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 **Handout 37b: Boxing up the information**: ‘**What were the different stages of the evacuation during the Second World War and what triggered each stage?’**

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| --- | --- |
| **Key stages and causes** | **Key information** |
| **Introduction** with hook | * Before war started, 4 million civilian casualties predicted in London alone
 |
| **Middle:**Stage 1: war is declared | * **11.07 am on Thursday 31 August 1939**: ‘Evacuate forthwith!’
* **1–4 September 1939**: ‘Operation Pied Piper’ began – evacuation of nearly 3 million people, many of them children
* Children were labelled like pieces of luggage, separated from their parents and accompanied by an army of teachers
* **Sunday 3 September 1939**: Britain declared war on Germany
* **January 1940**: almost 60% evacuees returned home
 |
| Stage 2: the invasion of France | * **13–18 June 1940**: Following German occupation of France, 1 million children evacuated/re-evacuated
 |
| Stage 3: the blitz | * **7 September 1940**: Blitz began. Children evacuated/re-evacuated
* **By May 1941**: 43,000 killed across Britain and 1.4 million homeless
* **End of 1941**: city centres, especially London, became safer
 |
| Stage 4: V1 rocket attacks | * **June 1944**: German V1 rocket attacks on Britain began. 1 million people evacuated from London
* **May 1945**: Second World War ended – V1 rocket attacks cease
 |
| **Conclusion** | * **2009**: first national memorial commemorating evacuation planned
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