



Source 1

Memo. Ev. 4

## GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

### MEMORANDUM.

4. The objective has been therefore to provide facilities for the removal from certain large crowded areas, in which the effects of air attack would be most serious, of certain groups of people whose removal is desirable on both national and humanitarian grounds, and to transfer them to districts where the primary purpose of dispersal can be achieved. This has involved an order of priority as regards both the classes of persons to be transferred and the towns to be evacuated, and the provisional allocation of other districts as receiving areas.

#### *Priority classes.*

5. The classes of persons to whom priority is to be given under the Government Scheme are:—

- (1) school children in organised units in charge of their teachers;
- (2) children of pre-school age accompanied by their mothers or other persons responsible for looking after them;
- (3) expectant mothers;
- (4) the adult blind and cripple population so far as removal may be feasible.

The information to be given should include information as to the points of assembly and the amount and kind of hand luggage which can be conveyed. A full list should include the child's gas mask, a change of underclothing, night-clothes, house-shoes or plimsolls, spare stockings or socks, a toothbrush, comb, towel and handkerchiefs, a warm coat or mackintosh, and a packet of food for the day. The children should be sent away wearing their thickest and warmest footwear.



# EVACUATION *When did evacuation start in Britain?*

## Source 2

### (2) The Evacuation of September, 1939.

The order for evacuation to commence was received at County Hall at 11.7 a.m. on Thursday, 31st August, and was immediately circulated by an agreed system of "signals". The operation commenced promptly the next morning.

The parties travelling by rail assembled at 1,589 points and passed through controls to one or other of 168 entraining stations. Eleven exchange stations were used in the transfer of parties from the London Passenger Transport Board system to the main line railways. The parties detrained at 271 stations in the reception area. It was early realised that the expected numbers of evacuees were not being realised and the operations were speeded up so that they were practically completed on the third day, a day earlier than had been originally intended. A grand total of more than 600,000 were evacuated without a mishap or a casualty. This total included 9,500 in 300 special parties of handicapped and nursery children who travelled by road all the way to their wide-spread destinations on the first day, and 3,823 women within one month of confinement and 2,068 blind adults who travelled similarly by road on the second day. The official figures showed that about one half of the people catered for had taken advantage of the facilities offered. The Minister of Health expressed his warm personal thanks and congratulations to the Council on the efficiency of the operation.

The main evacuation was followed by supplemental evacuation which dragged on into the early part of 1940. This was subjected to many delays due almost entirely to the inability or unwillingness of reception authorities to provide billets for sizable groups of children seeking to join their own school parties. About 7,500 children were taken into the appropriate reception areas and another 8,000 remained unevacuated for some months as the requisite billets were not forthcoming.

*London County Council Study of Evacuation 1940*



# EVACUATION *When did evacuation start in Britain?*

## EVACUATION.

Broadcast by the Minister of Health, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald  
on the 30th May, 1940.

On this occasion war is going to be brought right home to this island. The same indiscriminate, savage air attacks on our industrial cities and towns as have been experienced by our Allies on the Continent must be expected.

The enemy certainly will not desist from that in our case; rather he will endeavour to strike us most hard and most mortally, for herein this island is one of the decisive, the indomitable centres of resistance to his will.

It has been the Government's declared policy that no further organised evacuation should take place until bombing has actually started. Well, that time may be very near. And the Government with the full facts and prospects of the war situation before them, feel that the risk of that early bombing is so real that it is right to make as complete as possible now the plans for this evacuation.

It may not be necessary to start evacuation in all the evacuation areas on the same date. But in the light of the latest position the Government have decided that it may very possibly be necessary to commence the movement, in some places in the course of next week.

*Broadcast by Minister of Health Mr. Malcolm MacDonald on 30 May 1940*



# EVACUATION *When did evacuation start in Britain?*

## Source 4

EVACUATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM EASTERN COUNTIES BY SPECIAL TRAINS ON SUNDAY, 2nd JUNE, 1940.							
Evacuation Area.	No. of Passers.	Straining Station.	Time	Destination	Local Authority	No. of Passers.	Time of Arrival.
Great Yarmouth C.D.	800	Yarmouth Vauxhall.	8.0	Workoop	Workoop R.D.	800	1.23 p.m.
	(249)	" "	7.30	Workoop	Workoop R.D.	249	1.23
	(800)	" "	9.30	Newark (12+4)	Newark R.D.		2.55
		" "	9.30	Tuxford			3.16
		" "	9.30	Retford	East Retford R.D.	800	3.33
	1,000	" "	10.30	Bawtry			3.58
		" "	10.30	Retford (12+4)	East Retford R.D.	1,000	4.16
	800	" "	Noon				
	800	" "	12.0	Bingham	Bingham R.D.	800	5.21
Lowestoft E.	750	Lowestoft Cent.	7.54	Glossop	Glossop R.D.	750	2.17
	750	" "	8.54	"	"	750	3.17
	700	" "	9.54	Glossop (12+4)	Glossop R.D.	700	3.35
	750	" "	10.54	Shirebrook North	Blackwell R.D.	750	4.57
	400	" "	11.24	Worsop	Worsop U.D.	400	5.27
	400	" "	11.24	Worsop	Worsop R.D.	400	5.39
Felixstowe U.D.	710	Felixstowe Town.	8.0	Brossogrove (12+4)	Brossogrove R.D.	600	3.32
				Hedditon (12+4)	Hedditon U.D.	110	4.17
Harwich E.	300	Harwich	8.10	Dursley (12+4)	Dursley R.D.	395	5.0
	400	Dovercourt	8.17	Thornbury (12+4)	Thornbury R.D.	400	5.30
	93	Parkeston	8.25	Dursley (12+4)	Dursley R.D.		
Harwich E.	90	Harwich	9.0	Leominster (12+4)	Leominster & Wigmore R.D.	500 <sup>*</sup>	6.30
	390	Dovercourt	9.7	Kington (12+4)	(Kington U.D.)	295 <sup>*</sup>	7.25
	21	Parkeston	9.15		(Kington R.D.)		
Glaston U.P.	76	Glaston	10.15	Droitwich	Droitwich R.D.	300	6.20
				Kidderminster (12+4)	Kidderminster R.D.	464	7.0
Glaston	54	"	11.5	Strood	Strood R.D.	789	8.15
Trinton & Walton U.D.	225	Walton	11.5				

<sup>\*</sup> Includes in these numbers are 292 ex Manningtree - See PLAN III, Page 5.  
<sup>†</sup> Indicates areas with facilities for Roman Catholic worship.

*Evacuation of School Children from Eastern Counties by special trains on 2 June 1940*



# EVACUATION *When did evacuation start in Britain?*

## WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE.

Leaflet for Householders who have offered to take unaccompanied children.

### 1. Responsibility.

When you receive unaccompanied children into your home you will be expected to control and care for them as if they were your own. If any difficulty should arise consult your Local Authority, i.e. the Clerk to the local Council or whoever has been appointed to act for him in your town or village.

### 2. Payment.

You will receive 10s/6d a week for one child or 8s/6d a week for each child if you are taking more than one. This covers full board and lodging but not clothes or medical expenses.

You will be given a form by the billeting officer which will be cashed at the local Post Office. Payment will be made weekly in advance.

### 3. Rations.

*The children will have been*  
You will receive emergency rations to cover the first 48 hours, and it is hoped that there will not be a rush in the shops.

### 4. Bedding and clothes.

Children will not bring any bedding with them. If you need extra tell your local authority. The children will have hand luggage with a change of clothes. When the clothes, boots or shoes need repairing or replacing, if the parents have not sent further supplies, you should report to the local authority.

### 5. Illness.

If any of the children billeted with you become ill send for the local Doctor or District Nurse in the ordinary way. They will have extra staff for this purpose and be paid by the local authority.

### 6. Education.

Arrangements will be made for the children to continue their education, and in consequence the schools may have to work in shifts.

### 7. Communal Meals.

In some districts it may be possible to arrange for the children to have their mid-day meal at or near the school. If the children in your charge have meals at the Communal Kitchen you would have to pay a small sum out of the payment you receive.

*Draft leaflet for householders who have offered to take unaccompanied children WVS leaflet c. June 1939*



# EVACUATION *When did evacuation start in Britain?*

Source 5 (pg2)

## Simple rules for the care of children.

In order to keep a child healthy and happy the diet must be well balanced with plenty of changes.

Children should be fed at regular hours, the heaviest meal being in the middle of the day, and the last meal should preferably be at least one hour before bed-time; three meals a day is generally considered best.

If possible a child should have a pint of milk daily, a certain amount of which may be included in the cooking.

Children should be given plenty of water to drink. Also fresh green vegetables, tomatoes and fruits (especially oranges) to eat whenever possible.

They should not be allowed to take violent exercise or bathe immediately after a meal.

Baths should be given as often as possible, but at least once a week. It would be better to have a tin basin of fresh water for each child than to allow them to share a bath.

Mark clearly and keep separate each child's face flannel, towel, toothbrush, brush and comb and other personal belongings.

Bedroom windows should be kept open at night and it should be remembered that young children need 11 hours sleep.

Make sure you have some bandages and lint for minor accidents and the District Nurse will advise you on what remedies to keep in the house.

If you can spare the time to do so, you are strongly recommended to attend any lectures on Home Nursing or Child Welfare that may be available.

Do not forget that the children will be in strange surroundings and may be homesick. You should therefore watch them carefully for the first few days.

*Draft leaflet for householders who have offered to take unaccompanied children WVS leaflet c. June 1939*



# EVACUATION *When did evacuation start in Britain?*

Source 5 (pg3)

(Back of Leaflet).

Specimen meals suitable for a child of school age are given below:-

DIETARY.

<u>BREAKFAST.</u>	<u>DINNER.</u>	<u>TEA</u> (with an apple and perhaps bread and butter before going to bed).
1. Weak tea or milk Porridge or other cereal, milk and sugar Bread and dripping or butter.	Roast beef or mutton Potatoes Greens Currant Roll.	Weak tea or milk Bread and butter Cheese Jam
2. Weak tea or milk Cold ham Bread and butter.	Lentil Soup or Minced meat and tomatoes Potatoes Jam Tart.	Weak tea or milk Bread and butter Lettuce or watercress.
3. Weak tea or milk Fried bacon Bread and butter.	Stewed steak and onions Potatoes Carrots Baked bread pudding.	Cocoa or milk Bread and butter Jam
4. Weak tea or milk Porridge, milk and sugar Bread and butter Jam.	Steak pudding Potatoes Greens Raw fruit (Orange or apple).	Weak tea or milk Potted meat Bread and butter.
5. Weak tea or milk Fried potatoes Bread and jam.	Boiled Silverside Potatoes Carrots Milk Pudding.	Weak tea or milk Cheese Bread and butter Dates.
6. Weak tea or milk Egg Bread and butter.	Steak Pie Potatoes Beans or peas Raw fruit (Orange or apple).	Cocoa or milk Bread and butter Jam.
7. Weak tea or milk Porridge, milk and sugar Bread and butter or dripping	Hot-pot Boiled Apricot Pudding.	Weak tea or milk Cheese Bread and butter.
8. Weak tea or milk Herrings Bread and butter.	Meat and vegetable pie Potatoes Stewed fruit and custard sauce	Cocoa or milk Bread and butter Watercress or Lettuce Cake
9. Weak tea or milk Porridge or other cereal, milk and sugar Bread and butter or dripping	Fish Pie or Fish Cakes Pickled beetroot Boiled apple pudding.	Cocoa or milk Potted meat Salad Bread and butter.
10. Cocoa or milk Finnan haddock Bread and butter	Stewed Liver and onions or Stewed rabbit or mutton Potatoes Greens, Milk pudding.	Weak tea or milk Baked beans and tomatoes

*Draft leaflet for householders who have offered to take unaccompanied children WVS leaflet c. June 1939*