

# The Cast

## Present Day

<b>Grandma</b>	An important character, with a key storytelling role. Along with her granddaughter Lucy, her reminiscences ‘frame’ the story.
<b>Lucy</b>	Has important dialogue with Grandma
<b>Grandpa</b>	Only appears right at the end, but <b>MUST</b> be done well!

## The Evacuees

<b>Maggie</b>	Central to the story. Needs to appear young and vulnerable, but must be confident actor. <b>Sings solo</b> in ‘Cheerfulness and Courage’ (optional)
<b>Tom</b>	Maggie’s brother. <b>Sings solo</b> in ‘Dig For Victory’ (optional)
<b>Edith</b>	The ‘cry-baby’ - must be able to whinge and sulk convincingly!
<b>Liz Baxter</b>	Big sister of the riotous Baxter family. She’s tough, confident and bossy.
<b>Ernie Baxter</b>	Lovable rogue - always in trouble
<b>Fred Baxter</b>	The cheeky younger brother
<b>Susan</b>	Doesn’t have as many lines, but has the saddest story, so needs to be able to carry off her part well.
<b>Jim and Bill</b>	Fewer lines

## Jack’s Family

<b>Guard</b>	We first meet Jack’s dad on the train, so to avoid confusion he is referred to as ‘Guard’ throughout. An important role with lots of lines (especially in scene 5). <b>Sings solo</b> in ‘Cheer Up Granny’ (optional)
<b>Mum</b>	A medium sized role. Also known as June.
<b>Jack</b>	Again, needs to appear young, but must be able to act really well (e.g the emotional dialogue in Scene 11 p46-47)
<b>Eileen</b>	Jack’s older sister - she’s a teenager. Lots of lines. <b>Sings solo</b> in ‘Cheer Up Granny’ (optional)

<b>Auntie Ruth</b>	A small role
<b>Betty</b>	Jack's cousin. Small and young - only has a couple of lines.
<b>Teacher</b>	Medium role

### Mothers

<b>Maggie's Mother</b>	} These are smaller roles.
<b>Edith's Mother</b>	
<b>Bill's Mother</b>	
<b>Susan's Mother</b>	

### Village residents

<b>Mr Price</b>	The grumpy farmer who takes on the Baxters
<b>Mrs Harbottle</b>	A rather stuck-up lady. Takes Edith. Most important of the Village Ladies
<b>Miss Ellis</b>	A nervous spinster. Takes Maggie and Tom
<b>Mrs Wilkes</b>	Takes Susan
<b>Mrs Bryant</b>	
<b>Mrs Jones</b>	
<b>Mrs Gretton</b>	
<b>Village Boys 1- 6</b>	Have a few lines each in Scenes 6 and 9. Ideal for younger cast members.

### City Characters

<b>Granny</b>	Not to be confused with Grandma and Grandpa of the present day! These are Jack and Eileen's grandparents. They are fairly short comic roles, need to be well acted.
<b>Grandad</b>	
<b>Neighbours 1- 4,</b>	} Smaller roles with a few lines each. They 'star' in Scene 10, which is tricky, but fun to do.
<b>Mrs Roberts</b>	
<b>Air Raid Warden</b>	
<b>Princess Elizabeth</b>	Appears once, and reads her speech, so needs to be an expressive reader. Could be cast from amongst your extra evacuees or village characters.
<b>GI's 1 and 2</b>	Brief but fun roles in scenes 9 and 11. Can also appear as extras in other scenes.

And of course, as many extra Evacuees, Village residents, Neighbours etc as you like.

# Archibald's War Script Extract

For a Christmas version of this scene, see page 56
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## Scene 1: Prologue

*(Enter Grandma and Lucy. Grandma has writing paper, pens and an address book. She sits down and starts writing)*

Lucy: What are you doing, Grandma?

Grandma: I'm writing letters. That's my address book.

Lucy: *(Looking through address book )* You know a lot of people.

Grandma: I've been around a long time.

Lucy: *(Turning pages)* Who's Ernie Baxter?

Grandma: Well, I haven't seen him for years, but when I first met him he was a very naughty little boy.

Lucy: Why? What did he do? Tell me about him!

Grandma: He tried to steal Archibald!

Lucy: Who?

*(Grandma stands up and begins to tell the story)*

Grandma: It was 1939. The war was just starting, so us children were being evacuated.

Lucy: Evacuated?

Grandma: We were being sent away to the countryside. I was just a little girl...

Lucy: And Archibald?

Grandma: Archibald...was my teddy bear.

*(Exit Grandma and Lucy. A small girl, in wartime costume, with suitcase, gas mask and label, enters. She is clutching a teddy bear. As she stands centre stage, we hear sound effects: steam trains and platform announcements.)*

**SFX 1: Station (CD 11/27)**

Maggie: Don't worry, Archibald. I'll look after you.

*(On this cue, the song starts, and the Evacuee children flood onto the stage from every direction. This is: )*

**Scene 2: At the Station****Song 1: Evacuation (part 1)****(Evacuees/All)****CD track 1/12**

**We're at the station  
 Today's the day  
 Evacuation  
 They're sending everyone away**

**We're going on a journey to the country  
 But what for? We're not sure!**

**We're getting off at  
 A safer stop  
 Where it's delightful  
 And where the bombs won't drop  
 We're heading for adventure in the country  
 Until we win this lousy war**

**I hope they're friendly  
 I hope they're kind  
 I hope they like me  
 I hope I don't get left behind  
 I really, really hope they don't expect me  
 To milk a cow - I don't know how!**

**We'll ride the horses  
 And feed the hens  
 We might go fishing  
 We'll prob'ly make new friends  
 We're heading for adventure in the country  
 Until we win this lousy war!**

*(A large group of children are being organised by a harassed Teacher. Upstage are various other people, including a group of Mothers.)*

Teacher: Over here! This way, children! The train will be here any minute. *(She is trying to count the children)*

Edith: But I don't want to go! I want to stay with my mummy!

Teacher: There, there, dear. Come along! You'll see mummy soon!

Tom: Is that our train coming?

Bill: Tom! Let's sit together on the train!

Tom: Well... I promised I'd look after my little sister. *(He indicates Maggie)*

Maggie: We can all sit together, can't we?

Teacher: Oh dear. There are three children missing.

Maggie: Will they be left behind?

Teacher: If they don't turn up soon... Edith, dear, do stop crying.

Edith: I don't like it!

Bill: Oh, come on! It's better than being at school!

Tom: A trip to the countryside... it's like a holiday!

Liz: *(From offstage)* Hurry up! We'll miss the train!

*(Enter Liz, Fred and Ernie Baxter in a hurry, pushing their way to the front)*

Ernie: *(As they enter)* All right, all right.

Fred: Here we are!

Liz: Phew! We made it!

Teacher: And what time do you call this?

Ernie: We're here, aren't we?

Liz: We had to go back for Ernie's gas mask, miss.

Fred: We ran all the way.

- Teacher: Didn't your parents bring you?
- Liz: No. We brung ourselves.
- Teacher: 'Brought' ourselves, I think you mean, Elizabeth.
- Edith: I want my mummy!
- Ernie: Did you hear that? (*mimicking*) "I want my mummeeeee..."
- Liz: You shut up, Ernie. She's only little.
- Edith: I want to go home!
- Ernie: (*To Edith*) Put a sock in it!
- Liz: I'm warning you, Ernie. Not everyone's got a big sister to look after them.
- Ernie: They're lucky.
- Fred: Who says you're looking after us?
- Liz: I do.
- Ernie: Bossy boots.
- Teacher: Well, if you three line up with the others, we're ready to go. (*The Baxters join the other children*)
- Fred: (*To Maggie, as he passes her*) Nice teddy bear!
- Maggie: His name's Archibald.
- Liz: (*To Edith, who is still crying*) Cheer up, love. You can sit with us.
- Ernie: I'm not sitting with that cry baby!
- Tom: Got your gas mask, Maggie?
- Bill: Look! Here comes the train!
- Guard: (*From side of stage*) All aboard! This way!
- Teacher: Now, stick together, children, and follow me!

*(The Teacher leads the children to the back of the stage, where they face away from the audience and freeze. At the same time the Mothers come forward.)*