

A CHILD'S WAR IN CORNWALL

'THE VOICE OF A SCHOOLBOY'

John C. Harding

John Harding was just eight and a half years old when war was declared in 1939. His is the 'Voice of a schoolboy' in this remarkable memoir of an idyllic childhood spent in Cornwall against the background of the dark clouds of war.

Moving from Bristol to Plymouth in what has been described as 'England's darkest hour', he, together with his mother, brother and sisters, experience the horrors of the Blitz, as a result of which – joined by their father – they move to the remote and seemingly peaceful region bordering the Fal estuary in Cornwall.

For a young boy the estuary, creeks and countryside, with its woods and fields offer a paradise for exploration. Befriending local children and fellow evacuees, they discover the delights of messing about in boats which provided them with a perfect environment.

However as the war progresses it intrudes more and more into their lives and the importance of Falmouth as a strategic port attracts enemy aircraft attention. The build up of American men and equipment in preparation for the D Day landings, provide the youngsters with a unique opportunity to see, and share history in the making.

In *A Child's War in Cornwall* the author describes the rural idyll that was Cornwall in the 1940s against the background of World War Two. His fond memories of those times provide a fascinating glimpse of times past and heart-warming reminiscences of a most fortunate childhood.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John C. Harding philosophy is 'a man with many hobbies has many friends'. John has many friends. His hobbies include marine painting, astral navigation, collecting scientific instruments, photography and wildlife gardening.

John's interests are UFOs, naval history, steam engines, aviation history and electric clocks.

He lives in Exmouth with his wife Pat.

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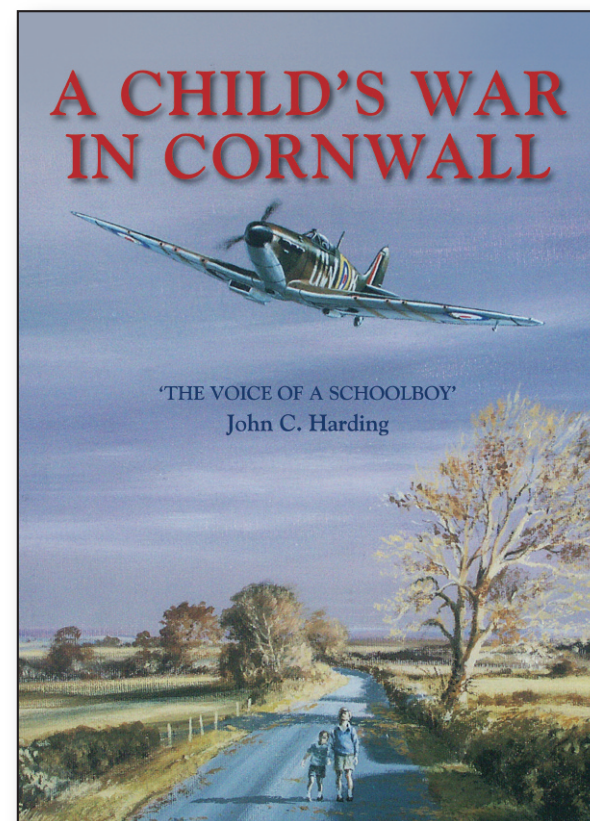
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Halsgrove House,
Ryelands Industrial Estate,
Bagley Road, Wellington,
Somerset TA21 9PZ
Tel: 01823 653777
Fax: 01823 216796
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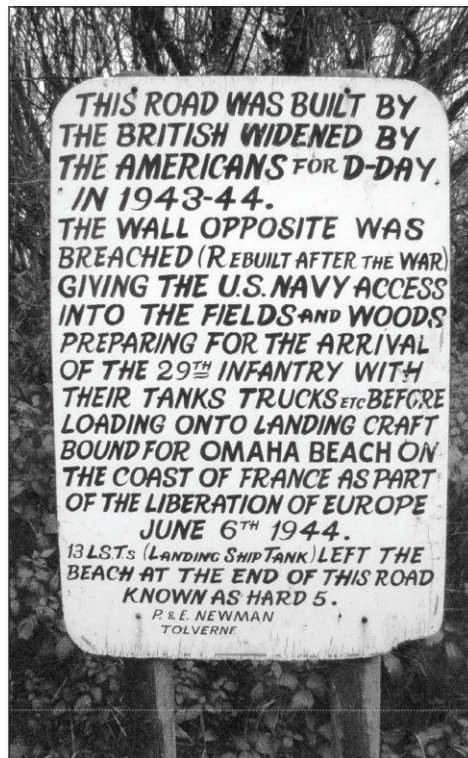
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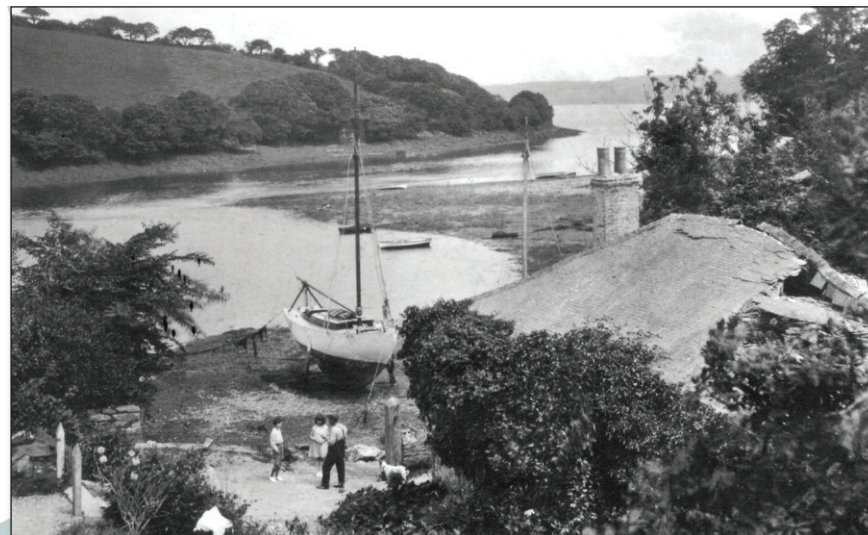
On 3 September 1939 at Burnham-on-Sea. Back row: June, Gran and Mary. Front row: 'the gang', first left Anne, Bob, John and Jean.



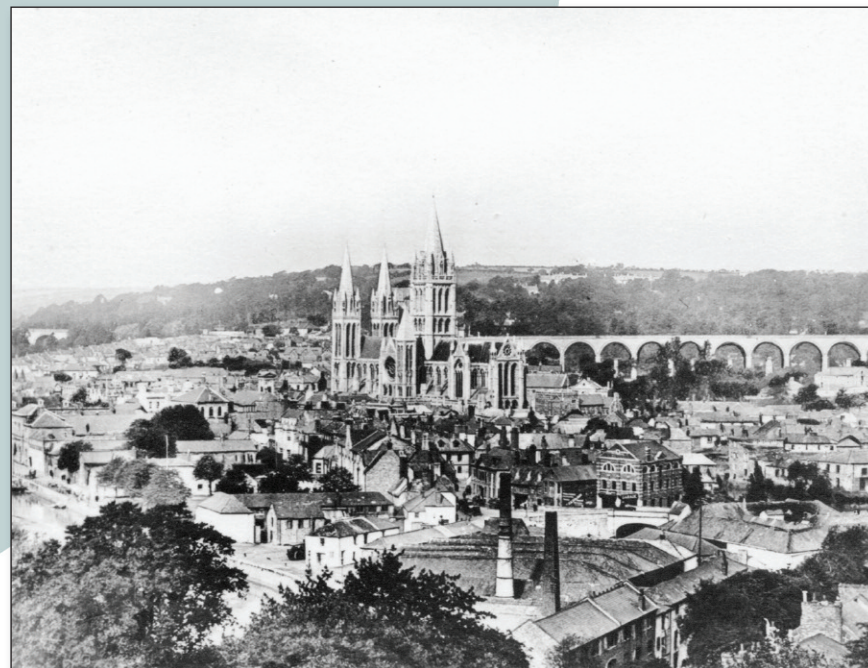
Inside the HTP motors factory in Truro showing the large numbers of people employed in the repair of aircraft.



A sign on the road down to Tolverne, a reminder, to all who pass.



Church Road, Mylor c. 1930



Truro as it looked during the author's youth.



Example of a double-page spread.