

### **Transcript of Audio Clip with Ron Challis**

I think it was summer of '39, my brother and I joined the local scouts, over the road. They had a summer camp down in Devonshire and the camp was overlooking Torbay and when we woke up one morning, within the bay, it's a huge bay Torbay if you know it, it was full of all the capital ships of all the friendly nations. There were hundreds of them. I think it was the biggest gathering of ships like that ever. It was marvellous to see but again you wouldn't have connected it with battles and things. But this is what it was. I think it was trying to impress Germany. But it didn't make any difference. So that was my only experience of being away from home. As a child we had very few holidays, we couldn't afford them in those days. My grandmother, my father's mother, lived down in Suffolk, in Eye, and if we went away it would have been to her for a week or a fortnight. But apart from that evacuation would have shocked me 'cos I'd never been away from home. I remember on that day, my mother took me down to the station to say goodbye. She was working in a nursery I think. And that was it.