Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea

Joe Gingell

A collection of memorabilia about the
evacuation of the Gibraltar civilian population 1940-1951

All the proceeds from the publication of this book will be donated entirely to the Gibraltar Alzheimer's & Dementia Society and the Gibraltar Mental Welfare Society

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BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA
Joe Gingell

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A collection of memorabilia about the evacuation of the Gibraltar civilian population 1940-1951

By

Joe Gingell

This documentary book was first published in Gibraltar by Joe Gingell in November 2018.

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The cover picture is a watercolour painting by my nephew Joseph Gingell. It is a depiction of the sinking of the SS Avoceta. © Joseph Gingell

The Avoceta was built in 1923 and owned by the Yeoward Line. It served in the trade of fruits between Liverpool the Canary Islands, Casablanca and Lisbon. During the Second World War, the Avoceta joined convoys sailing from Gibraltar to Liverpool. On 21st July 1940 she sailed from Gibraltar within Convoy HG39 with ships Bactria and Clan MacBean which carried the first group of evacuees to the UK. Avoceta, Bactria and Clan MacBean carried 146,140 and 213 evacuees respectively. On the 17th September the Avoceta left Gibraltar as part of Convoy HG-73 On the 26th September 1941 whilst sailing within Convoy HG-73 she was sunk by U-boat 203. A detailed explanation of the sinking of SS Avoceta is given on page 22.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my sincere thanks and deep appreciation to all who have very kindly helped me with the publication of this documentary book in aid if mental welfare. Without their contributions it would have been impossible for me to fulfil my two aims; to raise monies for the Gibraltar Alzheimer and Dementia Society and the Gibraltar Mental Welfare Society and publish my supplementary book about the evacuation of the Gibraltar civilian population.

To the Ministry of Culture for the grant for the printing.
To the Ministry of Fair Trading for approving the dispensation of a business license to publish my book for charity.
To Mrs Lourdes Avellano for having carried out the enormous task of proofreading my book.
To Gibraltar Alzheimer and Dementia Society and the Gibraltar Mental Welfare Society for their kind cooperation with the publication of my book.
To the following firms, listed in alphabetical order, for their generous financial contributions towards the publication of my book to raise funds for mental welfare:

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I am also grateful to generous contribution made by the Royal Gibraltar Regiment Asssociation and my friend Wilfred Stagnetto.

To all who have helped me in compiling all the evacuation memorabilia contained in the book which range from personal conversations, written stories, newspaper cuttings and family photographs. Acknowledging every single person or historical institution who have contributed with photographs, newspapers and other material related to the evacuation would be totally impossible and I would certainly run the risk of omitting someone.

NOTES ABOUT THE FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

The bulk of the photographs displayed in this documentary book was donated by many family photographs and also helped me in putting names to faces. Considering that photographs are nearly eighty years old it was undoubtedly one of the most arduous tasks with regard to the compilation of information for this documentary book. Some of the photographs appear without names or with a few names as it was impossible to trace all the names of the persons that appear in the photographs despite many efforts and inquiries. In the case of females, the same person may appear in some photographs with their maiden names while in other photographs with their respective married names or both. Whilst every possible effort has been made to record the names as accurately as it is possible, there could be some genuine errors and omissions for which I sincerely apologise. In this respect, I would appreciate very much to be informed of any errors or omissions so that captions of the photographs can be amended accordingly for posterity.

NOTE ON INDEXES

The indexes refer exclusively to the surnames of the evacuees that appear in the caption of photographs and in the text for the purpose of helping readers find members of their families mentioned in the captions of photographs and in the text. They are arranged by chapters in order to assist further in identifying families in relation to where they were evacuated.

Foreword

I am delighted to have been asked to write this foreword to the book by Joe Gingell entitled "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea".

This is the second volume of his work on the evacuation of the people of Gibraltar during the Second World War. It is very encouraging to continue to see Gibraltarians take an active interest in their history and Joe needs no introduction in that respect. I am a firm believer that a greater understanding of our past can only serve to define more clearly the focus on our future.

In 2015 the Government commemorated the 75th anniversary of the evacuation. It was a genuine pleasure to see so many former evacuees participate and enjoy the many different events that were organised throughout the year.

The evacuation was a defining moment in our history and in our evolution as a people. It was a time when our women, children, elderly and infirm, about 16,000 people were physically uprooted from their country and sent away to face the dangers of the wider world outside the narrow confines of their beloved Rock. French Morocco, Madeira, Jamaica, London and Northern Ireland played host to our people at different times. Evacuation at short notice is traumatic at the best of times. In the context of a world at war that human trauma was multiplied further still.

Joe has chosen to capture many of those personal stories in this book. In so doing, he has done Gibraltar a huge service. We have a sacred duty to the evacuees, and to the new generations of Gibraltarians who have followed them, to record their words, their hopes, their disappointments and their impressions of the life-changing experience that was thrust upon them.

I wish Joe every success with his new book and I encourage people to read it. First, because it makes an important contribution to the record of our past and secondly because all proceeds will go to charity.

Dr Joseph Garcia
Deputy Chief Minister

BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND DEEP BLUE SEA

INTRODUCTION

When I published my book "We Thank God and England" I was still left with a substantial amount of material that could not be included could as it would have meant printing two volumes. Printing two volumes would have been more expensive, having to appeal for further financial support, delaying raising of funds for cancer charities for more than a year and in practical terms more difficult to sell. After seeking professional advice, I decided to go ahead with the publication of a first edition and then consider at a later stage the possibility of publishing a second edition with all the material left from the first edition.

The celebration of the 75TH anniversary of the evacuation in 2015 offered me the opportunity to acquire still more information, including, many more family stories and photographs. It took me more than a year to edit and combine all this extra information with all the material left from my first book to publish my second edition about the evacuation.

In my first edition, I published a considerable amount of information, with many family photographs, of how the evacuees experienced the evacuation, all the various aspects of life in London, Madeira, Jamaica Northern Ireland and Tangier and their prolonged repatriation. In this second book, "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea," I have concentrated on individual, family stories blended with the highlights of my first edition to show a continuous flow of the experiences of the evacuees during the whole evacuation.

During my research for this second edition, I was in contact with many associations in Northern Ireland with whom, until very recently, have exchanged additional information about the evacuees. In my research, I found that after more than 70 years, there are still many local historical associations researching about the Gibraltar evacuees in Northern Ireland. This is the reason why readers will notice that there is, proportionally, more information about the evacuees in Northern Ireland than in other destinations.

16,000 Gibraltar evacuees sailed across the Atlantic when many ships were being sunk by enemy submarines. Commodore Creighton, who took the brave decision to repatriate evacuees from Vichy French Morocco to Gibraltar, remarked that if the convoys carrying the Gibraltar evacuees had been attacked, it would have resulted in one of the worst maritime disasters in history. These remarks intrigued me to find out and describe in this book how close the enemy submarines were from attacking the ships carrying the Gibraltar evacuees. I have also included extracts from the minutes of the meetings of the War Office to explain how Ministers decided the fate of the evacuees, why their insistence on transferring evacuees from London to Jamaica and how and why the evacuees opposed and stopped the move. In addition to this information, I have included some references from official sources about how much Spain, assisted Germany during the war. There are also extracts from correspondences between the British Ambassador in Madrid and the British Foreign Office with reference to the British Government's policy that was to be followed in case Spain decided to join the war with Germany. The measures taken by Britain to keep Spain out of the war and the consequences for Gibraltar.

My two editions contain nearly 1,000 surnames names and about 1,000 family photographs. In total, the two editions contain the largest collection of memorabilia about the Gibraltar civilian evacuation. In addition to the subject matter, the book also provides very useful information for those wishing to research family connections. It contains an index with more than six hundred different family surnames to assist finding families mentioned in the book, for family connections or building family trees - with photos.

As with my first book, the reasons for the publication of this second edition are to provide further information about the evacuation, to honour the memories of the evacuation generation and raise money for charities. All the proceeds from this second edition will be donated entirely to the Gibraltar Alzheimer's and Dementia Society and the Gibraltar Mental Welfare Society.

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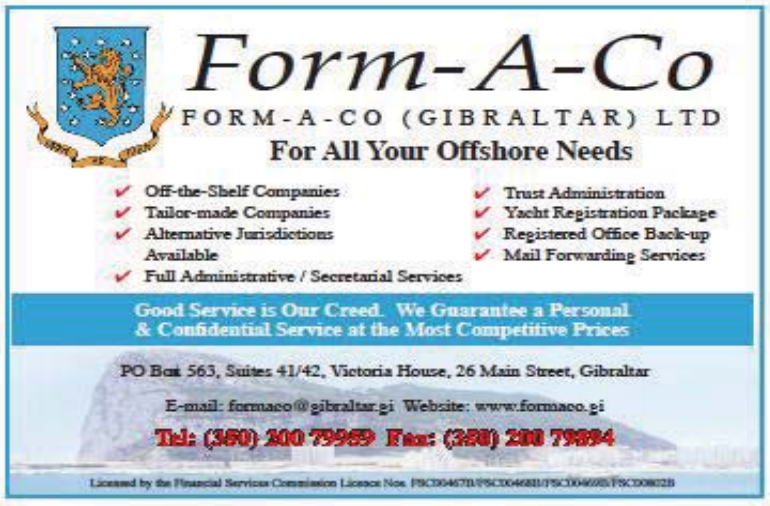
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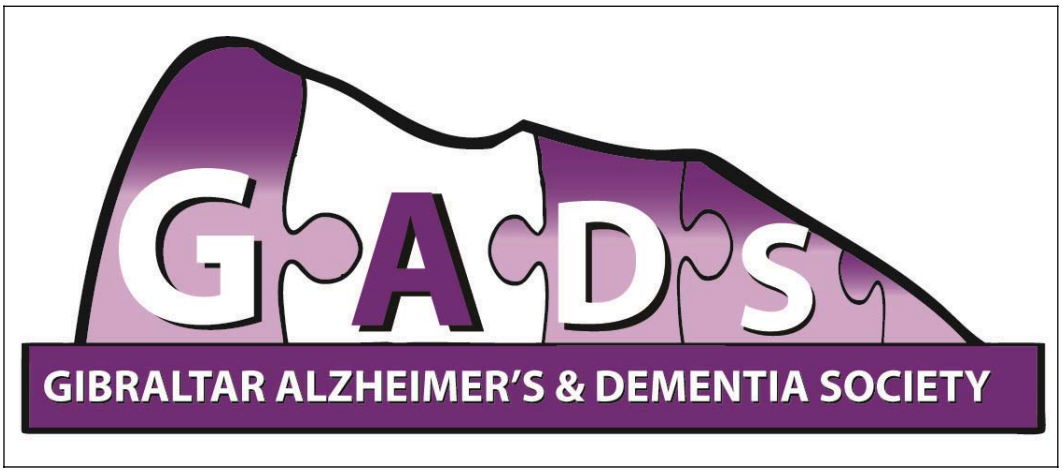
DEDICATIONS

I dedicate this book, in loving memory of my brother Romualdo and my nephew William. I also wish to dedicate it to my good friend Ivan.



CHAPTER ONE

THE EVACUATION

This chapter describes in a very approximate chronological order the sequence of events which brought about the evacuation of the bulk of the Gibraltar civilian population from 1940 to 1942.

The question of the evacuation of the Gibraltar civilian population was first mentioned in a Cabinet meeting during the Czechoslovakia crisis in 1938. General Sir Edmond Ironside, then Governor of Gibraltar and later Chief of the Imperial General Staff, pointed out that apart from the difficulty of safeguarding the population, its presence would considerably hamper the garrison, would take up valuable accommodation below ground which would be required for military personnel and stores, would be bad from the point of view of morale and would complicate the feeding problem in case the Fortress was besieged.

General Sir Edmond Ironside Governor of Gibraltar from August 1938 to July 1939. Photo Wikipedia Free Encyclopaedia.

When the war started in September 1939, the population of Gibraltar was about 22,000. Experts then foresaw Gibraltar's military role similar to that undertaken during the First World War. It was still thought that the main theatre of conflict would take place in northwest Europe and therefore very light defences were installed at Gibraltar. The decision whether to evacuate the civilian population was left in abeyance. Despite this, some administrative and logistical preparations were made in case there was a need to evacuate the bulk of the civilian population. Studies were also being made as to where the civilian population would be taken in case of an evacuation.

At the end of August 1939, the Colonial Secretary, Mr Alex Beattie, wrote to Mr Peter Russo, Chairman of the City Council, on the subject of a scheme for the evacuation of the civilian population. He said that as members of the City Council they were aware, that at that moment, the most serious eventuality likely to necessitate the evacuation of the Gibraltar civilian population was a hostile Spain: otherwise it was considered unlikely that such a measure should be enforced. He told Mr Russo that a military officer had already discussed with the French authorities the possibility of a site to accommodate a maximum of 13,000 Gibraltarian evacuees. Although the French authorities were not keen on this idea, they were prepared to provide accommodation for a few thousand and that it had also been suggested of the possibility of an alternative scheme in Algeria. Mr Beattie, requested Mr Russo that in the meantime a committee from the City Council be selected to make the preparations for an evacuation scheme. In January 1940, Mr Russo wrote to the Colonial Secretary with the results of the survey carried out with plans for an evacuation scheme. The plans remained dormant during the early stages of hostilities in Europe and having very little impact on Gibraltar's role in the war.

As from April 1940 onwards, the war started to spread rapidly to other areas of conflict. On the 8th April, Denmark was overrun, on the 10th May the Low Countries were invaded and after four days Holland surrendered. By the end of April, the War Office had already considered the question of the withdrawal of Service families from Gibraltar which at the time consisted of 1,400. In this context, the Foreign Office's views were that the Service families in Gibraltar could be evacuated to Tangier. However, it was later thought that, if Italy were to come into the war Spain might become involved simultaneously, in which case, Tangier would become a zone of operations. With regard to families in Gibraltar it was envisaged that these should be sent to French Morocco.

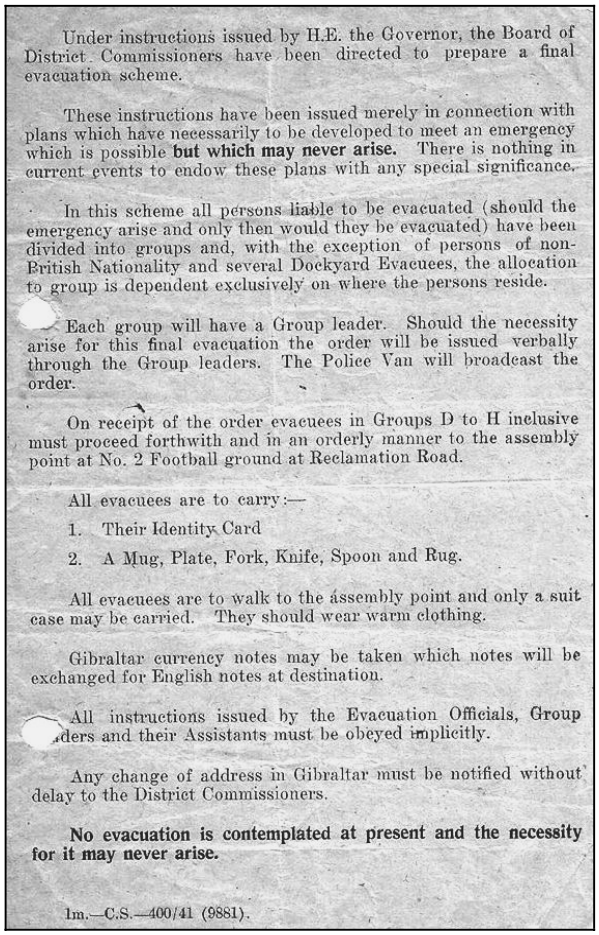
At the end of April 1940, the War Cabinet had already considered the evacuation of families of service personnel from Malta, Gibraltar and of the surplus civilian population of Gibraltar. However, no action was to be taken until orders were given by the War Cabinet. Although, by then, Spain had officially declared a policy of neutrality, there was no guarantee about her intentions with regard to Gibraltar. At the time, when definite orders were awaited from the War Office, General Liddell, was in fact saying to all concerned the same as his predecessor, General Ironside when the garrison in 1938 stood at 8,000 troops.

Given this assessment in a possible war scenario, hasty preparations were made for an imminent evacuation process of all non combatants, civilian population which was then estimated to be in the region of 16,000.

These preparations were carried out amidst some misunderstanding between London and Gibraltar with regard to the actual timing of the evacuation.

The question of where to evacuate the population still remained to be decided. Many places were considered which included the West Indies, the then Union of South Africa and Canada. Even Spain was approached, through its consulate in Gibraltar, but Franco turned down the idea to accept the Gibraltar evacuees. In the end, it was finally decided to take the evacuees to French Morocco because of its proximity. A delegation from Gibraltar went across to French Morocco to assess the facilities being prepared for the Gibraltar evacuees. By that time the war was already taking a turn for the worse, both for Britain and France. The Germans were advancing very rapidly with their blitzkrieg tactics, pushing both the French and British troops towards Dunkirk.

Below is one of the first notices related to the evacuation of the civilian population:



Under instructions issued by H.E. the Governor, the Board of District Commissioners have been directed to prepare a final evacuation scheme.

These instructions have been issued merely in connection with plans which have necessarily to be developed to meet an emergency which is possible **but which may never arise.** There is nothing in current events to endow these plans with any special significance.

In this scheme all persons liable to be evacuated (should the emergency arise and only then would they be evacuated) have been divided into groups and, with the exception of persons of non-British Nationality and several Dockyard Evacuees, the allocation to group is dependent exclusively on where the persons reside.

Each group will have a Group leader. Should the necessity arise for this final evacuation the order will be issued verbally through the Group leaders. The Police Van will broadcast the order.

On receipt of the order evacuees in Groups D to H inclusive must proceed forthwith and in an orderly manner to the assembly point at No. 2 Football ground at Reclamation Road.

All evacuees are to carry:—

1. Their Identity Card
2. A Mug, Plate, Fork, Knife, Spoon and Rug.

All evacuees are to walk to the assembly point and only a suit case may be carried. They should wear warm clothing.

Gibraltar currency notes may be taken which notes will be exchanged for English notes at destination.

All instructions issued by the Evacuation Officials, Group Leaders and their Assistants must be obeyed implicitly.

Any change of address in Gibraltar must be notified without delay to the District Commissioners.

No evacuation is contemplated at present and the necessity for it may never arise.

1m.—C.S.—400/41 (9881).

Gibraltar Government Archives.

At a meeting of the War Cabinet held on 7th May 1940, it was recommended that if the situation vis-a-vis Italy should become serious, the question of providing shipping for the evacuation of families in Malta and Gibraltar should be considered; with priority being given to the requirements of those in Gibraltar.

On the 16th May 1940, an emergency meeting of the French High Command was called at the Quai d'Orsay in Paris. The German army had broken through the French lines on the River Meuse at Sedan and elsewhere. The previous evening, prior to this emergency meeting, the French Prime Minister, M. Reynaud, phoned the British Prime Minister, Mr Churchill, to tell him that France had lost the war.

It is interesting to know that, on that same day, the War Office gave the Governor of Gibraltar the go ahead to evacuate Gibraltar's civilian population. On that same day, Thursday 16th May 1940, British troops withdrew from Louvain, west of Brussels, as troops of the German 6th Army broke through the Allied Dyle line in Belgium. By the 17th May 1940 Germans pushed further into N-E France. General Maurice Gustave Gamelin, who had put much hope on the Maginot Line, gave allied troops 'conquer or die' orders but the operation failed dismally. General Charles de Gaulle, with his newly raised 4th armoured division, launched a counterattack near Laon which was easily repulsed by the German forces. It is interesting to note that, despite the desperate war scenario in France, a series of Government notices were issued warning of an eminent evacuation of Gibraltar civilians to French Morocco.

In Britain there were also evacuation arrangements running, almost in parallel, to those in Gibraltar. However, the arrangements for the implementation of the scheme in the UK did not go according to plans. In summer 1939, the government began to promulgate its plans, but the demand was overestimated and only half of all school-aged children were moved from the urban areas instead of the expected 80%. The evacuation scheme in the UK was finally introduced on the 1st September 1939, two days before the declaration of war. With the uncertainties over registering for evacuation, the actual movement was also disjointed. Evacuees were gathered into groups and put on the first available train, regardless of its destination. School and family groups were further separated, in the transfer from mainline trains to more local transport with reception areas becoming overwhelmed. Other reception areas received more than the expected number of evacuees and others found themselves receiving people from a priority group or social class different to the one they had prepared for. Almost 3.75 million people were displaced in Britain with

around a third of the entire population was experiencing some effects of the evacuation.

Children boarding the train in London for evacuation to safer places. Photo the History Place.

A further two million or so of the more wealthy individuals evacuated 'privately', some settling in hotels for the duration and several thousand travelling to Canada, the United States, South Africa, Australia or the Caribbean.

In Gibraltar, responding to evacuation orders received from the War Office on the 16th May 1940, the Governor of Gibraltar sent a telegram to the War Cabinet stating that he was unwilling to carry out the evacuation scheme. His main reason was that the evacuation of civilians from Gibraltar would create a most-unfavourable impression on Spanish opinion, and that it should not, therefore, be carried out unless it was certain that Spain would not be hostile. The matter was discussed, inter-departmentally, at the War Cabinet. It was thought that it would be possible to carry out the scheme after the war had broken out with Italy, but that this would put a considerable strain on the Navy. The Foreign Office had taken the view that the effect of the evacuation on Spanish opinion ought not to be serious. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs said that, unless there was a revolution, he saw no reason to think that Spain would come into the war. He doubted whether the evacuation of certain civilians from Gibraltar would alter Spanish policy. In further discussions in the War Cabinet, the view was expressed that the evacuation of civilians from Gibraltar could properly be represented as a precautionary measure, which was being taken in view of the disturbed situation in the Mediterranean generally, and not as a measure made necessary due to the anxiety over Spain's intentions.

The War Cabinet agreed that the Governor of Gibraltar should be instructed to put into effect the scheme for the evacuation of civilians.

On that same day, instructions were issued by the War Office for the immediate evacuation of British Service families from Gibraltar. The Chief of the Imperial General Staff said that it was essential that compulsory orders were given to evacuate families of British military and official personnel whose presence in the garrisons would be most undesirable in the event of war.

On the 20th May 1940 the first official notice appeared in the Gibraltar Chronicle referring to instructions received by the Governor from the War Cabinet for the compulsory evacuation of the Gibraltar civilian population to French Morocco.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE No. 78.

With reference to Government Notice No. 73 of the 16th of May regarding the evacuation of women and children it is hereby notified for information that His Excellency the Governor has received instructions from the War Cabinet that owing to the international situation this evacuation should take place forthwith upon shipping becoming available.

2. His Excellency has issued an Order under the Defence Regulations making this evacuation compulsory at his discretion.

3. The evacuation will take place under the scheme prepared by the City Council, and under which arrangements have been made in all districts through their respective Air Raid Wardens.

4. His Excellency has ordered that in the first instance all families within Group A of the scheme, with the exception of families in which there are no children below the age of 14 years shall be evacuated by the "Mohamed-Ali-Kebir" which has been chartered by His Majesty's Government for the purpose. With the kind cooperation of our gallant Allies arrangements have been made for their reception and accommodation in French Morocco. Further instructions will be issued by the City Council through the Air Raid Wardens.

5. His Excellency fully realises that these steps will cause a great deal of anxiety and inconvenience, but they are being taken in the interests of the persons concerned and in those of the Fortress. He feels sure that all citizens will abide loyally by his instructions, and cheerfully endure [illegible]ich sacrifices as they are called upon to make towards the successful pro[illegible]ecution of the War.

[illegible]olonial Secretary's Office,
[illegible]. Gibraltar, 20th May, 1940.
(M.P. No. 14/39).

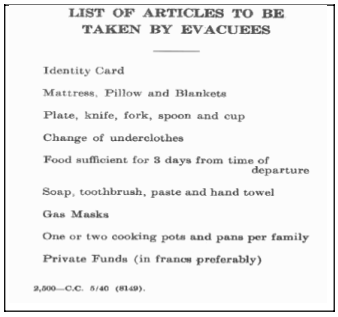
By Command,
ALEXR. E. BRATTIE,
Colonial Secretary.

Gibraltar Chronicle cutting about evacuation to French Morocco.

Evacuees ready to embark on the Mohamed-Ali el-Kebir. Photo Gibraltar Old Photos 2

As from the 22nd May to the 24th June 1940, the Mohamed-Ali-el- Kebir made twelve trips to Casablanca carrying a total of 12,044 evacuees.

1038 evacuees travelled privately to Casablanca on the **Gibel Dersa II**. Service families left on the **Empress of Australia** and **Devonshire** for the UK on the 21st and 22nd May 1940 respectively. Below is a list of items required by the evacuees on registration for evacuation to French Morocco.



LIST OF ARTICLES TO BE TAKEN BY EVACUEES

Identity Card
Mattress, Pillow and Blankets
Plate, knife, fork, spoon and cup
Change of underclothes
Food sufficient for 3 days from time of departure
Soap, toothbrush, paste and hand towel
Gas Masks
One or two cooking pots and pans per family
Private Funds (in francs preferably)

2,500—C.C. 5/40 (8149).

Copy of list of items by Mr M Galliano.

On the 22nd May 1940, the Foreign Secretary said that he had received a telegram from the British Ambassador in Madrid to say that the Spanish Foreign Minister was aware of the British Government's decision to evacuate civilians from Gibraltar and that he was in no way concerned. The Spanish Foreign Minister agreed that Gibraltar had been unhealthily crowded for some time and offered to give any assistance that might be useful, for example, the granting of collective visas.

On the 25th May 1940, the War Cabinet studied the consequences of Germany striving to overthrow Britain's position in Egypt and in the Middle East in concert with Italy and that the immediate effect of a French collapse would be the loss of naval control in the Western Mediterranean. That in such scenario, Italy would be able to concentrate all her strength against Malta, Gibraltar and Egypt, that Malta could probably withstand one serious assault, that Gibraltar could continue to be used as a naval base until Spain became hostile, and that even then, Gibraltar could hold out for 60 days.

In Britain a second evacuation effort of civilians was started after the fall of France. From the 13th to 18th June 1940, around 100,000 British children were evacuated. Efforts were made to remove the vulnerable from coastal towns in southern and eastern England, which were facing German-controlled areas. At the same time some 30,000 refugees arrived in Britain from continental Europe. From the 20th to 24th June 25,000 evacuees arrived from the Channel Islands. By then, the British Government had also introduced the Children's Overseas Reception Board Scheme in the UK to organise the evacuation of children to the Dominions, primarily Canada, as well as South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. The shortage of shipping soon slowed the evacuation of British children. In the end only 2,664 children were moved. About 13,000 children had been privately evacuated overseas.

In Gibraltar, after disembarking at Casablanca, some of the first Gibraltar evacuees were still required to travel for about another hour by train to Rabat where they were found accommodation consisting mainly of old hotels. The evacuation to French Morocco happened so fast that there were concerns expressed by those who were making the necessary arrangements at the receiving centres in Casablanca to accommodate the Gibraltar evacuees. After the normal entry clearance, they travelled by buses to their pre-booked accommodation.

Bosano family in Rabat. In the centre of the picture with glasses is Joseph Bosano. Photo Mrs M Lane.

The Beiso family in Casablanca.
At the back left to right Adelia,Lourdes,Eulemia,sitting in front Mrs Hermina Beiso. Photo Mrs Y Pilkington.

Below are the photographs taken in French Morocco of the Fortunato's family.

Mrs Elena Fortunato in her family's allocated dwelling in French Morocco. Photo Mrs M.Zammitt.

At the back, from left to right Mrs Elena Fortunato, Mrs Josefa Dyer (Mrs Fortunato sister) Mrs Kitty Rocca (Mrs Fortunato and Mrs Dyer sister-in-law) Children standing from left to right: Juanita Rocca, Alice Dyer, Mariluz Rocca, and boy in front Hector Fortunato. Photos Mrs M Zammitt.

Claudio Avellano at studio in Casablanca. Claudio became a very well known sportsman in Gibraltar. Photo Mrs Avellano.

The Brooking children in Casablanca. From left to right Richard, Francis and Gladys Brooking. Photo Mrs Y Zarb.

This is how the Danino sisters described their recollection of events when they were first evacuated to French Morocco and then to Madeira. "As children, we did not know what was going on. We noticed that our parents and grandparents were very attentive to the news on the radio. One day our dad came home to tell us that we had to leave our home and we started to prepare everything in order to embark. We recall taking with us a basket full of boiled eggs to keep the hunger away. We remember that, on arriving at Casablanca, we saw tents with nurses in their uniforms and wearing Red Cross bands around their arms. They were all very kind and helpful. They gave us food and tea. We felt lucky in obtaining adequate accommodation belonging to the Benaim family.

The building, where we were accommodated, had a lift – the first we had seen. Just for fun, we spent a lot of time going up and down the lift. We saw that Casablanca was much bigger than Gibraltar and that most of the people spoke French and sometimes it was difficult to explain at the shops what we wanted. Our dad helped the evacuees with their needs. When we were just settling in better in Casablanca, all of a sudden our dad came to tell us that the French had turned against the British and we had to return to Gibraltar.

Louis Pereira explained that when he arrived with his family in Casablanca, they were accommodated at the Hotel De Lorraine, for just a week, until they were found furnished accommodation with other Gibraltar families. He said that a school for boys was opened by the Christian Brothers in a hall in a Catholic church. About a month later they were told that they had to leave within 24 hours and go back to Gibraltar. He described the chaotic situation when they had to embark on filthy ships. Going through the customs, his mother was searched and was found to have quite an amount of money of French currency and was not allowed to go through. He said that he did not know how but then they managed to get through another door within the customs building and then proceeded to boarded a ship to take them back to Gibraltar. The ships had no cabins or sanitary facilities and they were taken to the ship's hold.

The capitulation of France and her armistice agreement with Germany halted all the evacuation arrangements and altered everything that had been agreed to in order to accommodate the Gibraltar evacuees in French Morocco. Gibraltar evacuees in French Morocco were de facto, from then on living in a Vichy Government's controlled territory making their presence unsustainable. To make matters still worse, there were also news arriving via Reuters, of German troops arriving on the Franco-Spanish border at Hendaye. Spain, by then, had also occupied the international zone of Tangier. In Gibraltar there were a few incidents of French aircraft being shot down, from the points near the Spanish border, when trying to land to seek political asylum.

On the 3rd July, the big bombshell came with the destruction of the French fleet at Oran by the Royal Navy's task force which had sailed from Gibraltar.

Two days later Gibraltar was to suffer the first military action of the Second World War. Vichy Government aircraft bombed Gibraltar in retaliation for the Oran action.

Prior to the Oran incident, the Governor of Gibraltar was already warning the War Office that things could get nasty for the Gibraltar evacuees in French Morocco in view of the latest developments, consequent on the armistice agreement between France and Germany.

On the same day of the Oran incident, the Governor again warned the War Office about the possibility of having to remove the evacuees from French Morocco and take them somewhere else. By then, the British Government was already determined to avoid the evacuees being sent to Britain.

The port of Casablanca circa Second World War. Photo Moroccan historian.

Commodore Kenelm Creighton, a convoy commanding officer, received instructions from the Admiralty to repatriate to Casablanca 15,000 French troops with whom he had very little sympathy for lacking the courage to continue fighting alongside their British comrades after being evacuated from Dunkirk and who had instead decided to fight on the side of the Vichy Government.

The Admiralty policy was that taking the French troops to France was not a choice since her ports were already either controlled by the Germans or within easy reach of their bombers.

Rear-Admiral Sir Kenelm Creighton Photo:Convoy Commodore.

The nearest French territory to which they could be repatriated was Casablanca. The fifteen ships, carrying the French troops were attached to another convoy of twenty-four bound for Gibraltar.

About midway to Casablanca, Commodore Creighton heard about the clash between the Royal Navy and French Fleet at Oran and signalled every ship in the convoy to lock the radio rooms to prevent the spreading of news among the French troops who, he feared, could have easily seized the ships since they were still carrying their rifles and rounds of ammunitions. When off Cape St. Vincent, the convoys separated with twenty four of the attached ships proceeding to Gibraltar. The fifteen freighters with French troops, headed towards what he described in his account as an unfriendly port and a very uncertain reception. Before the destroyer escort parted for Gibraltar from the fifteen freighters, Commodore Creighton asked the destroyer captain to pass a message to Admiral Sir Dudley North on reaching Gibraltar. The message requested instructions as to whether they were to proceed to Casablanca or change course to Gibraltar in view of the threatening situation occasioned by the Oran affair and the dangerous attitude of the Vichy authorities. He also mentioned in his message that the French might well detain the fifteen ships at Casablanca and reckoned that the fact that the escorts had been withdrawn was proof enough of the explosive situation in French Morocco. In the absence of a reply from Admiral North he maintained his course in accordance with his original orders and sailed to Casablanca.

On the 8th July the convoy reached the port of Casablanca. Just as it was approaching the actual entrance to the port, two French destroyers circled the convoy signalling to the convoy "Stop instantly or you will be sunk." Then, two French submarines surfaced closely while a squadron of light bombers roared over almost at masthead height. A party of three sailors, armed with Tommy guns and accompanied by a French officer boarded the ship where Commodore Creighton was in command. Commodore Creighton objected very strongly to the way the French officer was handling the situation and told him that the convoy had come from England, at considerable risk to the British seamen, in order to bring the French soldiers and sailors who did not want to carry on fighting. As far as he (Commodore Creighton) was concerned all he wanted was to disembark the troops and get his ships away. The French officer replied by bumbling words of "Assassination criminel des matelots francais a Oran." Shortly after berthing, the French troops began to disembark on the quay where coloured French colonial troops stood, with their rifles at the order position, standing to attention flanking the roadway.

French Troops arriving at Casablanca. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

Commodore Creighton observed that no sooner had the repatriated soldiers disappeared when a mass of civilians poured through the dock gates and spilled out across the road leading to the jetty. Commodore Creighton witnessed how the black troops forced these civilians forward with rifle butts. As they came closer, he noticed that they were Europeans; men, women and children of all ages, stumbling along the baking, dusty quayside. Commodore Creighton said that he saw old men and women collapsing in the heat; young mothers trying to shield their babies from the sun, clutching battered suitcases and parcels roughly tied with strings. He described the sight of these thousands of people as pathetic.

When Commodore Creighton was about to go down the gangway to find exactly who the civilians were, a French officer came on board and handed him a message. This message was from the Vichy admiral in charge of the port and was blunt and brief. The message was that all personnel and the ships were under arrest and would remain so until each ship had embarked 1,000 of the people who were now squatting miserably on the quays. The Commodore told the French officer that he wanted to see the French admiral to explain to him that his ships were totally unfit to put to sea with these civilians. But before doing so, he went to meet first with the British Consul, who was then packed to leave as Vichy France had broken diplomatic relations with Britain over the Oran incident. After some hesitation, the British Consul agreed to accompany the Commodore to explain to the French admiral the difficulty the Commodore had with shipping in transporting the evacuees.

had with shipping in transporting the evacuees. The Admiral had flatly refused to see Commodore Creighton as he did consistently through the whole incident. This, the Commodore said, added insult to the vile and discourteous behaviour of the French towards the Gibraltarians and all those who had risked their lives to repatriate the 15,000 Frenchmen. With the assistance of a more considerate French officer, who spoke English, Commodore Creighton emphasised that the ships' stores were exhausted and that the galleys designed to cater for the score or so of officers and crew were quite inadequate for cooking meals for 1,000 people. Furthermore, the field kitchens used by the French troops had been taken ashore when they landed. On top of this, there were no lavatories apart from the few for officers and crew. The holds themselves were in a nauseating state and the smell was indescribable. The troops had hardly poked their noses out from below during their fourteen days at sea and the highly insanitary state in which they had left them would be very dangerous to the health of the evacuees, particularly the small children. In addition to these problems, the only access to the holds was by vertical iron ladders from the upper deck which were adequate for able-bodied troops, but were quite impossible for decrepit old people, invalids and children.

After a while, the British Consul came out of the meeting with the French Admiral's answer. The answer was that Commodore Creighton and his ships would remain under arrest in Casablanca until all the Gibraltarian evacuees were embarked. Seething with anger the Commodore returned to his ship, the **Balfe.** By then, the Gibraltar evacuees, who had no food or water with them, were suffering increasing distress from the sun blazing down on them from a clear sky. Nearby, there were some empty cargo sheds, and a message was sent to the French Admiral asking for the Gibraltar evacuees to be allowed to go into the sheds until the holds of the ships were cleaned out. This request was met with a blunt refusal. As the **Balfe** was taking up an important berth in the port, the French wanted to load her up with Gibraltar evacuees and get her away first. The Commodore refused to agree to this and said that he would continue to remain there until all the ships had sailed.

While these events were taking place in French Morocco, the Governor of Gibraltar kept warning the War Office of the explosive situation in French Morocco and he requested a prompt decision, which excluded Gibraltar, as to where the evacuees were going to be transferred. In a later message to the War Office, the Governor urged the British Government to accept the responsibility for absorbing the Gibraltar evacuees in the UK. The War Office was at the same time, debating what policy to adopt with regard to the Gibraltar evacuees. On the same day that the convoy reached Casablanca, the First Lord said that he had been informed by the Home Secretary that the French authorities might wish to ship to Britain the 13,000 Gibraltarians who had been evacuated from Gibraltar to French Morocco. The Home Secretary and the Minister of Home Security said that it was desirable to prevent these refugees from being landed in Britain, if possible, as they had no means of dealing with them except in internment camps. It was feared, however, that the opportunity might be taken to embark them on the ships which were taking the French troops from Britain to French Morocco.

The War Cabinet agreed that it was most undesirable that Gibraltar evacuees should be sent to Britain. In order to prevent this, the War Cabinet agreed that the Admiralty be given orders for only one or two of the ships carrying the French troops to enter Casablanca at a time, and that, until these ships had come out empty, the other ships carrying troops should not be allowed to enter the harbour. The next day, 9th July 1940, at the War Cabinet meeting, the Prime Minister said that a message had been received from the French authorities to the effect that they would not allow the British ships, which were approaching Casablanca harbour, with French troops on board, to be provided with food or to take in water unless the British Government agreed that the ships should take away the Gibraltar civilians. After consulting with the Ministers concerned, the Prime Minister agreed to give an undertaking that the Gibraltar evacuees would be removed from French Morocco.

The Colonial Secretary said that he was taking all possible steps with a view to arranging for the evacuees to be received in various parts of the Empire or in Portuguese territory. Commodore Creighton was obviously not fully acquainted with what was being decided between the authorities in Gibraltar and London.

In view of developments in Casablanca, he wrote a letter to Admiral North setting out the situation and stating that he intended sending the ships to Gibraltar, one by one, as they were filled up. The reply he received by telegram was: "For Heaven's sake, don't-we have had enough trouble getting them out."

No alternative had been suggested and since there were no provisions and the evacuees had to remain on the upper deck, Gibraltar was his only choice.

The French tried to cram on board more

than could safely be carried on the upper decks. But the officers and crews of the British Merchant ships quickly put a stop to this by mingling with the Gibraltarians and getting them to obstruct the efforts of the troops, who were prodding them on board with their rifles. This organised resistance proved successful. The evacuees, in the meantime, were crowded round the gangways screaming, yelling and shoving to such good purpose that the captain, in charge of the black troops, was compelled to restrain his men from trying to overload the ships.

With the last of the evacuees on board, Commodore Creighton was allowed to sail just forty-eight hours after arriving at Casablanca. Since it was a calm, sunny day and as they had to stay on the upper deck, it was reckoned by Commodore Creighton that the six-hour passage to Gibraltar did the evacuees no harm. On the 10th July while the fifteen ships loaded with evacuees were heading for Gibraltar, the Governor issued a communiqué saying that the evacuees leaving Morocco would not be allowed to land in Gibraltar. This obviously sparked off an immediate reaction from the families in Gibraltar who staged a demonstration urging the Governor to allow evacuees to land and promising the full co-operation with the re-evacuation procedures to the UK.

On that same day the War Office signalled the Governor about the difficult problem in French Morocco, which they were not fully in control of, as the French were in a position to force their hand and that they were actually doing so.

The signal carried on saying that the War Office was fully aware of the importance of avoiding bringing Gibraltarians back to Gibraltar. So far as control can be exercised from here Gibraltarians will NOT be sent to Gibraltar if it is avoidable – and if they have to be sent, their stay in Gibraltar will be made as short as possible – but if the alternative is likely to be a heavy death toll owing to conditions in ships, this may be inevitable.

As they were arriving in Gibraltar, the evacuees were seen crowding the ships' rails gesticulating and waving to relatives on the quay. Then, with the few wretched possessions they had managed to gather-up when expelled from French Morocco, they marched down the gangways.

On that same day, it was announced that the evacuees would be allowed to land providing that their stay in Gibraltar would be only of a few days duration prior to re-embarkation for the UK. While the evacuees were celebrating this unexpected homecoming, Commodore Creighton was meeting with Admiral North to discuss preparations for another evacuation.

Sir Clive Liddell – Photo Mrs T Cartwright.

He stressed very strongly to Admiral North that radical alterations had to be made to the ships' holds if these people were to make an ocean passage in the ships. Commodore Creighton explained in his book 'Convoy Commodore', that within twenty-four hours, the holds were reverberating to the clang of hammers. Carpenters were taken off other work in the dockyard to build proper accommodation ladders; cooking ranges, lavatory buckets and wash-basins were collected and put on board. It was estimated that the work would take about ten days. On the 13th July, the Governor Sir Clive Liddell signalled the War Office that he found himself compelled to land evacuees temporarily, as ships were overcrowded and had to be cleaned and provided with food and water.

He understood that the problem of getting them away again was not going to be easy and required consideration.

In the short time that the evacuees were in French Morocco, many Gibraltarian children were born. In addition to those children already mentioned in my first book, the following were also born in French Morocco:

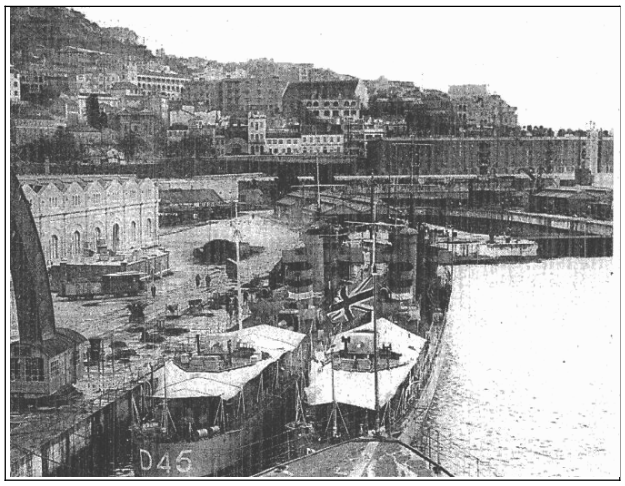
Twins Maria Luise and Joseph Luis Caballero on the 30th June and 1st July 1940 respectively at Rabat, father Juaquin and mother Maria Luisa.

Manuel Tavares on the 5th July 1940 at Meknes, father, Joaquin Tavares and mother Isabel Tavares formerly Roman. Joseph Marfe on the 12th July 1940 at Casablanca, father John Marfe and mother Amanda Marfe formerly Carreras. It seems that in the confusion that ensued, Mrs Marfe and her son stayed behind in Casablanca while her family left with the evacuees who were rushing to leave French Morocco.

Eventually, Mrs Marfe and her son were transferred to Tangier where they remained for some time until they were evacuated about a year later to London. It seems that due to a delay with the official registration of his newly born son in Casablanca, Mr Marfe was unable to transfer his wife and son to Gibraltar so as to be evacuated with the bulk of the evacuees. Meanwhile the remaining members of Mr Marfe's family, consisting of his daughter Aida, grandmother, Mrs Juana Marfe and great grandfather Mr Roque Marfe were evacuated to Jamaica. Owing this anomalous situation, Aida was separated from her mother for about four whole years.

Dorothy Prior was eight months old and fell seriously ill with dysentery when returning from Casablanca with her mother and grandparents. Her grandfather had also recently suffered a heart attack.

On the 17th July, the Governor signalled the War Office again to request suitable ships to take away the civilian population at the earliest possible date. He said in the signal that the position was impossible from the point of view of heavy air attack or possible siege.

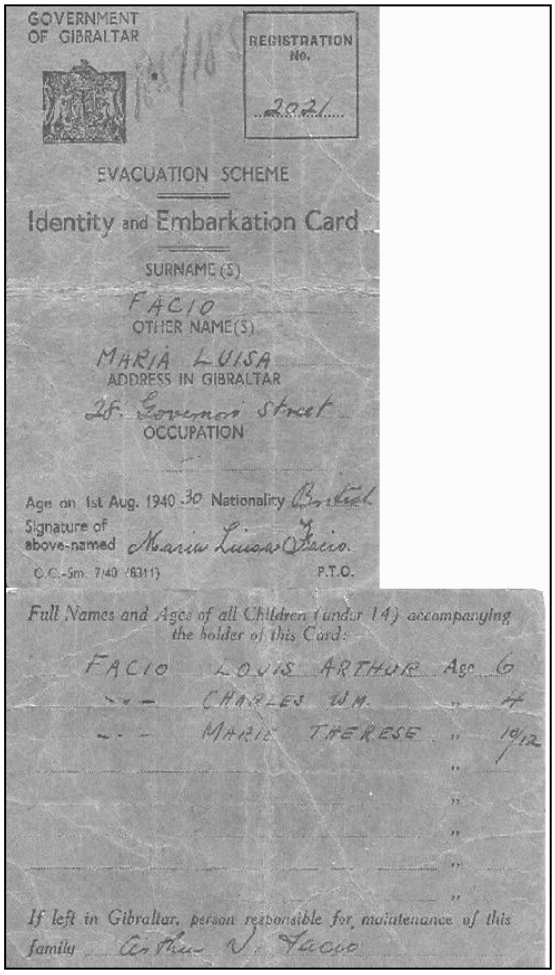


Cutting from a newspaper reporting the compulsory evacuation of 16,000 civilians. Gibraltar Old Photos2.

The next day, 18th July, as if to vindicate the Governor's view of possible air attacks, Gibraltar was bombed by the Italian air force and suffered the first casualties of the Second World War. One of the bombs hit the Loreto Convent killing the gardener, Mr Luis Dallia, his wife Maria and sister Lorcan O'Conner. Gunner, Leonard Percival at 4H/Battery was also killed.

On the 19th July the War Office signalled the Governor to say that they appreciated the difficulties and that the failure of the War Office to meet the requirements of the Governor was due not to their appreciation of the problem but because of being unable to provide the necessary shipping for the evacuees. On this same day 449 evacuees left for Madeira. These were followed by another 282 evacuees, also to Madeira and another 499 to the UK. 3,520 were evacuated to the UK between 26 and 27 July.

From the first notice of evacuation until the end of July 1940 when the bulk of the evacuees had already left, many marriages were taking place. The highest number of 181 marriages was in July. The record number of marriages in one day was on the 24th July with 34 marriages. The total number of marriages for this period was 387 marriages when previously the average in Gibraltar was 20 marriages per month.


GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

REGISTRATION No. 2021

EVACUATION SCHEME

Identity and Embarkation Card

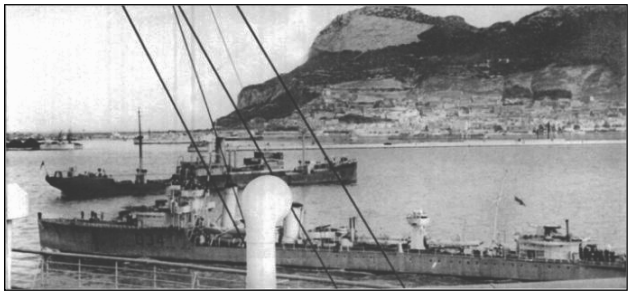
SURNAME(S)
FACIO
OTHER NAME(S)
MARIA LUISA
ADDRESS IN GIBRALTAR
28. Governor Street
OCCUPATION

Age on 1st Aug. 1940 30 Nationality British
Signature of above-named Maria Luisa Facio.
C.C.-Sm. 7/40 (8311) P.T.O.

Full Names and Ages of all Children (under 14) accompanying the holder of this Card:
FACIO LOUIS ARTHUR Age 6
" CHARLES WM. " 4
" MARIE THERESE " 10/12
"
"
"
"
"

If left in Gibraltar, person responsible for maintenance of this family Arthur J. Facio

Example of Identity and Embarkation Card issued under the evacuation scheme. Copy Mr Facio.



Ships in the Gibraltar harbor, preparing to evacuate the civilian population. Photo from Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

On the 30th July, Commodore Creighton was again given the task of transporting 5,010 evacuees to the UK in a convoy of 24 ships including the fifteen ships that had brought most of these evacuees from Casablanca to Gibraltar. Commodore Creighton remarking about his new task said that, "Taking these people into exile once more, for an indefinite period, was a tragic affair. Separated from their husbands and loved ones to be taken to a strange land. But it had to be, for their own safety and the defence of our last bastion in the western Mediterranean. Escorts were still scarce and, hard though it might seem, were needed-at a time when the fate of Britain lay in the balance for convoys with the more vital prosecution of the war.

It may seem, today, to have been a heartless decision to drag these wretched folk from their homes, in sunny Gibraltar, for the second time; and in this instance, to remove them to the damp foggy climate of an England under heavy, air attack. But in war necessity knows no law. At the time no one could know that Gibraltar would not be besieged like Malta. The chief thing that haunted me on this I2-day voyage was the lack of life-saving gear. Two lifeboats, designed between them to carry the normal crew of 30, did not go far among a thousand. Every raft and lifebelt that could be found in Gibraltar was collected. These were divided up among the 15 ships carrying the evacuees, but were about as useful, among so many, as a lorry would be for evacuating a battalion of soldiers in a hurry.

Moreover, I did not fancy the chances of these excitable people, young, old, women and children of every age and mentality, doing the right thing and not panicking in an emergency, on board freighters that would sink in a matter of seconds engulfing them before they ever got out of the holds. If this convoy was attacked, and it had only one escort, it could result in one of the worst maritime disasters in history.

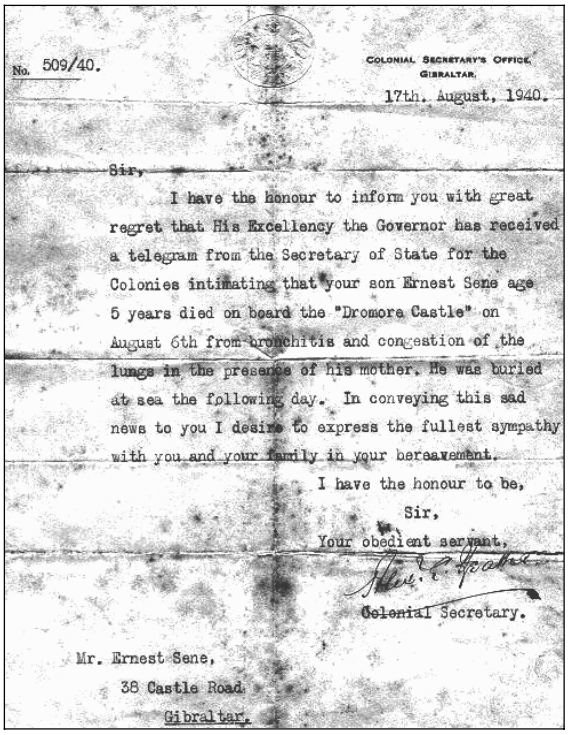
There were no doctors in any of the ships to attend to the old and the sick or bring babies to the world. This last job was done by other women. The mothers-to-be were screened off with canvas by evacuees, who tried their best to ensure that everything went as smoothly as possible bearing in mind the consequences of the high risk of infection in the absence of proper medical care. When babies were finally delivered and at the first cries of the new infant a cheer would go up from the rest of the company in the hold."

During the journey that took 16 days there were a total of twelve births among the different ships within the convoy. A five year old boy, Ernest Sene, travelling on the Dromore Castle became seriously ill. A doctor was requested from another ship to attend to the boy's illness, but owing to rough seas the transfer could not be carried out from ship to ship.

It seems that owing to the anxiety, strain and fear five elderly evacuees also died in this same convoy."

5 year old Ernest Sene.

Letter sent Mr Ernest Sene informing him of tragic death of his son. Photo and letter Mrs Y Edmonds.



No. 509/40.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
GIBRALTAR.
17th. August, 1940.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you with great regret that His Excellency the Governor has received a telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies intimating that your son Ernest Sene age 5 years died on board the "Dromore Castle" on August 6th from bronchitis and congestion of the lungs in the presence of his mother. He was buried at sea the following day. In conveying this sad news to you I desire to express the fullest sympathy with you and your family in your bereavement.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

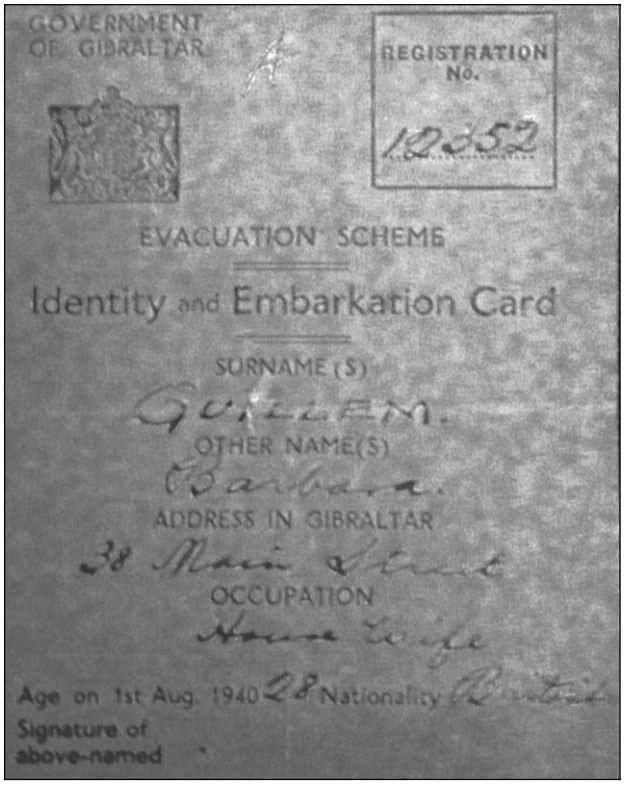
Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Ernest Sene,
38 Castle Road,
Gibraltar.

Commodore Creighton said, some time later, that looking back on the Casablanca incident while he was on leave and his anger had softened, he felt that the French deserved a measure of sympathy for their bitter attitude as their country had been occupied and divided. French sailors had been killed when their warships were shelled by the British who had been their allies. As they saw it, the Vichy government had promised that under no circumstances would they allow their ships to fall into the hands of the Germans, but it was a promise that Britain could not accept.

It was known that the Gestapo might force the surrender of the ships by driving fear into the minds of the French sailors with threats of torture, imprisonment and the gas-chamber for their wives and children-a possibility no man could face. But one thing that he could never forgive them for was their callous behaviour in having the helpless Gibraltarians driven like cattle through the streets to rot in the sun.

After the large convoy with over 5,000 evacuees left for the UK ,another 1,248 evacuees left for Madeira on the 10th August and 1,786 evacuees for the UK on the 20th August. With this last group of evacuees a total of 10,816 civilians had been evacuated to London and nearly 2,000 to Madeira.



Mrs Barbara Guillem embarkation and identity Card. Photo Miss A Guillem.

Before the evacuees arrived in Britain, the War Office was still considering the issues raised in a discussion paper based on comments made, by both General Mason MacFarlane, then in London, and the Governor of Gibraltar, to evacuate between 3,000 and 6,000 additional civilians. These recommendations were made in view of the likely situation that would develop in Gibraltar in the event of a German attack. Another crucial issue also mentioned in these same discussion papers, was what would be the policy to be followed in Gibraltar if the Germans entered Spain.

The notes suggested that it would be of value if General Mason MacFarlane arranged to see the Prime Minister on these matters. He argued that the recent bombing had shown clearly the effects which would be produced quickly if the attacks were sustained on a small concentrated target like Gibraltar with only ground AA defence.

As the evacuation of civilians was being proceeded with in Gibraltar, an article appeared in the Gibraltar Chronicle on 21st August 1940, as shown below which highlighted the fact that British children were being evacuated to Canada.

London—About 1,350 British school-children, evacuated under the Government scheme, including about 100 from Scotland have arrived in Canada during the past three days, states the Children's Reception Board.

Cutting from Gibraltar Chronicle dated 21 August 1940.

Towards the end of September 1940, consequent to the attack on Dakar, the Vichy French Air Force carried out the worst air raid yet experienced in Gibraltar. Following this action, the Governor signalled the War Office to insist on the immediate removal of 1,600 civilians, which he considered to be not a question of humanity but of defense. That the two days recent bombing had shown clearly the effect which would be produced quickly if attacks were sustained on a small concentrated target with only ground anti aircraft defence.

In his signal the Governor went on to say that there was not sufficient, safe accommodation for the troops and if available accommodation was occupied by useless civilians the garrison would be reduced by casualties which could be avoided and that this might prejudice the defence of the fortress when the attack commenced.

He also stated that everything possible was being done to increase bombproof accommodation as rapidly as possible but it took a long time.

He continued saying in his message that defence must have priority and until the arrival of expected reinforcements necessary labour, etc, is insufficient for the program and work in the course of construction.

Meanwhile, major works necessary for defence requirements, like the drilling of tunnels and chambers inside the Rock,were being carried out.

When the Blitz began in September 1940, the British Government encouraged the voluntary evacuation of British children by offering free travel and a billeting allowance to those who made private arrangements. The allowances were also given to children, the elderly, the disabled, pregnant women, the ill or those who had lost their homes. By then there were nearly 12,000 Gibraltar evacuees in London requiring arrangements in terms of accommodation, food and much emphasis was put on schooling for children. From the very early stages of the arrival of evacuees, a committee was set up to work very closely with the Ministry of Health responsible for the Gibraltar evacuees.

There were many correspondences and meetings dealing with the setting up of priorities for Gibraltar evacuees' stay in London. These meetings involved the Ministry of Health Officials, Major Patron, Chairman of the Gibraltar evacuation committee, Archbishop Amigo, Father Thomas Smith, the Colonial Office officials and Gibraltar evacuees from different evacuation centres who had volunteered to serve in this Committee.

Shortly after arriving in the UK, the Ministry of Health was planning to send the evacuees to the West Indies. This was revealed to Archbishop Amigo and Cardinal Hinsley at an official meeting held with Mr MacDonald, Minister of Health.

By then, the Governor in Gibraltar was also still insisting on the need to evacuate at least another 1,600 civilians. In a signal to the War Office dated 2nd October 1940 the Governor requested a decision to embark these civilians on the **Neuralia** to take them to Jamaica as he understood that there was accommodation available when she returned to Gibraltar, after having taken 1,786 evacuees to the UK on 20th August 1940. As planned, the **Neuralia** left Gibraltar for Jamaica with 1,093 evacuees on 9th October 1940. A further 393 evacuees left also on the **Thysville** for Jamaica on the 31st October 1940.

After the evacuation of these civilians to Jamaica, no further evacuations took place until the following year between May and July 1941, when another 1,000 civilians were evacuated under the policy of the Evacuation Emergency Scheme which I will explain with more details in this chapter. Meanwhile the controversy whether to transfer to Jamaica the Gibraltar evacuees already in London started gathering momentum.

On the 28th August 1940, Archbishop Amigo sent the following appeal letter to Mr MacDonald:

"I went with Cardinal Hinsley to see you at the Ministry of Health about the refugees from Gibraltar. I have visited nearly all the centres in which they have been placed in London. I fully realise how difficult it has been to make suitable arrangements for such numbers brought away at very short notice from their homes, especially as, when they seemed to be fairly settled in French Morocco, they had to be again evacuated hurriedly through France turning them out.

It is not surprising that the accommodation should be deplorable in some cases, and that many of the refugees should be very uncomfortable. At our interview you told us, however, that the intention of the Government was to send these poor people to the West Indies or Mauritius.

You will remember that I showed indignation at such a proposal, and the more I think of it, the more I thoroughly dislike it. If any of the Gibraltarians wish to be sent away to the tropics, they should be free to do so, but understood that there was to be no choice for them, and that they were all to leave England as soon as it can be arranged. Cardinal Hinsley fully agrees with me, and so would all our Bishops in England if they get to know, but I can speak more strongly, being a Gibraltarian myself and knowing how keenly these people will feel being cast out of this country against their will after being forcibly brought away from Gibraltar.

They have committed no crime; they are not prisoners; they do not deserve punishment. They are British subjects and very proud of being such.

They have always shown the greatest devotion to the Empire. They are deeply attached to their homes and it has been a very terrible wrench for them to come away for the first time in their lives. Some have grown to middle age without once leaving the Rock on which they were born and bred. They are not used to travelling, and since evacuation of Gibraltar was forced upon them, they have had a cruel experience both in the journey from Morocco to Gibraltar and in the many days of a sea voyage to England.

They certainly would not wish to cross the sea any more except to get home. You are going to expose them to the risk of being torpedoed by our enemies, and we may be having another disaster like that of the Arandora Star. I feel that I must make the strongest protest on behalf of these fellow citizens of mine to whom my heart naturally goes out, and who would, if they knew, ask me to do so. In some cases husbands and sons remain working for us in Gibraltar, and you propose to separate them by the Atlantic.

I consider that it will be a very great crime. 'We have blamed the Germans for sending away the conquered people from their homes and we ought not to be guilty of like brutality.

You told us that the doctors were urging the need of removing them before the winter comes, as many would be killed by the cold weather. There is a greater difference between the climate of Gibraltar and that of the tropics than there is between Gibraltar and England, and I know that many immigrants from Gibraltar to the West Indies in the past were soon reported dead.

You may remember hearing of Palmerston's eloquent speech "Civis Romanus sum" about the duty of the protecting Don Pacifico, a Gibraltar Jew, because he was a British subject.

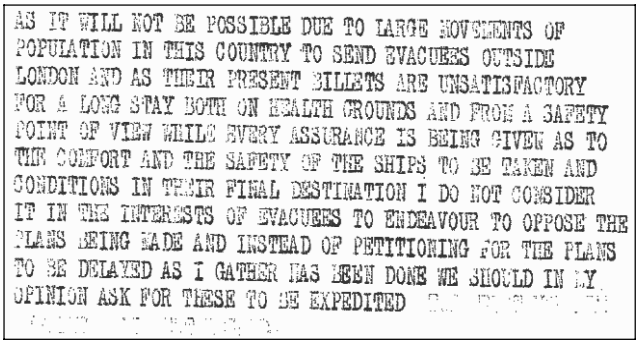
The Gibraltarians are loyal to the British Empire. Do not alienate those who may be of the greatest service. I plead strongly because I feel strongly.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Archbishop Amigo."

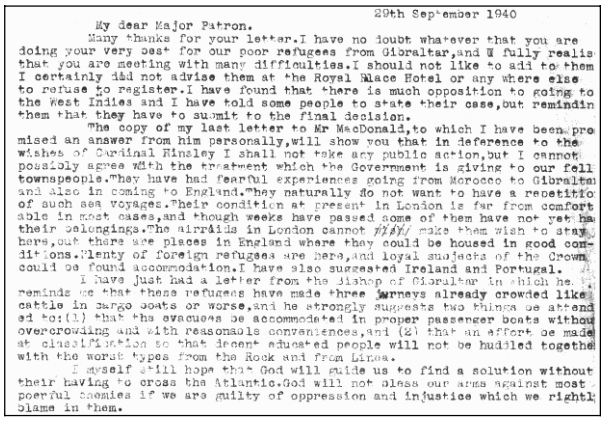
From then on, many correspondences were exchanged between the Ministry of Health, Archbishop Amigo, Mr Patron and other interested parties on the subject of transferring the Gibraltar evacuees in London to the West Indies. Whilst Archbishop Amigo was not very keen on the idea as can be seen from the context of the letter sent to Mr MacDonald, Mr Patron on the other hand, believed that by co-operating with the British Government the evacuees could achieve assurances on travelling conditions and safety measures if in the end they had no choice but to accept to leave for Jamaica. In his endeavour to advise the evacuees to accept the British Government's plans, Mr Patron sent the following telegram to the Colonial Secretary and the Bishop of Gibraltar on 18th September 1940.



AS IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE DUE TO LARGE MOVEMENTS OF POPULATION IN THIS COUNTRY TO SEND EVACUEES OUTSIDE LONDON AND AS THEIR PRESENT BILLETS ARE UNSATISFACTORY FOR A LONG STAY BOTH ON HEALTH GROUNDS AND FROM A SAFETY POINT OF VIEW WHILE EVERY ASSURANCE IS BEING GIVEN AS TO THE COMFORT AND THE SAFETY OF THE SHIPS TO BE TAKEN AND CONDITIONS IN THEIR FINAL DESTINATION I DO NOT CONSIDER IT IN THE INTERESTS OF EVACUEES TO ENDEAVOUR TO OPPOSE THE PLANS BEING MADE AND INSTEAD OF PETITIONING FOR THE PLANS TO BE DELAYED AS I GATHER HAS BEEN DONE WE SHOULD IN MY OPINION ASK FOR THESE TO BE EXPEDITED

Cutting of the telegram sent by Mr Patron

Precisely on that same day came the tragic news of the 77 children who had lost their lives in the sinking of the City of Benares by a German submarine. She was carrying British children who had been evacuated to Canada as part of the Children's Overseas Reception Board Scheme announced a month before.
Shortly after this incident, the entire plan for evacuating British children was scrapped with only 2,664 children having been evacuated in the three months.
Below is an extract from the letter sent by Mr Patron to Archbishop Amigo dated 26th September 1940 about the transfer of evacuees to Jamaica:
"My dear Archbishop,
I am very sorry I have not been in touch with you for some time in connection with the Gibraltar Evacuees, but I presume Father Smith was keeping you posted with all developments.
The more I have thought about the matter, the more convinced I became that if reasonable transport facilities could be got for them and conditions on the other side were not too bad, it is much better for them to go out than stay in London, and, apparently, there is no hope of getting the evacuees sent anywhere, else in England outside London.
I gathered that after your visit to the Minister of Health you decided to drop your opposition to their removal. I was, therefore, extremely surprised to hear that during a visit to the Royal Palace Hotel you had advised the evacuees to refuse to register for Jamaica and indicated to them that if they did this they would probably have to be sent somewhere also in this country, and I trust that this information is not correct." The following is an extract from Archbishop Amigo's reply to Mr Patron.



29th September 1940

My dear Major Patron.

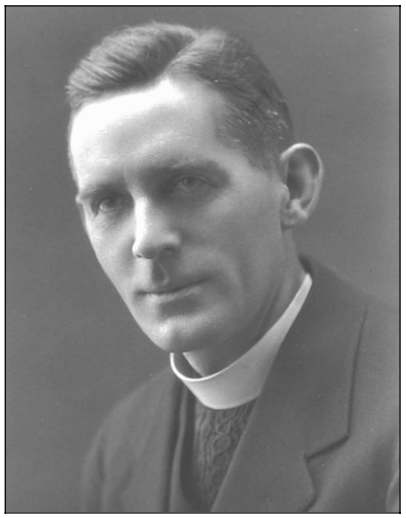
Many thanks for your letter. I have no doubt whatever that you are doing your very best for our poor refugees from Gibraltar, and I fully realis that you are meeting with many difficulties. I should not like to add to them I certainly did not advise them at the Royal Place Hotel or any where else to refuse to register. I have found that there is much opposition to going to the West Indies and I have told some people to state their case, but remindin them that they have to submit to the final decision.

The copy of my last letter to Mr MacDonald, to which I have been promised an answer from him personally, will show you that in deference to the wishes of Cardinal Hinsley I shall not take any public action, but I cannot possibly agree with the treatment which the Government is giving to our fell townspeople. They have had fearful experiences going from Morocco to Gibralta and also in coming to England. They naturally do not want to have a repetitio of such sea voyages. Their condition at present in London is far from comfort able in most cases, and though weeks have passed some of them have not yet ha their belongings. The airraids in London cannot make them wish to stay here, but there are places in England where they could be housed in good conditions. Plenty of foreign refugees are here, and loyal subjects of the Crown could be found accommodation. I have also suggested Ireland and Portugal.

I have just had a letter from the Bishop of Gibraltar in which he reminds me that these refugees have made three journeys already crowded like cattle in cargo boats or worse, and he strongly suggests two things be attended to: (1) that the evacuees be accommodated in proper passenger boats without overcrowding and with reasonable conveniences, and (2) that an effort be made at classification so that decent educated people will not be huddled together with the worst types from the Rock and from Linea.

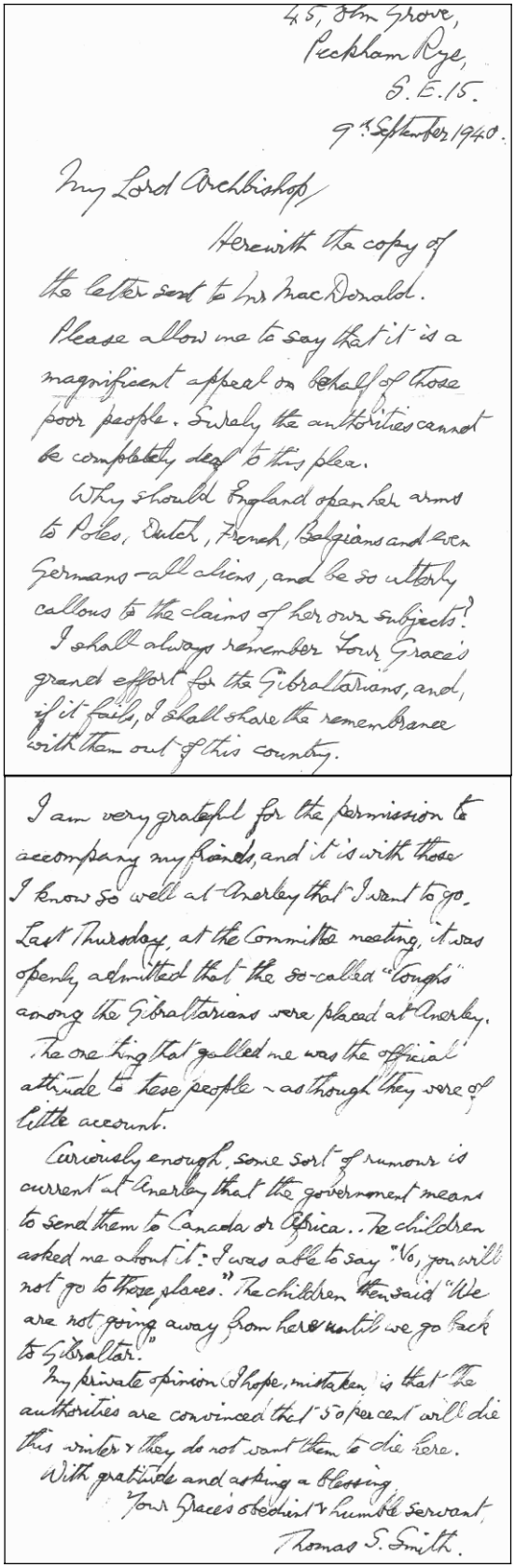
I myself still hope that God will guide us to find a solution without their having to cross the Atlantic. God will not bless our arms against most poerful enemies if we are guilty of oppression and injustice which we rightly blame in them.

The British Government sent a memorandum to all the evacuation centres in London to convince the evacuees that it was in their interest to agree to be transferred to the West Indies. Mr Patron also sent a circular to all the centres with the heading "All My Fellow Citizens of Gibraltar" to say that the authorities in the UK were acting in their best interest and encouraged them to co-operate with the plans already being carried out.
Father Thomas Smith looked after the welfare of the evacuees at the Anerley House Receiving Centre where there were, initially, about 800 evacuees. From the very outset he was much involved with the welfare of the Gibraltar evacuees, including the controversial policy of transferring the evacuees to the West Indies. He exchanged many letters with Archbishop Amigo on this matter as his representative in the Gibraltar Evacuees Committee.



Father Thomas Smith – Photo Mr E Sene

Below is a copy of one of the initial letters that Father Thomas Smith wrote to Archbishop Amigo when rumours were spreading about a re-evacuating of Gibraltarians, describing the opposed views on the matter and offering to accompany the evacuees if, in the end, they were forced to sail to another country.



45, John Grove,
Peckham Rye,
S.E.15.
9th September 1940.

My Lord Archbishop,

Herewith the copy of the letter sent to Mr MacDonald. Please allow me to say that it is a magnificent appeal on behalf of those poor people. Surely the authorities cannot be completely deaf to this plea.

Why should England open her arms to Poles, Dutch, French, Belgians and even Germans - all aliens, and be so utterly callous to the claims of her own subjects?

I shall always remember Your Grace's grand effort for the Gibraltarians, and, if it fails, I shall share the remembrance with them out of this country.

I am very grateful for the permission to accompany my friends, and it is with those I know so well at Anerley that I want to go.

Last Thursday, at the Committee meeting, it was openly admitted that the so-called "Coughs" among the Gibraltarians were placed at Anerley. The one thing that galled me was the official attitude to these people - as though they were of little account.

Curiously enough, some sort of rumour is current at Anerley that the government means to send them to Canada or Africa. The children asked me about it. I was able to say "No, you will not go to those places." The children then said "We are not going away from here until we go back to Gibraltar."

My private opinion (I hope, mistaken) is that the authorities are convinced that 50 per cent will die this winter & they do not want them to die here.

With gratitude and asking a Blessing,
Your Grace's obedient & humble servant,
Thomas S. Smith.

Above letter sent by Fr T Smith. Copy Mr M Brufal.

On the 24 October 1940 Father Smith wrote again to Archbishop Amigo to say that, at the meeting held that day, he had been told that the Cabinet would decide the fate of the Gibraltar evacuees the next day. He had gathered from this meeting that the authorities concerned were once again insisting on with their policy of transferring the Gibraltar evacuees to Jamaica. He was informed, in this meeting that a ship with nearly a thousand evacuees had left Gibraltar and was expected to arrive in Jamaica soon.

The following is the summary of the Joint Memorandum submitted on the 24th October 1940, by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Minister of Health to the War Cabinet with reference to the Gibraltar evacuees:

1. That as a result of a Cabinet decision on 19th May, 1940, there were then in London some 10,600 civilians compulsorily evacuated from Gibraltar to the UK. It had been clearly understood, when the decision was taken, that the evacuees would only be accommodated in England temporarily and that, by the winter, they would be trans-shipped elsewhere.

2. There were the following very strong reasons against their retention in London:

(a) the pressure upon available space in London was increasing as a result of air raids;

(b) the evacuees in London would be exposed to constant and serious risks from air raids;

(c) the conditions under which the evacuees were accommodated were designed only to meet a temporary emergency. They were quite unsuitable for a stay of long duration.

The evacuees could not be billeted on private householders and that it was impossible to find, in the country, other suitable accommodation;

(d) From the standpoint of health, medical advisers of the Colonial Office and of the Ministry of Health and the Colonial Advisory Medical Committee had advised that the evacuees had to be transferred to approved areas in the West Indies where they would not be exposed to the rigours of the English climate in winter.

It had been necessary to accommodate the refugees in large buildings where opportunities of crowding, together were multiplied. This in itself was a risk, particularly as they, would have possibly been exposed, to a greater risk of respiratory diseases, in the UK than in Gibraltar. An epidemic disease (e.g., influenza) among such a community, consisting of a high proportion of the very young and very old, would almost certainly have the most serious results.

3. All these disadvantages would be largely absent in the West Indies. In those Colonies provisions for their welfare and happiness could be made far more, satisfactorily and comprehensively than in London, where - if they remained - a progressive deterioration in their health and morale seemed inevitable.

During the past three months arrangements had been in progress for their reception in Jamaica and Trinidad where already some £200,000 had been spent in making preparations for housing, etc. on behalf of H.M. Government. The plan had not been welcomed by the evacuees, but there was no hostility until the disaster to the "City of Benares" and the decision not to proceed with the Children's Overseas Reception Board Scheme.

The announcement had stated that the Government could not take the responsibility of sending children overseas in present circumstances, and it had had the definite effect of putting the great majority of the refuges from Gibraltar in the mood to refuse to sail.

4. That the reports received suggested that the evacuees could probably be persuaded to acquiesce in the re-evacuation plan, if they could be assured of naval protection throughout the voyage for all the ships. Given reasonable flexibility in sailing dates, the Admiralty saw no insuperable difficulty in arranging for the evacuation ships to be escorted through the submarine danger zone, and in their opinion this measure of protection was essential.

But, beyond the marked zone, the prospects of providing a naval escort were limited to the journey as far as Halifax and even for that journey were extremely problematical. The circumstances pointed to the use of vessels of the highest possible speed for the evacuees, since the higher the speed of the vessels used, the greater was their potential security after they have left the submarine danger zone. On the other hand a limited assurance of protection for part of the journey only was unlikely to assuage the not unreasonable apprehensions of the evacuees, whatever the speed of the ship employed.

5. The question of applying compulsion for their re-evacuation therefore arose. This raised various issues, namely,

(a) compulsion could only be applied if in the last resort recourse they had to forced.

(b) it was a strong measure to compel the evacuees to proceed across the Atlantic, when as recently as the 3rd October the Government had issued an official statement that they could not assume the responsibility for sending English-children overseas.

(c) the expulsion of 10,600 British subjects from the UK where refuge had been provided at the public expense for many thousands of foreign refugees, many of whom were of enemy nationality, was open to obvious criticism.

(d) the effect of compulsion on the male relatives in Gibraltar, and through them on the security of the fortress was also an important consideration.

(e) we were advised that the expulsion of British subjects from the UK could not be carried out under a Defence Regulation. An Act of Parliament would be necessary. In addition there was the real risk of a ship with these refugees being sunk, and lives lost.

6. The Joint Memorandum stated that they were, literally, between the devil and the deep blue sea. If the Gibraltarians (compulsorily evacuated from Gibraltar) stayed in London, they might suffer heavily from bombing or winter illnesses, but if they were then compelled to undertake the voyage to safety in the West Indies, they might be drowned on the way. Faced with that choice they felt on balance, unable, in view of the peoples' own mood and of the considerations set out in the preceding paragraph, to recommend recourse to compulsory re-evacuation.

7. But it was for consideration whether, especially in view of the decision on the Children's Overseas Reception Board Scheme, an endeavour could properly be made to persuade as many as possible evacuees to go voluntarily to the West Indies. They understood that some 500 persons were then prepared to go overseas voluntarily and that number might grow. It would at least relieve the congestion and the dangers in London, and they would avoid forcing the evacuees to run the risks on the Atlantic.

In view of the seriousness of the issue involved, however, they sought the views of the War Cabinet.

At a meeting held the next day on the 25th October 1940, the War Cabinet studied the Memorandum submitted by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Minister of Health for further deliberation with reference to the 10,600 Gibraltarians who had been compulsorily evacuated and were temporarily accommodated in London. The following is an extract from the comments which emerged from this meeting:

Arrangements had been made to accommodate them in the West Indies, but since the loss of the City of Benares and the decision not to proceed with the Children's Overseas Reception Scheme, they had been in a difficult mood. Some 500 of these evacuees were now prepared to go overseas voluntarily, but compulsion might be necessary to get the whole party to go. The First Lord of the Admiralty said that if the party of 500 was the only one concerned, the Navy could provide a sufficient escort. He considered, however, that, with the present position in the North Western Approaches, no further sailings of that kind would be arranged until the Admiralty had tested the results of the new convoy arrangements about to be put into force on trial. He asked that no arrangement for any further shipments should be made without personal consultation with him. The Minister of Health said that there was no question of the whole party proceeding overseas at once, but they would go in relays.

The Prime Minister thought that the Gibraltarians ought to go overseas and that they should be made to understand that the War Office was determined that they should go.

Their attitude could be altered by propaganda. In reply to a question by the Minister of Labour, the Colonial Secretary admitted that the conditions on the ships in which the evacuees had been brought to UK, from Morocco, had been bad. This was because it had been necessary to use the cargo-liners used to repatriate French troops from the UK. The Minister of Shipping said that good passenger vessels would be used for the voyage to the West Indies.

In view of what had been discussed at this meeting, the War Cabinet decided the following course of actions.

(a) That the Colonial Secretary, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Shipping were to make arrangements forthwith for the shipment to the West Indies of the 500 volunteers.

(b) That the Colonial Secretary and the Minister of Health were to make suitable arrangements to induce the other Gibraltarian evacuees, by effective propaganda, to proceed to the West Indies, as and when, suitable shipping arrangements could be made. That it should be made clear to the Gibraltarians that the Government adhered to their decision that they should proceed overseas.

(c) That the Minister of Shipping should keep the First Lord of the Admiralty informed as to the sailing arrangements made and in contemplation for these evacuees, having regard to the First Lord's responsibilities with regard to escorts.

On the 6th November Mr Patron wrote to Archbishop Amigo to tell him that despite all the expenses in preparing the Camp in Jamaica and after accepting all the demands from the evacuees for a voluntary transfer from UK to Jamaica only about 650 had registered. He described the response as very unsatisfactory owing to the lack in proper co-operation with the Government in time of war. He was convinced throughout that it was much better in the interest of the people concerned.

On the 30th November came the breaking news when Mr MacDonald wrote to Archbishop Amigo to tell him that the plan to evacuate the Gibraltarians to Jamaica had been postponed. Below is an extract of the relevant paragraphs of the letter from Mr MacDonald.

"I am writing to let you know how matters stand with regard to the Gibraltar refugees. As you will appreciate, I myself was deeply concerned by the gravity of the decision which had to be taken whether to keep them in England where they would be exposed to danger from air attacks and the winter weather or to ask them to face the perils of a sea journey in order to reach the security and the more favourable climate of Jamaica. After careful consideration of the possible consequences of either alternative it was decided that although the idea of a transfer to the West Indies should not be given up only those who volunteered to make the journey should go. However, owing to the difficulties which have subsequently arisen, however, it has been found necessary for the time being to abandon this plan. As the refugees will now spend the winter in England, we are reviewing the existing arrangements for their accommodation and welfare, as the present arrangements were based on the assumption that they would be making only a short stay in this country. Steps will be taken to secure further accommodation and to improve conditions in the existing centres, although I am afraid that in view of the many demands on accommodation it will not be possible to send them out of London. Questions relating to their education, employment and general welfare will also need to be decided, and I should be most grateful to receive any suggestions which Your Grace may wish to make concerning the welfare of the Gibraltar refugees during their stay in this country."

In early November 1940 the Governor of Gibraltar signalled the War Office expressing concern at the possibility of transferring civilians from Tangier to Gibraltar. In his signal he said that he trusted that if an evacuation was forced upon the British colony which included a considerable number of Gibraltarians, every effort would be made to evacuate direct from Tangier without their coming to Gibraltar, and that if that were impossible, he hoped that time in Gibraltar would be reduced to a minimum.

From early February 1941 the Governor of Gibraltar was still pressing for further evacuation of civilians. In a signal sent in April 1941 to the War Office, he said that, in view of the situation the evacuation of 500 civilians should take place as early as possible and suggested that he be authorised to commence sending parties should any accommodation in ships become available. He considered also that all preparations for further evacuation of 4,000 be made available by then. The shelter accommodation for civilians and their rations made it imperative that they leave before anything, approaching siege conditions, commenced if a maximum of more than 8,000 are left during siege they will jeopardise the defence of the fortress. On the 2nd May 1941 a memorandum was submitted by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the War Office which said that some 14,000 civilians had been evacuated from Gibraltar, 10,500 to the UK, 2,000 to Madeira and the balance to Jamaica.

The Governor was reporting that there were some 4,000 more civilians, mostly able-bodied workmen, who, if the fortress were besieged, would not be required for defence purposes.

The Governor recommended, and the military authorities agreed, that they too should be evacuated.
2. About 3,200 were British subjects, and 800 Spaniards. Some 2,200 were dockyard workers and the great majority of the rest could be absorbed into useful employment in the UK. The Spaniards were political refugees from Spain, whom the security services were prepared to accept in the UK.
3. It could be that the majority of the 4,000 would have to remain at Gibraltar until the last moment, since many were employed in the dockyard and others are engaged on military defence works, but about 500 could be evacuated at once.
4. As the evacuation of these civilians was necessary for military purposes, it had to proceed despite the risks that they would run in crossing the sea. The Minister of Labour would welcome them in the UK. The Minister of Health, however, felt that it would raise serious problems of which the Cabinet should be aware. It was suggested that they should be sent to Jamaica, where accommodation for about 3,500 was available.
5. The objections to Jamaica were:
(a) They could not be employed in Jamaica where there was already a serious unemployment problem.
In the UK the situation was the contrary, as their labour would be valuable.
(b) Transport to Jamaica would divert ships from other purposes for much longer than transport to the UK. The difficulties of protection on the journey would also apparently be increased.
(c) The wives and families of most of the men were already in the UK.
(d) The presence in Jamaica of a considerable labour force without occupation of any sort would cause social and political problems that would be avoided in the UK.
6. As far as the Minister was able to judge, the balance seemed clearly on the side of bringing the civilians to the UK. He sought, therefore, the authority of the Cabinet to arrange with the other Departments concerned for the evacuation of these 4,000 civilians to the UK.
7. It would have been necessary to ask the Admiralty to provide protection on the voyage. The Minister for the Colonies understood that the coordination of transport and protection might involve considerable difficulty unless a high priority was given to the matter.
The following is an extract from a letter from the Minister of Health with regard to the idea of evacuating further civilians from Gibraltar to London. "... feel strongly that the very serious problems which will be created by bringing these people to this country ought to be fully stated and placed on record as follows:
I. The difficulty of finding accommodation. With the present overcrowding of the country and the demands on its present capacity this cannot be over-emphasised. It will be almost impossible to make adequate arrangements. The customs, mode of life, etc. of these people are so very different from those of English people as to preclude the possibility of billeting on householders.
This means that accommodation has to be found in large buildings requisitioned for the purpose.
2. The difficulty of finding employment. Mr Bevin, the Minister for Labour felt that there would be no difficulty in arranging for all the men who spoke English to be absorbed into employment, but admitted that the problem of those who do did not speak English would not be so easy. Experience had shown that only 60% spoke English and even many of those were not very proficient. For the reasons already mentioned they would need to be accommodated in hostels. Their wives and families were at present in London, and as they had been separated for so long, it was almost certain that they would refuse to be parted from them, which meant that if their work was to be satisfactory, arrangements would to be made for their families to be accommodated with them.
This would add greatly to the difficulties, particularly if they are to be employed in rural areas, e.g. for work on the land.
3. While the Admiralty had promised to absorb all dockyard workers who could speak English (but solely those, apparently), accommodation would be most difficult, particularly as most of the dockyard towns have suffered severely from enemy action.
4. The Food Situation. The Secretary of State for the Colonies said this was not within his province, but felt that bringing of further numbers into the country was to be deprecated. It was also pertinent to observe that they were people who were most difficult to feed. They showed marked aversion to English food which led to much waste. It had been able to tackle this fairly successfully by the introduction of Gibraltarian dishes and methods of cooking, but that was only possible if they were not dispersed.
5. The feeling which was becoming acute in the country was generally against the reception of further foreign refugees. The man-in-the-street would not easily appreciate that they are British subjects and that their presence here was for the reason of the security of Gibraltar. He will, as he was doing now, regard them as "foreigners" who are receiving preferential treatment at his expense. The Secretary of State for the Colonies carried on saying that he had not dealt with the 1,000 Spaniards, whom it has been agreed would be treated as alien refugees, but the foregoing applied with much greater force.

That same day, Farrow discussed with the Ministry of Shipping whether it would be possible to ship the civilians from Gibraltar to Jamaica. He gathered that the two most important reasons against this course were that (a) the Prime Minister had instructed that troop movements to the Middle East would have priority of shipping and (b) the Admiralty might have the greatest difficulty in convoying the ships from Gibraltar to Jamaica. The shipment to the UK would not be too difficult as it would be made by troop ships returning here from the Middle East and would be easier to arrange.

On the 5th May 1941 the War Cabinet met to discuss a Memorandum by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Governor of Gibraltar recommended that 4,000 further civilians should be evacuated from the Fortress. The main point at issue was whether they should be brought to this country, notwithstanding the inconvenience to which this would give rise, or should be sent to Jamaica.

On conclusion of the debate, the Cabinet agreed as follows:

(1) Of these 4,000 civilians, 2,200 were dockyard workers and could not be spared immediately. As many as possible of the remaining 1,800 should be brought to the UK in a ship or ships which should be diverted to Gibraltar, for this purpose, on the homeward journey from the Middle East.

(2) The possibility of providing an escort for a ship carrying out this duty should be settled between the Sea Transport Division of the Ministry of Shipping and the Operations (Foreign) Division of the Admiralty.

3) The remaining civilians in Gibraltar should be evacuated, as they could be spared, and as shipping could be made available. This would probably mean that they would be sent in small parties.

Below notice ordering the evacuation of more civilians.

GIBRALTAR EVACUATION SCHEME

1. Embarkation of evacuees whose names have appeared on the lists published by the Controller of Man-Power on the 20th instant will take place on Thursday next, the 22nd May, 1941, at 8 a.m.

2. Heavy baggage must be deposited at either of the two collecting places, viz., CASEMATES or LINE WALL, opposite the City Hall, by 7-30 a.m. on the 22nd May, 1941.

3. Evacuees must assemble for transport at any of the two collecting places by 8 a.m. on the 22nd instant.

4. All baggage should be marked with the names and EMBARKATION NUMBER of the evacuee.

5. The allotment of accommodation on the ship will be done arbitrarily by the ship's officers and no application for individual preference will be considered.

6. All evacuees detailed for this ship **MUST EMBARK.** Proceedings under the Defence Regulations will be instituted against any person who does not comply with the above instructions.

For and on behalf of the Evacuation Committee.

Man-Power Office,
Gibraltar, 20th May, 1941.

J. H. S. LACEY,
Major R.E.
Controller of Man-Power.

CIVILIAN EVACUATION

All persons being evacuated are reminded that not more than £10 in sterling notes can be taken out of the Colony by any individual.

Arrangements will be made by the Command Paymaster to exchange local currency notes into sterling at the place of embarkation before going on board ship.

As a result of this evacuation order, 340 civilians were evacuated to the UK.

Similar orders were followed on the 30th May and 2nd July 1941 which as a result, 500 and 152 civilians respectively were evacuated to the UK. At the end of 1941 another 200 civilians were also evacuated to the UK.

This meant that nearly 1,200 more civilian were evacuated to London, where there were already nearly 11,000 making a grand total of nearly 12,200 evacuees in London.

Amidst the extra evacuation arrangements of civilians for fears of enemy attacks, it is interesting to note that the then Governor of Gibraltar General Lord Gort paid an official call on the Military Governor of the Camp de Gibraltar, General Agustin Muñoz Grandes in Algeciras on the 19th May 1941.

On the 22nd June 1941 just couple of weeks after this meeting, Hitler launched Operation Barbarossa. As it is historically well known, General Muñoz Grandes took command of the Blue Division at the Eastern Front to fight against the Russians. Also, interestingly, the War Cabinet was meeting at the same time to consider plans for an emergency evacuation should the occasion present itself in order to empower the Governor and Commander-in-Chief to implement certain measures agreed by the Cabinet.

On the 23rd June 1941 the War Cabinet met to consider the following memorandum prepared by the Chiefs of Staff:

"The problem of the emergency evacuation of non-essential personnel, including civilians, from Gibraltar and others from Portugal, Spain and Tangier through Gibraltar, is a difficult one.

The execution of any plan for this depends on the location of shipping at the time of the emergency. This factor cannot be assessed until the emergency arises, and therefore no cut and dried plan is at present possible. Yet, when the emergency does arise, immediate decisions will have to be taken by the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gibraltar, if his operational role is not to be hampered.

2. The difficulty would be overcome if; once a decision to close the dockyard had been taken by the War Cabinet or by the Defence Committee, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gibraltar, could then be empowered -

(a) to decide on questions relating to the evacuation of non-essential personnel including civilians from Gibraltar and such civilians from Portugal, Spain and Tangier as may reach Gibraltar.

(b) to deal direct on these matters with H.M's diplomatic and consular representatives in Lisbon, Madrid and Tangier.

3. The Chiefs of Staff therefore requested His Majesty's Government to grant the necessary authority to the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gibraltar, to act as suggested in paragraph 2.

On the 25th June 1941 the War Cabinet agreed that the Commander-in-Chief, Gibraltar, should be empowered, if an emergency arose—
(a) To decide on questions relating to the evacuation of non-essential personnel, including civilians from Gibraltar and such civilians from Portugal, Spain and Tangier as may reach Gibraltar.
(b) To deal direct on these matters with His Majesty's diplomatic and consular representatives in Lisbon, Madrid and Tangier.
The Minister of Health said that it had to be understood that, if an emergency evacuation took place; organised arrangements could not be made at the reception end.
In January 1942 the War Cabinet issued detailed instructions to the then Governor of Gibraltar Lord Gort to destroy all vital military assets to ensure that nothing of use could fall into enemy hands in the event of an attack on Gibraltar.

Lord Gort and Lt General Henry Pownall at the GHQ in France in November 1939. Photo Wikipedia free Encyclopedia.

By May 1942, there were still fears that Germany and its allies might try to invade Gibraltar.
Civilians were also issued with instructions to be followed, like for example assembly points by means of identification letters, in case it would become necessary for an immediate evacuation.
The last civilians to be evacuated left in April 1942. They consisted of a small party of evacuees who left for the UK on the Polish freighter the **Sobieski.**

The ships that carried the Gibraltar evacuees from Gibraltar to the UK sailed within the convoys that sailed along a pre-determined convoy route called HG. In order to find out how close the ships carrying the Gibraltar evacuees were from being attacked by enemy submarines, I carried out a research about enemy submarines' activities along the whole of the HG convoy route. This route crossed the U-boat transit routes from French Atlantic ports and were within range of Axis maritime patrol aircraft making these convoys vulnerable to enemy observation and interception by bombers, submarines, and surface warships. The ships sailing within the HG convoys carried an assortment of merchandise including food and raw materials. During July 1940 some of the merchants ships that used to carry cargo were used to carry the Gibraltar evacuees. The convoys carrying Gibraltar evacuees were, HG 39 on 21st July 1940, HG 40F 27th July 1940 and GH 40 on 29th July 1940. These convoys sailed at the height of the Battle of the Atlantic and when the Battle of Britain was in full swing
Very conscious of the war situation, the evacuees and families were, obviously, all extremely concerned knowing that they had to sail across the Atlantic Ocean full of enemy submarines and many allied ships were being sunk.

A merchant ship under attack by a U-Boat. Photo Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia.

It was also well known then by those managing the movement of ships in Gibraltar that there were German spies and their agents operating in the Spanish hinterland who had full knowledge of all Allied ships that were arriving and leaving Gibraltar, including the ones carrying the Gibraltar evacuees.
I have gathered information about enemy submarine activities within the Strait of Gibraltar, its approaches and also along the HG convoy route that merchant ships had to follow when sailing from Gibraltar to the UK.
When the war started, Germany did not have enough submarines to carry out their main tasks of sinking British merchant ships in the Atlantic.
The shortage of German submarines was such that Italy agreed to transfer in the first year of the war

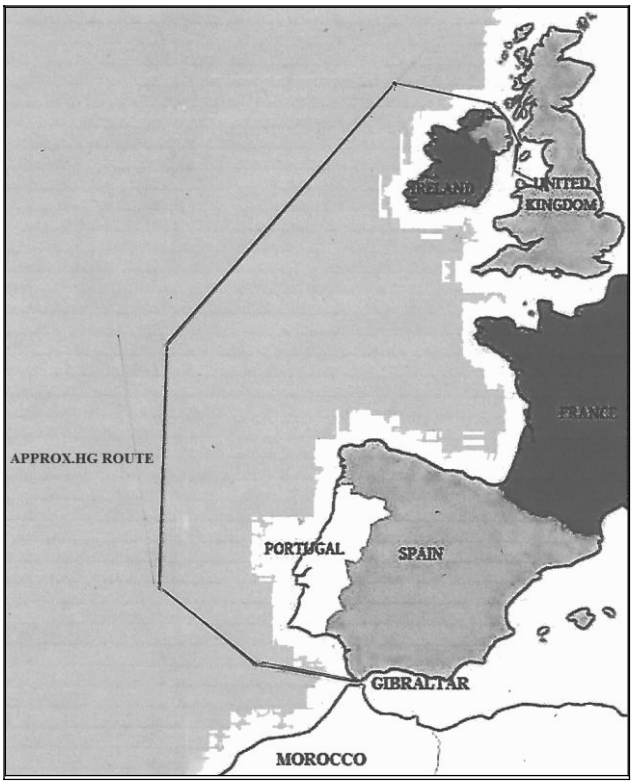
twenty-six submarines from the Mediterranean, which slipped past the Strait of Gibraltar into the Atlantic.

Despite this, Italy still had a considerable number of submarines operating in the Mediterranean. It is well known that at least two Italian submarines were exclusively tasked with the sinking of Allied merchant and war ships in Gibraltar by means of the "human torpedoes".

After the fall of France, commercial shipping ceased and just warships and military convoys were the only targets for enemy submarines in the Mediterranean, although with very little success due to the Axis military situation.

During the whole war, the Strait was constantly watched by patrol ships, by air surveillance and lookout posts. Germany did not have enough surface ships to send to protect its submarines in the Strait area without running the risk of having both the surface ships and the submarines sunk.

The only chance the U-Boats had to enter or leave the Strait without submerging was when under the cover of darkness with the incoming tide on the surface. Some U-boats using this method were even spotted by lighthouses along the coast within the Strait area.



The map above shows the approximate route taken by GH convoys from Gibraltar to the UK.

According to war statistics 9 of the 62 U-Boats were sunk while attempting the passage. 21 others were forced to abort either because of damages or because the risk was deemed to be too high by their commanders. None of the U-boats that successfully entered the "mousetrap", as the Mediterranean became known, ever made it back to the Atlantic. All the U-boats were either destroyed by the allies or scuttled by their own crews. From 1941 to 1945 27 U-Boats were sunk in the Straits and its approaches.

During July and August 1940, nearly 11,000 evacuees sailed from Gibraltar to the UK in 23 ships along the determined HG convoy's route shown on the map below.

Between May and July 1941 nearly another 1,000 evacuees sailed to the UK along the HG convoy route. Fortunately, none of the ships were attacked.

Given all the foregoing information, it seems that one can only conclude that the Gibraltar evacuees were extremely lucky in not having been attacked by German submarines. Some of the evacuees, with whom I have spoken to about this, were of the view that the enemy submarines were perhaps instructed not to attack the ships carrying the Gibraltar evacuees as they were not worth sinking and taking the risk of being detected and sunk by the convoy, escorts' ships. If that had been the case, I think it would have been impossible for Germans submarines to know which ships within the convoy were carrying the Gibraltar evacuees.

According to records the following convoys were attacked along the HG convoy route.

CONVOY	DATE	NO OF SHIPS SUNK
H 3	October 1939	3
HG 9	December 1939	1
HG 31F	MAY 1940	1
HG 32F	June 1940	1
HG 34F	June 1940	4
HG 46	November 1940	2
HG 53	February 1941	3
HG 61	May 1941	1
HG 70	August 1941	1
HG 73	September 1941	10
HG 75	October 1941	5
HG 76	December 1941	4
HG 84	June 1942	5

Commodore Creighton was in charge of Convoy HG 73. The convoy left Gibraltar with 25 ships with a heavy escort on 17th September 1941. The next day, it was spotted by the enemy off Cape St Vincent and followed it all the way with some unsuccessful attacks. On the 25th and 26th September the enemy submarines managed to sink some ships within the convoy. On the 27th September another ship was sunk, but by then the submarines had run out of torpedoes and Allied

flying boats arrived to keep the submarines at a distance. 10 allied ships had been sunk. Among the ships sunk was the SS Avoceta which had carried the first group of Gibraltar evacuees to the UK in July 1940. On this occasion, the Avoceta was also carrying British subjects who had left occupied France and had made their way to neutral Spain and Portugal where they could not stay and had to embark from Lisbon to the UK. On the 26th September the Avoceta was sunk. Commodore Creighton was on-board the Avoceta and he nearly drowned. 123 lives were lost, including 76 passengers.
There was also the reverse convoy route of merchant ships sailing from UK to Gibraltar name OS Convoy Route during the same period from July 1940 to 1942, 47 merchants ships were sunk by enemy submarines.
The evacuees from the Gibraltar Indian community were not so lucky either. In my first book "We Thank God and England.." I mentioned all the main events that led to the loss of many members of the Gibraltar Indian community.

A group of members of the Hindu community in Gibraltar just before the war. Among the group are some of those who lost their lives. Photo Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

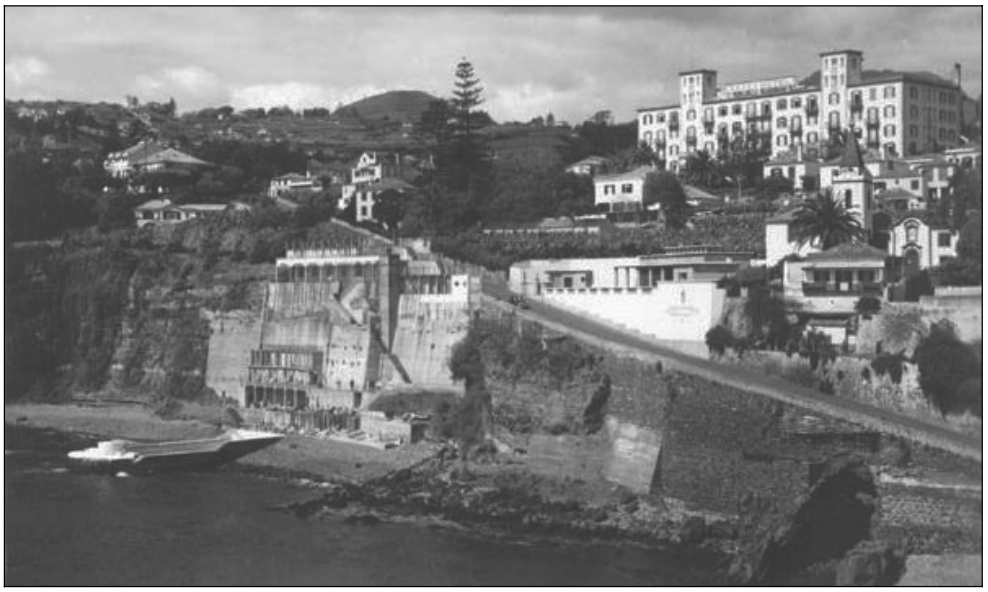
The ships that sailed to Madeira and Jamaica from Gibraltar did not follow a standard convoy route as those who sailed to the UK.
However, there was evidence of enemy submarine activities, in the approaches to Gibraltar, which had to be reckoned with. The ships that sailed to Madeira were escorted as there were a considerable amount of enemy submarines in the area, between North West Africa and the Island of Madeira. However, the ones that sailed to Jamaica were escorted for just four days and then they proceeded on their own to Jamaica. At, the time, there were no known German submarine activities in or near to the Caribbean until May 1942 and up to 1945, during which heavy losses of Allied ships were sustained.

CHAPTER TWO

EVACUEES IN MADEIRA

Madeira's natural beauty and the hospitality afforded by the people of Madeira helped to make bearable the separation imposed by the war for the 2,000 Gibraltarians evacuated to Madeira during the Second World War.

The evacuees lived in the type of accommodation to which they were allocated and which were in accordance with their prescribed category. Categories A and B were accommodated in hotels, pensions or boarding houses. The main hotels were the Savoy Hotel, New English Hotel, Golden Gate Hotel, Demonte Hotel, Victoria Hotel, Camacha, Quinta Esperanza, Belmonte Hotel, Atlantic Hotel, Bella Vista Hotel, Universal Hotel, Quinta Das Cruzes, Largo Das Cruzes, Largo De Sao Paulo, Annex Jardim and Quinta Esperanca. There were also the following boarding houses: Pensao Santos, Pensao Avenida, Pensao Phoenix, Pensao Voga, Pensao Santa Lucia, Pensao Vista Alegre, Pensao Boa Vista, Grande Pensao and a few others. Famous painter, Mr Gustavo Bacarisas lived at the Savoy Hotel.



A view of the Savoy Hotel during the evacuation. The litho is in the forefront of the photograph. Photo Mr J Chincotta.

Evacuees at the Savoy Hotel during Christmas

Photo taken in 2007 of the Savoy lounge where the evacuees kept in touch with the war developments by means of a wireless set during the evacuation. Photo Mrs Field.

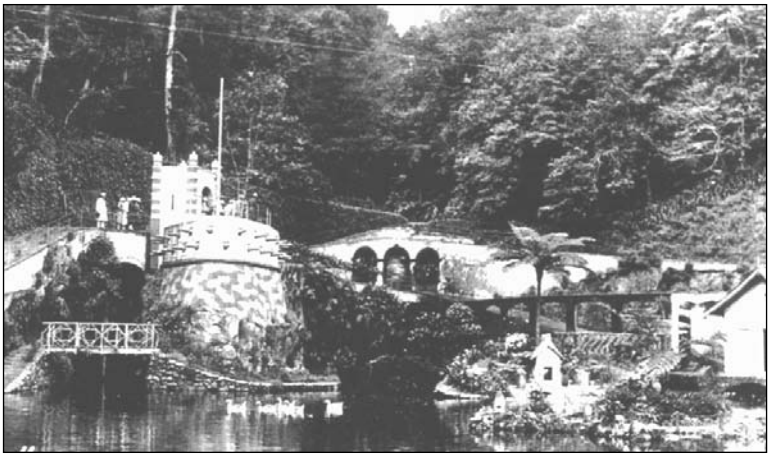
At the Savoy Hotel lounge there was a radio set where the evacuees could tune to the BBC to find out how the latest news about the war. The evacuees designed a system consisting of positioning drawing pins on a map of Europe which hanged on the wall in the lounge room. With the aid of these drawing pins placed on the map, the position and the movement forces were plotted to determine at a glance how the war was developing in Europe.

Golden Gate Hotel. Photo Mr L Pereira

Evacuees at the entrance to the Golden Gate Hotel. Photo Mr L Pereira.

Evacuees at Quinta Esperanza. At the back is Mr E Gilbert with his wife and one of his daughters. Photo Mr L Pereira.

Outside Quinta Esperanza Hotel 1941. First from the left Teresa Osullivan. Photo Gibraltar Evacuation WW2.



Demonte Hotel. Photo Mr J Chincotta

The Belmonte Hotel was about 8 kilometers away from Funchal.

The Belmonte Hotel in the late 90s. Photo Mr B Ramagge.

Mrs Avellano.
Photo Mr Avellano

The Brittenden family at the Belmonte Hotel.
Photo Mr A Brittenden.

The Camacha Hotel- In the centre of the photo sitting top row is Berta Bayardo and to her left Freddie Perez.
Photo Mrs Clark.

The photographs in this page show the New English Hotel, which was much further away from the centre of Funchal. The other hotels were the Quinta Esperanza, the Victoria, the Camacha and the Monte Palace Hotel.

Evacuees at the New English Hotel
At the back L to R: E.Debono,M.Bugeja, M.Santos, M.Debono.,
In front: J.Bugeja,O.Chichon, J.Morello, L.Debono manager's daughter and nanny. Photo Mr L Pereira.

The New English Hotel.

From left to right Back row from Nelson Mario Yome, Lionel Rodriguez, Jose Luis Rodriguez, Johnny Chiappe
Middle Row Maurice Montegriffo, Louis Montegriffo, Augusto Parody, Mario Parody
Front Row Willie Chiappe, George Chiappe, Christine Chiappe, Borda, Araceli Yome (Late Capurro).

From left to right Jose Luis Rodriguez, John Chiappe, Augosto Parody,Lionel Rodriguez,Mario Parody, Luis Montegriffo,Maurice Montegriffo, Mario Yome, Araceli Yome (later Capurro) Willie Chiappe. Photos Mr R Mor.

Above photo is of the children who resided at the Victoria Hotel when playing by the pond. Next to the hotel there was a large banana plantation and there were fruits of all kinds including small sized grapes which were used in Madeira for making wine. The photo of the hotel shows the windows of the saloon and underneath the window of the dining room. Opposite the Victoria Hotel was the Casino de Madeira. The avenue, in front of the Victoria Hotel, led to the Savoy and further on to the Atlantic Hotel.

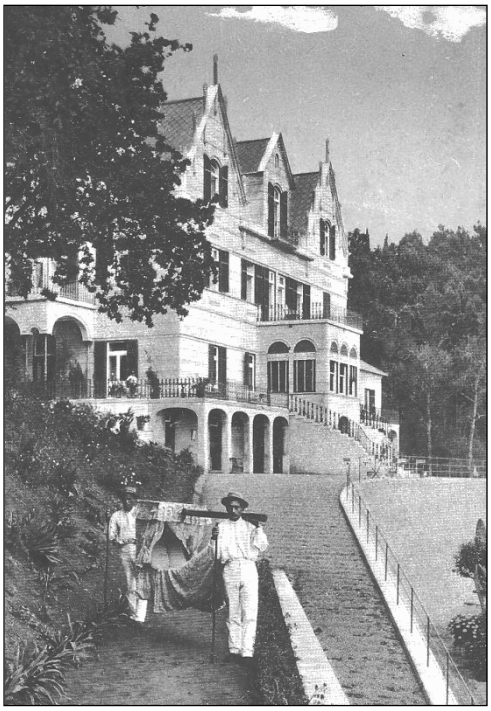
The house where the Eddings family used to live during the evacuation. Photo Mrs M Lima.

The house where the Guillem family lived and Ana Guillem was born at Rue de Favilla, Funchal. Photo Miss A Guillem.

Mrs Clemens Lockyer (nee Danino) with her husband visiting the place where she lived with her family. Photo Danino family.

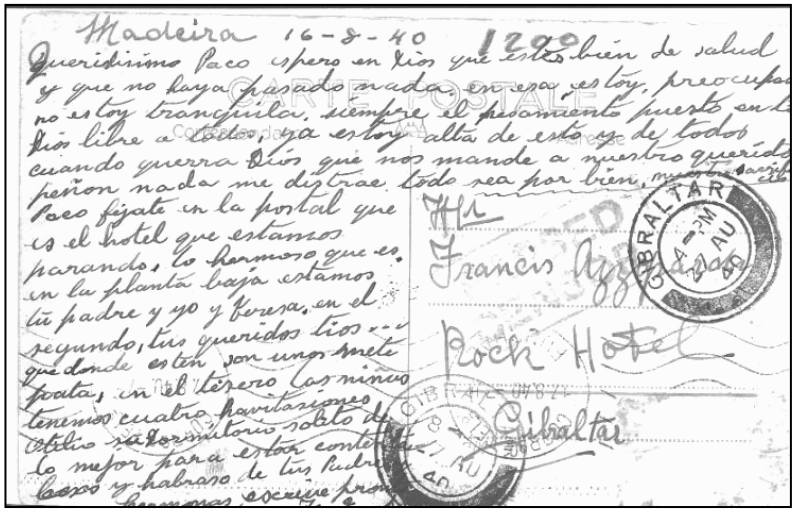
Grande Pensao - one of the many "guest houses" where the evacuees were accommodated. Photo Mr B Ramagge.

Some members of the Jewish Community in their private accommodation in Madeira



Above and below photo of the Monte Palace Hotel.

Bela Vista Hotel. Photo Mr B Ramagge

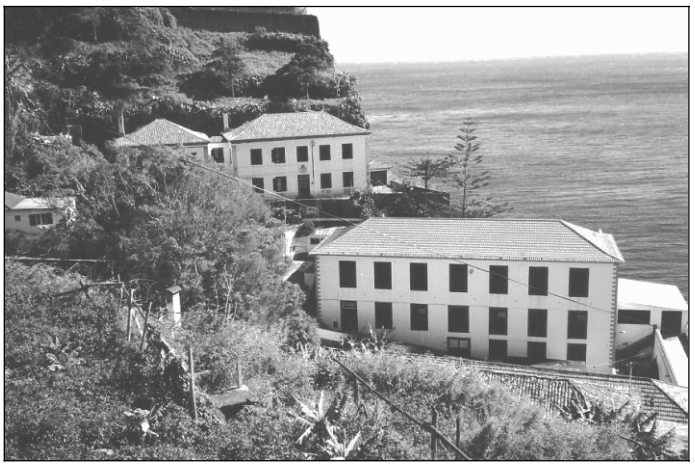


Post card from Madeira with Passed Censored Stamp
All the photos in this page were donated by Mr B Ramagge.

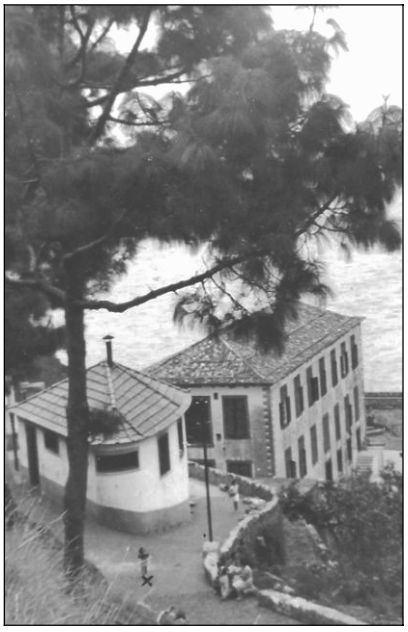
The evacuees in category C, numbering about 350 were accommodated in a building called the Lazareto and in another separate building named Quinta Das Cruzes. Mainly due to the continual rise in the cost of living and the unforeseen prolonged stay in Madeira, some evacuees were eventually forced to move to cheaper type of accommodation. A few families in higher category of accommodation ended at the Lazareto building.
This page shows photographs of the communal accommodation at the Lazareto Building and Quinta das Cruzes. All the photos of buildings, Mr B Ramagge.

What used to be Quinta Das Cruzes dwelling for evacuees now a museum.

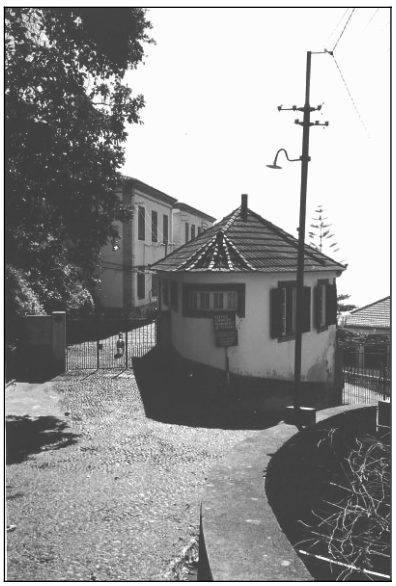
Accommodation in the Lazareto consisted of two large buildings and two other smaller ones where a total of about 270 evacuees were billeted. Another group of about 80 evacuees was accommodated in another building which was the Quinta Das Cruzes. In both places, all the buildings had to have many alterations made in order to make them habitable for the evacuees.
The alterations consisted mainly in the conversion of the existing rooms into dormitories, toilets, dining rooms, kitchens, bathrooms and all the necessary sanitary installations required for the need of a communal dwelling including laundering and other communal facilities. There was also an infirmary where a doctor attended daily to the health needs of the evacuees. One of these buildings was converted into classrooms to provide schooling for the children in the Lazareto area. Most of the evacuees in the Lazareto were those who had been selected from the Catalan Bay Village.



The Lazareto buildings.



Upper part of the Lazareto building.



Entrance to Lareto building.

One of the first priorities was to arrange schooling for the 400 children of school age. By the 1st October 1940, all the children were already attending the newly opened schools. The children of A and B, totalling about 250 pupils, attended the main school in Funchal shown in the photo below.

The main group of children at the British School for Gibraltar Children 1940. Photo Danino family.

About 50 to 60 children, who were in category C, attended classes in the Lazareto building. There was much emphasis given to the speaking of English. Speaking Spanish, within the school environment was strictly forbidden. Children, who disobeyed this rule, were severely reprimanded or even punished

The two schools' headmaster was Mr Nigel Power and most of the teachers were appointed from among the Gibraltar evacuees in Madeira. The school fees, paid by parents, ranged between 20 to 40 escudos a month, depending on the level of teaching. Parents, who could not afford the fees, had their children taught free.

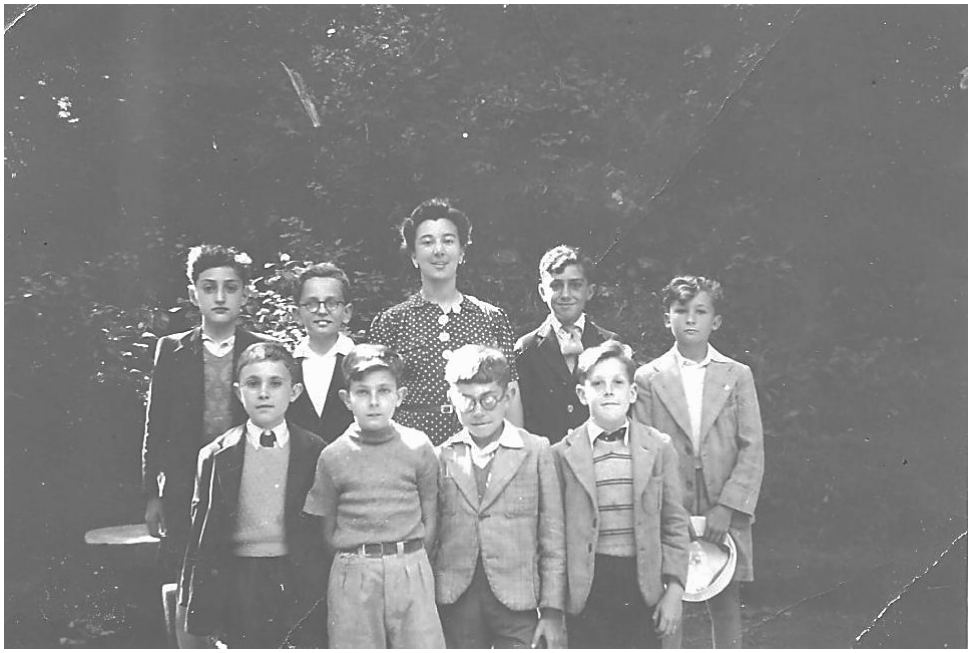
There was a club for the boys' football team and another club for the girls' netball team. The main aim of these clubs was also intended for the purpose of encouraging the use of English.

The British School Football Club in Madeira

At the back L to R: Headmaster Mr N. Power, J. Coll, P.Gaetto, M.Robba, O.Robba, Pitto, M.Yome, Rodriguez (Trainer). Kneeling in front: A.Zayas, E.Zayas, Rodriguez, Pitto, C.Huart. Photo Mr M Robba.

1 .? 2. Elvira Picardo, 3. Alice O'Brien,
4. Flavia Gracia, 5. Carmen Rodriguez , 6. Anita Alcantara, 7. Irene de Torres,
8.Norah Benzequen(Mrs Teledano). Photo Mrs F Chipolina.

From left to right: Lina Morillo,Flavia Gracia (Chipolina), Anita Alcantara. Photo Mrs F Chipolina.



Back row left to right. William Holland, Alfred Canessa,Miss E Teuma, ...?.... Adolfo Gonzalez
Front row left to right,John Neish,Lionel Codali,Felix Pizzarello , Jimmy Gracia. Photo Mrs Edmonds.

1 Lina Morillo, 2 Elvira Picardo, 3 Mariluz Canessa, 4 Carmen Rodriguez, 5.Norah Benzequem, 6 Vicky Cruz, 7 Flavia Gracia, 8 Alice Gonçalves (nee O'Brien), 9 Anita Alcantara, 10 Laly Canessa, 11 Maribel Teuma. Photo Mrs F Chipolina.

Miss Elena Romero Class
1 Lina Morillo 2 Elvira Picardo 3 Carmen Marquez 4 Elena Romero 5 Flavia Gracia 6 Maribel Teuma 7 Vicky Cruz 8 Marioli Alcantara 9 Anita Alcantara 10 Irene deTorres 11 Alice O'Brien 12 Laly Canessa 13 Rosario Torres 14 Norah Benzequem. Photo Mrs F Chipolina.

1 Isabel Nunez 2 Regina Pisani 3 ¿ 4 Maruja Sene 5 Robert Pons 6. Teresa Pons 7 Charles Pons 8 Rosario Gutierrez, 9 Violeta Zammitt 10 Johnny Gracia 11 Berta Bayardo 12 Jimmy Carboni 13.May Triay 14 Elvira Fernandez 15Ana Maria Alcantara 16 ¿ 17 Mercedes Bottino.

1 Josephine Coelho 2 Sylvia Santos 3. ? 4 Regina Bonfante 5 Lydia Danino 6 Lourdes Dotto 7 Regina Pisani 8 Isabel Nunez 9 Transitory Morillo 10 Miss Baker Teacher 11 Violeta Zammitt 12 Berta Bayardo 13 Gilian Power 14 Carlota Morillo 15 Muriel Hume 16 Margot Rodriquez 17 Maruja Peire 18 Elvira Fernandez. Photos Mrs M Clark.

The school children in Madeira also took part in gymnastics as part of their physical education, as shown in the photo below.

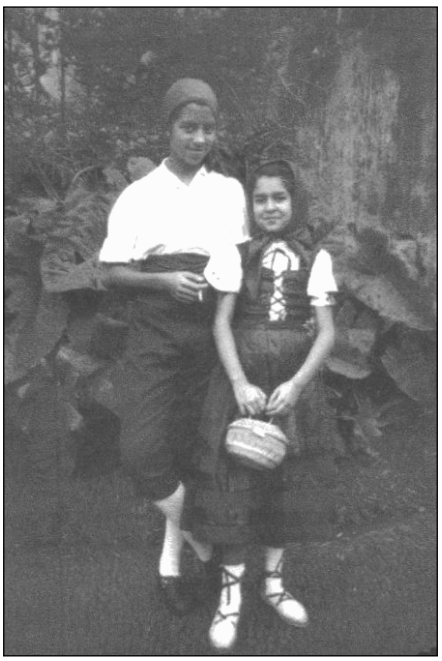
A PE display at the British School for Gibraltar Children. Photo Mr L Pereira.

In addition to the school football teams there were other football teams in which many Gibraltar evacuees took part, including the local football teams like the Sporting de Madeira. Some of the natives of Madeira also played in a few of the evacuees' football teams.
As far as sports were concerned, there was a miniature golf course and tennis court. At first these two sporting activities were new to most of the Gibraltar evacuees. It seems that, after a lot of practice, they soon took an active part in these sports. After a few sessions, many of the evacuees became very skilled and competent in both tennis and miniature golf during their stay in Madeira.

The Santo Da Serra Golf Course. Photo Mr B Ramagge.

Soon after arriving in Madeira, a benevolent guild was set up by Lady Liddell in order to help the needy evacuees and also the poor natives of Madeira with items of clothing and food. With the object of raising funds for the guild, the evacuees held many charitable events. These events entailed the holding of concerts and theatrical shows.

Some of the funds raised were also donated to the Gibraltar War Fund. The photograph below was taken during a show held on Thursday 9th December 1943, which was attended by the Governor of Madeira, Don Gustavo Texeira Dias.



In the above photo is Muriel Eddings (Mrs. Lima) and Fanny Ellul taking part in a play. Photo Mrs M Lima.

Standing is Hortencia Ocana with Melanie Andrades playing the guitar. Photon Mr L Avellano.

Below is a cutting from the Gibraltar Chronicle of 10th July 1941, describing the activities of Lady Liddell's Guild and the letter sent by Lady Liddell to Mrs O Olivero inviting her to become a member of the Guild.

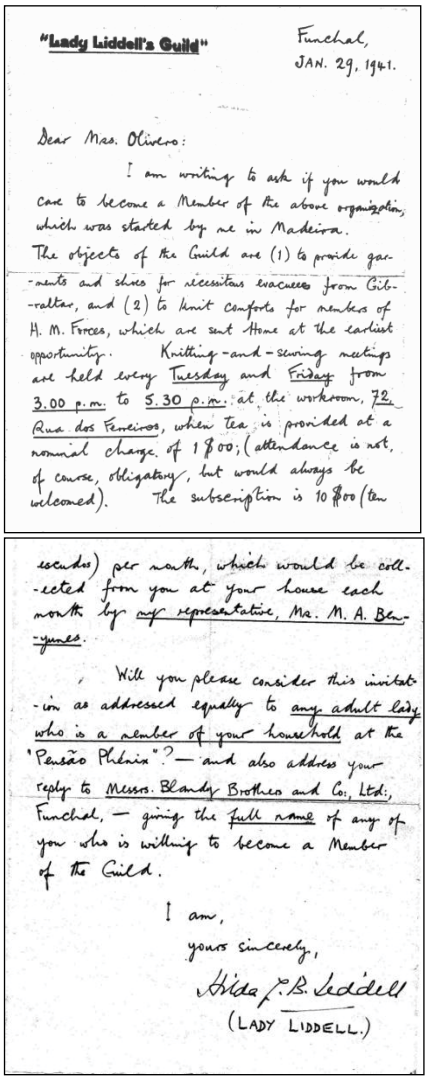
LADY LIDDELL'S GUILD IN MADEIRA

A summary of the activities of Lady Liddell's Guild in Funchal for the three months ending May 31 shows that 194 oz. of wool, 55 dress lengths, 63 other garments and money grants to the value of Esc. 70.00 were given to the Gibraltar evacuees.

For men of H.M. Forces, including prisoners of war, 119 knitted comforts, 10 flannel vests, 24 handkerchiefs and 8 pairs of pyjamas were provided.

Garments (nearly all children's) sent to England for air-raid victims numbered 133, with a considerable quantity of used clothing. About 112 children's garments were also provided for the children of poor Portuguese in Madeira.

Through the columns of the *Diario de Noticias* Lady Liddell thanks all members of the guild for their continued support, and also all those who responded so generously to her appeal of April 22 for air-raid victims. The sum of Esc. 2,822.00 was received in response to this appeal as well as the used clothing mentioned above.



"Lady Liddell's Guild"

Funchal,
JAN. 29, 1941.

Dear Mrs. Olivero:

I am writing to ask if you would care to become a Member of the above organization, which was started by me in Madeira.

The objects of the Guild are (1) to provide garments and shoes for necessitous evacuees from Gibraltar, and (2) to knit comforts for members of H. M. Forces, which are sent Home at the earliest opportunity. Knitting-and-sewing meetings are held every Tuesday and Friday from 3.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. at the workroom, 72 Rua dos Ferreiros, when tea is provided at a nominal charge of 1$00; (attendance is not, of course, obligatory, but would always be welcomed). The subscription is 10$00 (ten escudos) per month, which would be collected from you at your house each month by my representative, Mrs. M. A. Bettencourt.

Will you please consider this invitation as addressed equally to any adult lady who is a member of your household at the "Pensão Phenix"? — and also address your reply to Messrs. Blandy Brothers and Co. Ltd., Funchal, — giving the full name of any of you who is willing to become a Member of the Guild.

I am,
yours sincerely,
Hilda C. B. Liddell
(LADY LIDDELL.)

In addition to these events, every Gibraltar evacuee also contributed the sum of one escudo per week to help the poor people of Madeira. The scope of this benevolent guild was later also extended to help with the sending of items of clothing for the fighting men and prisoners of war. A collection of many items of clothing was also sent to the victims of air raids in England.

A verbena held in aid of the poor of Madeira. Photo Mr L Pereira.

Lady Liddell with the guild supporters. Photo Mrs T Cartwright.

The names of participants in Luisa Fernanda Choir

On the left hand side	*In the Centre*	*On the right hand side*
	Olga Benady with Anita Rodriguez	
Alice O'Brien with Maruja Azzopardi		*Carmen Rodriguez with Carmen Capurro*
Mariola Teuma with Eloiga Ferrery		*Elena Campello with Araceli Picardo*
Maite Porral with Leni Tipping		*Rosario Torres with Nora Benzaquen*

Sisters Anita and Carmen Rodriguez taking part in the Luisa Fernanda play at the Atlantic Hotel in 1944
Photos Mr C Nuza

1 Yvonne Cavilla 2 Vicky Cruz 3 Flavia Garcia 4 Maite Porral 5 Maria Martinez 6 Carmen Capurro 7.Maribel Teuma 8 Alice O'Brien 9 Maruja Azzopardi 10.Araceli Picardo 11 Carmela Medina 12 Anita Rodriguez ,13 Margot Silva 14 Carmen Rodriguez 15 Elna Campello

1 Carmen Rodriguez 2 Yvonne Cavilla 3 Vicky Cruz 4 Alice Gonçalves (nee O'Brien) 5 Maruja Dalmedo 6 ¿ 7 Carmen Capurro 8 Flavia Gracia 9 Carmelia Ruggeri (nee Medina) 10 ¿ 11 Anita Rodriguez
Photos Mrs F Chipolina

There were the following places for entertainment and leisure in Madeira as show in the postcards donated by Mr B Ramagge.

Casino at Funchal

According to an evacuee's recollection about Christmas, he remembered that it was one of the best seasons in Madeira. Dances were held in the Casino which remained closed at other times owing to the fact there were no tourists as a result of the war situation.

Public garden and theatre at Funchal

There were many plays organised in aid of charity, as can be appreciated from the photographs displayed on this page. The main participants were the school children who, despite the emphasis on the use of the English language, performed many plays and songs in Spanish.

Children taking part in the matinee show of "La Rosa Del Azafran."

Concert held in aid of charity attended by the Governor of Madeira. Photos Mrs M Lima.

The plays were held in the main hall of the Savoy Hotel on Sunday 21st November 1943. The photograph at the top of this page is from the matinee session of La Espigadora from the play of "La Rosa del Azafran."

Many evacuees, particularly youngsters, practised playing with stringed, musical instruments which were one of the most popular musical instruments in Madeira. After some basic lessons on guitar playing some of these youngsters eventually formed their own guitar groups, like the one shown in the photo below:

Lazareto building guitars' group. Photo Mr F Chincotta.
At the back L to R: J.Revagliatte, E.Macarri, C.Martins (Portuguese music teacher,) J.Stagno, A. Revagliatte, M.Robba. In front L to R: F.Chincotta, D.Pizarello, C.Robba. Sitting in Front V.Pisarello. Photo MrsMartin.

With a mild, subtropical climate and with the sea being relatively warm for almost all the year round, except for the months of December and January when the sea was slightly cooler, the evacuees could go swimming practically throughout the whole year. Most of the swimming was done to at the lido which, as can be seen from the photograph below was comprised of an enclosure by the open sea. There was also the option of being able to swim from a pebble beach into the surrounding open sea. The other photo shows youngsters on the black pebble beach adjacent to the Lido.
The evacuees living in the Lazareto, being near the sea, sometimes took the opportunity of bathing on a beach below the cliffs, where there was always a lifeguard in case of any accidents. Photos L.Pereira.

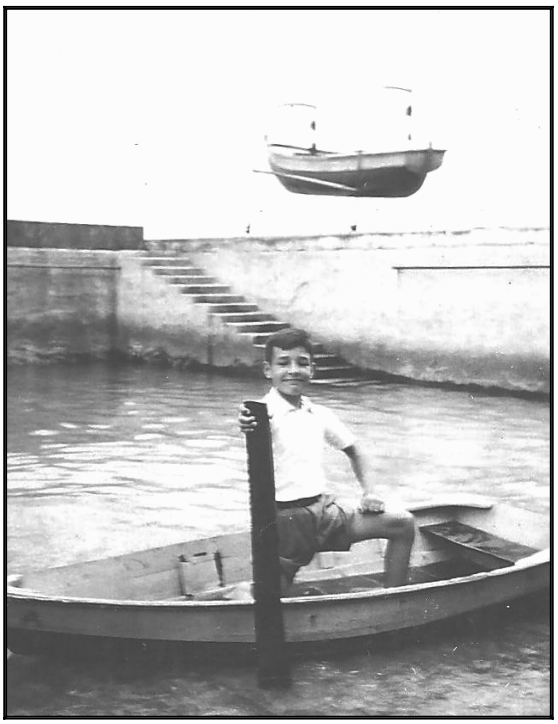
Black pebble beach near the lido.

Youngsters at the pebble beach near the lido.
Sitting left to right: L.Pereira, L.Olivero. Standing behind second from the left C.Huart,4th Mario Yome, Rest not known.

The following was written by John Chincotta's based on his recollections as an eight year old boy in Madeira.

"The four-star Savoy Hotel in Funchal, Madeira, not only offered some en-suite bathrooms but it also provided an outdoor swimming pool which was also a novelty for the Gibraltarian evacuees. The school Summer holidays ensured that the children, in particular, made the most of it from early morning, when the pool was filled by pumping in the sea water, till late evening when the pool was emptied. A small paddle boat was thrown in, for good measure, to complete the fun. There was an enclosed area overlooking the pool which provided very basic gymnastic equipment, mainly hanging ropes and rings from the ceiling. As can be seen in one of the adjoining photographs, the wall separating the pool from the gym was of basic construction.

On, at least, one occasion, when we, children, were surprised by some Summer rain, which we totally ignored, I distinctly remember hearing some mothers, who stood on the railing in the covered area, shout at their children "Come out quick! Can't you see it's raining?"



John Chincotta on a boat inside the swimming pool. Photo Mr J.Chincotta.

I have very vivid memories of our ship's arrival at Funchal, the capital of Madeira. As we anchored in the bay awaiting a berth, we were approached by bum (rowing) boats offering to sell many of the island's products such as wicker baskets, linen cloths and bottles of wine. As far as the traders were concerned, we were just another group of tourists visiting Madeira which has been a very popular tourist destination for many years. As the sale of goods proceeded by the raising and lowering of baskets between the decks of our ship 'Neuralia' and the bum boats, passengers were entertained by teenage divers. It was the custom for each bumboat to include, at least, one teenager (probably related to the boats' owners) in bathing costume and he would dive in to retrieve the coins hurled from the decks above whilst the sale of goods went on. Being children ourselves, we were mesmerised to see how, without the use of modern-day goggles, they invariably surfaced with the coins clenched between their teeth. This was the first of many experiences that lay ahead in the course of the next four years. We were put up in hotels, which were, of course, empty of tourists because the last thing people think of ,in time of war, is to go on holiday! Having a suite bathroom was an unheard of luxury. Although my childhood facilities before the war were less primitive than my father's, we still had to purchase our water in buckets from a public fountain and haul them to our kitchen where the water was stored in large earthenware containers. Our weekly bath was taken in the zinc tub used for washing the clothes. This was placed on the kitchen floor over large towels which would soak up the inevitable splashes. Not only was the kitchen the warmest room in the flat, but the kettles of boiling water were also at hand.

Unlike most of the other Gibraltarian women and children, who spent the war in London hotels, where they were subjected to enemy bombing throughout the war and suffered food rationing, we, in Madeira, were in a veritable paradise. There was plenty of homegrown food and a large variety of tropical fruits which we could pluck, at will, from the many trees in our hotel's private grounds. Near Funchal there was a sugar cane processing plant owned by a British company. Some evacuees explained that the sugar canes were carried on oxen-driven carts up a hill to the plant and that they used to grab hold of some of the canes to suck out the sweet juice. We became quite adept at pressing a shoe at the base of a cane and pulling hard. Our front teeth did the rest as we peeled the cane before crushing the innards with our molars. It's a wonder we have any teeth left after exposing them to so much sugar almost on a daily basis. Schooling in Madeira was very much a makeshift affair. There were a few teachers who had had some sort of teaching experience before the war. The rest were mainly female volunteers and a couple of men who had been evacuated on medical grounds.

However, the headmaster, Mr. Power, was an Englishman who had settled on the island some years before and the school became known as The British School for Gibraltar Children. The building used for this purpose is now The Monte Carlo Hotel.

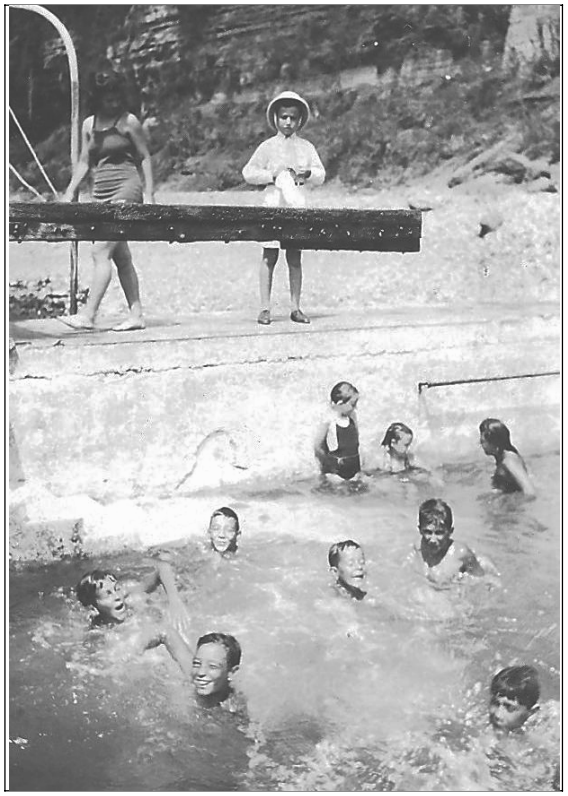
Not surprisingly, we didn't make much academic progress during our four years away from Gibraltar. One of my teachers had a terrible stammer. No wonder my dictation marks were so poor! Another one was a senior pupil, who stayed on as a teacher after he sat his School Certificate, the ground work of which had been covered in Gibraltar at the private Christian Brothers' school. Only the infant classes were offered singing lessons at the British School for Gibraltar Children and I didn't qualify because I was already 8 years old. However, I remember stopping outside the music room door to listen in, on my way to the toilets. Musically speaking, therefore, I had to make do with a harmonica which I learnt to play by myself. Occasionally, the school organized day outings on buses and we got to discover different parts of the island. Needless to say, we were also taken on a visit to the local sugar factory where we witnessed, at first hand, how the lorry loads of sugar cane were crushed by the huge rollers on arrival.

One afternoon, whilst doing the school homework with a classmate in my hotel room, we suddenly noticed many objects moving about. This movement increased in intensity until the furniture literally started to bounce before our very eyes. We immediately left the room to find everyone in a panic running about attempting to evacuate the building. I was experiencing my first earth tremor, the consequence of which was very evident the following day. A small field in the hotel's grounds where we often played football was cut up. It reminded me of a completed jigsaw puzzle with the grooves between the pieces. Since Madeira is a Portuguese island, we, evacuees, were exposed to a different language, which, luckily, is similar to Spanish so we picked it up as we went along. I remember trying to make out the stories in Portuguese comics, initially, until my father sent us the English equivalent from Gibraltar. The local cinemas showed Hollywood films dubbed in Portuguese so this became another source of learning the language but it was also frustrating. We, eventually, also got used to the Portuguese coinage

which consisted of escudos and centavos. Evacuees also provided their own entertainment by organizing dances and concerts in the large hotel lounges and open-air verbenas; something we children always looked forward to. We immersed ourselves in Portuguese culture and the island's religious traditions. We joined the processions and visited the different districts on feast days where bonfires were lit; food and drink flowed freely and folkloric dancers performed. Seeing the New Year in was a magnificent spectacle when it seemed like the whole of Funchal, the capital, was lit up.

Even nowadays, many cruise ship liners make it a point of anchoring at bay, on the last day of the year, to offer the passengers this unique experience.

After nearly four years on the island, we were told that we could return to Gibraltar. The war hadn't quite finished, but the danger, as far as Gibraltar was concerned, had passed."



Children in the Lido.
Photo Mrs J Chincotta.

Adriana Viera, E. Nuza,A.Bassadone with her daughter Rolli and Mrs Danino

The Hume sisters, the Pons Children,Rosario Guittierez, Danino Sisters and Ferrary Children

At the Hotel Savoy swimming pool. Mrs Bassadone and her daughter,Mrs Elena Nuza and her niece Mercedes,Mrs C Danino and her daughters and friend Adriana Viera. Photos Danino sisters.

The Viera Family at their home. Photos Danino sisters.

Procession in Funchal

Angel Cabuto,Guillem family and Mrs Danino

Back row Clemen Danino,Rosina Ramagge, Muriel Hume
Lydia Danino, front row Eileen Hume,Lali Ramagge and Lottie Danino

Gibraltarian families in an outing at the top of the mountain.

Mrs Danino and her children,Rosina Rammagge ,Muriel Hume, Mrs Mercedes Hayward,Mrs E Nuza her niece Mercedes and Chyril Bassadone. Photos Danino sisters.

Lydia and Clemen Danino tarantela

Lina Searle (nee Danino) and Lottie Rosado (nee Danino)

Maruja Azzopardi, Norah Benzaquen, Lydia and Clemen Danino,Rosarito de Torres and Margot Pereira. Photos Danino sisters.

Mr Domingo Danino with his daughters Lottie,Lydia,Clemen and Lina at the Savoy Hotel Swimming Pool

Clemen Danino,Julie Balensi and Lydia Danino at Savoy Hotel.

Mr Danino with his children and mother-in-law Mrs Nuza. Photos Danino sisters.

Lydia's birthday party at Savoy Hotel
In front from L to R; Maria do Carmo, Leite Montero,Lydia,Maurice Massetti, Iris Seruya, Adriana Viera,
Behind: Mr and Mrs Danino,Miss Clara Lossano and Mrs Ida Massetti .
At the back row Messrs Mercedes and Elena Nuza.

below photos of Lydia's birthday party held at Savoy Hotel

Mrs Elena Nuza's birthday party at the Hotel Savoy with her family, Mrs Bassadone,Mrs Massetti and their children and Mrs Danino. Photos Danino sisters.

From L to R; Carmencita Latin,her mother Carmen,Mrs Cortes her grandson Charlie Hayward,Mrs Clemencia Danino and standing Mercedes Hayward. Photo Danino sisters.

Back row; Margot Pereira, Ana Maria Alcantara,Maruja Sene,Josephine Vella,Rosario Gutierez, Middle Row,Rosina Ramagge,Teresa Pons,Lucy Gilbert, Cynthia Wall.
Front row : Lydia Danino, Pat Cisarello and Clemen Danino

In the photo are the Canessa,Cortes,Carboni,Bassadone,Astengo families, Lina and Lottie Danino

C.Pons, M.Hume,(later Gray) L.Danino,(laterArmstrong) R.Guittierez,(later Coll) C.Danino (later Lochyer) P.Ferrary ,I.Hume (later Hornsby)

Gibraltar evacuees attending the Anglican Church in Funchal
1. Mark Shanks 2. Julie Flower 2. R. Wall 3.Bonfante? 4. C.McEwen.

Evacuees at the Red Cross Verbena in Madeira
1. ? 2. Miss V.Bentubo 3.Mrs Clemencia Danino 10. Angeles Azzopardi 11.Mrs Margot Bado (nee Marfe)12. Vicky Faria (nee Nunez) 14. Teresa Azzopardi. Photos Danino sisters.

Tea party at Danino's Home at Villa Honolulu
C.Bassadone(later Callagham), Maria Do Carmo, Leiti Monteiro,R.Bonfante and the Danino's sisters

Rabbi Benaim's Home with Mrs Benaim and daughters. Mrs Danino with her mother Mrs Nuza and their children.

Mrs E Nuza , Mrs A Bassadone and daughter Cyril ,Mrs Danino and daughers, Lydia ,Clemens, Lottie and Lina.
Photos Danino sisters.

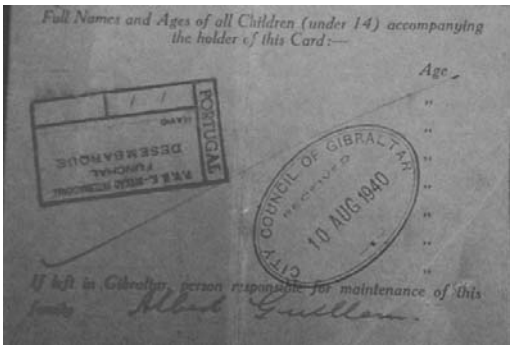
Mr and Mrs Ferreira, Mrs Nuza, Mrs Danino and daughter Lydia

Danino sisters, Linares (later Loddo), the Santos sisters (Mrs C\hamberlain and Mrs Cappurro)

C.Bassadone (Callagham),Ramagge sisters, Raymond – survivor, and the Danino sisters.
Photos Danino sisters.

1.Carmen Latin,2.Irene Fava,3.Emily North,
4.Julie Flower,5.Rolly Hayward?,6.Jane Bassadone,
7.Lilian Zammitt.

Ana Guillem and Vivian Bassadone 1943



Mr Albert Guillem's family maintenance card.

Ana Guillem in National Dress 1943

All the images displayed in this page were donated by Miss A Guillem.

Ana Maria Guillem's 2nd Birthday Party 11 March 1943

1. Mrs. Chiappe 2. Mary Cuby 3.Mrs. De Torres 4. Lourdes Bassadone 5. ?6. Mercedes Codali 7. Barbara Guillem 8. Anita Cabutto 9. Dolly Sacarello10. Aida Massetti. (Astengo) 11. ? 12.? 13. Vitoti Davidson. (Canessa) 14.? 15. Christine Bacarese-Hamilton. (Chiappe) 16.Louis Andlaw 17.Julie Flower 18. Pepe Hassan 19. Eileen Prescott. (Davidson) 20.? 21. Maîte Pardo (Ferrary) 22.Eric Chiappe23.Willy Chiappe 24. Rolly Hayward. (Bassadone) 25. ? 26. Lizette Flower 27.Irene Stagnetto. (Andlaw) 28. Stella Aonso (Andlaw) 29. Jane Bassadone 30. Lionel Codali 31. Ernesto de Torres33.Theresin Codali 34.Ana-Maria Guillem 35.Vivian Azzopardi (Bassadone) 36.Sylvia Garcia. (Sacarello). Photos by Miss Ana Guilem.

1. ***Gloria Chiappe2.Vitoti Davidson (Canessa) 3.Mercedes Codali. (Guillem)4. Sylvia Garcia. (Sacarello)5. Dolly Sacarello 6.Mrs. Flower 7.Aida Massetti. (Astengo) 8. Miss? Cuby 9.Mrs. Hassan 10.Barbara Guillem.11.Eric Chiappe 12. ?13.Lionel Codali 14.Mrs. De Torres 15.Louis Andlaw 16.Stella Aonso(Andlaw) 17.Theresin Codali 18.Julie Flower 19.Maite Pardo (Ferrari) 20.Folly Hayward (Bassadone) 21.Mito Hassan 22.Willy Chiappe 23.Irene Stagnetto(Andlaw) 24.Jane Bassadone 25. Ana-Maria Guillem 26.Ernesto de Torres 27.Josephine Espinosa(Parody) 28.Vivian Azzopardi(Bassadone) 29.Maurice Massetti 30.Lizette Flower 31.Eileen Prescott.(Davidson) 32.Pepe Hassan 33.? 34. Charlie Sacarello***

1.Donna Levy, 2.Solomon Levy, 3.Nita Levy, 4.Rolly Bassadone, 5.Yvonne Seruya, 6.Clara Bensecry, 7.Robert Seruya, 8.Anita Benady, 9.Annabel Serruya, 10.Shirley Bassadone, 11.Portoguese Girl, 12.Daisy Seruya, 13.Julie Benzaquen, 14.Donna Balensi, 15.Rebecca Hassan, 16.Victoria Serruya, 17.Julie Balensi, 18.Raquel Benzaquen, 19.Abraham(Mito)Hassan, 20.Pepe Hassan, 21.Isaac Hassan, 22.Alfred Benady, 23.Isaac Sequerra, 24.Nita Levy, 25.Iris Serruya, 26.Isaac Benyunes.

Clarita's Birthday Party. Photos by Mrs D Cazes.

1. S.Benaim 2.Isaac Beyunes 3.Tito Benady 4.A.Benamor 5.I.Levy 6.Solomon Seruya 7.J.Levy 8. Isaac Hassan 9. Joe Acris 10.Matana 11.A.Levy 12.R.Hassan 13.Kate Seruya 14.Shaya Seruya 15.A.Asagury16.M.Seruya 17.Beniso 18.M.Cohen 19.R.Benzaquen 20.Benady 21.Dona Seruya 22.Abraham Seruya 23.M.Matana 24.Bentubo 25. Portuguese Official 26.M.Benyunes 27.Nora Benzaquen 28.Mary Cuby 29. Moly Tobelen. Photo by Mrs T Cartwright.

In the photo with Lady Liddell Mrs Carboni,Mrs MacKintosh,Mrs M Russo(wife of Sir Peter Russo),Mrs E Stalker,Rossana Imossi,Donna Balenci, Vicky Imossi,Mrs O Olivero, Miss Cole. Photo Mr B Ramagge.

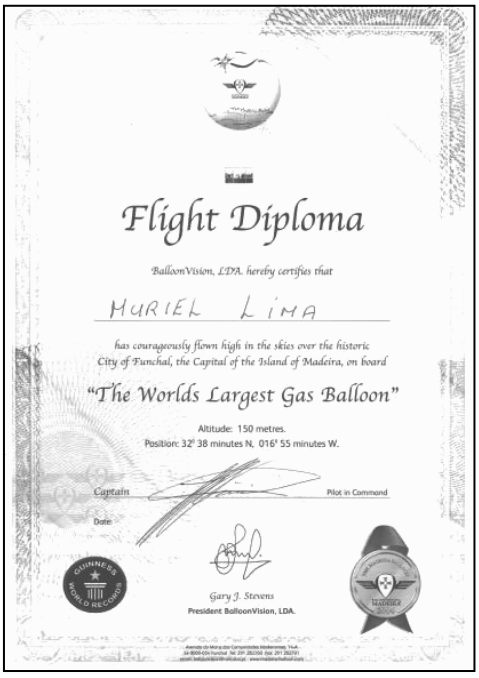
Mr and Mrs Eddings with their daughter Tilly in Madeira

Mrs Eddings with her daughter Tilly.
Photos and cuttings on this page
by Mrs M Lima.

Mr William Eddings with wife Jane and Daughters Laura, Gladys, Muriel, Tilly and granny in Madeira

MADEIRA MEMORIES 1988

The 117 Gibraltarians that had not been back to Madeira since the second world war enjoyed every minute of their trip direct from Gibraltar this Easter. Now back in Gibraltar they have brought with them press cuttings from the Madeira newspapers 'Diario de Noticias' where Muriel Lima was interviewed in portuguese about the connections between Madeira and Gibraltar. The Portuguese tourism authorities were thrilled with this special charter and are very much looking forward to receiving more Gibraltarian in Funchal next July.



Flight Diploma

BalloonVision, LDA. hereby certifies that

MURIEL LIMA

has courageously flown high in the skies over the historic City of Funchal, the Capital of the Island of Madeira, on board

"The Worlds Largest Gas Balloon"

Altitude: 150 metres.
Position: 32º 38 minutes N, 016' 55 minutes W.

Captain — Pilot in Command

Date

Gary J. Stevens
President BalloonVision, LDA.

From L to R: Mrs M Barton, Mrs O Olivero and her daughter Olympia

Miss Olivero,Mr Pepe Cassaglia, Mrs O Olivero,Mrs M Barton, Mr F Cassaglia

At Kit Kat Tea Room from L to R: Mrs M Barton and Mrs O Olivero

From L to R Mrs M Barton,Mrs A Figueira and Miss O Olivero

Two evacuees who married Portuguese nationals Margot Sene and Mariluz Canessa

A View of The Palacio de San Jao the property of the Figueras family whose eldest son married Miss Mariluz Canessa. Photos Mr B Ramagge

In the Golf Club left to right 1.Miss Bentata,2.Mrs Carboni ,3. Mrs Barton, 4.Mrs Adelaida Latin,5. ? ,6.Miss Olympia Oliveros, 7.Mrs Donna Balenci

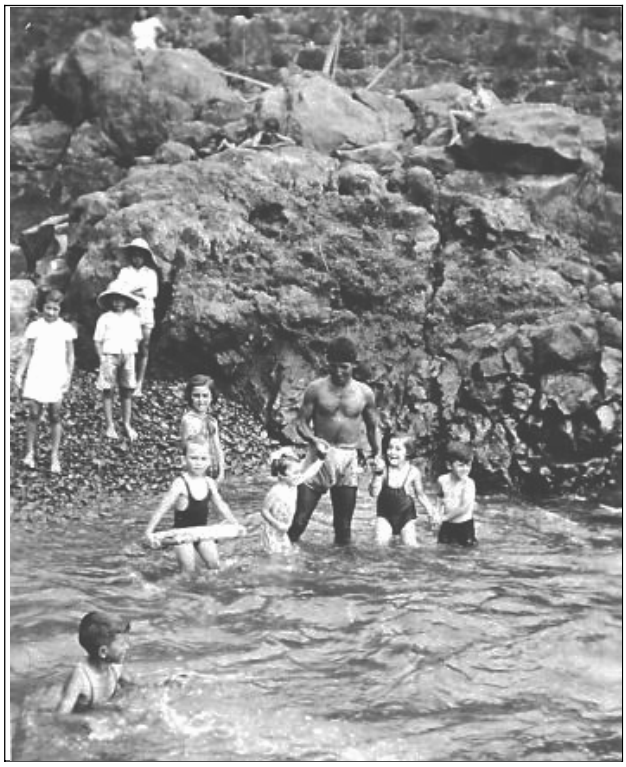
1.Mrs O Olivero,2. ? 3.Mrs A Figueira,4. Miss O Olivero,5.Mrs M Barton.

Sitting in front from L to R: O. Olivero,M.Canessa,M.Carboni,A.Latin.
Photos Mr B Ramagge

At the back Portuguese nationals
3rd row A.Baglietto,B.Stagno,R.Yeats,M.Pisharello,A.Martin,
A.Baglietto,H.Stagno,P.Chincotta,
2nd Row L.Stagno,M.Parody,M.Macarri, M.Revagliatte,A.R.Yome,
Boys sitting in front H.Robba,F.Parody,S.Lopez,P.Yome,J.Stagno,H.Robba.

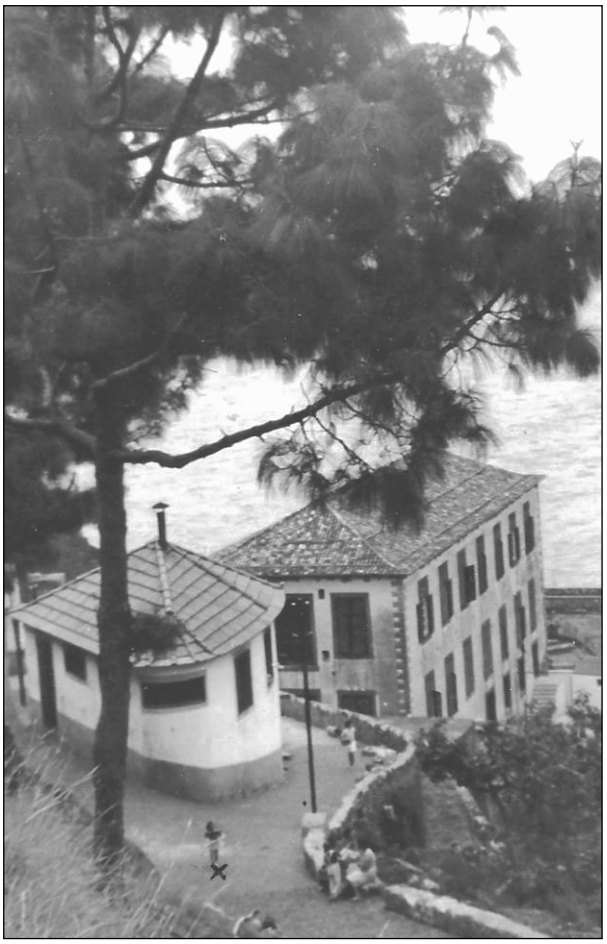
At the Lazareto Wharf From left to right M.Pisharello,J.Stagno,L.Stagno,P.L.Lugaro,B.Stagno.
All the photos by Mrs L. Saez

Laura , Blanca and Jose Stagno
by the sea side near the cliff leading to Lazareto



At the back Clara Robba, Mary Pisharello
In front Margarita Parody,
Luara Stagno,Juao,Portuguese life guard,Blanca and Jose Stagno

At the back Juan Pisarello,Julio Stagno
Laura Stagno,Angele Rosa Yome,Margot Macarri,Mary Revagliatte.Jose Stagn. All the photos by Mrs L Saez



Upper part of the Lazareto building.

Mr Stagno's visit to Madeira
With Portuguese Nationals Viula,Urbano and son Jose Stagno

Standing Mr Henry OsborneSitting on the cobbles from left to right Jose Stagno and Francis Parody

Mr Pedro Stagno with grandchildren Jose and Blanca Stagno

Jose,Pedro, Laura and BlancaStagno at Lazareto.
All photos by Mrs L Saez

Postcard send by Mrs Concha Stagno to her husband explaining the layout of the buildings at Lazareto where evacuees from Catalan Bay were lodged. The cross by the cliff indicates where the evacuees disembarked by boat to climb up the cliff to Lazareto. The cross by the windows indicate the room where the Stagno family was accommodated. The adjacent building is the hospital which was not ready when the evacuees arrived. The next building is where Mrs Stagno aunt and family lived. The larger building is the dinning room for all the evacuee.

At the Lazareto Beach
From left to right: L.Stagno,J.Stagno,P.Lugaro,M.Macarri,B.Stagno.

Margot Macarri,Laura,Jose and Blanca Stagno.
All photos by Mrs L Saez.

At the entrance to the school in Funchal
From left to right Maruja Peira,Antonia Rovegno and Charo Vinet.

Photo sent by Mrs Edmonds (nee Rovegno) to her father in Gibraltar on 25.7.1943 From left to right Charo Vinet,Maruja Peire, Antonia Rovegno. Photos Mrs A Edmonds

Photo taken in the garden of the Savoy Hotel.
1 Clemencia Parody, 2. Lourdita Gonzalez, 3. Teresa Parody, 4.Angelina Gonzalez, 5. Andres Ryan?
6 .....Ryan? , 7. Adolfo Parody, 8 ¿ 9. Lourdes Gonzalez, 10. Nina Correa, 11.Maribel Correa,
12. Adolfo Gonzalez 13 Antonio Correa

Photo taken Domingo de Ramos 29th March 1942 In Funchal. Boy John Neish,younger girl Isabelita Caetano (Mrs Avellano) Other girl Irma Ruis

Maria, Isabel and Isabelita Caetano

Isabelita Caetano in Portuguese National Costume. All photos on this page,except the one on right, Mrs Dalmedo.

At the back Francis Felices, In front from L to R :L.Gallardo,Anthony Lavagna and Charlie Gafan. Photo Mr C Gafan.

The cinemas in Madeira were mainly open air. Those evacuees, who were not used to this, recall how strange it was to watch a film with the bare sky above. The films were usually very old and occasionally there were long breakdowns. Sometimes the breakdown went on for so long that films were not shown in their entirety. The American and British films were released in English with Portuguese sub-titles. There were occasions when the Gibraltar audience reacted to any interesting thing said well before the Portuguese audience had a chance to read the subtitles. This was more noticeable during a comedy film when there were occasional bursts of laughter by the Gibraltar evacuees well before the Portuguese audience could react to the jokes from reading the sub-titles.
There were paths down the mountains called levadas. Rainwater came down these levadas and was collected in reservoirs, which supplied the people of Madeira with fresh water.
During their stay in Madeira, the evacuees organised many outings in the beautiful surroundings of Madeira as can be seen from the scenery photographs displayed.

Evacuees from the group at Lazareto in one of their outings. Photo Mrs Martin.

By early 1944, the evacuees were by then becoming increasingly optimistic about a victorious ending of the war and their repatriation to Gibraltar.

School children on school trip to the Santo de Serra. Photo Mr J Chincotta.

Birthday party at the Quinta Esperanza Madeira 1942

L to R…unknown, Lionel Diani, Maggie O'Sullivan Trico, Eileen Hume, Tom Ballentine, Muriel Hume, Hector Diani, unknown, Johnny (?) Norton, James Peralta, Luis Diani, Luis Peralta, Cecilia (from Madeira), Lillian Howes, Eugeine Howes (birthday boy, flowers round chair back), Pauline Norton, unknown, unknown, unknown (last two from Madeira). The baby is Mari Vic Peralta.Grownups..L to R... Mrs Hume, unknown, Miss Cole, unknown, Mrs Mercedes Ballantine, Mrs Diani, Mrs Teresa O'Sullivan, Mrs Pauline Norton, Mrs V Peralta, Mr Peralta, Clotilde (from Madeira) and Mrs Howes.

3 J Rovegno 4.C Huart 5.Teresa Susmaya (nee Olivero) 6. Alejandro Nunez 9.Pepe Nunez 24. J.Ryan 26. J.Pearce 34. Maria Nunez 36.Isabel Nunez 39. Luisa Sanguinetti (nee Susmaya) 40.Mr Pepe Olivero 41. Isabel Olivero 42. Emilia Smart (nee Olivero) 44. Henry Smart 45. Mary Cano (nee Olivero) 46. Vicky Faria (nee Nune) 51. E.Cerisola 49.Mr Vallejo 55.Mariano Susmaya.

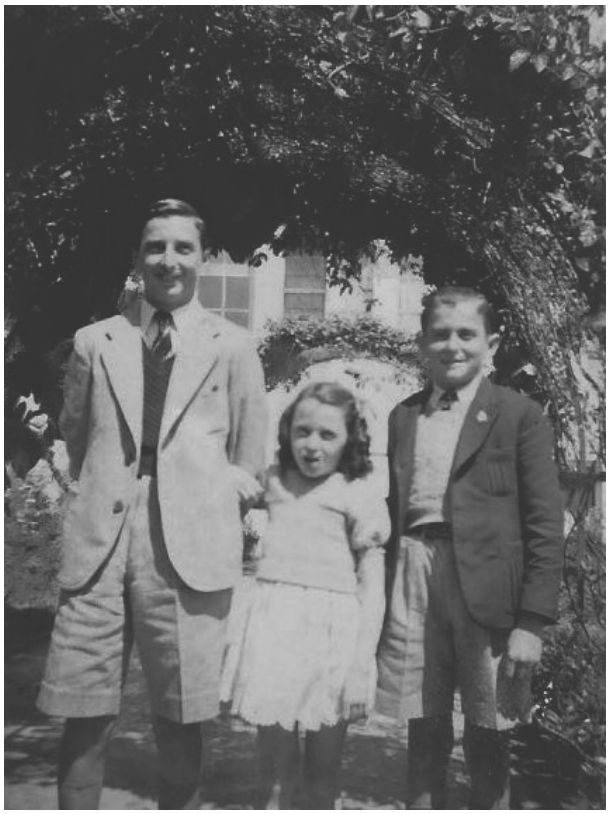
Christmas party at the Savoy Hotel

Evacuees gathered at the Church in Funchal. Photos Mrs M Pardo.

Back row, left to right: Carmen Latin (Gomez), Irene Fava (Almeida),Irene Andlaw (Stagnetto), ...?... Lavina Risso (Borda), Stela Abrines, ...?.....,
Front Row left to right: Eileen Davidson (Prescott), Pili Latin (Carascosa),....?....., Ave Maria Macedo (Fava), Vivien Bassadone (Azzopardi)

Left to righ: Carmen Latin (Gomez),Irene Fava (Almeda),Emily North, July Benzaquen (Massias), July Flower,Donna Balensi ,(Cazes), Lizette Flower. Photos Mrs D Cazes.

Mrs Jacinta Yome with her sons Vicente,Mario and daughter Araceli at the Victoria Hotel in Madeira. Also in the photo are the hotel's chambermaids. Photos Mr N M Yome.

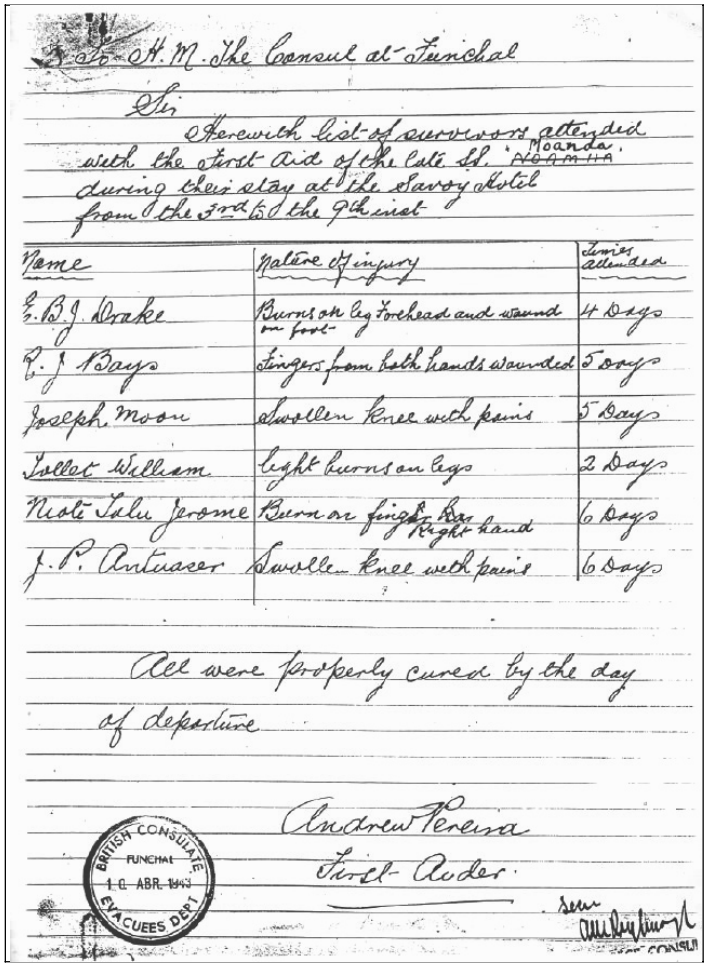


Vicente, Arceli and Nelson Mario Yome

Araceli with her brother Nelson Mario, wearing the first long trousers suit

The SS Moanda was a Belgian cargo ship on a convoy route and was hit by one of two torpedoes from German submarine U-172 caught fire and sank about 80 miles northwest of Villa Cisnero. Survivors were picked and taken to Madeira. Some were treated for wounds by Mr Andrew Pereira.

Survivors from the SS Moanda disembarking from launch at the Funchal pier. Photo Mrs M Pardo



To H. M. The Consul at Funchal

Sir

Herewith list of survivors attended with the First Aid of the Café SS. 'Moanda' ~~ALCANTARA~~ during their stay at the Savoy Hotel from the 3rd to the 9th inst.

Name	Nature of injury	Times attended
E. B. J. Drake	Burns on leg forehead and wound on foot	4 Days
R. J. Bays	Fingers from both hands wounded	5 days
Joseph Moon	Swollen knee with pains	5 Days
Tollet William	Light burns on legs	2 Days
Nicolé Jules Jerome	Burn on finger Right hand	6 Days
J. P. Antunacer	Swollen knee with pains	6 Days

All were properly cured by the day of departure

Andrew Pereira
First Aider.

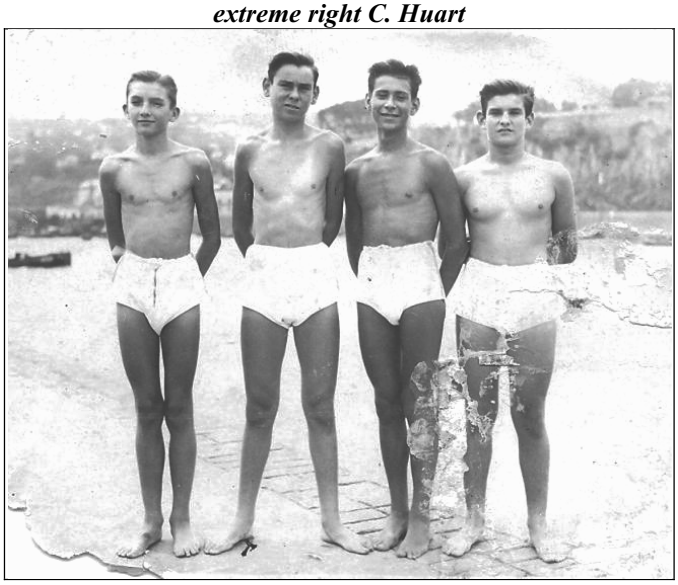
BRITISH CONSULATE FUNCHAL 1 C ABR 1943 EVACUEES DEPT

Entries made by Mr Andrew Pereira in his First Aid log book about the survivors from SS Moanda. Copy of Mr L Pereira

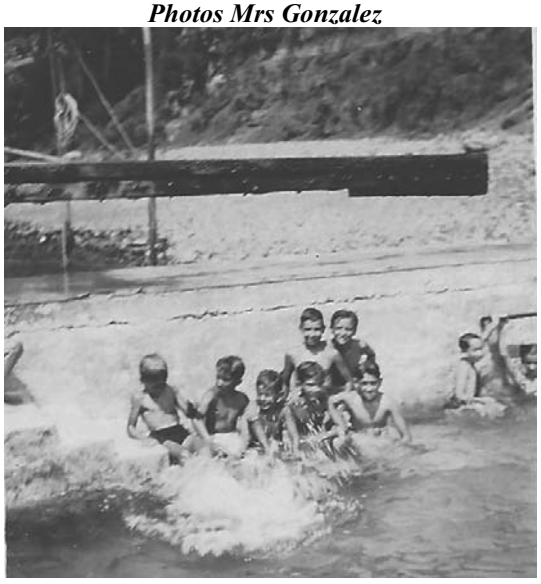
Above and below Adolfo Gonzalez

By the hotel in Madeira sitting first on the left J.Cerisola, in front with hand covering face Emilio Peire and standing on the extreme right C. Huart

Photos Mrs Gonzalez



By the pier in Funchal from L to R: ...?....,, E.Cerisola,...?.... C.Huart



Children in the Lido. Photo Mr J Chincotta.

Children in the Lido at Funchal
Among the children shown in the photographs above are Albert Brooks,Lionel and Teresine Codali,John and Tito Chincotta,Willie and Lillian Darby, Joanna Farrugia, Norberto Noguera,Titi Pearce,William Pisani and Pepe Ramirez.
Photos Mr J Chincotta.

C. Pons, M. Hume, (later Gray) L.Danino,(laterArmstrong) R.Guittierez,(later Coll) C.Danino (later Lochyer) P.Ferrary,I.Hume (later Hornsby). Photo Danino sisters. Photo Danino Sisters.

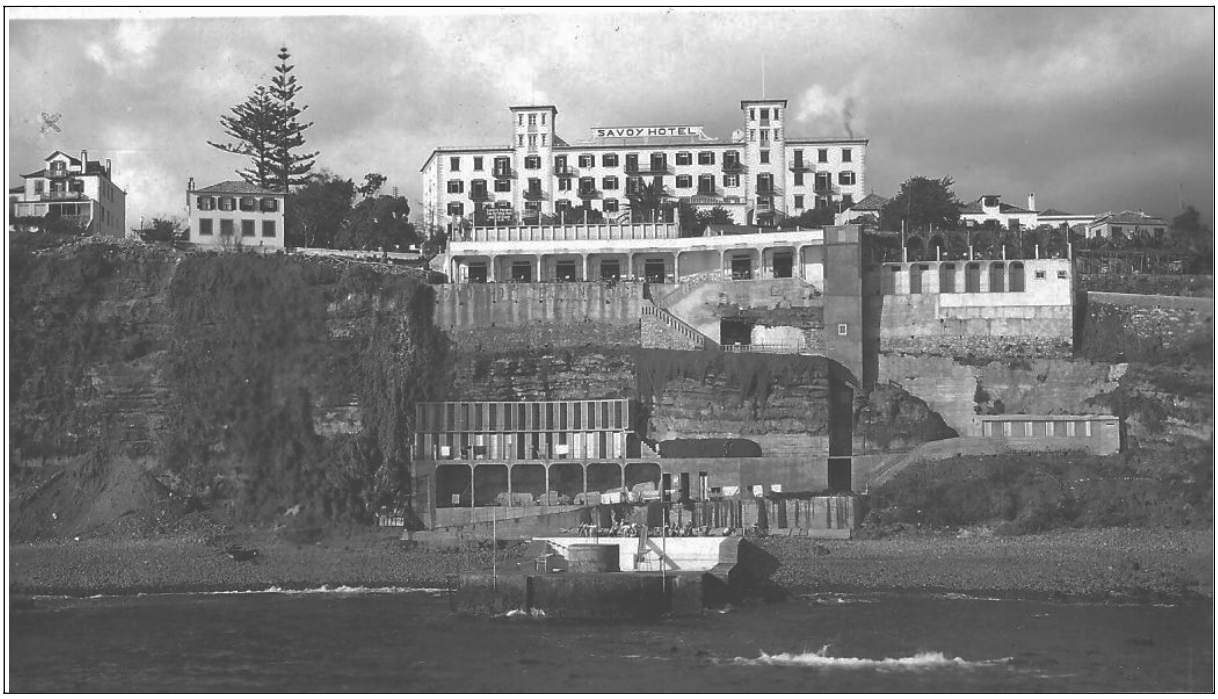
1.Aurelia Restano 2.Anita Rugeroni (Lavarello) 3.Lourdes Dotto 4.Teresa Pons 5. Portuguese boy Erico 6. Johnny Restano 7 Irene Andlaw 8 Muriel Pons 9.Manuel Restano 10. Vivian Bassadone 11. Gerald Restano 12.Ana Guillem. Photo Miss Guillem.

In Funchal, the usual means of transport was a cart with sledges drawn by two oxen. The sledges had steel runners to slide on the roads which were constructed with cobblestones. To reduce the amount of friction, a man stood by the cart brushing the sledges with some sort of grease to make sledges move more easily over the cobblestones. These cobblestones were not placed uniformly and appeared to have been laid down in a haphazard fashion. This made the road very uneven and in some places the stones had very sharp edges which made walking very painful for those who were not used to it. On the other hand it was interesting to see the natives walking barefoot over the stones with great ease and without hurting themselves.

Oxen driven cart. Photo Danino sisters

Many women in Madeira were often seen carrying on their heads a basket fully laden with fruits, vegetables or flowers. They carried these loads, as in the picture shown below, with such great ease and so perfect balance as to stop the baskets from falling to the ground.

Women carrying baskets with flowers.
Photo Danino sisters.



Picture of the Savoy Hotel from the sea front

Pico Forte – an historical site in Madeira. Photos Danino sisters.

Pico Forte as the name implies was a fortress that was built circa 1630 on a rocky peak that dominated the main town so as to protect the island from successive attacks from the pirates. During World War Two it was used a telegraphic naval station. Currently it is garrisoned by the Portuguese navy featuring a museum room that can be visited daily.

Very evacuees, most probably knowing that they are being repatriated to Gibraltar
From left to right: Mrs O Olivero,Mrs A Figueras,Mrs M Barton, Miss O Olivero.Photo Mr B Ramagge.
Photo Mr B Ramagge.

Members of the Lady Liddle's Guild busy with the preparation of clothing for the poors of Madeira.
Photo Mrs D Cazes.

Antonia Rovegno (Mrs Edmonds)
Photo Mrs Edmonds

Olympia Olivro.
Photo Mr B Ramagge

Flavia Gracia
Photo Mrs F Chipolina.

Anita Rodriguez and Maruja Peire
Photo Mr C Nuza

Old photo of the City Centre of Funchal

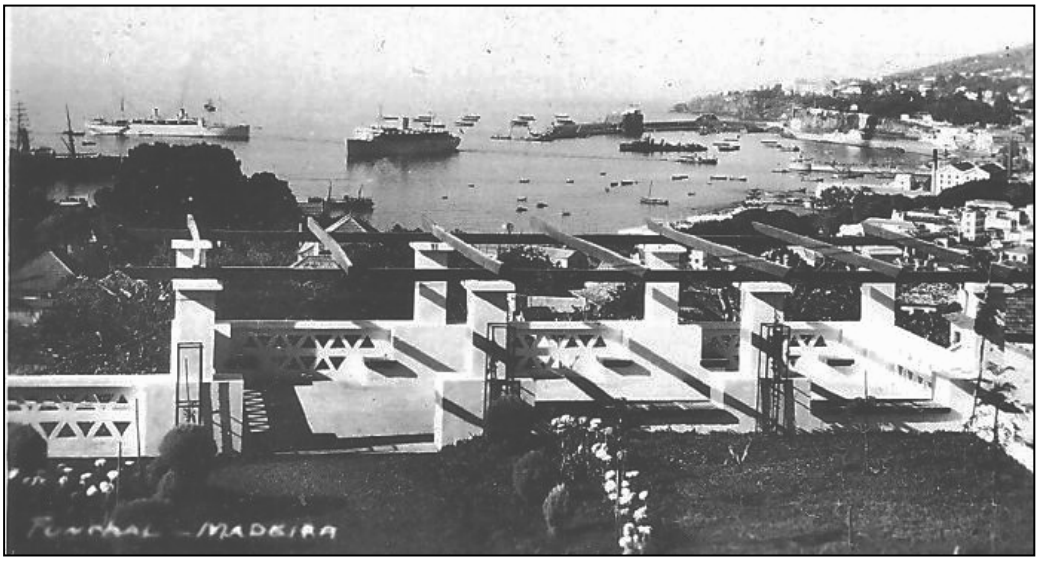
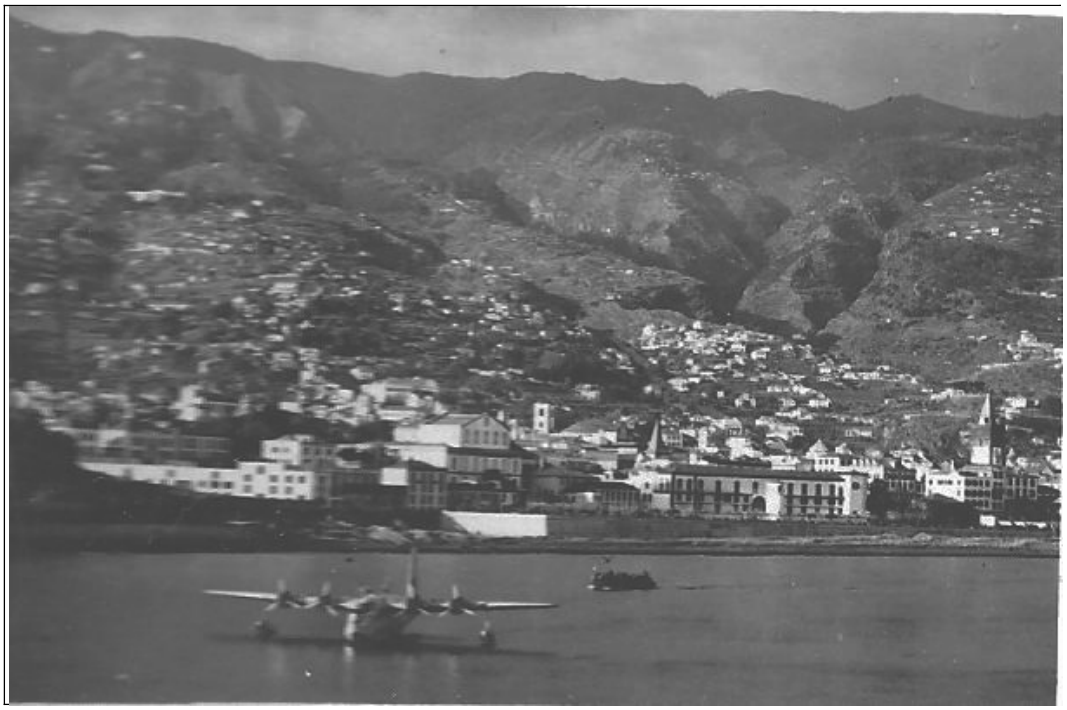


Photo taken just before the Second World War with liners anchored in the Bay of Funchal. A Portuguese destroyer can be seen inside the harbour. Photos Danino sisters.

Old photo of the Bomboteiros selling goods to passengers arriving on the liners calling at Funchal. Photo Danino sisters.



The Bay of Funchal was used by hydroplanes as there were no airports in Madeira

During their stay in Madeira, the evacuees took the opportunity of visiting many places of interest on the island. Not far from Funchal was the fishing village of Camara dos Lobos with its colourful boats and houses. As is well known, this is where Sir Winston Churchill used to holiday. From the terrace of one of the houses in the fishing village, he spent many hours painting and producing some of his most famous pictures back in the 1950's.

Camara do Lobos. Photos Danino sisters.

Evacuees in Madeira

Throughout the years since the Gibraltar evacuees were repatriated many Gibraltarians have visited Madeira individually or in groups. One of these groups travelled on a pilgrimage to accompany a replica of the Lady of Europe.

Gibraltar pilgrimage that accompanied replica of Our Lady of Europe to Madeira

Muriel Lima and Zoriada Barea with replica of Our Lady of Europe in Madeira

MADEIRA MEMORIES 1988

The 117 Gibraltarians that had not been back to Madeira since the second world war enjoyed every minute of their trip direct from Gibraltar this Easter. Now back in Gibraltar they have brought with them press cuttings from the Madeira newspapers 'Diario de Noticias' where Muriel Lima was interviewed in portuguese about the connections between Madeira and Gibraltar. The Portuguese tourism authorities were thrilled with this special charter and are very much looking forward to receiving more Gibraltarian in Funchal next July.

Newspaper cutting about the visit

A Portuguese stamp depicting the evacuation of the Gibraltarians in Madeira.

Photos and cuttings Mrs M Lima.

There was hardly any industry in Madeira. Owing to the war, the island's main source of income, the tourist industry, had come to grinding halt making the economy almost bankrupt. The arrival of evacuees, through their spending, went someway in helping the economy of Madeira.

During their stay, some evacuees recall seeing Portuguese men and women with their feet dyed in deep purple. This was as a result of having been working crushing grapes with their bare feet to squash out the juice to make the well-known Madeira Port wine. Workers were also seen bringing down the grapes from the farms on the mountains.

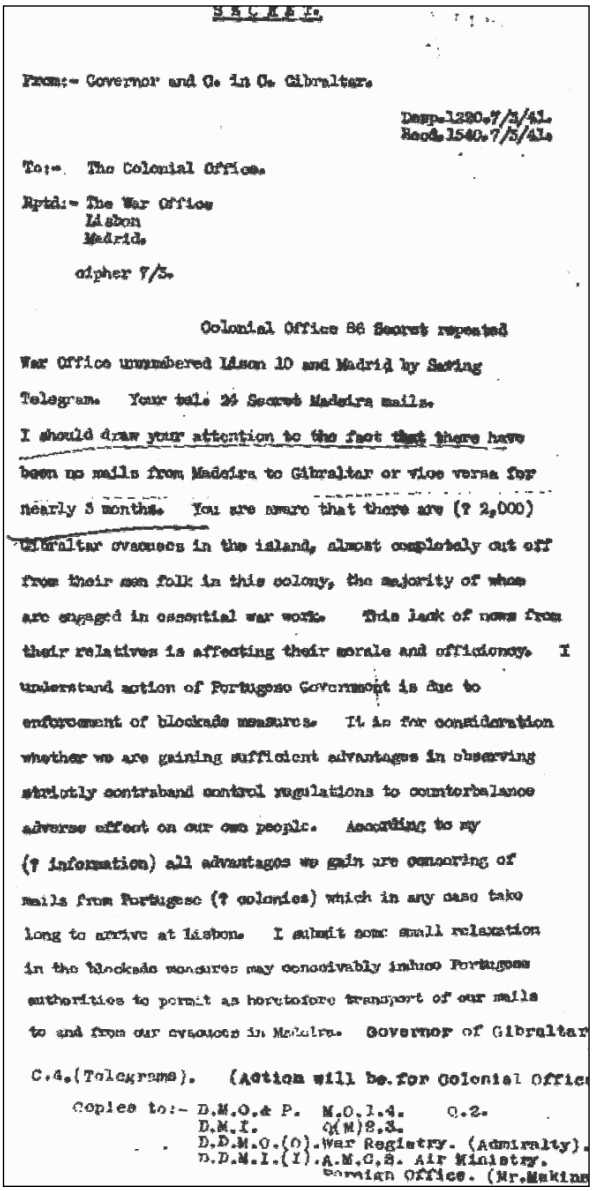
Portuguese workers carrying grapes

Near Funchal there was a sugar cane processing plant owned by a British company. Some evacuees explained that the sugar canes were carried on oxen-driven carts up a hill to the plant and that they used to grab hold of some of the canes to suck out the sweet juice.

Although the young evacuees had plenty of leisure time due to the island's almost perfect climate, there were no prospects of employment and therefore many of the evacuees had no personal income. Not being able to gain experience in any trade or career, many youngsters felt that their life was being wasted whilst in Madeira. Some youngsters on reaching the appropriate age left Madeira to join the Gibraltar Defence Force (GDF) for a chance of a career opening and hopefully finding gainful employment.

There were also some sources of grievances. Despite the fact that the Island of Madeira is not that far from Gibraltar, relatives in Gibraltar were not allowed to visit the evacuees. Many representations were made to the Portuguese Government but it seems that it was not until about mid 1943 when relatives were allowed a special visa to visit the evacuees.

Another source of grievance expressed by the evacuees, was about the postal services to and from Madeira. The initial problem of mail between Madeira and Gibraltar stemmed from the fact that the British Government was insisting that, as a war security measure, all mail from Madeira to Gibraltar could only be sent either via UK or Portugal. In view of this policy the Portuguese authorities were not prepared to handle mail addressed to the Gibraltar evacuees in Madeira.



S A L M P.

From:- Governor and C. in C. Gibraltar.

Despd.1220.7/3/41.
Recd.1540.7/3/41.

To:- The Colonial Office.

Rptd:- The War Office
Lisbon
Madrid.

cipher 7/3.

Colonial Office 86 Secret repeated
War Office unnumbered Lisbon 10 and Madrid by Saving
Telegram. Your tels 24 Secret Madeira mails.
I should draw your attention to the fact that there have
been no mails from Madeira to Gibraltar or vice versa for
nearly 3 months. You are aware that there are (? 2,000)
Gibraltar evacuees in the island, almost completely cut off
from their men folk in this colony, the majority of whom
are engaged in essential war work. This lack of news from
their relatives is affecting their morale and efficiency. I
understand action of Portugese Government is due to
enforcement of blockade measures. It is for consideration
whether we are gaining sufficient advantages in observing
strictly contraband control regulations to counterbalance
adverse effect on our own people. According to my
(? information) all advantages we gain are censoring of
mails from Portugese (? colonies) which in any case take
long to arrive at Lisbon. I submit some small relaxation
in the blockade measures may conceivably induce Portugese
authorities to permit as heretofore transport of our mails
to and from our evacuees in Madeira. Governor of Gibraltar

C.4.(Telegrams). (Action will be.for Colonial Offic

Copies to:- D.M.O.& P. M.O.I.4. Q.2.
D.M.I. C(M)2.3.
D.D.M.O.(O). War Registry. (Admiralty).
D.D.M.I.(I). A.M.C.S. Air Ministry.
Foreign Office. (Mr.Makins

Copy Mr I Reyes

The whole matter took about a year for the problem to be resolved. This meant that, for a whole year there was much anxiety among the evacuees due to not knowing anything about the relatives in Gibraltar and vice versa. In order to by- pass this mail restriction some natives of Madeira agreed, for the sake of helping the evacuees, for letters to be addressed to their home until the problem was sorted.

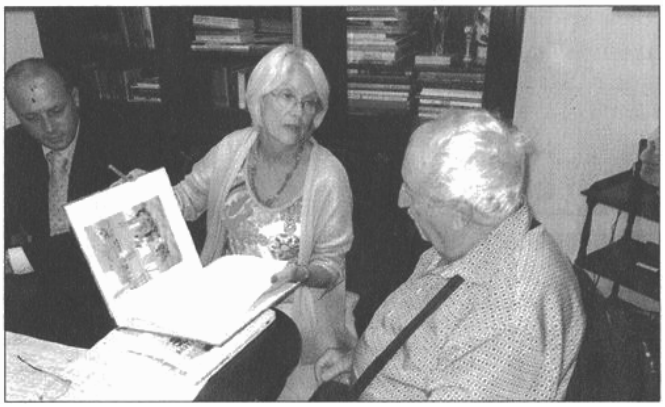
FUNCHAL'S GOLD MEDAL FOR A SAVOY GUEST

We are very proud to announce that our long-standing loyal guest, Louis Pereira from Gibraltar, was honoured last Wednesday, January 2nd, by the Municipality of Funchal. At the official ceremony Louis Pereira was distinguished with the Gold Medal of Municipal Merit in appreciation for his valued contribution to Madeira Island during the past three decades. Miguel Albuquerque, Mayor of the Municipality of Funchal, emphasised the noteworthy efforts and accomplishments of this charismatic honouree in generating solid ties between Gibraltar and Madeira. He recalled the time when, as a child, Louis Pereira took refuge with his family and other Gibraltarians in our island during the attacks on "The Rock" in the Second World War. At the time, the home to some of these evacuees was in fact the Savoy Hotel and remained their residence during the succeeding many months, until the end of the War. Since then, Louis Pereira has always showed huge gratitude to Madeira and its people, to the point of organising innumerous return visits to Madeira for various groups of fellow citizens and also was personally involved in the negotiations, which led to the establishment of a regular air link, GB Airways, between London and Madeira. In 2009, Louis Pereira proposed the twinning agreement between the city of Funchal and Gibraltar and in the following year he initiated a collection organized in Gilbraltar to support the local community affected by the storms of February 20th, 2010.
Although, Louis Pereira is deeply touched and is truly grateful for this honourable distinction, he feels it is unnecessary, as what he has done for Madeira has purely been with the greatest pleasure.

Conversely, I think it is also true to say that many Gibraltarian hearts and minds have remained for always in Madeira. A Madeira newspaper in 1940 said that the ties of friendship between the people of Gibraltar and Madeira would last for many years.

Photos and cuttings Mr L Pereira

Pereira returns to Madeira British school with other students



Article in the Gibraltar Chronicle about the visit of ex-students of the British School for Gibraltar Children and presentation of the book "We Thank God and England..."

Ex-students from the British School for Gibraltar Children headed by Louis Pereira were received by the Regional Director of Tourism and Transport in her office. Louis Pereira presented Mrs Estudiante with a copy of the Evacuation book produced by Joe Gingles on behalf of the Minister for Culture and Sport Steven Linares. To this gesture Mrs Estudante on behalf of the Madeira Government handed Louis Pereira a book titled "voyage around Madeira" with twenty illustrations by the author Isabella de Franca 1853-1854, dedicated to Mr. Steven Linares the Minister for Culture and Sport

Celebrating 72 years of the opening of the British School for Gibraltar Children a group of ex-students held a reunion in this same building which is now the Hotel Montecarlo, present in this gathering apart from those who travelled from Gibraltar in memorias was Tito Benady who flew from U.K. for the ocasion.

Present as a guest was Mr. Costa Neves from the Camara Municipal representing the Mayor who was away from the island. A very intimate and happy evening was spent as they were able to visit the change from a school to an hotel, Louis Pereira was surprised to see that his last class room is now the hotel bar.

A copy of the Evacuation was also presented to Mr Costa Neves which is likely to kept in the Public Library in Funchal.

During in his involvement of the filming of the "Evacuation: Cause and Effects", Mr Brian Ramagge met with ex- evacuees Margot Sene and Mariluz Canessa who married Portuguese nationals when evacuated to Madeira. The picture below shows Mr Ramagge with the ex-evacuees ladies.

From L to R Margot Sene,Mariluz Canessa and Brian Ramagge in 1996. Photo donated by Mr B Ramagge.

During the time that the evacuees were in Madeira many children were born. Below is the birth certificate of Andrew Cassano, one of many the children who were born in Madeira.

BIRTHS within the District of the British CONSULATE at FUNCHAL

Columns:—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and Where Born.	Name.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father, and claim to British Nationality.	Signature, Description and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Consular Officer.
418	Sixth day of January 1943. Casa de Saude Pico São João Funchal Madeira	Anthony Maria	Male	Andrew CASSANO	Elvira, Pallas CASSANO, née PALLAS.	Painter, British subject by birth, having been born at Gibraltar 4th Dec. 1904.	Andrew Cassano Father of child.	Twenty-sixth day of January 1943.	Cecil H. Miles British Vice-Consul

I, Cecil H. Miles, British Vice-Consul at Funchal do hereby certify, That this is a true Copy of the Entry of the Birth of Anthony Maria Cassano No. 418 in the Register Book of Births kept at this Consulate Witness my Hand and Seal, this Fourteenth day of March 1944.

British Vice-Consul.

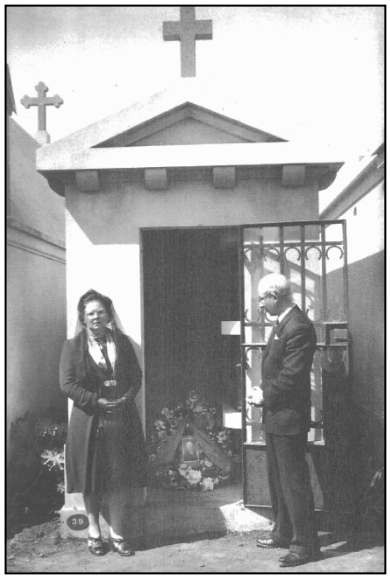
Madeira visit strengthens Gib links

Minister for Culture, Steven Linares recently returned from Madeira where he travelled with a group of Gibraltarians headed by Louis Pereira. During his visit the Minister met with the Minister for Sport, Culture and Tourism of Madeira as well as the Director of Culture where they discussed the possibility of exploring the avenue of organised cultural exchanges due to Gibraltar's strong links with Madeira.

The Minister had the opportunity of attending a ceremony where he laid a wreath in memory of those Gibraltarians who died in Madeira during the Second World War.

Minister Linares said: "It has been an honour to have travelled to Madeira with a contingent of Gibraltarians, particularly the family of Louis Pereira, to honour the evacuation of our people to this island during the Second World War. The visit has been further enhanced by making cultural contacts to explore in the future".

In September 2016, the Government of Gibraltar donated £8,000 to Funchal in Madeira to assist in the city's recovery and future protection capacities following the fires in the summer of 2016. The Chief Minister said the donation was sent with Gibraltar's affection, solidarity and deep friendship with the two cities twinned in 2009. The money donated by the Government of Gibraltar went towards providing one of the local self-protection kits for installation in ten civil parishes around the capital. The aim was to help fires, being fought locally, with quick and effective measures, before the arrival of the professional fire fighting teams.



The kit donated by the Gibraltar Government was later used in Sao Pedro, which had a British school for Gibraltar children, and houses the church where many Gibraltarian children born there were baptised during the evacuation. As well as the Government's donation, a separate fund, with almost £2,500, was opened by former evacuee, Louis Pereira and also sent to Funchal. ***Resting place of Joseph Zammit at the Las Angustias Cemetery in Sao Martinho, Funchal. He died on 14 August 1944. Photo Mr M Galliano.***

Clemens Danino,Nita Levy and Julie Balensi

Lydia with nursing Nun at Funchal Hospital when admitted for appendicitis operation

Mrs Danino and Mrs Cabutto

Mrs Victoria Danino with nephew C.Gafan and other Gafan.
Photos Danino Sisters.

Antonia Rovegno

1 ? 2 ¿ 3 ¿
4.Isabel Peire 5 Mercedes Viales (Mrs Pons) 6Victoria Pons (Mrs Ferro) 7 Lourdita Gonzalez 8 Vicky Zammit 9 Teresa Parody

Adolfo Parody with his granddaughter Eileen Byrne aged 6 months and his great granddaughter Marie Paz Ryan aged 11 months at The Savoy Hotel Madeira - March 1942

Group of evacuees on an excursion in Madeira.

Photos Mrs Gonzalez and Mrs Edmonds.

In 2008 a ceremony was held in Funchal in memory of the evacuees who died in Madeira.

A monument in memory of evacuees who died in Maderia. Photo Mr J Navas

Remembering the Gibraltar evacuees. Photo Mr J Navas

Between 2008 and 2009 twinning ceremonies were held respectively in the cities of Madeira and Gibraltar.

In the photograph Guest of the President of the Madeira Government Dr Alberto Joao Jardim, Governor of Gibraltar Sir Robert Fulton, Mayor of Gibraltar Mr Solomon Levy, Mayor of Funchal Dr Miguel Felipe Machado de Albuquerque and Personal Assistant to the Mayor Gibraltar ,Mr Andrew Rowbottom at the Official Twinning Ceremony held at the Mayor's Parlour, City Hall on the 26th May 2009. Photo Johnny Bugeja – Gibraltar Chronicle

CHAPTER THREE

EVACUEES IN JAMAICA

When the Gibraltar evacuees arrived in Jamaica, the officials who were to manage the camps went on board the ships to greet the evacuees. On disembarking, 35-seater buses were already waiting to take the evacuees to the Gibraltar Camp. The Jamaican Boy Scouts helped the evacuees with the loading of the luggage on the buses. Along the road to the camp, there were also many Jamaicans who had turned out to greet the evacuees with cheers as they were driven along the road in the direction of the campsite.

The main road to the Gibraltar Camp. Photo Mr A Lara.

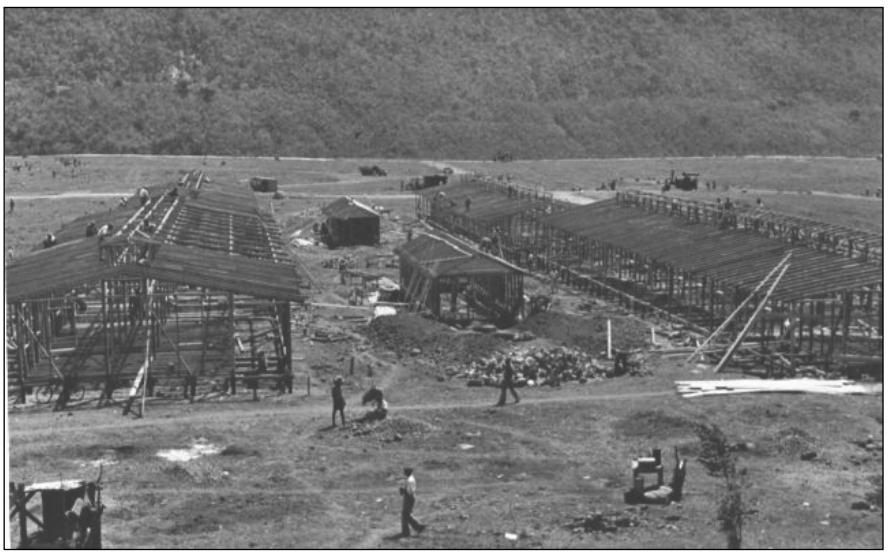
Volunteers, priests and nuns helped to guide the evacuees to their quarters from the main gate on the road to August Town. When the evacuees entered their respective quarters, they found that their beds were already made for them by courtesy of the Catholic schoolgirls anxious to make the evacuees welcome.

When the first group of evacuees arrived in Jamaica, the headlines in most of the Jamaica's leading newspapers read, "1,100 Evacuees Now at Gibraltar Camp."

The first impressions gathered by the evacuees after a few weeks of their arrival in Jamaica were that of a strange land of extreme climatic conditions and with a very dense and a great variety of flora and the many types of tropical fruits like, the mangos which the evacuees had never sampled before.

The evacuees noticed that there were many types of insects all over the place unknown to evacuees. One of the most feared insect was the scorpion for its poisonous sting. Scorpions could be found anywhere, even under the pillows or inside the shoes. During their stay in Jamaica there were the occasional earth tremors and the seasonal hurricanes which are very characteristic in that part of the world. There was also the occasional downpour of rain and then followed by sudden clear blue sky.

On one occasion the grass, trees and the whole flora turned from its natural colour of green to a very pale yellow. The explanation for this sudden change in colour was that the dust from a volcano that had erupted in Mexico had been blown by the wind in the direction and settled in the islands of the Caribbean.



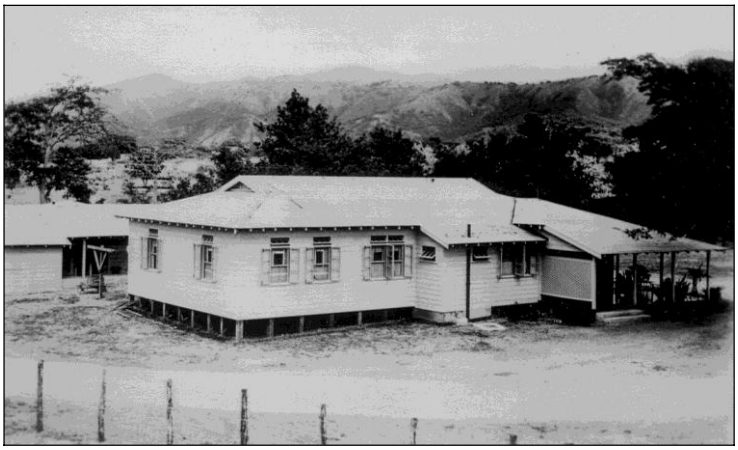
The Gibraltar Camp being constructed near the Lond Mountain. Photo the UK National Archives.

When the order was given to build a camp in Jamaica for the Gibraltar evacuees, an old sugar plantation site known as the Mona Estate was identified as an ideal place to construct the Gibraltar Camp located at the foot of the Lond Mountain near the Hope River. It was initially intended for the camp to have the capacity to accommodate 4,000 evacuees and then it was decided to build an additional camp to accommodate altogether up to 9,000 persons. The site was 7 miles by road from Kingston.

The construction site was also near to the services which were needed for the essential maintenance of a small township. As will be explained further on in this chapter, eventually only one camp was occupied by the Gibraltar evacuees.
The site for the construction of the two camps covered an area of 252 acres, of which 85 acres were allocated for Camp One, 114 acres for Camp Two and 53 acres for the camp hospital.
Because of the urgency in the building of the camp, a simple barracks design had been chosen for the overall construction. At the entrance to the camp there were the main administrative offices, the main stores, the police station and the barracks. Close to these buildings, there were the motor transport garage, the carpenters' shop, the cooks' quarters and chauffeurs. There was another building called the Matron's quarters where the medical staff used to reside.

The entrance to the Gibraltar Camp, with the administration office on the right. Photo Mr C Moore.

There was also a firewood store. The buildings were purposely constructed to meet all the basic needs of the evacuees. The camp had been built near Kingston's for reasons of proximity to the main supply of essential services like water and electricity. For the purpose of communications, the main telephone exchange was also near the camp.



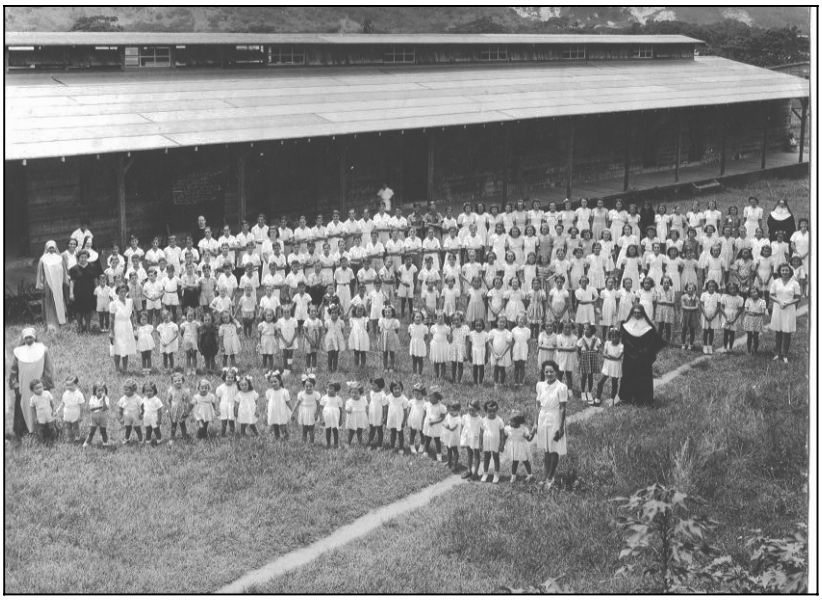
The Matron's quarters. Photo Mr C Moore

The first administrative task was to establish a camp committee for the running of the camp. The members of the committee who were appointed to administer the camp were the Commandant, the Manager and two Roman Catholic Priests. The responsibility for the administration of the camp in terms of security and discipline was initially given to Major Henry Simms but soon afterwards it was handed over to Mr Worlledge who became Camp Commandant. Ex-major Mr E. Rae became his deputy.
A special police force was recruited. Gibraltar evacuees with the necessary experience were also recruited to assist with matters of discipline. The Reverend Father Thomas Feeney, the father superior of the Roman Catholic Church and his brother Father William Feeney were members of the Camp Committee.
There was a post office and the first thing the evacuees did when they arrived, was to send cables and letters to tell their families in Gibraltar of their safe arrival in Jamaica.
There were 31 large housing units or bungalows and each of these could accommodate up to 60 evacuees. These units measured 150 feet long and 25 wide with a 7-foot-wide veranda on each of the long sides. Each unit was subdivided into two rooms twinned to one another by walkways with a sanitary annexes measuring 50 feet by about 14 feet shared between two living quarters. There were also 20 smaller units designed to accommodate smaller family groups. One of the bungalows had been reserved for the elderly and invalid evacuees.
There were three large halls and each of these halls had a stage erected. They had been purposely designed to provide cinema, dances, concerts and any other form of entertainment for the evacuees.
When the evacuees arrived there were many Jamaicans who were allowed to sell a variety of merchandise like chickens and other country produce within the camp precinct. However, soon afterwards, the Jamaican merchants were no longer allowed to enter the Gibraltar Camp. To buy anything extra, which could not be found in the camp stores, the evacuees had to go shopping to a market at Papine, which was a town about a mile away from the Camp. The bus terminus to go to Kingston was also at Papine.

Evacuees shopping in the Papine market. From the left is Miss Rose Orcese, Mrs L Romero, Mrs Tucker rest not known. Photo Mrs Wood.

The Enrile family outside the hut. Photo Mr E Enrile.

A persisting complaint about the living accommodation at the camp was the lack of privacy. The dividing "walls" inside of the huts were made of bare plywood that did not reach the top of the ceiling, leaving a wide gap between the ceiling and the top of the wall which allowed for conversations or other noises to be easily overheard.



One of the large three recreational halls. Photo Mr F Zammitt.

There was ample space between one hut and the other. Every room opened out onto the veranda and by sharing this veranda families could be allocated their respective rooms in line with the size of the family. The rooms in these units contained basic furniture needs like beds, tables and chairs. A wire fence enclosed the whole area of the camp. The entrance and exit from the Gibraltar Camp was very restricted and only the evacuees and those who were duly authorised were allowed to be within the camp's enclosure. The evacuees were issued with passes which they had to show on leaving and entering the camp.

As part of the arrangements in looking after the Gibraltar evacuees in Jamaica, the Governor and the Catholic Bishop of Gibraltar requested the then Governor of Jamaica, Sir Arthur Richards to ask the Catholic Church in Jamaica to become involved in the welfare of the Gibraltar evacuees. In line with this policy, the Roman Catholic priests and nuns were placed in charge of the educational, religious and social aspects of the camp. Father William Feeney became the Roman Catholic Chaplain at the Gibraltar Camp.

Two Franciscans, two Sisters of Mercy, two Dominicans and two Native Sisters moved into the Nunnery which was the only two-storey building on the site near the Camp. Food and lodging was the main task that had to be handled by the camp committee. Each unit, which was in a form of a bungalow, could accommodate up to six evacuees.

It seems that one of the initial problems encountered by the evacuees was the allocation of accommodation in accordance with family composition. Although this was seemingly sorted out after some intervention, this problem cropped up again at a later stage in the camp.

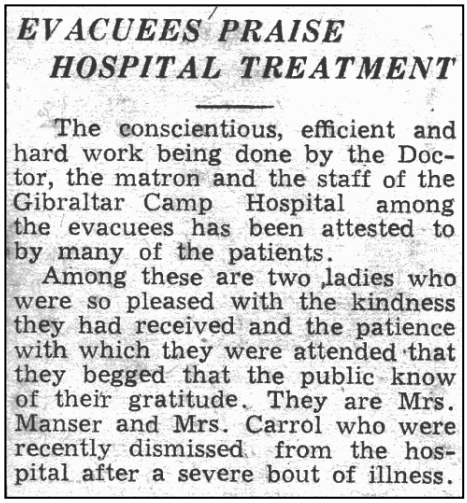
Any evacuee found contravening the Camp rules was liable to a fine of £25 or 7 days imprisonment at the camp prison. There were a few incidents involving some evacuees and outsiders breaking the camp rules which resulted in penalties being imposed by the camp management. Initially, health care of the evacuees was attended to at a small hospital until the larger one was completed. The larger one had the capacity for up to 100 beds with all the main facilities to look after the health care of the evacuees. This consisted of a maternity ward, an operating theatre, a dental clinic and an outpatient's cares facilities.

Sisters and Nuns by the entrance to the Nunnery. Photo Mr E Enrile.

There were quarters for the hospital staff and sanitary inspectors. The small hospital at Camp No.1 was converted into a maternity ward with six beds after the hospital at Camp No.2 was ready for use.
Some of Gibraltar evacuees were recruited as nurses and received training to assist in the hospital camp. Some of these recruits were able to obtain qualifications equivalent to the enrolled nurse standard.

Gibraltar nurses undergoing training in the Gibraltar Camp Hospital. Photo Mrs A Perez (nee Cano).

Shortly after arriving in Jamaica there were some cases of contagious diseases related to scabies and inflammation of the eyes among the children. There was also a report of an outbreak of head lice. All these three cases affecting the health of the evacuees were dealt with very efficiently with the help of the nursing nuns. According to some of the evacuees who were very young at the time, most of the children had their tonsils removed as a precautionary measure against infections.
In view of the many insects in the island many evacuees suffered the occasional insect bites which required the attention of the health services in the camp.
Judging from the different newspaper cuttings, it seems that the health and hygiene of the Gibraltar evacuees were in good hands.

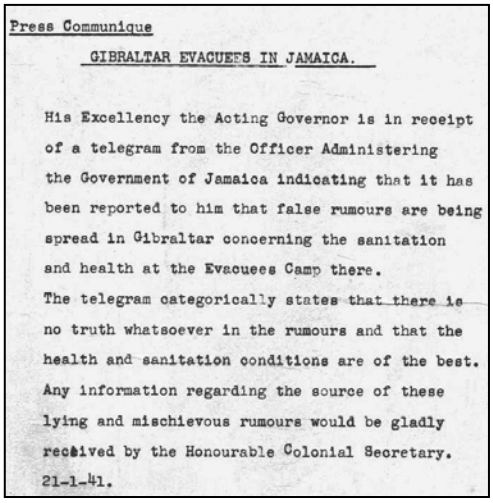


EVACUEES PRAISE HOSPITAL TREATMENT

The conscientious, efficient and hard work being done by the Doctor, the matron and the staff of the Gibraltar Camp Hospital among the evacuees has been attested to by many of the patients.
Among these are two ladies who were so pleased with the kindness they had received and the patience with which they were attended that they begged that the public know of their gratitude. They are Mrs. Manser and Mrs. Carrol who were recently dismissed from the hospital after a severe bout of illness.

One of the press cuttings praising the hospital treatment. Cutting Jamaica Times.

In early 1941, rumours were reaching Gibraltar that the standard of health and sanitation being provided at the Gibraltar Camp was not of the standard that it was expected. In view of this a press communiqué was issued from the camp denying such allegations.



Press Communique

GIBRALTAR EVACUEES IN JAMAICA.

His Excellency the Acting Governor is in receipt of a telegram from the Officer Administering the Government of Jamaica indicating that it has been reported to him that false rumours are being spread in Gibraltar concerning the sanitation and health at the Evacuees Camp there.
The telegram categorically states that there is no truth whatsoever in the rumours and that the health and sanitation conditions are of the best.
Any information regarding the source of these lying and mischievous rumours would be gladly received by the Honourable Colonial Secretary.
21-1-41.

Press communiqué denying charges. Copy Mr F Zammitt.

Gibraltar Camp medical staff October 1944.
Photo Mrs A Perez (nee Cano)

As can be seen from the photograph shown above, there were many nurses employed to look after the 1,500 evacuees in the camp.
The educational needs of nearly 330 children of school age were catered for as from the beginning of 1941. The school was fully equipped with the usual standard tables, blackboards, text books and all the necessary stationery items required for the teaching of all elementary subjects including music. The school catered for, children up to the age of 14.
The school curriculum was in line with the Gibraltar system of education. Children who were beyond secondary school age and wished to achieve a higher level of academic education were given the opportunity to attend the Secondary Schools in Jamaica.
As in the case of the school children in Madeira, the British Government also gave much emphasis on the need of encouraging fluency in the English language. The policy was to bring education in line with British culture and traditions so that when the Gibraltar children left Jamaica they were academically prepared as British Citizens.

Infant class at the Gibraltar camp with voluntary teacher, Miss M Dalmedo (later Mrs Frolic) and Jamaican nun. Photo Mrs R Gilbert.

Because of the many babies born shortly after the arrival of the evacuees, provision was also made at the camp for a school nursery. This also meant that eventually there was a need for extra infant classrooms. The school had a large playground where the boys played football and the girls basketball. Physical education was also included in the curriculum. The teaching staff consisted of a head teacher and five Sisters of various Orders. There were nine Gibraltar lay teachers who were selected from amongst the evacuees and a Jamaican teacher.

There were three dining rooms, which had been allocated to cater for different groups of evacuees according to age and family composition. There were three daily sitting arrangements in each of the dining halls.

These consisted of breakfast, lunch and supper. This meant that a great deal of the time was spent by the evacuees near and around the dining halls. The quality and quantity of food served in the camp were reasonable, but it was not cooked in a way which was as appetising or as palatable as the evacuees would have liked. This in itself was the cause of some problems, among the evacuees who occasionally complained about the food. The idea of cooking food to the liking of the evacuees was slightly sorted out when some of the evacuees offered to help with the menu and the distribution of food.

Again the idea of serving food at the table did not remedy entirely the whole problem, as by the time the evacuees sat on the table the food was normally cold. One of the caterers, Peter McCauley, from the Canadian Regiment in Jamaica introduced a system similar to a self-service canteen. With this system the evacuees could collect their own food directly from the kitchen on a tray and take it to their respective tables. Like in a self-service canteen the food was ready for collection within a specified time.

Evacuees were not allowed to compete for employment in the Jamaica labour market, but in order to avoid idleness as much as possible, opportunities for employment were given to the evacuees within the camp. Eventually about 400 evacuees were employed in the Camp.

The jobs in which the Gibraltar evacuees were mainly engaged were those in the bakery and laundry services which had been run, initially, by the Jamaicans. Some Gibraltarians were also employed to help in the kitchen. Others were allowed to perform in trades like in the carpentry and butcher shops. Although many of the evacuees who engaged in these trades had no previous experience many of them eventually gained the necessary skills and reached a reasonable level of competence in their respective trades. Within the camp there was also a store where items of shoes, clothing, sweets, stationery and many other goods could be obtained on sale. The management of the canteen in the camp was given to Gibraltar evacuee Mrs Dalmedo with the help of six paid assistants. There was a policy to involve the evacuees as much as possible in the running of the Gibraltar Camp. To comply with this policy, the older boys helped to unload and store goods in the kitchen and the dining rooms. Some of the senior girls were also engaged with helping in the kitchens with various jobs. These activities went a long way in helping with the food distribution including some modifications at a later stage. The delivery of mail in camp was carried out by Gibraltar evacuee Mr Ernest Lara.

There were also opportunities to be employed as police constable and in the fire brigade within the camp. Those evacuees who could not be found a job were paid unemployment benefit at the rate of about 2s.6d (12.5p) a week.

Most of the children born in Jamaica were baptised in the Gibraltar Camp Church. Equally children at their appropriate age received their first Holy Communion and were confirmed in the Camp Church, which had been built specifically for the religious requirements of evacuees.

Given that the majority of the evacuees were Roman Catholics, religious activities played a very significant part in the life of these evacuees in Jamaica.

Father Thomas Feeney in addition to his appointment as a member of the management committee of the Gibraltar Camp was also the Father Superior of the Roman Catholic Church in Jamaica. He and his brother William with the assistance of other priests, sisters and nuns were naturally very much involved in religious activities. The church building within the camp was quite large with the capacity to accommodate about 500 worshippers. There were facilities for a choir with the provision of an organ.

Daily church services were held in the camp. There was a convent for the nuns and a hostel for the resident priests. Throughout the year all the religious feasts were observed and celebrated. Occasionally, the evacuees were taken to the main Roman Catholic Church in Kingston.

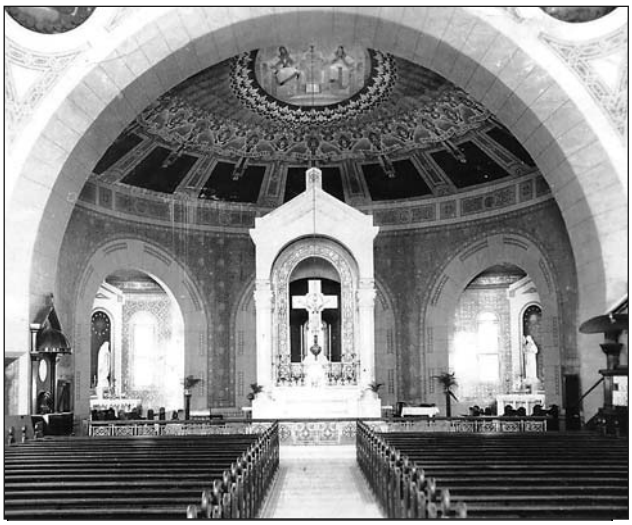


Photo of inside of Catholic Cathedral, Kingston. Photo Mr G Russo.

There was also a small chapel for evacuees who were members of Anglican denomination. This chapel was also provided with an organ.

There were 34 Jewish Gibraltarians who had been allocated a bungalow exclusively for their use. They also had their own purposely built Synague. Rabbi Silverman looked after the religious affairs like kosher food and other matters affective the Gibraltar Jewish evacuees in Jamaica.

The Gibraltar evacuees who were seen to play good football matches against the Jamaican teams were soon encouraged to enter the Jamaican football league. Soon afterwards they were already playing in the Senior League, where the Gibraltar team was required to play a higher quality football. One of the many matches played in the Senior League was played outside the camp in the Spanish Town football ground. On some occasions there were naturally criticisms about the style of football played by the Gibraltar teams.

A few months after entering the Football Senior League, the Gibraltar teams were apparently not allowed to compete in further football matches. This was due to some trouble related to the alleged misconduct of some of the evacuees during the initial games against some of the Jamaican teams. No doubt this must have been a big blow to some of those Gibraltar players who were keen sporting footballers.

The girls had their own netball team which was also very active in the sports ground available at the Gibraltar camp.

Other sporting activities in the camp consisted of boxing and cricket for boys and basketball for girls.

Within the range of indoor games there were table tennis, draughts, dominoes, darts, cards, playing and, of course, the popular "tablita". In the camp there was a room with an electric gramophone with an amplifier and a collection of records.

Some of the players of the netball team. Photo Mr C Avellano.

With the aim of having the young evacuees fully occupied, it was decided to set up and organise the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts movements within the camp. The idea attracted much interest among the young evacuees and by April 1941 the first Girl Guide Troop was formed. Then by June 1941 the Boy Scouts troop was also started. The Girl Guides also took a very active part in the Guides movements during their stay in Jamaica.

Theatrical, concerts, cinemas and musical shows were held at the Camp to provide a variety of entertainment for the evacuees. Other leisure activities like planting flowers, knitting sessions, trips and picnics were also organised for the evacuees.

Their Plays and concerts were staged occasionally and the children were taken on field trips. There were also a dining hall, school and staff quarters and even a sports field and each month movies were shown.

Girls taking part in the show of the "Manton Granadino." This show and similar shows were staged almost at the very end of their stay in Jamaica. At the back L to R: Berta Gomez, Lourdes Richardson, VioletaMartinez, A.Arias, L.Copello, Sylvia Axisa, Adeliala Banda, Mariluz Trinidad. Kneeling: Hilda Yeo and Pauline Romero. Photo Mrs A Banda.

There were some Gibraltar evacuees who became very popular within the camp by demonstrating their talents when taking part in shows and other functions which went a long way to entertaining the evacuees who were thousands of miles away from home. The Camp Gibraltar Calpe Society was formed to organised some of these events. A choir was also formed in the Gibraltar Camp to entertain the evacuees and on the occasion which was reported in a Jamaica newspaper with the heading "Camp Gibraltar Artists Entertain at Mulry Hall."

Musical entertainment was provided by the Jamaican Military Band which performed twice weekly at the Camp. Some evacuees put forward their own personal ideas as a means of creating amusements and attractions with the aim of making life more enjoyable in the camp. One of the many entertaining activities was the holding of fancy dress competitions. To do away with the monotony at the camp, music was broadcast via a system of speakers, which were also used to make any announcements concerning the evacuees.

The Jamaican Military Band when playing at the Camp. Photo Miss S Moya.

There were the occasional trips to places of interest in Kingston like the Hope Botanical Gardens and much further away Springfield near the mountains in the northwest area of Jamaica. These outings proved very exciting and enjoyable for the evacuees. With the weather being very warm throughout most of the year, there were many evacuees who very often either went to the beach or to the swimming pool in Kingston

Below are photos of evacuees enjoying a day at the beach and in the swimming pool.

Evacuees at the beach. Photo Mr G. Russo.

Evacuees at the swimming pool in Kingston. Photo Mr. Orcese.

The Sunken Botanical Gardens at Hope, Jamaica. Photo Mrs E Gafan.

There were also the shopping sprees to the street market in Papine. Here fruits and vegetables were very fresh and cheap. Some evacuees even recall getting some fruits like bananas and mangoes free.

During the evacuees' first Christmas celebration in Jamaica one of the main trees in the camp was decorated to resemble the traditional Christmas Tree – including the lightings. On Christmas day they gathered round the tree to wish each other the season's greetings. They tried their best to be as cheerful and as merry as possible, but at the back of their minds, there was the constant memory of their relatives in Gibraltar and also those, who in some cases, had been evacuated either to London or Madeira.

The nuns and the Camp Manager went round the camp, giving Christmas presents to every evacuee. Given the deep feeling of nostalgia that existed among most of the evacuees, the Christmas celebrations were said to have gone much better than expected. Frank Valverde constructed a model of the Rock of Gibraltar with many details, including the lightings. It was placed near the Crib giving a special attraction. At the moment that the lights of the model were switched on, the evacuees started to sing "Mi Gran Peñon" with many letting off their emotions as they sung. The flag which had been designed and manufactured by a Gibraltar evacuee was raised in the middle of the camp.

The Jamaica Times newspaper in article said that the evacuees who were the unfortunate victims of a totalitarian aggression received Christmas cheer and showed themselves as happy as happy as could be expected.

The Governor of Jamaica, Sir Arthur Richards and his wife visited the Gibraltar Camp several times.

In order to encourage youth activities for the older boys, an auxiliary force was formed to assist with the miscellaneous running of the camp. They were often called to help with numerous tasks for the smooth running of the Gibraltar Camp.

There were many opportunities within the confinements of the camp, for the evacuees to pose for photographs. In this edition there are many additional photographs to the many there were published in my first edition.

The remains of the maternity wing of the Gibraltar Camp in 1993. Mr M Gomez.

There were many Gibraltar evacuees born in Jamaica. According to a report in the Jamaica newspaper, 'The Gleaner', about 100 Gibraltar evacuee children were born in Jamaica.

Mr Frank Lavagna claims to be the first evacuee to be born in Jamaica. There were also some marriages among the evacuees and a few between evacuees and Jamaicans.

On Monday 28th October 1940 65 years old, Mr Joseph Parody was the first evacuee to die in Jamaica, just two days after the arrival of the evacuees in Jamaica. Unfortunately, there were many other cases of evacuees who died of natural causes. There was also the sudden death of 37 year old Mrs Adelina Fiol. She left two children aged 9 and 7.

In 2007 an obelisk with the 64 names of all the evacuees who died in Jamaica. The obelisk is placed near to what used to be the Gibraltar Camp. The idea was initiated and seen through to its completion by Mr A Lara, whose grandmother died in Jamaica.

In Jamaica there were three modes of transport: the buses, the tram cars or the horse drawn carriages.

Gibraltar evacuee teachers on a tram car. In the photo from left to right are: Mrs Celia Gomez, Josephine Zammitt, Frances Tucker, Victoria Azzopardi and Lola Romero. Photo Mr F Zammitt.

The washing in the camp was carried out in a communal laundry. Water for the washing was supplied from what used to be, an old aqueduct which was used at one time to irrigate the sugar plantations in that part of the camp.

As explained at the beginning of this chapter, the first thing the evacuees did when they arrived at Jamaica was to inform their relatives in Gibraltar of their safe arrival by cables, normal letters or postcards. According to other sources of information the post office in the camp began to operate from November onwards, but the Camp Post Office was not officially opened until 1st April 1941. All letters sent or received had to go through the censorship system that operated everywhere during the war.

Mrs Olga Russo at the Post Office. Photo Mr G. Russo.

One evacuee who mentioned in a letter to her husband that she had seen an American dirigible over the camp had it crossed out by the censorship**.**

The postponement of the transfer of evacuees from the UK to Jamaica meant that Gibraltar Camp Two had remained unused for a long time. September 1942 it was thought by the military authorities in Jamaica to make full use of Gibraltar Camp Two by turning it into a military barracks to accommodate Jamaican troops.

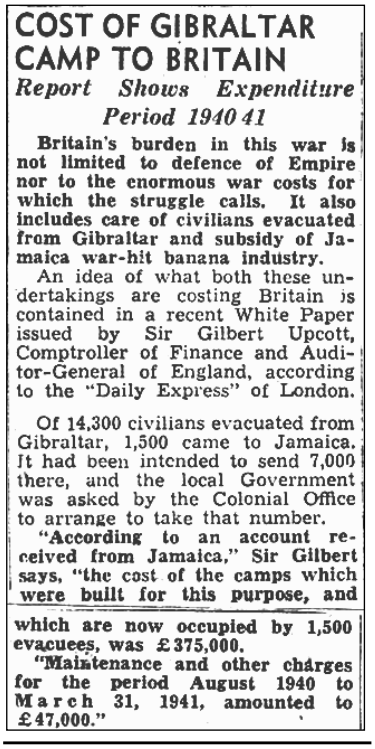
Having these troops living very near the Gibraltar Camp was seen as a cause of great concern for the Roman Catholic Church in Jamaica in view of the many young female evacuees living next to the Gibraltar Camp Two. The Governor of Jamaica, who had already been informed by Church in Jamaica of its disapproval, was not keen either on the idea to have troops so near the Gibraltar Camp. The Governor of Gibraltar concurred with the views of the Governor of Jamaica and the Church, that it would be too risky to have coloured troops next door to so many young girls and that it was also bound to have an adverse effect on the families in Gibraltar.

In view of the opposition expressed both in Jamaica and Gibraltar, the intended plans were consequently cancelled.

The Treasury argued, that a lot of money had been spent in building a camp that remained unused, to be able to approve further funds to convert or build another camp for the troops.

An official from the Treasury in explaining the cost of the camp said, "The campus was constructed at great speed and pressure from this end to use to the utmost expedition, and that may well have increased the cost. In the circumstances, it is little short of lamentable that we should only have been able so far to arrange for some 1,500 evacuees to occupy the camp. It may be that the proposal to send some of the evacuees from this country in the West Indies will be revived. We can only hope that by these or other means the vacant accommodation will, sooner or later, be turned to practical advantage."

Below is a Jamaican newspaper cutting related to the cost of building and maintaining the camp.



COST OF GIBRALTAR CAMP TO BRITAIN

Report Shows Expenditure Period 1940 41

Britain's burden in this war is not limited to defence of Empire nor to the enormous war costs for which the struggle calls. It also includes care of civilians evacuated from Gibraltar and subsidy of Jamaica war-hit banana industry.

An idea of what both these undertakings are costing Britain is contained in a recent White Paper issued by Sir Gilbert Upcott, Comptroller of Finance and Auditor-General of England, according to the "Daily Express" of London.

Of 14,300 civilians evacuated from Gibraltar, 1,500 came to Jamaica. It had been intended to send 7,000 there, and the local Government was asked by the Colonial Office to arrange to take that number.

"According to an account received from Jamaica," Sir Gilbert says, "the cost of the camps which were built for this purpose, and which are now occupied by 1,500 evacuees, was £375,000.

"Maintenance and other charges for the period August 1940 to March 31, 1941, amounted to £47,000."

Early in 1943 it was thought to use Camp Two to accommodate refugees of different nationalities, but the Gibraltar Camp Committee was opposed to such an idea on the grounds that it was going to be very detrimental to the morale of the evacuees. Despite this, Camp Two was used for the accommodation of internees. A passage of about 200 yards wide was constructed in order to separate the two camps. In addition to these internees by December 1941, the British Government, the Polish Government in exile and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee agreed to send Polish Jewish to Jamaica. The first group of 152 refugees arrived on the Portuguese ship the **Serpa Pinto** in January 1942.

Generally speaking the evacuees seemed to have settled well, although occasionally there were bound to be some problems linked to the administration of the camp, particularly, matters regarding the breach of camp rules. The Jamaican newspaper 'The Gleaner' published an article accusing the Camp Commandant of behaving in a dictatorial manner in the handling of the camp owing to its reporter not being allowed to enter the camp because he had forgotten to bring his pass.

A few days later, an anonymous letter appeared in the same newspaper denying the accusations.

Another newspaper 'the Spotlight' reported that the accusations were unfounded after a reporter found for himself how well the evacuees were treated when he visited the camp. Another Jamaica newspaper also published an official denial of the accusations about the treatment of evacuees.

However, further accusations, about the handling of the Gibraltar Camp came also from a Jamaican councillor who publicly criticised the management of the camp by the Jamaican authorities.

Amidst these criticisms, some Gibraltarians who had visited their families in the Camp commented very favorably on how the evacuees were being looked after. Yet again another Jamaican newspaper came out in defence of the authorities responsible for the Gibraltar evacuees. At that juncture the whole matter seemed to have acquired a political flavour in Jamaica's internal politics.

About a year later, after the publication of letters and the article about the management of the camp, an incident took place when some evacuees insisted on the taking of meals outside the dining room. As a result a few evacuees were arrested and one was fined and others reprimanded. The incident came to the knowledge of families in Gibraltar by means of a leaflet, notes and letters which made mention of this and various other complaints. The Colonial Secretary in Gibraltar wrote to Jamaica requesting information on the allegations circulating in Gibraltar about the evacuees in Jamaica.

Upon investigation, again, most of, if not all, the allegations cited in the letters and pamphlets were rejected in total.

After a year in Jamaica, the following are cuttings from the Jamaican newspapers reporting how the evacuees were being managed and also how evacuees felt about living in the camp separated from their loved ones in Gibraltar.

The Imperial Government appointed Mr. J. L. Worlledge, then Auditor General of Jamaica, as Camp Commandant. He was to be advised by a special Committee. Assisting Mr. Worlledge at the camp was a deputy commandant, Mr. E. A. Rae. Under them was a splendidly organised body of men and women who saw to the thousand and one little and big details which crop up in a camp of the kind.

As most of the people were Roman Catholics, Government obtained the co-operation of the Roman Catholic Mission here and the Very Rev. Fr. William Feeney, S.J., for a time, took up residence in the camp in order to organise and supervise the spiritual, social and educatonal needs of the new community.

It took a little time to evolve order and smooth running out of the confusion which was natural after the first days following upon the arrival. Mr. Worlledge and his committee, however, did a fine job of work and today, under his successor, Mr. E. A. Rae and Mr. Rae's deputy, Mr. C. Philpotts Brown, the good work is being continued

We may now return to the question: Are the evacuees happy? It would not be correct to say that the evacuees are very happy. This is no reflection on the organisation at Camp Gibraltar. There are 1,548 evacuees in that camp and of that number there are nearly 800 women of various ages who have left their husbands in Gibraltar. or in London. Men have left their wives in London. Children have been sparated from parents.

I spoke to a large number of black-eyed, graceful senoritas, who, with moist eyes, told me of sweethearts they had left behind.

"I should have been married the month following that in which we had to leave", one charming senorita confided to me.

"Oh, the war must soon end", said another "my novio is waiting for me in Gibraltar."

Another took me to her apartment and showed me the photo of her lover and I had to turn away to avoid embarrassment, as she dabbed at her eyes with her apron.

"If the war lasts another year, I will kill myself," she said.

When I tactfully reminded her that even if we won inside of a year, it might take some time to arrange for their departure, she looked at me out of black luminous eyes and said "Es una broma, senor; burlas de me" ("It is a joke, sir: you are mocking me").

Yes, Camp Gibraltar is just like any other township. Mrs. B. Criticises Mrs. C.'s dress and Mrs. C. finds fault with Mrs. D's morals. And there are quarrels sometimes and, occasionally, a fight. Not between the men, mind you! but the women. These go before the commandant or his deputy and after the offender has been given a 'wigging', the parties are enjoined to shake hands and make up. There are very few court cases, a direct contrast to the position in Jamaican towns, where the resident magistrates are so often overworked

The clashes in Camp Gibraltar occur from two cases. First, there are a few characters who worship at the shrine of the bibulous god Bacchus. Then too one must remember that not all Gibraltareans have 100 per cent Latin blood in their veins. One will come across quite frequently a number of fair-haired, even flaxen haired, blue-eyed evacuees, which fact shows that at some more or less remote date a Scot or a Saxon or Welsh soldier of fortune had wooed a glamorous senorita under the grim towers but romantic moon of "The Rock".

Do they like Jamaica? An old lady sat at the door of her hutment and told me that she loved the island. The people were nice—'simpatico' was the word she used But she disliked the heat.

Some seldom go out, even to Kingston. Some do not, because, they say, they do not enjoy themselves without their loved ones, who are far away. Some however visit respectable Jamaican families and the latter find them very pleasant and courteous and so try to give the visitors a good time.

* * *

Has Jamaica become accustomed to them? At first, there was always a slight stir when he usually black-garbed evacuees in little groups went to Kingston. Many rude youngmen and a couple of old ones, too, would stare at the visitors until they were out of sight. The Camp authorities got numerous applications from the curious for passes to visit the camp—which were generally refused.

Nowadays, the stir when the visitors appear on the scene is absent: the curious glances are fewer. Maybe, it is because the evacuees are more like the Jamaicans to-day. They are following the fashions of the land, particularly in dress. The senoritas go about 'made up'; many have changed their distinctive coiffeur for more modern styles, and in many cases, it is only the peculiar sheen of the hair or the tinge of the skin that helps one to place them.

One evacuee with whom I talked with about the food, etc in the camp said that on one occasion they were given pies filled with sardines for about four days in a row. He said that the evacuees expressed their annoyance by throwing the plates with the sardine pies all over the dining room.

After four years, almost exactly to the day, came the turn of the repatriation of the evacuees in Jamaica.

Gibraltar evacuees posing to say goodbye to their stay in Jamaica. In the photo from L to R. ...?...,Lourdes Orcese,..?...,...?....,Celia Gomez, Rose Orcese. Photo Mr Orcese.

How did the evacuees fare during these four years in the Gibraltar Camp?

There are varying versions of how the Gibraltar evacuees lived in Jamaica. From what I have researched it seems that those in charge of the evacuees did their best to look after their well being in the prevailing circumstances. The majority of the evacuees were very appreciative that everything possible was, all the time, being done on their behalf. However, the evacuee's minds and hearts were, naturally, all the time with their loved ones who remained behind in Gibraltar or were evacuated to other places. Their stay in distant lands, no matter how well they were, was no substitute for their homes in Gibraltar. When the time for departure came, many Gibraltarian women went to the Papine market to say goodbye to those with whom they had had much contact with. The Gibraltar evacuees were received with many hugs from the Jamaicans who were sad to see the evacuees go.

A couple of months before the Gibraltar evacuees were due to leave a very strong hurricane hit Jamaica on Sunday 3rd September 1944 causing many damages. The Gibraltar evacuees helped in many ways to assist the needy Jamaicans in the stricken areas.

During my initial research, I came across a web page which mentioned a anecdote of a couple of Jamaicans who visited Gibraltar, and said, "Chances are that not many Jamaicans know much about Gibraltar Camp or Gibraltar but the Gibraltarians remember Jamaica. When we told the taxi driver that we were from Jamaica he replied very excitedly that his grandparents were evacuated to Jamaica during World War II and that Jamaica held a special place in their hearts."

Just before going to print, a ceremony was held to twin Gibraltar with Jamaica. At the ceremony many of the Jamaica evacuees spoke of their fond memories of their time and thanked Jamaica for their hospitality.

Missionary Sisters and a group of evacuees about to serve their fellow Gibraltarians. Photo Mr F Zammitt.

Mrs Lourdes Lima, who is seen kneeling first from the left in the above photo met and dated in Jamaica her husband to be Enrique. They married when they returned to Gibraltar.

The Twinning ceremony was held at the Grand Battery House were the Mayor of Gibraltar Kaine Aldorino Lopez and Senator Counillor Delroy Williams, Mayor of Kingston signed the twinning agreement. The ceremondy was also attended by the Governor of Gibraltar Lt General Edward Davis and the Chief Minister Mr Fabian Picardo.

Below picture of the twinning ceremony. Photo Mr Johnny Bugeja.

Evacuees in Gibraltar national costumes.
At the back L to R: ..?..,…?..., A.Alman, Valverde,
S.Axisa,..?... In front: Rebora, Chipolina, L.Beiso.

Eurelmia (Memy) Beiso (Mrs Sene).
Photos Mrs Sene.

Albert Beiso who became a very popular football player remained behind in Gibraltar but was allowed special leave to travel to the UK where he married his fiancé who had been evacuated to London.

Albert Beiso, first from the right with the Duchess of Bedford evacuation football team. Rest of team players from right to left Bear, Moreno,Chini and Chiara. Photo Mr J Ochello.

The Beiso family
At the back Lourdes and Adelia. Sitting in front Mrs Herminia and Mr Albert Beiso. Photo below: Eurelmia (Memy) Beiso.

Memy, remembers the full re lyrics of the local songs sung during the evacuation and worthwhile recording for the posterity.

Photo Mr Enrile

From L to R: ? Mrs C Gomez, Misses Mercedes Orcese, Lourdes Orcese, Lourdes Gomez, ? . Photo Mr Orcese

Mrs Candelaria Roman (later Mrs Bossino) with other evacuees at the beach in Jamaica. Photo Mr Bossino.

From left to right:...?.....,Maruja Arias,Emilia Sampere,Pura Arias,Jane Arias.

1. ? 2.Maruja Arias,5.Lourdes Suarez, 10. Olga Dalmedo,11. Hortencia Besura, 13.Olga Young(nee Buttigieg),15. Laura Lavagna(nee Cano), 17.Aida Alman, 18.A.Torres, 21.Mercedes Vicario (nee Cano).

John B Arias,Maria Arias,Emilia Sampere,Maruja Arias. Sitting Angeles Arias,Violeta Arias. Photos Mrs E Gafan.

Emilio and Elena Torres near their hut in the Jamaica Camp. Photo Mr Luis Pitto. Rest of Photos Mrs Rose Gilbert.

Rose Gilbert (nee Enrile). This and the two photos on next column by Mrs R Gilbert.

Mrs Carmen Enrile

Mrs Carmen with daughter Rose and sister-in-law Hortensia.

1. Juan Enrile, 2.Eulalia Enrile, 3.Catalina Enrile (Muratory), 4.Catalina Enrile, 5. Irene Enrile (Perez), 6.Dolores Enrile, 7. Hortencia Enrile (Fernandez), 8. Carmen Enrile, 9. Emilio Enrile, 10 Mary Garcia (nee Enrile), 11. Rosita Enrile (Gilbert), 12.John Enrile.

1. Eulalia Enrile, 2. Carmen Enrile ,3.Irene Enrile ,4. Catalina Enrile (jnr) ,5. Hortencia Enrile, 6. Hermina Fiol, 7. Emilio Enrile, 8.Juanito Enrile, 9.Rosy Gilbert (nee Enrile) ,10.Mary Enrile. Photos by Mrs R Gilbert.

Photo Mrs V Ballestero

Photo Mr E Enriles

1. ¿, 2.?, 3.M.Orcese, 4. ¿ , 5. Lourdes Orcese , 6.Lilian Carreras (later Catania), 7. P.Romero, 8.Mrs L Romero, 9.Joe Romero,10. M.Dalmedo (later Mrs Frolic),11. ? 12 ? 13.Carmenia Romero (now Bossino), 14.Aida Marfe (later Goldwin). Photo Mrs C Bossino.

Mrs Roman with her son Gilbert
This photo and the one below Mr J Bossino.

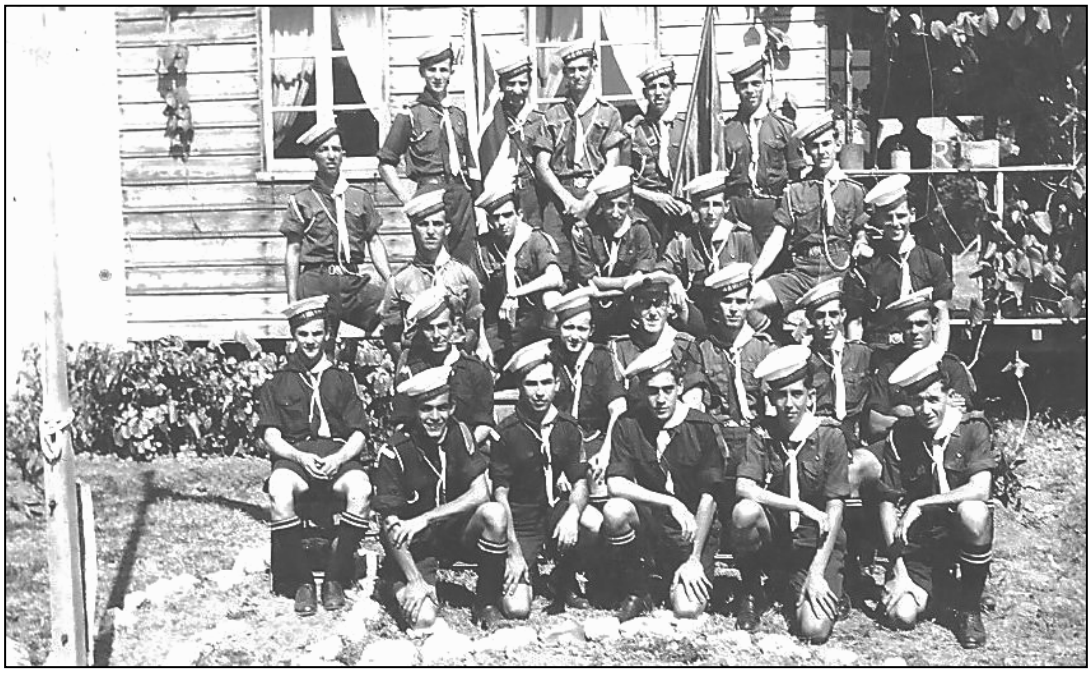
At the back L to R Kitty Sanchez, L Emilia Del Rio,Maria Del Rio
Sitting L to R L Peliza nee Axisa, Francisca Del Rio, …?....

Mrs C.Roman with her son Gilbert at Daniel Studio,Kingston,Jamaica

From left to right 1st sitting wearing glasses Clemencia(Menchi) Baldorino, 2nd Mercedes Vicario,3rd Lourdes Baker,4th Laura Lavagna,5th Ofelia Cano (nee Carreras). Photo Mr W Podesta

1. ? 2. M.Orcese 3.L.Orcese 4. R.Orcese 5. C.Gomez 6.Lourdes Gomez 7. ? 8. ? , 9. P.Zammitt
This photo and the one below Mr Orcese

1.Mrs R Orcese,2.?, 3.?., 4.L.Orcese, 5.Lourdes Gomez (later Richardson),6.?, ,7.Berta Gomez (later Zammitt) 8. ?
9. Mrs C Gomez, 10.M.Orcese. 11. ? , 12.? ,13.? ,14.? ,15. ?. 16.?. Photo by Mr Orcese



Gibraltar Sea Scouts. Photo Mr Adamberry.

Evacuees taking part in the procession. This photo and the one below Mr Orcese.

Evacuees visiting Kingston.
At the back L to R. ? Mercedes Orcese, Mrs C Gomez.
In front Lourdes Gomez,Pepi Zammitt, ? .

1 ? 2? 3? 4? 5? 6? 7. Isabel Hill 8. M.Garro 9. Anita Villa 10? 11? 12? 13? 14? 15? 16? 17? 18. Elma Wilkie (Nee Aposto) 19.Herminia Baldorino (Nee Graffioni) 20 ? 21 ? 22 ? 23 ? 24 ? 25. Carlota Baker 26? 27? 28? 29? 30. Gracia Penalver? 31? 32? 33. Berta Gomez 34? 35? 36? 37? 38? 39? 40. Arsenia Villa 41. Carlota Lucia 42.? 43? 44. Adamberry? 45. Maria Zammitt 46? 47? 48. Ernestina Cano (Nee Wood) 49? 50? 51. Lola Romero 52. Frances Tucker 53.Matilde Ratcliffe? 54. Victoria Suarez 55? 56? 57. Isabel Mizzi 58?. Photo Mr G Russo.

Standing at the back Mr Antonio Ferrer
Standing in from left to right Mrs Encarna Azzopardi, Mrs Carment Azzopardi, boy not known,Aida Rodriquez, Leo Rodriguez,Mrs Brigida Tedeski.

Sitting by the car, Mrs Mary Rodriguez and standing beside her son Leo other persons not known.

These photos Mrs L Rodriguez.

Juan Enrile

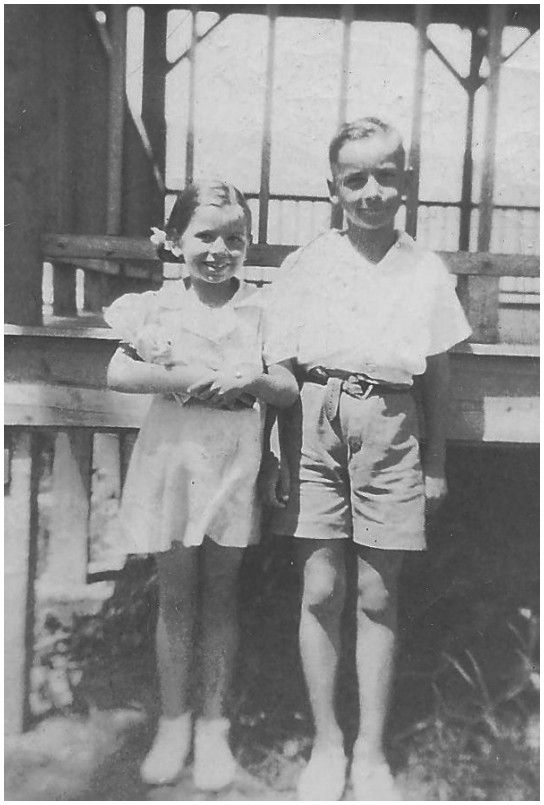
Above and below funeral in Jamaica

Mrs Dolores Enrile

Girl Guides,Sea Scouts and Boy Scouts.

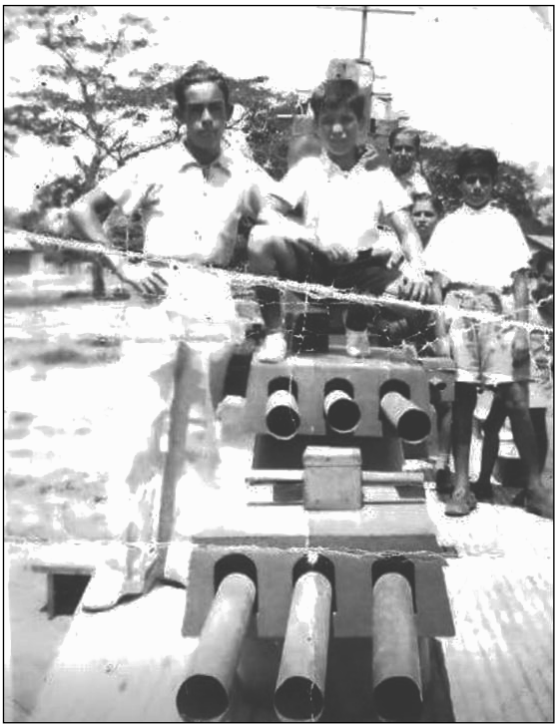
Hortensia and Julio Enrile

Photos on this page Mrs R Gilbert



Above and below Gladys and Francis Brooking. Photos Mrs Y Zarb.

Gabriel Perez,Pedro de la Rosa,Jose Lopez, Richard and Francis Brooking. Photo Mrs Y Zarb.



, ,

Boy sitting on the gun turret is Sergio Adamberry and standing beside the boy his uncle Manolo Adamberry. Photo Mr Adamberry.

Sisters Mercedes, Angela and Laura

Sisters Laura and Menchi.

Sisters Mercedes, Menchi and Laura

Laura Cano on the steps leading up to the stores in the camp in Jamaica

In the middle at the back Menchi Cano. In the front left with headscarf Laura Cano and on the right sitting on a rock wearing white dress Angela Cano.

Photos by Mrs R Lavagna.

Standing 1st from right Hugo Padina. Sitting 1st from left Louis Arias

Pura Arias,Mr John Arias and Mrs Maria Arias

Mrs Maria Arias

*..?...**Leon Serfaty and Maruja Arias. Photos Mrs E Gafan.***

L to R Juani Moss Ana and Torres with babty Elena Torres.

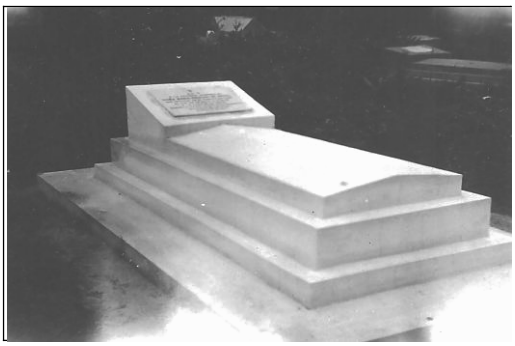
L to R Emilio Torres,Anna Torres and Elena Torres

From l to r boy Emilio Torres,Antonia Moss,Ana Torres,Juani Moss and girl Elena Torres.
Photos by Mr Luis Pitto.

From l to re standing Juani Moss,Antonia Moss,Ana Torres. Children Emilio and Elena Torres.

Mrs Mariquita Bosano on the left with Margarita Masa. Photo Mrs M Bosano Lane.

Girl sitting Mariluz Rumbado, Pura Arias, Violeta Arias, Maria Arias



Resting place of Maria Hidalgo de Arias who died in Gibraltar Camp 25.8.1943

Maruja Arias,Jane Arias Matilde Arias, Angeles Arias, Violeta Arias

Pura Arias,Angeles Arias,Maruja Arias

Emilia Sampere

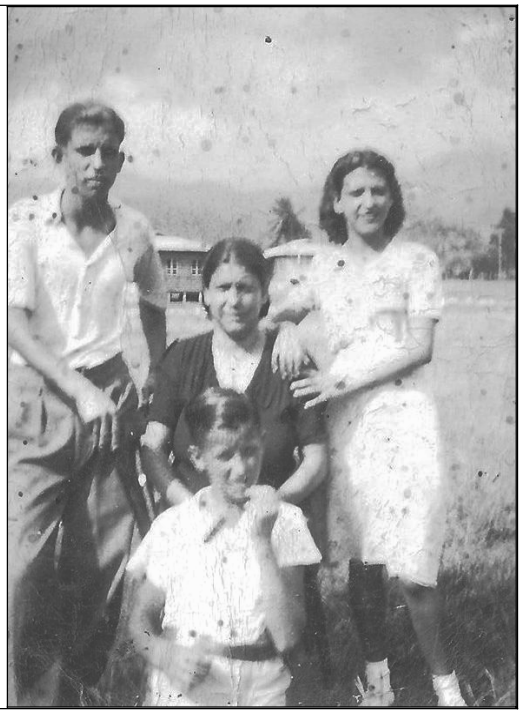
Maruja Arias

Photos by Mrs E Gafan.

Left to right Horetencia Ramos (nee Besura),Olga Dalmedo ....?..... Rosa Pincho(nee Besura). Photo Mr C Avellano.

In photo are Mr Ferrer, Mrs C Azzopardi,Mrs Brigida Tedeski ,Mrs Encarna Azzopardi. The boy in front is Ernest Azzopardi. Photo Mrs Balban.

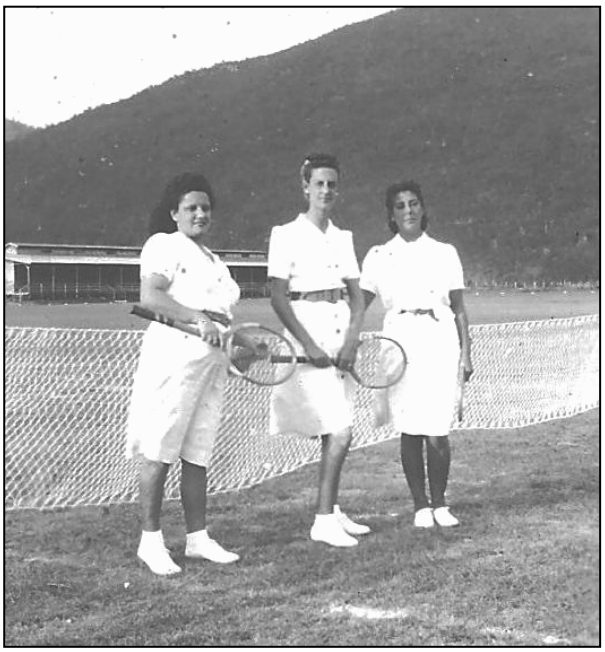
At the back From left to right Aida Alman, Olga Dalmedo, Hortencia Besura Names of those in front not known. Photos by Mr C Avellano



The Rodriguez Family Mrs Mary Rodriguez with her son Hector and daughter Aida standing by her side and her son Leo sitting in front. Photo Mr L Rodriguez.

Mrs O Russo

Above from left to right, Isabel Mizzi (nee Villa), Andrea Pinna (nee Villa), Frances Westbrook (nee Villa) and Anita Villa.



Mrs Olga Russo,Mary Dalmedo (later Mrs Frolic), Mrs Herminia Borda.
All the photos on this page Mr G Russo.

Back row 3rd from the left Olga Dalmedo. Rest not known.

Back row 4th from the left Olga Dalmedo. Sitting in front 1st left Hortencia Besura, next is Tany Hatchwell. Rest not known.

At the back from left to right , Hortencia Besura, Olga Dalmedo. In front holding the ball is Lourdes Xerri.
All the photos on this page by Mr C Avellano.

Mr Ferro with another evacuees outside the hut

Ana Villa

Mr Antonio Ferro with his daughter Mrs Carmen Azzopardi

Mrs Carmen Azzopardi

Mrs Carmen Azzopardi with her father, Mr Antonio Ferro

All the photos on this page by Mrs M Balban.

Mr and Mrs Ferro

Pura Arias, Angeles Arias

Maria Arias,Angeles Arias,Maruja Arias and sitting Violeta Arias

Pura Arias,Jane Arias Maruja Arias

All the photos on this page by Mrs E Gafan.

Angeles Arias,Mariluz Rumbado and Maria Arias

Standing 1st left Olga Dalmedo,Kneeling 1st right Hortencia Besura

4. Hortencia Bensura 9. Olga Dalmedo Rest not known.

Standing at the back Olga Dalmedo. Sitting first from the left in front Magnolia Baglietto(nee Origo) next Margot Origo. Rest not known. All the photos on this page by Mr C Avellano.

Photo by Mr E Enrile.

From left to Lourdes Baker,Ophelia Cano(nee Carreras),Laura Lavagna,Clemenica(Menchi) Baldorino.
Photo Mr W Podesta.

1. Mrs C Gomez, 2.Celecia, 3.Lourdes Gomez, 4 Josephine (Pepa) Zammitt , 5. Lourdes Orcese , 6.Maria Zammit , 7. Michael Zammitt (son of Berta and Michael) and grandson of Maria 8. Carmenia Romero.
Phoro Mr Orcese.

Mrs Rosa Orcese with her daughters Lourdes and Mercedes

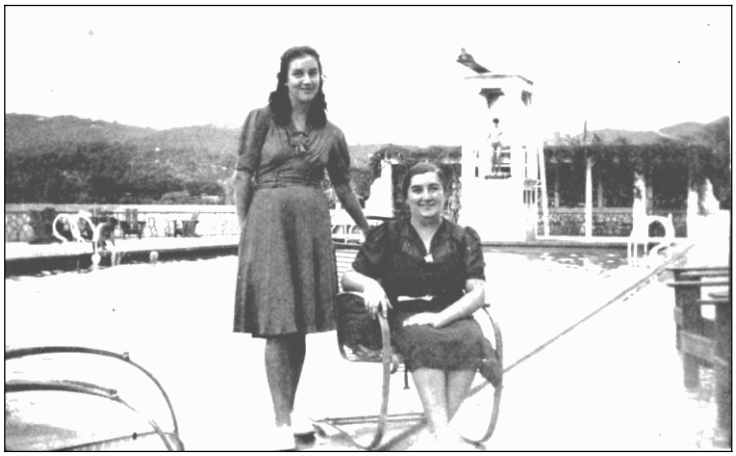
In the photo standing in front by the table left to right M.Orcese, Lilian Carreras ,Pauline Romero(later Wood) Mrs Lola Romero, Pepe Romero next two not known. At the back first two from left to right not known third is Mercedes Orcese , fourth M.Dalmedo (later Mrs Frolic). Name of girl next is not known. Mrs P Zammitt is sitting in front of the table name of girls sitting next is not known. Sitting in front on the extreme right is Aida Marfe (later Goldwin).

1. Mercedes Orcese 2.Lourdes Gomez 3. ? 4. Mrs C Gomez 5. ?
6.Lourdes Orcese. Photos by Mr Orcese.

Hospital consultation clinic.

All the photos on this page by Mrs Angeles Perez (nee Cano).

On the left Lourdes Orcese and on the right Lourdes Gomez with child.



Lourdes and Mercedes Orcese

At the back L to R Lourdes Orcese Mrs C Gomez , Mrs P Zammitt. Sitting in front Lourdes Gomez... ?...

Lourdes Orcese

Mrs Herminia Borda and Mrs Olga Russo on the limits of the Gibralar Camp! Photo Mr G Russo.

1.Maria Zammit2 .Mrs L.Romero 3.Rosario Rosada (a Spanish national living in Gibraltar with Maria Zammit) 4.Berta Zammitt (nee Gomez), 5. Pauline Romero, 6. Mrs C Gomez , 7.Pepita Baker (nee Zammitt), 8. Lourdes Orcese, 9.Lourdes Gomez (sister to Berta), 10. Pepe Romero, 11.Carminia Bossino (nee Romero) 12.?

1. Mrs C Gomez 2.Celecia 3.Lourdes Gomez 4 Josephine (Pepa) Zammitt
5. Lourdes Orcese 6.Maria Zammit 7 Michael Zammitt (son of Berta and Michael) and grandson of Maria
8. Carmenia Romero.

From left to right Juani Moss, Anna Torres, Antonia Moss ,Francisca Moss showing their loved ones in the photos.
All the photos on this page by Mr Orcese.

From left to right Mrs O Russo(Nee Fava)Mrs E Borda,A.Villa,Mr Carreras,Mrs M Garro,Mrs Mizzi (Nee Villa),Mary Dalmedo (later Frolic)?

Third and fourth from the right Miss Dalmedo(later Mrs Frolic) and Mrs O Russo.

Photos by Mr G Russo.

Left to right Mrs Garro, Mrs Russo, Mrs Borda, Miss M Dalmedo

Mrs Russo with Jamaican children

Mrs Olimpia Trinidad with her youngest daughter Berta at a studio in Kingston. Photo Vicky Salmon

In front Mrs Mizzi (nee Villa) Mary Dalmedo(later Frolic)? Sitting behind Mrs O Russo (nee Navas) Mrs Borda,Mrs Garro, A .Villa. Standing at the back Mr Carreras.

Mrs Isabel Mizzi (nee Villa) with her mother Mrs Arsencia Villa

All the photos on this page by Mr G Russo.

1.Lydia Torres, 2.Angelina Marsh, 3.Lauri Torres, 4.Dolores Enrile, 5. Catalina Enriles,6. Juan Enriles, 7. Irene Enrile, 8. Eulalia Enrile, 9.Emilio Enrile,10. Catalina Enirles, 11.Hortensia Enrile, 12. Juan Enrile 13.Carmen Enrile, 14.Maria Garcia (nee Enrile) 15.Rose Enrile.
Photo Mrs R Gilbert

1. ? , 2. Elizabeth Hill, 4. Dolly Danino (nee Cavilla) 5. Kity Gache 6. Josefina Bartholomew (nee Cano), 8. Mercedes Garro (nee Chipolina) 7.L.Orcese 11.Guillermina Duran (nee Zammitt).
Photo Mr Orcese.

Gladys Brooking following march of Gibraltar cadets.
Shown with a mark x is cadet Alex Byrne is marching in front of the parade. Photo Mrs Y Zarb.

Corpus Christie Procession. Photo Mr Enrile.

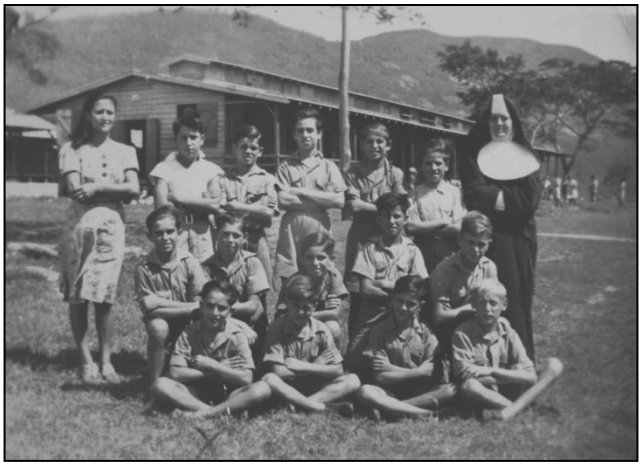
C

Corpus Christie Procession. Photo Sheryl Moya.

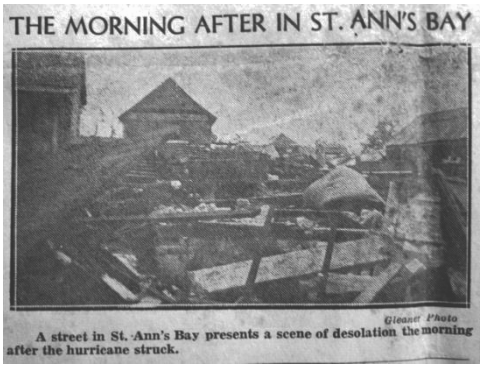
Thomas Busuttil marked with a X in a religious ceremony in Jamaica.

Busuttil Family in Jamaica
At the back, from left to right: Mrs Margarita Davis (nee Busuttil),Mercedes Finlayson, Mrs Dominga Mansfield (nee Busuttil). Sitting from left to right:Mrs Maria Busuttil,Thomas Busuttil,Manuel Busuttil.

Scouts in Jamaica
Thomas Busuttil on the left the other Scout's name not known.



Class in Jamaica
Sitting in front first from the left Thomas Busuttil



All the photos on page were donated by Mr Kenneth Busuttil.

CHAPTER FOUR

EVACUEES IN THE UK

The first group of evacuees to leave for London left on the 21st July 1940. The second, third, fourth and fifth group to leave for London left on 26th, 27th, 30th July 1940 and 20th August 1940 respectively. They arrived at their respective receiving UK ports at the very height of the Battle of Britain, amidst sirens, air raids and anti aircraft firing. By then London as well as many other British cities were being heavily bombarded. Many ships were being sunk on the main Atlantic route affecting seriously Britain's lifeline.

Very few of the evacuees had any experience of travelling abroad either by train or by sailing long distances and very few had ever been to London before. When they arrived in London, for most evacuees, everything was completely new to them - even, the double deck buses. For the average children the whole thing was like an adventure. However, in the case of the older evacuees, their worries were noticeable from the look on their faces. The unfamiliar environment, the air raids, the climate and the separation from their loved ones made it very difficult for the evacuees to be in such a state of mind as to be able to adapt to their new situation. The bulk of the evacuees were used to the normal life of a close knitted community. Since the start of the evacuation, only a couple of months before, they had gone through the terrible experiences of French Morocco, they had witnessed the bombing of Gibraltar, they had spent sixteen days in crossing the Atlantic with the threats posed by the enemy submarine and then finding themselves in war torn London.

When the evacuees arrived in London they were initially accommodated in the London Boroughs of Kensington, Barkingside, Bloomsbury, Westminster, Fulham, Wembley and Anerley Receiving Centre. Below is a complete list of all the evacuation centres in London.

NAME OF CENTRE	ADDRESS OF CENTRE	NO OF EVACUEES	0FFICER IN CHARGE
ANERLEY HOUSE	ANERLEY ROAD ANERLEY	23	MR F FAGAN
BALMORAL	37 QUEEN'S GATE GARDENS SW7	172	MR A MAINWOOD
BRITISH EMPIRE HOTEL	28 DE VERE GARDENS W8	154	MR C WRIGHT
BROADWALK HOTEL	11 DE VERE GARDENS W8	145	" " "
31/60 CAMPDEN HILL GATE	31/60 CAMPDEN HILL GATE W8	305	MR C THOMSON
CONSTANCE HOTEL AND 55 LANCASTER GATE	23 LANCASTER GATE W2	123	MRS R MILLAR
COURTLANDS	SHEEN ROAD RICHMOND, SURREY	438	MR A FLANN
DEAN HOTEL	DEAN STREET W1	?	?
DR BARNARDO'S HOMES	BARKINGSIDE ESSEX	843	MR R SUMMERS
DUCHESS OF BEDFORD	CAMPDEN HILL GATE W8	417	MR A KEY
EMPRESS HALL	LILIE ROAD FULHAM	750	LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL
GRAFTON HOTEL	TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD W1	342	MISS K RICHARDS
HIGHLANDS HEATH	BRISTOL GARDENS PUTNEY HEATH SW15 WANDSWORTH	364	MR E FROUND
HYDE PARK GATE HOTEL	5 HYDE PARK GATE W8	238	MR J THOMAS
IVANHOE HOTEL	BLOOMSBURY STREET WC1	478	MR F FROLIC
KENSINGTON PALACE MANSION (NORTH BLOCK)	DE VERE GARDENS KENSINGTON W8	448	CAPT.H BATEMAN FOX
KINGS COLLEGE OF HOUSE HOLD AND SOCIAL SCIENCE	CAMPDEN HILL ROAD W8	329	MISS I WAUGH
3/4 LANCASTER GATE 105/7 LANCASTER GATE	LANCASTER GATE	220	MAJOR J BELL
90/92 LANCASTER GATE	LANCASTER GATE W2	138	MRS O HENSON
100 LANCASTER GATE	LANCASTER GATE W2	344	MRS M V STEEL
LINDEN HALL	131/137 CROMWELL ROAD SW7	126	MISS O F G SHORE
MARLBOROUGH COURT	PEMBROKE ROAD KENSINGTON W8	452	MR A LEWINGTON
MOSCOW MANSION	224 CROMWELL ROAD W5	213	MR R MACQUEEN
NATIONAL HOTEL	BEDFORD WAY WC2	426	MR H HESFORD
NORTH END HOUSE TOWER BLOCK A	FITZJAMES AVENUE WEST KENSINGTON W14	609	MR R S ASHER
NORTH END HOUSE TOWER BLOCK B	FITZJAMES AVENUE WEST KENSINGTON W14	332	MR N MACLEOD
NORTHWAY HOTEL	70 EUSTON SQUARE NW1	91	MISS R ROSS
PARK ROYAL HOTEL AND BERKELEY HOTELS	LANCASTER GATE W2	179	MR W.W.KEALEY
RAGLAN HOTEL	BEDFORD WAY WC1	400	MR ALEXANDER
ROYAL PALACE HOTEL	HIGH STREET KENSINGTON W8	613	MR W .H. METCALFE
ROYAL STUART HOTEL	161/169 CROMWELL ROAD SW5	213	MRS M OXLEY
SHELBOURNE HOTEL	BEDFORD WAY WC1	350	MR FROLIC
ST KATHERINE'S COLLEGE	WHITE HART LANE TOTTENHAM N17	300	MR BROWN
ST STEPHEN'S CLOSE	AVENUE ROAD ST JOHNS'S WOOD NW	480	MAJOR T E SINCLAIR
THACKERAY HOTEL	57 GREAT RUSSEL SQUARE WC1	279	MSS L SMITH
WEMBLEY POOL	WEMBLEY MIDDLESEX	427	MR F HERBERT
WHITELANDS TRAINING COLLEGE	WEST HILL PUTNEY SW17	475	MR H DAVIES
YORK HOTEL	BERNERS STREET W1 OFF OXFORD ST.	310	MR A MILDMAZ

Owing to the bombing, some of the evacuees were subsequently transferred from their initial evacuation centres to other centres in Wandsworth and Richmond where it was reckoned that the bombing was less intensive than in the centre of London. The following are photographs and a brief description of the evacuation centres which were not included in my first book:

The Moscow Mansion

At the Moscow Mansions evacuation centre there were 213 evacuees. The officer in charge was Mr R MacQueen and the local representative was Miss D'Oyly from the Women's Voluntary Services in London.

The Moscow Mansion. Photo J.Gingell

The Royal Stuart Hotel

The Royal Stuart Hotel at 161/169 Cromwell Road SW 5 where there were 213 evacuees. The Officer in Charge was Mrs M Oxley and the evacuees' representative was Mr L Randall.

Royal Stuart Hotel – Cromwell Road. Photo J.Gingell

The Northway Hotel. Photo J.Gingell

At the Northway Hotel in 70 Euston Square NW1 there were 91 evacuees. The officer in charge was Miss R Ross and the local delegate representing the evacuees was Miss Santos.

The Broadwalk Hotel. Photo Gibraltar Evacuation WW2.

At the Broadwalk Hotels in De Vere Gardens there were nearly 145 evacuees. The manager was Mr C Wright and the local representative Mr Vella.

Precisely when the evacuees were arriving in London, there was a questions and answers session in the House of Lords on 13th August 1940 related to the questions of accommodation and food for the Gibraltar evacuees and which makes interesting reading.

The questions and answers were as follows:

Question: Why was it considered necessary to eject residents from the flats they are occupying in London in order to accommodate persons evacuated from Gibraltar; why the numerous empty houses and flats in London are not utilised for this purpose; and why, in view of His Majesty's Government's declared policy of dispersal, it is considered, necessary to accommodate evacuees and refugees in London instead of in country districts?

Answer: My Lords it was necessary, at very short notice, to find accommodation for about 11,000 refugees from Gibraltar, of whom the majority were women and children, unable in many cases to speak English. In order to provide supervision, feeding and medical attention, it was essential to house them in as large units as possible. For these reasons it would have been impracticable to use isolated empty houses. Very large numbers of cooks, doctors and welfare workers would have been required and their work would have been carried out in very difficult conditions. It was, therefore, necessary to make use of hotels and large blocks of flats. Having regard to the many other demands for billeting and lodging accommodation throughout the country for women and children generally, for civilian evacuees from defence areas, for members of the Services and for other people, the reception of the refugees from Gibraltar could not, in the short time available, be arranged outside London.

Question: My Lords, while thanking my noble friend for his very full reply, I would like to say that he has really missed the main point of the question. May I therefore ask him this: why was it necessary to eject some twenty-three English families from these very-large blocks of flats when there were so many other vacant flats in the same buildings? Would it not have been possible to have left those families where they were? My noble friend surely realises that they would not object at all to these British families from Gibraltar who are their fellow-subjects, but why turn out people who were in the few occupied flats when in these buildings there were great blocks of flats unoccupied?

Answer: For the very good reason that the feeding and managing of these 11,000 people had to be conducted on a large scale in these buildings, and it would have been extremely inconvenient and impracticable to leave a few people mixed up with them in the same large building. At the same time, in these days when the Civil Service is very much criticised, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the officers of my Department for arranging for the disposal of this very large number of 11,000 people satisfactorily, at such short notice, while displacing only twenty-three tenants.

As I have explained in Chapter 1, when the evacuees arrived in London, the majority of them did not know that their stay in London was meant to be of a temporary nature as plans were already in hand to transfer them to Jamaica within weeks of their arrival in London. By the end of 1940, when the policy of transferring the evacuee to Jamaica had been abandoned, representatives of each evacuation centre formed committees to voice the concerns of the evacuees.

The main items for discussion at the evacuation committees' meetings were food, accommodation, education and work. In one of the first meetings, it was agreed to constitute a Food Advisory Committee to address the food situation which together with accommodation issues had resulted in one of the main sources of discontent in many evacuation centres. It was also agreed that the evacuation committees, with representatives of all the evacuation centers should meet quarterly, on alternating evacuation centers with officials from the Department of Health.

After almost a year in London, there were still issues being debated in the House of Commons related to the Gibraltar evacuees. On the 26th June 1941, the Minister of Health was asked how many refugees there were in North End House and what proportion of them were children; what was the annual cost of renting the premises for the refugees and their attendants: what was the annual cost of feeding them by contract; what were the wages of the attendants and how many attendants were employed there?

The Minister replied that there were 273 adults and 77 children under the age of 14. The rental compensation was estimated at £3,040 per annum. In addition, a payment, at the rate of £800 a year, was made by the Ministry of Works and Buildings to the owners in respect of the heating of the premises. A contribution in lieu of rates, which was estimated at £2,150, was also going to be payable to the local authority. On the present basis of expenditure, the annual cost of feeding the evacuees and staff was estimated at £17,400. The number of staff employed was 10, and their wages amounted to £2,000 per annum. In addition, arrangements had been made with the London County Council whereby they undertook the medical care of the evacuees. Women's Voluntary Services also did welfare work for the evacuees.

The Minister was further asked to explain how he justified the bringing of evacuee women and children into London at a time when he was doing his best to get women and children in London to go into the country and was advising them to stay there.

The Minister replied that, first of all, he had not brought the evacuees to London. He pointed out that they were evacuees from the Rock of Gibraltar. There were some thousands of them, about 60 per cent did not speak English and they had entirely different habits. He said that he did not think that there had been a more difficult job in the whole war than the successful management of this problem.

He was again asked if the Gibraltar evacuees would have been of more use in the country and if they would have been, certainly safer there?

The Minister replied that the answer to the question was in the explanation he had already given, that the Ministry was not dealing with people talking their language or having their habits. They were people who had been brought thousands of miles from their homes, and so we're responsible for them, and that anybody who surveyed the difficulties of the problem and knew the facts would say that the problem had been handled wisely and well.

Throughout all the time in London, food was an issue which instigated many quarrels and complaints between the evacuees and the managers of some of the evacuation centres. There were also some among the evacuees who reckoned, that given the war situation, no one could say that they were left without food at any time. However, there were those who said that in their view, the chief cause of complaint was about the English cooking, which was not of the style and of the preferred taste of the evacuees. In some centres, to overcome this problem, it had been suggested that instead, the evacuees should be allowed to cook their own food.

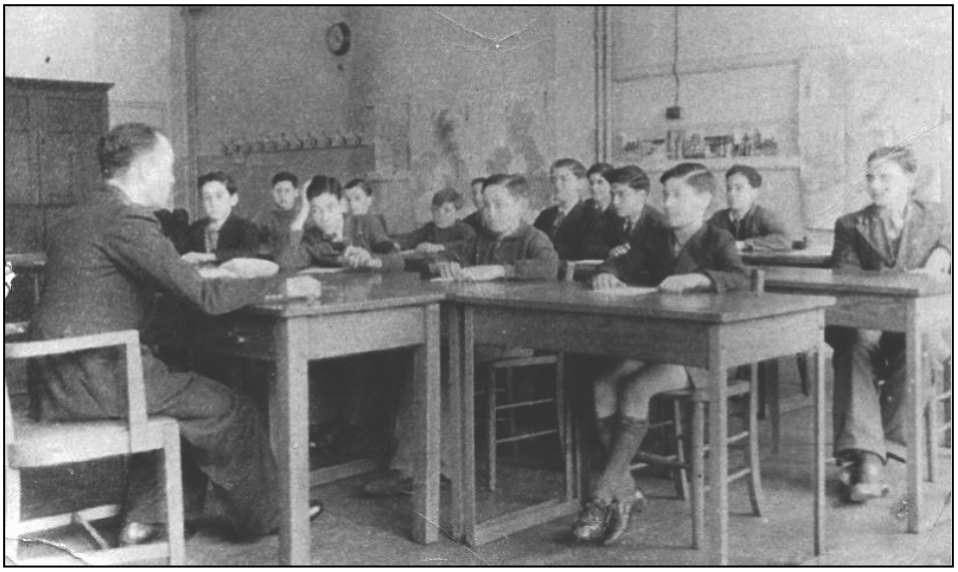
It seems that in some centres this suggestion was put into practice and evacuees helped with the cooking of the food. There was also the problem posted by the fact that many evacuees had to find food, occasionally, from other sources, including the black market.

There was also the almost constant controversy about the evacuees wishing to cook their meals in their allocated rooms for the sake of making it more appetizing. One of the most notorious cases related to the issue of food was that of a complaint by the residents of Marlborough Court in Pembroke Road, Kensington. The matter became so complex that those engaged in the dispute were involved in court proceedings with the managers of the evacuation centre. The matter reached Parliamentary level with Mr Brown, Minister for Health, having to answer questions about these issues from Members of Parliament. Some evacuees were of the view that sometimes food was being wasted at the centres when many seamen were losing their lives to ensure provisions.

From my own research, I believe that the accommodation provided to the evacuees was quite adequate given the circumstances. However, there were reports from a leading UK newspaper, making reference to complaints about accommodation and to the fact that, apparently, nothing had been done to ameliorate the matter despite repeated requests made through the Ministry of Health. The reporter of this article quoted, the following as examples of overcrowding:

"In one small room there were a mother, five children, and an elderly male relative. There were inadequate washing conditions and no running water. In another were a married couple and five daughters, aged from 10 to 24. These evacuees were promised another room a year ago, but nothing has happened. Another room had to house a mother, four sons (some grownups), and an elderly man and woman. These are a few cases and worse cases of overcrowding are alleged both by the evacuees and the people interested in their welfare. The atmosphere of the rooms is drab and depressing and there is an entire absence of amenities which might help to relieve the gloom of exile."

One of the priorities facing the evacuation committees and the authorities concerned was the question of education which had been severely disrupted for well over six months by the war. It was estimated that among the evacuees there were about 3,000 children of school age but there were very few teachers available as the majority had been enlisted. It took about a year for the majority of these children to attend school on a regular basis. The standard of schooling was very basic but many evacuees were able to improve their fluency in English. Below is a photo of one of the schools in central London.

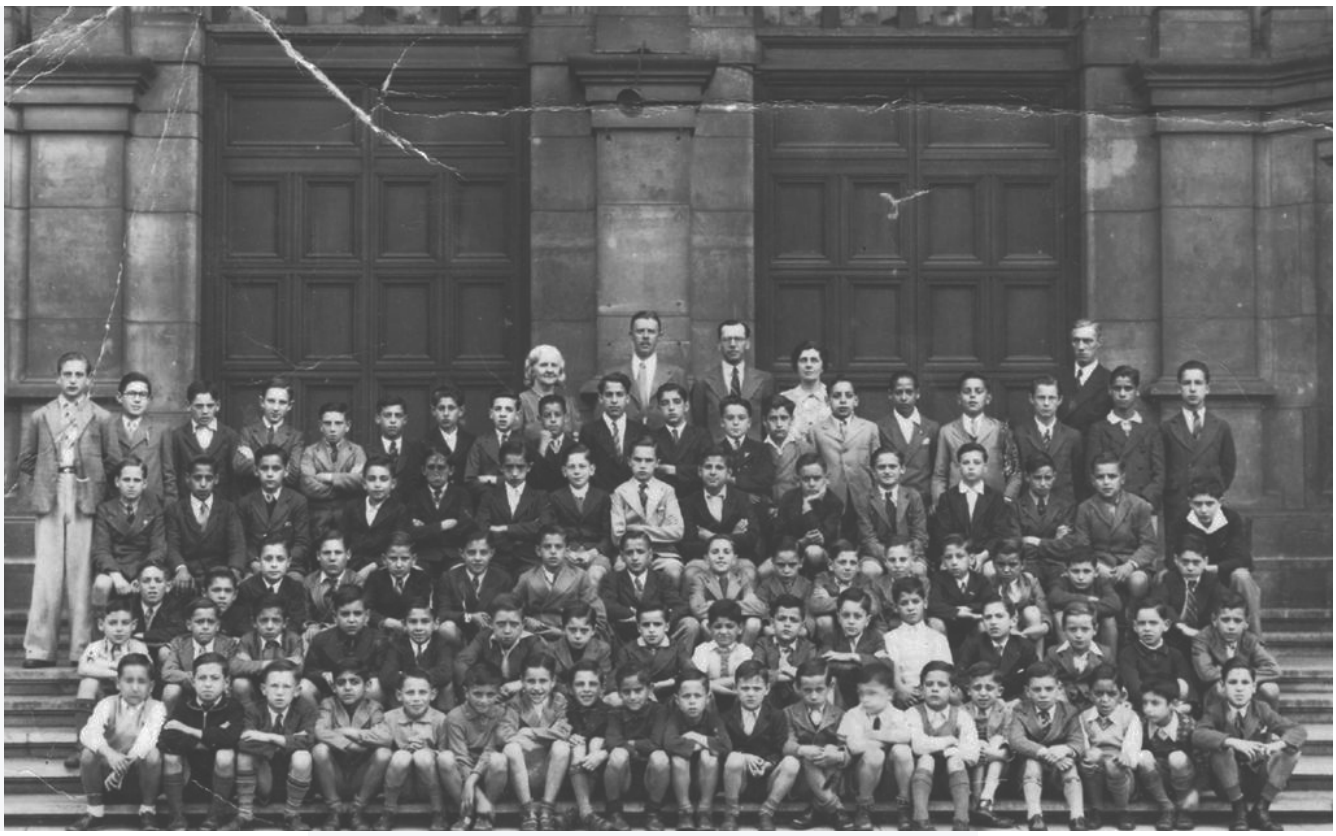


Evacuees at St Martin School with teacher Mr J Hermida. Photo Mr A Ferrary

Children of class II at St Patrick School in Dean Street London. Sitting in the second row, third from the left is Sally Candeas (later Barker). Photo Mrs Barker.

Wartime London, from where the great majority of the British children had been evacuated to other safer places, was not the ideal place to attend school. The bombing, naturally, placed major obstacles when trying to make the necessary arrangements for the Gibraltar children to attend school. Mothers were understandably apprehensive to send their children to distant schools. Consequently, arrangements were made, as far as possible, for children to attend school within their respective centres or as near as possible but not more than a couple of miles away.

Children of Class III 1943 of St Patrick School near Warren Street Tube Station at the end of Tottenham Court Road. The tall girl at the back row is Dolores Vella (later Mrs Bosano).



Evacuees at the Victoria and Albert museum November 1940
At the back row 2nd from the left is Leopoldo (Poly) Bellotti Padiña. In the front row 4th from the left is Claudio Penalver

After a year or so in London, many of the evacuees then began to do their best to adapt to the new situation. Even then, there was still the anxiety being felt of not knowing how long the separation would last and what the outcome of the war itself would be. By late 1941, the evacuation committees were making arrangements to introduce sporting, leisure and entertainment activities to keep the morale high. Bands were also formed and they played when dances, concerts and other forms of entertainment were held at different evacuation centres. Among the many songs played there was the very popular "Llevame donde Naci." One of the slogans created by the Gibraltar entertainers was "We cannot take you home, but we can make you feel at home." Below is a photo of the North End House Band, one of the many bands formed at the different evacuation centres.

The North End House Band playing at Whitelands College, Putney 1943
At back Mesod Serruya (Drums) Joseph Bosano (Piano). In front from left to right Pepe Luis Gomez (trumpet) Albert Vinales (violin) J.Victory (banjo) J.Cornelio (alto saxo) A.Sciacaluga (soprano saxo). Photo Mr P L Gomez

By then many of the evacuation centres had formed football teams. By October 1941, there were already sixteen teams in each of the senior and junior divisions. Official final senior and junior cup matches were played at Loftus Road on the 9th May 1942. The Senior Cup was won by the Ivanhoe Team shown below.

The Ivanhoe Team – Winners of the Senior Cup in May 1942. Photograph taken at the QPR Football Ground. Standing L To R A.Candeas A.Cavilla E.Medina L.De Soiza, M. Costa. Sitting In Middle: E.Sanchez J.Candeas A.Rocca. Kneeling In Front: C.Bacarisa J.Sanchez C.Lima S.Martinez H.Cocklan. Child is son of Spanish Refugee Named Caballero. Photo Mr J Candeas

The Junior Cup was won by the team from Highlands Heath in the photo shown below:

HIGHLANDS TEAM - JUNIOR CUP WINNERS IN MAY 1942

Back row: Mr Gracia (trainer) Mario Apap, John Dalli, Paul Cano, Michael Azopardi , Juan Reyes, Hector Hermida. Front row: Tommy Long, Tony Rodriguez, Manolo Rodriguez (Captain,) Pedro Cardona, Victor Long (Photo Mr P Cano. Photo MrM Rodriguez.

Gib. Boys—
Football Winners

The Winning Team: Gibraltarian boys with Mr. Richards before the match at Paddington Recreation Ground on Easter Saturday.

International Football
At Paddington Rec.

Sir Charles Longcroft Sees
Gib. Boys Win

At the football match between a Paddington Youth Organisation mixed eleven and the Gibraltar team on Saturday last on the Paddington Rec , Councillor Rous, the F.A.

Miss Rosa Lawrence foots a pretty ball. Deputy Mayor's daughter kicks off at Paddington Rec., Easter Saturday, at match between Gib. and Paddington boys.

Cutting from a London newspaper about football by Gibraltar evacuees. Gibraltar Evacuation WW2.

Netball playing was the favourite sport among the young female evacuees. Below is a report of the winning team receiving the cup from the wife of the Governor of Gibraltar, Lady Mason MacFarlane, when she visited the evacuees in November 1943.

Lady MacFarlane handing trophy to captain of team Olga Cornelio (later Mrs Avellano) from whom she received a bouquet.Photo Mrs Avellano.

'GIB' CHILDREN WIN CUP

GOVERNOR'S WIFE AT BARKINGSIDE

The wife of the Governor of Gibraltar, Mrs. Mason MacFarlane, visited Gibraltar refugees at the Barkingside Village Homes on Saturday and presented a cup to the girls' netball team after they had beaten a team of evacuees from Kensington Palace.

The ceremony took place after a tea had been provided and the B.B.C. recorded the ceremony for broadcasting to Gibraltar.

Olga Cornelio, captain of the team, received the cup and each member of the team had a medal.

They had been trained by Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Allen, of the Ilford W.V.S.

The team was Olga Cornelio, Julie Cruz, Maribel Cornelio, Violet Mauro, Maribel Garcia, Olimpia Danino, and Muriel Cartwright.

A cutting from the Ilford Recorder reporting on the event.

Other organised activities, in addition to sports were the outings to various parks and places of interests in London. The Serpentine in Hyde Park was frequently visited by the evacuees although, at the time, there were also a lot of anti-aircraft guns and barrage balloons. The outings included boat trips on the Thames as can be seen from the photos.

1. Mrs Maria Barbara (nee Arias) 2.Mrs Araceli Montovio (neeVera) 3.Mrs Obdulia Gallego (nee Risso) 4.Robert Montovio 5. Maria Carmen Montovio (later Mrs Pitaluga) 6. Sonia Barbara (later Mrs Sene) 7. ? 8. Laura Martin (later Mrs Ney) 13. Manolo Vinent 16. Nora Rocca (later Mrs Rodriguez). Photo Mrs Rodriguez.

Many of the evacuation centres organised fancy dress competitions as can be seen from the photographs which I have been able to obtain during my research and have displayed in the following pages. The variety and quality of the different dresses produced for these events are really first class taking into account the shortage of materials.

1. Manolo Montovio 2. Marie Carment Montovio (Later Mrs Pitaluga) 3.Maleni Vinent 4. Nora Rocca (later Mrs Rodriguez) 5.Joseph Montovio 6. ? 7. ? 8. Mrs Maria Barbara (nee Arias) 9. Sonia Barbara (later Mrs Sene) 10.Mrs Obdulia Gallego (nee Risso) 11.Robert Montovio 12.Jaime Perera
Jaime Fa and Juan Perera are also in the photo. Photos Mr C Rodriquez

The BBC organised functions intended to be broadcast to Gibraltar to show that the evacuees were well looked after while in London during the evacuation. Functions were held at the BBC studios and at some of the evacuation centres like the one staged at the King's College on the 3rd May 1942.

GIBRALTAR EVACUEES FROM ALL OVER LONDON BROADCAST TO–"THE ROCK"

These pictures, taken in a B.B.C. studio, show talented Gibraltar evacuees in London giving their own broadcast concert to Gibraltar.

They came from various centres all over London, where they are now living, to give an enthusiastic and entertaining performance.

Above, six-years-old Laura Diaz, is photographed singing "Mi Jaca," in which she was accompanied at the piano by Mrs. D. Caruana.

On the right (top) is a scene from the Spanish operetta, "La Rosa del Azafran", being sung by (left to right) Miss Orensia Ghio, Miss Elena Cruz, Miss Angeles Usifredo, Miss Noelia Mosquera, Miss Araceli Lopez, Mr. Louis Gomila, Miss Luisa Lopez, Miss Carmen Ghio, Miss Maruja Lopez and Mrs. L. Gonzalez. They were accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Frances Calamaro.

Above pictures from a show held at the King's College by the BBC on the 3rd May 1942.
Mr Manuel Infant is sitting in front.

Another function arranged by the BBC was held at Marlborough Court evacuation centre and which is depicted in the photograph shown below.

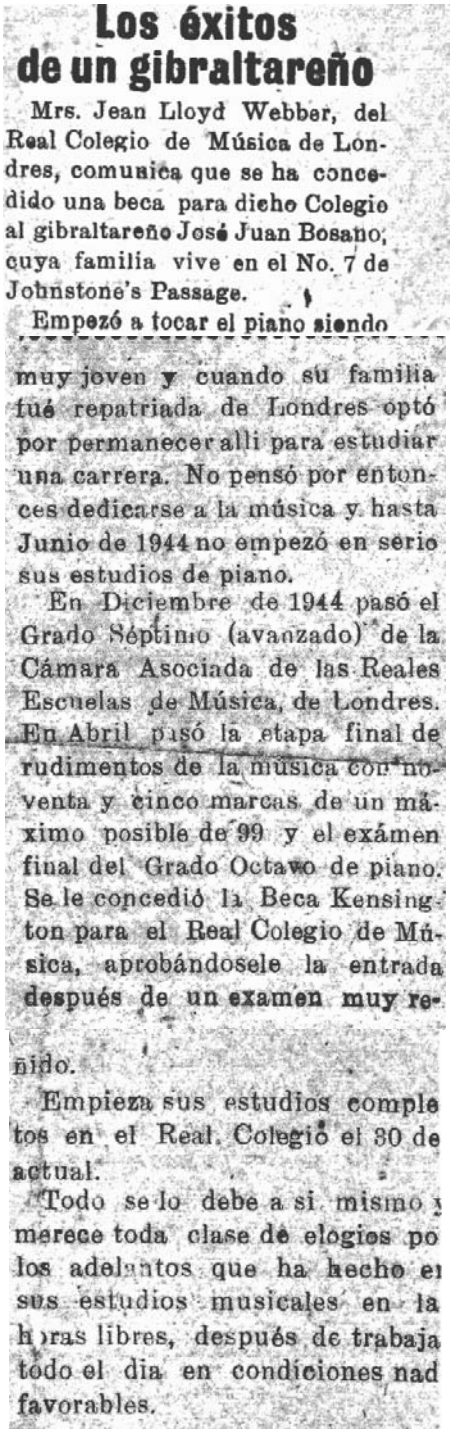
Taking part in a show arranged by the BBC at Marlborough Court evacuation centre. In the photo from L to R Marcelino Linares, Victor Sciacaluga and Victor Infante. Photo by Mr V Sciacaluga

Gibraltar in London - 3 May 1942. Photo Mrs M Bosano Lane.

The above picture shows talented Gibraltar evacuees in London holding their own concert broadcast in the BBC special programme for Gibraltar. Those who took part came from the various evacuation centers all over London, where they were living, to give an enthusiastic and entertaining performance.
In the picture from left to right are: Mr Albert Vinales (accompanist),Miss Aida Felipes (performed a violin solo "Czardas" by de Monti), Mrs D Caruana (accompanist), Mrs Emily Allan, Miss Laura Diaz (who sang "Mi Jaca"), Miss Lourdes Rapallo (who sang "La Dolorosa"), Mr Henry Fernandez (accompanist), Mrs Francis Calamaro (accompanist), Mrs P Fuller (accompanist), Mr J Bosano (who performed a selection on the piano), Mrs A Abecasis (accompanist).

Below pictures of another performance organised by the BBC where the main protagonist was Joseph Bosano.

Student pianist Joseph Bosano



Los éxitos de un gibraltareño

Mrs. Jean Lloyd Webber, del Real Colegio de Música de Londres, comunica que se ha concedido una beca para dicho Colegio al gibraltareño José Juan Bosano, cuya familia vive en el No. 7 de Johnstone's Passage.

Empezó a tocar el piano siendo muy joven y cuando su familia fué repatriada de Londres optó por permanecer allí para estudiar una carrera. No pensó por entonces dedicarse a la música y hasta Junio de 1944 no empezó en serio sus estudios de piano.

En Diciembre de 1944 pasó el Grado Séptimo (avanzado) de la Cámara Asociada de las Reales Escuelas de Música, de Londres. En Abril pasó la etapa final de rudimentos de la música con noventa y cinco marcas de un máximo posible de 99 y el exámen final del Grado Octavo de piano. Se le concedió la Beca Kensington para el Real Colegio de Música, aprobándosele la entrada después de un examen muy reñido.

Empieza sus estudios completos en el Real Colegio el 30 de actual.

Todo se lo debe a si mismo y merece toda clase de elogios por los adelantos que ha hecho en sus estudios musicales en las horas libres, después de trabajar todo el dia en condiciones nada favorables.

Mrs Ida Bosano, her children, Joseph, John, Aida, Mary and Madge were among the first group of evacuees to leave for the UK on 20th July 1940 on board the SS Clan Macbean which sailed within convoy HG39 arriving at Cardiff on 5th August 1940.

On arrival in London Mrs Bosano and her children were billeted at the Kensington Palace Mansions, Kensington High Street until April 1941 when they were transferred Courtlands in Richmond.

As soon the family settled, Joseph, who was then 17 year old sought an apprenticeship in refrigeration engineering and qualified as an engineer in 1943. In his spare time Joseph kept attending his piano studies and played piano in various Gibraltarian bands that entertained evacuees in different centres.

Joseph although a very young man, acted as the head of the family. Conscious that the evacuation was holding back education, Joseph arranged for his brothers and sisters to attend school in Richmond until October 1943 when the family was moved to the Balmoral Hotel in Queens Gate Gardens, off the Cromwell Road where they stayed until repatriated in April 1944. Coincidentally, just before being repatriated,Joseph had sat and passed the entrance exam for the Royal College of Music and was offered a scholarship. His parents had to decide whether Joseph should return to Gibraltar with the rest of the family or take up the scholarship. Joseph's parents took the wise decision that he should take up the scholarship.

Because at this time Joseph was not yet 20 he had to have a legal guardian. His parents' agreement, for his tutor at the Royal College of Music, Mrs Jean Lloyd-Webber to become his legal guardian until he reached 21. He passed all his exams and got his ARCM degree (Associate of the Royal College of Music). He went on to get his MRCCT degree (Member of the College of Certified Teachers).

While staying at the Balmoral Hotel Joeph was caught in a blast during an air raid some time after his family had returned to Gibraltar, but luckily he did not suffer serious injuries.

When war was declared in September 1939, all the cinemas in London and other British cities were closed for safety reasons, but were back in business within a week because it was realized that the nation needed entertainment to keep up its spirits. Cinema going was seen as particularly vital when the war was not going as well. In this sense, the news was heavily controlled by the Ministry of Information. Its main purpose was to keep the nation's morale up by giving out the message that Britain was winning the battle. In pursuance of this policy, posters were sponsored by the Ministry of Information could be seen at the cinema foyers beside the actual film posters throughout the whole country.

One of the many posters seen at the entrance of cinemas Picture Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia

The main show began with the film itself, and then there was the news about the war, giving an updated account of the war situation.

The cinemas, were also known as the 'dreams palaces' as they offered the public an escape from the realities of everyday life. In London the cinemas and mainly those of the West End received all the latest films, which the Gibraltar evacuees in London were, in a way, privileged to enjoy.

For Gibraltar evacuees, cinema going was also one of the main sources of leisure and entertainment. The main films and the most popular actors were then Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Paul Henreid in Casablanca, Tyrone Power in Blood and Sand, Errol Flynn in Robin Hood and Captain Blood, Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman in For Whom the Bell Tolls, Ronald Colman in the Prisoner of Zenda, Clark Gable in Gone With the Wind, Robert Taylor in Queens and Betty Davis in Now, Voyager and many other classics like the Maltese Falcon.

People also attended cinemas despite the bombing. There were occasions that even when an air raid was announced on the cinema screen very few, if any, left the cinema. The film, which seemed to have had the greatest impact on the evacuees was Blood and Sand shown during the summer of 1942 throughout many of the cinemas.

The cinemas mostly frequented by the evacuees living in Putney were the Regal Cinema, the Putney Palace and the Putney Hippodrome, the Wandsworth Palace, the Plaza Cinema and the Grand. More to the centre of London was Empire Cinema in Leicester Square. In Clapham there were the Imperial Cinema, The Globe Cinema and the Granada.

In the areas of Oxford Street, Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus there were games shops. Another special attraction was also the Madame Tussaud's Museum.

Although there were many people dying in the war, the musical performers continued to help people to take their mind off of the bad news. The troops needed the music to keep them entertained and boost their morale. The songs were also intended to help the public overcome the stress of the war and relax when the occasion permitted. One of the most popular singers during the Second World War was undoubtedly Dame Vera Lynn, who used to sing many morale boosting songs. Her repertoire was quite extensive and the songs which are recalled by the majority of the evacuees are the White Cliffs of Dover, There'll Always be an England, We'll Meet Again and many others. The 40s were also the years with fast, frantic, mainly American style of dance music, like boogie-woogie or jitterbug with dances being held everywhere.

The other popular singers of the war years were Anne Shelton and the romantic music from the famous Geraldo and his orchestra. One of the most favourite songs amongst the evacuees were, "Kiss me my love" and "Begin the Beguine"

There was also the legendary Andrew Sisters who also became one of the most popular singers during the Second World War. Among the best known songs of the time by the Andrew Sisters were: Round the Apple Tree, Don't Fence Me In, Pistol Packin' Mama and for the evacuees I think it was their version of Amapola.

Vera Lynn. Photo Mr Mark Dowd of Topfoto.co.uk

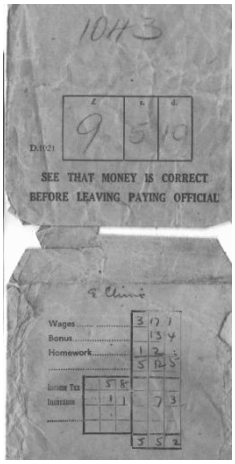
Despite the dangers posed by the bombing, the Gibraltar evacuees also did their best to organise different types of entertainments in almost every centre.

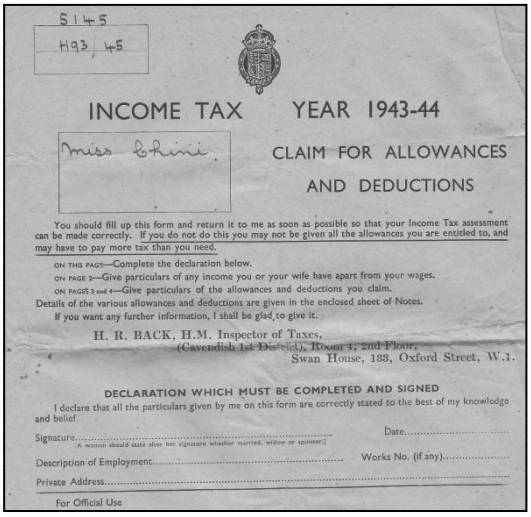
Due to the fact that most young men were in the Services there was a great demand for labourers in London for both male and female. Initially, when there were many impediments for evacuees to find work. However, soon after the evacuees had settled down, the rules restricting the employment for evacuees were more relaxed. For those evacuees who wanted to work there were many jobs available in the then London labour market. Many of the factories changed their production line to meet the war effort requirements of the Government.

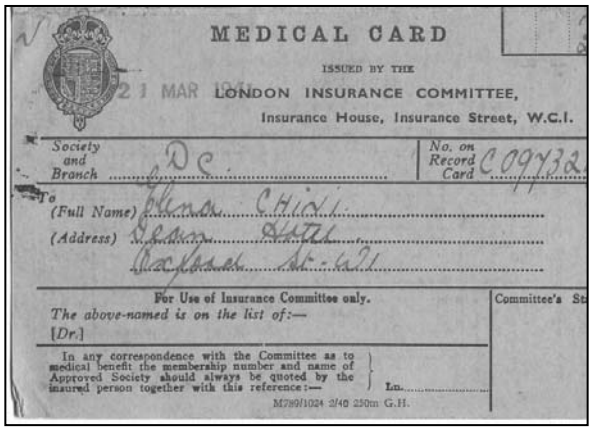
There were also opportunities offered by the Government for young people to take up short-term trade training courses. Some of the young evacuees took up some of these training opportunities and returned to Gibraltar as qualified tradesmen.

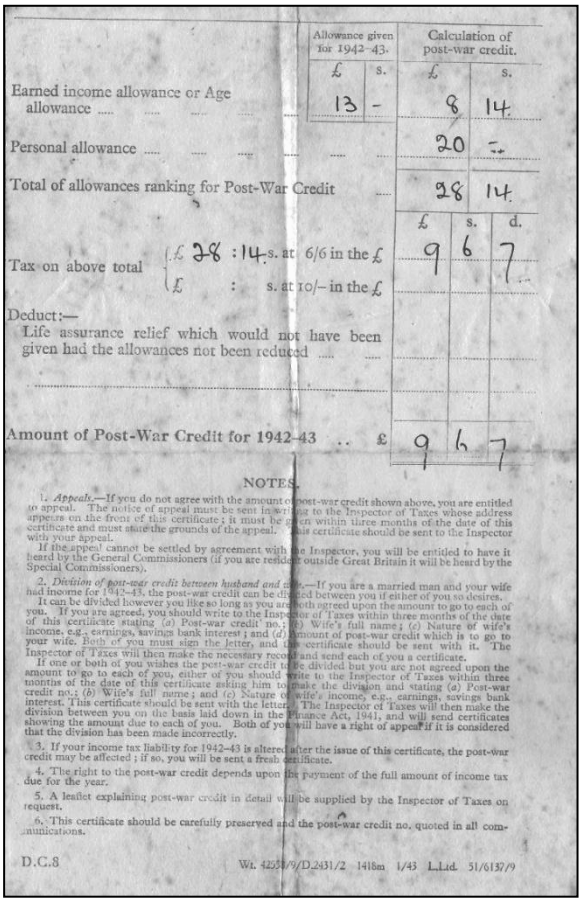
There were many job vacancies in demolition work where good wages were paid, but it entailed very dangerous work. A few evacuees took up this work, but soon gave it up. For women there were apparently other jobs available mainly in the textile industry and also others more directly oriented to the war industry. By 1942 there were many Gibraltar evacuees employed in many different types of work. Evacuees had to conform to labour employment requirements in term of insurance and tax.

Below are copies of documents donated by Mr Manuel Infante of his mother when she worked in London so as to serve as examples of the documents etc. related to employment.



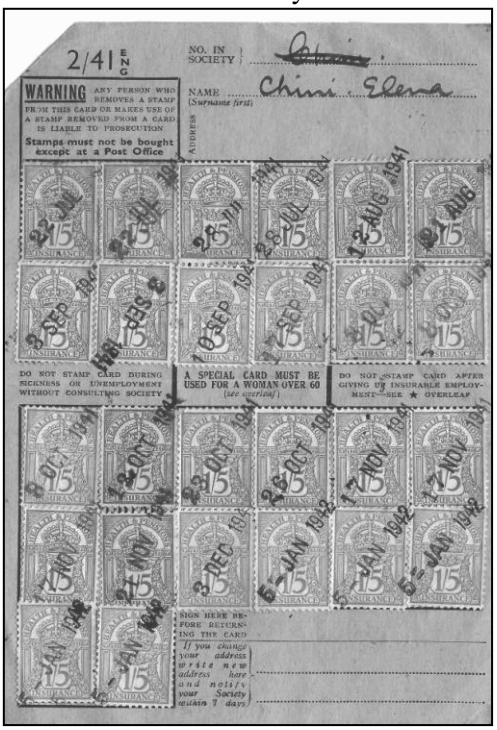






Below Miss Elena Chini (later Mrs Infante) when she worked in textile factory near Oxford Street..

Miss Elena Chini later Mrs Infante



Miss Elena Chini's insurance contribution card.

At the back of the photo:
A mi papa de todo Corazon y con mayor carino de tu hija
Elena 22.9.1940.

Le dice a el sobrino de mama que le escribire y a Candida. Besos de mama y mios a ver cuando nos vemos otra vez reunidos ya te mandare la fotografia de mama.
Adios XXXXXXX

A textile factory in Princess Street near Oxford Street.
In the foreground on the left hand side is Miss Elena Chini with scissors and behind her is her causin Violeta Gatt with white flowery dress. The picture was taken a few months before the bombing of Dean Hotel in Oxford Street which became an evacuation centre and where Miss Chini was residing. Photos and cuttings Mr M Infante.

By the 4th of September 1940, a couple of weeks after the Blitz started, there were nearly 12,000 evacuees already living in London. From then on and until the end of May 1941, when the Blitz ended, London suffered the worst air raids. During the air raids people took shelter in warehouse basements and underground stations where they slept on makeshift beds amid primitive conditions with no privacy and poor sanitation facilities.

The scene at Aldwych tube station 1940. Seventy nine tube stations were used as air raid shelters by Londoners, but they were not proof against a direct hit.
Photo: Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia.

My first book gives a more detailed description of the bombing incidents related to the Gibraltar evacuees includes many personal stories and anecdotes told by the evacuees about their own personal experiences of the bombing in London.

Photograph of Barrage balloons over London during World War II. Buckingham Palace and the Victoria Memorial can be seen in the middle ground.
Wikipedia Free Encyclopaedia

From the beginning of the Blitz there were intense attacks that lasted 76 consecutive days and nights with the whole bombing campaign prolonged until May 1941. It was estimated that the underground stations sheltered nearly 200,000 people during the night. During this period of intensive bombing many Londoners, children in particular, were evacuated to more remote areas, which in some cases lasted for several years.

The following is a summary, in approximate chronological order of the bombing incidents that affected the evacuees in their respective evacuation centres:

When the evacuees arrived in London they were directed to their allocated evacuation centres. One of these centres was the Empress Hall in Lillie Road where 750 evacuees were accommodated. In early September 1940, this centre was bombed when the evacuees were in the building's car park, which had been converted into a shelter. One evacuee recalls that there were fumes everywhere and someone cried that it was poisonous gas. The word soon spread around resulting in many of the evacuees becoming very hysterical. Fortunately, the utter confusion that ensued did not last very long and everything soon returned to relative normality. After this incident, the evacuees at this centre were soon found alternative accommodation at the Tower Blocks, North End House.

Shortly after arriving in London, there was a bombing incident at the Royal Palace Hotel causing injuries to Mrs Lara and her daughter. Mrs Lara suffered severe injuries to her breast and a piece of shrapnel hit Mrs Lara's daughter on her right leg, which also severely burnt by the acid from an incendiary bomb. Shortly after this bombing incident, St Mary Abbott's Hospital was hit on Saturday 14th September 1940, resulting in the death of fourteen months old Mario Massetti, the first Gibraltarian casualty. As a result of this bombing, the Laras who were also at the hospital were transferred to another hospital in Staines.

The above photo shows the bombing site of the Raglan Hotel. Photo Camden Local History Office.

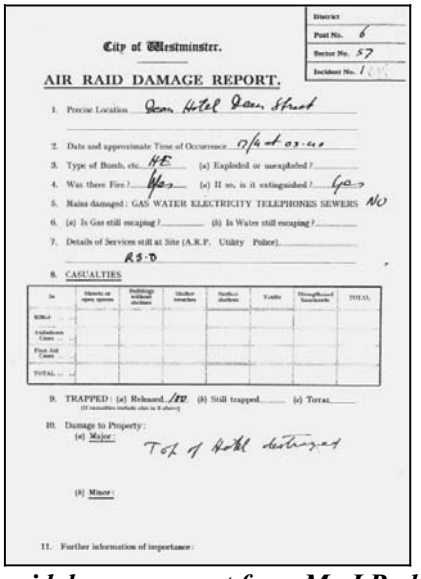
The next evacuation centre hit was the Raglan Hotel in Bedford Way on the 15th October 1940. The Raglan was not completely destroyed, but was unsafe and the evacuees were transferred to the National Hotel.
The other evacuation centre which was also affected, in Bedford Way, was the Shelbourne Hotel during the nights of 7th /8th November 1940. In all the three hotels there were nearly 1,900 evacuees.
As a result of the transfers, the National Hotel became overcrowded and some families were moved to the Whitelands College and Highlands Heath.

The above photo shows the bombing site of the Shelbourne Hotel on 7/8 November 1940. Photo Camden Local History Office

The Lady of Victories Church after the bombing on the 13th September 1940. Photo Mr P Cano

Near to the evacuation centers in Kensington High Street was the Lady of Victories Church, which was run by nuns during the war. In one of the earliest air raids of the 13th September 1940, this church was badly hit by a high explosive bomb. As can be seen from the photograph it was very extensively damaged. In the picture looking at the damages are, from left to right Mrs Magdalena Schembri, in the centre Miss Flori Schembri (Mrs Ballard) and on the far right is Miss Violet Yeo (Mrs Morello).
The next bombing incident occurred at the Dean Hotel resulting in the killing of Mr Henry Balestrino on the 18th April 1941. He was a fire watcher and apparently he came out of the shelter to check that everything was all right when, suddenly, there was an explosion which killed him instantly. The evacuees had to leave the shelter with some difficulty because part of the pavement had been lifted by the blast and was blocking the exit of the shelter. After a lot of effort by the fire fighters, etc. to clear the rubble, the residents of the Dean Hotel managed to get out.

Dean Street in 2012 with some of the old buildings that were adjacent to the Dean Hotel. Photo J.Gingell



City of Westminster.

AIR RAID DAMAGE REPORT.

District
Post No. 6
Sector No. 57
Incident No. 1

1. Precise Location Dean Hotel Dean Street
2. Date and approximate Time of Occurrence 17/4 at 03.45
3. Type of Bomb, etc. HE (a) Exploded or unexploded?
4. Was there Fire? Yes (a) If so, is it extinguished? Yes
5. Mains damaged: GAS WATER ELECTRICITY TELEPHONES SEWERS NO
6. (a) Is Gas still escaping? (b) Is Water still escaping?
7. Details of Services still at Site (A.R.P. Utility Police). RS:D
8. CASUALTIES

	In Streets or open spaces	In Buildings without shelters	In Shelter trenches	In Surface shelters	In Tubes	In Strengthened basements	TOTAL
Killed							
Seriously Injured or Detained							
Slightly Injured							
TOTAL							

9. TRAPPED: (a) Released /17 (b) Still trapped (c) Total
10. Damage to Property:
(a) Major: Top of Hotel destroyed
(b) Minor:
11. Further information of importance:

Copy air raid damage report from Mr J Rodriguez

The Harewood and the British Empire Hotels were also hit on that same day but the evacuees only suffered minor injuries although the buildings were extensively damaged.
The next bombing incident was as a result of high explosive bombs which killed Miss Gardenia Morello, an evacuee from Lancaster Gate. It occurred during a day raid when Miss Morello took shelter in a nearby building and was killed by the bomb blast.
There was another incident when a German bomber that crashed between the King's College and the Duchess of Bedford evacuation centres but luckily no one was injured.
By the end of 1943 Germany was fighting alone after Italy had surrendered in September 1943. The Russians were on the offensive and the Japanese expansion had been halted. In London the heavy aerial bombardment had lessened considerably. Arrangements were then made for as many men, who had stayed behind in Gibraltar to take special leave to visit their relatives in London.

Left to right Mario Gonzalez, Michael Mifsud, Jaime Parody, Carlos Bottaro

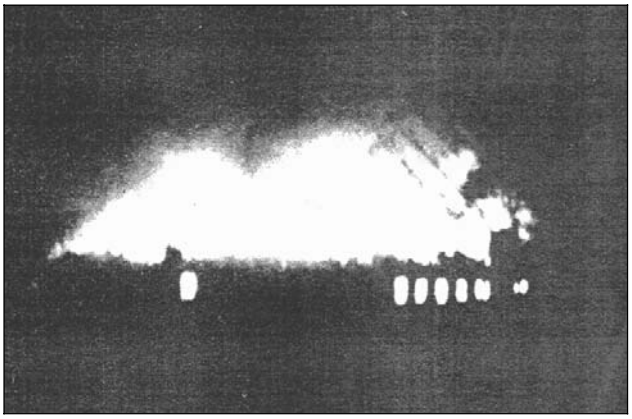
In November 1943, the Governor and his wife visited the evacuation centres to see for themselves how the evacuees were faring.

Governor Sir Noel Mason MacFarlane is visiting evacuees during his stay in London in November 1943.

There was, of course, an air of optimism, but this seemed to be a little premature. During February and March 1944, the Luftwaffe attacked with so much strength that this spate of bombing became known as the "little blitz." or the "baby blitz"
It was in the early hours of the morning of Saturday 19th February 1944, when the Whitelands College, where 500 evacuees had been accommodated, was hit by incendiary bombs. That morning it had been snowing slightly and the weather was freezing.
My family was accommodated at Whitelands and I distinctively remember that we started to leave the building when I noticed that the corridor was very badly lit and there was a lot of smoke. This was probably due to the electricity supply being cut off and the smoke must have come from the fire caused by the incendiary bombs.
We were not very far from the fire escape doors and we soon were out of the building. My mother covered me with blankets and placed me near a tree well distant from the building. I also remember that from this spot I could see, behind the bare branches, the flames protruding from the roof and some of the windows. In the meantime, I think my mother and my two older brothers went to salvage some of our belongings from the two rooms allocated to us.

The spot from where I watched Whitelands roof burning. This photo was taken by daughter Michelle in February 2004 exactly 60 years since the bombing.

A few evacuees were offered accommodation in some of the nearby houses along Sutherland Grove Road. After a very long while, I remember that an army lorry arrived and took us away. During my research, I found out that my family was taken to a monastery at Lancaster Gate where we were given some hot drinks and then slept for the rest of the night.



The roof of the Whitelands College burning.
Photo the Wandsworth Heritage Service.

Other evacuees were taken to other evacuation centres, with the bulk transferred to a temporary centre called the Camberwell Institute, in Peckham Rye.

Between the nights of the 18th and 20th of February 1944, in addition to the Whitelands bombing, the following three other evacuation centres were also hit:

A high explosive bomb hit the King's College at Campden Hill Road with residents having to be evacuated to neighbouring hostels. Although there were no casualties from the actual bombing, it was reported that a Mr Joseph De Soiza had suffered a heart attack during the incident and died the next day at the hospital.

Scene at King's College after bombing.
Photo Debbie Hyland.

Incendiary bombs also hit the Royal Stuart Hotel at Crowmwell Road, burning the roof of the hotel. The evacuees were transferred to the Moscow Mansion Buildings.

Incendiary bombs also hit the Constance Hotel at 23 Lancaster Gate. Residents there were moved to the evacuation centre at 100 Lancaster Gate. Fortunately, there were no casualties in any of these bombing incidents.

When the flying bombs began to hit London in June 1944, the evacuees were only a few weeks from been repatriated to Gibraltar or transferred to Northern Ireland. In one month the flying bombs killed six evacuees; more than all the Gibraltarian evacuees killed during the four years in London.

The first victim from the flying bombs was Mr Francisco Pereira, from Linden Hall, on the 16th June 1944.

There was another incident when Alec Grech, who was two years old, was taken with an indigestion disorder. On the 17th June 1944, a flying bomb hit St Mary Abbott's Hospital in Kensington killing many people, including patients. Luckily, Gibraltar two year old Alec Grech was, apparently, the only child in the hospital who survived.

Evacuees went to tell Alec's father that the hospital had been hit by a flying bomb and that only one child had survived. Mr.Grech without telling his wife, rushed to hospital to find out what happened. Alec's father took his friend with him because he did not dare to find out whether it was his son who had survived the explosion.

The dreaded flying bomb or doodlebug.
Photo The History Place

The surviving boy suffered head and face injuries which made him very difficult to identify. Mr. Grech was obviously very much relieved when, at last, his friend emerged from the damaged hospital to tell him that his son was alive.

The next victim was Mrs Laura Fernandez (nee Sodi) from the York Hotel. The flying bomb hit the area on Goodge Street/Whitfield Street on the 19th June 1944 when she was shopping. Her body was found on the 21st June 1944. She had recently married to Edward Fernandez on the 19th August 1943 at St Pancras. She was buried at Islington and St Pancras cemetery in East Finchley. The rest of the family, mother Aurora Sodi and younger sister Mary Sodi had already been repatriated in April 1944 but she had stayed behind with her recently wedded husband.

Mrs Laura Fernandez (nee Sodi). Photo Mr B Bautista.

The York House. Photo by J.Gingell in Summer 2012.

On the 30th June 1944 Mrs Joaquina Ryan and her son Andrew were killed at the Australasian Hospital in Dr Barnardo's Homes.

FLYING BOMB SCORES DIRECT HIT ON HOSPITAL

PATIENTS BURIED IN WRECKAGE OF WARDS

ALTHOUGH many of them had themselves injuries from flying glass, nurses worked heroically to evacuate the patients when a hospital was directly hit by a flying bomb on Friday. There were nine people killed, two of them being members of the staff. One was a Gibraltarian evacuee employed at the Hospital.

Extract from the Ilford Recorder.

The hospital at Barnardo's Home hit by the flying bomb. Photo Mr E Holt.

The other two flying bomb casualties were that of Mrs Rosa Vella and Mrs Dolores Garcia from Kensington Palace Mansion on the 18th July 1944, when they were preparing their luggage to be transferred to Northern Ireland.

Altogether, nine evacuees died as a result of the bombings; three from conventional bombing and six from the flying bombs. Taking into account that there were over 12,000 evacuees in London, there is a consensus of opinion that the evacuees had been extremely lucky.

I have thought of introducing the pages with photos of evacuees in London with the unique experience lived by the Galliano family and kindly donated by Mr Manolo Galliano as written by his mother, Mrs Elizabeth Galliano:

"I was just eighteen years old and recently married, when war was declared on 3rd September 1939. Moreover, I was expecting a baby for the following February and life was getting too complicated because of my age and condition due to all the news and rumours of war. My husband Hector, who used to run the very popular Golden Ham Restaurant and two grocery shops with his brother Obdulio, soon joined the G.D.F. (Gibraltar Defence Force). He was enlisted in the Medical Section, at the same time continuing to run the family business.

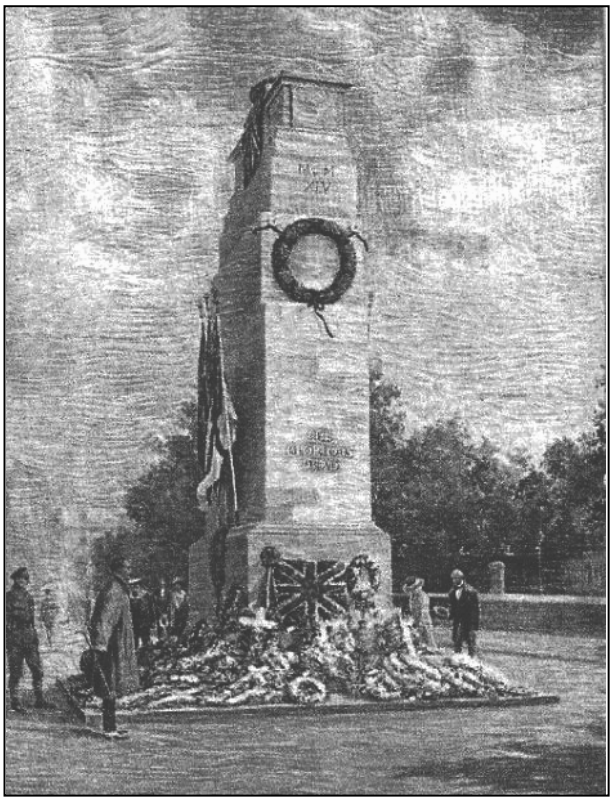
In late May 1940, as it is well known the pertinent authorities decided to evacuate the women, children, infirm and old people to French Morocco. I boarded the ship with my mother, mother-in-law and three month old daughter, Angela and as we waved frantic goodbyes to our men folk, we wondered what would become of us and whether we would see each other again. We were taken to the Robinson, a former dance hall in Casablanca. The facilities available were so basic, with cubicles still being erected and straw bedding on the floor, that my mother decided to seek other accommodation. We were soon lucky enough to find a small boarding house in the Rue Galilee, which was inexpensive, suitably furnished and above all clean. No sooner had we begun to settle down, than in July we were given 24 hours notice to pack all our possessions and leave for an unknown destination. There was no way we could get a taxi. However, we were able to pay a man with a donkey and cart to bundle our cases and mattresses on it whilst we followed behind. I was pushing the pram with my baby, my mother followed with more and more Gibraltarian evacuees joining up until we formed a very sad and dispirited procession.

When we arrived down at the harbour, the scene was really heartrending with women, children, the old and the infirm sitting everywhere clutching their belongings under the blazing summer sun. When we were finally allowed to embark, it was into filthy, stinking ships previously used to bring over French troops who had decided to give up their fight against the Germans. The ships sailed into Gibraltar Bay and after considerable pressure from our men folk on the Rock we were allowed to disembark temporarily whilst the ships were cleaned, properly fitted out and arrangements made to evacuate us yet again. I remember being surprised to see my husband in the harbour area, as civilians were not allowed in this security area without a valid reason. But 'necessity being the mother of invention', as they say, he put on his Red Cross armband and just walked through the barrier!

Alas we would only be together for 10 days, as on 21st July 1940, I was tearfully waving goodbye again as we sailed on the **Clan MacBean** to England. After zigzagging for 16 days in order to avoid submarines; we landed without mishap in Cardiff where we were welcomed by officials and doctors and given a hot meal before being sent down by train to London.

I felt rather afraid in this completely new environment, separated from my husband, having responsibility for a little baby and with little knowledge of the customs and way of life of this country governed by rationing and war regulations and which could even be next in line for Hitler's invasion. After a long and tedious train journey, we were admitted into the Anerley Receiving Centre, but were on the move again three weeks later, when we were moved to the sumptuous Royal Palace Hotel in Kensington. We were allocated a large room on the 8th floor, which would become our home for almost 4 years.

Things soon got much worse, as four days later, the Blitz began and we lived in terror for most of the time, going to bed fully clothed, clutching our gas masks and spending long periods in the Hotel's shelter whilst listening to the drone of planes or bombardments near and far.



Postcard sent 3 September 1940 by Mrs Galliano to her brother Francis Dyer.

At the back of the postcard she wrote:
"Dear Francis, this is the place I passed by when I went to collect my luggage. It is near Trafalgar Square. Francis, here in London we are alright, the only thing is that we getting air raids. When Mum hears the siren she is scared to death. Don't you worry, Goodbye for now from your dear sister Isabel. Kisses from the girl and from Mum.
Please send us a photo of Anita and yourself."
In order to avoid being sent to work in a factory or elsewhere, I volunteered to help in the hotel and joined the W.V.S. (Women's' Volunteer Service). At first I just served meals and later was placed in charge of issuing cleaning materials, etc., in my corridor. Gradually, I became more confident and started venturing out in the capital, visiting the different landmarks and sights. These were much changed because of the piles of sandbags found everywhere and in some cases buildings with boarded up windows. I got together with other young Gibraltarian mums and regularly took our children to the nearby Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park. Many of the London residents and servicemen were surprised to see so many babies and children, as most of the capital's younger generation had been evacuated to the countryside for safety.
When the war situation allowed, many husbands in Gibraltar managed to obtain special leave to visit their families in London in late 1943. However, Mr Galliano's application for special leave was based on compassionate grounds requiring him to travel to London as quickly as possible using a mode of transport which was strictly reserved for VIPs.
In December 1943, my husband Hector visited us after obtaining permission on compassionate grounds as our daughter Angela was taken quite ill.
He travelled by Sunderland Flying boat to Sacoven in neutral Portugal. He stopped there for a couple of days in order to obtain a visa and then flew to Bristol on a Dakota. Travelling by air, even on civilian planes, was of course highly dangerous in those days; only six months earlier, another plane leaving Portugal for England had been shot down; among the dead being the famous film star, Leslie Howard, of 'Gone with the Wind' fame. When my husband turned up at the hotel, carrying his belongings, bananas and even boxes of chocolates (almost unknown in war torn London) he got a shock. Our three and a half year old daughter Angela who had left Gibraltar aged 4 months, hid under the table and refused to hug or kiss this 'stranger' until tempted to do so by some chocolates.
My husband, however, soon got us into trouble as one day he left the room without remembering to draw the curtains or switch off the lights, when it became dark. The lighted window was spotted by an Air Raid Warden and we both ended up in the local Magistrate's court, being given a severe warning and fined 5 shillings (25P); the magistrate accepting in mitigation Hector's plea of ignorance of blackout regulations.
After two months stay in London, my husband left by ship for Gibraltar. I soon had to leave London as well because of the onset of the flying bombs and the terrible havoc and death toll caused. I was moved to Llangollan in Wales and stayed there in a little cottage with my daughter until we were taken to Greenock from where we were repatriated by sailing on the **Stirling Castle** which arrived in Gibraltar on 1st August 1944. As I stepped off the **Stirling Castle** with my young daughter, I thought of all the years of adventure and danger that we had endured and gave thanks to God for our safe return to our beloved Rock. "
Below is a copy of passport No 10896 issued to Mr Galliano when he travelled by air to the UK for which he paid £53. Mr Galliano returned to Gibraltar by sea passage from Glasgow on the 18th February 1944, with an identity card issued by the UK National Registration Office.

Copy of Mr H Galliano's passport

When the order for the evacuation was given, there were families who had suffered the recent loss of their loved ones. Like in the majority of cases, these families also suffered the separation from many of their close relatives. As an example of families in similar situations, I am referring to the trauma experienced by the Andrew family with the recent loss and the separation of their loved ones in war scenarios, including imprisonment in Japanese concentration camps.

On the 2nd February 1938, Mr and Mrs Andrew's daughter Laura and son-in-law Adolfo Verano were killed during the Spanish Civil War. See below report from the Gibraltar Chronicle on the incident.

GIBRALTAR STEAMER TORPEDOED

ATTACK BY SUBMARINE OFF CARTAGENA

Gibraltar Captain and His Wife Among 11 Victims

The first news that the British steamer Endymion of Gibraltar had been torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean within two days of leaving the port for Cartagena reached Gibraltar in the early hours of yesterday, causing a profound sensation.

It became known later that there were 11 victims, including the Captain and his wife, who belong to Gibraltar families, as well as the Swedish observe who had been stationed here for several months.

Vessel Sinks Four Minutes After Attack

(Through Reuters Agency)

London, February 1.

The British steamer Endymion of Gibraltar has been torpedoed in the Mediterranean, according to a message received by the Admiralty.

A radio message from Barcelona states that the vessel was torpedoed by an insurgent submarine off Cartagena and sank four minutes after the attack.

The victims include the Swedish Control Officer, the Captain, Mate and Second Engineer, the last three being of British nationality.

The other members of the crew were saved.

The vessel carried 1,500 tons of coal for Cartagena.

Eleven Lives Lost

Barcelona February 1.

A communique issued by the commander of the Cartagena naval base states that eleven lives were lost in the sinking of the Endymion, including the control officer, the captain and his wife, and the second engineer.

The remainder of the crew were saved by the prompt action of the Spanish maritime authorities.

Gibraltar Families' Tragic Loss

The disaster to the Endymion has profoundly shocked Gibraltar, where the Captain and part owner, Captain Adolphus Charles Verano and his young wife were extremely popular.

The deepest sympathy is expressed with the bereaved relatives.

Captain Verano was a son of the late Dr. Louis Verano. He has five brothers in Gibraltar, L. H. A. Verano, Accountant; A. E. A. Verano, Barrister-at-Law and Commissioner of Stamp Duties; E. A. Verano, Assistant City Electrical Engineer; M. W. Verano, of Verano Bros., and F. Verano, who until recently was the Chief Engineer of the ill-fated ship.

His wife, who was 28 years old, was a daughter of Mr. J. L. Andrew, Book-Keeper in the Colonial Treasury.

Cutting from the Gibraltar Chronicle

Captain Adolfo Verano and his wife Laura (nee Andrew)

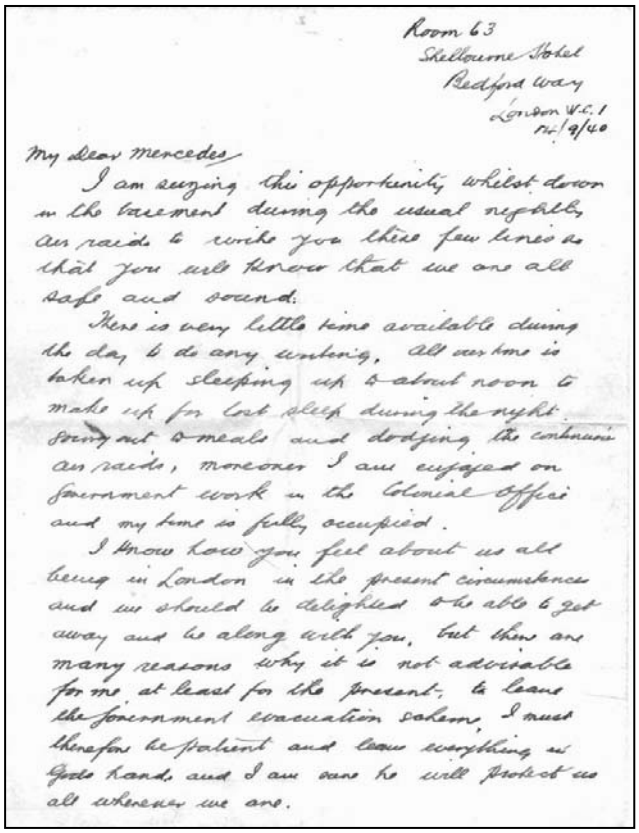
Mr Julius and Mrs Ana Andrew

Photo taken of the Andrew children prior to the tragic incident in the Spanish Civil War.
1. Harry 2.Julito 3.Ana 4. Lucy 5. Laura 6. Charlie 7. Aida 8. Isabelita Darby (friend) 9.Evelyn

When the war broke out and the order for the evacuation was given, Mr and Mrs Andrew were aged 63 and 57 respectively and had five daughters and three sons. Their eldest daughter, Mercedes (not in the above photo) had recently married Eric Hebden, who was serving in Gibraltar with the Royal Artillery. She was expecting and was evacuated to the UK with the rest of the Services families in May 1940. After arriving in Liverpool, she went to live with her mother-in-law at Keighley, a small town in West Yorkshire.

Wedding of Eric Hebden and Mercedes Andrew in Gibraltar in March 1940.

Their second eldest daughter Ana was at the time living with her husband, Cecil Reddish, who was serving in Hong Kong. Their two sons, Charles and Harry, stayed in Gibraltar working in the Post Office. Their youngest son, Julius, had joined the RAF at the start of the war and left Gibraltar before the evacuation. Their three youngest daughters, Lucy, Evelyn and Aida, were evacuated with their parents first to Casablanca and then to the UK. While in London, Mr Andrew wrote the following letter to his daughter Mercedes living in Keigthley



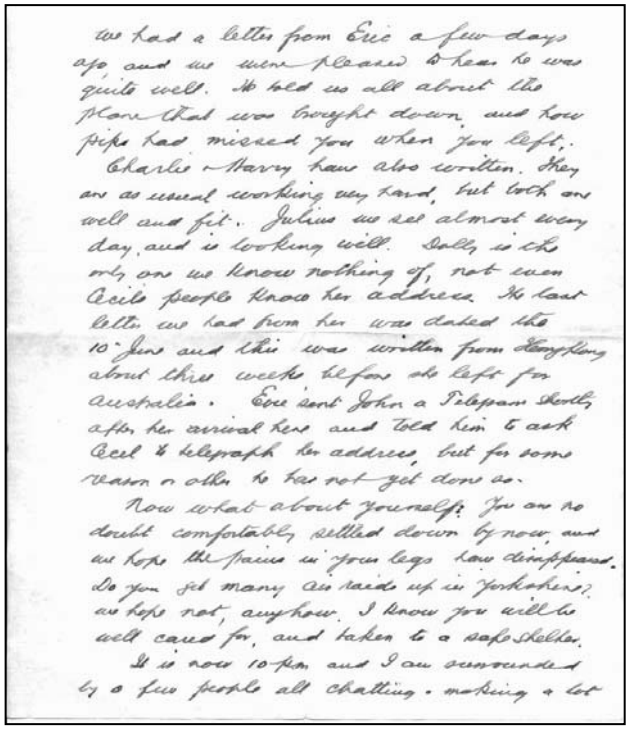
Room 63
Shelbourne Hotel
Bedford Way
London W.C.1
10/9/40

My dear Mercedes

I am seizing this opportunity whilst down in the basement during the usual nightly air raids to write you these few lines so that you will know that we are all safe and sound.

There is very little time available during the day to do any writing, all our time is taken up sleeping up to about noon to make up for lost sleep during the night. Going out to meals and dodging the continuous air raids, moreover I am engaged on Government work in the Colonial Office and my time is fully occupied.

I know how you feel about us all being in London in the present circumstances and we should be delighted to be able to get away and be along with you, but there are many reasons why it is not advisable for me, at least for the present, to leave the Government evacuation scheme. I must therefore be patient and leave everything in Gods hands and I am sure he will protect us all wherever we are.

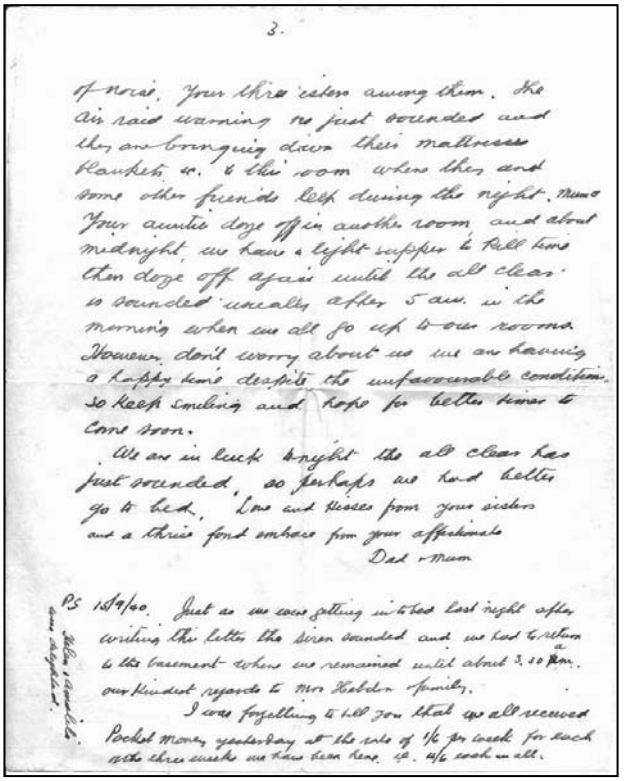


we had a letter from Eric a few days ago and we were pleased to hear he was quite well. He told us all about the plane that was brought down and how Pipe had missed you when you left.

Charlie + Harry have also written. They are as usual working very hard, but look as well and fit. Julius we see almost every day and is looking well. Dolly is the only one we know nothing of, not even Cecil people know her address. The last letter we had from her was dated the 10th June and this was written from Hongkong about three weeks before she left for australia. Eric sent John a Telegram shortly after her arrival here and told him to ask Cecil to telegraph her address, but for some reason or other he has not yet done so.

Now what about yourself? You are no doubt comfortably settled down by now and we hope the pains in your legs have disappeared. Do you get many air raids up in Yorkshire? we hope not, anyhow. I know you will be well cared for, and taken to a safe shelter.

It is now 10 pm and I am surrounded by a few people all chatting + making a lot



3.

of noise. Your three sisters among them. The air raid warning we just sounded and they are bringing down their mattresses blankets etc. to this room where they and some other friends will sleep during the night. Mumo Your auntie dozes off in another room and about midnight we have a light supper to kill time then doze off again until the all clear is sounded usually after 5 am. in the morning when we all go up to our rooms. However don't worry about us we are having a happy time despite the unfavourable conditions. so keep smiling and hope for better times to come soon.

We are in luck tonight the all clear has just sounded, so perhaps we had better go to bed. Love and kisses from your sisters and a three fond embrace from your affectionate Dad + Mum

PS 10/9/40. Just as we were getting into bed last night after writing the letter the siren sounded and we had to return to the basement where we remained until about 3.30 am. Our kindest regards to Mrs Hebden + family.

I was forgetting to tell you that we all received Pocket Money yesterday at the rate of 1/- per week for each of the three weeks we have been here. £2. 4/- each in all.

At the time, Evelyn was engaged to John Walker, who was also working in Hong Kong as a sanitary inspector for the Colonial Government and Aida was engaged to Hugh Campbell serving with the Royal Artillery.

After their brief stay in London Mr and Mrs Andrew and their three daughters decided to leave the evacuation scheme, and move to privately rented accommodation in Keighley to be nearer to their daughter, Mercedes, due to give birth within a few months.

Charles's wife, Anita (nee Davidson), her parents, Mary and Phillip Davidson, with their other daughters, Violet and Pura, moved to Keighley. The Andrew's neighbours in Gibraltar, Mrs Victoria Pitaluga, her two children, Joseph and Pilar, her daughter–in-law, Louisa Davidson (nee Pitaluga) with her three children Sylvia, George and Johnny all moved from London to Keighley as well. The next family to arrive at Keighley from London were another group of old friends and neighbours from Lime Kiln Steps, Mrs Camilla Xerri and her three daughters, Lourdes, Laurie and Carmen.

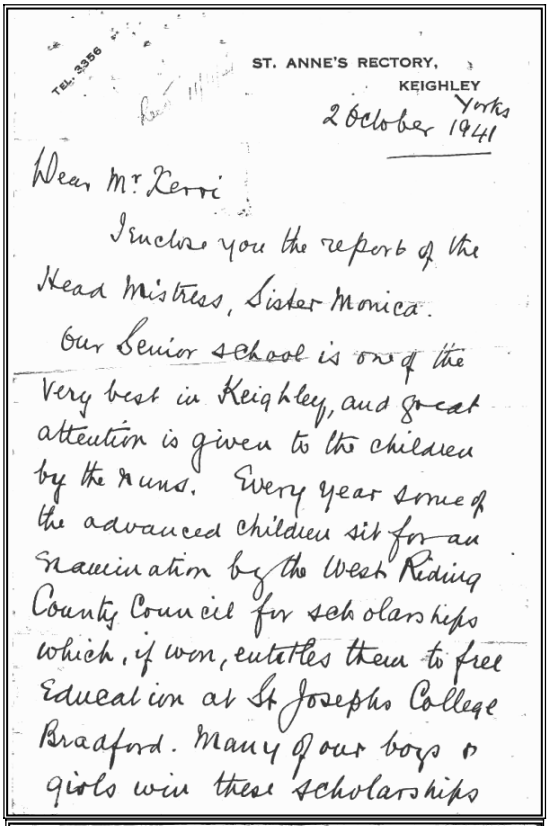
The main reason for leaving the evacuation scheme was that Keighley and its surroundings were not subjected to any bombing and obviously much safer than London with all the intensive bombing.

However, on leaving the evacuation scheme all these families were naturally responsible for their own maintenances. Mr Andrew and his daughter Lucy found work at Keighley. The Davidson family earned some money by looking after a shop for some time. In February 1941, there was another addition to the Andrew family when Mercedes gave birth to her daughter Susan.

Laura and Lourdes Xerri with baby Susan Laura Hebden

Taking into account the circumstances imposed by the war with the rationing of all basic commodities, the evacuees in Keighley managed and enjoyed their stay, as much as they could, notwithstanding the fact that most of the evacuees were also concerned with the fate of those who had stayed behind in Gibraltar since they did not know whether they could come under attack by the Germans.

In Keighley, evacuees managed to attend school as well. Below is a copy of a letter from St Anne's School saying that Lourdes and Laurie Xerri were doing well at school with a good chance to compete for a scholarship that would entitle them to free education at St Joseph College in Bradford.



TEL. 3356

ST. ANNE'S RECTORY,
KEIGHLEY
Yorks
2 October 1941

Dear Mr. Xerri

I enclose you the report of the Head Mistress, Sister Monica.

Our Senior school is one of the very best in Keighley, and great attention is given to the children by the nuns. Every year some of the advanced children sit for an examination by the West Riding County Council for scholarships which, if won, entitles them to free Education at St Josephs College Bradford. Many of our boys & girls win these scholarships

From Sister Monicas report you will see that it will take them a year to get into the English methods, and especially in Arithmetic and matriculation standards. The examination is held in June every year. We propose that the two Elder girls prepare for that examination + pass on to St Josephs The curriculum is to prepare them for a business career.

Your daughters are doing very well and are, I think, quite happy in the school. Their teachers are very fond of them

Let me know if I can be of any further help to you.

With a blessing
Yours devotedly in Xt
Joseph Russell.

The evacuees in Keighley also managed to organise recreational activities such as outings to Morecambe.

Gibraltar evacuees at Morecombe
At the back from left to right Cousin Aida Hermida, uncle Richard Mifsud, Mrs Carmelia Xerri (nee Mifsud)
In front Laura, Loudes and Carmen Xerri.

From left to right Carmen Xerri, Friend Jo and Aida Victoria Andrew (Baby) at a park in Keighley.

At the end of 1941, when Japan entered the war and overrun Hong Kong, the Andrew family became very concerned about the fate of their daughter Ana and Cecil, her husband. The Andrew family was hoping that both Ana, who was then expecting, and her husband had been able to board a ship to take them to Australia. After not hearing anything from them for a long time their hopes began to fade and they feared for the worst. Evelyn had not heard anything from her fiancé John Walker either.
While at Keighley, Aida married her fiancé, Hugh Campbell in 1943.

Wedding Aida and Hugh Campbell
L to R Mr Andrew, Eric Hebden, Hugh Campbell, Aida, Mrs Andrew Susan and Evelyn Andrew.

Julius also, while on leave from flying sorties over Germany, went to Keighley to visit his family and married his girlfriend Joan in 1944.

Wedding of Julius and Joan at Keighley in 1944

The repatriation of Gibraltar evacuees started in early 1944. The Pitaluga, the Davidson and Xerri families all returned to Gibraltar on the 1st August 1944 on the **SS Stirling Castle** while the war was still going on.

Carmen Xerri and Sylvia Davidson arriving in Gibraltar on the Stirling Castle.

Apart from the evacuees related or acquainted to the Andrew family, there were other Gibraltar evacuees living in Keighley. These evacuees were, James, Aurelia, Ann, Maria and Albert Hanglin, Encarnacion Medina, Benedict and Maria Miles. Their names appear on the list of one of the first groups of evacuees to be repatriated from Northern Ireland on the troopship Highland Monarch in May 1945.

It was not until the war with Japan ended that the Andrew family began to receive news of Ana, Cecil and John. They had spent three years in a Japanese concentration camp in Hong Kong. Ana gave birth in prison, but the baby boy died at birth. She had another baby, this time a girl named Veronica, who managed to survive the horrible conditions in the Japanese concentration camps. After the Japanese surrendered, the British prisoners were transferred to New Zealand. There Ana gave birth to her second daughter named Ngaire. They then returned to Hong Kong, where Cecil worked for some time during which Ana gave birth to her third daughter, Janine.

Towards the end of the war Mercedes' husband was transferred to the Far East.

Cecil had contracted tuberculosis in the Japanese concentration camp and eventually the whole family had to leave Hong Kong for England, where Cecil was admitted to hospital but he never recovered from his TB. Ana was left a widow with three daughters and settled in Keighley working as a nurse.

John Walker returned to England too, and some years later married Evelyn, who settled in Portsmouth, her husband's hometown.

Some years later, after the war, Lucy married Kenneth Holmes. They had two children and settled in Keighley.

Wedding of Lucy to Kenneth Holmes at Keighley in 1950.

Aida married and had four children, she travelled as an army wife with her husband. When Julio left the RAF, they moved to Keighley and settled there as well. Shortly after the war, Mercedes left England with her daughter to join her husband in Singapore after an absence of a couple years. Neither, Mrs Ana Andrew nor any of the children, who left during the war, returned to Gibraltar. The only members the Andrew family in Gibraltar are the descendants of Charles and Harry Andrew, who stayed in Gibraltar during the war.

Mrs Ana Andrew at age 90 at Keighley with her youngest great grand daughter.

Being free from the risk of air raids, the evacuees in Keighley were able to visit parks and the surrounding country side as shown in the photos on this page.

1 ? 2.? 3. Mrs Amelia Schembri (Davidson's grandmother) 4.Mrs Carmelia Xerri 5.Pili Pitaluga 6. Lourdes Xerri 7 Friend 8. Sylvia Davidson 9. George Davidson 10. Johnny Davidson 11.Lauri Xerri 12.Carmen Xerri

L to R. Carmen Xerri, Lourdes Xerri, Joseph Pitaluga, Laurie Xerri, Pili Pitaluga, Sylvia Davidson with baby Susan Hebden at a part in Keighley in 1941.

The story of the Andrew family and most of the photos were provided by Mrs Susan Hebden. Miss Carmen Xerri also provided many other photos.

The Infantes, Linares,Buhagiar,Danino,Gatt,Harrison,Buttiegieg,Borge,Bosano,Vella,Mamo,Baglietto,Del Mar,Olivero and many other families were related families of successive generation descendants from the Chini (Cini) family who arrived and settled in Gibraltar in the late 18th century. While the majority of families were separated during the evacuation, many members of these families evacuated to London maintained contact even though they were accommodated in different evacuation centres. Below is a photo of some members of the infant, Linares, Harrison, Danino and Buhagiar family at Marlborough Court evacuation centre.

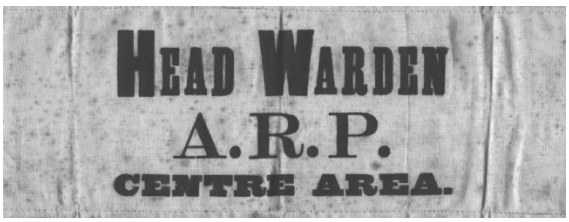
The Infantes and related families at Marlborough Court.
At back from left to right Mrs Mary Harrison (nee Infante) Juan Danino
Standing in front of back row: Victor Infante Lourdes Infante (Mrs Cardona)
Celestina Linares (later Mrs Danino) Maruja Linares, Marcelino Linares
Sitting Mrs Oscaria Infante (nee Linares) Manuel Infante Mrs Eugenia Linares (nee Infante).
Sitting on the floor is Mercy Infante (later Mrs Buhagiar) Photo Mr M Infante

Their son, Mr Manuel Infante, still has a very larg collection of family letters exchanged during the evacuation by his mother then Miss Elena Chini with her then fiance and later husband to be Mr Manuel Infante. By late 1941, many of the evacuees, ,including many women, were able to find work. As an example of working requirements, below are Miss Elena Chini's record of employment in a textile factory near Oxford Street where she was employed.

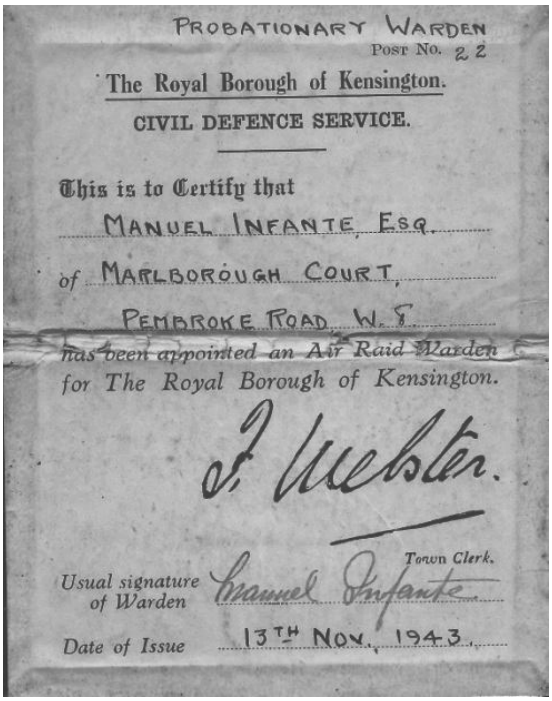
Mrs Oscaria and Mr Manuel Infante. At the back of the photo: "Requerdos de tus padres" 29 Oct 1940. North End Roa,Fulham SW6.

Mrs Mary Harrison (nee Infante) At the back of the photo: Para mi queridisimo hermano de vuestra hermana que nunca te olvida 21 Mar 1943 London. The photo was taken at the ideal Studio 1 Beadon Road,Hammersmith, London W8.

Mr Infante like many men of his age had to be evacuated but they nevertheless played an important a role in the war effort in during the bombing in London. He was made Head Warden of the Air Raid Precautionary of his evacuation centre – Marlborough Court.



Copies of the actual arm band warn by Mr Infante during the air raids in London and the Civil Defence Service certificate issued by Town Clerk of the Royal Borough of Kensington.



PROBATIONARY WARDEN
Post No. 22

The Royal Borough of Kensington.

CIVIL DEFENCE SERVICE.

This is to Certify that
MANUEL INFANTE, ESQ.
of MARLBOROUGH COURT,
PEMBROKE ROAD, W.8
has been appointed an Air Raid Warden
for The Royal Borough of Kensington.

J. Webster.
Town Clerk.

Usual signature of Warden Manuel Infante

Date of Issue 13TH NOV., 1943.

Mercy Infante

Marlborough Court Kensignton May 1943
Merci Infante (later Buhagiar)

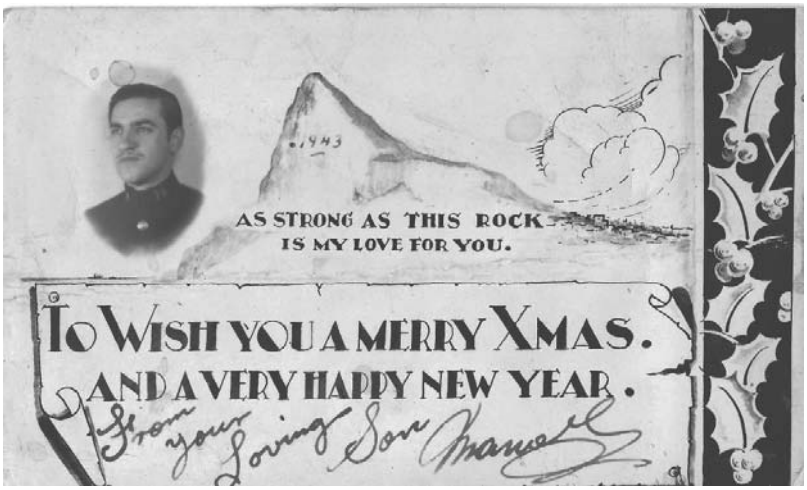
Sisters Lourdes and Merci Infante
later Cardona and Buhagiar respectively.

Lourdes Infante (later Cardona)
At the back of the photo. Para mi hermano Manolito de su hermana Lourdes" 28 Aug.1943.

Lourdes Infante (later Cardona) and cousin Maruja Linares (later Infante)

Victor Infante
At the back of the photo:
" Requerdo de tu hermano hermano Victor. 29 Oct. 1940." Fulham SW6.

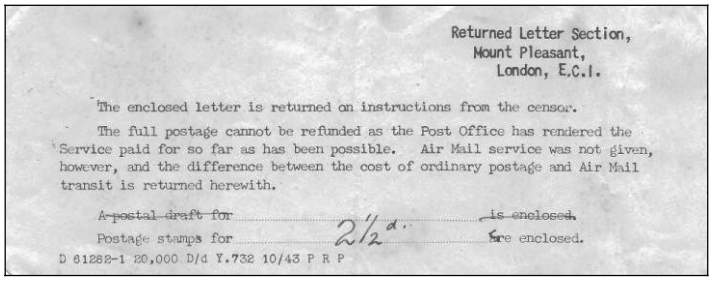
Photos Mr M Infante.



1943 Christmas card sent by Mr M Infante to his parents.

In the above photo Manuel Infante, with other members of the Gibraltar Police Force. At the back of the photo, Manuel wrote: "Millones de besos para todos mis hermanos y familia igualmente a mis queridisimos padres de su hijo Manuel"

As in many other cases with other families who were separated , Manuel, had to stay behind in Gibraltar while his entire family was evacuated to London. His fiancé's Miss Elena Chini was evacuated with her family, but she kept in daily contact with Manuel by means of letter writing. On her return to Gibraltar she married Manuel. Their son, Mr Manuel Infante still keeps the actual letters written by his parents during the during the evacuation. I think copies of these letters should be treasured by the Gibraltar Government Archives for future researchers on the subject of the evacuation.


Returned Letter Section,
Mount Pleasant,
London, E.C.1.

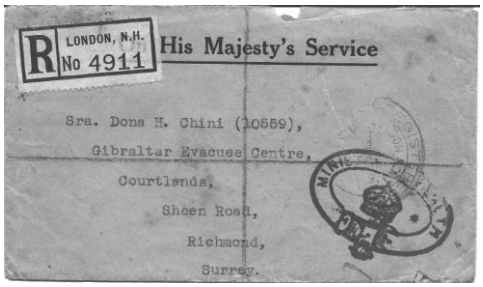
The enclosed letter is returned on instructions from the censor.

The full postage cannot be refunded as the Post Office has rendered the Service paid for so far as has been possible. Air Mail service was not given, however, and the difference between the cost of ordinary postage and Air Mail transit is returned herewith.

~~A postal draft for~~ ..... ~~is enclosed.~~

Postage stamps for ..... 2½d. ..... ~~are~~ enclosed.

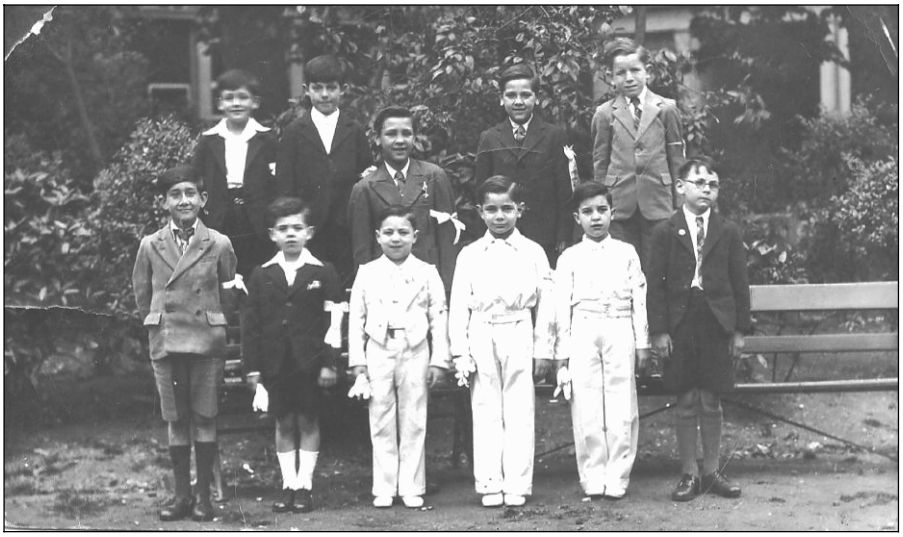
D 61282-1 20,000 D/d Y.732 10/43 P R P



Certificate of the returned of one of the letters on instructions from the censor.

Photos and cuttings Mr M Infante.

Below photos of Gibraltar evacuees taking part in Holy Communions, in Scouting and fancy dress competitions.



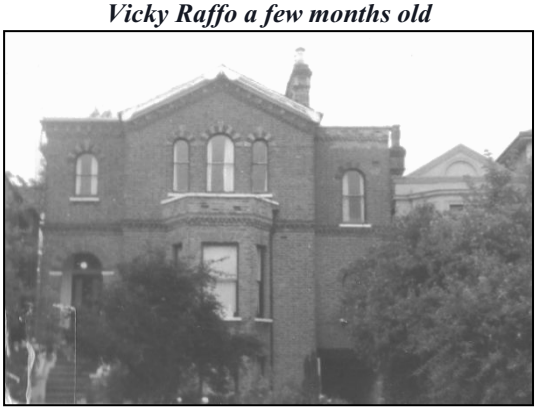
Gibraltar evacuees taking part in Holy Communion.

A King's Scout talking to Boy Scouts from Gibraltar in London in 1941

Gibraltar youngsters taking part in a fancy dress show at Marlborough Court. Boy with pipe standing in the centre is Ernest Wahnon

There were many evacuees, who after arriving in London left the evacuation scheme to join their friends and families in different areas of the UK where it was safer from the bombing. Among those families mentioned in my previous book and in this book, Mrs Lourdes Raffo, who was pregnant then when she arrived in the UK also moved to Brombley in Kent.

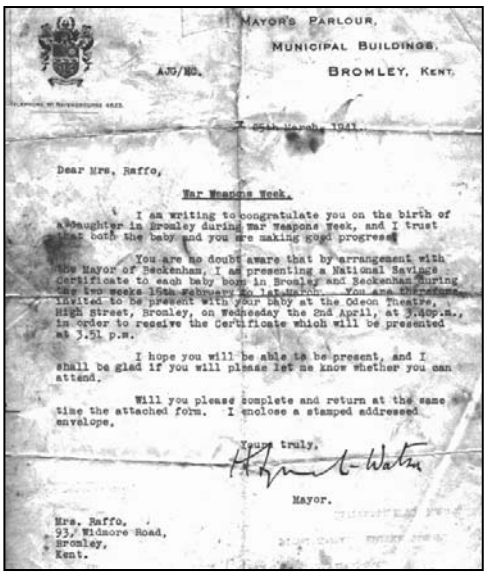
Vicky Raffo a few months old



The above is the house where Vicky was born:
93 Widmore Road, Bromley, Kent
15 February 1941

A friendly contest was arranged between the Mayors of Beckenham and Bromley whereby a National Savings Certificate would be presented to each baby born in the two boroughs during the respective War Weapons Weeks. Beckenham was the winning borough and the Mayor, Councillor W. J. Sampson, had the pleasure of handing over the certificates—17 in all—to the mothers, at the expense of the Mayor of Bromley, Councillor H. Lynch-Watson (left).

National Savings Certificate won by Vicky's mother



MAYOR'S PARLOUR,
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
BROMLEY, KENT.

AJG/MS.

7th March, 1941.

Dear Mrs. Raffo,

War Weapons Week.

I am writing to congratulate you on the birth of a daughter in Bromley during War Weapons Week, and I trust that both the baby and you are making good progress.

You are no doubt aware that by arrangement with the Mayor of Beckenham, I am presenting a National Savings Certificate to each baby born in Bromley and Beckenham during the two weeks 15th February to 1st March. You are therefore invited to be present with your baby at the Odeon Theatre, High street, Bromley, on Wednesday the 2nd April, at 3.40p.m., in order to receive the Certificate which will be presented at 3.51 p.m.

I hope you will be able to be present, and I shall be glad if you will please let me know whether you can attend.

Will you please complete and return at the same time the attached form. I enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

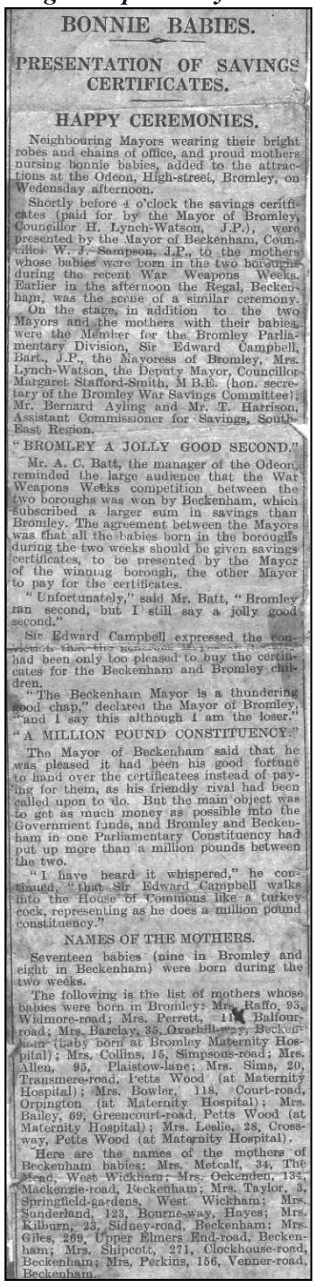
Yours truly,

H. Lynch-Watson

Mayor.

Mrs. Raffo,
93, Widmore Road,
Bromley,
Kent.

Letter of congratulation from he Mayor of Bromley and a newspaper cutting on winning National Savings Certificate. Cuttings and photos by Mr C Gibson.



BONNIE BABIES.

PRESENTATION OF SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

HAPPY CEREMONIES.

Neighbouring Mayors wearing their bright robes and chains of office, and proud mothers nursing bonnie babies, added to the attractions at the Odeon, High-street, Bromley, on Wednesday afternoon.

Shortly before 4 o'clock the savings certificates (paid for by the Mayor of Bromley, Councillor H. Lynch-Watson, J.P.), were presented by the Mayor of Beckenham, Councillor W. J. Sampson, J.P., to the mothers whose babies were born in the two boroughs during the recent War Weapons Weeks. Earlier in the afternoon the Regal, Beckenham, was the scene of a similar ceremony.

On the stage, in addition to the two Mayors and the mothers with their babies, were the Member for the Bromley Parliamentary Division, Sir Edward Campbell, Bart., J.P., the Mayoress of Bromley, Mrs. Lynch-Watson, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Margaret Stafford-Smith, M.B.E. (hon. secretary of the Bromley War Savings Committee); Mr. Bernard Ayling and Mr. T. Harrison, Assistant Commissioner for Savings, South-East Region.

"BROMLEY A JOLLY GOOD SECOND."

Mr. A. C. Batt, the manager of the Odeon, reminded the large audience that the War Weapons Weeks competition between the two boroughs was won by Beckenham, which subscribed a larger sum in savings than Bromley. The agreement between the Mayors was that all the babies born in the boroughs during the two weeks should be given savings certificates, to be presented by the Mayor of the winning borough, the other Mayor to pay for the certificates.

"Unfortunately," said Mr. Batt, "Bromley ran second, but I still say a jolly good second."

Sir Edward Campbell expressed the conviction that the [illegible] had been only too pleased to buy the certificates for the Beckenham and Bromley children.

"The Beckenham Mayor is a thundering good chap," declared the Mayor of Bromley, "and I say this although I am the loser."

"A MILLION POUND CONSTITUENCY."

The Mayor of Beckenham said that he was pleased it had been his good fortune to hand over the certificates instead of paying for them, as his friendly rival had been called upon to do. But the main object was to get as much money as possible into the Government funds, and Bromley and Beckenham in one Parliamentary Constituency had put up more than a million pounds between the two.

"I have heard it whispered," he continued, "that Sir Edward Campbell walks into the House of Commons like a turkey cock, representing as he does a million pound constituency."

NAMES OF THE MOTHERS.

Seventeen babies (nine in Bromley and eight in Beckenham) were born during the two weeks.

The following is the list of mothers whose babies were born in Bromley: Mrs. Raffo, 93, Widmore-road; Mrs. Perrett, 11[illegible], Balfour-road; Mrs. Barclay, 35, Overhill-way, Beckenham (baby born at Bromley Maternity Hospital); Mrs. Collins, 15, Simpsons-road; Mrs. Allen, 95, Plaistow-lane; Mrs. Sims, 20, Transmere-road, Petts Wood (at Maternity Hospital); Mrs. Bowler, 118, Court-road, Orpington (at Maternity Hospital); Mrs. Bailey, 69, Greencourt-road, Petts Wood (at Maternity Hospital); Mrs. Leslie, 28, Crossway, Petts Wood (at Maternity Hospital).

Here are the names of the mothers of Beckenham babies: Mrs. Metcalf, 34, The Mead, West Wickham; Mrs. Gekenden, 135, Mackenzie-road, Beckenham; Mrs. Taylor, 3, Springfield-gardens, West Wickham; Mrs. Sunderland, 123, Bourne-way, Hayes; Mrs. Kilburn, 23, Sidney-road, Beckenham; Mrs. Giles, 269, Upper Elmers End-road, Beckenham; Mrs. Shipcott, 271, Clockhouse-road, Beckenham; Mrs. Perkins, 156, Venner-road, Beckenham.

Mr and Mrs Martinez with their son Clive

Clive Martinez

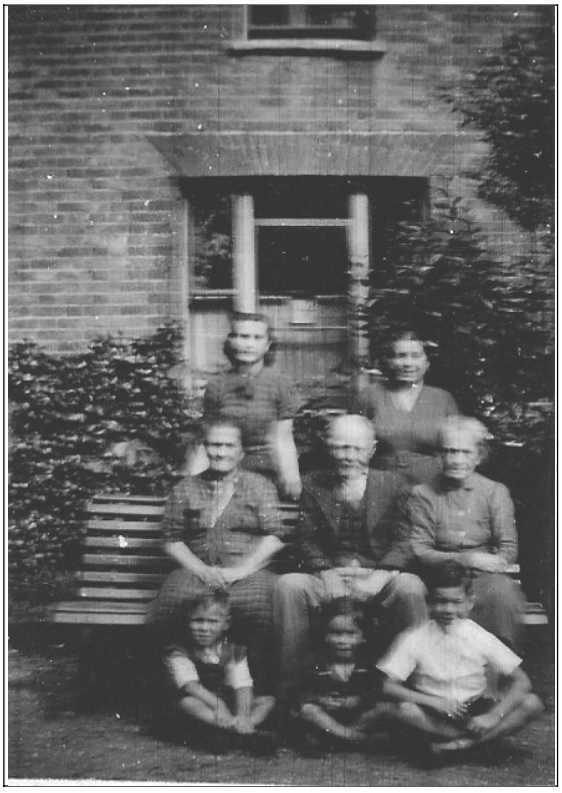
Mrs Vicky Danino (nee Santos) with her nephew Clive Martinez and Pepe De La Cruz

Johnny, Amanda and Pepe Martinez
All the photos on this page were taken at Dr Barnardo's Home. Photos by Mr Clive Martinez

Mrs Irene Bossino (nee Galliano) with her sons, Plinio is sitting on her lap and James standing. In the photo is also Mrs Bossino step brother Cayetano Galiano. This photo one below by Mr J Bossino.

Mrs Iren Bossino (nee Galliano) holding her son Plinio in her arms and James riding a bicycle and wearing the gas mask.

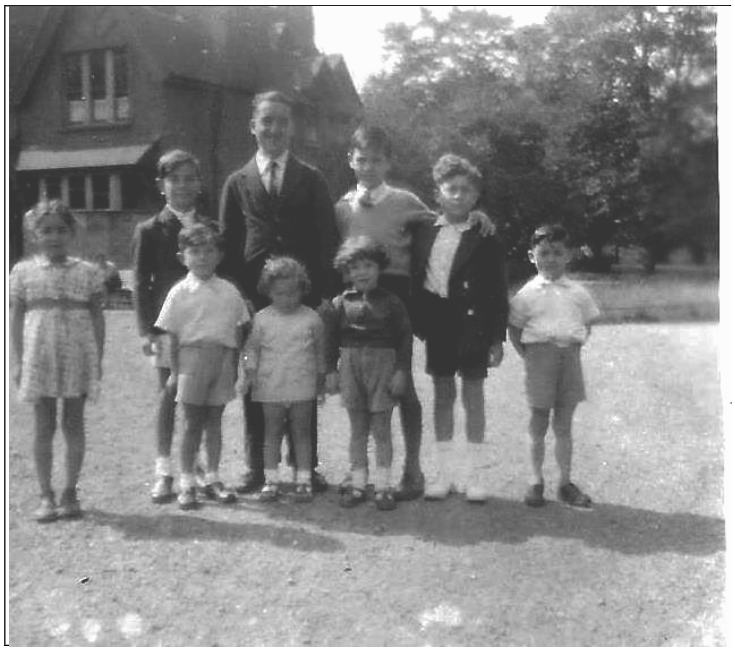
Mrs Osborne with her son Henry. This photo and the one below Mr H Osborne.



***At the back L to R: Berta Osborne, Araceli Osborne, Middle Row: Elena Osborne, ...?....Josefa Ventura Martinez. In front: Richard Power, Angeles Torres, Henry Osb**orne*

Mari Carmen Padina with WVS carer. Photo Mr J Bossino.

Henry Osborne. This photo and one below by Mr H Osborne.



The Facio family at Dr Barnardo's. Photo by Mr Facio

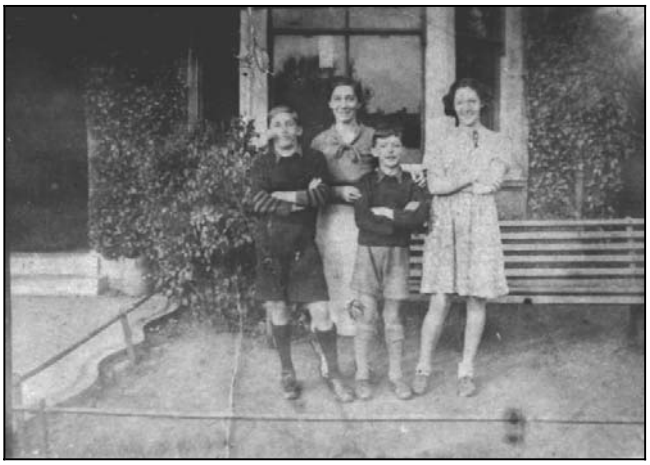
Henry Osborne and Charles Rosado

L to R Pepe De La Cruz,...?...., Johnny Martinez,.....?.....
Photo Mr C Martinez.

Miss Lucy Orfila with his cousin Clive Martinez. Lucy died very young at the age of 18.

Mrs Vicky Danino (Nee Santos) Mrs Anita Pozo (Nee Santos) and sitting Mrs Maria Brooks (nee Santos)

Pepe De La Cruz with Clive Martinez



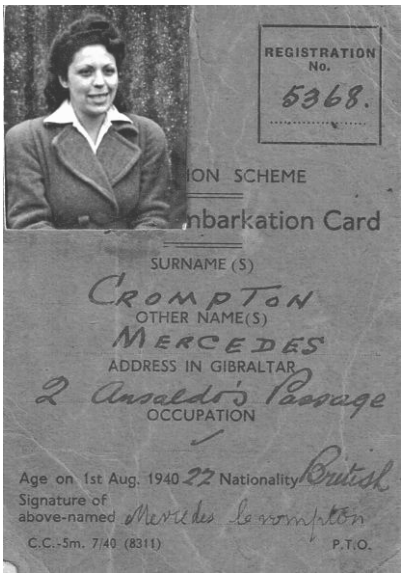
Mrs Clemencia Martinez with their children John, Pepe and Amanda

John Martinez when visiting Dr Barnado's Homes years later. All photos on this page by Mr Clive Martinez.

Mr John Lang known as John Martinez
Who died on the 10 August 1941 while visiting his family in London during the evacuation.

Mrs Mercedes Crompton (nee De La Cruz) with her daughter Edith and nephew Clive Martinez at Dr Barnardo's Home.

Mr John Lang's resting place in London



Mercedes Crompton embarkation card.
Mr C Martinez

Mrs Mercedes De La Cruz (nee Santos) with adopted child, Henry Twyman known as Matthew at Dr Barnardo

All photos on this page by Mr Clive Martinez.

Evacuees at Dr Barnardo's Homes
1Mrs L Finlayson 2 Mrs Cortes 3M.Manasco 4 Mrs Bacarisa 5Mrs F Anes 6 J.Torres 7 C.Anes 8F.Ryman 9 Mrs Mauro10 ? 11 R.Torres 12 Mrs Faithful, WVS 13 Mrs C Anes 14 V.Mauro 15A.Torres 16 Lolo Rocca 17 P.Anes18M.Torres 19 H.Massetti 20 A.Dalmedo 21 M.Massetti 22 H.Osborne 23 Leslie Rocca 24 A.Mena 25 M.Dalmedo 26 N.Anes 27A.Anes 28 J.Bacarisa 29 A.Massetti 30 M.Massetti 31 Goldwin 32 L.Finlayson 33 Tita Baglietto 34 E.Baglietto 35 ? 36 Bacarisa 37 M.Dalmedo 38 V.Ruiz 39 J.Cortes 40 C.Power. Photo Mrs L Hanglin.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs play participants
From left to Right De La Cruz, Mario Cavilla, ...?..., Clive Power, Ramagge..?...,..?... Photo Mrs Cavilla.

In the photo are Leslie Rocca, Lolo Rocca, Henry Osborne, Freddy Ryman, Manuel Torres, Angeles Torres, Araceli Osborne

At the back first from the left Antonia Catania (nee Mena), 3rd Clive Power, 4th Henry Osborne. In front first from the right Gladys Power, 2nd Richard Power.

In the photo are Robert Sheriff, Henry Osborne, Marie Garcia, (nee Francis) Noelia Gonzalez, Pepe Asquez, Eddie Power, Doris Corby (later Mrs Parody), Doris Wahnon. All photos by Mr H Osborne.

Dr Barnardo's Home Net Ball Team

At Dr Barnardo's Home
At the back left to right Ines Lagomassino with her mother Mrs Isabel Lagomassino.
In front from left to right Olga,Pepe and Maribel Cornelio.

Mrs Olga Avellano (nee Cornelio) holding the trophy.
All photos Mrs O Avellano.

Mrs Olga Avellano (nee Cornelio).

The Cartwright family.

Mr Eduardo and Mrs Francisca Gonzalez with their daughter Daisy at Trafalgar Square. Photos above and below Mr E Gonzalez.

Empire Pool, Wembley
1st row Margaret Tribello, John Tribello, Charles Tribello, Mary Vella, Orlando Requena, 2nd row Hector Requena and mother, Mrs, Lily Requena, 3rd Row Salvador Tribello and Mrs Rosa Vella. Photo Mr Tribello.

Daisy Gonzalez at High Park

Sergio and Mario Alecio outside the Duchess of Bedford. Photo Mr Alecio.

Antonio and Violeta Rocca. Gibraltar Evacuation WW2 Photos

Mrs Rocca with friend and her children Violeta and Antonio. Gibraltar Evacuation WW2 Photos.

Mr and Mrs Alecio with her sons, Mario and Sergio at Trafalgar Square. Photo Mr Alecio.

Lourdes Asquez (Sisarello)

Mrs Ines Asquez with her children, Eduardo, Lourdes, Arturo. Also in the photo is Violeta Govea standing in the middle of Lourdes and Arturo Asquez.

Violeta Govea and Lourdes Asquez (Sisarello)

Mrs Ines Asquez with her children Eduardo,Lourdes and Arturo and Mrs Camila Govea with her daughter Violeta standing in front in the middle of the photo.
All photos Mr J Asquez

Mrs Ines Asquez with her children Eduardo,Lourdes,Arturo in London 2.12.40

Sonia Baglietto (later Santos)

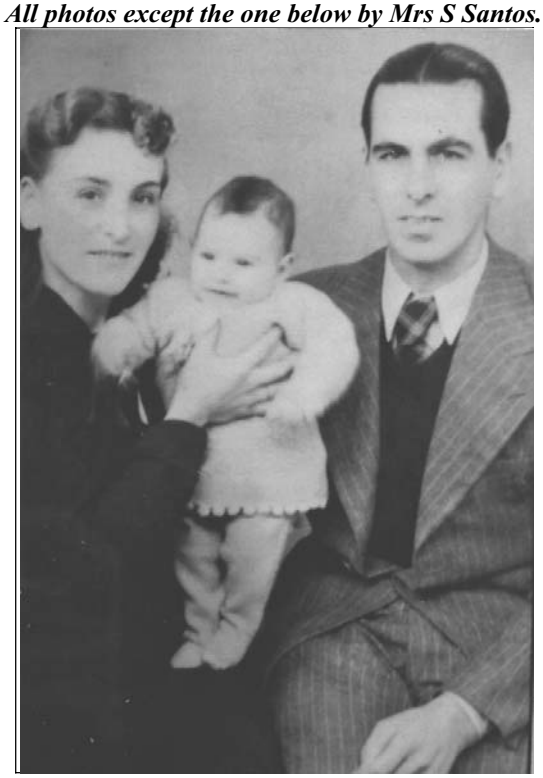
Crescencia Baglietto with future husband Juan Bensadon in a studio at Oxford Street

Recently married in London Cayetana Baglietto

All photos except the one below by Mrs S Santos.

In London Mrs Celeste Baglietto wither children Cresencia, Sonia and Tito

Mrs Celeste Baglietto



Mrs Maria (nee Baglietto) and Mr Alfredo Power with their daughter Alice in London. Photo Mr W. Power

Aida Aguilera nee Peliza, Victoria Peliza nee Ferro, Aurelio Peliza at North End Road Studio in Fulham London. Photo Mrs I Fa.

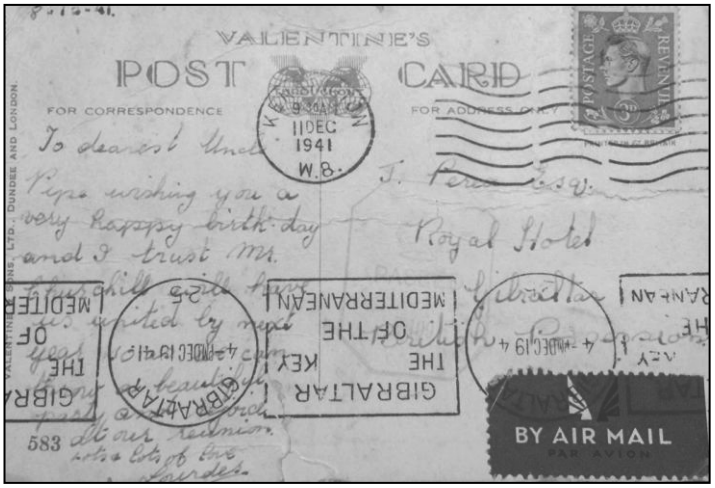
Margot and Aida Borg at the Ivanhoe House. Photo Borge family.

Maria Borg at the Ivanhoe Hotel Photo Borge family.

Boy standing Carlos Rocca, lady standing Mercedes Parody, lady sitting Antonia Rocca and the girls standing Margarita Parody (later Sanchez). Photo Mrs M Sanchez.

Gibraltar evacuees in Oxford street, notice straps for gas masks. . Left to Right Noguera , Attias, Canepa and Noguera (twins). Adult Mr. Noguera senior. Photo Mr Attias.

Zoraida Borge at the King's College evacuation centre. Photo Jeanette Perera Stickells.



Postcard sent on the 8 December 1941 by Lourdes Pitaluga (later Mrs Galliano) to her uncle Mr J Perea at the Royal Hotel,Gibraltar. The postcard reads:To dearest uncle Pepe wishing you a happy birthday and I trust Mr Churchill will have us united again by next year so as we can throw a beautiful party and rejoice at our reunion. Lots & lots of love Lourdes. Postcard Mrs Michelle Tipping.

Far left Olga Bosano, Natalia Parody, boy George Bosano, next MinnieParody and far right is Maria Machiavello. The above photo and the ones below by Mr Roy Moyser

At the back Mrs Maria Machiavello, Martha Machiavello, Ana Machiavello and Maria Machiavello.

Maria Machiavello

Richard Chappory in a London studio dressed as an RAF Cadet. Photo Mr R Chapory.

The Chappory family in a studio in London. They were lodged at Dr Barnardo's Home At back left to right Mary, Lucy Violet, Herminia. Sitting from L to R Mr Eugene Chappory, Richard and Mrs Carmen Chappory. In front Eligio. John and Eugene Chappory who were over 18 years old stayed behind in Gibraltar.

Santiago Chipolina in a London studio dressed as a Latin American orchestra singer

Aurelio Davis. Photo Azzopardi family

De La Cruz sisters.
On the left Maria Teresa (later Williamson) and on the right Maria de las Mercedes (later Crompton).
Photo Mrs M Nichols

Mr Rogelio Belloti, Mrs Mary Padina and her son Poly.
Photo Belloti family.

Lionel Massetti of Lancaster Gate.
Photo Mr L Massetti.

Juani Gatt at Richmond Park. Photo Mrs E Mamo.

My grandmother Olga Federico in Trafalgar Square

On the left Mrs Olga Federico and her mother, Mrs Catalina Federico nee Power in Oxford Street.
All Photo except the one below, Mrs Toni Hyland.

Mrs Violeta Federico holding her daughter with friend at Trafalgar Square during the war.

From left to right Mrs D.Bensusan Mrs Wood, Mrs Byrne, Mrs Pace. Photo Mrs Y Zarb.

Violeta Hayward later Reyes.

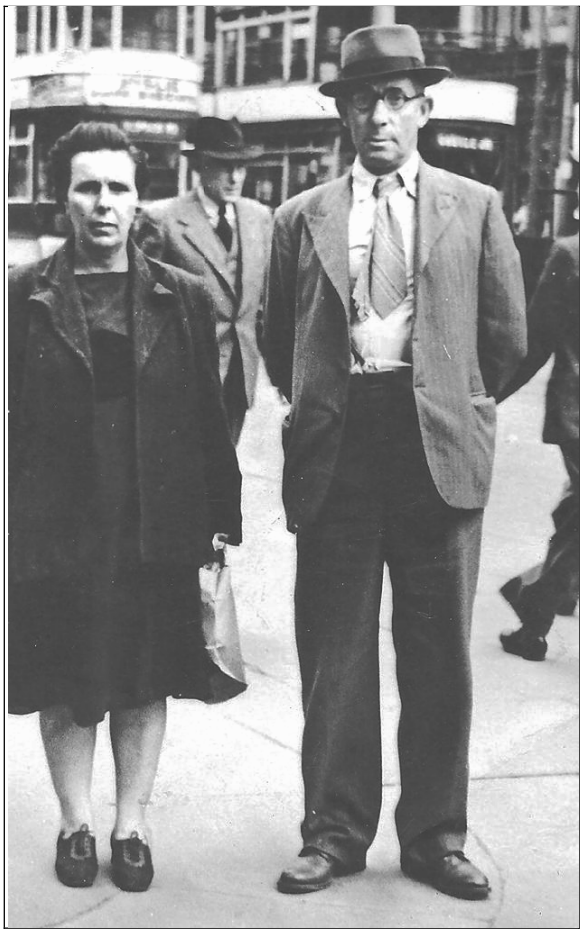
Mrs Natividad and Mr William Hayward in London before they were evacuated to Northern Ireland. Photos Hayward family.

Monti Baglietto and Elisa Goodman when they married in London on 12th November 1942. Photo Mrs Y Pilkington.

Children with carers at a park near the Thackeray Hotel in Russell Street. Photo Mrs Vicky Desoiza

Above and below Johnny Noguera with Rosie Peach at Trafalgar Square. Photos Yvette Bellido-Cassaglia

Mr Candeas with friend at Trafalgar Square. Photos above and below Mrs S Barker



Mr and Mrs Candeas.

North End House
1. Bendelack, 2 ? 3. Preciada Benggio, 4. Rachel Benggio, 5Reuben Benggio, 6.Flora Attias, 7. Garson, 8.Elias Hassan, 9. Isaac Israel, 10 ? 11. Eddy Hatchwell, 12. Mesod Benggio, 13 ? , 14. Serruja, 15. Isaac Wahnon, 16. Samy Attias, 17.Sam Garson, 18 ? ,19. Coly Bensusan, 20. David Cohen. Photo by Mr M Benggio.

North End House Synagogue

Recent photo of North End House, where most of the Jewish evacuees were accommodated in London during the war.

North End House in the early 50s. Fulham and Hammersmith Local History Studies Office

AT THE PARK ROYAL HOTEL, IN LEINSTER GARDENS
AT LANCASTER GATE
At the back row from L to R: Guillermo Cassano Tommy Borge
Third row: Kitty Rodriguez Rosa Camilleri, Victoria Picardo, Maruja Picardo,...?...
Second Row: Isabel Cassano and Maria Picardo
In front Peter Borge and Lourdes Camilleri.

Luisa Reynolds third girl from the left Kensington Gardens. Photo Mrs L Reynolds.

From l to R Rosie Oates (now Tribello) Lourdes Machiavello, at a studio in Hammersmith.

Rosie Oates (now Tribello) in the pram with Lourdes Machiavello at the Empress Hall 1941

Albert Machiavello with his sister Lourdes at the Empress Hall. All the above photos Mr J Tribello.

Elisenda and Pepe Dominguez in London 6 October 1941 Photos above and below Mr J Dominguez.

Mrs Elda Dominguez with her children Pepe, Elena and Elisenda from 100 Lancaster Gate evacuation centre.

Ernesto Llanelo

Hector Llanelo

All photos Mr Llanelo.

Mrs Duo with nephews Hector and Ernesto Llanelo

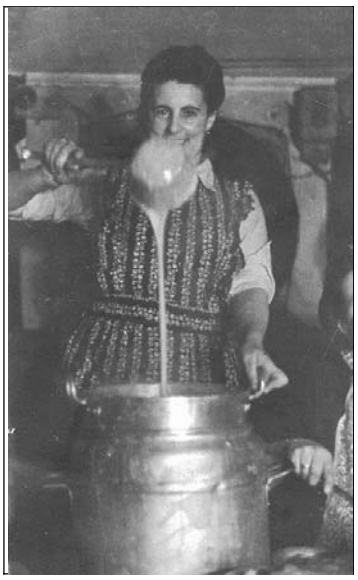
Ernest and Maria Angeles Llanelo with Luis Garcia

The Cohen Family

At the back Mr Maximo and Mrs Hermina Cohen (nee Keating). In front Elio, Herminia and Mercedes Cohen. This photo was sent to Hector Cohen, who was the only member of the family who stayed in Gibraltar. Photo Mr H Cohen.

Mrs Rosado with her son James. Photo Mrs Rosado

Kitchen workers at Marlborough Court
1. Angeles MacEwen 2.Elena Barabich 3.Araminta Stevenson 4. Mrs Kitty Cavilla, 6.Mrs Rogelia Gomez, 7. Mr Alfredo Bugeja 8. Cecilia Bugeja 9. Elena Mania? 10. Mercedes Olivero? 11. Isabel Celecia 13.Dolores Barabich 14.Alfonsa Fa 15 Aida Bugeja (nee Milanta. Photo Mr Cavilla.



Mrs Kitty Cavilla in the kitchen staff at Marlborough Court. Photos above and below Mrs Cavilla.

Mrs Kitty Cavilla

At the Zoo- London. Mrs Angeles Reynolds nee Arnao with baby, and cousin Aurelia Arnao. Phtoo Mrs L Reynolds.

This photo was taken on the occasion of an amateur game between a team of Gibraltar evacuees selected from Duchess of Bedford and King's College evacuation centres and a London football club. Standing 1st from the left is Claudio MacMahon next Mario Perez. Kneeling 1st from the left with a head band is Catania next behind child holding football Ernest Perera. Among the Gibraltar team were also Yusifredo, Martinez and Rowbottom. Standing behind Claudio MacMahon is the manager of the of the games. Photo Mr E Perera.

Ivanhoe Junior Football Club
1. Mr A Candeas 8.Francis (Kiko) Felices 11. Luis Ghio 12.Baglietto. Photo Mrs Gonzalez

Conchi Azzopardi, J.Azzopardi,Flor De Liz Nieves Davis (Later Mrs Azzopardi, By The Broadwalk Hotel, De Vere Gardens,Kensington, 1940

Flordeliz Nieves Davis, Aurelio Davis and Regina Davis in Kensington High Street 1942.

L To R J.Azzopardi, F.Nieves Davis, A.Davis, R.Davis,? , Kensignton 1942. All the photos on this page by the Azzopardy family.

L to r Regina Davis, Conchi Caruana,? and Flordeliz Nieves Davis

L To R Flor De Liz Davis (Later Mrs Azzopardi) Maria Santos (Later Mrs Davis), Jose Sardena, Regina Davis, (Later Mrs Colombo), Alexandra Davis (Later Mrs Gomez)

Joseph Azzopardi father of Joseph, Conchi and Salvador Azzopardi

Flor de Liz Davis, Maria Carvacel Santos and Regina Davis in a park in London 1942.

Conchi Galea Nee Azzopardi

Regina Davis, Alexandra Davis and Flor De Liz Nieves Davis

Flor De Liz Nieves Azzopardi Nee Davis

In the Photo are Flor de Liz Davis, Regina Davis, and Maria Davis

Elena Caruana with Conchi Azzopardi nee Caruana
All the photos on this page from the Azzopardi family.

Mr Pedro Recagno with his daughter Rogelia at Trafalgar Square. Photos above and below Mr R Recagno.

5 year old Arthur Alvarez won first prize in a fancy dress competition held at Wembley he received a £5 award. Photos above and below Mr C Alvare.

The Alvarez brothers, from left to right Charles, Arturo, Francis, Emilio and Humberto.

Standing L to L....?...., Mrs Juana Recagno, Mrs Ines MacMahon (Mrs Recagno's sister. Standing in front Mrs Recagno's daughter Rogelia.

Nany Rosario and Jimmy Edwards in studio at Fulham Sept 1942. Photo Mrs Edwards.

Mrs Clemencia Machiavello holding niece Rose Oates, Miss Elena Almeida, Flori Saez, Lourdes Machiavello (niece) holding doll.

Mrs Clemencia Machiavello with niece Rose Oates. All the photos Mr J Tribello.

Rose Oates with cousins Lourdes Machiavello

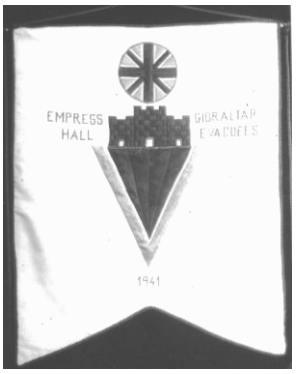
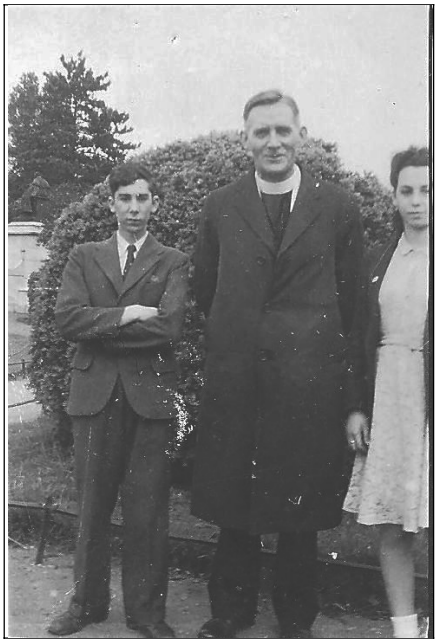


Photo taken by Miss Clemencia Machiavello of Gibraltar evacuees standard at Empress Hall on 6 Dec.1941

Lourdes Machiavello in a play at North End House, Fulham

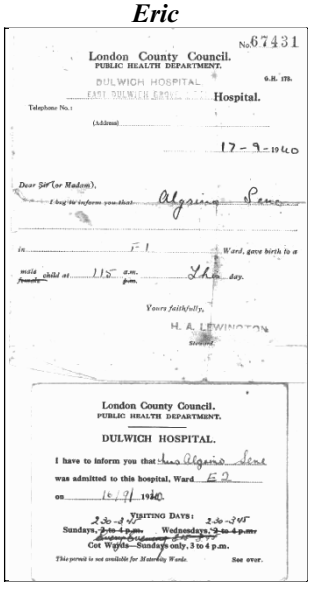


Pio Sene Father T.Smith and Ilda Sene

The same family at the back, from left to right Gilda, Clara (grandmother), Leonides (aunt), Pio, Leonides, baby Eric in front Gladys, Nobert, Andrew

Ilda Sene with her London born brother Eric

From L To R Eric, Nobert, Gladys, Andrew, Leonides, Gilda and Pio Sene



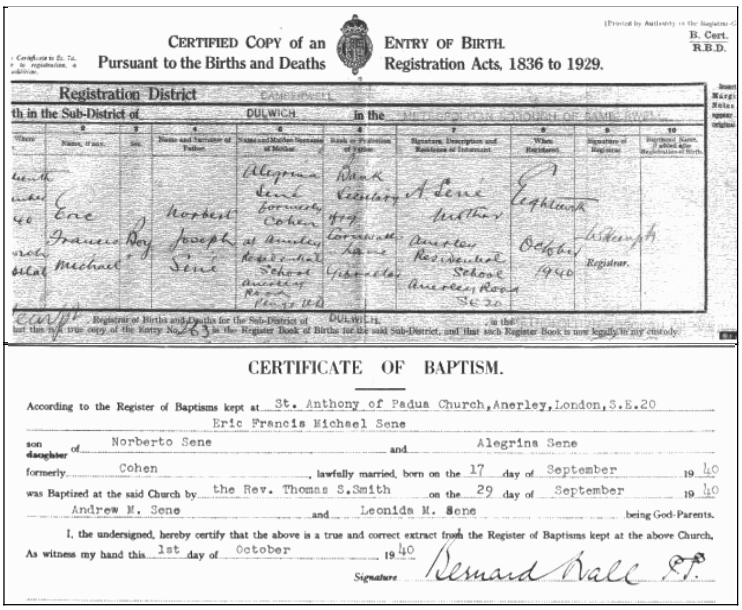
London County Council.
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

DULWICH HOSPITAL.

I have to inform you that Mrs Alegrina Sene
was admitted to this hospital, Ward E2
on 16/9/1940.

VISITING DAYS: 2.30 to 3.45
Sundays, 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.
Out Wards—Sundays only, 3 to 4 p.m.

This permit is not available for Maternity Wards. See over.



CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF BIRTH
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Acts, 1836 to 1929.

B. Cert. R.B.D.

Registration District CAMBERWELL
th in the Sub-District of DULWICH in the

Where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and Surname of Father	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Signature, Description and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar	Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth
Dulwich Hospital 40 Grove Park Camberwell	Eric Francis Michael	Boy	Norberto Joseph Sene	Alegrina Sene formerly Cohen	Bank Secretary	A. Sene Mother	Eighteenth October 1940	W. Keough Registrar.	

Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Sub-District of DULWICH
in the
hat this is a true copy of the Entry No. 63 in the Register Book of Births for the said Sub-District, and that such Register Book is now legally in my custody.

CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM.

According to the Register of Baptisms kept at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Anerley, London, S.E.20
Eric Francis Michael Sene
son / daughter of Norberto Sene and Alegrina Sene
formerly Cohen, lawfully married, born on the 17 day of September 19 40
was Baptized at the said Church by the Rev. Thomas S.Smith on the 29 day of September 19 40
Andrew M. Sene and Leonida M. Sene being God-Parents.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct extract from the Register of Baptisms kept at the above Church.
As witness my hand this 1st day of October 19 40
Signature Bernard Vale S.T.

Eric Sene's birth documents

1 ? 2 ? 3. Preciada Benggio, 4. Rachel Benggio ,5. Regina Benggio, 6 .Elias Cohen, 7. Bensecry, 8. Bendelack,9. Mesoda Benggio, 10. Betsy Cohen,11. Isaac Wahnon, 12. Eddy Hatchwell,13 ? ,14.Baruh Levy, 15. Sam Attias,16.Serruja, 17 ? ,18.Elias Benggio, 19. Coly Bensusan.

The Benggio family at Trafalgar Square
1. Preciada, 2 .Mrs Rachel Benggio, 3.Elias,4.Mr Reuben Benggio,5. Regina,6. Moses, 7. Mesod.
Photos Mr E Benggio.

Mrs Juana Alman. Below are two of her four children.

Mario and Antonio Alman

Sylvia Alman (nee Alman) wife and cousin of Antonio Alman

From left to right Mrs Antonia Alman (nee Lima) her daughters Sylvia and Angeles. Angeles died in London from TB.

Mr Alexander Alman, Mrs Antonia Alman's husband. He stayed in Gibralar during the war. He was awarded the Civilian Defence Medal.
Photos Mr A Alman.

Mrs Ana Walker with her son Henry

Henry Walker with his mum and his aunt Mary

Henry Walker with his uncle Richard

Henry and Cathy Walker in a fancy dress competition at the Duchess of Bedford

Henry Walker

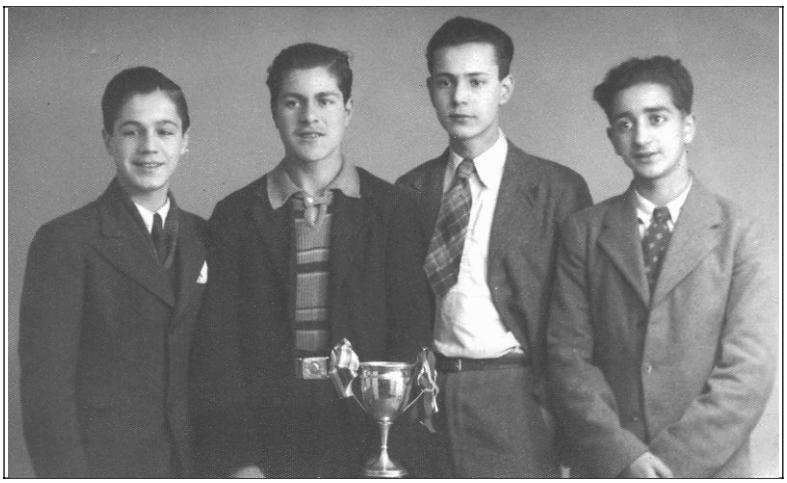
Henry Walker visiting the Duchess of Bedford many years later. Photos Mr R Walker

Feeding pigeons at Trafalgar Square from left to right J.White, L.White, M.L White, W.White 1941/42. Photo Mr G White.

Angelina Martinez and Leonor White near the Grafton Hotel. Photo Mr G White.

Mr Francisco and Mrs Carmen Adamberry in Kensington London. with granddaughter Lourdes Casey. The above Photos, the one on the right and at the one at the right hand bottom of the page- Mr Adamberry.

Mrs Lourdes Bishop nee Adamberry with granddaughter Lourdes Casey.



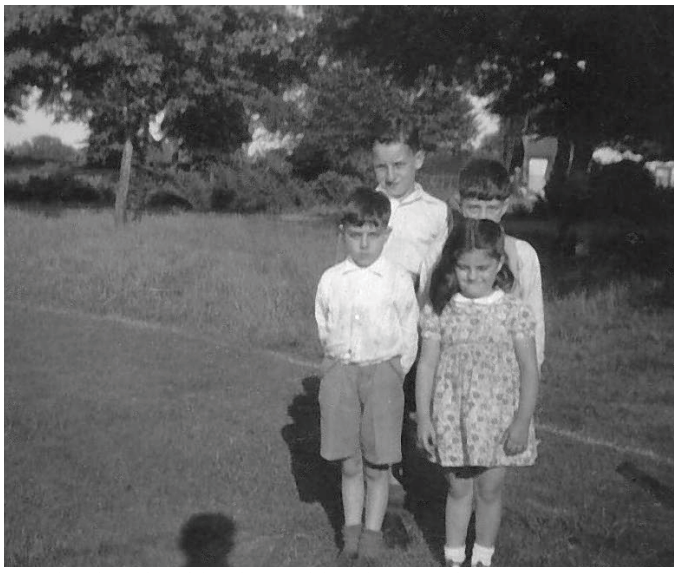
Claudio MacMahon, Mario Perez Ernest Perera, Mario, Catania with the London County Council Cup. Photo Mr E Perera.

Carmen Adamberry nee Lezano Lourdes Casey great grand mother

Mrs Francisca Baldacchino with her sons Michael and Salvador in a studio at North End Road, Fulham shortly after arriving at Highlands Heath.

Mrs Baldachino with her daughter, Mrs Francisca Baldacchino at Highlands Heath, Putney

Mr Salvador Perez with nephew Salvador Baldacchino at a studio at North End Road, Fulham on 29.10.1940



Michael and Saldvador Baldacchino with cousins Janet and Michael Baldacchino at Highlands Heath

All photos by Mr S Baldachino.

At the back from l to r Mr Cruz (Cuki), Mr Saldvador Perez, Maribel Perez (later Mrs McMahon)
In front from L to R Adelina Perez (later Mrs Dalton) Salvador and Michael Baldacchino
Photos above and below by Mr S Baldachino.

Mrs Francisca Baldacchino with her sons Michael and Salvador at Highlands Heath

.

At Wimbledon Common
From left to right Mary Williamson (later Nichols), Mrs Maria Williamson (nee De La Cruz) Mrs Crompton (nee De La Cruz), John Williamson. In front is Edith Crompton known as Eddie. Photo by Mrs M Nichols.

Angelita Santos and Louis Lopez.

From L to R the Borrastero family: Leopoldo, Arturo, Nereida and Oscar Borrastero

Mrs Dolores Perez with daughter Clemencia

Mario Perez, Louis Lopez and Mrs Dolores Perez.
All photos Mr L Lopez.

At the back row from L to R
Lili Grima,..?..., Isabel Alvarez,Maribel Dalmedo,Mario Grima.
In the middle row Emilio Borrastero, Julia Grima,Dolores Alavarez,
In front: Carlos Grima,Enrique Alvarez, Louis Lopez,Francis Borrastero.

Mr Enrique Alvarez
with his grandson Louis Lopez

Louis Lopez at the entrance to
Duchess of Bedford.

Mrs Dolores Alavarez, Mrs Carlota Lopez, Louis Lopez
and Busto

Enrique Alvarez, Louis Lopez's uncle with friend.
All photos Mr L Lopez.

Mrs Carlota Lopez with her son Louis

Back row from L to R: Mrs Perez, Mrs C Lopez, Mrs D Alavarez, Mr E Alvarez, Isabel Alvarez
Middle Row L to R: Enrique Alvarez, Mario Perez, Mrs D Perez, Clemencia Perez
Sitting in front …?..... Louis Lopez, Maribel Dalmedo,….?.....

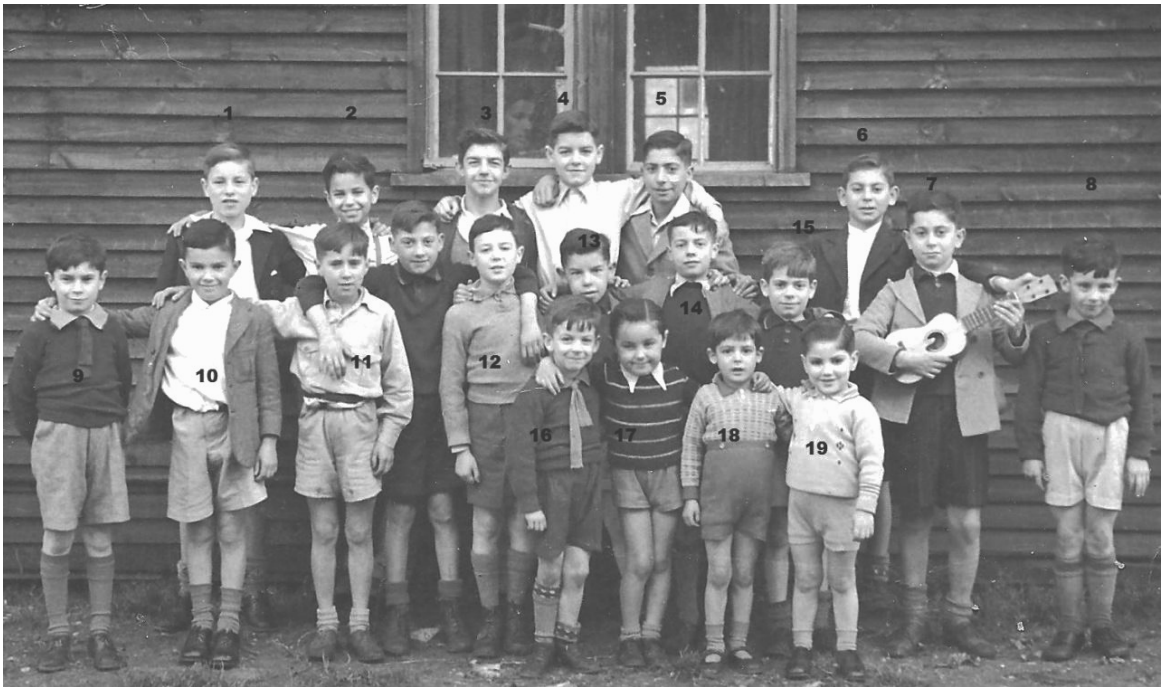
Mrs Dolores Alvarez with grandson Louis Lopez and son Emilio Alvarez. All photos Mr L Lopez.

15. Lourdes Madeira (nee Baldachino)16.Berta Borge (nee Baldachino)
20. Salvador Pitaluga.22.Madge Bosano. Photo Mrs Mary Bosano Lane

The Montovio children
Manolo,Joseph Maria Carmen, Robert

Mrs Maria Barbara (nee Arias)
with her daughter Sonia(later Sene)

Above photos by Mrs S Sene.



Children at Richmond
3.Mario Sanchez 4. Victor Sanchez 9. Salvador Pitaluga 12.Mario Garcia 13.Ernesto Sanchez 17.Bruzon? 18.Manolo Perez 19. Pepe Caballero rest not known.

Evacuees in Courtlands Richmond .
6.Juan Villa 7. Salvador Pitaluga 11. Mary Cerisola,rest not known. Photos by Mrs Sene.

4. Madge Bosano 5.Lucy Garcia 8. Lourdes Madeira (nee Baldachino) 9. Berta Borge (nee Baldachino) 10. Dalmedo 11.Dalmedo, rest not known.

1. Isabel Rubio 2. Lily Colton 3.Madge Bosano 5.Maribel Sayell (nee Balestrino) 7. Violet Reeves (nee Balestrino)

The Bosano family at their flat at Courtlands. Photos Mrs M Bosano Lane.

Evacuees at Courtlands , Richmond. Boy at the back second from the right Salvador Pitaluga. Photo Mr J Asquez

Back row standing. Left to right: Manolo Gatt, Baglietto, Balestrino, Charles Sanchez, Charles Basilisco, Balestrino , ?, ?, Garcia, ?, ?, John Victor Bosano, ?, ?, Bonavia. Photo Mrs M Bosano Lane.

At the back Eulogio Cerisola,Photo Mr A Cerisola.
In front Mary,Ernesto and Angel Cerisola. Photo Mr A Cerisola.

Standing on the right Mrs Salud Baglietto,Mrs Dolores Capurro sitting holding Minerva Baglietto, Mr Monti Baglietto holding girls whose name is not known.

***John Goodman with niece Olivia Baglietto*.**

Mr Miguel Goodman with his niece Olivia Baglietto and nephew Joseph Pincho. Photos Mrs Y Pilkington.

Mrs Elisa Baglietto with her daughter Olivia.

Standing on the left John Goodman and kneeling on the right his brother-in-law Monti Baglietto.

Photo of evacuees at Courtlands, Richmond,
At the extreme left having a drink is Mrs Elisa Baglietto (nee Goodman). Photos Mrs Y Pilkington.

Evacuees in Courtlands.
From left to right standing: 1. Mr Edwards,Sitting 2. Rose Olivero(Payas), 5.Mr Roberts (Manager)

Mr George Russo on the occasion of the passing away of his wife.

At the back left to right: ...?....., Lucy Brooks,Menchi Cassaglia. In front left to right Mary Hermida? Magdalena Walker, Bertha Bear?Photo Luli Yome

JESUS, MERCY ✝ MARY, HELP

Of your Charity Pray
for the Repose of the Soul of

MARIA G. RUSSO,

(OF GIBRALTAR)

WHO DIED IN LONDON,
NOVEMBER 28th, 1942.

AGED 80 YEARS.

✠

Absolve, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant Maria, that being dead to this world she may live to Thee: and whatever sins she may have committed in this life through human frailty, do Thou in Thy most merciful goodness, forgive: through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen.

✠

We have loved her in life, let us not forget her in death.

R. I. P.

Card in memory of Mrs Maria G Russo

1.Hector Charvetto, 2.Mariluz Olivero,3.Isabel Olivero,4. Pepe Luis Olivero, 5.Jaime Ferro, 6.Pauline Olivero,7.Pepe Olivero,8.Araceli Charvetto,9.Hector Alvarez,10. Teresa Charvetto,11.Avelino Olivero,12. Sardena
Photo Mrs Natasa Passno.

At the back Tita Farrell Gomez,
In front from L To R:Yolanda Tribello Bacarese,Francisca Bacarese, Julie Cavilla with doll.

Julie Cavilla, Jose Harrison and Yoland Tribello Bacarese at Whitelands

.

Johnny Reading by the steps near the school at Whitelands. This photo Mr J Reading the rest Mr C.Tribello

The Reading and the Morello Family at the Whitelands Campus

Aurelia Dalorto Yolanda Tribello Bacarese and Francisca Bacarese.

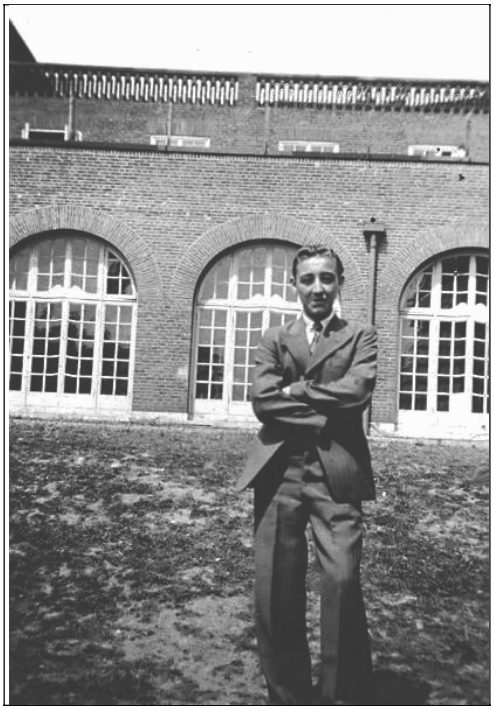
Violeta Pilcher

Mrs Anita Pilcher with her daughter Violet standing her right and her son Lionel.

Violet Pilcher and Adolfo Bosio
Photos Mr Pilcher

Mrs Anita Pilcher

Violeta Pilcher and Lionel Pilcher in fancy dress competition



Hector Pilcher

Violeta Pilcher with friend

At a park in Putney are Victoria Peliza (nee Ferro),Aida Aguilera (nee Peliza)Aurelio Peliza. Name of the girl sitting in front not known. Photo Mrs I Fa.

Lionel Pilcher
Photos Mr Pilcher

Grace Mendez at Trafalgar Square

Mrs Anita Mendez (nee Monteverde) with her daughter Grace at the Whitelands College in 1941. Below Mrs Grace Monaco when she visited the Whitelands College in 2016 standing on the same steps that her mother stood with her in 1941.

Mrs Grace Manasco (nee Mendez) at Whitelands College . Above wearing the "Victory Dress" in a fancy dress competition held in 1943. Below playing with a doll in a pram.

Photos Mrs G Manasco.

Mrs Aurelia Morello (nee Ferro) with her children Roger, Olga and Luli. Photo Mr Morello.

Irma Guerro (Mrs Abrines), Isabel Perez, ?

Mrs Luisa Reyes,Mrs Hortensia Perez with her daughter Isabel, Mrs Irene Viagas with her daughter Terry and Mr Manuel Viagas.

Mrs Isabel Pons with her daughter Lourdes (later Grosso). Photo Mrs Kath Seivewright

Isabel Perez with doll

Mr Jose Perez with nieces Isabel and Terry
Photod Mr I Jassies

Miss Kitty Harper, names of girls beside not known. Mrs Hortensia Perez holding in her arms her daughter Isabel.

Mrs Hortensia Perez with her daughter Isabel, niece Terry Viagas and father Mr Manuel Viagas.

Mrs Hortensia Perez, Mrs Luisa Reyes, Terry Viagas, and Mrs Irene Viagas holding her niece Isabel

Elisa Azopardi, Pepi Azopardi and Mrs Sanchez. Above photo Mrs D Tyrrell.

Mr Manuel Viagas with granddaughters Isabel and Terry. Photos Mrs I Jassies.

George Gaskin (back right), with Olga Requena at the back and Hector Requena (front left) at Wembley. Above photo Mr H Requena.

Elisa and Eliott Azopardi

Pepi Azopardi (later Danino) and her 2 cousins Violeta Banda and Berta Sene

Anna Azopardi and daughter Pepi Azopardi,Ilma Ortega Jane Massetti and her sister Alice Ortega. Pepita Zamora At Empire Pool, Wembley. Photos Mrs M Tyrrell

Left to right Miss Mary Vella, Mrs Rosa Vella, Jeanette Rocca, Mrs Jane Rocca. Photo Mrs J Randall

Elena Azopardi with her best friend Elena Zammit at Empire Pool Wembley

Gibraltar evacuees at the Empire Pool, Wembley
Sitting in front, second from the left is Salvador Mamo next his cousin Pepi Chini (Cano) sitting behind in second row, is her mother Mrs Catalina Chini and in the same row second from the right is Arthur Wall. Standing at the back row third from the left is Salvador Orciel,fifth , Fernando Mosquera and second from the right is Richard Pitaluga. Photo Mrs E Mamo.

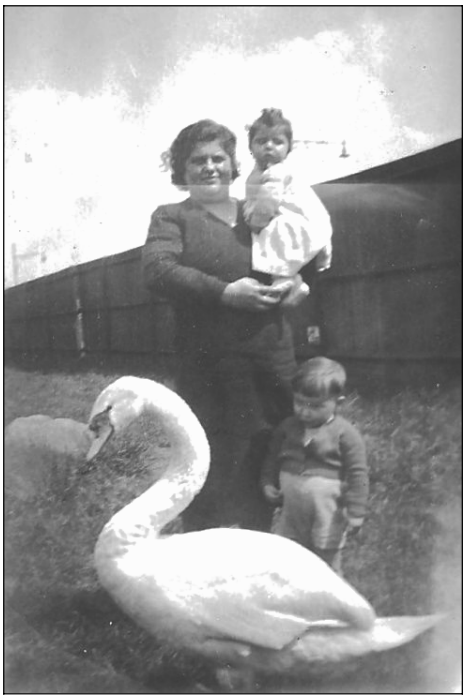


Photo taken at Wembley. Miss Vella with Jeanette Rocca in arms and Alex Requena standing by her side.

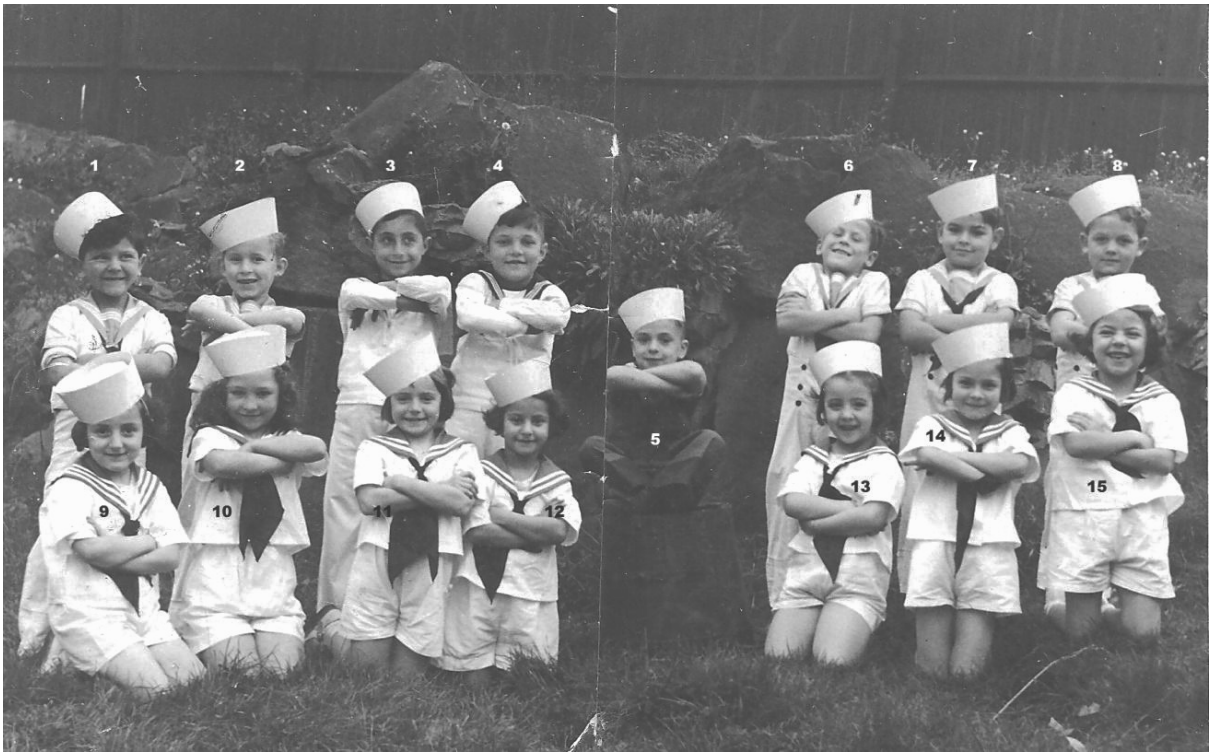
At the back from L to R:Amalia Yeo,Jane Rocca,Clemencia Yeo
In front Angeles Yeo and Octovio Requena. Photo Mr H Requena.

1.Margaret Marshall, 2 Harry Marshall,3.Salvadora Marshall (nee Munoz-Parra), 4.Dennis Marshall,5.John Marshall.

Evacuees at Wembley Empire Pool. 1.Margarita Busutil,2.Harry Marshall,3.Dennis Marshall,4. Salvadora Marshall (nee Munoz-Parra).

3.Magdalena Mena (nee Posso) 8. Laura Rolls.

1 Sylvia Ashley,5. Iris Arias 7. Maribel Garcia 12.Irma Pitto 13. Mary Holmes? 15. Emilia Desoiza? 16.Herminia Porro (nee Cohen) 18. Bautista 19.Lilian Apap 20. Josephine Holiday(nee Mania)21. Ruby Chipolina (nee Crome) 22. Frances Pitto(nee Bensusan) 23.Viola Perera (nee Fortunato) 24.Carmen Bruzon (nee Mannia) 26. Luisa Schembri (nee Fortunato) 25. Margot Mae Beacon (nee Marshall) 27. Brenda Norton-Amor. Photo Mr A Cruz.

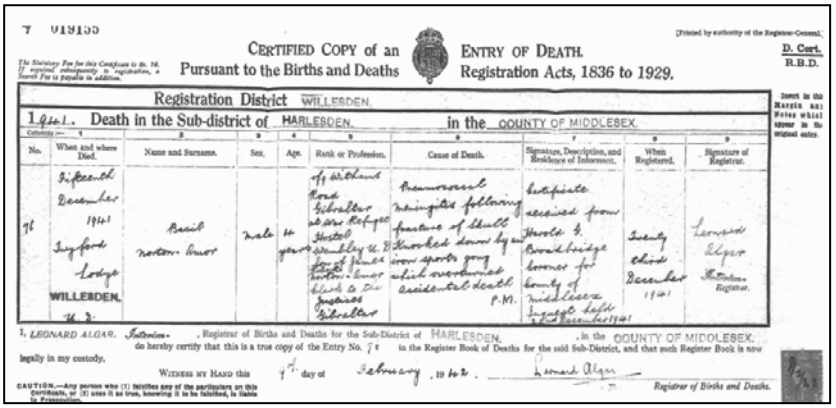


1. ? 2.J S .Marshall 3.E.Bensusan 4.H.F.Requena
5.A.Hernandez 6.W.Yeo 7.A.Gomez, 8,...?...,. 9. A.Stagnetto,10...?.....,11...?....,
12. J..Rocca,13....?...,14....?....,15. L Jeffries.
Photo Mr H Requena.

Photo of Gibraltar evacuee children taken at Wembley
From L to R: Alex Requena, Pepi Chini, Macias, John Clinton. Photo Mr H Requena

Figueredo family at Wembley
At the back left to Right Maria, Anne, Antonia
In front L to R: Paqui, Violeta, Regelia. Photo Mr J Lesano.

At Wembley there was a terrible accident which resulted in the death of four years old boy Basil Norton-Amor, the son of Mr James Norton-Amor clerk of the Justice in Gibraltar. At the entrance of what was the dining hall for the evacuees there was a sports gong which most of the children used to have fun with the gong by hanging to it and swinging. Apparently when Basil tried to swing with the sports gong it toppled over him and fractured his skull.



CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF DEATH
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Acts, 1836 to 1929.

D. Cert. R.B.D.

Registration District WILLESDEN

1941. Death in the Sub-district of HARLESDEN in the COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

No.	When and where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
98	Fifteenth December 1941 Twyford Lodge WILLESDEN	Basil Norton-Amor	Male	4 years	Of Without Fixed Gibraltar No War Refugee Hostel Wembley U.D. Son of James Norton-Amor Clerk to the Justices Gibraltar	Haemorrhage following fracture of skull Knocked down by iron sports gong which overbalanced accidental death P.M.	Certificate received from Harold H. Broadbridge Coroner for County of Middlesex Inquest held 22nd December 1941	Twenty third December 1941	Leonard Algar Registrar.

Insert in the Margin any Notes which appear in the original entry.

I, LEONARD ALGAR, Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Sub-District of HARLESDEN, in the COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Entry No. 98 in the Register Book of Deaths for the said Sub-District, and that such Register Book is now legally in my custody.

WITNESS MY HAND this 9th day of February, 1942. Leonard Algar
Registrar of Births and Deaths.

CAUTION.—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this Certificate, or (2) uses it as true, knowing it to be falsified, is liable to Prosecution.

Death Certificate of four years old boy Basil Norton-Amor. Copy of certificate Mr Norton-Amor.

Mrs Amalia Yeo and Mr Yeo

From L to R: Amalia Yeo,Lily Requena,Jane Rocca
Photos. Mr H Requena.

Photo taken at Wembley
From L to R: Josephine Mania,Angeles Yeo,Carmen Mania

Janette Rocca and Alex Requena

In the with with a fan Mariluz Facio (nee Olivero) and 2nd row Lydia Caballero.

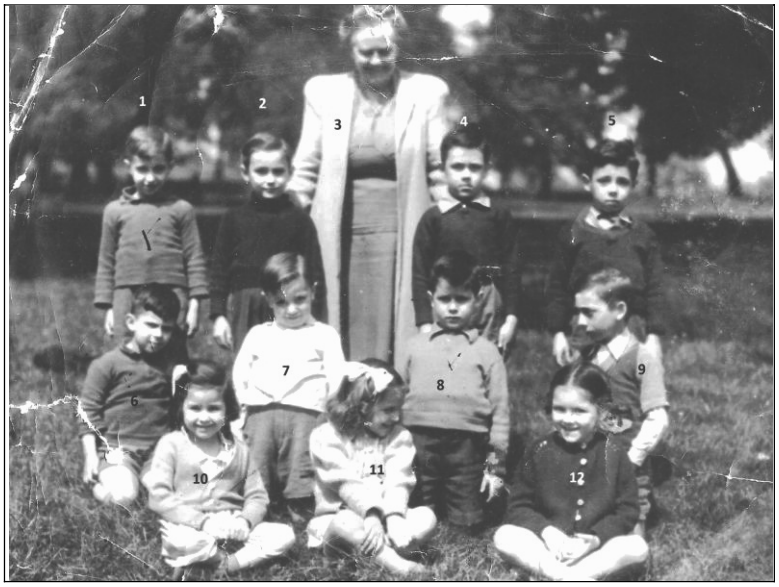
1st row second from right sitting Jane Rocca with baby Jeannette
2nd Row First from left sitting John Vella. At the back row in the centre is Salvador Orciel.
Photo Mrs J Randall.

The Gaskin brothers at Empire Pool Wembley
At the back from l to r Alfred, George, Louis , Francis (in front). Photo Mr G Gaskin.

In the photo from L to R: Mrs Ryan (nee Zammitt), Mrs Lily Requena, Mrs Ochello (nee Zammitt).
Photo Mr H Requena.

Photo taken at Wembley. At the back from L to R: Clemencia Yeo Amalia Yeo
In the middle row from L to R: Evelyn Yeo, Lily Requena, ...?.....
Sitting in from L to R: Angeles Yeo, William Yeo, Alex Requena, Hector Requena. Photo Mr H Requena.

From left to right Mrs Angela and Mr Joseph Yeo , Amalia Yeo,Mrs Mercedes Ramagge,Abelardo Ramagge at Wembley. Photo Mrs J Litchfield



8. Johnny Tribello 9.Tito Vera. Photo Mr J Tribello

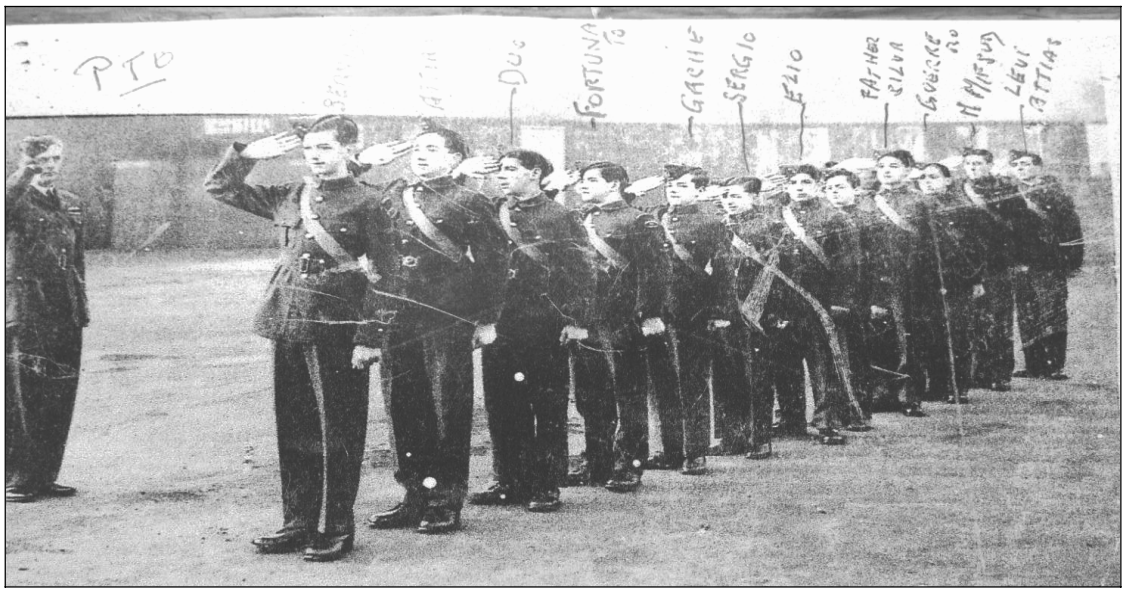
From L to R: Evelyn Yeo, Mary Vella, Lily Requena. This photo and the one below Mr H Requena.

At the back from L to R:Amalia Yeo,Jane Rocca,Clemencia Yeo
In front Angeles Yeo and Octovio Requena

Elena Azopardi with her best friend Elena Zammit at Empire Pool Wembley. Photo Mrs D Tyrrell.

Photo of school boys at Wembley.
From L to Back row:....?...., J.Apap,...?...., F.Mosquera,S.Orciel,....?....,....?....,J.Kitting,D.Crome, Mr Smith.
Front row: E.Azzopardi, O.Requena,J. Desoiza, F.Hernandez, R.Pitaluga, L.Clinton.

Photo taken at Wembley
1. Bruce Norton-Amor 2. J.Apap 3.F.Mosquera 4.E.Azzopardi
5.Brian Norton-Amor 6.J.Kitting,7..?... 8.J.Clinton 9...?...10. ..?...
11. D.Crome 12.O.Requena13...?... 14. F.Hernandez 15. J.Desoiza.
Photos Mr H Requena.



Gibraltar RAF Cadets at Wembley during the evacuation.
From left to right Victor Dumas,Attias,Duo.Fortunato,Gache,Sergio,Elio Cohen, ...?....,
Father Silva, Guerreo,M.Mifsud, Levi Attias.

Mrs Sanchez, Elisa and Pepi Azopardi. This photo and the one below Mrs D Tyrrell.

Cousins Elisa Azopardi,Berta Sene and Violet Banda.

I introduced, the pages with the photos of evacuees in London with Mrs Elizabeth Galliano's story. I am ending the chapter of the evacuees in the UK with the memories of a five year old boy, Joe Robeson.

Mrs Robeson and her son Joe were evacuated on 26th July. They left on the Athlone Castle, which arrived at Liverpool on the 1st August 1940 - the first group of evacuees to arrive in the UK. The Robesons, the Hammonds, the Arias, who were all related were all lodged at the Empire Pool, Wembley. The photo below shows Joe with his aunt Elodia Arias (nee Santos). She was Joe's mother, eldest sister married to Ernest Arias.

Joe Robeson with his aunt Elodia Arias (nee Santos).

Shortly after arriving at Wembley, Mrs Robeson and her son moved to live with her husband's relatives in Newport,Wales as it was considered safer. Joe's mother felt reluctant to move to Newport since she had to leave her sisters behind at Wembley. Below is a photograph of Joe with his paternal grandmother, Isabel Robeson, formerly Ramirez nee Asquez.

Joe with his paternal grandmother, Isabel Robeson

Photo of Joe with his cousins during the winter of 1940/41 in Newport, Wales.

Joe with his Welsh cousins in Newport.

When the Germans started bombing other cities, including Newport, Joe's mother took that as an excuse to return to Wembley and with her sisters.

Explaining his memories as child in Wembley, Joe said, "Every now and then we were taken to see the Nurse and were given a spoonful of a horrible tasting cod liver oil. There was also another white stuff which we were also given at regular intervals, which was not all that nice, but not as bad as the cod liver oil. One other "medicine" which we got at regular intervals was a form of concentrated orange drink which was not unpleasant. There was an occasion when I had a temperature and my mother had kept me in bed. While she was in the canteen getting food for me, someone had reported the fact that she had left me alone. A group of people (not Gibraltarians) came into the room and were standing around the bed asking questions as to why I was still in bed and where was my mother.

I think our answers satisfied them, but the occasion disturbed my mother quite a bit. I think mothers found it extra hard having been dragged out of their homes in Gibraltar and having to exist in a situation in which they had no say in the matter but had to live by the rules imposed by others."

Joe playing with his tricycle at Wembley

Talking about the nursery, Joe said, that children were always allowed to choose what "musical" instruments to play with for a singsong, depending on how well they had done during the lessons.

Joe remembers about a concert that was held at Wembley and that evacuees had come from all over London. One thing that really struck him was that it was the first time that he heard people singing "Lleva me donde nacir" and noticed that the women, including his mother and her sisters, were all crying, and which was something Joe could not understand at the time. At the concert he met his cousins Antonio and Isabelita Ramirez, who were older than Joe and were living at the Royal Palace Hotel.

After many years, Joe still has a sad memories of when he found that the duck house on the island in the middle of the pond had been destroyed by the bombing.

After Basil Norton's tragic incident at Wembley, Joe's mother tried to keep Joe on a tight rein, which included walking around Wembley Stadium with his uncle Ernest Arias picking up discarded greyhound racing ticket stubs and bits of shrapnel from the previous night's air raid. When Joe went with his mother for tea, she always let him keep a slice of bread (despite the strict rationing). They would walk around the garden over the bridge of the pool coming to an island in the middle of the pond where there was a duck house and ducks. They would always stop there to feed the ducks.

One day during their walk they came to the duck house which had disappeared and all that was left were a few planks of wood and certainly no ducks. When Joe asked his mother where were the ducks. She told him that the "Germans" had dropped a bomb and killed all the ducks on the island. This caused Joe, as a little boy to hate the "Germans", whoever they were.

Joe's uncle, Ernest Arias, who worked at 20th Century Fox, bought him a British soldier's helmet and a pop-gun. When Joe travelled around Wembley with his mother he used to ask any stranger if they were Germans and if they said yes, he would shoot them a cork from pop-gun. His mother would explain the reasons and all reacted with amusement!

Joe with Tommy Finlayson at Wembley

Children in a tea party held in a room allocated to one of the evacuees.Standing 2nd from the left is Joe Robeson.

Joe's aunt Rogelia, was married to Edward Hammond, who had also been evacuated and lodge with his family at the Wembley Pool. Edward very soon got himself a job as a skilled worker in an aircraft factory.

By the end of 1941, uncle Edward was earning enough money, working all hours, at the factory producing the famous heavy Lancaster bomber and earned a series of promotions to the rank of Foreman.

Edward's position as Foreman enabled him to rent a house in Greenford to overcome the difficulty of getting to West London from Wembley.

Gibraltar evacuees by the Empire Pool, Wembley
9.Luisa Fortunatom,10.Herminia Cohen,14.Octovia Requena, 17.Laura Gabay, 26.Arthur Wall ,29.Joe Robeson , 30.Joseph Noguera, 32.Maricha Origo (nee Noguera), 34.Tommy Finlayson,40.Marie Carmen Bossino, 39.Pepi Chini, 41.Salvador Mamo, 42. Jane Charvetto(Padina).

The house in Greenford was very big where both Eddie and Joe would play in it when we visited. We would also play with the odd models of guns and planes made from the offcuts of Perspex left over from making the gun turrets of the Lancasters.

Below Eddie Hammond and his cousin Joey Robeson about summer 1941

In 1944 Joe and his mother were moved from Wembley to Kensington Palace Mansions (KPM). Joe was then 5 years old and remembers that it was not as much fun as Wembley. There were no indoor places for the children to play and they went out to Hyde Park when the weather permitted. Being walking distance from KPM, he visited the Natural History Museum and felt fascinated to see drawers after drawers displaying all types of insects and butterflies.

Below Mr and Mrs Hammond with their sons Eddie and John.

At the KPM, Joe said that they had a room with a window which overlooked the main road and the Park. Joe remembers standing at the window and seeing some doodlebugs fly over the London sky and also being dragged down to the cellars. He also remembers seeing that the inner road in Hyde Park was full of parked Army vehicles, but not realizing that these were waiting to go down to the coast for the upcoming D-day landings.

The Hammonds and Arias were also brought to the KPM. After the V1 had hit the KPM, they were sent to the camps in Northern Ireland to await being repatriated. Joe's uncle,Edward Hammond,kept himself busy and built the rocking horses as the one in the photo below:

Eddie and Johnny Hammond in Ballymena

Mrs Rogelia Hammond with her sons, Eddie and Johnny in Northern Ireland

Joe and his mother were sent to Scotland to await to be repatriated. In Scotland they were taken to what it looked to Joe as unused army camp near Glasgow. The camp was built on a hill with a fast-flowing river down a steep slope. One morning, Joe found his mother crying. She had received a letter from one of her sisters to tell her that they were all safe, but that the KPM had been hit by a flying bomb. When the air raid sirens sounded, his uncle Edward and aunt Rogelia had grabbed their children and rushed down to the cellars. In the rush they had left behind a substantial amount of savings which they lost.

On board the Stirling Castle the sleeping quarters were large halls with no privacy and the beds were in tiers, 3 beds high. Joe had fun in climbing up these despite his mother's warnings. Once the ship sailed out of the Clyde, many of the evacuees began to go to the upper deck. Joe remembers being told that the ships escorting the Stirling Castle were a cruiser and two destroyers.

Joe said, "The arrival at Gibraltar was quite dramatic. As the ship berthed by the Admiralty Tower, there were men everywhere, on the quays and even on the roofs of the workshops, all shouting and waving. My mother was trying to point out who was my father among the thousands of men waving and shouting, but since I had not him since I was 18 months old I couldn't find him. I do not remember how we got out from the Dockyard. My next memory is of my father carrying me on his shoulders up Engineers Lane, which, after the wide avenues of Wembley and Kensington, seemed very narrow. When we got to the patio it looked very dirty, grubby and run down. However, in the flat there was a small dining room and it was laden with all kinds of exotic foodstuffs I had never seen before, especially for luxury-deprived children in London. There were grapes, bananas, oranges and, most striking of all, a watermelon cut in two with a saw tooth pattern which looked like two crowns."

Ernest and Elodia Arias returned to Gibraltar from Northerrn Ireland sometime later. Their accommodation consisted of one small room and an even smaller kitchen diner. They also shared one toilet with 5 other families at 39 Castle, where they lived most of their lives.

Joe explained, "Although the Hammonds were in Ballymena, their parents had been living at 56 City Mill Lane before the evacuation so his father, who had lived there throughout the war, could claim them back and so they soon returned. The problem was in having 4 adults and 4 children living in two rooms and a small kitchen diner, plus a corridor. With very young babies and older boys it meant that things got stressful. The solution was for me to walk through New Passage to my Aunt Elodia for lunch, which

enabled me to enjoy many years of my childhood and early teenage years playing in that exciting, safe playground in Castle Street. After their return from Northern Ireland,my uncle Edward started a plumbing/electrical business in what was nothing more than a tiny cellar in Church Lane and my uncle Ernest went into partnership with a colleague and set up a shop selling luxury goods to passengers from ships and Service people. My Father had been promoted to Chargehand of the Shipfitters.
When all the families were finally re-united, after our repatriation, as it was customary in those days, we went to "La Almoraima" on the first Sunday in May 1949. By then my uncle Ernest owned a Skoda and my uncle Edward an Austin 6. So we all shared both cars to go to La Almoraima and spent an enjoyable day.

left Ernest Arias, Eileen Hammond, Elodia Arias nee Santos, Joseph Robeson, Clive Robeson, Amelia Robeson nee Santos, Johnnie Hammond, Joey Robeson, Rogelia Hammond nee Santos

In this in front of the Austin Six, back row Elodia Arias nee Santos, Eileen Hammond, Rogelia Hammond nee Santos and Edward Hammond. Front row Eddie Hammond, Joey Robeson, Clive Robeson and Johnnie Hammond.

CHAPTER FIVE

EVACUEES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The flying bombs began to hit London in mid June 1944 and owing to their severe menace it was decided to evacuate all children from London. At the time, there were 9, 3000 evacuees still in London, of which 3,100 had already been selected to be repatriated by end of July 1940. The remaining 6,200 evacuees had suddenly to be transferred to camps in Northern Ireland as they could not be repatriated to Gibraltar, mainly, due to the lack of accommodation.

The camps consisted of Nissen huts which were erected during the early stages of the war in the event of sustained air raids on Belfast, particularly by the dry docks and all its surrounding areas. When he bombing eased, the huts fell into disuse for a time but were later used by US troops as from January 1942 onwards. By the spring of 1944, the US troops left the camps to be moved to south east England in preparation for the Normandy landing.

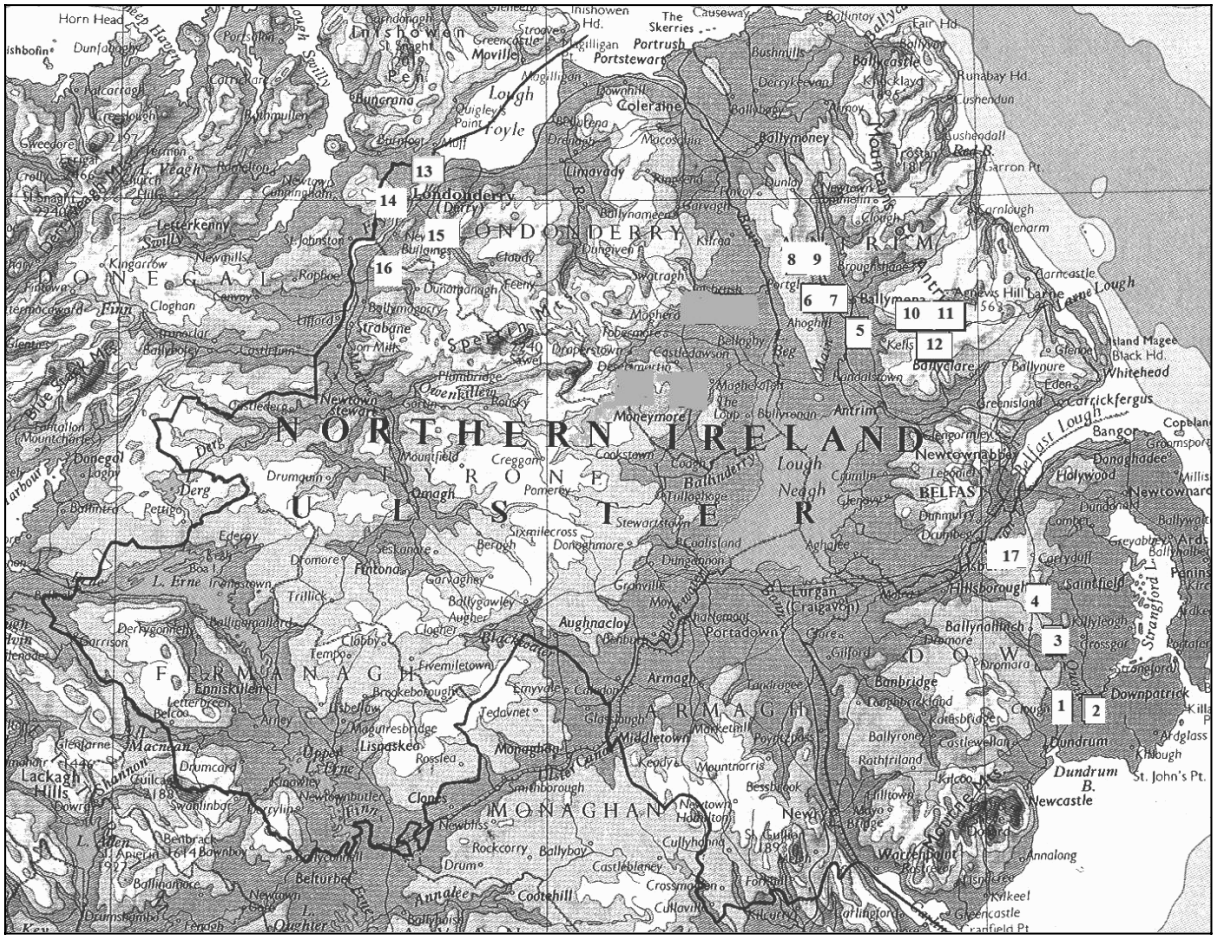
There were 16 camps which were distributed in the counties of Antrim, Down and Londonderry and were numbered and named as follows:

1. Clough, 2.Cargagh, 3.Crossgar and 4.Saintfield in County Down.

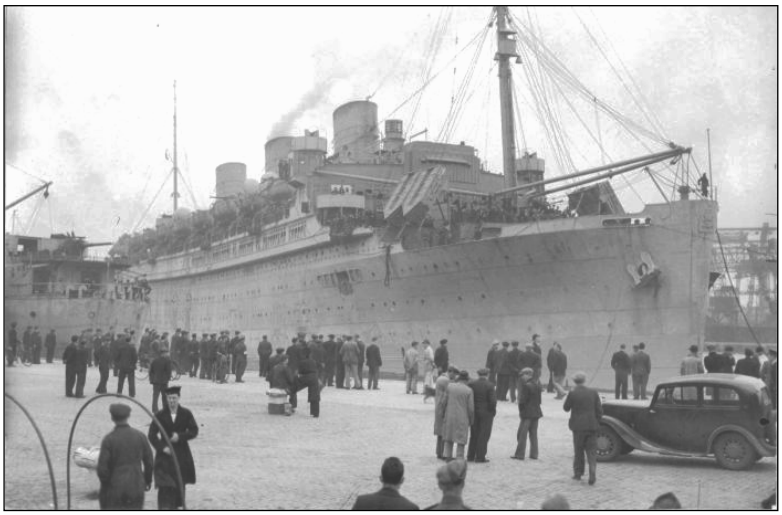
5. Tawnybrack, 6.Moorfields, 7.Castlegore, 8.Dunnaird, 9.Drummock, 10.Aghacully, 11.Breckagh Bridge and 12.Corby Bridge in County Antrim.

13. Ballyarnett, 14.Molennan, 15.Warbleshinney and 16.Tagharian in County Londonderry.

An extra and larger camp was built at Carryduff, near Belfast, making a total of 17 camps. This was the only camp that had electricity and running water mainly because of its proximity to Belfast. The map below shows the approximate locations of the camps.



When the evacuees arrived and disembarked at Belfast, they were taken in charge by the military authorities. Each evacuee was provided with a meal bag to see them through the interval between landing and reaching their destinations. They were transported in the Army Lorries to their respective camps. Military personnel and senior pupils from the schools nearby Belfast helped the evacuees with their luggage.



The Monarch of Bermuda arriving at Belfast with evacuees. Photo Gibraltar Museum

Mr Grand, Minister of Health and Local Government, with responsibility for the Gibraltar evacuees, was waiting for their arrival.

As it was summer, the weather was good and the evacuees were able to enjoy being in the camps in the middle of the open fields with all the farm houses- a view they were not used to. They also felt glad to be in peaceful surroundings which represented a break after enduring four years of bombing in London.

The evacuees being town people, and also after having lived in London for four years, enjoyed the novelty of living in the countryside for the first time. Charlie Tribello noted, 'One of the things that impressed me very much as a child was the cattle fair held in Saintfield village. We Gibraltarian people were not used to seeing so many cattle before the evacuation.'

Although the camps were definitely safer and quieter than London, the living conditions in the Nissen huts left a lot to be desired. The huts were hot in the summer and very cold in the winter. The camp toilets consisted of about 20 cold water taps pouring into long wooden troughs with no lighting, unheated and totally unsuitable for the women and elderly people. In London the evacuees had become used to private, flushable toilets. Living in Nissen huts was seen by many as a letdown.

Layout of the huts in one of the camps in Ballymena. Photo Gibraltar Museum.

Light in the huts was provided by means of oil lamps. Evacuees slept in bunk beds and in winter they were kept warm by means of an old gas stove placed in the centre of the hut. The inside of the huts was equally divided by a brick wall to accommodate two families. Between the top of the wall and the 'ceiling' of the hut there was a gap and families could overhear their conversations. The floor was made of concrete with no carpets or boards to protect from the dampness. Electric light was only available in the dining-rooms, kitchens, and recreation rooms within the camps. Cooking was done in communal kitchens. In each camp there was a sick-bay, and a doctor attended daily.

The evacuees, while appreciative of the hospitality extended to them by the people of Northern Ireland did not fancy the thought of spending many winters there after experiencing the first winter in Northern Ireland.

When it snowed heavily, the doors of the huts became blocked by the amount of snow accumulated in front of the doors. If it had been snowing during the night, a family member of the evacuees had to creep out through the windows in the morning to remove the snow from the doors so that the rest of the family could get out of the huts. However, for the young evacuees, snowing came as an enjoyment as they could skate by making sleighs with wooden boards.

In November 1944, Miss Florence Horsbrugh, Parliamentary Secretary to the British Ministry of Health, visited the camps to find out for herself the living conditions in the camps.

Hector also wrote about his school days in Northern Ireland and his schoolmate Dr William Brownless, who visited Gibraltar as Ballymena Deputy Mayor, also met up with other school mates in Gibraltar such as Dr Bacarese-Hamilton, Sergio Martinez and Bob Durrell.

In 1998 Ballymena commemorated the 50th anniversary of the closing of the camps with wide press coverage and stories connected with those evacuees who were born or married there and some of the evacuees who married locals and stayed behind in Northern Ireland.

In 2004 Mr Albert Poggio, born in Northern Ireland, visited Ballymena and met with Mayor Councillor Hubert Nicholl. Mr Poggio had visited Ballymena on two previous occasions. On one of these occasions he also met with his cousin, Joe DePratto, who was running a Fish and Chicken Inn.

In 2002 the Ballymena Guardian carried a story about Mr Alex Patterson, who fell in love with a Gibraltarian girl, but as she had to leave for Gibraltar Alex was left with a broken heart. During 2002, a contingent from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment carried out some training at St Patrick's barracks.

Some of those undergoing training had families who had been evacuated to Northern Ireland and inevitably the stories of their families in the camps cropped up.

In 2004 the Down Recorder published a story about Mary Croskery. She was a nurse in Downpatrick and looked after the Gibraltar evacuees in the camp and then accompanied the group of Gibraltar evacuees who were repatriated to Gibraltar in April 1945.

In October 2005, one of these groups visited the camps accompanied by the Bishop of Gibraltar Monsignor C.Caruana and Father C.Azzopardi to take a replica of the statue of the Lady Of Europe to Northern Ireland.

Bishop Charles Caruana, Father Charles Azzopardi and Mr Alex Patterson. Photo Mr J Grech.

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Group of ex-evacuees who visited the camps in 2005. Photo Mr M Gomez.

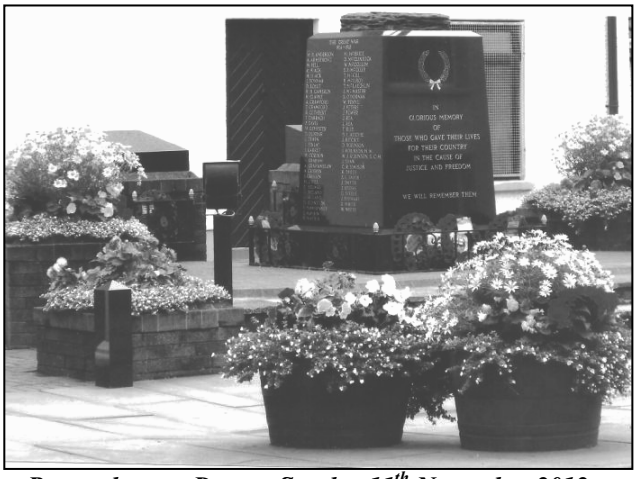
In 2006 ceremonies were held both in Ballymena and Gibraltar to celebrate the twinning of both cities with a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding based on the historical links between the two communities.

The twinning delegation visiting the cemetery at Ballymena where some Gibraltarian evacuees are buried. Photo Mayors' office.

In May 2013 I met with members of the Ballymena Lions Club when they visited Gibraltar for the twinning ceremonies between the Ballymena and the Gibraltar Lions Clubs which was held at the Mayor's Parlour and at my evacuation exhibition.

Camp No.8 – Dunaird marked as an historic site. Ballymena Twinning Ceremony Collection.

During our "Meet and Talk" meetings we were able to exchange invaluable information about the evacuees in Northern Ireland. I was particularly impressed to find out, from the visitors from Ballymena, that the Gibraltar evacuees were still affectionately remembered by the people of Ballymena and that those who had remained behind had integrated fully into the Ballymena life and community and got on well together. The kindness shown to the evacuees by the majority of the local community has never been forgotten. As a show of fondness towards the Gibraltar evacuees, a wreath is laid every year in memory of the Gibraltar evacuees at the Cenotaph in Brougshane by a member of the McCoubrie family who have family connections in Gibraltar.



Remembrance Day on Sunday 11th November 2012 a wreath was laid in memory of the Gibraltar evacuees.

I am grateful for all the information I was able to obtain from members of the Lions Club in Ballymena, including photographs, which I have used to enhance my research about the Gibraltar evacuees in Ballymena.

In 2014 the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the Gibraltar evacuees in Northern Ireland was celebrated with the launch of a brochure published by the Mid-Antrim Museum titled Gibraltarian Camps in Country Antrim (1944-1948). The brochure gives a detailed explanation of the sites of the camps as part of Ballymena's historical tourist attraction.

For many years now many Gibraltarians have visited the camps either individually or in groups.

During 2015, Mr Gordon McRoy and I researched and exchanged information about the evacuees living in the camps in County Down and especially about Saintfield - Camp No. 4. In this camp there were about 325 evacuees. When the evacuees arrived at Saintfield camp they were greeted by Mr Alfredo Balban playing the bagpipes.

Many of the Jewish evacuees lived in Camp No.4, known by the evacuees as the 'Jewish Camp.' because of the many Jews living in the camp.

Among the evacuees was Mrs Rachel Beniso (*nee* Cohen) and the home of Reverend Benzimbra, who ministered to all the Gibraltarian Jews in Northern Ireland. The Jews in Saintfield kept in close contact with the Belfast Jewish community. Mrs Beniso's father, Mr Abraham Cohen, became a personal friend of Belfast's Rabbi Shachter. The Jews in Belfast used to come and visit the Jewish evacuees in Saintfield.

"Gib" table tennis winning team.
Front row l to r: O.Borge, V.Lia, A.Rodriguez.
Back row l to r: A.Saltariche, P.Montegriffo, E.Garcia, C.Montegriffo. Photo Mr Lia.

There were indoor games like cards, dominoes and darts. Ludo was also very popular among the evacuees. Some cricket games were played, but this sport was not very popular among the evacuees.
Evacuees even managed to organise bullfighting in one of the camps. I was told that on one occasion a lot of contraptions were placed in a way as to form a 'bull ring' from where the evacuees could gather behind a fence and watch the "bullfighting." Then someone brought a bull from one of the nearby farms and let it loose into the "bull ring". The bull made huge bellowing noises and began to charge against the watching crowd of evacuees. Sergio Perez, one of the onlookers, remembered that within minutes everybody was running for their lives and disappeared.
Those in Ballymena were able to watch, alongside the locals, the latest film releases at the State or Tower cinemas.
One of the first functions arranged by the evacuees as soon as they arrived in 1944, took place near Camp No. 9, Dunaird, where a ceremony was held to pay tribute to Sir George White, a former Governor of Gibraltar, by placing a wreath on his grave.
In 1946, when Princess Elizabeth went to Belfast to name the aircraft carrier HMS Eagle, many evacuees from Saintfield travelled to Comber to see Princess Elizabeth. According to a Belfast newspaper, the Royal car was stopped and a bouquet of flowers was presented to the Princess by Miss Ivonne Abudarham on behalf of the Gibraltarians. Princess Elizabeth in reply said, "Thank you. This is very kind of the Gibraltarians."
For the children in the camps there was a special dinner and tea to mark the occasion.
In Ballymena, towards the end of the war, there were German POW's at the camp at the St Patrick's Barracks. The prisoners were brought, escorted by the guards, to watch the football matches and they were also seen shovelling coal into the coal stores near the railway lines.
Children of primary level, age attended schools in their respective camps. Children of secondary level, age had to attend schools in Belfast. To be placed in schools of higher academic standards, evacuee children were selected by means of attainment tests.

2005 picture of remaining of the primary school in

The repatriation, from the time the evacuees arrived in Northern Ireland, was carried so gradually that by the time the camps closed in July 1948 there were still about 400 evacuees left to be repatriated.
The repatriation of evacuees from Northern Ireland and a few of those still remaining in mainland Britain was proceeding at the rate of about 1,500 evacuees a year, about 125 a month. This was much slower than it had been officially announced. Owing to this, the repatriation of evacuees in Northern Ireland became an issue of great discontent among the evacuees in camps, their families and political associations in Gibraltar who were urging their early repatriation.
Many of those living nearby the camps supported the demonstrations organised by the evacuees to highlight their plight. Lady Sylvia O'Neill, of Cleggan Lodge in Ballymena, was a true champion of their cause. In an article published in a Ballymena newspaper in December 1944, Lady O'Neill described the atrocious conditions of the camps.

Evacuees demonstrating when Miss Florence Horsbrugh went to visit the camps. Photo Gibraltar Museum.

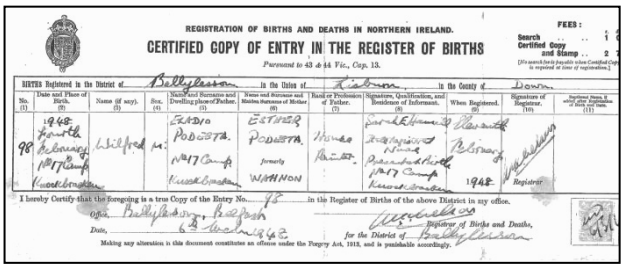
The articles ended by saying that the Gibraltarians were loyal British subjects and that it seemed a tragedy that they should feel they had had a raw deal at the hands of the British Government.

In May 1945 when the end of the war in Europe was being celebrated, the evacuees at Camp No.1 Clough turned out with their band and led the dancing on the streets of the town. At night there was also a bonfire where an effigy of Hitler was burnt. The Gibraltarian band also used to play in the fields when there were sporting events. During the VE Day celebrations, every child in the County Down districts received in addition to the sandwiches, cakes, lemonade and gifts containing some money.

Before the remaining evacuees left the camps, many evacuees, who felt that they had very little prospects of been repatriated, had already decided to leave the camps. They travelled from Northern Ireland to London at their own expense in their desperate desire to find work and for better living conditions for their families.

When the camps finally closed in July 1948, the 400 evacuees, who were still living in the camps, had to be moved to London due to the lack of accommodation in Gibraltar. The last group of evacuees remaining from the camps and repatriated from London had to wait until 1951 to return to Gibraltar. Of the 6,200 evacuees transferred from London to the camps in Northern Ireland, it is estimated that about 2,000 of these evacuees did not return to Gibraltar and decided to settle in London.

During the time that the evacuees spent in the camps from July 1944 to July 1948, inevitably, some evacuees fell in love and many relationships, among the evacuees themselves, and there were also some between evacuees and locals. As a result of these marriages, there are descendants in Northern Ireland who have family ties with Gibraltar. During this time 227 evacuees were born and 104 evacuees of all ages died. Wilfred Podesta claims to be the last evacuee to have been born in Northern Ireland. Below is a copy of his birth certificate.



REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

CERTIFIED COPY OF ENTRY IN THE REGISTER OF BIRTHS

Pursuant to 43 & 44 Vic., Cap. 13.

FEES: Search ... Certified Copy and Stamp ... 2

BIRTHS Registered in the District of Ballymena in the Union of Ballymena in the County of Down

No.	Date and Place of Birth	Name (if any)	Sex	Name and Surname and Dwelling-place of Father	Name and Surname and Maiden Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar	Signature, Name, if any, and Qualification of Minister who performed the Ceremony
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
98	1948 Fourth February No 17 Camp Kilmakeedy	Wilfred	M.	ISADIO PODESTA. No 17 Camp formerly Kilmakeedy	ESTHER PODESTA. WITHHON	None Painter	[illegible] Present at birth No 17 Camp	1948	Registrar	

I hereby Certify that the foregoing is a true Copy of the Entry No. 98 in the Register of Births of the above District in my office.

Office, Ballymena, Co. Antrim. Date, 6th March 1948

Registrar of Births and Deaths for the District of Ballymena

Making any alteration in this document constitutes an offence under the Forgery Act, 1913, and is punishable accordingly.

Since the closure of the camps, over the years, many ceremonies have been held and many books and documentaries have been published, both in Northern Ireland and Gibraltar, in connection with the Gibraltar evacuees. Newspapers in Northern Ireland have also published many personal stories about the evacuees. The Ballymena Guardian published a story about Miss Gibraltar 1975, Lilian Lara, and her connection with Aughafatten. Lilian's parents. Angela Sene and Ernest Lara fell in love while at the camps and married at St Patrick's, All Saints Church near Camp No.11- Aughafatten. During early 1995, stories were published in the Ballymena Guardian related to the marriage birth of Gibraltar evacuees in Northern Ireland. The Gibraltarian wedding between Joseph Torres and Maria del Carmen Rodriguez at All Saints' Church, officiated by Fr.Azzopardi. In another Northern Ireland newspaper, there was an article about Mr Albert Baw who worked whilst in the camp, met and married local Maureen Shields. In another issue of the Ballymena Guardian it mentioned the story of Carmen Penalver and her family at Camp No.8 – Dunnaird. Whilst working in the camp kitchen Carmen met Hugh McKay. She married Hugh and stayed to live in Northern Ireland. When interviewed for the story, Carmen told the reporter. "I will never forget Gibraltar but I like living in Ballymena. This is my home."

There was also a "double wedding" on the 2nd April 1945, at St Patrick's Catholic Church in Pennyburn, Derry where two sisters, Anna and Hortensia Celecia were married to John Figueredo and Joseph Garcia respectively. Adolfo Barboro married Maria Candeas on 1st September 1947, at a Catholic Church in Ballymena.

During the twinning ceremonies held at Ballymena, ex-Northern Ireland evacuees met with Mr Frank Bau who had married while in the camps to Miss Maureen Shield from Broughshane.

Gathering during the twinning ceremonies in 2006. From left to right Gibraltar Mayor Mr Clive Beltan, Mr Charles Gonzalez, Mr Luis Bonavia, Mr Frank Bau, Mr Luis Aldorino and Mayor of Ballymena Mr Tom Nicholl. Photo Mr L Aldorino.

In November 1995, Hector Licudi wrote an article in the Ballymena Guardian about Sonia Golt and how her father earned money selling his hand made 'butterflies' clips in a shop in Belfast. Sonia parents married in St Patrick's Church in Leeds before moving to Northern Ireland where Sonia was born.

When Miss Horsbrugh arrived in the camps there were already, evacuees protesting about the living conditions in the camps. There were slogans painted on the walls and roofs of the Nissen huts saying 'Back to Gib,' and 'We want to go home.' Evacuees were also carrying placards bearing similar messages.
Unemployment was an ongoing problem for the evacuees who had very little or no prospects of finding work in the rural areas where the camps were located. In London the evacuees had found work with relative ease, but in Northern Ireland there were residency restrictions for obtaining employment. As they were not entitled to employment benefit, they received a weekly allowance of 8s 6d a week for a married couple, 5s for a single person over the age of 15, and 2s 6d in respect of each child. The evacuees felt that these allowances did not go far enough to meet most of their basic needs, making them both poor and idle.

Miss Florence Horsbrugh chatting with children in one of the camps. Photo Gibraltar Museum.

Some evacuees managed to find work in the camps on, a rotational basis, as kitchens helpers, cooks, cleaners and labourers so that everyone had the chance of earning some money. Some of the men found work in the local farms. They were casually employed in the collection of potatoes.

Group of evacuees employed in the collection of potatoes. Photo Mr J Mascarenhas.

An evacuee explained that they waited at the gate of the farms in the mornings and then the farmers would come along and choose some workers from among the evacuees gathered at the gates.
Some evacuees also worked in the pulling of flax and in its processing plants. Some evacuees managed to be employed in a leather factory in Shrigley.

In camp No. 8, Dunaird there was an evacuee who was a dressmaker and apparently had many customers. A few evacuees even managed to work in the Belfast shipyard. Some evacuees received offers to work in London, but travel permits were only granted for work of national importance.

Evacuees enjoying the snow. Photo Mrs Risso.

At the request of a number of the Gibraltarian evacuees representatives of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union met the Minister of Health, Mr Grant. They said they had received complaints from their members about general conditions in the camps, referring in particular, to the lack of employment. The Minister replied that the general conditions of the camps were as good as could be provided.

Despite their continued desire to return home, the evacuees found many ways to occupy their time and raise their spirits. The evacuees were seen by the local population as very musical people, fond of singing and playing instruments. There are many reports of concerts which gathered evacuees from the various camps. Performers often made their own costumes for these events. There were also craft competitions and other events to keep the evacuees occupied. During their stay in Northern Ireland many evacuees also took part in many sporting events, cultural and recreational activities organised among themselves and also in conjunction with the local communities. The main sport was football.

They played among the teams formed in the camps and against the local teams. In Ballymena, these games were played at Summerfield Football Field. One local youngster, who played against the evacuees' teams, commented that it was the first time he had seen footballers playing with sweatband around their heads and that some of Gibraltar evacuees were very good players.

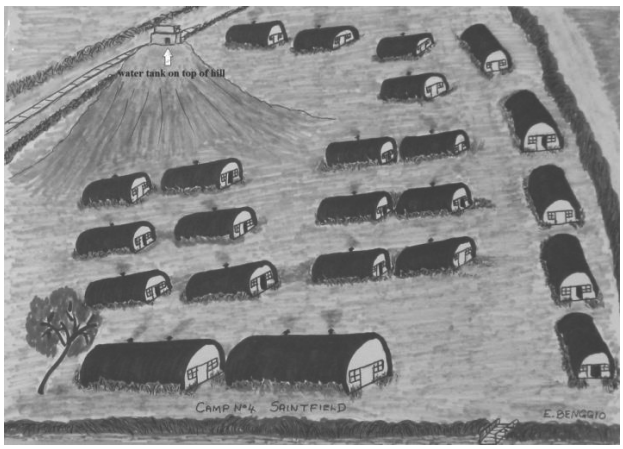
The Gibraltar team in Ballymena was named "Rock" and took part in local league and friendly games. One of the highlights of the Gibraltar team's achievements came when they reached the final of the summer league but were beaten by a Ballymena side BB United.

Table tennis became a very popular indoor sport. Teams from various camps competed against each other in an inter-camp table tennis championship. The winning team was from camp no.10. Aughacully and the runner up was Camp No.2 Cargagh.

The Gibraltar Football Team Northern Ireland.
1. M.Asquez Snr 3.F.Asquez, 4.S. Gonzalez, 5.M.Asquez, 6.Delagua, 7. M. Victory 9.W.Walker, 10.Saltariche? 12. V.Balban. Photo Mrs Lima.

Participants of one the many singing groups formed in the camps.
2. Albert Wall, 4.Jose Victory 5.Joseph Forbes, 6.Afredo Aonso 7.Alberto Sciacaluga, 8.Juan Ramos, 10. Juaquin Mauro 12.Ricardo Olivares,13.Luis Gomez 14.Delagua,15.Juaquin Gomez, 16.Francis Mauro,17.Manolo Celecia,19.Victor Ignacio,21.Momo Ignacio, 22.Jeronimo Ignacio, 23.Mario Mendoza, 24.Johnny Ramos, 25Annie Parody,(Ignacio),
26. Alicia Galia,27.Lourdes Olivares (Mrs Chipolina), 28.Mariluz Olivares(Mrs Chipol), 29.Loli Ignacio, 31.Emily Olivares (Mrs Latter), 32. Carmen Gomez, 33. Margot Mesillio(Mrs Martinez) 34.Lourdes Sacarello (Mrs Randall), 36.Olga Ramos, 37.Obdulia Pipo, 38.Claudia Ignacio,39.Angeles Olivares (MrsMcKay), 40. Luis Chipolina, 42.Lola Delagua, 43. Alicia Ferro.44.Fr.Murphy, 45.Lucio Randall, 46.Hook,47.Marinel Orciel, 49.Eduardo Garcia, 50.Ignacio. Photo Mrs Latter.

In the drawing by Mr Benggio it can be seen that there was a building at the top of a molehill with a tank that supplied fresh water to the camp.



Drawing of Saintfield Camp by Mr Elias Benggio

Pollution of the Glasswater River from flax production rendered the river water, stinking and undrinkable at times and water had to be brought to the camp from elsewhere at considerable trouble. Charlie Tribello noted "There were a railway line and a small river running south of the camp. Sometimes it used to be smelly in the camp when the farmers were working with flax."

The building at the top of the hill. Photo taken in 2014 by Mr Gordon McRoy.

The foundations and steps of a larger Nissen hut of what used to be Saintfield camp can still be seen. This hut was the dining hall where the evacuees sat at the long trestle tables to eat. Charlie Tribello remembers disliking the food distributed in the dining hall and said that since the food was not to the liking of the evacuees it was baked and eaten in the huts. The big hut was also used as a recreation hall for dances, film shows, and concerts and as a synagogue.

The kitchens and the sick bay were near the river. The building which used to be the laundry and a hut which was once the cold meat store can still be seen.

The locals living nearby the camps, were recruited as administrators, delivery drivers, nurses and cooks. Evacuees could collect letters and talk to the camp warden at the camp office.

Mrs Beniso worked in the camp office, distributing pocket money to the other evacuees.

The evacuees were allowed to come and go as they pleased and could stay away for the night if they informed the camp warden beforehand.

In an interview with a Belfast newspaper, the warden of Saintfield camps said, that the majority of the children spoke English and Spanish fluently and often filled the role of interpreters for the adults who could not speak English very well.

Like in most of the camps, the evacuees organized dances and concerts accompanied by their own orchestra. One of the farmers allocated a field so that the evacuees could play football and for other forms of healthy recreation.

Photo taken in 2015 of a remaining building of in what used to be Saintfield Camp. Photo Mr Gordon McRoy.

One thing which had particularly pleased the evacuees was the plentiful supply of milk arranged by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr Elias Benggio remembered that some evacuee children went about the nearby farms in Saintfield to pinch eggs. Children also used to gather wild fruits which grew near the railway line.

Mrs Beniso remembered borrowing a bicycle to explore the local country lanes, as well as getting lifts to Belfast in delivery vehicles to have tea with her friends. The secretary of the camp clubs, Louis Manuel Castro, lived at the Saintfield camp.

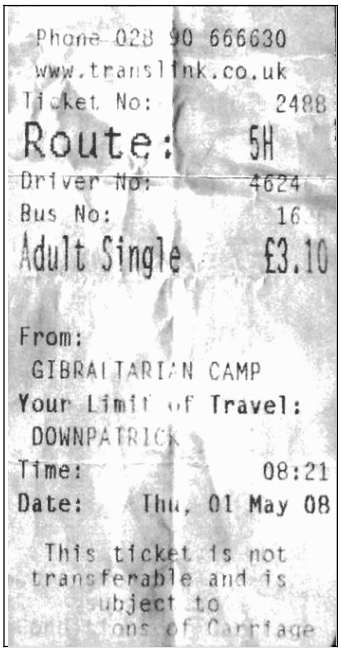
The clubs taught the girls Needlecraft, and the boys woodwork to a high standard. Although the majority of the evacuees at Saintfield were Jewish there were also some Roman Catholics. In 1946, the Camp Courier, a leaflet about the activities within the camps, reported that the Feast of Christmas was opened with Midnight Mass in the Saintfield camp attracting a large congregation celebrated by Rev. J. Barrett, Camp Chaplain. Particularly impressive and devotional was the rendering of the sacred hymns by the camp choir.

Mrs Rachel Beniso remembers making friends with local girls who worked in the camp. She said that nobody looked down on the evacuees or anything like that. Charlie Tribello remembers that relations with the Saintfield people and WVS were 'very good indeed' and recalls invitations by a Mrs Coulter to visit her farm for dinner on many occasions. Inevitably, there were a few who did not on get well with each other.
Many evacuees found that there were many local people who felt sympathy for the plight of the evacuees. Mrs Rachel Beniso and other evacuees were invited by the Armytage Moores to visit Rowallane House.

Mrs Beniso and Miss Regina Benggio when they were invited by the Armytage Moores at Rowallane House. Photo Mrs R Beniso

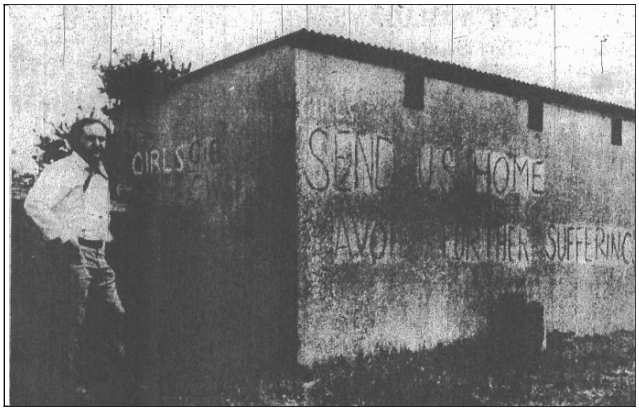
After the Gibraltarians left Saintfield, locals squatted in the camp as there was a severe shortage of accommodation in the district. At the Saintfield camps there were a few cases of evacuees and administrators who were taken to Court accused of stealing. There was one case of an evacuee being accused of stealing a blanket, the property of the Ministry of Health.
The defendant argued that he was simply using the blanket outside of the hut as a coat to protect himself from the freezing weather and when he returned to the hut it was used again a blanket!
A caterer of Saintfield camp was fined for stealing goods from the camp store to the value of £1.9s 9d. Among the stolen goods was kosher margarine. Evacuee, Mr Abraham Cohen, had to collaborate with the investigation so as to the authenticity of the kosher margarine.
Another evacuee pleaded guilty to stealing a set of tools worth over £2 which he intended to sell for a few shillings as he was out work.
Two evacuees were accused of stealing or alternatively receiving goods worth nearly £200. The goods comprised of furniture, kitchen utensils, clothing, towels and tinned foods.

Memories of the wartime camp have faded, but not, it seems, with Ulster buses. In 2008, the bus tickets from Saintfield to Downpatrick, still showed the starting point as 'Gibraltarian camp'.



Bus ticket as Gibraltar camp memento. Mr G McRoy

When Mr Henry Ramagge visited Cargagh Camp No.2 in 1971. On arrival at the old camp site, he could not hold back his emotion as with tears in his eyes as he wandered around the site of what once was his dwelling during his childhood.
To his complete surprise, he found such personal things like old shoes, combs, hair clips and medicine bottles. Some of them were still corked and there were broken plates and mugs dated 1942.
When Mr Ramagge was walking across the remains of the camps, he remembered the many times that he had gone to Mass with his mother, father, uncle and his brothers.



Henry Ramagge revisiting what used to be Camp No.2 Cargagh where he and his family were accommodated. As can be seen from the picture some of the graffiti could still be seen on the wall of one of the buildings in the camp. The building was the Chapel.

He also remembered snaring rabbits to supplement their diet and waiting for the turnips to fall off the trucks and then nip out to pick them up. He said that despite the slogans on the wall that reminded him of the women's impatience to get back to Gibraltar, this was the one place where they had safety during the war and that he would never forget it.

When the evacuees arrived in Northern Ireland, a Unionist MP raised objections to the presence of the Gibraltar evacuees in preference to the Northern Ireland resident in Great Britain. An Irish newspaper reported that it feared that the religion of the evacuees, the majority of whom were Roman Catholics, was the reason for the objection.

Shortly after arriving at Camp No 1 Clough, the evacuees held Mass at the camp. At the suggestion of Fr Hugh Murphy they organized a procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the grounds of the camp and a choir sang hymns.

Procession at Camp No.1 Clough. Photo Mr M Infante

One of the things Gibraltar evacuees could not understand was the non-mixing of Protestants and Catholics. This seemed to be more noticeable, in social gatherings like dances in the camps which were attended by young people of both communities. They would not even dance together.

Clive Martinez by the grave of St Patrick when he visited Camp No.2 Cargagh, where was he accommodated. Photo Mr C Martinez.

During the last stages of my research for this supplementary book, I was contacted by researchers from the local history society in Londonderry so as to exchange information about the Gibraltar evacuees in Warbleshinney, Molenan, Tagherina and Ballyarnett camps. Some of the remains of the buildings, where these camps were, can still be seen.

The remains of the Warbleshinney camp. Photo Mr A Glendfield.

The remains of Tagherian camp. Photo Mr A Glenfield

The following is an extract from the views expressed by those who lived nearby to some of these camps.

One of the many problems that arose was schooling for the evacuees of school age. Mrs. Jessie Bredin, Principal of Greerstown Public Elementary School with an enrollment of about 40 pupils, was not well equipped to cope with an influx of imperfect English speakers. Some children did, however, attend Greerstown for a short time until other arrangements were made for them.

The Gibraltarians never really took to cricket which, at that time, was being played by the Greerstown Cricket Club in Bredin's field across the Burngibbagh from the camp, but some of them did try to persuade Bredin's bull to charge a red cape. They were quickly persuaded that it would not be in their best interests to try again.

They had to use their own initiative to find something to do. Some did organize trips to Buncrana and Letterkenny. A weekly dance in the refectory drew in many young people from the Glendermott valley.

Researches carried out in Northern Ireland found that the buildings were seriously inadequate in winter for people from the Mediterranean, though, taking into account the housing standards of the time, the people living in cottage houses were not much better off. A researcher, in his findings, said that it was no wonder that the evacuees painted on the water tower at the junction of the Trench Road and the Curryfree Road: "We want to go back to Gibraltar". The camps were indeed cold and in winter it looked miserable

When the evacuees left, some of the Nissen huts were bought by local farmers. Some of these huts throughout the years rusted away or were demolished. The camps were built by Northern Ireland contractors. Freddy Montgomery remembered that one of the huts was occupied by the Maturo family. Mrs Maturo approached Mrs. Montgomery and asked to be allowed to use her sewing machine for dressmaking. She worked in the Montgomery farmhouse and sold her garments to fellow Gibraltarians.

Each of the four Gibraltarian camps in Londonderry had a similar number of employees and work was thus provided for many local people. The canteen staff served three meals a day in the refectories; squads of men were involved in cleaning; and there was a Camp Engineers' department.

Some local family members remember meeting Gibraltarian evacuees, at their weekly dance in Warbleshinny camp, when they returned for holidays at Greerstown in 1944.

What did the people of Northern Ireland think about the Gibraltarian evacuees?

According to those who lived near the camps, they said that they found the evacuees friendly and willing to play their part in local activities. They were musical people and put on camp concerts which received glowing reports in local press. They learned to fight for their civil and political rights and lost any feelings of inferiority they had for the colonial government and felt justly proud of the part they had played in the war effort.

During their stay in Northern Ireland the fluency in English improved significantly among the evacuees, specially, the younger ones.

They were admired for their courage in facing the difficult conditions in the camps and for their tenacity in their efforts to fulfil their desire to return home.

After nearly seventy years since the last evacuees left the camps, the memories of their stay still linger in Northern Ireland.

The next pages depict photographs of evacuees taking part in plays, concerts, as family groups and groups of evacuees in different camps.

In the front row on the fare left are Mr Angel Mosquera and Mrs Amelia Mosquera (wearing as stripped dress). The boy in the front row in the middle with his arms folded is Mario Mosquera. The Mosquera family were in a camp in County Antrim. Photo Mr L Lopez.

Photos by Alfie AlmeidaCamp No 1 at Clough County Down in 1945. Freddy Almeida, in front of his father Mr Anthony Almeida holding two year old daughter Margaret. Mr Pitaluga crouching, bottom row. The heads at the top are Lionel Victory to the right of Mario Schiacaluga (with hair in disarray!), one of the Estella brothers, Mr Grech with shirt and tie, and the partial head to his left Mr Hemmi. The young boy on the right is believed to be Bill Mc Bride.

In the front row, third from the left is Mrs Isabel Jordon Cruz. Photo Mrs M Oton.

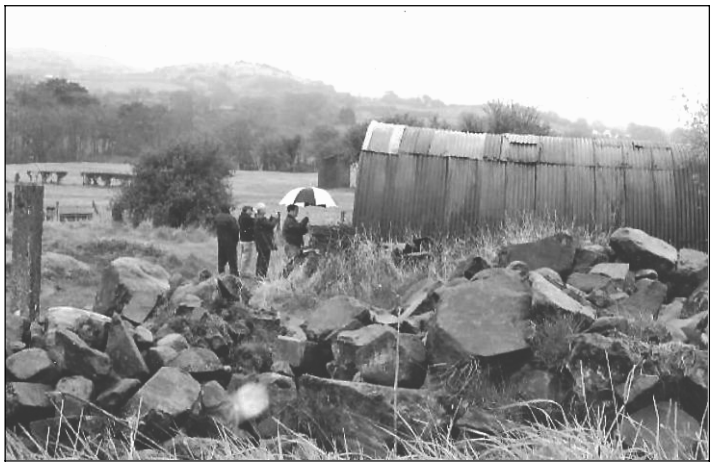
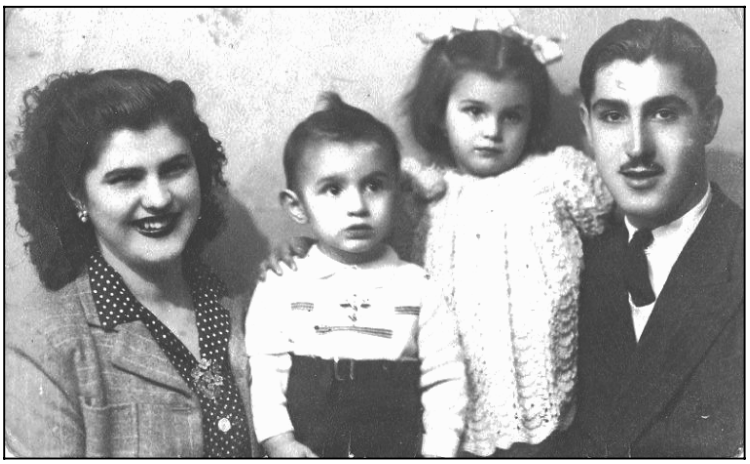


Photo taken in 2006 of the remains of one of the Nissen huts in one of the camps in Ballymena. Photo Mr L Bonavia.



The Bensadon Family in Northern Ireland
Cresencia with her husband Juan and children Elizabeth and John.
Photo Mrs S Santos.

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The Dalmedo Family In Northern Ireland
Mr Felipe Dalmedo with his wife Juana (Nee Macia) and children Maruja – At the back in front from left to right Miguel,Felipe and Alberto. Photo Mr M Dalmedo.

Lourdes Bishop ,with the plate under her arm, with her brothers and sisters when they first arrived in Ballymena.

Elizabeth Bensadon (later Baglietto and Sonia Baglietto (later Santos). Photos above and below Mrs Sonia Santos.

Sonia Baglietto (later Santos)

Sergio and Mario Alecio outside their hut in Camp no.13 Ball*yarnet. Photo Mr Alecio.*

Antonia Lezano nee Figueredo. Photo Mr Lezano

An evacuee most probably talking about food in the camps to Government official,Miss Florence Horsburgh. Photo Gibraltar Museum.

Monolo Celecia dancing flamenco with another evacuee at Camp No.2 Cargargh. Photo Mr Clive Martinez

Flor-de-Liz Caballero
Camp No.10 Aghacully. Photo Mrs Caballeros.

Francis Mauro at Crossgar 1945. Photo Mrs R Roman

Flor-de-Liz Caballero in a studio.
Photo Mrs Caballeros.

School dancing group
From left to right Lola Delagua ,...?....., Fr Murphy,
Flor de Liz Caballero, ...?.....
Photo Mrs Caballero.

1....?....2 Andrea Ferro 3 ...?.... 4.Daisy Power 5.Eddie Power 6.....?... 7.Elena Bagna 8.Gladys Power,9.Richard Power 10.....?.....11....?.... 12....?.....13.....?. Photo Mr R Power

Above in white dress 12 year old Araceli (Sally) Candeas later Mrs Barker with friend at Camp No. 5 Tawnybrack. The photo was taken just after Sally had left hospital. She became seriously ill in the camp and had to be taken to the hospital in Ballymena.

Above from left to right ....?..... Obdulia Gonzalez (nee Candeas) Margot Marshall at Twaneybrack Camp.Photo Mrs O Gonzalez.

Obdulia Candeas

Obdulia Candeas with Miss Henry

In the photo from L to R: Adolfo Barboro, Obdulia Gonzalez (nee Candeas),Araceli Barker (nee Candeas),Adolfo Barboro,Maria Barboro (nee Candeas),Emilia Barboro,Obdulia Asquez(nee Barboro),Andres Candeas.

Mr and Mrs Candeas by their hut. All photos Mrs O Gonzalez and Mrs A Barker.

Above and below John and Charles Tribello at Camp No 4 Saintfield. Photo above and below Mr C Tribello.

Mrs Leonor White holding her son George in camp No 17 Carryduff. Photo Mr G White.

Mrs Mary Ferro, Willie March ...?... in Northern Ireland. Photo Mrs I Fa.

Evacuees at Camp No 5 Tawnybrack.

1 Luis Carruana, 5.Mr Massetti, 6. Mr Guerrero, holding his son 20. Andrew Guerrero, 21. Iris Sayers, 28.Jeffrey Ferrar, 30. Olga Massetti , 33. Elizabeth Pinna (nee Bruzon), 34. Mariano Bruzon, 18. Johnny Sayers, 38. Lolo Camezuli.

Photo taken by the Sick Bay at Camp No. 5.Tawnybrack

1.Mr Ferrar 2.Mrs Ferrar 3.Mrs Agius 4.Margaret Marshall 5.John Marshall 6. Guillermo surname unknown 7.Lilian Marshall 8.Dennis Ferrar 9.Jeffrey Ferrar 10.Harry Marshall.

In very camp there was a sick bay attended by a nurse and a representative from the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service seen in the photo. Photos Mr J Ferrar.

Jeffrey Ferrar,Mrs Margarita Ferrar, Cousin Andrew Guerrero,Mr and Mrs Guerrero, Mrs Mercedes Monger, Johnny and Eddis Sayers.

Mrs Margaret Ferrar

The Ferrar and the Guerro family and Mrs Agius.
Jeffrey Ferrar is the boy standing on the left in front. All photos on this page Mr J Ferrar.

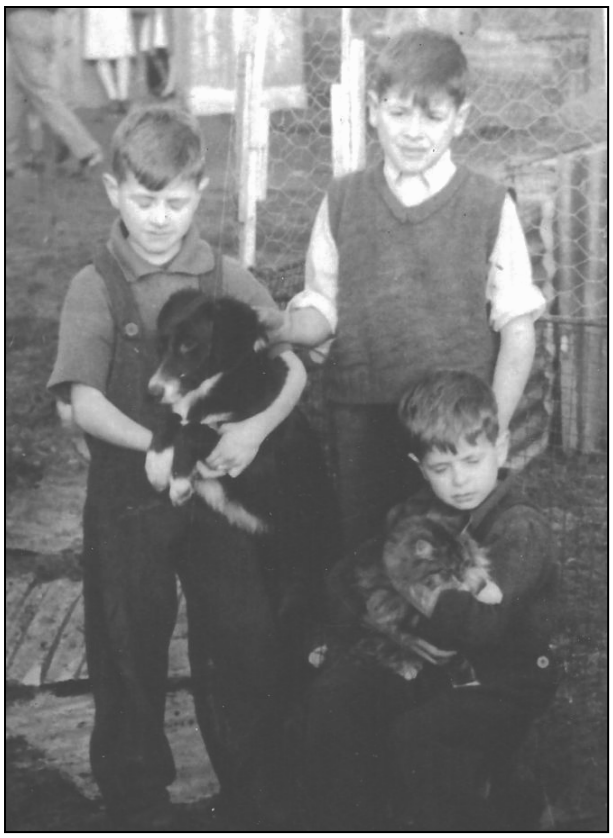
Jeffrey and Dennis Ferrar

Mrs Mercedes Agius

Mr and Mrs Ferrar with their sons Jeffrey and Dennis. Also in the photo is Mrs Mercedes Agius.

Jeffrey Ferrar with his cousin Andrew Guerrero and Mr Miguel Cornelio.

All photos Mr J Ferrar.



The Porter Brothers

Mrs Francisca Porter Cardona with her children Henry, William and James. All photos except the one below by Mr J Porter.

Williams, James and Henry Porter

Older child is Alice Dyer young child Lillian Rocca. Photo Mrs M Zammitt.

Mr G.Gaskin and Mr Eull Dunlop in front of Ross Orange Hall where kids went to see and hear the Lambeg Drums being played.

Mr Guillermo and Mrs Rogelia Gaskin with their sons from left to right George,Alfred,Francis and Luis in front of their hut and chicken coop behind at Tawnybrack Camp.

Mrs Rogelia Gaskin and sons at Tawnybrack Camp.
All photos Mr G Gaskin.

Mrs Maria Perez and her grandson Sergio Perez at Camp No. 11 - Breckagh Bridge. Photos above and below Mr S Perez.

Sergio Perez

From left to right: At the back Elena Bagna,....?.....,....?.....,Luisa Navas In front:Maria Sanchez,.....?..... Photo Mr R Power.

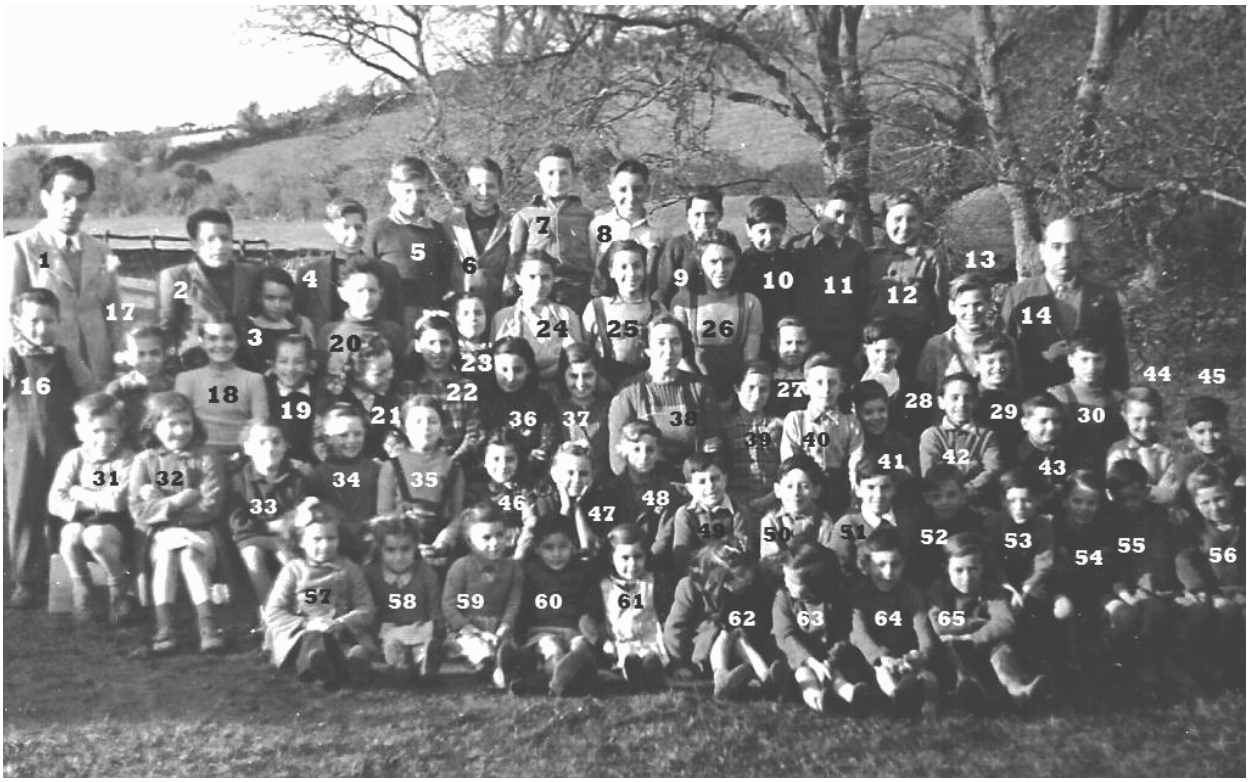
Mrs Joaquina Gonzalez,Mr Julio Gonzalez,Mari-Carmen Osborne (nee Gonzalez) Matilde Correa (nee Gonzalez) Charles Gonzalez. Photo Mr C Gonzalez.

The Aldorino family. Standing at the back left to right Luis and Eduardo Aldorino. In front left to right Julio Aldorino Mrs Pepa Davis and Johnny Davis. Photo Mr L Aldorino.

1 .Josephine Podesta, 2 Sciacaluga 3 Morello 4 Pippo 5 Lourdes Olivares (Chipolina), 6. Maruja Olivares (Bear), 7. Lucio Randall, 8 .Escalona, 9 . Joaquin Gomez, 10 .Garcia, 11. Kitchen Staff, 12. American Service Man Visiting ,13 Kitchen Staff, 14 and 15 Admin Staff 16 Nk 17 Nk 18. Rafael Mifsud, 19. Juan Ramos, 20 NK, 21 NK, 22 Elena Caruana, 23. Charlie Tribello, 24 George Latter, 25 Nk , 26 Nk ,27 Maribel Gomez,28. John Gomez, 29. Nk ,30. Jaime Ignacio, 31. Nk , 32. Nk . ,33. Alicia Caballero, 34. Daisy Hook, 35.EmilyLivares(Latter),36. Nk, 37.Ignacio, 38,Ignacio , 39. Nk, 40. Ignacio , 41 Carmelia Olivares (Porter) 42 Doris Olivares (Sene), 43. Nk, 44. Lola Delagua, 45 .Alicia Ferro Chipulina, 46. Maribel Mauro, 47 Ernesto Caballero, 48. Johnny Olivares , 49 Nk ,50 . Johnny Ramos,51 Johnny Tribello ,52 .Eduardo Ramos, 53. Nk, 54. Elisabeth Joaquin, 55. Ignacio , 56. Nk , 57. NK , 58. Nk. Photo Mr C Tribello.

Evacuees in the snow

Above Gibraltar evacuees at Camp No.4 Saintfield
At the back L to R: Joseph Gabay Rev.Benzibra, Harry Porter, Alfonso Moss,
Mesoda Benady, David Cohen, Abensur, …?... …?.... George Azopardi.
In front L to R.Tommy, Nahon (young woman), J.Beriro, Monolo Segui, Jose Castro, Benarosh,
Raquel Gabay, G.Azopardi's Granddaughter – Maricarmen Netto. Photo Mr A Moss



Gibraltarian Evacuee Children, Derry 1944.
8. Michael Baldachino 14.Hortencio Arturo Baglietto (teacher) 26. Maria-Angeles Picasso Margot Picasso (now Bottari) 50. Luis Baglietto 51. Alfred Picasso

Lourdes Padiña (Mrs Baglietto) with her parents John and Rogelia and sister Elizabeth.

Lourdes Padiña (Mrs Baglietto) with family and friends

Lourdes Padiña (Mrs Baglietto) outside her hut

Sylvia Padiña (Mrs Kay) with friend.

All photos Mr Kay.

Children at the nursery at Twaneybrack Camp

1.Charles Harrison 2. ? 3.James Kinder 4. Peire 5.Braulio Martinez 6.Luis Kinder 7.Antonio Almeida 8.? 9.Victor Sciacaluga 10.? 11.Alfonso Garcia 12.? 13.Pepe Moreno 14.? 15.Hilda Peire 16.Maruja Macedo 17.Mario Sciacaluga 18.Teresa Alvarez 19.Elsie Sanchez 20.Rogelia Lavagna 21.Laurio MacEwen 22.Mary Grech 23.Violeta Alvarez 24.Ana Sufredo 25.Ocana 26.Elena Bado 27.Salvador Sciacaluga 28.Violeta Bado29.Salvador Holliday 30.Pepi Lavagna 31.Juan Bado 32.Aida Lavagna 33.Aida Ochelo 34. Olga Ocana 35.? 36.? 37.?38. Alfred Almeida 39.MacEwen 40.? 41. Morley 42.? 43.Ochelo 44.Octavio Victory 45.Antonio Lavagna 46.Jacinto Cabrera 47.Saccone 48.Antonio Victory 49. Fr Hugh Murphy 50.Juan Cruz 51. Harry Fernandez 52.Juan Ochelo 53.Ochelo 54. Tito Cruz 55.Tommy Estela 56. Walter Feetham 57.Lionel Victory 58.Antonio Ochelo 59.Tete 60.Manolo Gonzalez 61.Julio Alvarez. Photo Mr H Fernandez

THE GIRBRALTAR VICTORY BAND IN NORTHERN IRELAND
During a concert held at Camp No. 1(Clough) in 1945.
At the Piano Harry Fernandez Ernest Cruz (accordion) Jacinto Ventura (guitar) Juan Cruz (conductor) Walter Feetham (mandolin) Thomas Estella (mandolin) Juan Ochello (banjo) Lionel Victory (drums). Photo Mr E Cruz

L TO R back row Bill Crompton,Johny,Amanda and Pepe Martinez,Merci Crompton, (nee De La Cruz) front row Eddie Crompton,Menchi Martinez holdingbaby Valerie Crompton,John Martinez, Clive Martin

During the war Mercedes received a letter from the war office saying that Bill had been lost in action and presumed dead and the whole family was mourning. After the war Bill arrived alive and well. He was one of the British soldiers who had helped to build the railway along the bridge on the River Kwai. The photo taken after he came to visit us in Cargagh Camp. Just thought it was an interesting bit of history. Valerie, the baby, is his daughter.

Amanda Martinez holding baby Valerie Crompton,Eddie Crompton and Clive Martinez in Camp No. 2 Cargah

Left to right; Pepe Martinez,Victor Gonzalez,Joe Acris and Joe Formoza. All photos Mr C Martinez.

The Martinez family
Back row, left to right Joseph (Pepe), Amanda and Johnny Martinez,front row left to right Clemencia (Menchi) Martinez Nee Santos, Clive and John Martinez.

Clive Martinez

Clive Martinez with other children in Camp No. 2

Mrs Clemencia Martinez with her son Clive

Clive Martinez when he visit the site of Camp No.2 – Cargagh. All photos Mr C Martinez.

Lourdes Bishop

Carmen Bishop in Ballymena studio

Amanda Martinez and Flocy Cartwright
Photos above and below Mr C Martinez.

Margaret and Alice Power.
Photo Mr W Power

Mercedes(Nee De La Cruz) and Eddie Crompton

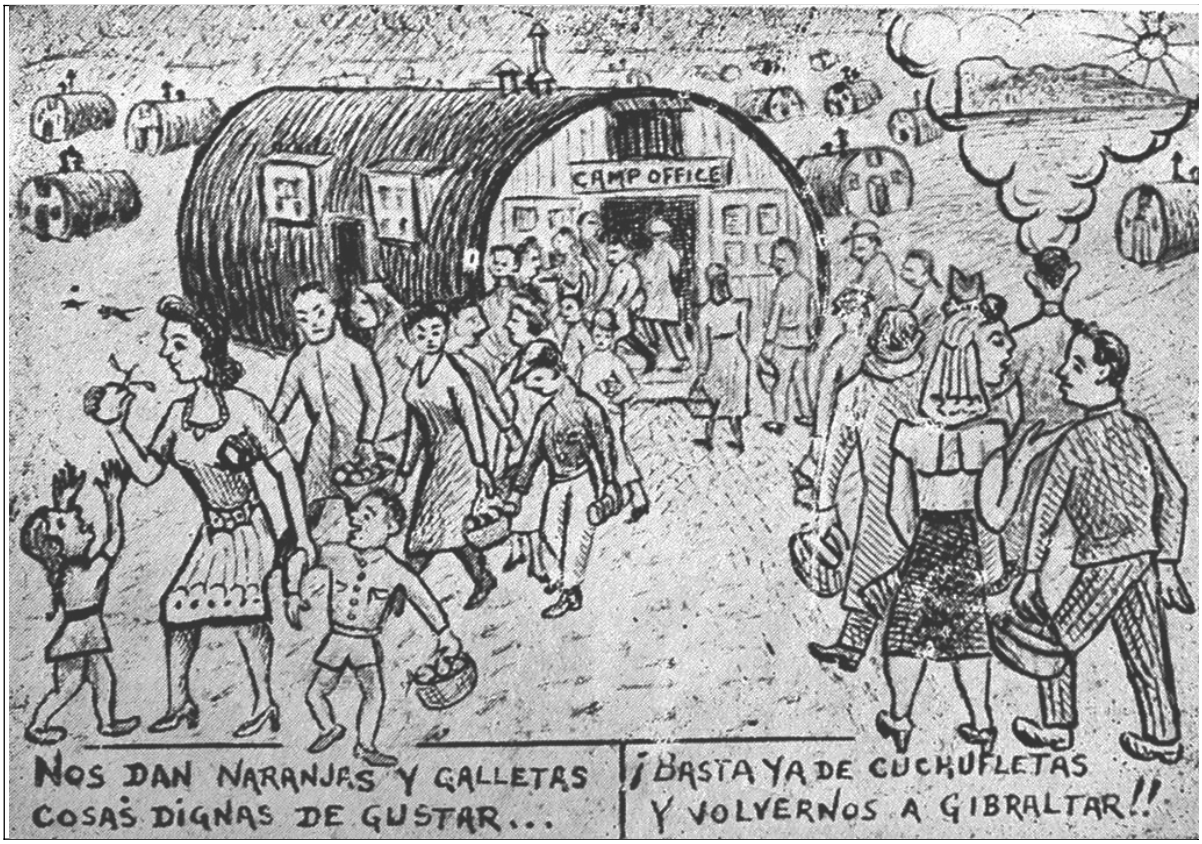
Main actors in the Moreno Clara play
Left to right A. Olivero,Benito Olivero,Aida Ochello and Jacinto Carreras
The play took place at camp No.1 Clough in County Down. Photo Mr Olivero.

Mrs Hermina and Mr Moses Abecasis. Photo Mrs Gentila Bridges.

Although reluctant to leave Gibraltar, Mr Abecais was evacuated due to his hearing impediments. By coincidence, Mrs Baglietto a widow with two children and Mr Abecasis were evacuated at the same time although on different ships. They met at Islington, London, where they married their daughter gentile was born.

Mr Moses Abecasis and his wife Herminia with children Manolo and Mercy Baglietto and Gentila Abecasis.
Photo Mrs Mercy Brown.

Standing first from the left Mrs Lourdes Robinson (nee Montegriffo). Photo Mrs Tricia Robin-Tsatsoulis.



An evacuee's illustration of live in the Camps.

Play held at Camp No.10 Aghacully
Introducing the play are from left to right Mr Mosquera,Mr Gustavo Iche,Mr Calamaro, and next dressed as maid is Mrs Francisca Calamaro.

1.Araceli Gonzalez ,2.Gustavo Iche, 3. Lourdes Montegriffo (Mrs Robinson), 4. ? 5. Zoraida Hermida(Mrs Santos),6. ...?... ,7.Aida Sanchez,8...?....9.....?.....10.Lourdes Padina,(Mrs Baglietto), 11.Antonia Calamaro(Schembri). Photos Mrs Tricia Robin-Tsatsouli.

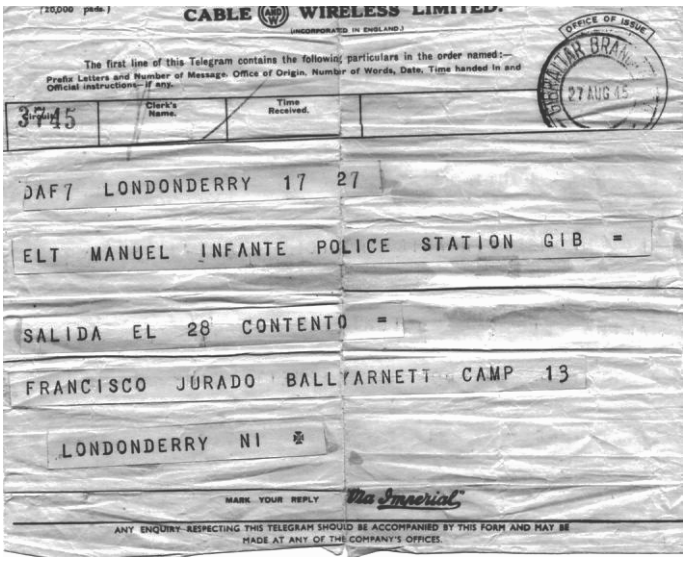
Class Gibraltar Ballymena. Lourdes Bishop 3rd from the left front row. Her sister Carmen 1st child left to right 1st row. Her sister Maria 1st child 2nd row left. Albert Bishop 3rd row from the front 2nd on the right.

GIBRALTARIANS KNIT GARMENTS FOR DUTCH CHILDREN

Mrs O Bruzon, president of the Mothers' Club at the Tawnyback and Castlegore Camps, near Ballymena, handing over garments to the WVS for Dutch children. To the left is Juan Cassaglia, the only male member of the club, who cuts out the garments for the mothers. Also in the photograph are Mrs G K Paul, Ministry of Health Officerand Miss A Reid,Assistant Warden ,Tawnyback Camp. Cutting Mr J Ferrar.

Evacuees campaigning to return to Gibraltar

Paco Jurado playing in the snow.



Paco Jurado with his father outside their hut in Northern Ireland. Telegraph sent by Paco Jurado to his godfather Manuel Infane telling him that he was happy to be on his way to Gibraltar. All photos Mr M Infante.

Mr George & Mrs Mariana Gaskin at Kells in June 2002.

Mayor of Ballymena Mr H Nicholl and Ballymena council Historian Mr Eull Dunlop showing G.Gaskin around.

G.Gaskin and Mr Eull Dunlop in front of the old manager's office at Tawneybrack Camp.
All photos Mr G Gaskin.

1. A. Garcia 2....?..... 3.Diaz
4. ? 5. C. Durante 9. M Durante 10.Raggio
14. M.Diaz 15. Garcia 16. M.Cornelio 17. O.Cornelio 18. V.Massetti
19.A.Abudarham 20. A.Garcia 21. Abudarham.22. L.Diaz 23. Abudarham 24.Baglietto. Photo Mr A Garcia.

3. Lourdes Montegriffo,6. Antonia Calamaro (nee Schembri), 9. Mary Fernandez, 10. Virginia Chipolina, 11.Araceli Gonzalez

Back Row: 1. Lionel Santos, 2. Amanda Martinez ,3. Florence (Flossie) Cartwright, 4. Alminda Tonna,5. Unknown 6. Jones, 7. Muriel Cartwright, 8. Alvarez, 9. Jones ,10. Navas, 11. Mena, 12. Sanchez ,13. Baglietto, 14. Unknown, 15. B.Mena.
Third Row: 1. Joseph (Pepe) Martinez, 2. Victor Gonzalez ,3. Joseph (Joe) Formosa ,4. J.Fa, 5. Prescott, 6. Unknown, 7. L.Hitchcock, 8. J.Ellul ,9 Baglietto, 10. John (Johnny) Martinez Jr. ,11. A.Ferro, 12. Joseph (Pepe) De La Cruz.
Second Row: 1. M.Dalmedo, 2. B.Rice 3.J.Catania, 4. Jones, 5. John Martinez, 6. Captain Bateman-Fox ,7. Mrs. Bateman-Fox, 8. Perera, 9. Joseph (Pepe) Noguera, 10. Victory, 11. Rice, 12. Powel, 13. J.Fa.
Front Row: 1. Dalmedo, 2. Dalmedo, 3. Unknown, 4. Hilda Tonna, 5. Olivero, 6. Ramagge, 7. Unknown, 8.Formosa, 9. Navas, 10. Alvarez, 11. Catania. Photo Mr C Martinez.

1.?,2. Mariluz Olivares (Chipol), 3. ?, 4.Emily Olivares(Latter), 5 Claudia Ignacio ,6. Jeronimo Ignacio, 7.Jaime Ignacio , 8.Margot Mesilio (Martinez), 9.Lourdes Olivares (Chipolina), 10. Richard Olivares, 11. Annie Parody (Ignacio),12. ?

School Children
5.W.Collins, 6. Hortencia Neale (Zammutt), 11.B.Collins, 12.Aida Neale (Falzum). Photo Mrs B Gracia.

Standing on the left Araceli Candeas (Mrs Barker) with nursery children. Photo Mrs S Barker.

The Pilcher family in Northern Ireland.
Standing from left to right; Alice, Francis, Sydney, Paca (friend to Richard), Richard, Olga.
Sitting on the chairs, a family friend, Kitty
Sitting on the grass: Sylvia, Doris. Photo Mrs M Vella.

Alfredo, Mercedes and Alberto Dalmedo

Mr Alfredo and Mrs Maria Dalmedo with their sons Alberto, Afredo and daughter Mercedes. Photos Mr J.Dalmedo.

The Dalmedos were one the families who were transferred from London to Northern Ireland. Alfredo met his girl friend Sara Crilly in the camps and got married. While still in Northern Ireland they had a daughter Maria Elizabeth. Alfred returned to Gibraltar and had another daughter Maria Mercedes. Then they moved to England and settled Harlow, Essex where they had a son John.

Sitting on the front row 4th from the right with white dress is Mrs Elisa Baglietto (nee Goodman). Standing 3rd from the right Mrs Salud Baglietto. Photo Mrs Pilkington

Second from the left Margot Halfacre (nee Bocarisa),third from the left Mrs Elisa Baglietto (nee Goodman) and fifth from the left Maria Bocarisa. Photo Mrs Pilkington

Evacuees protesting for the delay in their repatriation.

Members of the band that performed in a play at Camp No.2. Cargagh
At the back left to right J.Felices, Pepe Noguera,Perera,...?....Rice,Machintosh .
Front row, L to R JuanMartinez, Father Hugh Murphy, Mrs. Bateman Fox, Captain Bateman Fox, Jones.

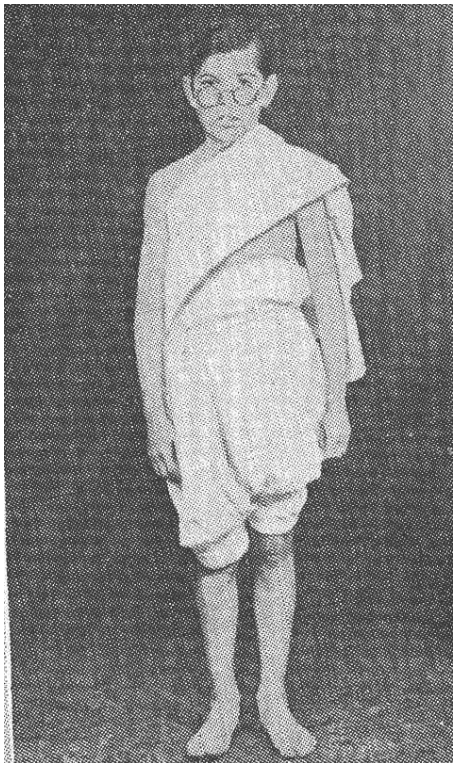
From left to right 1st Pepe de la Cruz. 2nd Amanda Martinez. 3rd Johnny Martinez. 5th Joe Formosa. 8th. Flocy Cartwright,12th Aminda Tonna, 13th Victor Gonzalez. 16th Muriel Cartwright. 17th Lawrence Hichcock?

At the back from left to right: Felices,Perera,A.Cid de la Paz,MacIntosh. All photos Mr V Gonzalez.

Photo taken at Camp No.10 (Aghacully) in Northern Ireland. First from the left Evelyn Yeo,3rd Zoraida Hermida (Santos),4th Aida Sanchez,5th Lourdes Padina and at the extreme right Clemencia Yeo.

1.....?..... 2.....?..... 3. Claudio Montegriffo
4. Araceli Gonzalez 5 Gustavo Iche 6.Evelyn Yeo 7. Lourdes Montegriffo(Mrs Robinson) 8. Zoraida Hermida (Mrs Santos)9.Aida Sanchez 10. Lourdes Padina(Mrs Baglietto)11.Antonia Calamaro (nee Schembri) 12....?....13. Antonio Calamaro. Photos Mrs Tricia Robin-Tsatsouli.

James W Acris – Shiek of Cargagh

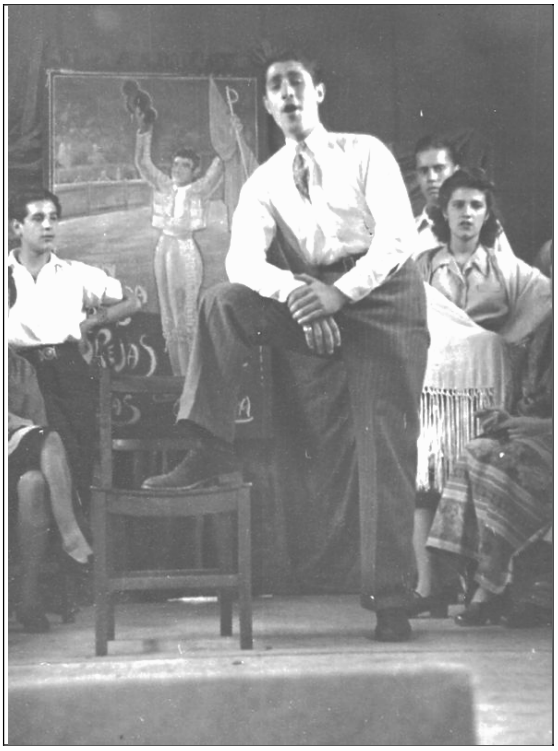


Francis Alvarez - Ghandi

Ana and Robert Alvarez – in "Top Hat"

Maribel Alvarez – India Lady

Photos Camp Courier.

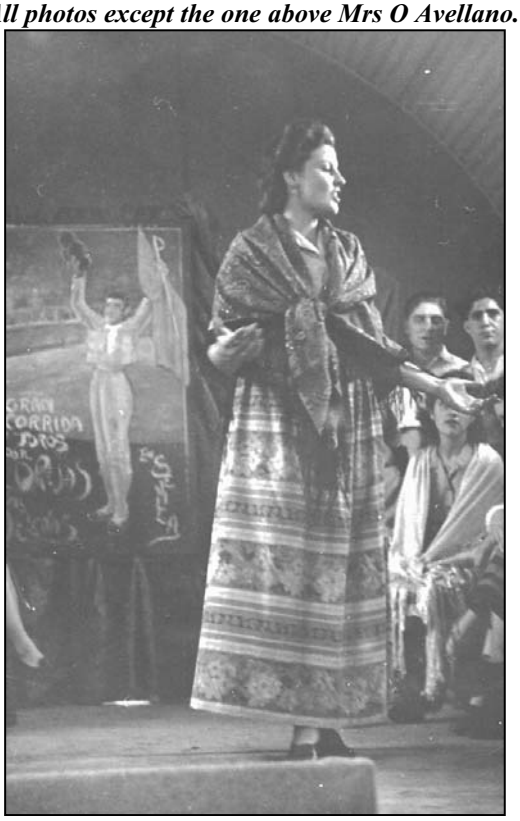


Above Antonio Raggio and Olga Cornelio later Avellano with other participants.

Lourdes Montegriffo- Photo Mrs Tricia Robin-Tsatsoulis.

All photos except the one above Mrs O Avellano.

Olga Cornelio later Avellano with Antonio Raggio taking part in a variety show.



Clemencia Yeo taking part in a play at Camp No.10 Aghacully on 9.11.1944

At the back from left to right Edward Corby Cyril Pikes
In front Eddie Power, Idilia Navas, Mabel Power, Carlota Navas.

Pepe Dominguez in Northern Ireland
25.10.45. Photos above and below
Mr J Dominguez

At back from left to right Eddie Power,Richard Power,Daisy Pike,Mabel Power,Joseph Power,Edward Corby. In front Daisy Power and Gladys Power.

Mrs Elsa Dominguez
With her children Pepe,Elena and Elisenda

1...?..... 2.Idilia Navas 3....?.....,4...?.....
5. Maria Sanchez 6....?....7 Gladys Power. Photos Mr R Power.

Camp No.10 (Aughacully) table tennis team. At the back first from the left is L.Debono and far right is Pepe Gomez and kneeling in the centre Chappory and far right is Claudio Montegriffo. Photo Evacuation WW2.

Group of evacuees. Standing on the far left Claudio Montegriffo,kneeling first from the left Lourdes Montegriffo and third from the left Lourdes Padina.

The Celecia family in Warbleshinney. Married names are shown in brackets.
Left to right Aida Celecia (Bautista),Rafael Celecia Snr, Anita Celecia (Figueredo),Olga Celecia (Sanchez),Violeta Celicia(Bonavia),Ortencia Celecia (Garcia),Antonia Arias (Celecia),Rafael Celecia Jnr,
Laura Celecia (Savignon). Standing in front from left to right: Ernesto Celecia, Michael Celecia, Maribel Mahoney.
Photo Mr J Figueredo.

5 Aurelio Davis, 6.Rafael Celecia, 8. Lionel Lozano,10 Garcia, 16. Laura Celecia, 19.Olga Celecia.

Violeta Hayward with her mother Natividad Hayward in one of camps in Ballymena.

Violet Hayward (later Reyes)

1.Antonio(Tony) Grima 3.Lourdes Grima (nee Balloqui)

Camp 13 Ballyarnett, Londonderry. In the photo is Mrs Angeles Reynolds nee Arnao standing first from the left in the second row. Second from the left in the back row is Ernest Joyce.

Isabel Perez (Mrs Jassies)

Mr Jose Perez ,Hortensia Perez,(nee Viagas)
Mariola ? , Isabel Perez,Elizabeth Parody.
Photo Mrs I Jassies.

CHAPTER SIX

EVACUEES IN TANGIER AND SPAIN

Given that there were about 700 Gibraltar evacuees living in Tangier during the war I thought I would explain very briefly Tangier's political status and how it affected the Gibraltar evacuees.
In 1923 Tangier was declared an international zone governed by Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, and later, the United States. In 1935, a new agreement was signed together with Italy allowing Spain to be in charge of its administration. When the war started in 1939, France proposed to return to the 1923 status, but in June 1940, when France was struggling to halt the German invasion and Italy declared war on the side of Germany, Franco occupied Tangier with 4,000 troops.

Spanish troops entering Tangier in June 1940. Photo by Moroccan historian

The reason given for this action was to maintain Tangier's neutrality in the war. The French authorities were informed that the occupation was temporary and on behalf of the Sultan. The occupation had ,in fact, been planned in advance as part of the very ambitious plan proposed to Hitler by Franco entailing the recovery of Gibraltar, the occupation of the west of Algeria and the whole of Morocco as a prerequisite to entering the war with Germany but which Hitler rejected when they met at Hendaye in October 1940.
Immediately after its occupation, Spain changed its policy of strict neutrality to that of non belligerency. This was followed by a process of introducing Spanish influence, including media repression similar to that operating in Spain. A pro-German campaign was also engineered to give German agents and spies the necessary facilities with the re-opening of the German consulate, which the Nazis turned into the principal centre of spying and propaganda contrary to the 1923 agreement.
Some evacuees, who were in Tangier during the war, gave accounts of the very close links between the German and Spanish personnel, mainly during official and social functions. Military ceremonies were held jointly between the Spanish and German military authorities.
When French Morocco became part of the Vichy Government, the only British presence in the region was limited to Tangier and Gibraltar. From 1940 until early 1942 there was no ferry service from Gibraltar to Tangier and therefore families were unable to meet. During that period, too, there was a strong German influence in Vichy French Morocco and Spanish sympathy for the Axis powers.
During the early stages of the war, many Jews of Eastern European origin took refuge in Tangier and the community made great efforts to assist them to settle. When Spain occupied Tangier, many Jews were naturally concerned and this brought much anxiety among the community. Although Nazi propaganda and pro-Franco actions dominated Tangier's political scene and despite some anger vented against Jews no particular harm came to them.

The Levy family was one of the many Gibraltarian families who, owing to their personal circumstances, opted to leave for Tangier as evacuees. In May 1940, Mr Elias and Mrs Sarah Levy, with their son Abraham aged 3, left on board the Bland Ferry Rescue. The Levys had family connections in Tangiers and therefore decided that it was the best option available to them. Mr Levy accommodated his family in a 2 bedroom apartment in Tangier's Calle Velasquez and then returned to Gibraltar to continue his Civil defence duties as an ARP.

He continued to visit his family every weekend until 1941 when he joined them permanently in Tangiers.

Mr Elias Levy was forced to leave the family business in Gibraltar and had very limited means with which to support his family with the essentials for the first 6 months of their stay in Tangiers. But then an extraordinary series of events turned the family's fortune. Mr Elias Levy was a keen chess player who regularly played in the Cafe Rex in the Socco Grande. In one of the chess competitions he won the final against a German player.

A gentleman approached him to congratulate him on his win and introduced himself as Fortunato Wita who was the managing director of La Rentistica - the main business operation of Lord Bute in Morocco with interests in the 3 most exclusive venues in Tangiers - the Minza Hotel, the Hotel Ville de France and the club the Emsalah Gardens. They soon became great friends and Mr Levy was invited to be one of the partners in the Emsalah Gardens - which included Domingo Matta, the Spanish chief justice of Tangiers.

During the rest of the war, Mr Levy and his partners ran the Emsalah Gardens as an exclusive private club where diplomats and spies (from both the Allied and Axis side, military attaches and foreign correspondents from all over the world socialized and applied their trade.

From 1944-46 the Levy family was given a suite in the hotel Ville de France which was also owned by Lord Bute. After 1946 the family moved back to The Grand Hotel in Gibraltar (owned by the Posso family). Mr Levy commuted back to Tangiers to wind up the business until 1948 when he moved back to Gibraltar. to live permanently in Gibraltar. The family home in Cornwall's Parade was occupied by other Gibraltarian evacuees returning to Gibraltar as part of the repatriation policy. In 1948 the Levy's were able to move into their home.

Mr Elias and Mr Sarah Levy with Margarita wife of Emslallah Gardens club manager

Abraham Levy, sitting in front on the right with friends

Mr and Mrs Levy with their son Abraham and Margarita, wife of Manager of Emsalah Gardens Club.

The picture above was taken in 1944 at the Emsallah Gardens charity gala dinner where 1.5 million pesetas were raised at the benefit of widows and orphans RAF. Charity events in aid of the British war effort were regularly run. For this event Major Thompson (who worked for military intelligence and a close friend of Elias Levy) arranged for an exact replica of a spitfire to be assembled in Tangiers. The replica of the Spitfire was raffled and was won by another Gibraltarian, Judah Balensi. Singing on the stage is famous Cuban singer Antonio Machin. The Union Jack and the RAF flag can be seen flying from the top of the roof of the Emsallah Gardens Club with the victory sign in front. Photo Mr A Levy.

Mr and Mrs Levy at a dinner at the Emsalah Gardens Club with friends.
From left to right civil Spanish Governor of Tangier,Mr Juan Mondeja, next his wife,then the wife of Spanish civilian Governor,Margarita, wife of manager of Emsalah Gardens Club,Mr Elias Levy,Mrs Sara Levy, Paco ,Manager of Club and in the forefront of picture friend of Levy family.

The Levy family with friends in Tangier1942-44: The Emsallah Garden's business partners enjoying a picnic in Punta Malabata in the surrounding countryside with food provided by the Minza Hotel also owned by Lord Bute. ***At back from left to right the wife of the Spanish Civilian Governor of Tangier then Mr Elias Levy,Mrs Sarah Levy,Abraham Levy,Margarita, wife of the manager of Emsalah Gardens Club,then the wife of Juan Mondeja,Mr Fortunato Wita. Kneeling in front from left to right family friends. On the extreme right Mr Juan Mondeja. Kneeling in the forefront- Spanish Civilian Governor of Tangier.***

In this photo Antonio Machin (famous Cuban singer during the 1940s), who was a regular entertainer at the Emslallah Gardens, is seen with Mr Elias and Mrs Sarah Levy on an excursion to the Caves of Hercules outside Tangier. Abraham Levy is sitting on the extreme right of the picture.

By the time America entered the war, there were already intelligence operations from the American consul in Tangier. Later in the war the diplomatic offices of Britain and America became very essential in gathering intelligence information for the planned invasion of North Africa. In spite of some attempts at sabotage, the restrictions of press and spying on British subjects, Great Britain did everything possible to guarantee the supplying of the city with many goods including the supply of oil to Spain even though they feared that it could be transferred to the Germans. There was a shortage of many commodities, for many were resold out of the city, as it was more lucrative. This was despite the fact that there was a regular supply of basic commodities by the Allied countries of which Britain was the main supplier. The shortage was also thought to be attributed to the incompetence and corruption that was alleged to have existed within the Spanish administration of the city since its occupation. At that time, Spain was going through a period of extreme poverty as a result of the devastating effects of the Spanish Civil War and many goods were believed to have been shipped to Spain.

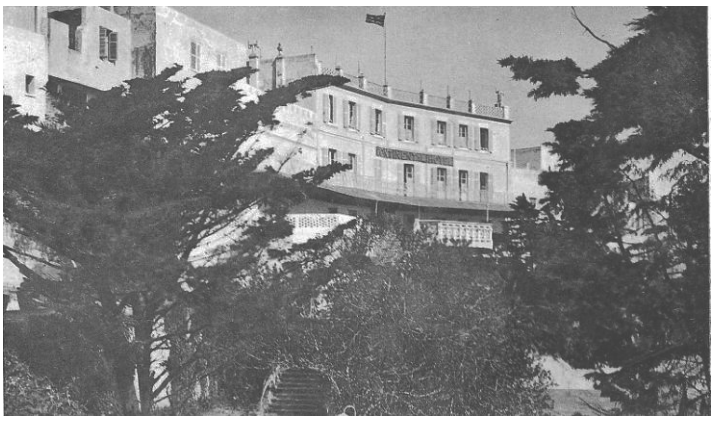
Spanish troops in Tangier

During the first years of the war there were constant fears, even within Spanish circles, of an imminent military action by Germany and Italy against Tangier. At the time of Operation Torch, there was an increase in German influence among the Spanish authorities and in the arrival of additional Spanish troops for the defence of the city. However, as the Allies' invasion progressed, there was an increase of Moroccan national defenders siding with the American and the British troops.

When eventually the whole of French Morocco surrendered, it was used as a supply base by the Allies to defeat the German and Italian forces in the whole of North Africa right up to Egypt. The defeat of the Axis motivated the development of negotiations for the establishment of a new political status for Tangier. By 1944 Spain was compelled to order the closure of the German consulate office in Tangier. In August, 1945, a conference took place in Paris with the presence of American, British, French and Russian representatives to restore the statute of 1923 with some modifications, for example the reduction of the influence of France and especially Spain. In October, 1945, the Spanish troops left the city.

Mrs Beanland with her son Charles by their home in Tangier

The Continental Hotel in Tangier seemed to be a very popular meeting place for agents to gather any useful information.



The Continental Hotel in Tangier

In July 1952, the governing powers agreed, in principle, to abolish Tangier's international status and in 1956 it became part of Morocco when it achieved its independence. Prior to 1956, according to statistics about Tangier's population, this consisted of 40,000 Muslims, 31,000 Europeans and 15,000 Jews.

During my research I found out that there were altogether nearly 300 Gibraltarians living in Spain. Naval Permit Office kept an official list of men working in Gibraltar who had members of their families living in Spain. According to the list there were 204 Gibraltarians living in various towns in Spain. The breakdown in each town in Spain was as follows:

Almeria 2, Algeciras 5, Benerrabal 2, Campanento 2, Estepona 4, Gaucin 2, Granada 2, Jerez 2, Jimena 3,La Linea 157, Malaga 8, Marbella 4, San Roque 2, Estepona 4, Tajate 5.

In addition to these Gibraltarians who had opted to live in the placed mentioned, there were others who managed to be transferred from Madeira to Spain and others who were unofficially living in Spain during the war; some as far as in Madrid. One of the main reasons given by some as to why they managed to stay in Spain was because these evacuees had relatives living in these places and therefore they could afford to stay with them during the time of the war but were strictly forbidden to enter Gibraltar.

There were no official arrangements to attend school for children of school age. Health services had to be arranged privately. The heads of families living in Gibraltar ultimately responsible for the welfare of their family members.

When the order for repatriation was given most of these evacuees returned after they had found accommodation in Gibraltar. The return of these evacuees was very slow and gradual due to the fact they needed to be claimed by families in Gibraltar to accommodate them. It took almost up to 1950 for most of the evacuees in Spain to be repatriated. There were cases of some evacuees who opted to continue live in Spain as accommodation in Gibraltar was extremely scarce and very expensive. When the frontier closed in 1969 most of these evacuees who had remained residing in Spain were then found compelled to live in Gibraltar in extremely poor accommodation.

The photos on this page are of the Capurro family who lived in La Linea during the war.

When Capurros were a family of 12 when they returned from Casablanca. Some were evacuated to the UK and others decided to move to La Linea where they registered at the British Consul. Ralf described that life in general as British Nationals was good.

Ralf's father in the Gibraltar Security Police would obtain a special permit visit his family every month and to stay with them for a few days. They returned to Gibraltar in 1945 to live at the GSP married quarters at Wind Mill Hill Buffadero – ex Italian Officers POW Camp.

2 year old Ralf Capurro in Calle Luis Ramirez in La Linea in 1945.

Mrs Josephine Capurro holding her one year old son Ralf Capurro in her arms and with her sister-in-law Isabel Capurro at the Calle Teatro in La Linea in January 1944. Photos by Mr R Capurro.

GIBRALTAR DURING THE WAR

This chapter describes very briefly, with the aid of photographs, Gibraltar's military role during the Second World War. In May 1939, the Chiefs of Staff considered that if Spain was allied in war to Germany and Italy, the naval facilities at Gibraltar might be made largely or even wholly unusable if it was attacked by land and air and that as a result the control of the Straits would be threatened. In July 1939, the British Government was assessing the war situation in case Italy remained neutral at the outset of a war with Germany. It was reckoned by the War Office that the main advantage of this war scenario would have been that Spain would probably also remain neutral. In that case there would be no threat to Gibraltar.

When the war broke out on the 3rd September 1939, the Governor Lieutenant General Sir Clive Liddell had been in command of Gibraltar for just two months. A few days later, after the start of the war, the Military Governor of the Campo, General Francisco Martin Moreno, paid an official visit to the new Governor. By then and in the meantime air raid precaution shelters were being built and arrangements were already in hand in case there was an evacuation of the civilian population. Just eight months later, things turned up differently! By June 1940, France faced capitulation, Italy had joined the war on the German side and Spain's intentions were anything but certain. Given this scenario, Gibraltar was to be turned into a fully fledged fortress where the bulk of the Gibraltar civilian population was seen as a stumbling block and had to be evacuated.

The Military Governor of the Campo, General Francisco Martin Moreno. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

Many hasty preparations were made in readiness to convert Gibraltar into a fortress prepared for a very probable attack. Official notices were being issued, almost, daily, to alert the civilian population of the measures that the War Office had and would implement in a war situation which would include the evacuation of the bulk of the civilian population.

A huge amount of work was carried out during the initial stages of the war to improve the Gibraltar's defenses. Some of these works consisted of major projects like the new network of tunnels dug under the Rock.

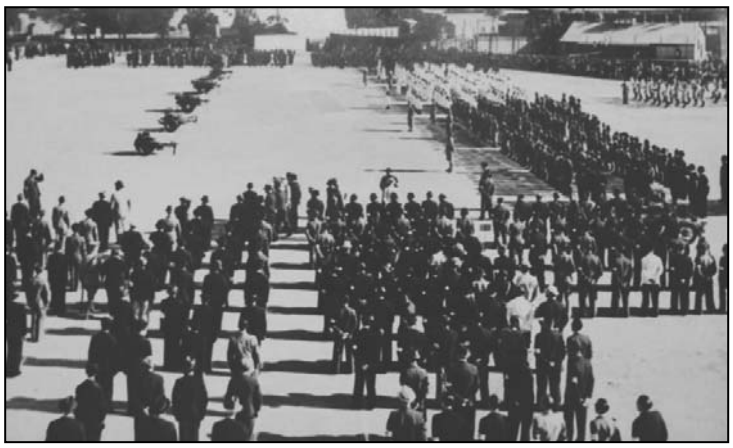
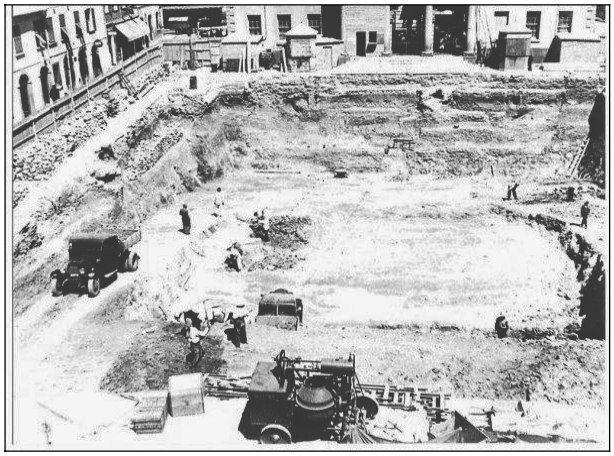


Photo taken in 1939 Air raid precaution parade at the Naval Ground. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

This "underground city" was capable of accommodating 16,000 troops, contain a hospital, workshops, ammunitions, victuals stores with capacity to maintain an entire garrison for nearly two years, a power station, a desalination plant and a telephone exchange. Most of the pieces of rock dug out from the drilling of the tunnels were used later to fill the terrain at the North Front for the construction of a military aerodrome. The number of guns, their sizes and their power were increased.



Building of a shelter in the centre of town. Photo Mr Chiara

Many of the military installations and facilities were improved in terms of capacity and quality to meet the operational requirements of Gibraltar's role in the war. Searchlights were installed in strategic positions around Gibraltar.

Gibraltar's strategic importance made it potentially vulnerable to an all out attack if Spain decided to join Germany and Italy in gratitude for their support to Franco during the Spanish Civil War. In anticipation of such a likely event, Gibraltar was preparing for the worst. Shelters were being built with capacity for about 8,000 people.

Mr Hector Galliano in the Medical Section of the Gibraltar Defence Force. Photo Mr M Galliano.

The Gibraltar defences were updated and the dry docks were made larger to accommodate the new line of battleships and aircraft carriers. The Gibraltar Defence Force was instituted and many volunteers were enlisted. Other civilians volunteered to serve in various other capacities, like the Police Force, to assist in duties connected with the war situation.

Places which were considered restricted military areas in Gibraltar became out of bounds for unauthorized civilians. An immediate curfew was imposed and some blackout exercises were carried out. During the war, Gibraltar underwent many physical changes commensurate with a war situation. There were many places fenced with barbed wire, iron spikes and concrete fortifications mounted on strategic positions in the event of an attack. In a short period of time, Gibraltar was transformed into a formidable fortress. These changes proved, in many instances, of immense value to Gibraltar's role as a fortress during the war, particularly, in the protection of the Strait and its approaches.

As part of the strengthening and upgrading of Gibraltar defences, an RAF search and rescue squadron and a formidable naval task force were stationed at Gibraltar at the beginning of the war.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE No. 72.

With reference to Government Notice No. 54 dated the 11th of April, 1940, it is hereby notified for general information that Tests in connection with the Gibraltar "Black-out" system will be carried out on Sunday night, 19th May, 1940.

2. In their own interests and that of the safety of Gibraltar, the public are earnestly requested to obey the following instructions in every detail :—

(a) From 9.45 p.m. to 10.15 p.m., as many lights as possible should be exposed. Householders should have their shutters open and allow the lights in rooms to shine out.

(b) From 10.15 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. there will be a complete black-out. The signal to begin blacking-out will be the firing of one gun from Devil's Gap Battery. The Public are particularly asked NOT to begin blacking-out before this signal.

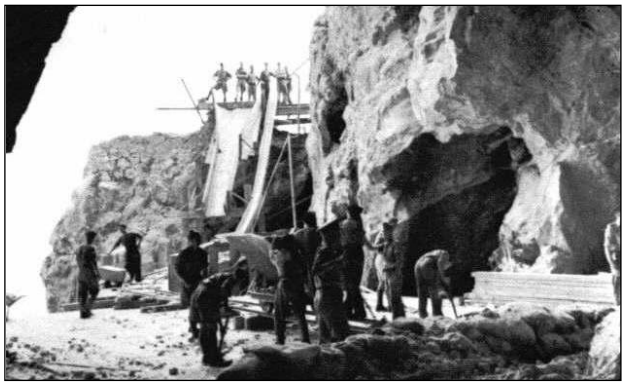
3. Should the Exercise have to be cancelled owing to bad weather the Public will be informed at 6 p.m., the 19th of May, through Radio Distribution, and by announcements from the Police loud-speaker van.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Gibraltar, 16th May, 1940.
(M.P. No. 80/38 (2)).

By Command,
ALEXR. E. BEATTIE,
Colonial Secretary.

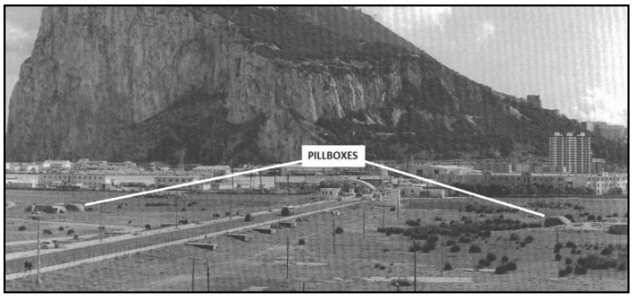
Notice about blackout test. Cutting Gibraltar Chronicle.

Men enlisting for the Gibraltar Defence Force. Gibraltar Old Photo 2.



Drilling of tunnels. Photo Mr Chiara

On the Spanish side of what was known as the neutral ground, pill boxes, 'dragon teeths and other tank-traps were being built. This presented reasons for concern by the Chiefs of Staff Committee, which submitted in a memorandum for consideration by the War Cabinet with plans to destroy the pillboxes in case there was no doubt that Spain was about to declare war.



Some of the many pillboxes built during World war two. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

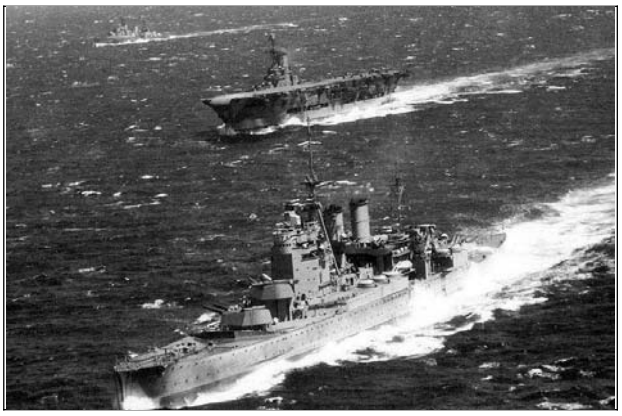
During the Second World War other fortifications were built further inland up to San Roque to counteract a possible Allied invasion, in case Spain joined the war on the side of the Axis powers.

While Gibraltar's defences were being placed in full alert in anticipation of a probable attack, diplomatic contacts were also being maintained at the highest level and monitored by the War Cabinet. At the end of June 1940, the Foreign Secretary drew the attention of the War Cabinet to telegrams received from the British Ambassador in Madrid. These referred to a conversation British Ambassador had had with General Franco during which he (General Franco) had shown a friendly disposition and had repeated his assurances as to Spain's non-belligerency policy. During the conversation , neither General Franco nor the Spanish Foreign Minister had specifically raised the question of Gibraltar. The British Ambassador, however, suggested that the War Cabinet considered that, as events were moving quickly, it might be wise to tell the Spanish Government that, while the British Government would not discuss the future of Gibraltar during the war, it would discuss it with the Spanish Government at the end of the war. The Ambassador suggested that this might have to be said in the course of general conversation and not in a special interview. The Foreign Secretary said that he was going to raise the matter when the Prime Minister was present at the War Cabinet meeting.

When Italy declared war on Britain and France on the 10th June 1940, the naval situation in the Mediterranean changed completely. A few days later, Franco took over the International Zone of Tangier with 3,500 troops. The explanations given by Spain for this were that it was meant to maintain the strict neutrality of the zone. That same day, Franco also changed Spain's policy of strict neutrality to non-belligerency. Britain protested at Spain's occupation of the international zone of Tangier, but kept a low profile.

The military authorities then perceived that if Spain became hostile, Gibraltar could easily be bombarded from the Spanish mainland and also from the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta, Melilla and Tetuan.

To meet the challenge posed by Italy's entry into the war, a very powerful naval task force was needed to operate in the western Mediterranean. Force H, the largest task force in the Royal Navy, consisted at any one time of an aircraft carrier, three battleships, five cruisers and twenty destroyers. It was based in Gibraltar from 1940 to late 1943 under the command of Admiral Sir James Somerville. Throughout all this time, Force H was almost in constant action and under enemy attack.

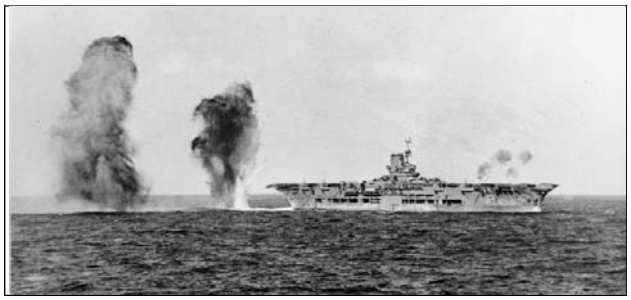


HMS Renown, Ark Royal and Sheffield sailing from Gibraltar in 1941. Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia.

The movements of the ships were constantly being monitored by those watching from Spain who alerted the enemy as soon as the ships sailed.

Even when berthed or anchored in Gibraltar, the ships were constantly under threat from the Regia Marina operating from the nearby Spanish shores. One of the first tasks in which Force H was involved was in Operation Catapult, the attack on the French fleet at Mers-el-Kebir in Oran on the 3rd July 1940.

Other important operations undertaken by ships attached to Force H were the attack on Dakar and the long and protracted protection of convoys from Gibraltar to Malta with many losses of men and ships.
Force H also made a very important contribution to the resulting success of the attack on Taranto Harbour. Its participation in the sinking of the Bismarck also contributed in eliminating her threat to Allied shipping in the Atlantic. Force H was also involved in various other operations consisting in the naval and aerial bombardments of some of the ports in Italy, the landing at Sicily and finally the invasion and surrender of Italy in September 1943.



Bombs falling astern of HMS Ark Royal during the Battle of Cape Spartivento. Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia.

HMS Illustrious under attack by German aircraft in the Grand Harbour, Malta. Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia.

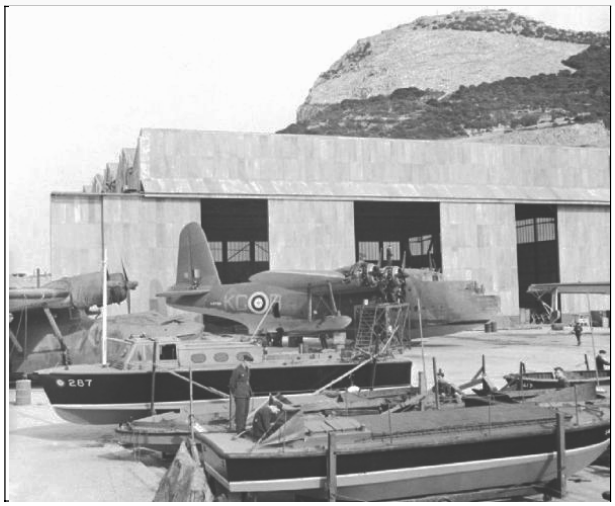
It has been reckoned by some researchers that the role played by Force H in its operations from Gibraltar was as important or even more significant than the role played by the RAF in the Battle of Britain.

HMS Nelson. Photo Wikipedia Free Encyclodedia.

HMS Nelson and her sister ship HMS Rodney were regular callers at Gibraltar throughout their long services in the Royal Navy.

HMS Ark Royal and one of her Swordfish aircraft. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

The Royal Air Force, based in Gibraltar, became extremely important in the support of allied air operations in the Battle of the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and North Africa. The RAF search and rescue squadron in Gibraltar was also charged with the escort of the convoys when leaving or on their approach to Gibraltar. The photographs shown on this and next the page are of some of the different types of aircraft attached to the 202 Squadron based in Gibraltar.



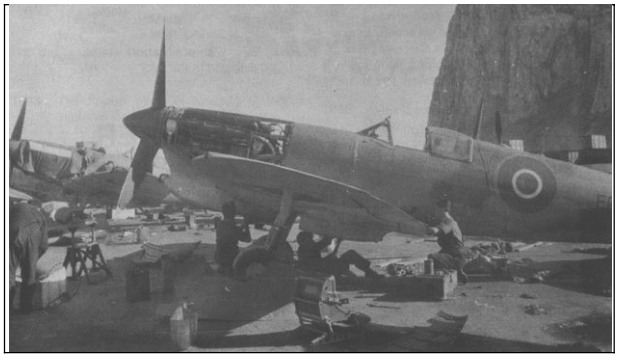
A Sunderland undergoing maintenance and repairs at RAF New Camp. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

The main tasks of these aircraft were to carry out anti-submarine warfare and to provide air cover. They were operating almost continuously within the ranges of the air space surrounding Gibraltar. The Catalinas had a longer range and, being amphibious, could take-off and land at the North Front airfield. During the war from June 1940 to May 1945 nearly forty allied aircraft and about ten enemy aircraft crashed either in the Bay of Gibraltar or in nearby areas in Spain.

There were some incidents in which Allied aircraft were lost in the nearby areas as detailed below.
In Tarifa (near Punta Carnero) on the 21st January 1942. In the Gulf of Cadiz on 25th September 1942 killing all seven crew and a passenger. This aircraft encountered a severe thunderstorm about 100 km from Gibraltar and was the one who inspired the British intelligence with Operation Mincemeat. On the night of 9th June 1943, eight of ten crewmen died in a crash near Puerto El Cabrito. On the 15th June 1944, near Cape Three Forcas, Melilla, a plane hit a hill, killing all its crew. In Tarifa (Punta Acebuche) on 18th August 1944.

Air and ground crew by Catalina at RAF North Front. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

A Special Erection Party was established at Gibraltar, in July 1942 to assemble and test fly aircraft crated from Britain by sea for the reinforcement of Malta.
On 28th October 1942, an unexpected shipment of 116 Spitfires and 13 Hawker Hurricanes arrived to be prepared for the Allied landings in North Africa (Operation Torch) and a further shipment was received a few days later.



Spitfires being assembled at North Front. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

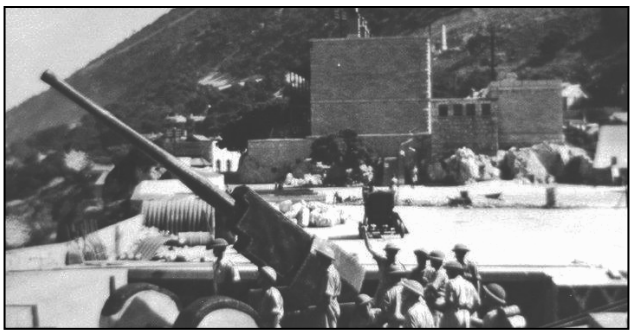
With Germany's record of aerial bombardment in Europe since the start of the war, it was clear that the biggest threat that Gibraltar could face was from aerial attacks.

At the start of the war the number of guns was so scarce that, during the early air raids, the guns had to be moved around to give the impression to the enemy that there were lots of guns all around Gibraltar. Numerous anti-aircraft positions were established across Gibraltar. By June 1940, the number of different types of guns had almost been doubled since the start of the war in September 1939. By March 1941, there were twenty-eight 3.7-inch guns about forty Bofors guns, plus two pom-pom guns. Numerous searchlights were installed around Gibraltar totalling twenty-four by 1942.

Searchlights in action.
All photos on this page except the one below are from Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

Anti-aircraft guns at the Detached Mole. Photo Mr A Ferrary

3.7in.anti-aircraft gun at Europa Point. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.



Owing to the shortage of guns, some dummy anti-aircraft guns like the one shown in the picture of Buena Vista Barrack at the beginning of the war. All photos on this page, except the one below are from the All photos Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

Anti aircraft guns getting ready for action at Europa Point. Mr A Ferrary

Anti-aircraft gun at the harbour.

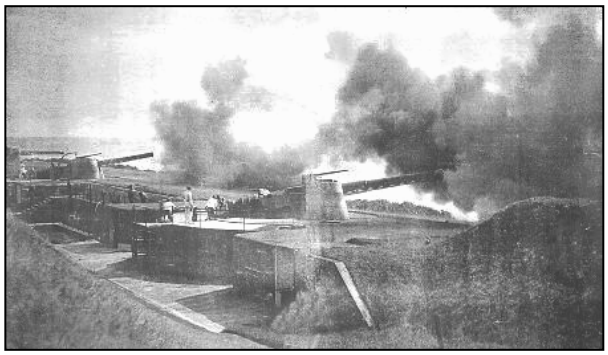
Heavy anti-aircraft guns at North Front.

The next photos are of some of the ground defences which consisted of heavy guns placed in the most strategic positions around the whole of Gibraltar in readiness to repel a grand scale invasion by sea , air or land.

Above and below pictures of heavy gun mountings at the top of the Rock.

On the 27th July 1940, there was an accident in which three soldiers from the Black Watch Regiment were killed. The incident was due to an accident caused when handling mines.

Heavy gun at the top of the Rock. All the photos on this page are from the All photos Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

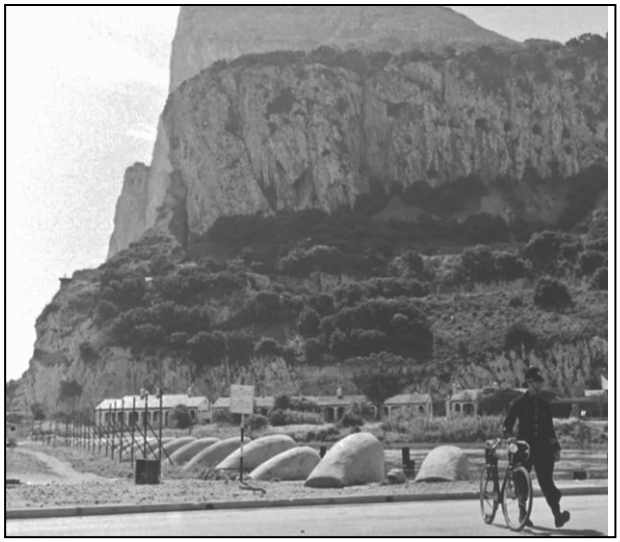


West Battery with 9.2 inch guns at Windmill Hill during WWII.

Bunkers and pillboxes were built to guard against any enemy amphibious landings, especially on the eastern side of the Rock.
Also anti-tank guns, ditches and obstacles, as shown in the picture below, were placed facing the isthmus to guard against a land invasion from the north.

Anti tank obstacles placed at the frontier.

As mentioned previously, Spain had also placed quite a number of pillboxes, all along on what was known as the Neutral Ground.



Remains of antitank obstacles at the Laguna in the early sixties.

On the 16th July 1940, the War Cabinet took the view that if Gibraltar became unusable as a result of enemy action from French bases in North Africa, it would be desirable to obtain an alternative base in the Azores and deny the enemy the use of both the Cape Verde Islands and the Azores.
However, it was considered that unless there were clear indications that Spain intended to enter the war against Britain, it would not be to Britain's advantage to precipitate Spanish and Portuguese hostility by occupying the Islands. Notwithstanding this, a draft plan was drawn, in case of war with Spain, entailing operations against Vigo, Cadiz and Ferrol. Seizure of the Canary Islands was at the time considered too great an undertaking, but offensive operations against these islands were contemplated. There were also plans for mine laying off the ports of North West Spain as the opportunity permitted.
Since beginning of July 1940, Gibraltar had witnessed a few series of bombings by the Vichy French and Italian aircraft. Below and in the next page are cuttings of a report from a journalist in La Linea written in August 1940 about the war situation in Gibraltar. Due to censorship, it is interesting to note that the attack on Gibraltar was referred as mild.

REPORT GIBRALTAR BOMBED, AFIRE

Draft Wealth Plan

Battleship Hit By Raiders, Rome Claims

Air-Sea Fight Raging In Mediterranean; 7 Planes Shot Down, Italians Assert

LA LINEA, Spain, Aug. 21.—Britain's Rock of Gibraltar flamed like a volcano early today after raiding planes dropped bombs on the fortress.

Flames could be seen spreading down from the top of the rock—where long-range batteries apparently had been hit—toward the town, where alarms sounded to summon residents to shelter.

The raid—fourth since Tuesday morning—began shortly after midnight. Searchlights on land and on warships failed to pick out the raiders, and anti-aircraft guns fired at random.

The population of Gibraltar, the official Italian wireless said, spent the entire night in air raid shelters. The wireless said some of the bombs hit the battleship Resolution.

[A British-censored dispatch from Gibraltar said merely that the island was raided twice by planes which started a small fire that was extinguished quickly.]

By the Associated Press.

ROME, Aug. 21.—War flared to new intensity in the Mediterranean today as Italy launched a "total blockade" of British territories in that region and Stefani, the Italian news agency, reported a furious air-sea battle in which it said seven British planes were shot down.

Time and place of the battle were not disclosed, but Stefani's correspondent said an Italian air squadron had attacked large British warships protected by fighter vessels and a squadron of Chaster-Gladiator planes, with "considerable" effect. Besides the seven British planes shot down, he said, two others were possibly destroyed.

New bombardments of British air bases on the island of Malta were reported by the High Command, which conceded British planes had carried out raids of "secondary importance" on Italian positions in Ethiopia.

In Cairo the British Royal Air Force reported numerous raids on Italian-held African territory, including Ethiopia, where hangers, a wireless station and military stores were bombed.

The "total blockade" of British territories was announced in a note to neutrals warning their shipping not to enter waters within 30 miles of British coasts, and calling particular attention to maritime stretches along the coasts of British colonies and protectorates in the Mediterranean, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

HMS Resolution. Wikipedia Encyclopedia

Some hundreds of French pilots took the chance of escaping from Vichy French Morocco, in late June 1940, when the order had not yet been given to attack Gibraltar. They boarded the **SS Gibel Dersa** to land in Gibraltar to join the Free French forces in Britain. The photo shows some of these French pilots on board the freighter **Anadyr** bound for Britain from Gibraltar in July 1940. The Rock was a vital staging post for these pilots.

French pilots onboard the Anadyr. Photo Gibraltar Old Photos 2

Despite all these happenings and all the defensive preparations taking place for a very probable German attack with Spain's involvement, it is interesting to know that an official visit was paid by the new Governor of Algeciras, General Agustin Muñoz Grandes, to the Governor of Gibraltar Sir Clive Liddell on the 21st August 1940.

Press Communique

Governor of Algeciras To Pay Official Call

His Excellency General of Division Sr. Don Agustin Muñoz Grande, Military Governor of Algeciras, will pay his official call on His Excellency the Governor on Wednesday, 21st August, 1940, arriving at Main Wharf at 11.30 a.m.

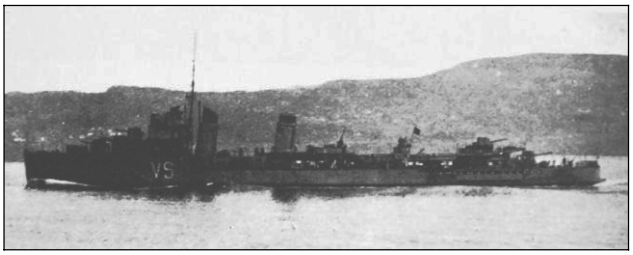
A gun salute will be fired.

Press communiqué in the Gibraltar Chronicle about the visit of the Governor of Algeciras to Gibraltar.

The Governor of Algeciras arrived on the destroyer **Almirante Valdes** firing a 21 gun salute to the Country which was replied to by the Fortress Saluting Battery. He was met on arrival by many leading military and civilian personalities during which the Spanish National Anthem was played by the Band of the Royal Marines. A reception was held at the Government House where he was received by the Governor, Vice-admiral Sir James F Somerville and other leading personalities were in attendance at the reception. General Muñoz Grandes left Government House, where the guard of honour gave him the salute and the band played the Spanish national anthem.

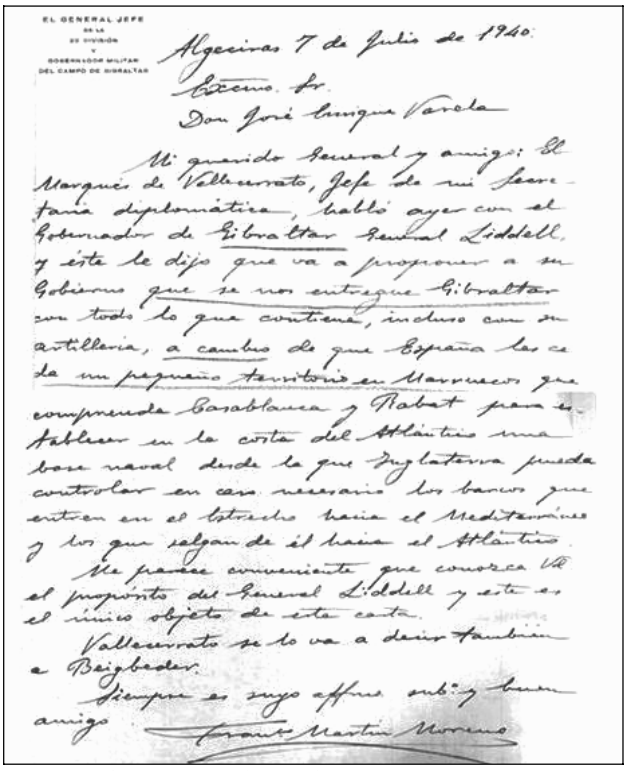
General Agustin Muñoz Grandes. Photo Biblioteca Virtual de Defensa.

On arrival at the Main Wharf for his departure to Algeciras, he was accompanied by Brigadier Love. Before boarding, the Governor of Algeciras received the salute and the band played the Spanish national anthem and then embarked on the destroyer **Almirante Valdes** to return to Algeciras. A salute of 17 guns was fired as the destroyer departed.
During his visit, General Muñoz Grandes was accompanied by high officials among whom was the Marquise of Vallecerrato, Chief of the diplomatic secretariat of the Campo de Gibraltar.



Destroyer Almirante Valdes. Photo Old Ship Gallery.

According to Spanish historian, Jose Manuel Algarbani, the Marquise of Vallecerrato was told by General Sir Clive Liddell that he was prepared to propose to the British Government the handing over of Gibraltar to Spain, with existing artillery in place, in exchange for a base in the Atlantic coast of Morocco, between Casablanca and Rabat, but near enough to the straits in the event of British ships needing protection to cross in and out of the Mediterranean.



EL GENERAL JEFE DE LA 23 DIVISIÓN Y GOBERNADOR MILITAR DEL CAMPO DE GIBRALTAR

Algeciras 7 de Julio de 1940.

Excmo. Sr.
Don José Enrique Varela

Mi querido General y amigo: El Marqués de Vallecerrato, Jefe de mi Secretaría diplomática, habló ayer con el Gobernador de Gibraltar General Liddell, y éste le dijo que va a proponer a su Gobierno que se nos entregue Gibraltar con todo lo que contiene, incluso con su artillería, a cambio de que España les ceda un pequeño territorio en Marruecos que comprenda Casablanca y Rabat para establecer en la costa del Atlántico una base naval desde la que Inglaterra pueda controlar en caso necesario los barcos que entren en el Estrecho hacia el Mediterráneo y los que salgan de él hacia el Atlántico.

Me parece conveniente que conozca Vd. el propósito del General Liddell y este es el único objeto de esta carta.

Vallecerrato se lo va a decir también a Beigbeder.

Siempre es suyo affmo. subdito y buen amigo

Francisco Martín Moreno

Copy of letter from General Francisco Martin Moreno to Minister Jose Enrique Varela.

The Spanish historian makes his assertion based on a letter dated 7th of July 1940, written by the Military Governor of the Campo, General Francisco Martin Moreno later replaced by General Muñoz Grandes, to the then Spanish Minister for the Army, Jose Enrique Varela.
As can be seen from the copy of the letter, the Governor of Algeciras told his Minister that the Marquise of Vallecerato, who was considered to be the man with best diplomatic contacts within the military authorities in Gibraltar at the time, had talked with the Governor of Gibraltar on this matter and had informed him of the proposed exchange.
There seems to be no official record of what it was, alleged, to have been discussed. What is known is that General Muñoz Grandes was, by then already training his troops as he already had some firm thoughts on how to capture Gibraltar.
On the 22nd August, the next day after the visit of the Governor of Algeciras, a UK newspaper reported that crowds in Gibraltar were cheering the crashing of an Italian bomber shot down by Gibraltar gunners. Portions of the Italian bomber were recovered from the sea as testimony of being shot-down by the Gibraltar's gunners following an air raid in the morning of the 21st August. It was reported that the crowd cheered when they saw the raiding plane wobbling and then plunging in the sea. The whole wing of the plane had been recovered two miles from Europa Point in addition to a petrol tank. The RAF had also recovered the air brake of the left wing. The plane was identified as a slight variation of the famous Italian Savoia Marchetti 79. It was reported that all the bombs from this plane fell into the sea and that their objectives were entirely undamaged. A generous tribute was, however, rendered in Gibraltar for the courage of the raider who flew from the north, and descended to 300 feet before dropping the bombs. The recovered tank showed evidence of the direct hits by the anti-aircraft guns.
Interestingly, the same front page carried an article saying that General Franco was toasted at the Government House in Gibraltar by the Governor, Lieut. General Sir Clive Liddell, and representatives of all the services, the civil administration and the Church. It was the occasion of the official visit of the Governor of Algeciras, General Agustin Muñoz Grandes who raised his glass to the King. The atmosphere was said to be so cordial that the Vin Houneur, scheduled to last for forty minutes, lasted ninety minutes. The two governors were photographed together and seated among the whole of the guests numbering about fifty. The ceremony, although considered as a normal one in the case of the any newly-appointed governor, was of particular interest in the present circumstances.

At the beginning of the war the French fleet in the Mediterranean was to have concentrated on the Italian Navy and the Royal Navy was to concentrate on the German warships in the North Sea and Atlantic.
However, after France capitulated there was confusion as to the allegiance of the various French colonies. Some joined the Free French, but others like the North African French colonies remained under Vichy control. The possibility that the French fleet might come under German control, led the British to attack the French Fleet at Mers-el-Kebir on 3 July 1940.

De Gaulle with Maj-Gen Sir Edward Spears en route for Dakar aboard the Dutch liner, Westernland. Photo Wikipedia, the free Encyclopedia.

On 23 September 1940, a plan named Operation Menace was launched to capture the strategic port of Dakar in the hope that, if successful it would overthrow the pro-German Vichy French Government. The plan entailed the installing of Free French forces under General Charles de Gaulle. The plan failed and after two days Dakar continued under Vichy French control.
In reprisal for the British attempt to occupy Dakar, Gibraltar suffered from the 24th to the 25th September, the worst of all the bombings carried out by the Vichy Air Force. The bombing of Gibraltar stopped the day after the British withdrew from Dakar but Gibraltar had already suffered heavy damages. It was estimated that about 500 bombs were dropped. Most of them fell in the sea, but the few that fell in different areas of Gibraltar killed the following civilians and military personnel:

BAUTISTA GORDILLO, FRANCISCO Mr
BORDA, LEOPOLDINA Mrs (nee Crisp)
CRISP, FRANCIS Mr
CRISP, MERCEDES Mrs
CRISP, JOSEPHINE Miss
CRISP, FRANCIS, Mtr
ORFILA, JAMES Mr
DURRANT, SIDNEY A Gunner
HARE, GEORGE Lance Sergeant
WARD, JOSEPH JAMES Lance Sergeant
BALL, JOHN PATRICK BROOKE Lieutenant
DAVIE SMITH, JOHN EDWARD Paymaster Commander
RAIKES, PETER PATRICK Captain
SHIPLEY, HARRY Gunner
SMITH, GEORGE Gunner
TRYTHALL, HAROLD, REUBEN Captain
THOMAS, GILBERT CARVIS Seaman
BOYLAN, JAMES Engineman
BUTTERS, HARRY Telegraphist
CAMPBELL, JAMES, ALEXANDER Seaman
DUNN, HARRY Chief Engineer
GREGGOR, GEORGE, ILLUSTRIOUS Seaman
HELLENS, CHARLES Seaman Cook
MacINNES, JOHN Seaman
MAIN, ROBERT, MEIN 2nd Hand
NORTON, ALBERT, HENRY Leading Seaman
TAYLOR, WILFRED Stoker
WILCOX, KENNETH, F, W Sub-Lieutenant
WILSHIRE, ALAN Ordinary Signalman
WOOTTON, JOSEPH, H Leading Seaman

Gunner Harry Shipley was stationed in Gibraltar and whilst serving he married Obdulia Chappory.

Wedding of Harry Shipley to Obdulia Chappory

Shortly after the order of evacuation was given and Obdulia had to be evacuated when she was a few months pregnant. She embarked on the Athlone Castle on the 26 July 1940. On the 25 September Gunner Harry Shipley was killed.

Gunner Harry Shipley

Many buildings were also damaged by the bombing. Prior to the Dakar operation, Vichy French warships, including the French battleship **Richelieu** passed the Strait of Gibraltar to repel the attack of the Franco-British force. Admiral Sir Dudley North did not intercept the French ships since he did not receive any orders from the Admiralty and took no action in preventing the French warships from transiting the Straits on their way to oppose the British Operation at Dakar. As a result of this incident, Admiral Sir Dudley North was relieved of his command and blamed for his lack of initiative. After the failed attack at Dakar and the bombing of Gibraltar, both the Admiralty and Foreign Office agreed to review the whole policy towards the Vichy Government. The bombing of Gibraltar had demonstrated that Gibraltar could easily be made untenable as a naval base, since it would lose the control of its strategic value in the Western Mediterranean and its ability to operate against Italy. In their analysis they considered that it was impossible to over-estimate the importance of these factors.

Photo showing bombs falling in different places. Photo Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

At the end of September 1940, the Foreign Secretary submitted a memorandum to the War Cabinet, headed "Spain, Gibraltar and Morocco." This memorandum essentially described a war scenario if Germany's plans to invade Britain were finally abandoned. With regard to a possible attack on Gibraltar, involving a march through Spain, it was reckoned to be a fairly easy task by Germans turning the operation into an event sufficiently spectacular to carry the German people over the winter. To counter this plan, the War Cabinet agreed that efforts were required mainly in the political and economic fields. The memorandum made mention of the struggle in Spain between those who wanted to join the war on the side of Germany (Suñer and the Falangists) and the non-interventionists, which included Franco.

The Foreign Secretary considered that Suñer would undoubtedly return from Berlin with ideas to convince the non-interventionists join the war and all those who would find it hard to resist being convinced to join the war.

About the same time there was an organised riot against the British Embassy in Madrid. The Spanish Ambassador in London regretted the incident and promised compensation for the damage caused to the British Embassy. He ended his apologetic note by saying that he thought that that sort of demonstration would not do any harm to British/ Spanish relations.

As to the actual Operation Felix, since June 1940, and soon after the fall of France, Göring had been advising Hitler to occupy Spain and North Africa instead of concentrating on the invasion of Britain. The German high command also presented Hitler with a plan which entailed invading Spain first so as to prepare the way to capture Gibraltar.

From left to right Admiral Sir Dudley North, Governor Sir Clive Liddell, General Sir Noel Mason MacFarlane. Photo Mr E Vallejo

High ranking German officers and the head of the German secret service, Admiral Canaris, travelled to Spain to meet with Franco and Spain's Minister of War Juan Vigón. After these meetings, the team travelled to Algeciras for a few days to carry out recognizance exercises in order to plan the capture of Gibraltar. They then returned to Germany to advise Hitler that Franco was reluctant to enter the war.

British intelligence reported to the War Cabinet that on the 2nd September 1940, there had been a slight increase in the strength of the Spanish Air Force in Spanish Morocco consisting of six Me 109 fighters and four CR 32 fighters in Tetuan. It was the first air reinforcements sent to Spanish Morocco since the concentration of Spanish Air Force in Southern Spain. There were also intelligence reports of trucks loaded with substantial numbers of German troops in the north of Spain. Before the historical meeting at Hendaye on the 23rd October 1940, Canaris told Franco that he was convinced that Germany was going to lose the war.

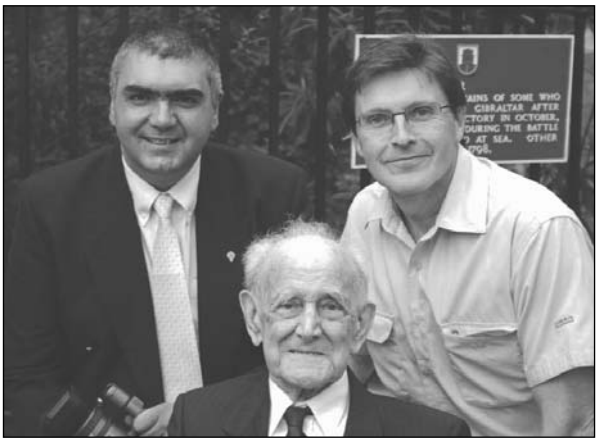
By then Hitler had no intentions of invading Spain since he was already thinking of invading Russia. There are no records of what was actually discussed at the meeting in Hendaye. What is known is that Franco and Hitler ended the meeting without agreeing to the conditions for Spain to join the war and within that context, the capture of Gibraltar. Franco's reluctance to join the war is said to have been influenced by the fact that at the time, Britain had not yet been defeated and feared British reprisals if joined the war with Germany.

On the 10th November 1940 Luis Carrero Blanco submitted a detailed report through the Minister for the Navy Admiral Moreno advising Franco against Spain joining the war on the Axis' side until Britain had been defeated. Notwithstanding the Hendaye meeting,Hitler issued a directive on the 10th Novwmber 1940 with precise instructions on how to capture Gibraltar. The instructions included persuading Franco first to enter the war. The actual military operation to capture Gibraltar was to start in January 1941 with an initial attack carried out by the Luftwaffe coordinated from Algeciras. The air attack was to concentrate on ships in Gibraltar followed by a landing in nearby Spanish airports. After this initial air operation, German troops were to cross the Pyrenees for the capture of Gibraltar and close the Strait forcing British ships to sail via South Africa to enter the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal.

Many years later, it was revealed that Canaris had been disloyal to Hitler and that he had been in contact with British secret agents. Canaries was accused of being associated with a group of German officers who plotted to kill Hitler in July 1944 known as Operation Valkyrie. He was executed a couple of weeks before the end of the war.

In the event of Gibraltar's capture, contingency plans called "Operation Tracer" were drawn up by the military authorities in Gibraltar for a few men to hide themselves inside the Rock. Two small openings were made, one facing west and another one facing east. These openings would enable the men to watch all the enemy activities in all directions. The men were to report all enemy activities to London by means of secret transmitters powered from a battery that was charged by a generator attached to a bicycle. They were to have enough supplies of food and water to last for a year, but they were not to come out of this hiding place unless Germany was defeated within a year. The plan was tested very extensively from the point of view of all the necessary requirements, including the psychological effects on the men who had to hide.

In October 2008, the last remaining member of those selected to stay inside the secret hiding in the Rock, Dr Bruce Cooper, was invited to come to Gibraltar to visit the World War Two chambers used as a hiding place. He confirmed that the chamber discovered in 1997 was the secret chamber he and his five companions were supposed to have occupied in the case of the Germans capturing Gibraltar.



Martin Nuza, Dr Cooper, Jim Crone. 2008. Photo Mr Nuza.

The visit to Gibraltar by Dr Bruce Cooper was organised by Mr Martin Nuza with the assistance of Mr Jim Crone as part of Mr Nuza's project related to Operation Tracer. The plan was masterminded by Rear Admiral John Henry Godfrey.

In January 1942, a "scorched earth" policy was ordered by Winston Churchill and elaborated by the Colonial Office in the event of Gibraltar being attacked. This was the same policy that was being sought for other strategic places within the British Empire. In a way, it was the same strategy that was applied by Stalin when Germany invaded Russia in June 1941. Stalin's objective was to prevent the Germans from capturing valuable military assets that could be used against the Russians. It was also intended to prevent the Germans from living off the land and thus leaving them to starve to death.

British military chiefs soon gave detailed instructions across the Empire for the removal or destruction of equipment and installations that could be used by the Axis Powers to help them win the war. For Gibraltar, being of immense strategic value and under threat of an invasion, the preparation of the plans became far more important. The then Governor of Gibraltar was given clear instructions to destroy anything of military value so that it could not be used by the enemy. However, the destruction was planned in such a way as to ensure that Gibraltar could make use of the facilities for as long as possible and only destroying things if an invasion became imminent. The idea was to act as quickly as possible. The most important asset was, obviously, the naval dockyard which was crucial for the Allies in the naval war in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. Therefore, it was important for it to be functioning until the very last possible moment.

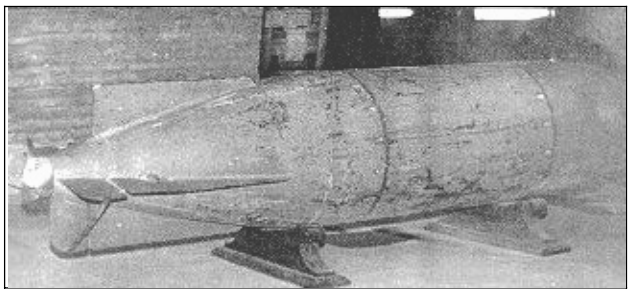
It was envisaged, that in any case, the dockyard with all its facilities would be destroyed by the enemy bombardment prior to an invasion. In a memorandum sent by the Admiral Superintendent he reckoned, that by the time the enemy had captured the fortress, there would not be much left of the dockyard which would be of any use to the invading enemy. Fortunately, the plans were never put into practice.

Very little seems to be known of a secret plan prepared by the Spanish military command to capture Gibraltar in the summer of 1940. It has been alleged, by some writers, that Franco awaited the expected German victory in the Battle of Britain to give his personal to approval to this plan which, obviously, never materialized. The plan called Operation G entailed the logistic planning, including the evacuation of the civilian population living within the Spanish hinterland as it was envisaged to use mustard gas in the capture of Gibraltar. It is believed that the Governor of Gibraltar was alerted to this plan by the wife of a military officer, living in Algeciras, who seemed to have close contacts with high officials in Gibraltar. On overhearing about this plan in a conversation among military officers, in Algeciras, she came over to Gibraltar to tell the Governor. It is thought that upon this information, the Governor was convinced to order the evacuation of the Gibraltar civilian population.

By autumn 1940, Gibraltar had experienced air raids carried out by the Vichy French and Italian air forces The first air raids were carried on the 5th July, in retaliation for the attack by the Royal Navy on the French Fleet at Mars-el-Kebir.

All the bombs fell in the sea and no casualties were reported. The first Italian air raid was carried on the 18th July 1940 during which three civilians and a soldier mentioned in Chapter were killed. The material damages were insignificant.

The next air raids were carried by the Vichy French air force during the 24th and 25th September 1940 as explained previously in page 304. Italian air forces flying from Sardinia carried out a total of sixteen air raids from July 1940 to June 1944. During 1941 five air raids were carried out. The worst was on the nights of the 11th and 12th July 1941. The intended targets were the ships in the Bay of Gibraltar. However, an Italian bomber in order to avoid being shot by anti aircraft guns in Gibraltar flew from the west over the area of the Campamento and dropped two bombs on the Poniente beach but they did not explode. Owing to some technical problems or navigational errors, a third bomb fell in the centre of La Linea at the junction of Calle Lopez de Ayala and the Calle Duque de Tetuan killing six people and injuring another eleven people.



Type of bomb that fell in La Linea. Photo Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

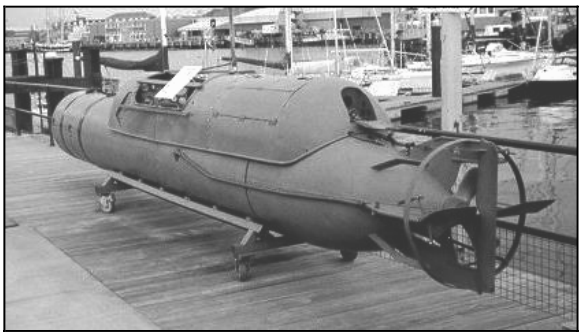
A similar incident happened between the nights of 13the to 15th July 1941 when another Italian bomber dropped bombs on the countryside and beaches near La Linea without causing any damages or personal injuries.

During 1942, six air raids were carried out, but no damages or personal injuries were caused as most of the bombs fell in the sea.

In 1943, there was only one air raid warning of short duration with no bombs dropped. Despite the armistice reached by the Allies with Italy in September 1943, the German-allied Italian Social Republic launched two raids on Gibraltar: one on the night of 4th –5th June 1944, with ten aircraft and another on 6th June with nine aircraft with no bombs falling either in Gibraltar or in nearby Spain.

Italy, in addition to the air raids also carried out a significant number of actions directed from nearby bases in Spain. The first of these actions was carried out in August and September 1940, the Italian submarines, Iride and Sciré, left La Spezia with plans to attack Gibraltar but the attack was called off because the British fleet had left Gibraltar before the Iride and Sciré arrived.

On October 1940, the Sciré left La Spezia and sailed to Gibraltar carrying manned torpedoes and it entered the Bay of Gibraltar although it did not damage any of the ships. Two of the crewmen were captured and the other six escaped to Spain from where they eventually returned to Italy. Their manned torpedo later appeared in the near beach of the Espigon Bay and was caught by Spanish authorities. On the 25th May 1941, the Sciré left La Spezia loaded with three manned torpedoes and it berthed at Cadiz where it secretly took on six crewmen. On arrival in Gibraltar, they found there were no British warships, as they left upon receiving orders to search and sink the German battleship Bismarck. The Sciré left La Spezia again on the 10th September 1941, bearing three manned torpedoes. Again, it secretly took on six crewmen in Cádiz and sank three ships in the Bay of Gibraltar: two tankers named Denbydale and Fiona Shell, and a cargo ship, the Durham. After firing the torpedoes, the crews swam to the beach near La Linea and eventually returned to Italy.



Human torpedo, Naval Museum, Gosport. Photo Wikipedia Encyclopedia.

By July 1942, the Italian frogmen had set up a base in the Italian cargo ship, Olterra, berthed in Algeciras from where they carried out their operations with the use of the human torpedoes. In their first mission, 12 Italian frogmen swam from the Olterra into the Gibraltar harbour and set explosives, sinking four ships. On the 17th December 1942, six Italians on three human torpedoes left the Olterra to attack HMS Nelson, Formidable, and Furious. A British patrol boat killed one torpedo's crew with a depth charge and detected another torpedo, pursued and shot at it, capturing its two crewmen. The remaining human torpedo returned to the Olterra, having lost its rear rider. On the 8th May 1943, three Italian manned torpedoes left the Olterra to attack Gibraltar in bad weather and sank three British ships. On 3rd August 1943, three Italian manned torpedoes left the Olterra and again sank three ships. On the 2nd October 1943, a larger Italian frogman-carrier left Italy prepared to attack Gibraltar.
However, the surrender of the Italian forces to the Allies ended the plan before it could be implemented. Also later on in the war the Italians, instead of using the submarine Scire, resorted to a less risky method which entailed swimming from Puente Mayorga where they had managed, through contacts in Spain to hire a house called Villa Carmela which became a secret operational base to carry out attacks on Gibraltar.

The Villa Carmela near Puente Mayorga during the war. Photo Regia Marina

On the night of the 13th-14th July 1942, the Italians swam towards Gibraltar carrying limpet mines to attaching them to the hull of the ships in the harbour. On that night the ships Meta, Shuma, Snipe and the Baron Douglas were sunk. On the night of 15th September 1942, the Italian swimmers managed to defy the increased British vigilance in the bay and sank the ship Raven's Point.
In the summer of 1942 the war situation for the Russians was desperate as German panzer divisions pushed towards Stalingrad.
Britain had also lost all her key possessions in the Far East and British forces were struggling in the desert war, to repel Rommell's Afrika Korps.
During all this time, Stalin kept insisting on the British and the United States governments to open a 'second front' to reduce the pressure of the German forces on the Russians troops in order to hold back the German advances.
A series of meetings between American and British politicians and high ranking military officials were held to decide on the options for a 'second front'. While the American commanders insisted on landing in occupied Europe as soon as possible, the British commanders believed that such a course would end in disaster. In the end, Roosevelt gave his generals a direct order to support the British idea of an initial invasion of French North Africa. The president's reasoning was largely based on political necessity. If Germany remained the main focus of the American war effort, then the American troops were going to have to fight against the Germans somewhere in Europe. Given British attitudes, there was no choice but to move against Morocco and Algeria committing American troops to fight along the British in order to gain naval control of the whole Mediterranean Sea. After this initial operation designed to take over the whole of North Africa, the next stage was to prepare for an invasion of Southern Europe, remove Italy from the war and then carry out the subsequent invasion of southern France which Churchill called the "soft underbelly" of Europe. The planned invasion of North Africa was code named Operation Torch and was placed under the command of General Eisenhower with his operational headquarters in Gibraltar.
When General Eisenhower was placed in command of Operation Torch, he referred to Gibraltar as the pivotal point of the whole operation. He said that never, in its long and stormy history as the gateway to the Mediterranean had it been called upon to play such a vital role.
The following is a summary of General Eisenhower's assessment of the operation when he wrote to General George Marshall, the US Army's Chief of Staff with all the details of his planned operation:
"The strategic problems facing the Allies are greatly complicated by political considerations outside the scope of strict military planning. The reactions of the neutral countries of Spain, Vichy France and French North Africa will clearly have a vital bearing upon the course of

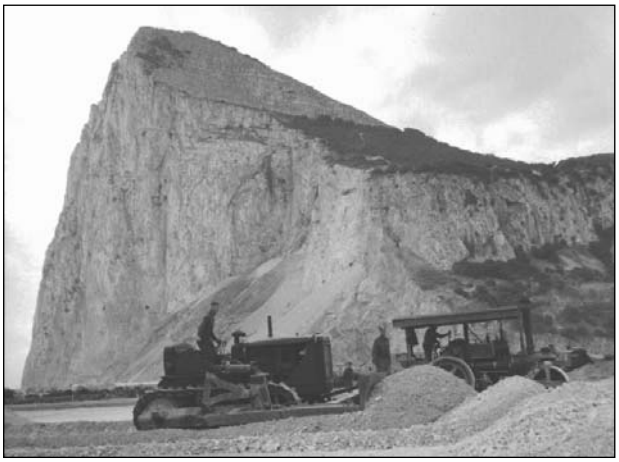
the Allies endeavour and are also perhaps to determine the nature of the enemy's counter-blow. There is a real danger that the Germans would strike through Spain at our vital line of communication through the Straits of Gibraltar. Spain is herself pro-Axis. She is a main centre of Axis Intelligence activity, and there is more than a strong suspicion that urgently needed material has been finding its way across the Pyrenees. Spain is certainly making available to the Germans the radar stations on both sides of the Straits, the southern shore of which is in Spanish hands. The British and American Ambassadors have assured General Franco of the Allies' intention to respect Spain's rights and sovereignty and there are indications that the chief anxiety of the Spanish leader is to maintain neutrality for economic reasons. But it might well be that Axis pressure would prove too strong."

Vital for the execution of the operation was the need for a military airport. The Victoria Gardens at North Front had been converted into a military aerodrome after being filled with rocks excavated from tunnels inside the Rock.

About 100,000 troops had converged in Gibraltar to take part in the North African landing. Also about 600 Allied aircraft assembled onto Gibraltar's single runway without which this important military operation would have been impossible to undertake.

The mission of these aircraft was to fly across the Straits to land on captured airfields in North Africa; with British and American troops landing at key targets in Algiers, Oran, and Casablanca and quickly driving inland with very little resistance by the Vichy Forces. Operation Torch was finally launched on the 8nd November 1942.

Soon after, on the 15th November 1942, all the French troops in Africa joined the Allies.



Construction of the military runway.
Photo Wikipedia Encyclopedia

In less than a year after the launching of Operation Torch, Italy surrendered on the 23rd September 1943 and a few weeks later declared war on Germany. By then French Morocco was already on the side of the Allies.

By end of 1943, the Russians continued to make important advances on the Eastern Front. The Battle of the Atlantic was effectively over and in the Pacific the US forces were overcoming the Japanese in their occupied areas. By then the plans for the Normandy landing on June 1944 were already in hand.

Underground sleeping quarters for troops.
Photo Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

Français
de l'Afrique
du Nord :

FIDELE à l'amitié traditionnelle et séculaire du gouvernement et du peuple des Etats Unis pour la France et pour l'Afrique française du Nord, une grande armée américaine débarque sur votre sol.

Notre mission immédiate est de protéger l'Afrique française du Nord contre la menace d'une invasion italo-allemande. Notre but principal est le même qu'en 1917, c'est-à-dire, l'anéantissement de l'ennemi et la libération complète de la France envahie.

Le jour où la menace italo-allemande ne pèsera plus sur les territoires français nous quitterons votre sol.

La souveraineté de la France sur les territoires français reste entière.

Nous savons que nous pouvons compter sur votre concours pour frayer le chemin qui mène à la victoire et à la paix.

Tous ensemble, on les aura !

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER,
Lieutenant Général,
Commandant en Chef des
Forces Expéditionnaires Américaines.

A copy of leaflets dropped over French North Africa to gain support for the Allied invasion.
Copy of leaflet by Mr M Galliano.

On the 4th July 1943, the aircraft carrying General Sikorsky crashed on the eastern side of the runway a few moments after it took off. General Sikorski and 15 others were killed. The sole survivor was the Czech-born pilot who was rescued by an RAF launch. The bodies of 5 passengers and crew, including Sikorski's daughter, were never found.

Sikorski was the prime minister of Poland's government-in-exile in London when he died in the plane crash.

A British investigation blamed the plane crash on a blocked altitude rudder. But Sikorski's dispute with the Soviet leader, Joseph Stalin, over the deaths of more than 20,000 Polish officers who had been taken prisoner by the Soviet troops led to speculation of an assassination. Some Polish historians also believe that the dispute between Stalin and Sikorski was angering the Allies who needed Stalin's help in fighting Germany's Nazis.

Funeral of General Sikorski in July 1943 before remains were brought on board Polish destroyer Orkan. Photo Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

Between 2008 and 2009, the cause of the death of General Sikorski was investigated by the Polish authorities. The inquiry concluded that the death was caused by the injuries sustained from the plane crash and that the investigation could be reopened if new evidence emerges. The investigation continues as from 2012.

Monument in memory of General Sikorski at Europa Point. Photo J. Gingell.

Describing the Allies achievements up to then, Sir Winston Churchill, in one of his many famous war speeches, said that what had been achieved was not the end or even the beginning of the end but that it was, perhaps, the end of the beginning.

As well as in the follow up to the Normandy landing, Gibraltar also participated in the Allied invasion of Southern France in July 1944 which was code named Operation Dragoon.

The chief objectives of this operation were the capture of the important French ports of Marseille and Toulon, which were considered essential to supply the growing Allied forces in France. For this, a large airborne landing was planned in order to seize quickly the high ground overlooking the beaches. To coincide with the invasion, several commando units would take control of the islands off the coast. Many United States transport aircraft, known to the RAF as Dakotas, took off from Gibraltar, on the first leg of their journey to Italy, where they would form part of the airborne element of Operation Dragoon.

Aerial photo of the airborne armada of C-47s parked at North Front on the morning of 18th July 1944 in Operation Dragon. Photo Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

Another very well known event, that took place near Gibraltar, was that of the sinking of **HMS Ark Royal**. German submarines were said to be waiting near Malaga for her return from delivering aircraft to Malta. She was hit by a torpedo on the 12th November 1941. Many attempts were made to save her from sinking, which included a rescue operation from Gibraltar. But it began to list so much that it was impossible to tow her in that position and she sank the next day, when she was only 25 miles from Gibraltar. On 15th January 1942, HMS Hesperus detected the German submarine U-93 forcing it to dive. With the use of depth charges, the submarine was forced to the surface. HMS Hesperus rescued 36 of her crew and brought them to Gibraltar.

The crew of U-Boat (U-111) was also taken prisoner and brought to Gibraltar by the trawler HMS Lady Shirley on September 1941. A few months later, in December 1941, HMS Lady Shirley was sunk in the Straits by U-374 with the loss of all 33 hands on board. 27 German submarines were sunk in the areas of the Straits of Gibraltar and its approaches during the war.

German sailors disembarking. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

At the beginning of 1941, after the occupation of Italian colonies in East Africa by British forces, the British Government intimated to the administration in Rome, through the intermediation of the International Red Cross, that it could not guarantee the safety of the Italian civilians in the former colonies. Thousands of women, children, old people and invalids who were crowded into insanitary internment camps where, exacerbated by the climate, epidemics were wiping many of them out.
The Governors of the Italian colonies, who had good relations with the authorities in London, were given the task of organising the repatriation. At a meeting held in Genoa it was decided that the ships Saturnia and Vulcania would be chartered.
Following the agreement reached through the mediation of the Swiss Government, the Saturnia and Vulcania left Genoa on their voyage round Africa as hospital ships. By the end of three missions, the ship had repatriated 30,000 Italian colonists.

The Italian liners Vulcania and Saturnia as a hospital ship in April 1942. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

In September 1942, the troopship Laconia was in the South Atlantic bound for the UK carrying Italian prisoners of war, allied troops and civilians when it was sunk by a German submarine. When picking up survivors it realised that the majority were Italians and signalled for help from other German and Italian submarines in the area. A Vichy French warship also went to help. Two British warships also picked the signal, but thought it was a trap. An American bomber flying in the vicinity bombed the German submarine forcing it to submerge. It also received orders from the German high command to abandon the rescue operation. It was reported that more than 1,400 passengers were known to have drowned. Mrs Blanche Allen, who was among the British civilian survivors, said that the Germans treated them with kindness all the three days they spent in the submarine. They were then transferred to a Vichy French cruiser which had called to help with the rescue and took them to Casablanca. From Casablanca they were taken to an internment camp where they spent about two months. Mrs Blanche said that they had been treated badly and described the food as revolting. They were liberated just before Xmas 1942 when the Allied troops took over French North Africa. After their liberation they boarded a hospital ship which brought them to Gibraltar. They were medically examined and then boarded a ship which took them to Liverpool. Mrs Blanche Allen is in the picture second from the left and holding her son Michael by the hand.

Survivors from the Laconia incident leaving the Gibraltar hospital for the UK. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

During the war, Italian prisoners were kept in Nissen huts built near the Laguna and at Camp Bay in the area near where the Nuffield Pool is.

Prisoner of War transit camp at Camp; Bay during World War Two. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

Bram van der Stock, a fighter-pilot, was one of the three prisoners to break out successfully from the POW camp at Stalag Luft III, in what became known as "The Great Escape".
He managed to travel through Germany, Belgium, and France with the help of underground resistance movements. He crossed the Pyrenees via Lleida and with the help of contacts in Spain he arrived in Gibraltar on 8th July 1944. He went back to England in July 1944 and was posted to Spitfire 91 Squadron, going on to fight in Operation Overlord.

Bram van der Stok. Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia.

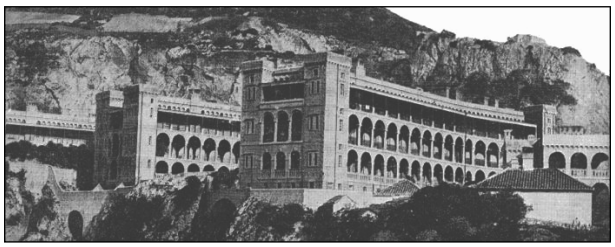
USAAF 2nd Lt Howard Kelly managed to make his way to Gibraltar from Nazi occupied France after his B-17 bomber was shot down.

USAAF 2nd Lt Howard Kell. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

It is believed Miraflores became safe hiding place for those who made to San Roque after escaping from Germany. From Miraflores they were enventually brought into Gibraltar hiding in the boot of the British Consul's car or disguised with the necessary documents as members of the British Diplomtic Services.

The British Military Hospital in Gibraltar had to attend to many casualties, including many survivors, the majority of whom, were from the Malta convoys. The most common of the injuries treated were burns. These were more difficult to treat, because at the time, penicillin had not yet been introduced. As the war progressed, a second hospital was built in Gibraltar deep inside the Rock in case the above ground hospital was destroyed.

In anticipation of the underground hospital in Gibraltar becoming functional, the staff exercised emergency evacuation procedures.



The British Military Hospital. Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia.

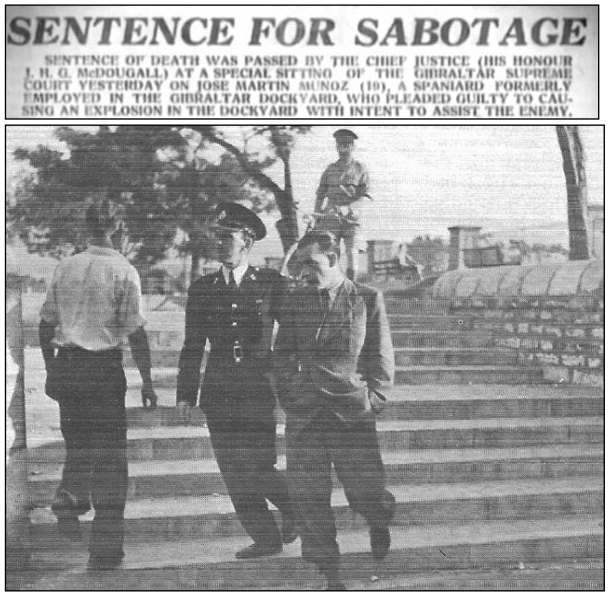
During the war, there were many German spying agents recruited in the Spanish hinterland. They operated, under the influence of Spanish officers who were members of the Falange. The recruitment was carried out by means of financial rewards, political persuasion, threats and intimidation. Since February 1941, many sabotage operations were detected and foiled by British intelligence, but a few managed to succeed like the explosion in the North Tunnel and the bomb that blew up near the airfield in April 1941. In January 1942, German saboteurs managed to sink an armed trawler causing extensive damages to the auxiliary minesweeper, HMT Honju, resulting in the deaths of six British seamen.

In March 1942, Gibraltar born saboteur, Jose Estella Key, one of the most prominent agents working for the Germans and responsible for the collection of information on military movements, was arrested.

Copy of Joseph Estella's Fortress Barrier Pass. Copy Mr C Tribello.

During his arrest, he was found to be carrying information intended for transmission to the Germans. Key was taken to the UK and charged under the Treachery Act. He was executed at Wandsworth Prison on 7th July 1942.

In March 1943, an ammunition dump was blown up by the secret agents. The British intelligence banned suspicious saboteurs from entering Gibraltar, forcing Abwehr to recruit new agents amongst whom was Spanish worker, José Martín Muñoz, responsible for the explosion and fire at a large fuel tank at Coaling Island on 30th June 1943.



Above Jose Martin Muñoz being arrested. Photo and heading Gibraltar Chronicle.

He was also charged with having hidden a bomb in the coal-hole of a local café. He was cornered and arrested by British authorities in August, when he tried to smuggle a bomb into one of the major magazines. He was sentenced to death for having acted with "intent to assist the enemy by an act designed to impede naval operations or to endanger life."

Another Spaniard, Luis López Cordón-Cuenca, was arrested in 1943. Cuenca was charged with "acting with intent to assist the enemy, and with having in his possession a bomb intended to cause an explosion in the dockyard."

At his trial, Cuenca said that he did not know that the package he had delivered to a house in Gibraltar contained a German-made bomb. He was convicted on the 31st August 1943. Muñoz and Cuenca were hanged in Gibraltar on the 11th January 1944.

The head of operations in Spain was arrested by the Spanish police, but was freed again in December 1943 and rejoined the German secret services in Madrid under direct orders of the head of the sabotage section in Spain. When SS Calumet sailed with convoy HG40, she also carried eleven prisoners amongst the evacuees. The prisoners were Gibraltarian Fascists who had been arrested and kept at the Moorish Castle in accordance with defence regulations.

The double agents recruited by the British Intelligence Services, included some who were anti-Franco survivors of the purges and were involved in foiling sabotage activities. Amongst these double agents there was a Basque employed in the Dockyard as a lorry driver and known to the British Secret Services as NAG who prevented an act of sabotage on the minelayer **HMS Manxman.**

WRNS First Officer Madeleine Victorine Bayard (Barclay). Photo Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

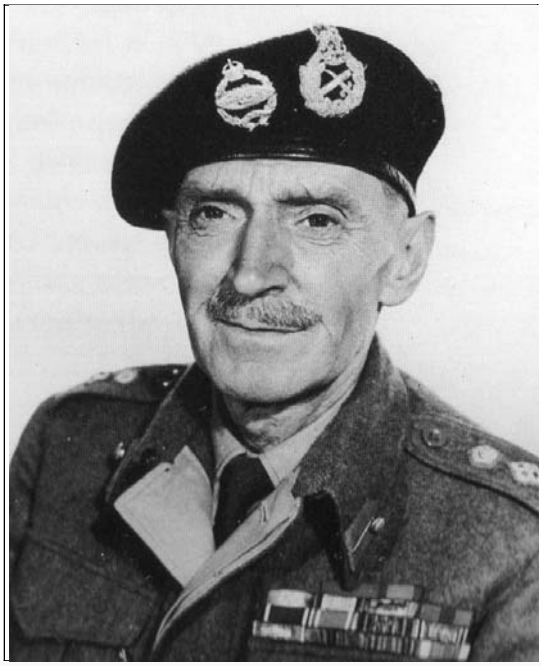
Operating as a French/British agent was First Officer Madeline Bayard, WRNS known under the name of Barclay and served on board **HMS Fidelity** as an agent of the Special Operations Executive. She was lost with the rest of the crew when **HMS Fidelity** was sunk off the Azores by a German submarine in January 1943.

In an article about espionage, a British journalist commented that it was possible to pass secret information to Berlin about Gibraltar by walking in just ten minutes across to La Linea. The same reporter carried on saying that the fact that there were about 6,000 Spaniards entering and leaving the fortress made the task of the security forces very difficult. The reason why there had been only a few cases of sabotage was owing to their successful policy of taking preventive measures. It is a well known fact that there were many German spies watching the movement of ships, troops and aircraft from across the surrounding towns on the Spanish hinterland. At the Isla Del Perejil near Ceuta, the Germans established a look out to watch the movement of ships and passed on the information via a radio transmitter installed in the nearby mainland of what was then Spanish Morocco. There the Germans also acquired a villa where they resided. The crossings from the Isla de Perejil to the Spanish Morocco which was just a few hundred metres were made by means of a midget submarine. Since the beginning of the war the operations were carried out with the full knowledge of the Spanish government. The cell was ordered to be dismantled by the Spanish Government just before the war ended in 1945. On the 25th September 1942, a Catalina flying boat crashed off Cadiz on its way to Gibraltar. Among those on board the aircraft was a Royal Navy officer, Lt James Turner. He was carrying a letter from General Mark Clark, US Army to the Governor of Gibraltar. The text of the letter included the actual date of the landing of Operation Torch. Lt. Turner was carrying the letter in the inside pocket of his flying jacket whose zipper seems to have jammed. The bodies of the crew were returned to Gibraltar by the Spanish authorities in the manner in which they were found.

Official records state that Lt.Turner was buried at sea, a cryptic post-war "presumption" memo states that only two bodies were recovered and that Turner was lost at sea but the fact is Lt.Turner is buried at the North Front Cemetery.

Similar to this operation was that of " Operation Meansmeat." The main difference was that it was discovered that the body of Major William Martin,carrying the phoney secret documents, was actually searched and the information about the Allied landings were given to the German intelligence.

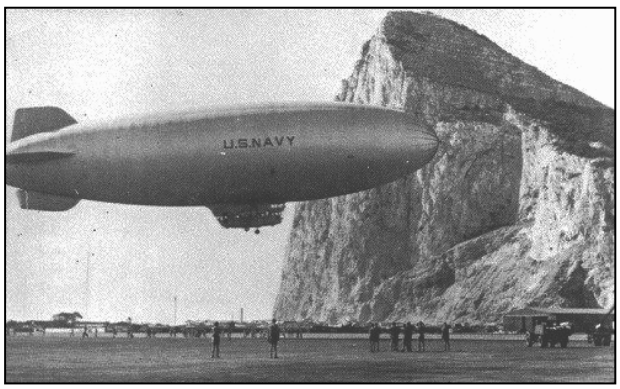
Also, in that case, the body was not returned to Gibraltar and was actually buried in Huelva.
Whilst in a theatrical play, Mr Clifton James was noticed for his likeness to General Montgomery. He was recruited by the secret service to play the General's double in order to deceive the Germans.



Mr Clifton James posing as General Montgomery. Wikipedia free Encyclopedia

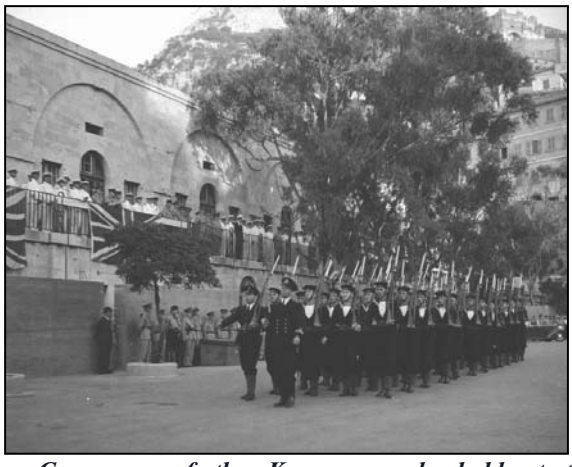
The Germans had no idea where the Allied invasion force would land. Mr James, disguised as General Montgomery, flew to Gibraltar which was considered the ideal place to deceive Germans spies operating from nearby Spain. The plan of deception was aimed at making the Germans to divert troops from Northern France, by convincing the Germans that an Allied invasion of Southern France would precede a northern invasion. Secret agents were desperately trying to track down Montgomery's movements in a bid to find out. Mr James was trained to impersonate General Montgomery and sent to Gibraltar. When in Gibraltar, he was met by cheering crowds and was deliberately introduced to two, unsuspecting, German agents who passed on the message that Montgomery was in the Mediterranean when in fact he was in England co-ordinating the D-Day invasion, when thousands of British, American and Canadian troops stormed onto the beaches of Normandy, catching the Germans by surprise.
The plan of deception was aimed at in making the Germans to divert troops from Northern France, by convincing the Germans that an Allied invasion of Southern France would precede a northern invasion. Secret agents were desperately trying to track down Montgomery's movements in a bid to find out.

The US Navy Airship, shown in the photograph below was the first of its type to land in continental Europe. It made a few landings at Gibraltar in July 1944.



Visit of a US Navy Airship in July 1944. Photo Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia.

The main purpose of these landings was to test the Rock's facilities for the landing of similar airships.
The landings were carried out successfully even with an 18-knot cross 'Rock' wind and avoiding flying over neutral Spanish territory during its approach to the runway.
The RAF Commanding Officer, a Vice Air Marshal, witnessed at first hand the airship's trial flights when he was taken for a trip around the Rock. It took fifty RAF personnel to assist with the procedures for the landing and anchorage of the airship. A duty airship pilot was stationed at Gibraltar for the purpose of liaising the operations.
During the war, Gibraltar was visited by many high ranking military and civilian officials. This page contains photographs of some of the many officials who visited Gibraltar during the war.
Below is a photo on the occasion of the visit of the Duke of Gloucester to Gibraltar in October 1941. During his visit he was given a tour around Gibraltar and was shown all the military establishments.



The Ceremony of the Keys parade held at the Casemates when the Duke of Gloucester visited Gibraltar 1941. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

Lord Gort Casemates. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

Among the visits of VIPs during war, there were also many visits from successive Governors of Algeciras and Governors of Gibraltar also paid numerous visits to Algeciras. Below are photos of the visits of two of the Governors of Algeciras; General Ponte and General Barron. Another General, who paid various visits to Gibraltar, was Agustin Muñoz Grande

During one of his visits in January 1941, he was invited onboard **HMS Ark Royal** and shown all the most modern weapons of the time.

It is believed that these visits by Spanish senior military officers were intended to make them understand that Gibraltar was fully equipped to resist any enemy attack.

General Ponte 1941. Gibraltar Old Photos2.

The Governor of Algeciras General Barron Ortiz, accompanied by the Governor of Gibraltar Field Marshal Lord. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

In October 1943, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Colonel the Right Honourable Oliver Stanley, visited Gibraltar and made various announcements in connection with the most pressing needs of Gibraltar's post war plans. He said that it had been a great pleasure for him to have been able to visit, even for a few hours, an historic place like Gibraltar which he regarded as not only one of Great Britain's most loyal and ancient colonies, but also one of its greatest fortresses.

He continued saying in his radio broadcast that the evacuation had been a vital necessity, but His Majesty's Government, which was forced to take that hard decision, appreciated to the full the sacrifices it had entailed and mentioned the families in London. After the evacuation of the bulk of the civilian population, the only civilians that were allowed to stay behind were those who were required to work on essential services.

Group of men who residing at Turnbull's Lane Standing first from the right Frankie Perera Seated on the right: Mr Tommy Finlayson the rest his sons Albert, Carlos and Jorge. Photo Daphne Santos.

There were about 4,000 civilians, mostly men, in essential services including a contingent of men serving in the Gibraltar Defence Force. Many other Gibraltarians also served in all three services and there was at least one Gibraltarian in every theatre of war, including, in the Far East, where some Gibraltarians died in action during the war including three who suffered atrocities in Japanese POW camps.

Thousands of Spaniards came to work daily but left before the curfew time. Gibraltar was not as heavily attacked as had been expected; nonetheless, there were contingency plans for a mass evacuation of troops and civilians working in the fortress.

Despite the few bombing incidents suffered by Gibraltar in comparison to the heavy bombardment of London, it is interesting to know that more civilians died in Gibraltar from July to September 1940, as a result of the bombing by the Italians and the Vichy French air forces, than evacuees killed by the heavy bombing of London from September 1940 to July 1944.

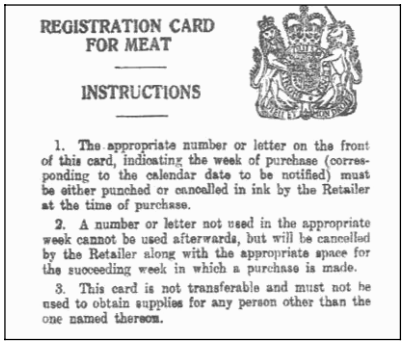
From August to October 1940 over £5,000 were raised in Gibraltar for the purchase of a Spitfire fighter plane. The money was raised through the Gibraltar Chronicle and was passed on to the Ministry of Aircraft Production. The Spitfire was named Gibraltar in recognition of Gibraltar efforts to raise the money. The Gibraltar Spitfire joined the RAF in April 1941.

Below a Spitfire aircraft similar to the one purchased with Gibraltar funds.

Supermarine Spitfire being assembled at RAF North Front for Operation Torch. Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia

Gibraltarians in the Army 1941.
From left to right Antonio Sene, Joseph Perera,...?...

Shops were replenished all the time with basic food supplies. Most of the fruits, vegetables and fish came from across the frontier and were available every day. Bread and some other items of groceries were also available all the times. However, there were some other items like meat that could only be obtained by means of ration cards. Other items found were those which were considered luxury items at the time like the nylon stockings, watches, radios, ballpoint pens, cosmetics etc.



REGISTRATION CARD FOR MEAT

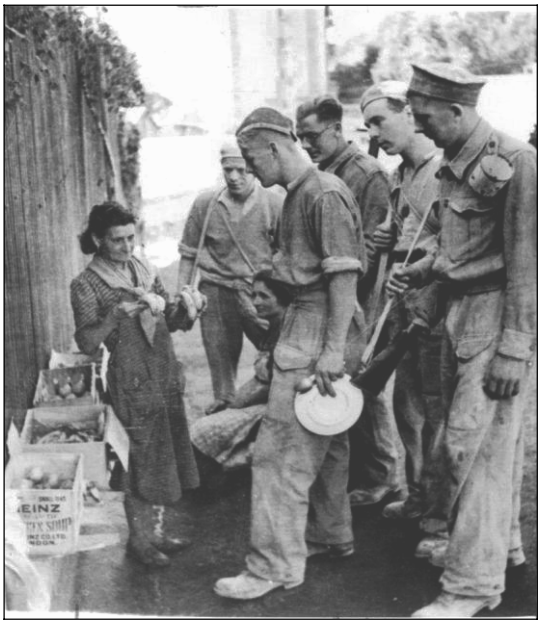
INSTRUCTIONS

1. The appropriate number or letter on the front of this card, indicating the week of purchase (corresponding to the calendar date to be notified) must be either punched or cancelled in ink by the Retailer at the time of purchase.

2. A number or letter not used in the appropriate week cannot be used afterwards, but will be cancelled by the Retailer along with the appropriate space for the succeeding week in which a purchase is made.

3. This card is not transferable and must not be used to obtain supplies for any person other than the one named thereon.

Meat ration card. Mr M.Galliano



Troops buying fruits from Spanish street vendors. Photo Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

By late autumn in 1943, the military authorities considered that Gibraltar was no longer vulnerable to enemy attacks and therefore saw no reason for not allowing the necessary preparation for the repatriation of the civilian population to commence as from early 1944.

The Italian tanker Olterra was surrendered to the British naval authorities under the terms of the Allied armistice agreement under which Italian ships were required to make for British bases. She had been unable to escape for three and a half years for fear of seizure by the British but on the other hand had served as an operational base for Italian frogmen to target Allied ships during the war. The only member of the crew to remain in Algeciras was the chief engineer, who accompanied the ship to Gibraltar.

The local cinemas were the Rialto and the Theatre Royal where many Spanish-speaking films were shown. The entrance fee was about 6 old pennies (2p).

The Resident-General of French Morocco, M.Pauux visited Gibraltar to pay an official visit to the Governor of Gibraltar. He was accompanied by Colonel Duval of the French Air Force and the British Consul General at Rabat, Mr Stonehewer-Bird. During the course of his visit, he was conducted round some of the main tunnels and points of interest in the fortress and later toured round Gibraltar in a motor launch. He left with his entourage by air for Rabat.

Resident-General of French Morocco Visits the Rock

His Excellency the Resident-General of French Morocco, M. Puaux, paid an official visit to His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gibraltar, yesterday.

HE was accompanied by Col. Vitrolles, of the French Air Force, Colonel Duval, his secretary, Mr. Stonehewer-Bird, British Consul-General at Rabat, and members of his personal staff.

On arrival by air at North Front, M. Puaux was received by the Governor, who was accompanied by Vice-Admiral Sir Harold Burrough, Flag Officer Commanding Gibraltar, Air Commodore Simpson, the Colonial Secretary (the Hon. Miles Clifford), Maj.-Gen. F. G. Hyland, Deputy Fortress Commander, and members of the French military and naval mission.

TOUR OF ROCK

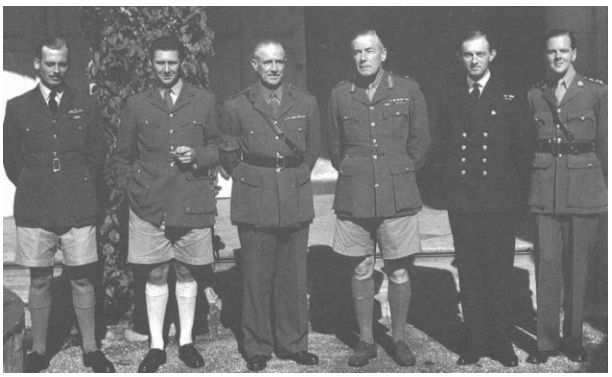
Mr. Puaux inspected a guard of honour provided by the Herts. Regiment, and was the guest of the Governor at a luncheon at The Convent.

During the course of his visit he was conducted round some of the main tunnels and points of interest in the fortress and later toured round the Rock in a motor launch.

He left with his entourage by air for Rabat last night.

Gibraltar Chronicle cutting

By the end of 1944, more than half of the evacuees had already been repatriated and although the war was not yet over, it had reached a stage where Gibraltar was no longer under threat of an attack by enemy forces.



General Noel Mason-Macfarlane Governor and Commander in Chief with other military officers. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

In the 1944 New Year's speech, the Governor Sir Noel Mason MacFarlane, amongst other things, said that the Allied air force had carried out vast combined operations devastating Germany's vitals areas. The German people were, at last, learning the lessons of what the war meant in one's own country knowing that total defeat was not very far away. Furthermore, the ring round Germany's so-called European Fortress was gradually narrowing. He carried on saying that in the Atlantic the combined efforts of the Allied navies had succeeded in dominating conclusively the U-boat threats which at one time had become really critical due to vast losses of allied ships. Their menace was not totally eliminated, but the Allies were in a position to strike against the, enemy within reason, wherever they choose and hope for a relatively speedy victory.

Civilians and military personnel in Main Street during towards the end of the war. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

He also referred to the vital role played by Gibraltar during the war, particularly in relation to the North Africa operations. He commented that whilst taking advantage of what had been achieved, it did not mean that it was time to relax efforts, although the volume of work had diminished significantly.

He continued by saying that as the war eased there was more time for sporting and entertainment activities.

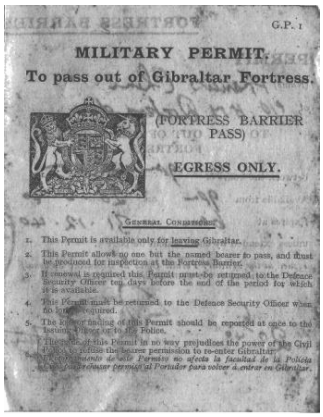
Most of the time there was very little to do after work, with the streets remaining almost empty just before the start of the curfew. The main sources of entertainment at weekends were football, hockey, boxing and other sports or indoor games. The football grounds were usually full. Football teams, of visiting ships played against each other and against local teams.

Dancer at the Royal Hotel Bar. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

A few musical bands used to perform at the dances held in the Assembly Rooms, hotels and clubs. Along Main Street there were about four or five saloon bars/cafes like the Trocadero, the Royal, the Suizo and the Universal.
By then, those who remained in Gibraltar were eagerly awaiting the return of their relatives like the men depicted near their dwellings at Chicardo's Passage in the photo below.

From top to bottom:
Manuel Linares, Manuel Infante, Kiko Danino
Francis Infante

Those men who stayed behind and who worked for the military authorities needed a special security pass to leave or enter the Fortress Barrier. Below is an example of the special security pass issued to Mr Francisco Chini who worked in the Captain of the Dockyard Department as an engine driver. Incidentally, Mr Chini, was at the time, the father-in-law to be of Mr Manuel Infante, who was engaged to Miss Elena Chini, evacuated to London.



G.P. 1

MILITARY PERMIT.

To pass out of Gibraltar Fortress.

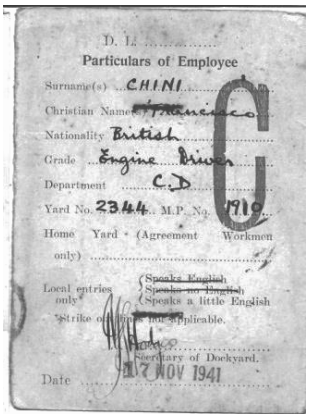
(FORTRESS BARRIER PASS)

(EGRESS ONLY.

General Conditions.

1. This Permit is available only for leaving Gibraltar.
2. This Permit allows no one but the named bearer to pass, and must be produced for inspection at the Fortress Barrier.
3. If required to re-enter this Permit must be returned to the Defence Security Officer two days before the end of the period for which it is available.
4. This Permit must be returned to the Defence Security Officer when no longer required.
5. The [illegible] of this Permit should be reported at once to the [illegible] Police.

Obtaining of this Permit in no way prejudices the power of the Civil [illegible] to refuse the bearer permission to re-enter Gibraltar.



D. L. .....

Particulars of Employee

Surname(s) CHINI

Christian Names Francisco

Nationality British

Grade Engine Driver

Department C.D.

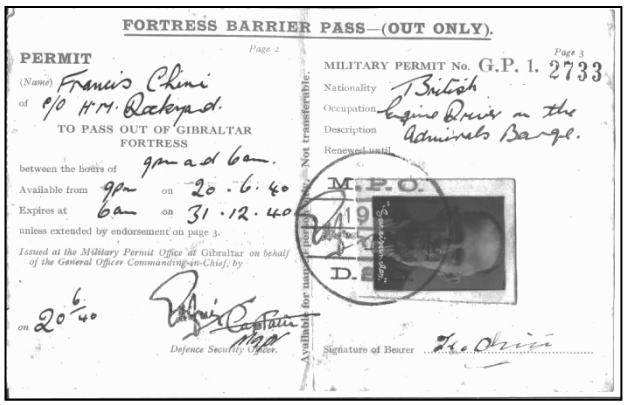
Yard No. 2344 M.P. No. 1919

Home Yard (Agreement Workmen only) .....

Local entries only (Speaks English, Speaks no English, Speaks a little English) Strike out [illegible] not applicable.

Secretary of Dockyard.

Date 27 NOV 1941



FORTRESS BARRIER PASS—(OUT ONLY).

Page 2

PERMIT

(Name) Francis Chini

of c/o H.M. Dockyard.

TO PASS OUT OF GIBRALTAR FORTRESS

between the hours of 9pm and 6am.

Available from 9pm on 20.6.40

Expires at 6am on 31.12.40

unless extended by endorsement on page 3.

Issued at the Military Permit Office at Gibraltar on behalf of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, by

on 20/6/40

Defence Security Officer.

Page 3

MILITARY PERMIT No. G.P. 1. 2733

Nationality British

Occupation Engine Driver on the Admirals Barge.

Description

Renewed until

M.P.O.

D.

Signature of Bearer Francis Chini

Not transferable. Available for more than one journey.

There were the forces cinemas like the Naval Trust, the Garrison Cinema at the Ince's Hall and the Globe. Entertainment National Service Association (ENSA) visited Gibraltar on a tour to entertain Allied forces and performed at the Theatre Royal in July 1943.
In order to provide healthy and enjoyable leave for members of the garrison of Gibraltar during the war, the Governor's Cottage was transformed into a Country Club. The Club had its own inn, combined theatre and cinema, library and games section largely stocked by Sir George Gaggero, OBE. ENSA used to put on entertainment in the theatre and the catering at the Victory Inn

The pixie on the right with a giant bow in her hair is Vivien Leigh; other artists included Kay Young, Richard Hayden, Dorothy Dickson, Nicholas Phipps and Bea Lillie. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

In Gibraltar, like in Britain, people were awaiting the imminent announcement of the end of the war in Europe. In the meantime preparations were being made to celebrate the end of the war in Europe. On the 1st May 1945, Hitler and his wife committed suicide. Then on the 7th May 1945, it was officially announced that Germany had surrendered unconditionally. The next day the formal documents of surrender were signed and thus the war in Europe was finally over. When the end of hostilities was finally announced, a 21 salute was fired from the fortress heavy guns. In the evening there was a fireworks display from the Detached Mole.

The Gibraltar Chronicle published the details of the events which were going to be held to celebrate the end of the war and Victory in Europe – VE day.

VE SALUTE

Thanksgiving: victory march and funfair

GIBRALTAR'S fortress guns are waiting to fire their victory salute. A 21-round salvo from the "heavies," timed to herald peace in Europe within a few minutes of the Prime Minister's broadcast announcement of the end of hostilities, will be followed the same evening by a general barrage and a firework display from Detached Mole.

Subject to any last-minute alterations necessitated by the time at which Mr. Churchill's broadcast is made, Gibraltar's VE-Day celebrations have been completed almost down to the last detail.

Gib. celebrates

OPEN-AIR DANCING AT FUNFAIR

Prominent Gibraltar citizens have donated about £700 towards today's victory celebrations on the Rock.

At Alameda, chief centre of celebration, where the long-planned funfair will be in full swing, 100,000 cigarettes, 8,000 pints of beer, 10,000 sandwiches, 3,000 bottles of lemonade and about 5,000 cups of tea will be distributed free of charge.

SPECIAL illuminations have been erected at the fair, which has a wide variety of sideshows. A space has also been left open for dancing.

During the night the garrison military band will play near the Eliott monument from six o'clock till midnight. The King's speech will be broadcast through loudspeakers.

'Coronation' flags

Union Jacks which quickly appeared in Gibraltar streets yesterday afternoon as news spread that the war in Europe was over had been held in stock in the town since as far back as Coronation Day. Most of them were made in Germany.

Reason for German flags was easy to discover. Officials of the Gibraltar War Fund who sold them to the public had been faced with a peculiar decision. Practically the only flags in the town were 92 dozen of these German-made Union Jacks. It was a question of German Union Jacks — or a restricted display of thanksgiving.

An official of Gibraltar War Fund told the *Chronicle* yesterday: "The only flags obtainable were those held in stock since before the war. They were bought in England for the Coronation."

Gibraltar Chronicle on VE Day celebrations.

Rose Enrile (later Gilbert) on VE Day

The whole of Gibraltar made to the streets to celebrate the end of the war as depicted in the pictures on this page.

Church services

3 Arrangements have been made for churches of all denominations in the Colony to be open for prayer and thanksgiving after the Prime Minister's announcement on VE-Day. If the Prime Minister's announcement is made after 6 p.m. on VE-Day the churches will be open during the day following VE-Day at 9.30 a.m. Official services of thanksgiving will not be held on VE-Day but on a day to be announced in due course as a day of thanksgiving. On the day of thanksgiving official services will be held.

4 H.M. the King will broadcast at 9 p.m. double British summer time on VE-Day.

5 The day following VE-Day will be declared as a public holiday unless VE-Day falls on a Saturday, in which case the Monday following will be a public holiday.

Joint parade

6 A victory parade in which members of the fighting and civilian services will take part will be held on the Saturday following VE-Day unless VE-Day falls on a Thursday or Friday in which case the parade will be held on the next Saturday but one after VE-Day. H.E. the Governor and Commander-in-Chief will take the salute at Casemates Square. A further announcement with regard to the arrangements for the victory parade will be made later.

7 A salute of guns will be fired upon the announcement of victory.

8 Special entertainments will be provided in the Alameda Gar- at 6 p.m. on VE-Day unless the announcement of the cessation of hostilities is made after midday in which case the entertainments will be held at 6 p.m. on the following day.

The Air Raid Precaution Services
The Red Cross Society and Order of St. John
Talbot House
The Salvation Army
The Welcome Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmen's Home
The Boy Scouts
including
The Sea Scouts
The Girl Guides
The Regular Police
The Special Police
The Security Police
The Dockyard Police

Mounted Sections of the Corps of Military Police will precede the Column and bring up the rear.

The Band of the Somerset Light Infantry, assisted by Pipes from the Corps of Royal Engineers, will play the Column through the streets of the City and past His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief in Grand Casemates Square.

Trumpeters of the Royal Regiment of Artillery will sound the Royal Salute on the arrival of His Excellency.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

VICTORY MARCH

12th MAY, 1945

By Order of His Excellency
Lieutenant-General Sir T. Ralph Eastwood,
K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.
Governor and Commander-in-Chief
of the City and Garrison of Gibraltar.

A VICTORY MARCH

Held in Gibraltar
on Saturday, the Twelfth Day of May,
in the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and
Forty-Five, to celebrate the Victory in Europe.

THE ORDER OF MARCH

The Royal Navy
The Royal Marines
The Women's Royal Naval Service
The United States Navy
The French Navy

Headquarters, Gibraltar Garrison
including
The Intelligence Corps
and
The Army Physical Training Corps
and
The Army Catering Corps
The Royal Armoured Corps
The Royal Regiment of Artillery
The Corps of Royal Engineers
The Royal Corps of Signals
including
The Signal Section of the Gibraltar Defence Force

The 31st Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment
The 30th Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment
The Royal Army Service Corps
The Royal Army Medical Corps
including
The Army Dental Corps
The Royal Army Ordnance Corps
The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
The Royal Army Pay Corps
The Army Educational Corps
The Pioneer Corps
including
The Overseas Fire Brigade
Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service
The Auxiliary Territorial Service
The Women's Auxiliary Army Service
(Entertainment Unit)
The Gibraltar Defence Force
including
The Fire Section of the Gibraltar Defence Force

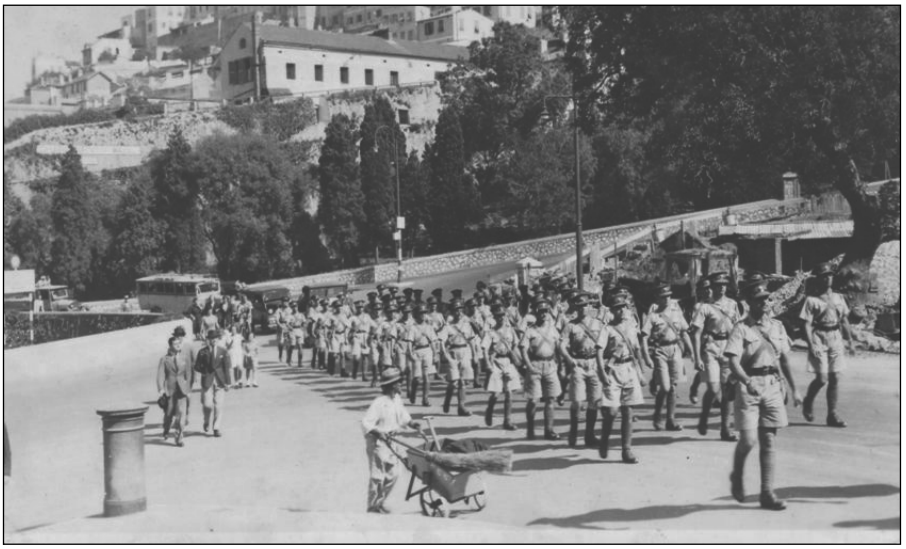
The Royal Air Force
The South African Air Force
The Royal Australian Air Force
The Women's Auxiliary Air Force

The Merchant Navy
The British Legion

Victory March details. Mr M Galliano

GDF and Fire Brigade marching along Main Street on the 12th May 1945. Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

Victory in Europe Parade along Reclamation Road with the participation of the Fire Brigade. Photo Mrs R Gilbert.



The GDF marching towards the Alameda Grand Parade to celebrate VE Day.
Photos above and below Mr A Ferrary.

The Gibraltar Defence Force during the World War Two.

The following is copy of a petition sent to the King George VI in January 1948 to matters related to the evacuation.

1. THAT in May 1940 an official order was enacted requiring the evacuation of the Civil population of Gibraltar with the exception of those engaged on essential war service.
2. THAT this order was prompted exclusively for military reasons connected with the defence of Gibraltar and although protested against by the people, was nevertheless compulsorily enforced.
3. THAT part of the population was evacuated to French Morocco, in April/May 1940.
4. THAT in July 1940 those evacuated to French Morocco were sumarily expelled by the French Authorities immediately after the collapse of France, brought to Gibraltar under most distressing conditions and, from Gibraltar notwithstanding a general protest and demonstration against being re-evacuated, forcibly re-embarked, sent to the United Kingdom and housed chiefly in London, which as it turned out was a far more dangerous war-area and more exposed to air raids than Gibraltar itself. Others were sent to the Islands of Madeira and Jamaica.
5. THAT Gibraltarians residing in the neighbouring towns of Spain were also forcibly ordered to evacuate their families to the United Kingdom and Jamaica under threat that if such families were not evacuated their wage-earners who were engaged in Gibraltar in essential war work would thenceforth not be allowed to see or communicate with them in Spain.
6. THAT in such circumstances the families referred to living in Spain had no alternative but to abandon their homes, forfeith their right of residence in Spain, and were embarked to the United Kingdom and elsewere.
7. THAT in 1944 the main body of Gibraltar evacues in London were removed to camps in Northern Ireland.
8. THAT since the termination of the war the bulk of the evacuated population of Gibraltar numbering about 15,000 has been repatriated. A large part of such population have been accomodated in temporary buildings and Nissen Huts whilst some returned evacuees found asylum with their relatives and have thus caused most distressing conditions of overcrowding which have given rise to serious concern to those responsible for the sanitary conditions of Gibraltar.
9. THAT about 1334 evacuees still remain in camps in Northern Ireland, 33 in Madeira and 50 in Tangier and Spain. Moreover about 1400 are in the United Kingdom but not dependent on the Government scheme.
10. THAT the conditions of the camps in Northern Ireland can only be described as appalling and this fact has been consistently brought to the notice of the Local Authorities by the Unofficial Members of the Resettlement Board and by Local Representative Bodies from the time that such evacuees arrived in Ireland but an assurance has been invariably given by the Government that the appalling conditions complained of had been greatly exaggerated, an assurance which unhappily has proved to be unfounded.
11. THAT early in 1947 the Resettlement Board decided to send the Executive Officer of the Board on a tour of inspection of such camps and that the report of this Officer on the general conditions of the camps unfortunately proved that the sanitary and general conditions under which these unfortunate Gibraltar evacuees were living in Northern Ireland Camps were even worse than had hitherto become known.
12. THAT this Officer's report was subsequently confirmed by the Welfare Officer of the Colonial Office in London.
13. THAT letters have appeared in the public Press written by independent visitors to such Irish Camps describing them as unfit for human habitation apart from the severe climatic conditions to which those born in Gibraltar are unaccustomed and have therefore suffered in health as a result.
14. THAT the Imperial Government some time ago decided to transfer the evacuees in Ireland to more humanly favourable surroundings in London but to the deep regret of the evacuees and of the loyal people of Gibraltar, the Secretary of State for the Colonies for unknown reasons, failed to carry out this longlooked for decision.
15. THAT despite protests and interviews by a Committee of Evacuees with the Colonial Office Authorities in London and communications to the Prime Minister himself, these unfortunate evacuees have failed to obtain the slightest redress.
16. THAT the Goverment of Gibraltar with the co-operation of the Services have now exhausted all immediate possible means of accomodating more people in Gibraltar without the urgent further erection of temporary buildings, the material for the construction of which is unobtainable, and the cost of which can hardly be met by local resources which have been most severely drained owing to heavy expenses already borne by the Colony in connection with the evacuation and resettlement of evacuees which have brought the public finances of Gibraltar to the verge of bankruptcy.
17. THAT notwithstanding that the evacuation as stated above was carried out exclusively for military reasons and not by way of safeguarding the people, those in a position to do so have without hesitation borne the heavy expenses involved in their evacuation and in their long banishment from Gibraltar and even the poorer classes have contributed to the Imperial Government a proportion of the expenses incurred by the evacuation and maintenance of their families out of Gibraltar and many are still doing so in the case of evacuees which still remain in Northern Ireland and elsewhere.
18. THAT a building scheme involving the erection of blocks of flats at the instigation of the Local Government with the concurrence of the Home Government has had to be considerably curtailed owing to conditions imposed by the Home Government in connection with the tendering and carrying out of such work which was eventually entrusted to an English firm at the minimum staggering cost of about £2,000,000 and this to build only one half of the originally planned blocks of flats which were in fact estimated to cost very much below the high figures referred to.
19. THAT the cost of such buildings has been strongly criticised by the people of Gibraltar as being out of all proportion to the size and resources of this small Colony whilst providing for only half of the buildings originally planned at a lesser cost to house the greater portion of the evacuated population.
20. THAT taking the foregoing facts into consideration, the people of Gibraltar en masse feel that it is inconsistent with the principles of justice and equity and even of human feeling to allow the grievances of their compatriot evacuees to remain unredressed and, therefore, that as a last resort they are in duty bound to appeal to Your Gracious Majesty in Council for a redress of such grievances.

Your Humble Memorialists and Most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Inhabitants of Gibraltar, with the deepest respect most humbly pray:—

"THAT Your Gracious Majesty in His clemency will, "having regard to the foregoing facts and to the "earnest wishes of us, His Most Dutiful and Loyal "Subjects in Gibraltar, be pleased to command that "Your Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the "Colonies do reconsider the justified grievances of "the Gibraltar Evacuees and redress them by making "immediate arrangements to close the camps in Nor"thern Ireland and to transfer them to suitable and "hygienic habitations in the United Kingdom pending "arrangements for their ultimate repatriation to Gib"raltar, which His Excellency the Governor of Gib"raltar and the Resettlement Board are much concern"ed in endeavouring to put into effect as soon as "possible."

And Your Humble Memorialists and Most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects will ever pray.

Dated at Gibraltar the 6th day of January 1948.

(Signed) LIONEL JAMES IMOSSI,
Representing The Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce,

(Signed) RAFAEL H. BIANCHI,
Representing the Transport & General Workers' Union (Gibraltar Branch)

(Signed) JOHN T. ELLICOTT,
Representing the City Council of Gibraltar.

(Signed) ALBERT J. RISSO,
Representing the Association for the Advancement of Civil Rights.

Copy Mr J Lesano

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE REPATRIATION

By late autumn 1943, the military authorities considered that Gibraltar was no longer vulnerable to enemy attacks and therefore saw no reasons for not allowing the repatriation of the civilian population. About that time, the Governor visited London with the aim of having detailed discussions with the British Government on the policy to follow for the return of the evacuees. The main problem affecting their return was the very acute shortage of accommodation in Gibraltar. Some of the existing buildings, which were going to be used to accommodate the repatriates, required extensive refurbishment. Essential domestic utilities like cooking appliances, lighting and running water had still to be installed in many buildings before they could be allocated as dwellings. The other equally important requirements that needed to be put in place, before the return of the evacuees, were normal schooling facilities and medical services. On the other hand, the British Government was, for various reasons, pressing at the same time for the urgent return of Gibraltar evacuees. London, in particular, had also an acute shortage of accommodation, which from the British Government point of view, was one of the reasons for the urgent return of the evacuees.

A Resettlement Board was set up to deal with all matters affecting the repatriation. The first meeting of this body was held in early December 1943. The Secretary of the Board was Mr Derek Alexander Lucas. The two main tasks of the Board were to draw up a list of evacuees in the three different locations and to establish the priority rules for the repatriation of about 16,000 evacuees.

The Governor, in his 1943-44 New Year's message, said that his intention was to start the process of repatriation as soon as possible but without making any commitment as to any specific date. He also mentioned that the decision of setting out the priorities was going to be left to the local repatriation committee, but that the first priority would be given to those evacuees who had near relatives or dependants that remained in Gibraltar during the war. As of early 1944, the administrative authorities and those who remained behind had most of their attention focused on the repatriation of the evacuees.

In addition to the priorities given to the different groups of evacuees, there was also the question of deciding at which rate the evacuees were going to be allowed to return. This last aspect of the repatriation was to prove the most difficult task ahead.

As from the very outset, the British Government was insisting that the evacuees should return to Gibraltar at a rate which the Government of Gibraltar was unable to cope with. In early March, an official notice was placed in every evacuation centre in London explaining that arrangements were being made to repatriate evacuees as soon as possible upon the availability of ships and that it would take some time to complete the whole repatriation.

The Gibraltar Chronicle published an article headed "Gib. Plan Speeded Up." The article explained that detailed plans were being completed for the reunion in Gibraltar of all families separated for more than three years owing to compulsory war measure evacuation.

A day after this article appeared in the Gibraltar Chronicle, a statement was issued by the Colonial office in Gibraltar warning the evacuees of the inadequate living conditions in Gibraltar. This pointed out that it was more overcrowded, shabbier, and uncomfortable than ever. They pointed out that those who wished to return early would have to put up with very adverse accommodation facilities. Moreover, although the Gibraltar Government did not wish to delay their return unnecessarily, it would have to postpone the repatriation for years in order to remedy living conditions in Gibraltar. The statement also stressed that essential commodities like food, clothing, furniture and other household goods were very scarce and expensive. There would be no educational facilities and it would take some time before they could be provided to a satisfactory standard. The statement ended by stressing that the warning was not issued to discourage evacuees from returning, but to make them fully aware of what to expect if they decided to be repatriated and advised them to have patience until conditions could be improved. Notices with the names of families selected for repatriation were being placed in their respective evacuation centres in the UK.

During the initial stages of the repatriation arrangements, London was again being heavily bombarded, giving credence to the British Government's view that the evacuees should leave London soonest.

By that time, the approximate numbers of evacuees to be repatriated from all the different destinations were as shown below.

UK	12,000	Tangier	700
Madeira	2,000	Spain	300
Jamaica	1,500		

The approximate a grand total to be repatriated was: 16,500.

As explained previously, when the repatriation of the first party was being planned, London was again under a series of sustained bombing attacks. Many evacuation centres were affected in the spate of bombing which became known as the "baby blitz." During that period, many evacuation centres were damaged by the bombing but fortunately there were no casualties or serious injuries. However, all the evacuees living in these centres, which totalled more than 1,100, had to be found alternative accommodation with an already severe shortage of usable buildings in London. In order to deal with this difficult situation, many evacuees were being transferred by mid March 1944 to transit camps in Chorley, in Lancashire or Neilston and Bridge of Weir, in Renfrewshire, Scotland for their safety and to await their earliest repatriation opportunity.

Evacuees at Neilston Transit Centre
1.W.Chamberland,2.L.Lombard,3.F.Apap,4.J.Rosado,
5.F.Cotterill,6.Galliano. Photo Mr W Chamberlain.

The Evening News on Friday 10th March 1944, published an article with the following headlines**.**
"12,000 London Exiles Going Home to Gibraltar"

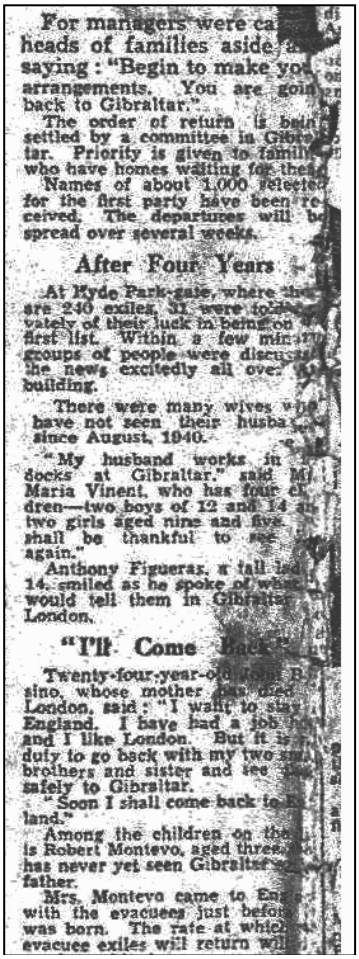
FIRST LIST IS
READY NOW

REUNIONS AHEAD
AFTER FOUR YEARS

"Evening News" Reporter

IT was a joy day to-day in the London cent... where 12,000 evac... from Gibraltar are livi...

Pictures taken to-day at ... London centre show some o... the children who will be going to Gibraltar. The four boys are: Joseph Montavio, Maria Fa, Luis Figueras and (in foreground) is brother Antonio.
Nineteen-year-old Armind... Bossino is holding her little cousins, Robert and Carmen Montovio.



For managers were ca... heads of families aside a... saying: "Begin to make yo... arrangements. You are goin... back to Gibraltar."
The order of return is bein... settled by a committee in Gibra... tar. Priority is given to famili... who have homes waiting for the...
Names of about 1,000 selected... for the first party have been re... ceived. The departures will be... spread over several weeks.

After Four Years

At Hyde Park-gate, where the... are 240 exiles, 31 were told... vately of their luck in being on... first list. Within a few min... groups of people were discuss... the news excitedly all ove... building.
There were many wives who... have not seen their husba... since August, 1940.
"My husband works in the... docks at Gibraltar," said Mr... Maria Vinent, who has four chi... dren—two boys of 12 and 14 an... two girls aged nine and five... shall be thankful to see... again."
Anthony Figueras, a tall lad... 14, smiled as he spoke of what... would tell them in Gibraltar... London.

"I'll Come Back"

Twenty-four-year-old Rosi... sino, whose mother was dro... London, said: "I want to stay... England. I have had a job here... and I like London. But it is my... duty to go back with my two sm... brothers and sister and see them... safely to Gibraltar.
"Soon I shall come back to E... land."
Among the children on the... is Robert Montevo, aged three... has never yet seen Gibraltar or... father.
Mrs. Montevo came to Eng... with the evacuees just before... was born. The rate at which... evacuee exiles will return will...

News paper cutting by Mrs S Sene.

By about the beginning of May 1944, the authorities in London had already planned well ahead for the repatriation of the second group of about 500 evacuees. This was mainly due to the shortage of accommodation in London, where there were already reports of many cases of people squatting. Coinciding with the repatriation arrangements of this group of evacuees from London, the Allies were already making preparations for the invasion of Normandy. Owing to security reasons, all shipping of civilians was postponed, which obviously clashed with arrangements made for the repatriation of evacuees.

However, in a radio broadcast on the 25th May 1944, the Governor referred to the effect of a recent ban on travelling from the United Kingdom and the disappointment felt by everyone concerned. Because of the travelling restrictions from the United Kingdom and the lack of shipping from Jamaica, the Governor had suggested to the Colonial Office to allow instead for the return of about 1,000 evacuees from Madeira. Consequently, the following official notice was issued immediately in Madeira:

GIBRALTAR EVACUATION
EMBARKATION ARRANGEMENTS

1. The term "zero hour" in this notice means the hour of arrival of the ship which is expected early on SUNDAY 28 MAY.
2.Evacuees living in the hotels and pensions included in the Evacuation Scheme will be taken to the Pontinha will begin about 1 hour after zero hour and will be effected in the following order:

SAVOY HOTEL
PENSAO SANTOS
ATLANTIC HOTEL
VICTORIA HOTEL
BELLA VISTA HOTEL
PENSAO VOGA
UNIVERSAL HOTEL
PENSAO AVENIDA
PENSAO SANTA LUCIA
PENSAO VISTA ALEGRE
QUINTA DAS CRUZES
LARGO DAS CRUZES
LARGO DE SAO PAULO
ANNEXE JARDIM
QUINTA ESPERANCA
NEW ENGLISH HOTEL
PENSAO BOA VISTA
GOLDEN GATE HOEL
BELMONTE HOTEL

3. Only persons in possession of embarkation cards will be allowed to use the buses.
4. Evacuees are warned that they should NOT leave their hotel on the morning of SUNDAY 28TH MAY.
5. No person other than passengers in possession of an embarkation card will be allowed past the barrier at the Pontinha Gate.
6. Passengers should wait for the buses at their hotel and NOT go independently to the PONTINHA.
7. Attention is again invited to the notice regarding prohibition of export of foodstuffs from Madeira and of the import of sterling or Gibraltar currency into Gibraltar.
8. Persons of Category A are advised not to come to the Pontinha until 6 pm.
9. NO DOGS will be allowed on board.

HEAVY BAGGAGE

Gibraltar repatriates are reminded that ALL their heavy baggage must be sent to the PONTINHA THURSDAY MAY 25TH AT 10 AM. Repatriates living in PRIVATE residences, please take note.
HEAVY LUGGAGE means all luggages other than ONE suitcase or the equivalent per person which can be carried by hand.

A.N. DRYBURGH
BRITISH VICECONSUL

Arrangements were soon made for these evacuees to sail on the Dutch Liner the **SS Indrapoera** arriving in Gibraltar on the 31st May 1944.

This suggestion to repatriate the bulk of the evacuees in Madeira was also made in order to cushion the effects of the disappointment felt in Gibraltar about the delay in repatriating evacuees from the UK. The rest of the evacuees in Madeira were repatriated as detailed below:

Ship	Date	No.of evacuees
Lima *	September 1944	36
Lima *	October 1944	76
Lima *	November 1944	21
Cabo de Hornos *	April 1945	134
Carvalho Araujo *	May 1945	99
Batory #	June 1945	193
Lima *	March 1946	31
Lima*	May 1948	32

= Sailed directly to Gibraltar
* = Sailed to Lisbon then made it overland to Gibraltar.

In his 1943-44 New Years', speech the Governor said it was the start of a decisive period of the war, and it was therefore necessary to suffer restrictions and also disappointments. He made particular mention of those evacuated families in Jamaica, who, he said, were uppermost in the thoughts of the Government but that their return, at the moment, depended on shipping. The reason for the priority given to those in Jamaica was because, owing to distance, they had been unable to be visited by relatives in Gibraltar under the Special Leave Scheme. Before the broadcast, the Governor told reporters that the people of Gibraltar could hope to have a bigger say in the management of their own affairs in the future and that plans for the advancement of social welfare, education, and labour conditions were under consideration by the Colonial Office. He also said that he thought that the people of Gibraltar would have to undertake greater responsibilities and that they might be expected to play a permanent part in the defence of the Rock.

In the meantime, evacuees were being taken to the transit centers in Scotland and the north of England, where they had to wait until the end of July to be repatriated on the **Stirling Castle** which arrived in Gibraltar on the 1st August 1944.

Aida Aguilera (nee Peliza) and Victoria Peliza (nee Ferro) arriving at Gibraltar on the Stirling Castle. Photo Mrs I Fa.

After the **Stirling Castle,** the next ship to arrive with repatriates from the UK was the **Highland Brigade** on the 2nd September 1944.

In the photo is Guillermo Miel arriving with his family on the Highland Brigade.

The rest of the evacuees repatriated up to the end of 1944, were as shown below:

NAME OF SHIP	DATE	EVACUEES
ALMANZORA	5th October 1944	437
ELIZABETHVILLE	25TH October 1944	150

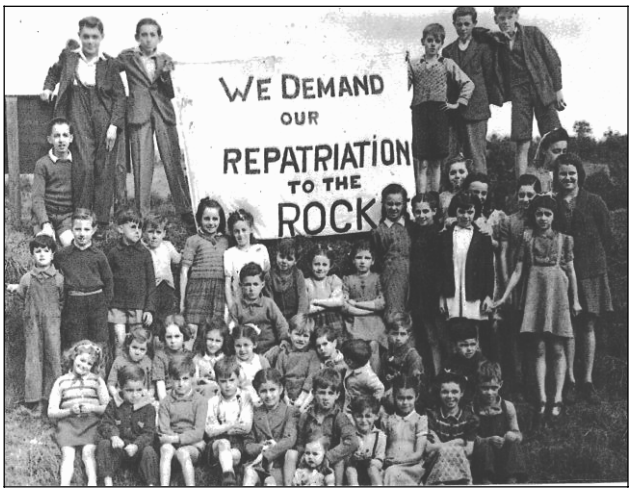
All the evacuees in Jamaica, totalling about 1,500, left on 10th October 1944, on the **Duchess of Richmond** and arrived at Gibraltar on 26th October 1944.

Evacuees returning from Jamaica on the Duchess of Richmond.

Evacuees in Tangier and Spain also started making arrangements to return to Gibraltar. Like other evacuees, their repatriation was based on the main criteria, which was, that they had to be claimed by families in Gibraltar who could offer accommodation. As a result of this, many evacuees took a long time to be found accommodation with some having to wait until 1948. There were some cases of evacuees who found themselves having to continue to live in La Linea and then forced to come back to live in Gibraltar when the frontier was closed by the Spanish Government in June 1969.

The above photos show evacuees arriving from Tangier. Disembarking is Mrs Conchi Martinez with her daughter Marie Ellen. Photo Mr T Finlayson.

In this second book, I have summarised the main events of the controversy that ensued with the repatriation of the evacuees from Northern Ireland.
A more detailed account of all the events that took place, the exchange of correspondences, copies of the newspaper cuttings and photographs can be found in my first book "We Thank God and England"



Evacuees in Northern Ireland urging their repatriation to Gibraltar. Photo Mr A Ferrary.

From the very outset, the whole matter became a constant source of dispute between the British Government, the Gibraltar authorities and those seeking a speedy return for their families.

Throughout all this time, many meetings and demonstrations were held to bring pressure upon the pertinent authorities to repatriate the evacuees. The authorities concerned were, in turn, saying all along that the process was going to be necessarily long due to the shortage of housing and the inadequate facilities available in Gibraltar for schooling, medical and hygiene services. Added to this, was the phasing out of part of a very large military garrison of about 30,000 to make room for the repatriated civilian population. The grievances affecting the evacuees in Northern Ireland ranged from the lack of employment, the non-entitlement to social benefits and the extreme cold weather without proper heating facilities and the uncertainty of not knowing exactly when they could return to Gibraltar. Throughout the whole period, there were conflicting views emanating from those in the camps, the officials, and those who were demanding their return on the grounds of living conditions in the camps. On the one hand, the officials usually reported the conditions of the evacuees as fairly adequate, given the circumstances of the war, which forced the authorities concerned to take the evacuees to Northern Ireland. However, the views of those making the complaints usually described the conditions at the camp as appalling, although there were also some who sounded very grateful, for the way they were being treated.

On the 6th December 1944, a meeting was convened by the AACR at the Theatre Royal where it was demanded, from both the Government of Gibraltar and the authorities in the United Kingdom, to carry out the immediate repatriation of all remaining evacuees in Northern Ireland and the evacuees outside the evacuation scheme who were still living in mainland Britain.

Coinciding with the AACR meeting, a deputation, composed of representatives from the camps, travelled to London to meet officials at the Colonial Office where they made specific complaints about the dictatorial treatment the evacuees were receiving from some wardens in the camps. The Ministry of Health, on investigating the complaints, came up with a totally different explanation to that given by the local representatives. Further investigations were carried out by officials to find out what the conditions in the camps were like and to report their findings. From their investigations, it emerged that the evacuees were found to be somewhat confused since they were subjected to different accounts from a variety of official and unofficial sources. Lack of work was mentioned as an issue of great concern and that in order to make up for financial hardships they were using up the savings made in London. In this respect, it was recommended that the evacuees had to be gainfully occupied if they were to stay much longer in the camps and if that was not possible, then they had to be told without any ambiguity, when they were going be to repatriated. It was also mentioned in the findings that although the people of Northern Ireland were very friendly, the evacuees could not help feeling like displaced people, abandoned and in isolation. The reports concluded that, in any case, the evacuees would never feel happy until they were returned to Gibraltar or were told conclusively that their waiting would not be long.

At that stage, the possibility of taking the evacuees to Tangier, French Morocco, Spain, or even back to England, was being considered but the suggestions were completely discarded as impracticable. Throughout the early part of 1945, priority was being given to families who could be claimed by relatives and friends and who could provide accommodation in Gibraltar.

On May 1945, another report was submitted to the authorities in connection with the evacuees in Northern Ireland. The report's basic findings were that the evacuees had to be removed from the camps as soon as possible and returned to a Mediterranean country or transferred back to mainland Britain. Other recommendations, specifically mentioned in the findings, were that there was an urgent need to improve housing conditions in Gibraltar. The suggestion was once again made of a campsite in Tangier, being made available to the evacuees as an alternative, to the already rejected suggestions of a campsite in Spain. By that time the Ministry of Health was informing the Colonial Secretary in Gibraltar that the conditions in the camps had improved significantly in the last few months. Simultaneously, the evacuees in Northern Ireland were being informed that the general conditions of living, with respect to accommodation, schooling and health care, were not very good in Gibraltar. This seemed to have influenced the thinking of many evacuees who were feeling reluctant to return to Gibraltar for fear of living in worse conditions than in the camps.

In July 1945, Dr.Kauntz, an official from the UK, visited Gibraltar to assess and report on the health services available in Gibraltar. In his report he stated that the health authorities, owing to the serious overcrowding in Gibraltar, were unable to cope with the workload and he strongly recommended that, unless certain of the recommendations were put in place, no more evacuees should be repatriated.

On the 31st July 1945, the Gibraltar Chronicle announced the construction of blocks of flats for a thousand families and which is now known as the Alameda Estate. There was some mention in the press of houses already under construction or shortly

to be built at Glacis Road and which were referred to as bungalows.

Original model of block of flats at Alameda Estate.

The photo shows the original model of the proposed building of blocks of flats. However, due to financial constraints, this project did not go through and only the present seven blocks of flats at the Alameda Estate were constructed. A memorandum was drafted by the Resettlement Board in 1948 to say that the building scheme involving the erection of blocks of flats, at the instigation of the local Government and with the concurrence of the Home Government, had been considerably curtailed owing to the conditions imposed by the Home Government in connection with the tender given to an English firm at the minimum staggering cost of about £2,000,000 to build only one half of the original planned blocks of flats which were, in fact, estimated to cost very much below the high figure referred to. The cost of such buildings had been strongly criticised by the people of Gibraltar as being out of all proportion to the size and resources of the Colony.

The foundations of Alameda Estate 1947 and completed in 1950.

To address the acute accommodation problem, Nissen huts were being built by the Colonial Government prior to the arrival of evacuees. The first Nissen huts which were ready for occupation in 1946 were those at Devil's Tower Road near the Cross of Sacrifice. These huts were mainly for families in Transit centres like the Cecil Hotel and the Little Sisters of the Poor. The ones built, after this first batch of huts, were in many other areas of Gibraltar and mainly for evacuees being repatriated from Northern Ireland.

The first batch of Nissen huts Devil's Tower Road near the Cross of Sacrifice. Photos Gibraltar Old Photos 2.

In view of Dr Kauntz's assessments on the medical facilities available in Gibraltar, the Governor informed London to halt the repatriation until more hospital staff were recruited and temporary accommodation was made available to allow for the implementation of Dr Kauntz's recommendations as soon as possible so as to not delay, any further, the repatriation arrangements.

In September 1945, the AACR held another meeting to denounce the way the local and UK authorities were handling the plight of the evacuees in Northern Ireland. At this meeting it was announced that a delegation was travelling to the UK to meet with the Secretary of State for the Colonies to deal with the policy of not allowing further repatriation until Gibraltar's schooling, medical and accommodation facilities were adequate. The Secretary of State's reply to the Governor's request was not helpful and the affected evacuees in the camps began to complain when they found out that those requiring medical attention would not be allowed to be repatriated.

The reaction to the Secretary of State's for the Colonies' statement was followed by another public meeting held on the 14th October 1945, to protest at what was considered an insult to the people of Gibraltar to have to wait another two years before the evacuees could return from exile. The speakers at the meeting said that they considered it an injustice not to allow the affected evacuees to be repatriated on the grounds of inadequate health care in Gibraltar and that the two-year waiting period announced by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the return of evacuees in camps was not going to be tolerated. The meeting urged the Gibraltar Government not to stop the repatriation of the evacuees affected if their departure had been approved by the Resettlement Board or they had acquired the rights to return.

The Governor informed London that his request for medical assistance had been misunderstood and that evacuees should not be deprived from being repatriated because of their medical conditions. Also, that the ones already held back for medical reasons should be allowed to proceed regardless.
A Government notice was published in the Gibraltar Chronicle on the 16th October 1945 to say that the repatriation was being postponed on health grounds until the nursing situation had improved and that efforts were being made by the local Government to obtain additional nursing staff.
Mr Stanley, the Gibraltar Colonial Secretary, held a press meeting to defend the Gibraltar Government's policy of not allowing further repatriates until Gibraltar was ready, in terms of accommodation and medical facilities, to accept them.
The Councillors of the newly reconstituted City Council of Gibraltar were very critical of the military authorities for not helping by making military places available as transit centres to alleviate the shortage of housing in Gibraltar. On the 24th October 1945 the Secretary of State for the Colonies stated in the House of Commons that it was impossible to repatriate the 3,000 evacuees in Northern Ireland until the additional accommodation became available in Gibraltar.
A team of AACR delegates left Gibraltar, in early November 1945, for London after a memorandum had been handed to the Governor criticizing him and the Colonial Secretary.
Meanwhile, the Colonial Government kept stressing that there was not much prospect of many of the evacuees being returned before the first housing project had been completed in October 1946, which meant another year at least. It was also being stressed that it would take another two years for permanent accommodation to become available for the returning evacuees. When the evacuees learnt about this, they held demonstrations in the camps demanding their repatriation.
The AACR delegates, who had paid a visit to London and the camps, returned to Gibraltar in early December 1945. The delegates explained to the news media that they were seeking the power and responsibility to administer matters like housing and medical facilities. They were also seeking to obtain the right to decide how to solve problems affecting the repatriation of the evacuees.
In order to speed up the repatriation process some temporary accommodation in the form of Nissen huts were being built. The temporary accommodation consisted of 62 dwellings constructed in an area of reclaimed land by the Glacis Road where about 300 people were being accommodated. Three weeks later the bungalows had been completed and occupied. A spell of severe weather in December 1945 blew away many of the roofs of these newly constructed bungalows.
The damages to the roofs caused a significant setback in the allocation of houses for those still in transit centres in Gibraltar and for those who were due to be repatriated.
In January 1946, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr.Hall visited Gibraltar to discuss the issues that were affecting the return of evacuees and to reiterate that the method of selection was the correct one. As a result of Mr Hall's visit, a public meeting was held by the AACR on the 29th January 1946, at the John Mackintosh Square. At this meeting, the issue of the evacuees in Northern Ireland was fully debated among other issues.

Mr and Mrs Walker with their children Catherine, Henry and Robert shortly after returning from Northern Ireland. Photo Mr Walker.

The Gibraltar Chronicle reported that about 5,000 people had attended the public meeting arranged by the AACR. Whilst the meeting was taking place shops were closed and workers stopped work as a sign of protest.
At the public meeting two motions were passed unanimously. The first motion dealt with the repatriation process described by the AACR as unsatisfactory and unacceptable. The other motion referred to the idea of empowering the AACR with the mandate to petition the Secretary of State for the

Colonies during his stay in Gibraltar and to put across to him that the present situation could not continue as it was bound to result in a complete split between the authorities and the majority of the people of Gibraltar.

By the end of 1945, there were nearly 3,000 evacuees still living in the camps. Meanwhile the controversy with regard to the repatriation of evacuees in Northern Ireland was to continue for a long time.

During April 1946, two officials from the Colonial Office in the UK visited some of the camps and reported that the evacuees were well looked after in terms of food, clothing and health and that their only complaint was their wish to be returned to Gibraltar. The report, which was considered very critical of the attitudes of the evacuees, was completely contrary to the views expressed by the AACR delegates. A few months later, the AACR carried out an exercise to find out whether the evacuees would be willing to be repatriated, even if it meant living in Nissen huts when they returned to Gibraltar.

The Colonial office in the UK also carried out a similar exercise at the request of the Gibraltar Government but, apparently, the question of whether the evacuees were prepared to return to Gibraltar even though they would be putting up with living in Nissen huts again had not been included in the questionnaire by the official authorities.

According to the feedback received from the questionnaires, the majority of the evacuees opted to be returned to Gibraltar despite knowing that they were going to continue to live in Nissen huts.

Photo at E Block, about May/June 1946. Standing at the back is Mrs Maria Teresa (De la Cruz) Williamson. In front from left to right her sons John Williamson, Tom Williamson (the baby) born in Gibraltar Dec 1945, Albert Williamson and daughter Mary. Photo M.Nicholls.

Rumours were then reaching the camps that the Nissen huts were in fact intended for those families who were still in transit centres in Gibraltar and not for those in Northern Ireland.

The Resettlement Board stated that the rumours were unfounded and that the ultimate objective was to speed up the return of the evacuees in the camps.

In October 1946, the Secretary of State for the Colonies stated in the House of Commons that it could take up to two years before the whole repatriation was completed. This statement led to angry reactions both at the camps and in Gibraltar. At this stage, there were also conflicting points of views between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Ministry of Health in UK in relation to the decision made to close some of the camps even though they were working satisfactorily.

In view of the shortage of accommodation, which was impeding the quick repatriation of the Gibraltar evacuees, there were also questions asked in the House of Commons about accommodation occupied by Spanish refugees in Gibraltar. On the 20th November 1946, the Secretary of State for the Colonies was asked what arrangements were being made for the 400 Spanish Republican refugees who had been informed that they must leave Gibraltar, where they had been working for the Allies during the war.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies replied that the purpose of the notice was to bring to the attention of Spanish refugees the facilities for settlement offered by the Venezuelan Government. It had been simultaneously pointed out to them that, in view of the large number of Gibraltarian evacuees still unable to return owing to lack of accommodation, they could not expect to remain in Gibraltar indefinitely. However, it was not correct to state that the Spanish refugees in Gibraltar had been informed that they must now leave the Colony. The announcement of the 1st November in Gibraltar was not intended to signify that the political refugees would be compelled to leave the Colony. The demand for accommodation for evacuated Gibraltarians, however, was urgent and intense and where possible refugees were to be encouraged to accept suitable alternative arrangements elsewhere. The recent offer of the Venezuelan Government should be seriously considered by them. Many of the refugees had rendered good service during the war years. Fully aware of the remote prospects of an early return to Gibraltar, some evacuees were thinking of returning to London of their own accord, to seek employment. The AACR held its annual general meeting on 12th November 1946. The issues affecting the repatriation were fully aired. The first motion carried at the meeting was the rejection of the statement made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies that the evacuees might have to wait two years to be repatriated.

Reacting to the AACR meeting, the Gibraltar Government stated that the situation in Northern Ireland was being monitored very closely but it was impossible to repatriate the evacuees as was being suggested by the AACR.

As well as medical services and accommodation, there was a need to look into schooling matters as the evacuees of school age began to be repatriated. In line with the schooling requirements, premises were being made available for schools. Owing to the many Nissen huts built in the North Front area a school was also built at the Glacis to cater for many of the children living in the Nissen huts nearby.

A few months after his arrival, the new Governor delivered his first personal speech. At the opening of this speech he said that his duty as Commander in Chief was to ensure the defence and security of the fortress. He then referred to the principal problem of repatriation and the overcrowding and the appalling conditions in which some families were living. Then he mentioned the idea of an emigration scheme as a measure to deal with the overcrowding situation. Among other things he also mentioned in his speech that, on completion of the repatriation, the civilian population was likely to be in the order of 24,000.

In the second part of his speech, the Governor made specific reference to a series of revenue raising measures through indirect taxation. He also said that, by means of a sponsored lottery scheme, the Government hoped to raise funds to meet the Government of Gibraltar's expected expenditures on housing, education, medical services and other related services.

At the camps in Northern Ireland, the evacuees continued to press for an early return to Gibraltar. When interviewed by a Northern Ireland Newspaper, with regard to the grievances voiced by Gibraltar representatives, an official from the Northern Ireland Government was quoted as saying that the Gibraltar evacuees were better fed than the locals. These remarks were quickly rejected by the camp representatives in a letter written to the same newspaper saying that although they had no quarrels with the people of Northern Ireland they refuted the idea that the living conditions in the camps were ideal and pointed out that they were not entitled to unemployment benefit despite having worked during their time in London and were now having to spend the money saved.

In May 1947, the Colonial Office in Gibraltar stated that consideration was being given to the possibility of transferring the evacuees from Northern Ireland to London depending on accommodation available, but it would not consist of hotels, as was the case during the war. Those who wanted to find work and accommodation in London were being encouraged to proceed of their own accord and at their own expense. Those who were not interested in this idea had no other option but to stay in the camps in Northern Ireland. A scheme sponsored by the Colonial Office was published to encourage evacuees in the camps to find jobs in the UK. The AACR was full of condemnation when it got to know about the scheme. It described the whole idea as lacking foresight and shameful on the part of the Colonial Office in the UK.

The scheme, apparently, did not attract many evacuees wishing to leave the camp, as it turned out that just about 200 decided to move to London. One of the remarks made in the scheme referred to the shortage of housing in England. It also recommended that the evacuees should leave behind their families. It seems that these remarks alone dissuaded many from taking up the offer. By that time there were still 8 camps remaining – 4 in Co.Antrim and 4 Co.Down.

During 1947, officials from the welfare department of the Colonial Office visited some of the camps to assess the conditions in which the evacuees were living. The report, when finalised, was full of adverse remarks about the living conditions of the evacuees. In summing up their findings, they said that the camps were totally inadequate for human habitation and consequently, they recommended that the camps should be closed as soon as possible as any further delay would only serve to exacerbate the issue.

They also recommended that the evacuees should be given every opportunity available to be transferred to London. At that time, Mr Lucas, an official from the Gibraltar Resettlement Board, also visited the camps and found that the people were very demoralised. He practically came to the same conclusion as the officials from the Colonial Office. In view of these developments, the Governor of Gibraltar urged the authorities in the UK to make every possible effort to close the camps before the winter of 1947. At the same time the Governor was trying to obtain help for accommodation from the military authorities in Gibraltar and was insisting that no more evacuees could be repatriated during 1947.

By then, the Colonial office in the UK examined the possibility of obtaining two hostels in London to accommodate the remaining 1,300 evacuees in Northern Ireland. In mainland Britain there were already over 1,200 evacuees who had moved privately, but were also waiting to be repatriated.

In the midst of all the controversy about the evacuees in Northern Ireland, an official communiqué was issued in October 1947 stating that two buildings had been obtained in London to accommodate the evacuees in the camps.

It was envisaged that if all the plans to accommodate evacuees in London and Gibraltar went ahead, it could mean that the camps could be closed shortly.

According to information emanating from the Colonial Welfare Department discussions, on the details of a transfer to London, were high on the agenda. The arrangements to convert the Fulham Road Hostel into a communal dwelling were being looked into with some work already being undertaken. An official, who visited Gibraltar in connection with the Fulham Road Hostel, did not foresee many difficulties with the transfer operation.

Despite all these arrangements to house all the remaining evacuees in the camps by December 1947, the move still had not taken place. By then those who had hoped for the transfer to materialise were becoming disappointed and restless. Some of the newspapers in Gibraltar and the AACR were highly critical of the way the whole affair was being handled.

The delay in transferring the evacuees from the camps to London was a motive for a deputation of evacuees in the camps to travel to London in December 1947, to seek an audience with the Secretary of State for the Colonies. There was speculation of a mass demonstration being held which would coincide with this meeting.

At that precise moment the Governor in Gibraltar was being told by the Secretary of State for the Colonies that some ministers had objected to the idea of transferring the evacuees to London. Because of the poor conditions in the camps, it had been agreed by the ministries responsible that both the civilian and the military authorities in Gibraltar should explore the possibility of finding alternative accommodation in Gibraltar.

The Governor protested to London in the strongest possible terms for this change in policy. Not aware of this, the planned meeting by a delegation from the camps went ahead. The delegation had the backing of both the Governor and the AACR. When the meeting was taking place the decision had already been taken to cancel completely all the plans to transfer the evacuees from the camps in Northern Ireland to the hostels in London. The delegation was told that alternative arrangements were being made to hasten the repatriation and the evacuees would be accommodated in buildings released by the military authorities in Gibraltar. They were also told that the authorities concerned were, in the meantime, looking for alternative accommodation outside London. This latest announcement came as a severe blow to the evacuees who, by then, were experiencing yet another winter in the camps of Northern Ireland.

In Gibraltar representation to the Governor was being made by an AACR delegation as they felt that the British Government had broken their promise to the evacuees in the camps. The Governor was also informed of the indignation being expressed by many of the people in Gibraltar.

When the evacuees got to know that they had to remain in the camps they were obviously full of condemnation. Those who had already moved to London challenged the authorities concerned with organising a sit in. Evacuees from the camps were arriving in London to support the action being taken by those who were already living in the hostel at Fulham Road.

In support of the evacuees, the AACR organised a public meeting on the 18th December 1947, to protest, to the British Government for breaking its promise.

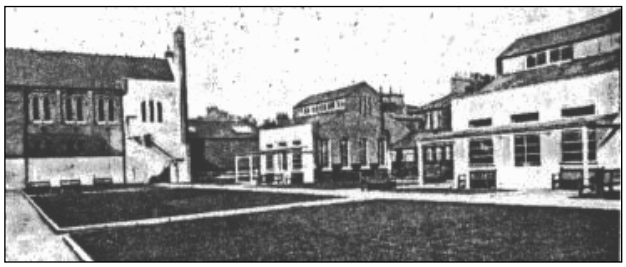
At the end of December 1947, the British Government informed the evacuees in London that the Colonial Office had been made responsible for the running of the premises. However, there were many aspects which still needed to be prepared and settled before the moves took place. The first stumbling block was the actual transfer of the evacuees from the camps to London.

The British Government maintained that the evacuees were responsible for arranging and paying for their own transfer. The evacuees who had opted, in the circumstances, to move to London started making their own arrangements with many difficulties encountered in terms of the actual payment for their fares and having to leave behind some of their belongings which were stored in heavy luggage.

At the hostel in Fulham Road there were still many construction works that had not been completed to make the place fit for human habitation. Other essential arrangements like education and medical facilities, which should have been looked into, had not been sorted out. As the evacuees arrived the place became increasingly overcrowded. The AACR, which was monitoring the whole matter, informed the Governor of the feelings being expressed by the evacuees who were facing many problems at the different stages of their move. The Governor, in turn, made very strong representations and reminded the British Government of their moral and legal obligation to the evacuees in the UK and that they should be treated as any other British subjects.

On the 4th February 1948, the Gibraltar Chronicle reported the latest problems regarding the fees being charged by the Treasury for the use of the Fulham Road Hostel. By then, there were about 660 evacuees living in the hostel. The levy charged was eventually reduced considerably after many arguments. In Gibraltar, the availability of accommodation continued to be at a critical level.

The military services were requisitioned to convert a few buildings to accommodate the evacuees that were being repatriated both from Northern Ireland and from London.
Many of the repatriates, who arrived in 1944, were, by then still living in transit accommodation like the Cecil Hotel, the Little Sisters of the Poor, Gavino's Dwelling, the Hebrew School, etc.
After much debate, the Royal Naval Air Station at the North Front was specially adapted to accommodate families who were due to arrive shortly from both Northern Ireland and London.
The Gibraltar Chronicle reported that the conditions in which the repatriates had been accommodated at the RNAS were favourable. The Governor visited these families to see how they were living and found that they were quite happy with the assistance being provided. He also took the opportunity of seeing the extra Nissen huts that were being constructed in the area of North Front for the next contingent of repatriates.
Meanwhile, 190 evacuees arrived on the **SS Orbita** on the 27th April 1948. This group of repatriates consisted of 98 from Fulham Road and 92 from Northern Ireland.
By mid April 1948 consideration was given to the idea of assisting financially and socially those evacuees who did not want to return to Gibraltar but wanted to stay in London. At the hostel in Fulham Road there were administrative problems with regard to the distribution of food and the fees charged which were considered to be excessive for the type of board and lodging provided. After some assessment, these issues were resolved amicably.
In June 1948, it was finally decided to close the camps in Northern Ireland.



The hostel at Fulham Road. Copy Gibraltar Chronicle.

On the 7th July 1948, there were questions asked at a House of Commons debate.
Commander Noble asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr Rees-Williams, how many evacuees from Gibraltar still remained in the camps in Northern Ireland; and when it was expected that they would all be repatriated.
Mr. Rees-Williams replied that there were 78 Gibraltar evacuees in Northern Ireland. They were to be transferred to the Fulham Road Institution pending their repatriation to Gibraltar. The transfer was going to be completed before the end of July, and the remaining camp would then close. In reply to the second part of the Question, he said that more than 600 evacuees have been repatriated that year, and further repatriations were going to take place as and when the Gibraltar Government could provide accommodation.
Commander Noble asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies how many evacuees from Gibraltar were accommodated in the Fulham Road Institution; how many were employed; how many contributed to their board and lodging; and when was it expected to release these premises.
Mr Rees-Williams replied that there were 605 Gibraltar evacuees living at the Fulham Road Institution. Two hundred and five were in employment and the remainder were mostly dependents and persons incapable of work. Ninety-five evacuees were presently contributing towards their board and lodging, and all evacuees who were in employment were being required to pay charges for board and lodging. It was not yet possible to indicate when the premises would be released. This would very largely depend on the progress of the repatriation.
Commander Noble asked if the Minister was aware that the people living in the hostel were living in very squalid conditions; and, as the Minister himself said, many of them had nothing to do, which was not desirable either in their own interests or in the interests of the neighbourhood, and would he do everything possible to get them back quickly to Gibraltar?
At the end of September 1948, Mr Thomas, from the Welfare Department of the Colonial Office in the UK, visited Gibraltar to discuss the planning and arrangements for the repatriation of evacuees for the year 1949 and also to inform the Gibraltar authorities that the hostel in London had to be vacated by the end of September 1949. In some places in London like, the Prince's Gate Hostel, it seems that there was a consensus of opinion that the evacuees wanted to stay in the UK, although evacuees continued arriving in Gibraltar during the next two and half years.
By September 1948, there were still over 2,200 evacuees in the UK made up of over 700 living in official hostels and about 1,500 living in private accommodation in different parts of the UK.
The official line was that those living in the hostels had to be repatriated, but it was being pointed out by the Gibraltar Government that the accommodation situation in Gibraltar was as acute as ever, even though there were blocks of flats, mainly the ones now on the Alameda Estate, being constructed that could accommodate 2,500 altogether between early 1949 and early 1950.

The only way to alleviate this problem, in the meantime, was for the Military authorities to agree to the extension of accommodating civilians in military buildings.
Towards the end of 1948, the Secretary of State for the Colonies was insisting that the repatriation of every evacuee had to be completed by 1949. In response to this the Governor explained that the flats under construction would definitely not solve the problem of overcrowding that still existed. In order to alleviate the problem it was suggested by the Governor that, in the meantime, the military authorities in Gibraltar be requested to extend, by nine months, the use of the RN Air Station for the purpose of accommodating the Gibraltar families until March 1950 –the completion date of the blocks of flats.

Clive Martinez with a broken arm when living at the Fulham Road Hostel in 1949 before being repatriated to Gibraltar. Photo Mr C Martinez.

The policies of the UK and that of the Gibraltar administrations continued to be diametrically opposed. During all this time London was pressing for those who wished to be repatriated to be allowed to do so, but the military authorities in Gibraltar were reluctant to help because of the huge accommodation problem in Gibraltar. In early 1949, after considering all the alternatives, the Secretary of State for the Colonies again put it to the Gibraltar Government that those evacuees living in the Fulham Road Hostel, who wished to be repatriated, should be allowed to return to Gibraltar before September 1949. The Governor insisted that Gibraltar could not absorb these evacuees from the Hostel until there was an assurance from the Air Ministry that they could make the RN Air Station available as a transit centre until May 1950.
In March 1949, the Air Ministry agreed to extend the lease of the RN Air Station but only until December 1949. As to the repatriation of the 400 evacuees in the Hostel, the Secretary of State for the Colonies stood his ground and said that if necessary the Gibraltar Government should consider building Nissen huts in Gibraltar, at its own expense, as the British Government could not afford to contribute.
The Governor then stated, that in view of this, he would authorize the building of Nissen huts at the local government's expense, but that the remaining evacuees could not be brought back to Gibraltar until the end of September 1949.
In connection with the hostels in London, it was announced in October 1949 that the evacuation scheme would end officially on the 31st December 1949, and that free passage would be given to those who wished to be repatriated within a period of two years starting as from 1st January 1950.
Any evacuee, who declined to be repatriated when it was offered to them, would be seen as having forfeited their right to be repatriated at public expense. By early January 1950 about 130 people had applied to be repatriated and preparations were made to bring them back to Gibraltar at the earliest opportunity.
However, the Governor of Gibraltar was not in agreement with this move as there were no places available to accommodate these evacuees.
In view of this, it was agreed to postpone the repatriation for another six months, resulting in only 28 being repatriated during 1950. The British Government raised the matter again after seven months with the idea of completing the whole matter of repatriation by the end of March 1951. A small party of 29 evacuees, who travelled overland, arrived in Gibraltar on the 11th February 1951.
On the 27th April 1951, the naval armament vessel **Bedenham**, exploded, killing 13 people and destroying many buildings, some of which were badly needed to accommodate the civilian population that had been recently repatriated. The damages caused by the explosion halted for some time the necessary works that had to be carried out on existing buildings to make them habitable.
The recently constructed flats on the Alameda Estate, despite being so near to the source of the explosion, were able to withstand the brunt of the blast with no major damages.
The very last group of evacuees consisting of only 6 members of the same family arrived from London in August 1951 on board the **SS Batory.** This ended the official repatriation.

process, which had taken more than seven years to complete. In the end about 2,000 evacuees had, for varying reasons and circumstances, decided to remain in the UK- mostly in the district of Fulham in London.

Below list of ships, date arrived and number of evacuees repatriated from Northern Ireland and some from mainland Britain

CAP TOURANE	**15TH January 1945**	**170**
CARTHAGE	**23RD April 1945**	**285**
HIGHLAND MONARCH	**11th May 1945**	**287**
BATORY	**22nd June 1945**	**778**
BERGENSFORD	**23rd July 1945**	**40**
ASCANIA	**28TH July 1945**	**423**
EASTERN PRINCE	**September 1945**	**236**
CILICIA	**22ND November 1945**	**503**
DEVONSHIRE	**3rd March 1946**	**250**
CITY OF PARIS	**17th April 1946**	**259**
ASCANIA	**29th June 1946**	**175**
CHESHIRE	**24th September 1946**	**177**
SAMARIA	**18th January 1947**	**246**
ASCANIA *	**20th March 1947**	**115**
ASCANIA	**24th July 1947**	**179**
ORBITA	**15th January 1948**	**46**
FRANCONIA	**25th February 1948**	**102**
FRANCONIA	**27th March 1948**	**144**
ORBITA	**27th April 1948**	**190**
EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA	**11th May 1948**	**71**
SCYTHIA	**June 1948**	**130**
ASTURIA	**28th July 1948**	**20**
EMPIRE DEBEN	**18th September 1948**	**13**
EMPIRE TEST	**24th November 1948**	**5**
EMPIRE TROOPER	**2nd February 1949**	**20**
EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA	**March 1949**	**8**
EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA	**June 1949**	**20**
EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA	**July 1949**	**100**
CORDOBA from Southampton to Bilbao then overland to Algeciras and across the bay to Gibraltar	**31st July 1949**	**140**
OXFORDSHIRE	**17th October 1949**	**49**
BATORY	**August 1951**	**6**

*** Governor Sir Kenneth Noel Anderson arrived on the SS Ascania to relieve Governor Sir Ralf Eastwood**

Among the families who moved from the camps in Northern Ireland to London was the Martinez family. Like the majority of the families they went to live at the Fulham Road Hostel. One of the administrators of the Fulham Road Hostel was Captain Bateman Fox, who knew Mr Martinez from Camp No. 2. Cargagh where Mr Martinez used to help Captain Bateman Fox with the interpretation for those evacuees who were not fluent in English.

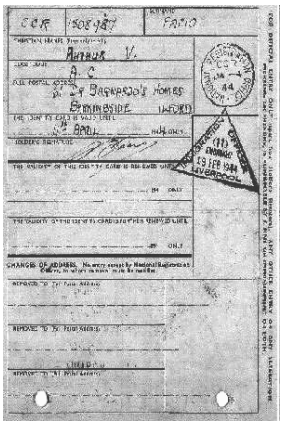
Clive Martinez by the Hostel at Fulham Road.

At the Hostel in Fulham Road, Mr Martinez continued to work with Captain Bateman-Fox in the London County Council is helping to repatriate those still in London. The Martinez family was given a council house in Laughton, Essex. During his stay in London, Mr Martinez, in recognition of the help he had afforded to the evacuees, was invited to a ceremony which took place at Church House, Westminster on 21st June 1949 to inaugurate the Colonial Month Exhibition by the King and Queen and both spoke to Mr Martinez. The King asked Mr Martinez how long he had been in Gibraltar to which he replied "I was born there, your Majesty."

In December 1952, Mr Martinez decided to return to Gibraltar paying for their own passage and having to find private rented accommodation for his family as there was no one to claim their return to Gibraltar.

Wedding in London of Amanda Martinez to Douglas Thompson
L to R John Martinez, Agnes Mossey, Teresi Williamson, Douglas and Amanda Thompson (nee Martinez), Flocy Cartwright, Pepe Martinez, Mary Williamson, Clemencia Martinez (nee Santos) Anne Martinez (nee Mossey) John Martinez. Photo Mr C Martinez.

Some members of the Borg families were sent to Jamaica whilst others were sent to the UK.
The photo shows the Borg families gathered again in Gibraltar. Photo Mrs Jeanette Perera Stickells.



Copy of identity card issued to Mr Arthur Facio at Liverpool in February 1944 and valid until April 1944 when he returned with his family to Gibraltar.

Other evacuees returned to Gibraltar via different method and for different reasons. These evacuees were the nine young Gibraltarians who had been evacuated to Jamaica 1940 joined the Army whilst in Jamaica. At the end of the war, they were demobilized and they returned to Gibraltar in 1947. Below is a cutting from the Gibraltar Chronicle reporting the story of the nine Gibraltarian boys who joined the Army in Jamaica during the evacuation.

Gibraltar Boys Bring Home Jamaican Wives

NINE Gibraltar youths, evacuated to Jamaica, joined the Army. Four came home on the s.s. "Cheshire," arriving on January 25. The five who remained in Jamaica are expected here to-day on the s.s. "Almanzora," which is bringing the 2nd Battn. The Cameronians. Three married Jamaican girls. Two are bringing their wives home with them.

PRIVATE FRANCIS AZZOPARDI, WITH HIS KINGSTON-BORN WIFE, FAY, AND BABY BOY, GARTH, ARRIVED ON JANUARY 25, WITH CPL. FRED BARRETT, L/CPL. MANUEL VALVERDE AND PTE. PETER VILLA.

A *Chronicle* reporter yesterday found the Azzopardis at home at 9, Carrera's Passage.

Until sailing for England on the s.s. "Eros," Pte. Azzopardi was attached to a company guarding German and Italian prisoners-of-war.

In England, they had to wait nine days for the s.s. "Cheshire" to take them to Gibraltar.

Awaiting "Demob"

Pte. Azzopardi is awaiting demobilisation, delayed until certain documents arrive from England.

He hopes, with his Army experience as Company clerk, to secure a civil clerk's post. The Police Force would be his second choice.

Yesterday he told the "Chronicle": "I am very happy and glad to be home in Gibraltar.

"But," he added as an afterthought, "I should very much like to return to Jamaica."

Said Mrs. Azzopardi: "The trip to Gibraltar was very rough, and baby Garth was the best sailor on board. He was not in the least sea sick.

"I like the little I have seen of Gibraltar but, quite truthfully, prefer my Jamaica. Expenses here are just the same, but there is a greater abundance of everything in Jamaica, where rationing is completely unknown."

Mr. & Mrs. Azzopardi and Garth

British And U.S. Vessels Expected

The following British troopships are expected to arrive at Gibraltar this week:

S.S. "Almanzora," from the United Kingdom en route for Malta, on February 18.

S.S. "Georgic", from the East, bound for the United Kingdom, on February 19.

S.S. "Mataroa," from the United Kingdom bound Eastward, on February 20.

The United States cruisers, "Dayton" and "Providence," and seven

THE GIBRALTAR CHILDREN'S WELFARE GUILD
Formerly
LADY EASTWOOD'S WELFARE FUND

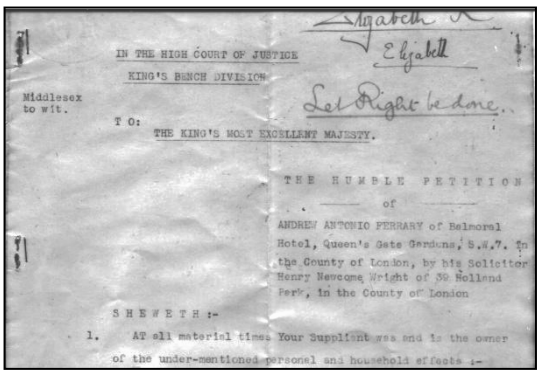
No further meetings will take place on Tuesday afternoons at The Convent, until Lady Anderson's arrival, when members will be notified.

Mabel Cardona,
Hon. Secretary.

PIANO TUNING and REPAIRS by expert tuner, S. Tesma & Co. Ltd. 75, Main Street. Tel. A450.

Gibralta

Evacuees were able to claim damages to their belongings like Mr Ferrary did. What is very interesting is that his claim was approved by the Queen and Princess Elizabeth. Below is a copy of the letter sent by solicitor Mr Newcome Wright and the letter with the Queen's and Princess Elizabeth's signatures approving the claim.



Elizabeth R
Elizabeth
Let Right be done.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
KING'S BENCH DIVISION

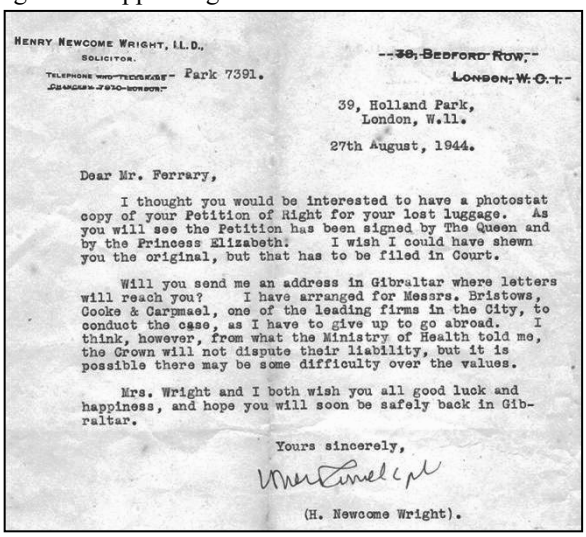
Middlesex
to wit.

TO:
THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

THE HUMBLE PETITION
of
ANDREW ANTONIO FERRARY of Belmoral Hotel, Queen's Gate Gardens, S.W.7. in the County of London, by his Solicitor Henry Newcome Wright of 39 Holland Park, in the County of London

SHEWETH:-

1. At all material times Your Suppliant was and is the owner of the under-mentioned personal and household effects:-



HENRY NEWCOME WRIGHT, LL.D.,
SOLICITOR.
TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAMS: Park 7391.
~~38, BEDFORD ROW,~~
~~LONDON, W.C.1.~~

39, Holland Park,
London, W.11.

27th August, 1944.

Dear Mr. Ferrary,

I thought you would be interested to have a photostat copy of your Petition of Right for your lost luggage. As you will see the Petition has been signed by The Queen and by the Princess Elizabeth. I wish I could have shewn you the original, but that has to be filed in Court.

Will you send me an address in Gibraltar where letters will reach you? I have arranged for Messrs. Bristows, Cooke & Carpmael, one of the leading firms in the City, to conduct the case, as I have to give up to go abroad. I think, however, from what the Ministry of Health told me, the Crown will not dispute their liability, but it is possible there may be some difficulty over the values.

Mrs. Wright and I both wish you all good luck and happiness, and hope you will soon be safely back in Gibraltar.

Yours sincerely,

(H. Newcome Wright).

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By August 1940 there were nearly 12,000 Gibraltar evacuees in London when the British Government planned to send them to Jamaica. The Gibraltar evacuees having heard of the sinking of the City of Benares and the decision of the British Government not to proceed with further evacuation of British children opposed the transfer to Jamaica. The following is an extract from the Joint Memorandum submitted by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Minister of Health to the War Cabinet on the 24th October 1940.

"We are in fact, literally, between the devil and the deep blue sea. If the Gibraltarians (compulsorily evacuated from Gibraltar) stayed here, they may suffer heavily from bombing or winter illnesses; but if they now compelled to undertake the voyage to safety in the West Indies, they may be drowned on the way. Faced with that choice we feel on balance, unable, in view of the peoples' own mood and of the consideration set out in the preceding paragraph, to recommend recourse to compulsory re-evacuation"

When Commodore Kenelm Creighton, Commanding Officer of convoy HG40 sailed with 5,000 evacuees from Gibraltar to the UK in July 1940, he made the following remarks:

"If this convoy was attacked and it had only one escort, it would result in one of the worst maritime disasters in history"

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