

Christmas comes but once a year and when it  
does it brings good cheer!

Sat 16th December 1939

I showed Dad's card to Cook and she gave me one of her massive hugs. She said it'll be a squash but we're all to have Christmas in her kitchen, and a goose and a bottle will help make things stretch! Mrs Jones and her brat are off back to London today, so that's two less! She's never took to the country and there's been no bombs in London. Mrs Rose is staying - Cook reckons she ain't got no family to go home to.

18th December

A Christmas card from Auntie Ethel and Frankie!

Uncle C's going to send them a chicken and some veg for Christmas, so Tommy and me have been decorating a box.



Tuesday 19th

Took the box over to Uncle Ron's for posting. Had lunch with him and Auntie Beth ... thought she might kidnap Tommy, so left early!

Sunday 24th December 1939 A GRAND NIGHT!

EVERYONE had the afternoon off: Uncle C, the land girls, Bathgate, the vacs, Cook and ALL - WE HAD SO MUCH FUN!

Cook gave us hot cocoa and Christmas cake - I do love Cook - then we wrapped up warm, lit some lanterns and set off for the village. It had snowed during the night so we threw snowballs and at the top of Drag Hill, we all squashed onto toboggans and flew down to the King's Arms, arriving in a pile of giggles!

We had hot punch and mince pies, and then went carol singing to raise money for the war effort. It was a laugh - the whole village was out singing so all the houses were empty! Simon, being Jewish, didn't know no carols, no more did Maggie and Molly - and they ain't got no excuse!

Then we went to church for more carols and prayers for peace. Each adult pulled a toboggan of children home; I think Uncle C must have carried Tommy and me up to bed, I don't remember.

## CHRISTMAS DAY 1939

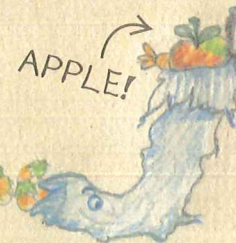
Dear Diary, Happy Christmas to you! This has been a right special day - I'm going to have to write pages!

Tommy was up with the dawn - he was that excited! Father Christmas had been in the night and we had an apple, nuts and sweeties in our socks!

SWEETIES!



NUTS!



APPLE!

Happy Xmas to Mum and Dad, wherever you are! xxx



VERY SECRET!  
I made  
Uncle C's bed  
for him and  
it weren't  
wet. I was glad  
for Simon;  
I don't  
think he'd  
do that if  
he stayed  
with us as  
cared for him.

I found  
mouse prints  
in the  
kripping, but  
I don't  
think they  
was Pocket's.

Q. Was it  
a Nazi that  
hid in the  
bakery over  
Christmas?  
A. No, it was  
a mince spy!

We tumbled downstairs to tell Uncle C.  
and there was SIMON lying head-to-toe  
with him, and his sock was full too!  
I did hug Uncle C. Seeing Simon in  
out of the cold was next best to  
having Dad home. I wonder how Uncle C  
knew he slept in the granary -  
**I DID NOT TELL!**

I won't have that  
dog or that mouse  
in the house,  
Christmas or no!



### BREAKFAST

Fried bread  
2 eggs EACH!  
Tea with SUGAR!

### PRESENTS... YES... PRESENTS!

Uncle C had carved Simon and  
Tommy wooden planes.  
Him and Cook had made me a doll.  
I'm calling her Henrietta.



I'd decorated Uncle C a tin for his humbugs  
and Tommy gave us all a kiss! Simon said he  
hadn't known about presents, or that he'd have  
a Christmas-celebrating family, so his gifts would  
be late. That made even Uncle C well-up!

### DINNER

It was 4 o'clock by the time Cook  
finished serving lunch in the dining  
room, but we didn't mind. Lilly and Nessy made her  
sit down and they served everything. They'd even  
bought crackers with party hats and jokes.

When we ate Dad's goose we sang  
"For he's a jolly good fellow", which he is!  
The pudding had a peace flag on it and Uncle C  
sent it up in flames with the brandy!



Vera Lynn sings this song on the radio -  
she's Dad's favourite!

### SINGING, DANCING AND SPEECHES

We all helped clear away... even Tommy and  
Mrs Rose. Uncle C gave a speech thanking  
Cook, and Bathgate thanked the land girls -  
Lilly hugged him and he blushed scarlet!  
Then Uncle C got out his accordion  
and we all sang and danced.  
We felt like one big family.

We'll meet again,  
don't know where,  
don't know when...



### BOXING DAY 1939

Mrs Mole came to the cottage  
to give Uncle C his Christmas box and a whole tin of mince pies. He didn't  
let on how much he got, but he gave me, Tommy AND Simon sixpence each.  
He told Simon he was to stay with us until his mum and dad came for him.  
He said not to chat about it, because moving evacuees around ain't allowed.

Simon told me that just before our Christmas, Jewish people celebrate  
Hanukkah - a festival of lights - and give each other presents. His mum  
and dad must really be  
missing him. He says he thinks  
of his family every day, just  
like I think of my mum and  
dad. He drew me a picture of  
his family waving goodbye to  
him at the station.

I promised I would always  
keep it safe - and I will.

### THE END OF 1939



This is Hebrew for "peace"!