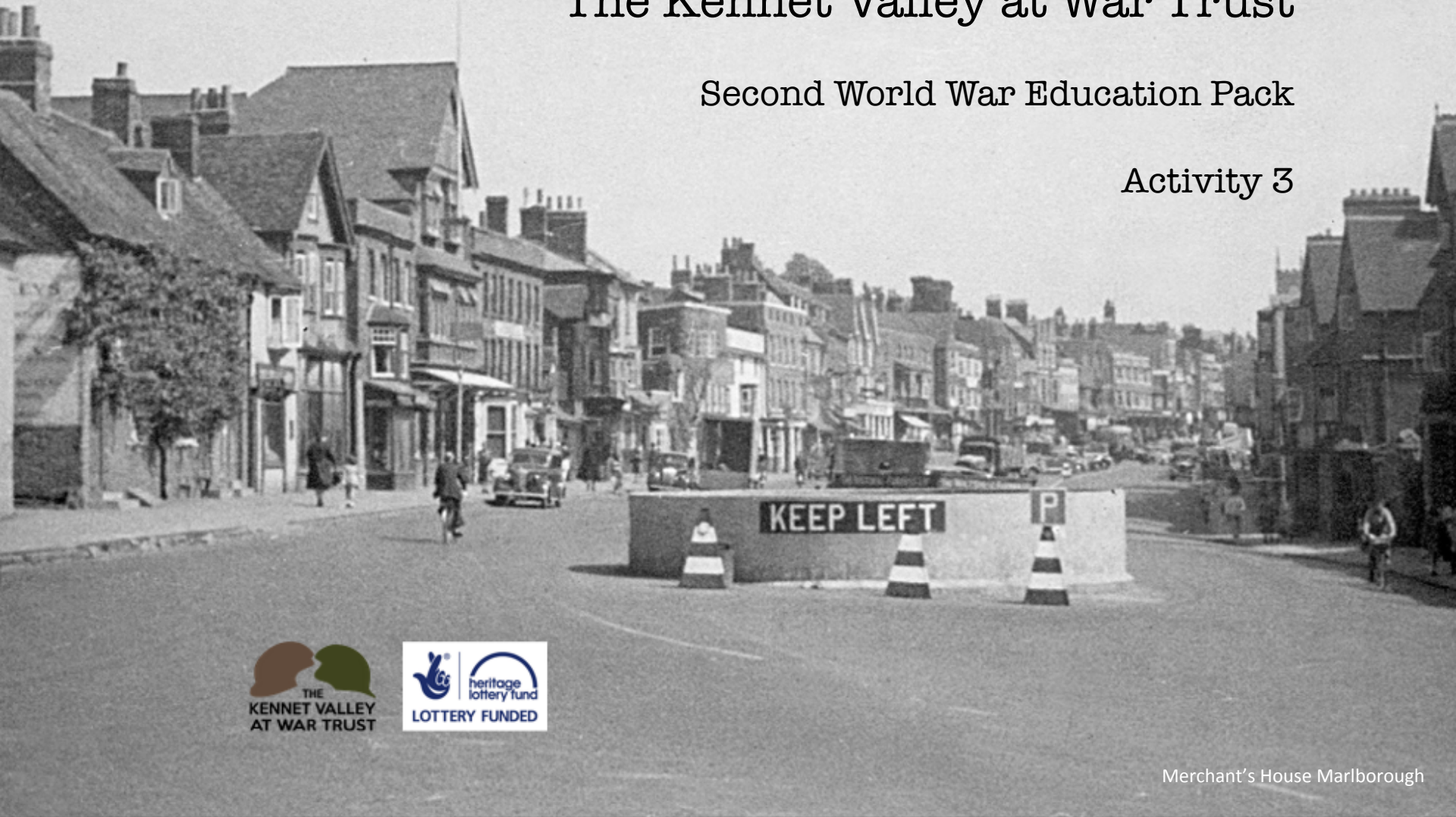


The Kennet Valley at War Trust

Second World War Education Pack

Activity 3



Note to teachers...

This basic slide pack has been prepared for you to use with the Kennet Valley at War Trust's Second World War Education Pack.

Please adapt it to meet your own needs.

How to use the Education Pack

The Education Pack is in two parts: background information and a set of classroom activity plans for teachers; and original images and texts, to be used with those plans.

The activities, which are principally designed for pupils aged between 9 and 14, can be adapted to suit older or younger students who are studying the history of their local area. Each activity includes background information, helpful ideas, and links to curriculum subjects and additional online resources. These can be used in lessons or as part of a larger cross curriculum project.

Slide packs, for use with each activity, can be downloaded from: www.kennetvalleyatwar.co.uk

The activities show what can be achieved with the resources provided, and should be used to develop your own ideas and lesson plans.

As you do so, remember that the pack is about the men and women of the Kennet Valley and those British and American soldiers, airmen and airwomen who were based there, and who lived through the momentous events of the Second World War, and whose sacrifices helped to make the Allied victory possible.

This is their story.



British fighter pilots running for their aircraft,
1940



(© IWM HU 49253)

Activity 3: the propaganda war

Posters were often used as a propaganda tool by the British Ministry of Information to convey simple messages, or to raise the country's morale. What messages do the posters on this page convey?

Using sources D, E, F and G, ask your pupils to investigate life on the Home Front and the British use of propaganda posters during the Second World War.

Jenny Atkins, who worked in the British Restaurant in Marlborough, was upset by the amount of food wasted in people's kitchens. Divide the class into pairs; ask each pair to design and create a propaganda poster aimed at reducing kitchen waste; get them to discuss their posters and the effect they have.

Age range: 9-14

Curriculum links:

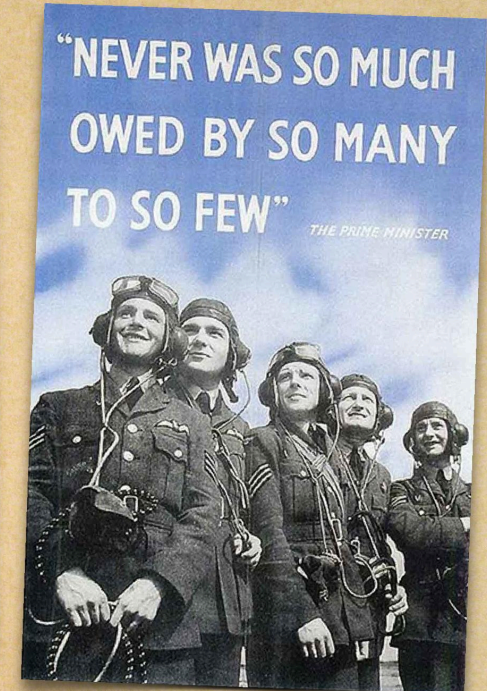
Art and Design,
Citizenship,
English and History

Learning

objectives: set against the backdrop of the Home Front, use research skills to learn about the use of propaganda posters during the Second World War; design and create a propaganda poster



(© IWM Art.IWM PST 3641)



Public Domain

Source D: Ironside's Stop Line

Britain's defences - constructed in 1940 under the direction of General Ironside - consisting of lines of concrete pillboxes and anti-tank obstacles, were the country's last line of defence against the German panzers had they invaded.

Stop Line Blue ran along the Kennet and Avon Canal as far as Reading. Built from reinforced concrete and brick, many pillboxes have survived, and can still be seen alongside the Canal.

Useful links

Anti-invasion defences www.pillbox-study-group.org.uk

Defence of Britain Project archaeologydataservice.ac.uk

Marlborough War Walk www.kennetvalleyatwar.co.uk

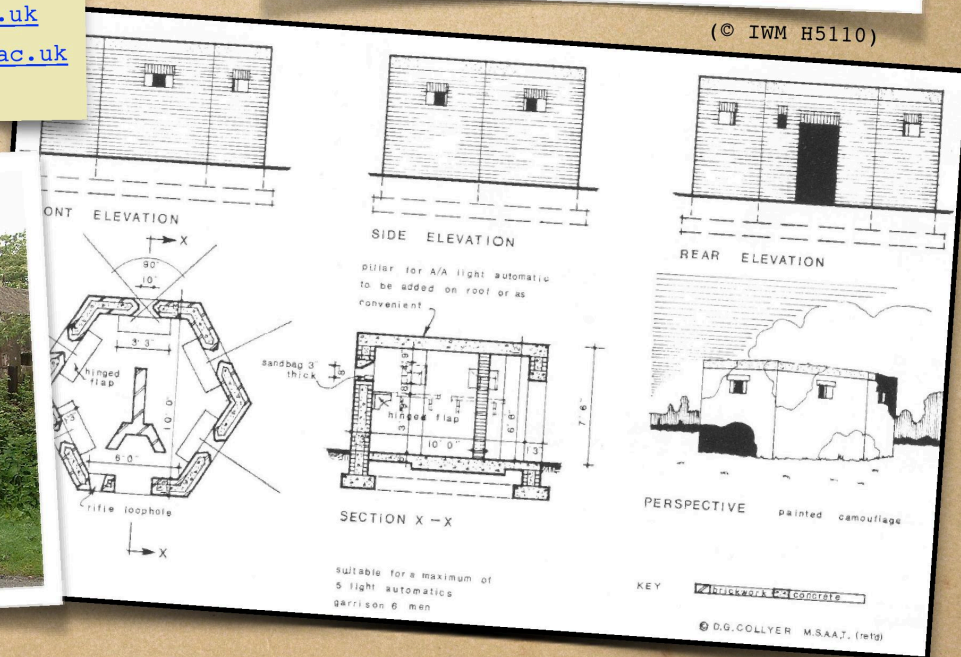


Inside a pillbox

(© IWM H5110)



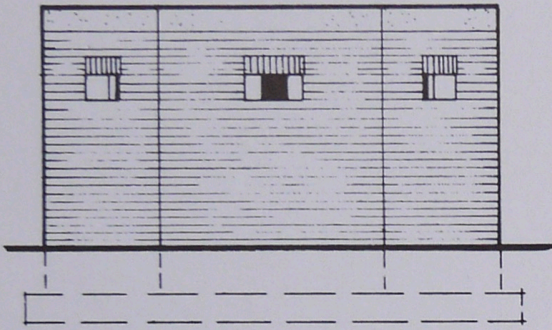
Dunmill Pillbox near Hungerford



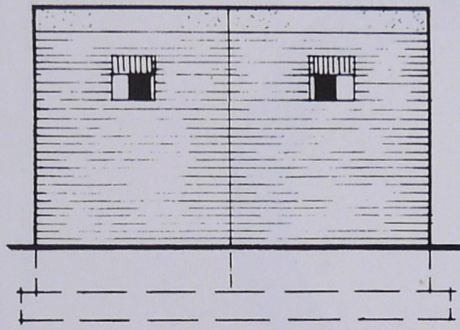
(© H Wills)

Dunmill Pillbox, near Hungerford

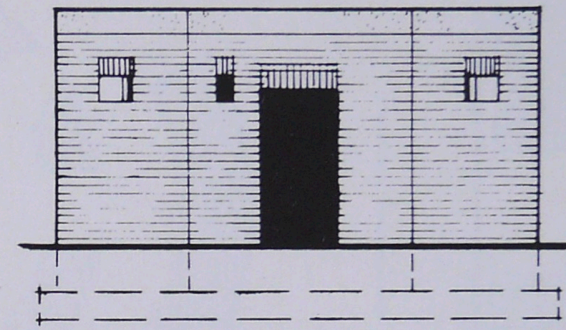




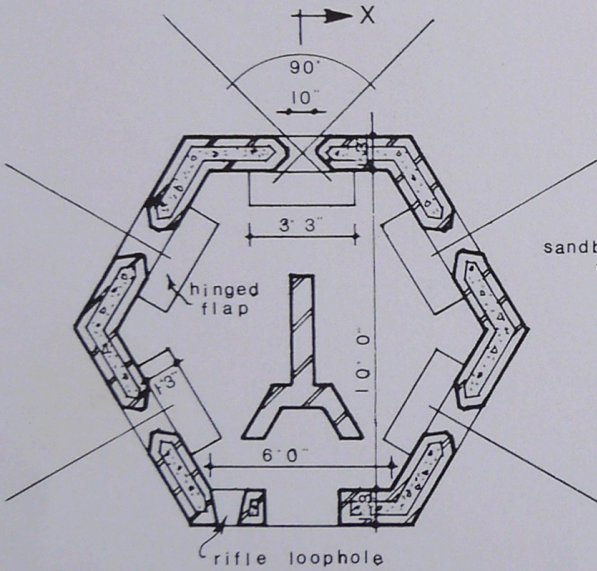
FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION

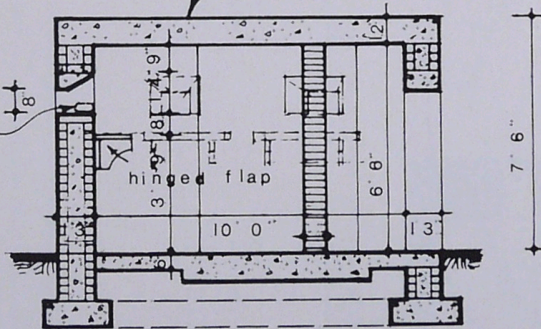


REAR ELEVATION



PLAN

pillar for A/A light automatic to be added on roof or as convenient



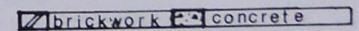
SECTION X - X

suitable for a maximum of 5 light automatics
garrison 6 men



PERSPECTIVE painted camouflage

KEY



© D.G. COLLYER M.S.A.A.T. (retd)

STRONG POSTS & PILLBOXES

TYPE 22

Inside a pillbox



Source E: the Home Guard

The Local Defence Volunteer Force, later renamed the Home Guard, was created on the 14th May 1940 to protect Britain from invasion.

By the end of 1940 1.5 million men and boys had volunteered - and almost every town or village in the Kennet Valley would have had its own Home Guard detachment.

In Marlborough, the boys of Marlborough College were asked to volunteer, and those over 17 years - with their parents permission - joined the local unit: The 6th (Marlborough) Battalion of the Wiltshire Home Guard.

Initially armed with a few rifles and some obsolete anti-tank weapons, they were later taught sabotage and guerrilla warfare.

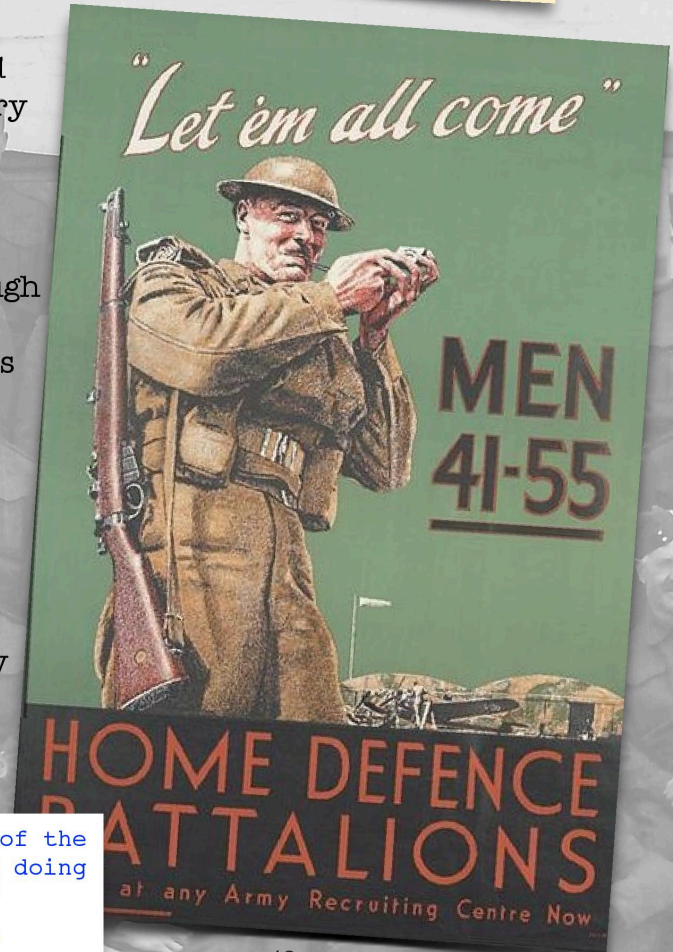
"Summer 1940 was an exciting time at the College, not only because of the situation in the country, but because, although schoolboys, we were doing a man's job and playing a full part in the defence of the country."

John Wilson, a student at Marlborough College, writing in June 1997

Links to articles on the Home Guard
www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/war and
www.historylearningsite.co.uk



(© IWM D4355)



(© IWM Art.IWM PST 14618)



Roger Day

Hungerford Home Guard Platoon

"Let 'em all come"



**MEN
41-55**

**HOME DEFENCE
BATTALIONS**

Apply at any Army Recruiting Centre Now



“Summer 1940 was an exciting time at the College, not only because of the situation in the country, but because, although schoolboys, we were doing a man’s job and playing a full part in the defence of the country.”

John Wilson, a student at Marlborough College, writing in June 1997

Source F: the Home Front

A significant amount of effort was devoted to the 'Home Front' during the Second World War. Rationing, anti-invasion defences, air raid precautions and agricultural and industrial production were all regulated by the Government as part of the war effort. Women were also mobilised to an unprecedented degree.

INVASION EXERCISE

MARLBOROUGH

THIS exercise has been arranged for SUNDAY, 31st JANUARY, 1943, between the hours of 8.30 and 5 o'clock and will be the biggest of the kind attempted in Marlborough. May I take the opportunity of emphasising the following points affecting the people of Marlborough as a whole?

Households living within 60-70 yards of Road Blocks are asked to make their contribution to the realism of the exercise by being ready to evacuate temporarily if required to do so. This does not mean that Military or Civil Defence Forces will enter the house or that everyone is expected to move out. It is hoped that at any rate one person in each house (where there are more than this number) will be willing to come out, so that the W.A.C. can practice their arrangements for emergency feeding.

Those who move will be given a mid-day meal and will be told where to go when evacuated. They must not forget to take identity cards, gas masks, overcoats, and a blanket.

Everybody in the Borough should be ready to play their part in the exercise in the following ways:-

- (a) To assist the Military and Civil Defence Forces to the utmost and to take part in incidents in their streets.
- (b) To be ready to take into their houses temporarily people who have been evacuated.
- (c) To keep off the streets when fighting is taking place in the Town and to avoid at all times standing about in groups.
- (d) To keep in touch with the nearest Warden or Housewife.
- (e) To refuse information to the enemy if interrogated.
- (f) To rely for information on the Official Notice Boards at the following places:-

TOWN HALL
NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE DEPOT, LONDON ROAD
MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE
ST. PETER'S CHURCH
ST. THOMAS MORE R.C. CHURCH, EDGE LANE

The Exercise should not be regarded as a day of worship in the Town.

N.B.—All BRITISH Forces will wear their Hats. All TANKS will be painted black.
1, The Green, Marlborough
January 28th, 1943.

"At Preshute we each had our small pot containing the butter ration of 2oz a week. The jam ration of a 1lb jar was meant to last a month, so to eke it out we fell back upon the off ration alternatives such as Fry's chocolate spread, peanut butter and even Radio Malt; the last named being obtained from the High Street chemist..."

David Scaife, a student at Marlborough College, recalling the hardships of war-time rationing



Public Domain



Public Domain

Useful links

BBC History 'Home Front' archive www.bbc.co.uk

Propaganda posters in the National Archives www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Background image: members of A Company, Marlborough Home Guard, on parade in the High Street, summer 1940 (Mrs 'Vee' Fraser)



Mrs. 'Vee' Fraser

Members of A Company, Marlborough Home Guard, on parade in the High Street, summer 1940

“At Preshute we each had our small pot containing the butter ration of 2oz a week. The jam ration of a 1lb jar was meant to last a month, so to eke it out we fell back upon the off ration alternatives such as Fry’s chocolate spread, peanut butter and even Radio Malt; the last named being obtained from the High Street chemist...”

David Scaife, a student at Marlborough College, recalling the hardships of war-time rationing



WOMEN OF BRITAIN
**COME INTO
THE FACTORIES**

ASK AT ANY EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE FOR ADVICE AND FULL DETAILS

*Go through
your wardrobe*



INVASION EXERCISE

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NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE DEPOT, LONDON ROAD

MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

ST. THOMAS MORE R.C. CHURCH, ELCOT LANE.

* * * * *

The Exercise should not interfere with the normal Services at the various Places of Worship in the Town.

Yours faithfully,

F. J. HARRAWAY,
Chairman of Invasion Committee,
Borough of Marlborough.

N.B.—All BRITISH Forces will be wearing STEEL HELMETS. All "ENEMY" Soft Hats. All TANKS will be treated as "ENEMY."

1, The Green, Marlborough, Wilts,
January 28th, 1943.

Source G: the Air War

The war with Germany was fought in part in the skies above the Kennet Valley throughout most of the Second World War - initially in the summer of 1940, during the Battle of Britain, when the country stood alone against Nazi Germany; and later during the Blitz, when the German Luftwaffe attacked Britain's cities.

In 1944, when the tide of the war had turned in the Allies favour, the skies above Wiltshire and West Berkshire were filled with British and American bombers carrying the war to Germany, and transport aircraft, ferrying troops, supplies and military equipment to France and Holland.



Two bewildered ladies stand amid the ruins of St. Bartholomew's almshouses, Newbury, destroyed by the same bomber which struck St. John's Church

US National Archives

Newbury was bombed by a lone Dornier bomber on the 10th February 1943. The enemy aircraft attacked from the south with machine guns and bombs, strafing Monks Lane, Chandos Road, Newtown Road, the Railway Station and Market Street. Some 265 buildings were destroyed or damaged. Fifteen people lost their lives and 25 were seriously injured in the raid; most of them at the Southampton Terrace houses, St. Bartholomew's almshouses and the Senior Council School.

"We had blackouts up so mother went outside to look and when she came back she said, 'some poor blighter's getting it tonight!' We went out and you could hear the droning of planes. It went on all night long."

Keith Light, remembering the night of 11 November 1940

Useful links

Frank Capra's 'Battle of Britain' documentary, made for an American audience, 1940 www.youtube.com

An interactive map, showing where the German bombs fell on London during the Blitz www.bombsight.org



Two German Dornier bombers over London, 1940

“We had blackouts up so mother went outside to look and when she came back she said, ‘some poor blighter’s getting it tonight!’ We went out and you could hear the droning of planes. It went on all night long.”

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Two bewildered ladies stand amid the ruins of the St. Bartholomew's Alms Houses Newbury, destroyed by a German bomber

