

Year 6 – World War II (Local Study)

How far did World War II impact on Liverpool and its people?

Timeline

1 st September 1939: Hitler invades Poland. Evacuation begins.	3 rd September 1939: Britain declares war on Nazi Germany	January 1940: rationing begins	3 rd September 1939: Start of the Battle of the Atlantic	8 th May 1945: End of the Battle of the Atlantic	September 1940: The Blitz begins	August 1940 First bombs hit Liverpool	8 th May 1945: VE Day	March 1946: Evacuation officially ends	1954: Rationing officially ends
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Key Vocabulary

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
Evacuation/evacuee	to move someone to a place of safety. Someone who is sent to a place of safety is called an evacuee
Industrial	an industrial city or country is one in which industry is important
Rationing	the system of limiting the amount of food, water petrol or other goods when there is not enough of them
Warden	a person who is responsible for a particular place or thing
Home front	the Home Front refers to life in Britain during WWII
Bombardment	an attack by artillery weapons against fortifications, troops or towns and buildings.
Blackout	These meant that families had to cover up all windows at night to ensure that no light escaped that could aid enemy bombers to find their targets.
Gas mask	a protective mask used to cover a person's face as a defence against poison gas.

A



B



Bomb damage pictured in St Luke's Church (A) and Liverpool Docks (B).

What was the Blitz?

- **The Blitz** was a **military campaign** of the Second World War, in which the Royal Air Force (RAF) **defended** the United Kingdom (UK) against large-scale attacks by **Nazi** Germany's air force, the **Luftwaffe**.
- 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 including Liverpool.

What was the impact of WW2 and the Blitz on the people of Liverpool?

Evacuation:

- Many children living in **urban** areas were moved temporarily from their homes to places considered safer, usually in rural areas of Britain.
- The British **evacuation** began on 1st September 1939. It was called 'Operation Pied Piper'.
- When the war ended, the Government began to make travel arrangements for **evacuees** to return home.

Rationing:

- As part of their **campaign**, **Nazi** Germany tried to cut off supplies of food and other goods coming to Britain by attacking many of the ships that carried the supplies.
- Less food was available as a result. Whatever food was grown, produced or managed to enter Britain was **rationed** and people used Ration Books during this time.

Jobs:

- Many men fought in the war and so women were tasked to carry out much of the war work.
- 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**.

Did you know?

The historic **St George's Hall** was hit by bombs but **Civil Defence workers** and firefighters saved the building from any serious damage. The following night the bombers returned.