

## Memoirs of Evacuated Children during World War 2

### D EVAC A

Records at this level relate to children evacuated within and living in Great Britain

The Collection covers the year's c.1939-c.1945; c.1990s-c.2010.

The physical extent of the collection is c. 25 boxes.

**D EVAC A/1**      Memoirs of Evacuated Children to places in Britain during World War 2  
c.1939-c.1945; c.1990s-c.2010  
Records at this level relate to children evacuated within and living in Great Britain

c. 25 boxes

**D EVAC A/1/4**      Evacuee memoir: John Carter  
1939, 2000  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Walthamstow to Langham, Rutland  
Maynard Road School  
[Former reference number WA4]

1 folder

**D EVAC A/1/9**      Evacuee memoir: Pamela D. Daymond  
1941, 2004  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Beckenham, Kent to Exeter  
[Former reference number WA11]

1 folder

**D EVAC A/1/10**      Evacuee memoir: Norma Elsegood  
c. 1939-1941, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Chingford to Baldock, Hertfordshire  
Grove House Boarding School  
[Former reference number WA12]

## Museum of English Rural Life

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/12**

Evacuee memoir: Ethel M. Green nee Cronk  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2000s  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to  
Wellingborough, Northamptonshire

Ethel lived in the east end of London, with parents and younger brother. She was evacuated to Wellington, Northamptonshire and her evacuation lasted for three years. She did not see her family due to cost of travel; her father maintained correspondence. She remembers living in very little means within her family home in London, describing their home as small and unclean. This contrasts to her later middleclass foster housing, which was filled with books, music, great food and educated conversation of which she grew increasingly fond.

Ethel subsequently struggled with a sense of identity between two childhood living circumstances; she felt she was torn between the love of her family and the comfort offered through evacuation homes. This conflict never truly felt resolved and complicated feelings of guilt and betrayal arose in light of her growing affection for her foster family as well as her preferred middle-class surroundings. Ethel particularly recalls being called a snob by a Cockney uncle, but felt her love and care for her family was untainted by her experiences and remained steadfast in her interactions with them.

Ethel's sense of diaspora was only solved upon adulthood and establishment of her independent life with her husband. She was able to harmonise the love of her family with her desire for organisation, hygiene and comfort in her surroundings.

[Former reference number WA18]

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### **D EVAC A/1/13**

Evacuee memoir: Dennis Lamb  
1940-2003  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Westcliff-on-Sea,  
Essex to Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

Attended the Technical Department of the Municipal College in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. Evacuated in 1940 to Forest Town (near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire), aged 14. Rejoined his family after three months, when they relocated from Essex to Slough.

## Museum of English Rural Life

Memoir describes the evacuation trip from Southend to Forest Town, with classmates from the Technical College. Details include the huge number of children waiting at the train station, the experience of seeing new landscapes for the first time, and feeling important as crowds along the route waved to the train. Dennis describes how they were not told their destination until arriving in Mansfield, and feeling amazed at being as far as 150 miles from home. Memoir also recounts waiting to be selected by a family at the school in Forest Town, and feeling disappointed when Dennis was not billeted with his friend Frank.

Dennis was billeted with Mrs. and Mr. S (a coal miner), and their 11-year-old daughter. Memoir recounts feeling isolated and shy around the family, not being used to their Nottinghamshire accents, and that Mrs. S was not very affectionate despite trying her best to welcome him. Memoir then recalls Dennis being transferred to another billet with the widow Mrs. H, after Mrs. S read a letter he had written to his mother where he described being unhappy. Dennis recounts that Mrs. H was 'motherly', but the billet was not ideal as he had to share a bed with another boy who he felt did not bathe enough and who stole sweets from him.

Memoir describes a mixed experience with evacuation. Dennis describes enjoying school, spending time with Frank at Mr. and Mrs. T's house (until Frank chose to return home), exploring the surrounding area on a bicycle lent to him by Mr. and Mrs. T's son Angus, and getting to experience life in Nottinghamshire. However, he also describes wishing for a friend at his billet, especially after Frank left, and being deprived of a creative outlet with no after-school activities.

Lastly, memoir recalls leaving Forest Town after three months to join his family in Slough, where they had relocated for safety. He describes participating in overnight fire watches at the aircraft factory he worked at, as well as the frequent air raid sirens, enemy aircraft flying low over the town, and the smoke screen used to hide local industry.

[Former reference number WA23]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/14**

Evacuee memoir: George Lucy  
1939, 2001

Consists of details of his evacuation from Liverpool to Bangor  
Liverpool Institute

Memoir describes his time as an evacuee in 1939, aged 14. He

## Museum of English Rural Life

attended The Liverpool Institute, Liverpool and lived in poverty due to ill parents. Evacuated near to Bangor with a classmate, Bill, George remembers writing a letter home to his mother which led to further communication about money for his foster landlady, Mrs Tomkins. Bill's parents sent money to Mrs Tomkins, but George could afford not do the same.

Memoir includes two additional documents:

1. A copy of a letter from J.R. Edwards Headmaster of The Liverpool Institute, Mount Street, Liverpool, c/o The Central School, Bangor - dated 11th October 1939.
2. A letter from George Lucy to his mother, describing recent events of his life as an evacuee in Bangor.

[Former reference number WA25]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/15**

Evacuee memoir: Jill Constance Murch nee Mayersbach  
1944, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Builth Wells

[Former reference number WA27]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/18**

Evacuee memoir: Tony Prior  
c. 1939-1945, 2003  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Edmonton and Sidcup to Castleton, Clacton and Leeds  
Marshfield Church School  
[Former reference number WA32]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/19**

Evacuee memoir: Evelyn Margaret Robertson, nee Spencer  
c. 1939-1945, 2002  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Canterbury and Reading  
St. Winifreds at Lee

Attended St. Winifred's School, Lee, London, SE6. Evacuated to Chilham near Canterbury, Kent for several months, before returning to South East London. She was then evacuated again to Reading, Berkshire until the end of the war. While in Reading

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she attended school on premises known as 'Mockbeggar' by Whiteknights Park Lake.

Memoir discusses the layout of Mockbeggar, her various billets in Grange Avenue near Palmer Park including with an aunt, descriptions of shops on St. Edward's Road, Wokingham Road, St. Peter's Road and Crescent Road. Memoir also recounts visits to St. James' Church and the Convent Church, swimming in the Thames and the baths near the Wokingham Road cemetery, along with playing in South Lake and an air raid strike on the 'People's Pantry' restaurant in Friar Street.  
[Former reference number WA35]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/20**

Evacuee memoir: Diana Cynthia Searby, nee Sweetland  
c. 1939-1945, 2001  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Axminster, Aylesbury and Tregaron  
Axminster County School  
[Former reference number WA36]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/21**

Evacuee memoir: Ulric Spencer  
1939-2002  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Liddington, Rutland  
Bellevue, Willesden and Dunstable Grammar School.

(Titled: "Experiences of an evacuee, 1939-1941: from the largest city to the smallest county")

Attended Belle Vue prep school, Willesden. Called home early from a summer trip to Brussels in August 1939 (age 9), and then evacuated with his brother's school (William Ellis, Gospel Oak) to Lyddington, Rutland. Later moved to Leighton Buzzard but eventually returned to billet in Lyddington until he was reunited with his parents in 1941.

Memoir describes evacuating from London to Rutland, involving waiting at his brother's school for ten days with nothing to do until the school was called to evacuate, and once on the train not knowing their destination until they arrived. Memoir recounts that Ulric and his brother were allocated to a young couple with a new baby, but were soon re-billeted with another young couple, Mr and Mrs C, as the first couple could not manage with two extra boys.

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Memoir recalls memorable aspects of Lyddington such as living without running water in the house, helping with housework, and being taught carpentry and brick laying skills. Ulric also describes his year at the village school as frustrating, as he tested above the top level of the curriculum.

Memoir then describes moving to Leighton Buzzard, in order for classes in Ulric's brother's school to be in the same location. The brothers were billeted with a couple in the suburb of Linslade. Ulric recalls tending to the 300 chickens in the yard, and catching lice at the local junior school. At the end of the school term, Ulric's brother returned to London to attend technical college, and Ulric returned to stay with Mr and Mrs C in Lyddington as his parents had moved to Luton and did not have space for him. Memoir recalls attending Stamford School and being pleased with the education, until he missed the end of term due to an outbreak of scarlet fever. Other memories include having eczema caused by malnutrition, being shot at by a German plane while waiting at the station, and seeing a German raid on Corby and British planes heading out on a 'thousand bomber' raid on Germany. Memoir then describes moving to Dunstable to be with his parents and attending Dunstable Grammar.

Ulric describes the evacuation experience as one he would not have chosen, but that it was an enriching and unforgettable time. He kept in touch with Mr and Mrs C for the rest of their lives.

[Former reference number WA37]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/22**

Evacuee memoir: Jean Spruce  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2000s  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Liverpool to Vroncysyllte, Llangollen  
[Former reference number WA38]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/23**

Evacuee memoir: Margaret Webb  
c.1939-1945, c. 2004  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to New Bradwell, Buckinghamshire

Lived in Stratford East London during the Blitz with an Anderson

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shelter in the garden. The family were safely in there when their area was bombed. Their house was damaged and other properties were on fire but none of them were hurt.

She was then evacuated to New Bradwell, Buckinghamshire where she discovered and enjoyed the beauty of the countryside, a canal and a river. After a while she went back to her family who had been rehoused in Ilford. Then in 1942 went to a boarding school near Marlow and was there for VE Day. Later she returned to Ilford and was in London for VJ Day.

[Former reference number WA40]

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### **D EVAC A/1/24**

Evacuee memoir: Bernard Webb  
c.1939-1945, c. 2004  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Godalming, Surrey  
Sir Walter, St. Johns School and Godalming County School.

In August 1939 Bernard, aged 11, was about to start at his new grammar school, Sir Walter St John's in Battersea, London. Pupils were invited to join the school early in order to be evacuated together. At the end of August they were taken to Farncombe, Surrey, and bussed to the County School in Godalming to be allocated billets. Bernard and three other boys, Stuart, Wiseman and Wright, went to Mr and Mrs Harrison at 'Overdene', a large house with servants. War was declared but this didn't register with the children. Schooling was difficult because the County School was full, and pupils had to move between different venues. Eventually they used the County School, a prep-school and Charterhouse School.

After 6 months Bernard and Stuart moved into a new billet with Mrs Barnes, a war widow. She too had servants and looked after the boys well. However, they had to move again. Stuart returned to London while Bernard moved in with Mr and Mrs Bulman in a council house on Ockford Ridge. His classmate, Ernie Penfold, joined him. They observed dogfights during the Battle of Britain and Mr Bulman was called up, meaning another move for the children.

The next accommodation was a 'transit camp' in Peperharrow Road, where there was a warden (Mr Pratt) and about 20 boys. There was bullying by older boys. After 4 months the boys

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obtained a billet in Farncombe with the Goodeves where they were treated well. Schoolmasters monitored the billets and had a good relationship with the billeting officer. In September 1941 the boys moved to Jim and Ella Waller where they helped by looking after some 70 chickens. The Wallers held religious services in their sitting room followed by homemade wine which the boys shared.

After 3 years Bernard rejoined his mother and younger brother Ron in London. He reflects on his positive experiences in Surrey. He attended the South West London Emergency Secondary School on Clapham Common together with boys from various grammar schools. He obtained his School Certificate, but couldn't stay on for 'Higher Schools' because he needed to start work. His first post was clerk in an accountants' in the City.

Later the family home was destroyed but they all survived. Bernard's mother and Ron were evacuated, leaving Bernard with his father. He worked all over London during the period of V2s and Doodlebugs, and joined the celebrations on VE and VJ nights.

[Former reference number WA40]

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### **D EVAC A/1/25**

Evacuee memoir: Sheila Williams, nee Payne  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Clun, Shropshire.

Sheila attended Trinity County Wood Green School, London N22. She recalls aged 13, walking home, on the last day of term in the summer of 1939, with her form mother, R.A. Jones. Sheila then describes her father immediately sending her to stay with her Aunt Elsie, who kept the post office in Clun, Shropshire. Her father stayed in London working at a Mount Pleasant engineering substation, supplying power for the post office underground railway. Sheila's sister and niece also joined her in Clun. On September 3rd 1939 they all gathered around the radio, where World War II was declared. Sheila's father joined them and rented a family home in Clun Square. Sheila describes her enjoyment for country pursuits like picking mushrooms, finding watercress, and swimming near the old Clun Castle grounds.

Sheila reflects largely on her education in Clun, describing it as an unhappy and difficult time due to being treated like an



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outsider. She attended Bishop's Castle County High for a year, but due to a disagreement about her not being entitled to attend that school, she attended Clun Village School for six months, which also catered for a group of children from Bootle, Liverpool. Going back to Bishop's Castle County High, she was behind in her schooling as she had missed many important lessons. At 15 ¼ she left school for good.

She then describes her enjoyment at going out to work in the Clun post office. Six months later, she went to work at the head post office in Mon, Newport. There she had her own lodgings, and at the Post Office Social Club, she met her future husband, who was trained in the R.A.F in South Africa. He then transferred to the Fleet Air Arms. They married in Newport in 1946 and returned to Sheila's family home to accept the ex-servicemen's college grant, where her husband would gain a BSc Engineering and become a lecturer.

[Former reference number WA42]

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### **D EVAC A/1/34**

Evacuee memoir: Nella Hughes-Smith  
c.1939, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of taking in evacuees from London.

Nella moved to Waltham St. Lawrence in March, 1938, from London. In August 1939, at a meeting in the Village Hall, they were informed of evacuees from London coming to the village, referred to as 'Shadow Trekkers'. The village hall had stores of tins of biscuits, tea and dried milk, and also first aid kits ready for distribution. Villagers were told how many children per household.

Evacuees arrived in coaches from East Ham with name labels pinned to their coats. Each had a gas mask and small suitcase. They were taken to their new homes by car.

An evacuee called Mary, aged 14, and her 5-year-old brother, 'Tiddler' were placed with Nella. Their 10-year-old sister, Dolly, had been placed with another household, but was taken in by Nella so that the family was not separated. Nella states that the proceedings went smoothly and that the village coped well.

[Former reference number WA53]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/36**

Evacuee memoir: Jean Cook, nee Wallace  
c.1939-1945, c.2003

Consists of booklet entitled Happy Vacky - Reminiscences of a Second World War Evacuee to Glemsford in Suffolk, including Extracts from the Diary of Prof A.D. Wilshere, the official in charge of the evacuation, by Jean Cook, together with a copy of a list of evacuees, and their addresses and letters and extracts from Prof A.D. Wilshere's diary  
[Former reference number WA55]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/37**

Evacuee memoir: Gordon Abbott  
c.1939-1945, 2000

Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Bude, Cornwall  
[Former reference number WA57]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/40**

Evacuee memoir: Eric Armstrong  
c.1939, 1999

Consists of diary extracts of his evacuation to Stroud, Gloucestershire

Memoir consists of 15 diary extracts covering the period from November 1939 to July 1940. The diary records day-to-day events in his three billets in Stroud, Gloucestershire, and at school. His age is not stated, but he mentions studying the Communist Manifesto and being interviewed about employment, indications of an advanced stage of schooling.

His first billet in 1939 was with Frank and Amy Wheatley at School House. They were school caretakers. He recalls Amy's sister who lived next door and once gave him and his friends, Choobe and Syd, a lift to Gloucester in her car. They visited Born Marché and the cathedral. He refers to taking a new evacuee from the station to a billet in Ebley.

The entries from early January 1940 are written at home during the Christmas break. He went to 'the Villa Cross' with his girl friend Margaret, referring to a 'good programme'. There are references to Uncles Walter, George and Arthur, Aunt Lil, and Audrey, as well as other friends and relatives.

He returned to Stroud on January 3 and remarks on the smaller number of children on the train. Mr Wheatley was now in poor health and Eric helped his wife, stoking the fires for the school

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heating. Eric would go to the pictures at the Ritz and during the cold weather he went tobogganing, cycled through the snow and played on the ice on the River Severn. The local hunt at Quedgely was cancelled, probably because of the bad weather.

In February, Eric was back at home and mentions walking across Handsworth Park in Birmingham. On his return to Stroud his second billet was 'Stafford House'. He refers to 'the Captain' and Mrs Robertson, the cook. Eric was impressed by the garden and the view.

In July 1940 Eric moved to his third billet, Northfield, a large private house that eventually housed 40-50 boys. A food parcel from his mother awaited him. At school he was interviewed by a woman from the Juvenile Labour Employment Bureau.

Memoir includes the cover, contents page and information about the author of the book 'Growing up and ducking down' by Professor Eric Armstrong. The relationship between the diary extracts above and the book is not clear.

[Former reference number WA61]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/42**

Evacuee memoir: Amelia Bartrop, nee Brown  
c.1940-1943, 1999  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Pentre, Rhondda  
Lordship Lane Infants School and Pentre School  
[Former reference number WA64]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/43**

Evacuee memoir: R. Kathleen Bell  
c.1940-1945, 1994  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Dover to Rugby.

Kathleen begins her memoir by describing what pre-war childhood was like in Dover and describes that most activities were without any adult supervision. Kathleen fondly recollects activities such as swimming, going to the beach, bike riding around Dover, helping around the house, going grocery shopping alone, and walking to school. However, when the Second World War was declared, the beach was barricaded, roads were restricted, and children were discouraged from roaming too far. Kathleen recalls Dover being a vulnerable front-line area, and she was evacuated from the area to

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Monmouthshire in Wales.

Kathleen was billeted to a council housing estate and remembers being unhappy because there was not much to do there. She describes a sense of culture shock as there were no books, newspapers, or wireless available to obtain news and the food was very different. When Kathleen did return home to visit during holidays, roads were still barricaded, and her freedom was restricted because of fear of imminent invasion. Kathleen was eventually evacuated to Rugby, Warwickshire, where she was a lot happier, and would play outdoor childhood games such as cards, marbles, hoops, and yoyo. She kept in contact with her parents via post. Kathleen continued her education at Rugby High School and would take part in many activities and had lots of friends. She enjoyed her education, and Rugby offered many talks to students about current affairs, culture, sex education, and some career advice. She left school in 1945 to attend university.

[Former reference number WA66]

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### **D EVAC A/1/46**

Evacuee memoir: David Brown  
c.1939-1945, 1997

Consists of details of his evacuation from Gosport, Hampshire to Upham, Hampshire, Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire, West Meon, Hampshire and Eastleigh, Hampshire, Gosport County Grammar School

David was evacuated from his home in Gosport, Hampshire on four separate occasions. At the start of the war, he and his two brothers were initially taken to a grand house in Upham, Hampshire but then moved to a family on a poultry farm near the village church where they remained for about a year. They returned to Gosport late in 1940 and David recalls classes held in the teacher's front room. Their next move to Bishops Waltham was brief, they were unhappy and ran away. In 1941 David with his brother, sister and a cousin were sent to West Meon, Hampshire. They were not ill-treated, but poorly fed and unhappy, so returned home before Christmas.

In 1942 having passed his 11-plus David was sent to Eastleigh and the wartime location of Gosport County Grammar School where he stayed in various homes until the end of 1944.

[Former reference number WA72]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/49**

Evacuee memoir: Mr Callaghan  
c.1939-1946, 1999  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Liverpool to Nantwich  
St. Sylvesters Boys Roman Catholic School and Nantwich  
School  
[Former reference number WA75]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/50**

Evacuee memoir: Iris Charos, nee Lock  
c.1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Clapham, London to  
Eastbourne and Chilsworthy, Devon, includes a copy of  
photograph  
Hazelrigg Road School  
[Former reference number WA77]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/54**

Evacuee memoir: Joseph Disley  
c.1939-1945, c.1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Liverpool to  
Shawbury, Shropshire and Kelsall, Cheshire

Joseph was evacuated twice during the war. The first evacuation was from Liverpool to Shawbury, Shropshire. Joseph was with two of his brothers, Henry and John, and a sister, Maria. Joseph and Henry were billeted with Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson who had children of their own, Joe, Jimmy and Margaretta. The other two, John and Maria, were with Mr. and Mrs. Venables, in-laws to Mrs. Dickinson. After 8 months they were in trouble because they tried to run away to Liverpool with two other evacuees, Tommy and Billy McIntyre. They walked until they were tired and called at a house and were given soup, but the police had been called and they were taken back to Shawbury and then sent home. Liverpool was attacked in the May Blitz and the Christmas Blitz, and the family often went to an Anderson Shelter with other families. Joseph's mother had Parkinsons Disease and was also pregnant and was sent to Ormskirk Hospital. His father was a docker and was injured when a munition ship blew up and was also sent to hospital. His eldest sister Sarah, aged 14, looked after them all with their grandmother's help, but they had a bad time and were gassed as the bombing had damaged the gas pipes and needed

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treatment. It was decided Joseph should be evacuated again.

The second evacuation was to Kelsall, Cheshire John stayed with Thomas and Florence Hitch at Higher Lane. Mr. Hitch was gardener at Ashton Hall in Ashton Hayes, owned by Mrs. Johnson. Joseph loved the countryside and wildlife, and said it was 'Utopia'. The Hitch family got together often, and they all became good friends to Joseph, who kept in touch with them after the war. They were there for about 18 months until Mrs Hitch had heart trouble. Another of his brothers, Tony, was with Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, also on the same estate. Maria was with Mr. and Mrs. Lightfoot who had no children of their own and wanted to adopt her. They were all treated very well and had a happy time. The only blemish about Kelsall was the Headmaster Mr. Killner who did not treat evacuees very well. and blamed them for any problems, including an incident of a dog worrying sheep. The memoir states that they never got over the accusations.

[Former reference number WA84]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/55**

Evacuee memoir: A.G.D.  
c.1938-1945, c.1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Poplar, London to Abingdon, Berkshire  
[Former reference number WA85]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/56**

Evacuee memoir: Doreen Ellis  
1942, c.1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her time as an air raid warden

Memoir describes a single night in May 1942 from the perspective of a 24-year-old Air Raid Precautions (ARP) warden. The events took place in Maida Vale, London, and covers the period from 10pm until 8am the following morning.

At 10pm people heard enemy aircraft and the warning siren, followed by gunfire. She was blown backwards by a bomb blast as she approached the ARP post.

She went on 'lights patrol' making sure that no lights were showing, using a ladder to break into unoccupied premises. A large number of people came to the ARP post for shelter or with injuries and she and a doctor administered first aid. One woman

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was unconscious and had to be collected by ambulance.

Bombs continued to fall and there were more injuries and serious damage to flats until at 6am the 'all-clear' sounded. Other duties were checking shelters, including the underground. On quiet nights they played games and ate Mars bars and drank tea and coffee.

[Former reference number WA86]

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### **D EVAC A/1/57**

Evacuee memoir: Joan Faulkner  
c. 1939-1945, c.1990s-2010

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Virginia Water, Surrey

Born in Stepney, London. She spent the period of the blitz in London and was only evacuated later to Virginia Water where she was hosted by a Mrs. Sayers, who was an heiress of the Woolworth empire. She was then reunited with her mother and brother later in the war in Sunningdale.

Her memoir discusses her time during the blitz sheltering in warehouses, and then her privileged time staying with the Sayers. She highlights the luxury nature of her evacuation by focussing on the nature of her bedroom, the existence of a nursery and nanny as well as been taken to school by chauffeur-driven car.

[Former reference number WA88]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/61**

Evacuee memoir: Lilian Glanister  
1939-1940, 1999

Consists of details of her evacuation from Liverpool to Llanfairfechan

[Former reference number WA95]

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### **D EVAC A/1/62**

Evacuee memoir: Roy Guy  
1944-1945, c.1990s-2010

Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Shawell, Leeds, Yorkshire

[Former reference number WA97]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/63**

Evacuee memoir: Margaret Harrad, nee Smith  
c.1939-1945, 1997

Consists of details of her evacuation from Portsmouth to Sway, Brockenhurst, Hampshire  
New Road School; St. Lukes School, Sway  
[Former reference number WA99]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/64**

Evacuee memoir: Mrs Hodges  
c.1939-1945, 1996

Consists of details of her evacuation to Stroud, Gloucestershire

[Former reference number WA100]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/66**

Evacuee memoir: Molly Hurford-Jones nee Batey  
c.1941-1945, 1999

Consists of details of her evacuation from Chatham, Kent to Faversham, Kent and Plymouth  
Chatham County School

Born in Canada House, the Royal Naval Maternity Home in Gillingham, Kent (grandfather Sidney Edwin Reeby had been Shipwright at Chatham Dockyards), and attended Chatham County School. Evacuated in 1939 aged 10 to Faversham and in May 1940 to Plymouth. In late 1940, the family were reunited in in Maescwymmer, South Wales, and then moved to Barry.

Molly describes only having heard the word 'war' in reference to her father's recollections of WWI as part of 7th Royal West Kents, until 1939. Memoir recalls attending school at the end of August holidays to practice evacuation procedures, and then being evacuated with the school on Friday September 1, 1939 to Faversham, Kent. Details include being too hot dressed in winter clothes and being apprehensive about being billeted alone as an only child.

Molly describes being content in Faversham, but still missing home. She recounts living first with a widow, who she describes as very kind, but soon moving to live with another widow and her three children. Molly recalls enjoying attending Girl Guides with the youngest child, and details how Chatham County School



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using William Gibbs School several days a week as well as the domestic staff bedrooms at Cratloe House (now Preston Court).

Memoir describes how students were returning home by Easter 1940, but that in May 1940 children were evacuated again after Dunkirk. Molly recalls how the rest of her school went to Pontypridd but she went to relatives in Plymouth. She remembers an enjoyable summer of swimming and playing on the Hoe, including once seeing hundreds of French sailors, but that she did not enjoy her schooling. Molly moved again due to increased air raids on Plymouth (in one of which her aunt's house was hit, several weeks after Molly left), and joined her mother in Maesycwmmmer in Rhymney Valley. Her father joined them, and the family moved permanently to Barry.

One memorable experience Molly recalls in Barry was experiencing the bombing of Cardiff on January 2, 1941. She describes seeing Cardiff in the middle of a heavy air raid during a return bus trip from Caerphilly with her mother and having to get off the bus to shelter at Cardiff Castle until they could finally return home at 2:00 am.

[Former reference number WA102]

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### **D EVAC A/1/67**

Evacuee memoir: Jean Jackson, nee Kirk  
1939-c.1945, 1997

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Lea Halt, near Tonbridge, Kent  
St. Vincent de Paul Convent School

Memoir concerns the evacuation of St Vincent de Paul Convent School, Victoria, London, to Leigh Halt near Tonbridge, Kent in August 1939.

Jean, aged 13, was accompanied by her younger brother. She had been on holiday to the country before and had been persuaded that they would be safer away from London.

Preparations for evacuation are described: fittings for gas masks by the Civil Defence; parental signatures to give permission. The children walked from the school to the nearby Victoria Station, their belongings in a haversack. They changed trains at Redhill. On arrival at Leigh Halt children stood in the village hall and were inspected and selected by their future hosts.

Jean and her brother together with a Mrs Strutt and her two children, and three sisters called West went to Lord Hollander's

## Museum of English Rural Life

estate where they were split between three different cottages: Hall Place Lodge, Hall Place Garage and Hall Place Stables. Jean was billeted with the Hand family while her bother and Martin Strutt lived with the chauffeur and his wife. She was not keen on evacuees and complained about the boys.

The beauty of the estate is praised: the gardens and deer park, the lake where the villagers would skate in the winter. Mrs Hand and her family are described, her husband positively, but his wife showed their lodgers no kindness or compassion, and complained she wasn't given enough money to look after them. She fed them poorly and they tried to avoid her.

School was in the village hall but only for half days. The evacuees suffered from name-calling. In September Jean and Peggy Strutt earned pocket money by picking hops and in the winter they made trips to the cinema in Tonbridge. Jean was glad to go home for the Christmas and Easter holidays but hated going back to Leigh. Eventually she wrote to her parents telling them how she felt and they sent her money for the fare home.

[Former reference number WA102]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/68**

Evacuee memoir: Stella Johnston  
1939-1940, 1997

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Kettering, Northamptonshire and Hayle, Cornwall  
Camborne County School

Evacuated by train on 1st September from Cricklewood NW2, aged 9, with her brothers 'P' (aged 7) and 'R' (aged 6), and mother as a temporary helper, to Kettering, Northamptonshire. After a three-hour journey, they were taken to local school and then a weary trip round town with a billeting officer. R and Stella were taken in by 'Aunty E', with her mother and P just down the road. Later her mother returned home with P, who was not well. R was sent to school the other side of town with other smaller children, and Stella and other older ones shared the local school, going mornings and afternoons alternately. Aunty E worked in a shoe factory where they made army boots, and 'Uncle F' was a steel worker, with both described as very kind. Stella was taken ill and returned home on 1st August 1940 with R, and went to Paddington Green Children's Hospital. They then went back to their local school. The Blitz started and the raids were bad, with their windows broken and the roof damaged, so it was decided to evacuate the children again.

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In October 1940 Stella, her brothers, and other school children took the 'Cornish Riviera' to Penzance, Cornwall, and by coach to Hayle, where they stayed with 'Mr. and Mrs. S'. Later Mrs S's mother and sister were bombed out in Plymouth and came to Hayle, so Stella was moved on to two widowed sisters. Stella, P and R all went to the Foundry Methodist Chapel and Sunday School, who arranged activities with the local children including swimming. Stella passed the 11+ and went to Cambourne County School, first by train, and then went to live in Cambourne with a couple, the 'B's, who had children of their own. She was expected to be a child-minder which made homework difficult. Before Christmas 1941, as Stella became ill again, she went home to her parents and later the boys came home too, so they were all together during the flying bombs and V2 rockets raids

[Former reference number WA106]

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### **D EVAC A/1/69**

Evacuee memoir: Alec Kingsmill  
1939-1940, 2002

Consists of details of his evacuation from Mitcham, Surrey to Weston super Mare, includes copies of his letters as an evacuee

[Former reference number WA108]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/71**

Evacuee memoir: Sheila Lenihan  
1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of her evacuation from Hornsey to Hatfield in Hertfordshire and Cefneithin, Llanelli.

Sheila was evacuated from Hornsey to Hatfield, Herts in 1939 aged 7. Due to bad conditions and poor health she was moved around. Then in 1941 spent a year in hospital in St Albans, Herts. with a heart murmur and rheumatic fever. After time back home she was sent with her sister to Cefneithin, Llanelli, Carmarthen, Wales then returned home just before D-Day and spent VE Day in the West End.

[Former reference number WA112]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/72**

Evacuee memoir: Arnold Locker  
1939-1943, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of his evacuation from Everton, Liverpool to Wem, Shropshire, Whitchurch, Shropshire and Port Dinornic St. Georges Church School.

Arnold lived in Havelock Street in the Everton district of Liverpool, the eldest of four children. Attended St. George's Church School, and in 1939 was evacuated via bus and train with his sister and most of his schoolmates to Wem, Shropshire. He and his sister were then separated, with his sister soon returning to Liverpool to receive eye surgery at Alder Hey Children's Hospital due to an accident in 1938 involving a Liverpool Echo delivery truck on Netherfield Road. Memoir notes that Arnold then returned home soon after.

Memoir also describes the family moving to Walton, Liverpool in 1940, along with Arnold's jobs collecting bedding and arranging places to stay at the Stanley Park underground shelter while his father was on fire-watch duty. He goes on to describe several different relocations by his family, including moving in with an aunt after an air raid, moving back to Havelock Street, and a second evacuation of Arnold and his sister in 1941 to Whitchurch, Shropshire, where they lived near the Raven Hotel in Prees Heath.

Memoir describes his father staying behind in Liverpool to work at Cammell Laird Shipyard as an essential war worker, while his mother and remaining siblings moved to Port Dinorwic in North Wales. Arnold and his sister were later reunited with their family in Port Dinorwic, but stayed in separate accommodation. Memoir notes the difficulties of living separately, along with the journey between Whitchurch and Port Dinorwic where they stayed overnight in Liverpool, in the basement of Heyworth Street School. The entire family later returned to Liverpool at the end of 1943.

Memoir recounts several instances of disrupted education due to bombing, going on to later describe mixed feelings of his evacuation due to eventually leaving school unable to properly read or write. Other memories noted include the body of a German pilot floating ashore from the Menai Straits in Port Dinorwic, his time in Liverpool during the Blitz exchanging shrapnel for comics and coins, and the lives of his family members after the war.

[Former reference number WA113]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/74**

Evacuee memoir: Don Murdoch  
1939-1944, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Portsmouth to  
Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hampshire to Salisbury, Wiltshire

[Former reference number WA122]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/75**

Evacuee memoir: Joan Murray nee Coleman  
1941-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Liverpool to Bayston  
Hill, Shropshire

Memoir describes the evacuation of the Coleman family from Liverpool, Lancashire (now Merseyside) to Shropshire. They stayed in Liverpool during the so-called 'phoney war' but left when the Blitz began in 1941. Mrs Coleman, who was pregnant, and her three children, Joan, aged 4, Reg, 3, and Joyce, 18 months left from Lime St Station in May. Their father who worked for the General Post Office (GPO) in central Liverpool was in a reserved occupation, so stayed at home. Ironically, the bombing was less severe following their evacuation.

The family was billeted with the Addis family at 6 Rural Cottages, Bayston Hill, near Shrewsbury. They had four children of their own, so ten people had to share three bedrooms in a council house without piped water.

Joan tells how on the morning after their arrival, the children were extremely upset that their mother was nowhere to be seen. Their Auntie Mag who was staying at the nearby vicarage came to console them and explained that their mother had given birth to baby Jean during the night. Years later it emerged that she had been taken to the Royal Salop Infirmary on a milk float. She stayed there for two weeks, often disturbed by injured soldiers who were being taken for surgery.

Joan's mother got on well with Mrs Addis but sharing the limited facilities was difficult. She contacted her husband to insist on coming home. They had been there for three weeks. Joan's mother died in 1981 and in 1995 she and her sisters went back to Bayston Hill only to find that the address had changed to 35 Lansdowne Rd. They learnt that Mr and Mrs Addis and two of their children had passed away. Joan continued to keep in touch

## Museum of English Rural Life

with the surviving children.

[Former reference number WA123]

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### **D EVAC A/1/76**

Evacuee memoir: Mary Nickerson, née McCaw  
1941-1942, 1996

Consists of details of her evacuation from Portsmouth to  
Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire and Wimborne, Dorset

Memoir has the title 'The Happy Evacuee'. Mary was born in 1931, daughter of John and Phyllis McCaw (née Diver). John died in 1936 after which Phyllis and Mary were helped by Mary's godparents, Frederick Cresdee, Ena Russell and Beatrice Johnson. Beatrice owned the Woodford School, Southsea (Hampshire) and gave Mary a free education while employing Phyllis as a teacher. Ill health hampered Mary's progress. Mary describes life in Southsea. Close friends were Valerie Smithson and Joan Keast.

Preparations for war in 1939 are detailed: the blackout, gasmasks, rationing, ID cards. Mary was evacuated to Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire to stay with Beatrice Johnson's nieces, Barbara and Lillas Johnson and Mrs Miles, their mother. 'Kyrewood', their detached house, was set in extensive grounds with outbuildings and paddocks. Later, an Anderson shelter was installed in the garden but never needed.

The Johnson twins boarded animals and were dog breeders. They kept cats, goats, ducks and hens, and grew vegetables and fruit, so despite rationing Mary was never hungry. Lillas was a good cook and baked cakes for special occasions. Mary learnt to make bread.

Mary's friends were neighbours June Hoskins and her brother Trevor, and Betty Hartland from the local farm owned by a Mr Godson. At first, Mary attended Tenbury Wells Council School run by Mr Long. She was too far behind to sit for a scholarship at the age of ten and was educated at Richards Castle near Ludlow in the home of Mrs V. Stevens, a qualified teacher who taught her daughters, Betty and Margaret. Mary lived there during the term, returning to Kyrewood in the holidays. Life in Richards Castle is described: the house and garden, country walks, and cycling.

Further information about Tenbury Wells, holidays at Kyrewood and life in the country is given: clothing, the lack of facilities, the household routine, wild life, leisure activities and excursions,

## Museum of English Rural Life

and Christmas. Sometimes Mary accompanied the twins to the Moravian Church in Leominster.

In September 1942 Mary became a boarder at Molverley School, Wimbourne, Dorset, run by Caroline Bliss, returning to Kyrewood during the holidays. She saw little of her mother who was working for the Ministry of Information in Portsmouth, Southampton and then London where Mary experienced a V2 rocket during a visit. She left school in 1947 and entered nurse training in 1949. Her mother died at Kyrewood the same year, having been looked after by the twins.

Memoir also includes photographs of:

Kyrewood House

Barbara with a puppy

Mary with Mother and Jane

Mary with Nina, Tessa and Leo in the garden

Mary with Betty and Margaret Vine-Stevens, and John Harris

[Former reference number WA123]

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### **D EVAC A/1/78**

Evacuee memoir: Pat Packham, nee Hinds  
1939-1945, 1997

Consists of details of his evacuation from Surbiton, London to Worthing, Sussex and Hertford.

Lived in Surbiton and attended Bonner Hill School in Kingston until war broke out. Describes cutting short a visit to the Isle of Wight in August 1939 because of imminent hostilities. She and her brother were hurriedly taken to her aunt's in Nottingham.

Her father, a music teacher at Battersea Grammar School, was evacuated to Worthing where the Battersea boys shared the buildings of Worthing High School for Boys. He was later joined by Pat and her brother, David, and they rented a house called Moat Farm. Memoir describes her attendance at Aylwyn School which had been evacuated from Bermondsey and shared the site of Worthing High School for Girls.

After France fell, her mother took them to Somerset and then Nottingham. Later Pat returned to Aylwyn School which had now been relocated at the Royal Masonic School in Rickmansworth.

## Museum of English Rural Life

She describes her billet and the Masonic School, and school lunches at the British Restaurant in Rickmansworth. The following term she was moved to the local Ware Grammar School in Hertford. She recounts the arrangements for three schools sharing the premises.

Battersea Grammar School had also been re-evacuated to Hertford, sharing the site of Hertford Grammar School. She recalls the involvement of her father's school band in parades through Hertford and in concerts in the Corn Exchange. After the war she stayed at Ware Grammar for a term while Battersea Grammar returned home. Her brother transferred to Hertford Grammar. Later, in December 1945 the family joined their father in Cardiff where he had been appointed music inspector. They had never moved back to Surbiton.

[Former reference number WA126]

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### **D EVAC A/1/81**

Evacuee memoir: William Charles Pattern  
c. 1939-1945, 1999

Consists of details of her evacuation from Hackney, London to Blow Norton, Norfolk and Carbrooke, Watton, Norfolk

The day after war broke out, William's sister Rose, 7, and brother Sam, 10, were evacuated from Hackney to Norfolk near Blo' Norton (spelt 'Blow Norton'). He joined them later aged 4. They were not kept clean and caught impetigo and went to hospital. They then went to Breccles Hall, where forty East End children were billeted, including the three Beardwell children from the same building in Hackney. Madam Montagu, the owner, was described as 'imposing', and the mansion was staffed with butlers and maids. William describes being treated 'fair and firm' and that they were educated by tutors, which gave them a 'good start in life'. Every week they walked one and a half miles to Hockham to buy sweets.

After about two years they had to leave. Sam went to Bury St. Edmunds, with Rose and William being sent to a farm at Carbrooke, Watton. William describes his stay as a contrast from the Hall, with basic amenities and working on the farm, but with plenty to eat. The memoir describes the evacuation as 'starting off bad but then got very good'.

[Former reference number WA128]

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### **D EVAC A/1/82**

Evacuee memoir: Margaret Peters, nee Foster  
c. 1939-1945, 1999  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Liverpool to Ford,  
Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Margaret was evacuated from Liverpool with her sister Alice, when she was 7 and Alice 9, to Ford, near Shrewsbury, Shropshire. They were housed at Shoot Hill farm owned by the Greenhous family. The farm had a variety of livestock including Shire horses. They remained there for four years, attending the village school in Ford, before returning home.

Margaret particularly recalls the weighing out of weekly rations; potato harvesting and fruit picking; rides on Shire horses; Italian prisoners of war; and visits from her mother and brother.

[Former reference number WA129]

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### **D EVAC A/1/85**

Evacuee memoir: Audrey Robson  
c. 1939-1945, 1999  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Streatham, London to Preston, Paignton, Devon, Compton, Surrey and Keighley, Yorkshire

Audrey was evacuated from London to Preston, Devon, half-way between Paignton and Torquay. She attended Preston School with her younger sister Dorothy and recalls being welcomed on the first day of school along with 20 other London evacuees. Audrey's new schoolfriend, Betty, gave Audrey confidence whist adjusting to life as an evacuee by inviting her home to meet her parents. They also shared classes which Audrey enjoyed due to being outside near the sea for lessons. She then attended a grammar school in Babbacombe, Torquay.

Audrey's mother joined her in Devon and normal family life commenced. She fondly remembers climbing trees, and wandering with her cousins and sisters. However, due to diphtheria, she was isolated in hospital for 3 months and restricted to a bed, unable to speak, fed a liquid diet, and her only contact with family was through a window. She was one of three on her ward to survive the epidemic and had to learn how to walk again. A few days after being released from hospital, Audrey's family were told that her father was severely ill with

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malaria in London. Audrey accompanied her mother back to London and faced a badly bombed, flattened, and devastated London. Audrey's father was at George V Hospital, Ewell, and she spent most of her time with her sisters at the hospital until her father died a short time later.

Audrey was then sent to stay with her grandparents at a rented farmhouse in Compton, Surrey. She recalls family life being difficult at this time due to her mother becoming the provider of the family despite having poor health and no education. Audrey's mother found work with the Railway at Guildford. Audrey enjoyed helping her grandfather on the farm by looking after the chickens, pigs, fresh produce, and rations. Audrey and her sister Dorothy were then sent to stay with their Uncle Maurice, who was in the Leeds Constabulary Police Force. Audrey enjoyed her time in Keighley but describes her education as being badly disrupted having attended six different schools by the time she returned to her mother in London.  
[Former reference number WA131]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/86**

Evacuee memoir: John Roffey  
c. 1939-1943, 1996  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Camberwell, London to Pulborough, West Sussex  
[Former reference number WA134]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/87**

Evacuee memoir: Constance Mary Schwartz (Mabey)  
c. 1939-1944, 1997  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Hillingdon, Middlesex, Burnham on Sea, St. Ives, Cornwall  
Born 11th April 1933, with an elder sister. Connie was evacuated from Lyham Road, Brixton Hill, London SW2 in 1940, to Hillingdon, Middlesex for 9 months. Returned home to receive surgery at Dulwich Hospital. Her father joined the Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS), and her mother worked in the local Post Office.

Evacuated in 1941 with her sister to Highbridge area of Burnham-on-Sea. Placed with a Baptist Minister and wife, but her sister was placed with another family. School classes were disturbed.

In late 1943 or early 1944 Connie went to St Ives, Cornwall to live with a family of Christian Scientists, and attended a local

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school before gaining a place at Penzance High School for Girls, requiring a 10-mile round trip each day on the bus and train. She also spent time at The Annexe in Mousehole. She returned home in mid 1945 and attended St Martin-in-the-Fields at Tulse Hill, a grammar school, until 1950.

[Former reference number WA134]

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### **D EVAC A/1/91**

Evacuee memoir: E.C. Wharnsby  
c. 1939-1940, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from West Ham, London to Chelmsford, Essex  
West Ham Municipal College School of Arts and Crafts  
[Former reference number WA143]

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### **D EVAC A/1/93**

Evacuee memoir: Avril Molloy, nee Kelly  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Sutton Benger, Wiltshire

Memoir relates the evacuation of Avril, aged 8 and her brother, aged 11. Avril's school was evacuated to Wiltshire on the first day of term in 1939. The journey was by train from Paddington to Chippenham, Wiltshire, and then on to Sutton Benger by coach. Arrangements for billeting are described. This was organised at the school in Sutton Benger. Avril and two of her school friends were billeted with a farm labourer and his wife in the village of Seagry, Wiltshire. Their first task was to send their address to their parents, and Avril's parents visited her after a couple of weeks. After that, her mother came once a month.

They had lessons with their own teachers in the Seagry village hall rather than sharing the local school. Conditions in the hall are described as primitive. At Christmas some of the children returned to London where it was quiet. An outbreak of diphtheria at Seagry prevented their return, but Avril was able to attend the local convent in Kensington which had opened classrooms for children who had returned to London.

Her second evacuation was during the Blitz in September 1940 when their home was damaged by a bomb. She recalls how she escaped and found shelter in the Underground with her mother and brother where they remained until going to stay with their Grandmother in Stella, near Newcastle upon Tyne. Six months

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later, when the worst of the Blitz was over they returned to London for the rest of the war.

[Former reference number WA146]

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### **D EVAC A/1/94**

Evacuee memoir: Bernard Kelly  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-1994

Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Burnham, Buckinghamshire, written by his sister Avril Molloy. Bernard Kelly died in July 1994.

Memoir recalls that Bernard had just transferred from primary to grammar school in September 1939 and was evacuated to Burnham in Buckinghamshire. He was billeted at a house with three adults who sent him to eat on his own. He left immediately and boarded a train back to Paddington without a ticket. Their parents took him back to a different family but he returned home after a week. He had no education from September 1939 to 1940 as all the London schools were closed, but was later able to attend his sister's convent school.

[Former reference number WA146]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/95**

Evacuee memoir: Barbara Stagles  
c. 1939-1945, 2005

Consists of details of her evacuation from Sea Mills, Bristol to Rockwell Green, Somerset, includes photographs

[Former reference number WA148]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/96**

Evacuee memoir: John Wittering  
c. 1939-1945, 2005

Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Marston, Wiltshire

Oxford Gardens, London, Junior Boys School

[Former reference number WA150]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/97**

Evacuee memoir: Muriel Lander (Garbett)  
c. 1940-1944, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of her evacuation to Goodrich, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire

Muriel was informally evacuated to Goodrich, Herefordshire in December 1940 following a direct hit on a factory in Nechells, Birmingham, under which she was in a shelter. She was taken in by a family called Davis following a chance meeting between her mother and Mrs Davis on a family excursion to Symonds Yat, Ross-on-Wye. Her father owned a car and had petrol coupons being in the fish and chip trade. She stayed with the Davis family until 1944 when she returned home to attend the Children's Hospital.

She recalls being sent sweets and other things by her mother which were brought by a driver delivering spare parts to a military camp in Hereford; her father collecting fish from Snow Hill station in Birmingham; transporting paraffin with the Davis's son Bill in a pram sent by her mother; picking and selling bunches of crocuses and snowdrops in spring; and attending church on Sunday.

[Former reference number WA151]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/98**

Evacuee memoir: Cora A. Livesey, nee Kelly  
c. 1940-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Cardiff and Swansea

Evacuated from Twickenham to South Wales with her twin sister at the age of three. Remembers being put on a bus to Paddington Station and having to lie on the platform because a doodlebug went off. They were worried about being scolded because their clothes were covered in soot. They arrived in Cardiff and were allocated to a family where they became infested with fleas. Remembers Durbac Soap.

Their mother moved them to Sketty Rd, Swansea, with their brother and another sister where they stayed for four years. They used to walk though Singleton Park to attend Brymill School. Remembers going to the sea at the Mumbles and eating laver bread. Their parents separated when they returned home and their mother took the children to live with their grandmother in Twickenham until 1948.

Memoir includes two images:

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1. Photocopy of parts of her identity card.
2. Photo of the VE Day street party in Haggard Rd, Twickenham. It includes her mother and the four children, but they are not identified.

[Former reference number WA152]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/99**

Evacuee memoir: Derek Baron  
c. 1939-1945, 2004  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Letchworth, Hertfordshire, Bampton, Devon and Great Finborough, Stowmarket, Suffolk

[Former reference number WA154]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/100**

Evacuee memoir: Arthur Allwright  
c. 1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Heanor, Derbyshire

Memoir of Arthur Allwright - titled 'The Age of Fear'

Memoir tells story of Arthur's evacuation near the end of the war to Heanor, Derbyshire from Surrey, as a twelve-year-old. Arthur recounts signing up for evacuation during a pitstop at his school on his way home after being shaken up almost getting hit by a V2 while he and his friend Bernard chased an earlier V2 to the bomb site on Ruxley Lane, Epsom. Memoir recalls forgetting to tell his parents about signing up, and then being annoyed that his mother decided to join him with his two sisters when she found out. Arthur describes being desperate to escape his family during the evacuation trip, so following the lead of his friend Ivor, they left their school group at St. Pancras Station and blended in with a group of boys from a fancy school. Memoir recounts Arthur being delighted discovering that his carriage was going to a different destination than that of his mother and sisters.

Memoir describes how Arthur and Ivor felt out of place after arriving in Heanor, so hid on the stage of the church hall, unaware the other boys were being allocated billets. Arthur then recounts being found by Mrs Webster after everyone else was gone, and being taken around to many houses around town until

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Mr and Mrs Joe Foulkes of 17a Watkinson Street finally accepted Arthur and Ivor. Memoir recounts on the first night being confused by Joe's accent and being shocked when Mrs Foulkes asked the boy's to wash Joe's back in a tin bath, cut up from coal mining. Despite the initial surprises, Arthur was happy to stay with the Foulkes'. He describes not going to school as there was no place at the Grammar School, but that he spent his days helping a teacher at the Primary School behind the Foulkes' house, or spending the afternoons in the billiards hall in the High Street. Ivor was sent home after a month for breaking a window, but Arthur stayed for seven months and recalls listening to the news of VE Day on the radio with Mrs Foulkes. At the end of the war Arthur returned home, and did not stay in touch with the Foulkes'.

[Former reference number WA155]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/103**

Evacuee memoir: Michael J. Franklin  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Frome, Somerset

Fleet Road JM School, Hempstead

[Former reference number WA161]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/104**

Evacuee memoir: Eric Holland  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

[Former reference number WA162]

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### **D EVAC A/1/105**

Evacuee memoir: Joyce H. I. Jones, nee Coventry  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2004

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Topsham, Exeter

[Former reference number WA163]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/106**

Evacuee memoir: Charles W. Springett  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Devizes,  
Wiltshire  
St. Marys School, Tilbury; St. Josephs Roman Catholic School,  
Devizes  
[Former reference number WA164]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/107**

Evacuee memoir: Robert Edwardson  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Mortimer,  
Berkshire  
St. Mary's School, Mortimer  
[Former reference number WA165]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/108**

Evacuee memoir: Dennis Long  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Worthing,  
Sussex and Brixham, Devon  
[Former reference number WA166]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/109**

Evacuee memoir: Peter Harry Heath  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Curry Rivel,  
Somerset, Kingsbridge, Devon and Eastwood, Yorkshire  
Eastwood Junior School  
[Former reference number WA167]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/110**

Evacuee memoir: Ken Dyer  
c. 1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Leeds to  
Gainsborough, Lincolnshire

Ken, 7, and his sister, 9, lived in Bramley, Leeds and were  
pupils at Broad Lane School, Bramley.

Together with other pupils from their school, Ken and his sister



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were evacuated to Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. They were billeted with a Mrs Wildbore of 5 Marlborough Street, Gainsborough. He recalls their fear when taken to a strange place to live with strangers but remembers the welcome and care they received.

Ken's memoir recounts a chance meeting with a Mr and Mrs Brumby of Gainsborough in 2001, who helped him and his sister contact and reunite with Mrs Wildbore and her Peter after 61 years.

[Former reference number WA168]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/112**

Evacuee memoir: Iris E. Guthrie, nee Rea  
c. 1939-1945, 2005

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Wadhurst, Kent and Bude, Cornwall

Evacuated aged 9 in 1939 from London to Cousley Wood, Kent, with her mother and friend Una Webster (née Lester). Returned to London after three months having discovered they had been evacuated to the wrong location. Evacuated a second time in July 1940 to Stratton as a private evacuee, attending Stratton village school and Bude County Grammar. Returned to London after finishing school in 1946.

Memoir recounts Iris' first evacuation to Cousley Wood, including waiting in the school with her gas mask and blanket and being allocated last. Memoir describes happy memories of living with Jim and Kate Blyth in their farm cottage, despite Kate's initial hesitancy in welcoming two extra children due to being pregnant with twins. Details include culture shock living in a house with no indoor plumbing, coming from a council flat in London, and Iris' mother cycling to work as a cleaner for the school's headmistress. Memoir recalls Iris' mother being informed by her father that they had been evacuated to the wrong village, and returning to Sydenham, London.

Memoir then describes Iris' second evacuation to Stratton, Cornwall. She recounts visiting the Barkwells in April 1940, who her family had holidayed with in the past, and the family agreeing to take Iris as a private evacuee. Iris returned to Stratton in July 1940, living with the Barkwells and attending the village school. Memories include her classmates being fascinated by her London accent, and winning a scholarship to attend Bude County Grammar school. Iris recalls moving in with her grandmother, who had moved to a flat above the grocer's in

## Museum of English Rural Life

Stratton after being bombed out in 1941. She also describes being joined by other evacuees in the flat as the war progressed. Lastly, memoir recounts being given dispensation by Cornwall County Council to stay on in Stratton after the war ended to finish her schooling at the grammar school, returning to London in 1946.

[Former reference number WA170]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/113**

Evacuee memoir: Phyllis Davies  
c. 1939-1945, 2005

Consists of details of her evacuation from Manchester to Uttoxeter, Staffordshire

At the age of eight Phyllis was taken by train from the Manchester area to Uttoxeter in Staffordshire together with about 100 other children. She had been told she was going on holiday.

On arrival at Uttoxeter Grammar School some children were taken by bus to different villages. Confusion over family names meant she was separated from her brother John who went to Marchington, while Phyllis and a girl called Clara Harold were billeted in Marchington Woodlands. She describes how her parents visited the following year, discovered her cleaning hen houses and took her and her brother back to Manchester to their new home and a new school, Heald Place Junior School in Rusholme.

Heavy bombing caused both children to be returned to a Mrs Sherratt in Marchington where John had been billeted previously. However, in 1942 when Mrs Sherratt was expecting a baby they moved in with the Moss family in the same village but had to move again the following year. John returned to Mrs Sherratt while Phyllis went to Mr Wheat, the verger at St Peter's Church. Memoir describes her pleasure at reading his books, playing outside, eating well and visiting an American camp where she and John tasted new delicacies.

After six or seven weeks in June/July 1943, their mother was dismayed to discover that they had relocated without her knowledge and took them back to Manchester.

Phyllis recounts subsequent visits to Marchington but by then their hosts had died. She mentions an evacuee museum in Uttoxeter but it contained no mention of St Luke's School in Manchester. Reference is made to other places that accepted

## Museum of English Rural Life

evacuees and the memoir reflects on the bad experiences of some of them.

[Former reference number WA171]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/116**

Evacuee memoir: Albert Ryles  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Illogan, Cornwall.  
[Former reference number WA175]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/117**

Albert Ryles passed away in 2012  
Evacuee memoir: Vera Spencer nee Earley  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Tatsfield, Kent, Exeter, Torquay, Northampton and Leatherhead

Vera's school was evacuated August 1939 from St. Martin's High School for Girls, which was originally at St. Martin's Church in London, but now at Sylwood House, Tulse Hill, South London SW2 2. She describes the disorganised efforts of evacuation, and the absence of parents due to their re-deployment. She conveys the great collective effort everyone made and its difficulties. Her mother had been assigned to the Ministry of War Transport, and her father was a senior position in a building trade. Vera fundraised for the Red Cross, creating sterile cotton swabs and helping to grow local produce.

Vera, 12, and her sister Renee, 8, were initially evacuated to Tatsfield in Kent, but were sent home weeks later due to a case of impetigo for Vera, and the billet site being too close to Biggin Hill aerodrome. They moved to Exeter, where the sisters were among the 5 children not chosen by foster parents; the other children were named Margaret Gordon, Iris Gordon and Eraldo Valee. Mrs Garnsworthy, upon seeing the tired children being given a tour of the town, invited the Earley girls and Eraldo to her home at Devonshire place with her four daughters, where they were happily kept and attended the local evacuee grammar school. Exeter was often bombed and they spent many nights in the garden shelter.

She details a plan with her young friends to sneak back into London which was thwarted when they were abruptly moved to

## Museum of English Rural Life

Hele Village, Torquay. The time in Torquay was not happy. They lived on meagre means, and the home was uncomfortable and opposite a slaughterhouse; she felt her privacy was not respected and that she was perceived as a snob. They were soon moved to a boarding house that was clean, but strict and lacked love.

The family moved to Northampton close to near the railway used for defensive gunning; Spencer attended Ketteringham Senior School. She details a theatre visit to see Hutch which ended in a traumatising evacuation to a local bomb shelter, which destroyed Coventry.

Vera moved to Leatherhead to re-join her original school at St. Martins, attending St. John's school for boys in the afternoon. The girls and boys would organise pen pals with communal desks. Spencer briefly recounts small romances with a boy named Stephen, and others. She frequented Methodist Hall for art lessons, West Wing for sports, and Crescent cinema.

Returned home to Streatham Hill near VE Day, feeling briefly unwelcomed by her mother. The remainder of the memoir details her interaction with the Evacuation Reunion Association.

[Former reference number WA176]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/118**

Evacuee memoir: Joan Risley, nee Yates  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Duston, Northampton

[Former reference number WA177]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/119**

Evacuee memoir: Brenda Buckerfield, nee Dale  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of her evacuation to Gamston, Nottinghamshire

Brenda recalls walking from her Osborne Road School with her sister, two brothers, and classmates to Erdington Station. They were evacuated by train to Retford Station, and then taken by bus to Gamston, Nottinghamshire. In Gamston Brenda waited with her sister at the library until they were collected by a foster guardian whilst her brothers were taken by someone else.

## Museum of English Rural Life

Brenda describes her foster lady's home as one with no electricity, gas, or bathroom with a dirty outside toilet, but she was well looked after overall. Brenda's father made a difficult journey to see her as much as possible and she fondly remembers her parents spending a couple of days with her one holiday.

Brenda describes having time off school to help farmers by singling sugar beet and picking potatoes and turnips. Brenda earned 5 pence per day for the work. However, she enjoyed paddling in the river during the summer. Brenda considers herself to be lucky that she had nice foster parents who looked after her and her sister. They all stayed in touch after the war.

[Former reference number WA178]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/120**

Evacuee memoir: Barry Fletcher  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Witton, Birmingham to Feckenham, Worcestershire

Lived in Witton, Birmingham and attended Station Road School. Evacuated aged 8 to Feckenham (near Redditch) in 1939, billeted with Mr and Mrs Davis and later the Spencer family. Returned to Birmingham in 1941.

Memoir recounts the evacuation process from Birmingham, alongside classmates from Station Road School. Memories include the journey from Aston Station to Feckenham, waiting with anxious and tired classmates at village hall to be chosen by families, and being the last four children to be selected alongside Les Fisher, Fred and Bob Bowers, and Harry Spalding. Barry recounts an elderly couple - Mr and Mrs Davis - finally arriving at the hall and taking him and Harry Spalding. Memories of living at the Davis' house on Droitwich Road include sharing a bed with Harry, and eagerly anticipating visits from his mother every six or eight weeks. Though memoir describes the Davis' as kind and supportive, Barry and Harry moved to live with the Spencer family after three months as the Davis' found hosting the two boys difficult at their age.

Memoir then describes life at the Spencer's house (41 High Street) with several other evacuees, Station Road School teacher Miss Barker, and the Spencer's twin boys Graham and Kingsley. Memoir details living in a divided section of the large house with the other evacuees, being taken care of by the housekeeper Mrs Hawkes, and only eating with the adults on

## Museum of English Rural Life

Sundays. At the Spencer's, Barry recalls having a strict rota of chores (both in the house and caring for the cows and chickens), which he felt gave the evacuees a strong sense of belonging.

Memoir recounts a mix of other memories made during Barry's 18 months in Feckenham. These include drinking, attending church three times on Sundays, Mr Davis' cider, eating rabbit for dinner, and the freedom of playing in the fields and at 'The Dingle' (a valley near Feckenham).

Lastly, memoir details the later lives of fellow evacuees and Feckenham locals encountered by Barry. This includes Harry Spalding and Fred Bowers (with whom Barry formed the Witton Reunion Group), Mr Hunt (who gave his mother lifts to Feckenham to visit Barry), and John Barrett (later the owner of a local saddlery shop).

[Former reference number WA179]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/121**

Evacuee memoir: Jeff Borsack  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

Jeff was orphaned when his parents died in an air raid on Birmingham on 2nd November, 1940. Because he was in hospital with measles, Jeff survived. After a period in a nursing home he went to his grandmother. They spent some time in Leeds before returning to London where he experienced night-time bombings. Two of the primary schools he attended were destroyed.

In April 1943 he was sent to Berkhamstead (spelt 'Berkhamsted'), Hertfordshire, where he was housed with six or more children, aged 6-11. He states that 'conditions were very bad', with no electricity; lighting by gas lamps; sleeping three or more to a bed. He talks of being hit daily and beaten, and of being hungry and poorly dressed.

He attended a local primary school with a large playing field. Because he was considered advanced for his age, he was placed in a class of 8 year olds. He believes that the school authorities investigated his situation. Given a carbolic bath, having had his hair shorn to delouse him, and being 'dapped with ... purple coloured cream' he returned to his grandmother. He remained with her till he was twelve, when he was adopted

## Museum of English Rural Life

by his father's brother and his wife in America.

[Former reference number WA179]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/122**

Evacuee memoir: William R. Parrett  
c. 1939-1945, 2005

Consists of details of his evacuation from Bootle, Merseyside to Erwood, Brecon

William was evacuated together with his two sisters and younger brother from Bootle in Merseyside to Erwood in South Wales from 1940 to 1942. The children were split up on arrival at Erwood with the two girls being billeted with a family with a military background, and the two brothers being billeted with an elderly farmer and his wife.

His memoir discusses the relatively privileged position that his sisters found themselves in before going on to discuss the much more basic conditions he and his brother were to experience with their hosts. His memoir examines the isolated nature of the stone cottage they lived in, and the basic facilities of the cottage including the lack of running water. He also discusses how they helped with work on the farm and other country activities such as snare setting to catch rabbits and vermin.

The memoir mentions their leisure activities which included sliding down slopes on metal advertising hoardings, exploring the woods, playing in the river Wye, and spending time at Erwood railway station. Here he highlights how they would help in the signal box and with the single railway line 'token' signalling system.

He goes on to discuss selling wild flowers to gypsies at the railway station as well as his role in disseminating news about the war to neighbours, and his role in obtaining replacement 'batteries' for their radio.

[Former reference number WA181]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/124**

Evacuee memoir: John James Bird  
c. 1940-1944, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Stoke St Gregory, Somerset

## Museum of English Rural Life

[Former reference number WA184]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/125**

Evacuee memoir: Joan Phillips, nee Dunn  
c. 1939-1943, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Sherbourne, Dorset.

Joan, aged 7, was evacuated with her school in Sussex Road, Brixton, London in September 1939. Her aunt had told her she was going for a week's holiday. The children were taken by rail to Sherborne, Dorset where they waited in Digby Hall to be billeted. Joan and two other girls went to The Cottage, King's Road to stay with Mrs Morel. One girl soon left, but Joan and Kathleen Heyho stayed for almost 4 years.

Joan was impressed by the large house and its furnishings as it was very different from home. Mrs Morel had servants and a companion, Miss Gilpin. The memoir describes walking the dog, trips in the car to Yeovil for lunch and to see films. Mrs Morel did charitable and voluntary work, driving casualties to hospital during a heavy bombing raid on Sherborne in 1940. Visits to her friends are recounted, including to Colonel and Mrs Winfield Digby, who occupied the lodge at Sherborne Castle.

After the bombing, the memoir describes building an indoor shelter downstairs. The girls' education suffered because the school had to share premises with the local Simons Road School and then Foster's School before it was bombed. Following this, their school shared the Congregational Church Hall in Long Street.

Mrs Morel had 4 grown-up children. She loved children and treated the evacuees well. Acts of kindness included paying for Joan's dental treatment and arranging for her to be christened. Canon Lovett from the Abbey conducted the service and Miss Gilpin and Rear Admiral and Mrs Corey of Coldharbour Hospital were godparents.

After an incident between Miss Gilpin and Mrs Morel the girls stayed with Mrs Anton, the daily help, for about a week and Joan was sent to her grandparents in Lewisham, London. They neglected her, and after a year she went to a Convent Orphanage in East Grinstead, Sussex, where she was happy and finished her schooling. Mrs Morel later paid for Joan's clothing and training as a kennel maid, after which Joan returned to Sherborne to set up her own kennels. She and Mrs



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Morel remained friends until Mrs Morel's death in 1970.

Memoir includes 6 photographs:

Canon & Mrs Lovett with Mrs Morel

Joan Dunn & Kathleen Heyho

Mrs Morel & Grandson

Joan Dunn & Kathleen Heyho

The cottage, Kings Rd, Sherborne, Dorset

Simons Rd School, Sherborne

[Former reference number WA185]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/126**

Evacuee memoir: Bryan Hart

c. 1939-1943, c. 2005

Consists of details of his evacuation from Croydon to Lewes, East Sussex

Parish Church School, Croydon; The Pells School; The British School; St. John's Parish Hall; Mountfield Road School

[Former reference number WA186]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/127**

Evacuee memoir: Eunice Emily Miriam Bookless, nee Grimsley  
1939-2005

Consists of details of her evacuation from Dagenham, Essex to Long Sutton, Somerset

Dorothy Barley School

Includes memoir by Robert Everett

[Former reference number WA187]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/128**

Evacuee memoir: A.T.

1939-2005

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Newcastle upon Tyne

Redacted copy

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Memoir describes living with her parents and two sisters on a housing estate in North West London, and that after the family had been bombed out they were allocated a house elsewhere. Many nights were spent in their own shelter, along with many lessons in the school shelter with headmaster 'Mr H'. With the V1 and V2 bombing raids, it was decided to evacuate the children to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, although it was not with the school. After the train ride to Newcastle, they were taken to a hall and each had a mattress on the floor for the night, although not much sleep was had. The next morning it was remembered as being 'like a January Sale in Harrods', when women rushed in to choose their child. She was taken in by 'Mrs B', and her friend took the two sisters. Although they lived quite close by, the children were not allowed to get together. Mrs B's son was described as 'spoilt' and 'a bully'. The teacher at the school was also described as being unkind to evacuees, so it was not a happy situation. Memoir recalls the winter spent there as 'cold' and 'lonely', although the school dinners were good.

The only highlight was a trip to Bamburgh, Northumberland, for a family funeral, as it was a chance to be with the sisters and go to the beach and see the sea for the first time. Memoir also includes a mention of a visit to Grace Darling's grave. Back in Newcastle many letters to their parents were written begging to be brought home, but apparently never posted by Mrs B. The parents later turned up to take them home, where the children were pleased to spend the night together in their double bed. Memoir describes a warm welcome waiting for them back at their old school, and playing with their classmates.

[Former reference number WA188]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/129**

Evacuee memoir: George Howell  
1939-2005

Consists of details of his evacuation from Manchester to Cheadle Hulme, Stockport.

Memoir consists of letters written by George Howell jointly to his widowed mother and grandfather after he had been evacuated from Gorton in Manchester to Hill House, Tenement Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire (now Greater Manchester). The letters cover ages 8-10 and George has tried to order them chronologically based on the quality of the writing.

Memoir includes:

1. A covering letter from George as an adult explaining about

## Museum of English Rural Life

the letters.

2. A page from 'The Evacuee' containing transcripts of seven of the handwritten letters, a photo of George aged about 7, a ground floor plan of Hill House and a brief explanation.

3. Nine letters from George covering visits by his mother and grandfather, things he needs, a reference to his Uncle Herbert, various mishaps, music lessons, and school.

4. Two photos of George in the snow at the nearby Woodhall Farm, Bramhall in Cheshire during the winter of 1940.

[Former reference number WA189]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/130**

Evacuee memoir: V.F. Reeves  
1939-c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of an evacuation from Dagenham, Essex to Great Yarmouth, Norfolk

[Former reference number WA190]

One folder is closed - contact University Archivist

1 folder (2 parts)

### **D EVAC A/1/131**

Evacuee memoir: Peter Terry  
1939, 2005

Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Ipswich and Kennylands Camp, Reading  
South Park School, Sevon Kings; Beal School, Cliff Lane Junior School

[Former reference number WA191]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/132**

Evacuee memoir: J.P. Williamson  
c.1939, 1990s-2010

Consists of details of an evacuation to Birmingham

[Former reference number WA194]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/133**

Evacuee memoir: Jean Ireland, nee Cooper  
1941-1944, 1990s-2010

Consists of details of her evacuation from Liverpool to Tarvin, Cheshire, Malpas, Cheshire and Tattenhall, Cheshire Malpas School

Memoir tells of the evacuation of Jean, born in 1933 of 35 Cardwell Street, Liverpool 7, and her younger brothers Alan and Albert. Their life near the city centre in a terraced house without electricity, hot water or indoor toilet is detailed, as well as Alan moving in with their Auntie Maggie, her husband Sam, his sister Bella and their four children.

During the air raids of 1940 Jean remembers the sirens and seeing fighters and bombers. The nearby marshalling yards and Edge Hill Station were targets. Their father converted the coal store into a shelter under the stairs, and Jean remembers the destruction on mornings following the raids. An unexploded land mine caused the family move to a church hall in West Derby and destroyed the local chapel when it detonated. On another occasion a Roman Catholic school was half destroyed and after Jean's school was bombed children were taught in nearby houses.

When they were evacuated the three children were taken by bus to Tarvin in Cheshire. Jean and Alan were billeted with a Mrs Ireland. When Alan fractured his leg at school, he returned to his aunts and uncle. Albert had been sent to The Beeches, a hostel for evacuees, and Jean joined him there before they moved to Tattenhall to stay with a Miss Mockridge.

Albert and Jean later returned to The Beeches and attended Malpas School whose head was Mr Jones. Lessons, nature walks and church visits are recounted. Their parents visited concerned about two children called Benny and Betty Lambert. Two teachers had been evacuated with Jean, including Miss Kinsey. Jean recalls adoring a local teacher called Miss Capper and being punished for sneaking out to watch her wedding.

Jean and Albert's final billet was with Albert and Olive Bostock at 11 Council Houses, Noman's Heath, Malpas. Life there and the house and garden are described. Prees Heath military camp and an airfield were nearby, and military vehicles passed through Malpas on the A41. Jean recalls Americans giving them sweets and gum, bombs falling over Prees Heath, and visits from her parents and relatives, including her uncles Albert and Les. Memoir also mentions the Bostock's relatives: Albert's sister Lucy, and Olive's parents and brother Reg.

In 1944 Jean caught scarlet fever and was taken to hospital at

## Museum of English Rural Life

Sealand near Chester, and recalls her mother and grandmother taking her out for the day. After returning to Noman's Heath Jean and Albert went back to Liverpool where she was shocked at the devastation. She ran away and took herself and Albert back to the Bostocks who called the police. Her parents came to collect them and Jean was severely punished. After the war the Coopers kept in touch with the Bostocks.

Memoir includes 8 photographs:

Mrs Ireland, Alan & Jean Cooper

Soldier Uncle Bill Grimes (Dolly Cooper's brother)

Albert Cooper, Jean's father (Albert Cooper), Jean Cooper

Albert Cooper

'The Beeches', 1941 (3 images)

Jean, her mother, Albert Cooper.

[Former reference number WA195]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/135**

Evacuee memoir: Doreen Middleton, nee Gibbs  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London  
[Former reference number WA197]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/136**

Evacuee memoir: Mavis Frith  
c.1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Burnley,  
Lancashire  
Ayloffs Infants and Junior School  
[Former reference number WA200]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/137**

Evacuee memoir: William Poland  
c.1939-1945, 2002  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Liverpool to Alveley,  
Shropshire  
Walton lane Council School, Liverpool

## Museum of English Rural Life

William attended Walton Lane Council School, Liverpool. In September 1939 he was evacuated to Alveley, near Bridgnorth and Kidderminster with many of his classmates and teachers. With pillowcase full of clean clothes, a label on his jacket, and a gas-mask in a box, William recalls the train journey from Liverpool to Bridgnorth as long, with an extra stop in Shrewsbury. Once at Bridgnorth, around 70 children were put on coaches and they travelled 7 miles to Alveley. At Alveley village hall, William recalls an 'unsmiling', 'rough-looking', local coalmining man turning up to collect him and another boy called John. They were taken to a cottage and were greeted by the wife of the man, who fussed over the boys.

The cottage was small, with no backdoor, a non-flushable toilet, large garden, and one oil lamp for lighting. William's chores were to light the morning fire, fill the coal scuttle, chop wood, and dispose of the contents of the non-flushable toilet into a pre-dug ditch. William also helped with picking potatoes, peas, apples, pears, plums, and damsons. Along with poaching, harvesting, and sheath stacking, William continued his education at the local village school and got used to the country way of living. He eventually thought of Alveley as a home from home and describes how he could see and hear Birmingham being bombed, as enemy planes used the River Severn to guide them. Two bombs also fell on Alveley, but no one was hurt.

William's hobbies were playing with friends at the old-stone quarry, playing football, earning pennies by being in the church choir, reading comic books and other materials, and he considered getting a job on a local farm. However, by 1942 the bombing had ceased and William returned to Liverpool, but he kept in contact with the couple who had looked after him in Alveley.

[Former reference number WA201]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/139**

Evacuee memoir: Marjorie Isabel Askew, nee Markham  
c.1939-1945, 2005

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Elsfield, Oxford, Colmworth, Bedfordshire, Oldham, Lancashire, Heworth, York and Bournemouth

Laystaff Street School; St. Deny's Roman Catholic School; East Howe School

Memoir recounts five evacuations over a period of two years

## Museum of English Rural Life

with intermittent periods at home in Clerkenwell, London, where Marjorie attended Laystall Street School. An only child, she was first evacuated aged 10 in September 1939. Her school travelled by train to the village of Elsfield near Oxford where she was selected by the Watts, a well-off family with servants.

Her next billet in November 1939 was with the Chamberlains and their son John, family friends who lived in Colmworth, Bedfordshire. She attended school in St Neots. She remembers being paid a shilling to pick peas and attending a wedding.

In 1940 Marjorie returned to London as there had been little bombing so far. However, she did experience the Battle of Britain and describes barrage balloons and the sight of Hurricanes and Spitfires. During the Blitz she witnessed fires all around them. Marjorie's family lived in a high-rise flat, which caused particular problems during air raids when they had to rush down flights of stairs to find shelter on the ground floor. Her father was a fire warden who extinguished incendiary bombs on the roof of the flats. For daytime raids her school had a shelter in the grounds

The next evacuation in late 1940 was to the Kirman family in Uppermill, Lancashire, where she attended a school near Saddleworth. She returned to London in 1941, however, only to be sent on to Heworth, York, to stay with the Newsom family and attend St Denys Roman Catholic School. Roman Catholicism was a new experience for Marjorie, but she settled in although she was behind in most subjects.

The final move was to Kinson, Bournemouth, in Dorset in 1941 because her father's job with the Land Registry had been transferred there. She stayed with Mr and Mrs Haines until her parents had their own house. Here her schooling improved at East Howe School where she developed a keen interest in drama. Her father's subsequent service with the Royal Artillery is detailed.

The memoir reflects on the positive and negative aspects of her experiences and how they changed her life: the wartime spirit and humour of Londoners as well as her loneliness, the terror of flying bombs and the disruption to her schooling. Marjorie makes a clear distinction between the government sponsored evacuations and those that were privately arranged.

Memoir includes a Schedule of Marjorie's Evacuations.

[Former reference number WA203]

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1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/140**

Evacuee memoir: Leslie C. Hedges  
c.1939-1945, 2001  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Felstead, Essex

Leslie describes being raised in Wood Green, North London. In 1939, he was issued with an Identity Card and gas mask at the local church hall. Leslie recalls his neighbour, Len Hook, preparing his uniform as he went to re-join his Navy ship, the HMS Hood. The ship sunk in battle and 1400 men, including Len, died. Leslie was sent away from London with some clean clothes, a label, and a gas mask. A fleet of London buses took the children from the local school to Felstead, Essex. On the bus, Leslie remembers hearing the first Air Raid siren of the war and believed that Barrage Balloons were going to attack the city. In Felstead, Leslie was collected from the local schoolhouse by Mrs. Taylor and lived at 6 Watch Villas. Leslie describes Mr. Taylor as a domineering husband from Yorkshire, who was a foreman at a local sugar beet factory.

Leslie had many hobbies as an evacuee such as picking and eating fruit and vegetables, night lining, being allowed to play in the farmlands and Chaff House, and helping with the harvest. His job was to lead the Shire horses and cart through the fields as sheaves of wheat were loaded. Leslie also had many wayward hobbies such as stealing Mars Bars from the sweet shop opposite the school he attended, and scaring chickens.

Leslie's father and brother would cycle the 60 miles from London to visit him and his mother would visit by train. After an incident between Leslie's mother and Mr. Taylor, Leslie was taken back to Wood Green and faced wartime dangers in London with his family.

[Former reference number WA204]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/141**

Evacuee memoir: R. Stone  
c.1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of a newspaper cutting of relating to his evacuation to West Mark Camp School, Petersfield

[Former reference number WA205]



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1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/142**

Evacuee memoir: Sydney J. Bray  
c.1940-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of papers relating to Sydney's evacuation from Southend on Sea to South Normanton, Derbyshire Bournemouth Park Road School

Evacuated from Southend on Sea to South Normanton, Derbyshire together with his two sisters on 2nd June 1940. They were joined by their mother at a later stage and returned home in the summer of 1943.

The memoir consists of the following:

Document outlining contents of memoir.

Letter of recommendation (reference) dated June 1945 pertaining to Sydney's mother from the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Postcard dated 3rd June 1940 sent by the host of his two sisters to his mother assuring her of their well-being.

An estimate dated 13 August 1943 from Pickfords Removals to his mother for the relocation of their household effects from South Normanton to Southend.

Two copies of 'Notice to Parents of Children Registered for Evacuation' instructions, dated 29th May 1940, sent by Southend-on-Sea Education Committee to parents. The assembly point for their evacuation being Bournemouth Park Road school.

A letter dated 5th June 1940 from the the host of his two sisters to his mother. The letter introduces the hosts and develops on the well-being of the two sisters.

One black and white photograph of a boy, possibly Sydney, and two girls standing together

[Former reference number WA206]

1 folder

## Museum of English Rural Life

**D EVAC  
A/1/143**

Evacuee memoir: Dorothy Ruzicka, known as Betty Banks  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Mellis,  
Suffolk.

At the beginning of September 1939, Dorothy's teacher, Miss Vincent, gave out parental consent forms and Dorothy learnt she was being sent away. The next morning she reluctantly waved goodbye to her mother and left with her gas mask and suitcase. At school, the pupils were lined up and given name tags. Neither parents nor children knew their destination. They walked the 3-5 miles to Ilford station and boarded steam trains that took them into the countryside.

They arrived at Mellis, a small village in Suffolk, where they sat on the Common and received provisions. Dorothy was taken to a farm with her friend Olive and stayed with Mr and Mrs Rodwell. They had fun collecting eggs, eating apples from the orchard and 'slopping the pigs'. However, Mrs Rodwell was ill and the girls moved to Drury Lane with Mr and Mrs Bennett who had a daughter the same age (11). Their son Stan was an adult and worked on a nearby farm. The Bennetts had chickens, ducks and a donkey and the girls were happy there.

The children picked blackberries to earn money for Christmas presents for their parents. By now, they were receiving letters from home.

School, in a small tin hut near the station, was well resourced and Dorothy enjoyed nature walks—a new experience. Three of their teachers had stayed with them: Miss Leonard, Miss May and Miss Vincent. They put on a 'Little Women' for the villagers and Dorothy played Meg. The children joined the Mellis Church and Dorothy was the Angel Gabriel in the nativity play.

Later the children were given bicycles so they could get to the school in the town of Eye. The school with its Victory Garden is described. On two occasions the pupils had to take cover when a German plane 'machine gunned' them. The memoir also recalls watching dogfights between Spitfires and Messerschmitts, and US planes on bombing missions.

Dorothy's parents were killed by a land mine in East Ham in March 1941. She returned to London in the September and started work in the London Co-op in Stratford. She witnessed the London bombings, Doodlebugs and V2s.

The memoir gives details of Dorothy's later life and move to the USA.

## Museum of English Rural Life

Memoir includes photographs of:

Mellis Church exterior.

Mellis Church window from the interior.

The 'Tin Hut School' at Mellis.

The 'Tin Hut School' at Mellis: close-up of the children.

Mellis Station.

Mellis 1940. Group of children on a nature study walk including Dorothy, Olive, Pat, Pat Lattimore and Jean Holt.

Tree girls on a carthorse.

Shaftesbury Road School, Forest Gate.

Front entrance of Shaftesbury Road School.

Dorothy's home in Brandon, Oregon.

Doroth in front of her home in Oregon.

[Former reference number WA207]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/144**

Evacuee memoir: Jean Armour, nee Rankin  
c.1939-1945, 2005

Consists of details of her evacuation from Gravesend, Kent to Mundesley, Great Yarmouth and Totnes, Devon  
Whitehill School

Memoir concerns the evacuation of Jean, 11, and her sisters, Mary, 10, and twins Anne and Pam, 6, from Gravesend, Kent, from September 1939 to Christmas 1941.

The children walked two miles from Whitehill School to West Street Pier where they boarded The Queen of the Channel, a paddle steamer later sunk at Dunkirk, bound for Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. They were transferred to Mundesley by coach where they waited outside the Coronation Hall to be selected for a billet. The four sisters went to a Mrs Earl and slept in two double beds in the attic.

Jean's mother and youngest sister, Jill, 2, were evacuated the same day, also by paddle steamer. They slept at Yarmouth

## Museum of English Rural Life

racecourse and were billeted at Wymondham until all the family were able to move in with a Mrs Gotts who lived nearby. Life in Mundesley is described.

Three months later the family returned to their father in Gravesend, but following Dunkirk the four sisters were evacuated with the school to Totnes, Devon. Jean went with three school friends to Mr and Mrs Moore while the twins stayed at Dartington Hall, which was also a centre for evacuees during the day. This is also where the girls went to school. One teacher, Mrs Owen, receives special praise. Dartington Hall, its public school and cultural life are described.

After a few weeks the twins moved into the home of an old lady called Mrs Glover where they got up to mischief. Jean's friends in her billet returned to Gravesend and she moved with her hosts to a house with a large garden where they could produce food. Jean now had to walk the three miles to school on her own.

Later, Jean and Mary were able to obtain a new billet together with the Roper family. They shared the billet with Mrs Roper's sister and a couple who had been bombed out in Plymouth. The twins returned to Gravesend. Jean and Mary joined them in 1941, but with the advent of doodlebugs the four girls were sent to an aunt in Fifeshire.

From 1942 to 1944 Jean attended the Gravesend Technical School, leaving to become a reporter at the Kent Messenger where she interviewed soldiers returning from war zones. Memoir contains information about family preparations for evacuation; gas masks; additional precautions against gas attacks; Anderson shelters; blackout frames; air raids and paper shortages.

[Former reference number WA208]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/145**

Evacuee memoir: Joan Perryman, nee Waldock  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of her evacuation Buckingham Gate School; Southwark Central School.

Joan lived in Pimlico, London and attended St Gabriel's school. Her mother worked part-time in a munitions factory and her father was a baker and exempt from the forces. In September 1939, she was taken to the Isle of Wight to stay with her aunt. Her older sister, Marjorie, had already been holidaying there

## Museum of English Rural Life

over the summer. In June 1940, Joan's mother moved her back to Pimlico. Here, Joan recalls shopping in Brixton and going to the Fifty Shillings Tailor Shop bomb shelter to avoid an air raid. She remembers travelling home from Brixton, across Vauxhall Bridge, and seeing the red sky beyond Lambeth Bridge. The East End and Docks were also bombed that night. Joan's local bomb shelter was at Church House, Great Smith Street.

In September 1940, Joan and Marjorie were evacuated to Paignton, Devon. They travelled from Buckingham Gate School to Paddington station and travelled by train to Paignton. In Paignton, the evacuees were taken to a school hall in Polsham Road to be billeted. Joan and Marjorie were billeted to the home of Mr and Mrs Johns, who had a young daughter called Sylvia. Mr John's had a wireless repair business. Joan remembers not being allowed back upstairs after coming down in the morning, and her rations were put out so she did not get any of the Johns' rations. She would take her mother to the Milky Bar for a cup of tea when she visited. The Johns decided to take in R.A.F. men and Joan and Marjorie had to find new billets.

They were billeted to a young couple, Mr and Mrs Bennet, who had a young daughter called Natalie. Mr Bennet was a butcher and they lived in a big house with 11 other evacuees. Joan describes the billet as awful and her mother was appalled at the living conditions and demanded new billets. Joan and Marjorie were billeted to Mr and Mrs Carnell, who had two sons of their own. The Carnell's became like a second family to Joan and whilst Marjorie returned to Pimlico in 1942 having left school, Joan remained with the Carnell's until July 1945. They remained extremely close after the war. Joan continued her education during the war and attended Polsham Road school, Curledge Street school, Southwark Central school, and finally returned to Buckingham Gate Central School in 1945.

[Former reference number WA209]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/146**

Evacuee memoir: Shirley Jarvis, nee Hudson  
c.1939-1945, 2005

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Great Torrington, Devon  
Sydney House

[Former reference number WA210]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/147**

Evacuee memoir: Sylvia Gill, nee Masters  
c.1939-1945, 2005

Consists of details of her evacuation to Banbury, Oxfordshire and Rougham, Suffolk

Shirley, aged 7, was evacuated with her sister, aged 4½-5, to Banbury, Oxfordshire in the early 1940s. They stayed in a large house in the charge of a retired hospital matron. She describes a regime of harsh discipline and poor food. She wrote to her parents, who collected her and her sister. They spent some time at home, but when the Docks were bombed they went to Rougham, Suffolk. They were billeted with a Mrs Palfrey, No 1 Council Houses. Mrs Palfrey could not read and colour-coded the washing she took in. Shirley attended school in the Village Hall.

There were US air bases nearby and Shirley remembers seeing planes returning in flames or crashing. There were two public houses in the village: one used by black Americans; and one used by white Americans. She recalls seeing the Home Guard practising with wooden rifles.

Shirley says that she only remembered 'good times from this place', specifically mentioning playing in haystacks, picnics with home-made jam and bread, and returning home with hair full of wildlife. She also points out that they used water from a rain butt, and the use of a communal cesspit.

There are two enclosures with the memoir:

1. A certificate from the Over-Seas League for Empire Day 1940 bearing the name Shirley Masters;
2. A letter written by her sister to their parents when Shirley was in Bury St Edmunds Hospital.

[Former reference number WA211]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/148**

Evacuee memoir: Winnie Rodd  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Honiton, Devon

[Former reference number WA213]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/149**

Evacuee memoir: Arthur Baker  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Memoir consists of two items:

1. Photograph of 31 children and adults, some named. Includes Mrs Haydon,

[?] Haydon, Ian Mitchell, Rosemary Cox, Mr Short, [?] Reynolds, Geoff Thayne,

Brian Cox, Joan Baker, [?] Tuppen, Yvonne Colpus, Geff Pecover, Peter

Thayne, Arthur Baker, Bert Palmer, [?] Draper, and [?] Tuppen.

2. Post card of Salisbury Cathedral sent home by Arthur Baker for his Aunt's birthday, October 27th 1939.

[Former reference number WA215]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/150**

Evacuee memoir: Vera Barber  
c.1944, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Abercanaid, Merthyr Tydfil

[Former reference number WA216]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/151**

Evacuee memoir: Margo Coser  
c.1939-1945, 1989  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Hartlepool to Staithes and Kendal.

Memoir consists of an article published in 'Christian Family' in 1989. It relates how Margo (age 9), brother Sydney (7) and sister Lesley (5) were evacuated from Hartlepool, County Durham to Staithes, North Yorkshire and then to Kendal, Cumbria.

Before being evacuated children were medically examined at school and were given pennies by neighbours. They took few

## Museum of English Rural Life

belongings but Margo describes the gas masks they all carried. At the station, identity labels were attached to their coats and they received a bag of supplies. Parents and their grandmother saw them off and they sang songs during the train journey.

On arrival, children waited in the school to be chosen by their hosts. Sidney was disabled and was the last to be picked. Margo recounts being upset that the woman who chose her and Lesley could not take Sidney as well. The woman, described later as 'Aunt Hannah', and her husband are described.

After six weeks their father visited. The girls were out, but Sidney was crying and was taken home.

Margo's feelings about the village children and school are described. She enjoyed nature lessons and loved Sundays when they had treats for dinner and attended chapel.

After nine months, their mother visited and was distressed to discover that Lesley had become attached to 'Aunt Hannah'. So the girls returned to Hartlepool and the air raids. Memoir mentions sheltering under the stairs and being allowed to go to school later next day. Damage and fatalities are described.

After Margo's father was conscripted, the family were offered accommodation by the Rev Bertram Jones, former curate of St Hilda's, Hartlepool, and now vicar at Kendal Parish Church. Life at the large vicarage is described as well as Margo's bedroom, the gardens, and the vicar's wife.

Margo's first job was as junior clerk in the Provincial insurance office in Kendal working for a Mr Levinson. She describes herself as hopeless.

The family returned to Hartlepool in 1947 and the memoir reflects on the wartime experiences that enriched Margo's life.

Memoir includes 3 photographs:

1. Margo aged 8 in 1938;
2. Margo aged nearly 18 in 1948;
3. Margo as an adult in 1989.

[Former reference number WA217]

1 folder



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**D EVAC  
A/1/152**

Evacuee memoir: George Osborn  
c.1939-1945, c.1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his sister, Brenda Osborn, and his  
evacuation  
[Former reference number WA218]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/153**

Evacuee memoir: Audrey Turley  
c.1939-1945, c.1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Birmingham to Wotton  
under Edge, Gloucestershire and Loughborough  
Raddlebarn Junior and Infant School; King's Norton Grammar  
School for Girls; Loughborough High School for Girls.

Memoir begins in 1939 and relates successive evacuation of  
Audrey and her siblings from Selly Oak, Birmingham. She left by  
rail aged 10 with her brother Leslie, 12, and the other pupils of  
Raddlebarn Junior and Infant Schools in the September.  
Possessions, name tags, gas masks and clothing are described.  
Their destination was the town hall at Wooton-under-Edge,  
Gloucestershire, where they were given provisions and selected  
by their hosts. She and her brother were separated.

She was billeted with John and Elsie Stower and their baby son  
in a modern council house where having a bathroom was a  
luxury for her. She joined the Guides as the Stowers were  
involved in scouting.

Audrey describes the village Church of England school and how  
she attended the St Mary-the-Virgin Parish Church. She made  
friends and was happy, though missing her family. She relates  
making Christmas puddings in preparation for a visit from her  
parents. However, the harsh winter of 1939-40 made the journey  
impossible.

Her younger brother Colin stayed for a few weeks, and her sister  
Dorothy was evacuated there in the spring but returned home  
because she was not looked after well. Memoir describes how  
there was talk of her and Leslie being sent to relatives in the US,  
but news of the destruction of an evacuee ship put a stop to it.  
She mentions seeing soldiers who had been injured at Dunkirk.

Memoir relates returning home because she had passed the  
exam for grammar school. She started at King's Norton  
Grammar School in 1940 but was evacuated again against her  
will a month later, this time to attend the High School for Girls in  
Loughborough, Leicestershire. She stayed with George and  
Elsie Simpson at 29 Elgin Road. She remembers 'double

## Museum of English Rural Life

summer time', a local British Restaurant and travelling into the city in Mr Simpson's sports car.

She stayed several months before being moved to the Norton family in Burleigh Road where she was very happy and kept in touch after the war. She became close friends with Eileen Taylor and her family. She remembers potato picking at half-term and collecting rose hips. Mrs Norton was unable to have her back after the summer, so she moved to Judges Street with a Mr and Mrs Johnson and then back to Birmingham.

Her family were now living in Ward End, which was very inconvenient for school so she stayed with her grandmother in Bournville until leaving school in 1946. The memoir reflects on her gratitude to all her foster parents.

[Former reference number WA219]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/154**

Evacuee memoir: Dorothy Mason, nee Williamson  
c.1939-1945, c.1990s-2010

Consists of details of her evacuation from Manchester to Winster, Derbyshire  
Cavendish Road School, West Didsbury

Memoir focusses on the day of the subject's evacuation from West Didsbury, Manchester, to Elton, Derbyshire. This took place in 1939 when she was aged 10, the youngest of four children. She had just begun the scholarship year at Cavendish Road School, West Didsbury. Her teacher was Mr. Radford.

She recalls a Miss Cope dressed as a drum majorette trying to 'cheer the children along' as they assembled in school before they boarded coaches to take them to Stockport in Greater Manchester. Children wore a luggage label showing details such as their name, address and school. They carried a gas mask in a cardboard box; a change of clothing in small suitcase or paper parcel; and a paper bag containing some food, some of which was to be handed over to their hosts. She mentions that her mother had volunteered to assist with the evacuation, intending to ensure that she 'went to a good home'.

Whilst waiting to board the coaches she 'became a bit lost'. However, at Tiviot Dale Station in Stockport she caught the train to Rowsley, Derbyshire, where she boarded another coach. She didn't recognise anyone else on the coach, but sat beside a girl, Betty Smith, and her mother, who cheered her up 'somewhat'.

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She recalls arriving at Winster, where the majority of children were dropped off, and seeing her mother, with whom she had hoped to make the journey. She had to remain on the coach until it arrived in Elton, where Betty's mother ensured that both children were billeted together with Mr and Mrs Cornelius Smith, known as 'Auntie Pattie' and 'Uncle Nealey'.

[Former reference number WA220]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/155**

Evacuee memoir: Peggy, Ann, Pat and Christopher Chadderton  
c.1940-1943, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of their evacuation from Birmingham to  
Burton on Trent

[Former reference number WA149]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/156**

Evacuee memoir: Geoffrey Trussler  
c.1940-1944, 2005

Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Porth,  
Rhondda Valley  
Islwyn School

[Former reference number WA222]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/157**

Evacuee memoir: Betty Ricketts, nee Redwood  
c.1939, 2005

Consists of details of her evacuation from Edmonton, London to  
Fornsett End, Norfolk

Raglan School and village schools.

Betty attended Raglan School, Edmonton. She was evacuated, with her older sister, to Diss in Norfolk. With a haversack and a favourite bedtime doll, Betty watched Disney cartoons in the school hall whilst waiting to be evacuated by train. At Diss station, Betty and her sister were taken to Fornsett End to live with the local seamstress, Miss Smith. Betty recalls her first Christmas with Miss Smith as exciting as they travelled to Norwich to stay with Miss Smith's family. Betty enjoyed playing with other children and learning to tell the time.

Betty continued her education in Diss and felt she was ahead of the other children. She enjoyed reading and was given books by the headteacher. Betty was friends with a girl who lived on a nearby farm and the pair were given chores and earned 6d to

## Museum of English Rural Life

buy sweets. Betty got to ride horses, follow the plough, collect primroses and cowslips, and enjoy country living.

Betty's father was evacuated with his government department to Llandudno, North Wales. Her sister was re-evacuated to Cornwall, and her mother remained in Edmonton. It was later decided that the whole family would move to Cornwall. Betty travelled to Liverpool St. Station and took the overnight Cornish Riviera train from Paddington. There was heavy gun fire and bombing during the journey and the train approached Bristol and Plymouth during one of the heaviest raids of the war. Betty saw the Navy oil tanks at Devonport blazing and smoking. Betty lived in Mawnan Smith, near Falmouth where she attended the local village school. Her hobbies included going to the local beach, cockling, paddling, and swimming in the Helford River. She returned to Edmonton in 1942 and attended Latymer School.

[Former reference number WA222]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/158**

Evacuee memoir: Brenda J. Hayden, nee Matthews  
c.1940-1943, 2005

Consists of details of her evacuation from Westcliff on Sea, Essex to Chapel en le Frith, Derbyshire  
Westcliff High School for Girls; Convent School, Warminster.

Brenda was evacuated, aged 12, from Westcliff-on-Sea in Essex to Chapel-en-le-Frith, in the Peak District of Derbyshire. She attended Westcliff High School and was evacuated with her school during the Dunkirk retreat and rescue in France, whilst there was the threat of German invasion along the east coast of Britain. Brenda was evacuated with a sack of clothes, a gas-mask, a label, and a stamped postcard to send her new address to her parents on. Her father remained in London working in the Public Records Office, and her brother was sent to Mansfield with the Southend High School for Boys. Her mother and grandmother went to Warminster in Wiltshire and were billeted with an elderly couple.

Brenda was taken by bus to the railway station where around 450 children boarded the train. Once in Chapel-en-le-Frith, they all walked from the station, through the village, to the Constitutional Hall where they waited to be picked for billets. Brenda remembers not being billeted on the first day and spending the night in a large house where she was given supper and slept on a camp bed. She was billeted the following day to a Mr and Mrs King who had a daughter, Jean, who was the same age. Brenda and Jean got on well and the pair enjoyed bike

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rides, playing games, and building an igloo in the back garden. Brenda continued her education with Westcliff High School, which had found a building to accommodate in Chapel-en-le-Frith. During the school holidays, Brenda would go and stay with her mother and grandmother in Wiltshire. Her brother would also stay between terms at Cambridge University, her brother then joined the Navy.

Westcliff High School was allowed to return to Westcliff after two years but Brenda's mother decided it was safer for Brenda to return to Wiltshire instead. Westcliff suffered doodle-bug raids in 1945. In Wiltshire, Brenda was billeted to a nice middle-aged couple with a big house. She remembers there was little heating and she got chilblains. She attended a local convent school run by Anglican nuns and was very happy. She left school in 1943 and got a part-time job as a shorthand typist in the local solicitor's office. She returned to Westcliff in the summer of 1945.

[Former reference number WA224]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/159**

Evacuee memoir: Jean C. Noble  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Stoke Newington, London to Reading, Berkshire  
Northwold Road Elementary School  
Includes a copy of Golden Girls and Downham Days by Jean C. Noble, 1999

[Former reference number WA225]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/160**

Evacuee memoir: Christine Winfride Dower, nee Wood  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Norbury, London to Durrington, Sussex, Chorley Wood, Hertfordshire, Raunds, Northamptonshire and Bromley, Kent  
Streatham Secondary School; Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth, Wellingborough High School for Girls; Bishop, ? College

[Former reference number WA226]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/161**

Evacuee memoir: R.F and Mrs Holmes  
c.1939-1945, 2005

Consists of details of his evacuation from Brixton, London to Highbridge, Somerset.  
Parkside School in Brixton.

Memoir of Mr R.F. Holmes, written as a letter to Mr Roffey at the Evacuee Reunion Association in 2005.

Evacuated at 8 years old with his sister Thelma, age 10 from Parkside School in Brixton SW9, London to Highbridge, Somerset TA9. Attended Adults school for evacuee boys, his sister attended the Town Hall for evacuee girls. Thelma made a lifelong friend Pat Trafford in this time, whom later Holmes married.

Holmes recalls details from his and his sister's evacuee school days. Thelma's teachers included Miss Drayton the Headmistress, Miss Price and Miss Palmer, whom were all from London. Thelma also recalled fondly her schoolmates Joyce Crowhurst, Rita Jordan, Josie Joy, Elsie and Miriam Price, Eileen Angliss and Brenda Halliday. Holmes is briefer about his school days, recalling teachers Mr Hawkins and Mr Friedman.

Holmes stayed in six homes over the period, remembering most fondly his home with Mrs Dorothy Hole, whose husband Aubrey died in action during the war.

Recalls details of the 1942 bombing of Highbridge, which notably destroyed the cheese factory in town. In addition, he details seeing incendiary bomb explosion circles and unexploded bombs in the fields between Highbridge and Brent Knoll, and playing with the extruding fins. He reflects on his later life service in the army (National Service) where he learned about the composition, mechanism and lethality of bombs, feeling fortunate he was unharmed in his youth.

[Former reference number WA227]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/162**

Evacuee memoir: Stanley Brand  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of his evacuation from Forest Gate, London to West Hendred, Wantage, Oxfordshire

Please be aware this account contains a description of animal cruelty.

## Museum of English Rural Life

Memoir is written for the benefit of Stanley's daughter Beverley and his grandchildren, Thomas and Jack.

Members of Stanley's family include Alfie his father, his paternal grandmother and uncles and aunts. One uncle, Leonard, was killed in Burma. When the war started Stanley (aged 4) and younger brother Alfred remained with their mother in Forest Gate, London, while his elder sisters, Joan, Kath and Pat were evacuated to Wantage, Berkshire. Their sister Sheelagh was born later.

Stanley's family survived a bombing thanks to their Anderson shelter. Their house was destroyed. The boys and their mother moved to West Hendred near Wantage, and were billeted with Lady Gwen Evans. Albert was stationed nearby in Didcot. They later moved to a cottage where their sisters joined them. It was sparsely furnished with few facilities. The brothers shared a camp bed. There was some hostility from neighbours. Stanley was bullied.

There were visits from Stanley's maternal grandparents, Mr and Mrs Fallis, and his mother's sister-in-law, Aunt Mary and her children, Terry and Kath. Alfred visited when on leave and the memoir relates his escapades with his brothers Albert and Ernie.

Stanley's experiences and misdeeds are recounted. He scumped fruit from orchards, stole from the larder, and was wrongly blamed for his sister Pat falling in the river. He smoked clover heads and dissected frogs and toads. Their dog, Trixie produced large numbers of puppies, one of which was weak and Stanley felt he had to put it down. Clothing was rationed and children's footwear had holes; Stanley got into trouble for tearing his new suit.

Stanley and his sisters spotted German and Italian prisoners. He saw dogfights and collected debris and bullets, and the children annoyed soldiers on manoeuvres by revealing their location. Stanley saw the crash of a plane towing a glider, and met US soldiers. Once, he was given a chicken sandwich while collecting pig food from a US air base. Otherwise he supplemented his diet with potatoes, swedes and mangelwurzels meant for animals. The village school had an allotment where Stanley learnt to grow other vegetables but he preferred the swedes and mangelwurzels.

The memoir refers to the church where Stanley pumped the organ, the chapel he attended and the stream where he played and went fishing. The local pub was The Hare. Stanley helped on the Kimbers' farm, working with a man called Roy. He tended their bull and shire horses, and helped with the corn and potato

## Museum of English Rural Life

harvests. His wages went to his mother. He witnessed cows calving, the slaughter of pigs at the butcher's and skinning a calf. He recalls the Castle family and their daughter Bella.

On returning to London they stayed with their Granny Brand at 27 Globe Road, Stepney.

[Former reference number WA228]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/163**

Evacuee memoir: Jean Bennett, nee Reid  
c.1939-1945, 2005

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Albury, Guildford, Surrey  
St. Michaels school

Memoir consists of the text of a talk given to school children by Jean and donated by her daughters following her death.

Memoir describes preparations for evacuation in 1938 and lists items that Jean took with her in September 1939 when she left Southfields, S. W. London for Albury near Guildford, Surrey. Jean (aged 11), her sister Rosemary (14) and brothers David (9) and Philip (4) attended different schools so to keep them together they were evacuated with the brothers' school (St Michaels). The memoir recounts the rail journey to Guildford. Buses then took them to Albury, where they received refreshments and were assigned to billets. The Reid children were billeted at Cherryman's Farm in Farley Green with Mrs Courtney-Wells, an elderly widow.

The Cherryman's site and house are described, and differences from life in London noted: no hot water, no electricity upstairs, lack of street lights, shops, cinema and traffic. Mrs Courtney-Wells was a good cook and had access to 'extra country food'. Jean's brothers learnt to snare rabbits and Jean learnt to prepare chickens and rabbits for cooking. The children also learnt to collect fruits and preserve them. Jean picked hazelnuts and mushrooms, collected wood for the fire, and helped on a nearby dairy farm, milking, cleaning and feeding the calves and bull.

Jean made one friend locally, a member of a large family who lived in the Hurtwood in a small cottage with no electricity. Jean recounts her visits there and her experiences of walking home in the dark. School for St Michaels pupils took place in a large house in Albury until Jean and Rosemary were able to rejoin their senior schools in Guildford, travelling by bus and taking a



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packed lunch until a school meals service was started. Jean's school moved into Guildown House

The memoir reports initial friction with village children that soon quietened down. Jean and Rosemary joined the Albury guides. They built outdoor shelters that were commandeered by Canadian soldiers who sent them a note of thanks. During the holidays, Jean occasionally returned to London and had a bad fall there at the age of 14 and stayed. She had been away for 2½ years. Rosemary eventually left school and also returned home for good. David had transferred to boarding school when he was 11, while Philip stayed in Farley Green until the end of the war.

Back in London, teacher shortages meant that Jean's schooling was erratic until she was able to leave. The memoir concludes with reflections on evacuation and Jean's own experiences.

Memoir includes:

A photograph of the four Reid evacuees with Mrs Courtney-Wells.

A postscript by Jean's daughter Alison Botterill that details the later lives of the Reid siblings.

[Former reference number WA229]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/164**

Evacuee memoir: Robert Putt  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of his evacuation from Poplar, London to Headington, Oxfordshire  
Upper North Street School, Poplar, London

Attended Upper North Street school in Poplar, London E14 from 1934 to 1939. The headmaster was Mr. Lacey and Robert's classroom teacher was Mr. Robinson. Putt was evacuated aged 10 with his sister Grace, 8, from London on September 1st 1939, with wartime provisions including food, gas masks and postcards stamped and addressed to home. He details the emotional scenes of the children saying goodbye to parents to be taken to unknown parts of the country.

They arrived at Headington, Oxfordshire OX3, and were placed in a selection system; they were among the last chosen as Robert maintained that he and his sister be homed together. They were reluctantly housed by couple who had only initially

## Museum of English Rural Life

wanted to foster Grace, and the local school that they attended bullied the evacuee children for months until settling into a routine.

Their home, despite Robert being impressed with the ownership of a Ford 8 model, was not well provisioned for either him or his sister. They were served food separately and with an implication of less than the rest of the household. Once his father returned from work at sea, they visited the pair and upon finding they were not being fed properly, were re-billeted; it was an emotional time for the pair, who were desperate to return home in a time where it was still unsafe to do so.

They were rehomed with Mrs. Kenworthy, her young son (age 4) and her husband, referred to as 'Ower Stanley', who was serving in the armed forces. Mrs. Kenworthy treated them with respect and had a pleasant temperament, attempting to give them a comfortable home. While his sister managed to adjust to the living changes, Robert struggled with homesickness and eventually Mrs. Kenworthy wrote to his parents on his behalf to have him return home.

Robert spent a total of two months in foster care; he hints that much more happened to his family during the war.

Memoir includes one poem titled '1939', written by Robert Putt about the war and his evacuation.

[Former reference number WA232]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/165**

Evacuee memoir: Jack Ian Hoppe  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of his evacuation from Sandwich, Kent to Penclawdd, Swansea and Carmarthen

[Edited]

Includes a draft of a speech relating to the 50th anniversary of evacuation

[Former reference number WA233]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/166**

Evacuee memoir: Geraldine Ellen Weston, nee McDonnell  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of her evacuation to Windlesham, Surrey St. Mary's Church of England School and Windlesham Village

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School  
[Former reference number WA234]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/167**

Evacuee memoir: Ken Young  
c.1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Birkenhead to  
Harlech, Gwynedd  
Cole Street School

In September 1939 the children lined up outside Cole Street school, Birkenhead, and went on a corporation bus to Birkenhead Woodside Station, with gas masks and name tags. They were billeted in a group at the Youth Hostel in Harlech, North Wales. After a walk to the beach they went to bed very tired. Ken describes being taken to hospital with a high temperature and was diagnosed with pneumonia, but pulled through thanks to the new May and Baker tablets. A woman named Mrs. Lloyd, described as 'a local worthy', took pity on him and he went to stay with her. He remembers they shared the school with Welsh children, describing it as a very peaceful place. They went home again before Christmas 1939.

[Former reference number WA235]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/168**

Evacuee memoir: Joan Perryman, nee Williams  
c.1939-1945, 2003  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Hackney, London to  
Stow Bedon, Norfolk  
The Orchard Primary School, Well Street, Hackney and Stow  
Bedon School

In September 1939 Joan, aged 10, was evacuated from Darnley Road, Hackney, London where she lived with her parents, two uncles and grandmother Eliza Williams. She and fellow pupils from Orchard School in West Street, were taken to Liverpool Street Station and on to Thetford, Norfolk. They were met by the Salvation Army and given refreshments. A local train took them to Stow Bredon. About 40 children assembled at Breckles Hall, the home of Lady Montague where at least 20 were billeted. The remainder were chosen by villagers.

Joan and Joyce, another evacuee, stayed with Mr and Mrs Dove at Breckles Cottage. They had 4 grown-up daughters: Joan (married to Arthur Willis), Betty, Glenda and Mary.

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Descriptions of Stow Bredon and its history are given: the village store and post office run by Mr and Mrs Andrews; the Reverend Redgrave, the Rector of Stow Bredon Church, lived next door to Breckles Cottage. In the absence of buses, Joan would walk 5 miles to the cinema in Watton until her parents sent her a bicycle. Mr Dove worked for Lady Montague and had been injured in World War I. He enjoyed Joan's company and helped her with her wild flower collection. He grew all his own vegetables and had an orchard.

Breckles Cottage and the routine there are described. There was an indoor bathroom and toilet, but water for them had to be hand-pumped from the kitchen. Joan enjoyed cycling to Home Farm before school to collect fresh milk. Here she met Elli and Lily, who were to marry later, and two evacuees, Violet and Betty, who became friends. Joan ate raw turnips there, being hungry because of food rationing.

In the winter Joan loved playing in the snow and had to be off school with snow blindness. While she was absent, Kenneth Redgrave, the Rector's son and an officer in the Medical Corps, played a trick on her, placing a dummy bomb in her desk and causing the police to be called.

When she was 13, Joan had an older boyfriend called Donald Nurse. Joan stayed with the Doves for 4 years and continued to keep in touch. The memoir reflects on children who had less happy experiences than her. Later, she attended the service commemorating the 60th anniversary of the evacuation in Westminster Abbey.

[Former reference number WA236]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/169**

Evacuee memoir: Patricia Ann Fewstrell, nee Atkins  
c.1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Dartford, Kent to North Perrott, Crewkerne, Somerset  
North Perrott School

Evacuated at the age of 5 ½ with her brother John, aged 7, from Dartford, Kent in 1942. Describes memories of train ride to Crewkerne Station, and then a bus ride to North Perrott.

Both were placed with Mr and Mrs Mabey of Begonia Cottage, which was opposite the school, post office and Manor Arms public house. It was also next to 'The Cross', a green area of

## Museum of English Rural Life

land in the village. They had a son called Graham.

Attended St Martin's Church and Sunday school. Describes memories of fun times playing conkers, finding grass snakes, taking the potatoes to roast in the local bakery on Sundays, and having a Wall's ice cream weekly from the man on his bike. He was later arrested as a spy, as he had a wireless transmitter hidden in the bottom of the ice cream box.

Remembers being given chewing gum by the soldiers when they stopped at the pub in their trucks, and recalls memories of Doodlebugs and running to the air raid shelter in the garden, her 'Uncle' being 'peppered' with bullets from an aeroplane whilst running behind them, and bomb holes in the fields and roads. Describes returning to the UK in approximately 2014 where they had a very emotional re-union with Graham Mabey, who was then the Warden of St Martin's Church.

[Former reference number WA237]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/170**

Evacuee memoir: Vera Chapman  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Worthing, Sussex and Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire  
CLOSED - contact University Archivist  
[Former reference number WA238]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/171**

Evacuee memoir: John Moore  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Littlehampton and Rainworth, Nottingham  
[Former reference number WA239]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/173**

Evacuee memoir: William T. Littler  
c.1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Dagenham, Essex to Moulsoford, Berkshire and Raunds, Northamptonshire  
Church of England Schol and Grammar School,  
Northamptonshire

William was 8 years old in 1939, living in a council estate in

## Museum of English Rural Life

Dagenham, Essex, RM8 RM10 with his younger sister and parents. His father worked in Smithfield and was part of the Home Guard during the war, defending key buildings like the town hall and the telephone exchange. Wartime was initially novel, with loss of luxuries and increased army presence but otherwise a maintenance of daily life. Hornchurch aerodrome near their home regularly deployed Spitfires, largely enjoyed by William who watched the aesthetics of the air fire despite the dangers of shrapnel.

Describes evacuation through London via Euston, to a home in Moulsoford, Berkshire OX10 9HR with a younger woman and her farmer husband, who treated him and another evacuee boy kindly. School was simply organised – housed in a single year, with ages grouped in specified areas. William was fascinated and enjoyed the country lifestyle, particularly the livestock and rabbit hunting with ferrets. He soon returned home, where life post-evacuation in London showed a stark change; schooling became infrequent, life revolved around attaining rations amidst shortening supply.

William was present for the Blitz although the campaign didn't target Essex, his homestead had multiple tactical targets, including Ford Motor Works, The Becton Gas works and power station supplying much of the east. Littler and his family stayed in the shelter during these raids.

They found their life significantly disrupted by damage and safety precautions, finding many essential shops and transport routes destroyed. William made his own fun during this time by exploring his neighbourhood, looking for shrapnel for his collection. He ties it to his later knowledge from the RAF of bomb materials, strategies and their volatility when improperly exploded.

He and his sister were later evacuated, this time to Raunds, Northamptonshire NN9, whereupon he recalls the selection process of evacuee children being deeply scrutinising. They were taken in by a couple of compassionate women known to them as 'Auntie Violet' and 'Grandma', who took care of them both; William till age 12 and his sister until the end of the war. He attended Church of England church school, and a scholarship to the grammar school, returning to Essex age 12.

[Former reference number WA243]

1 folder

## Museum of English Rural Life

**D EVAC  
A/1/174**

Evacuee memoir: Edward T. Jenkins  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of his evacuation from Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent to Beccles, Suffolk and Bungay, Suffolk  
Gravesend County School for Boys

Evacuated together with Gravesend County School for boys in September 1939 from Northfleet to Beccles and, subsequently, Bungay. He returned home in 1942 when the school relocated back to Gravesend. He was billeted with a host in Beccles initially and three different hosts in Bungay; one of whom he would live with on two occasions.

The memoir details their evacuation by boat (m.v. Royal Daffodil) from Gravesend to Lowestoft together with a number of other schools and groups. On arrival in Lowestoft, they spent two nights in an Odeon cinema and the eating, sleeping, entertainment and limited facilities aspects of their stay are discussed before exploring their dispersal to their various hosts.

The nature of his initial host family and the facilities of the billet at 2 Grange Road, Beccles, which he shared with one other evacuee, are described as are the initial days spent in their new surroundings. It details their accommodation, eating arrangements and school work. It touches upon their activities out of school, facilities for when there were the occasional air raid warnings, and interactions with the host and her role prior to Christmas. It also mentions an incident with a gas light.

The limited, initial, schooling arrangements in the autumn of 1939 and the conversion of a 17th Century workhouse into a suitable school are considered at length. The latter named Shipmeadow located between Beccles and Bungay. Cycling to school, the impact of the winter weather on the school and countryside, school work and the relations between the pupils and their teachers and the possibility of the school relocating are all discussed.

At the first, and last, billet at 36 Bigod Road, Bungay, consideration is given to the home, family, and the activities they all undertook. Attention is also directed at the summer of 1940 which highlights time spent on the river and a visit from his mother. Similarly, sightings of the evidence of war and an encounter with a plane dropping flares are mentioned as is joining the choir at the Priory Church of St. Mary and being Confirmed. On return to Bigod Road, memories include an eye condition experienced by the hosts new baby, 'baking days' and trips to get fish and chips, a neighbour with a garage business, the building of an air raid shelter, the local wildlife, and a competitive cycle ride.

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The billeting with the two other families in Bungay is described and the reasons for the move from Bigod Road and the relative brevity of the stays. The journey from Bungay home on school holidays is also discussed, the return of the school to Gravesend and life after evacuation including a period of service in 1946.

The memoir includes a number of ephemera:

1. A map of Suffolk showing Beccles and Bungay dated 1939.
2. A drawing of Shipmeadow House dated 1940.
3. A picture postcard of the m.v. Royal Daffodil,
4. A photograph with mother dated 1941
5. A photograph with host family dated 1941.

[Former reference number WA221]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/175**

Evacuee memoir: Elvin George Lucy  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Liverpool to Bangor, Gwynedd  
Includes transcripts of letters to his mother Ada Lucy

[Former reference number WA244]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/176**

Evacuee memoir: Norah Killingbeck, nee Cheel  
c.1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Castle Ashby and Chadstone, Northampton  
St. Mary's Convent; village school; Notre Dame School in Northampton

Norah lived in Hampstead, London, and attended St Mary's convent. In 1939, she was evacuated along with the convent and another local school. They met at Euston station and were all evacuated with a suitcase, a gas-mask, and a label, to Northampton. At Northampton station, the evacuees were taken to Derngate High School and were separated into groups. Norah was sent to Castle Ashby and taken to the village hall to be billeted. She was taken in by a Scottish lady and her husband.



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Norah was treated as if she were their own child however, the couple had to return to Scotland. Norah was then taken in by the billeting officer and his wife, 'Mr Norman' and 'Miss Amy', who were aristocratic and had three sons and a daughter. Norah continued education and enjoyed playing games, climbing trees, collecting paper for recycling, chasing horses, and playing pranks, with the other village children. She made fruit cakes and cracked and stored walnuts with Miss Amy and read books from Mr Norman's extensive library. Mr Norman painted a few pictures for Norah in her autograph book, which she still has.

Norah's father decided to send her mother, sister, aunt, cousin, and grandmother to Castle Ashby. They all stayed together at the Falcon Inn, which was owned by Lord Northampton who ensured the family had extra blankets in the winter. Norah remembers a small dairy being part of the inn and enjoyed her six months stay there. Lord Northampton found accommodation for Norah, her sister, and mother at a Rectory Cottage, Chadstone. Other cottages were also found for Norah's aunt, cousin, and grandmother, in Yardley Hastings. The Rectory Cottage had no running water, no electricity, and food was scarce, but the family managed well and she enjoyed collecting branches and twigs to light fires. Norah moved from Mrs Norman's village school to Notre Dame High School in Northampton Town. Norah's mother had to work in the Council Office in Northampton to cover the cost of school fees.

Norah also recalls the end of war celebrations where she was invited to the Castle, in Castle Ashby, by Lord and Lady Northampton who had a massive party for the entire village to celebrate. After the war, Norah stayed with Mr Norman and Miss Amy for a few months to finish the secretarial course she had started. She went back to London in time for the VJ celebrations in Leicester Square.

[Former reference number WA245]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/177**

Evacuee memoir: Joyce Howard, nee Cotton  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010

Consists of details of her evacuation to South Devon Village school

Joyce has positive memories of her evacuation to a South Devon village where she lived for five happy years and felt at home with the Rector, his wife, and their cook/housekeeper. She attended the village school, made friends, and recalls both the VE and VJ celebrations.

## Museum of English Rural Life

Joyce maintained close links with the housekeeper until her death in 2003, and a school friend. Although settled in Devon, Joyce reflects it would have been hard for her parents concerned about her welfare.

[Former reference number WA246]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/178**

Evacuee memoir: Shirley Sherry, nee Taylor  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Tottenham, London to Happisburgh, Norfolk and Oldham, Manchester  
Bruce Grove Junior School for Girls; Downhills Central School  
[Former reference number WA247]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/179**

Evacuee memoir: Norman Sherry  
c.1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Chrishall, Royston, Essex  
Bruce Grove School, Sperling Road

Evacuated on 1st September 1939 from Bruce Grove School, Tottenham to Chrishall, Essex where he would remain until 1942.

The memoir discusses Norman's evacuation journey, together with the rest of the school, the process of his selection and details the host family. The house he was to live in is described and the attributes of the village are detailed highlighting its agricultural nature, its rhythms, the availability of rabbits and eggs to eat, working horses and the attractions all this had for boys of a young age.

There is discussion of meadows being ploughed up to grow crops, steam powered farm machinery and the joys of the corn harvest. The latter being associated with rabbiting, the use to which the corn sheaves could be used, and threshing presenting the opportunity to pursue rats and mice. Other elements of the village and village life are discussed. These include a coach station (Weedon's), the various other shops, the best places to go scrumping and the inherent dangers, the village bobby, the village barber, the other evacuees, and the village boys and other characters.

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Memories of the conflict deal with the village garage being used as a landmark for German bombers aiming for Duxford airbase as well as the garage itself being bombed and strafed with machine gun fire. Additionally, mention is made of a close shave with a German bomber that was subsequently shot down, and hunting for souvenirs from the event.

The school teachers are mentioned and skating on the pond in the field behind the school and playing cricket with the resident cows as an additional fielding hazard are described. Norman describes his experience as wholly positive, and developed an interest in the local dialect.

[Former reference number WA248]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/182**

Evacuee memoir: Jeffrey Foreman  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Reading, Berkshire.  
Park Congregational Church Hall

Evacuated from Malmesbury Road Junior School, London in September [1939?] to Wallingford for an initial period. He subsequently moved to Reading in 1940 to attend school where he stayed with a host family for a period before he joined his parents who relocated to Reading following bomb damage to their home. The family stayed in Reading permanently.

There is a focus in his memoir on his school experience. He mentions attending a boys grammar school based in Wolseley Road, Caversham called Reay that had relocated out of London and shared its premises with a Reading school. Following staffing shortages, the boys school joined with an all girls school in 1943 using premises at Park Congregational Church. The two schools remained together for the duration of the war. His memoir also discusses paying a visit to his old Junior school in London.

His memoir mentions his hosts in Wallingford, who were a large family, and his initial host family in Reading who lived in Star Road, Caversham. He stayed with them for a period of two years.

[Former reference number WA251]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/183**

Evacuee memoir: Jack Stein  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Aylesbury,  
Buckinghamshire and Ilmer, Buckinghamshire  
[Former reference number WA252]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/184**

Evacuee memoir: Barbara E. Maynard  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to  
Eastbourne, Llanelly, Monmouthshire and Woking, Surrey  
Chelsea Central School; South West London Emergency  
Secondary School

Evacuated from Balham in September 1939 to Eastbourne, and  
subsequently from Eastbourne to Llanelly in June 1940. Barbara  
returned to London and was re-evacuated to Woking. She was  
reunited with her family in London in March 1941.

The greater part of Barbara's memoir deals with her time in  
Eastbourne. She mentions the family she was billeted with who  
were to become long-standing friends with both her and her  
parents. She was visited by her parents and saw her  
grandparents who lived in Ditchling. She discusses a visit from  
her mother who took her to see 'Shipyard Sally' and the  
poignancy of saying goodbye at the station. She deals with  
getting to her grandparents by train herself, and how her parents  
sent her money for the bus needed to get to school. She  
mentions her schooling in Eastbourne, sharing her billet initially  
with another evacuee and sledging on the Downs in the winter  
of 1940.

Barbara's memoir explains her re-evacuation from Eastbourne  
to Llanelly where she was to share an initial billet with a friend,  
which was to prove unsatisfactory, before moving to another  
where the two friends lived next door to each other. Her parents  
considered that she was too far away so Barbara returned  
home.

The memoir describes her time in Woking mentioning her  
school, her hosts and a friend, the school she was to attend in  
London and taking her School Certificate in the school shelter in  
1944.

## Museum of English Rural Life

Memoir includes a school essay entitled, 'My Life During the War' dated 23.10.1940.

This highlights her initial evacuation and re-evacuation to South Wales.

[Former reference number WA253]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/186**

Evacuee memoir: Harry Spalding  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation to Feckenham, Redditch, Worcestershire and Pontypool, Monmouthshire

[Former reference number WA255]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/188**

Evacuee memoir: Margaret R. Newton, nee Littler  
c.1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Dagenham, Essex to Raunds, Northampton  
Dorothy Barley Infants School; Council School in Raunds.

Born in Dagenham, Essex in 1935 and started attending Dorothy Barley Infant School in September 1940. Margaret recalls being measured for a gas mask, and talks of the war as 'an adventure'.

With her mother and brother Bill, four years her senior, the memoir describes going to Park Modern School and seeing coaches lined up. Margaret remembers arriving at Raunds, Northamptonshire with her brother, and her mother's instruction to stay together. They were taken to stay with a woman referred to as 'Aunt Violet', and her mother, Mrs. Bailey, referred to as 'Grandma'. They were given 'Roundtrees' wine gums and put to bed. She found the local school 'dark and old fashioned' and took herself to the new Council School. She recalls the children being vaccinated against diphtheria at the local Red Cross station. Two years later she moved to the C of E Junior School, where her brother had been, although by then he had started to attend Wellingborough Grammar School.

Bill moved to stay with Grandma's sister-in-law 'Auntie Nell', and her husband, 'Grandad Harvey'. Mrs Newton did not remain long with Aunt Violet and Grandma either, moving to stay firstly with the blacksmith and his wife, and then Mr and Mrs Prentice. She

## Museum of English Rural Life

continued to see Aunt Vi and Grandma and was taught to skip by the former. Her parents would visit and stay at the Prentices. At the time of her memoir she was still in contact with the Prentices' remaining daughter. The Prentices and Auntie Vi also attended her wedding.

She recalls the arrival of American servicemen, mentioning the airbases at Chelveston, Northamptonshire and Yelden (spelt 'Yealdon'), Bedfordshire. She says that the American servicemen were good to the local children, and that children, including her brother, would bike to Chelveston after school in search of 'war trophies'. Although she says that she stayed in Raunds for most of the war, she recalls being home with her parents and brother when the 'Rockets' came over.

She mentions being friends with other evacuees, naming Lily Day and Nellie Martin. She also talks of the local grocery stores, which she calls 'Palmwells', and The Carlton, the local cinema.

[Former reference number WA263]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/190**

Evacuee memoir: Ronald Smith  
1939, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of a copy of a letter from his host family to his parents

[Former reference number WA257]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/191**

Evacuee memoir: Edward A. Dorking  
c.1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Battersea, London to Eastbourne, Sussex, Wolfscastle, Pembrokeshire and Narberth, Pembrokeshire  
Raywood Street School, Battersea Park Road; church hall;  
Baptist chapel vestry; Greenwich Central (Secondary Modern) School

Memoir recounts being evacuated twice - initially, from Battersea to Pevensey Bay in 1939 and, subsequently from Battersea to Pembrokeshire in late 1940, where he would spend the duration of the war. The memoir details the initial evacuation to Pevensey Bay, a period of time in London during the Blitz in 1940 and focusses on his time in Pembrokeshire where he would live on three different farms.

## Museum of English Rural Life

The evacuation to the South Coast mentions that he was 9 years old and had joined his older sister's school so that they could be evacuated together. It mentions their departure from Battersea Park railway station, their arrival in Eastbourne and dispersal to Pevensey Bay, their selection on arrival, the meagre belongings they had and the supplies they were given, and his host family and their house close to the sea and nearby Martello towers. It also mentions their schooling arrangements and that his sister lived with an elderly Austrian Jewish couple. Feeling unhappy, he returned to London in February 1940.

In the period of time during 1940, the memoir mentions his family, his daily activities and schooling arrangements, it outlines a brush with the law and details the air raids and their impact.

In Pembrokeshire, the memoir discusses he and his mother initially living on Newton Farm near Wolf's Castle, which was close to where his sister and school had been re-evacuated. It explains the nature of the farm and the farmer's family, life and work on the farm, going to Haverfordwest to buy supplies, Sundays in a Baptist community, and schooling and the teachers.

Following the return of his mother to London in early 1941, he moved to another farm named "The Delyn" close to Wolf's Castle. This period of the memoir mentions the farmer and her three sons, the farm work he undertook, his walk to school, and the clogs that he wore.

With the move to secondary school, he then relocated to Lower Coxhill farm near Narberth. The journey to Narberth and the reason for the move to new hosts are explained. The memoir goes on to describe farm work, food items that were abundant and those that weren't, schooling arrangements, the subjects taught and a discussion of a number of his teachers. There is also a description of the school's cadet force, a flight in an aeroplane with the Air Training Corps, life and entertainment in Narberth as a young person, the troops stationed nearby, and the tribulations of teenage love.

The memoir finishes with an examination of his time in Wales and perceived local attitudes, the abrupt ending of his secondary education and the seeking of the results of exams, sat at the time, in later life.

[Former reference number WA261]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/193**

Evacuee memoir: Anonymous  
c.1939-1945, c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation  
[Former reference number WA265]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/194**

Evacuee memoir: Philip Copland  
c.1939-1945, c. 2005  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Great Yarmouth,  
Norfolk to Retford, Nottinghamshire  
Great Yarmouth Grammar School

Philip lived in Great Yarmouth, both a base for Royal Navy craft and a manufacturing town, and a target for German bombers. In 1941, aged 7, he was evacuated to East Retford, Nottinghamshire, where he remained until 1944. His mother had planned to send him to New Zealand, but the torpedoing of the *Empress of Britain* ended that plan. He was evacuated in the Spring of 1941. He recalls journeying by train from Yarmouth Vauxhall station to East Retford 'duly labelled' with a small suitcase.

He was billeted with a Mr and Mrs Hartley at Exton House, Pennington Walk, Retford. Mr Hartley was a foreman at an iron foundry. The house had a large kitchen garden producing vegetables (Philip specifically mentions 'Dig For Victory'). There were chickens to provide eggs, and a pig to provide bacon.

There was another evacuee, Raymond aged 14. Philip recalls missing his mother and family, and writing home. His mother moved to Retford and worked at Clark's Dyeworks. Philip attended school locally, but was taught by teachers from Norfolk; mainly women, as the men had been conscripted. Amongst those evacuated from the Great Yarmouth Grammar School was Kenneth Macmillan, subsequently knighted. Philip recalls indoor games sessions on Saturday mornings, and shortages of paper for art lessons, necessitating its repeated reuse.

Philip recalls seeing the Flying Scotsman and other steam engines passing through Retford station; the changing seasons; fruit from trees in the Autumn; conker contests; an appearance of "Romany", who broadcast on the BBC's Home Service; the kindness of neighbours; and eating liquorice instead of sweets. He gives an unflattering description of his 'foster mother' preparing soup, whilst pointing out the benefits of the British Restaurants and the shortcomings of school dinners.



## Museum of English Rural Life

Having passed his 11 plus, Philip returned to Great Yarmouth to attend the Grammar School from September 1944. He recalls spending time with his aunt, who worked in the NAAFI at the Royal Naval Hospital in Great Yarmouth; attending ENSA concerts and walking home in the black out; hit-and-run air raids; and doodlebugs. He talks of having experienced an “alien East Midland ... culture”, but of remaining a “Norfolk boy

[Former reference number WA266]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/195**

Evacuee memoir: Vivienne Halouska  
c.1939-1945, 2005

Evacuated from Liverpool to Rowen, Caernarvonshire

Memoir consists of a letter written by Vivienne, a former evacuee from Liverpool, to ‘James’ who was possibly the editor of the ‘The Evacuee’, the newsletter of the British Evacuees Association.

Vivienne and her sister Patricia had been evacuated to Roewen (now Rowen) in Caernarvonshire, North Wales. They had been billeted with a Mr and Mrs Edwards in Rock House. An account of her experiences had been published in the March 2003 issue of the ‘The Evacuee’.

Names of fellow evacuees are mentioned: Joe McNab, Gracie Williams and her little brother Ronnie Williams, Annie Campbell, Lily Davies, and John Monaghan who was billeted in the village shop.

Memoir includes a cutting from the Liverpool Echo of November 19th 1957, that contains an article about the evacuation of 95,000 women and children from the Merseyside area. The background to the evacuation is explained and the preparations and process are described in detail. Many children soon returned only to find that their schools had closed.

The article includes photographs of the children waiting to board their train at Lime Street Station in Liverpool. Vivienne and Patricia are on one of them but they are not identifiable.

Attached to the article is the personal memoir of an anonymous evacuee who was sent to Prestatyn in North Wales at the age of 8. Despite initial homesickness, she paints a very positive picture of life there and at the end of the war her family joined her. She stayed for 17 years.

## Museum of English Rural Life

[Former reference number WA268]

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### **D EVAC A/1/196**

Evacuee memoir: Jim Wright  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Forest Gate, London to Llanhilleth, Abertillery  
Tyr Graig  
[Former reference number WA269]

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### **D EVAC A/1/197**

Evacuee memoir: Kay Holmes  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Liverpool to Bangor, Gwynedd  
Liverpool Collegiate School and Friars' School.

At the outbreak of war, Kay was aged 16 ½ years old and lived with his father, mother and younger sister, Jill in Huyton, Liverpool. He recalls listening to Chamberlain's broadcast on 3rd September 1939 following which his father photographed the family together. On 4th September Jill was evacuated to Denbigh and Kay to Bangor, Gwynedd.

Kay was a pupil and prefect in the sixth form of Liverpool Collegiate School in Shaw Street. Most of the pupils of his school and the Liverpool Institute were evacuated to Bangor in North Wales and Kay remained there for nine months with occasional trips back to Huyton. Kay writes about each of his first four billets, his experiences and details of the people who accommodated him during that time and of a disturbing encounter in a local cafe.

School classes were held in various locations including Friars' School, the local girls' school with the sixth form using lecture rooms at Bangor University. Kay shared regular free time and made lasting friendships with two boys during this period: Fred Bird ('Chirp'), a school friend from West Derby days, and Cecil ('Ces') Jones. He recalls their free time activities, exploring Bangor, rambling and learning the operation of a signal box. Before Christmas, Fred left to start work back in Liverpool and after Easter 1940, Kay, then 17 years old, returned to Bangor to re-sit the Higher School Certificate.

His final billet was the Youth Hostel, Gorad-y-gyt on the Menai

## Museum of English Rural Life

Strait operated like a boarding house by masters from the Collegiate School. An incident on the final journey home to Liverpool after Whitsun involved the collapse of the overloaded trailer, towed by the family's elderly Citroen carrying his belongings. Kay recalls attending an Evacuee Reunion at Westminster Abbey (1999) and reports that Cecil Jones died in action with the RAF and Fred Bird was captured at Arnhem and held prisoner.

[Former reference number WA270]

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### **D EVAC A/1/199**

Evacuee memoir: Beryl Mathias nee Mills  
c.1939-1945, 2005

Beryl lived in Dartford, Kent and was evacuated with brother Freddy. One of five children of Harold and Blanche Mills.

The memoir recounts experiences of the Mills family prior to and during the Second World War, and their impact on Beryl's life afterwards. Memoir first describes how Beryl and sister Rosie were admitted to Bow Arrow Isolation Hospital with diphtheria in 1935, where they underwent harsh treatments. She recalls the impact of watching her sister die several beds away from her, and then continuing to fight her illness alone. She describes how her sister's death created a silent atmosphere at home, which was amplified when her father contracted meningitis in 1937 and after suffering great pain, died at West Hill Hospital.

The memoir then describes how the war years were a further tragedy for Beryl and family, from which they never recovered. Beryl recounts how being evacuated with her brother Freddy divided her family forever as she never saw her mother or family home again. She recalls how the evacuation experience stripped her of a sense of belonging and normalcy, made her susceptible to "unwanted spiritual motivation," and finally led her to become more nervous, fearful and unhappy. A handwritten note at the beginning of the memoir describes how many children were treated badly during the war years, and that Beryl herself suffered during this time.

[Former reference number WA272]

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## Museum of English Rural Life

**D EVAC  
A/1/202**

Evacuee memoir: Margaret H. Flack, nee Smith  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from Caterham, Surrey to  
Yeovil, Somerset

Evacuated from Caterham on the Hill to Yeovil with her two  
sisters. There are no dates in her memoir.

Her memoir discusses their evacuation from Caterham to Yeovil  
by bus and train, sleeping the first night in a hall before being  
separated the following day. She and one of her sisters were  
billeted with one family, who treated them well, and the other  
sister with another person who treated her badly to the extent  
that she became difficult to recognise at school.

The memoir further discusses, in some detail, the evacuees  
being treated for scabies and nits, and touches on being visited  
by their parents, who took them to see Snow White and the  
Seven Dwarfs, and the possible reasoning behind their  
evacuation.

The memoir also mentions that her husband, Stanley, was  
evacuated from Liverpool to Wales together with his brother  
Sydney.

[Former reference number WA275]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/206**

Evacuee memoir: Stanley Terrett  
c. 1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Newbury,  
Berkshire  
St. Johns Infants School; St. Nicholas Junior School

Memoir relates the evacuation of Stanley aged 4 and his older  
brother from South London to Newbury, Berkshire, where they  
stayed with their uncle, aunt and their five older children. The  
uncle was a colporteur, selling religious material, and a Baptist  
lay preacher who preached in the local villages within an area  
surrounded by Brimpton, Inkpen, Hermitage and Burghclere.  
Sundays were very strictly observed and the memoir describes  
Stanley's feelings about this.

Their mother visited sometimes and occasionally the children  
returned to London where Stanley recalls air-raids and trying to  
sleep in their Anderson shelter.

He first attended St John's Infants School next to St John's

## Museum of English Rural Life

Church that was destroyed by bombs in 1943. Describes buying sweets from nearby shops when they had money and coupons, and US servicemen stationed at Greenham Common or Hampstead Park near Enborne would give them gum if they were lucky.

Stanley's second school was St Nicholas's Junior School by the Paddington to West Country railway. Memoir describes the strict headmaster and the school buildings. His brother attended St Bartholemew's, the boys' grammar school. Next door was a bakery where Stanley bought cream buns for a penny.

They lived on the edge of town where the children could play in woods and fields, watch the trains or fish in the Kennet and Avon Canal. Memoir relates learning to swim outdoors in the Northcroft unheated pool. He joined the cubs (41st Newbury pack), the beginning of many years in the scouting movement.

Stanley won a Newbury-based scholarship to Christ's Hospital in Horsham but was not allowed to accept it because he was an evacuee, not a permanent resident.

The memoir reflects on the hardship of parents separated from their children and quotes a poem written by their father in 1939 when he was alone in London.

When the war ended there was a day off school and a street party. Stanley reflects on feelings about returning home after six years and expresses gratitude to his relatives.

[Former reference number WA279]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/208**

Evacuee memoir: Jean Richardson, nee Mapson  
c. 1939-1945, 2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Winslow, Buckingham

Evacuated as part of a school group from North Paddington Central school to Buckinghamshire on 2nd September 1939. She returned to London in 1941. She was initially billeted in an unnamed hamlet near Winslow, and subsequently in Winslow.

The memoir explains that she was prepared for evacuation in the summer of 1938 and had to return from holiday in Scotland as a consequence. The school group were then prepared for evacuation once again through the summer of 1939 when they were expected to have their food parcels and gas masks to

## Museum of English Rural Life

hand. Oxo cubes are mentioned as being part of the food parcels.

The memoir deals with the evacuation process of being taken to a railway station by coach, the school group being split up at Bletchley, the arrival in Winslow and being taken to her initial billet with another evacuee.

The hosts at the initial billet are briefly mentioned as is being in church on the following day when war was declared. The initial billet was a one and a half mile walk to Winslow and in the second week of their stay, being unhappy with the distance they had to walk, they decided to hitch a lift and were picked up by the Chief Education Officer for Buckinghamshire. This encounter resulted in them moving to Winslow where they had to find their own billet.

The second hosts are briefly described as being an elderly housekeeper and groom to a German Count who was interned shortly after. The memoir states that she was well looked after, had regular contact with her mother but had an issue with the bedsheets she was given.

The memoir goes on to deal with aspects of schooling by way of her class performing a play for the general public to raise funds for War Weapons Week, and her school being amalgamated with an evacuated boys school housed in Buckingham. It also mentions activities outside of schooling including a youth club, 2d library and choir practice.

The return to London and subsequent contact with her host are both mentioned.

The memoir includes three letters and two photographs. Two letters primarily deal with the search for the photographs. The photographs are of the 'Friends Visiting Me for Tea' class production in 1941. Some names are given.

[Former reference number WA282]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/209**

Evacuee memoir: D.A. Warwick  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of an extract from a booklet entitled Meon Valley Memories by D.A. Warwick, 1982, with a chapter entitled The Evacuees - Some Never to be Forgotten Stories from the Hampshire Chronicle 17 Jan 1967

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The writer was a billeting officer in Wickham, Hampshire, who lived in Wentworth House and took in evacuees herself.

The Victory Hall and the Church Hall had been prepared to receive the evacuees who arrived from London, Portsmouth and Southampton and from here they were dispersed as quickly as possible to their billets. Local people responded well. Admiral Foot at The Old House, for example, took in twelve children plus a helper for the rest of the war.

At Wentworth House as well her own family the writer accommodated families with children of all ages in their six bedrooms. She relates how she coped after the loss of her domestic help.

The role of Billeting Officer is described. If a billet couldn't be found for a child she put them up in her own home. Once a four-year-old girl called Sheila arrived with no papers or luggage. She stayed for about five years and was treated as a daughter until an aunt claimed her.

On another occasion, three boys arrived from Gosport aged 4, 6 and 7. The writer promised their father, a submariner, that she would keep them at Wentworth if anything happened to him. When his submarine was sunk, she kept her promise until their grandmother collected them after the war.

Other incidents include the cockney children who took the first train back to London because Wickham was too quiet for them. Another group contained a boy with measles whose mother refused to let him go to hospital. As a result, the Church Hall had to be vacated and fumigated. Once, the writer was called out to the station at 2.00am where a woman was about to give birth.

Finding accommodation for expectant mothers was a problem, but eventually a home was set up next to Chesapeake Mill with a qualified nurse as the warden. The home is described in detail. There was a tragic incident when a small child was poisoned by disinfectant. Another problem was visiting servicemen who refused to leave. A certain Mr A. E. Roberts dealt effectively with such issues.

The memoir describes dealing with children who were infested with vermin or had infectious diseases. There were also regular air raids that caused much damage but there was only one fatality.

[Former reference number WA284]

## Museum of English Rural Life

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### **D EVAC A/1/210**

Evacuee memoir: Douglas Moore  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Sheffield to Kegworth,  
Leicestershire

[Former reference number WA285]

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### **D EVAC A/1/212**

Evacuee memoir: Norman Wilkinson  
c. 1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of his evacuation from St Cleopas School,  
Liverpool to Northumberland.

The memoir consists of two complementary accounts, one focusing on the bombing of Liverpool and the other on Norman's evacuation.

Norman was 10 in 1940 and living with his parents and three siblings (Joyce 3, Lewis 7 and Arthur 18), in Parkhill Road, the Dingle, Liverpool. His father was a chief steward in the Merchant Navy. Norman attended Parkhill Road School but it closed because of teacher shortages and he transferred to St Cleopas School. Lessons were curtailed and some took place in teachers' homes. Through persistence, he then obtained a place at St Paul's School from which he won a scholarship to St Margaret's, Anfield.

During air-raids the family hid under the stairs until Liverpool Corporation provided brick shelters behind each house. The memoir describes the air-raids, bombed properties, and children collecting shrapnel. The family's house was completely demolished in 1941 and the younger children and their mother went to their aunt's house in Beresford Road where they spent the night. Norman recounts returning to Parkhill Road and desperately searching for his father. The next two nights were spent in a school where an uncle was caretaker.

The following day, their Uncle Jimmy and Aunt Edna took Norman and Lewis by train to Haydon Bridge in Northumberland where they stayed for 12 weeks in a small cottage with Mr and Mrs Wiley. The boys shared a bed and there was no indoor bathroom or toilet.

The children attended the local Shaftoe Trust First School where



## Museum of English Rural Life

Norman got up to mischief but excelled academically. He borrowed money to buy school milk every day and was only able to pay it back thanks to a postal order from home. On his 11th birthday he thought no-one had remembered until another sixpenny postal order arrived. Norman was not comfortable with his hosts. They had no children of their own, just numerous siblings who visited on Sundays. Norman relates how one of the women had her legs painted to resemble stockings. Norman undetected on one occasion, took someone's bicycle to ride the five miles to Hexham and back.

During the summer holidays the boys had to be out of the house from 7.00 until 5.00 and found it difficult to pass the time. Their parents visited with Joyce and, although there was some concern about the boys' welfare but they returned to Merseyside. Later, however, Norman managed to send a secret letter to his parents asking to go home and their father collected them. The family now rented a house in Aigburth in Liverpool where Arthur, now in the RAF, was reunited with them.

[Former reference number WA287]

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### **D EVAC A/1/213**

Evacuee memoir: Kathleen Monica Mackett  
c. 1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Pontyclun, Glamorgan  
[Former reference number WA288]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/215**

Evacuee memoir: Derek Pullum  
c. 1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Barking, London to Bath  
Monteagle School in Barking; St. Stephen's Junior School;  
Oldfield Boys School; West Central School  
[Former reference number WA291]

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### **D EVAC A/1/216**

Evacuee memoir: Roy Edgar Smith  
c. 1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Gravesend, Kent to East Dereham, Norfolk.

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On 3rd September 1939, Roy (age 9) and four of his seven siblings, Leonard (13), Joyce (10), Doreen (7), and Keith (5) were evacuated from Gravesend in Kent to East Dereham in Norfolk. Their parents, Percy and Ellen Smith made Leonard promise to try to keep the children together.

The children marched from the Gordon School to the Chatham and Dover Pier. After a formal send-off they departed on the Golden Eagle paddle steamer for Great Yarmouth where they spent the night in schools and at the racecourse. They received food parcels containing chocolate that was eaten by Roy and some of the children, making them ill.

At Crown Road School at East Dereham, host families selected the children. Joyce managed to avoid being chosen by a woman she disliked. Leonard and the girls were separated from Roy and Keith who only stayed one night at their first billet because the householder had tuberculosis.

Keith stayed at their next billet for the rest of the war, but in 1940 Roy moved to be with Doreen at 9 Commercial Road when Leonard joined the Merchant Navy and Joyce returned to Gravesend to help their mother who was expecting another baby. Being older, Leonard had already been able to have a job delivering oil for a hardware store.

Number 9 Commercial Road was on three floors and is described in detail. The children spent most of their time in the basement and Roy slept in a box room where he developed a fear of the dark. Their hosts were Mr and Mrs Day, an elderly couple who had two lodgers: Mr Tills and his daughter Ruby. The Days were 'very strict' but encouraged their reading and Mrs Day taught the children to sew and darn. They had little contact with Keith who eventually moved to Norwich where Mr Elliot, his host, was working.

Their school was an unheated disused church, but they had their own teachers from Gravesend, and Doreen was later commended for her reading ability.

One Sunday in 1942 Roy and Doreen ran away, but were recognised by a driver who returned them to the police house in Dereham. Mr Ball, the children's head teacher, was informed and contacted their mother. Two days later Doreen was taken to join Keith at the Elliots, and Roy was taken home to Gravesend.

The memoir reflects on the children's experiences.

Memoir includes:

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Two complementary versions of Roy Smith's reminiscences: a brief 2-page version and a 4-page version.

Photograph of Roy Smith and his brother Leonard taken in East Dereham in 1940.

A letter giving information about the photograph

[Former reference number WA292]

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### **D EVAC A/1/217**

Evacuee memoir: E. Lucy Crumb, nee Cox  
c. 1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of her evacuation  
[Former reference number WA292]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/218**

Evacuee memoir: Eric Chapman  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Leeds to Louth  
Lincolnshire

Evacuated from St. Simon's School in Ventnor Street, Leeds September 2nd 1939, transferred to Leeds Central Station, and on to final destination Louth in Lincolnshire LN11. Details his young memories of the evacuation process, including provisions and dress.

On arrival the school children were lined up at the town hall for inspection by prospective foster parents. Eric was selected with his friend Alan Burton by Mr and Mrs Hewson, who made them both feel welcome. They were housed at 43 Newbridge Hill, Louth.

Evacuee students were assigned to a range of local schools, Eric attending Monk's Dyke School; it was a modern contrast to his Victorian style school, but nevertheless he enjoyed and felt provided for.

Eric observes that Louth did not turn out to be a safe haven; air raids were common since it had many R.A.F. airfields. He remembers an air raid where he needed to be evacuated from his foster home as the Malt Kilns opposite had been heavily bombed and set alight. They went to a communal air raid shelter in the cellars of the local pea canning factory, where they remained two days until the flames were controlled.

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A second air raid he details playing in the garden and seeing a plane above open fire, recognising the plane as an enemy Junkers J.U. 88 Bomber. He took shelter in his foster home while neighbouring cottages and the 'Prince of Wales' public house were bombed. He notes his interest in fighter planes at this age was subsequently piqued.

He was among the last evacuees to return to Leeds in 1941, Alan having returned a year prior. Although he believes Louth was an unwise choice for government evacuation due to its lack of safety, he believes his time spent there improved his health immensely compared to his sickly early childhood in Leeds.

[Former reference number WA294]

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### **D EVAC A/1/219**

Evacuee memoir: Patrick Devine  
c. 1939-1945, 2000  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Chatham, Kent to Clydach, Swansea  
St. John's Boys School, Clydach Senior School  
[Former reference number WA295]

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### **D EVAC A/1/220**

Evacuee memoir: Rod Sarsfield  
c. 1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Liverpool to Shrewsbury  
Holt High School, Liverpool and Priory High School

Evacuated from Liverpool to Shrewsbury SY, Shropshire with co-students of Holt High School at age 13. In Shrewsbury, shared the premises of Priory High School with the local boys, each school attending a half day with their respective teachers.

Billeted with a steam engine driver Gordon Owen and his wife, Joan Owen, whom he remembers fondly; he did not get along as well with their son, Harry Owen, who later in life emigrated to Canada. He spent much quality time with Gordon, whom he admired for his profession and DIY flair; he recalled him being stern but fair and nurtured his interest in woodworking. He also enjoyed time spent collecting salvaged wood in Gordon's Morgan 3-Wheeler. Some of Gordon's woodworking can be found in local churches including Church at Atcham, where he and his wife are now buried.

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In 1939 he returned home briefly for Christmas along with many school friends, although unlike them he returned to his foster home in the new year. The whole school was eventually returned to Liverpool by Easter of 1940 to improve the quality of education the boys were receiving, although this was disrupted again by the events of The Blitz.

Later in life he made a career of shipping and thus spent much time at ports and at sea; he did not have consistent contact with his foster family but made an effort to stay in touch, visiting Joan a few times annually after Gordon's passing and attending her funeral. His foster family left a lasting positive impression on his life, and felt fortunate to have two sets of loving parents growing up.

[Former reference number WA296]

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### **D EVAC A/1/221**

Evacuee memoir: Reg O'Donoghue  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Newton Abbot, Devon

[Former reference number WA297]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/223**

Evacuee memoir: Charles Leigh (Karlheinz Liebenau)  
c.1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of his evacuation, whilst a refugee from Germany, from London to St. Albans, Hertfordshire  
On Kindertransport

[Former reference number WA300]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/224**

Evacuee memoir: Ronald Gavin  
c.1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Hove, Sussex, Brixham, Devon and Blandford Forum, Dorset

[Former reference number WA300]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/225**

Evacuee memoir: M. Styles  
c.1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of his evacuation from Ramsgate, Kent to  
Uttoxeter, Staffordshire  
St. Lukes Infants School and Carter Street School  
[Former reference number WA303]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/227**

War memoir: Angela Pollard  
c.1939-1945, 2005  
Consists of details of conditions in Athens, Greece during the  
Second World War

Angela lived in Athens, Greece for the duration of the war,  
relocating to the East End of London as an adult.

Memoir recounts Angela's life as a school-girl in German-occupied Athens. She remained in the city as there were no compulsory evacuations given the high danger across Greece. Angela describes life as unbearable under the German occupation, but that she and her high school classmates fought back by shouting slogans at German soldiers in the streets, and scattering cards with painted Anglo-Greek flags. One memorable incident includes being forced to clean slogans they had painted on the walls of the school after the Headmaster was severely threatened by German soldiers. The memoir describes how Angela and her friends helped stranded British soldiers escape Greece, and the serious consequences these actions had when discovered by the Germans.

[Former reference number WA305]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/228**

Evacuee memoir: Joyce Hunt  
1941  
Consists of a letter from A.G. Hawes of The Sir John Cass  
Foundation School, Aldgate at Queen's Park, Aylesbury to Mrs  
Pettitt

[Former reference number WA191]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/229**

War memoir: Joan I. Cole  
1941

Consists of a copy of a letter from Portsmouth Education Committee relating to Government Evacuation Scheme

[Former reference number WA212]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/230**

Evacuee memoir: Unknown  
c. 1939-1945

Consists of a copy of a photograph of evacuee at Sylvia Farm, Brockweir, Chepstow, Monmouthshire

[Former reference number WA153]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/232**

Evacuee memoir: C.I. Johnson  
c. 1939-1945

Consists of a copy of photographs of evacuees meeting members of the Royal Family

[Former reference number WA198]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/233**

Evacuee memoir: Pat Ophaus, nee Tribe  
c. 1939-1945

Consists of a copy of a photograph of evacuees including Pat Tribe

[Former reference number WA192]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/234**

Evacuee memoir: Unknown  
c. 1939-1945

Consists of a copy of a letter relating to Catford Central School transferring to Ewhurst, Surrey

[Former reference number WA230]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/236**

Evacuee memoir: Eileen Derrick, nee Barnes  
1939  
Consists of a copy of a letter to Eileen from her mother

[Former reference number WA239]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/237**

War memoir: Hugh Ferguson  
1941, 2005  
Consists of a copy of an article entitled The Sole Survivor

[Former reference number WA267]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/240**

Evacuee memoir: Douglas Andrews  
c. 1939-1945, 2002  
Consists of details of his evacuation from London to Great  
Shelford, Cambridge, Oakford, Devon and Manea,  
Cambridgeshire  
Church Street School, Oakford School  
[Former reference number WA308]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/241**

Detailed account of farming, and poem  
Evacuee memoir: Madge Woolnough, nee Ware  
c. 1939-1945, c. 1990s-2010  
Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Witney,  
Oxfordshire  
St. Pauls School, St. Mary's School

Evacuated together with her brother, two aunts and their  
children from Stratford to Witney in September [1939]. The  
family remained in Witney until sometime after December 1940.  
They appear to have lived in two separate locations in Witney.

The memoir details their evacuation from Stratford via  
Paddington to Witney, following a delay in a tunnel whilst an air  
raid was taking place. On arrival, they were subjected to a  
'cleansing' with Dettol before being taken to Hailey Road school  
where they slept on straw mattresses. It appears that they were



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initially billeted in a new house all together which they shared with another London family. The memoir mentions the river Windrush being at the bottom of the garden, milk being delivered from a churn and attending St Mary's Church school where the writer would meet a lifelong friend. This primary school was subsequently damaged in an air raid, and they then attended Hailey Road school before returning to St Mary's.

At some point, the family moved to a house on the High Street which they also shared with another family. The facilities are described as being basic and having to sleep in a cold attic. The memoir details a number of memories, including the fact that the writer's two aunts both had false teeth, how the two aunts would socialise with servicemen, having a kind and helpful butcher and the cattle market being a source of fear. The memoir goes on to mention what a marvellous time they had in Witney, attending the picture house and of a fair which came to the town when Madge rode a bicycle and injured herself. The memoir also mentions that a young Black family were their neighbours, they returned to Wales and were killed in an air raid.

The memoir discusses 1940 in some detail. The family were joined in the summer by Madge's grandmother, who returned to London after a couple of months but died shortly before Christmas. They went to London for the funeral and then returned to Witney for a memorable Christmas when they were joined by the writer's mother and uncle.

[Former reference number WA309]

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### **D EVAC A/1/242**

Evacuee memoir: Doreen Bakewell  
c. 1939-1945, 2005

Consists of details of her evacuation from Bexley, London to Briefield, Burney, Lancashire  
Hurst Road Primary School, Bexley

Memoir describes that in April 1942 Doreen, aged 10, and her sister Janet, aged 9, were evacuated with their friend Pat Bradshaw. They went from Hurst Road Primary School, Bexley, to Briefield, near Burnley, Lancashire. They stayed overnight in a hall and were given postcards to send home to say they had arrived safely. The next day they went to the home of Mr and Mrs Heap, who had four children of their own. They spent about three months there until Doreen was taken to Burnley hospital with osteomyelitis in her left leg for an operation. She was one of the first civilians to have penicillin and was in hospital for 16 weeks before she returned to Sidcup, where her sister Janet

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had already returned home.

[Former reference number WA310]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/243**

Evacuee memoir: Thelma Betty Coombes  
c.2005

Consists of details of her evacuation from Walthamstow, East London to Kempston, Bedfordshire

[Former reference number WA311]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/244**

Evacuee memoir: Eileen Knight (nee Scott)  
c.2005

Consists of details of her evacuation from London to Yarnton, Oxfordshire

St. George's School, Mount Street

[Former reference number WA312]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/245**

Evacuee memoir: Dennis Kicks  
c.2005

Consists of details of his evacuation from Gravesend, Kent to Newton Abbot, Devon

Memoir of Dennis Kicks, originally published in The Evacuee newsletter, titled "Sleeping with Maureen / Well - Not Quite!"

Lived on Isle of Sheppey. In early June 1940 Dennis and his mother accompanied his sister upon her evacuation with Gravesend Grammar School for Girls to Newton Abbot, Devon. After three months they moved on to another billet in Exmouth.

Memoir describes Dennis' experiences in Newton Abbot as a five-year-old. He and his mother stayed with the Durgess family on The Avenue, while his sister was billeted in another home with a schoolmate. Dennis recalls spending the evenings with the Durgesses, watching their fifteen-year-old son Arthur build model airplanes. Memoir recalls playing in several parks in Newton Abbot, including one near the railway station with a pool where he would sail a toy yacht while Arthur would fly model planes. Dennis' main memories of Newton Abbot were of attending the school at the end of The Avenue, including hating

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being forced to take afternoon naps on woven mats in the school hall, and befriending a ten-year-old girl named Maureen who would calm him down during these nap times. Dennis also describes a visit from his aunt and uncle, who worked at the Sheerness Dockyards. Overall memoir recalls Newton Abbot as very peaceful, except for a particular memory of a row of houses near the station being bombed while Dennis was walking home from the park.

Memoir then recounts family's move to Exmouth in August 1940, when Dennis' sister's school was moved there. In Exmouth the family was billeted with Mrs Evans, whom Dennis recalls was very different from the Durgesses as he presumes she was compelled to take in evacuees. Memoir describes that she was part of a group of peace campaigners, whose meetings she hosted at her house.

Lastly, memoir describes learning later from his aunt and uncle that Arthur Durgess joined the RAF after the war, but was killed in a plane crash during a training flight.

Memoir includes 3 photographs:

The Avenue and War Memorial, Newton Abbot.

Mrs. Sisson's house (the white building) at Heversham, Westmorland (now Cumbria), 1986.

Dennis Kicks and his sister in Mrs. Graham's garden at Cumwhinton, 1940.

[Former reference number WA314]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/247**

Evacuee memoir: Gordon Hall  
c.2005

Consists of details of his evacuation from Newcastle upon Tyne to Heversham, Cumbria. Includes copies of photographs of Gordon and his sister as children and of Heversham Wingrove Road School, Whickham View Secondary Modern School.

Evacuated Sept 2nd 1939 with his twin sister (5), older brother (10) and students of Wingrove High School, Newcastle Upon Tyne. They were relocated to Heversham, formerly Westmorland, near Leven Hall for a total of 6 months. Gordon details the evacuation trip through Newcastle central station, accompanied by classroom teacher Miss Osborne and

## Museum of English Rural Life

headmaster Haveron.

The children were taken to 'The Athenaeum' town hall to be selected by villagers. Gordon and his twin sister were billeted by a household of four (Miss Vieron, Mr Fisher, housekeeper Edna and a fourth man), who had a wealthy estate. Edna, from Lancaster, acted as caregiver. The hosts were largely absent but Gordon remembers trips to Lake Windemere and a trip to the dentist in Kendal, as well as being scolded for eating orchard apples.

Gordon's older brother was billeted next door with the Jenkins family – Mr and Mrs, and a son and young daughter, Daisy. Mr Jenkins was a manager at Libby's canning company. Gordon remembers the town fondly and surroundings to be peaceful.

The twins were moved to Mrs Sisson's townhouse, opposite St. Peter's. It housed two older female evacuees from South Shield, an AA patrolman, and a woman from Canada while her two sons served in the war. Mrs Sisson sold cigarettes and beer from the front door. Gordon recalls visiting the church, singing in the choir and ringing the bells, as well as the scuttling of the Graf Spree on the church wireless.

Gordon and his siblings spent Christmas of 1939 in Heversham. Mrs Sisson purchased a shop not long after. Gordon recounts a serious burn injury he sustained on his leg. They returned home shortly after, attending Wickham View Secondary Modern school. Air raids started and they were again evacuated, through Scotswood Station to Cumwhinton, Carlisle.

The twins stayed with Mr and Mrs Graham and their daughter Avril, with Gordon's brother billeted up the road. They lodged in their son's room, who was serving in the war. Their home was along a short row of houses bordered by a school and farmyard, opposite a cornfield. Gordon recalls his country school experiences, helping the war effort through salvaging. Soldiers often marched through the town, and air sirens were heard at times. Gordon's mother took the children home after a visit found them in conditions she felt unfit. Returning on a bus to Denton Burn, they were caught in an air raid and were shown home by an air-raid warden.

[Former reference number WA316]

1 folder

## Museum of English Rural Life

**D EVAC  
A/1/248**

Evacuee memoir: Mary Stokes (nee Kynaston)  
c.2005

Consists of details of her experience of evacuees from London being evacuated to her family's farm in Ditchheat, Somerset.

Mary Kynaston was born in August 1936 and was three years old at the outbreak of the war. She lived at Owley Farm, Ditchheat in Somerset. With two spare bedrooms the family were expected to accommodate evacuees as were other families in the area. The first group of four children arrived by train from the East End of London, consisting of Georgie, about nine years old, plus three girls including three-year-Rosie.

They found countryside living and farm animals very strange. They were poorly outfitted on arrival and Mrs Kynaston, possibly using coupons or an allowance, purchased shoes and clothes for them in Shepton Mallet. Eventually Mrs Kynaston could not cope caring for the children in addition to her farm duties, and they briefly moved to other billets before returning home to their mother. Their second group of evacuees were relatives escaping the raids from Bristol. Mary's Aunt and her two youngest daughters stayed until renting part of a local house. Her Uncle and the eldest daughter remained in Bristol. Mary mentions evacuees went to local schools and recalls a particular class evacuated with their teacher Miss Churcher, with whom Mary corresponded at her address in Kensington Church Walk, for some time after their return to London.

[Former reference number WA317]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/249**

Evacuee memoir: Phyllis T. Searle  
c.2005

Consists of details of her experience of being evacuated from Liverpool to Chester, Cheshire and Keswick, Cumbria. St. Edmunds College for girls in Liverpool, Queen's School, Chester, St. Katherine's College for Teacher Training.

In 1939 Phyllis was 16, lived in Liverpool and attended St Edmund's College for Girls, Devonshire Road, Liverpool 8. She had her 'school certificate', was in the Sixth form and wanted to go to teacher training college. She recalls that 1st September 1939 was a sunny day and that she went to school with an attaché case containing spare clothes, a gas mask in a cardboard box, and a brown paper bag containing 'corn' beef and other food. Mrs Morgan (formerly Miss Melhuish) was in charge and saw the children on to lorries to take them to the train. They had no idea of their destination.

## Museum of English Rural Life

The host school was Queen's School, Chester. Phyllis was partnered with Sheila Gallagher, a Fifth former. They were billeted in a terraced house in Vernon Street and shared a double bed. Phyllis attended classes with her teachers from Liverpool in their billets. After a short time Phyllis and Sheila were moved to another house in Vernon Street and then to Parkgate Road with a Mr and Mrs Hare. She recalls buying bread, wrapped in tissue paper and costing 4d or 4½d, at Bollands in the Rows. She mentions another friend, Olwen Hughes, and also describes being at a service in Chester Cathedral when war was declared.

Phyllis states that writing was a priority, and recalls receiving postal orders from home, which she used to supplement her diet. She says that she was 'often hungry'; did not receive a school meal; and survived on biscuits. She describes a hostility amongst local people towards the children from Liverpool, and recalls writing to the Liverpool Echo on 'what 10 weeks of war have taught me'.

In 1940 lessons resumed in Liverpool, and in September Phyllis started at St Katharine's College, which she attended until 1942, to undertake teacher training. The college was evacuated to Keswick, Cumberland, and Phyllis stayed in a guest house in Ambleside Road with a Mrs Richardson, missing the May Blitz of 1941 on Liverpool. The students dined at the Waverley Hotel, Main Street and attended compline at St John's Church in the evening. She mentions how cold it was in winter; that Derwent Water froze; and the lack of signposts.

[Former reference number WA318]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/250**

Evacuee memoir: Margaret (Peggy) Thresh (nee Sachs)

c.2005

Consists of details of her experience of being evacuated from London to Uppingham, Rutland and Grantham, Lincolnshire Kesteven and Grantham High School.

Margaret was evacuated with The Camden School for Girls from Kentish Town, London, to Uppingham in Rutland. Preparation had begun during the summer holidays with pupils attending with gas masks, spare clothes and provisions. Evacuation of the local schools, including Parliament Hill Girls School and William Ellis Boys School took place on September 3rd.

## Museum of English Rural Life

The route by train was unclear because station names had been deleted. Other schools left the train at stations on the way but Margaret's school did not leave until they arrived in Oakham, where they were given refreshments and taken by bus to Uppingham. Here most children were selected by families, but a primary school rather than a girls' grammar had been expected. The remaining pupils went to Bisbrooke, a nearby village. Margaret and her friend Pam hid if they didn't like the look of a potential host and were the last to be chosen. Their billet was with the Shephards, who were farmers. The memoir gives details of the many ways in which they helped on the farm, including harvesting with the help of Italian prisoners.

Lessons at school were less successful and had to take place in whatever building or hall was available until the school found accommodation in Lincolnshire at the Kesteven and Grantham High School where classrooms in Stonebridge House were also available. This meant leaving the Shephards, but Margaret often visited them later when she was in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) at Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire. In Grantham, Margaret and Pam moved in with a young couple called Sexton. The husband was a Warrant Officer at Cranwell. Memoir includes anecdotes of walking their dogs and being taken secretly to Cranwell to try the Link Trainers (flight simulators).

At Christmas, the girls were relocated to the family of Mr Savill, a bank manager. They had a maid called Caroline, who later left to join the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS). Details of school life are described, including: attending St Wilfrid's Church on Sundays; dress codes for gym and games; playing fields overlooked by an army barracks; visiting other schools with sports teams in places such as Lincoln with its cathedral.

Margaret left school in the summer.

[Former reference number WA319]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/251**

Evacuee memoir: Mary Ashton

c.2005

Consists of details of her experience of being evacuated from Enfield to Clacton-on-Sea, Essex and Cambridge, Cambridgeshire

[Former reference number WA320]

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Includes: Typescript reminiscences of Mary Ashton entitled 'A family in evacuation: World War Two'; handwritten letters from Mary Ashton; typescript programme for Cambridge and County High School Speech Day; labelled black and white photographs relating of Mary Ashton and handwritten diary of Mary Ashton

**D EVAC  
A/1/252**

Clacton County High School, Cambridge County High School  
Evacuee memoir: Eunice Crane

c.2005

Consists of details of her experience of an evacuee Charles Leigh (Karlhienz Liebenau) from Germany at her St. Albans home.

Memoir relates how the family of Eunice, aged 13, and her brother, 9, received a German-Jewish refugee in their small terraced house with limited facilities in St Albans, Herfordshire. Karlheinz Liebenau, or Charlie, as he became known, was also 13 and spoke little English at first.

Eunice felt sympathy for Charlie as he had evidently suffered and lost his family and for being a Jew among Christians. He practised his faith privately in his room where he also played opera records.

While Eunice attended the more prestigious St Albans Girls' Grammar School in Fleetville, Charlie struggled with school at Beaumont Secondary Modern. However, he got on well with Eunice's brother from the start and they would get into trouble for giggling together at mealtimes. Eventually, he was accepted by all the family and fitted in well. Two aunts who worked as tailors adapted his clothes so that he looked more English. They all became very fond of him.

The father was printer and the memoir explains the implications of the war for the printing industry: short-time working and a drop in wages at first until the younger men were called up and printed material was needed to support the war effort.

Charlie had to leave the family due to the illness of Eunice's mother, but he still visited. He moved to the Jewish boys' hostel in Brighton, Sussex and later joined the British Army, working in Germany as an interpreter. Eunice never lost touch with him.

[Former reference number WA321]

1 folder



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**D EVAC  
A/1/253**

Evacuee memoir: William A. Clark  
c.2005

Consists of details of his experience of an evacuee from London to Scotland, Duston, Northamptonshire and Hindhead, Surrey [Former reference number WA322]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/255**

Evacuee memoir: John Taphouse  
c.2005

Consists of details of his experience of an evacuee from London to St Neots, Cambridgeshire and a copy of black and white photograph Christchurch School.

Together with his sister Vera, aged 10, and his brother Jim, aged 8, John, aged 3, was evacuated to St Neots, Cambridgeshire (then in Huntingdonshire) in 1940. His family lived in a flat in London SE1, near Blackfriars Bridge. John had started to attend the nearby Christchurch School. His mother was an office cleaner, and his father a window cleaner and labourer.

John and his siblings travelled by train and on arrival in St Neots he and his sister were billeted at 38 The Square, St Neots. This house was part of a brewery and was occupied by the Misses Alice, Millie and Lillie Sibley, one other sister, Mrs May and two maids. John's elder brother was billeted on a less affluent family.

During the two years that John spent with the Sibleys they strove to eradicate the children's cockney accents, and improve their table manners with lapses resulting in 'a rap over the knuckles'. John recalls working hard to recover his cockney accent when he returned to London.

John went to a school in St Neots where the 'Miles quads' were amongst his classmates. His sister went to school in Huntingdon, and was found a billet closer to that school.

John recalls Sunday walks near the River Ouse; blackberry picking in the autumn; a walled garden with flowers and fruit trees, including peaches and apples; a trip by car to visit a farm; a fun fair in the town square with stalls and rides; the kindness of the brewery workers; and being offered black grapes, which he refused. He also recalls a visit by a doctor resulting in an

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accident with a thermometer. He mentions being offered a choice of soft toys and picking a golliwog, with which he was photographed by a high street photographer.

He received letters from his mother, and visits from her and an aunt. He describes one particular visit by his aunt and uncle. He also details an abandoned attempt by him and his sister to escape back to London. After two years John returned home, despite the fact that 'bombs were still falling', with Doodlebugs coming over, followed by V2s.

There were two enclosures with the memoir:

1. A letter from John Taphouse to Ms Coffey dated 5th August 2005;
2. A photograph of John Taphouse as a child, holding a golliwog doll.
3. a copy of the photograph of John holding the golliwog referred to in his memoir

[Former reference number WA324]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/256**

Evacuee memoir: Muriel Barnes  
c.2005

Consists of details of her experience of as an evacuee to Whissendine, Rutland

Muriel was evacuated from London to Whissendine, Rutland, for about 2 months. The memoir details that as a town girl she found it interesting to begin with but soon got bored. When she went home, she believes that one of the two girls with her was transferred somewhere else in order to be with her brother. The third girl transferred to another billet in Whissendine and stayed until the end of the war and kept in touch afterwards.

Attached are 3 photographs:-

- 1) Mr and Mrs Smith with their son outside a farmhouse
- 2) Muriel and two other class mates she was billeted with in Whissendine, Rutland, 1939
- 3) Muriel outside the farmhouse after returning in 1975

[Former reference number WA325]

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1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/257**

Evacuee memoir: John H. Woods  
c.2005

Consists of details of his experience of as an evacuee from London to Dartmouth, Devon and Loughborough, Leicestershire Holydale Road School, Nunhead, Peckham, Peckham Rye Secondary Modern in Nunhead.

First evacuated in 1939 from Holydale Road School in Nunhead, Peckham, London SE15 when he was 7 years old, with his 5-year-old brother Ronnie. They were taken to Paddington Station, and then after a 6-hour journey, by train to Dartmouth in Devon. They were taken by ferry across the River Dart to Dartmouth Town Hall, and then to a sweet and tobacco shop near the Boat Float on the South Embankment, run by the Cheesemans. Ronnie was taken to another location, but he could not settle and was brought back to Peckham by his mother.

Memoir mentions starting school and the attitude of local children toward them, being called 'dirty cockneys'. Memoir also mentions buying fresh bread and eating it on the way to school. After school he mentions meeting up with friends from Nunhead, the Curetons, who were billeted around the corner in Church Street, and playing games such as 'War' and 'Hide & Seek'. He talks about the differences of today's children and those of 1940, as well as 'Saturday Cinema' with 'Cowboy and Indian' films and war films.

Mentions that most children thought the war was exciting and were not aware of the danger, and recounts memories such as seeing MTBs (Motor Torpedo Boats) returning shot up. He returned home in 1943 and was attending Peckham Rye Secondary Modern in Nunhead, but after the V1 and V2 attacks started in 1944, demolishing their house, he was evacuated to Loughborough with other children, but his siblings were evacuated to Burton-on-Trent.

He stayed in the vicarage with six other children temporarily, and was then placed with another family. Remembers watching Boston aircraft flying from a nearby airfield and playing football, cricket and exploring the countryside. Memoir mentions that he enjoyed the experience, seeing parts of England he wouldn't have seen otherwise.

[Former reference number WA326]

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1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/259**

Evacuee memoir: Doreen Foreman  
c.2005

Consists of details of her experience of as an evacuee from Margate to Rugeley, Staffordshire, and a copy of black and white photograph  
[Former reference number WA330]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/260**

Evacuee memoir: Ann Gilmartin  
c.2005

Consists of a copy of newspaper article about her evacuation from Birmingham to Evesham.

Memoir consists of a newspaper interview of Ann about evacuation with her school from Birmingham to Evesham at the age of 11 in September 1939.

She arrived at Evesham Station and walked across the road to St Mary's School where the children were given rations. They all had gas masks in a box carried over their shoulders. Ann was billeted at 64 Windsor Road with Fred and Norah Brotherton and their daughter Marjorie aged 13 who attended Prince Henry's Grammar School.

Life with the Brothertons is described. Mr Brotherton was a market gardener who also grew his own produce. They were never short of fruit or vegetables and Mrs Brotherton made jam and preserves. Ann was taught to help with the chores and how to budget the half crown postal order that arrived every week with a letter from her parents. Their routine is outlined: school, church, a weekly bath, washday. Ann had a holiday job in a cake and sweet shop in the High Street.

After her return to Birmingham Ann spent her holidays with the Brothertons and kept in close contact after the death of their daughter. Mr Brotherton gave Ann away when she married in 1952 and Mr and Mrs Brotherton were Uncle and Aunt to her children.

The Brothertons died in the 1980s and Ann reflects on her happy days as their evacuee.

[Former reference number WA331]

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1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/261**

Evacuee memoir: Sydney Oats  
c.2005

Consists of details about an evacuation from Tilbury, Essex to Cromer, Norfolk  
Lansdowne Road School  
[Former reference number WA332]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/263**

Evacuee memoir: Gwendoline Langridge  
c.2005

Consists of details about an evacuation from London to Hertfordshire and Stafford.

Gwendoline and her brother were sent to Hertfordshire in May 1940 to stay with relations, but German bomber planes were flying overhead so by August they went home. They took shelter in the underground day and night for 6 months. They then went to Stafford in February 1941 to join schools that had been evacuated in June 1940. As most of the homes were full, they were put up with a family but felt very unwanted. The army had set up camp nearby which worried her mother due to Gwendoline's age. By July 1941 they were sent to relations in Crewe until October 1942 when they returned home.

Memoir includes copies of 2 photographs, dated June 1941:

1. Photograph labelled 'In the school playground'
2. Photograph labelled 'Outside of Mollie and Barry's home'

[Former reference number WA334]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/264**

Evacuee memoir: Norman Nevard  
c.2005

Consists of details about his working life during the war  
[Former reference number WA335]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/265**

Evacuee memoir: Marjorie Clarke, nee Miller  
c.2005

Consists of details about an evacuation from London to Glyndebourne, East Sussex.

Marjorie was a trainee children's nurse at the Crossway Day Nursery, run by the Crossway Central Mission, New Kent Road. Her memoir concerns the evacuation of the nursery to Glyndebourne Opera on 2nd September 1939 until its return to London in August 1940; the nursery being disbanded after its building was bombed in the Blitz.

The evacuation was of babies and children up to the age of four, involving the use of two buses. At Glyndebourne, where their arrival and that of three other nurseries was unexpected, they were accommodated in a hut, which was also used by the Agnes Parr Nursery. Marjorie mentions a lack of equipment; feeding children on the floor; and putting children to sleep on sacks filled with hay or straw. She recalls the reaction of one child on seeing cows for the first time, and the novelty of being allowed to walk on the grass, as well as taking 'happy rambles' through the woods.

By winter, the evacuees had moved into the Mansion, where dressing rooms were used for sleeping accommodation. Some parents had withdrawn their children due to a high rate of sickness. An LCC Matron was sent as Commandant. Food was 'good and plentiful'. Marjorie talks of the arrival of three German Jewish girls, refugees from Berlin, and the visit of one of their brothers. She gives an account of Christmas and a visit by the children's parents on Boxing Day.

She mentions several people: Miss Fowler and Miss Allen; Jock, a stagehand; Audrey Mildmay (John Christie's wife); and Frank and Molly Reeve, who lived on the estate.

Marjorie mentions Lewes, shopping in Ringmer, and visiting Brighton, where her £1 a month wage would not permit her to attend Sherry's tea dances.

[Former reference number WA336]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/267**

Evacuee memoir: Irene Baxter  
c.2005  
Consists of details about an evacuation to Whittingham,  
Northumberland  
Todd's Nook School, Newcastle  
[Former reference number WA338]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/268**

Evacuee memoir: Walter Broughton  
c.2005  
Consists of details about an evacuation from Leeds to  
Northallerton, copies of newspaper article and copies of  
photographs.

Walter and 25 other children from the Woodhouse Nursery in  
Leeds were evacuated to Northallerton, North Yorkshire. Their  
hosts were Lady Joan Peake and the Right Honourable Osbert  
Peake (later Viscount Ingleby), the MP for Leeds North. The  
children stayed at Snilesworth Lodge, the family seat of the  
Peake family.

Memoir consists of the following pieces of ephemera:

Photograph of Walter and one other child being served a meal  
by Lady Joan Peake. A woman in the background is Betty  
Booth, Nov 1939

Photograph of Walter aged 4 with a group children and their  
teacher, Miss Betty Alexander.

Photograph of the children at Snilesworth Lodge.

Article from The Leeds Mercury of 11th November, 1939  
recounting the evacuation. It includes photographs of five of the  
children having tea and the image of the children with their  
teacher.

[Former reference number WA339]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/269**

Evacuee memoir: Colin William Gray  
c.2005  
Consists of details about the evacuation of Charles Leigh of  
London to St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Colin was a member of a family, which hosted an evacuee:

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Karlheinz Leibeman (Charles Leigh), known as 'Charlie', a German Jew, aged 13.

Colin, a member of the Salvation Army, recalls waiting at the front gate of his terraced house in September 1939, and a 'human crocodile' of children. Although expected to take two children, Colin's mother would only take one. Due to her ill-health Charlie moved to another family, and then to a Hostel for Jewish Boys in Brighton. Nevertheless, Colin's family stayed in close contact with Charlie and, at the time of writing his memoir, Colin and his sister remained so, regarding Charlie as 'a brother' and 'a very real member of [the] family'.

Colin describes going with his father to his grandparents on 3rd September 1939 to hear Neville Chamberlain's broadcast. He says that he followed the war avidly via press and wireless, and collected 'war memorabilia'. At school (Beaumont Boys and Girls School, St Albans) he spent many hours 'down the shelters'. He made friends with other evacuees from Harlesden in London, specifically mentioning John and Paul Flecher/Flesher, with whom he made camps in local woods and fields, and from whom he learnt 'back-slang'.

He talks of rationing, of breeding rabbits for food, and selling the surplus. He also recalls that his father converted a cellar into a 'bomb shelter', and describes a queue of Military Ambulances (converted Green Line coaches) 'crammed with wounded men' evacuated from Dunkirk en route to the local hospital, which had been taken over by Bart's Hospital.

[Former reference number WA340]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/271**

Evacuee memoir: Joan Burling nee Dulwich  
c. 2005

Consists of details about an evacuation from Hackney, London to Northampton, Kingscliffe and Melton Mowbray, and a Bible and teacosy

Princess May Road School, Hackney

[Former reference number WA341 - duplicate number]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/272**

Evacuee memoir: Patricia Kempton  
c. 2005

Consists of details about an evacuation from London to Stalbridge Weston, Dorset



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Walworth Central School.

Patricia Woodward (aged 11½ ) lived with her parents and her brother Stanley (10) and sister Joan (9) in Walworth, South London. They lived in a basement flat in Madron Street, off the Old Kent Road and Patricia was a pupil at Walworth Central School, Mina Road. On September 1st, 1939, the three children were to report to Walworth Central School, where they walked with other pupils to London Waterloo Station to take a train with their teachers to Dorset. Patricia and Joan were billeted for six months with Mrs Coffin in the small village of Stalbridge Weston, with Stanley sent to nearby Stalbridge in an old cottage with a woman with two young babies. Some children were billeted in Stalbridge and others in Sturminster Newton. Patricia recalls a coach outing on 3rd September 1939 to see the Sturminster Hunt.

Patricia attended school in a large hall and her siblings at the local village school. She remembers the hard snowy winter and that in February 1940 their parents collected them to return to Walworth. In September 1940, during increased bombing, they sheltered with neighbours in their basement and then used the air raid shelter at the end of the street. In early October 1940 the three children and their mother evacuated to West Chinnock, Somerset, joining their aunt and her baby. Patricia's mother returned to London a few weeks later and the children were placed in different houses over the next couple of years. Stanley and Joan attended the village school, and Patricia joined another London school billeted in West Chinnock. Patricia recalls she was already ahead in her education and was asked to help with the younger students. In 1941 Patricia and Stanley returned home, and Joan remained in Somerset until the end of the war. Patricia returned to Walworth Central School, and on reaching the age of 14 in December 1941 left school and was accepted as a trainee Messenger with the Post Office.

[Former reference number WA343]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/273**

Evacuee memoir: George Redvers Lefevre  
c. 2005

Consists of details about an evacuation to Cornwall and a photograph

[Former reference number WA344]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/274**

Evacuee memoir: Peter Barton

11 Nov 2004

Consists of details about an evacuation from London to Betws-Y-Coed, North Wales; Kettering, Northamptonshire; North Aston, Oxfordshire.

Peter lived on Dawlish Drive, Ilford, in Essex. His father evacuated the family to Betws-y-Coed in North Wales. In Betws-y-Coed, Peter's family spent the first night at The Royal Oak Hotel but found a room the following morning in a small cottage near a water mill. Peter started education in Wales but could not understand the Welsh accents of his teachers. He ran away from the school the morning he started, and did not have any education for another year. His family found alternative lodgings in a Grocer's shop with petrol pumps, where Peter recalls stealing and eating a tin of chocolate fingers. His mother travelled to Llanrwst to replace the exact tin in fear of being kicked out of the lodgings. They lived there for a year.

Peter's family moved to Kettering in Northamptonshire, where they lived for a year. He describes a German pilot landing by parachute on his roof. Peter's father was a member of the Oldham Press Auxiliary Fire Brigade, and Peter enjoyed watching him train their neighbours in fire-fighting. Peter recalls night air-raids becoming more intense and remembers some experiences of this, later collecting shrapnel from the night raids and swapping pieces with school friends.

Peter became interested in aeroplanes and whittled wood with friends to build scale model Spitfires and Hurricanes. An older boy showed Peter how to make an explosive device using nuts, bolts, and matches, and Peter was nearly fatally injured when he made his own. Upon the deployment of Doodlebugs, Peter's father evacuated the family again by train from Paddington Station to Banbury, Oxford. Peter and his family stayed with the Hichens at North Aston Hall, Oxfordshire, where he sang in the choir at the adjacent St. Mary's Church and enjoyed running and playing in the grounds of North Aston Hall with the other children who were also living there. Peter describes his experience of the village school, where he later passed his eleven plus exam. In June 1944, American servicemen camped in the North Aston Hall grounds until they left for Normandy on D-Day, where Peter recalls striking up a friendship between them. He goes on to describe the village of North Aston, and his family's return home to Ilford during peace-time 1945.

Memoir includes three photographs:

1) A colour photograph of the former grocer's shop in Betwys-y-Coed

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2) A colour photograph of the school Peter attended in Betwys-y-Coed

3) A black and white photograph of Peter, his sister Peggy, and his aunt and mother, taken at North Aston Hall in 1944

[Former reference number WA344 - duplicate number]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/275**

Evacuee memoir: Margaret Clifford entitled War Memories  
c. 2005

Consists of details about an evacuation from Leigh-on-Sea, Essex to Belper, Derbyshire

Margaret lived in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. She was evacuated age 11, with parents and brother to Derbyshire in 1940, where parents worked at Rolls Royce. They returned to Leigh-on-Sea late 1946.

The memoir describes Margaret's life in Leigh-on-Sea prior to being evacuated. Memories include hearing air raid sirens being tested for the first-time during School Sports Day at Jones Memorial Ground, air raid shelters being built in parks and at individual houses, and the experience of testing a gas mask. The memoir describes the preparations necessary for nightly air raids and the damp of the shelters in the winter, as well as the rationing system and children having to "make do and mend" by sewing extra pieces of material on to outgrown gym-slips. Margaret describes seeing a 'dog fight' happen between a British and German fighter plane above her.

The memoir describes the family's move to Derbyshire and life there during the War. Margaret's brother was evacuated to Belper, and as her school was evacuated elsewhere and her father had been made redundant as a confectioner, their parents decided to move the whole family to Derby to be together. Margaret lived with her brother's host family in Belper until their parents found a house, where she describes being happy to leave due to the 'strange atmosphere' as the couple hadn't spoken to one another since the First World War. Margaret's parents both worked at Rolls Royce - her father on Merlin engines for Spitfires and her mother in the tool inspection shop. The memoir describes air raids becoming less frequent in Derby, but that a friend's father was killed when Rolls Royce was bombed. Margaret saw a 'Doodle Bug' explode mid-air by a fighter plane during a visit to Margaret's Gran in Essex, and

## Museum of English Rural Life

the excitement of getting Spam with American rations.

The memoir describes the May 8, 1945, celebrations. Memories include rushing out of school to celebrate in town and the next day celebrating outside of Buckingham Palace. Margaret describes seeing the Royal Family and Winston Churchill. The family stayed in Derby after the end of the war, as her parents continued working at Rolls Royce.

[Former reference number WA344 - duplicate number]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/276**

Evacuee memoir: Walter Blanchard entitled A Liverpool Evacuation

Mar 2006

Consists of details about an evacuation to Liverpool, Merseyside.

Evacuated together with his mother and three sisters from Liverpool in September 1939 to Saunders Street in Southport. The family returned home to Liverpool prior to Christmas of that year. The writer remained at home for the duration of the war, but his mother and sisters re-evacuated themselves to Hereford when the air raids on Merseyside became serious.

The memoir deals with the experiences of an eight-year-old boy in the period from 1938 to their evacuation in 1939. It highlights the growing number of people in uniforms, the increasing tension from the rising numbers and the threat from air raids, all of which unnerved his mother but Walter found thrilling. The memoir further discusses the threat of air raids requiring training in the use of gas masks. It explores their smell, their storage, the use and abuse to which they could be put by young boys and how they would be sent home if found without their masks.

The memoir discusses their evacuation from school by train. It highlights the nature of the line, the aged rolling stock and the rations that they were given. It goes on to explore their arrival in Southport, the apparent lack of arrangements for their arrival and their billeting in two adjacent properties. The properties and living arrangements are described together with an observation that Walter's mother was expected to act as an unpaid servant, rations that were rightfully theirs may have been appropriated. A crucial memory is of one of the inhabitants of the house playing the piano with Beethoven's 'Moonlight' sonata.

Given the lack of threat from air raids, the family returned home and the memoir observes the joys of being in familiar

## Museum of English Rural Life

surroundings and of blanking the windows to protect them from bomb blast damage. The memoir ends with some observations about the Walter's schooling and the completion of his School Certificate whilst enduring broken nights from the air raids on Liverpool.

[Former reference number WA345]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/277**

Evacuee memoir: David Garyford

28 Mar 2006

Consists of details about an evacuation to Leicestershire; Blaenavon, South Wales, typescript reminiscences entitled The Evacuees Reunion Association - Members Letter No.1 April 1996, copy of the magazine The Evacuee, photographs, newspaper article entitled From the pits to a World Wonder and a letter to David Grayford

[Former reference number WA346]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/278**

Evacuee memoir: Gillian Allen

c. 2005

Consists of details about an evacuation from Hounslow to Dewsbury, Yorkshire.

Gillian lived with her family in Hounslow, West London. In the last year of the war due to increased bombing, Gillian's mother, sister Iris (aged 3), brothers Brian and David (aged one) were evacuated to the outskirts of Liverpool. Gillian (aged 6) and her brother Billy (aged 9) were evacuated by train to Dewsbury, West Yorkshire. Their father was away fighting.

Gillian was billeted with Mr and Mrs Willman and their daughter Betty (aged 10), in Headfield Road, Savile Town, Dewsbury. Billy was billeted elsewhere and moved several times finally settling in with a large family. Gillian recalls enjoying her own bedroom, being teased at school about her London accent and a visit from her mother. Gillian has no recollection of when she and Billy returned to London, but recalls it was possibly after VE Day.

Memoir includes two photographs:

1. Photograph of VE Day Children's Street Party 1945, Myrtle Road, Hounslow, East Middlesex. ( Iris only member of Gillian's

## Museum of English Rural Life

family in the group)

2. Photograph of children of the family Billy was billeted with, Dewsbury. No details.

[Former reference number WA347]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/279**

Evacuee memoir: Rosemary Davies  
c. 2005

Consists of details about an evacuation from London to Devizes, Wiltshire

[Former reference number WA348]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/280**

Evacuee memoir: Iris Christine Lacey (Brimmell) entitled  
Evacuation to Brighton including map and photographs  
c. 2005

Consists of details about an evacuation from London to Brighton and Bacup

CLOSED - contact University Archivist

[Former reference number WA348]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/281**

Evacuee memoir: Alfred Reading entitled A Miscellaneous  
Engineer  
Feb 2006

Consists of details about an evacuation to Aberlour, Banffshire

[Former reference number WA349]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/282**

Evacuee memoir: Christine Weightman entitled Remembering  
wartime - Ascot, Sunninghil and Sunningdale  
2006

[Former reference number WA350]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/283**

Evacuee memoir: Kathleen Carchidi (Yarwood)  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Warfield  
Battersea Central School

Kathleen lived in London and was the eldest of four children. She attended Battersea Central School and had three siblings at Mantua Street, Battersea Elementary School. Her mother was with the St John's Ambulance Corp, and her father was with the peacetime Scots Guards. Kathleen, her three siblings, and other local children were evacuated to Warfield Village - starting from Mantua Street School, travelling by train from Southlands to Bracknell, then by bus to Warfield, Berkshire where they recollected host families 'picked them like cattle'. Her sister and a brother were billeted with Mrs Nightingale, and Kathleen and her six-year-old brother were initially billeted with Mrs Lark in a 200-year-old thatched cottage with no electricity or running water. Kathleen later moved to a farm and she details her life there and the strict lady owner, whose menfolk were in the army. Kathleen remembers attending Warfield church on Sunday 3rd September 1939 when the vicar halted the service to announce war had been declared. She describes helping take care of younger children at the village school and the generally poor organisation of their evacuation.

Kathleen later obtained a scholarship to do Business Studies at Wandsworth Technical Institute, now relocated to Guildford, and was initially billeted with a couple in the town then shared accommodation with fellow students. Her younger brother was moved and very settled into a farm with a man and his daughter. Her sister eventually followed her to study at the Institute and their middle brother joined the army. After graduation Kathleen joined the Air Ministry in London until the end of 1946.

[Former reference number WA351]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/284**

Evacuee memoir: Marianne Hangar  
5 Sept 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Hatfield.

At the age of 9 Marianne was sent from London to stay with her great aunt Daisy and great uncle Harry near Hatfield, Hertfordshire. Daisy had a room as a tearoom and Harry grew fruit and vegetables, also keeping chickens so that Daisy had supplies for the tea shop and to sell. Memoir recalls it being a happy time, as the evenings were filled with music on the piano and gramophone records. Harry also taught Marianne the

## Museum of English Rural Life

names of flowers and birds in the garden while she helped him with picking the fruit.

Opposite were the grounds of Hatfield House, where convalescent servicemen were being housed. In one of the gatehouses lived a couple known as Mr and Mrs Hall, who allowed Marianne to walk in the estate. De Havilland's aircraft factory in Hatfield was a prime target for bombers, and memoir recalls an occasion where an aircraft started shooting along the street whilst Marianne was waiting for a bus home from school. It was then decided that she should return home and go to The High School in London and then to university.

[Former reference number WA352]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/285**

Evacuee memoir: Päivy Penttinen  
12 Dec 2005

Consists of a list of contents for a book, and a letter

Päivy Penttinen was born in Finland in 1940. Her parents had married in 1939. Her father was killed before her birth.

The chapter headings and sub-headings include memories of the suffering and evacuation of the population during the three Finnish Wars; the heroism of Päivy's father; how people coped and made a living; the impact of losing your father; the situation of war orphans and how they were cared for; letters from the battlefield; other aspects of Päivy's life from birth to teenage years; her home town during the two World Wars.

The list of photos and graphs includes references to family, events in Päivy's life, the home area (Karelia), war orphans, and soldiers.

[Former reference number WA353]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/286**

The book is available in the library - Olethan minulle isä : Suomen sotien 1939-1945 sotaorpojen elämää by Päivy Penttinen, 940.53161-PEN

Evacuee memoir: Peter Gosnell  
Sept 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation to Chichester, Sussex including photographs and a copy of his book Some Sunny Day



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Ensham Central School, Lancastrian Road Boys School  
[Former reference number WA354]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/287**

Evacuee memoir: Mary Irene Douse, formerly Duncan  
Dec 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Horndean, Hampshire and Daventry, and some copies of photographs St. Anselm's Primary School, Tooting Bec  
[Former reference number WA355]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/288**

Evacuee memoir: Ruth Slater  
2005

Consists of details of an evacuation as a young teacher from Liverpool to Rudheath, Northwich and Aberystwyth Northway School, Beaufort Street School.

Evacuated twice as a young infant school teacher from Liverpool to Rudheath, Northwich initially, and then from Liverpool to Bow Street near Aberystwyth subsequently. Her first evacuation was with Northway School, Wavertree and the second (between February and July 1941) with Beaufort Street School, Toxteth. On returning from her second evacuation, she taught in some terraced houses near to the school in Toxteth.

Her initial evacuation took place early on in the war and her memoir touches on being transported out to Cheshire by bus, being billeted with a couple living in a modern bungalow and sharing the schooling facilities with the village school. She mentions the salt mines nearby with regard to its ownership and how somebody who worked there would become a male friend who she would go for walks with. There is discussion of a particular memory of a harvest moon on one of these walks. She describes the return of the children and herself to Liverpool following the lack of any air raids early in the war, and maintaining contact with her friend.

Following her return from Rudheath, she describes: the noise of debris hitting their garden air raid shelter with the worsening situation; changing school; the nature of Toxteth as an area; her daily commute from the suburbs to Toxteth. Additionally, time spent in the air raid shelter and the damage encountered on her daily commute.

On account of the deteriorating situation, the second evacuation

## Museum of English Rural Life

was organised. The journey, the local authority officer in charge of the evacuation who would become her husband and her particular billeting arrangements are described. The billet required her to both share a room and bed with another teacher and had limited toileting facilities. There is also mention of the schooling arrangements and evidence of the war in Aberystwyth.

Following an unspecified illness she returned to Liverpool to seek medical advice, to teach in what is described as a "home-schooling" environment on account of the threat (perceived or otherwise) to the school itself and where the emphasis of the teaching was on the "3 Rs".

Memoir contains several pieces of ephemera:

One letter addressed to Dr. Martin Parsons

Two letters addressed to Sue Coffey

Six annotated photographs related to Ruth's second evacuation

[Former reference number WA356]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/289**

Evacuee memoir: Betty Farquhar entitled Evacuation - Second World War  
2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from East Ham to Kidlington, Oxfordshire  
East Ham Grammar School for Girls.

Betty and her five-year-old brother were first billeted with a couple in Warminster. Betty describes that the wife found her useful as Betty could help with the wife's work making hand-sewn gloves at home for a company, but that the couple was less kind to her brother. She recalls that this resulted in him developing a bowel problem from nerves. After a few months an elderly woman who lived nearby saw the troubles the children were having and organized to have them transferred to live with her. Betty remembers that the the woman was very kind, and had in fact adopted several other children in the past. In this new billet, Betty's mother and new baby brother came to stay in 1941, until the baby was old enough that her mother could return home to London.

Betty attended school with classmates from East Ham in an old hall in Warminster. Her key memories of school were roasting

## Museum of English Rural Life

chestnuts in the stove in the main room, and that the children spent their time clearing patches of grass on a bank next to a nearby lane that the school has designated as their air raid shelter.

At age 11 Betty passed her scholarship and moved to Kidlington, Oxford to join the East Ham Grammar School for Girls, while her brothers stayed in Warminster. She remembers enjoying living in Thornbury House with the other girls under the direction of headmistress Miss Mitchel, and describes that they attended school in an abandoned private zoo. However, the zoo building was in bad condition and was eventually condemned, at which point Betty returned to East Ham along with many of her classmates. Betty then describes her school in East Ham, including paper shortages and an instance of passing on details of V1 bomb damage to the school from her father who was in the Civil Defence.

Betty returned to stay in Warminster to recover from Rheumatic Fever, which developed after getting a chill in the aftermath of a bombing while Betty was staying at her aunt's house. Betty, her mother and her brothers were in Warminster at the end of the war, and describes celebrating with their hostess.

[Former reference number WA357]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/290**

Evacuee memoir: Jean Gilham (nee Butler) entitled An Evacuee's Story  
2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Wokingham, Berkshire, Reading, Berkshire and Perranporth, Cornwall, including copies of evacuee letters and photographs  
Cowley Road School, Windsor School  
[Former reference number WA359]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/291**

Evacuee memoir: Peter Tyler entitled Evacuations  
2005

Consists of details of an evacuation to Southport, Merseyside and Anglesey, Wales  
[Former reference number WA360]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/292**

Evacuee memoir entitled From Beeswing and Bergen - A collection of childhood experiences during World War II, compiled by Olivia D. Scott  
2004  
[Former reference number WA359]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/293**

Evacuee memoir: Typescript reminiscences of Sheila Valiant Kent entitled Memories of an Evacuee in World War 2  
2006  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Winslow, Buckinghamshire; Oxford; Pinkneys Green, Berkshire. Burlington School, Milham Ford School.

Memoir concerns the Beatty family of Bayswater, London, consisting of the widowed mother and five children: Jane (13), Ishbel (12), Sheila (11), Patrick (10), Ann (5). All five were evacuated on 1st September 1939. Burlington School, where Sheila and Ishbel attended, was to be evacuated by rail to Oxford. She knew nobody other than her sister and a schoolmate from St Stephens Elementary School called Joyce Horton.

On arrival at Oxford they were taken by bus to Summertown, where Sheila and Ishbel were billeted in the small terraced house of the Briggs (Biggs?) family. Two days later, they were moved with a girl called Mary to the home of Professor Charles Thompson, an elderly widower. He employed two sisters called Lizzie and Edie Govier as cook and housekeeper. Sheila disliked them, and describes several conflicts between them. Mary was also unfriendly and soon left. Professor Thompson was kind, however, and Sheila and Ishbel stayed for four years. Memoir recounts visits to a cafe, a pantomime and an operetta, and functions at the university. Leisure activities included reading, knitting for the Royal Air Force and listening to the radio.

School was shared with Milham Ford School, partly in their old building by Magdalen Bridge and partly in Marston. Memoir relates getting permission to buy a bicycle because of the long walk to school. Details of the school curriculum are given, and the head, Miss Burgess, and several teachers are mentioned. Memoir also describes Sheila's difficulties at school.

Memoir mentions two visits by their mother, along with one occasion where the line from Paddington had been bombed and she never arrived. At Christmas the girls stayed with a retired teacher called Miss Powell. In 1940 all five children returned

## Museum of English Rural Life

home to be christened. After this, they attended St Michael's Church in Summertown, Oxford, and were later confirmed by the Bishop of Dorchester.

Memoir describes feeling sad on hearing that the parents of Sheila Crook, a classmate, had been killed in the bombing, and also describes visiting her own family in London for the holidays after the end of the Blitz. They did not see their sister Ann, however, because she had been neglected in her billet and spent months in hospital.

In 1943 they returned home to attend Burlington School in London. Sheila describes her feelings on the breakup of friendships as some Oxford girls moved to other schools. Memoir recounts V1 and V2 attacks and how the school cloakroom was made into a shelter. Sheila's School Certificate Geography examination was stopped when a flying bomb exploded on the school playing field. Nevertheless, she did well and was awarded Matriculation.

Memoir includes:

Two extracts from the Burlington School Magazine, the first by Ishbel Beatty describing the Boar's Head Procession, the second by Freda Gottlieb describing being caught in a London bombing raid.

A letter from Burlington School to parents explaining the London County Council's evacuation scheme in the event of war.

Three group photographs taken in 1941 and 1943 that include Sheila Beatty, Joyce Horton and fellow pupils, her sister Ishbel and Charles Thompson.

[Former reference number WA360]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/294**

Evacuee memoir: Marian Tyler  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Ilford, Essex to Pembroke Dock.

Marian was evacuated from Ilford, Essex, to Pembroke Docks in South Wales when she was only 2 and has little memory of the event. She does not know how long she was there but was told by her mother that she was only being fed mashed potato and

## Museum of English Rural Life

gravy, and was undernourished. Marian describes being taken back home and tested by her doctor for rickets, which proved to be negative.

[Former reference number WA361]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/296**

Evacuee memoir: Elsie Hutchings school report and evacuation label

c. 2005

[Former reference number WA372]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/297**

Evacuee memoir: Peter John Wardrop entitled Carharrack

c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Hackney to Carharrack, Cornwall

[Former reference number WA350]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/298**

Evacuee memoir: Kenneth Reginald Lambert entitled 1940-1943: Southend-on-Sea to Thurgarton

14 Dec 1992

Consists of details of an evacuation from Southend-on-Sea to Thurgarton

Thurgarton Church of England School

Kenneth was born in July 1932 and lived with his family in Southend on Sea, Essex. In June 1940, together with his brother Peter and many other children he was evacuated to Nottinghamshire. They assembled at Wentworth Road School together with teachers acting as Billeting Officers, travelled by bus to Southend Central Station and then by train to Southwell Station, Nottinghamshire. The children were billeted throughout Nottinghamshire, but Peter and Ken transferred from Thurgarton Church of England School and were billeted with Mr and Mrs Walter Perkins and their daughter, Grace, on Bleasby Road. Ken describes the house and garden, with pigs and chickens and Mr Perkins' job clearing ditches and hedgerows. The boys were moved to another billet with Mr and Mrs Atkin, tenants at Hill Farm owned by Mr Poole. They had three grown daughters and a son. The eldest daughter, Gillian, worked as a teacher in Nottingham, their middle child, Lily, was a dressmaker, and the youngest, Kath, was in the army. Bill, their son, was then a

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prisoner of war. Ken remembers the cottage was lit with oil lamps, had a coal fired oven and recalls helping with potato picking, the harvest, and enjoyed country walks, collecting firewood and blackberry picking. He remembers the cold winter of 1940-41 with heavy snow and walking on the frozen pond at Hill Farm, then the extremely hot summer of 1941.

Ken recalls the school Headmistress, Mrs Beech, and a teacher, Miss Fletcher, with classes being held in a barn behind the school and The Coach and Horses public house. Whilst in Thurgarton, their parents visited with their baby sister Betty, born in Leicestershire on 19th July 1940.

During the summer of 1943 they were the last of the evacuees to return to Southend and found all the schools closed and experienced regular air raids. They witnessed the gathering of the troops in Southend preparing for D Day and the revival of the town after the war.

Kenneth describes enjoying rural life and maintained close contact with both the Perkins and Atkin families, visiting with his family on a regular basis.

[Former reference number WA352]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/299**

Evacuee memoir: Paul Farren entitled I was an Evacuee  
1999

Consists of details of an evacuation from Stoke Newington,  
North London to Shephall, Hertfordshire  
Church Street School, Stoke Newington  
[Former reference number WA400]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/300**

Evacuee memoir: Iris Bowles entitled Evacuation  
1991

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bermondsey, London  
to Exeter, Devon.

Iris lived in Bermondsey, London and in June 1940, at the age of 8 years, was evacuated with her two younger sisters, Audrey, 5, and Daphne, 4. They gathered in the school playground and travelled by coach to London Waterloo Station and went by train to Exeter in Devon. She recalls the Reverend Oakley giving her a card with his telephone and address details. From the reception centre the girls were taken to their billet in a large

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house with a 'kind' woman, who became known as Auntie Kathy, her husband Frank and their 8-year-old daughter, Marguerite. Iris describes their new home and its occupants, who included Auntie Kathy's parents. Uncle Frank worked away in an aeroplane manufacturing factory in Gloucester.

The girls attended Sidwell Street Infants and Junior School with Marguerite, and Iris describes that they were happy, well cared for and treated as members of their Exeter family. In 1942 bombing in Exeter intensified and they often took refuge in a Morrison shelter. They witnessed Exeter burning and later the destruction of buildings in the city centre. Concerned about these attacks, their parents travelled to bring them back to London but after a year they returned to Exeter because of the increased danger from bombing in London. Iris recalls on return they noticed large numbers of American soldiers were now stationed in the area, only to disappear overnight on 6th June 1944 (D-Day). Iris passed her scholarship exams at St James Girls School in Exeter and completed her education upon returning to London.

Uncle Frank died towards the end of the war. Iris and her family maintained regular contact with all her second Exeter family.

[Former reference number WA402]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/302**

Evacuee memoir: Unknown  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Hoylake  
[Former reference number WA451]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/303**

Evacuee memoir: Basil Crotch  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Norfolk;  
Oxted, Surrey; Teignmouth, Devon.

Basil was 9 and living in London when the war started. He had 3 married sisters and 4 brothers, one of which had been killed in action. Life at the time is described: lack of modern luxuries, control of the media, wardens and air raid precautions, and the bombing, including the use of Anderson and Morrison shelters.

Basil's first evacuation in 1940, was to an aunt's farm in Norfolk. Memoir recounts trips to the nearest large town and seeing an



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aerial dog fight. In 1941 he returned to London having passed the scholarship exam for grammar school. However, the school was soon evacuated to Oxted in Surrey. This was only 20 miles away, so home visits were possible. Basil had about 30 different billets, including one in Bletchingly, during his 30 months there. These varied hugely and detailed examples of the best and worst are given, with some boys coping well and others suffering emotionally. Memoir relates stealing live ammunition from army dumps to make homemade bombs.

Further details of destruction in London are given as well as the advent of the V1 and V2 rockets. Personal experiences of a bomb blast at home and of seeing the RAF trying to shoot down V1s are described. Because of these new dangers the school was re-evacuated from Oxted to Teignmouth in Devon. The boys travelled directly by train not even knowing their destination. Life in Devon was described as good, both at school and in his billet where he had a kind hostess and an improved diet. Unlike Plymouth, which had been heavily bombed, Teignmouth was safe, and the boys made fun of the single bomb that landed there. They remained in Teignmouth for about 18 months. Basil describes his feelings on celebrating VE (Victory in Europe) day in Teignmouth at the age of 15.

[Former reference number WA452]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/304**

Evacuee memoir: Stella Brown (nee Barker)  
28 May 1999  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Hull to Yorkshire  
[Former reference number WA454]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/305**

Evacuee memoir: Derek Lees  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Nottinghamshire.

In 1940 Derek, aged 7, with brother George Malcome (10) and sister Jean (8) were evacuated to Nottingham. Their younger sister, Dorothy, was left at home. They waited to be chosen as nobody wanted all three, but eventually Blanch Pass took them to her home at 24 Albert Avenue, Nuttall [Nuttall], Nottinghamshire. Her husband Joe and daughter Jean were shocked to see three extra visitors, as they only had a terrace house with no running water and a toilet down the garden known as a 'midden'. They spent about a year together, with their

## Museum of English Rural Life

parents visiting from time to time.

The memoir describes that in the 1960s Derek and his wife went back to find Albert Avenue, and although the house was boarded up, they heard from a neighbour that Jean lived nearby. They visited Jean and heard that Joe had passed away, but they were taken to a home to visit 'Aunty Blanch', who remembered Derek.

Memoir includes one photograph, showing Derek, George, Jean and Dorothy.

[Former reference number WA451]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/306**

Evacuee memoir: Doreen Malyon (nee Miller)  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation to Devizes and Somersham  
[Former reference number WA1]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/308**

Evacuee memoir: Norman Hardwick entitled War-Time  
memories of an Evacuee  
12 Jun 2005

Consists of information about an evacuation from Liverpool to  
Brownhills, Staffordshire

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/309**

Evacuee memoir: David Fabian entitled Me, David  
Sept 2003

To Marston, near Ramsgate to Cardiff, Tonbridge,  
Southborough, Bridgwater and Maidstone

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/310**

Evacuee memoir: Jack Bohannan entitled Evacuation  
c. 2005

Consists of details about an evacuation from Grays, Essex to  
Reydon, Lowestoft, Suffolk  
William Palmer's School, student-teacher  
[Former reference number WA343]

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1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/311**

Evacuee memoir: Frederick Green  
c. 2005  
Consists of newspaper cuttings relating to his evacuation from  
Hanwell to Henley-on-Thames

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/315**

Evacuee memoir: John Jacob Lyons  
1 Jul 2003  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to East  
Grinstead

After their home was damaged by a bomb, John and his mother were evacuated to East Grinstead from the east-end of London and had a room above a shop in London Road opposite Woolworths. His father stayed in London for work and his brother went with his school to Cambridgeshire. John recalls that in 1943 he experienced a bomb attack at close hand. They were not hurt but the Whitehall in London Road was severely damaged. In 1944 they returned home to London, and in 1945 they were evacuated again to Leeds. They heard that the shop in East Grinstead where they had previously stayed was bombed with a direct hit.

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/316**

Evacuee memoir: Alan Everson  
2006  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Hackney, London to  
Findon, Hampshire and copies of photographs  
[Former reference number WA339]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/317**

Evacuee memoir: Kathleen Tozer (nee Cooke) entitled My  
Evacuee Days  
22 Jul 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Wiltshire,  
and copies of photographs  
Broad Town School, Broad Town, Swindon, Wiltshire.

Includes two separate recollections of the same evacuation.

## Museum of English Rural Life

Memoir describes how at the outbreak of war, Kathleen's father joined the army leaving her mother alone with 5 children: Kathleen was 9, Frank 8, Maureen 6, Betty 4, and Brian 3 months. They lived in Sampson Street, Plaistow, London. Because of the Blitz their mother took Betty and Brian to a farm in Leek, Staffordshire where her sister and niece were already staying. Brian became a favourite of the farmer to the extent that he had difficulty settling with the rest of his family when they eventually returned to London.

Kathleen, Frank and Maureen, and neighbours Ernie and Billy Knight were evacuated with Credon Road School to Broad Town, Wiltshire. Memoir recalls being given provisions, a label and gas mask and arriving in a hall where they were chosen by their hosts. The three siblings were separated, and Kathleen went to the Maull family in Thornhill, a country hamlet. Mr Maull was a policeman with a wife and two teenagers called Roland and Mervyn. Kathleen describes happiness at having her own bedroom, enjoying the countryside, helping on a farm and having a pet lamb. Frank was also well cared for in his billet in Wootton Bassett, but Maureen had been unhappy and moved in with Kathleen.

After Dunkirk, Kathleen's father was invalided out of the army and the family returned to London to a rented house in Rokeby Street, Stratford. Kathleen was reluctant to leave the countryside. She witnessed air-raids and doodlebugs and had to take shelter in the garden and the tunnel at Stratford Station. Only one bomb hit Rokeby Street but it caused many fatalities.

Kathleen returned to Thornhill three times after the war and visited Broad Town School and her old classroom.

Memoir includes three photographs:

1. Photograph of the row of cottages where Kathleen was billeted
2. Photograph of Broad Town School
3. Photograph of Kathleen and her sister Maureen in 1940

[Former reference number WA338]

1 folder

## Museum of English Rural Life

**D EVAC  
A/1/322**

Evacuee memoir: John Fox

30 Mar 2006

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Cribyn, Wales.

Evacuated from Kentish Town, London to Cribyn in Wales (now in Ceredigion) in the summer of 1944 as part of a later wave of evacuations following the onset of the V-2 bombing campaign. He returned home in June of 1945.

The majority of the memoir discusses the John's attempt to establish his date of departure. In this effort, he mentions the following records: The London Metropolitan Archive, London County Council Records, wartime newspapers, archives in Wales and Great Western Railway records held at the National Archives. Whilst not managing to establish his date of departure, John did discover documents of a personal interest in the form of records of his admission to primary school and records of bomb damage to properties in the neighbouring streets of Cathcart Street and Holmes Road. The former became the subject of a book.

The memoir also mentions that John was a specialist historian of the Third Reich who worked for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office between 1970 and 1987, and contributed to the international publishing project entitled 'Akten zur Deutschen Auswärtigen Politik 1918-1945'.

[Former reference number EA331/1

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/323**

Evacuee memoir: John Wey entitled "Evacuees!"

27 Apr 2006

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Letchworth, Hertfordshire  
Oldfield Road School.

John lived on Clissold Road, Stoke Newington, in London. He attended Oldfield Road School and St Joseph's School, Stoke Newington. His father stayed in London as an Air Raid Warden. John was evacuated on September 3rd 1939 with his mother and baby brother. They travelled by bus from Oldfield Road School to King's Cross Station and travelled by train to Letchworth. John recalls an air raid at Hatfield, where the train stopped and all the passengers hid underneath the train.

At Letchworth the train was met by billeting officer Mr Osborne, who led the passengers across the Arena and Broadway

## Museum of English Rural Life

billeting passengers to local families along the way. John was billeted to Mrs Perry and Miss Perry, a mother and daughter, who lived in a house called 'Crossways', on Hitchin Road. The house and grounds were large and John enjoyed making plasticine aeroplanes and playing air war games in the garden shed. The Perrys had a Swiss maid, Miss Chessy, who thought John's mother was trying to take her job. John's family had to leave the Perrys because of this. Mr Osborne billeted John's family to Jackman's Place, Letchworth Garden City. John describes the house as 'the only stinking slum in Letchworth', they spent one night there. Mr Osborne billeted John's family to Redhoods Way East, to live with Mrs Kopek. By Spring 1940, John's family became Letchworth residents and they lived at No. 40 Mullway, Abora Estate, Letchworth, which they rented from Mr Bornstein. John's father joined them after finding work at the local Morse Chain factory, making chains for tanks and vehicles.

John continued his education in Letchworth at the local Catholic school. John describes a phase of fighting between the London kids and Bexhill kids, but it did not last long. All John knew during his childhood was war, with many children aspiring to be pilots, naval gunners, infantries, or commandos. He read super aircraft books, newspapers, watched newsreels, and remembers having drills. He describes seeing a low German aircraft being gunned down by a Spitfire and how he got down to avoid being hit by a falling Doodlebug. John enjoyed playing a dartboard game called 'Bomb Heligoland'.

John describes the bombing of the pub on the corner, in Clissold Road, killing all the people in the shelter below it.

[Former reference number EA1]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/324**

Evacuee memoir: Edward Cordeaux  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Eltham, London to Harbertonford, Devon.

Edward was evacuated in early 1940, at the age of 7, together with his younger brother and as part of a school group from Eltham to Harbertonford in Devon. They returned home in 1942.

The memoir discusses a number of recollections of their time away. The people discussed include: the host family and other relations; a neighbour who would become the Edward's first girlfriend; the head of their school; the local children both of whom he recounts as having conflicts with. Edward was

## Museum of English Rural Life

punished by the headmaster as he attempted to remove a football from a cupboard in the school during the summer holidays and was punished. Visits from family and trips out are also described.

Jobs earning payment and other tasks are described. This includes: collecting milk from a local farm in the morning; milking a cow for the first time; swinging cans of milk above his head. Other activities include: a paper round; collecting horse manure for the garden; the walk home from market day in Totnes with the shopping. Edward as a chorister was expected to pump the bellows for the church organ, which he failed to do on one occasion resulting in a punishment.

Harvest time, rabbiting, hay making and apple picking with the benefits of cider and pasties as well as consuming harvest festival decorations, the nature of cider apples and the dis-benefits of consuming them are described.

Memories of witnessing the conflict include two cases of aeroplanes crashing. The first instance being of a German plane crashing on an unpopular neighbour and the second instance of another German plane crashing in a field nearby. Local children collected the ammunition before the authorities arrived. The plane subsequently exploded. In addition, army manoeuvres in the locality are mentioned.

The return home, contact with the host family and visits to Devon in the post war period are described. Particular memories are of meeting his old school head and revisiting the 'football incident', and meeting the mother of the host family for the last occasion.

The memoir includes 7 photographs.

1. Photograph labelled 'My Mother me and my brother' 1941
2. Photograph labelled 'This is me as Choir boy' 1941
3. Photograph labelled 'The London Evacuees' - school photo 1940
4. Group photograph of uncle, Philip and members of host family 1941
5. Photograph labelled 'Me and Philip sitting on school wall carrying gas masks' 1941
6. Photograph labelled 'Me' - school photo 1940

## Museum of English Rural Life

### 7. Photograph labelled 'Philip and me' Dec 1940

[Former reference number EA2]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/326**

Evacuee memoir: Roger Thornhill  
21 Apr 2006

Consists of details of an evacuation from Croydon, London to Small Heath, Birmingham.

Memoir details that in 1940 as war broke out in Western Europe, it was decided to evacuate some children to USA and Canada. Roger's brother Alan was 5 at the time and was sent to a great uncle and his wife near Boston, Massachusetts, but Roger was too young. When Croydon, London, came under attack in about 1944, his mother took him and his cousin, Bob Brown, to Small Heath in Birmingham to stay with his mother's aunt, Mrs Annie Jones. The boys went to the local school there. His father stayed in Croydon as he was in the ARP, and when Roger returned home he found that his infant school has been flattened by a bomb. His brother returned in the summer of 1945.

[Former reference number EA8]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/327**

Evacuee memoir: Leslie Green  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Sheffield to Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.

Leslie Green was born in Sheffield and lived in the suburb of Heeley, close to Sheffield Football Ground. Sheffield with its steel manufacturing was a potential bomb target, so in September 1939 plans were made to evacuate the children. Eight-year-old Leslie describes their journey travelling from Sheffield Midland railway station to Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, where he and another boy were billeted with a family in a farm cottage in the rural hamlet of Wyfordby. He started school in the nearby village of Stapleford, located in the grounds of the home of Lord and Lady Gretton, Stapleford Hall where the children were invited to a tea party at Christmas.



## Museum of English Rural Life

After the age of eleven Leslie travelled daily by bus to the boys' secondary school in Melton.

Leslie remembers his billet cottage had no indoor services; he fetched water from the village pump but enjoyed fresh fruit from the orchard. He regularly helped on the farm with the cows, chickens, potato picking, and the harvest. Most equipment was pulled by horses or steam traction engines, but Leslie witnessed the first tractor arriving in the area. He recalls how during wartime they worked late in the fields as it was light until 11 pm because of double British Summertime. His free time was spent fishing, cycling, train spotting and going to Sunday school, with occasional shopping trips into Melton. With their proximity to several air bases, Leslie regularly witnessed different aircraft going out and returning from bombing raids. Leslie's parents visited him occasionally, as did his brother, six years older than Leslie, had remained working in Sheffield.

Leslie returned to Sheffield in 1944 to finish school, and then a few months later turned fourteen and started work. He has on several occasions returned to Wyfordby.

[Former reference number EA9]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/328**

Evacuee memoir: David Lang  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Reading, Berkshire.

In 1942, David, at the age of seven, organised a garden fete during his evacuation from London to Reading in Berkshire. The proceeds were sent to the British Prisoners of War Books and Games Fund and the Forget-Me-Not League, founded by Christine Knowles from whom he received a letter of thanks, saying that a parcel would be sent in his name to a Sergeant-Pilot Mike Featherstone.

After the war David tried to track down Mike Featherstone but he had already passed away. David discovered that he had been shot down over Hipstedt on the way to Bremen in 1941 as the second pilot of a Whitley Bomber from Royal Air Force 102 Squadron. All the crew survived and were taken prisoner, although Mike Featherstone had been wounded. The memoir details further references to 102 Squadron, this raid and the aircraft.

## Museum of English Rural Life

[Former reference number EA13]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/330**

Evacuee memoir: Marie Norton  
2006

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Dorking, Surrey  
Sydenham County Secondary School, Dorking Grammar School

Evacuated at the age of fourteen in mid September 1939 from Catford to Glenfield Road, Brockham, near Dorking, where she was to stay in three different billets until July 1943. She was evacuated to Brockham as her new school, Sydenham County Secondary, was evacuated to Dorking.

Her memoir deals with her evacuation and details the three host families she was to live with. Her initial billet, together with another girl, was with an Irish Catholic family who were not expecting them. She mentions the unexpected nature of finding icons of the Catholic faith in the house. She stayed with this family until Christmas 1939 when the host mother and daughter returned to Ireland.

She remained with the second host family, a couple with a baby, until October 1940 when she had to move again as the male of the household was called up and the woman was persuaded by her family to stay with them. She stayed with her third host family until she completed her schooling. She describes both of these billets positively; she remained in contact with the families until their deaths and makes a number of observations later in the memoir as to why her experience of evacuation was generally positive. These include the fact that she was able to see the rest of her family on a fairly regular basis. Her memoir touches on the consequences of Dorking being on the flight path for bombers heading for London, and the payments made to hosts for housing evacuees.

Her memoir deals quite extensively with her schooling arrangements. There is discussion of the buildings used as classrooms in and around Dorking by her evacuated school and Dorking Grammar School, the limited nature of these facilities, and their shared use. She mentions arrangements and memories for getting between these facilities, and how they would occasionally help local farmers.

The memoir also discusses the evacuation of her two younger brothers, and of her, and her parents, being bombed in the

## Museum of English Rural Life

period after July 1943. The two brothers, who attended Catford Central School, were based at Sayers Croft Camp in Ewhurst. She discusses the facilities of the school, and how she would get to see them. She mentions her parents being bombed out of two houses, and Lewisham hospital, where she worked, receiving a direct hit.

[Former reference number EA21]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/331**

Evacuee memoir: Robin John Kenworthy  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Oldham, Greater Manchester to Prestatin

[Former reference number EA24]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/332**

Evacuee memoir: Rosemary Ann Robinson  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Liverpool to Holywell, Flintshire, with photograph and letter Aigburth Vale High School.

Rosemary grew up in Cressington Park, Liverpool, where her father worked as a chief inspector at a nearby aircraft factory. In August 1939 she was accepted as a pupil at Aigburth Vale High School, and describes war being declared against Germany with their subsequent evacuation via bus and train from Lime Street Station to Holwell, Flintshire in North Wales. A list of essential journey requirements is detailed, along with a walk to a local school where she and another girl, Rosemary Pollock, were taken in by Mrs Blake at her cottage, 'Victoria House', located on Bagillt Road.

The Memoir mentions the living conditions at Victoria House, as well as the integration of evacuees at the local school. Rosemary was then moved to an address nearer town with Mr and Mrs Sellers and their teenage son, Ronald. Rosemary's mother is described as making occasional visits from Liverpool. Events such as the blackout in Liverpool, three barrage balloons catching fire, the enrolment of Rosemary's cousin Daisy as a fire officer, and the sight of soldiers billeted in the same town are mentioned. Rosemary notes her experience with illness during her stay, and her time spent with the local Girl Guide Association.

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Rosemary goes on to describe the winter of 1940 where they played outside with Ronald, and recounts visiting Mr Sellers in hospital. After returning home during the 'phoney war', Rosemary's father became a volunteer member of the Home Guard in the advent of the Battle of Britain. The memoir mentions several aspects of daily life during wartime, including air-raid warnings, 'dog fights' between enemy aircraft, and a German plane crashing into the river.

After her school had been bombed, Rosemary and her classmates were evacuated to the Liverpool Institute, a local boys' school. Descriptions of air raids are included, as well as a written record of air raids the area suffered from August 1940 to December 1941.

Other experiences are mentioned including the 'Dig For Victory' campaign, along with Rosemary's efforts to work on the land during her summer holidays, writing to pen pals from the USA, and corresponding with Captain Fletcher via the Ship Adoption Society. Rosemary also describes her time with the Girls Training Corps, as well as a brief inclusion of her experiences at Liverpool's VE Day celebrations and the Horse Guards Parade in 2005.

The memoir includes a four-page letter sent to Rosemary from her mother, as well as a photograph of her in Girls Training Corps uniform in 1942.

[Former reference number EA26]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/333**

Evacuee memoir: Gwen Bradley  
17 May 2006

Letter includes a questionnaire Gwen and her daughter compiled for an evacuee survey. Also included are her answers for the 19 questions which describe her memories. She went to stay with an aunt and uncle in the country, which she enjoyed, but states that she missed her mother and father. During her stay she attended the local school and met some children from Limerick. She was well looked after, and stayed for about two years. She was then sent to a private school travelling by tram and bus which she describes as a happy place where she stayed until she was seventeen. She describes her work, marriages and children.

Gwen concludes by wondering how she would have coped if she had been evacuated with her school, like many others,

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staying with strangers. She describes contacting some ex-evacuees with the questionnaire, where there were some sad stories of bad teachers and poor accommodation which badly affected the children.

[Former reference number EA27]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/334**

Evacuee memoir: Margaret Armistead (nee Bayles)

c. 2005

Consists of details of wartime experiences

[Former reference number EA28]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/340**

Evacuee memoir: Muriel Langley

c. 2005

Consists of letters between Muriel Langley and her parents and foster parents relating to an evacuation to Melksham, Wiltshire

[Former reference number EA29]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/341**

Evacuee memoir: Margaret Rosina Reeve (nee Deighton)

c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Kilburn, London to Hamblin Place, Bedfordshire.

Margaret lived at 58 Esmond Road, Kilburn, London, and was evacuated in 1939 with Salisbury Road Junior School. Memoir recalls leaving from Queens Park Station and after arriving in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, where the children received refreshments. Together with Joan Waghorn she was billeted with Mr and Mrs Jasper and their young daughter in Hamblin(g) Place. Soon after, on the day war was declared, Margaret's father and thirteen-year-old brother, Frank, visited. This unsettled Margaret because Frank was allowed to stay at home as he would soon leave school.

Margaret remembers little of school except having a sore nose swabbed with Dettol by the nurse, but recalls playing and sledging on Dunstable Downs and watching glider training there. She was paid for collecting hips and haws to make Rose Hip Syrup and remembers receiving a Nestles Chocolate Machine for Christmas.

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Margaret shared a room with Joan. They hadn't been friends previously and didn't get on well. There was also conflict with the Jaspers over Margaret's dislike of some of the food. She describes being unhappy and eventually persuaded her mother to take her home. She remembers returning to Brondesbury Station and seeing searchlights across London while feeling sad that she had left her favourite doll with the Jaspers as a 'thank you'.

Margaret then attended a small private school until London schools gradually opened again. Lessons sometimes took place in shelters because of the bombing and her mother had a narrow escape when a bomb killed a woman close by as well as the parents of one of Margaret's classmates. Her father, an ARP warden, put out an incendiary bomb. Years later Margaret went back to Hamblin(g) Place but does not know what happened to the Jaspers, or to Joan. She concludes that she spent some happy times there.

Memoir includes transcribed version of original handwritten letter.

[Former reference number EA30]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/342**

Evacuee memoir: Frank Witham  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Farncombe, Surrey; Shamley Green, Surrey  
Reel Hall Boys

[Former reference number EA31]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/343**

Evacuee memoir: Constance Little (nee Kushel)  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Woodhurst.

Constance lived at her grandmother's house in Fieldway Crescent, Islington and attended Highbury Hill High School. She was evacuated to Woodhurst, Cambridgeshire, and recalls walking to school with a rucksack of belongings and an identity label ready for evacuation. She was taken to Kings Cross Station and travelled by train to Huntingdon, and then by bus to Woodhurst village hall where she waited to be billeted. Constance was taken in by the local baker and his wife. Once war was declared, evacuees were encouraged to receive new

## Museum of English Rural Life

billets closer to towns in order to receive an education. Constance was billeted to the family of Mr and Mrs Smith who she describes as 'strict Plymouth Brethren'. Mr Smith was a signalman at Huntingdon station and Constance would walk to the signal box with meals for him. She was often in trouble with Mr Smith and was not allowed to bathe or go to the cinema until her mother complained and gave her permission. Constance learned embroidery and attended a newly opened Grammar School in Huntingdon where she enjoyed art and music lessons at Hinchinbrook Hall. She was billeted again when the Smiths decided to bring their younger daughter back home.

Constance and another girl called Peggy Holman were billeted to a strict woman who demanded the girls be re-billeted after finding a letter Constance had written home, outlining the troubles with this new billet. Constance and Peggy were billeted to an older couple who owned a dairy farm, which the girls enjoyed helping out on. When the older couple could not support the girls, Peggy went to a dentist's family and lived and ate with the servant, and Constance was sent to a friendly spinster. Constance was re-billeted to Mr and Mrs Brudenell, who ran kennels at their bungalow. The couple bred terriers and Pekinese, and Constance remembers being around puppies all the time. The Brudenells' son was away in the Army, and their daughter often took Constance out to the pictures.

By 1941 Constance's mother, who worked as a telephonist at London Wall, enrolled Constance at Pitmans College, Southampton Row, London, to study a year's secretarial course. Here, Constance gained all the necessary qualifications needed to get a job at Shell-Mex in Bishopsgate.

Memoir includes a poem written by Constance in 1941 which was published entitled Blackout, first published in Woodhurst School magazine  
Highbury Hill School

[Former reference number EA32]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/344**

Evacuee memoir: James Grindrod  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Reading, Berkshire  
St. Mary Magdalane RC School.

## Museum of English Rural Life

James was the third of five children and grew up in Mortlake, Barnes, in London. His father made shell cases in the munitions factory in Mortlake and undertook ARP duties at night. During the war, James' father carried out heavy duty rescue work in the East End and London Docks. James attended St Mary Magdalene RC School in Mortlake. He was evacuated by train to Caversham in Reading with his two older sisters. At Reading station, he was taken to a large hall to wait to be billeted. His sisters were placed with one family and James was placed alone with another, they all lived in Caversham. James recalls being unhappy with his billet as the mother, father, and son, would be given the best food and James would be given the fatty gristly meat or leftovers. He attended a Roman Catholic School which was run by nuns and remembers the discipline being firm and harsh. James and his sisters were all unhappy with their first billets, and were transferred to other billets but separated again.

At his second billet, James recalls eating cheese which tasted like soap and getting into trouble for falling in the River Thames. He had to go to a converted children's hospital in Caversham due to having impetigo. Due to the lack of care in their billets, James' mother decided to bring all three children back to London where they all remained for the rest of the war. James feels that many child evacuees were genuinely cared for but billeting money was a stronger motive for the more uncaring billets.

[Former reference number EA33]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/345**

Evacuee memoir: Charles Henry Evans  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk  
John Scur School, London  
[Former reference number EA34]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/346**

Evacuee memoir: Ethel Keylock (nee Taylor)  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk  
Stewart Hedlan School

The memoir relates the evacuation of Ethel between the ages of



## Museum of English Rural Life

9 and 13 from a one-room flat in the slums of Bethnal Green, London, to Elmswell near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk. Ethel and other children from Steward Hedlan School travelled by rail from Bethnal Green Station, thinking they were going for a two-week holiday.

Ethel and her friend Iris Sherring agreed to try and keep together, and their first billet was Street Farm. The large house is described, as well as animals that they had never seen before. Several months later they moved to New Road, billeted with the Last family. Mr Last was the village butcher.

Their next billet with Mr and Mrs Piper was also in New Road. From there they went to the Oxborough Family in Wetherdown Road. The father was a blacksmith and had two grown-up daughters called Molly and Joyce. Ethel and Iris had to move again when Molly was having a baby.

They then stayed in Cooks Road with the Eustace family. Mr Eustace was a former coalman in London and there were two young sons, Colin and Barry. During this time Iris returned home and she and Ethel lost touch.

Arrangements for their school are described, first sharing the local school then attending on alternate days. None of these arrangements were successful and classes were held in the village hall and then in The Fox pub with two classes in one room. Ethel narrowly missed a pass for the grammar school and attended a selective central school that had been evacuated from London and was housed in Bury St Edmunds.

At the age of 13 Ethel returned to her parents who had moved to Newbury, Berkshire, which Ethel found difficult.

[Former reference number EA35]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/347**

Evacuee memoir: Kathleen Faux  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Ipswich, Suffolk.

Memoir recalls going to school on the 1st September 1939, then leaving via Ilford Station to go to Ipswich, Suffolk. Kathleen went with her two sisters, a brother and their teachers. She was very frightened during the train journey as they stopped in a tunnel and there was no light. At the local school people came and chose children, but nobody wanted the family of four as their

## Museum of English Rural Life

mother had told them to stay together. Her brother went with his friend and the three girls went to Mrs Smith at 15 Norman Crescent. Memoir mentions celebrating her 8th birthday on the 2nd of September, where they went to school in the morning and the local children went in the afternoon, and an occasion where her elder brother cycled to see them from Ilford, London and back in one day. They were there in Ipswich for about 2 months. Their Mum and Dad had moved to Romford, so they all went home.

[Former reference number EA37]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/348**

Evacuee memoir: Cecily Tween  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Croydon to Hove, Sussex  
Holy Trinity School, Croydon then Sydenham Road School.

Cecily lived in 77 Milton Road, Croydon. She attended Holy Trinity School, and was in a sweet shop in Milton Road when World War II was declared. She and her sister Jo were evacuated by train to Hove. At the distribution centre there, Cecily was given a tin of corned beef, chocolate, and other items. They were billeted at 39 Rutland Road, Hove, into the care of Mr and Mrs Morris and their daughter.

Cecily recalls being happy and would write home on blue letter cards. She also describes getting into trouble once by loudly ringing a bell she had found as bell ringing was the signal for a gas attack or invasion. Every Sunday, Cecily enjoyed walking along the sea front from Hove to Brighton with Mr Morris, while Mrs Morris cooked dinner. She attended school in Hove but only went for half the day due to sharing the premises with another school. She spent the free half of the day walking or going to the cinema. Cecily remembers a Christmas party at a hall, and she received a book with paper dolls and cut-out clothes to change the dolls into.

Cecily and her sister returned home just before Christmas as her sister had threatened to run away. The car ride home was foggy and she describes her father stopping at a shop along the way for soap to rub on the windscreen. Back at Milton Road, Cecily attended Sydenham Road School and went on to be a headteacher.

[Former reference number EA41]

## Museum of English Rural Life

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/350**

Evacuee memoir: Eric Percival entitled "Children Escaping War - The memoirs of an evacuee"

c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Dagenham to Great Yarmouth, Norfolk and Dereham, Norfolk, and a photograph Fanshawe Junior School

Eric lived with his parents, brother, and sister, at 58 Osborne Square, Heathway, Dagenham, Essex. He attended Fanshawe Junior School. Eric's brother was mobilized as a member of the 1/4 Essex Regiment, and his father was a Local Defence Volunteer. Eric recalls his school preparing parents for potential evacuation and was given a letter with instructions on what to pack and where to go if necessary. Ministry pamphlets were issued containing instructions and reminders of what parents should do in event of air raids. Eric enjoyed visits to Hainault to watch the light aircraft flying and recalls watching an Anderson shelter being delivered. He also recalls gas masks being issued at the Civic Centre. He spent time at Parsloes Park with a friend and they explored the huge trenches and earth works that were being excavated to provide air raid shelters. Eric's father was guarding the fighter and bomber aircraft at RAF Hornchurch and Eric's brother was posted to Wooler on the Northumberland coast.

When war was declared, Eric was evacuated to Yarmouth and describes an exhausting journey, walking to Dagenham Docks and being evacuated via a fleet of the Thames paddle steamers. In Yarmouth, Eric's school were housed in another school at North Denes where the children were told to stuff sacks with hay to make temporary mattresses while they waited to be billeted. Eric's school was then taken to East Dereham by bus which stopped in the Town Square. They were taken to council buildings to wait to be picked by foster parents. Eric was taken in by Mr Edwards and lived happily at N06 Council Houses, Swaffham Road, with Mr Edward's wife Eva, his daughters Enid and Betty, and son Raymond.

Eric continued his education and local children would have use of classrooms in the morning and evacuees would have use of the classrooms in the afternoon. When not in class, Eric enjoyed rambles, playing games on the common, spending time with friends, and had fun on the farm learning how to milk a cow.

Eric's parents moved house early in 1941 to Hanwell, West London and were concerned about Eric's education. Eric's

## Museum of English Rural Life

mother decided to bring him home and Eric continued life as normal in West London. Eric went on to join the RAF in 1946.

[Former reference number EA43]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/351**

Evacuee memoir: Edward George Pittman  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation to Chichester, West Sussex  
[Former reference number EA45]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/352**

Evacuee memoir: Marion Lewis (nee Fanner)  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation to Southampton; Chandlers  
Ford; Bournemouth  
Southampton Girls Grammar School

Memoir concerns Marion (aged 8), her father and stepmother, two brothers (17 and 13), stepbrother (3) and stepsister (1, who died in 1940). The father was an optician whose practice in Southampton was later destroyed in the Blitz and re-established in premises nearby. As soon as war broke out the younger children moved from Southampton, Hampshire, for a week to a cottage 6 miles away. Marion describes how she enjoyed staying there.

The family then moved to Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire, where they had bought a house. Marion describes a dogfight over Chandler's Ford that ended in the German plane crashing. She attended the local school until passing the examination for Southampton Girls Grammar School. She was evacuated to Bournemouth, Dorset, sharing premises with the Bournemouth School for Girls. Marion recounts how seven of them were billeted in a boarding house in Lowther Road. The arrangement was unsatisfactory, and they moved to a larger boarding house in Derby Road run by elderly spinsters known as 'Miss Brace' and 'Miss Annie'. Marion stayed for two years.

Bournemouth and its sea defences are described as well as the explosion of a mine that destroyed the Hotel Metropole at The Lansdowne. Information about their wartime diet and rationing is given as well as piano lessons from Miss Figgins. After 2½ years five of the girls moved to a Girls' Christian Hostel in Southbourne where Marion thought they were treated well. As the bombing of Southampton eased, the children could visit

## Museum of English Rural Life

home occasionally. The memoir recounts hearing a doodlebug on one such occasion while in the garden shelter one night.

In 1941/2 the school was moved to empty premises in Boscombe, made vacant by Wentworth School which had been evacuated to Wales. The school and grounds are described. Marion spent three happy years there. When preparations for D-Day were in progress, Marion's stepbrother obtained treats from Canadian and American troops, and from Italian prisoners of war. In June 1944 Marion's headmistress allowed the girls to watch the ships leaving for the D-Day invasion. The school returned to Southampton, and Marion commuted from Chandler's Ford. Their house in Southampton had been taken over by the army but the family returned after VE Day.

[Former reference number EA47]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/354**

Evacuee memoir: Len Townsend  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Pakenham,  
Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk

The Lawrence School for Boys

[Former reference number EA49]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/355**

Evacuee memoir: Norman Jones  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Stoke-on-  
Trent

Highlands School

[Former reference number EA50]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/356**

Evacuee memoir: Henry Bayley  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to  
Northampton

[Former reference number EA51]

1 folder

## Museum of English Rural Life

**D EVAC  
A/1/358**

Evacuee memoir: Barbara Ann Carthew (nee Bull)  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Dunkeswell,  
Devon  
Victory Place School, Walworth

Barbara and her sister Joyce were evacuated with Victory Place School in Walworth, London, to the village of Dunkeswell, Devon. In Devon, they first stayed on a farm two miles outside of the village and would walk to the Village Hall every day for school lessons. Barbara's mother was unhappy that the two children were walking that distance alone and in all weathers. Barbara and Joyce were re-billeted to William and Ethel Myers, who were brother and sister. William had retired from Birmingham to Devon, and they lived in a cottage opposite the church in the heart of the village. Barbara describes Ethel and William as kind, and they welcomed Barbara's mother to stay during the London blitz and Barbara's father when he had army leave.

Barbara fondly remembers sleeping in a large Victorian bed which was warmed in the winter, and at Christmastime Barbara and Joyce received stockings with a doll, paints, sweets, and a few coins. Barbara and Joyce returned to London in June 1945 but would frequently return to Devon for holidays.

[Former reference number EA54]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/359**

Evacuee memoir: Fred L. Thompson entitled Tales of an Evacuee  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Torrington,  
Devon  
Ravenstone School.

Fred, aged 7, arrived in Ritherdon Road, Balham, London from Canada in 1937. He attended Ravenstone School where the Head was Mrs Atchison and his class teacher Mrs Fleming. A fellow pupil was called Tony Howard. Pre-war memories include the Boat Race, indoor PE lessons and hearing Anne Driver on the school's wireless. Fred remembers seeing early televisions in shop windows, disabled world war veterans and the coronation of George VI. He joined the cubs that met in a church hall on Balham High Road and played on Balham and Tooting Bec Common, where there were army bands on Sundays and nannies pushing prams. The children raided dustbins to tear stamps off letters.

## Museum of English Rural Life

Preparations for war are described: digging shelters, the Fire Service practising and receiving gas masks. Fred was evacuated the day before war was declared, travelling from Waterloo station to Torrington in Devon to stay with his grandmother and two aunts. He attended Torrington Junior Council School run by Miss Mortlock. He was the only evacuee but recalls local boys Cederick Bealy and Tom Short.

At Christmas his parents visited and took him back to their new home on the Rhodrons Estate at Hook in Surrey. He joined Miss Allen's class at Moor Lane Junior School where there were air raid shelters on the playing field. Because of the bombing he returned to Torrington, this time from Wimbledon Station where he saw 'Wimbledon Nell', a dog used for charity collections.

There were now many evacuees at the school, and soldiers and Bren Gun Carriers were arriving in the town. The children watched their drills and the manoeuvres of the Home Guard. At his grandmother's Fred helped Mr Snell the gardener to 'dig for victory' while she took charge of the wool from which local women knitted items for the armed forces.

At school, pupils formed into firefighting teams. However, outbreaks of measles, mumps and impetigo caused school closures. The memoir describes a friendship with the Scrivener brothers; on Saturdays they earned money caring for the bowling green on Castle Hill. A local girl called Deborah Squires is mentioned and details are given of a school concert and war weapons.

Eventually, Fred moved to a new school where they played football and cricket and did gardening to provide food for the canteen. A visit to the cinema to see a cowboy film ended up with the children trying to round up local sheep. There is a reference to a fire in a local children's home. In 1942 Fred returned to Hook and started at Moor Lane School.

[Former reference number EA55]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/361**

Evacuee memoir: Dennis John Moore  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Upton-in-the-Wirral, Merseyside

Memoir recounts living at 9 Herbert Gardens, Chiswick, and attending Strand on the Green Junior School. Dennis was

## Museum of English Rural Life

evacuated to Upton in the Wirral at about 5 years old. He lived with a family and the father was called John Mills. Another evacuee stayed for a while but got homesick and left. Dennis remembers being taken on a bike and riding on a seat on the cross bar, but also remembers hurting his foot and having to go to hospital. His also recounts going to see Liverpool FC play. When he returned home, their house had been bombed and the family moved into a flat.

[Former reference number EA60]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/362**

Evacuee memoir: Shirley Challen  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Arundel, West Sussex; Beconsfield; Lincolnshire; Cwm, South Wales  
[Former reference number EA62]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/363**

Evacuee memoir: Richard Morris entitled Memories of an evacuee 1939  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Brighton, Sussex  
St. Judes School

Born May 12th 1932, lived with family of parents, three brothers and paternal grandmother at 106 Mayall Road Herne Hill SE London, adjacent to Brixton. On September 3rd 1939, his grandmother and elder and younger brother were evacuated to Brighton, Sussex, and the children were removed from St. Jude's School. Richard recalls the events at Herne Hill railway with hundreds of other evacuees, his parents seeing them off to an unknown destination – a favour granted to them for his father's former service at the railway.

They alighted at Brighton station, greeted by an air siren and were forced to take shelter in the carriages. Soon after they were taken to a large hall where children were billeted; his grandmother went with his youngest brother, and Richard stayed with his elder brother in Wyndham Street, although they were soon reunited with their grandmother at number 4, with Miss Crouch. They remained there until July 1940.

Richard details schooling being a mixed and troubled affair; evacuee children flooded resources, meaning school was taken



## Museum of English Rural Life

in half-days with local children, and animosity grew. Richard would occasionally truant and be scolded by his headmaster and family. Soldiers were billeted in town and trained on the beach. Miss Crouch was active in the church and ran a canteen for the soldiers, where Richard and his siblings assisted and attended church regularly.

Richard's parents cycled 100 miles to visit their children on weekends, and Christmas 1939 was spent in London, and in July 1940 the family returned home via Southdown Coach.

Children were enrolled in Effra Parade School. Richard details the air raids on September 7th 1940, where their family took cover in Brixton railway station and watched the wreckage. Richard remembers the bombings as an interesting time rather than one of alarm or upset, finding the changes to his surroundings a daily fascination. Many air raid nights were spent in their below ground rooms to wait out the deafening noise.

In 1941 the family moved to East Sheen in Southwest London, which had a backyard Anderson shelter which the children found unpleasant. Richard remembers his interest in the Flying Bomb (Doodlebug) attacks, and the aircraft. Their school-maintained wall maps of battle areas, cheering recent victories in assembly.

Richard left school in December 1946 and began work in January 1947, earning 12/6d (62 ½ p) per week.

[Former reference number EA63]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/364**

Evacuee memoir: Charlie Wilder entitled Charlie Wilder's story  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Praze-an-Beeble, Cornwall

Children's home run by London County Council

[Former reference number EA64]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/366**

Evacuee memoir: Helen Innes

c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation to Northamptonshire.

Initially evacuated to Wellington Road [Street?], Northampton and then to Kingsthorpe (Northampton) and finally to Fulbourn, Cambridge where she was joined by other members of her

## Museum of English Rural Life

family.

Helen was initially evacuated to a family of butchers and her memoir touches on pigs being slaughtered on the premises. She moved to Kingsthorpe following a request from the initial host family to adopt her that her mother rejected. Her memoir mentions that her second host family had a daughter and that she attended the local school three times a week along with other evacuees.

The move to Fulbourn sometime later was necessary so she could attend Addenbrook's Hospital, where she was treated for fallen arches in her feet. Her memoir explains that her dropped arches were the result of wearing plimsolls regularly, details the painful treatment involved and mentions that her mother would get her to the hospital in a push chair.

The memoir of her time in Fulbourn touches on her mother renting a cottage, being joined by her father periodically who would get to the cottage from the local train station using her mother's bicycle that had ineffective brakes, and details how her first job was to look after the dogs at a large local house.

[Former reference number EA67]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/367**

Evacuee memoir: Celia Pyke entitled The Bath Raid  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Bath.

Evacuated from Barking to Bath with her older sister where she stayed with two different hosts. The first billet is remembered negatively and the second positively. They returned home after a period of three years following an aerial attack on Bath. They had been evacuated at the start of the war.

The memoir touches on their evacuation by coach to Paddington, the issuing of gas masks, an orange and a tube of Rowntree's gums, and the negative emotions she experienced. The latter highlights the realisation that she wouldn't be returning home for some time.

The memoir details the negative memories associated with their first hosts including: negative comments made by her host to neighbours, the housework which was largely done by her elder sister, being bullied by her host's daughter and having to share presents with her, being selected to sing at a Christmas service ahead of local children, and having to sit in the back garden of

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the house on cool evenings whilst the daughter of the house was allowed to have cocoa and biscuits with her father.

Following an unexpected visit from their mother, when they complained about their treatment, they were moved to their second host family where they were joined by her younger sister. This family unit is described, and the lack of hot water is mentioned before two other memories are detailed. Collecting meat bones from one of the large hotels supposedly for the family dog, and two nights of aerial bombardment after which they returned home. The memory of the sound of the noise of machine guns from a fighter aircraft, that was part of the raid, was never forgotten.

Following their return from Bath, these memories are described including: her mother picking lice out of their hair; their changed accents; the negative perceptions held by 'locals' of 'Londoners'; the perceived differences in schooling and education between those in Bath and London; the joys of the countryside.

[Former reference number EA68]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/369**

Evacuee memoir: Alec Bregonzi  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Maidenhead  
[Former reference number EA72]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/370**

Evacuee memoir: Irene Mead (nee Weller)  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Small Heath, Birmingham to Stratford-upon-Avon Tilton Road School

Evacuated together with two of her brothers as part of a school group, from Small Heath Birmingham to Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon in September 1939. They returned to Birmingham some months later.

The memoir describes evacuation from Tilton Road School on 1st September 1939. It mentions the preparation for the evacuation, walking to Bordesley railway station and the emotional impact on their mother and neighbours of their departure, and their arrival in Stratford. She explains how they were amongst the last to be selected and how they were to be

## Museum of English Rural Life

split up as a group but living next door to each other. She mentions the kind and elderly nature of her hosts, the joys of a bed to herself and the impact of the declaration of war.

A number of other memories are discussed. These include: schooling arrangements; spending a large amount of time outdoors with her brothers and the emotional wrench of their daily partings; letters home; visiting other evacuees in their billets; home sickness; the slow return of evacuees home; crossing the river Avon by ferry.

The memoir describes: returning home following a visit from their mother as she was approaching the age of fourteen and expected to start work to support her mother who was a widow; the antipathy of their School Head to their return; the pleasure expressed by the host families in the children's behaviour; the pleasure of returning home; the changed circumstances in the local area with reduced lighting and no street signs; the many nights of bombing endured.

[Former reference number EA74]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/371**

Evacuee memoir: Frederick James Ganney  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to near Taunton, Somerset

Frederick explains that he was hop picking when war was declared on 3rd September 1939. Lived in Bodiam, Sussex with his mother, grandmother, grandfather and brothers Bill, Alf and Ken. He was later evacuated with his older brother Bill to Somerset, to a mansion with at least another 10 evacuees, where he was one of the youngest and was looked after by a nanny. He was given the job of collecting the milk from the local farmer. The nanny showed them some out-of-bounds parts of the mansion, including a hall full of stuffed animals. Due to homesickness their mother took them home to Lewisham, as there had been no enemy action yet.

The memoir describes Downderry School, where they used to attend, had been taken over by the Heavy Rescue Squad. In 1940 air raids began, and they slept in the Anderson shelter in the garden listening to the aircraft and Ack Ack guns. As there was no school the children went collecting shrapnel and played games such as Tibby Cat, Release, and playing with cigarette cards and Marbles. In 1943 Frederick remembers the daytime raids and running home to the shelter and seeing an aircraft

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fight and a bomb dropping on Oakshade Road, demolishing a pair of houses. The school in Sandhurst Road got a direct hit, killing 38 children and 8 teachers. In 1944-1945 he was only getting sporadic schooling and recalls hearing the V1s and V2s, which were very noisy. He mentions Chislehurst Caves being used at the height of the Blitz for shelter. He left school at 14 in 1946, having missed a lot of his education.

[Former reference number EA75]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/372**

Evacuee memoir: Daphne Gilbert  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Cardiff, Wales; Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire

Memoir describes returning home after about a year in Cardiff. The bombing was still going on, and so Daphne was evacuated with her brother aged 14 to Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire. As her parents had a fruit shop in Stamford Hill, London, they stayed at home. The children were placed together in Bluntisham but it was found to be too difficult for the hosts to have both, so Daphne was moved on to some friends and was very happy there. She remembers she was 12 or 13 when she came home, going to a convent school in Stamford Hill and then on to Skinners' School until she was fifteen and a half. She then learnt shorthand and typing and worked in Holborn. She kept in touch with the family she stayed with, and after the war visited them with her parents.

[Former reference number EA76]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/374**

Evacuee memoir: Beryl Smout  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation with her family from London to Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire  
Kilmarnock Academy

Beryl recalls her childhood years being spent in Scotland. Beryl's father was an export manager for Johnnie Walker in St. James's, London and the outbreak of World War II meant the premises was evacuated and the company was moved to Kilmarnock, Ayrshire. Beryl's family moved from Ilford, took the overnight sleeper carriage from Euston to Carlisle, and then another train from Carlisle to Kilmarnock. Homeowners with

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spare rooms available were expected to take in evacuees and Beryl's family lived with another family under one roof. Beryl's father was in the Home Guard. Her sister volunteered with the Red Cross and treated American Servicemen who were stationed in the Ayrshire area. The American soldiers offered nylon stockings and candy as gifts.

Beryl was educated and attended Edge Hill Manse school and later attended Kilmarnock Academy. She recalls many dark morning walks to school in deep snow and school closing in the middle of the day if there was heavy rain or snow. She enjoyed afternoons playing on swings and slides in local parks.

Beryl recalls enjoying seaside holidays to Troon and Largs, Prestwick along with days out to other beauty spots such as Loch Lomond and Loch Ness. Beryl and her family returned to their home in Ilford in 1946. Beryl found education in Ilford difficult as she had a strong Scottish accent, but she feels fortunate to have lived away from the devastation of wartime London.

[Former reference number EA78]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/375**

Evacuee memoir: Mrs O. M. Obbard  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Ashford, Kent

Forest Hill Central School

[Former reference number EA79]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/376**

Evacuee memoir: Alan Edward Gill  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation to Dawlish, Devon  
St. Mary's Girls School

[Former reference number EA80]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/378**

Evacuee memoir: Winifred Smith nee Ives  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to Harden, West Yorkshire

[Former reference number EA87]

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1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/379**

Evacuee memoir: Mrs M. Kemp  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation  
[Former reference number EA88]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/380**

Evacuee memoir: Mrs M. Hartley  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Ingleton, North Yorkshire

Evacuated with her sister and brother from Foster Square Station in Bradford, West Yorkshire, to Ingleton, North Yorkshire, with a few clothes and a packet of biscuits. They stayed at Moor Garth Hall Hotel with a Mr and Mrs Hainsworth. They walked a mile to school and back and then had the job of feeding two or three hundred hens, collecting the eggs and renewing the bedding. Other jobs were peeling potatoes and cleaning shoes. Her sister went home to work at Hepworths munitions making pistons. The evacuee and her brother stayed in Ingleton for over three years and did all sorts of jobs, but also had some good times, including walking around Ingleton waterfalls and on top of Ingleborough where they had a bonfire once a year. Memoir recalls one air raid on Morecombe while she was there.

[Former reference number EA89]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/381**

Evacuee memoir: Malcolm Samways  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Delph, Greater Manchester  
Grange School

Malcolm was evacuated in August 1939 from Grange School in Bradford via Foster Square station to Greenfield station (between Oldham and Uppermill). On arrival as tagged and chosen alongside Grantham Terrace to board with Mrs Sharp at Cobblers Hill, a non-working farm.

Malcolm enjoyed the outdoor exploration and companionship with Bruce the dog across the large and variable estate, but felt

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isolated from his peers once Grantham left; he soon moved to Herbert and Jesse Charlesworth's home on a council estate in Delph, Oldham. They had four children – three daughters and a son. He reflected that although perhaps not as many opportunities existed at this home due to financial and educational constraints, it felt like family and he was treated well.

He remembers taking lunch daily to Herbert at the mill, picking bilberries for baking, cowheel pie and rice pudding weekends. When aged sixteen, once they'd returned home, Malcom and his sister would ride from Bradford to Delph to visit; when off-duty from the army Malcolm would later visit one of the Charlesworth's daughters, who was his favourite.

Malcolm recounts visiting Delph again at age 55 and enquiring at an old corner shop about the Charlesworths. The clerk turned out to be the daughter of his favourite childhood companion, and when they travelled to the house to reunite her first words were 'my little evacuee'. He believes his evacuee experience was enriching for his childhood and his character, and prepared him for his later National Service career and adaptability to life's challenges.

[Former reference number EA90]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/382**

Evacuee memoir: Jacqueline Briggs  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to Mossley, Manchester  
[Former reference number EA91]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/383**

Evacuee memoir: Marjorie and Alan Aveyard  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuations to Nelson, Lancashire and Cullingworth, West Yorkshire; Linton, North Yorkshire Boundary Secondary School, Linton Camp School near Grassington.

Marjorie relates both her own and her husband Alan's individual experiences of evacuation from Bradford.

Margaret, aged 11 years and her sister Vera, aged 9 years lived near the mills in Bradford. On 1st September 1939 they were



## Museum of English Rural Life

evacuated to Nelson, Lancashire with others in their school where they remained for about a year. They travelled by bus to the Carr Road Baptist Chapel, Nelson and together with another girl called Marjorie they were comfortably billeted with Mr and Mrs Jackson who were known as Auntie Ena and Uncle Harold. Marjorie attended the Boundary Secondary School with Marjorie and Vera went to the Junior School. She recollects gifts and chocolate provided on arrival and making chocolate raisins whilst listening to Al Bowlly. The Jacksons took them around the Nelson area, and they made friends at the Chapel and Marjorie still has an autograph book from Christmas in Nelson.

Alan aged 12 years was initially evacuated seven miles from Bradford to Cullingworth, West Yorkshire where he remained for six months then moving to his billet at Linton Camp School, near Grassington, in the Yorkshire Dales where he remained until he was aged 14/15 years, returning home to start work. He recalls living in dormitories, outdoor activities including sledging, swimming, football and cricket and his headmaster, Mr Sternwhite.

[Former reference number EA92]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/384**

Evacuee teacher memoir: Rosemary Maud Goddin  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation of a teacher, including a handwritten letter from Joy Tomkins, a black and white photograph encased within a card, photocopy of a school note regarding evacuation procedures, 2 badges and an identity bracelet belonging to a Rosemary Maud Goddin, scrapbook of newspaper cuttings, book of black and white negatives, album of black and white photographs, postcards to/from Rosemary Maud Goddin, an article from Teachers World and Schoolmistress entitled What to do in the air-raid shelter and typescript reminiscences of Joy Tomkins

Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire

[Former reference number EA95]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/386**

Evacuee memoir: Esme Joy Redwood  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Harrow, London to Walsall, West Midlands

Lived in Harrow, North West London. Evacuated August 1944

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age 6, with sister Marion, age 9. Billeted with Mr and Mrs Butler in Pelsall, near Walsall in the West Midlands, until 16 September 1944.

Esme was evacuated due to the threat of V1 and V2 rockets over London, while father was in RAF hospital in Rousely, Lincolnshire after being diagnosed with diabetes. The memoir describes the day of evacuation: being very hot and packed on a train with many other children; not knowing where they were going; singing made up songs; noticing strange mountains (coal slag heaps) close to the end of the journey. Esme remembers being calm about the evacuation, but that Marion was distressed.

The Memoir describes Mr and Mrs Butler as very nice, and she enjoyed playing on the swings in the park behind the Butler's terraced house. Esme describes being happy there, but that her sister found it difficult and cried many nights. They received letters from her mother nearly every day, but that she was unable to write well because of her age and having missed lots of school due to stays in the Western Ophthalmic Hospital and air raids. The memoir also details: the blind Sunday school teacher; visiting the Butler's relations in Walsall; accompanying Mr Butler on milk rounds on his horse & cart; going to school for 3 weeks in September; details from her mother's letters (including day-to-day activities at home and frequent doodlebug raids). Esme also describes an instance of sheltering from a doodlebug raid in her family's Morrison shelter prior to her evacuation, being terrified but encouraged to go to sleep by her mother.

[Former reference number EA104]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/388**

Evacuee memoir: Jean Wilkins nee Pooke and Irene Giles nee Pooke  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Southwark, London to St. Ives, Cornwall  
Surrey Square School, Southwark  
[Former reference number EA116]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/389**

Evacuee memoir: Peter Staples  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Worcester Park,  
London to Chesterfield, Derbyshire  
[Former reference number EA120]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/390**

Evacuee memoir: Julia Mary Barber nee Beabey  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Bilston,  
Staffordshire  
[Former reference number EA121]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/391**

Evacuee memoir: Godfrey Eagleton  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Beighton,  
Norfolk; Kettering, Northamptonshire  
[Former reference number EA122]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/392**

Evacuee memoir: Raymond Horsley  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Somerset; Oxfordshire;  
Warwickshire  
Ravenor School, Greenford

Raymond's father was called up to the RAF in 1939 when he was 8. He, with his mother, brother, and an aunt and her son went to Somerset, where they had relations. They stayed at The New Inn, High Ham. They stopped there for two or three weeks, but as it was still quiet in London so they returned home to Greenford and to school at Ravenor School. About a year later he and his brother went to friends in Oxfordshire, and about a week afterwards his home in Greenford was damaged by a bomb and his mother went to an aunt in Hayes. In April 1942 they went back to their mother, but as their house had been so badly damaged they lived with his mother's parents until they were rehoused.

Memoir recounts that in May 1944 the V1 doodle bugs started and then the V2 bombers. Raymond and his brother were evacuated to Warwickshire for about 8 weeks until the bombing stopped. They moved back into their repaired house in March

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1948

[Former reference number EA127]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/393**

Evacuee memoir: Doreen Spence nee Side  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Peckham, London to Petworth, West Sussex; Bideford, North Devon; Silverstone, Towcester, Northamptonshire

In September 1939 Doreen was evacuated with her brother, Fred, to Petworth, but their parents took them home as they were in such poor conditions. In 1940 they were both sent with lots of other children to Bideford in North Devon. They were firstly in All Halland Street at Arnolds Chemist and were then moved to Lands Cross (possibly Landcross) to a large house called 'Whitehall'. They were very happy there with the Churchill-Knights, and their parents were able to stay in a cottage on the estate for two weeks at Christmas. They went to school in Littleham and walked three miles there every day. When Mrs Churchill-Knight became ill, they went to Bideford East-the-Water and stayed with Mrs Briitten and her daughter, Elsie, in Elliot Street, going to school at Bridge Street School in Bideford. By 1943/44 they were getting homesick and went home to Peckham. Later in 1944, a group of mothers and children went to Silverstone in Towcester for 6 months and then back home for good.

[Former reference number EA128]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/394**

Evacuee memoir: Patricia Roper nee Prestwich  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation to Malden, Essex; Trowbridge, Wiltshire, St. Austell, Cornwall and Birmingham, and two photographs

Memoir consists of the collated memories of Patricia, her twin sister June and her brother Derek.

When war broke out they were 7 and 10/11 respectively. The family already had identity cards and their father had built an Anderson shelter. However, on the day war was declared the children were evacuated to Walden in Essex as they lived near the docks. Derek went to a Mr and Mrs Frost, but the children's

## Museum of English Rural Life

mother was unhappy with the twins' billet and brought them back.

In early 1940 all three children were sent to Trowbridge in Wiltshire, causing Derek to miss his 11-plus exam. Again, their mother disliked their placements and brought them home. Here they witnessed the Battle of Britain and saw dogfights. The shooting down of a German aircraft near Wanstead Flats in London, and the fate of its crew is recounted. The children collected shrapnel and bullet cases.

The next evacuation was to St Austell in Cornwall with children from Derek's school, St Barnabas School in Woodford, Essex. Derek went to Charleston and the twins to a cottage at Tregahan Mills. Schooling in St Austell consisted of mixed-age classes and for the first time the twins had separate lessons. Derek recalls older boys being taught to repair shoes. And when Plymouth was bombed, he remembers seeing the fires from 40 miles away. The twins' memories include Cornish pasties and fresh milk and cream from the neighbouring farm.

In 1941 Derek's mother took him home as his billet was 'not very clean' and he was 'full of lice'. Back at St Barnabas School, pupils alternated between morning and afternoon lessons. Derek listened to English language broadcasts from Germany for news of captured airmen.

The twins returned some time later. Schooling was sporadic: sometimes in groups in children's homes, sometimes in shelters at school. Outside play was restricted, so the children put on concerts to raise money to send to Mrs Churchill 'to help the brave Russians'.

An increase in bombing led to another temporary evacuation to Birmingham. Again, the children were unhappy and returned home when it was safe.

Derek's memories of the invasion of France, Doodlebugs and V2 rockets are recounted. At this time the twins were evacuated to Mrs Gwen Hamilton in Shirley, Birmingham, where they stayed happily until the end of the war. Patricia kept in close touch with Mr and Mrs Hamilton for many years.

Memoir includes:

A handwritten letter from Patricia that gives details of the photographs and explains how she collated the memoirs of the three siblings.

## Museum of English Rural Life

Photograph of Mr and Mrs Witchell and their daughter Dora, the twins' host family in Cornwall.

Photograph of a street party celebrating the end of the war that includes Patricia and her sister at the back in nurses' uniform.

[Former reference number EA130]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/395**

Evacuee memoir: Thelma Howe (nee Rabbetts) and Dennis Howe

c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation to St. Albans, Hertfordshire and Chadwell Heath, Enfield, Greater London  
Downshall Senior School

Thelma Howe

In 1939 at the age of 10, Thelma was living in Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex where her mother was housekeeping for the Williams family. The Williams had one son, Norman, aged 7.

Preparations for war are described: an Anderson shelter in the garden, men digging air-raid shelters, gas masks, issuing children with labels, and a meeting at school for the immediate evacuation of the children. Thelma was not evacuated with the school, however. Instead, two days before the war started, she, her mother and Mrs Williams moved to Great Wakering in Essex to stay with the Tillbrooks, Mrs William's father and stepmother. The Tillbrooks were strict chapel-goers.

Thelma and Norman attended the village school for half days as it was shared with evacuees from Chadwell Heath in London. In October she was bridesmaid at the marriage of her Auntie Frances and Uncle Fred: people were bringing forward weddings in case the men were sent away to war.

After Mr Williams became ill, his wife, Thelma and her mother returned to Seven Kings. Here, Thelma stayed with her mother's friend, Mrs Fulton, while Norman went to the Barrow family nearby. Schools were closed and the only education available was in small groups in private houses. There was no place available for Thelma and she missed a year's schooling.

Following the death of Mr Williams, Thelma returned to her mother and went to Downshall Senior School. Schools were re-opening but the air raids had started again and only six pupils

## Museum of English Rural Life

were in her class. Memories of the Blitz are recalled: being outside during a night raid while her mother hid under the stairs; damage to the home from an incendiary bomb; a direct hit on her grandmother's house; and having to spend a fortnight in St John's Church Hall because of an unexploded bomb.

Thelma left school in 1944 aged 14 to work at Unilever House. She recalls the doodlebugs and V2 rockets. At the end of the war she and her mother moved in with her grandmother.

Dennis Howe

Dennis was born in 1929. The memoir describes Dennis' parents, who were from Tottenham in London, fears of war and hearing tales of the 1914-18 war. As war approached, Dennis, sister Pauline and his mother moved to St Albans, Hertfordshire, to stay with their Great Aunt Aggie and cousins George and Bob. Their father stayed behind but, as he would be out all day, to Dennis's dismay their pet dog had to be put down.

They travelled to St Albans by car, a novelty in those days, and were made welcome. The following day the country was at war and there was soon a false alarm when a siren went off. Pauline and Dennis attended the local school for half days as it was overcrowded, but three months later their father came to take them back to Ilford, Essex. This time they travelled by train to St Pancras and by underground to Liverpool Street.

Memoir includes a photograph of Thelma as a bridesmaid at the wedding of her Auntie Frances and Uncle Fred in October 1939.

[Former reference number EA133]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/396**

Evacuee memoir: Michael Bailey  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Pewsey,  
Wiltshire  
[Former reference number EA141]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/397**

Evacuee memoir: Ben Seniscal  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Hull to Acklam,  
Yorkshire  
[Former reference number EA142]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/398**

Evacuee memoir: Doreen Sweetman  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Norfolk

Doreen was evacuated with her sister to a farm in Norfolk, where they felt they did their bit for the war effort by helping on the farm. The memoir gives a list of jobs which include working in the fields and with the animals, all of which they enjoyed, although it was hard work. The compensations were that they had plenty of good wholesome food and the freedom to roam in safety around the farm and climbing trees.

Doreen has no recollections of any proper schooling, but learnt a lot about country life, and they stayed there for about four years.

In 1952 her farming experiences came in useful when she went on 'Give a Hand on the Land' holidays. This she describes as 'no pay', but great fun. She also says that both she and her sister still have a love of countryside and nature and are both keen gardeners.

[Former reference number EA143]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/400**

Evacuee memoir: Jean G. Kinsey  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Birkenhead to  
Llandinam

Evacuated at the age of 6 from Birkenhead to Llandinam, Wales in September 1939 where she was billeted to two separate farms. The first from 1st September 1939 to February 1940 and at the second farm until August 1943 when she returned home. The first farm is described as "largish" and the second as a "small holding".

The memoir mentions the make up of the two households and lists the activities that she undertook. The first farm is described



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as consisting of a farmer, his wife, niece and two farm labourers and the second as consisting of a part-time farmer, his wife and two daughters. The second farmer also had employment in forestry. Activities on the farm included: animal care and husbandry, dairy and meat production (including rabbiting), harvesting, hay making, attending markets and the direct sale of products.

The memoir also mentions: the basic nature of the facilities such as no basic services, no indoor running water and an outside toilet; rural nature of schooling; a friendship with a sheepdog; responsibility of taking some cows to be serviced by a bull at a neighbouring farm.

[Former reference number EA145]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/401**

Evacuee memoir: Roy Crackles  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Hull to the country around Hessle and Ferriby, Yorkshire  
Francis Askew School

Evacuated from Francis Askew School, Hull to Easingwold, Yorkshire on 1st September [1939?] where he was billeted with two different hosts. The first hosts were an elderly couple who he remained with for nine months before moving on to live with a farm worker and his family including brother-in-law.

The farm worker had full time employment, as some land and kept farm animals. Roy collected cows for milking as well as milking, potato picking, hay making, harvesting and ploughing with horses.

The memoir briefly describes his work after leaving school and his life thereafter. This included working on a farm, working as a postman in rural Yorkshire as well as roles as a town councillor and magistrate.

Memoir includes one letter:

1) Describes connections with Easingwold prior to their evacuation. It also describes their journey and that the two teachers travelling with them were also unaware of their final destination.

[Former reference number EA146]

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1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/403**

Evacuee memoir: Jean Davidson (nee Shorts, Schultz)  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation to Newmarket, Cambridgeshire, includes handwritten reminiscences of Jean Davidson entitled Evacuation 1939.

Jean was evacuated with her school from Bethnal Green, London, to Newmarket, Cambridgeshire, on September 3rd 1939. She was the only child of Jewish parents and, at the age of 6, was leaving home for the first time.

Jean and her classmate Frances (Chapler?) were chosen by a Mr and Mrs Noble. Colin Noble was manager of a menswear shop in the High Street. Jean and Frances stayed with them in New Cheveley Road until Mrs Noble ('Aunt Mabel') was expecting her first and only child, Lawrence.

The next billet was in the same road with a Mr and Mrs Craske who owned the local Greengrocer's. Jean caught scarlet fever and spent two weeks in hospital in a ward full of soldiers. On her return she found that Frances had gone home, and then two older evacuees were billeted there, a girl of 16 and a boy of 12. The memoir mentions a number of upsetting incidents including attempted child abuse and descriptions of racist experiences after which Jean's parents took her home.

When doodlebugs became frequent, however, Jean went back to the Noble family where she learnt to ride a bike and started to play the piano. She played with Lawrence and his cousin. At school she encountered misconceptions about Jewish people.

At the end of the war Jean returned to London but kept in touch with Aunt Mabel. The memoir describes Jean's later life, her marriage to Mick in 1954 and their daughter Hayley. Some time after the death of Colin Noble, Mabel married Reg Gatsby, whom she had met at a dance. Mabel survived him but died in 1992 at the age of 88 following a car accident. Jean reflects on how she had been like a daughter to 'Aunt Mabel'.

Memoir includes:

Photo of Jean and Frances in Mr and Mrs Noble's garden, Newmarket 1939 or 1940.

Report of the funeral of 'Aunt Mabel' from the Newmarket

## Museum of English Rural Life

Journal.

Photo of Reg, Jean and Mabel, July 1984.

Photo of Mick, Jean, Mabel and Reg, August 1987.

Three letters from Mrs Noble, dated 19th January 1954; January 1954; and 10th February 1954, relating to Jean's wedding.

Two letters from Mrs Craske, dated 23rd March 1953 and 18th January 1954, relating to Jean's wedding.

Four letters from Mrs Noble, dated 24th January 1960; 8th June 1961; 13th February 1964; and 14th November 1965.

Two colour photos of Mabel and Reg dancing.

Two letters from Mrs Noble, dated 7th June, 1974; May, 1976.

[Former reference number EA149]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/404**

Evacuee memoir: John Henry Eversfield  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Islington, London to Spalding, Lincolnshire; Boston, Lincolnshire, Moulton, Lincolnshire, Sutton, Ashfield, Nottinghamshire; Burton Joyce, Nottinghamshire, Kelstedge, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Boddica St School, Copenhagen Street, Islington  
[Former reference number EA150]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/405**

Evacuee memoir: Derrick Gerald Fawkes  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Chessington to Bideford, Devon

Derrick was born in Surbiton, Surrey 11 August 1931, to Francis and Kitty Fawkes. They moved to Chessington around 1936. Derrick was evacuated in 1944 to Bideford, North Devon.

Memoir describes life in Chessington prior to the War. Derrick's family lived next door to his Grandmother. Derrick's father was made redundant from AC Cars after 16 years and having been wounded in the First World War he found it difficult to find work

## Museum of English Rural Life

other than odd jobs at the racetrack and part-time work as a post man (though he was taken on full-time after the Second World War started). Memoir also recalls enjoying playing outdoors and building bikes and trolleys out of scrap with new local friends.

Memoir then describes experiences after the start of the War. Derrick remembers initially being excited but found the experience different than expected after regular bombing raids started. He describes sheltering during raids - including flooded Anderson shelters, the difficulties of taking lessons in the school shelters, and the direct hit on the Chessington Zoo shelter that killed friend Ronnie Page and mother. Also describes military activity in the area, including badgering British, American and Canadian troops for treats and seeing German and Italian POWs.

Derrick recalls being evacuated in 1944. He describes the journey from their school by bus and train to an unknown location. Upon arrival in Bideford Derrick describes sleeping overnight at the Church hall, and the next morning being chosen along with his elder brother by a farmer's wife. Derrick remembers the astonishment at the food provided when they arrived at the farm, describing a table overflowing with pastries, jam and clotted cream. He also recounts attending the local village school, being driven in daily by an elderly man who picked up the children from outlying farms, until school let out for summer. At this point, Derrick's brother left school and found a job in Bideford, but soon quit as the 9-mile commute by bicycle was too far, and returned home.

[Former reference number EA151]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/406**

Evacuee memoir: Jean Dobbinson  
5 Jul 2006  
Consists of details of a wartime incident in Lowestoft  
[Former reference number EA152]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/407**

Evacuee memoir: Terence Chedgey  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Begbroke, Oxfordshire; Kidlington, Oxfordshire

Terence lived with his family in Ashford, Kent and in 1939

## Museum of English Rural Life

attended the Junior School close to Ashford Station. After war was declared Terence remembers evacuees from London briefly attending his school whilst local children were re-located to local halls with their classes limited to three half days weekly. He recalls witnessing trains carrying wounded soldiers returning from Dunkirk. He mentions the air raid shelter near the school playground, regular German air sorties, and the bomb damage in Newtown, a workshop, and the railway. Shortly after further bombing raids damaged Christchurch and Francis Roads in Ashford, it was decided the women and children should be evacuated from the area.

Terence, his mother, and three sisters travelled by train to Oxford and then by bus to Begbroke, Oxfordshire and upon arrival slept on the village hall floor. He relates they were briefly billeted together with another family in a remote farm cottage, then the family was split with Terence and his twin sister billeted separately in Begbroke and his mother and sisters in Kidlington. He remembers their billeting officer, Mrs Griffiths and school headmistress, Mrs Ansell at the 'church school' he attended in nearby Yarnton. Terence describes the very basic school facilities, school meal cooking arrangements, visits to a local large old house, learning gardening skills and receiving a diphtheria inoculation. Terence describes his accommodation and the different style of life he experienced with his Begbroke foster parents. He describes a trip with them to Woodstock and seeing Air Speed Oxfords at a nearby aerodrome. One year later, he joined his mother in Kidlington and started at another school. He describes playing and fishing with friends beside the Oxford Canal.

In October 1942 the family returned to Ashford. Terence, now 13 years old, describes regular bombing raids and describes the air raid shelter he helped build in the garden. He describes the damage sustained in Ashford, in March 1943 when bombs flattened part of New Street, Haywards Garage, the Victoria public house and the bakery. Terence had regular contact with members of the American Air Force based at RAF Kingsnorth and explored a Flying Fortress at their Chilmington Green base. He witnessed the build-up of troops at Hothfield Common ahead of D-Day and DC3 Douglas Dakotas setting off to support ground forces at Arnhem. Terence remembers one Saturday hearing lots of aeroplanes and describes all the different aircraft he witnessed flying overhead. Terence describes commuting by train, rationing and shortages post-war that affected the supply of food, clothing, building materials, vehicles, furniture, and fuel.

[Former reference number EA153]

## Museum of English Rural Life

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/408**

Evacuee memoir: Sheila Dickinson  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Lyme Regis, Dorset; Durham, and photographs and letters.

On September 3rd 1939, Sheila aged 2 and her mother were evacuated from Sheperd's Bush, London, to Lyme Regis in Dorset. Her father was in a reserved occupation and remained at home. Their destination was unknown but they took a train from Ealing Broadway to Bridport and a bus from there to Lyme Regis. The evacuees were selected by hosts in the Old School Hall and Sheila and her mother were taken to a large house called 'Malabar' opposite the Church Hall. It was owned by Mrs Saunders, a widow. Soldiers from the Gloucester Regiment were also billeted there. Other occupants were a housekeeper and her adult daughter, Peggy.

Because London seemed safe, her mother soon took Sheila home, but kept in touch with the family. After the war Sheila visited Peggy every year.

When the bombing became more serious, however, Sheila was taken to her mother's aunt in Crook, County Durham. By now, Sheila's father had been called up and her mother was pregnant. The memoir recalls her mother fainting at the station.

The house in Crook is described. The aunt is said to have been unable to cope with a seven-year-old so Sheila was moved to family friends, 'Aunt Ruby' and 'Uncle Tom' and their three-year-old son John, in the nearby village of Billy Row. Sheila stayed for six months and attended the village school where she performed well. Her hosts put on a party for her 8th birthday.

The memoir recalls the snowy winter and shopping in Crook. She once had a lift home in a pony and trap. There are memories of Christmas presents including a book from 'Aunt Rita', Ruby's sister and a visit from 'Nana', Rita and Ruby's mother. Sheila caught chicken pox after Christmas and passed it on to John. Nana developed shingles.

In February Sheila had to return home when Ruby became pregnant, and her father collected her. He was in REME uniform so she didn't recognise him. On the way back they stayed with Great Aunt Hannah in Crook.

Sheila's mother had given birth to a boy, Alan, and left hospital

## Museum of English Rural Life

the day they arrived home. A bomb had just hit Cleverly Flats and their windows were broken. As Sheila's bedroom was damaged she stayed with her grandmother at Alperton before returning home permanently.

Sheila's parents kept in touch with Ruby and Tom. Sheila visited Ruby after Tom had died.

Memoir includes:

Letter from Sheila to her mother, probably written in August 1944.

Sheila's drawing on the back of the letter of the dining room where she wrote her letters.

Letter from Sheila written some time before Christmas the same year.

Photo of the beach at Gun Cliff, Lyme Regis in summer, 1939. From left to right are: Elsie Dickinson, Sheila (aged 2), Peggy Gollop (later Roberts), a soldier (probably from the Gloucester Regiment).

Studio photo taken before Christmas in 1944 of John English (aged 3) and Sheila (aged 7).

[Former reference number EA155]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/409**

Evacuee memoir: Patricia Bailey  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Chiswick to Bletchley, Milton Keynes; Allenton, Derbyshire

Memoir describes being evacuated on three occasions - initially from Chiswick to Devon in 1939, subsequently from Chiswick to Bletchley, and then from Ealing to Allenton, Derby, at later times through the war. She was accompanied by her mother and brother for the first two evacuations and followed the evacuation of her brother on the third occasion. They returned prior to the end of the war. The memoir focuses on her time in Derby, schooling for those not evacuated, and schooling in the period following their return and the post war period.

The memoir mentions that she went to Devon at the age of a few months and returned to Chiswick on account of her mother

## Museum of English Rural Life

missing her husband and family. Their subsequent evacuation to Bletchley mentions that they travelled there on London buses and where they learnt about the countryside and making rosehip syrup. They returned from Bletchley to Ealing.

Following the increase in the threat from bombing and damage to the rear roof of the house, her brother and a school friend were evacuated to Derby. She followed at the age of three in 1941. The memoir touches on the boys' evacuation from St Pancras, their host family who had a daughter and were seeking girls as evacuees, the friendship she formed with the daughter who played the piano and being visited by their parents and the emotional impact on her mother.

Her time in Derby is further explored through memories of the snow in winter, her brother and school friend skating on a frozen canal and falling through the ice, children's parties at a nearby US airbase, and winning money for singing a song.

Regarding schooling for those not evacuated, the memoir mentions: the procedure for when air raid sirens sounded; singing songs to drown out the noise of bombs; a poem; collecting National Savings; the children's toys and the toy room at school; gas mask practice; news heard by some children on the loss of their fathers.

On returning to home the schooling memories include: lessons in hygiene; taking daily supplements; the use of a coconut received by her cousin through the post as a teaching aid; the benefits of going to school in winter; gender-specific nature of the curriculum.

The memoir also discusses a return to their primary school for the school's centenary and how it had changed in the intervening period. The memoir includes a letter of thanks.

[Former reference number EA160]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/410**

Evacuee memoir: Percy J.E. Payne  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from a National Childrens Home at Alverstock, Gosport, Hampshire to Arlesford, Winchester  
Central School, Gosport

Following the loss of his parents and baby sister, Percy, aged 8, was placed by an elderly aunt in the National Children's Home,



## Museum of English Rural Life

Alverstoke, near Gosport, Hampshire. Percy lived with other boys in Daisy House looked after by Sister Maggie Sinclair and Sister Kathleen Norris. He describes life at the home, its background and how it was organised. Percy attended the Central Grammar School in Gosport and his plans to take the RAF apprentice examination at 16 years, curtailed by the war.

As the military authorities needed to use the Children's home buildings as emergency hospitals the children were evacuated to various other branches of the Children's Home. On 1st September 1939, Percy and other children assembled to go by bus to the Home in Alresford, near Winchester. However, he relates there was no room for their bicycles so Percy and his friends, Bill Mudie and Alf Stallard, all aged 15 years, cycled twenty miles to Alresford. He recounts details of their journey which finished at midnight.

Percy details their new Home and life in Alresford, working with the animals and jobs on the farm, earning pocket money catching rats and a shoot on Lord Templeton's estate. Percy left Alresford on 15 April 1940 to join British Thompson Houston in Willesden and then joined the RAF in November 1943.

[Former reference number EA162]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/412**

Evacuee memoir: Ruby Edwards  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Dalston, North London to Northamptonshire, with copies of photographs and letters Tottenham Road Juniors, Barry Road Central School  
[Former reference number EA169]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/413**

Evacuee memoir: Joe Kennedy  
24 Mar 2006

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bootle, Liverpool to Shropshire.

Evacuated at the age of 9 in May 1941 from Bootle to Much Wenlock together with his sister. They returned home towards the end of 1942. The memoir is written in the form of a letter addressed to his grandchildren who were involved with a school project.

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The memoir touches on the bombing of Liverpool docks in May 1941 and sheltering in their air raid shelter in the garden. The noise made by the bombs is mentioned together with the fear experienced by the occupants including the household cat. They were evacuated following an air raid in this period.

The day of evacuation by coach is discussed mentioning the large numbers, the accompanying luggage, masks and labels, the noise made by the evacuees and the sense of adventure experienced. Meeting their hosts and their first night are described.

School activities are described by season with the summer, helping with the harvest and the winter, skating on frozen ponds and enjoying the pleasures of sledging in the snow. Joe also assisted helping with the livestock on a friends farm.

During the evacuation they were happy as they were well looked after by their hosts, they were regularly visited by their parents and they were in receipt of pocket money. There is acknowledgement of their experience not being a universal one. Their positive experience was subsequently reflected in annual summer visits to their hosts.

The memoir includes a copy of a marketing pamphlet for 'Pillowslips and Gasmask' by Joan Boyce.

[Former reference number EA170]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/414**

Evacuee memoir: Ann Matthews nee Smith  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Haslemere, Surrey  
St. Johns School

Ann was evacuated In September 1939 at almost 11 years old with her sister, 18 months younger, they were taken to Waterloo Station. They went to Haslemere in Surrey, arriving in the dark and to a village hall where they found lots of people choosing children. The girls were allotted to a young couple with a four-year-old, and a baby of six months. The house was called 'Rats Castle' which was comfortable, apart from two dogs that frightened Ann. Ann was very homesick, but her sister seemed to enjoy the experience of the countryside. They were attached to a Roman Catholic School but as they were not Catholics themselves, it was 'strange' being taught by nuns and having to learn the Hail Mary.

## Museum of English Rural Life

After about six weeks they were transferred to St John's School and to a house called 'Spring Head' to live with a Major, his wife, and two children. They also had a horse who chased them one day as they had gone into her field. Ann describes that she settled better here and made some friends. She got a Saturday job delivering meat on her bike. Later her mother let her go back to London, but her sister stayed as she liked the countryside. Ann then went to work in Kensington, where a flying bomb landed on Lyons Corner House while she was having lunch. Anne states that she was very lucky and was only shocked and slightly injured. She finishes the memoir by saying that despite this, she was very glad to be back in London.

[Former reference number EA171]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/415**

Evacuee memoir: Mary E. Matthews nee Blackburn  
c. 2005  
Consists of a copy of a dairy from 1941 and copies of  
photographs  
[Former reference number EA172]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/416**

Evacuee memoir: Joyce Harrison  
5 Jul 2006  
Consists of a copy of a letter from Pte Eric Calvert on receipt of  
a scarf knitted for him  
[Former reference number EA175]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/417**

Evacuee memoir: Joan Anderson nee Carroll  
8 May 2006  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to  
Northamptonshire  
[Former reference number EA177]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/418**

Evacuee memoir: Vera Pearson  
c.2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation.

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The memoir apologises for lack of information about her brief evacuations from September to November 1939. Vera states that she has no photographs, letters, or names of her hosts except for the name of the village, which is not given. She says she had written to the village but had no response to her letter.

[Former reference number EA179]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/419**

Evacuee memoir: Mary Ayres

11 May 2006

Consists of details of an evacuation to Sibden Castle, Shropshire

[Former reference number EA180]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/420**

Evacuee memoir: Salvador J. Lopez

30 Dec 2008

Consists of details of an evacuation from Gibraltar to London, newspaper cutting and photograph

School in the basement of the Victoria and Albert Museum

On 3rd September 1939 when war was declared, Salvador, 11, lived in a flat on Hospital Ramp Street, Gibraltar with his mother, and two brothers Anthony, 12, and John, 5. In June 1940, due to the strategic importance of Gibraltar and build-up of troops, a decision was reached to evacuate 14,000 Gibraltarians, women and children by ship initially to Casablanca, French Morocco and Salvador's family were billeted in an apartment on Rue de Bordeaux, Rabat where he attended a local school.

A month later at the fall of France, the Gibraltarians were returned by ship to Gibraltar, briefly disembarked then on 30th July 1940 Salvador and his family started the long sea journey, on a merchant ship in convoy with fifteen others. Salvador recalls the adventures he and Anthony had on board, details the poor conditions on board and danger of attack from air or submarines. Nineteen days later they docked in Swansea Harbour and Salvador details their treatment at the Health Centre and the journey by train to London. They were initially billeted in a sixth-floor room in the Royal Palace Hotel, overlooking Kensington Gardens and attended the Gibraltar Evacuee School in the basement of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Later that year Salvador's mother was diagnosed with cancer

## Museum of English Rural Life

and was firstly treated at Ilford Hospital and the boys were moved to another Gibraltar Centre, Doctor Barnardo's in Barkingside. Then Salvador's mother was transferred to Wandsworth Hospital and the boys to live at another Gibraltar centre, at Whiteland's College, Wandsworth. In 1942, their mother died and was buried in Wandsworth Cemetery. Salvador explains that Anthony had previously worked in a shop next to the Royal Palace Hotel, and then a club in Hammersmith Broadway and whilst in Barkingside the two boys earned pocket money fetching and delivering coal.

Following the death of their mother, the boys remained at Whiteland's and alongside other Gibraltarians worked in a bakery at Putney Bridge. Salvador recalls the hard work making apple pies, his bakery colleagues and their lucky escape when the Black and White Coffee Shop near Putney Bridge sustained a direct hit. Anthony and Salvador volunteered as fire watchers and Salvador recalls a heavy raid on their own residence, the rescue work they carried out and the loss of their own accommodation. They were first billeted at an empty school in Peckham Rye and then a hotel near Paddington Station. Salvador and Anthony worked in a small toy factory in Lancaster Gate. Salvador recounts the regular V1 and V2 bombing raids and the damage incurred with nights spent sleeping in Lancaster Gate Underground Station.

In early 1945 they were notified they could return home to Gibraltar travelling first to Bridge of Weir, Glasgow where they boarded a grand passenger liner, arriving back in Gibraltar in May 1945.

Memoir includes several pieces of ephemera:

Photograph of Salvador, his mother and two brothers

Photograph of Gibraltar Evacuee School at Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London

Newspaper article – News Gib Live 27th November 2008 titled: Franco General 'schemed Gib Gas attack'.  
[Former reference number EA188]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/421**

Evacuee memoir: Doris Hennessy  
3 Jan 2009

## Museum of English Rural Life

Consists of details of an evacuation to Ticehurst, East Sussex;  
Burwash, East Sussex  
[Former reference number EA189]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/425**

Evacuee memoir: John Pocock  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Hammersmith to  
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire

John, born in Wales in 1935 but his family occupied a flat on the Peabody Estate in Hammersmith, London, when war broke out. His father was a telephone engineer and he had two sisters, Betty and Gwen. Unlike other schoolchildren John was not evacuated during the 'phoney war', and he remembers the effects of the war on the locality and family during this period: Ack Ack units, barrage balloons, searchlights, Gwen training as a nurse, Betty joining the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) and her fiancé being called up. His father who had fought in the previous war became a firewatcher and St John's Ambulance volunteer.

The memoir describes how a crashed German bomber was put on display to boost morale and raise money. John and his father went to see it at Ravenscourt Park, but there was a dogfight overhead and falling cartridge cases and they had to rush for shelter. John picked up some cartridge cases for his collection of war souvenirs.

When the Blitz started there was a shortage of suitable shelters and there were arguments about access to them. One night John's family chose to stay at home when the siren sounded and a bomb destroyed the flats, causing minor injuries. They had to dodge the fires from incendiary bombs and were repeatedly turned away from shelters. When they returned all their belongings and John's toys had disappeared. They obtained temporary accommodation in a former school.

John was evacuated by train to Bradford-on-Avon in Wiltshire from Paddington Station. His feelings and the subsequent journey are described. On arrival, John was one of the children who were not selected by host families and was taken to a convent where two nuns were kind to him.

However, John caught diphtheria and was taken to hospital by ambulance. His time there and his recovery are described. His parents sent presents and eventually came to take him to their new home in Ilford, Essex. The memoir relates how he

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smuggled coloured pencils out of the hospital. Later, when the bombing intensified again, John was evacuated to relatives in South Wales.

[Former reference number EA194]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/427**

Evacuee memoir: Florence Doris Richmond  
Jan 2008

Consists of details of an evacuation from the East End of London to Wraxall, North Somerset  
[Former reference number EA196]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/428**

Evacuee memoir: John G. Cushnan  
21 Oct 2008

Consists of details of an evacuation from Belfast to Staffordstown, Antrim, Northern Ireland

John lived at 56 Lepper Street, Belfast, evacuated 1941 (aged 4) with family to Staffordstown, County Antrim after house destroyed in the Belfast Blitz. He stayed with a family in Staffordstown initially but moved to a friend's empty house in Newbridge, County Derry after several months. He remained in Newbridge until 1946 when returned to a rebuilt Lepper Street.

Memoir describes attending school at Anahorish Primary School with his younger brother and watching U.S. and British Planes at the nearby airfield with other local boys. He was disappointed when the Airforce left the area at the end of the war, as the airmen had hosted parties for the local children, given them chocolate, and provided a bus to transport the children to school.

[Former reference number EA198]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/429**

Evacuee memoir: Seamus McAlea  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Belfast to South Armagh  
[Former reference number EA202]

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1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/430**

Evacuee memoir: Tony Towner (Anthony Atkinson) entitled 'An Evacuee's War'

c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Sandgate, Kent to Colton, Staffordshire

Elm Grove primary school; Peppard Residential School;

Bishopswood Farm Camp

[Former reference number EA 204]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/431**

Evacuee memoir: Dorothy Goodwin entitled 'Home for Christmas'

c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Horton Green to Ripponden.

Dorothy lived in Bradford, and on 1st September 1939 together with other children and teachers, assembled and boarded coaches at Horton Green. They travelled by train to Sowerby Bridge and then by coach to Ripponden, West Yorkshire.

Dorothy was not settled in her first billet and after one night was re-housed with the Robinson family. Dorothy recalls her first day playing with other evacuees jumping on 'The Coffins' and falling into the river. She remembers attending Sunday School and church services led by the Reverend John Harwood.

Dorothy attended the local school, recalls learning to 'dig for victory' and wartime songs, harvesting fruit and poisonous mushrooms. She recollects an occasion when Mr Robinson, a special constable was called out. Dorothy enjoyed a congenial family life with her hosts until Mrs Robinson became ill. She was then billeted with an elderly couple, but became homesick and returned home in December 1939.

[Former reference number EA 205]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/432**

Evacuee memoir: Louise Brenda Wale

c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Kennington, London to Glanvilles Wooton, Dorset; Tamworth, Staffordshire

Henry Fawcett School at Kennington

[Former reference number EA 206]



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1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/433**

Evacuee memoir: John Stanley King  
19 May 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to Embsay, North Yorkshire.

Memoir recounts the evacuation of John (aged 7) and his sister (aged 10) from Bradford to Embsay near Skipton in Yorkshire, just 20 miles away. Bradford Corporation and head teachers had been planning for an evacuation for over a year and it took place following the invasion of Poland in August 1939.

The children were taken by bus from St Barnabas' Church of England Primary School in Ashwell Road to the station. From there they travelled by train to Skipton and by bus to the town hall in Embsay. John's sister and her friend were billeted with the village billeting officer while John and her brother went to a dairy farm. Their life in the village is described. The schoolchildren met up at church on the Sunday and later that day John learnt that war had been declared. Blackouts, petrol rationing, and reduced bus services followed, but the only sign of war was the daily sight of a Gloster Gladiator probably doing training flights.

School at Embsay Church of England Primary School began on the Monday, and landmarks on the way there are described: the tannery, mill dam, Elm Tree pub and the pine woods. The next Saturday, the four children walked into Skipton where the owner of a sweetshop mistook them for refugees. In Woolworth's a man helped them buy a brooch for John's mother. Their parents visited occasionally on Sundays, bringing clothes and pocket money.

John was forced to change billets when the farmer and his wife separated. He was now located in the gardener's cottage of Embsay Kirk, a local mansion and former monastery. The house and kitchen garden are described. John was happy there but less keen on sharing a bedroom with an older boy and, as Bradford was now deemed safe, he returned home. His sister stayed for a month or two but refused to be moved to a less comfortable billet and went home.

Later, John and his sister made annual visits to Embsay during the summer holidays, and in 1989 he and a fellow evacuee went to the church and thanked the congregation for their hospitality.

[Former reference number EA 208]

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1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/434**

Evacuee memoir: Peter E. Ridsdale  
10 May 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford, Yorkshire to Colne, Lancashire

Peter was born in 1934 and lived with his mother and sister, Ethel aged 9 years, in Manningham, Bradford, West Yorkshire and attended Lilycroft School. Peter's father had died in June 1938. In September 1939, Peter, now 5 years old, recalls their headmaster Mr Beck sending the children home to collect their belongings. On their return, they travelled by bus to Forster Square Station and took the train to Colne, Lancashire. Peter's mother was insistent that Ethel and Peter remained together, and they were billeted for two years at 25 Belgrave Road, Colne, and attended the local school. Their host family cared for them, and Peter recalls night air raids and sheltering behind the sofa as there were no air raid shelters. Peter and Ethel were homesick, and they returned home, and Peter recollects their 'foster parents' giving him a large red fire engine on departure.

Peter recalls bombing raids on Bradford, the changes nearby with houses vacated and filled with soldiers and witnessing tanks, guns and lorries assembled at Manningham Park, probably for D-Day. Peter's mother died in August 1945, aged 38 years, and he moved to a new home in Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

[Former reference number EA 209]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/435**

Evacuee memoir: Mrs M. Seymour  
19 Apr 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford, Yorkshire to Earby, Lancashire  
St. Cuthberts Catholic School

In the evacuation from Bradford in early 1939, Mrs Seymour was sent to Earby in Lancashire and stayed with Mr and Mrs Crowther at 14 Brook Street. They had lost their only daughter aged 21 before she arrived, and they looked after her 'better than anyone could have expected', including taking her on holiday to Cleveleys near Blackpool. A friend of theirs made clothes for her, including a bridesmaid's dress for her brother's wedding. Her family visited about once a month, and during

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school holidays she went home for a few days. Her mother and father became good friends with Mr and Mrs Crowther. The memoir says she thinks she was in Earby for about 3 years and was one of the last to go back to Bradford, with a lot of happy memories of being there.

[Former reference number EA 210]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/436**

Evacuee memoir: Mrs H. Hook  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford, Yorkshire to Sowerby Bridge

[Former reference number EA 211]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/437**

Evacuee memoir: Joan Scurrah  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford, Yorkshire to Keighley, West Yorkshire  
Hanson Grammar School

[Former reference number EA 212]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/438**

Evacuee memoir: Joyce Reed  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford, Yorkshire to Sabden, Lancashire

St. James School, Manchester Road

Joyce was 8 and her sister Catherine was 10 when they were evacuated from St James School, Manchester Road, Bradford. They were taken by train to Burnley, where they went to a dairy and were given milk and biscuits before being taken by bus to a village called Scabden. From the school hall the sisters went with Mrs Jackson, who she remembers being very kind. She recalls particularly enjoying a visit to Pendle Hill and hearing about the Witches of Pendle. When Mrs Jackson became ill, the sisters were separated and Joyce went to Mr & Mrs Tomlinson. They were there about twelve months.

After they went home to Bradford, there was a bomb dropped in the next street. She also says that one of their friends stayed on with the headmistress after they went home. The memoir states

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that they kept in contact with the people in Scabden, going back to visit them all afterwards.

[Former reference number EA 213]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/439**

Evacuee memoir: Joyce Bean nee Allwood  
18 Apr 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford, Yorkshire to Colne, Lancashire.

Memoir recounts the evacuation of Joyce (aged 9½) and her sister Betty (11) from Bradford, Yorkshire, to Colne in Lancashire. First, the family went to Drummond Road School in Manningham, Bradford, to be fitted for gas masks. Then on September 1st, 1939, the girls were driven by coach from their Lilycroft School to Forster Station. Their parents saw them off and Joyce remembers her Uncle Ted being in tears as he waved goodbye.

The children travelled to Colne by train via Skipton. At the Municipal Hall in Colne, they were given a small parcel that included a bar of Plain York Chocolate. Strangers arrived to look them over and take them to their billets.

Joyce and Betty stayed with Bill and Marjourie Foulds and their small son John at 12 Ruskin Avenue. Another son, David, was born later. A teacher who was an evacuee from the Spanish Civil War was also staying there. The girls attended Lord Street School and Joyce recalls a Miss Brown, one of their teachers from Lilycroft School, being there and gives a description of her.

On September 3rd the girls learnt that war had been declared from seeing placards on their way home from church. The following Saturday a neighbour from Bradford brought their parents for a visit and Joyce comments on the irony of receiving a 'made in Germany' doll from Colne Market.

The Foulds family were lift manufacturers, and in later years Joyce was reminded of them on seeing their name on the lifts in Bradford Royal Infirmary. The memoir describes going on a short holiday and visiting their relatives. Joyce made friends with Rita Brown. Their mother missed them, however, and they returned to Bradford after a year where their father was in the Auxiliary Fire Service (later the National Fire Service).

After the war Joyce and Betty lost touch with the Foulds' sons after their parents' death, but often talked about the family.

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Memoir describes Joyce's marriage from 1949 until 2006 when her husband died.

[Former reference number EA 214]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/440**

Evacuee memoir: Irene A. Y. Heslould  
17 Apr 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Nelson, Lancashire.

Irene's family were on holiday at Southend when war was declared. When they got home the other children had already been evacuated, but Mr Bacon, headmaster of Tyeral School, took them on the train to their foster parents. Irene was evacuated with two sisters, Hilda and Marj, and a brother Ronnie, to Nelson, Lancashire. They stayed in Southfield Street, with Ronnie sent to Mr and Mrs Edmondson, Irene and Marj to Mrs Beechcroft and her daughter Olma, and Hilda with Mr and Mrs Wilson, who had a son called Teddy who was in the Royal Navy. They went in the September, but as Irene was 14 the following May, she had to go home to start work and their parents decided they should all move home together.

[Former reference number EA 215]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/441**

Evacuee memoir: Patricia Greenwood  
23 Apr 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to Padiham, Lancashire.

Patricia was evacuated at age 9 from Bradford to Padiham, Lancashire by bus and train, where the children were equipped with gas masks, labels, and bags. They were all taken to the Unitarian Chapel and were allotted a billet. Patricia was the last to be picked, and the lady who took her home gave her a 'very good home for three years'. The memoir states that her parents came to visit once a month, and she kept in touch with the family for over 50 years. Patricia notes that her parents didn't want her to go in the first place, but she comments that she wouldn't have missed the experience for anything.

[Former reference number EA 216]

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**D EVAC  
A/1/442**

Evacuee memoir: Brian Boland  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to Bingley,  
West Yorkshire  
St Marys School, Bradford

Memoir describes being evacuated from St Marys School in Bradford at 5 years old. Brian remembers going from Foster Square Station but reached only as far as Bingley, 7 miles away. After staying with an elderly couple for one week he was moved to another couple who cared for him for 4 years. They were 'Uncle Jack and Auntie Mabel' to him, and he kept in touch with them until they died aged 90. Auntie Mabel's family lived in the Lake District which meant he enjoyed the school holidays. The memoir also describes Brian learning to swim after being thrown in Lake Windermere.

In 1960 Brian and his wife moved from Bradford to St Annes, but he comments that he had to thank this caring couple for teaching him 'right from wrong' as well as gardening, which he still loved. Some years later he went back to the Lakes and found the cottage where he visited as an evacuee.

[Former reference number EA 217]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/443**

Evacuee memoir: Gladys Booth  
24 Apr 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to  
Todmorden.

The memoir takes the form of a response to a request in the Bradford Telegraph. Gladys states that she and her older sister were evacuated from Bradford to Todmorden. Although this is not a great distance, as children Gladys states that it 'seemed to be the end of the world'.

[Former reference number EA 218]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/444**

Evacuee memoir: Maurice T. Jones  
17 Apr 2007  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Leeds  
West Leeds High School

Maurice (aged 14 years) and his family lived in Leeds and he and his brother Andrew (aged 12 years) attended West Leeds High School. Their parents planned to send the boys to Canada, but the ship was sunk. On 1st September 1939 Maurice and Andrew were evacuated to Retford, Nottinghamshire, together with other pupils from their school and their brother John (aged 10 years) went to Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Maurice and Andrew were billeted with the Retford Town Clerk, Mr Humphries, and briefly shared a bed with a boy from Bramley, Leeds. They shared the local King Edward VI School from 8.00 am to 12.30pm.

Maurice describes hearing about the outbreak of war at church on Sunday 3rd September 1939. He remembers regular visits from his parents, borrowing bicycles to visit John in Gainsborough, picking Spanish chestnuts, hearing sirens on Sunday nights and regularly train spotting Mallard and the Flying Scotsman on the main London to Edinburgh line nearby. They returned to Leeds early in 1940 when their school reopened.

[Former reference number EA 219]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/445**

Evacuee memoir: Shirley Harrison nee Rushworth  
19 Apr 2007  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to Hellifield,  
North Yorkshire.

The memoir relates the evacuation of Shirley (aged 4), and Joseph Rushworth (9) from Bradford, West Yorkshire to Hellifield, North Yorkshire of and June (7) to Lancashire and then to Bingley, West Yorkshire.

Shirley remembers that before being evacuated she had to learn her identity number at school (she attended Wellington Road and Hutton Schools in Eccleshill, Bradford) and they had drills in the playground. She had a bracelet with a number on it and she refers to the label on her coat, gas mask and having a carrier bag when they left by train. Their father died in 1939 and she describes feelings of bewilderment relating to the 'Phoney War', the death of their father in 1939 and not knowing why they were being sent away.

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In Hellifield Joseph was billeted with the Fishwick family while Shirley went to another address nearby. June, who was recovering from diphtheria, was sent from Lister Lane School in Bradford, a special school for poorly children, to Bracewell Hall in Lancashire. Here there was an outbreak of head lice and she soon left. From there she went to Cottingley Manor near Bingley, West Yorkshire. Shirley describes June's negative feelings about these last two placements.

[Former reference number EA 220]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/446**

Evacuee memoir: Patrick Gardener  
19 Apr 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to Barnoldswick, Lancashire, written by his daughter, Susan Grace-Gardener.

Patrick was the eldest of seven children and was evacuated to Barnoldswick on 1st September 1939 and stayed with Mr and Mrs Clarke who were haulage contractors. After about three weeks Mrs Clarke died and he was sent to Mr and Mrs Hartley, a local farming family, who had not been allocated an evacuee. He was given specific jobs to do on the farm and stayed there until March 1942 when aged 14 he returned to Bradford. He believes he was the last Bradford child to come back from Barnoldswick and possibly the last evacuee to return to the city. Patrick and family visited the farm several years later.

[Former reference number EA 220]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/447**

Evacuee memoir: Rita M. Kirton  
21 Jan 1982

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to Nelson, Lancashire, and newspaper cutting Tyersal Infants School

Rita lived in Bradford and attended Tyersal Infant School. She describes being evacuated with a haversack of toiletries and clothes, and a label pinned to her coat. Rita's mother worked at the mill and would drop Rita off at school on her way. Rita remembers going to school one morning expecting to be evacuated, but the teachers conducted a rehearsal of an evacuation instead. This continued for three days until Rita was finally taken by bus to the train station and sent away for



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evacuation. Rita was sent to Nelson, Lancashire. In Nelson, Rita was taken to a large building to wait to be billeted. She was taken in by Mr and Mrs Charles who had a daughter called Pauline and a son called Harry. Mr Charles was a waiter in the town's big hotel, Mrs Charles was a weaver, Pauline worked in a munition's factory, and Harry was waiting to be called into the Navy. Rita remembers being homesick at first but settled down and continued her education at a local school in Barkerhouse Road. She enjoyed her time in Nelson and recalls being given a pair of clogs to wear. She stayed in Nelson for six months before going back to Bradford. Rita describes bombs being dropped all around the Bradford area, causing a lot of damage.

Memoir includes an undated newspaper clipping titled 'Evacuees, step out please!'

[Former reference number EA 222]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/448**

Evacuee memoir: Marian Steel  
c. 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to Nelson, Lancashire, and press cutting.

Memoir describes the evacuation of Marian and her elder brother John, from Bradford in Yorkshire to Nelson in Lancashire. Their parents had feared for their safety in case a Bradford engineering firm was bombed.

The children assembled outside their school and were collected by bus. They were given a carrier bag with provisions and had to take their gas masks. Marian describes how she had refused to wear hers during drills and had been punished.

At Nelson, Marian and John were the last to be collected because their mother had told them to stay together, and nobody wanted both a boy and a girl. Marian went to live in the local bakery where she was treated well but John, who was two doors away, was unhappy and collected by their mother. Marion stayed for another six months.

When Marian started school she recalls being upset at being placed in a class two years ahead of her because of her general appearance and large size. She struggled with the work and her hosts had to go and inform the school of her true age.

The memoir reflects on the lasting effects of evacuation and whether it was a happy time.

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Memoir includes a press cutting showing a photograph of Bradford evacuees.

[Former reference number EA 223]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/449**

Evacuee memoir: Dorothy Ayre  
c. 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to a village near Burnley, Lancashire, and press cutting.

At the age of 11 and with other children from her school, Dorothy was evacuated by train from Forster Square Station, Bradford, to a village near Burnley in Lancashire. After waiting in the village hall to be 'adopted', about eight were chosen to go to the big house, Hoarstones. One of the teachers who had travelled from Bradford with them also stayed there. They enjoyed being with their friends as some had no brothers or sisters at home. They attended the village school where they were taught by their own teachers, and Dorothy remembers being given one period each week to write letters home.

One of the housemaids at Hoarstones developed Scarlet Fever, so they all had to be quarantined with the teacher, and after lessons they went for long walks and climbed Pendle Hill. After about 8 months they all returned to Bradford, as there had been no air raids. Dorothy has very happy memories of the time at Hoarstones and kept in touch with some of her friends afterwards.

Memoir contains one photograph of Hoarstones.

[Former reference number EA 224]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/450**

Evacuee memoir: Audrey Raistrick  
16 Apr 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to Colne, Lancashire.

Born in Bradford, Audrey was 12 when arrangements for evacuation were being made. She was to go to Canada to her father's brother but at the last minute it was decided she should stay at home. She was then sent to Colne in Lincolnshire to a family that ran a fish & chip shop, and she felt she was needed

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as a friend for their daughter and extra help in the shop. She was placed in a local school for a short time but found it an unpleasant experience and was taken home. Later, her father joined the army aged 52, and they moved to married quarters in Nottingham and she finished school there at 13. Audrey and her mother returned to Bradford, and she was told she did not need to go back to school. The memoir states that she went on to further and higher education and retired as a Further Education College Lecturer.

[Former reference number EA 225]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/451**

Evacuee memoir: Peter G. Brooks  
17 Apr 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from the Great Horton area of Bradford to Uppermill, Greater Manchester Nutter's Orphanage for Boys.

Shortly after the outbreak of war, Peter and his younger brother were evacuated from Nutter's Orphanage for Boys in the Great Horton area of Bradford, to a hilltop farm on the outskirts of Uppermill in Lancashire. He has no knowledge of where the other boys were sent, but says they did not attend the same school in Uppermill as he and his brother did. The memoir states that the Matron of the Nutter's Orphanage was a lady from Scotland named Mrs Munday, who was assisted by her daughter, Leslie.

[Former reference number EA 226]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/452**

Evacuee memoir: Margaret Swift  
17 Apr 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation to Colne, Lancashire.

Margaret aged 7, lived in Bradford with her parents and five brothers and sisters. In 1939 she was evacuated with her older sister (12) and brother (9) to Colne, Lancashire. They travelled from her sister's school with other pupils and the teachers by bus and then train to Colne. Margaret and her sister were initially billeted together in several houses until they were separated with Margaret billeted with the greengrocers and her sister next door in the hairdressers. Their brother was billeted elsewhere and not well treated. Margaret remembers her birthday and receiving two dolls from the teachers. Margaret's

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brother and sister did not settle, and by Christmas 1939 they returned home to Bradford. Margaret remained in Colne for two years and recalls that she enjoyed rural life and was happy with her 'aunt and uncle', learning later they had wished to adopt her. She recalls visits from her mother and being told that her eldest brother, serving in the RAF had gone missing and was presumed dead.

[Former reference number EA 227]

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/453**

Evacuee memoir: Malcolm Goodall  
17 Apr 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to Yockenthwaite, North Yorkshire

Malcolm was evacuated with his mother, older sister, and two-month-old younger brother from Bradford. They went as a family to a farm in Langstrothdale in Upper Wharfedale, called 'Yokenthwaite'. Malcolm does not remember the journey, but recalls congregating at a village hall in Buckden. It was a hill sheep farm and a family called Hurd, two brothers, a sister, and two old uncles who 'never seemed to leave their bedrooms'. There was no electricity, and the water was from a stream from up on the moors. All cooking was done either on the fire or a paraffin stove, with candles to go to bed.

The memoir states that there were sheep, horses, cows, and a couple of pigs for the war effort. His mother found it very stressful as the nearest doctor was in Grassington about 20 miles down the valley, and the only transport was to take a lift with the post van. Malcolm's father stayed at home as he had been moved from the textile industry to work on munitions at the Jowett car plant, which had been taken over for war work. Every so often he would ride his bike up from Bradford to see them for the weekend. Another lasting memory is that the farmers gave the children their sweet coupons, where they then walked three miles to Buckden to spend them. They kept in touch with the farm afterwards which was being farmed by Stuart Hurd, the son of the original farmer.

[Former reference number EA 228]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/454**

Evacuee memoir: Harry Ellis

16 Apr 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to Cowling, near Keighley.

Harry has very clear memories of being taken away from his family, but describes himself as being 'ready for an adventure'. His memoir also recalls his younger sister crying all day for their parents. They went from Bradford to Cowling near Keighley. His father was a motor mechanic and they were a working class family like many in Bradford at the time. Harry states he has many memories, but is unsure of what is required so asks in his letter to get in contact with him in case he can help further.

[Former reference number EA 230]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/456**

Evacuee memoir: Jacqueline Gilyard

17 Apr 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to Todmorden.

Evacuated at the age of eight together with her younger sister from Bradford to Todmorden. The memoir is in the form of a letter addressed to Dr. Parsons.

The letter confirms that she was one of those evacuated from Bradford together with her sister who cried incessantly and returned home on account of missing her mother. It briefly mentions that her brother in law was also evacuated from Bradford to Bingley. He is reported to have run home from Bingley, and would later be a professional footballer.

[Former reference number EA 231]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/457**

Evacuee memoir: Keith Rhodes

16 Apr 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford to Barkisland  
[Former reference number EA 232]

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/458**

Evacuee memoir: Peter Langtry-Langton

16 Apr 2007

Consists of details of evacuees to his village in Cottingley, West Yorkshire.

Peter lived in Cottingley, West Yorkshire five miles from Bradford, with his mother, brothers and sisters: John (8), Sally (5) Stephen (4) and Deenagh (1½). His father was away serving with the Royal Engineers in Burma. In 1940 Peter, then aged 7 years, observed groups of evacuees arriving from London on West Yorkshire Company and Kent liveried buses. Many of these evacuees were Roman Catholics, and Bishop Poskitt of the Leeds Diocese agreed they could attend the County School in Cottingley providing they did not participate in other worship. Unable to source a location for Catholic prayer, Canon Hawkswell of the Sacred Heart Church in Bingley asked Peter's mother if their house could be used for these children to observe morning and evening prayers. Although they lived next to the County School, Peter and John had attended the Roman Catholic School in Bingley but were given dispensation to attend the County School with the evacuees. Peter and his siblings were treated daily for nits. Peter mentions Veronica Sovitsky, a refugee from Poland, who was the religious education instructor for the Catholic children, but that she was always concerned to ensure the well-being of all the young evacuees who remained in Cottingley for four years.

[Former reference number EA 233]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/459**

Evacuee memoir: Lorna June Cronk nee Blackman

2007

Consists of details of an evacuation possibly from Hastings to Aston, Hertfordshire; Walkern, Hertfordshire; Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire

Mount Pleasant Junior School, Hastings Central School.

Evacuated in July 1940 as part of a school group from Hastings to Hertfordshire, billeted in three different places with four different hosts. She was initially billeted in Aston; subsequently in Walkern (both near Stevenage) and then Welwyn Garden City. She returned home sometime prior to the V1 and V2 bombing campaign. On commencement of this campaign, she was offered the opportunity to evacuate again but declined to do so. Two of her siblings were evacuated to Devizes at some later stage.

The memoir describes their journey, and an initial billeting with a

## Museum of English Rural Life

young couple for one night only in Aston before moving on to live with the village blacksmith and his wife. A change in class then resulted in the move to Walkern.

The move to The Grange, Walkern is described and the host family, the father was the billeting officer. She shared a room over stables with two other evacuees (sisters) for a while before moving back into the main house when the two others returned home. The host family are described as having a cook and maid. Subsequently this was reduced to a housekeeper only. Other activities that are mentioned include: mending, playing in the woods and fields, going for bike rides and collecting acorns to feed pigs. She was confirmed in St Albans Cathedral and attended church and Sunday School. She mentions that she was visited by her older brother, who was in the RAF, and an older sister.

On passing her school exams, she moved to 18 Coneydale, Welwyn. Her senior school from Hastings were based in Welwyn. The family in Welwyn are described as having a German maid, and a Scottie dog who had to be groomed and walked. The memoir describes: suffering from German Measles, spending time in isolation and a Children's home, being allowed to listen to the radio as long as homework was completed, eating arrangements and going to the pictures on Saturday afternoons. She returned home with a gift of a watch given to her by the wife of the hosts.

[Former reference number EA 234]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/461**

Evacuee memoir: Ann Broad nee Harley entitled My War and Evacuation Memories  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Streatham, London to Cardiff, and copies of letters to her mother and father

Memoir explains how the Harley family were on holiday in Kent when war broke out. Their father Frederick returned to Streatham in London while Ann, her sister Carole and their mother Constance stayed on until it seemed safe to go home. Later the family rented a house in Berrylands near Surbiton, Greater London. Ann remembers incidents such as sheltering in a cupboard at a friend's party when the siren went off, taking her gas mask and her tin mug for milk to school, sleeping under the Morrison shelter that doubled as their dining table, and hearing doodle bugs.

## Museum of English Rural Life

In 1944 at the age of 8, Ann was evacuated to Cardiff together with 12-year-old Beryl Birchmore. At a local hall the girls were selected by Mr and Mrs Davis of 36 Lanishen St. They had a daughter Elsie who lived with them and a son Alan in the navy. Elsie and the two girls shared a bed, a new experience for Ann.

Ann was homesick but soon settled. She attended Allensbank School in Llanishen Street. She still remembers a Welsh song she learnt and was impressed that the classroom had a wireless. One day Mrs Davis took her out of school to see a Bing Crosby film. Other excursions were to the Queen's Hotel where a friend of Mrs Davis worked, Roath Park boating lake and St Fagans Welsh folk museum. Ann had a party for her 9th birthday during which her finger was crushed in a sash window.

During her evacuation Ann's mother visited occasionally. She also exchanged letters with her parents and her father sent her chocolate. Beryl returned home after three months but Ann stayed another month. She describes having to be treated for fleas when she returned home.

The memoir reflects on the fact that the evacuation was shorter, later and more enjoyable than for most people. Ann returned to the house in 1990 and discovered that Elsie and Alan were still living there.

Memoir includes 3 letters from Ann to her parents.

[Former reference number EA 244]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/463**

Evacuee memoir: Beryl B?  
26 Sept 2007  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Cardiff  
[Former reference number EA 249]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/466**

Evacuee memoir: Patricia Haughton  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Liverpool to Lyonshall,  
Herefordshire  
Tiber Street Council School, Liverpool, Lyonshall School

Patricia was evacuated as part of a school group aged 12 from Tiber Street School in Liverpool, on 1st September 1939, to a



## Museum of English Rural Life

farm outside the village of Lyonshall in Herefordshire. She returned to Liverpool six weeks later.

The memoir deals fairly extensively with the build up to the evacuation. It mentions why the school was eligible, the process by which parents could opt for their children to be evacuated, and the potential numbers of those evacuated from the school. It briefly describes the period prior to the declaration of war in the summer of 1939 and the rehearsals for evacuation in August.

The evacuation itself is also detailed. The memoir describes: the contents of the evacuees' haversack; the evacuee armbands and labels; the procession of parents and children to Edgehill; how they were received on arrival at Kington; the dispersal of her class to billets in Lyonshall.

The billet was a Queen Anne Mansion and the family, staff and their accommodation is described as well as the electricity supply to the house, the friendship between Patricia and the daughter of the household and their activities.

The memoir discusses the first few days and weeks of the evacuation including: the search for the local parish church; news of the declaration of war; the lack of preparedness of evacuees; a visit from Patricia's parents; picking fruit and eggs around the farm; rabbiting with the son and dogs of the family.

The memoir considers social and economic conditions prior to the war, the role of helpers and the social problems that the evacuation scheme highlighted. The local school is described, the less developed nature of rural education and education after returning from evacuation as well as the evacuees' experiences.

The memoir includes one evacuation card and an armband.

[Former reference number EA 259]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/467**

Evacuee memoir: Hillier B.A. Wise entitled Reminiscences of Evacuation in Summer 1939

20 Feb 2008

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Wilshampstead, Bedfordshire

[Former reference number EA 261]

1 folder

## Museum of English Rural Life

**D EVAC  
A/1/468**

Evacuee memoir: Pat Roberts  
22 Apr 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Bradford that did not happen due to chicken pox

Memoir describes travelling on a tram from Bradford Moor to Bradford Station. Pat travelled with her younger sister, but they were separated. Pat was with other friends and had no idea what was happening or where they were going. The journey was a rehearsal. The next day was the actual day of evacuation but Pat's sister had chicken pox, so they were not part of the evacuation. Within a week Pat also caught chicken pox, and their parents decided to keep them in Bradford. Pat's friend was evacuated, and her mother took Pat to visit her in Ingleton, some of the children were unhappy and not made very welcome. Later Pat and her family moved to Leeds, where the raids were more frequent. The memoir describes that her father became an air-raid warden, and they had an Anderson shelter in the garden.

[Former reference number EA 262]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/469**

Evacuee memoir: Klaus Marx  
15 Nov 2010

Consists of details of an evacuation from Latchford/Grappenhall, Cheshire to Putney, London and an internment camp on the Isle of Man

St. George's School, Clarendon Drive, Putney, Marlfield School, Hotham School, Putney, camp school.

Evacuated in September 1940 from Putney, where he was in the care of a guardian, to join his mother who was interned on the Isle of Man. The family were reunited in 1942 on the island and they remained there until April 1943. Prior to his parents being held as 'aliens', the family had lived at 4 Marfield Road, Latchford/Grappenhall, Cheshire.

The memoir details the reasons for the arrival of the family from Germany in 1934 where they initially lodged at 14 Colinette Road, Putney, and the reasons for moving to Marfield Road in 1937. This aspect of the memoir mentions his attendance at St George's school, Putney and subsequently Marfield School, Cheshire as well as outings in a car to various landmarks in the

## Museum of English Rural Life

north west and Wales. It also mentions that his father had applied for naturalisation prior to the war, and how he and his mother were in Berlin when Poland was invaded and their escape through Belgium.

His parents' internment is described, the details of his placement in the care of a guardian living in Gwendolen Avenue, Putney. The journey to join his mother on the Isle of Man and the living arrangements of the internees at the Balqueen Hydro hotel in Port St. Mary are described. Living arrangements include shared room; the daily routines; swimming; playing on the beach; a shipwreck of a schooner; a visit to a dentist.

Visits to and outings from the separate men's camp at Onchan are described including the railway journey to Douglas, visits to Derby Castle, outings to the theatre in Douglas and a visit to Collinson's Cafe in Port Erin. Similarly, following the formation of a families' camp in 1942, the memoir mentions their initial accommodation at a guest house called 'Enfield' in Port St. Mary and memories of participating in plays, trips to the cinema, walks, and occasional sightings of German planes.

Following a move of the family camp to Port Erin, the memoir mentions their stay at Bradda Glen, the camp school (and a post war visit to one of the teachers at the school), his father being elected camp speaker, the nature of the internees and maintaining contacts with friends made in the camp after the war.

Following the families release in April 1943, the memoir describes their return to Gwendolen Avenue, their naturalisation in May 1947, his father being part of the team that designed the Ascot water heater and their life thereafter. Klaus later graduated from Oxford, did national service and became a teacher.

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/471**

Evacuee memoir: Michael Guthrie  
25 Apr 2002  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Reading  
Lonsdale Road School, Barnes

1 folder

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**D EVAC  
A/1/472**

Evacuee memoir: Mrs M.E. Jackson  
c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation to Reading  
George Palmer School, Park Institute, Vauxhall Central School

Mrs Jackson, aged 8 years lived in London with her twin sisters, aged 6 years, and attended Vauxhall Central School, headed by Miss Short. They were later joined by Reay Central Boys School. Their mother was in the London Ambulance Service and their father in the army. Mrs Jackson recalls that she and her sisters were evacuated to Reading in September 1939. Initially they remained together in two billets but then were separated. The twins lived with the Wibberley family at 6 Shenstone Road and attended St Giles Church. Mrs Jackson was billeted with the Lawrence family at 10 Lincoln Road, and she attended Christ Church where Mr Lawrence was the vergger.

Mrs Jackson attended and passed the 11-plus at George Palmer School and was then sent to the Park Institute opposite Palmer Park where their air raid shelters were located. She recalls her daily journey by bus to the town centre, and a trolley bus to the Park Institute. She remembers the day Reading was bombed with severe damage to the People's Pantry. Mrs Jackson and her sisters remained in Reading until 1945 and she recalls her mother's visit and enjoying a Huntley and Palmer's cake with tea at the Wibberley house. Mrs Jackson mentions that she kept in touch with a friend from Reading.

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/473**

Evacuee memoir: Francis W. Bacon  
29 May 2002

Consists of details of an evacuation to Reading  
? Grammar School, Woodley School

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/474**

Evacuee memoir: Francis Edward Jones (Frank Jones)  
28 Apr 2003

Consists of details of an evacuation from Surbiton to Atherton  
Surbiton County Grammar School, Surrey

In reference to an event called 'flight from the doodlebug' in 1944, Frank recalls that he was one of the 4,807 children involved. When he was eleven, he was evacuated with other pupils and staff from Surbiton County Grammar School in Surrey to Atherton, and thinks he attended a grammar school in Bolton. The memoir describes a very busy train journey as they had to

## Museum of English Rural Life

stand, taking it in turns to sit on a milk churn. Arriving at a village hall, Frank was picked by Mrs Yates to share a room with her son, Tommy. There were four younger sisters and a father called Dick, and were considered a very happy family. The only problem Frank had was understanding their Lancashire accents.

After about 8 months, the doctor advised Frank's mother that he would be better going back south to get over the persistent bronchitis he had developed in the damper climate of the North East. Although he lost touch with the family, he expresses his gratitude to Lizzie, Dick and the family for making him welcome and treating him as one of the family.

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/475**

Evacuee memoir: William A. Palmer  
7 Oct 2004

Consists of details of evacuees taken in by his family at Hurst, Reading from London

The memoir describes eight from London billeted at William's parents' house in Hurst, near Reading, in 1939. The dining room was turned into a dormitory and his mother's sitting room turned into a living room for the evacuees. The memoir describes an event where William's grandmother decided it was time to teach the evacuees to say their prayers, which later devolved into a pillow fight. The evacuees stayed for six to nine months, gradually going back to London, except one who was re-housed and stayed in the village of Hurst for the rest of his life.

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/476**

Evacuee memoir: Marilyn Bartlett  
17 Jan 2008

Consists of details of an evacuation from Morden to Ampthill, Bedfordshire, and wartime experiences.

Marilyn lived in Morden, Surrey with her parents. Her father was employed by the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, and was called up in 1941 to do vehicle maintenance and is described as being 'somewhere in Europe' when she was born in 1943. Having spent much of her early life in an Anderson shelter, and with the bombing became more intense, she was evacuated with her mother and aunt to Ampthill in Bedfordshire, staying with Alf and Francis Lett. She understands she took her first steps there, but was too young to remember the stay. She recalls the Letts joining them for Christmas after the war was

## Museum of English Rural Life

over. Her father and uncles returned home safely, but her maternal grandmother always dressed in black after the loss of her eldest son. Marilyn's only real frightening memory of the war was the sound of the air raid sirens.

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/477**

Evacuee memoir: Michael Bartlett  
16 Jan 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation from Morden to Oxford, and wartime experiences

1 folder

### **D EVAC A/1/478**

Evacuee memoir: Florence Wren nee Goodwin  
c. 1996

Consists of details of an evacuation [as a mother with her children] from London to Portland, and some other autobiographical information.

Memoir consists of a family history written by Florence in 1995. It includes accounts of the Goodwin, Myers, Cook and Wren branches of her family.

During the war Florence was evacuated from London to Portland, Dorset with her two children, Tony and baby Marion. They travelled by train to Weymouth where evacuees were selected for their billets. The Wrens moved in with Mr and Mrs Flew in Southwell, Portland. Facilities were meagre at first but soon improved. Evacuees were sometimes subjected to malicious gossip and some weren't treated well, but Florence was happy with the Flews. Her brother Harry visited and told her about his training in the armed forces. Later he experienced the Dunkirk evacuation.

Mr Flew joined the Royal Army Service Corps. He drove a lorry at Dunkirk and was taken prisoner. There were air raids on Portland and Weymouth and one night an 'all clear' signal in their street was mistaken for warning of a gas attack. Because of the raids Mrs Flew decided to stay with her mother at Littleborough in Lancashire, but first called on her sister (also called Flew) at Piddletrenthide in Dorset. The sister needed care so it was decided that Florence should stay to help while Mrs Flew went to her mother's.

On one occasion a neighbour's failure to observe the blackout resulted in a land mine exploding near the cottages. Florence's husband Chris used to visit when he was on leave and the

## Museum of English Rural Life

cottage and village are described. George Flew grew vegetables and they got milk from the nearby farm where Tony Wren and Mrs Flew's boys, Sidney and Carl would watch the harvest.

When Chris was due to be demobbed, Florence and the children moved to a cottage in Plush nearby. However, Chris was promoted to the Signals instead and sent to Italy. So, they moved to Chris's mother Emily (known as 'Aunt Em') in Cornwall where Tony went to school and Marion to nursery. Florence got a job at Climax making guns. They stayed until the invasion of Europe when they moved back to Florence's father. Alfred Goodwin, in Hither Green Lane, Lewisham, London. After Chris had been demobbed they got a flat in Battersby Road, Catford, but after several job changes both Chris and Harry became farm workers and moved to the countryside.

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/479**

Evacuee memoir: Audrey Silke

5 Aug 2006

Consists of details of an evacuation to Billericay, Essex, Wallingford and Tiverton, Devon  
Malmesbury Road Junior School, Bow

Audrey lived with her parents in Bow, London and attended Malmesbury Road Junior School. She was evacuated on three occasions, firstly in 1939 to Billericay near Chelmsford, Essex, and then with her school to Wallingford, Oxfordshire, but as there was no bombing they returned home. On 18th June 1940 as part of a major movement, Audrey was evacuated to Devon. Upon arriving in Tiverton, the children marched to the cattle market for inspection and refreshments before being transferred by coach to the village school in Uplowman. Audrey and her friend Joyce were billeted with Mr and Mrs Sweet on their farm where they were comfortable and enjoyed farm life. Audrey's parents visited for the 1940 August Bank Holiday. In September 1940 the farm was hit by a stray bomb after a bombing raid on Exeter, which badly affected Mrs Sweet. The girls were moved to nearby Chieflowman House. Audrey was not as happy for the remainder of her evacuation in Devon. She kept in touch with Mrs Sweet until her death, aged 93.

The memoir consists of Audrey's correspondence to Mr Ellis, which in addition to the events above mentions their meeting and attendance at the Evacuees Reunion Association event held in July 2006.

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1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/480**

Evacuee memoir: James Roffey (Sidney James Roffey)  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of wartime experiences of evacuation  
One folder is closed containing biographical details

1 folder (2 parts)

**D EVAC  
A/1/481**

Evacuee memoir: Bernard Waslin  
8 Jun 2001  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Kingston-upon-Hull to  
Beverley, East Yorkshire and and an evacuation to Etton, East  
Yorkshire in 1947-1948

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/482**

Evacuee memoir: John W. Fowler  
14 Jun 2009  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Halsemere,  
Surrey  
Cater Street School, Gloucester Road School

Evacuated from Peckham, London to Haslemere, Surrey. The memoir focuses on the schools John attended in Peckham, what it was like as a place to live, and some of the activities he and his friends undertook whilst living there as school boys. The memoir is a response to an article by James Roffey.

The memoir states that he was born in East Surrey Grove, Peckham in 1926 and attended Cator Street school at the age of three, from where he moved to Gloucester Road school following the closure of Cator Street due to it being considered unsuitable for children. Cator Street is mentioned as having been used by the Jarrow marchers. John subsequently attended Walworth Central school in Mina Road. On evacuation, he attended a school in Fernhurst, Sussex, whilst some of his school went to Steyning and Reigate.

Peckham is described as a good place to live despite it having 'black spots'. John mentions that he never felt threatened, and it afforded the opportunity to walk to museums in the holidays and to travel around all day on 'rover' tickets, the cost of the latter being met by having part-time jobs.



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The memoir includes a letter of thanks for receipt of copies of 'The Evacuee', and an apology.

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/483**

Evacuee memoir: Margaret Jones  
14 Jun 2002

Consists of details of an evacuation to Llanidloes.

Memoir recounts that she was evacuated to Llanidloes, in Powys, Wales. Margaret notes they were called 'UCH A VEES [ych-a-fi]' by the locals. They accepted it as a Welsh phrase for 'evacuees' due to the phonetic similarities, but later noticed that it was instead used for something nasty or distasteful. Margaret was known as Anthony Higgs' little 'ych-a-fi' but rather than being hurtful it seemed that Llanidloes was a 'good place for nicknames'. Margaret also describes an incident some years later when giving a talk to pensioners about the evacuation, relating to the cleanliness of evacuee

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/485**

Evacuee memoir: Peter Angell entitled Memories of a London Evacuee to Weare Giffard 1940-1945  
Aug 2001

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Weare Giffard

Lombard Wall School; Sherrington Road School; Weare Gifford School; Torrington School.

Peter lived with his parents, brother Bernard and a lodger called John Smart in Woolwich Road, Charlton, London. He attended Lombard Wall School and was evacuated to Weare Gifford near Torrington in North Devon at the age of seven. Miss Hobil, a teacher, accompanied the children.

Peter and his friend Brian Streams were billeted at Hillside with two elderly spinsters, Gertrude Elliot and Kathleen Elliot. They employed a maid called Violet Curtis. Shortly after, Brian was moved to another billet. The Elliots and Hillside are described. Peter helped in the orchard and garden, and kept a pet cat. 'Miss Gertrude' had a car and took them to church in Little Torrington. The Elliots had a sister called Mrs Mallalieu who lived at Southcott House whom they visited occasionally with Peter.

Peter attended Weare Gifford School at first but later took the

## Museum of English Rural Life

bus to Torrington School. He became part of the community and many local people are mentioned: Mr Lewis next door at Sundial Cottage; Walter Evans at Quay Cottages; Howard Curtis, Violet's father; Charles and Albertina Edworthy at Chopes Bridge; Margery Lampard-Vachel and her father at Weare Hall; the Wills family at Chopes Bridge; Maurice and Ken Starkey at Moores Farm; and Mr Glover the organist at Holy Trinity Church.

Peter experienced farm life at Barton Farm with Mr and Mrs Heddon and their son Walter where Dennis Hardy and his sister were billeted. The Heddons kept horses, sheep and dairy cattle. Peter collected eggs, harvested potatoes and experienced lambing. He learned to milk cows and ride a horse. Several other farm workers are named. POWs were drafted in by lorry to help.

Peter enjoyed fishing in the River Torridge and caught dace and eels, which were eaten or given to villagers. There are recollections of otters, kingfishers, swans and people opposite Dock Cottages cruelly catching fish by 'jagging'.

There memoir describes village life such as the Post Office and village shop, and locals keeping two pigs (one to keep and one for the Government). At one stage Peter spent two weeks in Bideford Hospital in the elderly men's ward with a septic knee. Other than seeing searchlights, Peter remained untouched by the war until he returned home and saw the bombsites. He describes how his own home had been demolished by a V2 rocket.

Finally, the memoir reflects on the positive experiences of evacuation and expresses gratitude to the villagers of Weare Giffard.

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/486**

Evacuee memoir: Brian Murray  
25 Jul 2006  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Arborfield

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/488**

Evacuee memoir: Colin Brown  
1989  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Ashingdon which appeared in the Rochford News

Memoir consists of an article in the Rochford Times: 'The story

## Museum of English Rural Life

of two evacuees' by Colin Brown, published in 1989. On September 3rd 1939, Colin and his friend Pete were evacuated with St Barnabas School from South Woodford, East London, to Ashingdon near Rochford in Essex.

They travelled on double-decker London buses that had to detour to avoid low bridges. In Ashingdon their first foster parents were an elderly couple living off Lower Road in a semi-detached cottage. They kept hens and cultivated fruit. The boys enjoyed the country air and helped in the garden.

There was no school for a month, but their Geography teacher provided four of the boys with equipment to survey the area and produce a map. When school started, the buildings had to be shared on a half-day basis with local children. The church hall was also used. Eventually they went to the senior school at Rochford by bus. The school was shared with other evacuees as well as local pupils.

Pete's father drove Colin's parents for regular visits even though the area was restricted because of its proximity to the coast. The winter was severe; there was ice where the River Crouch flooded at South Frambridge, and heavy snow. The boys enjoyed skating and sledging on Ashingdon Hill, which the school buses sometimes couldn't negotiate, resulting in weeks with no schooling.

The boys moved to another billet with a couple with two children at the junction of Canewdon Road and the main road in Ashingdon. The father was a GPO engineer who was on call for emergencies. The boys took turns to accompany him to military installations in his van, including the naval establishment at Southend, the WRNS in the Royal Hotel and other, more remote, sites.

There were rumours about a German spy and of the alleged effects of the Canewdon radar installation on radios and cars. The boys' hosts grew vegetables and kept a goat. The boys' leisure activities are described, including the cinema in Southend, eating Rossi's Italian ice cream and racing go-karts down the hill.

In spring, 1940, the boys returned home and were old enough to leave school. They served together in the ATC and RAF and were still friends 50 years after their enjoyable six months in the country.

The article includes four photographs:

Ashingdon School

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Ashingdon Hill

Colin Brown

Colin's friend Pete.

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/489**

Evacuee memoir: Miriam James

7 Sept 2009

Consists of details of two boys evacuated to her house in Besselsleigh, Abingdon, with copies of the visitors book pages

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/492**

Evacuee memoir: Pam Cox

16 Mar 2009

Consists of details of an evacuation from Hornchurch, Essex to Wrexham

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/493**

Evacuee memoir: Ron Carter

7 Dec 2009

Consists of details of an evacuation to Winnersh, Wokingham and Diss, Norfolk  
Springwell House Open-air School, Battersea

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/494**

Evacuee memoir: Bernard K. Tattersfield

5 Sept 2002

Consists of details of an evacuation from Paddington, London to Chippenham, Wiltshire

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/495**

Evacuee memoir: Jessica Axford nee Young

Mar 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation  
[Former reference number EA328/1]

1 folder

## Museum of English Rural Life

See also: I lived in a castle by Jessica Young in the MERL library ref 940.53161-YOU

**D EVAC  
A/1/497**

Evacuee memoir: Mrs K. Bay  
c. 2005  
Consists of a photograph of a village post office, in about 1939 and 2005

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/500**

Evacuee memoir: Patricia M. Green  
2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/502**

Evacuee memoir: Mr G.A. England  
2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Glastonbury

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/504**

Evacuee memoir: Edna Forster, school teacher  
17 Feb 2011  
Consists of details of an evacuation of children to Steeple Claydon, Buckinghamshire from London

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/507**

Evacuee memoir: Michael J.F. Jobbins  
25 Apr 2001  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Canning Town, London to Shepton Mallet, Somerset  
St. Margarets, Barking Road, E16

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/508**

Evacuee memoir: Edwin William Markham (Eddie)  
13 Jun 2001  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Forest Gate, London to Palgrave, near Diss  
Shatesbury Road School, Forest Gate, Monega Road School, Manor Park

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1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/509**

Evacuee memoir: Patricia Manders  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Colchester, Essex to Longton, Stoke-on-Trent

Patricia and her family lived near a large barracks in Colchester, Essex. In September 1940 her mother was told that the four younger children, Terry (aged 5), Patricia (7), Bunny (11) and Betty (14) should be evacuated for their own safety. They left the same evening and their mother insisted on accompanying them. Their father remained with Chrissie and Sylvia, the two older sisters.

After an uncomfortable journey during air-raids they arrived at a reception hall in Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire. Patricia was disabled following osteomyelitis and couldn't walk. She remembers being carried by a policeman.

Finding a billet that their mother was happy with was difficult and eventually they were placed with two neighbouring families in Longton: their mother, Terry and Patricia stayed with Mr and Mrs Moore, and Bunny and Betty with Mr and Mrs Steel. Their hosts were kind even though Patricia felt a burden, ruining her pillow with nose bleeds. Bunny was happy at school while Betty was bored having nothing to do, but Mr Moore took them on trips and taught them to row on a lake.

The family only stayed three weeks. When they left, Mrs Moore gave Patricia a book of nursery rhymes called Lavender Blue. Back in Colchester, Patricia's osteomyelitis returned and she went into Essex County Hospital for an operation on her arm.

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/510**

Evacuee memoir: Dolly  
1996  
Consists of details of an evacuation sent by Dolly (evacuee) to her host Mrs Hughes-Smith in 1996, from London to Waltham St. Lawrence

1 folder

## Museum of English Rural Life

**D EVAC  
A/1/511**

Evacuee memoir: Jean Struthers  
27 Nov 1998  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Glasgow to Sanquhar  
Hutchesons' Girls Grammar School

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/512**

Evacuee memoir: Albert Henry Vickery  
12 Dec 1998  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Shoreditch, London to  
Market Harborough

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/513**

Evacuee memoir: James Foxley  
8 Dec 1998  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Liverpool to  
Penmachno  
Venice St. Infants

James, aged 5, lived in Venmore Street, Everton with his brother Bert, aged 12 and sister, Irene, aged 11. He attended Venice Street Infants School. He recalls taking the tram to shelter from air raids, sleeping on platforms in the Underground and afterwards searching for shrapnel in the streets. Due to the proximity of Liverpool Docks the children were evacuated, and James recalls assembling with others to board a train at Breck Road Railway Station for North Wales. They arrived in the village of Penmachno, near Betws-y-Coed in Conwy. James and Bert were billeted with Mrs Roberts and her 9-month-old son Trevor in her small cottage with no services. Mr Roberts was away in the army, but James did meet him on a visit home. Irene was placed with another Roberts family and their daughter Gwyneth on their farm. The children attended the local school and James recalls going to church three times every Sunday and enjoying country life. James recollects visiting Irene at the Roberts farm, the abundant fruit orchard, climbing the nearby mountain and catching trout in the river.

After nine months, Bert went home to attend Technical School and James, now aged 6, became homesick and returned home. He discovered their home had been badly bombed and the family now lived with their Auntie Ethel in Jupiter Street, Anfield. As the bombing reduced, Irene returned home and the family moved to Curate Road, Anfield. Years later Irene and James returned to Penmachno and discovered Mrs Roberts's husband had been killed in action.

## Museum of English Rural Life

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/514**

Evacuee memoir: Blanche Elaine Jones  
11 Nov 1998

Consists of details of an evacuation from Wirral to Portmadoc Grove Street Junior School, New Ferry, Wirral; Central School Snowden St

Blanche, aged 10, lived with her twin brother Russell in the Wirral, and they attended Grove Street Junior School in New Ferry. On 16th April 1941, they assembled at their school with other pupils and teachers and were then taken by bus to Port Sunlight Station. They boarded a train to Porthmadog, Gwynedd, and Blanche remembers receiving Horlicks tablets on the journey. Blanche was billeted with Miss Thomas, known as 'Auntie Jinny', at 53 New Street, and Russell lodged with an elderly lady in Borth-y-Gest, where he attended the local school. Blanche relates that lessons were first held in the Town Hall, then in classrooms in Central School, Snowdon Street, and finally in rooms in the Sawmills. She recalls the centre included a smithy, flour mill and nearby abattoir. Blanche also remembers summer nature study walks, afternoon swimming, attending church each Sunday, and monthly visits from her parents. The local children called the evacuees 'English Dogs' and they retaliated by calling them 'Welsh Cats', but they soon became friends. Blanche enjoyed her two years with 'Auntie Jinny'. Once the air raids ceased, the children returned home. Blanche has visited Porthmadog often and kept in touch with Miss Thomas and her family.

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/515**

Evacuee memoir: Stanley Wallis  
17 Oct 1998

Consists of details of an evacuation from Merseyside to Bwlchtocyn, Gwynedd Woodslea School

Stanley lived in the Wirral with his younger sister, Enid, and he attended Woodslee School in Bromborough. Due to the lack of nearby air raid shelters, the lessons were held in houses on Spital Road and the local area. Stanley recalls assembling with other children at Bromborough Pool School then going to Port Sunlight Station to board a train to Pwllheli, Gwynedd, and being given Horlicks tablets. They were taken to the village hall in Abersoch, where Stanley remembers eating rock cakes whilst becoming worried watching other children depart. He was



## Museum of English Rural Life

billeted at Cartref, Bwlchtocyn, with Mrs Jones. Stanley recalls receiving decent food, washing with chilly water outside in the yard and going to church twice each Sunday, where he had to learn a Bible verse in Welsh to recite to the congregation. He did not attend school during his evacuation, only standing in line for a roll call each week at Sorn Bach School playground. Stanley enjoyed time playing on the beach, rabbiting with 'Jones' the farmer, picking watercress, and churning butter. He witnessed various aspects of livestock husbandry and farm life at Kim Farm and mentions Les Glover being billeted in the farmhouse. He witnessed horses being shod with his friend, Ken Burns, who lived on a farm alongside San Bach School. The memoir states that the lack of schooling seriously impacted Stanley's education and future prospects. He had much to catch up on, particularly mathematics, when returning to Bromborough Pool School, then later at New Chester Road School.

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/516**

Evacuee memoir: Evelyn Murphy, nee Brown  
Undated [c. 1998]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Liverpool to Anglesey Earle Road School

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/517**

Evacuee memoir: Phyl Nickerson  
Undated [c. 1998]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Liverpool to Hungerford

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/518**

Evacuee memoir: Walter Smith  
Undated [c. 1998]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Liverpool to Aberystwyth School at Anfield Road, Liverpool

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/519**

Evacuee memoir: Mary Metcalf  
Undated [c. 1998]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Litherland, Merseyside to Builth Wells English Martyrs School, Litherland L21

## Museum of English Rural Life

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/523**

Evacuee memoir: Enid Williams  
8 Oct 1998  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Birkenhead to  
Machynlleth  
Mersey Park School, Birkenhead

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/524**

Evacuee memoir: Peter Bolger  
12 Oct 1998  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Liverpool to Gresford

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/525**

Evacuee memoir: L. Kitching  
10 Oct 1998  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Liverpool to Caeathro  
and Llanrug

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/526**

Evacuee memoir: Kathleen White, nee Hull  
Undated [c. 1998]  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Stornaway, Isle of Lewis

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/527**

Evacuee memoir: Daisy May Tuck, nee Ball  
Undated [c. 1998]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Walworth, London to  
Weymouth  
Albany Road Junior/Infants/Primary School, Walworth

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/528**

Evacuee memoir: Joan Cresswell, nee Gregory  
4 Feb 1998  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to  
Shaftesbury, Dorset  
Hearnville Road School, Balham; Stour Provost School

## Museum of English Rural Life

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/529**

Evacuee memoir: Sylvia Rose nee Eden  
Undated [1998]

Consists of details of an evacuation from New Cross, London to  
Sturminster Newton, Devon  
Walworth Central School for Girls

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/530**

Evacuee memoir: Brian Maystone  
Undated [1998]

Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Pulborough  
and Woking  
Stonehouse Street School; Peckham Central School for Girls;  
Wixes Lane School; Wandsworth School

In August 1939 Brian, his mother Rosalie, sister Sylvia (Sue) and Rosalie's cousin Olive returned from holiday in Suffolk. The same evening the children left their home at 9 Offerton Road, Clapham, London, taking the train to Pulborough, Sussex, to stay with their Aunt Emma and Uncle Ern at Station House where Ern was stationmaster.

Sue and Brian had attended Stonehouse Street School in Clapham, but during evacuation Brian attended St Mary's Church of England School in Rectory Lane, Pulborough. The school routine and lessons are described. Brian's form teacher was Miss Ellis and the headteacher was Mr Winter. There are references to a friend called James Roffey and Brian recalls Walter Jennings from Park Farm, the Cox brothers from Hardham and Shirley Rodell.

Details of Pulborough are given: Sunday School, the Burchells's shop and the cattle market. Domestic life at Station House is recalled: boiling water for baths, Aunt Emma's flower garden and Uncle Ern's two allotments, weekly deliveries from Pictons in the village, and listening to ITMA on the wireless. Brian found books and women's and girls' magazines to read as well as the 'Red Star'. He bought 'Sunny Stories' from W. H. Smith at the station.

In about 1940 Brian stayed in London with his maternal grandparents, Edmund and Ellen Fright at 9 Holland Park Mews. He attended the 'Fox' school. From there they moved to St Mary's Gardens, Lambeth where he went to Lollard Street School.

## Museum of English Rural Life

Brian's second stay in Pulborough began at Alpha Cottages while Sue went to Mare Hill, but he was soon relocated to the Dowsetts in London Road next to Harwood's Garage. Brian now went to Peckham Central School for Girls located in the village hall. Miss Hildreth ran the junior section, and a Miss Faulkner is mentioned.

Sue had been billeted at Park Farm Cottages with a Mr and Mrs Baker, and Brian was there for a short time too. The memoir depicts life on the mixed farm.

In 1942 aged 10, Brian returned to 52 Iveley Road, Clapham, and attended Wixes Lane School while Sue was moved to Eastcote, Middlesex. Brian passed the eleven plus exam for Wandsworth School that was evacuated to The Firs in Woking. He was billeted in Sutton Place owned by the Duke of Sutherland but was relocated to West Weybridge, then Old Woking, and finally to the Lismore Hostel run by Mr and Mrs Smith. School life at The Firs is described, as well as details of the hostel. Brian learnt to swim and acquired a bicycle. He earned money as a caddie and kitchen boy. He stayed at the hostel until VE Day.

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/531**

Evacuee memoir: Ray Allen  
Undated [1999]  
Consists of details of his wartime experiences in Reading

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/532**

Evacuee memoir: Keith  
Undated [c.2005]  
Consists of copies of his letters home from Bovey Tracey, Devon to his family, while evacuated

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/535**

Evacuee memoir: Howard Croston  
Undated [1998-1999]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Liverpool to Highley, a book of poems entitled Aspects of Life and press cuttings

1 folder

## Museum of English Rural Life

- D EVAC  
A/1/536** Evacuee memoir: Eric Spanier  
2006  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Tooting, London to Croyde Bay, Devon
- 1 folder
- D EVAC  
A/1/539** Evacuee memoir: Derek N. Silverton  
26 Jun 2007  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Leigh-on-Sea, Essex to Ashbourne, Derbyshire  
West Leigh School
- 1 folder
- D EVAC  
A/1/540** Evacuee memoir: Ronnie J. Chesser  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Hoxton to Wicken Fens, Cambridgeshire and Embsay, Yorkshire
- 1 folder
- D EVAC  
A/1/541** Evacuee memoir: Janet Kirwan  
Undated [c. 1996]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Plymouth to Bodmin, includes stories and poems  
St. Mary's School; Notre Dame High School, Wyndham Street [Former reference number WA 58]
- 1 folder
- D EVAC  
A/1/543** Evacuee memoir: Eileen and Stanley Porter  
2003  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Plumstead, London (Conway Road School) to Lamberhurst School
- 1 folder
- D EVAC  
A/1/544** Evacuee memorabilia: Prof K.W. Allen  
2005  
Consists of Bartholomew's war map of Central Europe 1914, Christmas card, National Registration card for Clifford Allen and press cuttings

## Museum of English Rural Life

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/546**

Evacuee memoir: Anonymous  
14 Aug 2010

Memoir is from an anonymous person aged 75 in 2010; gender unknown.

The evacuee regrets being unable to remember much. There are references to a Mr Bishop who had a wooden leg or another injury that made him exempt from National Service; a woman named 'Betty Bishop' was said to have been like a sister.

Other fragmentary recollections are that his teacher was a Geographer; there was propaganda about the 'Squander Bug' made of yellow felt with swastikas. A great community spirit and sleeping in Manor House tube station in London are mentioned. The memoir also describes a communal shelter in an alleyway in Haringey where the man in charge, assumed to be an ARP warden, was nicknamed Snow White. On Saturday evenings, women gathered at the Post Office in Warham Road in Haringey, hoping for a phone call from their husband if he was still in England—few people had phones at home.

The evacuee screamed on being taken home, calling the Bishops 'Mum & Dad' and the parents 'Auntie and Uncle'. When the children eventually took their 11+ examination, they were told they wouldn't pass because they had received too little education. The evacuee didn't pass.

The memoir includes one photograph with inscriptions on the back: 'Betty Bishop & me while I was evacuated' and 'Taken down Auntie Laura's Wadeford [in Somerset] on a Saturday morning'

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/547**

Evacuee memoir: Joyce Watson nee Longhurst  
30 Mar 2006

Consists of details of an evacuation from Tooting, London to Sidlesham, Sussex  
Tooting Graveney School

1 folder

## Museum of English Rural Life

**D EVAC  
A/1/548**

Evacuee memoir: Hilda Gladys Thomson nee Williams  
2006  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Franciscan Road Junior School, Tooting, London to Chichester Franciscan Road Junior School; Streatham Secondary School

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/549**

Evacuee memoir: Kenneth A.K. Giles entitled Small World My memories of World War II  
2001  
Consists of details of an evacuation from a school in Franciscan Road, Tooting, London to Dymchurch, Kent and Selsey, West Sussex, Shiplake and Warren Row Special School for Handicapped Children at Frogmore, Wandsworth and Franciscan Road, Tooting; Shiplake Church of England First School

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/550**

Evacuee memoir: Ros Scolaro  
Undated c. 2009  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Chinnor, Oxfordshire

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/551**

Evacuee memoir: Les Tapner  
28 Jan 2009  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Reading Battle School

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/552**

Evacuee memoir: George Bye  
2 Feb 2009  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Reading

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/1/553**

War memoir: Clarence Edgar (Jack) Ball  
c. 2012  
Consists of details of wartime experiences in the R.A.F., and life story. Mr Ball was the partner in later life of Mrs Vera Chapman later Mitchell (D EVAC A/1/170)

## Museum of English Rural Life

2 vols

**D EVAC  
A/1/554**

All Things are Possible The Autobiography of C.E. (Jack) Ball  
and Who Has Healing Hands? by C.E. (Jack) Ball

War memoir: Tony Brown

c. 2020

Consists of details of the evacuee experiences of Tony and his twin brother Terry Brown. They were evacuated from their school Park Hill Ilford, Essex to Taunton in Somerset. Includes photocopies of photographs of Tony and Terry.

**D EVAC A/2**

1 folder

Acc.DX2475

Memoirs of Evacuated Children to places overseas during World War 2

c.1939-c.1945; c.1990s-c.2010

Records at this level relate to children evacuated within and living in Great Britain

c. 25 boxes

**D EVAC  
A/2/1**

Evacuee memoir: T.M. Baring

c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Britain to the United States of America

[Former reference number ID 164]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/2**

Evacuee memoir: Gordon Smith

c. 2005

Consists of details of an attempted evacuation from Newport, Monmouthshire to Toronto, Canada

[Former reference number CORB ID 8]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/4**

Evacuee memoir: Peter Biggs

c. 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Liverpool to the United States of America

[Former reference number ID 144]



## Museum of English Rural Life

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/5**

Evacuee memoir: Dora Black  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of her Canadian evacuation

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/6**

Evacuee memoir: Francis Soer  
c. 2005  
Consists of a photocopy of part of a Souvenir of the C.O.R.B. U1 party S.S. Llanstephen Castle booklet  
[Former reference number CORB ID 18]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/7**

Evacuee memoir: Jean Cockett nee Sweetman  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Barrie, Ontario, Canada, a copy of record of education and copies of photographs Victoria Public School  
[Former reference CORB ID 104]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/8**

Evacuee memoir: Margaret Donald  
c. 2005  
Consists of copies of photographs of her evacuation with Gill Donald and their mother to India to join their Indian Army officer father  
[Former reference ID 26]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/9**

Evacuee memoir: David Elliott  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to the United States of America, and an article called Long Island steam through English eyes by David Elliot  
Private boarding school, St. Paul's in Garden City, Long Island  
[Former reference ID 26]

1 folder

## Museum of English Rural Life

**D EVAC  
A/2/10**

Evacuee memoir: Margaret Joan Ewert entitled For Elizabeth Ewert written by her sister Margaret

2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Oxford to Nashville, Tennessee, United States of America, and copies of newspaper articles, and section of ribbon from christening the Vanguard Wychwood School, Banbury Road

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/11**

Evacuee memoir: John Turner

c.2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from West Hampstead, London to Seaford, Sussex, Bedford and Cape Town, South Africa, telegrams, press cuttings and correspondence [CORB]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/14**

Evacuee memoir: Edgar Gordon

c.2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Edgware, London to New York, United States of America, with press cuttings, reunion documents and extracts from Bits and Pieces by Flora Stieglitz Straus

Small private school on East 9th Street and Fieldston School in Riverdale

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/15**

Evacuee memoir: Ann Elizabeth Gray

25 Sept 2007

Consists of details of an evacuation to Southern Rhodesia [Zimbabwe], with copies of photographs

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/16**

Evacuee memoir: Valerie Beer Green

c. 2005

Consists of press cuttings relating to an evacuation from Liverpool to Washington, United States of America

## Museum of English Rural Life

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/18**

Evacuee memoir: Daphne Levy, nee Nardell  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Vancouver,  
Canada  
[Former reference number CORB ID 99]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/19**

Evacuee memoir: Laila June Goodman, nee Nardell  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Vancouver,  
Canada, and copies of photographs  
[Former reference number ID 100]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/21**

Evacuee memoir: Brigid Wells, nee Haydon  
Apr 2007  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Boston,  
United States of America and Toronto, Canada, and copies of a  
diary entry  
[Former reference number CORB ID 50]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/23**

Evacuee memoir: Ian M. Jessiman  
24 Mar 2009  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Bristol to Baltimore,  
United States of America, and copies of letters, press cuttings  
and photographs  
Pauline Johnson School  
[Former reference number ID 44]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/24**

Evacuee memoir: Ian Frederic Hay Davison  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Bath to Darien,  
Connecticut, United States of America, and copies of letters,  
photographs and identity card

## Museum of English Rural Life

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/26**

Evacuee memoir: Eleanor Vickers  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Oxford to Toronto,  
Canada  
[Former reference ID 111]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/27**

Evacuee memoir: Elinor Anne Scott, nee Garthwaite  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Hitchin, Hertfordshire  
to Toronto  
[Former reference ID 73]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/28**

Evacuee memoir: Philippa Russell entitled An Evacuee's Story  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to Montreal  
[Former reference ID 138]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/29**

Evacuee memoir: Jim Northcott  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Oxshott, Surrey to  
Ottawa, Canada  
Clifton College Bristol; Abinger Hill prep school, Surrey; Ashbury  
College, Ottawa, Canada  
[Former reference ID 94]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/30**

Evacuee memoir: Kenneth Miller  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Toronto, Canada,  
extracts from a book entitled The Outspoken Dr Miller and  
copies of letters  
[Former reference ID 41]

1 folder

## Museum of English Rural Life

**D EVAC  
A/2/32** Evacuee memoir: Asthore Sheena Douglas Hilleary, nee Mackintosh  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Liverpool to Montreal, Canada  
[Former reference ID 180]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/33** Evacuee memoir: Sir John Curtiss KCB, KBE, CBIM  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of brief details of an evacuation to Canada and a copy of his obituary from the Telegraph  
[Former reference ID 171]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/35** Sir John Curtiss died 14 Sept 2013  
Evacuee memoir: Barbara Barnett, nee Pinto  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of brief details of an evacuation to Quebec City, Canada, and copies of telegrams and press cuttings  
[Former reference ID 163]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/36** Evacuee memoir: Leslie Dubow  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of brief details of an evacuation to Toronto, Canada  
[Former reference ID 113]

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/37** Evacuee memoir: Elaine Braham Hallgarten  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to New York, United States of America, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada and Toronto, Canada  
[Former reference number ID 61]

1 folder

## Museum of English Rural Life

- D EVAC  
A/2/38** Evacuee memoir: Margaret Glenesk Smolensky, formerly Morris, nee Beal  
2008  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Scarborough to Winnipeg, Canada  
Scarborough Girls High School, Kelvin Technical High School  
[Former reference number ID 61]
- 1 folder
- D EVAC  
A/2/39** Evacuee memoir: Clare Barton, nee Stephen  
10 Oct 2006  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Marblehead, Massachusetts, Manchester, Vermont and San Francisco, United States of America  
Convent School, Beccles, Windsor Mountain School, Los Gatos High School, Marblehead High, Chretienne Academy
- 1 folder
- D EVAC  
A/2/40** Evacuee memoir: A. David Hyman  
21 May 2007  
Consists of details of an evacuation from London to St. Helier, Jersey  
St. Marks Road School in St. Helier
- 1 folder
- D EVAC  
A/2/41** Evacuee memoir: Mary Ivens, nee Elliot  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Liverpool to East Hampton, Long Island, United States of America  
[Former reference ID 127]
- 1 folder
- D EVAC  
A/2/45** Evacuee memoir: Brigid Mattinson  
Undated [c. 2007]  
Consists of copies of photographs of Brigid Mattinson and her foster family

## Museum of English Rural Life

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/49**

Evacuee memoir: Anthony Orchard  
28 Jan 2008  
Consists of details of an evacuation to a boarding school in South Africa

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/55**

Book entitled Here's to Our Far-flung Empire by Tony Orchard has been published, 2010  
Evacuee memoir: Helen Victoria Smith  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe and Natal, South Africa

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/56**

Evacuee memoir: Ian Rose  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Boston, United States of America, and press cuttings, copies of photographs and some correspondence

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/57**

Evacuee memoir: Ian Skinner  
Jan 2001  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Montrose to Dallas, United States of America, and copies of photographs

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/60**

Evacuee memoir: Elizabeth Stirling Lee  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Toronto, Canada

1 folder

## Museum of English Rural Life

- D EVAC  
A/2/62** Evacuee memoir: Rosalind Tolson, nee Baker  
Undated [c. 2005]  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Oxford to New Haven,  
United States of America
- 1 folder
- D EVAC  
A/2/63** Evacuee memoir: John Bedwell  
c.2007  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Brookline,  
Massachusetts, America, with copies of passenger lists,  
correspondence and press cuttings
- 1 folder
- D EVAC  
A/2/64** Evacuee memoir: John Wilkinson  
1998  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Milton, United States of  
America
- 1 folder
- D EVAC  
A/2/67** Mr Wilkinson passed away in 2011  
Evacuee memoir: Dave Wren  
2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Singapore to  
Rochester, Victoria, Australia and Ceylon, and press cutting
- 1 folder
- D EVAC  
A/2/68** Evacuee memoir: Eileen Greenwood, nee Holway  
11 Apr 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Cowplain, Hampshire  
to Melbourne, Victoria, Australia  
Waterlooville School
- 1 folder
- D EVAC  
A/2/69** Evacuee memoir: Brian M. Simpson  
13 Dec 1999  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Egypt to Beacon  
Island, South Africa and Oudtshoorn, South Africa



## Museum of English Rural Life

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/70**

Evacuee memoir: Catherine Kennington  
21 Feb 2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Ipsden, Oxfordshire to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Canada, Toronto and Montreal, Canada

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/72**

Evacuee memoir: Douglas Edward Wilde  
2005

Consists of details of an evacuation from Hillingdon to Morden, Canada, on CD, with print out

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/76**

Evacuee memoir: Ann Spokes Symonds  
c. 1990s-2000s

Consists of details of an evacuation from Oxford to New Haven, United States of America, and correspondence relating to her book

[some folders are CLOSED contact University Archivist]  
Note by Ann Spokes Symonds - material in the book is copyright and must have the permission of the writers if published

4 folders

**D EVAC  
A/2/77**

Evacuee memoir: David Madden  
2009

Consists of details of an evacuation from Singapore to Australia, and back to Britain, on CD with print out

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/78**

Copyright is retained by David Madden

Evacuee memoir: A. Stuart Paterson  
2009

Consists of details of an evacuation from Glasgow to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, with photographs on CD  
Glasgow High School, Milton Junior School, Shawlands Senior Secondary School

## Museum of English Rural Life

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/81**

Evacuee memoir: Inge Meister (nee Schremmel) and Carlo Meister  
2009  
Consists of details of their memories of experiences of war in Europe

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/82**

Evacuee memoir: Jean Feliksiak, nee Hadfield  
2009  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Middlesborough to Halifax, Canada

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/83**

Evacuee memoir: Ann Coomber  
2006  
Consists of details of an evacuation to New York, United States of America

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/85**

Evacuee memoir: John A. Zayas  
2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Gibraltar to London Dr Barnardo's Home, Barkingside; South East Essex Technical College

1 folder

**D EVAC  
A/2/87**

Evacuee memoir: Ruth Mackenzie  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation from Scotland to Ottawa, Canada

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A/2/88**

Evacuee memoir: Ronald Raymond Cox  
c. 2005  
Consists of details of an evacuation to Ohio, United States of America

## **Museum of English Rural Life**

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