

Dialect and Oral History: The East Midlands

AUDIO RECORD*

Recording:

Reference AHL-BP
Dialect Location Alford, Lincolnshire
Date of interview 2012

Interviewee:

Gender Male
Date of birth / age 1930
Occupation RAF Pilot

Summary/Transcript:

Extract taken from
07:31 – 09:02

Some of the memories are really (...) it's a job to believe them like the blackout (...) well that was quite something I mean everything was in pitch darkness (...) you want to go anywhere you had a [unintelligible: speech/laughter] and the streets the footpaths no lights at all of any kind (...) rationing was another one (...) one egg a week (...) well that was ridiculous in Lincolnshire I mean for goodness sake there were millions of the jolly things [laughs] and every/ everybody who (...) who knew anything about the job had had a pig tucked away somewhere so we were never short of anything really to be honest

And y/ your parents at this time they they'd seen your elder brother go off and...

Yeah yeah yeah

... and and his experiences

He was a rear gunner on wellingtons and eventually having had the canopy e/ the Perspex on his turret shot to bits around him (...) his nerve went (...) simple as that he became a dithering idiot for quite some time but (...) hardly surprising it wa/ it must have been an awful experience for anybody [laughs]

Absolutely I mean they say the rear gunner's worst

Yeah

positioned

well the rear gunner [unintelligible] rear gunner rear position on a on Lancaster is bad enough to look at it's a terrible place to be even at peace it really is

mmm

claustrophobic beyond belief (...) but somebody had to do it (...) what it was all about

Linguistic description:

Phonology

Feature	Example(s)	Comments
PRICE → /aɪ/	kind – [kaɪnd] lights – [laɪtʃs]	Consistent

*This audio record was created as part of *An investigation into dialect through oral history: The East Midlands*, awarded a British Academy Small Research Grant (SG110642) for 2011-2012.

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	time – [taɪm]	
MOUTH → /a:ʊ/	blackout – [blækɑ:ʊt] about – [əba:ʊʔ]	Consistent
GOAT → /eʊ/	claustrophobic – [klɒstəʊfəʊbɪkʔ]	Consistent
FOOT/STRUT → [ʊ]	something – [sʌmfɪn] some - [sʌm] tucked – [tʌkt]	Consistent
BATH/TRAP	footpaths – [fʊʔpæθs]	Consistent
Vowel variation: /ɛ/ → [ʊ]	them - [ʊm] or [əm]	Occurs once
T-glottalisation	not – [nɒʔ] shot – [ʃɒʔ] streets – [striʔs] lights – [laɪʔs]	Frequent but not consistent; medially and finally
K-glottalisation	darkness – [da:ʔnəs] experience - [eʔspɪəʊəns] sake – [seɪʔ]	Frequent but not consistent; medially and finally
happY-vowel	really – [ɹɪəli:] jolly – [dʒɒli:]	Consistent
Th-fronting	something – [sʌmfɪn]	Inconsistent
<-ng> → [ŋ]	something – [sʌmfɪn] Wellington's - [welɪntənz] rationing – [ɹaɪŋɪn]	Frequent but not consistent Occurs word medially and finally
H-dropping	had – [ad] who – [u:ʷ] him – [ɪm]	Consistent Syllable-initial
Elision	experience - [eʔspɪəʊəns] rationing – [ɹaɪŋɪn] memories – [memɹɪz]	
Yod-dropping	knew – [nu:]	Occurs once
<-shire> → [ɪə]	[ɪŋkənʃɪə]	Consistent for this suffix

Lexis	Item	Meaning	Comments

Grammar	Feature	Example(s)	Comments
	Non-standard contraction	want to – [wəni:]	Occurs once
	Zero preposition	“Ø you want to go anywhere”	‘if’ - Occurs once
	Zero Subject/Verb	“Ø claustrophobic beyond belief” “Ø what it was all about” “Ø simple as that”	‘it/that is/was/was as’ – Frequent but not consistent, only occurs when the object noun phrase acts as a predicative complement

Further comments:

09:21-09:23 – “we always jarred him about his wooden blocks under all the pedals”, “**jarred**” seems to mean “made fun of”.