

The Blitz of Plymouth

Vocabulary

KS2 History Resource



Museum
Gallery
Archive

The Box is Plymouth's new multi-million pound museum, gallery and archive. With brand new exhibition spaces alongside state-of-the-art facilities for research and learning, it's the perfect place to teach, inspire and engage students of all ages.

About this resource

Learn about the conflict between the Allies and the Axis powers by studying these words related to World War II. This vocabulary list is designed to support learning around the Blitz of Plymouth and support the national #Blitz80 commemorations in 2021.

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| Air Raid Precautions | Measures taken against air attack on British cities, usually led by volunteers |
| Allies | Term generally used to describe the USA, British Empire and their allies in WWII |
| Artillery | Heavy guns |
| Axis | Alliance of Germany, Italy and Japan in WWII |
| Battle of Britain | Campaign in 1940 to prevent German invasion of Britain that involved the RAF, Royal Navy and Army |
| Blitz | Heavy and frequent bombing raids carried out over British cities, ports and industrial areas from 1940-1941 |
| Blitz of Plymouth | Heavy bombing raids carried out on Plymouth between March and April 1941 |
| Blitzkrieg | The German for “lightning war”. A swift, sudden military attack using bomber aircraft to support fast moving tanks and motor vehicles |

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| Camouflage | Covering up weapons, buildings, troops or equipment so that they are difficult to see |
| Casualties | People killed and/or wounded in war |
| Censorship | Banning or deleting any information of value to the enemy |
| Charles Church | Charles Church was destroyed by incendiary bombs on 20-21 March 1941. It has been preserved in its ruined state as a memorial to civilian victims of the Blitz |
| Civilian | Person not belonging to the armed forces |
| Convoy | A ship, fleet, or group of vehicles accompanied by a protecting escort |
| D-Day | Allied invasion of German held France in June 1944 |
| Evacuation | The withdrawal or removal of troops or civilians |
| Evacuees | Name often given to children removed from cities for safety |
| Goering, Hermann | Head of the German Air Force and high-ranking Nazi leader |
| Himmler, Heinrich | Head of the SS and high-ranking Nazi leader |
| Hitler, Adolf | Leader of Germany in WWII and head of the Nazi party |
| HMNB Devonport | The largest naval base in Western Europe, Devonport has been supporting the Royal Navy since 1691. The vast site covers more than 650 acres and has 15 dry docks, four miles of waterfront, 25 tidal berths and five basins |



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| Holocaust | The mass murder of around 6 million Jews and other racial groups by the Nazis in WWII |
| Hurricane | British fighter plane |
| Incendiary bomb | A bomb that is designed to start fires |
| Luftwaffe | German Air Force |
| Merchant Navy | The merchant navy is a term used to refer to the commercial sector of the maritime industry. The merchant navy has no involvement in military service, but rather the shipping of cargo and people across sea routes aboard cargo ships, tankers, and cruise liners |
| Messerschmitt | Type of German aircraft |
| MI5 | Military Intelligence Department 5. This is the Security Service for the UK. The Service has played a secret role over the past century in countering the activities of terrorists and spies |
| MI6 | Military Intelligence Department 6. This is the Secret Intelligence Service, and undertakes spy missions overseas |
| Ministry of Information | British government department that controlled information and propaganda |
| Nazi party | Ruling political party in Germany 1933-45, headed by Adolf Hitler. (The National Socialist German Worker's Party) |
| Portland Square | The communal air raid shelter at Portland Square took a direct hit on 22 April 1941. 76 people were killed and just 3 people survived |



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| Propaganda | Spreading a particular message in order to influence public opinion |
| Refugee | A person who seeks shelter especially in another country, from war, disaster, or persecution |
| Resistance | Underground forces who fought against German occupation of their countries in WWII |
| Royal Air Force (RAF) | British air force |
| Royal Navy (RN) | British navy |
| Spitfire | British fighter plane |
| St Andrew's Church | Badly damaged in March 1941, a handpainted wooden sign was famously hung over the main door with the Latin word <i>Resurgam</i> inscribed on it, meaning " <i>I shall rise again</i> " |
| SS | Huge organisation within Nazi Germany which controlled many areas such as security, persecution of Jews and had its own armed forces, the Waffen-SS |
| Swilly (North Prospect) | The first bombs to fall on Plymouth on 6 July 1940, the year before the period we describe as 'the Blitz of Plymouth'. 3 people died in the attack |
| 'Trekking-out' | Leaving the city at dusk and returning by dawn, to avoid the bombing raids |
| VE-Day | Day marking Victory in Europe and the surrender of Germany on May 8th 1945 |

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