

# BEHIND THE BOMBS

## Key Events

1939	1 <sup>st</sup> September	German troops invade Poland.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Britain and France declare war on Germany.
1940	10 <sup>th</sup> May	The Battle of France begins.
	26 <sup>th</sup> May	Allied forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in France.
	10 <sup>th</sup> July	The Battle of Britain begins.
	7 <sup>th</sup> September	The Blitz begins.
1941	22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Germany invades the USSR (Soviet Union).
	7 <sup>th</sup> December	Japan bombs Pearl Harbor in the US.
1944	6 <sup>th</sup> June	The D-Day landings.
1945	7 <sup>th</sup> May	Germany surrenders to the Allies.
	6 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> August	The US drops atomic bombs on two cities in Japan.

## Timeline

Adolf Hitler	Leader of the Nazi Party and Chancellor of Germany, 1933 - 1945 (also referred to as the Führer meaning leader)
Winston Churchill	UK Prime Minister, 1940 - 1945 (and again from 1951 - 1955)
Neville Chamberlain	UK Prime Minister, 1937 - 1940 (famous for appeasement)

## Evacuation

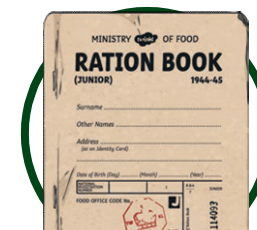
During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All evacuees had to 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939. Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain and at the start of the Blitz.



## Rationing

Supply ships were targeted by German bombers and it was necessary to conserve as much food as possible.



A ration book

Rationing meant that each person was only allowed a fixed amount of food. Ration books were issued, with coupons that showed people how much of each item they were allowed. Shopkeepers would remove or stamp the coupons when they were used. People were also encouraged to 'Dig for Victory' and grow as much of their own food as possible.

Petrol, soap, clothing and timber were also in short supply. Clothing ration books were issued and people were encouraged to 'make do and mend'.

## Key Vocabulary

Allies	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
Axis	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
Nazi party	A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.
atomic bomb	A very high-energy bomb made of radioactive material.
annex	To take another country's land and make it part of your country. OR Noun- additional space or accommodation.
Czechoslovakia	A European country. Now two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
propaganda	Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.
active service	Taking part in a military operation as part of the armed forces.

## How Did World War II Start?

The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded and annexed Austria, which made other countries worried. On 29<sup>th</sup> September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty called the Munich Agreement. This allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland (an area of Czechoslovakia) if he agreed not to invade anywhere else. However, in August 1939, Hitler broke the agreement and invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia, followed by Poland on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Britain, France and Poland had made a pact to support each other, so Britain and France declared war on Germany.



## Prior knowledge...

- Understanding dates and timelines
- Knowledge of British history before 1901
- Geographical knowledge of Europe including British Isles.
- Knowledge of Primary and Secondary sources of information
- Knowledge of current affairs including how the world is run by existing governments
- Understanding of individual liberty and British values.

## The Holocaust

The Holocaust is the term for the killing of over six million Jewish people before and during World War II, organised by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party. Even before the war, they wanted to blame the Jews for the problems in Germany and used propaganda to promote widespread, public hatred of them. Jewish people were openly bullied, persecuted, abused and discriminated against.

Many Jews were sent to concentration camps where they were forced to work like slaves. Many died through infection, starvation or exhaustion. Others were sent to death camps where they were killed in gas chambers. This form of mass killing is called genocide.