

History - World War Two Lesson three

Key Question: What was the impact of the war on ordinary people in the UK?

In our first lesson on this topic, we mentioned some facts and tried to distinguish events of WW1 and WW2. I want to focus on these three facts:

- It was fought by conscription armies (ordinary men were sent letters by the government telling them to report for duty as soldiers)
- Bombing of civilians (people who are not soldiers), including the use of nuclear bombs, was used as a military tactic (a way of winning a war)
- Children living in cities were evacuated to safety in the countryside

Now stop and think about how different people might be affected by these three things. You could think about some of the following groups: Young men, young women, parents, old people, or any other groups you can think of.

Make a table:

	How it affected <u>children</u>	How it affected -----	How it affected -----
It was fought by conscription armies			
Bombing of civilians, was used as a military tactic			
Children living in cities were evacuated to the countryside			

Next, watch these two videos about life during WW2:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-rationing-in-the-uk/zbqby9q>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-the-blitz/zm22jhw>

Finally, from the BBC archive, read this account of someone who was a child living very near here in West Devon during WW2.

I lived in the village of Iddesleigh in Devon. I can remember my father was in the Home Guard, and I can remember Hookways coaches, and they would come around the village and pick them up and take them off to the firing range. And I can remember him keeping the uniform and the rifle at home. I later learned they used to go the ranges at Hele Bridge between Meeth and Hatherleigh - there are still traces of the ranges there, they actually date from the first world war. We lived near Winkleigh Airfield. I remember once being pushed to the end of the runway in a pushchair, to have a look at a plane which had overrun the runway - I think it was a Buefighter. I can also remember the planes after take off as they petrified me, because they were still climbing and turning back East. The other memory I have is about a mile up the road was a search-light battery, and the Norwegians that manned it used to come down to us and get eggs - because we kept chickens. The men were billeted in a little hut in Pixton Lane with a serach-light about half a mile away from the airfield.

I also remember my parents saying "Thats German planes going over head" and I learned since that it was that they were heading over to get to South Wales, and we could tell the aircraft noise from British planes because the propellers weren't synchronised.

I also remember some Americans who were stationed nearby and one day - when I was in a pram - they stopped in jeeps to give us sweets. One of the things that sticks in my mind was that some of them were coloured.

When we were children we used to come across Hatherleigh Moor, my mother and my aunt used to wheel us in push chairs to go across. In the winter time it would be dark, and they were bombing Plymouth, and the searchlights were going off, and you could see them - 30 miles away. Lots of people used to go up - not to watch, but to sympathise.

Can you add to your table now?