



**EVACUATION  
WHY AND HOW?**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION  
LEAFLET NO. 3**

**Read this and  
keep it carefully.  
You may need it.**

**Issued from the Lord Privy Seal's Office July, 1939**

## WHY EVACUATION?

There are still a number of people who ask "What is the need for all this business about evacuation? Surely if war comes it would be better for families to stick together and not go breaking up their homes?"

It is quite easy to understand this feeling, because it is difficult for us in this country to realise what war in these days might mean. If we were involved in war, our big cities might be subjected to determined attacks from the air—at any rate in the early stages—and although our defences are strong and are rapidly growing stronger, some bombers would undoubtedly get through.

We must see to it then that the enemy does not secure his chief objects—the creation of anything like panic, or the crippling dislocation of our civil life.

*One of the first measures we can take to prevent this is the removal of the children from the more dangerous areas.*

## THE GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

The Government have accordingly made plans for the removal from what are called "evacuable" areas (see list at the back of this leaflet) to safer places called "reception" areas, of school children, children below school age if accompanied by their mothers or other responsible persons, and expectant mothers and blind persons.

The scheme is entirely a voluntary one, but clearly the children will be much safer and happier away from the big cities where the dangers will be greatest.

There is room in the safer areas for these children; householders have volunteered to provide it. They have offered homes where the children will be made welcome. The children will have their schoolteachers and other helpers with them and their schooling will be continued.

## WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

### Schoolchildren

Schoolchildren would assemble at their schools when told to do so and would travel together with their teachers by train. The transport of some 3,000,000 in all is an enormous undertaking. *It would not be possible to let all parents know in advance the place to which each child is to be sent but they would be notified as soon as the movement is over.*

If you have children of school age, you have probably already heard from the school or the local education authority the necessary details of what you would have to do to get your child or children taken away. *Do not hesitate to register your children under this*

*scheme, particularly if you are living in a crowded area.* Of course it means heartache to be separated from your children, but you can be quite sure that they will be well looked after. That will relieve you of one anxiety at any rate. You cannot wish, if it is possible to evacuate them, to let your children experience the dangers and fears of air attack in crowded cities.

### Children under five

Children below school age must be accompanied by their mothers or some other responsible person. Mothers who wish to go away with such children should register with the Local Authority. *Do not delay in making enquiries about this.*

A number of mothers in certain areas have shown reluctance to register. Naturally, they are anxious to stay by their menfolk. Possibly they are thinking that they might as well wait and see; that it may not be so bad after all. *Think this over carefully and think of your child or children in good time.* Once air attacks have begun it might be very difficult to arrange to get away.

### Expectant Mothers

Expectant mothers can register at any maternity or child welfare centre. For any further information inquire at your Town Hall.

### The Blind

In the case of the Blind, registration to come under the scheme can be secured through the home visitors, or enquiry may be made at the Town Hall.

## PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS

If you have made private arrangements for getting away your children to relatives or friends in the country, or intend to make them, you should remember that while the Government evacuation scheme is in progress ordinary railway and road services will necessarily be drastically reduced and subject to alteration at short notice. Do not, therefore, in an emergency leave your private plans to be carried out at the last moment. It may then be too late.

If you happen to be away on holiday in the country or at the seaside and an emergency arises, do not attempt to take your children back home if you live in an "evacuable" area.

## WORK MUST GO ON

The purpose of evacuation is to remove from the crowded and vulnerable centres, if an emergency should arise, those, more particularly the children, whose presence cannot be of any assistance.

Everyone will realise that there can be no question of wholesale clearance. We are not going to win a war by running away.

Most of us will have work to do, and work that matters, because we must maintain the nation's life and the production of munitions and other material essential to our war effort. For most of us therefore, who do not go off into the Fighting Forces our duty will be to stand by our jobs or those new jobs which we may undertake in war.

Some people have asked what they ought to do if they have no such definite work or duty.

*You should be very sure before deciding that there is really nothing you can do.* There is opportunity for a vast variety of services in civil defence. YOU must judge whether in fact you can or cannot help by remaining. If you are sure you cannot, then there is every reason why you should go away if you can arrange to do so, but you should take care to avoid interfering with the official evacuation plans. If you are proposing to use the public transport services, make your move either BEFORE the evacuation of the children begins or AFTER it has been completed. You will not be allowed to use transport required for the official evacuation scheme and other essential purposes, and you must not try to take accommodation which is required for the children and mothers under the Government scheme.

For the rest, we must remember that it would be essential that the work of the country should go on. Men and women alike will have to stand firm, to maintain our effort for victory. Such measures of protection as are possible are being pushed forward for the large numbers who have to remain at their posts. That they will be ready to do so, no one doubts.

---

The "evacuable" areas under the Government scheme are:—

(a) London, as well as the County Boroughs of West Ham and East Ham; the Boroughs of Walthamstow, Leyton, Ilford and Barking in Essex; the Boroughs of Tottenham, Hornsey, Willesden, Acton, and Edmonton in Middlesex; (b) the Medway towns of Chatham, Gillingham and Rochester; (c) Portsmouth, Gosport and Southampton; (d) Birmingham and Smethwick; (e) Liverpool, Bootle, Birkenhead and Wallasey; (f) Manchester and Salford; (g) Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford and Hull; (h) Newcastle and Gateshead; (i) Edinburgh, Rosyth, Glasgow, Clydebank and Dundee.

In some of these places only certain areas will be evacuated. Evacuation may be effected from a few other places in addition to the above, of which notice will be given.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,  
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

In two months' time you, householders of this country, have of your own free will enabled us to say that the most difficult part of the evacuation problem, the reception and care of unaccompanied school children, is solved. I do not know of any nobler or more vital form of National Service that could be undertaken. I should like you to know that we recognise what you have done, and to feel assured that the nation is proud of your ready and sweeping response to this call for service.

Walter R. Elliot

April, 1939.



I WISH TO MARK, BY THIS PERSONAL MESSAGE,  
my appreciation of the service you have rendered to your  
Country in 1939.

In the early days of the War you opened your door to strangers  
who were in need of shelter, & offered to share your home with  
them.

I know that to this unselfish task you have sacrificed much  
of your own comfort, & that it could not have been achieved  
without the loyal co-operation of all in your household.  
By your sympathy you have earned the gratitude of those to  
whom you have shown hospitality, & by your readiness to  
serve you have helped the State in a work of great value.

Elizabeth R



8th June, 1946

**T**O-DAY, AS WE CELEBRATE VICTORY, I send this personal message to you and all other boys and girls at school. For you have shared in the hardships and dangers of a total war and you have shared no less in the triumph of the Allied Nations.

I know you will always feel proud to belong to a country which was capable of such supreme effort; proud, too, of parents and elder brothers and sisters who by their courage, endurance and enterprise brought victory. May these qualities be yours as you grow up and join in the common effort to establish among the nations of the world unity and peace.

*George R.I.*

# SETTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

TOWN HALL,

SETTLE,

January, 1939

## GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

The Council have been requested by the Government to co-operate in plans which are being made for the protection of civilian life in the event of war.

Recent experience in other countries has shown that under the conditions of modern warfare the greatest loss of life is caused by bombardment from the air. This danger is most acute in crowded cities. It is to lessen this danger in case our own country were involved in war that arrangements are being made now to enable children to leave the crowded cities and be received in homes elsewhere. This protection can only be given with the co-operation of those like ourselves who live in the less congested towns or villages. We shall all agree that it is necessary for all of us to help in this plan for saving human life, and for safeguarding the rising generation who will eventually have the management of our country in their hands.

I am aware that some arrangements were made last September as a matter of emergency. These had perforce to be improvised and sometimes gave rise to points of criticism. But I am sure that in the light of the experience gained we shall be able to improve on these. The plans for this, as for other branches of civil defence, must be made in times of peace. We hope that it will never be necessary to put them into operation. But we shall all be happier to know that the plans have been made and that if ever they do have to be put in operation, the work will be done in an ordered manner, and that all will know their parts.

The Government has asked each local authority in the country to find out what housing accommodation would be available in case of emergency, and what homes would be suitable for those children who would be given the means of leaving the great cities. It is particularly important to know in which houses homes could be provided for the children, where they could be lodged, boarded and cared for. Payment would be made by the Government at the rate of 10s. 6d. a week where one child is taken, and 8s. 6d. for each child where more than one is taken.

School children would be moved school by school, accompanied by their teachers, and arrangements would be made for the children to attend school in the districts to which they were taken.

A representative of the local authority will call upon you some time during the next month or so to find out how far you will be able to assist in this matter. He will produce to you a card showing that he is authorised to make these inquiries.

This note is sent to you now in order that you may be aware, in advance, of this enquiry and why it is being made.

I give you my assurance that the information supplied by you will not be used for any other purpose than that which I have described, and that it will not involve you in any work or responsibility unless and until an emergency arises. I feel that I can rely on the people in the Settle Rural District to offer all the help they possibly can in this important branch of civil defence. It needs no words of mine to convey to you what that help will mean to children of the big cities.

JAMES GREENWOOD,

Chairman.

Town Hall,

Settle.

26 MAY 1939

Dear Madam,

Government Evacuation Scheme.

I am directed by the Council to thank you for your offer of assistance in this Scheme, and to enclose herewith an appreciation by the Minister of Health.

It is the Minister's wish that all householders who have volunteered to receive unaccompanied children, should be in possession of some token indicating the particular form of National Service for which they have volunteered.

This token takes the form of the enclosed window card, which, if you wish, may be displayed in your window.

In the event of an emergency, you may be required to receive up to the number of / unaccompanied children.

I am,

Yours truly,

James Greenwood,

Chairman.

Mrs J Sunter