

[<Files\HFRT002 Maurice Garwood>](#) - § 4 references coded [17.35% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 2.13% Coverage

I was in an aircraft factory -seven miles away - that was in the centre of Birmingham, you see? You used to work twelve hours a day, six days a week. Six o'clock in the morning until six at night. And during the raids, we used to go on duty in the morning, at night time. And of course I had a bike then - a motor bike - and we used to.... usual journey straight through - get to work. And if the siren or the 'all clear' hadn't gone, we'd go straight down into the shelter before we started work.

Reference 2 - 2.80% Coverage

Well, I was stationed on the East Coast. When we had a pass, we used to hitch hike from Kent - just outside Newmarket - to Birmingham, taking lifts. And we'd get lifts and we used to come chasing through here to Stony Stratford! I had a fellow with me going to London, so he has to get off and get a lift on the A5 to Birmingham. That's why they had Newgate - the prison wall - that they used to call it.

The?

Prison wall.

Oh this wall? That's what it was seen as was it?

Female voice: Yes. They used to say does he work inside when we first came. And I said, inside? It sounded like prison didn't it? Yes! Does he work inside! (laughter)

Reference 3 - 6.44% Coverage

Yes. And the other thing, I was just going to ask about the actual factory itself. What work were you doing in the aircraft factory?

Undercarriages for Hurricanes, Mosquitos - bits and parts - it wasn't an aircraft itself, it was just...

And where did they go afterwards, to be made up? You know, where were the other bits... where were they assembled?

That was a... we didn't know anything about it. We just made 'em.

And off they went, yes, yes, yes. And so presumably, because it was an aircraft factory, it was a target. It was a...

It wasn't an aircraft *factory*, it was Birmingham Guild. It used to do all the Guild working - India.

No, really! It was just... the factory was just taken over...

It wasn't taken over – it was given the jobs to do. And they...

Yes, but I mean, a completely different thing to what it was doing before?

Oh, definitely, yes, yes. And eventually, before... four women, under me, riveting these undercarriages.

What was the attitude of the men to the women, coming in and doing what was, effectively, before the War...

I wouldn't know, because I was a young lad, but... I don't think there... There was an age gap between us and the men, as you might say, because the twenties, thirties and forties were all in the forces.

Yes, oh right, of course. Yes, yes. And...

You had your old people who were due for retirement that were in their element because they were in charge and they never were in charge before! (laughter)

00:25:02

Reference 4 - 5.99% Coverage

No, no. And things like the blackout and so on, did that...?

That was wicked. Terrible that was.

Why was it terrible?

Well, you knew the way, but nobody else did. The buses, I mean. You used to have some drivers - that was their first time on the route. 'Are we all right?' The passengers would say 'Yeah, carry on mate, carry on. Turn right here. Right! Not straight on!'

Because there were no road signs, were there? The road signs were taken down, and there was no light...

Wife: We used to have smokescreens along Stratford Road.

Another thing when we used to have an air raid, we used to have um..., you know, litter bins - those great big... like we have these days? Well we used to have dustbins, every so often. And I

think it was the police's job it was - if there was an air raid, they'd light them up and there'd be clouds of smoke.

To put off the aircraft or just to cover over where you were?

Yes, yes.

How interesting.

Wife: That was in the suburbs wasn't it?

Yes, that was in the suburbs. And they also – they used to have the pig bins as well - collection of the pig bins.

What? Any waste that you have - peelings or so on?

Yes.

Do you... you know, your wife was saying that was carried on, in the sense of, you know, 'waste not, want not' and everything. Does that....

It does stick in your mind, yes. You think ooh, I can make that useful..... yes.

[<Files\HFRT003 William Patterson>](#) - § 4 references coded [18.36% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 3.16% Coverage

*When, um... you said this, when did you actually leave school?
How old were you when you left school?*

00:05:01

Ooh, when I left school? Altogether? 1944. Because I went to take a degree then, yeah. Yeah I went on... which was a very intense course - it was a four-year course condensed into two years - and at the time we were having the Doodlebugs starting to come over and, literally speaking, it just destroyed your ability to cope. You couldn't concentrate. You were sitting down trying to take in what was being said, and somebody would beep, beep, beep on alarm system, and everybody under the desks quick - or wherever you would take cover - and it was just one of those things. After the first year I packed it because I couldn't cope with it – well, the pressures really.

Reference 2 - 3.38% Coverage

And um.... growing up at that time and being at school, was education in other ways disrupted when you were in... in quotes - in the 'normal' school – before you went into higher education?

Yes, the secondary school I was at, in Ealing, they had a very good reputation for education, and of course, that closed. We were then - those of us who didn't get evacuated - were transferred to other schools and I went to a local one in Hambourne, which was way behind anything that we'd been doing at our own school. And then I was transferred then to Stanhope Senior School in Greenford. And again... they must have taught us something because I was able to do.... carry on and take exams and go on to a higher school, which I went to Acton for that. College degrees were being held in Acton Technical College, yeah. And I in... got a place there.

Reference 3 - 3.08% Coverage

00:20:04

Well, it was one of the more - how can I describe it? One of the more organised times of your life. You knew what you had to do and you just got on with it. Boys, grownups - all the same - they all had their jobs and I think they were happier for it. Because it's when people are free to do as they please, as they are today, that weird ideas seem to creep in. It's tragic - I mean to say, we knew every - I knew every person - in the road and ours was a long road. There was about a hundred houses in the section we lived. And I knew every person who lived there - who was away, who's had children, who was expecting a baby - we knew the lot. Today they don't even know their neighbours, which is a tragedy because neighbours can be a wonderful help.

Reference 4 - 8.74% Coverage

I can remember my father telling me that he was chased down the road by a bomber- dropping bombs - and he'd be... he was on his motor bike and they were dropping about a hundred yards behind him, all the way down the road. And he thought his lot had come that time.

He was involved in a bad accident - he was forced off the road by an idiot on a motorbike - I think it was a motorbike. And he was on a police motorbike at the time. And as his bike mounted the kerb, his foot was bounced off the pedal, dropped down and hooked onto the kerb. So of course he had a very badly injured ankle which, ultimately, led him to be what they call cast, which is medically retired.

So... that was during the War and he and Mum took over an empty shop, which was just a couple of hundred yards down the road from us and turned it into a café. And fish was plentiful - fish and chips was ideal - you could never cook enough. And he occasionally got hold of some meat and things like that and every time I came home on leave, I was to do chipping. And, I used to... you know a dustbin? I used to do a dustbin full every

day. And then they used to be tipped into a... we had a household bath for storage and washing them. And they were all tipped into the household bath and then you had a hose running and you washed all these... all ready for the night. And then you, during the day my father would be taking great big scoopfuls, putting them in hot fat and just boiling them, 'til they were cooked. And then out they would come - on the side to drain - next lot in. And he was doing that all day. During the night he had virtually got a bath full of half cooked chips.

00:30:04

That's when you... people came in at night and 'boy' did they come in! They used to come in in droves. They used to come in, and of course food was being... sorry... food was still very *rationed and um... to go out and get a square meal, was a big something*. And um, he would just take a scoopful of chips - they were half cooked - into some very hot fat - about three minutes - done. Beautiful crisp fluffy chips, I've never tasted chips like it since - 'till when I make them myself!

[<Files\\HFRT004 Edith Wood>](#) - § 9 references coded [19.40% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.72% Coverage

Right and what did your mother do? Did she...?

My mother didn't do anything. She didn't work after she was married, but there came out a law that you had to work if she you had a child over twelve. And she went into munitions.

Reference 2 - 1.18% Coverage

Do you remember how much you were paid? For your job?

Me? Yes, I was on an apprenticeship for seven year and I only got ten shillings!

Ten shillings a week?

Uh hm.

And how was that spent? Just on yourself or did you give some to your parents?

No. Mum had to have half of it and the other five kept me in stockings and fares to work and savings for clothes.

Reference 3 - 2.63% Coverage

And when did you meet your husband then? If you say you married him two years after the War?

Yes. Well, that's a long story. He was a lot older than me. It was, um... I knew him during the War because he was a friend of my father's. So I knew him during the War and he was in the fire service. But....

Were you courting during the War?

Yes, I was but the chap I was courting, his mother didn't want me to marry him. And she made our life hell. And that... we parted unfortunately and I was – well, I had to go away because I was ill. But when I came back, my husband was the only one who said 'Ooh I'm glad to see you back.' And we became friends from then – you know, going out - and we got married. And I couldn't have wished for a better husband - he was very good to me – well, more like a father. But very good to me.

Reference 4 - 2.31% Coverage

did you find that living in the War... ? Was there a?

Closeness? Yes. *Everybody* was friendly. It didn't matter who it was - they were all friendly. That's what I always say, you could leave your door open and nobody ever did anything. They were all friendly and if you were in trouble they'd be the first to come and help you. And even if they didn't know you.

I'll tell you one thing that I've... I shall never forget, and I always give to them, is the Salvation Army. Because wherever a bomb fell, the next morning the Salvation Army were always there with their canteen. And they gave us tea and sandwiches. Mind you the sandwiches were doorsteps, but they were sandwiches. But they were always there the next morning.

Reference 5 - 2.49% Coverage

So it was for renting was it?

Yeah. Yeah, yeah. You had to rent it.. Yeah. But you didn't.... nobody seemed to bother. I mean, my Mother found this place at Streatham, I don't know how she found it in Streatham. And we went to Streatham.

And what about your furniture when you were bombed out? Did you....?

Well, most of it, sort of, got broken but the bits that didn't get broken you took with you. I mean, that sideboard and that cabinet came from Kennington.

Really!?

Yes. Yes. And it... that never got broken and I can't understand why.

Well, it looks fairly sturdy, doesn't it?

It wasn't mine of course, it was my aunts. But it never got broken and that sideboard was hers. But if you watch it... if you look at it, *it's all scratched, all over the place.*

Reference 6 - 1.01% Coverage

00:25:04

. It was funny it did
some most peculiar things.

What? The War you mean?

Umm. Yeah.

In what way?

Well, you know things happened and you thought it couldn't possibly happen. People got bombed and they walked out as though nothing had happened! It was uncanny. And yet the house perhaps had gone.

Reference 7 - 2.61% Coverage

Yes. I can remember now, those little things that you....

Yeah, little stirrup pumps, yes. You used to do this but of course I was getting so anxious to put this fire out I, went through the bottom! That's me! Trust me! But, um... no, I mean we used to get up and go to work, just the same. We'd go to... they'd start at six, as I said - when you was having your tea, usually. And it would go on until six in the morning. Then you'd got to get up and go to work then. So you went off to work and all the way along you'd see where they'd been bombing during the night. You know, sometimes it was terrible, sometimes it wasn't. And you'd work all day and as soon as you come back, they was off again. I don't think we slept properly for six years. I'm sure we didn't. I don't remember going to sleep ever. But, um...

Reference 8 - 2.69% Coverage

*And did your mother and father and brother cope with the War?
As well as you sound to?*

Well, as I say, my father was at work - he was nightwork, my father. My mother, she got hysterical - it really got to her 'cause she was worried about my brother 'cause he was in the army. I didn't see him during the War. And my father was nightwork so there was only Mum and myself and my aunt and uncle and granddad that were there. And she used to get really wound up. when the warning went.

And did your brother keep in contact with letters and things?

Oh yes, yes. He used to contact her. He did used to come home sometimes but not very often. No. Well, they weren't allowed to, were they?

No. Absolutely not.

No. But he did come home sometimes, yeah. But of course he was mother's 'blue eyed boy' and she idolised her son - she always did.

Reference 9 - 3.75% Coverage

That probably was tasty as far as you were concerned.

It was. Yes. But I'll tell you this much, we were healthier during the War. Because we didn't have the sweets we have now. We didn't have the sugar we have now. We didn't have the fat we have now and it was all.....

You had two ounces of...

Two ounces of this, two ounces of... Yeah. And it had to last you an' all . But when we got bombed out, if you lost - like we did - lost.... twice we got bombed out and couldn't go back into the house. So everything was ruined. Then you went... I don't know where they went but my Mum and grandfather and aunt used to go somewhere. And they used to give them a box of food for how many were in the house. And they'd give you rations like sugar, tea, butter and that sort of thing. And bread. And a blanket. Now, I've still got the blanket in the other room. It's a grey army blanket, yes. They always used to do that. If you got bombed out, you used to get this box for each person, with this ration in it, and a blanket.

Which might have helped them out a little - at that time?

Yes. Yes, it helped you over the time that you, you know, couldn't get into your food.

[<Files\\HFRT005 Betsy Stanley>](#) - § 2 references coded [9.48% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 2.19% Coverage

Well no, she was the one that made me join! (laughing) I can't call her a best friend! She made me join! No, I quite enjoyed it. I quite enjoyed it, yes, so.... That's them. And then I got... then, 'cause your Karen – was is Karen on Sunday? She asked me what we did for entertainment, while – when – after I'd left for being evacuated. I mean, while we were evacuated, we used to go blackberrring, hazelnuts, primrose, violets - everything in season. We'd walk for miles up the Butser. Not Wardown - you weren't allowed on there. And the Shoulder of Mutton. Or the South Downs - we used to walk for miles.

Reference 2 - 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

00:20:03

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>](#) - § 1 reference coded [2.79% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 2.79% Coverage

Did you find that there was a real sense of people during the war, your neighbours and things, did you find that they were very supportive and helpful?

Oh yes, yes I think so, because then you knew your next door neighbours either side and... more than you do now, definitely.

[<Files\\HFRT009 Eileen Denchfield>](#) - § 1 reference coded [6.39% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 6.39% Coverage

You also said you remembered a prisoner of war who lived in Great Brickhill, or worked in Great Brickhill?

Yes.

He gave you a bracelet?

You know, I haven't found it. It was made from aluminium from a food tin. Cleaned and polished and he'd chased it sort of thing and it was like 'Eileen' written round it.

So how did you meet that prisoner of war?

They used to bring them into Wells' shop, when they wanted working clothes or anything.

So that's where you met. Where did those prisoners work?

00:17:19

They worked at the farms and that around, Little Brickhill, Great Brickhill, Woburn, Woburn Sands.

[<Files\\HFRT010 Betty Wise>](#) - § 2 references coded [5.24% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 4.01% Coverage

Was there something different afterwards?

Oh yes – my father worked in the Brass Shop. I think they made shells there because there was a shell forge shop, but I don't know. I didn't know anything about what went on in the Works – not what they did. It was only after the war that I learnt that they made gliders there and I know they repaired planes, they used to come in, but it didn't really affect me. It came in at night, so I didn't really know what they did do; we knew they worked all hours and worked nights and things like that, piecework, I think it was. The piecework sheets used to come up and you had to price up what they did and work out (the wages).

Do you remember the wall being camouflaged?

Oh yes, yes, I do. I can't say just when it was done, but I thought they were very good.(laughs)

What were the colours when they did it?

Green and yellow and grey, and I think there was a little blue in it. It was to blend in with the countryside. I think they did the roofs too, but I can't remember, I'm sure they must have done , because the roofs would have reflected.

It would have been quite colourful wouldn't it?

They weren't bright colours, they were to blend in.

Reference 2 - 1.23% Coverage

So you had Saturday afternoons and Sunday to enjoy yourself, and the evenings? I imagine the evenings were a bit strange?

Well, we used to work until 7.30 at night. 8.00 in the morning till 7.30, but if you had a shorter tea break at tea time, you could go at 7.00. We had an hour for lunch and a break for tea, but if you cut that short you could go a bit earlier.

[<Files\\HFRT013 Joan Draper>](#) - § 1 reference coded [3.29% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 3.29% Coverage

We used to have Italian prisoners of war. We didn't know they were prisoners of war but we heard the word 'Eyeties' and we used to say, 'Lets go and see the 'Eyeties' and we'd go down there and they'd say, 'Go and get old toothbrushes and bring them back here.' So we'd go and get anything that we could, knocked on doors and we'd go down and when we went back the next day they'd made bracelets or brooches or rings with the old toothbrushes.

That's interesting. I met someone a while ago who said she'd met an Italian POW and they'd made her a brooch which she'd kept, that picks up on the same story. Did the POW's work at the brickworks?

00:22:54

For us they were on the farm dredging ditches and you knew them because they had the brown suits with the big yellow or orange rings on them.

Were you ever warned never to go near them?

No, no. It wasn't....

[<Files\HFRT014 Diane Lillian Bowsher>](#) - § 1 reference coded [9.79% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 9.79% Coverage

And she didn't have any job during the war apart from being a mother?

00:06:08

She did eventually have a job because we came back from there. I went to about six different schools during the war. We came back from school, from there back to Kenton and then I was still in the infant juniors school so to encourage mothers to go to work they started a breakfast, a dinner and a tea. So we'd go to school at eight o'clock and for thrupence (1¼p) we had a breakfast for sixpence (2½p) we had a dinner and for thrupence (1¼p) we had a tea and our parents collected us from the school when the factories had finished.

Gosh that's an awful lot isn't it?

It was but It wasn't because you didn't stay at school till four... you only stayed till half past three or four o'clock whatever time it was. Then you'd be playing games in the playground and you'd got the shelters there and then other than that when it was raining they'd put on a little cine camera that broke down every five minutes!

While you were at school and having these meals what did your mother do then, did she do anything for the war?

Yes she went into the factories.

She worked in the factories.

00:07:27

Yes when my father was turned down she went and said he was so upset that he couldn't fight for his country could she go in his place! They said no, you've got young children to look after. So she went into the factories. He was then in Baker Street, I'm sure

it's Baker Street where Madame Tussauds is, it is. So he had Pitstalls on the corner and then there was Madame Tussauds just up the road there. He had to close the shop at half past five, the grocery shop and then at seven o'clock open the off-licence because you weren't allowed to sell drink. So he never got home till very late at night time.

So you didn't see so much of him?

I didn't see very much of him at all.

[<Files\HFRT015 Janet Chamberlain>](#) - § 2 references coded [21.15% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 7.14% Coverage

What was your earliest memory?

I think it was in Luton and it was somewhere near, I think it was somewhere near the Town Hall and seeing lots of just long legs of men in uniform and I think they were American servicemen when your little you remember the legs it sound a bit daft.

5.14 My father went off, he went to India I think, he was an aircraft mechanic. He went away and I remember seeing my mother crying and that stuck with me because my brother had not long been born so he went off and during the war my Dad was away so he didn't see my brother growing up. When he came back he was three and he was quite strict with him because he hadn't experienced him as a baby well when my other brother was born in 1948 they were very, very differently the way they treated him. We lived in quite a lot of RAF stations I think but I can't remember that.

Reference 2 - 14.00% Coverage

It must have been odd for you growing up and suddenly this person appearing three years later?

We lived with my grandmother for those years and then I remember when he came back it was very, very excited that Daddy was coming back. And it was one of these terraced houses with a little alley, covered alley between the two houses and you always came in the back door but my Dad was going to knock at the front door, which he did. And then we weren't allowed to go and sort of rush at him and say hello, you know. My Mum went, he came through the front room and my Mum disappeared into the front room and had there private moment together you know, which was quite nice when you think about it, it wasn't as a child, I wanted to get at him, he was in Ceylon the last part of the war but I know he was in Malaya doing sort of mopping up stuff when the Japanese left because he was a bit cross because he didn't get the Malayan Cross which, I think the Malaya Cross which he thought he ought to have got the medal.

Did it make it different this thing about Daddy coming home and you having missed two years when your growing up did it affect relationships, you said about your other Brother, your middle Brother?

My parents were not very, they didn't show emotions, you never saw, my Dad used to kiss my Mum and she would look embarrassed a kiss on cheek and I think they had always been like that and I remember when I was about six or seven he said, 'Grown ups don't kiss each other' and I wasn't allowed to kiss him. You know give him a peck on the cheek or anything like that so, that's quite stiling for an adult as you grow up, it's quite difficult to show emotion.

[<Files\\SHLT045 Shelia Lindsay>](#) - § 1 reference coded [7.27% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 7.27% Coverage

So you never actually saw Lord and Lady?

We did but only you know high days and holidays you know when I say that it might be perhaps on a Sunday they might in invite us down there and they'd talk to us. They were very kind people but very sort of isolated, they isolated you really they only saw you when they wanted to see you. They were very, very kind and when we all left they gave me bible which was leather bound with gold leaf and a prayer book and we all had one of these with it written inside 'From Lord and Lady Prestige'. We had a photograph taken, I've got the photograph at home but it's in a frame and it's in a big frame with lots of other ones so I didn't bring it along today but I should have done probably.

Roger - How was your mother treated was almost like treated as a nursery nurse then?

Yes, I mean although she never had to cook she just looked after us. You know our welfare she looked after what clothes we would wear and so on she didn't have to wash it or anything they did all the... all of that was done for her so I think she had quite a nice time at the...

Did your Mum mind it just being a nursery nurse?

Sorry?

Did your mum mind about being a nursery nurse or not?

Well I mean she was a qualified nurse I suppose she was used to looking after people anyway.

Roger – What about, the other thing was you mentioned Easter, when you were down in Marlborough, Easter, your parents coming at Easter with a present?

Oh yes, yes when my mum and dad came down to see me one Easter time they brought Easter eggs with them for everybody but because it was during the war I can remember the Easter eggs these particular Easter eggs where like barrage balloons, do you remember do you know what I am talking about? When I say barrage balloons?

No.

Well barrage balloons were big balloons in the sky which were put up to stop the planes coming. They had wires and things coming down from them and the planes used to come along and it used to tangle the planes up, so all of these were up in the sky. At this particular time we had Easter eggs which were barrage balloons I don't know how they were fixed at the bottom but they were identical it was just very, you know it was just a war like thing and we all knew what barrage balloons were like.