**Please keep this letter for Reference.** *July*, 1940.

## COUNTY BOROUGH OF EASTBOURNE

# EVACUATION SCHEME

TO PARENTS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN. *Arrangements to be made immediately.*

DEAR SIR, OR MADAM,

Parents of School children living in Eastbourne are to have an opportunity of sending their children away to a safer district. The evacuation of School children will begin on Sunday, the 21st July. Whether it will be possible for all the children to go on the one day will depend upon how many there are to go. If there are too many for them all to go on the first day, the rest will go on successive days. In order that trains may be ready to take the children whose parents wish them to go, the Authority must know **at once** how many parents intend to send their children away. If you wish your child to go, please fill in the form sent with this notice, and get your child to bring it to School as soon as you possibly can, and **in any case not later than 9 a.m. on Friday, the 12th July.** Even if you have already been to the School, and said that you wish your child to go, you must fill in the form and return it to his or her School. Please remember—

(1) That only those children whose parents register them at the School, as explained above, will be taken:

(2) That when the children have been taken to safer areas, parents will be expected to leave them there until the Government decide that it is safe for them to return.

The children will go to places in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, which the Government consider are safer than this Town. You are free to decide for yourself whether your child should be sent away to a safer area or not. It is hoped that parents will not decide to keep their children in this Town without thinking very seriously whether such a decision is in the best interests of the children themselves.

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### ARRANGEMENTS TO BE MADE FOR EVACUATION.

1. Children will assemble at places and times, of which they will be told in sufficient time. The children will travel by train and will go in School Parties. They will be accompanied by their Teachers, who will stay with them in the safer areas to which they are sent. When they have been billeted, children will send to their parents the stamped postcard which they should take with them, giving their exact address.
2. HEALTH AND CLEANLINESS.—First impressions are important, and it is essential that the people with whom our children are to be billeted should be impressed by their cleanliness. You should therefore do everything possible to ensure that your child goes away with clean clothes, clean hair and a clean body. Every mother will wish her child to arrive at his new home in a state in which he will be welcomed.

   If your child has sores of any kind or there is anything in connection with your child's health which you think she ought to know, don't hesitate to tell the Nurse or School Doctor. They are only too anxious to help you.
3. CLOTHING.—The following are the principal items which your child should take. They are given for your guidance :—

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| Gas Mask. | Spare stockings or socks. |
| Identity Card. | House shoes or plimsolls. |
| Ration Book. | Warm coat or mackintosh. |
| Food for the day. | Tooth brush. |
| Change of underclothing. | Comb. |
| Night clothes. | Towel. |
| Handkerchiefs. | |

   The child should wear his thickest boots or shoes, and should be warmly clothed.
   The luggage must not be more than the child can carry. Other clothes needed can be sent on later.
   You will be responsible for renewing the child's clothing whilst away.
   Gas masks should be slung over the shoulder and not carried in the luggage.
4. FOOD.—As it may take some hours to reach the destination, every child must be given sufficient food for the day. The following items would make a good meal :—

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| Sandwiches (egg or cheese). | Barley sugar (rather than chocolate). |
| Packets of nuts or seedless raisins. | Apple, orange. |
| Dry biscuits (with little packets of cheese). | **Liquids should NOT be carried by children.** |

5. LUGGAGE.—The most suitable luggage carrier both for the journey and for use away is the rucksack. This is strapped on the back and leaves the arms free. If a rucksack is too expensive a haversack would be cheaper and is a good substitute.

   All property belonging to a child should be marked with the child's name.

   If you have not a haversack, or small suitcase for your child, a pillow case makes a better carrier than a parcel. **Do not load up your child with parcels.**
6. LABELS.—Two labels will be supplied by the School for your child. One should be affixed to his luggage, and the other, in the case of a girl, tied round her neck; and for a boy, fixed to the lapel of his jacket.
7. RATION BOOKS.—Be sure that your child has his ration book with him. If pages of coupons out of his book have been deposited with retailers, ask for their return and pin the pages in the ration book.

   Both the ration book and the identity card should be securely packed in the child's luggage and not given him to hold.
8. MEDICAL AND DENTAL TREATMENT.—Unless I hear from you to the contrary it will be assumed that you give your consent to a Doctor's or Dentist's advice being carried out when your child is away from home.
9. It is realised that you will be anxious about your child, but I can assure you that as far as it is in the power of the Teachers, every care will be taken to look after him or her.

I am, Yours faithfully,

*Town Clerk and Chief Evacuation Officer.*

S & D LTD [9445]

Evacuation advice to parents, 1940