

# Jim Brittain

Notes by Ana Belén Del Pozo

## Evacuation

Jim Brittain, and his brothers Roy and Raymond were included in the evacuation that took place on **Sunday, 3rd September, 1939**.



"As we were halted at **Sandy station**, Bedfordshire, the declaration was made about the existence of a state of war with Germany".



## School

- **Before the evacuation:** Jim Brittain was attending Haringay Senior School for Boys, whilst his brothers were at Campsbourne Road School. Both of them were segregated based on sex (**single-sex education**)

- **Single-sex education**, also known as **single-gender education**, is the practice of conducting education where male and female students attend separate classes or in separate buildings or schools. The practice was common before the nineteenth century, particularly in secondary education and higher education. Single-sex education in many cultures is advocated on the basis of tradition as well as religion, and is practiced in many parts of the world. Recently, there has been a surge of interest and establishment of single-sex schools due to educational research.



- **After the evacuation:** There was a shortage of space. The Village Primary/Infants school did not have necessary spare capacity and all the evacuees were educated in Wesleyan Chapel in Park Road, Somersham. This meant that there was only one classroom, with pupils whose ages ranged from five to thirteen years.

## 'The Palace'

**The Palace** was a place where **fosterers** looked over the evacuees and decided which to take into their households.

- **fosterers:** people who looked after children as part of their family for a period of time because the children's parents could not look after them.

## 'The Grange'

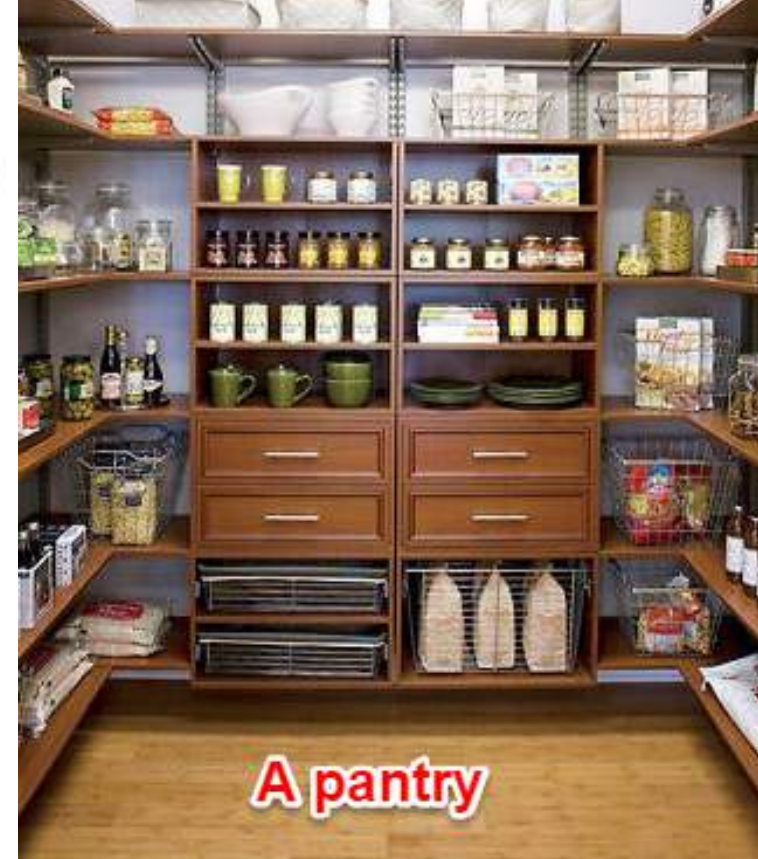
Jim Brittain and their brothers had a new home, it was 'The Grange'. It had large cellars and ground floor, first floor and an attic, where the boys slept. There was an indoor toilet but no bathroom. Baths were taken in a **galvanised bath** in the scullery.

### Galvanised bath:



## The Food

Meals were taken together in the kitchen- dining room around **massive pine farmhouse table**. Mrs Rowe used to serve the vegetables whilst Mr Rowe carved and served the meat. Leading off the kitchen was a large walk-in **pantry**. Mrs Rowe was a very good cook and the **kitchen garden** ensured a plentiful supply of **vegetables and fruit**, the latter providing the ingredients for many tasty **pies**.



## The War

### Blenheim bombers:

It is a British light bomber aircraft designed and built by the Bristol Aeroplane Company that was used extensively in the first two years of the Second World War.



### Royal Air Force airfields (RAF airfields):

It is a place where aircraft arrives and leaves, especially military or private aircraft.



### The Dunkirk evacuation:

The Dunkirk evacuation, code-named Operation Dynamo, also known as the Miracle of Dunkirk, was the evacuation of Allied soldiers from the beaches and harbour of Dunkirk, France, between 27 May and 4 June 1940, during World War II. The operation was decided upon when large numbers of Belgian, British, and French troops were cut off and surrounded by the German army during the Battle of France. In a speech to the House of Commons, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill called the events in France "a colossal military disaster".

## Spare Time:

When Jim obtained his **Roller skates**, he started roller skating around the village. During the winter Rowes lent him a pair of **ice skates**, and he joined in the ice skating on the Fend dykes.



Jim was also keen on aero modelling, tennis, and photography. He managed to get hold of a camera, a **box Brownie**, which he had bought for sixpence.



## The Return

Jim Brittain returned home to **Boyton Road, Hornsey** in April, 1941. Jim has kept in contact with the Rowe family (his foster family) ever since.

