

50 Facts About Britain at War

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25 POUNDER (87 M.M.) GUNS IN ACTION
IN NORTH AFRICA.

World war, 1939-
Great Britain

50 FACTS ABOUT

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**BRITAIN
AT WAR**

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FIFTY FACTS ABOUT BRITAIN AT WAR

The Home Front

1. With the enemy only 20 miles away, Britain is producing mighty weapons of war for herself and her Allies. Her production of planes now equals Germany's. She is producing 60,000 big guns — two-pounders and upwards (excluding aircraft cannon) — a year, with 25,000,000 rounds of ammunition; and millions of small arms, with 2,000,000,000 rounds of ammunition. Add to this: ships, locomotives, tanks and a thousand types of military supplies.

2. Everything in Britain is mobilized for the winning of the war. More than 2 out of every 3 persons between the ages of 14 and 65 are working full-time in the Armed Forces, Civilian Defense or Industry. This is equivalent to a mobilization of over 60,000,000 people in the U.S.A. The production of luxuries has ceased. Civilian necessities are severely curtailed.

3. In Britain today, every fit man between 18 and 41 has already been drafted into the Forces, unless irreplaceable in an essential job. The age limit has now been raised to 51.

4. 8,400,000 women of Britain between 18 and 41 have already been registered and are being directed into war work. Unmarried women between 20 and 30 can be drafted into the uniformed forces.

5. 6,700,000 women are already working in industry and the number is mounting rapidly. Hundreds of thousands more, mainly housewives, are working part-time.

6. Even boys and girls are helping in Britain. Seven out of every ten between the ages of 14 and 17 are doing war work.

7. One home out of every five has been destroyed or damaged by air-raids over Britain. Over 46,000 civi-

lians have been killed and over 53,000 injured. 1,000 were killed in April of this year.

8. Workers and employers have sacrificed peace time rights to ensure maximum production. 7,300,000 workers in essential industry cannot quit their jobs or be dismissed, except by permission of the Government.

9. Party politics are out for the duration. Labor leaders sit in the Cabinet and on all important Government Committees. In the factories, joint labor-management committees work out production problems.

10. Working time lost in labor disputes in Britain is about half an hour per worker per year.

11. Because of the need to conserve shipping for vital military supplies, the people of Britain have willingly accepted severe rationing of almost all foods. No one can buy more than 2 ounces of butter, or more than 2 ounces of tea a week. Many fruits are completely unobtainable.

12. Britain is mobilizing its fields as well as its factories. The home production of food has risen from 40 per cent to over 60 per cent self-efficiency since the outbreak of war. 6,000,000 more acres are under the plough than before the war. Britain is now the most highly mechanized farming country in Europe.

13. Clothing is strictly rationed on a coupon system. If a woman bought 1 pair of full-fashioned stockings a month, and 1 dress and 1 pair of shoes a year, she would have no coupons left to buy other clothes.

14. Clothing rationing is releasing 300,000 tons of shipping a year, and some 750,000 workers for transfer from clothing industries to service in the Forces or War Industry.

15. Every fit man and woman is trained to play some part during air-raids, or in the event of an invasion. About 1,500,000 are engaged in Civilian Defense work, and over 4,000,000 in the Fire Guard. About 1,750,000 men are enrolled in the Home Guard, receiving intensive military training in their spare time.