

Transcript of Derrick Carnall Audio Clip

Interviewer: Can you remember the day war broke out? The first day?

Derrick: Oh, I will never ever forget it. It was a Sunday, we're in lodgings in Streatham and we heard the Chamberlain speech and all of a sudden the sirens went and we all ran out. I was living in Kings Court Road in Streatham. Everybody come out of the houses all looking up in the air, 'Oh, they've started early', cos it was practice and within five minutes you had the all clear which is a long siren and then we realised that it was just practice. But everybody remembers where they were.

Interviewer: Can you remember how you felt that day?

Derrick: Excited, funnily enough. I can remember being with my father and a friend of his and having a drink and I was saying, 'Don't worry, it will all be over by Christmas'. And that's how – we all felt like that, you know, rearing to go. [unclear] when my training was finished I went up the Sergeant Major and said, 'I want to volunteer for France', he said, 'Don't worry about that son, you'll be there soon enough'. We'd finished our training in early Feb. And in early March we were in France.