

Transcript of Bernard Skinner Audio Recording

Well, it started as far as I was concerned on the 1st of September when we were embodied, I being a Territorial Army soldier. I had joined in the early part of thirty-nine, volunteered. And I still have the letter commanding me to attend the Drill Hall at Lee Green and from there I took my civilian gasmask and haversack ration which I had been provided by my mother in accordance with the instructions. We were taken to Woolwich barracks on commandeered flat lorries, I can recall clearly our legs hanging over the side. No seats or anything and we were decanted on the famous barracks square and immediately we were supplied with some of our uniform, not all. We didn't get full uniform for some weeks later. So that was on the Friday the 1st of September thirty-nine. I can, of course, remember the day war broke out, the alarm – what do they call it? The air raid alarm sounded at eleven o'clock on the Sunday morning but it was apparently a false alarm. But it reminded us that the war had started.