

PC Bill Pilgrim describes being photographed holding a baby during the rescue effort on Canvey Island – an image that would make the front page of newspapers across the country. The baby was later identified as Judy Dolby (née Taggart).

‘There were quite a few journalists and newsmen at the ambulance station. And it so happened that amongst the persons on an army lorry which came there at one time was a man and his wife and a very young child, maybe only a month or two old. And I suppose I was there, and the child was handed to me whilst their parents disembarked from the army lorry- and later on, took the baby away from me, and well - I don’t know what happened to it from then. I don’t know what happened to the baby nor the parents. It was just one of those things. You couldn’t put the baby down on the ground because there was two or three feet of water. I suppose the photographers there thought this was an ideal photograph, so they took it.’

*The interview was broadcast on BBC Essex in 1988 as part of the programme ‘Tide on Tide’ [[SA 1/313/1](#)]*