

Appendix 1 – Chapter Notes

These notes provide suggested background reading and viewing for each chapter. There are further, more detailed notes, on the book's website www.gruil.co.uk, including a main bibliography. On the website you will find specific web addresses to cut-and-paste if you wish to do further research. Here I'm simply pointing you to websites, not printing complete web addresses for you to type painstakingly. The entries you need should be simple to find using Google. I've included Wikipedia entries where I think they're comprehensive and accurate enough.

Introduction

The parliament.uk website has an excellent and concise introduction, *Olympic Britain*, which looks at social and economic change in Britain between the three Olympic years of 1908, 1948 and 2012.

For reference books on Post-war Britain you need look no further than David Kynaston's magisterial series *Austerity Britain*, *Family Britain* and *Modernity Britain*, which takes us from 1945 to 1962. The best pre-war equivalent is *We Danced All Night*, by Martin Pugh, and there are of course hundreds of books about World War II. A parallel set of books of images is Robert Opie's engaging *Scrapbook* series, which covers the 1930s, Wartime and the 1950s.

Chapter 1 – First Memories

The human-memory website gives a summary of memory research, from Aristotle to the 1970s, and pursues the idea of selective memory.

An April 2014 article on the Cornell University website (see psychologists-ask-what-your-earliest-memory) suggests people are inclined to time-stamp their memories to later than when they actually took place.

An article on the psychcentral website looks at 'childhood amnesia'.

Chapter 2 – Origins

Mentioned in the chapter are two of the most famous domestic events of the 1930s, both of which took place in October 1936. While it's fair to say that they have become more famous in retrospect than the impact they made at the time, they have since become identified as key events of the 1930s.

There are many sources that describe the Battle of Cable Street of 4 October 1936. I suggest you look at just one YouTube clip. While it includes some newsreel footage, and testimony from an eye-witness, Bill Shipman, at its centre is an excellent off-the-cuff piece to camera by the historian Alan Hudson.

The very next day, 5 October, saw the start of the last of several 'Jarrow marches', timed to arrive in Westminster at the re-opening of Parliament on 3 November. Again, see YouTube, as well as for an earlier march from Jarrow in 1934.

Chapter 3 – First Home

The 1900s.org website, created by Pat Cryer, examines domestic life in the 20th century, based on a whole range of recollections. The bath house is one of the areas covered. In addition the victorianweb site provides a useful introduction to the Victorian bath house movement.

Chapter 4 – The First School

The parliament.uk website has an excellent history in figures of British education from primary to university, in a paper by Paul Bolton. For a comprehensive background to British education, see Derek Gillard's book *Education in England: A Brief History*, Chapters 4 and 5, available on the educationengland website.

Chapter 5 – Life at Home

For the background to the Great Depression of the 1930s and its impact on wages and unemployment see Wikipedia.

A *Daily Mail* article in 2010 published excerpts from Juliet Gardiner's book *The Thirties: An Intimate History Of Britain*, labelled *In Search of Arcadia – how in the hungry 1930s mothers starved to death to feed their children*.

For the use of credit in working-class homes in particular, Google 'Providence Cheques' in Ross McKibbin's excellent book *Classes and Cultures: England 1918–1951*.

Family life is covered in an article by Pat Thane on the ehs.org website called *Happy Families?*

For an insight into how difficult it was for an ordinary person to get a divorce, look at a Guardian article of 2014 which examines historical divorce rates. You can download datasheets from it on its Datablog section by searching on divorce rates.

Chapter 6 – Illness

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society site rpharms.com has a readable pamphlet on how illness was treated in the early 20th century, downloadable as a PDF.

Wikipedia has a good straightforward history of the foundation and development of the NHS in England. See the historyextra site for the article *The NHS: what can we learn from history?*

Wikipedia has an excellent section on polio, its history and treatment. For the first-hand experience of five people with polio in the 1950s, I'd recommend listening to the powerful Radio Ballad *The Body Blow*, first broadcast on the BBC Home Service in 1961 and available from Topic Records. It's discussed in a book of mine at www.setintosong.co.uk.

For a discussion of infant and maternal mortality, see Atul Gawande's *Better*. Although he has an American perspective, Gawande is an excellent writer on modern medical practice. There are many sites with infant mortality data, including at the visionofbritain.org site.

The blacksacademy site gives a solid summary of health conditions in Britain in the 1930s.

The davidbakerphotography site has a section on the Mundesley Sanatorium which covers extensively the history of TB care. Use Google to find a downloadable article in *Health Service Quarterly* from 2003 that looks at mortality trends in some depth.

Chapter 7 – Fun and Games

Wikipedia has a comprehensive list of traditional children's games. The standard treatise is the immensely painstaking and influential *The Lore and Language of Schoolchildren* by Peter and Iona Opie, first published in 1959 and updated most recently in 2001.

The streetgames site covers most traditional British street games.

For the history of Radio in Britain there is no better site than that of the BBC Genome project, which has every issue of *Radio Times* from 1923 to 2009. If you listened to radio as a child, do have a few hours to spare before you risk looking at the site.

Rock-paper-scissors as a selection game has its origins in China about 2000 years ago.

Chapter 8 – Food

Wikipedia has a simple straightforward summary of rationing in Britain. The 1940sexperiment website looks at it from a modern viewpoint, and the BBC History website has a good piece on it, including video.

The doyenne of wartime cookery writers, Marguerite Patten, who started to cook when she was 12 at Queen Elizabeth's School Barnet, and who died in 2015 in her 100th year, wrote *We'll Eat Again*, *The Victory Cookbook* and *Post-war Kitchen*, all of which are still available. The **1940sexperiment** site has well over 100 recipes. The website **theoldfoodie** has masses of old recipes, and is itself much more addictive than its recipes.

The effects of wartime rationing on child health are explored in a downloadable report from the **ncbi.nlm.nih.gov** website. There's a more readable piece on the **Telegraph** website.

The average British woman's waist measurement has increased from 27" to 34" in the last 60 years, a rise of over 25%. Although total calorie intake is very similar to what it was, the amount of fat in the diet has gone up from 32% to 40%, and our sugar intake has doubled.

'British Restaurants' were originally called by the rather less attractive Community Feeding Centres, and they began to be set up to feed people who'd been bombed out of their homes. By 1941 there were over 200 in London, all run on a not-for-profit basis.

Chapter 9 – Shopping

Before the war less than 1% of British households had a fridge, and in 1948 the figure was still only 2%, one in fifty. In 1959, at the end of our period, it had only reached 13%. Meat safes are discussed in an article in **thewartimewoman** website.

Chapter 10 – The Outbreak of War

The story of the war reparations demanded of Germany at the Treaty of Versailles after World War I is explained in a comprehensive article on Wikipedia. It's worth noting that the concept of 'reparations' was well established. In fact France had been made to pay after their disastrous defeats in 1815 and 1870, and had done so in full and ahead of schedule, which goes some way to explain France's ultimately counter-productive intransigence at Versailles.

History Today in 1997 had an intriguing article by Nicholas Henderson on the unexpected guarantee given to Poland in March 1939. The site **propagander.tripod.com** has an excellent resumé of the run-up to war in the last ten days of August 1939.

Gas masks and respirators are covered in several places, with their own 'wikia' site called **gasmasksandrespirators**.

Evacuation is covered extensively, and Wikipedia is as good a place as any to start, as is the **BBC History** website.

Neville Chamberlain's broadcast announcing the outbreak of war took place at 11.15 on the morning of 3 September. The air raid siren test that panicked so many people took place just 12 minutes later.

Chapters 11–13 – Evacuation

The Mass Observation site **massobs.org.uk** allows you to download an illuminating PDF pamphlet entitled *Evacuation* based on its extensive archive of personal contemporary reminiscences. Evacuee hosts were paid 10/6 a week for the first child and 8/6 for the second if they took two.

The History section of the BBC website has a very good description of evacuation.

Chapter 14 – Ten Refugees

The 18-day Battle of Belgium is well covered in detail in Wikipedia.

There were over 1000 internees held in Malta in World War I. On the Isle of Man over 10,000 were held at the peak in August 1940, across ten camps.

A week before Germany invaded Poland, it instructed all its merchant vessels to leave main shipping lanes, disguise themselves, and make for home ports. Three days later those who couldn't make it within another four days were told to make for a neutral port. The *Wangoni* and five other German merchant ships arrived in Vigo and stayed for five months before slipping out on the

night of 9–10 February 1940, and running for home. Only the *Wangoni* made it back, docking at Hamburg on 1 March 1940.

The **airfieldinformationexchange** website has a good account of the Isle of Man internment camps, as does the Association of Jewish Refugees site **ajr.org**. Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, Lord Weidenfeld, Sir Charles Forte, the artist Kurt Schwitters, and the concert pianist duo Rawicz and Landauer were all interned on the Isle of Man in 1940.

Chapter 15 – The First Blitz

The **Guardian** website has a downloadable dataset that shows in detail the London fire brigade's itemising of the 843 damage reports on the night of 7 September 1940.

Wikipedia covers the 1940–41 Blitz well. The fascinating **bombsight.org** site shows a map of exactly where each bomb landed: toggling the zoom button gives a real idea of its saturation and the clear focus along the river to the east of Westminster. The **battleofbritain1940** site gives graphic descriptions of the impact of the 7 September raid that hit the sugar refinery and lit the sky. The **britishpathe** site has a five-minute sequence of London still burning on the morning after an incendiary raid, silent, and thus free of the normal jaunty and jarring Pathé commentary.

The **cockneypride** site has an excellent summary, and includes two riveting part-documentary 40-minute programmes about 29 December 1940, *London's Longest Night*.

The excellent **spartacus-educational** site has a good piece on the role of volunteer ARP (Air Raid Precaution) Wardens in Britain, of which there were well over a million. The **wartimememories** project site has some recollections by ARP Wardens. A *Guardian* article on Looting, which was widespread, relates that one ruse of looters was to wear an ARP Warden's uniform. And **theweek** website comments that there were nearly 5000 cases of looting – that's only those where perpetrators were caught – in the nine months of the first Blitz. Half of the offenders were children. This is well covered in the **oldpoicecellsmuseum** site.

The **BBC History** site talks about public shelter policy in a piece on *The Blitz: Sorting the Myth from the Reality*. The **spartacus-educational** site has a typically illuminating piece on the Government's shelter policy.

German bombing policy is explained in a Wikipedia article on Strategic Bombing in World War II, with emphasis on Hitler's careful instructions not to target civilians, and his abrupt volte-face when British bombers got through to Berlin.

The **stairwaytoheavenmemorial** site deals just with the Bethnal Green tube station disaster of 3 March 1943. Wikipedia covers it and the subsequent lawsuit.

Chapter 16 – Into Double Figures

The 1944 'Butler' Education Act is described in a BBC article on its **schoolreport** website. The Bill, and the subsequent raising of the school-leaving age, is covered in detail in the National Archives' cabinet papers section.

Refer again to the **parliament.uk** website for the Paul Bolton paper on education.

The Grocers' School was founded in 1876 but renamed Hackney Downs when taken over by the London County Council in 1906, though it was still known to everyone as Grocers'. It became a comprehensive school in 1976 and was forced to close – after having been described as 'the worst school in Britain' – in 1995. As well as the actors mentioned in the text it had an unusually wide range of successful pupils.

There's an intriguing piece on the **openbookpublishers** site entitled *A People Passing Rude* by Claire Knight, which looks at Clemmie Churchill's activities to promote aid to Russia.

Chapter 17 – The War and its Climax

The Peace Pledge Union has an extensive piece on Conscientious Objection on its **ppu.org.uk** website, and there's some personal testimony on the **spartacus-educational** site.

The famous evocation of working-class life before World War I, *The Ragged-Trousered Philanthropists*, was published in 1914, three years after the death of its author Robert Noonan, who wrote using the pseudonym Robert Tressell.

Wikipedia deals at some length separately with the V1 and V2 rockets, and the deception and interception methods used to minimise their effects – which, however, remained quite devastating enough. Another entry covers the extraordinary career of Joan Pujol Garcia, the brilliant double agent decorated by both sides in 1944.

The King's Most Loyal Enemy Aliens was the name given to the Pioneer Corps, virtually the only regiment in which those refugees dubbed Aliens could serve. By the end of the war one in seven Jewish 'Aliens' had become serving soldiers. The **BBC** website has a piece about them.

For more information on VE Day see the **Daily Telegraph** website, which has a clever recap of the day itself as it might have appeared on a modern Internet news site.

The successful crossing of the Rhine on 24 March 1945 was known as Operation Varsity, and learnt much from the horrific failure of the Arnhem landings. Varsity is still the largest airborne assault to take place in a single day. The British lost 20% of its personnel killed and wounded – a high number but fewer than expected. Wikipedia covers it at length.

Chapter 18 – Holidays

For a history of holiday camps, begun in earnest in the 1930s by Harry Warner and Billy Butlin, see the **seasidehistory** website, which also shows how post-war holiday-making changed. The state of beaches in the South East during the war is the subject of an extensive Wikipedia article.

Pig Clubs are described by Ruth Goodman on the **wartimefarm** website.

Chapter 19 – Further Education

The **parliament.uk** website mentioned in the introduction provides an exhaustive set of figures on higher education. In 1930 the number of people graduating with degrees each year was 9000, 7000 of them men, figures that stayed steady until the war. By 1960 the total had increased only to 22,000. It's 350,000 today, with nearly 60% of them women.

The **savvyrow** website has a long section on the Lyons 'Nippie'.

Chapter 20 – The First Job

The arrival of Christian Dior's New Look is described in a 2007 **Guardian** website article by Linda Grant, and with images on the **metmuseum** site.

For those brought up in and after the war the absence of Woolworths shops from the high street is something of a shock. In 1959, at the end of our period, it had over 1000 stores in the UK, and its stock valuation was second only to ICI. See the **Woolworths** website for the story, leading to its final collapse in Britain in 2008 after 99 years of trading.

Chapter 21 – Military Service

The best source for the story of post-war National Service is Richard Vinen's 2014 book *National Service: Conscription in Britain 1945–1963*, of which there are many online reviews. The **british-armedforces** site gives the basic facts. Wikipedia has an illuminating table of each country's military strength today.

Chapter 22 – Leisure and Pleasure

There's a nice piece on the expansion of cinemas in Britain in the 1930s in the **screenonline** website.

The **BBC** website's WW2 People's War section has a good section on wartime dancing.

Memories of the Eel Pie Island venue can be found on the **eelpie.org** website. An hour-long documentary *Ronnie Scott and All That Jazz* can be found on Youtube. A minute-long archive piece on the Jitterbug on Youtube explains why parents were reluctant to let their daughters go to venues where they could dance it.

There's a witty piece on Purchase Tax on the **peterice.com** website.

Chapter 23 – Courtship and Marriage

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has a downloadable report on marriage rates between 1930 and 2010, which Google will find for you. The **historyandpolicy.org** website has a piece on sex, marriage and parenthood, which contains the startling fact that 30% of all first children born in 1939 were conceived out of wedlock. *The Pinch* by David Willetts expresses the view that the children of our contributors, the so-called baby-boomers, are the 'golden generation' whose lives were decidedly easier than those of their parents or children.