

## Transcript of Eileen Allchin Audio Clip

At first you didn't have shelters. They offered you these shelters in the garden but you got to climb down into it. So we had an indoor one, it was like a table. We got a – and I put a mattress in it and the kids used to put to sleep in there. But after a time we had a – one built outside one. We all used – we had shelves and we used to take the kids over and make a bed up on the shelves. But it didn't last long for – I don't know something happened that we – the doodlebugs come and you – you stood outside. My hubby was a watcher and he used to watch them come and there was three ways they come in, which, if it was coming our way he'd tell us all to get in the shelter and put your heads under – under the shelters. But not very often you got it over the head. We had one when the doodlebugs, hadn't we? The light and at the back that used to come and we used to wait – wait for that to go out before we ducked in. I evacuated with, after a time, with the council and put me in a place up at Whitmore, Derbyshire, and it was very nice but there was a – they collected a lot of old furniture that might have been comfortable and I sent for my clothes and they sent them up to me. But I don't – I don't think I was there long before someone offered me a – police – local policeman offered me a job, offered me a house and I moved in to this house and I had the kids. I was alright but after a time the man lost his wife two doors up and they offered me a job going looking after his three kids so I went to live with – in and mind these three kids. Till my hubby got the wind up [laughs] and [unclear] me up and, anyway, he – we stood – I can remember standing in the garden when they bombed Coventry Cathedral and kids were in bed, in a double bed, asleep and me and him stood in the garden and the bombs come over and bombed the cathedral. We saw the cathedral go up in flames but as all of those things, as the planes went over, you heard them go over but you didn't see much. It was all dark.