

***After Hiroshima***  
**Interview transcript**

**Interviewee:** Dorothy Sullivan (DS), born 13/11/1923

**Interviewee:** Talah Hassan (T) and Ruth Dewa (R)

**Date:** May 13<sup>th</sup> 2015

*T: Can you tell me a bit about what you were doing at that time, at the time of the war?*

DS: The time of the war you mean? Yeah. I was nearly 16 when the war started and... I was at work, I was working then at 14.

*T: And where were you working?*

DS: In London. I was doing printing, you know books and that. Books, printing trade, yeah.

*T: Did you continue doing that after the war started?*

DS: And then when I was 18 I had to go in forces, or... I got myself a job in engineering, making aeroplane parts so I didn't get called up, in London. Engineering, yeah.

*T: You continued to do that throughout the war?*

DS: Yeah right 'til the end because then I got me release and I went back in the printing trade again, back to me old job.

*T: How did you feel about being called up to work?*

DS: Well I didn't get called up because I just got the job around the corner, where I lived. And 'cause before I was 18, because I was exempt, because I was already doing it. I was one of the crafty ones.

*R: I'll just explain because it might be different in Britain to elsewhere, so you were either called up and you had to then do what they told you to, or you could go into one of these exempt professions. So because you were engineering that was helping the war anyway.*

DS: Yeah, engineering, war work. War work they called it. Otherwise it was the army, navy or the air force, or whatever.

*T: Okay, yeah. And you preferred to do that rather than...?*

DS: Oh yeah, because I was living at home. Yeah. I didn't want to live with loads of men [laughs].

*T: And did you know anybody who got called up?*

DS: Well I had a brother in the army, a brother on the submar- well he ended up in the submarines – and a sister in the ATS.

*T: How did that impact the family relations?*

DS: Well they were my sister and my brothers. Two brothers, yeah.

*T: And having them being called up, and being part of the army...*

DS: Well when my brother... he was on the, in the Thames, the ship it was a President, and it was like the territory army, that was the navy thing, you know they had to go whenever in the week, in the nights, you know. And, um, they'd just go out on the ships and all that, you know they taught 'em the navy bits. When the war started – before it started, a month – they called him up, a month before, 'cause they called him in reserve, and he was in... He was in Canada when the war started. Yeah. They called him up and sent him to Canada on a ship. My sister, she got called – my other brother, he was in the... He got called up at 21. The war started at 18 but then it went up to – it was 21, then it come down to 18. And he was 21, they called him up and he went in the army. My sister got called up when she was 18, to the ATS. But I done a runner [laughs].

*T: And did it affect you, having them being away, and being called up?*

DS: Well, we all knew what was going on, and you were just ready for it, really. You couldn't do nothing about it really. You had to go and that was it, you know. Yeah. That's why I wanted to stay at home, 'cause I thought there's three of us there, I might as well stay with me mother and me sister and brother. Me dad had died in the war.

*T: How did that event impact your opinion of the war?*

DS: Well, it's something that you had to do. You just took it... you couldn't do nothing about it, you just had to do it, didn't you, you know you was told what to do. And I mean there was discipline then. There's not now, but there was then. Discipline, strict discipline, yeah.

*T: Do you think that was a positive thing? The discipline, in terms of national security, or...*

DS: Oh yeah, because we... you know, I mean we knew that they were gonna invade Poland, we knew we were gonna be next, so we just, you know... fought for our country. Yeah. Didn't think nothing of it, really, although they were little boys some of them, weren't they, 18... yeah.

*T: And um, so the family relations that changed in consequence of the war...*

DS: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

*T: Were those sort of accepted as – ?*

DS: Yeah, my two brothers got married, the first part of the war they both got married. So they didn't come back home again. My sister got married, she never come back home again, so it split the family up really, but... that's life, isn't it? Yeah, yeah.

*T: Do you still have contact with your sister and brother?*

DS: Well no, because they're dead. I'm the only one alive in the family. Yeah.

*T: Did they die recently?*

DS: Well, no. My sister and brother they died a month between each other. One died in October, one died November, my sister and brother. He was the youngest, the brother. But I was the next youngest. But the others died, you know, before that. They was older than me, yeah the others. Not in the war, after the war, not, you know...

*T: But even after the war ended did you still not have much contact with them, since they... ?*

DS: Oh yeah, yeah. They all lived in London, oh yeah, yeah. We all had our families and we all used to meet, you know, and yeah... It was quite... Families were then, they were compact then, they all lived in London, they all lived in the same places, you know. And just went to visit 'em and they visit you and you know, yeah.

*T: And do you remember when they atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima?*

DS: I do, I do yeah.

*T: How did you hear about it?*

DS: Well through the wireless, didn't have televisions then, the wireless. And the papers. Yeah.

*T: What were your thoughts, if you can remember?*

DS: Well, I thought... I mean I was only young but I thought it was a good thing because the Japanese were wicked people, they were. They were brutes. They would... Even to the prisoners of war, they were spiteful, they were wicked. And they wasn't gonna give in, and it was an honour wasn't it, to die for their countries, wasn't it. So we knew they wouldn't give in, so we thought they done that to stop 'em... but it didn't did it. Because they said, you know they'll save a lot of lives stopping 'em. But it didn't. But my son-in-law, he went up – my son went to Japan, he couldn't get a job and he went over to Japan to teach English. And my son-in-law and daughter went over – that daughter that just left – they

went over there for a holiday, for a fortnight, and my son-in-law was telling me only last week that there was three islands, and that was the first one, then they were gonna... They said if they didn't give in they were gonna bomb the second one. Atom bomb the second one. And they didn't give in so they said... now the second one. So they bombed the second one. And they said if they didn't give in, they were gonna do the third one, and that's when they give in. Yeah. Otherwise they'd never have given in. And that saved a lot of lives. I know it caused a lot of lives, but it saved more lives around the world, didn't it, really. I mean they was fighting everywhere, weren't they. You know, so I think it was a good thing, because they just wouldn't give in.

*T: And were you aware of the peace movements around that time after the bomb dropped?*

DS: Oh yeah, oh yeah. You used to hear it on the wireless or read it in the paper, yeah. It was all in...

*T: What was your opinion about those movements?*

DS: Well, we felt sorry for 'em, the people, but then... As I said they were wicked people, they had to be stopped. I mean there was little children amongst them and all that but then they were killing little children. I mean why did they start the war? Why did the *Germans* start the war? They started the war for their own ends, didn't they, nothing else. And they had to be stopped, didn't they? Yeah.

*T: So did you have any involvement with the peace movements yourself?*

DS: Oh no, no, no. No I kept away from that bit [laughs]. No.

*T: Aside from, as you said earlier, feeling sorry for the people who died...*

DS: Oh yeah, yeah, children, and yeah. I mean children can't do nothing about it can they? They're just there, in't they? Like the children now who are getting killed in the sea, now. It's wicked for the children innit?

*T: But did you have any more personal opinions about the idea of a movement against an atomic bomb, against nuclear weapons?*

DS: Well Europe, how we were **mooring/more in?** [11:45] with Europe, it wasn't that side, it was Chinese, wasn't it. We got our soldiers over there and all that, our navy and that, but we was more concerned because we were getting bombed, wasn't we, with the Germans, so we was more aware of the Germans than the Japanese. We were more in contact with the Germans than the Japanese. Because that was China, wasn't it, and Americans, yeah. I know we was involved but you know, we used to hear more about Europe and that, you know and the Germans and that.

*T: How were you involved with that, with the European side of things?*

DS: What the Germans? Yeah, well, being in London we were bombed weren't we. And then I used to go to Kent, in Kent they used to pick hops for the medicines and the beer and all that. Hops. We used to go and pick 'em, and even when I was at school that was our holiday, four or five weeks holiday, and a lot of Londoners used to go, and help out the local people. And um, we were down there in the Battle of Britain, when they had dogfights overhead, right over our heads. Yeah and um, we was in the field one day picking the hops and there was an... We heard the warning go, you know the sirens used to go, and all a sudden we looked up and there was a pilot, he'd been shot down, and the pilot was... The wires, what used to hold the hops up, they were... Must've been a couple of foot higher than this [indicates a height] and um, he was swinging, as we looked up this pilot was swinging over our head – how old was I, about 18 I suppose? – swinging over our head and um, and you could even see the fur on his boots, and he was holding on the parachute. We didn't know who he was, we didn't know if he was a German or what he was. He landed in next field and all the country men who lived there, they all run over with different things to hit him with, and there were soldiers already waiting, and they said, um... It's alright he's a Polish, he come down in a spitfire. Yeah... I mean he could've been a German, couldn't he... We didn't know, we could... He's looking down at us like that, can you imagine, can't you?

*T: How did you feel in that moment?*

DS: Petrified [laughs]. They used to shoot anybody didn't they, from up there. Yeah, yeah.

*T: What did you do, how did you respond? Did you leave immediately or...?*

DS: Oh no, we just hid. Hid in the hops – the hops used to grow like that, you know. You used to pull 'em down and pick 'em. We hid in there, there was rows of 'em. We just hid in there, yeah. And um... But as I said we didn't know who he was, you know, but you could hear 'em fight, dogfighting they used to call it, in the sky. Yeah. Yeah.

*T: Was this after the – this was in 1945 or which year was this?*

DS: No, before then. No, that must've been when the Battle of Britain... I think it was 40... I'm not sure if it was 41 or 42. Yeah, I think it was 41. I'm not sure though.

*T: But it was before the atomic bomb.*

DS: Oh yeah, that was before, before the bomb yeah. That was at the end of the war wasn't it, more, yeah.

*T: Did you enjoy going to pick the hops?*

DS: Oh yeah, that was our holiday, even when we was at school we went, you know, and it was getting the harvest in, you know. The people who lived out in

Kent, their children used to go and the families... that was part of their living really, yeah.

*T: Do you have any other specific memories from – ?*

DS: Yeah, a bomber come down, I seen a bomber come down full of flames, yeah. In Kent, in Kent, yeah. Hop picking again. Might'a been the same year, might'a been the same year I'm not sure, and he was coming right towards us, full of all flames, that was in the Battle of Britain, that was, yeah. And because my brother he was only 11, and my mum wanted to go one way and I wanted to go the other way, and my brother, right until the day he died used to... They nearly pulled me in half because we both had each hand [laughs] trying to... We didn't know where it was coming down and we didn't know where to run, like you do, you know, you panic, yeah... But it come down in the woods, yeah. And on the farm where we worked, where we was, there was a little church, a little Roman church there, and they buried three of the pilots, three of the men in it, in the churchyard, and then they dug 'em up after and took 'em to the military cemetery, yeah.

*T: So you felt very panicked in that moment. Were there any other feelings?*

DS: Yeah, oh yeah, yeah... We didn't know... You know, if you were gonna survive or not, if it was coming towards you, we would've had it, we would've got blown up with it wouldn't we? Yeah full of flames, the back of it, yeah... I think that was the worst experience I had.

*T: And from your days in London at work, were there any specific days that stood to you, or that you remember?*

DS: Well, we used to... We had to enjoy ourselves. We used to go dancing in the nights and that, you know. And that was our entertainment, and we didn't have much but we just made the best of a bad job, you know... you never heard anybody moan, you just got on with it, you know. And there wasn't much money about anyway, so um, you just made good of a bad job really. You know, just got on with it, couldn't do nothin' about it, you just got on you know. Um... yeah... so.

*T: With your friends or your family did you talk a lot about the war and what was going on?*

DS: Well I've got no family left now, but I used to... But people I talked with, people we all talk about it still, yeah.

*T: What sort of feelings are connected to the memories from that time?*

DS: [Short silence] Well I mean in the nights, I mean I never ever went down air-raid shelter, I always stayed indoors. My dad used to say 'you go down there and you um... you die on your own, you might as well stop and get bombed'. We used to stay indoors, go to bed, but we still had to get up and go to work in the morning, don't matter 'ow much sleep you had. Yeah... And the barrage balloons

where I worked, we had a little, a little – it wasn't a park, it was just a bit of greenery with railings 'round it. And they put the men in 'cause the air force used to do the barrage balloons. Have you heard about the barrage balloons? [T shakes head to say no]. [Addressing Ruth] have *you* heard of the barrage balloons?

*R: yeah, but if you could explain them because I've got a picture in my head but I don't really know how they work.*

DS: Yeah they're... I've got pictures in there [points to cabinet], but I don't know... I don't know if I can get to them. I can show you a picture. [Gets up to search through cabinet] I got pictures of the um... I should've got these out before shouldn't I, must've realised that... I could get 'em out or not...

[Dorothy searches through the cabinet for the pictures]

Oh look! [Dorothy pulls out a couple of magazines, laughs]. First one I looked at, look. That's London, that's the city of London, look. That was funny, right on the top.

*[Ruth and Talah looking through the pages]*

I think you're seeing there what you wanna see... That was funny wasn't it! [Laughs]

*R: Mm, very convenient!*

DS: Yeah! Yeah, they were big balloons, silver they were. And they used to them on wires up in the sky, to stop the planes coming down too low, and they had the airmen on them. They're sure to be in there...

[Dorothy points to a picture of the barrage balloons].

See they used to be on a wire, and then the air force used to you know, send 'em up, put 'em up. Yeah. Great big silver things, they were [returns to seat].

*T: Would you see them when you were outside?*

DS: Yeah, as I said they was 'round in this greenery bit. And um, oh I don't know what it was, whether it was a park I'm not sure, I can't remember. But they had the airmen and the airmen used to put it up, and um, and we went to work one morning and it had been shot down, blown up, and all the six airmen were dead. Yeah, all got killed. They used to bomb them, didn't they, the Germans, like the search lights, you know, they had the search lights and they... That was the army used to do that, used to send the search lights up in the sky and they used to, the Germans used to fire at 'em. And you can see if you see 'em, you used to see the bullets going down the lights. Yeah. To blow 'em out. Yeah.

*T: Did those sorts of images become very normal?*

DS: Well you just... It just 'appened. I suppose you get immune to it in the end, don't you, when you see it so many times, you know, it was frightening but, as I said, you just have to get on with it, you know. Um, yeah.

*T: So when you would go to work, or go out dancing, would you try to forget about the scary part of it?*

DS: Well you had to, yeah, you just left that behind you, until the siren went if you went in there [laughs]. But if you went to the pictures they used to put it up on the screen, the air raid's just been going. You can either leave or stay there but you used to think well if you went out you might'a got killed so you might as well stay there and watch the picture. You just stayed there, you know it's just something that grew on you in the end, you know, not at first but in the end it just grew on you. Yeah.

*T: How did you feel when the war ended then?*

DS: Oh, 'appy. Definitely 'appy. Everybody was, yeah. Definitely, yeah, yeah... Then the one was still going with Japan but, um, we did really feel, when the one 'ere... Because you was more involved with this one, you know. And I know our soldiers were over there, and airmen and all that but... We was relieved to think that we wouldn't... The rockets, they were the worst thing, the rockets. They used to send the rockets, the doodlebugs. And you could see 'em, it was like a cross in the sky. You couldn't 'ear it, and all of a sudden you *could* 'ear it, you could hear the engine going, but you knew... You was alright if the engine was going but when the engine stopped, that's when it was coming down, and that's when you panicked. It was alright while it was going, and they just used to come over, yeah, but the other rocket, they used to fire the rocket, you couldn't 'ear that, and all of a sudden you'd be walking along and you'd hear 'bang', that was one of 'em gone, yeah... Oh we had everything thrown at us [laughs]. We still won [laughs]. Yeah...

*T: Did you know anybody who was serving in Japan when the war ended, who was there in 1945?*

DS: Oh yeah, yeah. I knew... A lady I worked with, her brother-in-law was a prisoner. He was missing for two years, and his, his mother... Nobody knew whether he was alive or dead. And um, they, um, and then, all of a sudden, um, when they you know... was freeing 'em all, they found out that he was on they Philippine islands, and the Japs sent him on these Philippine islands. The prisoners, with just a few soldiers, Japanese soldiers guarding 'em, and they was on there for two years, no one didn't know they were there. And um, and his mother... Can you imagine you her thought when she found out he was alive. And I met him one day, when we was out working, we went to get some shopping, I bashed into him, and um, she said to him, 'and you had no ...' – he didn't have a lady friend or anything, but when he come home they sent him to the... Sent these women who'd lost husbands out there, and boyfriends and that, they take 'em to this hospital and they had a chat with the men they were with to see who was alive and who were dead, and they met this, he met this one woman, he



knew her husband, he told her exactly what had happened to him and all that, and he ended up marrying her. Yeah. And I met him, and she said to him, 'you got no children yet!', and he said 'no I'm frightened to have any children,' he said, 'they'll all be born with slit eyes', and um, made a joke of it. He said that's all he ate for two years, rice. Yeah, yeah...

*T: How did those sorts of stories, like meeting people who had been there for so long, or who had been missing, how did that affect how you were feeling at that time about the war?*

DS: Oh yeah it was terrible, they were wicked weren't they, they were wicked to the prisoners, yeah, wicked. I don't know if you seen that film, have you seen the film? What do they call it... *Bridge on the River Kwai*?

*T: I haven't seen it.*

DS: Oh you wanna try and see that. That was about the prisoners of war and the Japs. And um, they was engineers, the English prisoners, and this Jap... Oh you've gotta try and see it, *Bridge on the River Kwai* it's called. Don't at all ask me how to spell it [laughs]. Yeah you gotta see that. Brilliant. And that tells you everything about the war, yeah. About the prisoners, and the prison camp and that. And um, the prisoners they built this bridge and um, some of the men were against it, but the officer, the English officer, he was in charge and that was his pride. He built something good. And 'cause in the end they... I don't know I can't remember all of it, it's such a while ago now that I watched it, but I know that in the end the English and Americans they blew it up. Yeah, and I can't remember it really, but it's a brilliant film. Yeah. And the one about the... Can't think of her name... A woman, she was takin' all these children 'round the jungle in Japan with one Japanese soldier. Can't think of her name. That was brilliant. You'd watch that and you know everything, yeah. Yeah.

*[Ruth takes over questioning]*

*R: Can you tell me what your opinion was and what everyone else's opinion was of the Japanese before the dropping of the bomb? So you said they were cruel...*

DS: Yeah. Wicked, wicked. There's only one word for 'em. They were wicked.

*R: And what kind of stories had you heard to make you think this?*

DS: Well we used to see things, like news and all that. If you went to the pictures, the news used to come up on the screen, and you could see it, you know. Like watching television really, innit. You could see what they were doing, in the papers and all that. They were prisoners, I mean they were wounded, they were wicked to 'em, wicked. Yeah. Um... Spiteful.

*R: And so was it mainly how they treated their prisoners of war that the British didn't agree with?*

DS: Oh no... Well, anybody. You know they treated anybody like it, and... I can't explain really. [Pause while thinking]. Yeah, I can't really explain what I'm trying to say. [Pause again]. I mean when you see them things in the pictures, that really put things in your mind what really 'appened. Yeah. And, you know someone who's down, to hurt him more, you know what I mean, when someone's been hurt, to hurt him more, how wicked can anyone be? Yeah... I mean if someone... They used to put pictures on there that if anyone... For punishment – I mean it's hot Japan isn't it? I don't know I never been there [chuckles], but it's hot and they used to stand 'em in the middle of this compound, where they lived in, with all the huts 'round it, stand 'em there for so many hours in the heat tied up to a pole. I mean... You know it makes you wonder how people can be so vile, really, dunnit? Yeah... yeah.

*R: And can you tell me about your memories, if you have any, of VE day and also if you have any of VJ day, and how they were different or similar?*

DS: Yeah, well... We all went – well I did and my sister – went over to Trafalgar square and then to St. Paul's. And all the others at Piccadilly and all 'round there they were dancin' but we was just listenin' to the church service in St. Paul's you know it was outside, and you could 'ear it, yeah. And, but there was crowds around, 'cause they was comin' everywhere into London weren't they, and um everybody 'ad a smile on their face, everybody was happy. You can imagine after all that, goin' through all that, that had 'appened you know and um... And then um, the other thing we had a party in the street for the children and all that, you know, a little tea party and that, and someone brought their piano out and started playing, and everybody was dancing, and yeah it was just one 'appy occasion. Which it would be wouldn't it. I mean, all the children were evacuated but then some of 'em was there, still, you know. Yeah.

*R: And did you celebrate VJ day or did that go unnoticed?*

DS: Oh no, no everybody did, everybody went out, everybody went out and celebrated, yeah. I can't remember what I done [laughs]. Knowing me I celebrated [laughs]. Yeah. Because I used to love dancing, that was my 'appiness, was dancing, ballroom dancing. Yeah.

*R: I'm just going to jump around a bit... Thinking about the peace movement, so you said you heard about the peace movement on the wireless and in the newspapers, and how was it reported? What light was it reported in?*

DS: Well, it was Churchill wasn't it, that said it, he said 'the war is now over'. I can't remember really. No... Yeah, I know Churchill he was wonderful man, Churchill, and his voice, I mean... When you look, when I look back now and things that 'appened, and we didn't know who was on our end, on our last bit of being killed or overtaken, but the man's voice, he really put courage in ya, you know, you didn't even think about it. You thought well, we've got him with us, and he's gonna... And he did, didn't he, sorted it all out, didn't he. Yeah, he was wonderful man, he really was Churchill. Yeah...

*R: And in the kind of late 50s, early 60s, were you aware of the campaign for nuclear disarmament movement?*

DS: Yeah, yes yes. Yeah. I can't remember much about it... That was to ban the bomb was it? Yeah, yeah [laughs]. When there was something... And there was women all 'round... All fenced off. I think it was Americans wasn't it? Had planes over here?

*R: Yeah so I think the incident that you're talking about was that Margaret Thatcher gave a plot of our land to the Americans to test the bomb, and it was an all woman protest I think. Do you remember what you and those around you, what your opinions were of the people on protest?*

DS: Well my opinion, I think they were stupid, I really thought they were stupid. Because they were nearly all mostly women, what did they know? What did they know? I mean... I didn't know much, but some of them left their families to do that! I mean 'ow... You gotta know these things to do a protest about it, don't you, really. I mean what's it good protesting about something you don't know nothin' about? That's ridiculous, innit! That's my opinion anyway. I think that's ridiculous. You're protesting but I bet if they said to 'em 'what you pro- ' they wouldn't know, they wouldn't answer would they. You know, leave them things to people, you know... I didn't agree, I admit, but I didn't know half of... I had a young family then so I had other things on me mind, you know.

*R: So is it right to say that if they didn't have experience of war themselves they weren't in a position to comment on it, these women?*

DS: Well, you leave that to people who... I mean I don't believe, when it comes to like the Russians and all that... But then you leave it to people who know, don't ya, I think. I mean we only hear tales about it but we don't know the full facts, do ya? So what's it good protesting if you don't know the full facts of it? See what I mean? Yeah.

*R: And how did you feel about Britain's tension with Russia, and the Cold War threat?*

DS: Um... [Thinking] Well I don't believe in communist. I don't believe it communist, definitely not. No, because I think communists are draggin' us down. And still are, all these unions now what's going on with this trouble... It's all communists. They get their ideas in their heads that communist is a good thing but it's not. I mean I knew people that were communist but they didn't tell you what they were doing. And I found out, you used to find out by other people. One person, one job, and yet they were going to work all day and then sneakin' in the daily work or in 'em sort of jobs in the nights, doing a night job and all! See what I mean? So, they're not actin' 'ow they're talking, are they? They're just acting for their selves, in't they? I don't agree with communist, I don't. Meself, my opinion. But then, everybody's got their own opinion, in't they.

*R: Were you ever worried that we might go to war with Russia? Was that a prevalent fear?*

DS: Not really. No, not really. Because I think they were all talk, all talk, Russians, yeah. I mean that was terrible what they done to the other country, what's going on now, terrible what they done to them, they wanted to break away didn't they, and um... But, I think meself that the Russians, it's like Hitler. They're wicked people and they get the jobs. See what I mean? They're the ones who's got all the chat, in't they, and they get the jobs, and... Scatty! They're scatty. [Laughs] That's the one word for it. Yeah... That's my opinion, as I said. They wanna be like Hitler... Didn't he, he wanted to be... He knew it all and he wanted to be the top man and you know, take every country over that he could get. Yeah, and he come unstuck twice – not him, but they come unstuck twice didn't they. And they still not learnt their lesson now. Now they're trying to beat us now with the EU, in't they, become a market and all that, sending all them poor people... I mean them people now, I mean I shouldn't talk about it because it's not what you're come up about, but there's all them people in the sea getting killed but there's no wars in their countries, why do they wanna leave their country? They plan all this money to come over into Europe. Why? Why? Why do they wanna come – why don't they sort their own countries out? See what I mean? I don't get it, I don't get it. They have too many children anyway, in my opinion. I mean they have too many children, their poor little devils they're suffering, in't they. They are, yeah. I mean even coming over here having them in't they? Yeah... too many children and you get like little kids, I mean it 'appened 'ere I know, years and years ago, but people here learnt their lesson. But they're having all these children and they don't stand a chance, do they, there's too many of 'em to care for, innit? You know what I mean? I mean that's why they want other people's countries, innit... You know because they're filling their own countries up. Why? Why, why? The mentality of 'em, I can't... See China's done that, didn't they, they said one – two – one child only wasn't it? And then they kept it down and then, now they're... It's alright now innit. They were sensible I think, yeah.

*R: Were you ever worried that an atomic bomb might be dropped on Britain?*

DS: Not really. Never thought about it really, no. I though well if it is, you won't know, will ya. I won't know. So what's good worrying about something that you don't know nothing about? You know. Just we used to... That would've been it wouldn't it. Yeah. Never really thought about it... Yeah.

*R: And could we just finish with do you have any opinions on our defence nowadays and whether we should be – you know it's been in the news recently about whether we should be updating Trident or scaling it back, our nuclear defence.*

DS: Well I don't really know. I couldn't really say, because I'm not into these things, you know, I don't... They're more of a man's thing, in't they, to think about, in't they. And it's never really entered me 'ead to think about it really. You know.

*R: And would you say that was the same back in the 50s and 60s, that there was a kind of gender divide on people addressing the issues of, you know, Russia and the Cold War and nuclear?*

DS: I can't remember that really. I remember that, you know, that with the Americans, I remember that, but I just put it in the back of me mind you know, because you can't do nothing about it can you and what's good worrying your head about something you don't know nothing about? That's how I feel. We've got enough problems of our own without worrying about things you know... like that, that you cant do nothing about anyway. Yeah.

*R: Well thank you very much! Is there anything else that you'd like to share with us before we stop the recording?*

DS: Oh, you're welcome! No I don't think so. Might be later on [laughs].

*R: Okay perfect. Well you can always give me a call!*