

Transcript of Audio Clip with Muriel Tytheridge

But we'd never ever had a holiday in our lifetime and to us this was like going on holiday but we were only allowed to take a change of clothes, one toy and your gasmask, of course, which you had to carry everywhere, and nothing else. No money, nothing, you know, you just had your little brown carrier bag and your gasmask over your shoulder. And off you went really. I can remember we went by train to Snodland from here and then a coach picked us up from Snodland and took us to Wrotham. We were taken into the Church School Hall and it was decided that the evacuees would go to school in the afternoon and the village children would use the school in the morning. So in the afternoon when we weren't in school we had to do nature lessons while roaming the countryside, going in the fields, all talking and the teacher explaining things to us. The day passed by but we were – whilst we were in the hall, of course, everybody came to, the people who had volunteered to have evacuees in their home where all in the hall, standing around the edge and we all stood in the middle. People would say whether they wanted one child or two. My mother had said that my sister, my brother and I mustn't be split up but, of course, nobody wanted three. There were other families where there were three so we had to wait in the middle. All the others were placed with a village person, resident, and finally there were six of us left. The headmaster told us that a very nice gentleman in the village had offered to have six because all his staff had had to join the forces and go in the war so we could have the staff rooms up in the attic. But only on proviso that the teacher came with us so one of the teachers, who was on her own, decided that she would come with us. And off we went. It was a beautiful house. Very kind people to take us in, really.