

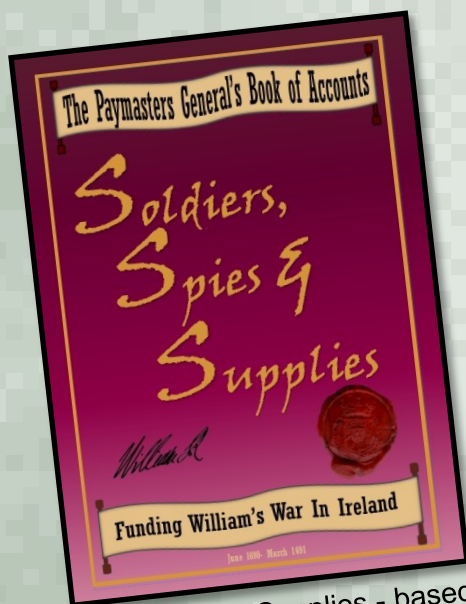
Northern Ireland and the Second World War

**Blitz,
Bombs,
&
Bullets**

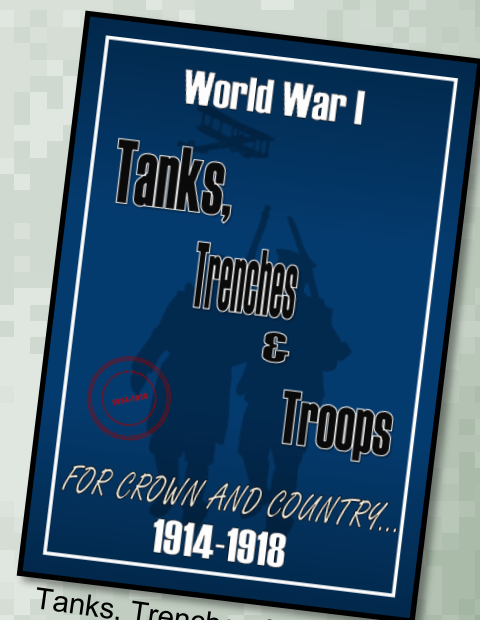


1939-1945

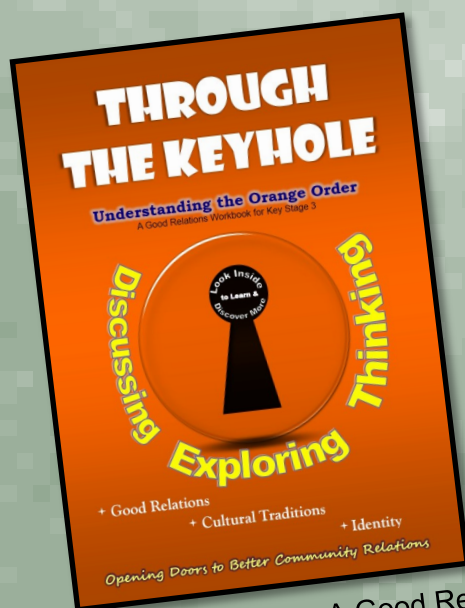
Existing Workbooks available from the
Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and
Museum of Orange Heritage.



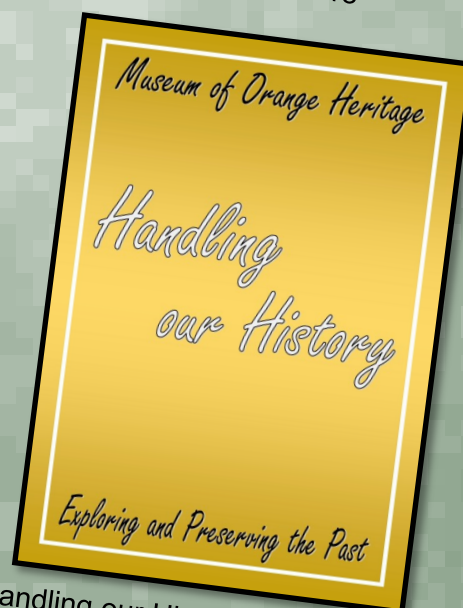
Soldiers, Spies & Supplies - based on the
Paymasters General's Book of Accounts.
Covering the Williamite Wars.



Tanks, Trenches & Troops -
covering the First World War
1914-1918



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The Outbreak of the Second World War, September 1939

The Second World War was the deadliest conflict in human history. Due to the scale of the conflict it is difficult to be definitive as to how many lost their lives. The majority of the world's nations were involved and were divided into two opposing military alliances, the Allies and the Axis forces. The war directly involved more than 100 million people from over 30 countries in a state of 'total war' and civilian casualties were at least 11 million. It is estimated that there were between 50 and 85 million fatalities.

The war was prompted by the expansionist plans of three main aggressors, Germany, Italy and Japan. The former two were under the control of dictators (Hitler and Mussolini) while the Emperor of Japan, Emperor Hirohito, had already brutally invaded China in 1937 and signed a tripartite treaty with the other two states in 1940. Japan's aim to dominate Asia was matched by those of Hitler and Mussolini to control the world economically, culturally and politically.

The Allied nations, led by the United Kingdom, the United States and France, were initially unprepared for the rise of fascism and the UK adopted a policy of appeasement. Some commentators see this as being naive while others believe that politicians were seeking to buy time to prepare for a war which some were warning was inevitable.

Key Players of World War II

	<u>Allies</u>		<u>Axis Powers</u>
	United Kingdom Declared war on Germany in 1939. Within a week of the UK declaring war, Canada, Australia and New Zealand also joined the Allies.		Germany Hitler wanted an all powerful state, territorial expansion and ethnic purity. Invaded Poland (1939), France (1940) and USSR (1941).
	France Declared war on Germany in 1939 after Poland was invaded. Occupied by Nazis in 1940.		Italy Cooperated with Germany from 1936 under Mussolini's Fascist Party. Changed allegiance to the Allies in 1942.
	United States of America Declared war on Japan in 1941 after Japan attacked Pearl Harbour.		Japan Japan's leaders wanted territorial expansion. Attacked Manchuria (1931), invaded China (1937) and attacked Pearl Harbour (1941).

The Man who signed up for a World War...

On September 1st, 1939, Germany invaded Poland and the UK and France issued ultimatums for Nazi forces to withdraw. Hitler had no intention of doing so and the stage was set for conflict.

War was declared on September 3rd, 1939, when, at 11.15am, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain informed the nation that a state of war existed between the United Kingdom and Germany.



The military staff officer who signed the UK Mobilisation Order when war was declared was General Sir James Stuart Steele, a native of Ballycarry, County Antrim, one of many Ulstermen who played a prominent part in the events to come.

General Steele survived the war and died in 1975. His Knight's banner hangs in St. Anne's Cathedral in Belfast.

The Robin, the Winter and the War...

Far away from Whitehall, in the rural wilds of Fermanagh, the news from Poland combined with a superstition over the Robin, brought anxiety, as recounted by Breege McCusker in 1993.

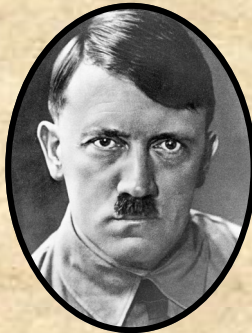
"Joe Kane of Drumkeeran, Ederney, remembers well the fear felt by everyone on Friday 1st September.

He was working on a neighbour's farm helping to cut the corn. There was a scarcity of wirelasses and news was difficult to get. Kitty Jones came down to the men in the field to announce that Hitler had invaded Poland. She told them that he had five cities blazing in Poland by 5 o'clock that morning... There was a real fear of Germany felt among the locals. Many old superstitions were recalled. The absence of the robin that winter was seen as a sign that Ireland would be invaded." (Castle Archdale and Fermanagh in World War II.)

Many Ulster people would view the events of those years with dread and anxiety, but although the same recruitment level did not occur as did in the First World War, the province was much more a part of the concept of total war - economically and physically - while rationing, air raid precautions, military presence and other aspects ensured that Ulster had its own unique place in the progress of the Second World War.

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The Rise of the Nazis...



Adolf Hitler

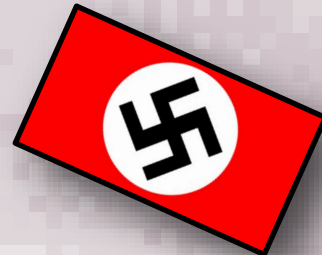
Born: 20th April, 1889, Braunau am Inn, Austria

Died: 30th April, 1945, Berlin, Germany

Titles: Leader of the Nazi Party,

Reich Chancellor of Germany (1933 - 1945),

Führer of Germany (1934 - 1945)



The rise of Hitler in Germany made the Second World War almost inevitable if not certain. Hitler's National Socialist Party was elected to office in Germany in 1932 and, winning 37.3% of the popular vote and taking 230 seats in the German Reichstag or Parliament.

Adolf Hitler had come to power at a time of economic instability and on the back of resentment over Germany's treatment after the First World War. The German President, Paul von Hindenburg sought to bring about stability by appointing Hitler as chancellor in January 1933. Once he had gained office, Hitler moved to dissolve the parliament and persuaded Hindenburg to issue a decree enabling Hitler to prohibit public meetings and publication of dissenting opinions.

After the Reichstag (Germany's Parliament Building) burnt down on February 27, 1933, communists were blamed and Hitler used the incident (probably the work of the Nazis) to enact restrictions on all individual rights and the power of state governments over the central government. He systematically took control of all state governments in Germany and used his party's private army, the S.A., Sturmabteilung (Stormtroopers), to terrorize political opponents. In the election in 1933 the Nazis won 43.9% of the popular vote. The movement allied itself with the Nationalist Party to gain a two thirds majority in parliament and outlaw the communist party.

In March that year the Reichstag passed the Enabling Act, which gave Hitler the power to make decrees with the status of law and end elections. He fused the positions of chancellor and president into one – Der Führer – and took control as dictator of Germany. The secret police, the Gestapo, were used to stifle dissent, and the stage was set for a major confrontation with other European states.



War Time German Bank Note.

NOTE the Nazi symbol in the bottom left hand corner.

Determined to dominate...

6

Hitler and the Nazis were determined to dominate Europe and the world.

Initially the demands which he made seemed, if not reasonable, then to some extent justified as a consequence of the Treaty of Versailles at the end of the First World War. There was great resentment in Germany at how the country had been treated, being forced to accept full responsibility for the war and losing territory to other powers.

Hitler demanded that Germany be allowed to absorb German populations elsewhere and created additional space for expansion, a policy known as 'Lebensraum'.

The actions of the Nazis prior to the outbreak of the war included;

- Occupation of the Rhineland, which Germany had lost at the end of the First World War
- Occupation of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia
- An alliance with Austria, resulting in Nazi Germany annexing Austria
- Invasion of Poland

Inside a prison cell in Nazi Germany, Hans Fallada, who had fallen foul of the authorities, wrote an account of his life and times.

It was 1944 and he had watched the rise of the National Socialist Party and seen how its supporters were rewarded with position and authority.

He fell foul of the Nazi authority as a result of an elderly couple. The couple were supporters of the Nazis and Fallada realised after his arrest that they had reported him as being of dubious views.

Taken into custody by the Brownshirts (S.A.), the car in which he was being taken to a nearby town stopped at an isolated spot for his guards to relieve themselves. When they encouraged him to do the same he was fearful that he was to be shot as someone who tried to escape from the car.

Luckily the actions of a local doctor, who was driving past, probably saved his life and he was taken to prison instead. However the incident showed just how precarious life had become, and how little value it had in Hitler's Germany.

Fallada's diary was an account that could cost him or others their lives, but he felt compelled to place on record the stories of emotional distress, imprisonment, spying and denunciation of the period.

He wrote with abbreviations and a code which was intended to protect the innocent, but the level of risk remained high.

Fallada, born in July 1893 as Rudolf Wilhelm Adolf Ditzen, took his pen name from a Brothers Grimm fairy tale. His account "A Stranger In My Own Country" is no fairy tale, and provides a strong sense of the tensions and the dangers that became part of everyday life in the Third Reich.

Fallada's account was smuggled out of prison and remained unpublished for half a century. It was thought that his memoirs had been lost. They were however, finally published in 2009 in Germany.

Fallada was the author of many bestselling novels including Little Man, What Now? (1932), Wolf among Wolves (1938) and Every Man Dies Alone (1947). He survived the Nazi regime, which was difficult enough as an author viewed with considerable suspicion, but in February 1947 he died of a morphine overdose in Berlin.



Hans Fallada



During the Third Reich, it is estimated that Germany had one police officer for every 155 citizens; this shows how the Nazis stifled dissent and kept control.

7

Northern Ireland's Strategic Role

The geographical position of Northern Ireland, combined with the neutrality during the war of the Irish Free State, made Ulster's role in the war a vital one. With the fall of France, the Battle of the Atlantic took on a new dimension, with further ports opened to German usage. From mid-1940, some British military figures were urging the invasion of the Irish Free State in order to provide ports for the Allied war effort.

Ulster's ports and airfields became available for anti-submarine escorts, maritime reconnaissance and coastal command. In 1943, a record year, 18 of the 84 submarines (21%) sunk by RAFCC (Royal Air Force Coastal Command) were by aircraft based in Northern Ireland. During the war an estimated 1900 survivors of U-boat attacks on supply vessels in the North Atlantic were rescued and landed at Londonderry. The German battleship Bismarck was sunk as a result of operations by aircraft from Northern Ireland.

Winston Churchill summed it all up when he remarked in 1949 that "Here, by the grace of God, Ulster stood a faithful sentinel." In 1941, in a letter to Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, John Andrews, he had stated that: "We were alone and had to face single-handed the full fury of the German attacks...seeking to strangle our life by cutting off the entry to our ports...Only one great channel of entry remained open. That channel remained open because loyal Ulster gave us full use of the North Irish ports and waters...But for its loyalty...we should have been confronted with slavery and death."

Catalina Seaplanes were based at Castle Archdale (Fermanagh) during World War II. This base was part of RAF Coastal Command. It was a 'flying boat' from this RAF, piloted by Pilot Officer Denis Briggs and Ensign Leonard 'Tuck' Smith (USA) that spotted the German Battleship, Bismarck, on 26th May 1941. The Catalina in question can be seen in the picture below and was part of No. 209 Squadron based on Lough Erne.



Fast Fact

Did You Know?

At the end of the Second World War the German U-Boat fleet surrendered in Londonderry.



The Catalina Flying Boat which spotted the Bismarck.

Image courtesy of the Imperial War Museum.



During World War II, or the 'Emergency' as it was known in the Irish Free State, thousands of Irishmen and women ignored Eire's officially neutral status and helped in the war effort. Thousands worked in factories across the UK and an estimated 12,000 joined the Army, Royal Navy or Royal Air Force. At least 5,000 members of the Irish Defence Force deserted and joined the British Army to fight the AXIS powers.

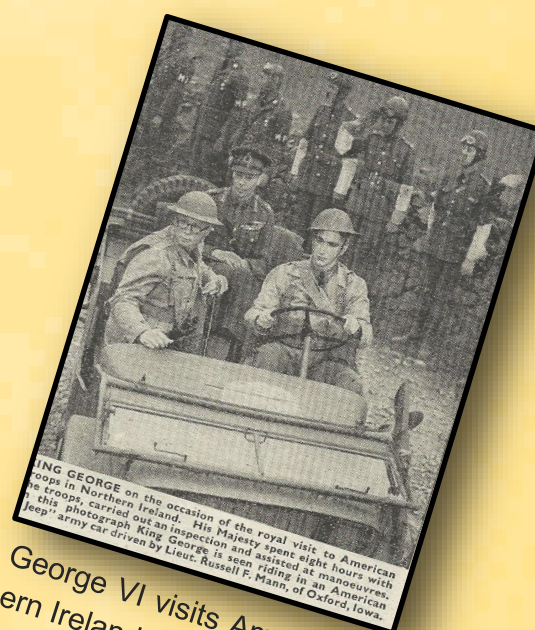
Northern Ireland played a very strategic role during the Second World War. There were 22 RAF bases across the country, for example at:

- Nutts Corner,
- Ballyhalbert,
- Langford Lodge,
- Murlough,
- Newtownards,
- Sydenham
- Toome

The Senate Chamber at Parliament Buildings was used as an Operations command room by the Royal Air Force.

Joining up

During the opening months of the war, recruitment was steady into the ranks of the various services, and recruits were coming forward at the rate of 2,500 per month in Northern Ireland. By the Spring of 1940, however, this initial euphoria had passed and the level fell to less than 1,000. There were some incidents which were reminiscent of the 'white feathers' of the previous conflict; at Queens University the Vice Chancellor sent a letter to staff and students informing them that those who were physically fit had no reason to be attending university during wartime and should enlist; 2,335 university personnel joined up during the War and 155 were killed. Campbell College in Belfast saw over 1,000 former pupils volunteer for the war effort, of whom 102 were killed in action. In total over 38,000 men and women from Northern Ireland are known to have enlisted in World War II. Many men from the Irish Free State also came to Belfast to enlist.



King George VI visits American troops in Northern Ireland in 1942

9

Key events of the Second World War

1st September 1939

Germany invaded Poland resulting in the UK and France declaring war.

27th May - 4th June 1940

The evacuation from Dunkirk took place when the British Expeditionary Force was left isolated as the Nazis swept across France. 198,000 British and 140,000 French and Belgian troops were rescued.



Evacuation from Dunkirk

10th June 1940

Italy declared war on Britain and France. 20th September 1940 Germany, Italy and Japan signed the Tripartite Pact.

10th July - 31st October 1940

The Battle of Britain saw the Royal Air Force thwart Luftwaffe attempts to bomb the United Kingdom into submission.

22nd June 1941

Germany invaded Russia. Codenamed Operation Barbarossa, it was Hitler's wish to conquer the Soviet territories. This was in spite of pacts signed by Germany and Russia.

7th December 1941

Japan attacked the USA at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, leading to the entry of the USA into the war.

10th October 1942

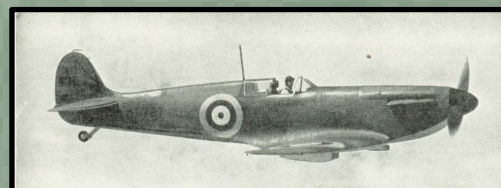
Italy swapped sides and fought with the Allies against Germany.

6th June 1944

The Normandy Landings. This was the invasion of Nazi occupied France by British, American and Canadian troops.

15th August & 2nd September 1945

The dropping of atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima by the USA brought an end to the war in the Far East. Japan surrendered in August although the formal surrender was signed in September.



WWII Spitfire

Eyewitness to history ...

10

Frederick Robert Armstrong Hynds was born in Belfast on 26th January 1903. At the age of 20 he joined the 1st Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles. He progressed through the ranks quickly going from Lance Corporal to Sergeant in a number of years and was variously stationed in Germany, Egypt and Hong Kong. At the outbreak of World War II in 1939, Hynds received his commission, which was a Lieutenancy 'at sea' and by 1941 he had been promoted to Captain, further being promoted to Major in 1944.



In 1944, Major Hynds was to prove himself in battle as a brave and courageous soldier. He parachuted behind enemy lines on the 5th June 1944 to pave the way for the D-Day landings of the 6th June 1944. After the D-Day landings, with little regard to his personal safety, he exposed himself to artillery fire to encourage his men and to aid in the evacuation of the wounded.

Further, on the 7th June, Hynds assisted in the evacuation of wounded men from an aid post at Longueval. Hynds did not seek safety until all of his men and wounded had been evacuated. For his actions, Hynds received the Military Cross and was Mentioned in Despatches in 1944.

Prior to his military service, Hynds had been a member of Blue Banner LOL 1942, Belfast District No. 1, and later of Fernhill Temperance LOL 1338 in Belfast District No. 2. During his service in Hong Kong he was a member of Star of the East LOL 802, and here recounts his memories of that time:

"We had the idea of sounding out the Merchant Navy Officers whose ships called at the port and they were very eager to become associated with 'Star of the East'. Many of the military brethren were my superior in rank – I was a Colour Sergeant then – but that made no difference to our Orange association. On the parade ground I offered military salutes and in the lodge room I acknowledged the salutes of my brethren as their Worshipful Master.

The fraternal spirit in our lodge was tremendous, and once more I was experiencing the joy and happiness of being in the Orange family and all that can mean to an Ulsterman."

After the end of World War II, Hynds returned to Ulster and was a founding member of Cross of St. Patrick LOL 688. In due course, Hynds became Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland. Major F R A Hynds died on 16th July 1983.



Fast Fact



During the War, Orangemen served in many different parts of the world.

They held Twelfth parades in Burma and North Africa as well as a church parade in Hong Kong.

In Burma and North Africa Orange arches were erected!

They were there...

William Livingstone

William Livingstone enlisted in the Royal Ulster Rifles on the 24th March 1930. His early service years took him to places such as Palestine, Egypt and Hong Kong. While Livingstone was serving in Hong Kong, he joined Star of the East LOL 802. After his stay in Hong Kong, Livingstone was posted to India. He then moved to Burma in 1943 where he led a small contingent of twenty men behind enemy lines and out of the jungle, for which he was awarded the Military Cross.

Livingstone returned to India injured and spent a long time recuperating in hospital. After his stay in hospital, Livingstone and his battalion were stationed in Karachi (in modern day Pakistan). After the end of WWII, Livingstone was offered the position of Captain if he stayed in the army. He declined this offer and returned to Ulster to be with his wife and young family.



Livingstone in Karachi, 1944



Livingstone's Star of the East Jewel

Samuel James Brodison



Samuel James Brodison was born on 15th January 1914. He was a member of Newmills LOL 183. In 1939, Brodison joined the Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's). He was later stationed in Yugoslavia as 'Company Sergeant Major' of a Commando troop which aided rebels of the Nazi controlled Yugoslavia. His efforts in Yugoslavia were so well documented that he was known in the country as 'Stari Vojnik' or 'The Fearless One!'

Samuel Brodison went on to take part in a mission on the 17th May near Calais, France. His outfit's objective was to observe the enemy's beach obstacles, in advance of the D-Day landings on 6th June 1944. This operation was of the highest importance and of an extremely hazardous nature, involving as it did, a 3 mile approach to a heavily defended enemy coastline, by night. For this action, Brodison was awarded the Military medal. After the end of WWII, Brodison returned to Ulster. In 1959, he enlisted as a Sergeant Instructor to the Ulster Special Constabulary or 'B-Specials.'

Graham Thompson Lyall VC

Graham Thompson Lyall was born on the 8th March 1892 in Manchester, England. Lyall immigrated to Canada in 1912, firstly to Ontario then Chippawa. Lyall also served in the First World War and joined LOL 720 while stationed in St. Catherine's, Ontario. His battalion was sent to England in May 1916 and he took part in the Battle of the Somme, Battle of Arras, Battle of Ypres (1917) and the Battle of Amiens (1918). It was during 1918 that Lyall received a recommendation for the Victoria Cross which he was presented with in 1919 by King George.

During the inter-war years Lyall settled in Scotland with his family. On the outbreak of WWII in 1939, he joined the 3rd AA Division Workshop Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps. In 1941, he was promoted to Colonel and served in North Africa. Graham Lyall died of a heart attack on 28th of November 1941 whilst in North Africa and is buried in Halfaya Sollum Cemetery, eleven miles from the Libyan border.



Lyall at Buckingham Palace

Stories from our Archives

Henry Kane

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Kane with his son Jimmy, 1940



Henry Kane was born on 19th May 1897 in Portadown, Co. Armagh. Kane served in the First World War in the Navy, taking part in the Battle of Jutland.

After the end of WWI in 1918, Kane saw action on board the ship 'Vanoc' which was posted to aid the Baltic States (Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia) in their fight against Russian Bolshevism. After his adventure in the Balkans, Kane was discharged from service in 1920 and returned home. However, the day after his arrival home he enlisted in the Royal Fleet Reserve, which he remained with for the rest of his life.

During the inter war years of 1919 – 1939, Henry Kane worked for the Portadown Gas Company. Kane joined Edenderry LOL 322 in 1928, after transferring from LOL 99.

When WWII broke out in 1939 he was posted to the HMS Drake at Devonport, Devon but transferred to the HMS Eclipse. Kane was later transferred to the HMS Cape Howe which was disguised as the 'Prunella.' The HMS Cape Howe was disguised as a merchant naval ship to fool both the U-Boats and the German Navy.

On the 21st June 1940, the 'Prunella' was hit by a torpedo from a German U-Boat and gradually sank. Henry Kane was badly hit in the head and chest from the torpedo attack. The men on board evacuated the ship with Henry Kane on a stretcher but Henry was to die of wounds and exposure a day after evacuation. His fellow shipmates buried his body at sea and were eventually picked up by a French steamer bound for Britain.

George Robb M.B.E.

George Robb was born in Berwick-on-Tweed in Northumberland in 1921. At 16 he joined the Merchant Navy. By the outbreak of WWII Robb was 18 years old and serving on a salvage tug. His boat was one of those which helped evacuate troops from the beaches at Dunkirk. However on their return to England, Robb's boat was hit and he was wounded by shrapnel.

After his recovery, he was promoted to Lieutenant and served in the convoys across the Mediterranean. On a convoy heading to Malta, his ship was attacked by a U-Boat, and he was fortunate to be rescued by an escorting destroyer.

Whilst on the American ship 'Ohio' he manned a machine gun and shot down three enemy planes and was once again wounded by shrapnel. After this, Robb joined convoys that were en route to Russia. On one of these journeys he witnessed a Russian plane crash into the freezing sea, with the pilot stuck in the plane. Robb dived into the icy waters and cut the pilot free. For his efforts, he was awarded the Order of the Red Star by Russia, the highest military decoration in Russia at the time.

Robb's next adventure was to end in tragic circumstances. On an Atlantic convoy, his ship was torpedoed and sank with no help nearby. The survivors made it to a life raft and were adrift for six weeks before being rescued. By the time they were rescued, 12 of the original 15 survivors had perished. Robb never forgot the agony of watching his fellow shipmates die. Robb went on to be a very highly decorated soldier earning such medals as the Croix de Lorraine, the Polish War Cross and the American Bronze Star.

After the end of WWII in 1945, Robb married an Ulster girl and joined LOL 580 in Belfast. He went on to have a prominent role in Orangeism throughout the U.K. He was a member of LOL 96 in Beith. He was Honorary Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland, and was awarded an MBE.



German plans to invade

The Nazis planned to invade the United Kingdom and their plans were known as Operation Sea Lion.

In July 1940, Hitler sent a memo to his senior staff detailing his view that 'Since England, despite its militarily hopeless situation, still has not shown any signs of being prepared to negotiate, I have decided to prepare a landing operation against England...The objective of this operation is to eliminate the English home country as a base for the continuation of the war against Germany, and if this should become unavoidable, to occupy it to the full extent.'

Hitler was suggesting a surprise crossing of the channel on a broad front and if possible to occupy the Isle of Wight and Cornwall. On the preparation of a landing operation against England he outlined the preconditions of invasion:

1. The destruction of the Royal Air Force 'so that it can no longer muster any power of attack worth mentioning against the German crossing.'
2. Mine-free routes must be created.
3. The Straits of Dover and part of the English Channel must be blocked by a dense German mine barrier.
4. The coastal foreland must be secured by a strong coastal artillery.
5. Royal Naval Forces must be tied down shortly before the invasion both in the North Sea and the Mediterranean and naval strength in England should be reduced through air and torpedo attacks.

The British government also had plans which detailed what would happen in the event of invasion, including the removal of the Royal Family to Canada, while resistance was to be co-ordinated to harass Nazi forces. This involved the Home Guard removing road signs, preparing Molotov cocktails to attack invading forces and acting as a resistance movement with others.

There were concerns in Britain that the Germans would seek to invade the Irish Free State, which was neutral, and use it to attack the UK. There was political pressure on them to give up their neutrality and extra troops were brought to Northern Ireland so that they could react quickly to any invasion.



Fast Fact

The Channel Islands were the only part of the British Isles invaded by the Nazis during World War II. This section in the Guernsey Evening Press of 1940 highlighted practical issues surrounding the occupation, such as learning basic German.

EVENING PRESS, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1940
TO-DAY'S LESSON IN GERMAN
 NO. 91 OF OUR SERIES.

More useful phrases in English, with the German translation, approximate pronunciation in English spelling, and German pronunciation in English.

ENGLISH	GERMAN	PRONUNCIATION
1 Is this word spelt correctly?	Ist dieses Wort richtig geschrieben?	Ist deesses Wort-richtig geshreeben?
2 Two letters have been omitted.	Es fehlen zwei Buchstaben.	Es faylen tsvy Bookstaben.
3 This is a matter of no importance	Das ist nicht so wichtig.	Dahs its nicht so wichtig.
4 On the contrary, my friend.	Im Gegenteil, mein Freund.	Im Gaygentile, mine Fröind.
5 What do you mean by that?	Wie meinen Sie das?	Vee mynen Zee dahs?
6 "Possible" and "impossible" have not the same meaning.	"Möglich" und "unmöglich" haben nicht dieselbe Bedeutung.	"Merglish" oond "oonmerglisch" harben nisit deeselber Bedoitoong.

Aussprache des Englischen.—1 Is zhis wörd spelt korrektli? 2 Tu letters hav bien omitted. 3 This is e matter of no importance. 4 On zhe kontrari, mei freind. 5 Huat du in mien bei zhat? 6 Possibl end impossibl haw nott zhe seelim miening.

FUNERALS

MR. G. M. SHAW

family;" "In ever loving memory and kind thoughts, Lena, Mrs. Renouf and daughters, Willow Grange;" "Home at Last," his old friend at Kinnear Cottage;" "Kind remembrances, Rachel, Beulah, and Lillian;" "In loving mem-

DEATH OF
MR. C. E. MACHON

WELL-KNOWN BUSINESS
MAN, SPORTSMAN

Invasion Plans for Northern Ireland

14

During 1940-41 several options were being considered by the Wehrmacht (German army) for the invasion of Northern Ireland. The authorities were deeply concerned about the prospect of invasion and were focused on:

- A seaborne invasion from Norway to France.
- Use of the beaches along the Antrim and Londonderry coasts by the Nazis for landing craft.
- Use of the coastline for small-scale raiding parties.

The Germans, by 1941, had focused on an invasion plan which would have involved:

- A night time airborne descent involving crack troops intended to capture and secure an area to be utilised for a larger force to land.
- The use of 20,000 paratroopers and 12,000 airborne troops.
- Capture of the main airfield at Aldergrove, securing the perimeter and landing more troops.
- Initial concentration of an area from the Divis Mountains, Lough Neagh and West Belfast.
- Secondary troop arrivals centring on Lisburn, resulting in the cutting off of road and rail communications within the country.



In addition, the Germans planned landings on the southern coast of the Irish Free State.

However, the arrival of American troops in Northern Ireland was seen as a powerful additional deterrent to prevent the Germans landing. The year 1942 saw some major pressures on the Germans in Russia, where their army suffered defeat. As the tide turned in Europe, the danger of invasion of Northern Ireland receded.

What would invasion have meant?

Germany's plans:

- English territory occupied by the German Armed Forces will be placed under German Military Administration.
- The Military Commanders will take all necessary steps to ensure the security of the Armed Forces and for the maintenance of public order and security.
- Provided that the population behaves in an orderly manner, the Armed Forces will respect person and property.
- Provided that they maintain an honourable attitude, the local authorities will be allowed to continue to function.
- Any ill-considered act, any form of sabotage, any resistance, active or passive, against the German Armed Forces will be met with the sharpest possible reprisals.
- I hereby warn all civilians against the commitment of any hostile acts against the German Armed Forces. Such acts will be remorselessly punished by sentence of death.
- The orders of the German Military Authorities are to be obeyed. Disobedience will be severely punished.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

Industry at War in Northern Ireland 1939-45

Northern Ireland had major industries at the time of the outbreak of the war, including the largest shipyards in the world, some major textile mills, heavy engineering and other manufacturing industry.



The war brought a new economic impetus to the shipyards in Belfast. Heavy industry generally was utilised in the war effort.

Between 1940 and 1944 some 140 warships were produced.

123 merchant ships had been launched in Belfast, 10% of the total output of UK merchant shipping.

The Short and Harland aircraft factory produced 1,200 Stirling bombers and 125 Sunderland flying boats during the war years and also carried out repairs to aircraft. After Belfast was blitzed many factories, such as Shorts, established dispersal factories in counties Antrim and Down.

Belfast also had munitions manufacturers and 75 million shells were produced in the city.

There was a tank factory at Carrickfergus and also a parachute factory, with two million parachutes being produced in Northern Ireland during the war.

German intelligence was good and the Nazis were aware of the wartime industrial work in Belfast, leading to air raids over the city which cost thousands of lives.

Rope and shirts...

- A quarter of a million tons of rope were produced at Belfast rope works during the war. This was one third of what was required by the War Office.
- Northern Ireland looms wove 200 million yards of cloth for the armed services during the war and hundreds of thousands of uniforms were produced. This included 90% of shirt requirements. Bush shirts worn in the North African campaign were all manufactured in the province.

The Home Guard

16

This was a defence organisation which was part of the British Army. It operated from 1940 to 1944 and its purpose was as a secondary defence force in case of German invasion of the United Kingdom. It was made up of 1,500,000 local volunteers who would not have been eligible for military service, usually because of their age. It was due to this that they were given the nickname 'Dad's Army'. They were initially known as Local Defence Volunteers but in 1941, at Churchill's insistence, their name was changed to the Home Guard. They guarded the coastal areas of the United Kingdom and other important places such as airfields, factories and explosives stores, as well as manning anti-aircraft batteries and checking documents.

At the start they were poorly armed, as it was felt to be more important to arm the regular forces - weapons included shotguns and pitchforks. However, within a few months they were issued weapons and equipment and the army began to take charge of training the Home Guard.

The Home Guard in Northern Ireland

From late 1939, special constabulary patrols were increased and the movement of people across the Irish border was closely monitored. The security forces in Northern Ireland were strengthened by the addition of British troops. Unlike in Britain, where the purpose of the Home Guard was to protect from invasion, in Northern Ireland the increase in troops was in regard to internal security. This changed in 1940, after the fall of France when the focus became one of anti-invasion.

Stormont was tasked with arranging Local Defence Volunteers in Northern Ireland similar to those elsewhere in the UK. James Craig, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland at the time, decided that the B Specials should form the basis of the Home Guard. It was raised as a branch of the special constabulary and candidates were selected rather than having an open volunteering policy. The force was under the authority of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, which was the regional police force, rather than under military command as it was in England.

Air Raid Precautions

The Home Guard was different from the Air Raid Precautions (ARP) Wardens. Four years before the war, the British Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, had suggested that local authorities make plans to protect people in the event of a war, such as building public air raid shelters. In 1937, the Government decided to create an Air Raid Wardens' Service and recruited around 200,000 volunteers. These volunteers were known as Air Raid Precaution Wardens. Their main purpose was to patrol the streets during blackout making sure that no light was visible. This was to make sure that the German bombers had no obvious targets on their bombing raids. They also manned public air raid shelters and handed out gas masks.

Fact File

The Ulster Special Constabulary, commonly known as the 'B-Specials' was a reserve police force established in 1920. It was an armed division, organised partially on military lines and called out in times of emergency.



Gas Mask from the Museum of Orange Heritage collection



Belfast Blitz

The Blitz was the period of prolonged strategic bombing of the United Kingdom by German aircraft. It took place between 7th September 1940 and May 1941 and during this period there were major air raids on 16 British cities. The British retaliated and carried out major bomb attacks on German cities.

High Street, Belfast during the Blitz



Why was Belfast targeted?

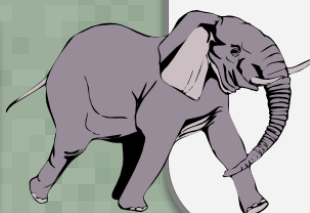
Belfast was an important target for the Germans.

- Harland and Wolff shipyard was, by tonnage produced, the largest shipyard in the world, building warships as well as 500 Churchill Mark VII tanks.
- Shorts and Harland produced 125 Sunderland flying boats – a patrol bomber – and was about to start producing Stirling bombers.
- Mackies munitions factory was producing millions of rounds of ammunition.
- The Ropeworks was making camouflage nets.
- A Carrickfergus factory was producing parachutes.



Fast Fact

The word 'Blitz' comes from the German word 'Blitzkrieg', which means 'lightning war'.



The Belfast Blitz

The first air attack on Belfast was on the night of 7th-8th April 1941, eight bombers carried out an attack on the docks and shipyards. Some hit the surrounding streets in East Belfast. 13 people were killed.

The second attack came on Easter Tuesday, 15th April 1941. 180 German bombers attacked military and manufacturing targets in Belfast. At 10.40pm the air raid sirens sounded across the city. The raid went on for five hours. There were no exact figures, but around 900 people died as a result of the bombing and 1500 were injured. This was the greatest loss of life outside London in any night raid during the Blitz.

The third attack was on the night of 4th-5th May 1941; at least 150 people were killed.

Many felt that Belfast was too far away for the Germans to worry about. As a result it was the least prepared city in the United Kingdom. There were not enough anti-aircraft guns or searchlights; no night fighter aircraft; no emergency water supply; and not enough air raid shelters.

At zoos around the country, dangerous animals were put down in order to prevent their escape if the enclosures were damaged during a raid. However, in Belfast, an elephant calf called Sheila was walked to the home of a female keeper, Denise Austin, who lived nearby. She stayed overnight in a garage and high-walled back yard.

Belfast Blitz - Evacuees

18

It was expected that cities would be bombed, and although the main aim was military and industrial targets, people were aware that civilians and houses would be hit too, and so the government drew up plans early on to move all the children and mothers out of the cities. This was known as 'evacuation'. In September 1939, about 800,000 children across England, Scotland and Wales left their homes and moved to houses in the countryside. Many returned home after a few weeks, but many stayed there until the war was over.



Initially, it was planned to evacuate 70,000 children from Belfast. Accounts vary between only 4,000 and 7,000 who turned up for the first wave of evacuation, followed by 1,800 six weeks later. More than half of these had returned before the first air raids on the city. After the Easter Tuesday raid, there was a mass exodus from the city, with an estimated 100,000 having left by 3rd of May, although a Ministry of Home Affairs report put the figure at 220,000.

They scattered throughout Ulster and beyond. Some went to homes which had been arranged for evacuees, but there was no plan in place to deal with the huge numbers. Buses and trains were filled and military vehicles pressed into service. They turned up to find villages unable to feed them and barns and small houses crowded full of people.

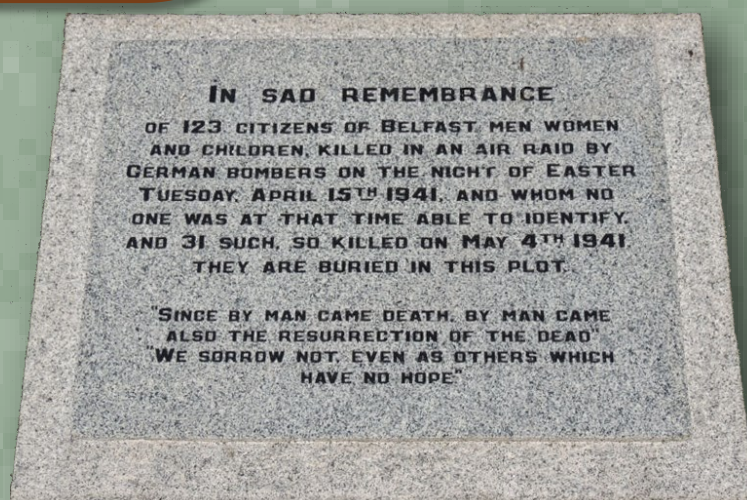
In addition thousands of people left Belfast every night and walked to the surrounding hills, staying there overnight in case of more bombing raids. This was known locally as 'ditching'. It was a practice that took place across Northern Ireland, not just in Belfast, with some in Londonderry travelling across the border to Buncrana every evening.



Evacuees from Belfast. From the Belfast Telegraph.

The dead were collected in ambulances, furniture vans, coal lorries, and even bin lorries. They were taken to temporary mortuaries, and those who were not identified were eventually taken to St George's Market. On 21st April those who had not been identified were buried in common graves in the City and Milltown Cemeteries.

Belfast City Cemetery Plaque



Rationing

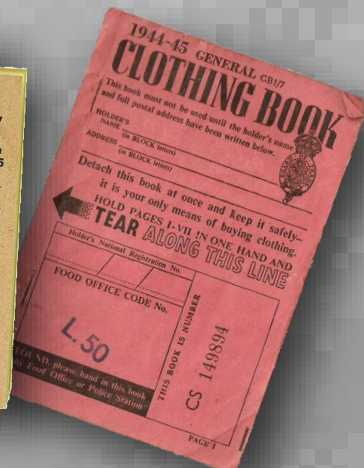
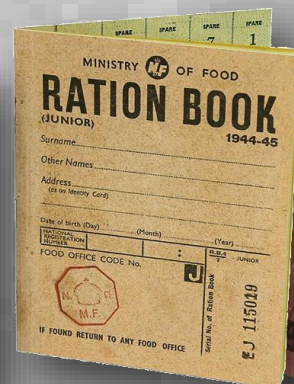
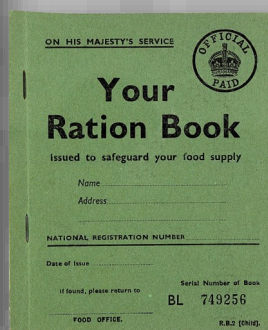
Before the start of the war, Britain imported much of its food from abroad. As Britain was an island nation, German submarines were attacking British supply ships, limiting the amount of food and other necessities coming into the country. There were concerns that this would lead to shortages of food supplies in the shops, so the government introduced a system of rationing. The reason for this was so that there would be an equal amount of food for everyone and people would not hoard it. Also it would prevent the rise of prices as food became scarcer so that poorer people would not be able to afford food.

Not just food was rationed, petrol was actually rationed first, in September 1939. National registration began in October 1939 so that rationing could be introduced in 1940. Clothing was also rationed, and coupons were provided for clothes and food so that everyone had equal share. Rationing continued long after the war had finished and even Princess Elizabeth had to save her clothing coupons for her wedding dress on 20th November 1947.

People's diets changed, and gradually items of food which would have been less commonly eaten became more used. Fruit and dairy products were severely limited.



The Quad at Queen's University, Belfast



Agriculture played a prominent role in the war effort, as food became scarcer and the U-Boat campaign attempted to stop supplies reaching the UK from abroad.

Northern Ireland also had an influx of soldiers and greater food production was required to feed them.

The government encouraged farmers to produce more and farmers were expected to increase tillage and productivity. Lazy beds were introduced on the Stormont estate, with potatoes, carrots and cabbage grown there. Golf clubs were growing corn on their fairways, and Queen's University planted vegetables in the quad.

The Holocaust

20

The Holocaust

The Holocaust is the name used to refer to the mass murder of Jews and other people throughout Germany and German occupied territories from the early 1930s until the end of WWII. Although the Nazis did not only target Jews, they were by far the largest single group affected by the persecution. There were six million Jewish and five million non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

When the Nazis came to power in Germany they began to persecute Jews. Jews were forced to wear a yellow Star of David to identify themselves and faced prejudice and violence. From 1933 to 1941 Jews were increasingly excluded from social, political and legal life, this spread as the Nazis' power spread across Europe. In 1942 the 'Final Solution' was put into operation. This was the intended annihilation of the Jews by a combination of forced labour and mass murder. Concentration or 'death' camps were built where thousands of people were sent to be killed.

In 1938 as conditions for Jewish families in Germany worsened, the British government agreed to offer homes to 10,000 Jewish refugee children. This was known as the 'Kindertransport'. The children travelled alone, and many never saw their families again.



Star of David - Jewish Symbol

Kindertransport Statue, Liverpool Street, London.



In Northern Ireland

The Jewish community in Belfast leased a farm in Millisle, County Down. This provided a home and work for the Jewish refugees. The plan was to give them agricultural training, self-sufficiency and to provide a living. Some of the children attended the local primary school. The farm was open from 1938 to 1948, and during that time 300 people are believed to have passed through the refuge. Most of the children who passed through the farm lost their families to the concentration camps.

James Molyneux, Baron Molyneux of Killead

James Henry Molyneux was born on 27th August 1920 at Killead, Co. Antrim.

He enlisting in the RAF in 1941 following the Blitz in Belfast. He took part in the D-Day landings and travelled across Europe as the Allies liberated major cities including Paris and Brussels. Near the end of the war he was asked to aid the medical relief effort in the concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen. It is an experience that harrowed him and which remained with him for the rest of his life.

After leaving the military, Molyneux went on to have a successful political career and in 1974 became leader of the Ulster Unionist Party.

He was a member of Ballynadrenta LOL No. 1059 in Crumlin and held high offices within the Orange Order, having been Imperial Grand Master of the Imperial Orange Council, as well a past Deputy County Antrim Grand Master and an honorary Deputy Grand Master

Lord Molyneux died on 9th March 2015, aged 94.





The 49th State of the Union



In 1942 there were 48 States of the USA, with Alaska and Hawaii being territories at that time. Ulster was like an additional state of the Union on account of so many Americans being based here.

By February 1942 a Garda Síochána (Irish Police) report described Londonderry as being like an American port. It had the capacity to cope with 149 ships including 30 destroyers at its peak in April 1943.

Not all Americans were impressed with Northern Ireland. One GI said that Londonderry was “like a cemetery with lights”.

The American troops were called GI's—which stood for General Infantry.



Fast Fact

A new town was built by the Americans at Langford Lodge in County Antrim and had a population of 6,000 at its peak. It was known as USAF Base 597.

During early 1941 confidential discussions had been held in relation to US troops establishing bases in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Three weeks after Pearl Harbour, in December 1941, President Roosevelt suggested to Churchill that US troops would take over Ulster's defence while completing their training. The intention was to free up British troops for deployment elsewhere.

On January 6, 1942, soldiers of the Vth army set sail from New York, arriving in Belfast later that month. A total of 3,900 men and their officers landed in the city.

The Americans were watched from on high by a German reconnaissance aircraft.

By late 1942 troop numbers had reached their highest number, at almost 37,000, prior to their participation in Operation Torch in North Africa and Italy.

In June 1944, just before the Normandy Landings, the number of US troops in Northern Ireland was over 120,000. This represented one tenth of the Northern Ireland population. In Fermanagh, the base for the 8th Infantry, the figure was closer to one fifth.

Other nationalities in Northern Ireland during wartime...

22

In addition to Americans being based in Northern Ireland during the War, there were many other nationalities as well.

The last wave of troops to come to Northern Ireland were Belgians and they arrived in the Summer of 1944. A total of 25,000 men in four infantry divisions came to train following the liberation of their country from the Nazis. They were stationed in various towns including Armagh, Banbridge, Cookstown and Larne.

In July 1944 Ulster became a refuge for 7,000 refugees from Gibraltar and many of them were located at Londonderry and also in Ballymena and surrounding areas. There is a building in Gibraltar named Ballymena House in commemoration.

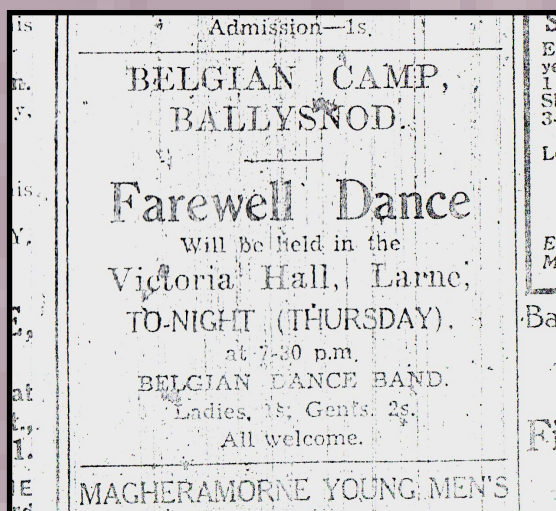
There were also Polish, Free French, Free Dutch, Free Norwegian, Russian and Commonwealth soldiers, sailors and airmen who found a temporary home in Northern Ireland during the war years.



Gibraltar



First American Troops at Belfast's Dufferin Quay, January 1942.
From the Belfast Telegraph.



Advert for a dance event organised for Belgian soldiers in Northern Ireland



Fast Fact

When American troops arrived in Northern Ireland there was a colour bar in the United States military, which meant that Blacks and Whites did not usually mix socially.

All American troops were well received in Northern Ireland and were impressed with the hospitality shown to them.

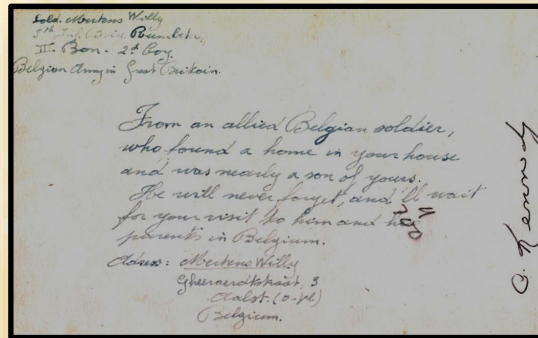
23

Other nationalities in Northern Ireland during wartime...

Memories of a Belgian soldier....



3rd Infantry Belgian
Badge during WWII



Reverse of the photo of this Belgian soldier
describing the warm reception received by the
Belgian troops from the Northern Irish people.



Clement Van de Voorde was a medical doctor who specialised in orthopaedic surgery and during the Second World War he served in the military.

After the Liberation of Belgium, Dr. Van de Voorde was based with other Belgian troops in Northern Ireland. He stayed there between 2nd April 1945 and 7th September 1945.

The doctor was medic to the Belgian forces and he was attached to the Third Infantry Brigade, which occupied camps at Whiteabbey, Co. Antrim (its headquarters), Whitehead, Ballycarry, Carrickfergus, Larne and Cairndhu on the Antrim coast. From 3rd September, after their training, the entire Brigade was shipped to England and then returned to Belgium. The soldiers then took part in the occupation of Germany until the Brigade returned to Belgium on 21st May, 1946. The Brigade was disbanded on 1st December, 1948.

Jacques Van de Voorde, the son of Dr. Van de Voorde, became a journalist and wrote about his father's experiences in Northern Ireland. Letters sent to his wife by the doctor talked about how the Belgian soldiers were very warmly received by the local people of Northern Ireland. The letters also describe how the Rotary club of Belfast held a welcome evening for the newcomers to Northern Ireland.

On 13th June 1945, the doctor moved to a camp close to Carrickfergus and wrote home to his wife about the war memorial he could see on top of the hill - this was Knockagh War Memorial which is the County Antrim War Memorial commemorating the First World War. This was erected in the 1920s.

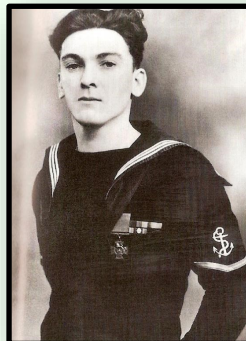
When the Belgian army was about to leave Northern Ireland, several farewell evenings took place and some of the soldiers were professional musicians who took part in these events. After the war, Dr. Van de Voorde became an eminent doctor and died in 1954.

Northern Ireland at War

24

James Magennis VC

James Joseph McGinnes was born on 27th October 1919 at Majorca Street in West Belfast. He left St Finian's school on the Falls Road at the age of 14 and in 1935 enlisted in the Royal Navy as a boy seaman. It was here, possibly due to a clerical error, that the spelling of his surname was changed to Magennis.



James Magennis was the only man from Northern Ireland to win a VC during WWII. Between 1939 and 1941 he served on the HMS Kandahar. He was then drafted to submarine service, and was mentioned in Despatches for his part in Operation Source, the disabling of the German battleship Tirpitz.

On 31st July 1945 Magennis was serving as the diver on the midget submarine HMS XE3, tasked with sinking the Japanese cruiser Takao. He worked for over 30 minutes with damaged breathing apparatus to scrape razor sharp barnacles from the Takao's hull to attach limpet mines, returning exhausted to his submarine. When XE3's commander found that one of the explosive charges would not detach from the sub, but would have to be released by hand, Magennis volunteered to go back out and free it. It took him seven minutes using a heavy spanner before their submarine could escape.

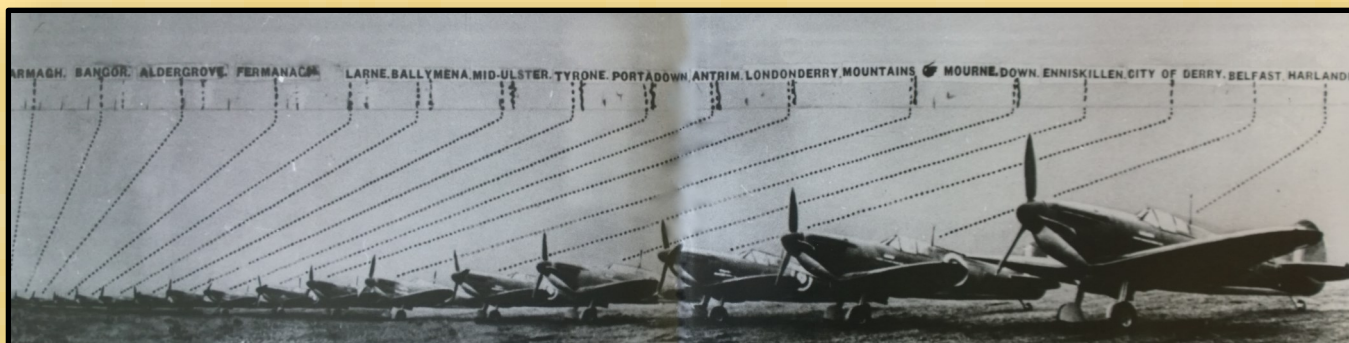
James Magennis received the Victoria Cross for his bravery during the attack on the Takao.



In 1940, the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland raised money to provide an ambulance for use in the war. The following year the Loyal Association of Orangewomen provided a military ambulance. A letter was sent to the Association to acknowledge the £500 which had been raised and stating that this would provide a fully equipped ambulance for the War Department. A plaque was attached to each of these ambulances acknowledging their donors.



17 Spitfires which were manufactured with funds raised by the Belfast Telegraph to support the war effort.



Russia and World War II

Joseph Stalin

Born: 18th December 1878, Gori, Georgia

Died: 5th March 1953, Kuntsevo Dacha

Title: Leader of the Soviet Union, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union



The absence of a second front on the European mainland prior to June 1944 meant that the Soviet Union (now known as Russia) bore the brunt of the German army.



Background

Prior to 1939 Stalin, leader of the Soviet Union, had many of the officers in the Red Army imprisoned or killed. This weakened the Soviet armed forces and shaped the remarkable Russian foreign policy at the outbreak of World War II.

Nazi-Soviet Pact

As the Nazis gained power in Germany, Britain, France and Russia agreed a pact in April 1939 to defend the independence of Poland. In August Russia disregarded this treaty and signed an agreement with Germany not to fight each other and to divide Poland – the Nazi-Soviet pact (23rd August 1939). For Germany, the pact with Russia meant that they would not have to fight a war on two fronts in Europe while Stalin gained time to prepare his army for a possible German invasion.

Hitler Invades Russia

After defeating France in the West, Hitler turned his attention to Eastern Europe. He had always expressed the view that the 'Soviet Union' could provide land and resources for an expanded Germany. On 22nd June 1941 he launched Operation 'Barbarossa' and invaded. The war in Russia would last over 3 years and both the Red Army and civilian population suffered terribly.

The Arctic Convoys

During these years the Allies tried to supply Russia with equipment and resources to prevent the Red Army from collapsing. The majority of these supplies had to be brought by sea to the Russian ports of Murmansk and Archangel. These sea convoys had to pass between the Arctic Ice pack and German occupied Norway. Many suffered huge casualties. One convoy, codenamed PQ17, lost 24 of its 35 merchant ships in July 1942. Nevertheless, these Arctic Convoys provided an important lifeline for Russia before the creation of a 'Second Front' in Western Europe in 1944.



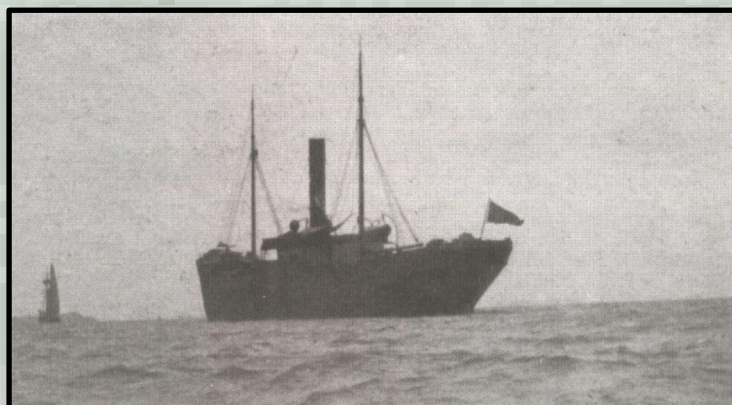
Orange Fact

Lower Iveagh Orangeman, Tommy Jess (Ballykeel LOL No 851), served on 5 Arctic Convoys, enduring the bitter cold and constant air attack from the Luftwaffe. On one occasion Tommy remembers that his boots had to be cut off because they had frozen solid! On his last Convoy the ship on which he was serving was sunk and he and others were fortunate to be rescued from their raft. Tommy died in 2015.



The Merchant Navy and War at Sea

26



A Second World War Merchant Navy vessel off the coast of Co. Antrim.

Part of the Nazi strategy was to starve the United Kingdom by preventing food and other supplies being brought by sea.

Shipping was attacked by German U-boats and convoys were escorted by Naval vessels to protect them. Despite this, ships and lives were lost and many of those who died during the War were members of the Merchant Navy.

Many men were lost at sea and their bodies were never recovered. The names of over 24,000 are recorded on the Tower Hill Memorial in London, while others are commemorated elsewhere.

The U-boat menace was prevalent in the Irish Sea and North Channel, and there were submarine defences in Belfast Lough.

The North Atlantic convoys made their way into the North Channel and along the Clyde, while some ships went further south to Liverpool.

Northern Ireland played an extremely significant part in what is called the Battle of the Atlantic, with her ports offering a base for naval operations and airfields being essential - these were located at Nutts Corner, Long Kesh, Aldergrove, Limavady, Ballykelly, Castle Archdale and Killadeas.

In 1943, 18 of the 84 submarines destroyed by the RAF were sunk by planes from Northern Ireland. This equates to 21% of the total.

Londonderry, which was an important naval base, was also the location for the surrender of part of the German U-Boat fleet on 14th May, 1945.

Philante - Norwegian Royal Ship



No. 502 (Ulster) Squadron, based at Limavady, lost 169 of its members during the course of the war. Larne Lough in Co. Antrim became a centre for anti-submarine warfare and the command ship there was the HMS Philante.

In 1947 she was purchased by the people of Norway and presented to the King of Norway, King Haakon VII and renamed the Royal Yacht Norge.

The Norge is only one of three Royal Yachts in Europe.

The Normandy Landings

The Normandy Landings were the start of the invasion of Nazi occupied France by Allied troops. It took place on 6th June 1944 and was codenamed Operation Neptune although it is commonly known as D-Day. This was the beginning of the bigger Operation Overlord, which was the codename for the Battle of Normandy.

First there was an airborne assault by 1200 aeroplanes, and by dawn on 6th June thousands of paratroopers and glider troops were on the ground behind enemy lines, securing roads and bridges.

The amphibious invasions began at 6.30 am. More than 5,000 vessels holding 156,000 Allied troops crossed the English Channel, landing at beaches along the Normandy coastline. By 11th June, the beaches were fully secured with over 326,000 troops in Normandy, and by the end of August more than 3 million Allied troops were in France.

The beginning of the end

The Battle of Normandy is often referred to as the beginning of the end of the war. By the end of August 1944, the Allies had pushed through France and had reached the River Seine; Paris was liberated and the Germans had been removed from north western France. The Allied forces then prepared to enter Germany, where they planned to meet up with Soviet troops moving in from the east.

D-Day

The date of the landing was determined by a number of significant factors: the phase of the moon, the tide and the time of day. There were only a few days when these factors would all come together to create the perfect landing conditions. The original date was 5th June 1944, but due to bad weather in the days before the invasion it was delayed for 24 hours. If it had not gone ahead then, it would have been months before circumstances coincided to create those landing conditions again.

Fast Fact

The Royal Ulster Rifles was the only regiment to land by air and sea. The 1st Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles was assigned to the 6th Airborne Division and took place in Operation Mallard, the British glider landings on 6th June 1944.

The 2nd Battalion served with the British Expeditionary Force in France and took part in the D-Day landings at Sword Beach.



The Beaches

American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the coast of France's Normandy region. These beaches were given codenames:

Gold; British

Juno; British and Canadian

Sword; British

Utah Beach; American

Omaha Beach; American

There were at least 10,000 Allied casualties of the first day, with about 4,400 confirmed dead.

Beaches that the Americans landed on were named after US states. The British beaches were named after fish - Goldfish, Swordfish and Jellyfish (renamed Juno by Winston Churchill who felt this was a more appropriate name for a place where so many men died.)



An old Orange banner showing the D-Day landings

Paddy the Pigeon

28

During the Second World War the Royal Air Force used homing pigeons to carry messages which were top secret.

The pigeons were provided by local pigeon breeders and they had to endure considerable dangers in conveying messages as the Germans sent up hawks to attack and kill them.

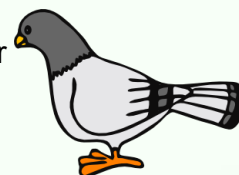
During their time in the air they also had to endure artillery shells exploding and shrapnel in the air.

One of the pigeons was called Paddy and was from the coastal village of Carnlough in County Antrim. Whenever the Allied forces landed in Normandy in June 1944, Paddy was one of a number of pigeons which were sent back to England with messages about the successful landings.

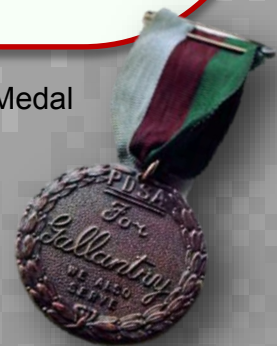
Paddy was the first pigeon to safely reach his base on the south coast of England and it has been estimated that he was flying at 40 miles an hour when he undertook his mission.

As a result of his efforts, Paddy was awarded the Dickin Medal for Gallantry, the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross.

There is a plaque in Carnlough in his memory.



Dickin Medal



The Dog that smuggled on the Border

The war produced a smuggling economy and on occasions children were used to smuggle goods, as were women pretending to be pregnant.

On at least one occasion, a dog was involved in the smuggling trade. Because Eire (the Irish Free State) was a neutral country, the border was watched closely to try and put a stop to smuggling.

Near the town of Strabane on the County Tyrone border with Donegal, customs officials found they had a four-legged smuggler to deal with on more than one occasion! The dog, whose owner lived on the Republic side of the border, would cross into Northern Ireland. The animal, which received some human assistance in its smuggling enterprise, would then return back home from Strabane with a loaf tied around its neck and carrying another in its mouth. The four-legged smuggler was reported on several occasions as having been seen crossing the bridge from one country to the other, but managed to evade the authorities.



The War in the East

THE War in the Far East had the potential to continue with considerable loss of life. The Allies were preparing for what was expected to be a very costly invasion of the Japanese mainland, which had been preceded by a firebombing campaign of Japanese cities.

However, in the Potsdam Declaration of July 26th, 1945, the United Kingdom, United States and China called for the immediate surrender of Japan, the alternative being "prompt and utter destruction". The Japanese ignored the ultimatum. This set the scene for the use of a terrifying new weapon, the atomic bomb.

The bomb had already been tested in July in the New Mexico desert in what was called the Manhattan Project. The US then dropped two bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, killing at least 129,000 people.



Cecil Reid pictured in Ceylon



Japanese officials arrive to surrender in Burma. This photo was taken by Cecil Reid who was serving with the RAF.

Among those who fought in the Far East was the late Cecil Reid, from the Bloomfield area of East Belfast. In June 1940 he enlisted in Belfast and joined the Royal Air Force Regiment.

In February 1942 Cecil was sent to the Far East via Africa and he spent 18 months in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) where jungle training was carried out. A marine's assault course and live ammunition was used in the training. After training the unit were sent to Burma.

Cecil recalled the campaign in the jungles, where dangerous roads, swamps and mosquitoes were hazards as well as the Japanese.

His memories include:

- Seeing a truck load of troops go off road and plunge into a deep mountain valley, all the soldiers inside being killed.
- How Japanese troops surrounding airfields would shoot and shout all night to keep soldiers awake and on edge.
- How an Allied officer shot on a runway had to be left for three days because of Japanese snipers.
- Seeing prisoners from the Siam railway who by then were so weak they could not stand up and their joy at being sat down on the steps of a swimming pool to enjoy the cool, clear water.

The Atomic Bombs



30

On August 6 the U.S. dropped a uranium atomic bomb (nicknamed Little Boy) on Hiroshima. Three days later, on August 9, a second bomb (nicknamed Fat Man) was dropped on Nagasaki. The US President Harry S. Truman had already warned of "a rain of ruin from the air, the like of which has never been seen on this earth" if the Japanese did not surrender.

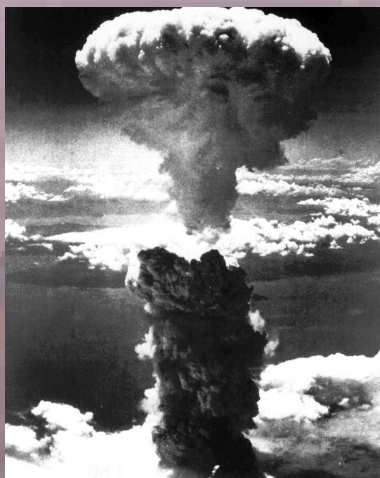
Within the first two to four months of the bombings, the acute effects of the atomic bombings became clear. Around half of those who died in each city were killed on the first day. During the following months, large numbers died from the effect of burns, radiation sickness, and other injuries, compounded by illness and malnutrition. In both cities, most of the dead were civilians, although Hiroshima had a sizable military garrison.

On August 15, six days after the bombing of Nagasaki and the Soviet Union's declaration of war, Japan announced its surrender to the Allies. On September 2, it signed the instrument of surrender, effectively ending World War II. The bombings' role in Japan's surrender and their ethical justification are still debated.



Fast Fact

VJ day is the name given to the day commemorating Victory over Japan. In the UK it is marked on August 15th, the day the Japanese verbally surrendered. In the USA however, they mark it on September 2nd, the day Japan officially signed its surrender.



Nagasaki Atomic Bomb

First Hand Account of Nagasaki Atomic Bomb

Rev. Laurence Wedderburn and his wife were missionaries for the Church of Scotland in Japan. They were taken prisoner in Manchuria just after Pearl Harbour in 1941. The Japanese believed Rev. Wedderburn was a spy.

In July 1945, the couple were taken to a camp three miles from Nagasaki. On 9th August Rev. Wedderburn recalls that while he was out tending to a cow, he saw an American plane fly over: *'As it disappeared over a village, that hid part of the city, there was a terrific flash which blotted out the sun, followed by the thunder of an explosion which threw him to the ground. On getting to his feet again he was surprised to find the skin of his arms 'prickly' as if they had been held close to something hot. Over Nagasaki rose an enormous column of smoke like that of a giant mushroom, getting bigger and bigger.'*

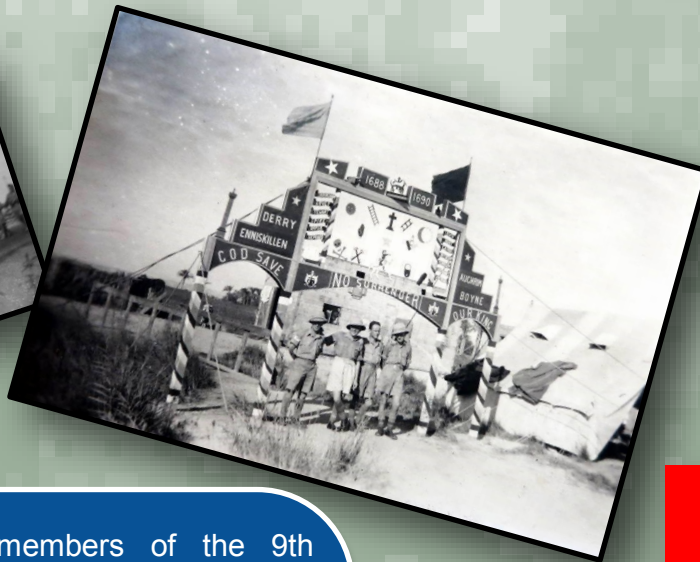
The Wedderburns came to Northern Ireland after the war and shared this story.

Unusual war stuff....

During the Second World War a Northern Ireland castle was seized as enemy territory!

Kilwaughter Castle near Larne was owned by the Countess Balzani, a member of the Agnew family, who was married to an Italian and lived in Italy.

Wartime regulations meant that the castle was seized by the authorities, being used as a hospital for wounded Allied troops. Unfortunately after the war it fell into disrepair and it is now a ruin.



During the war members of the 9th Londonderry Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment (HAA) were in Egypt and served in the North African Campaign.

They celebrated the Relief of Derry and Boyne anniversaries with a parade and by erecting an Orange arch in the desert. The men were part of what were called Montgomery's Desert Rats.

General Montgomery and Field Marshal Alexander, who were involved in the campaign, also had Ulster connections.



Nine brothers from the Reilly family in Ontario in Canada served in the war, probably a Commonwealth record for service.

The family were originally from Limavady and all returned safely home to Wellington, Ontario. They were Presbyterians and some were members of the Orange Order in Canada.



WWII Codeword puzzle

During World War II, Germany believed that its secret codes for radio messages were indecipherable to the Allies. However, thanks to the work of Polish code breakers and work carried out at Bletchley Park in England the secrets of Germany's wartime communication was cracked. This played a crucial role in the final defeat of Germany.

One example of a secret code method is called a **Keyword Cipher**

With this code, a keyword is placed at the beginning and the remaining letters of the alphabet, not used in the keyword, are shifted to the right. The letters that are not used in the keyword are placed in line in alphabetical order. Agents might have a book and the start of a code could be numbers which would tell them which page and line in the book to use for the keyword.

If the keyword was GERMANY, then the key would look like this:



A	B	C	G	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
G	E	R	M	A	N	Y	B	C	D	F	H	I	J	K	L	O	P	Q	S	T	U	V	W	X	Z

So if we were using this code, the message SEND HELP URGENTLY would read QAJM BAH LTPYAJSHX.



Use the keyword MOLYNEUX to create the code and then answer the questions below:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

1. MFNKALM entered the war after the attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941. _____
2. MRPQKAM was annexed by Germany in March 1938. _____
3. IHDMGY was invaded by Germany in September 1939. _____
4. AQMDW was one of Germany's allies in 1940. _____
5. BMIMG was another of Germany's allies and invaded China in 1937. _____
6. EKMGLN was Britain's ally at the start of the war. _____
7. LXRKLXADD became Prime Minister in Britain in May 1940. _____
8. KHPNSNDQ was President of the USA from March 1933 to April 1945. _____
9. KRPPAM was invaded by Germany in June 1941. _____
10. MRPQKMDAM, GNT ZNMDMGY and PHRQX MEKALM declared war on Germany in September 1939.
_____, _____, _____



Large volumes of letters were sent to and from soldiers during the war. Airgraphs were invented and used by the British troops in the 1930s. When the Americans joined the war they developed Vmail, which was based on the earlier airgraphs. A standard form was used which had a set amount of space for writing. These were then photographed and the microfilm was flown to America, where it was processed and the letters were reprinted and sent to the addressees.

Imagine you are an American soldier during WWII who has been stationed in Northern Ireland. Using the Vmail form below, write a letter home, mentioning some of the differences between Northern Ireland and your homeland. How would the soldier feel so far from home and family? Remember not to give away too much as it would be censored for sensitive military information.

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Paint or small writing is not suitable for this purpose.

TO:

FROM:

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address)

V-MAIL SERVICE provides the most expeditious dispatch and reduces the weight of mail to and from personnel of our Armed Forces outside the continental United States. When addressed to points where micro-film equipment is operated, a miniature photographic negative of the message will be made and sent by the most expeditious transportation available for reproduction and delivery. The original message will be destroyed after the reproduction has been delivered. Messages addressed to or from points where micro-film equipment is not operated will be transmitted in their original form by the most expeditious means available.

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
(2) PRINT the name and address in the two panels provided. Addresses to members of the Armed Forces should include rank or rating of the addressee, unit to which attached, and APO or Naval address.
(3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
(4) Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope and a separate V-Mail letter must be sent if you desire to write more than one sheet.
(5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by others postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary mail, 6c if air mail is desired).

POST OFFICE DEPT. PERMIT NO. 16

FOLD TOP AND BOTTOM IN, THEN FOLD IN CENTER AND SEAL
NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

POST OFFICE DEPT. PERMIT NO. 16

V-MAIL

TO:

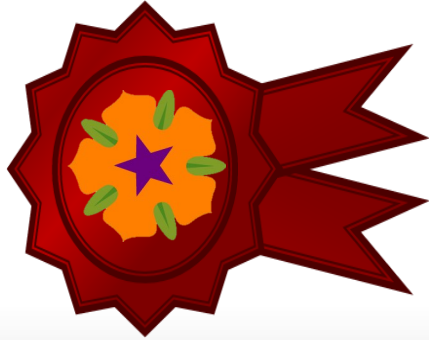
FROM:

POST OFFICE DEPT. PERMIT NO. 16

Certificate

This certificate is awarded to

.....
This is to certify that the Second World War Book **‘Blitz,
Bombs & Bullets’** has been successfully completed.



School

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