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THE ONLY CHILD not edited number 2

When I was young, we did not Twitter – we went to Nan the baby sitter

On the morning, after the previous night's Air raid... Mum was working and as usual, I stayed with Nan, she looked after me, until Mum came home in the afternoon. Nanny Russell lived opposite us in Atlas Gardens, Charlton.

When I got to her flat, I ran up the stairs and turned into the living room, I couldn't wait to see her. As soon as I saw her in the armchair, I ran and sat on her lap crying... she knew why!

The night before... I was tucked up in my parents room fast asleep, and woken by Mum, shaking me, and pulling me upright... she throw a blanket around my shoulders, and with one arm under my tummy she ran. I was not scared. I knew where we were going. The Sirens were screaming with ear piercing noise; an air raid was happening.

She ran down the iron stairs, towards the Anderson shelter, that was at the bottom of the garden. It was not long before we heard the Bombers flying overhead, very low, and flying towards the Thames. Mum said. 'They're going for the Docks'.

It was always dark in the shelter; she sat me on the Bunk Bed and rubbed my Back and Legs to stop me shivering. Shelters were made of corrugated iron and half buried in the ground. It was cold and it was damp. Mum did her best, to keep me warm... always her priority – keep warm. In the shelter the only heat we had, came from the candles on the small table, I would hold my hands over the flame for some warmth.

It was not long before the noise become deafening. I was shaking and so was Mum. The Vibrations of the low flying bombers went through our chests... as always we were concerned for Dad. He was working a Night Shift in the Surrey Docks. On the other side of the River Thames, the Docks were the targets of the Bombers.

The relief was overwhelming when he came home, the following afternoon. No fuss was made of him – he would not like that – and he did not say much!

'A Bit Noisy wasn't it? Everything OK here?' He asked. Mum replied, 'I think so, but we better get the windows covered.'

There wasn't any direct hit on us, or the neighbours, but some of them, had damage to the windows, glass was everywhere in the square. The vibrations of the bombers made the windows vibrate. We also has an unexploded bomb in the Square. Everyone, was told to stand away. The Bomb Squad, arrived and began disabling the Bomb, not far from our front door.

Nan's back veranda – on the other side of the Square – was well away from the, I had a good position to watch, until I was dragged into the front room, overlooking Anchor and Hope Lane.

'You stay in here my girl, till your Mother comes home.' And I did.