

New Forest Remembers WWII Project

Oral History Team: Transcription Document

Contributor's name	Mrs Rose Daniels	Name code	R-D
Interviewer's name	Sue Jackson	Code number	007
Audio Typist name	John Martin	Transcription Date	6/10/14
Transcription file name	R-D - Rose Daniels		- OH Transcription.doc

Web Pages:

Oral History article:

<http://www.newforestheritage.org/memories-of-a-nine-year-old-at-the-start-of-the-war/>

Project information:

www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/wwii

Checked by: Gareth Owen Date: 21-9-15

File name	R-D	007	_0001M0.WAV	Interview date: 13-07-14
-----------	-----	-----	-------------	--------------------------

00-00-00

First of all could you just tell me your name?

Rose Daniels.

And where and when were you born?

I was born in Dibden Purlieu, 29th of May 1930.

So you were at school throughout the war then?

Yes, yes.

Which school did you go to?

I went to Fawley school first until I was eleven, and then at Hardley.

What do you remember about Fawley school?

I can't remember the first days at Fawley school apart from the teacher when I was five.



© 2015

New Forest National Park Authority

Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9ZG

Email archaeology@newforestnpa.gov.uk

www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/wwii

VAT Reg No. 871 9343 00

CHAIRMAN OLIVER CROSTHWAITE-EYRE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ALISON BARNES

She was a horror. During the war the thing that stands out in my mind was this aeroplane that flew over very low over the school field. We were all out in the playground, all out at play and that. It had English markings on this aeroplane and it machine gunned the field. Fortunately we'd all had the drill of knowing how to run into the ditches, 'cos there was ditches all round the field. We all scattered into the ditches and nobody was hurt. That plane went on to the refinery. It dropped a bomb – this is the old AGWI refinery – dropped a bomb there and just one person was killed and nobody else was hurt. I know this because my dad worked down there, and my dad thought that he had dived under a big sheet of metal. It was under a piece of plywood! (chuckles) Didn't do him a lot of good. That was my first vivid memory.

00-01-53

My brother was working for a building firm. He was in what they called Rescue Squad, so that if they got a call after an air raid, down tools, off with the truck to where they were going. They were building houses near Fawley church. Our school was half a mile this side of that. Our air raid shelters were across the road, so if the siren went we all marched across the road to the shelters, but we had to wait for the Rescue Squad to go through first. So we could all have been mowed down before we ever got to the shelters.

I don't ever remember what we did in the shelters at all, but I've just got this vague recollection of standing there watching my brother and his boss going down the road in their truck and while we were waiting to cross the road to go into there.

00-03-00

Other than that I don't really remember much about the war when I was at Fawley school. The same again at Hardley apart from if we had an air raid we had to go to the shelters right at the end of school field. They were big school fields in those days and I do remember having lessons in the shelters there. Other than that, not got a lot of memories about the war as such.

00-03-35

My dad was in the Home Guard and he used to come home and tell us all sorts of tales. Bit like 'Dad's Army'. It was just one particular one. If anything would go wrong, he was the one to do it. Dad would tell us these stories, hooting with laughter I always remember. I often think about it these days. He had a Sten gun because he was a sergeant in the Home Guard. It lived in a certain corner in the passage at home and us kids – we were a big family – we were not allowed to go anywhere near that corner. There was only one time we ever saw Dad actually make use of it – he used to take it when he went to meetings – there was a parachute falling way a way fields over. He and the fellow next door that also had a

© 2015

New Forest National Park Authority

Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9ZG

Email archaeology@newforestnpa.gov.ukwww.newforestnpa.gov.uk/wwii

VAT Reg No. 871 9343 00

CHAIRMAN OLIVER CROSTHWAITE-EYRE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ALISON BARNES

gun were running up the garden path (laughing) – it was absolutely miles. Whether or not it was the German plane that came down at Exbury – there was a plane that came down at Exbury – and a crowd of us from school cycled over to see this aeroplane in this pond. Where that pond is I wouldn't know. It was there and we saw it. I read an article in the Echo a short while ago, they were going to do a walking tour around Exbury to see where this plane came down. I don't remember where that was.

End: 00-05-28

Keywords: Fawley, Hardley, school, machine gunned, bomb, AGWI refinery, Rescue Squad, shelters, Home Guard, Sten gun, German plane, Exbury

File name	R-D	007	_0002M0.WAV	Interview date: 13-07-14
<p>00-00-00</p> <p>(continuation of the plane crash at Exbury)</p> <p>... the school, to see this. The lads, being gory lads, were strolling all round the field to see what they could find. One found a foot and a boot. He was so proud of finding that. I know I never dreamt it. Edie knew nothing about it, did you? [Edie – No I don't remember that, no.] That was so severed in my mind. Other than that the war didn't seem to affect us in our home very much at all.</p> <p>00-00-40</p> <p>There was one particular air raid when there was a stick of bombs – there was a farmer's field the other side of us – the stick of bombs was coming down at regular intervals in those fields and then there was a big gap and then a house at Blackfield got a direct hit. My dad always reckoned that one bomb got stuck that would have probably landed directly on top of us. That was the nearest to any action we actually saw there.</p> <p>00-01-15</p> <p>I remember one Sunday night, about six o'clock in the evening, Dad called us to come outside. We walked out to the front gate and we could see these dive-bombers going down right in front of us, which would have been Southampton. It was when they were bombing the cold storage over in the docks, and there were these huge great palls of filthy black smoke going up for ages afterwards. We learned on the news the next day that it was the</p>				

© 2015

New Forest National Park Authority

Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9ZG

Email archaeology@newforestnpa.gov.uk

www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/wwii

VAT Reg No. 871 9343 00

CHAIRMAN OLIVER CROSTHWAITE-EYRE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ALISON BARNES

cold storage. Now whether that was the same time as when Supermarine went or not I don't know. This was the Sunday evening when this happened.

00-02-12

Was your father in Dibden Purlieu Home Guard?

No, in the Fawley brigade, 'cos we were living at Rolleston Road then. We moved to Rolleston Road when I was four and there we stayed for ever and ever. No, he was in Fawley. I don't know whether it was a refinery brigade or whether it was just Fawley itself. I know there were a lot of refinery people in there. Somewhere at home I've got a photograph of where it is.

What was his name?

Joe Smith.

You've got quite a few documents about the Home Guard, haven't you?

Yeah, yeah.

00-02-53

And then he worked at the AGWI. What did he do there?

Dad worked at the AGWI. He was a welder and he actually worked on PLUTO. (*Pipeline Under the Ocean*)

What do you know about what he was doing on that?

Only that he was welding the pipework for PLUTO. That was what he called his 'claim to fame'! Can't say much more than that.

00-03-34

You said that you knew a lady who married a prisoner of war at Calshot. Could you tell me the names that you know?

Jean Stacey her name was. She was the same sort of age as I was because she was in the same year at school, so she must have been either late 29 or what have you and that. She met this German prisoner of war. She lived over at Exbury. She met him because he was working on Exbury estate, on the farm there and this was while she was still at school, 'cos

© 2015

New Forest National Park Authority

Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9ZG

Email archaeology@newforestnpa.gov.uk

www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/wwii

VAT Reg No. 871 9343 00

CHAIRMAN OLIVER CROSTHWAITE-EYRE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ALISON BARNES

she used to tell us all about him at school. They had a very happy married life. I knew her quite well actually. I didn't know her husband very well but he was very well known in the district. Their son was one of the local craftsmen who did a lot of work in my daughter's bungalow, so she knew the family as well.

Where he was a prisoner – where his camp was – I just don't know.

D'you know his name?

Yes, it was Hans Straleu, but how you would spell Straleu I don't know. I think it's S-t-r-a – ends with an 'au' (*Strelau?*)

And they were presumably married after the war?

I think she was about seventeen when she got married. I know it was quite the talk of everything, you know, Jean marrying this German. He was an extremely nice person.

00-05-32

D'you have any other memories of Hardley school and the teachers there? D'you remember many of the teachers there?

Oh, I remember the teachers there, yes. My eldest brother was in the army and we had always known him as John. He was John to everybody. This one particular teacher – Mr Dedman his name was – he taught my eldest brothers and sisters many years previously – and he said to me one day "How's your brother Fred?" So I said "I haven't got a brother Fred". (chuckles) I went home at lunchtime and I related this to Mum and Dad, and I said "He said Fred". They both laughed and they said "Well, that's his name". His full name was Frederick Thomas Joseph but he was always known as John. Well, where do you go from there? (chuckles)

He was a right old sergeant major. [*Edie* – He was in the First World War] Yes, he was in the same battalion as my dad was in India in the First World War. Likewise, at Fawley school, one of the teachers there, he was also in the same battalion – they were in the Hampshire Regiment – all in the same battalion as Dad out in India. So it was quite coincidental. My dad wasn't a local man before he was married, he came from north Hampshire. (bad coughing fit)

00-07-31

What do you remember of Hythe? You were talking about the British Airways ...

© 2015

New Forest National Park Authority

Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9ZG

Email archaeology@newforestnpa.gov.uk

www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/wwii

VAT Reg No. 871 9343 00

CHAIRMAN OLIVER CROSTHWAITE-EYRE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ALISON BARNES

I don't remember an awful lot about Hythe. I do remember hearing that two houses had been bombed during the war because as we were children, we weren't just allowed to go unless Mum and Dad were coming with us. There used to be a little cinema in Hythe and perhaps as a treat they would bring us down to the cinema. I knew really nothing about Hythe at all.

One of the houses that was bombed was where Edie and I's husbands – 'cos we married brothers – their aunt who lived two or three doors further up and that had a hit. It hit the motorbike in the front garden – a direct hit – and that motorbike was ridden by the fella that became my brother-in-law - my sister married him – and he was hurt. Mum and Dad's place there, they had all shrapnel through the roof. They were aiming for the British Powerboat then, which was exactly across the road from where they lived. Other than that, I don't remember anything about Hythe at all.

00-09-11

Do you remember where the cinema was?

(coughing fit) [*other voice* – back of the little lane] It's where all the new flats have been built beyond – a bit further on than Waitrose. We used to call it the 'Bughut'. It was only a tin roofed place.

D'you remember going there?

Oh, we used to go there to see Gracie Fields or Shirley Temple. Those sort of things. When I was courting my husband after the war, we used to go there three times a week. (chuckles) Yes, it was just special treats. Abbot and Costello, those sort of films. Mum and Dad would take us down as a treat over Christmas or something rather like that. Other than that we just didn't go to Hythe.

00-10-15

What was in Fawley during the war? Was there much there in the village?

Well I didn't know much about that either. There was a few local shops and a pub. [*other voice* – a big pub, yes] Never used to go to Fawley either. We were very much restricted within our four walls. No sort of activities.

00-10-46

My friend who lived seven doors away from me, her parents used to entertain some soldiers from the Lime Kiln Lane camp for a Sunday tea. Now where on earth they got the

© 2015

New Forest National Park Authority

Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9ZG

Email archaeology@newforestnpa.gov.uk

www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/wwii

VAT Reg No. 871 9343 00

CHAIRMAN OLIVER CROSTHWAITE-EYRE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ALISON BARNES

goods to be able to provide lovely teas, beautiful cakes and what have you, leaves a lot to be desired. My friend's father was known as a little bit of a rogue, so presumably he had the ways and means of getting the sugar etc. I used to go some Sundays for Sunday tea with them. We got to know a few of the soldiers. We were only kids of thirteen/fourteen. One of them, his name was Jack Gazey. He was quite a nice fella. He was a sniper on D-Day and he didn't make it off the beach. My friends parents managed to find that out. I don't know what happened to any of the others. We never went out with them as friends or anything, just purely tea parties with them. Chat and give them a bit of respite sort of thing.

00-12-16

Did you see the camp at Lime Kiln Lane at all?

Well, used to cycle past there occasionally.

Was it huts or tents?

I don't remember. I always remember seeing the gun there. There was a huge gun there. Sometimes we'd go to school that way, play hookey and go round the wrong way to school. (chuckles and coughs)

They were British troops, were they?

Yes, yes.

Right, thank you.

End: 00-12-48

Keywords: plane crash, Exbury, air raid, Blackfield, dive-bombers, Southampton, cold storage, docks, Supermarine, Fawley, Home Guard, AGWI refinery, PLUTO, German POW, Hans Strelau, Hardley, school, bomb, Hythe, cinema, Lime Kiln Lane camp, gun, British troops.

All material is © 2015 New Forest National Park Authority

© 2015

New Forest National Park Authority

Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9ZG

Email archaeology@newforestnpa.gov.uk

www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/wwii

VAT Reg No. 871 9343 00

CHAIRMAN OLIVER CROSTHWAITE-EYRE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ALISON BARNES