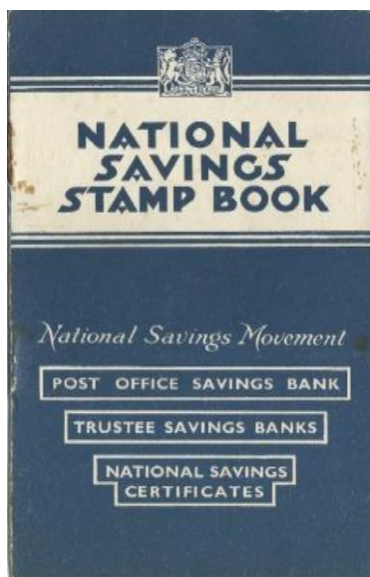
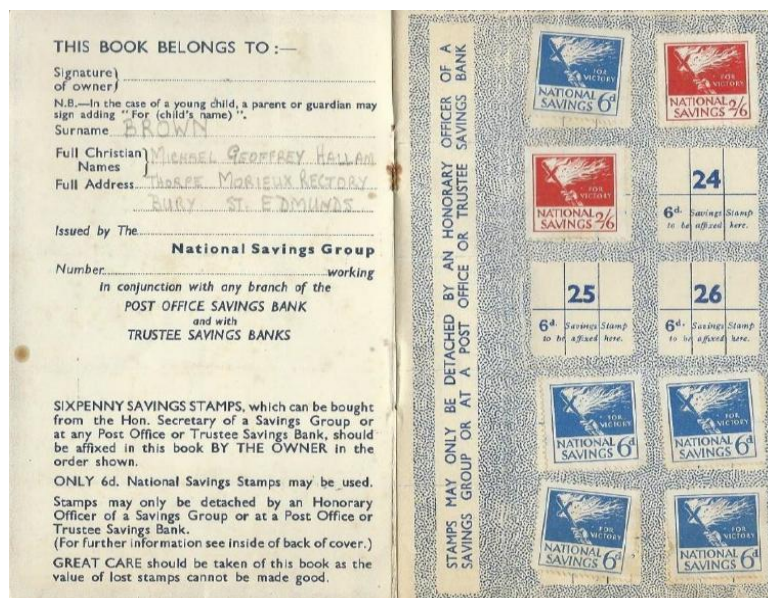
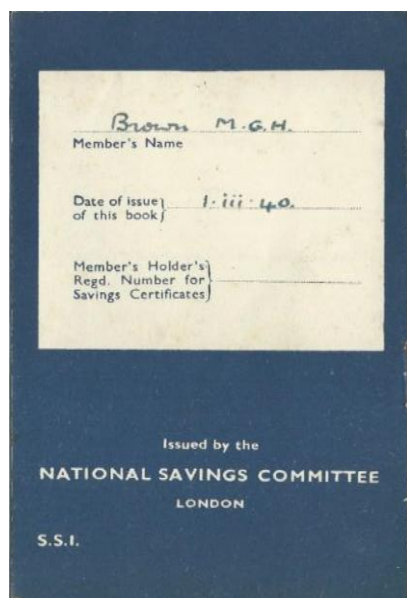


Children and National Savings – David Gray

During the Second World War, the majority of young children would have been saving some small portion of their pocket money to aid the war effort. Most would have been encouraged at school, but also, friends and family would have been involved in making this possible, especially for the very young. They would have either been saving penny stamps on a card, or would have held a National Savings Stamp book, in which they would have stuck the savings stamps they purchased in order to buy Savings Certificates. They would then have been in possession of a National Savings Certificate book that the Certificates were kept in.



Michael Geoffrey Hallam Brown was one such schoolboy. Michael was born on the 16th July 1930, his father was Claud Leslie Barnacle Brown, a Clerk of Holy Orders who in 1939 was of The Rectory, Cosford, Suffolk. Michael had a sister, Pamela Marion Bremner Brown, who was three years older than him. Michael's National Savings Stamp Book, left and below, shows on the back page that it was issued on 1st March 1940, when he was still only nine years old. His address at that time was Thorpe Morieux Rectory, Bury St Edmunds, which must have been his father's address, as the 1939 Registry has Michael living at 36 Bracondale, which was a private boarding school in Norwich.



At the end of September 1944 Michael started at Kings College, Taunton, and gained his School Certificate in July 1947. I am not sure if Michael left school after taking his exams, in which he gained six credits and a distinction, but we do know he died on the 10th May 1948, still only seventeen.

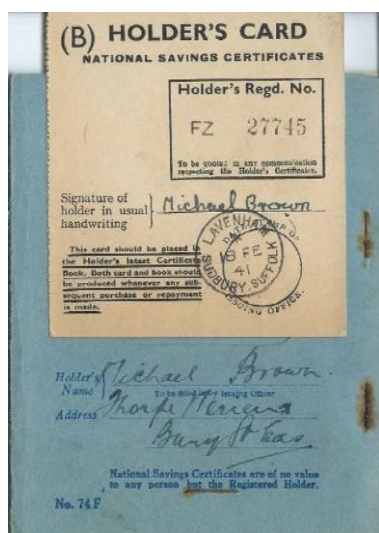


Michael Geoffrey Hallam Brown

'The Aluredian' was, perhaps still is, the school magazine of the Kings School, Taunton. The July 1948 issue gives a report about Michael at the school and records his death. The story states, 'We at Kings who lived and worked and played with Michael Brown have for a little while lost sight of a very beloved friend.' Michael was in the Rover Scout Crew, a Prefect at the school and a Server in the chapel. 'He was rock steady and reliable...and walked his world with unconscious dignity...evil passed him by, there was no abiding place for it in him.'

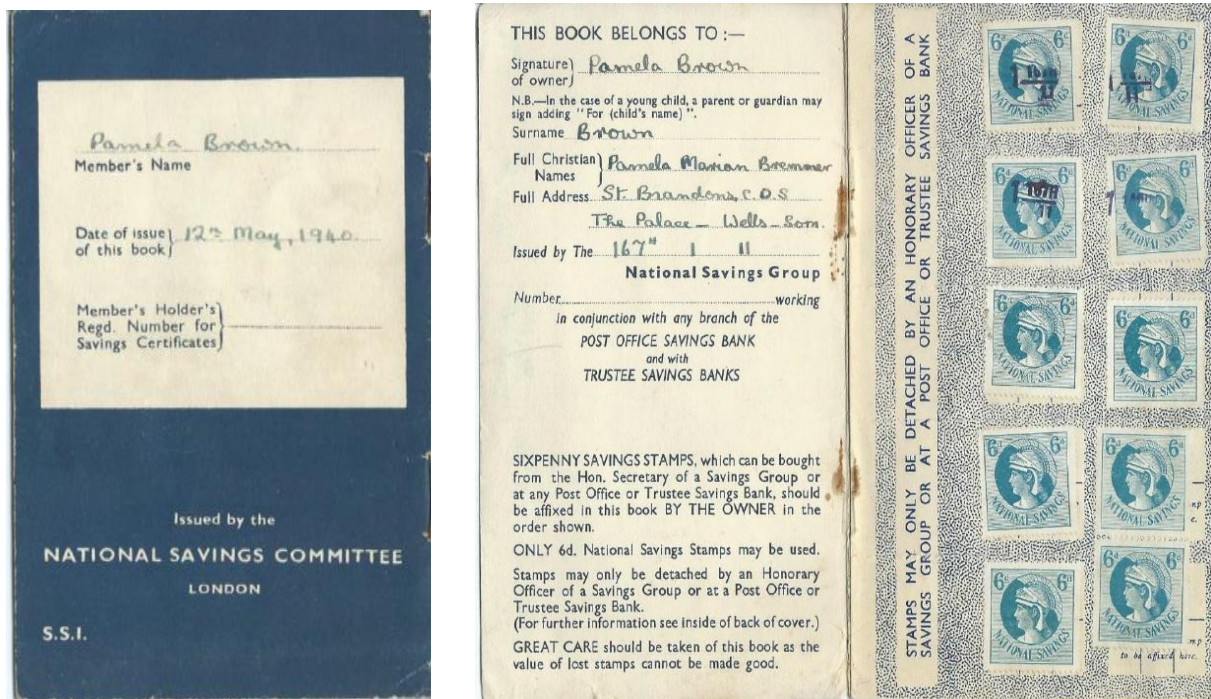
It finishes, 'We have gained much by his being here and lost much by his passing on. He was the "gentil parfit Knight." May his soul rest in peace.' Michael was following in his father's footsteps as the story records that 'Never a day passed by, but he might be seen praying in the school chapel'.

Michael's National Savings Certificates book *below* shows that it still contains two unredeemed Savings Certificates. The book was opened at Lavenham, Sudbury, Suffolk, and rubber stamped on 18th February 1941 which was when the first Certificate for fifteen shillings was purchased and stamped. Later, on the 10th August 1943, Michael purchased two units (one Certificate), to the value of £1. 10s.



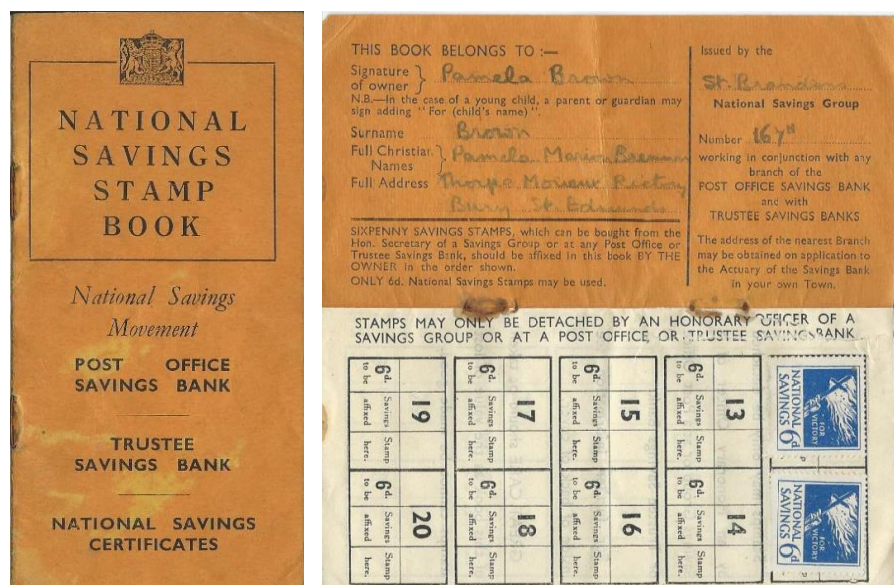
We don't know the circumstances of Michael's death. Whether it be accident or illness, the fact remains that he studied hard, was a model pupil, clearly was ready to follow in his father's footsteps and played his full part in helping to save for his country's freedom.

As I have mentioned, Michael had a sister, Pamela Marion Bremner Brown who I believe was born in 1927. Pamela's National Savings Stamp Book below, was issued on the 12th May 1940. Pamela's address is given as St Brandon's, The Palace, Wells. 'St. Brandon's' was a boarding school for girls located at Clevedon in Somerset. During the Second World War the school was evacuated to The Bishop's Palace, Wells. The Book was issued by the 167th (St Brandon's) Savings Group. The stamps in the book are the old type, issued before the 'Flaming Flag' stamps that appear in her brother's book.



Later, Pamela received a different Savings Book *below*, the book has the date of issue of September 25th written on the back. This type was introduced in June 1940, and this one contains the later type of stamps.

The book has a new address on it of Thorpe Morieux Rectory, the same as the address on her brother's book.



Pamela Brown was at St. Brandon's in The Palace at Wells during War Weapons Week. Wells and District had their Week from 14th to 21st June 1941, and it was opened by Field Marshal Sir Cyril Deverell. The Field Marshal, who had once been Chief of the Imperial General Staff, had retired from the army in 1937.



From notes that Pamela made in pencil on a copy of the War Weapons Week Souvenir Programme, it seems that she went on most days of the Week to see the exhibitions and displays. Pamela wrote her name and Form number (IV B) in the top corner of the programme cover *left*. In the list of people on the first page, serving on the Publicity Committee, Pamela underlined the name of 'Miss Almond St. Brandon's'. Miss Almond must have been a teacher. The programme goes on to state that the target for Wells and District during the Week was £55,000, enough to buy a motor torpedo boat.

The programme follows the usual pattern of announcing what was happening in the town on each day. The first day was Saturday June 14th against which Pamela has noted '*Rangi's birthday.*' At 3pm after the parade had assembled and the National Anthem had been played, but before the Field Marshal had given his introduction, Pamela has written '*This is where we left the Market Place.*' At 3.30 pm the Indicator was unveiled and Pamela has written the first day's total down as £45,211. On Sunday June 15th the programme stated that if wet, the open air service would take place in the Cathedral. Pamela has noted, '*It was very fine thank you.*'

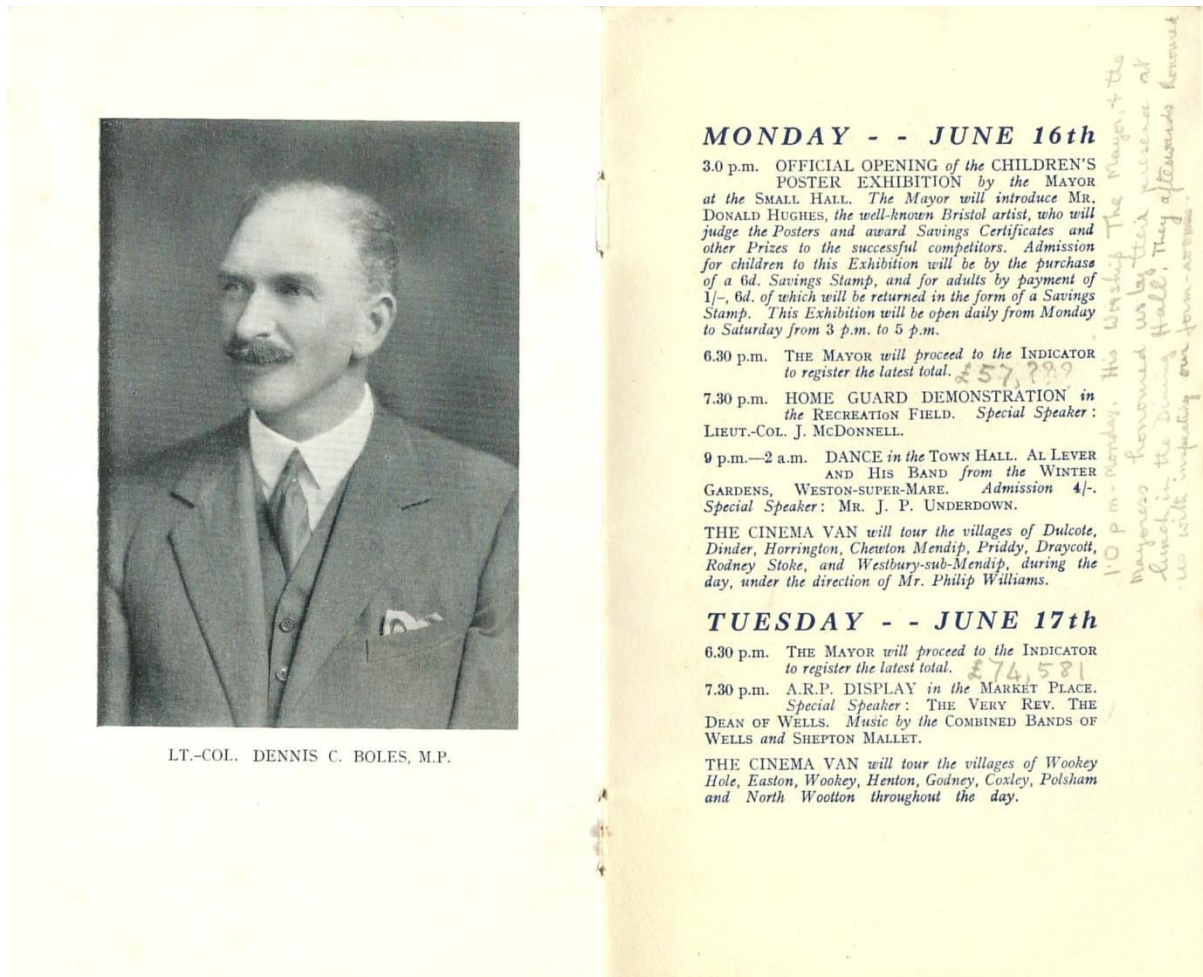
On Monday June 16th at 3pm it was the official opening of the Children's Poster Exhibition, with Savings Stamps given as awards. At 6.30pm the indicator was raised, and Pamela notes, £57,???. Along the margin (see picture on following page), Pamela has written, '*1pm – Monday. His Worship the Mayor & the Mayoress honoured us by their presence at lunch in the Dining Hall. They afterwards honoured us with inspecting our form rooms.*'

On Tuesday June 17th the Indicator was raised again to a total that Pamela records as £74,581.

On Wednesday June 18th the Indicator recorded a new total, noted by Pamela as £88,109.

There is no entry for Thursday, but on Friday June 20th Pamela records a new total of £116,194. 60

On Saturday June 21st Pamela notes a final total of £142,204. Far in excess of the £55,000 target. Also on Saturday the programme states that a German Messerschmitt Aeroplane would be exhibited on the Green near the entrance to the Bishop's Palace during the Week. Pamela notes, 'I never saw it. It was taken away on Friday.'



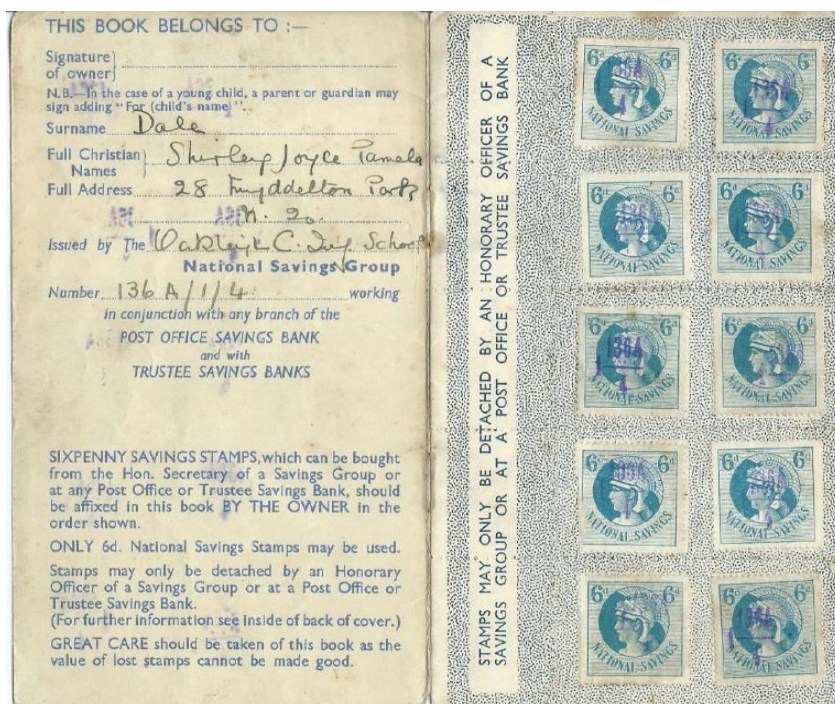
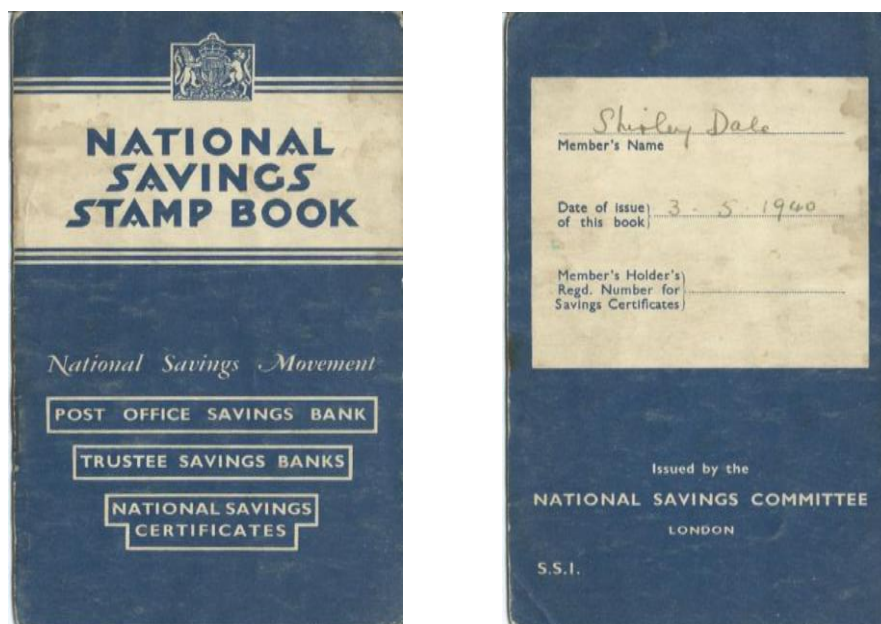
LT.-COL. DENNIS C. BOLES, M.P.

Wells & District War Weapons Week Souvenir Programme

I'm not sure if this Wolverhampton Schools National Savings badge represented all schools in Wolverhampton or was related to specific schools. I do know there was a Wolverhampton Schools Football Association which was in being during the Second World War. It may be that it was issued to the football players or could well have been made to be distributed to all school children in Wolverhampton to encourage National Savings.



Another little girl who was saving her pocket-money, this time only six years old, was Shirley Dale. Shirley was born on the 2nd January 1934. She lived at 28 Myddelton Park, Barnet, North London with her brother, her father Percy, and mother Nellie.

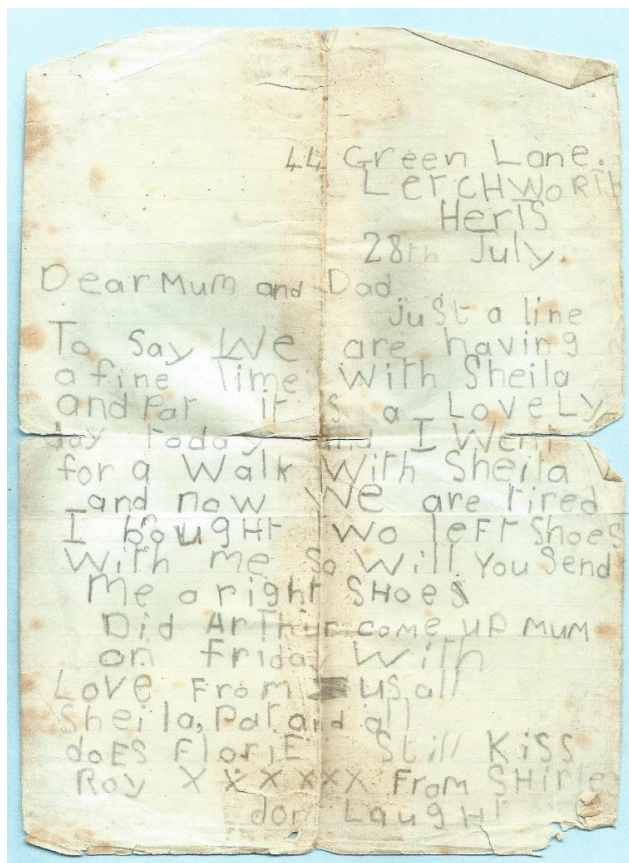


As can be seen above, Shirley's Savings Book was issued on 3rd May 1940. She was a pupil at Oakleigh Infants School, Whetstone London. The school was Savings Group 136A/1/4. Shirley didn't stay in London for very long after the war started because she was evacuated to Letchworth in Hertfordshire which was believed to be much safer than inner London and away from the bombing.

Shirley was killed at the age of 6, only a few months after her Savings Book was opened. Ironically, having been evacuated to Hertfordshire, she was knocked over and killed by an army truck on the Norton Village Road, Letchworth, just a few months later. The tragedy devastated not only her parents, but her brother too, who was just 11 years old. He kept her Savings Book as a sort of memento, along with a letter Shirley had written to the family after her evacuation, in July 1940. The pencil-written letter *below* really brings home the significance of the Savings Book to him, and probably explains why the stamps were never redeemed.



Shirley Dale

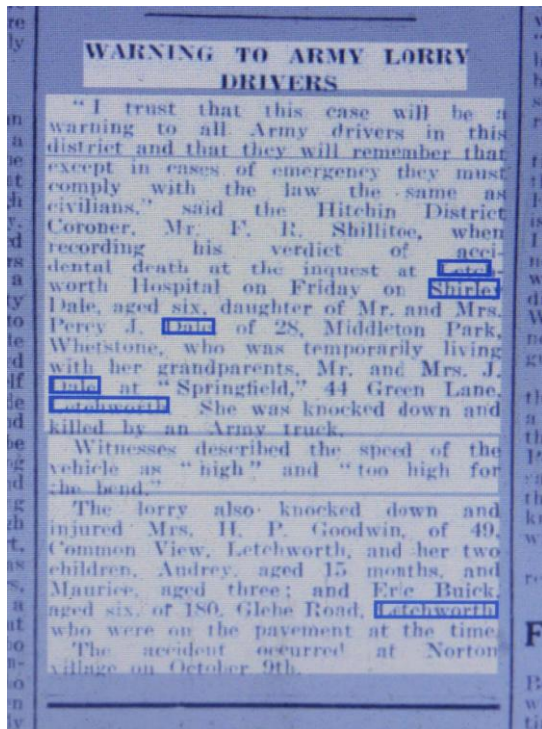


The letter has the address, 44, Green Lane Letchworth, Herts, and is dated 28 July.

"Dear mum and Dad, just a line to say we are having a fine time with Sheila and Pat. It is a lovely day today and I went for a walk with Sheila and now we are tired. I bought two left shoes with me so will you send me a right shoe. Did Arthur come up mum on Friday. With love from us all Sheila, Pat and all. Does Florrie still kiss Roy xxxxxx From Shirley, don't laugh."

After I put this story on the website, Simon Wilson carried out some research of his own regarding little Shirley Dale and has forwarded the following newspaper report of the terrible accident which

took poor Shirley's life. As we can see, Shirley was not the only person involved in the accident which could well have been a great deal more serious.



WARNING TO ARMY LORRY DRIVERS

"I trust that this case will be a warning to all Army drivers in this district and that they will remember that except in cases of emergency they must comply with the law the same as civilians," said the Hitchin District Coroner Mr. F. R. Shillitoe, when recording his verdict of accidental death at the inquest at Letchworth Hospital on Friday on Shirley Dale, aged six, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Percy J. Dale, of 28, Middleton Park, Whetstone, who was temporarily living with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dale at "Springfield," 44, Green Lane, Letchworth. She was knocked down and killed by an Army truck.

Witnesses described the speed of the vehicle as "high" and "too high for the bend."

The lorry also knocked down and injured Mrs. H. P. Goodwin, of 49, Common View, Letchworth, and her two children, Audrey, aged 15 months, and Maurice, aged three; and Eric Buick aged six of 180 Glebe Road, Letchworth, who were on the pavement at the time.

The accident occurred at Norton Village on October 9th."

(Biggleswade Chronicle Friday 1st November 1940.)