



## Ethel Rice

*"How long were you there for?"*

Oh a few, couple of months you know. We went hop picking, and that was, that was alright you know, but when you went to eat your sandwiches, the hops are all bitter, horrible. But that's what we did. We thought we were safe, they'd only got a searchlight place in the other corner of the field. So the bombers were coming over trying to bomb the searchlight you know, put them out. Dear, dear dear. And then when the season was over, the hop pickers, they said they'd put us on a train at Maidstone, came to Birmingham, and they opened a big workhouse for us so as we'd got somewhere to have a bath and something to eat and then we came to Burton, and they took us to All Saints Road to the chapel there and they said well we don't know where we're going to put this family, so they ummd and ahhd and they dropped us off at the corner of King's Street. And it was there she took us in. Worst day's work my mother had ever done, awful. And the church had to give us pots and pans and bed linen because we'd just got the clothes we stood up in. And admitted the hospital gave us nighties and dressing gowns while they washed all our clothes you know, and gave them back to us so we'd got something to come out with but that's all they did. It was awful it really was."