

## Interview with Alan Mitchell about serving in the Royal Navy, 1980 ([SA 20/1126/1](#))

Alan: But the headquarters for all the submarine service at Gosport in Hampshire. And we went there and the first couple of days were taken up with medical inspections to see if we were fit enough and testing for claustrophobia.

Ted: How did they give you a test for claustrophobia?

Alan: Well, they just shut us in a small room for a little while and we just came out, but there was no medical examination or anything—

Ted: So there was no real test?

Alan: No, no.

Ted: So, were you in there singularly or with others?

Alan: No, singularly.

## Interview with Mike Karlake, 1981 ([SA 20/1131/1](#))

Mike: He [Mike's grandfather] used to come along and say to me, 'Come on Michael, if we're going to die, let's die comfortably, let's go upstairs to bed'. And there were two single beds in the back room and grandad used to sleep in one and I used to sleep in the other. Before I'd got to sleep, which was only a few minutes anyway, my dear old grandad was asleep before me and snoring well in the height of air raids. And in the morning I used to wake up, the raids were over, the windows were caved in, there was debris and everything all around, many occasions, and I'd slept all through it.

And we were sitting down having dinner at school in the main hall and the familiar 'wah wah wah wah wah' meant dead silence and count to five or whatever it was. And then crash, this unholy crack, bang, and noise and all the windows of our hall all came in on top of us. But just before that'd happened, when the noise on the engine had stopped, one of the masters said, 'all right boys, all down' and of course we all got down on the floor, under the tables. Now, as I got down, I saw my tin hat, took it off my gas mask case and put it over my dinner which we were eating. And of course, when all the glass came in from the hall, making one hell of a mess, and everybody's dinner was splattered with debris, plaster, glass, everything else—

Ted: Except yours!

Mike: Except mine! And there was I, the only boy in the school that day having a proper dinner.

## Interview with Borghild Mitchell, 1981 ([SA 20/1141/1](#))

Ted: What's the severest interrogation you ever had?

Borghild: Well one day, when I did— They captured me once because my fiancé was in and that's why they took me, in the underground movement. He had no relations, you see, so I was engaged to him, so they came and questioned me. They took me down to the station, and there was a camp there. There was torture, there was during that. They put my fingers in the press, and then— but I still didn't—

Ted: All your fingers?

Borghild: Yes, not the thumbs

Ted: Just the fingers?

Borghild: Just eight fingers. And, course, I passed out, but I couldn't have said anything because they let me go again. I suppose it must have been six to eight weeks I was in prison under them. They kept on asking questions, that of course I, what saved me really, I suppose was, I said I didn't understand German, so I had to have an interpreter. So, by the time he fired the questions, and I had to look at him all the time— It was very nerve-wracking really. He asked the questions, and he finally got the interpreter, he used to push my head back and say, "Look at me!" That I understood and he understood that I understood that. But I understood every word he said—

Ted: In German?

Borghild: In German, yes. It was 1943 and by the time the interpreter had—

Ted: Translated it.

Borghild: Translated it, I had the answer ready. And I kept turning to the interpreter to try to answer him because I hated the face in front of me and every time I sort of got a smack round my face to say, "Look at me!", you see. And I think the twenty seconds—

Ted: Gave you thinking time?

Borghild: Got me the answer ready for him.

## Adverts on Essex Radio, 10-12 September 1981 ([SA 20/1127/1](#))

Driving through the weekend traffic, M11, Junction 7. Dog bark, kid calm, wife 'nam. The car's too small we need more space, take my advice...

*Laylor, better deals on wheels! Laylor, better deals on wheels!*

Right now, at Laylor, Brooke Street, Brentwood, we've new Ford Escorts including DS and XR3s. All ready for immediate delivery, plus great trade-in deals on your present car.

*Laylor, better deals on wheels! Laylor, better deals on wheels!*

*Banks American Restaurant!*

It's where you'll find pina colada, the banana daquiri cocktail, at Banks American Restaurant in Westcliff. Eat big with a president steak, cooked the way the president would like it. Eat Banks burgers or a Banks American sandwich, boy. Try Banks genuine spareribs. Banks American Restaurant is different and it's great. It's on Hamlet Court Road. For reservations call Southend treble four, treble five.

*Banks American Restaurant !*

## Interview with Ena Barga, 1985 ([SA 20/1148/1](#))

Ena: A radio's a damned disgrace, nothing but screaming ab-dabs all the time!

[Organ music]

## Interview with Cecil and George Osborne, 1979 ([SA 20/1557/1](#))

Ted: Now I notice both of you have got an accent.

Cecil: Yes–

Ted: Yes, yours is more pronounced, Cecil.

George: Oh is it?

Ted: Yes.

George: Well it is a lot broader than I have, broader.

Ted: Yes, Cecil's got a more distinct accent than you... You both have, but his is a little more pronounced. But as I've said, is it applicable just to Leigh? I've never heard– I must be honest, I've never heard it in Southend quite like you two gentlemen have got.

Cecil: Well it's a local, what they call a local dialect– Now it was old fishermen, years ago, that handed down– 'How are you girl?'– 'Half tidy'. In short, if you met anybody, half tidy means I'm alright.

Ted: Well I've learnt something...

Cecil: And when you was out on the water...

[Talk over one another about 'coat' and 'rope']

## Interview with Ugo Rossi, 1983 ([SA 20/1540/1](#))

Ted: You made your own ice cream?

Ugo: Yes, always.

Ted: Had father made ice cream before?

Ugo: No, but he had a wonderful palate. He could, um– he was always experimenting. And the ice cream he made then is exactly the same as is sold today here in Southend.

Ted: That's Rossi's?

Ugo: That's Rossi's, yes.

Ted: Yes, there is something I've noticed– I haven't tasted anywhere the ice cream like Rossi's.

Ugo: Well it's because of father's delicate palate, I would say.

Ted: Is it the same recipe?

Ugo: He didn't like anything fatty, or greasy or anything like that. He always used to say, if you make the ice cream this way, you can eat a lot of it. Whereas the other stuff, the block ice cream – what I call – it's fatty, has too much sweet fat content in it. And it's a little bit– after one or two, you don't want any more. But our ice cream is natural.

## Interview with Harold Whitely, 1981 ([SA 20/1123/1](#))

Harold: Oh yes, it was a real pleasure, for the simple reason, among circus people and circus families, there is a certain amount of jealousy, so at that age I was very happy and delighted to start to learn to be a really good circus artist.

My parents, right from a little boy, told me: you never, never let your audience down. And if there's only three in the audience, you give them your best because they have come in to see you perform.”



## Interview with Alan Mitchell about hairstyles and punk, 1980 ([SA 20/1126/1](#))

Alan: Ah yes well, at this moment, they're coming back to the more conventional hairstyles, even some of the youngsters.

Ted: Not exactly short back and sides but a little neater.

Alan: No, but the, um, it happened a few years ago when first of all the Teddy Boys, well they had these DA's. Then of course when the Beatles came on the scene and wore long hair – that's the pop group – then the lads immediately went over to this very, very long hair.

Alan: Ah yes, they call them the punk–

Ted: Oh they're the punks.

Alan: Yes.

Ted: And they wear a little apron round their backside, I don't know what that's for.

Alan: That's right, that's a new style.

Ted: Do you have any idea what it's for?

Alan: It's like a kilt as well–

Ted: Yes, do you have any idea of what it is or what they layer around the backside of their trousers?

Alan: No, this is something new isn't it.

Ted: Yes, and I'm yet to find out what it's for.

Alan: Like a shirt type but smaller.

Ted: That's it yes. Maybe it's for them sitting on damp stumps, or wet grass.

Alan: Perhaps we're going through a new stage.