

**Mike Turner**

**Meldon Quarry Cottages.**

*So Mike, where did you live?*

Initially I was born over in Meldon village, but I actually moved up to the quarry cottages here, I think it was just before I joined the Air Force, that would have been the April of '59.

*And what were they like, how many of them were there?*

There was twelve, three bedrooms upstairs, two rooms downstairs with a wash area-type-kitchen to the back, you had to go outside the back door to go to the toilet, yes, but we had running water and electricity so we weren't that primitive. But they were all very very solidly built and they had to be, because as a child I use to sit over at Meldon village on the wall, my grandfather's garden wall and we used to watch the tunnels being blown; now this is a large tunnel which is drilled through the face of the quarry and they used to fill it full of explosives, pack the thing out and then let it off, and this thing used to go up in the air, it was a tremendous height and rise up and then whoof, just fall away.

*So those houses had to be pretty sturdy.*

Yes, right oh, yes, there were ceilings that did come down, we used to say, 'Oh, Mrs Parson's ceiling's fallen in', you know, but part and parcel, they used to come along and it was fixed, no fuss or bother. But really its only the ceilings that have come in, the actual structure, I don't think there was hardly a crack at all, in the houses.