

Bevin boys. By Naomi Burney y8

What is a Bevin Boy?

A Bevin boy had to go down mines and dig up coal to help power everything including homes, factories and ships.

Why did they do it?

As a part of the war every man had to participate in the war no matter how rich or poor you were (even the royal family participated). If you had a 0 at the end of your national insurance number you were automatically a Bevin boy.

Where did the name come from?

The name Bevin boy was named after Ernest Bevin who was a government minister at the time.

How were they rewarded?

Unlike service men (army, air force and navy) they didn't receive a medal until 1995.



This was the medal my great grandpa was given.

How long were they there for?

Each Bevin boy was paired with a soldier when the soldier was taken out or retired from the where they could also leave the mines but until then they had to stay working every day.

How many men took part?

By the end of 1948 there were 48thousand men who has had to participate for however long.

What did they use?

The only equipment they had was a compressed cardboard helmet and a pair of steel toed boots. They also had to provide their own clothes using their ration coupons.



This was his miner's lamp, he use this every day when he went into the mines working.

In WW2 my great grandad was a Bevin Boy.

About my grandpa:

- He did his training at Cresswell in Derbyshire
- The training lasted 6 weeks in total
- He was in the mines for about 5years
- He lived with his aunt while he worked in the mines
- He was one of the lucky few who was placed near home
- The pit he worked in was near Coalville- Leicestershire