

PEPYS VICTORY CARD GAME

The Army, Navy and RAF cards probably need no explanation, but some might be useful on the Home Front cards.



ARP Warden

After the First World War calculations suggested that enemy bombers in any future conflict would be able to inflict around 120 civilian casualties for every ton of bombs dropped. As a result of the German bombing of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War considerable adjustment had to be made to British casualty estimates. In 1938 the Air Ministry predicted that London would have 64,000 injured or dead on a weekly basis. They expected 1 million casualties in the first month of any war (in fact the government did order 1 million coffins when war was declared!). The ARP or Air Raid Precautions was responsible for the issuing of gas masks and basic fire fighting and first aid. The

ARP Warden patrolled the streets nightly to ensure that no lights were showing to assist any bombers to find targets.



Auxiliary Fireman

These were unpaid volunteers who assisted the regular Fire Service at a local level. After the war in 1948 the service was reorganised and they had their own fire stations supplied with 1000 Bedford RLHZ Self Propelled Pump vehicles (the famous Green Goddesses). The service was disbanded in 1968.



The Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS)

This service for women was formed firstly during the First World War but disbanded in 1921. Prior to the Second World War it was reformed and at the outbreak there were 300 serving in France and in fact some of the ATS telephonists were among the very last to be brought back from Dunkirk. By 1941 there were 65,000 women in the ATS. They were paid just two thirds of the pay that the men received. At the end of 1941 the National Service Act was passed which meant that all unmarried women were called up to one of the auxiliary services. Later even married women who had no children or were not pregnant were also called up.



The Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD)

This service was begun in 1909 at first to supply voluntary assistance mainly in hospitals. During the First World War it was extremely useful and successful. When the Second World War began the service was again expanded to cope with the extra demands on hospital services. These auxiliary nurses gave sterling service at military hospitals mainly in the UK. There were around 15,000 of them during the war and many went on to become fully qualified nurses.



The Women's Land Army (WLA)

The Land Girls, as they were popularly known, were recruited and organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries during the Second World War. Some were volunteers but many more were serving their National Service in this field. By 1944 there were 80,000 members. They helped to replace farm workers and staff in horticultural businesses.



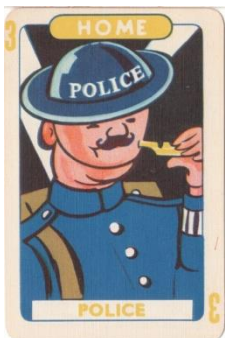
Ambulance Driver

Women were also recruited in a mixture of volunteers and conscripts. They drove ambulances in Britain and abroad well behind the battlefield. They were also part of the ATS.



Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF)

In 1943 there were over 180,000 WAFs in service and huge numbers of women were applying to join. They worked in such fields as aircraft maintenance, parachute packing, radar, plotters in operations rooms etc etc.



Police

At the outbreak of war there were around 60,000 police in the UK. As reservists were called up numbers decreased and recruiting began for Police Reservists and Special Constables. In addition many officers who were due to retire stayed on in this time of crisis. Because of the war police had extra duties to their usual peacetime ones. They had to enforce the blackout regulations and help with rescue work during the bombing amongst many other tasks. By 1944 there were 43,000 regular officers plus 17,000 specials and reservists. The attempt to recruit women officers was not very successful as the numbers only increased from 300 before the war to 385 by 1944.



Cook

Domestic cooking and restaurant food were changed dramatically by the strict rationing of food during the war. In restaurants and cafés male staff had been called up and were replaced by women a lot of whom came from Ireland or were refugees from Europe. At home the housewife had a thankless task to produce good nourishing food with a very limited allowance per person per week. Government departments were assisted by chefs and dieticians to offer suitable recipes for the meagre meat rations.



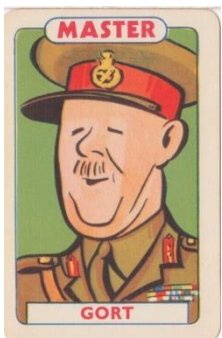
Chamberlain

Arthur Neville Chamberlain was a Conservative politician elected as Prime Minister in 1937. He was a signatory to the Munich Agreement in 1938 in which the UK, France and Italy conceded the German speaking part of Czechoslovakia to Hitler's Germany in the mistaken belief that this would "appease" Germany and stop their expansion. Chamberlain was wrong, of course, and the following year Germany invaded Poland. As the UK and France had allied themselves to Poland after the Munich Agreement Chamberlain was forced to declare war on Germany. After Germany Invaded Norway in 1940 and the Allies had to withdraw from there Chamberlain resigned because the Labour and Liberal parties would not take part in an all party government with him as Prime Minister. He was replaced by Churchill.



Churchill

Winston Spencer Churchill had been in government since before the First World War. He had been a vociferous opponent of Germany's actions during the pre war years and when Chamberlain resigned he was the obvious choice to be Prime Minister. He was supported by all parties and became a very important part of the UK's war effort with his personality and his rousing speeches on radio. After the war was won, however, the electorate rejected him in the 1945 elections in favour of a Labour government under Clement Attlee.



Gort

John Standish Surtees Prendergast Vereker, 6th Viscount Gort was the commander of the British Expeditionary Force which was sent to France at the beginning of the war and had to be evacuated from Dunkirk eventually. He had a distinguished career in the army and had been awarded the VC for leading a successful attack on a gun battery during the First World War despite being severely wounded. This escapade earned him the nickname Tiger Gort. Later he became governor of Gibraltar and went on to be Governor of Malta. In this role he extended the Malta Airfield runway over land reclaimed from the sea in spite of being told by the UK government not to do so. This airfield proved to be vital during the British Mediterranean campaign later in the war. It was whilst he was in Malta that he was appointed to the rank of Field Marshall. He died in 1946



Newall

Air Chief Marshall Sir Cyril Newall was appointed in 1937 he was responsible for ensuring that finance was available for the development of the Hurricane and Spitfire aircraft. He also resisted the push to send British bomber aircraft at the beginning of the war to France during the French collapse under the German advance. This meant that Britain still had the bomber force available which would have been lost if based in France. Newall had many political enemies and was sacked following the Battle of Britain.