

Transcript of Eileen Rogers Audio Clip

Well, there were a group of four women. Two on daytime and two night time and we had a map of about a yard square cut off and marked out into one mile squares and we were attached to the phone which we had headphones and we were attached to the gun sites, as we called them down at Dover and on the coast and they used to – if the air raid sirens went they used to give us a warning through our headphones and after a time they would give us, what we called, a plot. And we would mark it on the map and the map itself, although it was a yard square. Erith, which was our area, was in the centre and we had two circles, one of ten miles and one of twenty-five but what we did — when we plotted the aircraft and how many they were and which direction they were coming and if they got in to the outer circle we had a bell which we would ring once which all the factories that was on our list would take warning of that there was an air raid coming our way. But when the plot went in to the second circle of ten miles and the plots were coming across Erith then we would give them two rings and they would take shelter until the all clear. But the reason was the factories, when the air raid sirens went, the factories used to put their employers — employees down in to shelter and they stopped work. So, cos the factories didn't get any work while they were down there so we used to give them a few hours while the aircraft was over the — overhead or just going or coming our way and they would come up from shelter. So that saved the factories, you know, all the waste of work. Yeah, so we — at night time we had a little office in the factory but during the day we would be on top of the foundry, you know, we had a little wooden box but we did have a man spotter with his binoculars and he would be out in the open air but he was there to keep an eye on the factory and incendiaries and anything like that. So we sat underneath with our map and he stood up on top with his binoculars [laughs].