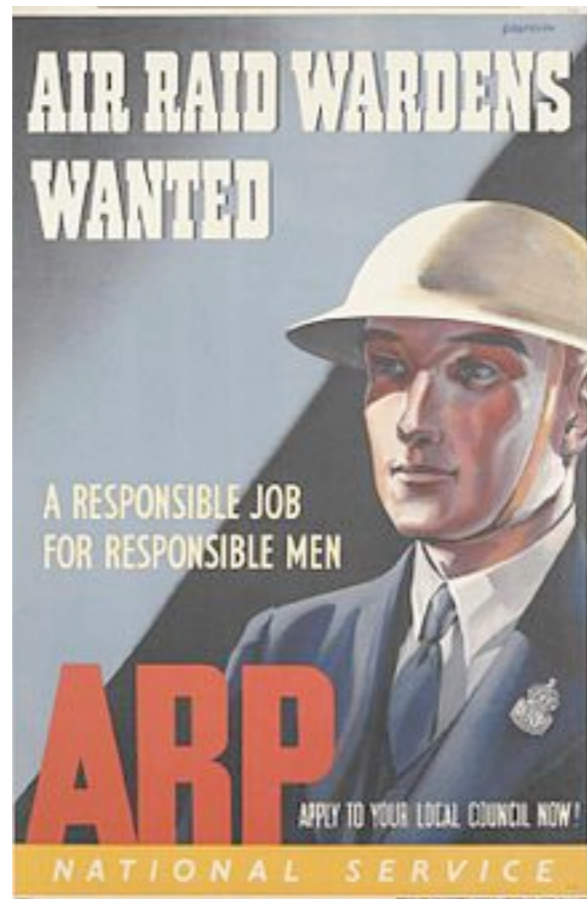


# The people themselves by volunteering for work helped keep spirits up during the Blitz

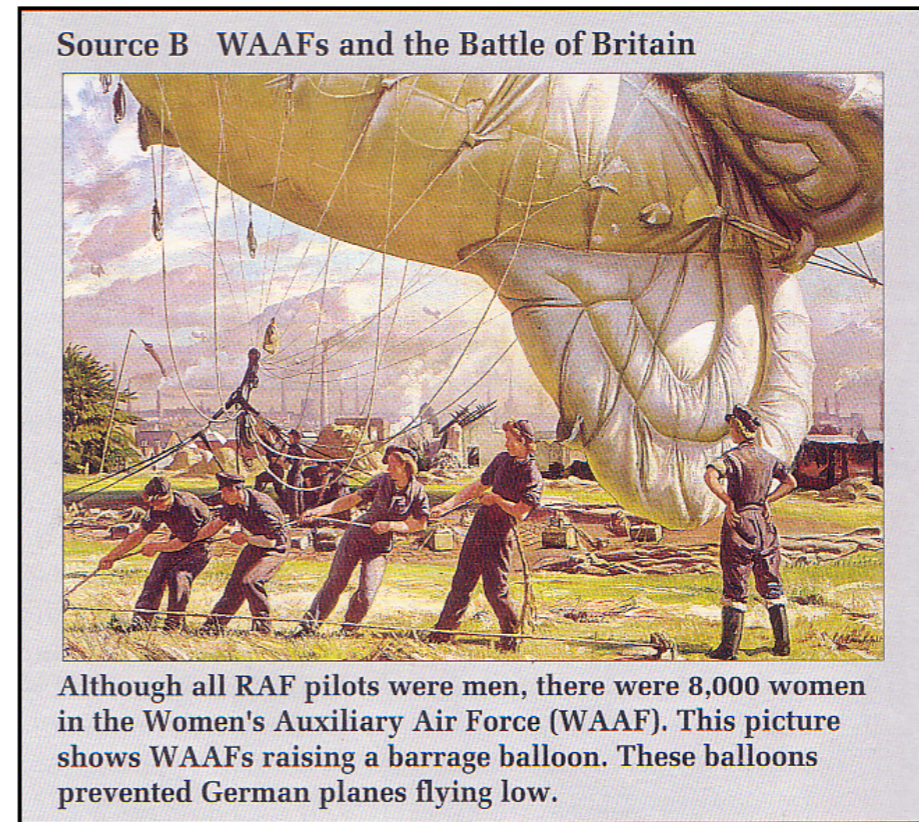


**Air Raid Precautions** was dedicated to the protection of civilians from the danger of air raids. They supervised defensive measures against air raids( ex. the Blackout) In all some 1.5 million men and women served within the organisation during World War Two. *Over 127,000 full-time personnel were involved at the height of the Blitz.*

From 1941, women were called up for war work, in roles such as mechanics, engineers, munitions workers, air raid wardens, bus and fire engine drivers. At first, only single women, aged 20-30 were called up, but by mid-1943, almost 90 per cent of single women and 80 per cent of married women were working in factories, on the land or in the armed forces.



The percentage of women in industrial jobs went from 20 per cent to 27 per cent from 1938-1945.<sup>1</sup>



There were over 640,000 women in the armed forces

ex. The **Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF)** was formed in June 1939 and provided key personnel to work at radar stations and Filter and Operations Rooms.

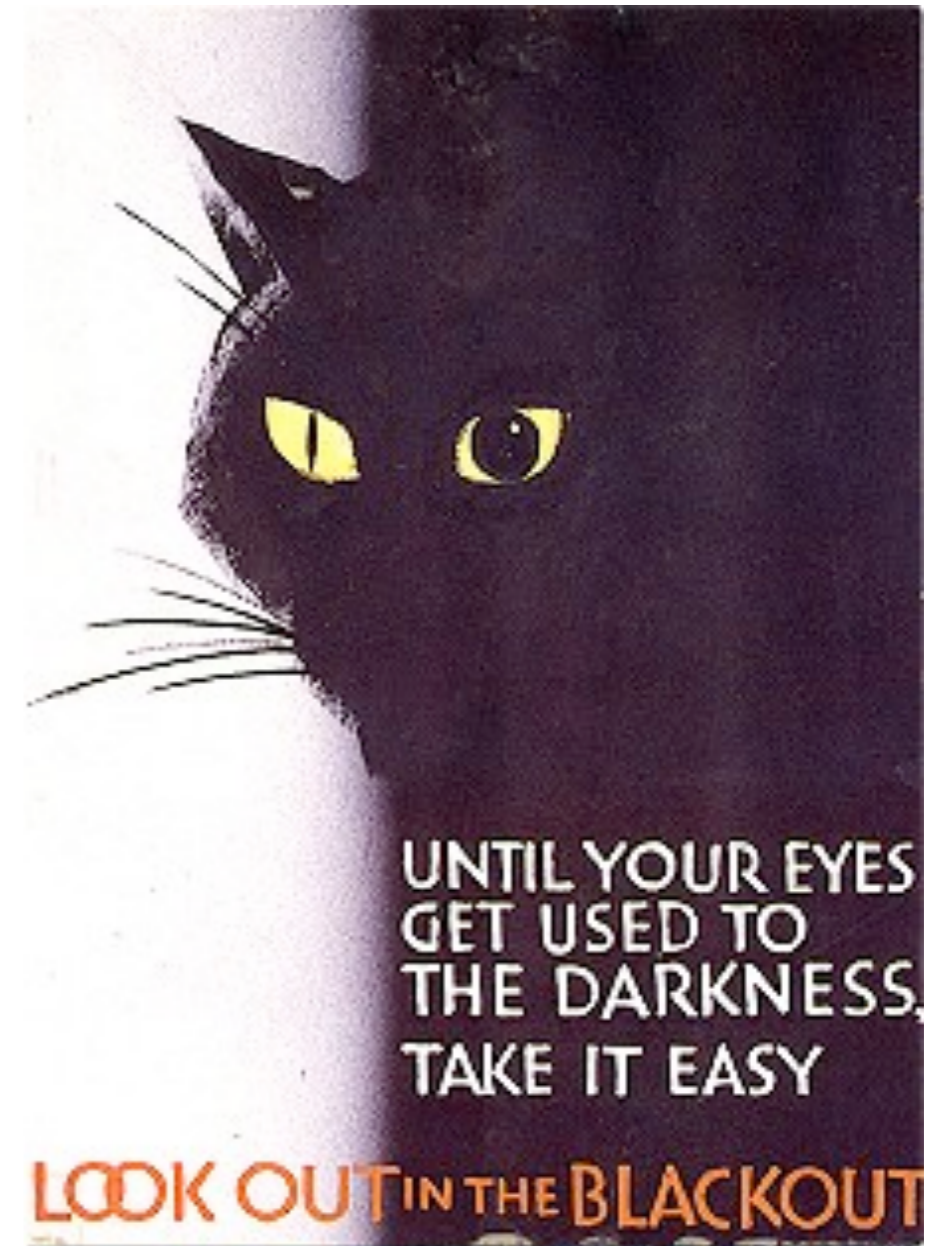
**Princess Elizabeth joined the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service. She trained as a military truck driver and mechanic.**



*Winston Churchill's youngest daughter, Mary Churchill (later Lady Soames) also served as a member of the ATS.*

## Their daily live is disrupted

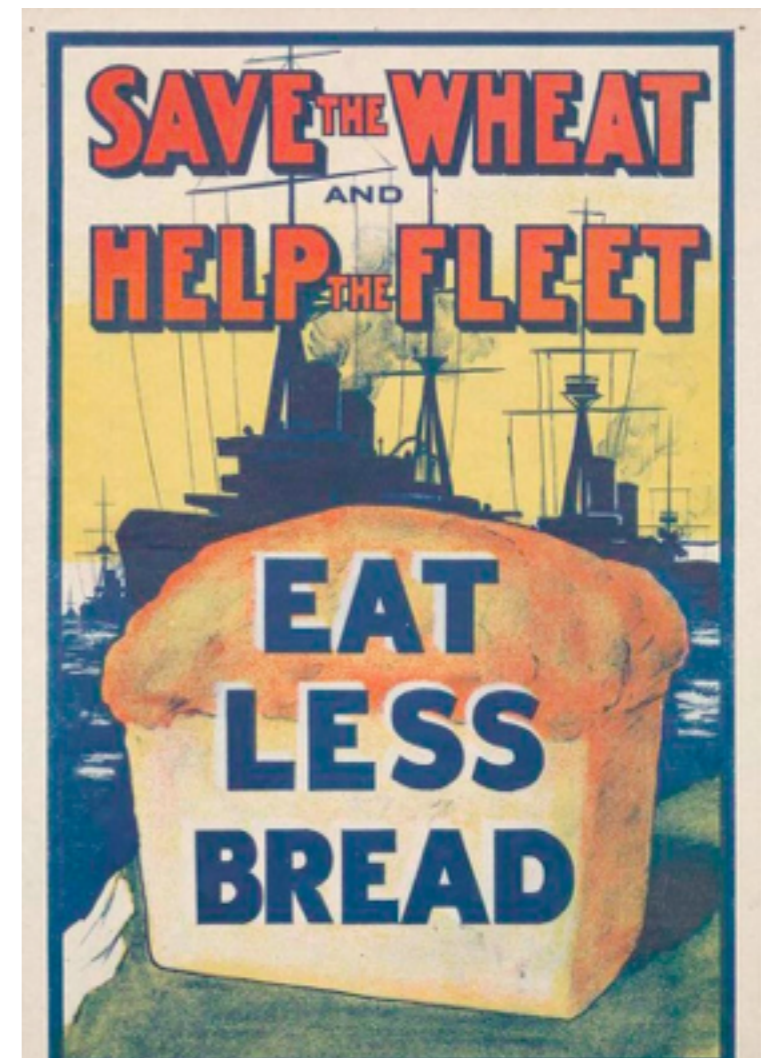
There were **blackouts** throughout the Blitz with people covering their windows with dark heavy curtains to block out any light and at night, **streetlights were turned off to prevent enemy aircraft from being guided by the lights coming from towns across Britain.**





## Rationing

Before the Second World War started Britain imported **55 million tons of food a year from other countries**. During the war, the British government had to cut down on the amount of food it brought in from abroad **as German submarines started bombing British supply ships**. There was a worry that this would lead to shortages of food supplies in the shops so the British government **decided to introduce a system of rationing**.





Sirens would regularly sound to warn people of possible air raids enabling them to find shelter as quickly as possible. During September 1940 approximately 177,000 people in London sought (*to seek, sought, sought*) shelter in stations on the London Underground while others took shelter in their homes in **Morrison Shelters** and in their gardens in **Anderson Shelters** : more than 20 million Anderson Shelters were built with each shelter being able to hold up to six people. The air raid shelters gave rise to a spirit of camaraderie and community amongst the British public as they endured frequent nights of heavy bombing.

