

### **Transcript of audio clip with Bill Aitkenhead**

Everybody knew. The whole country knew what was gonna happen. The second front as it was called; they knew it was going to happen. Everybody knew but didn't know when. I remember the feeling was, yeah, they – you had – Hitler had to be defeated by actually crossing the channel and – and entering France and that was the only way to do – to get rid of Hitler. We knew this so, yeah, everybody knew it was going to happen but didn't know when. And it was my luck to – to find myself on a posted on an American ship, right, and what I got – the Navy – the Royal Navy has always been very traditional, right, and they had hammocks. That's how the sailors slept in ships, in hammocks and we were issued with hammocks. You had to lash them in a special way, a very silly or difficult process. Anyway, there was I – you can imagine me at the bottom of a gun – gun point (??) looking up to this, to me, enormous ship and at the top there's a – an American Petty Officer. Do you know what a Petty Officer is? Like a Sergeant. I got this hammock and I'm walking up, get to the top of the – and he says to me, 'What have you got there, bump?' [in American accent], and I looked in the direction his finger was pointing, it was pointing at my hammock. I said, 'A hammock', 'You've got a hammock? You planning on lying in the sun this trip?' [in American accent]. He didn't know what a hammock was, a hammock was for lying in the sun, you know. It was – they didn't – they weren't bound by tradition.