



# HM Government of Gibraltar

---

Deputy Chief Minister

## PRESS RELEASE

No: 295/2015

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015

---

### Honouring a generation: Evacuation exhibition will open today

The events to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the wartime evacuation of civilians from Gibraltar start today with the official opening by the Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia of an exhibition at the John Mackintosh Hall. This will take place under the theme “Honouring a generation”.

The exhibition will cover the first evacuation to French Morocco in May 1940 and the subsequent re-evacuations to London, Madeira, Jamaica and Northern Ireland.

There will be about 500 photographic exhibits on display which have been provided courtesy of Mr Joe Gingell. The exhibition has been set up and will be manned by Government Archivist, Anthony Pitaluga, and the staff of the archives.

The exhibition will also feature a number of display cabinets which will contain original evacuation material. A 1940s kitchen of the kind used by the people who were evacuated will also feature by kind arrangement with the Gibraltar Museum.

There will also be an interactive computer display which will re-produce the Evacuation section of the website of the National Archives. This will allow those who visit the exhibition to search for themselves or their relatives and to retrieve the evacuation data on the spot. The original evacuation register will also be on display.

Local trio Mount Opera will sing contemporary songs of the 1940s that will be familiar to former evacuees and others. Further atmosphere will be added by the playing of recordings of interviews with persons who were evacuated relating their experiences.

The exhibition will open to the public as from Tuesday 12 May and will run until Thursday 28 May.

Commenting on the coming events, the Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia said:

“The exhibition is the first in a series of events that the Government will be organising in order to honour the generation that lived through those turbulent years. The forced evacuation of Gibraltar’s women, children, elderly and infirm following the outbreak of the Second World War was a landmark in the history of Gibraltar and a spur to our political and constitutional development. It is only fitting that the

Government should honour those who took part and the memory of those who are no longer with us. Over 700 persons have registered as former evacuees in the Evacuation website and a number selected at random have been invited to attend the opening of the exhibition tonight representing those who were sent to London, Madeira, Jamaica and Northern Ireland. The exhibition is only the first of a number of events that the Government will organise this year in order to mark the Evacuation.”