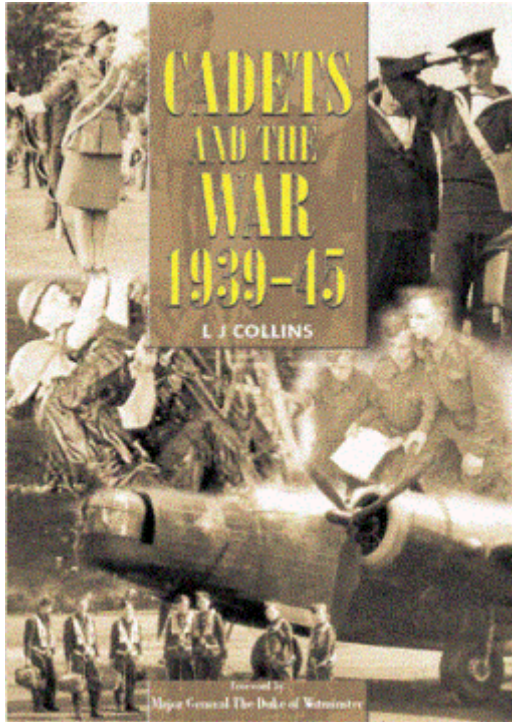


# Cadets and the War 1939-45

by L.J. Collins, M.B.E. (Mil)

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## Information Sheet

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**This publication is an illustrated record of the contribution made by the youngsters of the cadet movement during World War II.**

**By 1942 the number of young people in military cadet uniform exceeded 500,000. The phenomenal increase was due mainly to the overwhelming desire of the young to serve their country in its time of need. In addition the Government encouraged recruitment by instituting a form of voluntary National Service for sixteen-year-olds.**

**Girls donned a cadet uniform for the first time with the introduction of the National Girls' Training Corps, and the newly formed Air Training Corps, as a result of the Battle of Britain victory, experienced a ten-fold increase in as many months. The Sea Cadet Corps quadrupled the number of Training Ships. Eighty per cent of the Army Cadet Force detachments were formed during the war.**

**The Cadet Movement assisted the Government with the national schemes for collecting money for the war effort. They also helped to raise morale by putting on public parades and displays.**

**Training manuals were revised and re-written to cater for the needs of the Services. Cadets were being prepared to undergo technical, practical and vigorous physical training in the Armed Forces. Many older cadets from each of the Services saw dual service with the ARP, the Civil Defence, the Observer Corps and the Home Guard. In London, as in other parts of the UK, units of Army Cadets were trained to act as messengers in the event of an invasion.**

**Some cadets lost their headquarters in air raids and some were decorated for their actions during such events; some even lost their lives. To the Armed Forces the Cadet Movement or Pre-Service Organisations as they were referred to, provided over 80,000 pre-trained young people each year of the war. Equally important, the cadets themselves felt that they were contributing to the war effort.**



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