

Transcript of Audio Clip with William Gladden

I used to love dancing, really love dancing. I learnt early part of the war. I used to go with a girl from Abbey Woods and she said to me one day, she said, 'You're gonna learn dancing'. She said, 'I'll meet you in Powell Street Sunday evening', at the end of Calderwood Street. Well, I turned up and to be honest I was hoping she wouldn't. I thought I was gonna be a right fool dancing. But anyway, I met her and we went and I never regretted it because during the war there was always dances going on. I had some wonderful times dancing. For instance when I was down near Livermere, Livermere Camp near Bury St Edmunds, we found out there was a – the Land Army Girls had a dance going on in the village hall at Culford, a little village. Well, a pal of mine and myself we went out and found this village and I never forget as long as I live as we went up this lane, as we turned the lane there was a mass of green. It was all the Land Army Girls, cos they had green woollies. It was all their woollies. They said, 'Men!', there's us two! Two chaps walking up there [laughs]. We used to go every Saturday after that, we used to have a grand time till the Americans found it and they spoilt it. They come in bringing their nylons and chewing gum and everything. But we used to have a good time. They were the Timber Corps Girls. We used to – at the Saturday night dances then the rest of the week when we were out with our tanks on Thetford Common, they used to be out there felling trees, we used to – brought one tank up and knocked the tree over for them. We used to help them out that way. But we used to have a wonderful time there.