



## What role did Barking and Dagenham play during WW2?

### World War 2 Diary Writing

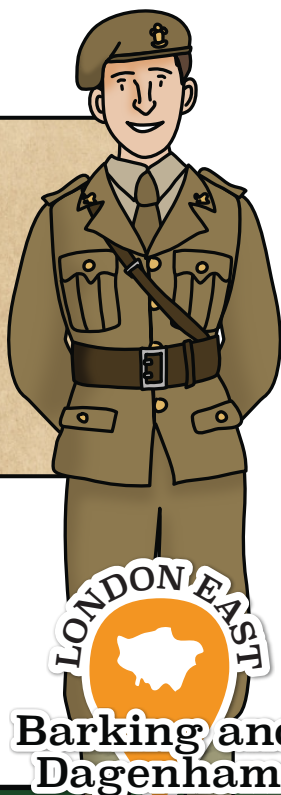
Write in character as Sir Tasker Watkins on the day after the events that led to him receiving the Victoria Cross.

- A description of conditions in France.
- The people and things that he is missing back home in Dagenham.
- A description of the events that happened during the battle.
- His feelings about the men who died during the battle.
- His hopes for the future.

#### Features of a Diary

- First person
- Past tense
- Thoughts and feelings
- Names and dates
- Details and descriptions

Remember, Sir Tasker Watkins was a very humble man who did not see himself as heroic. He felt like he was just doing his job.



Teacher's Pet



Historic England



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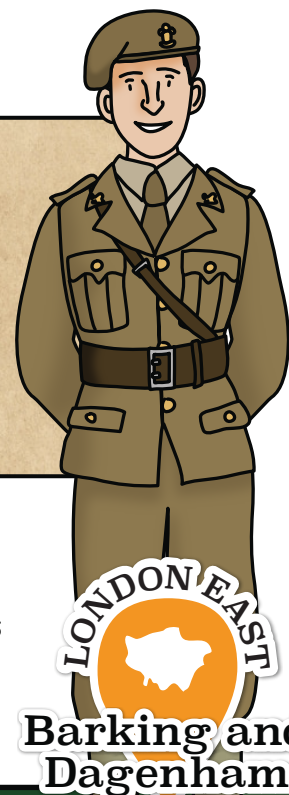
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17th of August 1944

Dear Diary,

Blank lined area for writing on the left page of the diary.

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Teacher's Pet



Historic England





## What role did Barking and Dagenham play during WW2?

17th of August 1944

Dear Diary, as I sit here, I can't help but think about the things I miss back home in Dagenham. The comforting smell of freshly baked bread, the warmth of the crackling fireplace, and the laughter of my dear friends. Oh, how I long for those familiar sights and sounds.

Today was a day that will forever be etched in my memory, for it was a day of immense challenge and unforeseen circumstances. As I sit here penning down the events of the day, I am reminded of the duty and responsibility that befell me, and the actions that unfolded in the face of adversity.

Leading my company, we were given the task to attack the German machine-gun post near the railway at Bafour, as part of the larger effort to ensnare the Fifth and Seventh German Armies within the Falaise "pocket." The weight of our objective was substantial, and the perilous journey that lay ahead was soon made clear.

As we traversed the open cornfields, riddled with traps, the enemy's presence became painfully evident. The crackling of heavy machine-gun fire echoed through the air, tearing through the tranquillity of the fields. To make matters worse, the ominous 88mm gun targeted our advancing battalion, threatening to disrupt our progress.

Amidst the chaos, casualties mounted, and I found myself standing as the sole officer remaining. There was no time for doubt or hesitation. With a heavy heart, I assumed the responsibility of leading my men, hoping to shield them from harm's way. Without time to think, we just carried out our jobs.

With my Sten gun in hand, I charged the enemy's fortified posts with the goal of ensuring the safety and well-being of those under my command. With each encounter, my actions were driven by duty.

As the company, now reduced to a mere thirty soldiers, pressed forward, we were met with a counter-attack by fifty German troops. Fear was rampant, but I knew that I had to lead by example.







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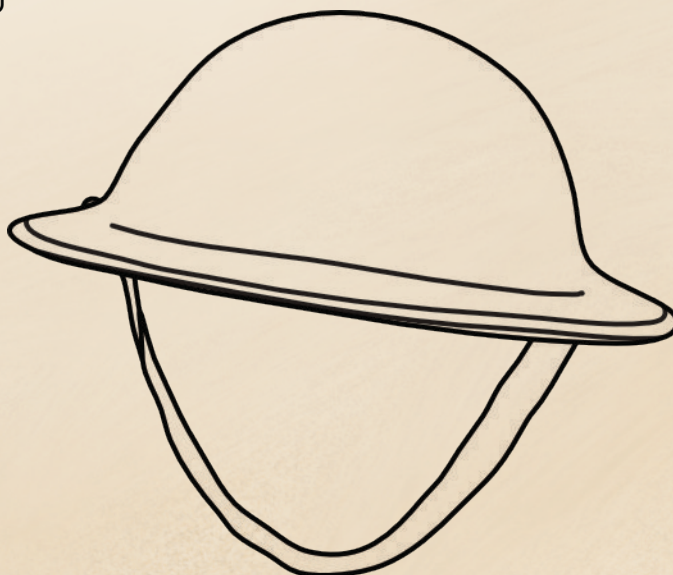
Summoning every ounce of courage within me, I rallied my men and charged at the enemy once more, wielding bayonets as our only defence. It was a testament to the strength and resilience of those under my command that we emerged victorious, scattering the enemy and dispersing their forces.

However, the trials were far from over. Unbeknownst to us, the battalion had received orders to withdraw, but due to the destruction of our radio, the message never reached us. Thus, my company found ourselves isolated and encircled by the enemy as the light began to fade. The dire situation demanded swift action, and I resolved to guide my men back to the safety of the battalion's headquarters.

As we ventured through the cornfields, our path obstructed by the dense foliage, an enemy post confronted us at close range. Instinct kicked in, and I commanded my men to disperse while I charged the post with a Bren gun, silencing the threat that stood in our way. It was a moment that required split-second decision-making, driven solely by the desire to ensure the survival of my comrades.

As I close this chapter of my diary, I reflect upon the most eventful day of my time in France so far. I will forever carry with me the weight of responsibility that was placed upon my shoulders, and the gratitude I feel towards my comrades who fought alongside me. May their sacrifices never be forgotten, and may their courage inspire future generations to face adversity with unwavering resolve.

Until tomorrow.





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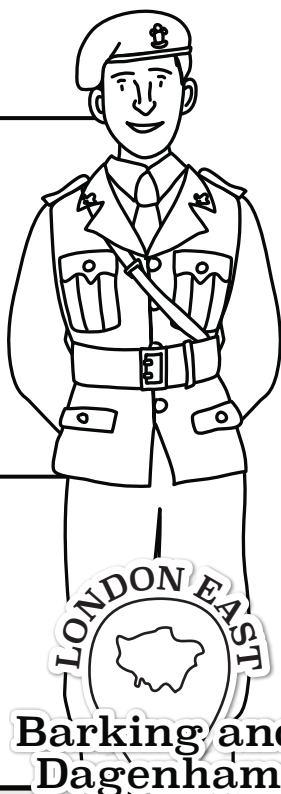
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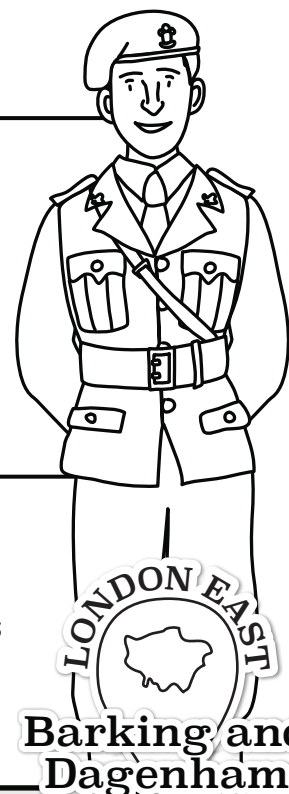
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17th of August 1944

Dear Diary,



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Barking and Dagenham



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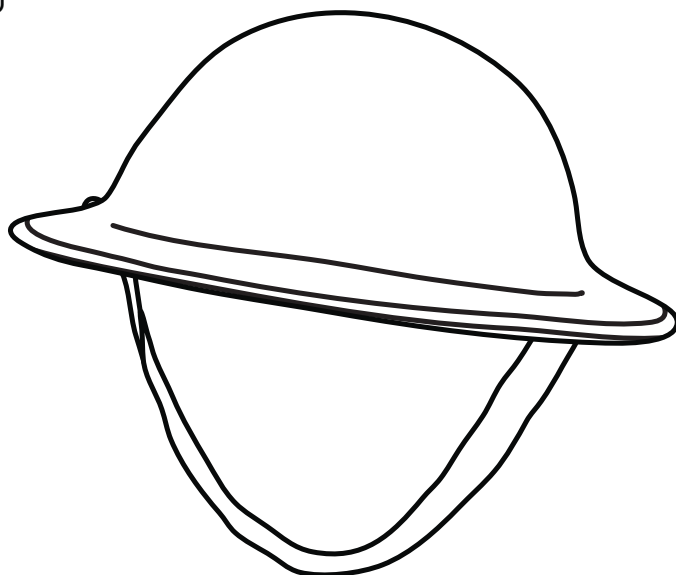
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# Local History

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.

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Historic England



Teacher's Pet

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## 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.