

## **WAR STORIES AND REMINISCENCES**

Among the general chatter during our monthly lunch at The Crown, Stanhoe, a few stories were heard which may amuse readers – and any more that you can provide would be appreciated for future newsletters.

Roger Lyles told how he came close to shooting his best mate, while serving in the Royal Navy. The friend appeared from behind a landing craft, wearing a German helmet – in order, it transpired, to utilise its design with a lip at the back to prevent water from running down his neck! That could have been a costly mistake: Captain Mainwaring's frequent exclamation "*Stupid boy!*" would seem to fit this comrade's decision.

John Crisford recalled an occasion in Norway, when a frozen lake encouraged soldiers to persuade one of their less bright colleagues that the "large, flat area" would be a good place to park several lorries. They almost had their come-uppance when the lake began to thaw, but being the Norwegian winter, it soon solidified again, without loss to the Army.

Keith Thompson's story was not so amusing, but thankfully he's still on his feet: upon his discharge from the Army on medical grounds, he was dismissed with words to the effect of "You'll be in a wheelchair in ten years – carry on."

