



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

NORTHERN IRELAND
WAR MEMORIAL
MUSEUM



Supported by
Belfast
City Council



AS CHAIRMAN of the Northern Ireland War Memorial, it is a great privilege for me and my fellow Board Members to oversee the dedicated work of our team. The history of the NIWM can be traced back to a 1943 fundraising appeal for a memorial building which began in three converted trams placed at *Blitzed Square*, High Street, Belfast. The museum tells the story of the Blitz of 1941, doubtless the biggest disaster in Belfast's history. Lives were also lost in Bangor, Newtownards, and Derry/Londonderry. Oral history plays an important part in the NIWM's work and museum staff continue to interview and archive many stories of tragedy and heroism in the air raids. These accounts have added greatly to this Blitz 80 resource. This 80th anniversary is a significant point to reflect on the air raids, the casualties, the work of the emergency and fire services – including those who hurried from Éire, and the aftermath for evacuees.

Ian Wilson

Chairman Northern Ireland War Memorial



Supported by

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THE BELFAST BLITZ brought heart-breaking loss and devastation to the city. 80 years on, the importance of commemorating these tragic events remains. It is for this reason that I am delighted to support the production of this Blitz 80 publication.

City Hall was extensively damaged during the bombings, as you will read about in the pages of this publication. There are numerous artefacts related to the Second World War within City Hall, including a piece of shrapnel believed to have come from an incendiary bomb which struck City Hall on 4/5 May 1941. I encourage you to visit our exhibition or take a tour of City Hall to find out more, when it is safe to do so.

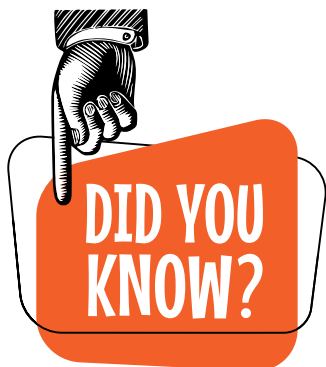
My thanks go to the Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum for producing this great resource. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Alderman Frank McCoubrey

Lord Mayor of Belfast

Introduction

This year marks 80 years since Belfast was bombed by the German Air Force (Luftwaffe) during the Second World War. We can learn a lot from people who lived through the war years, and sometimes objects and places give us clues too. Museums are also good places to go to learn about the past.



The German Air Force was called the Luftwaffe, pronounced – luft-va-fuh. The Luftwaffe was founded in 1935 and was led by Hermann Goering during the Second World War.



Do you know someone who is 80 years or older and who lived through the Blitz? How old is your house? Was it standing all those years ago?

The Northern Ireland War Memorial (NIWM) tells the story of Northern Ireland during the Second World War. Objects, newspapers, photographs and letters from 80 years ago tell the story of the Belfast Blitz, and so do the hundreds of older people the museum has interviewed. Many of those people remember the air raids vividly. From them we can discover what it felt like to be in the city as bombs fell. With this Blitz 80 resource, we encourage primary school classes to learn about the Belfast Blitz using all those important sources of information.

How to use this Blitz 80 Primary School Pack

This *Blitz 80* resource highlights photographs, newspaper extracts, objects and first-hand accounts which relate to the air raids in 1941.

We encourage teachers to use these resources in class to bring the Belfast Blitz to life. All thumbnail images are included in a larger size in the appendix so that they can be photocopied and circulated around classroom tables during *Discussion Points*, *Activities* and *Did You Know* points. We recommend reading *First-Hand Accounts* aloud or dramatizing them.

For ease of photocopying, the resources are contained within a removable slide binder. The *April Flowers Bring Forth May Flowers* Activity has also been designed to be photocopied.

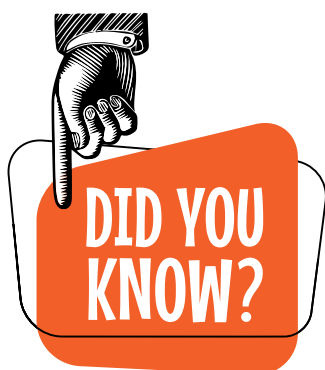
We'd love to hear how you are using this *Blitz 80 Primary School Pack* and see what you have created in class. Please email your feedback and photographs to learning@niwarmemorial.org or share on our Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

To request more copies of this resource, please email learning@niwarmemorial.org or visit www.niwarmemorial.org to download, print or view as a PDF.

BEFORE

Life in Northern Ireland during the Second World War

80 YEARS AGO, life was quite different from today. Very few families owned a car or television and there was no such thing as the internet. People read newspapers and listened to the radio (the wireless) to hear the news. With less technology in their homes, children found other ways to entertain themselves such as making scrapbooks, keeping stamp collections and playing board games. Children played outside a lot and with fewer cars on the road they often had to walk to school every day. Instead of big supermarkets, there were lots of small shops. People often made their own clothes and children played with homemade toys.



The **Home Front** is the name given to the activities and lives of ordinary people who stayed at home during the war and didn't leave to fight in the war overseas. People on the Home Front (also known as civilians) played an important role in the war effort.



Front page of the Belfast Telegraph on Sunday 3rd September 1939

Since war with Germany was declared on 3rd September 1939, life had changed in many ways. It was a strange time for many families who were separated from loved ones serving in the Navy, Army and Air Force. On the Home Front people volunteered as nurses, firemen, air raid wardens or joined the Ulster Home Guard to protect Northern Ireland from a possible invasion.

Thousands of civilians worked in the shipyards and factories all over Northern Ireland making aircraft parts, munitions, parachutes and ropes. Many had important roles they couldn't leave, for example as farmers and teachers, so they volunteered as nurses, air raid wardens and firemen in their spare time. People helped in other ways by fundraising, knitting clothing for the armed forces and collecting scrap metal, food, paper and fabric for salvage.

The Blackout

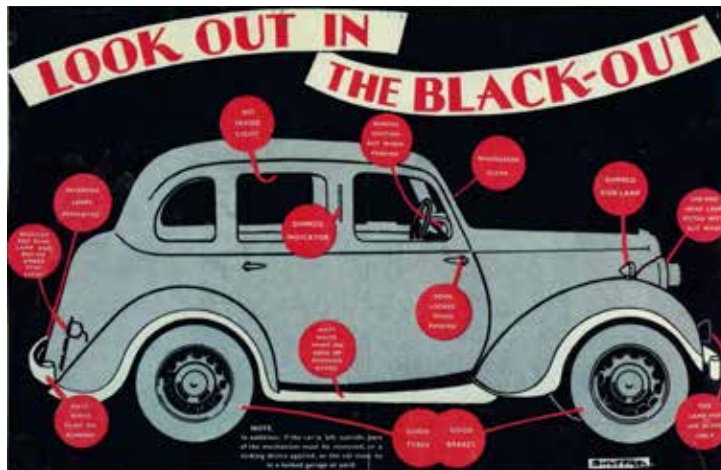
There was a blackout at night-time with streets all over Northern Ireland in complete darkness so enemy aircraft couldn't see landmarks from the sky. The government hoped this would stop the Luftwaffe using the lights of towns and cities to guide them to their targets. This meant that people had to turn off, dim or cover all lights after dark. People made blackout curtains to cover all the windows in their home and newspaper notices told them what time the sun was due to set so they could close their blackout curtains in time.

Streetlights were turned off and metal covers were placed over the headlights of cars, buses, trams and bicycles to make them point towards the ground, rather than into the sky. The blackout made walking and driving at night-time dangerous, so there were many

crashes and collisions. To help prevent accidents, people wore white clothing and painted car bumpers, pavements and lampposts with white paint to make them stand out in the dark. Torches were allowed but they had to be dimmed and pointed towards the ground.

Look Out in the Blackout poster

Courtesy of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)



DISCUSSION POINT

Look closer at the ARP Mobile Canteen. Can you see that a cover has been placed over the lights to make them dimmer for the blackout?

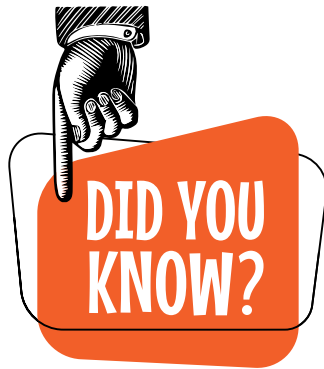


An ARP mobile canteen which has been adapted for the blackout PRONI

Headlamp cover
used in the blackout

NIWM Collection





There was something you could eat to help you see further in the blackout... carrots! This poster told people to eat carrots as they keep you healthy and help you to see in the blackout.

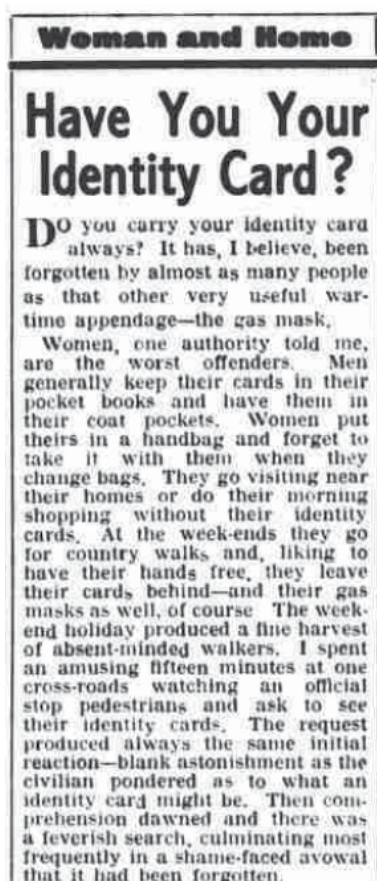


Dr Carrot Poster © IWM Art. IWM PST 8105

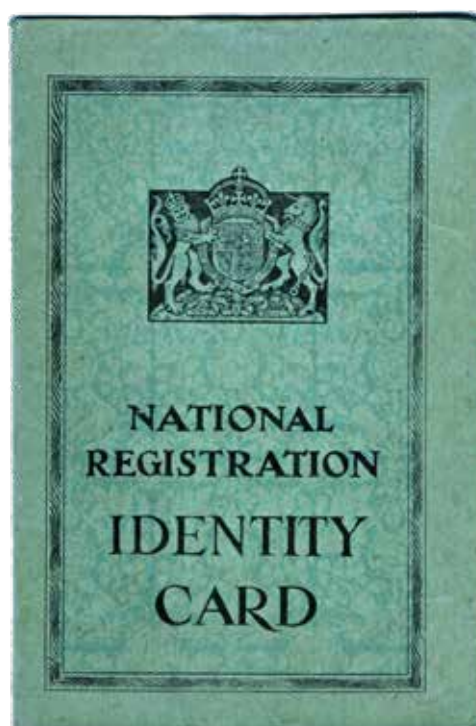
Identity Cards

National Registration Identity Cards were introduced at the beginning of the Second World War.

Everyone, including children, had to carry an identity card at all times, to show who they were and where they lived. Identity Cards helped the government keep track of people and they provided information which was useful when organising rationing and evacuation. The government also thought Identity Cards would prove useful in wartime if families were separated or injured during an air raid. The Identity Card stated the owner's name and address, and each person was given a unique number which was written inside.



Have you got your Identity Card?
The Northern Whig and Belfast Post,
Wednesday 16 April 1941



Identity Card
NIWM Collection

Gas Masks

To protect civilians from possible poisonous gas attacks, gas masks were handed out to everyone at the outbreak of war. German forces had used poisonous gas in the First World War, so it was feared they would do the same in the Second World War. Thankfully, poisonous gas was never used during the Second World War but having a gas mask was a sensible precaution just in case. Everyone was told to carry their gas mask at all times, and that they should practice how to put it on and take it off. Children carried their gas masks to school in a little bag, cardboard box or a tin.



Three types of gas mask NIWM Collection

DISCUSSION POINT

Can you guess which gas mask was for a baby, an adult, and a child? What do you think it felt like to wear a gas mask? Why do you think they made one of them really colourful?

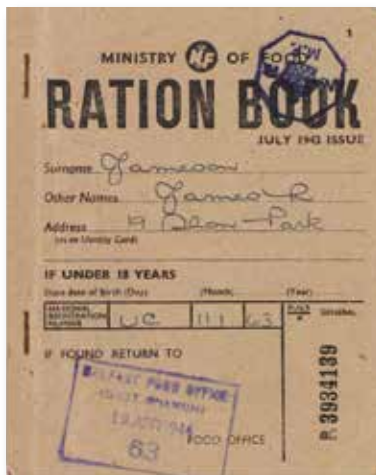


DID YOU KNOW?



This is a gas rattle, a hand-held noisemaking device used to give warning of a gas attack. By holding the handle and spinning the rattle around, it makes a very loud clicking noise. This rattle from our collection was used by Air Raid Wardens in Belfast.

Rationing

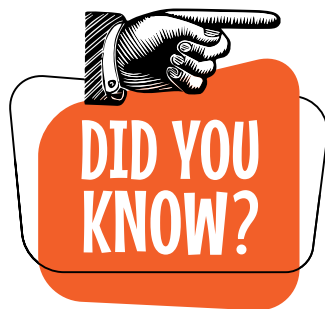


Ration Book NIWM Collection

From 1940 everyone had a *Ration Book* which they used when buying food. Food had to be rationed because German U-boats (submarines) were attacking Allied ships which delivered food. This caused food shortages. Importing food from other countries became so dangerous that the government had to carefully plan what was being packed onto ships and what people could do without. It was important to carry as much cargo as possible in one journey, so foods like eggs and milk were dried into powder form and transported in tins, as they took up less space. The government decided people could do without tropical fruits like bananas and oranges, and they were greatly missed.



Tin of Pure Dried Eggs
NIWM Collection



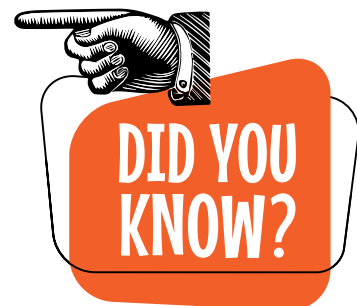
Dried eggs became available in Northern Ireland from July 1942. They could be used to make omelettes, scrambled eggs and cakes.

Dig For Victory poster © IWM Art.IWM PST 0696



The **Dig for Victory** campaign encouraged people to grow their own fruits and vegetables at home, but they certainly couldn't grow bananas in Northern Ireland's climate. Bananas were greatly missed, and a song called *When Can I Have a Banana Again?* was often played on the wireless.

Bananas were grown in the Tropical Ravine in Belfast Botanic Gardens and were sent to the British Red Cross.



First-Hand Account



Harry

We've interviewed older people who remember missing bananas so much that they made Mock Banana Sandwiches using boiled parsnips. Irene told us that they didn't fool her and didn't taste great, but that she ate them anyway. Harry's mother served his with custard and he has fond memories of eating them.

■ *I'm sure you've never heard of it but in those days a lot of people were able to make fake banana. Have you ever heard of that? They boiled parsnips and put banana essence in it, which made it very much like banana so of course my mother did that quite often and we had it with custard. We had banana and custard. My father grew a lot of vegetables in those days, so we had plenty of parsnips.* ■


In June 1941 clothing rationing was introduced and people were given a pink *Clothing Ration Book*. Fabric was needed for uniforms, parachutes, nets and for covering aircraft. It could no longer be purchased in large amounts by normal people. In 1941 a *Clothing Ration Book* had 66 tokens inside. They had to be used throughout the year when buying new clothes. A coat for a child required 8 coupons and a pair of trousers

required 6 coupons. It became important to look after items of clothing to make them last longer, so people were told to *Make Do and Mend* to keep their clothes in the best possible condition. They could repair tears and holes and pass their clothing onto younger brothers and sisters. Or they could make their father's old suit into a dress!



Newspaper article about jam rationing. This newspaper article was collected by John Potter and added to his wartime scrapbook when he was a boy. NIWM Collection

Rationing



RATIONING

of Clothing, Cloth, Footwear

from June 1, 1941

Rationing has been introduced, not to deprive you of your real needs, but to make more certain that you get your share of the country's goods—to get fair shares with everybody else.

When the shops re-open you will be able to buy cloth, clothes, footwear and knitting wool only if you bring your *Food Ration Book* with you. The shopkeeper will detach the required number of coupons from the unused margarine page. Each margarine coupon counts as one coupon towards the purchase of clothing or footwear. You will have a total of 66 coupons to last you for a year; so go sparingly. You can buy where you like and when you like without registering.

NUMBER OF COUPONS NEEDED

Men and Boys		Adult	Child	Women and Girls		Adult	Child
Unlined mackintosh, or cape	9	7		Lined mackintoshes, or coats (over 28 in. in length)	14	11	
Other mackintoshes, or raincoat, or overcoat	16	11		Jacket, or short coat (under 28 in. in length)	11	8	
Coat, or jacket, or blazer or like garment	13	8		Dress, or gown, or frock—woolen	11	8	
Waistcoat, or pull-over, or cardigan, or jersey	5	3		Dress, or gown, or frock—other material	7	5	
Trousers (other than flannel or corduroy)	8	6		Gymtunic, or girl's skirt with bodice	8	6	
Flannel or corduroy trousers	5	5		Blouse, or sports shirt, or cardigan, or jumper	5	3	
Shirts	5	3		Skirt, or divided skirt	7	5	
Overalls, or dungarees or like garment	8	4		Overalls, or dungarees or like garment	6	4	
Denim-gown or bathing-gown	8	6		Apron, or pinafore	3	2	
Night-shirt or pair of pyjamas	8	6		Pyjamas	8	6	
Shirt, or combinations—woolen	8	6		Nightdress	8	5	
Shirt, or combinations—other material	5	4		Petticoat, or slip, or combination, or cami-knickers	4	3	
Pants, or vest, or bathing costume, or child's blouse	4	2		Other undergarments, including corsets	3	2	
Pair of socks or stockings	1	1		Pair of stockings	2	2	
Collar, or tie, or pair of cuffs	1	1		Pair of socks (ankle length)	2	1	
Two handkerchiefs	1	1		Collar, or tie, or pair of cuffs	1	1	
Scarf, or pair of gloves or mittens	2	2		Two handkerchiefs	1	1	
Pair of slippers or goloshes	4	2		Scarf, or pair of gloves or mittens	2	2	
Pair of boots or shoes	7	3		or muff	2	2	
Pair of leggings, gaiters or spats	3	2		Pair of slippers, boots or shoes	5	3	

CLOTH. Coupons needed per yard depend on the width. For example, a yard of woollen cloth 55 inches wide requires 3 coupons. The same amount of cotton or other cloth needs 2 coupons.

KNITTING WOOL. 1 coupon for two ounces.

THESE GOODS MAY BE BOUGHT WITHOUT COUPONS

* Children's clothing of sizes generally suitable for infants less than 4 years old. * Boiler suits and workmen's bib and brace overalls. * Hats and caps. * Sewing thread. * Mending wool and mending silk. * Boots and shoe laces. * Tapes, braids, ribbons and other fabrics of 3 inches or less in width. * Elastic. * Lace and lace net. * Sanitary towels. * Bras, suspenders and garters. * Hard haberdashery. * Clogs. * Black-out cloth dyed black. * All second-hand articles.

Special Notice to Retailers

Retailers will be allowed to get fresh stocks of cloth up to and including June 28th, of other rationed goods up to and including June 21st, WITHOUT SURRENDERING COUPONS. After those dates they will be able to obtain fresh stocks only by turning in their customers' coupons. Steps have been taken, in the interests of the smaller retailers, to limit during these periods the quantity of goods which can be supplied by a wholesaler or manufacturer to any one retailer however large his orders. Further information can be obtained from your Trade Organisations.

ISSUED BY THE BOARD OF TRADE



Clothing Ration Book NIWM Collection

DISCUSSION POINT

Have a look at the newspaper article explaining the rules of Clothing rationing. How would you have spent your coupons in 1941?

ACTIVITY

Imagine you were planning some clothes shopping in 1941. Make a list of clothes you would like to buy and add up the number of coupons required. Would you have had any coupons left for the rest of the year? Remember, even socks, pyjamas and scarves required coupons!

Why was Belfast a target?

Belfast played an increasingly important role as the Second World War progressed. By early 1941 Belfast was a major industrial city, producing munitions, ships, aircraft, ropes, parachutes and uniforms.

The Luftwaffe planned to bomb UK cities, and Belfast was a target as it was making many important things that could help the Allies win the war.

The Shipyards

The number of employees at Harland and Wolff doubled during the war, reaching 30,000 at one stage. The following were built in Belfast's shipyards between 1939–1945:

- 170 Warships
- 34 Corvettes (escort vessels)
- 505 Tanks
- 6 Aircraft Carriers
- 2 Cruisers
- 54 Merchant vessels

In addition, Harland and Wolff repaired and converted thousands of Royal Navy ships and Merchant Navy vessels.

An Aircraft Carrier
under construction
at Harland and Wolff
PRONI



Aircraft

Short and Harland made aircraft parts. At one time it had over 25,000 employees. Between 1939–45 they made:

- 1200 Stirling Bombers
- 125 Sunderland flying boats



Stirling Bombers at Short and Harland 1943. Can you spot the Sunderland Flying Boats in the background? PRONI

Belfast Ropeworks

Female workers making netting
at Belfast Ropeworks in 1940

Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph

One third of the ropes required by the War Office were made at Belfast Ropeworks in East Belfast. That's 250,000 tons of rope. Belfast Ropeworks also manufactured parachutes and camouflage netting as well.



Textile and Clothing

Textile firms like York Street Spinning Mill made civilian clothing, parachute webbing, harnesses, machine gun belts, aircraft fabric, flying suit canvas, gun and wagon covers, ground sheets, kit bags and sail cloths for the war effort.

Munitions

It became difficult to produce linen during the war as it was difficult to import the raw materials needed to make it. Some factories such as Mackie's, Ewart's Mill on the Crumlin Road and Combe Barbour on the Falls Road made munitions and artillery shells instead of textile machinery.

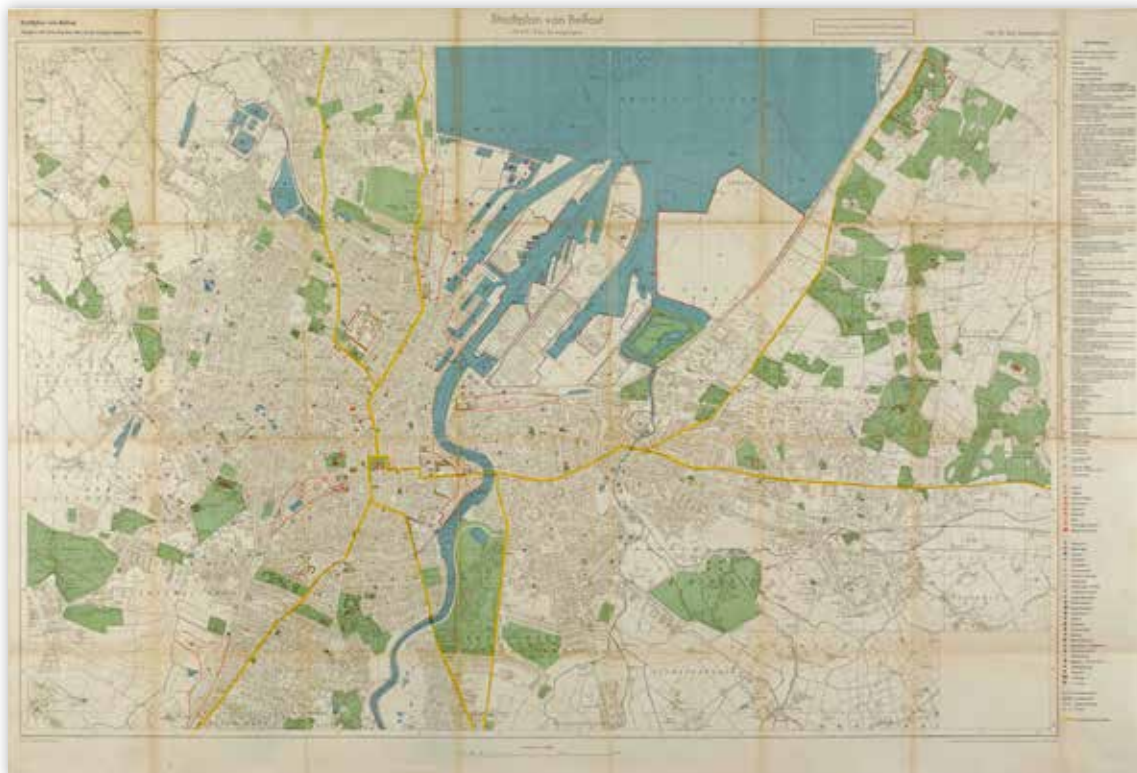
James Mackie and Sons Foundry in West Belfast made:

- **75 million armour piercing shells**
- **65 million components for bombs**
- **Components for Stirling Bombers and Sunderland Flying Boats**



Munitions being made at the
Combe Barbour Foundry Belfast
Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph

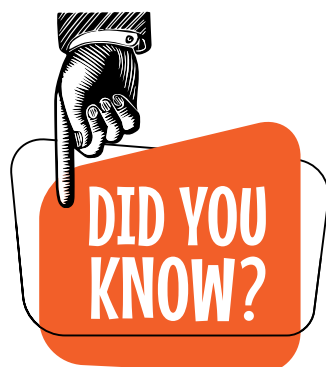
German reconnaissance aircraft secretly photographed the docks in Belfast and other towns, so that they could plan where to drop bombs. On several occasions in 1941, single planes flew over Northern Ireland, usually under the cover of darkness. The photographs taken allowed Germany to identify targets and create maps for Luftwaffe bombers.



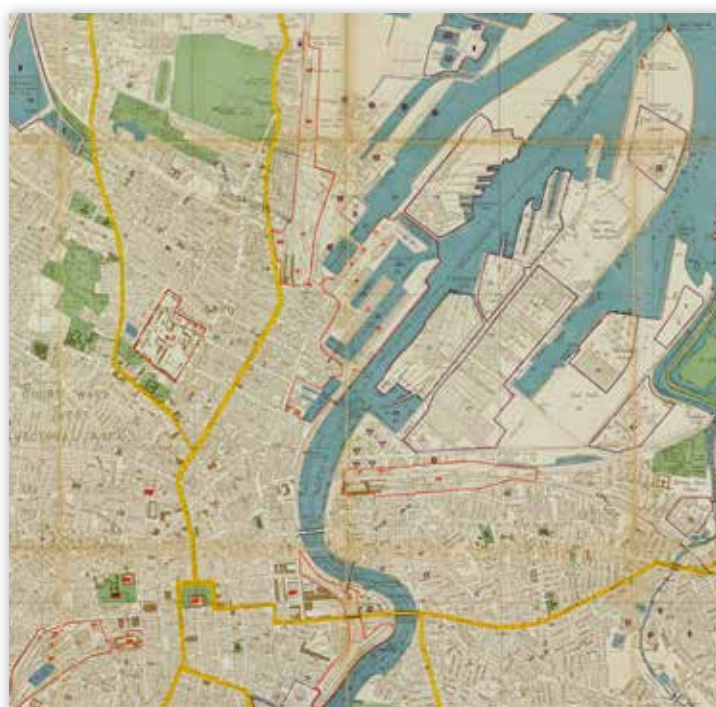
A map of Belfast which was used by the Luftwaffe to plan the air raids on Belfast NIWM Collection



Have a closer look at the map. The text on the map is not English, it's German! Stadt Plan Von Belfast translates as City Plan of Belfast. If you look closely, you can see that targets such as the shipyards, factories, Belfast City Hall and Stormont have been highlighted. Study the map to discover what else has been marked as a target.



Reconnaissance
(pronounced ruh•kon•nuh•sns)
is the military observation of
an area to locate an enemy or
features such as factories and
important targets.



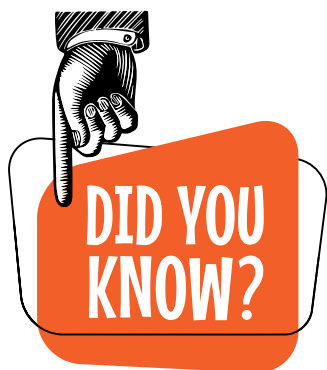
How did people on the Home Front prepare for the Air Raids?

The government set up an organisation called the ARP which stood for Air Raid Precautions. They asked ordinary people to volunteer.

Recruitment advert for the ARP, printed in the Northern Whig and Belfast Post on 4th April 1939



Air Raid Precautions (ARP) Badge
NIWM Collection



A precaution is a step to take to protect yourself, like wearing a helmet when you go on your bike or wearing a seat belt in a car.

Many people volunteered for the ARP and were trained as messengers (on bicycles), telephonists, rescuers (stretcher bearers), first aiders, ambulance drivers or air raid wardens.

Air raid wardens encouraged their neighbours to be prepared for the air raids by telling them about precautions they could take such as:

- obeying the blackout
- knowing where their nearest shelter was
- building their own shelter in their garden or kitchen
- carrying a gas mask and identity card at all times
- putting a bucket of water or sand outside their door every night. A warden could use the bucket of water to put out a small fire quickly using a stirrup pump. A stirrup pump required two people. One person had to work the pump, which stood in the bucket of water, while the second person would hold the hose and point it at the fire.



Stirrup pump
© IWM (FEQ 418)



Stirrup pump in use Courtesy of Bonar Holmes



ARP Post from Bangor Co.Down
NIWM Collection

DISCUSSION POINT

- Have a closer look at the photograph of the ARP Post in Bangor.
- What do you think 'W' on the helmet stands for?
 - What do you think was stored in the black tin marked ARP which the helmet is resting on?
 - There's a poster on the wall in the background of the photograph. What have these volunteers been learning about and why?



ARP Poster encouraging volunteers to sign up NIWM Collection



Warden's helmet and ARP First-Aid kit

NIWM Collection

Discussion Point Answers

- W stood for Warden. Notice that the helmet is white to help the wearer to be seen in the blackout.
- The black tin labelled ARP was a First-Aid kit, so it contained bandages and dressings.
- Like all ARP Posts, this Post from Bangor met regularly for training about gas attacks, First Aid, and the types of bombs that were likely to be used by the Luftwaffe. When this photograph was taken, they were learning how best to deal with Butterfly Bombs.

The Evacuation of Children

In June 1940 Germany invaded France which made the chances of an air raid on Belfast even more likely. This was because once Germany took over France, Luftwaffe bombers had a landing base which was closer to Belfast, allowing them to carry out a raid and return safely.

The Government of Northern Ireland realised that Belfast was more likely to be targeted and that it was unsafe for children to be there. Evacuation plans were organised and parents in Belfast were asked to send their children out of the city to stay in towns and villages in the countryside, where they would be safe from danger for the rest of the war.

Some families took the threat very seriously and evacuated their children straight away, but others didn't believe Belfast would ever be bombed, so they didn't think they needed to evacuate their children.

In the summer of 1940, 3,000 children arrived at train stations in Belfast ready to be evacuated. 3,000 seems like a lot, but the population of the city was 70,000 at the time, so many children stayed in the city and were still there when the air raids started in April 1941.

The children who were evacuated left the city on trains and buses, along with their brothers and sisters.

Their parents or a responsible adult travelled with them and told them when to get off the train. When they arrived in the countryside, they were taken to a school or church hall where they would meet the family they'd be staying with. The family would be given important things they needed such as the child's home address and ration books.

EVACUATION

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS IN BELFAST

The evacuation of CHILDREN and CERTAIN ADULTS from BELFAST has now become necessary, and plans prepared by Government are being put into operation FORTHWITH.

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

TO-MORROW MORNING ALL REGISTERED EVACUEES should assemble at the place and time stated on the Instruction Sheet already sent to them. If the Instruction Sheet has been lost or destroyed a new Sheet will be issued on personal application TO-DAY at STORMONT.

They must take the Instruction Sheet with them to the place of assembly. They should also have with them the Kit stated on the Sheet.

NO PERSONS EXCEPT REGISTERED EVACUEES WILL BE ACCEPTED AT ANY ASSEMBLY CENTRE FOR EVACUATION ON THAT DAY.

ON MONDAY MORNING parents any of whose children attend one of the following Public Elementary Schools:—

Beechfield.	Memel Street.	St. Joseph's (York Rd.).
Belvoir Hall.	Mersey Street.	St. Malachy's (New
Byrnie Street.	Mountcollyer.	Lodge Road).
Currie.	Mountpottinger.	St. Malachy's C.R.
Duncairn.	McQuiston.	(Oxford Street).
Earl Street.	New Road.	St. Malachy's Convent.
Grove.	Porter.	St. Matthew's.
Hillman.	Queen Victoria.	St. Patrick's
Lancaster Street.	Sandy Row.	(Donegall Street).
Linfield Junior.	Seaman's.	St. Paul's (Canning St.).
Linfield Senior.	Strand.	St. George's.
Mabel Street.	St. Anthony's (M'feld).	Templemore Avenue.
Magdalene.	St. Barnabas'.	Workman.
Mariner's.	St. Colman's.	York Street.
Megain Memorial.	St. Congall's.	

who did NOT register their children for evacuation but who now wish them to be evacuated should send them to THAT SCHOOL at the time stated on the poster relating to UNREGISTERED EVACUEES displayed outside THAT SCHOOL to-day.

If any child in the family attends one of the schools in the list, the whole family is eligible for evacuation from that school.

Where all the children in the family are five years of age or over, the mother should not present herself for evacuation with them unless she is a widow or her husband is on war service or employment away from home. Young children not yet attending school must not be presented for evacuation unless accompanied by the mother or some female relative fully capable of looking after them on the journey and in the billet in the Reception Zone.

EVACUEES MUST ATTEND AT THE TIME STATED ON THE POSTER OR THEY CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

FAMILIES, NONE OF THE CHILDREN IN WHICH ATTEND A SCHOOL NAMED IN THE ABOVE LIST, WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR EVACUATION ON THE SECOND EVACUATION DAY, AND PARENTS OF SUCH FAMILIES MUST AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WILL BE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED.

All evacuees should take with them to the Assembly School their **GAS MASK, NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARD, and RATION BOOK**

They should be wearing their warmest clothes and overcoat and stoutest shoes or boots. They should also, if possible, have hand luggage containing:—

1 change of underclothing and stockings.	1 toothbrush.
Handkerchiefs.	1 hair brush.
Night clothes.	1 towel.
1 pair spare shoes or slippers.	1 comb.
1 cup (preferably metal).	Soap.

(The most satisfactory luggage carrier is a rucksack or haversack).

NO BLANKETS MAY BE TAKEN BY ANY EVACUEE. GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY.

Evacuee Notice, Saturday July 6th 1940

Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph



Children being evacuated from Belfast

Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph

DISCUSSION POINT

Leaving your family and staying in a new home must have been a frightening experience, but some children were excited about it. Staying in the countryside would have allowed them to experience a different way of life. Would you have enjoyed lending a hand on the land and Digging for Victory?

Some children stayed in large farmhouses in the countryside, some in little cottages in a village, sometimes at the seaside. Some stayed with people they knew such as aunts and uncles, and others stayed with complete strangers.

When the evacuees got to their new homes they had to learn new chores. If they were staying on a farm, they had to help by collecting eggs, feeding pigs, brushing horses, sowing seeds, growing crops and milking cows. For some it was the first time they had seen, smelt, heard, and tasted life on a farm. Many evacuees enjoyed the home cooked meals and fresh milk straight from the cow but complained about the

strange smells and noisy roosters. Most evacuees arrived in the summer months which is a busy time in the countryside. When the summer was over, they had to join a new school and meet their new teacher.

Some children had visits from their parents and grandparents regularly or on their birthdays or other special occasions. Others weren't so lucky, and very few people had telephones in those days, so the only way to stay in touch was by sending letters. In a letter, an evacuee would usually begin by saying how much they missed home but that they were keeping well. They'd usually comment on the weather and the kind of work they were doing on the farm and all the new skills they had learnt. Quite often they would say how much they missed their mum's cooking and they almost always ended their letters with a line of kisses and hugs. Some cheeky or perhaps very resourceful children asked their parents to send them something nice like a bar of chocolate or a new pair of socks.

ACTIVITY

Imagine you are an evacuee during the Second World War. What things would you have missed from home? What would you have enjoyed and hated in the countryside? Write a letter to your parents at home in Belfast. Don't forget to end it with a request for chocolate and socks!

Air Raid Shelters



An Anderson Shelter © IWM HU 63827A

There were three types of shelters available to the public during the Second World War; the *Anderson*, the *Morrison* and the *Public Shelter*. There were only enough public shelters built for $\frac{1}{4}$ of the population of the city by the time the Belfast Blitz took place. Some of these shelters were poorly built and couldn't withstand a bomb falling nearby.



A Morrison shelter © IWM D 2053

A Public Shelter in Belfast



Courtesy Belfast Telegraph

DISCUSSION POINT

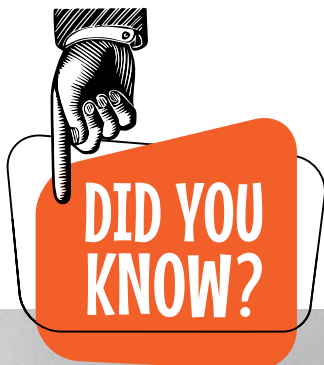
Do you think the photograph of the Public Shelter in Belfast was taken before or after the air raids in 1941? Can you spot the wartime posters, and something painted white to make the Blackout safer?

Was Belfast prepared?

Belfast became more and more important as the Second World War progressed, but unfortunately, it wasn't very well prepared for the air raids.

In early April 1941 the city had:

- No searchlights
- Only 22 anti-aircraft guns
- Only one small balloon barrage
- A squadron of Hurricane fighters based at Aldergrove, that were not equipped for night fighting.
- Only 700 public shelters which if fully occupied they could protect only $\frac{1}{4}$ of the city's population.



Barrage balloons helped to defend cities, ports and industrial areas. They were large kite balloons which were tied to the ground with strong steel cables. The steel cables posed a severe collision risk to Luftwaffe aircraft, making the attacker's approach more difficult.

A Barrage balloon over Belfast in April 1941, just before the air raids
Courtesy of Bonar Holmes.

The Government had tried to evacuate women and children, but many remained in the city as they didn't believe they were in danger.

Belfast was vulnerable and easily located by Luftwaffe bombers. The city's main industrial targets including Harland and Wolff shipyard and Short and Harland were located at the head of Belfast Lough. Also near the harbour was the electricity power station, the telephone exchange, gasworks and three railway stations.



First-Hand Account

Irene told us that her father listened to a German broadcast on the radio (the wireless) a few nights before the air raids on Belfast. The broadcast was by a man called Lord Haw Haw who threatened that Belfast was going to be bombed.

■ *I remember my father listened to Lord Haw Haw, and he said that "Belfast is going to get big Easter eggs" a few nights before the Blitz. Then the next night after the air raids he came on and said "How did you like your Easter eggs? There's more to come!"* ■



First-Hand Account

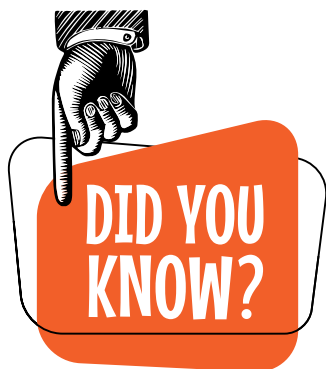
Alec also remembered Lord Haw Haw's radio broadcast.

■ *My mother and father used to listen to a man called Lord Haw Haw... And he had a very nasal voice and he spoke "Germany calling, Germany calling, Germany calling, this is Lord Haw Haw, Belfast will be getting their Easter eggs and they'll not be rolling them down the Cave Hill, they'll be coming from the sky" and I remember that vividly...* ■

Facts about the Belfast Blitz

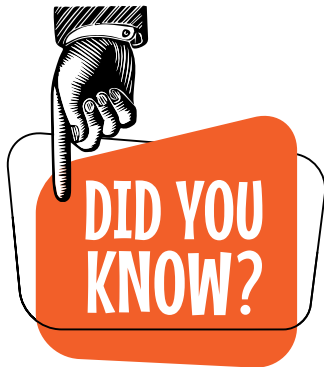
Luftwaffe planes were spotted flying above Belfast in early April 1941 and for many this was the first clue that an air raid might happen soon.

The planes were on a reconnaissance mission meaning they were getting information about Belfast's defences and targets to help them plan for an air raid.



The word Blitz comes from the German word 'Blitzkrieg' which means 'Lightning War'. This name was chosen as it described the bright flashes and loud bangs that were heard during an air raid.

- The sound of the air raid siren told people that planes had been spotted and that it was likely an air raid was about to begin.
- The air raids happened at night as the Luftwaffe preferred having the cover of darkness.
- People were often in bed when they heard the siren.
- On some nights, the bombs fell just fifteen minutes after the siren. This meant people had very little time to get up, get their gas masks, put on clothes and find somewhere to shelter.
- Some people wore Siren Suits (they looked like onesies) which they could quickly put on top of their pyjamas to keep warm.
- There were four devastating Luftwaffe raids on Belfast in April and May 1941. The first took place on 7/8 April, followed by two major raids on the 15/16 April and 4/5 May.
- There was a final small raid on 5/6 May.
- The major raids, now known as the Easter Tuesday and Fire Raid are remembered most vividly.
- Industry and the area around the docks suffered huge damage.
- Many bombs fell on houses in North, East and West Belfast with devastation spread over 500 streets.
- During the blitz, the Fire Service played a crucial role putting out the fires and rescuing people. Professional firemen were assisted by the AFS and fire watchers. 15 firemen lost their lives in the air raids.
- 34 ARP volunteers lost their lives during the Belfast Blitz.
- People lived so close together in those days, often in small and badly built houses, so rows of houses collapsed easily.



The first official casualty of the Blitz was an ARP warden, who was injured by shrapnel. He had been making his way to his Post during the first raid on 7/8 April.

- Nearly 1,000 people were killed, 2,500 were injured and 50,000 left homeless.
- The oldest victim of the air raids was Elizabeth McIlwaine who was 93 years old.
- The youngest victim of the air raids was William John Wallace who was only 6 weeks old.

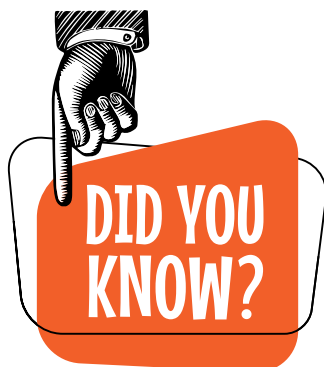
Although most of the bombing happened in Belfast, people throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland were able to spot Luftwaffe planes as they travelled from France in the south and from Holland in the east. The planes which came from France travelled over the Republic of Ireland and were seen by people in Wexford, Waterford, Dublin and Carlingford.

When they reached Northern Ireland, they passed over Rostrevor, Hilltown and Dromara, but they didn't stop when they reached Belfast. Instead, they travelled past Whitehead and Larne where they turned at Maidens Rocks and came back towards Belfast from the north. If you had been living along this flight path you would have been one of the first to see the planes before the bombs fell.



DURING

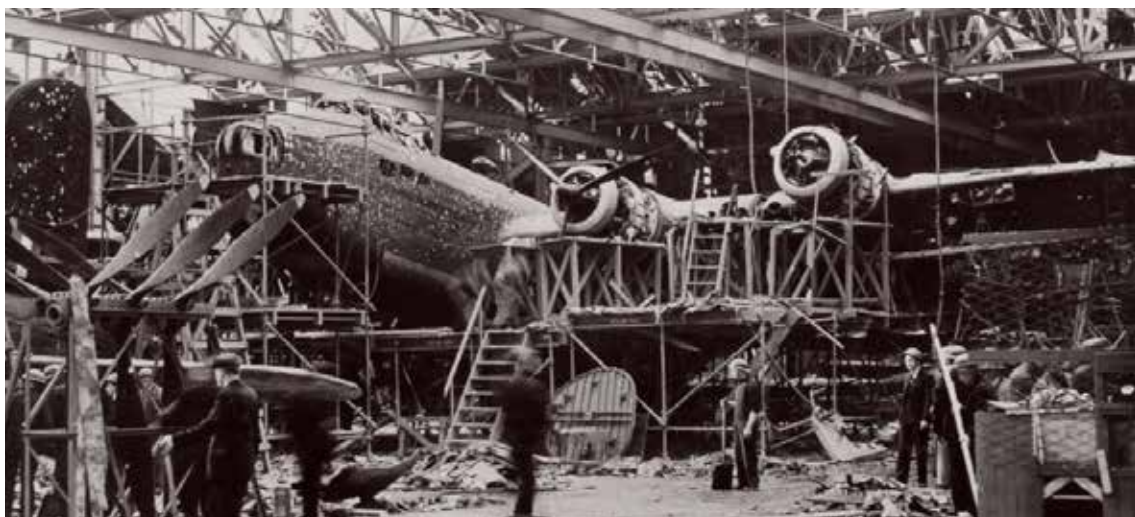
The Dockside Raid 7/8 April



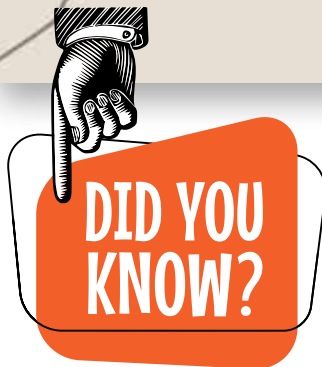
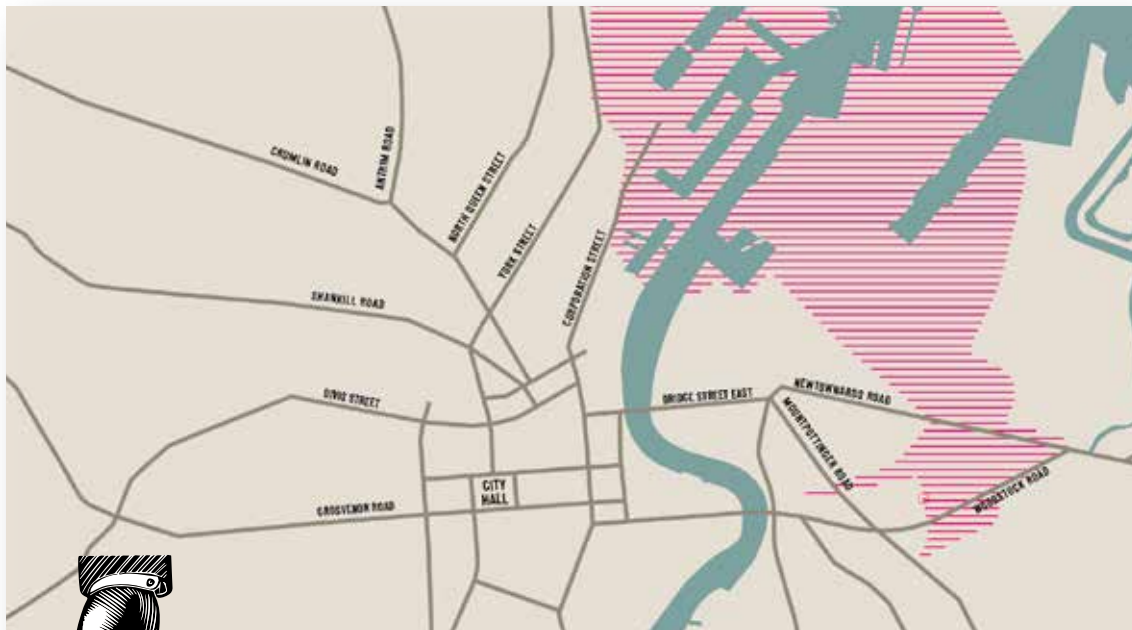
The fires in Belfast were so big on the night of the first raid that an ARP messenger reported that he could see them from Ballymena

- This was the first raid on Belfast but because it was small compared to the others it was nicknamed the 'wee raid'.
- Air Raid Sirens sounded over much of the UK that night.
- The first bombs were dropped on Belfast shortly after midnight and the last recorded bombs fell just before 3.30 am.
- Eight planes targeted the docks and shipyards but some of the bombs fell on nearby streets in East Belfast where shipyard workers often lived.
- For many of the wardens and firemen, this was the first time they had seen a parachute mine.
- Some of them thought that the parachutes were carrying German pilots, so they ran towards them to capture them. When the bombs exploded, sadly they were killed.
- There were huge fires at the docks at Harland and Wolff and Short and Harland.
- Incendiary bombs were dropped on St Patrick's Church of Ireland on the Newtownards Road resulting in great damage to the building.
- RAF Squadron Leader J.W.C Simpson, based at Aldergrove (now Belfast International Airport) succeeded in shooting down a Heinkel He 111 off the County Down coast near Downpatrick.
- Near Alexandra Park Avenue a man in his bath was blown out of his house and into the middle of the road by the force of the blast.
- The raid lasted for nearly 4 hours and 15 people were killed.

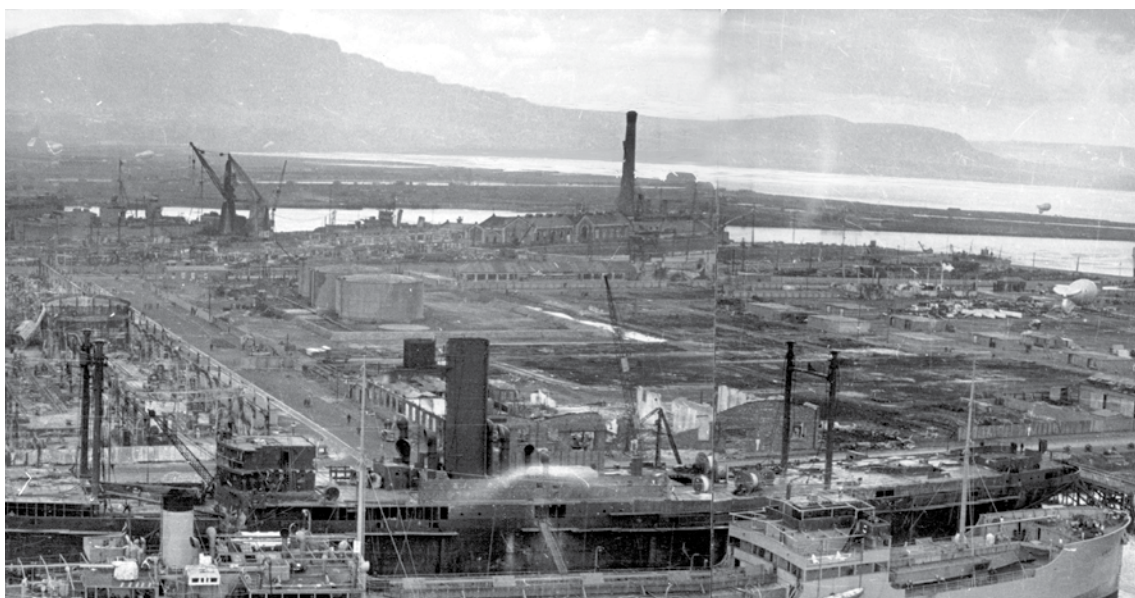
Damaged planes at Short and Harland aircraft factory



PRONI



Belfast was not meant to be bombed on this night. The planes had been heading for other UK cities such as Glasgow and Liverpool but there was too much cloud cover, so the planes diverted to Belfast.



Photographs showing damage to the dockside area including Harland and Wolff shipyards Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph

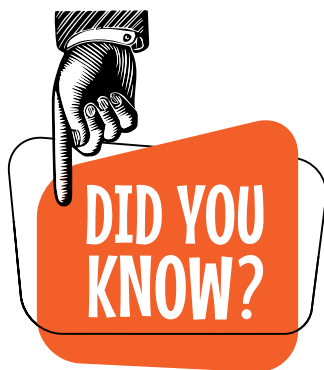
DURING The Easter Tuesday Raid 15/16 April



- That Tuesday night, 330 Luftwaffe bombers left bases in Northern France and Holland.
- Belfast was their main target.
- People had been out enjoying their Easter holidays earlier that day. There was a football match at Windsor Park and lots of families went to the Zoo.
- There was a dance at the Floral Hall that evening. The Floral Hall is an old dance hall you can still see if you visit Belfast Zoo today.
- Lots of cyclists rode to Bangor and many families caught the train to spend a day at the seaside.
- Some evacuees had returned to Belfast to visit their families for the Easter holidays.
- It was a normal day, until 10.40pm that night when the Air Raid siren sounded.

'Spend Easter at Bellevue'
advert printed in
the Belfast Telegraph
on 11 April 1941,
just days before the
Easter Tuesday Raid

<h2>Spend EASTER at BELLEVUE</h2>	
<h3>DANCING at the FLORAL HALL</h3> <p>EASTER MONDAY & TUESDAY Afternoons ... 3-30—6-0 Evenings ... 8-0—11-0</p> <p>ADMISSION: Monday Afternoon 1/- Tuesday Afternoon 8d Monday and Tuesday Evening— 2/- Double; 1/8 Single.</p>	<h3>CHILDREN'S THEATRE HAZELWOOD.</h3> <p>EASTER MONDAY & TUESDAY At 12-0 noon, 3-0, 4-0 and 5-0 p.m. UNCLE SAM'S Children's Corner, introducing PUNCH & JUDY with Spitfire Toby. :: Admission Free.</p> <p>ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS OPEN 10-0 a.m. till dusk. (Sunday from 2-0 p.m.) Feeding Time 4 o'clock. Adults ... 7d; Children...3d.</p>
<h2>AMUSEMENT PARK OPEN ALL DAY</h2>	



It took years for parachute mine craters like these to be filled back in again. Children growing up in the 1940s and 1950s enjoyed playing inside the craters and watching ducks swimming on them when they filled with rainwater. There was a crater on the pitch at The Oval football grounds.

A huge crater caused by a parachute mine which fell at the tram depot in Salisbury Avenue, Antrim Road
 Courtesy of the Belfast Telegraph

- The raid lasted for six hours until the all-clear signal sounded at 4:55am.
- During this time 180 German bombers dropped 674 bombs (about two bombs a minute) and 29,000 incendiaries.
- Due to cloud cover, the raid began with the dropping of 300 magnesium flares suspended from small parachutes.
- A smokescreen had been created to protect the docks. Flammable oily rags inside metal bins had been set on fire on purpose so that a thick black smoke would fill the air and hide ships like HMS *Furious* from the Luftwaffe.
- Local people did not like the smokescreen as it smelt bad and made it difficult to see and breathe.
- At the time of the Blitz, local people became angry as they believed the smokescreen made the bombers mistake the Waterworks in North Belfast for the docks and that this was why the worst damage that night was in North and West Belfast.
- The truth was that the Luftwaffe were also targeting the water reservoir in North Belfast as they hoped to lower Belfast's water supply and make it difficult to put out fires.
- It's also true that the smokescreen hid the docks and may have confused some bombers.
- North Belfast was by far the worst area hit during the Easter Tuesday raid.

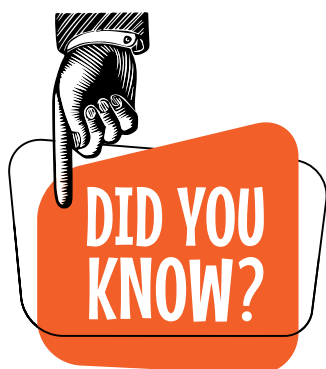


- An air raid shelter on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and the Antrim Road suffered a direct hit from a bomb causing the roof to collapse.
- Parachute mines fell in built up areas such as Ohio Street, Duncairn Gardens and Sunningdale Park turning whole streets to rubble and leaving massive craters in the ground.
- Hogarth Street suffered more than any other street. Eighty people were killed there.
- A 6-storey wall from York Street Spinning Mill fell onto a row of worker's houses nearby.
- Victoria Barracks, the city's main military base was hit.
- In Percy Street off Divis Street in West Belfast a parachute mine caused a crowded air raid shelter to collapse.
- A wing of the Ulster Hospital on Templemore Avenue in East Belfast was destroyed.
- On Thorndyke Street in East Belfast another shelter was hit.
- At Short and Harland aircraft factory four almost complete Stirling bombers were destroyed.
- In total 744 people died as a result of the Easter Tuesday Air Raid.



People returning to their damaged houses to save their belongings
 Courtesy of the Belfast Telegraph

As fires in Belfast raged out of control, a request for help was sent to the Irish Government. 13 fire engines and 70 firemen from Dublin, Drogheda, Dun Laoghaire and Dundalk drove to Belfast to help put out fires.



It wasn't just Belfast that was bombed on Easter Tuesday. In Bangor 14 bombs were dropped and five people were killed in Ashley Gardens, Hazeldene Gardens and Baylands. Houses in Ranfurly Avenue, Knockmore Park, and Farnham Road were also damaged.



A helmet worn by a fireman from Dun Laoghaire
Dublin Fire Museum loan to the NIWM Collection

Easter Tuesday was not the first time that Bangor had been bombed by the Luftwaffe. In September 1940, seven months before the Belfast Blitz, 22 incendiaries were dropped on Main Street and around the train station. Buildings were damaged but luckily nobody was killed.

The City of Derry/Londonderry was also targeted. On Easter Tuesday a Luftwaffe plane dropped 2 parachute mines near the River Foyle. The bombs were most likely dropped to damage shipping, but they missed their targets and landed in an area off Messines Park. 13 people were killed, houses were demolished, and Pennyburn Chapel's Parochial House was damaged.

In Newtownards 13 soldiers from the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers died when a Luftwaffe bomb struck the airfield there were based in.

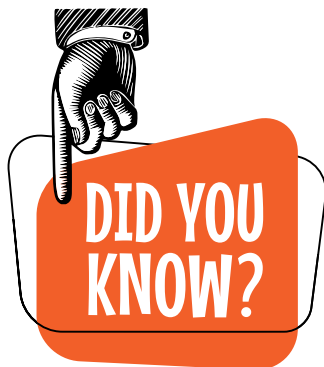
DURING The Fire Raid 4/5 May



Firemen tackle a fire
on High Street
Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph

- This raid was nicknamed the *Fire Raid* as the Germans dropped 96,000 incendiary bombs which caused 200 fires across the city.
- The air raid siren went off just after midnight and fifteen minutes later the first planes arrived.
- Incendiaries were small bombs that had a chemical inside called thermite. It could catch fire very easily and burn so hot that it could melt metal.
- 204 German planes travelled to Belfast on this night, and the fine cloud-less night with a bright moon made ideal conditions for the bombers.
- The main target was the shipyards and both Harland and Wolff shipyard and Short and Harland aircraft factory were hit.
- However, the worst hit areas were actually East Belfast and the City Centre.
- Belfast Cathedral had a lucky escape.
- Most of High Street (the street which leads to the Albert Clock) was destroyed by fire.
- The fire damage was so great that 13 Irish Fire brigade crews came from Dublin and Dundalk.
- The raid lasted for four and a half hours until the all-clear at 4:25am.
- 203 people died as a result of the Fire Raid.

The City Centre was hit during the Fire Raid. The area around Belfast Cathedral (also known as St Anne's Cathedral) and the Albert Clock were hit. On Bridge Street the Northern Whig newspaper office was the only building left standing.



The fires were so big that smoke could be seen all the way from North Wales.



Bridge Street shortly after the Fire Raid Courtesy of the Belfast Telegraph



High Street looking towards the Albert Clock Courtesy of the Belfast Telegraph



The Northern Whig was the only building left standing on Bridge Street Courtesy of the Belfast Telegraph

DISCUSSION POINT

People living in South Belfast could hear the bombs and the planes. They could see the smoke coming from the fires and their houses were covered in ash. However, South Belfast escaped the devastating bombing that hit the other parts of the city. Why do you think this was? Think about where South Belfast is in relation to the main targets.

DID YOU KNOW?

CAMOUFLAGE means disguising something to make it blend into the surroundings or background. It is used by animals. When Stormont was painted during the war it was camouflaged to blend into the landscape.

Many churches and schools opened their doors to help those who had been made homeless. At Clonard Monastery in West Belfast, 200- 300 people sheltered in the underground crypt.

The Great Hall in the Belfast City Hall was gutted by fire and the roof destroyed. Remarkably the stained-glass windows in Belfast City Hall survived the air raids as they had been removed and stored elsewhere during the war.



Repairs being carried out on the roof of Belfast City Hall after the raids
Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph

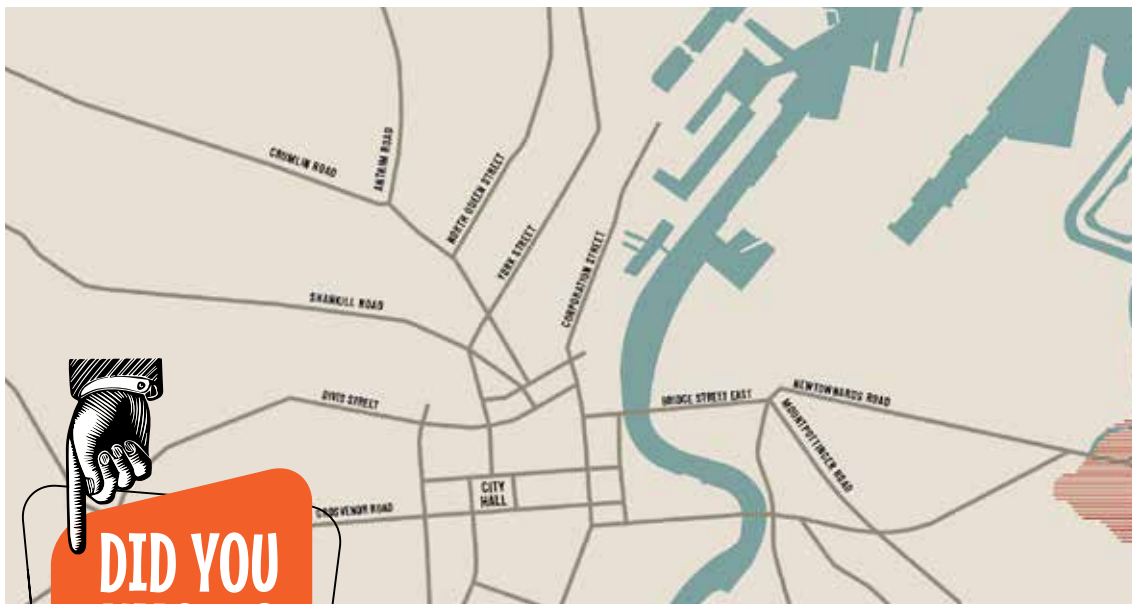
Glentoran Football Club's home ground The Oval was destroyed. For the rest of the season the club had to play their matches at other grounds such as Windsor Park and had to borrow kits from Crusaders Football Club.

Campbell College which was being used as a Military Hospital during the war was also hit by high explosives and 24 people lost their lives there.

A parachute mine fell in Stormont estate, very close to Stormont Parliament Buildings during the Fire Raid. If you visit today, you can still see the crater the parachute mine left behind. Also look out for the concrete and steel bases which barrage balloons were once tied to.

It was decided that Parliament Buildings should be camouflaged by making the white walls dark brown using a mixture of cow manure and tar. It took seven years to remove the mixture after the war ended. The stones were stained and have never regained their bright white colour.

DURING The Final Air Raid 5/6 May



The Republic of Ireland (or Éire as it was then known) was also bombed by the Luftwaffe in 1940 and 1941. Bombs fell on Dublin, Wexford, Wicklow, Mayo, Monaghan, Carlow, Kildare and Meath. Memorials were placed where people lost their lives.

- The final raid happened just one night after the Fire Raid.
- This was a small air raid compared to the others as only three planes were involved.
- Buildings were destroyed and people lost their lives in East Belfast.
- The siren sounded at 12:30am and the bombs began to drop 15 minutes later.
- In Ravenscroft Avenue and Avondale Street a parachute mine destroyed two shelters, ten houses and a school.
- 22 people died as a result of the final air raid.



We do not know why the Republic of Ireland was hit but it has been suggested that it could have been unintentional as bombers became disorientated or had to drop bombs to lighten their weight and return to base. Another theory is that the bombs were a warning to the Irish government to stay out of the war as a neutral country. Germany was aware of the help they had been giving Northern Ireland during the Belfast Blitz.

A bomb crater in Ravenscroft Avenue, Newtownards Road, East Belfast

Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph

What was it like to experience an Air Raid?



First-Hand Account

Margaret's house on the Newtownards Road in East Belfast was damaged during the Easter Tuesday raid so she was evacuated to Fermanagh.

■ *The church at the top of our streets was in flames, the sky was red, people were running, people were shouting, people were afraid. It was dreadful. You heard the sirens first, that was your warning.*

In the streets, cars were being driven at high speed by the ARP and firemen dashing to their Posts while some civilians fled for the countryside.

People who lived near a public shelter ran to it. The shelters soon became full and when there was no room left to sit down people had to stand for hours. People would talk, pray, and sing to keep their spirits up. ■



Here are some of the songs people sang in the air raid shelters. Why don't you listen to them in class?

THE ROSE OF TRALEE

THERE'LL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLAND

ROLL OUT THE BARREL



First-Hand Account

William lived on Excise Street off the Grosvenor Road in Belfast and described what it was like in a public shelter.

■ *They were right long shelters and there would have been fifty in them... They put auld rough seats in them. You could hear people mumbling and talking to one another, they all lived in the same street and they knew each other, and they would talk about various things, school and whatnot". ■*

Some people stayed in their homes and hid in the cupboard below their stairs. They often called this cupboard 'the coal hole' as the coal for the fire was stored here along with things like coats and hats. They took shelter there as they thought the staircase would protect them if the house collapsed. Some families hid under their kitchen table or inside a Morrison Shelter. Those who had Anderson Shelters found that their shelter was very cramped and wet.



First-Hand Account

Irene lived in North Belfast and remembered spending the air raids under the stairs and in her neighbour's very cramped Anderson shelter.

■ *We were down in the underground air raid shelter. There were probably eight or nine of us in there. I remember listening to those bombs coming whistling down and being petrified I suppose. One of my sisters was in the ARP. When the raids were on, she used to run around from different police stations, taking messages. She had just left a police station in York Street, near Mount Alexander Avenue when it got a direct hit and she just missed being killed.* ■



First-Hand Account

Maureen lived on Fitzroy Avenue off the Ormeau Road.

■ *The noise was absolutely horrendous, and if you opened the door of our hideout you could see the red glow. Halfway through the night, I couldn't stick the noise and confinement, so I absolutely defied my mother and went upstairs to the top of our three-storey house. I looked out the window and the whole city was ablaze, an extraordinary sight and a pungent smell everywhere.* ■

First-Hand Account

David lived in North Belfast.

■ *I don't remember being scared, thrilled would be more like it. I didn't know what was coming next and I hadn't thought of the consequences it was just exciting to be there at the time it was happening.* ■

DISCUSSION POINT

Are you surprised that some children found the air raids exciting? How do you think you would have felt if you had been in Belfast during the Blitz?



First-Hand Account

Maureen was evacuated after the first air raid in April and arrived home to Twaddell Avenue just in time for the Easter Tuesday Raid on 16 April 1941.

It was hilarious to watch because as soon as the sirens went off there was a steady stream of people all coming down the avenue and most of them would have had bin lids over their heads. This was to protect them from firebombs, but we thought it was funny at the time, us children did. The adults I don't think thought it was funny at all.

At the start of the air raids, hundreds of small flares attached to parachutes were dropped. Flares were small lights that fell on the streets and lit them up as bright as day, a bit like a firework.



FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT

Alec told us there were children standing in the street watching the flares. He lived near the Shankill road so took shelter in Glencairn Park in the Belfast Hills during the Easter Tuesday air raid. He was evacuated to Newtownards because the roof of his house was blown off in the air raid.

All of a sudden, we heard these thuds, and I went out to the door and all the children of the street were out. We thought it was great saying "look it's like fairyland all lit up" ... but little did we know that the German planes were dropping flares down. It must have been about a half an hour later we looked out and saw these parachutes coming down and we thought it was pilots bailing out, but they were in fact landmines.

DISCUSSION POINT

Why do you think flares were dropped first? Remember that the raids happened at night and there was a Blackout.

Parachute mines were large cylindrical bombs attached to parachutes. They were dropped by the Luftwaffe. 96 parachute mines were dropped during the Easter Tuesday raid. The parachute allowed the mine to drift gradually and detonate 25 seconds after hitting the ground. Parachutes were used to make sure the bomb fell slowly as if it fell too fast it would hit the ground too hard and be buried underneath. Parachute mines caused huge explosions, destroyed entire streets, and left huge craters in the ground.



Unexploded bombs collected after the Blitz. Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph

This area on the Antrim Road was devastated by a parachute mine. Can you see the parachute left behind?

PRONI CAB 3/G/15



FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT

David's father was the Chief Air Raid Warden of Belfast.

■ They came to Belfast over what is now the zoo and started dropping their bombs there and where we lived in Lismoyne Park. The next set of bombs landed more towards the Cavehill Road and I do remember hearing the wardens shouting, "There's another of those terrible things above us" and it was a five-tonne aerial mine on a parachute and it was getting lower and lower, and it drifted over our house and landed in Sunningdale Park where it blew the fronts off a considerable number of houses.

The Luftwaffe aircraft had three engines. The two engines on the wings ran at a different speed from the bigger engine on the nose so when they approached, they didn't sound a steady note but WOOwoooWOOwoooo – like that. ■



An Incendiary bomb
(also known as a firebomb)

NIWM collection

Incendiaries or firebombs were small, but they had a chemical inside called thermite. They caught fire as soon as they hit the ground and burnt so hot that they could melt metal. They often fell on the roofs of houses and factories causing great damage, if not extinguished quickly. People put buckets of water and sand outside their houses and filled their bathtubs with water just in case they got hit by an incendiary.

FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT

Edward Dixon was an ARP Warden in Belfast during the Blitz before joining the American Army in 1944.

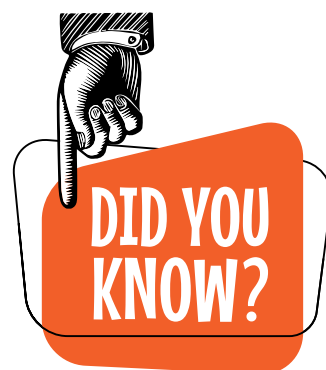
▮ *They were dropping them in groups, and you had to put sandbags over them and if they were in houses you just threw them through the window to save the house.*

You just had to get them on a shovel and just throw them out of the window. ▮



Despite the threat of air raids, people were still able to go out at night and see their friends. They went to concerts, dances and the cinema. At the cinema, if an air raid siren sounded, the film would stop, and a message would flash on the screen to tell people to go home or find shelter.

Even after the Luftwaffe had left, it was still dangerous to be outside. People had to be cautious of unexploded bombs, gas leaks and buildings collapsing. They had to wait for the all-clear signal before coming out of their shelters or houses. There was rubble and broken glass everywhere, and many roads were closed because it was dangerous to travel along them.



On the night of the Easter Tuesday Raid, a popular singer named Delia Murphy was performing at the Ulster Hall. The audience were told to stay put until the raid was over, rather than walking through the streets as bombs fell.

Delia Murphy sang throughout the night to keep their spirits up until the all-clear was sounded.

PUBLIC NOTICE

AFTER AN AIR RAID STAY UNDER COVER UNTIL YOU HEAR THE HANDBELLS

THE "RAIDERS' PASSED" SIGNAL ON THE SIRENS (A CONTINUOUS BLAST) MEANS THAT ENEMY AIRCRAFT ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LEFT THE AREA.

There will still exist a possible local danger from the presence of gas, unexploded bombs or dangerous buildings after a bombing attack, and members of the Public should remain under cover until they hear the "All Clear" signal which will be given in all cases by Wardens ringing their handbells.

The Wardens will, on hearing the "Raiders' Passed" signal, patrol their Sectors and ascertain that it is safe before sounding the handbells and the Public should not take the continuous blast on the sirens as indicating that all danger is passed.

WAIT UNTIL YOU HEAR THE HANDBELLS BEFORE LEAVING COVER

Newspaper warning people to wait for the All-Clear signal
Courtesy of the Derry Journal



Hand bell
used by the ARP
in Belfast to sound
the all-clear
NIWM Collection

DISCUSSION
POINT

Can you think of words to describe the Belfast Blitz? Think about the different sounds, smells and sights that you might have seen.

Who helped during the air raids?

We've already learnt about volunteers in the ARP who helped before, during and after the air raids.

Extra nurses were trained by the Red Cross, St John Ambulance, and the Civil Defence Nursing Reserve. In April 1941 Belfast had 30 first aid posts, half of them located in converted single-decker buses.

During the blitz, the Fire Service played a crucial role in not only putting out the fires caused by bombs but also in rescuing and helping people. Professional firemen were assisted by the Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS). In April 1941 there were almost 2,000 firemen trained and ready to fight fires in Northern Ireland.

Unfortunately, they didn't have enough firefighting equipment which made putting out fires during the Blitz very difficult.

AFS Belfast Helmet
NIWM Collection



They were helped by volunteers called Fire Watchers. It was their job to keep watch on the roofs of buildings and to quickly put out a fire before it grew and needed the attention of the Fire Service or AFS. When an incendiary bomb landed, they would smother it with sand or put out the flames using a stirrup pump before it could spread.

Many women joined the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) to help the people who were made homeless due to the air raids. Many people returned from their shelters to find that their houses had been completely destroyed. In the aftermath of the Belfast blitz, the WVS gave new clothes to 7,000 people who had lost everything including their wardrobes. After the Easter Tuesday raid, 40,000 people stayed overnight in rest centres which were set up in schools and churches in Belfast, and 70,000 meals were served to them the following day by the WVS.

Four mobile canteens were staffed by WVS volunteers in the weeks following the Belfast Blitz. Firemen and ARP volunteers could visit the mobile canteen for food as they worked to save lives after the raids.



WVS Badge NIWM Collection



Here are some recipes
used by the WVS in 1941.
Why don't you try them
out in class?

Chocolate Oat Cakes

- 1 oz. margarine
- 1 oz. cooking fat (or butter)
- 8 oz. self-raising flour
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 2 oz. sugar
- 1½ oz. cocoa powder
- A little milk

Method

- Rub the margarine and cooking fat into the flour
- Add oats, sugar, salt and cocoa
- Mix well and add a little milk
- Roll out very thinly
- Cut into round shapes with an egg cup or small glass
- Prick all over with a fork
- Bake for 15 minutes

Jam Turnovers

- ¼ lb Wheatmeal flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 oz. sugar
- 2 oz. jam
- 1 oz. cooking fat (or butter)
- A little water or milk

Method

- Mix flour, baking powder and salt together
- Rub in the cooking fat or butter and add a little milk or water
- Roll out, spread with jam and roll up
- Melt a little cooking fat in a baking tin
- When hot, put in roll and bake for 1 hour



ARP volunteers at a Mobile Canteen Courtesy of the Belfast Telegraph



How old is your school? Does it have a Second World War history? Ask your teacher if any evacuees joined your school during the war years. If your school is in Belfast, is it near a heavily blitzed area and was it used as a rest centre after the raids?

Stories from the Belfast Blitz



First-Hand Account

THE AIR RAID ANGEL

Harriet lived on Drew Street in West Belfast and had her confirmation in church during one of the air raids.

■ *Easter night I was getting confirmed in Christ Church in Durham Street in Belfast. We were in the church and the next thing the sirens went and the minister said "We'll have to stop and you'll have to run to get home as quick as you can."*

We had to run up the Grosvenor Road to Drew Street, past the Royal (Victoria Hospital) with Dunville Park facing it. We had to run there to the shelter. We walked in and I was in my white dress and my white veil. I was lovely. There were 14 of us, mummy and daddy and all. All I heard was a wee woman in the shelter saying "Oh my goodness! There's an angel coming to bless us! Coming to save us!" I can remember that very well and that's a long time ago. I was confirmed on the Blitz Easter night. ■



First-Hand Account

ROY AND HIS DOG MACK

Roy lived in Sunningdale Park in North Belfast. His house was completely destroyed during the Easter Tuesday Raid. He lost his dog Mack that night but found him in the rubble 5 days later. Roy was delighted but Mack was very scared of loud noises from that day on.

■ *We had a fox terrier. The bomb was on Easter Tuesday night and on Sunday following I was scrambling over the rubble to see if there was anything worth saving. I heard scratching below my feet. So with the aid of some others, I started digging and out scrambled our dog as good as new! He took a drink of water, wagged his tail and that was that. Tuesday night was the bomb, Sunday afternoon we found the dog. Still alive. His name was Mack. And he went to live in Omagh with my stepmother's sister. And if a loud bang happened anywhere near him, he would run upstairs and hide under the bed.* ■



Story of Rex the Terrier who was rescued after being buried for 60 hours

Courtesy of the Belfast Telegraph



**Do you have any pets?
How do you think they
would have felt during an
air raid? How could you
have kept them safe?**

Rex The Terrier

Mack wasn't the only animal to have a lucky escape from the air raids. The newspapers told stories about other animals, such as Rex who was trapped for 60 hours before being rescued. Lots of people have told us that they kept their pets under the stairs with them during an air raid to keep them safe. Stories like these were important to cheer people up during the war.

Sheila the Elephant

A zookeeper from Belfast Zoo took her job very seriously and made special efforts to make sure one animal in particular wasn't hurt or frightened in the air raids.

When the air raids started in 1941, many of the dangerous animals in the zoo had to be put down in case they escaped from the zoo during the Belfast Blitz. The Ministry of Public Security decided that 35 animals had to be killed, including a hyena, six wolves, a puma, a tiger, a black bear, two polar bears and a lynx.

A baby elephant called Sheila did not have to be killed as she was a protected species and wasn't dangerous to the public. However, her keeper Denise did not like leaving her alone at night-time as she knew Sheila would be frightened if an air raid took place. Denise decided to take Sheila home to her house in North Belfast every night.

Every night, Denise took Sheila from her enclosure and walked her along a 20-minute journey to her house at 278 Whitewell Road.



Sheila the elephant Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph

Denise and her mother Irene looked after Sheila every night and let her sleep in their garage until the next morning when Denise would walk her back to the zoo.

Eventually, the head zookeeper found out about Sheila's nightly adventures and put a stop to them. Sheila had to stay at the zoo, but Denise would visit her during the air raids, rubbing her ears to keep her calm. This story was recently made into a film called 'Zoo' but some of the details were changed.

Denise Weston Austin was one of the first female zookeepers in Belfast Zoo.

Sheila the elephant
performing a trick
in March 1951

Courtesy of Bonar Holmes



Sheila the elephant
with Denise and her
mother Irene

Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph



The Blitz Baby

Ann was born at 2am during the Easter Tuesday raid as her mother took cover under the kitchen table in their house in East Belfast! She doesn't remember anything about that night as she was too young, but she remembers being nicknamed *The Blitz Baby* for many years. It's Ann's 80th birthday this April!

■ *My mum was underneath the kitchen table and my dad was out on the street going to get the nurse and the shrapnel was falling all round him. When he got back with the nurse I had already been born! What a time to be on your own!* ■



Little Rita

Rita was two years old at the time of the Blitz. She was found walking around Belfast all alone by an air raid warden who saved her. She was shaking with fear and could not speak. They couldn't find her parents, so she was adopted by a loving family who had always wanted a child. When the day came to sign the adoption paperwork, Rita spoke for the first time, to let them know that her name was Rita. She didn't like the new name her new parents were going to give her!

■ *I was found running around Carlisle Circus and the first memory I have is that I can remember being put on a lorry. During that Blitz, well, I most likely lost a family. I was legally adopted then because my mother hadn't had any children. My father came into the house and he asked, "Who is this?" and he was all delighted, so he was. I wish I remembered more you know but I was so young. They wanted to call me Beulah. But I wouldn't have it and I says, "My name's Rita!"* ■



First-Hand Account

ESTHER'S COINS

Esther Fyffe lived in North Belfast. She hid under the stairs with her mother and little brother Roy. Roy was scared, so Esther's mum read stories to distract him. Suddenly, their house collapsed from a bomb falling nearby. They were all buried in the rubble until an air raid warden saved them. They were so lucky to escape uninjured, just completely covered in dust. They returned a few days later to see all that remained of their house and all they found was a lump of coins which had melted together in the fire. They had once belonged in Esther's moneybox which had been smashed and burnt away, leaving just the coins. Esther's dad picked them up and Esther still keeps them safe today, 80 years on. They remind her that even though her family lost everything, they had each other, which was the important thing.

■ *I was eight-year-old at the time and my brother was four. We were living at 55 Harcourt Drive near the cricket ground. My mother realised she better get us out of bed, and I can remember coming down the stairs and the stairs shaking as we came down. Because there was no light under the stairs Roy*

panicked (he was scared of the dark) so we all sat under the table and she had Roy on her knee and was reading to us to keep us as calm as possible.

Shortly after that the whole house seemed to shake and before too long it just collapsed. I managed to get out and I shouted for my mum, I said, "Come on, come on mummy" and she told to me go out and shout for help. She was buried under the rubble and Roy had been blown off her knee and she didn't know where he was, but she could hear his cry. An air raid warden came in and managed to get my mum out. Roy shouted, "Mummy don't leave me" as he was frightened.

When we all got out onto the street the air raid wardens were shouting "drop" because the planes were coming over. My mother had to drop on top of me and the air raid warden who had Roy lay on top of him.

Ambulances took us down to the Jaffa School and they were there giving out tea and drinks to everybody. We were sitting on top of the desks because the floor was wet. We were there for a short time when the police came in and said we had to get out because an explosive mine was at the back of the school and it hadn't gone off. The air raid warden went out onto the Cliftonville road and stopped all the cars asking them if they could take people up to the Belfast Model School for Girls, so that's where we ended up.

We were all sitting in the classrooms and then we noticed that there was a big screen put around a certain area and next thing there was the cries of a baby. A lady had given birth to twins!

My dad came home from duty (he was a policeman) and hadn't a clue where we were. He saw the house destroyed and didn't know if we were buried underneath or whether we'd got out. Someone told him that people were moved to the school. He went around the different classes and then came across us he was relieved. It was the first time I'd ever seen my dad cry. I was still in my pyjamas.

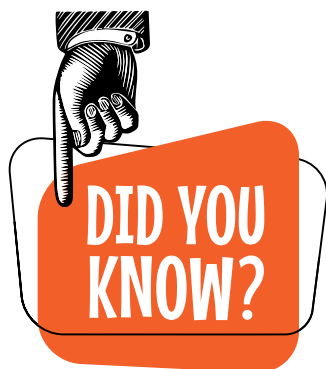
We knew that we'd lost everything. We came out relatively unscathed apart from that we couldn't speak for a while because all the dust was in our throats and we couldn't even drink or eat anything for ages. All I could see when I came out was a mountain of houses collapsed on top of each other I think the whole row of houses were gone.

My father went up to the house the next day, after he had got us away down to the country, to see if there was anything that could be salvaged but there wasn't a thing. Then he came across the pennies that had been in our money boxes fused altogether with the blast. When my dad brought it down to County Tyrone my grandfather couldn't believe what he was seeing. ▮



Esther's fused coins previously loaned to the NIWM Collection

What happened after the Blitz?



CENSORSHIP
means keeping information
secret from the public.

MORALE
is a word used to explain
how people feel. If they
have low morale, they are
unhappy and sad. If they
have high morale, they are
happy and confident.

During the war it was
important to keep people's
morale high.

Newspapers were censored during the Second World War, so they couldn't report accurate information about what had happened during the air raids. The government censored newspapers because the information they printed could be picked up by German spies and used to help the Luftwaffe plan future raids. It was also feared that printing the truth about the devastating air raids could be damaging to morale on the Home Front.

Headlines printed just days after the Blitz gave the number of those killed as far fewer than had actually died. On Thursday 17 April a newspaper reported that 200 people were feared dead after the Easter Tuesday Raid. The real figure was over 700. It's also possible that the number was lower at that time as it took weeks for all the casualties to be found.

Many people who survived the devastation of the Blitz felt angry that newspapers were not telling the full story of what had happened as their experiences weren't being truthfully reported.

However, newspapers did give information about the food and recovery centres which were set up to help people who had been made homeless.



Front page of the Northern Whig and Belfast Post on 17 April 1941

DISCUSSION POINT

Look at the list of Food Centres.
Can you see any schools or church halls near where you live?

FOOD CENTRES FOR THOSE BOMBED OUT

Water Supply Arrangements

FOR the feeding of evacuated people, and those unable to cook at home, close on 50 additional centres were opened yesterday where hot meals can be purchased. These are situated as follows:—

EAST BELFAST

East Belfast Girl Guides' Hall, Devon Parade.
Ballymacarrett Goodwill Centre, Foundry Street.
Y.M.C.A. Canteen, Strandtown Unionist Hall, Holywood Road.
Newtownards Road Methodist Lecture Hall.
Dee Street Salvation Army Hall.
Bloomfield Presbyterian Church Hall, Beersbridge Road.
Mountpottinger Road Salvation Army Hall.
St. Matthew's Church Hall, Newtownards Road.
Y.M.C.A. Canteen, 42, Knock Road.
Orangefield Presbyterian Church Hall, Castlereagh Road.
Willowfield Unionist Hall, Woodstock Road.
Cregagh Methodist Church.
St. Anthony's Church, Willowfield Crescent.
Y.M.C.A. Canteen, 6, Knock Road.

SOUTH BELFAST

Cooke Centenary Church, Ormeau Road.
Holy Rosary Parochial Hall, 341, Ravenhill Road.
Rosetta Masonic Hall, 13, Park Road.
Ballynaveagh Salvation Army Hall.
Mater Mea Girls' Home, Derryvolgie Avenue.

NORTH BELFAST

Glengormley Presbyterian Church Hall.
Baron Hall, Glengormley.
Friends' Institute, Frederick Street.
North Belfast Mission, Great George's Street.
St. Kevin's Hall, Frederick Street.
Y.M.C.A. Canteen, Gamble Street.

WEST BELFAST

St. Mary's Training College, Falls Road.
St. Peter's P.E.S., Milford Street.
St. Peter's Hall, Sullan Street.
Grosvenor Hall, Grosvenor Road.
St. Mary's Hall, Bank Street.
Shankill Road Methodist Church Hall.
Lourdes Hall, Chapel Lane.

Newspaper article providing a list of Food Centres

Northern Whig and Belfast Post, Friday 18 April 1941

Newspapers reported that people were sleeping in fields at night to escape the city

Many people evacuated Belfast during and after the air raid by bus, tram, train, car, bike and on foot.

People fled in fear and panic. Others stayed in the city but at night 'ditched' to sleep in the hills in Castlereagh, Gilnahirk, Glengormley, Ligoniel and Cave Hill outside the city.

By the 29 April at least 100,000 people had left the city. 3,000 people took the train to Dundalk and 5,000 to Dublin. Newspapers urged people not to leave the city unless they had been made homeless.

20,000 SLEEPING IN THE FIELDS

NIGHTLY ORDEAL OF BELFAST FAMILIES

THE nightly evacuation of Belfast by women and children, who sought shelter in the fields and hillsides, was raised in the Northern House of Commons yesterday, following an announcement by the Premier (Mr. J. M. Andrews) to the effect that the Government had decided not to hold a secret session of Parliament.

It was stated during the debate that in one district 20,000 people were sleeping out at night, and the fear was expressed that if 40,000 family huts were not provided around the city before the winter there might be an unspeakable calamity.

Families now realised the danger of air raids and parents who had not wanted to evacuate their children changed their minds.



First-Hand Account

Margaret Wilson was evacuated to Co Fermanagh after the Easter Tuesday Air Raid.

Where I lived on the Newtownards Road on McMaster Street, our house got a direct hit from an incendiary bomb which wasn't one of the explosive types of bomb, but it did set the house on fire. We were able to put that out with the help of the air raid wardens, but the house was very badly damaged, and it was after that my mother decided that I should be shipped off to the country for safety.

Belfast had fewer raids than other major UK cities, but it had two that were really heavy. When the weight of bombs dropped is considered, Belfast comes twelfth in the UK's worst blitzed cities.

Nearly 1,000 people, mainly civilians, lost their lives during the raids over Northern Ireland. Most died in Belfast, but Londonderry, Bangor and Newtownards airfield were also bombed.

AFTER

Where can you see evidence of the Belfast Blitz today?

A building in Belfast being pulled down after the air raids
Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph



Many of the buildings damaged in the Belfast Blitz collapsed or had to be torn down as they were unsafe, however you can still see evidence of the Blitz in some areas today.

Some parts of Belfast were flattened by bombs and never built on again, for example, the area beside Belfast Cathedral which is now known as Cathedral Gardens.



Donegall Street burning with Belfast Cathedral in background
Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph

The former Belfast Telegraph building on Royal Avenue was badly damaged during the Blitz and never fully repaired. If you look closely today, you can still see damage on the exterior of the building. The newspaper company decided not to repair the damage as they were proud to say the building survived the attack and that the newspaper continued to print every day, even though it was very difficult to keep going.

**Damage to the
Belfast Telegraph building**
Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph



34 ARP members who lost their lives during the Belfast Blitz are remembered on a plaque which is on display in Belfast City Hall. The ARP became known as the Civil Defence in 1941.

**Civil Defence plaque
at Belfast City Hall
listing the names of
members of the ARP
who lost their lives
in the air raids on Belfast**
by kind permission of
Belfast City Council



Those who lost their lives are buried in local cemeteries such as Milltown, City Cemetery, Dundonald and Carnmoney. There are two mass graves in Milltown Cemetery and City Cemetery Belfast.

At Stormont Estate there is still a crater in the ground caused by a parachute mine in 1941.

Blitz grave in
Milltown Cemetery Belfast



Blitz grave in
City Cemetery Belfast





There are also various murals and memorials to those who lost their lives in the Belfast Blitz.

In 2016, Belfast City Council commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Belfast Blitz by putting up plaques in heavily bombed areas. Look out for plaques on the following streets

<i>Plaque Name</i>	<i>Location</i>
Annadale/Burke Street	16 Sheridan Street, Belfast, BT15 2BD - (gable wall at fence)
Ballynure Street	Kates Corner Shop, 209A Oldpark Road, Belfast, BT14 6QQ
Ohio/Heather Street	The Welcome Evangelical Church, 163 Cambrai Street, Belfast BT13 3JH.
Peter's Hill	Lime Court (Choice Housing)
Ravenscroft	Arches Carpets, 2 Ravenscroft Avenue, Belfast, BT5 5BA
Thorndyke Street	Iron Hall Evangelical Church, 100 Templemore Avenue, Belfast, BT5 4FX
Victoria Barracks	3 Victoria Barracks, Belfast, BT15 2EX (gable wall)
York Street Mill	Yorkgate Shopping Centre Management Offices, 100 - 150 Yorkgate Shopping Centre, Belfast, BT15 1WA (gable wall of centre closest to York Street interchange)
Trinity Street	Carrick Hill Community Centre
Unity Street	Carrick Hill Community Centre
St Patrick's Church	St Patrick's Church, 199 Donegall Street, Belfast, BT1 2FL (inside front door)
Blythe Street	St Aidan's Hall, Sandy Row
Hogarth Street	51 Edingham Street, Belfast, BT15 2DU (gable wall at the top right of mural)
Percy Street	Percy Street Community Centre
Ohio/Heather Street	Woodvale Community Centre
Falls Baths	Falls Leisure Centre
Campbell College	
St Georges Market	May Street Entrance

Remembering the Belfast Blitz

The Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum doesn't just care for old objects and collect stories. It also has interesting artworks which help us think about the past and those who died in the Belfast Blitz.

Blitz Memorial Carolyn Mulholland



BLITZ MEMORIAL
by Carolyn Mulholland
NIWM Collection

Carolyn Mulholland is an artist who was born in Lurgan in 1944. She created this bronze sculpture which is dedicated to the people who died in the Belfast Blitz. Her parents and elder sister were living on the Limestone Road in North Belfast in 1941 when an incendiary bomb came through the house, just missing her sister's cot. Inspired by a photograph of bomb-damaged houses, Carolyn created the criss-cross planks to symbolise the chaos, destruction, and the violence of war. The people shapes represent those who survived, while cut out people shapes represent those who were killed. Each year around the anniversary of the Belfast Blitz, a wreath of flowers is placed on the memorial in the museum. The memorial is about 1.5m high and you can't miss it if you visit.

Blitz Survivors John Sherlock



BLITZ SURVIVORS
by John Sherlock
NIWM Collection

John Sherlock was an artist who was born in Derry/Londonderry in 1933. He created this bronze sculpture which shows a mother guiding her daughter through Belfast during an air raid. The woman is wearing the dress of a mill worker and her hair is styled in Victory Rolls, which was popular at the time. Her daughter is wearing a tea dress and is carrying a teddy bear. You can see that the mother and daughter are very afraid from the expressions on their faces. There are lots of interesting things to spot in this sculpture such as the cobbles on the street, the tram lines, and a newspaper crumpled up beside piles of rubble from destroyed buildings. If you look really closely you might be able to find the artist's signature and something small which has fallen from the mother's dress.

April Showers Bring Forth May Flowers

Diane McCormick

Diane McCormick is a ceramic artist who lives in County Tyrone. Her artwork is the first thing you see when you visit the museum. It's made up of lots of ceramic bomb



and flower shapes fixed onto a wall. The artwork shows bombs falling and transforming into flax flowers. Flax was the raw ingredient needed to make linen during the war, so it was grown in fields all over Northern Ireland. Diane wanted to remember the Belfast Blitz with the bombs and the *Dig for Victory* campaign with the flowers. She also wanted to show how people who lived through the war helped each other and survived terrible events like the Belfast Blitz. She decorated the bombs and flowers with newspapers. The artwork reminds us that during the Blitz, many people lost their loved ones and their homes, but neighbours, nurses, air raid wardens, firemen, and soldiers worked tirelessly to save lives.



Make your own 'April Showers Bring Forth May Flowers' art in class!

In the additional resources, you will find instructions to help your class make their own bomb and flax flower artworks. Also included are templates, a range of images (you can photocopy) and instructions for decorating. We've put these resources into a slide binder so that you can photocopy them easily.

Curriculum Links

This Belfast Blitz resource covers elements of the 2007 Northern Ireland Primary Curriculum (CCEA) with a particular focus on the History element of *World Around Us*. There are also links to *Whole Curriculum Skills* and *Thinking Skills* and *Personal Capabilities*.

This resource can be used as it is presented or can be amended or added to. The Activities can be presented as an individual home learning task or collaborative group projects.

Taken from the NI Primary Curriculum

WORLD AROUND US	
History: Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences between my life now and lives of people in the past • Historical sites and old buildings in the locality • Different buildings and their features now and in the past • What do older people remember about the area in the past • Stories about people from the past
History: Change over time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the characteristics of past societies and distinctive features of life in the past

Taken from the History Progression Guidance

HISTORICAL SKILL	KEY STAGE 1	KEY STAGE 2
Historical Enquiry (Source Analysis)	Identify similarities and differences by making comparisons and connections.	
Historical Creativity/Imagination	Show curiosity, taking time to construct their own creative interpretations of the past in response to a range of sources of historical evidence, using imagination to see history through the eyes of those who lived it.	Use all the senses to develop empathy by creatively expressing their own and others' interpretations of the past in response to wider sources of historical evidence.
	Reconstruct the past in a variety of ways such as...designing and building objects, using/creating a wide variety of sources of evidence	Construct representations of the past in playful ways, for example through design, building and the use/creation of a wide variety of sources of evidence

Other Curriculum Areas covered in this resource include

Language and Literacy – Talking and Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen to and respond to stories through a range of expressive activities• Listen to and interpret oral and written texts• Describe and talk about real and imaginary situations
Learning and Literacy – Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read, explore and use a wide range of texts• Represent their understanding of texts in a range of ways
The Arts – Art and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect, examine and select resource material to use in the development of ideas• Evaluate their own and others’ work• Use a range of media, materials, tools and processes
World Around Us – Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place – Why materials are chosen for their use• Movement and Energy – Design and make model

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

Thinking, problem-solving and decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making predictions and examining evidence• Generating possible solutions, trying alternative approaches, and evaluating outcomes
Self-Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organising and planning how to go about a task• Focusing, sustaining attention and persisting with tasks
Working with others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Giving and responding to feedback• Taking personal responsibility for working with others and evaluating own contribution to the group
Managing Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning and setting goals, breaking a task into sub-tasks• Selecting, classifying, comparing, and evaluating information• Selecting most appropriate method for a task• Using a range of methods for representing information
Being creative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experimenting with ideas and questions• Making new connections between ideas and information• Making ideas real by experimenting with different designs, actions, and outcomes

Northern Ireland Primary Curriculum (CCEA, 2007)

Available at: <https://ccea.org.uk/downloads/docs/ccea-asset/Curriculum/The%20Northern%20Ireland%20Curriculum%20-%20Primary.pdf>

History Progression Guidance (CCEA, 2020)

Available at: <https://ccea.org.uk/downloads/docs/ccea-asset/Resource/History%20Progression%20Guidance%20%28Knowledge%2C%20Understanding%20and%20Skills%29.pdf>

Next Steps

for your class

There is still much more you can learn about Northern Ireland during the Second World War and our website is a good place to start!

www.niwarmemorial.org

Watch + Learn

Follow links to our Channel for craft



tutorials, mystery objects, museum tours, science experiments, Second World War stories and a range of videos created in partnership with C2K.

Download Craft Activities,
Wartime Recipes, and
Colouring-In pages.

Download

Connect

Connect with us online as we bring our museum to your classroom with a live and interactive Virtual Workshop.

Borrow a Loan Box of replica
Second World War objects for
your classroom.

Borrow

Craft Packs

Order FREE Craft Packs for your class so they can make an Identity Card, Ration Book and Spitfire.