

## **Jackson Brown**

### **Gas Precautions and Training**

They had a steel fabricated hut and they had these gas, do they call them bombs or discs or whatever in there? You had to get in there and say "Right now". You had to hold your breath. The first thing they do when this is a gas attack they say "What's the first thing you do?" "Put your gas mask on". "No, you need to hold your breath". And you get it on and they left you in there, was it two or three minutes? And you're trying not to breathe while you were in. Some of their eyes were sticking out here. I was brave enough to try the gas. I was keeping tight here to make sure. And then out you come and that was it like. I didn't know anybody who had a leaky gas mask and I didn't know anybody that was really in any trouble, not in our particular section anyway. But they did that sort of thing. And then you got endless lectures. People who were taking the lecture didn't know, they were having to read it off pamphlets, you know, about the different types of gas and how, what happened and one thing and another. Now we did a big scheme one time. We went up onto Exmoor, depth of winter. We just got out and there was about that much snow but some of them were cut off for a week, but in the meantime did a bit manoeuvring around. You had your gas capes and they had a Lysander coming over and he was dropping some kind of liquid, they said it was aniseed but whether it was aniseed or not, I don't know. But you used to put a stick with a disc on the top and the disc changed colour that was liquid gas. Why this aniseed or whatever was supposed to have the same reaction as the liquid gas.