

1941

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A small amount of *syrup*, of American origin, was supplied from Randle.

- Early When the night-time maintenance work was being carried out on the Temporary Effluent Pump, 22 men were affected by toxic vapours masked by the smell of chlor liquor.
- Jan The Men's Mechanical Safety Committee was formed.
- Jan The Toxic Accident Committee formed.
- 1 Jan R4 was started up.
- 2 Jan The worst night of the Cardiff Blitz. That night 165 people were killed and 427 more injured, while nearly 350 homes were destroyed or had to be demolished. Llandaf Cathedral was seriously damaged. ([Wikipedia](#))
- 4 Jan The first load of *Runcol* was delivered to the tunnels from Randle and the first load of *Runcol* from R4 plant was also delivered to the tunnels.
- Jan-Feb Widespread flooding took place on the Valley floor.
- Jan-Feb All *Pyro M* tanks at Antelope were frozen to a depth of 7 inches.
- Jan-Feb The start up of R4 was affected by the adverse weather with 30° of frost recorded.
- Feb A rule was made that all liquor lines in the open air must not be disconnected during the hours of darkness. This was not always possible and a lamp was provided for use when breaking lines in the darkness.
- 13 Feb Opening of RAF Valley on Anglesey as a Fighter Command station.
- 19-21 Feb The Swansea Blitz. The most intense bombing attack in Wales, when a raid that lasted three nights destroyed half the town's centre. 30,000 bombs were dropped; 575 business premises burnt out; 282 houses demolished and 11,084 damaged. About 227 people were killed, 37 of them children, more than 400 others were injured. ([Wikipedia](#))
- 7 Mar The modification of stirrers in R3 and R4 was approved at a cost of £32,190. (G/SPS/12).
- 29 Mar Lord Weir and Sir Andrew Duncan (Minister of Supply) visited the site.
- Mar The Battle of the Atlantic began. ([Wikipedia](#))
- Mar The MoS instructed that P6 would not be completed as a production unit but the building would be made weatherproof so that it could serve as a store. It was also decided that P4 and P5 would be modified so that the combined output would be equal to the original rated capacity of P4+P5+P6 i.e. 216 tons/week of *Pyro M*.
- Mar A scheme for increasing the capacity of the aqueducts for the river diversion was approved at a cost of £31,950. (V/SPS/16).
- Mar An agreement was reached for process men to connect and disconnect vacuum and liquor lines previously done exclusively by maintenance men.
- Mar The testing of charging machinery was begun in K5.
- 6 Apr Germany invaded Greece.
- 21 Apr Miss Margaret Bronfield M.P. visited Valley. She was the first female cabinet minister in the Ramsey McDonald government and was chair of the Women's Group on Public Welfare 1939-45.
- Apr 700,000 tons of British shipping was sunk.
- Apr Number 3 Fire Station at C2 Pump House was completed.
- Apr A full-time Clothing Officer was appointed.

Apr	The first female labour started working six shifts per week, with no women working from 7 a.m. on Sunday to 7 a.m. Monday.
May	The cheese ration was cut to 1 oz (about 28g) per week.
May	The Petroleum Board recommended that the ethylene furnaces should be converted from burning fuel oil to creosote pitch and the necessary instructions were sent to the contractors.
May	20 tanks at Woodside were either in use or accepted.
May	War Weapons Week raised £1,452.
3-8 May	Eight consecutive air raid warnings covered 33 hours 20 minutes.
8 May	A new HP stage C1 fitted in temporary effluent pumps.
26 May	The <i>Runcol</i> plant R3 was handed over to Process.
27 May	The first fully equipped motor ambulance was delivered to the AFC.
27 May	A new LP stage C1 was fitted to the temporary effluent pump.
May-Jun	All Antelope <i>Pyro M</i> tanks had now dried out.
Jun	No. 1 Fire Station at North end of site was completed.
Jun	All tanks in the D Chamber of the tunnel had been filled.
1 Jun	Clothes rationing was introduced.
19 Jun	Both temporary effluent pumps were changed because of problems with slip ring brushes.
22 Jun	Germany invaded Russia.
Jul	I.C.I. manufactured 3 Kg of Uranium Hexafluoride (Gowing).
Jul	The No 4 Fire Station was opened on S.E. Assembly site.
Jul	Nurses had replaced the men first-aiders in the Ambulance Room.
Jul	Production of 25 lb shells, 30 lb Mark I and Mark IM bombs began.
Jul	The MoS approved modifications to the S20 distillation units in P4 and P5 on the recommendation of CDRE Sutton Oak and MSF Randle.
Jul	The charging building K5 was handed over to Process and in the same month the instruction was received that the <i>Pyro</i> should be further modified to allow the use of benzene instead of MCB as the <i>Pyro</i> Dilutant.
Jul	Ernest Bevin called up 30,000 men to work in the coal mines. (Wikipedia)
14 Jul	New check plates were fitted to both temporary effluent pumps.
22 Jul	The emptying of the tanks from the Antelope Field into the tunnel storage was commenced.
25 Jul	Both temporary effluent pumps were changed because of problems with slip ring brushes.
Aug	The No. 2 Fire Station was opened in the middle of West Triangle Rd.
Aug	The “Y” Committee was formed.
Aug	A pH meter was installed on the temporary effluent pump.
Sep	The production of 6” Howitzer Shells began.
Autumn	The modifications to the river culvert were completed after the winter floods.
Oct	Women were put on toxic work.
Oct	The R7 tanker from Randle was loaned to Valley.
5 Oct	Both the temporary effluent pumps C1 stages were replaced.
5 Oct	The transfer of the material from Antelope Field to the tunnels was completed.

Nov The main effluent pit was commissioned and the temporary effluent pump discontinued.

Nov P5 was handed over to Process but was put on standby.
The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. ([Wikipedia](#))

6 Dec



7 Dec Britain and the USA declared war on Japan.

9 Dec Conscription for single women between the ages of 20 and 30, liable for military service or other work was started. The call up age for men was lowered to 18.

10 Dec *Repulse* and *Renown* were sunk.

11 Dec The USA declared war on Germany and Italy.

20 Dec The first heater was installed in a Woodside tank to prevent a repeat of the freezing of the tanks in the previous winter.

24 Dec A second ambulance was delivered.