

## Transcript of Audio Clip with Maureen Booker

It was when the doodlebugs were on and there – my family, there was nine of us...Now, we went and we was evacuated and we went to Chorley and, well, Preston and Chorley we went and in Chorley we were there. When we got there we went on this Friday and we were – greeted by people and we were given big Lancashire hotpot, all sat down, beautiful Lancashire hotpot. Then we were all put in this big room and the children – they put all – because, actually, it should have been children going there. It shouldn't have been adults as well. It should have been all children. But they'd had to divert the children's train for some reason or other. I don't – don't remember what and we were diverted to this place. Well, lots of them found places to stay, you know, with families and everything but there was a whole group of us sitting round, you know, and you had people in – that is what – when people have come on the tele and said to you about what was humiliating about when you was a child and people were picking you out to look you over and this is what was happening to us. Now, my brother was picked out by a farmer, my eldest brother, because he was big and the farmer wanted him. My mother was – said it was up to him if he wanted to go but my grandma said no, he wasn't going. Then she said – a young couple came up and asked if they could take me with another little girl about my age and they wanted to give me a home, you know. I'd have my own bedroom and they were Catholics, the same as I was, and everything. And my mother said, 'Well, you can go if you want to' and I looked at my mum and I don't think I ever forgiven my mum for it and I said, 'You're sending me away', you know. I thought it was awful that she was sending me away like that. So, my Nan said, 'No, she's not going, not without you [unclear]. She can't go without you and them other two', she said. So, anyway, we all got put in this great big house, it was enormous. It was a lady's house, you know, big manor. It really was...I mean, the lady there was very kind. She couldn't have been kinder. They were very kind to us, they gave us two rooms but when we saw the – the room, we walked in this room that was a sitting room for us. It was all these china ornaments. Now remember we got little boys and little girls and my Nan said, 'No, we don't go in there', she said, 'unless you remove everything', because they were fragile, you know. They were beautiful ornaments. So we couldn't go in there so we played outside and there were three ponds, big ponds, out there which frightened my Nan in case one of the little fell in. So we decided we'd come home. So we went and we went on the Friday and was back home on the Monday and we paid our own fare home.