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

Speaker 2: [00:03](#) Ernest Edward Godin. G. O. D. I N born 1935. Born in Enfield North London.

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

Speaker 3: [00:21](#) Women didn't work normally speaking. Um, my father was an armaments inspector.

Speaker 2: [00:28](#) Okay.

Speaker 1: [00:30](#) Describe what your local area was like for you. I'm a child. Before the war started,

Speaker 3: [00:37](#) it was, it was like the countryside cause it was right on the edge of greater London. So we have fields in the forest just over the river.

Speaker 1: [00:46](#) How did you and your family feel when the, when wool was the clad?

Speaker 2: [00:51](#) Very, very worried.

Speaker 1: [00:54](#) What was it like to live in London when normal

Speaker 2: [00:58](#) Aliyah? He says very, very words you can say. Can you say a bit more? If it's just one sentence, you can ask them for a bit more.

Speaker 1: [01:04](#) What was it like to live in London with Wolper and cow?

Speaker 3: [01:09](#) Well, I was only four and a half, so I don't really have a very clear recollection. Um, we were in the edge of London, so we had fields in the park and we only had the railway and the river separating us from Epping forest. So we were in a very comfortable position. My parents had just bought a new house and um, so we had a bathroom in the doors and hot running water all the time.

Speaker 1: [01:41](#) What did your parents do during the war?

Speaker 3: [01:45](#) My mother was then, uh, looking after five young children and children were all under seven. She had five children at the time. So my oldest sister, Eileen, her, the second one is Hilda. We knew, knew those, always spoke with those as the two girls,

then I was next. Um, and then my younger brother Brian and the last one in this picture were thorn in 1938, December, 1938. So she was still really a babe in arms. And um, that meant that when it came to evacuation, we will split into two groups, mothers and young children. One, two, three went off on the first batch on the 1st of September, and then in two days later the schools were evacuated. And that meant that two goals, who would run Eileen went off separately as they were ranked corrected. Now one thing you have to remember is that it was all secret. So nobody knew where we were going. And that meant that mum was already away when the two girls were sleeping over at the new secondary school where they billeted for two nights across the road. So that's how rarely it started. We were separated in that way because the two schemes, women, mothers with young children and school children.

Speaker 1: [03:27](#) How did you feel when you first found out you were going to be a barricade?

Speaker 3: [03:35](#) Thank you. No idea at all. Just don't remember. No, it's like, um, any other trip that a young child, um, follows, they will find themselves just doing what they're asked to do.

Speaker 1: [03:50](#) Tell us about the journey on your first of recreation.

Speaker 3: [03:56](#) I don't remember that, but I do remember coming back again because when we came home in December, we'd only been away for three months. I'm in a place called Hitchen in Hartford share. Um, we were so pleased to be home because all of us were home again. And, um, the problem was that we were not clean anymore where it's, we'd gone away neat and tidy. We, um, came home with various difficulties. Um, you know about fleas, don't you, but you probably don't know about scabies. Scabies is a nasty disease caused by an insect that gets into the skin and it causes sores. And we were covered in these. So we had to go to the school clinic to be cleansed and, uh, we had to obviously have, uh, a carbolic soap wash all over, but then the, the sores had to be painted with a blue, uh, chemical.

Speaker 3: [05:06](#) Now I don't remember what it was called unfortunately, but nonetheless, um, we had these and then the scabs were scraped off subs, a very, very painful thing to do. And, um, we, we had to do that for a couple of weeks or so. So yes, I remember that very clearly. Um, what you've got to remember too, is that the reputation was the opposite way round. People thought that the children that were being evacuated from

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London were all dirty, scruffy, and horrible children. Whereas, in fact, as you can see from the picture, we are absolutely clean, tidy and neat, well behaved. So there's a very different picture to what be the people that were receiving us considered.

Speaker 1: [05:59](#) Who are you evacuated with?

Speaker 3: [06:05](#) There was a lady called Mrs Court who had a house in the middle of Hitchen and she, uh, took us in, um, more than that. I don't know. Uh, except that by coincidence the two groups, my two sisters, two girls were in Hitchen and so were we the three children, younger children and mum and somehow or another in the marketplace, which we could see from where we were. Cause we, the house that was owned by the host was, um, uh, right opposite the village church and with the marketplace in between and um, somehow or another presumably on them when they go shopping, cause people shopped in a market in those days in the same way that some people still shop in Portobello road for the green groceries and fruit and vegetables and other things. Um, so somehow or another that highly mechanized mom or mum Americanized sigh Laden and the two groups got together. We were not part of the reason why we, I would come home cause mum then knew where we were.

Speaker 1: [07:22](#) How did you feel when you last saw your parents before you went back to me?

Speaker 3: [07:27](#) No idea. No idea. But Eileen will tell you that in fact she saw a mum standing outside crying. Um, I don't kind of have that happen because if mum we were already away. How was it that the two girls that was school was still, um, so it's not really very clerical.

Speaker 1: [07:50](#) Tell us about the things you took with you when you were bathroom.

Speaker 3: [07:54](#) Things we talk again a bit vague. The three things I remember was that we had a little sat satchel kind of bag. Um, and in that we had some sandwiches, probably Dayton Apple because it's one of my early recollections. He's Dayton Apple sandwiches, a stick of Bali sugar. Now you'd know barley sugar probably is a little sweet wrapped up in paper in a foil. Um, but the natural fat in those days you had a stick of barley sugar, which is about constant dilemma finger about to stick with my finger. And it was a twist of orange sugar, sweet boat, sweet. Um, and the banana. Now remember banana, cause that was the last time I

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ever saw her banana until the end of the war because these things you couldn't get hold of anymore. Sweet to ration fruit and, and vegetables with very limited supply. And uh, but the other thing isn't what I remember, it's what I know that we only had two sets of clothing, those that we were wearing and those that were in the wash because [inaudible] was Monday and you bought on Sunday, so you had a bath, clean clothes for school on Monday. And so, okay,

Speaker 1: [09:26](#) well what were you feeding is up first?

Speaker 3: [09:31](#) Well here again I'll refer to the fact that I was evacuated twice. We came home before Christmas. I'm not quite sure when we went away again, but there was a second flush of evacuation. And that meant that the children who were still at school were encouraged to go away the second time. And that that time, um, I went away with the school with the two two girls again and Brian and Kathleen, the baby stayed at home with mum and dad was already at home cause he was working in small arms factory. So, um, I do remember that, but I've forgotten what your question is

Speaker 1: [10:17](#) and what were you feeling?

Speaker 3: [10:19](#) Oh right, yes. Okay. And I think I was just too young. I mean I was still only just coming up to five. I wasn't five. Um, some, some reason or another I'd started school early and therefore I went off that. We went to a place in Oxford, Cher called Fretwell and um, it's only about 40 or 50 miles away, but we went first of all back to school in the morning. We would take them bar Shera bang, which is a coach today down to the local station, um, at the local station. We culture train. And the only thing I can remember really after that is, sorry, I'm just going to go see it. Right.

Speaker 1: [11:18](#) Sad. Have described how you ended up with your, his, your first family.

Speaker 3: [11:27](#) Well, first of all, I must compliment you on why you've adjusted your question there. That was very good at that. How

Speaker 3: [11:37](#) it's not very easy to say. I just remember that, uh, in that house in Hitchen, we had a lot of people including two dogs and they were big dogs and they were not, uh, what I would call a friendly house dog at all. They were, um, I suppose something knocking outstation, you know, big dogs and a farmer's called

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Rex and nail was called Prince. Um, I don't remember any more about it. Rarely. Um, when we went to the second time then we went into, uh, uh, Fretwell and we will again had a problem because although there were only three of us by this time, two girls and myself, um, nobody wanted us cause we were still young children and what they wanted were children that could do some work. We could do work. I mean, no problem. We could wash up or iron and doing all sorts of domestic things, but we weren't recognized as that.

Speaker 3: [12:42](#) And the long and short of it was that, uh, nobody took us and we were still in the village hall when it was dark. And, uh, as a result of that, somebody eventually came along and said, well, I can take a one girl I can't take anymore. She's already built it into other children. It's strange to say that those two other children were, um, daughters of a chap who had been killed flying for the air force. And while he was away, the children had been evacuated and his wife had stayed in London that you to the bombing, she was killed. So these two girls had neither parent and the lady who was looking after them, um, Monte to adopt them and if she was going to adopt them, she didn't merely have room for other children. And so Hilda, the second girl here, um, was in fact, um, then scheduled to be rehabilitated. And um, as a result of that, one of the reasons why we came home again the second time, um, after yet three more months. And we came home in June in 1940. Ah, now that's a very interesting question because the system that was used, we were quite a large batch of children obviously because it was a whole group of children that was, had still been at school when the bombing started. And so they had a system which we call boxing cops. Some children went to school in the morning and some in the afternoon and that's all they had. Um, so the village children who had been going to the school anyway.

Speaker 2: [14:58](#) Yeah.

Speaker 3: [14:59](#) So you're going to have this photograph to copy afterwards. That's what's the local village school is. You can, it's got nice grass area around it and so on. And it's still much like that today actually. Um, they went in the morning and then we went to school in the afternoon

Speaker 3: [15:22](#) again. You know, I'll have to ask you what the question was. What was school night? Oh, of course. We had our own teachers there, so it was like you had a separate school in the

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morning and it totally different school in the afternoon. Um, also you have to remember the classroom sane, which half day room, you didn't have anything in the way of cupboards, um, or any kind of equipment. It was just a room with a lot of, um, double desks and fold up seats. You may have seen him. Have you seen him at all? Ah, ragged museum.

Speaker 2: [16:12](#) How will you treat, treated then your knee area? So how of why you choose?

Speaker 3: [16:20](#) Wow. Really, they didn't want us,

Speaker 3: [16:27](#) the local village children didn't mix with us. In fact, um, they would do everything they could to cause a fight if they could. Um, and I can remember when it came to, uh, uh, free time, wherever, whatever it was. And it certainly wasn't playtime as we know it. Um, but somehow I was on the school playing field and the safest place for me to be wasn't liked over the back behind the trees. And that's what I used to do. I used to go out and play time was right in the far corner. So just to avoid fighting,

Speaker 2: [17:06](#) tell some of your experiences in the countryside,

Speaker 3: [17:13](#) right. This is where I'll tell you about the living conditions in the village, like Fretwell because we were in the stone building here and old stone cottage and old stone cottage. So the mortar, which by hand pump over what they now call a Butler sink, a big concrete oblong sink. And that was pumped up and you had to prime the pump, purport and mortar down at first and then pumping in the water came through. But they were Morton, they had some lights, which were gas lit. Many of the houses had still, we're still using candles and they only had water that they had taken from the village pump. Now I went back there about 10, 15 years ago specifically to photograph the pump, but it wasn't there. So big Satan about the size of, of a man, and the spout would have been sort of somewhere on it as high as the chest. Oops. Don't ruin that. Sorry about that.

Speaker 3: [18:33](#) And um, the folk used to queue up there in the morning to get the water for the day. Um, whereas we had to say, we'd just come from a new house. Ho Ronnie Muhtar, you know, and we just turned on top and you got hot or cold water, whichever you wanted when we had balls for having run in a bath of mixed hot and cold water. Um, so it was very, very strange going to such an old idea as going into this. Um, yeah, that's strange. Very

strange. Oh, not, not one. No. Never made any friends at all in either place. Not in Hitchen. No one in Fretwell. No. Uh, what I can tell you is that, uh, one of the reasons why we were brought home the second time in June, 1948 was because the, um, the gentlemen [inaudible] the hosts were a man and a woman, a married couple obviously in those days. And um, they, he was in, uh, uh, a telecoms engineer, which was a very good job in those days. And uh, he, his wife can work cause I say women didn't work. Um, so everything was fine. She ran the house. Um, but what really caused the story is that I was chased around the room with a knife.

Speaker 3: [20:30](#) Now bearing in mind that adults have some very funny sensitive viewer that uh, he must've thought this was funny but it scared the life out of Eileen. It was only seven and she was supposed to be in charge of me cause one thing had said is look after Ernie and she, she did look after me and made sure that I was protected and had bought a wanted when, when it was available. Um, however, also one of the things that, uh, happened was once the parents discovered where we were, they were able to visit us occasionally or send us letters.

Speaker 3: [21:19](#) Mum and dad sent us a poster Lauder now a poster load. It was a document, just a small piece of paper that you bought from the post office and it was, had a value on it but buying postage stamps and you could buy a six Burnie postal order. Now you'd have to check back to see what six months was worth. But in those days you could buy a handful of sweets for six minutes. And I only managed to get hold of this poster order, which we never, never normally saw. Don't know what happened to them, but they suppose they were sent regularly, but we never saw them. I managed to get hold of one and go over to the post office, which is still there today and cash it in cash in it. She managed to get some stamps and then she wrote home to say that she wanted to come home and why. And immediately mum and dad came over and collected us. So we went home rather abruptly. But so with that story, there's a good reason why we should be taken home.

Speaker 1: [22:32](#) And can you tell us about any times that you saw or communicated with your parents while you were away?

Speaker 3: [22:40](#) Yes. The other incident I remember is that while we were away, the second time I had my fifth birthday. Um, so just before Easter, um, mum and dad came to visit us and when they came they brought me a present and I had a little, um, model of a

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Spitfire. It was made of tin plate and painted like a Spitfire would be. But as you rolled it along the ground, it fired sparks like a cannon. So, uh, I remember playing with that for a while, but then I don't remember having it once I got home and presumably, uh, mum and dad just picked us up as we were and whipped us off back home. So I lost my Spitfire.

- Speaker 1: [23:31](#) Tell us about any more advocacy you experienced during the war.
- Speaker 3: [23:37](#) One of the ironic things about being evacuated was sweet. We were in a dangerous place near the small arms factory, which was one of the targets of the Luftwaffe, but also we were supposed to be evacuated to safe places. We were right next to upper Hayfee, upper upper Heyford, which is now just being closed. And it used to be an RAF, USAA, USAF, um, airbase. And while we were there, it had a squadron Spitfires that were flying from the airfield and it was attacked. Of course, in the, uh, um, Luftwaffe efforts, uh, efforts to try and destroy the air force before the invasion.
- Speaker 2: [24:33](#) No,
- Speaker 3: [24:35](#) once we were home,
- Speaker 2: [24:38](#) we,
- Speaker 3: [24:40](#) first of all, we used to go down into the Anderson shelter. You know about the Anderson shelters too, right? Yes, that's right. Um, I can remember that the whole bean, Doug, cause I helped my dad dig the hole to put the Anderson shelter and, and covering the top in soil. And, um, we, we used to grow things like, um, marrows on top of it. Um, we went down into that a number of times and then when we came back, dad must've brought us home from Fretwell because I can remember going into the air raid shelter and see him, my brother who had been knocked over by a horse and cart and he had some scowls around his mouth and I thought he'd been eating chocolate. Um, so we came home late the evening and went straight down into the air raid shelter to sleep. But we didn't do that for very long because although balmy MOUs, um, severe, um, people took the view that really you're much better off just taking life as it come and see him what happened. And not bothering too much about, uh, uh, trying to avoid the low rates because just wasn't worth it. So the air raid shelter within used, um, just for

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storing things. Strangely enough, after the war we dug the air raid shelter out again and we had a pond in the garden instead.

Speaker 3: [26:18](#) Quite exciting for a young boy. I mean, um, at the end of the war I'm still younger than you. I'm still only 10 bit off at the end of the war. So, um, we used to go out and collect shrapnel or anything that we could as a result in the souvenirs from the bombing. Um, we had the anti aircraft guns around us as well, so it was plenty of noise and fuss and so on about that. Also, um, my father not only had to work 12 hours a day, um, he also had to do fire duty, home guard and yeah, raid warden. Um, so most evenings after work, which meant seven o'clock, he came home after that he was still out in the evenings during one or other of these, that Euclid, which was quite funny really because it meant he had three tin hats, three overcoats for the different jobs he was doing.

Speaker 1: [27:26](#) Tell us about any friends or family that were injured or died in the us.

Speaker 3: [27:33](#) Well, we had an assembly every day that meant the whole school went. Did you do that now? Do you all would have a whole school assembly every day? Yeah. Oh, right. Yeah. Well we had them every day as well, but I can remember Mr. Abbott, I had teachers saying that the news today was that these people had been killed and they were children from our school who the bombs had fallen on the houses and they'd been killed. So we actually knew children that died in the war. And I can remember seeing as you went to school, you pass these houses where there had been, and if you think of a row of houses locally and you can see a terrorist of houses and then in the middle of two of them are missing. You could understand what it was like. Really.

Speaker 1: [28:36](#) What did you and your family do when there was, when the, when you had the bumps,

Speaker 3: [28:46](#) we just ignored it. Rarely. You just waited to see what happened. The exception merely is to tell you about the doodle bugs because they came during the day and you saw them coming over and then you use the count to see how far away it was before they landed after the engine. That fantastic. So yeah, we had one or two locally that, and I'm trying to think, maybe you had any here in North London, North Kensington. Don't think you did. No, I think that the biggest bombs you had here I think were the [inaudible], which was a high explosive

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parachute bombs. It came down like a crate in the parachute and they were designed to call maximum destruction, um, by exploding at ground level rather in a hole. But if you get high exposure, gone, bomb, go down, you got a big crater and then the crater somehow destroys a lot of the blast. Whereas if you can explode it above the ground, then you get the very, very wide, um, damage done.

- Speaker 1: [30:01](#) What were your feelings when you came back to London after being in bacteria?
- Speaker 2: [30:06](#) [inaudible]
- Speaker 3: [30:09](#) well as a, as a young boy, I mean there's question really of just taking things as they come. And you know, we went back to school and things change from time to time. But apart from that, no.
- Speaker 1: [30:22](#) What were your feelings about your family?
- Speaker 3: [30:25](#) Oh, we were very close family. I mean, um, it's a strange thing I was just describing earlier this morning that uh, uh, because we went to school between nine o'clock and 12 o'clock and then went home for lunch, back to school at half past one and finished school at harp puffs three. If you were an infant or four o'clock, if you were juniors. Um, we didn't really mix very well with, um, the people that we were school with because you were there, you weren't supposed to talk. Um, and apart from the play time in the morning, um, you didn't have any time to mix with other children. So I don't have friends that, uh, I knew from primary school. It's just that my,
- Speaker 1: [31:13](#) how did London change when you were way out of the question again, please? So how had none of them changed with, while you were away?
- Speaker 2: [31:26](#) Yeah,
- Speaker 3: [31:29](#) I think the people had got used to the fact that the bombing was either going to effect your, it wasn't even, even to the extent near here and in central London. Um, people weren't going to the, uh, uh, underground or, uh, or to the newly built air raid showed it in the same way that they had been when they, the bombing first started. People got used to the fact that they may or may not be affected and they just got home. We working. Um, one of the things that, uh, is important to

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remember is that these, uh, disruptions, uh, people just took it in their stride and said, you know, well that's it. You know, we carry on. We're either lucky or we're not my not, my name's on the bomb kind of thing. You know.

Speaker 1: [32:25](#) How, how did your highest family feel when you were leaving?

Speaker 2: [32:34](#) Hmm.

Speaker 3: [32:36](#) Mum is very upset. That's all I can. Um,

Speaker 2: [32:41](#) [inaudible].

Speaker 3: [32:43](#) Um, Eileen says that she saw her crying when, uh, the coach had to turn around and take a different route out of the network of roads that we were driving down. Somehow or another, the children got on the coach, um, wave goodbye to their mothers and then they pass by later on. So 10 minutes later or something like that. And, uh, the parents are broken down and crying.

Speaker 1: [33:13](#) Did you stay in touch with any of your hosts?

Speaker 2: [33:17](#) No. No, not at all. No.

Speaker 3: [33:24](#) Well, because we were only there for short time in both cases and in both cases and we worked in, in a, uh, a negative situation wasn't the happiest situation. So there's no good reason for keeping in touch with them.

Speaker 1: [33:41](#) How did you set a break? At the end of [inaudible]?

Speaker 3: [33:49](#) We had a street party, part of which was to dress up, uh, as fancy dress. And by this time, um, we were five years older. Um, I've got photographs, service where they took the boy, his photograph and the girl's photograph, but separately, um, I'm dressed as a least lend. I had a, um, a top hat and a black suit and I was covered with pictures of, um, aircraft and things like that because it was, uh, to represent the Americans lending us money during the war. And Brian went to spread units, which was the Russian coupons for getting bread. Never actually went on Russian, but we had the Russian cards in case. Uh, it was got to the stage where bread was rationed. Um, I only meant,

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- Speaker 2: [34:59](#) Oh no, gone.
- Speaker 3: [35:04](#) Kathleen went as a flower girl and Brian went, well, I've already said I went to the Bret unit. He had a cardboard box with white stripes on it to give the impression of the painter coupon book.
- Speaker 1: [35:27](#) Looking back, how do you think your experience has, other than the Rakhi have affected your life?
- Speaker 2: [35:34](#) Oh yes. That's a question.
- Speaker 3: [35:43](#) I suppose it's made me much more curious about other people and try to understand the difficulties that the were in the war and work out the balance between what I've learned since about it and what I knew at the time. For example, it was much, much later that I realized that, um, uh, the hosts were given an allowance to look after the evacuees. Um, I don't know now what it was, but it was, it was bit like, um, family allowance. Oh, hang on. Family announced now when, when parents began to get removed, no money for looking after their own children. It was called a family allowance. Parents that had one child got nothing cause it was a, if the van got one child, they can afford to keep it. Um, the second and subsequent children got five shillings each. No children didn't get it. It was for the parents to pay for the upkeep of the children, help looking after them. Um, and that developed into, now it's all paid through income tax allowances, but because that was the system, then it meant that somebody that was putting somebody up as an evacuee needed to be paid for doing it. And so they got an allowance. Um, which always leaves me puzzled because if they got an allowance for having the evacuees, why did they need them so much to do work?
- Speaker 3: [37:44](#) You know, that's run it from those things. Huh?
- Speaker 2: [37:55](#) What were your strongest memories of the will?
- Speaker 3: [38:02](#) I suppose just how hard people worked. Um, a really amusing one is that towards the end of the war, my mother received a buff envelope. Now a buff envelope with a way of saying that you've got the letter us, you've been called up.
- Speaker 3: [38:25](#) But by then she had six children at home because Gwen had been born during the war. And, uh, outcome, just remember her picking up this envelope from the front door as it came through the letterbox and saying nothing at all. Just laughing.

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The very idea that there she was at home looking after six children and they wanted her to go and join the air force, join the army. You know, just, she didn't join the army. Presumably she wrote back and said, you know, she got six children. They must have made a mistake cause they, they weren't, they weren't calling up women at that stage. Um, but they were looking for everybody that they could possibly. So thank you very much. The same. We're going to have more questions for you. If you could always answer yes. Fine.

Speaker 3: [39:32](#) Any questions yet? Any of your family members? Ah, they're strange because I'm on one side of the family. They all went to a war on the other side. They didn't. So my uncles of my mother's ma, my mother's brothers all went to war. Um, my uncle Eddie was only 18 during the war, so he was called up, but he was a hairdresser, so he didn't actually go fighting on the front. He actually spent his time doing hairdressing and particularly we specialized in ladies' hairdressing. So he was involved in looking after the wives of the officers. Um, the unity with home. Um, uncle bill was a, an infantry man. Um, but since he was a draftsman as well doing drawing, uh, in, uh, offices, he was drafted to do that kind of work in a drawing rooms in, uh, the army. Um, on, on the other side, Dutch brothers, none of them did military service. Um, uncle Sid was working in a, um, motor factory and I believe it must have been forwards in Dagenham. Um, and he was working all night and we did night shift. Um, so he was on a reserved occupation. Um, uncle Harry was in the merchant Navy, so he was running, uh, merchant ships, North and South prom, um, these islands down into South Africa and bring in materials and commodities pack. Um, my mother's sisters were working in munitions factories. Um, my father's sisters were working in the factories as well.

Speaker 2: [42:00](#) Mmm.

Speaker 3: [42:03](#) Because out of the whole lot we've been the only family with a large number of children, which in itself was a, was a, a fluke because mum had rickets when she was a baby. Um, rickets causes a weakness in the leg bones and you see people with bent legs like that come in, bowed out. Um, but it's the main reason is that the bones are brittle and if the bones are brittle, childbirth can be dangerous. So she was advised to have the four childrens they wanted before she was 25, so they had the four children and then she was sterilized. But after being sterilized, she still had another child. So the baby in this picture was an unexpected surprise. And hence the porch, older

children close together. We are all, all under seven, five to, we'll come back to you. Let's have one each. So we have to wait one and two question emotions. Here's obviously I'm had brows with my brothers and sisters. Had a lot of fun with my brothers and sisters. Uh, spent quite a bit of time, uh, going to do things like picking blackberries in Epping forest. Um, in fact we went to Epping foster quite a lot of segments. Uh, in those days you could quite easily go over to Epping forest with a sack. Um, bring back the leaf mold, just picking up the rotted leaves under the trees because that was very good for the allotments in the garden. So I did a lot of that.

- Speaker 2: [44:02](#) Um, Hmm. I don't think that uh, [inaudible]
- Speaker 3: [44:11](#) does anything other than normal childish childhood memories about her. That's any different from today. Apart from the fact that we didn't have the same sort of entertainment that you have. We don't have any kind of, um, technical things. Yeah.
- Speaker 2: [44:34](#) All the questions that you lost. If you have a last question and then we, and then if there's anything else you want to add in a scan?
- Speaker 3: [44:44](#) 10 and a half. Um, yes, my birthday's in March and the war ended in,
- Speaker 2: [44:56](#) yeah. Can I just ask you, you said it was secret where your destination, why was it secret? If you could talk towards Alia, why was it secret or do you know why you a secret?
- Speaker 3: [45:09](#) Not really. No. I think it was a combination of things. Um, it just, just what you know, I mean not that that was the government policy that a destination's weren't to be revealed, whether this was to do with the fact that they wanted to prevent parents going and collect the children back again. Um, which strangely, I mean, my parents did twice, um, or whether it was any other reason. I really don't know. Um, but it seems very odd to me that, uh, they didn't have any kind of address because, um, you know, you would expect children and parents to write letters both ways. Uh, perhaps it was just a question of logistics that, uh, they didn't really know, um, where any of us were going. It was very hit and miss. I mean, there's are lots and lots of stories about children being left behind in the village hall not being collected and nobody wanted them.

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Speaker 3: [46:11](#) Um, but I think a lot of this is not as true as the fact that it took a long time to get things sorted out. And most of these things took all day. People that were coming to collect children from a village hall would actually, uh, have worked all day and would therefore not be available to come until after they'd done the day's work. And since working day with 12 hours, then that would have been late in the evening. And they came alongside. It might be one of the reasons why, um, we were always, always doing the same story that we were the last to be collected and it was dark. And so, um.