



John Doughty

“Then, the really traumatic bit started. I can remember sitting on the floor cross-legged, I couldn’t cross my legs now. Cross-legged surrounded by very large people and I do remember a bright light which was hanging above us. And there was a selection procedure and it was astonishing, people went round selecting folk who I think there must have been about 15 to 20 children in the middle of this selection bit and the people went round saying “Oh she’s pretty we’ll have her, she can come” and another one saying “Oh yes he’ll help on the farm” and gradually they were whittled down until there was a grizzly fat little me sitting in the middle of the thing. Nobody wanted me and somebody said “well somebody’s got to take him” and a chap called Mr. McGill who I later became to recognise as a thoroughly nice fellow, and he said “Right OK we’ll take him” and I was sort of taken away, very beaten down and very sort of defeated. And so as I say that selection procedure is just about sitting on my shoulder still today.”