

Second World War Timeline of Evacuation

1938

Plans began to be put into place for the evacuation of children as war looked more likely



September 1938

As tensions in Europe increased, nursery aged and disabled children began to be evacuated from London



1 September 1939

1.5 million evacuees were sent to the countryside from cities



Winter 1939

The bombing raids that people in British cities had expected didn't happen, so many chose to go against advice and bring their children home



Autumn 1940

With war heating up in spring 1940 and the Blitz beginning in September, another wave of evacuation began



June 1944

German flying bomb ('doodlebug') attacks on East and South-East England caused another wave of evacuation from cities



Winter 1944

Many evacuees began to return to cities, but fewer returned to London as it was still vulnerable and had suffered a lot of damage during the Blitz



May-July 1945

The war ended in Europe in May 1945. By the end of July, all evacuees had been brought back.

