

## Transcript of Bernard Skinner Audio Recording

I think it was easier going overseas. We were certainly busier in the days in Dover and we were moved up in different parts of the country as the enigma people decoding the German messages were able to anticipate where the next air raid was going to be and I think we were busier in this country. One example was Sheffield, we were sent up there as anti-aircraft gunners, very, very urgently. We were told that the first plane would come over at ten to seven in the evening. The first plane did come over at ten to seven in the evening. We'd been piling up ammunition which was delivered in huge numbers to our gun site and probably the other gun sites around Sheffield and we needed all that ammunition. Suffice to say that many people suffered in Sheffield, there was a lot of damage inevitably but I can recall the groups of people coming up the hill to our gun site on the outskirts of Sheffield with plates of cakes and biscuits, which was a touching scene which almost brought tears to gunners' eyes. They had gone through it, we hadn't. We were too busy to worry. Whether we prevented further damage to the dear old Sheffield, I don't know now. I think undoubtedly we did because I know that the other – there were four gun sites of our unit and probably a lot more had been brought in and I don't know the details of that and I think between us the services did defend Sheffield to a degree but it was almost impossible to stop large number of bombers dropping their bombs. So to compare home action with activities in foreign countries, I think, personally speaking, that I had an easier war abroad.