

YEAR 6 HISTORY KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: NORTON AT WAR (1)

Prior learning				In Year 4, we studied World War Two and how it affected daily life in Britain. We learnt that Adolf Hitler led Germany through a period of change in the 1930s as the country worked hard to re-establish itself as a major power in Europe after their defeat in WW1. It was the German invasion of Poland in 1939 that led to Great Britain and France declaring war. For the next six years, fighting took place in the air, in the seas and on land across Europe, Africa, and in the Pacific. Many countries became involved in the conflict. It is estimated that about 50 million lives were lost, with many more people injured or displaced, before the Germans surrendered in May 1945. The war, which had spread into South East Asia, finally ended with the Japanese surrender to the USA a few months later.
	Adolf Hitler	Winston Churchill	The Evacuation	

TIMELINE

THE HOME FRONT	1st September: Blackouts and evacuation begin; British Army is mobilized September Identity cards introduced Petrol is rationed Food Rationing; Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister; The Home Guard is formed; British cities are heavily bombed Clothing is rationed; All men and women, aged between 18 and 60, are required to be available for some kind of national service; Air raid shelters 1942 First US Troops arrive in Great Britain; Petrol no longer allowed for civilians 1943 D-Day Landings practised in Devon V1 and V2 Rockets strike Great Britain; Evacuation comes to an end; The Home Guard stands down The demobilisation of the Armed Forces begins; Street parties held for VE Day; Winston Churchill's government loses the general election					
	The 1930s	1939	1940	1941	1944	1945
Hitler rises to power in Germany, which becomes an industrial superpower; Austria and Czechoslovakia annexed by the Germans	1st September: Hitler's troops invaded Poland 3rd September: Britain and France declare war on Germany; Austria and Czechoslovakia annexed by the Germans	May-June Battle for France ends with the evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk in northern France; Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium and France fall under German control July-September The German Airforce attacks military targets in Great Britain, then targets cities with huge bombing raids	June: The Germans invade Russia with a huge army December: The bombing of Pearl Harbour in Hawaii by the Japanese brings the United States into the war	6th June D-Day: the allies invade German-occupied France in the Normandy Landings 30th August German troops were driven out of France.	January The Germans suffer a huge defeat in Belgium. 7th May Germany surrenders to the Allies 8th May VE Day (Victory in Europe) Day. August US drop atomic bombs on two Japanese cities 2nd September Official end of the war: Japan surrendered. (VJ Day)	

YEAR 6 HISTORY KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: NORTON AT WAR (2)

What was Norton like during WW2?

- Norton, at the start of WW2, was largely a self-sufficient community. Most people lived and worked in and around the village throughout their lives, especially those who worked in agriculture, food, and essential supplies.
- There was a small school serving Norton only, although there were other small schools in local villages which have since closed.
- When war broke out, it was still quite unusual to see cars or farm vehicles on the roads. As a result, it would have been much quieter with much less traffic
- Village buildings were spread along the routes in and out of the village
- Traditional building methods were evident, eg flint, brick, thatch, and timber frames. Many houses from the time or much earlier remain to this day.
- Attending church was expected, and part of the way of life. St Andrew's parish church, the Baptist church, and the Salvation Army church had all existed in the village for many years. Communities were very religious
- The village included two post-offices, six pubs or beer houses, a mill, two butchers, three bakeries, two general stores, a petrol pump, a blacksmith, a doctor's surgery, a police station
- The majority of the employment in the village was linked to the land in some way with many employed as farm labourers



Vocabulary

conflict	A fight, struggle or disagreement
source	The person, place or thing from which something comes
evidence	Anything that gives people reason to believe something
community	The people living in a particular area
census	An official count or survey of a population
account	Description of an event/something that happened
home front	Activities of a nation at home, engaged in a war abroad
agriculture	Cultivating land/rearing livestock: farming

Thank you to Mr D Burt for the access to his village archives

Historical Evidence

How do we know about Norton's past?

Primary Sources of Historical Evidence:

- Living local residents (who would need to be about 80 years old or more to remember WW2)
- Photos, newspapers, letters, business documents, birth/death/christening/marriage registers
- buildings, materials, household objects/artefacts, church records, land records, military records, school records, news/film reel, books/music/art/films from the period, maps
- Censuses (population, ages, occupations, addresses etc)

Secondary sources:

- Books, articles about local history, talking to local historians, Village Website, Facebook Page, Norton Messenger

Cecil Brinkley

The name Cecil Brinkley features on the village war memorial. He was born in Norton in 1925, the eleventh of twelve children. He served with the 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment.

Cecil fought in the D-Day landings in 1944, but was killed in action two months later, aged 18; He is buried in Normandy. Five of his six brothers also saw active service overseas during World War 2.

