David	Interviewed by Tricia Ryan 13.1.15
Wilson	
2.45	Aged 79. At the age of 8 or 9 I became a wandering tyke. Went to Gipton Wood which was a favourite haunt as a youngster. Friend and I went to the wood in about 1946 and found a watch but we were scared because the area was out of bounds. Pilot from Copgrove Road had lost it – he gave us a £4 reward. Were two paths through the wood. There were bluebells in the spring. Played cricket in there. Ran away from park warden. Left hand side was a spring in a deep culvert – it went into the Blackburn factory and we used to build a dam.
5.15	Used to trespass to get frogs and newts – went further in to factory grounds. Was a plane on its nose end – we used to sit in it and pretend we were flying it. We didn't do any damage to it.
	No 75 Copgrove Road – the Andersons lived there. Mrs Anderson was 'Moonbeam' and Mr Anderson was 'Dallas'. They made me feel like one of the family. A three story building. We had a pigeon club in there, eight of us. There was a terraced garden. Mrs Anderson used to bring us drinks. We would sit in the basement room, which was nicely fitted out. Happy memories.  Older brother Derek joined ATC at Parochial Hall. Back Oakwood Avenue – each shop had a stable at the back and one was converted for a pigeon loft. We would
11.00	sit on the embankment and watch pigeons come home. Mr Smith would feed them with corn. He looked like Ronnie Barker. Fantastic birds.  I started to keep pigeons. My schoolfriend Peter Firth lived at the top of Wellington Hill and I used to sell him the same pigeons back!
14.30	Gipton Wood – Commando Group HQ, Robin Hood etc – we had hours of fun, but nothing was damaged, we looked after it.  Sledged down to Roundhay Road from Gipton Wood Road. Donald had a nasty accident there – he took the top off his knee cap when sledging.  The Andersons – little sister was called Susan who was about 5 or 6 – she wore a straw hat and a green jacket. She asked me to marry her when she was 5 and I was 11!
	Roundhay Park – Donald Fleming could climb trees like a monkey. We walked round the side of the swimming pool to the lake and found a duck caught on the side of the waterfall which crosses under the road to Wetherby Road, down to Monkey Bridge. Donald crept across the stones to get the ducking and kept it 3 or 4 years. It was called Bruce.
	Father served in First World War aged 19 and was a draughtsman between the wars. He was an observer and was gassed on the Somme. During Second World War he got a job at the Ministry of Works at Lawnswood. Used to eat his
31.30	sandwiches in the cemetery. Dad wanted to be a farmer in 1920s – he bought
34.00	shares in a smallholding in Newton Abbott and found they had bought a wood – he cut half the trees down and then ended up coming back up north. He worked on the interiors of many large houses around Oakwood.  Had about eight ducks that would wander off down Easterly Road. Used to destroy dad's garden.
39.15	Went to school with Michael Pearson from Dibb Lane. Got to St John's Church and joined.  (Funny stories about Michael).

	Schofield family lived in Elmete Lane. We would sing carols.
48.30	Didn't go to Roundhay School. Went to Coldcotes School. Were seen as the posh
	kids. A good school.
	Got job with Crown Wallpapers (Smith and Butlers then). They used to send me
58.00	to Canal Gardens to draw the plants – to pick out a flowerhead and design
	something from that. They were lovely people, they trusted me. Then went to
	Yorkshire Post. Joined an Art class in recent years.
	Bought our first house in Wensley Drive when married.
	Current house bought for £3600, from 1962. Quite a number of Yorkshire Post
1:01:45	staff lived in Oakwood.
	I remember King George VI and Queen Mother coming to Roundhay Park.
	Children's Day – had appeals in the paper and in 1951 I won the poster
	competition. Procession backed by big businesses in Leeds.
	When aged 8 or 9 my brother was called up into the navy at 17. Our greenhouse
1:10:30	was demolished by flying shrapnel. Brother was on the back of the ships on the
	guns for two years. I sat on the steps at the wood waiting for my brother – I was
	very proud.
	Daughter got Queen's Guide presented by Richard Whiteley at Ladywood
	Church.
	Don't like a lot of the signs that are put up now. Used to be controlled.
	Lovely area, very smart and clean. Fish and chip shop immaculate.