

Trystan's project was presented in a folder:

Cover title: ***World War 2 Project
By Trystan Figueres***

First page:

My idea!!!

For my project I decided to ask my great uncle and Auntie if they would write me their memoirs of World War 2.

So they did and I liked it so much I decided to ask some questions about it and email them to them.

Once they replied I was going to publish them as a newspaper but their answers were so interesting I didn't want to leave any bits out so I decided to present them like this instead.

I have found a poem that I liked and created my own word search. I also included some game instructions my uncle told me about called Fox and Geese which people used to play in the war. Perhaps we could play it in school.

Hope you like my project.

Trystan

As well as the rules for Fox and Geese, Trystan included a list of War-Time Rations.

Questions based on Uncle Ian's memoirs.

Do you think the rations were fair? Do you feel you had enough of everything? What did you miss the most?

I believe that most people accepted that the war would bring many difficulties. Older people (those alive during the First World War, 1914-1918) remembered that by 1918 many foodstuffs were rationed or unobtainable. These restrictions lasted into 1919 even though the state of war had ended. They assumed that much the same would be true when rationing was introduced in late 1939. Shortages arose from loss of shipping because of submarine attacks by the German navy. Paying for imported food and weapons and essential materials to make war reduced the wealth of the country. Only a small amount of goods were exported so that there was very little money to buy from overseas.

I never remember being hungry. We had home grown vegetables including potatoes and in season there were fruits such as apples, pears and plums. I suspect people who lived in the large cities were less fortunate than we were.

There were laws against the 'Black Market' where traders dealt in stolen ration foods or other rationed items. Those buying or selling paid large fines or were sent to prison. It was not illegal to exchange rations for other items but this was usually among friends or acquaintances.

I would have liked to have had more butter, cheese, eggs, bacon and meat but we made the best of what could be had. Offal such as brains, kidneys and liver and sausages were all off ration but only available from time to time. Supplies of fish were limited by the size of the catches made by the trawlers and this was dangerous work because of mines at sea or German warships attacking British ships of any kind.

Were the schools more strict than usual during the war?

The Junior School I attended worked 'as usual' except that from about 6 years of age we helped to clean the class rooms using a substance called 'Dustmo' which made grit and other materials easier to sweep into dustpans. It smelled of tar.

In the year 1944-45 I was in the first year of the grammar school where the young men teachers had been replaced by married women graduates. I doubt if they were any more strict than the men they had replaced.

Were you scared when war was declared?

At six years of age I saw soldiers with guns and various wartime services such as Air Raid Wardens carrying gas masks and steel

helmets. We knew that the Germans might invade Britain and this sounded very frightening; so too did the idea of being bombed. In fact the Germans did not invade although the nearby cities of Bristol and Bath were bombed.

What exactly did the barrage balloons look like? I have heard they looked like Blimps.

A blimp is another name for a barrage balloon.

Did you have any holidays abroad during the war? Was this even allowed?

Travel overseas was forbidden. It was necessary to have urgent war business to go overseas and that required such passengers to travel on merchant ships, war ships, or in RAF aircraft. Foreign holidays had always been possible for rich people before 1939. Air travel was expensive and sea journeys were not quick.

Did you ever feel really cold during the war because of the rationing of coal?

Only wealthy people had central heating so most people had a fire in one room and dressed in warm clothing in colder weather – woollen vests and pants, thick knitted pullovers and tweed jackets for boys. Girls dressed to keep warm too. Coal was used to make gas and electricity so the motto was '*Waste not, want not*'.

When you saw the wrecked German plane, did you see the German pilot?

By the time we saw wrecked aircraft injured airmen had been taken to hospital and any dead people had been removed.

Did you ever shoot your father's rifle or sten gun?

No. Ammunition was issued to Home Guards only when they were on active service – such as protecting bridges at the time of D Day against possible German attacks. Rounds for practice were issued on the firing ranges set aside for practice. No children were allowed near to these places. [Sten referred to Shepherd and Turpin the inventors and *en* made a word similar to the heavy machine gun called a Bren Gun.]

Was it scary having the soldiers living in your house?

My father had been a soldier in the First World War and I was not afraid of him. The officers billeted on us and their batmen (soldier servants to clean for them) were just ordinary people in uniforms.

How do you play Fox and Geese? Could I play it in school with my friends?

I am sending you the basic rules of *Fox and Geese* so I am sure you can play with your friends. Usually a board similar to a draught board will do the job. You could probably make your own.

Do you still have your identity card?

No. Sorry I do not have one but I remember that you had to carry it always. It had to be shown to policemen or members of the armed forces on duty. It was important not to give it to any other person and to report its loss at once. If you found a card it had to be handed in to a police station straight away. Failure to do this could be punished by fine or imprisonment.

Did British people get lost because the signposts were taken down?

It is highly likely that people got lost without signposts. Learning to read a map was a skill taught to Scouts and to us in Grammar School in some geography lessons.