

The Blitz

The Blitz was the name given to a bombing campaign by the German air force (Luftwaffe) against Great Britain in the Second World War.

It lasted from September 1940 until May 1941.

London was heavily bombed during the Blitz, as were port cities including Liverpool, Hull, Southampton and Glasgow. The industrial centres of Birmingham, Coventry and Manchester were also targeted because of their factories which supported the war effort.

During the Blitz, more than 40,000 civilians were killed and 2 million houses were destroyed – over half of these were in London.

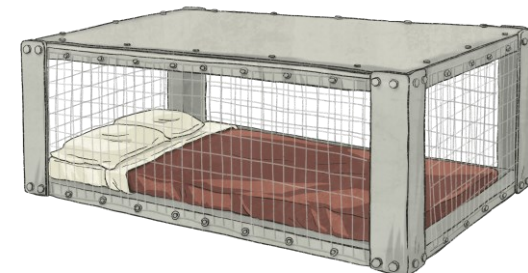


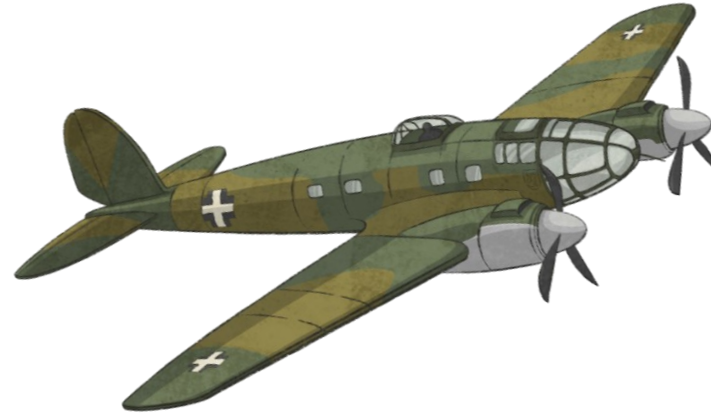
Keeping Safe

Most bombing raids happened at night and ordinary people had to get on with their lives despite the disruption and danger.

Many households were given Anderson shelters – these were metal structures which could be half-buried in a garden to give protection against falling bombs, or Morrison shelters – reinforced tables which could support the weight of rubble if a house was damaged.

People could also use public shelters and Underground stations to get a safe night's sleep.





Blitz Timeline

