

Transcript

00:00:02 Speaker 2

So this is Margie Bailey. I'm interviewing Irene Bailey. Her number is HOL7T. Hello, Mrs Bailey. Hello. So, what memories have you got that you can pass down with us from the war?

00:00:13 Speaker 1

Well, I was born just after the war, so I have no personal memories. More things that my.

00:00:20 Speaker 1

Mother and father have told me.

00:00:22 Speaker 1

My dad was in the Royal Navy and part of his job was to.

00:00:30 Speaker 1

Unfortunately, pick parts of bodies up out the Sea, of soldiers that were blown off from other ships. He was still very depressed about it for years after, but my dad was always a cheerful man and within time, having his own family and that.

00:00:51 Speaker 1

He seemed to get over that.

00:00:53 Speaker 2

It's a hell of.

00:00:54 Speaker 2

A job to do to see [?] those things.

00:00:59 Speaker 1

And he was only a young man, you know what I mean? But my mom told me more really about her own family. She had a younger brother and my mother's mother had fourteen children and three three stillbirths. Well, Harry, he was her favourite and

00:01:19 Speaker 1

There were buses running at that time, but not many, and he went to a bus stop to catch the bus to go and see his girlfriend to go to.

00:01:29 Speaker 1

The pictures before he went back away back away to war.

00:01:34 Speaker 1

And it unfortunately, a bomb dropped on the, you know, on the shelter. Yeah. And he, well, he had a closed coffin. They couldn't couldn't let anybody see him. So he must have been really, really bad. My mum told me about.

00:01:54 Speaker 1

Rationing. Yeah. And people become more together, more like a big family, when it came to that. Because they used to.

00:02:03 Speaker 2

Brought, like, communities closer together?

00:02:04 Speaker 1

Yeah community was closer together. And they had when they had rationing they also had you had to ration for your clothes, but there wasn't much material or wool going around. So what they used to do was they'd unravel, they go to things called jumble sales, which we don't have today, and they'd get old jumpers.

00:02:29 Speaker 1

And old skirts and everything. And at that time everyone was a good needle woman.

00:02:35 Speaker 1

And a good knitter, because of a case of having to [?]. So they used to unravel all the wool, wash.

00:02:42 Speaker 1

It and then dry it and then unpick it and rewind it, and knit it into a child's jumper or, you know, something like that they used to.

00:02:51 Speaker 2

Ohh yeah.

00:02:56 Speaker 1

Get old clothes, the same thing. Wash them, unpick all the seams, and maybe make a a dress for the for the child who has to go the children who have to go to school.

00:03:09 Speaker 1

And in them times your children were evacuated, and my mum told me that that her, she had three younger sisters because all her her other brothers and sisters were years older than her, they all started having their own family.

00:03:28 Speaker 1

When my mum when my mum and her three sisters.

00:03:31 Speaker 1

Were very young.

00:03:34 Speaker 1

So they took her to the they went. I can't remember where she said they took them to, but the lady wasn't very nice and the mum's older sister.

00:03:44 Speaker 2

Was it somewhere in Wales?

00:03:46 Speaker 1

Yeah, somewhere in Wales, but me mum's eldest sister used to look after them because at that time my grandmother had a very.

00:03:58 Speaker 1

Bad heart condition. So she more or less brought my mum and her two other sisters up, and she used to go and see.

00:04:06 Speaker 1

Them every week.

00:04:10 Speaker 1

And they'd say, 'Oh, I'm absolutely starving. We don't get nothing to eat. We don't she doesn't feed us. And she come one week and they had all raggedy clothes on, and they'd had nothing to eat all week. She said 'Right. That's it.' Punched the woman, punched the woman. Said, 'You're not treating my sisters like that' and took them home

00:04:29 Speaker 1

So she said, when they got home, they were absolutely starving. So she made them a big plate of chips and chip butties.

00:04:38 Speaker 1

Yeah, it was she said that was dead traumatic, being away from her own mum and her family. Yeah, yeah.

00:04:47 Speaker 2

My dad said the same when he was away.

00:04:48 Speaker 2

He was only five.

00:04:50 Speaker 2

And he just missed his mum. He said that he just missed his mum.

00:04:52 Speaker 1

Well, that's it. That's the thing that with a younger child, don't they, they miss their mum, they miss their Mum.

00:05:01 Speaker 2

So what do you think of, you know, the people who look like through the times?

00:05:06 Speaker 2

When you think of their lives?

00:05:08 Speaker 2

How would you sum it up?

00:05:09 Speaker 2

What do you think?

00:05:10 Speaker 1

Well, I think.

00:05:12 Speaker 1

Women were very brave in that time, because they all took men's jobs on. Train drivers, bus drivers.

00:05:19 Speaker 1

Truck drivers and it made more aware of what women can do, what they can do. And it's coming into fruition now.

00:05:26 Speaker 2

It certainly did.

00:05:31 Speaker 1

Where women are doing men's jobs, and vice versa now.

00:05:51 Speaker 2

[?]

00:05:51 Speaker 1

Yeah. So it's. Yeah, it's a bit more equal now for a woman in, like, this generation could do anything she wants. She puts her mind to it, she can do anything. Where at that time, women.

00:05:51 Speaker 1

Had to do it because there's nobody else to do it.

00:05:54 Speaker 1

And used to go.

00:05:54 Speaker 2

Yeah, they did [?].

00:05:54 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah. They used to go round and every front garden had an allotment, a bit of an allotment.

00:06:01 Speaker 1

But everything, if they overproduced they would share with their neighbours. I mean now you're lucky if you if you know your neighbours because they now they have to work. Man and woman have to work.

00:06:15 Speaker 1

To feed the children properly and everything.

00:06:17 Speaker 2

It was different times, wasn't it.

00:06:18 Speaker 1

Oh, completely different times because then you had aunties and uncles. It was those family.

00:06:24 Speaker 1

who were there to look after you in wartime. Whereas now, they're spending thousands of pounds in nurseries and more sometimes than, you know, more money than what they actually, what what what they'd actually some people earn. But yeah, so.

00:06:44 Speaker 1

I think that's my story. [?]

00:06:45 Speaker 2

OK. Thank you.

00:06:46 Speaker 2

Very much for participating. Thanks for coming today.

00:06:48 Speaker 1

Ohh, thank you. Bye bye.