

**Interviewee: Jacqueline Caminer**

**Interviewer: Linda Taylor**

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**LT:** Right, ok this is Linda Taylor interviewing. If you'd like to introduce yourself?

**JC:** Shall I tell you my name first?

**LT:** Yes, your name, your date of birth.

**JC:** My first name I'm Joyce Jacqueline, it was Lewis but I married and became Caminer, C-A-M-I-N-E-R. That was in March 1922 my birth date so I'm now very old. I'm 88. I seem to have all my faculties and walk more slowly. I have a family now which has now gone into the third generation, I think, because we have a baby sleeping in the house.

**LT:** Right

**JC:** Yes. My husband was also my cousin and his father had been killed in the First World War. So the war was with me from the time I was growing up and really heard. My mother had lost an older brother. So my father had fought in the 14-18 war as a chap that went up in what they called aeroplanes in those days and he was very lucky to survive because most of the men he knew didn't. It was very tricky to fly in the First World War because there hadn't been enough experience. A lot was learned which presumably carried on and was helpful for the Second World War which was very different of course. I lived with my parents in a suburb of London, north of the Thames, called Edgware, you may have heard of it?

**LT:** Yes.

**JC:** My father was very involved in the synagogue there because we come from a Jewish background. He was also because he had been in the war, that 14-18 war, he was became not an Air Raid Warden but someone who was working with the local Air Raid Warden people. So he was out every night more or less. In our suburban road where the aircraft passed over, we were north of Hendon airdrome so we had plenty of air activity the entire time, really the entire time. The bombers, particularly later, on because they came in from the north and flew directly over my house on their way to London and dropped a few bombs en route.

That's a bit further ahead from the beginning. But the beginning was interesting because war was part of my family's history because my brother, my mother's brother, one of her many brothers, she came from a huge family, had been killed. And then so war, we knew about it, it wasn't something that you didn't know about. We knew that we had an aunty who didn't have a husband. We knew that the grandparents had lost a son, on my mother's side. We're of Jewish background but not very orthodox. But my father did found a synagogue in Edgware because when he went to take part of, before the war in Elstree, my grandparents who lived in the East End of London had never heard of Elstree or

where it was. But there were film studios there and film studios meant money, and there was a silk stocking factory there that my father was part of because that had come from the American cousins that looked after their poor relatives in England who hadn't got any money. Or they had some but they couldn't spend it. So I grew up in a family that was devoted to family things where they had, both sides, my mother's side and my father's side had experience of the First World War because my mother lost a brother and my father was in the Air Force. He was a rear gunner, he hated it. I have photographs of him but I didn't get anything out for you because I don't know where they are. I think it's only two. I grew up with war as a background, one uncle lost, a father who had been a pilot, an observer. No, he wasn't a pilot, he sat behind. He sat a long way behind the pilot in the tail of the machine. How they flew those machines I don't know and survived. A lot didn't, lots and lots didn't. I've been to north of France to see what was left of that First World War. So I don't know what more you want me to tell you about specifically. What I did during the war? Or what it meant to me?

**LT:** It's anything you want to speak about, I mean, were you still at school?

**JC:** Well, the war was part of my background so I was very interested in politics. I was very interested in left wing politics. I was really very left wing and I joined the local branch of the left wing movement. **(Five minutes)** We wanted at that time, not pacifism, we wanted a second front of the war which had broken out and so we took part in people going along saying, 'Second front now!', you know, as you do when you're young.

**LT:** How did political activity take part during the war then? What kind of things did you actually do?

**JC:** I did, well, what I did during the war was – what I had to do, I was called up. I was working in Elstree, which was near the film studios where my father worked and that was very useful for the war because they were making silk stockings and so they made stockings for the Air women. There were quite a lot of airmen in Elstree, where the factory was, and I was familiar with them and what they were doing. Because my father had been in the Air Force in the first war I knew about aircrafts. They were flying over the whole time. They flew over our house which was in a road called The Drive, behind a lot of tennis courts in Elstree, and we were in Edgware which is the end of the northern line and it was the beginning of the flights into London. So every night during the really heavy bombardments the planes were coming over our heads, literally over our head, direct route and we did have one aircraft that dropped a bomb down the road and killed a family down there by mistake. It was an unfortunate occurrence. The son of that family came up because he hadn't been there when the bomb dropped, and he came to our house and he said it was only a little bomb that dropped, but it killed people, it was unfortunate. My father was not an Air Raid Warden but having served in the First World War he was familiar with what you did. He was useful.

**LT:** What happened during an air raid, can you, do you remember an air raid?

**JC:** What happened during an air raid was, first of all, we would hear the sirens. I should say that my mother's sister and her husband came to live with us in our house in Edgware which was a suburb. My aunt's husband was called up to the army, so she stayed with us during the war.

**LT:** When the bombs start – what happened initially with the air raid?

**JC:** When the bombs started dropping we knew in advance when they were dropping because they came from Germany. They flew over the tennis courts, which were behind our house, I don't have the map of it, but there were eight courts. You've probably seen this map?

**LT:** No.

**JC:** No, well it's an ordinary road map. The Watford bypass went along the top, the Edgware Road, which the Romans built, was along the other end of Edgware where I grew up. The aircrafts were coming every night, solidly during the times when the real Air Force was taking part. They would fly to Germany and they would come back, more went out than came back. They used to fly over our house en route. So I was very familiar with that.

**LT:** What did it feel like being in an air raid?

**JC:** Frightening. In my mother's house we went in to garage all of us because my aunt and her husband, who'd been called up, came to live with us and we lived in the garage of the house. We slept there overnight during the air raids. I'm trying to think how old I was, I was born in 1922 so you can work it out. I was old enough to be called up, which I enjoyed very much. I did a lot of work during the war. I went, first of all, to a rather splendid area which looked out in the heart of London's best part and I'm trying to think of my, trying to think of the name of the place, Green Park was across the road. In Green Park there was a headquarters of some part of the Army. You probably know about it. Do you know about it?

**LT:** I don't no, not specifically.

**JC:** But that was a part and so because of where I was working –

**LT:** What kind of work did you do?

**JC:** I was a telephonist. I'd been called up and I spoke nicely and I was intelligent and I had a very strict interview. I remember my interview particularly for one reason which stuck out, which was that the interviewer asked me, 'What newspaper does your father read?' and I said 'The Times', of course, which was only half true. But it was alright, that was good enough. **(Ten minutes)**

I was working in an office which overlooked Green Park, within the centre of London. I was working as a telephonist because I spoke nicely and I was sensible, and I hadn't been in trouble. They did a thorough research into my history just for this menial job, you know, so it was quite well. Looking back I think it was very well organised but it was, perhaps could have been better done. Subsequently I was directed via, because being called up properly, to work which I did in, and I've been trying to locate which part of London it was. It was out of London slightly and it was monitoring the aircrafts that went in, coming in.

**LT:** Was that towards the east of London – towards the east?

**JC:** No, they were going in to the centre of London. I lived in Edgware.

**LT:** Yes.

**JC:** Which is north of Hendon and they were going into – over bomb Hendon airdrome. So they came over our house. And we knew when they were, we knew that we, they did actually drop a bomb in Edgware, not on the tube station fortunately.

**LT:** So when you were called up, was it in that area was it or in central London?

**JC:** When I was called up, no, I went away. I went to, I can't remember first, I went to London first, where I'd been working. Then I went out to Cheltenham which couldn't have been more splendid. Why I don't know, I do know because there were quite a lot of soldiers out there. There was a lot about the Army out in that part of London. I worked there on the telephones. I've left out a lot of what happened in London before I went – actually called up to go away.

**LT:** Ok.

**JC:** Because my father was working with a factory which made silk stockings, but they didn't make silk stockings anymore. They made stockings for the WAFs and the WACs.

**LT:** Right.

**JC:** That was very useful for them. I remember an anecdote, which is true, that I was in Elstree because that's where the family lived and that's where the factory was. I was at a little dance for the soldiers, and I was being talked to a lot by this soldier and I was about seventeen. I thought well this is – this is magnificent, you know. He was talking to me and we sat down, don't dance this dance it was the local dance, you know, for the soldiers. He said, 'Your father works for the stocking factory doesn't he?' I said 'Yes, he's in charge of the – he's the man in charge of it actually'. He said 'Oh, I suppose you can get silk stockings?' I said 'Well, no. Not silk stockings', so we talked on and I thought this was interesting and he said, 'I'd like to get some stockings for my wife', end of story. You know, collapse of start party so to speak. I thought I'd – I thought I'd made, you know, I was so jejune, you know how one is. It was really a slap in the face. Though I was – I had enough courage to say, 'Well, my father does work at the mill and I could put in a word for you but, you know, they're making them for the women in the forces and if your wife isn't in the forces I can't really get some silk stockings for you.' It was a painful thing.

**LT:** And they really wore silk stockings, it must have been early in the war presumably?

**JC:** They wore silk stockings. It was right at the beginning of the war because they were getting a lot of support from the family in America which made silk stockings. It was a private factory but it became, what's the word for it, when you take over something for the war?

**LT:** Commandeered?

**JC:** Commandeered, yes, I suppose. So all the factory workers that were making the stockings made stockings for the forces, the armed forces. My father was in charge of that for some time. He was also in charge of the local Home Guard, when he put his hat on and went out at night.

**LT:** What kind of activities did they get up to then?

**JC:** When the aircrafts were going over they would phone in and say to Hendon, 'They're on their way', and they would be aware at Hendon, and they could get the Anti Aircraft things ready, because that was important. They flew right over our house which was very pleasant, now when I say pleasant, it was interesting. You could – in times of tension you can find a lot of interest in what's going on around you and I loved the aircrafts going over now. It doesn't worry me at all, because I grew up with Hendon air ground and aircrafts. I don't know there might be some part of my **(Fifteen minutes)** vast remembrance that you'd be more interested in hearing.

**LT:** Well, I mean what I would like to talk specifically about your experiences of air raids. How you felt.

**JC:** Well, how I felt, well, first of all, the air raids were not directed at where I lived which was a suburb en route for the centre of London. So all the aircrafts that came from Germany, well, we had planes to – they were coming in to bomb flew over us first and they did drop bombs by mistake sometimes.

**LT:** What did that feel like when that happened?

**JC:** It was frightening. Our house looked on to the tennis court in Edgware which is eight or six or eight courses, so it was open country virtually. I had an uncle who lived in a road we could get to, we lived in a road called The Drive, a very imaginative road, and the aircrafts flew over that on their way. They had to fly over our house, literally to get to the place in Hendon where the aircraft was, a big aircraft.

**LT:** What happened when the bombs, you said that there was quite a close –

**JC:** In our road there was a bomb, it was very small bomb. It destroyed the house of the man who lived five doors away and I think he lost a parent. But he came up to our house, he was a lad, a bit younger than me, and he was very distressed and my mother did all the right things. It was very interesting when a bomb dropped it didn't necessarily destroy everything around it, it was very precise it must have been a small bomb but if it fall in the middle of your house it destroys it. It doesn't do a lot of damage around, it makes an awful noise. There was a man in our road lower down who was in charge of the Home Guard, you know about the Home Guard of course. My father was in the Home Guard but at a different level, but I was in it as a person who was old enough to take notes and do things like that. I had to be evaluated, I think, or I don't know, inspected to see if I was alright and wasn't going to send evil things out to people. I got through that.

**LT:** What sort of notes did you take what kind of things?

**JC:** What would I write?

**LT:** Yes.

**JC:** Well, what I did which was more interesting than what I wrote was that I went every night to take part in an amateur theatrical group in Camden Town which meant getting on the tube at Edgware and going to Camden Town. Because I was a dancer basically, I mean, you couldn't dance but you could do sketches. In the sketches we had two young men who were also members of the Communist Party as I was at the time, but the Communist Party wasn't really very active except in the war it was very active to get rid of Hitler etc.. I can remember their names and they performed in London regularly and I went with them in Camden Town. So when it was evening I would go down the road from my house near the tennis courts in Edgware to the tube station which is the terminus and go to Camden Town where I would take part in the evening activities which was entertaining the troops that were there because I sang and I danced and that was what I was doing. I was invited to go to the house of the man in our road who looked after the – he must have been on a war time job investigating what the people in his road were doing. He came out and I had to go to his house, 'We notice, Miss Lewis, that you go out every night on the tube, why do you do that?'. So he was in charge, he had documents to prove it, so I said I go into London and I was working, I worked, I had to get out at Piccadilly for my train. But I worked in London at night as well because I was going to Camden Town where this was this amateur group of entertainers with people whom you may have heard of. One was Bill Owen whose full name was Bill Rowbottom which is how I know him very, very well and one was his friend whose name escape me at this moment which is a pity, also a very well known person. **(Twenty Minutes)** I get muddled up with them all because there was also someone whose name I can't remember but whose face I can remember. Bill Owen and somebody else I shall write him and let you know when it come back to mind, because it was very interesting and I was madly keen on theatre. I was a dancer, I was acrobatic, I could put my leg behind my neck. I was working in Unity Theatre where we were putting on free shows for people every night. I was called to the man in our road who was in charge of, what was that young woman doing going into the tube every night, as if they couldn't find out, they wanted me to verify it I think, so I said 'I'm going in to perform for the soldiers that come in every night and local people and we entertain'. And we did entertain them; Bill Owen was good on the stage, he was Bill Rowbottom in those days, Alfie Bass was the other one

**LT:** Yes, I know.

**JC:** They made a very good pair and I was the stooge I used to sit there and they used to say, Alfie, Alfie Bass used to say 'Have you ever been to Minsk? No, have you ever been to some other place? Have you ever been to Vladivostok?' I'd say 'No, no, no', then he would say 'that's enough of your – that's enough of this – something preliminaries take off your clothes'. There's something, what's the word for suburban? Something like that's enough of these suburban preliminaries, take off your clothes. It brought the house down; you'd be amazed, you know, it was such a cheap joke. Bill was a very, very good player and I was a good stooge and I did a lot of work with – and I think I'm probably the only survivor now of that group because I'm very old, and I know Bill is dead. There were other people also better known there was Jim, what was his name, a pianist a very noted pianist, who died

a few years ago. He lived at the back of the garden I was living in the house there and I should have looked up the names, I'm sorry I can't provide them for you.

**LT:** That's alright.

**JC:** They're perhaps not important. But I had a very full war up to that time.

**LT:** It sounds like it.

**JC:** I did get married during the war. My husband lost a leg during the war so he was invalided out.

**LT:** On service.

**JC:** So he was in –

**LT:** Which service?

**JC:** North Africa.

**LT:** In the Army?

**JC:** He was in the Green Howards. I corresponded with him before he became my husband. We've got a lovely family.

**LT:** How did you meet?

**JC:** We're cousins

**LT:** Oh, yes.

**JC:** It is permitted in the Jewish faith and we're not strictly religious but it isn't a taboo. It was a very, very good marriage and he had – he went to the palace to get his OBE from the Queen, so he did well, he worked well.

**LT:** How did he lose his leg?

**JC:** It was shot off in, well, it wasn't shot off, in North Africa and he was invalided out. We weren't married then and he came back to England with an artificial leg and I went out with him and I continued to go out with him for many, many years, I think sixty five or so. We were married a long time. So, what else ask me some questions?

**LT:** Well just saying, did he ever speak about his war experience?

**JC:** Well, he could probably have taken your head off with his war experiences. He was a lively soldier I would say. He was always a very, very good operator with people and he had a fantastic job when he came home. He was lucky because he had a very good brain because he lost a leg, and he needed a good brain to get a good job. And he did do very, very well. He got an OBE I went to the palace with him, but that was not for war work, but that must have contributed to it, I think.

**LT:** Did you have any experience of the doodlebugs?

**JC:** Oh yes. Every night in my parents' house, my mum's sister and her husband who was called up, came to live with us that was in Edgware. We were – I was living there because I wasn't married then with my aunt and my uncle when he was off duty and the bombers came over every night. **(Twenty five minutes)** They would come over our house before they got to – they had Hendon Airdrome which was what they were on their way to.

**LT:** What was it like when the doodlebugs were actually coming over?

**JC:** Oddly enough, it was frightening but coldly frightening, not personally. They weren't going to drop on us, they were going in which was worse in a way because you knew that people were going to be killed, every night, when that – that was nasty. The man down the road was one of the Air Raid Wardens. My father was an Air Raid Warden which meant going out with a whistle and blowing and saying, 'take cover, take cover', everybody took cover, we went into the garage. There was a bomb dropped very close to our house, it's not pleasant. But I was working in – I was going into London to work with, did I tell you already, Unity Theatre it was called.

**LT:** Yes you did. Did you ever experience any of the raids when you were actually in the centre of London?

**JC:** Yes, you just took shelter. I had to go by tube to this place so everybody was sleeping into the tubes.

**LT:** Did you shelter in the tube?

**JC:** hmm?

**LT:** Did you shelter in the tubes?

**JC:** No, we were too far away. We had a garage at home.

**LT:** No, I mean when you were in central London?

**JC:** Oh yes. We had to shelter.

**LT:** What was it like being down in the tube stations?

**JC:** Oh, smelly.

**LT:** Yes.

**JC:** And frightening cos a lot of – and I had to go home by tube because I lived in Edgware. That was where my home was, and I had to walk from Edgware station home and I was investigated by the man in our road, who was invited, a senior status of some sort. My father was an Air Raid Warden, so he had to go out. Well, you know what Air Raid Wardens did every night.

**LT:** Was there ever a raid when you were actually on the train, I mean what happened then?

**JC:** Oh yes, well you don't know when you're on the train underground, you know when you come out into the open. Edgware was the last train on the line and the last five – four or five stations are in the open air.

**LT:** So did you ever come out and well not –

**JC:** While the bombs were going on? Yes, you had to get home.

**LT:** But the train didn't stop? It just –

**JC:** Well, no, the train couldn't stop. They had to – London was kept going to a remarkable extent actually. There were a lot of people who worked very, very hard. Not with any, anything other, I don't say we did it for ourselves but it was necessary. I made some good friends, I lost some friends. I'm still in touch with a woman who was, unfortunately she's not very well, we worked at Elstree. My father had a stocking factory there. I told you that earlier.

**LT:** Yes, yes you did.

**JC:** That was useful. It also made it useful for me to go to the Army dances, as I told you that story about the soldier, yes. So that was the upside, the downside was the agony of waiting for the bombers to come in, where are they going to drop today? Will they drop here? Oh, they've gone and then you'd wait and then they'd come back empty. And that was emotionally very trying, because you knew they'd dropped their bombs on London, central London. They dropped a lot on Hendon actually, and they dropped a couple in Edgware where I lived. I don't know how – I don't know what else you want to know?

**LT:** Well, what was daily life like in terms of you know what you had to eat and that kind of thing?

**JC:** Well, my mother was a good cook. My – her sister and her sister's husband, he was called up for the army, they stayed and lived in our house. So we lived in the garage virtually, that was under one of the bedrooms and that meant it had a roof above it. In the garage was where you kept the car. So it wasn't very pleasant, actually, sleeping in there. Of course the car had to sleep outside but at least it had the double protection of the roof. For some reason the garage had a thicker ceiling than the roof above my bedroom, which was above the garage. It was very interesting. It was interesting if you survived. But I –

**LT:** Mm, what kind of food did you eat? Your mother was a good cook?

**JC:** My mother was a good cook. She was – we were Jewish, we weren't particularly, she was more bothered about not being able to have kosher meat. It didn't not bother us but she wouldn't buy pork. But she would buy chicken which might not be as she would have preferred to have had it, but she was broadminded and it didn't really matter. The important thing was getting back. She'd lost a brother in the first war, and she didn't want to lose anymore. As I say my husband lost a leg, and we

got married, it was a lovely wedding, in the war. **(Thirty Minutes)** We had it in a synagogue in Edgware but it wasn't in the synagogue building. I'm trying to think why. No, it wasn't in Edgware it was in Wembley, Wembley Town Hall. We went to Wembley Town Hall because we wanted to have a party and they had a room which had a roof over it so you could have a party. So we had, a lot of relatives came, it was a nice wedding.

**LT:** How did you manage to get enough to cater for the party in wartime?

**JC:** It was very meagre what was offered sort of one course and a drink. It wasn't an enormously – but it was a proper wedding and I had a wedding veil. It was a bit late for me to be wearing a veil, I must say, but my mother went along with tradition and I didn't like to disappoint the people waiting. It was a nice wedding. My parents – my father was in the Home Guard, he was a very good Home Guardsman. My mother did good things for the soldiers and their widows.

**LT:** In what way, what kind of –

**JC:** Well, she would knit for, well, she was always – we were always knitting. She would go and see people who needed, because somebody had been killed. A lot of people, a lot of families lived in Edgware, Jewish families, and they were – we all had people called up who didn't come back. Not all but a great many or they came back wounded. My husband came back with a leg missing. He wasn't my husband then, but we did get married during the war when he hadn't got two legs. You don't – somebody said to me once 'How can you marry a man, you know, a wounded soldier' I said 'Well, I'm not marrying him for his legs', you know, you get by. We had three children and he lived to have a very, very good life. He got to see the Queen, an OBE, he did very well. He was a very significant person in British industry but that's, you know, that's a quite different story. Is there anything else you want to know?

**LT:** Well, is there anything else –

**JC:** I'm trying to think what might be interesting for you.

**LT:** Did you go to the cinema? You say you went to dances didn't you?

**JC:** Oh, I went to dances but I gave up going to dances because my, subsequently, my husband couldn't dance so we didn't go to dances as he'd lost a leg. Now, I had interesting experiences I went before my husband lost, well, he had lost his leg already, he was on leave and he was still in the Army because he could do clerical work. And I was called up I went – I was called up and I was working for some part of the Army out in Gloucester and I was put in digs with a woman who took in people who were planted on her, there were two soldiers and myself. After about a fortnight somebody came along and said you're not supposed to live two sexes in the same house. So I was dishd out and put in a Quaker home, where we had to be in a six o'clock at night, it wasn't – it was more fun being with the soldiers. It was interesting and it didn't last forever of course.

**LT:** What work – what kind of work was it?

**JC:** I was doing clerical work. I was very good on the telephone and I was very reliable and then subsequently I did a lot of design work because I was dextrose and there were drawings to be made. Not inventive drawings but copied and things like that.

**LT:** What kind of drawings then?

**JC:** Of equipment.

**LT:** Really?

**JC:** Yes, bits and pieces.

**LT:** Military equipment?

**JC:** And then I worked – also I was sent out – I was used as a telephonist for the Army in Green Park. There's an Army place there, I don't know whether you know it.

**LT:** No. When you were doing the drawings though what kind of – there's obviously no photocopiers but can you remember any examples?

**JC:** Well, I just copied what I was told to copy, really.

**LT:** Right, you didn't really know what it was then?

**JC:** No, it didn't have its name or if it did it wasn't interesting to me. I was getting the stuff out. I worked for a – I was stationed for a time in a place over Green Park.

**LT:** Yes.

**JC:** Very superior place. Do you know of it have you been there?

**LT:** I don't know of what you're talking about but yes.

**JC:** It's off Piccadilly. **(Thirty-five Minutes)** It was very superior and I was put there because I spoke distinctly and they wanted a telephonist.

**LT:** You didn't know what the organisation was dealing with?

**JC:** It was a wartime organisation.

**LT:** A military organisation?

**JC:** A military or even or people who make plans. And I remember being interviewed by a man who sat behind a very large desk and I was very naive but I was quite sensible and he said 'What newspaper do your parents read?', did I tell you that earlier?

**LT:** Yes.

**JC:** But it still comes back to me. What did he want to know? Was I pure?

**LT:** Yes, yes.

**JC:** It's very vivid, I can see him sitting there scribbling the entire time. Anyhow, I managed to pass that alright and it was a long time before the penny dropped, I think many years, of course, he thought I might have been a spy. Obviously wasn't good enough to be a spy, but I did have a good voice on the telephone and I did work from this place in Green Park. It was an Army, presumably been conditioned, what the word for it when they come and take over a premises, an Army Force or something?

**LT:** Yes, I know what you mean.

**JC:** Anyhow it was a set, a suite of offices, taken over by the Army, looking out over Green Park. Very special because I spoke nice, you know. Well, I didn't have an affected accent but it was very distinct and I was good on the telephone and I was reliable and I could answer questions like, one of them, you know, the officer talking to me, inspecting me really, 'What newspaper does your father read?'. Well, if it had been the communist red paper I wouldn't have told him.

**LT:** You wouldn't have told him, no.

**JC:** But it was alright. I've got these little images.

**LT:** It seems very naive really, doesn't it?

**JC:** Yes. And it was very interesting actually. I haven't met many people, I'm in touch with a person my own age, a woman, we were together for part of the war. And she's not in a very good state of health, or mentally not very sound. I've been very lucky, tremendously lucky, because I'm told that I'm quite sound. I'm alright.

**LT:** Mm, you seem ok.

**JC:** I've got a very good deep memory. I could sort of go on talking for a long time but you probably want to get away.

**LT:** No, no.

**JC:** No, I mean, is there anything you want to ask me?

**LT:** Well saying, you said you had quite a good social life in the war as well, I mean, you said it was more exciting for you than not cos you were young.

**JC:** Because it was in the war social life, well I was, Camden town isn't far from the centre of London you can go out at night, you can go home, going home –

**LT:** Did you go to the West End?

**JC:** Yes. But you'd get tired after. Going home was very interesting, because we lived in, my family, my mother's – where I lived with my mother and father, is Edgware which is the end of the northern

line. The line from the centre of London to Edgware stops being covered by about Colindale or somewhere two or three stops before Edgware. And the people who lived in London used to go into the tube to shelter. And I was working for Unity Theatre so I was going into Camden Town every night. That's a side story which I've already told you about the man down the road who wanted to know what I was doing going out every night, 'I'm going to help the soldiers, yes.' This was always crowded because people were sleeping underground. You couldn't sleep underground at Edgware because it was in the open air,

**LT:** Yeah.

**JC:** The tube and you had to get in as far as beyond Colindale, I think, and probably beyond Golders Green to get really under cover and the stench was awful. People couldn't help it, there were a lot of people in unaired, well, they must have been aired by the passage of the trains through. I don't think the northern line was ever actually bombed. It could have been because it was open from Hendon onwards.

**LT:** Did people have, you know you hear sing songs, this kind of thing, some way of keeping their spirits up?

**JC:** It's very phoney, you know, it doesn't work. It doesn't work, if it's a catastrophe you don't sing, you might chant, but you don't – you just get on with it. I think it was very practical the people that were actually just doing it every day. The man down our road who was in charge of vetting the people in his area, (**forty minutes**) he was a nice little man. He asked weird questions about what I was doing and I said 'Why are you asking me all these questions' and he was vetting me from time to time and presumably sending a message back. I managed to get to the end of the war without being put into prison or anything. I had a wartime wedding, in Wembley Town Hall which was very nice. We went on honeymoon to Wales, my husband had lost a leg in the war so he was already away, invalided out. We went to Wales for our honeymoon and on the first day his artificial limb, he'd lost a leg in the war, his artificial leg broke and it was a Sunday the next day. You try mending an artificial leg in west Wales on a Sunday in wartime and you'll know what it was like. First of all where's the nearest limb fitter, well, it's not in west Wales, it's in Cardiff. Can't go to Cardiff and my husband can't walk without his leg, well not very easily, on crutches, so he couldn't use his artificial leg for a long time. It was interesting you learn to cope with things that would never occur to you. West Wales was lovely the people were so kind. It was a Sunday when his leg broke.

**LT:** Did you experience any bombing in Wales?

**JC:** I think they must have done. We were also in the south at one time because we had to go over to the Isle of Wight, no, not the Isle of Wight.

**LT:** No, not the Isle of Wight, Anglesey?

**JC:** No, it wasn't there. Somewhere we had to cross but we survived and we got back. I don't – I couldn't lay hands on any matter which I've got in the house which would interest you because I've

got family living here now. I'm not sure where everything is. It still exists and if you want it and I found anything, would you want anything more?

**LT:** Yes, I think they are interested in artefacts, yes.

**JC:** Yes, they are facts that I've got. I don't know – social life was very much a thing of doing it now because you won't be able to do it tomorrow maybe. And I worked for a time doing this, I could draw very well and make diagrams and a whole series of things they're probably in this house somewhere and if I lay hands on them I'll let you know, because they are relics.

**LT:** Yes, they are.

**JC:** I should have been able to get to them if I didn't have family with me at the moment and they're occupying rooms where the things might be and I'd have to turn the whole room upside down.

**LT:** Did you have a car in the war?

**JC:** A car?

**LT:** Yes, because you got to Wales or did you travel by train?

**JC:** I went by train. I was driving but I wasn't driving my own car. Train was safer and we did a lot of walking when my husband was, well, he wasn't my husband, but the man I was going to marry was invalided out I met him in London and we went to Wales because he loved the country. We went by train and we were walking along a road and a man came along in a car and he said 'you must have a lift' and he, my husband, well, I don't know if he was my husband then or just my boyfriend said no he wanted to walk. He needed to walk with his stick rather than have a lift.

**LT:** Yes.

**JC:** It's just vanity, isn't it, male vanity. It worked.

**LT:** Well, also to keep yourself going.

**JC:** Yes, it kept him going and he became – had a very good brain and got an OBE for his work for computers. He buried himself in that sort of work. He was a very, very hard driver of people. He was a very bad driver of a car; he really was a terrible driver. When we lived in Luxembourg, where we lived afterwards, I was driving him around and people would say 'You'll drive wont you Jacquie' I said 'Well David likes to drive from time to time' never had an accident.

**LT:** I think probably we'll finish off now shall we unless there's anything else you want to –

**JC:** No, it's up to you really, if you think you –

**LT:** Well, I don't know if you have anything else that –

**JC:** If anything else crops up I'll say, 'My god I didn't tell her about the time the roof fell in' but the roof didn't fall in.

**LT:** No.

**JC:** My parents survived the war. I survived it, my husband survived to a very good age. **(Forty-five minutes)** He died only what two or three years ago. We kept in touch with other people I think that's important. We've children and grandchildren and we've now got a great-grandchild. So the family goes on. I'm not religious but I believe that the family should know that there is a religion in the family so if they want to partake of it they can ask. While my husband was alive I kept a few activities going but – and one of my daughters is quite religious. I have three children, a few grandchildren and a new baby living in the house. He's minute. He might be visible before you go. Have you had all you want?

**LT:** I think I mean that's fine, I think, shall we shut it off? If you think of anything else –

**JC:** I can't think of anything significant, its difficult really isn't it.

**End of Interview**