

Eileen Emery

I was evacuated at the age of 10years, 7months, along with my brother Leslie who was three years older than me on the 3-9-1939. We lived in Harman St Hoxton, London W.1.

My father saw us off from the house, he gave us 6 pence each (a sum considered very generous) and told my brother to look after me. We walked through Hoxton Street to the bus that was waiting for us at school to be taken to Luton.

I was left on my own (my brother went with two other boys), I was taken to a hall where we were given a carrier bag to collect rations to "tide us over."

One of the ladies helping asked if I was alone and said I could go back with her and stay at her house. Her daughters came and collected me and we went to a friends house who lived opposite.

Imagine my surprise when I saw a wedding photograph on the side board and I was a bridesmaid. It was my mother's youngest sister and her husband was a cousin of the lady in the house. I was about 8 years old. I didn't know the family in the house but could name all the people in the photograph.

I have told people this and they are really taken aback. I might add that I had never been to Luton and I have not been there again. We were brought back to London before Christmas 1939 because it was thought to be quite safe!!