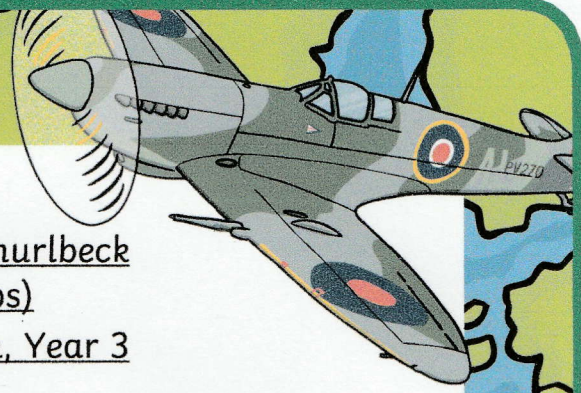
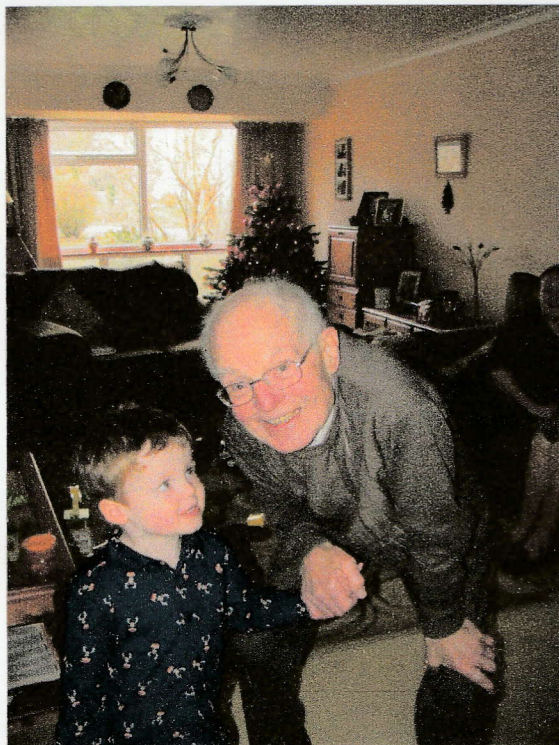


All About Arthur Thurlbeck
(Great Gramps)
By Toby Vanderson, Year 3

Great Gramps was born
in June 1928 and died in
September 2018. He was very
jolly and healthy and loved
spending time with the
family. He did lots of
mountain climbing and loved
the Lake District.



I have found out about his life in the war. He was 1 1/2 when he was evacuated from Sunderland to Kirkby Fleetham, where he lived for two years.

This is his Ration Book, This is a letter for evacuation.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

Your Ration Book

Issued to safeguard your food supply

HOLDER'S NAME AND REGISTERED ADDRESS.

Surname THURLBECK

Other Names Arthur

Address Holly Cottage
Leeming Bar

NAT. REG. NO. JHJS 71 3

Date of Issue JUL 1940 Serial Number of Book NC 109571

If found, please return to NC 109571

FOOD OFFICE, SUNDERLAND. R.B.1 (General) 4

COMPARE WITH YOUR IDENTITY CARD AND REPORT ANY DIFFERENCE TO YOUR FOOD OFFICE. DO NOT ALTER.

OFFICIAL PAID

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND. Letter 2A

EDUCATION OFFICES,
18 JOHN STREET,
SUNDERLAND.

17th July 1940.

3/024/5

Ref. No.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the form forwarded by you, stating that you are prepared to pay the rate of 12/- per week in respect of the maintenance of vacated (check of your children) vacated Government Scheme, making a total amount of 12/- per week. vacated

Payment should be made each week, to the Borough Treasurer at the General Collecting Office, Town Hall, Sunderland. The General Collecting Office is open from 9.0 a.m. to 2.0 p.m. each weekday except Saturdays when the hours are 9.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon. An official receipt will be issued to you in respect of each payment made. Cheques to be made payable to the Corporation of Sunderland and crossed Barclays Bank Limited.

An envelope is enclosed, in which this payment may be sent.

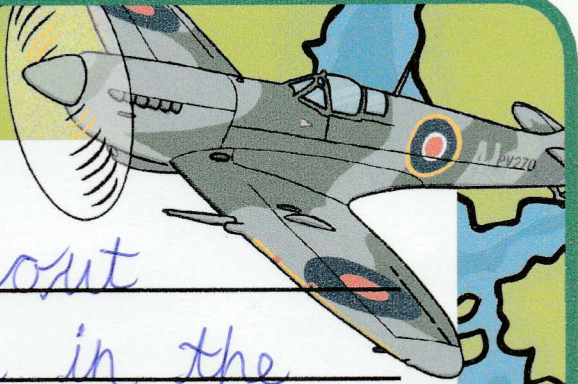
I have to remind you that you should inform me immediately of any change of address.


Yours faithfully,

W. Thompson

Mr. W. Thurlbeck,
Smyrna House,
Scrough Rd.,
Sunderland.

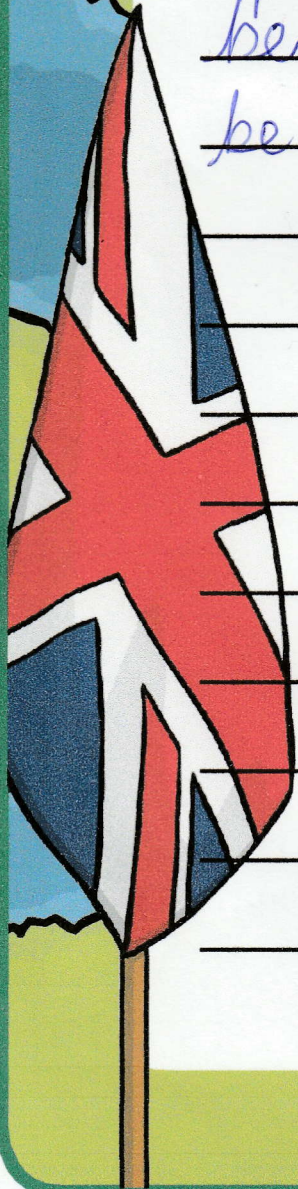
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
AND EVACUATION OFFICER.





Great Gramps wrote
all about his experience
When he was older, I have
put the page at the end
of this information sheet

I think it might have been
quite scary to be evacuated
because your family would
be far away.



MY DAYS AT KIRKBY FLEETHAM

In 1940 my brother Eric age ten and a half and I, eleven and a half were evacuated from Sunderland to Holtby Cottages. The two cottages, one empty, belonged to a nearby farm and were situated 2 miles north of Leeming Bar on the A1, next to Holtby Hall. Both cottages are now buried under the dual carriageway of the A1.

We were there for two years. Three other evacuees were billeted at Holtby Hall and all five of us would tramp over the fields through Fencote to school at Kirkby Fleetham. There were no school dinners so lunch was usually sandwiches and water.

When not at school we worked on the farm, labouring, cleaning out the stables, curry combing horses, working in the fields, hoeing and on special occasions driving the horse drawn carts. Summer evenings we were usually out with the whippets, rabbiting which we sold at Bedale, which was where I usually went shopping. I would stand across the road from the cottages and thumb a lift on an army lorry as there were always plenty passing by on their way to Leeming Bar. If any other army vehicle was coming in the opposite direction to the one in which I was travelling I was always told to duck down out of sight! At Leeming bar I caught the bus to Bedale (no army lorries going there) and then repeated the routine to get back. All that just to go the pictures (cinema) in Bedale!

School I remember was 3 classrooms, infants, juniors and seniors. You left school in those days at 14 and worked. The headmaster's name I think was Mr Elliot who taught the seniors. He always wore grey flannels trousers with a Harris Tweed jacket in which he educated us about being 'the best.' At least we didn't have to bow before speaking to him or the girls' curtsy, which we had, had to do when we had previously been evacuated to a school in Carlton!

What I remember of school apart from lessons in reading, writing and arithmetic was gardening, as during the war years we had to 'dig for victory.' When I stood facing the school I recalled the headmaster living in the house adjacent on the left and he had a garden in the back in which we worked. We had another garden next to the village hall which was the school garden but I don't know who got the produce because we children at the school certainly didn't! On one occasion we ate some of the headmaster's peas but he found out and demanded we replaced them the next day! I got some from the garden at the cottages and next morning went to school as usual with them in my pocket. Unfortunately I was hungry and I ate them! Luckily the headmaster got so many peas back that morning he forgot about mine!!

Mixing with the local children proved difficult in the beginning (we spoke in different dialects for a start) but after two pitched battles between 'local' and 'vaccies' and with the score 'one all' we got on well. One other memory is of the concerts in the village hall across the green. A pal and I once sang 'There's a hole in my bucket.' We got an encore but it didn't get me into the top 10!