

BLACK-OUT 9.40p.m to 4.30a.m.

Sun	rises	4.43 a.m.
	Sets	9.20 p.m.
Moon	rises	8.35 a.m.
	sets	4.37 p.m.



MR CHURCHILL: 'THE BATTLE BEGINS'

## The Daily Scramble

No. 7.997 WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1940 ONE PENNY

# THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

- The Home Front Army.

- The eyes of Britain.

- Our secret weapon.

- Fighters for Freedom

- How the Royal Air Force will control our skies.



*'The Battle of France is over, I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin'. With those words our Prime Minister, Mr Churchill, informs the nation of a new phase of the War that we hoped would not happen.*

Factories are in frantic production and all along the coast the Royal Observer Corps are looking out for enemy aircraft. One thing the enemy will not be anticipating are the scores

of waves scouring the skies over the Channel for the tell-tale signs of enemy formations. We will be ready for them! The brave men and women of the Royal Air Force are preparing for the fight for our freedom!

Inside today's Daily Scramble, reporters tell of the vital work being undertaken as we prepare for the Battle of Britain.

**The Daily Scramble**  
LONDON NW9  
TELEPHONE: TERMINUS 19640

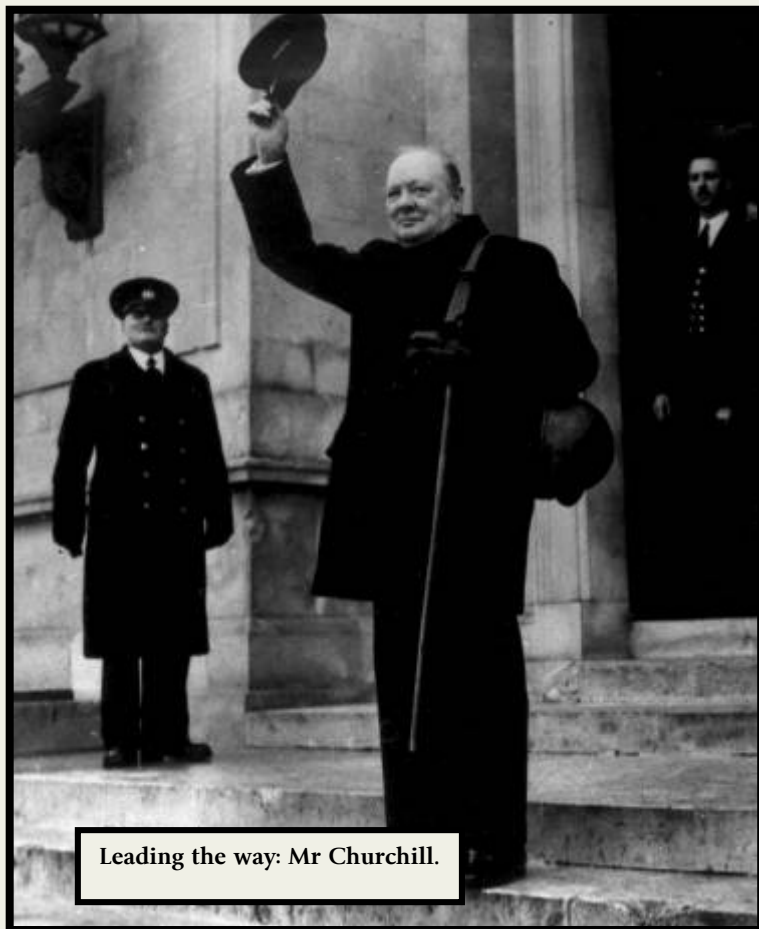
WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1940

## THE BATTLE BEGINS

Mr Churchill has only been Prime Minister for a month but he is about to lead us in the greatest battle our country has ever seen. We can be sure that, come what may, Mr Churchill will be at the front guiding the way, and we must follow for the good of our Nation. There is much work to be done and we must not waste a minute. As Mr Churchill stated yesterday 'The Battle of France is over; The Battle of Britain is about to begin.

## SPITFIRE FUNDS

The Royal Air Force needs our help in order for them to help us - please give generously to your local Spitfire Fund . . . your money could ultimately save your life!



Leading the way: Mr Churchill.



## 'The Home Front Army'

- by Elizabeth Robinson

As we all prepare for the biggest battle of our lives, is there anything that we - the ordinary people of Britain - can do to help in the defence of our Nation?

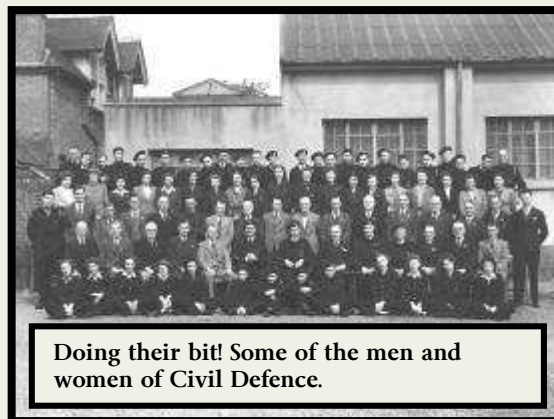
The answer is yes - there is plenty that we can do, from volunteering in Civil Defence to raising money for Spitfire aeroplanes.

You will have seen your local Air Raid Warden patrolling the streets - and telling off those who have not been following blackout instructions! Whilst the enforcement of these regulations may seem an awful drag to you and I, the job of the warden is of great importance to our safety, and for that we should be very grateful. For, you see, they will also be responsible for reporting bomb damage and for supervising the public when the sirens sound for real.

Anyone, from the age of 18 (who are not already required for War service) can enrol to become an Air Raid Warden and to add to the valuable work being done.

Alternatively, men under the age of 18 and those over 40 can join the Local Defence Volunteers, or the Home Guard as it is becoming

known. Their role in defending the airfields, factories and coastlines are vital, and should any of the enemy foolishly attempt to parachute into our country, the boys from the Home Guard will be there to round them up!



Doing their bit! Some of the men and women of Civil Defence.

And for the women there is always the Women's Voluntary Service. These wonderful ladies have already helped hundreds of thousands of children and families to evacuate from the cities and are now preparing for the struggle at hand by planning for temporary centres for those whose homes may be attacked. When not feeding and clothing refugees from occupied Europe they are encouraging folk to provide raw materials such as iron and aluminium to be used in the production of aeroplanes, such as the new all metal plane, the Spitfire.

As you read this factories are working flat out with these materials to provide for the Royal Air Force.

So remember those old pots and pans before you throw them out - the pilots of Fighter Command need them!

We must all do our bit - join the Home Front Army!



## 'The Eyes of Britain'

- by Alfred Ramsbottom

They officially formed following the Great War, and their responsibility was to track and identify aircraft flying over Britain. I am, of course, speaking of the Observer Corps.

And now, with the Battle of Britain fast approaching, their contribution has never been so important to the defence of our country.

Groups all over the country will be looking and listening for the tell-tale signs of incoming enemy aircraft. Brandishing their binoculars, the men of the Observer Corps will be searching the skies, whilst listening for the faint drone of approaching aeroplanes.

Observation posts are being constructed in playing fields, and other open areas and in the towns and cities the observers will have their posts on the rooftops of large buildings such as factories.

Observers will work around the clock, using their equipment to estimate the height of the aircraft, and will communicate their findings by telephone to the control centres for each Group.

This information will then be reported to Fighter Command who will be able to use it when sending out the brave pilots of the Royal Air Force.

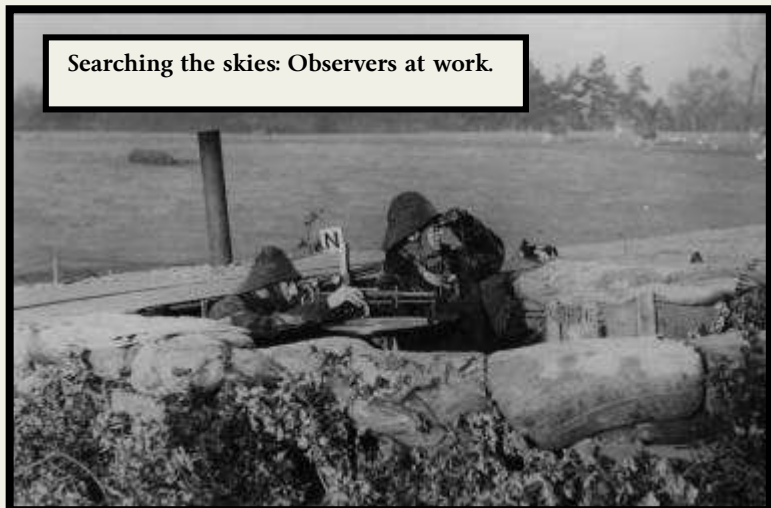
The Observer Corps are made up of volunteers with many not being paid - the job is done because it needs to be done and because the members want to play their part in the war effort - an effort, it is hoped, that will result in the successful defence of Britain.

Our hats go off to the chaps of the observer Corps - The eyes of Britain!

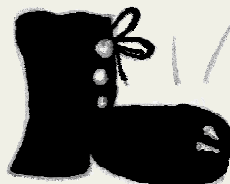


AFS Enrolment Day:  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June,  
09.30 - 15.00  
at the Town Hall.

Searching the skies: Observers at work.



Boots stay clean with  
*Keen's*



Wax Boot Polish 9d

## 'Our Secret Weapon'

- by Nell Darling

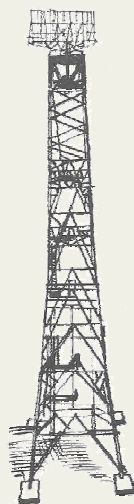
In his speech yesterday Mr Churchill made us all aware of the forthcoming struggle. Many people are already asking 'How can we prepare ourselves? Just how can we be ready for the enemy?' I can report that we can all sleep a little easier with the knowledge that we *will* be waiting for them, with the help of our Secret Weapon.

Yesterday I spent some time in the company of some of our brave men and women of the Royal Air Force, who are operating these wonderful machines that will enable us to observe the enemy, in some cases before they have left France!

For reasons of secrecy I am unable to reveal the location of my visit. However I can mention that I arrived at 0900 hours and was taken to a small wooden hut with a series of tall structures around them.

Inside one of the rooms there was an operator from the WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) sitting at a large machine.

She was wearing a headset and had a look of concentration on her face; I dared not interrupt her as I knew her work was very important. On the machine there were many dials and switches; I wondered how anybody could use such a thing - I knew that I would be confused in an instant. I was taken into another room where there were a number of men and women at a desk with telephones on it.



I was at quite a loss as to how this building and the people and machinery working inside could possibly help in the War effort until it was explained to me that this will be used as a form of early warning system, picking up evidence of approaching enemy aircraft flying over the Channel from quite some

distance away. This amazing contraption has been given a name. R---r.

The information collected by the unit, which includes height and size of enemy formations, will be passed on to Fighter Command HQ and will be invaluable to our boys in the sky, who can be up and ready to fight well before the enemy have arrived. It will also inform our pilots of the locations of the enemy so that they will not need to waste precious fuel!

But, I asked, how can one tiny building be able to detect all of the many anticipated enemy planes? Surely it would not be able to cope? My hosts laughed loudly and responded by telling me that this was just one of over fifty bases dotted around the south of the country!

So, enemies be warned! Our secret weapon will be looking out for you!

## 'Controlling the Skies'

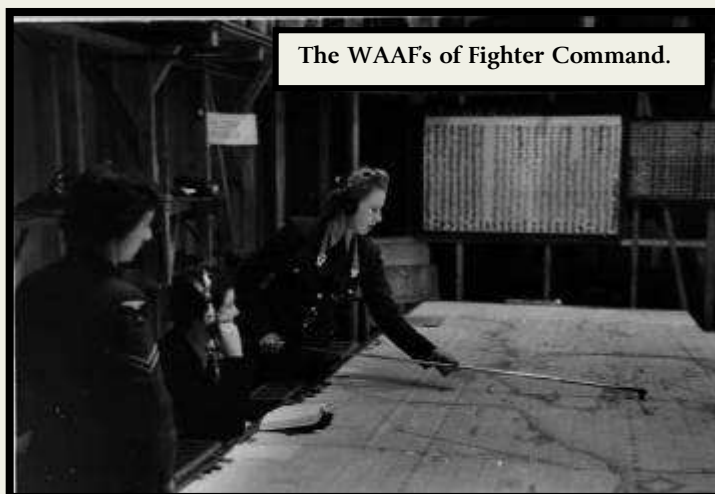
- by Reginald Smythe

All over the Country the Operation room staff of Fighter Command are preparing for their biggest battle yet! They have witnessed the relative ease at which France has fallen into the hands of the enemy, and they know that they must make the most of all of the information given to them to prevent the same thing happening to our great nation!

Telephones will ring bringing much needed intelligence and all the while the women of the Royal Air Force will be plotting the information onto the tables, allowing the controller to see at a glance what is happening in the skies over Britain.

At Fighter Command Head Quarters, The Royal Air Force, under the strong leadership of Air vice Marshal Hugh Dowding, will monitor the situation and give orders accordingly.

Should enemy aircraft approach the order will be given out to 'Scramble', and the brave young fighter pilots will engage with the enemy. While they are in combat, the locations of all of the planes will be noted and the details passed to the WAAFs who will display the information on the operations room table.



The WAAF's of Fighter Command.

Communications will be maintained throughout the battle allowing the controller to direct the pilots to the best positions in the sky.



Without such vital work, our Boys will be at risk!

The pilots will rely on information from the ground and it's WAAFs like these who will keep the controllers in the picture. This war will not be won only by the efforts of our boys but of our girls too!

## 'Fighters for Freedom'

- by Richard Banks

Yesterday the remaining Hurricane Squadrons began evacuating their bases in France, following the country's armistice with Germany. The tired pilots in their battle-worn Hawker Hurricanes will arrive back in Britain and then begin their preparations for the oncoming struggle. Though they may be tired they know that they have the support of a grateful nation.

As each aircraft returns to their base, the incredible work of the ground crews will begin. Replacing and repairing damaged parts, refuelling and getting each aeroplane into tip top condition ready for the new fight. Without the work of these men and women, our pilots would be unable to defend this country and so we must all remember to give our thanks to these unsung heroes and heroines!



Ground crew refuelling a Hurricane.

When information arrives at the Operations rooms, decisions will be made to scramble squadrons. At the dispersal huts on the airfields, the pilots of the Royal Air Force will be waiting for the telephone call, and of the ringing of the bell, that will send them running to their planes and up to dogfight with the enemy. Ground crew will help the pilots get into the aircraft and prepare the planes ready for take off. All of this will happen in a matter of minutes.



Waiting for the ring of the bell!

We must think of the brave men as they sit on the airfields, waiting for the signal to run to the aircraft. What will be going through their minds? However they choose to pass the time, whether attempting to read, sleep or talk with their pals, we can be sure that when the bell rings they will have focus for the task at hand. For that, we must give thanks - our fighters for freedom are ready!

## 'Working Together'

- by Evelyn De-Ath

Over the coming days and weeks, much will be talked of, and written about, our pilots of the Royal Air Force, out protecting the skies of Britain and defending our great nation from the tyranny of the enemy. But as other reporters of this paper have discussed, there are many groups of people who will be working together to provide much needed resources and information to safeguard our nations future.

From the humble actions of you and I, donating old pots and pans to be used to produce new aircraft, to the volunteers who will continue to give up their time to assist those less fortunate and who will look after the needs of us all, everyone will be called on to do their bit.

In factories all over Britain, production will be increased so that we are as best prepared as we can be.

Observers will scan the skies, and the new technology we possess will be put to the ultimate test. Detailed information will be passed on to those who can most use it; the command centres of the Royal Air Force.

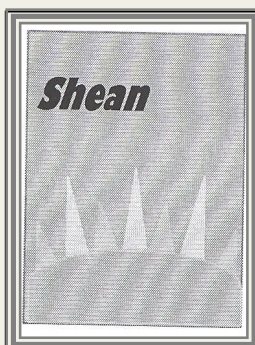
Instructions will be sent to RAF bases, and the action will be monitored to ensure not only the defence of our country but of the safety of our pilots.

Men and women of the ground crew will make certain that all aircraft are safe and ready to use in preparation for the tough time ahead.

All of this hard work undertaken will ultimately give our boys in the skies a fighting chance as we head for the greatest battle yet. The battle of Britain.



We can all do our bit - please remember to give what you can to your local Spitfire Fund



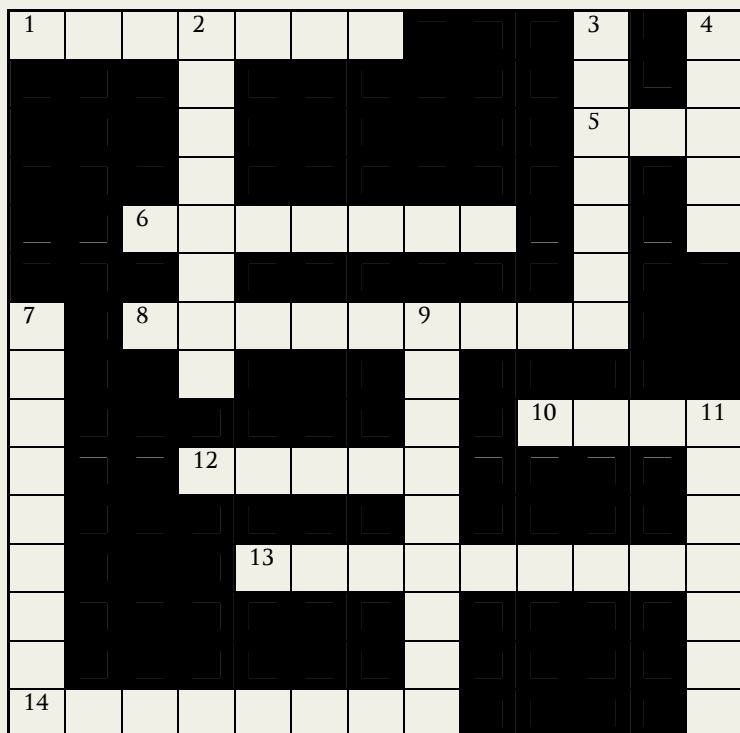
**Shean 'Sparkling' Soap Flakes**

Now in

**GIANT SIZE**

# Puzzle Page

## Crossword

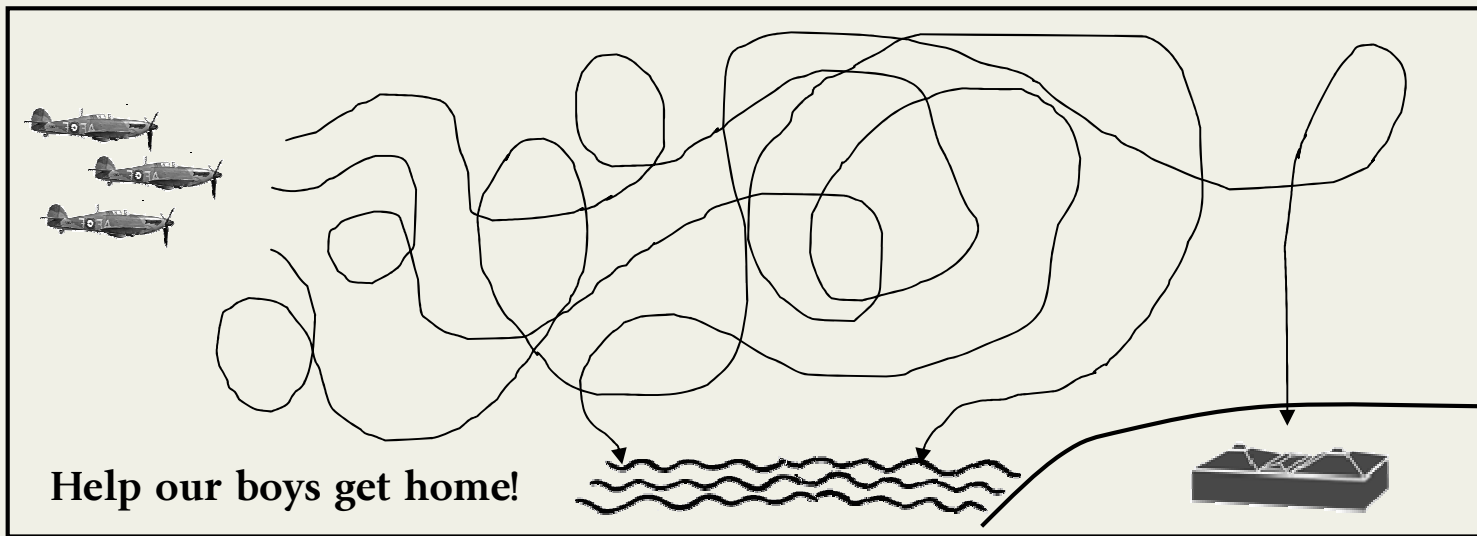


## Across

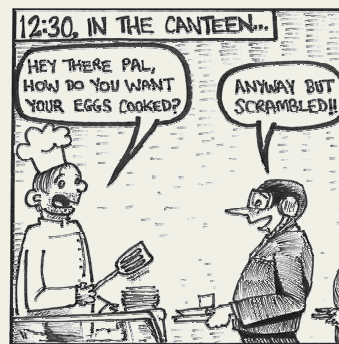
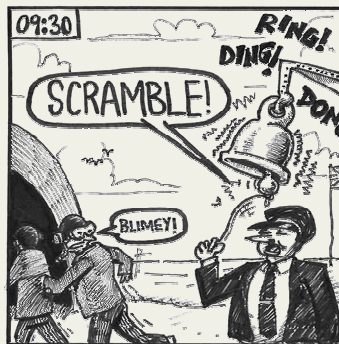
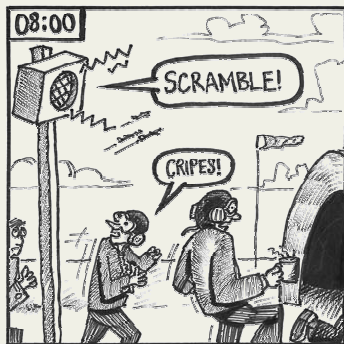
1. The Commander of Fighter Command, AVM Hugh \_\_\_\_\_. (7)
5. (& 4D) The battle will be 'their finest hour': The Royal \_\_\_\_\_. (3)
6. When the siren sounds, the enemy aircraft are on their way. What is this siren known as? (3,4)
8. Our Prime Minister since May 1940. (9)
10. The team who fix our aircraft are the ground \_\_\_\_\_. (4)
12. Our early warning system uses beams to detect the enemy. (5)
13. When children from cities were sent to safe places they were \_\_\_\_\_. (9)
14. Our latest all metal fighter plane. (11)

## Down

2. The name given to 2 planes chasing each other in combat. (8)
3. Radar stations will send beams out across this expanse of water. (7)
4. See 5 across. (5)
7. The inland eyes of Britain. (9)
9. Fighter Command's reliable fighter plane that is made by Hawker. (9)
11. These volunteers help us during air raids. (7)



## B Flight by Ward Fowler



## Sport

- by Charles Green

### The War League Cup – 8<sup>th</sup> June 1940.

Figures from the recent final of the War League Cup have shown that no war is going to stop a good game of football!

The attendance figures for the game, between West Ham United and Blackburn Rovers, proved to the enemy that the threat of attack will not prevent football fans from cheering their boys on. Statistics show that over 42,300 fans witnessed the winning goal from West Ham player Sam Small at Wembley Stadium on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. Spectators included some of the brave survivors of Dunkirk who, deservedly, did not have to pay to watch the game. With kick off at 6 o'clock in the evening, even the war workers could enjoy the game! Tickets were priced from 1s to 10/6, ensuring that everyone could afford to watch.

This has been the second time that West Ham United have reached a cup final at Wembley, the first being in 1923 when they lost 2 – 0 to Bolton Wanderers.

#### Cup Final Teams:

Blackburn Rovers – Barron, Hough, Crook (Capt), Whiteside, Pryde, Chivers, Rogers, Butt, Weddle, Clarke and Guest.

West Ham United – Conway, Ricknell (Capt), Walker, Fenton, Walker, Cockroft, Small, MaCaulay, Foreman, Goulden and Foxall.

#### Reporting staff:

Evelyn De-Ath, Richard Banks, Nell Darling, Charles Green, Alfred Ramsbottom, Elizabeth Robinson, Reginald Smythe and Margaret Thomas.

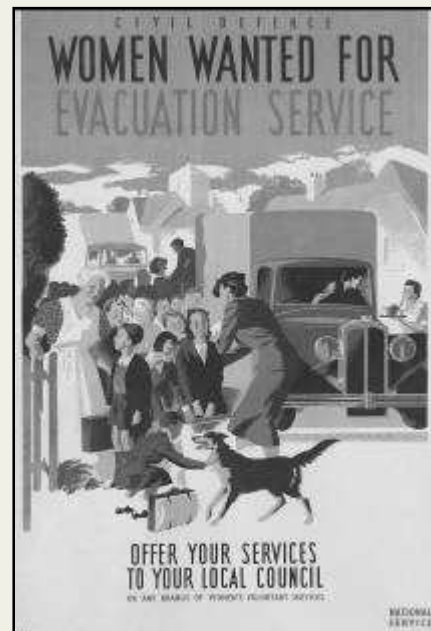
## At Home

- by Margaret Thomas

As this war continues to get closer to home, we have never needed our wireless radios more. Many of us will tune in each evening at 6 o'clock to the BBC Home Service and will listen to the familiar voice of Alvar Lidell as he informs us of the events taking place.

The news may not always be heartening, but we know that we can rely on Tommy Handley and his team to raise our spirits in the comedy programme 'It's that man again'. From Mrs Mopp to Tommy's secretary Dotty we can be sure that for half an hour at least we can all try to forget the war.

Don't forget to tune in to the next episode!



**DO YOUR BIT!  
JOIN THE CIVIL  
DEFENCE.**