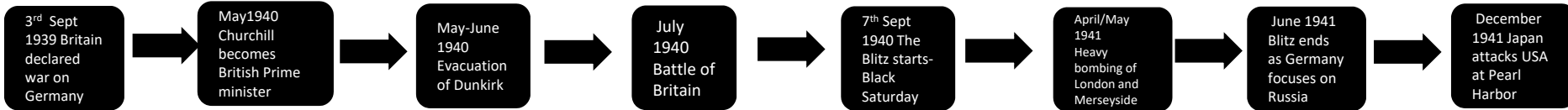


# Was Blitz Spirit real in World War Two?



Key Word	Definition
Blitz	“Lightening War” trying to force British people to surrender by bombing them.
Evacuation	Helping people leave a place
Propaganda	Information that may be misleading, used to make people think a certain way
Cliche	A phrase or opinion that is overused
Resilience	Recovering from difficult situations
Looting	Stealing goods
Battle of Britain	Air battle between the RAF and German Luftwaffe
Air Raid	A bomb attack. Usually at night
Morale	The confidence and enthusiasm of a group of people- could be high or low
Incendiary bombs	Bombs that start fires. Used on Coventry by the Germans

Those eight months were a time of remarkable resilience, and of terrible suffering. Yet our clichéd images of the Blitz – jolly singalongs in the air raid shelters– don’t tell the whole story. The government issued propaganda declaring that “London Can Take it” – but would these ordinary people have agreed? Londoners experienced a whole spectrum of doubt and despair as well as the courage and resilience about which we more often hear. And it’s hard to generalise: every person had their own unique experience of the Blitz.

*Lucy Worsley 2021*



Knowledge Milestones	Extra Knowledge	Expert Knowledge
Hitler launched the Blitz to try to destroy the morale of the British people and force them to surrender.	By this point France had surrendered and the Germans occupied much of Europe- Britain was next on the list!	Germany tried to invade Britain by air with the Battle of Britain. This failed, so the Blitz was the next tactic.
The key targets of the Blitz were cities such as London, Coventry and Liverpool.	Air fields and ports were also targeted to limit Britain’s ability to fight back.	Roads and railways were targets to disrupt food and other supplies within Britain.
People argue that “Blitz Spirit” was real (morale was high) because most people didn’t want to surrender.	Many people chose to use communal shelters, eg in underground stations, and in some cases food was supplied.	A lot of people volunteered to help as firefighters or nurses, and most people still went to work.
However some people believe that Blitz Spirit was not real as they say it was invented by the government as propaganda to make people feel better.	During the Blitz crime rates went up, people looted houses and some claimed benefits that they were not entitled to.	The government did not print casualty figures in newspapers. They controlled the media so many people were unaware of the true horrors of the bombing.
During the Blitz 43,000 people were killed. This is nearly half of all British civilian deaths for WW2.	1.1 million homes were destroyed, 1 in 6 Londoners became homeless during the Blitz.	London was bombed for 57 nights in a row.
It is hard to say for certain whether Blitz Spirit was real as everyone had individual experiences.	Historians have different interpretations as they use different sources	Some sources are reliable, but only show one person’s experience.



If you want to find out more check out the following links or scan the QR codes on your phone or tablet.

**READ**  
<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Blitz-Spirit/>



**WATCH**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iz963jJB08o>



**LISTEN**  
<https://play.acast.com/s/historvextra/blitzspirit>

