

OH 550/23 - Interview with Vern and Fay Hallam

TAPE 2, SIDE A - Learning of the scheme

Do you remember how you initially heard about the Loxton scheme?

Vern Oh we knew about it even before I was discharged because the – apparently the RSL here had a meeting and from what I can gather it was Tab Pflaum and someone or other who was the Manager of Media down here or Sherwood actually and Ed Johnson and they said "Look this is beautiful land why not open it up for soldier settlers?" and they put in a sort of draft, as you may have heard, to the powers that be suggesting that this be investigated and it was and that's why this is a federal scheme against Cooltong and Loveday which were two state schemes. So we knew all about that before we came over. I was surprised to be selected in the first interview but there again I think they unconsciously or otherwise helped me a lot because we had only been married about a month or so when we went before the Tribunal and interview and they asked Fay and she had been in the Land Army and they threw a trick question at her. They said "what have you been doing?" and she said you know she picked apples and strawberries. And he said "oh strawberries yes so and so" and Fay corrected him and she thought afterwards she was cheeky but she said "I am sorry they're not strawberries they are apples" and they just left her in peace. And I think they thought well she is no fool. And I think the fact that Fay was keen on the land and proved it in the Land Army helped me to be in the first allocation. I don't know but I was fortunate to be in the first allocation. I liked the area I was in. I had very good neighbours. We were a real team all in that area. We still stick together the forty-eighters.