



# SOUTHAMPTON AT WAR

The Second World War

Activity Pack



# Introduction: The Second World War

The Second World War affected Southampton enormously and shaped the modern town. In many ways it was a very dark time, but there are also some incredible stories of heroism and bravery too. This activity pack is full of great activities to help you find out more about the Second World War.



© Southampton Cultural Services

These activities are designed so that you can either work through them one at a time or, if you'd prefer, you can dip in and out of the things you like the look of most.

Good luck and have fun!

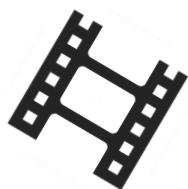
Southampton Cultural Services Learning Team



# What Happened during the Second World War?

Before we look more at Southampton, it's probably a good idea to have a broad idea of what happened in the Second World War. The war lasted from 1939-1945 and affected most of the countries on the planet! The conflict had been building for several years before 1939 but began when Nazi Germany invaded Poland.

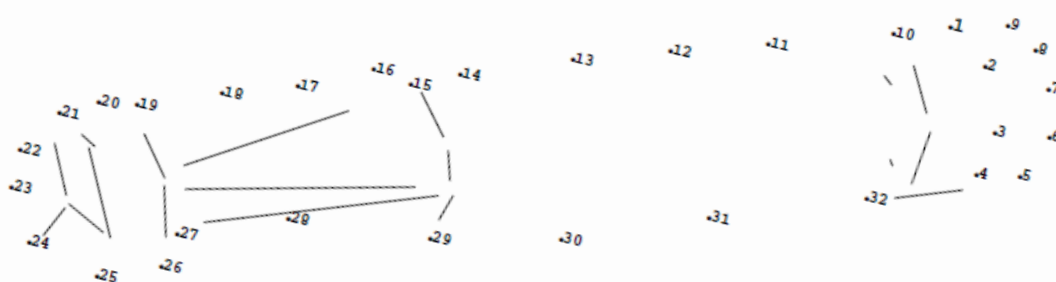
It's fair to say that the Second World War is fairly complicated, but we've found a great video that explains the basics and will tell you everything you need to know!



© History Bombs

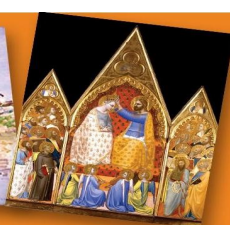
All of the video links can be found at the end of the pack!

## DOT-TO-DOTS



Can you work out what this WW2 object is?

Hint: Over 30,000 of these fell on Southampton during the War.





# Southampton Before the War

Before the Second World War, Southampton was a large town with several important industries, including the docks and factories.



© Southampton Cultural Services

There were several things about Southampton that made the town a target for enemy bombers. Look at the pictures below and then circle the ones you think may have been targets when the Luftwaffe (Nazi Germany's air force) carried out bombing raids.

© Bert Moody Collection



**RAILWAY STATION**



**AIRCRAFT FACTORY**



**DOCKS**



**THE COMMON**



**CIVIC CENTRE**

© Southampton Cultural Services



**CINEMAS**

© Southampton Cultural Services





# Preparing For War

Even before war was declared on 3rd September 1939, the people of Southampton were being prepared for what was seen as the inevitable. Below are some of the different preparations that happened, but can you work out the correct order of different things happening?

1



© Southampton Cultural Services

**Evacuation** Southampton was known to be a target for enemy bombings. Because of this parents were urged (it wasn't compulsory) to send their children away to the countryside where it was thought to be safer. Evacuations began two days before the war began!

2



© Mandy Barrow

**Rationing** Many foods were imported from overseas by ships. These could be a target for enemy submarines and ships so food and clothes had to be rationed. For affected foods people were only allowed to buy a fixed amount per week. Rationing began the January after the war started.

3



© Southampton Cultural Services

**Air-Raid Shelters** 100 basement shelters were converted into air-raid shelters. Most of these were medieval wine vaults. In total, the shelters were enough for 10,000 people! Most of these were completed the month before the war began.

4



**Gas Masks** It was feared that poisonous gas would be used in bombs. Because of this, from the January before the war began, every person in Britain was given a gas mask to protect them in the event of a gas attack.

**Did you know...** Southampton was the first town in England to trial Blackouts. Heavy black curtains were stuck over windows to stop light coming from buildings. This was designed to make it more difficult for enemy planes to see where towns were.

Write your answer in the circles next to the year. The answers are at the back of the pack!

JAN 1940



SEP 1939



JAN 1939



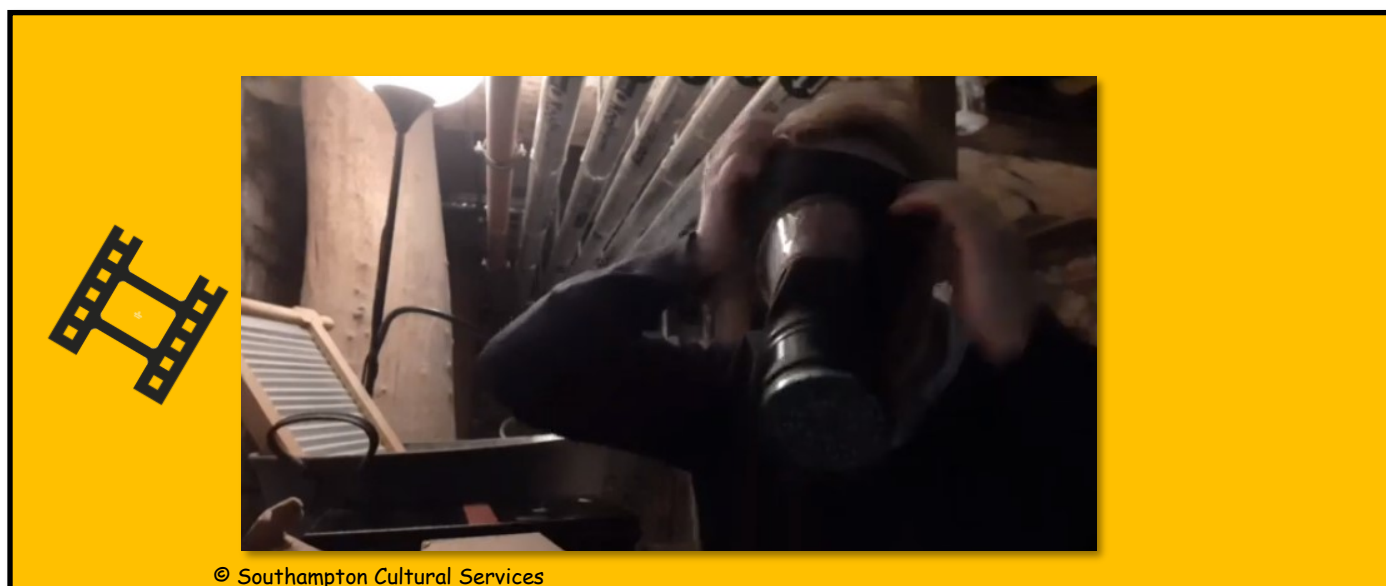
AUG 1939



# Gas Masks 1

At the beginning of the Second World War, every adult and child (even babies) were supplied with gas masks. There was a fear that the Nazi regime would use deadly gas which had been used on soldiers during the First World War twenty years earlier.

Click on the image below to watch a video more about the use of gas masks during World War 2.



Can you correctly match the three gas masks to who they were designed for?

A



B



© objectlessons.org

C

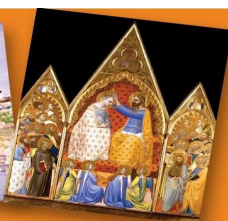


© objectlessons.org

Babies in prams

Adults

Children under 2  
and a half



# Gas Masks 2

Have a go at the scientific experiment featured in the video on the last page. Use the tables below to help you record your findings!

## You will need

2l bottle  
Masking tape  
Water  
Soil  
2 Measuring jugs

*Materials for filtering dirty water, which could include:*

Cotton wool  
Stones/pebbles  
Coffee filters  
Sand



# CAUTION

YOU MUST NOT DRINK THE WATER IN THIS EXPERIMENT. EVEN IF IT IS CLEAR THE WATER MAY STILL CONTAIN GERMS THAT WILL MAKE YOU POORLY

## What to do

1. Cut a bottle in half (ask an adult to help with this). Recycle the bottom half and then put masking tape along any sharp edges. Turn the bottle so that the top is now facing downwards.
2. Carefully layer different materials in your bottle.
3. Take a measuring jug. Take five tablespoons of soil and add it to 500ml of water (you can change the amount of soil you add to make the water more or less mucky). **This muddy water replicates poisonous gas.**
4. Place your filter above another measuring jug (a large glass will also work fine, just remember to measure the amount of water in the measuring jug afterwards to accurately record your results).
5. Pour the dirty water through the filter until no more goes through the filter.
6. Record your findings in the table on the next page.
7. Try the experiment again, but alter your filter materials to see if you can make clearer water!





# Gas Masks 3

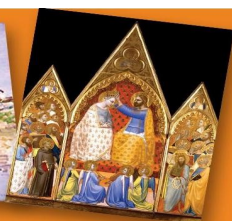
| List the materials you used to make your filter (e.g. sand, stones) | How much filtered water did you end up with after pouring 500ml of muddy water through filter? | On a scale of 1-10 (with 1 being very dirty and 10 being completely clear) how clear is your filtered water? |
|---|--|--|
| First attempt   |  |  |
| Second attempt  |  |  |
| Third attempt   |  |  |

© Imperial War Museums



## CAUTION

**YOU MUST NOT DRINK THE WATER IN THIS EXPERIMENT. EVEN IF IT IS CLEAR THE WATER MAY STILL CONTAIN GERMS THAT WILL MAKE YOU POORLY**

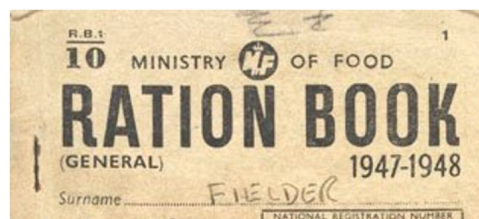


# Rationing

The rationing of food, clothes and other items was introduced in January 1940 and lasted until 1954- about nine years after the War had ended! Rationing was needed because before the War about 55 million tons of food a year came from other countries. The ships carrying the food was a perfect target for German ships and submarines. The British government decided to introduce rationing as a way to ensure the country didn't run out of food.

**Click on the link below to play our 'WW2 Rationing Quiz' and to find out more about which foods were rationed.**

## The WW2 Rationing Quiz



Can you correctly identify if an item was rationed or not during the Second World War (1939-1945)?

TAKE QUIZ

© Southampton Cultural Services

All sorts of new recipes were invented during the War to make use of widely available foods like vegetables. New recipes included carrot scones, potato soup and almond biscuits. Perhaps the most well-known wartime recipe was Woolton Pie.

Lord Woolton was Minister for Health during the War and the story goes that the pie was created by chefs at the Savoy Hotel in London. The recipe uses lots of ingredients that were readily available at the time. It is also delicious. On the next page you'll find a recipe for Woolton Pie courtesy of [The 1940's Experiment](#).



Lord Woolton



© The 1940's Experiment



# Lord Woolton pie recipe

## INGREDIENTS

1lb cauliflower  
1lb parsnips  
1lb carrots  
1lb potatoes  
Bunch of spring onions chopped  
2 teaspoons of Marmite (yeast extract - or you can use a stock cube)  
Tablespoon of rolled oats  
Salt and pepper to taste once cooked.  
Parsley (fresh or dried)

## FOR THE PASTRY

8oz wholemeal/wholewheat flour  
4oz mashed potato  
3oz margarine or lard  
2 tsp of baking powder  
couple large pinches of salt  
Dash of water if needed.

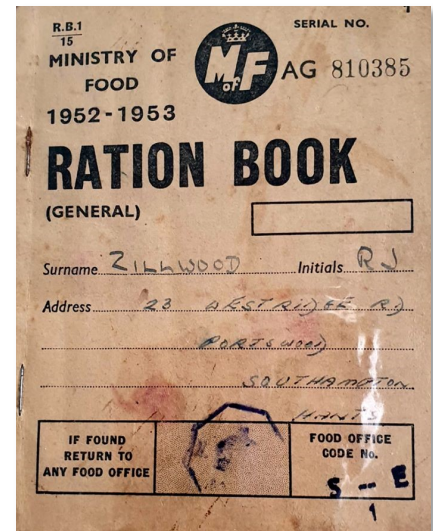
## METHOD

Chop up the vegetables into chunks with those that take longest to cook into smaller pieces.  
Place in pot and bring to simmer with just enough water to reach 3/4 of the way up the veg in the pot.  
Add in Marmite and rolled oats, salt and pepper and cook until tender and most of the water has been absorbed.  
Place mixture in deep pie dish and sprinkle with fresh parsley (or add dry parsley to mixture and mix in)  
Make the pastry by mixing the flour with the baking powder and salt and then rubbing in the margarine.  
Mix the mashed potato in to form a dough and knead (add a little water to the mixture if too dry)  
Roll out to form pie crust and place on top and decorate then brush with milk.  
Place in oven at 200C for 30 minutes or so until top is firm and browned.

Serves 8



© The 1940's Experiment



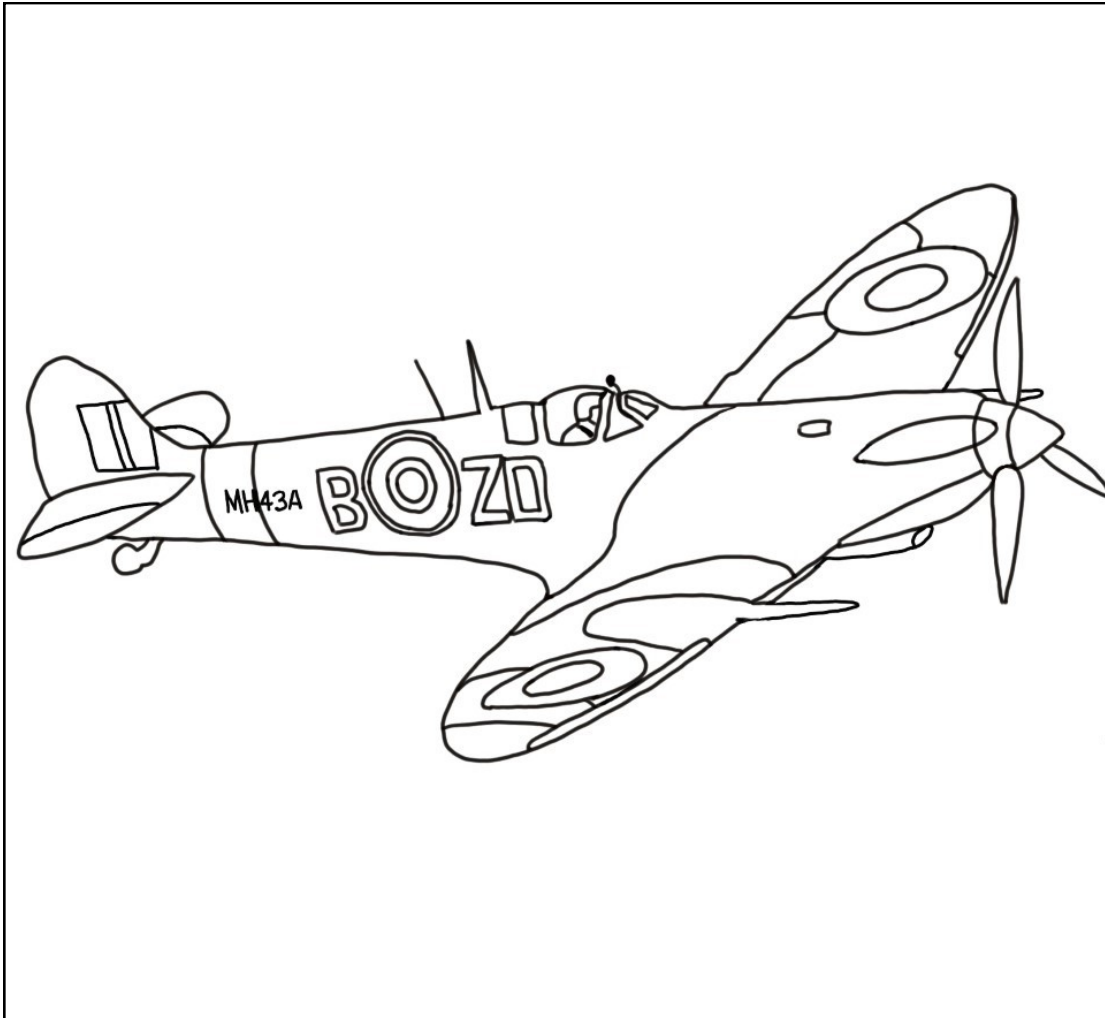
© John & Ivy Zillwood





# The Spitfire

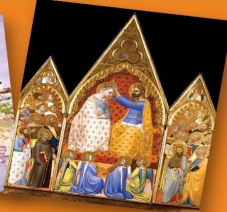
The most famous aircraft in the Second World War was the Supermarine Spitfire, which was designed by the engineer R. J. Mitchell. The Spitfire was designed and manufactured around Southampton and its role during a major part of the War called The Battle of Britain is



**Colour Me In!**



This is a picture of R. J. Mitchell, the inventor of the Spitfire.



# Evacuation

At the very beginning of the war, many children were evacuated from Southampton to the countryside, where they would be safer.

About 14,000 Southampton children were evacuated.

Experiences of evacuation were different for everybody- some children enjoyed their time, but others hated being away from their families.

Read the letter below. It was written by an evacuee called Eileen to her mother.

Dear mummy,  
I do hope  
the war lasts a long time  
because it is so nice here.  
Margery's sister came home  
today & Margery & I  
went to meet her in a  
taxi. When are you going  
to come & see us again?  
we would like to see  
you again. I have made  
an eiderdown to go over my  
doll & a pillow. There is not  
much news to tell you &  
the children want to ~~right~~  
write so good-bye for now  
Eileen xxx

© Southampton Cultural Services

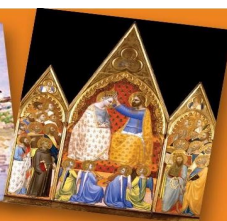


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1. How do you think Eileen felt about being evacuated?

2. What things did Eileen do for fun during her time as an evacuee?

3. What do you think Eileen missed most about being away from home?





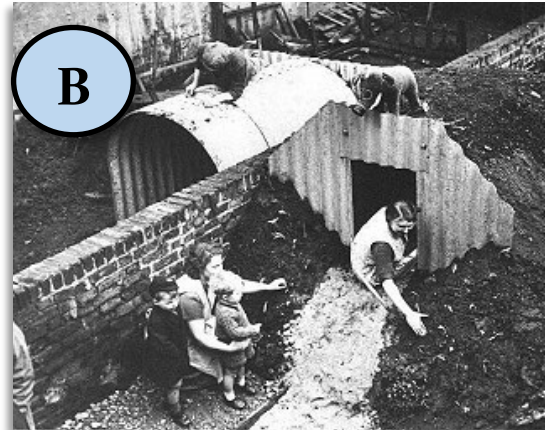
# Air-Raid Shelters

A long time before the War began preparations were made for the event of Southampton being bombed. An Air Raid Precaution (ARP) committee was formed to make preparations. Various different types of air-raid shelters were built.

Can you match the different type of shelter to the picture?



© Imperial War Museum



© Imperial War Museum

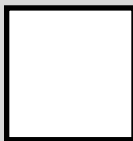


© Southampton Cultural Services

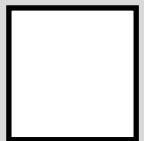


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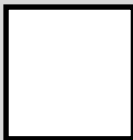
**Brick-built Shelter** These were normally built above the ground and had reinforced concrete roofs. The photograph in this activity was at the Eastern District School in Archers Road.



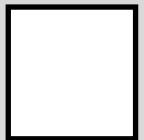
**Public Shelter** The public air-raid shelters in Southampton were converted from medieval wine vaults. The picture here is of the Undercroft on Bugle Street. Can you see the emergency exit and the blocked-up fireplace?



**Morrison Shelter** This type of shelter was used in the home and was little more than a strengthened metal table. They were named after the Minister for Home Security, Herbert Morrison.



**Anderson Shelter** The most common garden shelter- it was made of corrugated steel panels and was partially buried in the ground. This shelter could accommodate 6 people.





# The Southampton Blitz 1

The long-threatened bombs fell on Southampton. The worst period for bombings was at the end of 1940 when three night raids caused a huge amount of damage. Historians call these bombings 'The Southampton Blitz'.

Have a go at matching the information below to find out more about the Southampton Blitz. Draw lines from the coloured boxes to the information they connect to.

The worst period of bombings on the town.

The first bomb to fall on Southampton.

The last bomb to land in Southampton.

The total number of people killed by bombs in Southampton.

Over 30,000 of these fell on Southampton during the War.

The number of high explosive bombs that fell on Southampton during the Second World War.

INCENDIARY BOMB

631

20TH JUNE 1940

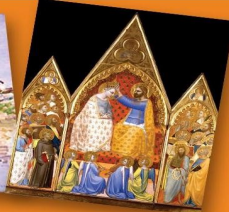
5TH NOV 1944

2,631

23RD NOV, 30TH NOV  
& 1ST DEC 1940



© Southampton Cultural Services

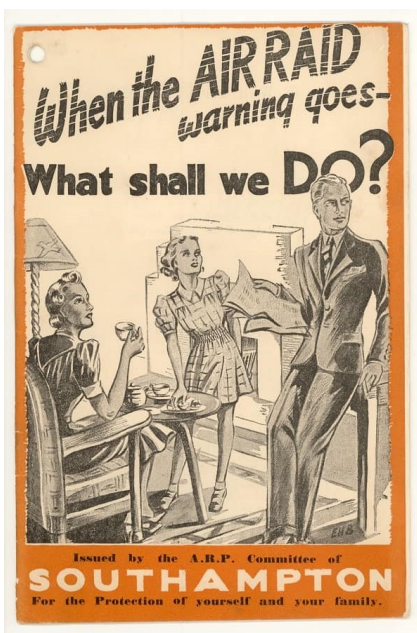


## The Southampton Blitz 2

The affect of the bombings on Southampton was enormous and many of the town's most distinctive landmarks were destroyed. The picture below shows a British map that has been used by the Luftwaffe (the German air force) to mark the targets for their bombing raids. You can clearly see the docks marked by pen!

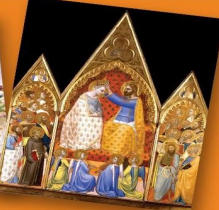


© Southampton Cultural Services



© Southampton Cultural Services

Have a look at the poster on the left, which was issued by the Southampton ARP Committee. What's the message of the picture and text? Write your answer in the box below.





# Victory in Europe 1

The war finally came to an end in Europe on Tuesday 8th May 1945, about six years after it had begun. About 20,000 people gathered in front of the Civic Centre to listen to the Prime Minister speak, church services were held and people held parties in their streets to celebrate.

Look at the photograph of a street party below. There aren't many men in the picture. Why do you think this may be?



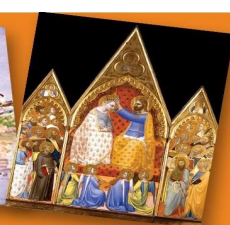
© Southampton Cultural Services

Imagine that you are at a VE Day street party and then answer the questions below.

1. How would it have felt to be at a party like this after six years of war?

2. What would you eat (remember, there was still rationing)?

3. What would you most be most looking forward to about the future?

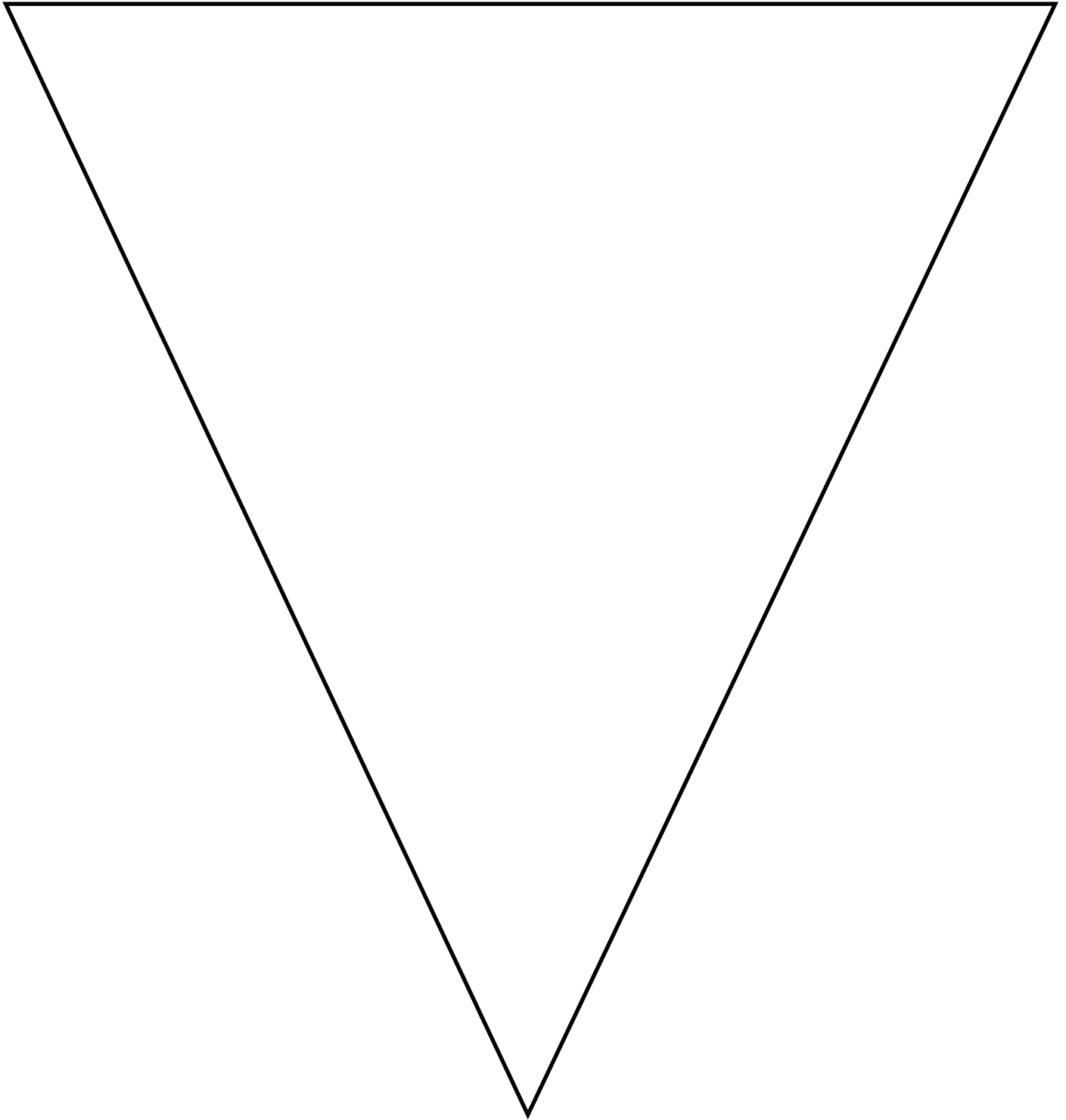




## Victory in Europe 2

There were lots of street parties after peace was declared. Lots of people celebrated by putting up bunting in their streets. Decorate your own bunting flag here!

Have a go at creating your own bunting below!



# Weblinks

History Bombs WW2- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fw6e9YBJUDc&t=15s>

Tudor House Shorts WW2 Gas Masks- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYJV5X3uk3Q>

The WW2 Rationing Quiz- <https://www.tryinteract.com/share/quiz/5ea83e8445dcd5001446f1f6>

Woolton Pie recipe- <https://the1940sexperiment.com/2016/03/13/the-original-lord-woolton-pie-recipe-no-151/>

## Answers

**Page 3** The dot-to-dot puzzle is of a German incendiary device. These were packed full of flammable chemicals that caused buildings to burn down. It's estimated that over 30,000 of these fell on Southampton during the War and most of the buildings that were destroyed were done so by these rather than by larger high-explosive bombs.

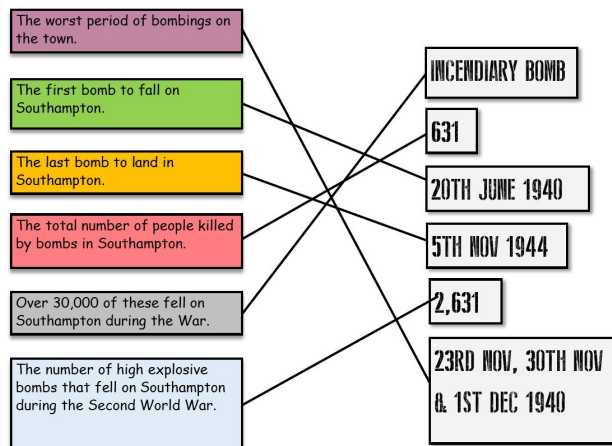
**Page 4** The following were targets for Germany's airforce- Railway stations, Aircraft factories, Docks, Civic Centre

**Page 5** 1: Sep 1939; 2: Jan 1940; 3: August 1940; 4: Jan 1939

**Page 6** A- Children under 2 and a half; B- Babies in prams; C- Adults

**Page 13** Brick-built Shelter: D; Public

**Page 14**



**Page 15** This image is the front of a leaflet explaining what you must do when the air-raid sirens sounded. Have you noticed that the people in the picture seem to be on alert: listening out for the air-raid shelter to tell them to find a place of safety. Even though they are at home, they must always be prepared.

