

Jean Hawks  
Tehiy Gough-Yates  
Lilley Tindale

R: Were you around here in the war?

?: I wasn't round in Southwark. I was over in the East End in the early part of the war.

?: I lived in Southwark but I worked in the city in the war years.

R: Can we have some names?

J: My name is Jean Hawks.

L: Lilley Tindale

T: My name is complicated. It's Tehiy Gough-Yates. It is pronounced Tia.

R: Lets start off talking about the blackout.

?: I sprained my ankle in the blackout. I also remember coming home from dances in the blackout. We never bothered, twelve, one in the morning. Never thought about it, never thought about bombs dropping or anything.

R: Was it completely dark in the blackout?

All: Yes.

?: You had these tiny torches with a number eight battery which were so difficult to get. We used to walk around with them to find our way around.

?: I was in Southwark...(?). It was extremely difficult for people. most people...(?)...never used to go out. What we used to do was get the children ready and when the bombs started, down the shelter.

?: Before the blackout you made sure that all the blackout curtains were pulled over because if there was a chink of light the air raid warden would come knocking on the door "You're showing a chink of light".

?: I remember it. I was on ARP. There was a shop on the corner of our road, a laundry. We used to sleep on the racks of the shop.

R: Why would you sleep on the racks?

?: Because we had to be on duty, you see. ...(?) We thought it was great fun.

?:...(?)

?: I think the worst thing were the flying bombs when they came down, and incendiaries.

?: I was only twenty five but when one thinks of the young mothers whose children were only about ten or nine and they were going to be evacuated, and you packed up their little cases, a change of underwear and took them down to the station and they were put on a train with school teachers, and those poor mothers! I've never had children (?) but the thought "Am I going to see those children?".

?: They had a programme on the television, on the mother's feelings on it.

?: In this area they went down to Wales and Cornwall and miles away.

?...(?)...(muffled). ...when my husband came home...(?)

?: The effects that it had on some of these school children. They didn't really realise where they were. They might have been 50 miles or 100 miles from London for all they knew.

?...The schools reopened again...(?)

?: I can remember my mother coming home and she was absolutely crying her eyes out. and I said "Whatever is wrong with you?" She said "I've just seen all these little children with their names on them being evacuated.

?: The only time I was really afraid was when we got the rockets.

?: Yes. ...(?)

(muffled section)

?: We were going down ..(?) to visit friends....(?)..and that was the first one that landed.

?: A V2 or a V1?

?: They didn't know what it was.

?: The V1's you could hear coming up.

?: The one at New Cross was very bad wasn't it?

?: We were at the pantomine...(?)

?: I lived in a block of flats ...(?) and this bomb landed in the grounds of the flats. We felt that the whole thing had shifted ..(?). The strange thing was, there was an enormous lump of stone, it was terrifically wide, a big boulder like that, and this lump of stone dropped through the metal windows ...(?). This enormous boulder had got through that, so it must have pushed it out and the window came back again...(?)

?: There was one round Goose Green that came down and never exploded.

R: Was it a bomb. I'm sure it was a bomb. I'm sure it's somewhere still there because it never exploded. They never found it.

(all talk together, very muffled section)

R: Did you have any experience as an evacuee?

?: I was single and just going to the dances. It was quite fun really.

R: I have the impression that you enjoyed the time a lot?

?: I didn't enjoy it but we made the best of it...(?)...(noisy)....It was a Saturday and I was going to the hairdressers....."I'm alright now". There was this terrific noise, with all the planes going over.

R: and the hairdresser wouldn't stop?

?...(?) When they bombed down the docklands it was blazing all night because it was the ...first wedding anniversary....bombs there.

?: I worked at the Port of London Authority. We had some hair raising bombs there.

R: Do you remember that first raid?

?: No. It hasn't stuck in my memory.

(long noisy, muffled section, sounds like there's a party going on...)

?: ...all the way round Bethnal Green, all the library. Eventually .....(?)...we got into the shelter and about two o'clock in the morning the wardens came, and we'd only been about .....

?:...evacuate down to Windsor.....(?) ...he was working ... he was going to be called up sooner or later....(?)...I was due to have a baby.....

(long inaudible section)

?...especially my parents because we....bombed...It wasn't really difficult.....I saw him for a very short time. He went in 1940 and came back in ..(?).

(long inaudible section)

END OF AUDIO TAPE INTERVIEW - SIDE A

NB: The sound quality throughout this interview is very poor indeed. Even in the transcribed sections I have 'guessed' quite a lot.

TRANS29.DOC

Transcribed by Vanda / 5.4.95