

Transcript of Audio Clip with Maureen Booker

I caught diphtheria through the war. I went into an isolation hospital. I can remember being in hospital and you laid down the middle of the ward, head to head, down the middle of the ward. You didn't lay up near the windows like you see in hospitals today. It was down the middle. We used to have raids, if we had a raid we used to have to get under the bed in a raid. And then – I was there for four weeks, never seen any of my family, wasn't allowed. The girl in the next bed died to me, had all that going on. Still remember it today. And came out of there and because I lived in an – on an alley, the sound of the planes frightened me quite a lot. I've got like a nervous disposition through it and my grandmother and grandfather said, 'You better come over and live with us for a little while until you get a bit better' type. So I went to live with my Nan and Granddad, only over the road. She had a big shelter and I had – in the shelter there used to be my two aunts, my two cousins, my brother, my grandfather, my ma – my grandma and my – and we had some great laughs in the shelter, believe it or not. We really did. Me and her used to sleep on this bunk – sort of a bunk bed affair which was on two chairs – on two stools and it used to rock if somebody hadn't put it back properly and she used to get in and she used to say, 'We're a bit rocky tonight, girl', and I used to say, 'Yeah, Nan, we are'. Then she used to rocket and it used – I used to land over on top of the others cos she tipped me over and we've had quite a laugh.