

Transcript of Jean Slattery Audio Clip

On Friday the 1st of September 1939 with the school. The local school that we went to was the Holy Trinity School which was by Sloane Square and the whole school went together and as I said we were all sent off by train down to Egham. That day – that very first day that we were sent, of course, was two days before the declaration of war, that Friday. When we go to Egham we were hustled into the – sort of the yard at the railway station which was only a little suburban station and people who knew to come to collect people did the best they could but like so many others we were told as three children by our parents, 'Don't be separated', you'll hear this over and over again and so therefore we kept being turned down. Eventually there was just groups of us left and we were split up into those groups with one supervisor going with us with their notes who could be approached to take children and who weren't already gone so they took us walking around Egham knocking on the doors of people on their list. We were having a bit of a job like most people that said we didn't want to be separated cos nobody really want to take three children especially one that was as young as me. So it was quite a performance but eventually we came to a very nice place called Manor Way and it's quite a unique place actually, the houses down there are of a type and they have since been put on a preservation order because they were rather of that style, the 1920's I suppose. The lady who was there said, 'Yes', they would take two but couldn't possibly take three. It was quite a job having to take two so Peter much against our, you know, much against our parents, had to be separated from us and his initial evacuation was not happy but he did end up alright in the end and we were perfectly alright. The lady that took us in she really took great care of us and she was of a – of what we would consider of a status that was that much more educated and had a better background than we did and it did make a difference to the way we were treated and also how we were when we went back after the war because our own family were all what I call Battersea and Chelsea, rather Londoners and they considered that we were become a little bit sniffy by then [laughs] which of course we were [laughs].