

Contents and information for teachers

WW2 Evacuees



WW2 Evacuees cases

Adult's suitcase (large case)

This case is set up as if belonging to an adult - possibly a teacher - who is accompanying evacuated children.

ID Card – Frances W M Orris (facsimilie) – inside and outside



Gas mask, leather gas mask case (damaged) with canvas carry bag



The gas mask is a modern rubber interpretation intended for role-play, not a replica. **WARNING** Real gas masks contain asbestos. If a child brings one in from home it should NOT be used, rather return it to the parent.

Glasses and case



Curling tongs



Largely unchanged from Victorian times, electric tongs were not common until after WW2.

Leather purse with 2 stamps and 3 coins - a shilling (12d worth 5p) thr'pence (3d worth 1.25p) and a penny (1d worth 0.41p).

Since letters were the only way most people could keep in touch with distant loved ones – few telephones and **no** mobiles - stamps were more important than today.

Pupils could write letters home as if they are evacuees or research who the kings on the stamps and coins are or research how much things like a loaf of bread would cost.



Bakelite torch (repaired – fragile)

Such an item would be invaluable during the blackout when streetlamps were switched off and windows had to be blacked-out to prevent enemy aircraft detecting built-up areas.



Stoneware bedwarmer

Just like a hot water bottle, this would be filled with hot water. Although it looks like it may be made of aluminium it is, in fact, ceramic.



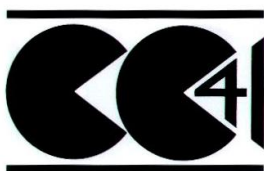
Child's potty

Although packed in the large suitcase, (because it's too large for the small case), this small potty was for a child. Indoor toilets were still quite rare and the blackout made visiting an outdoor one after dark even less inviting than normal, hence these were placed under many children's (and adult's) beds.



Rationing and make do and mend

Rationing applied to more than just food. A huge amount of fabric was needed for forces uniforms. The utility mark, CC41, was stamped or incised onto all items that were made to government specifications. These were developed for furniture as well as other things and only furniture that used those specifications could be produced in British factories. Rules such as boys under 13 only wearing short trousers were also introduced.



Dried milk tin, dried egg tin and Ministry of Food dried egg recipe leaflet (facsimile) and rabbit jelly/blancmange mould



Powdered milk was fortified to improve infant health. Leaflets, such as the one shown helped people create nutritional meals despite rationing. Note that the dried eggs are from USA who supported Britain throughout the war with such imports.

Milk puddings may not have been so appetising at the time, as they would be made with powdered milk and use very little sugar!



Knitting items - Beehive wool holder with wool, knitting needle cases, needles and knitting pattern booklet

NB the long rectangular red bakerlite knitting case is packed in the girl's suitcase as there is not enough room for it to go in the adults' case.

Clothes rationing meant handicrafts were needed to supplement everyone's wardrobe. Old, worn knitted garments would be unravelled and re-knitted into other garments. Today we would call this recycling, but we certainly do not carry this through to the extent everyone did in wartime. This was, of course, partially due to the fact it was law, but also due to the desire to support the war effort in every way possible.



The small double-ended knitting needles in the leather case are sock needles. Socks were knitted not just for family members, but also for men fighting abroad. Pupils may be amused by the idea of knitted underwear (the knitting pattern booklet includes patterns for a pair of ladies knickers and a vest) however this may have been the only way to obtain such items for quickly growing children!

Beret and apron

At the time most women still regularly wore hats of some type and aprons were invaluable for protecting whatever clothing women owned whilst doing housework.



Wedding photograph

Rationing meant that special wedding clothes were not available. Smart clothes were simply adorned with flowers, a corsage or buttonhole. If this picture shows Frances, can pupil's surmise where her husband might be – away fighting probably.



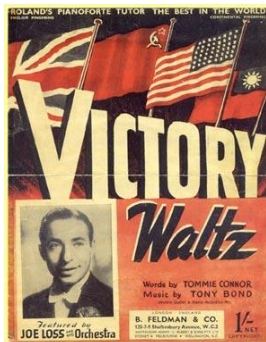
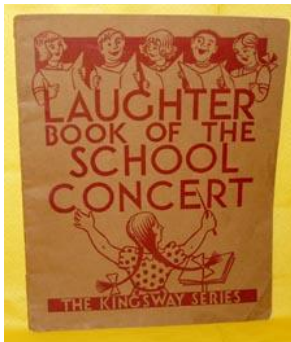
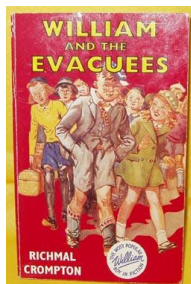
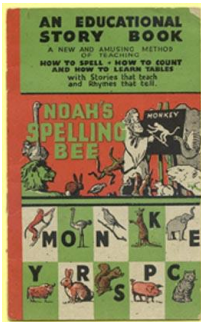
Make do and mend decorative tub

This item is made from old greetings and Christmas cards. Family presents were often homemade following instructions featured in magazines, newspapers and government leaflets which all promoted ways of saving/ recycling resources to support the war effort.



Other items

Books, sheet music etc



You might suggest to children that these items could be used as entertainment for evenings before TV was invented or that Frances might be a teacher who would use these at school. You might even try out one of the performances from the School Concert book with your class.

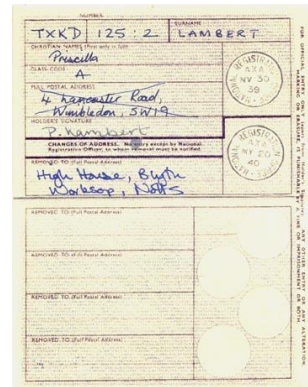
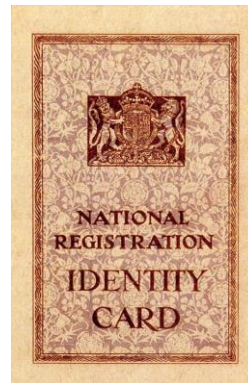
Parlour Game – *Winkle's Wedding*

Parlour games were a popular pastime for both young and old in the days before TV.



Girl's suitcase

ID Card – Priscilla (Scilla) Lambert



Cotton dress, coat, school hat and gas mask



Hairbrush and specs with case



Enamel potty

Indoor toilets were still quite rare and the blackout made visiting an outdoor toilet after dark even less inviting than normal, hence these were placed under many beds.



Blackout torch



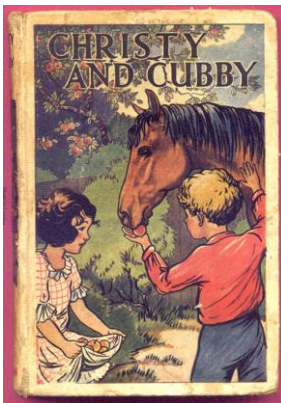
A bakelite torch designed not to show too much because of the danger of air raids.

Purse and coins – Thre'pence, penny, ha'penny and farthing –

The money totals 4¾d (fourpence three farthings). With sweets etc rationed, what might a girl like Scilla spend it on? Possibly stamps to send letters to mum (her postcards each have a 2d stamp on) or Saturday morning matinees at the cinema in the nearest town.



Book *Christy and Cubby* and a homemade doll



The doll is made entirely of, and stuffed with, oddments of fabric and wool. She has knitted socks and underwear and handmade leather shoes.

Yo yo and a Dibs or Snobs game



The Dibs/Snobs game has been played all over the world for centuries under many different names. In Britain this form was popular from 1940s to 1960s.

Children could research the rules of the game by questioning adults.

Tin of ration sweets



Fabric pouch containing French knitting items – converted cotton reel, crochet hook and wool



Entertainment at home was limited to listening to the radio or amusing oneself, so craft pastimes such as this were popular. This also illustrates both the necessity for home-made items, given the scarcity of materials and the all consuming need to make-do and mend – even for toys.

Customised cigar box



Containing family photos, postcards, birthday cards, ID card and cigarette cards (all shown individually).

Postcards from Mum



Transcripts of the messages from these 3 cards are provided (later in this booklet) along with details of what we know/don't know about Scilla and how we used them to create this collection. The transcripts are intriguing and we hope you will share them with pupils.

Birthday Cards x 2



One from Grandad and one from Auntie Anne & Auntie Min

Children could write letters back to Mum/ Grandad/ the Aunties as if from Scilla. Are they having a good time? Are they missing home/ family? Would they say if they were?

Family photos x 3



All mementos of home and family.

Assorted cigarette cards x 8

Cigarette companies included these in cigarette packets. People (mainly children) attempted to collect whole sets, swapping duplicates for cards they were missing. They could also be used in a game called 'Flickers' where cards were flicked to try and cover, and thereby win, an opponent's card.



Boy's suitcase

ID Card - Walter Baker



Boy's jacket, short trousers, handknitted pullover and balaclava helmet and a school cap



Gas mask

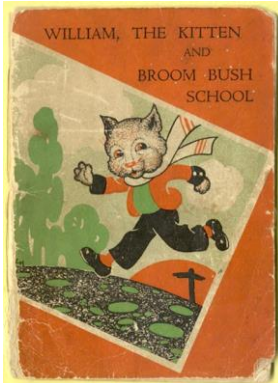


Night light **FRAGILE**

This bakelite lamp was designed for blackout conditions and was probably used for reading in bed



The Scout comic- fragile and a book **William, the Kitten and Broom Bush School**



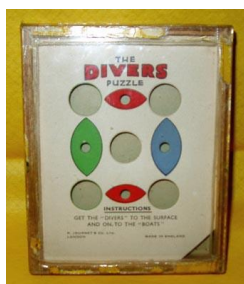
Tin of ration sweets and a tin containing marbles

The tin is from a Christmas gift of chocolate, often given to servicemen, dated 1943 – perhaps passed on to Walter by his father or an uncle.



Games – Vacation and The Divers Puzzle

Featuring familiar situations for WW2 evacuees.



Assorted cigarette cards x 14



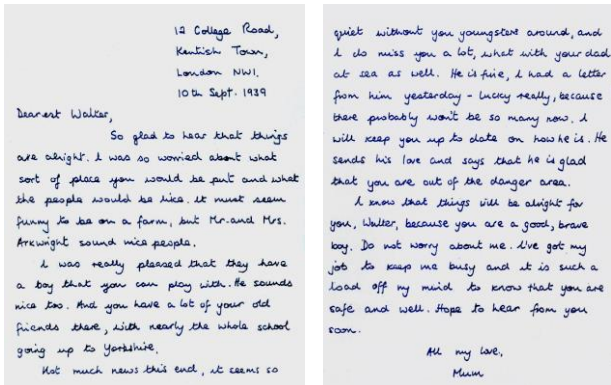
Produced by cigarette companies and included in cigarette packets, these were released in sets on many subjects. This collection includes two from the 'Air Raid Precautions' set and 2 from 'Our King and Queen' featuring King George VII and Queen Elizabeth (our Queen's parents) who ruled throughout WW2. People (mainly children) attempted to collect whole sets, swapping duplicates for cards they were missing. They could also be used in a game called 'Flickers' where cards were flicked to try and cover, and thereby win, an opponent's card.

Toys - typical period toy car and a straw stuffed dog



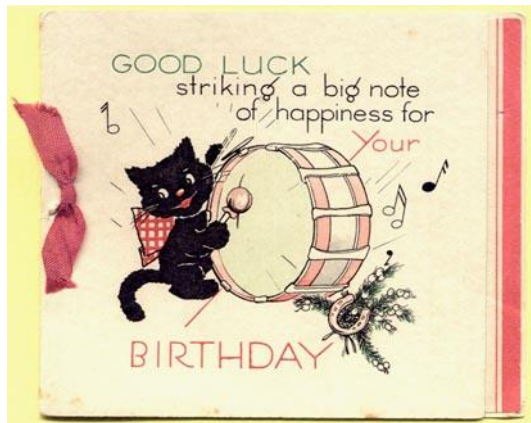
Straw-filled stuffed toy to provide comfort away from home.

Letter from Mum



Children could write letters back to Mum as if from Walter. Are they having a good time? Are they missing home? Would they tell Mum if they were?

Birthday Card



Family photos x 5



All mementos of home and family.