

Excerpt of oral history recorded on Wednesday 21st March 2018 at Wangaratta RSL Sub-Branch as part of the Veterans Heritage Project.

Interviewee

Joyce Barry

Transcript

I think maybe because dad, having been in the army and—actually, I put in an application form for the Air Force and the Army, and the Air Force one came back first. I wasn't really fussed which one I went into, I just thought that everyone was very, very loyal, and very much that way. Like all the boys that I went to school, they'd all gone. And I think it was just a loyal thing that I'd thought that, "well, maybe I can do something".

Interviewer: And how old were you?

19, just on 20.

Interviewer: Whilst you were in Melbourne, in the Air Force, if you had free time, what sort of things-

Oh, your nights were free time, and I went dancing a lot, and went to parties. There was one fellow we knew used to take us. He had a single-seater car, and he had a gas producer on the back, and we'd sit in the dicky seat at the back and go to parties at night I think. And of course everything was dim. We had one experience when I was at Laverton, which I suppose is worth recounting. We had been into the city on the train and we were coming back, and there was only dim lights anyway. All of a sudden, all lights went out and the train stopped. And they came round and told us we weren't allowed to light a cigarette or speak, and we had to get out of the train before the Laverton station and go as quietly as we could across the paddock and get into our sleeping place, because there was supposedly-- whether there was or not, we don't know-- planes over Point Cook and Laverton.