

London and Middlesex Archaeological Society

Were you evacuated during the Second World War? Would you like to tell us about it?

This form

We would like to know about your experiences of evacuation during the Second World War. For example, what was your life like before evacuation? What was your evacuation home like? What was it like returning to your old home and settling back into your old life? And what do you think the effects of your evacuation experiences were in later life?

How to contribute

We hope the questions that follow will be useful prompts to help you remember. They may also provide a helpful structure to base your memories around. Please feel free, however, to tell your story in any way you like; you may want to answer all the questions, or pick and choose which ones to answer. You can write as much as you like, add notes and comments and cover areas we haven't mentioned which you feel are relevant. We are interested in what evacuation was like for *you*, your experiences, impressions and feelings at the time, and how you feel now looking back more than sixty years later.

Please also feel free to photocopy this form for friends and relatives and others who may be interested in contributing to this project.

What will your reply be used for?

Your memories will make an important contribution to current research, knowledge and understanding about people's experiences of evacuation during the Second World War. Your reply will be kept at the Museum of London where it will be available, with others, for consultation by researchers. The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society and the Museum of London also hope to make this research more widely available, for example, by using it in publications, exhibitions and on-line resources.

Life before evacuation

When and where were you born?

Where were you living at the beginning of the War and what was the area like?

What were your parents' occupations?

Tell us about your home and the other people who lived with you.

What school did you go to and what was it like?

Tell us about your experiences of the Blitz.

Please feel free to continue on a separate sheet of paper

Preparations for evacuation

When were you evacuated and how old were you?

When did you hear that you were going to be evacuated? Who told you and how did they explain what would happen and why?

How did you feel when you were told?

Were you given any advice or support before you were evacuated? By whom? Could you talk to anybody about it?

Please feel free to continue on a separate sheet of paper

The evacuation

Who organised your evacuation? Did you know beforehand whom you were going to stay with?

What did you take with you?

Tell us about what it was like when you said goodbye to your parents, friends and relatives.

How did you get to your evacuation home? Who travelled with you? What was the journey like?

Had you been away from London or your home town before?

Please feel free to continue on a separate sheet of paper

Your arrival

Where were you evacuated to?

Tell us about what happened when you arrived.

Tell us about the home you went to. What were your first impressions when you arrived? How did you feel?

Please feel free to continue on a separate sheet of paper

Your Stay

Tell us about the people who took you in. Did they have children? How did you get on with them?

Was the routine of the house different to the routine in your own home? In what ways?

How long did you stay at your evacuation home? Were you evacuated to more than one place during the War? If so, did you return home in between or did you move straight on between places?

What sort of contact did you have with your family and how frequent was it? How did you feel about it?

Tell us about your new environment. What were people in the local community like? Your new school? How did you fit in? Did you make friends?

Please feel free to continue on a separate sheet of paper

After evacuation

How did you feel when you were told you were going home? What was it like getting back to your home, family and friends? How easy was it to fit back in?

Did you keep in contact with the family that took you in? With anybody you met whilst you were evacuated?

After the War did you discuss your experiences with anyone?

Looking back today, what effect do you think being evacuated has had on you in later life? How often do you think about it? How do you feel now writing about it?

Looking back, do you think that, on balance, evacuation was a good thing?

Please feel free to continue on a separate sheet of paper

Your name and contact details

Name (please print):

Address (please print):

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Telephone:

Mobile telephone:

Email:

Age:

Sex: Male / Female (please delete as applicable)

Your contact details will not be passed on to any third party without your permission. However, we would like to use your name in association with your memories. If you would prefer us not to use your name, please tick here

Your permission for us to use your contribution

In order to keep and make use of your contribution, we invite you below to assign your copyright in what you have written to the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society.

If you do not wish to assign your copyright, you can give a licence to the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society to make use of your material for research, educational, display and publication purposes, including the internet.

Please complete the following:

1. Do you assign to the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society (LAMAS) copyright in your replies to this form?

Yes / No *

2. If no, to question 1, do you grant the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society (LAMAS) the right to make use of your material for research, educational, display and publication purposes, including the internet, and for other non-commercial purposes?

Yes / No *

* Please delete as applicable

Signed by

Name (please print)

Date.....

If you wish us not to use your name in association with your memories, please tick the box on page 8.

Please feel free to photocopy this form for friends and relatives and others who may be interested in contributing to this project.

Please return your replies by **31 December 2005** to Julia Hoffbrand, Later Department, Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN.

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Julia Hoffbrand at the above address, by telephone on 0207 814 5754, or by email at jhoffbrand@museumoflondon.org.uk.