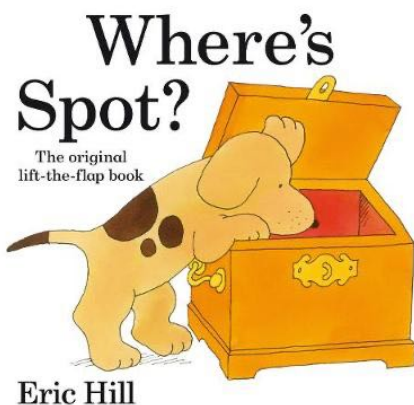


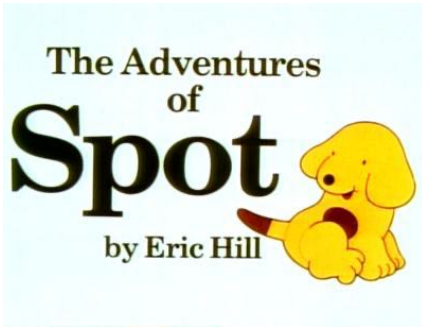
# Did this famous WW2 evacuee *SPOT* something in Bluntisham



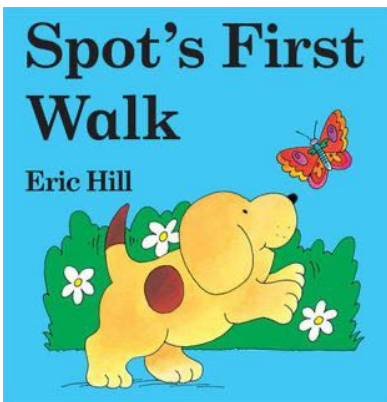
In early 1939 plans were in place to evacuate an expected 10,000 evacuees, mainly children to Huntingdonshire. The evacuation from London began on the 1st September 1939 and by Sunday the 3rd September 6000 evacuees had arrived in Huntingdonshire. One evacuee who was sent to Bluntisham was 12-year-old Eric Hill (1927-2014). Eric was born in London and attended Pooles Park Elementary and Tollington Park Central schools until he was evacuated.

Apparently, life in the Bluntisham countryside didn't suit him and he returned to London for Christmas and stayed there for the rest of the war. Eric left school at fifteen to work and age 16 he joined an art studio as a messenger.

After a stint with the Royal Air Force Eric Hill returned to the studio again and his cartooning work began to be published in national magazines and newspapers.



Eric's son Christopher was born in 1976. When Christopher was two, Eric made up a story to read to him at bedtime about a small puppy. The extraordinary success of *Where's Spot?* published in 1980, gave Eric Hill the confidence to work full-time as an author. The second title, *Spot's first Walk*, was published a year later. The publishing phenomenon that is 'Spot' and the 'lift flap book' was born!



There are over 40 million books in print read by children in more than 100 countries. The adventures of Spot have been translated into 65 languages. The animated TV series has aired in over 80 countries and the films have been included in the permanent collection of the prestigious Museum of Television and Radio History in New York as an outstanding example of British children's programming. In 1983, Eric Hill and his family moved to California in the USA.

## Spot Goes to School

Eric Hill



He was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2008 New Year Honours for services to children's literacy. He died aged 86 on 6 June 2014, at his home in California.

I wonder if 'Spot' was inspired by something Eric saw during his time in Bluntisham. If anyone has any information regarding Eric and his short time in Bluntisham please let us know.



**BLUNTISHAM HERITAGE PROJECT**  
in partnership with Bluntisham Parish Council