

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

CLIFFORD FULLERTON

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[00:00:00] CF: First of all, I had to find somewhere to live

[00:00:03] INTERVIEWER: Yes, tell me about how you arrived and how you had to stay in the shelters?

[00:00:10] CF: We arrived ah, in June and we who had not anywhere to go and we were put up in the deep shelter, a deep shelter place in Clapham.

[00:00:25] INTERVIEWER: Those were old air raid shelters from the war, were they?

[00:00:29] CF: Yes, most of the fellows who came with us were fellows who had been here during the war and they had made friends with girls and things like that, you know. So when they came back, they thought they would be able to go to these places [scoffs/laughs] but when they went there, they were told... you know, some of the girls looked at them as if.... what?! what you say?! [laughs] you know? [laughs] You see, the girls, probably boyfriends or husbands was away [pause] during that time to different parts. These fellows felt they would be able to go back [laughs] to the same life, when they went back, they had a shock, shock.

[00:01:24] CF: You see, when we were travelling on the ships, those fellows were the ones who said “oh I know where I’m going, I have a nice home to go to, I would not come to England if I did not know where I am going?” So, we looked at them you know and said “Boy! we wish we were like you people” [laughs]

[00:01:47] CF: So, when we went to the deep shelter and we were making ourselves quite cosy these fellows had took off, taken off to go to their respective homes that they thought they had, you know. So, we were having our supper and things in the deep shelter [laughs, mutters inaudibly], the same fellows who had these beautiful homes to go to, coming down with sad face [laughs, mutters inaudibly].

[00:02:23] INTERVIEWER: Who ran the shelters, do you remember (Repeat)?

[00:02:27] CF: Oh well it is the London Borough Fulham/Lambeth, or one of dem place like that

[00:02:34] INTERVIEWER: Yes, I see! and did they provide the food?

[00:02:39] CF: Yes, they gave us the food, those of us who had money we paid 2 and 6 meal, for one meal and if you had not any money, they were given it free.

[00:02:51] INTERVIEWER: How many were they in the shelters?

[00:02:56] CF: About hmm... two hundred and fifty [laughs]

[00:02:59] INTERVIEWER: Oh goodness!

[00:03:01] CF: [laughs] you know, you had little bungle grip just beside you and a little cot and a blanket and imagine when you had to come up, you know, there was lift to take you up from the deep shelter to the top and when you go up in that lift now and have to go out probably for two hours or three hours, anything

could happen to your [scoffs, mutters inaudibly] could be stolen, could be ransacked, anything like that.

[00:03:44] INTERVIEWER: So how did you manage?

[00:03:46] CF: Well we had to take a chance, if you come back and find it [laughs, mutters inaudibly] you were quite lucky.

[00:03:52] INTERVIEWER: How long were you there?

[00:03:56] CF: For four weeks