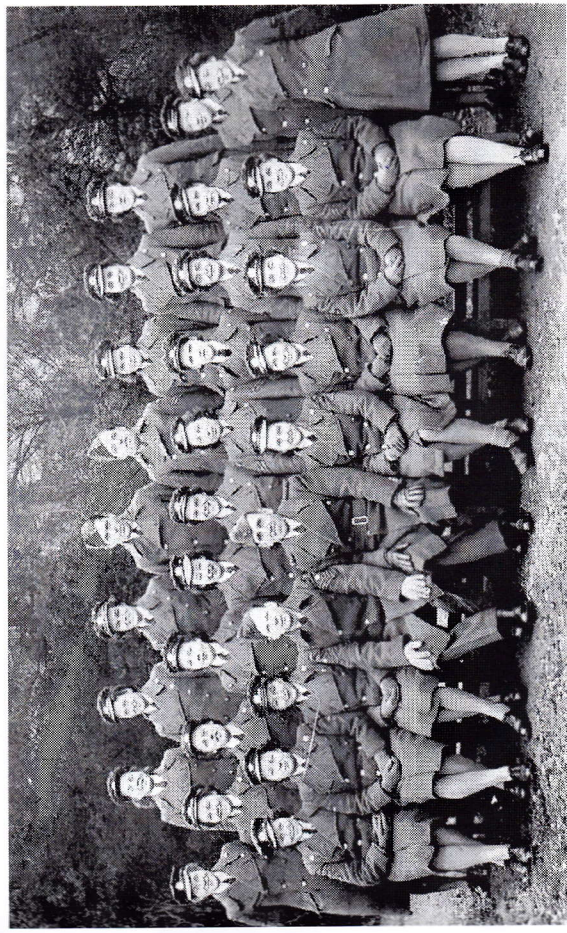


Throughout the conflict "Nip" was to serve in the specials, (police) whilst Joan was to join the W.A.A.Fs. Serving some of her time at the R.A.F radar station at Wartling, and seeing as the base was relatively close to her home was fortunate enough to qualify for a sleeping out pass.



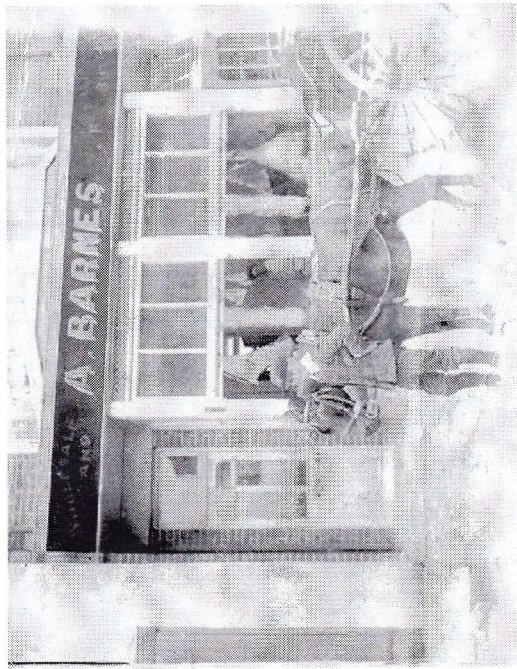
*Joan 3rd from the right back row during her W.A.A.F days.*

Food, especially meat was difficult to obtain and rationed until 1954. These circumstances did make for a little "under the counter" transaction with the odd local farmer.

Just before Christmas 1942 Nip was offered a pig by one such farmer and seeing as the season of goodwill was upon them thought it was a nice gesture to offer his customers a little extra. Under the cover of darkness, (not to difficult during those days), the pig was delivered and promptly hidden well out of sight from the prying eyes of the M.O.F. inspector who could, and did, turn up at any time to inspect the premises. However on December 16th the Luftwaffe, who had little regard for the season of goodwill; was to drop a 500kg bomb, which hit the road at the top of Coast Road. It bounced up through the back bedroom of the "Holmans" the local newagents before exploding on Baimbridge's garage at the rear. Although the site was virtually demolished none sustained injury.

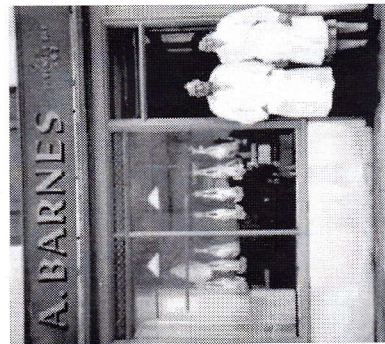
Still living in Pevensey Bay, Joan Upton (nee Barnes) recalls with clarity those years of relative peace before the 2nd Great War and throughout those more turbulent years of the conflict.

Joan's father "Nip" Barnes was a master butcher and from his shop in coast road served many customers over a wide area. He used a far more elegant mode of transport than to day, "a pony and trap".

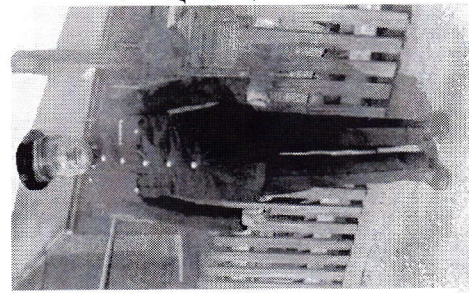


*No need for a filling station, a good blacksmith will suffice!*

Joan worked for her father from the day she left school, and upon "Nips" passing became the proprietor of the business. Her late husband "Ernie" also worked in the shop and when the couple married he became a partner.



*Joan & Ernie outside thier Coast Road shop.*



*"Nip" a proud special constable.*