

# London Buildings that were affected during the WW2!



**BY PRUSHOTTAMAN**

The heavy and common bombing attacks on London and other cities were known as the “Blitz”. Night after night, from September 1940 until May 1941, German bombers attacked British cities, ports and business areas. London was bombed every day and night, bar one, for 11 weeks. 1/3 of London was destroyed.



*These are some black and white pictures of the devastation the Blitz caused.*

*Here are some Buildings that  
were affected due to the Blitz!*

# Bethnal Green Station

On 3rd March 1943, the alarm went off 8.17pm. People made their way down the steps to the unfinished, dark Bethnal Green underground station (which had been used as an air-raid shelter since 1940). At 8.27pm, the searchlight went on and 3 busses unloaded their passengers at the shelter entrance. Suddenly, people heard the unfamiliar, ear-splitting noise of a new anti-aircraft rocket batter being fired. Everyone thought it was bombs exploding.



At that same moment, a lady with a child fell at the bottom of a wet stairway and everyone fell on top of her. The crowd above didn't know what was happening below in the dark. Before anyone could get up, more people were falling on top of them. About 300 people were built up within seconds. People couldn't move (or breathe)! It was 11.40pm before 173 people were pulled out – 84 women, 62 children and 27 men)! Over 90 people were injured. The Bethnal Green disaster turned out to be the worst civilian disaster of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World war, yet bombs weren't involved!

# St Paul's Cathedral

The cathedral survived the Blitz although it was hit by bombs on 10th October 1930 and 17<sup>th</sup> April 1941. The first time the bomb hit the cathedral, the high altar was destroyed, whilst the second struck on the north transept which left a hole in the floor above The crypt.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September 1940, a time delayed bomb that had stuck the cathedral was successfully defused. If this bomb wasn't defused, it would have destroyed the cathedral – it left a 100 foot (30m) dent in the ground when it was later remotely detonated (left to explode in a faraway place) in a safe place.

As a reward, the people who helped (Davies and Sapper George Cameron Wylie were each awarded the George Cross Davies' George Cross (other medals are on display at the Imperial War Museum in London).

This incident became known as the Second Great Fire of London – the night 70 years ago that devastating air raids turned the capital into a fire.



# Balham Station

During the WW2, Balham was a tube station (it was made for the use as a civilian air raid shelter). On the 14<sup>th</sup> October 1940, the station was filled with earth and water from the broken water mains and the sewers that were above, with the flooding and the wreckage reaching to within 100 killed (and more than 70 people were injured).

Colin Perry ( a innocent boy ) wrote:

“This bomb I think penetrated the steel-encased tube below the ground, and I hear too that something, by a million to one chance, went down the ventilator shaft of the underground station. The water main was burst and the flood rolled down the tunnels, right up and down the line, and the thousands of refugees were plunged into darkness, water. They stood, trapped, struggling, panicking in the rising black invisible waters.



They had gone to the Tubes for safety, instead they found worse than bombs, they found the unknown, terror. Women and children, small babes in arms, locked beneath the ground. I can only visualize their feelings, I can only write how it has been told to me, but it must have been Hell. On top of this there came a cloud of gas. People not killed outright were suffocated, the rest drowned, drowned like rats in a cage.”

**Thank you for watching!**

