



# Birmingham and Shropshire in WW2

Why were children, like Gwen, evacuated to Shropshire?

# Birmingham - Geography



- Second city
- Manufacturing - factories and important in War effort - e.g. factory in Castle Bromwich (suburb) produced Spitfires
- Heavy bombing began in August 1940
- Around 1,852 tons of bombs were dropped on Birmingham, making it the third most heavily bombed city in the United Kingdom behind London and Liverpool.

# Genre - Historical Fiction

- ▶ What is historical fiction?
- ▶ Read extracts from Alfred's story - someone who lived at the time in Erdington and was a similar age to Gwen
- ▶ Alfred's story of being a school child in Birmingham



# Evacuation from Birmingham

Read Betty's story:

- ▶ [Evacuated from Birmingham in 1940](#)



# Shropshire took evacuees from Liverpool and Birmingham



We know about the evacuation as we have 'sources' - this means information about the events from people at the time - newspaper reports, letters home etc.



# A letter home from Shropshire...

## MY IMPRESSIONS OF LIFE IN THE COUNTRY.

Life in the country impresses me as being very peaceful. One can sit in a field under a shady tree in complete quietness except for the singing of the birds and the rustle of the swaying boughs overhead. In the country there is not the smoky atmosphere of the city and it is much pleasanter to walk in fields with cows mooing and grazing on each side, than to walk along a grey dirty looking street, with litter thrown about the ground, and smoky houses for surroundings. It is lovely to wake up in the morning to feel the cool keen fresh air on one's face. In the autumn it is such fun to gather in the harvests and it is interesting to see the trees changing into their autumn dresses. There are not many heavy motor vehicles, and speeding motor cars in the country and one can walk freely along the country roads without having any cars hooting behind. The countryside population is very scattered but the people work very hard in order to produce vegetables, fruit and all kinds of other foodstuffs which they take to town and sell on market days.

—Sent by **Ellen Howard**, aged 13 years,  
39, Ivy Street, Birkenhead, billeted  
at 37, Orchard Street, Oswestry.

How was life different  
in the countryside?