

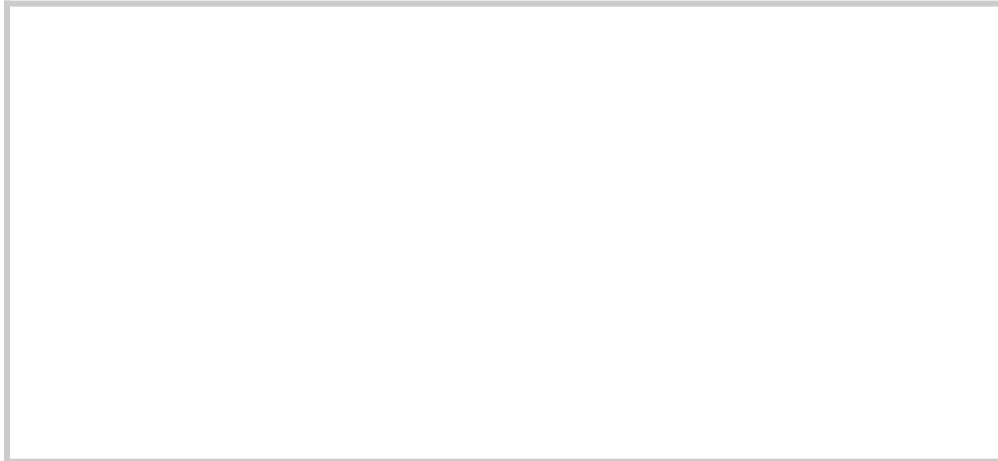
1938 – 1939

1938

The development on plant scale of the distillation process was completed at Sutton Oak in Cheshire. This produced a mixture of 60% H and 40% T (Reports CD 1020 and CD 996). The technique was used by the Germans in WWI. The two plants that were constructed at Randle 1940 are described in Z/CK/65.

The Munich Agreement was signed by Germany, France, Italy and Britain. Chamberlain declared "Peace for our time". ([Wikipedia](#))

29
Sep



End of year The British Government decided that the question of storing large quantities of *Pyroand Runcol* in bulk with complete protection from bombs should be considered and I.C.I. was asked to submit proposals for dealing with a capacity of 1,500 tons.

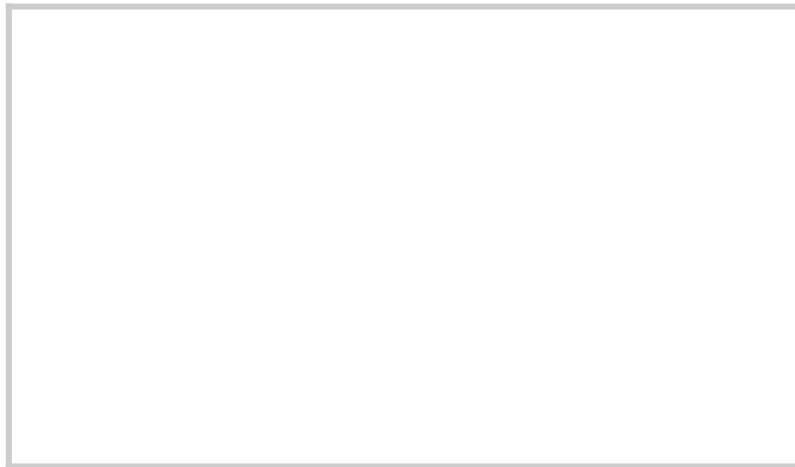
1939

- Mar Germany invaded Czechoslovakia. ([Wikipedia](#))
- Apr The initial survey of the Rhydymwyn site was carried out.
- Apr-Jun Subsequent to identifying the Valley site, the Department of Industrial Planning discussed layouts with I.C.I..
- 27 Apr Compulsory conscription for men aged 20-21 was initiated.
- 23 Aug The Soviet-German non-aggression pact was signed.
- 24 Aug The Emergency Powers Defence Act was passed. Military reservists were called up.
- 25 Aug The UK-Polish Treaty of Alliance signed.
- Treasury approval was given for the following sections of the Valley Works:
- Purchase of Site: £6,000
 - Bulk Storage: £90,000
 - Charging facilities and storage of charged weapons: £340,000
 - One 50 ton *Runcol* plant: £105,000
- 27 Aug
- Sep Design work for the site was started and orders were placed.
- 1 Sep Germany invaded Poland. ([Wikipedia](#))
- 1 Sep The RAF's No. 48 Maintenance Unit was formed at Hawarden.
- 1 Sep The evacuation of millions of children, expectant mothers and the blind was begun. The Blackout was enforced. An estimated 140,000 hospital patients were discharged releasing 187-195,000 new and old beds which were made ready for air raid

casualties.

At 11:15, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announced on BBC Radio that the deadline of the final British ultimatum for the withdrawal of German troops from Poland had expired at 11:00 and that "consequently this nation is at war with Germany".

3 Sep



3 Sep

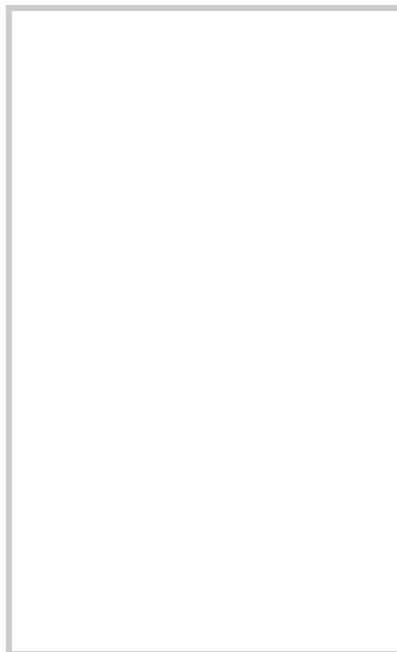
Anderson shelters were delivered. Cinemas, theatres and public places were closed. The BBC closed all services except the Home Service. Gas masks were to be carried at all times.

5 Sep

The National Registration Act was passed in parliament. This authorised a National Register (a mini census) to be undertaken and, based on this, identity cards to be issued, with a requirement that they must be produced on demand or presented to a police station within 48 hours. ([Wikipedia](#))

The National Register was taken throughout the United Kingdom (and also in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) and the issuing of Identity Cards began.

29 Sep



Oct

It was understood that Treasury sanction was being sought for the erection of a 200 ton/week *Pyro M* plant, a 100 ton/week *Runcol* plant and a 10 ton/week *Lewisite* plant (capable of being expanded to 100 tons/week), two charging units, together equal to K1+K2+K3, and an Assembly Unit. Layouts were prepared for schemes comprising 3 x 80 ton *Pyro* Units, including conversion to *Pyro M*, 2 x 50 ton *Runcol* plants and Acid Concentration plants, 1 x 100 ton *Lewisite* plant, 2 x Charging Units and Assembly Units. At a meeting in October, it was agreed that the

Valley factory should comprise of these plants except that the *Lewisite* plant should be of 10 tons/week.

Oct Work was started on the tunnels to accommodate the bulk storage tanks by the contractor Halkyn and District United Mines. The main building contractor, J. B. Edwards & Co., also started work on the site.

Nov It was agreed that the *Lewisite* plant should not be situated at Valley. Provisional Sanction for the expenditure of £1,750,000 was granted subject to the completion of more accurate estimates.

23 Nov The last date to register for ration books.

Nov-Jan Construction of the buildings for *Runcol* plant R4, Acid Concentration plants AC7 and 8, Pyro plant P5, Charging Unit K5 and essential services etc. was started.

13 Dec Battle of the River Plate, Uruguay. ([Wikipedia](#))