

This transcript was created automatically and will contain errors.
It should be used for guidance only alongside the audio file.

Speaker 1: [00:00](#) What is your name?

Speaker 2: [00:01](#) My name is John Elliott Navarro, but I wasn't given that name when I was born. I was just John Elliott. It was because of a lady I married who had been married three times before. And two of the gentlemen that she married both had double barreled names. She thought she was a princess and she wanted double name each time. So I had to change my name for her. So I added my mother's mother's name to my name. Okay.

Speaker 1: [00:42](#) Yeah. Well, yeah. Were you born

Speaker 2: [00:46](#) 1934

Speaker 1: [00:49](#) where were you born?

Speaker 2: [00:50](#) In Muswell Hill in North London.

Speaker 1: [00:54](#) What did your parents do for a living?

Speaker 2: [00:57](#) Uh, w we had a sweet shop in Finsbury park. We only sold sweets. We didn't sell cigarettes because my cousin next door had to Sucre cigarette shop.

Speaker 1: [01:13](#) Describe what doing local area was like for your, for you as a child. Before the war started,

Speaker 2: [01:22](#) before the war started, it was a very happy community because I was born in Mosul Hill, but I believe at the time of my birth, my grandfather died and my father had to take over the business. And so we moved from mussel Hill to Finsbury park and we lived over the shop. We had a, a railway station behind us Finsbury park station. So I heard the, the noise of the trains all the time and of course sabers, steam trains. So they made quite a lot of noise and um, and the community was very, uh, it was knit together. Everybody knew everybody else and it was a very happy area as far as I was concerned.

Speaker 1: [02:18](#) How did you and your family feel when the, when war was declared?

Speaker 2: [02:27](#) I think we, the family generally we were very worried about it. The threat of a Hitler invading England was very real in those days. And um, it was very worrying.

This transcript was created automatically and will contain errors.
It should be used for guidance only alongside the audio file.

- Speaker 1: [02:48](#) What was it like to live in London when gobo house?
- Speaker 2: [02:54](#) Well, I was only five years old and I'm, I remember that my, my grandparents lived in on the border of stoke Newington and in those days it was all right to ask the bus conductor to look after the child and put him off. Right stop. And very often I went to my grandparents and I'd get the, the 106 bus from Finsbury park, which was the Terminus. And the bus conductor would put me off at Lordship road and I'd just walk down the road to my grandparents.
- Speaker 2: [03:45](#) Well, my father was over the age of conscription, so he didn't join up straight away. Uh, he didn't join up until 1941. So we had two years where my father was with us. And so he, he ran the business, which was the sweet shop. Uh, but then in 1941, he was called up to join the, uh, the forces. He, he went into the RAF. We saw him occasionally for the first six months, and then he, um, qualified as a wireless operator and a lorry driver. And we didn't see him until late 1945 when he came home. So my mother had to look after the business and, um, which she did very well. Um, but she was getting towards the end of her tether and my father was released from the air force, uh, to come home on compassionate grounds, uh, which he did, but he, when he came home, he was a complete stranger to me. I hadn't seen him for three, four years of four years. And, um, as a child I'd been growing up and growing up without a father. And so my mother and I grew very, very close to each other.
- Speaker 2: [05:24](#) How did you
- Speaker 3: [05:28](#) [inaudible]?
- Speaker 2: [05:31](#) I really don't know because I, I wasn't involved with their preparations. Um, I only remember by my own, um, actions. Um, I'd started school in September, 1939. Uh, I went to the local school, it was called Ambler road and it was in, in Blackstock road, in fin free park.
- Speaker 4: [06:06](#) Mmm.
- Speaker 2: [06:08](#) And I don't really remember very much about it.
- Speaker 1: [06:13](#) In what ways did your life change when war broke out?
- Speaker 2: [06:18](#) Well, the first thing was that my father evacuated the whole of the family together with my cousin's family to a village called

This transcript was created automatically and will contain errors.
It should be used for guidance only alongside the audio file.

[inaudible] in Hertfordshire. And we rented a farm house and we stayed there for about nine months or a year. Then one night, Obama came over and dropped three bombs. Fortunately, they didn't hit the house, but they landed all around the house. Uh, my cousin, who's, who was the same age as me, had hysterics.

- Speaker 4: [07:00](#) Mmm.
- Speaker 2: [07:02](#) I didn't seem to be affected by it very much. It woke me up. But, uh, that was all, and when we came out in the morning, we saw that, uh, a horse or a donkey was standing on top of one of the bomb craters in one of the fields around the farmhouse.
- Speaker 4: [07:23](#) Mmm.
- Speaker 2: [07:25](#) And that's mainly the, um, the only memory I have of that except that we went to school in Nazeem and we had, I think probably, uh, a mile or so to walk to the school.
- Speaker 4: [07:39](#) Uh,
- Speaker 2: [07:42](#) yes, I don't have very many memories about that. And once the bombs dropped,
- Speaker 4: [07:51](#) uh,
- Speaker 2: [07:52](#) my father thought that it would be safer to stay in London and then have an enemy bombers getting lost and dropping their bombs, uh, around the farmhouse where we, we were living.
- Speaker 1: [08:09](#) How did the food storage's affect you? Food stores
- Speaker 2: [08:16](#) shortages are, uh, I don't know. I was too young to worry about that. As long as my food was put in front of me. Whenever I needed it, I was happy. But I, I don't, I never heard anybody talking about the food shortage. Certainly not in the, in the beginning when I was evacuated later on,
- Speaker 4: [08:42](#) Mmm.
- Speaker 2: [08:45](#) People were complaining about the shorty shortage of food and the rest rationing. But I'll come to that later on.
- Speaker 1: [08:58](#) Tell us about any experiences of woman you faced.

This transcript was created automatically and will contain errors.
It should be used for guidance only alongside the audio file.

- Speaker 2: [09:03](#) Well, I, I've told you about the, uh, mostly mediate, uh, experience of bombing. But, um, after my father was called up, uh, and I was evacuated, I was evacuated to a place called Boverton in North Buckinghamshire on the borders of North Hampton Shire.
- Speaker 4: [09:28](#) And, um, my mother,
- Speaker 2: [09:35](#) I used to joke about it with my friends. My mother thought the war ended on a Friday night and started on a Monday morning, so she'd have me home for the weekend every third or fourth weekend. And, um, I enjoyed the war. It was, uh, an adventure for me
- Speaker 4: [09:57](#) and quite an adventure.
- Speaker 1: [10:03](#) How did you feel when you first found out you were going to be evacuated?
- Speaker 2: [10:08](#) Uh, I didn't feel anything because I didn't know I was being evacuated until the day I was taken to Wolverton. My cousin Mary with whom I was evacuated to naysaying. Um, she had gone the term before to Wolverton and she was living in the same room that I was living in.
- Speaker 4: [10:33](#) And, um, I always remember
- Speaker 2: [10:39](#) the first day at the new school in Wolverton. I fell over and cut my knee and I have a scar on my left knee just here. And apparently my cousin Mary also on the first day fell over, cut her knee and had a scar on her left knee as well.
- Speaker 4: [10:59](#) But, um,
- Speaker 2: [11:02](#) uh, it was a good school. We had two teachers. Uh, the school was called Tellington. It came from Hornsey and I don't know whether it was a private school or, uh, or a, uh, council school. I think it was a private school.
- Speaker 4: [11:20](#) And, um,
- Speaker 2: [11:23](#) we had two teachers. One was called miss weights and one was called miss Ashton. And they were very good teachers, but very, very strict. And they weren't afraid to wrap your knuckles with a ruler. Of course, you can't do that today. But in those days, um,

This transcript was created automatically and will contain errors.
It should be used for guidance only alongside the audio file.

many schools used a cane or slipper, uh, Plimsouls, uh, to chastise the pupils if they were naughty. How did you feel when you

Speaker 4: [12:04](#) bye.

Speaker 2: [12:07](#) I was, I think I was shocked, um, because the family that I, I went to live with, uh, just a, uh, a young couple.

Speaker 4: [12:25](#) Mmm.

Speaker 2: [12:27](#) I don't think they really wanted me there, but they thought they were doing the right thing by taking in an evacuee. And I only stayed there, I think for about a year because the lady of the house apparently became pregnant and didn't want me in the house anymore. So I was moved to another house, which was much nicer. It was a one of, uh, terrorists of, of cottages.

Speaker 4: [13:00](#) Mmm.

Speaker 2: [13:04](#) We ha we only had cold water in the house. There was no hot water in those days. Very few people had central heating, but because it was one of a terrace, um, the house retained constant loss of warmth and the lady, uh, it was mr and Mrs. Buckley. Mrs. Buckley was a very lovely lady or elderly later, that lady, they were a couple from Rochdale in Lancashire and I think he had come down to Wolverton to work in the coach works the, the place where they built the coaches for the LMS railway. Um, but he, he was over the age of retirement, so he didn't work anymore. Um, sometimes if I was naughty, he would pretend to chase me around the table kitchen table and he takes his leather belt off and, and threatened to hit me with it. But he never did. Whether I was too quick for him or whether he was just pretending, I never knew.

Speaker 2: [14:15](#) But they were a lovely family and I was very happy with them. Uh, the weekends when my mother was having me home, I would be taken to the station, uh, given to the guard to look after me. Uh, it would be the four 40 trained from Wolverton to Euston. And then my mother had a companion, uh, who had worked for our farm family since, since she was 29. And she worked with us until she was 83. She didn't retire until she was 83 and she spoiled me terribly. She'd wait on me hand and foot. And, uh, I was, uh, a darling little boy, and that continued until I was probably 17 or 18. She, she wouldn't let me do anything. Uh, I was quite a lazy boy. And, uh, when I came home, I, um, I, I

This transcript was created automatically and will contain errors.
It should be used for guidance only alongside the audio file.

wouldn't take my shoes off. She would take my shoes off for me. She, she was wonderful and she sparked me ruffle rotten. Um, her name was flurry and she was lovely. Tell us about the things when I was evacuated towards it. And I think I only took some closing. I don't remember what I took. Uh, I don't think I had very many toys with me. Um, but I loved reading and, uh, I, I read books, whatever I could get hold of. Um, I stayed at the school

Speaker 2: [16:22](#) until late 1943, I think. And then the school went back to London thinking it was a safer, and I had to go to the council school. I found that the standard at my private school at Tellington was much higher than the council schools standard. And I ended up helping some of the, uh, more backward of the children, uh, to learn the lessons and to understand what they had, uh, to do during the lessons. I remember one boy called Raymond rainbow, who, uh, I used to help quite regularly and I remember another boy who was, uh, I think he was a bit of a bully called Charlie Cunningham and he had beak heavy boots on his feet. Um, that's all I can remember about him, but that stuck in my mind all the time.

Speaker 3: [17:30](#) [inaudible]

Speaker 2: [17:35](#) I'm sorry, what things did you have to leave?

Speaker 2: [17:40](#) Almost everything. Um, particularly my mother. Um, but as I say, she had me home every three or four weeks and as treat on a Saturday night, uh, she'd close up the shop probably at five o'clock, and, uh, get dressed in her best, uh, finery. And we'd go to the West end. We go to Shaftsbury Avenue where there was a little kiosk in a doorway where there were two men who used to make a lot of jokes, some of which I understood, and some I didn't. And, um, we'd have a frothy coffee and a smoked salmon sandwich on Brown bread. And then we'd go off to the London palladium and we'd see the show there. So I've seen most of the wartime entertainers of one sort or another, uh, either there or Finsbury park where we had the empire, which was a wonderful, uh, theater. And, um, it seemed that during the war and after the war, my father had seemed to have a, a season ticket. And if my mother and father didn't go to the theater, to the Findra park empire, uh, I would go with flurry. And so I've seen many of the old time music, all entertainers and I consider, I've been very, very lucky. I had, um, desert corner in my car and one time and I, uh, I said that to him and he, he's obviously a very, very quick witted man because he replied, Oh yes, you've

This transcript was created automatically and will contain errors.
It should be used for guidance only alongside the audio file.

seen them all. But I've played with them. I couldn't argue with that. Could I

Speaker 3: [19:51](#) [inaudible]

Speaker 2: [19:54](#) my journey, my journey to, to and from Wolverton. Well, uh, I think I was driven to Boverton by car with my mother and father. Um, they left me with mr and mrs Goodrich, the young couple in, um, Gloucester road. Wolverton and I had to make my own way from there, staying with the good ridges. But I'm making my friends at the new school. And I also had a friend in the road called John Webb. And after the war he came to visit us because after the war we moved to cock fosters. And, um, he, he was a bit of a strange Jenn gentlemen. Um, he changed a lot from the young boy I'd known during the war. And by this time I think he was a ISER at university or, or, or working. Uh, but I always remember his father who was a very jovial man and he used to call me the mighty atom cause I was a very small child in those days. But, uh, I liked him very much. I don't remember his mother at all. Um, I've forgotten what the question was. Now.

Speaker 3: [21:36](#) You waited with

Speaker 2: [21:38](#) I went by myself. Well, I, my parents took me, um, and they left me, uh, with mr and mrs Goodrich. Um, as I said, I had my cousin, uh, just down the road and then I met this boy, John Webb and um, we became very good friends.

Speaker 3: [22:06](#) Tell us about the place you are evacuated to.

Speaker 2: [22:10](#) Well, Wolverton was a market town. They used to have a market. Um, I think it was once a week and they had a market hall where all the stalls were bought. Um, by this time I was living with mr and Mrs. Buckley and the, um,

Speaker 3: [22:34](#) okay.

Speaker 2: [22:36](#) The town was not very big. It had two major industries. It had the LMS, London, Midlands, Scottish railway. A coach works at one end, and then it had a huge factory. Uh, I think they were printing works, uh, McCorquodale and I believe they made checkbooks and, and things for banks. But apart from that, um, there was an occasional bus service to Newport Pagnell, uh, in one direction and to Stoney Stoney Stratford in the other dryer. Um, Stony Stratford was on the [inaudible] road, uh, between

This transcript was created automatically and will contain errors.
It should be used for guidance only alongside the audio file.

London and I think North Hampton and, and further North, uh, Newport Pagnell was where the Aston Martin motorcar works where, um, and I also remember, I think it was, uh, a mustard company called Coleman's who had a factory there as well.

Speaker 4: [23:56](#) Um, we had, um, [inaudible]

Speaker 2: [24:01](#) many fields surrounding the town. Uh, some, uh, very feel, very bumpy or hilly fields, not very high Hills. And they were called the pancake fields, I think. But whether it was because they had cows there who used to leave big Ren Pat pancakes on, on the ground or what? I don't know. But, uh, I do remember that when I first went there, um, I had to go with the school to church every Sunday, but then when my father found out, um, and, and because I'm Jewish, uh, they, they, my father didn't like the idea of me going to church. So that stopped. And so my Sunday, Sunday mornings were free.

Speaker 4: [25:03](#) Mmm.

Speaker 2: [25:05](#) And saying that there was a village a mile or two from Wolverton called Havisham, and I discovered a number of Jewish families over there and they were very hospitable and I could go over there and, and see them. Um, and I was often invited for a meal or refreshment when I'd walked there. And, uh, one family, uh, by the name of [inaudible] Skolnick, uh, who were particularly, uh, hospitable. Um, they had I think one or two children and we, we were quite friendly. Uh, I think that's all I can remember of that.

Speaker 4: [25:56](#) What were your first impressions of the place?

Speaker 2: [26:05](#) Um, it was somewhere to be explored and, um, I did lots of exploring around there. In those days, children were allowed to play out in the street or, or wherever they wanted to. And as long as they came home before dark, uh, nobody worried because it was considered to be quite safe for the children to be out. So I did a lot of exploring around the countryside and, um, it was very happy time for me.

Speaker 4: [26:41](#) Are waiting for your new parents

Speaker 2: [26:46](#) waiting for them, meeting them? Um, initially very, very strange. As I said, I don't think they were very happy to have me, but it was something they were doing because they, they felt that it was something they ought to do. But when I went to

This transcript was created automatically and will contain errors.
It should be used for guidance only alongside the audio file.

mr Mrs. Buckley, the atmosphere was totally different and I felt quite loved by her. And um, I was very happy to be with them even though they didn't have a bathroom. I had to have a boss in the tin tub, in front of the kitchen fire. But, um, in those days we didn't boss very often, just one once a week on a Friday night.

Speaker 2: [27:37](#) Um, yes, I, I enjoyed living in, uh, in peel road in Wolverton and, um, I've been back a number of times and I've met people that I used to know. I think I was in number 27 Peele road and there was some boy, uh, there were, there were a brother and sister at number 23 with whom I was quite friendly. Um, I've heard that the son, uh, got married and eventually divorced. And the last I heard he was living by himself. Uh, I don't remember, uh, what's happened to the, the daughter, I think her name was Pamela, but I can't be sad.

Speaker 1: [28:37](#) How did your foster parents choose you

Speaker 2: [28:40](#) choose me. Uh, I don't think they did. Um, I think my father contacted the good ridges through my, my cousin Mary's foster parents and, uh, they were introduced to my parents and, and they, they soon, same sort of came to an arrangement, uh, to have me, um, possibly my father was paying them to have me. And, um, and when she, when Mrs Goodridge became pregnant, I think that, uh, once again it was recommendation and I went to mr and Mrs [inaudible], uh, mr and Mrs Barkley, but I wasn't really involved in, uh, being chosen.

Speaker 1: [29:43](#) Describe the house you lived in. I'm sorry. Describe the house you lived in.

Speaker 2: [29:50](#) Um, the first house was a relatively newly built house. Uh, I believe it was a counselor state. It was a three bedroom house with a bathroom and it was terribly cold in winter. Very, very cold. So when I wanted to get up in the morning, I'd take my clothes and put them in my bed to warm them and then put them on as quickly as I could to keep warm. Um, when I went to mr Mrs. Buckley, um, the house was much warmer probably because it was in July, aged by the, the houses on either side. Um, but, uh, I was very comfortable with mr and Mrs. Buckley.

Speaker 1: [30:44](#) How different was it from where you came from?

Speaker 2: [30:51](#) That's difficult to describe because, um, well, Austin was quite a quiet town. Uh, there was no bombing that I knew of, although I

This transcript was created automatically and will contain errors.
It should be used for guidance only alongside the audio file.

did understand that in the next village, which was new Brando, there had been a couple of bombs dropped, uh, probably by a, uh, um, enemy bombers getting lost and just wanting to get rid of their, their load. But, um, in Wolverton, uh, I can't recollect any bombs being dropped there at all. I, I, well, I, as I said before, I enjoyed my time, uh, during the evacuation. I loved going back from my mother. Um, I think that's all really I can say about that.

Speaker 1: [31:58](#) How did you, um, what well, how would you truth did by others in your new area?

Speaker 2: [32:19](#) I don't think it was very bad. I think that, um, as an evacuee I was tolerated by the local people. Although, um, when I went to the council school, one or two children, uh, weren't very happy because I'd had a good education previously. And, um, maybe they thought I was a little bit toffee nosed.

Speaker 2: [32:58](#) Well, school in the private school was very, very strict and I don't think they had, they, they understood anybody who was color blind. And I'm color blind also. I'm lefthanded. So first of all, they would try and teach me to write with my right hand, which I didn't like at all. Um, and um, they weren't very tolerant of somebody who couldn't distinguish between the color colors very well. So, uh, if they told me to use a pink color, I wouldn't always pick the right color and it would probably be blue or move, which was the same to me anyway. Um, at the council school discipline was a little more Slack and, um, they, they were happy with me because, uh, my standard education was higher than that, which they were teaching, uh, at the council of schools. So I was able to, to do the lessons, um, more easily of yours.

Speaker 2: [34:38](#) One of my experiences was that I'd often ramble around the countryside and I'd often walk from Wolverton Stony Stratford, which I think was a couple of miles. When I got to stand up Stony Stratford, I was quite hungry. And so if I had a hate near a penny, I'd buy a loaf. And, um, I'd usually eat the inside of the loaf w which was delicious and leaves the crust, which I didn't enjoy so much. Now I like the crust much more. And, um, I, he told all the loaf, but in those days, um, uh, having bought the bread from the bakers in Stony Stratford, um, the bread was often quite hot still. So it was nice to eat the, the warm bread. Um, when I was feeling very hungry.

This transcript was created automatically and will contain errors.
It should be used for guidance only alongside the audio file.

- Speaker 1: [35:49](#) What happened to your family in London while you wait?
[inaudible]
- Speaker 2: [35:53](#) well, my father, as I said, was called up in 1941. Um, he eventually, when he was posted to Egypt, uh, he was, um, a wireless operator and a Laura lorry driver. I, I know very little about what he did because I presume it was top secret, but I know that he often drove from Heliopolis Heliopolis, uh, which is near Alexandria in Egypt and Aleppo in Syria. Uh, but what he did on these journeys, I never know. I never knew. And he never talked about his war service apart from the fact that my mother told me he won the war by playing cricket for the RAF in Egypt. But, um, that was just my mother's, uh, uh, uh, humor. Um, I know that he was a good cricketer and he played with a number of professional cricketers, um, from, uh, Essex and Middlesex. And he knew a lot of, um, sportsman, uh, in cricket and, and football. He also played water polo in, uh, I think it was in Haifa during his leaves. And, um, he, he was in an all round sportsman. Um, my mother just worked at, uh, running the shop and having me home, uh, as often as she could.
- Speaker 1: [37:53](#) Can you tell us about any time times you saw a communion to communicate with your parents while you were away? I'm sorry. Can you tell us about any times you still or communicated with your parents while you were awake?
- Speaker 2: [38:16](#) Well, um, I explained that I, I came home to my mother every three or four weeks, um, which was a great pleasure for me. And, uh, and we go out at the weekend. Um, but my father was away, uh, after the first six weeks and I didn't see him until he came back at the end of 1945. But my mother, I saw quite regularly describing your journey. Um, I used to catch the four 40 from Wolverton to Euston and, uh, my mother's friend flurry would pick me up at Euston station and we catch the 29 Buster Finsbury park. Uh, it was as easy as that.
- Speaker 1: [39:21](#) How did you feel about leaving your foster family?
- Speaker 2: [39:25](#) Um, well I didn't mind Liza leaving the first family at all cause I was always very cold in their house that there was no, no sort of relationship with them. They just tolerated me. But, uh, I was very sad to leave Mrs. Buckley. She was a lovely lady. And, um, a few years, a few years after I left, I heard that she died. Um, which was also very sad and I know that my parents kept in touch with them for quite some time after the war.

This transcript was created automatically and will contain errors.
It should be used for guidance only alongside the audio file.

- Speaker 1: [40:11](#) How would you feel coming home?
- Speaker 2: [40:13](#) Very happy, very happy. And in fact, my grandparents lived 16 miles from where I was in Wolverton. They'd taken a house in North Hampton and my younger sister, uh, lived with them all the time. In 1944 they took a house in [inaudible] end in North North of London. And, um, I was brought home from Wolverton and I lived with them from September, 1944 until the end of, uh, 1945. My father, my grandfather was an a retired school master and I had to take the 11 plus examination and he coached me for that examination, which I'm happy to say I, I passed. And, uh, I got an entrance into the city of London school. Um, I don't, didn't go there straight away because the papers got lost. So I had to wait another year until 1946 before I could go to that school.
- Speaker 3: [41:43](#) [inaudible]
- Speaker 1: [41:47](#) how has London changed?
- Speaker 2: [41:53](#) Um, we had a lot of foreign soldiers in London at the end of the war, um, which was quite interesting. And I, I met, uh, a few while I was in Wolverton. The Canadians were, went on maneuvers, uh, around Wolverton. So we saw a lot of Canadian soldiers one time and then we had Americans as well. And the usual greeting for the Americans was cottony gum chum because we liked their chewing gum that we had little packets of, um, Wrigley, spearmint and PK, but they had the long strips and we thought they were really terrific. So whenever we saw American servicemen, we see, see if they had any gum to give us.
- Speaker 1: [42:56](#) How did you celebrate V E D?
- Speaker 2: [43:00](#) Ah, I didn't like that at all because all my friends were out celebrating and my grandmother was very strict with us. So at nine o'clock we had to go to bed and so I missed all the festivities. We did have a street party though with sandwiches and jelly and, and other things. Um, but, uh, I, I didn't, um, I wasn't allowed to go out and stay up late with many of my other friends.
- Speaker 1: [43:33](#) Did you stay in touch with your host family
- Speaker 2: [43:37](#) for a short while? Yes. For with mr mrs Barkley, but, uh, I was going to a new school and, um, life was getting faster, so I, I, I

This transcript was created automatically and will contain errors.
It should be used for guidance only alongside the audio file.

didn't stay in touch with them, but, um, I believe my parents did.

Speaker 1: [44:01](#) Looking back, how does he, how do you think your experiences as an evacuee have affected your life?

Speaker 2: [44:10](#) Um, I think my experiences have helped me through life to try and keep cheerful and enjoy whatever I'm doing. So that it, it wasn't an unpleasant experience. I, I enjoyed the war. It was a big adventure. I remember coming home on one time and there were American servicemen in the compartment next to the guard's van. And these American GIS were very nice to me. And, uh, they, uh, I think they gave me chocolate and, um, somebody gave me half a crown as well. That's, um, 12 and a half pinch these days.

Speaker 3: [45:02](#) [inaudible]

Speaker 2: [45:05](#) what are your strongest memories of the war?

Speaker 3: [45:08](#) [inaudible]

Speaker 2: [45:11](#) well, initially when we were in Finsbury park, I remember seeing a dog fight in the sky above us with lots of planes firing at each other, and, um, um, but I don't recollect seeing any getting shot down. Um, apart from that, um, I suppose it wasn't so pleasant being apart from my family, but it was always lovely to go home and see my mother [inaudible].