

Interview with David E. Hubler, 1992 ([SA 8/8/4/1](#))

David: Actually our main home while we were here was really Halesworth and Boxted. Boxted was *the* home.

Interviewer: When you say home, what was it like living on a camp here in England, in wartime England?

David: We were busy. The worst part was winter. But when summertime came, the sun comes up at 4.30, 4 o'clock, it sets around 11 o'clock, and that means a whole bunch of flying. And we'd go to mess hall and eat, and this might be 2.30 in the morning. And then we'd go up and pre-flight the aircraft, top them off with fuel, check them all over, put either the bomb-load or gun-load in, if they wanted. And by that time it's daylight and the pilots would've gotten up a little later, and they'd go out and fly. And while they're gone, we're working on other aircraft. And when they come back, it was always- some of them would blow a tyre on the runway, get stuck in the mud.

The winter times were rough, because it was raining a lot. Because of the fuel shortage, we could only have fires in the barracks for two hours a day. I'm not complaining, I mean everybody else had it the same way. But you'd go in wet, and the blankets were wet, and trying to fire up a coke stove, and you'd just be tired and you'd flop out.

But in the winter time we did get more time off to socialise. The fellas I had, had a very strong relationship with people in the community. You know, they knew each other in pubs, played darts and that sort of thing.

I remember when the war was actually over, I was still on the base, I was still there, and they decided to do something for the townfolk. Our group had a bunch of real enterprising people and we had an ice-cream machine. So the idea was let's have- invite townfolks out to eat, and they came in the mess hall and had potatoes and cabbage and all that kind of stuff. And as meat they had bully beef, in tins, you know, about four inches square. And I can remember sitting down eating with an old gent, and he said, 'You know, I like this as well as I do roast beef.' And I thought, it's been a long time since he's eaten roast beef. But they were most grateful and everybody was happy to do that. That's always been a most pleasant memory, to see them sitting around eating in the mess hall.