Australians at War Film Archive

Nancye Perry - Transcript of interview

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Tape 1

00:40 **So Nancye, we'll start at the beginning and could you tell me when and where were you born?**

I was born, it was a Monday, 16th December 1918 and I was born at Killara on the North Shore of Sydney

01:00 in the local private hospital which I think may still be there called Dalcross.

Well, that was quite unusual to be born in a hospital?

Yes, actually my parents had been in Perth in Western Australia and so I imagine I was conceived there and my father was moved to Sydney and

01:30 they rented a lovely house, beautiful house at Killara and I went to see it before it was pulled down a good many years ago now and I can remember it well when I was a toddler.

Really? Well, what's your earliest memory?

Well, when my sister is a year and 10 months younger than I am and believe it or not

02:00 I am sure I can remember when she was born. She was born in the house in Killara and my mother was in a bedroom there and I wasn't allowed in after she was born and I can remember sitting on a potty just outside the door wailing, "I want my Mummy, I want my pretty Mummy." Eventually the nurse, I suppose it might have been the midwife, a huge woman

02:30 in white came out and let me in and I can remember a washstand with a, what do you all it, a big wash jug on the right hand side and my mother lying in bed. That was supposed to be about my earliest recollection at the age of 1 year and 10 months.

Well, that's a very early memory indeed.

Yes.

Were there just the 2 of you in the family?

Yes. My father had been married before. He was

03:00 a widower and he had a son by his first marriage. He was born in 1900. He never lived with us. He was practically grown up when I was born.

Tell me about the house you grew up in?

Oh well, there were several. We left the beautiful one in Fiddens Wharf Road in Killara and

03:30 then my parents rented a house in Chatswood, also on the North Shore and a friend of my mother's came around to see her one day and said, "Oh, this is a come down, isn't it Mrs Kent?" Mother was terribly unhappy there. It was a little house. As children we were happy enough there. We were little children and we played there

04:00 and there was long grass outside the front fence. I was interested in insects even then because I became an Entomologist later and used to collect grasshoppers and keep them in jars in the kitchen. There was shelf right round the kitchen and I used to have these grasshoppers in there with grass and on the shelves. One day, I remember, I don't know when it was, there was a slight earthquake and everything fell off the shelves.

04:30 I had a hen there. Black one, I think that used to lay a lovely brown egg every day. I absolutely loved the hen and the eggs and somebody, well it died or it got stolen and I was absolutely inconsolable. Our father used to, he'd come

05:00 home from the bank late and we were in bed by then. We always put to bed before he came home but he'd come along and read us stories and I have a copy even now of the very first edition of the Magic Pudding by Norman Lindsay which my father bought before I was born presumably. We never allowed to have it so it wasn't spilled on or anything.

05:30 Also we used to tell each other stories, my sister and I in bed. I remember, my father used to have one story about possums which was wonderful and another one called Bill and Jack Went Fishing. In later years I re wrote Bill and Jack Went Fishing and have shown it to lots of little nieces and nephews and then

06:00 great-nieces and they all loved it. I've tried to get it published but couldn't get anyone to do it.

Well, what were your parents' occupations then?

My father started in the old Bank of Australasia in Launceston when he was about 17. He was an older father. My parents were both older, by the way. He was born in 1869

06:30 and he had to sign, or his father did a form. He was called, I think, a supernumerary and he was on 6 months probation at the Bank before they made him permanent and he didn't get any pay for the first 6 months. The form had to be signed. I have a copy of the form. I managed to get it some years ago from the Bank

07:00 archives and all sorts of things were in it. He stayed in the same bank until he retired. He became Chief Inspector, in Melbourne and that was the second head of the whole bank in Australasia. George D Healey was the Superintendent and as he was younger than my father, my father didn't get the top job.

07:30 You had to retire. You were supposed to retire at 60 but he was kept on until he was 62 which was in 1932.

Did your mother work?

No. You didn't in those days. She was, I think, 38 when I was born

08:00 or 37. She was born in 1881. She was a posthumous child. Her father had died before she was born. He was more or less a pioneer of Shepparton in Victoria, her father. She was very, very close to her mother. I suppose because her father had died at a very young age, about 36 or 37.

08:30 I think he had pneumonia. He'd had a stroke beforehand and so my mother and my grandmother on that side of the family were terribly close. There were various problems in the family and they set off for England where they had relatives in the beginning of the 1900s and stayed there for about 6 years.

09:00 I don't know how they afforded it because my grandmother lost what money she had in the Bank Smash in the 1890's. She remarried but her husband had, he was the son of a, I suppose you'd call it a squatter in those days up in the Shepparton area. He used to go to Sydney for some reason

09:30 and I think he was a widower too. A woman where he was boarding in Sydney had apparently thought that he might have married her and when she heard that my grandmother had married again a man called John Fraser, this woman came down from Sydney, arranged to meet him in Bourke Street. My grandmother had only been married 3 months

10:00 at that stage. Met him in Bourke Street in a hotel there and shot him dead. Great drama. It's all in the papers of the day. It was 1894. So my grandmother was a widow again.

Goodness me, she had rotten luck.

Then they went off to England as I said in the beginning of the 1900's because my mother's eldest sister, she had 2 brothers

10:30 and a sister. The eldest sister was supposed to be very beautiful and she ran off with a married man and there was a divorce in the family and that was not done at that time and so to get away from the scandal, I suppose, they went away to England.

So the Wild Colonial days?

Yes, that's right. It's quite a family. I've written all this up actually.

So then your mother met your father?

11:00 Yes, now when they came back from England which was, I'm not quite sure actually, my father at that stage was Manager up at Toowoomba in Queensland and my mother and grandmother were staying with the eldest son who was a surveyor up there at the time. That's where they met, in Toowoomba, in Queensland. His wife was still alive then. She died of cancer

11:30 soon afterwards and a few years later they were married, my mother and father. They were married in 1915. He was, by that time, transferred to Perth and they didn't have any children for a while. Apparently my father didn't want a second family. He already had a son but one day he was supposed to have said to my mother,

12:00 “I would love a little girl just like you.” That’s what happened with me but mother was wanting a boy, a son and while she was pregnant she called me Peter apparently. Anyway I turned up as a girl and my father said, “What about calling her Aquilla?” My mother said, “What a funny name!” My Dad, who was a lot older,

12:30 he was 12 years older than my mother, he got into a sort of a huff I gather and didn’t explain why. The reason was it was a Kent family name going way, way back. Hundreds and hundreds of years. Aquilla Kents in Ireland. I wish I’d been called Aquilla. I would have loved it. I was lucky I wasn’t called Pax because I was born just after the end of World War I.

13:00 They did consider it. Why I was called Nancye with an E on the end. My mother was looking through the newspapers one day and there was a well known actress, and her mother was too, called Nancye Stewart and her name was spelt and mother liked the look of it. She was the daughter of Nellie Stewart who was well known in the late 1800s, early 1900s.

13:30 That’s how I got Nancye with an E. So I used to be referred to at school, “Nancy with an E,” because there were lots of Nancys. It was a popular name in those days. That’s the reason that that came. We were in Chatswood for a few years.

Did your parents encourage this interest in insects and biology?

Yes.

14:00 My father did. His father too, his father had come out from Ireland to Tasmania in the early 1850s and apparently he became the Senior Customs Officer in Launceston in Tasmania but he and his brothers who went to America to Louisiana they absolutely, they loved the trees

14:30 and the bush and things and my father, right into his old age. He died in his early 90s he was so interested in natural history. He used to call out to my mother in the garden when we had a big garden then, “Enid, Enid, come and look.” There was a wasp carrying a spider up the path or something. He really was interested.

15:00 I believe his brothers were too and his father. It was interesting because they were all in work that had nothing to do with natural history. My father gave me a book on my 6th birthday called The World of Little Lives by Gladys Froggatt whose father was a very well known entomologist and I absolutely, all through my school days, I used to breed insects and I

15:30 friends, old boys who were interested in natural history and things. I haven’t said that when we left Chatswood, we were there for a few years, we bought the house, my parents did, in Killara again in Stanhope Road. Lovely house. It was built in 1910 and had belonged to the Nock family who were well known in Sydney from Nock and Kirby’s

16:00 the big hardware place and we moved in there. I’m not quite sure when it was, 1924 I think it was. It was an unmade road and things like that there and bush all around. Anyway opposite us, just up the hill, it was on a steep hill

16:30 Dr GA Waterhouse lived and he was the man who wrote a book on butterflies called What Butterfly is That? I used to go over there and he was marvellous. He used to show me how to breed his butterflies and so on. I had friends, old boys in the museum and so on later who used to encourage me. I loved it and then eventually

17:00 I’m skipping a lot of years now, in my senior school days they had botany. They had a zoology teacher and my last 2 years I was able to do zoology, which was wonderful.

It sounds as though you got quite a lot of support and encouragement from your family as well as from academics?

I certainly did.

17:30 When I had to make a choice when I left school, the other thing I’d been interested in and supposed to have been quite good at was Art. I had a teacher who used to go round various schools called Irenie Mort. She was one of the fairly well known Mort family. Thomas Mort family in Sydney and incidentally I was in touch with her until she died at the age of

18:00 a few years ago at the age of almost 100. I got prizes at school for art. Then I had to decide whether to go to the university or take up Art and I think my mother had a hand in that. We were fairly protected children when we were young and I think she thought that the art world mightn’t be quite the place for me.

18:30 With the bohemian sort of things. It would have been at the RMIT, [Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology] the tech in Sydney. I think it’s called RMIT, it may not be. So I went to the university instead but that’s a big gap there.

Do you think that it was unusual for a little girl to be encouraged in this kind of scientific exploration?

I'm sure it was in entomology.

19:00 Later on I couldn't get a job because I was a female and after the war I went over to England. There wasn't the same sex discrimination there. Oh, no. You couldn't. You might have to do field work. You might have to spend the night out with men. You can't do that. Oh no. Anyway.

But that's in stark contrast to the kind of encouragement you received as a child and young woman isn't it?

Well it was encouragement. I don't know.

19:30 It was just that I – it was something they encouraged me and I enjoyed it. My whole feeling at my age now is working and getting paid for something you love doing is terribly important. I've known so many people who've worked and hated their work. There is so many of them.

20:00 Actually my husband's one of them. He couldn't wait to retire. I think my father, he probably enjoyed the banking work all right. He was apparently a good banker. He had marvellous things about him.. His tremendous integrity and so on. Yet my mother would say, "But he'd bring home pencils from the bank!" (Laughs).

Do you think your mother would have liked

20:30 **to have had a career?**

Could be. She was musical which I'm not. She played the violin when she was young in her upper teen years. She was in the Melbourne, oh one of the young ladies' orchestras. She and my younger sister were both – I took after my father in some ways but they

21:00 were both very athletic. My mother was. She was always referred to as Energetic Enid, when she was quite old. She used to run everywhere. She, or my sister used to get on the roof of the house to remove possums and things. No way could I do it! I don't like heights. Pauline, my younger sister, was much more adventurous in those sort of things. My mother used to, in Toowoomba, I believe

21:30 was a – what's the word – she used to do roller skating. She used to waltz on skates and so on and I believe she was very good. I believe she was written up in the papers. I haven't got copies of those. I haven't seen them. She was marvellous with her waltzing on skates. Pauline didn't do roller skating although we had them when we were children. She was

22:00 quite a good ice skater and also a skier. She was a good skier. I was a terrible skier. Spent most of my time on the ground. So Pauline had the adventurous thing and the balance that I didn't have, although we did both ride bicycles eventually. We were in school in Melbourne as well as Sydney.

So did you

22:30 **begin your primary education in Sydney?**

Yes. I went to a little school called Willaston in Killara. Not far from the station in Locksley Street. Little boys and girls. Some of the children were older. I think there were some 16 year old children there. I was happy enough there. Fairly happy. They called me, because my surname was Kent, they used to call me "Old kettle with a leak in it." Not

23:00 for any particular reason except for the k's I suppose. I remember, particularly there, what was it? I can't think now. That's the trouble with getting old. You suddenly think of something and then it goes. Willaston was quite good. I know what I was going to say. There was an older girl there called Eleanor Stott. I think her parents must have had something to do with Stott and Underwood, the

23:30 typewriter and so on, people. She had lovely skin. Lovely rosy cheeks and tall, thin girl. She died at the age of 16. I can still remember that. She had TB [Tuberculosis], I think. Yes. Very sad. We had various headmistresses there.

24:00 One of them lived next door to the school in a big old house. Her father was a man with a white beard who used to come in during playtime. He used to come over to the little girls, including me. "I'll give you all a lolly if you give me a kiss." We didn't tell anyone that but you can imagine these days. I can still feel his bristly

24:30 beard. That was the father of the headmistress at the time. She left, I don't know why. That might have been the reason. Then the last one there was Miss Mary Durack, a member of that well-known Western Australian family. She was fierce old girl and we were terrified of her. We liked the other ones. There were 2 other ones, a Miss George and a Miss

25:00 Smith. Miss Smith was the one who had the father. But Miss Durack was very intimidating. My sister met her later on when my sister was an adult and said she was a dear little old lady but when we were children! I used to get bilious attacks when I was a child and I think my mother used to give us fricassee chops and didn't know to take the fat off.

25:30 I used to wake up in the night and be sick. I was sick one day, I think and you'd go to school when you went back with a note which you had to go and give to Miss Durack. I gave her the appropriate note and

also I said my mother said to excuse me because I were sick yesterday. She said, “I was sick!” I was expecting her to be sympathetic.

26:00 Something else at that school I well remember. My sister was talking in class apparently and the most dreadful thing happened. They got her out of the class, the teacher at the time, and put a notice on her back that she had to wear all day. It said, “I am a naughty girl and cannot be trusted

26:30 to do my work.” I went up to the teacher involved and I said my say because she was my younger sister. She was only about 6 at the time I think. Then my mother went round and saw them but I think that was a dreadful psychologically inappropriate thing to do to a child. But most of my school days there were fairly happy.

27:00 Little boys were there too. Some of them were dirty little boys too. They’d come in from the loo and they hadn’t washed their hands and they had wet hands and it was horrible. I can remember a few other things too, but that’s enough I think there.

Did you complete primary school in Sydney?

No. I’m not quite sure. My father was moved to Melbourne

27:30 in 1930 when I would have been – my birthday’s in December so I would have been, what was I then? 11, I think. I was just about at the end of it, I suppose. We came down to Melbourne. We didn’t know which school we were going to and my father was practically right at the top of the bank then, he was in a good position so we had a few months at Oberwall

28:00 in St Kilda because we stayed for a few months in a place called Clarence in Queens Road right at the St Kilda Road end. I’ve got memories there too. It was at the end of Albert Park Lake, that part. So they put us into Oberwall which was run by 2 spinster

28:30 ladies called the Misses Gartner and they were all in black. They were like old black crows, these 2 women. I didn’t say, what was called then Church of England so they were the schools we went to. I can’t remember much about it except the art classes. They taught us pastels and I wish I’d kept what we had done there because I can still remember what I did there and it was lovely.

29:00 Very colourful. Then after that, Clarence, the place was a, what do you call it, a great big old Victorian house and we had a suite of rooms there. I can’t think what you call it. They looked after you and fed you.

Serviced apartments?

Serviced apartments run by Miss Matthews. One of the people

29:30 living there was the Judge and Mrs Moule. He was in the first cricket team that went to England. A long way back anyway. He was a gorgeous old man with a lot of white hair and some other people whose names I have forgotten who had a Scottish Terrier and they had a little girl so we were friendly with them. We used to go over to Albert Park Lake

30:00 to catch yabbies and here’s another thing of my childhood that taught me a few lessons. Some little boys came up and said, “Come over here. I want to show you something.” Guess what? (Laughs). Well, they did. I’d never seen a little boy before. Anyway. They were only little too. They were only about 11 years old but that wasn’t exactly

30:30 the thing you’d tell your mother about. Anyway we left the – my mother while my father was involved in the bank – that was of course in the Depression and he was very, very busy and they had to find out somewhere for us to go to school permanently. I think we were a bit involved in the decision there. My mother came back with prospectuses from all the

31:00 good schools in Melbourne but in the end I think we persuaded them we’d like to go to Firbank because it was so near the sea and we wanted to be able to do some swimming which in Sydney at Killara we were a long way from the coast or quite a long way from the coast there. So we eventually enrolled in Firbank and I was tremendously happy there. Loved it and did do

31:30 drawing classes there. Miss Cameron was the headmistress. She was a huge old person and she was absolutely marvellous. It was the biggest school in Melbourne in those days. I think there were 500 pupils. They didn’t call them students then. She knew the name of every girl in the school. She was absolutely amazing. She had a sister who taught Art there. I think she was Mrs Newton and I did art classes with her.

32:00 At the end of 1930 – Pauline my sister and I and never had any of these childhood things in Sydney. Well the first thing we got when we came to Melbourne was chicken pox. I can still remember that too. I didn’t like snails and I could feel snails in the bed. I was delirious and it was the buttons on the mattress.

32:30 Anyway, we both got chicken pox. Then the next thing we got, I think was mumps and we were at Firbank by then. Just started there. “Oh no,” the doctor said, “that’s not mumps. It’s just tonsillitis.” All the girls in the class got mumps. In the following Christmas or one of the Christmases we got measles.

We hadn't had anything in Sydney.

33:00 I was going to say that at the end of 1930, I had something wrong with my left knee when I was a child. Nobody ever found out what it was and it used to – my mother had taken me to all sorts of specialists and it used to exude a white creamy thing and the specialist that we went to in Melbourne said to her and I came across those letters the other day, by the way

33:30 when I was going through all my stuff. "There's a conference on at the Melbourne Hospital with specialists from interstate coming. Do you want to bring your daughter in?" We went in there and we were in a little cubicle on our own. We could see out. There was a ward outside and all this line of specialists coming down and prodding all these people with goodness knows what they had. Then they came into me. No washing hands or

34:00 gloves and prodded me. That night I woke up with severe septicaemia. Blood poisoning. I ended up in the local hospital in Brighton at St Andrew's for 6 weeks and nearly died. I certainly nearly lost my leg because it crept up to my groin and I told the nurse and I told my mother when she came and the nurse said, "Oh, silly child, she's imagining things."

34:30 Mother didn't leave it at that. When the doctor came, it was Dr Upjohn in those days and she told him and things moved very fast because it had moved up to my groin and the only thing they could do in those days was hot foments over and over again. Dr Upjohn later became Sir William Upjohn who was a very famous surgeon

35:00 in Melbourne. I met him when he was old and told him about this. I was so glad that I'd spoken to him because he had saved my life practically, certainly my leg, in those days. Anyhow while I was in hospital all the children from school used to come and see me and I read my way through all the Mary Grant Bruce books which I loved then.

Well, how exactly were they treating the septicaemia?

With hot

35:30 foments. That's all.

Could you describe a hot foment for me? I don't know what that is?

Well, they put things in boiling water and put them on you where the wound was. Where it was poisoned. When I left the hospital I was in a sort of long wheelchair thing for a long time and I had to sit in the sun and I've got fair skin, or I had then and it all came up

36:00 in great weals and very painful. Hot foments, I don't know. You squeeze something out under boiling water. Blah! That's how they treated it. It did work up to a point and then I was in a wheelchair at home for a while in Brighton. We lived on the Esplanade. Nice place there. No 122 Esplanade.

36:30 All sorts of funny things happened there to. Anyhow I was in a wheelchair and then crutches and so on. At the Speech Night at St Kilda Town Hall, I was in this chair. I was most important wasn't I? They gave me a prize for General Knowledge. I don't know

37:00 whether I deserved it or not. Before this happened to me I had written – we weren't taken to films normally. We saw one though called Southward Ho with Mawson and I wrote a letter to Sir Douglas Mawson and I kept a copy of it which I still have and asked if I could go to the South Pole with him. He eventually replied, a gorgeous letter saying wait until you're a little bit older!

37:30 **So your interest in scientific expeditions was unabated?**

Oh yes, I've always been interested. I'm interested in medicine too, actually but when I wasn't – I was interested in Medical Research actually and you had to do a full medical course before you were allowed to do that so I wasn't prepared to do

38:00 that. I could have been interested in that. My sister who was good at English, poetry and history. I was quite good at English but she was really, really good. She wanted to do architecture and when she went to enrol in it later on at Sydney University they talked her out of it. They said that women architects in the late 1930s, builders wouldn't

38:30 take any notice of them. There wouldn't be any point in her doing architecture and we'd spent almost a year overseas going round to every jolly cathedral and building and beautiful building for her to look at and so on. She didn't do it. She did Medicine and she was never cut out for medicine although she made quite a good doctor, I'm told. Anyway.

What a shame.

It was. A wasted life. Anyway, she's brought up a family and so on.

39:00 **A wasted talent.**

A wasted talent. Yes. I've written about that but she's brought up 3 children and she's only, as I said, about 2 years younger than I am and she's still looking after 2 grandchildren because the mother, well,

no point talking about it but the girls

39:30 and the grandchildren one of them is 16 now and the other 13. I think it's pretty hard. Anyway, that's the way she wants it.

Tape 2

00:32 **Well, I was just going to ask you whether you were aware of the Depression?**

Not particularly because my father was in permanent sort of work but at school, when we came back to Sydney in 1932, in the middle of 1932, almost in the middle.

01:00 We started at Abbotsleigh up in Wahroonga. I think our names had been put down there before and there was a girl there who had to leave and had to go to a High School because her parents couldn't afford to keep her there and that I certainly remember about. I remember when we were in Melbourne about the Premier of New South Wales caused a lot of trouble, John T

01:30 Lang and I remember a cartoon about him I think and also I did a drawing about him which unfortunately I don't still have because we had to write an essay, I think at school in Melbourne. He really caused a lot of trouble in New South Wales.

What sort of trouble?

I don't know. He was a rampant Labor Premier.

02:00 I don't know. I think the State went downhill even more than it would have in the ordinary Depression. I don't really know.

When you say he caused a lot of trouble? What…?

I don't know. Just the newspapers seemed to think he did. Was he involved with the Sydney Harbour Bridge opening? I don't know. There was that business there when that man on horseback, whatever his name was

02:30 came and cut the ribbon when he shouldn't have done. There was a big fuss about that. My grandmother, by the way, had a ticket and went over the Sydney Harbour Bridge on the train. She had one of the special tickets when it was opened. I still have that ticket but unfortunately my sister had it and her children had it and got it wet so it's not quite as good as – I have it up here too.

03:00 Anyway, it's quite a historic thing. Do I remember about the Depression. I think the trades people who used to come. You had all your things delivered in those days. Perhaps that had something to do with it. When we went back to Killara you used to hear them coming down the hill, "Clothes props, clothes props," and they'd sell you things

03:30 clothes props to put under the clothes line to heave it up. Rabbits, the rabbit-oh used to come down. Strawberries, lovely ripe strawberries and so on. I don't remember too much about it because we were rather fortunate. Reading later on I know

04:00 more about it but everybody else does too. The way the men who weren't on the dole used to go round and try and get an hour or so of work to get some food. I'm afraid I don't remember too much about it.

But you remember those hawkers coming down the street?

Yes, I certainly do. When we went back

04:30 to Sydney my parents thought we were old enough to have a dog, a puppy and we got a fox terrier. He used to let all the hawkers in. Legitimate people he used to chase out. (Laughs). Later on, during the war, this is one of the war memories I have, we had a baker who delivered the bread and there was a long driveway up to the house, then some steps that went up to the

05:00 front door and she used to deliver the bread to the front door which wasn't quite what was usual because they were supposed to go round to the back door in those days but she didn't. She was a girl baker. She came round there and she was wearing slacks. Binky, our fox terrier, didn't think she should be going up there and he jumped on her and ripped her slacks down from waist to ankle. My mother was terrified that we were going to be

05:30 sued and so on but what she did, we provided the coupons for her to get a new pair of slacks. The girl seemed quite happy with that but it was a worrying time actually.

Sound it.

Now we were up to the Depression. I skipped goodness knows how many years there.

I was also wondering as you were growing up,

06:00 **what awareness you had of World War I?**

Only what we were taught at school. I wasn't born then. When we lived in that house in Fiddens Wharf Road in Killara, the war had ended and I had an Uncle, my mother, one of her brothers came back. Uncle Alfred and we had decorated all the house with

06:30 flags and 'Welcome home' and things and I have photographs of that at that stage. They were published in that little book I wrote a couple of years ago. Those photographs.

What was Uncle Alfred like when he came back from the war?

Don't know. He lived in Hamilton in Victoria. He wasn't in Sydney. He was there for a little while. We didn't see him much when we were children.

07:00 I don't know, his children – he had children. He married and English woman and had children who are still around now so I don't want to say too much but he had a very unhappy marriage and so maybe that had something to do with his war experiences, I don't really know. He used to write long letters to my mother about his unhappiness. He had lovely handwriting. All my family did on

07:30 both sides but she used to be a bit irritated with his letters. He went on and on. I don't want to say too much, his children are still alive.

I was going to ask do you know what made that marriage unhappy but….

I can tell you but…

You'd rather not.

His mother-in-law lived with them. They didn't get on.

08:00 **So apart from this Uncle Alfred, were there any other family members who had been in the services?**

On my father's side of the family there were 10 children but only 3 males and they were all too old. As I said my father was born in 1869 and he missed out on the wars because of that. My mother had 2 brothers, an older one, Harold.

08:30 I don't know why he wasn't in it. I think he was lame. I don't know. He was a surveyor. They both were surveyors, those brothers. My maternal grandfather was – no he wasn't – he was the man in Shepparton. The 2 brothers were. I don't know, he had injured his leg I think in his work surveying. I don't quite know and he was terribly short.

09:00 Tiny little fellow. So may be that was one reason but Alfred, very unfortunate about him, the one who did go to war. He was in France, I think. His daughter has edited his letters and there seems to have been – he

09:30 ended up just as a Sergeant and he was supposed to have been given the rank of lieutenant and the man who was his senior officer was transferred at the wrong moment and so it didn't happen. So he was a sergeant I think. I don't know too much about it. We weren't really in touch with the family. Hamilton was a long way from Sydney when I was growing up.

10:00 The eldest son, Harold didn't ever marry and through him, I've inherited so much wonderful family history stuff that he kept, including a first cousin of my grandmother called Richard Heath. He became a colonel in the Volunteer Artillery down here and

10:30 I had absolutely everything of his. He was born in 1831 and came out here in the early 1850's and if he were alive today he would have been what was known as one of these entrepreneurs. He was into everything! He didn't marry. His profession was a dentist but that was just a minor thing with him. He

11:00 completed his dentistry course in Paris and he had a passport for Paris in 1840 something which I had. All this stuff has gone recently to the State Library of Victoria because he was into everything and somebody ought to do his biography. The most interesting life. He died just before I was born. In his 80s. I understand he died – this is the story anyway – he lived in North Melbourne

11:30 where the Children's Hospital is now. On Christmas Day 1917 he was invited to friends for Christmas Dinner lunch at Elwood or Elsternwick and he intended to get the train and the train wasn't running so he walked and it was hot. He was in his 80's, he was about 86 I think. Anyway he died a few days later. Not surprised.

12:00 **So did you enjoy school?**

Yes. Most of it. When we went to Sydney to Abbotsleigh we started in the middle of the year in what used to be called First Year Intermediate and the children there were 13 and 14. Starting in the middle of the year, they'd all formed their friendships and so on and I came from Melbourne, dreadful Melbourne.

12:30 They gave me a dreadful time. There was a big girl called Paddy. I know her second name too. She was

the leader of this gang of girls who ganged up. I had a dreadfully unhappy time for that first year because having come from Melbourne in the middle of the year, it was really awful. I don't think Pauline had the same problem. She was in a lower class and they were younger.

13:00 But 13 and 14 year olds, you can imagine how they can be but the rest, after that I really loved it. I became a prefect before I left. I wasn't particularly good – in the senior years we had the Headmistress, Ms Everett for French and she was very, very – she made us

13:30 all do the highest French paper there was. Well languages wasn't really my special thing. I failed in French that year and had to repeat the year because of that. I did Zoology. I did all right in that because I loved it. I wasn't good at Maths either but the Maths teacher gave me special coaching after hours but anyway I

14:00 did the Matric [Matriculation] twice because of the French. I didn't do the highest paper the next year. It was another one which most people did anyway and

14:30 therefore my sister was one class below me.

So you repeated Matric?

Yes, I repeated Matric and so my sister and I finished up at the same time. I was a prefect the last – I'd been a form captain before that and all sorts of other things that I used to do for the school and

15:00 prefect in the last year and a half of my time there. When we finished I got a wonderful recommendation or testimonial from the headmistress. I'd kept all the school reports from all these schools which I have the other day to these archives I mentioned. I'd been good at writing, by the way. English was quite good but

15:30 I wasn't too good at Shakespeare. I wasn't interested really. I had some coaching for Shakespeare, I really hated it. Writing essays and things, I used to – mine and one other girl's were usually read out the following week in front of the class. I was supposed to be good at that. When we left school it was 1938 and mother

16:00 had always wanted to go back to England because she'd lived there before and she had relations still there and my father had never been out of Australia. He said, "I'm too old." He was in his late 60s. Anyway we tried to persuade him but I think what really persuaded him, we had a great big hedge in front of our house in Killara and

16:30 it needed cutting and I got the ladder one hot summer's day and cut the hedge which was a job that nobody liked doing. He didn't like it and I think we had a gardener from time to time but anyway he was very impressed that I'd done that. He then decided, he said, "Oh, you girls want to spend too much

17:00 go first class and so on." We said, "No, we don't mind," so we ended up going on the Esperance Bay, which was a one-class steamer. Somebody we knew, knew the captain so we had quite a – we were looked after well but there were some people on it that we thought were a bit funny. They used to come up on deck in bedroom slippers and things. We were never allowed to do that sort of thing.

17:30 So went over to England. We had it all planned what we were going to do. Before we went in 1938, I had driving lessons and got my license because they were going to hire a car over there and they wanted a third driver which was me so I've had it since I left school. It's a long time ago. I'm still driving.

18:00 We went on the Esperance Bay, which was an interesting experience, played deck games and so on, my sister and I did. We got to England and had some time in London, then went round England and over to Ireland, Wales and Scotland. This was all very interesting. As I said before, my sister, we looked at every jolly cathedral and every

18:30 well known building because she was going to do architecture at the university. Then we started our – we went over to Norway and we were on the ship that went all the way up to North Cape, right up the top and on to the border of Finland. Climbed North Cape. We've got a certificate that showed that we did.

19:00 I took photographs of course. I was a keen photographer ever since about 1930 when I had a box Brownie in those days. I had my mother's camera which was a good one and those photographs that you can see on the wall over there are enlargements of the ones I took overseas. We came down to, we went through

19:30 Sweden and Stockholm and came into Copenhagen in Denmark. That would have been in August 1938. There was this business about Hitler. He was invading various places in Europe and we were watching it from Copenhagen.

20:00 What was happening and my mother had a slight accident there. There were hundreds of thousands of bicycles and she looked the wrong way crossing a road. They drove on the right hand side not the left hand side and was knocked down by a bicycle and taken to hospital. She wasn't badly hurt but she was very shaken. We stayed in Copenhagen and we saw the consul and he said, "You better get back to England. Things are not looking good."

20:30 The only way back to England from Copenhagen was to go through Germany so we had to do that and it looked as though war could start at any moment. We went by train across – there's a long bridge from Denmark into Germany. The train goes over this bridge and just on the other side in Germany we went past an airfield that hundreds and hundreds

21:00 of black German fighters with Swastikas on them and I very nearly took a photograph of them. It's just as well I didn't actually. We got as far as Hamburg and we stayed the night at the hotel there and I remember going into a Kodak shop the next morning to get some films processed or something and the young man there said, "We don't want war."

21:30 This was a young German man which was a surprise. Then we got the train and we had to stop at a few places and we saw lots of troops on the stations. The only photograph I have of that particular was one of the train when it was stopped at one of these stations. We eventually got out of Germany into Holland. We spent not long there

22:00 to see the Cathedral there – I'm not sure. It was under renovations. It was all pulled to bits and renovations and the man who was showing us round said, "Oh, the Queen has been here." We thought that was very funny because the place looked so – she might have caused it looking like it did! (Laughs).

22:30 That's the only thing I remember about Holland.

I just wanted to ask, Nancye, whether you had been aware of Hitler before you came to Europe?

Oh yes. Certainly. At school. A saying we had as school girls was 'Another international sit'. Situation. "It was another international sit." We certainly were aware of him and what was happening.

23:00 **What did you do know about what was happening?**

Just what came over the news and papers, the radio we had.

Which was what?

That he was invading all these different countries. I'm not sure which order it was in but he certainly was and that the Jews were having a bad time. You certainly heard about it. That's why, I don't know whether my parents had second thoughts about going overseas that year. I'm not sure.

23:30 When you're young you look at things a bit differently. It's exciting when you're young.

Wasn't it, nevertheless, a bit shocking seeing all those troops and all those planes with Swastikas?

Yes it was. It was very – we were worried at that stage. I'm sure my parents were.

24:00 Then we stayed in Brussels for about 10 days to see what was happening because you could get back to England from there – Belgium fairly easily and it got worse. My sister and I used to go almost every night to the opera. We used to go there so cheaply. We saw practically every opera there was. It was wonderful.

Sorry, what was getting worse?

The war situation.

24:30 Chamberlain in England was going backwards and forwards seeing Hitler and so on. The thing got so really bad that we had go back to England. We had to go to – I've forgotten where the ship went from, not Brussels of course. My father made a mistake and got the wrong tickets on the train and the boat. I think we had first class

25:00 train and nothing on the boat going over and the train was awful anyway because they had all the windows shut. It was terribly hot. They wouldn't open them. Then we got onto the ship, a channel steamer and we had to be on the deck. It was absolutely packed with Jewish refugees and we were talking to

25:30 a couple of girls and they luckily got out in time from Vienna. It certainly was very, very worrying and we got to London. They all sang when they saw the white cliffs of Dover. They were so pleased. We got up to London and we booked in somewhere at a hotel and my sister wanted to

26:00 join the Ambulance or something but my parent wouldn't let her. She was only 17. They'd been digging trenches in the parks and I have a photograph of that in Green Park. We were fitted for gas masks and so on. My parents decided we wouldn't be doing any good in London and we'd been at a place when we'd been

26:30 touring round England down in Devon called Lorna Doon Farm and we went down there on the train that was so packed you couldn't believe it. We lost my sister on the way. She couldn't get on or something or other and we found her later. She was on the back of the train when we were somewhere else. We stayed there for a while which I wrote about what had been happening.

27:00 Then we heard, there was the radio, we heard Chamberlain saying, “Peace in our time,” and so on. Poor man, he was very much conned so everything seemed to be all right and we eventually continued our trip on the continent.

Just before you do that, what were these

27:30 **Jewish refugee girls talking with you about?**

About how awful it was. The SS [Schutzstaffel – German special forces] men had been – I don’t know, they had lost people and things. They were killed. I think it’s all fairly well known that. I think that’s what they were talking about. I know they were terribly glad to get away.

28:00 I don’t know if they knew what they were going to do in England. I suppose some of them had relatives there. I can’t remember – except I just remember that they were friendly and very glad to find friendly people that were people like ourselves. They probably didn’t realise we were Australians. When we continued our

28:30 trip, this is quite interesting, we went to Paris which I loved and then we had a person in Sydney who’d arranged this travel, what we were supposed to be going to do and we had to alter it a bit. We were going to Berchtesgaden . Now that’s where Hitler had his place up on the mountain there, the Eyrie and we stayed at a hotel there where

29:00 only abut a month before all these people who’d gone down to see Hitler when they went to Munich. Berchtesgaden is not terribly far from there. They’d stayed at this hotel and we were the only British or English people who were there at the time. Certainly weren’t anyone else and the head steward, waiter was very keen to show us the rooms that they’d had when they were there at this hotel.

29:30 I think it was called the Atlantic, I’m not sure. No that was the one in Hamburg. I’m not sure of the name. Then we had dinner in the dining room. We were the only ones in there and we finished dinner and came out to the lounge to have our coffee and the waiter had said to us, “Grand Admiral Raider is coming to see Hitler.” Sure enough, when we were in having our coffee, he and his

30:00 aid or whatever his second is, came in and instead of giving us the Nazi salute which everyone gave us there, he didn’t and he said, “Good evening,” to us and they left their briefcases with everything in it on the table next to where we were having coffee. They went into the men’s cloakroom and we wondered, I did certainly later whether that was a bit of plant to see if we were going to have a look.

30:30 Obviously we didn’t. He was a very – I remember him – he was a very good looking naval officer. The Grand Admiral and his offsider was too. Anyhow they went off up to see Hitler and we stayed there for about 10 days. The most beautiful place in the world, Berchtesgaden , it really is. I’ve been back since.

31:00 When we were walking around, there was a lookout with a telescope on it and you put some [UNCLEAR] to look and it was trained on Hitler’s place at the top of the mountain. We could see people walking around. I don’t know whether one of them was Hitler or not, we could see people walking around up there and so on. That was certainly interesting. There was a lovely

31:30 lake there and we went out on the lake and I also bought a costume, the [UNCLEAR] that they wore there, which I still have. I don’t know what I’m going to do with that. And just as we were leaving I think my mother or father was asking directions to Salzburg and they mispronounced it. Well, the name

32:00 of the place where Hitler was, was called I think Obersalzberg or something or other and oh, there was tremendous panic amongst the people we asked that we seemed to want to go up the mountain. Anyway it was a mistake and it was cleared up but I think they thought we were – I don’t know what they thought!

Were these crazy English people trying to see Hitler!

That’s right. Anyhow in the end we got the train and

32:30 went to Salzburg and Kitzbuhel and through there. Eventually we went back to England – did we go back to England then? I’m not quite sure but anyhow eventually in November we got a ship from near Nice in the South of France because we went down there.

33:00 We went to Monte Carlo and the family wanted to go to the what’s-it there – you know, the gaming place.

The Casino.

The Casino and I went with them. I was about 19. They wouldn’t let me in. They said I was too young and there was girl behind me who was just as young and they said, “No you can’t come in,” or whatever they said and they called her Miss

33:30 or Mademoiselle and she said, “Madame!” She said that she was married so they let her in. I remember that. I thought it was most unfair. My parents went in and we didn’t.

It was discrimination on the basis of marital status.

I don't know if it was but it sounded like it. I suppose they had an age – people under a certain age couldn't go in and they assumed that I was.

34:00 Then we got on the ship that came back, the Marinix.

So had you formed an opinion of Hitler and Nazism?

Yes. We didn't like what he was doing obviously. You used to hear him shouting as he did later on during the war, these dreadful

34:30 rambling speeches that he used to roar out. You can ask me something but I don't know whether I'll be able to comment on this.

No, I was just wondering what your impression was. As a schoolgirl in Sydney and then in Europe whether it was something frightening or...?

Not frightening. Oh, I suppose it might have been frightening but it was

35:00 I don't know, he was an evil man. Also there was this awful inflation in Germany. We used to collect stamps up to a point and each stamp was work millions of marks or something. Worth nothing in other words. I think I was probably just like everybody else.

35:30 Just felt that this was an evil man in Europe.

How were the Germans towards you? The German people you met?

They were all right. They were. There was a beautifully dressed, probably SS man

36:00 in Kitzbuhel. That was Austria and of course Austria had been taken over. He was collecting money. He just had a tin. He said it was for the Berlin Winter Relief for the people that needed help and my father gave him some coins into the box and I took a

36:30 photograph, a magnificent photograph of him with this man and of course it wasn't the Berlin Winter Relief, it was to go to their jolly war which we put in some coins for. I'm very scared of that photo which I have of my father with this man. We finished up that tour. I don't think we did go back to England at that stage. We went to Nice and stayed there for

37:00 a while and got the Dutch ship called the Marinix, which I understand was sunk during the war later on and this time we did go first class and I can tell you it was very dull. The people who went first class were older people and to us young ones it wasn't much fun. We went to Singapore, then Sumatra

37:30 the Dutch East Indies as they were then and went to Batavia – Jakarta now – and we had lunch called a rijstaffel at the hotel there, Zand, which was a famous hotel there and this rijstaffel, the waiters came down with about a dozen or so waiters each carrying something different and you took as they went past you, took something. Something my father took, which was

38:00 red hot chilli and he put it in his mouth. I've never seen a man so angry and furious. It was most embarrassing. Then we went up into the hills. That was interesting. On the train going up there we had about 10 days to wait for the next ship. In the train the other passengers in the cabin, when the Dutch were in the

38:30 had control of the East Indies there was no race discrimination. They used to inter-marry whereas in other parts of the world that wasn't quite the usual thing. The white Dutch people used to marry the native people so the families there were a mixture. It was quite acceptable there. So that's why I'm wondering all the stories they talk about it now, there wasn't any discrimination

39:00 between the whites and the natives there and I can't understand why the ones now are so hostile to their former owners. Up in the hills we went up and saw a volcano that was spouting steam. I've got lots of photographs of that period. The next ship was the Mutsikar, a smaller Dutch one and we came back via Papua and New Guinea.

39:30 We had some time to waste before the house in Sydney was let and we couldn't get back to it until March I think or February so we went over to New Zealand on this ship because it went there and back to Sydney but what was I going to say about back in the East Indies – no I can't remember. I'll think of it later.

New Guinea?

No, no.

40:00 It was before we got there. Oh yes. Because it only had about 30 passengers, we used to sit on deck with the other people and there was an Englishman there, a Major Nolan from Singapore and this I felt was very, very interesting for what happened in the future. He was a red-faced, rather fat, English major and he used to hold the floor

40:30 when we were talking on deck with the other passengers. That Singapore was completely impregnable. You don't have to worry about the Japanese. They've got poor eyesight, they can't see. They couldn't get to Singapore or down in Malaysia. It's absolutely impossible. They've got no air force, and he was absolutely – absolute type of Englishman they did not need in those days and we all know what happened.

41:00 Whether they had poor eyesight or not, they certainly took over Singapore and I'll never forget that Major Nolan. Most unpleasant type who really thought he knew everything and was a hard drinker by the look of him too.

Tape 3

00:37 **Well, arriving back in Australia then in 1938. You would have had lots to tell all your girlfriends.**

Yes. That was right we did. It's all right. This is a bit later on, something else when I came back

01:00 but I went over after the war for 4 years. Yes we did and we saw the girlfriends and so on. We had to find somewhere to stay until the house was vacant. The one in Killara. We looked everywhere apparently and eventually got a place in – not Kings Cross – it was near there anyway. It wasn't too good actually and we were there for quite a while.

01:30 Then eventually when we went back to the house at Killara, the people who were in it – no wait a moment – this is wrong – I'm sorry. This is when we went back after we'd been in Melbourne in 1932. Those people were terrible. They were solicitors actually, the husband was. All the neighbours said they'd

02:00 had wild parties and when we went there was a laundry right up at the back of the place and when we got there, in this laundry it was piled to the roof with empty bottles. The house was in a dreadful state. The people hadn't paid the rent and my father sued them with Dun & Bradstreet up until the war started and gave it away as a bad job. Never got paid the rent.

So did you enrol

02:30 **at uni when you returned to Sydney?**

Yes we did. I think I already said that my sister was going to enrol for architecture and the registrar said that it was not suitable for young women – builders won't take any notice of them. And if you came back and enrolled for medicine. Most unlikely with her background with an interest in literature and so on.

03:00 Her and I didn't have a problem. I enrolled for a science course and that was, at school we were not taught – I don't think many girls' schools were – we weren't taught physics and chemistry. I had to do one of them. I only did chemistry. First year chemistry there was an old boy who was the lecturer and all the boys had done chemistry at school.

03:30 Went to the university and he started talking about H2SO4 and all these abbreviations. I hadn't the faintest idea what he was talking about and at the beginning of the year you did inorganic chemistry and in the middle of the year you switched to organic chemistry. Nobody had done that at school. So I failed inorganic chemistry which you might expect. Organic chemistry

04:00 I had no problem because they explained it from the word go. At the end of the year of course I'd failed in chemistry I which was the main one was the inorganic so I to repeat the year. We were enrolled at the Women's College at Sydney University where you boarded like the ones down in Melbourne. We were there and the first year, my sister and I shared

04:30 a big room. We'd never been used to sharing a room. In Killara where we spent most of our youth we had big verandas right round the house and we slept on the verandas. Lovely in the open air. You only had the blinds down if it was really wet and it was beautiful. If we went away for holidays in a guest house, in a room I felt absolutely claustrophobic.

05:00 In a room, that I wasn't sleeping in the open air. I did Zoology which was all right and Geology. Anyhow I had to repeat the year because of that jolly chemistry which was a nuisance and I was still able to stay on at the Women's College but they didn't quite – they weren't too keen. Then

05:30 you got your peer pressure there about smoking and the girls I was with, not in the first year I don't think. In the second year I was moved to a single room in what they called The Alley which was 3 or 4 other rooms and I was friendly with those girls. They all smoked so I decided I should smoke too. I used to buy myself menthol cigarettes for some reason.

06:00 When I smoked I didn't inhale. I don't know whether it was because I couldn't or what and they used to make fun of me, but am I glad now that I didn't inhale because I only did it for this year or so when I was there. I never smoked since and never wanted to. That year at the university when I repeated it, it

wasn’t too bad.

06:30 That second year in Botany I got the top of the credits with repeating because I had to repeat it. Geology I loved. I got into hot water there a few times because during the war – now let’s go back a bit because the first year was 1939 and the war hadn’t started.

07:00 When it did, in the first part of the war at the end of the year, one was on their best behaviour trying to help and wondering what was going to happen and it was my 21st birthday in December. Everyone had 21st birthday parties but because of the war I didn’t and I really felt I was missing something. All I did was to take a few

07:30 girlfriends to the pictures where we saw something in town and it really wasn’t a 21st birthday party and yet one of the girls during the worst part of the year, her father was a well-known businessman, she had a huge, huge inappropriate party with a sucking pig and all the things. I was asked to it but we all thought it wasn’t really the thing to do in these times.

08:00 **So where were you, Nancye when war was declared?**

That’s a good question. It was a Sunday wasn’t it? I think I was at home because we used to go home for weekends from college. I certainly remember it. I remember other things when it happened more. We all knew it was coming.

08:30 By that stage I think we knew it was coming. We heard Menzies speak and we were in it too, Australia was.

Did you question Australia declaring war?

No. Certainly not. No. It was very British. We had British passports and everything. Very much so. People of the older generation still called it home. My mother did.

09:00 We did not question it.

It was quite generally accepted that Britain was at war therefore….?

Yes, certainly. I think that went for most Australians then. I’m sure it did. I don’t know which year it was. I helped at one stage in Centennial Park where they had the recruiting office. You had to check people in

09:30 who were joining up and there’s a very good book on that side of things. I think it related later to the Singapore part by Russell Bradden. He was a university student and he joined up as a man. He found it very, very hard as a private.

10:00 **Did you volunteer to help with the recruitment?**

I don’t know. I suppose I did. I must have. I can’t remember why. I did all sorts of these strange things during the war.

When war was declared on September 3, 1939, did you continue studying as normal?

Oh yes. Then I did.

10:30 Oh yes, I know what I was going to say, certain faculties at the university were known as reserved occupations. Science was one of them. Medicine was another. It did not stop people joining up but they weren’t supposed to. A friend of my sister’s, he was doing medicine. He joined up. He joined the air force. Well, that was the end of him. He didn’t ever come back.

11:00 He was missing in Europe and this happened to a lot of people. I don’t think it was obligatory to stay in medicine but they weren’t supposed to join up but a lot of them did and lot of them wanted to, obviously. When you’re as young as that, particularly I think with males, they want to be in it. It’s an adventure probably. As well as

11:30 doing their duty.

Did some of your friends join up?

Oh yes. Most of them did. Most of them went into the air force. Most of them didn’t come back. This friend in Medicine of my sister’s, someone we’d known in our school days because he’d lived up the North Shore. I remember when we went to dancing classes once. I wasn’t very keen. I didn’t even like the dancing classes. I wasn’t very good at it.

12:00 The teacher came across to me and said, “You will dance with Peter.” I was about fourteen at the time and I said, “No, I don’t want to.” It wasn’t very nice of me but Peter was pretty keen on my sister and I don’t think she was particularly but she was a bit of a flirt and his family thought they were more or less engaged. When he was missing they told her and were terribly sympathetic

12:30 towards her which I’m afraid – Pauline was upset but, you know, he wasn’t her particular boyfriend. She had lots of them. I didn’t. She and I were different. She did medicine. The medical course, it was

normally a 6 year course but during the war they got them through in 4 or 5 years so they didn't have holidays

13:00 or vacations or anything. It was very hard work. I did some work with the med students because after the first year one of my subjects was physiology and you had to do something called biophysics and you did that with the med students so I got to know a lot of them there. I used to work with them in their practical classes. It was interesting that. I kept all my books about that which went to these archives that I've told you about.

Nancye, how did you feel

13:30 **being at war? Did you have a sense that Australia was now at war?**

Oh yes. Certainly did. It was a very unsettled period for everybody. I was at the Women's College for 3 years until 1941. This is a complicated part which is hard to explain. I did first year and repeated first year

14:00 so when I repeated it, that was 1940. 1941 I started in science II, second year, and in zoology because they only had small classes there, the second and third year people used to work together. One year they did vertebrates and the next year they did

14:30 invertebrates. Something happened in the second year. One subject went wrong and I think I had to repeat that year. I wasn't much of a student except in zoology and therefore the following year, you see I missed out the vertebrate/invertebrate thing and I had to wait for the – I'd done the vertebrate

15:00 year, then the next year was invertebrates and I missed out. I wasn't able to do that and the next year was vertebrates again so that's why I had 2 years off in the war in which I did all sorts of things. I even tried to join the WRANS, [Women's Royal Australian Naval Service] the naval service. They wouldn't take me because I was too small, too lightweight. They said go away into the country for 3 months and have plenty of cream

15:30 and then come back. I got rather annoyed. If they don't want me, they won't have me so I didn't try again. One thing that comes to mind during those classes, we all used to knit in class, balaclavas or socks or something. In geology once, it was a female lecturer, Dr Joplin and she pulled up the class

16:00 because I'd missed something because I was trying to do something in the sock that I was trying to do and I asked the person next to me. She got very annoyed with me for not paying attention and knitting instead. We all did it because it was the thing to do then. We used to send these away. Khaki wool.

What did Dr Joplin say to you?

I don't know what she said. She just said something like if you can't concentrate

16:30 while knitting, don't do your knitting. With socks, you have to concentrate a bit on something I think from memory. I'm no knitter, really.

What inspired all these university students to be knitting socks during lectures?

We had to help. I mean that's what – we were all helping the war effort as much as we could.

17:00 I did all sorts of things. I made a list but if I can't look at the list I can't remember. I learnt rifle shooting. That was later.

Well, look, let's start off from September 1939. So after you heard that war was declared, what was your first contribution to the war effort?

Well, I was at the Women's College. I don't – you see

17:30 it was very funny. It was supposed to be – they called it a 'phoney war' at the beginning because nothing happened. Nothing happened at all even in Britain. There were no bombs or anything that first year. We all sort of waiting, a bit like people are waiting now for these terrorists. Nothing's happened but any day it might.

18:00 Japan wasn't in the war then so we didn't have to take the same precautions as later on but at some stage, I remember, it must have been a bit later, my mother putting up blackout curtains and in this Edwardian house where we lived there were these long, long – masses of windows and I remember her doing it and she was only very short person and I don't know that we helped

18:30 her at all. We should have but I can't remember helping her. Trying to get the things tacked around the windows. But that must have been, surely after Japan came into the war, I would think. I'm not sure. After Pearl Harbour. The first year I really don't think anyone did very much. We did knit things because that was in first year.

19:00 **What work did you do at the Recruitment Centre at Centennial Park?**

Well, I'm trying to remember what I did. I know there were lists of men and I remember finding a name I knew from Tasmania who was a connection of our family in Tasmania. His name was St Hill. I must

have been going through lists of people who volunteered, men who'd volunteered I think.

19:30 I was sitting at a desk. It was a clerical job. I don't think I actually met the volunteers there. I was just going through the lists of people who were volunteering and some who wanted to be conscientious objectors, I think. Not quite sure. It's a long time ago.

Well, were there conscientious objectors?

20:00 There were some. Yes. There always are for various reasons. I can't remember what the reasons were. It didn't concern me much.

What was the attitude towards conscientious objectors?

I don't think people felt too kindly towards them. I'm sure they didn't. We all felt we were supporting England in those days.

20:30 Really did. I mean, I know it's different now but it wasn't then. I'm still not a Republican by the way. I know it's inevitable in the course of time but I'm not.

There was a very strong British identity in Australia then, wasn't there?

Oh yes. Certainly was. We were British. We had British passports. We had the Australian ones but we were British citizens.

21:00 Definitely. Absolutely definitely. I think that went with everyone that I knew.

Was the idea of Empire important to you?

Yes. It was. My parents used to belong to what was called the Royal Empire Society. It was important. We grew up at school – that was what we were taught.

21:30 I think that probably and what your parents too.

So what did Empire mean?

I don't know. All the red countries on the maps (laughs). The British ones. I suppose we felt that Britain was, I suppose a powerful nation. I don't know really.

22:00 It was the British Empire and we were part of it and we were glad to be part of it. There hadn't been, as far as I can remember, too much trouble up until then as the was after the war with all these African countries getting their own – being independent as they call it. Now look what some of them are doing. Zimbabwe

22:30 for instance. That was Rhodesia. When I was, going back to childhood, the little girl next door they bought the vacant block of land next to our house and built a house on it which they called Rhodesia because the father, I don't think he was born there but he had worked there with a company called Woodpipes or something and they'd been in Rhodesia. That little girl who was only 6 months younger than I am

23:00 she, my sister and I became absolutely inseparable when we were children because her mother died when she was 10 and my mother took over sort of looking after her. She came on all the holidays and so on with us.

That was very generous of your mother.

Yes. She was a little girl called Rhona who is still around and she lives in Melbourne.

23:30 In later years I refer to her as 'the Peacemaker' because she still is with the 3 of us. They say two's company, three's a crowd but we three got on so very, very well together when we were children. Anyway that's going back too far.

But it's often like that with siblings isn't it? If you introduce a third party they get on better.

24:00 Do you think? Maybe.

So, what was the first time you felt that we really are at war?

Mmm. I'm trying to think before the Japanese came in, what it would have been

24:30 then of course obviously. I suppose when England and London were being bombed, I think.

Well, prior to that Germany had just swept through France, didn't they?

Oh yes, they certainly did. That's right.

There was the evacuation from Dunkirk.

Oh yes. I certainly remember that. There wasn't television in Australia then. When we were in London in

25:00 1938, the place where we were staying called Mt Royal. They had a television set. That was 1938 and we were fascinated. We used to watch it then of course but there wasn't any in Australia. We heard all about it. There was certainly radio, wireless.

What impact did that have? The evacuation from France?

I think it had plenty of impact. To work harder over here.

25:30 To help. That could have been when I tried to join the WRANS. I don't know when that was.

Why did you want to join the WRANS?

There were a lot of naval people in my mother's family. I suppose that might have been why. I don't know. I didn't ever want to join the air force or the army. I don't know if that would have been a good idea because

26:00 I would have got seasick. Anyway they would have had women on ships in those days. I'm not a particularly good sailor.

Do you want to refer to your notes?

I would love to refer to my notes. Where are we up to? 1940.

1939.

I don't have 1939 – yes I do. Only what I did at the university. I made friends at the Women's

26:30 College with a Dr Ann Sanderson who only died 2 or 3 weeks ago in Scotland. I kept in touch with her until then. She was in her 90's when she died. She was a scientific person; from St Andrews University and she'd been sent out here before the war started on some sort of – she came out here for

27:00 various reasons and she was living in Women's College and I got to know her. I used to, during the war, when she eventually went back to England, Scotland she was working on various things like sore fly larvae and other things. Hermaphrodite insects, that's ones that

27:30 **They're both male and female?**

Yes. They can breed without 2 of them and I used to send her things and they used to get there by ship of course. I used to pickle them. Things I'd collected. I found a weevil which is one of the ones on the Women's College steps. I don't know much about weevils. Anyhow I sent it over to her. It happened to be a very rare one that she'd

28:00 been looking for, for years. I kept in touch with her. I don't know when she went back. Probably about 194 – oh, when would it have been? She took a photograph of the Queen Mary in Sydney Harbour which was quite illegal. I have a copy of that. You couldn't take photographs of anything connected with the war. You had to be very

28:30 careful. That's later.

Who would be policing that? Who would know if you did take those photos?

Well, nobody did in that case of the Queen Mary. I suppose when you got them developed or printed or something. Later on during the war when the Japanese were in, I went for a holiday to Huskisson on Jervis Bay and there was some people there I became friendly with, a family. I think, mother, father

29:00 and daughter and we were both taking photographs there. We were and they were. I think they got their camera confiscated because there were some boats in the harbour there. I think they must have been building something there. You weren't allowed to do it. You were told you weren't allowed to. Some people did these things. I took some photographs there too. But one of us had our

29:30 camera confiscated but as I've got copies of the photographs, apparently it wasn't mine. During 1939 one of the things I did do – I did things that I enjoyed as well as war things. I enjoyed some of them too. Gone with the Wind was on in Sydney and

30:00 there was competition, a look alike one for Vivien Leigh. I had my hair, I had dark hair in those days down round my shoulders or it could be and I decided I looked like Vivien Leigh and you went to a photographer in Sydney and had a professional photograph taken which I have and I went into the competition and queued up,

30:30 lined up on a stage. I didn't win it but I have photographs of it. I really did like her in those days. That was brought out again a few years ago when they were redoing the film out here or re-showing it. It was an interesting thing. I also went into the university Choir. I was no singer, I never have been but anyway

31:00 I was in it as were a lot of other people. I think the ABC [Australian Broadcasting Corporation] were doing it for Commem [Commemoration] week and I have a couple of nice photographs of that Choir.

That was at the university and also they have the procession they have in Commem week and I've got not a very good photograph of some of the floats that went down – some of them with Mussolini. You know, people taking the part of

31:30 Mussolini. He came into it a lot too by the way as well as Hitler of people we didn't like.

Yes, he entered the war in 1940. So Nancye, you mentioned that the girls at Uni were all knitting socks and balaclavas and so on. In what other ways were the students involved in the war effort?

Well, after that – see 1939 nobody – we weren't

32:00 doing all that much but the following year there was a lot more. There was something called the – in July that year the Women's Australian National Service was formed. There was one from Sydney University

32:30 called the SU – Sydney University Women's – SUWANS [Sydney University Women's Australian National Service] we called ourselves. I joined that and in the August vacation we went up to a camp in Castlereagh which is outside Sydney and it was August and it was freezingly cold. I had a dreadful chilblains and we really roughed it there for 10 days or a fortnight. We slept in

33:00 not exactly tents but things and had to get up like people in the army did – early and we did rifle shooting and Morse code and signalling and other things there. One of the people that was there at that time was Margaret Dovey who later became Mrs Gough Whitlam. They produced a newsletter called

33:30 Howl of the Underdogs. In later years, I read in a newspaper article, it was an interview with Margaret Whitlam, that she wished she'd kept some of her verses that she'd written in her young days, university days and I had a copy having kept everything of this Howl of the Underdogs and some of her verses were in there. Only a

34:00 few week ago I photocopied the thing and sent it to her care of her publishers. Last Friday the whole jolly thing came back in a post office thing saying the envelope had been ripped. I had my address inside as well with a covering letter. It had ripped apart and they sent it back to me. Just a few days ago I re-addressed it back to the publishers, Allen & Unwin in Sydney.

34:30 I'll be very interested to know if she replies to it because I certainly wasn't a friend of hers or didn't know her or anything but she was in that camp.

So who was teaching you in that camp?

A whole lot of young men. I've got photographs of them if you want to see them, I have them with their names on them. People who were trained in, I don't know, they were probably the University Regiment. I have their names and

35:00 one called Fred Sanders who everybody fell for. They thought he was lovely.

Did you think he was lovely?

Oh yes. Fairly.

Would you say you fell for him as well?

Not particularly. He was a nice looking young fellow. A lot of people in that particular camp were not doing

35:30 the university courses that you got a degree with. There were some courses that weren't like Social Service, Social Science, Pharmacy and so on and a lot of them were very Sydney socialites. They really were. I can tell you that Margaret Dovey was friendly with those ones and they were very well known names in Sydney but they came from the

36:00 Elizabeth Bay area, Ascombe people and so on. They didn't mix with the hoi-polloi like myself. We were from the North Shore.

How seriously did the SUWANS take this training?

I've no idea. I was interested to have learnt morse code, signalling and so on.

Did you become proficient?

36:30 Oh, I don't know. It was only about 2 weeks. I learnt – I went to another course later on during the war where I really did learn rifle shooting because when the Japanese were here we really thought we might need it. We really did think that.

What sorts of rifles were you using?

I'm trying to think of the name of them. Lee Enfield I think.

37:00 I think that's it. That ring a bell with you?

Could you tell me a bit about the training on the rifles?

I think we shot at targets. I think we lay down on our fronts and did it. Not standing up. That was at the camp. Later on we were standing up doing it.

What kind of ammunition were you using?

I've no idea!

37:30 **Was it live or...?**

I think so.

Could you tell me what it was like for you? You were very young woman and to be lying down on your belly pointing a rifle. How did you feel about that?

Well, it was part of the thing we were being trained for. I didn't think one way or the other. It was just one of the things we learnt. That's all.

So you were quite accepting of it?

38:00 Yes.

You didn't think this was an odd thing to do?

No. Certainly not.

What kind of a shot were you?

I think I was all right. I know later on I used to win prizes playing darts and things. So I think I was probably quite a good shot. I'm not sure. I can't remember there. I just know it was cold.

Especially on the ground, I'm sure.

Oh, dreadful. Frosts.

38:30 **Were you given uniforms?**

No we wore those things called – I think they were once called Osh Kosh overalls. Bib and brace things. I've got photographs of myself and others there that you can see. I remember one of the photographs which must have been a professional one. I think the newspapers must have come up at the beginning because we were carrying our own mattresses up to where we were sleeping and I was tiny and I could hardly

39:00 lift the jolly thing and I'm just bowed down with this great big mattress I was carrying up.

Doing this rifle training. When I say, how seriously did you take it...

I did later on when the Japanese were in the war. I can remember that. I also remember that at that time I contracted German Measles and went to the shooting. The training

39:30 for that was on Saturday afternoons and then I think I went to the pictures at night. I'm just wondering, I've always felt dreadful about that. How many pregnant women I must have passed it on to because they didn't know about it then and they were the ones that had these malfunctioned children later on. They didn't know that German measles was the cause of it then.

Well, look perhaps none of them caught it.

No. Well I worked later

40:00 on for years down at the Guide Dog Centre here in Kew and I just wondered about those blind people there who were about the right age.

Tape 4

00:35 In 1940 there was a most unfortunate incident at a place called Dakar in North West Africa. The reason for my interest there, I had the husband of a

01:00 first cousin of mine had been in New Guinea. He was a pilot over in New Guinea before the war. When we called in at – I'm not sure if it was Moresby or Rabaul I think it was coming back from Europe. He flew down to see us while we were there. He got there just too late before the ship sailed but I have some photographs

01:30 of him on the wharf. We saw him on the wharf but we couldn't make contact exactly. Well, when the war stated he, I think because he was a pilot he joined or had to join the HMAS Australia which went to – I

think it went to England and then later to Dakar and there the French, the Vichy French

02:00 It was a very unfortunate incident. He and another man flew the – they had a small plane attached to HMAS Australia and it was flying when it was shot down by the Vichy French and into the harbour there and they were lost. Nothing – they couldn't find them. There were sharks in the harbour. Nobby, they called him Nobby,

02:30 Nobby Clark who was married to a first cousin of mine call Hope, one of my mother's nieces. That really affected us. Another young man called Roger Sides joined the air force and he was being trained at Cootamundra or down near Wagga somewhere and his little plane

03:00 crashed and he was killed so they were 2 people we knew well. I've got photographs of him too in his air force. He came out to see us. They were relatives on my mother's side of the family.

So you were very well aware of the consequences of war then, even before the Japanese came into the war?

Yes. I'm afraid so. Particularly as most of our friends of our own age had joined the air force rather than the navy or the army. Some joined the army.

03:30 Mainly the air force, you know, the excitement of flying. That was Dakar. When I was at the Women's College, the second year I was there, I had these friends who I mentioned made fun of me when I was smoking. We used to look at the newspapers and the advertisements for Lux.

04:00 Not the Lux soap, the Lux powder that you did your washing with. Their advertisement was 'Be a Lux Change Daily Girl'. That affected my life, all my life because every night I used to wash my underwear, which I still do (laughs). 'Be a Lux Change Daily Girl'. That's an advertisement I remember so well. Then we came

04:30 to 1941. I was still able to be at the Women's College. I was on the Library Committee there.

You were doing your knitting through 1940 were you?

Oh yes, you were always doing knitting when you had some spare time. 1941 of course was a very momentous year. I'd done this driving course

05:00 for trucks and the maintenance and the trucks I remember – I did it in Frenchs Forest which had unmade roads, corrugated roads that you used to bump over. These huge trucks had the brake on the outside and you had to, if you wanted to stop you had to pull it on. Very heavy trucks anyway. That was quite interesting.

05:30 **It would have been pretty hard to learn to drive them was it?**

Yes, it was heavy work but I'd learnt to drive on my parents' car which was an American Nash Car and it had what was known as a Double D Clutch which really made you learn to drive. So I've been a driver all my life and I have a husband who doesn't drive and never has so I'm the driver in the family. Living here makes me worried about

06:00 the future. 1941 was the year I was doing second year zoology and Professor William Dakin was the Professor of Zoology. He was an Englishman and he instituted apparently the army

06:30 was calling for camouflage nets and he got a group of us in the Zoo Department to learn how to make these nets and when we knew – we had a lot of publicity about that at the time. When we were efficient at doing this, there were 5 or 6 of us. I think the one in charge was Alan Colfax, one of our lecturers and

07:00 Isabel Bennett who's still alive. She's in her 90's. A well known scientist woman and Ruth Sanger who later on, who was at school with me and later on she's got a blood group called after her. We used to do this there and through, I presume, Professor Dakin, at lunchtime we used to go down into the city from Sydney University

07:30 to David Jones, we may have gone somewhere else as well but I know we went to David Jones and they had this thing set up, this camouflage thing set up there and we used to teach, hopefully the general public how to use the things. The shuttle and things to make the camouflage nets which when they were finished they were probably sent up to

08:00 maybe the next year, up to New Guinea. I don't know where they were sent. Apparently they were put over the men, according to the press cuttings I have of the time, at night over their camps and things and then we set up or I did on our front veranda in Sydney at home. We had this thing that was on the veranda all the time.

08:30 When somebody in the family, my mother or father or myself or my sister if she was, the rare times that she was at home doing this shortened medical course and she was terribly busy. You'd do a little bit of it when you had time. You'd go on with it and leave it for the next person. It was a very interesting thing and we really felt we were helping the war effort then.

Do you know how long it took people to make one?

09:00 I think it depended on how long they worked on it. It was fairly slow work. I can't remember. Ours was on the veranda for ages.

What were they made out of then?

In the literature I have of the newspaper publicity it says it was fairly hard to get the twine. It was an olive coloured twine, that sort of khaki colour and

09:30 it was a sort of twine, not string exactly. You can still get that sort of thing. It's rather nice stuff. That's about all except for what's written up in the press cuttings about it which I have which you can see while you're still here.

It was obviously something that people felt

10:00 **they could make a contribution to.**

Oh yes. Yes and the people in David Jones, I'm sure they did because they were very very interested. They used to crowd around us and learn how to do it. We used to tell them how to set it up at home and it had 2 uprights, one on either end and the thing went between them. You had a piece of board, I suppose

10:30 in inches about 8 inches and about 2½ inches down and you used to wind it round that to get the right size. Sort of a diamond shape the camouflage nets when they were finished. They were diamond shaped.

If other people had wanted to make them, were they given the equipment or did they have to make it?

I don't know.

11:00 I suppose they had to buy the equipment. They probably did. I don't know that they were given it. I don't know. That was in 1941. In November that year, the 19th which of course people know, the HMAS Sydney

11:30 was sunk off Western Australia and I don't know whether – I seem to remember that we did know about that. I know there was censorship but not quite – I seem to remember that. Thinking back because of censorship I'm not so sure. With Pearl Harbour, I certainly remember that. We were on holiday.

12:00 It was in December – 7 December. We were down at Jervis Bay. We used to go down there which used to be the old naval college down there. During the war it wasn't and they had cottages there which you could rent. We were down there and we had some university friends with us. My parents and these girlfriends. I have photographs of us on a veranda and things and I certainly

12:30 remember hearing about Pearl Harbour while we were down there. Tremendous shock to everything. Absolutely unbelievable.

So you really felt that?

Mmm. Unbelievable. Couldn't believe it. Before the war, Jervis Bay had been this naval, well I think it's gone back to it or it had but a whole lot of the Japanese fleet came in at one stage.

13:00 I think we were down there at the time. This was well before the war. All these young men had cameras and they were all taking photographs. Nobody thought anything about it then.

This is what I've often wondered about. Did you think about Japan? I know you told the story of Major Nolan, but did you read any reports in the newspapers during the 1930s about Japan?

All you thought about Japan, anything you bought

13:30 from Japan was no good. In fact I used to go to the toilet rather often and they'd say, "She's got a Japanese bladder!" (Laughs). No, anything that came from Japan was shoddy, not worth it. That's probably what we thought about the country.

So people weren't really aware

14:00 **of what Japan had been doing in China for instance?**

I don't think so. I wasn't. It was only that confrontation with that Major Nolan that made me wonder. I don't know. Pearl Harbour came in.

Can you remember how you celebrated Christmas that year then?

We would have still been down at Jervis Bay

14:30 at the old naval college. We call it Jervis Bay. I know everybody calls it Jervis Bay. We used to go down there quite often. It was one of our pet spots with or without the family and so on. When I was child we went to Huskisson which was on the – it wasn't the naval college and we had a wonderful time down

there. I used to love fishing.

15:00 I learnt to swim down at Jervis Bay. Christmas that year. We often used to, I don't know if it was that year, we used to go to the Hotel Canberra, I think and that's probably what we did. I think we were probably still there for Christmas. I'm not quite sure. We had 3 or 4 girlfriends staying with us. In earlier years when we went down there, not then

15:30 we used to take a – we often had a live in maid and we used to take her down so she could do the cooking and so on. That was that part of it.

So it was a real holiday, for your mother too?

Oh yes. Exactly. Yes. Quite.

Did you cook at all?

Me? No. My mother, at home if I was there

16:00 she used to say, "Well you know Nancye what you do, you do this, you do that," and so on and so forth and I'd say, "Yes Mother, Yes Mother." Some of the things I remember later on and I've just given all my old cookery books, or her cookery books to Monash University people. They wanted them so they came the other day. Now 1942 of course.

16:30 I think we must have come home then. After Pearl Harbour of course, Japan came, then it was a worry and our troops went over to Singapore and including my best friend's husband. She'd only just been married before. He was the head of the

17:00 or later on became head of the Mitchell Library in Sydney, Gordon Richardson and they had one little daughter who was born just after the war started. He went over there and his brother Toby. He was in Singapore

17:30 in Changi but his brother was on the Burma Railway. They both came through eventually. Gordon's wife, Yvonne my friend – I'll never forget this. She was a young mother, very young a bit younger than I was, a young baby girl. She bought a block of land and she had a house built on it. She said she always knew that he would

18:00 come back. She didn't know for years whether he was alive or dead.

That's what I was wondering. That would have been unbearable.

It was awful. We were worried about our cousin, the Englishman who had been there and she didn't know about Gordon or his brother.

Was she notified in any way that he was missing or taken prisoner. Did she know anything?

She knew he was missing. I think that was all. We tried to find out.

18:30 He came back and he was relatively all right. He's still alive. Yvonne, my friend died of cancer when she was in her 40's actually and he remarried and then I lost touch with him when he remarried. They have 3 children, the girl who was born just at the beginning of the war and then 2 later on. Baby boomers. There was Gordon, the son and

19:00 a girl. Now I found out quite recently by looking up who's who that the son is living up at Olinda here and I've spoken to him on the telephone and been invited up there but I haven't been up there yet. His father, before his second wife died, he went back to Scotland because he had inherited an estate there. His father was a

19:30 General, I think. He was high up in the Scottish army, I'm not sure. Anyhow I believe he is still alive in Scotland and he comes over here occasionally to see his children. I must get in touch with the man in Olinda who is now retired. I can't believe it. He was a Barrister, I think. He and his wife sound nice so I hope I'll get up there one day.

Oh, I hope you do.

If the

20:00 father comes home, I would like to see him.

Yes, that would be wonderful wouldn't it?

Because he did remarry. He remarried because he and his wife, my friend were terribly close but he said it was just impossible living on his own after she died.

Did your friend ever – she didn't actually find out he was a prisoner in Changi.

I don't think so. No. I don't think anyone did.

20:30 Did they?

Well I was wondering whether…

Some of its pretty well documented like 'Weary' Dunlop but I don't whether anyone knew he was still alive while the war was still on. When the war was over, I was one of the volunteers who used to take the car down and collect some of these including English people because

21:00 they came back to Australia before they went home to England. I used to bring them back and take them wherever they were going and collect them when they came back.

What, these were prisoners, ex-prisoners?

They had been yes. They'd been somewhere before they got back and the photographs that you see when they were absolutely like skeletons over there. They had been fed up a bit and some of them had put on

21:30 weight that didn't look right somehow. They'd put it on too quickly or something. I know I asked ones that I spoke to whether they'd heard anything about that cousin of my but I didn't have any luck. I had a lot of correspondence with people and my mother did too after that but nothing cropped up. Anyway, then of course at the beginning of 1942

22:00 when the Japanese came down and Singapore was taken we heard all about that and because we knew so many people who had gone up there and including I think some that had come back from the Middle East. I think they went there. So we were very involved there. By that time I was living at home. I left the Women's

22:30 College and I had various sorts of jobs and …

When you were saying, was this at the point that you were not at university then?

Yes. That's right. 1942 and 1943 I was not. I got myself a job in the Library at National Standards Laboratory and I was there for 3 months. That was an experience I'll never forget. The woman in charge of

23:00 the library. There were 4 or 5 girls in there and none of us liked here. There was a girl there called Gwen James. She'd been to the same school as I had but she was older. She used to bait this woman, Mrs Eastman and they had terrible brawls in the library. It was fascinating but it was most uncomfortable really. They hated each other!

23:30 There was another girl there who I'd been to school with in the same class called Betty Mortlock. We got on very well but this Gwen and Mrs Eastman and Mrs Eastman used to say that she was a friend of somebody or other who was the head of National Standards. She used to say that. Dear oh dear. They were days! I was only there for a short time and then I don't know why I left there. I think they only wanted

24:00 a temporary assistant there. This is where I'm not quite sure. Where are we up to? 1942–43. I became a lab assistant still in National Standards in the physics section where we did work optical work on gun sights and we had to measure them. I and another girl used to go down into this dark room

24:30 and do, with a thing called a spectrograph. We used to do work down there and at that stage, I think it was that stage I took up bushwalking with some friends there and we used to go away at weekends and walk

25:00 and camp out under the stars and things with no tents. That was another story. It was an interesting sort of – they were interesting days then because I got on so well with those people and I think it was then – I'm trying to find out – in the Botany Department at Sydney University, the head of that was Professor Eric Ashby. He'd come out at the beginning of the war from England

25:30 to take over the Botany Department and when I did botany it wasn't my best subject more particularly he was absolutely marvellous. He was a wonderful man. He had the idea that while you were at university you took your text books into the examinations because it taught you how to

26:00 refer to them, how to do research. You did not memorise things. It was no good to you. That has affected my whole life since because I'm a pretty good research worker. I do a lot for my husband on that and you usually know how to look up references and so on. He was absolutely wonderful. I think it was during that year he and one of the men in charge of where I was, a man called

26:30 Dr Briggs, not the same Dr Briggs who was in the Zoology Department. It was a different one. They had some idea apparently that they wanted to find out whether young people at school in their final years, matriculation, ones who did well in school under conditions where they more or less had to do what they were told. They were supervised and so on.

27:00 Then they did first year at the university where they were left to their own devices. They wanted to find out whether the ones who'd done well in their final exams at school still did well when they went to university under completely different conditions and they wanted someone to look up the results of the 1937 or '38 I think

27:30 in the schools and I was sort of seconded over there to the registrar's office in a little room that was completely – not anyone allowed to come in and obviously I wasn't allowed to tell anyone what I was doing because it was fascinating for me because all these particular people had been in the year that I'd been in and I was able to find out what their marks were and how they'd done at school exams and so on. I took 3 months doing that

28:00 and I think it was found later, I haven't been able to find our professors. I'm trying to get the book now that it was found that ones who'd done well at school did well in first year of university. I didn't think they would but anyhow they did. It was very interesting and I had a funny experience where a man let himself into the room where I was working. I said, "Who are you? You're not allowed in here." It turned out to be the Head of the university in

28:30 Armidale. He wasn't very happy with me. I think that was in 1943 I did that. Going back to 1943 was it, no '42. I did the bushwalking. I did a short course in bacteriology.

29:00 There was no exam with that. I just did it for interest in the Tropical Medicine School. Professor Harvey Sutton was the head of that. Also at some stage then I did a short course in touch typing which has been quite useful and I think that was maybe the year because Japan was in that I did a Saturday afternoon course in rifle shooting.

29:30 I think that was that year.

Yes, I was just wondering about 1942 because this is the year that Darwin was bombed.

Yes, I was going to come to that.

Oh, okay. Fine.

Well, not Darwin because censorship was terrific and they didn't tell you anything. I was at home on the night, which was a Sunday night the 3rd May and suddenly, I mean Killara's about – ooh, how far from the harbour?

30:00 7, 8 miles I suppose. Suddenly there was this awful noise, shelling and guns or bombs or something and our house was a Warden's Post. That meant my father was the senior warden in the area. There were a lot of men that were his wardens. When the air raid siren went off which it did sometime in the middle of the night it seemed. We were in bed. All these men came round to our house, then they went out.

30:30 They were supposed to deal with incendiary bombs. They had learnt how to do that. We didn't know what it was and the next morning we looked in the papers to see what it had been and there wasn't a word about it. The Kuttabul was sunk and the midget subs were in Sydney Harbour. Not a word about it. We didn't know what had happened. I can certainly remember that.

31:00 **Did you never, were you never – people didn't find out at the time?**

I don't think so. We didn't find out. I don't think we found out that Darwin or Newcastle had been shelled. Not until later. They didn't tell us. Censorship, that book I had over there which you saw, which has all those ships that were sunk down the eastern coast of Australia. We didn't know about those at the time.

Can you remember how you were

31:30 **feeling at the time?**

We were scared. We really were. I think maybe that was the time, yes it was the middle of the year. That was the time probably that I did take up rifle shooting. We definitely thought we were going to get invaded. We really thought that. We heard what people did to girls and so on.

32:00 Didn't just kill them probably. It was – we really were frightened. Then the following year which sort of cuts into it from my memory, I think that was the year that I've already said that I was in the Physics Section, optical section of the National Standards Laboratory. The other side of that building were people

32:30 working on radar and it was terribly – we used to call it 'Hush-hush'. We had to wear security thing to get into the building and I did a poster. They had a ball at the end of the year, I think it was. I did a poster for that which gave me a date. No that was

33:00 the year before. I'm not sure if it was that year or the year before. You know the whole thing, people working on radar. It was terribly secret at the time. I knew those people and some of those used to come bushwalking with us and so on at weekends.

Would they talk to you about what they were doing?

Oh no. Certainly not. No. We were in the other half of the building. It was a great big new building that they'd

33:30 built. In March that year, that was before that shelling of Sydney Harbour. I must have gone for a brief holiday at Jervis Bay to Huskisson this time, quite near the naval college. It was the time when

34:00 the people I'd met there that their camera was confiscated. We'd taken some photographs of the harbour which didn't have proper ships in it. I think they were building them there. I don't know if that was the time when all through the war when the Americans were in Sydney and Melbourne and other parts and we did hear quite a lot about that. The men didn't care for them much in those days.

34:30 What did they say? "Overpaid, over sexed and over here," or something or other.

Did you ever go out with any Americans?

No. I did not. I had a funny experience towards the end of the war. I told you before we were taping this, I used to make my own clothes during the war because I was tiny. It was 12 coupons, say, for a woman's dress. I could get 2,

35:00 if I made my own, getting the material with the 12 coupons I could make two. I learnt to make my own. We had an old Singer machine and it was fairly hard doing it on your own, measuring yourself so they advertised a thing called a Model-U. A place in Sydney that made them and they put plaster of Paris over you. Stripped all your clothes off, or most of them and when it dried they cut it off you

35:30 and that was your shape. You bought from a stand which it was on, the jolly thing. I went to collect it at a place in Sydney in Castlereagh Street I think. I went to collect it one day on my way to the university and got on a tram with this great thing the same size as I was. I think it had some brown paper over it or something and an American Officer in the tram

36:00 spoke to me and said, "Ma'am? Is that a body you have in the bag?" It was very funny actually. He wondered what it as. Anyway that was my…

Did you tell him what it was?

Oh yes. I suppose I did. My sister had a funny experience too. As far as I know she didn't go out with any Americans. She was waiting at a tram stop in Sydney and an American came up behind her

36:30 and put his arms around her from the back. She could be very forceful if she wanted. She turned around and he said, "Sorry Miss, sorry, Miss, I didn't mean it." That was her experience with them.

Tell me why you wouldn't go out with Americans?

I was never asked. I didn't know any. You had to be a certain – the girl I worked with in National Standards in this dark room measuring these things

37:00 glassware for the gun sights, she went out with one. She got engaged to marry him and then suddenly I think she wanted to ring him up and so she and I went down to the GPO [General Post Office] one lunch time to ring up his parents in America which she did and found he was already married. She was a bit hostile.

I can imagine!

Yes, I think that's how it happened. Kath, anyway she

37:30 didn't marry him. She ended up marrying someone in National Standards who we both knew. Americans, well I went out with Englishmen when they came out later on. The Americans certainly were in Sydney, many many of them and a book by – I don't know what it's called – Xavier Herbert, I think about it. That was very

38:00 about Australian girls who went out with Americans. Now where are we? Up to 1944.

Well, I was just wondering, what memories do you have of Sydney? You can remember the midget getting into Sydney Harbour. Did you have to take any precautions in your household. Had you dug a trench in your back garden?

No. no.

38:30 I don't know what we were going to do if the Japanese came down.

There weren't any blackouts at night or anything?

Oh yes. That's why my mother had these blackout curtains all around the house. I think so. We weren't allowed to show lights. Same as in England.

I was just wondering if you went into the city of Sydney during that period. Were there lots of servicemen around?

39:00 Yes. There were. That's all I can remember of that part and the streets were crowded. Sydney streets were pretty narrow.

I was also wondering about any entertainment that you might have had during that time?

Yes, I think the only entertainment was films. I remember seeing, I can't remember what year that was, Fantasia, and enjoying it.

39:30 Gone with the Wind at the beginning of the war. Films were about the only thing as far as I can remember. We used to go down to the local, I think that was then, at Lindfield, the next suburb. They had a picture theatre there and we used to go down on Saturday with the parents actually on Saturday nights. We sat in the same seat every time. You had a special seat booked in those days.

Tape 5

00:32 I was going to tell you earlier, we went, as I think I may have mentioned, in 1938 when we were on that overseas trip we went over to Norway and went by ship right up to the North Cape and past that and I took a whole lot of photographs. Well now, in 1939 wasn't it, the Germans invaded Norway to a place called

01:00 Narvik and that was in I believe in April and I had all these photographs and I think, I don't know it may have been my mother or I and she had postcards and we let the authorities know because apparently I think there might have been some publicity because nobody knew much about Norway and they were interested in these photographs and we sent them in to them and I don't know whether they used them or not. Possibly not

01:30 because a few days later, I have the date, in the Sydney Morning Herald there was a whole page of these photographs, of our photographs that they published and I had them until a few days ago when I gave them to the archives that I told you about. Anyway I rang them yesterday and Helen there was very good,

02:00 she looked it up and gave me the date of the Sydney Morning Herald and another date I wanted so I could pinpoint when they were in. I have the originals, probably not the postcards, I have the original photographs I took all the way up at all those ports going up to the north and coming back and so they were interesting at that time of the war and the other thing I was going to say which I touched on, I think

02:30 was rationing and that was brought in by degrees all through the war. Food and so on. I wrote a note about that here. Most items were rationed during the war. Food, clothing and petrol in particular being in short supply. Realising that the needs of the Armed Forces must come first the civilian population reacted with good humour

03:00 and often with considerable innovation. Ration books containing coupons for essentials and even non-essentials such as cigarettes, tobacco and alcohol were distributed to all Australians. These ration books acted as a de facto means of identity. They were almost like an identity card. You'd show your ration book and that was you. Well now rationing certainly was in

03:30 and there was a man, one of the Ministers. It was a Labor Government by then. A man called Mr Dedman. He was known as a killjoy because he really was and a few of the things were so laughable. The edicts that came along. For one thing, in newspaper advertisements for clothing, men's and women's clothing,

04:00 they were not allowed to do, the commercial artists were not allowed to do drawings of say a man's suit. They were allowed to do the suit but they were not allowed to have a head on it or hands or feet. So the newspapers and the commercial artists really took that into their own hands and they were so funny. They had these suits as though they were dancing around with no arms, legs or

04:30 heads on them and another edict he brought in was that men were not to have trouser cuffs, no waistcoats and everything had to be so. He was really hated, that man. I can't remember, he probably made edicts that we were not to do things at Christmas time. I don't remember.

05:00 He was a killjoy. He was a Minister for quite a long time throughout the war. He was the Minister for something or other. I've got him somewhere. (Looking through written notes.) I looked him up and found out what he was. Here we are. Minister

05:30 War Organisation and Industry in the Curtin Ministry. Well, that's from 1943 to 1945. I think he was doing these things before 1943. We hated him. He was an absolute killjoy. I think we were up to about 1943, weren't we, or '44?

I think just early '44.

Yes, that's right. Well that's fine.

06:00 '44 yes. Then I went back, having had these 2 years doing all sorts of strange things, I went back to the university because the zoology course had gone back to when they did invertebrates which was the year that I had to do because I'd done vertebrates before and as I think I said the science II and III used to work together.

06:30 So I went back there. That was fine. I enjoyed that year on the whole. I also did physiology and biochemistry. With the physiology I worked partly with the medical students. Biochemistry, we had several different lecturers. One of them who used to, for a 9 o'clock lecture, used to arrive under the

weather.

07:00 That was most embarrassing. The girls used to sit in the front rows in those days. Most embarrassing, him trying to give a lecture and not being able to get it out.

What did he used to do? Would he slur his speech?

Certainly did! It was terrible. Anyway, there was another one, a Dr Priestley, a very nice elderly man and he went over to London for some reason and he told us a story when he came back.

07:30 He went on his own. He was booked into a London hotel and they brought breakfast up to his room and they came to his room with 2 breakfasts and the person who brought it said, "Where's your partner?" Probably not the word he used. He said, "I'm here on my own." This person couldn't believe that. He told us this story when he came back. He thought it was a good joke!

08:00 He was a very nice man, Dr Priestley. We had somebody called Wardlaw whose son brought our house in Killara when my parents died in the early 1960s. He lived there and we went to see them and we were absolutely shocked, my sister and I. On the mantelpiece in what had been my parents' bedroom, on the mantelpiece there was an urn

08:30 with old Dr Wardlaw's ashes in it! (Laughs) Which they put in there.

Were there many girls in the courses that you were doing?

Quite a few actually because the men tended to be in the Forces and yes, there were quite a lot. There were men too but quite a lot of girls. I think there were

09:00 only, from memory, in the university in those days, about 1200 students.

Yes, well those of you who went to university were very privileged weren't you?

Yes, that's right. We did have to pay unless you had an exhibition, which quite a few people did if they were clever enough. I didn't. I managed to get through it and did I tell you – oh yes well this comes into 1944.

09:30 I think I told you, off the record, about the car. I was living at home at that time and used to come into lectures by train which was actually very good, because if you got a seat, which you often did from where I came, you could really swat up on some lectures and so on and work that you had to do. It was quite a train trip, I don't know, it took about half an hour I think. That was quite good.

10:00 I went to Town Hall Station or Central, Town Hall usually and then got a tram up to the university along Parramatta Road and went in that way. Anyway I did my zoology III that year and physiology and biochemistry and I think genetics which was very, very basic. Genetics in those days to what it is today and

10:30 I think it was that year when I was doing the final year examinations which were in, it could have been the year before, I'm not sure, were in October–November, I went into the physiology exam and I had a sore throat. I looked at the paper, the examination paper

11:00 and I thought, "I know that question." I could literally see the whole page it was like a photographic memory from a textbook called Bainbridge and Menzies and this particular page – I've forgotten now what it was about it had nothing to do with the question and I wrote down in the exam paper all that page! (Laughs) Obviously that wasn't what they wanted.

11:30 Anyway, what I'd do, I'd go home after the exams and I felt dreadful. I'd go to bed when I got home. My mother had the doctor to see me and he said it was tonsillitis. I think that's what he said but anyway and then I'd get up early in the morning about 4 o'clock and swat for the day's exam. My sister, who was in her final year of or just about final year of med

12:00 by that time, she said, "I don't think that's tonsillitis. I think it's glandular fever." In those days, maybe still now, you had to do a blood test to find out and I think they injected it into a toad or something. She spoke to a girl in the senior year to her and they thought it was glandular fever so I had the test and it was. No wonder I – well anyway because I was

12:30 given a what they call in Sydney a 'post'. They call them 'subs' [substitute exams] down here I think, and I did that one for physiology in January. I got through that all right.

How long were you ill with glandular fever?

I was going into town to the exams every day because at first we didn't know it was glandular fever. It was too late to do anything about it.

Sometimes you can have relapses too of glandular fever?

Yes. I'm not sure

13:00 if it was the glandular fever or the other thing I'd had earlier, the German measles, I got dreadful pains

in my wrists for a long time afterwards. I think that might have been the other thing, the German measles I'd had earlier. Yes you can but I didn't. It wasn't very good. Anyway that year in 1944 in the vacation in September I suppose,

13:30 the Zoology class had to go down to Cronulla where they had a Marine Biology Station and people from interstate came there from Adelaide for instance and so on. Sir Douglas Mawson's daughter, Pat was one of them who was there and we went out in the boats and did things there and so on. It wasn't quite my thing but just before we went as I might have mentioned

14:00 while I was living at home and when I was earning some money at National Standards, I earned about £3 a week. I paid my parents £1 a week out of that for board and they put it away. Well, they didn't tell me this, but in the end towards the end of – three quarters of the way through, two-thirds of the way through 1944

14:30 they gave it back to me. It was £120 and with that I bought a little car. A Morris 840 Roadster. A little second hand car with a hood. A funny little car. Nice looking little car. Still think it is when I look at photographs.

What colour was it?

It was a creamy colour and anyway with a black hood and red wheels.

Very dashing!

It was very dashing.

15:00 It had a lot of problems. One of them was it did have a self-starter but it usually didn't work. It had a handle and you cranked it. The cranking was difficult but you got the knack of it if you did it often enough. This is going ahead a bit. When I was working in England, my parents sent it over to me as deck cargo and it arrived the day that petrol rationing was reduced.

15:30 The petrol allocation was reduced so much we got practically nothing. Anyway I used it occasionally to go to work there and there was man in the part where I was working, Mr Bletchley and he'd say, "Oh, don't do that. I'll start it for you," with the handle. Of course he hadn't got the knack and he couldn't do it and really that did not put me in his good books. He hated me for it because he couldn't do it and I was able to because I'd been doing it for so long but anyway that's another story.

16:00 With this little car, I think almost the first time I drove it after I had it in Sydney, I drove down to Cronulla from Sydney. There wasn't much traffic fortunately but I was pretty worried about it because I didn't really have the hang of it then. Anyway I got there safely. So that was that part of it. I finished up, as I've said, at the end of that year. One of the things

16:30 there, one of the things in short supply was anything aluminium. Saucepans and so on. Our local, at Lindfield the next suburb, hardware shop they must have advertised because it became known that they had an allocation of aluminium saucepans. I took the little car down. Parked it outside and stood in the queue and eventually

17:00 bought one. Some newspaper people came round and took a photograph of the queue and my little car which I have here, the photograph which was quite something to be able to get those things that were in short supply. Another thing in that year, my father whom I've said was a great sort of natural history

17:30 interested man. We used to have kookaburras that came and sat on the railing of the veranda where I used to sleep and they'd wake me up early every morning clacking their beaks wanting to be fed and my father used to walk to the railway station which was at least a 10 minute walk uphill and get the train down to Chatswood, about 3 stations down, walk down Victoria Street, down to a pet

18:00 food shop right down the bottom of the hill there and buy horsemeat for the kookaburras and our fox terrier and he used to this a couple of times a week. He was dedicated and the kookaburras stayed there and took, they used to cut the meat up and they took it from our hands.

That must have been wonderful. Kookaburras are beautiful, lovely birds.

It was. I've got photographs of the kookaburras sitting on the railing in the album there.

18:30 Which year was it? Where have I got it? No that was the following year. 1945 we're getting to now. Well, that's about all for '45. I finished up and in the following year 1945.

So you finished your course then?

I finished the ordinary science…

So did you actually graduate?

I didn't have the actual graduation until June 16th 1945.

19:00 I was graduated on the same day as the sheet I have as a Mr Lionel Murphy. He did a part science course too. That year I decided to do a post-graduate year in Entomology which was my interest and I

was able to do that. There was only one other doing it, a girl. The year before actually

19:30 when we were in science III, it was a very small class. The practical class there was a Chinese man from Singapore. He was such a nice man. He was gorgeous. His name was Tam Ah Kow. The practical work was during the afternoon and halfway through he'd go away and make Chinese tea and bring it back to us and we had it there.

20:00 It was a lovely year, that. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Anyhow when I did Entomology the following year there was only one other doing the same as I did, a girl called Mabel Crust. I don't know what happened to her afterwards. She wasn't exactly a friend of mine. She was all right but we didn't have anything in common except we both liked entomology I suppose. I did that

20:30 and we had to do something with the – it wasn't genetics exactly – biometry I think. It was a sort of agricultural Entomology course. I did that and looking through some papers I don't remember doing an exam but I've got a sort of – not exactly a testimonial – saying I passed the exam which I presumably did.

Was it a Post-Graduate Diploma or an Honours year?

No, you didn't get any –

21:00 it wasn't an Honours year unfortunately, no. Professor Dakin, he was only interested in people who did Honours. This was not an Honours year. He didn't accept it as such. It wasn't his marine biology which was his pet thing. I wasn't interested in that really. Anyway, Professor Ashby I kept in touch with and this comes a little bit later when

21:30 the war was over. I'll bring him up in a minute. In 1945, I was demonstrating in biochemistry in that department. Getting a little bit of money for that. I was looking for a job. That wasn't easy as I think I mentioned. Women don't do field work. They might have to go away with men.

22:00 You can't do that, they said. Nothing cropped up as far as jobs were concerned. That was in Sydney. In January, 29th apparently, I went down and saw the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester arrive. He'd been appointed Governor-General of Australia. His brother, the Duke

22:30 of Kent had been appointed and he was killed in an air crash and so Gloucester who was a silly billy sort of man. He wasn't very bright. He was there. I did meet him but anyway.

How did you come to meet him?

Well, amongst the things I did, that particular year or just before that, the Royal navy came

23:00 out here and so knowing somebody I did voluntary work several times a week, I think, at the newly built British Centre in Hyde Park in Sydney. There's a photograph of it out there. I used to go in there as a waitress and serve meals to the sailors, that's the other ranks, not officers. I was appalled at the table

23:30 manners of some of these young men. They were incredibly dreadful! They really were.

Did you tell them?

Oh no. I did meet a man there who preferred to be not without a commission and he was quite different. A Royal Marine. I liked him very much, too much actually.

Well, we must ask you about your wartime romances?

Well, I didn't have many but oh, yes.

24:00 This one wasn't really a romance but he was a good standby if I wanted someone who'd work with me in botany and he is quite well known in Sydney. As he's almost the same age as I am he's retired but I don't know, if this is going on the internet, he's still around by the way so I better not say his name. He was swimming coach, a well known one for many years, for the

24:30 Olympic Games and so on. He'd done physiology with me and botany and so on. He was a good friend and when I published that book I sent him the thing about it and he and his wife bought a copy. He was good. If there was a dance that I wanted to go to, for instance, I could ring him up and he'd come with me. He took me out sometimes of his own volition. I wasn't interested really in him

25:00 romantically but he was just a good friend. Where were we? With the English, Royal Navy, who was here?

Yes, that's right.

I also worked in the Victoria League Officers' Club, also as a waitress and I was very fascinated with the men who came in there. They used to rush in at lunchtime and they wanted

25:30 milk, gallons and gallons of milk. "Bring some more milk, miss." The other thing they liked was Gorgonzola cheese. They liked it or some of them did and it was crawling everywhere. They loved that but they couldn't get enough milk. I don't think there was any alcohol there.

Why? Had they been deprived of milk?

They'd been on board ship. They couldn't get fresh milk. We couldn't either during the rationing. We did get some but

26:00 powdered milk was terrible. Not like it is today. Eggs were dreadful. You got these awful eggs during the war, either in water glass, which was, I don't know what that was but you put eggs into water glass and they lasted forever practically. They were frightful when you used them. There were powdered eggs which were even worse. That was at the Victoria League and we had a few good social things with that.

26:30 I remember going out on a yacht one day. It was a special thing. It was a great big yacht and we went outside the Heads in Sydney. It was a bit scary actually. I had a little bit of a social life then. The other thing we did that year, I mean I was job hunting and couldn't get anywhere.

This is 1945 isn't it, we're talking about?

Yes. The war was almost over

27:00 but we at home, our parents and myself we had a sort of, not Pauline because she was working doing post graduate medical thing. We had a sort of hospitality set up in Sydney and we put our name down. We used to get these young officers usually at weekends. We'd drive them out somewhere for picnics and show them round and so on.

27:30 It worked out fairly well most of the time. Most of them were quite nice and my mother was particularly taken aback when we had 2 young 'wavy navy', which were officers, and my mother asked them what they did before they were in the navy and they said they were slaughtermen. My mother nearly had a fit. They varied. One of them –

28:00 that's right, this is funny. One of them was a, not a Jehovah's Witness, a Plymouth Brethren and he took me out to dinner one night. He had heard of a restaurant in Kings Cross and I met him somewhere or he collected me, I can't remember. We went into this place and they don't drink, Plymouth

28:30 Brethren. However he was being polite and he ordered a bottle of wine which they brought and he paid for and then, when we'd finished our dinner, they charged him again for the wine. He and I made a terrible fuss about it. I think probably they shouldn't have given him wine because you had to order it before 6 o'clock in those days. They'd given it to us and I'd drunk it and it was an awful fuss for us to get out of the restaurant because they said

29:00 they wanted him to pay again and he refused because he had paid. Anyway that was that incident. We took these different ones out, as I said, for picnics on weekends and so on all over the place round Sydney and they were quite good usually. Some of them I kept in touch with later on and I had this friend, the Royal Marine, whom I'd met at the British Centre whom I was a bit keen on, and he was taking me out for dinner

29:30 in, I suppose it was August I think, 1945 and we saw the headlines on the papers as we were in the city of the atomic bomb. We didn't know what it was, I didn't and he didn't. We didn't take much notice of it, we just wondered what it was all about. What was much more important to him was, he had booked into a restaurant in Sydney

30:00 itself and didn't know that you had to order your drink if you wanted it, before 6 o'clock. There was no drink and he was furious. He really made a fuss. He was actually a businessman from London and was the brother-in-law of one of our VCs [Victoria Cross] Hughie Edwards. His sister was married to Hughie Edwards or had been married which seemed to me to be a contact. I liked him very

30:30 much but anyway.

What happened to him?

It was sad. He was on an aircraft carrier called the Rani and that was I think in Sydney. It came back to Sydney a couple of times and one day he asked me out to dinner. It was a Thursday night. I'd already been asked to go on a picnic

31:00 with a lot of young friends up the Lane Cove River, I think it was. I thought, "Oh well, I'll say I can't." He was going to meet me in the day time and I said I couldn't come. I was playing hard to get, I suppose. Anyhow when I got home his ship had been moved and he'd gone. I met him once again but

31:30 that was unfortunate. He was rather nice. Anyway it came to nothing of course. I often wonder what would have happened if I'd spent he day with him instead of going out with these young friends which I didn't really want to. They were much younger than I was. The atomic bomb was dropped. The British sent a –

32:00 and so on went on because these Englishmen in the navy were still in Sydney and I got to know some of the ones we'd taken out fairly well and the ones at the Club. Can I just look at this for a minute? (looks at notes) I finished the entomology of course that year and as I said I looked for a job and

32:30 couldn't get one. We'd been in England in 1938 and I wanted to go back.

Could we just stop there for a moment, I was just wondering, where were you when you heard that World War II had finished? Can you remember?

Oh yes. I was heading down to

33:00 Kosciusko. I was in the train. On my own in the train, meeting friends down there. I didn't have much of a celebration. I was between Sydney and Cooma and that's when we heard that it had finished. That was it. Didn't have any of those celebrations in the street that people had.

Can you remember how you felt

33:30 **when you got the news?**

No, just relief, I think because we really had thought we were going to be invaded. There was no doubt about it. We were certain of it when they came further and further down in New Guinea and so on.

I was wondering, you were saying, during 1942 you really, people were scared that Australia was going to be invaded.

34:00 **Now how were you getting your news of what was happening?**

We didn't get much because of censorship but I presume we must have heard enough to realise that things were moving. I don't know.

Yes, I was just wondering at what point did you know that the tide had turned and that Australia were pushing the Japanese back?

34:30 **in the Islands?**

I suppose about MacArthur. I think maybe the Americans had some publicity and MacArthur was in the Coral Sea Battle, I think we heard about. I'm just not quite sure on that one. Things went on and you didn't exactly hope for the best. It wasn't like that. We tried to do things that

35:00 might help us if they did come.

I was also wanting to ask you about your driving course. You mentioned it.

That was earlier.

Yes, but you didn't say exactly. Would you be able to tell us in more detail what you actually did on your driving course? Do you remember?

Only that there were 2 parts to it I think. I did the maintenance course which I wasn't, I'm not mechanically

35:30 minded so I'm not all that good at that but then we had to drive the thing. I don't know if I had an instructor next to me. I suppose I must have. I can just remember these huge trucks, great big like the ones that go to quarries. Huge things. With these great big – obviously they were manual. No automatics in those days. Very heavy things to drive and just drove

36:00 them around in the part of Sydney called Frenchs Forest with the unmade roads, red soil and very corrugated.

With the maintenance course, what were you expected to learn in that?

I suppose how to fix a car. What they do in garages, service stations today up to a point. I suppose so. I can't remember. I don't feel I was much good at it.

Did you enjoy

36:30 **driving the truck?**

Oh yes. It was fun. I was glad I could do it. I didn't feel that I could.

Why did you do the driving course?

Good question! I suppose I thought I might be able to help if needed. I don't think anyone got in touch with me about it but the people who were using – the men

37:00 weren't there. They had joined up, so many of them. I suppose that's why I did it. I can't remember why I did it.

What about the rifle school too?

That was self preservation. If necessary. Don't know what we thought we could do if the Japanese had come but that's what it was all about, that one.

What did you actually learn at the rifle school?

37:30 Just how to shoot and how to hit a target. Later on I did rabbit shooting which I'm sure wouldn't be popular today.

You must have been a good shot, were you?

I don't know. I might have been. I had a good eye then.

Did you get many rabbits?

I got some, yes. Did that in the country.

Another point, you mentioned

38:00 **earlier of your friend's husband who was missing, or who became a prisoner of war. Were there lists in the newspaper or how did people find out?**

There were lists of, I don't know about Singapore though but there were lists of air force people for instance and army people who were missing overseas in Europe and so on. I doubt that they had it in the Japanese. I don't think

38:30 they knew much about what was happening there. They did have them from Europe. You'd look at these casualty lists when they came out hoping you wouldn't see anyone that you knew.

I think that must have been one of the most difficult aspects of being at home.

Anyone missing. Absolutely terrible. You want to know if someone's dead you can eventually adjust but not if they're missing.

39:00 Not knowing is terrible. I've just finished a novel about exactly that. Not knowing.

The other thing I wanted to ask you a little more about, was the laboratory that you worked in.

Oh yes, there was another laboratory I didn't mention too. Yes.

Tape 6

00:32 Oh yes. Well during those 2 years when I was away from the university I ha a small job in a pathology laboratory in Macquarie Street in Sydney. It was run by Dr Tebbett and Dr Hansen. I was put in a small little laboratory there with a man and a woman who were doing lab assistant work and one of the things we did was

01:00 to test specimens that had come in from Concord Hospital, the Military Hospital in Sydney. We were testing some of these specimens, they were liquid for syphilis, I presume it was. You had to pipette, that is suck up some of the liquid and put it onto something else and it would tell you

01:30 something and one day when I was doing that, I pipetted the wretched stuff into my mouth. These other 2, the man and the woman who were working with me, you should have heard them laugh. They thought it was the greatest joke under the sun. However, it was horrible and then with Dr Tebbett, the other thing I had to do there was, because I'd done this at the university, do blood counts on slides for white and red blood

02:00 and so on. I did that for Dr Hansen. One night Dr Tebbett wanted to leave early and the others had all left and he left me there because he was expecting an important telephone call and would I answer it and take a message. Well, it was one of these jolly switchboards and I hadn't the foggiest idea what to do. Well, I lost his jolly message and thing and cut the person off

02:30 or something and he sacked me.

Really?

Oh yes. Well, I couldn't do the jolly thing. I didn't know how to work a switchboard. I suppose it was a fairly simple one but it wasn't a telephone. Anyway I upset him very much on that one. I read later in a paper about Dr Hansen, which I've always remembered and wish I'd kept it. It said, there was talk many years later

03:00 on driving and people having accidents and he said really there were so many things when you were driving to distract you that is what causes so many accidents. The distractions and I agree with him. I don't think anyone took that up. They keep saying speed.

Well, actually I think somebody is doing some work on that aspect now. I don't know whether I heard it on the radio.

I'm sure that's right.

03:30 or somewhere, just talking about the number of distractions and the increasing number of distractions. Of course, look I wrote a letter to the RACV [Royal Automobile Club of Victoria] last year which they published. I think concentration too is almost the most important thing. When you're driving, if you drive a lot, just for a second you take your mind off something and somewhere a car appears from nowhere.

Exactly.

I'm sure that's what the main thing is and they keep saying speeding but I don't think it's

04:00 the only thing at all and drugs too but concentration is important.

I agree.

I was going to say that during the war, I'm not sure what year it would have been but we had all this rationing and we had petrol rationing. Very much so, you could hardly get any petrol. A lot of people made the best of it instead of having practically no petrol there were 2 things they could have. A thing called a gas producer which they put on the back of a car

04:30 and it was great ugly brute of a thing that sort of towed behind and it was run on charcoal and the cars ran on that. The other thing was a gas bag, like a huge elongated balloon that was put on the top of a car and somehow had some sort of gas in it and you saw these most unwieldy things going along with these great black sort of, well I suppose it wasn't plastic in those days but it looked like plastic, absolutely full of

05:00 hot air or gas or something and the cars ran on that. It was a quite a business to get them fitted up I gather. We didn't have that. We just made the best of having practically no petrol.

Yes, that's what I was going to ask you actually. How did rationing affect you?

How did it affect us? Well, as I've already said it affected me so I made my own clothes because

05:30 I could get more clothes out of material than buying the thing ready made.

Had you always made your clothes though or was this a new thing?

Oh no, no. My mother had an old Singer treadle sewing machine which I got very used to using. My sister was even better. She was a very good dress maker. I made even suits you know. Coats and skirts as we used to call them. I've got some photographs there. Some of them with all sorts of

06:00 check designs that you had to fit together which was not easy to do but we did that or I did anyway and that was good. Fitted that in somehow. Used to do that at home. Had the machine on the veranda. Other rationing, well tea, butter. What else? Sugar. Our family didn't take sugar or we practically took no sugar at all.

06:30 **Did you drink tea?**

Yes. I don't think we drank coffee then. Meat was rationed. Vegetables, I think we grew some of our own. I'm not sure. We used to have, more in the 1930's, everything was delivered in those days. You didn't go out to the shops much and

07:00 we used to have a Chinaman who used to come around with a thing over his shoulders for fruit and vegetables but that was a long way before the war. We used to, alcohol, we certainly didn't drink it then. I think my mother used to have a whiskey, Scotch at night. Can't remember drinking during the war. I suppose if I went to dances I had some.

07:30 Oh yes, I had a party. That's right when everything was rationed and you couldn't buy – it was so hard to buy anything. Had to queue up for bottles of beer. Friends of mine came to a party at our house and they used to make their own home brew and they came by train of course. Not enough petrol to come any other way. The parents went out for the night and we were having this party. I was having the party.

What was the occasion?

08:00 I don't know if it was any particular occasion. Anyway they were on Wynyard Station in Sydney and the jolly things blew up and the things went – they were carrying in their cases. The beer. I'd already gone, one by one, got a bottle of this and a bottle of that by queuing up for it and bringing it home in Sydney. We had plenty there but that would be right at the end of the war.

08:30 **You obviously had to plan very carefully for a party if you wanted to...?**

Oh, heavens yes. Weeks ahead. Certainly did. We had fun. These were people, a lot of them from National Standards I'd kept in touch with and gone bushwalking with afterwards. Bushwalking was wonderful. It really was.

Yes, I can imagine.

Nearly got drowned on one of those occasions. It was at Easter and we went down to

09:00 oh, what's it called? Anyhow south of Sydney somewhere. It was about 4 or 5 days. We had to cross

Burragarang River and there was an arm, a little tributary arm of it and we had these heavy backpacks on. We took everything with us that we needed and I was going across on a fallen log across this tributary and I put my hand out to steady myself on a branch

09:30 that was sticking up from the log and it broke and I went head first into the water and because of the heavy pack I couldn't do anything. I couldn't get myself out and one of the men in the party, a chap called Arthur Warren, he came in and dragged me out. Then everyone was annoyed because we had to wait until all my things were dry. We tried to dry off my shoes and everything else. They weren't very happy. Anyway.

10:00 **Well, these things happen, don't they? When you go on bushwalks.**

They happen. Yes. So Arthur Warren, he was a nice fellow. He worked in glassware. Not at National Standards but we were all in touch with him. He was at some other glass place, not Pilkingtons but in Sydney. I've forgotten what it's called now. A well known glassware place.

I was wondering, you know when you had to take those 2 years off

10:30 **from university, was that upsetting for you?**

It was a very unsettled period. It really was. Not only for me, for everybody. We didn't know what was going to happen. Yes, I suppose it was really.

I was just wondering, because you'd missed out on, you had to wait 2 years for your subject to come up again, I was wondering if that was annoying to you because

11:00 **it meant you had to extend your course?**

Yes, it was. I did vertebrates and the next year was Invertebrates which I couldn't do because of some reason and then it was vertebrates again so I'd already done that. I had to wait for the next one which was invertebrates again. That's why I did all those miscellaneous things. Some of them with the war effort and some of them not.

11:30 **You mentioned too of course, the absence of men. Most of the men were away fighting or in the services.**

Well, the ones I knew were.

I'm wondering, say the job you got at was it CSL [Commonwealth Serum Laboratories]?

National Standards.

National Standards. Sorry. Now would that have normally been a job that would have gone to a man?

What I did? No, not necessarily. I don't think so. No, not a lab assistant.

12:00 No, they were girls. Most of the senior people there were all men. I don't think, I doubt that there were any women there in senior positions. Don't forget I was only a lab assistant, I wasn't a graduate.

Oh no, I was just thinking about areas that women went into because the men were not there. They were in munitions and…?

There were terribly specialised jobs there and I don't think women really did those. Terribly specialised. National Standards

12:30 and radio physics particularly. Very 'hush-hush' as they called it. They were happy days for me because I made friends there and did this bushwalking on weekends. Used to go down to the national park usually.

Did you know anything about the Manpower regulations?

No, not really. I know of them. I certainly remember the word 'Manpower'.

13:00 No. I don't.

The other thing I was wondering whether you'd been aware of was there'd been quite a lot of agitation for equal pay during the Second World War.

Oh yes, well there's nothing new about that. That continued in all my working life.

Really?

Yes. It certainly did. I was Senior Research Officer before I eventually got married and

13:30 left. I certainly didn't get equal pay, even then. In Canberra. No. Same happened in England as far as I know. When the war was over in 1946, I continued looking for a job in Sydney and couldn't get one and as I said, I'd been to England before the war

14:00 and liked it and was happy to go back there. My sister, when the war was over in August, September ’45, in less than a month she was on a ship as ship’s doctor off to England and she didn’t tell the family that she was doing that. She suddenly told us and off she went. She’d finished her post-graduate training down at Wagga

14:30 and she was off to England. A ship called the Telemicus, what was called a victualling stores issue ship. She was the only woman on board and they went from Sydney to Trincomalee in Ceylon as it was then and they were there for about 8 or 9 months. She had a wow of a time actually. There was a ‘Wrannery’ with the WRANS on shore and she

15:00 used to do sailing. She was made on sailing. Sailing and so on there. There was a strict captain. You needed to be on that ship and I think some of the officers on a cruiser or something had suggested that she go down with them to Colombo and she was all set to go when old Captain Webster found out about it. He read the Riot Act and she certainly didn’t go!

15:30 Just as well. Then they came back to Perth to Fremantle and of course telephones in those days were, long distance ones were very expensive and very difficult. Anyway she rang us from there and we couldn’t see her of course. They stayed there for a while, then went back and went to England this time. She arrived there in what was known

16:00 as Victory Week. The wife of one of the ship’s officers on her ship. It was very hard to get accommodation when she got there and eventually got her in somewhere where she stayed for a short time and then got into the Evalina Hospital for Sick Children where she lived. It was in the East End. A building all amongst the bombed out things. She was still there when I

16:30 went over the next year. I went over, when I couldn’t get a job, I was toying with going and I’d spoken to Professor Ashby, that wonderful man in the Botany Department. He gave me 4 letters of introduction to Professorial people in London and anyway I wanted to go. My family weren’t very keen.

17:00 My parents.

Do you know why they weren’t keen?

They wanted me to stay at home. That’s all. Look after the aged parents I think.

But your sister had already gone?

I know. That was the reason that they didn’t want me to go as well. Anyway what happened, a man we knew in the shipping company saw me one day on the Killara railway station and said did I still want to go. He’d been one of my

17:30 father’s air raid wardens and I said yes. He said, “I can get you a passage if you can be ready in a fortnight.” Well, I’d had an invitation by one of the men at National Standards that I’d kept in touch with all those people. He had a place in Frenchs Forest where he lived with a woman. My mother happened to know about this and that’s where the party was going to be and I knew the sort of party it was

18:00 going to be and I didn’t particularly want to go but by golly by that stage I was nearly 30 or about 30 . My mother and my father who didn’t usually buy into these things said you are not to go to the party.

You’re nearly 30 and they’re saying this?

That’s right. Anyway I went and we had the most dreadful fuss about it. Absolutely terrible! I didn’t enjoy it. It was just as bad as I thought it would be.

Well, why did you go? What sort of party did you think it was?

I knew what it was going to be and I went.

18:30 **When you say you knew…**

Do I have to describe…

I’d love you to!!

No well, they sang absolutely awful bawdy songs. Dreadful ones with words I’d never heard of. Really bad and so on. I don’t know whether they did anything more than that. I certainly didn’t. I went with another girl and we got home safely but we had the most dreadful fuss at home

19:00 about it that I immediately clinched the thing about England. Dear oh dear! The ship was – and then there was a girl who lived up the road from us called June Carr. She was, I don’t know how she happened to be a friend of Lord Nuffield’s. He was well known in England and he had some pull and she said, well if you go,

19:30 I can get you into a cabin with people that are more or less, not exactly congenial, because that particular ship carried what was known as war brides and they were the sailors who’d picked up girls in Sydney streets. They were going over to meet up with their husbands and so on. They were very rough types. They really

20:00 were and of course they were on that ship. I was in a cabin for 15 women and I've got their names and I've got a poem that someone wrote about all of us. It's over there. It was a ship called the Orbiter, a transport that had not been converted. We were lucky I suppose. These 15 women which I was one of them, the ones who had husbands, they had to be somewhere else. They were not allowed to be in the same cabin.

20:30 It was all right and some of them were very well known later on. People that had exhibitions and scholarships that they hadn't been able to use during the war. They were able to take them up. One of them was Beryl Kimber who became a famous violinist later and Edna Bouchee Bowden who was an opera singer and June Newstead who was a ballet dancer and Stephanie Eadie

21:00 who was a Spanish ballet dancer. A couple of doctor's wives, young wives whose husbands were in a different part of the ship. They were all right. There were 3 tiers of berths and I was in a bottom one. Beryl Kimber was in the one immediately above me. She was only a 17 year old. She was the youngest. Oh dear, it was rough!

21:30 We got newspaper clippings about leaving Sydney. The stewards were all drunk, the gangway fell down. Didn't kill anyone but nearly did. We eventually got away. We used to, once we knew each other, used to sit on the deck and one time we made up a poem about it and each of us contributed a line. Very funny. I've got a copy of it. Then another of the people in the cabin called Leslie

22:00 Curtis, she wrote a wonderful verse about every person in the cabin. There was a cabin with, I'm going to have to be careful of this one. I don't want to get sued. There was a cabin with 4 officers in it. There was an Australian colonel, an Australian doctor, both army ones, a naval man who I'd known in Sydney, a lieutenant commander

22:30 and an Englishman, a colonel who came from one of the top families in England. Absolutely top families and they shared a cabin these 4 and when we got through the Suez Canal and one of those ports, a ravishing

23:00 woman, I don't know what nationality she was. She was very dark with dark eyes came on board and the English colonel decided he liked her and one night he took her into his cabin and locked the door from the inside and the other 3 officers weren't able to get in there to sleep and they were ropeable. Anyway this is what happened and

23:30 oh dear!

I suppose everybody on the ship knew?

Oh yes! (Laughs) This man, Henry who had this girl. I don't know whether she was Egyptian or what but she was a ravishing looking dark woman, dark haired woman. I don't know what happened to any friendship amongst those 4. Anyway they were senior officers in their own right and they were not happy about this.

I can understand that.

Our cabin used to

24:00 the one I was in, it had its own bathroom and we used to rush in there.

It must have been a large cabin for 15 of you to fit in?

Oh yes, 3 layers of people. The verse about it tells all. I'd love to read it.

It's interesting to me that you went, now what year did you go? Was this 1946 or 1947?

1946.

'46?

Yes, it was in August.

Because things were not all that

24:30 **good in England.**

They were terrible. The rationing was dreadful. It was absolutely, it was worse than Australia. It was absolutely terrible. Not only petrol, food rationing. We were allowed one chop a week. One little lamb chop a week. We had this awful corned beef that came from the Argentines. Tinned stuff which we got to hate. I'd never been someone who liked chocolate but we were allowed a certain ration of chocolate and I always used to look forward

25:00 to it. We wanted the sweetness. Absolutely everything was rationed. Everything. It was absolutely awful. If you want to hear about this, when we got there, we docked in Liverpool. All the stewards went on strike that day on the ship and we had to get our own lunch. Whatever it was, breakfast and then we all came off to get the train to London, the ones who were going there, which most of them were.

25:30 I had quite a lot of luggage which has always been my problem. I'd taken too much with me and one of

the things was missing that I had and I had to wait for it so all the others that I'd known went off and I was left there and I got a late train to a place called Crew and had to change there with all my stuff. Then got to Paddington Station where Pauline was supposed to meet me. I got there at midnight and it was pouring with rain and she did meet me and

26:00 we got a taxi and she'd booked us in at the place she'd stayed at briefly when she first got to London. We got there. It happened that she left her bag with all her things in it in the taxi so that was a problem later on for her. She found the bag, they'd thrown it away but all the contents had gone. Anyway we got to this place near Paddington Station. Warwick Square, I think it was.

26:30 A little maid came and opened the door when we got to it and we just about got killed with smoke! There was a room next to the front door which I think was probably a lounge or something normally but someone was sleeping in there and had set his mattress on fire. That was our initial welcome there. Then we were taken up to a room there.

27:00 It was a scruffy sort of place. We had breakfast. It was downstairs in the basement and the people who used to go in for breakfast were ordinary sort of visitors. That was all right. There was a bathroom, you didn't have your own bathroom and quite often you couldn't get into it. We didn't know why and when you did it was filthy. Great scum around the bath and so on with the hard water.

27:30 We went away one weekend. We had a first cousin who was in the Royal Air Force up in Banbury. We went to stay with him and his wife for the weekend. When we got back, this little maid who had let us in in the first place was absolutely full of the news that the place had been raided while we were away. This was in November I think, or late October when it was very cold and foggy. What had happened, there had been a Madam in there

28:00 with her girls and we'd often seen men, Americans mainly hanging around outside this place in the square when we'd come in. The girl who was not occupied used to take her bedding into the bath and sleep in the bath and that's why we couldn't get into it. Anyway the place had been raided and I heard later that the man who ran it got off because he was blind and said he didn't know what was happening. Ha! Ha!

28:30 So that was that. God, we got out in a hurry from that place. We looked for something else and looked at lots of places. We couldn't find anything at all suitable. Eventually we got a place in Earl's Court in Collingham Road where the woman in charge was a woman called Ms Davison and she was a horrible old bat. She was awful. Anyway it was quite a nice place. The room was nice and

29:00 we not supposed to do cooking but we did and it had its own bath and coming from Australia when people in England didn't do much about bathing, not then. Anyhow I think we put the water in the bath one day and forgot to turn it off in time and it went out down the front wall. It overflowed. She came roaring up of course. We got into awful trouble. We had a male friend in the

29:30 air force who helped us in with our luggage because it was up about 3 floors. She wouldn't let men into the place and quite different from the other place. We got food parcels from home and there was a nice little Irish maid there and I gave her some of these things from the food parcel. They all came back into the room from this awful Ms Davison, I can't remember the girl's name now, "She doesn't want your charity food," with a nasty note.

30:00 I got rid of those notes a little while ago. She was a horrible old woman. Then, from Sydney, someone I knew when I was working, or at school then at the British Centre was a friend of Mrs Arthur Grenfell who happened to be the mother-in-law of Joyce Grenfell but

30:30 she had apparently written to her and said I was coming over and to keep an eye on me. Well, I had a note, postcard they used to send you, saying to come to afternoon tea or just tea one day. I had no idea who she was because I couldn't remember all the background of this. I remember I went down to Chelsea to the graduate place down there and I mentioned it and you'll never hear of me again.

31:00 This is where I'm going this afternoon and anyhow this was Mrs Grenfell's place and talk about upper crust English woman. She was the World Vice President of the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] Her husband was Colonel Arthur Grenfell, she was related to Royalty. You have no idea, she did so much for us. Well, one day just before Christmas, she rang one Sunday morning. She rang me up at this place in Collingham Road, apparently woke, I don't know what time

31:30 it was, probably about 10 o'clock. Ms Davison's telephone was outside her door and she answered it and she told Mrs Grenfell what she thought of her for ringing up at that time of day on a Sunday and Mrs Grenfell was horrified to be spoken to like that. Anyway she got in touch with me. Pauline wasn't there then. She said, "You can't stay there." She got me out and I went over and stayed with her over Christmas. That was certainly interesting from my point of view.

32:00 She was often out and she said, "Oh well, I'm having guests for lunch. Look after them." They were very high up people (laughs). They used to come in and oh, they were a nice family. Then she got me, her daughter, oh what was her daughter's name? Anyway the daughter later married, the man who was Governor of New Zealand.

32:30 Anyway they were having a party and the wife of the daughter of Henrietta Loder who – he'd been

Governor of New South Wales and they were back in England and that was at their place and I went over there for the party. She got me into Windsor Castle to afternoon tea with Lord Gowrie and his wife who were there then. To a lovely place in the country where I spent

33:00 a long weekend at a country property. Oh, she was so good to us. We went to the Royal Tournaments through her and various things.

You had a very social time.

Oh yes. I went to a garden party later on. I was friendly with her. That suit I was wearing that I showed you in that photo was one that she hesitated. She said, "Would you like this?" It was either one of hers or her daughter's and I said, "Yes please." I altered it and had it.

33:30 I went to a garden party at Buckingham Palace and the next year I went to one of the presentation parties which was – they weren't like the ones before the war of course but that was interesting. I was presented there to, she was old then, not the King and Queen, but to Queen Mary. I had long gloves up above my elbow and I had these one and when she took my hand, she

34:00 looked gorgeous. Beautifully made up, her skin and so on. When I was upstairs and there were seats all round these long rooms. They adjoined each other right along the top at Buckingham Palace. I got there and I sat on a seat next to the wall and eventually

34:30 the room filled and 2 elderly women came in and stood in front of me and I was, having been brought up to always give up my seat to older people, women. I got up and one of them sat down and she did what I was always told, you really shouldn't do if you were a lady, she crossed her legs and the tip of her toe caught me behind the knee and you know what happens then, you sort of collapse. She was so apologetic

35:00 and so on. Anyway I spent the time up there. It was through them that I was presented to Queen Mary. One of them was Lady Webb Ware, and who was the other one? I can't remember. Her husband had been the doctor who had looked after George V. One had been in Sydney and knew it, so I was with them the whole time I was there, it was wonderful. When we went down

35:30 to the Gardens for afternoon tea, they had to get a train to go back to the country. I was left down there on my own. I was really so lucky.

Like a fairytale experience.

Yes and Joyce Grenfell's husband, Reggie was told I suppose to take me to Lords to the cricket there. He had me in tow to go over to the cricket there which I did, which was great.

36:00 When I was in England I went to Wimbledon and all these places.

It must have been a wonderful experience for you. I just had a query about – you said you were trying to get a job in Sydney. That was the last part of the war and immediately after the war wasn't it?

That's right.

Well, what sort of job? You wanted a job as an Entomologist?

Yes.

Where had you applied for these jobs?

Oh, I don't

36:30 know. I came across a letter the other day from somebody who'd turned me down there. I'm not sure now. The agricultural people and so on.

What did they say?

They just said no. I just didn't get anyway. I don't know what they mainly said. I wasn't suitable. I didn't have any experience then. That happens still of course doesn't it?

37:00 With new graduates.

Yes. I was just wondering though, did you think there was any discrimination against you because you were female?

I think so. Yes, I'm sure. Anyway because of Professor Ashby and what he'd given me, I wrote to various people in England and I got very encouraging replies provided you can get over here and pay your own fare, there should be no trouble. When I got there, there was no trouble. I mean, I could have got a job

37:30 the first day I was there. I wanted to see my sister of course and this job was right up north so I turned it down. Then I had other interviews and one of them was – I thought I'd get that one. The man I'd seen, he was most encouraging. Doing work on locusts, not cicadas, locusts. I thought I'd get that one then I had to go and see his boss

38:00 in Harpenden and one of the sort of people I have difficulty with are people that are stone deaf and this man was. I couldn't explain things to him, he couldn't hear me and I didn't get that job. I went for one at the Slough Pest place. I don't think I got that one either. Then I went to Buckinghamshire to Princes [UNCLEAR].

38:30 I got that one in the Forest Products Research Laboratory. They were working on wood boring insects, timber boring insects. I was there for 4 years. It was 40 miles from London so I was able to come to London to see people and to go to theatres and so on and go back in the train at night. No problem going on your own then. There just wasn't.

You met your husband over there?

39:00 No!

No, you didn't?

Oh goodness no. Later on. Back in Melbourne.

Oh right. Sorry.

Certainly not. I didn't know him then.

Did your sister still stay over there?

She stayed for part of the time. For about 2 years. She did a special course in paediatrics but she didn't get it. At that time I went with some people on the Norfolk Broads for a holiday and she didn't come because

39:30 she was working for this and she didn't get that. Then she came home. I don't know whether she'd nearly married. She had lots of boyfriends and the second officer, the radio officer on the ship she'd gone to England on. I saw him when I was over there later on in 1970. I think she was lucky not to have married him. He still hadn't married.

Tape 7

00:33 **So Nancye, I wanted to ask you again, why do you think you were able to get a job as an Entomologist in England but not in Australia?**

Because I think that England did not have the same sex discrimination. I've always felt that. Then and probably even now. It's getting better now. Even when I came back

01:00 with 4 years experience I still found it difficult and there was still the thing, "You can't go out, you might be doing field work. You can't spend overnight. You can't go out. There might be men." Oh boy.

You mentioned the struggle to get equal pay in your profession.

That was always. Didn't ever get that. This is jumping ahead.

01:30 I got married at the end of 1957. I got compulsory resignation. I was in the Commonwealth Health Department then and what was known as a marriage bonus depending on how long you'd been there. You got all your superannuation back with no interest. None at all. I came across the records the other day and gave them to

02:00 the archive.

How did you feel about that, Nancye?

Not very happy. Nobody was. Couldn't do anything about it. When it was compulsory resignation, the reason for that I presume was that if you stayed on and you were married, you might become pregnant and they didn't want pregnant women. They didn't have anything like they do now.

02:30 No Maternity Leave or anything and that would disrupt the place but at the time I married, 2 women in the department were in their 50s. They both married. One was the head of the culture part of the Health Department and the other one was head of the nursing service. I've forgotten their names.

03:00 One of them married a Librarian who was on half her pay because he was in a more junior position. They could stay on but only as temporaries. They couldn't contribute to superannuation. That was terrible. They couldn't have had any children. They weren't the right age group. I don't know. They did let some typists stay on because typists were in very short supply.

03:30 **Really? So they bent the rules when it suited them?**

I think so. That was the Commonwealth Government.

It must have been terribly frustrating for you. I mean at 40, you're really at mid-career aren't

you?

I was less, 37 or something. I couldn't have stayed on there really because Warren was in Melbourne. Even so, the principle was dreadful. It really was. I took that very badly.

04:00 Anyway that's going ahead a bit because I was in England before.

But still, to be forcibly retired at 37. You were a scientist?

Senior Research Officer. That's a fairly high position. The young ones, your age and younger can't believe that these days. I don't know who brought the other in. Was it Whitlam? I'm not sure.

04:30 **Well certainly equal pay was enshrined under Whitlam. I'm not sure when.**

I don't think they get it even now do they? I've seen letters in the press I think.

Well, women still earn less on average than men. But women in the same job, earn the same.

Do they?

Yes. Rosemary [interviewer]could tell you when the compulsory retirement stopped for married women. Well it was different for different professions.

I think it may have been.

05:00 **I think Commonwealth though, it wasn't until about 1968. When you said what could one do about it, in fact, people were doing something about it and during World War II there was quite a big push for equal pay for women. A lot of women were doing men's jobs.**

Yes they were.

Were you aware of that at the time?

Well because I wasn't in any permanent employment, I don't know that

05:30 I was particularly aware of it. The sort of work that I did wasn't really relevant. The lab assistant at National Standards were girls anyway most of them and we would have been paid less because we were lab assistants, we weren't graduates.

Still that was the job in which you were paid £3 a week wasn't it?

Yes.

Well that was rather

06:00 **a good wage, wasn't it?**

It wasn't bad.

No, it's not too shabby at all compared to what the servicemen were earning for instance.

What were they earning?

I think it went up to 6 shillings day.

That's dreadful. I was happy with what I was getting there.

If you could tell me in a bit more detail about the work you did in the lab at CSIR?

06:30 Where, at National Standards?

No where you were making the optical glass.

Yes that was CSIRO [Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation]. National Standards laboratory was part of that. What was it called? Optical glassware for gun sights. We were testing them for – on a thing called a something spectrometer. You looked through a thing

07:00 that looked a bit like a microscope I think and you saw all these colours. Not the colours of the rainbow but starting from one colour and going right through.

The colour spectrum?

Mmm and you were able to test the glassware by those colours but I really can't remember. The people in there I got on very well with and one of my more menial jobs was opening these great boxes that came in

07:30 with this glassware in it. Some of it I think came from overseas perhaps. It had those cork stuff round it, they still have it and it's terribly hard to open. You had to open it with a – prise it with a knife or something or other or prise it to get it off and I can still remember this. Something happened that I didn't really know that I was capable of it.

08:00 Just before lunch one day when I was probably hungry and tired and I pulled the thing and it suddenly went and hit me under the chin. I said at the top of my voice, “Bloody hell!” Everyone was so shocked including myself. I didn’t even know that I knew that combination of words. I nearly knocked myself out.

What were these for?

08:30 Gun sights. Don’t ask me much more about that. I didn’t know. I just did it. I learnt to use a slide rule too which was complicated. I only could use it, I’m afraid, you could use it for everything but not me. I used it just for the sort of work I was doing. Don’t ask me now what I did but I learnt how to use it for something I was doing there.

Did you have a sense of

09:00 **pride in doing that work? That was directly contributing?**

Yes. I think so. The girl I worked with down in this dark room down there, Kath Gordon. She and I got on very well. She was the one who got herself engaged to an American who was already married.

What was the attitude, the prevailing attitude towards the Americans?

09:30 **There were a lot of them weren’t there?**

Certainly were. Well, they used to provide nylon stockings to some of the girls because we couldn’t buy stockings and you had to put stuff on your legs to make them looked tanned and draw a line up the back because stockings used to have seams in them. I didn’t know any Americans, I think I said but I knew people who did. That book by, I’m pretty sure it’s by Xavier

10:00 Herbert about the Sydney girls who got themselves into trouble with Americans.

Did you hear of anyone who got into trouble with the Americans?

No, I didn’t. I knew some girls who went out with them but no, I didn’t.

On the whole did you feel as though people welcomed the Americans or was there a bit of hostility towards

10:30 **them?**

The women welcomed them because they provided nylon stockings and cigarettes and things that you couldn’t get. I don’t know about the men. I gather they didn’t welcome them. They were jealous of them although Warren said that up in New Guinea he got on very well indeed with the ones he was with a lot of them up there. He got on very well with them. I think probably in the cities

11:00 where they were thought to have stolen the – because they had more money – stolen the women, I think the men didn’t like them, the ones who were on shore on leave.

I was also curious about the attitudes to the Australian troops, the Australian servicemen. Did you feel that the community’s attitude changed during the war or did it remain the same? How would you characterise it?

I think it remained the same.

11:30 I’m sure it did. We got more and more worried when these missing lists came through. Especially in the air force. I don’t know. I mean you tended to be interested in the people that you knew. Men who you knew were away. Overall

12:00 I don’t know, we supported them but I couldn’t say any more than that. Don’t forget, we were young. I was in my 20s all through the war. It was a funny way to spend your 20’s. From 20 to whatever it was, 26 or 27.

How closely did you follow the war news?

12:30 Oh yes, we did. It’s hard to know now because since then you’ve read so much about Tobruk and so on. How much we knew about it then, I don’t know.

Would you listen to the radio every night? Would you read the papers every day?

I think so. Both. Yes.

Any particular battles that remain in your memory?

13:00 With the air force, the Battle of Britain of course and then of course, Dunkirk. See, it is hard to, over all these years to remember back what you’ve read and heard since as to what you went through then. If you were interested at all you’ve read so much history of the times since then and you tend to wonder

13:30 how much of it really you were worried about or at the time involved with at the time, I’m afraid.

Well that is the process of memory, part of the process of memory isn’t it? You gather memories as you…

Yes, I mean, it's there but whether it came from a particular time or from reading about it since, I don't know.

14:00 **Before America came into the war, Australia was in there to support Britain really, weren't they?**

Oh yes.

Then Britain failed to defend Singapore.

That's right.

Or Australia and Britain.

It went wrong anyway.

It all went wrong!

They came down the peninsula instead of coming from the sea which they expected them to.

Then America came into the war. I was wondering, if you felt that there was a mood change in Australia at that time?

How do you mean?

Well, if

14:30 **the attitude towards Britain began to change at that time?**

No. I don't think it did but in hindsight maybe. A lot has been written that Churchill wouldn't support Australia then. He wanted the troops, I don't know, I think at the time, I don't think it changed then. But I suppose we thought we

15:00 had to do more on our own. We were left and then when the Americans came and I think, despite what so many people say now, the thing is we were so terribly grateful to the Americans. We just would not have survived, I'm sure if it had not been for them

15:30 and this Coral Sea Battle and so on. I think that's still in the minds of people like John Howard and so on. After all, it's much too small a country, that includes now and with all the multiculturalism now it worries me what might happen if we get into a position with people with their own

16:00 loyalties to their countries overseas. Even though they're living here. It does worry me. I know when I was living in England, there was such a thing as I called divided loyalties. I loved living in England yet I could think of Australia and it was a division of 2 countries.

16:30 **Still you hadn't migrated to England to live forever?**

No, I was prepared to. I nearly married when I was over there. I was engaged and it didn't work out.

Well, Nancye then what sorts of attitudes were promulgated about the Germans?

At which stage?

Well during the war?

Oh, we didn't care for – well Hitler and the SS

17:00 and what they did to the Jews. Dear oh dear. We were very, we were extremely anti-German.

How were the Germans depicted in the media?

Oh, I don't know. As the enemy I suppose. I don't know. I just think of Goering and Goebels and so on. When I went back there I had a visit over there in 1970/71 and I stayed in

17:30 Munich for a couple of nights at a hotel there. The Qantas people had booked me into a hotel and the man on the desk would have been in 1970, he would have been, I'm sure one of Hitler's Youth during the war and he was so antagonistic to me and to some Americans who were staying there at the time. It was unbelievable. Absolutely antagonistic and unhelpful. He was the clerk on the desk that you registered

18:00 with as you went in. You'd ask him for something and he wouldn't – like could you have an extra pillow or something and he wouldn't do anything about it. He was just antagonistic and he was to these Americans too whom I was sitting with at mealtimes.

What did you think about that antagonism?

I thought, well maybe all the Germans haven't got over, especially the younger ones, which he would have been during the war,

18:30 I don't know. Some of them were all right.

Do you think you've gotten over the war in that sense?

Oh yes! I think so now.

Do you think that, out of the Germans, the Italians and the Japanese, who were the enemy that you feared the most?

Japanese. Very much so. I still can't come to terms with what

19:00 they did or some of them did to our men. I just can't. I knew too many people who were over there. Ones who didn't come back and ones that had this dreadful time with them. I believe, now this was something, I don't know whether it's proven or not but

19:30 John Howard had an Uncle who was decapitated by them. It was written up in the paper 2 or 3 years ago. Showed a photograph. That sort of thing. I know there was dreadful things in Germany too that happened to Prisoners of war but the Japanese ones I sort of knew more about.

20:00 I find it hard, I suppose the younger generation can't – I find it hard that I understand that nothing has been written or taught in the schools in Japan about the war and what happened. I find that difficult. Anyway they are our trading partners. I have a Japanese car. I wouldn't have one for a

20:30 long time but I do have one now. They do good work.

Well, you seem to feel that it's wrong that the Japanese school syllabus doesn't teach…

The younger generation. Mmm.

Why do you feel like that?

Well, I do because what was done was done. I don't know whether our troops

21:00 were as bad. I would not like to think they were. There was tremendous cruelty. Look at the Prisoners of War in Malaysia. The ones on the Burma railway. I was just about to get a book from the library which they rang me yesterday and said it was there called One Fourteenth of an Elephant. Now that was on the

21:30 that railway and this man who wrote it or it is about someone and they had to move huge things there that nobody, normally an elephant would move them and in the construction of that railway 14 men were just able to do it. The book's called One Fourteenth of an Elephant. I can't think what it was. I saw a review of the book

22:00 and I ordered it from the library and it's there waiting for me at the moment.

I'm just wondering if you're particularly affected by those stories because of your experience greeting the POWs [Prisoners of War] as they returned?

Yes. I don't know. Yes, I suppose. I don't know whether I am or not. There is nothing you can do about it now. Nothing I can do.

At the

22:30 **time though, you felt like there was something you could do?**

I don't think so. What could you do?

Well, you came down to greet them as they came home.

Oh yes. Well, that was just voluntary work. I was glad they were back. I think they had – they'd been pumped full of Atebrin which was the anti-malarial thing and they were bright yellow, most of them.

23:00 Their skin. I don't know. Obviously I was terribly glad the war was over. No doubt about that. I don't think I was traumatised like a lot of people who'd actually been in it probably were. Some of the soldiers obviously.

23:30 I mean, my war was reasonably all right. I did what I could up to a point. I can't think that I made much difference to anything. I often wonder if I had gone into the women's navy what that would have been like. This childhood friend of mine, she was in the WAAAFs [Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force] in the air force. I think she was a

24:00 stenographer or something. She hasn't said much about it. I don't know. I don't know anyone else. Most of my friends, my age group are no longer alive. The friends I have now tend to be about 10 years younger than I am. They were only school children during the war.

Nancye, could you tell us just a bit

24:30 **about the impact of greeting those prisoners when they returned. What were your first**

impressions when you saw them?

Well, although they'd put on weight as I think I said, they somehow looked unhealthy. They – I don't know, I think probably doing a sort of personal thing, I was hoping someone amongst them

25:00 would know something about that cousin of mine who was missing. I think I may have asked and of course nobody did. We kept in touch with his mother for years until she died but we didn't ever find anything positive. I can't tell you any more than that.

It was a very sad chapter in Australia's war history, wasn't it?

Mmm. Dreadful. Yes.

25:30 But anyway these things come and go. A few things have put me off. Things more recently have put me off religion forever. I was brought up strictly as Church of England, particularly by my mother and the wars as I see them including the present things and the Irish business and going way back

26:00 as far as you can remember to say the crusades and so on, they've almost all been religious wars. It puts me off and what's going on in the Middle East. I don't know. To me it's no good.

No, there is certainly a lot of misery in war, isn't there?

Oh yes. I mean it's always been.

26:30 I mean probably further back than this but the crusades were a religious war, further on all of them, this Northern Ireland business and nobody seems to be able to do anything about them. They don't get resolved.

World war II however was not based on religion.

Well, the Jewish business.

Yes, I suppose that was race rather than religion.

27:00 That was certainly religious. The Germans hated the Jews.

Christian Jews were persecuted just as much.

Yes. That's right. Anyone Jewish.

Nancye, during the war, what did you fear the most?

I think the possible invasion of Australia by the Japanese. I'm sure. That was frightening. It really was.

27:30 We definitely believed they would be coming and just didn't know what to do. There certainly weren't enough military people in the country to help.

Well, you said that that was what prompted you to go to this rifle school. Do all this rifle training. I was wondering when you were doing that training, did you consider that you might have to fire at

28:00 **the enemy?**

I suppose I did. Yes. I think so. It was sort of self-defence I suppose. That was all. I didn't think I was using it to kill them, only to defend myself. I don't know what the difference would be.

Well, it's different attacking a person who's not passive.

Oh no, I didn't even think of that. I'm sure I didn't.

28:30 It was only a defence. I didn't think of killing myself. Actually with a rifle you can't very well do that. Too long.

Why do you mention killing yourself, Nancye?

I said I didn't really think of killing myself. You couldn't. I suppose if I had it would have been to stop myself being raped or something or killed.

29:00 It was as a defence. If they came at me I would have tried to get them first.

It's just struck me what you've said because I think in war women actually fear rape more than they fear death.

Mmm, probably. I didn't know too much about it. I was pretty well brought up by mother who was a product of the

29:30 Victorian era. I don't think she'd ever mentioned the word "rape" to me.

Was it something that you and the other women, the women from the SUWANS for instance talked about with each other?

No. I don't remember talking about it to anybody. I just sort of, you know, knew what could happen.

So that was just a prospect that you would play over

30:00 **in your mind?**

Mmm. I suppose so. I think probably it was. It's too far back to know the exact feeling I had about it. During the war I don't know whether there's much more I can tell you as it's been a bit scrappy hasn't it?

No, not at all. It's been very thorough and I've still got more questions on wartime Australia so if you'll bear with me.

30:30 You've got plenty on wartime England. Gee it was tough over there then. Going over there was quite different from Australia. You were only allowed to have one bath a week and they didn't have showers there then. The English in those days were not used to having more than about one bath a week anyway and the rationing was awful. I bought a bicycle when I got over there and

31:00 the first year I was there was the coldest winter they'd ever had I think and I thought that was the normal English winter. It wasn't. Before we went, we got a couple of lambswool overcoats. Very heavy but certainly very warm that we took with us.

Nancye, I just wanted to ask a couple more questions on wartime Australia. If that's all right?

Yes, except I don't know if there's anything more I can tell you.

31:30 Go ahead.

Well, I'm quite curious that in 1941, Australia had a change of government.

Ah, yes. I think it was then wasn't it. From Menzies to the Labor government. Mmm.

Menzies resigned.

They had a coalition at one stage during the war I think. A coalition of Labor and what's now Liberal.

Yes, Menzies resigned and Fadden formed an interim government.

Yes, that's right. Yes.

32:00 **Then that also failed and Curtin became Prime Minister until there was an election in 1943. I'm just wondering whether that increased the feeling Australia had of being quite unsettled and insecure. Could you comment on that?**

No. I don't think so. I've not idea. Probably. I don't have much of an idea about the overall picture then. I became more interested

32:30 later on. I joined the, it was newly called the Liberal Party in 1946 I think. I've got a certificate to prove it. It's a long time ago.

That was after the war. I was just curious because it's very unusual for a country to change Government during wartime.

Yes. I suppose it is.

33:00 I don't know.

Can you recall the general election of 1943?

Was I old enough to vote then? It was 21. No. I can't.

Perhaps these events were significant in their insignificance.

I would have been able to vote then wouldn't I? No. I can't remember.

I also wondered

33:30 **about the presence of the Communist Party in the war years? What did you know about them?**

I didn't know very much. I know when Russia came in of course, I think didn't we, we rather favoured Russia because they were against the Germans. I'm not quite sure at that stage.

34:00 It wasn't until later that it turned round the other way. I know when I was in England immediately after the war, I was much more interested in the political things then. There was an election coming up there and I went to a local Communist meeting. Not because I was going to vote for them or had any sympathy with them. I just wanted to see what they were talking about. I wondered if that was on

34:30 my record in years ahead. That would have been in the late 1940's.

What were they talking about?

Can't remember. I know I went. It wasn't very interesting. It was the local one and I went to – Attlee's daughter was being married. That was when my sister was still in England because she was with me and Princes Rizber – Chequers that was quite near where I was living.

35:00 Went over there and we saw ourselves later on in the newsreel in the car. We were following the bridal car up the hill there and when we parked it somewhere or I did. You couldn't get near to the entrance to the church. All the reporters were there. So I went over and I got myself amongst the reporters and when someone accosted me and said, "What are you doing here?" I said, "I'm a reporter," so I was allowed to stay.

35:30 It was interesting. I got some photographs of that.

Well, that was quick thinking.

Yes. Chequers was quite near where I was living. Attlee, I don't know what we thought of Attlee then. I can't remember who the Conservative man was at the time. Oh, it was Churchill, wasn't it

36:00 or was he tipped out then? I don't know. He may have already been tipped out. Which was sad. Feather dusters.

Did you visit Europe during those 4 years in England?

Yes. You were only allowed to take £50 out of England and I had some friends, the ones who had been at National Standards and they were coming over and they were renting a place

36:30 down on Lake Annecy, in the south part of France, near the border of Switzerland and they asked me whether I'd like to join them down there. I had a most horrendous experience which I've written up. I'd never flown before and I was getting the midnight plane to Paris and then the train from there and I turned up at the airport. I don't know what it was called then.

37:00 It's Heathrow now and had to go through Customs because you had to declare anything that you were taking out of the country. Jewellery or cameras so I proceeded to clear my camera and my watch and I had to take my watch off and show it to the man. This was the midnight flight. It was late and I was scared because I hadn't flown before and he had a look at the watch. It was an Omega and on the back it had the date of my birthday

37:30 in December, the year before I think and my initials and the Customs man said, "Where did you get this?" He said, "These watches have not been available in England since before the war." My mother had sent it over to me. She'd given it to a cousin who was in the diplomatic

38:00 service and he'd brought it over and passed it on to me. So this Customs man wanted to know, because it was obviously dated the year before when they were not available, where I'd got it from. Knowing that my cousin would get into frightful trouble if I told them, I wouldn't tell them. I was kept there for ages and ages and I think the flight was about to go and in the end the man, he brought his superior over

38:30 who grilled me and I still wouldn't tell them. Then they said, "You can go now. We'll see you on your way back." It absolutely ruined my holiday. I rushed over the bar and got myself a whiskey! Got on board the plane to Paris and went down to the Savoy Alps and met them and stayed with them down there for about a fortnight and then

39:00 came back and in Paris you weren't allowed to take more than a certain amount out of the country in French francs so I went to an expensive restaurant and had the most magnificent meal there that night before I was flying out to use up my money and got back to England and went into the Customs hall and I saw the man, the Customs officer, I'd seen right on the other end of the great big hall. I saw him there and I know he saw me but apparently

39:30 decided not to do anything and I went through. I'd had a ruined holiday thinking what was going to happen to me when I came back.

Tape 8

00:31 Four years in England at the Forest Products Laboratory which was DSIR [Department of Scientific and Industrial Research] which corresponded to the CSIRO here. I'd met various people from Melbourne because they used to visit after the war and so when I passed the ship called in at Melbourne on the way back to Sydney I went down to see them at Forest Products in Melbourne and they offered me a

01:00 part – not part time – a temporary job there. They didn't have a, I've forgotten what the word for it is, they didn't have a permanent appointment here, it was all done from Canberra but they did have some work being done here and they offered that to me and I said, "Oh no. The only reason I'm coming back, my parents in Sydney want me." They wrote over when I didn't get married there, they wrote over and said, "Are you going to stay there forever or are you coming back?" etc., etc., etc.

01:30 I think they wanted me to look after them in their old age, which I'd seen other girlfriends do with their parents and I didn't want to have to do that. Anyhow I stayed in Sydney for about 3 months and it did not work out. I'd looked after myself for 4 years on my own, away from home and I was still mother's little girl, you know, do this, do that and so on. I couldn't stand it.

02:00 I don't think I even tried to get a job in Sydney because you could not, in those days, have worked in Sydney and got a flat if your parents were there. You were expected to live at home so I didn't even take that chance so I got in touch with the people in Melbourne and said was it still open and they said it was so I came down to, I'd bought myself an Austin A40, a little car with a hood at that stage, and

02:30 incidentally the car I had, that cream one in England, they used to call it the "Yellow Peril" over there. Anyway, so I came down to Melbourne and that was an adventure in itself because I really got caught in floods on the way down. I wondered if I'd ever get through and anyhow I got to Melbourne and it was hot! It was December 1950

03:00 and I moved in. They got me some accommodation in Park Street, I think it was in South Yarra. Temporary accommodation and I moved into there and started at Forest Products in their wood preservation section. I worked with a man called George Tak, half-Chinese, he was gorgeous. He and his wife were marvellous

03:30 to me. The man who was in charge of that section was Norm Tamblin, who died recently. He was another stone deaf man, which made life difficult. Anyhow, I did work, there was a problem then, the work I'd done mostly in England was on the Sirex wood wasp and all sorts of wood boring beetles including the furniture beetle but here Sirex was coming into the country with some

04:00 imported timber and I was put onto that. Now, that was an adventure if ever there was one. I had to go down to the ships as they came in and had to go down in the holds. I don't like heights and I used to have a great big wharfie behind me and in front of me when I was going down these ladders into these deep holds. I used to inspect the timber and find the timber that was infested. I did a lot of that and I've got a diary of that time, a complete diary of that

04:30 which was interesting and…

How would you inspect the holds?

You'd look at the timber. You could see the holes of the wasps, they were wood boring wasps if they emerged. Then some photographs. The insects were set back at the laboratory and the photographer there took photographs of them and they were wonderful photographs.

05:00 I wrote a paper about it and Norm Tamblin was going to put it in their journal under his name and I plucked up by courage, and by gosh, it took a lot of courage to go and see him and say, "Well look, Mr Tamblin, I wrote this. Can my name be on it as well please?" He said, "Oh, oh I didn't think of that?" So it was on it and I have that paper which he didn't really do anything for except tell me to do it.

05:30 That's the way things were then in Australia. Anyhow that was that and I also dealt with another thing that was coming into Australia called Harlotroopies [?]. That was a long beetle which got into timber. That was all very interesting. Anyway after 10 months there, the word

06:00 is establishment. They didn't have an establishment for an entomologist. They had it for a chemical engineer and after I'd been there 9 or 10 months they filled that position for the chemical engineer and I had to go. Then I had to look for something else. A friend of Warren's, whom I'd met in a boarding house in St Kilda Road that I'd moved into, this friend got me into the clerical job,

06:30 a temporary one, down in Albert Park in the Department of the Navy. It was terrible! You had to push a bundy as you went in and you got there at quarter to nine in the morning and they gave you some work, sorting out papers, to do and by about quarter past nine I was finished and I'd say, "What do I do now?" "Oh, that's supposed to take you all day! You can do anything you like now." It was dreadful, so

07:00 I said, I had a portable typewriter, "Can I bring that in?" So I did and I came in and I wrote a paper on – oh, that must have been later because it was on mosquitoes. Yes, it was later. Yes, that's a little bit later. After Forest Products I applied for something at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute. They wanted a personal

07:30 assistant for an American, Dr Bill Reeves, who was coming out here because the Murray Valley encephalitis scare was on and anyway I got that job. That was temporary, six months. They sent me up to Brisbane, phew hot, never want to live in Brisbane. I had to learn about mosquitoes. I didn't know anything about mosquitoes. I spent a month there in November

08:00 and it was very hot and came back to Melbourne and went almost immediately up to the Mildura area where a team of people were going to be working collecting mosquitoes and testing them for the virus. That was interesting, and hot. Dry heat though, which was better. The team came and went but I was there permanently and eventually Dr Reeves

08:30 came out from America and he was good to work with. He nearly had a fit when he saw what we were

doing. We were collecting these mosquitoes off ourselves. Of course we were sitting ducks to be infected if we going to be. He nearly died when he saw we were doing this and we were told to do it. Anyhow he made us do it in a different way and what we did…

So how did you do it?

We

09:00 did not do it off ourselves. We started at 9 o'clock in the morning which doesn't seem too early but we went on to about 10 o'clock at night. When it got dark, during the day we collected the mosquitoes in fowl yards, WAS DOUBLE QUOTE CHOOK yards and you know all sorts of places where they were resting and then at night we collected them off

09:30 horses and cows, cattle when they'd come in and we'd suck them, we had sucking tubes. They were all in the archives, medical archives at Melbourne University actually. We sucked them off and we had a bag around our waist and we'd blow them into the bag. Then later on at night at about 10 o'clock when mosquitoes, they stopped biting before that, we'd go to a laboratory that we'd been

10:00 loaned. I think it belonged to CSIRO and then we had to identify them all. That went on forever and then the next morning they were put in frozen ice and air freighted down to Melbourne for testing for the virus. Over the time I was there we collected and identified 47,000 mosquitoes. It was hard work, 7 days a week.

10:30 When Dr Reeves came we were not allowed to collect them off ourselves and we did it through cattle and horses and WAS DOUBLE QUOTE CHOOK yards.

Was Dr Reeves accepting of having a female Personal Assistant?

Oh yes, fine. No problem. No, not with him. There was a team of us there. Some of them

11:00 are very well known people today, I believe. Dr Barry Marmion was one.

What about Australians in general? Were people ever a bit taken aback that you were a scientist?

Oh yes. Not many girls did entomology. It was funny, odd. Anyway I enjoyed it. Loved doing it. Absolutely loved it. As I said when I finished at the Hall Institute, when the work in Mildura had finished which was about

11:30 January, February then this friend of Warren's got me – I knew Warren at that stage – got me this job at these naval barracks at Albert Park. This jolly man at 5 o'clock. He said I could do what I liked. There were 2 other women there, the others were all men, doing nothing all day and then they did overtime at night, the men. At 5 o'clock or quarter to five

12:00 whenever it finished this fellow up in the front. He was like a school teacher. He said something like, "Time, gentlemen," and then they all started their overtime, the men. He told me I could do what I liked so I brought in the typewriter. When I got back from Mildura, to fill in the rest of the time I had with them I did a survey of the mosquitoes in the Melbourne metropolitan area. The larvae and things in the creeks and water places and so on. So I wrote that up

12:30 as a paper and typed it out when I was in there. They didn't care what I did as long as I did what I had to do which took me about half an hour for the day's work. It was dreadful, absolutely terrible. Taught me a bit about the public service, the lower grades of the public service. Dreadful. Going back, by the way, when I was working at the British Centre at the end of the war, Mountbatten came

13:00 to Sydney. There was a strike on. I think the people who were maintaining the ships went on strike and that was very bad at that particular time. He came to Sydney to see them and see if he could sort matters out and the meeting was in the, I think it was in the old Post Office Building in Martin Place in Sydney. He came along and I was at the British Centre and I knew he was coming and so I went down

13:30 there. I sort of fell in love from a distance, with Mountbatten. I thought he was gorgeous. They came along very slowly in this car and he and his wife, put their hands out and I remember taking his hand or his taking mine as he went past and he was off to the British Centre. So I cut across Sydney, they were going very slowly and I got there before they did and I saw him again there. Also the Duke of Gloucester came and saw us there.

14:00 We had to be on our best behaviour that day while the person in charge spoke to him and we didn't say anything. Anyway but that's going back.

Was Lord Mountbatten able to sort anything out with the strikers?

Yes. He was. The strike was over when he left. I can't remember, I'd have to look it up in the papers to see what it was about but I know it was the maintenance of some of the ships and they went on strike.

14:30 He sorted it out. No problem apparently.

Nancye, I was just wondering because in the '50s it was quite atypical for a middle-class woman to be working.

Oh no. Actually what they did mainly, so many of them, the ones who didn't go to university did shorthand and typing, then got married like most of the people I knew, school friends, girls.

15:00 When I came back from England, by the way, most of my friends had married by then and so it wasn't a very happy homecoming. I didn't have anything in common with young women with babies. I really didn't. They were interested in that and I was interested in my work.

Did you feel any pressure from your peers or your family that that was what you should really be doing is seeking to have a family?

Yes, later on

15:30 I did. My mother – my sister married before I did. We both married late and she was very, not put out so much that I hadn't married but we didn't have children. Despite my age, late 30's, I mean, she had us when she was in her late 30's so that was no reason not to. However we decided not to. I had met Warren

16:00 when I first came to Melbourne and was at Forest Products. I eventually moved into one of those old guest houses in St Kilda Road. One called Airlie. It's still there actually. That was taken over by Dame Mabel Brooks for a nurses home. I was on a committee to try and save Airlie and all sorts of newspaper things about it and trying to get it saved so we didn't have to move out.

16:30 However, we all eventually did have to move out and I've got some things in the house that I brought at the auction sale there. That chair was one of them. I re-did it afterwards. That little chair there. I re-upholstered it. That was one of the things I did and polished it. Anyhow, Warren was the last one there. Warren has never made any move to do anything.

17:00 He's an ostrich. At the end he was the only one still there with the people who were running the place. They were still there, sorting things out. He hadn't done anything about moving out. Everybody else had gone. Eventually one of the men who'd been there, I hardly knew him there, by the way either. I knew he was there. One of the men came over and said if you still want a place, there's a spare place where this chap had gone to and I think it happened to be

17:30 the one I had already booked into so that's where we got to know each other better. That went on. All the things happened to these places and we had several moves to different places and then I got a flat with another girl, not a flat, we went to another place. I was sick of going around with Warren and nothing happening so I went as far away as I could and

18:00 they had a room in a place where the people who ran it, we had to get our own meals in the kitchen. The people who ran it, the man used to drink too much and used to try and come into the room at night, supposedly wanting grog or goodness knows what else. When you're single, you get these problems. I had them in England too. The landlord was the same thing.

18:30 Anyhow this other girl, Dorothy, we were not very happy with this place so we looked around and found a place in Queens Road, No.30, called Newburn. It's still there. It's next to a big white building there. It was too expensive for one but with the 2 of us we could manage it and it wasn't quite big enough really but we moved there and it was quite good.

19:00 Then while I was there, after this awful job at the naval barracks, I was appointed as Chart Biologist to the old – it used to be called the Fisheries and Game Department. That was all right except I'm allergic to formalin and I to deal with trout stomachs sent down in formalin. My nose and eyes used to stream and I had to read scales and I hated that.

19:30 I did some nice fieldwork. It was great. I stocked all the creeks around Melbourne with fingerling trout and that was good but there were all sorts of problems at that place and eventually – I was very friendly with the librarian there. She was Mrs Corrie Herbert, widow of Harold Herbert, the artist. She was great.

Nancye, why were you stocking the creeks with trout?

That was part of the things they were doing.

20:00 They still are. There is trout in all the creeks around Melbourne. We used to do that so people could fish for trout, I presume. I found a way of anaesthetising the trout so that you could clip their fins without any problem, the young ones. So you could identify them, I think. I used to do that over at Kew. There was a place at Studley Park.

20:30 There's something called urethane or something we used to use for that. Great team of people working for me there. Men working for me. Then took them out in a truck. I learned to drive a big Chevrolet truck. I took them out with a man to help me and just put them into the creeks and things up as far as Woodend and right around Melbourne, Lancefield and so on. I enjoyed that. It was field work which I've always loved.

21:00 I was there and suddenly there were problems, personality problems in that place. There was a bit of female discrimination there with some of them. Some trout start to die, the fish in some of the

reservoirs around Victoria. I actually had gone on nice field trips with a group of them. That was quite good but they started to

21:30 die and nobody knew why they died. I was supposed to be working on it and I couldn't find out why they were dying and they took me off it and put a man from another section on. I wasn't very happy about that. He couldn't find out what was wrong either. Nobody could and I think it still happens from time to time. So it wasn't very pleasant at that particular time. That was run by Alfred Dunbavin Butcher who you might have heard of.

22:00 Somebody saw an advertisement for Canberra for plant quarantine in the Health Department. It was absolutely tailor made for my qualifications so I was interviewed and I took it. I ditched everything and went up to Canberra and enjoyed it too.

Nancye, it strikes me that you really enjoyed your work?

I loved it. Getting paid for something you love is wonderful. It's wonderful and people who have jobs that they hate,

22:30 mmm, no way!

Did you ever consider just not marrying so that you could continue working?

Yes, I think I probably did. I don't know how carefully I thought about that. It's funny when you meet someone and we had a place called Glanmire: in St Kilda Road

23:00 where we saw much more of each other and then when nothing worked out that's when I went down to the place down near the Yarra, in Caroline Street. That was as far away as I could think of and he used to walk over from there. It's a long way. He's never driven and he was a good walker or used to be and see me, so I don't know. Then I went to Canberra. When you're far away things – I used to go and do work for him

23:30 in the libraries up there at night. I did a tremendous lot of research for him there and sent it down. I took a course in woodworking while I was up there. Quite a few things in this house I made. That table, the one over near the window, the coffee table, that long one and other things. I loved that. It was so different from what I was doing during the day. While I was in Canberra, more than half the time I spent in Tasmania doing work on sirex, the wood wasp down there

24:00 in the plantation near the old airport. That was one of the places where I dealt with insecticides. I had a labourer working for me and we used to use all these dreadful insecticides and we'd take sandwiches out for lunch. There was nowhere to wash you hands or anything and we were doing all this stuff with these insecticides and then eating our lunch.

24:30 Apart from which it was very cold of course in the winter down there. We had a fire, sort of brazier. I taught this old boy, this labourer how nice it was to eat this larvae. It was like a witchetty grub. Big fat white ones. I put them on a spike, put them in the fire and toasted them. They were gorgeous. He was horrified! Then he tried them and he thought they were lovely too. They were beautiful.

Where had you picked up that little trick?

25:00 At the Forest Products Laboratory in South Melbourne, I think. I used to do them over a bunsen burner. They were good. They were lovely. You don't eat the heads. You hold them by the head. Eat the rest of them. They're gorgeous. They taste like toasted almonds. Lovely creamy. Oh don't look like that! (Laughs). They were gorgeous.

Well, I'll have to take your word for it.

I've never eaten the witchetty grubs. I'm sure I could. Just because I haven't seen one.

25:30 **It also strikes me that the very thing that was given as a reason why a woman shouldn't be this kind of a scientist was exactly what you loved the most about it, being the field trips.**

Yes, I did actually. Even in my university days, I loved the practical work much more than the stuff you had to learn. I loved the practical work which we usually did in the afternoon. Something that was interesting

26:00 there when I was doing chemistry, I suppose it was. I can't remember if it was the inorganic or the organic but we had to do practical work in those. We had a demonstrator who came round, who was supposed to be helping us. He was a young graduate, such high qualifications, he was absolutely brilliant and he was hopeless as a teacher / demonstrator. We had another man who was just an ordinary graduate

26:30 who had just got through and he was wonderful because he could understand people that didn't have a good grasp of the things but the brilliant man had no idea. I've always remembered that. The 2 young fellows, one so brilliant and the other just ordinary. He was much the better teacher because he knew what the problem was with us.

How to explain things from scratch?

That's right. He could understand why we couldn't understand

27:00 some things.

Nancye, what do you think was the biggest disadvantage to you, as a scientist?

I can't think of anything except that it tended to make life a bit more difficult getting a job in what you wanted to do.

27:30 Probably because you were a woman. When I was with Fisheries and Game I did go out doing so called field work with the man who was another biologist there called Laurie Dysaght. He was young married man and you used to get money to stay overnight at a hotel or get accommodation. What we used to do, I used to stay at the hotel and

28:00 he used to sleep in the back of the truck and save the money he got, that he would have spent on the hotel. He was quite a nice young fellow. He was married to a New Zealander. He got killed later on in a motor accident when he was working there, driving into I think it was the Dandenongs, driving into the setting sun with a dirty windscreen. He had an accident and died. Had a young wife and 2 babies.

28:30 It was sad. Another one got killed in the same sort of – an inspector there over in the Horsham area. Driving into the sun. It was very difficult. That's another difficult thing in driving I think, going into the setting or the sun coming up.

So after you married, did you continue working at all?

29:00 (Laughs). Yes. I did demonstrating in Zoology to first year med students at Melbourne University. I joined the Women Graduates Association. I did work there and they knew more than I did. I had forgotten a lot from my first year. They'd all been to tutorials, these young people and I'm sure they knew more than I did so that wasn't too good. I did all sorts of funny jobs. I was

29:30 a polling clerk when there was an election. I did a censorship – I'd never do that again. Don't be encouraged to do it. It's dreadful. Collecting, doing census work. I did surveys for the ABC for their early television things. That was quite fun. I had a bit of training and drove all around Melbourne to different places where they told you and interviewed the people and so on.

30:00 I did one of the commercial things like that which was Beacon – they sold soap powders or something. That was terrible. You'd go to a door and you had to say exactly what they told you to say. Sometimes a man would come to the door and you had to say "Are you the lady of the house?" It was so ridiculous. I didn't do that for very long. It was awful.

30:30 What else did I do? The census was horrible.

That must have been a bit of a let down to be doing work like that after you'd…

Yes, of course it was. I hated it. The television survey was all right. The census was awful. I did it in the area of – we lived in Camberwell then, I did it in the Canterbury area on Mont Albert Road where all those expensive houses. You would be surprised

31:00 how some of those men, particularly there in high positions, how they really took it out on you finding out their private business. Dreadful. They were really dreadful some of them. Well that area was, probably still is, people in high business things. Terrible.

Nancye, did you ever try to get back into

31:30 **scientific work?**

Yes. Sometime later I went to Latrobe University once it opened and they had Entomology there I think. I was interviewed by somebody and they were prepared to do a tailor made course for me which I would have had to have re-learnt a lot of things. Just as I was about go and fix up about it, I suddenly thought of

32:00 something and I said, "When I finish this, what chances of getting a job then?" Well, I suppose I was over 50. "You wouldn't be getting a job. Not at your age." I dropped it like a hot cake. They just wanted me to do it at the expense of the government. That was a time when they used to pay for you to do that sort of thing. I wasn't going to have that. So I didn't do it.

32:30 Using taxpayer's money. My sister did it too in medicine but she didn't work afterwards. It was a refresher course thing.

I just want to ask a couple of questions now, asking you to look back at the war. Firstly, did you think that it was a just war, World War II?

I think so yes.

33:00 Yes, we had to. With Britain, you had to stop Hitler from doing what he was doing. He was taking over the whole of Europe. He was trying to. He'd done a pretty good job of it. Invade this country and that. When he invaded Poland it was the last straw apparently with Churchill.

33:30 Yes. I think so. Next please.

What do you think was the part of the war you enjoyed the most?

Well, as you can see from what I've said before, I had times where I was helping, a bit of social life which was quite different I think from what the social life would have been

34:00 if there hadn't been a war. It was geared in a different way. I don't know. You adapt when you are young to these ways of living.

In what way was the social life different?

Well, there wasn't too much of it. They used to have dances and things which I'd go to sometimes. I wasn't a terribly, not social, that's not the word, person

34:30 but I wasn't the sort of girl that used to be always wanting to – well, going to things like that meant you were going out with boys and things and I wasn't all that interested. Just up to a point I was. I think I was, probably what would be called these days, a late developer. I was interested up to a point but not particularly so.

35:00 I was more interested in my work actually.

Well, yes, that's what I was going to say. It strikes me that during the war you really worked and learnt a lot, studied a lot.

Yes, I did because I was never terribly clever actually. When I was at Primary School I was supposed to be but I wasn't. I was very mediocre.

35:30 I was good at subjects I really enjoyed but not particularly good at ones that I had to do and didn't enjoy, like chemistry and French at school.

I think that's quite reasonable. So what was the part of the war that you enjoyed the least, or you disliked the most?

I think the worry when the Japanese were moving this way. I'm pretty sure that would have been it

36:00 I think and also I felt a bit cheated out of girls in their 20s in other times, that was the time of their life that they didn't get married and they had a good enjoyable time. It was certainly different during the war. It was just different. There weren't many men around anyway.

36:30 Your boyfriends had gone away. You didn't know if they were coming back. I didn't have a particular one that went away except my friend Rupert later on. The whole concept of the way of living was different and my parents were fairly old. They had to put up with all these inconvenient things.

37:00 You adapted I suppose.

How do you think the war changed you?

That's hard to know. What I would have been like if there hadn't been a war, I've no idea. I don't know that I would have been much different really. Changed me? No. No idea.

Well, you might not have learnt to shoot a rifle and drive truck?

No, I probably wouldn't.

37:30 When I went to England and living over there and looking after myself was different. I was much more independent because I tended to be – my mother was a fairly forceful personality and it just broke her heart when I wouldn't live with them when I came back from England. It really did break her heart. She'd upset me too. During the war

38:00 I was made when I was a young teenager on cricket and in our area Bert Oldfield, who was the Australian wicket keeper, lived and his sister was the Matron at the hospital where I was born and we knew her very, very well and I met Bert Oldfield and I used to play cricket at school when I was about 13. It was during the Bodyline

38:30 series and I had a cricket bat and I gave it to him and I asked him of course, and he took it in and he had it signed by all that cricket team in the Bodyline series in 1932–33 with all their signatures on it and also my autograph book and the same thing there and brought it back to me. I left the cricket bat at home during the war and my mother gave it away.

39:00 Also an album of cards, cigarette cards I'd collected and I found that giving one's personal things away, I've always found – I think I'm territorial – that's not quite the word for that but I think what's mine, mine. I really felt upset about that. Also some geology specimens I had.

39:30 **Right, we've just got time for one more question Nancye so I just want to ask if there's anything that we've left out. Any last things you'd like to say?**

I really, I suppose, grew up when I lived in England for those 4 years after the war. A single woman on

her own living in

40:00 boarding establishments and places. I lived in a hotel for a while and you are a sitting duck for any man that's around who thinks he can have his way and I did have problems. I enjoyed my work on the whole over there except the girl I worked with rode a motorcycle and I said goodbye to her one Saturday morning, she had an accident and was killed on the way

40:30 back to her house and that was a dreadful thing. Absolutely dreadful. They got someone else to replace her who was a chain smoker with cigarettes and the room, it was closed up and I didn't care for that much. She was quite nice, the second girl. She was quite different though. I lived at a hotel in that area for a while and the man there, tried to put the hard word on me.

41:00 It's very – these days girls can deal with it better. More than probably then. I didn't like it. Then I went to various places where I lived in that area. One woman, my landlady, I moved in. She was so – I used to wash my hair once a week and she used to get so annoyed

41:30 about that. She said, "Look at my hair. I only wash it every 6 months. It doesn't need washing once a week." That was a problem there. She was very religious and she didn't like me cleaning the car on Sunday mornings and a few things like that. All sorts of problems. However, it was living. Just before I left, about a year before I left, I got into a gorgeous place with

42:00 people called Gardiner.

INTERVIEW ENDS