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- Speaker 1: [00:00](#) What is your name? Ken. Ken day 1934 Kings cross London. What did your parents do for a living? Maybe my mother used to, she used to be in service, uh, where they live in a house and they do whatever they doing wherever they are. China might or whatever. Uh, mate, that was a chef, he used to work in a big, uh, so a nightclubs in London. That's what he used to do. He, he was a very good cook. He could cook anything. Eiko um, like my wedding cakes, I do little little tiny cakes and any food, chicken or what I could do everything. So you can, we can hear the country radio, sorry for your evacuation. This fraud, what your local area was like.
- Speaker 1: [01:29](#) Lots of children there. Um, there was a bit rough and ready that there wasn't a lot of money about in them days. So, um, and the end of each road and ever dustbin. Uh, but, but usually people to put food in. But what I didn't want, they swipe off their plates and put it in the bin for the pigs. But June being children, munch, munch, it was full up. It would be kicked over and all the food would be spread out onto the ground. That's just all of pays. It was really, but, but at the same time it was really nice cause everybody was quite friendly and you know, and you knew, you know the other children it was and it was quite nice. Really. Um, yeah, I think anything else really, there'd be a lot of Rouse. Uh, cause a lot of the neighbors used to holler and shout and uh, my mum, she wasn't afraid of anybody.
- Speaker 1: [02:55](#) She would fight them. Um, and I've quite often you had a fight where vote did, she didn't mind whether it be the man or woman, she would wrestle him and uh, and if, and she would, she was a believer that if anybody upset one of her family, she would go out and sort the person out. And, um, I remember a man said to me, I won't pop out his front door. Is it clear off? Go clear off. So I did and didn't worry about him till they made it clear off, but the wasn't in doors and she said, my mom said, why are you doing, what are you doing it now? I'll say, well the old man from Dan or street told me if I were off. That was the words he said. I said, yeah, but um, she, she say did he, so she put a coat on, stormed out and the man's hair come in and he ran in doors and sent his wife out. So me mum started on her. So I was all wrestling, wrestling on the ground and everything. I know kids were there but it was all cheering my mom cause I, they all liked my mum so I'll think is her reputation that done it. But yeah, that felt she liked and that's what most of the people are like if they had a disagreement there'd be a fight. No, that wouldn't be right these days. I don't think that's fair. It really.

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Speaker 1: [05:02](#) How did your family feel when all was declared? Well, what, what, what? I don't think the children was all that fussed because children being children that they wouldn't frighten her boys what was going on, but the adults were very worried and frightened because I'm predicated wasn't bothered about it. That's what it seemed like to me anyway. That might've been monitored. It would be worried about it, but all in all they took it with a pinch of salt. Um, but they, you know, mom and dad and all that, they would have been very concerned too because they will be worried about the children, you know, things like that. And, uh, it could be a bit frightened, I suppose when the bombs were dropping and you could hear the shrapnel pinion against the walls. And I know that, um, we had shelters, uh, built the council, built shelters for every garden in that area, and you ride it, sleep in, in the shelters for dinner every night. Um, and you could hear, you could hear all the noises when the air planes going over on me.

Speaker 1: [06:53](#) And, uh, if you looked out the window, you could see the planes flying. The Sheryl was burst in or around the plane. You know, you could say that that could be a bit of a watery, you know, but if you said in the show tophi he was quite safe really. And this a bomb hit the shelter directly. I don't think you would have survived, but if it hit the house and the house tumbled down and it might hit the shelter, but you'll be safe enough. No, but it was like, it, um, there was a lot of noise and, and you could hear the guns going because there was guns older ran on the lanes and parks that we set up our anti aircraft camp guns. And I was big, big things. And I know a lot of them are man body. A women's army would fight a gun, some of them, you know, so well done ladies. That's, but that's, um, that's about all really.

Speaker 1: [08:38](#) What was it like to live in London? Well, well, thank people. It was all right. I didn't mind. I was [inaudible] we still went out doing what we were do. We [inaudible] one door, uh, about, but for a while it was very quiet when the board, when they declared war. Um, the only time off there was a panic was where ne the first airway airborne in went off. And, uh, the neighbors all ran over to our house with a gas on cause I thought they was going to be gas and um, they all run in dry our house and we'll sit in there with gas miles on a meal. Sat there to, to the all clear when, you know, but other than that, people went about their business. They still had to go to work. And um, my dad said that to travel up to town too, cause he used to work in, uh, what I used to call gentleman's clubs. That was what older rich people at their wines and all that. And, and he

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was a chef in a, in clubs, but everybody got on what they had to do really. I suppose children went out playing still and if the sirens went, they would find cover somewhere cause there'd be a lot, uh, shelters, you got shelters in your garden, but the therefore is a bill. All underground shelters, uh, different places and people would head for that and go down to shelter. You know, that's it really.

Speaker 1: [11:09](#) What did your parents do? What did I do? Okay, good point. Um, well it's, I mean, uh, it used to be a fire watch what I used to call for Watchers. So, um, he wasn't IRP man. He, he had to stay in Nepal, coach with the door open and he'd be on the lookout for any fires. And if there was a fire in a house or he would have to get in touch with the [inaudible] really [inaudible] and put it put, put fire out, you know, um, that they want to, they want too much. I mean, a couple of years really, but there was bombing, our house wasn't bombed, but there was a bomb drop. So a couple of doors and doors and why back? And it blew all our walls down and inside broke all the windows. But the house was still standing so, but other than that, you know, I've had to go on often. I suppose we're early

Speaker 1: [12:57](#) when war broke out, when war broke out. How did your family prepare for war? How did they prepare for war? Well, I suppose I prepare because they had to take a dietetic, the whole, uh, about six foot, six foot long, six foot wide IPOs. Rarely. Um, the brothers had to be right cause I was older than me. Uh, to uh, dig the trench. Uh, what am to put the corrugate Owen in the counselor would do that and they build a big dig, a big trench and Cora guy it almost oval shape and that would go sink into the ground and then they bolt the two, the top, bolt them together so they can't move and when they're done know, right. I fake covered up with earth. Now meet me, died. I brothers, I do that. That's it. You know that they say they prepared. I mean mum would be there wringing her hands I suppose. Really tell her number. Hurry up guys, guys, a bomb come down. It was archiver. It was all right.

Speaker 1: [14:41](#) In what ways did your life change broke out? Well, we used to, it's a lot of school that, that got odd party. Mine didn't have to go to school. And, uh, that that's, I don't change a lot cause I'll never, I'll never learnt much that that's a problem with it. So, but other than that, there wasn't, there wasn't a lot of change. Um, that's my phone. Um, yeah, they, uh, it didn't change had really, you got away with a lot more really, you know, your mother's didn't chastise you so much as, cause I always worried

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about if you weren't out your type would pull him. He might not see you ever again, you know. Um, other than that I was okay.

Speaker 1: [16:11](#) I can't think of anything else. How did the food, food sort of juice affect to you? Food? Well, everything was rationed. You did the food use out of cheese, you thought out a little piece of cheese, you can buy a big lump of cheese and [inaudible] sweets were Russians EV, everything before, I shouldn't really say my ribs. You could see my ribs sticking out because you didn't eat so much. You know, cause um, although my dad used to bring stuff, uh, I'll move in from the clubs that he worked in and he used to bring food home from there, which was, which was nice. Um, I don't think much else really, but, well it wasn't easy for them anyway. Cause if you went to a shop and they say no, so are you calling update cause you've already had it and it's already marked on your, on your book [inaudible] rushing college, what are they called? And they would cross it out if you had it. And when you went back to get target more, they say no you can't. It's written down that you've had it before. You know?

Speaker 2: [18:04](#) Tell us about any experiences of bombing you fenced.

Speaker 1: [18:15](#) Well, no. Well we, we were not a, not really, but we see it used to know that in London was bond because the flames lit up the whole sky for four, four miles above the bank to hold a London. London town was burning, but it was a light and a [inaudible] in that area there was bombings, but you didn't get rows and rows of houses or one formed, you'd get the old ones fee and bond because a lot of times E D German planes you pass over to drop their bombs on London, LA Robyn and dropping the bombs on the outskirts. So that's it. That's what I would do try. But the, the odd part was when the doodle box come over, cause you never knew where they was going to land. They, they could, their engines would stop as you could hear them come in. Then the engine stopped, a munch union stopped. You knew it was going to fall down. Knock a stone. Really. And I'm sorry that got people worried because they didn't know where it was because once I stopped it all will open, you know, all been endowed doubt take cover. But other than that I was all right, can't think of anything else really.

Speaker 2: [20:25](#) The journey, the, how did you feel when you first found out you will guarantee to be of acuity today?

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- Speaker 1: [20:33](#) Yeah. Well, I don't think we worry about it. I didn't worry about it, but I'm [inaudible] mother worried about it. My father probably but, but the children didn't worry about it and when they all went up to the station, they all got on trains. I'd have hundreds of them all herded onto trains and that if you think I was going to the seaside, there's a rap beat. I was singing and everything. Uh, they didn't seem to too worried about it and just talking, if there's someone out there like I that was all putting their heads out a window. Cause there there's all pies device and I fought it. The guy in in the country, they all have rosy cheeks. So they put their heads out the window and come back and I say I've, I've got rosy cheeks. I note. So that's all a bit disappointed. You know that. Yeah. I didn't hurt that. Didn't worry about it at all. I don't think that I did. I know you've got, you probably got one or two. Might have either. The younger ones, four, they'd been a bit upset. But my sister was with me, my little sister, she's a lot younger than beige. She was with me, but she was okay, you know. But Dana going, I was with us so she didn't marry. But uh, I don't think that children did worry about it. It's all good. Parents worried about it.
- Speaker 2: [22:35](#) Thanks. So how did you feel when your parents said goodbye if they did?
- Speaker 1: [22:57](#) I don't know really, but, um, [inaudible] is another vow. Didn't worry. I'll say bye-bye mum. You know, and my mother might have had a tear in her eye out that I don't know, but
- Speaker 2: [23:12](#) okay.
- Speaker 1: [23:27](#) I didn't worry. I don't think I was offering, I was happy that their children were going to be safe. [inaudible]
- Speaker 2: [23:34](#) no.
- Speaker 1: [23:41](#) Tell us about the fittings you took off. I had a things what you have to, the things you do. Oh, we talk. Oh, well, one thing of it was the gas mask. You have to take the gas smiles everywhere. Everywhere you went. Your type of guy, small. Um, what I must've, I don't remember Titan a lot, but, um, on a bag for, I wouldn't have known what was in it. Me mum where it's up to all in for me, you know, so everybody a pair of trousers and things like that. Um, that's a good point because I'd already done an hour and I've got a belly with that cause I can't remember anyone buy me clothes when I was away. So I don't know what things did you have to leave behind?

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Speaker 1: [24:51](#) I lead a dog, leave the dog behind, couldn't take the dog. That's about all really. I wouldn't have worried about leaving anything else I wouldn't have done anyway. Well when you let me go out there, I a big hole and I give her some meat to eat. And uh, Dan was all herded into the street and a woman came up and said she took me and she said I love him. And I said, what? I'm all about my sister and bought Roven and she said, yo, I'll have her as well. And she took herself to, and if her, and I'm off off folk to look at, she was quite poor by the look over and, um, but she was a lovely woman. She was very, very nice. And I liked her sister light time and she used to take us out as the pictures and I see the films and, but after look, Whoa, I'm not sure how long it was.

Speaker 1: [26:37](#) There was a knock on the door and two people were there and I heard him talking, sorry. And she came in crying. So upsets me now. I talk about it really freaking nah. So I'll finish this story up. She was crying and she said, you gotta go, you've gotta go somewhere else. You can't stay here. And I don't know, I never found out why. So I don't know what it was, but they took us away and took us to another place in York. Shia, uh, took quite big house and, um, they had a, like a small farm, but what peaks and hoses and things like that. And, um, I wasn't over keen on it. I didn't like, um, but we coped and they had a son. He was able to a four years old and I'm here, but I didn't like him and we had a couple of times with my aunt. Um, but I had to clean the pig sties out every time, uh, clean all the pigs, uh, mop and feed, feed the pigs, and I let God work in a fish shop and build up a tight hose all night for the chips. [inaudible]

Speaker 1: [28:50](#) but, um, I liked the first P person best. She was, she was lovely. Um, nowadays I didn't like much.

Speaker 1: [29:10](#) Tell us about the place you, what were your first impressions? Well, I would [inaudible] what were your first impressions when you arrived? I'll walk into to Yorkshire. You mean? Well out the nose. Well, I've never been to Yorkshire before for worse, you know, nice scenery and all that nice, you know, greenfields and cows and you're getting me worried. Um, where was I? Yeah. Yeah. Um, I didn't have any really first impression. Very Audi people say very nice, you know, that is all that was. Loads of people riding him around, you know, making sure we were, we was fed and uh, that type of thing.

Speaker 1: [30:41](#) Fred, uh, that's a Bay, rarely are they never leave. So impression is that would be ingrained up there. Um, how did it feel waiting

for your new foster parents? You mean the people that took us in, she may not talk for him yet. Yeah. Okay. Well we didn't know who was going to take who. That didn't take a I any, anything, you know, people were caught. It could've been anybody come up and take to a library to buy the bios here because there's this dynamic, people will come home and say, Oh that them out of that one year, that one year and there was nothing. You think I've ever been more concerned about Austin woman book and I miss and every else I don't think I did. I couldn't say a guy in on it.

Speaker 1: [32:00](#) Safety. If, if they add a done, the first woman wouldn't have asked us to go to go somewhere else, you know? Um, but I think that there was anything to like describe the house you lived in. Well, the first house, I think he had a lot [inaudible] very rough and very, but it was quite a tiny place. Um, when we move the other place, it was, was a big house and we had our own bedroom hide in my own bedroom. My sister, my sister had, uh, her own bedroom and that was quite well to do early in early, although they all work booked for a living. I see the father, he was, um, he was a minor. Um, a, he used to come home at nights and his wife would have a big galvanize bar in the kitchen and he would get in that to us. He wasn't allowed to wash him in a bathroom. He had to have his own barf because he was black. [inaudible] you know, and uh, but the house was a, was a lovely house. Yeah, it was very nice. And uh, I didn't like the sun very much. Um, he had a mite that eight. It was a nice bloke, good bloke, Bob. And uh, it, um, the house was a very nice house, but it never went back again to see it. Not could have done, I suppose it really with your family back in New York ship, what was it like with your host family?

Speaker 1: [34:52](#) What so it was okay, you know, they looked after us and they fed us well and I didn't have any problems. I like that. Um,

Speaker 1: [35:08](#) well our found was strange. I stepped in, I come up first with a small Piper Yorkshire pudding on it and I topped up the gravy. And you had that as a first course. I'd offer it as high as strange because we always add milk support and we've put the meal and uh, but I used to give it to us. I don't think he would. It was as you, you had the Yorkshire pudding, so that filled a gap up in your belly so you didn't eat so much of what was to come, you know, you did the main dinner, you had a smaller dinner. Probably. I would say that was what it was, but I don't know, other than that, that was the house itself. It was lovely debates in the bed, clothes. Great. Yeah. Very nice.

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- Speaker 2: [36:25](#) What happened to your family in London? While while you were away?
- Speaker 1: [36:32](#) Uh, I don't know cause I never heard heard from or not. I didn't know what was going on in London cause um, my mother wouldn't have had a phone.
- Speaker 2: [36:51](#) Hi. I ruined it. Sorry about that. Sorry about that. What happened in London? Yeah,
- Speaker 1: [37:24](#) yeah, yeah. I, I, I, I didn't know, I didn't hear from me mother at all what was going on. So, but the only time I knew what was going on when artists so many months, I don't know how long it was, she appeared at the door where I was and that she was going to take us home. I bought that. That's why I haven't got a clue what was going on in London.
- Speaker 2: [37:55](#) No, I didn't know. What's your name, why we're turning this scribe. Describe your journey.
- Speaker 1: [38:12](#) Well, do you know what? Don't remember it. I can't remember going home, but, um, I know you taught him a Yorkshire accent, but that's all I know. But we must've got a train home, but I, it's a blank. I'll call, I'll call it price at all. It's gone at me mind. But, um, but I can remember when I got home that the house living in it seemed very, very tiny, often living in this house in Yorkshire cause uh, as I said to my mum, what's up ma? What's up in know Yorkshire action, what's up with the house? So I don't know about, so Yorkshire actually are not [inaudible] but um, that, that's all I can remember of it. I don't remember going home.
- Speaker 1: [39:27](#) How did you feel about leaving your foster family? And you'll look and say that I was highly delighted too, cause I never ever saw them again. So I don't what happened to him. Oh, I don't know. Um, but then I was really too young to do anything about it anyway, but that, that really, you should have been done to my mother, but I don't think she ever, she might. I wrote a letter to him about, thank you very much for looking after us. Um, that's all. That's all really, I wasn't, I wasn't very fussed about it.
- Speaker 1: [40:27](#) How did you feel about coming home? Had a fit about coming home? Oh yeah, I was, I was very happy. I couldn't wait to get home fairly well until I saw him. You didn't have the same lifestyle at home, you know, so I had to sleep in this same room

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as me brothers. So is it that, uh, other than that I was, no, it's to get home. I was, I was quite pleased to get on. Uh, and odd, I must say. I still like Yorkshire often. York's is a lovely place, but that's it really. How you got to London changed when you came back?

Speaker 1: [41:32](#) Um, well, London itself, we wouldn't have been allowed to go into London, but London was, there's a lot of, a lot of houses down shops or bombed and, but I wouldn't have been allowed to go out there. I mean, mum wouldn't let me go. Um, where I lived, there wasn't a great big change in October really. You might see a house, you know, been knocked down where it's unsafe, where it's been bombed or blasted, but not many because you didn't get a law. Well, you take out the doodle box and then after that the rockets, they would come over, they do boat due to a bug stocked and I'd rockets instead. I was worse cause you couldn't, couldn't hear them coming. But I'm not, it wasn't much. I enjoy, I don't think, did you celebrate fee day after day?

Speaker 1: [42:52](#) Oh, Oh, that was lovely. That was nearly every street [inaudible] had a party and they'd be, people would bring all their tables out, put them in the middle of the road. It's either, it'd be be alone string of tables and um, people would make sandwiches and cakes and all that and load up all the tables and people would sit down. And I probably had some more and I don't know that. I don't know nothing about why an M days, uh, they probably had a drink beer, the idea adults. But um, no, we would have gone, I've, I've faces God, Jesus terror. We'd have, uh, places, uh, paint it, you know, different, different fins on it. But it was a lovely, yeah. People were singing and darting and jitterbugging what they call Jetta park in FBO is used about data [inaudible] no, what I usually call it Jetta buggy. They were so weird and a woman's heart very far starch and twisting them around and flying them over their shoulder and all that sort of it. Um, that's what B B going on. It was lovely di lovey and, and every street had more or less at the same thing. Lovely. Great. So could you, I have to, every diabetes be nice. Yeah.

Speaker 1: [44:50](#) Looking back at it, how did you, how do you think your experiences as an evacuee have affected your life? I don't think he did really because once I got home I didn't, I didn't think about it. I was so pleased to get home. I've done, it might, I might have had some effect somewhere. I don't recall what, anything of it. I was quite happy to get home. My sister was happy to get home and um, no, I don't think it, both of us.

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Speaker 2: [45:42](#) [inaudible]

Speaker 1: [45:47](#) what are your strongest memories from the war?

Speaker 1: [45:55](#) Strongest memories. Oh, don't know of any strong memories of mine. I think my Mark go up to a few things that we shouldn't have done or being kids. No, no, I can't think of anything. So address Dick God going on. Um, big [inaudible] we get out to a few. No, the thing is, um, local or put up a Butler code or milk. You drew a publish books. That's the alley thing. OCHA finger off to her during the war. But um, she wouldn't have done that. Really? I was still released. I don't know why I'd done it. The um, you might've done dumb things that you wouldn't have done normally. [inaudible] it really, I can't learn anything, anything bad, really bad going or whatever.

Speaker 2: [47:32](#) Huh?

Speaker 1: [47:37](#) Is there anything that we haven't covered that you would like to tell us? No. Um,

Speaker 1: [48:04](#) no. I've got an app that did that. Um, what the ball was over, but [inaudible] but I could tell you a little story about when I was late home, um, and uh, [inaudible] and I thought, Whoa, God, if I knock on the door and made mother a guy go potty for coming in early hours of the morning. So I climbed up the drain pipe onto the ledge. If it was underneath the elder sister's bedroom and the window was a jar top. I pulled the winder open and tried to call him in and my sister woke up and screaming the house death. I'll say, it's me, can you? And she said, Oh, thank goodness you're that. I said, well, don't, you know, and um, I went into my bedroom with me, two brothers were tiptoed in there and got into bed and nobody said anything. And as I got into bed, just snuggled down the bed, collapsed, it, crashed and took the floor and that woke the whole house up. Um, so I didn't get away with it cause [inaudible] know what I was doing coming home at three o'clock in the morning, you know, and I thought I wasn't very old. Didn't really was, I'll get about 15, I suppose the ball and then over all that.

Speaker 1: [50:16](#) But I'm a frightened the life at me brothers. Anyway. That's that. That Oh yeah. Take your time. Come on third. Those States make them any other questions from the group? Yep. Um, I've got one. Could you just go talk to Dominic though? Could you just tell us, uh, the tights you evacuated? Roughly know what

month he was evacuated and came back. Put my papers down all time. Pinko could tell you that really overall config of, I must've been about nine years of age. So for four we have one, was it 43? Sorry. So was it because if the fix, so because it was going to do Dropbox coming over [inaudible] would've been about that time now. Yeah. Have you got my best side? How long were you away for, say, I don't know. Don't hire that. So when did you get back before the war ended? Yeah, war was still going on. My got back. Yeah, yeah, yeah. The, the twos were still coming over in the rockets. Oh, sorry. Yeah. The rockets were still coming over and we got back. I don't think the rockets was, um, powered up, really take over over the outskirts or London to get London itself caught. But the doodle bugs, I don't think they, they hate anything. It will give up sort of any time.

Speaker 2: [52:52](#) Yeah.

Speaker 1: [52:54](#) Other than that, that's all enough. I think what my question did I yes, I went, Oh, sorry. [inaudible] it's quite good story actually. I often, but I did go to school there and uh, I used to get into lots of fights cause I don't think D Yorks or kids like the London kids really intuitive and I was always fighting, but the head Milestar often he liked me because when he would go up to the headmaster for fight and again, he would lift me. I'm up in the air and I was a champion, you know, uh, he would then go, it's got some muscle there. I thought I didn't have no muscle at all. But one day I was walking to school and I've got the school guys.

Speaker 1: [54:18](#) Oh, I saw some on offering. It was a full, it was a Miraj at first, but it was a fella that I knew from back home and I knew him cause he was one of the toughest boys in the street. It is a couple of years older than me, but they was like, I'm gypsies. And they was very rough and ready and they fight anyone. And when I saw him, I fault I'm not going to have to fight anymore. And I'm sure enough I didn't because that day I was talking to him, somebody said something to me and the boy I was ever done no matter what. And he hit him on the, on the jaw and he went down and then he had a bad leg, this fellow, a new addict, plaster pouch on his legs. And he kicked him like that as well. We got me lick so awful. Great. I said, I knew what had happened. Is that so I didn't, I didn't have no more fights cause he, he was there all the time. If there's any fights fighting to do, he would do it and know that offer. That was good. Yeah.