

Southwark - Queenie Turner
Rib: 9,3,95

Rib: Firstly where was you born and when?

Q: I was born in Stockwell, Landall Road, Stockwell 1st May 1920.

Rib: You where 19 when the war broke out. What was you doing before the war?

Q: Before he was, I was working for Pathe News, used to be Pathe Gazette when I first worked there but then they changed it to Pathe News.

Rib: How did you get that job?

Q: I was 14 and things where just as tough getting a job then as what it is now, and a friend of mine she was offered the job but she declined because she has already started work at a builders factory at Carlial Street in Westbridge Road, and her mother said you are quite settled in this job so she come and asked me if I would like it so I went there just on the off chance and stayed there right until my son was born then I went back again, then he had an accident, that was just before V.E Day, because V.J Day he was still in hospital in St Thomas's because I remember all the fire works going up on the river you know on V.J Night August 1945.

Rib: So before the war you where already working, but what was you doing there?

Q: Well I worked in a laboratory as the cameraman used to fetch all the material when they use to go out and film, and they use to fetch the material back go tot he developing room, use to develop it then he use to come to the cutting, use to be all cut and deposited, then it went up the what we call the news room and they used to do all the put the material together to make Pathe News and Bob Danvers Walker he was a commentator, but before him we had one called Boyde Froom but Bob Danvers was a nice guy, he nearly died the year before last, and from there they used to do em, every film company that Movietown, Paramount, Pathe they where the main new real companies, they use to do what they call a roto system, they use to get there news reels done then they use to send the rival companies a copy each, from that they use to make a master, and then they use to cut there own version accordingly.

Rib: So they would supply each other?

Q: Well as far as possible but not make it the same because naturally some cameramen had better material than others you know so we use to swap them around, I mean I don't know if you've seen that unique piece of the Lambeth Walk have you where, doing the Lambeth Walk?

Rib: No.

Q: Well you must see that when you go up to the museum its all the stall holders doing the Lambeth Walk, but there all in step and there going backwards and forwards, you know it was terrific film cutting.

Rib: Was it trying to show them getting no where or what?

Q: No it was just taking the mickey out of them doing the Lambeth Walk it was all in formation and they was marching backwards and forwards and more or less dancing , and they it was a terrific film you must see it and it was to the tune Doing the Lambeth Walk cause the Lambeth Walk came out just before the war cause that was when I met my husband, cause I lived in that before at the time but I was living in Woolwich when the war broke out.

Rib: In Woolwich?

Q: Yes I was in Tarton Road its at the end of Manner Place. I was living there when the war broke out with my mum my dad we where all upstairs when the news came through about the war was declared, cause suddenly the sirens went.

Rib: Did you take cover straight away?

Q: No, there was a war scare the year before and well a lot of people don't realise it but I always remember going to work I use to go Westminster Bridge to Waldolf Street is where I worked and there was this pea shooter, well what I called a pea shooter, ?????? anti air craft gun by Big Ben there and I thought to myself well what chance have we got with Germans with this gun, but then the war wasn't declared till the following year when the ?????? came back with there ?????? piece of paper.

Rib: Where you working in a laboratory right the way through the war?

Q: Well right the way through out the war until 1945 when my son had his ?????? what was in the nursery, I use to put him in the nursery at Waterloo Road right beside what use to be the eye hospital and he broke his side at the nursery, but they rang me up at work to say he broke his side, off course naturally I panicked he was in St Thomas's hospital, and then I came back and I know I am not going to leave him know cause you know even going back to ?????? ?????? we still use to get the air raid warnings there in the tubes stepping over people, but if you go and see that film ?????????????? you will see all that as well, you now much more ??????

Rib: Where was it you took shelter usually?

Q: What of a night time or a day time?

Rib: Well both.

Q: In the shelter outside, it was a street shelter terribly good it was, right outside my house and all the neighbours use to come in.

Rib: Was it in the street?

Q: Yes actually in the street, we had Anderson at the back there but no one felt safe in the Anderson, we felt safe in the street shelter cause we all congregated there and we all told jokes and had laughs and it was like a pick nick at times when it got a bit to heavy, then I left when my son had his accident we went up to Middlesborough for six weeks until there was no bombing up there, the first night we got up there they had an air raid so we came back again about six weeks after we thought well we run away from it we might as well go back to it. But you know what I put my ?????? in at church that was on May 10th 1945, St Pauls Lorimore Square that's when the Elephant and Castle had the heavy bomb, church got bombed, we got married in a registry, the church wall was standing but inside it was all bombed that was in St Pauls, Lorimore Square.

Rib: What square?

Q: Lorimore Square in Woolwarth Road.

Rib: So it was still consecrated ground even though the church hardly existed?

Q: Well it was about two weeks before we got married cause we got married on June 1st got the bands in on May 10th.

Rib: What about the shelter at work?

Q: Yes we had like an underground shelter in the building next door which we use to cut through to, but of course we where working on news most of the time so every minute counted, but I can always recall one day sitting at work and there was this, well you see bombs go but you take no notice off them you got so use to them after a while but this particular day one did come down and it crashed, do you know Bur Street?

Rib: No.

Q: Well Bur Streets at the back of Waldorf Street and you have another turning there called Polden Street there was a block of flats which looked like tenant buildings that was hit a direct hit and of course we got the blast of it and bashed all the tables all over the tables we where, and one of the ladies who use to make our tea use to be our tea lady she got killed that night cause she use to live there, we had a lot of terrorising experiences and when we use to stop, sometimes we use to stop over night there before I was married because no way could you get home with all the bombs.

Rib: Did you actually get hurt by flying glass or anything?

Q: Well once when just before I was married it was in Burrage Road, Paisley Road in the back of Waldouf Road a land mine came down there and it nearly took every body out, but of course we lived in a block of flats and my mum use to go to this room it Paisley Road well we all went in there and we got buried you know my mum was actually buried, that was the nearest thing we had but my husband well when the war declared he worked at Woolwich Arsenal he was in the reserved occupation areas of Gloxton , you know on the ????????? and he was injured it was a terrible wound one of the chaps got killed but there was a lot of people wounded that night, we had to take shelter in the pub which was across the road, its not there now, and when we came out in the morning it was in September there was nothing but a ring of fire all round London every where you looked everything was alight, Docks where alight course we where right in the middle of it here, every thing was on fire.

Rib: What were your feelings about that?

Q: I was scared, we where afraid but I mean after a while every day I've still got a role of ????? paper we put our ????? in it and run for shelter and that was it, you got so use to it.

Rib: Did you think at that time around 1940 that Britain could well be invaded?

Q: Oh yes I mean we did admit, especially after they had done the ????? you know we thought what chance have we got know.

Rib: Did you remember seeing the soldiers coming back form Dunkerk?

Q: Oh yes I new quite a few of them that came back, my cousin he was actually at Dunkirk, he says instead of going towards Britain he was going towards Germany, he got captured, he lived out there a while after the war he married a German girl I always remember her she was so arrogant, I had an aunt that lived at Brighton and it was soon after the war and I went down to see my aunt and my cousin and his wife was there and she was paddling in the sea she said and nobody said that Germany would ever invade the British Isles she said well I have, and I was really mad you know.

Rib: Tasteless joke.

Q: Well they where tasteless and I will always remember my dad because he was in the first world war he was at the battle ????, but he never spoke about it though all his medals and everything I gave to the museum, he never spoke about the war, he did have a very rough time according to his brothers and that, my brother always said once a German always a German, its funny how things go through your mind. Just before the war started we use to see the police boats coming up the river and there was a German party and I said to my dad a lot of Germans got of at Westminster pier there, he said yes I suppose that's another war, and that was before the war started so I thought to myself I wonder if there is anything in it.

Rib: Do you remember any other particular raids?

Q: No

Rib: Do you remember when the city went down?

Q: Oh yes I remember that, terrible that was, you go and see that picture you must go and see it London can take it, because your memory goes thin but things still stand out, I always remember when we was in the air raid shelter my son had chicken pocks, and the doctor said to me on no account take him in the shelter, well of course we brought him in his little cot we got his cot under the stairs and half the ceiling fell in on him.

Rib: Was he OK?

Q: Oh yes he was OK.

Rib: How come the ceiling fell I on him?

Q: Well a blast, all the windows where shattered every day, well it didn't matter if ?????????????? we just had these blackouts, when we did have in ??????????????????????????????????????

Rib: What was the blackouts made off what did it ?????

Q: Well it was like a thick black cardboard and we use to make frames and they use to fix them to you know very posh you know we use to get out ion the morning and take them down and put them up again.

Rib: Oh you can take them down in the day?

Q: Yes take them down and you put them up at night, other people use to put heavy curtains up, down hear we nearly all have these blackout frames, got a few chaps around hear use to make them and use to fix them up.

Rib: Do you remember any of the campaigns for victory or the war weapons?

Q: I did for victory every body was singing for victory, my friend next door she use to keep checking I had my???????????????????????????????? well cause you just couldn't get anything, I mean you had your rations and that's when I gave up sugar during the war so that my son could have it, and I must tell you about the first banana. My father worked at the foreign office and he said cause it was his first grand child, look what I brought the baby home, and it was this banana, I couldn't believe you know we had not seen a banana for a year, and we gave to him and mashed it up in sugar for him and he wouldn't eat it, and we put the banana skin on the front step so people walked past, I use to see the funny side of it. As I say my husband worked at Woolwich Arsenal and he came across some terrible bombs you know Lewisham and all around there, along the Old Kent Road laying dead.

Rib: What was he doing in the Arsenal?

Q: He was a drop stamper on the forces you see, and you couldn't get in the forces he said he shouldn't be in the forces he said he shouldn't be in the forces, my brother-in-law was in ????? and they brought out ????? in Normandy, and when he came on leave he said I should have been there because at least you know your own ????? but you can't see them here you know the bombs would come down, a friend of mine her husband was in the navy she was only young, I mean I was only young I was only 21 and she just had this baby and she went down to the ????? her husband came home on leave he was a sailor and he got killed in a air raid, so its so ironic fighting and then he got killed in a air raid.

Rib: Many people have said that they felt more at danger here than out with the troops, more at danger when they were back here on leave?

Q: Well yes that's true that's what I'm saying about my brother-in-law when he came home on leave he said at least you know who your fighting, what chance have you got here.

Rib: What about the blackout what about the other roundifications of that I mean if you where out on the street in the blackout?

Q: Oh well I used to come home from work in blackout, air raid warnings, that's what we say know your afraid to go outside the door afraid of muggings and that but we use to come through blackout and pull that torch out and feeling your way home.

Rib: Was it dangerous for traffic?

Q: Weren't that much traffic around.

Rib: I mean not being able to see it?

Q: No I mean every body got car, but not a lot of people had cars in those days.

Rib: So what transport did you take mostly.

Q: Use to get a bus use to get a 53 bus use to be a quarter and ??? then.

Rib: Were there trams?

Q: Yes there was trams as well, but the bus use to take me direct to Piccadilly Circus and I use to cross over to Shaftburries Avenue and walk down to Waldouf Street.

Rib: What did you use to do for fun?

Q: For fun? Oh well I mean we use to go and have a drink, oh and I must tell you this we went to Elephant and Castle my husband and I to see I'll never forget the film its called A ????? with there boots on Erral Flin and ?????, and we where walking down the Old Kent Road because to get a drink then you know beer you had to find a pub with beer and we use to go into this pub and we heard this almighty bomb in Gurmly Street and off course there was a lot of people killed there cause there was no warning or anything cause the bomb just went off, that was a horrible weekend lots and lots of things you can torture yourself.

Rib: Where there ever raids when you where watching a film?

Q: Oh yes all the news would flash up on the screen air raid warning but.

Rib: Sometimes people would go out of the cinema?

Q: First of all they use to run out when I was expecting my boy that film was on Gone With the Wind well that was a must every body had to go and see that and it was on at the Elephant and Castle there was an air raid warning come up but my mum had taken me to see it and we just stopped it to see it I mean I can remember it was about three or four hours long and then when he was born I had to go the Woking to have him, cause you know problems with St Thomas hospital they had there place at Woking, they thought they will get the mothers there out of the way, and the night he was born there was a terrific air raid on and we couldn't do anything about it, so the he young doctor that delivered him he use to call him boots cause he always use to have these flying boots on and I bet every time they wanted him he was down the pub so it was come on boots someone else is expecting there baby, I always remember that cause he was singing Idoho all the time when Drew was being born, there was bombing going on then so you couldn't run away from it.

Rib: ????? rations what do you remember about that?

Q: Well we had a lot of scrounging I mean we helped one another you know my mum might say well and so got this in today, and there was black market as well, I always remember my friend got some black market tea and I was coming down this street and Rita was in the pram and it was a bassinet one of these prams that had a scrup underneath, of course I'm stuffing the tea in it and as I walked along so what we call a bomb dropped and I'm walking along with the pram and the pram is ?????, we have to see the funny side or you would have gone mad.

R: How did the black market work how did you know where you could buy stuff?

Q: Oh it was amazing, you always use to get little whispers come up so and so got this so and so got that, and my friend use to get the tea, that meant I got tea for myself, my mum, my sister, or perhaps they might get a bit of meat or a bit of tea or sugar that's how we use to work it, and of course we now clothing ????? that started the day we got married that did, but there was always ways to get around it.

Rib: Where you able to be at all fashionable during the war?

Q: Well I considered myself very fashionable during the war, I show you my wedding photo.

Rib: Was it hard?

Q: It was hard you know you had to make do and mend you know but in those days when you have coupons for stocking we didn't have tights, and when the coupons run out we use to colour our legs and put a black line up the back to make look like a seem.

Rib: Did you do that even after you were married to look fashionable?

Q: Oh yes, I mean I still try to do it now I mean oh yes.

Rib: How did manage the wedding during the war?

Q: Well that was funny that was, as I say my father worked at the foreign office and one of messengers there he was a butler he come and laid all the table for us, there wasn't any of the posh halls upstairs in the flats where we lived and he come laid the table and went through the wedding, there was a girl who lived in the borough high street she made my wedding cake it was all chocolate three tiers of chocolate, and while the wedding was on so the air raid warning was going people were scattering because they were air raid warden duty and my father the times he had to leave that wedding to go over to Westminster because he was fire guard.

Rib: Did you have to do anything like fire watching?

Q: Well I had the baby didn't I, my husband did even though he worked at Woolwich he still had to do fire watching.

Rib: Did you get special rations for the baby?

Q: No not really no you, well you might have got a little bit extra but not really, I use to go to there to be a shop in Westhorne Road use to sell like ??? well in those days it was ????? you can buy the synthetic stuff now but in those days it was made from the real thing, ???, sheeps brains and I walk all the way to Brixton to get him Farley Rusk I always remember that, I wonder what people are doing now.

Rib: Tell me more about that job you did at the laboratory?

Q: Well as I say first of all I worked in the examination room, once the film was all processing use to come up in two or three sections use to have to section one section two section three, to make a complete new reel, and then you know it was real graft you had to really work hard in it we use to work late on Wednesday nights because it was two change overs, and have to go in on Saturdays.

Rib: How often did the news reel come out?

Q: Twice a week, we use to have to work hard to get the quota out, then we use to have to do overseas copies, then from there went into the ??? room that's where you comprise them altogether and then I was made after 19952 I was made charge hand of the ????? examination room the only woman charge hand there so and they where all ????? shop stewards.

Rib: How long were you out when you had your son?

Q: About three years, well I had a break about three years so it was due when I has him then when I left to see when he had his accident, about three years in all, but I was wit Pathe until it closed down in 1966.

Rib: Where you involved in the Union during the war?

Q: I was one of the first woman to join that union.

Rib: Which union was it?

Q: It was called ACT then, now its called BET.

Rib: Just an ordinary member until you joined up?

Q: Yes I was the first woman member to join apparently, and my union number was 2265 out of the whole of the film industry. Even though white pictures I always remind them this is the latest one I think. You can have that one, its called Retchin its all posh and glossy magazine before it use to be the whole news paper now they got all these whiz kids in there well what I call whiz kids, but it was a down to earth place, well they worked in terrible conditions when I first went there you know the dark room where they use to develop the mixtures right in the pit of the building pitch black just a little green light and you couldn't find it, I don't know how those men worked in it, and we always had certain landlords coming over you while you were doing things like processing the film and they know worked in terrible conditions, now its all done on tape and they whiz through but I still like film, and I introduced quite a few members in that union and I trained a lot of people, we had to show them the difference between ?????? celluloid and how many perforations to a frame and different processors, you get the original the fine grind then you get the duplicator and then you come back and maybe print off.

Rib: Where you taught all this on the job?

Q: Oh well I was a tea girl when I first went there scrapping labels of teas but I was 14 then.

Rib: Why did you join the union?

Q: Well because it was the pay and the hours terrible hours 8 till 6, then you had to work Saturdays and it was French firm when I first went there it was called Paco?????, you know we got some of the older men saying we should start a union for better hours and you know lunch brakes, and then the next thing we started, we use to have our little meetings in the little tiny room and the main head office was over a barber shop in Waldouf Street and there was two people there that was the general secretary who was ?????? ??????, Bunny Gardner who was like his help and Miss Pierson who was his secretary, but now you look through there you will see all ??????????????????.

Rib: Now how did the management respond?

Q: Well you would have got the sack if they found out you had joined the union.

Rib: Really?

Q: Yes, then gradually every body got interested.

Rib: Did you flex your muscles at all during the war years.

Q: No, not during the war years.

Rib: Do you remember the election of 45 when Churchill was first?????

Q: Yes when ????? took over.

Rib: What were your feelings about that?

Q: Well I more labour know than conservative put it that way, I mean Neville Chamberlain and ????? I mean it was long before your time but they were just idiots I mean they drew themselves as well ????? with the application and Chamblin with his little bit of paper waving up in the air/

Rib: Do you think people in general were voting ideally because they thought they might do it a bit better out of it themselves?

Q: Well see labour was working class and after were working class even though we were member of the march but you know the Jarrow marches I was only a kid but people were hungry in those days I mean my dad was out of work for seven years and we did go without them that's why I can always remember I went to the cupboard to get a piece of paper one day and there was none there, and I just said to my mum I'll never be poor, and my dad use to try to work when he could but there was no work I mean he was too old at 32.

Rib: Was this in the docks?

Q: No he worked at Builders you know just like a warehouse man, but then he went to the candle factory and they wouldn't take him on because he was 32 and we were just kids my sister and I, and we were hard up and I can always remember my mum would give a pillow case we would walk over to Trafalgar Square and go down to the bread shop and get 2lb of stale bread, and the old boy took pity on you and give you couple of cakes, and we use to sit in Trafalgar Square dangling our feet and eating cakes with the stale bread at the side, and my mum use to damp the bread down and we would make it up. I mean people say that poverty now.

Rib: Do you think people were affected by thinking back on that poverty before the war?

Q: Yes well I mean people around here were people were in the same boat, I had a tough time with it.

Rib: But what seems in a way strange people seem to think Churchill was wonderful during the war and then he was?

Q: Well he just a bigger head that's why, well you had to look up to somebody, personally I think he was more dominated by Eisenhower than anyone.

Rib: Did people realise that he wasn't the right person to lead the country after the war?

Q: Well like I say he was he was a momentary hero, but then they have a fall its like this bloke we now look at him has gone right down in peoples estimation hasn't he, I mean I won't vote conservative not when we got idiots like that there, think I could run the country better than what he does.

Rib: Where you at all active politically during the war or only later?

Q: You said that ?????? ????????, they use to call me Milicent Milly.

Rib: Did that get you into arguments?

Q: Quite a few, I still argue, I argue with my son, we are very much alike my son and I we both have the same point of view we up in arms about this thing for not calling it V.J Day, I mean he wasn't even around then to me he's just a whimp that Clinton he is, just got this silly big grin on his face all the time, excuse me but he couldn't handle the troops out in Vietnam, Simalia could they, and they lost a lot of men out in the pacific.

Rib: Do you remember other people being involved in the Civil Defence I now you were?

Q: Well course a lot of people were, I mean the woman next door she worked on the railway take over the mens job and do the machines but working in this job I was in reserves occupation, but a friend of mine went in the land army.

Rib: Some woman say that there was some resentment after the war having to go back to there old roles?

Q: Such as?

Rib: Such as just being a house wife or working in the shop when previously they been doing skilled labour.

Q: Well the way I looked at it was the men had to have there jobs to come home to didn't they, that's my honest opion because you wouldn't have wanted the experience before the war when they were lining up, I mean my father helped a cole man out once when some bugger robbed him, I mean you didn't have all this social security thing, you had 10 bob a week to keep the family and pay out rent the lot, you didn't have any of that, that's what makes me so angry with this national health now we worked all our life we paid all this national health for a better future but where has it gone we got to pay for everything now, and I hate to say it but its the immigrants coming over they haven't done a days work I mean everybody should be in this country 5 years and pay so much contribution before they get any benefited.

Rib: The introduction after the war to National Health did that feel very important to you?

Q: It did, good team for medical support it was marvellous definitely, I mean we had to pay for a doctor doesn't matter how poor you was you still had to pay for a doctor, my sister had small pocks she was only a kid, you know I always remember the doctor coming half a crown at a time, half a crown at a time was a lot of money in those days.

Rib: Was that important to you as an issue in that election?

Q: Oh yes definitely.

Rib: What about housing you were OK, you weren't bombed out, but do you know how the people had problems with housing?

Q: Oh yes my mother was bombed out a couple of time.

Rib: Where did she go?

Q: Well there was always somewhere to go cause people was evacuating to get out of London, I mean my husband was offered a house in Plumstead for 200 pounds and I wouldn't go there living near Woolwich Arsenal , people found places I mean I moved during the war I lived in ??????? when I first married I had a flat, I came in hear because all these houses were all bomb but they done them up and we moved in, people were blasted out all the time.

Rib: After the war there was a tremendous need for new housing ?

Q: Yes that was when they started to build all the new towns up like Morden and Stevenage.

Rib: Do you know the prefabs?

Q: We had a load of prefabs up the top here, they were only meant to up ten years but they were up for about 40 years, they very lovely all had little gardens.

Rib: So that was quite nice for people they enjoyed living in prefabs?

Q: Of course they did because there was all ten buildings mostly before them or you lived in someone else's house, or had rooms in it, I mean people say housing is bad now but it was just as bad then.

Rib: Was that to an issue can you remember?

Q: Oh yes cause after a while everybody wanted to be a one bedroom ?????? didn't they I mean no body had a car before the war but every body wanted cars, I mean now people say the destitute if they haven't got a television or a car but in those days we had nothing, I remember my father had one of these crystal sets, we thought we was ever so well cause we had a crystal set and we use to fight over who was going have the ear plug on. But that's what I call living people take things for granted I mean we use to go to school, I mean I was ever so proud when my son went to school and he passed his grammar school scholarship to me there is no education

Rib: People say that at the end of the war or after the end of the war quite soon there was a real change, that during the war and before people use to do things together?

Q: Oh yes, but we are fortunate down here because we still have some of the war time neighbours, I'm lucky, unfortunately my friend who lived next door she died last year, we went every where together on holidays and evacuated together we use to take the kids out for outings during the war and get on the train and take them up to Chessington that was there holiday.

Rib: Just for a day trip?

Q: Yes.

Rib: Was the trains packed?

Q: Yes, but that was out holiday.

Rib: But then after the war people became more separate?

Q: More accurate, well I think you have got to take the Trade Unions for that as well, realising that if they was these things they had to work for it and demand a bit more, ?????????????????????? now and find out when you are going to clear all these directors getting so many thousands of pounds sitting on there bums other people doing the work for them.

Rib: After the war did you start wanting things that you didn't have during the war?

Q: Not really and I never them since, no I mean I thank God for what I've got I'm not a scrounger or a ?????? I thank God for what I've got I mean people say I must get a new home, my furniture I had all this during the war and they were wedding presents and I wouldn't part with it I mean I don't really want a video I got a TV I'm happy, people now they want so much especially the younger generation you notice it with grand children they are all computers.

Rib: But I wonder whether that didn't start after the war?

Q: Well we didn't have it, it is our flats really.

Rib: Did you feel that you were a bit indulgent with your son after the war?

Q: Oh yes.

Rib: Trying to make up a bit?

Q: Well we went on holidays we couldn't afford a holiday before the war six pence an all day tram ride that was a holiday, or go to ??????common that was good that was an holiday, we went to South End one day never forget that I mean I 'd never seen the sea before but we use to take the kids on holidays, but I have never craved for something I don't want something because someone else got it I mean I have got my health and strength I think that is the most importance thing in life, I can go out shopping I can take my dogs for a walk I mean I love animals, he was a throw out some one threw him out.

Rib: Did you ever go out to ?????? or anything like that?

Q: Oh yes six spinny hops we use to go to the sic spinny hops up the ?????? hall.

Rib: Was that during the war?

Q: Yes we use to go during the war as well, we use to have more alive during the war then what we do know well I think so I mean people are afraid to go out now I mean I think its terrible especially young girls of 18 you got to order a cab to take them to a dance or go and pick them up but we use to walk home we didn't have any worries.

Rib: You were already engaged at the beginning of the war?

Q: Yes.

Rib: When Exactly did you get married?

Q: I got married 1st June 1941.

Rib: You hear woman getting involved in blokes while ??????????

Q: Oh yes I use to see it as well especially in the type of work I use to do because we got a lot of Americans come over and they would say take you back to America honey and all that lark, well I was born with my head screwed on the right way, there was a hell of a lot of broken marriages. Two of them went with blokes and there husbands got killed one was killed in Singapore and the other in France.

Rib: You also hear some people got married quickly during the war?

Q: Oh yes that was for the allowance.

Rib: Really?

Q: Yes, they use to say that getting married for the allowance.

Rib: ??????????????????

Q: Couldn't give two hoots if they come back or not with some of them.

Rib: Also perhaps some people got married quickly because not knowing where they were going to live or not?

Q: Well my sister got married 10 months after me because my father I use to think he was strict but I appreciate it now, he said if a man can't afford to keep you can't afford to marry you, got to have your own flat.

Rib: That was unusual as a lot of married people lived with there parents?

Q: Yes well my father wasn't like that, well my sister had a flat but stopped with my mum and dad but at least she had her own home, as my dad didn't have it he wanted to make sure we had it, the generation gap again, also we got things on tick you know credit and its installed in him.

Rib: Can you remember the street, what was it like and who lived in it during the war?

Q: As I say we got most of the neighbours, the streets are mostly the same except the landlords let some of the houses out when they got empty to student, I got nothing against students but you don't know them, where as before you use to know next door neighbour and have a cup of tea over the wall, or have you got any sugar or you know, and we still got as few of the old neighbours.

Rib: Would you know every body in the street?

Q: Yes every body, and the bookmakers daughter got married we were all in bed asleep then all of a sudden the party come and knocked on the door Laura's got married, well I had a piano, ended up with that in the street, the chap over the road brought his jazz band out, every one was having a

Q: No not really, I suppose I feel more resentful now you know to think that what's happened to think did it do any good, they still got the fighting out in Yugoslavia, the countries are still up in arms at each other makes you think what was it all in aid of, I mean there was 50 million people lost during the war, 50 million in the world that is a hell of a lot, In Yugoslavia I don't think that war will ever end out there ????? the first world war. ?????????????? you know the way they were treated the way they treated the prisoners and that, although we were as bad we weren't angels fight for existence I suppose.

Rib: Did you now of any conciencious objectives?

Q: No not really, I have met a few absence without leave I have seem those.

Rib: Where did you meet those?

Q: Well we use to go in the pub for a drink we use to raids on and the police use to come in and drag them out.

Rib: Really?

Q: And how would they now who they were?

Rib: Well they use to come and ask for there passes.

Rib: So there must have been a fair number?

Q: Oh yes quite a few. Use to be a pub in the Woolworth Road called the Kings Arms and that was full of ??????, people use to go in there and have a dame good time then all of a sudden whistles would be blown.

Rib: Do you think people were more friendly with each other because of the war?

Q: Well I think people were more friendly then then what they are now.

Rib: Where people like that in general or particularly because of the war?

Q: I think it was because of the war but even before the war people had nothing but they shared what they had, there was some old lady who was making bread pudding and of course every one use to smell this bread pudding but she shared it with you, before the war that was, during the war you get that comradeship.

Rib: ??????????????????

Q: Yes, selfish I mean you didn't have drugs or that during the war didn't have that ????. must be awful for these mothers with there kids that are on drugs.