



GRAPHIC READERS

PROFICIENT
4
READERS

The SPY-CATCHER GANG

A tale of bombing raids, suspicious strangers and a hidden suitcase in the London Blitz

by John Kelly
and Inklint

Level 4

- Days of the Knights
Volcanoes and Other Natural
Disasters
Secrets of the Mummies
Pirates! Raiders of the High Seas
Horse Heroes
Trojan Horse
Micro Monsters
Going for Gold!
Extreme Machines
Flying Ace: The Story of Amelia
Earhart
Robin Hood
Black Beauty
Free at Last! The Story of Martin
Luther King, Jr.
Joan of Arc
Spooky Spinechillers
Welcome to The Globe! The Story
of Shakespeare's Theatre
Antarctic Adventure
Space Station: Accident on Mir
Atlantis: The Lost City?
Dinosaur Detectives
Danger on the Mountain: Scaling
the World's Highest Peaks
Crime Busters
The Story of Muhammad Ali
First Flight: The Story of the
Wright Brothers
D-Day Landings: The Story of
the Allied Invasion
Solo Sailing
Thomas Edison:
The Great Inventor
LEGO: Race for Survival
WCW: Going for Goldberg
WCW: Feel the Sting
WCW: Fit for the Title
WCW: Finishing Moves
- JLA: Batman's Guide to Crime
and Detection
JLA: Superman's Guide to
the Universe
JLA: Aquaman's Guide to
the Oceans
JLA: Wonder Woman's Book
of Myths
JLA: Flash's Guide to Speed
JLA: Green Lantern's Guide to
Great Inventions
The Story of the X-Men: How it all
Began
Creating the X-Men: How
Comic Books Come to Life
Spider-Man's Amazing Powers
The Story of Spider-Man
The Incredible Hulk's Book
of Strength
The Story of the Incredible Hulk
Fantastic Four: Evil Adversaries
Marvel Heroes: Greatest Battles
Transformers: The Awakening
Transformers: The Quest
Transformers: The Unicron Battles
Transformers: The Uprising
Transformers: Megatron Returns
Transformers: Terracon Attack
Star Wars: Galactic Crisis!
Star Wars: Beware the Dark Side
Star Wars: Epic Battles
Graphic Readers: The Terror Trail
Graphic Readers: The Price of
Victory
Graphic Readers: Curse of the
Crocodile God
Graphic Readers: Instruments of
Death
Graphic Readers: Wagon Train
Adventure

A Note to Parents and Teachers

DK READERS is a compelling programme for beginning readers, designed in conjunction with literacy experts, including Maureen Fernandes, B.Ed (Hons). Maureen has spent many years teaching literacy, both in the classroom and as a consultant in schools.

Beautiful illustrations and superb full-colour photographs combine with engaging, easy-to-read stories to offer a fresh approach to each subject in the series.

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- Level 1:** Beginning to read
- Level 2:** Beginning to read alone
- Level 3:** Reading alone
- Level 4:** Proficient readers

The “normal” age at which a child begins to read can be anywhere from three to eight years old. Adult participation through the lower levels is very helpful for providing encouragement, discussing storylines and sounding out unfamiliar words.



No matter which level you select, you can be sure that you are helping your child learn to read, then read to learn!



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www.dk.com

Contents

The Spy-Catcher Gang	4
Map and timeline	44
Glossary	45





READERS



The SPY-CATCHER GANG

Written by John Kelly
Illustrated by Inklinc



THE SPY~CATCHER GANG

Harry's story takes place in London in 1940. At this time, Britain was at war with Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany. The German Army had taken control of most of western Europe and was now turning its attention to the British Isles. First the German Air Force tried to destroy British airbases, but the RAF fought back in an air battle called the Battle of Britain. Then, in an attack known as the Blitz, the German Air Force began dropping bombs on British cities, including London, Birmingham, Coventry, Liverpool and Belfast. Turn to page 44 to see a map and timeline, then let the story begin....



"My name is Harry Tucker and I am 12 years old. I live in the East End of London with my mum and my baby sister. My dad is away fighting, and I think about him all the time. The German bombs are scary, but it is fun exploring the bombed-out buildings, even if my mum would go mad if she ever found out! I've heard that German spies could be anywhere so I am always on the look out for them."

LONDON, 1940, NIGHT.

LIKE MOST OF LONDON,
I'M TRYING TO SLEEP.

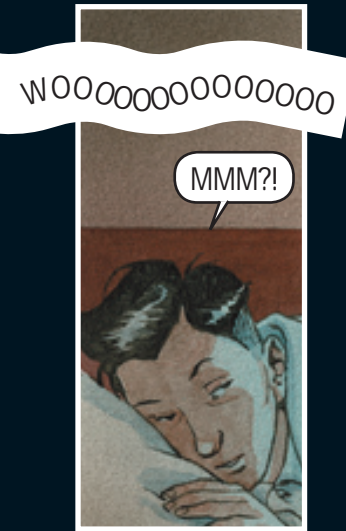
BUT I KEEP THINKING
ABOUT MY DAD.


HE'S A PILOT IN
THE RAF. I HOPE
HE'S SAFE...

...BUT NO ONE'S
SAFE SINCE THE
WAR STARTED.


NOT EVEN IN THEIR BEDS.








MUM HATES THE SHELTER.



SHE SAYS IT'S COLD AND DAMP AND SMELLS FUNNY.




BUT I THINK IT'S QUITE EXCITING.



EVENING, MRS JONES.

EVENING, MRS TUCKER, HARRY.

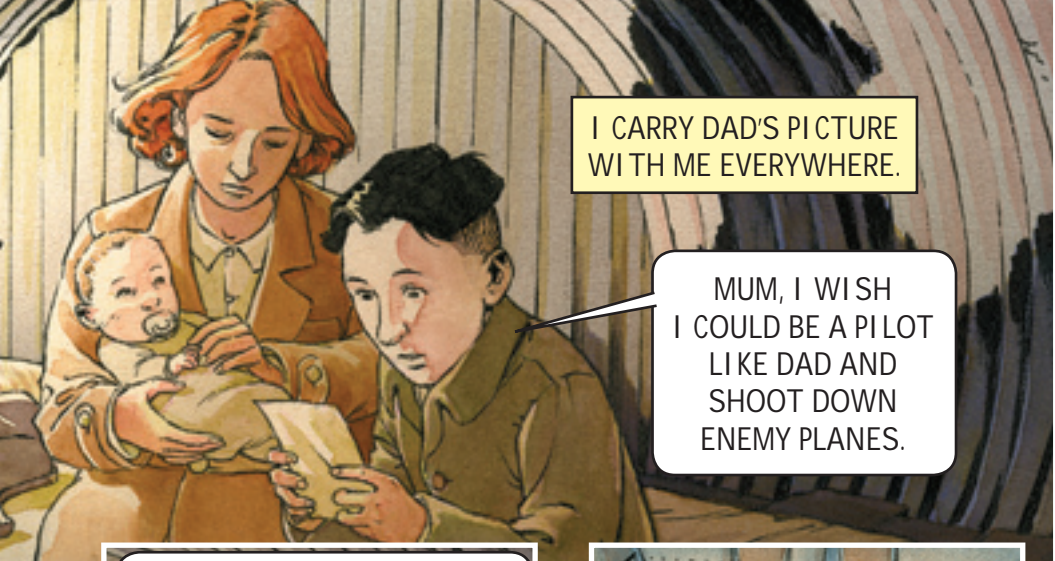


LOOK, MUM! THEY'VE SHOT DOWN A GERMAN PLANE!



HURRY UP!

LET'S GET INSIDE.



I CARRY DAD'S PICTURE WITH ME EVERYWHERE.

MUM, I WISH I COULD BE A PILOT LIKE DAD AND SHOOT DOWN ENEMY PLANES.



WELL, I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE WITH ME, LOVE.



I'M NOT SCARED...



...BUT TWO BOYS FROM OUR SCHOOL WERE KILLED LAST WEEK.



IT MAKES YOU WONDER WHO WILL BE NEXT.



THE SEARCHLIGHTS AND LOUD BANGS MAKE IT HARD TO SLEEP.



THERE THEY ARE, SIR!

FIRE!




BLAM!

BLAM!




SOMETIMES, OUR GUNS HIT AN ENEMY PLANE...






...BUT NOT BEFORE
THEY'VE DROPPED THEIR
DEADLY CARGO.



THIS IS BBC RADIO EARLY MORNING NEWS...

...HEAVY BOMBING OF THE EAST
END DOCKS LAST NIGHT...



... LEFT TEN DEAD
AND MANY MORE
HOMELESS.

MRS JONES SAYS THERE'S ONLY ONE HOUSE LEFT STANDING ON WELLINGTON STREET...

...HURRY UP, YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL.

I'LL JUST PUT YOUR LUNCH IN YOUR SCHOOL BAG.

WHAT'S THIS?

ERRRRR!

I'VE TOLD YOU NOT TO COLLECT SHRAPNEL FROM BOMB SITES!

YOU PROMI SED ME, HARRY!

YOU'RE THE MAN OF THE HOUSE
WHILE YOUR DAD IS AWAY.

SNIFF!

I'M SORRY!

I'LL STAY AWAY...

...I PROMISE!

DON'T FORGET
YOUR GAS MASK!

MUM WAS RIGHT...

...I WILL TRY TO BE
MORE CAREFUL.





AS I WALKED TO SCHOOL, I SAW THE TERRIBLE DAMAGE CAUSED BY LAST NIGHT'S BOMBS.

HELLO, SON!



WELLINGTON STREET IS CLOSED.



IT'S NOT SAFE.



YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO SCHOOL.

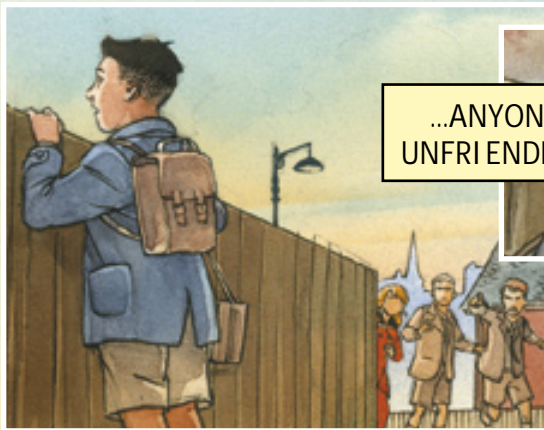
I'M SORRY, SIR, YOU CAN'T GO IN.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...!



I'D HAVE TO GO THE LONG WAY ROUND.

I HOPED I DIDN'T RUN INTO...



...ANYONE UNFRIENDLY...

OH, NO!

YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED HERE, HARRY TUCKER!

...LIKE...



...JENNY...

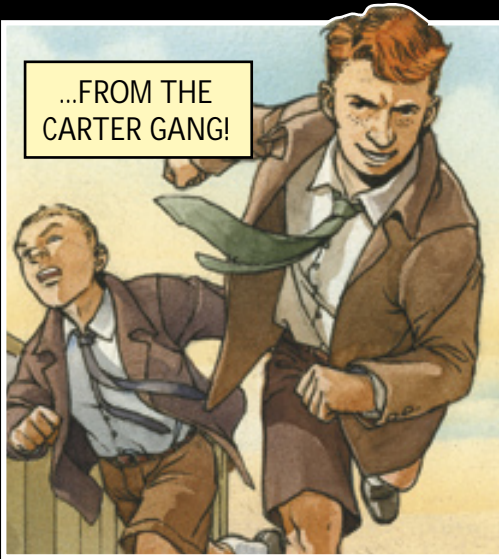
...JIM...

...AND FRANK...



GET HIM!





...FROM THE CARTER GANG!



THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO ESCAPE THEM...



...I RAN ONTO THE BOMB SITE.



YOU, BOY, STOP!

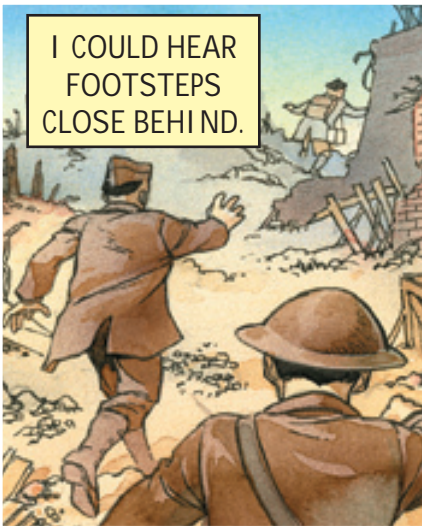


I KEPT RUNNING...

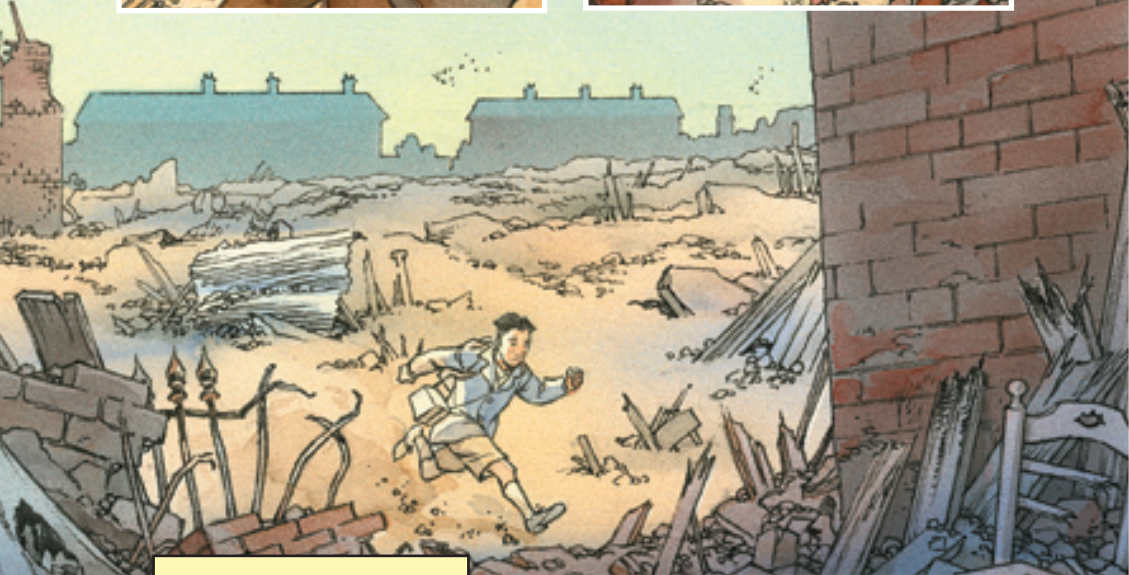
...AS FAST AS I COULD.

STOP RIGHT THERE, LADS!

I COULD HEAR
FOOTSTEPS
CLOSE BEHIND.



I THOUGHT THE
CARTERS
WERE
STILL AFTER ME.



I NEEDED TO HIDE...



...FAST!



THE ONLY PLACE WAS THE HOUSE
ON WELLINGTON STREET.



I HOPED THEY'D NEVER
FIND ME THERE.



CAN YOU SEE THE BOY
ANYWHERE?

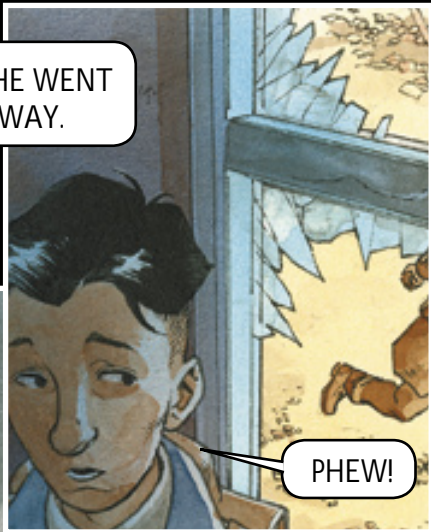


NO!





I THINK HE WENT THIS WAY.



PHEW!

THE HOUSE WAS A MESS.
THERE WAS STUFF
EVERYWHERE.

I COULDN'T RESIST
HAVING A LOOK ROUND.





WHAT'S THIS?



IT WAS A SUITCASE...



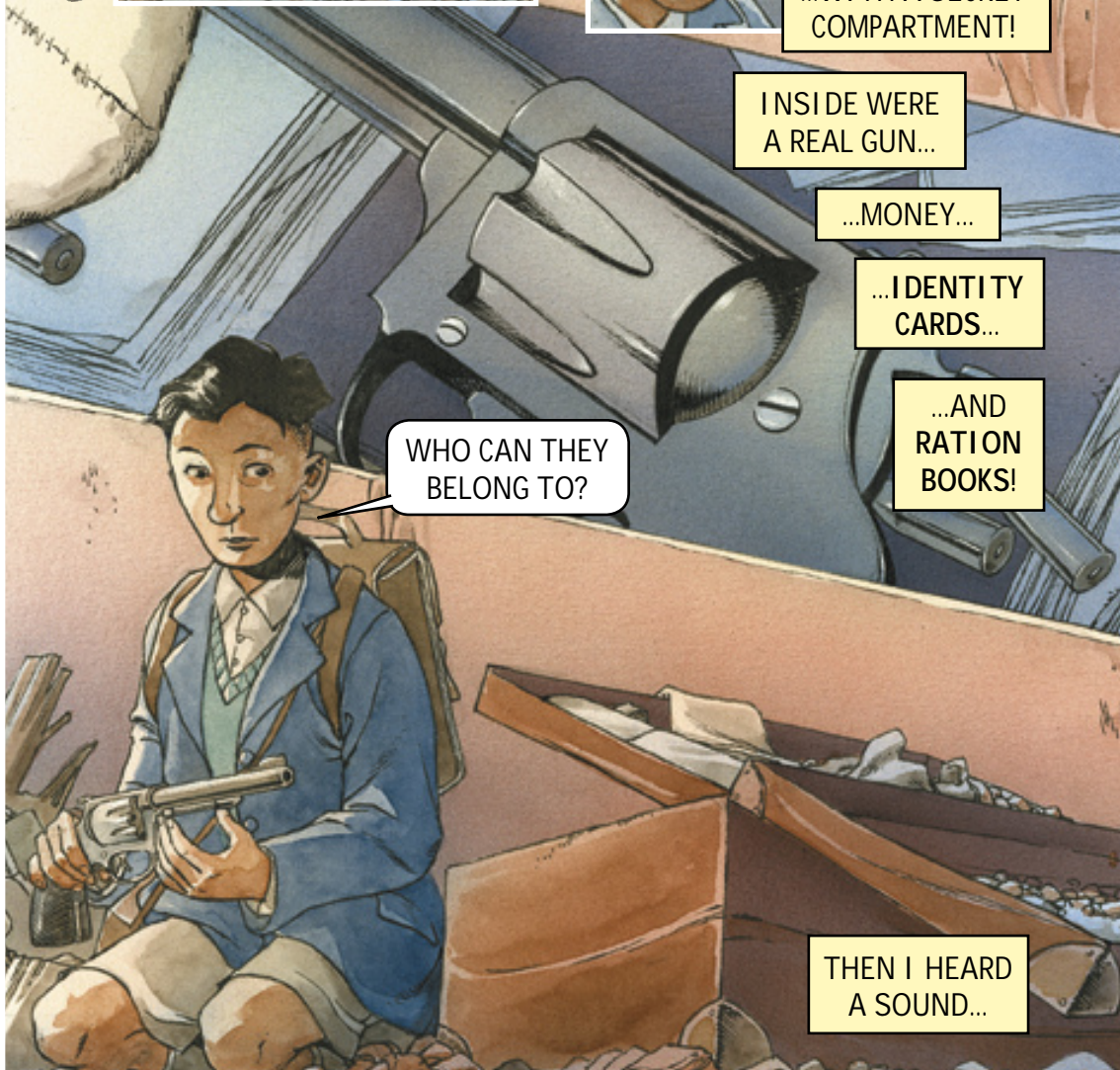
...WITH A SECRET COMPARTMENT!

INSIDE WERE
A REAL GUN...

...MONEY...

...IDENTITY
CARDS...

...AND
RATION
BOOKS!



WHO CAN THEY
BELONG TO?

THEN I HEARD
A SOUND...



IT WAS COMING FROM BELOW.

I PEEPED THROUGH A HOLE IN THE FLOOR...

CRI KEY!



...A BOMB DISPOSAL OFFICER WAS DEFUSING A BOMB!

OUT YOU COME...

...GENTLY DOES IT!



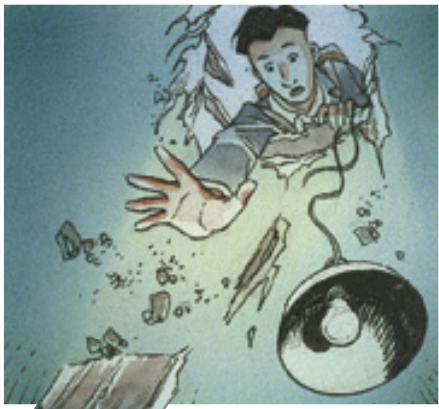


GOT IT!



I HOPED HE WOULDN'T SEE ME...

OOOPS!



CRASH!!



WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING HERE?



YOU!

YES, YOU, BOY!



I QUICKLY HID THE SUITCASE.



GET DOWN HERE NOW!



THE OFFICER TOOK ME HOME.

I WAS IN BIG TROUBLE!



MUM DIDN'T SAY A WORD WHEN HE TOLD HER WHERE I WAS...



...SHE WAS TOO ANGRY.

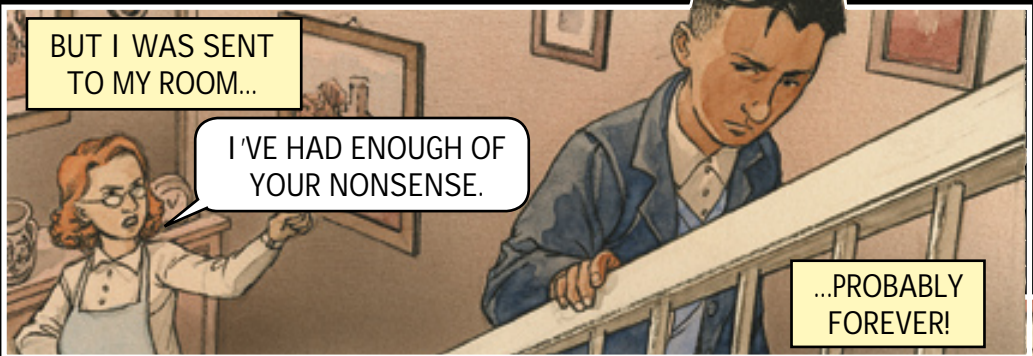


MUM, I CAN EXPLAIN!
I FOUND A SUITCASE
WITH A GUN...



...AND DOCUMENTS...AND
LOTS OF MONEY.

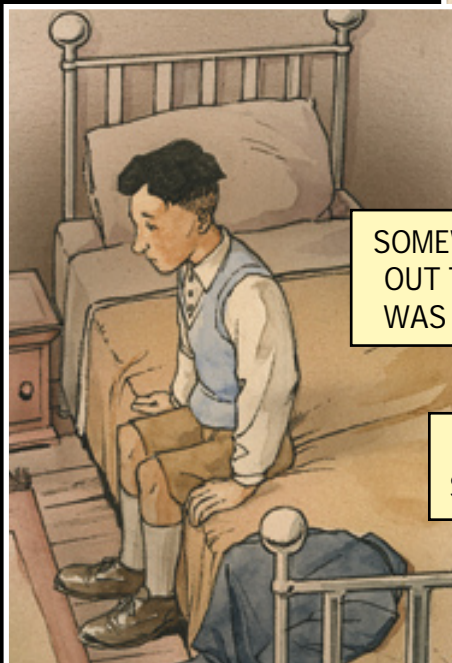
IT MUST BELONG
TO A GERMAN SPY!



BUT I WAS SENT
TO MY ROOM...

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF
YOUR NONSENSE.

...PROBABLY
FOREVER!

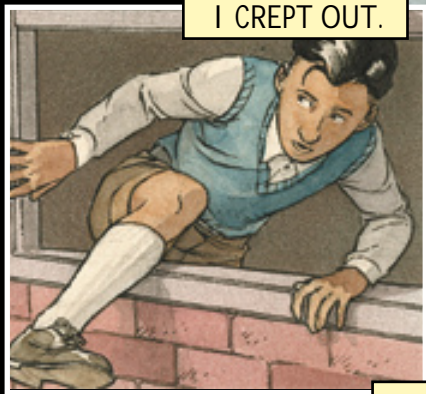


SOMEWHERE
OUT THERE
WAS A SPY.

I HAD TO
STOP HIM!



I CREEPT OUT.



I HOPED TO GET THE CASE...



HEY!




... AND GET BACK HOME...




YOU LITTLE...!



...WITHOUT BEING SEEN!



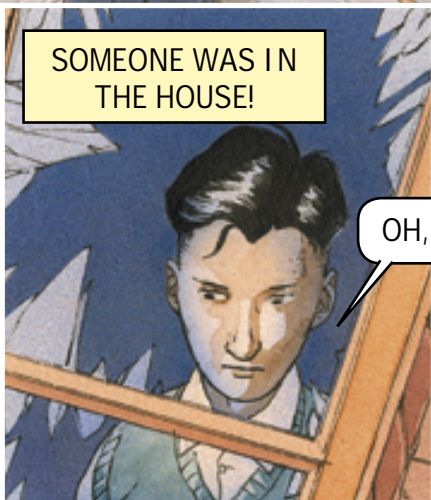
THE SPY'S HOUSE
WAS DESERTED.



THE CASE WAS WHERE
I HAD LEFT IT.



WHAT'S THAT?



SOMEONE WAS IN
THE HOUSE!



OH, NO! IT MUST BE THE SPY!

I HAD TO
GET AWAY!



I SNEAKED
DOWNSTAIRS...



...AND OUT OF
THE BACK DOOR.



PHEW! THAT
WAS CLOSE!





THINK YOU'RE CLEVER, DON'T YOU?

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

THE CASE IS MINE!



OOOMPH!!



LEAVE HIM ALONE!!!



WHO...?



About 3000 people were killed that night.



TAKE THAT!

TWANG!!

IT WAS JENNY CARTER!



DON'T JUST SIT THERE, TUCKER...

...RUN!



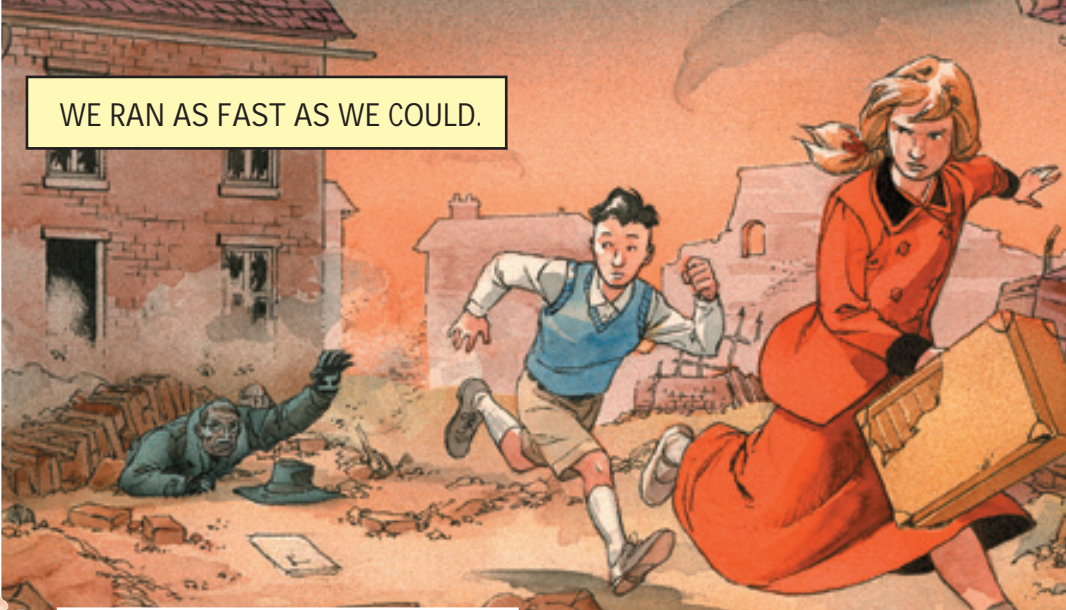
GET THE CASE!



YOU BRATS... OOOOMPH!

CRASH!

WE RAN AS FAST AS WE COULD.



THE SPY HAD FALLEN...



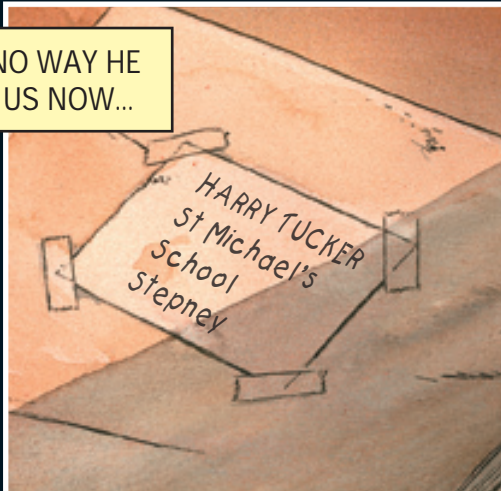
...SO WE GOT AWAY.



THERE WAS NO WAY HE
COULD FIND US NOW...



HARRY TUCKER
St Michael's
School
Stepney





THE NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL WAS UNBEARABLE.



ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS THE SPY AND HIS EVIL PLANS.



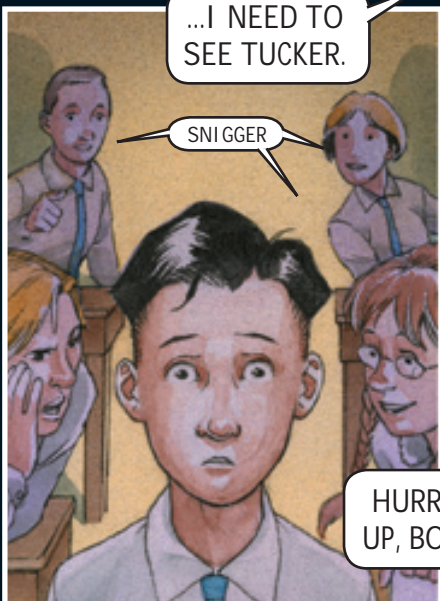
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, MISS JENKINS...



IT WAS THE DEPUTY HEADMASTER.

...I NEED TO SEE TUCKER.

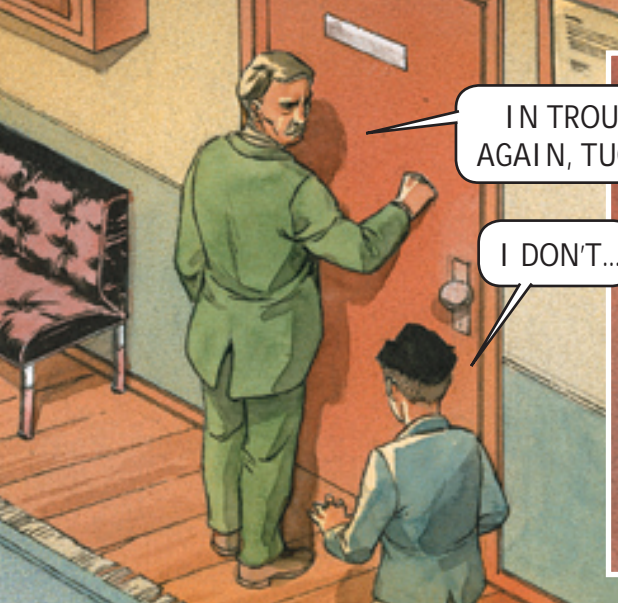
SNIGGER



HURRY UP, BOY!

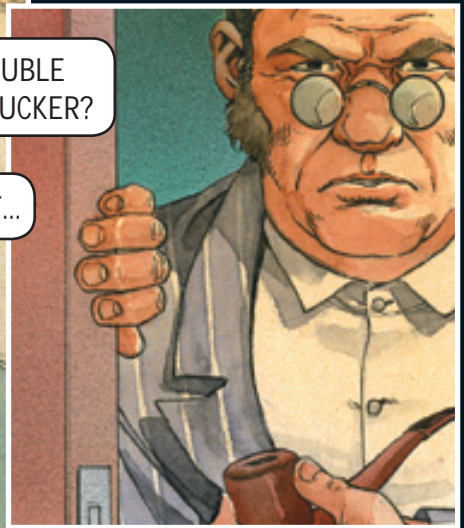
DON'T KEEP THE HEADMASTER WAITING!





I IN TROUBLE AGAIN, TUCKER?

I DON'T...



AH, TUCKER! THERE'S SOMEONE WHO'D LIKE A FEW WORDS WITH YOU.



THIS IS...



...DETECTIVE SERGEANT WEYMOUTH.

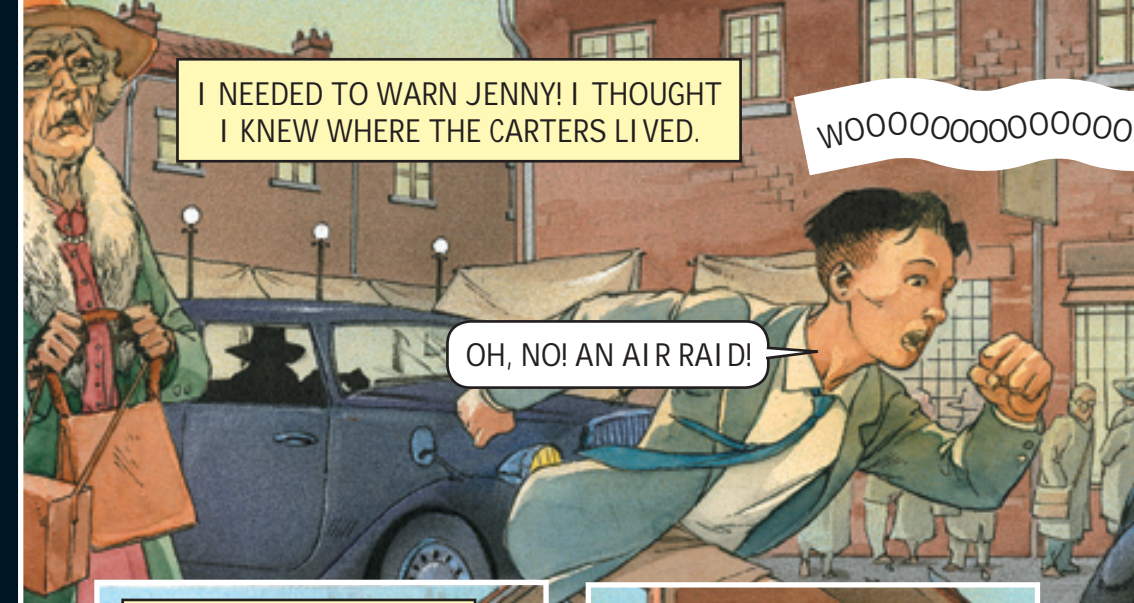
IT WAS HIM!

THE SPY!

I DIDN'T WAIT TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON.




COME BACK HERE, BOY!




I NEEDED TO WARN JENNY! I THOUGHT I KNEW WHERE THE CARTERS LIVED.

WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

OH, NO! AN AIR RAID!




I HAD TO GO HOME TO THE SHELTER FIRST.



THE CASE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT.

YOU'RE HOME EARLY, LOVE!



QUICK, LET'S GET IN THE SHELTER...

...WE 'LL BE SAFE THERE!

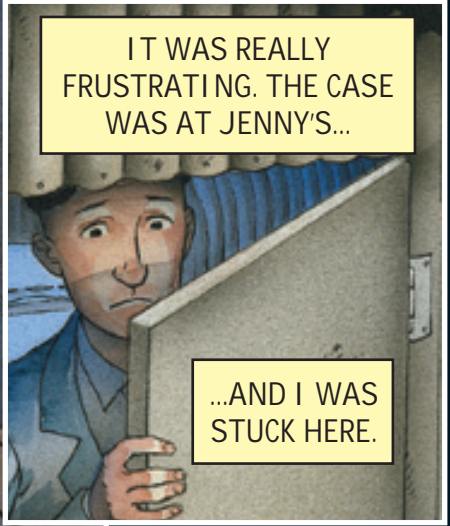


When there was an air raid, the whole school took cover in a shelter.



COME ON, HARRY,
HURRY UP!

CLOSE THE
DOOR!

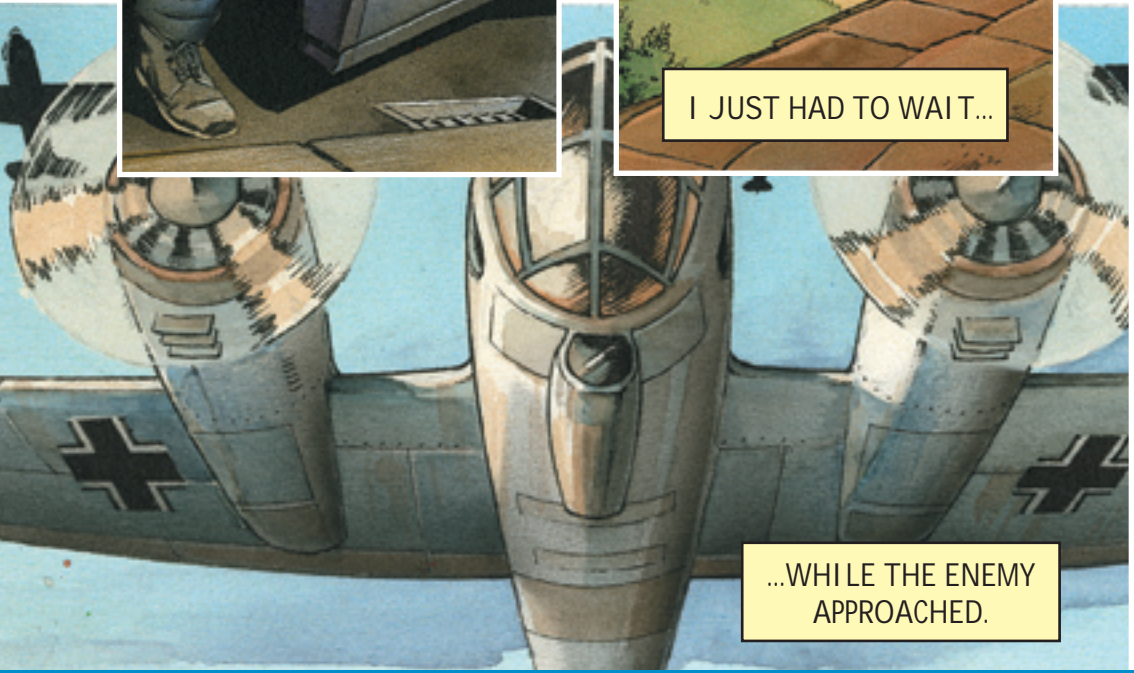


IT WAS REALLY
FRUSTRATING. THE CASE
WAS AT JENNY'S...

...AND I WAS
STUCK HERE.



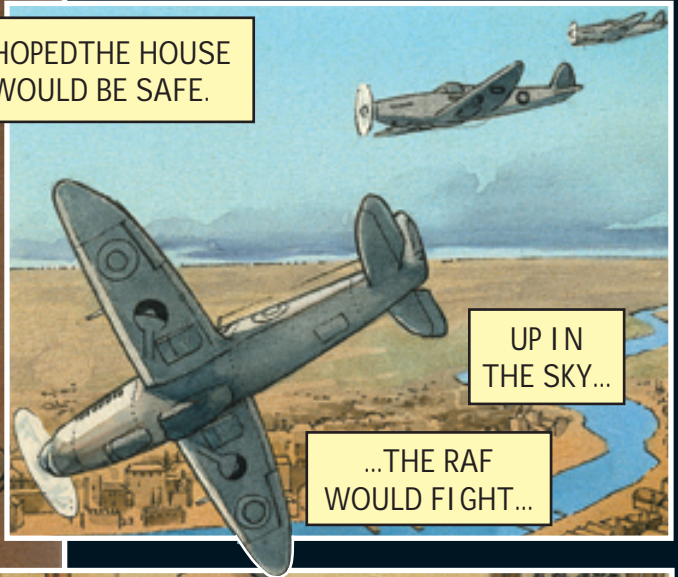
I JUST HAD TO WAIT...



...WHILE THE ENEMY
APPROACHED.



I HOPED THE HOUSE
WOULD BE SAFE.



UP IN
THE SKY...

...THE RAF
WOULD FIGHT...



...TO PROTECT
OUR HOMES.




THEY WOULD
BEAT THE NAZIS.



SMASH
THEM!



SEND THEM AWAY
DEFEATED.



THE RAID WAS
FINALLY OVER.

TIME FOR A NICE
CUP OF TEA...


...OH, MY!

THE FRONT ROOM
HAD BEEN TURNED
UPSIDE DOWN.


IT MUST BE
LOOTERS!

BUT THEY DON'T
SEEM TO HAVE
TAKEN ANYTHING!

MAYBE THEY
HADN'T FOUND
WHAT THEY WERE
LOOKING FOR!

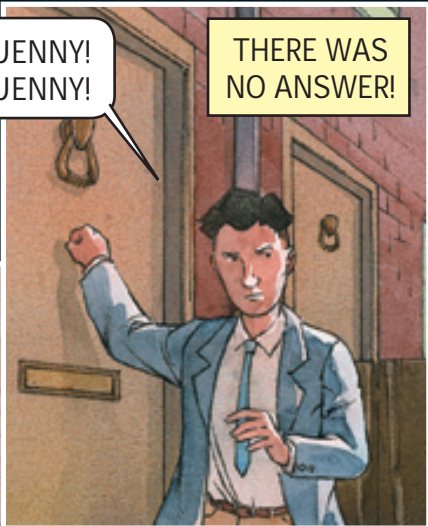


I'VE LEFT THE BABY WITH MRS JONES. YOU WAIT HERE WHILE I PHONE THE POLICE.



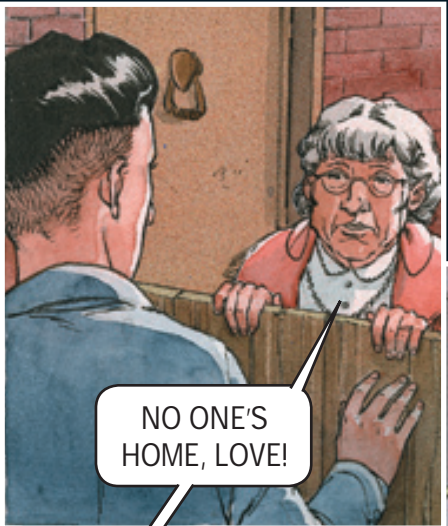
BUT I HAD TO FIND JENNY AND WARN HER THAT...

...THE SPY WAS ON OUR TRAIL!



JENNY!
JENNY!


THERE WAS NO ANSWER!



NO ONE'S HOME, LOVE!



THEY WENT DOWN THE UNDERGROUND SHELTER.



NOW THE RAID WAS OVER,
PEOPLE WERE LEAVING THE
UNDERGROUND STATION.

I HAD TO FIGHT MY WAY
THROUGH THE CROWDS...


...TO GET DOWN ONTO
THE PLATFORMS.

JENNY!
JENNY!

TUCKER?

OVER HERE!

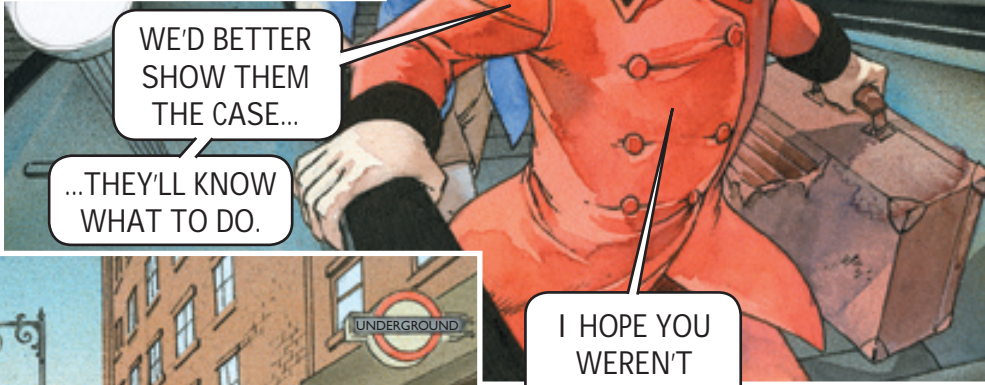
THE SPY IS AFTER
ME. HE CAME TO MY
SCHOOL...



...AND I THINK HE JUST SEARCHED MY HOUSE!

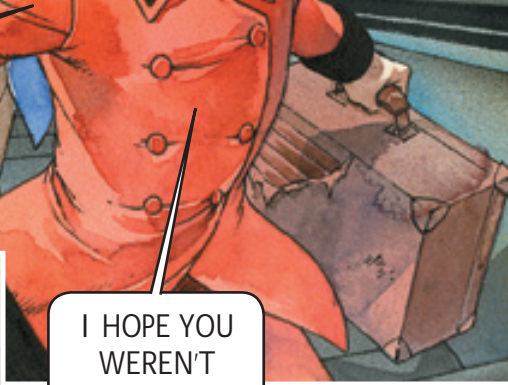


MY MUM HAS PHONED THE POLICE.

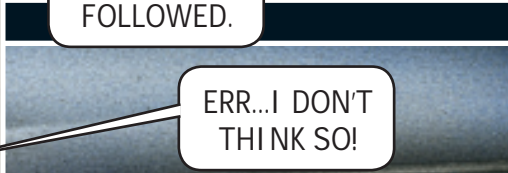


WE'D BETTER SHOW THEM THE CASE...

...THEY'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.

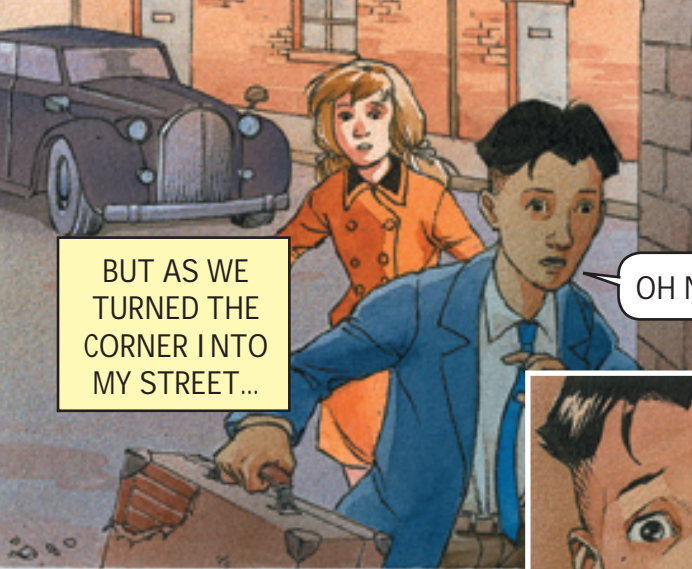


I HOPE YOU WEREN'T FOLLOWED.



ERR...I DON'T THINK SO!





BUT AS WE TURNED THE CORNER INTO MY STREET...

OH NO!



NO!

IT CAN'T BE!



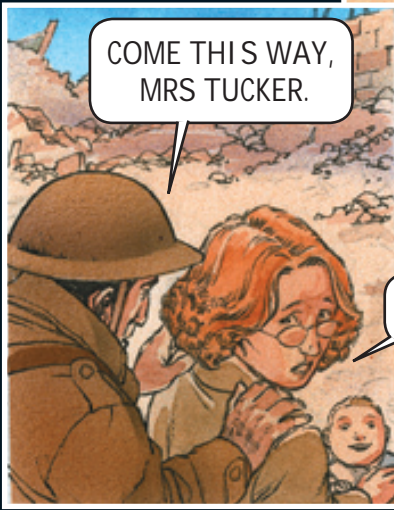
...I SAW A PILE OF RUBBLE WHERE MY HOUSE USED TO BE!

STEADY, LAD! YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE.

BUT...THAT'S MY HOUSE!

MUM!

STAND CLEAR! GAS LEAK!



This meant they should reuse things instead of throwing them away.



BACK OFF! I'M NOT AFRAID TO USE IT!



CALM DOWN!



STOP, YOU CAN'T GO THAT WAY!

GET AWAY FROM ME!



EVERYBODY GET DOWN!



HE'S HEADING FOR THE GAS MAIN...





KABOOOM!




IS HE ALIVE?

YES, BUT A
BIT BURNT!

GROAN...

THE CONTENTS OF HIS
CASE FLUTTERED AROUND
US AS THEY TOOK THE
VILLAIN AWAY.



JENNY, WE SHOULD
FORM OUR OWN GANG -
THE SPY CATCHERS!

ERRR...TUCKER...I THINK
YOUR MUM WANTS A
WORD WITH YOU!



HARRY!

THE END



Queen Victoria dies

1901



World War I

1914-1918



World War II

1939-1945

Mao Tse-tung takes over in China



1949

1900

1920

1940

YOU ARE HERE

WORLD WAR II

There were two world wars in the 20th century. World War I (1914–1918) ended when Britain, France, the United States and their allies (friends) defeated Germany and its allies. Germany was made to give up land and pay money to the victors. Many Germans resented this. In 1933, Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party seized power in Germany. The Nazis promised to make Germany a strong nation once again.

World War II started in September 1939, when the German Army invaded Poland. France and Britain (the Allies) then declared war on Germany. After many fierce battles, the Germans took control of most of western Europe. Hitler then prepared to invade the British Isles. In 1940, the German Air Force began bombing British cities in an attempt to make Britain surrender.

Germany attacked Russia in 1941, so the Russians joined the war on the side of the Allies. Germany, Italy and Japan formed an alliance (the Axis). In 1941, Japan bombed US ships in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, bringing the Americans into the war. Soon, there was fighting all over the globe. The war in Europe ended when Allied troops invaded Germany in May 1945. Japan surrendered in August 1945.



A map of Europe in 1942. Most of Europe and some of North Africa were occupied by Axis troops.



Mount Everest climbed for first time

1953



US astronauts land on the Moon

1969

South Africa's Nelson Mandela released from prison



1990

TIMELINE

1960

1980

2000

GLOSSARY

LONDON

PAGE 5

London is a city in southern England and is the capital of the United Kingdom.



RAF

PAGE 5

“RAF” stands for the “Royal Air Force”, which is the British Air Force. In World War II, RAF planes defended the skies above Britain from German planes and also dropped bombs on enemy cities.

AIR RAID SIRENS

PAGE 6

Air raid sirens were machines that made a loud wailing noise – loud enough to wake people up if they were asleep. The sirens told people that there were enemy planes on the way and that they should go to a shelter.



SHELTER

PAGE 6

An air raid shelter was a place that people could go where they would be safe from the bombs. Many people had Anderson shelters in their gardens. These temporary shelters were made of curved panels of steel that joined together to form the roof and sides. Some people had small steel shelters in their homes and others sheltered in London Underground stations.



BOMBED

PAGE 6

German planes started dropping bombs (metal cases full of explosives) on London on 7 September 1940. They bombed the city almost every night or day until 10 May 1941.

GERMAN PLANE

PAGE 7

The German planes that dropped bombs on British cities were mainly a type called Heinkel bombers.

BARRAGE BALLOONS

PAGE 7

These large balloons were attached to the ground by steel cables. They were designed to prevent enemy planes getting too close to the ground.



SEARCHLIGHTS PAGE 9

From the ground, British soldiers shone beams of light from huge lamps called searchlights onto German planes. This made the planes easier for the soldiers to see and shoot at.

GUNS PAGE 9

Anti-aircraft guns on the ground fired at enemy planes.

BBC PAGE 10

“BBC” stands for the “British Broadcasting Corporation”. During World War II, most people listened to the BBC radio for news about the war. The BBC also made television programmes, but few people had television sets at this time.

EAST END DOCKS PAGE 10

The large area in the east of London is commonly known as the East End. During World War II, the East End docks (where ships were loaded and unloaded) were often the targets of bombing raids. Most people living in the East End during the war were fairly poor and worked in factories or at the docks. Because family and friends all lived in the same area, people could look after each other during the terrible times of the Blitz.

SHRAPNEL PAGE 11

Pieces of metal thrown out by a bomb when it explodes.



BOMB SITES PAGE 11

Places where bombs have exploded and destroyed the buildings.



GAS MASK**PAGE 12**

A gas mask is worn over the face to stop the wearer from breathing in



poisonous gas. During World War II, every person in Britain had to carry a gas mask to protect them from poison gas attacks by the Germans, although there were actually

no gas attacks in World War II.

EVACUATED**PAGE 14**

Sent away from a place of danger.

IDENTITY CARDS**PAGE 19**

When the war started in 1939, the British government decided that everyone should carry identity cards. The cards had information about each person, including his or her name and address.

RATION BOOKS**PAGE 19**

During the war, ships bringing things such as food and clothes to Britain were attacked. This meant that many things started to run out, so to make sure everyone got their share, the government gave every family a ration book. Each book contained coupons that people could use in shops in exchange for clothes and essential foods such as butter, milk, eggs, sugar and meat.

BOMB DISPOSAL OFFICER**PAGE 20**

Any bombs that did not explode when they hit the ground had to be made safe. This was the job of the bomb disposal officers, who were specially trained soldiers.

DEFUSING**PAGE 20**

Bombs contain fuses – switches that make the bomb explode. The fuse has to be removed to make the bomb safe. This is called defusing.



SPY**PAGE 23**

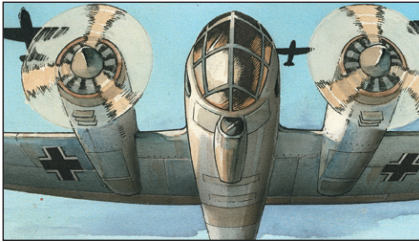
A spy is someone who finds out secret information. During World War II, the British government warned people not to talk to strangers in case they were German spies and to be careful what they said in public.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT**PAGE 32**

A detective sergeant is a British police officer who tries to solve major crimes. He does not wear a uniform.

NAZIS**PAGE 35**

The Nazis were a group of people, led by Adolf Hitler, who ruled Germany from 1933 to 1945. They believed that the Germans were better than any other race and that many of Germany's problems were caused by Jews.

**LOOTERS****PAGE 36**

Looters are people who steal from houses and shops in wartime or during riots.

UNDERGROUND**PAGE 37**

The railway that travels beneath London's streets is called the Underground or the tube. During the war, people took shelter on the station platforms and often stayed there all night.

**RUBBLE****PAGE 40**

Piles of broken pieces from buildings that have been blown up.

GAS LEAK**PAGE 40**

Gas is a fuel that is used mainly for cooking and heating. It is invisible but easily set on fire, and if any gas escapes from a pipe, it may cause an explosion.

**SPIV****PAGE 41**

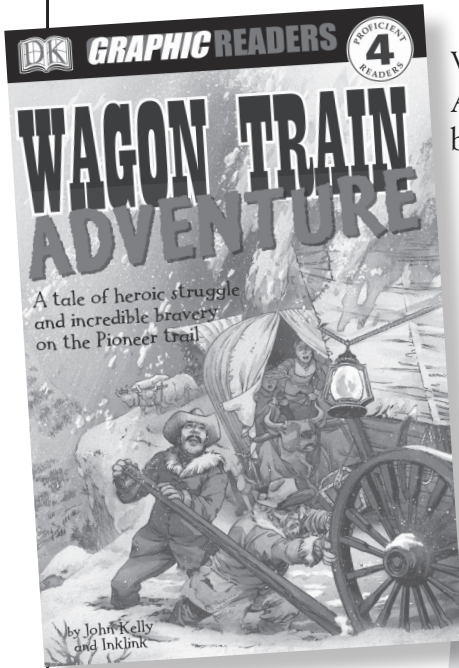
Spivs were people who stole rationed goods and sold them to people at high prices, especially during and just after World War II. This was against the law, but many people bought from spivs because they couldn't get what they needed any other way.

The buying and selling of illegal goods is called the black market.

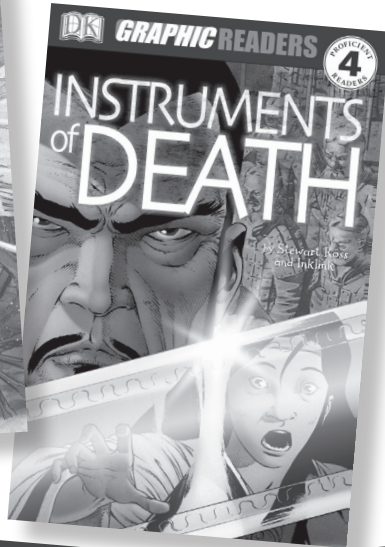
**GAS MAIN****PAGE 42**

A gas main is a large pipe that carries gas to a street of houses.

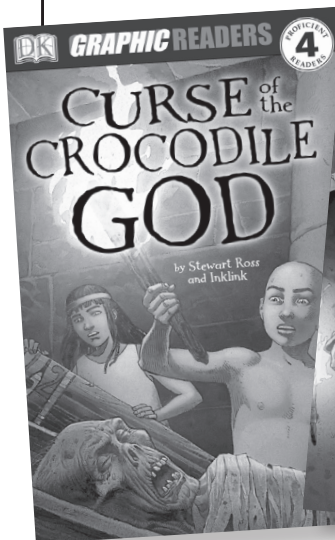
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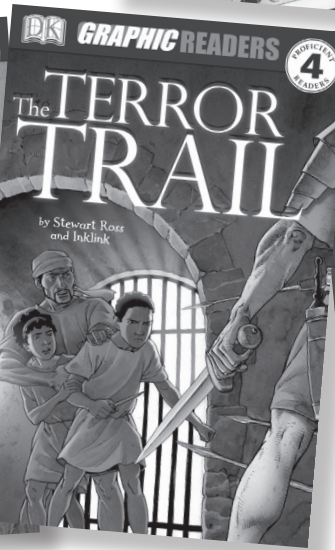
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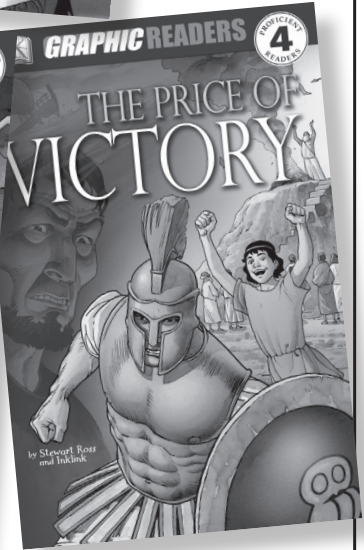
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