

Breaking news

Today we are with Tom Bradford. He experienced «The Blitz». The Blitz was a sudden and quick attack during the Second World War. Thanks for being here and telling us your story and to answer our questions. Manchester was bombed by the Germans on 7 September 1940 because this city held a lot of military equipment which could harm the German troops .

Why did you leave Manchester ?

I left Manchester because the Germans began to bomb our city. We were very scared and we couldn't sleep that night because we heard the sounds of the Luftwaffe in the sky.

How was your evacuation ?

My evacuation was difficult because we walked a long time to go to Stainforth. We only had a little suitcase with clothes, a gas mask and enough food for two days.

Were you scared ?

Of course, when you heard planes above you it was not reassuring. I was even afraid to sleep at night. My sister did some nightmares. I had to reassure her.



Innocent children in front of ruins, 1940. France 24

What did you in your free time ?

In my free time I went out and often played with my only friend David. He came from Leeds. He was required to go here because his city was attacked by the Germans. Like me he loves football we went to play football in the streets everyday.

Why didn't you have many friends ?

I didn't have a lot of friends because my sister and I were smaller than the other students. Only David accepted us. It was special for us to have a friend like him in such a difficult moment.



London in the Blitz
1940

Source
Wikipédia

Did you have some news from your parents ?

I only had one letter from my mother because my dad was in army he couldn't send news. My mother told me what happened in Manchester, my home town. One day she told me «our old district was totally destroyed.» I was sad this day.

Did you want to go back to your home town ?

Both yes and at the same time no because on the one hand I had grown up there and I wanted to find all the places of my childhood: the parks, the sports fields and the streets where I had grown up. And on the other, the town was totally destroyed and staying in Stainforth was a way to start a new life for my sister and I.

One word for the end ?

« I hope humanity will never recreate this abomination. The world shouldn't know other disaster like the war, it's useless. »

How did your host family receive you ?

My host family received me very well. I am only with sister in old lady's , I ate twice every day I often ate some stew of rabbits with a piece of bread and in dessert some pudding. I slept in my own bedroom. I could go out when I wanted to play with my friend. Sometimes David could come to our house to read, play with wood games and play chess.

Did the Blitz teach you something ?

Yes, the Blitz taught me to live with other people, how to manage on my own and it show me how the world can be horrible. It's difficult to think how humans can do atrocities. I wish humans never acted that way again.



Children in their host family during the Blitz 1940

Daily mail