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Speaker 1: [00:00](#) This is Audrey Jones.

Speaker 2: [00:04](#) Yeah. Where are you? Where are you born?

Speaker 1: [00:06](#) 1934

Speaker 2: [00:09](#) where were you born?

Speaker 1: [00:12](#) I was actually born. Justin. Hammersmith.

Speaker 2: [00:16](#) What do, what did your parents do for a living?

Speaker 1: [00:21](#) My father had a shop in Bloomsbury with his father, with my grandfather. My mother just looked off to me at that time.

Speaker 2: [00:38](#) Describe what you, what your local area was like for you as a child before the war started.

Speaker 1: [00:46](#) Well, I wasn't in Hammersmith very long and I was back up into North Kensington and I lived in bald erode and um, I suppose it looked much the same as it does now in the area that I lived in

Speaker 2: [01:11](#) Sydney. Just concentrate on the answer. Don't worry about the next question. How did you and your family feel when you, when war was declared?

Speaker 1: [01:25](#) Well, I was only five, so it didn't mean an awful lot to me by that time. I had got a little sister who, who would have been four and I'm the first rarely that we knew about it was when we were taken away by my mother because I was at Oxford gardens school at the time and they were taking children away, but we didn't go away with the school went with, we went with my mother. She took us to Wales, which was my father's home. That really was the first that I knew there was anything happening.

Speaker 2: [02:19](#) What was it like to live in London when Rollbar account?

Speaker 1: [02:27](#) It was no different as far as a five year old was concerned like me. You didn't realize other than that we were going away. It was only later that we came to realize that something terrible was happening.

Speaker 2: [02:50](#) What did your parents do during the war?

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- Speaker 1: [02:54](#) My father still worked in the shop and his dairy in Bloomsbury because he didn't pass his medical to go into the army and my mother looked off to me and my sister.
- Speaker 2: [03:17](#) How do you feel when you first found out you were going to be evacuated?
- Speaker 3: [03:24](#) [inaudible]
- Speaker 1: [03:30](#) I don't think I realized anything about the word evacuation. We were just going off to Wales, which was my father's home. So it was more or less like a holiday.
- Speaker 2: [03:45](#) Tell us about the journey on your first evacuation.
- Speaker 1: [03:50](#) I don't remember it at all. I just remember being in the village that we went to, which you would, will never be able to write it down. It was called Jessica Galeo and because it was my father's home, it's where he was born and brought up.
- Speaker 2: [04:17](#) Who were you evacuated with?
- Speaker 1: [04:21](#) My mother and my sister.
- Speaker 2: [04:24](#) How do you feel when you last saw your parents when you were going away?
- Speaker 1: [04:32](#) Well, I didn't, I still saw my mother because she took us, didn't see my father because he was working elsewhere and he was there nights as well. Looking after the, the road. He was a, uh, street warden and uh, did all sorts of things to look after the people in the road where he was.
- Speaker 2: [05:01](#) Tell us about the things you took with you.
- Speaker 1: [05:06](#) I have no idea what we took with us. I imagine my mother made sure that she took out some clothes, but I was too young to know anything about it. Can you remember how you got that? No, it would have been by train.
- Speaker 2: [05:28](#) Describe how you ended up with your first host family. You didn't live with the host family, you just lived.
- Speaker 1: [05:40](#) No, we, yes, we did live with a host family. Yes. Um, and it was um, if I, I think I've got, um, yes too. It was my father's

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childhood home and it was a slate mining village in central Wales

- Speaker 1: [06:17](#) and that trip we stayed with uh, mr and mrs Pew at one era terrace, a son of this deaf, his and his wife Ludwin lived at number three and my mother's sister with her two children, Margaret three and Keith, just two weeks old, Ruth stayed with them. There was no chemical toilet that was a chemical toilet, not to flushing on the chemical one, the end of the little row of houses, each house didn't have a toilet. There was no running water and no electricity. The only thing I really remember about my time there was sliding down a piece of shiny slate by bridge near to where we were staying. It was very popular with all the children of the village without notes as well. Yeah. Well we were, we stayed in a little row of village houses, cottages. There was no running water, no electricity. And the toilet was just a chemical one, not a flushing one. And that was at the end of the Rose houses. So there were about four houses all using the same toilet.
- Speaker 2: [08:03](#) What was it like? What was life like with your host family?
- Speaker 1: [08:09](#) Well, they were, they were very kind to us, but life was very different when it was squashed in a little house with no toilets and no electricity.
- Speaker 2: [08:29](#) What was the house like?
- Speaker 1: [08:32](#) Well, it was just a cottage joined to another three. We, when we were in was number one era terrace and there were just four houses along the road along the, um, in the block.
- Speaker 2: [08:50](#) What was your school like?
- Speaker 1: [08:52](#) I didn't go to school. There we went. We, it would all have been in Welsh. We wouldn't have understood it anyway. So what did you do? I suppose we just played my sister and I.
- Speaker 2: [09:13](#) How would you treat it in your new area?
- Speaker 1: [09:17](#) Oh, we were treated extremely well. Well looked after.
- Speaker 2: [09:25](#) Tell us some of your expressions in the countryside. Experiences, experiences.

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- Speaker 1: [09:31](#) Hmm. Well the it, there were lots of mountains there. Um, but the only experience was, as I read in from my notes was that, that it was slate, which was very hard, shiny rock until the end of just along the road from where we were staying. There was a, a slope made of slate and we used to go along there and slide down it.
- Speaker 2: [10:13](#) Tell us about any friends you made.
- Speaker 1: [10:17](#) It didn't make any friends. Just type my sister. This was only the first of my evacuation because we went to that very long. That was incept. We went in September, but we were home well before Christmas, back in London, and then we were evacuated a second time. I don't know what year. It's probably 1940 the next year. Do you want me to say something about [inaudible]?
- Speaker 2: [10:56](#) What happened to your family in London while you were away?
- Speaker 1: [11:03](#) Well, my grandmother and my grandfather under naan lived not very far away. And, um, my grandmother was getting old and she was very unwell and I'm not sure, was one of the reasons why we came back very quickly from Wales because it was much too far away. It was my mother's mother and she didn't want to be away from her mother.
- Speaker 2: [11:44](#) Can you tell us about any times you saw it?
- Speaker 3: [11:48](#) Oh,
- Speaker 2: [11:49](#) communicate it with your parents while you were away?
- Speaker 1: [11:53](#) Well, I was with
- Speaker 2: [11:54](#) my mother all the time. What about your father? Key advice or kind of phone? I think
- Speaker 1: [12:00](#) I have, I shouldn't think he telephoned. I wouldn't think they would have had a telephone there, but, um, I don't know.
- Speaker 1: [12:11](#) Tell us about any more evacuations you experienced. Right. 12 when it was, when the bombing status and bombing started in 1940 that my uncle who lived quite close to us in London, um, found to a village that had got two houses that would take evacuees and it was near Oxford. The village was called Middleton Cine. And, um, his, my uncles and his family, which

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was a little boy and a little girl could go and stay in one of the houses and he arranged for us to go to another house, which was called, called the fuss, which was a farm, a dairy farm. So the cows and milk King and all that sorts of thing on the phone.

Speaker 2: [13:30](#) What do you do when there was married?

Speaker 1: [13:35](#) When I was in London, when we first had the era it's, I was living, we were living in a flat in North Kensington and um, we used to go, the air raid warning would sound and we would go to a cup dog with the status. Later on when we were in London, we were staying with my aunts and my grandfather still in North Kensington. And then at night we used to sleep under the Morrison shelter, which was a table shelter. And we used to sleep under that.

Speaker 2: [14:28](#) What was it like when the bombs were falling?

Speaker 1: [14:32](#) Very frightening if you heard them later on 1944, we were a tome in England, up my grandfather's house and they were having walked, were called flying bottoms and you could hit the plane going over off to the air raid warning had sounded and you listened, you could hear the plane coming, but you listened for when the engine stopped. And then we used to count one, two, three. The more you could count the further away the plane had gone before you heard the explosion. But one night my sister and I was sleeping under the table, the Morrison shelter, which was nine table. And um, we didn't hear the air raid warning. We didn't tear the plane going over. The first we knew was a terrific bang, an explosion. And my sister said, look out the mental pieces coming down. And bomb had fallen just in about the next road flying bomb.

Speaker 1: [16:11](#) Um, and it's taken some talons. Church dropped more or less on the church and I'm all out, all the windows of the house, although they had shutters, they were broken, the shutters were full, come in. And, um, the mental piece didn't come down. But, uh, my mother, my aunt, my grandfather, and by that time I had another little sister, she was two, three and they were all upstairs and they had to come down the stairs where there was a big boarding, had fallen onto the stairs. And I remember seeing my grandfather's bloody footprint cause he'd trotted on some glass and then walked down and put his foot on the, this uh, boards that had come down on my mother, aunts and my youngest sister all had to come down the next day we went off again to Middleton Cheney.

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- Speaker 2: [17:30](#) Tell us about any friends or family she was injured in during rule.
- Speaker 1: [17:35](#) I didn't know if anyone who was injured.
- Speaker 2: [17:39](#) Well did you and your family do when you heard bombs?
- Speaker 1: [17:46](#) Um, made sure we were under the shelter and under the shelter or in the cup of under the stairs or tried to be somewhat safe.
- Speaker 2: [18:01](#) What were you feeling when you came back to London after being evacuated?
- Speaker 1: [18:06](#) Well, we kept coming back partly because my grandmother died and, um, also to make sure we could see my father and um, and things were quiet if they were a bit quieter than when we'd gone away.
- Speaker 2: [18:29](#) What's, why you feeling about your family?
- Speaker 1: [18:34](#) Well, I was with my mother and by this time with two sisters and um, but uh, it was always wonderful to see my father.
- Speaker 2: [18:49](#) How, how had London change while you were away?
- Speaker 1: [18:55](#) Well, we kept coming back so we'd kept seeing different areas that had been bombed. And the last time we came back, boom, there was stowed Balkans. It was 1944 because I was changing schools and um, went to the secondary school in the September of 44 and we still had bombs and then we used to have to go when the air raid warning sounded. We used to have to go down into the cloakrooms which had been specially, um, adapted to make, make them safer.
- Speaker 2: [19:43](#) How did your host family feel when you were leaving?
- Speaker 1: [19:48](#) Well, I'm still in touch with one of the members because there was a daughter that, who was only a year older than me and I still have from her at Christmas and we exchange letters. I haven't seen her for many, many years, but uh, it's good to still be in touch.
- Speaker 2: [20:13](#) Yeah. Do you stay in touch with, yeah. How does you set a break via end of the war?

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- Speaker 1: [20:26](#) We had, we had a street polity that had been tennis courts behind the houses where I was living and um, they weren't juiced anymore during the war and we had a party there, which was good celebration.
- Speaker 2: [20:50](#) Look, Pat, how do you think your experience as an evacuee has effected your life?
- Speaker 1: [21:01](#) It's, I think it's interesting. It was, it was actually a good place to go. And, um, I've got, uh, pictures of, uh, of us where we were able to have a ride on a horse and uh, um, and being in the country side and see the cows being milked and I can remember those things.
- Speaker 2: [21:34](#) What are your strongest memories from the war?
- Speaker 1: [21:40](#) I think the strongest memory is when the bomb fell on, um, since Helen's church. And, um, the, the, all the windows came in and uh, there was a dreadful mess. I can remember seeing the mess in the kitchen the next morning. I think that was my strongest memory
- Speaker 2: [22:17](#) drama question. Neutral person. [inaudible]
- Speaker 4: [22:25](#) could you tell us a little bit more about, um, when you were staying in bamboo, um, or the village just outside group. Describe, describe the whole, sort of that the house that you was in, the area and the people you were with.
- Speaker 1: [22:38](#) Um, that it was a farmhouse and we, I mentioned had three rooms, perhaps four and half of the house. And um, the family who were named to give it, um, lived in the other half of the house. They gave us half of it and um, it opened on to the fields of the farm. And, um, we just enjoyed the countryside. We went to school. The first school we went to was in a Baptist church hall. And that was the infant school cause I was five. Um, no, I suppose I would have been just six probably. Yes. Six. And then when I became seven, we went to the, um, the junior school, which was opposite, which was the Methodist church hall. The last time we went in 1944 when I would have been 10. I don't know whether, I think probably the evacuee schools had closed because most people I'd probably gone home or got too old. And so we went to the village school for a little while. Just what would have been probably a month and a half, six weeks. Um, well Wendy, who was the girl who lived at the farm, she was going, she'd been at school there.

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- Speaker 1: [24:49](#) Then of course we came home and that was the end of this going to stay. So how different were they evacuated?
- Speaker 1: [25:02](#) Well, I suppose the difference was in the age, the age group at the time because, um, I was just sick, so it was just an infant school. I don't remember what we did, but um, now I don't remember what we did, but we didn't, I don't think we had desks. Might have had little tables or some salt, but, but we had desks in the village school. So the video store was local? Yes. Oh, I have no idea where they came from that remember any, any other children other than my sister. Is there anything we've missed out that you, anything else that I see what this says.
- Speaker 1: [26:17](#) My, my youngest sister was born when we were, while we were evacuated, um, and my aunt who we lived with late later on when the bomb fell on some talons, um, she came down to look after us because my mother went into a maternity hospital near North Hampton and um, and so my, she was my baby sister and um, she was born in 1941 while we were still there. How is she still alive today? Yes. Yes she is, but my other sister is the one who was born there. Um, she is just, where are we? 90 coming up to 1920. She was born in 41, so she's 79. She will be 79. She's 78 at the moment
- Speaker 3: [27:45](#) else.
- Speaker 1: [27:47](#) Of course I've got here. Of course, we were not allowed into the hospital to see my baby sister, but my aunt, I don't know how we got that, but my aunt took us to the hospital to where my sister was born. And, um, we were able to see her not by going in, but she was brought to a window. And, um, she was called Beryl and my sister and I, the comments we made were, Oh, duh, isn't she ugly? I don't think she's ever forgiven us. Yes. That was in 1941. It says, I didn't enjoy leaving London, but my sister and I had some happy times in Middleton Cine as my mother was with us. There were fields to play in, and we loved watching the cows being milked by hand. Of course, the only memories of my time at the evacuees school are playing a triangle and singing a little lamb went Strang.