

**John Williams**  
**Brothel in Cherbourg**

We went down a road and here was some brothels doing a fine trade. And one of us blokes said "Is that one of them places, why aren't we ganning in, you can talk to the lasses cannot you?" I said "Yes". So we went in and there was little garish sort of thing. I remember there was a big wench with a - I can still see her - with a blue, a short blue dress on, a miniskirt which I'd never seen a woman wear. Came and say on my knee and said "Hey soldier, English soldier, you like nice girl?" And I bought her a drink you know, and she said "You come upstairs with me". And there was a big central stairs and there was a long trek of soldiers coming up and going down. And there was some of our blokes "Hey, they're all right these aren't they?" I said "Yes, yes". And there was this girl who was just sort of playing with my hat, you know, and then patting my face and saying "You like nice French girl?" and so on. And I thought to myself "I wonder what it's like?" And I bought her an absinthe, she wanted an absinthe. And I said to her "Absinthe", I said "*pas bonne pour la mademoiselle*". She said "No, but it is good for making love". And I was looking to say that and coming down the stairs who but this character who had had VD. And I looked at that lad and I thought "Right Williams, you nearly went upstairs with this wench. Now you know he might still have VD, you don't know any of the other characters". So I said "*Allez, fini*". I'll always remember her. Her charm turned off and she said, if you'll excuse the thing, "You fuck off, you no fucking bon"! And went away. And so I remained moral for the rest of my Army life.