

Memories of World War 2 of 5 thro' to 10 year old,,
John Regnard. (Now 84 Years old....2019)
lived at 8, Tipner Green Portsmouth throughout the War

No sweets,, lemons, oranges, ice cream, banana's unknown, shops empty of food. Queues for anything that became available. Everything was rationed with coupons given to 'buy food, clothes and everything else. All very small quantities allowed.

Children evacuated (moved) home from cities, towns to villages into country without parents some for many years. Our family did not evacuate although in a major enemy target area living adjacent to Royal Navy & Army Ranges etc..

Trying to sleep in Anderson (partly underground) about 6ft square shelters in back garden, built into a hole in the ground, then covered with earth on top. A small doorway into the pit with corrugated cover for doorway entrance.. Cold, wet no lights or heating then. No TV, Radio. Candles if lucky. This was used when air raids of German aeroplanes attacked. Listening to bombs dropping and praying 'not on us'! Most nights were constant air raids and sleeping all night in them became common.

Big 'Air balloons' (with big elephant ears raised on wires attached to ground) until 'all clear sounds'. We had this huge balloon outside our house and artillery guns protection very, very close to us.

Carrying gas masks everywhere we went. Even going to school which was still open even if bombed. My infant school was bombed one night but we still went to school next day using the cinema (Forum) in Stamshaw. School was important to go every day possible.

Searchlights into sky to capture German planes in the light and Gunners to fire at.

German Doodle bugs (no pilots) aeroplanes droning across sky, we all waited to hear when the engine stopped having run out of fuel, knowing it was then going to fall to ground and explode flattening houses and killing people. [One did explode only few hundred yards away from us killing many persons] devastating properties.

All men and boys over 14/15 years were 'called up to serve in armed forces and went off to War. Dads, Brothers, Uncles went for up to 5 years many never returned as killed. Mums and Aunts looked after the children all the time.

Homes bombed and totally destroyed meaning families had to find somewhere else to live. Fires always seem to be burning, thousands of homes shops, factories destroyed.

Dig for Victory when everyone tried to grow their own food in any plot of ground available. Mostly in their gardens if possible. All ladies, girls, children all harvesting the fields and gardens for food. Even had Chickens & Rabbits in hutches in garden when possible, as food.

We grew food and ate raw Carrots,, turnips, parsnips, swede, leeks, and all sorts of vegetable or potato pie if lucky. We had chickens and rabbits in garden cages for growing to eat, usually on only special days, with eggs only available from our own chickens. All poultry was used for 2/3 days using remnants for soup, and other mixtures.

No lights allowed to show out of house windows, buses, cars bicycles (if any were running) anywhere, so as to avoid the attacking enemy aircraft to know or see where they and people were. Sticky tape crossways over window glass to avoid fragments hurting people when destroyed/smashed by bombs.

Personal washing was sparse (or bath in a tin bath in kitchen was almost non existent but only about 2 inches of lukewarm water to bathe in. Kettles of hot water as no central heating or boilers then. Mangles (rollers to squeeze water out) and bowls to wash clothes etc Washing powder not known then.

Spoon full of cod liver oil (no exceptions) for children to stop colds Few toys..make your own. Kites, planes, use planks wood for carts, scraps of metal, pram wheels, (no bicycles or cars then, we walked everywhere). All sorts of toys were made, stuffed dolls, paper planes, sing songs, anything even pranks on neighbours.

D Day assault from Solent/Portsmouth/Hayling etc to France with all the pre- preparations 'seen' but not known 'why' then.

Peace came and 'Victory' parties were held with everyone left joining in "Victory in Europe" then "Victory in Japan" a year later, were celebrated after atom bombs had been dropped on Japan..

**1939 -1945 war was over
PEACE AGAIN**