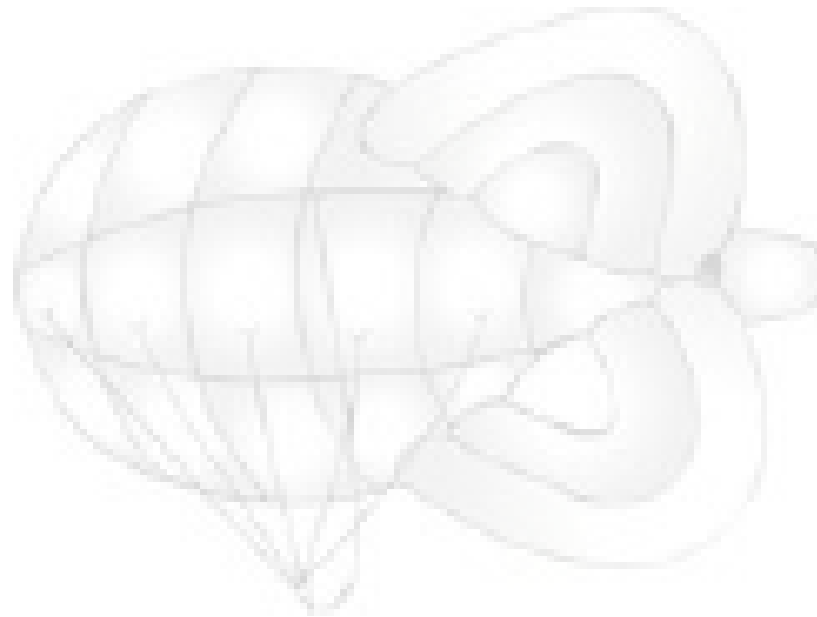




**THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE
EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT**

**THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE
EDUCATION
THE HOME FRONT**

SUPPORTING THE WAR EFFORT



© The Second World War Experience Centre: contents may be copied or reproduced for use in schools or colleges
without further permission

<http://www.war-experience.org/education/homefront/support/default.asp>



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort

Page 2 of 17



Tom Ashton lived in the village of Silsden in West Yorkshire during the war. He and his father Richard, an electrical retailer and contractor, were members of the Keighley Cine Club. They made a number of films recording many aspects of everyday village and family life.

Schoolboy Tom Ashton at an award ceremony at Keighley Cine Club in about 1944. Tom won the award for the animated film 'Our Forces'. (LEEWW:2002.2244.3)



[See Tom Ashton's films](#)

© The Second World War Experience Centre: contents may be copied or reproduced for use in schools or colleges without further permission

<http://www.war-experience.org/education/homefront/support/default.asp>



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort

Page 3 of 17



The films also show how a West Yorkshire village was able to make a contribution to the war, raising money through events such as War Weapons Week, Warship Week, and Wings For Victory Week. These fundraising weeks would involve the whole community and could generate huge sums of money.

For example, the people of Horsforth, West Yorkshire, during their Warship Week (16th to the 22nd November 1941) raised an astonishing £241,000 (about £4 million in today's money), to pay for the corvette (which is a small, fast warship with light armament which were often used in anti-submarine warfare), HMS Aubretia.

A picture coloured-in by Margaret Fowden when she was a child, entered for an art competition to mark the 'Salute the Soldier Week' held in Otley, West Yorkshire, in 1944. (LEEWW:2003.2153.2)



[See what Phyl Jones says about her experience](#)

© The Second World War Experience Centre: contents may be copied or reproduced for use in schools or colleges without further permission

<http://www.war-experience.org/education/homefront/support/default.asp>



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort

Page 4 of 17

HMS Aubretia, along with HMS Bulldog and HMS Broadway, went on to capture the German submarine U110 in May 1941, where a working Enigma machine together with other documents was recovered. The capture of these allowed Allied Code-Breakers to decipher German transmissions, resulting in a dramatic reduction in the sinking of Allied convoys, saving the lives of thousands of sailors and ultimately changing the whole course of the war.



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort

Page 5 of 17

The residents of Leeds during their Warship Week in 1942 set themselves the target of raising £5 million to pay for a replacement HMS Ark Royal, which had been sunk the previous November off the coast of Gibraltar. A huge march took place down The Headrow in the city centre, led by the Navy and followed by military vehicles and personnel.

In total the people of Leeds collected over £9 million. Contributions ranged from small donations from children to buy nuts and bolts, to sums of £250,000 from businesses to buy Fulmar naval fighter planes.

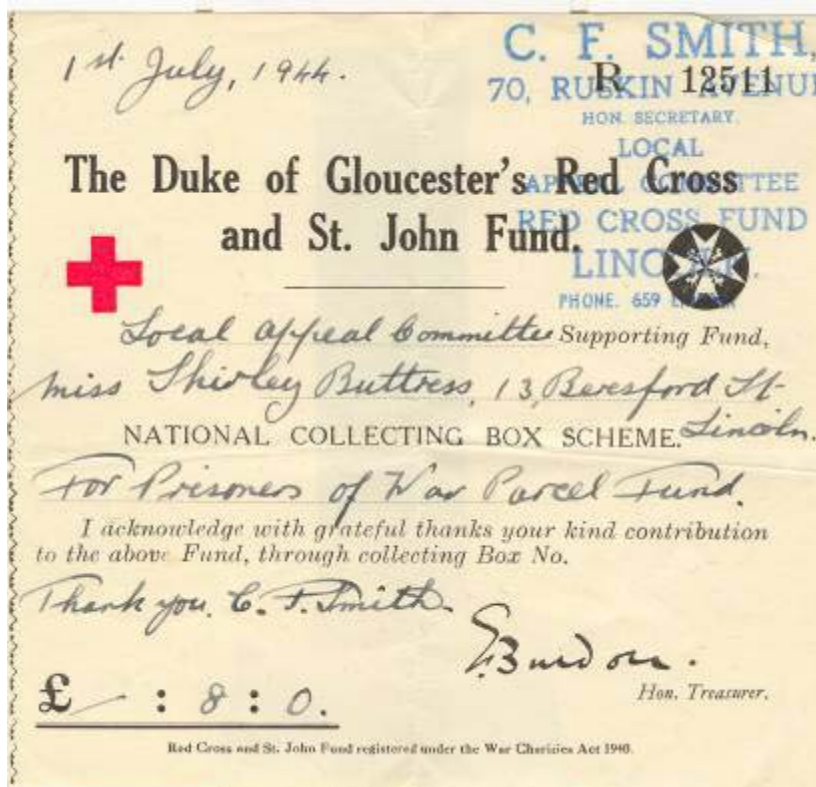
Leeds was able to repeat this generosity by raising £7.2 million for the RAF during Leeds' Wings For Victory Week in the summer of 1943.



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE
EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort

Page 6 of 17



School children played their role within the war effort. Many children were organised into collecting salvage in the same way that people today recycle.

Receipt made out 1 July 1944 thanking Shirley Cheves for her work collecting 8 shillings (40p) for the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross and St John Fund. (LEEWW : 2003.2033.3.3)



[See Maureen Childs' comments about the war](#)

© The Second World War Experience Centre: contents may be copied or reproduced for use in schools or colleges without further permission

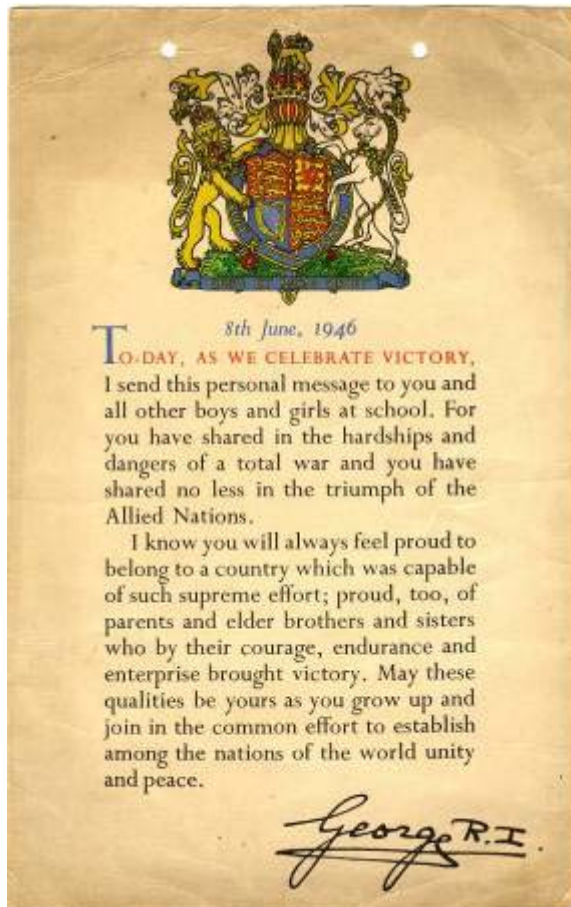
<http://www.war-experience.org/education/homefront/support/default.asp>



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE
EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort

Page 7 of 17



School children played their role within the war effort. Many children were organised into collecting salvage in the same way that people today recycle.

Certificate sent to British school children by King George VI commemorating the Allied victory in the Second World War, dated 8 June 1946. (LEWW: 2003.2033.3.4)



[See Maureen Childs' comments about the war](#)

Supporting the War Effort

Page 8 of 17



School children played their role within the war effort. Many children were organised into collecting salvage in the same way that people today recycle.

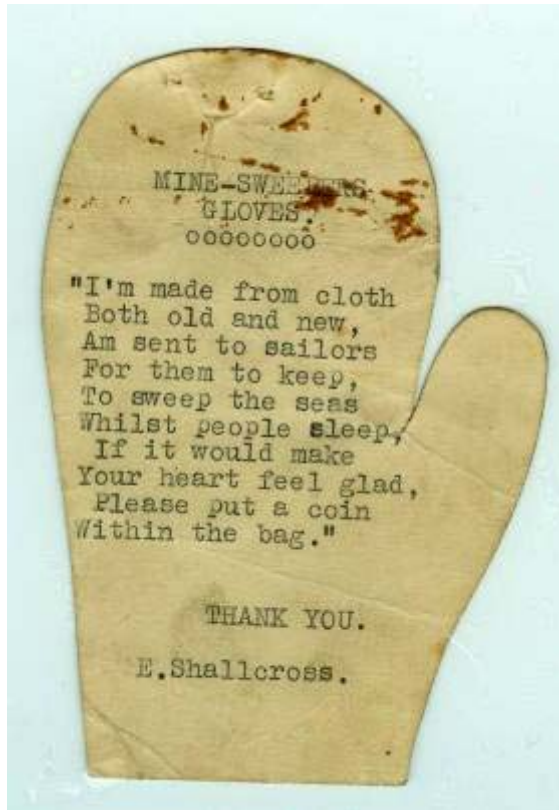
A certificate issued on Empire Day 24th May 1940 to schoolboy James Lotz to mark his efforts in raising money for Commonwealth servicemen. (LEEWW:2000.280.2)



[See Maureen Childs' comments about the war](#)

Supporting the War Effort

Page 9 of 17



Pamela Johnson recalls her experiences of having to work on farms due to the shortage of labourers and the memories of Muriel Booth recall how schoolchildren would be taken out by their teachers to pick up acorns for pig food, and encouraged to knit gloves and balaclavas for the Armed Forces, particularly Russian troops.

'Mine Sweeping Gloves.' Poem written on a paper mitten by E Shallcross to promote a wartime fundraising drive. (LEEWW:2001.842.2.2)



[See Muriel Booth's comments](#)



[See what Pamela Johnson didn't like doing](#)



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort

Page 10 of 17



All these different activities were often rewarded with certificates or badges, given as a way of demonstrating one's commitment to the war effort.

*A small metal and enamel lapel badge awarded to Mrs Mary Allan of Lower Largo, Fife, Scotland for knitting comforts for RAF Comfords Committee.
(LEWW:2000.387)*



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort

Page 11 of 17



All these different activities were often rewarded with certificates or badges, given as a way of demonstrating one's commitment to the war effort.

White metal lapel badge issued by the Red Cross during the Second World War to mark their 'Penny a Week' fund. Worn by Mrs Mary E Lenton of Leeds during the war. (LEWW:2003.1938.2.1)



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE
EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort

Page 12 of 17



All these different activities were often rewarded with certificates or badges, given as a way of demonstrating one's commitment to the war effort.

Small printed Book Recovery Brigade lapel badge awarded to schoolgirl Elizabeth Francis. (LEEWW:2003.2154.2)



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort

Page 13 of 17



During the Second World War the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service) gave every woman who wasn't in the Armed Forces or employed in 'essential war work' the chance to contribute to the war effort. The Thatcham WVS in Berkshire, is typical. They were involved in many different activities, such as visiting evacuees and refugees, collecting waste material for recycling, fundraising and sending food and clothes overseas to women and children in such countries as Russia and China, as well as sending treats such as cigarettes to soldiers fighting abroad.

A black and white photograph taken about 1943 showing the members of the Thatcham Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) in Dorothy Clarke's garden. Mrs Clarke, Chair of the local WVS, sits in the centre of the front row. (LEEWW:2000.266.9.1)



[Read about
Dorothy Clarke's
WVS organisation](#)

© The Second World War Experience Centre: contents may be copied or reproduced for use in schools or colleges without further permission

<http://www.war-experience.org/education/homefront/support/default.asp>



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort

Page 14 of 17

1941

REPORT ON THE YEAR'S WORK OF THE W.V.S. IN THATCHAM PARISH OF
THE NEWBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

During the past year this branch has been very busy with many activities. The regular weekly work comprises visiting sick evacuees, school visits, daily duty at Headquarters where some member is on duty every afternoon, except Wednesday when we open in the morning.

Every Tuesday a collection of rags and bones takes place on foot, except on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month, when three members take it in turns to collect by car.

Every Wednesday sacks of paper are put out all over the village, and collected by lorry and taken direct to Galthrop Mills.

On Fridays there is a "shop" day at Headquarters, when gifts, ranging from ancient fur coats, wireless sets, and machines to strings of beads and children's toys, are on sale, the proceeds of which go to cover our many small expenses and pay our evacuee children's birthday gifts.

War saving stamps are sold daily at Headquarters, and every ten days unaccompanied children are visited - Mothers and children every three weeks.

During the Second World War the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service) gave every woman who wasn't in the Armed Forces or employed in 'essential war work' the chance to contribute to the war effort. The Thatcham WVS in Berkshire, is typical. They were involved in many different activities, such as visiting evacuees and refugees, collecting waste material for recycling, fundraising and sending food and clothes overseas to women and children in such countries as Russia and China, as well as sending treats such as cigarettes to soldiers fighting abroad.

A single page typewritten report headed '1941 Report on the Year's Work of the WVS in Thatcham Parish of the Newbury Rural District' produced by Dorothy Clarke as Chairman of the WVS committee. The report details the year's fund raising and salvage collection activities. (LEEWW:2000.266.3.1)

© The Second World War Experience Centre: contents may be copied or reproduced for use in schools or colleges without further permission

<http://www.war-experience.org/education/homefront/support/default.asp>



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort

Page 15 of 17

Salvage Collected in 1942.

Wastepaper	55 Tons, 11 Cwt.
Rags	2 Tons, 12 Cwt.
Bones	4 Tons, 3 Cwt.
Magazines	2 Cwt.
Bagging and bed floeks	1 Cwt, 2 Qrs. 21 Lbs.
String	24 Lbs.
Rubber	2 Lorry loads.

The proceeds of the above helped the following:-

Cigarettes for local men.	
Hospital supplies.	
Prisoners of War and Corvetté and Merchant ship parcels.	
Aid to Russia fund.	
Aid to China fund.	
Aid to Greek fund.	
Welfare Centre.	Thatcham ambulance.
Cancer Campaign.	Royal Berkshire Hospital.
Hat for salvage.	Poppy Day.
For H fund.	Earl Haig's Fund.
Air E. Id distress fund.	Soldier's Restroom.
	Etc., Etc.

Salvage "Drives" have been held with success. Pies are taken round to most farms in the village, and helpers are supplied twice a week to go round with the school Lunches Canteen. We have had one new Member this year and two resignations, the latter on account of moving from the district and objection to doing "unpleasant" work connected with salvage respectively.

During the Second World War the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service) gave every woman who wasn't in the Armed Forces or employed in 'essential war work' the chance to contribute to the war effort. The Thatcham WVS in Berkshire, is typical. They were involved in many different activities, such as visiting evacuees and refugees, collecting waste material for recycling, fundraising and sending food and clothes overseas to women and children in such countries as Russia and China, as well as sending treats such as cigarettes to soldiers fighting abroad.

A single page typewritten annual report produced in 1942 by Dorothy Clarke as Chairman of the WVS committee. The report details the year's fund raising and salvage collection activities. (LEEWW:2000.266.3.3)



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE
EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort

Page 16 of 17

Thatcham W.V.S.
WAR SAVINGS 1942

	£	s	d
<u>1st Quarter</u>			
Savings stamps at 2/6 each	9	9	6
6d	2	12	6
Total	13	2	0
<u>2nd Quarter</u>			
Savings stamps at 2/6 each	5	5	0
6d	3	4	0
Total	8	12	0
<u>3rd Quarter</u>			
Savings stamps at 2/6 each	4	12	6
6d	2	12	6
Total	7	5	0
<u>4th Quarter</u>			
Savings stamps @ 2/6 each	4	12	6
at 6d	6	0	6
Total	10	13	0
<u>Grand Total</u>	39	12	0

Hon. Sec. D. R. Smyth

8444

During the Second World War the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service) gave every woman who wasn't in the Armed Forces or employed in 'essential war work' the chance to contribute to the war effort. The Thatcham WVS in Berkshire, is typical. They were involved in many different activities, such as visiting evacuees and refugees, collecting waste material for recycling, fundraising and sending food and clothes overseas to women and children in such countries as Russia and China, as well as sending treats such as cigarettes to soldiers fighting abroad.

A handwritten single page summary of the money invested by the Thatcham WVS in War Savings during 1942. (LEEWW:2000.266.4.5)



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort

Page 17 of 17



During the Second World War the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service) gave every woman who wasn't in the Armed Forces or employed in 'essential war work' the chance to contribute to the war effort. The Thatcham WVS in Berkshire, is typical. They were involved in many different activities, such as visiting evacuees and refugees, collecting waste material for recycling, fundraising and sending food and clothes overseas to women and children in such countries as Russia and China, as well as sending treats such as cigarettes to soldiers fighting abroad.

Booklet entitled 'Knitted Garments for the Royal Navy and other Fleet Auxiliaries, Minesweepers, Trawlers etc', produced by the Depot for Knitted Garments for the Royal Navy during the Second World War. It contains patterns and photographs of woollen garments British civilians could knit for servicemen in the Navy. (LEEWW:2005.2826)

© The Second World War Experience Centre: contents may be copied or reproduced for use in schools or colleges without further permission

<http://www.war-experience.org/education/homefront/support/default.asp>



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort: Tom Ashton

Biography Page 1 of 1



Video Clip 1 War Weapons Week Communities all over the country helped to raise money in support of the 'War Effort.' This clip from an amateur black and white film starts by showing a member of the armed services with a child and female companion walking down a street, before showing a large 'Miss Muffet' totaliser in the centre of Silsden. It shows how much the community has raised so far in fund raising. Copyright Tom Ashton.



Video Clip 2 Silsden Warship Week Communities all over the country helped to raise money in support of the 'War Effort.' This clip from an amateur black and white film was taken in Silsden during 'Warship Week' in 1942. It starts with happy children riding through the streets on armoured cars. Two men are then shown looking at the 'Warship Week' totaliser. Finally there is a close up of a plaque that shows Silsden adopted Her Majesty's Motor Torpedo Boat 75. Copyright Tom Ashton.

© The Second World War Experience Centre: contents may be copied or reproduced for use in schools or colleges without further permission

<http://www.war-experience.org/education/homefront/support/default.asp>



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT



Video Clip 3 Silsden Wings For Victory Week May 1943 Communities all over the country helped to raise money in support of the 'War Effort.' This amateur colour film clip was shot during Silsden's 'Wings For Victory Week' in May 1943. Crowds of people, many in uniform, watch a military officer giving a speech in front of the town's totaliser which is designed as an aircraft. Copyright Tom Ashton.



Brief Biography

Tom Ashton and his father Richard Ashton lived in Silsden, West Yorkshire. Members of the Keighley Cine Club they filmed village life during and after the Second World War. An ex-Merchant Navy wireless operator Richard Ashton ran an electrical retailing and contracting business in Silsden until the 1960s.



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort: Phyl Jones

Biography Page 1 of 1



“We were always encouraged to raise money for our ‘fighting forces’ and special fund raising days were organized. Shopkeepers would hang out bunting and various competitions were held including trying to form a ‘Mile of Pennies’ down the main street. Our eyes boggled when, as we laid our pennies and halfpennies, we saw florins and half-crowns, and even an occasional ten shilling note tucked under a coin! We wondered who could afford to be so generous.

On one occasion some of the soldiers brought a tank and a bren carrier down into the town and for a penny we children were allowed to climb on them and sit inside.

Another scheme was collecting books and magazines – I’m not sure if this was for waste paper or if they were distributed to the troops. The schoolchildren were given a designated area to collect from. We all started off as ‘Privates’. When we collected one hundred books we were made up to ‘Sergeants’ and given paper stripes to wear. Two hundred books made us ‘Captains’, five hundred ‘Generals’ and one thousand the much coveted rank of ‘Field Marshall’.

One day I took my final quota of books to school. I told the teacher I had now reached the one thousand target and was presented with my Field Marshall’s badge. A short time later, to my horror I was hauled in front of the whole class, stripped of my badge, and it was announced I was a liar and a cheat as I was in fact fifty books short. In my enthusiasm I had miscounted. I crept home that day broken hearted and totally humiliated.”

Brief Biography

Phyl Jones was a schoolgirl living in Stratford, East London at the outbreak of the Second World War. Together with her brother and sister she was evacuated to stay with relatives at Lyme Regis in Dorset in 1939, where she stayed until the end of the war.



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE
EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort: Maureen Childs

Biography Page 1 of 1



“The fancy railing and gates had all been removed on orders of the Government. They sent men to cut them off for use in the war effort. One woman in our street stood in front of her railings and defied the men who came to take them. The school railings went, and the gates, so after school and in the holidays we could run into the school yard and play or ride our bikes. There was nothing to keep us out.”

“There was a scheme for children to help the war effort by collecting salvage in the same way we recycle today. We were called COGS (in the wheels of the war effort) and had a little red badge to wear.”

Brief Biography

Maureen Childs was a young girl living in Cradley Heath in Staffordshire during the Second World War. Her grandfather owned a general store and her father was a member of the Home Guard.



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort: Muriel Booth

Biography Page 1 of 1



‘We also had a beautiful big wrought iron gate, too, which was taken for scrap.’

‘People like the Express milkman, a familiar figure in his blue and white apron, were always part of the scene. We would also put out scraps which were collected for pig food.’

‘Ordinary day to day activities I have forgotten. Things that were out of the ordinary I remember. Like going into Broomfield Park (I think it was with the school) to pick up acorns for pig food.’

‘During these day [1944] we schoolgirls used to knit for the Forces and particularly for the Russian troops. Some of the staff belonged to the Anglo-Soviet Friendship Alliance! We would knit gloves and balaclava helmets and I often wonder now if they ever reached the troops for whom they were intended or if they ended up in the cold northern seas.’

‘We sixth formers took it in turns to do the “Eagle Fund” but I cannot remember for the life of me what the Fund was for. We had to tot up the proceeds in the outer office of the Headmistress, Miss Broad. I suppose it was meant to give us a sense of responsibility but it was really a bit of a bind as far as we were concerned.’

Brief Biography

Muriel J Booth (née Moores) was born in Birmingham and was a schoolgirl in London during the Second World War. Evacuated and returned to London several times during the course of the war she eventually completed her education and joined a firm of solicitors in 1945. Her older brother Ron joined the RAF (Royal Air Force) in 1943.

© The Second World War Experience Centre: contents may be copied or reproduced for use in schools or colleges without further permission

<http://www.war-experience.org/education/homefront/support/default.asp>



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE
EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort: Pamela Johnson

Biography Page 1 of 1



“At school we all had to knit socks or scarves for servicemen, also as farms were short of labourers, go potato lifting, a job I hated.”

Brief Biography

Born in Burma Pamela Johnson returned to live in Littlehampton, West Sussex, with her mother before the Second World War. A schoolgirl at the outbreak of war she later became a nurse.



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort: Dorothy Clarke

Biography Page 1 of 3



1941 report on the activities of the Women's voluntary services in Thatcham.

- Weekly visiting sick evacuees, school visits, every Thursday collect rags and bones, every Wednesday collect paper.
- Ran a shop every Friday, the money raised here used to raise money to cover expenses and to buy evacuees in the area birthday presents.
- Sell War Stamps every day.
- Every month the local men in the services receive cigarettes or the money to buy them, and the Corvette adopted by us, the "Kingcup" receives a parcel.
- Collected a lot of salvage, table provided to prove it.

1942 report on the activities of the Women's Voluntary Service in Thatcham.

- Visit family evacuees.
- Took children to the Pantomime.
- Gave out 56 birthday presents.
- Sent parcel to a merchant ship as well – HMS Fort Taddonssac, including 24 pairs of socks, 22 pairs sea-boot stocking, 11 sweaters and 7 helmets.
- Sent parcels to Russian women and children- details provided of what was in the parcels, clothes mainly.

Brief Biography

Dorothy Clarke organised and acted as Chairman for the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service) in Thatcham, Berkshire, during the Second World War.

© The Second World War Experience Centre: contents may be copied or reproduced for use in schools or colleges without further permission

<http://www.war-experience.org/education/homefront/support/default.asp>



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort: Dorothy Clarke

Biography Page 2 of 3



Salvage collected in 1942

Wastepaper	66 tons 11cwt
Rags	2 tons 12 cwt
Bones	4 tons 3cwt
Magazines	2 cwt
Bagging and Bed flocks	1cwt, 2qrs, 21 lbs
String	24 lbs
Rubber	2 lorry loads

The proceeds of the above helped the following: -

Cigarettes for local men, Hospitals supplies, Prisoner of war and Corvette and Merchant ship parcels, Aid to Russia Fund, Aid to China Fund, Aid to Greek Fund, Welfare Centre, Cancer Campaign, Hut for Salvage, Toc H Fund, Air Raid Distress Fund, Thatcham Ambulance, Royal Berkshire Hospital, Poppy Day, Earl Haig's Fund, Soldier's Restroom, Etc, Etc.

Brief Biography

Dorothy Clarke organised and acted as Chairman for the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service) in Thatcham, Berkshire, during the Second World War.



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE
EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

Supporting the War Effort: Dorothy Clarke

Biography Page 3 of 3



1943 report on the activities of the Women's Voluntary Service in Thatcham.

'Cigarette fund for local men and girls in the services is gradually mounting up, £10.2.6. has been found monthly to pay for these and 720 lots have been sent during 1943 at the cost of £121.10.0. Since the scheme started a total of 2623 gifts of Cigarettes or postal orders to purchase same have been dispatched.'

Brief Biography

Dorothy Clarke organised and acted as Chairman for the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service) in Thatcham, Berkshire, during the Second World War.