

**John Dobbs**

**Civilians in Germany**

They were pretty bad really because they couldn't get any food or work or anything. We saw hundreds of women cleaning bricks or stacking them up ready to rebuild the city, and that was the only way that they could get money for food or anything. They would flog watches or trinkets for some fags, and they, in turn, would swap the fags for foodstuff, it was a vicious circle really. And I remember outside our cookhouse in Berlin we used to see little kids coming and scrounging around the waste bins, the swill bins, for foodstuff, you know. And some of the sergeants used to bring out little 'doggy bags' to hand out to them when we came out. We wasn't supposed to.