

Interview with John Milton (1982) – a brief description

Available from the Imperial War Museum at <http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/80006095>

Object description

British NCO served at Cabinet War Room 2, Dollis Hill and Cabinet War Room 3, Great Peter Street, London, GB, 9/1940 - 1/1946

Content description

REEL 1: Recollections of period at Cabinet War Room 2 (also referred to as the 'paddock') and Cabinet War Room 3 (also referred to as the 'Rotunda' and 'HMS Anson'), London, GB, 9/1940 – 1/1946: story of return from service in France and posting to Cabinet War Room 2, Dollis Hill, London, 9/1940: description of Cabinet War Room 2 and location within Post Office Research Station building; opinion of accommodation and facilities; guards; preparations to make Cabinet War Room 2 operational; staff; nature of duties and working hours; maintenance of teleprinters and telephones; cleaning of offices; description of Churchill's room; obtained certificate in bookkeeping; story of rat in air duct; question of secrecy of Dollis Hill site; story of rehearsal for moving Churchill and staff from Cabinet War Room 1 in Whitehall to Cabinet War Room 2; campaign maps; comparison of conditions at Cabinet War Rooms 2 and 3; reason for location of Cabinet War Room 2; opinion of Cabinet War Room 3; communications between Cabinet War Rooms; opinion of Col Ives.

REEL 2 Continues: further description of Cabinet War Room 2, Dollis Hill: accommodation; conference room; map room; carpets; other areas of building housing Post Office Research staff; direct link between Cabinet War Room 2 and Bletchley Park; routing of information; nature of Post Office experiments and research; opinion of protection at Cabinet War Room 2; attitude to leaving Cabinet War Room 2, 1944; memories of Lord Rance, curator of Cabinet War Room 1; testing of telephones and teleprinters; opinion of female staff and cleaners; description of duties at Cabinet War Room 3; attitude to working underground; leave rota; opinion of readiness of Cabinet War Room 2; morale in London; further comments on cleaners; story of taking Lord Beaverbrook and Home Secretary Herbert Morrison on tour of Cabinet War Room 3.

REEL 3 Continues: conclusion of story; attitude to Churchill using Cabinet War Room 2.