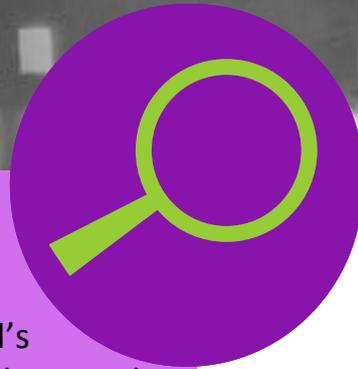


REACHING OUT

We want to reach out!

As schools return, we look to support each school's efforts to get involved with the rich tapestry of culture and creativity within the borough. Tameside Cultural Services have been looking at how we can best use our years of experience and resources to support schools. We will link in with the Philosophy for Children, as well as the National Curriculum, the schools' recovery curriculum and the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give.

Each month, we will share information relating to our education offer as well as giving further ideas and ways to engage with our offer in your classroom. There will be activities from each of the Cultural Services teams and we will take the opportunity to highlight one of our site based workshops as when we are able to, we cannot wait to welcome you back to our sites and great outdoors.



TAMESIDE DURING WW2

This session is about WW2 and its impact on Tameside.

When we consider the war we often think about soldiers and tanks and frontline battles, but the impact at home was enormous as well.

Using the information from the sheets we will be sharing with the class, your pupils will become mini investigators finding out the facts we need to answer the questions put to the group.

culture
Tameside



Tameside during the Second World War

REACHING OUT

This activity aims to encourage children to think about the importance of the bombing of Ashton under Lyne during the Second World War.

Task One

Here are a number of facts presenting you with lots of detail surrounding a bombing of property that took place in late spring of 1941. By reading through the information, can you answer the eight questions at the end?

Facts

On the night of Thursday 8th May 1941, a number of German planes were sent to bomb the Liverpool docks and also Trafford Park, Manchester.

They were well aware that British counter-measures were now able to seriously disrupt the German night-bombing radio beam which had been laid along their track to Liverpool and Manchester. However, it was a clear night and the River Mersey was visible from some distance.

Although the crews were alert to attack by night fighters, they also had to fly through searchlights and ant-aircraft fire as they headed towards the two cities.

Two planes were not so lucky and were struck by anti-aircraft fire; one was a Junkers 88 and the other was a Heinkel 111.

One of the aircraft jettisoned its payload (bombs) in order to gain some height after being hit. As the plane struggled, down below, that bomb fell onto Hillgate Street in Ashton under Lyne.

Resources:

Paper and Pen. Plus art materials for task two.

For more information or to discuss please email: archives@tameside.gov.uk



Tameside during the Second World War



Both planes eventually crashed:

The Junkers 88 was seen to have a wing on fire when it flew over Leek in Staffordshire and before the aircrew of four men could escape, it hit a hillside killing them on board.

The Heinkel 111's crew were more lucky. With its engines on fire, the bomber was doomed, and the crew bailed out, parachuted down and were taken prisoner. It was described by on-lookers, as an aircraft on fire, tearing across the night sky before crashing in a ball of flames in a field near Stockport.

The 1939 Register

Every ten years since 1841, the UK has carried out a census of people's lives at the time of recording that lists information about their names, age, accommodation and occupations.

However in 1939, with the outbreak of the Second World War, the government carried out a separate census, so they would be able to plan for wartime requirements such as rationing food. This is known as the 1939 register.

Below is the register records for two houses on Hillgate Street where the bombs fell.

85 Hillgate Street, Ashton Under Lyne					
First Name (s)	Last Name	Date of Birth	Sex	Occupation	Marital Status
Edwin	Moss	15 Aug 1867	Male	Retired	Widowed
Florence	Robinson	19 Sep 1882	Female	Unpaid domestic duties	Widowed
Mildred A.	White nee Robinson	20 Jan 1920	Female	Apprentice Glove Machinist	Single
Laurence	Robinson	21 Nov 1923	Male	Farm Milk Boy	Single



Tameside during the Second World War



87 Hillgate Street, Ashton Under Lyne					
First Name(s)	Last Name	Date of Birth	Sex	Occupation	Marital Status
Ernest	Dawson	23 Dec 1905	Male	Lorry Driver	Married
Hilda	Dawson	3 Jun 1905	Female	Cotton Spinner	Married
Thomas	Lord	18 May 1871	Male	Retired	Married
William J.	Reid	3 Apr 1911	Male	Lorry Driver/Salesman	Married
Margaret G.	Reid	30 Oct 1913	Female	Unpaid domestic duties	Married
James W.	Reid	16 Dec 1935	Male	Under school age	Single



The Hillgate Pub once known as the Collier Arms

The Hillgate stands on Pot Hill, which was once Hillgate Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, a densely-packed area of Victorian terraced housing. Apart from 4 houses on Union Road, the pub was the only building left standing when the area was re-developed in the 1960s.

It is a splendid brick building with stone banding, constructed in 1899. It replaced an earlier pub on the site called the Old Original Colliers Arms, which was built some time before 1812. The name reflects the history of small-scale coal mining that had taken place in the area. The re-built pub was still known as **the Colliers** until 1973. The building was sold recently and appears to be no longer a pub, possibly having been converted to flats.



Tameside during the Second World War



Newspaper reports May 1941

Husband & Wife Killed

Plane Crashes After Unloading Bombs

Two or three persons were killed, including a man and his wife, and a number were injured, when bombs demolished houses in an industrial area of a north-west town on Wednesday night.

It is believed that the plane which caused the damage had been hit by anti-aircraft fire and that it unloaded its bombs to gain height, but it crashed a few miles away.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Dawson, whose house was demolished, died from their injuries. Over 20 people were injured, and taken to hospital. The majority were suffering from shock and cuts from flying glass, but a number were detained.

A public house had its frontage damaged, and many windows were broken.

Civil defence workers, rescue squads and neighbours worked feverishly to extricate the people buried in the wreckage of their own homes. All were got out quickly and rushed to hospital for treatment.

The police headed the civil defence workers, who all worked valiantly and strenuously, ambulances being quickly on the spot to deal with the wounded. There were some remarkable escapes.

Saved His Children.

James Horsfield was speaking to Mr. Dawson two minutes before the incident. He saw fire bombs drop, and he rushed into the house and dragged his three girls, aged eleven, seven and five, out of bed. They had scarcely got downstairs when the house caved in.

"I pushed the three kiddies up against the wall and that saved us," he said. "We were got out by some neighbours. None of the children is badly hurt. It is a good job most of the chaps round here are colliers, for they did some fine work," he added. "All the children's Whitsuntide clothes are in that house."

Edwin Moss was one of the lucky ones, for he was out fire-watching business premises at the time. There were two families in his house, consisting of seven people, but all were quickly extricated. They had to receive hospital treatment.

"Thumbs Up, Dad."

A number of casualties were treated on the spot, before being removed to hospital.

The women were loud in their praises of nine-years-old Brian Hyde. "He was a real trump," they declared. Brian was in bed with his brother Keith when they and the bed went right through the floor. "The whole house came in on top of us," said Brian.

Brian saw his father and mother, brother and sister, taken away in the ambulance. "Thumbs up, dad," he shouted as they parted.

"Brian has been a real hero," said one woman worker. "He has an injured foot through treading on a splinter. He has not grumbled one little bit and he supplied nearly all the information to the authorities about the people living in this district."

All the people were cheerful. "Hitler will not win a war with these methods. He can't frighten us," was a general comment.

The most optimistic person was the lady whose house boasted no windows, but she was getting down to a job of spring cleaning!

Funeral of L. Robinson

Laurence Robinson, aged 17, of 85, Hillgate-street, Hurst, who died suddenly on May 8th, was buried at Hurst Cemetery on Wednesday. The remains were taken from the home of his sister in Timperley-road. His widowed mother, despite her injury, was able to attend the funeral. The Rev. A. G. Goodwin conducted the service.

Floral tributes were from: Mother, Brother and Sisters; Sister Maria, Fred and Kiddies; Uncle Ted; Sister Alice, Jim and family; Sister Lily, John and family; Uncle John and Nellie; Uncle Allen and family; Aunt Lizzie, Mary, Harry and Joy; Cousin Jim and Edith; his Pals; Pals and Friends, Hillgate-street and Paradise-street; Lily Dodd; Mr. W. Faulkner, Alice and Madge; Miss Nield (La Desba Ballroom); Mrs. Cunliffe and Mrs. Taylor; Mr. and Mrs. Redford and Mrs. Spencer; Mr. and Mrs. Percy Bowker and family; Clara and Netta Hutchcroft; Mr. and Mrs. Dawson and Mr. and Mrs. Lord; workmates Bill, Harry and Albert; Mr. Norman Kelllett; Mrs. Rennison; Mrs. Potter and family; 97, Hillgate-street; Mr. and Mrs. Wolstenholme and Tamil, 33, Paradise-street; Mrs. Thewlas and Mr. and Mrs. Tassaker, 35, Paradise-street; Nellie Varey; Mrs. Hobson; Mr. and Mrs. Varey, Florence and Nellie; all at 1, Marland-street; Mrs. Lowe and family; Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, Colliers' Arms; Mr. and Mrs. Forrest and family; Miss C. Wright; Mr. and Mrs. Ollershaw and customers, Seven Stars; Mrs. Bromley and family; neighbours and friends; and vase from neighbours.

Mr. G. H. Greaves, of Ashton, was the undertaker.



Tameside during the Second World War

REACHING OUT

By using the information you have read, please answer the following questions:

- * What was the name of the street where the bomb fell and what were the numbers of the houses that were badly damaged?
- * What was the name of the local pub that was damaged and which street was it on?
- * Name the three fatal casualties using the information and from the newspaper article? Can you find their dates of birth?
- * What was Lawrence Robinson's occupation in 1939?
- * What day of the week did the bomb fall?
- * What was the name of the nine year old boy mentioned in the newspaper and what did he say to his Dad who was taken away in an ambulance?
- * What happened to cause a bomb being dropped?
- * What types of planes were the bombers that could have dropped their bombs on the houses below?



Tameside during the Second World War

REACHING OUT



ANSWERS

- * What was the name of the street where the bomb fell and what were the numbers of the houses that were badly damaged? **85 and 87 Hillgate Street.**
- * What was the name of the local pub that was damaged and which street was it on? **Colliers Hotel also known as the Hillgate Pub.**
- * Name the three fatal casualties using the information and from the newspaper article? Can you find their dates of birth? **Ernest Dawson: 23 December 1905, Hilda Dawson: 3 June 1905 and Lawrence Robinson: 21 November 1923.**
- * What was Lawrence Robinson's occupation in 1939? **Farm Milk Boy.**
- * What day of the week did the bomb fall? **Thursday.**
- * What was the name of the nine year old boy mentioned in the newspaper and what did he say to his Dad who was taken away in an ambulance? **Brian Hyde and he said 'Thumbs up Dad'.**
- * What happened to cause a bomb being dropped? **A bomber had been caught by anti-aircraft fire and the plane released its bombs to gain height but crashed nearby.**
- * What types of planes were the bombers that could have dropped their bombs on the houses below? **Junkers 88 and Heinkel 111.**



Tameside during the Second World War



Task two

Using the images of those people who were called upon to assist civilians in bombing raids and the effect they had on the community, draw a picture of what you think a bomb landing on a street you know, would look like. It could be your own. Add as many types of support that would look for survivors. Here are some examples:

Air Raid Warden



Ambulance Crew



Fire Fighting



DID YOU KNOW?

Also the Police, neighbours, and those armed services on leave would help!

