Australian War Memorial

Sound Collection

ORAL HISTORY RECORDING

ACCESSION NUMBER: S02712

TITLE: Dorothy Young as an employer of a member of the Australian Women's Land Army (AWLA).

INTERVIEWEE: Mrs Dorothy Young

INTERVIEWER: Sue Maslin

RECORDING DATE: 27 May 1985

RECORDING LOCATION: Hamilton, Victoria

SUMMARY:

TRANSCRIBER: **WRITE*people***

TRANSCRIPTION DATE: November, 2002

Mrs Dorothy Young as an employer of a member of the Australian Women's Land Army (AWLA), 1942-1945, interviewed and recorded by Sue Maslin on 27 May 1985 at Hamilton, Victoria.

Well, anyway, this is not going to be a very, you know, long interview. Just to say if you're getting tired. I've got some questions here but I'm certainly not going to go ploughing through all these questions, they're just really a bit of a guide.

A guide, yes. Is it on?

It's on now.

Did we find out when Carmen came here?

No, we haven't got the exact date when she came here.

But that doesn't matter?

No, no, that's all right.

It was in the middle of it.

Pardon?

It was in the middle of 1914-18.

Well, it would have been around 1941-1942.

Oh, I'm on the wrong war.

The wrong war, the second war.

Yes.

Well, I was wondering I could ask you a little bit about your background before the war, how Morowa was run and a little but about just a few years prior to the war?

Just a few years prior to the war or the fact it was built in the 1800s. It was built in 1895 or started in 96 and they were Englishmen that were here, camped in a hut with a woman in a hut doing the cooking. Is that the sort of thing?

I was probably more interested in your early childhood?

Oh, yes, well, yes. Then…

Were you born here?

Yes, three of us were born here. My sister was older and then she started going to school in Hamilton after having a governess. My brother started to ride a bicycle in and, I always think it was a bit of an

advance in the time, he got an auto-wheel on the side of his bicycle which half the time helped him get in and half the time broke down and he had to pedal it as well as pedaling his bicycle with just a little round wheel with a motor in it. And that was the time when those things came in which would have been about 1910, I suppose. Yes, well everything was in the buggy, and the horse and cart, and the wagon, and when I say the horse and cart the man, I suppose, once a fortnight went in and got the heavier things. And I think a thing of interest was the number of travellers who came around travelling for their own things. The man travelling for tea came around once or twice a year. You always got tea in a big square container. And flour, of course, was a major item. You had to have a good thing to keep it in if knives were about and so the tin, good old tin container for a bag of flour was necessary. And the storeroom was kept full. There had to be a storeroom, that's something that seems not necessary nowadays as you buy each thing more or less when you want it. But that is what I notice is the difference, that the spring cart doesn't go in to get the more moderate things and the wagon to get the heavier things. And that went on, really, until the war and it was only after the war we have some photos here of fastening the tractor on to the wagon to pull the hay and it was rather a major item to alter the pulling part of the wagon to suit the tractor to get it's wheels to come around.

Well, just before the 2nd World War broke out, who would have been working on Morowa at that stage? Who would have been here?

Oh, for the 2nd World War, we had jackaroos. And my husband, he managed it, Harold Young, and he was English and perhaps there were a few things done here in the English way which hadn't been done before.

Such as?

One, with the cox of hay, the little round cox, not sheafed.

Can you describe the cox of hay?

Well, they were rather small so they would dry without being too big, but they'd be evenly all over the paddock in little round mounds. It was before string and them being tied together with a string baler. And I think they were just sitting there untied. I'm sure they were because they were round, not just mounds of hay. But we were awfully excited doing them. And then the different people who'd driven the horses and the wagon, they then had to get the ability to blow up a tyre when a tyre went down on a tractor, because that seemed to be the next item. Always rushing around making the tractors go.

There hadn't been tractors before?

Not much, not before the war. They only came in and variations of the work on the roads that also meant. The roads progressed tremendously after that owing to the tractors and the equipment that must have been used in the war. It was good.

What sort of background had your husband had on the land?

Well, he was completely English till he came out here but he'd been on several farms in England and he did become very fond of Ryeland sheep because they were the sheep on the farm in the south of England and Ryeland sheep are good south of England type sheep and they grow wool which, in those days, was more suitable for woollen garments. And today I realised that the other coarser wools were fairly much used. But in those days, the Ryeland sheep were considered good and therefore they were a very popular sheep. And they fitted in with here and this had been wool growing. You made your living out of shearing the sheep for wool and then selling the sheep after that, but with the Ryelands and the fat lambs, the fat lamb breeding did advance then right through Victoria, I'd say. And the men adjusted very well, I think, to the horses going out and the machinery coming in. Everybody got to…

So would this have happened before the war, that the horses were going out and machinery coming in or was it really happening during?

I think the war advanced it, yes. And then, if we get on to the 2nd World War it advanced tremendously.

Oh sorry, I'm at the 2nd World War.

Oh, you're at the 2nd World War?

You're at the 1st World War, are you? Oh, sorry.

Yes, yes, that's a bit of an error. Oh dear, I have gone astray. Yes, well, then, one of the most noticeable things of the 2nd World War there was some land down there that people south, south east of here, and it was not easy to get into owing to its rough stony rises and sort of swampy areas. And it was cut up for soldier's settlement and they said it wouldn't work and bulldozers from the 2nd World War came in and put a road through in no time where it had only been a winding track before that. Turned into a fenced road. So this second lot of soldier settlers, the 2nd World War lot, but they got pretty rough land and it took them a long time to get going.

Well, before the 2nd World War you were here with your husband and the jackaroos, how many other employees would you have had?

Two. One a handy man and one a general. One man did come, he did ride a bicycle from Byaduk which is the village not far away. And then these cottages got built here and families came into them which would have been soldier families after the 2nd World War. But before that the people that we knew locally that wanted a job probably.

> Well, before the 2nd World War, what would your role have been? How would you fill in your day here?

We, of course, were terribly lucky. You had help in those times. But having a small child, through the war, and then she was grown up. You became, I think busier getting the things yourself. The orders, the orders into Hamilton had been given up. The big orders brought out and put into what was called the storeroom. By then you were buying individual things, not each week, but got out of the big bag of flour I suppose to a smaller one. And, well, the children were going to school, boarding school in Hamilton. They were boarding but you took them in on Monday morning and got them on Friday. That was counting my neighbours. That seemed to keep you busy. And, of course, there was golf and tennis, and we did have a tennis court and we played here and we played in on the courts in Hamilton, good courts in Hamilton. And a good deal of tennis.

More tennis to me amongst everyone was played then than there is now.

> Were you involved at all in the decisions concerning running the property with your husband before the war?

No, not really except for the ponies which I've always had which I felt were mine. And I suppose we did a good deal of riding. Yes, there was a lot of riding done around the paddocks and at weekends when the men didn't do it. And I would think that also you prepared for going to things. There was the things we went to. We went to the shows with the ponies. Well, the shows would take up all the spring time, the nearby shows at Penshurst, Macarthur, Coleraine, Branxholme. And you'd be brushing the ponies and preparing them. I suppose that wasn't exactly, that was a labour of love, not exactly hard work but it was pleasant. And then we had lots of little ponies that got sold and they went to other people. There weren't that many, anything like as many people bred ponies years ago as there are today. You'll see horses in paddocks, you saw horses in paddocks before but they were bigger. Ponies weren't, were not in… Going along the road you didn't see them but you saw the hard working type horses in the paddocks over the fence at people's places.

(Resumes)

Well, through the 2nd World War, being on the coast, not far from the coast here and the war began, became world wide, we realised that it was very, very near and everybody was very grim, I think. You worked on, you had to work on and work hard to get the think done. Whatever it was – whether it was getting the sheep in, or seeing who was coming. I think you had to pay somebody and I suppose I did, but I had help and the agents, the older men living in Hamilton who were in the agent's offices, they were tremendously good and very, very helpful. If you were desperate and needed more help and you rang them, they'd know probably the old kind man somewhere, that would come out and give a day's help. Which was for very little money, moderate. Perhaps you would go in the car and get the them or perhaps they'd rather bicycle out. But this district, yes, we were helpful to one another absolutely because we knew our very existence depended upon it.

> Could you describe how you felt taking over the responsibility of running Morowa when your husband had done it before the war?

I don't think I could describe it, because I knew I had to do it. And you just went to it and, well, I've been here always and I knew what happened, and I just went to it and just had to do it. I never noticed that I was doing it. If the place got kept together to a certain extent and it just happened. But, the men who were here were wonderful and anyone who helped, and

you'd marvel at the people that would come in and help and even someone driving by would probably pull up and give a hand if the sheep were blocked being put into the shed or something.

Would you get advice from, say, the local men or whatever, you know about…?

Well, as I said before I was fortunate enough to have my mother who was living in a house over on the main road, and I could go to her and, yes, we would ring and ask someone. We did ring and again I go back to the agents, one Phil Marr in Hamilton. He was in the office across from the Post Office, and for the years Phil was there he helped us with everything. And another thing we had which was very useful was the coach. And first the horse coach in the old days and then Ansett, Ansett started, Ansett's coach started going down to Macarthur, an old car, a Buick type car. And my mother could go in and out of Hamilton in that coach, and other people could do the same thing and we could get something out on it which it was more reliable service than there is now. Mail comes now but that's all.

Can you remember when your husband decided to join up?

I can't really because everybody was and it was only a natural whirl of what was on.

Can you remember how you felt about him joining up?

Stunned and numb. But you just knew you had to carry on. And people got absolutely astonishing advice about having little girls, and if troops came of people who'd been through the 1st War in England and that was frightening. But you had to keep well and not be frightened because you wouldn't get anywhere.

What did you mean about the advice about having little girls?

Well, the Army and little girls don't mix. I mean they can be very cruel. Had an enemy come here, there was the Home Guard and they were the men that were working around and the Home Guard were going to blow up the bridges. Well, we knew perfectly well that if a landing of the enemy were on the south coast, a few bridges blown up wouldn't do very much good. And we weren't absolutely frightened but at times you'd stop still and think, "How long can we manage to keep things going?" And my sister was not what you'd say a strong person like I am, and she lived in Hamilton more and she had the one girl going to school. And it was quite frightening, waiting for next day's news as to how far the advance had come and you knew that with the bombing of Darwin. As I said Herbert Read from here he was there and we knew how more or less close it was to us

as things got faster and faster in the movement of an Army. Which showed up by the trucks that came in here and made the road afterwards. Nothing would have stopped anyone anywhere if there'd been a big invasion.

And you think that your consciousness of the war was effected by being so close to the coast?

Well, to a certain extent. You know it was only a day away and one time when I was staying down in Portland there was an Englishman, English Army, English man and woman. We didn't know them but we saw them, they were there. And they must have been from some battleship or something but they were having a holiday and they had a canoe which was a bit advanced for Portland and paddling about in a canoe. And I guess some people got to know them but we were not there for long. And they were paddling this boat about, this canoe about down there, and they were terribly happy. Well, they were enjoying it, we could see them out in the water enjoying it. Well, we realised how near it was that they'd got to Portland. We wondered where they'd come from. You didn't ask, you didn't have time or reason why. Well, that's what I felt and they were off some English ship, I think ship because I don't think they'd come by plane, and afterwards you'd wonder where they were and what they were doing. And, of course, the information we got from up north, above Cape York, was pretty ghastly really. Because both the troops and the enemy didn't quite know whether they were getting on or

not because they were intermixed. They'd got past one another and some of the Japs had got to some of the islands. Friends we knew they walked round the coast of New Guinea for miles and miles and miles, perhaps a dozen started and perhaps six made it in the trek. And you'd get word that they had got there and you knew they were neighbours down the road. And yes, it was a long and tough time but there was no doubt about it, we soon got to our local enjoyment here again because hunting started up soon afterwards. The tennis courts were repaired. The Hamilton oval was turned into a beautiful tennis court oval, very quickly. By, I think 1920, they were having lovely tournaments. And I marvel how the golf courses got cut and prepared so quickly. Well, when a think like that's over you soon get sort of going again. And then, of course, the prices of everything went up and through the '20s life was really very good.

Would you like me to stop for a little while?

No, no.

I was just wondering, at what stage did you get the idea of perhaps having a Land girl working for you, or was it more that you knew about Carmen?

No, I didn't, I thought some help near… Emily was here, she was the housekeeper, the keeper of the house, and I won't call her a cook as she was everything and she did

anything. But she was in the house and you could go away and leave Emily with… sometimes my sister's child would come over too and the two of them would stay here, the two children. I've really forgotten where we were going.

I was asking you at what point did you get the idea of having a Land girl working for you?

Oh yes, yes. Well, I went down to Portland for a few days holiday. It was when the lights were off, black out was on, and Portland, you had to pull your blinds down and you could only see through a little wee slit in the things they put on the glass in the cars and you had to drive, well, you were forced to drive slowly because you could only see a little bay. And I went down there with these on the car and I was a little late getting there and stayed at this place, Marithmow(?), and Carmen and her mother were there. I knew her mother, I hadn't known Carmen very well who was a 14 or 15 or 16 year old. And I said, "What's happening, where's she going to school?" They said she's leaving school and I said, "Oh, perhaps she could come and she can ride and do those things and riding seems to be you've got to get around the stock quickly and perhaps she could come." I think Land girls were going, perhaps she could come a Land girl and that began it. I presume she joined before she came. And she always joined each year herself.

Did you have any contact with the Land Army administration at all?

No, I didn't really, no. I think I could be wrong. There might have been someone who asked how we were getting on. There may have been a telephone ring. I haven't thought of it from then to now. But yes, I knew she was in the Land Army and I presume we paid her according to Land Army payment.

And what made you think Carmen would be good working on the land?

Oh well, I knew she was a country girl. I knew she was very, rather doggy, I suppose. What I mean is a good friend with a dog and I knew she had the natural instinct. I knew her as a little girl, rather a naughty little girl, who ran about freely and did things, and I knew she had some go. I don't think at the time I stopped to think but I did know that her mother was energetic and had lived on the land and therefore I thought that… quite honest I didn't think. I just presumed, guessed, I knew, I felt that she'd be good.

You were saying the other day that you thought she had a way with animals?

Well, yes, she did. She's naturally gifted, both with animals and with children, because she was tremendous

company here having one little girl here and one over at Morowa East where my sister lived, and the two children got together, by pony or someway, off and when they were with Carmen, you knew they were absolutely safe. And she would see that they did right and did it rather well. Because she was a person who did things well. And, of course, now she's done a wonderful nursing career, that was fairly right. I didn't realise it was going to happen.

Can you remember your first impressions of Carmen when she arrived here and started working?

She must have been fairly young, I think. Did they have an age limit?

Yes, she must have been about 16, 17.

Yes, I think she must have been about 17. She was completely capable at almost anything. If you had no one to cook a meal she could cook and that's off being a Land girl but she could. And I've heard it said of some Land girls that they were not very capable. I've just been asking about a few but she was absolutely capable. And then in the evenings she'd sit down and get the wool and a child would have a knitted jumper in two or three nights. That was her capability. And yes, I was terribly lucky - I couldn't have had anyone better.

Can you remember how the male employees that you had reacted to a Land girl or reacted to Carmen coming?

Well, her name is christened Carmen, she was christened Carmen, and we didn't think it was very good down at the wool shed. And we thought a nickname would be more suitable and I suppose we might have asked for suggestions and she became Red down in the wool shed and she's been Carmen Red Virgo ever since, Red Johnson. Because she had that lovely head of red hair and it suited her. I think we felt we could say, "Red, go and do that to the sheep", but I think we felt that if we said "Carmen, go and do it", we'd wonder if it got done. There was that the just little bit between the name Carmen and the harsh Red nickname, I think. She did get, poor girl, she did get mumps or something here and she worked on down at the wool shed and I went down, went to the wool shed and she was chasing in the sheep. I had a look at her thought she looked terrible. I wondered how long she'd last rushing round. I did get her to come back here and go to bed and took her temperature which I think was 104, but just shows how wonderful she was. I rang the doctor and said, "If I give her three meals a day, will she live?" He said, "No, she won't, give her slops." And so we did keep her going. And she never complained, but she must have felt terrible because she looked it.

> Well, how did the blokes down the wool shed feel about a mere girl coming on and working on the land?

I think they were very thankful to have a good energetic helper. Some of them were fairly old. If they weren't old they had a touch of something infirm. I don't know what I mean by that, but they'd have a little ailment of some sort. And I think to have a very active able-to-do-it young person with them, which was not too young because there wore no young men about, I think that she just made the place swim along.

> Did any of them vent sort of comments to you before she came, about doubts about whether she'd come up to scratch?

No, no, not any, and none of them did ever. She was competent, they couldn't. They did do perhaps the heavy work. She didn't kill sheep, and she didn't have to because of… well, one man with a big family and he was getting quite old and he was in the Home Guard, he was here all the time and did do the killing of the sheep when it had to be done. And no, I suppose she was a little bit fortunate in that none of the very grimmest of the work she was asked to do. She did the more pleasant of chasing about. Chasing the stock. But I was going to say before, the day the fire came fairly near on the bad side, terrible smoke and terrible flames and the terrible prospect of the fire

getting here and she mustered about five mobs of sheep and put them in one small paddock. She and her horse and her dog did a wonderful job. Those people who fought the fire did a wonderful job and stopped it before it got here but the worst part was drafting those sheep again the next day to get them straightened up into their mobs.

They were totally boxed?

They were totally boxed up. Goodness, she did work.

And where did Carmen live, did she live in the house?

Lived in the house, yes. You see, I knew her mother and she was, she was a district girl and we knew her. She hadn't come from afar and fortunately, well, the house was wanting someone in it because it usually had a lot of people in it and most seemed to have gone. Oh, she was tremendous help all the time.

Sounds like she worked a pretty solid day, didn't it. Can you remember any sort of comments that your friends or neighbours or people in the area made about you having a Land girl on your property?

Oh no, I don't think so. She fitted in. Mr Brinkman lived up the road, Brinky we called him, Brinky we

called for help. He'd help. Carmen might meet him on the road to get some sheep that had strayed or something and he'd help her get them. And no, no one could complain because she could do as well as they did. And she was always… She has turned into a wonderful nurse. She was always able then to cope with any situation that she met up with.

Were there any other properties in the areas that had Land girls?

Not really although I have asked a little bit and found there were some, not far away but they were down the road and round the corner and we didn't know they were there. I think except for your individual neighbours you lost contact with the other neighbours during the war because you didn't have time. You knew the sisters and brothers and you knew the men were away and like you, like what you were doing being busy, they were being busy in their area. And I think we had what you'd call four years of just home battling without really much thought of, I shouldn't say much thought of the other people, you would go if you were asked to help, but each place was getting along, I think, in their own way. And, of course, they weren't cut up into the soldiers' settlement blocks which are now all in this district. And neighbours were much further away than they are now, and it gets back to again, you were too busy to worry, I think. And I think you had the worry of where your husband or your brother or your

friends or the people you knew and you did get in contact and ask them how different ones were. One man who went away to the war and got out of touch with us, we didn't know he was home but he had malaria and had to go into hospital in Hamilton and my very good friend who's with me now was learning to be a nurse in the Hamilton hospital and she was going round with a candle and he said, "Hello Roma, going round your traps", meaning the rabbit traps because she had a light. They used to carry a hurricane lantern. And so you found good friends in astonishing places. She came away from the hospital and told us that he was there. He got well and went back again, but that's just sort of in the war and the hospital.

Would you like to have a bit of a break?

Yes.

(Resumes)

I was going to ask you what sort of contact you had with US servicemen at the time?

Oh, well we didn't have much really, except now and again we would see them and to begin I'm going to say that I did at Scots Hotel there were quite a lot there once when I went to Melbourne for some reason and there were other people down in Melbourne that I knew staying at the same hotel and we did have a bit of a gathering

there at the hotel, and yes, in talking to an Army group you would find some United States soldiers amongst them. They had started to come down here to have a bit of a break from had they had time off or however they got away. And then a big lot, a whole division of American Army, or that's my expression of it, did come here to have some time and they were stationed at Ballarat in tents in the big gardens area there is at Ballarat where all the cypress trees are and there must have been a huge numbers of tents. Well, there were, I saw them there. They covered seemingly much of the space that there is there amongst the trees. And then the people of the district were asked would they take some to give them a holiday in the country. And about 30 or more did come and were billeted out into private homes and Mrs Wintercook of Murndall(?) was very good as she took 15 or more. And as she had done the same thing in England to the Australian soldiers in the first war, she was very pleased to do it here. They killed a bullock to be prepared for them. The young girls, the 18 year olds or the ones that hadn't got into an Army job volunteered to help and we had about three days of entertaining these people and had a very big party in the Hamilton town hall and it seemed to go very well and the troops enjoyed themselves. I did put my name down and two did come here. And one was the lieutenant, the senior of the group, and he had with him a very interesting young man who was Russian born but was a waiter in France when war broke out, and

joined in the Army which somehow got him into the American Army and as he spoke most languages he was a very great help to them. But being a Russian they did watch him, I think, and so he was with the lieutenant and the two of them were here and, well, Andrew never did anything wrong but anyone from his country were most interested and there were some people living in Hamilton that did speak Russian I presume they were descendants of Russians, and they were terribly excited to have him. Some of the doctors here who were very clever at languages and for some reason or other were most interested to have Andrew go and see them and they said that he was one, if you could talk his language or understand his, he was one of the most interesting people you could have. And I found Andrew very nice to talk to. And he helped me do the washing up and I found it very interesting. The lieutenant was a very nice young fellow and we really did have in Hamilton a very interesting time with the 30 or more American troops and they were all very nice.

At what point did Carmen come to meet the Americans?

Well, she met him when she was here.

Which one, the lieutenant?

Well, both of them but the lieutenant, yes. And…

How much contact did she have with the lieutenant? How much did she get to see him?

Oh well, she only saw him once again after he left here. I don't think she saw him. I think she only saw him once. I don't think she ever saw him again, I really don't know. I think the war, it was towards the end of the war, the big battle that was held on the island where they were and where they came from, I think it ended soon afterwards. And I don't think she ever met him again. They corresponded for ages but no, I don't think she met him again.

So when did she become engaged to him?

I suppose as he left here, I suppose. They were here for, no, they weren't here for so long but they were in Ballarat for a month, I would think. I would think more than a fortnight, I'm sure more than a fortnight, a month. And yes, he did write to her and they became engaged. And yes, we corresponded and he did get home to America. But then, it drifted apart, I think.

What did your friends and neighbours think about you entertaining American soldiers here?

Some weren't frightfully pleased and they thought we had rather little to do that we had time to do it. I don't think they were quite right because they did enjoy it. Yes, I suppose those that were in it enjoyed

it. I think perhaps there was a little feeling of 'I wish I'd done the same thing' and therefore you look at it in a different way. I suppose it caused a bit of tension. There was a little bit of strife about the gaiety of the party that was held in the town hall at the time and I suppose yes.

Can you remember that story, can you tell me what happened?

Oh well, it did take a bit of getting home with the black-outs on the cars, it did make it slow coming home. And well, there was one man who did help here, he thought we'd been a bit light and frivolous to have such a party in such a hard working time. I'm not going to say I had anything to do with the organising of getting the Hamilton Town Hall, I don't know what section of people did that really. But the women did dress up in evening dress and it was after a few years it was a sort of really dressed occasion that we hadn't been amongst for a time. And the Americans, of course, were terribly capable dancers and a lot of people had a very good time with good music. We hadn't had good music and good time for ages. And a lot really did enjoy themselves, and we were happy. But yes, there were a section of people did say, "Should you have done that?" And that is as much as I think I should say as to where the quarrels went.

Well, just finishing up then, perhaps, I was wondering at what point did Carmine leave your property?

I really think she stayed on until she went nursing. We were very glad, yes, look, she did help, she took the place of a jackeroo. She was helpful and, well, she knew every animal on the place. She knew when it was becoming old and was a tremendous help to get on with getting the stock straightened out after the war. And as there were Ryeland sheep here and they had to have their ears tagged with numbers for which land they were of what sheep. And she knew it all and was a tremendous help.

Did she stay on when your husband came back?

Yes, she did for until she went to the hospital, yes.

And how did your husband find having Carmen working? Did they get on?

Oh, as good as you could get, yes, yes. She was just capable. She was, very.

Do you remember about the dog? Can you describe this relationship Carmen had with her dog?

Oh well, she was very good with the dog and it could really do everything. I'm trying to think where she

got it from. The man who walked here who was so terribly helpful to us, with a dog. I think he left it to her when he went. I just can't remember it as a pup and her training it. One day, well, it was a busy time and the sheep had to be taken some distance and she got up at five in the morning and took the sheep down the road and the wind was blowing from the east, as it were, and they were going east so she put the dog at the front of the sheep and came home and had breakfast and went back and the sheep were all there and she called the dog away and away they went, and that was how biddable he was. He would sit or go wherever she told him.

Can you remember what his name was? No?

Red's dog, do you remember? What was the name of that man that came?

That's all right, it's not an important thing. Not to worry, I'll ask Carmen, she'll remember. But just going after the war. After Carmen left, who sort of took her place? Did you have other employees coming on?

Yes, those cottages were not down there before the war but they may have started to come during the war owing to traffic. People didn't mind riding a bicycle or riding a horse in a gig and come to work, but things advanced and it seemed better to have people living

here and the cottages weren't there then and those cottages got put up, those two cottages, and people came into them with a family straight afterwards. We advertised in the paper for a man and one man who's here now who's been here 35 years, I think, he answered the advertisement and came with his family. His family are grown up and married now. And he and his wife are still there in the cottage and they're very happy there I think.

> Just generally, what sort of ways did the affected the running of Morowa? Do you think it carried on fairly much as normally?

Yes, I don't think, I think, I think most people were able to find that older person who's terribly good. Again I say the agents were wonderful, the men who sold the stock. And perhaps when you did ask me who made arrangements they knew if you had a good agent and if you were fortunate to perhaps an old man who hadn't gone to the war as the agent who knew things, he would be able to ring and say 'well, at this time of the year you sell the old ewes'. And you did ask me before about the running of it and I'm now decided that the agent would ring and he had as much help and sensible say as anyone. And I still think agents do alert you for their own sake. They come out and say 'what have you got for sale?', and I think as always a good agent has played a very big part in helping run the place.

Because he jogs the memory it must be done sort of now is the time.

What sort of things would you do during those war years?

I suppose in a way keeping the place together and if anyone did have a little bit of a grudge against the other fellow who didn't finish the job, I'm making that up a bit, but you did act as peace maker rather than quarrel over it. I think that to keep peace was the main thing. And at that time Morowa East, you see, was… didn't have a Land girl. And we had a fair bit of contact with them at the same time and a little bit of mixed, intermixed help. If there was a big job to do if they had with them helped us and who we had here helped there sometimes. So I think we were two fortunate places that we were able to work together.

Carmen was saying at one time you had an accident where you came off a horse, what happened then?

When I came off a horse? I came off a good many times but they were only minor accidents.

She seemed to think there was some sort of major accident which meant that it was difficult for you to get around?

Yes, yes, I actually hurt my knee. Well yes, the thing was in an iron, yes. It didn't hamper me once I got it put in an iron, I could walk along. Yes, extremely. It was the cartilage out and, yes, that was the treatment to put it in plaster and then I got an iron to lace up each way. But for goodness sake, I was pushed about in a barrow. I'd forgotten it. But it righted, it had another little accident which was a good one. It wasn't an accident, it was a cure and it came right. That is the perfect truth. Nowadays, of course, they sort of pull your leg or something and put a cartilage right. But there was a lot of fuss. But it did, it's there. There's a twinge if it gets twisted a little, but it's quite all right.

Did you keep up with your horses and the breeding of the horses during the war?

Yes, the ponies were out in the paddock. The little pony stallion he was out in the paddock and the mares, dear little things. Well, twelve hands and under. They all came up to you and, yes, they were there when the Home Guard came. The Home Guard had their once-a-month camp out in the paddocks and they met up with the other Home Guards to throw their little bombs or whatever they had. And they were frivolous and one felt he'd like to test one out. He chose the pony stallion because it came up very close to, he talked to it for a bit, and he jumped on to it but the pony soon threw him off. It didn't want to have a rider at that

time. That's a true story, in the middle of the paddock.

Oh dear, and no bridle or saddle or anything?

The pony had a free day to have some fun. A free evening because they camped out at night. They went through it, the Home Guard went through it all very well and very good in what they did.

And who were the Home Guard, were they local?

Well, they were everyone who didn't do, weren't in the war. They were the men who went, who were active and weren't in the war. They met from Portland up into this district, that's practically thirty miles in. And Portland was very, very on the edge of trouble because there were sightings of some ships and there was a dinghy ship went, whilst ashore, it had come off some war ship and it was found on the coast down near Portland. Why I can remember it is it had a tremendous amount of, it had been floating in the sea for quite a time. They get barnacles on. It had a lot of barnacles on its bottom, was how it was able to be remembered. At the time I was down there was when it was washed in. Actually, they can't tell me about it now but I have asked. But it did come in and I did see it.

Did the government give you any directions what you should do if there was an invasion?

Not here, because we were a little further inland but my sister in law a little nearer the coast was told she had to take the studs inland if they did give an order that the stock had to be moved. She was to take the beef cattle stud on their own, not put them in with the mob with the others, and make north with them and it did frighten her really. But she thought it was beyond their capability which I think it would have been very difficult to do. But then, at that time, it was marvellous if a thing was difficult how you could, I suppose, you got help and you were able to do it. But it didn't come, thank goodness. I think there were, I think the coast people did get quite a lot of orders. The 20 miles inland or something.

Must have been a worry, so close. Well, that's all.