did. It didn't take long for Iris to recover. I went on the farm to work, and in the season, Iris would go picking fruit and potatoes. She was soon strong and healthy again.

By then we were living in Acol opposite St Mildred's Church, where Barbara was in the choir. Then I got caught for a service the following week. It was "The Blessing of the Plough". We had a practice, and then the day came. The Vicar (Rev. Sharp) said, "I will nod for you to start." Off we went. The service was going well - I had my bit on paper - the Vicar nodded at me - and I nodded back! Then he nodded again! So I thought I had better start, but there was a glorious mix-up, but thankfully it was soon over. But the Vicar was not very pleased!

We were friends with a couple from Margate and on Sunday morning, they would call in on their way to the country for a drink. We were asked if we would like to go with them. We ended up in the country pub called "The Hog and Donkey". It was a popular pub and the landlady was well-made, with her clothes cut a bit short. Every time she bent down under the counter for bottles of cider, you can guess what happened - she was showing all she had got! At that time, Iris was drinking cider, which was a good Sunday drink. It made us hungry - ha ha!

We went with them several times and it was from this couple we had our first car - an 18 h.p. M.G. 1936 with a soft top. It was a smashing car and it cost £100, of which Iris got round my father to lend us the money for it. We paid him back at £1 a week until it was ours. It was a bit of a drag and when it was finished, Iris took the last £1 up home to my Dad's. He said, "Now you've finished paying, and you haven't missed a week!" He then gave Iris all the £100 back, which at that time was a fortune! THANKS DAD!