

Transcript of Edward Garnett Audio Clip

Well it was in February 1944. We were in bed we lived above the shop [unclear] - our only air raid shelter, was a cupboard under the stairs, and we had to come down. We were laying there and the air raid warning went and I had a feeling I didn't want to stay there. I didn't want to stay there. I eventually got my parents and we all went down into the shop to enter the cupboard. Well, I never heard the bang – but the whole blast went right through the house. And it placed me under a table. Now my mother and my father [laughing] were just about to go under the cupboard – well mother I think was in there – my father found me laying under a table there and I'd gashed all the back of my head – bleeding down there. Finally he called into the wardens' post opposite that there was injury here, 'cos the place was in wrack and ruin. Well, the building was still there but all the contents were smashed to pieces, so they came across and I had a feeling, I went like that – at that point I said now look - on the evenings beforehand my father used to buy pilchards to use in the shop in sandwiches and rolls, and each evening he used to mix them up in a bowl so it's all ready for the morning, and what had happened was this blast before I was flung under the table, I was hit with this dish of pilchards and that's what was down onto my back and I've never touched pilchards since.