



## World War 2 Evacuees – Operation Pied Piper



# Operation Pied Piper

## The Evacuation of English Children During World War II



Ultimately 3.5 million people were relocated as part of the evacuation.

The government decided that vulnerable people who lived in cities (mostly children) would be relocated to safer areas (mainly the countryside)





Watch this video... <https://youtu.be/HFBlvWkNEKU>

# How did evacuees feel?

Eric seemed happy in the clip. Do you think that everyone was happy to leave their families, homes and friends?

Let's look at some of the evidence from the time: one photo and the memories of two evacuees.

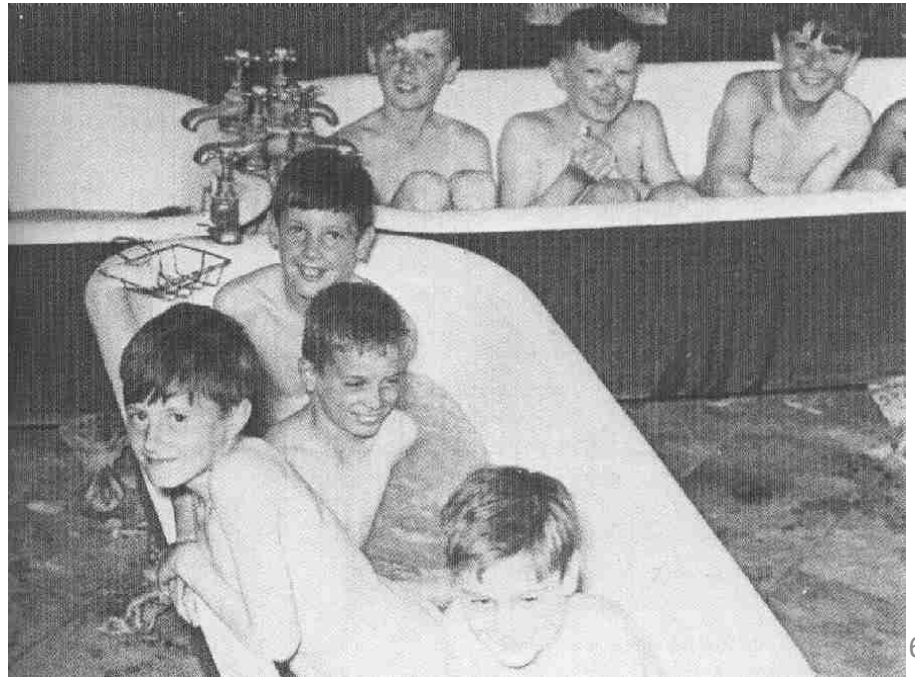




"I remember that the children in the village didn't like us. Some children shouted '*Go back to London, we don't want you here.*' They held me down and put snails and frogs in my dress"

"Ruth and I integrated with some of the village children and we were as happy as the day was long. These boys and girls were so kind and welcoming to us. They taught us so much about the activities of country children. I was never homesick - I loved my parents of course but they were awfully strict!!

Photos of evacuees smiling, such as these, often appeared in newspapers. Can you think why?



**A. The happy photos were all taken at the very start of evacuation, before they experienced what it was really like.**

**B. People tended to take photos of children when they were happy and not when they were sad.**

**C. The government printed photos of the evacuees looking happy to make sure that their mums didn't worry and to make it seem as if evacuation was working.**

**D. There were lots of photos of unhappy children but they have all been lost over the last 60 years.**

# Your writing task

- Imagine that you have been evacuated away from your parents. How would you feel?
- Research a little about being a evacuee. These websites might be useful  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/01/a1107901.shtml>  
<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/war/evacuation1.html#7>
- Plan your writing – a template is on the next slide that will help you think of ideas.
- Write a letter home to your parents. Remember to include fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, similes and metaphors – everything we were learning about before we left school. An example is on the final slide of this presentation for ideas.
- Once you have written your letter, don't forget to edit and improve it!
- Read it to someone at home to see if they can help you improve it too.
- Publish your final letter and don't forget, we would love to see it.



**Why they were evacuated & how were they feeling?**

**Suitcase – what was in it? Why?**

**Journey – what was it like? How long was it?**

**Who did you live with?**

**What have you been doing?**

**What is school like?**

Dear Mum,

How are you? I hope you are OK. We got to the village two days ago. Sorry I didn't write sooner but I couldn't find any paper to write on. When we got here, there was an old lady who took us around to all the houses in the village to sort out where we would live. She was nice and remembered that you wanted me to live in a house near a church. There weren't many houses that had much room and all the other kids were chosen before me. I was really scared because I thought no one would want me.

Finally, the old lady took me to a dark house next to a graveyard. Who would want to live near a real graveyard? I didn't think anyone was home but then I saw a faint gas lamp light in the window. I was so scared when the door creaked open that I couldn't look up. I saw a dirty pair of leather shoes and heard an old, gravelly voice ask what we wanted. It was an old man and he sounded really grumpy, but the lady explained who I was and he said he'd take me.

I was terrified when she left, I didn't know what to do, but the old man took me inside and told me his name was Tom. He is huge with lots of white hair and wrinkles, and he smells a bit like burnt wood and dirt. He kept talking to me but all I could think of was that I must be good so I just answered politely each time. He gave me a piece of hot bacon and sweet tea for my dinner. I couldn't believe my eyes! Bacon? When did I have bacon last time? I can't remember! I was very scared of huge Tom, and I ate a rash of bacon very slowly. He even thought I wasn't hungry. Anyway, I must go now.

I promised you I would behave and I will do my best.

I miss you,  
Love, Willie