



Discover - Britain at War



Timeline

1939	1939	1940	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1945
On 1st September Germany invades Poland.	On 3rd September England declares war on Germany.	10 th May, Winston Churchill replaces Neville.	12 th May German forces enter France.	USA declares war on Italy and Germany.	British troops win back North Africa.	Italy surrenders to the Allies.	6 th June D-Day Landings on Normandy beaches.	Hitler commits suicide.	Japan surrenders on 2 nd September and the end of war is declared.

Key Vocabulary

Anderson Shelter	Half buried in the ground to protect people from the bomb blasts.
Blackout	All windows and doors had to be covered at night to stop enemy aircraft seeing house lights.
Blitz	The sustained Ariel bombing against Britain.
Evacuee	Moving children to areas of less risk.
Gas mask	Issued to all civilians to protect from gas attacks.
Kristallnacht	Nazis torched synagogues and vandalised Jewish homes.
Nazis	AH and the Nazi party controlled Germany between 1933-45
Rations	Only a certain amount of food/clothes per family was allowed.
Star of David	Jews were forced to wear the Star of David to clearly identify themselves.
Swastika	An ancient symbol of a cross with arms at a right angle; an emblem for the Nazi Party.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Battle of Britain, between the German Luftwaffe and the Royal Air Force, was the first ever battle to be fought only in the air (known as dog fighting). It lasted from 10 July – 30 October 1940.

General Knowledge

Who and Why?

Allies: Great Britain, France, Soviet Union, China and USA
 Axis Powers: Germany, Italy and Japan
 70 million people lost their lives (24 million from the Soviet Union). France and England declared war on Germany after they invaded Poland and the USA joined the war effort after the Japanese bombed the American fleet in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.

The Jewish Community

Around six million Jewish people were killed during World War 2 in one of history's most terrible events – the Holocaust. Racist in his views, Hitler blamed Jewish people for Germany losing World War I and claimed they were dangerous to German people and society.

Home Guard

Set up in May 1940 as Britain's 'last line of defence' against German invasion, members of this 'Dad's Army' were usually men above or below the age of conscription and those unfit or ineligible for front line military service. 1.5 million enrolled and supported the war effort through bomb disposal, manning anti-aircraft artillery and readied for invasion.

Famous Figures

Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940)

British Prime Minister from 1937-1940; Chamberlain was Prime Minister when Britain declared war on Germany.

Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

British Prime Minister from 1940 to 1945, then again from 1951 to 1955. He is famous for his speeches that inspired people to keep on fighting.

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945)

German dictator during World War II, and leader of the Nazi political party.

Benito Mussolini (1883-1945)

Italian dictator during World War II, and leader of the Fascists. Joined forces with Hitler as one of the Axis powers.

Franklin D Roosevelt (1882-1945)

United States President during most of WWII.

Joseph Stalin (1878-1953) Leader of the Soviet Union during World War II.

Hideki Tojo (1884-1948) Japanese leader and military general.