

In our studies of World War Two, J7 have written letters they may have sent if they had been evacuees.

Please read Louise from J7a's letter.

Oakely House
Acorn Grove
Scotland
5th September 1939

Dear Mum and Dad,

I have arrived safe and well and I wish you could be here with me. The countryside here is so beautiful and I am happy here. The family I have been placed with are called the Jenkins and they are lovely. Mr Jenkins is very kind but when he is angry he looks like a nightmare in human form. Mrs Jenkins is very nearly obsessed with keeping her house clean so I am always dusting or polishing one thing or another. They both expect me to work hard on their farm and as I write this my hands are growing raw.

I am starting at the village school tomorrow which is called Acorn Grove Primary School, I am very anxious about this but I am looking forward to it.

On the journey here lots of children just sat in corners weeping and many children were sick, it was one of the most awful experiences of my life. When we got off the train some billeting officers came to collect us. By this time the string on my gas mask box was digging into my neck in an excruciating way, but I was too terrified to move it. Myself and four other children were bundled into a car and driven to the near by village hall and were told to stand in a straight line. Inside there was many more children, and when we were all arranged, some of the local villagers came in and started to pick children to take home like we were vegetables for sale in a greengrocers shop. As more and more children were picked I grew worried in case I wasn't and a cold sweat trickled from my forehead. When finally Mr and Mrs Jenkins came in and picked me, though they did take some time pondering over the matter. Once I had been picked I was taken to the Jenkins's car and they drove me back to their little house. On the way there I watched the rolling landscape pass past my window and gazed in awe at all the animals I saw.

The food here is very different and it is taking me some time to get used to it but it is really nice and I am very grateful for it.

I miss you so much and I wish you could be here, but I am managing. Please send a reply as soon as you receive my letter.

Love you lots,

Clara.