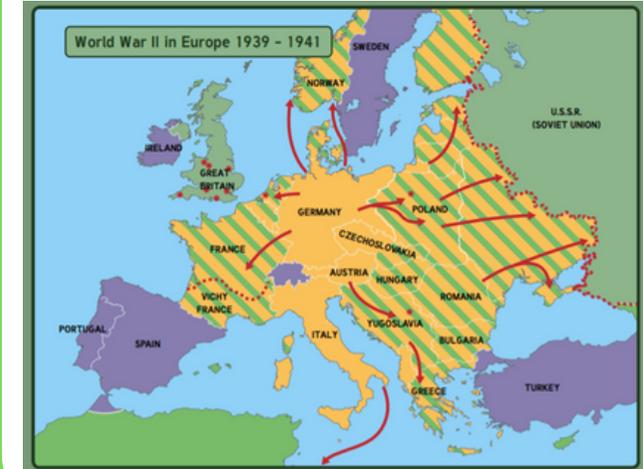


What do we already know about Britain at war?

- World War I began in 1914 and the fighting ended in 1918. It officially ended in 1919 with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Many countries were involved including Germany, Great Britain, France, Austria, Russia, Hungary, Italy and the USA.
- Remembrance is commemorated each year on the 11th November to remember those who lost their lives during conflicts.
- Millions died as a result of World War 1.

Which countries were involved in WWII?



Who were the key figures in World War II?

- Adolf Hitler (Germany)
- Joseph Stalin (USSR)
- Neville Chamberlain (Great Britain)
- Winston Churchill (Great Britain)
- Emperor Hirohito (Japan)
- Franklin D Roosevelt (USA)



What were the causes of World War II?

Germany lost WWI. As part of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany had to give up lands and was banned from having an army of it's own. Also Germany had to pay lots of money (reparations) to Britain and France for starting WWI. When the Great Depression began in 1929, Germany suffered greatly. There was huge unemployment and lots of people were starving. Even a loaf of bread was too expensive for most!

In 1933, Adolf Hitler became the leader of Germany. He wanted to make Germany a strong country again.

He began to build up a huge army - this was illegal. He wanted Germany to be a superpower. By 1935, he had achieved this. He had transformed the lives of the German people for the better.

In 1938, Hitler began taking land from other countries by force. Neville Chamberlain tried to appease Hitler by signing agreements that gave Germany extra powers, but in September 1939, Germany invaded Poland, an ally of Britain. War was declared on Germany on the 3rd September 1939.

Why were children evacuated during World War 2?

During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All evacuees had to take their gas mask, ration book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them. Evacuation happened in waves, beginning on 1st September 1939. Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain and at the start of the Blitz.

What role did Dover play during Operation Dynamo?

In May 1940, the German army swept the British and French army to the beaches of France. Hundreds of thousands of allied soldiers were stranded on the beaches at Dunkirk in France. The Royal Navy ships were too big to reach the beaches and rescue the soldiers. A call went out to British civilians with small fishing vessels to travel to Dunkirk and help with the rescue. The response was incredible!



The British government initially predicted that they would rescue 40,000 soldiers: they ended up rescuing over 400,000! The rescue effort was all co-ordinated from the tunnels beneath Dover Castle. Many of the fishing vessels were from Dover.

What did citizens do to protect themselves during the war?

People needed to protect themselves from the bombs being dropped by German aircraft, especially during the Blitz. The government gave out Anderson and Morrison shelters free to people who earned below £5 per week. Men who earned more than £5 a week could buy one for £7. By September 1939, one and a half million Anderson shelters had been put up in gardens.



What was the Blitz?

The Blitz was the name given to the bombing raids that Germany launched against Britain in 1940, during World War II (1939-45). For eight months German airplanes dropped bombs on London and other cities, including Birmingham, Coventry, Sheffield, Liverpool, Plymouth, Southampton, Portsmouth, and Manchester. These were all places where factories and other important industries were based. The attack was Adolf Hitler's attempt at forcing the country to surrender.



How did the Battle of Britain affect Dover?

In July 1940, Germany planned a secret mission to invade Britain. They began by sending the Luftwaffe (German air force) to bomb British ships, airfields and other targets. RAF (Royal Air Force) planes fought back in what were known as dogfights. In order to have any chance of invading Britain, Hitler knew he had to defeat the RAF. However, the Luftwaffe were no match for the brave pilots of the RAF.

Dover was heavily bombed throughout the Battle of Britain and many civilians were injured. It was common to see dogfights between the Luftwaffe and the RAF. During this time, Dover was heavily fortified as it is the shortest crossing point to France and a likely target of any invasion.

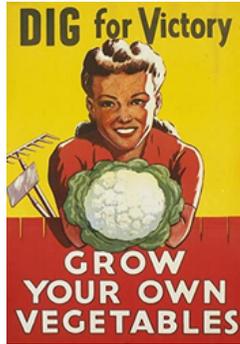


Why was rationing necessary during World War 2?

Before the war, Britain imported a great deal of its food from other countries around the world. When war began, these imports were affected. The German Navy began sinking ships that were transporting goods to Britain and its allies. In response, food was rationed. People were only allowed small quantities of certain foods. To help overcome the food shortage, people were encouraged to grow their own vegetables in a campaign called 'Dig For Victory'.

What was the role of propaganda during World War 2?

Propaganda was used by the British government to boost morale, spread important messages and persuade people to do what the government wanted.



How did Britain mark the end of World War 2?

War in Europe ended on 8th May 1945. This day became known as Victory in Europe Day. Despite the celebrations, the war against Japan continued until 15th August 1945.



Timeline of key events

- 1st September 1939** - Germany invades Poland
- 3rd September 1939** - Britain declares war on Germany
- 10th May 1940** - Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister
- 27th May 1940** - Evacuation of allied troops from Dunkirk
- 10th July 1940 to 31st October 1940** - Battle of Britain
- 7th September 1940 to 11th May 1940** - The Blitz
- 22nd June 1941** - Germany invades the Soviet Union
- 7th December 1941** - Japan attacks USA at Pearl Harbour. USA joins the war
- 13th May 1943** - The Axis powers in North Africa surrender to the allies
- 9th July 1943** - Allied invasion of Sicily and then Italy
- 6th June 1944** - Allied invasion of Europe begins in Normandy. Known as D-Day
- 25th August 1944** - Paris liberated from the Germans
- 30th April 1945** - Hitler commits suicide
- 2nd May 1945** - Soviet forces capture Berlin
- 8th May 1945** - Germany surrenders, ending the war in Europe
- 6th August 1945** - USA drops a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima
- 9th August 1945** - USA drops a nuclear bomb on Nagasaki
- 15th August 1945** - Emperor Hirohito surrenders to the USA
- 2nd September 1945** - Formal surrender of Japan. World War 2 ends