

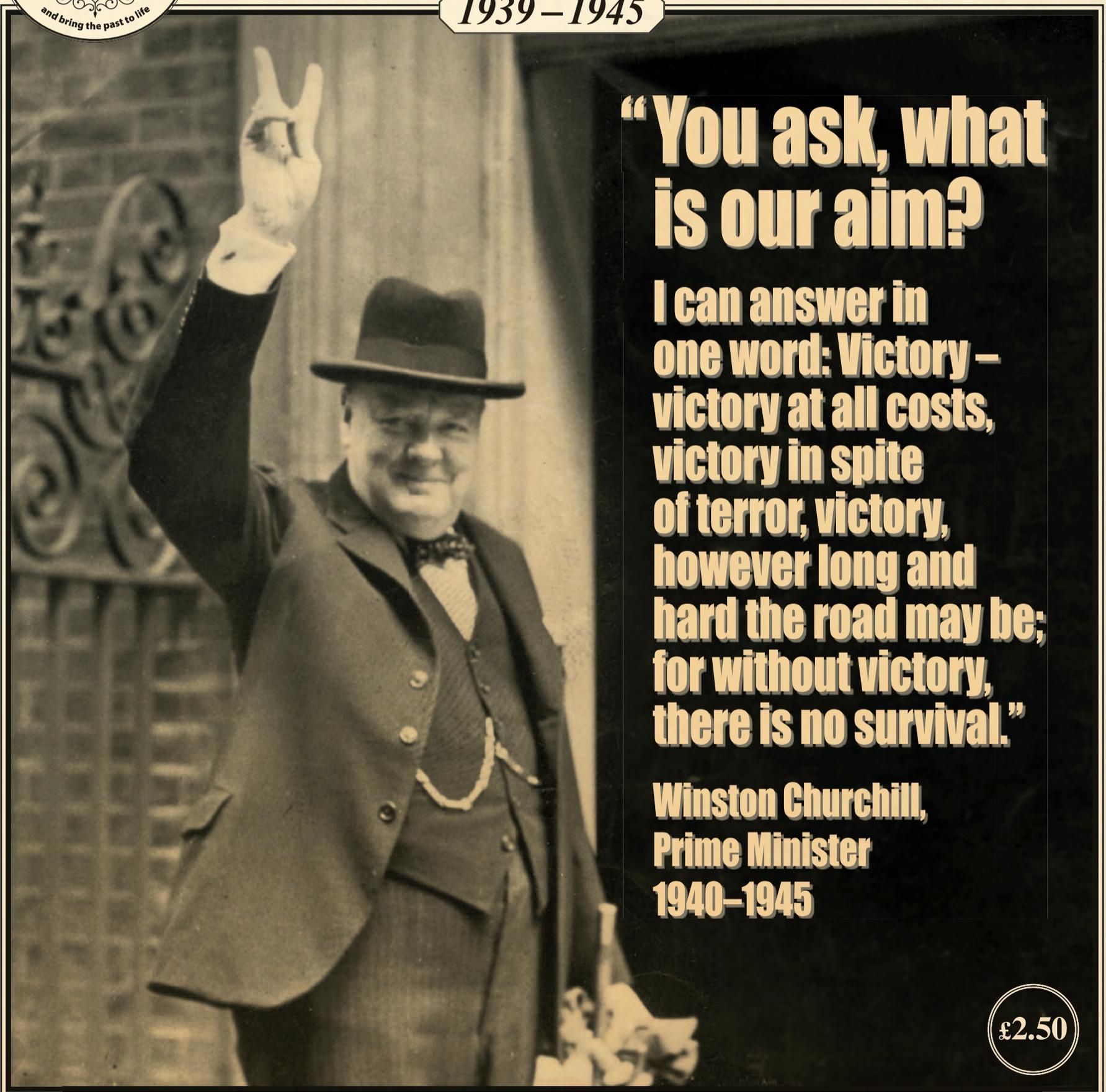
WORLD WAR 2: BRITAIN AT WAR NEWSPAPER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

FirstNews

MORE THAN TWO MILLION READERS



1939 – 1945



“You ask, what is our aim?”

I can answer in one word: Victory – victory at all costs, victory in spite of terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival.”

**Winston Churchill,
Prime Minister
1940–1945**

£2.50

Britain is ready for war

4 September 1939

BRITAIN'S Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, officially declared war on Germany yesterday. Preparations for conflict have been taking place for months.

Mr. Chamberlain's deadline for the withdrawal of German troops from Poland passed at 11am yesterday morning and he took to the BBC airwaves just 15 minutes later to inform the country that his "long struggle to win peace has failed".

France followed Britain in declaring war late yesterday afternoon. The French are especially concerned at Herr Hitler's aggressive behaviour as Germany is a neighbouring country.

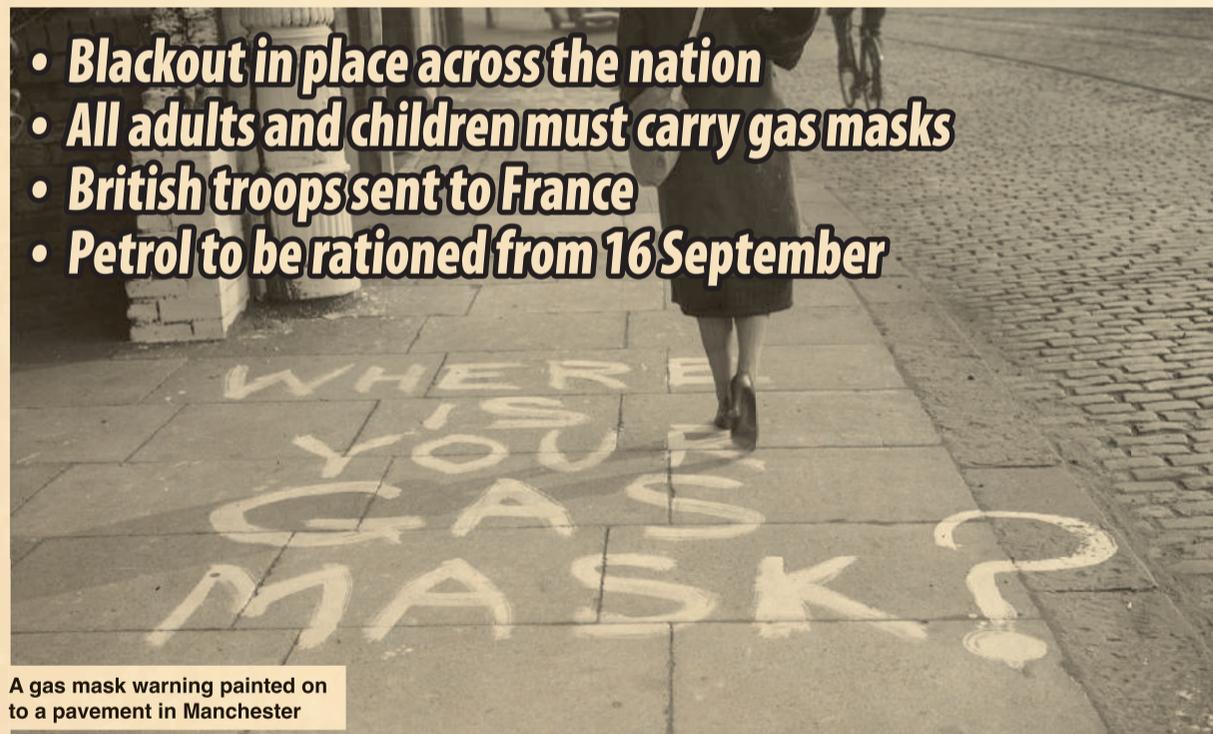
The British PM will lead the war effort and yesterday wasted no time in forming a war cabinet made up of nine key figures, including Mr. Winston Churchill as First Lord of the Admiralty and Mr. Leslie Hore-Belisha as Secretary of State for War. Four new ministries are to be launched: Home Security, Economic Warfare, Information and Food.

Just hours after Mr. Chamberlain made his announcement, the ocean liner SS Athenia, a passenger ship carrying 1,400 people, was torpedoed by a German U-boat. Early reports indicate heavy casualties: at least 100 people are thought to be dead. The attack highlights the danger our country faces from German forces. A number of steps have already been taken in preparation for war, and they were being stepped up last night to make sure of the safety of British citizens:

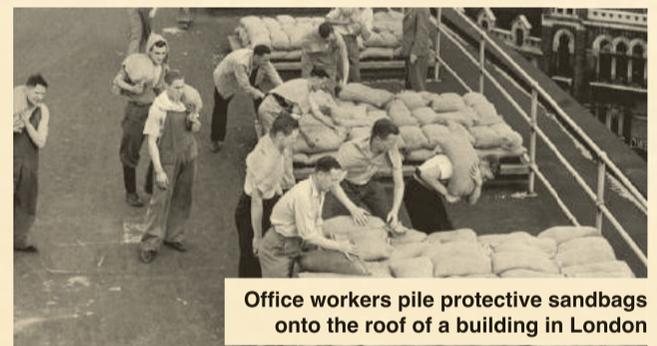
- Important anti-gas attack information for mothers of young children is being handed out today. Thousands of anti-gas protective helmets for babies under 2½ years of age are being produced on a daily basis, while respirators for small children aged between 2½ and 4 are becoming available for parents.
- In case there is a gas attack, the Government has announced it will inform people what to do to protect babies and young children who do not yet have helmets and respirators.

- All citizens are reminded to carry their gas masks with them at all times.
- The British Board of Trade said it is against the law now for any Briton to do any business with Germany or Italy.
- The ages for military service have been extended, so every male from 18 to 41 must register for the armed forces.
- A strict blackout has gone into effect immediately, meaning that all lights must be put out after dark. Windows and doors must be covered carefully.
- Nearly all forms of popular entertainment – football, racing, theatres and cinemas – will be halted over the next few days. The BBC has scrapped all but one of its radio programmes – details will appear in newspapers and the *Radio Times*.
- Prisoners with less than three months of their sentences to serve who are based in areas likely to be bombed will be released.
- The Minister of Transport has announced that he has made an order taking full control of the railway companies.
- The Minister of Agriculture has made an appeal for volunteers to help with the harvest. Immediate aid is required in some parts of the country: individuals who can spare a day or half a day to help are encouraged to get in touch with farmers.
- Overseas, Britain is to send four infantry divisions to the town of Lille in France, close to the Belgian border, under the command of General Lord Gort.

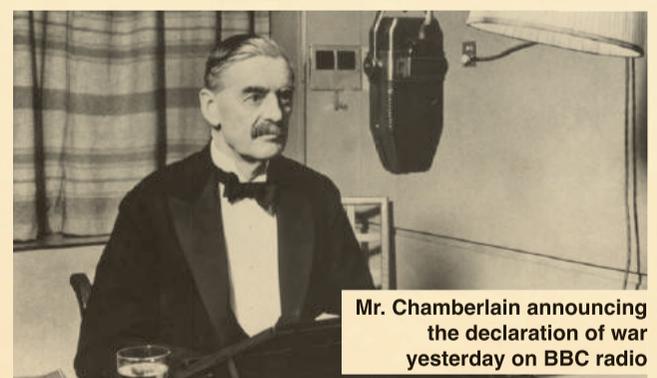
- **Blackout in place across the nation**
- **All adults and children must carry gas masks**
- **British troops sent to France**
- **Petrol to be rationed from 16 September**



A gas mask warning painted on to a pavement in Manchester



Office workers pile protective sandbags onto the roof of a building in London



Mr. Chamberlain announcing the declaration of war yesterday on BBC radio

Background to war: ruthless Nazis and false promises

BRITAIN and France, who are bound together by a military pact, have declared war on Nazi Germany.

It's because of Hitler's refusal to remove his troops from Poland, which was invaded on 1 September.

The Polish people did nothing to deserve the brutal attack which follows the German invasion of Czechoslovakia last year.

The Anglo-Polish military alliance, signed by Britain and France last month, promised protection for Poland in the event of an attack by the Germans. There are fears that Hitler plans to invade other European countries in his attempts to increase German power across the continent.

Last year, Mr. Chamberlain travelled to Germany to try to secure peace. He thought he had succeeded but it is now clear Hitler's promise not to go to war was a lie.



Adolf Hitler (centre) at a Nazi rally

New evacuation appeal



A British soldier kisses his evacuee son goodbye at a London rail station

5 September 1939

THE Government is launching a new wave of evacuations from the city to the countryside following a disappointing launch last week, where only half of London's children left the city to be housed with volunteers in rural areas.

Ministers are urging parents in cities across the country to take their children to school for evacuation. Pregnant women, the disabled and blind are also encouraged to leave the cities for their own protection as it is believed that German bombing raids could start at any moment. Evacuations are not compulsory and the low numbers of evacuees up until now is being blamed on the fact there haven't been any major raids over England so far.

Evacuation began last Friday 1 September, before war was declared. The idea was thought up years ago as the Government feared war was on the way.

It certainly isn't just London's youngsters who have been asked to evacuate: almost 40,000 people from Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham and Rainham in Kent were moved to more rural parts of the county; 30,000 from Southampton and Gosport have been moved to other parts of Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire and 22,000 from Birmingham are living in several counties now, including Worcestershire and Shropshire.

However, the numbers are much lower than expected. In London, the evacuation plan took three days instead of the scheduled four because of low

turnout. Of 1.8 million possible London evacuees, both adults and children, only 660,000 (36%) have gone: 377,000 children with their teachers; 275,000 mothers and children; 3,500 pregnant women and around the same number of blind people. Buses, the London Underground, trains and even pleasure steamers on the River Thames have all been used to move people out of the capital.

About half of London's children have been evacuated, 40% of Glasgow's and 25% from Birmingham and Coventry. In Sheffield, just 15% of children have moved to the countryside.

Plans for evacuation have been ready since January, when the Government began to look into arrangements for suitable accommodation in the country. Within hours of the Government giving the order on 1 September, 120,000 of the Women's Voluntary Service organisation were standing by to help make the whole operation run smoothly.

For many children who have spent their whole lives in the city, the evacuation is an exciting adventure, offering the opportunity to see the seaside, a farm or rolling hills for the very first time in their lives.

MOTHERS let them go - give them a chance of greater safety and health



MINISTRY OF HEALTH EVACUATION SCHEME

Evacuee children in the countryside



From the country...

of other children were taken by army lorry to Birch. He told us: "We sat in lines and adults came along to choose the ones they wanted. A lady picked me and a boy I didn't know. I have to share a bed with him."

Peter is already mucking in with work on the farm he is staying in: "On the farm I have to get the cows in and give the shire horses their water."

OUR reporters went to the Essex village of Birch to talk to an 8-year-old evacuee, Peter Barnes, about how he was finding life in the countryside.

Peter was first evacuated from London to Colchester, where he and dozens

Children's checklist

PARENTS are encouraged to bring their children to school tomorrow at 8.30am ready for evacuation. They are asked to remember the following:

Each child should have a handbag or case containing the child's gas mask, a change of underclothing, night clothes, house shoes or plimsolls, spare stockings or socks, a toothbrush, a comb, towel, soap and face cloth, handkerchiefs; and, if possible, a warm coat or mackintosh. One toy is permitted per child. Each child should bring a packet of food for the day. School children will be taken by their teachers to homes in safer districts where they will be housed by people who have already offered to receive them and look after them. Parents of school children living in these areas are strongly urged to let their children go. Parents will be told where the children are as soon as they reach their new homes. The cost of the journey will be paid by the Government.

Defence force numbers soar



A group of volunteers practise marching with sticks – rifles will be distributed to all battalions soon

16 May 1940

THE Government's appeal for volunteers to join a new homeland defence force has been an enormous success.

In a BBC radio address on Tuesday 14 May, the new Secretary of State for War, Anthony Eden, asked British men aged between 17 and 65 to join a new organisation, the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV).

Mr. Eden said this local army was for those "who are for one reason or another not at present engaged in military service, and who wish to do something for the defence of their country".

He described the force as a part-time commitment, meaning that all members could continue their ordinary jobs. "When on duty," said Mr. Eden, "you will not be paid, but you will receive a uniform and be armed." He called on those interested to report to their local police station to sign up.

The response was instant: just minutes after Mr. Eden's broadcast ended, local police stations up and down the country were filled with eager volunteers. Many had to close their doors to cope with the rush!

Most of the men who have come forward so far are aged between 40 and 50 and the majority of these are retired soldiers. It is thought that the number of men who have already expressed an interest is in the hundreds of thousands.

The Local Defence Volunteers will help guard coastal towns in the event of a German invasion, and to protect vital sites around them, such as factories, airports and military bases.

The Government chose to act fast following major developments in German war strategy over the past few days. On 10 May, Germany invaded France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Mr. Eden talked about the Nazis' tactic of dropping soldiers by parachute behind defensive lines in Belgium and the Netherlands. Fearing a similar approach in the UK, the Government feels it is time for ordinary men who are not in the armed forces to do their bit to secure the nation.



New recruits will be put through their paces, just like the regular Army

Possible jobs for the LDV

ALTHOUGH plans for the LDV are still in the early stages, it is believed they will do the following:

- Make fields impossible for enemy planes to land on by placing obstacles in them.
- Remove signposts from roads and railway stations in order to confuse any enemy paratroopers landing in Britain.
- Take part in anti-invasion exercises, including practising shooting enemy aircraft down and hand-to-hand combat.
- Form blockades across streets to prevent enemy vehicles from moving, giving the Army time to arrive on the scene.



Local Defence Volunteers practise combat techniques

First air raids over England

26 August 1940

THE Germans have begun air strikes on London and the southeast, leading to fears that a major invasion is coming.

A large number of Luftwaffe (German air force) planes dropped bombs on residential areas along the southeast coast over the weekend. Although numbers of casualties have not been confirmed, a small number of civilians were killed and injured. Strikes on London took place in the early hours of 24 August, although the anti-aircraft searchlights appeared to scare the Luftwaffe planes off very quickly. Mr. Churchill ordered the RAF to respond by bombing Berlin last night.

Two cinemas, a bank, several houses and many windows were damaged in the London attacks. There were no deaths or serious injuries, but several fires.

Attacks outside London

Elsewhere, the RAF gave chase to one Luftwaffe bomber up the east coast of England. During the air battle, the German plane dropped six bombs on a residential area, destroying three houses and leading to several casualties, including two children, aged three and seven.

In addition to the air raids, the coastal town of Dover was hit by gunfire from the French coast, leading to minor damage and some injuries. The RAF immediately fought back.

Around 45 enemy aircraft were destroyed by the RAF and anti-aircraft defences. In addition, a German Dornier light bomber crash-landed in a clover field in the southeast, where a gamekeeper confronted the armed crew with a pitchfork. The Germans surrendered and have been arrested.

There were fears at the start of the war last September that the Luftwaffe would begin attacks on Britain immediately. The lack of enemy activity over the UK these past 11 months has led to many people describing this conflict as a "phoney war". Hundreds of parents have recalled their children who had been evacuated to the country, thinking that there was no need to send them there.

Game changer

Everything has changed in recent weeks following the brutal Nazi invasions of France, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands and Luxembourg – all of which were completed in just a couple of months, throughout April and May.

France, Britain's firm ally against Hitler, finally fell to Nazi forces in June. Mr. Churchill, who took over as PM from Neville Chamberlain on 10 May, has refused to recognise the new Nazi-approved French government.

With the coast of northern France just 33km (20.6 miles) away from England, there are now serious concerns that the Germans are just days away from planning to invade and occupy Britain. This has made it clear what a serious situation we are in.

- Buildings on fire across southeast; many injured and some dead
- Fears grow of German invasion
- New PM Winston Churchill orders bombing raid on Berlin in response



Damaged buildings in a residential area on the outskirts of London

Air-raid shelters: prepare yours for attack



A garden air-raid shelter: it is essential to cover it with earth for protection

26 August 1940

WITH German air raids starting over Britain, the Government is urging all citizens to be prepared.

The Chief Engineer to the Home Office said he was astounded to learn that many people had not covered their shelters properly with earth. Six people were recently injured because they had not protected their shelter roof with heavy soil.

Air-raid warning sirens are becoming a regular part of life in parts of England. This is the time to check where your nearest public shelter is in the event of an attack.

Those people with Anderson shelters in their gardens are urged to check it now for any leaks, cracks or general damage.

The Chief Engineer also advised people to move quickly to their shelter upon hearing a siren and not dawdle. "We are all soldiers in this war," he said.

24 May 1940



Sir Oswald Mosley (right) greeting his fascist supporters, known as "Blackshirts"



Germans, Italians and Austrians carry their belongings into internment camps. All citizens of these countries are being rounded up

Nazi supporters, Germans and Italians in Britain all imprisoned

BRITISH fascist leader Sir Oswald Mosley and hundreds of his colleagues were arrested yesterday as part of a police round-up.

Sir Oswald, a wealthy British aristocrat, founded the British Union of Fascists (BUF) in 1932 and is supportive of Germany and Italy and their fascist dictators.

Mosley visited Germany several times and it is believed that Herr Hitler was a guest at his wedding in 1936 in Berlin.

Just a few weeks ago, Mosley gave a speech to an enormous crowd of supporters in the East End

of London. Now he is facing years behind bars, considered a traitor and enemy to the nation.

The arrest order was given by the Home Secretary, Sir John Anderson, as part of Defence Regulations to keep Britain safe.

The order came hours after the House of Commons passed a law that allows the Home Secretary to order the arrest and imprisonment of members of organisations which

have had associations with the enemy.

The headquarters of the BUF were raided yesterday by plain-clothes detectives. Up to 750 members of the organisation will be put straight into internment camps, which are prisons for those considered enemies or enemy supporters.

The action follows the internment of several Germans, Austrians and Italians living in Britain, known as "enemy aliens". After the outbreak of war, the Government estimated there were around 80,000 foreigners living in Britain who could be considered a risk to national security. All German and Austrian people were called before special tribunals. They were assessed and divided as follows:

However, following the Nazi invasion of France, Mr. Churchill, the new PM, gave orders to "collar the lot" of enemy aliens. Some 30,000 Germans, Austrians and Italians now living and working here are being arrested by police and put in army-run internment camps.

The internment camps on the Isle of Man, first used during World War I, are home once again to alien citizens. Horse racing tracks and housing estates are also being converted.

Plans are in place to deport thousands of internees to Canada and Australia. Ocean liners are scheduled to take a large group of Germans and Italians there this July.

The dangers of fascism

WHY are Sir Oswald and his colleagues such a threat to British security and the war effort in general?

Because fascism is precisely what Britain and her allies are fighting against. It is the political system used in Italy and a more extreme version of it, Nazism, has held power in Germany since 1933.

Rather than democracy, fascism prefers a dictatorship – which is when one person or party rules a country without elections or political opposition.

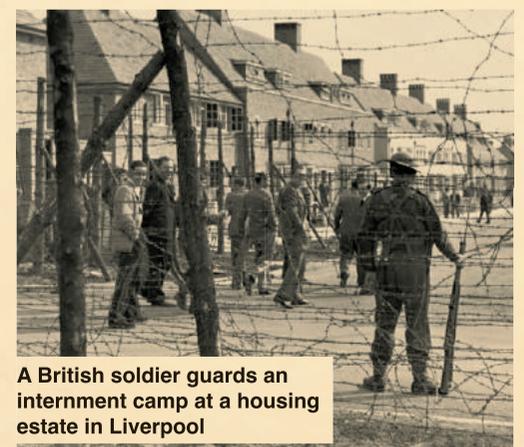
Founded in Italy, the fascist system has spread across the world and gained a lot of popularity in the past 20 years. It uses extreme methods, including torture, death squads and the destruction of freedom of speech to keep order and to keep its leaders in power.

Fascist governments – especially those of Italy and Germany – have persecuted a lot of minority groups including Jews, gypsies and disabled people.

'A' Around 600 were considered high security risks and were interned straight away.

'B' 'Doubtful cases', numbering around 6,500, who were supervised and given strict rules.

'C' 'No security risk', numbering around 64,000, who were left free. More than 55,000 of category 'C' were recognised as refugees from Nazi rule. Most of these were Jewish.



A British soldier guards an internment camp at a housing estate in Liverpool

Risk of paratroopers, spies and sabotage

26 June 1940

THE Nazi occupation of Europe, and the Allied evacuation from Dunkirk, has led to fears that Hitler will launch an attack on Britain soon.

The Government is warning of the risk of enemy paratroopers landing in England to prepare the ground for a full invasion. This technique was used in Belgium and the Netherlands. Citizens are reminded to be on guard at all times and report any suspicious looking people to the police immediately.

Germans are believed to have parachuted into the Netherlands in a variety of outrageous disguises, including

as nuns, monks, policemen, postmen and Red Cross nurses.

The Government is taking no risks and, in addition to rounding up enemy aliens, it has issued several warnings to companies across the country to look out for spies.

London Transport, for example, has appealed to its 70,000 staff to be on guard against attempts by enemy agents or British Nazi supporters to work their way into the company in order to sabotage the capital city's public transport network.

It is impossible to say whether or not German spies are already operating in Britain, but Nazi sympathisers in positions of power may already be aiding the enemy. It is essential to stay alert.



German paratroopers over mainland Europe

The aliens fighting for Britain

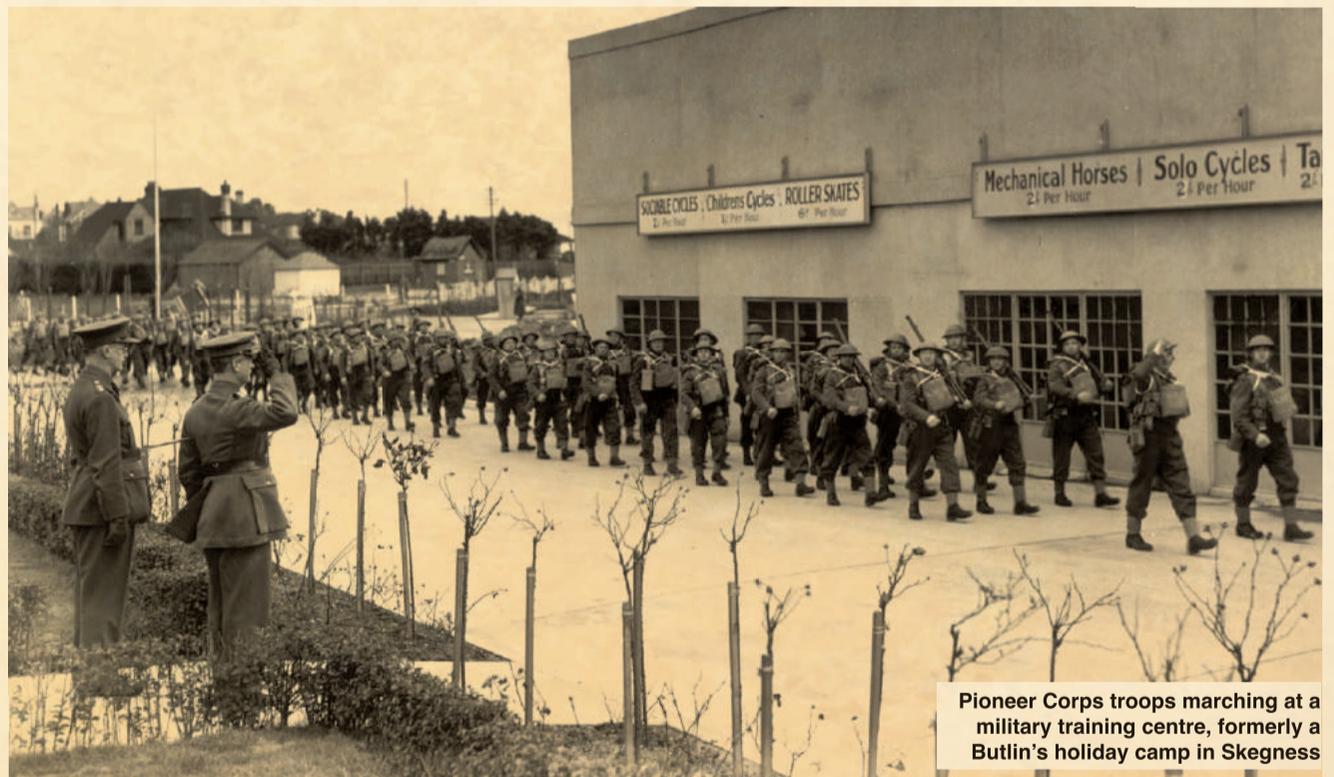
22 February 1941

WE are all aware of the brave British men and women who risk their lives to defend us from the Nazi threat on a daily basis.

But it is perhaps not so widely known that, serving among British men and women are several alien citizens, some of whom were interned over the last two years simply for being German, Austrian or Italian.

Following a public outcry late last summer, internees began to be released in August. Earlier this month, the total number of aliens to be freed was 10,000 and several of these have already volunteered to fight troops from their home countries. But they are not the first foreigners to join the British military.

When war broke out in 1939, there were around 3,500 refugees living in a camp on the Kent coast. Most volunteered to fight because they wanted to help defeat Hitler and the Nazi menace.



Pioneer Corps troops marching at a military training centre, formerly a Butlin's holiday camp in Skegness

The Pioneer Corps

At the end of 1939, the Government, who had officially classified these refugees as "enemy aliens", allowed them to join the Pioneer Corps, a unit that does not see active combat but focuses on essential military engineering tasks instead. Now, many of the "enemy aliens" who have served loyally in the Pioneer Corps are moving on to active service in other divisions of the British armed forces – including the top secret Special Operations Executive, which spies on the enemy.

In total, it is thought there are now around 10,000 Germans and Austrians fighting for Britain against Germany and her allies. One in seven of the 75,000 refugees who came to Britain between 1933 and 1939 has joined the British armed forces. Every one of them fled Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe because their lives were at risk. And every one of them has sworn allegiance to King George VI even though they are not British citizens.

They have been advised to give themselves British surnames and to prepare cover stories in case they are captured by enemy forces wanting to know why they speak English with thick accents.

Many of this "alien army" are Jewish. They have been given the nickname "the King's most loyal enemy aliens".

Shameful treatment at sea

Some of the aliens transferred last year to Australia and Canada by ship have been returned to the UK so that they can serve in the Pioneer Corps. Stories have come out of their harsh treatment at the hands of the British authorities, particularly on the journey to Australia aboard a ship called the Dunera last July. The nine-week journey has been described as being like a "floating concentration camp", with major overcrowding and people given harsh physical treatment and only ten toilets provided for the 2,000 men aboard.

Britain defeats Nazis in key battle

Battle over Britain ends in victory for RAF

1 November 1940

THE Battle of Britain – a vicious three-and-a-half month battle between the RAF and Luftwaffe – has ended in a British victory.

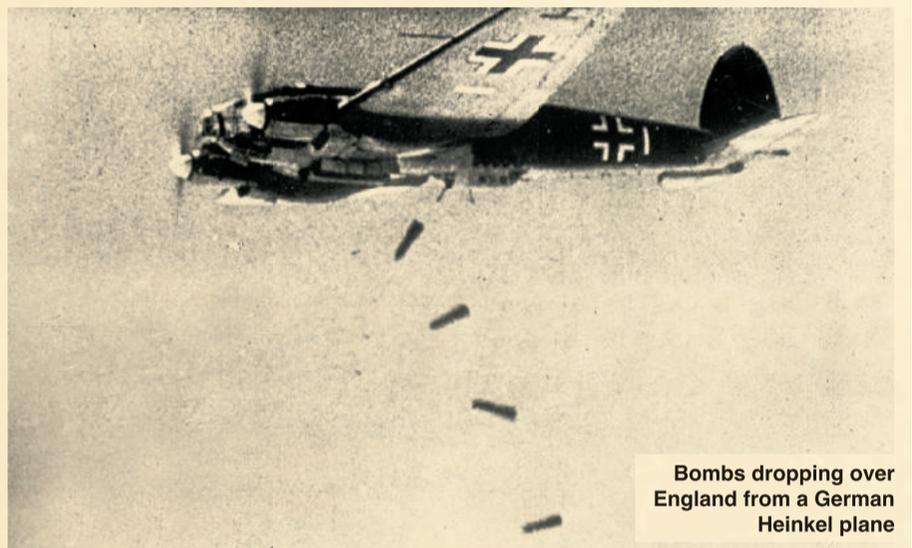
On 18 June, Prime Minister Winston Churchill told the nation that “the Battle of France is over – the Battle of Britain is about to begin.” His prediction was spot-on: four days later, France surrendered and the Nazis began to set their sights on the invasion of Britain.

The Nazi strategy was to first wipe out the RAF over southern England using their own highly skilled and advanced air force. They planned to follow this with a ground invasion. Hermann Goering, the head of the Luftwaffe, was apparently given orders that the RAF should be “beaten down to such an extent that it can no longer muster any power of attack worth mentioning against the German crossing”.

But the Germans didn’t count on the strength of the RAF. It would seem now that “the German crossing” of the channel is still some way away, as the air battle did not go the Luftwaffe’s way.

By mid-August, the RAF had gathered 620 Supermarine Spitfire and Hawker Hurricane planes with an additional 289 reserve fighter aircraft. The Luftwaffe had a higher number of fighter planes and bombers, including the Messerschmitt, Dornier and Junkers.

The battle began on 10 July with several German raids on ships in the English Channel and on coastal towns. About a month later, the Luftwaffe began attacking the RAF itself by bombing airfields and radar stations. It is around this time that air battles began between British and German planes, too.



Bombs dropping over England from a German Heinkel plane



New evacuations of children from London have begun



British pilots scramble for their Hurricane fighters to launch an attack on approaching German planes



Hurricane fighter planes taking off from Gravesend, Kent, after being refuelled and rearmed

The tide turns: Battle of Britain Day

The RAF held firm and, helped by radar systems and the fact many of the German planes could fly only on short missions, they left Goering and his pilots frustrated. In early September, the Germans changed tack once again.

This time, it is thought that Hitler himself ordered attacks to begin on major English cities, including London. This prompted the most decisive day in the conflict: Battle of Britain Day, on 15 September. On that day, the Luftwaffe launched their biggest bombing attack to date. In response, the whole of the RAF was scrambled to defend London and the southeast. The British won. We understand that the Germans' defeat on Battle of Britain Day has made Hitler put off his plans to invade Britain.

Exact figures on the number of planes shot down and military personnel killed throughout the Battle of Britain are hard to confirm, but it is thought that around 2,500 Germans were killed, around 1,000 captured and 1,900 aircraft destroyed. On the British side, around 500 servicemen died defending their country, with 1,000 aircraft wrecked.

On the ground, the figures make for grim reading: at least 40,000 civilians died and a further 50,000 were injured by the war in the skies above England. Mr. Churchill's speech to the House of Commons on 20 August is thought to have helped inspire the RAF to victory on Battle of Britain Day and therefore fight off the German invasion. In it, Mr. Churchill said: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."



Hawker Hurricanes flying in formation



A squadron of German Messerschmitt fighter-bombers flies in formation

Children in Kent take cover in a trench while watching a dogfight overhead



The wreckage of a German Heinkel HE-111 bomber, which was shot down by anti-aircraft defences and crashed on a Surrey common



A German Messerschmitt Bf-110 bomber is shot down by an RAF Hurricane over Sussex

24 July 1941

A home from home



A group of children arrive at Southampton on board the US liner Manhattan, which carried 250 German-Jewish refugees. They are all wearing identification tags

IN late 1938, as the Nazi persecution of Jews took a horrific and deadly turn, Jewish children began arriving in Britain from Germany. These journeys became known as the Kindertransport, which is German for 'children transport'. In this Special Report, we take a look at the story of the child refugees who fled the horrors of Nazi Germany for a new life in Britain.

The tragic event that led to what has become known as the Kindertransport took place on the evening of 9 November 1938 across Germany, Nazi-occupied Austria and Sudetenland.

The Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) was an evening of violence and mayhem in which Nazi officials organised attack after attack on Jewish people and their property.

Some 7,500 Jewish businesses, cemeteries and shops, as well as 267 synagogues (places of worship), were vandalised or set on fire. The fire brigade was told only to step in if the flames looked like they would affect other "non-Jewish" buildings nearby.

Jewish people were attacked, too: in Berlin and Vienna, mobs of Nazis wandered the streets grabbing hundreds of Jews out of their homes and humiliating countless others in public. Around 100 Jewish people were killed during Kristallnacht.

Up to 30,000 Jewish men were arrested in the days after the night of terror and thrown into prison camps. Their crime? Being Jewish. Hundreds of innocent people have died in these camps.

The Nazis' anti-Jewish policies expanded after Kristallnacht and, as a result, thousands of Jews decided to flee the country.

Rescuing the children

As news of the Nazi rampage spread throughout Europe, British Jewish leaders made an appeal to Prime Minister Chamberlain to do something to help

get people out of Germany and the occupied territories.

A bill was put before Parliament that allowed children under the age of 17 to enter Britain. Parents and guardians were not allowed to come. The plan was thought to be a temporary one, to last until the children would be able to return home – though, until now, none have been able to, as the Nazi leaders have stepped up their attacks on Jews. The children's care, education and eventual return to Germany is being paid for by private individuals and organisations. An appeal on the BBC for foster homes saw more than 500 Britons volunteer.

First arrival

On 2 December 1938, the very first Kindertransport arrived at Harwich on Britain's east coast. The ship carried around 200 children from a Jewish orphanage in Berlin that had been destroyed on Kristallnacht. Over the next two years, train after train from Berlin, Vienna, Prague and other major cities in Central Europe rescued Jewish children from the terror of Nazism. The trains would usually travel through the Netherlands and take children to the Dutch coast, where they boarded a ferry to Britain.

The committees who decided on which children were to be rescued tended to favour children whose parents had been sent to concentration camps.

The very last transport from Germany took place on 1 September 1939, two days before Britain declared

war. The last transport from the Netherlands left for Britain on 14 May 1940, which is the same day the Dutch army surrendered to the invading Germans.

The experience

In total, the Kindertransport scheme has brought about 9,000-10,000 children to Britain from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Some 7,500 of them were Jewish.

For most of these children, it was the first time they had left their homeland and few, if any, spoke English. Most went straight from arrival to their foster homes, though some were kept in a children's camp until a foster family or hostel was found to take care of them.

We spoke with 10-year-old Bernd Koschland from Germany, who arrived in England as an eight-year-old in 1939. On arrival, he was taken to a boys' hostel in Margate, where he attended school and slowly started to learn English. Last year, the hostel was evacuated due to Nazi bombing raids and Bernd was moved to a family in a small Staffordshire village.

Having lived here for two years, he now speaks decent English and is enjoying his new life and trying to put the horrors of Nazi rule behind him. He told us: "I went to the cinema for the first time in England. We weren't allowed to go to the cinema before. I went to see *The Wizard of Oz*. I go to a local primary school and am slowly settling down into a new way of life. I hope to be able to see my mum and dad again soon."



Men and boys in Germany, forced to wear a yellow star to show they are Jewish, are rounded up and sent to a concentration camp



Jewish children on a tram in Nazi-occupied Warsaw, Poland

This boy was one of the first Kindertransport children: he arrived at Dovercourt Bay camp for Jewish children in Essex on 2 December 1938



Another of the first Kindertransport group: eight-year-old Josepha Salmon, soon after arriving at Harwich, waits to be moved to the Dovercourt Bay camp

"None has suffered more cruelly than the Jew the unspeakable evils wrought upon the bodies and spirits of men by Hitler and his vile regime. The Jew bore the brunt of the Nazi's first onslaught upon the citadels of freedom and human dignity. He has borne and continued to bear a burden that might have seemed beyond endurance. He has not allowed it to break his spirit; he has never lost the will to resist. Assuredly in the day of victory the Jew's suffering and his part in the struggle will not be forgotten"

- Winston Churchill speaking in a broadcast to the nation, 14 November 1941



11-year-old Otto Busch from Vienna has a meal with his new foster parents: Mr. Guest, a lorry driver, and his wife



A camp leader rings the dinner bell at the Dovercourt Bay camp

Terror in the skies

Searchlights over St Paul's Cathedral while bombs fall on London during The Blitz

12 May 1941

THE Nazi Blitz on London reached new levels of death and destruction over the weekend.

The night of Saturday 10 May saw the worst air raid since the Blitzkrieg (German for "lightning war") began in September 1940. More than 1,400 people are believed to have been killed by Nazi bombs, with around 11,000 houses destroyed. The crowded East End of London has been especially damaged.

The Luftwaffe also struck the Houses of Parliament, Waterloo Station, Westminster Abbey, the British Museum and several other landmark buildings in the capital. Five hospitals were bombed, with several patients killed.

The House of Commons debating chamber has been wrecked and will need to be rebuilt. The clockface of Big Ben was blackened, but the clock continues to function. Buckingham Palace, which was bombed last September, was not hit again.

A bomb that landed on a central London hotel exploded in the basement in which most of the 140 guests and staff had gone for shelter. Most are feared dead. Essential services have also been hit across London, including water and gas mains.

Fighting back

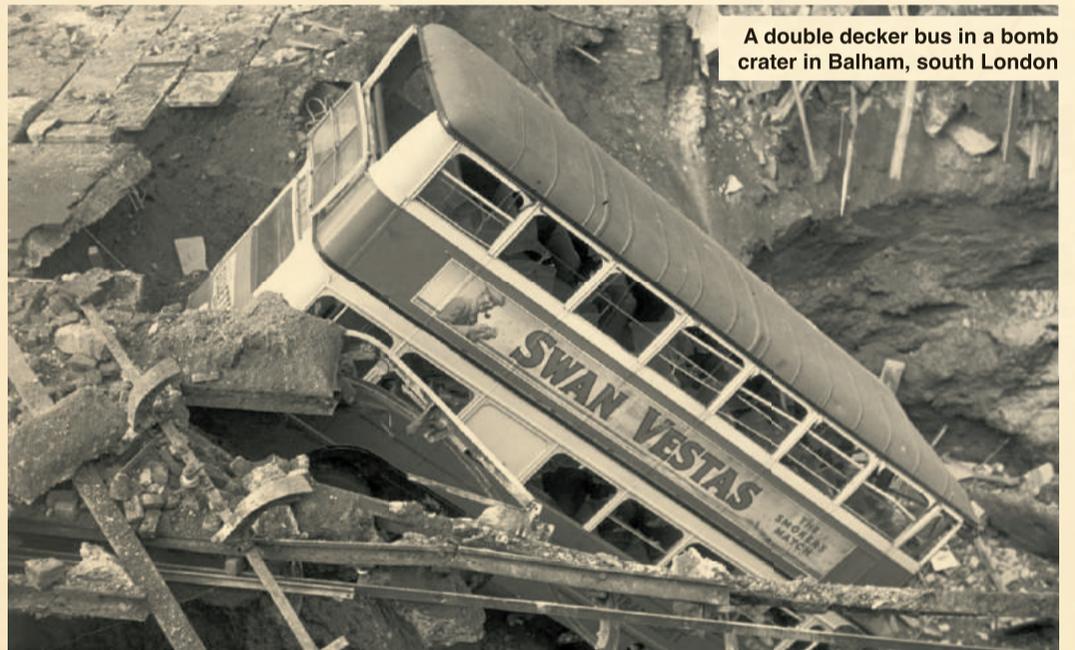
Outside London, raids have continued in many areas, especially in the south-east and East Anglia. A number of enemy fighters appeared over Dorset last night and were intercepted by RAF aircraft.

The Ministry of Information has revealed that 33 German planes were shot down over England on Saturday night – two by anti-aircraft fire and the rest by RAF fighters. A total of 124 German planes have been shot down this month.

One of the few positives to come out from this nightmare weekend is that, in recent weeks, there have been fewer air raids. There is hope that the Blitz may be coming to an end.

The Nazis have used both explosives and incendiary bombs, which start fires wherever they fall. This has put an enormous strain on the London Fire Brigade.

The Blitz is part of Herr Hitler's strategy to destroy major cities ahead of a land invasion. From 7 September last year, an average of 200 Luftwaffe planes bombed London daily for 57 nights in a row.



A double decker bus in a bomb crater in Balham, south London



The Government has warned against it, but Londoners still take cover from the raids in Underground stations

The ruins of Coventry Cathedral after the night Blitz on the city



Coventry devastated by major Nazi raid

16 November 1940

COVENTRY has been destroyed by more than 450 Luftwaffe bombers.

The Midlands city, home to munitions factories, was devastated in a massive bombardment of explosives and more than 10,000 incendiary devices on the night of 14 November. Dozens of fires were started in the old city centre and the 14th century Cathedral was wrecked: only the spire and some of the walls remain.

The city was not helped by the fact it was a full moon that night and the weather was good, giving the Germans great visibility. More than 500 civilians are feared dead.

Elsewhere, the Luftwaffe continued major attacks on the industrial cities of Liverpool, Birmingham and the port of Plymouth. Bristol, Southampton and Glasgow have also been targeted.



Coventry city centre yesterday

Blackout precautions: are you safe?

Adding white paint to curbs helps visibility in the dark



This woman uses thick black drapes with ventilators to keep the light in



THE Government has warned citizens to continue to observe the blackout.

The Blitzkrieg has brought home the importance of keeping Britain dark between dusk and dawn. With the Luftwaffe now freely dropping bombs on civilian areas, tens of thousands of people are feared dead and lots more injured.

Yet, ARP Wardens, whose job it is to make sure the blackout is observed, are having to remind people to put out their lights every night.

By turning off street lights and ensuring all windows and doors are covered up with dark material, light cannot seep out and be seen by enemy bombers overhead. If Luftwaffe pilots spot a sliver of light, it gives them a target to aim for.

The Government has once more stated the importance of the following steps once night falls:

AT HOME

- Put out all lights in rooms that are not blacked out.
- Let no light escape from your house.
- Use no matches or lights outdoors.

ON THE STREET

- Walk carefully and do not run.
- Don't smoke, use matches or flashlights.
- Keep close to buildings and away from the curb.

IN THE CAR

- Park at the curb and put out all lights.
- Take shelter immediately.

I've got 9 lives
YOU haven't
LOOK OUT IN THE
BLACKOUT
There's danger on the roads

Issued by the Ministry of War Transport in connection with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, Terminal House, St. George's Gardens, London, S.W.1.

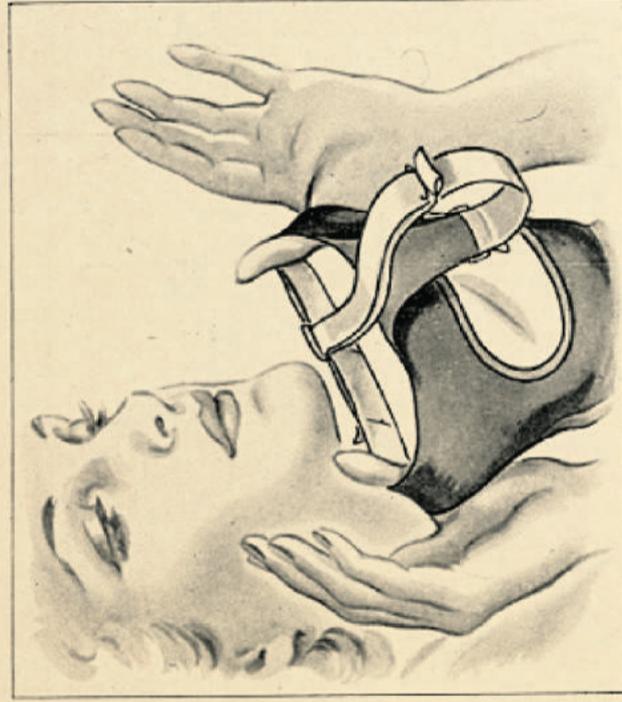
OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY

GAS ATTACK

HOW TO PUT ON YOUR GAS MASK

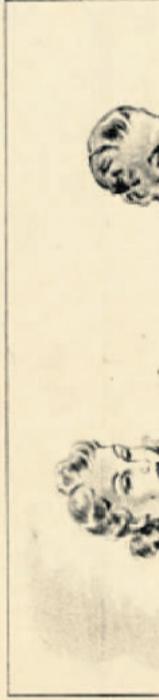
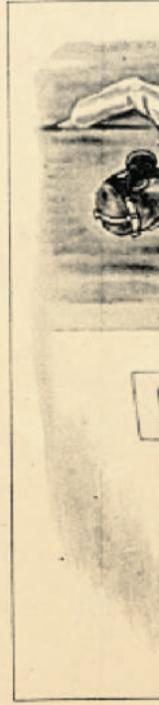
Always keep your
gas mask with you
— day and night.
Learn to put it on
quickly.

Practise wearing it.



1. Hold your breath.
2. Hold mask in front of face, with thumbs inside straps.
3. Thrust chin well forward into mask, pull straps over head as far as they will go.
4. Run finger round face-piece taking care head-straps are not twisted.

IF THE GAS RATTLES SOUND





1. Hold your breath. Put on mask wherever you are. Close window.



2. If out of doors, take off hat, put on your mask. Turn up collar.



3. Put on gloves or keep hands in pockets. Take cover in nearest building.

IF YOU GET GASSED

BY VAPOUR GAS

Keep your gas mask on even if you feel discomfort
If discomfort continues go to First Aid Post

BY LIQUID or BLISTER GAS

1 Dab, but *don't rub* the splash with handkerchief. Then destroy handkerchief.

2 Rub No. 2 Ointment well into place.
(Buy a 6d. jar now from any chemist).
In emergency chemists supply Bleach Cream free.

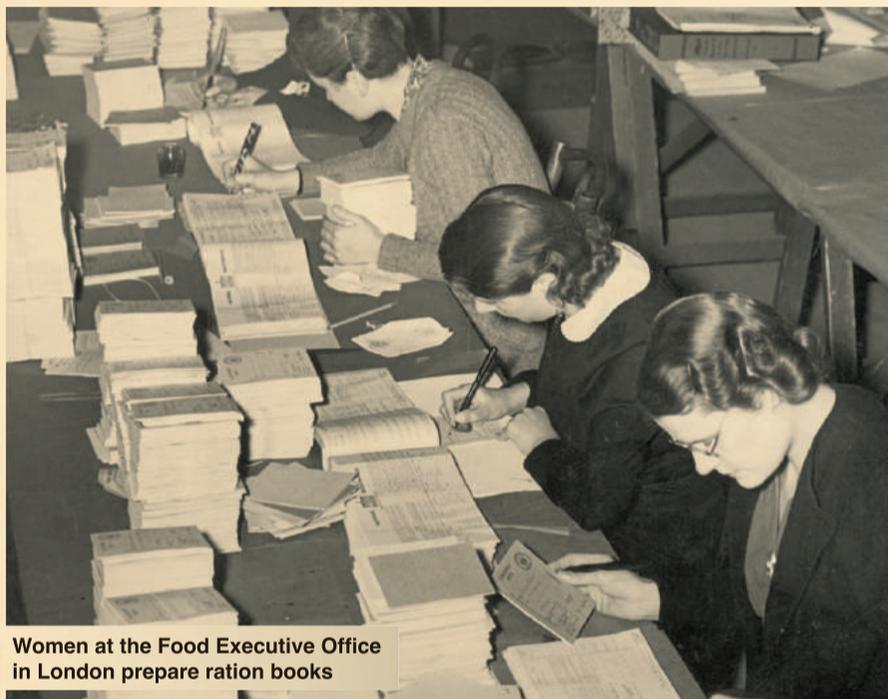
3 If you can't get Ointment or Cream within 5 minutes wash place with soap and warm water

4 Take off at once any garment splashed with gas.

Soap and sweets rationed

27 July 1942

THE Minister of Food, Lord Woolton, yesterday announced that soap, chocolate and sweets will be added to the list of rationed items. The first foods were rationed on 8 January 1940 and the ongoing war effort suggests rationing isn't ending any time soon.



Women at the Food Executive Office in London prepare ration books



Six-year-old Clive Smith collects his new ration cards for clothing and sweets from a food office in London

It is understood that Mr. Churchill, who was then First Lord of the Admiralty, was against the introduction of food rationing. He believed that it would damage morale. Even as Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill at first opposed clothes rationing, which started in June of last year.

The first foods to be rationed were bacon, butter and sugar. Ration amounts have since varied: sugar and bacon allowances were cut in the spring of 1940 and the meat ration was cut in 1941.

Some items, such as bread and potatoes, remain off the ration list. But it is still highly unlikely that imported fruits such as bananas, grapes, lemons and tinned fruit will be widely available until

the war ends. Despite all this, public support for rationing remains very strong.

American connection

Many rations – except meat – were actually increased slightly in 1941 before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor saw the Americans enter the war. The Combined Food Board, set up last year by President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill, continues to co-ordinate and share the food resources of Britain and the USA.

Fortunately, American ships importing food to the UK have so far managed to avoid German U-boats in the Atlantic Ocean.

Improvements in health

One of the surprising effects of rationing is that it has actually improved the overall health of the British public, helped by the spirit of generosity and kindness of ordinary people. For example, greengrocers have reserved what few oranges they have for pregnant women and infants, so that they can get their essential vitamins. The Vitamin Welfare Scheme, introduced in 1941, gives small children and pregnant women cod liver oil and orange juice imported from America.

But the Government is also controlling

food prices to make sure they never rise above a certain amount. This has led to poorer people being able to afford some foods they couldn't buy before the war, allowing them a more balanced, healthy diet than was possible when food prices were higher.

The Government's opinion on rationing is that it will "prevent waste of food, increase our war effort, divide supplies equally. There will be ample supplies for our 44½ million people, but we must divide them fairly, everyone being treated alike".

Lord Woolton, a former businessman and social worker, has described his Ministry of Food as "the greatest shop the world has ever known".

British Restaurants

Last year, the Government set up hundreds of self-service 'British Restaurants' that were co-ordinated by local authorities. These are proving very popular with the general public, offering tasty and nutritious food at very reasonable prices. No ration coupons are required to eat at a British Restaurant. It is hoped that, by next year, there will be more than 2,000 of them.

It has been made illegal for any restaurants to charge expensive prices for a meal in order to stop the wealthy from eating any better than ordinary people. A maximum of one main course is allowed to be served, too.

Factories are now also required by law to provide canteens for staff.



A London butcher cuts a coupon out of a customer's ration book

Rations revised

THIS is the new weekly quantity of goods allowed per adult per week, available from butchers, grocers and dairy stores where you have registered your ration book:



- Meat** 1lb 3oz (540g). Sausages are not rationed but are rare.
- Bacon and ham** 4oz (100g)
- Sugar** 8oz (225g)
- Milk** 3 pints (1,800 ml), though sometimes this falls to 2 pints.
- Sweets/Chocolate** 12oz (350g) (EVERY 4 WEEKS)
- Margarine** 4oz (100g)
- Cooking fat** 4oz (100g), though sometimes this falls to 2oz (50g)
- Tea** 2oz (50g)
- Eggs** 1 egg a week, though sometimes this falls to 1 every 2 weeks
- Cheese** 2oz (50g)
- Butter** 2oz (50g), though sometimes this rises, up to a maximum of 8oz (227g)
- Preserves/Jams** 1lb (450g) (EVERY 2 MONTHS)

The monthly points system continues: 16 points per adult per month will buy a can of fish or meat, or 2lb (900g) of dried fruit or 8lb (3.6kg) of split peas or, very occasionally, canned fruit. Soap and clothes are also on points coupons. After three years of rationing, petrol has now been removed from the civilian rations list and is only available for essential war purposes to registered officials.

For helpful advice on how to make your rations go further, listen to Kitchen Front on the BBC Home Service at 8.15am.



The Ministry of Food's FIVE GOLDEN RATION RULES FOR CHILDREN

Pass this on to your parents!

1. Give children their full body-building rations: milk, cheese, eggs, bacon and meat.
2. Give children salads and vegetables at the beginning of meals when their appetite is still keen.
3. Avoid fried foods. They are seldom fully digested.
4. Don't let the children have too much starchy food – bread, cereals, puddings, etc. Give these after they've had their body-building foods.
5. Don't let the children have pepper, mustard or vinegar.

RATION RECIPE



Woolton Pie
Named after Lord Woolton, Food Minister

METHOD: Cook all ingredients together in a saucepan for ten minutes with just enough water to cover. Stir to prevent it from sticking. Allow to cool then place in a pie dish. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and cover with a crust of potato or wheatmeal pastry (these make your fat rations go further). Bake in a moderate oven (180C, 350F, gas mark 4) until the pastry is nicely browned and serve hot with a brown gravy.

Preparation time:
1 hour 15 mins

Quantity: 6 helpings

- 1 lb diced potatoes
- 1 lb diced cauliflower
- 1 lb diced swedes
- 1 lb diced carrots
- 3 or 4 spring onions
- 1 teaspoon of vegetable extract
- 1 tablespoon of oatmeal

RATION RECIPE

Victory Sponge
Make a tasty, egg-free pudding out of rations

METHOD: Mix the grated potato and carrots, breadcrumbs, flour, sugar and flavouring and baking powder in a bowl. Stir in the essence. Now cover the whole inside of a heated pudding basin with the jam and leave to cool. Transfer the mix from the bowl to the basin. Tie some greased paper on top and steam for two hours.

Preparation time:
2 hours 15 mins

Quantity: 4-6 helpings

- 1 large raw potato, grated
- 2 medium raw carrots
- 1 cup breadcrumbs
- 1 tablespoon self-raising flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla or lemon essence
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3 tablespoons jam

A woman's job

Women's work on the Home Front

27 July 1942

A WAR is not just fought on the battlefield, and an army is not always just made up of soldiers. Women may not be allowed to serve in combat and take up arms, but they are doing work every bit as important as the men of the army, navy and air force.

Before the first shots of this war were even fired, hundreds of thousands of women in Britain had volunteered to take on important roles in the fight against Hitler and his allies.

In the spring of 1941, every woman in Britain aged between 18 and 60 was interviewed and asked to choose from a number of vital jobs to help in the war effort.

In December of that same year, an act of parliament obliged all widows without children and single women aged between 20 and 30 to serve in the armed forces, though never in a combat role.

Two years on, more than a million women are now in the armed forces or in Civil Defence, and many more are working in factories. Without their contribution, Britain and her allies would definitely

be in grave danger.

In this Special Report, we take a look at the various roles women across the country are playing to help win this war. Most women are combining these busy and, sometimes, dangerous day jobs with their work as housewives, taking care of everything in the home in the evenings and at weekends.



AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE

FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH MILITARY AND ROYAL AIR FORCE UNITS

THE NEW WOMEN'S SERVICE

Companies of the A.T.S.
will be affiliated in Peace
to Territorial Units

OBJECT
To relieve men of non-combatant duties during a national emergency.

TERMS OF SERVICE
4 years, with option of re-enrolling.
Age:—18-47 for General, and 18-55
for Local Service.

TRAINING
A number of drills a year, Camp
in alternate years.

FREE UNIFORM
Rations during Camp. Free travelling to and
from Camp. Grant towards expenses incurred
in attending training

FULL PARTICULARS can be obtained from Territorial Drill Halls
or Territorial Army and Air Force Associations. For addresses of
Territorial Units and Associations consult your local Telephone Directory.



The **Auxiliary Territorial Service** was set up to provide 25,000 women volunteers to work in "non-combatant duties with military units". This meant, mainly, administration jobs and driving vehicles for the armed forces here in Britain. However, with the outbreak of war in 1939, the ATS was sent to support the British Expeditionary Force (regular army) in France. Most people in the ATS have anti-aircraft duties, such as working on the anti-aircraft guns (though they are not allowed to actually fire them) and the searchlights that spot enemy aircraft overhead. There are now more than 100,000 women serving with the ATS.



The **Women's Royal Naval Service** (WRNS) was created during the First World War and then stood down in 1919. It was reformed in the spring of 1939 as part of preparations for war with Germany. Membership is open to women aged between 18 and 50 who live near naval ports. The WRNS work as electricians, cooks, telegraphists (transmitting codes to naval vessels), radio operators and even as meteorologists (weather forecasters).



The **Women's Auxiliary Air Force** (WAAF) was created in July 1939. There are now more than 100,000 WAAs taking part in a variety of non-combat duties to support the Royal Air Force: they pack parachutes, analyse enemy codes, provide catering, repair aircraft, operate barrage balloons (huge balloons with metal cables that get in the way of enemy planes) and several other vital tasks.



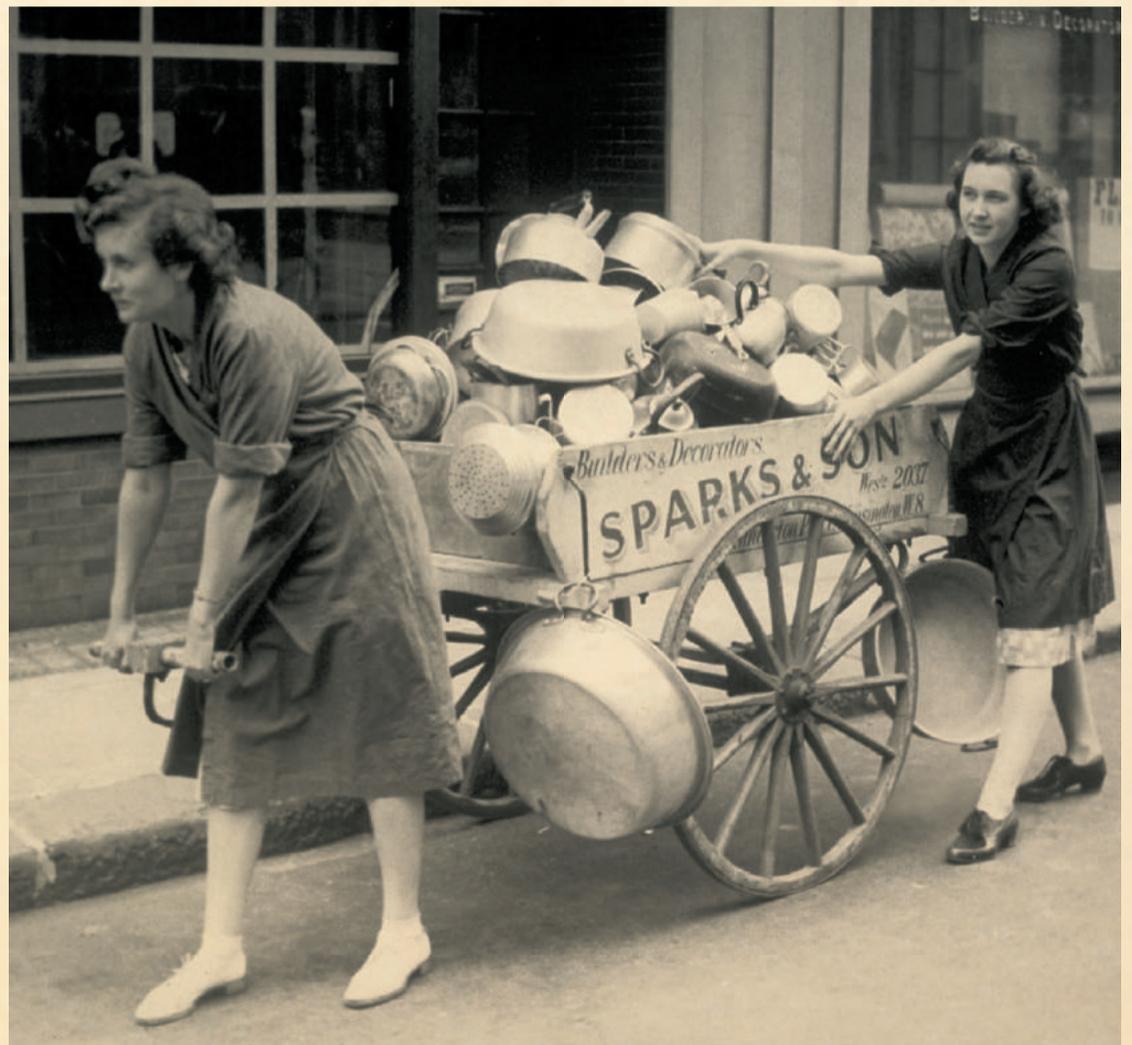
The so-called Land Girls of the **Women's Land Army** have been working in fields and farms since June 1939, ensuring that crops are planted and harvested, animals are taken care of and fields are plowed. Many of these women have moved to the countryside from towns and cities to do their bit. Without the Land Girls, Britain would probably starve.



Around 1.5 million women have taken up jobs in factories across the country. The women pictured above are hard at work in a **munitions factory**, making anti-aircraft shells that will be deployed against Luftwaffe planes. This work is extremely dangerous – the slightest mistake when handling these explosives can lead to a deadly incident. If it wasn't for the women of the munitions factories, we simply wouldn't have the weapons we need to fight the Nazis.



Thousands of women volunteer every day as **ARP Wardens**. ARP stands for Air Raid Precaution and one of the warden's most important jobs is to patrol streets and neighbourhoods to make sure the blackout is being obeyed. Wardens volunteer for a minimum of three nights a week. They often help police and the fire brigade in the aftermath of a German bombing raid and provide help to people whose homes have been destroyed. Pictured above is ARP warden Betty Quinn, aged 17, proudly wearing the George Medal she was given at Buckingham Palace in London. The George Medal, created by the King in 1940, is awarded to civilians for acts of great bravery. Betty saved seven people from a bombed air raid shelter in Coventry.



With more than one million members, the biggest women's organisation by far is the **Women's Voluntary Service (WVS)**. Formed in May 1938, the WVS carries out a huge range of essential services. Their overall mission is to support civil defence. They help in the evacuation of children and others to the countryside, set up mobile canteens to provide food for people who have been bombed out of their homes, arrange for collections of clothes to be sent to the poor and to soldiers and collect scrap metal for the armed forces to recycle (as pictured above).

Waste not want not!

12 December 1942

NOW, more than ever, the government is encouraging us to make full use of what we have and "make do and mend" clothes whenever possible.

With supplies limited and rationed, many clothes and fabrics are hard to get. Although some shops do still sell various clothing items, they may become more expensive if the war worsens. Making your own clothes can help you save your clothing ration coupons and it's an easy, fun and cheap activity to do with a grown-up.

But you don't just have to make clothes for yourself. The army, air force and navy need to keep warm throughout the war and are welcoming donations. These can be handed into your local Women's Voluntary Service.

Above all, make sure you don't waste any clothing. These tips for you and your parents on how to make a little go a very long way have been provided by the Ministry of Information:

Making do and mending

The most important rule is to keep every scrap of material you find, and use them to fix your old and torn clothes. Throw nothing away.

JUMPERS – If the sleeves become worn out and filled with holes, don't even think about throwing your jumper away! Re-knit the sleeves in a stripey pattern using various bits of wool. You can add a pocket on the chest in the same stripey pattern to make the jumper look stylish and new. Old jumpers belonging to grown-ups can be used later as a frock for young girls, too.

SKIRTS – You can re-knit an old skirt into a cardigan or jacket for an adult or into two jerseys for a child.

SOCKS – To make your socks last longer, re-inforce the toe ends with extra wool.

BOYS' TROUSERS – Cover the knees with scraps of fabric to make them less likely to tear. Playing is fun but it can damage your clothes!

Knitting for victory

Children across the country are being encouraged to "knit for victory". Hats, scarves, socks and gloves that you knit for our soldiers serving around the world will help them stay warm and safe.

Old silk stockings and tights are being collected, too, by the WVS. They will be used by RAF men underneath their own socks to keep warm in flight.

Finally, a reminder that the BBC's *Children's Hour* programme is running a scrap-collecting competition. The child who collects the most scrap metal will receive a special prize.



Children from a school in Surrey knitting woollen shawls to keep warm in air raid shelters



An evacuated schoolgirl shows off the clothes she has knitted for British troops



Two women model dresses made from old garments such as pyjamas



A family Christmas spent in an air-raid shelter

Christmas on the Home Front

JUST because there's a war on, it doesn't mean Christmas can't be fun.

You may have to use your imagination a little more than usual, and you'll certainly have to be careful not to waste anything, but people across Britain are determined to make this, our fourth wartime Christmas, special. As the Ministry of Information said in 1940, "war or no war, the children of England will not be cheated out of the one day they look forward to all year".

A charity called The Shaftesbury Society will organise parties once again for around 5,000 poor children in London, and "Father Christmas" will be sending parcels of sweets and simple toys to many evacuated children in the countryside.

There will be very few toys in the shops this Christmas, so expect homemade gifts wrapped in newspaper to avoid

waste.

The BBC will, as usual, broadcast a series of

Christmas specials: details can be found in the *Radio Times*.

As far as the Christmas dinner goes, turkeys remain very scarce so alternative meats such as mutton and, if you're fortunate, duck will be on the menu. Carrot cake makes a tasty alternative to Christmas cake and, in the absence of Christmas trees, flowers or holly can be used to brighten up your home. Merry Christmas, one and all!



Christmas puddings being prepared for the British Army

From Trojan rats to bat bombs

Is dentist's bat bomb ready for the Air Force?

16 May 1943 – SPECIAL REPORT

RUMOURS are flying of a weapon being developed in America that uses live bats.

Could the mysterious 'bat bomb' be the weapon the Allies have been looking for, or will it follow in the footsteps of Britain's 'explosive rat' and never see the battlefield? Not much is known about America's unique new weapon, but here's what we've gathered...

On 12 January 1942, President Roosevelt received a proposal on his desk: a "bizarre" plan for a new weapon that uses live bats that could help the Allied air forces devastate Japanese cities.

The proposal was written by, of all professions, a dentist; a dentist named Lytle S. Adams from Pennsylvania. Adams is said to have written his plan after a holiday in New Mexico, where he was "impressed" by the millions of bats there. It was in New Mexico that he learned that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. This fuelled the idea behind his 'bat bomb'.

His proposal described an egg-shaped container loaded with live bats, all strapped with incendiary devices that could be dropped onto cities causing widespread fires. The container would release lots of bats during its descent unleashing them upon cities. The bats, by nature, would then spread out to find dark spaces where they could hide. The devices strapped to the bats would then explode, causing fires. As the homes and buildings in many Japanese cities are made of wood and bamboo they would catch fire easily – resulting in chaos.

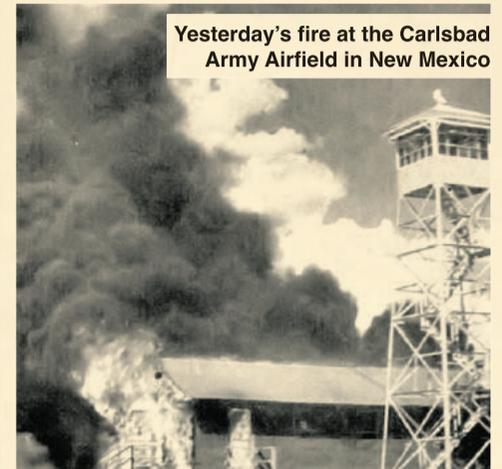
It's said that President Roosevelt backed the proposal and it soon started to be developed in the United States using the Mexican-free tailed bat as the favoured bat type.

However, a recent accident at an air base in New Mexico has made some people believe that this could be the beginning of the end for this peculiar project.

Yesterday (15 May 1943), the Carlsbad Army Airfield in New Mexico caught fire following a test using the bat bomb. Armed bats were accidentally released and



The Mexican free-tailed bat



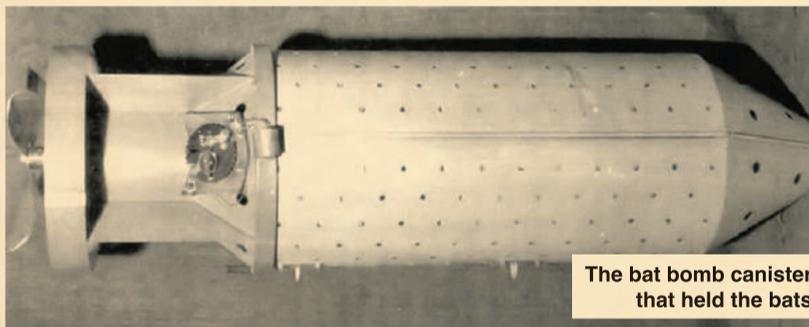
Yesterday's fire at the Carlsbad Army Airfield in New Mexico

devastated the base. Rumours are circulating that the project is being moved to the Navy as a result of this accident.

However, our sources tell us that the project could still be years away from becoming combat ready (if it does at all). Setbacks include bats struggling to fly because of the weight of the incendiary devices, and the cost – it's thought the American government has spent millions on its development, with little to show for it. "The project is moving too slowly... it's likely to head in the same direction as our infamous rat bomb", says our source.

The rat bomb hit British headlines last year after it was discovered that the project would never become combat ready. The plan, fronted by the British Special Operations Executive for use against the Germans, involved plastic explosives being stitched into the bodies of dead rats. The idea was that these carcasses would be scattered in factories, and then German workers would dispose of them by throwing them into boilers – not knowing that this would cause them to explode. As we reported last year, the Germans found the first rat shipment too soon and the British Army was forced to abandon the project.

Although not much else is known about the future of the latest use of an animal as a weapon of war, all the signs seem to be pointing to yet another imaginative weapon, that perhaps should have stayed within the imagination.



The bat bomb canister that held the bats

The 'explosive rats' project was abandoned after the Germans discovered the first shipment of dead rats



The story of Unsinkable Sam

14 November 1943

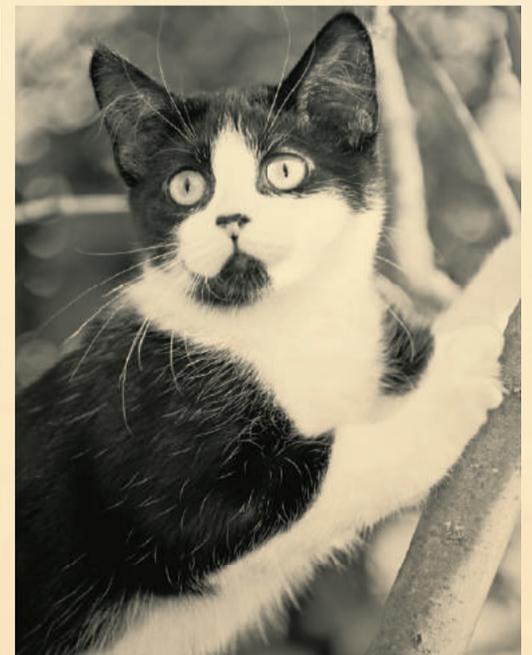
A LUCKY cat named Unsinkable Sam has survived the sinking of not one, not two, but three war ships.

The story of the cat (with at least three lives) has only just come out, exactly two years after he survived his third ship sinking.

The black and white patch cat's tale began on the German battleship Bismarck in May 1941. Following a sea battle, the ship was destroyed and sunk. Only 118 members of the crew survived out of the 2,200. Sam was rescued by the HMS Cossack (a British ship) which, in October 1941, sunk too. Again, Sam miraculously survived.

Sam was transferred to the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal. On a return voyage from Malta in November 1941, Sam once again faced danger when the ship was torpedoed by the German submarine U-81. Sam was found alive, clinging to a floating plank among the wreckage. Rescuers described him as "angry but quite unharmed".

Soon after being brought to Government offices in Gibraltar, he was sent back to the United Kingdom, where he lives today.



Film corner: The Wizard of Oz

by Ben Pulsford

Wizard of Oz will bedazzle audiences with all the colours of the rainbow...



Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! I rarely use the word 'stunned' as a film critic; it takes something truly miraculous and wonderful to impress an old cynic like me... but thankfully, I've seen Oz in all its colourful glory... and I'm stunned. It's truly wonderful.

Not since being mystified by the glorious colour in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937), Walt Disney's very first feature film, have I really experienced cinematic wizardry and had a vision of the future of film – and it's a colourful one. That future begins today with the release of The Wizard of Oz (1939), MGM's most expensive and ambitious release to date, on our shores.

Those of you who are avid cinema-goers will, of course, be used to the regular black and white formats of films past, so if you're thinking about seeing The Wizard of Oz, prepare your imaginations for something wonderful...

The fairy-tale-like adventure tells the story of young Dorothy (played by star of Everybody Sing and Listen, Darling, Judy Garland) who lives in 1900s Kansas with her dog Toto, Aunt Em and Uncle Henry. After a blustering tornado devastates Dorothy's Kansas home, she wakes up in a land somewhere over the rainbow... Oz. A good witch named Glinda the Good tells Dorothy that in order to get home she must seek out the infamous Wizard of Oz, who can be found at the end of the yellow brick road. But the journey won't be easy; the vengeful (and green...

very green) Wicked Witch of the East has other plans and intends to stop Dorothy from ever reaching the Wizard. Luckily, young Dorothy picks up a few friends along the way; friends that will do anything to ensure Dorothy gets home... the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion.

The tornado that transports Dorothy to Oz also transports audiences into a wonderful world of Technicolour – with an effective transformation from black and white film into colour as Dorothy lands in Oz. Indeed, the audience wakes up in a new land, alongside our young heroine.

Music also adds to this magical effect. The film is sure to be a musical of our time with catchy songs including Over the Rainbow and Follow the Yellow Brick Road that, no doubt, we'll hear our children humming on their way to the picture house to see the film for a second time. Garland lends her voice to Over the Rainbow and the performance is nothing short of magical.

I have no doubt this film will be as popular in 100 years time (somewhere over the rainbow!), as it is right now.

Today's radio highlights

31 August 1942

Here are today's radio highlights from the BBC Home Service:

10am – WORKER'S PLAYTIME Meet Britain's unsung heroes, live from their places of work. On today's show we gain an insight into life from inside a butcher's shop in Surrey. Is one of the team facing the chopping block?

12pm – WORLD NEWS TODAY

5.15pm – CHILDREN'S HOUR The Radio Doctor is on duty for this afternoon's radio show for the nation's youth. Are you looking after your gas mask correctly? Is your home as protected as it could be? What can you be doing to help your parents? Tune in to find out.

9pm – IN TOWN TONIGHT "Once more we stop the mighty roar of London's traffic and, from the great crowds, we bring you some of the interesting people who have come by land, sea and air to be In Town Tonight". Singer Vera Lynn is in town tonight to meet John Ellison, your compere for this evening's show. Tune in for a live interview with the Forces' Sweetheart and sit back, relax and enjoy some of the singer's greatest songs.

10.30pm – MUSIC WHILE YOU WORK Escape from your everyday life and let us transport you to another world through the power of music... while you work! Could our ensemble be on their way to your workplace?



Picture of the Week: 1-7 March 1941



Refugee siblings Betty, Janet and David Kentish speak to their mother back in England from the NBC Radio City Studios in New York

Meeting Vera Lynn for the last time?

10 June 1943

MEMBERS of the British Government are reported to have said that the music of Vera Lynn should have been banned from the ears of our troops in 1941, the year she was named the "Forces' Sweetheart".

Despite being named the army's favourite performer in the 1941 BBC poll and, in turn, nicknamed the Forces' Sweetheart, it has been revealed recently that members of our Government thought that Vera's music could actually be damaging for our boys as it was "reducing some of them to tears".

Our sources tell us that the Government was concerned that the lyrics of songs like *We'll Meet Again* and *White Cliffs of Dover* were too upsetting for the troops and made them miss home too much. The Government is said to have been worried that servicemen would forget their responsibilities.

Others believe that Vera's voice was, and still is, exactly the weapon our nation needs to beat the enemy; not through violence, but through hope and reinforcement. One serviceman, who wishes to remain unnamed, told us: "Vera's music is uplifting and means so much to so many people. If you ask me, Vera Lynn has the power to sing our enemies to death. It's powerful stuff."

Vera Lynn shot to fame after releasing her hit *We'll Meet Again* in 1939 and has been praised since for her work inspiring not just the troops, but all men, women and children living in a country rattled by war.



Vera Lynn receives a grand welcome as she arrives in Trafalgar Square, London, to sing during the 'Salvage Week' campaign

Has Britain tuned out forever?

1 September 1939

SOME believe the television to be an invention taken away from Britain all too quickly, following the Government's decision to stop all TV broadcasts in September 1939 after the outbreak of war in Britain.

The Government famously stopped all broadcasts on 1 September 1939 when the war broke out in Britain, fearing that the transmitter would attract enemy aircraft to London.

Six years on and those of us lucky enough to own a television will no doubt be sitting back watching it collect dust in the corner of our drawing rooms, wondering if, and when, the BBC will ever resume broadcasting.



Are treasured family moments like this one gone forever?



CHATTER BOX: Children, what do you think? Will television ever return or have we tuned out once and for all?



Princess speaks out on Children's Hour



13 October 1940

PRINCESS Elizabeth, daughter of King George VI, has made her first public speech via radio.

The young princess addressed those children forced to evacuate from their homes as a result of war, on the popular BBC radio show, *Children's Hour*.

In her speech, Elizabeth told children: "We know, every one of us, that in the end all will be well; for God will care for us and give us victory and peace. And, when peace comes, remember it will be for us, the children of today, to make the world of tomorrow a better and happier place."

At the end of her address she was joined by her younger sister, Margaret, who simply said: "Goodnight, children."

V for Victory!

- **Germans surrender**
- **Yesterday was VE (Victory in Europe) Day**
- **British troops are returning home**

9 May 1945

THE war with Germany is over. Mr. Churchill announced yesterday that the Germans had surrendered at 2.41am on the morning of 8 May in Berlin.

Active combat with Germany is over and the process will begin now of restoring peace and democracy to the nations Herr Hitler invaded over the past six years.

Speaking on the BBC, Mr. Churchill declared that the German army, navy and air force had surrendered entirely to the Allies and, at the same time, to the Soviet Union.

The news follows the Soviet Red Army conquering Berlin in recent days. Where Hitler is remains a mystery, though it is believed widely that he killed himself on 30 April as the Red Army was approaching the German capital.

Mr. Churchill was cautious in his jubilation. He said: "We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead." He went on to refer to the ongoing war with Japan.

The radio broadcast of Mr. Churchill's message was followed by the sounding of the end of the war in Europe by drummers of the Scots Guards.

Immediate scenes of

celebration followed across Britain. The biggest crowd outside Buckingham Palace since George V's Silver Jubilee in 1935 came to see the King and Queen and Princesses Margaret and Elizabeth.

The King's radio speech was relayed on huge loud speakers outside the palace before the crowds joined in singing the National Anthem and the Royals appeared on the balcony.

Every corner of central London was filled with people celebrating the news. Around 100,000 people squeezed into Trafalgar Square. As the day turned to night, searchlights in front of the National Gallery lit up the square as colourful rockets were fired into the sky and effigies of Hitler were burnt on bonfires.

The combination of the searchlights and exploding sounds of fireworks brought back memories of the dark days of The Blitz, but this was no occasion for blackouts and despair: the war is over, and, for the first time since 1939, the long-suffering people of Britain could party long into the night.



Winston Churchill signals from the balcony of the Ministry of Health building to a huge crowd below



From left, Princess Elizabeth, Queen Elizabeth, Mr. Churchill, King George VI and Princess Margaret

Soldiers from the Women's Royal Army Corps in their service vehicle, driving through Trafalgar Square yesterday



British soldiers on their way back from the war, travelling on a London Underground train

25. VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

FirstNews BRITAIN AT WAR



Military personnel and civilians celebrate the end of the war on a lorry in central London



Others took a very different journey to the celebrations



The jubilant scenes in Piccadilly Circus



A sailor and a civilian clamber on top of a bus stop in Whitehall, London, during the VE Day celebrations yesterday



Trafalgar Square yesterday. By nightfall, around 100,000 people had arrived

Heroes of World War 2: the code-breakers of Bletchley

20 June 1945

NAZI Germany is no more, the war in Europe is over, and Britons can go to sleep without fear of an air-raid siren, or a deadly German rocket landing on their roof.

The war has been won thanks to the service of millions and the citizens of many nations who displayed great courage and patience in coping with all that the Nazis threw at them.

But there is another, unknown group of men and women that helped turn the war in the Allies' favour: the staff of the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire.

It is here that German communications were captured and deciphered, which means that the expert staff were able to crack the secret code language the German military used and work out what they were up to. By cracking the codes, the Bletchley Park team was able to find out what the enemy was planning in many military operations, putting Allied forces a step ahead of the German, Italian and Japanese military. This played a direct part in winning the war.

Enigma

The Nazis used a cipher machine called Enigma. Cipher machines turn secret messages into codes ("cipher") that are very difficult for anybody else to crack. From 1939 onwards, the Enigma cipher changed at least once every day, meaning there were 159 million million million possible settings for the Germans to choose from when ciphering the messages. To crack these codes was like finding a needle in a very large haystack!

In 1940, the Bletchley team managed to crack one of the German army's cipher keys. Soon after, they cracked the Enigma key used by Luftwaffe officers to co-ordinate airforce support for the army. Suddenly, Britain's top experts at Bletchley had given the Allies a massive advantage.



The Enigma machine

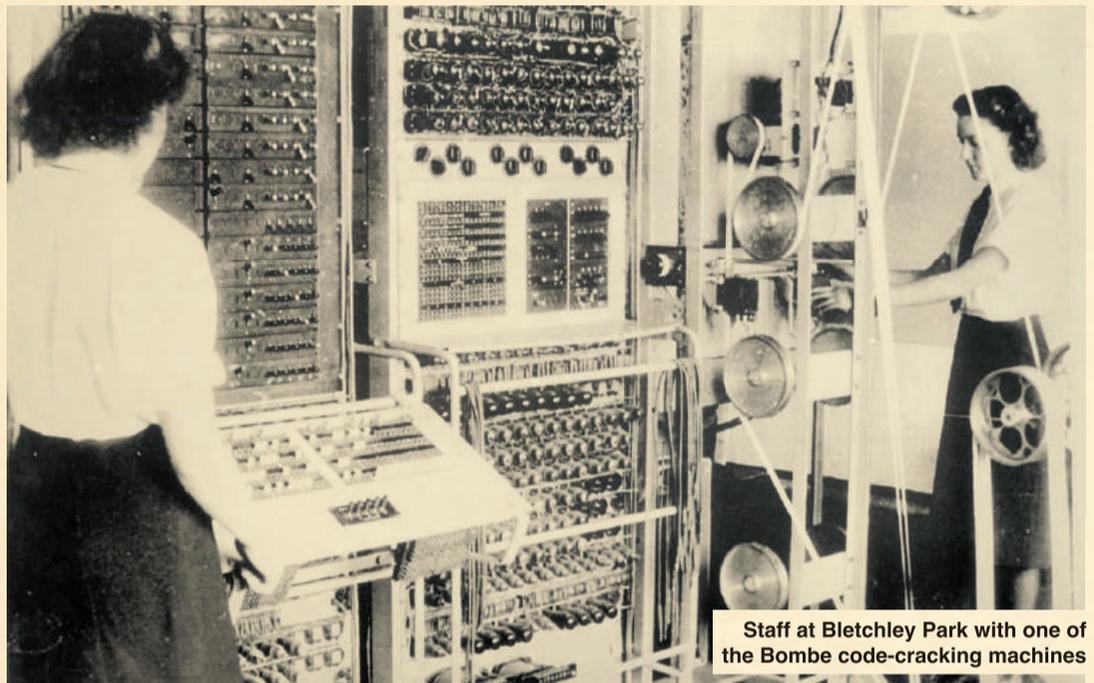
Keeping the secret a secret

The next trick was to make sure the enemy didn't find out their special cipher machine had been cracked. If they knew, they would start using a new system to send messages and probably send false messages on Enigma in order to confuse the Allies.

Very few people outside of Bletchley Park and the Cabinet knew that Enigma had been cracked. In order to keep it secret, the intelligence reports for the UK military were written as though they had been provided by secret agents inside Germany.

The staff at Bletchley worked 24 hours a day to provide the Government and military chiefs in London with the latest news on the enemy's movements. By 1942, the German navy's Enigma messages – tougher to crack than others – had been deciphered, enabling the Royal Navy to cut the Germans' supply lines in North Africa.

But the biggest success was when the team cracked the ciphers between Hitler and his army commanders. This proved a huge help in the successful D-Day landings of 6 June 1944 – the day that turned the war firmly in the Allies' favour.



Staff at Bletchley Park with one of the Bombe code-cracking machines



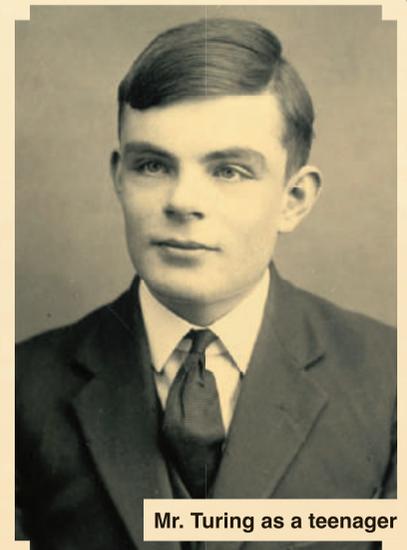
Bletchley Park, the HQ of the Allied code-breakers

In profile: Alan Turing

Mr. Turing is one of the heroes of the British war effort.

A brilliant mathematician, Turing devised various techniques for breaking German Enigma ciphers – especially the Nazi navy code, which was extremely difficult to crack. He was also responsible for a code-breaking machine known as the Bombe. More than 200 Bombes were in operation by last month.

Mr. Turing and his colleagues' efforts are said to have shortened this war by between two and four years. In other words, millions of lives around the world have been saved by the heroic work of the Bletchley Park team.



Mr. Turing as a teenager

The Nazi who came to Scotland

IT was one of the most surprising and extraordinary moments of the war.

On 10 May 1941, Adolf Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, left Germany in a Messerschmitt aircraft. Hours later he parachuted into Scotland, of all places, and his plane crashed moments after. A top Nazi had landed right in the middle of enemy territory.

Who is Hess?

Rudolf Hess served in the German army during the First World War before becoming one of the first people to join the Nazi Party in 1920. He soon became very loyal to Hitler and both of them were imprisoned in 1923 after a failed attempt to take over power in Germany. By the time they were released about a year later, Hess was Hitler's secretary.

In 1933, the Nazis rose to power and Hitler, the new German leader, took on the title of Führer (leader). He made Hess his deputy, a position he kept until 1941 and his daring mission to Scotland.

Mystery arrival

Herr Hess landed at Floors Farm, Eaglesham, near Glasgow. He was taken to an army barracks for treatment after he fractured an ankle in his fall, and Mr. Churchill was alerted immediately.

Earlier that same day, a German radio broadcast said that Hess was suffering from mental illness and had stolen a plane from Augsburg in the south of

Germany despite being unfit to fly. The official German explanation was that Hess had probably committed suicide (or attempted to).

But the truth was very different. First of all, Hess proved his identity to British forces by showing various photos of himself. He claimed he was here on a peace mission – he wanted to negotiate a deal with Britain before Germany invaded the Soviet Union (which they did in June). It was an extraordinary thing for a man who had been so loyal to Hitler to do.

His "peace mission" was not official or authorised by his government but, before leaving Germany, Hess had left a letter for Hitler explaining his plan to open talks with Britain – though we still don't know the details of his peace proposals.

He had fled Germany because, as the war developed, Hitler grew apart from Hess. The Deputy Führer felt left out of Hitler's decision-making.

What happened to Hess?

After his stay in hospital, Hess was arrested and treated as a prisoner of war, which upset him enormously. He was first kept at a military barracks, then at Buchanan Castle in Stirlingshire. From there he was transferred to the Tower of London and, finally, to a mansion prison in Surrey, where he attempted suicide. He spent three years in a hospital and now, with the war over, it is thought he will be returned to Germany to face justice as a war criminal. His peace plan was never seriously discussed with anyone from the military or government.



Rudolf Hess, the Deputy Führer, pictured with Adolf Hitler, the Führer



The wreckage of Hess's Messerschmitt ME-110

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Labour in stunning victory

- **Clement Attlee is the new Prime Minister**
- **Winston Churchill voted out just two months after VE Day**
- **Labour in office for third time**

Mr. Attlee and his wife celebrate the Labour Party's election win

27 July 1945

THE people of Britain have voted to kick out the Conservatives and put Labour back in power. Mr. Churchill handed the King his resignation as Prime Minister last night.

The general election count took three weeks to complete, but the results show a landslide victory for Labour, who have won 393 seats, a gain of 239 on their total before the election.

The Conservatives won just 211 seats – a loss of 190 – while the Liberals now have just 12 MPs. In percentage terms, Labour scooped 48% of the vote to the Conservatives' 36%. A total of 72.8% of eligible voters took part.

The result came as a great surprise, not least to Mr. Churchill, who has led the wartime Coalition Government through the past five years. The extraordinary victory,

in which dozens of Government ministers lost their seats, exceeded even Labour's expectations. Mr. Churchill drove to Buckingham Palace yesterday evening, smoking a cigar on the way. At 7.30pm he handed in his resignation to King George VI. He later released this statement:

"The decision of the British people has been recorded in the votes. I regret that I have not been permitted to finish the work against Japan."

Mr. Churchill was referring to the ongoing war in Japan, where the Allies, led by the US, remain in active combat against Japanese forces.

In London, a delighted Mr. Attlee has immediately set about forming his first Government. He said: "We have great tasks before us. We intend to conquer and overcome all difficulties. We have, first of all, to finish the war with Japan."

The Labour Party, which has won a majority for the first time, fought the election on a series of promises: to make sure everybody has a job; to create a new National Health Service funded by taxes and to form a 'welfare state' to provide financial support for the elderly, people who lose their jobs and those who are sick or disabled.



Winston Churchill gets into his car yesterday evening on his way to Buckingham Palace

Atomic bomb signals end of World War 2

16 August 1945

JAPAN has surrendered following the destruction of two cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, by American atom bombs.

The atomic bomb is a powerful, highly expensive new weapon developed in secret by a team of international scientists in the US. It can kill tens of thousands of people in just a few minutes and destroy buildings in seconds.

The first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in the south of Japan on 6 August. Three days later, the US air

force dropped another atomic bomb on Nagasaki, also in the south. The destruction is thought to be enormous with more than 200,000 civilians killed and many more injured.

US President Harry Truman explained his controversial decision to the American public at the time, saying "the Japanese began the war from the air at Pearl

Harbor. With this bomb we have added a new and revolutionary increase in destruction."

Japan's decision to stop fighting was declared by their ruler, Emperor Hirohito. The country's War Minister committed suicide, apparently out of shame for his "failure" to secure victory for Japan. The surrender marks the end of the war.



The atomic bomb over Nagasaki