

## Transcript of Helen Le Duc Video Clip

Well, actually I wanted to join the Land Army. I just wanted a very fresh aired life. I was brought up in a tenement [laughs] and I wanted – I wanted the countryside and I liked the uniform [laughs]. But they didn't want anybody at that particular time when I wanted to join up so my father who was very interested in wireless, he was always buying a wireless magazine and telling me to go down and get the accumulators charged up and telling me about the different parts of wireless, variable condensers and valves and things like that. So he says, 'Why don't you try to be a wireless operator or something like that?', so really it was my father's idea. I think he was living his dreams through me, you know, and that's – that's it. I joined up as a wireless operator. From there I went to Brinsworth to get my uniform and from there I went to Calne in Wiltshire where I had to – it was a school and that's where I had to learn German procedure and they would – this was after I trained as a wireless operator. This is where they told you to – you had to listen to the different – you were shown the different codes that the Germans would use to call up an aircraft to call up the ground station. They would use their own codes and, well, it could be H-L-D-D-D-E-E-L-W or something like that. So they used – although it was – it was – it wasn't all in German. It was their idea of hiding that they were Germans and that's what we did in the RAF. We had to do codes the same way to an aircraft calling a ground station. So it got to the point when you did train you could be handling more than one aircraft at a time. You'd be searching for a job, you'd have to – it – it was all – everybody were searching for call signs. In this room with fifty people there'd be a man raised on a platform and there was – the operators were civil – really crack civilian operators, sailors, Americans, WAAFs, the lot, you know. You would – you'd search for a group and if you found it you called out the frequency and maybe somebody else had found it as well so whoever got there first got that group by the man monitoring – having it monitored by directions finders squads whatever they do. That meant you had a job for the night. One night I picked up something that – I went down lower on the frequency and I picked up this group which sounded like the beacon. It connected, I could tell the signals were by the same hand somehow or other and I called it out quickly, although it was away off my frequency, I shouldn't have been there and it was monitored. It was put up on the board and then I was taking all the traffic down, a lot of it was in German, a lot of it was code and then the wing commander came down and he listened in on my set and then other people came in and listened on my set and it was causing quite a hubbub at the station. I knew something was going on but you never asked. You just got on with it. So I had about four or five different men even standing there because we did had operators – we did have men from Bletchley Park amongst us who were deciphering stuff and the – it just caused a hubbub, you know.