

**YOUR**

# Homefront

**AMGUEDDFA  
CYMRU**



This is to certify that  
JESSIE IRENE THOMAS  
WAS EMPLOYED AT THE  
Factory MERTHYR TYDFIL  
IN THE PRODUCTION OF VITAL WAR  
WEAPONS & EQUIPMENT

MINISTRY OF FOOD  
**RATION BOOK**  
194

Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Names \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (as on Identity Card) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Month) \_\_\_\_\_ (Year) \_\_\_\_\_  
NATIONAL REGISTRATION NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
FOOD OFFICE CODE No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Serial No. of Ration Book  
M.F.  
8.17  
EJ 115019  
IF FOUND RETURN TO ANY FOOD OFFICE



BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY  
(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1908).  
14, GROSVENOR CRESCENT, LONDON, S.W. 1.  
No. O 20756  
Full Name EDWARDS  
FIRST AID







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## About this resource |

This resource demonstrates simple ways to research history online, with a focus on the WW2 Homefront. It is designed to be read by an individual or shared as a presentation. Revisiting the resource and focusing progressively on each section is advised.

There are examples of what can be discovered, along with tutorial films, resource links, guidance, and more. It is designed for progression Step 2 but can be adapted easily for all learners. This resource can be used as a Cynefin project within Humanities.





***Homefront (noun)***

The civilian population and activities of a nation whose armed forces are engaged in war abroad.

The non-military people of a country at war and their activities in support of the war effort.





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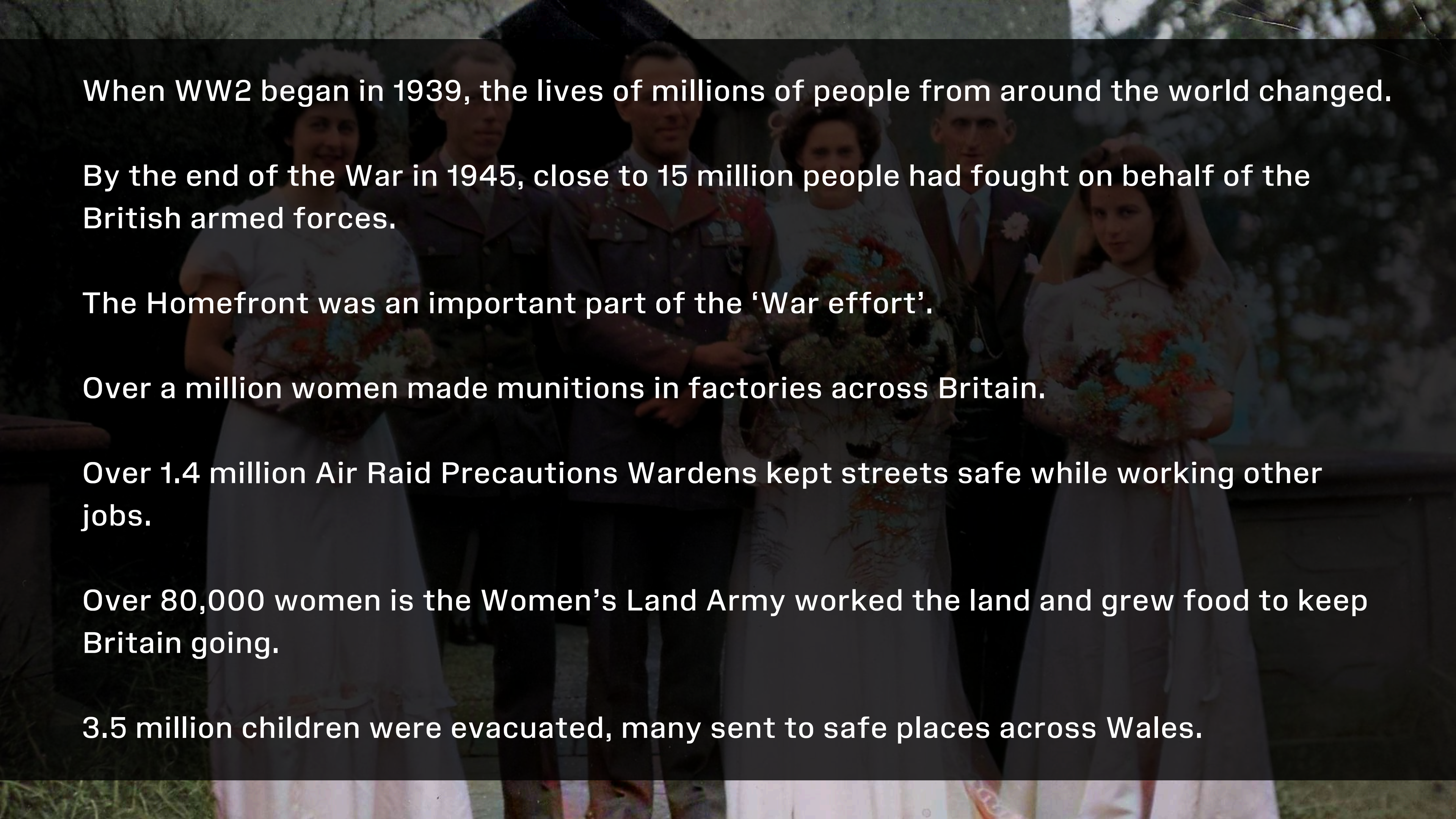
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**Mae'r adnodd hwn ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This resource is available in Welsh.**





When WW2 began in 1939, the lives of millions of people from around the world changed.

By the end of the War in 1945, close to 15 million people had fought on behalf of the British armed forces.

The Homefront was an important part of the 'War effort'.

Over a million women made munitions in factories across Britain.

Over 1.4 million Air Raid Precautions Wardens kept streets safe while working other jobs.

Over 80,000 women in the Women's Land Army worked the land and grew food to keep Britain going.

3.5 million children were evacuated, many sent to safe places across Wales.



So much was happening on the Homefront, it can be hard to imagine.

Try focusing on one area - your own area is best! This helps bring history to life and is often easier to understand.

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An example of  
What you can  
find and how  
to find it...

The village of Hirwaun, near Aberdare in South Wales, is not known for its WW2 history, so lets look closer to see what we can find out.



Start by doing what everyone naturally does these days, Google search!

We searched for 'Hirwaun World War Two.' Some of the first results are from local historical societies and newspapers.

The newspapers show there was a Royal Ordnance Factory in Hirwaun. We make a note as it sounds interesting.

The local history society website gives us loads of areas to investigate, from bombing, to rationing to evacuees and servicemen returning home.

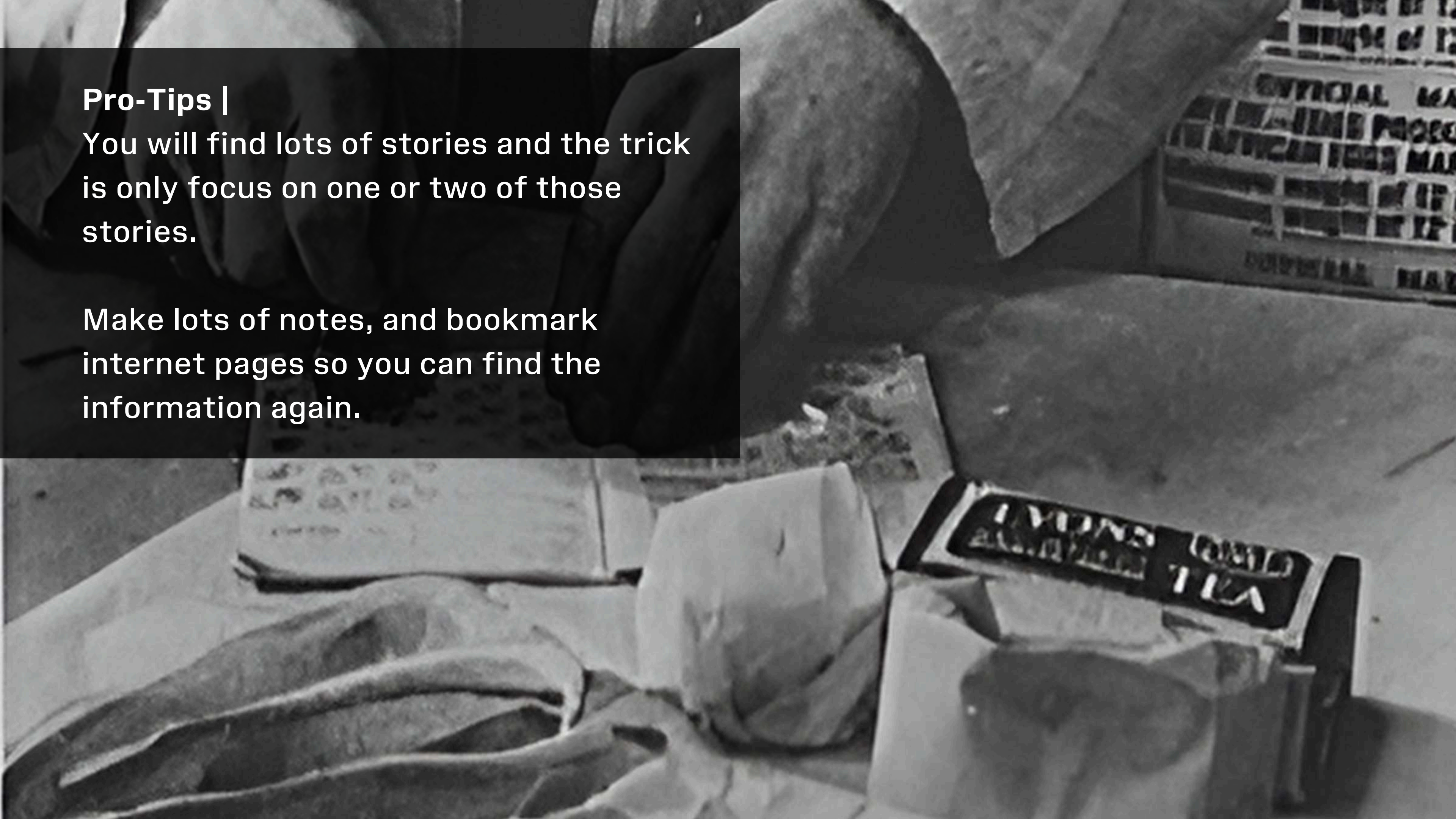
The site tells us the date the Royal Ordnance Factory opened and what it was. We also find something called the Women's Civil Defence. That sounds interesting so we make a note.



## Pro-Tips |

You will find lots of stories and the trick is only focus on one or two of those stories.

Make lots of notes, and bookmark internet pages so you can find the information again.







After a quick search, we have many areas we can look into,  
but it is important to focus on one or two areas first.

We want to tell one or two stories well, not have lots of  
short stories that say little.



Google books searches written material that may not be on websites and can sometimes really help to flesh out a story.

Some books won't have any digital copies, some will have previews, and others will be there in full.

One book tells us that 10,000 people were employed at Hirwaun, and they made eight million ammunition rounds per month.

Another book tells us Hirwaun was one of three large factories in south Wales, and that three-quarters of those employed were women.

The Amgueddfa Cymru site has a collections online section which has a record of the objects held across all the Amgueddfa Cymru sites.



Here we search Hirwaun. After scrolling through we come across an Air Raid Precautions shelter that was originally at the gates to the ordnance factory.

We also find some photos taken from above of the factory site after WW2.

While we are here, we check our other focus area, the 'Women's Civil Defence'.

We find original badges that were worn by women in Cardiff and women in Hirwaun would have had the same ones.

You can look in detail at collection objects and make sure to always scroll down for related objects, you never know what might pop up.



Often things do not have to be from your area to help you get a better understanding of your Homefront.



If we look at the objects from the collection at Amgueddfa Cymru connected directly with our Hirwaun story.

Only the aerial photo and the ARP Wardens shelter are directly from Hirwaun.



There are many other objects from the Amgueddfa Cymru collection that are not from Hirwaun but will help us understand more about the stories we are researching.



Parts of WVS uniforms can show us something women in Hirwaun at the time wore.



Overalls worn by a munition worker at Aberfan give us an insight into the clothing worn.

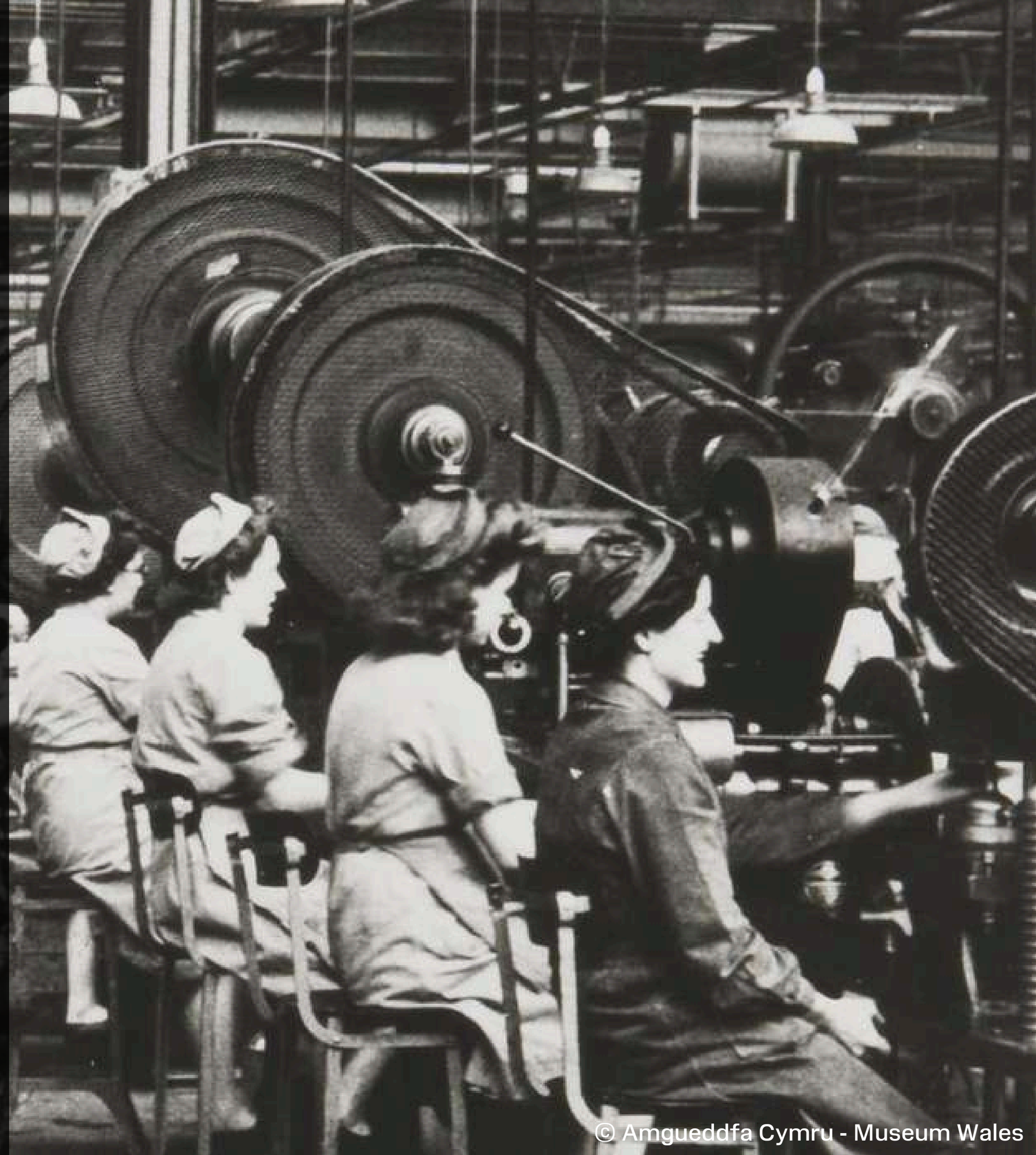


Photos of munition workers in Wales gives us an image of what it might have been like at Hirwaun.



# What we found out...

- There was a factory at Hirwaun that made munitions.
- It was opened in 1942. They employed 10,000 people, with the majority being women.
- It was protected by an ARP Warden, who sat in their metal hut at the entrance.
- We made a start looking at the Women's Civil Defence and found some objects.







Lots was happening across the Homefront in Wales.

Your Homefront story can be as short or as long as you like.

It might involve men, women, children, factories, farming - you won't know until you look!





Online  
Resources

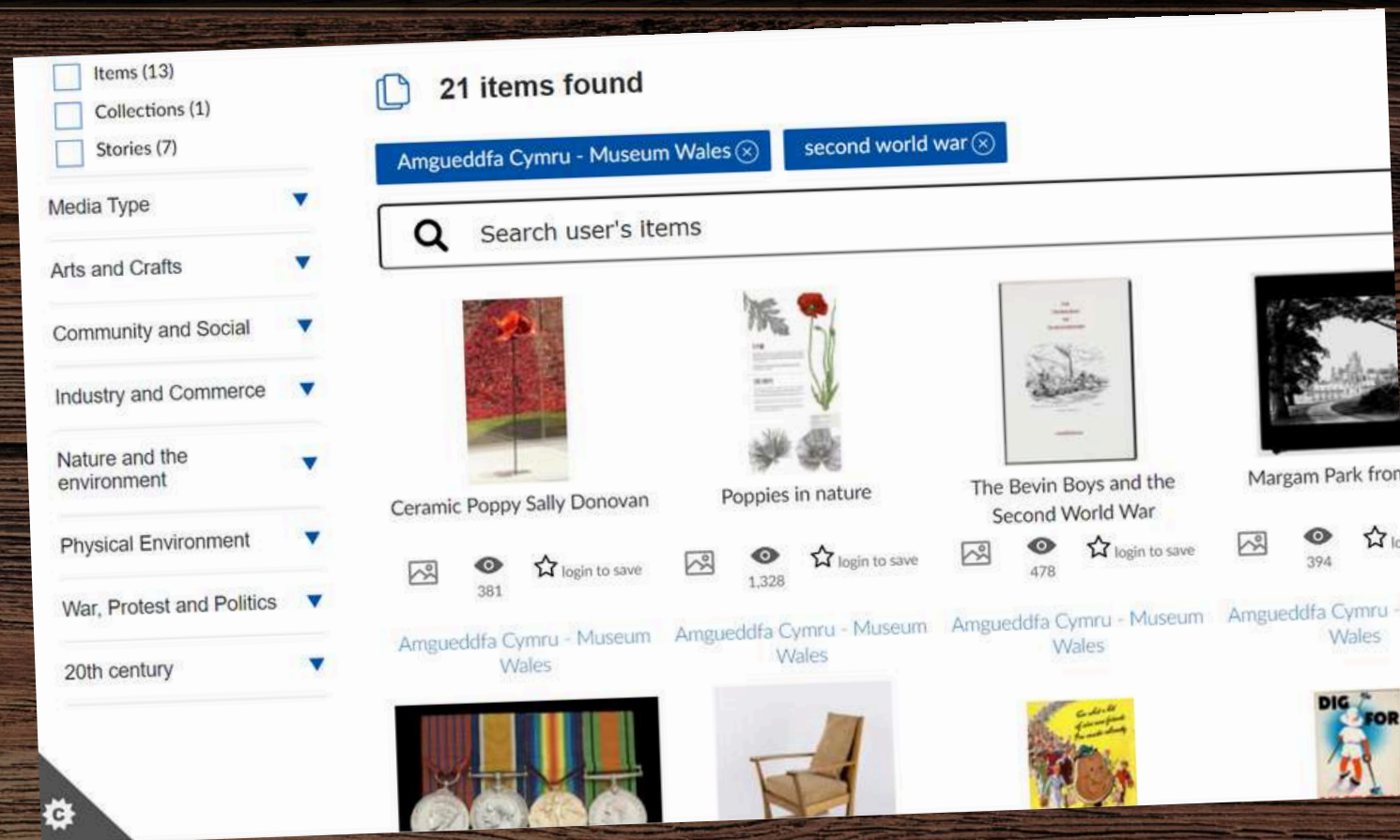
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The following online resources have been chosen because they don't need you to create an account or give any information at all. Just simply follow the link and start searching.

To use all of them all you need to do is use the search bar and check results.



Think about what words you are using to search. Try out many different words on the collections site as just simply typing an area or WW2 will only bring up certain results.



WE ALSO HAVE A COLLECTION PAGE ON PEOPLE'S COLLECTION WALES! TRY SEARCHING BOTH

**AMGUEDDFA  
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*[museum.wales](http://museum.wales)*

[museum.wales](http://museum.wales)

You will find paintings, objects, photos and much more here.

Click the three lines in the top left of the site, then click 'Collections & Research.'

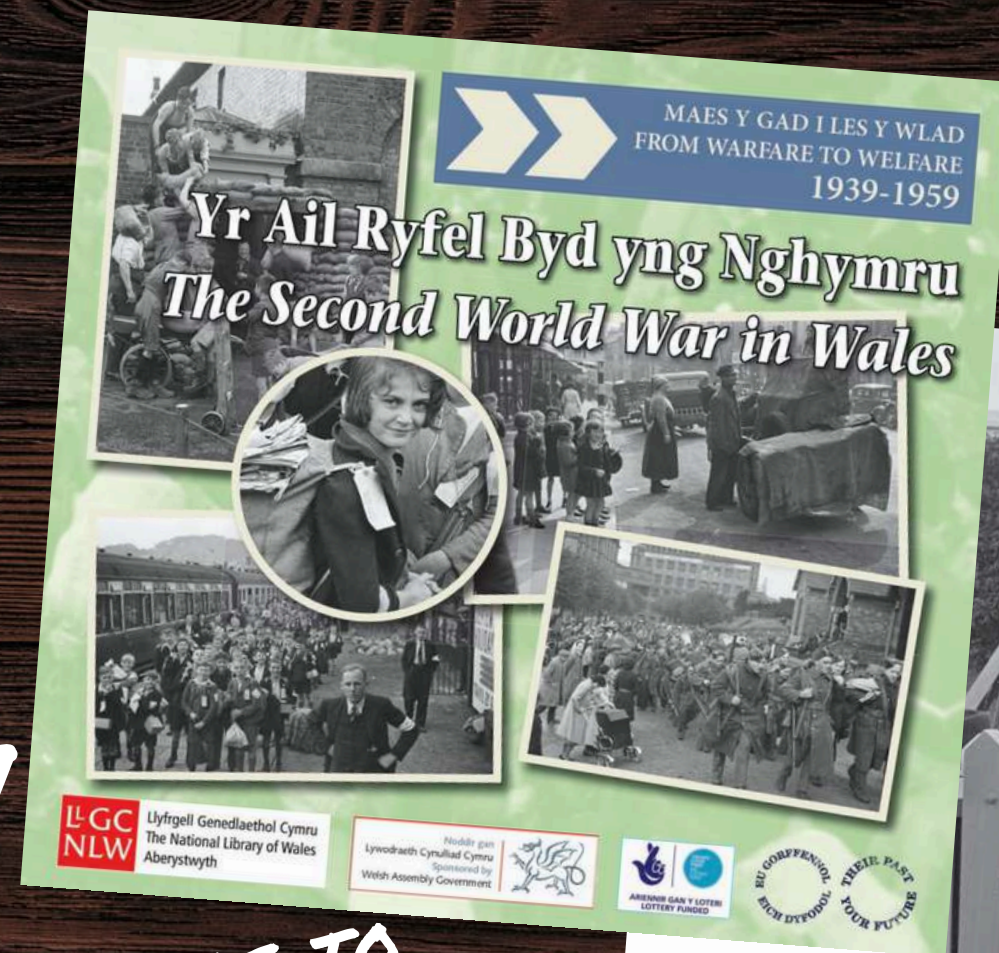


Casgliad y Werin Cymru  
People's Collection Wales  
www.casgliadywerin.cymru  
www.peoplescollection.wales

[peoplescollection.wales](http://peoplescollection.wales)

Filled with books,  
paintings, objects,  
documents, photos,  
audio recordings,  
local history stories  
and more.

This website has free downloadable books like this one, which is filled with WW2 photos from across Wales.



CLICK HERE TO  
LOOK AT THIS  
BOOK







Casgliad y Werin Cymru  
People's Collection Wales

[www.casgliadywerin.cymru](http://www.casgliadywerin.cymru)  
[www.peoplescollection.wales](http://www.peoplescollection.wales)

People's Collection  
Wales also has historic  
maps.

These are fantastic to  
see what was in your  
area in the past.

Watch the tutorial video on the next page for  
tips about using the maps on the PCW  
website.



On the website go to the top and click on 'Maps'.

Enter in the search bar the area you want to look at. A modern map will show the area.

The numbers are items that are already on the PCW website, making it easier to search. Just above the map you will see other boxes. When you click on them historic maps of the area will appear.

You can zoom in close and look at how the area changed over time. The historic maps are dated and will show different time periods. We can look at where the Royal Ordnance Factory was in Hirwaun.

And even better, you can click on the map button and see the modern map or even the satellite map.





**[books.google.co.uk](http://books.google.co.uk)**

Millions of books can be found here. Some will only have a snippet view, while others will be in full, but even a snippet can help sometimes.



**[britishpathe.com](http://britishpathe.com)**

This is the best place to find old footage on practically any world event or subject.





**biography.wales**

If your area had a notable Welsh person, maybe a fundraiser, politician, or heroic person, you might find more information here.



**britainfromabove.org.uk**

Aerial photography from 1919 to 1953. A great way of seeing the landscape as it was in that period.



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Project  
idea

If you have a project that you can work all the information you discover into then great!

If you don't, we think creating your own newspaper front page would be good.

Write up the history you have discovered. Then use free online resources, like Canva, to search for newspaper templates.

THIS IS ONE WE  
MADE FROM OUR  
HIRWAUN RESEARCH

Special Edition



Wales

# Hirwaun News

## ROYAL ORDNANCE FACTORY

### One of the largest in Wales

Opened in 1942, the factory can make up to eight million rounds of ammunition per month. It employs 10,000 people, with the majority being women. There are three large munition factories in South Wales, Bridgend, Hirwaun and Glasgoed, employing 60,000 people.



### Women's Civil Defence

The dedicated women of Hirwaun's Women's Civil Defence have once again been on a salvage campaign, collecting scrap metal for the war effort and have opened canteens and refreshment stalls for all.





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*We would love to see your newspaper front pages or your research in any format! Be sure to share it with use online @Amgueddfa\_Learn*

[amgueddfa.cymru/dysgu/](https://amgueddfa.cymru/dysgu/)

[museum.wales/learn/](https://museum.wales/learn/)



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Use this eBook to explore objects from the Amgueddfa Cymru collection and discover what life was like in Wales during WW2.

**Mae'r adnodd hwn ar gael yn Gymraeg.**  
This resource is available in Welsh.

## Homefront WALES IN WORLD WAR 2



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