

Connecting, Sharing, Learning: Second World War



A resource exploring

- Battle of Britain
- Children's experiences
- Rationing and Food
- Wartime Fashion
- Animals and War



WAR AND CONFLICT

Subject Specialist Network

With the kind support of

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Esmée
Fairbairn
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Fund

This resource was produced as part of the project *Connecting, sharing, learning: sustaining relationships between collections and older communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

The project, which ran from July 2020 to July 2021, was kindly supported by The Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund, delivered by the Museums Association.

We would like to thank our audiences, care providers and project partners, for helping to make this project so rewarding in many different ways.

- Age Exchange
- AgeUK Manchester
- Archives and Cornish Studies Service, Kresen Kernow
- Believe in Me CIC
- Bodmin Keep: Cornwall's Army Museum
- Digital Drama
- Hastings Digital Museum
- Melbourn Springs Care Home, part of the Barchester group
- RAF Museum
- Refugees in Rhyl
- Surrey Heritage
- Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums
- U3A Portsmouth
- University of Derby
- University of Manchester
- Worcestershire Regiment Museum



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In 2020 we marked the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. IWM worked with our project partners to share items from our Second World War collections. We put together short films and this booklet looking at what life was like in 1940 for men, women, children and even animals!

Ideas for using this resource

- Watch our selection of short films (all 5 minutes or less) which include photographs, artworks, objects, words and music.
- Read through the questions in this booklet, and have a chat with your family or carer about them.
- Try out the word search, and if you have colouring pencils there are pictures that you can complete.

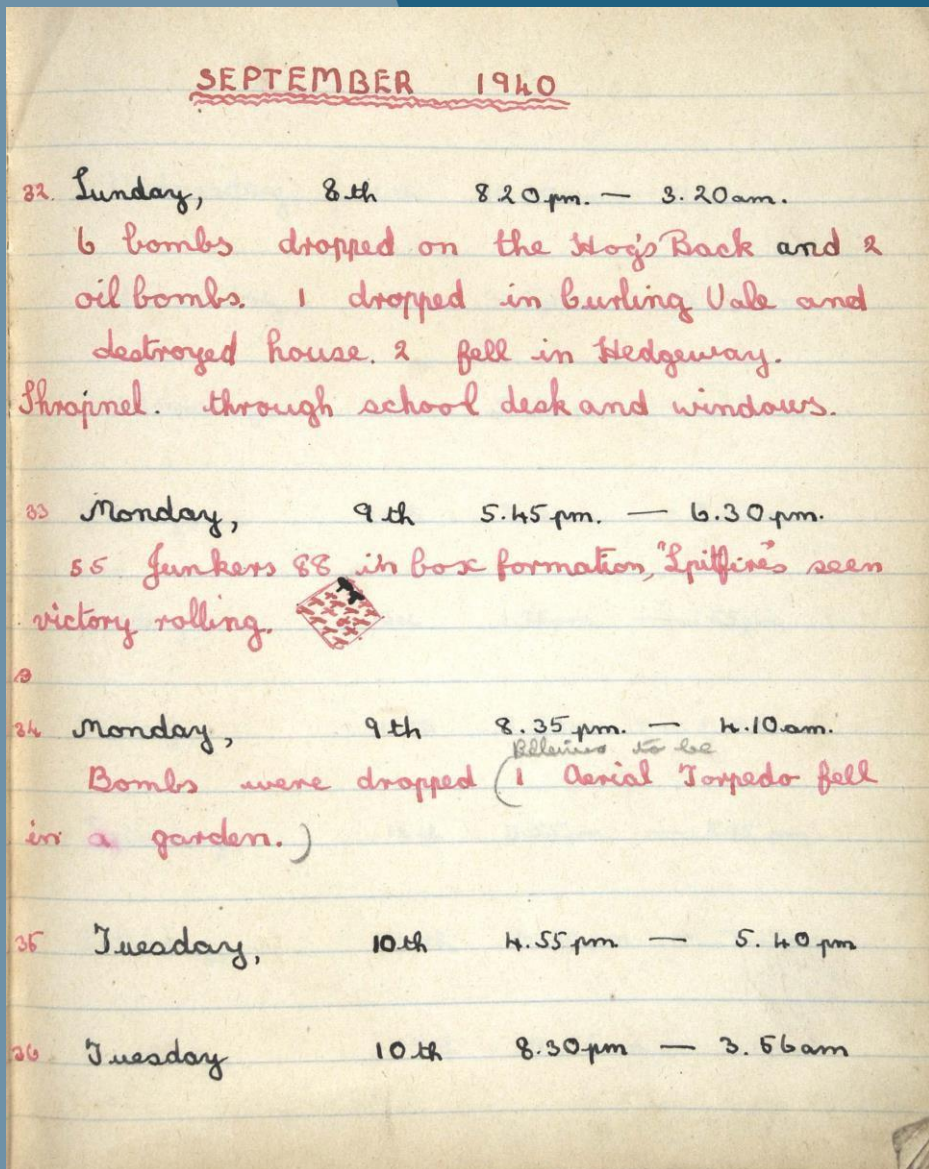
The Battle of Britain – watch the film and think about the questions below.

The Battle of Britain was a fight between German and British air forces in the skies over southern England, between July and October 1940.

Do you remember the Battle of Britain, or were you told stories about it?

Do you, or any of your family or friends, have medals from the Second World War?

Have you seen any war films, like the 1969 film Battle of Britain? Is there a film that you especially liked, and why was that?

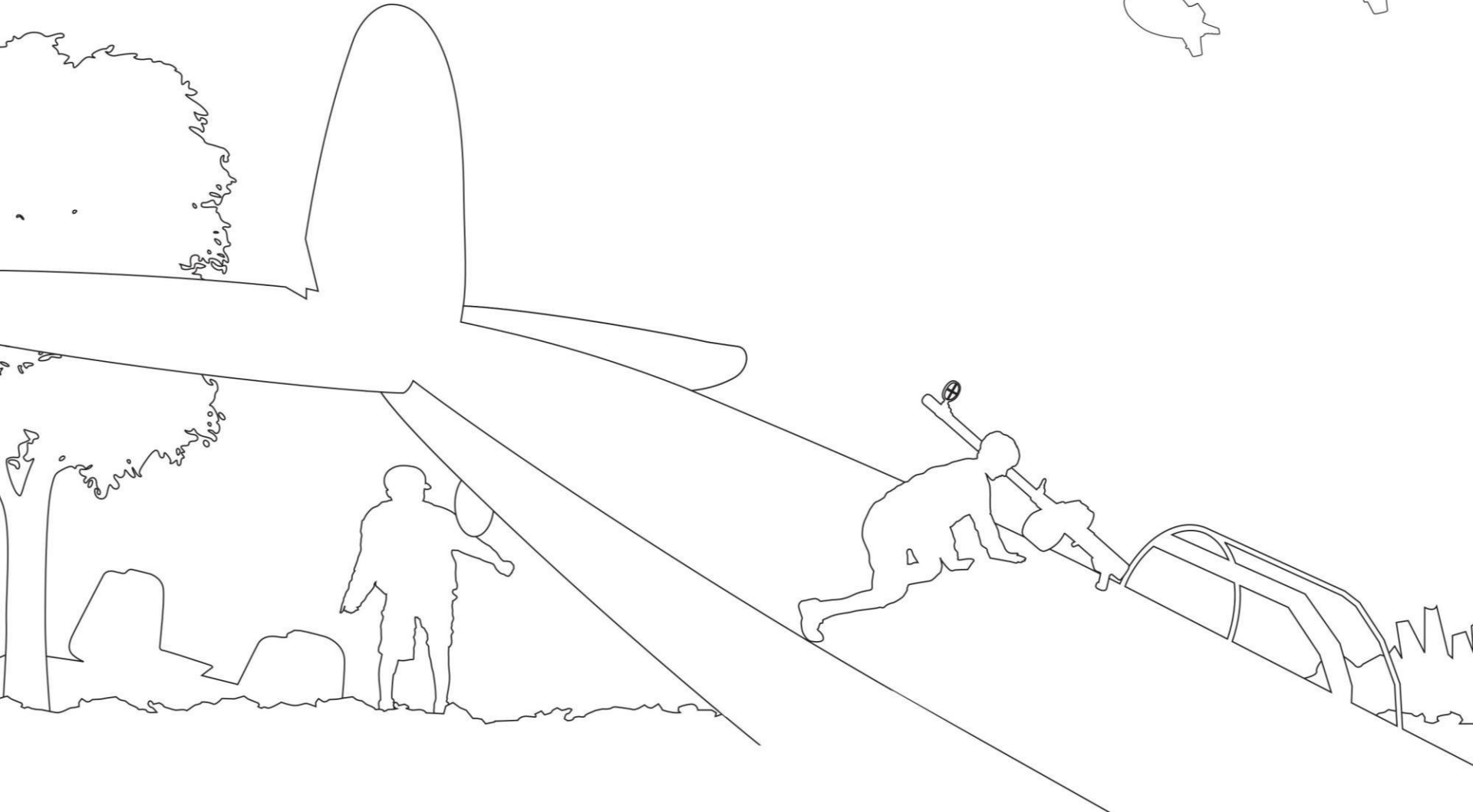


This is a diary kept by a schoolboy during the Battle of Britain. Did you keep a diary as a child?

Bomb and crash sites made tempting play areas for children, and hunting grounds for shrapnel souvenirs.

What 'mischief' did you get up to as a child?

Colour in this picture.



Children's experiences

– watch the film and think about the questions below.

Can you remember any special toys or presents you received?

Did you watch any wartime parades where you grew up? How did they make you feel? What music was played?

Were you evacuated, or do you remember evacuee children coming to live in your village, town or city?

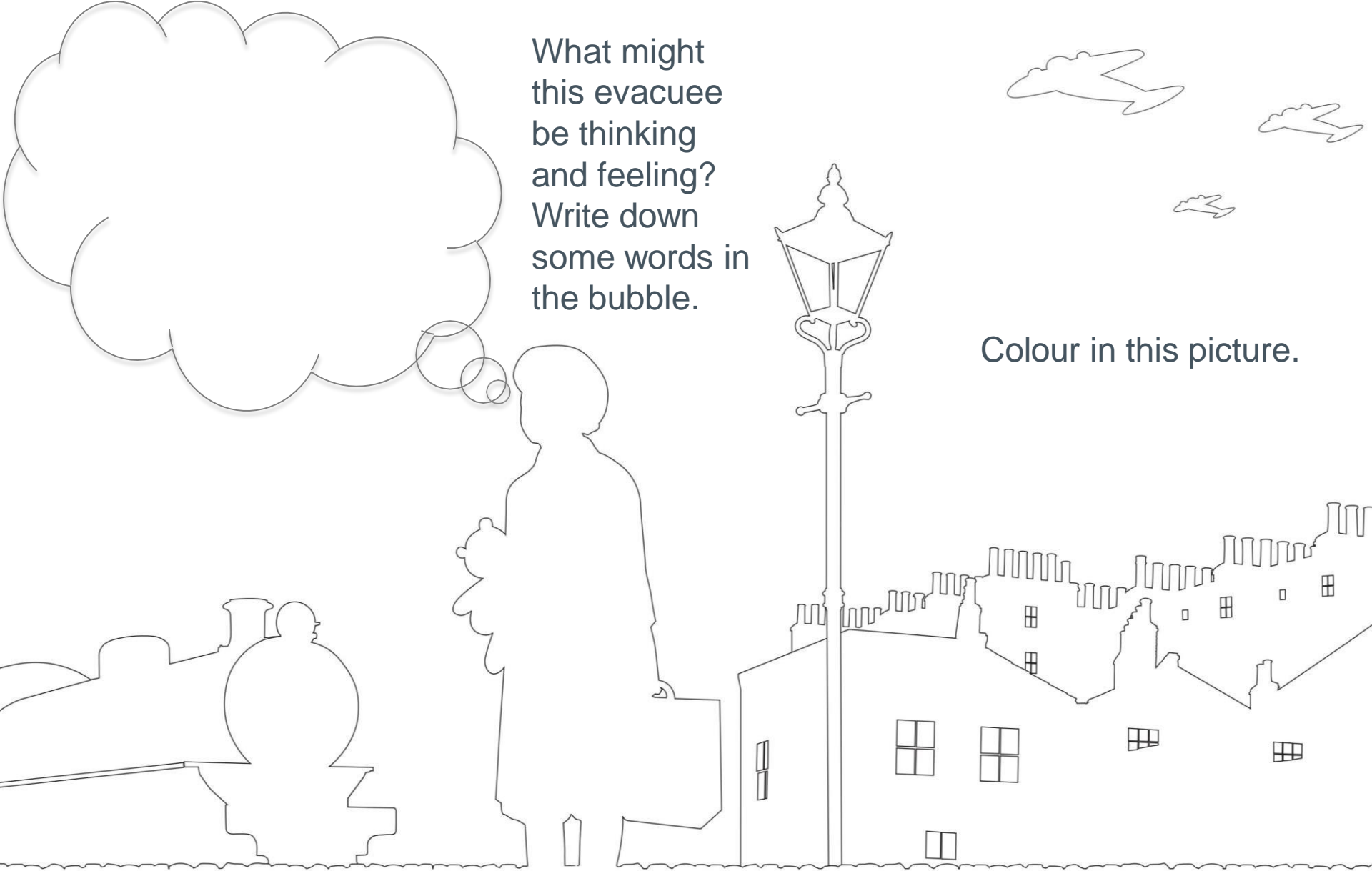


What games did you enjoy playing indoors and outdoors?

Did you go on picnics as a child? Where did you go, and what did you do?

What might
this evacuee
be thinking
and feeling?
Write down
some words in
the bubble.

Colour in this picture.



Rationing and food - watch the film and complete the sentences below.

My favourite food as a child was

I didn't like

As a treat, we had

The food I missed most during rationing was

The meals we ate during rationing were

Did you have a vegetable patch at home
or an allotment?
If so, what did you grow?

ON HIS MAJESTY'S
SERVICE.

OFFICIAL PAID

Consumer's Name PIPEA Jessie H
Address 6 Alma St

SOUTH SHIELDS

Date of Issue 8 JUL 1940
FOUND, RETURN DS.
FOOD OFFICE.

Serial Number of Book. JX 566627

R.B. 1. [General] FCAP 2672

This cover must not be detached from the Ration Book. OPEN CAREFULLY

Ration book from 1940.

© Tyne and Wear Archives and
Museums G1395.6

Maximum weekly ration for an adult during the war:

Bacon and Ham	4oz (113g)
Other meat	Equivalent of 2 chops
Butter	2oz (56g)
Cheese	2oz (56g)
Margarine	4oz (113g)
Cooking fat	4oz (113g)
Milk	3 pints
Sugar	8oz (226g)
Preserves	1lb (453g) every two months
Tea	2oz (56g)
Eggs	1 fresh egg (plus 12 dried eggs per month after 1942)
Sweets	3oz (85g)

Food rationing was introduced in January 1940 to share food that had become hard to get, in a fair and equal way. Everyone had ration books with coupons inside that they could exchange for food at certain shops. Rationing of some foods continued until 1954.



Weekly food ration for two people.

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

**We have hidden
the rationed foods
listed below in the
word search. Can
you find them?**

BACON

BUTTER

CHEESE

EGGS

FAT

HAM

MARGARINE

MEAT

MILK

PRESERVES

SUGAR

SWEETS

TEA

Wartime Fashion – watch the film and think about the questions below.

Which wartime clothing shown on the film would you most like to wear? What would this feel like against your skin?

Which clothing and fashions can you remember from your childhood? Do you remember utility clothing and the CC41 labels sewn into clothes?

Did you learn how to 'Make Do and Mend' by repairing clothes? Were you taught to sew or knit at home or school?



Did you admire any film or music stars for their fashion sense during the 1940s?

Animals and war - watch the film and complete the sentences below.

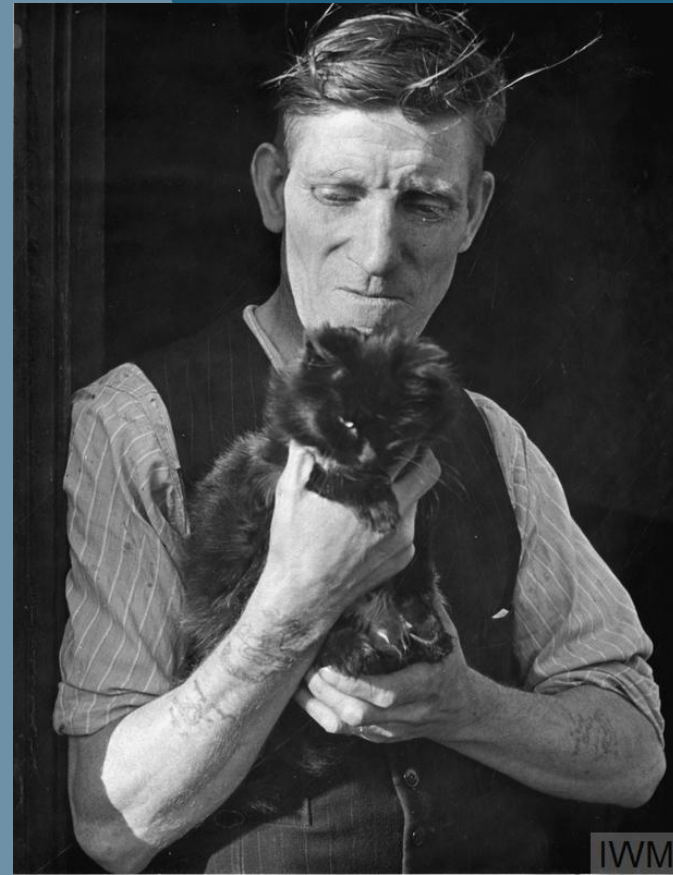
My favourite animal picture in the film was ...

Animals were important to people during the war because ...

Can you think of any animals that might have helped during the war, such as messenger pigeons?

Did you or your friends have a pet as a child – what was their name?

What did the pet look and feel like, and did they do anything funny?



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We hope that you enjoyed exploring stories from the Second World War. If you would like to find out more, here are some useful websites:

www.bodminkeep.org

www.digitaldrama.org

www.eastgrinsteadmuseum.org.uk/guinea-pig-club

www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk

www.iwm.org.uk

www.kresenkernow.org

www.rafmuseum.org.uk

www.twmuseums.org.uk

www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/battle-of-britain