



## Evacuee memories

By Daphne Chamberlain  
**When World War 2 broke out, Mrs Joyce Race - born and brought up in East Finchley - was living where she does now, in Bedford Road.**

Her husband, in the RAF near Cheadle Hulme, had a friend from that area whose mother was wary about taking in evacuees. Which was why she jumped at the chance of putting up Mrs Race and her 18-month-old daughter. ("Better the devil you know.")

They stayed with her for nine months. The little girl was happy, because she was with her mother, but even some aspects of wartime life disturbed her. So what must it have been like for the older evacuee children in the town?

Mrs Race remembers the unplaced children, living in hostel accommodation in a rather beautiful old house. Groups of them were taken round town by an evacuee officer, in the hope of finding billets. "Poor little devils," she says. "They had to hide behind hedges while the officer tried to get someone to take them in."

Most of the local people held the stereotyped view of the children as dirty and lice-ridden.



*Mrs Race's daughter, Carole, c.1943 in Chamberlain Road.*

Mrs. Race was a hairdresser, and she was asked to cut and wash their hair. There certainly were some cases of headlice, but that was hardly surprising.

"Some of the poor little things had had to shelter in the Tube, where most people picked up something. You couldn't help it. Some had had a very rough time. One little boy who wet his bed had been bombed out of his home."

She has been accompanying her son, John, to the Evacuees' Reunions, and is proud of his part in organising this year's commemorations. Will she be at Westminster on September 3rd? "Oh yes, I'm looking forward to that."

## Let the truth be told

By Daphne Chamberlain  
**I heard recently about a brother and sister, both evacuated to Wales - but to different homes. She was quite happy, and kept in touch with her hosts for years. He was desperately unhappy, and eventually ran away.**

Wartime propaganda, still current today, insisted that every child enjoyed a wonderful country holiday, but there were also dreadful cases of neglect and abuse.

Dr. Martin Parsons is compiling an archive of evacuees' own stories - both written and taped - at Reading University.

Whatever your story, it will be appreciated. Please contact Dr. Martin Parsons, PGCE Secondary Course Director, University of Reading, Bulmershe Court, Earley, Reading, RG6 1HY.

THE ARCHER, too, would be very interested to hear from anyone with a story of the evacuation.

## YOUNG ARCHER Pocket Money

By Diana Cormack

**"If it's spending money, why can't I spend it?" a little girl asked her mother when they were out shopping. I don't know what her mother replied, but I found the answers of some East Finchley children interesting when I asked them about their pocket money.**

For a start, there are children who say they don't get pocket money, but it seems that they do sometimes. Others are given different amounts by various members of their families so they don't always have the same to spend, whilst there are those who get a regular amount every week.

It was good to learn that some children earn money by helping round the house, doing jobs like washing up, making their beds, tidying their rooms, hoovering and cleaning shoes. Many of them got money for cleaning cars; a few for schoolwork and for walking the dog or for going to get the papers! There is a lot of saving going on

for sweets, clothes, videos, CDs, going out and for toys like Beanie Babies, Gameboy and Playstation games, Digimons, stickers and other popular playthings.

But saving for the future is also happening, either for holidays soon to happen or far off in time and distance. Luxuries that a jackpot winner in the National Lottery would go for, like expensive cars and mansions with swimming pools are on the list, but all to be shared by the family.

Sharing with the needy and giving money to a variety of charities was not forgotten and there was even one ten year old who was saving to go to university!

## Reunion association

By Daphne Chamberlain  
**Sixty years ago this September, the first of three-and-a-half million British evacuees, most of them children, left their homes in towns and cities all over the country to live with strangers. It was the biggest movement of our population ever seen.**

James Roffey from Camberwell was one of them. In 1995, when the World War 2 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary victory celebrations were being planned, he asked if evacuees could be remembered. The answer was, "Why? There were only a few hundred East Enders."

### Luggage labels

Eventually, he and his brother, and a few others, wearing evacuee-style luggage labels, were allowed to join in the official parade. People in the crowd followed them to the end, asking, "Is there an Evacuees' Association?" The reply to that was, "There will be now."

That ended James Roffey's supposed retirement. To date, the Association already has over 1,200 members. It is entirely self-supporting, though given moral support from the Imperial War Museum and several well-known patrons. The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations on September 3<sup>rd</sup> in Westminster Abbey and Central Hall will cost about £10,000 - all raised by the members' own efforts. Private sponsors are uninterested, and there will be no Government-funded champagne or fireworks.

Local and national media, though, are finally becoming involved. BBC radio is commissioning a series on the evacu-

ation, and there should be extensive coverage of the big day.

Meanwhile, Home Office official John Race, seconded to the Association until September, has been arranging exhibitions and reunions.

### True story

James Roffey was asked recently, "What are the evacuees looking for?" He believes that the answer to that one is "recognition".

The ERA puts people in touch with wartime friends, provides support for those still suffering long-term effects of evacuation, and is committed to telling the true story of a misrepresented episode in our history. Members receive a free monthly newsletter.

For further information, please contact James Roffey at Suite 1, Goodbodys Business Centre, 17, Albert Road, Retford, Notts. DN22 6JD. Tel./ Fax 01777 719800.

## Getting Wired PART 7: Imag-ine

*Imagine you could have THE ARCHER the day it was published, in full colour with clear photos, brought to you independent of any advertising. You could access it anywhere in the world and send it to your friends. With half of East Finchley on the net by the end of the year and free Internet access readily available that may not be such a pipe dream.*

With Tempo's new *screaming.net*, now even off-peak calls are free. If you are looking for a free access provider the main points to check out are the speed and availability of the server. You can compensate by having several, of course, but if you want e-mail you'll not want lots of addresses. Check out with a friend how the e-mail works before committing yourself - make sure it is easy to compose messages off

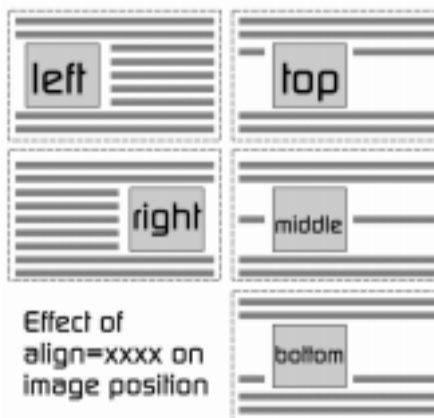
Add align=left to make the image appear left with text wrapping around, similarly right. Illustration gives other alignment options. For anything fancier you'll need to put text and images in cells of a table, more of that another time.

For a professional look, add alt="Your title" to make a title appear while the image is downloading. If you specify the image width and height in pixels (width=xx height=yy) this will allow the browser to start laying out the text while the image is downloading and avoid a bump in the process. Use a paint program to get image dimensions. Normally you would specify actual size, but you can stretch an image into any rectangle.

To add a border, or prevent one, use border="1" or "0". You can use your image as a live link by surrounding with anchor tags the way you would text.

Adding background="imagename" to the BODY tag tiles the image as a background, left to right and top to bottom. Use with care to avoid obscuring text.

If you have questions, please e-mail Tony at [TonyLondon@compuserve.com](mailto:TonyLondon@compuserve.com). or write to *Getting Wired*, The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA. Examples are at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/tonylondon/>



line and that attachments get automatically coded and decoded. Check if free web space is offered. If your friends use the same system that is a real bonus when things go wrong.

To place those images, put a copy in the same folder as your document. Place an IMG tag at the start of the relevant text and refer to the image file by name using the src attribute: <IMG src="imagefilename">

## SCHOOL NEWS By Diana Cormack

### Bishop Douglass

The school raised £619 for the Kosovo Appeal, which was sent to the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, Mill Hill. They have Sisters working in Kosovo and Albania. Sixth Formers organised and ran a sponsored absail in the school. They raised a magnificent £3,800 for the charity "Disabled Sport England".

### Holy Trinity

Children in Years 1, 2 and 3 raised over £300 for the British Heart Foundation by taking part in a Skipathon. Parents were invited to come and see what their children do in Information and Communications Technology. The adults were shown what had been learned and possibly learned something themselves. Chris May, Barnet's Advisory Teacher for ICT, talked about the government's latest ICT policies and parents were given advice on how to promote and encourage the use of computers

### Martin School

Children in the junior school took part in the "One Minute's Noise" campaign organised by the NSPCC. It was intended to encourage youngsters to speak out when they were in need. The minute's noise was to alert adults to the fact that children need to be heard. Children in Year 5 held a sponsored swim to raise funds for their school journey when they are in Year 6. The infant department held its popular International Lunch. The nursery children held a sponsored toddle. See next month's Archer for more details.