

WW2 Box

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Map of 'Where the Flying Bombs fell in Kent'

Map of 'Where the Flying Bombs fell in Kent'

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Bomb damage on Wickenden Road, Sevenoaks

Bomb damage on Wickenden Road, Sevenoaks

Picture D

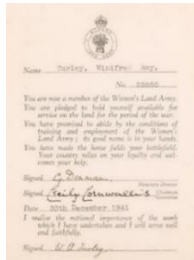


Real incendiary bomb © Kent County Council Sevenoaks Museum

Real incendiary bomb © Kent County Council Sevenoaks Museum



Picture E Photograph of Sevenoaks Home Guard in training



Picture F Photograph and undertaking relating to Winifred Turley in the Women's Land Army © Kent County Council Sevenoaks Museum



Picture G Photograph of Royal Air Force Flight Sergeant Vincent Bunting from Jamaica and Wing Commander Adolph Malan from South Africa at Biggin Hill



Picture H Real civil defence helmet © Kent County Council Sevenoaks Museum



Picture I Section of embroidery made by evacuees © Kent County Council Sevenoaks Museum

Discussion topics

Under Attack



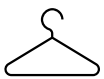
Picture B, Picture C

The map, originally printed at the end of WW2, shows where bombs were dropped in Kent.

[Can you see if any bombs dropped where you live?](#)

Shoreham was the most bombed village in the whole of the United Kingdom.

The photograph shows two houses on Wickenden Road in Sevenoaks, 1945, after they were destroyed by a V2 rocket. In this attack, 13 people were wounded and 9 people died.



Object 12

It wasn't just bombing that people in Kent were at risk from. All civilians had to carry gas masks a bit like this one in case of poisonous gas attack. You can try it on.



Object 2, Object 3, Picture 4

The small object is a real tail fin of a German incendiary bomb, found in a garden in Westerham. These bombs were designed to start fires.

The complete incendiary bomb is a replica.

The picture shows a real incendiary bomb from the museum collection, found on Seal Road in 1942.

57, 500 incendiaries were dropped in the Sevenoaks District during WW2.



Picture A, Picture I

In 1939, Sevenoaks accepted 7,000 evacuees from London.

The evacuated children were processed at Sevenoaks cattle market by Tubs Hill station (shown in photograph) before being sent to Underriver and Seal.

Picture I shows a section of an embroidery made by children from Camberwell, South London, who were evacuated to Underriver in Sevenoaks. It is part of a much larger object on display in Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope.

The people in this scene are wearing objects on their backs.
What are they?

Gas masks.

It was believed the children would be safe from German air raids in Kent, but it was not long before children from Sevenoaks were also being evacuated further afield.

How would feel about being evacuated?

Fighting back

The Battle of Britain was fought in the air during the summer and autumn of 1940.

The Biggin Hill air squadron near Sevenoaks was the first to claim 1000 victories over enemy aircraft.

Though only men were fighter pilots, women in the Auxiliary Air Force worked on aircraft maintenance, transport and communications, and were also exposed to great danger.

After the Battle of Britain, Prime Minister Winston Churchill (who lived in nearby Westerham) said these famous words:

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."



Object 17

This is a model of a Spitfire plane, a replica of those flown by RAF pilots.



Picture G

The pilots of Fighter Command were not just from this country, they came from nations all over the Commonwealth, some of which were still part of the British Empire at that time.

This photograph was taken at Biggin Hill in 1943. On the left is Flight Sergeant Vincent Bunting from Jamaica, and on the right is Wing Commander Adolph Malan from South Africa.



Object 5

Can you guess what these are?

What is the purpose of their design?

British Army trigger mittens.

They keep the hand warm whilst allowing the trigger finger to stay in place ready to shoot.

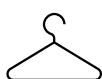
Mittens are warmer than gloves, because they hold in warm air in the spaces between your fingers.



Object 9

Soldiers had to travel long distances without access to a running water supply. They carried water with them but needed their hands free to hold their weapons.

This bottle belonged to a member of the St John's Ambulance, who provided medical support to soldiers and civilians.



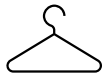
Object 16

Try on this replica army tunic, the type worn in combat.

What makes this jacket useful for wearing in combat?

Colour blends in with rural landscape, providing camouflage.
Front pockets which you could keep a wound dressing in.
Warm, hard-wearing material. Cut at waist length which aids flexibility.

The Home Front



Object 8

This is a replica helmet of the kind worn by all civil defence units in WW2. You can try it on.



Picture H

This a photograph of a real helmet from the museum collection, worn by a WW2 first aider in Otford.

Why do you think this style of helmet was useful, compared to say a bicycle helmet style?

Protects you from things falling down on you, rather than you falling on something. The wide brim gives extra protection around the neck area but does not limit movement or vision.



Object 4

What is this object? What do you think a fire guard was?

Fire Guards generally wore civilian clothes, so wore arm bands like this to identify them when they were on post. They dealt with small fires caused by incendiaries.

This arm band was worn by Joy Pennells when it was her turn to be on duty at Cobden Road School, Sevenoaks.

Fire Guards were generally issued with a helmet, a torch, a stirrup pump (to put out small fires), a scoop for picking up incendiaries, and a bucket of sand to put them out. Both men and women took on this duty.



Objects 6 and 7

What do you think the letters ARP stand for on these badges?

Air Raid Precautions. Badge worn by Air Raid Warden.

The main job of an Air Raid Warden was to patrol the streets and ensure no lights were visible to enemy planes during air raids. These events were called blackouts. They would also help guide people to public shelters and distribute prefabricated shelters for people to install in their homes or gardens.

Chipstead 'Caves' (tunnel works for extracting sand on the hillside south of Chipstead High Street) was one of the locations used as a public air raid shelter at start of WW2. Electricity and bunk beds were installed for more than 100 local people.



Object 1

This object was used during air raid black outs.

Can you guess what it is and why it was useful?

Bicycle lamp with hood shape to direct light down, so as not to draw attention to enemy planes.



Picture E

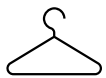
This photograph from 1941 shows men of the 20th (Sevenoaks) battalion of the Kent Home Guard in training at Chelsfield. They are learning how to use a bomb projector.

Can you guess what some of the duties of the Home Guard were?

To observe and report on enemy movements and defend certain locations such as factories, which were vital to the protection of the area. They even shot down the occasional enemy plane from the ground.

What kind of men were in the Home Guard?

Men too old or young to be soldiers, or with disabilities which meant they could not join the army.



Object 13

Have a go at wrapping a wound dressing on your class mate who has just been injured by some shrapnel!



Object 14, Object 15

First Aid items.

Shell dressings were issued by the Home Office. The packet consists of a gauze pad attached to a bandage for wrapping around a wound. The pad is wrapped in a waterproof cover inside the cotton cover.

A triangular bandage could be used as a sling to immobilise an injured limb or joint, or used to put pressure on a wound.

Boots chemists first opened in Sevenoaks in 1912 and is still here on our high street.



Object 10, Object 11

These are replicas of a ration book and rationed food items.

The scarcity of food, fuel and other materials due to lack of overseas imports, plus the demand to provide for the army, meant that people were restricted to only the essentials.

The weekly approximate allowance for an adult was butter (50g), bacon (3 slices), 1 egg, cheese (50g), lard (160g), meat (224g), tea (50g), sugar (224g).

Civilians were required to grow vegetables at home. Many gardens and school playing fields were turned into allotments.

Even after the war ended, rationing continued, because the country's resources had been exhausted.



Picture F

Whilst most working age men were at war, The Women's Land Army took over farm work and the mass production of food.

The photograph is Winifred Turley, a member the WLA in Sevenoaks. The document is the undertaking which she signed when she joined.

Even the WLA were exposed to danger in their work. Miss C Payne from Sevenoaks was one of 9 women in Kent presented bravery awards after coming under fire whilst harvesting crops.