

Audio file

[Doreen.mp4](#)

Transcript

Speaker

Please talk us through a typical day in the life, in the war as a child.

Speaker 1

Well, there wouldn't be a typical day because it sometimes there was nothing happening and then other times we were being bombed in London a lot and I lived out of London when they were bombing London. It was mostly at night to start with and. In the winter, most of it, I think, and we would go down to the. Into our shelter before. I don't know whether there was a sign siren or not. And before it got too dark and we stayed there all night and went to sleep there and my dad.

Speaker

Yeah.

Speaker 1

And was coming home from work. In the winter, it would be dark by fall and it he wouldn't get home until about 6:00 or something and and he would come down to the shelter. Yes, we didn't have a toilet there. No thought of that. Well. We must have. We got used to it really and then that stopped. And then we had different bombers. We had them. Every one of these two, yeah.

Speaker 2

They made a funny noise, didn't they?

Speaker 1

Yes, and they had no. Pilot, they just came over and stopped and warned.

Speaker 2

Us. And so if it stopped, you knew you had to duck the noise.

Speaker 1

Didn't you? Yeah. People don't realise that if you are being bombed and our aircrafts are trying to shoot them, our people are trying to shoot. German bombers, now they shoot with great big shells and when they hit and things all the shrapnel comes down and you grow indoors, which you could be killed just by being hit by a big bit of shrapnel. So that was one thing you've you've learned. You learned that you went along.

Speaker 2

When you're in the Anderson shelter. What did you do for fun?

Speaker 1

Well, we played cards off, I remember and anything like that. There wasn't a lot else had the radio. You could still get in the shelter, but that was it really. Grandma thinks there was electricity in the shelter. Thank you, but.

Speaker

The whites.

Speaker 2

There was a light.

Speaker 1

Yes, there was a light, yeah.

Speaker 2

Yeah. They had two bunk beds, Bernard, and and grandma. And you think your mum and dad had a big bed at the bottom?

Speaker 1

Take the bottom.

Speaker 2

And grandma's friend John, who's still alive. When they built their shelter, they joined 2 together with their neighbours, so they had a big shelter for more of them. So that sounds like quite good.

Speaker 1

But but they will build a man and they. He knew how to do it.

Speaker 2

So they had a double shelter for two families.

Speaker

Cook food in your shelter.

Speaker 1

No, no, but no. No, nothing like that. We used to take my dad's dinner down on the plate. You know how you keep something warm for him to eat? No, you didn't cook in that at all.

Speaker 3

What was the start of the school day like?

Speaker 1

Ohh goodness, I don't remember cornflakes. Ohh but I don't remember food too yeah.

Speaker 2

Did you walk to school?

Speaker 1

I could walk to my Infant School. My secondary school was some kind of a bus journey or a cycle ride finished a cycle to that. I can remember my grandpa meeting me from my first school, which was about a mile away from my home.

Speaker 3

When you came home from school, before you had to go to the shelter at night, what type of games did you play as a child?

Speaker 1

One can think of skipping in the road the same sort of games that you play, but never to do with TV or anything like that. Board games and playing cards, yes, at the beginning of the war as well. You get a whole squadron of planes come off the aerodrome and go over our house and they'd come in three, so it had four lots. To three airplanes go over the house and when then we think to myself, oh, they're going to the coast and. Attack the Germans and then the siren would go off eventually and would go down the fence. So sometimes we could even see them fighting. Some of these planes, but not very often.