

WHAT I THINK OF LONG MARSTON

By Irene Baldwin (Homerton)

I think of London when I left it, surrounded by balloons and guns. Sandbags everywhere. The noise of traffic and people hurrying about and then I think of Long Marston, a little village built in a valley in Hertfordshire. It is very lovely here, quiet, peaceful and the people friendly. When I first came I thought, 'Oh I won't like it here it is too quiet, I'm used to a lot of noise', but after a while I thought very differently.

Long Marston is a very small village and so has very few shops. It has different types of houses, some brick-walled, some thatched roofed and a few other kinds. It has a school, a church and a chapel. There are many allotments in Long Marston in which the people grow their vegetables. At the corner of one street is a war memorial and about a mile from the village is a railway station.

Surrounding Long Marston are hills and fields. In these fields, which belong to the farms, graze sheep, horses and cows. Dividing one field from another are bushes. From Long Marston, rows of houses and trees can be seen along the tops of the hills.

Although Long Marston is a very lovely place, I think I shall in some way be glad to go home again.

THE EFFECT OF EVACUATION ON LONG MARSTON

By Betty Brooks (Long Marston)

The evacuation of children and grown ups has made a great difference to Long Marston. Usually the streets and lanes of Long Marston

are nearly deserted but now there are always some children playing in the roads. The evacuated children do not seem to mix with the village children much, they seem to prefer going about in their own groups. Most of the people in Long Marston have either women or children living with them. Some of the children are nice and do the things they are told, but there are a few children that are the opposite. The evacuation started from London about a fortnight ago. They started arriving at Long Marston about a day after, and ever since then our village has been rather busy. The school has about twice the number of children in it now compared with the number it had before. The church also has more children in it in the mornings than it usually has. There are a few children that have been privately evacuated they come to Long Marston school. The evacuated infants also do, but the older children go to the vicarage to school, they have their own teachers to teach them.

WHAT I THINK OF LONG MARSTON

By Evelyn Read (PECKHAM)

I think it is very nice at Long Marston but it is very quiet after being in London.

It isn't a very big village and is situated in the valley of the Chiltern Hills. The church is at one end of the village with vicarage opposite. Some of the rooms in the vicarage are used as class rooms for the children who have been evacuated with the school. The privately evacuated children go to school with the Long Marston ones. The senior boys go to woodwork once a week and the girls go to cookery. Once a term the children publish a magazine called 'Scoop'. I have read some of the magazines and I find them very interesting.

SCOOP

The nearest town is three and a half miles away but it isn't very big. There is a bigger one about eight miles away. Twice a week a bus goes there but if you want to go on any other day you have to go by train. The nearest station is a mile away.

I am staying at a blacksmiths shop. I go to school from nine till twelve and from two till four. In my spare time I like going for a walk or a bicycle ride or reading, I also like watching the horses being shod.

The people are very nice here and I like being here very much.

THE EFFECT OF EVACUATION ON LONG MARSTON

By Sheila Bott (Long Marston)

Not very long ago some children from London were evacuated to Long Marston. They came to Wilstone and motor cars from Long Marston went to fetch them. After they had got here they were taken to different homes. They all seemed to settle down all right and also made friends with us. Some people say that they never saw so many children in the village before. All the children that were evacuated are supposed to be indoors by eight o' clock. Those that were evacuated from Hampstead go to school at the vicarage. The people that were evacuated with children under five were taken to the Parish Hall and then taken to their homes.

UNOFFICIAL

One of the airmen who recently dropped leaflets over Germany was four hours later in returning to his aerodrome. When the Commanding Officer asked for an explanation, he said; 'It was so quiet out there, that I dropped down and pushed them under the doors.'

SCOOP

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TWO LETTERS.

Dear Ted,

I hope you are alright. I like Long Marston much better than London. The school is different, we go gardening on Tuesday afternoon and on Wednesday we go to football. I sit next to Frank. Well I must say good bye Ted I hope to see you soon in London.

Yours Sincerely,

John

John Gosbee. (Edmonton)

Dear Kathleen'

The population of our village has suddenly increased. Our school is full now. The evacuated children have to go to the vicarage to school, but all infants old enough to start school have to come with us. All privately evacuated children have to come to our school, so the twin's, and I am not parted, as it happens, Pat sits next to me, and Pam, sits next to Joyce in school, in the senior class. We do not have much to do with the children who go to the vicarage to school, there are plenty of new boys, I haven't seen many girls about. A lot of people from certain villages have gone back, which I think is very silly. Hoping you are quite well.

From your

Affectionate Sister

Gwyneth

Gwyneth Perry. (Long Marston)

UNOFFICIAL

During one of the recent pamphlet raids on Germany, one plane returned two hours before the others. When asked to explain why he was so early, the pilot said, 'We just threw the bundles out over the side and then came back'

'Did'nt you untie the ropes that bound them?' said the officer.

When told that they did not, he exclaimed,

'Good gracious man, you might have killed somebody'.

A GREAT DAY

When the Government started the Evacuation scheme they undertook to accomplish a great task. There was the transport of millions of children to be done and billets to be found for them

Where I live in Chiswick, the Government decided not to evacuate the children, but after a long struggle the Chiswick Council got this decision altered.

Then my school was engaged in distributing a lot of forms to the houses. These forms were to be signed by people who wanted their children to be evacuated to safer places.

In due course a form arrived at my house which was promptly signed by my father. This meant that a good deal of preparation had to be made. There were clothes to be got ready and these all had to be marked. This meant a lot of hard work for my mother because, besides my clothes, she had my brother's and my sister's clothes to prepare.

On Saturday, September 2nd, a rehearsal was held by Hogarth School, the school I was to be evacuated with. At this rehearsal we were told that we were going to be evacuated on the following day, Sunday, at

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7 o'clock in the morning. That night we went to bed earlier than usual.

On the following morning we were all up from bed very early. By half past six we had washed, dressed and had eaten our breakfast. At fifteen minutes to seven we were ready to go to the school. After bidding my mother and father good-bye we all three went across the road to school. My brother and I went to the Boys' School and my sister to the Girls'.

When we arrived at the School we were put into a certain section. After waiting until eight o'clock, the school marched down Dukes Avenue (a road with lime trees on both sides), in orderly fashion.

Outside Chiswick Town Hall all the children, Boys and Girls, seniors and juniors, boarded London Transport 'buses.

When all the children had been put on the 'buses, the whole fleet, there were about fifteen altogether, moved forward. After rounding Turnham Green, the omnibuses turned left into Chiswick High Road and went along towards Kew. Reaching Gunnersbury Avenue, the vehicles went along this Avenue for about forty five minutes. As we travelled on this road, we saw many interesting sights such as Army barracks and tents and an R. A. F. aerodrome with two aeroplanes on the tarmac with their engines roaring.

Leaving Gunnersbury Avenue the omnibuses veered right and so reached the North Circular Road. On this road the 'buses passed through Watford. After going along the road for a while we arrived in Berkhamstead. Here there were many officials who told the drivers where they were

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destined for. A guide accompanied each bus. Some children went one way and some another. Eventually after a good journey the 'bus I was in arrived in Wilstone. Here, at last, we got off our vehicle. From Wilstone I was brought to Long Marston Parish Hall in Mr. Savage's car. Here our names were taken, and we were conveyed to our billets. I, my brother, and a friend were taken to Mrs. Lee at Marston Gate.

We all arrived at Mrs. Lee's just in time for a beautiful dinner. This meal consisted of roast beef, cauliflower, potatoes, suet puddings and blackberry and apple pie with custard.

After dinner Mr. Lee made a cricket bat out of an old piece of wood. When we had finished a game we all went and sat on the lawn, in front of the house in the sunshine.

We hadn't been sitting on the lawn long when my brother suggested that we three should go blackberrying. So off we went and in about an hour we had gathered two baskets of blackberries.

At half past four we had our tea and after the tea-things had been washed we collected the eggs, and fed the chickens. At half past five we set out for a walk. We walked to Astrope and saw a friend of Mrs. Lee's. We stayed here for a quarter of an hour and then continued along Astrope Lane. We walked quite a long way and then turned left. As it drew near dusk we passed through Wilstone.

At half past eight we arrived home and had a hearty supper. After supper, being tired out, I went to bed. So ended a day in my life, a day that I shall remember for many years to come.

BY LESLIE JONES, AGE 13, (HOGARTH SCHOOL CHISWICK.)

EVACUATION NEWS

When the children first of all came down here we had a week holiday while they got settled down.

We have Fleet Road school and Hogarth school here.

There are not many evacuated girls; they are nearly all boys.

When we went back to school the London children went to the vicarage to school.

We now have the Baptist Chapel lent to us, and the younger seniors of the village school and evacuated schools go there.

The evacuated children go home in twos and threes nearly every week.

By Joyce Robinson

Fleet Road School

It has three departments the Infants, Juniors and Seniors. Each department has a playground to itself. In the warm weather the Senior girls and Junior girls have a netball in one of the playgrounds. At Christmas the Seniors have a dance. There are eight classes in the Infants, ten in the Juniors and six in the seniors. When the children go in for a scholarship we have a holiday and when they win we have another holiday. We have not got a recreation ground like some schools have. On Hamstead Heath we have a running track on which we have our sports-day. The boys have football matches with other schools. At Christmas we have to act a concert or have a choir with our teacher. Our teachers arrange this in the seniors. We have houses in red, blue, green and yellow. The house that gets the most marks each week goes home at four o'clock instead of four-thirty on Friday.

By Joyce Mayer

EVACUATION NEWS

HOGARTH SCHOOL

Hogarth School has been in Chiswick since 1884. It consists of five parts:- Junior boys, Senior boys, Junior girls and the Infants.

There is a rain shelter in every playground. The Infants and the girls are different schools. The girls school is just across the road, but the Infants is just the bottom of the playground. We can go into the Infants by the back door from our playground. There is a clock on the Infants wall. There is an alley leading into the Juniors playground.

By Sidrey Heath

HOGARTH SENIOR BOYS' SCHOOL

Hogarth Senior Boys School has been in Chiswick since 1885 and holds about 190 boys and our fathers and mothers have been to school there. In the Infants they take you at four and when you are seven you go into the Juniors which has A and B classes, the Head Master's name is Mr Kitchen and at the age of 11 we go into the Seniors and there you stay until you are 15 years of age and you go out and find a job and Mr Morris tells you where to go. In our school we have woodwork, art, science and many other things, but we do not have gardening like we have at Long Marston.

By Alan Howard

NORTHFIELD S. G. SCHOOL EALING.

Our school is situated in Balfour Road Ealing. In the infant school there are about one hundred children, boys and girls. In the juniors mixed there's about 200 children, and in the Senior girls there's about 250 children.

We have not got an air raid shelter in the playground. Our school was evacuated but not many children went with the school. We have a different nurse nearly every time they come.

By Pamela Scorman