

A Child in the Blitz

We interviewed Charlotte Smith who was 9 years old when the Blitz started.

The Blitz was a sudden and quick attack during the Second World War.

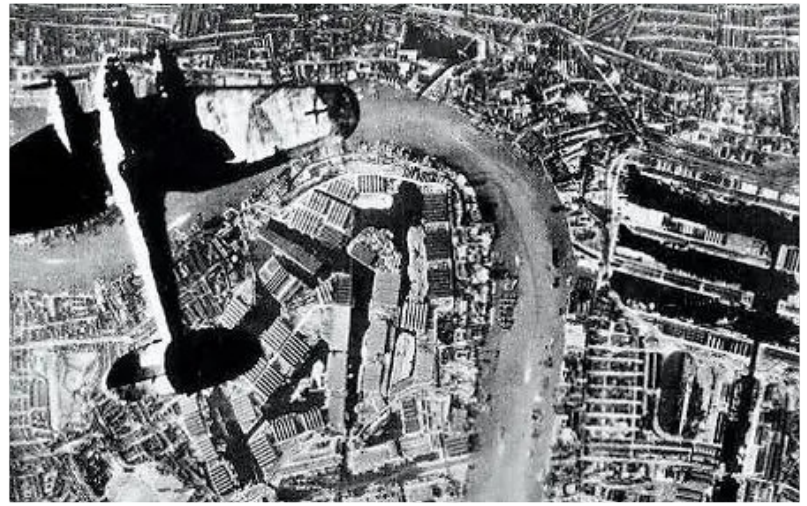
The Blitz began in London on 7th September 1940.

Where were you during the first bombing ?

I was at school when the Germans dropped the first bombs and we heard the air-raid sirens, for the first time. In this situation, we had rules to respect, for example we had to wear a gas mask and run to shelter.

During the Blitz, who did you live with and where did you live ?

I lived with my family. My father, William Smith was a writer and my mother, Diana Davis was a Journalist. I had a big sister, she was 15 years old when the Blitz started. We lived in a beautiful and rather rich neighborhood, Westminster. In London, we lived in a house with a garden. Westminster was a royal district where there were lots of royal palaces.



German planes flew over London on September 1940, during the Blitz.

What has the Blitz changed in your daily life ?

My daily life was turned upside down by the death of my father and my sister who died the night they visited our grandmother. It was very hard for my mother and me we were alone and desperate. In our daily life, we had to respect lots of a new rules for our safety, such as as wearing a gas mask, using candles and torches to see where were goings because of the blackout. To eat, we had to go vegetables in our garden and we settled an Anderson shelter in our garden to protect ourselves from German bombings.

Were the children evacuated ?

Yes, some schools being destroyed, families were offered to evacuate their children to countryside. But my mother refused, she didn't want to let me go because she was too scared. It was understandable, after losing my sister, I was her last child. She had only me left as a family.