



Source 1

Children about to board a train.

The teddy bears were not on the official list of permitted items for children to take so would have been taken from them.

Source 2

Account by Patricia Berger, an evacuee from London.

"We were...sent to a boarding school in Wales and only went home once from 1941 to 1945. We were very unhappy but agreed never to let our mother know. I have letters I wrote at the beginning: "I hope you are safe as I am and soon the war will be over."

Returning to London after the war the train seemed to be saying I'm going home, I'm going home." instead of "clickety clack clickety clack". It wasn't what I'd dreamed it would be: from 1939-1945 I hadn't been home nor was my mother used to having three children to deal with."



Source 3

Evacuees about to board their train for the countryside.

Notice the lack of parents—they were not allowed onto platforms to wave goodbye to their children.

Source 4

A modern historian on the evacuation program

“Planning for evacuation actually began six years before the start of the war. However, this planning was just estimates of the number of buildings in the countryside that evacuees could be sent to.

When children got off their train, they often had no idea where they were. They were then lined up in a local hall and adults (often forced to take evacuees in) picked children. No background checks were conducted on adults. Thousands of evacuees would come to suffer maltreatment and even sexual abuse from their foster parents.”



Source 5

A governmental poster

Many parents couldn't stand not having their children with them (and many children tried to go back to them).

Posters had to be issued, alongside other propaganda, to convince parents to keep their children out of the cities.



Source 6

A photograph of children being evacuated.

The left side was cut off the photo and the right side was used as propaganda to convince parents to evacuate their children if they hadn't already done so.