

Transcript of Dorothea French Audio Clip

Well, I joined the Land Army as you know, I went to several farms in Kent and also in Hertfordshire. I enjoyed it better in Hertfordshire, I went to some good farms. I must tell you a rather interesting story, if you want to know it. When I first went in the Land Army I knew nothing I was as green as grass, I was seventeen and mothers never taught us anything in those days about sex or anything, never, so I was as green as grass. I knew nothing. I was as innocent as they come. When I went to my first Dairy Farm we were – the farm – the – what's his name? The farm – the cowman, he said to me 'Come on', he said, 'We're taking the cow down to the bull today'. I said, 'Yeah, alright, alright', you know. Well, when we got there and I found out what was going on I could not – did know what to do with my face. I was so embarrassed, cos I, you know, looking everywhere but where – what was going on, cos I didn't want to know and the farm – the farmer – the cowman he thought it was hilarious. He said, 'How do you think we get milk and how do you think we get calves and how do you think we go on from one generation to another? This is normal', well, I – I mean, to me it wasn't [laughs]. So that was – that was the beginning, after that I went home one weekend and I said to my mother, 'Why didn't you tell us all this?', she said, 'We don't talk about things like that', she said. Well, they didn't in those days. Mothers didn't – didn't, well, nobody used to talk about sex in those days. It just wasn't talked about, you know. So I learnt the hard way.