

Transcript of Audio Clip with Miriam Dunham

It was the night that Bromley was caught on fire. They concentrated on incendiary bombs on Bromley itself. I went over because her husband was on fire watch, he was an older man and had gone up to fire watch, to accompany her. Well, anyway the raid was so bad that the house next door got on fire. The warden came down and he said 'fill the bath with water and then get out'. And I got a tin hat because at that time I was in the forces and my sister she got nothing to put on her head so she said 'what shall I put on my head?' and he said 'a cushion'. I thought how silly, what is that going to do with shrapnel? Anyway we had to go in next door because he wouldn't allow us outside. We went in and they had a Morrison shelter which was a different kind of shelter indoors with steel on top. We got under there, the people who were there, under there obviously, a young boy and a dog. Well, it was pitch black and we couldn't see where they bundled us in and gone in there. And all we heard all night was this masonry falling and of course my sister thought it was her house, well we both did. We never slept at all we just heard this terrible noise of crackling and all that. And the young boy there, at least we did laugh, there was a terrible crash and he said 'Oh, my heart. It nearly come off its hook then'. At least with all the drama going on it made us laugh and they got a big dog there, huge dog. We couldn't see it. We could only feel it because it was so black! Oh, that was a dreadful night. However, when we got out the next day, my sister's house was ok. The house next door was completely gone. There was nothing, was there Fred? Of her house - the house next door. With fire, it had just completely gone away.