

# Bristol Blitz Oral History Activities

**1. Picture this:** Listen to the words and let your imagination run. What does the scene look like? Can you paint or draw it? (Clip 1 or another of your choice)

**2. Adjective hunt:** Listen to these clips (or more if you'd like) and write down as many adjectives about the Blitz as you can think of (Clips 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

**3. Blitz detective:** Listen to the clips and answer the following questions:

- a. What different jobs did people in Bristol have during the Blitz? (clips 6, 7, 8)
- b. Where did people shelter from the bombing raids? (clips 9, 10, 11)
- c. How did people have fun during the Blitz? (clips 12, 13, 14)

**4. A Night in the Shelter:** Listen to the clips and write down three questions you would ask someone about being in the air raid shelter. Use question words like why, where, who, what, when to start your questions. (Clips 15 and 16)

**5. What happens next?** Listen to the clip up to 1 minute 46. What happens next in the story? Write down your ideas. Then listen to the rest of the clip to see if you were right (Clip 17)

# Glossary

**ARP** – Initials which stood for ‘Air Raid Precaution’

**Bailing out** – pilots parachuting from their planes before they crashed

**Barrage Balloon** – a large balloon tied above buildings to make air raids difficult for enemy aircraft

**Civil Defence** – volunteer organisation which protected local people

**Firewatchers** – people whose job it was to watch for fires (caused by incendiary bombs)

**Flare** – a light dropped from aircraft to show the bomber where to drop their bombs

**Gas holder / gasometer** – a large cylinder used to store gas

**Good Friday Raid** – one of the worst air raids over Bristol

**High Explosive** – a bomb which explodes, causing a lot of damage

**Incendiary (incendiary bomb)** – a small bomb designed to start a fire

**Paratrooper** – a parachutist

**Phosphorous** – a chemical used in incendiary bombs

**Raid/ air raid** – an attack by enemy aircraft

**Rush (the bomb)** – put out the bomb

**Shelter** – a man-made shelter which provided protection from bomb attacks

**Shrapnel** – small pieces of a bomb or other metal object

**Warden (air raid warden)** – people whose job it was to make sure people followed instructions during the air raid

## About this resource

These oral history clips have been digitised by Bristol Archives as part of *Unlocking Our Sound Heritage* - a national project led by the British Library supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The clips used in this resource are from a Bristol Library collection called ‘Town in the West Country’. You can find more clips to use with your class by completing this short survey which will take you to our Soundcloud playlist: <https://forms.gle/X1Mbj5zS6KiC8tCn8>