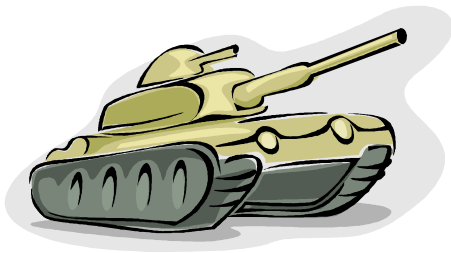# World War 2

In Shetland

Primary 3-4

World War 2

In 1939, Germany invaded Poland. This is how the second world war began.

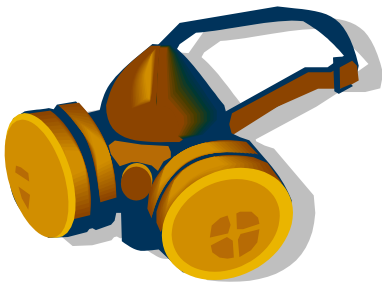Hitler, leader of Germany, wanted to control Europe.

Britain went to war with Germany.

Other countries went to war with Germany too, like France and Australia.

ADOLF HITLER

This is Adolf Hitler. He started the second world war by invading Poland.

The war lasted 6 years. It ended in 1945.

Everyday life

War changed day to day life for everybody.

You had to carry an identity card to prove you were a friend and not an enemy!

You were given a gasmask, in case of a gas attack.

You had to put black cloth over your windows so enemy planes couldn't see you.

In an air raid, sirens would go off and everyone had to go into an air raid shelter to keep safe.

Children were sent home from school if enemy planes were flying around the building!

Air raid shelters in Lerwick

Shetland

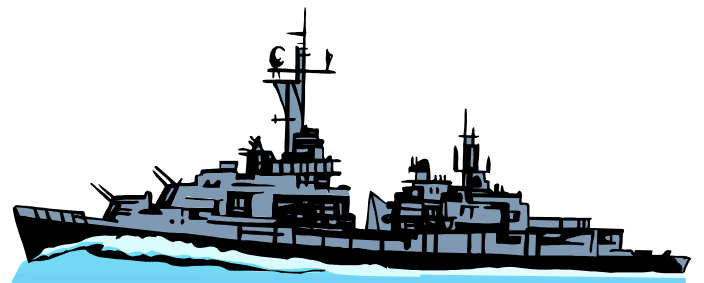The first German bomb from World War 2 landed in Shetland.

Bombs fell from planes,
mines exploded in the sea,
and ships were attacked.

British soldiers stayed in
Shetland—they attacked the
German Navy ships that went by,
and helped to keep people safe.

Some Shetland men went
away to fight as soldiers.
Others went into the
navy or the air force.

Shetland lasses were needed too—many worked
for the navy, the air force and the army,
And helped to look after wounded soldiers.

At Home

Local men, too young or old to fight,
stayed at home and helped keep everyone safe.

Germany invaded Norway in 1940—everyone was afraid that Shetland would be attacked.

Shetland men in the 'Home Guard'

Shetland Museum

The men who stayed home were important—they looked out for enemies and helped everybody in air raids.

The soldiers who came to Shetland helped the locals look out for enemies too.

Shetland women sold their knitting—the warm clothes they made were good for soldiers!
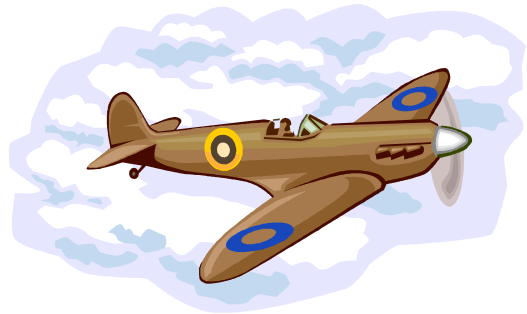
Out to fight

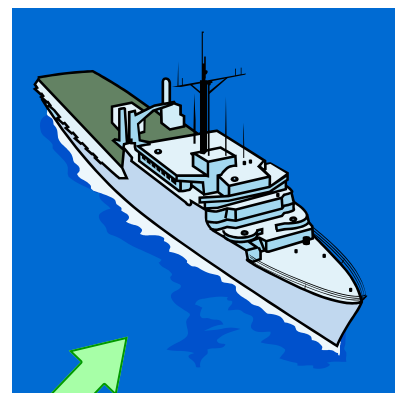Lots of Shetland men went out to fight with Britain in the war.
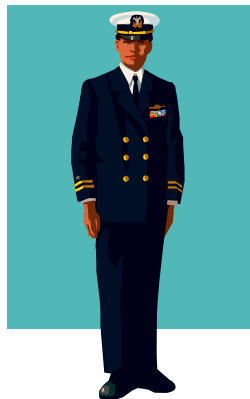
Some were soldiers in the army.

Some were pilots in the air force.

Many Shetland men worked in the navy because they were used to working on boats—they had good 'sea legs' too!

Shetland men worked on ships and submarines all over the world!

Working on ships was just as dangerous as being a soldier—ships were sunk by enemies.
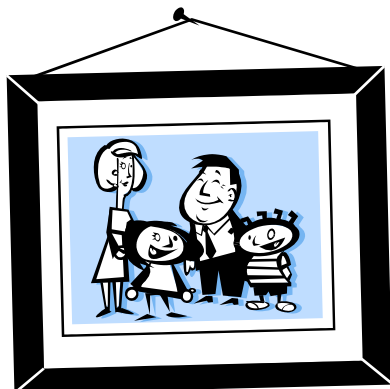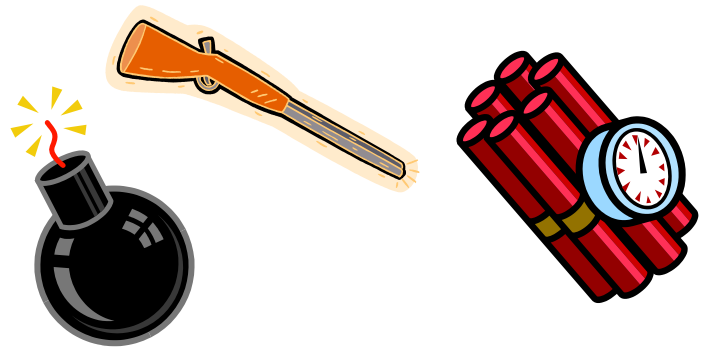
The Shetland Bus

A secret group took fishing boats from Shetland to Norway.

The secret mission was called 'The Shetland Bus'.

Some of the people were from Shetland, some were from Norway, and some were from Britain!

The boats they took had weapons on board. They gave weapons to people in Norway.

Germany started fighting with Norway, and it was very unsafe to stay there.
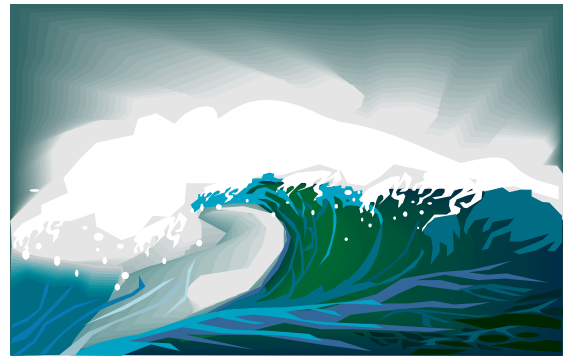
The boats took people Norway to Shetland to keep them safe.

Lost at sea

Many Shetland men died during the second world war.

Many were lost at sea, and others died from being injured by enemy attacks.

Women and children lost husbands and fathers who were very close to them.

After the war, there were less men in Shetland. Some who went out to fight never came back.

The end of the war

The war finally ended in 1945, after six difficult years for everyone.

All the British soldiers left Shetland after the war and went home.

There weren't many jobs for Shetland people after the war.

Poppies help us remember

Lots of Shetlanders moved away to find better jobs and more money.

On 11th November every year, we remember all of the people who died during the first world war, the second world war, and all the other wars since.