

STATEMENT BY MISS G.C. BROWNE

People present in both rooms of Studio 3A at the time the unofficial warning was received on Tuesday evening, 15th October, 1940:

Inner Office (Information Bureau)	Mr. Gordon Taylor
	Mr. Sokolow
	Miss Bennett
	Miss Six-Smith
	Mrs. Ross@Shearer

Outer Office:	Mrs. Trinder
	Mrs. Noble
	Miss G. C. Browne

On Tuesday evening, 15th October, at approximately 8.45-8.50 p.m. I was working in the outer room of Studio 3A, (Mrs. Trinder and Mrs. Noble were also present) when a Mr. Carrs came in and said that, quite unofficially, the building had received a direct hit, that the third floor was untenable and he thought that we should get out as quickly as possible. The four of us then went into the inner office and Mr. Carrs gave this information to Mr. Gordon Taylor, the Supervisor on duty, at the same time mentioning that there was an unexploded bomb up on the 5th floor in the Music Library. Mr. Taylor thereupon said that as the teleprinter service was so important it could not be stopped unless it was absolutely essential and that he would have to consult Mr. Marriott as to what was to be done. Mr. Carrs suggested that until Mr. Marriott arrived perhaps Mr. Taylor would like to carry on with one volunteer. Mrs. Trinder then left the office to find Mr. Marriott.

Mrs. Noble and I then returned to the outer office. Mrs. Noble decided to finish typing a memo. and sat down at her desk. She asked me what I intended doing and I said as I had not been asked to stay I was going downstairs. I then put away a few papers and picked up my case and two bags belonging to Mrs. Noble, at the same time urging her to come along with me, but she refused to come immediately. I then went out into the corridor intending to go downstairs.

I estimate that between the time when Mr. Carrs came in to give us the unofficial warning and the time when I left the office 5-7 minutes elapsed.

Half way down the corridor I met a Defence man (name not known). He seemed rather agitated and told me to get below at once. I said that I intended taking the cases downstairs and returning for files etc. He said that I could not return, so I said I would go back into the office at once and get my coat. The Defence man said he would get it for me, but I did actually go back into Studio 3A with him and got my coat. The Defence man rushed into the outer office and told Mrs. Noble to get out immediately. He then went into the inner office and said the same to the other people in there. I urged Mrs. Noble again to come immediately but she said that she would see if she could carry any files from the Information Bureau and that if I would take her bags she would join me in a minute, so I left the office, and on reaching the end of the corridor by the lifts the explosion occurred.

At the time of the explosion, to the best of my knowledge, in addition to the people given above, the Defence man and Mr. Carrs were in Studio 3A.

(signed) G. C. BROWNE

17th October, 1940