



MILTON KEYNES AT WAR

CRUSADES, CAMPAIGNS AND CONFLICTS

MY WAR STORY OF ESCAPING BOMBS IN THE EAST END OF LONDON

'I dropped to the floor!'



Joe Quinton aged 4
Photo courtesy of Joe Quinton

'Early in 1940, my gran and I were in an air-raid shelter in Hackney which received a direct hit. We were shocked but uninjured. I was evacuated shortly afterwards but was back home to my gran within six weeks. We moved into my aunt's house nearby, as our flat had been destroyed in a raid. My gran and I and my other aunt's baby daughter were evacuated again to Hopton, a village in Norfolk where we stayed for 18 months... A neighbour three houses away from us received a direct hit on their shelter and all died. My gran, two cousins and I were evacuated once more in 1943, this time to a wealthy family in Bolton, Lancashire who had just lost their son, an RAF fighter pilot. We returned to London in 1944, in time for the 'doodlebugs' - one came over when I was walking down Homerton High Street past St. Barnabas Church. I heard the engine stop, so I dropped to the floor. The bomb exploded, but due to the solid old stonewalls only the church roof was blown off, so I survived.'

Joe Quinton from Bletchley in Milton Keynes,
originally from East London