

# Battle of Britain KS2



Porthcurno

## Post Visit activities

### 1. A telegram from a free man.

Imagine that it is 1945 and World War Two is just coming to an end. You are 11 years old and your Dad has been a prisoner of war in Germany for four years. He has just been freed from the prison camp and sends this letter to your Mum.

8<sup>th</sup> April 1945

Dear Florrie and All,

I hope these lines will serve to ease your minds. I am now a free man.

I cannot tell you everything in these lines but I have to hand it to two American tanks who relieved us.

Give my love to the kids and all at home. I hope to be with you in a very short while.

So cheerio, etc, Dad xxxxx

Twelve days later, your Mum receives the telegram below to say that he has now arrived safely home in England.

Charges to pay \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_  
s. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE STAMP  
RECEIVED  
POST OFFICE  
TELEGRAM  
Profiz. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.  
m \_\_\_\_\_  
From \_\_\_\_\_ G.O. TO CHINE 10 To \_\_\_\_\_

Ms J. Paves, 38, Lees Road, Bolea, Bolly  
Co. D.Ko.

Arrived safely see you soon  
Fred.

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form B or C at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form and if possible, the envelope.

What reply would you send? Remember telegrams cost money (20p a word) and you only have £3. How many words can you afford?

## 2. Sharing your school

During the first wave of evacuations to Cornwall in September 1939, many schools used a 'shift' system where the local children went to school from 8 am to 12 pm and the evacuees went to school from 1 pm to 5 pm. What do you think about this? Is it a good or bad arrangement? How easy would it be for evacuee children to 'fit in'?

Later, the local and evacuee children were often taught at the same time. What do you think of this?

You could divide your class into 'evacuees' and 'locals', where the evacuees arrive complete with labels, suitcases and different clothes. How does this make the 'evacuees' feel? How do the 'local' children feel?

### **EVACUEE CHILDREN AND SCHOOL INSTRUCTION**

Many Cornish schools have evacuee children and the question of their instruction raises several problems, all of which, however, are being adequately dealt with.

At Cambourne there are 60 pupils of the Homer-row Roman Catholic Boys School, London, and they will be dealt with on the double-shift system at the local Roman Catholic School.

At Lanner, the girls of Homer-row Roman Catholic School, also numbering 60, are being provided with two rooms in the Council school for whole-time instruction.

All the evacuee elementary school children will be instructed by their own teachers.

Extract from *The Cornishman*, 20<sup>th</sup> September 1939

## 3. World War Two lunches

Ask your students to open up their lunch boxes and remove anything that would not have been available to them during World War Two. Some of the things will come as a surprise to them. Get them to consider rationing in this context.

## 4. Evacuee Postcards

Evacuees were told to write home on postcards with their new addresses as soon as they were settled. Ask your students to write an evacuee postcard. What would they say to their Mum and Dad about their new 'home'? How would they feel?

## 5. Evacuee Suitcases

Evacuees left home with only a small suitcase or bundle for their belongings. Ask students to plan what they would take with them, bearing in mind that electrical toys for children did not exist. It may help if you can get your hands on a small suitcase. Ask students to say why each of the items is important to them.

## 6. Wartime food

Find some of the more bizarre wartime recipes on the internet and have a go at making and tasting them. This could link in with an exploration of rationing.

## 7. Wartime diary

Ask students to write a diary about life in Porthcurno during the war. They could talk about buildings, the risk of bombing, defence, camouflage and everyday life for children in the valley.