

Voices of Volunteering: 75 Years of Citizenship and Service

Interview Summary Sheet

Title Page

Ref. No.: HARG

Collection Title: Voices of Volunteering

Interviewee's Surname: Harries

Title: Mrs

Interviewee's Forenames: Geraldean

Gender: F

Volunteer/Employee Roles and Dates:

Volunteer 1939-Present (2015), Dorset
1939-1945, Helping with Refugees in Weymouth
Dorset
Post 1945-2015, Helping with Hospital Canteens,
Trolley Shops and Meals-on-Wheels

Date(s) of recording, Tracks (From-To): 06/10/2015 (Track 1)

Location of Interview: Interviewees Home, Dorchester, Dorset

Location Interview is Deposited: Royal Voluntary Service Archive and Heritage Collection, Devizes, Wiltshire

Name of Interviewer: Jennifer Anne Hunt

Type of Recorder: H5 Zoom

Total no. tracks: 1

Mono or Stereo: Stereo

Recording Format: WAV 44.1/16

Total Duration: 00:25:29

Additional Material: Biography Sheet and Recording Agreement

Copyright: Royal Voluntary Service

Clearance: Yes

Interviewer's Notes:

Geraldean Harries (GH) talks about her experiences of WVS during the Second World War and being a WRVS Volunteer up to 2015. She was involved in Hospital Trolley Shops and Meals-on-Wheels (MOW).

Time (HH:MM:SS)	Synopsis
[00:00:09]	<p>Start of interview</p> <p>Please can you introduce yourself? GH introduces herself</p> <p>When did you join WRVS? Talks about volunteering with WVS during World War II and helping refugees who came to Weymouth. Comments on her brother joining the Army and GH joined the WRENS</p> <p>When you were helping with refugees where were you making beds for them? Regents Dance Hall in Weymouth, talks more about what she and her brother did, tried to join ATS at 15. Comments on her mother's war work in the British Restaurants and joining the NAAFI and her life during the war. Describes her life after the war and going to London to work and why she left and went home. GH's mother gave her a job in the canteens she ran. Discusses meeting her husband and her brother met his wife comments on working with African mothers in Nigeria. Then joined WRVS when she returned home.</p>
[00:10:08]	<p>GH starts to comment on WRVS and MOW in Dorset, cooking food for recipients, visiting in hospitals. Mentions husband also got involved in 1986 when he retired from the army till he died.</p> <p>How many people would you deliver to? Depended on the round 6-12 people, GH comments on people heating up their meals and making sure people got their meals. Mentions pushing the trolley in the hospital shop in Dorchester.</p> <p>What were you selling on the trolley shop? GH describes the items for sale, comments on separate library trolley. People enjoyed volunteering.</p> <p>Where there other volunteers? Talks about what volunteering on the trolley shop was like.</p>
[00:15:10]	<p>MOW – What sort of food was prepared? Talks about equipment and food being lovely, enthusiastic about looking after old people.</p> <p>Was there anywhere else you collected meals from? No always provided by the schools and then into Dorchester</p> <p>Did WRVS change while you were a member? No always the same pleasant comradery, GH comments on being a maverick volunteer meeting interesting people, old people being ignored and finding time to listen to them.</p> <p>Did you carry on with MOW after your husband died? When husband became ill stopped delivering MOW</p>

<p>[00:20:16]</p>	<p>Did you stay in touch with WRVS? Yes, explains how she keeps in touch with WRVS, talks about an event at the local school.</p> <p>Is there anything which we have not mentioned that you would like to talk about? No, comments on being involved and busy with different activities outside of WRVS.</p> <p>Do you have a most memorable moment if being in WRVS? Mentions a lady walking down the street in her nightgown and having to help her.</p>
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