

RAID LULL CAUSES EVACUEE PROBLEM.

Issue No. 1096..1.9.1941.
Title: Disputed Passage.
Track: Light That Failed

Lines: Stagg.
Voice: Do.

One more voluntary effort to get children away from the next blitz brought a thousand youngsters and hundreds of mothers to King's Cross and other main-line stations en route to the country. Some were little mites who've not been away before; others had been home for the holiday; some were being evacuated for the second and third time, because there's no law to prevent children being brought back - which is how the voluntary system keeps the wartime railways nice and busy. Well prepared for a hold-up, and looking forward to the treat, they set off for an unknown destination; unknown, to prevent mothers who don't like the sound of a place getting off at the first stop and returning.

All this summer the authorities have tried to dissuade parents from bringing their children home to the towns, but so long as there's no compulsion many take a chance - and children play in the new playgrounds Hitler made when he killed thousands of other kiddies last year. Some people brought their children back because they weren't well looked after, as one mother said of her eldest boy:

"He came home a fortnight ago and whilst having his dinner I noticed that he kept scratching his head. On looking through it I found that he had vermin in it. Then he ~~showed~~ ^{acquainted} me that probably his younger brother had them also as they slept together in an attic with four other boys."

Lots of London youngsters felt very much out of it in the country, and have been in their element since they came back.

(AFTER PIANO) The majority of mothers have had the good sense to leave their children in the country.

SV OTHER WOMAN TALKING:

"I have three children evacuated and I am very glad that they are away. I would love to have them with me but they are in very good billets and being very well looked after."

So many schools were bombed that there's a minor education problem in blitzed areas - not to mention the risk in school hours if there are daylight raids again. Like all who saw the blitz at close quarters, AFS men don't want the additional burden of thousands of children in danger areas.

AFS MAN SPEAKS:

"If you could only have seen some of the things we saw last winter you would keep them well out of the way until the war finishes."

Happy children of mothers who have heeded the warning, and left them in the country have settled down to the new life; they're healthy
(see back)

EVACUEE PROBLEM...continued

healthy/

and go to school every day just as they did at home. Everyone can understand parents who long to have their children back and who are quite sure the worst is over; but no mothers or fathers have the right to gamble with their youngsters' lives. In gambling most punters lose.

In the country schools the rising generation is being properly educated. Their lives stretch out before them - unless our selfishness invites a fatal bomb. In these little people the State has an interest. Britain wants them to grow strong, healthy and wise.

The mothers of the future are learning that there's more in life than factories and drab streets. In years to come the child-evacuation scheme may figure prominently on the credit side of the second world-war.