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Name: Norman Alexander Owens

Regiment:

Date transcript:

Transcribe by: Barbara Lloyd

Time code	What said
01:00:00	Start of Film 1
01:00:01	Norman Alexander Owens. That's my name. I was on HMS Savage, and my rating was Able Seaman, as I finished. I was Ordinary Seaman and Able Seaman. And I was Chatham Barracks rating.
01:00:19	<i>Where do you hail from? Why did you want to join the Navy?</i>
01:00:25	I came from Birkenhead originally. And I joined the Navy...I don't know, it just seemed the way things were, at the time, that people joined the different forces they fancied. And I fancied the Navy, and so that was it
01:00:45	<i>Where was that?</i>
01:00:46	<p>Well, I went to Liverpool – Renshaw St .</p> <p>I first went, before I was 18, and they wouldn't accept me. So they said 'Come back again' and I went back, and I joined then and everything was alright, then. And, I went down to HMS Ganges. And we done all our training, there.</p> <p>It was very strict, down there- we used to have to go swimming - early morning. Before breakfast we had to go and climb over the mast. There was a great, big mast there. We climbed over it. Every morning before breakfast. In our shorts. (laughs)</p> <p>And then we went to breakfast, then, and got whatever we could and then it was training all day, then.</p>
01:01:45	<i>Where is Ganges?</i>
01:01:48	In Ipswich
01:01:50	<i>Had you ever been out of Birkenhead. at that time?</i>
01:01:53	No
01:01:54	<i>How was all that transition, from being a boy to being a sailor?</i>

Time code	What said
01:01:59	<p>I don't know, really, I think that we just accepted it.</p> <p>Going out of Birkenhead was a big thing, to me, because nobody ever went...travelled far ...in those days. So to travel to Ipswich! And it took all day. I think it was about 9 o'clock in the morning, to...I think it was 11 o'clock at night, when we got there.</p> <p>Because the train was putting into different stations, and we tried to keep out of the way. There was air-raids going on, sometimes, during the travelling.</p> <p>Yeah, we just accepted things, I think, in those days. And got on with whatever you had to do.</p>
	Start of Film 2
01:02:50	<i>When did you get to Port Division?</i>
01:02:54	<p>Well, you leave the Ganges and then you go to... They transfer you to various depots. Seaman's depots, what we were in.</p> <p>We went to Chatham Barracks then, as a Seaman.</p>
01:03:15	<i>What was Chatham like?</i>
01:03:17	<p>Oh. They were very strict, there. Oh, that was a terrible place.</p> <p>You couldn't walk across the parade ground. At any time. You had to walk around it - to get to the other side - you had to walk around. If you walked across, somebody'd shout to you... and then you'd be on jankers, then.</p> <p>I can remember one time. A Petty Officer was marching all the crew, around the outside. And he didn't salute this Gunnery Officer, that was passing. He should have said-'Eyes left!' or 'right', or whatever it was, and saluted him.</p> <p>And he didn't. And this Gunnery Officer stopped him, and he said "You'll report, with your crew" he said " after 4 o'clock, in the gymnasium. And (he said) you'll be rigged out with...they'll all have 28 lbs of sand on their backs. And they'll be marching for 2 hours"</p> <p>And that's what he done with us. He had us running and marching for 2 hrs, with 28 lbs of sand on our backs. That was the punishment for that. Just for not saluting.</p>
01:04:41	<i>What was the barracks like, as a place? Was it neat and tidy, was it busy?</i>
01:04:45	<p>Oh. It was a tidy place, yeah. And, if there was any air-raids you had to go and sleep under tunnels. Which we did, at times. There was big tunnels dug in the side, and we just used to go in there and sleep - wherever you could.</p> <p>I can't remember an awful lot about Chatham Barracks, in a way.</p>

Time code	What said
01:05:10	<i>How did you feel about being a Chatham Port Division Rating?</i>
01:05:15	I suppose I was proud, in one way, to be included in it. I suppose now we are. But at the time it was difficult - with all the disciplines. We weren't used to that kind of discipline. We were only used to household discipline, type of thing.
01:05:36	<i>How long were you at Chatham, before being given your ticket?</i>
01:05:41	Well, I should have gone to this ship that we were going on, and I was stopped because.... Before I went in the Navy, I'd had (erm)...pneumonia. So, when I went in, they'd found this mark on my lungs and that held me back for a while. So I was kept in I was at Chatham Barracks, for a while until eventually I got this ship then. And then, I was sent up to Newcastle...On my own. I had to find my way with a great, big kit bag and a hammock. I had to carry these, on and off trains, to get to Newcastle. And then, I had to find my way to Heburn Dock Yard, which was further down again - on the Tyne. And I found my way down there. And, it was an Engineer Officer in charge, at the time, there. Because I was one of the 1 st ones to go, and report. And he said "Leave your stuff here" he said "and go find yourself a digs and then come back and take your stuff there" I had to walk around and try and find digs, while we were standing by the ship. What they call 'victling' - it's taking stores on. And just generally tidying the ship getting ready for the main crew.
	Start of Film 3
01:07:28	<i>What did you think when you saw the Savage?</i>
01:07:31	I don't know really. I suppose I was amazed at the size of it. It wasn't very big, but to me it was a big ship, like, you know?. I didn't realize just how big ships could get until I went on...I just went aboard one of the big ships, somewhere. I think that was in Russia. And ...erm... oh that's right we were going to look for bread, in Russia. nd went on ...- I can't remember the name of the ship but it was a Cruiser. We got lost on it, trying to find our way to the Galley on it, because they promised to give us a couple of sacks of loaves, which we couldn't get. Ours had all gone mouldy....
01:08:24	<i>So you were basically one of the first people on this ship, the Savage?</i>

Time code	What said
01:08:27	<p>I wouldn't say the 1st ...</p> <p>We....I can't remember the name of what we were called ...We were, like, the first... party to go, waiting for the main party to come. And we had to get all the stores on and get everywhere ready, cleaned down ready for the crew to come. And that was our main job really, as just.....</p> <p>Because, at the time, I was doing the butchering for them. Me, and the Petty Officer. I think he was called the Victling Officer - that meant getting all the stores on, and that was what our job was. Supplying.</p> <p>And then I went, being an Ordinary Seaman, when the main crew came I was put with the main crew then. Just on ordinary jobs - same as anybody else.</p>
01:09:34	<i>And what was it like setting sail for the 1st time. Can you remember that?</i>
01:09:39	<p>We went out. And it wasn't very rough, and I was sea-sick then. And that's a terrible thing, that is to be sea-sick. For yourself, I mean. You couldn't care less, what happened to the ship...It was that bad.</p> <p>Then after about a fortnight, I got over that then. It was OK, then - you could stand anything after that. Because we did have some really bad gales - on the way to Russia.</p>
01:10:10	<i>Can you remember the chronology? What was the first thing you did The first tour, the first operation on Savage Do you remember what as the 1st thing you did?</i>
01:10:22	<p>My 1st job was in a magazine, then. Which you went down in the magazine and they'd batten the hatch down on you. And you'd supply the gun with the ammunition then from there.</p> <p>That was my 1st job. And then, after that, I was also a searchlight manipulator. And then I went on a 4.5 gun- on a turret gun, it was. And I was a loader on that.</p> <p>And , er, you just accepted everything- I suppose- as things went</p>
	Start of Film 4
01:11:07	<i>Did you know anything about the Russian convoys, at this time?</i>

Time code	What said
01:11:10	<p>You'd hear little things, but you don't imagine it's as bad as it is - until you get there.</p> <p>And then, when we did finally did go on one. We went to pick up some empties. What they called 'empty ships' but they were full of wood I think, as far as I know. There was plenty of wood in Russia, then. Because there was loads of woods there, trees and that. I believe they used to cut those down to build the ships with them.</p> <p>And we brought them back.</p>
01:11:52	<i>Any adventures on that trip...Do you remember?</i>
01:11:56	<p>I don't remember much.</p> <p>The only thing that I remember, going in there, it didn't look very nice from the start. It looked a desolate place. 'Course there's a war on, there, and that had a lot to do with it.</p>
01:12:13	<i>Did you ever get ashore? Did you go into Murmansk?</i>
01:12:16	No. We didn't get to Murmansk. We went to Poliana , and erm ...Archangel. Just little places, we went to.
01:12:26	<i>Did you get to shore?</i>
01:12:28	<p>We got ashore, there, but you couldn't go far. They wouldn't let you go far, anyway.</p> <p>You always had to be standing by the ship, really, in case of air-raids. Because the German airfields weren't far away, then, in those days. I think they said they were about 20 miles away, then, which wasn't far.</p>
01:12:53	<i>Do you remember any air-raids?</i>
01:12:55	Not really.... Not a lot. It was the U-boats that was our main.... 'Distraction'. They were the worse things. The U-boats.
01:13:09	<i>When you were doing the convoys, you did 20. Tell us a little about what it was like to sail in 24 hour darkness, 24 hour sunshine and stuff?</i>
01:13:20	<p>We didn't seem to get much sunshine. It always seemed to be dark, to me.(laughing)</p> <p>Whether that's just the way it was I don't know, but...if there was any sunshine, I think it was caused by the Northern Lights - which used to light the convoy up. And that was a bit terrifying because the U-boats could see us, better, then. And that's when they used to do their attacking, then. When it as nice and light for them, I suppose.</p>
01:13:57	<i>What was the role of Savage within the convoy. What was its job?</i>

Time code	What said
01:14:02	<p>Well, our job was to go up and down the convoy, trying to keep the U-boats down. And generally just escorting the ships.</p> <p>One particular convoy. We were escorting this Merchant ship. It was SS Penelope Barker, it was called. And we used to go along- beside- each day, and shout instructions to it, to get a move on. Because it was always lagging behind.</p> <p>And they said they had somebody onboard, who was ill. So our Doctor was shouting instructions, across the tannoy, asking questions what it was and he found out that he must have had appendicitis.</p> <p>So he's shouting instructions. what to do. And then we carry on. And eventually this ship got sunk. And we went in, to pick the survivors up. And you throw scrambling nets over the side.</p> <p>It's pretty dark, but you had a little light on you (indicates his jacket lapel). Red light. And people'd go down the scrambling net, to try and help them get in as quick as you can, to get away. And they're helping them all up as quick as they can.</p> <p>And this one one fellow came up and said, "Where's your sick bay" and someone told him where it was. 'I'm the one with appendicitis' and he's been swimming - from his ship to us, and just casually (laughing) "I'm the one with appendicitis'. And went on his way</p> <p>And then, another one, another survivor, he got hold of the netting - and he wouldn't let go of it But by then we'd picked up as many as we could and we had to go because we got a ping on the ASDIC to say there's a U-boat about.</p> <p>So we had to go and he wouldn't let go of this scrambling net. And he started singing. And of course the speed of us going - and he's just swinging with it...Banging and singing.... And eventually he went and then we came back later on to try and pick more survivors up- but we didn't find any. But the cold's so severe you don't last long, anyway.</p>
01:16:39	<i>Were you actually involved in helping them?</i>
01:16:42	As many as you can. You always keep one side of the erm, erm, (can't remember the names of the things) And the other parties go and try and help - to do what they can.
01:16:58	<i>How long are you allowed to do this kind of rescue?</i>
01:17:04	Well, you do it as quickly as you can, actually. The quicker you can get them on board, the better. Because the quicker you can get away, then. Because the U-boats, sometimes, would hang about. Knowing that someone would come to pick them up. And they'd sink the ship that's come to pick them up

Time code	What said
01:17:25	<i>When this Penelope is being hit. Did you see her go down. Was it an explosion...?</i>
01:17:31	It's just a big light, and all on fire, and she went down. And the water's on fire, because the oil's on fire. And, these men are trying to swim through it. Oh it's a terrible sight to see it. It's still in my mind now. And sometimes you get very upset when you think of it, you know. (Saddened) I suppose it was just a job and you just get on with it. You're with all your mates and you're just trying to push it out of your mind, and go on.
01:18:10	<i>What was Savage like, was it a like a happy ship. Did you have a good time?</i>
01:18:13	Well it was quite a good ship, I found, and a good crew. I never wanted to leave it. I would be asked to go on a course. But then, if you went on a course, you would leave the ship completely. And I didn't want to leave it, really. But you don't know you're going to do all these convoys, then. You just go where the ship goes. That's all you're doing, is following the ship.
	Start of Film 5
01:18:46	<i>I guess 1 of the big moments in the Savage's Convoy experience was the sinking of the Scharnhorst Can you remember what you did personally on that day?</i>
01:18:58	What happened was...We were escorting the Duke of York, and a Cruiser. And we were told that the Scharnhorst was coming out. We'd had reports to say, off the Norwegian Coast, that she was coming out. And she did come out, then, and....
01:19:23	<i>When you say 'we were told'. Was your Captain telling you this?</i>

Time code	What said
01:19:27	<p>Yeah. We get reports of what's happening. He said "The Scharnhorst is out with 4 Destroyers, and we're on the look-out for her".</p> <p>The Scharnhorst Is attacking the convoy but the crews with the convoy are keeping the Scharnhorst away from them. And they're reporting to the Duke of York, who's in charge of the whole operation, of what's happening.</p> <p>And eventually, we're coming up - to attack the Scharnhorst then. But she's getting away from the escorts of the Convoy, and she's getting away from them and so we're trying to pull her into a trap, where the Duke of York would be able to fire on it, which did happen eventually.</p> <p>And the Duke of York sent us to tea early, because she said we'd be approaching the Scharnhorst at a certain time. I think it was 6 o'clock, I'm not sure –or, 1800 hours =like- as they say then.</p> <p>So, we had our tea and then we went to action stations, then, and we stopped at action stations until the Duke of York got the Scharnhorst on the radar. And she fired the first salvo, then, at the Scharnhorst And, I didn't know whether she hit it at first, or whether she straddled it. And then the Scharnhorst started firing back.</p> <p>And my mate on the range finder said 'Have a look at this' So I looked through, and I could see the Scharnhorst but there was star-shell above it, which was lighting it up.</p> <p>And so, then the Duke of York said 'she's getting away from us'. So she sent the 4 destroyers, which was us and the Stord and the Stormrays and the Scorpion and we went in to attack it, then.</p> <p>And 2 Destroyers went down each side of her - firing torpedoes, at it. And we fired our torpedoes. And as we're going in to fire our torpedoes, the Scharnhorst is firing at us. And you could hear the shrapnel on the gun turret. And we went in, and fired our torpedoes. And we came out.</p> <p>And, as we were coming out we went to attack a destroyer, which we thought was a German destroyer. And it happened to be the Stormrays, which had been hit. The Scharnhorst had hit her with some fire and we went to attack it. But then we realized what it was, and we helped her to get back, then, into Russia. We escorted her back into Russia, then.</p>
01:23:02	<p><i>What's that noise you talk about? You're in the turret and obviously you can't see anything except through the finders. But you could hear the shell, breaking above?</i></p>

Time code	What said
01:23:14	<p>You could hear...</p> <p>One of the after-guns- that was an open gun. And they were firing. And 1 of their crew had his helmet blown off. Which he didn't know at the time- it just came off.</p> <p>And after we'd finished and come out, he went to look for his tin hat and there was a big hole in it. Something like that, (indicating, a size of it) I think it was. And, I believe he kept that as a souvenir – because the shrapnel must have gone through it, and missed his head and just knocked helmet off.</p> <p>And he was alright! (Laughs)</p>
01:24:01	<i>Did you see the Scharnhorst go down?</i>
01:24:04	<p>No. I didn't see that. By then, it was all lit up. It was all on fire and lit up, and gone down. And we came out.</p> <p>I've got all the survivors names</p>
01:24:23	<i>There weren't many were there?</i>
01:24:25	No. I can't remember how many. I've got them, there (indicates beside him), anyway....
01:24:30	<i>What's the feeling on the ship like, after such a big battle like that?</i>
01:24:33	<p>Oh, it was a big relief. Well, I don't think we realized what we had done, actually . I think you think "Oh we've sunk a ship" and that's it.</p> <p>But, it was a big thing and you just feel a big sense of relief, that she's gone. Because they only had the Tapit after that, which was a menace to the convoys.</p> <p>Once the Scharnhorst had gone, of course we think 'there's Destroyers about', but there weren't. They'd gone back in</p>
01:25:16	<i>What were you doing, you talk about the view finder. What was your role in all this? What can you hear and whats being told to you?</i>
01:25:23	<p>As you're going in - to fire your torpedoes, they're telling you the range. The range is coming down all the time "3000 yds. 2500, 2000 yds." Or whatever it was. I can't remember the exact words now...</p> <p>It's coming over, all the time. And we'd stopped firing, because we'd given our position away, you know? You just go in - And fire our torpedoes....</p> <p>I suppose the men in the torpedo firing parts, were the worse – because they were all in the open. We were not so bad - we were in turrets.</p>
01:26:15	<i>Are you firing a gun, or a torpedo?</i>

Time code	What said
01:26:16	We were firing the guns – 4.5 guns, we had. My job was to load it with cordite. I'd put the cordite in and the next one, to me, he'd turn round and put the shell in. And then we'd push the tray over. And....Just fire it then...
01:26:42	<i>What's the noise and the impact like, then?</i>
01:26:45	It was just all excitement, to do... When you're waiting to fire, that is the worse part. You're all tensed up and your nerves are going...Everything's going...Until you fire. And its not too bad after that... You just keep going
01:27:05	<i>Is it loud?</i>
01:27:06	No, it's not too bad, actually. I suppose it was loudbut we didn't realize. Me being deaf, now, I don't know
01:27:17	<i>That maybe to do with the guns.....</i>
	Start of Film 6
01:27:21	<i>Have you got any particular memories of the cold, the snow, the ice?</i>

Time code	What said
01:27:25	<p>One particular time.... I had 2 pairs of gloves on. And we dashed to action stations. And as we go - to fire - my hand got trapped. Because my hand was that cold - and these gloves on..</p> <p>And the pressure was pulling my glove off..and I thought it was pulling my hand off, because it was that cold. And I as screaming my head off- frightened, scared stiff.</p> <p>Anyway it pulled the glove off, and I was all right then. It just damaged my hand a bit</p> <p>But the cold was terrific up there. You couldn't touch anything metal. You always had to wear gloves, really.</p> <p>And the seas! You can talk about seas all day, but you can't.... You can't imagine what it's like - to climb up a wave, like that, (indicates a steep, vertical climb) like you're going up a hill. And you see all the convoy.</p> <p>And you go down, and you can't see a thing. Just like climbing up – I don't know – like Mt Everest, I think. Oh. They were terrible seas there. The people that's been there will be able to tell you this. I'm not exaggerating, at all, on that.</p> <p>But the cold! And the ice! You had to go chipping ice. Every half hour - everything that was movable had to be chipped.</p> <p>And, when the bow went down, into the wave- like that (indicates) and the spray had come up...(indicating) ... And if you were on the Bridge..It hit you, like a little piece of... the spray would hit you, like a little piece of ice. That's how cold it was.</p> <p>By the time it's left the sea - come up on the Bridge, and hit you - it's a piece of ice That's how cold it was.</p> <p>And you go down into your mess deck. to get a warm. And we had a little 1 bar fire like that- an electric fire that had to heat ...A big area. And all the deck head was covered in ice, and all along the sides were all wet, with the damp. All your clothes were always wet. I don't know how we survived, really</p>
01:30:11	<i>How did you stay warm?</i>

Time code	What said
01:30:12	<p>You didn't take your clothes off. When you come off Watch, you just flopped down- on the deck, in the water, anywhere. If there was a table free, you lay down on the table. Or the long stools – you lay on them.</p> <p>Some people said they used to sling hammocks, but we didn't. Because- hammocks really, then, were made for shoring-up holes. If you were holed the hammocks were a help. Because, the way they were strung, the way you tied your hammock up. That was the reason for it, really, was to plug a hole in the ship's side.</p> <p>And, the cold though!.... I just can't get over it, now, how we survived it.</p>
01:31:09	<i>Were the heads warm?</i>
01:31:11	You'd get washed off those, if you weren't careful. You had to hang on. (Laughing) You'd get washed, through the....because there wasn't much stopping you. It was all open. All your toilets were all open, then, in the after deck
01:31:27	<i>So in big seas you had to be very careful?</i>
01:31:29	Yeah The water would come over the toilet and wash you off. I suppose it was the first Jacuzzi...
01:31:39	<i>Bidet?</i>
01:31:40	Bidet....
	Start of Film 7
01:31:41	<i>You talk about being washed off. Did any of your crew mates ever get washed off?</i>
01:31:46	<p>Yeah. There's one, there, actually (indicates, papers next to him) – he was washed overboard..</p> <p>There was two. Two of them washed overboard. They tried to make a dash for it, from the after-end, forward. Their duty was up, on the Bridge. They made a dash for it, but they got washed under the guard rail.</p> <p>And one of them hung on to the guard rail... and the other one went. He managed to get up, and get up onto the Bridge and shout 'man overboard' But by the time we'd turned around.... It was pitch dark anyway. By the time we'd turned around and went back, there's no sign of him.</p> <p>So, that's his Memorial Card, over there.</p>
01:32:36	<i>How does that affect the ship?</i>
01:32:38	Oh it does affect you. It sets you back a bit. Everyone's a bit down for a while.

Time code	What said
01:32:46	<i>Was he a mate of yours?</i>
01:32:48	Not a mate. I knew him, like, but not an actual mate
01:32:53	<i>What was your Skipper like?</i>
01:32:56	<p>Oh. We had a good Skipper. Well we had a few Skippers- but this one during the Scharnhorst battle he was very good.</p> <p>Some of them was...what's the word for it now? – “knowing” - what crew needs. Whereas some of them would be in pre-war days, still. In discipline.</p> <p>You know, the discipline was very strict on some ships. We weren't too bad. At sea we could wear anything.</p> <p>Which you did, you wore any old clothes- at sea. As you can tell from some of the photographs I've got, at sea. Actually- our main thing was a boiler-suit. That seemed to keep you warm, because you were wrapped up in it.</p> <p>The first trip I made, though, we didn't have any warm clothing. I just had my ordinary dress coat, which we used to go ashore with. That's all I wore until I got a duffle coat, then, which we used to pass around.</p> <p>As you come off Watch you swapped it, with someone else to go on Watch with. And then eventually we got duffel coats, then.</p>
01:34:27	<i>When you're doing these legs, obviously your sailing into Russia, then you've got to do the return leg. Did you have a preference- going East or West?</i>
01:34:39	<p>Erm? Not really, no. We just didn't think much about it, at the time. You just done what came your way, type of thing.</p> <p>We just brought empties back. Sometimes we didn't bring any empties back, we just dashed back again, and picked another convoy up.</p> <p>Because, sometimes they used to run 3 convoys. All the escort would be with the 1st one - and get that into Russia. And then they'd all come out and meet the second one, which was already on its way. And then get that in.</p> <p>And that's how we done it. One after the other. That was near the end of the convoys.</p>
01:35:29	<i>Did you ever see any U boats? Sink a U-boat?</i>

Time code	What said
01:35:32	<p>No. We didn't see any. We'd go in to attack U-boat. Many a time, we'd attack them, which we thought were U-boats Drop depth charges....</p> <p>No. We didn't see any, but...One of the trips we done was... 2 Destroyers, like us and another one, went dropping depth charges. Every so often, we dropped depth charges. And the Convoy turned off.</p> <p>So the U-boat followed our depth charge noise, for so long. We done this for so many hours, and then we...We had the speed. So we had to dash away, then, and catch up with the Convoy, hoping the U-boats had followed us, away.</p> <p>And, that was one... 1 good thing we done, I suppose</p>
01:36:06	<i>What about Stukka bombers?</i>
01:36:28	<p>We weren't too bad, really. We always had the .. the aircraft used to fly round us, giving...They used to give out signals to the U-boats, as to where we were. They were signaling all the time to them.</p> <p>And, they were signaling the Convoy - and we couldn't do much about it. Until, one time we had a carrier with us and they sent all the planes off. And as soon as they see the planes coming off, they'd go up into the clouds and go away.</p> <p>And all the aircraft, then, come and land back on the aircraft carrier- except two. And they kept out of the way.</p> <p>Then, as soon as this German plane came back in, they attacked him and shot him down. So that was one good.....</p>
01:37:32	<i>Did you watch it?</i>
01:37:34	You can't really see much, it's too dark. Even in the daylight, its dark there,
01:37:41	<i>How did you find that sort of 24 hr. darkness?</i>
01:37:46	<p>Funnily enough, we used to keep to the time, as well. Can't remember what you call it now, when you go over the time...You'd have to put...</p> <p>If the time is going ahead 1 hour, we'd have to do half hour on - extra. And the other crew would do half hour coming on. So that's how we used to catch our hour up, by doing extra time on the Watch.</p> <p>We didn't think much about it really - the time limit - we just seemed to accept things. I think we were disciplined that much, in those days, you just carried on.</p>

Time code	What said
01:38:39	<i>Did you find that towards the end of the War the convoys got easier?</i>
01:38:42	<p>Oh, yeah. They definitely got easier.</p> <p>The first convoys, to go, must have been really bad - especially that PQ17, one.</p> <p>Jeremy Clarkson was telling me about that. I just met him at that 'do' there... He was telling me about what he'd done....</p>
01:39:03	<i>So you didn't do any of the PQ's then?</i>
01:39:09	<p>No, No. The JWs and RAs... We didn't know what they were called, then. They were just convoys to us.</p> <p>The Morrassa – she got sunk, a Destroyer, with us. We picked up some survivors up off that one. The Hardy was another one. She got sunk. We didn't pick survivors up off her, somebody else done that.</p> <p>The Lapwing - we picked survivors up off that one. And she got sunk</p>
01:39:45	<i>Did you remember any of these people Were you involved in some of this work?</i>
01:39:51	Not really no. We'd be at action stations and other people would be doing that
	End of Films