


EVA CUATION

WHAT IS EVACUATION?

Evacuation means leaving a place.

During the Second World War, many children living in big cities and towns were moved temporarily from their homes to places considered safer, usually out in the countryside.

It wasn't just children who were evacuated. Mothers of very young children, pregnant women, disabled people and some teachers were evacuated. The evacuated teachers stayed in the same village or town as their evacuated classes.



EVACUATION

DETAILS OF FACILITIES ARRANGED FOR

(1) OFFICIAL PARTIES
(TO BILLETS PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT)

Evacuation is available for

SCHOOL CHILDREN
MOTHERS with CHILDREN of School Age or under
EXPECTANT MOTHERS

(2) ASSISTED PRIVATE EVACUATION

A free travel voucher and billeting allowance are provided for

CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE or under
MOTHERS with CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE OR UNDER
EXPECTANT MOTHERS
AGED and BLIND PEOPLE
INFIRM and INVALIDS

who have made their own arrangements with relatives or friends for accommodation in a safer area

★ FOR INFORMATION ASK AT THE NEAREST SCHOOL

ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

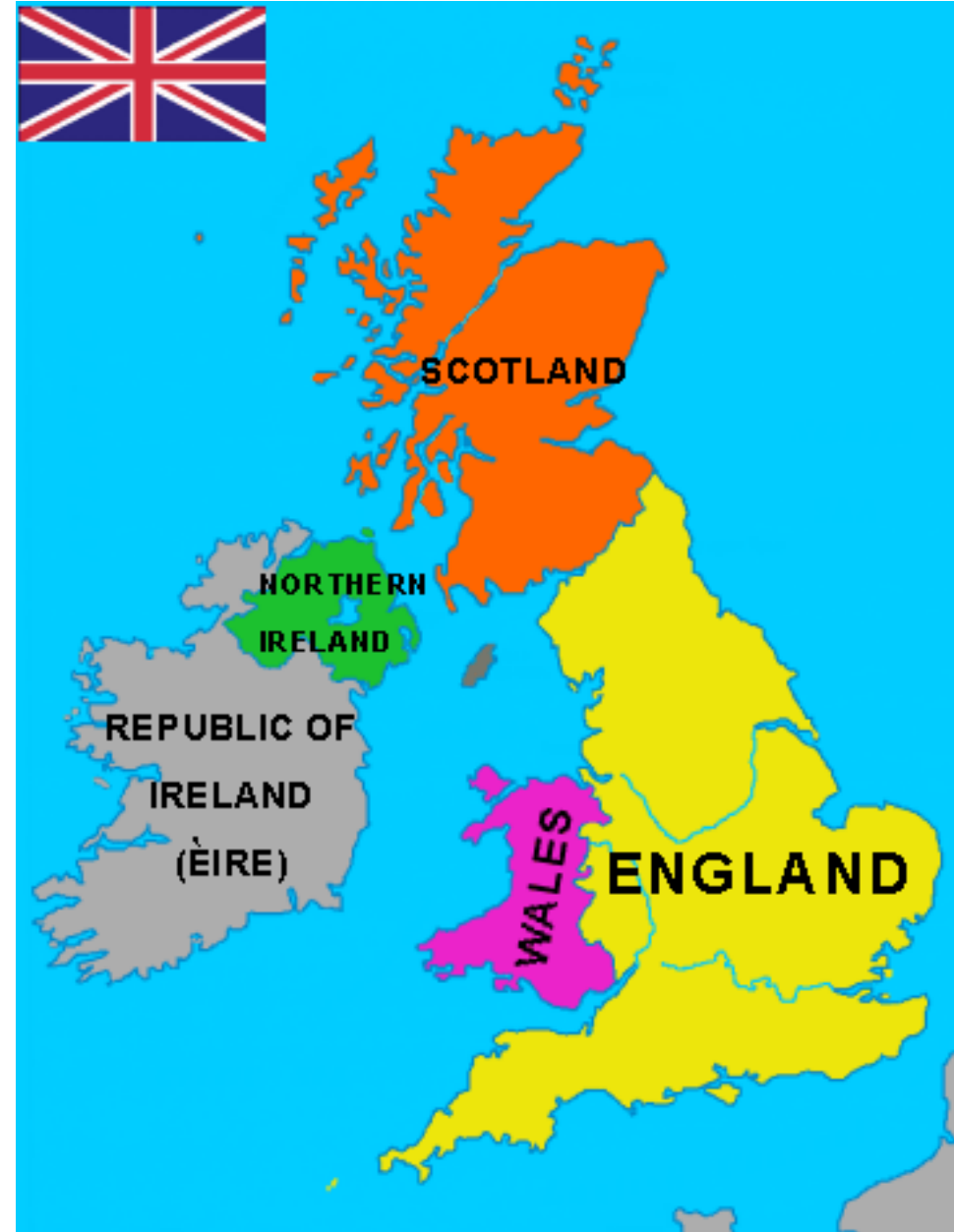
PH.21

During WW2, Sir John Anderson was placed in charge of Air Raid Precautions or ARP). He divided Great Britain into three areas:

1. Evacuation – areas where heavy bombing was expected.
2. Neutral – areas that would not need to send or receive evacuees.
3. Reception – rural areas where evacuees would be sent.



WHERE do you
think the Evacuation
and Reception
areas might have
been?
WHY?





EVACUATION OR
RECEPTION AREAS?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?



RIVER FRONT WITH PRINCES DOCK IN FOREGROUND, LIVERPOOL

The Government's plans to evacuate children (and others) from London and other cities came into effect on the 1st September 1939. Posters encouraged parents to send their children to safety.

The Government estimated that 3,500,000 people would be evacuated. In fact in the first four days of September 1939, 1,500,000 people took up the offer to evacuate to safer areas away from the major towns.



Whole schools were evacuated.

Many people preferred to stay at home and take their chances rather than saying goodbye to their loved ones.

The Government said that evacuation was purely voluntary and in no way would families be split if they didn't want to be.

Most families had never been apart from each other so it must have been very difficult for parents to decide whether to send their children away.

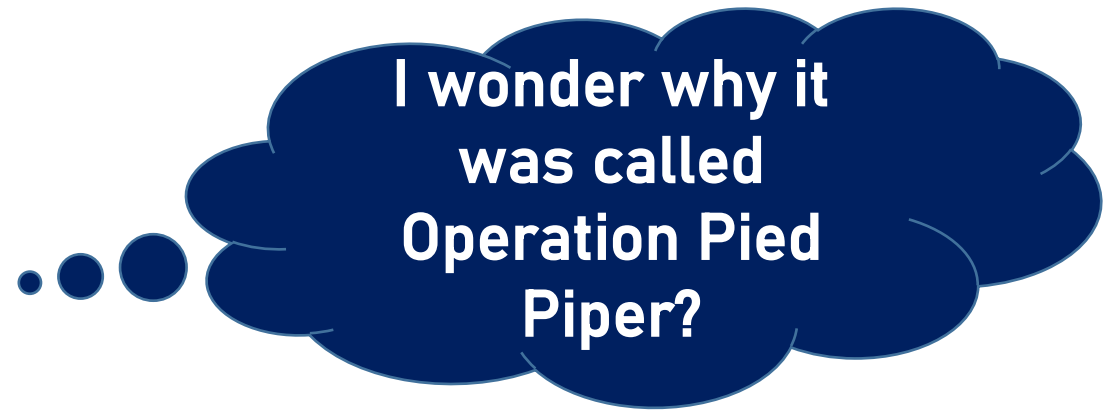
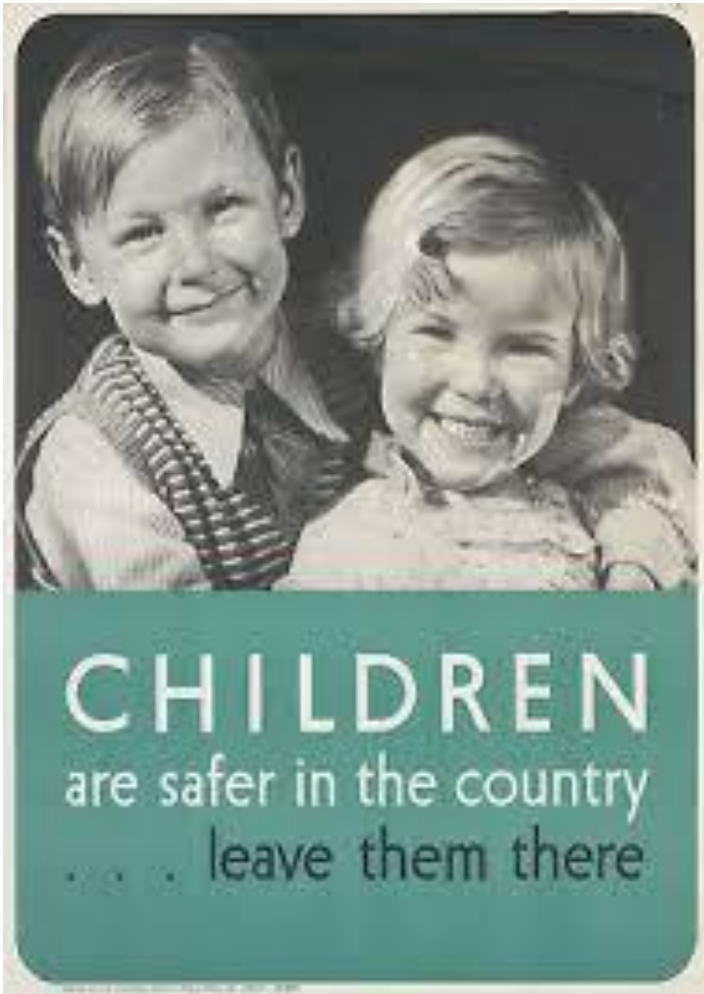


WHEN DID EVACUATIONS TAKE PLACE IN BRITAIN?

The first British evacuations began on Friday 1st September 1939 two days before the declaration of war.

It was called 'Operation Pied Piper'.

By January 1940 almost 60% had returned to their homes because there had been no air raids.





A second evacuation effort was started after the Germans had taken over most of France. From June 13 to June 18, 1940, around 100,000 children were evacuated (in many cases re-evacuated).

When the Blitz began on 7 September 1940, children who had returned home or had not been evacuated before were evacuated.

By the end of 1941, city centres, especially London, became safer.

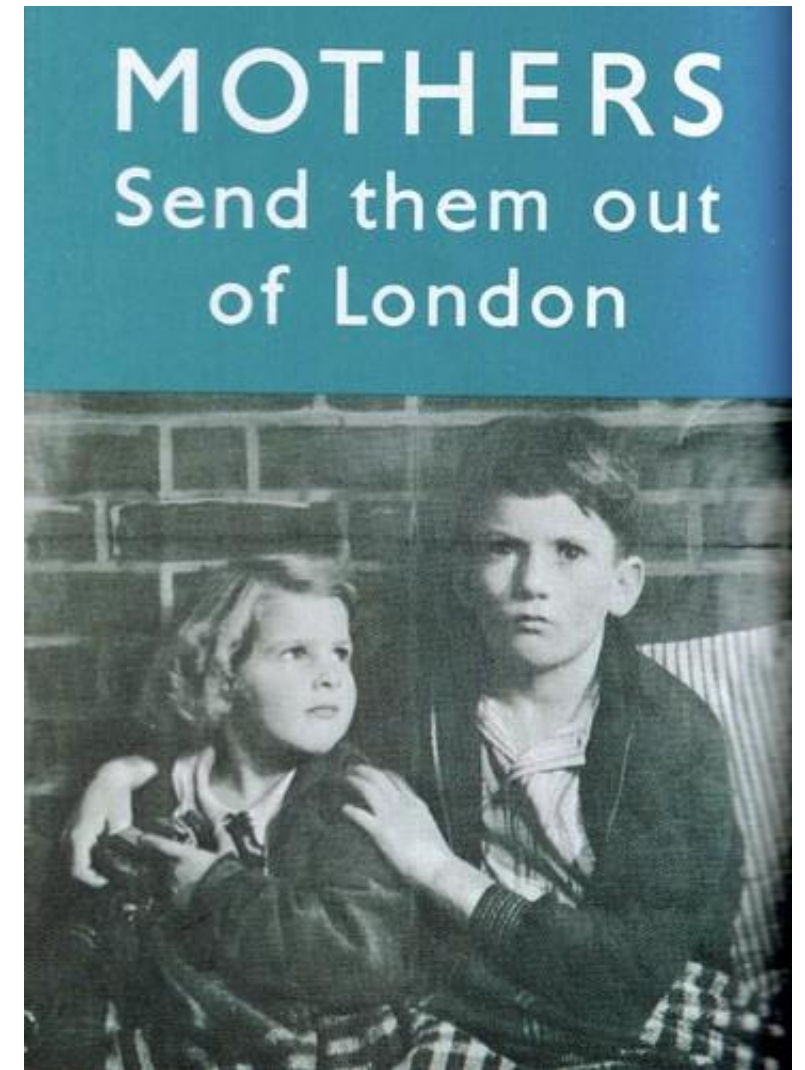
BUT.....

From June 1944, the Germans attacked again by firing V1 rockets on Britain, followed later by also V2 rockets. 1,000,000 women, children, elderly and disabled people were evacuated from London. This new way of attacking Britain carried on until the end of the war in Europe in May 1945.

V1 Flying bomb



The government issued posters to encourage parents to send their children out of London.



Would you have wanted to go?

What did evacuees take with them?



Items required as part of the Government Evacuation Scheme

The evacuees were all given a gas mask and they had food for the journey.

Every child had a label pinned to their clothing. This label stated the child's name, home address, school and destination.



- 1 vest
- 1 pair of pants
- 1 pair of trousers
- 2 pairs of socks
- Handkerchiefs
- 1 pullover or jersey



- 1 vest
- 1 pair of knickers
- 1 petticoat
- 2 pairs of stockings
- 1 blouse
- Handkerchiefs
- 1 slip
- 1 cardigan



- coat (overcoat or mackintosh)
- nightwear
- comb, towel, soap, face-cloth, toothbrush
- boots or shoes, plimsolls
- food (sandwiches, packets of nuts and seedless raisins, dry biscuits, barley sugar, apple, orange)
- gas masks

Evacuees On The Move



They took us to the railway station and put us on the train
We could all be very old before we see our homes again
Our mothers have all told us to take the rough with the smooth
And keep our spirits up because we're evacuees on the move

I've got my cardboard suitcase and a nametag round my neck
I've got a postcard in my pocket and a sandwich for the trek
I know I mustn't cry because what would that prove?
We're all brave little soldiers and evacuees on the move.

They sent us to the countryside to hide from Hitler's bombs
The cities won't be safe they said when Hitler comes along
We're not scared of Adolf, we think he's lost a screw
But it's hard to stay cheerful when you're evacuees on the move.

WHERE DID THEY GO?

Many of London's children were sent to Wales, Cornwall or Devon. Children were also evacuated to other rural areas, such as East Anglia. Several thousand children were evacuated overseas to Canada, Australia and the United States.

Haverhill was thought to be safe so it was classed as a Reception Area. Children and teachers from Page Green School in Tottenham were evacuated here.

One of the teachers from Page Gree School was called Mr Williams. He obviously liked it in Haverhill because he decided to live here after the war.



HOW DID THEY GET WHERE THEY WERE GOING?



WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THEY ARRIVED?

Evacuees went to live with host families. Their new homes were called 'billets'.

'Billeting officers' arranged for people to look after the children. Sometimes they didn't have enough volunteers.

Sometimes evacuees just stood in a line, and local people picked which children to take.

Efforts were made to keep evacuated brothers and sisters together, but this wasn't always possible.



Here is a register used by the Billeting Officer in Haverhill. The Billeting Officer had to find homes for the evacuees and make sure that the host received payment for looking after the evacuees.

(1) One child reached the age of 10 years

1 GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

PARISH HAVERHILL URBAN DISTRICT

PARISH

REGISTER OF BILLETS AND CHECK RECORD

OFFICE REFERENCE	BILLETING BOOK REFERENCE	HOUSEHOLDER'S NAME & ADDRESS	ADDRESS NAME OF EVACUEES	CLASS	BEDDING ISSUED		NUMBER TAKEN				FIRST PAYMENT DUE	WKLY AMOUNT PAYABLE		
					MATTRESSES	BLANKETS	CHILDREN	ADULTS	10/6	8/6		5/-	3/-	£
1	EA111446	Mrs G. Adams	Spencer Adams	Private			1				FEB 17 th 1940	10	6	
2	EA111525	2 Croft Row	(Child)											
4	BA244692	Mrs E. Ager	Lily Secomber	Priority				1				5		
5		19 Mill Hill	ADULT											
6	EA1114876	Mrs K. Alexander	George W. Crawford	Private			1				DEC 30 th 1940	10	6	
7		34 Princess Hill												
8	BA1114435	Mrs Allen	Mrs L. Rayner	Private				2			NOV 26 th 1940	10		
9		85 Madstocking Rd	Mrs L. Rayner											
10	EA111379	Mrs B. Allen	Trevor Owen	Priority			1	2			FEB 9 th 1940			
11		31 Mill Hill	Brian Owen				1	1			MAY 31 st 1940			
12														
13	BA111476	Mrs E. Alderton	Mrs Sybil Bromley	Priority					1		AUG 12 th 1940	5		
14	* See Folio 10	1 Broad St	Brian						1			3		
15	EA111377	Mrs Alderton	Frederick Simpson	Priority			1				MAR 5 th 1940	10	6	
16		23 Mill Hill												
17	BA713944	Mrs A. Alderton	Mrs Bray	Priority	36 Newark Rd				1	1	NOV 2 nd 1940	8	0	
18		6 Dawson St	Mrs "		Brixton									
19	BA713629	Mrs Andrews	Mrs Beavis	Priority	123 Chinnell Rd				1	2	SEPT 28 th 1940	11	0	
20		Langley Farm	Margaret "		Tottenham									
21			Albert "											

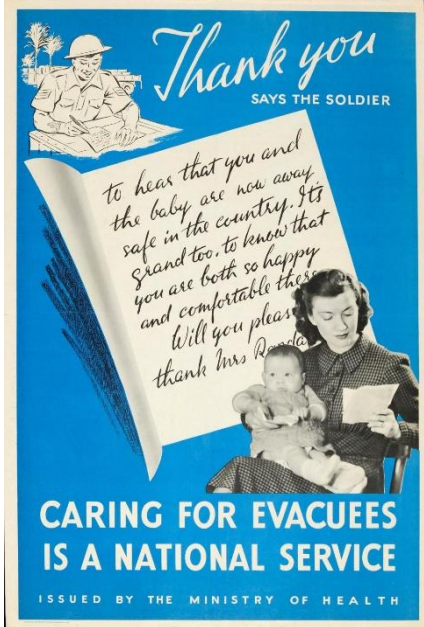
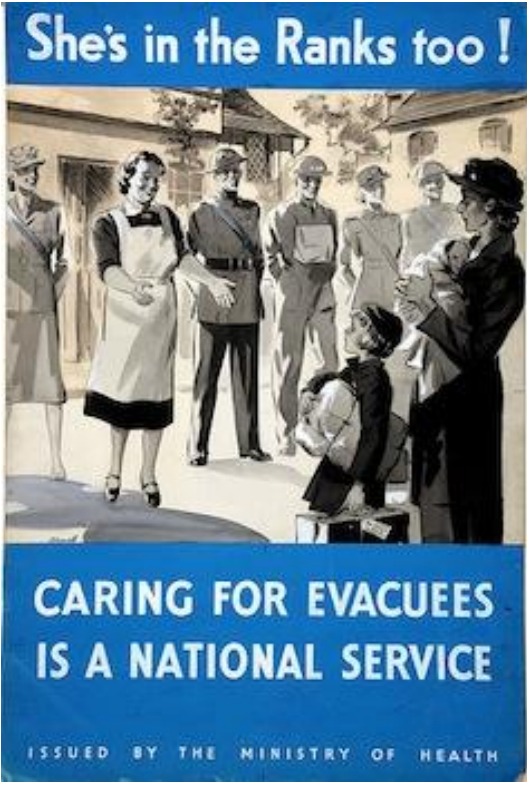
AID WEEKLY

S.E.T. No. 1 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945																											
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.
<p>Cancelled 12.10.40 see BA 111525</p> <p>06 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6</p> <p>Cancelled 20.11.40 returned home</p> <p>Cancelled 17.6.41 see BA 1115234</p> <p>11.1.41 returned home</p> <p>7.0.17.0 (A)</p> <p>July 1st 1940. Refund of 6/- collected</p> <p>0 0 Returned home 26.12.40</p> <p>0 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6 10 6</p> <p>Refund of 7/6 collected</p> <p>14.12.40 see BA 1114845</p> <p>Returned home 27.10.40</p>																											

Numbers 10 and 11 were two brothers, Trevor and Brian Owen who were billeted with Mr B Allen at 31 Mill Road. They went home in July 1940.

Numbers 19, 20 and 21 were Mrs Beavis and her two children, Margaret and Albert from Tottenham who were billeted with Mrs Andrews on her farm. They went home in October 1940.

THE GOVERNMENT PRODUCED POSTERS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO LOOK AFTER EVACUEES.





***DON'T do it,
Mother—***

**LEAVE YOUR CHILDREN
IN THE SAFER AREAS**

ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Look at this is a government propaganda poster about evacuation:

- Who is the ghostly figure whispering 'Take them back!'?
- Where is he pointing?
- What does he want the mother to do and why?
- Why might this mother be tempted to 'Take them back'?
- Why were civilians evacuated during the Second World War?



**What is
propaganda?**

Life for evacuees

Though evacuees missed their homes, many enjoyed the country. Country life was full of surprises. Some city children had never seen a cow, and were amazed to see where milk came from.



Seeing carrots growing in muddy fields, one child said in amazement 'Ours come in tins!'.



Many evacuees became friends with the local children and, in many cases, stayed in touch with their host family after the end of World War 2.

Evacuees and their parents would keep in touch by writing letters to each other.



Children who were evacuated were able to do things that they would never have been able to do in the city.



When did Evacuation end?

The war in Europe ended in May 1945 but evacuation did not officially end until March 1946.

The Government began to make travel arrangements to return the evacuees to their homes in April 1945.

More than 100 trains were used to bring 54,317 evacuees home to London by 12th July 1945.



Host families wave goodbye to evacuees.



Evacuees were thrilled to be home at last.

Most evacuees had returned home long before March 1946 but there were still 5,200 who were living with their host families when evacuation officially ended.