

Transcript of Raymond Weeks Video Clip

Raymond: We were quite happy skipping around, God knows what. We started writing letters home to my mum and dad and they started to come back with things like 'No such number', 'This address' — not in these words but 'This address does not exist' with a big blue pencil through. It was a blue pencil, censorship.

Interviewer: What did you make of that at the time?

Raymond: Well, we didn't realise what was going on and bearing in mind that, this is the crux of the whole matter. First of all my mother and my father, I might be jumping the gun but my mother and my father, two brothers and two sisters and one of my sisters who was married, her husband were in the house at the time that this incident happened. The reason my married sister and her husband were there, they'd been to see mum, stay with mum during the day and the raid was getting quite heavy and they decided to stay the night. Well, at — bear in mind we went away the 26th September, ok. This was in early morning, quarter past one in the morning the 5th of October this happened. A land mine — an aerial mine — a parachute mine hit the house, effectively within a couple of yards from the house, anyway. At that time the two brothers were the only ones who were in bed at the time. The two brothers that were in bed at the time were my brother Ronny, who was the next boy who went on the first evacuation, and the brother that is still alive in Canada now, who is 88, and they were blown out into the street, the two of them and I only found this next thing that I'm going to say, I only found this out very recently because I was always under the impression that my brother didn't know anything about it. Well he didn't really but there were certain things and he told me on the phone within the last eighteen months. He said that Ronny, he was the younger brother, the next one up from me, he said, 'I remember Ronny speaking to me and saying I can't breathe' and he said there was just a hole, they could actually see through it. They were covered in rubble and god knows what. Ronny was taken to hospital, St. Nicholas Hospital as was — do you remember or know of St Nicholas? No? It was over the other side of Woolwich/Plumstead. It's been demolished since. And Ronny was taken to hospital and he died seven hours later. The other one, that is the one in Canada, he —

Interviewer: And what's his name?

Raymond: Well, he — Leslie. Yeah, he was so badly injured that he was in hospital for about twelve weeks and he didn't know what had actually had gone on. Nobody was telling him that his whole family had been killed sort of thing.