



Wiltshire at War

Codford

World War 2 Recollections:

AMERICAN SOLDIERS

Americans were now stationed at Codford. Boyton Manor had been requisitioned as an American Army Officers' quarters and the entrance gates near our house were guarded by the American Military Police.

As everything was rationed, including sweets, we were always asking the American soldiers if they had any and more often than not we were given chewing gum. I recall one occasion, that the officer we approached didn't have any gum, so he gave us a large cigar. As boys we were delighted, we went off to our raft, lit up, laid back and prepared to enjoy it. What a surprise, within minutes we were all violently sick ant to this day none of us ever smoked again.

Needless to say, as the weeks went by, we became very friendly with the American soldiers, they were only young men and away from home. In their spare time they came to visit us and talked about America and how they lived. In particular one called Joe Triano. He was Mexican and came from a very poor background. His specialty and quite a marvel to us boys, was his ability to catch fish with his bare hands, "tickling" them is the phrase. During his brief fishing trips in summer, he emptied the river of trout.

Story contributed by salisburyouthwilts - July, 2005 - WW2 People's War is an online archive of wartime memories contributed by members of the public and gathered by the BBC. The archive can be found at bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar