

# World War 2

Thousands of Children were **evacuated** from Dagenham and Barking, during world war 2.. For children with access needs the process of evacuation could at times, be extremely difficult due to the level of care that they needed, and the different needs of individuals with a disability.

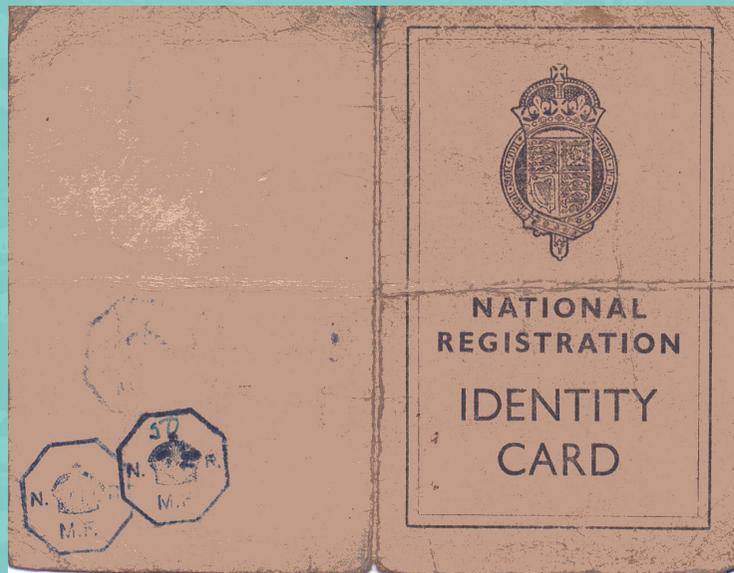
“So it wasn’t a really good place, but I don’t.., I think being physically disabled we all needed doctors, nurses and all sorts to accompany us, so I think they were really at a loss to know where to put us for the best. So, anyway we went there, and um we lived in this, [laughs] they talk about children being supervised these days, we was more or less left on our own...”

**Bombings** could occur at any moment, during WW2. A normal outing could suddenly, turn into a near deathly excursion in a matter of an instant. One interviewee recalls such an incident, when she went shopping in East Ham to buy a new necklace for her birthday, one September afternoon.



Photograph of children being evacuated from East London

National Identity Card



“...and um, as, we went down the shelter, of the, of the jewellers, went down there, and when we came out it was like the end of the world, it was, everywhere was covered in black smoke, people was running in all directions...”

The introduction of **rationing** brought its own difficulties, as one shop worker remembers:

“And I had another lady, this was brilliant, she used to-, cause in those days the bacon was laid out on a, on a larder slab and was open, quite open, you know, you could, there was nothing to sort of stop you from touching it if you like. And she used to lay her ration book placed on top of the bacon and as she’d pick the case up she’d pick a couple of rashers of bacon up with it underneath.”