

Transcript of Albert Potterton audio clip

Then it really hit us and then they started asking everybody, the older generation and the younger generation, to join what was called the, we talk about it now as the Dad's Army, but the Home Guard, the Local Defence Force as it was called then. In my own experience I joined them and I remember going and reporting to the police in – on the Old Southend Road and there was a roundabout then on the motorway there and I was left on guard and – in case any tanks or anything came from Southend or that area. They gave me my weapon which happened to be a hayfork and the rest of them had [unclear] and things – I think we had two rifles, one, well, the rifle couldn't work because the bolt was broken and the second one was able to fire and we were given five rounds each that was all that we could have, ten rounds. I remember on one occasion we thought we heard – we – somebody was flashing some lights and it turned out to be an exposed cable arching and I can remember that I was with another young lad at the time and we didn't know. We said halt two or three times but after the second time we didn't wait for the third time. We fired the gun – he fired the gun I unfortunately had the one that – without the – without working. I remember going back and seeing the person in charge and we had to write a report that we'd used one bullet. So it was the kind of – we had very little really to work on and again we went in a limbo because we – we had no services really.