

14/4/55

Issued on behalf of:—

(NOTE TO NEWS EDITOR: Attached is a full list of the children selected. Slightly fuller information has in many cases been sent direct to local newspapers.

WAR ORPHANS PARTY

SEVENTY CHILDREN SELECTED.

Seventy war orphans, half of them boys and the other half girls, between the ages of 10 and 14, have been selected from different parts of Britain for a two-day party in London, including tea at St. James' Palace at which Her Majesty the Queen Mother will be present.

During their stay in London the children will be entertained first by the Army, then the Navy, and finally the RAF. Many of them are total orphans, being cared for by grandparents or aunts. In most cases the fathers were "killed in action" during World War II while serving with the Forces.

The party has been arranged by SSAFA (Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmen's Families Association) to mark its 70th anniversary. A large number of cases were considered before the final selections were made. The choice was mainly governed by the child's circumstances.

The numbers of children from each area were decided according to population figures. For example, these are the numbers from some areas - London (9), Home Counties (12), North Country (21), Scotland (6), Wales (2), and one each from Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands.

The approximate programme will be -

Tuesday, April 12 - Arrive about 6 p.m. at the SSAFA Families Club, Kensington, where the children will stay.

Wednesday, April 13 - The Army are the hosts in the morning.

10.30 a.m. - Changing of the Guard, Buckingham Palace.

12 noon - Tower of London.

The Navy are the hosts in the afternoon.

2.15 - By water from the Tower to Greenwich.

Thursday, April 14 - The RAF are the hosts in the morning.

10.0 a.m. - London Airport.

11.30 a.m. - Uxbridge.

Afternoon - Tea at St. James' Palace.