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Speaker 1: [00:00](#) Well, it's your name. What year were you born?

Speaker 2: [00:05](#) 1935.

Speaker 1: [00:07](#) Well [inaudible] what did you parents do for a living?

Speaker 2: [00:16](#) Mom was housewife.

Speaker 3: [00:18](#) Right.

Speaker 2: [00:20](#) And a mate that was a stevedore.

Speaker 1: [00:24](#) Describe what your location area was like for you. Try it before the [inaudible]

Speaker 2: [00:35](#) but when the war started I wasn't for, so I don't really remember much about when I was three, so to speak. Um, say the, uh, I started school when I was three and a is less than an E. yeah. And then I've got evacuate.

Speaker 1: [00:58](#) Roughly. What was the like, what was your life like before the war?

Speaker 2: [01:02](#) It was an industrial, we said docs, Steven and said, Oh, okay. It was a, it was industrial site. Was that mainly docs and appropriate stuff that was [inaudible]. It was fully, if he was wanting to go to work, he was fully employed. I mean, there was few people that didn't want to go work and went on a Dow, but I mean that, that was their choice. I mean it was full employment as far as I was concerned.

Speaker 1: [01:32](#) How did you and your family feel when, what was declared

Speaker 2: [01:39](#) another? Don't have me. Mom and dad felt that I had to go to, he went off first to the Navy and then into the army. Um, mum was a say. I don't know what she felt like mean it's a, I suppose it was a worrying time with a young family.

Speaker 1: [01:58](#) What was it like to live in London when we'll break out?

Speaker 2: [02:05](#) [inaudible] I wasn't four, so it was like, I don't know, it's um, as far as I was concerned at that age it would have been just, I was just a child.

Speaker 1: [02:19](#) What did your parents do during the war

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- Speaker 2: [02:24](#) and that was in the army. Navy first. Then the army mum was evacuated with my sister who was two months old when she got there when they went. And uh, me other brother Mike was too.
- Speaker 1: [02:40](#) How did you feel when, when you first found out you weren't going to be effectuated?
- Speaker 2: [02:50](#) Mainly cause it can be split out from your mom. The kids, five and sister.
- Speaker 1: [02:55](#) Tell us about the journey on your first,
- Speaker 2: [03:00](#) Oh, I remember being it's cinnamon school, which, which way? Or Cisco? Cause he's picking up the coaches from there. There's quite a lot of 'em [inaudible] and you know, it was um, parents and kids and everything going there. I can remember having a cobbled thing on me with me. Nine and me mum and dad too. I swear they were going, it cause me mum was evacuated then as well. So that address was on there and they could get in touch with me, uh, with me mum. Um, Oh sorry. I had a gas mask where I meet Nick as well. Um, and a little bag with, uh, it might've been an orange, I don't know, it might've been an Apple sandwich or something, send that. That was it. They was getting on the couch. Um, oldest school got on the older with the kids, got on the couch and then um, we obviously went to a Broadway station.
- Speaker 2: [04:07](#) I don't know which one it was actually, what should I say? It was extremely noisy, very smoky, very noise of whistles going and it's just chaos basically as I remember that. Um, and then I remember getting on the, on the train, I don't remember where we got there. The next thing I remember is going into a big hole. Um, it was Kingswood, uh, just outside Pushtu which I didn't know obviously, but that's where when, um, when I got in this hole, it was packed with kids obviously, um, impairments and gradually as the Taiwan people was going and getting picked up and going to there, allotted the families. And I remember, I always remember being worried because the hole was full when I got there and it was gradually getting less and less people and I was still there and I had this fear that no one was going to come and pick me up
- Speaker 1: [05:21](#) doing evacuated twice

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- Speaker 2: [05:24](#) myself. And I wasn't four. I was a month before I was four years old.
- Speaker 1: [05:32](#) How did you feel when, when you last saw your parents, when he woke up and go away?
- Speaker 2: [05:40](#) This is where it caught food, I think. I don't think I cried. That's what I've done.
- Speaker 3: [05:45](#) [inaudible]
- Speaker 1: [05:49](#) so us about the thing you took with you, the things you took with you.
- Speaker 2: [05:57](#) Just
- Speaker 1: [05:58](#) me clothes and obviously gas mask and this thing we're telling people where me mum and dad was. That's all right. What did I feel gradually wasn't too bad because I was, I was very worried when faced with 17 and I was still there and I think there must've been only about two or three people left when they come in. And I apologize to the people who was open eyes in it that they'd got held up because they want a business. So I was just pleased that someone came and picked me up. Basically. I'm quite posh. They were, they was business people. They had a carriage and obviously money, uh, pick me up in a car, which I'd never been in before. Um, and took me to their house. See now coming member was, it was on a Hill. It was quite big house next to a field which was quite green and there was a big host there looking over the fence as alcohol pulled up.
- Speaker 1: [07:18](#) I always remember that. Don't remember much more about, I was there five years and I don't remember much more, but that's, that stuck with me, this green. And then hose luck sticking over the fence looking, looking at me as I got out of the car. Um, and as I say, it was quite big ass went in there. Um, and I shouted me to me, boom, because there was two of us that actually either uh, go from South London. She was a bit out in about seven, I think she was, um, because they wanted the boy and a girl, the parent, the family. And uh, so there was two of us. I didn't know obviously, um, but I can remember going in there as a side, but the thing that stuck with me for years was this big Hass on the Hill. We have a green fields. Uh, we've got hose stuck over the fence looking at me as I'll go add to cart and I always remember that. Describe how you ended up with you first, that close family.

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Speaker 2: [08:28](#) Finish that with the fame. They were there. I was with them for the whole five years. Um, and obviously when the school down, I don't remember much about the school, must have been a white, but I don't remember it at all. I just remember when I said you can go home [inaudible] city Island because the war I said was coming to a Hain, which is 1944, I think it was about March, 1944 and I said, um, you can go home to your family. So as we're well pleased about that and went onto the Island for March, 1944 to maybe my few months anyway, might've been June. And then the batsman started to two bucks buying silly, um, fine bombs. So we had to get evacuated again. And this time I went with me, but Baba Mike who was, um, couple of years younger than me, but we went together, my mum and my sister went elsewhere and we, we got back to Somerset. Well, different, totally different, very old age couple, very poor. Their tree that I used to give me. They said there was, there was bread and jam, which to them was obviously it was for in jam was, you know, for them was a choice. Um, to what I've been used to. It was a bit of a shock as a site. I was, there was an old couple that was very set in their ways.

Speaker 2: [10:39](#) I remember, I've always had this, I suppose it's a dislike of Americans because of them I think because at the time there was a lot of American soldiers, um, I used in the village where they lived and they obviously weren't happy within there. And I suppose there he sort of went to me I suppose. And uh, I can think, I can imagine what they were looking for. Cause don't forget, there was only about 18 or 19 I was going to war. I didn't have to, I was going to get killed or anything. So they would have been really frightened, but they want to show it. So they probably was going, um, and being able to talk probably to cover up for their nervousness. But to me there was larger than life and seemed to be very aggressive and I was fighting with them to be honest. And that fear of American people stays made me, you know, and yeah, I've got of the wife's got cousins there and I'll get on with them quite well, but genuinely American. Um, I have a no, no finally feed into all the American people. What was asked, like, um,

Speaker 2: [12:19](#) very basic. Um, the, the mattress, it was a made up mattress and straw in it. It was, um, it wasn't comfortable to slave on. I remember that it took me, took me ages to get to sleep on it, um, module after 18 months. Um, I probably got used to it, but initially it was a big Camden to what I'd been used to visit. The [inaudible] totally different. The school, to be honest, I can't

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remember the school. I can't remember the school in the first one and accountant in the school in the second one. Um,

- Speaker 3: [13:09](#) [inaudible]
- Speaker 2: [13:15](#) I can't really remember to be honest.
- Speaker 1: [13:18](#) How would you treat it in young years? Every year?
- Speaker 2: [13:21](#) [inaudible] they're treated in the, in the second one. Oh, they, they treated me fine, but I mean, they wasn't as aside, it was, um, it was totally different than what I'd been used to up to then. Um, and, but I was, that was, that was good, you know, that was good people and that's what it's, I can strangers in me and me Baba, so, um, and I didn't have to, so they just saying they're wise. I mean they, they so many, they was very old. They probably bought 50 or 60 my properly, but I don't know. But to me they felt, they looked old.
- Speaker 1: [14:07](#) Tell us some of your experience in the countrysides
- Speaker 2: [14:14](#) the countryside is, is, it's just the next day when me, when I was first evacuated, obviously it was this big failed. I always remember that. I will remember that. Oh, Salvad looking over the, cause he always appeared to me looking directly at me as I'll go ahead cab, Oh, their car mama. And so it's always stayed with me, you know, it was, it was very vivid green in my memory and a very large old, it was me. It just, just felt like it was, sorry. What sorts of things would you get up to? Um, didn't really do much in the, in in that respect? Uh, probably cause it was an animal he's in. Oh sorry. Probably cause the animals is in there. Um, as I say, it's, it's very faked. The, the actual which which probably altogether six years and it seemed to fly by, it didn't seem to be there that long, but it's six years and uh, with both times.
- Speaker 2: [15:27](#) Well I remember vividly is coming home the first time cause they said the ball was out on his son and it wasn't obviously I remember cause I then went back to school. It's in Edmonds, which, which was the school I started off with when I was free. Uh, Ms. Cooley was still there. Um, and one of the favorite things I'll even is, cause I used to walk on foot for me dinner from there. They had lunch at schools. But cause I need, if down the road I used to go on and I remember going on Monday and it was about, I suppose about half a mile from home. And a pup is on the wind side. The Vulcan, the calf was on the left hand

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side and I walked on the pavement and suddenly I see a dog fight going on on the up in the sky. Now enemy tines being shot at by planes obviously. And I'm really interested cause it's vivid, it's actually real when I'm watching it and suddenly I got grabbed, pulled into this calf, stuck under the table for my safety apparently. And our committee member being very, very annoyed. The have conceded this war I was fought was you know, fun. It was, can you remember the flushing and the noise? But I can also remember being pulled and stuck under the table, which I was not happy about.

Speaker 2: [17:15](#) Any friends I suppose I must have done by [inaudible] to be honest. Um, no very uh, a bike. Um, the only other thing I remember about the war was we at the Anderson shower in the back garden and when, when we come out into, in the middle, that 1944, you remember one night we had to come, cause here I went and we had to come down and go into the endogenous Choa because there's only a search lights and guns going off, banging away. Um, my mom had put a curtain across the end is his show what? You have to go down into it. Okay. And it stuck a metal finally at the top, you had to go down. She put a curtain across and our community scientists can't, we have the curtain up, I can watch all that. And she said, no, we can't. I don't know what the current would have done if they'd been able to, but she, she insisted on joining the curtain.

Speaker 2: [18:30](#) So I was really upset about that. Um, and then one night there was a really, really that whoosh and it seems like a firecracker. It was really literally lad going off. And, uh, when we come out the next morning, the, um, over the windows in our ass had been sucked up by the blast cause the bomb actually dropped to the bottom of our garden, which was quite a large garden but dropped. But the blast went the other way and flattened the uh, locker from that was there. It was a lot locker and got most of the damage. Cause if blast went that way, all we got was the window sucked out and the curtains obviously with two bases. And I can remember your mom, she wasn't worried about the bomb, wasn't about a gang killed own, it was his new curtains and she was really, really upset about these co I couldn't reimburse really. So cause I've never known me mom to be so angry before. And she was so angry. The older new curtains were shredded.

Speaker 2: [19:56](#) My dad was a backyard aid. Um, and that was in the army by then. In fact, he was on the Mount. We Harbor the road of that now it's Noname 40, 44 would have been [inaudible]. When did

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they die? When I was going over to, well it's a [inaudible], it was on that mode. We are in fact he to build it because they was, cause he was a Stevie door. Um, barges was used as a makeshift, a Harbor. So they linked all these parties together and took me out there and uh, because it works in them, he went out there, um, uh, on date ISL. So he was out there, um, on the Mulberry Harbor. Can you tell us

- Speaker 1: [20:48](#) about any times you saw or with your parents while you were waiting?
- Speaker 2: [20:57](#) No, I don't, I don't even remember. Um, they would have had a telephone, but I don't know if the, the people my mom was staying with had a telephone or anything. Now I don't remember getting in touch with, I don't remember. I might have done, but I don't remember.
- Speaker 1: [21:16](#) Can also about anymore, like they should need to have explored during the womb
- Speaker 2: [21:22](#) if I explored.
- Speaker 1: [21:27](#) He's told you that.
- Speaker 2: [21:30](#) Yeah. So
- Speaker 1: [21:33](#) what did you do when that was an everyday
- Speaker 2: [21:40](#) well, where it was evacuated, there was no way. Right. Anyway. Um, I think Bush still had a few. Um, Armstrong this as far as I'm in, but because we was in Kingswood, which is a village outside of Bristol, um, the, I missed the war if you like, that cause is our commies when I come home in the middle. And so the action and that's, uh, all I remember about the ball was after was, um, the place most of the places was on the Island anyway, cause of the docks. It was flattened. Um, and from a kid's point of view, it's a massive playground. And uh, next to Chris because there was, um, cause me, me, brother younger brother was born in 47. We had to move, uh, ran to the other side of the Island and for, for your bedroom. Um, next to Lou I would, where we would live in was used to be the school.
- Speaker 2: [22:49](#) Obviously it was not being used because it was flattened. Most of it, some of it was still staying in, but lots of it wasn't. And you used to have these little, um, there was a lot of metal. It was a lot of tractional bat loads of shrapnel and uh, used to put it in a

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brick and melt it down and then make a, it used to be a Hopi so to speak. You look good and he is, he is afterwards. I remember it's quite dangerous. This school had a drain pipe still standing and are we in the climbing up is quite high. In fact it's quite a big school. Climbing up and getting into the wounds felt really adventurous going on there, coming down inside. Thinking about afterwards, years later because it was a bomb dams that drain popped. I was going up, it could have been easily damaged and come away from the wall and I've not been here to tell the towel to be honest.

- Speaker 1: [24:04](#) What was it like when warmth were fooling?
- Speaker 2: [24:09](#) I only had a few quite noisy [inaudible] it was noisy and exciting I suppose it was. It was an activity going on cause it by, I was only six so it was, to me it was, it was being done from our benefit so to speak.
- Speaker 1: [24:31](#) Tell us about any friends or family. We were injured during the war. That was, tell us about any friends or family you were injured during the war. Yeah.
- Speaker 2: [24:48](#) No he did. We was very fortunate. Really. Um, I can't remember any of them being injured. Certainly not killed. [inaudible] injured either.
- Speaker 1: [25:03](#) What did, what did you, what did it, you and your family do when, when you had phones, what did you find me to when you had phone?
- Speaker 2: [25:17](#) When they had the bumps? Oh, dad wasn't there. Mum was more concerned about, um, being safe, keeping things safe. Um, there's a size, the only time ever to see who get angry about the wall was when the Freddie don't know curtains sprout. The only emotion she showed about the wall.
- Speaker 1: [25:44](#) What would you feel is when you came back to London after being back to the tent
- Speaker 2: [25:52](#) placed? Um, getting back to familiarity, going to sun Edmonds, um, which I was there till I was 11, 11 plus. But, um, ms Cudi was still there. My Taisha books when I was a baby. Um, I remember my [inaudible] milk and I eat milk. I still don't like milk much anyway. Um, but it was um, Oh, coffee was cold now stabilize milk and it's horrible. And that, this idea that during the war he should drink milk and uh, they, they, they used to give

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you half a bottle of milk and I couldn't drink. It is horrible. And so we remember that. I remember, Oh, so that you had orange juice and I like that. And I also remember I must've been 11 must have been coming up for the lemon juice before I went to grammar school. I remember there was an old, um, fashion building and they had a on, on the ceiling and beams going across. I remember getting on top of the desk and slinging yourself onto the beam, hanging onto the beam, showing off. And then, uh, Mr. Sullivan coming told me to stay there. [inaudible] very embarrassing. So I like, I hung there for quite a while before, before I give up and then the drop down. It's quite embarrassing. I'm still embarrassed to die.

- Speaker 1: [27:51](#) What would you feeling about your family
- Speaker 2: [27:56](#) family? We've always, we've always been together. I just feel families is what it should be. I'm a happy place really. When, when, when you, um, go out and come out, you'll, you'll sort of come out so to speak, you know, it's a comfortable feeling.
- Speaker 1: [28:21](#) What did, how, how did you, how, how had lumped in change while you were away?
- Speaker 2: [28:37](#) Literally, I mean every other, every other building was what it was. It wasn't there. Um, well we do a lot of my voluntary work now in the community center. Um, I've decided that the apartments part, you know, the big areas is they were either side in the middle was flattened if gaps. So that's where the community center is now. So we got some benefit of the wall.
- Speaker 1: [29:13](#) How did your family feel when you were leaving?
- Speaker 2: [29:22](#) I think that was worried cause I didn't know where I was going. Um, they was told it was going to Kingswood in Bristol but not who we're for by that because that was done at the other end, you know, like, um, the organization there was getting people together and send how many people and manage children's you and doing it that way. So that was the idea of having a [inaudible] with me. Mom's address, name and address and where they were staying. So they were not get to the other place. They would then be able to get in touch with and say that was where I was, you know, I knew I was with,
- Speaker 3: [30:03](#) I think the question was actually, how did your host family, your foster family, this is fine. How did your foster family feel when you were leaving the family?

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- Speaker 2: [30:12](#) Oh they, they, they, they, they was, um, I think they was upset. I remember him coming to the station, um, and wishing me hopefully, you know, cause as far as far as I was concerned, the war was on near enough finish so I wasn't going back into danger as far as I was concerned. And um,
- Speaker 2: [30:44](#) we kept in touch with them till about mid seven, 1970s, uh, cite, attach locker, Christmas card or whatever. And, um, I've still got, um, indoors, I've still got the photo of the there has next to the field and I went back in 72 when I was married then with two children and I took them that say, um, then, but there wasn't there but son had moved to Australia that, that moved that to dish Australia anyway with him. But the mum had gone out there to visit when we was there, so she wasn't there, but the door was there and the door might've phosphorus as well. Took us Rand said to the old ass, um, and the field and all that. Um, so it was good. And then I was [inaudible]
- Speaker 1: [31:44](#) did you, did you stay in touch with any of your pasta?
- Speaker 2: [31:51](#) Yeah, I'll just say it's that, yeah.
- Speaker 1: [31:55](#) How did you surveyed the end of the world?
- Speaker 2: [32:01](#) Going back to school? It's an Edmund's big celebration. They, I did, um, [inaudible] street celebration, um, in that it's just like a jelly and custard and Tiken whatever. Um, in the, so you had a straight pie sort of thing. Um, most streets did most of them at the things. Um, the schools funny enough, didn't, didn't necessarily do, um, look anything can in the pie where I know anything, you know, they um, it was mainly the, uh, streets where you lived.
- Speaker 1: [32:50](#) Looking back, how do you think your experience as an infection have affected your life?
- Speaker 2: [33:05](#) Not being very infrared. Funny too. American paperless us. It's bad. The only thing I can think of that was the size, maybe the wall, um, the difference between my first vacuum ration to the second one was the difference in, in, in living. Um, but on my, my, the best of both worlds. I mean, I, I don't remember not being happy in either places and yet there was a totally different between the two. But um, don't forget they, they take in the scene and I didn't know who they, I mean they put that cell forward to take two East end kids and they didn't know

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what I was going to get anyway. He's like, I'll help you. And I think that was good.

Speaker 1: [33:54](#) What's on use drunk. He was the strongest memory for the wall from the [inaudible].

Speaker 2: [34:03](#) The two things was with the bomb going off in the back garden and the a dog fight over the top of the Vulcan, which I wasn't allowed to say. So remember both of them events VOC quite vividly. Thank you for calling. Okay. Any questions from the group? How many times did you change houses? Twice. How many times did I type the V one? Any you could hear them as well. Well you have to worry about is when you couldn't hear him because it means that was coming down basically. Um, but being a kid is fireworks. It wasn't, it wasn't dangerous. It wasn't going to kill me. Well, I didn't think he was going to kill me. But then obviously you could have been, as I say, he dropped in our back garden. The blast went the other way. Not um, it's quite a big building.

Speaker 2: [35:11](#) It flattened Sophie to come to the bath to come this way. I mean, who knows. I mean, uh, the end of the show, it wasn't, I mean it was fine for things that are near misses, but not that near, it could have flattened it. Only down was wearing mom's curtains. Is there anything you think you haven't told us that you want to no. I said no. I only have, I have, I worried I was a sigh when I got there and, and the room was empty and out and thinking to myself, no one's going to come. I mean, that was, that stayed with me for a long while. But, you know, I think really, um, it's just because it was up to then. It was very noisy. Lots of people gradually getting less and less, and you're standing there, I'll sit in there basically, and the room is empty and you're thinking yourself, is anybody gonna come and pick me up? What's going to happen? And that stayed with me for a long while. So anyway, I don't think you stabbed me in the arm. [inaudible].