

[<Files\\HFRT001 Joan Garwood>](#) - § 1 reference coded [3.42% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 3.42% Coverage

My teenage was nothing because we didn't have anything - no food, not a lot of food. But... then I thought, after when, after, when...let me think.... 1942, I think it was - they made young people - I was sixteen by then - and we had to join a pre-service Corps which was to be trained for the Forces. And you had to – they made you. You didn't say I'm not going - you had to go. And then we did... we did um, you know, marching and all that sort of thing. And cookery and um, I'm trying to think what else we did. We did all kinds of things.

[<Files\\HFRT003 William Patterson>](#) - § 2 references coded [9.07% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 4.74% Coverage

What did... you know, like getting bits and pieces?

Well, my father being in the police, he was in... um, what do they called the umm...mobile squad - mostly on motorbikes. He did a bit of car work but mostly on motorbikes. And he used to bring me home all sorts of things - Thermite bombs, shrapnel, bullets – anything - bits of aircraft, you know? Anything and everything that he could scrounge somewhere. He used to bring home. And I had a lovely collection. And I'm sorry, to this day, I haven't got it still. I don't really know what became of it, but like everything else it got thrown out, I suppose.

But that was the thing that boys used to compare, what bits...

Ooh yes. Because after a raid, us boys in the district, we were scavengers, going all 'round the streets looking for ack-ack splinters, anti aircraft shell splinters. And some of them were really big, you know, if they'd caught you dropping, they could have - well, they would have literally carved you into little pieces. I had some - one or two of the shell splinters I'd got, were I had were at least a foot long and weighed several pounds, you know? So it would have done you a bit of no good.

Reference 2 - 4.32% Coverage

Well, there were lots of Youth Clubs about and good Youth Clubs at that. Run by, usually, Church people. And they organised dances, they would organise different occasions and different events -billiards or a darts match or something like that. Sometimes a day out - a day out in the country. You'd never go far, but it was a day out – away from home - which was good. And that was marvellous for us kids.

And as we grew up, so we took a responsible bit towards helping to teach the other youngsters coming on. We got on well with that. And er, local.... dances - there were always local dances going on - basically at weekends. Usually, as far as I was concerned, they were nearly an hours walk away. But we did it. There wasn't any bus... well, there were buses available, but we didn't have money for bus fare. And, um... we did it, we managed well. We used to go... and very often I'd take a girl home after the dance - possibly three, four miles and then walk home from there and think nothing of it. Today, what do they do? 'Dad, can we borrow the car?' Yeah.

[<Files\\HFRT005 Betsy Stanley>](#) - § 1 reference coded [7.29% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 7.29% Coverage

Cows. Cows! (laughing) They chased us. We ran like merry hell. I think we beat 'em to the style! But, looking back on it, we'd been picking clover and I'd never seen clover so big before and since. I mean, great big heads they were and we'd been... and I reckon they were after the clover, not us. But ooh, we did run! But that was the biggest surprise of my life but I loved it. I *loved* it. I really loved Petersfield. I mean, we used to go to the pictures there but you had to be chaperoned. We went as a school one matinee to see the Mikado with Kenny Baker in it. I can remember that. I've loved it ever since.

Did the kids - the local kids, the teenage kids - take the mickey out of you at all? Was there any hostility?

I can't... there was one boy – one boy. I can't remember anybody else. But one boy used to... when I lived up at the Causeway – 'cause I was on me own - I used to walk home, and he'd ride his bike beside me and I'd always had a rather prominent nose. He used to call me 'Long nose stinging nettles'! Because my name was Nettleton, you see? And I tried to ignore him and I tried not

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to get upset and it had been going on for a little while – if he could catch up with me, he could. And one day I simply turned round to him and I said, 'Yes, my name is Nettleton, I have got a long nose. So what?' Do you know, from that day on, he couldn't have been nicer. Because I turned 'round and confronted him with it and he taught me how to ride a bike.

That was his method of seduction. That was his chat up line!

Oh was it?! Oh! Well I didn't realise that at the time. I was only fourteen! He taught me to ride a bike. He's the only one that I can... I can't remember his name. I mean the others were all

quite.... I even went out with one of the locals. I shouldn't have done! We had to hide round corners. You didn't dare let the schoolteachers know. But Miss Barnes was very good, she said 'I'll chaperone you to the pictures,' she said. 'But I'll walk quite a way behind you. ' (laughing)

[<Files\\HFRT007 June Woodward>](#) - § 2 references coded [10.10% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 4.39% Coverage

well I just remember going across the road to school and there was an air raid shelter in the school playground

What school did you go to?

It was just New Bradwell Girls' school or infants school according to your ages.

So they had an Anderson shelter?

Yes there was a brick built air raid shelter in the play ground, this was definitely brick one yes.

(Mr Woodward: a proper brick one.)

No, this was definitely a brick one.

Reference 2 - 5.71% Coverage

When you went to school during the war, did they provide you with milk?

Yes, we used to have a little, a third of a pint of milk the milk was, yes.

And that was for all the children wasn't it?

Yes, that's right yes.

Anything else did they provide for younger children?

I think during the war they might have had some system of giving you out sweets or, what did you say, something about (speaks to husband) drinking chocolate in bulk was one thing that they distributed once, yes.

What about orange juice and cod liver oil?

Don't remember having that, no.

Reference 1 - 5.08% Coverage

You went to school until...

I was fourteen.

Then you left school and what sort of job did you do?

I had to leave school when I was fourteen and the first job I had was in small... well it was a garage, Simpson Road. It was converted into a workshop and the chap that had the business was evacuated from Southend on Sea, that was in 1939, 1940 rather. I left school in July 1940 when I was fourteen..

So the guy that you were working with...

The chap that I was working for, there were only two of us to start with, two young lads. He had a boat-building business in Southend on Sea and as soon as the war started he got out and came to Bletchley. But during the time he was in Bletchley he obviously didn't do anything with boats, but in Southend during the winter he had a battery-making factory, you know the little number eight batteries, torch batteries.

Yes.

We continued making those in Simpson Road in Bletchley, Fenny Stratford.

Reference 2 - 6.87% Coverage

Can you tell me anything about evacuees? Did you have any evacuees in the area?

There was quite a lot in Stoke but we didn't have any. Probably, I don't know why, well there was the two boys but we only had two bedrooms and the wife's old father was living with us at the time, my old grandfather. So we didn't have any ourselves, no.

If you look back to when you were at school do you remember evacuees coming to the school?

There was a lot come into the school.

Do you remember ... Did they fit in well?

I think they did after a time, the majority did, yes. It was a different life for them but then it was different life for us to see how the

other half lived I suppose. We used to have our meals in the school you see. School dinners, well all the village children had school dinners, there was a school canteen.

Hot...?

Yes. Lentil soup as much as anything or stuff like that ..(laughs). But when I was thirteen, as I say, I was in my last year at school and the school had a lot of flower garden there; and then there was a school playing field next to it and during the early part of the war that was all dug up, and us village boys and one or two of the town boys used to do all of the gardening and produce food which was pushed over into the school canteen.

[<Files\\HFRT013 Joan Draper>](#) - § 1 reference coded [4.06% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 4.06% Coverage

That gas mask you had to carry around with you?

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All the while. The children had the Mickey Mouse one and they measured you round your forehead, round the whole of your head. If you wore glasses they measured you over the glasses and that gas mask fitted you snug. Ours, my brother and mine were red and navy blue which wasn't so frightening. The parents were black which we all know. But they had to fit and they came in a cardboard box and from the time you had that you never ever went out without it. So every morning they were there ready for school. Mum would say, 'Gas mask', we'd say, 'yes' and off we'd go. We never went without them until the last day of the war actually.

Did you ever have to use them?

No. We never had.... We didn't use them, but when we were at school we would have like a fire bell when you knew what to do; but there was a different sounding bell to make you pick your gas mask up, put it on quickly and get it. You had to do it quickly and then get on with your lessons. That was the only thing, there were no gas attacks.