

deported from Cheltenham to Australia aged 6, 1947

'I can only remember fragments of life with my family in Belfast, most of what I know now my brothers told me and I got from files much later in life. Our mum died and dad couldn't look after the younger ones, but he came to see us and I remember he brought me sweets. Apparently he was told if we went to

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Australia we'd be given a good education, be fostered to a wealthy family and one day we could all be reunited. I never saw him again.

'The sexual assaults started from the day I arrived. Brother....used to follow me around like a dog on heat. It ran right through the place. And the floggings by Brother ... were terrifying, would come out of nowhere, whipping you with a belt, out of control and screaming in a rage. They used to prowl around at night and suddenly you'd be dragged out bed, stripped off and flogged in front of everyone. I was always petrified, watching over my back, waiting for the next attack. The Brothers sent me out alone into the fields withwhen I was only 12 and he raped me. They must have known he'd do it, that's how I was broken in.'

deported from Belfast aged 11, 1957

'I was in the care of the local authority in Bodmin and they sent me to Australia when I was about six. I don't understand it; I had a mother and sisters there and even if I couldn't live with them, I was no orphan and we could have been part of each others' lives, instead we had fifty years of loneliness.

'They sent me over to Fairbridge Farm School, told me it would be a real adventure, but it was just slave labour and hardship. One day when I was about 12, I was chopping firewood alone when the teenage sons of the principal and vice principal grabbed me from behind. They dragged me into the bush and tried to put a noose around my neck. They had it rigged up to a flying fox that went between two buildings. For maybe two minutes I fought as hard as I could – I fought for my life. I managed to somehow punch them both in the face and get away. Later I was more worried I'd get the cane for hitting them, than worried how they tried to hang me. Nobody would have ever believed me.'

deported from Cornwall, aged 6, 1953

'My parents separated in the war and mum could not work and look after

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