

## Evacuation Comments

### **St Paul's School Staff:**

The question of the school, which at that time consisted of thirty-eight boys, caused us great anxiety. In the previous war the school had remained in London. We did not feel that we could assume the responsibility of repeating this.

### **David Hooper, volunteer at St Paul's Cathedral:**

As a youngster I had no idea what was happening or where we were going but we all got onto a special train....and ended up about 30 miles from London.

We were interrupted by the air raid siren, which meant that we all had to go down the road 200 metres to the school shelters which were damp, gloomy tunnels built into the old quarry, we sat waiting for the all-clear siren to sound.

Part way through the war, tragedy struck with the death of our mother. This meant that we three children were left on our own without a parent.

Food rationing, blackouts, gas masks, and identity cards were common. Life was difficult and scary at times.

Perhaps more frightening were the guided weapons, the V2 rockets, which travelled faster than sound and just fell to earth and exploded. The first one to fall on London fell close to us one night at Chiswick, creating a huge explosion and an enormous amount of death and damage.

### **Chorister from the Cathedral:**

A few days before hostilities officially ceased, we were summoned to London, inhabited our hastily de-cobwebbed, shrapnel-scarred, but still standing Choir School in Carter Lane.

