

Transcript of Kathleen Eames Audio Clip

Yes, a neighbour of ours, she was one of the nurses from the hospital, she got to know and she said to my mum, 'Oh, we can invite the walking wounded out one Sunday'. So mum said, 'Well, yes you can bring some down to us'. So as I say we had a slightly larger garden than some people. We had a lawn. We didn't know who was going to arrive so we went out and bought up strawberries and she came with the two French boys and there was an English soldier and another nurse. There was quite a crowd of us. We sat down on the lawn and we — they didn't speak English, we didn't speak French but we didn't sort — we didn't think about that sort of thing. We just tucked in to strawberries and cream and we showed them how to play shove ha'penny (??) which they enjoyed. Yes, they were nice, very nice young men. To me it was, you know, great fun and then later when I look at those photographs and I think, those poor young men, what it must have been for them. Their own country occupied. They would have been worrying what had happened to their families. We didn't know where they went to and of course we couldn't exchange names and addresses because of the language barrier. We'd, you know, often think, well, we hope we made that afternoon enjoyable for them and memorable. Yes, they were nice young men. As I say, one was slightly wounded and the other one, I think he'd been in the sea for a long time and swallowed a bit of oil and water and — but otherwise he wasn't physically hurt but mentally one wonders.