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— At the beginning of the 1939-45 war, 90 trains a weekday passed along the Settle-Carlisle. Trains were “blocked” back from Carlisle to Horton at times, and sometimes a train would stand at the same place for eight hours, unable to get a downline clearance through to Carlisle.

## SELSIDE CONCERTS

Concerts were held at Selside during World War Two to help the war effort, and Savings Certificates were purchased with the money raised. We used Morphet's big barn door as the stage, but no-one can remember what it rested on.

There was singing, recitations and sketches and on more than one occasion, the concert was repeated at Horton.

I remember the rehearsals when we went to Mrs. Shepherd's at Borrins Farm, where, before we came home, we sat round the big table enjoying a cuppa and a bite to eat.

After the war, the money raised was given to St. Oswald's Church and glass was purchased to complete the screen leading to the tower. This was to replace a big red curtain. The work was done George Morphet, joiner, of Horton.

For a signalwoman at Selside, there were three turns of duty:- 6.00am. - 2.00pm., 2.00pm. - 10.00pm., 10.00pm. - 6.00am.

We had a weekend off every three weeks, which was really only one full day, it was Saturday 2.00pm. to Monday 10.00pm.

The two ladies on duty over the weekend worked longer hours:

Saturday 2.00pm. - 10.00pm., 10.00pm. - 7.00am.

Sunday 7.00am. - 6.00pm., 6.00pm. - 6.00am.

Monday 6.00am. - 3.00pm., 3.00pm. - 10.00pm.

The King and Queen used the Settle Carlisle line in wartime. Annie Sunter remembers an occasion when their train went through Selside, on the way north, in the morning and back on the evening of the same day. Mrs. Sedgewick, one of the women who operated Selside signal box, had gone shopping in Settle in the morning. The station staff at Settle tried to prevent her getting on the platform to watch the Royal train go through. She insisted, saying "If I'm good enough to signal the train through Selside tonight, I'm good enough to watch it going up this morning." She was allowed on the platform!

FROM THE CRAVEN HERALD, 8 JANUARY 1943

HORTON IN RIBBLESDALE

SELSIDE EFFORTS FOR RED CROSS.

A successful entertainment was staged in the Public Hall yesterday (Thursday) week by the Selside and District Concert Party. The Hall was crowded when Mr. J. Barker J.P. of Beecroft Hall took the chair and introduced the entertainers. The entertainment was in aid of the Red Cross. During an interval the Chairman expressed his thanks to those present in coming to help such a great cause. The entertainment comprised songs, recitations and sketches.

Those taking part were Mesdames Beresford, Wiseman, Kay, Mason, Shepherd, Morphet, Sunter and Wilcock. The misses Nelson, Thistlethwaite, J. Thistlethwaite, Hunt, Calkeld and Morphet. Messrs. Calcutt, Beresford, Potter and Morphet.

A dance for the same cause was held on Friday week and was also a great success. The music was provided by Messrs. J. and R. Wallbank and Mrs. Lambert.

A competition was won by Dr. Wagner and Miss Bairstow. As a result of these efforts about £24 will be handed over to the Red Cross Funds.

The organisers wish to thank all those who helped to make the efforts a success.

Miss Evelyn Davies the teacher who accompanied evacuees to Selside on September 1st 1939. They were all boys aged 6 - 11 years.

Miss Davies remembers happy times, taking the children for long walks. They stopped counting the miles after reaching 100. They climbed Penyghent and found it easier going up than coming down. The little ones were inclined to rush down and needed holding back, she remembers too how clear and sunny the air was.

There was little Neville who used to rush home from school to see what kind of pudding he and his brother would be having for dinner. They were staying at Railway Cottages with kindly Mr and Mrs Johnson. Miss Davies recalls how Grandma Wilcock would invite her up to 'Northcote' on Sunday. She would put a fire in the front room and do so much to make her feel at home.

There are memories too of the nights in the blackout and the velvety darkness when you could put out your hand and not see it in front of you, and the rather frightening walk back to Selside in the dark when she had occasionally spent a Sunday with her colleagues at Horton.

Although at first Miss Davies found it hard to be out of touch with home she had a very happy time at Selside.

## CHRISTMAS PARTIES AT

### SELSIDE

Even in wartime the party table at Selside groaned with food and there was all the little luxuries which we didn't see during the rest of the year. Tea was served by mums and other helpers in Kit Sedgwick's old house. It was all so cosy in there with a roaring fire half way up the chimney and no one seemed to mind sitting on the hard forms.

After tea we all went across the road to the school where another huge fire burned. We played games and there was always Mrs. Edith Shepherd to play the piano.

Later there was a visit from Father Christmas after which the younger children were taken home. The older ones were allowed to stay on to join in the games and dancing with the adults. Mrs. Shepherd played the piano throughout, even though quite often the party went on till after midnight. More food and cups of tea arrived during the evening. The food was handed round on trays. What wonderful parties they were.



Margaret Sedgwick remembers this conversation between two farmers at Selside - Joe Towler and Bob Lambert.

Joe. Now Bob. How's t'goin' on?

Bob. Nut s'bad, but I can't mek that Italian prisoner understand wat I want him to do.

Joe. Oh? Wat's up Bob?

Bob. Well, I gis him a bucket t'other day and telled him to fetch a bucket a taties and does t'know wat he did?

Joe. No Bob. Wat did he do?

Bob He went and fetched t'horse. Anyway I goes for Annie. She seems to be able to mek him understand best of anybody.

Joe. Did she mek owt on him?

Bob. Oh aye! She gets a fork and telled him to go and dig up some potatoes - and does t'know what he said?

Joe. Nay. What did he say?

Bob He sez 'me understand potatoes, but not taties.'

Joe. No Bob. He won't understand taties as that's dialect!

Lesson time at Selside School 1944.

Left to right.

Front. Margaret Wilcock, Arthur Wilcock  
and Bobby Shepherd.

Middle. Norah Sunter, Eileen Sunter and  
Lena Newhouse.

Back. Shirley Morphet, Betty Shepherd  
and Margaret Towler.

Frank Calcutt (left) and Sam Sunter (right) attended Selside School together and sat side by side in class. Later Frank joined the R.A.F. and Sam joined the Royal navy. In June 1942 Sam went on board his ship at Liverpool a Dutch troop ship 'Valendan' and almost the first person he met on board was Frank. They sailed for Durban, the journey took five weeks during which time they sat side by side writing letters home. Sam left the ship at Durban and Frank went on to Mombasa.

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# IN MINIATURE

*There's Not Much of Selside—But  
What There is of It is Good*

