

The Colyton Evacuees

The Second World War started in 1939, only 21 years after the end of the First World War. It ended in 1945.

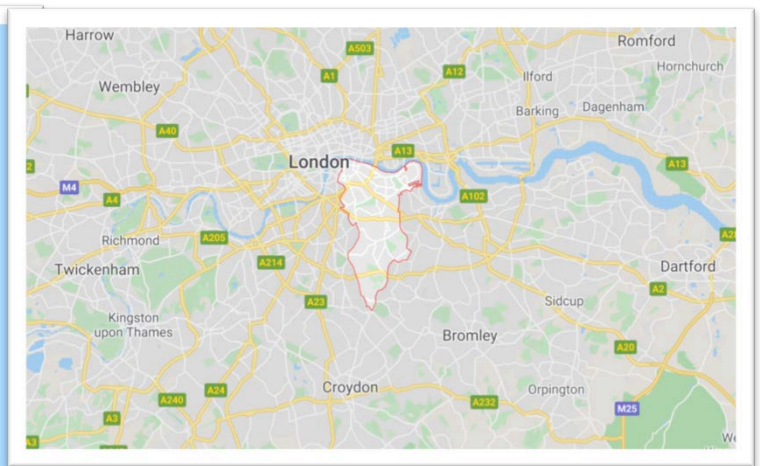
Did you know?

- The Allied countries, led by the United Kingdom, France and the Soviet Union, fought against Germany, Italy and Japan.
- The United States of America joined the Allies in 1941.
- During the war, millions of Jewish people and other groups of people were murdered in what is known as the Holocaust.
- Germany surrendered on 8th May 1945 which was known as Victory in Europe Day (VE Day).
- Japan surrendered on 2nd September 1945 on VJ Day (Victory in Japan Day).
- The Second World War officially ended on VJ Day.
- In May this year we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of VE Day
- In the UK, thousands of children from towns and cities were sent to live in the countryside because it was thought that they would be safer there – rural areas were less likely to be bombed. These children were called 'evacuees'.



Where did the Colyton evacuees come from?

The first group of evacuee children to arrive in Colyton were from St. Jude's Church of England School in Southwark, South London. You can see where London is on the map on the left and on the map on the right you can see Southwark outlined in red.



They walked from their school to Waterloo Station carrying their suitcases, gas masks and sandwiches to eat on the journey. Each child also wore a label with their name, age and home address on them.

Discussion point:

Why do you think children had to wear labels when they were evacuated?