Wilfred Thompson	Interviewed by Edna Murray 31.3.15
	Aged 81. Born 1934. Spent first years in Leeds then moved to Oakwood about 1941 and went to local school. Went into Roundhay Park regularly. Were two ginnels. One of them took him by Towerhurst army camp. Was fenced off. Were Italian POWs there helping out.
2.30	Learnt to swim at Roundhay Park swimming lido. A wonderful place, diving board, well used. Had paddling pool and a big waterfall. Employed at Roundhay as an apprentice painter and decorator, till aged 21. Three nights a week at night school. Got call up papers to Aldershot for National Service. Remembers Oakwood. A lot has changed now. Was a garage where the Indian restaurant is now. Remembers old Co-op and garage showrooms next to it. Very few cars then.
5.00	Blackburn factory – remembers it. Like a hangar.
6.30	Further down was Astoria. Met my wife there in 1951. Had two dance bands, on either side of ballroom, and a balcony. Rock n Roll always upstairs. Had to travel through Oakwood – my friend worked at Jones of Oakwood as a maintenance man and we worked on jobs together. I decorated the Jones' house. Very tiny shop in those days.
10.00	One of trams got loose – it ran down track, and across the main road towards Gipton Wood. Derailed itself. It was an empty tram. I got a workman's return which was a cheaper ticket. Everyone wanted to be upstairs on the tram. Everyone smoked – it was like a big fog. Children's Day – swam in galas. Gymnastics. Went to Coldcotes school.
12.00	I was evacuated out of Leeds during the war to Louth in Lincs. I lived 50 yards from the Town Hall. Got bombed. Air raid shelter was under Town Hall. Bombs dropped and did damage. Moved then to Oakwood. Was five and a half when evacuated. There were four of us. Father was a Sgt in the Tank Corps so mother was on her own. When I went in the army it was easy!
17.00	Built Swordfish at Blackburns. We made camouflage nets when young. It was a big adventure for us. Wife born in Chapel Allerton. We learned to dance at local dance school.
19.00	Clock cinema. I paid for lessons, to be able to dance with the girls. Dancing was a lifeline, to meet people. My grandson is a Corporal at Towerhurst. Been a Cadet since 13 / 14. Now
20.30	aged 18 and a trained chef. Middle daughter lives on Oakwood Lane in a listed building, a 17th century manor house. Has a hand painted window. Oakwood Clock is wonderful. Fortunate that we have a centre, a core. Oakwood was a village. Have paid for a tree in Roundhay Park and we have two slabs with my and my wife's names on them. My family live all around me.