

Y6 - WORLD WAR 2 - KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

HOW THE WAR BEGAN

After World War I, Germany had to pay back reparations (money and land) for the devastation they caused during the war.



In 1933, Adolf Hitler convinced the German people to vote for him to make Germany great again.



The Nazi party began to rearm Germany and began to take back land.



On September 1st 1939, Hitler's forces invaded Poland, initiating war between Great Britain and France.

AXIS AND ALLIES

During the war, many countries had to take a side into who they would support. There were two main alliances: the axis and the allies. The main powers within each alliance were:

AXIS



Nazi Germany



Japan



Italy

ALLIES



Great Britain



United States of America



France



China

EVACUATION

Fear of German bombings led the government to evacuate children and mothers with infants out of British towns and cities by train to rural areas for safety. They would have to live with host families.

- 1.5 million people were evacuated within the first 3 days of the war.
- By 1940, 75% of evacuees had returned home due to the perceived lack of threat by the public.
- After Dunkirk, children were evacuated again.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN AND THE BLITZ

In July 1940, the German air force (Luftwaffe) conducted bombings over Britain. Their main targets were in and around London and included:



Air bases



Factories



Radar stations



Ports

While the RAF protected Britain in the skies during The Blitz, air raid wardens would support those on the ground. They would patrol the streets during blackouts, report on bomb damage and assess the need for help from emergency services. During air raids, civilians would need to hide in air raid shelters.



In May 1943, Chelmsford became the target of the Luftwaffe's bombings. It was one of the most important manufacturing hubs in Essex, and was home to a number of significant factories for the Allied war effort.

The primary targets for the bombings in Chelmsford were:



Hoffmann's Factory

Produced ball bearings and machinery for military vehicles, tanks and aircraft.



Marconi's Radio Factory

Marconi was the main hub for military radio production for vehicles and aircraft.

RATIONING

Cities and factories weren't the only places being bombed. British merchant ships were also targeted by German U-boats. As a result, food and other supplies for Britain were low. This meant that rationing had to be introduced. Some food that had to be rationed included:



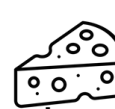
Butter



Flour



Meats



Cheese



Eggs



Tea



Cereal



Rice



Biscuits



Milk

Rationing had to be allocated fairly and was classified by age and profession.

VE DAY

On 7th May 1945, Germany surrendered. The 8th May was declared a day of celebration and was officially known as Victory in Europe (VE) Day. Although the war with Japan was not yet over, people celebrated moments of freedom in the streets by dancing, holding parties and coming together as communities. It was also a time to remember those who lost lives in the war.