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Speaker 1: [00:00](#) So what's your name and what year were you born?

Speaker 2: [00:08](#) 1934

Speaker 1: [00:13](#) why? Why, why, why, why? Yeah.

Speaker 2: [00:21](#) King's college hospital. Campbell green.

Speaker 1: [00:26](#) And what did you, what did you have do for nothing? What did your parents do for a living?

Speaker 2: [00:36](#) Um, my dad was a builder and decorator and then went in the Navy and my mom was the waitress at Lyons corner house in marble arch.

Speaker 1: [00:49](#) And describe what your local area was like for you as a child. Before the war started,

Speaker 2: [01:01](#) I lived in a block of flats. I had the bus station was opposite where I lived. We had four Cinemar's, the train station and we had a, uh, theater where Barry cotton and his band used to play a police station. Through involved, we had to everything that we really wanted, we four cinemas to choose to go from so that we weren't allowed to play ball games or any other games in our flights. We used to have to go out in the street and play.

Speaker 1: [01:58](#) How did you and your family feel when the war was declared? How did you and your family feel in the role as to how does your phone, how did you end up, so when the role was to cut [inaudible]

Speaker 2: [02:17](#) I still didn't get the word before.

Speaker 1: [02:24](#) How did you and your family feel when you went to Cod?

Speaker 2: [02:28](#) How did you and your family feel when war was declared? When it was declared? Well, I was a bit young, so I would known as that was only my mother or myself or smart dad was away. So it was the only thing that was disturbing is when they start to build in air raid shelters in the, uh, in our flats. And they weren't very nice to get into, so everybody refused to use them. So it was a waste really.

Speaker 3: [03:14](#) What was it like to live in London when the war broke out?

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- Speaker 2: [03:27](#) Well, I wouldn't know much about what it was like because I went away. I think the people carried on as normal. Everybody still went to work. I say I was a bit young to have any failing about the war, so I couldn't say much about that really.
- Speaker 3: [04:09](#) What did your parents do? German war. What did they do during the war?
- Speaker 2: [04:18](#) Well, my mom was the white truss and my father was a builder in decorator. And then when all that packed up, he went in the Navy. You know when he came out of the Navy he went into the Navy and went and burled I was, what, 16 before I really knew my, my dad, cause he was way over time. It was just my mother and myself.
- Speaker 3: [04:49](#) Um, how did your family pass? Did they pass?
- Speaker 2: [05:01](#) Well, as, I don't know much about what they prepared. I mean we wouldn't go in air raid shelters. So they used to make, put bags for us in the corridors of the flat where we did. There wasn't much else that they could do.
- Speaker 3: [05:28](#) In what ways did your life change from the or a cow?
- Speaker 2: [05:37](#) It was the same. My, my dad was away, so there was just my mum and myself and if my mom had to work, I used to go to another lady that she used to look after while my mom was away. So, um, we all just
- Speaker 3: [05:58](#) [inaudible] together cause I said I lived in a block of flats. So Davis walked five rocks
- Speaker 2: [06:09](#) and most of the kids that lived in there went to the same school that we went to.
- Speaker 3: [06:15](#) So we used to
- Speaker 2: [06:20](#) Nate, um, just talk with each other.
- Speaker 3: [06:26](#) [inaudible]
- Speaker 2: [06:39](#) [inaudible]
- Speaker 3: [06:47](#) how did the food shorty affect affected? How did the, the feature to affect you?

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- Speaker 2: [06:59](#) Sorry, the rationing in the food shortages. How did they affect you? So now my mom was a waitress, so she, if she wanted sugar or something like that, she had ways of means to get it. Cause I said she worked in line's corner house, which was a great big eating place. She could get it from there.
- Speaker 3: [07:31](#) Sorry. Tell us about [inaudible] experience. [inaudible] tell us about any experience, any experiences of bombing you faced a bombing. Oh, fun.
- Speaker 2: [08:15](#) No, it was after we came back. I mean, um, that we noticed what a beaten bond, but there was no bombs being dropped while I was still at home before I was evacuated. But we show the devastation it left afterwards. What was bombed?
- Speaker 3: [08:39](#) That [inaudible]
- Speaker 2: [08:41](#) I had to go that same school, she lived in the other bloke and when we had the old duty bucks, we used to watch them go along and then when the noise stopped, we stick our fingers in the areas. But we never, we never had any drop on the flats where I lived. They did the billion to place in my road, but not a great deal where I lived. Did we have the building, you know, buildings knocked down just to one in my road.
- Speaker 3: [09:22](#) Sure.
- Speaker 2: [09:28](#) How did you say?
- Speaker 3: [09:38](#) Well
- Speaker 2: [09:42](#) wait, it was all of a sudden, all I remember was my mom dressing me, give me a case and it was getting near Christmas and she bought me a big Teddy, so I had died. And then uh, the next is when we went to the school and then the teachers might put us in buses, which were blacked out the windows and took us to the station. And then when we got off the, on the station, they gave us all a gas mask in little Brown box and put a Brown label on with our name on. And then we got on the train. That was it. Off we went.
- Speaker 3: [10:38](#) Um, how did you feel when your parents said goodbye?
- Speaker 2: [10:47](#) Well, I say my dad wasn't there to say goodbye to, um, he was in the Navy.

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- Speaker 3: [10:55](#) [inaudible]
- Speaker 2: [10:57](#) I don't think any of our parents remember any of our parents coming to the station. We all say goodbye at the school. No say it. So it was mainly my mum and myself over time. Let's say my dad was away most of the time. So I would say we should Apple buys at the school.
- Speaker 3: [11:25](#) Tell us about the things you took with you
- Speaker 2: [11:34](#) besides the big Teddy bear that my mama had bought for me for Christmas. I had died and I had a special brush cause I had long hair, which I used that brush with. Um, no, nothing, uh, nothing else. We weren't allowed to take an overload. Uh, mother's packed our suitcases with our clothes in, so we don't know what went. In our cases, only what we personally carry in, which to say was my Teddy. That was it. Some, some of the kids didn't even have that, just the label. And the gas mosque like Oh things, I had a doll and it was a big one and it was dressed in blue gum pursuit and he didn't have the hair that doors have now. It was in the head and I used to call it my baby brother because I was an only child so I had to leave him behind. And other bits and pieces of toys that I had, cause we're, I say we were on there, that's tight. One thing with us not present, we're not allowed to take anything else. So it was the usual dose. I don't, I'm a prime been in flats and not having any left. If you wanted your bike or your prime you I to carry it down five flights. Well in actual fact it was 10 flights of stairs. We had no lifts in now. Flights,
- Speaker 2: [13:37](#) everything you wanted, you had to keep in your flight and when you wanted to use it you have to carry it down the stairs.
- Speaker 3: [13:53](#) And tell us about your journey. Tell us about your journey
- Speaker 2: [14:00](#) journey walk to where it was evacuated. Well as I say, we had to go to school and then we got on the, they were buses and windows were black town. They took us to the station and then when we got to the station, they gave us a gas mosh and put labels on us, Brown labels. And we got on the train and the train was not like it. They are today open. They were all like carriage doors and they, they, you opened like that and went in and it closed on its own. So we were all put in these separate ones. And then, uh, the teachers, uh, I think we had three or four teachers with us. Um, they said it's time to go to the Buffy car.

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So they scrambled out and the door closed before I could get out. So I got locked in so I never got to the Buffy car.

Speaker 2: [15:08](#) So when they came by, the teacher then took me down on my, my own. And uh, when we got to the other end, it was a bus again to a school and we had to go in the school with our luggage. We all had to sit round the outside of the hole on our like age and then, um, people from the village where I was, their estate came round and chose which child or children they wanted. And eventually there was just me sitting on my case on my own. And a man came up to me and said, didn't nobody want you? And I went, no, he said, you come home with me. So he took me down to his, the bungalow and he had three children, two girls and a boy. His wife wasn't best pleased to have another one. And the two goals, one was Constance and one was June. They didn't take to me, but the boy and I got on very well. His name was Jocelyn.

Speaker 2: [16:36](#) And then I found out the following moaning that the man who had taken me home was the headmaster of the school when it came to Sunday. I then found out he was the local Frazier. So I thought, Oh, and none of the other people, his one boy was in opposite may end a bungalow. Um, but he, he only stayed about a month. He didn't like it. So his mom came down and took him back home and the rest of them were all billeted on farms. So I didn't have anybody else near me from the school, but we used to meet up, used to go around and uh, made it to school and then we'd go scrumping if you don't know what that is, is climbing over the fence and pinching the apples and the everything else unless we got cold and that we used to meet out.

Speaker 2: [17:43](#) Other than that, the two NGOs were horrible, but I, Jocelyn Abe was very, very nice because he was near my age. Then the other two, the other two guys were a lot older and they didn't like it cause they hair was, one had frizzy hair, one that's striped and mine was naturally curly, so they took it out on me. But Jocelyn always defended me and shared everything with me. And, uh, my mom used to come down and visit and we'd go to Lou, the seaside, but we had to, are they, um, the main [inaudible] because he was barricaded off so we'd have to get a soldier to open it up so we could go in and go for a swim. And they all stood there with their rifles while we were at a swim name came out. So we only did that once I think or twice. And then when I was seven on my seventh birthday, they took me to Lou,

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the whole family and they took me into a hairdresser's and they chopped off my hair right out short.

Speaker 2: [19:17](#) So I cried my eyes out and when we got home I wrote my mom a letter saying, come and take me home. They've cut all my clothes off. She came down on the next train the next day and she walked in and she said to Mrs. Mayo, pack her bags, I'm taking her home. So she got the suitcase out and just threw all the clothes in and mum, mum, I've said to her, that's not how they were now. I said pack them. And then Mr. Mayo came in, took my mum to one side and then did that. I stayed. So he told my mom and to leave you may because London was being bombed, no rain. So my mum went back home and left me there and um, we didn't, uh, we did see a few of the German planes and we did have one. Uh, he ended up in our back garden where I lived hanging by his parachute in the trees, but all the men of the village came and took him away and we never found out what happened to him. But that was used to one. So the only thing we ever knew about what going on in London is if our parents told us when they came to visit. That was that.

Speaker 2: [20:55](#) And I've never, never met any of the people from my school that I was evacuated with that day. And I tried for years to find now and how to get in contact because I knew there was a, a club somewhere where they all met up. And then when I did find it, it just closed. So that was it. Never, never met any of them. And I never went back to Cornwall to or corresponded with any of them that well after all the years I was with them, I never might contact again. Never saw any of the ones I was evacuated with that were DMA her, that was it. End of story. No, no contact whatsoever. Never met any of them, which was a shame really. I did try for years cause there was a, an evacuee carb, but I never found out where it was and then we're not dead. It was closed.

Speaker 1: [22:19](#) [inaudible] who are your last two rated with?

Speaker 2: [22:25](#) Ooh. [inaudible] as you said, the Niani. Um, there was one boy in opposite and they lived in the same block of blesses me, but he didn't like it and his mom took him out and say all the rest of the boys and goes, we're all on foams, which was a long way by from where I lived. There was no other evacuees in my street until I new may. It wasn't a very big village, many added church school. It was mainly farms. I mean, you know Cornish pasties, I like coldish pasties cause that's what we used to call niche

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fastest. They were made where I, all the ingredients came from the village where I was evacuated. Kellington

Speaker 1: [23:31](#) describe the house she lived in. Describe the house she lived in.

Speaker 2: [23:36](#) Well the vacuum [inaudible]

Speaker 1: [23:39](#) um, evacuated

Speaker 2: [23:42](#) bungalows, they were all, all bungalows. There was no houses. They were all, how was old bungalows, um, had a big front and, and say out the back as well. And we had, um, an area where we were supposed to play, but we're only allowed to play certain times. Uh, I was allowed to ride my bike twice. It then it had to go away and we had a hammock type thing in the, in the back as well. She was very strict, this woman and say the two NGOs didn't like me anyway.

Speaker 3: [24:34](#) So

Speaker 2: [24:35](#) it was just Jocelyn and I, we were always together.

Speaker 1: [24:45](#) How different was it from why you came from

Speaker 2: [24:51](#) a lot of different, because they say they roll bungalows and where I lived, it was all flats.

Speaker 3: [24:59](#) So

Speaker 2: [25:02](#) there were um, streets of houses, but they weren't in the area where I lived. We, it was all a bus carriage, Triam, GaryJ cinemas, theaters and blocks of flats and that's all it was. None of the flats Saturday shifts say we weren't allowed to play games or anything in there.

Speaker 3: [25:32](#) We had [inaudible]

Speaker 2: [25:34](#) dust spins, but we had to bring our own rubbish down. We didn't have shoots a lot. They've got these days we had to bring the bikes down and there was a square with little trees in it. No, these spins and all your potato failings and fruit and stuff used to go into the bean.

Speaker 1: [26:01](#) How are you treated by alpha annual knew. How are you treated by other people in your area?

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- Speaker 2: [26:10](#) Well, our home or sorry, all in the area where you were evacuated. Oh, Whitney. Yeah. Well as I say, there was only me. The rest of them all were on foams, but we used to meet in the school and he said you used to go scrimping and uh, play cricket a thing with a bowl. But in where I was, there was some, I think eight this side and I own the other, but none of the um, paper load that took in any of the children, which zone you may, it seemed to be the people that were on the farms that took all the rest of the children. And cause some of them there was brothers and sisters or two brothers and two sisters. So they didn't take just a one. They took both of them that I say we used to meet up after school and that week canes.
- Speaker 3: [27:16](#) But, uh,
- Speaker 2: [27:20](#) they didn't do anything just cause I was living with the head Moussa, the school. They treated me. All right.
- Speaker 3: [27:30](#) Uh, okay.
- Speaker 2: [27:39](#) What was the school night school? Um, it was, it was big. The hole was massive and had, um, older benches, like you've got down as rural in levels. And when they were down, they used to use the bars, like for PE and things. And we had just like the normal normal lessons. Um, nothing special, big playground. The teachers were all right as well, but there was nothing special about the school.
- Speaker 3: [28:29](#) Mmm.
- Speaker 2: [28:33](#) Can't even remember what some of the classrooms look like and just visualize this great big hole where I sat. But as the rest of the classes, the whole was here and then all the classes were alone, the other side. So it wasn't heckled. You pickled. It was neat and tidy
- Speaker 3: [28:56](#) as we say.
- Speaker 2: [29:04](#) What happened to you? I must say my mum was working as a waitress and she also did something else. Um, that's how come she used to be able to get sugar and Tay and as is my dad was in the Navy. So, um, I didn't see much of him until I was about 16. I remember, you know, as a child and we got pictures of us in that together and say when the building trade packed up, he went out one day and didn't come back. And then we got his lechery gone in the Navy and all I re can remember is when he

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came home on leave, he was Domaine who came home with a suitcase full of chocolates and sweets. But then, uh, when he came out of the Navy, he went out one day and didn't come back. And then we had a photograph of him with the [inaudible], he's mate and a 10 ton truck called Peggy. And he was, um, worked for the Nafay. So he took all the supplies around to all the army barracks. How did your experience as an evacuee has affected your life?

Speaker 2: [30:49](#) Well, I was an only child, so, um, being with the family that he got me used to having a family. But other than that I was always independent and an only child. So I had all my friends in the flats where we lived and most of us, we, we went to the same school anyway. So, um, the, uh, the school was still there when I got back where I used to go, but we had to go to a school with boys and that was a take a look again use. So like when you were young and he saw mixed, it's how K but when you are 11 and 12 as goes and you got boys in your school, it wasn't all that brilliant, but they got rid of all the boys and made ASCO a girl school and that's when we had to wear a uniform. We didn't have to wear a uniform before, but uh, no, I enjoyed school.

Speaker 2: [32:23](#) It wasn't a hard or anything like that. The teachers are all very fair and we will go on with them anyway. Then I became a free fate. So I was refundable to the, say I had mysteries, was an ex nun, but she was a lovely person and our teachers are all nice as well, except you for the one male teacher, which was the one I said was in the air force and he lost these fingers. And when you walk from one class to the other, and if you didn't, he would grab you by the neck. But that was when we had the boys because when the boys went, he went as well. So we had all with lady teachers and they were all very nice.

Speaker 3: [33:37](#) Okay. What are your strongest memories from the wall?

Speaker 2: [33:48](#) Well, I'll say being evacuated, it's still vivid for me, but most of the time it was just mum, mum, mum, myself. So we were very close. But uh, let's say I was 16 before I knew, really knew my father and uh, he never, I mean if I got the cane at school and went home and told my mum the I've been caned she'd said you probably deserved it. And she'd Caden me as well and my dad didn't like that very much. And one day, I don't know, I think I had skylights and I got told of her skating in school so I got detention and when I got home I told my mom she got the cane out and my dad walked Jane and cane mum, mum. So we were both in chairs and then after that she, she never kicked me

off to that. But we were very, very, very close. Um, I suppose it's because my mom was quite young as well cause she was on train and she, when she had made,

Speaker 3: [35:27](#) when you're in the house, I did you get good nose or not curated? Well you cheated. Like say that again. I knew, uh, evacuated. Did you like get good nails?

Speaker 2: [35:43](#) I still didn't get what [inaudible]

Speaker 3: [35:45](#) when you said you got good nails or good food, did they feed you well? Yeah.

Speaker 2: [35:57](#) And, and she made you wear boots without socks in when it was freezing cold. As I say, the woman and the two girls were horrible to me. But Mr. Mayo and the boy Jocelyn were brilliant about, she got a photograph of all of us together. And that was on my seventh birthday when they co my Coser that she was very, very strict. But then I'd always been on my own. So talk to me or anything didn't seem to affect me.

Speaker 3: [36:41](#) So can I ask you a quick question? How do you [inaudible] towards Macy? So when you went home after you evacuated, what were your feelings when you were reunited with your mom leaving your foster family? If you could tell, how did you feel about that?

Speaker 2: [36:54](#) Um, well, it was only, uh, leaving Jocelyn and Mr. Mayo that, uh, you know, I was disappointed that I never kept in contact with, um, the dentist to say, mum, that was a way. So my mom and I became even closer and we did everything together and went everywhere together. So, um, I had, I have thought about it since we'd been doing all of these interviews, um, why my mum never got in contact with the PayPal because she would have had the address. I didn't never had the address, but, um, no, that S I need you to support him was, was him and I say Jocelyn that I missed when I got home. But then of course when I got home, my friends in the block of flats where I lived, we all got back together again. And then because she's going to school, I made more friends. I know I've got a lifelong friend now.

Speaker 2: [38:30](#) We've known each other since we read 11, but she lives in new Caso that she has been down to me twice. But we keep in contact. But I've only got a telephone. I don't like my elbows and I haven't got the internet or anything else. So if I want to talk with her, I have to go over to my granddaughter. She's got

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all the gear and she does it all for me, but we send each other photographs and over the restaurant. So we keeping contact. And when, when we do speak, she ends up talking like I do with a London accent. And I talk, I end up talking Jordie Oh yes. I couldn't. Yeah. Yeah. That is one of the things. Um, when we got home, people couldn't understand what I was saying and I'd never, never realized what they were going on about until I watched a program, um, just recently, and it was about fishermen in Como. And when I spoke, even, I couldn't understand them at first. Then I realized afterwards the difficulty that people had with me when I came back and they say, Hey, will you say in a con understandable words you're saying? And you suddenly, now that I've realized when I saw this program, while I couldn't understand me.