

## Transcript of Audio Clip with Walter Bellsham

Walter: We had the Anderson shelter and cos you could only fit one, two, three, four – four and another one across the end, five, at a pinch. Four adults and a child or two children and three adults, whatever it was. So cos we couldn't get the two families – cos Uncle Charlie used to live in the flat for a time, which we had cos it was a big property up there, it's still there, it's rebuilt and war damage. So cos he used to go to Chislehurst Caves over night and walk with his bed, he made up a lightweight bed, some people had camp beds. The old-fashion canvas camp beds and you'd see a procession of people going to the caves because, I mean, you used to get thieving the same as you do now, it wasn't like it is now, of course, but so you – for safety you didn't leave your bed in the caves, you took it back home if you lived sort of local and that's what people used to do. So Uncle Charlie was with Emma, his wife, he had no children. He was a bundle of nerves, really. He was shook up of the bombing. And as soon as the – the evening came when they finished work, then they'd be off to the caves. I used to go in there sometime and stay the night. That was an experience for a boy.

Interviewer: Did you feel more safe in the caves than you did in the – the shelter?

Walter: Yes, yes. It, I mean, in the caves, when you were in there that's it you were cut off, everything was quiet and there was a cinema in there, you know, entertainment, you know. I mean, you know, we did our best, you know. Some artists used to come and visit and, as I say, there was a cinema so they used to run films, you know, and a cafe, or whatever you like to call it, you know. So it was a self-sufficient – a lot of people used to be down there too.