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Queen's Gardens

Throughout the war people used communal air raid shelters across the city to try and find safety from the bombs that were dropped by the German Luftwaffe. Some of these air raid shelters were situated here, in the newly created Queens Gardens.

However, some families didn't have access to communal shelters and instead took refuge within their own homes, in cupboards under the stairs or beneath kitchen tables. Across the city, close to the train station, dairy-worker Harriet and her young son Kenneth lived in a small terrace on Wawne Street, each night hoping that their house wouldn't be hit. After enduring months of the blitz, they were eventually forced to move out to the north of Hull when the blast from a bomb dropped nearby caused parts of their house to collapse. The mother and son, home at the time, were saved by their sturdy kitchen table.



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Hull Holy Trinity Church

June 1940 wasn't the first time that the city had been bombed from the air. During the First World War 8 zeppelin raids also brought terror and tragedy to Hull, including here, at the Holy Trinity Church.

On two occasions, first in June 1915 and then in March 1916, German bombs narrowly missed the church and caused extensive damage to the surrounding streets. Many of the church's windows were shattered in the second raid though. Some of the shards that fell were collected and now form a mosaic window in the church, which commemorates the bombing of Hull during the First World War. **Can you spot it?**

During the Second World War the Holy Trinity Church survived again, due to the courageous efforts of fire wardens who monitored the skies above from the roof. The church was also used as an air raid shelter, although only briefly.



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Guildhall

Many of the shelters and buildings in Queens Gardens housed the Civil Defence Service Headquarters, which managed the thousands of volunteers working across the city. This included the casualty and fire services we have already seen, as well as those volunteering as messengers, clerks, drivers and storekeepers, as well as citizens from other organisations such as the Women's Voluntary Service.

Other operations were ran from here at the Guildhall too, including the management of information and propaganda. Today the site is often used in TV and film as the perfect set for a Second World War period drama.

AS YOU WALK through the Old Town, one of the most historic and beautiful areas of the city, look out for The Museum Quarter and perhaps pop in to learn more about Hull's history.



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Whitefriargate and The Hull People's Memorial

Throughout the blitz Hull was subjected to 'blackout'- after sunset all lights had to be dimmed and windows covered with heavy curtains or shutters to prevent any light escaping and helping the enemy to see. Many shops, such as these here on Whitefriargate, were fitted with 'double-doors', so that customers could enter without any light escaping.

Can you spot any as you walk?

You can find **The Hull People's Memorial** here on Whitefriargate too. The Hull People's Memorial is a museum and research hub operated entirely by volunteers. Step inside to find out more about Hull's stories of the First and Second World Wars, handle real wartime artefacts, visit their WWI trench and much more.



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Old Town Docks

'Ships and warehouses were ablaze', remembered Harry, a serviceman living in Hull during the Blitz. 'The city centre had fires of all shapes and sizes'.* He was talking about the docks which once covered the sides of the banks where we are now standing, and the land east of the River Hull.

The docks were one of the major reasons that the Luftwaffe had targeted Hull, housing a vibrant industry linked to much of home-front Britain. Warehouses stacked with timber burned fiercely while flour poured out the side of Ranks Mills and into the river below. Try to imagine the sights, sounds and smells as you stand here on the Scale Lane Bridge.

DID YOU KNOW? The first daylight raid of the war also happened here in Hull- just to the east of the city at Saltend.

*Henry Baker, WW2 People's War



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Queen Victoria Square

On 8th May 1945 victory was declared in Europe and four days later, in Hull, a victory parade was held here in the city centre. Crowds gathered to watch as 5000 men and women who had 'done their duty on the home front' passed by. The surrounding days saw bonfires, street parties, dancing and public holidays, as well as memorials.

With more than 1000 lives lost and 95% of homes damaged or destroyed, the devastation inflicted on Hull by the German Luftwaffe was second only to that experienced in London, reducing much of the city to rubble. Hull's story is crucial to understanding the impact of the Second World War on Britain, and the legacy of the blitz lives on in Hull through its people and places, some of which you have explored today. Thank you for using this trail to explore the stories of Hull's wartime past. We hope that you have enjoyed it.



For any more information you can get in touch with us at hullblitztrail@outlook.com.

Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this guide, the creators can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions, nor any consequences arising from the use of the information. Completing the trail is done so at your own risk, so we urge you to please take care when navigating the city.

This guide has been created by Charlotte Tomlinson, a historian of the Second World War in Britain. Thanks to the Leeds for Life Foundation for kindly funding this project, and also to the Hull History Centre and The Hull People's Memorial for providing resources, photographs and invaluable research advice during the process of creating this trail.

WALK THE STORIES OF HULL'S WARTIME PAST WITH THE HULL BLITZ TRAIL.

Distance: 2.5 miles
Time: 1.5- 2 hours

THE HULL BLITZ TRAIL

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