

Transcript of Doris Pullen Audio Clip

Well, I'd been trained on the job, basically. I had the certificates for going in to a course that sort of thing and pass a little test of some sort and that was it. You learnt as you went along mainly because you had all sorts of things to deal with. I think I used to make up - I used to work with - in the men - the servicemen often times were - I'd get them to hold on - they had to hold on to me when they had something done to them without an anaesthetic because we used to run out of anaesthetics sometimes and it wasn't always very nice. So it was rather like - I don't know - in these comic things they have to stick their hands on my chest and I used to hang on to them like that and then they didn't shout so loudly [laughs]. So I had my uses. The ones that - some of the burns were very nasty but they weren't what they are today I think. Well, they weren't as bad as they are today but we didn't get the men as they are coming back now, with their legs blown off and that sort of thing. I did go in to the operation theatres, working in the operations theatre too but I didn't like that very much. I wasn't - I don't think I ever saw a whole operation through. I used to go down with people because you'd take them down on the trolley and they said 'Don't leave me. Stay with me' and I said 'No, I won't' so I used to stay with them until they started the operation and I'd go outside until it was finished and then I'd be picking them up when they were unconscious to come back again. They didn't know I'd been away. We'd have a proper gown and mask and all of that sort of thing. I saw a lot of things didn't think was very pleasant to watch, put it that way. You couldn't go and faint on the floor that would have been a disgrace to come out.