

Transcript of Audio Clip with John Leverett

My mother was expecting my brother. The blitz started on the 7th of September 1940. He was born on the 14th during a huge air raid and a fortnight after that my aunt, who we were staying with said it's too dangerous for you all to stay in London and arranged for us all to be evacuated with a government scheme and we went to Wales. We went from Paddington station [laughs] I can remember the train journey. Paddington station down to Cardiff and when we arrived in Cardiff we were all billeted in a hospital overnight until we were taken to where we were going. The village we went to was a place called Gilfach Goch a really small Welsh mining village in South Wales. One main High Street, a couple of little shops, a big cooperative society was there and the other place I can recall is the Miners Hall, which every Saturday evening showed a main picture, so it was like going to the pictures but it was in the Miners Hall. Naturally the coal pits were there. And we were billeted in the name of the road was Llewellyn Road, and we were billeted with a couple called Richards, and their house was at the bottom of the road where they had their garden, then the railway then after that there was a river. They had a daughter called Lina and she was hoping that I was going to be someone of her age and same sex as her, but unfortunately it was me. But we did have our own room; sort of living room and bedroom so the four of us were all there together.