

WAR, STATE AND SOCIETY

Britain's Home Front in WWII

"This resource will allow students to delve into the material and draw their own conclusions, rather than relying on a partial view or the interpretation of others. The sheer volume of material available here deserves recognition: this is not a partial nor selective view, but rather a comprehensive catalogue of various aspects of British society during the Second World War."

David Clampin, Liverpool John Moores University



The National Archives

History of Advertising Trust

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PUBLIC REACTION TO AIR FORCE NEW

During the last few weeks an attempt has been made to find out what the public thinks about the extensive publicity (particularly on the wireless) given to news of the R.A.F. The air wan is spectacular and lends itself to descriptions of individual exploits and both press and radio have taken advantage of that fact.

In the early part of July the Wartine Social Survey (working statistically) asked the general question:
"Do you think we are getting too much or too little news?"
*95 thought that there was too much news

Another investigation made about the same time found in answer to the question:
"Do you think there is too much R.A.F. news in the B.B.C. bulletins?"

30% thought there was too much news (In May this figure was 26%)

an analysis of the reasons put forward by those who thought there was too much news of the R.A.F. showed that the great najority considered that the news was always the same, "it was dull" "monotonous" and "repetitive".

The conclusion to be drawn from these results (and from other results of a special survey conducted by the Regional information Officers) is that there is a tendency for people to feel increasingly dissatisfied by R.A.F. news. The presentation of air news has failed to hold the interest of the public.

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A digital resource

At a Glance

War, State and Society provides access to thousands of documents from the collections of numerous U.K. government departments, each responsible for dealing with and reporting on the domestic situation in Britain during the Second World War and its aftermath. Sourced from The National Archives, U.K. and the History of Advertising Trust, its files provide a uniquely comprehensive insight into the social, economic, political and cultural affairs of wartime Britain, and a valuable snapshot of day to day life in every corner of the country and beyond.

This new digital collection allows students and researchers to examine multiple themes and topics from this pivotal moment of social history, and to interrogate the wider impact of modern warfare on civilian populations. It provides access to a wide range of documents, from social surveys and statistical analyses to food offences trials, propaganda film scripts and wartime advertising, as well as a diverse array of voices from the very top of government to the narratives and testimonies of ordinary citizens.



HIGHLIGHTS

The wartime collections of central government:

- The Home Affairs papers of Churchill's War Cabinet
- Civil Intelligence reports from the Ministry of Information
- Daily Intelligence updates from the Ministry of Home Security
- Administrative records and progress reports on Records of the Government Evacuation Scheme
- Committee on National Service and the wartime workforce
- Social reconstruction surveys
- Foreign Office policy papers on refugees and internment
- Recruitment, welfare and administrative records of the Women's Land Army

Records of local wartime organisations and surveys from across the U.K.:

- Progress reports on the construction, welfare and living conditions of bomb shelters
- Surveys on the social impact of bombing
- Regional Evacuation numbers and progress reports
- Minutes of local Food Control Committees
- Recruitment and welfare records of local Women's Land Army headquarters
- Histories and organisational records of Home Guard units

Collections of government propaganda:

- Wartime film production documents from the Ministry of Information and Crown Film Unit
- Kitchen Front broadcasts from the Ministry of Food's Public Relations Group
- Advertisements and public notices for a variety of government bodies and initiatives

FEATURES & TOOLS

- · Full text searchable across the resource
- Enhanced indexing to allow filtering and advanced search
- An interactive map of voices and stories from the Home Front
- Image gallery of propaganda advertising
- Editorial Board essays
- Seminar packs and sample essay questions
- Downloadable lists of indexing terms to help begin searches
- Introductory videos from the Editorial Board

KEY THEMES

- Preparations for War and Peace
- Rationing and Supply
- Domestic Life
- Military Activity and Home Defence
- Evacuation
- Information Services and Propaganda
- Bombing and Attacks on the Population
- Industry and Infrastructure
- Social Relations