

The Staffordshire Advertiser Saturday, September 2, 1939, (page 4)

Government Evacuation Scheme Started. Three Million Persons Affected. Plans for Reception in Staffordshire

About 3 million affected by Government scheme for the evacuation of school children and other priority classes that began on the first of September. It is estimated that about 30,000 will be moved into Staffordshire, with a possibility that other districts could be used if necessary, in the event that Staffordshire could not accommodate all the evacuees. The only district in the Staffordshire from which evacuation will take place is the county borough of Smethwick. The evacuation taking place on the 1st September involved 1,300,000 children and mothers from London being dispersed to different areas 151,000 would go to East Sussex, 83,000 to West Sussex, 154,000 to Kent, 124,000 to Essex, 95,000 to Surrey, and 84,000 to Hertford.

Of the evacuees 250,000 were under five years old and were to be evacuated with their mothers although; when this was introduced only 25% of mothers registered to leave London but that had risen since then to 50%.

From Liverpool and Merseyside 216,000 would go to Wales and from Manchester 270,000 evacuees would go to Lancashire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Cheshire and Derbyshire.

The first 12,000 evacuees would be received on the afternoon of Friday 1st September from Manchester and Lancashire. The districts in the Staffordshire area immediately involved would be Newcastle-under-Lyme rural district, Leek rural district, Cheadle rural district, and Uttoxeter rural and urban districts. The detraining stations were to be Newcastle, Leek, Uttoxeter, and Cresswell.

How the children from Manchester would be accommodated in the schools had not been officially decided. The possibility of a two shift system being adopted with one half attending in the morning and the other half in the afternoon was being considered.

About 4,000 children were expected from the Manchester area at Newcastle station to be billeted in the area, they would be supplied with rations then go by bus to schools to be received and allocated to their billets.

About 6,000 children from Lancashire were to be received into the Cheadle district with the first batch of 3,000 arriving on the 1st September followed by the second batch of 3,000 following as quickly as possible after. Cresswell railway station would be the detraining centre and trains would arrive at hourly intervals.

Two thousand unaccompanied children and 2,900 mothers and younger children from Manchester were expected by rail at Leek to be met by billeting officers and school teachers.

Alsager was to receive 750 children from Lancashire by train to be met by the Alsager reception officer and volunteers from the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides. Stafford was originally to have been a reception area for evacuees as a recent census showed surplus accommodation in the town for 8,000. The town clerk stated on Thursday that they had not received any information on whether any evacuees would be coming to Stafford.

Stone was another town that had not been informed as to whether its accommodation would be used immediately, but it could accommodate 1,500 in its urban areas and 3,000 in its rural areas.

Saturday September 2nd (page 5)
Burton-on-Trent
Emergency Preparations

Sandbag protection to a depth of three to four feet was provided on Thursday to the operating theatre of Burton- on Trent Infirmary, and still more massive protection was provided for the control room of the of the passenger station.

About 3, 000 evacuees were expected at Swadlincote district from yesterday (Friday) onwards. A meeting of the Reception Committee, billeting officers, and other helpers met on Thursday night to complete the arrangements.

A large number of evacuees are also expected in Repton rural area. They were due to arrive at five detraining stations, marched to various centres and then dispersed in various districts for billeting.

Saturday, September 9th (page 4).
School Authorities and Evacuated Children.
Official Guidance on several points

The Board of Education guidelines circulated to school authorities, states that it is not contemplating giving free cold meals to evacuated children, as it is considered that the payment of 10s.6d. or 8s. 6d. to the billeting householder is sufficient to supply adequate food. As to supply of milk under the school scheme, billeting householders cannot be expected to pay for what must be regarded as a special supplement to the children's diet, and the necessary halfpennies if forthcoming must be paid by the householders of their own free will or by the parents. With regard to free milk for children already receiving it, it is recommended that the teachers accompanying the children should furnish a list of those children receiving this supplementary nourishment to the receiving authority, who should supply the milk and charge it to the evacuation authority.

There was also provision for those children who reached school leaving age while evacuated. Those reaching the age of 15 can remain at school and the Government billeting allowance will still be paid, or if the parents wish it they can be sent home. Any children of that age who gain employment in the reception area may leave school but the billeting allowance will no longer be paid.

Children reaching the age of 14 who receive a certificate of beneficial employment will be allowed to leave school, but if the employment is in the reception area the billeting allowance will cease.

Saturday, September 9th (page 6).
Audley

Evacuees Settling Down

Children evacuated from Manchester for whom homes were found in Audley and other parts of the Newcastle rural area have already settled down in their new surroundings. Throughout the week-end volunteers were at work placing the little visitors in the homes made available to them, and, having established contact with their foster- parents, the children have shown remarkable adaptability in their new environment. The Rev. R. E. Cuddon, minister of Audley Methodist Church, in an address to his congregation, said they had made a generous response for evacuees

to be accommodated, and he admired the willingness they had shown in their efforts to provide them with comforts to compensate for their regret at having to leave their own districts. An appeal for gifts of clothing for some of the young evacuees has been made by Mr. G.W. Boulton (chairman of the Newcastle Rural District Council).

Saturday, September 9th (page 8)

Rocester

Evacuated Children

In the village the children and mothers, numbering about 50, received a hospitable welcome, everyone trying to make the evacuees as comfortable and happy as possible. There was no difficulty in finding ample accommodation for the visitors. One of the leading officials, in receiving the children at Rocester, spoke in high praise of the organisation which had been made Uttoxeter.

Saturday, September 9th (page 8)

Walsall

Children Evacuated

A large number of school children were evacuated from Walsall during the early part of the week. The children were accompanied by teachers and were conveyed by Corporation buses. They assembled at Bath Street, Chuckery, Croft Street, and St. Patrick's schools, and there was not the slightest hitch in the arrangements. Mothers and younger children have also been moved, and wherever possible families will be kept together.

Saturday, September 16th (page8)

Burton-on-Trent

Complaints against Evacuees

Considerable dissatisfaction is being expressed in many South Derbyshire homes with the evacuees-both mothers and children-who were given such a warm-hearted welcome a fortnight ago. While some of the new arrivals have impeccable manners, there are many who are proving far from desirable guests, and householders are saying that, war or no war, they will not tolerate them. It is complained that many children show a standard of cleanliness which reflects badly on their upbringing and that furniture in the best rooms is being soiled and put to unfair usage. One young woman expected her hostess to do menial work for her and the baby, which she should obviously do for herself, and when told she retorted that that was what a householder was being paid for. Another contended that the Government allowance belonged to her, and that the hostess was compelled in law to give lodgings gratis. On the other hand many evacuees are settling down nicely in their new homes, giving a hand with the housework and laying the foundations of a real friendship.

Saturday, September 16th (page 8)

Rocester

School Re-Opens

Rocester School re-opened Tuesday, both local and evacuees being catered for without recourse to the shift system, the accommodation being found adequate. The hours will be from 9-12 and 1-30 till 4.

Saturday, September 16th (page 8)

Swadlincote

Schools and Re-opening

Monday October 2nd, has been fixed as the official date for re-opening the schools in South Derbyshire. Through a misunderstanding a number of children attended on Monday. Parents of evacuees are asked not to take their children back home, but to have them registered at the schools in the areas where they are billeted.

Saturday, September 23rd (page 3)

Civil Defence in Rural Areas

Newcastle Complaint of Inadequate Equipment

Condition and Behaviour of Evacuees

Large article condensed

Dissatisfaction with arrangements for dealing with air-raid casualties from the parishes of Ashley, Muclestone, and Tyrley, and concern regarding the condition and behaviour of some evacuees now housed in the Audley District, were expressed at a meeting of Newcastle Rural District Council on Monday.

The meeting discussed a report given by the Housing and Sanitary Committee following an interview with the Medical Officer for Health (Dr. W. F. Young) at a meeting held at Loggerheads with regard to first aid posts. Dr Young suggested the Council join with sanatorium authorities in using the lodge there as a first aid post for the three parishes and that the cost of adapting and equipping the post should be shared by the Council. The article goes on to discuss evacuees in regards to the need for increased immunisation for Diphtheria, due to the large influx of children to rural areas many of which were in a very unclean state. The article dedicates a large section concerning the difficulties faced by evacuees and hosts on religious grounds. Audley reporting a large amount of disruption caused by the large amount of Catholic evacuees into a district entirely Protestant.

Saturday, September 23rd (page 8)

Armitage

Harvest Thanksgiving

This article reports on the large numbers who attended, among the congregation were many evacuees and troops billeted there.

Saturday, September 30th (page 8)

Meerbrook

Women's Institute

This article discusses the arranging of a sewing group to make garments for evacuated children.

Saturday, October 7th (page 8)

Madeley Heath

Teacher Evacuee Assaulted

This article reports on an assault on a teacher evacuated from Manchester with 30 boys, he was assaulted in the playground by a drunken man.

Saturday, October 7th (page 9)

Walsall

More Child Evacuees

This article reports on the arrangements being made to evacuate another 50 schoolchildren from Walsall under a new scheme. All children would be medically inspected before evacuation.

Saturday, October 7th (page 10)

Billeting of Children

This article report on the Government's decision to charge the parents of evacuees for the cost of their billeting. The cost to the Government was 9 shillings and this would be the amount asked of parents, but this would be means tested.

Saturday, October 14th (page 3)

Alsager

The Condition of Evacuees

This article discusses the condition of the evacuees to the town many of which after medical examinations were found to be dirty and verminous. The article also praises the ambulance service on the way it helped to segregate the evacuees at clinics, before billeting them at Oak Villa.

Plus reference to William Salt Library.

Saturday, October 28th (page 6)

Enterprise of Boys Clubs

War time Tasks

Hosts to Evacuated Children

This article refers to the work of Boys Clubs and the many ways they were helping the war effort and refers to the many club that were helping evacuees. The article refers to clubs that looked after evacuee children during the early part of each evening. The Article mentions the Bedford Club which looked after 70 evacuees, the Lancaster Lads Club which looked after 100 evacuees and many others engaged in similar activities.

Saturday, October 28th (page 10)

Ungrateful Parents of Evacuated Children

Seventeen Visitors to One Home in a Week-end

Appeal for" A Little More Understanding"

This article reports on the criticism of the parents of evacuees, made by Miss Florence Horsbrugh (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health) in a broadcast. In the broadcast she said that many of the parents of evacuees were ungrateful to the country folk who had taken their children in and given them a safe home. She goes on to criticise the parents by giving examples such as, seventeen people turned up in a working man's home to visit four children, and at many a home there had never been less than six. She also questioned how many of the parents spent money on visiting their children but expected the hosts to feed them.

Saturday, November 4th (page 5)

Drift Back from the Reception Areas

78% of Children Still in Country

This article contains a report from the Minister of Health made to the House of Commons in response to a request from the opposition for information regarding the evacuation scheme. The movement covered 750,000 unaccompanied children, 542,000 mothers and children, 12,000 expectant mothers and 77,000 others. The minister said that 1,500,000 persons had been moved in four days, they had been moved fifty to a hundred miles re- accommodated without a single casualty. The article also mentions the setting up of complaints Tribunals being set up in 1,200 reception areas and in the two months of their existence 10,000 complaints had been dealt with.

Saturday, November 4th (page 6)

Abbots Bromley

School as Usual.

This article discusses the opening of schools as normal for children from the village up to the age of 11 years, and also the evacuated children Manchester. This had been made possible due to the re-opening of the boy's school. The senior children were being educated in Uttoxeter. The article also mentions that a few of the evacuees had returned to their homes but the majority had adapted themselves to country life. Several boys had joined the church choir.

Saturday, November 4th (page 6)

Kingston

Women's Institute.

This article discusses the talk given by Mrs Barnes a Manchester school mistress on evacuation in which she praised the hospitality accorded to the evacuees in this district.

Saturday, November 11TH (page 7)

Births in Billets

This article discusses the talk given to the House of Commons on the evacuation of mothers and children to their billets in rural areas. The article discusses the increase of 3,500 to the number of evacuees due to births during exile. The article also mentions the stories of dirty children suffering from infectious diseases who had been sent to their new homes and how refreshing it was to find that there had not been a widespread epidemic, and that these diseases were lower in this period than they were in a similar period last year.

Saturday, November 18th (page 6)

Leek

Teachers Sub-Association Formed

As the outcome of a recent social arranged by the Leek and Manchester teachers it has been decided to form a sub-association of the Leek Teachers Association. The evacuated children from Manchester are in the charge of their teachers in Leek.

Saturday, November 18th (page 7)

Public Health Committee

Provision for Evacuees

This article discusses a report that under the Government evacuation scheme 1,200 mothers and 800 children under five and 7,000 children had come into the county area. As a result the Education Committee had decided to open up 22 school clinics. It had become necessary to make arrangements for maternity and child welfare and one new combined school clinic and child welfare centre had been established at Ashley and extensions have been arranged at the combined clinics at Cheadle, Tamworth, Audley, Halmerend, Madeley, Kinver, and Uttoxeter.

Saturday, November 25th (page 6)

Burton on Trent

Many Evacuees Return

About 75% of the mothers and children who were evacuated into South Derbyshire from Birmingham and other districts have returned to their homes. Plans are being made for some form of Christmas entertainment for the 400 or so who remain.

Saturday, December 9th (page 8)

Abbots Bromley

For the Children

This article refers to a fur and feather whist drive that was held in the guild hall in aid of funds for the Christmas tree and party for the village children and evacuees. The winners gave back their prizes, which were sold to go back into the fund.

Saturday, December 9th (page 8)

Brentwood

For Christmas Treat.

A whist drive and dance in aid of the fund to provide the schoolchildren with a Christmas treat. The event was staged by the headmaster Mr T. Freshwater and teachers, Mr Freshwater remarked that they not only had the local children to provide for but 30 evacuees.

Saturday, December 23rd (page 6)

Newcastle

Visit to Evacuated Children

This article discusses the arrival of 70 parents whose children had been evacuated from Manchester to the Newcastle rural area. After arriving by excursion train at Newcastle station they were taken by a fleet of coaches and cars, arranged by the Women's Voluntary Service. They were transported to Audley, Madeley, Keele, Whitmore, Ashley, and Woore to spend a few hours with their children who they had not seen since the beginning of the war, they were laden with gifts of all description.

Saturday, December 23rd (page 6)

Uttoxeter

Evacuees Return Home

This article discusses the return home of between 50 and 60 of the Withington (Manchester) High School girls who had been evacuated to Uttoxeter. They left from Uttoxeter railway station, most accompanied by their hosts or hostesses. The majority will not return as arrangements have been made to re-open their own school and they were all united in their praise for the hospitality extended to them during their stay.

Saturday, December 30th (page 6)

Burton-on-Trent

School Evacuees go Home.

This article refers to the return home to Birmingham of 400 King Edward school boys who have been evacuees in Repton since the beginning of the war. The Birmingham parents of the boys are contributing to a pool out of which foster-parents in the Repton district are receiving 4s to 5s per week to supplement the Government billet allowance, which is insufficient to meet the needs of growing boys.

Saturday, December 30th (page 6)

Marchington

Evacuees Entertained.

This article refers to a Christmas party held at Marchington Hall for the 60 evacuees from parishes of Marchington and Marchington Woodlands. Many of the Children come from the poorest homes and had never seen the kind of fare provided for them. After tea the evacuees joined the other village children to be taken to see the giant Christmas tree in the hall and later were given gifts by Father Christmas.

Saturday, December 30th (page 6)

Woore

Christmas Party

This article discusses a Christmas party held by the Women's Institute for the children of the village and evacuees. The entertainment was provided by the children and included sketches (one by the evacuees produced by their head-master, Mr. Burton).

Saturday, January 6th 1940 (page 6)

Lichfield

Children Entertained

This article reports on the party held at the Guild Hall for nearly 100 evacuees-last of the 300 children who came from Westbromwich at the outbreak of war. The party took place thanks to the generosity of the Sheriff of Lichfield and the splendid response from citizens, and took the form of a Christmas tea party and tree. During the Proceedings the Mayor of Westbromwich thanked the people of Lichfield for all they had done for the evacuated children, and remarked on how well dressed and contented they seemed. The evening ended with a visit from Father Christmas.

Saturday, January 6th (page 6)

Uttoxeter

Children's Party

This article reports on the fancy dress party held by the Entertainment Committee in the , given by local tradesmen and a case of oranges was donated by Mr. G. F. Bagshaw, M.B.E.

Saturday, January 6th (page 7)

Abbots Bromley

Children's Parties

This article reports on two parties that took place, the first party took place on Saturday afternoon in the Guild Hall. After an enjoyable tea party a cinema show was given by Mr Arthur Brown, over 160 were present including children from the village and evacuees, each received an orange and sweets and a present from Father Christmas. The second party took place on Tuesday when the children of the Parish Church Sunday School, including evacuees who also attend, were entertained by the vicar. The party took place at the school of St. Mary and St. Ann, after tea the children were entertained and each received an orange and sweets.

Saturday, January 6th (page 8)

Alrewas

Children's Party

This article reports on the children's Christmas party about 100 sat down to tea, including the evacuated children who had not returned home for the holidays. The vicars mother presented each child with a gift from under the Christmas tree and each child received sweets and an orange.

Saturday, January 13th (page 6)

Alrewas

Women's Institute

This article reports on a children's Christmas party that was held by the Women's Institute at the Odd fellows Hall. About 42 members and 50 children, including evacuees who had not gone home for Christmas, sat down for a tea party after which the one of the evacuees presented Mrs. Hellaby (president) with a blotter. Each child received an orange and sweets.

Saturday, January 20th (page 6)

Uttoxeter

Few Evacuees Left

Out of over 1,000 evacuees received into Uttoxeter and district, only 357 now remain. The number of Manchester children left in Uttoxeter itself is 67, the remainder being in the villages.

Saturday, February 10th (page 10)

Education in Danger Areas

Government Decision to Reopen Schools

(President of the Board of Education) that the Government had decided that the law cernin these areas. The article goes on to explain how the 400,000 children who had remained had received no schooling for five months due to the dislocation of the education and that this could not continue. The problem created by the evacuation of children from vulnerable areas was well known. About half a million children were not evacuated and of the 735,000 who were no fewer than 43% had returned to their homes. In Yorkshire only 56% of children were evacuated and in Sheffield only 17%. In Glasgow no fewer than 70% of those evacuated had returned; in Aberdeen 75%. Half the evacuated children from Birmingham had returned home. The London figure was better; only 34% had returned.

Saturday, March 9th (page 6)

Denstone

Women's Institute

This article reports on a demonstration of "Stitchery", given by Miss Taylor (a Manchester teacher with evacuated children in the village).

Saturday, March 16th (page 3)

Newcastle Bus Congestion

New Evacuation Scheme

This article reports on the concerns of the effects that a further 500 children would be sent to the rural district. The Rural Councils Association hoped that the new children would not replace the evacuees already in the area. The swapping of one evacuee for another would cause many problems for the country people who had been very good in the way they had received the children, many of whom were then dirty and verminous, with appalling habits, and it would be asking too much for them to get used to other children. The article also discusses the declaration that the village of Betley would not receive any evacuees, as many people's health and homes had suffered as a result of taking in evacuee children. The Committee also hoped that if Roman Catholic were to be evacuated they would be sent to Catholic areas.

Saturday, March 16th (page 7)

Large advert entitled Thank you, Mrs. Ruggles... we want more like you!

This is an appeal by the Minister for Health for new volunteers to join the Roll of those willing to take in evacuees and share the current burden. The picture depicts a boy holding a chick set in a background of aeroplanes flying over a map of England.

Saturday, March 23rd (page 8)

Large advert appealing for help from the Government for evacuees WHO'LL GIVE A PROMISE TO KEEP THIS CHILD SAFE? Young boy smiling against a backdrop of planes over a map of England.