



OVERSEAS EVACUATION OF CHILDREN: WORKSHEET ONE

The Overseas Evacuation of Children

Most children were evacuated into countryside areas in Britain, but the Government also made plans to evacuate some children abroad. It was felt that the children would be safer abroad and that there would also be a reduced demand on the limited food supplies in Britain.

The Australian, Canadian, New Zealand, South African and American Governments all offered to take children from Britain. Parents had to apply for a chance of sending their children abroad. In the first two years of the war 200,000 applications were made and 10,000 children were 'sevacuated'.

One of these was Kitty Levey, who recalls;

“After much heart searching our parents decided to let us go though none of us thought for a moment that we would be chosen. When we heard that we were our parents had second thoughts but my sister and I persuaded them to let us go. I had always longed to travel far a field and was very excited at the thought of going to South Africa.”

“We sailed in convoy for a few days then one morning I went on deck to find that we were alone with no other ship in sight. During the voyage children regularly practised lifeboat training they also had much time to play and invent games, to explore the ship and simply relax.”



LEEWW : 2001.1331.4.7 Children on deck at Simonstown, South Africa.



LEEWW : 2000.748.4.2 Evacuee children arrive at Cape Town, South Africa.

- Why do you think Kitty Levey's parents were unsure about letting her go?
- List all the benefits you can think of for evacuating children abroad?
- In school there are certain rules you should follow if you hear the fire alarm. Make a list of instructions for the evacuee children to follow in case of emergencies on board a ship.
- Imagine you are an evacuee on board a ship. Write a postcard home describing the voyage and your experiences on board.
- Design your own evacuation ship. Include measures for protection/safety and for entertainment and relaxing.
- Why was overseas evacuation stopped in September 1940?



OVERSEAS EVACUATION OF CHILDREN: WORKSHEET TWO

Life on Board an Evacuation Ship

For many children the voyage was a great adventure. They spent their days playing games and trying to spot other ships on the horizon. In Module 4 'Overseas Evacuation of Children' there are a number of photographs of evacuees and information on evacuation. Look carefully through the information to help you complete the activities below.

Photo A shows a group of boys onboard a ship whilst being evacuated aboard. Describe the appearance of the boys in detail.



LEEWW : 2001.1331.4.2 Evacuees onboard the Llanstephan Castle



Photo B shows children on board ship having a lot of fun. What are the children doing and how you think the swimming pool was made?

LEEWW : 2000.1331.4.5 Children in swimming pool onboard Llanstephan Castle

Photo C shows another group of children on deck. Explain what this photograph shows.



LEEWW : 2000.1331.4.6 Life jacket drill on the Llanstephan Castle



LEEWW : 2000.1331.4.8 SS Llanstephan Castle

Photo D is of one of the evacuation ships, the SS 'Llanstephan Castle'. Today people can pay thousands of pounds to go on a cruise, one of the most luxurious forms of travel. Find out what life is like on board a modern day cruise. Write a paragraph on comfort, safety and things to do, and explain how different a modern day cruise would be in comparison to the experiences of the 'sevacuees'.

1. A modern day cruise would be far more comfortable because.....
2. There would also be many more things to do.....
3. Safety would be a lot less of a worry because.....