

Caroline Haslett Primary School – History

Topic: World War 2 (The Home Front)

Year 6

Events beyond 1066

Knowledge

After the loss of WWI in 1918, Germany's economy had suffered. In 1934, the people voted for Hitler, the leader of the Nazi Party to lead them after he had offered them hope. Even though he spoke of peace, Hitler and the Nazi Party invaded Austria and Czechoslovakia. Two days after the invasion of Poland, Britain declared war on Nazi Germany. The Battle of Britain and the Blitz were military campaigns of the Second World War, in which the Royal Air Force (RAF) de-fended the United Kingdom (UK) against large-scale attacks by Nazi Germany's air force, the Luftwaffe. Hitler sent his Luftwaffe bombers to attack British ports and RAF airfields. During the Blitz – From September 7th the city of London was heavily bombed. Night Bombing – With the failure of daylight bombing raids Hitler began a series of nightly bombing raids on London and other important industrial cities. People kept safe by using air raid sirens, shelters and blackout curtains.

Evacuation

Many children living in urban areas were moved temporarily from their homes to places considered safer, usually out in rural areas of Britain. The British evacuation began on Friday 1 September 1939. It was called 'Operation Pied Piper'.

When the war was over, Government began to make travel arrangements to return the evacuees to their homes.

Rationing

As part of their campaign, Nazi Germans tried to cut off supplies of food and other goods coming to Britain by attacking many of the ships that brought food to Britain. This meant that there was less food for the people - whatever food was grown, produced or managed to enter Britain was rationed - people used the Ration Book during this time.

Jobs

Many men fought in the war and so women were tasked to carry out much of the war work. However, some jobs were protected - men who held these jobs were not called up to join the army (e.g. doctors, miners). Jobs undertaken by women during the war included mechanics, ambulance drivers and air raid wardens.

Vocabulary

- **Adolf Hitler** – leader of the Nazi party from 1934 to 1945
- **Air Raid** – an attack by military aircraft in which bombs are dropped
- **Blitz** – the heavy bombing of British cities by German aircraft in 1940 and 1941 is referred to as the Blitz
- **Campaign** – a planned set of activities that people carry out over a period of time
- **Evacuation** – somebody is moved to a place of safety
- **Luftwaffe** – the German air force
- **Nazi** – a member of the far-right political party in Germany
- **Neville Chamberlain** – prime minister of the United Kingdom from 1937 to 1940
- **Rationing** – the system of limiting the amount of food, water, petrol, or other substances when there is not enough of them
- **Surrender** – to stop fighting or resisting someone
- **Warden** – a person who is responsible for a particular place or thing
- **Winston Churchill** – prime minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945

Timeline

