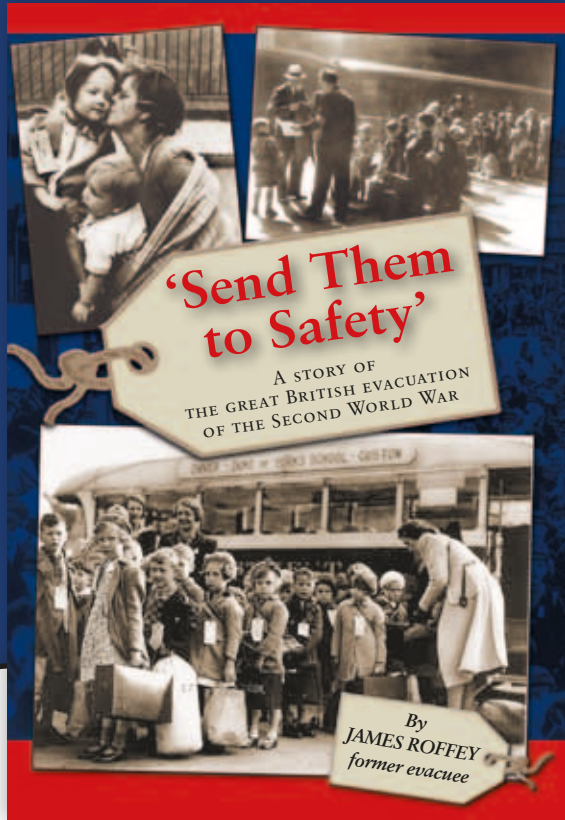


# 'Send Them to Safety'

by **JAMES ROFFEY**  
former evacuee



# The story of The Great British Evacuation of The Second World War

The book places on record the true facts of the evacuation and the impact it had on communities throughout the United Kingdom

## EVACUATION BECOMES IMMINENT

Although the country's attention during the year of 1938 seemed to be focussed upon what was happening in Germany and upon the actions of the leading politicians as they strove desperately to avoid another war, considerable planning was taking place on the subject of evacuation.

Although the Anderson Committee that was to be responsible for organising and carrying out the evacuation did not hold its first meeting until the 27th of May 1938 there had been a sub committee for evacuation planning of the Imperial Defence Committee. In fact as early as February 1931 it had formulated the evacuation scheme that was carried out in 1939.

As the war clouds gathered considerable concern over the apparent lack of action regarding evacuation was expressed by many Members of Parliament and some local authorities, especially the London County Council.

In fact that Council carried out an evacuation of many of its children's homes during the Munich crisis, only to bring them back to London after the 'Peace in our time' statement by Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

The Anderson Committee was required to further the initial planning of the Imperial Defence sub committee that for the purpose of evacuation would divide the country into three categories, namely Evacuation, Reception and Neutral.

“No one knows the exact number of people who were evacuated, although the figure of 3.5 million is usually quoted . . .”

As the subject of the Evacuation is listed on the National Syllabus why not buy a copy of the book 'Send Them to Safety'. The factual account of the Evacuation was written by Mr James Roffey who is the Chief Executive and Founder of the Evacuees Reunion Association. The perfect teaching aid - available from our Head Office at a cost of £13.99 which includes postage to any UK address. For overseas postage costs please contact the office prior to ordering.



Wave to the camera", paper photographers as they board their departure train.

The task was enormous, as were the numbers of people who would be affected. How were they all to be transported, how would they be accommodated in the reception areas. What about food supplies, the provision of education for the child evacuees, and the availability of medical services.

of 3.5 million is usually quoted, a high proportion of them being children. The code name for the 1939 evacuation was Operation Pied Piper.

For the purposes of this book we have looked at each of the categories in turn and attempted to outline how they were affected. No one knows the exact number of people who were evacuated, although the figure



'America welcomes you' British evacuees arriving in the United States.

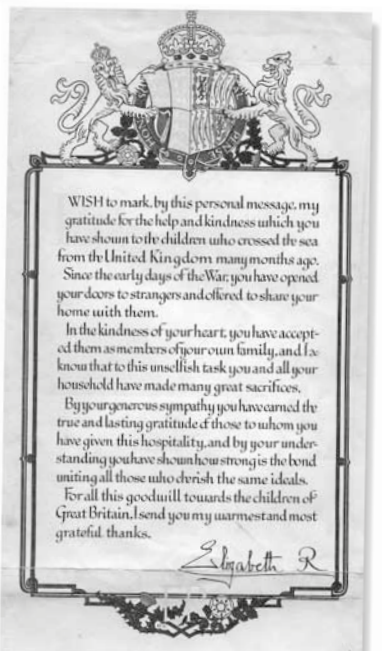
evacuees on the 17th September 1940. After spending eight days in an open lifeboat 46 surviving children were rescued.

Should the CORB scheme ever have been actioned? It is easy with the benefit of hindsight to answer that question with a positive NO, but in 1940 many people believed that an invasion of Britain by German forces was inevitable. If they had children they wanted to give them the opportunity to go to a country where they would grow up in safety and freedom.

When reading the details of those who lost their lives one can only feel

great sympathy for their parents, especially for those who lived in areas of Britain where, throughout the six years of war, no bombs fell and the whine of the air raid siren was never heard. They did what they thought was best for their children.

The certificate (right) which we have reproduced was sent by Queen Elizabeth (the present Queen's mother), to Mrs. S. Mrs. Will Rook of Winnipeg, Canada. It was recently presented to the ERA by Hazel Sanda (nee Wilson) who was billeted with them after sailing from this country as a C.O.R.B. evacuee.



WISH to mark, by this personal message, my gratitude for the help and kindness which you have shown to the children who crossed the sea from the United Kingdom many months ago. Since the early days of the War, you have opened your doors to strangers and offered to share your home with them.

In the kindness of your heart, you have accepted them as members of your own family, and I know that to this unselfish task you and all your household have made many great sacrifices. By your generous sympathy you have carried the true and lasting gratitude of those to whom you have given this hospitality, and by your understanding you have shown how strong is the bond uniting all those who cherish the same ideals. For all this goodwill towards the children of Great Britain, I send you my warmest and most grateful thanks.

Elizabeth R