

Written by Pauline Finnis

I was married in May 1939 and joined my husband in Devonport in Sept. where his ship docked. I stayed there for six months then went back to Deal just in time as Fore Street was bombed. Next time was Portsmouth, Scarborough, Hebburn on Tyne where I attended the funeral of sailors from HMS Kelly. I came back home to have my baby but was evacuated to Byfleet in Surrey. We only had jettison bombs in Deal but had E Boats shelling the RM barracks from the Channel. Had bombs dropped in Byfleet, although there was only a small army detachment there. Returned to Deal 6 weeks later and when my daughter was 9 months went to Scarborough. My husband was a RM bandsman but was a stretcher-bearer and worked in the TX monitoring that Dept. His next trip was to Rio for a year. I had 2 brothers, one a Royal Marine, the other RAF. The eldest served in the Desert and ships, the younger in Burma. We are now 87, me 90 and older brother 93. We were very lucky as I lost a lot of friends during the 4 years. Travelling on trains during the war was hectic, but troops were very kind to me with a baby.