

# EVACUEES

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## Part 1

1. Why does he call children in wartime 'invisible victims'?
2. When did the first evacuation in Britain take place?
3. Why is the code word for evacuation 'Operation Pied Piper'?

## Part 2

4. What does the 'hidden picture' look like? What was the reason behind hiding the picture for over 60 years? (Or why was the photo of the crying women kept hidden for 60 years?).
5. How many evacuees were there in total?
6. What problem did children who were evacuated from Finland to Sweden have on their return to Finland?

## Part 3

7. What problem does the lecturer mention that expectant mothers who were evacuated would have had in 1939?
8. Why had the British government organised a supply of timber?
9. Why did the French never put their evacuation plan in action?
10. Why was the Anderson Committee set up?

## Part 4

11. Why was it decided to move evacuees before the war actually started?
12. What was the role of the 'Visitors'?

## Part 5

13. What guidelines did the Anderson Committee come up with?
14. Did the children and parents have much warning about evacuation?
15. What identification did evacuee children have when they were sent away?

## Part 6

16. Why was travel on third class carriages a problem for the children?
17. Why was the tube system in London not used in the evacuation?

## Part 7

18. What were the contents of the ration bags given to the children to take on the train?
19. Why was there a problem with the number of children who turned up in villages?
20. What kind of reception did the evacuees get when they arrived?

## Part 8

21. What was the 'Phoney War' period?
22. What examples does the lecturer give of propaganda against the evacuees?
23. Did the children generally come from poor areas?
24. What kinds of effects did evacuation have on the evacuees in later years?

## Part 9

25. Why does the lecturer say that the official ending of a war is not the end of the traumas suffered by the families involved?
26. What is the main reason for the lecturer looking at this area of research?

## Key

1. People generally do not look at (pay attention to) them, even though in all wars children are affected.
2. In 1804 when there was fear of Napoleon invading England.
3. This refers to the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin who got rid of the rats of the town, but when the villagers refused to pay him he led all the children out of the village into the woods.
4. The government wanted families to agree to parting with their children during the war, so child evacuation was shown to be something happy, almost as a holiday in the country.
5. 3.5 million.
6. They learned to speak Swedish, and could not communicate with their parents and families on their return to Finland.
7. Lack of money for medical care during pregnancy as health care was not free in 1939. (They would be unemployed and away from their families).

8. They thought there would be a lot of deaths as a result of the war, and thus a lot of coffins needed.
9. Because the Germans invaded France in June 1940 and France surrendered.
10. It was set up in order to decide the danger zones in London, and decide which industries were essential to keep going. The idea was that they would make a good plan for evacuation, which would be as a model for other cities to follow.
11. It was felt that it would be easier to bring children back if there was no war after all, rather than move if war had started, as it was felt many people would panic.
12. To decide how many spaces there were in the reception area (there area evacuees were sent) and how many evacuees could be housed in each.
13.
  - a) evacuation was not compulsory
  - b) billeting (accepting evacuees) was compulsory
  - c) the government should meet the initial costs of the evacuees
  - d) school children would be evacuated with their schools
14. No, they were told to go to school every day prepared to leave, and when they finally left it was without warning. Children sometimes did not even get the opportunity to say 'good-bye' to their parents.
15. A paper luggage label with their name, school number, and local authority.
16. These carriages had no toilets. The children had been given rations to take with them, which they were meant to keep, but many who ate them were sick as a result.
17. The authorities feared a gas attack and the ventilation system would not have been able to cope with that.
18. A can of condensed milk, a tin of corned beef, biscuits and chocolate.
19. It was more than the number expected, and people were forced to take more evacuees than had been agreed. They were not happy with this situation.
20. They got a very poor welcome; the children arrived tired and dirt; some had been sick or had wet themselves, and they heard people arguing about not wanting to take them in.
21. It was the time when nothing happened, between September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1939 and June 1940.
22.
  - a) That they brought diseases with them that were new to the country people.
  - b) That they did not know how to use a knife and fork.
  - c) That they were sewn into their underwear for the winter i.e. they were from poor families not accustomed to washing or keeping themselves clean.
23. No, they were mostly from middle-class backgrounds.
24. Very traumatic effects; some cannot say 'goodbye', or pack a suitcase, because it brings back very painful memories.
25. His research shows that war trauma goes through three generations of a family.
26. Because children are the invisible victims of war.