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

Speaker 2: [00:02](#) When name can I start? Old foster.

Speaker 1: [00:04](#) What year were you born?

Speaker 2: [00:07](#) We would to vote to bill docs number nine period. Cause there's mill docs. That's a 14. Eastland.

Speaker 1: [00:17](#) What did your parents do for living?

Speaker 2: [00:20](#) Uh, one, um, num was last water then. Um, but that worked on the dock side. Birth in the ships as they came into the docks.

Speaker 1: [00:30](#) Okay. Could you describe what your local area was like for you as a child before war started?

Speaker 2: [00:36](#) Well, it was, I was studying, keep your head up when you're saying you can hold your head a bit slower.

Speaker 1: [00:45](#) Could you describe what you're let go? Everyone was like fully for, as a child before those started

Speaker 2: [00:52](#) the area. Um, it was industrial area, really. Lots of, uh, also, uh, working on ships and re ship repair and that sort of thing in the area.

Speaker 1: [01:10](#) How did, how did you, I know if I'm needful, when the rules, the rule was the grant.

Speaker 2: [01:17](#) Um, well when, when war was declared, uh, he was very quiet for the first side of it. Then I, we went to stay with a relations in Ryan Sussex and I went to school there for awhile and then, uh, because it was so quiet that in 1939, early 1979, uh, we came back home again and I went back to school on a playing a road show and the all the dogs, uh, stayed there for working the same, uh, living there for a while. Then, um, evacuation scheme started to develop. Um, me and my brother who is nine years older than me, um, we accurately to Chiffey cabinet and, uh, that's where we stayed for awhile. Um, my brother who was nine years older than me, um, he, uh, when we got to where we were staying, a lady agrees. Greece were quite, quite pleasant at the time.

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- Speaker 2: [02:34](#) But uh, as time developed over the next couple of weeks, um, before 3d very nice, really. Um, there was teachers sign at the same address as us and, uh, when they had their breakfast in the morning, if they left crusts off their, when they had [inaudible], they left their cross. We had to eat the cross up. That's who they met off a cup of tea between me and my brother. And, uh, very nice really. And of course we have to sleep in the loft as well, which wasn't good. Um, me being Watts, five or six years old, I was a little motor with me, which I [inaudible] and uh, she wouldn't let me use it and we had to sleep in the loft and above. I paid it in a loft and it was a sloping roof. Um, there was, she had a son who was about the same age as my brother, Marvin, and perhaps a few months older, but on the sort of lean to save him.
- Speaker 2: [03:40](#) There was, uh, guns and things and old what is, what was is all on the wall, which wasn't very nice. And we went to bed at night. Um, we were in the dark and maybe on 95. I didn't like it very much. And uh, we, we got up in the morning, as I say, we had the breakfast, what was left, but we had others. And, uh, when we went to school, we didn't do anything at school, didn't do any lessons. Right. And Hank, um, really went to school, we just wandered around, met some of the local children who went, who took the mic, have us really cause the London kids running away from, you know, London sort of thing. And uh, that, that was it for a while. Then, uh, when the lady owned the place, did a washing, uh, she used to call my brother out through the mangle in four and everything else.
- Speaker 2: [04:39](#) And she, she might have sort of worked for her at Cape really. And, uh, we went, one of the teachers there took us out on a walk. We had to walk into the local village, the local area, which are quite nice, but, uh, you know, having night one, she didn't want to keep building the radio. So we, I practice called again and stay there. But uh, by then, um, my brother's spoken to one of the teachers and she said, I think you should write and tell your father, your mother, the way you're being treated, so they see what's going on. So my brother wrote to me that sign that he said, if you don't come and pick us up on the coming weekend or Saturday, um, we're leaving that. And that was it. What he did when robbery got all the air things that we had and he hit him around the side of the building and come the Saturday morning, um, we left and, uh, when we go to the local station and we were waiting, the, and my father turned up with his friend in the car and brought us home and we stayed home

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then for awhile until, um, when the local bombing started a blitz as it was done.

Speaker 2: [06:01](#) Uh, when I started, my father said we should go away again to somewhere else. So we knew we had friends who lived in a little village called shorting luster. Um, so he going contact with them and me and my mother went to Seoul, but my brother was 15, coming up 15 then, um, and Fanny said with Joby the city and wanted to stay with her dad and uh, that's, that's what happened really. We went to Gloucester, stay there. We got the other thing that was seventh or 8th of August. And uh, what happened after that? Wasn't very nice. Um, the only way that you want me to tell her about [inaudible], but yes. Um, on the 10th of August, 10th of September, sorry, tend to September. Um, we got a telegram to sigh that I'd rather have you had been killed. And London, um, my brother, my father, my drive, my other two uncles, aunt and couple of cousins, eight people all together, they were all cute in one go.

Speaker 2: [07:24](#) So, um, we, my mother obviously, uh, was heartbroken [inaudible] because we were such a close family, you know, and uh, we stayed for a while, then we came back to London after that and suffer the Brits for war quite a while. Um, we went to, I went to a scolding a local school and then because, um, as we were living, they got the roof load off. Um, we got a chance of a temporary living in a house in Southeast on an end fit. So why we was here. I went to school in Catford and uh, 90, 93 was in coming up to about 1942, 43, I think it was. Um, I went to Louis school there and, uh, we were coming out from lunch, um, when this plane just died out of the sky and machine and everybody around sort of thing. And uh, Bob and the school and Oman, my little, my friends who stayed to lunches at school, I woke up, killed a hundred night children, killed the same time and I think was quite a number of teachers as well.

Speaker 2: [08:58](#) Not very nice. So after that, um, I moved to night school just down the road from here in Brandon road and Catford went to the air, but that coat boat fully not die. And from there I went to crossroads near to another school and then we noticed the hair has been sort of rebuilt or re furbished or we could move back in. And so that's what we do back coming back onto the Island. And I went to three schools on the Island and went on total up how many schools I went to jury. And that all, it was the school, I think it was 13 different schools. Um, you know, there's several of the schools who went into liking in Gloucester health. It's like a different language showing when you come out for

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warning, you need to take a morning. How we did this morning and that's how I used to totally.

Speaker 2: [09:53](#) You know, I began to talk to, I let myself in say there for very long, we came home again and uh, that was every state it took to what was over more or less. We got knocked out of our house a few more times after that. I mean, you helped me remember lying in bed in, I think it was November I think. Yeah, I think it was in November. Um, find a bed, look it up and it was snowing. It got me through the saving. So they used to put a come in and repair the ceilings with uh, like uh, uh, how could you sign and lock like a straw board about how often sick, I suppose suddenly I'd offer now that 15 meals take something like that. And I used to put it up and 90 out and that was it. Then more about putting any tiles on the roof.

Speaker 2: [10:47](#) So cause they were the rain, the guy that used to come through. But uh, that was, that was it really. And after that, going to school, I went to different schools again as I say, um, I stated that he's, hold on, I've got, got myself a joke on the Island as an engineer we can try and Ania and apprentice engineer really. And uh, I stayed there for 25 years in there. Uh, probably enjoyed me life there really. Then I went and worked after that for British steel. He must've all heard about pretty steel. I think everybody has. Um, I was there on the evacuation experience. Yeah. Say although looking back on those years when I was evacuated, um, I didn't enjoy it, you know, in a Y when walking out into the local country started chipping Camden, which is the price, I believe he's still there because I met a young lady, came from there, um, a couple of year ago.

Speaker 2: [11:57](#) Um, and she said the people are still says name of the same people who live in the, I miss you Thea. And I was um, still she thinks they still occupy the place out. Uh, I was there but when we were going to be to, uh, send a why we queue, we had to queue up for the, with all the other children and they were so sort of a mass evacuation really. Um, you have to queue up knocking to remember cheering up your my brother. Um, and I know it must've been quite upset. I was probably crying. I mean I'd only fought for six and uh, I remember my dad running up and sticking a little piece of paper in your top pocket, which just still got, we've been name and address on here where I came from. So I was still going to do a little piece of paper that he wrote when I was there.

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Speaker 2: [12:54](#) But we have [inaudible] who were at the carry out. We had to carry in a box about Sobek, um, which would have, the gas has come, we have to carry gas Wells with us everywhere we went. And uh, another thing you, if you had, you had to wear a cap for some reason, yada. And I hated wearing caps. And if before we went back curation, my dad took me out to somewhere. Um, I'll think it was probably damages and bought me a green cap. And I used to be travel sick, but when I used to travel with, with dad, I used to be quiet, not too bad, but when would be my mom anyway, I would be sick for some red, yellow, I don't know. But we went upstairs on the bus and I didn't like hats anyway. And the window was open on the bus and all through the Halla when they landed on Gammage roof and they stayed there for about 10 years, I think he could look out to embark on a bus.

Speaker 2: [13:59](#) You could look at and see by hat on the top of their event. And I had on their roof where it landed. Uh, I'll throw out, we went back to, uh, we had to go to, I can't think of the place we went into to pick up the rest of the children we went to, but they're all curing up and pushing one another, another low noise guy. And I love the children trying cause they didn't want to go and you know, but uh, I've known friends who were evacuated as well and I had a wonderful time, you know, beautiful time being looked after reasonably well. But unfortunately we weren't trying to be more, I did try to settle down. I was folded, but, and of course, the son who was the woman had a sound met same age as my brother. And um, he got a movement [inaudible] and uh, they went, he took him out rabbit shooting and uh, she showed my brother has just had the skin these Rapids after they were brought back and everything else.

Speaker 2: [15:12](#) And I can remember the pit pit messy or thing that, uh, you know, we behaved, we had a bit of rabbit every day and the guy and have a little Ravi, but it was quite nice. What we had, but we had a lot of bread and jam. That was one of the things. We have a, I'm had porridge as well, but it was what was left from the previous, you know, previous people who would eat in there. Uh, try as we might. We didn't get on very well with the woman in the house. She was alright but stood and she's pretty strict. My show, we never took her light up until they locked from Tibet as well because she was worried about a, at any light. I'm pretty sure I had to, if you showed a lie or if you had somebody coming out, put that light out.

Speaker 2: [16:03](#) I checked out. He had the light on Chris Casey, everybody in the aircraft about short and everything else. But uh, walking out

was the best bit. Our lights going out a couple of times along the roads and ran it through the, through the forest. I had a bit of a forest there or I'll say it was a far, so he was apart actually. But it was nice where we go in there and see some of the animals running around in that quite nice. I like the, uh, squirrels had Skittles there and I thought Eve, I don't know then, but found out since they were probably screwed that you don't see very often now they were red square holes I believe. And uh, they are pretty scarce now I believe. But I thoroughly enjoyed it. My brother did, he liked it, but he, he wanted to get back home.

Speaker 2: [16:54](#) He died. He kept her record of um, what was going on with the shipping and everything else. And he had a map that he kept up to date until he was killed with a stick it on where the Britains were, where the Germans were and uh, officer would go in the storage the home now. Well, I was going to bring us her mother pitch this morning. Uh, unfortunately I couldn't find them over. I've got some letters that my brother wrote. I don't know what was going to bring him or mislaid them. I couldn't regular long, but I will give them the Matthew later on. I think if you go find them [inaudible] say case actually answered every one of your questions already asked me a question. That's

Speaker 3: [17:50](#) brilliant cause there's loads of questions but I'll just be looking through it. You've answered all of them in one go. So why don't you go to question number 21? I think that'll be good on the other side. Let's start with a funny one. This is when you were back in London. What did you do when, when Noah, when there was an airy

Speaker 2: [18:08](#) an air ride? Um, well look for their shelter first of all. But um, I always looked for the, we had a shelter which was indicating their own garden, which wasn't very good, but I had a next door neighbor who was a brilliant sort of carpenter, turned these, um, shelter into sort of, well that is how you, I suppose really had it down the stairs and the next one and the next bit. And uh, we'd take my mother no paper. We stymie the taking a young woman who'd, um, she was already a young woman. She was 14, and um, her mom died of how [inaudible] and that was a diet as well. So she was that she had, uh, two brothers at home and a sister, um, while she was at home, just an upstart. The bitch assisted died. So her brother read into their homie. The other brother went into the Navy, so she was left on our hound and came to live with our next door neighbor.

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Speaker 2: [19:22](#) And so, um, she was a couple of years older than me, so me and her used to sleeping in the shelter and uh, take care. This shelter alone, it was, it was nice. Had a counter kill, abolish. So what would be the counterbalance? And if you lifted it sort of lit up and it had a white, big glob of laid really that fantasy, the roof. And there was a, from across the road from where we lived, um, well known for Montague Myers, which was a moon on timber. And that got bombed. And when we heard the thing going up, we heard the flowing building going over, not one that 90 there, but he landed somewhere in East London, heard it going over. When it stopped, I dived into the shelter and tried to drop the lid down, but unfortunately, um, the Blas shrub knee problem that went off, if the lid back up again and trap my arm, I was caught by me home and I couldn't, couldn't get down.

Speaker 2: [20:36](#) And he's, this was lunchtime about half one. Um, I was stuck there for a long while until the lady lived there, home from work about hopper three, four o'clock in the afternoon. And by they know I was screaming and screaming and screaming when she heard me, she lifted it up and not just sort of fell, collapsed. And I took me to the local hospital. By then it got almost black and they took me to the local hospital, um, wrapped it into something out of some, uh, [inaudible] hot and cold and hot and cold, uh, mashed stalls me, ALB and did everything with it. And, uh, they were talking about taking me arm off, which didn't, didn't help with me while I felt, but eventually, um, I got it more or less back and we both suffered pins and needles for four weeks afterwards. And unfortunately I still suffer with it now on and off. Um, when you get something, when you get bad weather, it plays up. [inaudible] applies out then that's, yeah, that was it. Really.

Speaker 1: [22:02](#) Question 27. So how had none changed while you really,

Speaker 2: [22:09](#) how, what was it, sorry?

Speaker 1: [22:11](#) How hard, how hard London change while you were away.

Speaker 2: [22:16](#) How long?

Speaker 1: [22:18](#) So how has London changed while you were away?

Speaker 2: [22:24](#) Changed? Um, what was the wife I would change whatsoever. It's all the buildings. We couldn't, don't down ready. Um, I can remember painting on a trolley past wins something and I think

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I might've rode in in East London. Um, uh, being on the trolley bus, the trolley bus rock from side to side, I thought it was gonna turn over. Uh, and the wise trolley about she has the war as a Papa and uh, I think that came down and we had to abandon in the middle of the road because if the ride was on, you know, but everything had changed really. And he certainly changed since then.

Speaker 1: [23:11](#) What's your question? Um, how, how did you sit at the end of wool?

Speaker 2: [23:18](#) How did it survey at the end of the war? Uh, um, I usually like swimming and my mom made me as Phoebe costume have one of the jumpers and you've probably heard a lot of people say that once you got in the water with his sword jumpers off they sag down. Uh, well I've, um, it was this one and she put it on and when the bell rang, just the bells ringing out. She come running into my bedroom and the dive got out on the bed. The monkey must be because too. And that said, we said it right to there and then, but you know, illusional wife family during the war. Mmm. We couldn't really celebrate it too, that extent really. I mean [inaudible] little friends had moved as well off the Island when they, when the other dogs, um, some of them move because they had issues with damage and never came back to the Island.

Speaker 1: [24:25](#) Looking back, how do you think your experience as an evac, can we have effected your life?

Speaker 2: [24:32](#) How's it affected my knife for, um, we'll lose the family for one thing, you know, um, when I came, I came back to London. Um, I went to the street where her family was and it's just holding me around.

Speaker 4: [24:55](#) Mmm.

Speaker 2: [24:57](#) And I couldn't, I couldn't move down the street. I couldn't because of what had happened. I felt terrible ready. Um, I ran out, I'm going out and I would've cried my eyes out over it, but light high. When I stayed at ma, that was my Nan's house and she was eight years old, but she had a, a green mat in a, in a what used to be the, Mmm. The main, main house, main room in the house rather. And um, it was, you don't even have to go near sound. These are special occasions. But this, this man, I used to have a, I used to fence, he farming. So I used to have a little farm animals on this map and um, I used to play with them



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and everything else I've been, I was going to school one day, um, one of the lads came in and he had one of these little carts and an animal. So essentially where'd you get that from? So I said, Oh, fan if they go, no, I said, where did you live then? So he said seven severity street. And that was a number of mornings, his house. But he's moved, they'd be able to put a prefab there and he'd found that, found my toy and he's gone and he wanted to give it me. I told him about it. He don't want to give me back now. You keep it, but you know, it's strange. There it happens.

Speaker 1: [26:25](#) Why are your strongest memories from the womb?

Speaker 2: [26:29](#) Well, the beverage world war, um, pose is rather difficult radius to say. Um, I can remember being, um, running the bean in something exploded and hit me in the back of the leg and it was all right. I didn't fill out a car today. I knocked me over. But having done that with grace, both me, shins, knees and everything else, but, uh, I was alright until a couple of days later and I complained to my neighbor. I was, uh, always, he always helped me. He was a very nice person. He used to collect comics and things and go to great Ormond street hospital then in those days. And, uh, he used to take [inaudible]. He used to give it back to him and I knew him as uncle cheque and, uh, he was very, very clever with as a carpenter. And if I said he made me a breach, it may be a car, a big car, like an Austin seven.

Speaker 2: [27:39](#) And he made that, we made it for me probably originally, but then he re did it for me and, uh, you know, it did everything for me really. So he would always say, ah, and uh, uh, I never, I never forgot him and he would always, he thought I'd say, cause he was old, but I would remember any books long. Sorry about that as well. So, you know, sure. In the family. But that was the only person who really, I took shirt and uh, my other, uh, my mother had one brother who we contacted quite a bit, but uh, um, he was, well they were, uh, they weren't the greatest of friends because of what happened. Jerry, Jerry, any water or thing? Um, yeah, the thing was I took in ticketing. We used to have soldiers all the period because it was a silver area.

Speaker 2: [28:39](#) And I can remember, this is before the war. I could remember ships being loaded up. Ms struck, battle going to Germany, which was [inaudible]. We got back. They know I was probably [inaudible] usually to make bombs, everything else come back at us. But that was ships to taking them for scrap metal for Germany. And what I remember my dad who was, um, he was trying a st John's ambulance span, had a badge. We got three

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balls on it. Society, he was qualified and uh, one of these souls, uh, siders on one of the German boats, um, had a foal, broke his ankle and, uh, nobody would touch him. He just laid there and my dad went and said, we can't do this, you know, the sort of people who don't, don't always respect other people. And he went on and my, a lot of them putting the sprint and everything else and the grateful chap said, you know, there's hope where me, me a gamer in better circumstances, but no, whatever happens here, we don't know. But uh, well that treated him. And he also knew about gas as well. So he used to give lectures on how, what to do if you recast or you know that, how

Speaker 1: [30:07](#) can, I'm just thinking about time cause we, um, can I, can I get that sort of a question? Can I not to the grid? Any questions? Okay. Everybody shut off. So Sean, I did, China's going to ask you a question if you could stay out between to sell.

Speaker 2: [30:20](#) Yeah, sure, sure. Yeah, sure.

Speaker 1: [30:24](#) You see by some in the thing, fan on your arm off, off so that when you grow up or what was your on the back [inaudible] like,

Speaker 2: [30:36](#) um, he, he was really, he just felt like they'd really, yeah, that's, um, the feeling was it was dead as I felt and I was getting, uh, we, we thought [inaudible] but I exaggerated pins and needles really bad and I know, cause I didn't, I took me to hospital and I took me on a bus and uh, this lady, she more or less carried me and I already know what's about, they see how I'm thinking. We're probably about 11 years old and uh, when, as I took him to elsewhere and the hospital went to, was a local local one. I had a long old room. It had a one long cord, a rock through you, one in the hospital and the other. And when they took me, they took me from the front end right to the back. And I remember her carrying me down there and I was crying all the time. I think I've probably screaming really? It was so painful. So,

Speaker 1: [31:42](#) okay. Aliyah. You got a question? Oh no. Just asked about back EA experiences. We can talk about other stuff afterwards. Earlier. We can come back to you think about what? Evacuate experience, but you can also, we can talk to Ken off two minutes. Okay. The venue, how old were you when the war end and did

Speaker 2: [32:03](#) Oh no. See,

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Speaker 1: [32:06](#) okay.

Speaker 2: [32:07](#) Four to 13, I think.

Speaker 1: [32:12](#) Yeah.

Speaker 2: [32:14](#) Cause they've scored of 14, which, you know, you don't have to when you leave, go now when you look to leave school. 18, 19. Yeah.

Speaker 1: [32:28](#) Any other questions here? We've got amount of questions. You or Cheyenne anymore? Nathaniel, um, who was your best trends? Um, that time when you were a child?

Speaker 2: [32:38](#) Yeah, my best friend. Um, well, funny enough we went, uh, living on the yard and you, you got, you know, pretty close to enough people, other people on the audit quite a lot, you know, sounds, hold his hands. I said he was there sort of thing. And, um, my mom knew, uh, some people and their son was around, well, his birthday this week, I think. Um, the baby came, we joined this school together and we went all through school together, um, through the war together. Even the vacuum or somewhere he went to see where was he back? [inaudible] which just not very far away really. And they record it. Had a wonderful time there while he was there. And uh, we, after that we both got jobs working on the Island. Um, we remained friends for restaurant off till he died just recently. Unfortunately we both married on us more or less the same time as well.

Speaker 2: [33:51](#) Got married and uh, ran about the same time. Okay. Two more questions. Do you have any, if you've got another question, if you think of one? Yeah. How long have you been evacuated? Two weeks, I think. Something all that, but we were in, we were in there before that would be, was in rye for a while while I was in rye. I'll tell you a story about rye. Um, my dad's uncle was a fisherman, right. And, uh, he took us out on his boat and the had, uh, he had two sons. One was about the same age as me and we went on the boat while he was out there. He spotted something bobbing around in the sea. Now it was a mind that was if you shed, he ships passion, that's it. He blows up, explodes. And he tried to blow it up by firing hay with a rifle and it didn't work.

Speaker 2: [35:03](#) And, uh, a couple of days later there was, they had a look. It was a look out there way, who go look out, see, and there used to be a woman used to come up there. She used to have a cat on a

lead, quite a big sword, Toby Toby capsule. And um, [inaudible] was there and the police arrived and soldiers and they arrested her because she'd been sickening out of see to somebody. I caught her with a Sidney and equipment. So she was arrested and I think probably the 40 day after night, um, the explosion and a submarine and hit this mind and they've blown up, I think the German submarine. It was only a thing, a two main one. I'm not sure about that, but it was two bodies were put up. I mean we gave sort of prayers to in white press, causal. I lied. I relied in the state in there and we went in, she had prayers for them but they were German sailors. One was quite young. Um, 15 I fell. So the other one was about 17 or 18, but they both died. So that was it.

Speaker 3: [36:29](#) Could you just, just so we've got the history, could you just really briefly just say the years you evacuated, so when you first spent a ride, what you went to, when you went to line, how long for, and then when you came back and then when you went?

Speaker 2: [36:40](#) Yeah, we stayed in, stayed in rye from um, I think like 38 to, um, I think it was my 90, 39 something like that. And then we came back because it was so quiet. Nothing was happening during the war. Yeah. Yeah. Cause you said that 39, the 38 yeah, to 39. Yeah. Yeah. Cause he's 39. Let me remember me. It was evacuated really. It was a vacuum. Everybody there when we record it originally, um, I think we were there a couple of couple of weeks, wasn't very long maybe. So ran away and then have a, were you in Gloucestershire? Um, we went to Gloucester. We went there and I think seventh or eighth of,

Speaker 2: [37:41](#) uh, September I said always before, I think September, um, 90, 40. And we stay there as probably when we got the rent, no noise in our family being killed then and we came home a couple of days after. Um, well red to see, um, you know, so things out I can remember cause what really did upset me as well many, many years later. Um, I was invited to go to a Memorial service in the cemetery, which is now, uh, more or less a park. And so, uh, it is a part walkthrough part was being closed. He started the cemetery and, uh, they did a parade on there

Speaker 4: [38:39](#) and

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- Speaker 2: [38:41](#) I went to the way, the group where my family were buried was a long rave, but they arranged all about and everything shifted things about.
- Speaker 4: [38:51](#) And uh,
- Speaker 2: [38:54](#) he worked out with the police. I was going to place, put on horseback in the retreat. What I view, that's the stadium that graves and I got quite upset about that.
- Speaker 4: [39:08](#) And uh,
- Speaker 2: [39:11](#) I said they were got to locate her, but nothing's ever been done about it. So there is a Memorial when Southern Grove cemetery in London where I'm old, under 90 people buried in one grave all altogether. So there's no names, no names on the drive, just the amount of people who died 190 on the 10th of September, 1940.