

Interview based on an essay by a thirteen year old girl

Children evacuated to Oxford and Cambridge were asked to write essays explaining what they liked and disliked about their new homes. This is an extract from one of these essays written by a thirteen year old girl.

'There isn't much that I really like in Cambridge. I like the meadows and parks in the summer but it is too cold in the winter to go there. I miss my home in Tottenham and I would rather be there than where I am. I cannot find much to do down here. I miss my sister and my friends. I haven't any of my friends living in Newnham (Cambridge) where I live and I never know where to go on Saturday and Sunday as I have no one to go with. At home I can stop in on Saturday if it is cold, but I have to take my brother out because the lady in this house goes to work and sometimes it is too cold to go anywhere. I miss my cup of tea which I always have at home after dinner. I miss my mother's cooking because the lady does not cook very well.'

Interviewer: Hello I'm here to ask you a few questions, be as honest as you can. Right then, how old are you?

Girl: Thirteen.

Interviewer: So tell me girl, where did you live before you were evacuated?

Girl: Tottenham in London.

Interviewer: Right so Cambridgeshire must be much nicer. Do you like it here?

Girl: Not really mister, it's too cold here in the winter.

Interviewer: Is there anything you like about it?

Girl: Yes, I like playing in the meadows and parks – they're really nice.

Interviewer: What do you miss about your home?

Girl: I miss everything.

Interviewer: Go on.

Girl: Well I miss my Mum and my sister.

Interviewer: Why did your sister not come with you?

Girl: She was too old so she stayed in London; I've got my little brother with me.

Interviewer: That must be nice.

Girl: Yes it means I not too lonely but I miss all my friends from London

Interviewer: haven't you made any here?

Girl: No not really.

Interviewer: Are you well treated?

Girl: Yes, I suppose so, but the food isn't like my mother's – to be honest she just isn't as good a cook.

Interviewer: Well thank you very much for your time – you can run along now.

Girl: Goodbye mister.

Interviewer: Good bye.