



What role did Barrow-in-Furness play in World War 2?

Diary Extract - Margaret Bainbridge

Margaret Nora Bainbridge was born in Barrow in 1924. She lived at 37 Derby Street. Margaret went to the Convent School and was a Girl Guide at St George's.

The following extracts are taken from her diary during World War 2.

APRIL, 1941

13 Sun - Easter Day Did not go to church. Did a lot of knitting - front of pale blue jumper. Made more ginger snaps. Heard Barry K. Barnes & Diana Churchill in a sketch "The Lawyer at Home", & Diana Wynyard & Val Gielgud giving their career stories. Heard the BBC Northern Orchestra playing Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" - at last.

14 Mon - Easter Monday. Bank Holiday Nazi plane over about 2.15 AM & dropped 2 bombs (1 a dud) in the steel works, injuring 5 men. Siren at 3.10, 2 big bombs dropped demolishing houses in Vernon St, ~~Montague St~~, & the Trevelyan Hotel. 15 killed, many homeless. Time bomb found in the Trevelyan. Went to see the damage but it is roped off & soldiers & police stopping traffic etc. All clear at 3.45. Arrived home today at 8.25. All clear 3.15 PM. The night's plane was shot down over N. Wales.

APRIL, 1941

15 Tues Slept last night on the sitting-room couch. Siren went at 11.50 AM, all clear - 12.25. Went to see the damage. The Trevelyan is no more. Siren went at 9.5 PM. Planes came over continually after an hours quiet. Guns fired & I stood at the door to see. There were two very bright ~~flashes~~ flashes, & terrific bangs. They were bombs. Demolished houses in Union St, etc., damage to Simpson's garage, Ritz, Duke of Edinburgh War.

16 Wed evng, Coliseum. Baptist church demolished, baths part also. Thousands of windows broken. Tom was out at a fire in Union St, etc. 18 killed. Coop shut through damage. Windows broken in Dalton Road - Cooks, Winders etc damaged. What a mess! There's hardly a big window left in the Town.

Al Bowly was killed in the big London air raid tonight. 1 old man who had lost his home in Barrow, it was playing war coz he couldn't find his teeth - but he got them!!

© waiting on this



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Teacher's Pet



Historic England



Barrow-in-Furness



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Tuesday 15 April 1941 - Wednesday 16 April 1941

Slept last night on the sitting room couch. Siren went at 11.50 am All clear 12.25. Went to see the damage. The Trevelyan is no more. Planes came over continuously after an hour's quiet. Guns fired and I stood at the door to see. There were two very bright flashes and terrific bangs. They were bombs. Demolished houses in Union Street etc. damage to Simpson's Garage, Ritz, Duke of Edinburgh, Waverley. Baptist Church demolished, Baths part also. Thousands of windows broken. 18 killed. Co-op shut through damage. Windows broken in Dalton Road-Cooks, Winders etc damaged. What a mess! There's hardly a big window left in the town.

Friday 18 April 1941

Went up town Abbey Road between Dalton Road and the Ritz is still roped off. All the shops are open today but few have windows. "Business as usual" "Come in by the door-Hitler came in by the window" "Hitler or no Hitler, business as usual" etc. "Windows" are boarded up with wood, corrugated steel, roofing felt etc.

Sun 4 May 1941

Did not go to bed at all but spent the day clearing away broken glass, soot etc and making the house a little more respectable.

Bigger blitz than last night but I was in Aunty Frances' shelter. Many incendiaries, H E, mines and they machine gunned AFS putting out a big wood fire down Yarlside. Houses demolished in Hill Road, Hollow Lane (Aunty Nella and Peggy bombed out), Salthouse Road, Suffolk Street, central railway station is a wreck.

Friday 25 April 1941

Instead of Guides we went with St Paul's to the Fire Station where we had a lecture on incendiary bombs and fire-fighting; saw a stirrup pump at work on a fire; and slid down the pole (Brenda, Irene and I went back for a second slide)!





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What can we learn about people's experiences of war?

Use the information you can take from the diary extracts to add information to the table below. You may not be able to fill in every section for each event you describe.

Date/Time	What happened?	Changes to daily life	Community response	Personal reflections

What do you think it would have been like to live in Barrow during the Blitz?





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Local History

Historic England and Teacher's Pet have come together to bring you a collection of free resources that you can use in your local history teaching.



**Historic
England**



Teacher's Pet

Who are Teacher's Pet?

Teacher's Pet have been providing downloadable and playable educational content to early years and primary school teachers for over 14 years. We cover all areas of the curriculum and use a team of in-house teachers and designers to create engaging and memorable concepts, that the children will love.

Why local history?

At [Teacher's Pet](#) we want to empower primary school teachers by giving them the tools they need to deliver inspiring and thoughtful lessons about the local area and its history. We believe local history teaching has such an important part to play in a child's wellbeing – helping to give children a sense of pride in where they live.

Our Local History project is designed to provide teachers across the UK with everything they need to successfully carry out a full scheme of teaching about their local area, through key enquiry questions and source led activities.

Working with [Historic England](#) gives us access to archived maps and photos for resources and information from knowledgeable local historians, as well helping us to provide the content to you free of charge.

For more information about our Local History project or to find out more about Teacher's Pet Classroom Resources, please visit our website.