

Teacher's guide to the interview with Mr Laurie Holme after the V1 flying bomb raid on East Grinstead on 11th July, 1944

The pupils are asked to listen to the interview with Laurie Holmes on the V1 bomb page in the East Grinstead case study section of the Second World War site. There is a worksheet to go with the task. The information the pupils collect will be used in creating a 'newspaper' report of the V1 bomb raid. This interview is 1 minute 24 seconds long.

List of questions	Potential source of information
<i>Where were you and what time was it when you heard the flying bomb?</i>	The second time it was a flying bomb and that was at about 7.30 in the morning. I was still home and I was just coming down the stairs and I heard this flying bomb and then suddenly the engine stopped.
<i>The engine stopping meant that the V1 bomb was going to land. What did you do?</i>	So I ran down the stairs and I was just going to open the front door when it came. The blast.
<i>How far away do you think the blast was?</i>	And it came from a mile away.
<i>What happened on your way to the shop after the blast?</i>	Anyway I got dressed quickly, swallowed a cup of tea and I hurried up to the shop. Before I got to the shop, there were two or three of the girls and they said, 'It's no good going to the shop sir, it's gone, completely gone, not a brick standing.
<i>Once you got to the shop and saw the damage, what did you decide to do?</i>	Anyway I ran the rest of the way, ...and it was, it was all gone. 'So I must phone Blackfriars'. I went into two or three shops, several shops and their phone wasn't working.
<i>When you got through to head office at Blackfriars, what was their reaction?</i>	I eventually got to MacFisheries and 'Can I borrow your phone for a moment?' Certainly he says, and when I got through and phoned them and told them they just wouldn't believe me; it was possible for a bomb to drop in the same place...
<i>Within two or three hours of the shop being completely destroyed, you were back in business. How did you manage that?</i>	Within two or three hours the van was down; fitted out as a shop with a bacon machine and all the equipment. And we were able to park under Caffyn's garage canopy, round the corner and then we had the trestle and boards laid out with... we were able to put out the sausages that they sent down and pies and it was just to keep our customers happy and they were all completely amazed.