

# These Wonderful Rumours!: A Young Schoolteacher's Wartime Diaries

May Smith

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Auntie F. came in announcing dramatically that Hitler is coming tomorrow, at which my father remarked that he would, now that he's just finished papering upstairs.

At the outbreak of World War Two, May Smith was 24. She lived in a small village near Derby with her parents, and taught at the local elementary school. The war brought many changes: evacuees arrived in the village; nights were broken by the wail of the siren as bombers flew overhead; the young men of May's circle donned khaki and disappeared to far-flung places to "do their bit." But a great deal remained the same: May still enjoyed tennis parties, holidays to Llandudno and going shopping for new outfits, coupons and funds permitting. And it was during these difficult times that May fell in love. These Wonderful Rumours! gives a unique and surprising insight into life on the Home Front. Through May Smith's observant, witty and sometimes acerbic diary, we gain a new understanding of how the people of Britain coped with the uncertainty, the heartbreak and the black comedy of life during wartime.



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