

Southwark
Irish and others at Amingo Hall

Andrey Normington
Eleanora Ala
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Miss Kearne

- R: Where you in the war from the beginning of the war?
- ?: No not all of it because we evacuated ourselves to Hertfordshire.
- R: So how old were you when the war started?
- ?: Ten, I was ten in the February as it started in the September 1929.
- R: So you went out to Hertfordshire evacuated, what was that like.
- ?: Very nice, I didn't like the waters out there a bit bleak, they got ??????????.
- R: But they were friendly enough?
- ?: Oh yes, the person we lived with was very nice. And then we came back and the land mines started and then we went to Northampton for a short while.
- R: Why did you come back?
- ?: I don't know my father said we better go back to London so we came back to London and then the land mines started so we went off again to Northampton.
- R: Was that as pleasant as Hertfordshire?
- ?: That was pleasant, got myself a job as usher out in the cinemas out there it was quite nice I enjoyed it.
- R: Do you remember when the war started, do you remember that day?
- ?: Yes the German came through and said we are at war with Germany.
- R: What where you doing that day where were you?
- ?: I was ten at the time, I might have been at school, I can't remember if it was a week day or if it was a weekend, I can't remember actually but I can remember it coming over the radio.
- R: And you were evacuated before the bombing started?
- ?: No after.
- R: So you didn't go straight away?

- ?: No, No my grand mother lived during the war she lived on the Old Kent Road it is now Burgess Park.
- R: What do you remember of the bombing itself?
- ?: It was terrible.
- R: Where you hit?
- ?: No but we had our doors and windows blasted out, but in those days you went out and left every thing no one stole anything that's how honest people were.
- R: Where did you go to shelter?
- ?: In our garden we had ?????? shelter.
- R: So you came out of the shelter one day and just found the place with the doors and windows blown out?
- ?: Yes that's correct a bomb dropped in the next street.
- R: So were there people that came around to fix it up or did you do it yourself do you remember?
- ?: No they came around and board it all up they had a special unit that came around to board it all up.
- R: Could you carry on living there?
- ?: You had to you had no where else to go.
- R: How many were there in the family?
- ?: Just four mum dad sister and myself and the people that lived up stairs.
- R: Did your father have to go of to the war?
- ?: No because he was in the first world war, he wanted to he lied his age infact but they guessed it, he's dying to go in the navy once again.
- R: So what did he do during the war?
- ?: He was a bookbinder with ?????? council the only bookbinder that they had.
- R: And your mother looked after the children?
- ?: Oh yes my mum looked after us yes.
- R: She didn't go out to work at all?
- ?: No, no he wouldn't let her he thought a woman's place is in the home, he very victorian my father, and very strict.
- R: And did he have to do any ARP work or fire watching?

R: Was it scary as well?

?: Not as scary as ghostly but I didn't like it down there, I think that was what put me off spiders, I am sure it did, because I can not bare creepy crawly spiders, I don't mind worms in the garden but I don't like spiders.

R: So you were evacuated twice the second time to Northampton , how long did you stay there?

?: Not that long about a year.

R: Just in time to come back for the Doodle Bug?

?: No that was after the war that was when the land mine started.

R: And the V2's?

?: And the v2's. I remember the Doodle Bugs you would here the engine cut off and you would think some poor devil is getting it, that was what you thought.

R: Did you ever feel in danger that you would get it?

?: Well I suppose naturally you did think is it our turn next, wouldn't want those days over again, no way, no way, I think if there was another war now, I'm not a racist I worked at St Thomas's which was every body, I think if there was a war all the non-English people would go back to there own country, they would definitely.

R: You were about 15-16 when the war finish, did you have a boyfriend?

?: No I wasn't allowed a boyfriend.

R: Really?

?: Oh yes, we weren't allowed lipstick my father said when I was 21 I could do what I liked until then I am incharge and you do as I tell you.

R: And what would happen if you stepped out of line?

?: Well I wouldn't I wouldn't dare my father was so strict, mind you I think that is good because it brings to up to respect people in society I think children could do with that now.

R: At the end of the war you were back were you?

?: Yes.

R: Do you remember the V2's?

?: Yes.

R: Did you ever feel any danger from them?

?: You felt in danger all the time from every thing really.

R: What about VE Day do you have any memories in May 45?

- ?: Oh yes we heard it on the radio and dad and I went up to the county hall to see the fire works display, that was wonderful that was.
- R: Was there crowds of people?
- ?: Oh yes thousands of them, they were all going over to Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly, but you were thankful that it was all over.
- R: Were you at work by then or were you still at school?
- ?: No I was at work. I started of in a bakery up Mile Lane, Peckham and then from there I went to ?????? the sausages and pie people in Peckham Road I only lived in Bushey Road so it was more less out of bed and into work but they were nice people to work with.
- R: Was it easy to get work?
- ?: It was only two roads away.
- R: So it was easy to get work at that time?
- ?: Oh yes, I was there till I was 22 then I went up to St Thomas's until I had to retire from my arthritis.
- R: Did you forget about it?
- ?: My gas mask rashon book I never kept them, I wish I had have done now.
- R: But did you carry the gas mask around with you?
- ?: Yes in a cardboard box in like a canvas bag, rigid the box only I had like a sling to put in on your shoulder, like a shoulder bag.
- R: And you carried that around?
- ?: Yes we carried that all the time.
- R: You started to tell me about food and how sort of????? it?
- ?: Yes
- R: ???????? of that food that you use to have during the war?
- ?: I can't do any of the actual oz's or lb's but we survived you had to, you had to make do and mend almost, we managed.
- R: Did you resent it at the end of the war all those years of being messed about with in that way?
- ?: Yes because you go out and see ????? ?? I mean you go all around the prefabs I mean in the school itself in the playground and you miss out on them years because what we was taught in London you get taught all over again, so you miss out on those years really.
- R: So you education was really messed up?
- ?: Well and truly.

- R: Were you having half days in school when you were evacuated or did you have whole days?
- ?: No we had whole days, and of course you go in the holidays, don't get as much holiday as they get now during the war.
- R: And the school running again when you were back in London?
- ?: Well I was at work then wasn't I but most of the schools were bombed.
- R: You said you were working for a while as an usherette in Northampton was that a pass time job or full time?
- ?: No full time.
- R: So did you get to see the films?
- ?: Oh yes sure, sometimes you get fed up with seeing them so many times.
- R: How many times do you remember?
- ?: The one that sticks in my mind is the one of Danny Kappa I can't remember what it was called but it sticks in my mind.
- R: I suppose the weren't air raids up in Northampton was there?
- ?: Well there was once, they had one there was a bomb dropped near the town and it dropped somewhere in the country side, and there was a big hoo-ha, and they thought it was terrible.
- R: One bomb?
- ?: Yes, it wasn't a big one at that, I thought oh they should live in London. But in those days the cooking they use to take to a bakery but they had big ovens, we take our ???? along and they would put it in the oven and we would go and collect it, and then in Northampton they would they would ????? pudding not like we would have our Yorkshire pudding with beef they would have it before there main course, the gravy before there main course and eat it that way. You had to get buy.
- R: Did your mother come with you each time you were evacuated?
- ?: Yes, when we went to Letchworth she worked for the council looking after vacuees to see how they were treated, what cloths they wore. Because years ago before my parents were married he use to work down there that was how he new Letchworth.
- R: And what sort of connection with the Irish here?
- ?: Well my ancestors are Irish and I got friends here and I enjoy it here you get very good food.
- R: Does your family think itself as Irish or English these days?
- ?: Well I wouldn't know I never got into it both my mother and father are gone know.
- R: But you think of yourself as English now?

?: Oh yes, I think of myself as having Irish ancestors, I mean I have got a bit of it in me so you can't help but think can you?

R: No. Who else do you think I should talk to?

R: What is your name?

Eleanor: Ala it is Italian but my full name is Eleanor. Yes my father had to put me on fire watch, yes we had to do fire watching at the West End in the comedy ????? and my sister use to go in the ??? she was at Joanna Street School, and came always back on May and I came back in October always when they had those big blitzes, did you know that they were in May and October?

R: So you came back each time it was bombed?

E: Well I worked in insurance and you couldn't get married and you couldn't do anything you would have to come back every six weeks and we could only have our holidays in May or October in those days, oh it was dreadful.

R: Where was it you were working?

E: I was working actually for the ????? Square and then they took us down to Eastbourne because the director was there, and we had people dying there, the Germans use to come and they would stick a bombs so we went to the back, I remember the doodle bug those things frightened me to death and I came back and 2-3 waited to beat your head, and they killed my landladies brother, and you had the barrage balloons there at all the Canadians. And coming home oh how I hated it in the train in the blackout and those bliming soldiers kept looking up Don't Don't you are not suppose to this is a blackout, you know what soldiers are like if you get in with them.

R: So there was a blackout on the train as well?

E: Yes you are not suppose to show any light, I can remember when they were putting all the blinds up and the mastic tape on the glasses but they were always shattered yes we had bombs back and front, I can remember there was a beds on our roof and my sister and my family lived up in the loft we just stood above them you see ?????????????????????? and save the house no body else would go they would say oh no let it burn but us children ??????????????????????

R: ??????????????????

E: No no I think there was other stuff that was more important I imagine, but there was such a lot that was killed wasn't there I know.

R: That was in London was it:

E: All in London definitely in London because I new they were killed in the Kennedy Road or those people ARP the lord of the land.

R: Your father had to do fire watch?

E: He had to Saturday fire watch in the West End.

R: Was there any resentment against your father for being an Italian?

E: Wasn't very nice when we went down the shelter all the general hocky poky.

R: What is general hocky poky?

E: Well that was being nasty about it you see, cause he never said a word and my mother tore up every thing.

R: When you say your mother tore up every thing?

E: All the bits and pieces of the Italians anything Italian, my mother was really worried about it and to the Italian society because it wasn't to good I can tell you and you wasn't allowed to go anywhere and not allowed go about not very far.

R: But they trusted him to do fire watch?

E: That's right, my sister had a miss carriage and he went around to the police station and turned around and said could they go up and her and they said no no no they are not suppose to be any where near, you couldn't win, and then he said Stan now turn around, I don't think you look much of a spy he said.

R: Did your father have an Italian accent, was he born in Italy?

E: Not half did he, and he was a ????? manager at comedy at the restaurant that time but towards the end when he was dying he said to me he went back he did have an Italian accent, and he always spoke Italian to his mum and he never forgot it, or the Piedmontese or the patois and he spoke French.

R: Did he ever say anything about he was being treated?

E: No, no he was always very very pleased and always said about the pension and that you know, and when he went to Italy he was glad to come back for his football pools and that he said he didn't like i.e. there they were all dead, the people were all dead, the ????? at all the ????? up in the Alps right on the borders of France actually.

R: Do you remember anything of the election at the end of the war?

E: No, I can remember I was a ????? and tow or three Christmas' we couldn't come home, do you know with the D Day I can remember putting a ????? on the railings and hearing the bombs D Day you know when they went over there, and I remember the soldiers crying they didn't want to go I can remember that.

R: Where did you see the soldiers that were going to go?

E: They were at Eastbourne, there were Canadians, Americans, Australians they never told you anything they didn't know about it of course. My sister married a French man.

R: You say they didn't want to go, how did you know that?

E: They said so, well they new they were going overseas but they didn't know anything about D Day, and they were doing assault course you know some of them couldn't swim, cause it was terrific really cause some loved it and some hated it.

R: How old were you at the time?

E: I was 27 at the beginning of the war I am 83 now.

R: So were you married?

E: No I have never been married.

R: Did you have a boyfriend at all?

E: Well yes I suppose I did might have been a few Canadians, but I am glad now.

R: But they must have been called up?

E: Yes three or four did, they went to South Africa I don't know what happened to him, quite allot you didn't know what happened to that they had the they were stationed at the Comedy school and in the Grand Hotel because we use to go to dances and that go to the YMCA and help out etc., seems so long ago I forget, just as well I think.

R: At the end of the war Churchill had been such a great supporter, and then he went and voted out, do you remember that election?

E: I don't really know we were very sorry because we were always Tories I must admit ???? of the Prince of Whales ????? ????? you see.

R: Born into Tories?

E: I am afraid so.

R: The National Health must have been important?

E: It was cause I worked in that you see, and it was were they came 5748 they had to come back to England working in the borough here where it was all bombed it was terrible, when they go into the cafe and they brought us mice, tables with mice in the cafes it was dreadful never heard of such. Then we went to work in Marshalsey Road and there was nothing on the floor, it was a terrible time after the war. I think it was worse going around and looking it really was, and that was 1948, and the places were still in a mess really, especially the Old Borough Road all down there it was terrific, and the Elephant and Castle of course.

R: ??????????????????????????????

E: It was important and I had to go and get my identity card, I don't mind having an identity card, and I use to have to go and get rations every time I came home, it was dreadful we had nothing really, the rations were very poor , very poor and we were rationed until 1953 when I went over to Germany in 51 they were laughing at us they had to send us sugar and stuff and sweets, tobacco coupons, the bell boys use to come around ?????????????? we would just park ourselves because they didn't want the tobacco coupons or the sweet coupons. I don't know you forget about it, people wouldn't believe it now the things, rushing down to that bliming shelter at the back oh I was always scared my sister had to always take the valuables I remember every time, well she had a bag you know and I use to hate it, the entire ?????would go down there and wait for the all clear and then find out something was bombed, my brother was buried at the back of Regess Street, and he got out all right but his wife was in hospital for a long time, and he was in the air force he was out of work at the beginning of the war and he went to get his other ????? but I suppose he was

about 32 and they said aren't you in the army and he said no but he soon will be in fortnight when they call you up so he went into the air force.

R: What's your connection with the Irish here?

E: Oh well I don't know I am thoroughly English, I still can't believe the IRA, Gerry Adams is not going to visit the Queen is he, she is in Ireland today.

R: You were in London on V E Day and you didn't go along?

Mary: I was up there at six in the morning. I came to England in 1943.

R: What brought you here?

M: Just to get a job.

R: I have got the excuse of being born here I need a better reason.

M: Have you Irish parents?

R: No I haven't. You were here in 43, you have a quiet voice.

M: So don't talk to me I am not suppose to be talking at all.

R: Its OK it is a good mike. Tell us about the blackout?

M: Well it was darkness no body was going to mug you, you could walk the streets and be safe no body would mug you.

R: What work was you doing?

M: Worked in a factory.

R: What was the factory?

M: Making things for him.

R: Ammunitions?

M: Yes, that is it.

R: Did you know how to work them or ??????

M: Something to do with aeroplanes I think.

R: Where were you living?

M: I was living at Euston.

R: So when did you come over to the South of the River?

M: 30 years ago I am almost 87.

R: ?????????? you say you went up to Buckingham Palace?

M: Yes there was crowds there thousands there, they were dancing having a good jive.

R: How old were you then?

M: 22

R: Were you married, did you have a boyfriend?

M: Oh no boyfriends.

R: Do you remember when Churchill was voted out and the Labour Party was voted in?

M: No I don't remember much about him, I never liked him anyway.

R: You didn't take part in that election?

M: No.

R: Do you remember the coming of the National Health Service the start of it, for the first time you didn't have to pay for a doctor?

M: I can't remember, I never went to the doctor.

R: Can either of you remember the outbreak of war in 1939?

?: I remember the evacuation.

R: Where did you go?

?: Home, Brighton.

R: And how did that work out?

?: Not very well I was home within three weeks I think.

R: Three weeks that is not long so what went wrong?

?: I was only there a little while and my mum came with the family ??? so she took me home, and was hungry because she never fed us, the first words out of her mouth when we walked in with our brown carrier bag was what have you got in there oh they have got a tin of corn beef that is good, so that tells you the type of woman we was at.

R: No one ??? for you in person?

?: No no just hello you know.

- ?: The boys were all right though weren't they?
- ?: Yes they had a lovely lady.
- R: What they came as well?
- ?: No they were with a lady along the road, cause what they done that time was they just sort off took you along in a group and dropped you off at different houses, they knocked at the door and they would say what do you want, and they would say two boys or two girls or one girl and a boy or what have you, and they just dropped you off at that house, and when we got to this house that I went in they said what do you want and she said two girls and they just dropped us off, and we went in and she said what have you got in your carrier bag as I was saying, and she said you have got a tin of corn beef each that is good, and that was about our welcome, take then up to there room where they are going to sleep, I just remember the bag really I just remember the corn beef.
- R: What about the gas mask you must have had that with you?
- ?: Oh we had our gas masks and our label every body had that, but I just couldn't settle I was just 7 at the time I just didn't like being away from my mum anyway.
- R: Was it three weeks?
- ?: Yes three weeks it wasn't long. I was a horrible child got into mischief and was always naughty.
- R: What sort of mischief?
- ?: Any thing I just liked being with the boys, because I had four brothers.
- ?: She was the 3 one.
- ?: I had four brothers next tome though didn't I.
- R: Did you go and play in the bomb sights?
- ?: Later on not in the beginning no because it was to dangerous to go, at the end of the war but mot at the beginning.
- R: So the schools moved out?
- ?: Yes they stopped, my brothers were there for a while after that, and then what they done then was because Brighton had become dangerous they moved people from Brighton to Cornwall and my mum thought that was to far for the boys to go so she brought them all home there was three of them, because it was to far and she wouldn't be able to visit them and make sure they were OK.
- R: You didn't have any schooling?
- ?: The boys had schooling because they were older but the youngers didn't have any, once you were brought home, I never had any schooling down Brighton anyway, but the older children did. Then we filled sand bags.
- R: What was you doing with the sand bags?
- ?: Reinforcements in front of the places.

- R: Did every body do there own house?
- ?: No, no you done like down stairs and the shelter in our blocks of flats there was a shelter and we had to have sand bags infront of that as well.
- R: And did you go to that shelter every time there was a raid or at night?
- ?: At the beginning, all I can remember was going into the shelters what they built because they built us shelters after that, in the grass in these big grass verges, they are still there the shape of the shelter, and where you see the rise in the grass our shelter is under that.
- R: What was it like in the shelter?
- ?: It use to be good we had an old ???? down there and we use to play all these games, sing and dance, it was good I thought it was great, it was a change, never went or school. played all day, our dad would never come down there he would sit on the edge of our stairs and he said if the bomb hit that shelter I would drag my fingers to the bone to get you all out, he didn't like going in the shelter but we were the only one who didn't do anything else so we went down the shelter and he would say if that shelter was hit by a bomb I would drag that shelter till my fingers were raw, and that made you feel a bit safer.
- R: How old was you?
- ?: I was eleven.
- R: Were you out of work before the war, during the war?
- ?: I was at work I use to make things to go in the baskets for the air force and all that.
- R: What was you doing before the war?
- ?: I had so many jobs I don't know, I was working in a tin factory, I can't remember.
- R: So when you was working in this radio place you were told to go.
- ?: Can't remember I haven't got a very good memory me, I know I was up there because London Bridge I was working at, you got to remember that when you are talking now between the war there wasn't much work about and so right at the beginning of the war people didn't mind being told do this and do that, that was the difference, before the factory they was making these wirelesses to go in bombs and all that kind of thing.
- R: What did you do for fun during the war?
- ?: Go down the shelter and have a party and the men use to go in the pub and get drunk and then come down to the shelters, and then we use to finish up having a party.
- R: Did you ever go to dances?
- ?: No well maybe once a week, there was dances going on and allot of people use to go to them but I was a child and she was sort of an engaged woman at the time.
- ?: I got married during the war my husband was in the army.
- R: How did you do the wedding during the was?

?: All right, I remember I had a lovely white wedding and we paid a ginny each for each dress, my dress was white satin with silver embroidery all over the front, C and A's I bought them and I bought two mauve and they had great big sleeves and big flowers and they was both a guinea each, in a sale.

R: What about the food?

?: We had it in our house where she is living now but we must had enough food and booze because every body was well gone, because it was right at the beginning of the war as well, It was early war 1940.

R: Did you have to do ARP work or fire watching?

?: No, our brothers did because one of them didn't go in the army so he had to because he had bad eyes, and there was another bloke on top of us who had heart trouble so he use to go and get drunk and put the fires out while they was drunk because they use to have to walk along the roof and they use to put the fires out, they said they couldn't have gone up there if they was sober hahaha.

?: I can remember coming out of the shelter one time and every thing around us was alight, every where, that was when the Elephant and Castle got done.

R: Where was you?

?: All around the Elephant and Castle no matter where you looked it was absolutely burning flames were coming out, that was the night the water run out so they just had let them burn, and then they came over and dropped the senderies on top of the fires, so most of the damage was done by burning rather than war, mind you the doodle bugs was the worst, do you remember the doodle bugs?

?: Oh yes they were great, if they stopped you didn't know where they was going to go.

?: What about when we went down to Hopping, we used to watch the air force knock them out of the sky.

?: Yes but that was different we were safe then we were out of the way then. Because mum didn't want us to go through evacuation again she took us down Hopping in the old huts, it was down Hopping but we was going through ??????because it was to early, it was about end of May June and we went down there and we stayed in the huts like we did in Hopping and they would give us all odd jobs to do like stripping the ????? picking blackcurrants, anything the farmer didn't want to do the horrible jobs, and we use to watch the planes come over during the day the doodle bugs, and the planes use to go after them and if they tipped the wing they crashed into the field and we use to cheer, or they would shoot them down before they got to London which was better really saved them ruining the land and we would go yeah, so we new they wouldn't reach London so every time we saw one.

R: Did they use to have a lot of plane fights in the sky?

?: No no I never did see a plane fight but when we were down there was when they were doing the bugs and that was when they would knock them of course and if they done the least little thing to a doodle bug it exploded or crashed because it was programmed to hit a certain part of London so it would just go along till they tipped they wing or shot it, and so that was good that was exciting.

R: Do you remember the end of the war V E Day?

?: Yes, when they put the flags up and the piano in the square, dancing and singing we had a big party on the night time and they had a kids party during the day, and a big party on the night time.

R: What did you do?

?: Just sing and dance it was great we had a really good time.

R: What about the dig for victory did that apply?

?: Oh don't ha ha ha, they dug up the grass out side our flats and they said we could have an allotment and people had these terrific allotments so we decided we were going to have one, so we had this square outside our bedroom and we put carrots in and different things in and then we was playing a game one day and we decided to play cooking, so we dug up all the carrots ha ha ha and ate them.

Stella: So you had the effect in Dublin parts of Dublin were bombed in the night loads of house were knocked down, it was terrible, I remember the blackout curtains every one had to have them. And there was some rationing, I can remember tea and things being very ?????, you could get things on the black market.

R: So you were affected by the war?

S: Yes

R: Did you ever come over to Britain during that time?

S: No, no I was twelve years old working in Dublin, I came over after the ????? in 54.

R: What brought you over?

S: I left every one to come over for a man, a man.

R: Was it a particular man?

S: Yes I had known him for years and he came over and I came over after I got married, he is dead now, so here I am 40 years, I am 55. I worked in a factory for a year and a half then got married. I was seven years old when the war broke out the only thing I remember about it was is that we had brown flour then we didn't have much flour at all later on it was hard to get flour, I remember it was like ???? and then it use to have a funny smell a musty smell because it was kept in cold storage and some bags of flour, I lived in the country and we use to make our own bread and some bags of flour you would be hard but we would have to eat it because we would get no more. And we use to kill a pig for bacon and they use to put it into a big tub and ???? it the big barrel and I remember once I was young I was able to go to town, the rashon went on a good time after the war, the tea and the sugar the bread, I can remember once it was three and a half pounds for flour. You could have your rashon of bread or flour and we use to get the flour and then we would make the bread. I came from a part of Mayo where they don't grow wheat the land isn't all that good it was more mountains in the West coast of Ireland in Mayo but I know my uncles had a bit better land than

what we had and they lived a good few miles away and they use to have there own wheat, some bags of bread would be all right but others would have that musty smell where it was kept.

?: My family lived in ??? and we weren't badly of because when they come back form New York doing the run we were all right what they would bring home, but I do know that sugar and tea was ????????? and that the bread wasn't nice, anyone who was coming over form England we would rather have a loaf of them because the bread tasted think. Not that we had ????? we had other people who were in the army and in the navy from where I lived and when they came back allot of people would say can't you brings us back a loaf because we liked the bread from England.

R: Did they have better bread in England?

?: Well they had better bread than what we had in Ireland we had very dark very sickish looking bread, and the people use to like that from England oh bring us back a bit of bread, and of course it was the same way when they were coming back from Ireland they were able to bring over a bit of meat to England to a relations or even bring them lard or what they couldn't get. The tea and the sugar and the flour that was rationed.

?: The other things we use or grow like the potatoes and vegetables we had all that all the time so you wasn't short of that we would make potato cake all that and I don't think you could get cocoa you know the chocolate drink, I didn't drink coffee at that time. I always remember when the ships came in we did all that, that's if they recharged, and of course all the people along the coast the majority of men along the coast line was in the navy even joined the British navy and air fleet army.

R: Was that because of the jobs.

S: No that was because they wanted to venture young men weren't they it was an adventure, some of them joined the army the navy, the air force anything it was an adventure.

R: What did you think of the war generally in Ireland?

S: Well it was surprising an awful lot of men went from Ireland allot of the young boys went from Ireland to England to fit the war.

R: Was it because they were anti Fascists or because they ??????????????

S: Oh no they joined it for an adventure they joined it because they couldn't see the danger the were also young, even the majority went to the, the woman they come over here into the ammunition and into the mines in Whales it would be surprising how many Irish people came over here who left Ireland or come here, mean there is a record showing how many Irish men was lost in the war, allot of them were, although you think there is allot of friction between England and Ireland there is never a lot of friction not from the South, England was bread into us really wasn't it.

R: ??????????????

S: Oh no it was the Irish guards, I mean there was even men there who was in Irish guards over here who lived in Ireland but were in the Irish guards in England and that was even before the war, cause they were out in India at the time. I mean allot of men are soldiers of fortune as they say, I mean a lot of Irish people went to the war for England they just joined up.

R: They wouldn't get any flak of other people fighting under the British?

S: Oh no there was none of that, allot of people ????

?: My brother he was in the army.

R: What did he do, where did he go when he joined up?

?: He had to join up.

R: Oh he had to join up?

?: Yes if they lived here, they had to they had to join up.

R: Could he have gone back to Ireland?

Bridie: Oh he could, yes there was lots of people that did go back that didn't fight, well I suppose what happened, happened.