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

Speaker 2: [00:01](#) I'm Elizabeth Leicester.

Speaker 1: [00:04](#) Hi. Um, what year are you?

Speaker 2: [00:07](#) 1934.

Speaker 1: [00:11](#) Uh, what were you born?

Speaker 2: [00:13](#) Two things. Halfway 17.

Speaker 1: [00:16](#) Hmm. What did your parents do for a living

Speaker 2: [00:23](#) before the war? My father worked in the cable factory so he didn't have to go in the army when the war started. Um, they kept him doing the cables and my mother, she worked in a loan office. Not very good, I'm afraid.

Speaker 1: [00:43](#) Anything else you'd like to add? No. Okay. Uh, what was your local area like as a child?

Speaker 2: [00:54](#) Oh, lovely. Yeah. We had to have full of picture houses, Voke and Mayfair. And those four of them I wind up with just twice a week cinema.

Speaker 1: [01:07](#) That sounds nice. What did you and your family feel when the rule was declared?

Speaker 2: [01:14](#) Oh, well they was all rushing around and uh, we had to go to scope. Just assign everything. Kevin don't, it's exciting, but we're to practice with the mess. Mess. Gosh, the mouse because we have to practice with them. And then since we learned how to put them on because the gas bombs, they drop gas and we have no room for guests, mouse, Gus mosques, I say. And uh, so, um, and then of course all Rangers had to be made to be evacuated. I had to go, I can hear your necklace making a little noise. Would it be possible to say take it off and put it under there? Maybe just cause he's running. I'm loving every minute over here. Stop playing.

Speaker 1: [02:07](#) What was it like in London when the war broke out?

Speaker 2: [02:12](#) Well, what are those sort of, um, Rashi random, but mostly w w I just got taken to the tube. Um, and then we would take it, uh,

met some other children and they were crying and we're gonna stay low set to go up to Paddington. And we went on the tube dependents in and I said to Delta, my mum on that shoe. And then when I got to Paddington, we got on the train to Wales, we went to [inaudible], I went to Brechin in Wales. And then when I was in Brooklyn and it was like, pick Lori, they're waiting for me and these other seven children and we, we got up the lorry and we went to a village and it was called Langley handle. Nant Brent. And they went back up there. They was a school and we had to line up in the school and people at the come and choose who they wanted to live with them.

- Speaker 3: [03:10](#) Here's something [inaudible] French that we leave your hands like that. That's it. Yeah. Maybe it's your [inaudible] it's your greens. Yeah. So rings at each other. What you said. Yeah. Maybe just that one. Sorry, I'm being no. Okay. Maybe she'll watch. Sorry Betsy. I'll just, it's just the one. We've got your interview period also. Raffling it will come up. This again.
- Speaker 2: [03:52](#) Oh, sorry. Go ahead. What did your parents do during the war? Uh, they both stayed to work. They both stayed home. Okay. How did your family prepare, prepare for the war? Well, we've got an Anderson shelter. It's caught because this room and eh, and uh, it's gonna, uh, around ring for the toilet in the night. And we have to sleep in the nighttime. How did your life change? I was picked at this school, right. There was a couple of, they're in their 50s and I had some gray hair and they said, would you come and live with us? And I said, Whoa, I already want to go on a farm. I don't know. I didn't cry at all because I thought it was exotic to see all the animals and adventure. I was my ventures person. Right. And I was only five and a half. I said, no. Anyway, then I said, okay, I'll come with you. And when we go to that house, it was a post office. So I lived in a post office for two and a half years.
- Speaker 4: [05:18](#) Yeah.
- Speaker 2: [05:21](#) How did food shortages affect you? How it affected me? Well, I already got used to the idea. They were, you know, nice couple and um, I didn't have any children, so yeah, I loved it. And then not started going to school there cause it was in a village where the school wasn't a church. And, um, uh, while I to go to church on Sunday, I tried one day, one Sunday, and I said, I'm not going today. And she tell me and she said, well, you go straight fuel room and also, Oh, don't want to do that so often. So we always, they've, they're very religious in Wales.

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- Speaker 4: [06:03](#) Mmm.
- Speaker 1: [06:06](#) Well did you, can you tell me any experiences of borns and experiment?
- Speaker 2: [06:16](#) Well, what happened was I was in Wales two and a half years, right. And then my mother came to see me. Right. And that's when I saw her, I suddenly wanted to go home. I just didn't know why. I'm quite happy that I wanted to go home. And then she'd said to me, she said, you've got to bite me sister. So I said, well, I'm coming over me now. I want to see my sister. And she, she said, you won't. Yeah. What do, because the war isn't finished, but I'll take you home. But your sister is gone with a child monitor. Two of them, I think Bennington, she was evacuated. So we were still separated. So that fight, it was very upsetting that we were all, you know, separates his,
- Speaker 4: [07:07](#) Oh,
- Speaker 1: [07:09](#) so we're gonna so kind of, did you experience any booms?
- Speaker 2: [07:14](#) Yes, yes. Of course. As soon as I got home, there was the doodlebugs coming over and they were going zoom, zoom, zoom, and I'll say to my granny, I said, you work on the pictures. We're not going to work. If we're got to die, we're going to die. Let's go. And we went to the pitchers and just got in the picture. I sat down when my uncle works, they had kind of told me there's a big bump drops in the road next to where I lived. So when we finished, we went home and when I went down the same roads as I'll come up, there was four houses flat to the ground. And not only that, I walked, ran the corner to my house at my windows where we should have colored windows, green and red. We laid them right when I was pushed out, the red was opened up and the grass was all broken.
- Speaker 4: [08:13](#) [inaudible].
- Speaker 1: [08:19](#) How'd you feel when you first found out that you were going to be evacuated?
- Speaker 2: [08:26](#) Well, I was quite excited because I'm not farming off. You're just like, you just don't really understand that our security is. But in any case then we had no option but to get on with it.
- Speaker 4: [08:43](#) [inaudible] responses. Yeah.

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- Speaker 1: [08:51](#) How did you feel when your parents said goodbye
- Speaker 2: [08:56](#) M what offices? I was just too interested in was going on, you know the tube well, say goodbye to my mother. I mean they move Oh crying. And then a couple of mothers were there saying goodbye to them and I'm really just interested in what's happening. I don't think I understood fully, you know, the age, five and a half. What did you take with you? Oh, I am gas Mascoma shouter and they put a label in my color anyway cause I was like a suitcase. I didn't lie that label. Awesome. I love [inaudible]. What did he want you to, what else did you take? What else did I say? Take with me. I'll take with me M and just a, a coach and um, a case, little case. Cozy.
- Speaker 4: [10:11](#) Okay.
- Speaker 2: [10:14](#) What did you leave behind? My mother, my father. So am I funny? Can you tell us about your journey journey? Let her, I said I went to Paddington and we got on the lorry Elsa when we got to, um, we went to Wales, got on the lorry and that took us to the school and from the school, uh, these people chose me and I went with them to them, posted the post office and I was at two and a half years evacuated when I'm young.
- Speaker 2: [11:03](#) Well, there was other children. If I created with me you wouldn't. Yeah. You have the children from the neighborhood or what? Who are the other children? I don't really know where they come from. I know, I know that while I was in Wales, there was some children coming from Liverpool. That's all I knew. But I didn't stay very long. Did any of your friends, sorry, did any of your friends go see, I didn't know Frank. I wasn't me. I was all the way own and it's made me like that. I'm sitting on me. I have to go fill up my home, fend for myself.
- Speaker 4: [11:48](#) Cool.
- Speaker 2: [11:49](#) Well the place that you evacuated it was, it was a village, a village. And I'll say it's cold. I'm behind them. Ninth rent and it was in the post and the post office is not there. Now. I checked, Oh, there was a foam, um, out the road. And I used to have to go and get the milk and the uncle outside of home, they left the speak gauge and you could either geese gun. Yeah. And I said they scared and I said wait until the things moved over and uh, and then get the meal. Cause then after trick definitely coming back if they had ya like go straight full yard. My mouth.

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Speaker 2: [12:38](#) Yeah. I don't say invited you on that phone. Sundays for hard teeth, you know? Yeah. And then my uncle who I called him uncle and I'll say, you know, I thought it was the best thing to do. Um, I thought it was uncle Patty and auntie Patty. I said call them. And the uncle used to take me rabbiting as a quick touch of rabbit Freshy in Wales. Yeah. You get a ferret, you take your favorite. You know what Farage's down to, um, where the holes are, right. You put neck over this hole and just here you put the ferric and the hoe, he chases the rabbit and the rabbit comes out. And as it comes out, my uncle grabbed him and brought that on his head and we took that moment right. We asked him for T eh, it was a good experience really about overseas. I'm folk sharper, all the people I'd left the home

Speaker 1: [13:45](#) [inaudible]

Speaker 2: [13:49](#) Oh yeah, I'm good.

Speaker 1: [13:55](#) Hello?

Speaker 2: [14:08](#) Waiting for your new foster parents. Well, I was in this, we were lined up, you see, and these people all walked along and looking at us, you know, a cat or something, just looking at us. And I just stood there on the end and then this couple came out and I was just right for me. Really. They were in their 50s and they were quite friendly and uh, you know, I was quite happy about it really. It was the other children that were sort of upset, you know, but they got ovary once they got there and then I got picked for school. I went to school there and Mrs. Evans gave me the cane.

Speaker 1: [14:58](#) How did your foster parents choose? You

Speaker 2: [15:01](#) have to like treat me, uh, very nice. Um, especially Christmas. I'll set you. It must've gone. I'm used to it. I don't have sucking, I have a pillowcase, so they said you can have a pillowcase. I put one up for me. They booked me a puzzle, rot. Big puzzle arose, remember it? Lovely.

Speaker 1: [15:26](#) Can you describe the post office?

Speaker 2: [15:32](#) The post office? Yes. Um, well it's just like walking into a big room and like every other post office you've got a counter. So, and then the hat, the dining room is you go through the door to the dining room and everything else was the patrons. Yeah. I just got over the disappointment, not going on the phone, you

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know, not going on a farm because they said they, they sort of Conrey they said we can take, my sister's got a farm and we'll take you up there every week. So I thought, all right, horses, chickens. Oh, lovely. Yes, yes. And they had some chickens to the post office. They had a piece of ground at the back and you couldn't see a chicken, a tool. Know what you could see with doc leaves, doc leaves. But I took the Mo with all the seeds in and as you shook it out, that chicken come shit, a hundred chickens flaring at me. I thought Oh damn I'm Jodie. And then she said go and get the eggs while they were out at then I wouldn't have picked the eggs up. Fatigue.

- Speaker 1: [16:45](#) How different was it from where you actually came from?
- Speaker 2: [16:49](#) Oh very different. Very strict. Strict to go to church. And um, you did the same thing every day. And also when it snowed in the winter it was a lock in London down here. It was up here.
- Speaker 1: [17:10](#) What was life like with your host family?
- Speaker 2: [17:14](#) It was with my aunt and uncle and by day with them. Is that what you mean with them? Yeah. Well I just spoke me, you know, I'll just send that off about Riley just spoke me and my mom used to phone regular so I was quite happy. I didn't feel as well. I was away from my mom cause the phone. The telephone.
- Speaker 1: [17:40](#) Okay. How
- Speaker 2: [17:44](#) treated by others in your new area? Um, I think some of the children I was with, um, I used to want to make them like me. I want them to like me now though. What was London and they were Welsh and then they used to teach me some Welsh language. I'll go home with them. All right. And I think, um, I did show off a little bit to get the cane just to prove to all these little children that I want to you, I'm with you, you know. Do you remember any rough words? [inaudible] Mankato, [inaudible] man. [inaudible] man at the time come to the fire. Oh, okay. Not very helpful with it fire, but I'm on to what was school like? Oh Whoa. My restricts and any little thing that wasn't quite right. You hold your head down and got the cane, but if you hang really tight like that, it don't know.
- Speaker 2: [18:56](#) Can you tell us some of your experiences in Wales? Yeah. And what every Friday you don't shop in the village, but every Friday you get the Buster [inaudible] and do some shopping. And that was only once a week. So you really made your home, you

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made your own butter in the churn and um, but you had the chickens that you could go egg. So it's quite easy going, you know. But the weather used to be quite heavy with snow and if I have to go to the farm, I have to go on horseback and I was the one last to get off the holes. I opened the gate and then let go soon and I jumped the gate and then I'll have to get back on the hose. And you go through two or three fields to get to the farm where you can see a sister, sister. And she had two lovely ponies. Yeah, a Brown one and a black one. I just don't think it was lovely. Yeah. Yeah.

Speaker 2: [20:12](#) You're away. My house in London. Oh my family. Well, my sister got sent to uh, Beddington um, with the childminder and my mom went back to work so, and then I come home too early. Really? So because the Doodlebug and then straight on top of the doodlebugs came the V ones and they were rockets and then the V to comb. And you, you didn't even even coming, you don't need a thing with these and they just screaming this, they wash knock out last piece of ground. [inaudible] I really, really lost how serious he was was I want, I come home cause I come home when I was about seven and a half when I come home nearly eight. [inaudible]

Speaker 1: [21:02](#) can you tell us about any times you saw community to do with your parents while you're away? Sorry. Uh, can you tell us about any times you saw or community can meet [inaudible] with your parents while you were away?

Speaker 2: [21:24](#) Oh, no. Only when she found me, I didn't, didn't phone her to my mom. I was too busy. Yeah. In fact, these people like me so much, they wanted to do a talk me. But as soon as I saw my mom, I wanted to come home and it was really too soon because the duty buckle still coming over at the [inaudible].

Speaker 1: [21:52](#) Uh, did you experience any more evacuation?

Speaker 2: [21:56](#) Yes. When I come home because of the doodlebugs I be sent away again. This time I went to cheetah Cheshire and uh, I didn't lock it at all. I wrote home to my mum and said, if you don't come home, I'm going to kill myself.

Speaker 1: [22:17](#) Uh, do you know, do you remember why you didn't like it? Do you remember why he didn't like it?

Speaker 2: [22:26](#) Well, firstly I had to go with a family that got three children. I wouldn't use it rather than the sisters. I wasn't used to. I was

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just being spoiled when I, I'd been whales at night and I don't think they liked me either. It was very upsetting. Just couldn't get over [inaudible].

- Speaker 4: [22:47](#) Hmm.
- Speaker 2: [22:48](#) And it was more like a town than a village. I mean, he, while she was a beautiful village, he say you could set six miles up the road for another little village, but one way or the other prices just suck a town. There's also art at home.
- Speaker 1: [23:08](#) Can you describe your journey going home? Can you describe to a judge? He going home?
- Speaker 2: [23:16](#) I know what the first time from water hose. Yeah. Yes. Um, not really. I just seems to be a blur. No, I was thinking about like wanting to go home and um, it was, it was lovely, you know, back then the mountain and mustache and yeah, he stopped me, but then they said, you got to go work. And because these due to bugs coming, I just zoom, zoom, zoom it over and then it's quiet. Boom. Yeah. And then what's those [inaudible] doke. Shanks. They couldn't even hear him coming. It was just drooping, like, Oh, cakes. Alright, go again.
- Speaker 1: [24:05](#) How did you feel about leaving your foster family?
- Speaker 2: [24:09](#) Well, I suppose I was waiting. I was, I was struck with my mother. I was, I just didn't, um, didn't feel that bad, you know, I was glad to come home. Yeah. I wanted to stop. It just felt right. I wanted to come home. [inaudible] well then me the same. Maybe I wouldn't like then sort of more mature, more knowing what's going on.
- Speaker 4: [24:37](#) Hot.
- Speaker 1: [24:38](#) How does Arlington change?
- Speaker 2: [24:40](#) Has London changed?
- Speaker 1: [24:42](#) How did something change from when you did them?
- Speaker 2: [24:49](#) Well, apart from road you just to keep going and really hadn't changed as old. The pictures are said open. Yeah, it's, you want the pictures almost on a phone. It's just so good. You couldn't do anything. They phones just come over print stuff in the

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[inaudible] our Spitfires and not to fill out before like landed. So we started, you know, to get more people in the planes and we managed to fight back.

- Speaker 4: [25:24](#) Okay. Um,
- Speaker 1: [25:27](#) how did you celebrate the day?
- Speaker 2: [25:30](#) Oh, we got a pouting in the industry. It was lovely because the boots, roads, I've got loved it. Leave little water street. It's got a church. At one end they sinned and a save a chit. They sent an office in the red and we had just a party with all the flowers and flags and everything. Oh, people went mad. Every street [inaudible] no, nothing.
- Speaker 1: [25:55](#) Did you stay in touch with any of your host farmers?
- Speaker 2: [26:01](#) I didn't keep in touch with anyone knowing whales. I didn't only my mother phoned and I should say yeah really. I think at that age five and after you, you get used to things quicker. You know what it's like when you're delivering the child to be minded. As soon as you go into the she's fine and teeth, they're pretty fun at that age when they young, even at two and three. So that's how I was like alright. But I didn't lie. Yeah, the price cheat or cheesy, there's no buses in them. I was, it got me any London really [inaudible] it was in the city.
- Speaker 1: [26:40](#) Looking back, how do you think your as an in fact can we had have affected?
- Speaker 2: [26:49](#) Well first, first of all the education wasn't very good at, so I think I couldn't seem to catch up on anything. When I got home it looked good, you know, but we, when we kept going to school, but I talk just simply couldn't catch up and tone and you know, I mean for a friend, my friend over the road, she went through, gosh, go, ah, I couldn't keep up. I've got a scholarship at 11. I got that. But also the school I was in once, I was over escalate shows and I was in the shows when I show, I love this. I've already did any research cause I was called for the show.
- Speaker 1: [27:31](#) Um, what are your strongest memories from him?
- Speaker 2: [27:37](#) Well, it's when those Deuter bugs come over and I was got the pictures that's really strong in my mind. You know, you have to keep running, you have to keep going because you didn't know when it, you only knew it was going to stop when he stopped

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making that noise. Right. So if a moving target isn't it, it's site five to keep moving. And we, and I grabbed my granny, I said come on. And we went up the street into the cinema and then that led to the dog stopped right on that, those houses where I just passed. So I'm very lucky to be alive. Very lucky.

Speaker 1: [28:15](#) Alright. Is there anything that you, that we haven't covered that you would like to tell us?

Speaker 2: [28:21](#) Not really. I think I've covered it. Oh, okay.

Speaker 3: [28:24](#) Okay. Let's open up to the team. So we might, we'll have questions for you if you could still answer this direction just so it's concise. So any, any questions? I know you've got a question or so I'll kick it off and you lot think about it. So if you could talk in a section. So who taught you to tell us about learning to ride a horse? Who taught you to ride a horse? And what was that like?

Speaker 2: [28:51](#) Oh, well I've obviously they lifted me off after cooking cause I thought he small and get your foot in, be lift me out and put a puppy foot in a stirrup. And, um, but first of all, I just wrote on the back, Heath wrote the host and I wrote on the back and, but when it come to the pony at the farm, which should be smaller, they got me on it and just, just around that. So I didn't do anything really clever. No. If just to cover the Athena pony, this I said about it in the beginning, I wanted to see the [inaudible] holes. He's

Speaker 1: [29:32](#) um, while you, while you were living at the post office, did you ever do any work there?

Speaker 2: [29:37](#) No. No, no work. Yeah. I went to strawberry. Begin both? Yes. Oh, sorry. I went to strawberry picking. That was a weekly thing we did and um, because they grew, they grow growing Wales as well for on the bottom of the ground, like in the corner and you just pick them all off and to put, you know, and you can put them on, you can pick a green STEM and you can pick the store. We understand and you'd have a whole Stroop is just like, you know, eat later on or take them on.

Speaker 4: [30:19](#) Okay.

Speaker 3: [30:20](#) Then you said that your father didn't have to go to war.

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- Speaker 2: [30:26](#) Yeah, it worked. He worked the cable factory. My dad, his name was Joe George and he worked at the cable factory and they needed capers for the war, didn't they? So he didn't have to go.
- Speaker 3: [30:39](#) When you in Wales, do you remember being worried about your family here with the boomers? Do you, do you have a sense you were quite young, but if you talk to the hay,
- Speaker 2: [30:47](#) yeah, I'm afraid I didn't worry about my family. So once I robbed him Yo's I loved every bit of it. Apart from the schoolteacher
- Speaker 4: [31:01](#) [inaudible]
- Speaker 2: [31:02](#) I mean I'm a children. The children that came from Liverpool, they were crying their eyes out. That's how I looked at them as if to have a crack at this because I thought was lovely country and all these animals, the chickens, ducks, you know I'm a dog. Kitty's deal. Children at five like animals don't die. I thought the dog or cat that I couldn't understand that that the look cause it means living on me own. I suppose we'd be mum and dad. It made me look a single person, you know, I was cared for myself.
- Speaker 4: [31:40](#) Okay, ready? Why are you, uh, um, in evacuated while you were evacuated? Did you make any friends?
- Speaker 2: [31:49](#) Um, I didn't really make a special, well, one special friend on eight isn't the boy next door. His father was a carpenter and he made his son the Atlanta mus and wouldn't animals and all. I used to go in and play with him. I was allowed to go into play with him, but so let people didn't let me go in anybody else's house is only, only that one. And I have to go to church on Sunday. So I did meet people at the church.
- Speaker 4: [32:20](#) Hmm.
- Speaker 3: [32:21](#) I've just got one more. When you vote to your mum and said you're gonna kill yourself, we didn't tell you about from Cheshire. What does she do if you tell, tell to Hain about what will happen?
- Speaker 2: [32:29](#) Well, when, when I wrote to my mom, I said, I don't want to stop here. I don't like it. If you don't come me, I'm going to kill myself. And she came down straight away, wrote me back. And the cozy was too soon. You know the us when I sold the Deuter bucks and these when I come back from Cheshire, that's when I

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saw him and the big ones. Well you didn't, you didn't see him.
They were so they were Rawkus it really frightened to.

Speaker 3: [33:01](#) You said earlier if you could talk to, you said earlier that you feel like having gone off and being by herself has affected your whole life. How you sense feel about who said tell to Hayne a bit more about that, about how you feel like it affected?

Speaker 2: [33:15](#) I think because I got sent away and I'm more or less, although I got to like the people and mix with people. I also felt I was an only child again and so I want to call it misspoke smoke. But I think ed affects on me life because as soon as I got home I was on my own again and you know, be sold. You might just because everybody was diving in the shelters and and cause they build shelters in the streets for the people who hadn't got an Anderson shelter you say. So I was still on my own again. And I think it's my whole, my life, I've been only young, I can't seem to stay long. Very well long Fred with anyone. Okay. I thought, I think they can say I've, and I think someone from people almost joking and laughing and enjoying myself.

Speaker 3: [34:08](#) Tell him to tell to Hain how many kids and grandchildren and great grandchildren you've got.

Speaker 2: [34:12](#) Yeah. I thought Otis and they had 12 children and I have 21 great grandchildren, and the topic is football.