

Extract from a talk given to Stamford Park Junior school in November 2016

I must say that we are very impressed by the wonderful models you have made of world war two air-raid shelters. And I can tell you they are very realistic and bring back memories for me.

You see, we thought you might like to hear from someone who at one time slept in such a shelter many, many times, and experienced actual bombing raids...

*(details were then given about my Liverpool Blitz experiences)*

But the area around Altrincham got bombed. The Germans used radio beams to find their targets but we British interfered with them. So with everywhere totally dark, when they came to bomb Broadheath, they missed by miles!



This area, Trafford, used to be part of the county of Cheshire, and the very first bomb in Cheshire landed close to this church. (Hale URC) Just through the car-park and over the railway line. The house, Easingwold, was damaged but the owners happened to be on holiday. Now, in those days very few people had cars, but these people had two, only there wasn't any petrol, so went on holiday by train. When they got back it was to find the house

bombed. But the good news was – the Mercedes car and the Rolls Royce were OK.



Now I want to tell you about another bomb that fell near your school, just the other side of Stamford Park at Christmas 1940. There's a corner shop in Mayors road. The bomb fell in the road and damaged the shop, and also a house opposite. In the house were an elderly couple, their daughter and granddaughter who were staying for Christmas.

A friend said "you can't stay there, come and spend Christmas with me.

Her house was at the corner of Oakfield road and Moss lane, you know, at the traffic lights on the way to Tesco's or the baths.



That night another bomb fell on that house and killed all three generations. A terrible tragedy, bombed twice in one day. Now, next time you go through those traffic lights look at the corner. They never rebuilt the house, instead there is a memorial garden there in memory of the Jenyons family.



The present memorial garden.

This time of year, as you know, we have two minutes silence for those killed in the war. This year, think not only of the soldiers, sailors and airman who died, but also the thousands of ordinary people who were killed by the bombing. Will you do that?