

Transcript of audio clip with Bill Aitkenhead

Looking back, no. Looking back, I think – you think a boy of eighteen and he gets [sighs] he joins – he's called up for the Army, he gets about three months training, maybe, maybe six months. They can't send him to war until he's eighteen, anyway, right, and then – it didn't really cover what you – what you – what are your expectations? How shall I put it? You were not prepared for what you were – to be under fire, it's, you know, it's a very scary thing and they – I don't think they – I don't think you were prepared. The training did not prepare you, properly, for what you were going to experience. You had – you need to rely on more experience troops who were there, who are with you. And you didn't show any – the trouble was that you didn't show any – any reluctance, you know, cowardice, you'd be labelled as a coward so you didn't. You stuck it out. You didn't like it much but you stuck it out. So I don't think training did prepare you for war – for actual war itself which is a bloody and horrible business.