Second World War

Max the mouse continues his time-travelling adventures through British history...

After the horrors of WWI, Europe was dragged through another World War. Thanks to Nazi Germany and its leader, Adolf Hitler in 1939.

Hitler decided he’d like to take over most of Europe. Britain declared war on Germany in a bid to stop them.

Fearing a bombing campaign from Germany, 800,000 children were evacuated to the countryside for safety. Each child carried two sets of clothes, a little bit of food and a gas mask.

PARR!

O! Turn that light out!

Hi, my name is worse than an air raid siren!

PARP!

Now I know what the gas mask is for!

Pardon me!

In August 1940, Germany began bombing Britain. To protect themselves, Londoners used the London Underground as an air raid shelter and slept on the platforms.

Hi, my name is worse than an air raid siren!

ZZZ!

Mmmm... I think I feel a bit sleepy...

People were also encouraged to build their own shelters in their back garden. They were called Anderson Shelters and were made of corrugated steel. Some people still have them in their gardens today!

They’d better mind my geraniums!

Meanwhile, in the air the RAF were defending against Germany’s invading airforce, in what was known as The Battle of Britain. We even had help from our friends from Poland with their own airforce!

We’re in Pold position to win!

The German Navy blocked goods getting through to Britain, so food and other supplies were low. Food was rationed to make sure everyone got their fair share. Ration books were used to keep tabs.

Gasp! How can you expect a mouse to survive on a small crumb of cheese?!

I’ll never throw away my favourite old jumper!

As with WWII, women proved vital at home, working in factories, driving tanks, as air raid wardens and many other jobs. There was even a Women’s Land Army where women worked on farms growing food.

Make Do And Mend was also introduced to encourage people to reuse old clothes and fix broken furniture. People were taught how to sew and how to make coats from blankets.

Literally nothing left of the original!

By 1945 the allies, including Britain, had beaten Germany and their ‘Axis’ of countries. People took to the streets for what is now known as VE Day (Victory in Europe).

What followed was the longest period of peace in Europe in history!

There was also a blackout imposed to stop enemy planes seeing lights from towns and cities. Unfortunately it made life very hard and there were many accidents!

SONAR!

All I can see is stars!

White stripes were painted on roads and people were encouraged to leave British flags hanging out so cars could see them!

Hay!

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