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Speaker 1: [00:00](#) Well, it says your name. Pamela. Pamela Cole. What year were you born? 1932. Where were you born? I was born in Brighton, but I left in London. Oh yeah, when I was very young, I was a baby, so I don't remember writing. What did your parents do for a living? Uh, my father I think was a shoe repairer and then he was a decorator for a big company, you know, um, building a decorator and then he became a, uh, a warden a night Walden for the bank of England. Describe what your local area was like for you as a child before the war started. So what was the, describe what your local, Oh, what? Yeah. Um, right. I lived in, uh, because I lived in North London. Um, uh, not where I live now. Um, it, I lived on a very main road, a very busy main road called Holloway road.

Speaker 1: [01:07](#) And we lived in a flat above a garage. How did, how did you and your family feel the war was declared? How did we feel when war was declared? Um, well I've, I think my parents were concerned like all the population cause it was very threatening. We didn't know what was gonna happen, what it was going to be like, how long it was going to last, um, as cause I was about seven then I suppose I thought it was exciting cause I didn't really understand then how serious it was going to be. What was it like to live in London when war broke out? Um, well at the beginning it was very quiet. Nothing much happened. But we had to practice putting on our gas miles, you know, about gas miles. We had to practice putting those on. I had a younger sister, a few months old, and she had a special gas miles that they put babies in a big barn, you know.

Speaker 1: [02:13](#) What did your parents do during the war? My father was say in the fire service, so he fought and he came down to the East engine where the fires were very bad at the docks and was working there putting the fires out. How did you feel? What, what did your, what did you, what is your mom? Well, she was uh, uh, looking after the family cause uh, I it obviously oldest and I had two sisters so she looked after us. How did you feel when you first found out you were going to be evacuated? So I don't want to go. Um, I can't really remember much excited cause it's going to go on a train, you know, and it seemed a long way away. Tell us about the journey. When were first evacuation? I don't remember very much about it. I remember being on the train, which I found exciting. Um, but there and I didn't go with lots of others. We went as a private family cause my mother came with the baby and there was me. So we went together. Who were you evacuated with? Ah, three, uh, aunts.

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They were unmarried, uh, ladies, three aunts. They lived together and it was in Cambridge.

Speaker 1: [03:42](#) How did you feel when you first, when you also your parents when you were living away? Probably upset. I don't remember it. I don't remember crying or anything. I think I was too excited because you know, you have to, there's a lot going on. You have to find out where you have to wait in a hole, uh, and they call out your name and who don't know who you're going to be with. So it's lots of things going on. Tell us about the things you took with you. Oh, gas mask. That was very important and I had a like a, not like you get now the weren't rock sex really, but now, but I had a sort of a rucksack that are carried on my back with my, a label, with my name and address and stuff like that. What were your feelings? Excitement and not sure what was going to happen.

Speaker 1: [04:43](#) Describe how you ended up with your first host family. Uh, right. Uh, what happens is, uh, there was a group of us, uh, uh, various, uh, um, children and, and some parents, but some children were on their own and you wait, you know, in a hole or somewhere like that. And then they have a list of people who are going to be your host. And then gradually people are called out, you know, so you wait, your turn is, and of course you sit there say, Oh, I wonder who we're going to be with. You know, cause you just don't know. What was it like, what was life like with your foster family? It was really quite nice. Yeah. Uh, they were very nice to us. Very nice. Um, yeah, I don't remember a lot about it cause I wasn't there for the whole duration of the war.

Speaker 1: [05:35](#) I was the fact that I do three times altogether. So one place gets a bit mixed up with the other, you know, um, so I may be, may have been there for a year, but after about three months, my mother went re she returned to London. So I was left there on my own with the three ladies. What was your, what was the house like? Oh, it was really nice. It was bigger than where we lived. Yeah. What was the school like? I can't remember. So I went to so many different schools. I really don't remember it at all. Can't remember a thing about it. How were you treated in your new area? Oh, very well, so. Okay. I don't remember anybody being nasty to me or anything. It was fine. Tell us some of your experiences in the countryside. Oh, I loved it. I really loved it when we've got out way, way from Cambridge and got out into the countryside because I've never been to the countryside before. So I thought it was really exciting to see all

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these fields and seeing a horse in the field and cows. I thought that was really, you know, really exciting. Tell us about any friends you meet. Um, I guess I did at school. My trench? Yeah. What happened to your family in London while you were away? Well, there was bombing on and off that bombing wasn't all the time, but it would come and go and then it would go quiet for a few months and then start up again.

Speaker 2: [07:08](#) [inaudible]

Speaker 1: [07:10](#) can you tell us about any times you saw or communicated with your parents while you were away? Um, I guess we, I sent letters and they sent me letters. Tell us about any more of occupations experience, right. I don't know exactly what year it was, but, uh, later on, uh, we were evacuated again because the, uh, the rates were getting bad again, you know. Um, and uh, we went back to Cambridge and we went and we asked if we could go and stay with the three aunts. And we did, we went back and stayed with them. And again, my mother stayed, you know, um, for about three months and then she returned to London. So I was there again on my own. What did you do in those? Ah, right. Uh, we used to have to go in what was called a air raid shelter.

Speaker 1: [08:10](#) Do you know about Aira shelters? The Anderson air raid shelter. So yeah, you'd have to duck out and, yeah. Uh, used to have to go into that. But one day I went in during the day, cause she used to put a flow Butch down cause it's quite cold cement floor, no heating or anything. And uh, I jumped down and all the water shot up. So then of course we realized we couldn't use their roadshow to, cause there was water there. So we, uh, I remember going into a street shelter, they used to be street shelters where you went to with all people from the street, you know. And of course then we'd moved as well. You know, I did move about a house. It didn't stay in one house because, uh, we get bombed out. But, uh, the glass got blown in and it was all over me and on the bed and we were right opposite of very, very big row away center.

Speaker 1: [09:08](#) And of course, uh, bombing via wires were really, you know, prime for being bombed. What was it like when bombs were fooling? Quite frightening, especially as I've got older and I realized how serious it was. It was quite frightening. And, uh, my youngest sister, she, I can remember one night it was very bad and then later on during the war there were things called doodle bugs. Have you heard about? Yeah, that's right. Because

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they would, you could hear them coming and then they were turn off the engine and then you would wait to see where they were going to drop if they were going to drop on you or wherever the next street you didn't know. So of course that was also frightening when they, when the engine went off because you didn't know where they were going to land. Um, so I can remember sometimes we couldn't get into the shelter quick enough cause the air raid siren would go off and you couldn't know why get into the shelter, you know, cause the bombing and the guns would go off, you know.

Speaker 1: [10:15](#) So we used to, I can, I have a very strong picture of my mother with my youngest sister who was a baby. My mother leaning over the prime in case anything happened to protect the baby. And we all kind of crouched underneath where the stairs were and that, I can remember that very, very strongly. It's very fry and he goes, I was older then and I understood how serious it was and that we could be killed. Tell us about any friends or family who were injured? Uh, yes. I had a friend at school, never close friend, but I knew her and uh, she got killed in a couple of streets away.

Speaker 1: [10:57](#) What did you and your family well, get in the shelter as quickly as we could. At one time where I lived, we, uh, when we found the water was in there, our own Anderson shelter, we used to have to go to next door and by this time I was responsible for looking after my sister who was about three and a half, four, maybe four and a half years old. Get her up, get her dressing gown on, you know, and then my mother used to look after the baby and we would have to go downstairs, wait for the gun, fire to stocks. There's lots of, cause I lived near a part where all the guns were and uh, listen to what was going on. And then we used to run to the wall. There was an extra as well. They put a box there was to climb over the wall of the box and then run into the next door shelter where there were other people there. What were you, what were your feelings when you came back to London? Well, the first thing my mother stayed, cause I was the third time I was evacuated, I went to Bolton in Lank ship, uh, just outside city of Bolton. And the first thing my mother said was, why are you talking like that? Because she see I'd picked up Lancashire accent. So I would say bath and things like that. I'm mother didn't know cause I wasn't speaking like a London. I was speaking like somebody who lived in Lancashire, so I had to dilate.

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- Speaker 1: [12:33](#) Not really, no, just it was bath, bath. I really been, but you know. Yeah. Yeah. What were your feelings about your family? Um, I had, there was one experience I had where we got moved from one, cause I also got moved from one village to another. So it didn't stay in one place, especially when I was in Lancashire. I've got moved about three times for various reasons that I don't know why. Um, and uh, I do remember, uh, one bit my sister and I was no to, um, uh, they didn't have any children there and they weren't used to children. It wasn't their fault. They weren't used to children. And, uh, I'm retired. Such a good time in the, in the other, um, uh, way we evacuated in the other house. So when we got there it was really quite different, you know, very different.
- Speaker 1: [13:31](#) And, uh, I, I know I wrote to my parents, I was very unhappy and I wrote to my parents, you know, we want to come home, we don't like it here, you know, so, and then I got put the stamp on it as well. Cause you know, my mother's had made sure I had stamps and envelopes and things to right. And then the next morning I suppose I felt better and I told the letter out and I never posted it. But then we got moved to another billet, which was a lot better where it was really good.
- Speaker 1: [14:05](#) Oh, lots of holes, bumps sites. Um, and then we moved to, we had to move in London again, you know, because of the bombing and we haven't had two rooms and there was, you know, uh, the little tiny sink on the little little tiny sink like that with just cold water, you have to go downstairs for it. So it was very, very, uh, quite primitive really. And because of there wasn't much room, I was older and I loved it because I was allowed to play out. So I couldn't wait to get out and play. Of course we used to go into all the bombed out houses and play. So, you know, and then rush about on the bomb sites, I can remember, you know. So for me it was freedom. I was allowed to go out to play. It was wonderful.
- Speaker 1: [14:59](#) How did you, how did you feel when you were leaving? Uh, well some of them might feel really, I don't know. I think, I know the uh, the lady I was with and she had a son, um, and I was with my sister then the two of us. I know she was sorry to see me cause she's not, I think she treats me like a daughter. She was really nice. She taught me how to cook and she really was, you know, I got on with her really, really well. Did you stay in touch with any of those Japanese? No.

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- Speaker 1: [15:38](#) How did you celebrate the end of the war? Um, with relief. I think especially for my mother, it was very difficult for women. Um, yeah, relief. You know, I haven't got to go in the shelter anymore. I haven't got to leave home and hemo can stay, you know, aware of it and no more guns, no F bombs to worry about. Looking back, how do you think your experiences as an evacuee have affected your life? Um, I didn't, I didn't think it did cause when you're a child you just get on with it, you know. But as an adult I began to, and I had children and I began to realize it does affect you. Yeah, it's made me very, I'm very independent, very determined to do things on my own. Um, it probably made me quite tough. So, yeah, it does affect you. What are your strongest memories from Oh, right.
- Speaker 1: [16:42](#) Um, Oh, I can remember one family we were with, they kept, um, in, in Bolton, in the city they had a, uh, a lot of cake shops. So of course they were all really good cakes and during the war, you know, everything was rationed. So it was wonderful. So I think looking back, I think we ate quite well, you know, um, other, other things about lots of really odd memories. Um, I've told him, Oh yes, yes. One. Um, then there were the, uh, rockets, you know about the, yeah, the V two rockets. It again, very frightening. You see a streak in the sky and you never knew where it was going to land. And my mother and my youngest sister, they were out, they'd gone to quite a long way. She was, she used to walk with it with our friends and, and their prams.
- Speaker 1: [17:41](#) So they'd go into a shopping center Woodgreen or wherever, um, which is quite a way from where we were a little walk. And, um, and then on the radio we heard in the area where my mother had gone shopping that they'd been a veto and had been, uh, awful, you know, lots of people and it pretty serious. So of course my father and I were really worried in case, you know, get involved my mother. And so of course there was a lot of anxiety there waiting to see if she's going to come home. Of course she did. Thank goodness. So that was a very worrying time. Yeah. Um, and hearing bombs going off around you, near near you, it was quite, uh, and then you, you should about a hair. They planes going over when they were heavily, uh, loaded with bombs. They used to make a really, really heavy, strong noise and you knew they were going over to Germany to bomb. And then when they came back they were a lot lighter, but it was quite different engine sound. So you always knew when they were going over to Germany to bomb. And of course we listened to the news all the time, but the newspaper to find out what was going on. So it was a relief when it ended.

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Speaker 1: [19:04](#) Okay. So that's all the list of questions. We're all going to give you some yeah. If you could just keep answering towards jolly. Okay. No, no, that's all right. Yeah. And how did you feel about the phone, your ball? Oh, well I didn't realize it was a phony ball, but I know I couldn't understand why the war had been declared or why didn't it all start straight away. So I've found that a bit strange. Yeah,

Speaker 3: [19:39](#) fine.

Speaker 1: [19:43](#) Guess what was your worst experience with the uh, right. Well the one where it was always frightening cause the minute that NG went off, you really felt really afraid because she didn't know where it was going to drop. Um, and then I said one time we couldn't get to the shelter and, and there was my mum and the baby in the pram, me and my younger sister. And of course my dad was out working. He was a fireman. Um, so of course, you know, we're all huddled underneath the stairs for some, well we hoped for some protection if the bomb dropped, if the, if the doodle bug, you know,

Speaker 3: [20:31](#) good deal. Um, how did you feel?

Speaker 1: [20:38](#) Right. Again, that could be very, very dangerous. Yeah, I do remember my father coming back from a very night in the East end where they'd been really bad fires. He came back, he was absolutely black, you know, filthy black and all his uniform was dusty and uh, he looked absolutely exhausted and he just about took his boots off and flung himself onto the bed and just slept for about 12 or 14 hours. He was absolutely exhausted. I do remember that.

Speaker 2: [21:14](#) Not to check cause I'm just checking with Gabby that she did. She didn't actually, you didn't do a focus when you did it before.

Speaker 3: [21:20](#) Okay, fine.

Speaker 2: [21:26](#) Let's just stop one second. Just stop. Stop. I was just double checking. We rolling. Okay. Go ahead.

Speaker 3: [21:38](#) Did anyone in your family die? [inaudible]

Speaker 1: [21:41](#) no. No. Nobody. No. Thank goodness. No.

Speaker 3: [21:48](#) Did you have any, any

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- Speaker 1: [21:53](#) uh, just one girl that she wasn't a close friend but I knew her cause we were at the same school. Yeah. And about two streets away, a bomb dropped and she was killed.
- Speaker 2: [22:04](#) Can I just ask you a quick question? What do you could just take us, cause it's a bit confusing cause you went to your aunt's and came vision and Bolton. Could you just take us through this?
- Speaker 1: [22:13](#) Yeah. Right? Yeah. Okay. Yeah. Right. The first time was to come Vish to stay with these two, three aunts and my mother and my sister was a baby at the time, came and then she returned back to London. Then I stayed there maybe for nine months, perhaps something until the bombing got less in London. Then the next time we went back and stayed at the same, at the same, uh, uh, place I've have with the three aunts and a guide. My mother came and then returned back to London after about three months. So I was there on my own. Um, and then the third time, um, my sister and I, she was about four and a half. Then maybe five, uh, that's when we went to Lankershim and stayed in a really, really nice house. I mean, we thought it was really posh. It was really lovely, you know, and, um, and then we were there for quite a bit.
- Speaker 1: [23:13](#) They treated us very well, very well. And my sister always says how she was spoiled. They spoke to her. Um, and I do remember the school I went to there and that was the best school I've ever been to. And I, yeah, I do remember that school. And I remember one teacher particularly, and I felt that this school was really going to do things for me, you know, cause the Elvis schools, a lot of the teachers who were then mainly men, not always, but of course they'd gone to war. So there was a shortage of teachers and there, lots of teachers came back from retirement, you know, but that's one school I really thought I enjoyed. Oh, I got in, uh, into art. Yes. Uh, I really enjoyed art. Um, and I also really enjoy Greek mythology. Uh, I know I was absolutely fascinated and you know, I'd never met this subject before, you know, so there were subjects that I met that, um, uh, I hadn't had experience before, so I felt it broaden my education if I could stay to that school, I think, you know, life would have been a bit better.
- Speaker 2: [24:29](#) And how this, this family in Bolton, how did you end up with them? Do you remember how you [inaudible]
- Speaker 1: [24:34](#) yes, yes. Again, sitting in a village, whole church hall there and we were the last ones and you feel absolutely dreadful.

Everybody else has gone. Why are we the last ones? And apparently who we stay with was the while they got such a nice house. He worked for the council. I've had quite a good position in the council, so they had this lovely house. They didn't have any children of their own. Um, and then, you know, and you never knew why you were selected, you know, it just never really do what the criteria was for selecting you. But, uh, I know we were the last ones and that did feel awful because everybody else had gone. They thought, well, is there a place for us where we're going to end up? But I was never treated badly, ever. No.

Speaker 2: [25:27](#) And could you describe the people you stayed with the new bit more detailed in Bolton?

Speaker 1: [25:31](#) Uh, right. Yeah, they were, well, as I say that they've to our standards were well off. Um, she was very attractive. Uh, the woman well dressed, attractive. Um, yeah. And I remember the garden had this wonderful garden, which I absolutely adored. And also we had a play of like a play shade and there was all this dressing up clothes. So of course we used to have concerts and get all the local kids in. I mean they were so tolerant of us. You know what we, you know, things we got up to, we weren't naughty. We just took advantage of what there was there. Cause it was fantastic. So we had this room we could play in I with a stressing up clothes, you know, so that was really, really good. Yeah.

Speaker 2: [26:29](#) [inaudible] yes ma'am. If you could relive the wall, what advice would you,

Speaker 1: [26:37](#) Oh, well, we'll never have another war like that one. Um, you have to be very flexible. You have to kind of go with the changes and hope for the best. And you have to be quiet, I suppose. Looking back, you have to be quiet. Quite brave. I have a good sense of humor and just get on with it.

Speaker 2: [27:01](#) Connected to the house you're at, so you're into this big house in Bolton and then zoomed out was quite different from your house in London. What was it like, how did you feel when you came back to London then?

Speaker 1: [27:11](#) Well, it all, well, London really was dirty black holes, you know, where there'd been bombs and things. And I suppose coming back to my home, yeah, it was very different, you know, very plain. Um, though it wasn't too bad because, uh, I did move to

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another, to another, uh, um, house where the woman there
Trish me, uh, lock our daughter. And that was more like my
home in London. Yeah. That was more like my home in London.

Speaker 3: [27:47](#) Yeah. Do you ever fit? Did you ever feel like a first family treated
you badly?

Speaker 1: [27:58](#) No. So the novice, but nobody really treated me badly.

Speaker 3: [28:01](#) Yeah. Yeah. Are you happy that you did feel as much payments
other times during the vote?

Speaker 1: [28:14](#) I haven't talked about it much with other people, but uh, um,
those I have met about four. I suppose people I've spoken to,
it's just come up and conversation. I don't think, no, I don't
think they were sad. They just liked me. Just got on with it.
That's what you had to do. Cause there was a war on, you know,
and you just do it. But of course, I know some children were
very badly treated and really badly treated. Some children were.
Um, so of course that must have, I haven't met anybody yet
who was badly treated, so I don't know.

Speaker 2: [28:53](#) He lost that. So I've got time for two last questions. That's up to
you.

Speaker 3: [29:02](#) Have you spoken to anyone from world war two now?

Speaker 1: [29:08](#) Um, I did a few months ago I belonged to a thing called a book
club. And you read a book for a month and then you'd go back
and you'll discuss it. And there are two other people in there
who have similar age to me. And something came up with this
book we were reading about being evacuated and it was really
interesting because one of them, uh, like um, uh, George who's
come in has been interviewed. Uh, they were there for the
whole duration of the war. So they felt they were closer to the
people they were evacuated than they were for their, uh, with
their parents. And they kept a very close contact with the
people who in fact with, cause they felt they were, they're much
more like their parents cause they were away for such a long
time. Five years in a child's life is a very, very long time. But
what was interesting in this group, there were people there in
their thirties, forties, and 50s. They were absolutely horrified
that we were evacuated and left. You know, they just couldn't
understand it at all. It happening. So that was quite interesting.
Their response to that,

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- Speaker 2: [30:21](#) that was a Wolf today. Do you think it'd be more dangerous than the one that we'll,
- Speaker 1: [30:29](#) well, danger comes in different forms, you know? Um, I suppose the thing we worry about now is an atomic wall, which would, could destroy us as it did like a second, you know, in the just after in the Japanese ball. Yeah. After that. Yeah.
- Speaker 2: [30:49](#) Just one question. What size? Good Bobby tree was the funniest thing that happened to you while you were evacuated? Any probably stories.
- Speaker 1: [30:56](#) Oh, that's strange. Oh, I can't remember this lady. The last one I had who really treated me like a daughter. I remember her and her husband were going to take me to this dance. I'd never been to a dance before. I was, I must've been 12 or nearly 12. Now. It's really difficult getting the age right. Um, and uh, and I remember she, cause I, as you can see, I've got straight hair. Um, I said, well, it's similar to this. And uh, she had what they used to call curling, aren't used to put them on the gas or in the fire cars and heat them up. And then she rolled my hair out and this curl is a bit like electric tongs, you know, like that except that you heat is about yeah. And shit. I remember putting my Cole sit up and, and go into this dance. Yeah. That I remember, which I thought was really funny. Um, and then, Oh, I had a boyfriend. Oh yes. I still got his photograph actually. I found an old diary, which I could hardly read. And uh, his photograph is in there. Yeah, he was called Vinson. Yes. I've course keen on him. Yeah.
- Speaker 1: [32:13](#) I climbing trees. I adored climbing trees. I was always climbing trees and I did love being in the countryside. I loved it. I really did. So I loved race it about in the streets and going into bombed out houses, tearing about on the bomb sites. And I loved being in the country and enjoy that I'm being evacuated. Gave me a tremendous sense of freedom because during the war you couldn't play outside cause there's always a worry that bear siren, a warning. Um, and he had to go in the shelter and uh, and at school, yeah, a school was, they'd have to go soon as the siren went, we'd all have to go down to the shelter. So I had very disruptive for the school was, yeah. In London.
- Speaker 3: [33:01](#) Yeah. Kind of the war. Did he get to learn that? Oh, education. Yeah. No, no.

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Speaker 1: [33:12](#) I left school at 14 and went straight to work and then I had to wait till I was quite old before I went back to education.

Speaker 2: [33:22](#) Can I just have last question? Yes ma'am. To javelin.

Speaker 1: [33:26](#) [inaudible]

Speaker 2: [33:27](#) it's about freedom because you away from London. And then you just mentioned your boyfriend. What was his name? Did you, did you think you had more freedom? Cause you're away from your parents because your parents, could you speak a bit about freedom?

Speaker 1: [33:41](#) Yeah. Oh yeah. Being away from your parents. Yeah, it was great. But it was also, they didn't have to worry about the siren bombs going in the shelter. Any of that, you know,

Speaker 2: [33:54](#) why was being away from your parents? Great.

Speaker 3: [33:58](#) Mmm.

Speaker 1: [33:59](#) Well you weren't restricted. The restrictions were different, you know, they weren't from your parents. Of course they were restriction. You couldn't do it just as you lie. Um, well I suppose it wasn't a terribly happy family, let's put it that way. I wasn't really happy at home. So in a way that was a release being away.

Speaker 3: [34:23](#) Yeah.

Speaker 2: [34:28](#) Just that last one. And then we'll ask you if there's anything that you want to add and that's you.

Speaker 3: [34:34](#) Yeah. Did he ever get I was sick. Crude or something?

Speaker 1: [34:38](#) Yes. I had an awful, it was the day before I was going to be evacuated, uh, had, uh, because uh, the, there was a lot of us in this shelter more than there should have been because we used to have to go in next door shelter. Um, and uh, because the condensation is to run down cause they're all metal. So the con us all breathing, the condensation used to run down, just absolutely run down. And I was right next to where I was sleeping or lying. And of course I had a really, really bad die. So by the time I got to, uh, uh, being asked, been selected, whoever runs to with my eyes closed up and it was, they were

swollen. So I had quite a bad eye. I don't remember being, all my childhood illnesses were always at home, never while I was, uh, uh, evacuated. But I used to have terrible Colts, awful, awful Colts and I felt very cold in Lancashire. I was liver wall.

Speaker 2: [35:47](#) So Pat, I mean, don't answer this. If you don't feel comfortable with it by then, it's quite interesting. So in your home life, things weren't totally happy. Yeah. So in some ways, was it a release or were you relieved? Could you speak to, tell me a bit about that. You feel comfortable? Was that obviously, can you speak a bit about that? Cause that's quite interesting and getting away. Yeah, just about, cause I think the children will think, Oh, well some of the two of them are thing, you know, leaving your parents and that's difficult. But it's more complicated than that sometimes.

Speaker 1: [36:15](#) Yes. Um, yeah. Well, that was one of the reasons I think the freedom is because I could rake about and being and free, no bombs and all that, but also getting away from a difficult to family situation, you know? Um, so it took me away from that. I didn't have to worry about my parents and you know, what was going on there. Yeah. I could just, it gave me a lot of freedom.

Speaker 2: [36:46](#) So how did it feel, I mean, Johnny asked you the question, when you, when you came back home then after the war and you went back into the family situation, how, how was, what was going on there?

Speaker 1: [36:54](#) Well, I mean, at first of course, you're glad to be United with your family, you know, because that's like what you're used to is your family, you know? Um, well it's just, I mean, nothing ever really dreadful, I suppose. My father used to hit me quite a lot. Um, so being away evacuated, I got away from that. I wasn't being hit by my father. Um, yeah, it was just a bit, uh, it was a very strange atmosphere. Uh, people didn't express how they felt or anything. That wasn't unusual though in working class families, you know, people didn't express themselves and say how they felt. So it was a big restraining being at home a bit. It was 10th. Yeah. Especially at meal times. Meal times were always tense cause my father was always watching to see how much jam you were putting on your, cause everything was rationed. So he was always watching how much jam you put on your bread and how much you were eating. So there was always tension.