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Speaker 1: [00:00](#) What is your name? Julia. Fill pot. What are you, were you born 1933 where were you born? At? The Nelson hospital at Wimbledon, which isn't a hospital anymore. What did you parents do for my father was a waiter. Uh, my mother, she became a waitress. This is in the first world war now when my father went to war. So she took over his job as a waitress. These questions about like before you live at CUNY, before I was evacuated, can you describe where your local area was like for you as a child before the Wooster? It's very quiet. I can't really remember much about about it except on a Sunday we used to have a, somebody come round and he would be selling watercress and he would have a big tray he used to carry and that had watercress in it, which they used to sell. And you're so used to have a man. That road it was like a tricycle. But in front was where they had the ice cream. Right. And uh, he used to ride the bike round. How did you and your family feel when war was declared? Well, I was too young really to know what war meant, but uh, it probably affected my mother and father quite a bit cause my father had been in the first world war and he had got injured in the first world war so they were properly sort of not looking forward to it one bit. What was it like to live in London when Warburg cow?

Speaker 1: [01:57](#) Um, I don't really can't remember. Okay. What did you parents do during the, during the war? Uh, my father couldn't fight in the second world war because he'd been injured in the first, so he was still a waiter. And, uh, my mother, she didn't really do any job.

Speaker 1: [02:23](#) These questions. How did you find the proposal? They built, uh, an Anderson shelter in the back garden and uh, you would get sent the pieces of metal and then you had to form it and make the shelter and um, you covered it with earth. So it looked like the garden still. Planes were flying over. Uh, they wouldn't realize it was a shelter. But, um, my brother, he a brick wall in front of the entrance and that actually saved my mum and dad because they were down in the shelter when the bomb fell. Uh, four houses were not completely down. And then there was one house and there was my mum and dad's house, which got badly damaged, fall down. So they would site only because my brother had built this wall, which they called a blast. Well, because it took the blast. Yes. Yes. Yes.

Speaker 1: [03:33](#) In what ways did your life change when war broke out? It changed because I was evacuated. Yes. Yes. And I was only six. Right. And, uh, I probably didn't realize that I was going away

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and that I would be, no, wouldn't have my parents or my brother or sister. So probably wasn't that happy you're saying? Yes, yes. A few times. How did the food shortages affect you? It didn't affect me but affected my mother because she was the one that had to try and work out the rations. So we all had something to eat. But when I was evacuated, it was a lot different than because, um, where I stayed, the lady owned a farm and she out, she had a garden, the back of the house, which they turned into a for vegetables and things like that.

Speaker 1: [04:44](#) Um, can you tell us about your experiences? Any experiences? Bullying? Well, when I came back after I was evacuated, um, it was, uh, I live quite near to Tim Beck hospital to Tim, sorry to tin back common. And uh, we had a big barrage balloon on the common and also the [inaudible] guns, which made the terrible noise. And so every time there was a ride you'd hear the ACA guns and you'd actually hear like the shrapnel dropping in the road. This is about your journey, my journey, which I don't really remember. Yes. Uh, no. How did you feel when you first found out you were going to be evacuated? I didn't, I didn't understand what it meant as, say I was only six. I don't know how old you are. Yes. Can you remember when you were six? No. No. Cadaver. You remember when you were six? Sort of? Yes. So all I can remember is when I arrived, uh, at child. And do you want to hear that right when we arrived we were taken onto this big massive field of grass. And behind that was a dairy where they used the bottle or the milk. So they came out with a small bottle of milk for the children. And that's the first thing I can remember about being evacuated.

Speaker 1: [06:31](#) How did you feel when you parents said goodbye? Uh, sad obviously cause you know, it didn't know what was happening so, and your parents weren't allowed to go to the station with you. You had to say goodbye at the school cause they thought it would be a true, too traumatic for the parents to go to the actual station and say goodbye. So you had to say goodbye at the school. Can you tell us about things you took quick? I think I taught my Teddy bear and some mag magazine comics, but that's about all. Do you remember any things that you left behind?

Speaker 1: [07:22](#) More comics cause I couldn't say them all and adults didn't take my dolls. I had a black doll and a white doll and I had to leave those behind. Can you tell us about your journey? No, I can't remember the journey. No. Do you remember who you evacuated with? Yes, a girl older than me cause I was six and

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she was 13 and she lived in the road few houses up. I didn't really know her, but my mum asked if she would look after me because she was that much older than me, you know, so yes.

Speaker 2: [08:06](#) Mmm.

Speaker 1: [08:10](#) Can you tell us about a place you ever actually teach you? Actually, it was a, a house in chat, uh, a tat worth, which is in charge. And the person I stayed with was, she was called the lady of the village. So she was the richest lady in the village and she owned, she had an orchard, right. Opposite was a farm she had, I made cider and she had a lace factory as well. So she was a very rich lady. What were your first impressions of going to the, um, the house? Uh, it seemed, um, it was quite a big house, but it wasn't as high as a house we were had Southfields it was lower. How did it feel waiting for new foster parents? Well, you didn't really realize that you were waiting for somebody to come and pick you out. You went to this whole church hall and all the children were sitting around and then people would come in and they would pick out who they wanted to take. So yeah.

Speaker 2: [09:36](#) Mmm.

Speaker 1: [09:38](#) Do you remember like, why your foster parents choose you especially? No, I've got no idea. Can you describe the house you lived in? The one where I was evacuated, uh, it had three bedrooms. It had a big kitchen come done, dining room. Uh, there was a scullery and then there were three bedrooms upstairs and a bathroom and toilet. It was lovely. Yes. But then I came from a house that had all those facilities, well not, not so big on downstairs obviously, but the lady of the village had a maid, so she would, the lady would make cook the food, but the maid prepared it. And then I would have to eat in the kitchen with the maid and also the other girl that was with me and she would have her meals in the dining room, but on a Sunday we were invited to have tea afternoon tea with her. So yes, we went and joined her for tea and when my mom and dad came down to visit me, they used to have tea with her and I was there obviously as well. Do you remember how different it was from where you came from? Fruit house. He came from, well, it's more country fide. Yes. Yes. Whereas I lived in a terrorist house. Do you know what terrorist houses are? They're all joined up. Yes. Well this was just a big house on its own.

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- Speaker 1: [11:15](#) What was it like? Would you always phone me? It was only one person remember? Well, the, the lady and her made, uh, it was a felon. Yes. She, she had a general, what a bond is. She had a fun, her hair was done up in a bun and she used to like us to undo it and brush her hair.
- Speaker 2: [11:42](#) [inaudible].
- Speaker 1: [11:42](#) How are you treated by autism in your new area? By the other children? As far as I know, we got on. Okay. You just have quite a long walk to the school. Used to go pass a field and I actually saw a cow have been born one day, which was a totally new experience.
- Speaker 2: [12:06](#) Mmm.
- Speaker 1: [12:07](#) Do you remember what the school, the school, I think it was in a church hall. Right. And uh, all I can remember is we used to have lessons lessons in the morning and then the afternoon they used to put like a mattress on the floor and uh, we had to lay down and rest the children in the afternoon. Um, in the countryside, like hind what you would learn in, don't forget, I hadn't been at school with that line any year, hadn't I? Yes.
- Speaker 1: [12:44](#) Can you tell us all of your experiences in the countryside used to go scrumping you know what scrumping is? Well, apples that fall used to be go around picking those up, used to pick the nuts, Hazel nuts off the trees. Uh, it was very countrified where I was, there wasn't any other houses. It was just the, uh, right opposite the house where I was, she had a big space and I had, uh, it was a lawn which she hadn't converted into growing things and she had CRO K, she used to play croquet on that and she had a massive tree that was shaped and you could sit under it.
- Speaker 1: [13:29](#) What happened to family in London? They got bombed out. Uh, right. Yes. I had to move to two tin S their house was basically to, I mean they, the house, they, I think it was eight houses, eight for either side with completely gone, completely gone. Right. So my mum and dad's or the ceilings were down, uh, windows, no windows left. And they had to get out the house because it was dangerous. And as they walked down the road to where they were going for shelter, they had gas pipes and they had caught fire. So the fire was following them down the road, which wasn't very nice.

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- Speaker 1: [14:16](#) Can you tell us about any times you saw communicate with your parents while you were away? Used to write letters and they wrote letters to me and they came down and they took me for a holiday. We went to Satan in Debbin for a week's holiday and we also went to bear. But that was an experience when we went to stay in where we were staying. Right. There was no running water. So I used to have a jug with water in and a big bowl that you washed in and then the toilet wasn't very nice, but don't pick it. I came from a house where was a flush toilet. This wasn't, this was just a hole with a wooden seat across. Um, can you describe your journey and if you remember, I think I was so excited coming home. Yes. Um, how did you feel about leaving your, um, well sat in some ways cause she had treated me very well, you know? Yes. So sad. Yes. How did you feel about coming home? Well, glad to be coming home. Yes, but of course I didn't know where I was coming to. It was completely a different house, wasn't it? Yes. In a different area. Different school was, everything was different?
- Speaker 2: [15:47](#) No. No. Um,
- Speaker 1: [15:51](#) how would it change when you came here? Well, after the country it was much, uh, busy, you know, traffic. Uh, we used to have the trem and that used to go past the boss mode, my road. And we were near the underground as well. But I haven't told you, uh, during the war I actually slept on the underground platform for a few weeks. Uh, that was a [inaudible] underground station. Cause when I came back we were still having air rights. And also then we got the um, buzz boom and when, then the rockets. So it was quite a busy. How did you celebrate? When's hops in London with my mother and just joins in with all the people singing and dancing.
- Speaker 2: [16:54](#) Mmm.
- Speaker 1: [16:54](#) Did you stay in touch with any of you with the ID? Yes, I used to write to her and I actually went down when I was 16, which was what, 10 years later. And uh, but she wasn't there anymore, so I presumably she had died. So yes. Cause I think she was quite notably lady. I mean I don't really know. You don't ask people their ages. Do you, looking back, how do you think your experiences as a [inaudible] has effected your life? Well, if I had been adopted by the lady then I would have been a very rich person and I wouldn't have met my husband and I wouldn't have had my children. So

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- Speaker 2: [17:43](#) different.
- Speaker 1: [17:46](#) What are your strongest memories from the, I think the noise at the guns really. And the planes going over. We used to have, um, the bus bombs, right. They used to go the boss, my, my road was a cinema and they used to fly over that cause they were going towards Battersea power station. They're either going for that or the Clapton junction train station. So, uh, it was a white noisy, um, thing that we haven't covered that you'd like to tell us about? Uh, well my sister was in the, um, fire service and my brother joined the RAF. He was in the air force and my sister eventually met an American and married him. And he was a fighter pilot. He used to fly the Mustang plane. Right. And uh, he actually got shot down, but he was saved. He was in the Atlantic and he was saved because they were looking for somebody else and they spotted him in his raft on the sea. So he was saved. Right.
- Speaker 1: [19:12](#) How, um, you know, how old were you when you came back and like, well, uh, I was eight when I came back. Right. So then I had to go to a different school. I went to, I said, it's a wonder that, you know, when you were evacuated that you did have much schooling. Cause I went to a school before I went, I went to, uh, a school at South fields, then I went to a school in some, a child came back and went to a school into tin. Then we got transferred to a school load Balam I also went up to Leicester with my mother for six months. So a school up there. And um, that was once again because her nerves were bad after being bombed out. So we went up to Leicester. That service, he just built that in time. I think he just finished it a couple of days before they got bombed out.
- Speaker 1: [20:14](#) No, it was a brick wall. No, just all bricks. But it is, it saved them. That's the main thing. Yes. Did I make any friends at the school where I was evacuated? See, once again, yes, I must have made friends. But you don't, I don't remember them. Did you miss someone? You went Oh yes. What? Oh, when you went? When I came home? No, I was just pleased to be home. Yes. I make more friends, different friends. Hi. How did you feel? Happy. Oh, happy. Sorry. Very happy. Yes. Yes. Very happy. Oh, Lester. Yes, I would be, Oh, well, yes, I came home. Yes. Yes. I came home being evacuated and I suppose it was about nine months later, we went up to Leicester to a place called OB and it was just a very small, more like a cottage. Right. And the, um, there was a fam, two daughters and one of the daughters was blind.

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Speaker 1: [21:37](#) So I actually learned to do the, um, call them what's called now. Yes. Braille. Uh, and, uh, sh although she was blind, she used to do lovely knitting and, uh, we, uh, I used to transfer the knitting patterns into braille for her. So, which was a great help obviously. And I did actually go later, came down to, um, Brighton and we went to st Dunstan's, which is the school for the blind. Oh, not Dutch. Yes, it is a school, but it's for adults as well as children. So yes, lots, lots of things. But when we were in, uh, B, uh, once again, there was no running water and she had a big top in the garden with, you know, if you look at a washing machine, it has something that goes down and rant. Turns round. Well, she had a wooden stick that used to with these bits of wood coming out and she used to turn that and that used to do the washing and always wash my hair in rain water. Cause I thought that it was very good for your hair to have rain water. So I remember that one. Probably. It's dirty water now, but it was cleaner up then. Yes.